



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## Notice of Availability of and Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

*Date:* March 6, 2013  
*Case No.:* 2012.0183E  
*Project Title:* San Joaquin Valley Communication System Upgrade Project  
*Project Location:* 20 Project Sites: Tuolumne, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Contra Costa and Alameda Counties  
*Project Sponsor:* San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)  
Craig Freeman - (415) 934-5740  
CFreeman@sfgwater.org  
*Lead Agency:* San Francisco Planning Department – Environmental Planning  
*Staff Contact:* Steven Smith – (415) 558-6373  
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### To Whom It May Concern:

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the environmental review document concerning the proposed project as described below. The document is a preliminary mitigated negative declaration (PMND), containing information about the possible environmental effects of the proposed project. The PMND documents the determination of the Planning Department that the proposed project could not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Preparation of a mitigated negative declaration does not indicate a decision by the City to carry out or not to carry out the proposed project.

**Project Description:** The project would provide an upgraded communication system for San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) facilities located primarily within the San Joaquin Valley. The project consists of the installation of microwave radio antennas on either new or existing radio towers at 20 project sites, located between Moccasin Peak on the east and the Sunol Valley approximately 90 miles to the west. The primary project components include: one to four new microwave antennas (parabolic dishes) at each site; new radio towers ranging from 20- to 140-feet tall at eight sites; photovoltaic (PV) solar panels at five sites; and propane-fueled emergency generators at two sites. Specific project components associated with each site are listed in Table 1. The project sites are located on property owned by the SFPUC, within an easement granted to SFPUC, or at an existing radio tower site owned by another party. Project construction would begin in early 2014 and take approximately 12 to 15 months to complete; construction at each site would generally require one to two months.

The PMND is available to view or download from the Planning Department's Negative Declarations and EIRs web page (<http://tinyurl.com/puccases>). Paper copies are also available at the Planning Information Center (PIC) counter on the ground floor of 1660 Mission Street, San Francisco.

If you have questions concerning environmental review of the proposed project, contact the Planning Department staff contact listed above.

Within 30 calendar days following publication of the PMND (i.e., by 5:00 p.m. on **April 5, 2013**), any person may:

- 1) Review the PMND as an informational item and take no action;
- 2) Make recommendations for amending the text of the document. The text of the PMND may be amended to clarify or correct statements and may be expanded to include additional relevant issues or to cover issues in greater depth. This may be done **without** the appeal described below; **OR**
- 3) Appeal the determination of no significant effect on the environment to the Planning Commission in a letter which specifies the grounds for such appeal, accompanied by a \$521 check payable to the San Francisco Planning Department.<sup>1</sup> An appeal requires the Planning Commission to determine whether or not an Environmental Impact Report must be prepared based upon whether or not the proposed project could cause a

<sup>1</sup> Upon review by the Planning Department, the appeal fee may be reimbursed for neighborhood organizations that have been in existence for a minimum of 24 months.

substantial adverse change in the environment. Send the appeal letter to the Planning Department, Attention: Bill Wycko, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103. **The letter must be accompanied by a check in the amount of \$521.00 payable to the San Francisco Planning Department, and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on April 5, 2013.** The appeal letter and check may also be presented in person at the PIC counter on the first floor of 1660 Mission Street, San Francisco.

In the absence of an appeal, the mitigated negative declaration shall be made final, subject to necessary modifications, after 30 days from the date of publication of the PMND.

**TABLE 1  
PROJECT SITES AND KEY COMPONENTS**

Project Site Number	Site Name / Location	New Tower (height)	Number of New Antennas	PV Solar	Backup Propane Generator
<b>Tuolumne County</b>					
1	<b>Moccasin Peak</b> – Approximately 1.5 miles west of the intersection of Hwy 49 with Marshes Flat Road, near the SFPUC Moccasin Power House		3		
2	<b>Red Mountain Bar</b> – Approximately 4.2 miles southeast of the intersection of County Road J59 and Old Don Pedro Road, on the west side of Don Pedro Reservoir	X (20 feet)	1	X	
3	<b>Transmission Tower 122N</b> – Approximately 3.7 miles southwest of the intersection of County Road J59 and Old Don Pedro Road		2	X	X
4	<b>Rock River Lime Plant</b> – Rock River Road, Jamestown, approximately 2.3 miles south east from the intersection of Rock River Road and Green Springs Road.	X (140 feet)	1		
5	<b>Oakdale Portal</b> – Approximately 3.3 miles east-southeast of the intersection of Wilms Road and Highway 120/108	X (120 feet)	3		
<b>Stanislaus County</b>					
6	<b>Throttle Station 1-3</b> – Approximately 2.5 miles southeast of the intersection of Wilms Road and Highway 120/108	X (40 feet)	1	X	
7	<b>Throttle Station 2</b> – Approximately 2.1 miles northeast of the eastern terminus of Fogarty Road, Oakdale	X (60 feet)	2	X	
8	<b>MP 56.51 Tie-In</b> – Approximately 0.9 mile northeast of the eastern terminus of Fogarty Road	X (60 feet)	1	X	X
9	<b>Emery Crossover</b> – Approximately 0.6 mile southeast of the intersection of Emery Road and Fogarty Road, Oakdale	X (120 feet)	3		
10	<b>Warnerville Yard</b> – 10501 Warnerville Road, Oakdale		3		
11	<b>Oakdale Office</b> – 405 East C Street, Oakdale	X (60 feet)	1		
12	<b>Albers Road Valve House</b> – Albers Road, Oakdale, approximately 0.2 mile north of the intersection of Albers Road and Patterson Road		3		
13	<b>Roselle Cross Over</b> – East side of Roselle Avenue, Riverbank, approximately 250 feet south of the intersection of Roselle Avenue and Glow Road		4		
14	<b>Modesto 2 ATC</b> – Collegiate Lane and Brink Avenue, Modesto		4		
15	<b>San Joaquin Valve House</b> – Maze Boulevard, Modesto, approximately 2.1 miles east of the intersection of South Kason Road and Maze Blvd.		4		
16	<b>Pelican Cross Over</b> – Approximate 0.3 mile west of the intersection of Pelican Road and Orchard Road, Vernalis		2		
<b>San Joaquin County</b>					
17	<b>Tesla Treatment Facility Tower</b> – Western terminus of West Vernalis Road, approximately 3.8 miles south of the Tracy Municipal Airport		4		
<b>Contra Costa County</b>					
18	<b>Mt. Diablo SBA</b> – West side of Morgan Territory Road, approximately 4.2 miles north-northeast of the intersection of Manning Road and Morgan Territory Road		2		
<b>Alameda County</b>					
19	<b>Sunol Ridge ATC</b> – 1.5 miles northeast of 37000 Palomares Road, Sunol		2		
20	<b>Calaveras Substation</b> – Calaveras Road, Sunol, 0.9 mile south of the intersection of Calaveras Road and Highway 680		1		