



Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



Richard J. Bruckner
Director

January 3, 2013

TO: Paul McCarthy, Hearing Officer

FROM: Maria Masis
Section Head, Zoning Permits East

SUBJECT: **Additional Materials for Hearing**
Project No. R2012-02494-(4)
Conditional Use Permit No. 201200147
Hearing Officer Meeting: January 15, 2013
Agenda Item: 7

The abovementioned project was discussed during the SEATAC meeting on December 3, 2012. Minutes from the meeting were approved by the members of SEATAC after the distribution of the hearing package. Please review the attached meeting minutes.

If you need additional information, please contact Kristina Kulczycki of my staff at (213) 974-6435 or kkulczycki@planning.lacounty.gov. Department office hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Department is closed on Fridays.

MM:KK



**MINUTES OF THE SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL AREA
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEATAC)
MEETING OF 3 December 2012**

Minutes approved by electronic mail, 2 January 2013.

PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE:

SEATAC MEMBERS

Dan Cooper
Robb Hamilton
Dr. Cheryl Swift

REGIONAL PLANNING STAFF

Dr. Shirley Imsand (Biologist,
SEATAC coordinator)
Rudy Silvas (Planner)
Kristina Kulczycki (Planner)

PAGINATION:

- A. Approval of SEATAC minutes and recommendations for 5 November 2012, p.2
- B. Wireless Sprint, Mulholland Hwy & Lower Brewster Rd., R2012-02103, p.2
- C. Wireless T-Mobile, Rio Hondo College SEA, p.4
- D. SEA ordinance discussion did not take place,
- E. Public comment pursuant to Section 54954.3 of the Government Code, p.5

NOTE: SEATAC meetings are informal working sessions, open to public for observation and brief comment related to biology. Members are appointed volunteers in an advisory capacity. Minutes are prepared by planning staff from notes and tape. Visitors are advised to take proper notes and/or record the session. Issues not discussed by SEATAC do not imply tacit approval. New or clarified information presented in subsequent submittals may raise new issues and may require further analysis. Minutes are generally approved at the next SEATAC meeting. Draft minutes may be requested but are subject to revision.

MINUTES
3 December 2012

OLD BUSINESS

A. **Minutes** of the SEATAC meeting of **5 November 2012** were approved as amended.
Motion/ Second: Dan Cooper/Robb Hamilton to approve as amended. Vote- Aye: Unanimous

B. Project: Sprint Wireless Telecommunication Facility continuation of CUP

Project Numbers: R2012-02103, RCUP 00-240

AIN: near 4464-009-003

31250 ½ Mulholland Highway, west of the intersection with Lower Brewster Rd.

Applicant: Bemis Development, Inc.

USGS Topographic quad, 7.5': Point Dume

Resources: SEA #3B Zuma Canyon Buffer & SEA #4 Upper La Sierra Canyon

Materials are posted under 3 December 2012: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/agenda/seatac/>

The Project is for continuation of operation for the installation of a wireless telecommunications facility (WTF) in the public right-of-way. The facility consists of a microcell unit mounted at 8-ft. height and four sector antennae mounted at 24 ft. 7 in (on a utility pole approximately 45 ft. high); a water vault; a utility vault and riser; and an electrical cabinet with protective bollards on street side and block wall on three sides. The cabinet is on a 20 sq.ft. concrete pad; the earth-tone block wall is 4 ft. 8in. high. The pole is approximately 32 ft. from the road pavement edge; the water vault and utility vault are approximately 12 ft. from the road, and the front of the equipment cabinet and wall are about 10 ft. from the road. The placement does not interfere with the public's use of highways, sidewalks, or trails nor with access to private property, and the existing approved wireless facility is consistent with the guidelines and requirements of the wireless ordinance. Maintenance is the visit of a technician approximately once a month. The facility operates in conjunction with a series of WTF to provide needed service to this particular area (Cornell Road, Kanan Road, Kanan Dume Road, Mulholland Highway). At this time there are no plans to underground the existing poles. The applicant would need a new CUP if these utilities are undergrounded. The project is very close to the significant ridgeline that divides the watersheds of La Sierra Canyon, which drains to Malibu Creek, and an unnamed drainage that flows to Zuma Canyon in the Coastal Zone. The project is on the La Sierra Canyon side, but in the Zuma Canyon Buffer 3B. The equipment cabinet is in a median island between the two entries to Lower Brewster Road, and it is outside the protected zone of oaks also in the median island. The pole is in a coast live-oak woodland, within protected zone of some oaks. Replacement of one of the antennae might require branch trimming. The woodland has a closed canopy, an understory with many toyon, and tagged oak trees of jurisdictional size.

SEA RESOURCE DESCRIPTION: Zuma Canyon Buffer 3B; Upper La Sierra Canyon SEA #4

Zuma Canyon is one of the last major drainages in the Santa Monica Mountains that has a year-round stream. It has a rich riparian community with abundant wildlife populations including amphibians and birds dependent on surface moisture. Deer and other large mammals utilize this as a water source, and mountain lions have been sighted in the canyon.

Upper La Sierra Canyon contains an unusually rich and diverse stand of canyon flora including the federally-threatened Santa Monica Mountain Live-forever (*Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *marcescens*). Unusual plants that occur in the drainage include Creek Dogwood (*Cornus glabrata*), found in only one other place in the County; giant examples of Chain Fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*); very tall Humboldt Lily (*Lilium humboldtii*), exceptionally tall Big-leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*); unusually dense stands of Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*); and dense stands of California Laurel (*Umbellularia californica*). The federally-endangered plant Lyon's Pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*) occurs in both watersheds near the project site.

Action Requested: Determine whether there would be an impact to either Zuma Canyon Buffer 3B or Upper La Sierra Canyon SEA#4 by the proposed project, whether SEATAC should review the project, and what kinds of project aspects might require SEATAC review.

SEATAC COMMENTS and RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. SEATAC does not need to review the present project, continuation of the CUP 00-240. No impacts are likely on either the Zuma Canyon Buffer SEA #3B nor on the Upper La Sierra Canyon SEA#4.

Motion/ Second: Dan Cooper/Robb Hamilton to approve as amended. Vote- Aye: Unanimous

2. SEATAC recommends adding conditions for the standard wireless SEATAC review (discussion review or standard review to be determined by County planning biologist). Changes that would indicate standard SEATAC review:
 - a. Expansion of the footprint of the installation or extension of height beyond the present height, such as a high installation that would require FAA safety lighting.
 - b. Activity on a tower or pole for which the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires safety lighting or additional safety lighting
 - c. Installation of any new tower or pole. Replacement of the existing pole at same ground location, with same type of pole, and with same height of pole would only require SEATAC discussion review and publication on the SEATAC webpage.
 - d. Any addition of lighting to what currently exists. FAA requirements for lighting vary with location and height.

Motion/ Second: Dan Cooper/Robb Hamilton to approve. Vote- Aye: Unanimous

3. For this particular installation site, SEATAC recommends adding provision for an oak tree permit if protected zone of nearby oaks will be impacted by activity of the project [County oak tree ordinances 22.56.2050 through 22.56.2230]. Trimming of branches for project purposes should be done according to 22.56.2070.D.

Motion/ Second: Dan Cooper/Robb Hamilton to approve. Vote- Aye: Unanimous

C. T-Mobile Wireless Telecommunication Facility continuation with modifications

Project Numbers: R2012-02494, RCUP 201200147, RENV 201200267, Original CUP 02-198

AIN: 8125-021-942

27065 Workman Hill Road, La Puente, CA 91746

Applicant: Core Development Services, Argineh Mailian

USGS Topographic quad, 7.5': El Monte

Resources: Rio Hondo College Wildlife Sanctuary SEA #43

Materials are posted under 3 December 2012: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/agenda/seatac/>

The Project is for continuation of the wireless telecommunications facility (WTF) in the public right-of-way of SR-60 Freeway; replacement of antennae on an existing "monopine"; and addition of new racks into existing T-mobile equipment shelter (WxHxD 16'4"x11'4"x10'4") in the existing lease area. (1) Six existing antennae will be replaced with Ericsson Air21 Antennae on existing antenna mounts. The new antennae may each project approximately 8-in. further than the existing ones into surrounding airspace, and this will probably be in the interior of the artificial branches that already exist. The antennae will be mounted at 60-ft. on a "monopine" that is 65-ft. tall. (2) Existing Tower-Mounted Antennae (TMAs) will be removed and replaced with three twin AWS TMAs (American Wireless Services TMAs), which will also project further into monopine branch space. (3) A new hybrid fibre cable will be installed. (4) A new 19-in.sq. wall-mounted rack will be installed within existing equipment shelter in lease area. (5) All antennas will be painted to match the existing tree, and antenna socks (camouflage) will be added. Antenna socks are green plastic netting studded with clusters of plastic pine needles placed every few inches, and are replaced as needed, usually at intervals of several years. Installation will be accomplished in approximately 3 days' time by one man lift (cherry-picker) from the dirt access road to Crossroads Parkway, which is parallel to the 60 Freeway, from three positions shown in the plans (p.4). Maintenance is the visit of a technician approximately once a month. The facility operates in conjunction with a network of other WTFs to provide needed service to this particular area (unspecified locations). The facility has a 6-ft. chain link fence running W-E along the access road and the freeway side of the T-mobile equipment shelter at the base of the monopine. This section of fence has acacia and native plants such as toyon along much of its length. The fence turns N-S just east of the wireless facility and goes uphill, presumably along a parcel boundary. There are substantial numbers of native birds using the hillside area south of the access road. Trampled vegetation and wildlife paths indicate extensive use by terrestrial animals on the hill area along the south side of the access road. A section of the access road near the wireless facility has numerous burrows that probably indicate ground squirrel activity (some were observed on the hill). The access road is of compacted earth and rock shards and does not retain animal prints, but the mud in a drainage area under the chainlink fence on the east side of the wireless facility had prints showing very recent use of passage in the drainage under the fence. (A gap between fencing and earth is about 20 cm in height). Any change in the fencing and obstruction to wildlife passage might be an issue to address in the renewal of the CUP.

SEA RESOURCE DESCRIPTION: Rio Hondo College Wildlife Sanctuary SEA#43

The area possesses good examples of riparian woodland, chaparral, oak woodland, walnut woodland, and coastal sage scrub communities found in the west end of the Puente Hills. Over 100 species of vertebrates are known from the habitats of the area. The proximity to the Rio Hondo College campus makes it a highly valuable educational and resource facility. Due to location near the extreme northwestern end of the Peninsular Ranges, the SEA is an excellent place to observe the geographical range variability of a number of species that are characteristic of the mountains to the south with their northernmost occurrences in the Puente Hills, such as the red diamond rattlesnake (co-occurring with the Pacific rattlesnake). A wide variety of wildlife utilizes linkages throughout the SEA from the extreme southeast up to the College Sanctuary, including a number of medium-sized mammals as well as possibly mountain lion (*Puma concolor*). The SEA is critical habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) and would function to connect the Puente Hills to the largest population in Los Angeles County, west of the college and west beyond the I-605 in the Montebello Hills.

Action Requested: Determine whether there would be an impact to Rio Hondo College Wildlife Sanctuary SEA#43 by the proposed project, whether SEATAC should review the project, and what kinds of project aspects might require SEATAC review.

SEATAC COMMENTS and RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. SEATAC does not need to review the present project, continuation of the CUP 201200147. No impacts are likely for the Rio Hondo Wildlife Sanctuary SEA#43.

Motion/ Second: Dan Cooper/Robb Hamilton to approve. Vote- Aye: Unanimous

2. SEATAC recommends adding conditions for the standard wireless SEATAC review (discussion review or standard review to be determined by County planning biologist). Changes that would indicate standard SEATAC review:

- a. Expansion of the footprint of the installation or extension of height beyond the present height, such as a high installation that would require FAA safety lighting.

- b. Activity on a tower or pole for which the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires safety lighting or additional safety lighting

- c. Installation of any new tower or pole. Replacement of the existing pole at same ground location, with same type of pole, and with same height of pole would only require SEATAC discussion review and publication on the SEATAC webpage.

- d. Any addition of lighting to what currently exists. FAA requirements for lighting vary with location and height.

Motion/ Second: Dan Cooper/Robb Hamilton to approve. Vote- Aye: Unanimous

3. For this particular installation site, SEATAC recommends adding provision for standard review by SEATAC if wildlife movement would be changed substantially, as for example, by closing the gap between the chain-link and the drainage bottom.

Motion/ Second: Robb Hamilton/Cheryl Swift to approve. Vote- Aye: Unanimous

D. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment was presented on either of the topics.