

S14-0008/Alibi Verizon Wireless Cell Site – As approved by the Planning Commission on December 11, 2014

Findings

Based on the review and analysis of this project by staff and affected agencies, and supported by discussion in the staff report and evidence in the record, the following findings can be made:

1.0 CEQA FINDINGS

- 1.1 El Dorado County has considered the Negative Declaration together with the comments received during the public review process. The Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of the County and has been completed in compliance with CEQA and is adequate for this project.
- 1.2 No significant impacts to the environment as a result of this project were identified in the initial study.
- 1.3 The documents and other materials which constitute the record of proceedings upon which this decision is based are in the custody of the Development Services Department - Planning Services at 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA, 95667.
- 1.4 The revision to the size of the lease area (631.6 additional square feet) for the cell tower facility is not considered a “substantial revision” pursuant to Section 15.073.5.c.4 of the CEQA Guidelines and, therefore, recirculation of the Negative Declaration is not required.

2.0 GENERAL PLAN FINDINGS

- 2.1 The project is consistent with the Medium Density Residential (MDR) land use designation of the subject site as defined by General Plan Policy 2.2.1.2. The project consists of a telecommunications tower, which is consistent with the allowed uses for the Residential Estate Five-Acre (RE-5) Zone District with an approved Special Use Permit.
- 2.2 As conditioned, and with adherence to Zoning Ordinance, the project is consistent with all applicable Policies of the General Plan, including:
 - 2.2.1 Policy 2.2.5.21 (compatibility with surroundings) because as conditioned, it would be compatible with surrounding uses, have minimal impacts on visual resources, existing utilities, existing emergency response access and times, and will create noises at insignificant levels. There are adequate services to facilitate the site, such as water, power and telephone communication facilities. The project provides improved cellular service for phone, as well as internet and emergency communications to the El Dorado area;
 - 2.2.2 Policy 5.1.2.1 (adequate utilities and public services) because the project will connect to existing electrical and telecommunication facilities currently existing within the parcel;

- 2.2.3 Policy 6.2.3.2 (adequate access) because the project will utilize an existing paved driveway surface for half the access with a new gravel driveway for the second half; and
- 2.2.4 Policy 6.5.1.7 (noise exposure) because the project will have noise levels anticipated to comply with the County's standards listed in Table 6-2 in the General Plan that limit acoustical noise emission levels.

3.0 ZONING FINDINGS

- 3.1 The project site is zoned Residential Estate Five-Acre (RE-5), which allows wireless communication facilities with an approved special use permit, provided the applicant follow standards and permitting requirements defined in Section 17.14.210 of the Zoning Ordinance. These standards include screening, compliance with setbacks, and proper maintenance.
- 3.2 As proposed and conditioned, the project meets all applicable development standards contained within the Zoning Ordinance because sufficient screening, setbacks, and maintenance have been provided and/or conditioned.

4.0 SPECIAL USE PERMIT FINDINGS

4.1 The issuance of the permit is consistent with the General Plan.

The proposed use is consistent with the policies and requirements in the El Dorado County General Plan, as discussed in the General Plan section of the Staff Report. The proposed use is consistent with all applicable policies as set forth in Finding 2.0.

4.2 The proposed use would not be detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare, or injurious to the neighborhood.

The use will not significantly conflict with the adjacent uses as the ground-support equipment will be buffered from view by on-site natural vegetation, and the tower antennas will be buffered by the manufactured pine branches. The view of the tower will be buffered by the existing trees surrounding the tower. As conditioned, the project is anticipated to result in insignificant environmental, visual, and noise impacts to surrounding residents. The proposed use is not anticipated to create hazards that would be considered detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare, or injurious to the neighborhood based on the data and conclusions contained in the staff report. At five percent or less of the public safety standard established by the FCC, the risk of RF emissions to the surrounding public is remote.

4.3 **The proposed use is specifically permitted by Special Use Permit.**

The proposed use complies with the requirements of Zoning Ordinance Section 17.14.210.E through J (facility requirements/analysis) and 17.28.210 (minimum yard setbacks for RE-5 Zone District).