

MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar item No. 8
was approved as Minute Item
No. 8 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 706-87
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

A 1,3

C 08

07/16/87

W 23968

PRC 7106

Suetta

S 1,4

GENERAL LEASE - RIGHT-OF-WAY USE

APPLICANT: U.S. Sprint Communications Company
9300 Metcalf, Suite 838
Overland Park, Kansas 66212

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:
Undetermined acreage in crossing of submerged
land in various waterways including but not
limited to, the Sacramento River, Feather River
and Butte Creek in Butte, Glenn, Tehama, Shasta
and Siskiyou counties.

LAND USE: Installation and use of a fiber optic cable.

TERMS OF PROPOSED LEASE:
Indefinite term beginning July 1, 1987.

CONSIDERATION: Exempt by law, Section 7901 of the Public
Utilities Code.

BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION:
Pursuant to 2 Cal. Adm. Code 2003.

APPLICANT STATUS:
Applicant is permittee of uplands.

PREREQUISITE CONDITIONS, FEES AND EXPENSES:
Filing fee and processing costs have been
received.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:
A. P.R.C.: Div. 6, Parts 1 and 2; Div. 13.
B. Cal. Adm. Code: Title 2, Div. 3; Title 14,
Div. 6.

AB 884: N/A.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. C 08 (CONT'D)

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. The annual rental value is estimated to be \$100 for each site.
2. The applicant plans to install a fiber optic cable from Oroville, California to Eugene, Oregon as part of a long-distance telephone system.
3. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Adm. Code 15061), the staff has prepared a Proposed Negative Declaration identified as EIR ND 415, State Clearinghouse NO. 87050510. Such Proposed Negative Declaration was prepared and circulated for public review pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Copies of the environmental documents are available to all interested parties at the office of the Commission.

Based upon the Initial Study, the Proposed Negative Declaration, and the comments received in response thereto, there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment. (14 Cal. Adm. Code 15074 (b))

4. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to P.R.C. 6370, et seq. Based upon the staff's consultation with the persons nominating such lands and through the CEQA review process, it is the staff's opinion that the project, as proposed, is consistent with its use classification.

APPROVALS PENDING:

United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Forest Service, United States Bureau of Reclamation, State Reclamation Board, State Department of Fish and Game, and counties and cities within the proposed route.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. C 08 (CONT'D)

- EXHIBITS:
- A. Land Description.
 - B. Location Map.
 - C. Proposed Negative Declaration.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION, EIR ND 415, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 87050510, WAS PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CEQA AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.
2. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT, AS APPROVED, WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
3. FIND THAT THIS ACTIVITY WILL INVOLVE LANDS IDENTIFIED AS POSSESSING SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES PURSUANT TO P.R.C. 6370, ET SEQ., BUT THAT SUCH ACTIVITY WILL HAVE NO DIRECT OR INDIRECT EFFECT ON SUCH LANDS.
4. AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE TO U.S. SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF A RIGHT-OF-WAY, FOR AN INDEFINITE TERM, BEGINNING JULY 1, 1987; PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 7901 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES CODES FOR THE INSTALLATION AND USE OF A FIBER OPTIC CABLE ON THE LAND DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED AND BY REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF.

EXHIBIT "A"

LAND DESCRIPTION

W 23558

Those parcels of California State sovereign land lying immediately beneath a fiber optic cable running from Oroville, Butte County, California, through Glenn, Tehama, Shasta, and Siskiyou Counties to the Oregon State border, the location of said cable being shown on the application on file with the State Lands Commission from U.S. Sprint Communications Company, Project 6T405-2, Oroville to Eugene.

END OF DESCRIPTION

**PREPARED JUNE 4, 1987, BY BOUNDARY SERVICES UNIT, M. L. SHAFER,
SUPERVISOR.**

0477b

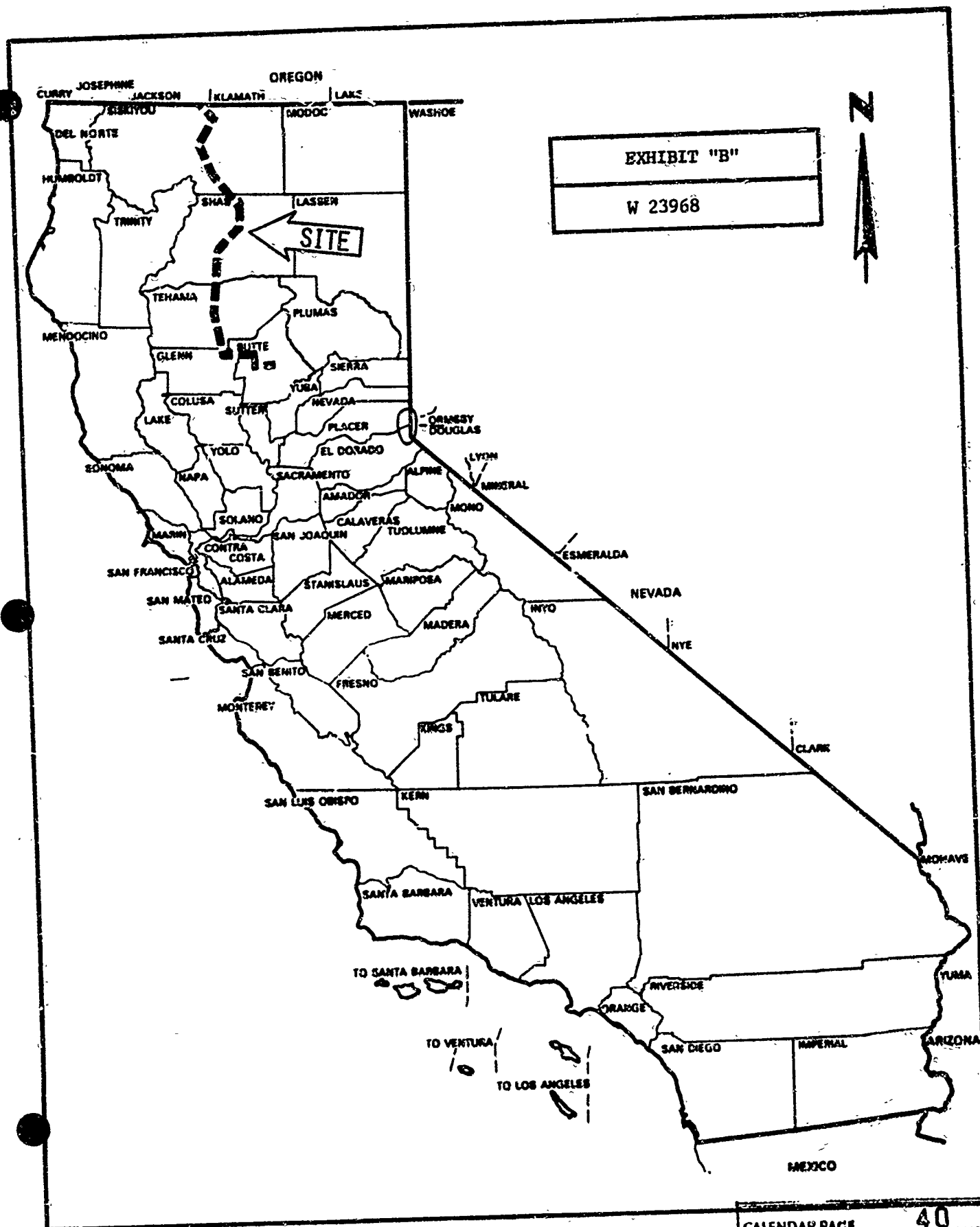


EXHIBIT C

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—STATE LANDS COMMISSION

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

STATE LANDS COMMISSION
1907 13TH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814



PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EIR ND 415

File Ref.: W 23968

SCH#: 8705 0510

Project Title: US Sprint Fiber Optic Telecommunication System Installation

Project Proponent: US Sprint Communications Company

Project Location: A linear project from Oroville, California to Eugene, Oregon. Butte, Glenn, Tehama, Shasta, and Siskiyou Counties.

Project Description: Installation, operation, and maintenance of a fiber optic telecommunication system - a telephone system.

Contact Person: TED T. FUKUSHIMA

Telephone: (916)322-7813

This document is prepared pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 21000 et seq., Public Resources Code), the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, California Administrative Code), and the State Lands Commission regulations (Section 2901 et seq., Title 2, California Administrative Code).

Based upon the attached Initial Study, it has been found that:

☐ the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

☒ mitigation measures included in the project will avoid potentially significant effects.

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LETTER

State of California

Memorandum

The Resources Agency

To : Mr. Ted T. Fukushima
State Lands Commission
Division of Research and Planning
1807 13th Street
Sacramento, CA 95841

Date : May 27, 1987

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject: SCM 87050510 - Environmental Assessment and Initial Study for the U. S. Sprint Fiber Optic Cable - Butte, Glenn, Tehama, Shasta and Siskiyou Counties.

We have reviewed the State Lands Commission's Environmental Assessment (EA) for the U. S. Sprint Fiber Optic Telecommunications cable and 22 repeater stations that would be constructed from Oroville, California, to Eugene, Oregon. There are four general types of potential project impacts to fish and wildlife resources that are of concern to us. These are impacts to: 1) rare, threatened, and endangered species, 2) wetlands, 3) fisheries, and 4) deer winter range. Therefore, in reply to your May 5, 1987 request for our opinion, there is reason for us to believe that the project may have a significant effect on fish and wildlife resources, thereby requiring the preparation of an EIR.

In addition, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines [Section 15065 (a)] require an EIR to be prepared when the project has the potential to impact a rare or endangered plant or animal. From the information provided in the EA, the project clearly has that potential. Therefore, CEQA Guidelines require an EIR for this project.

This letter initiates our consultation with your agency regarding threatened or endangered species. Both CEQA (Section 31104.2) and the California Endangered Species Act (Section 2090) require the State Lead Agency to consult with DFG and obtain its written findings as to whether a proposed project would jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of its habitat.

DFG has prepared "Guidelines for Consulting with the Department of Fish and Game on Projects Subject to CEQA that May Affect Endangered and Threatened Species". A copy is enclosed for your information. These guidelines include directions on how to conduct surveys. More specific guidelines on doing surveys on rare and endangered plants are also enclosed.

After we have received and reviewed additional information from you, including the results of surveys, we will provide our written findings (Biological Opinion) pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act, as to whether the proposed project would jeopardize any listed species.

RESPONSES

1 The EA/Initial Study noted that there were several areas along the 450-mile cable route where further, site-specific field inventories and/or mitigation planning was required. Since the publication of the EA/Initial Study, these field programs and specific mitigation planning efforts have been completed. This effort included sensitive plant inventories and a detailed field review of the exact cable alignment. The results of these efforts support a Negative Declaration with mitigation.

US Sprint's consultant, Dames & Moore, has prepared a report, "Supplemental Biological Analyses for the US Sprint Fiber Optic Cable," which has been submitted to the Department of Fish and Game and other responsible agencies. This report addresses in detail the important issues raised in this comment and describes the site-specific mitigation measures identified to minimize biological resource concerns. US Sprint has reviewed, and agreed to, the proposed mitigation measures.

If the Department of Fish and Game still has concerns after reviewing the supplemental biological report, the State Lands Commission, US Sprint, and Dames & Moore would welcome the opportunity to further consult with Department representatives. In many instances on this project, US Sprint has successfully worked with responsible agencies to develop specific, committed mitigation measures to protect sensitive resources. For example, the route was slightly realigned in southern Oregon to avoid two rare plant populations near the route. In another case, US Sprint consulted with the California Department of Transportation regarding cultural resource concerns along the route. As agreed through consultation, certain sites were tested to determine whether construction would have adverse effects. Where site sensitivity remains, construction monitoring will be done.

It is important to note that Dames & Moore consulted with the Department of Fish and Game and other responsible agencies during the preparation of the EA/Initial Study. The Department's Natural Diversity Data Base provided a report on the sensitive plant and animal species previously recorded in the vicinity of the proposed route. In addition, the Department's Environmental Services personnel reviewed maps of the proposed route and identified resources of concern. All identified concerns were discussed in the EA/Initial Study.

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LETTER (Cont.)

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- 2 More specifically, the proposed cable line is near two active bald eagle nests, one at Iron Canyon Reservoir and the other at McCloud Reservoir. We believe that cable construction should not be allowed during the nesting season, which is January 15 through August 15 each year. This construction restriction should be imposed for two sections of road: 1) at the intersection of the Big Bend/McCloud Reservoir Road and the Iron Canyon Dam Road in Section 22, T37N, R1W and extending north to the intersection with the Deamius Campground Road in Section 16, T37N, R1W, and 2) in Section 21, T38N, R2W where the McCloud Reservoir Road crosses Battle Creek and extending to where the McCloud Road intersects with the Yarrantula Gulch Road in Section 16, T38N, R2W.
- 3 We concur with the report (page 4-8, paragraph 5) that specific field surveys are needed for most of the plants listed under the rare, threatened and endangered plants section to determine whether or not the project will impact them. We suggest that the results of these surveys, alternatives, and appropriate mitigation measures be included in the DEIS.

RESPONSES

- 2 The EA notes on page 4-13 that bald eagles are sensitive to human disturbance and their reproductive success may be adversely affected if construction activities occur near a nest site during the January 15 - August 15 nesting season. Seasonal timing restrictions, such as those suggested here, are often prescribed to protect nesting eagles, depending on site-specific conditions which includes: (1) the distance from the nest to the proposed activity, (2) the nature of the proposed activity, (3) the timing of the proposed activity, and (4) the sensitivity of the individual nesting pair.

These factors were examined during preparation of the EA/Initial Study and discussed with the US Forest Service biologists who have specific management responsibility for these nests. The conclusions reached were that seasonal timing restrictions were not needed for this cable installation project and that the project would not affect the nesting eagles at either Iron Canyon or McCloud reservoirs.

These conclusions were reevaluated based on the Department's comments on the EA/Initial Study and the analyses are included in the supplemental biological report provided to the Department. This reevaluation included discussion with Mr. Dave Smith, the Department's Environmental Services representative for Shasta County, and Mr. Terry Brumley, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist for the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Mr. Brumley has served on the California Bald Eagle Advisory Team for several years. These analyses further supported the previous conclusion that seasonal timing restrictions are unnecessary to protect nesting eagles in these instances.

- 3 Dames & Moore subcontracted Planning Associates of Redding to complete the detailed field inventories for rare, threatened, and endangered plants. With one exception, these surveys are now complete and the results have been submitted to this Department and other responsible agencies in the report, "Supplemental Biological Analyses for the US Sprint Fiber Optic Cable." A 5-mile portion of the route in Siskiyou County must still be surveyed for the species *Cordylanthus tenuis pallens*; these surveys are scheduled for late July to early August when the species will be in flower.

The specific results of the sensitive plant surveys are detailed in the supplemental biological report. Briefly, the following conclusions were reached.

- No populations of officially designated threatened or endangered plants were found during the intensive field surveys.
- Populations of *Lewisia cotyledon* (var. *howellii*), *Eupatorium shastense*, and an unidentified species of *Sedum* (possibly a new taxon) were located in Shasta County on rock faces adjacent to Forest Service Road 38N11.1, near Deer Creek. These populations would not be impacted by the proposed project because the cable will be installed in the roadbed through these areas.

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LETTER (Cont.)

4 In addition to the plant survey listed in Table 4-1, we believe that the vernal pools along Airport Road near the Redding Airport should be surveyed. These vernal pools in Tehama and Butte counties may support *Orcuttia tenuis* or *Orcuttia pilosa*, two State-listed endangered plants. The project may or may not impact these species depending on which side of the road the cable is placed. We also recommend that *Phlox hirsuta* be evaluated along the cable route from Granada to Ager in Siskiyou County.

5 Construction in wetlands is also an area of concern to us. The EA states that several small marshes extend into the road rights-of-way followed by the cable route and, in many areas, cattail, rush and other wetland plants have invaded roadside ditches (page 3-18, paragraph 2). The document also states that hand trenching is generally used in locations where wet conditions prevent the use of heavy equipment (page 2-3, paragraph 1). Additionally, the document observes that the impacts upon a wetland near Black Butte should be minor as long as equipment does not become stuck or bogged down in the wet soils (page 4-11, "Wetlands", paragraph 3).

In order to meet the requirements of CEQA, it is essential that the EIR identify and map all the wetlands along the route. Wetland identification should be based upon the criteria utilized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition, due to the widespread loss of wetlands throughout the State, it is the Department's position that projects should not result in a net loss of either wetland acreage or wetland habitat values. Any loss of wetland habitat must be compensated for through the conversion of non-wetland habitat. Wetlands thus created must provide wildlife values at least equal to those previously provided by the wetlands lost due to the project. Compensatory wetlands should be located as close to the location of previous wetlands as is practicable. The potential adverse impacts to wetlands associated with the interruption of surface and groundwater flows resultant from trenching and a service road (if any) must also be considered and fully offset.

RESPONSES

- 3 c. Planning Associates did identify three areas where potential habitat for rare plants would be potentially impacted by the cable alignment: (1) vernal pools at scattered locations in Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, and Butte counties; (2) potential habitat for *Lomatium peckianum* between Ager and the Klamath River bridge at Klamathon (Siskiyou County); and (3) potential habitat for *Poa fibrata* adjacent to the route from Cazelle to a point 3 miles north of Granada (Siskiyou County). Planning Associates recommended minor alignment adjustments to avoid these potential habitats. These recommendations were reviewed with the consulting botanists in the field and approved by US Sprint.
- d. Although the inventory for *Cordylanthus tenuis polioescens* has not been completed, field review of the survey area indicated that minor realignments can easily be identified to avoid any populations that may be found.

Based on the above findings, populations and habitats of rare, threatened, or endangered plant populations would not be affected by the proposed project in California.

- 4 The alignment is on the north side of the road near the Redding Airport. The vernal pool in the vicinity of the route was surveyed and no rare plants were encountered. The proposed alignment in this area has been slightly modified to assure that the vernal pool will not be impacted.

The route was evaluated for *Phlox hirsuta* in the area noted. The species does not occur in areas potentially affected by the proposed cable installation.

- 5 The presence of wetlands on or adjacent to the proposed route was assessed during the field reconnaissance for the EA. Detailed wetlands mapping was not deemed necessary since the wetlands noted were primarily small linear stands of cattail or bulrush that have invaded the roadside drainage ditch or irrigation ditches within the road rights-of-way.

Based on the Department's comment, Dames & Moore resurveyed the entire route and mapped all areas of emergent vegetation on US Sprint's detailed construction plans. A summary of the wetlands inventory is included in the report, "Supplemental Biological Analyses for the US Sprint Fiber Optic Cable."

While completing this additional inventory, recommendations were made to avoid these small wetland areas wherever feasible along the proposed alignment. US Sprint has approved these minor adjustments in the alignment.

Not all wetland areas could be feasibly avoided due to County requirements that the cable be installed in the bottom of certain drainage ditches. The effects of construction are expected to be temporary and insignificant. Drainage patterns will be restored following construction and the wetland species present (*Typha* spp. and *Scirpus* spp.) are known to quickly reestablish or invade wet areas. No long-term conversion of wetlands will result from the project so compensation is not considered necessary.

LETTER (Cont.)

6 Our fisheries concerns relate to where the route crosses existing landslides and to the large number of stream crossings that are planned. The EA recognizes a problem where the route crosses existing landslides between Big Bend and McCloud in Shasta and Siskiyou counties (page 3-12). Some mitigation measures are discussed on pages 4-1 and 4-2. However, the recommendations to meet with the agencies responsible for maintenance and to have a geotechnical engineer evaluate each site and develop a site-specific mitigation plan have not been done. We believe that the agency consultation and geotechnical engineer's recommendations should be developed and included in the DEIR, as these impacts could be significant to the fishery resources of the area. The major streams in these areas include Kosh Creek, Hawkins Creek, McCloud River, McCloud Reservoir, Tarantula Gulch and tributaries to Squaw Valley Creek. All of these streams, as well as McCloud Reservoir, support substantial trout populations that receive heavy amounts of angling use. The McCloud River is a noteworthy trophy wild trout fishery.

7 Over its 457-mile course, the proposed cable would cross eight major river systems, five of which are in California (page 3-10, paragraph 5). In addition, the cable would cross numerous permanent, intermittent and ephemeral streams. The EA only addresses 48 stream crossings from Oroville to the stream just south of the Shasta County line (Maps 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the appendix). We recognize that all of the river and stream crossings on private land will be covered under Streambed Alteration Agreements (Fish and Game Code Section 1603) with the Department of Fish and Game. However, the EA (page 2-3, paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 and page 2-4, paragraph 1) makes proposals which we may not agree to concerning construction activity in streams. We have concerns about placing the cable under existing culverts (page 2-3, paragraph 5) which may weaken the structure and contribute to culvert failure in the future. In most cases, trenching in the creek is allowed only when the site is dewatered and isolated (page 2-3, paragraph 6). We do not allow concrete to be poured in the stream except where the work area is isolated from the water by temporarily diverting the stream or by placing a coffer dam around the site and the work area pumped dry (page 2-3, paragraph 7, and page 2-4, paragraph 1). The excess material must be removed from the stream unless it is clean cobble or rock.

Potential fishery impacts include soil siltation of the streams during construction, discharge of petroleum products to streams during vehicle maintenance, and accelerated erosion from construction in unstable soils and landslide areas. The Streambed Alteration Agreement process should be adequate to ensure that these potential impacts are avoided.

RESPONSES

6 Since the publication of the EA/Initial Study, US Sprint has met with appropriate responsible agencies regarding construction in landslide areas. The areas of concern have been reviewed in the field by US Sprint and U.S. Forest Service engineers (North Zonal). Minor realignment was done to move the cable route out of the roadside ditch and into the actual roadway, to avoid potential exacerbation of existing instability. The cable will not be buried in existing fill areas.

The final route and construction procedures have been reviewed and approved by the U.S. Forest Service. As stated in the U.S. Forest Service Decision Notice dated 11 June 1987, the agency does not anticipate that the project will result in any significant impacts.

Both US Sprint and the U.S. Forest Service will have qualified engineering construction inspectors in these areas to continually monitor construction through historical landslide areas.

7 The EA/Initial Study only addresses 48 stream crossings in Glenn, Butte, and Tehama counties because these are the only stream crossings where construction will occur in the streambed. All other crossings will be accomplished by attaching the cable to existing bridges or installing the cable either under or over culverts.

All construction activities in streams will be subject to the Streambed Alteration Agreements issued by the Department of Fish and Game on 20 May 1987. Prior to issuing these agreements, Department representatives examined all stream crossings in a joint field review with US Sprint. The Agreements specify the conditions under which the work must be conducted. US Sprint will comply with all conditions specified by the Department.

LETTER (Cont.)

- 8 Deer winter ranges along the route from the Ager-Beswick Road to the Klamath River and the segment of deer winter range east of Hillt may be impacted by the project. Any reduction in deer habitat within these winter ranges will require compensation measures to replace the lost habitat on-site or immediately adjacent to the site. From our experience, the project sponsor should consider acquiring three compensation acres for every one acre lost. A deer habitat compensation plan acceptable to the Department of Fish and Game should be developed for those lands. This requirement should be included in the DEIR.

Thank you for including us in your early planning for this project. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Mr. A. E. Maylor, Regional Manager, Region 1, 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001. His telephone number is (916) 225-2363.

J. P. D. D. D. D.
Jack C. Farnell
Director

Two enclosures

cc: Bob Sellman, Siskiyou County Planning Department
Jim Rosson, Resource Officer, McCloud Ranger Station
Joe Hunter, Director, Shasta County Planning Department
Ted Rado, USFWS
State Clearinghouse

RESPONSES

- 8 The impacts to black-tailed deer winter range are discussed in detail in the report, "Supplemental Biological Resource Analyses for the US Sprint Fiber Optic Cable Project." Two areas of winter range are intersected by the proposed alignment, the Black Mountain Winter Range between Ager and the Klamath River, and the Jenny Creek Winter Range east of Hillt.

No winter range would be affected in the Black Mountain area. The proposed route would be in the gravel shoulder of the road throughout this area.

A maximum area of 0.75 acre of winter range would be affected on the extreme western margin of the Jenny Creek Winter Range east of Hillt. Field inspection of the area suggested that the specific area is not extensively used by deer. The disturbance will be temporary and insignificant compared to the thousands of acres of range included in this winter range. US Sprint has committed to reseeded disturbed areas of the winter range with a mixture of preferred deer forage species.

LETTER

COUNTY OF SHASTA
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

JOE E. HUNTER, DIRECTOR
1405 PLACER ST.
REDDING, CA 96004
PHONE 916 225 5437

May 19, 1987

Ted T. Fukushima
Division of Research
and Planning
State Lands Commission
1807 13th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SCH NO: 8705 0510 (U. S. Sprint)

Dear Ted:

In reviewing the initial study for the U. S. Sprint installation of a fiber optic telecommunication system facilities in Shasta County, we as a permit agency are restricted to review the environmental implications of that portion of the project which we have permit authority for under CEQA section 15096(d).

In this case, a use permit is required for the repeater stations located on lands under our authority. In particular, the sites located at McCloud Reservoir, Bella Vista, and North Anderson.

The repeater stations themselves will not have a significant effect on the environment and a Negative Declaration will probably be prepared for the construction of the 3 repeater stations.

We do have environmental concerns regarding the installation of the cable itself, and would like to comment on these on an unofficial level.

In reviewing the initial study, it appears that the project may have more extensive impacts in the following areas:

1. The project traverses the Big Bend area, an area that is extremely sensitive from an archaeological standpoint. Although the proposed cable route is in the area of existing roads, these roads have been in existence for many years, and road building being what it was in the past, a 42" deep cut may easily affect archaeological resources in this area, and further study should be completed prior to construction of the line.
2. More accurate information as to the actual location of rare plants in relation to the cable route should be presented.

RESPONSES

1 The Big Bend route was intensively surveyed for cultural resources in March 1987. In all of Shasta County, the only sites located that could have been potentially affected by project construction were either on private land within US Forest Service easements or private land within Coltrane easements. All of those sites have been avoided through cable reroute except CA-SHA-1684 in Squaw Valley. This site is on a US Forest Service easement through private land. Testing under authority of and cooperation with Shasta-Trinity National Forest and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) indicated that the site would not be affected by project construction. Both the survey report and preliminary testing report have been reviewed by Shasta-Trinity National Forest and SHPO.

2 This information could not be provided until intensive surveys of the route were completed. These have now been completed and the results are included in the report, "Supplemental Biological Analyses for the US Sprint Fiber Optic Cable," submitted to this County and other responsible agencies.

See Response #3 to the Department of Fish and Game for further information.

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LETTER (Cont.)

No mention was given for revegetating the cable routes where it leaves road and rail right of ways to restore habitat areas, erosion control, and slope stability.

A fossil site located northeast of Montgomery Creek along State Highway 2992 was not identified in the Initial Study.

The Initial Study does not contain sufficient mitigation measures on construction of the line in the vicinity of the eagle nest at McCloud reservoir. Construction should be limited to the non-nesting season.

Finally, the sections dealing with the crossing of riparian lands does not appear to adequately address the impacts to this critical habitat area.

In conclusion, although we are not in a position to require an EIR, due to CDDA section 15096(d), we feel that an EIR addressing the above concerns is appropriate.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please feel free to contact me at (916) 225-5532.

Sincerely,

JOE HUNTER
Planning Director

Pat Law

J. PAT CECIL
Associate Planner

JPC/lcc

RESPONSES

- 3 Where necessary, the cable route will be revegetated to restore habitat and slope stability, and as erosion control. Revegetation is identified as committed mitigation in the EA on page 4-4.
- 4 The cable route in this area is located on a road west of State Highway 2992, and will therefore not affect the fossil site along the state highway.
- 5 See response to California Department of Fish and Game, Comment #2.
- 6 A detailed discussion of the effects of the proposal on riparian habitat has been included in the report, "Supplemental Ecological Analyses for the US Sprint Fiber Optic Cable." No riparian habitat would be affected in Shasta County. Riparian habitats would be disturbed in other counties only where responsible agencies stipulated that this cable not be attached to existing bridges. All construction activities in riparian habitats will be conducted in accordance with the conditions of Streambed Alteration Agreements issued by the California Department of Fish and Game. These agreements were issued by the Department on 20 May 1987.
- 7 The results of field programs and committed mitigation plans support a Negative Declaration with mitigation.

LETTER

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

TELEPHONE: 642-2837, EXTENSION 242
PLANNING DIRECTOR ROBERT W. MILLMAN



County of Siskiyou

P.O. BOX 1005
YREKA, CALIFORNIA
96097

June 12, 1987

Mr. Ted T. Fukushima
Division of Planning and Research
State Lands Commission
1807 - 13th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Fukushima:

Pursuant to our June 9 telephone conversation, I am providing comment on the Environmental Assessment for the U.S. Sprint Fiber Optic Cable Project. The extremely short review period which concluded May 19, 1987, (i.e., we received the document on May 6) made it impossible for us to respond within the time specified due to normal staffing demands and prior commitments.

You indicated the Division will be proposing a Negative Declaration with mitigation addressing potentially significant effects to the Commission. After reviewing the document, it is apparent that the Commission, as decision makers, will have difficulty in approving a Negative Declaration since not all resources have been identified. Presumably, the result of an intensive archaeological survey, for the entire proposed route in California, will be available to the Commission in sufficient time prior to the scheduled late June hearing. However, it will not likely be made available to reviewing agencies, as ourselves, in sufficient time for analysis for recommendation purposes (note: please provide us with a copy of the archaeological survey when it is available). Also, recommended mitigation for potential impacts on Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants (Table 4-1) indicates further surveys in Shasta and Squaw Creek Valleys of Siskiyou County which may reveal resources requiring special mitigation for which the Commission should be aware for approval purposes.

Our review of resource information on rare plants available in our office indicates known populations of two additional sensi-

RESPONSE

1 The EA/Initial Study states that additional cultural and sensitive plant inventories would be required to fully address the potential impacts to these resources. Before the EA/Initial Study was released, US Sprint made a commitment to complete the studies and to perform mitigation needed to protect identified resources. With one exception, these surveys are complete and the results are being submitted to the County and other responsible agencies. A detailed survey for the rare plant, *Cordylanthus tenax pollicens* remains to be completed on a 5-mile section of the proposed route; this survey is scheduled for the period July 20-August 1 when the species should be in full bloom. For additional information, please see Response 3 to the Department of Fish and Game.

Since receipt of the comment letter from Siskiyou County, the appropriate cultural resource reports have been provided to the county. Based on the intensive archaeological survey of the route, a testing program was conducted for sites potentially affected by the project. Results of the testing program (provided to Siskiyou County) have been reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the USFS Archaeologist, Trinity-Shasta National Forest.

Both the SHPO and USFS Archaeologist have approved the survey and testing procedures used, as well as recommendations for construction monitoring in sensitive areas, and are currently preparing formal written approvals stating that the project will have no adverse effect on cultural resources (personal communication, W. Hearn, USFS, June 18, 1987; D. Dutschke, SHPO, June 18, 1987).

2 These locations were reviewed with the botanist who conducted the field surveys in Siskiyou County. The *Pedicularis contorta* record is apparently erroneous because this plant is an alpine species which does not occur in the area identified. *Thelypodium brachycarpum* was not encountered along US Sprint's proposed route. The status of this species has apparently changed since the County's data were compiled. The species is now on the California Native Plant Society Inventory List 4, "Plants of Limited Distribution." Plants on this list are considerably more common than the species emphasized in the rare plant inventory and surveys.

LETTER (Cont.)

RESPONSES

Mr. Fukushima - Page 2 - June 12, 1987

2

tive species identified by the Natural Diversity Data have not listed in Table 3-2. These are identified as follows with its identified distribution along the proposed route:

1. Scientific Name: Pedicularis Contorta

Common Name: Curved Beak Lousewort

Route Location: North of Mount Shasta City, Spring Hill Drive area (West 1/2 Section 31, T41N, R4W).

2. Scientific Name: Thelypodium brachycarpum

Common Name: Short poded Thelypodium

Route Location: Shasta Valley in three locations:

(a) Three miles north of North Old Stage Road (West 1/2 Section 19, T42N, R5W and East 1/2 Section 24, T42N, R6W).

(b) Gazelle (Northeast 1/4 Section 3, T43N, R6W).

(c) City of Montague, along 11th Street.

3

In addition to these, we find Cordylanthus tenuis pallascens (Pallid bird's beak) as a known population identified along Spring Hill Drive (i.e., Table 4-1 indicates no known population affected). Please include the above information to be incorporated into further detailed foot surveys preferably for inclusion into a Draft EIR for distribution to all affected agencies and interested persons in accordance with CEQA.

4

With respect to Big Game Winter Range (page 4-12), we concur both with the State Department of Fish and Game (correspondence to you dated May 27, 1987), that additional Deer Winter Range occurs along Ager Road to the Klamath River and that mitigation requires a deer habitat compensation plan acceptable to DFG for all identified Deer Winter Range including range north of Hornbrook.

5

An examination of U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) mapping for Shasta Valley indicates to us that at least 8.1 miles of the proposed route will traverse areas of High Soil Erosion potential. We urge you to include the recommended mitigation

3

The population in question is located 50 feet from US Sprint's proposed alignment. It is separated from the alignment by a grove of trees and a steep slope. This population will not be affected by the proposed project.

4

See response to California Fish and Game Department, Comment #8.

5

The referenced erosion control measures apply to all parts of the cable route. However, it is important to remember that the proposed route in Siskiyou County would be located within road or railway rights-of-way for all but 7 miles of its total length. Road and railway construction and maintenance have reduced slopes, and thus reduced erosion potential, over most of these areas.

The overland portion of the route, from Hornbrook north to the Oregon border, would cross areas of moderate to high erosion potential. US Sprint will implement erosion control and revegetation measures in this area, as needed. A revegetation seed mixture beneficial to wildlife has been proposed for this area.

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LETTER (Cont.)

RESPONSES

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5 If highly erosive soils disturbance as provided on page 4-4 for all high and moderate to high erosion prone soils.

6 For your information, U.S. Sprint is required to obtain an approved use permit for both the cable route and the four repeater stations proposed in Siskiyou County. We will require certain mitigation as part of the CQA document to address those significant effects to be identified as well as conditions to the permit approval. We strongly recommend the State Lands Commission find that not all information is available to approve a Negative Declaration with mitigation, but rather that a draft EIR be prepared for full information disclosure prior to Commission decision making.

If you have any questions, please call or write. Should you require information from our records for your recommendation to the Commission, please let me know. Finally, let me express my appreciation to you for allowing these late comments. Thank you.

Yours truly,
Siskiyou County Planning Department
Robert W. Sellman, Planning Director

Robert W. Sellman
Robert W. Sellman
Senior Planner

DP:os

6 US Sprint will obtain all required permits prior to construction in any given jurisdiction. The results of field programs and specific committed mitigation planning efforts now completed and documented supporting a Negative Declaration with mitigation.

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LETTER



Glenn County Planning Department
125 South Main Street
Glenn, California 95928
Phone (916) 938-3228

RESPONSE

Glenn County Planning Department

125 South Main Street
Glenn, California 95928
Phone (916) 938-3228

JUNE 8, 1987

Mr. Ted T. Fatushian
Division of Research and Planning
State Lands Commission
1887 - 13th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Fatushian:

Re: U. S. Sprint Fiber Optic Cable SCM No. 8705 0510

(File No. W23963)

This is in reply to your notice dated May 5, 1987. On June 4, 1987, the Technical Advisory Committee reviewed this project and determined that the environmental impacts in Glenn County would be minimal and therefore, a negative Declaration is recommended.

Very truly yours,

Christy Lighton

Christy Lighton,
Planner II

CL:gt

1 Comment noted:

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LETTER

RESPONSE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - TRANSPORTATION AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PROJECT 3
P.O. BOX 911, SACRAMENTO 95833
Telephone: (916) 741-4498

June 21, 1987

03-Bur, C2a-War.
U. S. Sprint
Fiber Optic Cable

Mr. Ted Fukushima
State Lands Commission
1807 13th Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Mr. Fukushima:

Caltrans, District 3, has reviewed the initial study/environmental assessment for the installation of a fiber optic telecommunication system from Oroville, California to Eugene, Oregon. The portion of the project within District 3's jurisdiction will follow State Highway 152 in Butte County westward across State Highway 99, then proceed north to Chico and west along State Highway 32 in Glenn County.

In order for Caltrans to issue an encroachment permit for State Highway crossings, more specific information relevant to resources within the Highway rights of way is needed. Table 3-6 lists six prehistoric resource sites in Butte County. We would be interested in revising the archaeological survey report when available to determine if any of these sites are within State right of way.

Table 3-4 lists rare, threatened or endangered animals potentially occurring near the proposed cable route. We are concerned that the Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Geococcyx occidentalis*) was not included on the list. This bird is a Federal candidate species and a State threatened species. It occurs in riparian communities and is known as far north as Red Bluff. Page 3-18 states that riparian communities occur throughout the project region.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Jeannie Baker, telephone (916) 741-4498.

Sincerely,

John J. Smith

John J. Smith
Chief, Environmental Branch

1 Copies of the cultural resources survey and testing reports have been provided to Caltrans, District 3. They have also been informed that the survey did not identify any sites within Caltrans' right-of-way that would be potentially affected by the project (personal communication, M. Bone, Caltrans, June 22, 1987).

2 The western yellow-billed cuckoo was not identified as a species of concern for this project by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The potential for direct impact to the species is negligible since the proposed construction period is late in the nesting season. Impacts related to habitat alteration are also considered minimal. While riparian habitat loss occurs along streams and rivers throughout the project region, cable installation will require minimal disturbance of riparian vegetation. All stream crossings requiring disturbance in the riparian zone were examined in the field by a representative of the Department of Fish and Game before Streambed Alteration Agreements were issued on 20 May 1987. Conditions of these Agreements require US Sprint to minimize removal of riparian vegetation. US Sprint will conform to this and other permit conditions.

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LETTER



COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT PLANNING

1000 and Main Street,
P.O. Box 3130
Chico, CA 95927
(916) 895-1000
4155 200 Ave.

June 2, 1987

Ted T. Fukushima
Division of Research & Planning
State Lands Commission
1807 13th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Environmental Determination - U. S. Sprint Fiber Optic
Telecommunication System Installation (SCH 87050510)

Dear Mr. Fukushima:

1 [Based on a review of the environmental assessment and initial study prepared for the referenced project and evaluation of the project's impact on resources within the City of Chico, it has been determined that negative declaration is sufficient to address the City's concerns.

2 [However, it is requested that item "N-5" of the Environmental Impact Assessment Checklist - Part II, be amended to "maybe". Should the project proponent fail to properly install the proposed underground facilities, or to adequately restore the surface to its previous condition, damage could result to public infrastructure including streets, street shoulders, sanitary sewer, storm drains and other underground utilities. To mitigate this possible impact, the project proponent should be required to detail the means utilized during construction to avoid damage to other underground facilities and the method of surface restoration. In no case should existing facilities be reduced by this project. Further, the applicant should be required to guarantee public facilities from resulting damage for a minimum of five years from completion of the work through bonds or similar instrument.

Please feel free to contact me if any additional information is required.

Sincerely,

Cliff Sellers
Cliff Sellers
Planning Director

CS:pb
cc: CSD/PWD

RESPONSE

1 Comment noted.

2 It is assumed that these issues will be resolved as part of the local permit process, since they are issues applicable to local permitting authorities (i.e., the City of Chico).

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LETTER



CITY OF REDDING

May 7, 1987
A-870-045

Ted T. Fushkian
Commissioner of Planning
State Lands Commission
1807 - 13th Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Mr. Fushkian:

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment and Initial Study of the
U. S. Sprint Fiber Optic Cable Project

We have briefly reviewed your notice of the U. S. Sprint project in our area.

The project will require an encroachment permit from the City of Redding. Where the facilities are placed in the street right of way, U. S. Sprint will be competing for a space in that roadway. The roadway has recently been resurfaced and water/sewer facilities installed or programmed for the right of way.

I strongly suggest early presentation of any preliminary plans for the project for our review and consideration.

Sincerely,

CARL AMESS
Director of Public Works

CA:ta

c: U. S. Sprint Communications Co.
Lucy Bowen, Jones & Moore

cc: LBJ

210 PARKWAY AVENUE REDDING, CA 96001-3000

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RESPONSE

1 Comments noted. US Sprint will obtain all necessary permits prior to construction.

LETTER



CITY OF RED BLUFF

555 Washington Street Post Office Box 400 Red Bluff, California 95060 (916) 527-2805

May 12, 1987

Ted Fekushimo
State Lands Commission
1807 13th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH No. 8705 0510

Dear Sirs:

After reviewing the Environmental Assessment and Initial Study on the above project, it is my considered opinion that a negative declaration should be filed.

By requiring all of the mitigation measures mentioned in the environmental assessment, the project should not have any adverse impact on the environment.

The City of Red Bluff will require an encroachment permit covering the area of the project within the city limit. This permit will be issued by the Public Works Department, on request.

Very truly yours,

Donald W. Rosson
DONALD W. ROSSON
Planning Officer

UWR:jh

RESPONSE

Comments noted. US Sprint will obtain all necessary encroachment permits prior to construction.

LETTER

RESPONSE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD—

NORTH COAST REGION

1400 Tenth Street

SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

Phone (916) 535 2779

May 15, 1967

State Lands Commission

1877 15th Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Gentlemen:

Subject: U.S. Serial Fiber Optic Telecommunication System Installation, 804
No. 8000000

This office has received the Environmental Assessment and Initial Study for the subject
Project and has no comment.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Hutton
Thomas W. Hutton
Environmental Specialist

cc: State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

1 Comment noted.

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LETTER

RESPONSE

Memorandum

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD - CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
1002 CYPRESS AVENUE
REDWOOD, CALIFORNIA 96087-0157
SHASTA CASCADE WATERWAYS BRANCH
PHONE (916) 236-2040
FAX (916) 236-2041

TO: Ted T. Fukushima
Division of Research and Planning
State Lands Commission
1807 13th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Robert H. Lewis
Staff Analyst

DATE: 19 May 1987

SIGNATURE: *Robert H. Lewis*

SUBJECT: REFERENCE W23960 - US SPRINT TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM INSTALLATION

1 This is in response to your 5 May 1987 letter and preliminary assessment concerning the US Sprint project.

Based on the assessment, we believe the project can be done without significant impacts on water quality. Accordingly, a Negative Declaration would appear appropriate.

Prior to any activities that could impact water quality along the project route, the project sponsor should contact this Board at the above address and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board at 1440 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa, California. The respective Boards may determine that waste discharge requirements or a waiver of requirements is necessary for this project.

MHL:gh

cc: Craig Johnson, Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region,
Santa Rosa

1 Comments noted. The Board will be contacted by US Sprint prior to project construction.

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SD 87-02-11

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM — Part I

(To be completed by applicant)

FORM 60.3(11/82)

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Name, address, and telephone number:

a. Applicant

US Sprint Communications Company9300 Metcalf, 8th FloorOverland Park, KS 66212(913) 967-5070

b. Contact person if other than applicant:

Lucy Bowen, Dames & Moore7500 Dreamy Draw Drive, Suite 145Phoenix, AZ 85020(602) 371-1110

2. a. Project location: (Please reference to nearest town or community and include county)

Oroville, California to Eugene, Oregon. Butte, Glenn, Tehama, Shasta andSiskiyou Counties, California; Jackson, Douglas and Lane Counties, Oregon.Refer to maps at end of enclosed Environmental Assessment document.

b. Assessor's parcel number: _____

3. Existing zoning of project site: _____

4. Existing land use of project site: Road, highway, railroad and utility rights-of-way; see EA.5. Proposed use of site: Buried fiber optic telecommunications cable and 22 repeater stations, approximately 102 square feet each.6. Other permits required: Federal Special-Use Permits (US Forest Service) and Right-of-Way Grants (BLM); encroachment permits, state and county highway departments and city streets; Conditional Use Permits, counties/cities; environmental clearances & approvals, as per CEQA, NEPA, and county/local ordinances.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. For building construction projects, complete "ATTACHMENT A".

2. For non-building construction projects: Describe fully, the proposed activity, its purpose and intended use, e.g. for proposed mineral prospecting permits, include the number of test holes, size of holes, amount of material to be excavated, maximum surface area of disturbance, hole locations, depth of holes, etc. Attach plans or other drawings as necessary.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

1. Describe the project site as it exists before the project, including information on topography, soil stability, plants and animals, and any cultural, historical, or scenic aspects. Describe any existing structures on the site, and the use of the structures.
See Environmental Assessment document.
 2. Describe the surrounding properties, including information on plants and animals and any cultural, historical, or scenic aspects. Indicate the type of land use (residential, commercial, etc.), intensity of land use (one-family, apartment houses, shops, department stores, etc.), and scale of development (height, frontage, set-back, rear yard, etc.).
See Environmental Assessment document.
- D. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Answer the following questions by placing a check in the appropriate box. Discuss all items checked "yes" or "maybe".
(Attach additional sheets as necessary)

Will the project involve:	YES	MAYBE	NO
1. a change in existing features of any bays, tidelands, beaches, lakes, or hills, or substantial alteration of ground contours?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. a change in scenic views or vistas from existing residential areas or public lands or roads?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. See Environmental Assessment document a change in pattern, scale, or character of the general area of project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. a significant effect on plant or animal life?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. significant amounts of solid waste or litter?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. a change in dust, ash, smoke, fumes, or odors in the vicinity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Temporarily, during construction (proceeds 2-3 miles per day) a change in ocean, bay, lake, stream, or ground water quality or quantity, or alteration of existing drainage patterns?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. a change in existing noise or vibration levels in the vicinity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Temporarily, during construction construction on filled land or on slope of 10 percent or more?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. See Environmental Assessment use or disposal of potentially hazardous materials, such as toxic or radioactive substances, flammables, or explosives?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. a change in demand for municipal services (police, fire, water, sewage, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12. an increase in fossil fuel consumption (electricity, oil, natural gas, etc.)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction equipment/ electric power to repeater stations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. a larger project or a series of projects?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Completion of nationwide long-distance network	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this initial evaluation to the best of my ability, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: 15 April 1987

Signed: L.H. Bowen

STATE LANDS COMMISSION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST - PART II

Form 13.20 (7/82)

File Ref.: W 23968

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- A. Applicant: US Sprint Communications Company
9300 Metcalf, 8th Floor
Overland Park, KS 66212
- B. Checklist Date: 4 / 21 / 87
- C. Contact Person: TED T. FUKUSHIMA
 Telephone: (916) 322-7813
- D. Purpose: To provide direct nationwide "state-of-the-art" telephone network
- E. Location: Northerly from Oroville, California to Eugene, Oregon. (See Figure 1, page II-6
- F. Description: See page II-5
- G. Persons Contacted: See ATTACHMENT A

II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS. (Explain all "yes" and "maybe" answers)

A. Earth. Will the proposal result in:

- | | Yes | Maybe | No |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Disruptions, displacements, compaction, or overcovering of the soil? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Change in topography or ground surface relief features? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The destruction, covering, or modification of any unique geologic or physical features? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet, or lake? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Exposure of all people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudflows, ground failure, or similar hazards? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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B. *Air*. Will the proposal result in:

Yes Maybe No

1. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. The creation of objectionable odors? ☐ ☐ ☒
3. Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally? ☐ ☐ ☒

C. *Water*. Will the proposal result in:

1. Changes in the currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff? ☐ ☐ ☒
3. Alterations to the course or flow of flood waters? ☐ ☐ ☒
4. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body? ☐ ☐ ☒
5. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? ☐ ☒ ☐
6. Alteration of the direct on or rate of flow of ground waters? ☐ ☐ ☒
7. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations? ☐ ☐ ☒
8. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies? ☐ ☐ ☒
9. Exposure of people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves? ☐ ☐ ☒
10. Significant changes in the temperature, flow or chemical content of surface thermal springs? ☐ ☐ ☒

D. *Plant Life*. Will the proposal result in:

1. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)? ☐ ☒ ☐
2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants? ☐ ☒ ☐
3. Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species? ☐ ☐ ☒
4. Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop? ☐ ☐ ☒

E. *Animal Life*. Will the proposal result in:

1. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, or insects)? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals? ☐ ☐ ☒
3. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals? ☐ ☐ ☒
4. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat? ☐ ☐ ☒

F. *Noise*. Will the proposal result in:

1. Increase in existing noise levels? ☐ ☒ ☐
2. Exposure of people to severe noise levels? ☐ ☐ ☒

G. *Light and Glare*. Will the proposal result in:

1. The production of new light or glare? ☐ ☐ ☒

H. *Land Use*. Will the proposal result in:

1. A substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area? ☐ ☐ ☒

I. *Natural Resources*. Will the proposal result in:

1. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resources? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. Substantial depletion of any nonrenewable resources? ☐ ☐ ☒

J. *Risk of Upset.* Does the proposal result in:

Yes Maybe No

1. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. Possible interference with emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan? ☐ ☐ ☒

K. *Population.* Will the proposal result in:

1. The alteration, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of the area? ☐ ☐ ☒

L. *Housing.* Will the proposal result in:

1. Affecting existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing? ☐ ☐ ☒

M. *Transportation/Circulation.* Will the proposal result in:

1. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. Affecting existing parking facilities, or create a demand for new parking? ☐ ☐ ☒
3. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems? ☐ ☐ ☒
4. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods? ☐ ☐ ☒
5. Alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic? ☐ ☐ ☒
6. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians? ☐ ☐ ☒

N. *Public Services.* Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:

1. Fire protection? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. Police protection? ☐ ☐ ☒
3. Schools? ☐ ☐ ☒
4. Parks and other recreational facilities? ☐ ☐ ☒
5. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? ☐ ☐ ☒
6. Other governmental services? ☐ ☐ ☒

O. *Energy.* Will the proposal result in:

1. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources? ☐ ☐ ☒

P. *Utilities.* Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:

1. Power or natural gas? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. Communication systems? ☒ ☐ ☐
3. Water? ☐ ☐ ☒
4. Sewer or septic tanks? ☐ ☐ ☒
5. Storm water drainage? ☐ ☐ ☒
6. Solid waste and disposal? ☐ ☐ ☒

Q. *Human Health.* Will the proposal result in:

1. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. Exposure of people to potential health hazards? ☐ ☐ ☒

R. *Aesthetics.* Will the proposal result in:

1. The obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view? ☐ ☒ ☐

S. *Recreation.* Will the proposal result in:

1. An impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities? ☐ ☐ ☒

T. Cultural Resources.

- | | Yes | Maybe | No |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Will the proposal result in the alteration of or the destruction of a prehistoric or historic archaeological site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Will the proposal result in adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Does the proposal have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Will the proposal restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

U. Mandatory Findings of Significance.

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

III. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION (See Comments Attached)

- A1. Potential impacts on slope stability in parts of the Klamaths and Cascades where the route crosses existing landslides.
- A2. The installation of the fiber optic cable will involve minor amounts of displacement and compaction of soils.
- A5. The installation will result in disturbance to soils within the 20-foot construction right-of-way and at the repeater station sites primarily due to heavy equipment tracks and the plow line or trench line. In areas with high erosion potential, increased erosion could result from construction-related disturbance.
- C5. Construction activities at slope crossings and water crossings could increase the potential for erosion and turbidity.
- D1. Impacts to vegetation would include tree and shrub trimming or removal in limited areas where woody vegetation would inhibit equipment passage; removal of the vegetative ground cover from the plow line (4"-wide) or trench line (12"-wide); and crushing or trampling of vegetation by equipment passage.
- D2. The project could impact rare or endangered plants. The potential effects cannot be adequately determined without further review and field surveys. These surveys are (continued on page II-10)

IV. PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☐ I find 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 the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

Date: 7 / 1 / 87

James J. Schubert
For the State Lands Commission

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FORM 1520 (7/82)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Components

US Sprint is proposing to install a buried telecommunications fiber optic cable within existing rights-of-way from Oroville, California to Eugene, Oregon (see Figure 1). Major project features will include approximately 457 miles of buried cable and 22 repeater stations located along the right-of-way at 20- to 23-mile intervals. Repeater stations serve to regenerate the light signal as it travels through the fiber optic cable. Repeater stations will have electrical power needs which, in most cases, will be met by existing overhead power lines. In some instances, new distribution line may be needed to deliver power to a station. Such lines would be about 7.2 kilovolts and can be buried.

Permits and other clearances for any such lines will be the responsibility of the local power supplier.

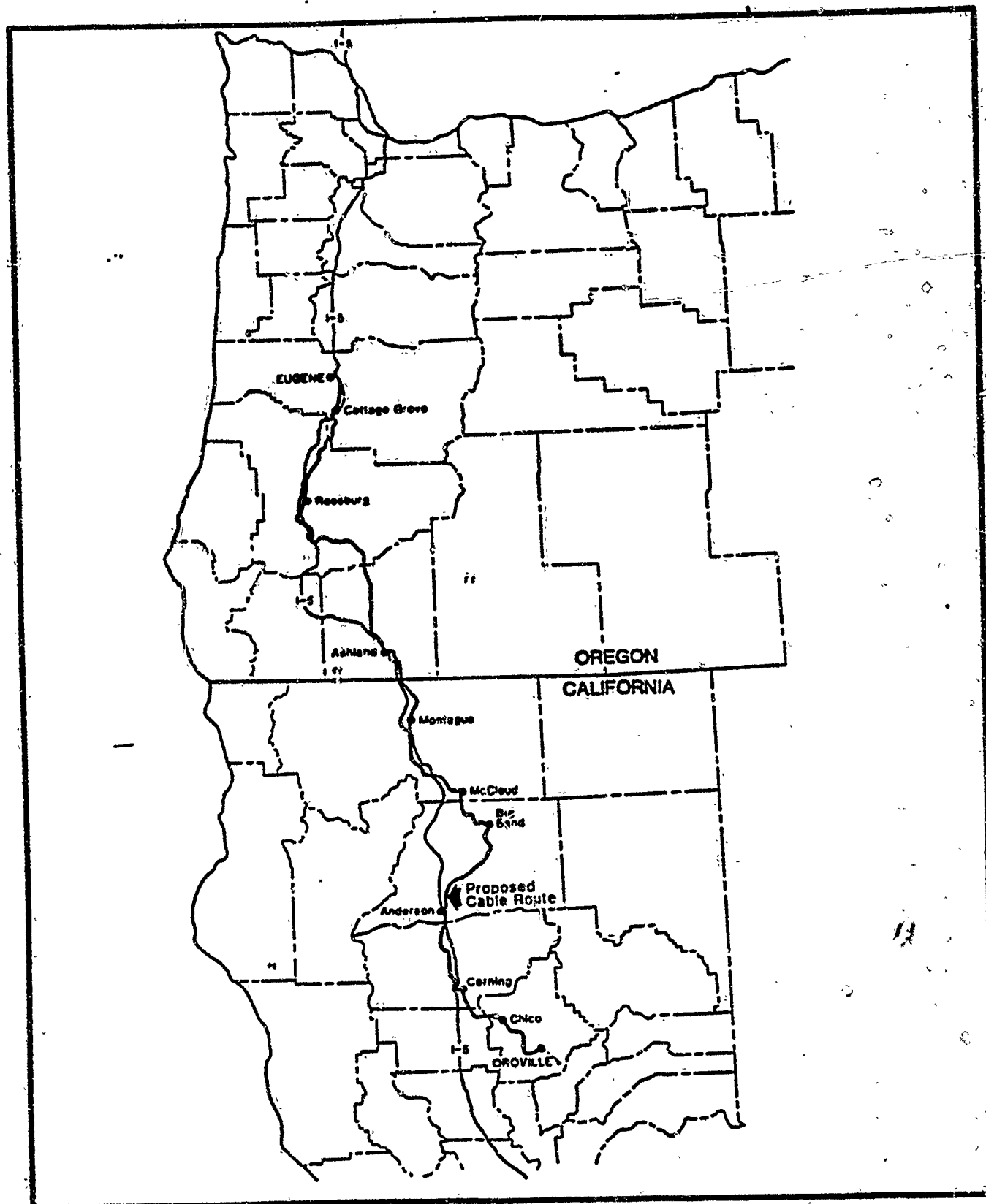
Project construction is scheduled to begin in June 1987, and will take about six months to complete. The project will require a 10-foot-wide permanent right-of-way and an additional 10-foot-wide construction right-of-way. Existing roads will be used for access to the right-of-way and all repeater stations.

The cable will be 0.5 inch in diameter, outwardly resembling a traditional copper-core telephone cable. Its glass fibers will be encased in a flexible steel sheath covered with a waterproof plastic coating. Once buried, the cable will be inert, emitting no electrical current, sound or chemical.

All but three of the repeater stations will be aboveground, concrete and aggregate, pre-cast structures measuring 8.5 feet by 12 feet, standing 8 feet high (see Figure 2). They will be set on rock fill to raise them 18 to 30 inches above grade and founded on rock piers. In three locations, US Sprint will use controlled-environment vaults (underground repeater stations). For these facilities, only the climate-control equipment remains aboveground, encompassing an area about 4 feet by 7 feet. All stations will be located adjacent to existing roads. No new access roads will be required.

Construction Methods

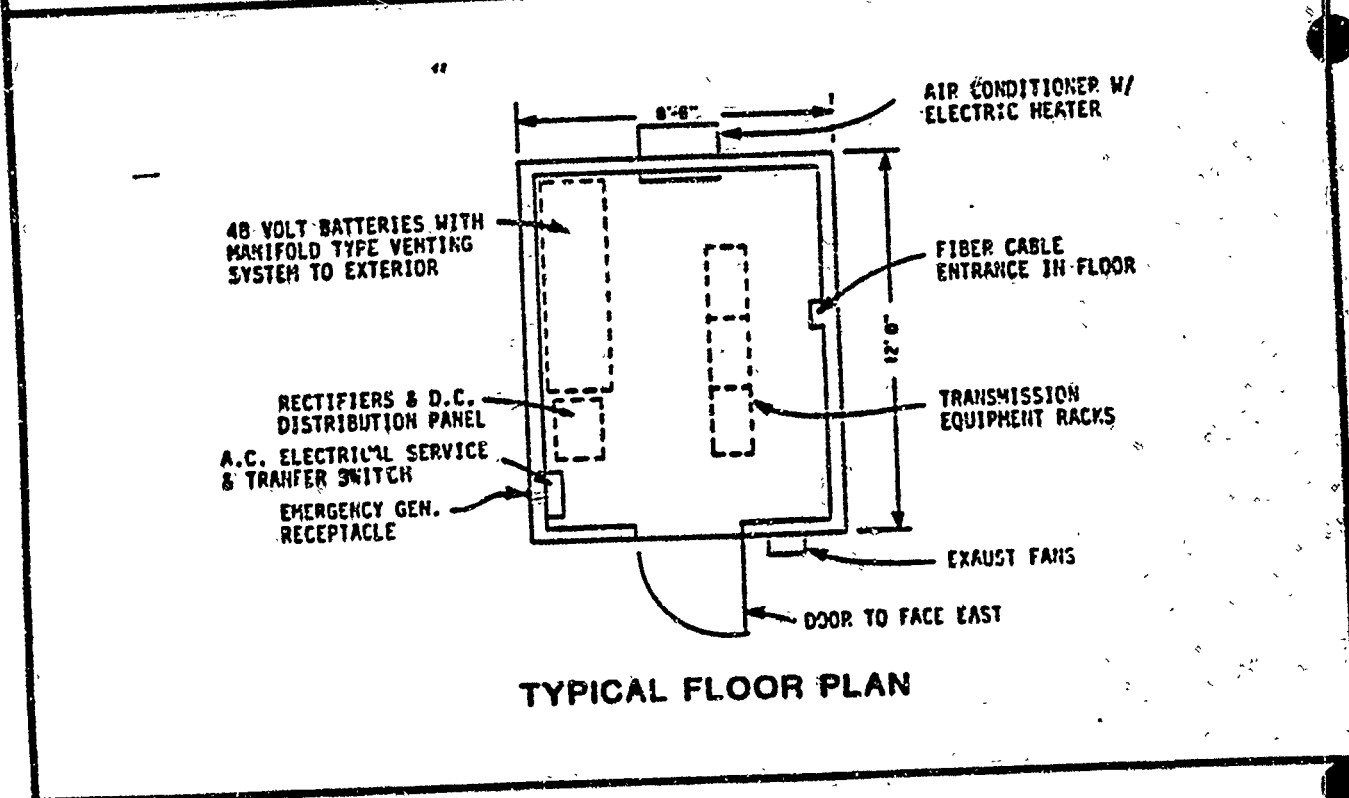
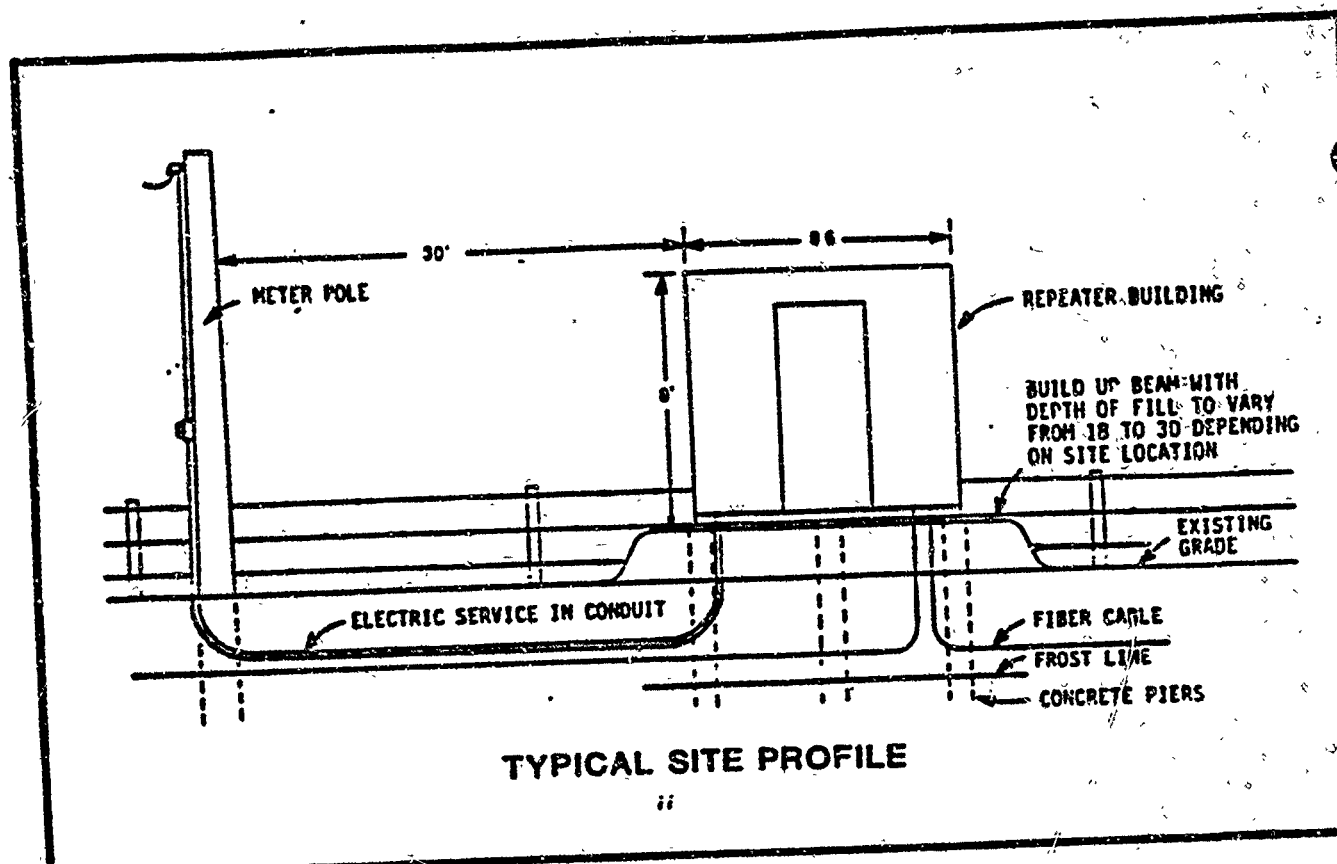
Within the right-of-way, the cable will be buried to a minimum depth of 42 inches by a number of different methods. The principal means of burial will be "plowing" with a cable plow. The plowing operation involves two bulldozers and a number of support vehicles (typically three) such as pickup trucks and crew vans. The first bulldozer will pull a ripping bar designed to slit the soil in a trench 3 to 4 inches wide and 42 inches deep. The soil will not be removed from this trench but a small amount will be displaced as the bar is pulled through. A second bulldozer with the cable plow and cable will follow the ripper. The plow will lay the cable in the pre-ripped trench, again without removing any soil other than that which is displaced. Vertical mixing of the soil will be minimized, as neither the ripping bar nor the plow will move appreciably in a vertical direction. The cable will be installed by plowing for a majority of the route (approximately 75 percent). Figure 3 shows typical cable placement by plowing and trenching in a road right-of-way.



**US SPRINT OROVILLE-EUGENE PROJECT
GENERAL PROJECT VICINITY**

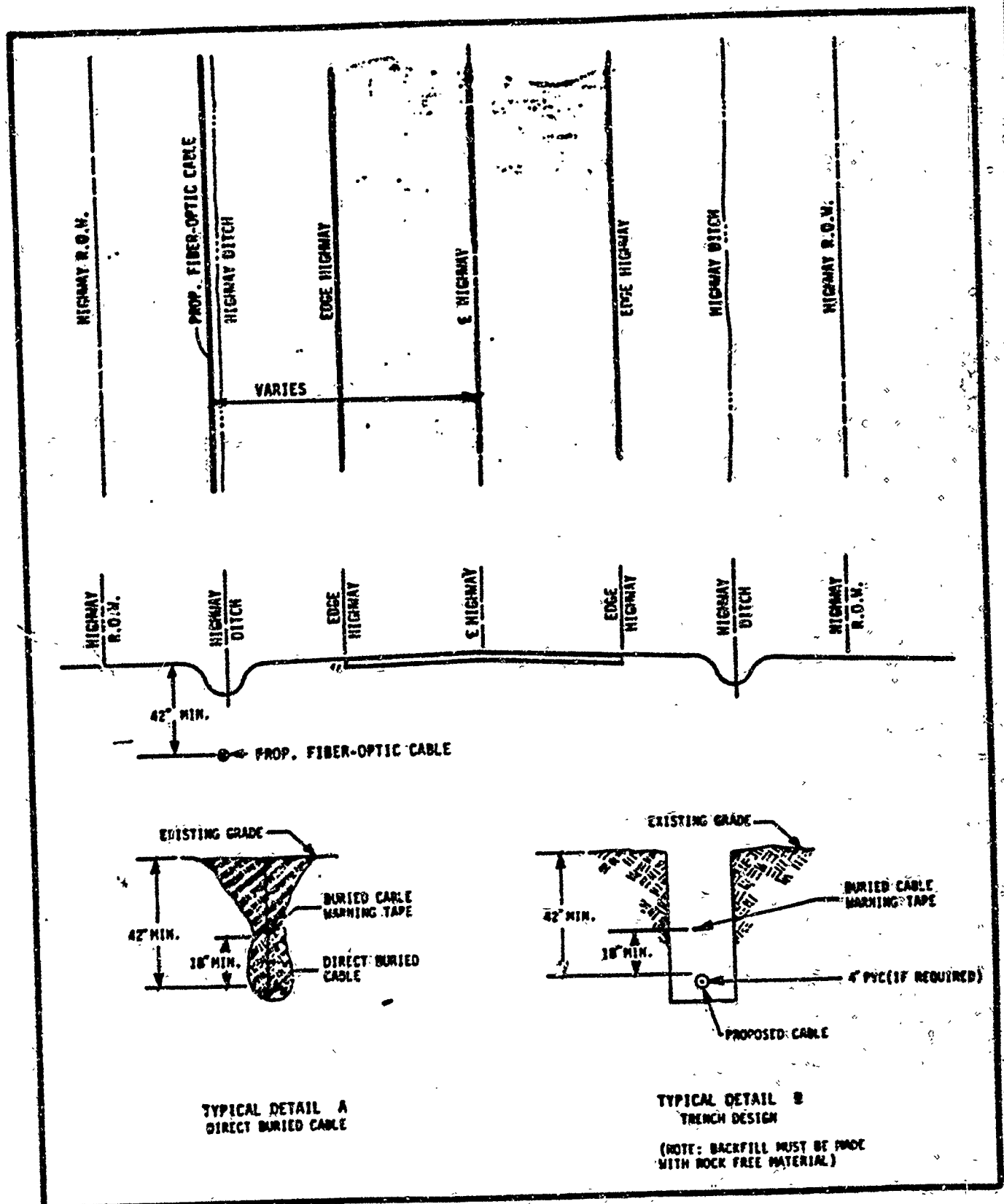
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FIGURE 1



U S SPRINT OROVILLE-EUGENE PROJECT
TYPICAL REPEATER BUILDING

FIGURE 2



US SPRINT OROVILLE-EUGENE PROJECT TYPICAL CABLE PLACEMENT IN HIGHWAY ROW

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FIGURE 3

A second method of burial is simple trenching. A rubber-tired trencher would be used to excavate the trench in urban areas and locations where the terrain is too irregular for the bulldozer and plow. Trenching would also be done with a 12-inch or 18-inch backhoe in some areas of irregular terrain (see Figure 3). The cable will usually be buried up to 60 inches deep in those areas. The trench will be excavated just prior to installation of the cable, and it will be back-filled the same day. Hand trenching may be used in some areas.

Generally, this is done in locations where wet conditions prevent the use of heavy equipment.

Rock trenching may be used in areas of coarse gravel or rock where a wider trench is required. A rock trencher has a backhoe a maximum of 24 inches wide. The width of a rock trench would depend on the nature of the substrate; wider trenches with more gradually sloping sides would be required in areas of less consolidated soils.

The cable may also pass through bedrock, necessitating the use of a rock saw which would cut a trench 4 inches wide and up to 42 inches deep. Rock sawing is slower than plowing or trenching, so it would be done in advance of the cable-laying operation to avoid delays. No bedrock trenches would remain open for more than one day.

A number of perennial and ephemeral streams and rivers will be crossed. Where a steel bridge exists at a river, the cable is attached to the bridge structure in conduit. Where a culvert exists, the cable can be placed over or under the culvert. No construction activity takes place in the water where bridge attachments or culverts are used.

Where bridges or culverts do not exist, the cable is placed in the stream bottom. Generally, where the bottom is silt, the cable is plowed across to a depth of 42 inches or deeper. The cable is usually placed in conduit for protection, and the conduit is weighted to prevent it from floating.

Where the bottom of the water crossing is rock, the rock would be cut to a depth of up to 42 inches. The cable would be placed in a conduit in the trench, which is about 12 inches wide, and the trench backfilled with concrete or the crushed rock removed in cutting the trench. Any excess material would be removed from the watercourse or spread on the bottom of the watercourse, as directed by the agency having jurisdiction over the crossing. Figure 4 illustrates typical cable plowing and trenching operation for stream crossings.

Roads, streets, irrigation ditches and canals are bored under. The bore is generally made at a depth of 42 inches below the bottom of the borrow ditch. Galvanized pipe is placed, and the cable is pulled through the conduit. Bores are generally made from road or street right-of-way line to right-of-way line.

The aboveground pre-cast repeater stations will be erected on cast-in-place foundations. Minor excavation will be required for each station, disturbing an area approximately 25 feet by 25 feet. About the same amount of surface area is disturbed for underground vaults, and they are buried about 7.5 feet deep.

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III. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION (continued from page II-4)

planned for spring and summer 1987, prior to construction in affected areas.

- F1. The construction activities will result in short-term increase in existing noise levels.
- P2. The project will result in the alteration of existing communication system by providing alternate long distance telephone system.
- R1. Potential adverse visual impacts of the buried cable alignment could result from high visual contrasts in sensitive areas. Erosion scars and visible landform or vegetation changes at stream crossings are example of high contrast changes. Because the alignment follows highway and railroad rights-of-way, these disturbed areas will show little change after cable installation.
- T1. The project could result in the alteration of or destruction of prehistoric or archeological site. However, the actual impacts to such cultural resources cannot be determined until the intensive archeological survey has been completed.

ATTACHMENT A

PERSONS CONTACTED

Federal Agencies

US Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Shasta-Trinity National Forests
McCloud Ranger District
P.O. Box 1620
McCloud, CA 96057
Attn.: Mike Burns

US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Redding District
355 Hemsted
Redding, CA 96002
Attn.: Bill Lawhorn

US Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District
650 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn.: John Rompalla

US Department of the Interior
Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Endangered Species Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1823
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846
Attn.: Gail C. Kobetich

State Agencies

Caltrans-Planning
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn.: Mary Kelly

Department of Parks & Recreation
Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811
Attn.: Dwight Dutschke

Caltrans
Office of Environmental Affairs
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Public Utilities Commission
926 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn.: Mike Burke

Caltrans-District 2
1657 Riverside Drive
Redding, CA 96001
Attn.: Michelle Gallagher

Reclamation Board
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn.: Mel Schwartz

Caltrans-District 2
P.O. Box 2107
Redding, CA 96099
Attn.: Phil Haigh

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95801

Caltrans-District 3
703 B Street
Marysville, CA 95901
Attn.: Brian J. Smith

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region(1)
1000 Coddington
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Attn.: David C. Joseph, Executive Officer

Caltrans-District 3
703 B Street
Marysville, CA 95901
Attn.: William T. Smith

Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region(5)
3201 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95816
Attn.: William H. Crooks, Executive Officer

State Agencies (Continued)

Department of Conservation
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1326-2
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn.: Dennis O'Bryant

Native American Heritage Commission
915 Capitol Mall, Room 288
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn.: Environmental Reviewer

Department of Parks & Recreation
Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811
Attn.: Hans Krautzberg

Department of Fish and Game-Region I
601 Locust
Redding, CA 96001
Attn.: A. Naylor, Regional Manager

Department of Fish and Game-Region II
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Attn.: Jim Messersmith, Regional Manager

COUNTIES

Butte County Planning Department
7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965
Attn: Laura Tuttle

Butte County Department of Public Works
7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965
Attn: Pat Patton

Glenn County Planning Department
125 S. Murdock Street
Willows, CA 95988
Attn: Danny Mao, Planning Director

Glenn County Dept. of Public Works
777 North Colusa Street
Willows, CA 95988-2298
Attn: Wesley E. Gilbert

Tehama County Planning Department
Courthouse Annex, Room 1
Red Bluff, CA 96080
Attn: George Robson

Tehama county Road Department
9380 San Benito Avenue
Gerber, CA 96035
Attn: Larry Coleman

Shasta County Planning Department
1855 Placer Street, Room 102
Redding, CA 96001
Attn: Joe Hunter

Siskiyou County Planning Department
P.O. Box 1085
Yreka, CA 96097
Attn: Robert Sellman

Siskiyou County Public Works Department
305 Butte Street
Yreka, CA 96097
Attn: Jack Anderson

CITIES

Anderson City Planning Department
1887 Howard Street
Anderson, CA 96007

Chico Planning Department
P.O. Box 3420
Chico, CA 95927

City of Corning
794 Third Street
Corning, CA 96021

Montague Planning Department
P.O. Box 428
Montague, CA 96064

Mount Shasta Planning Department
305 North Mount Shasta Boulevard
Mount Shasta, CA 96067

Oroville Planning Department
1675 Montgomery Street
Oroville, CA 95965

Red Bluff Planning Department
P.O. Box 400
Red Bluff, CA 96080

City of Redding Planning Department
760 Parkview Avenue
Redding, CA 96001

OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

Berry Creek Rancheria
Gus Martin, Chairman
1956 B Street
Oroville, CA 95965

Colusa Rancheria
P.O. Box 8
Colusa, CA 95932

Cortina Rancheria
Mary Norton, Chairperson
P.O. Box 41113
Sacramento, CA 95814

Grindstone Creek Rancheria
P.O. Box 63
Elk Creek, CA 95939

Florence V. Jones
7480 Dry Creek Road
Redding, CA 96003

Pit River Tribal Council
P.O. Drawer 1570
Burney, CA 96013

Big Bend Rancheria
Kenneth Sisk, President
P.O. Box 255
Big Bend, CA 96001

Montgomery Creek Rancheria
Ross Montgomery
General Delivery
Montgomery Creek, CA 96065

Albert E. Lyons
Butte Valley Tribal Council
P.O. Box 134
Macdole, CA 96058

Maidu Historical & Cultural Elders Organization
P.O. Box 64
Dobbins, CA 95935

Franklin Jake, Sr.
15732 Cloverdale Road
Anderson, CA 96007

Alturas Rancheria
Norma Jean Garcia, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1035
Alturas, CA 96101

Lookout Rancheria
Laura Craig, Chairperson
P.O. Box 87
Lookout, CA 96054

X-L Ranch Reservation
Mickey Gemmill, Chairman
P.O. Drawer 1570
Burney, CA 96013