

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIAL STUDY & MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Use Permit 24-0001
Vertical Bridge (VB BTS II, LLC)

July 3, 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIAL STUDY &
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
WITH
References and Documentation

Prepared by
SHASTA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
PLANNING DIVISION
1855 Placer Street, Suite 103
Redding, California 96001

**SHASTA COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM
INITIAL STUDY & MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

- 1. Project Title:**
Use Permit 24-0001 (VB BTS II, LLC)
- 2. Lead agency name and address:**
Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Planning Division
1855 Placer Street, Suite 103
Redding, CA 96001-1759
- 3. Contact Person and Phone Number:**
David Schlegel, AICP, Senior Planner, (530) 225-5532
- 4. Project Location:**
The project is located in the Shingletown Rural Community Center on the south side of Emigrant Trail at its intersection with Ritts Mill Road (Assessor's Parcel Number 700-140-013).
- 5. Applicant Name and Address:**
Vertical Bridge (VB BTS II, LLC)
750 Park of Commerce Drive, Suite 200
Boca Raton, FL 33487
- 6. General Plan Designation:**
Rural Residential A (RA)
- 7. Zoning:**
Rural Residential (R-R)
- 8. Description of Project:**
The request is a use permit for the construction, operation and maintenance of a commercial wireless telecommunication facility within a 40-foot by 60-foot ground lease area. The lease area would be graded and improved with a weed barrier covered with gravel and be enclosed by 6-foot-tall chain link fence with a 12-foot-wide access gate and topped with a three-strand barbed wire anti-climb barrier for security. Improvements proposed within the lease area include a 160-foot-tall monopine tower with three tri-sector antenna mounts designed to accommodate up to nine antennas per sector. Additional mounts and ancillary equipment such as remote radio units (RRUs) and backhaul antennas would be installed on the antenna arrays. In total, the facility would accommodate up to 27 panel antennas and 9 RRUs. One sector would be developed with the tower. This sector would include 9 antennas and associated ancillary and ground equipment. Two of the three antenna mounts and surplus ground lease space would be reserved for future carriers to co-locate at the facility. Improvements outside the fenced area would include a PG&E transformer, utility trenching, and the installation of a 16-foot-wide gravel driveway to provide access to Emigrant Trail. Grading and excavation of footings will be necessary to construct the tower. Construction equipment will include a concrete mixer, grading equipment, a crane to install the tower, and common equipment used for building construction. Construction of the project would include removal of roughly four pine trees. The project site is undeveloped.
- 9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:**
A small-lot rural-residential subdivision development is adjacent to the west and south. The north and eastern adjacent lands are planned for rural-residential development but the lots are larger and fewer lots have been developed with residential uses. All adjacent lands are designated as Rural Residential A (RA) by the Shasta County General Plan and are in the Rural Residential (R-R) zone district or R-R zone district combined with the Mobile

Home zone district (R-R-T). The project site is relatively flat with vegetation consisting of dense mixed-conifer forest. There are no waterways, creeks, intermittent streams or other water features of any kind on site. On-site drainage sheet flows in a southern direction.

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

Federal Communications Commission

11. 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.?

In accordance with Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21080.3.1, the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians (Tribe) filed and Shasta County received a request for formal notification of proposed projects within Shasta County that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Tribe. Pursuant to PRC §21080.3.1 the Department of Resource Management sent a certified letter to notify the Tribe that the project was under review and to provide the Tribe 30 days from the receipt of the letter to request formal consultation on the project in writing. Certified mail records indicate that the notification letter was received by the Tribe on Sunday, March 14, 2024. As of Tuesday, June 18, 2024, no request for consultation on the project was received from the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians. Therefore, the requirements of AB52 have been met and no AB52 project consultation with the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians is required.

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 21080.3.2.) 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

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

	Aesthetics		Agricultural Resources		Air Quality
	Biological Resources		Cultural Resources		Energy
	Geology / Soils		Greenhouse Gas Emissions		Hazards & Hazardous
	Hydrology / Water Quality		Land Use / Planning		Mineral Resources
	Noise		Population / Housing		Public Services
	Recreation		Transportation		Tribal Cultural Resources
	Utilities / Service Systems		Wildfire		Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of the initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

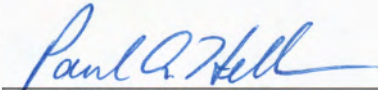
I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Copies of the Initial Study and related materials and documentation may be obtained at the Planning Division of the Department of Resource Management, 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103, Redding, CA 96001. Contact David Schlegel, Senior Planner at (530) 225-5532.



David Schlegel, AICP
Senior Planner

07/03/2024
Date



Paul A. Hellman
Director of Resource Management

7/3/24
Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

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

I. AESTHETICS: Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				✓
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?				✓
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?			✓	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			✓	

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a-b) The proposed tower is a 160-foot tall monopine structure. Without any other visual obstruction, a tower of this size could be viewed within 3 miles based on the earth’s curvature and independent of other factors such as height of terrain. There is no scenic vista within a 10-mile radius of the project site. In addition, the project is located in a heavily stocked mixed conifer forest with a mix of conifer species ranging from 70 to 170 feet in height. The visual character of the proposed monopine is generally consistent with the visual character of the existing viewshed and is designed to blend in with the mixed conifer forest. State Highway 299 East is located 0.4 miles to the south of the project site. Visual observations along State Highway 299 East northward to the project site are heavily wooded and views are fully obstructed by pine trees from the edge of the highway right-of-way all the way to the project site. At roughly 2,110 feet from centerline of the highway to the project site, there is no unimpeded view to the proposed tower from State Highway 299 East and at that distance, the height of the tower would also be visually obstructed by trees of varying sizes which stand within the sightlines from the highway and the distant tower. State Highway 299 is eligible to be an official scenic State route where the natural environment is dominant but has not been designated as such. Therefore, the project site is not visible from a designated scenic highway. The project is in the Eastern Forest General Plan Area which includes scenic resources such as Mt. Lassen. Topography in the vicinity of the project site is relatively flat and distant views are full or partially obstructed by conifer trees. No scenic vista appears visible from public vantage points in the vicinity based on photo simulations submitted with the application. Public views at greater distance and/or from public vantage points not represented in the photo simulations would not be significantly impacted based on the tower’s stealth design, the character of the landscape in the vicinity, and the fact that State Highway 299 East is not a designated scenic highway.
- c) Shasta County Zoning Plan section 17.88.282.D establishes standards that are protective of the existing visual character and quality of the site and its surroundings, such as the requirement that landscaping shall be provided and maintained for the life of the facility to screen any ground structures or equipment, setback requirements, and prohibiting wireless telecommunication facilities to be placed within one thousand five hundred feet of an existing wireless telecommunication facility unless environmental documentation verifies that a concentration of towers in close proximity will not have a cumulative adverse impact on the visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. The proposed monopine would not be located within 1,500 feet of an existing wireless telecommunication facility. As proposed, the monopine tower complies with the minimum setback requirements and the ground structures and equipment would be set back approximately 140 feet from the Emigrant Trail right-of-way and be screened by fencing and existing natural landscaping around the perimeter of the lease area.

As discussed in section a-b, the project surroundings are primarily mixed conifer forested areas with rural residential development to the west and the south of the project site. Photo simulations of the proposed structure (prepared by Met3 Wireless) were provided from the nearest public vantage point of Emigrant Trail approximately 170 feet north of the proposed tower. The photo simulation demonstrates that the tower would be constructed to imitate surrounding pine trees with branching spanning the length of the tower replicating a cylindrical pine tree and concealing antenna with pine needle socks. Construction of the monopine is consistent with the existing visual character and quality of the site and its surroundings. Existing natural vegetation would screen the ground structures and equipment in the same manner as ornamental landscaping. Due to the proposed monopine design of the tower, existing tree canopy, and general standards for wireless telecommunication facilities in the Shasta County Zoning Plan, the

proposed wireless facility would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. Therefore, potential impacts of the project on the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings would be less-than-significant.

- d) The project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in a non-urbanized area. The applicant proposes two shielded and down-directed service-lights that would each be oriented towards equipment service areas inside the lease area. The conditions of approval for the project would include a standard condition requiring compliance with section 17.88.282.E.5 of the Shasta County Zoning Plan, requiring external structure and area lighting to be activated and controlled by motion sensors. No other lighting is proposed. Therefore, potential impacts of the project from new sources of substantial light or glare on day or nighttime views in a non-urbanized area would be less-than-significant.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

<p>II. <u>AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES:</u> 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:</p>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or 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?				✓
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?				✓
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))?				✓
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				✓
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?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) The subject property is not identified as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Statewide Importance on the map titled Shasta County Important Farmland 2016.
- b) Neither this property nor the surrounding properties are zoned for agricultural use nor are they in a Williamson Act Contract.
- c-e) The project would not 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)). The project site may not be forest land or timberland because the R-R zone district does not allow for forest management without approval of local discretionary use permit. The property is not in a Timberland Production zone district. If the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection determines that the project site is forest land or timberland, the project would as a consequence result in the conversion of forest land. The project may qualify for a less-than-three-acre conversion permit exemption which would represent a negligible conversion of forest land currently present within Shasta County. Regardless of whether the project would qualify for exemption, the potential impacts of the project resulting from the loss forest land or conversion to non-forest use would be less-than-significant. The site is not located in an area of significant agricultural soils and is not currently used for agricultural purposes.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

III. AIR QUALITY: Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				✓
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?			✓	
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			✓	
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?				✓

Discussion: Based on related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a-b) The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the 2021 Attainment Plan for the Northern Sacramento Valley Planning Air Basin as adopted by Shasta County, or any other applicable air quality plan. The telecommunications facility does not propose a backup generator and would only effect air quality during construction and during infrequent maintenance visits.

The NSVPA Air Quality Attainment Plan (2021) designates Shasta County as an area of Nonattainment with respect to the ozone California ambient air quality standards. Nitrogen oxides (NOx) are a group of highly reactive gasses and are also known as "oxides of nitrogen." Because NOx is an ingredient in the formation of ozone, it is referred to as an ozone precursor. NOx is emitted from combustion sources such as cars, trucks and buses, power plants, and off-road equipment. Construction equipment and activities associated with making probable improvements would generate air contaminants, including oxides of nitrogen (NOx), reactive organic gases (ROG), carbon dioxide (CO2) and particulate matter (PM10), in the form of engine exhaust and fugitive dust. However, the emissions emitted during construction would be limited and temporary. The Shasta County AQMD, Rule 3:28, is intended to limit emissions of NOx and carbon monoxide (CO) from stationary internal combustion engines. Any future generator for backup power for the site that might be proposed would be subject to this rule if its engine exceeds a 50-brake horsepower (bhp) engine rating.

In addition, the Shasta County General Plan requires Standard Mitigation Measures (SMM) or Best Available Mitigation Measures (BAMM) on all discretionary land use applications as recommended by the AQMD in order to mitigate both direct and indirect emissions of non-attainment pollutants. With the application SMM, in combination with the limited scope of improvements and limited daily vehicle trips projected with post-project development, the project will not 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 and would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the NSVPA Air Quality Attainment Plan (2021) as adopted by Shasta County, or any other applicable air quality plan.

c-d) The facility would not be located in an area where substantial numbers of people live or work. The nearest sensitive receptors would be residences located on adjacent properties to the west and south. Roughly five of the nearest residences would within the range of approximately 260 to 460 feet away from the facility. Trenching and backfilling for the electric utility and fiber optic cable would occur within approximately 280 to 480 feet away from these residences.

Substantial pollutant and odor concentrations are not anticipated due to the limited scope and duration of construction and implementation of SMM. Post-construction, the wireless communications facility would be unmanned and require only infrequent maintenance visits. As a result, exposure of sensitive receptors or a substantial number of people to substantial pollutant concentrations and/or other emissions would be less-than-significant.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

IV. <u>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES:</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		✓		
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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				✓
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?				✓
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?				✓
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				✓
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?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) Project-related construction activities include the removal of roughly 4 pine trees along with ground disturbance through grading and trenching. A records search as part of the Biological Resources Impact Analysis (BRIA) prepared by Environmental Assessment Specialists, Inc. determined that 21 listed plant species and species of special concern have potential to occur on-site or in the general project area. On the same basis, it was determined that potential habitat for 10 special-status bird and mammal species is present on-site or in the project area, including potential habitat for bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*), Chinook salmon – California coastal ESU (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Fisher – West Coast DPS (*Pekania pennant*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*), Sharp-skinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), Southern long-toed salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum*), Steelhead – south/central California coast ECU (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*), Western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*); and that potential habitat for 11 special status plant species is also present on-site or in the project vicinity including potential habitat for Baker’s globe mallow (*Iliamna bakeri*), Bidwell’s knotweed (*Polygonum bidwelliae*), Butte County fritillary (*Fritillaria eastwoodiae*), Finger rush (*Juncus digitatus*), Giant checkerbloom (*Sidalcea celata*), Pink star-tulip (*Calochortus uniflorus*), Rattlesnake fern (*Botrypus virginianus*), Redding checkerbloom (*Sidalcea celata*), Sanborn’s onion (*Allium sanbornii* var. *sanbornii*), Silky criptantha (*Cryptantha crinite*), Woolly meadowfoam (*Limnanthes floccosa* ssp. *Floccosa*). Biological and botanical surveys of the project site were conducted on April 25, 2024. Due to existing site disturbance on the project site and in the vicinity, no species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or

special-status plant species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are expected to occur. In addition, after a site reconnaissance, no such plant species or plant communities have been identified in the project area. In addition, no suitable habitat for any of the listed sensitive wildlife species is present on the project site.

While no special status species were observed during reconnaissance level and specific floristic surveys conducted at the project site, due to the presence of potential habitat within the project site for those species described above several measures are proposed to mitigate potential significant impacts on these species during construction to a less-than-significant level. Due to the small scope of the proposed project, long-term operational and cumulative impacts to these species through habitat modification, either on site or within the region, is considered less-than-significant.

Lighting from the project is limited to two shielded and down-directed service-lights that would each be oriented towards equipment service areas inside the lease area. The conditions of approval for the project would include a standard condition requiring compliance with section 17.88.282.E.5 of the Shasta County Zoning Plan, requiring external structure and area lighting to be activated and controlled by motion sensors. No other lighting is proposed. While lighting has been shown to have adverse effects on wildlife and plant species, the minimal lighting proposed by the project and because lighting would be motion-sensor-controlled, impacts from lighting on wildlife or plants are considered to be less-than-significant.

Trees located at the project site and in the immediate vicinity of the project site provide suitable nesting habitat for several avian species including migratory nesting birds and raptors. The project would involve the removal of four conifer pine trees along with nearby vegetation prior to construction of the access driveway and the commercial wireless facility lease area. Such disturbance from construction and vegetation removal could have a potentially significant impact on migratory nesting birds and/or raptors. Mitigation measure IV.a.1 is incorporated into the project to require that ground disturbance and vegetation and tree removal must take place outside of the nesting season for raptors and migratory birds or surveys must be conducted prior to disturbance. With the mitigation measure being proposed, the project would have a less-than-significant impact on any avian species which could significantly impacted from the project.

In addition to habitat for avian species, trees greater than 12 inches in diameter at breast height which contain cavities, crevices or exfoliated bark provide suitable habitat for bat species which are non-game mammals that are protected by State law. With such habitat present on-site, construction activity, including ground disturbance and vegetation removal, could have a potentially significant impact if bats are present on-site. Mitigation measure IV.a.2 is incorporated into the project to require that a survey be done for roosting opportunities prior to tree removal and that ground disturbance and vegetation removal must take place outside of the roosting period and, if roosting habitat is discovered, said trees must be removed through a two-step process. With the mitigation measure proposed, the project would reduce any potential impacts to bats to a less-than-significant level.

The project site contains suitable habitat for the western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*) which is candidate species for an endangered status listing under the California Endangered Species Act. Ground disturbance, vegetation removal and other construction activity could have the potential to have a significant impact on the western bumble bee. Mitigation measure IV.a.3 is incorporated into the project to require that a qualified biologist must conduct surveys for special-status bumble bees during the colony flight season prior to the commencement of construction and that nesting surveys shall be conducted and if found, analysis for a potential “take” as defined in Fish and Game Code Section 86 shall be analyzed and quantified. Such measures are designed to ensure that potential impacts would be less-than-significant by developing suitable avoidance and minimization measures specific to the species and project proposal. With the mitigation measure proposed, the project would reduce any potential impacts to special status bees to a less-than-significant level.

- b) The BRIA indicated that based on field observations, published information, and literature review, 3 vegetation communities and wildlife habitats are present within the project site, including the Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) forest, incense cedar (*Libocedrus decurrens*), and manzanita (*Arctostaphylos sp.*). None of these are considered a sensitive natural community. There is no riparian habitat on the project site or immediate vicinity.
- c) The BRIA determined that there are no wetlands on the project site or in the immediate vicinity. Therefore, there would not be a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands.
- d) The project would not interfere with any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, nor impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites (see also section IV.a above).
- e) The project would not conflict with any ordinances or policies which protect biological resources.
- f) No habitat conservation plans or other similar plans have been adopted for the project site or project area.

Mitigation/Monitoring: With the mitigation measures being proposed, the impacts will be less-than-significant.

IV.a.1) The project proponent shall implement the following mitigation measures to avoid significant impacts to nesting birds and/or raptors protected under Fish and Game Code sections 3503 and 3503.5:

- A. Conduct vegetation removal and other ground-disturbance activities associated with construction from September 1 through January 31, when birds are not nesting; or
- B. If vegetation removal or ground disturbance activities occur during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31), a pre-construction nesting survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 14 days of vegetation removal or construction activities. If an active nest is located during the preconstruction surveys, a non-disturbance buffer shall be established around the nest by a qualified biologist in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). No vegetation removal or construction activities shall occur within this non-disturbance buffer until the young have fledged, as determined through additional monitoring by the qualified biologist. The results of the pre-construction surveys shall be sent electronically to CDFW at R1CEQARedding@wildlife.ca.gov.

IV.a.2) To mitigate potential impacts to bats the applicant shall:

- A. Conduct large tree removal outside of the bat maternity season and bat hibernacula (September 1 to October 31).
- B. If removal or disturbance of trees will occur during the bat maternity season, when young are non-volant (March 1 – Aug. 31), or during the bat hibernacula (November 1 – March 1) large trees (those greater than 5 inches in diameter) shall be thoroughly surveyed for cavities, crevices, and/or exfoliated bark that may have high potential to be used by bats within 14 days of the start of construction. The survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist or arborist familiar with these features to determine if tree features and habitat elements are present within the pine trees. Trees with features potentially suitable for bat roosting should be clearly marked prior to removal and humane evictions must be conducted by or under the supervision of a biologist with specific experience conducting exclusions. Humane exclusions could consist of a two-day tree removal process whereby the non-habitat trees and brush are removed along with certain tree limbs on the first day and the remainder of the tree on the second day.

IV.a.3) The project proponent shall implement the following mitigation measures to avoid significant impacts to special-status bumble bees in accordance with the survey considerations outlined in the *June 2023 Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bees Species publication*:

- A. Conduct construction activities outside of the peak months of the western bumble bee colony flight season (October 1 to May 31).
- B. If construction activity will occur during the peak months of the western bumble bee colony flight season (April 1 to September 30), a qualified biologist, specifically those qualified under a research Memorandum of Understanding or authorizing Incidental Take Permit (as described on page 7 of CDFW’s Guidelines), shall conduct surveys for special-status bumble bees prior to the start of construction. Three on-site surveys shall be conducted two to four weeks apart, weather depending, and when floral resources are present.
 - i. Species identification and photographic vouchers shall be submitted to CDFW and experts from the Bumble Bee Watch for species verification by an experienced taxonomist prior to the start of land modification and/or vegetation removal.
 - ii. If special-status bumble bees are detected, a nesting survey as the protocol is described in CDFW’s *June 2023 Survey Considerations for CESA Candidate Bumble Bee Species*, shall be performed throughout the project area.
 - iii. If special-status bumble bees and/or their nests are detected, the potential for "take" as defined by Fish and Game Code section 86 shall be analyzed and quantified. If suitable avoidance and minimization measures to fully avoid take are not feasible, CDFW shall be consulted regarding the need for take authorization pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(b). Otherwise, suitable avoidance and minimization measures to fully avoid take should be employed, and/or the formulation of a Mitigation and Monitoring Plan should be developed for impacts to suitable western bumble bee habitat.
 - iv. All data, including negative and/or positive observations, shall be submitted to the CNDDDB and Bumble Bee Watch.

<u>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES</u> – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a				

<u>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES</u> – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?				✓
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?				✓
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) The project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource.
- b) The project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource.
- c) The project site is not on or adjacent to any known cemetery or burial area. Therefore, there is no evidence to suggest that the project would disturb any human remains.

Information about the project was sent to the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System, which reviewed the project and commented that the project area is considered to be low to moderately sensitive for cultural resources. A field survey, conducted on October 15, 2023, by Environmental Assessment Specialists, Inc. found no prehistoric or historic resources within the project boundaries. Therefore, a clearance was recommended by the cultural resource specialist.

Although there is no evidence to suggest that the project would result in any significant effect to archaeological, historical, or paleontological resources, there is always the possibility that such resources could be encountered. Therefore, a condition of project approval will require that if, in the course of development, any archaeological, historical, or paleontological resources are uncovered, discovered or otherwise detected or observed, development activities in the affected area shall cease and a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to review the site and advise the County of the site's significance. If the findings are deemed significant by the Environmental Review Officer, appropriate mitigation shall be required.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

<u>VI. ENERGY</u> – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation?				✓
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) The project would not result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation. During construction there would be a temporary consumption of energy resources required for the movement of equipment and materials. Compliance with local, State, and federal regulations (e.g., limit engine idling times, requirement for the recycling of construction debris, etc.) would reduce and/or minimize short-term energy demand during the project's construction to the extent feasible, and project construction would not result in a wasteful or inefficient use of energy. During operation of the completed project, there are no unusual project characteristics or processes that would require the use of equipment that would be more energy intensive than is used for comparable projects, or the use of equipment that would not conform to current emissions standards and related fuel efficiencies.

- b) The project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. State and local agencies regulate the use and consumption of energy through various methods and programs. As a result of the passage of Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32) (the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006) which seeks to reduce the effects of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions, a majority of the state regulations are intended to reduce energy use and GHG emissions. At the local level, the County’s Building Division enforces the applicable requirements of the Energy Efficiency Standards and Green Building Standards in Title 24.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

<u>VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS</u> – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Publications 42. ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? iv) Landslides? 			✓	
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			✓	
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?				✓
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?				✓
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				✓
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) The project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
- i, ii, iii) Rupture of a known earthquake fault; Strong seismic ground shaking; Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction;

According to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Maps for Shasta County, there is no known earthquake fault on or near the project site. According to the Shasta County General Plan Section 5.1, Shasta County has a low level of historic seismic activity.

The entire County is in Seismic Design Category D. According to the Seismic Hazards Assessment for the City of Redding, California, prepared by Woodward Clyde, dated July 6, 1995, the most significant earthquake at the project site may be a background (random) North American crustal event up to 6.5 on the Richter scale at distances of 10 to 20 km. Wireless telecommunications towers are not specifically designated as a critical or high-risk facility in the Uniform Building Code, nor are they defined as such by the Shasta County zoning code. The wireless telecommunication facility would be constructed in accordance with the seismic standards and requirements of the UBC, including preparation of a soils report, if deemed necessary based on site specific soil conditions. Therefore, the potential impacts due to rupture of a known earthquake fault, strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, would be less-than-significant.

iv) Landslides.

The project is not located at the top or toe or in the vicinity of any significant topographic feature that may be susceptible to landslides.

b) The project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Soil Conservation Service Web Soil Survey identified the soils in the project site as Windy and McCarthy Stony Sandy Loam, 0 to 30 percent slopes. This soil type has a hazard of erosion ranging from moderate to high. The project site is flat and no cuts or fills of earth material is proposed to construct the project. A grading permit is required prior to any grading activities. The grading permit includes requirements for erosion and sediment control, including retention of topsoil. Therefore, potential impacts of the project on soil erosion with respect to the loss of topsoil would be less-than-significant.

c) The project would not 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. The property is relatively flat. The project site is not located at the top or toe of any significant slope. Based on records of construction in the area, there is no evidence to support a conclusion that the project is on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable.

d) The Windy and McCarthy Stony Sandy Loam soil type is not listed in the USDA, Soil Conservation Service Web Soil Survey as being an expansive soil type. There is little to no slope on the project site. The project would not be located on expansive soil creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property.

e) The project does not require the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems.

f) The project would not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?				✓
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?				✓

Discussion: Based on these comments, the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a, b) In 2005, the Governor of California signed Executive Order S-3-05, establishing that it is the State of California's goal to reduce statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emission levels. Subsequently, in 2006, the California State Legislature adopted Assembly Bill AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act. In part, AB 32 requires the California Air Resources Board to develop and adopt regulations to achieve a reduction in the State's GHG emissions to year 1990 levels by year 2020.

California Senate Bill 97 established that an individual project's effect on GHG emission levels and global warming must be assessed under CEQA. SB 97 further directed that the State Office of Planning and Research (QPR) develop guidelines for the assessment of a project's GHG emissions. Those guidelines for GHG emissions were subsequently included as amendments to the CEQA Guidelines. The guidelines did not establish thresholds of significance and there are currently no state, regional, county, or city guidelines or thresholds with which to direct project-level CEQA review. As a result, Shasta County reserves the right to use a qualitative and/or quantitative threshold of significance until a specific quantitative threshold is adopted by the state or regional air district.

The City of Redding currently utilizes a quantitative non-zero project-specific threshold based on a methodology recommended by the Initial Study – Use Permit 24-0001 – Vertical Bridge 14

California Air Pollution Officers Association (CAPCOA) and accepted by the California Air Resources Board. According to CAPCOA's Threshold 2.3, CARB Reporting Threshold, 10,000 metric tons of carbon-dioxide equivalents per year (mtCO₂eq/yr) is recommended as a quantitative non-zero threshold. This threshold would be the operational equivalent of 550 dwelling units, 400,000 square feet of office use, 120,000 square feet of retail, or 70,000 square feet of supermarket use. This approach is estimated to capture over half the future residential and commercial development projects in the State of California and is designed to support the goals of AB 32 and not hinder it. The use of this quantitative non-zero project-specific threshold by Shasta County, as lead agency, would be consistent with certain practices of other lead agencies in the County and throughout the State of California.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identifies four primary constituents that are most representative of the GHG emissions. They are:

- Carbon Dioxide (CO₂): Emitted primarily through the burning of fossil fuels. Other sources include the burning of solid waste and wood and/or wood products and cement manufacturing.
- Methane (CH₄): Emissions occur during the production and transport of fuels, such as coal and natural gas. Additional emissions are generated by livestock and agricultural land uses, as well as the decomposition of solid waste.
- Nitrous Oxide (N₂O): The principal emitters include agricultural and industrial land uses and fossil fuel and waste combustion.
- Fluorinated Gases: These can be emitted during some industrial activities. Also, many of these gases are substitutes for ozone-depleting substances, such as CFC's, which have been used historically as refrigerants. Collectively, these gases are often referred to as "high global-warming potential" gases.

The primary generators of GHG emissions in the United States are electricity generation and transportation. The EPA estimates that nearly 85 percent of the nation's GHG emissions are comprised of carbon dioxide (CO₂). The majority of CO₂ is generated by petroleum consumption associated with transportation and coal consumption associated with electricity generation. The remaining emissions are predominately the result of natural-gas consumption associated with a variety of uses.

With regard to the project, proposed operational emissions are significantly less than the quantitative non-zero project-specific thresholds described above. The scope of the proposed project improvements will not involve a significant number of equipment hours to complete and would not generate significant traffic volumes during construction. Post-construction, the wireless communications facility would be unmanned and require only infrequent maintenance visits which are not expected to generate significant GHG emissions. Therefore, the project is not expected to generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment, nor would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			✓	
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?				✓
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				✓
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?				✓
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?				✓
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				✓

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?				✓

Discussion: Based on these comments, the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) The project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

Based on information provided by Met3 Wireless and predictive modeling, the proposed project will be compliant with Radiofrequency Radiation Exposure Limits of 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1307(b)(3) and 1.1310. Radiofrequency (RF) alerting signage and restricting access to the monopine tower to only authorized climbers that have completed the required RF occupational safety training. The proposed operation will not expose members of the general public to hazardous levels of RF energy and will not contribute to existing cumulative maximum permissible exposure levels on walkable surfaces at ground or in adjacent buildings by 5% of the general population limits. Therefore, potential impacts of the project from RF energy would be less-than-significant.

- b) The project would not 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. No hazardous materials are proposed to be stored onsite. If in the future it is necessary to store such material in reportable quantities, the operator and/or contractor would have to prepare and submit a hazardous materials business plan to the Shasta County Environmental Health Division (SCEHD) for review and approval. A hazardous substance is reportable if stored at or above 55 gallons for liquids; 200 cubic feet for compressed gas; or 500 pounds for solids. Additionally, the applicant shall comply with all hazardous waste generator regulations, including reporting their status as a hazardous waste generator to SCEHD. The conditions of approval for the project would include a standard condition requiring compliance with this regulatory requirement. Nevertheless, no hazardous materials or generator fuels are proposed as part of the project. Therefore, the project would not 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.
- c) The project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The nearest schools are 7.4 miles to the west.
- d) The project site is not located on a site which is included on the list of hazardous materials sites compiled by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.
- e) The project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.
- f) A review of the project and the Shasta County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan indicates that the proposed project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- g) The project is located in an area which is designated a "VERY HIGH" fire hazard severity zone. All driveways and buildings for the proposed project be required to be constructed in accordance with the Shasta County Fire Safety Standards. These standards also require the clearing of combustible vegetation around all structures for a distance of not less than 30 on each side or to the property line. California Public Resources Code Section 4291 includes a "Defensible Space" requirement of clearing 100 feet around all buildings or to the property line, whichever is less. The wireless communications facility will be unmanned and requires only infrequent maintenance visits. The project will not substantially increase the exposure of people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?			✓	
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere				

X. <u>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY</u>: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.				✓
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; (ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite; (iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or (iv) impede or redirect flows?				✓
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?				✓
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable management plan?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) The project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality. During construction, water may be used for dust control but otherwise the unmanned wireless communications facility would require little or and no additional water demand during operations. Through adherence to construction standards, including erosion and sediment control measures, water quality and waste discharge standards will not be violated. Grading will be needed for this project and a grading permit will be required. The provisions of the grading permit will address erosion and siltation containment on- and off-site. Therefore, potential impacts of the project from violation of water quality standards, waste discharge, or other potential causes of water degradation would be less-than-significant.
- b) The project would not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. The project does not propose any new well(s). The project would not significantly increase impervious surface area within the project site to the extent that it would cause interference with groundwater recharge. During construction, water may be used for dust control but otherwise the unmanned wireless communications facility would require little or no additional water during operations.
- c) The project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area in a manner which would (i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; (ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite; (iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or (iv) impede or redirect flows. The proposed project features a 40-foot by 60-foot equipment compound and lease area that would be and developed on relatively flat ground that would not require any significant recontouring and would be graveled throughout. The project would also include grading and trenching to construct an approximately 105-foot gravel access road within a 20-foot access and utility easement, an approximately 135-foot underground utility run from an existing power pole, and an approximately 83-foot fiber optic cable run from a proposed fiber optic handhole. The driveway would also be constructed on flat ground and not require any significant recontouring or drainage facilities that would significantly alter the existing drainage pattern or concentrate and direct storm water run-off that would significantly increase potential erosion or siltation on or off-site. New impervious surfaces would include the monopine and foundation for, transformer pad, equipment cabinets, pad for meter panel. Drainage from impervious surfaces, the graveled lease area, and the graveled driveway will be dispersed to adjacent unimproved areas and existing vegetation adjacent to the equipment compound and lease area. Compliance with all provisions of the grading permit would be required.
- d) The project is not in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone.
- e) Through adherence to construction standards, and the provisions of the required grading permit, including erosion and sediment control measures, the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable management plan.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?				✓
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?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) The project does not include the creation of any road, ditch, wall, or other feature which would physically divide an established community.
- b) Shasta County Code allows authorizes commercial wireless telecommunications in the Rural Residential A General Plan land use designation and the Rural Residential (R-R) zone district with approval of a use permit and subject to general standards. As proposed, the project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?				✓
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?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) There are no known mineral resources of regional value located on or near the project site. Therefore, the project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State.
- b) The project site is not identified in the General Plan Minerals Element as containing a locally-important mineral resource. There is no other land use plan which addresses minerals. Therefore, the project would not 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.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

XIII. NOISE – Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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?			✓	
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels			✓	

XIII. NOISE – Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) Per the Shasta County Code Section, 17.88.282.D.4, wireless facilities shall be constructed and operated in compliance with the standards of the Shasta County General Plan Noise Element and implementing ordinances and standards. Per the County’s General Plan, noise created by new proposed non-transportation noise sources shall be mitigated so as not to exceed the noise level standards of Table N-IV of the Shasta County General Plan as measured immediately within the property line of lands designated for noise-sensitive uses. These noise level performance standards for non-transportation sources are 55dB hourly Leq for daytime (7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) hours and 50dB hourly Leq for nighttime (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) hours.

The proposed Ericsson 6160 AC cabinet is the loudest of any proposed equipment having a maximum noise output of 68 dBA at 1 meter away. The primary noise source causing such a decibel level are the cooling fans for the cabinet. A general rule of noise attenuation is that noise is reduced six decibels for every doubling of distance. For example, if a piece of equipment produces 100 decibels at 25 feet away from the equipment, the noise level will be 94 decibels at 50 feet from the equipment. The sound intensity of the cabinet, being located roughly 160 feet from any neighboring property line would be a maximum of 35 dBA. Thus, the Shasta County General Plan noise level performance standards for non-transportation sources at all property lines would not be exceeded and any permanent increase in noise levels in the vicinity of the project would be less-than-significant.

Temporary noise levels could be increased during the construction phase of the project as well. For use permits involving construction near residences, staff recommends a standard condition of approval limiting construction to daylight hours between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. and be prohibiting construction on Sundays and Federal holidays. Nevertheless, due to the short duration of construction, the temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project is expected to be less-than-significant.

- b) The project would not result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. The project is limited in scope to the construction of the new wireless facility. Any groundborne vibration or noise levels as a result of excavation of footings for the tower and other ancillary structures or trenching for the underground power are expected to be less-than-significant.
- c) The project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan, or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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)?				✓
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) The project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth in the area, either directly or indirectly. The project does not include the development of new homes or businesses, nor would any new jobs be created as a result of the project. The project would include the development of an access driveway and extensions of utilities solely to serve the proposed wireless telecommunication facility. There would be no extension of other infrastructure. Therefore, the project is not expected to induce substantial growth in the area.

- b) The project would not displace substantial numbers of people or existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. The project does not include destruction of any existing housing.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES: 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:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
Fire Protection?				✓
Police Protection?				✓
Schools?				✓
Parks?				✓
Other public facilities?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

The project would not 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:

Fire Protection:

The project is located in a “Very High” fire hazard severity zone. However, no significant additional level of fire protection is necessary.

Police Protection:

The County employs a total of 165 sworn and 69 non-sworn County peace officers (Sheriff’s deputies) to serve a population of 66,850 persons that reside in the unincorporated area of the County (U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, April 1, 2020). This level of staffing equates to a ratio of approximately one officer per 286 persons. The wireless communications facility would be unmanned and require only infrequent maintenance visits. The proposed wireless telecommunications facility would be enclosed by a 6-foot-tall chain link fence with barbed wire and would have two security cameras for crime deterrence. The project is not expected to require any significant additional level of police protection.

Schools:

The resultant development from the project will be required to pay the amount allowable per square foot of construction to mitigate school impacts.

Parks:

The County does not have a neighborhood parks system.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

XVI. RECREATION:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				✓
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?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) The project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. The County does not have a neighborhood or regional parks system or other recreational facilities.
- b) The project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?			✓	
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?			✓	
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				✓
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) The project would not conflict with a program, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. The project site is accessed from Emigrant Trail via Starlite Pines Road. The wireless communications facility would be unmanned and require only infrequent maintenance visits. The project would not generate enough traffic to significantly reduce the volume-to-capacity ratio of adjacent roadways to a reduced level-of-service and would not conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation.
- b) Vehicle miles traveled within the County would temporarily increase during construction. The temporary increase would be attributable to employee and inspector travel and deliveries of materials and equipment. This temporary increase is not anticipated to be substantial due to the limited scope and duration of construction. The wireless communications facility would be unmanned and require only infrequent maintenance visits. Vehicle miles traveled in support of facility operations would be negligible. Therefore, potential impacts of the project attributable to conflicts or inconsistencies with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b) would be less-than-significant.
- c) The project would not substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses. The proposed graveling of an existing dirt path for a new 16-foot-wide driveway does not have geometric design features that would lead to an

increase in hazards. There are no land uses occurring on the property that would be considered incompatible with a wireless telecommunications facility.

- d) The project site would be accessed from Emigrant Trail via a new 16-foot-wide gravel driveway. The project has been reviewed by the Shasta County Fire Department which has determined that there is adequate emergency access. The project would not result in inadequate emergency access.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>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:</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p>				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) Information about the project was sent to the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System, which reviewed the project and commented that the project area is low to moderately sensitive for cultural resources. Based on their recommendation additional screening for cultural resources was requested. No prehistoric nor historical resources were discovered during the research and site assessment provided by Environmental Assessment Specialists, Inc. dated November 3, 2023.

Pursuant to PRC §21080.3.1 the Department of Resource Management sent a certified letter to notify the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians that the project was under review and to provide the Tribe 30 days from the receipt of the letter to request formal consultation on the project in writing. Certified mail records indicate that the notification letter was received by the Tribe on Sunday, March 14, 2024. As of Tuesday, June 18, 2024, no request for consultation on the project was received from the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians. Therefore, the requirements of AB52 have been met and no AB52 project consultation with the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians is required.

The project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as there is no evidence of prehistoric or historical resources at the site that are listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources; or 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.

Although there is no evidence to suggest that the project would result in any significant effect to tribal cultural resources, there is always the possibility that such resources or remains could be encountered. Therefore, if, in the course of development, any archaeological, historical, or paleontological resources are uncovered, discovered or otherwise detected or observed, mineral exploration activities in the affected area shall cease and a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to review the site and advise the County of the site's significance. If the findings are deemed significant by the Environmental Review Officer, appropriate mitigation shall be required.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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 relocations of which could cause significant environmental effects?			✓	
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?				✓
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?				✓
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?				✓
e) Comply with Federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) The proposed project would not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, natural gas or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocations of which could cause significant environmental effects. The wireless communications facility would be unmanned and not require wastewater treatment, water service, solid waste disposal service, and have minimal impact to storm water drainage. The project would involve routing underground conduit and telecommunications. A grading permit is required prior to any grading activities. Through adherence to construction standards and the provisions of the required grading permit, potential environmental effects would be less-than-significant.
- b) The project would have minimal demand for water. During construction water may be used for dust control but otherwise the unmanned wireless communications facility would require little or no additional water demand during operations. The facility would be unmanned and require only infrequent maintenance visits.
- c) The project would not require wastewater treatment. The facility would be unmanned and require only infrequent maintenance visits.
- d) The project would not 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. The wireless communications facility would be unmanned and require only infrequent maintenance visits.
- e) The project would comply with Federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. The wireless communications facility would be unmanned and require only infrequent maintenance visits.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

XX. WILDFIRE: If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				✓
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant				✓

XX. WILDFIRE: If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?				
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?				✓
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?				✓

Discussion:

- a) A review of the project and the Shasta County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the Shasta County Emergency Operations Plan, indicates that the proposed project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project would improve wireless telecommunications infrastructure in the area.
- b) The project would not due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire.
- c) The project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.
- d) The project would not 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.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

XIX. <u>MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
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 the 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?				✓
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 the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				✓
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				✓

Discussion:

- a) Based on the discussion and findings in Section IV. Biological Resources, there is no evidence to support a finding that the project would 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 the self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal

community, or substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. In addition, based on the discussion and findings in Section V. Cultural Resources, there is no evidence to support a finding that the project would have the potential to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

- b) Based on the discussion and findings in all Sections above, there is no evidence to suggest that the project would have impacts that are cumulatively considerable.
- c) Based on the discussion and findings in all Sections above, there is no evidence to support a finding that the project would have environmental effects which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

INITIAL STUDY COMMENTS

PROJECT NUMBER Use Permit 24-0001 – Vertical Bridge

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Special Studies: The following project-specific studies have been completed for the proposal and will be considered as part of the record of decision for the Negative Declaration. These studies are available for review through the Shasta County Planning Division and online at [CEQA Documents and Notices \(non-EIR documents\) | Shasta County California](#).

1. Biological Resources Impact Analysis, Environmental Assessment Specialists, Inc., May 15, 2024
2. Cultural Resource Records Search and Site Visit, Environmental Assessment Specialists, Inc., November 3, 2023

Agency Referrals: Prior to an environmental recommendation, referrals for this project were sent to agencies thought to have responsible agency or reviewing agency authority. The responses to those referrals (attached), where appropriate, have been incorporated into this document and will be considered as part of the record of decision for the Negative Declaration. Copies of all referral comments may be reviewed through the Shasta County Planning Division. To date, referral comments have been received from the following State agencies or any other agencies which have identified CEQA concerns:

1. California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Region 1
2. Shasta County Fire Department
3. California Regional Water Quality Control Board
4. Shasta County Sheriff's Office
5. Northeast Information Center – California Historical Resources Information Systems

Conclusion/Summary: Based on a field review by the Planning Division and other agency staff, early consultation review comments from other agencies, information provided by the applicant, and existing information available to the Planning Division, the project, as mitigated, is not anticipated to result in any significant environmental impacts.

SOURCES OF DOCUMENTATION FOR INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

All headings of this source document correspond to the headings of the initial study checklist. In addition to the resources listed below, initial study analysis may also be based on field observations by the staff person responsible for completing the initial study. Most resource materials are on file in the office of the Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Planning Division, 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103, Redding, CA 96001, Phone: (530) 225-5532.

GENERAL PLAN AND ZONING

1. Shasta County General Plan and land use designation maps.
2. Applicable community plans, airport plans and specific plans.
3. Shasta County Zoning Ordinance (Shasta County Code Title 17) and zone district maps.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

I. AESTHETICS

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 6.8 Scenic Highways, and Section 7.6 Design Review.
2. Zoning Standards per Shasta County Code, Title 17.

II. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 6.1 Agricultural Lands.
2. Shasta County Important Farmland 2016 Map, California Department of Conservation.
3. Shasta County General Plan, Section 6.2 Timber Lands.
4. Soil Survey of Shasta County Area, California, published by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service, August 1974.

III. AIR QUALITY

1. Shasta County General Plan Section, 6.5 Air Quality.
2. Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin, 2021 Air Quality Attainment Plan.
3. Records of, or consultation with, the Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Air Quality Management District.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 6.2 Timberlands, and Section 6.7 Fish and Wildlife Habitat.
2. Designated Endangered, Threatened, or Rare Plants and Candidates with Official Listing Dates, published by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
3. Natural Diversity Data Base Records of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
4. Federal Listing of Rare and Endangered Species.
5. Shasta County General Plan, Section 6.7 Fish and Wildlife Habitat.
6. State and Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Animals of California, published by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
7. Natural Diversity Data Base Records of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 6.10 Heritage Resources.
2. Records of, or consultation with, the following:
 - a. The Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System, Department of Anthropology, California State University, Chico.
 - b. State Office of Historic Preservation.
 - c. Local Native American representatives.
 - d. Shasta Historical Society.

VI. ENERGY

1. California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32)
2. California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 6 – California Energy Code
3. California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 11 – California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen)

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 5.1 Seismic and Geologic Hazards, Section 6.1 Agricultural Lands, and Section 6.3 Minerals.
2. County of Shasta, Erosion and Sediment Control Standards, Design Manual
3. Soil Survey of Shasta County Area, California, published by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service, August 1974.
4. Alquist - Priolo, Earthquake Fault Zoning Maps.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

1. Shasta Regional Climate Action Plan
2. California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (White Paper) CEQA & Climate Change, Evaluating and Addressing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Projects Subject to the California Environmental Quality Act

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 5.4 Fire Safety and Sheriff Protection, and Section 5.6 Hazardous Materials.
2. County of Shasta Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
3. Records of, or consultation with, the following:
 - a. Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Environmental Health Division.
 - b. Shasta County Fire Prevention Officer.
 - c. Shasta County Sheriff's Department, Office of Emergency Services.
 - d. Shasta County Department of Public Works.
 - e. California Environmental Protection Agency, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 5.2 Flood Protection, Section 5.3 Dam Failure Inundation, and Section 6.6 Water Resources and Water Quality.
2. Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps and Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Shasta County prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as revised to date.
3. Records of, or consultation with, the Shasta County Department of Public Works acting as the Flood Control Agency and Community Water Systems manager.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

1. Shasta County General Plan land use designation maps and zone district maps.
2. Shasta County Assessor's Office land use data.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

3. Shasta County General Plan Section 6.3 Minerals.

XIII. NOISE

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 5.5 Noise and Technical Appendix B.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 7.1 Community Organization and Development Patterns.
2. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.
3. Shasta County General Plan, Section 7.3 Housing Element.
4. Shasta County Department of Housing and Community Action Programs.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 7.5 Public Facilities.
2. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.
3. Records of, or consultation with, the following:
 - a. Shasta County Fire Prevention Officer.
 - b. Shasta County Sheriff's Department.
 - c. Shasta County Office of Education.
 - d. Shasta County Department of Public Works.

XVI. RECREATION

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 6.9 Open Space and Recreation.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 7.4 Circulation.
2. Records of, or consultation with, the following:
 - a. Shasta County Department of Public Works.
 - b. Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency.
 - c. Shasta County Congestion Management Plan/Transit Development Plan.
3. Institute of Transportation Engineers, Trip Generation Rates.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. Tribal Consultation in accordance with Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

1. Records of, or consultation with, the following:
 - a. Pacific Gas and Electric Company.
 - b. Pacific Power and Light Company.
 - c. Pacific Bell Telephone Company.
 - d. Citizens Utilities Company.
 - e. T.C.I.
 - f. Marks Cablevision.
 - g. Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Environmental Health Division.
 - h. Shasta County Department of Public Works.

XX. WILDFIRE

1. Office of the State Fire Marshall-CALFIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps
2. County of Shasta Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

None

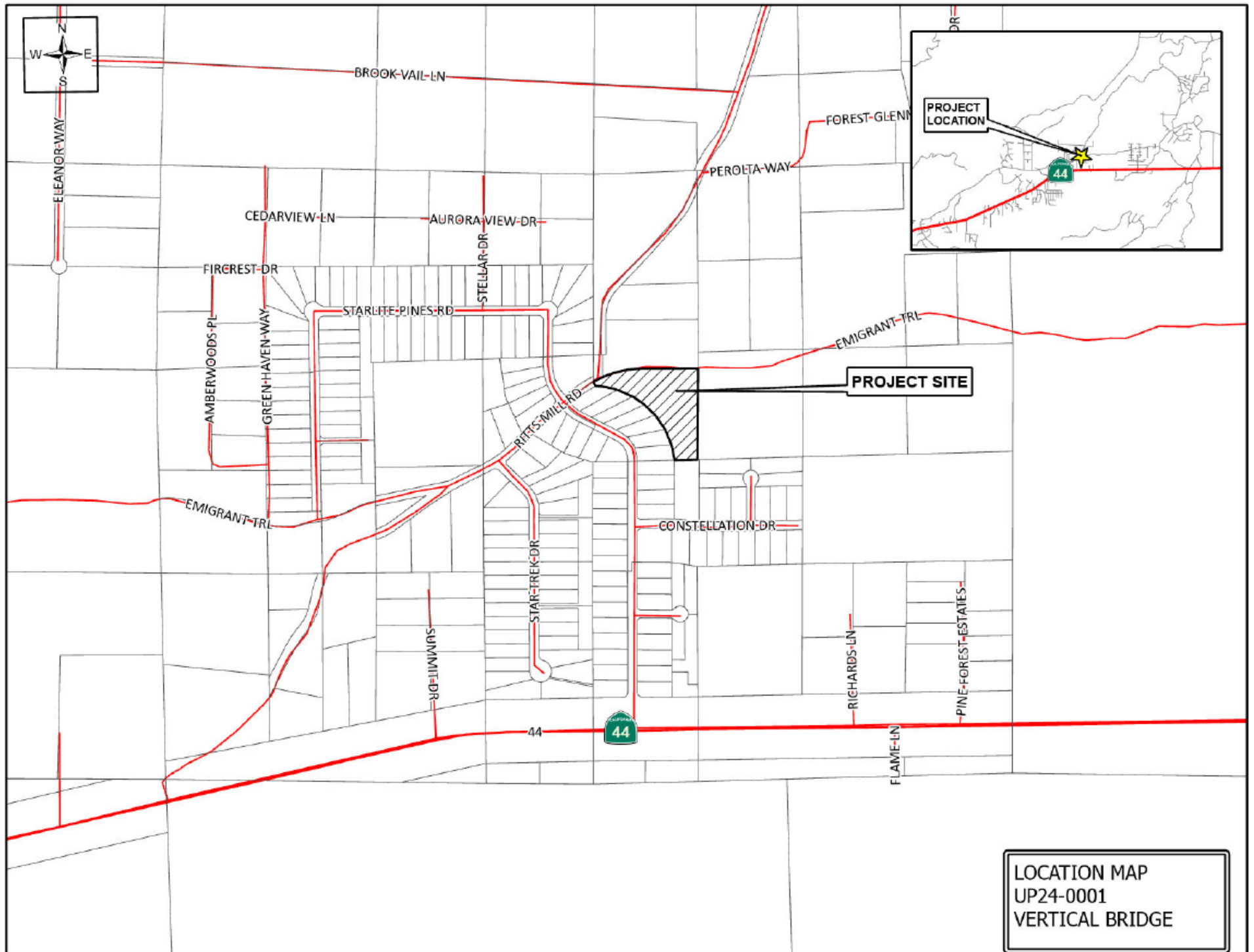
MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM (MMP)

FOR USE PERMIT 24-0001 – VERTICAL BRIDGE

Mitigation Measure/Condition	Timing/Implementation	Enforcement/Monitoring	Verification (Date & Initials)
<p>IV.a.1) The project proponent shall implement the following mitigation measures to avoid significant impacts to nesting birds and/or raptors protected under Fish and Game Code sections 3503 and 3503.5:</p> <p>A. Conduct vegetation removal and other ground-disturbance activities associated with construction from September 1 through January 31, when birds are not nesting; or</p> <p>B. If vegetation removal or ground disturbance activities occur during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31), a pre-construction nesting survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 14 days of vegetation removal or construction activities. If an active nest is located during the preconstruction surveys, a non-disturbance buffer shall be established around the nest by a qualified biologist in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). No vegetation removal or construction activities shall occur within this non-disturbance buffer until the young have fledged, as determined through additional monitoring by the qualified biologist. The results of the pre-construction surveys shall be sent electronically to CDFW at R1CEQARedding@wildlife.ca.gov.</p>	<p>Prior to issuance of a building permit. Prior to commencement of activity at the site. Through the completion of construction.</p>	<p>Planning Division</p>	
<p>IV.a.2) To mitigate potential impacts to bats the applicant shall:</p> <p>A. Conduct large tree removal outside of the bat maternity season and bat hibernacula (September 1 to October 31).</p> <p>B. If removal or disturbance of trees will occur during the bat maternity season, when young are non-volant (March 1 – Aug. 31), or during the bat hibernacula (November 1 – March 1) large trees (those greater than 5 inches in</p>	<p>Prior to issuance of a building permit. Prior to commencement of activity at the site. Through the completion of construction.</p>	<p>Planning Division</p>	

Mitigation Measure/Condition	Timing/Implementation	Enforcement/Monitoring	Verification (Date & Initials)
<p>diameter) shall be thoroughly surveyed for cavities, crevices, and/or exfoliated bark that may have high potential to be used by bats within 14 days of the start of construction. The survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist or arborist familiar with these features to determine if tree features and habitat elements are present within the pine trees. Trees with features potentially suitable for bat roosting should be clearly marked prior to removal and humane evictions must be conducted by or under the supervision of a biologist with specific experience conducting exclusions. Humane exclusions could consist of a two-day tree removal process whereby the non-habitat trees and brush are removed along with certain tree limbs on the first day and the remainder of the tree on the second day.</p>			
<p>IV.a.3) The project proponent shall implement the following mitigation measures to avoid significant impacts to special-status bumble bees in accordance with the survey considerations outlined in the <i>June 2023 Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bees Species publication</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Conduct construction activities outside of the peak months of the western bumble bee colony flight season (October 1 to May 31). B. If construction activity will occur during the peak months of the western bumble bee colony flight season (April 1 to September 30), a qualified biologist, specifically those qualified under a research Memorandum of Understanding or authorizing Incidental Take Permit (as described on page 7 of CDFW’s Guidelines), shall conduct surveys for special-status bumble bees prior to the start of construction. Three on-site surveys shall be conducted two to four weeks apart, weather depending, and when floral resources are present. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Species identification and photographic vouchers shall be submitted to CDFW and experts from the 	<p>Prior to issuance of a building permit. Prior to commencement of activity at the site. Through the completion of construction.</p>	<p>Planning Division</p>	

Mitigation Measure/Condition	Timing/Implementation	Enforcement/Monitoring	Verification (Date & Initials)
<p>Bumble Bee Watch for species verification by an experienced taxonomist prior to the start of land modification and/or vegetation removal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. If special-status bumble bees are detected, a nesting survey as the protocol is described in CDFW's <i>June 2023 Survey Considerations for CESA Candidate Bumble Bee Species</i>, shall be performed throughout the project area. iii. If special-status bumble bees and/or their nests are detected, the potential for "take" as defined by Fish and Game Code section 86 shall be analyzed and quantified. If suitable avoidance and minimization measures to fully avoid take are not feasible, CDFW shall be consulted regarding the need for take authorization pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(b). Otherwise, suitable avoidance and minimization measures to fully avoid take should be employed, and/or the formulation of a Mitigation and Monitoring Plan should be developed for impacts to suitable western bumble bee habitat. iv. All data, including negative and/or positive observations, shall be submitted to the CNDDDB and Bumble Bee Watch. 			





PROJECT SITE

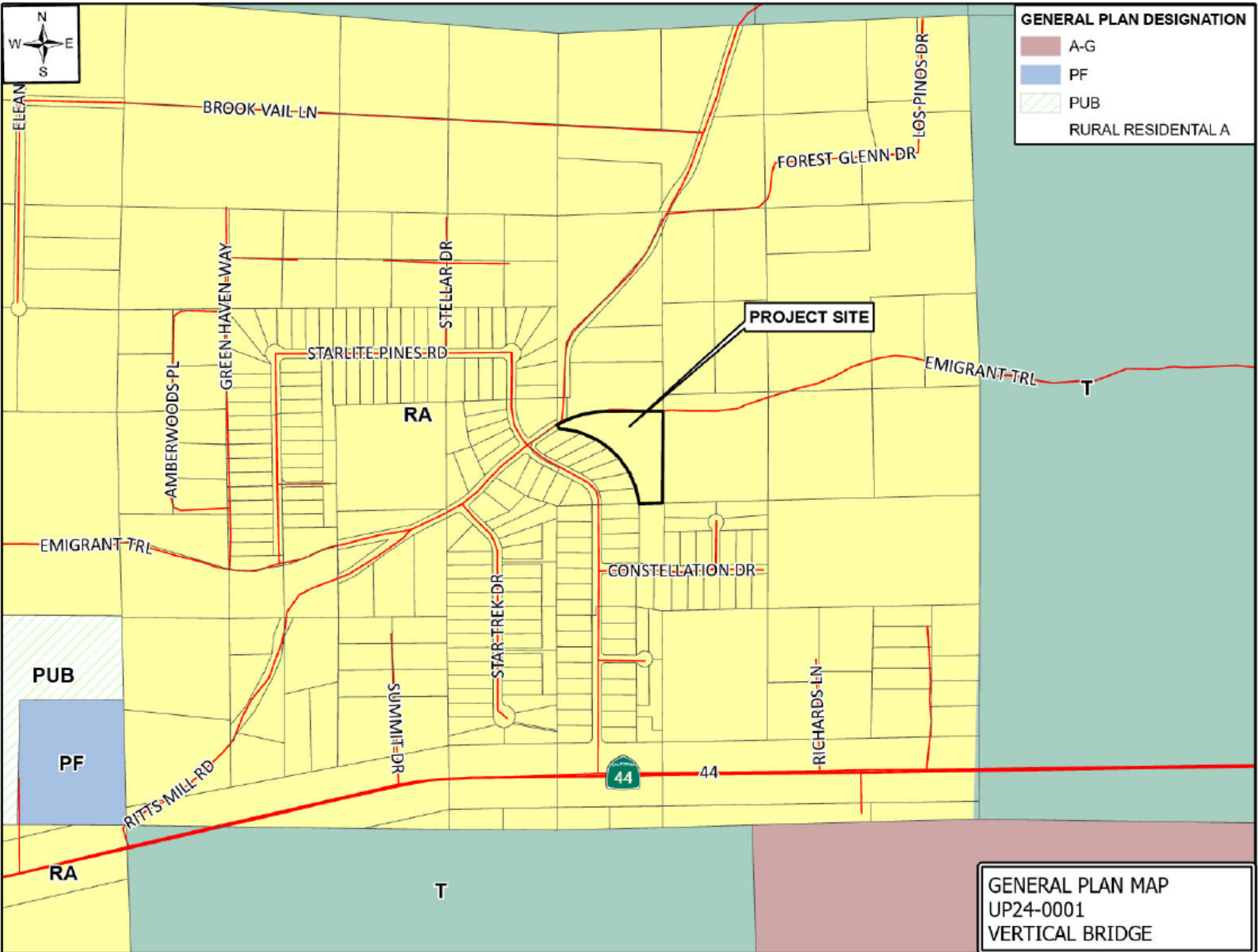
EMIGRANT TRL

RITTS MILL RD

STARLITE PINES RD

PROJECT AERIAL
UP24-0001
VERTICAL BRIDGE

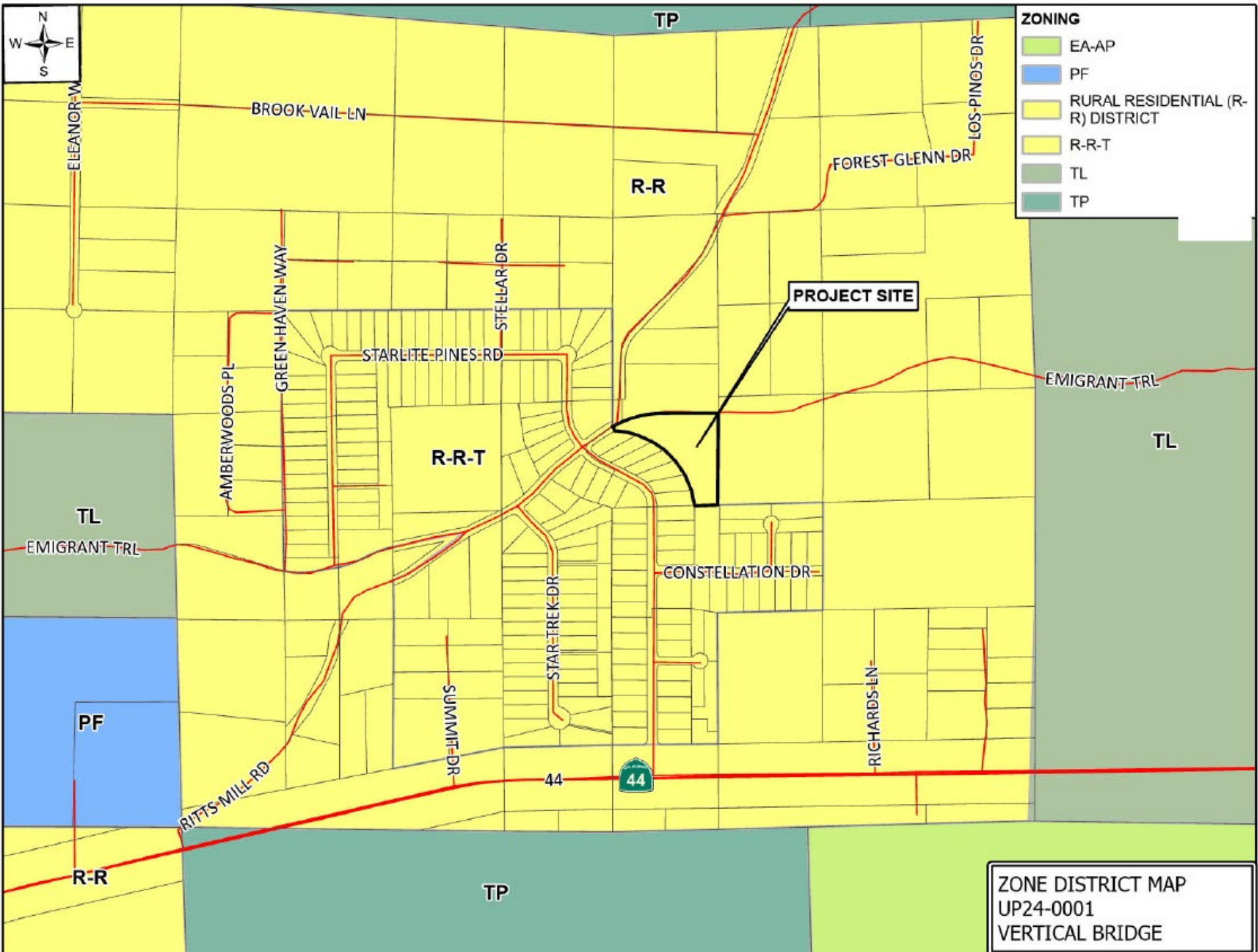




GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION

	A-G
	PF
	PUB
	RURAL RESIDENTIAL A

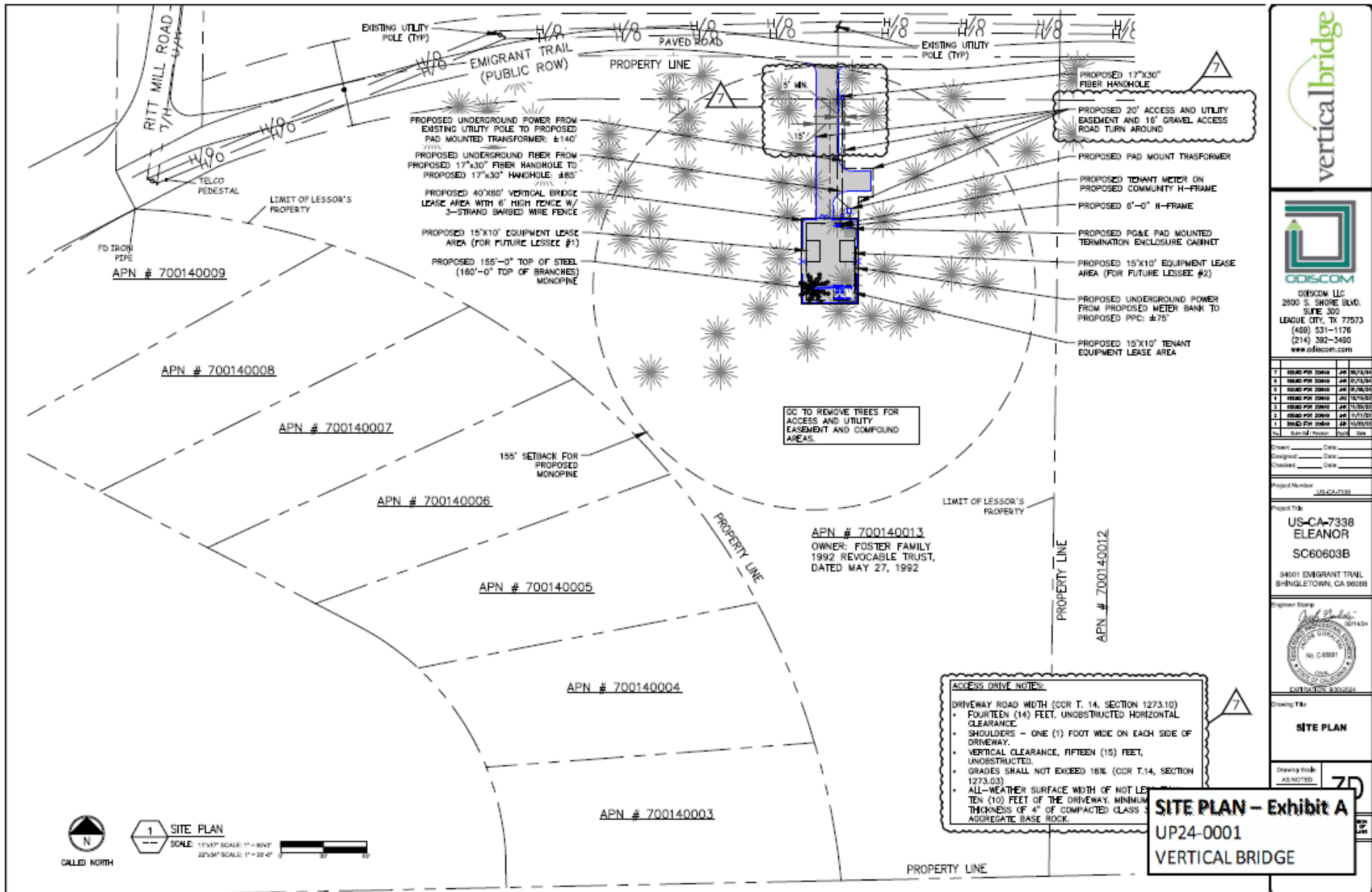
GENERAL PLAN MAP
 UP24-0001
 VERTICAL BRIDGE



ZONING

	EA-AP
	PF
	RURAL RESIDENTIAL (R-R) DISTRICT
	R-R-T
	TL
	TP

ZONE DISTRICT MAP
 UP24-0001
 VERTICAL BRIDGE



vertical bridge



ODISCOM
 ODISCOM LLC
 2800 S. SHORE BLVD.
 SUITE 300
 LEAGUE CITY, TX 77573
 (409) 531-1176
 (214) 302-3490
 www.odiscom.com

1	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	JAN 07/15/24
2	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	JAN 07/15/24
3	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	JAN 07/15/24
4	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	JAN 07/15/24
5	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	JAN 07/15/24
6	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	JAN 07/15/24
7	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	JAN 07/15/24
8	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	JAN 07/15/24
9	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	JAN 07/15/24
10	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	JAN 07/15/24
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15	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	JAN 07/15/24
16	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	JAN 07/15/24
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18	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	JAN 07/15/24
19	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	JAN 07/15/24
20	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	JAN 07/15/24

Drawn: _____ Date: _____
 Designed: _____ Date: _____
 Checked: _____ Date: _____

Project Number: 102-000-7330

Project Title:
**US-CA-7338
 ELEANOR
 SC60603B**
 34001 EMIGRANT TRAIL
 SHINGLETOWN, CA 96088

Engineer Stamp:


Drawing Title:
SITE PLAN

Drawing Code:
 AS-0001-7D

ACCESS DRIVE NOTES:

- DRIVEWAY ROAD WIDTH (CCR T. 14, SECTION 1273.10)
 - FOURTEEN (14) FEET, UNOBSTRUCTED HORIZONTAL CLEARANCE.
 - SHOULDERS - ONE (1) FOOT WIDE ON EACH SIDE OF DRIVEWAY.
 - VERTICAL CLEARANCE, FIFTEEN (15) FEET, UNOBSTRUCTED.
 - GRADES SHALL NOT EXCEED 16% (CCR T.14, SECTION 1273.03)
 - ALL-WEATHER SURFACE WIDTH OF NOT LESS THAN (10) FEET OF THE DRIVEWAY. MINIMUM THICKNESS OF 4" OF COMPACTED CLASS 3 AGGREGATE BASE ROCK.

SITE PLAN - Exhibit A
 UP24-0001
 VERTICAL BRIDGE



ACCESS DRIVE NOTES:

- DRIVEWAY ROAD WIDTH (CCR T. 14, SECTION 1273.10)
- FOURTEEN (14) FEET, UNOBSTRUCTED HORIZONTAL CLEARANCE
- SHOULDERS - ONE (1) FOOT WIDE ON EACH SIDE OF DRIVEWAY
- VERTICAL CLEARANCE, FIFTEEN (15) FEET, UNOBSTRUCTED
- GRADES SHALL NOT EXCEED 16% (CCR T.14, SECTION 1273.03)
- ALL-WEATHER SURFACE WIDTH OF NOT LESS THAN TEN (10) FEET OF THE DRIVEWAY, MINIMUM SURFACE THICKNESS OF 4" OF COMPACTED CLASS 3 AGGREGATE BASE ROCK.

PROPOSED 20' ACCESS AND UTILITY EASEMENT AND 15' GRAVEL ACCESS ROAD W/ TURN AROUND

PROPOSED 12'-0" ACCESS GATE
 PROPOSED KNOX BOX FOR E-911

PROPOSED UNDERGROUND FIBER CONDUIT
 PROPOSED PAD MOUNTED TRANSFORMER WITH 8' FRONT CLEARANCE AND 5' SIDE & BACK CLEARANCE
 PROPOSED 17"x30" FIBER HANDHOLE
 PROPOSED 600AMP UG SERVICE TERMINATION SECTION, ANCHOR TENANT 250AMP, 120/240V 1φ METER WITH GLITTER BOX, WITH 2 FUTURE TENANT METER LOCATIONS

PROPOSED POLE PAD MOUNTED TERMINATION ENCLOSURE CABINET

PROPOSED GRAVEL SURFACE WITHIN COMPOUND OVER MIRAFI WEED BARRIER

PROPOSED 15'x10' EQUIPMENT LEASE AREA (FOR FUTURE LESSEE #1)

PROPOSED 155'-0" TOP OF STEEL (160'-0" TOP OF BRANCHES) MONOPINE

EXISTING TREE TO BE REMOVED BY GC

EXISTING TREE TO BE REMOVED BY GC

PROPOSED 6'-0" H-FRAME

PROPOSED 40'x60' VERTICAL BRIDGE LEASE AREA WITH 6" HIGH FENCE W/ 3-STRAND BARBED WIRE FENCE

PROPOSED 15'x10' EQUIPMENT LEASE AREA (FOR FUTURE LESSEE #2)

GC TO REMOVE TREES FOR ACCESS AND UTILITY EASEMENT AND COMPOUND AREAS.

PROPOSED UNDERGROUND FIBER CONDUIT

PROPOSED H-FRAME W/FIBER WINDER BOX

PROPOSED 15'x10' TENANT EQUIPMENT LEASE AREA

PROPOSED TENANT ICE BRIDGE

PROPOSED 3'-6" H-FRAME W/
 (1) EMERSON FIBER BOX
 (1) FIBER MANAGEMENT BOX
 (1) SERVICE LIGHT
 (1) FIRE EXTINGUISHER CABINET

PROPOSED 6'-0" H-FRAME W/
 (1) PPC
 (1) INTERSECT CAM-LOK
 (1) SERVICE LIGHT

58'-0"± FENCED AREA

60'-0"± LEASE AREA

1'-0"±

10'-0"±

9'-0"±

35'-0"± LEASE AREA

40'-0"± LEASE AREA

15'-0"±

10'-0"±



ENLARGED SITE PLAN
 SCALE: 11'x17' SCALE: 1" = 10'-0"
 22'x34' SCALE: 1" = 5'-0"

SITE PLAN - DETAIL
 UP24-0001
 VERTICAL BRIDGE

vertical bridge



ODISCOM LLC
 2600 S. SHORE BLVD.
 SUITE 300
 LEAGUE CITY, TX 77573
 (409) 531-1176
 (214) 392-3490
 www.odiscom.com

NO.	REVISION	DATE	BY
1	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	14/05/2024	JL
2	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	14/07/2024	JL
3	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	14/07/2024	JL
4	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	14/07/2024	JL
5	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	14/07/2024	JL
6	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	14/07/2024	JL
7	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	14/07/2024	JL
8	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	14/07/2024	JL
9	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	14/07/2024	JL
10	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	14/07/2024	JL

Drawn: _____ Date: _____
 Designed: _____ Date: _____
 Checked: _____ Date: _____

Project Number: US-CA-7338

Project Title: US-CA-7338 ELEANOR SC60603B
 34001 EMIGRANT TRAIL SHINGLETOWN, CA 95888



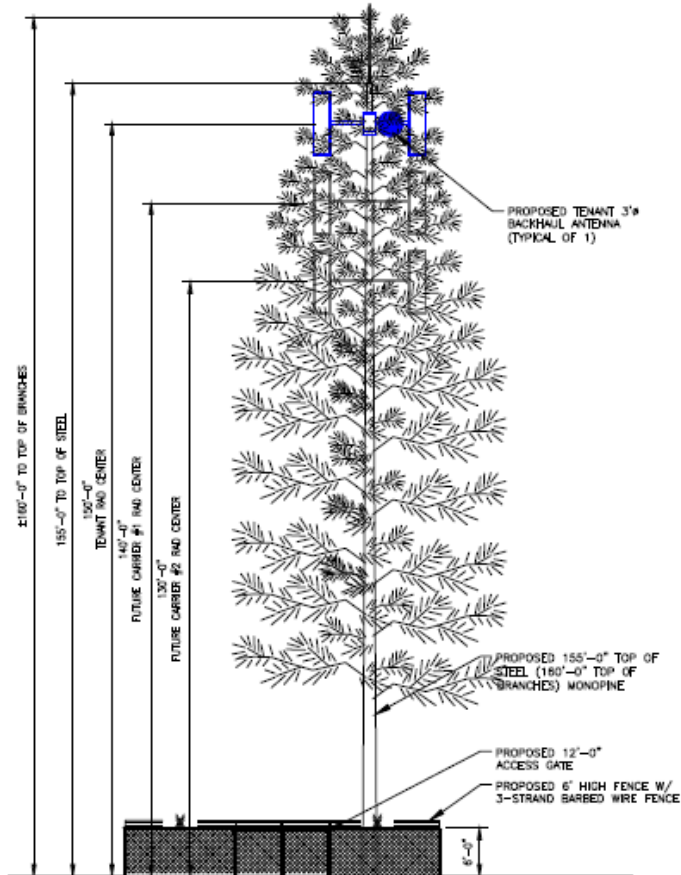
Drawing Title: ENLARGED SITE PLAN

Drawing Code: AS 00785

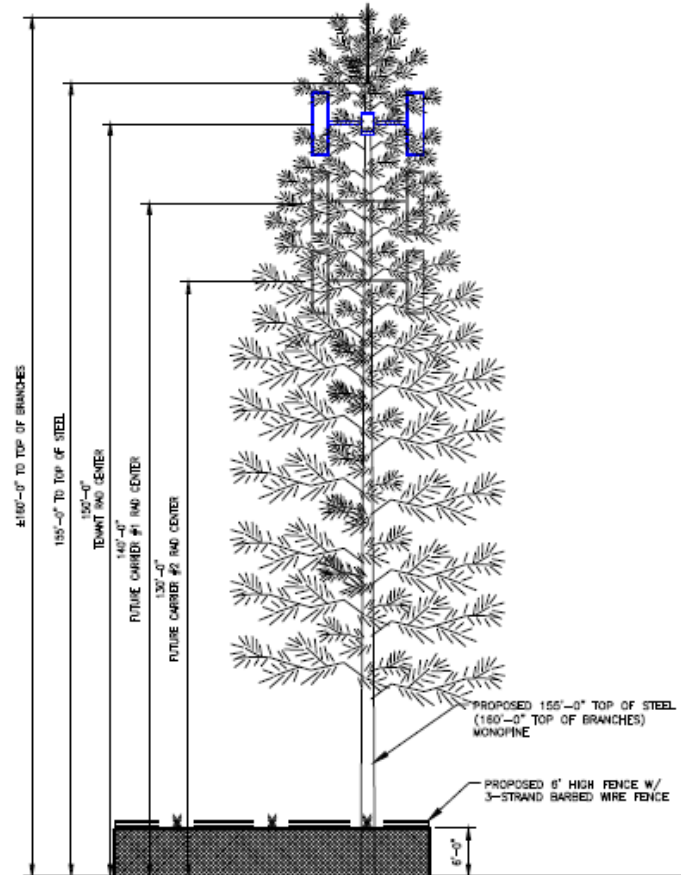
Job No: 1526

Number: C2

ANTENNAS AND RRUs TO BE PAINTED TO MATCH TREE COLOR OR ADD COVER SOCKS AS REQUIRED



1 WEST ELEVATION
SCALE: N.T.S.



2 NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE: N.T.S.

ELEVATION DRAWING
UP24-0001
VERTICAL BRIDGE

vertical bridge



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NO.	REVISION	DATE	BY	CHKD
1	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	04/18/2024	JL	DL
2	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	04/18/2024	JL	DL
3	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	04/18/2024	JL	DL
4	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	04/18/2024	JL	DL
5	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	04/18/2024	JL	DL
6	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	04/18/2024	JL	DL
7	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	04/18/2024	JL	DL
8	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	04/18/2024	JL	DL
9	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	04/18/2024	JL	DL
10	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	04/18/2024	JL	DL

Project Number: US-CA-7338

Project Title:
US-CA-7338
ELEANOR
SC60603B
34001 EMIGRANT TRAIL
SHINGLETOWN, CA 96288



Drawing Title:
ELEVATIONS

Drawing Book:
AS NOTED
ZD

Scale:
AS NOTED

Number:
C4