

Abstract

The Project Site is located at 3269 Saint Helena Highway, Saint Helena, Napa County, California. *Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless)* proposes to install antennas onto a new 130' (39.6m) tall lattice tower and to install support equipment within a proposed 50' by 50' (15.2m by 15.2m) lease area. Power and telco will be routed underground approximately 745' (227.1m) west, southwest, west, northwest, west, and south from a joint utility pole to the proposed 12' (3.7m) wide access/utility easement via an easement not to exceed 5' (1.5m) in width and 4' (1.2m) in depth. Access will be gained via a proposed 12' (3.7m) wide access easement commencing at the public right of way and running to the lease area for a length of approximately 2061' (628.2m). A portion of the access routed is already paved; however, approximately 728' (221.9m) of the proposed access route is to be improved.

The sensitivity of the APE-DE for historic archaeological resources is low. A review of historic topographic maps from 1945 through 1997 indicates that the Project Site remained an undeveloped forested area throughout the second half of the 20th century (EDR 2012a). No buildings, structures, or objects are depicted at or in the vicinity of the Project Site in any of these maps (EDR 2012a). A review of historic aerial images confirms that the Project Site has remained an undeveloped area throughout the latter half of the 20th century (EDR 2012b). The aerial images depict significant growth of trees in the woodland areas, suggesting that the Project Site may have been logged sometime during the 20th century; however, aside from dirt roads in the area, no other evidence of logging was observed in aerial images or during a pedestrian survey of the Project Site.

The precontact sensitivity of the site is low. Precontact sites in the area tend to be located on small knoll tops or on terraces above water resources such as seasonal creeks. The sites located along seasonal water resources tend to consist of lithic scatters, suggesting that the sites were used temporarily or seasonally. The Project Site's precipitous slopes suggest that the area would not have been attractive for settlement in the precontact era; locations in flatter areas in closer proximity to water resources would have been more suitable for resource procurement and long-term settlement.

In light of available information, it is my professional opinion that there is little likelihood of encountering significant archaeological resources in association with this project. The prehistoric and historic archaeological sensitivities are low, as no building, structures, or objects were identified at or in the vicinity of the Project Site during the pedestrian survey or the historic map and photograph review. The precipitous slopes at and in the vicinity of the Project Site (approximately 30% to 50% slopes) would have made the area somewhat inaccessible during the precontact and early historic periods (WSS 2012). Additionally, no rocky outcroppings or obsidian sources were identified in the area that would have been useful to the Wappo in the precontact era. In this context, it is unlikely that the proposed installation would adversely affect intact below-grade cultural resources. No Historic Properties were identified during this survey, and no further archaeological testing is recommended for this project.