

COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

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MEMORANDUM

DATE:

DECEMBER 13, 2023

TO:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION

FROM:

KEITH GRONENDYKE, PLANNER III

SUBJECT:

U_2023-0005 (TELESPAN)

This memo is regarding the above noted Use Permit application to construct a 125-foot-tall cellular antenna tower disguised as a monopine and located at 16401 S. Highway 1 in Manchester.

The applicant has changed some aspects of the project, including:

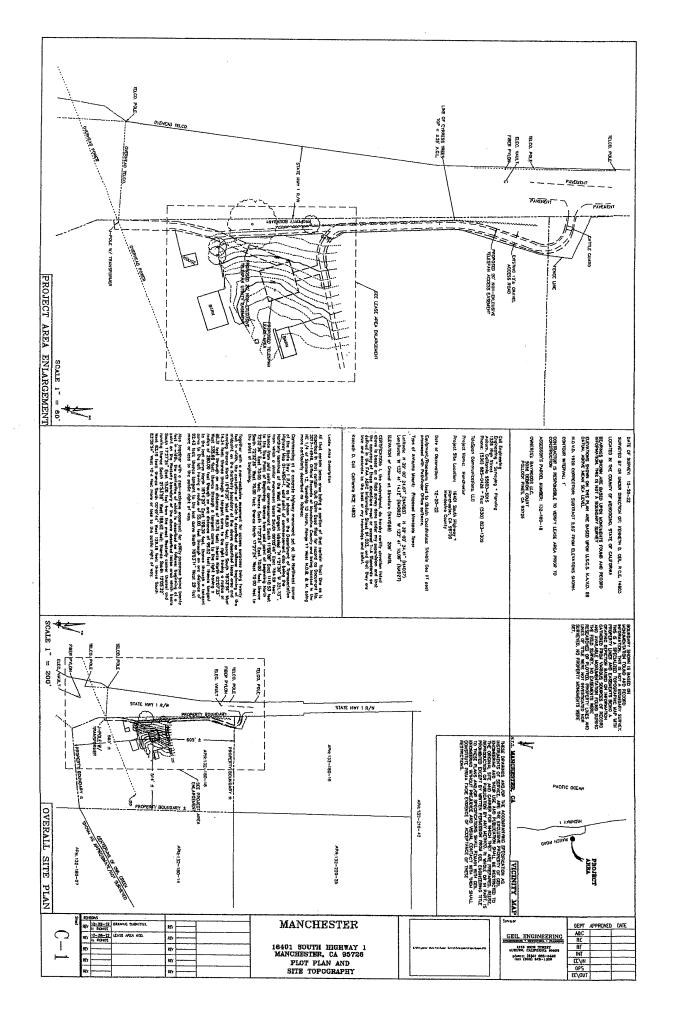
- Changing the design of the faux tower to a "eucalyptus" tree.
- Lowering the height of the tower from 125-feet to 100-feet
- Moving the location of the tower sixty-six feet closer to State Route 1 and nestled within a stand of eucalyptus trees

As there was an Archaeological Survey completed prior to the above noted changes, staff considered requiring the applicant have a new Archaeological Survey conducted. To counter that requirement, the applicant also submitted a letter from Archaeological Resources Technology that concluded that the new proposed tower location would not require a new archaeological survey to be conducted, as the same condition would apply as the previous proposed location, i.e., that a qualified archaeologist must be present to monitor all ground-disturbing activities associated with the cell tower construction.

Staff would concur that the minor moving of the tower sixty-six feet to the west would not constitute a major change in the project.

Attachments: Original site plan, new site plan, letter from Archaeological Resources Technology.

Original site plan







Archaeological Resources Technology

240 Tamal Road Post Office Box 713 Forest Knolls, California 94933-0713

November 30, 2023

Mr. Steve Geist, President GEIST ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP, INC. 4200 Park Boulevard #149 Oakland, California 94602



Planning & Building Services

Review of changes to TeleSpan Manchester Wireless Project in Mendocino County, California Re:

Dear Mr. Geist:

Per your request, Archaeological Resources Technology (ART) reviewed recent changes to TeleSpan's proposed telecommunications project identified as "Manchester." TeleSpan Communications plans to build a monopine on the existing agricultural parcel, and has changed the ground location slightly for the new design. This analysis was made using recent photosimulations provided by the applicant.

The project area lies in the former Lawson/Biaggi Ranch, which represents an important chapter in the history of the region. Despite conditions issues, the ranch retains good integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association (NRHP Criterion A). The subject property as a whole retains adequate integrity to convey its historic significance, and reflects "vernacular" forms of architecture and animal husbandry beginning in the second-decade of the 20th C (NRHP Criterion C, architecture).

In order to be adverse, alterations to an historic property need to be consequential to the point where said alterations either damage historic fabric or alter the qualities that make the building significant. The recent photosims show that the faux tree and ground-based equipment will be partially screened by mature trees that exist on the parcel. The addition of a monopine near existing, mature trees will not diminish that aspect of significance to a level that it could adversely affect the historic property.

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Please note that NRHP Criterion D, the potential for buried subsurface archaeological deposits, is most at issue now. ART's recommendation has not changed: a qualified archaeologist must be present to monitor all ground-disturbing activities associated with the TeleSpan Manchester project. At minimum, the utility trenching area and proposed lease area should be inspected closely during excavation for potential cultural deposits. The work should fall within the guidelines of the Mendocino Historical Review Board and other (potential) interested parties.

If accepted, any and all artifacts should be housed with site records at the Kelley House Museum in Albion, Mendocino County (kelleyhousemuseum.org). If human remains are encountered, all work must stop in the immediate vicinity of the discovery until the County Coroner and a qualified archaeologist evaluate the remains (Public Resources Code section 5097.98).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you very much for allowing ART to assist you with this project.

Very truly yours,

Carolyn Losée RPA Owner, Principal