

**NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**FILE:** S15-0003

**PROJECT NAME:** Verizon Monopine Cell Tower – Fair Play

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** Verizon Wireless

**ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO.:** 094-110-14

**SECTION:** 11 T: 10N R: 8E

**LOCATION:** The west side of Fairplay Road at the intersection with Perry Creek Road in the Fairplay area, Supervisorial District 2 (Attachment 1).

- GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT:** FROM: TO:
- REZONING:** FROM: TO:
- TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP SUBDIVISION (NAME):**  **SUBDIVISION TO SPLIT** ACRES INTO LOTS
- SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW:** Installation of a wireless telecommunication facility consisting of a 90 foot monopine tower with nine antennas mounted at 83 feet, equipment shelter, and related ground equipment within 1,200-square-foot lease area.
- OTHER:**

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**REASONS THE PROJECT WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:**

- NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS WERE IDENTIFIED DURING THE INITIAL STUDY.**
- MITIGATION HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED WHICH WOULD REDUCE POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS.**
- OTHER:**

In accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State Guidelines, and El Dorado County Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, the County Environmental Agent analyzed the project and determined that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment. Based on this finding, the Planning Department hereby prepares this NEGATIVE DECLARATION. A period of thirty (30) days from the date of filing this negative declaration/mitigated negative declaration will be provided to enable public review of the project specifications and this document prior to action on the project by COUNTY OF EL DORADO. A copy of the project specifications is on file at the County of El Dorado Planning Services, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA 95667.

**This Negative Declaration was adopted by the Planning Commission on July 9, 2015.**

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Executive Secretary



**EL DORADO COUNTY PLANNING SERVICES  
2850 FAIRLANE COURT  
PLACERVILLE, CA 95667**

**INITIAL STUDY  
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**

**Project Title:** S15-0003 Verizon Wireless Communication Facility/Fairplay Monopine

**Lead Agency Name and Address:** El Dorado County, 2850 Fairlane Court; Placerville, CA 95667

**Contact Person:** Jennifer Franich, Associate Planner

**Phone Number:** (530) 621-6591

**Project Applicant's Name and Address:** Verizon Wireless, 255 Parkshore Drive, Folsom, CA 95630

**Project Agent's Name and Address:** Mark Lobaugh, 8700 Auburn Folsom Road

**Project Engineer's Name and Address:** Borges Architectural Group, Inc., 1478 Stone Point Dr., Suite 350, Roseville, CA 95661

**Project Location:** 7920 Fairplay Road at the intersection with Perry Creek Road in the Fairplay area.

**Assessor's Parcel Number:** 094-110-14

**Acres:** 48.0 acres

**Zoning:** Planned Agricultural Twenty-Acre (PA-20)

**Section:** 11      **T:** 10N    **R:** 8E

**General Plan Designation:** Agricultural Lands (AL)

**Description of Project:** Special use permit request to allow the construction of a wireless communications facility consisting of a 90-foot monopine tower with nine antennas mounted at 83 feet, a 16-foot 10.5-inch by 11-foot 6-inch equipment shelter within a 30- by 40-foot lease area enclosed with a six-foot fence. Access to the site would be provided by and 650-foot extension of the existing driveway located at Fairplay Road near the intersection with Perry Creek Road.

**Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:**

	<b>Zoning</b>	<b>General Plan</b>	<b>Land Use/Improvements</b>
Site	PA-20	AL	Single-family residence and accessory structures
North	RE-5, PA-20	RR	Single-family residences, vacant land
South	PA-20	AL	Vacant
East	RE-5, C	MDR, C, RR	Single-family residences, vacant land, commercial retail
West	PA-20	AL	Single-family residences, vineyards

**Briefly Describe the environmental setting:** The site is located on a 48-acre parcel, approximately 2,376-feet above sea level. The residential dwelling and five accessory structures are located near the southeast corner of the property, and montane hardwood woodland is present on the western portion of the site. The proposed lease area is slightly elevated, contains no trees, and is highly visible from Fairplay Road and Perry Creek Road. The closest off-site residence is located approximately 560 feet southeast of the proposed tower location.

**Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement)**

1. Transportation Division: Review of Conditions of Approval.
2. El Dorado County Environmental Management: Review Conditions of Approval.
3. Pioneer Fire Protection District: Review and approval of Building Permit.
4. Building Services: Review and approval of Grading and Building Permits.
5. Air Quality Management District: Review and approval of Fugitive Dust Mitigation Plan.

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED**

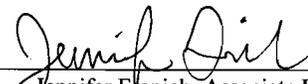
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

Aesthetics	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	Air Quality
Biological Resources	Cultural Resources	Geology / Soils
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Hazards & Hazardous Materials	Hydrology / Water Quality
Land Use / Planning	Mineral Resources	Noise
Population / Housing	Public Services	Recreation
Transportation/Traffic	Utilities / Service Systems	Mandatory Findings of Significance

**DETERMINATION**

**On the basis of this initial evaluation:**

- I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect: 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards; and 2) has been addressed by Mitigation Measures based on the earlier analysis as described in attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects: a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**, pursuant to applicable standards; and b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**, including revisions or Mitigation Measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature:  Date: June 2, 2015  
 Printed Name: Jennifer Flanich, Associate Planner For: El Dorado County

Signature:  for: Date: June 2, 2015  
 Printed Name: Tiffany Schmid, Principal Planner For: El Dorado County

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **Introduction**

This Initial Study has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed project. The project would allow the construction of a wireless telecommunications facility.

### **Project Description**

In accordance with Section 130.14.210(D)(5a) of the County of El Dorado Code of Ordinances (New Towers and Monopoles) and applicable standards under Section 130.14.210.E-J, this special use permit request would allow the construction of a wireless telecommunications facility consisting of a 90-foot monopine with nine Verizon Wireless antennas that each measure 6 feet tall by 12 inches wide by 7 inches deep, mounted at the 83-foot pole height, and a 16-foot 10.5-inch by 11-foot 6-inch equipment shelter within a 30- by 40-foot lease area enclosed with a six-foot fence. The wireless facility has been designed as a monopine with foliage that matches the existing surrounding vegetation and would be painted to simulate a natural brown bark. The antennas, which would be covered with pine needle socks, are proposed be mounted at 83 feet and extending to the 85-foot height. The foliage would extend another five feet to an overall structure height of 90 feet. The facility has been designed to accommodate one additional carrier to be collocated at an approximate height of 66 feet.

Access to the site would be provided by a 12-foot wide, 650-foot long non-exclusive Verizon Wireless access easement off the existing driveway located on Fairplay Road. The access road terminates at the proposed facility with a hammerhead design to accommodate vehicular turnaround. A non-exclusive six-foot Verizon Wireless utility easement extends from the north side of the existing driveway to the lease area. A number of oak trees and other vegetation are located at the western portion of the site, however no trees are proposed for removal as part of the wireless facility construction or operation.

### **Project Location and Surrounding Land Uses**

The project site is located in the Fairplay area adjacent to the Fairplay Rural Center, within an agricultural district. Agricultural and rural residences surround the project site to the north, west, and south, and a mix of commercial, medium and high density residential land uses are immediately to the east.

### **Project Characteristics**

#### **1. Transportation/Circulation/Parking**

Access to the shelter and tower would be provided by a 12-foot wide, non-exclusive Verizon Wireless access easement off the existing driveway. The access road terminates at the proposed facility with hammerhead design to accommodate vehicular turnaround and meet Fire Safe standards. The site does not include a parking space.

#### **2. Utilities and Infrastructure**

Verizon Wireless proposes to utilize the current feeds at the existing J-pole with transformer, power, and telecommunications point of contact located approximately 650 feet away from the tower site, along the entrance driveway. The connections will be made underground via boring. No other utilities will be required to operate the site.

#### **3. Construction Considerations**

Minor lease area site construction, grading, and extension of existing utilities will be required for the project. Grading would include interior site preparation including surface grading, tower and equipment enclosure structures, foundations and concrete flooring, and overall site surfacing preparation. A 650-foot gravel driveway extension will be installed. The telecommunications line and power will be installed within the proposed utilities easement. All of these activities will take approximately 60 days. Verizon Wireless will have personnel on site daily during this construction period.

Project Schedule and Approvals

This Initial Study is being circulated for public and agency review for a 30-day period. Written comments on the Initial Study should be submitted to the project planner indicated in the Summary section, above. Following the close of the written comment period, the Initial Study will be considered by the Lead Agency in a public meeting and will be certified if it is determined to be in compliance with CEQA. The Lead Agency will also determine whether to approve the project.

## **EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. If the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is a fair argument that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of Mitigation Measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the Mitigation Measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration (Section 15063(c)(3)(D)). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
  - a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used, or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a. the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b. the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

<b>I. AESTHETICS.</b> <i>Would the project:</i>			
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			X
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?			X
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character quality of the site and its surroundings?			X
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect to Visual Resources would result in the introduction of physical features that are not characteristic of the surrounding development, substantially change the natural landscape, or obstruct an identified public scenic vista.

- a. **Scenic Vista:** The project site is located in a rural center surrounded by agricultural land, large lot single family residences, medium and high density residences, and small-scale commercial uses. No scenic vistas, as designated by the county General Plan, are located in the vicinity of the site (El Dorado County, 2003, p. 5.3-3 through 5.3-5). However, views from the surrounding roads, residences, or businesses to the site could be considered scenic vistas. The proposed stealth components of the project would camouflage the tower and appear to be a pine tree from areas with a direct line-of-site to the facility. Other views of the area would be unobstructed by the facility and surrounding trees in the area would block the view of the monopine. Similarly, the ground equipment lease area would be blocked from view and fenced, and would therefore have no impacts on any official or unofficial scenic vistas.
- b. **Scenic Resources:** The project site is not visible from an officially designated State Scenic Highway or county-designated scenic highway, or any roadway that is part of a corridor protection program (CalTrans, 2013). There are no views of the site from public parks or scenic vistas. Though there are many trees in the project vicinity, there are no trees or historic buildings that have been identified by the County as contributing to exceptional aesthetic value at the project site. There would be no impact and no mitigation is required.
- c. **Visual Character:** The proposed fencing and ground equipment would be visible from some surrounding areas, including the Perry Creek Road/Fairplay Road intersection. Other views from Fairplay Road and Perry Creek road are obstructed by trees. The 16-foot 10.5-inch by 11-foot 6-inch equipment shelter would be located at the base of the tower within the fenced 30- by 40-foot lease area. The site plans and photo simulations show the tower and ground equipment to be designed to meet the wireless communications facilities standards of Zoning Ordinance Section 130.14.210.

The tower itself would be visible from some points in the surrounding area, including the commercial areas to the east. The tower is designed as a monopine to camouflage the facility components and to blend in with the surrounding landscape. The antennas would be covered with false pine tree branches, pine needle socks would be placed over the antennas and microwave dishes, and the tower pole would be painted to resemble a pine tree. The fencing surrounding the lease area is also designed to blend with the visual character of the area. With these design

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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features, the facility will not degrade the existing visual character and quality of the site and its surroundings. The impacts to visual character would be less than significant.

- d. **Light and Glare:** The proposed project does not include any light sources and all components of the facility would be constructed from non-reflective materials. Therefore there would be no impacts to aesthetics due to light and glare and no mitigation is required.

**FINDING:** As conditioned and with adherence to El Dorado County Code of Ordinances (County Code), for this Aesthetics category, impacts would be anticipated to be less than significant.

<p><b>II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES.</b> In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by California Department of forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forrest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:</p>				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Locally Important Farmland (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?			X	
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?				X
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				X
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect to Agricultural Resources would occur if:

- There is a conversion of choice agricultural land to nonagricultural use, or impairment of the agricultural productivity of agricultural land;
- The amount of agricultural land in the County is substantially reduced; or
- Agricultural uses are subjected to impacts from adjacent incompatible land uses.

- a. **Conversion of Agricultural Land:** The site is located within the Fairplay Agricultural District. According to the El Dorado County General Plan (2004), Agricultural Districts are created and maintained for the purposes of conserving, protecting, and encouraging the agricultural use of important agricultural lands and associated activities

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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throughout the County; maintaining viable agricultural-based communities; and encouraging the expansion of agricultural activities and production. Review of the soil data for El Dorado County developed under the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program indicates that the project lease area site contains Shaver coarse sandy loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes, on the northwest portion of the site. This soil type is not classified as unique, soils of local importance, prime farmland, or statewide important farmland. Holland coarse sandy loam, 9 to 15 percent slopes (HgC), occurs on the southeast portion of the site. This soil type meets the criteria for farmland of statewide importance as outlined in the El Dorado area soil survey (USDA, 1974). The proposed facility lease area and access easement is within the area containing HgC soil. The proposed project would not substantially reduce the amount of agricultural land in the county, as the lease area would occupy 1,200 square feet. Although agricultural use would no longer be able to occur on the site in the lease area or the access easement, the remainder of the 48-acre site could still be used as farmland. Therefore, the impact is less than significant and no mitigation is required.

- b. **Zoning and Williamson Act:** The project site is within an Agricultural District and is designated by the General Plan for agricultural uses. A portion of the site would be converted from agriculture land as a result of the project. However, wireless communication facilities are permitted in all zone districts, subject to the applicable standards and permitting requirements, so the project would not conflict with existing zoning regulations for agricultural use. The property is not within an area that is under Williamson Act Contract and would not affect any properties under a Williamson Act Contract. There would be no impact.
- c-d. **Loss of Forest land or Conversion of Forest land:** The site is not designated as Timberland Preserve Zone (TPZ) or other forestland according to the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance. No trees are proposed for removal as part of the project. There would be no impact.
- e. **Conversion of Prime Farmland or Forest Land:** The proposed facility characteristics and scale are such that there would be no change to the existing environment that would result in the conversion of farmland, agricultural land, or forestland. There would be no impact.

**FINDING:** For this Agriculture category, the thresholds of significance have not been exceeded and no impacts would be anticipated to result from the project.

<b>III. AIR QUALITY. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			X
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			X
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			X
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			X

**Discussion:** According to the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Guide to Air Quality Assessment (2002) substantial adverse effect on air quality would occur if:

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- Emissions of ROG and No<sub>x</sub> will result in construction or operation emissions greater than 82lbs/day (Table 3.2);
- Emissions of PM<sub>10</sub>, CO, SO<sub>2</sub> and No<sub>x</sub>, as a result of construction or operation emissions, will result in ambient pollutant concentrations in excess of the applicable National or State Ambient Air Quality Standard (AAQS). Special standards for ozone, CO, and visibility apply in the Lake Tahoe Air Basin portion of the County; or
- Emissions of toxic air contaminants cause cancer risk greater than 1 in 1 million (10 in 1 million if best available control technology for toxics is used) or a non-cancer Hazard Index greater than 1. In addition, the project must demonstrate compliance with all applicable District, State and U.S. EPA regulations governing toxic and hazardous emissions.

a. **Air Quality Plan:** El Dorado County has adopted the Rules and Regulations of the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (2000) establishing rules and standards for the reduction of stationary source air pollutants (ROG/VOC, NO<sub>x</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub>). The EDC/State Clean Air Act Plan has set a schedule for implementing a funding transportation contract measures to limit mobile source emissions. The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of either plan. Therefore, the potential impacts of the project would be anticipated to be less than significant.

b, c. **Air Quality Standards and Cumulative Impacts:** The El Dorado County AQMD reviewed the application materials for this project and determined that by implementing typical conditions including Rule 215 (Architectural Coating) and 501 and 523 (New Paint Source), which are included in the project permit, the project would have a less than significant impact in this category. The conditions would be implemented, reviewed, and approved by the AQMD prior to and concurrently with the grading, improvement, and/or building permit approvals. With full review for consistency with General Plan Policies, impacts would be anticipated to be less than significant.

The project would create air quality impacts which may contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation during construction. Construction activities associated with the project include grading and site improvements for utilities, driveway, mono-pine installation, graveling, wall installation, and associated on-site activities. Construction related activities would generate PM<sub>10</sub> dust emissions that could exceed either the state or federal ambient air quality standards for PM<sub>10</sub>. However, existing regulations implemented at issuance of building and grading permits would ensure that any construction related PM<sub>10</sub> dust emissions would be reduced to acceptable levels. Adherence to the limitations of construction and to the ADMP would ensure impacts are less than significant.

Operational air quality impacts would be minor, and would be anticipated to cause an insignificant contribution to existing or projected air quality violations. This would be a less-than-significant impact.

d. **Sensitive Receptors:** The CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000) identify sensitive receptors as facilities that house or attract children, the elderly, people with illnesses, or others that are especially sensitive to the effects of air pollutants. Hospitals, schools, and convalescent hospitals are examples of sensitive receptors. No sources of substantial pollutant concentrations will be emitted by the cell tower facility, and no sensitive receptors are near the proposed facility. There would be no impact.

e. **Objectionable Odors:** Table 3-1 of the Guide to Air Quality Assessment (AQMD, 2002) does not list the proposed cellular communications facility use as a use known to create objectionable odors. There would be no impact.

**FINDING:** The proposed project would not affect the implementation of regional air quality regulations or management plans. The project would result in small increases in emissions due to construction and operation; however existing regulations would reduce these impacts to a less-than-significant level. As conditioned and with adherence to County Code,

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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the proposed project would not be anticipated to cause substantial adverse effects to air quality, nor exceed established significance thresholds for air quality impacts.

<b>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			X
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			X
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?			X
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?			X
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			X
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?			X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Biological Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Substantially reduce or diminish habitat for native fish, wildlife or plants;
- Cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels;
- Threaten to eliminate a native plant or animal community;
- Reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal;
- Substantially affect a rare or endangered species of animal or plant or the habitat of the species; or
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species.

a. **Special Status Species and Sensitive Natural Communities:** Review of the County Geographic Information System (GIS) soil data demonstrates the project site would not be located on lands shown to contain Serpentine Rock or Gabbro soils that contain certain rare plants. Further, the project site is not located within a Rare Plant Mitigation area. The project is not located within a sensitive natural community of the county, state, or federal agency, including but not limited to an Ecological Preserve or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Recovery Plan boundaries. A biological assessment of the site was conducted by a professional biologist, and findings and recommendations were submitted in a report dated February 26, 2015 (Branstad). Within five miles of the site, 16 special status species, including candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CFW) or USFWS, have been known to occur. Of these species, there is potential habitat for the great grey owl (*Strix nebulosa*), which is a California endangered species, to be found near the project site. In addition, there is a high potential for other raptor or migratory bird species to nest at or near the site. Nests of raptors and other birds are protected under Section 50 CFR 10 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code. However, due to its small footprint, the proposed project is not anticipated to have a significant impact on any special-status species. Recommended avoidance and impact avoidance measures will further lessen the potential impacts to species and habitat, and these would be included as conditions of project approval. The impact would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

- b, c. **Riparian Habitat, Wetlands, Potentially Jurisdictional Waters of the U.S.:** No wetland features as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been found within the project parcel. There would be no impact.
- d. **Migration Corridors:** The 30x40 foot lease area would not impact any established mitigation corridors. There would be no impact.
- e. **Local Biological Resources Policies:** Local protection of biological resources includes protection of rare plants, avoidance of riparian areas, and mitigation of impacted oak woodlands. The 30x40 foot lease area is not located adjacent to any riparian areas and does not include any areas of rare plants. Construction would require trenching within the utilities lease area, but no digging would occur within the dripline of any protected or other tree. No protected oak trees are present on the site, and no oaks or other trees are proposed for removal. There would be no impact.
- f. **Adopted Plans:** This project, as designed, does not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. There would be no impact.

**FINDING:** This site is not located within the USFWS Recovery Plan boundaries. No jurisdictional wetlands are present at the project site. The subject parcel contains a single-family residence and accessory structure. The proposed project location is in an area adjacent to the developed area of the parcel and has a relatively small footprint of impact for the forty-eight-acre parcel. No significant impact to biological resources is anticipated.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. <i>Would the project:</i>			
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?			X
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?			X
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			X
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			X

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**Discussion:** In general, significant impacts are those that diminish the integrity, research potential, or other characteristics that make a historical or cultural resource significant or important. A substantial adverse effect on Cultural Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Disrupt, alter, or adversely affect a prehistoric or historic archaeological site or property that is historically or cultural significant to a community or ethnic or social group; or a paleontological site except as a part of a scientific study;
- Affect a landmark of cultural/historical importance;
- Conflict with established recreational, educational, religious or scientific uses of the area; or
- Conflict with adopted environmental plans and goals of the community where it is located.

a-c. **Archaeological Resource, Historic Resource, Paleontological Resource:** A record search was conducted by the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), North Central Information Center on December 19, 2014 (Hallam). The results indicated that there is a moderate potential for locating significant prehistoric or historic cultural resources. No archaeological sites, features, or artifacts were identified, nor any known paleontological sites or known fossil strata/locales. A registered archeologist conducted a sacred lands file search and literature review, consulted Native American contacts, and performed an archeological field survey for the site. No historic or prehistoric archaeological resources, tribal cultural resources, eligible or listed historic properties, unique archeological or tribal cultural resources were identified in the proposed lease area or area of ground disturbance (Windmiller, 2015). Additionally, standard conditions of approval are included for this project to protect sub-surface historical, cultural, or archeological sites or materials in the event that such materials are discovered during earth disturbances and grading activities on the site. Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.

d. **Human Remains:** There is a low likelihood of human remains discovery on the project site. Standard conditions of approval would apply during all grading activities to address accidental discovery of human remains. Impacts will be less than significant.

**FINDING:** No significant cultural resources have been identified on the project site. Standard conditions of approval would apply in the event of accidental discovery during project construction. This project would be anticipated to have a less than significant impact within the Cultural Resources category.

<b>VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:			
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.			<b>X</b>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?		<b>X</b>	
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			<b>X</b>
iv) Landslides?			<b>X</b>
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?		<b>X</b>	

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VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. <i>Would the project:</i>			
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?			X
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994) creating substantial risks to life or property?			X
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?			X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Geologic Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Allow substantial development of structures or features in areas susceptible to seismically induced hazards such as groundshaking, liquefaction, seiche, and/or slope failure where the risk to people and property resulting from earthquakes could not be reduced through engineering and construction measures in accordance with regulations, codes, and professional standards;
- Allow substantial development in areas subject to landslides, slope failure, erosion, subsidence, settlement, and/or expansive soils where the risk to people and property resulting from such geologic hazards could not be reduced through engineering and construction measures in accordance with regulations, codes, and professional standards; or
- Allow substantial grading and construction activities in areas of known soil instability, steep slopes, or shallow depth to bedrock where such activities could result in accelerated erosion and sedimentation or exposure of people, property, and/or wildlife to hazardous conditions (e.g., blasting) that could not be mitigated through engineering and construction measures in accordance with regulations, codes, and professional standards.

a. **Seismic Hazards:**

i) According to the California Department of Conservation Division of Mines and Geology, there are no Alquist-Priolo fault zones within El Dorado County (DOC, 2007). The nearest such faults are located in Alpine and Butte Counties. There would be no impact.

ii) The potential for seismic ground shaking in the project area would be considered remote for the reason stated in Section i) above. Any potential impacts due to seismic impacts would be addressed through compliance with the Uniform Building Code. All structures would be built to meet the construction standards of the UBC for the appropriate seismic zone. Impacts would be less than significant.

iii) El Dorado County is considered an area with low potential for seismic activity. There are no landslide, liquefaction, or fault zones (DOC, 2007). There would be no impact.

iv) All grading activities onsite would be required to comply with the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Ordinance. There would be no impact.

b. **Soil Erosion:** The site contains Holland coarse sandy loam, with 9 to 15 percent slopes, in the proposed lease area. This soil type has a moderate to high erosion hazard. Shaver coarse sandy loam, with 15 to 30 percent slopes, which is located on the site but outside the lease area, has a high erosion hazard (USDA, 1974). There would be the potential for erosion, changes in topography, and unstable soil conditions, however, these concerns would be addressed during the grading permit process. All grading activities exceeding 250 cubic yards of graded material or

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grading completed for the purpose of supporting a structure must meet the provisions contained in the Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control, County Code Chapter 110.14. This ordinance is designed to limit erosion, control the loss of topsoil and sediment, limit surface runoff, and ensure stable soil and site conditions for the intended use in compliance with the El Dorado County General Plan Impacts would be less than significant.

- c. **Geologic Hazards:** Based on the Seismic Hazards Mapping Program administered by the California Geological Survey, no portion of El Dorado County is located in a Seismic Hazard Zone, or those areas prone to liquefaction and earthquake-induced landslides (DOC, 2013). Therefore, El Dorado County is not considered to be at risk from liquefaction hazards. Lateral spreading is typically associated with areas experiencing liquefaction. Because liquefaction hazards are not present in El Dorado County, the county is not at risk for lateral spreading. All grading activities would comply with the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Ordinance. Impacts would be less than significant.
- d. **Expansive Soils:** Expansive soils are those that greatly increase in volume when they absorb water and shrink when they dry out. When buildings are placed on expansive soils, foundations may rise each wet season and fall each dry season. This movement may result in cracking foundations, distortion of structures, and warping of doors and windows. The central portion of the county has a moderate expansiveness rating while the eastern and western portions have a low rating. Linear extensibility is used to determine the shrink-swell potential of soils. Pursuant to the Soil Report for El Dorado County, Shaver coarse sandy loam and Holland coarse sandy loam soils are reported to have shrink-swell potential of 0 to 5.9 percent, depending on the depth (USDA, 1974). This indicates that the shrink swell-potential is low to moderate. No structures for human occupancy would be constructed as part of the proposed project. Prior to construction, a grading plan will be required to be approved in accordance with the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Ordinance. Impacts would be less than significant.
- e. **Septic Capability:** The project would not require the installation or use of a septic system. There would be no impact.

**FINDING:** A review of the soils and geologic conditions on the project site determined that the project would not result in a substantial adverse effect. All grading activities would be required to comply with the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Ordinance which would address potential impacts related to soil erosion, landslides and other geologic impacts. Future development would be required to comply with the Uniform Building Code which would address potential seismic related impacts. For this Geology and Soils category, impacts would be less than significant.

<b>VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a.	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?		X
b.	Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?		X

**Discussion:** The prominent Green House Gas Emission (GHGs) contributing to the greenhouse effect as specifically listed in Assembly Bill AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. Emissions of GHGs contributing to global climate change are attributable in large part to human activities associated with the industrial/manufacturing, utility, transportation, residential, and agricultural sectors. In California, the transportation sector is the largest emitter of GHGs, followed by electricity generation (California Energy Commission, 2006). No project alone would contribute to a noticeable incremental change to the global climate. However, AB 32 and executive order S-3-05 have established a statewide context for GHG emissions, and an enforceable statewide cap on GHG emissions.

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The Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) issued a technical advisory (OPR, 2008) to provide interim guidance regarding the basis for determining the proposed project’s contribution of greenhouse gas emissions and the project’s contribution to global climate change. In the absence of adopted local or statewide thresholds, OPR recommends the following approach for analyzing greenhouse gas emissions: Identify and quantify the project’s greenhouse gas emissions; assess the significance of the impact on climate change; and if the impact is found to be significant, identify alternatives and/or mitigation measures that would reduce the impact to less than significant levels.

- a. The proposed project would generate GHG emissions primarily a result of facility construction in the form of construction equipment exhaust. The proposed project anticipates a construction period of approximately 30 to 60 days. During this time, a small net increase in GHG emissions would result from various construction activities. Construction-related GHG emissions would be associated with engine exhaust from heavy-duty construction equipment, transport trucks hauling materials, and worker commute trips. Construction-related traffic would be spread over the duration of the construction schedule and therefore, would be minimal on a daily basis. After completion of construction, all construction emissions would cease. Operation of the facility would not require the use of water or require a substantial amount of electricity. The project would be required to incorporate modern construction and design features that reduce energy consumption to the extent feasible. Implementation of these features would help reduce potential GHG emissions resulting from the development of the proposed project. The project would generate a negligible amount of greenhouse gas emissions as a result of infrequent maintenance vehicle trips and back-up generator operations. Therefore, the proposed project would have a negligible contribution towards statewide GHG inventories and would have a less than significant impact.
- b. Because construction-related emissions would be temporary and below the minimum standard for reporting requirements under AB 32, the proposed project’s GHG emissions would have a negligible cumulative contribution towards statewide and global GHG emissions. The proposed project would not conflict with the objectives of AB 32 or any other applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. Impacts would be less than significant.

**FINDING:** The project would result in less than significant impacts to greenhouse gas emissions because of the project size and inclusion of design features to address the emissions of greenhouse gases. For this Greenhouse Gas Emissions category, there would be no significant adverse environmental effect as a result of the project.

<b>VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			X
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			X

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<b>VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			X
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			X
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X
h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?		X	

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect due to hazards or hazardous materials would occur if implementation of the project would:

- Expose people and property to hazards associated with the use, storage, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials where the risk of such exposure could not be reduced through implementation of Federal, State, and local laws and regulations;
- Expose people and property to risks associated with wildland fires where such risks could not be reduced through implementation of proper fuel management techniques, buffers and landscape setbacks, structural design features, and emergency access; or
- Expose people to safety hazards as a result of former on-site mining operations.

a, b. **Hazardous Materials:** The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) prohibits local governments from denying a wireless facility project based on concerns about the dangers of exposure to radio frequency or electromagnetic fields (EMF). This is due to inconclusive evidence about the health risk of exposure to radio frequency EMF.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 became effective on February 8, 1996. This act preserves the authority of the State or local government over decisions regarding the placement, construction, and modifications of personal wireless services, subject to two limitations. Section 704(7)B(iii) requires any denials to be in writing and supported by "substantial evidence." Section 704(7)B(iv) prohibits denial on the basis of radio frequency emissions if those emissions are compliant with Federal regulations.

The American National Standards Institute and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) have published a standard called ANSI/IEEE C95.1-1992, which until recently set recommended maximum power density levels for radio frequency (RF) energy originating from communications sites and other sources. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has also produced its own guidelines, which are more stringent and supersede the ANSI standard. The FCC rules categorically exclude certain transmitting facilities from routine evaluations for compliance with the RF emission guidelines if it can be determined that it is unlikely to cause workers or the general public to become exposed to emission that exceed the guidelines. The following table represents the FCC limits for both occupational and general population exposures to different radio frequencies:

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Frequency Range (F) (MHz)	Limits for Occupational Exposure (mW/cm <sup>2</sup> )*	Limits for General Public Exposure (mW/cm <sup>2</sup> )
0.3-1.34	100	100
1.34-3.0	100	180/F <sup>2</sup>
3.0—30	900/F <sup>2</sup>	180/F <sup>2</sup>
30-300	1.0	0.2
300-1,500	F/300	F/1500
1,500-100,000	5.0	1.0

\*mW/cm<sup>2</sup>=Milliwatt per square Centimeter

The RF analysis dated February 17, 2015 found that for accessible areas at ground level, the maximum predicted power density level is 0.15% of the FCC General Public exposure limits. At the base of the tower, the maximum predicted power density level is 0.23% of the General Public limits and 0.045% of the FCC Occupational limits. The nearest residential structure is located approximately 310 feet southwest of the proposed monopine. At this location, the maximum predicted power density level is 0.001% of the FCC General Public exposure limits. The nearest off-site residence is located 560 feet from the lease area. The report validates the figures based on the FCC Regulations for measurements identifying quantitative standards for human exposure limits based on radio frequency emissions. Therefore, the risk of release of hazardous materials or emissions to the public is remote.

The project would not be anticipated to introduce, transport, store, or dispose of hazardous materials in such quantities that would create a hazard to people or the environment. The site is not located in an area of naturally occurring asbestos (El Dorado County, 2005). As such, impacts would be less than significant.

- c. **Hazardous Materials near Schools:** No school sites exist near the project location. There would be no impact to schools.
- d. **Hazardous Sites:** The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5 (DTSC, 2015). There would be no impact with the approval of the proposed project.
- e. **Aircraft Hazards:** According to the El Dorado County Zoning Map, the project site is not within any airport safety zone or airport land use plan area. There would be no impact.
- f. **Private Airstrips:** There are no private airstrips in the vicinity of the project site. There would be no impact.
- g. **Emergency Plan:** The proposed project consists of installation of ground equipment and a wireless telecommunications facility which would not necessitate alterations to any street and would generate less than two vehicle trips per month. The project was reviewed by the Pioneer Fire Protection District and the Transportation Division. The project would not physically interfere with the implementation of the County adopted emergency response and/or evacuation plan for the project area. There would be no impact.
- h. **Wildfire Hazards:** The project site is in an area of moderate hazard for wildland fire pursuant to Figure 5.8-4 of the 2004 General Plan Draft EIR. Pioneer Fire Protection District provided comments and conditions of approval, which are to be incorporated into the permit approvals. Implementation of the fire district standards and California Building Codes would reduce the impacts of wildland fire to a less than significant level.

**FINDING:** The project would not be anticipated to expose the area to significant hazards relating to the use, storage, transport, or disposal of hazardous materials. Any proposed future use of hazardous materials would be subject to review and

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approval of a Hazardous Materials Business Plan issued by the Environmental Management. For this Hazards and Hazardous Materials category, impacts would be less than significant.

<b>IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?		X	
b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			X
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or -off-site?		X	
d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?		X	
e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?		X	
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?		X	
g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?			X
h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?			X
i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?			X
j. Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?			X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Hydrology and Water Quality would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Expose residents to flood hazards by being located within the 100-year floodplain as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
- Cause substantial change in the rate and amount of surface runoff leaving the project site ultimately causing a substantial change in the amount of water in a stream, river or other waterway;
- Substantially interfere with groundwater recharge;

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- Cause degradation of water quality (temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and/or other typical stormwater pollutants) in the project area; or
  - Cause degradation of groundwater quality in the vicinity of the project site.
- a. **Water Quality Standards:** Erosion control would be required as part of the future building and grading permit. Adherence to County Code would not increase the level of sediment significantly above the current stormwater discharge levels. Operation of the proposed project would not involve any uses that would generate wastewater. Stormwater runoff from potential development would be directed to an engineered drainage system and would contain water quality protection features in accordance with a potential National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permit, as deemed applicable. The project would not be anticipated to violate water quality standards. Impacts would be less than significant.
- b. **Groundwater Supplies:** The project is not anticipated to affect potential groundwater supplies above pre-project levels. The project is of limited size and will not require water use for operation. There would be no impact.
- c-f. **Drainage Patterns:** A grading permit through Development Services would be required to address grading, erosion and sediment control at the lease area and access road. Project related construction activities would be required to adhere to the El Dorado County Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Ordinance. This includes the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize degradation of water quality during construction. Impacts would be less than significant.
- g-j. **Flood-related Hazards:** The project site is not located within any mapped 100-year flood areas and would not result in the construction of any structures that would impede or redirect flood flows (FEMA, 2008). No dams which would result in potential hazards related to dam failures are located in the project area. The risk of exposure to seiche, tsunami, or mudflows would be remote. There would be no impact.

**FINDING:** The proposed project would require a site improvement and grading permit through the Development Services Building Division that would address any potentially applicable erosion and sediment control. No significant hydrological impacts are expected with the development of the project either directly or indirectly. For this hydrology category, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.

<b>X. LAND USE PLANNING. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Physically divide an established community?			X
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?		X	
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?			X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Land Use would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Result in the conversion of Prime Farmland as defined by the State Department of Conservation;

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- Result in conversion of land that either contains choice soils or which the County Agricultural Commission has identified as suitable for sustained grazing, provided that such lands were not assigned urban or other nonagricultural use in the Land Use Map;
- Result in conversion of undeveloped open space to more intensive land uses;
- Result in a use substantially incompatible with the existing surrounding land uses; or
- Conflict with adopted environmental plans, policies, and goals of the community.

- a. **Established Community:** The adjoining parcels are designated for residential, commercial, and agricultural land uses. The project would provide improved wireless cellular telecommunications within the Fairplay area. No new roadways, land divisions, rail lines, bridges or other improvements which would physically divide an established community are proposed. There would be no impact.
- b. **Land Use Consistency:** The parcel is zoned Planned Agricultural (PA-20). Zoning Ordinance section 130.14.210.5.b permits wireless communication facilities in agricultural zone districts with approval of a Special Use Permit by the Planning Commission, pursuant to the development standards of 130.14.210.F. These standards include screening, compliance with setbacks, and proper maintenance. The applicant has provided a project narrative explaining the project details, potential benefits to the community, and site selection. The applicant has designed the wireless telecommunications facility in compliance with County regulations, addressing aesthetics and health and safety concerns. The application is complete and complies with zoning and wireless facilities regulations. As conditioned, impacts would be less than significant.
- c. **Habitat Conservation Plan:** The proposed project is not located in an area covered by a Habitat Conservation Plan or a Natural Community Conservation Plan. There would be no impact.

**FINDING:** The proposed use of the land would be consistent with the Zoning Ordinance and General Plan with the issuance of a Special Use Permit. There would be no significant impact to land use goals or standards resulting from the project. As conditioned, and with adherence to County Code, no significant impacts would be expected for the land use planning category.

<b>XI. MINERAL RESOURCES. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?			X
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?			X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Mineral Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Result in obstruction of access to, and extraction of mineral resources classified MRZ-2x, or result in land use compatibility conflicts with mineral extraction operations.
- a, b. **Mineral Resources:** The project site has not been delineated in the El Dorado County General Plan as a locally important mineral resource recovery site (2003, Exhibits 5.9-6 and 5.9-7). Review of the California Department of Conservation Geologic Map data showed that the project site is not within a mineral resource zone district. The project would construct the telecommunications facility within a 30x40 foot lease area. Because of the relatively

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small project footprint size, and the absence of any known important mineral resources, the proposed project is not anticipated to impact important mineral resources. No impacts are anticipated.

**FINDING:** No impacts to energy and mineral resources are expected with the development of the wireless telecommunications facility either directly or indirectly. For this mineral resources category, there would be no impacts.

<b>XII.NOISE.</b> <i>Would the project result in:</i>			
a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?		X	
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?		X	
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?		X	
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?		X	
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise level?			X
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?			X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect due to Noise would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Result in short-term construction noise that creates noise exposures to surrounding noise sensitive land uses in excess of 60 decibel (dB) Community Noise Level Equivalent (CNEL);
- Result in long-term operational noise that creates noise exposures in excess of 60 dB CNEL at the adjoining property line of a noise sensitive land use and the background noise level is increased by 3dB, or more; or
- Results in noise levels inconsistent with the performance standards contained in Table 6-1 and Table 6-2 in the El Dorado County General Plan.

a. **Noise Exposures:** The proposed project will not expose people to noise levels in excess of standards established in the General Plan or Zoning Ordinance. Short-term construction-related noise impacts are anticipated to occur weekdays only and would be required to comply with grading and construction permitting requirements and the noise performance standards contained in the General Plan. Noise would also result from the operation of the electronic base transfer system (BTS or cabinets), air conditioning unit, and a 30 KW stand-by generator within the equipment shelter. According to Table 6-2 of the General Plan, nontransportation noise is limited to a time-averaged level of 50dB and maximum of 60dB in rural areas at a point 100' away from the residence from 7am to 7pm (p. 118). The maximum noise level from the air conditioner is 63.0 dB when measured at a distance of 23 feet, according to the sound level evaluation for this site and proposed equipment. The maximum distance at the project property line for the combined operation of the air conditioner and the generator is 39.1 dB, which is below the

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maximum and average county limits for rural areas for all time periods (Hammett & Edison, Inc., 2015). A standard condition limiting the days and time of generator maintenance will further lessen this impact. The noise associated with the project would be less than significant.

- b. **Groundborne Shaking:** The project may generate ground borne vibration or shaking events during project construction, which is anticipated to take approximately 45 days. These potential impacts would be limited to project construction. Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.
- c. **Permanent Noise Increases:** Routine maintenance visits would occur approximately once or twice a month. The vehicle noise from the addition of the maintenance visit(s) would not be measurable and would not exceed the noise standards contained in the General Plan. The impacts would be considered less than significant.
- d. **Short Term Noise:** Short-term construction-related noise impacts associated with excavation, grading, and construction activities would occur as part of the project. Construction of the facility would consist of extending the driveway to the lease area, minimal grading for the lease area, setting the tower, placing ground equipment within the lease area, installing one equipment shelter, laying gravel, and installing a six-foot fence. These activities are anticipated to occur weekdays only over an approximately 45-day period during daylight hours and would not involve extensive use of heavy equipment that would be a substantial source of noise or vibration at the residence. El Dorado County requires that all construction vehicles and equipment, fixed or mobile, be equipped with properly maintained and functioning mufflers. All construction and grading operations would be required to comply with the noise performance standards contained in the General Plan. According to Table 6-5 of the General Plan, nontransportation construction noise is limited to a time-averaged level of 70dB and maximum of 75dB from 7am to 7pm (p. 118). Impacts would be less than significant.
- e-f. **Aircraft Noise:** There are no airstrips or airports within the project vicinity. There would be no impact.

**FINDING:** As conditioned, and with adherence to County Code, no significant direct or indirect impacts to noise levels are expected with the development of the wireless telecommunications facility either directly or indirectly. For this Noise category, the thresholds of significance would not be exceeded.

<b>XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (i.e., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (i.e., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?			X
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?			X
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?			X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Population and Housing would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Create substantial growth or concentration in population;
- Create a more substantial imbalance in the County’s current jobs to housing ratio; or
- Conflict with adopted goals and policies set forth in applicable planning documents.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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a-c. **Population Growth, Housing Displacement, and Replacement Housing:** The proposed project will not produce any housing, employment areas, roads or other infrastructure. The facility will require monthly maintenance and will be accessed by an access drive extending from the existing residential driveway. No housing or people would be displaced as a result of the proposed project therefore there would be no impact to Population and Housing.

**FINDING:** The project would not displace housing. There would be no potential for a significant impact due to substantial growth with the communications facility either directly or indirectly. For this Population and Housing category, the thresholds of significance would not be anticipated to be exceeded.

<b>XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES.</b> <i>Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:</i>			
a. Fire protection?			X
b. Police protection?			X
c. Schools?			X
d. Parks?			X
e. Other government services?			X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Public Services would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Substantially increase or expand the demand for fire protection and emergency medical services without increasing staffing and equipment to meet the Department’s/District’s goal of 1.5 firefighters per 1,000 residents and 2 firefighters per 1,000 residents, respectively;
- Substantially increase or expand the demand for public law enforcement protection without increasing staffing and equipment to maintain the Sheriff’s Department goal of one sworn officer per 1,000 residents;
- Substantially increase the public school student population exceeding current school capacity without also including provisions to adequately accommodate the increased demand in services;
- Place a demand for library services in excess of available resources;
- Substantially increase the local population without dedicating a minimum of 5 acres of developed parklands for every 1,000 residents; or
- Be inconsistent with County adopted goals, objectives or policies.

a. **Fire Protection:** The parcel is within the Pioneer Fire Protection District service area. The new, unoccupied facility would represent a minimal increase in the demand for structural fire protection at the project site. The Fire District responded with recommendations for the project, which will be incorporated as project conditions of approval. Impacts would be less than significant.

b. **Police Protection:** Police services would continue to be provided by the El Dorado County Sheriff’s Department. The facility will not be staffed and will be enclosed by a six-foot fence within private residential property. No new or expanded law enforcement services would be required. There would be no impact.

c-e. **Schools, Parks and Government Services:** There are no components of operating the proposed project that would include any permanent population-related increases that would substantially contribute to increased demand on

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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schools, parks, or other governmental services that could, in turn, result in the need for new or expanded facilities. There would be no impact.

**FINDING:** As discussed above, there would be no significant impacts to public services as a result of a wireless communication facility.

<b>XV. RECREATION.</b>			
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?			X
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?			X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Recreational Resources would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Substantially increase the local population without dedicating a minimum of 5 acres of developed parklands for every 1,000 residents; or
- Substantially increase the use of neighborhood or regional parks in the area such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur.

a, b. **Parks and Recreational Services:** The project does not include any increase in permanent population that would contribute to increased demand on recreation facilities or contribute to increased use of existing facilities. There would be no impact.

**FINDING:** As discussed above, there would be no significant impacts to recreation as a result of a wireless communication facility.

<b>XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?		X	
b. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?			X
c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?			X
d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or			X

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<b>XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?		X	
f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?			X

**Discussion:** The Transportation and Circulation Policies contained in the County General Plan establish a framework for review of thresholds of significance and identification of potential impacts of new development on the County’s road system. These policies are enforced by the application of the Transportation Impact Study (TIS) Guidelines, the County Design and Improvements Standards Manual, and the County Encroachment Ordinance, with review of individual development projects by the Transportation and Long Range Planning Divisions of the Community Development Agency. A substantial adverse effect on Traffic would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Result in an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system;
- Generate traffic volumes which cause violations of adopted level of service standards (project and cumulative); or
- Result in, or worsen, Level of Service (LOS) F traffic congestion during weekday, peak-hour periods on any highway, road, interchange or intersection in the unincorporated areas of the county as a result of a residential development project of 5 or more units.

- a. **Traffic Increases:** No substantial traffic increases would result from the proposed project, as the only added trips would result from monthly maintenance visits. Comments concerning the proposed facility were received from the Transportation Division and do not indicate that the LOS would be significantly impacted by the proposed project. Access to the site would be from the existing driveway. Impacts would be less than significant.
- b. **Levels of Service Standards:** The LOS established by the County would not be exceeded by the project, nor would the surrounding road circulation system be impacted. There would be no impact.
- c. **Air Traffic:** The site is not located near an airport. The 90-foot height, similar to some of the trees in the area, would not create an air traffic hazard. There would be no impact.
- d. **Design Hazards:** The design and location of the project is not anticipated to create any significant hazards. The Transportation Division analysis identified no issues for the project. There would be no impact.
- e. **Emergency Access:** The project would not result in inadequate emergency access. The project was reviewed by the Transportation Division and the Pioneer Fire Protection District to ensure that adequate access would be provided to meet County Fire Safe and County Design Improvement Standards Manual. With the inclusion of the Transportation Division and Fire District’s standard conditions, impacts would be less than significant.
- f. **Alternative Transportation:** The project would not conflict with adopted plans, polices or programs relating to alternative transportation. There would be no impact.

**FINDING:** As discussed above, no significant traffic impacts are expected with the wireless telecommunications facility either directly or indirectly. For this Transportation/Traffic category, the thresholds of significance would not be exceeded.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<b>XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. <i>Would the project:</i></b>			
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?			X
b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			X
c. Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?		X	
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?			X
e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?			X
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?			X
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			X

**Discussion:** A substantial adverse effect on Utilities and Service Systems would occur if the implementation of the project would:

- Breach published national, state, or local standards relating to solid waste or litter control;
- Substantially increase the demand for potable water in excess of available supplies or distribution capacity without also including provisions to adequately accommodate the increased demand, or is unable to provide an adequate on-site water supply, including treatment, storage and distribution;
- Substantially increase the demand for the public collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater without also including provisions to adequately accommodate the increased demand, or is unable to provide for adequate on-site wastewater system; or
- Result in demand for expansion of power or telecommunications service facilities without also including provisions to adequately accommodate the increased or expanded demand.

- a. **Wastewater Requirements:** This project will have no use of water, associated plumbing, or wastewater systems. Construction and operation of the project would not involve discharges of untreated domestic wastewater that would violate water quality control board requirements. There would be no impact.
- b. **Construction of New/Expansion of Existing Wastewater Treatment Facilities:** As mentioned above, this facility would not involve the use of water or the generation of wastewater. No new or expanded wastewater treatment facilities would be required for the proposed wireless communication monopine. There would be no impact.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- c. **Construction of New/Expansion of Existing Stormwater Drainage Facilities:** All required drainage facilities for the project would be built in conformance with the County of El Dorado Drainage Manual, as determined by Development Services standards, during the grading and building permit processes. Stormwater runoff is anticipated to be minimal. Impacts would be considered less than significant.
- d. **Sufficient Water Supply:** As mentioned above, the proposed project would not require the use of water for operation, so no new entitlements would be needed. There would be no impact.
- e. **Adequate Capacity:** The project does not involve the treatment of wastewater for operation. There would be no need to determine whether or not there would be adequate capacity. There would be no impact.
- f, g. **Solid Waste Disposal and Solid Waste Requirements:** Operation and continued maintenance of the cell tower and ground equipment shelter would not generate solid waste or affect recycling goals. There would be no impact.

**FINDING:** No significant utility and service system impacts would be expected with the wireless telecommunications facility either directly or indirectly. For this Utilities and Service Systems category, the thresholds of significance would not be exceeded.

<b>XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE. Does the project:</b>			
a. Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?			X
b. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?			X
c. Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			X

**Discussion:**

- a. No substantial evidence contained in the project record has been found that would indicate that this project would have the potential to significantly degrade the quality of the environment when using thresholds pre-established as benchmarks. These benchmarks are established by General Plan Policies, the Grading and Drainage Ordinances, and in Zoning Ordinance Sections 130.28.200 C. and Chapter 130.14.210. As conditioned, and with adherence to County permit requirements, this project would not be anticipated to have the potential to substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of California history or pre-history. Any impacts from the project would be anticipated to be less than significant due to the design of the project and required standards that would be implemented by any required project specific improvements on the property.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- b. The project would not involve development or changes in land use that would result in an excessive increase in population growth. Impacts due to increased demand for public services associated with the project would be offset by the payment of fees as required by service providers to extend the necessary infrastructure services. The project would not be anticipated to contribute substantially to increased traffic in the area and the project would not require an increase in the wastewater treatment capacity of the County. Due to the small size of the proposed project, types of activities proposed, and site-specific environmental conditions, which have been disclosed in the Project Description and analyzed in Items I through XVI, there would be no significant impacts anticipated related to agriculture resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation, traffic/transportation, or utilities/service systems that would combine with similar effects such that the project’s contribution would be cumulatively considerable. For these issue areas, either no impacts, or less than significant impacts would be anticipated. By conforming to Zoning Ordinance regulations as well as the inherent visual screening provided by the design of a mono-pine wireless communications tower, the visual impacts of the project would be less than significant. The cumulative contribution to the viewshed would be less than significant.

As outlined and discussed in this document, as conditioned and with compliance with County Codes, this project would be anticipated to have a less than significant project-related environmental effect which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Based on the analysis in this study, it has been determined that the project would have less than significant cumulative impacts.

- c. Based on the discussion contained in this document, no potentially significant impacts to human beings are anticipated to occur with respect to potential project impacts. The project would include standard conditions of approval required for screening and buffering the ground equipment and monopine wireless communication tower with an appearance substantially consistent with the existing surrounding vegetation. Adherence to these standard conditions would be expected to reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level. As discussed in the Noise section, short term noise increases in the project area as a result of project construction and operation would be reduced by standard Conditions of Approval regarding hours and days of construction and operation. Any future development of the project by any potential future carriers would require environmental review through the Special Use Permit revision process. As conditioned, and with adherence to County Code, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.

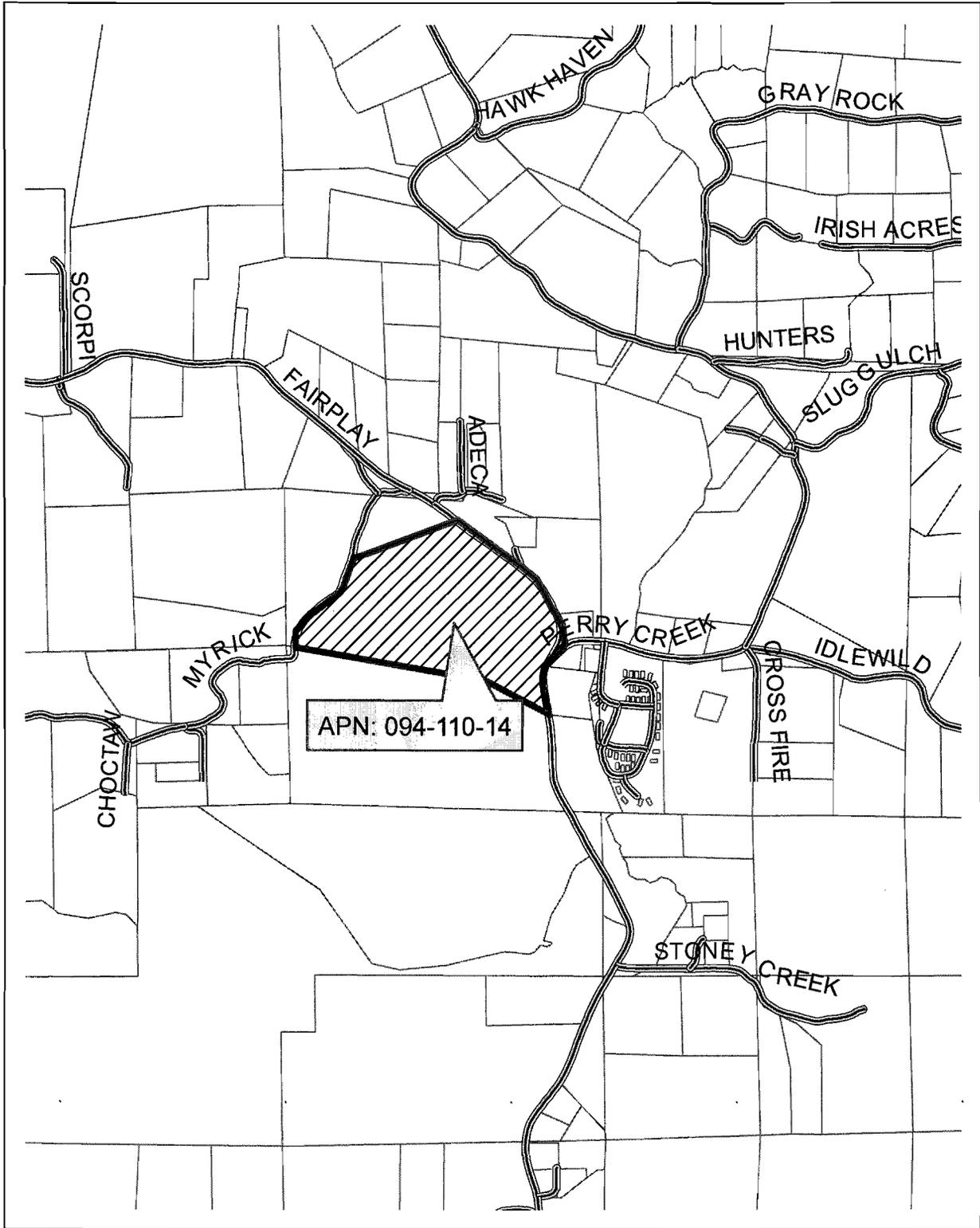
## **INITIAL STUDY ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 .....	Location Map
Attachment 2 .....	Site Plan, Sheet A-1, February 9, 2015
Attachment 3 .....	<i>RF Exposure Study</i> , Hammet and Edison, Inc., February 15, 2015
Attachment 4 .....	<i>Biological Assessment for the Fairplay Verizon Site, El Dorado County, California</i> . Foothill Associates, Granite Bay, CA. February 26, 2015.
Attachment 5 .....	<i>Archaeological Survey Report, Verizon Wireless Fair Play—New Build</i> , Windmiller, Ric, Auburn CA. April 2015.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCE LIST**

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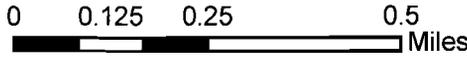
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**File No. S15-0003**

**Location Map**

Fair Play Wireless



**ATTACHMENT 1**



**Verizon Wireless • Proposed Base Station (Site No. 285283 “Fair Play”)  
7920 Fairplay Road • Somerset, California**

**Statement of Hammett & Edison, Inc., Consulting Engineers**

The firm of Hammett & Edison, Inc., Consulting Engineers, has been retained on behalf of Verizon Wireless, a personal telecommunications carrier, to evaluate its base station (Site No. 285283 “Fair Play”) proposed to be located on 7920 Fairplay Road in unincorporated El Dorado County for compliance with appropriate guidelines limiting sound levels from the installation.

**Prevailing Standard**

The County of El Dorado sets forth limits on sound levels in Chapter 6.5 (Acceptable Noise Levels) of the El Dorado County General Plan as amended March 2009. The Public Health, Safety, and Noise Element includes in Table 6-2 the following limits for hourly average noise caused by non-transportation sources:

Zone	Daytime <i>7 am to 7 pm</i>	Evening <i>7 pm to 10 pm</i>	Night <i>10 pm to 7 am</i>	Assessment Location <i>on adjacent property</i>
Community	55 dBA	50 dBA	45 dBA	at property line
Rural	50 dBA	45 dBA	40 dBA	100 ft from residence

In each category, the maximum allowed noise level is 10–15 dBA higher.

Figure 1 attached describes the calculation methodology used to determine applicable noise levels for evaluation against the prevailing standard.

**General Facility Requirements**

Wireless telecommunications facilities (“cell sites”) typically consist of two distinct parts: the electronic base transceiver stations (“BTS” or “cabinets”) that are connected to traditional wired telephone lines, and the antennas that send wireless signals created by the BTS out to be received by individual subscriber units. The BTS are often located outdoors at ground level and are connected to the antennas by coaxial cables. The BTS typically require environmental units to cool the electronics inside. Such cooling is often integrated into the BTS, although external air conditioning may be installed, especially when the BTS are housed within a larger enclosure.

Most cell sites have back-up battery power available, to run the base station for some number of hours in the event of a power outage. Many sites have back-up power generators installed, to run the station during an extended power outage.

**Site & Facility Description**

Based upon information provided by Verizon, including zoning drawings by Epic Wireless Group Inc., dated November 18, 2014, that carrier proposes to place an equipment shelter within a new fenced compound on a hill on the large property located at 7920 Fairplay Road near

**Verizon Wireless • Proposed Base Station (Site No. 285283 “Fair Play”)  
7920 Fairplay Road • Somerset, California**

Somerset, California. The BTS equipment in the shelter would be cooled by two air conditioning units installed on the north face of the shelter. For the purpose of this study, they are assumed to be Bard Model WA4S1, which are installed as a pair for redundancy and alternate their operation, so that both do not operate simultaneously.

A Generac Model SD030 back-up diesel generator, configured with the manufacturer’s Level 2A sound enclosure, is to be installed within the compound, for emergency use in the event of an extended commercial power outage. The generator is typically operated with no load for a single 15-minute period once a week during daytime hours on a weekday, to maintain its readiness for emergency operation.

Several directional panel and microwave “dish” antennas are proposed to be located on a tall pole to be sited within the compound; this portion of the base station is passive, generating no noise. The nearest property line is to the south, at about 350 feet from the compound; the property lines in other directions are further away.

**Study Results**

Based on data from the manufacturers, the maximum noise level from an air conditioner is 65.0 dBA, measured at a reference distance of 10 feet in front, and the maximum noise level from the generator is 63.0 dBA, measured at a reference distance of 23 feet. The maximum calculated noise level at the south property line, for the combined operation of the air conditioners and the generator, is 39.1 dBA, below the County’s most restrictive, nighttime limit of 40 dBA.

**Conclusion**

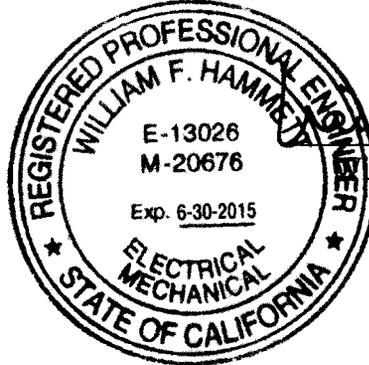
Based on the information and analysis above, it is the undersigned’s professional opinion that the operation of the Verizon Wireless base station proposed to be located at 7920 Fairplay Road near Somerset, California, will comply with the pertinent requirements for limiting acoustic noise emission levels.

**Verizon Wireless • Proposed Base Station (Site No. 285283 "Fair Play")  
7920 Fairplay Road • Somerset, California**

**Authorship**

The undersigned author of this statement is a qualified Professional Engineer, holding California Registration Nos. E-13026 and M-20676, which expire on June 30, 2015. This work has been carried out under his direction, and all statements are true and correct of his own knowledge except, where noted, when data has been supplied by others, which data he believes to be correct.

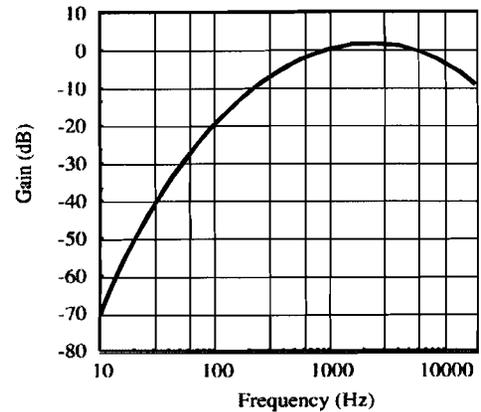
February 12, 2015



*William F. Hammett*  
William F. Hammett, P.E.  
(707) 996-5200

## Noise Level Calculation Methodology

Most municipalities and other agencies specify noise limits in units of dBA, which is intended to mimic the reduced receptivity of the human ear to Sound Pressure (“L<sub>P</sub>”) at particularly low or high frequencies. This frequency-sensitive filter shape, shown in the graph to the right as defined in the International Electrotechnical Commission Standard No. 179, the American National Standards Institute Standard No. 5.1, and various other standards, is also incorporated into most calibrated field test equipment for measuring noise levels.



30 dBA	library
40 dBA	rural background
50 dBA	office space
60 dBA	conversation
70 dBA	car radio
80 dBA	traffic corner
90 dBA	lawnmower

The dBA units of measure are referenced to a pressure of 20 μPa (micropascals), which is the threshold of normal hearing. Although noise levels vary greatly by location and noise source, representative levels are shown in the box to the left.

Manufacturers of many types of equipment, such as air conditioners, generators, and telecommunications devices, often test their products in various configurations to determine the acoustical emissions at certain distances. This data, normally expressed in dBA at a known reference distance, can be used to determine the corresponding sound pressure level at any particular distance, such as at a nearby building or property line. The sound pressure drops as the square of the increase in distance, according to the formula:

$$L_P = L_K + 20 \log(D_K/D_P),$$

where L<sub>P</sub> is the sound pressure level at distance D<sub>P</sub> and L<sub>K</sub> is the known sound pressure level at distance D<sub>K</sub>.

Individual sound pressure levels at a particular point from several different noise sources cannot be combined directly in units of dBA. Rather, the units need to be converted to scalar sound intensity units in order to be added together, then converted back to decibel units, according to the formula:

where L<sub>T</sub> is the total sound pressure level and L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub>, etc are individual sound pressure levels.

$$L_T = 10 \log (10^{L_1/10} + 10^{L_2/10} + \dots),$$

Certain equipment installations may include the placement of barriers and/or absorptive materials to reduce transmission of noise beyond the site. Noise Reduction Coefficients (“NRC”) are published for many different materials, expressed as unitless power factors, with 0 being perfect reflection and 1 being perfect absorption. Unpainted concrete block, for instance, can have an NRC as high as 0.35. However, a barrier’s effectiveness depends on its specific configuration, as well as the materials used and their surface treatment.

February 26, 2015

Mark Lobaugh  
Epic Wireless Group, Inc.  
8700 Auburn Folsom Road, Suite 400  
Granite Bay, CA 95746

**RE: Biological Assessment for the Fairplay Verizon Site, El Dorado County, California**

Dear Mr. Lobaugh:

The purpose of this letter is to assess the potential for special-status species to occur on or around the project site and to provide recommendations for avoidance and minimization measures.

The project site is located at 7920 Fairplay Road, near the intersection with Idlewild Road, approximately 9 miles southeast of Placerville, California (**Figure 1**). The  $\pm 0.26$ -acre lease area is located in the southeast corner of the  $\pm 48$ -acre parcel (APN: 094-110-14). It is located on a small knoll overlooking an existing residence at an elevation of approximately 2,375 feet above mean sea level (MSL). The Proposed Project will construct cellular facilities, including a monopine, equipment building, and generator, within a 30' x 40' lease area. A 12'-wide gravel access road and turn-around will be constructed between the project site and Fairplay Road. Utility lines will be installed in a 6'-wide easement between the lease area and an existing utility pole to the southeast.

## 1.0 METHODS

The site was surveyed on January 23, 2015 between ~10:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M. Prior to the site visit, the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) (**Figure 2**), California Native Plant Society (CNPS), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) databases were queried to develop a list of special-status species with the potential to occur on the project site (**Attachment A**). Due to the small size of the Proposed Project, only species lists for the *Aukum* 7.5-minute quadrangle were used. The site and its immediate surroundings were surveyed to identify plant and animal species and potentially rare habitats.

## 2.0 RESULTS

The site is located in grazed pasture behind an existing residence. An existing gravel and dirt road leads from the residence into the pasture (**Figure 3**). The pasture is dominated by non-native ruderal species including medusahead grass (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*), filaree (*Erodium botrys*), and wild oat (*Avena* sp.). The area around the residence includes a variety of ornamental landscape plants including lavender (*Lavandula* sp.), iris (*Iris* sp.), juniper (*Juniperus* sp.), butterfly bush (*Buddleia* sp.), rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*), and gaura (*Gaura lindheimeri*). A small grove of five mature walnut

trees (*Juglans* sp.) is located west of the house. The pasture is surrounded by mixed hardwood/coniferous forest composed of blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*), black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), and gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*). A number of wildlife species were observed on and around the site including California vole (*Microtus californicus*), western bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*), American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucocephrys*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*). No special-status species were observed during the site visit. There are no protected oak trees located on the project site.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has mapped one soil type on the project site: **Holland Coarse Sandy Loam, 9 to 15 Percent slopes**. This soil is well-drained and is not included on the Placer County hydric soils list. It is composed of sandy and sandy clay loams formed from weathered granite (NRCS 2014 and NRCS 2015).

## 2.1 Special-Status Species

A query of the CNDDDB shows records of five special-status species known to occur within five miles of the project site (**Figure 2**) (CDFW 2015). In addition, online databases of the CNPS, the CNDDDB, and the USFWS identified an additional 11 special-status species with the potential to be found in the *Aukum* quadrangle (**Attachment A**). Of the 16 special-status species known to occur in the area, there is potentially suitable habitat for one species, great gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*), to be found on or immediately adjacent to the project site. Additionally, there is potential for other raptor and migratory bird species to nest on or adjacent to the project site.

Great gray owls (*Strix nebulosa*) are a California endangered species. They nest in dense conifer forests and forage in wet meadows and open grasslands. They eat primarily small mammals, such as voles and gophers. Most nesting sites are found within 300 yards of the primary foraging site, which is usually a meadow of at least 25 acres. However, nests have been found in areas where as little as 10 acres of meadow are available for foraging (USFS 2000). At low elevations, such as around the project site, great gray owls typically lay eggs in late March to early April and the young fledge approximately 10 weeks later. Young are fully independent at 4-6 months of age (NatureServe 2014). There is one known great gray owl nest within five miles of the site (Occurrence Index #79180), which was recorded to be active in 2008 (**Figure 2**). This nest is located in a riparian area of a pine and oak savannah (CDFW 2015). The open area of pasture/annual grassland surrounding the project site is ±13 acres in size and evidence of voles was observed during the site survey. Therefore, there is *low* potential for great gray owl to forage on the project site.

The nests of raptors and most other birds are protected under Section 50 CFR 10 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Raptors are also protected by Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code, which makes it illegal to destroy any active raptor nest. There is high potential for raptors and other migratory birds to nest or forage on the project site. As described previously, a number of common bird species were observed on or around the project site and the annual grassland in the pasture and residence and trees in the developed area provide

suitable nesting habitat for a variety of species. Therefore, there is *high* potential for nesting birds to occur on or near the project site.

### 3.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

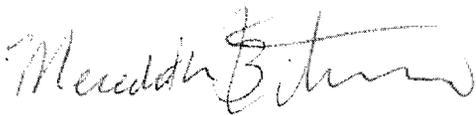
Due to its small footprint, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to have a significant permanent impact on any special-status species. The Proposed Project has the potential to temporarily impact nesting birds during construction due to noise and human activity. The U.S. Forestry Service (USFS) survey protocol recommends two years of surveys for projects located in potential great gray owl nesting habitat above 2,500 feet in elevation in the Central Sierras (USFS 2000). Since the project site contains marginal foraging habitat and is below the elevational threshold, full protocol surveys are not recommended. To minimize impacts to special-status species, the following minimization and avoidance measures are recommended:

- If possible, delay construction until after the nesting season (February 1 to August 31) to minimize potential impacts to nesting birds, including great gray owls.
- If construction or clearing begins during the nesting season, conduct a pre-construction survey for active nests on and immediately surrounding the project site and for great gray owl nests within ¼-mile of the project site, as access allows, within 14 days prior to the start of construction. In addition, the edges of the pasture should be surveyed for owl pellets and feathers using the techniques described in the USFS protocol. If any active nests are found, a buffer should be established as recommended by the project biologist to avoid impacts to the nest. The nest should be monitored until the young have fledged.

The results of the pre-construction survey and any avoidance recommendations should be submitted to the County. If any non-listed special-status species are found on or adjacent to the project site, work should be stopped in the immediate area and the project biologist should be consulted for avoidance measures. If a listed species is found on or adjacent to the project site, the appropriate regulatory agencies should be consulted for avoidance and mitigation measures.

If you have any questions about this report, please do not hesitate to call me at (916) 435-1202 or e-mail me at [mbranstad@foothill.com](mailto:mbranstad@foothill.com).

Sincerely,



Meredith Branstad  
Principal Biologist

#### Enclosures:

Figure 1 — Site and Vicinity

Figure 2 — CNDDDB

Figure 3 — Biological Communities

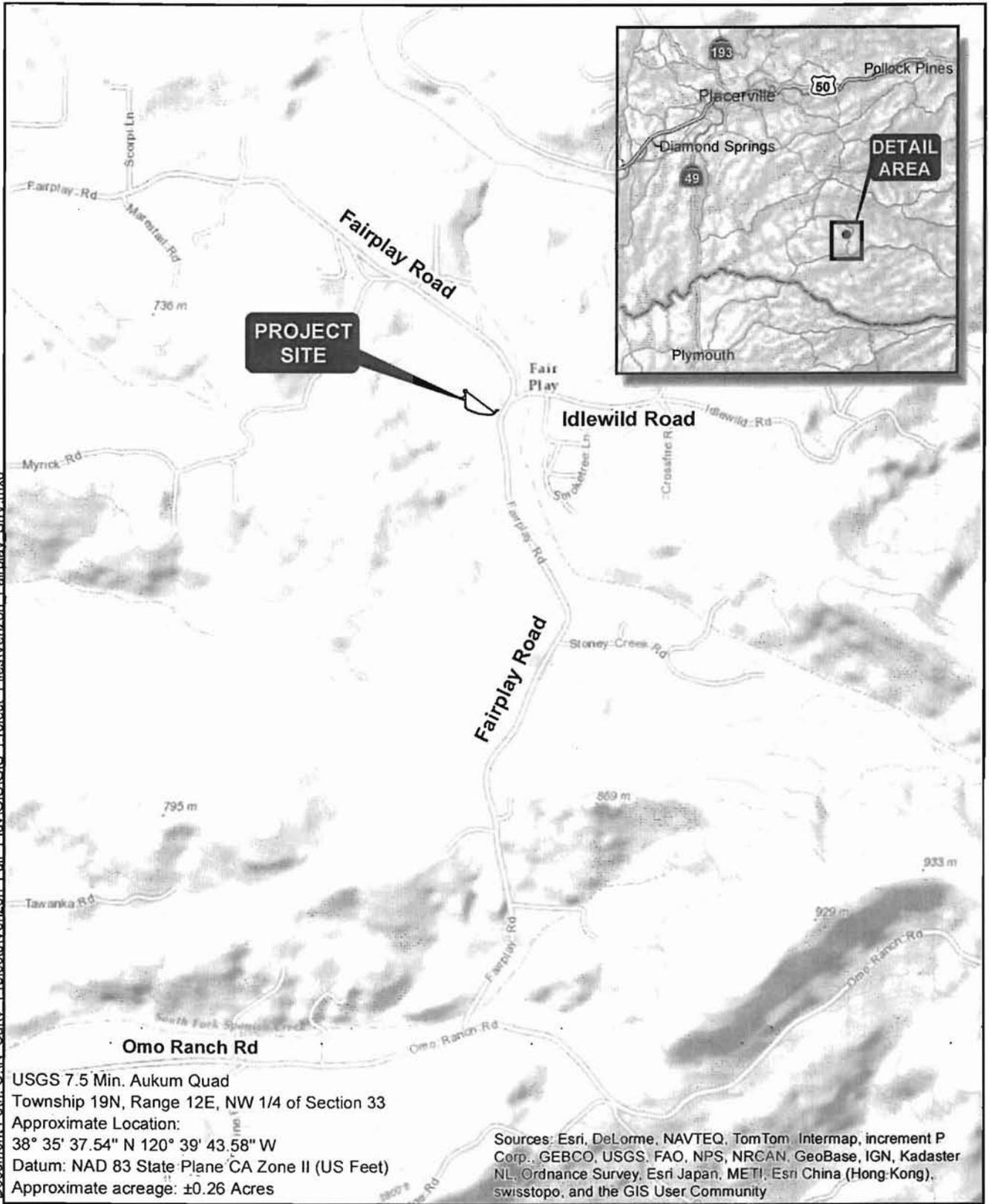
Attachment A — Special-Status Species with the Potential to Occur on the Project Site

Attachment B — Representative Site Photographs

**References:**

- Baldwin, B.G., D.H. Goldman, D.J. Keil, R. Patterson, T.J. Rosatti, and D.H. Wilken, editors. 2012. *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California*, second edition. University of California, Berkeley. Available online at <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/IJM.html>. [Accessed 12/8/2014]
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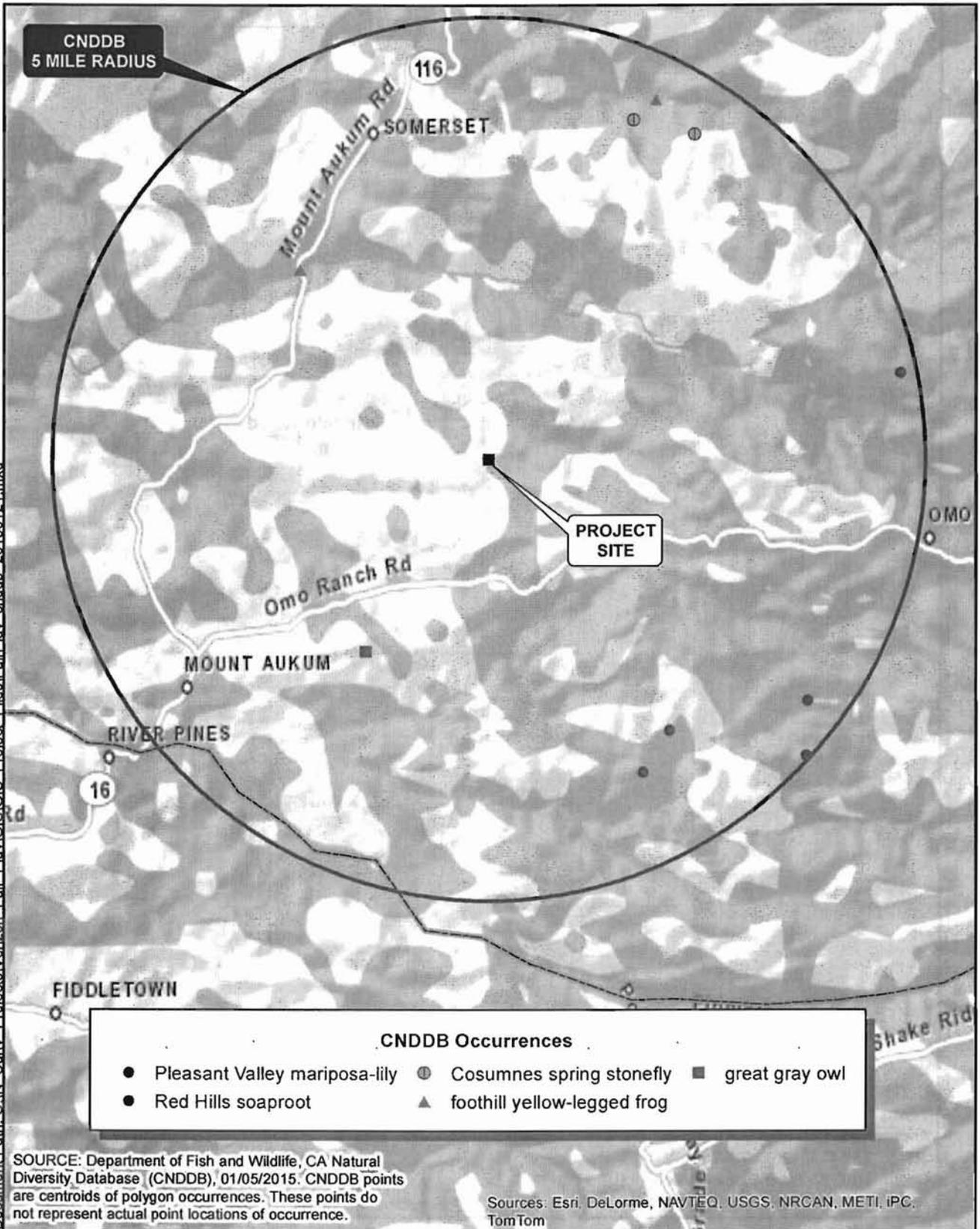
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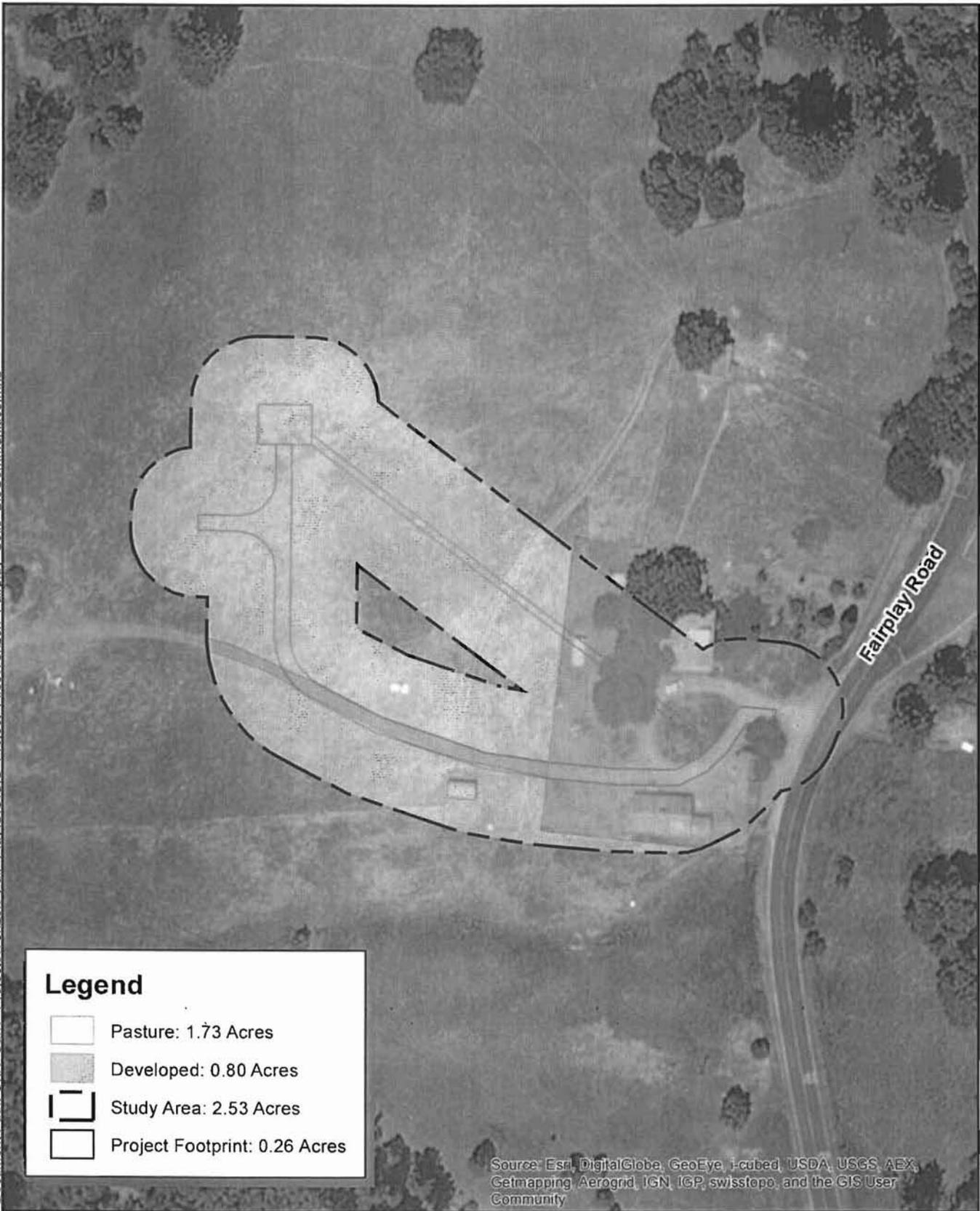
### SITE AND VICINITY

<p>ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE</p> <p>© 2015</p>		<p>0 750 1500</p> <p>FEET</p> <p>1:18,000</p>	<p>Drawn By: MUB</p> <p>Date: 01/30/2015</p>	<p><b>FIGURE 1</b></p>
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<b>CNDDB</b>			
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE</p> <p>© 2015</p>		<p>SCALE IN MILES</p>	Drawn By: MUB Date: 01/21/2015
			<b>FIGURE 2</b>

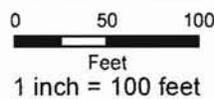


### Legend

-  Pasture: 1.73 Acres
-  Developed: 0.80 Acres
-  Study Area: 2.53 Acres
-  Project Footprint: 0.26 Acres

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

## BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES



Drawn By: MMB  
Date: 2/23/2015

FIGURE 3

**Attachment A — Special-Status Species with the Potential to  
Occur on the Project Site**

---

Special-Status Species	Regulatory Status (Federal; State; CNPS)	Habitat Requirements	Identification/ Survey Period	Potential for Occurrence
<b>Plants</b>				
Brandegee's clarkia <i>Clarkia biloba</i> ssp. <i>brandegeae</i>	--; --; 4	Chaparral, foothill woodlands, and conifer forest, often roadcuts from 245 to 3,000 feet above MSL. Usually in dry areas.	Blooming period: May – July.	<b>None;</b> there is no suitable habitat in the project site.
Pleasant Valley mariposa lily <i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var. <i>avius</i>	--; --; 1B	Josephine silt loam and volcanic soils in coniferous forests between 1,000 and 6,000 feet.	Blooming period: May – July.	<b>None;</b> there is no suitable habitat in the project site.
Red Hills soaproot <i>Chlorogalum grandiflorum</i>	--; --; 1B	Chaparral, woodland, and coniferous forest between 800 and 4,100 feet. Usually associated with gabbro or serpentine soils.	Blooming period: May – June.	<b>None;</b> there is no suitable habitat in the project site.
Sierra clarkia <i>Clarkia virgata</i>	--; --; 4	Montane woodland and lower montane coniferous forest between 1,300 and 5,330 feet.	Blooming period: May – August.	<b>None;</b> there is no suitable habitat in the project site.
Streambank spring beauty <i>Claytonia parviflora</i> ssp. <i>grandiflora</i>	--; --; 4	Moist, rocky sites in woodlands between 825 and 4,000 feet.	Blooming period: February - May.	<b>None;</b> there is no suitable habitat in the project site.
<b>Wildlife</b>				
<b>Invertebrates</b>				
Cosumnes Spring stonefly <i>Cosumnoperla hypocrena</i>	--; CSA; --	Freshwater intermittent streams in the American River and Cosumnes River basins.	Year-round	<b>None;</b> there is no suitable habitat in the project site.
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	FT; CSA; --	Blue elderberry shrubs usually associated with riparian areas.	Adults emerge in spring until June. Exit holes visible year-round.	<b>None;</b> there is no suitable habitat in the project site.
<b>Fish</b>				
Central Valley spring run Chinook salmon <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	FT; CT; --	Spawn in Mill, Deer, Beegum, and Butte Creeks and in Yuba River and Feather River watersheds. Juveniles may journey up to five miles upstream in Sacramento River tributaries.	Migrate from late March – September. Spawn in mid-August – early October.	<b>None;</b> there is no suitable habitat in the project site.

Special-Status Species	Regulatory Status (Federal; State; CNPS)	Habitat Requirements	Identification/ Survey Period	Potential for Occurrence
Central Valley winter run Chinook salmon <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	FE; CE; --	Spawn in northern Sacramento River (Redding to Red Bluff) and its tributaries. Juveniles may journey up to five miles upstream in other tributaries.	Migrate from late December - August. Spawn April - August.	<b>None</b> ; there is no suitable habitat in the project site.
Central Valley steelhead <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i>	FT; CSA; --	Rivers and streams tributary to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers and Delta ecosystems.	Spawn in winter and spring.	<b>None</b> ; there is no suitable habitat in the project site.
Delta smelt <i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>	FT; CE; --	Shallow fresh or brackish water tributary to the Delta ecosystem; spawns in freshwater sloughs and channel edgewater.	Spawn December – July. Present year-round in delta.	<b>None</b> ; there is no suitable habitat in the project site.
<b>Amphibians/Reptiles</b>				
California red-legged frog <i>Rana draytonii</i>	FT; CSC; --	Typically found in or within 300 feet of aquatic habitat. Breed in quiet, slow-moving streams, ponds, or marsh communities with emergent vegetation or dense riparian vegetation. May disperse up to two miles between suitable aquatic habitat.	Aquatic surveys of breeding sites between January and September. Optimally after April 15.	<b>None</b> ; there is no suitable habitat for this species in the project site and no known occurrences within five miles of the site.
Foothill yellow-legged frog <i>Rana boylei</i>	--; CSC; --	Typically found in shaded, shallow, slow moving streams or channels with rocky or muddy bottoms. Typically stays within ~150' of water.	Breeds from mid-March to early June. Most active diurnally. Hibernates and aestivates.	<b>None</b> ; there is no suitable habitat in the project site.
<b>Birds</b>				
Great gray owl <i>Strix nebulosa</i>	--; CE; --	Breeds in snags in old growth fir, mixed conifer, and lodgepole pine forests and forages on rodents in adjacent wet meadows.	Year-round. 2 years of protocol surveys recommended for projects above 2,500 feet	<b>Low</b> ; the pasture may provide foraging habitat and there is one known nest location within five miles of the project site.
Western yellow-billed cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	FT; CE; --	Densely foliated, deciduous trees and shrubs, especially willows.	June – September	<b>None</b> ; there is no suitable habitat in the project site.

Special-Status Species	Regulatory Status (Federal; State; CNPS)	Habitat Requirements	Identification/ Survey Period	Potential for Occurrence
Other Raptors (Hawks, Owls and Vultures) and Migratory Birds	MBTA and §3503.5 Department of Fish and Game Code	Nests in a variety of communities including cismontane woodland, mixed coniferous forest, chaparral, montane meadow, riparian, and urban communities.	February 15 – August 31	<b>High</b> ; the habitats in and around the project site provide suitable nesting and foraging habitat.
<b>Mammals</b>				
Fisher <i>Pekania pennanti</i>	PT; CTC; --	Mature, dense coniferous forest with canopy cover of at least 50% with hollow logs or trees for dens.	Most active at dusk and night, year-round; camera and tracking surveys.	<b>None</b> ; there is no suitable habitat in the project site.
<b>Federally Listed Species:</b> FE = federal endangered FT = federal threatened PT = proposed threatened	<b>California State Listed Species:</b> CE = California state endangered CT = California state threatened CSC = California Species of Special Concern CSA = California Special Animals List CTC = California state threatened candidate		<b>CNPS Rank Categories:</b> 1A = plants presumed extinct in California 1B = plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere 2 = plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but common elsewhere 3 = plants about which we need more information 4 = plants of limited distribution	

**Note:** Table includes species identified in a query of the CNPS, CNDDDB, and USFWS species databases for the *Aukum* Quad and birds from the USFWS species list for El Dorado County.

## Attachment B — Representative Site Photographs



Description: View from enclosure site to southeast towards existing residence along utility line alignment.

Date: January 23, 2015

Photographer: MMB



Description: View of enclosure site and proposed access road looking south.

Date: January 23, 2015

Photographer: MMB

### REPRESENTATIVE SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100  
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053  
calshpo@parks.ca.gov  
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



Dear FCC Applicant:

Section 106 FCC submissions will not be accepted unless this cover sheet is completed and attached.

Project Name	VERIZON WIRELESS - FAIR PLAY
Project Address	7920 Fairplay road, Sonoma, CA 95634

Based on the information provided on the accompanying FCC Form 620 or Form 621 the following information applies to this project:

<input type="checkbox"/>	There are buildings or structures over 45 years of age within this project's direct/indirect area of potential effect (APE).
<input type="checkbox"/>	There is an archeological site located within this project's direct APE.
<input type="checkbox"/>	A qualified archeologist has determined that the proposed project area is considered moderately to highly sensitive for archeological resources.

If the above boxes are blank, there are no historic properties within the direct or indirect project area. Therefore, pursuant to Stipulation VII.B.2 of the *Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for Review of Effects on Historic Properties for Certain Undertakings Approved by the Federal Communications Commission* as quoted below, your Section 106 responsibilities are complete:

If the SHPO/THPO does not provide written notice to the Applicant that it agrees or disagrees with the Applicant's determination of No Historic Properties Affected within 30 days following receipt of a complete Submission Packet, it is deemed that no Historic Properties Exist within the APE or the Undertaking will have no effect on Historic Properties. The Section 106 process is then complete and the Applicant may proceed with the project, unless further processing for reasons other than Section 106 is required.

\_\_\_\_ Yes, this submission contains an eligibility determination requiring SHPO concurrence.   X   Yes, this submission contains tribal response.

This project will: Not   X   Not Adversely \_\_\_\_\_ Adversely \_\_\_\_\_ affect Historic Properties.

The qualified project archeologist acknowledges that a pedestrian survey has been completed, a record search has been conducted at the appropriate California Historic Resources Information Center (IC) and that all submitted information is true.

Archeologist's signature   Pie Wendel   Date   4/13/15  

Please note, this letter pertains only to FCC projects being submitted to the California SHPO for comment.

Sincerely,

  Carol Roland Nawi, Ph.D.  

Carol Roland Nawi, Ph.D.  
State Historic Preservation Officer

**Archaeological Survey Report  
Verizon Wireless Fair Play-- New Build  
Location # 285283  
APN # 094-110-14-100  
7920 Fair Play Road  
Somerset, El Dorado County, California**  
---  
**T.9N, R.12E, Section 33  
Aukum, Calif. U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle**

By

Ric Windmiller  
Consulting Archaeologist  
2280 Grass Valley Highway, Suite 205  
Auburn, California 95603

Prepared For

Foothill Associates, Inc.  
590 Menlo Park Drive  
Rocklin, California 95765

April 2015

## Management Summary

Verizon Wireless plans a "new build" unmanned telecommunications facility at 7920 Fairplay Road, Somerset, El Dorado County, California. Efforts to identify historic properties and historical resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, listed on or eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources, unique archaeological resources or tribal cultural resources included the following:

- Records search by the North Central Information Center, California Historical Resources Information System;
- Sacred lands file search by the Native American Heritage Commission;
- Contacts with Native Americans listed by the commission;
- Literature review including published and gray literature;
- Archaeological field survey

As a result of these efforts, no historic or prehistoric archaeological resources or tribal cultural resources were identified in the Direct Area of Potential Effect (area of anticipated ground disturbance). No historic properties listed on or eligible for the National Register, or historical resources listed on or eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources, unique archaeological resources or tribal cultural resources were identified within the Indirect APE (setting) according to the records search results. It is the sub-consultant's opinion the proposed undertaking will have no effect on historic properties, historical resources, unique archaeological resources or tribal cultural resources.

## Project Description

Verizon Wireless plans a "new build" unmanned telecommunications facility at 7920 Fairplay Road, Somerset, El Dorado County, California. The principal elements of the project are a 30 x 40 foot lease area; a pre-fabricated equipment shelter on cell block foundation; a 30kVA diesel generator; Antennae with associated tower mounted equipment mounted on a 90.0 foot stealth monopine.

A 12 foot wide, approximately 500 foot long access and utility easement with a hammerhead turnaround that incorporates an existing driveway for approximately two-thirds of its length would connect the lease area with Fair Play Road. The access road would be graveled to meet specific compaction standards. A proposed six foot non-exclusive Verizon Wireless utility easement would connect the lease area with J-pole with transformer, power and TELCO POC located between the existing residence and sheds at 7920 Fairplay Road.

The construction project is subject to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations and permit stipulations for the installation and maintenance of wireless communication systems. As such, the project must meet the requirements of the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement regarding the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 process for new tower construction and also El Dorado County requirements.

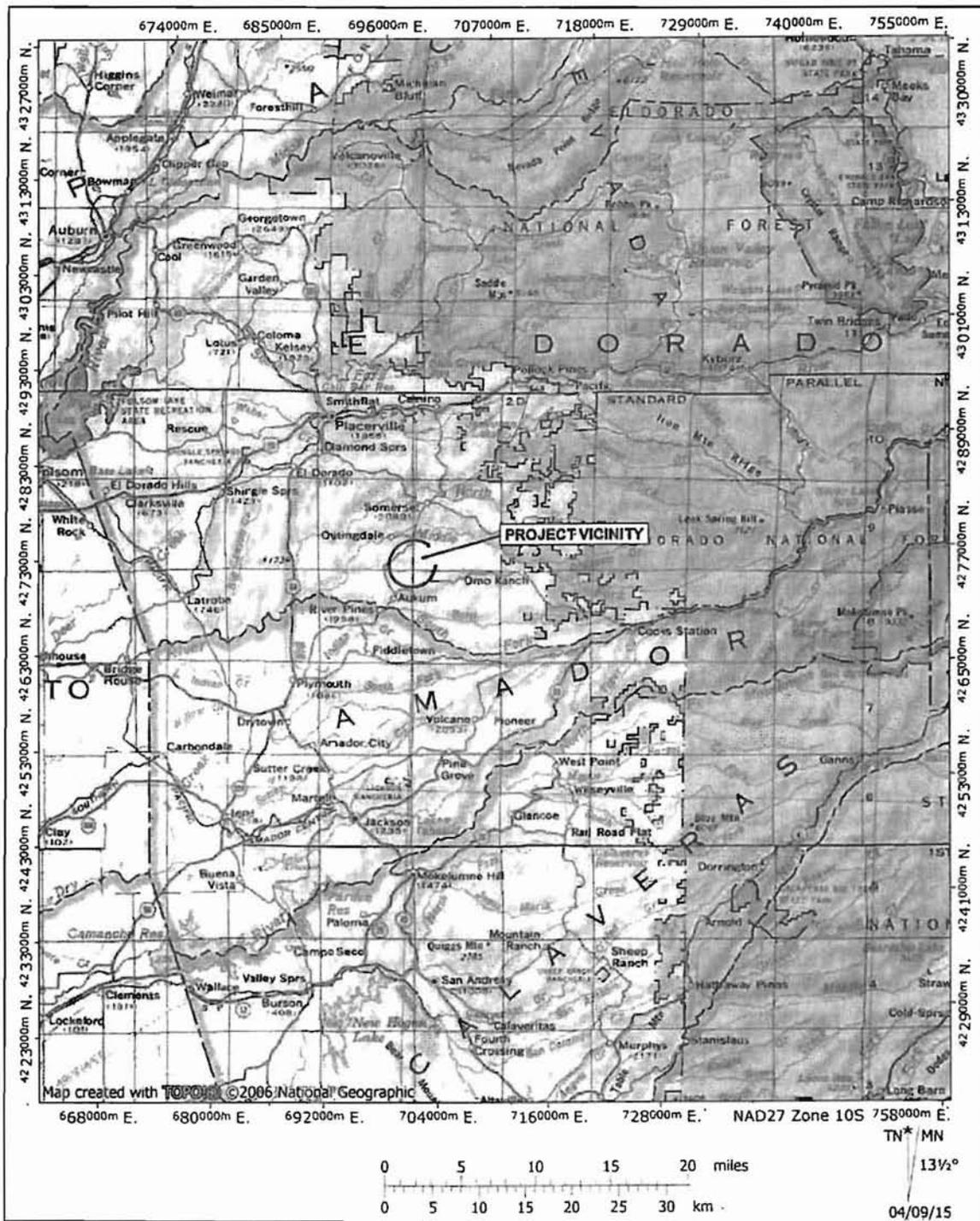


Figure I. Project vicinity.

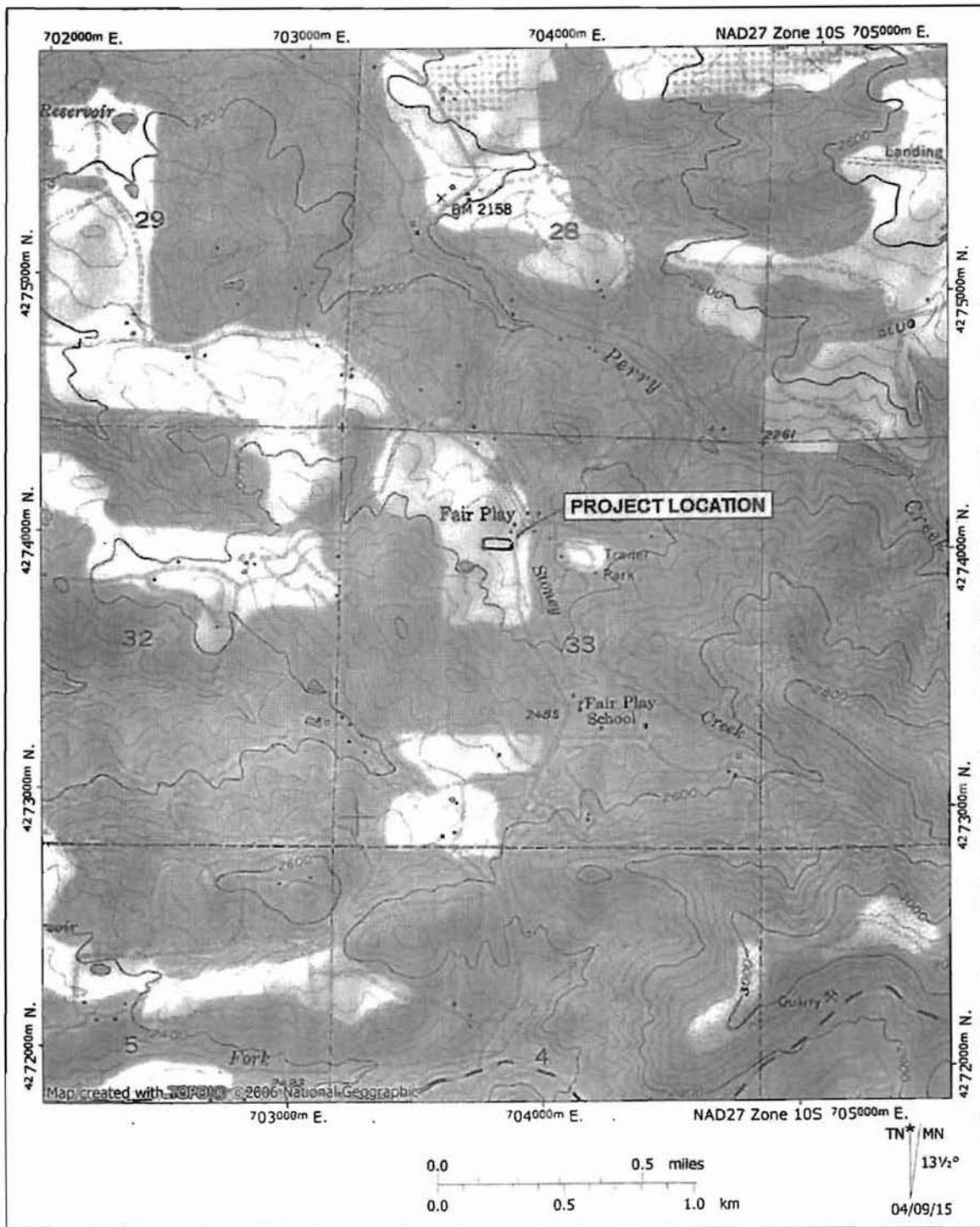


Figure 2. Project location.



## Project Location/Area of Potential Effect

The project is located on the west side of Fair Play Road with power and TELCO connections on the northwest side of the driveway between the existing residence and outbuildings at 7920 Fairplay Road, Somerset, in a rural agricultural area of western El Dorado County, California. The NAD83 coordinates at the proposed tower location are: Latitude N 38° 35' 37.54"; Longitude W 120° 39' 43.58". Elevation of the ground at the structure is 2,376 feet above mean sea level.

The Direct Area of Potential Effect (Direct APE) encompasses the anticipated area of ground disturbance that includes the lease area, access and utility easements on APN # 094-110-14-100. The vertical APE or the maximum depth of ground disturbance is unknown. The visual APE (Indirect APE or "setting") is a one-half mile radius around the Direct APE and consists of agricultural grazing land and forest to the northwest, west and southwest, and the community of Fair Play and forest to the northeast, east and southeast (see Attachment A: Photographs).

## Setting

The Verizon Wireless Fair Play project lies some hundreds of feet west of Stoney Creek between the Middle and South forks, Cosumnes River in the lower elevation of the Sierra Nevada's western slope. The prehistory of the region goes back at least 8,000 years. By the historic period, the Fair Play area was close to the northern boundary of the Northern Sierra Miwok, a people who spoke a Penutian language. Located within the half-mile radius of the Verizon Wireless project site, Fair Play was settled by Sisson and Staples in 1853; the post office was listed in 1862. Fair Play was a popular place name before the Civil War. The 1973 USGS Aukum quadrangle illustrates only a few buildings in the project vicinity and a trailer park and Fair Play School within a half-mile radius of the project site.

## Prehistory

In his definitive, though now old overview of California archaeology, Michael Moratto illustrated regional chronologies for the northern and central Sierra Nevada based on research in the Tahoe and Stanislaus River regions. In both regions, prehistory can be traced back 8,000-9,500 years (Moratto 1984:xxxii). The Verizon Wireless Fair Play project site is located between the Tahoe and Stanislaus regions.

In 1992, archaeologist David Fredrickson introduced a taxonomy in California borrowed from earlier scholars to define "Paleoindian," Archaic" and Emergent" stages, which, like previous efforts to classify archaeological finds, implied cultural evolution. However, the purpose of erecting this scheme of "periodized" cultural stages was simply to promote better communication and encourage discussion among scholars and the lay public (Fredrickson 1994:99).

In Fredrickson's scheme of cultural periods, "Paleoindian" marked the first demonstrated entry and spread of prehistoric hunters into California represented mainly by isolated finds. A recent updated synthesis of California archaeology provides an updated time span of each of Fredrickson's cultural periods based on new radiocarbon determinations adjusted with modern calibration curves. Paleoindian, therefore, is revised to date between 11,550 and 8550 cal B.C. (Rosenthal *et al.* 2007:150).

A number of finds, including those from excavations at the Central Sierra site of Crane's Flat, have typological links to the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition, an adaptation of hunter-gatherers to lake, marsh and grassland habitats along the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada as early as 9000 B.C. Moratto suggested that the development of the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition and its regional variants may correspond to the emergence and initial differentiation of Hokan languages (Moratto 1984:90-91, 544; see also Peak and Crew 1990).

The "Lower Archaic" period (8550-5550 cal B.C.), like the Paleoindian period, is represented mainly by isolated finds of stemmed chipped stone projectile points, chipped stone "crescents" and other artifacts.

The following "Middle Archaic" period (5550-550 cal B.C.) coincided with warmer and drier Altithermal climatic conditions. The Middle Archaic marked the beginning of the florescence of aboriginal cultures in California's Great Central Valley. Archaeology and linguistic reconstructions indicate that Utian peoples including proto-Miwok and later Yokuts speaking peoples entered the lower Sacramento Valley probably from the northwest Great Basin/ Columbian Plateau region during the mid-Altithermal period. Archaeologists recognize this intrusion as the early Windmill Pattern, which included traits such as large stemmed and concave-base projectile points, stone pestles, manos and metates, as well as a specific range of mortuary customs (Fredrickson 1994:97).

Later sites of the Middle Archaic are found mainly along rivers and major tributaries, which coincides with the post-Pleistocene rise in sea level creating the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. At this time, there is evidence of village mounds and distinct grave sites in the mid-Central Valley.

During the Upper Archaic (550 cal B.C.-cal A.D. 1100), Yokuts speaking people apparently moved into the San Joaquin Valley and Central Sierra foothills from the Sacramento Delta. The population shift is associated with a more stable, cooler, wetter Medithermal climatic regimen. The Windmill Pattern in the Central Valley and the Crane Flat Complex in the Sierra were seen by Moratto as evidence of the Yokutsan expansion of 1000 to 400 B.C.

The "Emergent" (cal A.D. 1000-Historic period) is marked by the use of bow and arrow, which replaced the dart and throwing stick (*atlatl*). Territorial boundaries forged during the Emergent were probably much the same as recognized by early ethnographers. The displacement of Yokuts by Sierra Miwok groups could be represented in Moratto's Madera Phase (post-A.D. 1500), and in Yosemite by the Mariposa Phase (post-A.D. 1200). These late Miwokan complexes are distinguished by light projectile points that tipped arrows, bedrock mortars, cobble pestles, steatite vessels and clam shell disk beads.

## **Ethnography**

Historically, the Fairplay area was located near the northern boundary of the Northern Sierra Miwok. Levy does not identify any lineage settlements in the Fairplay vicinity. The closest would be in the Omo Ranch area (*Omo*, *Noma* and *Chik-ke-me-ze*) and in the Plymouth area (*Yule*). Most were located at lower elevations along major rivers and their tributaries such as the South Fork, Cosumnes River, Sutter Creek, Jackson Creek, the Mokelumne and the Calaveras rivers (Levy 1978:400).

Miwok speaking people inhabiting the west slope of the Sierra were hunter-gatherers, which involved moving from a permanent village to smaller camps and gathering areas as the seasons changed.

Miwok people living in the mountainous country built conical structures of bark slabs. There were no internal supporting posts or framework. Simple thatched structures were built on hunting and gathering trips during the summer. Winter houses could also take the form of an earth covered semi-subterranean structure. Houses could have a centrally located hearth and an earth oven. Assembly houses for ritual and social gatherings were relatively large, semi-subterranean structures, earth-covered. A circular brush structure was used for mourning ceremonies during the summer months. Other structures included a sweat house, which was 2-5 meters in diameter and built over a pit 0.6-0.9 meter deep. The structure was usually conical in shape and covered with layers of brush, pine needles, bark and earth. The Miwok also constructed small menstrual huts, a conical house over bedrock mortars and acorn granaries (Levy 1978:408-409).

The largest political units among Miwok-speaking people were "tribelets," which were incipient chiefdoms. Among Sierran people, the tribelet probably ranged in population between 100 and 300 persons. Each tribelet controlled a specific territory, which included several named settlements. The tribelet center contained an assembly house and was home to the headman or chief of the tribelet (Levy 1978:410).

Miwok speaking peoples participated in a well-developed interregional system of trade. Salt and obsidian were traded in from the Great Basin. *Olivella* and abalone shells were obtained from Costanoan people who ranged from San Francisco southward along California's coast (Levy 1978:411).

## History

The discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill, Coloma, in January, 1848 spurred thousands of immigrants to California. By May, 1848, there were only a few hundred working at shallow placer mines. By the end of 1848, there were 8,000-10,000. During the following year, 1849, almost 40,000 followed routes by land and sea to the gold fields. The migration of 1850 was just as great (Caughy 1953:245,247,252).

Fair Play was a small, prosperous mining town. The camp boasted several stores and hotels (Gudde 1975:113). Settled in 1853 by Charles Staples and N. Sisson, the camp served the local placer mines. The camp's name apparently arose from an appeal for "fair play" in a fight between two miners. The district surrounding Fair Play includes the Slug Gulch and Cedarville areas and was primarily a placer gold district, although some copper was mined in the district, as well (Clark 1970:46).

Allen De Grange described Fair Play as located six miles south of Somerset at the intersection of Fairplay Road and Perry Creek. However, Hoover and others indicate that the present Fair Play Store is about a mile and a half from the original site of the mining camp (*cf.* Hoover *et al.* 1990:82 and De Grange 1995:69).

Following the Gold Rush, the town became a trading center and post office serving drift and hydraulic mines in the area. In 1880, there was still a 10-stamp mill in operation at Fair Play, however, the main activity by then had turned to agriculture (De Grange 1995:69). Today, the Fair Play area is largely forested with meadows supporting vineyards, wineries and residences.

## Results of Efforts to Identify Historic Properties and Historical Resources

Efforts to identify historic properties/historical resources at the project site included a records search by the North Central Information Center, California Historical Resources Information System; a sacred lands file search by the Native American Heritage Commission, contacts with Native Americans listed by the commission and an archaeological field survey.

### Records Search Results

On December 19, 2104, the North Central Information Center, California Historical Resources Information System finished a complete records search for the Verizon Wireless Fair Play project (7920 Fairplay Road) (NCIC File No. ELD-14-98). Information center staff noted that a search of maps for cultural resource records and survey reports indicated that the search area resulted in No previously recorded prehistoric or historic period cultural resources. The search also resulted in no previous cultural resource study reports for the records search area. However, due to the location of the project site, information center staff concluded that there was a moderate potential for prehistoric period cultural resources in the project vicinity. Staff also concluded that there was a moderate potential for historic period cultural resources.

Information center staff also reviewed the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources-listed properties (2010); California Inventory of Historic Resources (1976); California State Historic Landmarks (1996 and updates); California Points of Historical Interest (1992 and updates); Office of Historic Preservation Directory of Properties Inventory (2012); Determinations of Eligibility (2012); Caltrans State and Local Bridge Surveys (2009); *Gold Districts of California* (Clark 1970); *California Gold Camps* (Gudde 1975); *California Place Names* (Gudde 1969); *Historic Spots in California* (Hoover et al. 1990); *Trail of the First Wagons Over the Sierra Nevada* (Graydon 1986; *California Archaeology* (Moratto 1984) and; *Handbook of North American Indians*, Volume 8 (Levy 1978:398-402) (see Attachment B: Records Search Results).

### Native American Coordination

In a letter dated February 10, 2015, the Native American Heritage Commission responded to the sub-consultant's request for a sacred lands file search and list of Native American contacts. The commission's representative stated that the file search failed to indicated the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. The commission listed 10 individuals to contact:

Mr. Hermo Olanio, Vice Chairperson, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians; Mr. Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria; Ms. Eileen Moon, Vice Chairperson, T'si-Akim Maidu; Mr. Nicholas Fonseca, Chairperson, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians; Mr. Grayson Coney, Cultural Director, T'si-Akim Maidu; Mr. Marcos Guerrero, Tribal Preservation Committee, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria; Ms. April Wallace Moore; Mr. Daniel Fonseca, Cultural Resources Director, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians; Mr. Jason Camp, THPO, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria and; Mr. Don Ryberg, Chairperson, T'si-Akim Maidu.

Each was contacted by U.S. Mail with a description and location of the proposed project along with a

request for information regarding any known or suspected sites of sacred, ceremonial or other sites of importance to Native Americans. One response was received as a direct result of the mailing. Mr. Daniel Fonseca indicated that the Shingle Springs Band was not aware of any known cultural resources on the Verizon Wireless Fair Play project site. Mr. Fonseca also indicated that the Shingle Springs Band would like to be updated as the project progresses and to receive any and all completed records searches and surveys including environmental, archaeological and cultural reports. If any new information or human remains are found during the project, the Shingle Springs Band would like to review the Band's process with the responsible party to protect important and sacred artifacts.

In a further attempt to elicit comments from others not associated with the Shingle Springs Band, the sub-consultant attempted to reach each by telephone on April 9, 2015. However, none of the other contacts were available, nor did they return the telephone calls (see Attachment C: Native American Coordination).

### Field Survey Methods

On April 2, 2015, Ric Windmiller conducted an archaeological survey of the Direct APE including the lease area and access and utility easements on APN # 094-110-14-100. The lease area, that portion of the access and utility easements located in pasture plus an approximately 100 foot radius, were walked along transects approximately five meters apart. The access and utility easements located in the house yard were walked along 2-3 meters transects. Ground visibility in the pasture varied between 100 percent on the existing dirt road to approximately 10 percent due to dense, but short grasses and annuals. Surface scrapes and existing backdirt from burrowing animals were observed for indications of prehistoric or historic cultural deposits and artifacts. Visibility in the house yard was approximately 50 percent due to landscaping. However, it is unlikely that any historic properties, historical resources or unique archaeological resources were overlooked.

The field archaeologist, Ric Windmiller, has more than 38 years experience directing archaeological field surveys and excavations including projects in El Dorado County. Windmiller is the former board chairman of the Central California Archaeological Foundation and former staff archaeologist with the University of Arizona, University of Colorado and National Park Service, western and southwest regions. He holds a B.A. in Anthropology from California State University, Sacramento; M.A. in anthropology from the University of Manitoba, Canada and; all but dissertation for a Ph.D. in anthropology, University of Colorado. Since 1987, Windmiller has owned and operated a consultancy serving both public and private sector clients.

### Findings

As a result of the above efforts, no historic or prehistoric archaeological resources were identified within the Direct APE. Though possible, it is unlikely that any archaeological resources would be uncovered within a vertical APE that may be established (*viz.*, the maximum depth of excavation). The land immediately surrounding the project's Direct APE is mainly meadow. Dense oak, pine and incense cedar forest surrounds the meadow land. The 1973 USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle of the locality illustrates only a few scattered buildings within the half mile Indirect APE. However, the current population of Fair Play is 2,300 according to local signage, which suggests significant population growth within the past 45 years. The information center's records search did not identify any historic properties or historical resources within the records search area/visual setting.

## Assessment of Effect

Because no historic properties, historical resources, unique archaeological resources or tribal cultural resources were identified within the Direct or Indirect APE and it is unlikely that any buried archaeological resources exist within the Direct APE, it is the sub-consultant's opinion that the proposed telecommunication project will have no effect on historic properties, historical resources, unique archaeological resources or tribal cultural resources.

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1990 *Cultural Resource Studies, North Fork Stanislaus River Hydroelectric Development Project, Volume II: An Archaeological Data Recovery Project at CA-CAL-S342, Clarks Flat, Calaveras County, California*. Peak & Associates, Inc. Submitted to Northern California Power Agency. Copies available from the Central California

Information Center, California State University-Stanislaus, Turlock.

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**Attachment A: Photographs**



Figure 4. Access easement (left, foreground) looking west.



Figure 5. Looking north across lease area towards oak, pine and cedar forest.



Figure 6 Looking across lease area, east towards rural residential neighborhood.



Figure 7. Looking south across lease area and turnaround towards ranch scrap yard and forest.



Figure 8. Looking across lease area, east along utility easement towards utility hook-up between existing house and outbuildings.

#### **Attachment B: Records Search Results**

This attachment may contain information on the specific location of archaeological resources. This information is not for publication or release to the general public. It is for planning, management and research purposes only. Information on the location of prehistoric and historic sites are exempt from California Freedom of Information Act, as specified in Government Code §6254.10.



12/19/2014

NCIC File No.: ELD-14-98

Samantha Johnson  
Epic Wireless Group  
8700 Auburn-Folsom Road, Suite 400  
Granite Bay, CA 95746

Records Search Results for  
7920 Fairplay Road

Samantha Johnson:

Per your request received by our office on 11/19/2014, a complete records search was conducted by searching California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) maps for cultural resource records and survey reports in the vicinity of the proposed project area. Review of this information indicates that the search area contains zero (0) recorded prehistoric-period cultural resources and zero (0) historic-period cultural resources. Additionally, zero (0) cultural resources study reports cover a portion the search area.

In this part of El Dorado County, archaeologists locate prehistoric-period habitation sites adjacent to streams or on ridges or knolls, especially those with southern exposure (Moratto 1984:290). This region is known as the ethnographic-period territory of the Nisenan, also called the Southern Maidu. The Nisenan maintained permanent settlements along major rivers in the Sacramento Valley and foothills, and periodically traveled to higher elevations to hunt or gather plants (Wilson and Towne 1978:387-389). The proposed project search area is situated in the Sierra Nevada foothills about one half mile southwest of Perry Creek. Given the extent of known cultural resources and the environmental setting, there is moderate potential for locating prehistoric-period cultural resources in the vicinity of the proposed project area.

Within the search area, the 1870 GLO plat of T9N, R12E shows evidence of nineteenth-century community life associated with the town of Fair Play. The 1952 Aukum 7.5' USGS topographical map shows evidence of twentieth-century community life associated with the town of Fair Play. Given the extent of known cultural resources and the patterns of local land use, there is moderate potential for locating historic-period cultural resources in the vicinity of the proposed project area.

**LITERATURE REFERENCED DURING SEARCH:**

In addition to the official records and maps for sites and studies in El Dorado County, the following inventories and references were also reviewed: National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historic Resources - Listed properties (2010); California Inventory of Historic Resources (1976); California State Historical Landmarks (1996 and updates); California Points of Historical Interest (1992 and updates); Office of Historic Preservation Directory of Properties Inventory (2012);

Determinations of Eligibility (2012); Caltrans State and Local Bridge Surveys (2009); Gold Districts of California (Clark 1970); California Gold Camps (Gudde 1975); California Place Names (Gudde 1969); Historic Spots in California (Hoover et al. 1966 [1990]); Trail of the First Wagons Over the Sierra Nevada (Graydon 1986); California Archaeology (Moratto 1984); and the Smithsonian Institution's Handbook of North American Indians, Volume 8, California (Levy 1978:398-402).

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1) There is moderate potential for identifying prehistoric-period cultural resources and moderate potential for identifying historic-period cultural resources in the vicinity of the proposed project area. Further archival and/or field study by a cultural resources professional is recommended. A list of some qualified local consultants can be reviewed at the following web address: [<http://chrisinfo.org>].
- 2) Review for possible historic-period cultural resources has included only those sources listed in the referenced literature and should not be considered comprehensive. The Office of Historic Preservation has determined that buildings, structures, and objects 45 years or older may be of historical value. If the area of potential effect contains such properties not noted in our research, they should be assessed by an architectural historian before commencement of project activities.
- 3) If cultural resources are encountered during the project, avoid altering the materials and their context until a cultural resources professional has evaluated the project area. Project personnel should not collect cultural resources.

**Prehistoric-period resources include** chert or obsidian flakes, projectile points, and other flaked-stone artifacts; mortars, grinding slicks, pestles, and other groundstone tools; and dark friable soil containing shell and bone dietary debris, heat-affected rock, or human burials.

**Historic-period resources include** stone or adobe foundations or walls; structures and remains with square nails; mine shafts, tailings, or ditches/flumes; and refuse deposits or bottle dumps, often located in old wells or privies.

- 4) Identified cultural resources should be recorded on DPR 523 (A-J) historic resource recordation forms, available at the following web address: [[http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=1069](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1069)].

Thank you for using our services. Please contact our office at (916) 278-6217 if you have any questions about this record search. A billing statement and invoice is enclosed.

Sincerely,



Nathan Hallam, Coordinator  
North Central Information Center

Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) contracts with the California Historical Resources Information System's (CHRIS) regional Information Centers (ICs) to maintain information in the CHRIS inventory and make it available to local, state, and federal agencies, cultural resource professionals, Native American tribes, researchers, and the public. Recommendations made by IC coordinators or their staff regarding the interpretation and application of this information are advisory only. Such recommendations do not necessarily represent the evaluation or opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer in carrying out the OHP's regulatory authority under federal and state law.

**Attachment C: Native American Coordination**

### Native American Coordination Log

Name/Affiliation	Date	Comments
Ms. Katy Sanchez Native American Heritage Commission	2-10-2015	Sacred lands file search failed to identify the presence of Native American cultural resources; recommended contacting the individuals on attached list.
Mr. Hermo Olanio Vice Chairman Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians	1-31-2015	Posted letter to Mr. Olanio describing project and enclosed map; no response to letter. See response from Daniel Fonseca on behalf of tribe.
Mr. Gene Whitehouse Chairperson Untied Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria	1-31-2015 4-9-2015	Posted letter to Mr. Whitehouse describing project and enclosed map; no response to letter. Attempted to reach Mr. Whitehouse by telephone. Mr. Whitehouse was not available. Sub-consultant left a detailed message with Mr. Whitehouse's receptionist. There has been no response to date.
Ms. Eileen Moon Vice Chairperson T'si-Akim Maidue	1-31-2015 4-9-2015	Posted letter to Ms. Moon describing project and enclosed map; no response to letter. Attempted to reach Ms. Moon by telephone. She was not available. The sub-consultant left a detailed voice mail message. No response has been received to date.
Mr. Nicholas Fonseca Chairperson Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians	1-31-2015	Posted letter to Mr. Fonseca describing project and enclosed map; no response to letter. See response from Daniel Fonseca on behalf of tribe.
Mr. Grayson Coney Cultural Director T'si-Akim Maidu	1-31-2015 4-9-2015	Posted letter to Mr. Coney describing project and enclosed map; no response to letter. Attempted to reach Mr. Coney by telephone; no answer. The sub-consultant left a detailed voice mail message. No response has been received to date.
Mr. Marcos Guerrero Tribal Preservation Committee United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria	1-31-2015 4-9-2015	Posted letter to Mr. Guerrero describing project and enclosed map; no response to letter. Attempted to reach Mr. Guerrero by telephone. Mr. Guerrero was not available. Left message with Mr. Guerrero's receptionist. No response has been received to date.

Name/Affiliation	Date	Comments
Ms. April Wallace Moore	1-31-2015 4-9-2015	Posted letter to Ms. Moore describing project and enclosed map; no response to letter. Attempted to reach Ms. Moore by telephone; no answer. The sub-consultant left a detailed voice mail message. No response has been received to date.
Mr. Daniel Fonseca Cultural Resources Director Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians	1-31-2015 2-6-2015	Posted letter to Mr. Fonseca describing project and enclosed map. Mr. Fonseca responded by letter dated 2-6-2015. In his response, Mr. Fonseca indicated that the tribe was not aware of any known cultural resources on the project site. However, he requested any and all completed records searches and or surveys in and around the project site including environmental, archaeological and cultural reports. Mr. Fonseca also asked to be informed in the event the project produces new information or encounters human remains. The sub-consultant passes along Mr. requests to the government entity that will be reviewing the present report.
Mr. Jason Camp THPO United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria	1-31-2015 4-9-2015	Posted letter to Mr. Camp describing project and enclosed map. There was no response to the letter. Attempted to reach Mr. Camp by telephone. Mr. Camp was not available. The sub-consultant left a detailed message with Mr. Camp's receptionist. No response has been received to date.
Mr. Don Ryberg Chairperson T'si-Akim Maidu	1-31-2015 4-9-2015	Posted letter to Mr. Ryberg describing project and enclosed map. There was no response to the letter. Attempted to reach Mr. Ryberg by telephone. However, there was no answer. The sub-consultant left a detailed voice mail message. No response has been received to date.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION**

1550 Harbor Blvd., ROOM 100  
West SACRAMENTO, CA 95811  
(916) 373-3710  
Fax: (916) 373-6471



February 10, 2015

Ric Windmiller  
2280 Grass Valley Highway #205  
Auburn, CA 95603

Sent by Fax: (530) 378-0915  
Number of Pages: 3

Re: Verizon Wireless Fair Play-New Build, El Dorado County.

Dear Mr. Windmiller,

A record search of the sacred land file has failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. The absence of specific site information in the sacred lands file does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Enclosed is a list of Native Americans individuals/organizations who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. The Commission makes no recommendation or preference of a single individual, or group over another. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated, if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe or group. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any of these individuals or groups, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 373-3712.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katy Sanchez".

Katy Sanchez  
Associate Government Program Analyst

**Native American Contacts  
El Dorado County  
February 9, 2015**

**Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians**  
Hermo Olanio, Vice Chairperson  
P.O. Box 1340                      Miwok  
Shingle Springs, CA 95682      Maidu  
holanio@ssband.org  
(530) 676-8010 Office  
(530) 676-8033 Fax

**T' si-Akim Maidu**  
Grayson Coney, Cultural Director  
P.O. Box 1316                      Maidu  
Colfax, CA 95713  
akimmaidu@att.net  
(530) 383-7234

**United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria**  
Gene Whitehouse, Chairperson  
10720 Indian Hill Road              Maidu  
Auburn, CA 95603              Miwok  
(530) 883-2390 Office  
(530) 883-2380 Fax

**United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria**  
Marcos Guerrero, Tribal Preservation Committee  
10720 Indian Hill Road              Maidu  
Auburn, CA 95603              Miwok  
mguerrero@auburnrancheria.com  
(530) 883-2364 Office  
(530) 883-2320 Fax

**T' si-Akim Maidu**  
Eileen Moon, Vice Chairperson  
P.O. Box 1246                      Maidu  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
(530) 274-7497

**April Wallace Moore**  
19630 Placer Hills Road              Nisenan - So Maidu  
Colfax, CA 95713              Konkow  
(530) 637-4279                      Washoe

**Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians**  
Nicholas Fonseca, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 1340                      Miwok  
Shingle Springs, CA 95682      Maidu  
nfonseca@ssband.org  
(530) 676-8010 Office  
(530) 676-8033 Fax

**Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians**  
Daniel Fonseca, Cultural Resource Director  
P.O. Box 1340                      Miwok  
Shingle, CA 95682              Maidu  
(530) 676-8010 Office  
(530) 676-8033 Fax

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Project ID: Verizon Wireless Fair Play-New Build, El Dorado County.

Native American Contacts  
El Dorado County  
February 9, 2015

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria

Jason Camp, THPO

10720 Indian Hill Road Maidu  
Auburn, CA 95603 Miwok

jcamp@auburnrancheria.com

(916) 316-3772 Cell

(530) 883-2390

(530) 888-5476 - Fax

T' si-Akim Maidu

Don Ryberg, Chairperson

P.O. Box 1246 Maidu

Grass Valley, CA 95945

(530) 274-7497

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting locative Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Project ID: Verizon Wireless Fair Play-New Build, El Dorado County.

**Ric Windmiller**  
CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGIST

2280 GRASS VALLEY HIGHWAY #205  
AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95603

530/878-0979  
FAX 530/878-0915

**SAMPLE LETTER**

January 31, 2015

Mr. Hermo Olanio  
Vice Chairperson  
Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians  
P.O. Box 1340  
Shingle Springs, CA 95682

Re: Verizon Wireless Fairplay-New Build Project

Dear Mr. Olanio:

Verizon Wireless proposes to locate telecommunications antennae and install ground mounted equipment at a proposed 7920 Fairplay Road, Sommerset site (see attached map).

We are conducting research on archaeological resources for environmental review. The Native American Heritage Commission listed your name as one who may have knowledge of Native American cultural resources in the project area. If you have any information regarding known or suspected sacred, ceremonial or other sites of Native American importance that may be impacted by the proposed project, please contact Cathryn Chatterton at the above address. You may also respond by telephone (530-878-0979), fax (530-878-0915) or email: [windmiller-consult@sbcglobal.net](mailto:windmiller-consult@sbcglobal.net). We would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience, if you wish to comment at this time.

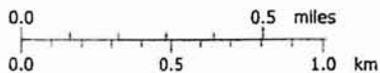
Yours sincerely,



Ric Windmiller  
Registered Professional Archaeologist

Enclosure

VERIZON WIRELESS FAIR PLAY-NEW BUILD PROJECT



TN\* / MN  
13 1/2°  
01/31/15



SHINGLE SPRINGS RANCHERIA  
P.O. BOX 1340; SHINGLE SPRINGS, CA 95682  
(530) 676-8010; FAX (530) 676-3582

February 6, 2015

Ric Windmiller  
2280 Grass Valley Highway #205  
Auburn, CA 95682

RE: Verizon Wireless Fairplay-New Build Project

Dear Ric Windmiller

Thank you for your letter dated January 31, 2015 in regard to the Verizon Wireless Fairplay-New Build Project located at 7920 Fairplay Road, Sommerset site. Based on the information provided, the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians is not aware of any known cultural resources on this site. However, SSR would like to have continued consultation through updates, as the project progresses this will foster a greater communication between the Tribe and your agency.

SSR would also like to request any and all completed record searches and or surveys that were done in or around the project area up to and including environmental, archaeological and cultural reports.

If during the progress of the project new information or human remains are found we would like to be able to go over our process with you that we currently have in place to protect such important and sacred artifacts (especially near rivers and streams).

Please contact the following individuals if such finds are made:

Kara Perry, Administrative Assistant (530) 488-4049 [kperry@ssband.org](mailto:kperry@ssband.org)

And copy all communications to:

Cynthia Franco, Administrative Assistant, [cfranco@ssband.org](mailto:cfranco@ssband.org)

Thank you for providing us with this notice and opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

  
Daniel Fonseca  
Cultural Resource Director  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)  
Most Likely Descendent (MLD)