

DISCUSSION ITEMS

B. Application of Dr. Sabrina Drill was considered for SEATAC membership.

SEATAC determined that they recommend Dr. Drill's nomination as a new member on SEATAC. She will fill a need for a biologist with hydrological, watershed, and other aquatic knowledge, which was provided previously by Dr. Baskin. She is a collaborator with public and private agencies.

- C. Project: Tejon Mountain AT&T Antenna Replacement (Gorman Post Ranch)
Project Numbers: R2012-00684 (5), RCUP 2012-00049 (5)
AIN: 3251-001-017
Applicant: Robert McCormick
USGS Topographic quad, 7.5': Lebec
Resources: SEA #59 Tehachapi Foothills**

The Project is for the continued operation and maintenance of an existing Wireless Tower Facility (WTF) and part of the request is to replace wireless antennae on existing towers on Tejon Peak with new antennae. The change will be that the new antennae project further and occupy more space at a height of 75 feet from the ground. The change will be accomplished with cherry-pickers mounted on pick-up trucks. The project is estimated to be completed in a time interval of about 1 week. The distance from critical habitat for the California Condor at the County line with Kern County is a little less than 1 mile.

SEA RESOURCE DESCRIPTION: The Tehachapi Foothills SEA #59

The grassy, south-facing slopes of these hills are one of the best foothill wildflower sites in southern California. In addition, the area is located at the junction of the Mojave Desert, the Transverse Ranges, and the Tehachapi Mountains. The SEA possesses floral and faunal components from each region, including the sensitive vegetation communities of Valley Oak Woodland and Valley Needlegrass Grassland. As a result of the great biological diversity, the area contains many unique ecological relationships of scientific value. Much of the SEA is in the Tehachapi Connection Wildlife Corridor.

Action Requested: Determine whether there would be an impact to the Tehachapi Foothills SEA and whether SEATAC should review the antennae replacement part of the project.

Comments from SEATAC member Ty Garrison were distributed to members. They are incorporated in recommendations below.

SEATAC RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. SEATAC recommends that all microwave projects observe Best Management Practices. These include taking precautions against spills that might contaminate the surrounding area. Oil and other fluids such as those from concrete mixing must be captured on site and transported offsite. They should not be allowed to seep into the ground. The area nearby has very sensitive amphibians (Yellow-blotched salamander, *Ensatina eschscholtzii***

croceator, the only known occurrence in Los Angeles County) and plants that may suffer from such contaminants.

2. The project area is regarded as highly sensitive due to (a) siting in a wildflower field; (b) siting in a bird migratory corridor that includes use by California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*); (c) siting in a general migration corridor; and (d) siting in an area of junction for 5 ecoregions: Tehachapi Mountains, Great Valley, California Coastal Ranges, of the Transverse Ranges (San Gabriel Mountains); Mojave Desert (Antelope Valley).
3. SEATAC recommends that any microwave project in this area observe requirements of additional biological review by SEATAC. Conditions which would need review are projects incorporating any one of the plan aspects listed below. Future projects or amendments to this project such as revised Exhibit A will need SEATAC biological review if they propose:
 - a. expanding the footprint of installation or expanding the disturbed area in the parcel
 - b. activity on a tower 80 ft. or taller (80 ft. or higher requires aircraft warning lights)
 - c. installation of a new tower
 - d. any addition of lighting to what currently exists.

ACTION TAKEN:

SEATAC determined by a unanimous vote of three members that the present design of the current AT&T project of antenna replacement does not need SEATAC review. Revisions to the CUP needing SEATAC review are those listed in 3a-3d above.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment was given on any of the topics.