

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST
FORM**

This form and the descriptive information in the application package constitute the contents of Initial Study pursuant to County Guidelines under Ordinance 3040 and Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

PROJECT LABEL:

APNs:	0465-111-24-0000	USGS Quad:	Helendale
Applicant:	AT&T Wireless 1452 Edinger Avenue, 3 rd Floor Tustin, CA 92780	T, R, Section:	T.8N, R.5W, Section 36
Location	East side of Monterey Dr., approximately 600 feet north of Lakeview Dr., Helendale, CA	Thomas Bros	N/A
Project No:	PROJ-2019-00006	Community Plan:	None
Rep	Coastal Business Group	LUZD:	RL-5 (Rural Living)
Proposal:	Minor Use Permit to construct and operate a 120' high wireless communications tower designed as a lattice tower, with associated communications equipment, on a 1,092 square foot lease area portion of a five acre parcel.	Overlays:	Medium Dense Population for Desert Tortoise, Mojave Ground Squirrel and Burrowing Owl)

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Lead agency: County of San Bernardino
Land Use Services Department
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

Contact person: Jim Morrissey, Planner
Phone No: (909) 387-4234 **Fax No:** (909) 387-3223
E-mail: jim.morrissey@lus.sbcounty.gov

Project Sponsor AT&T Wireless
1452 Edinger Avenue, 3rd Floor
Tustin, CA 92780

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Summary

Minor Use Permit to construct and operate a 120' high wireless communications tower designed as a lattice tower, with associated communications equipment, on a 1,029 square foot lease area portion of a five acre parcel. The unmanned telecommunications facility includes the installation of (1) 120' high lattice tower; 40' x 22' – 8' high block (CMU) wall enclosure with a 4' wide gate on a 6" raised concrete pad; (12) 8' high panel antennas; and (1) steel equipment cabinet within the block wall enclosure.

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

Existing Land Use and Land Use Zoning Districts		
Location	Existing Land Use	Land Use Zoning District
Project Site	Vacant land	RL-5 –Rural Living
North	Vacant land	RL-5 –Rural Living
South	Vacant land with residential development approximately 450 feet further to the southeast	RL-5 – Rural Living
East	Vacant land	RL-5 –Rural Living
West	Vacant land	RC – Resource Conservation

Project Site Location, Existing Site Land Uses and Conditions

CEQA Guidelines §15125 establishes requirements for defining the environmental setting to which the environmental effects of a proposed project must be compared. The environmental setting is defined as "...the physical environmental conditions in the vicinity of the project, as they exist at the time the Notice of Preparation is published, or if no Notice of Preparation is published, at the time the environmental analysis is commenced..." (CEQA Guidelines §15125[a]). The project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and a Notice of Preparation is not required. Thus, the environmental setting for the project is the approximate date that the project's Initial Study Checklist commenced in February 2020.

The Project site is relatively flat, with soils comprised of Cajon loamy sand and an average elevation of approximately 2,605 feet above mean sea level. The project site is undeveloped, with creosote bush scrub occurring to the east, west, and north, and private residential properties occurring approximately 350 feet to the south and about 3,000 feet to the east. To the south and adjacent to residential development is an existing telecommunications tower with a lattice design. The proposed trellis and equipment locations would be located on relatively undisturbed desert land, with some modern trash dumped in the area.

ADDITIONAL APPROVAL REQUIRED BY OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES

Federal: None.

State of California: None.

County of San Bernardino: Land Use Services Department-Planning, Building and Safety, and Land Development, and; Public Works.

Regional: None.

Local: None.

Site Photographs

View Looking North



View Looking Southeast



View Looking West



View Looking Southwest



Figure 2 Project Vicinity Map



Figure 3 Site Plan

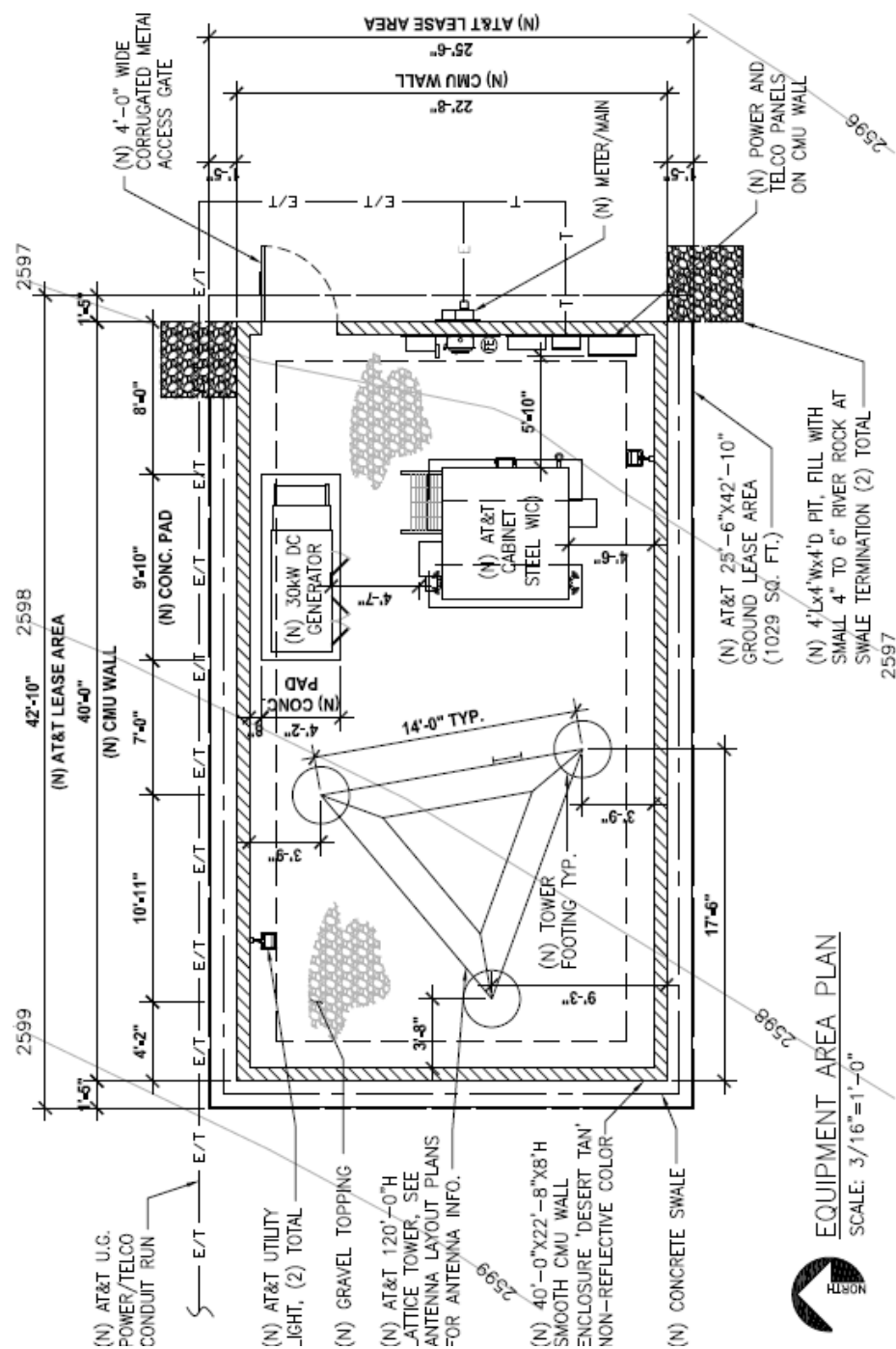
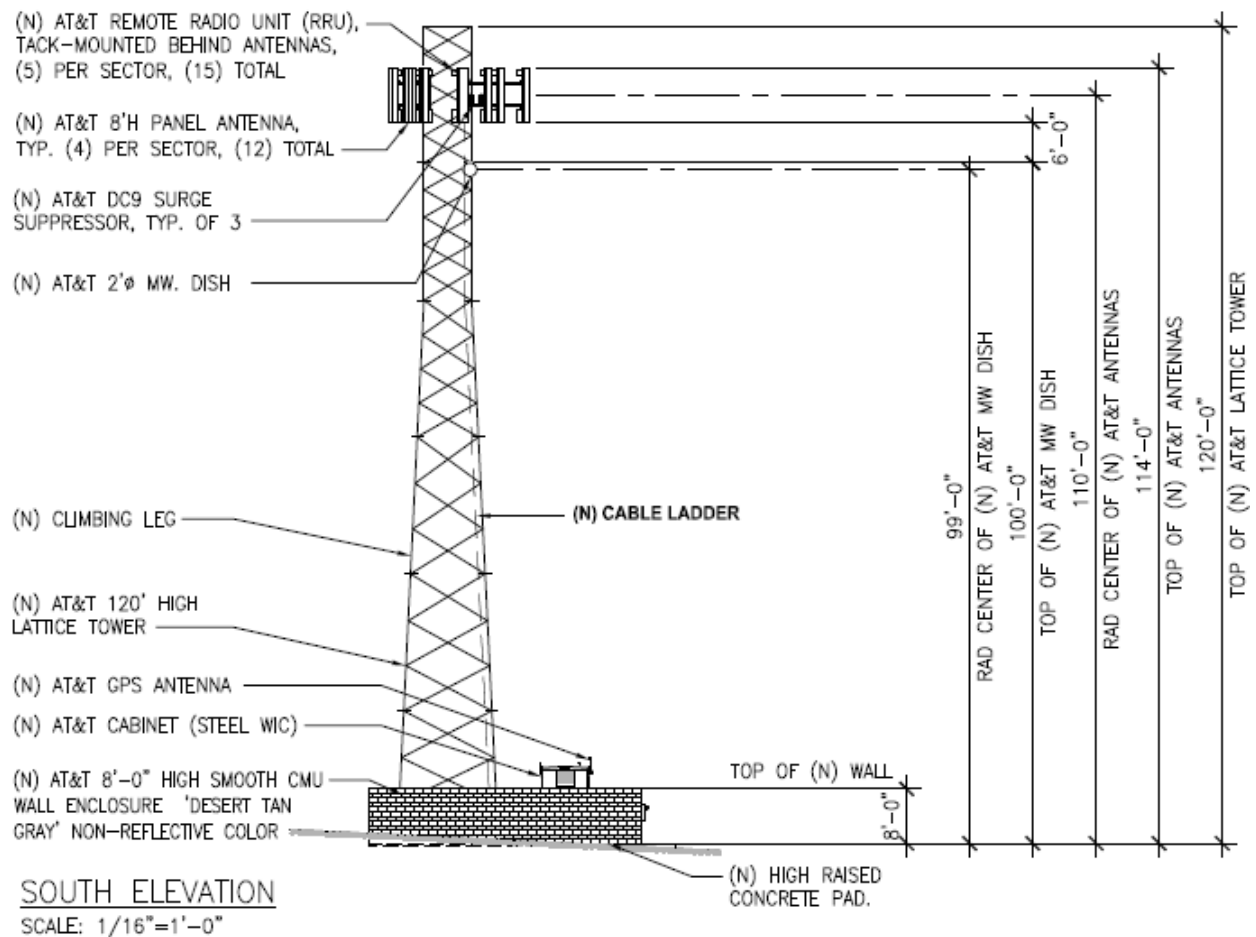


Figure 4 Tower Elevation



CONSULTATION WITH CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

Notification of the proposed Project was sent to the following Tribes on February 28, 2020:

- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians.
- Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians.
- Fort Mojave Indian Tribe.
- Colorado River Indian Tribes.

On April 3, 2020, a response was received from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians requesting inclusion of language related to inadvertent finds of the Tribes as mitigation measures. No other responses were received.

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21083.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

EVALUATION FORMAT

This Initial Study is prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq. and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000, et seq.). Specifically, the preparation of an Initial Study is guided by Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. This format of the study is presented as follows. The project is evaluated based on its effect on 20 major categories of environmental factors. Each factor is reviewed by responding to a series of questions regarding the impact of the project on each element of the overall factor. The Initial Study checklist provides a formatted analysis that provides a determination of the effect of the project on the factor and its elements. The effect of the project is categorized into one of the following four categories of possible determinations:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
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Substantiation is then provided to justify each determination. One of the four following conclusions is then provided as a summary of the analysis for each of the major environmental factors.

1. **No Impact:** No impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
2. **Less than Significant Impact:** No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
3. **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated:** Possible significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated and the following mitigation measures are required as a condition of project approval to reduce these impacts to a level below significant. The required mitigation measures are: (List of mitigation measures)
4. **Potentially Significant Impact:** Significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required to evaluate these impacts, which are (List of the impacts requiring analysis within the EIR).

At the end of the analysis the required mitigation measures are restated and categorized as being either self- monitoring or as requiring a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

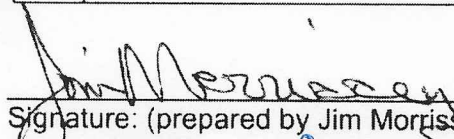
The environmental factors checked below will be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

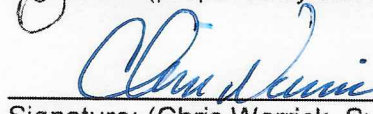
DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation, the following finding is made:

<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION shall be prepared.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there shall 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 shall be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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 on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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: (prepared by Jim Morrissey, Planner)

4/22/20
Date


Signature: (Chris Warrick, Supervising Planner)

4/23/2020
Date

<i>Issues</i>		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
I. <i>AESTHETICS</i> – Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:					
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c)	In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which will adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>SUBSTANTIATION:</i> <i>San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007; 2010 Census Urbanized Area Reference Map for Riverside-San Bernardino, CA</i>					

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** County of San Bernardino General Plan Open Space Element Policy OS 5.1 states that a feature or vista can be considered scenic if it:

- Provides a vista of undisturbed natural areas;
- Includes a unique or unusual feature that comprises an important or dominant portion of the viewshed; or,
- Offers a distant vista that provides relief from less attractive views of nearby features such as views of mountain backdrops from urban areas).

The project would establish a telecommunications facility occupying approximately 1,092 square feet. The Project site is located approximately 450 feet northwest of residential development, 350 feet north of property containing an existing cell tower and about 3,000 west of residential development on the edge of undeveloped land. The views of the undisturbed natural areas are located to the north and west of vacant desert land with hilly terrain in the background.

The tower would be designed as a lattice tower similar to the nearby tower to blend with the surrounding area and scenic features of undeveloped desert land. Furthermore, renderings of the proposed site plan demonstrate that the project design, including placement of the tower would not significantly impact scenic views of the area. Thus, the project would not introduce any significant structures that would not have an adverse impact on a scenic vista.

- b) **No Impact.** California's Scenic Highway Program was created by the Legislature in 1963. Its purpose is to protect and enhance the natural scenic beauty of California highways and adjacent corridors, through special conservation treatment. The state laws governing the Scenic Highway Program are found in the Streets and Highways Code, Sections 260 through 263.

According to the California Department of Transportation, the Project site is not located within a State Scenic Highway. In addition, according to the County of San Bernardino General Plan the Project site is not located within a scenic route (Ref. General Plan Pg. IV-16). Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact.

- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** According to the Census 2010 Urbanized Area Reference Maps, the Project site is located in the Riverside-San Bernardino Urbanized Area. The proposed Project is subject to mandatory Development Code requirements governing scenic quality that stipulate that new land uses and structures shall be designed, constructed, and established in compliance with the requirements in the Development Code, including but not limited to Chapter 83.02 (General Development and Use Standards), Chapter 83.06 Fences, Hedgers, and Walls), Chapter 83.10 (Landscape Standards), and Chapter 83.13 (Signs). Compliance with these mandatory Development Code requirements will ensure that the project will not conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality.

- d) **Less Than Significant Impact.**

Light

The project may increase the amount of light in the area above what is being generated by the vacant site by directly adding new security lighting. High intensity white lights will not be used for tower illumination. The California Green Building Code requires that all outdoor lighting be designed and installed to comply with California Green Building Standard Code or with a local ordinance lawfully enacted pursuant to California Green Building Standard Code Section 101.7, whichever is more stringent.

The San Bernardino County Development Code also requires the use of non-reflective colors on structures, poles, towers, antenna supports, antennas, and other components. As a requirement of development, the Project conditions of approval will

require adherence with County Code that allows only hooded lighting, directed downward in a diffused pattern. There would be no hazard warning lights associated with this Project. Because of the location of the Project, lighting restrictions, material requirements, and the nominal intensity of the lights, impacts from lighting are less than significant.

Glare

The exterior surfaces for the proposed equipment structure primarily consist of a block (CMU) wall and does not have reflective surfaces. As noted above, the San Bernardino County Development Code also requires the use of non-reflective colors on structures, poles, towers, antenna supports, antennas, and other components. As such, the Project will not create a new source of substantial glare, which will adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Impacts from are less than significant.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
II.	AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES - 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 the 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 Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: (Check ☐ if project is located in the Important Farmlands Overlay):
San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007; California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.

- a) **No Impact.** The project site does not contain any lands designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance as mapped by the State Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. As such, the project has no potential to convert such lands to a non-agricultural use and no impact would occur.

- b) **No Impact.**

Agricultural Zoning

Generally, a conflict with existing zoning for agriculture use would occur if a project would intrude into agricultural areas and create conflicts between agriculture uses and non-agriculture uses. The project site is currently zoned RL-5 (Rural Living). The zoning on the adjacent properties to the north, east, and south is also RL-5 (Rural Living) and the property to the west is located in the RC (Resource Conservation) land use zoning district. The RL (Rural Living) land use zoning district provides sites for rural residential uses, incidental agricultural uses, and similar and compatible uses. The RC (Resource Conservation) land use zoning district provides sites for open space and recreational activities, single-family homes on very large parcels and similar compatible uses. Neither the RL-5 nor the RC land use zoning districts are considered an agricultural zone. In addition, there are no primary agricultural uses on the project site or in the immediate vicinity. As such, the project will not create a conflict with agricultural zoning.

Williamson Act

Pursuant to the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, a Williamson Act Contract enables private landowners to voluntarily enter into contracts with local governments for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. In return, landowners receive lower property tax assessments based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value. The Project site is not under a Williamson Act Contract. As such, there is no impact with respect to a Williamson Act Contract.

- c) **No Impact.** The Project site is in the RL-5 land use zoning district. The project site does not contain any forest lands, timberland, or timberland zoned as Timberland Production, nor are any forest lands or timberlands located on or nearby the project site. Because no lands on the Project site are zoned for forestland or timberland, the project has no potential to impact such zoning.
- d) **No Impact.** The Project site and surrounding properties do not contain forest lands and are not zoned for forest lands. Because forest land is not present on the project site or in the immediate vicinity of the project site, the proposed Project has no potential to result in the loss of forest land or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

- e) **No Impact.** The Project site is located in an area largely characterized by vacant desert land and residential development. The proposed Project would establish a telecommunications facility occupying approximately 1,092 square feet. The project site is located approximately 350 feet north of residential development and an equal distance from an adjoining cell tower and approximately 3,000 feet west of residential development on the edge of undeveloped land. Therefore, the Project would not result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or forest land to non-forest use. No impacts will occur.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

Issues		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
III. AIR QUALITY - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district might be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:					
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b)	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d)	Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: *(Discuss conformity with the South Coast District Air Quality Management Plan, if applicable):*

San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007; CalEEMod Data Sheets (Appendix A).

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project site is located within the jurisdiction of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District ("District"). The District is responsible for preparing and updating an Air Quality Management Plan. The primary purpose of an Air Quality Management Plan is for controlling emissions to maintain all federal and state ambient air standards for the District. The District has adopted a variety of attainment plans for a variety of non-attainment pollutants which together comprise the Air Quality Management Plan for the District.

A project is non-conforming if it conflicts with or delays implementation of any applicable attainment or maintenance plan. A project is conforming if it complies with all applicable District rules and regulations, complies with all proposed control measures that are not yet adopted from the applicable plan(s), and is consistent with the growth forecasts in the applicable plan(s) (or is directly included in the applicable plan). Conformity with growth forecasts can be established by demonstrating that a project is consistent with the land use plan that was used to generate the growth forecast.

The proposed Project is consistent with the zoning and land use classifications that were used to prepare the Attainment Plan, (RL-5). In addition, based on Table 3 below, project-generated

emissions generated will not exceed District emission thresholds. Therefore, the Project's emissions are in compliance with the thresholds established by the District. The Project would not significantly increase local air emissions and, therefore, would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the Attainment Plans. As such, no impact is anticipated.

- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** For projects applying the emissions-based significance thresholds, project emissions quantification is required. In addition the environmental documentation must include support for the quantification methodology used, including emission factors, emission factors source, assumptions, and sample calculations where necessary. For projects using a calculation tool, such as CalEEMod, the support section must specify the inputs and settings used for the evaluation.

A quantification based analysis was done for the project although an unmanned telecommunications facility on approximately 1,092 square feet of leased land is not expected to generate construction or operational emissions that would exceed the emissions-based significance thresholds established by the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District. Both construction and operational emissions for the Project were estimated by using the *California Emissions Estimator Model* (CalEEMod) which is a statewide land use emissions computer model designed to provide a uniform platform for government agencies to quantify potential criteria pollutant emissions associated with both construction and operations from a variety of land use projects. The model can be used for a variety of situations where an air quality analysis is necessary or desirable such as California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents and is authorized for use by the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District.

Construction Emissions

Construction activities associated with the Project will result in emissions of CO, VOCs, NOX, SOX, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. Construction related emissions are expected from the following construction activities:

- Site Preparation;
- Grading;
- Wall Construction; and
- Pad Construction.

Project construction is anticipated to occur over an approximately 1-month period. The estimated maximum daily construction emissions without mitigation are summarized on Table 3 below.

Table 3. Construction Emissions (Pounds per Day)

Year	ROG (VOC)	NO _x	CO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
2020	0.77	7.02	7.97	0.75	0.41
MDAQMD Threshold (lbs/day)	137	137	548	82	65
Significant	No	No	No	No	No
Source: CalEEMod Data Sheets, Appendix A.					

Emissions resulting from the Project construction would not exceed thresholds established by

the District for emissions of any criteria pollutant. As such, the Project will have a less than significant impact during construction activity and no mitigation is required.

Operational Emissions

Operational activities associated with the proposed Project will result in emissions of VOC, NOX, CO, SOX, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. Operational emissions would be expected from the following primary sources:

- Area Source Emissions (architectural coatings, consumer products, landscape maintenance equipment);
- Energy Source Emissions (combustion emissions associated electricity);and
- Mobile Source Emissions (vehicles, fugitive dust related to vehicular travel).

The estimated maximum daily worst case peak operational emissions without mitigation are summarized on Table 4 below.

Table 4. Operational Emissions (Pounds per Day)

Source	ROG (VOC)	NO _x	CO	SO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
Area Source	0.02	0.00	<1.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Energy Source	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mobile Source	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Peak (lbs/day)	0.02	0.00	<1.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
MDAQMD Threshold (lbs/day)	137	137	548	137	82	82
Significant	No	No	No		No	No

Source: *Air Quality Impact Analysis*, Appendix A.

Emissions resulting from the Project operation would not exceed thresholds established by the District for emissions of any criteria pollutant. As such, the Project will have a less than significant impact during on-going operational activity and no mitigation is required.

- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Residences, schools, daycare centers, playgrounds and medical facilities are considered sensitive receptor land uses. The following project types proposed for sites within the specified distance to an existing or planned (zoned) sensitive receptor land use must be evaluated using significance threshold criteria:

- Any industrial project within 1000 feet;
- A distribution center (40 or more trucks per day) within 1000 feet;
- A major transportation project (50,000 or more vehicles per day) within 1000 feet;
- A dry cleaner using perchloroethylene within 500 feet;
- A gasoline dispensing facility within 300 feet.

The Project is an unmanned telecommunication tower and is not identified as a project type that will expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollution concentrations.

d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Land uses generally associated with odor complaints include:

- Agricultural uses (livestock and farming);
- Wastewater treatment plants;
- Food processing plants;
- Chemical plants;
- Composting operations;
- Refineries;
- Landfills;
- Dairies; and
- Fiberglass molding facilities.

The Project does not contain any of the above described land uses typically associated with emitting objectionable odors. The only potential odor sources associated with the proposed project may result from construction equipment exhaust. The construction odor emissions would be temporary, short-term, and intermittent in nature and would cease upon completion of the respective phase of construction and is thus considered less than significant.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:				
a) Have substantial adverse effects, 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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: (Check if project is located in the Biological Resources Overlay or contains habitat for any species listed in the California Natural Diversity Database

San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007, Field Inspection, Environmental Screening (Appendix B).

a) **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated.**

Existing Conditions

Vegetation

Vegetation on the project site primarily consists of a Creosote Bush Scrub community. Common species observed include creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), burrowbush (*Ambrosia dumosa*), schisms grass (*Schismus sp.*) and rubber rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*).

General Wildlife

The Project site and surrounding area provide habitat for wildlife species that commonly occur in Creosote Bush Scrub community. Wildlife species expected to occur onsite include western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), and white-tailed antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*). Several small mammal burrows were observed on or within the immediate vicinity of the project site.

Sensitive Plant Species

A review of the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants resulted in a list of 4 sensitive plant species that have the potential to occur on the site:

- Mojave fish-hook cactus (*Sclerocactus polyancistrus*)
- Beaver Dam breadroot (*Pediomelum castoreum*)
- solitary blazing star (*Mentzelia eremophila*)
- Mojave monkeyflower (*Diplacus mohavensis*)

The proposed site and access route were observed, and none of the listed species were observed. None of the above-listed sensitive plant species are anticipated to occur onsite and the proposed Project is not anticipated to result in any impacts to sensitive plant species. No further action is recommended with regard to sensitive plant species.

Sensitive Wildlife Species

The sensitive wildlife species with potential to occur in the project area include:

- merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)
- yellow-headed blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*
- yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*)
- burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*)
- least Bell's vireo (*bellii pusillus*)
- San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax pallidus pallid*)
- Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*)
- Mohave river vole (*Microtus californicus mohavensis*)
- Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*)
- silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)
- western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*)
- desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*)

The proposed site and access route were observed, and none of the listed species were observed. Several small mammal burrows occur on the Project site. However, the Project site provides marginally suitable habitat for Mohave ground squirrel, burrowing owl and desert tortoise which are discussed below.

Mohave Ground Squirrel (MGS):

Prior to conducting field surveys, a thorough review of relevant maps, databases, and literature pertaining to the target species within project vicinity was performed. Recent and historical aerial imagery, soils data, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topography, and other maps (Google 2019) of the project site and vicinity were reviewed, in addition to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), published information from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and recent reports of MGS surveys and trapping in the area.

The habitat assessment survey for Mohave ground squirrel was conducted on and within 500 feet of the project site. Although the survey conducted revealed potentially suitable vegetation and soils for MGS, the species has a low potential to occur on the project site for reasons discussed below.

- The Project site is located on the southeastern edge of the historic range of MGS with no recent activity recorded nearby. No MGS have been observed within 7 miles of the site in the past 9 years, and recent nearby trapping efforts reviewed for this assessment have all been negative.
- Despite trapping efforts in San Bernardino County conducted between 2008 and 2012, the efforts did not result in any MGS captures within the project area and vicinity.
- The southern portion of the historic range was the most intensely sampled and suggests local extermination may have recently occurred throughout much of the

southern part of the historic range.

- The most recent and nearby MGS observation occurred in 2011 approximately 7 miles northwest of the project site. The project site is also over 15 miles southeast of the nearest Bureau of Land Management identified core population area for the species.
- No MGS or sign were observed within the project site during the habitat assessment. The project site is highly disturbed and dominated by creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), stipa grass (*Stipa* spp.), and several other common desert species. Winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*), spiny hopsage (*Grayia spinosa*), and lyceum (*Lyceum* spp.), three plant species commonly associated with MGS, were not observed on site. Signs of domestic dog, a known MGS predator, were observed on and around the project site. Additional anthropogenic disturbance at and around the site included trash and impacts resulting from off-road vehicle use.

Conclusion

The Project site does not support high-quality habitat for MGS and the species was found to have a low potential to occur. This conclusion is based on the Project's location at the edge of the MGS's historic range, negative trapping records in the project vicinity, lack of shrub species commonly associated with this species, the high level of disturbance, and lack of MGS and other small mammal sign observed on the site.

Desert Tortoise: The proposed Project is not located within USFW Designated Critical Habitat for the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), federally listed as threatened. However, the proposed Project is directly adjacent to the designated critical habitat. Therefore, Mitigation Measure BIO-3 is required.

Mitigation Measure-BIO-1: Pre-Construction Desert Tortoise Survey. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the following note shall be included on grading plans. (Statements in quotations shall be verbatim):

"1. All employees, subcontractors, construction personnel, and other individuals who work on-site shall participate in a desert tortoise awareness program. The program shall be administered by the Project Biologist or Environmental Monitor. The program may be given in the field prior to the start of construction activities, and shall include truck drivers, delivery personnel, and other project-related to personnel who have attended the training.

2. An authorized biological monitor shall be present, as needed, during construction to ensure that tortoises or any other special status species enter the construction area and to remove or rescue any individuals that may be injured. Mortality of any tortoise shall be reported to wildlife agency staff.

Project contractors shall be required to ensure compliance with the notes and permit periodic inspection of the construction site by County of San Bernardino staff or its designee to confirm compliance. These notes also shall be specified

in bid documents issued to prospective construction contractors.”

With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, impacts are less than significant.

Burrowing Owl: Several burrows suitable for burrowing owl were observed within the vicinity of the project site. No owls or owl sign were observed during the survey and the site is considered unoccupied. Due to the presence of suitable habitat within the vicinity of the project site, a preconstruction clearance survey is recommended within two weeks of the onset of construction activity as required by Mitigation Measure BIO-2 below.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Burrowing Owl Pre-Construction Survey: Pre-Construction Burrowing Owl Survey. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the following note shall be included on grading plans. (Statements in quotations shall be verbatim):

“Within 15 calendar days prior to grading, a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey of the project’s proposed impact footprint and make a determination regarding the presence or absence of the burrowing owl. The determination shall be documented in a report and shall be submitted, reviewed, and accepted by the County of San Bernardino Land Use Services Department-Planning Division prior to the issuance of a grading permit and subject to the following provisions:

a. In the event that the pre-construction survey identifies no burrowing owls in the impact area, a grading permit may be issued without restriction.

b. In the event that the pre-construction survey identifies the presence of burrowing owl, then prior to the issuance of a grading permit and prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities on the property, the qualified biologist shall follow the methods recommended by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW, 2012) for passive or active relocation of burrowing owls. Passive relocation, including the required use of one-way doors to exclude owls from the site and the collapsing of burrows, will occur if the biologist determines that the proximity and availability of alternate habitat is suitable for successful passive relocation. Passive relocation shall follow California Department of Fish and Wildlife relocation protocol. If proximate alternate habitat is not present as determined by the biologist, active relocation shall follow California Department of Fish and Wildlife relocation protocol. The biologist shall provide evidence in writing to the Planning Division that the species has fledged or been relocated prior to the issuance of a grading permit.

Project contractors shall be required to ensure compliance with the notes and permit periodic inspection of the construction site by County of San Bernardino staff or its designee to confirm compliance. These notes also shall be specified in bid documents issued to prospective construction contractors.”

With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-2, impacts are less than significant.

- b) **No Impact.** There is no surface water on site or any riparian habitat or other sensitive

natural community present on the Project site. As such, the Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service or have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

- c) **No Impact.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) define “wetlands” as “areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted to life in saturated soil conditions.” In order to be considered a jurisdictional wetland under Section 404, an area must possess three wetland characteristics: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. Each characteristic has a specific set of mandatory wetland criteria that must be satisfied in order for that wetland characteristic to be met. Several parameters may be analyzed to determine whether the criteria are satisfied.

The Project site and surrounding area contain plant species commonly found in the Creosote Bush Scrub communities. No hydrophytic plant species were observed on the project site; therefore, it was not necessary to examine the other two wetland criteria (hydrology and soils), since all three criteria must be met where wetlands are present. No jurisdictional wetlands will be impacted by the installation of the proposed facility.

- d) **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated.** Based on a review of the USGS *Helendale, California 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle*, in December 2019, there are no wilderness areas and no wildlife preserves in the vicinity of the proposed site.

However, the trees and shrubs located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed utility line trench route provide suitable nesting habitat for several avian species. As such, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects all common wild birds found in the United States except the house sparrow, starling, feral pigeon, and resident Wildlife birds such as pheasant, grouse, quail, and wild turkey. Resident Wildlife birds are managed separately by each state. The MBTA makes it unlawful for anyone to kill, capture, collect, possess, buy, sell, trade, ship, import, or export any migratory bird including feathers, parts, nests, or eggs.

California Fish and Game (CFG) Code 3503 makes it illegal to destroy any birds' nest or any birds' eggs that are protected under the MBTA. CFG Code 3503.5 further protects all birds in the orders Falconiformes and Strigiformes (birds of prey, such as hawks and owls) and their eggs and nests from any form of take.

Therefore, the following mitigation is required:

Mitigation Measure -BIO-3: Pre-Construction Nesting Bird Survey. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the following note shall be included on grading

plans: (Statements in quotations shall be verbatim):

“Should construction activities, specifically vegetation/tree removal, be conducted between the months of February and October the following measures shall apply:

(a) Preconstruction Surveys: Nesting bird surveys approximately three to five days prior to construction shall be conducted. Depending on the species, buffer zones of 100 to 500 feet must be established around nesting birds until nesting is confirmed to have failed or fledglings are deemed sufficiently development in independent. In general these buffer zones and protection for nesting birds under the MBTA remain in place between February 15 and August 15. A copy of the migratory nesting bird survey results report shall be provided to the County of san Bernardino Land Use Services Department-Current Planning if the survey identifies the presence of active nests.

(b) Buffer Zones: If buffer zones are created around nest sites, monitors should at minimum check nesting status on a weekly basis. Buffers can be removed and work can resume in the area once nests are determined to have failed or fledglings are sufficiently developed.”

- e) **No Impact.** Section 88.01.070 of the Development Code requires a Tree & Plant Removal Permit for the removal of any Native tree with a six inch or greater stem diameter or 19 inches in circumference measured 4.5 feet above natural grade level or a three or more palm trees in linear plantings, which are 50 feet or greater in length. The proposed vacant site consists of vacant land with minimal vegetation and no trees. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no impact.
- f) **No Impact.** The Project site is located within the planning area of the *West Mojave California Desert Conservation Area Plan* Amendment. The *West Mojave California Desert Conservation Area Plan* Amendment was adopted by the Bureau of Land Management in 2006. The Record-of-Decision applies only to 3.3 million acres of BLM-managed lands. To date no approvals have been issued for the Habitat Conservation Plan component by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. All land within the Project site is located on private property outside of the Bureau of Land Management ownership area; therefore the *West Mojave California Desert Conservation Area Plan* does not apply. Additionally, the Project site is located within the boundaries of the *Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan*. Phase I of the *Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan* was approved by the Bureau of Land Management on September 14, 2016 and applies to Bureau of Land Management land only. Phase II which would apply to non-federal land is an on-going process and no implementing agreements have been issued. All land within Project site is located on private property outside of the Bureau of Land Management land; therefore the *Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan* does not apply.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated with implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1 through BIO-3.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:				

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) | Disturb any human remains, including those outside of formal cemeteries? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SUBSTANTIATION: (Check if the project is located in the Cultural ☐ or Paleontologic ☐ Resources overlays or cite results of cultural resource review):

San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007; Environmental Screening (Appendix B).

- a) **No Impact.** Historic resources generally consist of buildings, structures, improvements, and remnants associated with a significant historic event or person(s) and/or have a historically significant style, design, or achievement. Damaging or demolition of historic resources is typically considered to be a significant impact. Impacts to historic resources can occur through direct impacts, such as destruction or removal, and indirect impacts, such as a change in the setting of a historic resource.

CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(a) clarifies that historical resources include the following:

1. A resource listed in, or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources.
2. A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements [of] section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code.
3. Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the

architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California.

Archaeological sites are locations that contain resources associated with former human activities, and may contain such resources as human skeletal remains, waste from tool manufacture, tool concentrations, and/or discoloration or accumulation of soil or food remains.

Records Search

On August 1, 2019, a cultural resources records search was undertaken by Environmental Assessment Specialist, Inc. at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), which is located at the California State University, Fullerton was conducted to identify any cultural resources on or near the project site. Based on the results of the record search no previous studies had been prepared for the subject property nor are any resources known to remain on the property.

Pedestrian Survey

An Environmental Assessment was conducted for the property by Environmental Assessment Specialists, Inc., for both biological and cultural related features. A pedestrian site survey was conducted for the Project site. The soils have been partially disturbed during the grading of the roads, and heavily in the vicinity of the tank site. The pedestrian survey of the proposed lease area did not reveal any pre-contact cultural materials. A records search conducted at that time confirmed that no National Register eligible or listed resources are within a half mile of the proposed Project site. Additionally, no other previously known cultural resources are located within 2000 feet of the candidate.

The telecommunication's facility will be located along an existing dirt road in an undeveloped area of Helendale. The proposed improvements would occur on relatively undisturbed desert land, with some modern trash dumped in the area. Trenching will run south through Monterey Road to an existing pullbox for telco, while power continues until it turns at Lakeview Drive, to an existing Southern California Edison manhole located near the entrance to the Helendale Lakeview Tank Site.

Based on the analysis above, there are no impacts.

- b) **Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated.** Archaeological sites are locations that contain resources associated with former human activities, and may contain such resources as human skeletal remains, waste from tool manufacture, tool concentrations, and/or discoloration or accumulation of soil or food remains. A records search undertaken by Environmental Assessment Specialists, Inc., through the South Central Coastal Information Center, as noted above, found several isolate chert flake located 2,500 feet north of the Project site. However, the archaeological sensitivity of the project location is unknown because there are no previous studies for the subject property.

The proposed Project was distributed for review, consistent with AB 52 Tribal

Consultation process. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians responded on April 3, 2020, and indicated they had undertaken federal consultation and subsurface testing did not reveal any positive results. As such, they no longer had concerns about the proposed Project. They have requested inclusion of mitigation measures related to inadvertent finds, as noted below.

Mitigation Measure CR-1

- A. In the event that cultural resources are discovered during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find (within a 60-foot buffer) shall cease and a qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of Interior standards shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the other portions of the project outside of the buffered area may continue during this assessment period. Additionally, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Cultural Resources Department (SMBMI) shall be contacted, as detailed within TCR-1, regarding any pre-contact finds and be provided information after the archaeologist makes his/her initial assessment of the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment.***
- B. If significant cultural resources, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), are discovered and avoidance cannot be ensured, the archaeologist shall develop a Monitoring and Treatment Plan (MTP). Should the significant resource be from the pre-contact era, the draft of the MTP shall be provided to SMBMI for review and comment, as detailed within CR-1. The archaeologist shall monitor the remainder of the project and implement the Plan accordingly.***
- C. If human remains or funerary objects are encountered during any activities associated with the project, work in the immediate vicinity (within a 100-foot buffer of the find) shall cease and the County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5 and that code enforced for the duration of the project.***

Upon inclusion of these measures, the proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact.

- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project site does not contain a cemetery and no known formal cemeteries are located within the immediate site vicinity. In the event that human remains are discovered during project grading or other ground disturbing activities, the Project would be required to comply with the applicable mandatory provisions of California Health and Safety Code §7050.5, as well as Public Resources Code §5097 et. seq. California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin. Pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98(b), remains shall be left in place and free from disturbance until a final decision as to the treatment and disposition has been made by the Coroner.

If the Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) must be contacted and the NAHC must then

immediately notify the “most likely descendant(s)” of receiving notification of the discovery. The most likely descendant(s) shall then make recommendations within 48 hours of obtaining access to the property, and engage in consultations concerning the treatment of the remains as provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. With mandatory compliance with California Health and Safety Code §7050.5 as well as Public Resources Code §5097 et. seq., impacts are less than significant.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated with implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-1.

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
VI. ENERGY – Would the project:				

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

SUBSTANTIATION: *San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007; CalEEMod Data Sheets (Appendix A)*

a) **Less Than Significant Impact.**

Construction Impacts

Construction of the project would require electricity use to power some of the construction-related equipment. The electricity use during construction would vary during different phases of construction, where the majority of construction equipment during grading would be gas-powered or diesel-powered.

The amount of energy and fuel use anticipated by the project's construction are typical for the type of construction proposed because there are no aspects of the project's proposed construction process that are unusual or energy-intensive. Project construction equipment would conform to the applicable California Air Resources Board (CARB) emissions standards, acting to promote equipment fuel efficiencies. In addition, demand for construction-related electricity and fuels would be spread out over the life of the construction phases of the project but would not require a permanent commitment of energy or diesel fuel resources for this purpose. Therefore, impacts from energy use during short-term construction activities would be less than significant.

Operational Impacts

Operation of the project would result in increases in demand for electricity as compared to the currently undeveloped project site, which does not have any energy consuming uses. Since the project area is already served by onsite electrical infrastructure, adequate electrical infrastructure capacity is available to accommodate the electricity demand during operation, the proposed project would not require additional or expanded electrical infrastructure.

Additionally, plans submitted for building permits of development projects in the project area would be required to include verification demonstrating compliance with the 2016 Building and Energy Efficiency Standards and are also required to be reviewed. The project would also be required to adhere to the provisions of CALGreen, which established planning and design standards for sustainable site development, energy efficiency (in excess of the California Energy Code requirements), water conservation, material conservation, and internal air contaminants.

Based on the above analysis, the proposed project would not result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation.

- b) **No Impact.** The County of San Bernardino General Plan Renewable Energy and Conservation Element (REC Element) is an established regulatory framework, and is supportive of other county, state, and federal plans. REC Element Policy 1.1 states: *“Continue implementing the energy conservation and efficiency measures identified in the County of San Bernardino Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan.* As noted in the analysis for Issue VIII-a and VIII-b, *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, the Performance Standards for Commercial and Industrial Project pursuant to Appendix F of the County of San Bernardino *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan* will be included as Conditions of Approval for the Project. As such, the Project will not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. There is no impact and no mitigation measures are required.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
VII.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the project:				

a) Directly or indirectly cause 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. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ii. | Strong seismic ground shaking? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| iii. | Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| iv. | Landslides? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) | Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) | Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

- f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

SUBSTANTIATION: (Check ☐ if project is located in the Geologic Hazards Overlay District):
San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007; San Bernardino County Geologic Hazard Map for Helendale (EH22B).

- ai) **No Impact.** The project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, and no known faults underlie the site. Because there are no faults located on the project site, there is no potential for the project to expose people or structures to adverse effects related to ground rupture.
- (a-ii) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project site is located in a seismically active area of Southern California and is expected to experience moderate to severe ground shaking during the lifetime of the project. This risk is not considered substantially different than that of other similar properties in the Southern California area. As a mandatory condition of project approval, the project would be required to construct the proposed structures in accordance with the California Building Code. The County's Building and Safety Department would review the facility plans through building plan checks, issuance of a building permit, and inspection of the facilities during construction, which would ensure that all required California Building Code seismic safety measures are incorporated into the structures. Compliance with the California Building Code as verified by the County's review process, would reduce impacts related to strong seismic ground shaking to less than significant.
- aiii) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Liquefaction is a phenomenon in which loose, saturated, relatively cohesion-less soil deposits lose shear strength during strong ground motions. The factors controlling liquefaction are:
- Seismic ground shaking of relatively loose, granular soils that are saturated or submerged can cause soils to liquefy and temporarily behave as a dense fluid. For liquefaction to occur, the following conditions have to occur:
 - Intense seismic shaking;
 - Presence of loose granular soils prone to liquefaction; and
 - Saturation of soils due to shallow groundwater.

According to San Bernardino County Geologic Hazard Map for Helendale (EH22B), the project site is not located within an area that is subject to liquefaction. As a mandatory condition of project approval, the Project would be required to construct the proposed structures in accordance with the California Building Code. The County's Building and Safety Department would review the facility plans through building plan checks, issuance of a

building permit, and inspection of the facilities during construction, which would ensure that all required California Building Code seismic safety measures are incorporated into the structures. Compliance with the California Building Code as verified by the County's review process, would reduce impacts related to liquefaction to less than significant.

- aiv) **No Impact.** The site is relatively flat and contains no slopes that may be subject to landslides. Therefore, the site is not considered susceptible to seismically induced landslides. As such, there are no impacts.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil because of the minimal size of the building footprint and land disturbance area associated with the project. Storm water from construction projects that disturb one or more acres of soil, or that disturb less than one acre, but are part of a larger common plan of development, are required to obtain coverage under the statewide General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (also referred to as the Construction General Permit or CGP). The project site is approximately 1,092 square feet in area and is not part of a larger common plan for development, therefore, a Construction General Permit is not required. However, according to the Land Use Services Department Grading Plan Guidance document, grading plans shall include the following:
- Adequate provisions should be made to intercept and conduct the tributary offsite/onsite drainage flows around and through the site in a manner, which will not adversely affect adjacent or downstream properties at the time the site is developed.
 - The drainage plan for the portions of the site that are to be utilized as a building site (building pad), including elevations of floors with respect to finish site grade and locations of proposed stoops, slabs and fences that may affect drainage. Proposed structures must be free of flood hazard. If a site is subject to inundation, overflow or erosion, a permit may not be issued unless provisions are made to eliminate the hazard. Therefore, plans must also show all mitigation measures to protect proposed structures and the drainage study justifying the design must be provided.

With implementation of mandatory grading requirements, impacts are less than significant.

- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.**

Landslide

As noted in the response to Issue VII (a-iv) above, the site is relatively flat and contains no slopes that may be subject to landslides. Therefore, the site is not considered susceptible to landslides

Lateral Spreading

Lateral spreading is a term referring to landslides that commonly form on gentle slopes and that have rapid fluid-like flow horizontal movement. Most lateral spreading is caused by earthquakes but it is also caused by landslides. As noted in the response to Issue VII (a-iv) above, the site is relatively flat and contains no slopes that may be subject to lateral spreading.

Subsidence

Subsidence is the downward movement of the ground caused by the underlying soil conditions. Certain soils, such as clay soils are particularly vulnerable since they shrink and swell depending on their moisture content. As a mandatory condition of project approval, the project would be required to construct the proposed structures in accordance with the California Building Code. The County's Building and Safety Department would review the facility plans through building plan checks, issuance of a building permit, and inspection of the facilities during construction, which would ensure that all required California Building Code seismic safety measures are incorporated into the structures. Compliance with the California Building Code as verified by the County's review process, would reduce impacts related to subsidence to less than significant.

Liquefaction

According to San Bernardino County Geologic Hazard Map for Helendale (EH22B), the Project site is not located within an area that is subject to liquefaction. As a mandatory condition of project approval, the project would be required to construct the proposed structures in accordance with the California Building Code. The County's Building and Safety Department would review the facility plans through building plan checks, issuance of a building permit, and inspection of the facilities during construction, which would ensure that all required California Building Code seismic safety measures are incorporated into the structures. Compliance with the California Building Code as verified by the County's review process would reduce impacts related to liquefaction to less than significant.

Collapse

Collapse occurs in saturated soils in which the space between individual particles is completely filled with water. This water exerts a pressure on the soil particles that influences how tightly the particles themselves are pressed together. The soils lose their strength beneath buildings and other structures. As a mandatory condition of project approval, the Project would be required to construct the proposed structures in accordance with the California Building Code. The County's Building and Safety Department would review the facility plans through building plan checks, issuance of a building permit, and inspection of the facilities during construction, which would ensure that all required California Building Code seismic safety measures are incorporated into the structures. Compliance with the California Building Code as verified by the County's review process would reduce impacts related to collapse to less than significant.

- d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project site is consists of soils comprised of Cajon loamy sand which is a soil type that is generally not considered to be expansive. The proposed Project would be uninhabited and would be required to comply with the most recent CBC requirements, which have been developed to property safeguard structures and occupants from land stability hazards, such as expansive soils. Therefore, impacts related to expansive soils would be less than significant.
- e) **No Impact.** The proposed project is an unmanned telecommunications facility and would not result in the production of waste water. As such, septic tanks and waste water disposal systems would not be required. Therefore, there would be no impact stemming from the

installation of septic systems or waste water disposal systems.

- f) **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated.** Paleontological resources are the preserved fossilized remains of plants and animals. Fossils and traces of fossils are preserved in sedimentary rock units, particularly fine- to medium grained marine, lake, and stream deposits, such as limestone, siltstone, sandstone, or shale, and in ancient soils. They are also found in coarse-grained sediments, such as conglomerates or coarse alluvium sediments. Fossils are rarely preserved in igneous or metamorphic rock units. Fossils may occur throughout a sedimentary unit and, in fact, are more likely to be preserved subsurface, where they have not been damaged or destroyed by previous ground disturbance, amateur collecting, or natural causes such as erosion.

No known paleontological resources or unique geologic features are present on the project site. Notwithstanding this circumstance, the San Bernardino County General Plan EIR states that unknown paleontological resources have the potential to exist on properties that have not been disturbed by prior development activities involving excavation. Accordingly, the Project has the potential to result in significant adverse impacts to paleontological resources that may exist beneath the ground surface on the Project site during site excavation and/or grading activities that would occur on the property during project construction activities. To minimize the effects of this potential impact, Mitigation Measure GEO-1 is required.

Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Treatment of Previously Unidentified Paleontological Resources. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the following note shall be included on the grading plans:

“If previously unidentified paleontological resources are unearthed during construction activities, construction work in the immediate area of the find shall be halted and directed away from the discovery until a qualified Paleontologist assesses the significance of the resource. The County of San Bernardino Land Use Services Department shall make the necessary plans for treatment of the find(s) and for the evaluation and mitigation of impacts if the finds are found to be historically significant according to CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (a)). The plan shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Preparation of recovered specimens to a point of identification and permanent preservation including washing of sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates.

2. Identification and curation of specimens into an established, accredited museum repository with permanent retrievable paleontological storage. The paleontologist must have a written repository agreement in hand prior to the initiation of mitigation activities. Mitigation of adverse impact to significant paleontological resources is not complete until such curation into an established repository has been fully completed and documented.

3. Preparation of a report of findings with an appended itemized inventory of specimens. The report and inventory, when submitted to the County Land Use Services Department-Current Planning along with confirmation of the curation of recovered specimens into an established, accredited museum repository, will signify

completion of the program to mitigate impacts to paleontological resources.”

With implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1, impacts are less than significant.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated with the implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1.

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – Would the project:				

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SUBSTANTIATION: *San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007; CalEEMod Data Sheets (Appendix A.)*

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** In December September 2011, the County of San Bernardino adopted the "*Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan*" ("GHG Plan"). The purpose of the GHG Plan is to reduce the County's internal and external GHG emissions by 15 percent below current (2011) levels by year 2020 in consistency with State climate change goals pursuant to AB32. The GHG Plan has been designed in accordance with Section 15183.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines which provides for streamline review of climate change issues related to development projects when found consistent with an applicable greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan.

Section 5.6 of the GHG Plan identifies the procedures for reviewing development projects for consistency with the GHG Plan. The GHG Plan includes a two-tiered development review procedure to determine if a project could result in a significant impact related greenhouse gas emissions or otherwise comply with the GHG Plan pursuant to Section 15183.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The initial screening procedure is to determine if a project will emit 3,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂E) per year or more. Projects that do not exceed this threshold require no further climate change analysis but are required to implement mandatory reducing measures in the project's conditions of approval.

Projects exceeding this threshold must meet a minimum 31 percent emissions reduction in order to garner a less than significant determination. This can be met by either (1) achieving 100 points from a menu of mitigation options provided in the GHG Plan or (2) quantifying proposed reduction measures. Projects failing to meet the 31 percent reduction threshold would have a potentially significant impact related to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

The proposed Project's primary contribution to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is

attributable to construction activities. Since the Project is an unmanned telecommunications facility, operational emissions are negligible. Project construction will result in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the following construction-related sources: (1) construction equipment emissions such as grading, trenching, movement of materials, and energy used to power the equipment; and (2) emissions from construction workers personal vehicles traveling to and from the construction site. Construction-related GHG emissions vary in proportion to the level of activity, length of the construction period, specific construction operations, types of equipment, and number of personnel.

The primary emissions that would result from the proposed Project occur as carbon dioxide (CO₂) from gasoline and diesel combustion, with more limited vehicle tailpipe emissions of nitrous oxide (N₂O) and methane (CH₄).

A GHG emissions inventory was conducted for the project utilizing the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) as shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Project Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Source	GHG Emissions MT/yr			
	N ₂ O	CO ₂	CH ₄	CO ₂ e
Mobile Sources	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Energy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Solid Waste	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Water/Wastewater	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30-year Amortized Construction GHG				1.67
TOTAL				1.67
SCAQMD Threshold				3,000
Exceed Threshold?				NO

As shown in Table 6, the project's GHG emissions are less than the initial screening threshold of 3,000 MTCO₂E per year. Projects that do not exceed this threshold require no further climate change analysis. However, Performance Standards pursuant to Appendix F of the County of San Bernardino *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan* will be included as Conditions of Approval for the project if applicable.

b) Less Than Significant Impact.

State Plan

The Climate Change Scoping Plan was first approved by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in 2008 and must be updated every five years. The *First Update to the Climate Change Scoping Plan* was approved by CARB on May 22, 2014. The *Climate Change Scoping Plan* provides a framework for actions to reduce California's GHG emissions, and requires CARB and other state agencies to adopt regulations and other

initiatives to reduce GHGs. As such, the *Climate Change Scoping Plan* is not directly applicable to the project in most instances. However, the project is not in conflict with the *Climate Change Scoping Plan* because its individual greenhouse gas emissions are below screening thresholds as noted in the response to Issue VIII(a) above and the project will implement such greenhouse reduction measures as Title 24 Energy Efficiency Requirements and recycling and construction waste reduction requirements.

Regional Plan

As noted above, in December September 2011, the County of San Bernardino adopted the "*Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan*" ("GHG Plan"). The purpose of the GHG Plan is to reduce the County's internal and external GHG emissions by 15 percent below current (2011) levels by year 2020 in consistency with State climate change goals pursuant to AB32. The GHG Plan has been designed in accordance with Section 15183.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines which provides for streamline review of climate change issues related to development projects when found consistent with an applicable greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan.

Performance Standard pursuant to the County of San Bernardino *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan* will be included as conditions of approval for the project if applicable.

Based on the analysis above, the proposed Project will not conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Impacts are less than significant

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUBSTANTIATION: San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007; San Bernardino County Hazard Overlay Map (EH22B – Helendale)				

a-b) **Less Than Significant Impact.**

Construction Activities

Heavy equipment that would be used during construction of the project would be fueled and maintained by substances such as oil, diesel fuel, gasoline, hydraulic fluid, and other liquid materials that would be considered hazardous if improperly stored or handled. In addition, materials such as paints, roofing materials, solvents, and other substances typically used in building construction would be located on the project site during construction. Improper use, storage, or transportation of hazardous materials could result in accidental releases or spills, potentially posing health risks to workers, the public, and the environment. The potential for accidental releases and spills of hazardous materials during construction is a standard risk on all construction sites, and there would be no greater risk for improper handling, transportation, or spills associated with future development that would be a reasonable consequence of the project than would occur on any other similar construction site.

Construction contractors are required to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding hazardous materials, including but not limited to requirements imposed by the Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, South Coast Air Quality Management District, and the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. As such, impacts due to construction activities would not cause a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

Operational Activities

During the operational phase of the project, hazardous or potentially hazardous materials would not be routinely handled, stored, or dispensed on the project site in substantial quantities. Cleaning and degreasing solvents, fertilizers, pesticides, and other materials used in the regular maintenance of structures would be utilized on-site.

These potentially hazardous materials, however, would not be of a type or occur in sufficient quantities to pose a significant hazard to the public and safety or the environment. Businesses are required by law to ensure employee safety by identifying hazardous materials in the workplace, providing safety information to workers that handle hazardous materials, and adequately training workers. The project would be required to comply with applicable federal, state, and local requirements related to the handling of hazardous materials. Thus, hazardous materials used during project operation would not pose any substantial public health risk or safety hazards. Therefore, long-term operational impacts are less than significant.

- c) **No Impact.** The Project site is not located within one-quarter (0.25) mile of a mile from an existing or proposed school. The nearest school is Riverview Middle School located approximately 2 miles east of the project site. In addition, as discussed in the responses to issues VII (a-b) above, the all hazardous or potentially hazardous

materials would comply with all applicable federal, State, and local agencies and regulations with respect to hazardous materials.

- d) **No Impact.** The Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites (Cortese) List is a planning document used by the State and local agencies to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act requirements in providing information about the location of hazardous materials release sites pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.. Below are the data resources that provide information regarding the facilities or sites identified as meeting the “Cortese List” requirements.

- List of Hazardous Waste and Substances sites from Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database.
- List of Leaking Underground Storage Tank Sites from the State Water Board’s GeoTracker database.
- List of solid waste disposal sites identified by Water Board with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit (PDF).
- List of “active” CDO and CAO from Water Board (MS Excel, 1,453 KB).
- List of hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action pursuant to Section 25187.5 of the Health and Safety Code, identified by DTSC.

Based on a review of the Cortese List maintained by the California Environmental Protection Agency website at <https://calepa.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/CorteseList/> on February 1, 2020, the Project site is not identified on the list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

- e) **No Impact.** The Project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public use airport or private airstrip. The nearest airport is the Southern Californian Logistics Airport located approximately 10 miles to the southwest of the project site. As such, the Project would not result in safety hazard impacts to or from aircraft-related uses. No impact is anticipated.
- f) **No Impact.** The project site does not contain any emergency facilities nor does it serve as an emergency evacuation route. The project would not result in a substantial alteration to the design or capacity of any public road that would impair or interfere with the implementation of evacuation procedures. Because the project would not interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan, there is no impact.
- g) **No Impact.** The County has mapped areas that are susceptible to wild land fires within the Fire Hazard Overlay. The Fire Hazard Overlay is derived from areas designated in high fire hazard areas in the General Plan and locations derived from the California Department of Forestry, U.S. Forest Service, and the County Fire Department. According to the San Bernardino County Hazards Overlay Map (EH22B-Helendale), the Project site is not located within a Fire Safety Overlay District. There

is no impact. (Also see Section XX, *Wildfire*).

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

Issues		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:					
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b)	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
	i. result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	iv. impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d)	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION:

San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007; Environmental Screening (Appendix B).

a) Less Than Significant Impact.

Waste Discharge Requirements

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) are issued by the Lahontan Regional Board under the provisions of the California Water Code, Division 7 "Water Quality," Article 4 "Waste Discharge Requirements." These requirements regulate the discharge of wastes which will not reach surface waters but which may impact the region's water quality by affecting underlying groundwater basins. Such WDRs are issued for Publically Owned Treatment Works' wastewater reclamation operations, discharges of wastes from industries, subsurface waste discharges such as septic systems, sanitary landfills, dairies and a variety of other activities which can affect water quality. The Project is an unmanned telecommunications facility, as such, it will not generate any wastewater. There are no impacts.

Water Quality Requirements

The Porter-Cologne Act defines water quality objectives (i.e. standards) as "...the limits or levels of water quality constituents or characteristics which are established for the reasonable protection of beneficial uses of water or the prevention of nuisance within a specific area" (§13050 (h)).

Construction Impacts

Construction of the Project would involve clearing, grading, paving, utility installation, and structure construction which would result in the generation of potential water quality pollutants such as silt, debris, chemicals, paints, and other solvents with the potential to adversely affect water quality.

Storm water from construction projects that disturb one or more acres of soil, or that disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development, are required to obtain coverage under the statewide General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (also referred to as the Construction General Permit or CGP). The Project site is approximately 1.092 square feet in area and is not part of a larger common plan for development, therefore, a Construction General Permit is not required. However, according to the Land Use Services Department Grading Plan Guidance document, grading plans shall include the following:

- Adequate provisions should be made to intercept and conduct the tributary offsite/onsite drainage flows around and through the site in a manner, which will not adversely affect adjacent or downstream properties at the time the site is developed.
- The drainage plan for the portions of the site that are to be utilized as a building site

(building pad), including elevations of floors with respect to finish site grade and locations of proposed stoops, slabs and fences that may affect drainage. Proposed structures must be free of flood hazard. If a site is subject to inundation, overflow or erosion, a permit may not be issued unless provisions are made to eliminate the hazard. Therefore, plans must also show all mitigation measures to protect proposed structures and the drainage study justifying the design must be provided.

With implementation of mandatory grading requirements, impacts are less than significant.

Operational Impacts

Storm water pollutants commonly associated with the project operation may include sediment/turbidity, nutrients, trash and debris, oxygen-demanding substances, organic compounds, bacteria and viruses, oil and grease, and pesticides. Surface runoff will be minimal given the small size of the facility. Two (2) small 16-square feet pits with river rock located at the termination of the on-site walls are proposed to detain/treat surface runoff. As such, impacts are less than significant.

- b) **No Impact.** The project is an unmanned telecommunications facility that does not require water. Therefore, there are no impacts to groundwater supplies and recharge.
- c) **Less than Significant Impact.** According to the Land Use Services Department Grading Plan Guidance document, grading plans shall include the following:
 - Adequate provisions should be made to intercept and conduct the tributary offsite/onsite drainage flows around and through the site in a manner, which will not adversely affect adjacent or downstream properties at the time the site is developed
 - The drainage plan is to address those portions of the site that are to be utilized as a building site (building pad), including elevations of floors with respect to finish site grade and locations of proposed stoops, slabs and fences that may affect drainage. Proposed structures must be free of flood hazard. If a site is subject to inundation, overflow or erosion, a permit may not be issued unless provisions are made to eliminate the hazard. Therefore, plans must also show all mitigation measures to protect proposed structures and the drainage study justifying the design must be provided.

With implementation of mandatory grading requirements, impacts are less than significant.

- d) **No Impact.** According to County Hazard Map EH22B-Helendale, the Project site is not located within a Flood Plain Safety (FP) Overlay District. According to the California Department of Conservation, California Official Tsunami Inundation Maps the site is not located within a tsunami inundation zone.

The project site is located approximately 4,500 feet west of Silver Lakes, which are 2 manmade recreational lakes located within the Silver Lakes Community. During an

earthquake of sufficient magnitude, it is possible the Project site could be impacted by a seismic seiche. Seismic seiches are standing waves set up on rivers, reservoirs, ponds, and lakes when seismic waves from an earthquake pass through the area. However, the project site a manmade telecommunications facility that does not contain pollutants that could be released due to project inundation. Impacts are less than significant.

- e) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project site is located within the boundaries of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and is subject to the *Lahontan Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan implements a number of state and federal laws, the most important of which are the federal Clean Water Act (P.L. 92-500, as amended), and the State Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code § 13000 et seq.). Storm water from construction projects that disturb one or more acres of soil, or that disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development, are required to obtain coverage under the statewide General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (also referred to as the Construction General Permit or CGP). The Project site is approximately 1,092 square feet in area and is not part of a larger common plan for development, therefore, a Construction General Permit is not required. However, according to the Land Use Services Department Grading Plan Guidance document, grading plans shall include the following:

- Adequate provisions should be made to intercept and conduct the tributary offsite/onsite drainage flows around and through the site in a manner, which will not adversely affect adjacent or downstream properties at the time the site is developed.
- The drainage plan for the portions of the site that are to be utilized as a building site (building pad), including elevations of floors with respect to finish site grade and locations of proposed stoops, slabs and fences that may affect drainage. Proposed structures must be free of flood hazard. If a site is subject to inundation, overflow or erosion, a permit may not be issued unless provisions are made to eliminate the hazard. Therefore, plans must also show all mitigation measures to protect proposed structures and the drainage study justifying the design must be provided.

With implementation of mandatory grading requirements, impacts are less than significant and the project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

<i>Issues</i>		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING – Would the project:					

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Physically divide an established community? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SUBSTANTIATION:

San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007, Google Earth Pro.

- a) **No Impact.** An example of a project that has the potential to divide an established community includes the construction of a new freeway or highway through an established neighborhood. The project would establish a telecommunications facility occupying approximately 1,092 square feet. The project site is located approximately 450 feet northwest of residential development and a cell tower, and 3,000 west of residential development on the edge of undeveloped land. As such, the project will not divide an established community and there are no impacts.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** As demonstrated throughout this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Project would otherwise not conflict with any applicable goals, objectives, and policies of the County of San Bernardino General Plan or Development Code. Additionally, the Project would not conflict with any applicable policy document, including, without limitation, the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District's *Air Quality Management Plans*, the County of San Bernardino *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan*, and the *Lahontan Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region*. The purpose of these plans is to avoid or mitigate an environmental effect.

In conclusion, the Project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating adverse environmental effects and impacts are less than significant.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

<i>Issues</i>		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the project:					
a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that will be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: (Check ☐ if project is located within the Mineral Resource Zone Overlay):

San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007

- a) **No Impact.** The California Department of Conservation (DOC) designates portions of the Project site as being located within Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ)- 2, which is a zone known to contain significant mineral deposits or have a high likelihood of containing significant deposits. However, the mineral resource zone classifications assigned by the DOC focus solely on geologic factors and the potential value and marketability of a mineral resource, without regard to existing land use and ownership or the compatibility of surrounding land uses.

Due to small size of the Project site and the residential uses in close proximity to the site, mineral resources extraction would not be feasible on-site. Lastly, the County's General Plan does not identify any important mineral resource recovery sites on- or in the proximity of the Project site. Accordingly, the Project would result in a less-than-significant impact related to the loss of availability of a known mineral resource.

- b) **No Impact.** The Project site is not identified as a resource recovery site on the General Plan, a specific plan or other land use plan. Therefore, no impact is anticipated.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

Issues	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XIII. NOISE - Would the project result in:				

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) | For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or 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 levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

SUBSTANTIATION: (Check if the project is located in the Noise Hazard Overlay District ☐ or is subject to severe noise levels according to the General Plan Noise Element ☐):

San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007; Submitted Project Materials

a) **Less Than Significant Impact.**

Construction Noise

Noise generated by construction equipment will include a combination of trucks, power tools, concrete mixers, and portable generators that when combined can reach high levels. The number and mix of construction equipment is expected to occur in the following stages:

- Site Preparation;

- Grading; and
- Facility Construction.

Construction Noise Thresholds

The degree of construction noise will vary depending on the phase of construction and type of construction activity. Table 7 shows the typical noise levels generated by construction equipment.

Table 7. Typical Construction Noise Levels

Type of Equipment	Range of Sound Levels Measured (dBA at 50 feet)
Pile Drivers	81 to 96
Rock Drills	83 to 99
Jack Hammers	75 to 85
Pneumatic Tools	78 to 88
Pumps	68 to 80
Dozers	85 to 90
Tractors	77 to 82
Front-End Loaders	86 to 90
Graders	79 to 89
Air Compressors	76 to 86
Trucks	81 to 87
Source: "Noise Control for Buildings and Manufacturing Plants", Bolt, Beranek & Newman, 1987,	

These noise levels diminish with distance from the construction site at a rate of 6 dBA per doubling of distance. For example, a noise level of 82 dBA for a tractor measured at 50 feet from the noise source to the receptor would be reduced to 76 dBA at 100 feet from the source to the receptor, and would be further reduced to 64 dBA at 400 feet from the source to the receptor.

It is estimated that construction activities will take place approximately 450 feet to the closest sensitive receptors which are the single-family residences located to the south of the project site adjacent. Based on these factors, construction noise impacts from the project are estimated to a maximum range of 64 dBA which is less than the maximum

exposure level of 65 dBA. In addition, construction noise sources are regulated within San Bernardino County under Section 83.01.090 (G) of the Development Code, which states that temporary construction, maintenance, repair, or demolition activities between 7AM to 7PM, except Sundays and Federal Holidays are exempt from the County's noise regulations. Impacts are less than significant.

Operational Noise

The facility's primary operational noise source would be a diesel-powered emergency back-up generator. The emergency generator is intended to power the facility in the event of a power outage. An increase of 3 dBA is considered barely perceivable to most healthy ears. Typically an increase of 5 dBA or greater is considered one of significance, as it is considered readily perceivable. The proposed project consists of the use of an onsite 30 kW generator. The proposed 30 KW generator produces approximately 79 dBA at a distance of 23 feet, based on information published for Generac 30 KW Industrial Diesel Generators.

The closest receptor is a single-family residence, located approximately 450 feet south of the Project site. Applying a drop-off rate of 6 dBA per doubling of distance from the source (typical for natural settings), the generator would have a reduction of 20.3 decibels, resulting in an acceptable noise level of approximately 53 dBA (Scientific Calculation Methodology: $(20 \times \log(23 [\text{original generator distance}] \div 450 [\text{new generator distance}]))$). Thus, the noise level would be reduced to a level that complies with the County's residential noise standard. Impacts are less than significant.

Traffic Noise

The project is an unmanned telecommunications facility and only generates periodic traffic for maintenance purposes. Therefore, noise generated by vehicle traffic is negligible.

b) Less Than Significant Impact.

Construction Vibration

Construction activity can result in varying degrees of ground vibration, depending on the equipment and methods used, distance to the affected structures and soil type. It is expected that ground-borne vibration from construction activities most likely to cause vibration impacts are:

Heavy Construction Equipment: Although all heavy mobile construction equipment has the potential of causing at least some perceptible vibration while operating close to buildings, the vibration is usually short-term and is not of sufficient magnitude to cause building damage.

Trucks: Trucks hauling building materials to construction sites can be sources of vibration intrusion if the haul routes pass through residential neighborhoods on streets with bumps or potholes. Repairing the bumps and potholes generally eliminates the problem.

Section 83.01.090 of the Development Code states:

“No ground vibration shall be allowed that can be felt without the aid of instruments at or beyond the lot line, nor shall any vibration be allowed which produces a particle velocity greater than or equal to two-tenths (0.2) inches per second measured at or beyond the lot line.”

Given the nature of the Project, it is not expected that large construction equipment will be required to construct the concrete pad, wall, and erect the tower. It is assumed a large bulldozer will be used which could produce up to 0.089 PPV at 25 feet which is conservation given the type of project. The level of anticipated vibration does not exceed 0.20 PPV inch/second. As such, vibration would not result in the excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels impacting the nearest single-family residence located approximately 450 feet to the south of the Project site.

Operational Vibration

Typically, groundborne vibration sources that could potentially affect nearby properties are from rail roads and trucks traveling at higher speeds on freeways and highways. The Project does not have rail access nor is it a major transportation facility or roadway. Therefore, the operational impacts associated with ground-borne vibration would be less than significant at nearby sensitive uses.

- c) **No Impact.** The Project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public use airport or private airstrip. The nearest airport is the Southern California Logistics Airport located approximately 10 miles to the southwest of the project site. As such, the project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels. There is no impact.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING - Would the project:				

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

SUBSTANTIATION:

San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007

- a) **No Impact.** The Project will not induce population growth in the area either directly or indirectly because the Project will only expand specific cellular use capabilities in the region. The Project is not proposing any new residential development and will make use of the existing roads and infrastructure. Therefore, no significant impact is anticipated.
- b) **No Impact.** The Project would not displace substantial numbers of existing people or existing housing units, or require the construction of replacement housing, as no housing units exist on the site. There is no impact.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES				

- a) 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:

Fire Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other Public Facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION:

San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007

- a) **Less than Significant Impact.**

Fire Protection

Development of the Project would impact fire protection services by placing an additional demand on existing fire protection resources. The Project would be conditioned by the Fire Department to provide a minimum of fire safety and support fire suppression activities, including compliance with State and local fire codes. The Project would minimally increase the demand for fire protection services and it is not anticipated that it would result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities as the Fire Department has reviewed the project and will provide fire protection services from the Helendale Fire Station located approximately 1.7 miles east of the Project site.

Based on the above analysis, impacts related to fire protection are less than significant.

Police Protection

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department provides police protection services to project area. The Project site is located within an urbanized area that is routinely patrolled. The Sheriff's Department has indicated that it can provide police protection services to the Project site from existing facilities, so the provision of new or physically altered sheriff facilities or need for new or physically altered sheriff facilities is not

required. Impacts are less than significant.

Schools

The Project proposes construction of an unmanned communications facility and would not result in the need for new housing creating a demand for additional school facilities.

Parks

The Project proposes construction of an unmanned communications facility and would not result in the need for new housing creating as additional park facilities.

Other Public Facilities

The Project proposes construction of an unmanned communications facility and would not generate substantial long-term increases in demand for roads, solid waste, or other public services or utilities. The proposed Project site would be accessed by the existing local circulation system and onsite farm roads and would not generate substantial long-term operational trips. Therefore, potential impacts on public services or utilities would be less than significant.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XVI. RECREATION				
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 will occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION:

San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007

- a) **No Impact.** The Project proposes construction of an unmanned communications facility and would not result in any increase in the overall population, necessitating neither construction nor expansion of a parks or recreational facilities. Therefore, no impact is anticipated.
- b) **No Impact.** Because the project proposes an unmanned telecommunications facility, it would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XVII. TRANSPORTATION – Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION:

San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007; South Coast Air Basin for Southland Pipe CalEEMod

a) **Less Than Significant Impact.**

Motor Vehicle Analysis

According to the County of San Bernardino Traffic Impact Study Guidelines (April 2014), the requirement to prepare a traffic impact study is based upon, but not limited to, one or more of the following criteria:

- If a project generates 100 or more trips without consideration of pass-by trips during any peak hour.
- If the project is located within 300 feet of the intersection of two streets designated as Collector or higher in the County's General Plan or the Department's Master Plan, or (an) impacted intersection as determined by the Traffic Division.

- The project creates safety or operational concerns.

If a project generates less than 100 trips, without consideration of pass-by trips during any peak hour, a focused study may still be required if there are special concerns.

A maintenance worker would conduct periodic site inspection visits, approximately once every 4 to 6 weeks. Therefore, the proposed Project is not forecast to generate more than 100 peak hour trips and it is not located within 300 feet of an intersection of two streets designated as Collector or higher. There are no apparent traffic safety or operational concerns with implementation of the Project. Therefore, the Project was not required to prepare a traffic impact study. Based on the low volume of traffic trips, it is not anticipated that the Project would impact the performance of the circulation system related to motor vehicles.

Transit Service Analysis

There is no bus service adjacent to the project site, nor would such a service be necessary since it is an unmanned telecommunications facility. In addition, the Project is not proposing to construct any improvements that would interfere with any future bus service.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Analysis

The Project is an unmanned telecommunications facility. Therefore, the project will not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy applying to non-motorized travel. Impacts are less than significant.

- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 (b) describes specific considerations for evaluating a project's transportation impacts utilizing vehicle miles traveled (VMT). For purposes of this section, "vehicle miles traveled" refers to the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project. Vehicle miles traveled exceeding an applicable threshold of significance may indicate a significant impact.

According to the *County of San Bernardino Transportation Impact Study Guidelines*, July 9, 2019, projects which serve the local community and have the potential to reduce VMT should not be required to complete a VMT assessment. These projects are noted below:

- 11 single family housing units
- 16 multi-family, condominiums, or townhouse housing units
- 10,000 sq. ft. of office
- 15,000 sq. ft. of light industrial
- 63,000 sq. ft. of warehousing
- 79,000 sq. ft. of high cube transload and short-term storage warehouse
- 12 hotel rooms

The Project proposes the construction of an unmanned telecommunications facility.

As such, it does not exceed the thresholds for completing a VMT assessment described above and, thus, is not forecast to significantly impact VMT.

- c) **No Impact.** The Project is an unmanned telecommunications facility. As such, the Project will not substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections). The Project site is located in an area developed with residential land uses. There are no major agricultural uses in the vicinity of the site which would increase incompatible uses with farm equipment.
- d) **No Impact.** The Project is an unmanned telecommunications facility that is not located within a public or private roadway right-of-way. The Project will not result in inadequate emergency access.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES				

- a) Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:
- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SUBSTANTIATION:

San Bernardino County General Plan, 2007; Letter of Response from the Cultural Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), South Central Coast Information Center, California State University, Fullerton

- i) **No Impact.** Historic resources generally consist of buildings, structures, improvements, and remnants associated with a significant historic event or person(s) and/or have a historically significant style, design, or achievement. Damaging or demolition of historic resources is typically considered to be a significant impact. Impacts to historic resources can occur through direct impacts, such as destruction or removal, and indirect impacts, such as a change in the setting of a historic resource.

CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(a) clarifies that historical resources include the following:

- 1. A resource listed in, or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources.*

2. A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements [of] section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code.

3. Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California.

Archaeological sites are locations that contain resources associated with former human activities, and may contain such resources as human skeletal remains, waste from tool manufacture, tool concentrations, and/or discoloration or accumulation of soil or food remains.

On August 1, 2019, a cultural resources records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), which is located at the California State University, Fullerton was conducted to identify any cultural resources on or near the project site. Based on the results of the record search, no eligible or listed cultural resources are within a half mile of the project site. Additionally, no other previously known cultural resources are located within 2000 feet of the project site.

In addition, a pedestrian site investigation survey was conducted for the Project site. The results of the site investigation confirm that no previously known cultural resources will be adversely affected by construction of the telecommunications facility. The telecommunications facility will be located along an existing dirt road in an undeveloped area of Helendale. The proposed cellular tower trellis and equipment locations are to be located on relatively undisturbed desert land, with some modern trash has been dumped in the area. Trenching will run south through Monterey Road to an existing pullbox for telco, while power continues until it turns at Lakeview Drive, to an existing Southern California Edison manhole located near the entrance to the Helendale Lakeview Tank Site. The soils have been partially disturbed during the grading of the roads, and heavily in the vicinity of the tank site. Soil visibility is good to moderate in most of the area, and poor for the trenching route near the tank site, with vegetation being the main obstruction in most of the area. The pedestrian survey of the proposed lease area did not reveal any pre-contact cultural materials.

Based on the analysis above, there are no impacts.

- aii) **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.** Tribal Cultural Resources are either of the following:

(1) Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:

(A) Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources.

(B) Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.

(2) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Assembly Bill (AB) 52

AB 52 also created a process for consultation with California Native American Tribes in the CEQA process. Tribal Governments can request consultation with a lead agency and give input into potential impacts to tribal cultural resources before the agency decides what kind of environmental assessment is appropriate for a proposed project.

Through the AB52 notification process, the County Land Use Services Department sent notices to the following tribes:

- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians.
- Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians.
- Fort Mojave Indian Tribe.
- Colorado River Indian Tribes.

On April 3, 2020, a response was received from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians requesting inclusion of the following language related to inadvertent finds of the Tribes as mitigation measure, which is also in conjunction with mitigation measures CR-1:

Mitigation Measure-TCR-1

- A. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Cultural Resources Department (SMBMI) shall be contacted, as detailed in CR-1, of any pre-contact cultural resources discovered during project implementation, and be provided information regarding the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment. Should the find be deemed significant, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), a cultural resources Monitoring and Treatment Plan shall be created by the archaeologist, in coordination with SMBMI, and all subsequent finds shall be subject to this Plan. This Plan shall allow for a monitor to be present that represents SMBMI for the remainder of the project, should SMBMI elect to place a monitor on-site.***
- B. Any and all archaeological/cultural documents created as a part of the project (isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be supplied to the applicant and Lead Agency for dissemination to SMBMI. The Lead Agency and/or applicant shall, in good faith, consult with SMBMI***

throughout the life of the project.

Based upon the background research, on-site survey, and contact with Native American Tribes, and comments from the San Manuel Tribe, with the inclusion of the mitigation measure listed above, the potential impacts upon Tribal related resources are less than significant.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION:

County of San Bernardino General Plan 2007; Submitted Project Materials, CalEEMod Printouts (Appendix A), CalRecycle.

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated.** The Project would require the relocation or construction of the following facilities:

Water

The project is an unmanned telecommunications facility and no water facilities are required.

Wastewater Treatment

The project is an unmanned telecommunications facility and no wastewater facilities are required.

Storm Drainage

Two (2) small 16-square feet pits with river rock located at the termination of the on-site walls are proposed to detain surface water runoff.

Electric Power

Trenching for electrical service will run south through Monterey Road to an existing pullbox for telco, while power continues until it turns at Lakeview Drive to an existing Southern California Edison manhole located near the entrance to the Helendale Lakeview Tank Site.

Natural Gas

The project is an unmanned telecommunications facility and no natural gas facilities are required.

Conclusions

The installation of the above-described facilities as proposed by the Project would result in physical impacts to the surface and subsurface of the Project site. These impacts are considered to be part of the Project's construction phase and are evaluated throughout this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. In instances where significant impacts have been identified, Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-3, and GEO-1 have been required to reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels. Accordingly, additional measures beyond those identified throughout this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration would not be required.

- b) **No Impact.** The project is an unmanned telecommunications facility and no water facilities are required.

- c) **No Impact.** The project is an unmanned telecommunications facility and no wastewater facilities are required.
- d) **Less Than Significant Impact.**

Construction Waste

Waste generated during the construction phase of the Project would primarily consist of discarded materials from the construction of infrastructure installation and other project-related construction activities. The California Green Building Standards Code ("CALGreen") requires all newly constructed buildings to prepare a Waste Management Plan and divert construction waste through recycling and source reduction methods. The County of San Bernardino, Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division, reviews and approves all new construction projects required to submit a Waste Management Plan. Mandatory compliance with CALGreen solid waste requirements will ensure that construction waste impacts are less than significant.

Operational Waste

The project is an unmanned telecommunications facility and would not generate ongoing solid waste.

- e) **No Impact.**

Construction Waste

The California Green Building Standards Code ("CALGreen"), requires all newly constructed buildings to prepare a Waste Management Plan and divert construction waste through recycling and source reduction methods. The County of San Bernardino, Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division, reviews and approves all new construction projects required to submit a Waste Management Plan. Therefore, the Project is in compliance with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Operational Waste

The Project is an unmanned telecommunications facility and would not generate ongoing solid waste.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated with implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1 through BIO-3, and GEO-1.

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potential Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XX. WILDFIRE: If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water resources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION:

County of San Bernardino General Plan 2007;

- a-d) **No Impact.** A wildfire is a nonstructural fire that occurs in vegetative fuels, excluding prescribed fire. Wildfires can occur in undeveloped areas and spread to urban areas where the landscape and structures are not designed and maintained to be ignition resistant. A wildland-urban interface is an area where urban development is located in proximity to open space or “wildland” areas. The potential for wildland fires represents a hazard where development is adjacent to open space or within close proximity to wildland fuels or designated fire severity zones. Steep hillsides and varied topography within portions of the County also contribute to the risk of wildland fires. Fires that occur in wildland-urban interface areas may affect natural resources as well as life and property. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) has mapped areas of significant fire hazards in the state through its Fire and Resources Assessment Program (FRAP). These

maps place areas of the state into different fire hazard severity zones (FHSZ) based on a hazard scoring system using subjective criteria for fuels, fire history, terrain influences, housing density, and occurrence of severe fire weather where urban conflagration could result in catastrophic losses. As part of this mapping system, land where Cal Fire is responsible for wildland fire protection and generally located in unincorporated areas is classified as a State Responsibility Area (SRA). Cal Fire does not currently identify the project site as an SRA.

In addition, the County has mapped areas that are susceptible to wildland fires within the Fire Hazard Overlay. The Fire Hazard Overlay is derived from areas designated in high fire hazard areas in the General Plan and locations derived from the California Department of Forestry, U.S. Forest Service, and the County Fire Department. According to Hazard Map EH22B-Helendale, the Project site is not located within in or near lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones.

Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potential Significant Impacts</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects, which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated. In instances where significant impacts have been identified, Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-3, and GEO-1 are required to reduce impacts to less than significant levels. Therefore, the Project does not have impacts which would 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.				
b) Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated. The Project would result in potentially significant project-specific impacts to biological and paleontological				

resources. In instances where these impacts have been identified, Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-3, and GEO-1 are required to reduce impacts to less than significant levels. In addition, future development in the surrounding area may impact these resources as well. However, implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in this document, and other CEQA documents for development projects in the area, will help reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels or to the maximum extent feasible. Therefore, the proposed Project does not have impacts that are cumulatively considerable.

- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project does not have impacts which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Impacts are less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURES.

(Any mitigation measures which are not 'self-monitoring' shall have a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program prepared and adopted at the time of project approval)

Mitigation Measure-BIO-1: Pre-Construction Desert Tortoise Survey. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the following note shall be included on grading plans. (Statements in quotations shall be verbatim):

"1. All employees, subcontractors, construction personnel, and other individuals who work on-site shall participate in a desert tortoise awareness program. The program shall be administered by the Project Biologist or Environmental Monitor. The program may be given in the field prior to the start of construction activities, and shall include truck drivers, delivery personnel, and other project-related to personnel who have attended the training.

2. An authorized biological monitor shall be present, as needed, during construction to ensure that tortoises or any other special status species enter the construction area and to remove or rescue any individuals that may be injured. Mortality of any tortoise shall be reported to wildlife agency staff.

Project contractors shall be required to ensure compliance with the notes and permit periodic inspection of the construction site by County of San Bernardino staff or its designee to confirm compliance. These notes also shall be specified in bid documents issued to prospective construction contractors."

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Burrowing Owl Pre-Construction Survey: Pre-Construction Burrowing Owl Survey. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the following note shall be included on grading plans. (Statements in quotations shall be verbatim):

"Within 15 calendar days prior to grading, a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey of the project's proposed impact footprint and make a determination regarding the presence or absence of the burrowing owl. The determination shall be documented in a report and shall be submitted, reviewed, and accepted by the County of San Bernardino

Land Use Services Department-Planning Division prior to the issuance of a grading permit and subject to the following provisions:

a. In the event that the pre-construction survey identifies no burrowing owls in the impact area, a grading permit may be issued without restriction.

b. In the event that the pre-construction survey identifies the presence of burrowing owl, then prior to the issuance of a grading permit and prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities on the property, the qualified biologist shall follow the methods recommended by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW, 2012) for passive or active relocation of burrowing owls. Passive relocation, including the required use of one-way doors to exclude owls from the site and the collapsing of burrows, will occur if the biologist determines that the proximity and availability of alternate habitat is suitable for successful passive relocation. Passive relocation shall follow California Department of Fish and Wildlife relocation protocol. If proximate alternate habitat is not present as determined by the biologist, active relocation shall follow California Department of Fish and Wildlife relocation protocol. The biologist shall provide evidence in writing to the Planning Division that the species has fledged or been relocated prior to the issuance of a grading permit.

Project contractors shall be required to ensure compliance with the notes and permit periodic inspection of the construction site by County of San Bernardino staff or its designee to confirm compliance. These notes also shall be specified in bid documents issued to prospective construction contractors.”

Mitigation Measure -BIO-3: Pre-Construction Nesting Bird Survey. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the following note shall be included on grading plans: (Statements in quotations shall be verbatim):

“Should construction activities, specifically vegetation/tree removal, be conducted between the months of February and October the following measures shall apply:

(a) Preconstruction Surveys: Nesting bird surveys approximately three to five days prior to construction shall be conducted. Depending on the species, buffer zones of 100 to 500 feet must be established around nesting birds until nesting is confirmed to have failed or fledglings are deemed sufficiently development in independent. In general these buffer zones and protection for nesting birds under the MBTA remain in place between February 15 and August 15. A copy of the migratory nesting bird survey results report shall be provided to the County of san Bernardino Land Use Services Department-Current Planning if the survey identifies the presence of active nests.

(b) Buffer Zones: If buffer zones are created around nest sites, monitors should at minimum check nesting status on a weekly basis. Buffers can be removed and work can resume in the area once nests are determined to have failed or fledglings are sufficiently developed.”

Mitigation Measure CR-1

- A. In the event that cultural resources are discovered during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find (within a 60-foot buffer) shall cease and a qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of Interior standards shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the other portions of the project outside of the buffered area may continue during this assessment period. Additionally, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Cultural Resources Department (SMBMI) shall be contacted, as detailed within TCR-1, regarding any pre-contact finds and be provided information after the archaeologist makes his/her initial assessment of the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment.***
- B. If significant cultural resources, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), are discovered and avoidance cannot be ensured, the archaeologist shall develop a Monitoring and Treatment Plan (MTP). Should the significant resource be from the pre-contact era, the draft of the MTP shall be provided to SMBMI for review and comment, as detailed within CR-1. The archaeologist shall monitor the remainder of the project and implement the Plan accordingly.***
- C. If human remains or funerary objects are encountered during any activities associated with the project, work in the immediate vicinity (within a 100-foot buffer of the find) shall cease and the County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5 and that code enforced for the duration of the project.***

Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Treatment of Previously Unidentified Paleontological Resources. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the following note shall be included on the grading plans:

“If previously unidentified paleontological resources are unearthed during construction activities, construction work in the immediate area of the find shall be halted and directed away from the discovery until a qualified Paleontologist assesses the significance of the resource. The County of San Bernardino Land Use Services Department shall make the necessary plans for treatment of the find(s) and for the evaluation and mitigation of impacts if the finds are found to be historically significant according to CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (a)). The plan shall include, but not be limited to:

- 1. Preparation of recovered specimens to a point of identification and permanent preservation including washing of sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates.***
- 2. Identification and curation of specimens into an established, accredited museum repository with permanent retrievable paleontological storage. The paleontologist must have a written repository agreement in hand prior to the initiation of mitigation activities. Mitigation of adverse impact to significant paleontological resources is not complete until such curation into an established repository has been fully completed and documented.***

3. Preparation of a report of findings with an appended itemized inventory of specimens. The report and inventory, when submitted to the County Land Use Services Department-Current Planning along with confirmation of the curation of recovered specimens into an established, accredited museum repository, will signify completion of the program to mitigate impacts to paleontological resources.”

Mitigation Measure TCR-1

- A. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Cultural Resources Department (SMBMI) shall be contacted, as detailed in CR-1, of any pre-contact cultural resources discovered during project implementation, and be provided information regarding the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment. Should the find be deemed significant, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), a cultural resources Monitoring and Treatment Plan shall be created by the archaeologist, in coordination with SMBMI, and all subsequent finds shall be subject to this Plan. This Plan shall allow for a monitor to be present that represents SMBMI for the remainder of the project, should SMBMI elect to place a monitor on-site.**
- B. Any and all archaeological/cultural documents created as a part of the project (isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be supplied to the applicant and Lead Agency for dissemination to SMBMI. The Lead Agency and/or applicant shall, in good faith, consult with SMBMI throughout the life of the project.**

GENERAL REFERENCES

California Department of Transportation. *Caltrans Scenic Highway Corridor Map*.
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/index.htm

Census 2000 Urbanized Area Maps. <https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/ua2kmaps.html>.

County of San Bernardino. 2007. *County of San Bernardino 2007 Development Code*.
<http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/DevelopmentCode.aspx>

County of San Bernardino, 2007 *General Plan 2007*
<http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/lus/GeneralPlan/FINALGP.pdf>

County of San Bernardino Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan, September 2011,
www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/lus/GreenhouseGas/FinalGHGFull.pdf

County of San Bernardino Hazard Overlay Map EH22B (Helendale).
<http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/ZoningOverlayMaps/HazardMaps.aspx>
Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, <https://www.mdaqmd.ca.gov/>

State of California, Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp>

State of California, Department of Conservation, DOC Maps, Mines and Mineral Resources,
<https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/mineralresources/>

PROJECT-SPECIFIC REFERENCES

Appendices: (Under Separate Cover or on Compact Disk)

- A. CalEEMod Data Sheets, March 14, 2020.
- B. FCC Special Interest Research, NEPA Land Use Letter Report ("Environmental Screening"), Environmental Assessment Specialists, Inc., February 7, 2020.