STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE RESOURCES AGENCY

RECORD PACKET COPY

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STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

ON CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION

Consistency Determination No.	**CD-056-98**
Staff:	JRR-SF
File Date:	5/8/1998
45th Day:	6/22/1998
60th Day	7/7/1998
Commission Meeting:	6/8-11/1998

FEDERAL AGENCY: U.S. COAST GUARD

DEVELOPMENT LOCATION: Coast Guard Station, Bodega Bay (Exhibits 1 and 2)

DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION: Construction of a radio tower, installation of a six-foot diameter microwave dish, and development of an equipment shelter to support the Bay Area communications system upgrade (Exhibit 3)

SUBSTANTIVE FILE DOCUMENTS:

1. Environmental Assessment, Bay Area Communications System (BACS) Upgrade, June 1997.

2. ND-101-97, for Bay Area Communications Systems Upgrade, for Sonoma (excluding Coast Guard Station at Bodega Bay), Marin, and Monterey Counties

3. Biological Assessment for Bay Area Communications System Upgrade, April 5, 1998

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S. Coast Guard proposes to upgrade its Bay Area communications system. These improvements require modifications to existing communication towers and antennas at several facilities from Mount Jenner, on the Sonoma County coast, to the City of Monterey. Additionally, the Coast Guard proposes to construct a new tower with one antenna and an equipment shelter at the U.S. Coast Guard Station at Bodega Bay, Sonoma County. Except for the Bodega Bay project, the modifications proposed by the Coast Guard will not result in effects on coastal resources and the Commission staff reviewed them under a separate negative determination, ND-101-97.

The Bodega Bay modifications include the construction of a new 30-foot tower with one six-foot microwave dish and an equipment shelter. The tower is next to an existing facility and is slightly taller than that development. The Coast Guard redesigned the tower to be at the same elevation as the existing trees located next to the proposed tower site. These trees will hide the tower from existing roads, camp sites and nearby beaches. Therefore, the tower is consistent with the character of the area and will not block or degrade coastal views. Although the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identified potential impacts to listed species, those issues were resolved through the consultation process pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Finally, the project will not significantly affect access resources of the coastal zone.

STAFF SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION:

I. Project Description.

The Coast Guard proposes to upgrade its Bay Area communications system. The project includes modifications to sixteen communication facilities and construction of one new facility, which is the subject of this consistency determination. At the Coast Guard Station Bodega Bay (Exhibit 1) the Coast Guard proposes to install a new 30-foot tower with one six-foot microwave dish antenna, construct an eighty-square-foot equipment shelter, and excavate a 25-foot trench (Exhibit 2).

II. Status of Local Coastal Program.

The standard of review for federal consistency determinations is the policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act, and not the Local Coastal Program (LCP) of the affected area. If the Commission certified the LCP and incorporated it into the CCMP, the LCP can provide guidance in applying Chapter 3 policies in light of local circumstances. If the Commission has not incorporated the LCP into the CCMP, it cannot guide the Commission's decision,

but it can provide background information. The Commission has not incorporated the Sonoma County LCP into the CCMP.

III. Federal Agency's Consistency Determination.

The Coast Guard has determined the project to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the California Coastal Management Program.

IV. Staff Recommendation:

The staff recommends that the Commission adopt the following motion:

MOTION. I move that the Commission concur with the Coast Guard's consistency determination.

The staff recommends a YES vote on this motion. A majority vote in the affirmative will result in adoption of the following resolution:

Concurrence

The Commission hereby **concurs** with the consistency determination made by the Coast Guard for the proposed project, finding that the project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the California Coastal Management Program.

V. Findings and Declarations:

The Commission finds and declares as follows:

A. Visual Resources. Section 30251 of the Coastal Act provides that:

The scenic and visual qualities of coastal areas shall be considered and protected as a resource of public importance. Permitted development shall be sited and designed to protect views to and along the ocean and scenic coastal areas, to minimize the alteration of natural land forms, to be visually compatible with the character of surrounding areas, and, where feasible, to restore and enhance visual quality in visually degraded areas. New development in highly scenic areas such as those designated in the California Coastline Preservation and Recreation Plan prepared by the Department of Parks and Recreation and by local government shall be subordinate to the character of its setting.

The proposed project involves construction of a 30-foot tower next to the existing Coast Guard Station at Bodega Bay. The tower will be taller than the adjacent Coast Guard observation tower and may be visible from the nearby public road and beaches (Doran Beach Regional Park and South Sonoma Coast State Beach). However, the visual impact will not be significant.

The Coast Guard conducted a Visual Impact Analysis for the proposed tower (Exhibit 4). The visual analysis involved photographing the site from four locations and drawing in proposed tower alternatives to assess the visual impact. Although that analysis concluded that the originally proposed 40-foot tower would not have significant visual impacts, the Coast Guard would virtually eliminate any visual impact if it lowered the tower elevation to 30 feet. The tower is immediately next to existing Monterey cypress trees and the 30-foot tower would not be higher than those trees. It is clear from the study that the forty foot tower would be visible from almost all locations and the thirty foot tower is much less visible. Finally, the 30-foot tower is consistent in size and scale with the developed Coast Guard site.

In conclusion, the Commission finds that the proposed project is consistent with the character of the area, will not block views to and along the coast, and will not otherwise significantly affect coastal views. Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed project is consistent with the visual policies of the California Coastal Management Program (CCMP).

B. Habitat Resources. Section 30240 of the Coastal Act provides that:

(a) Environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on those resources shall be allowed within those areas.

(b) Development in areas adjacent to environmentally sensitive habitat areas and parks and recreation areas shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade those areas, and shall be compatible with the continuance of those habitat and recreation areas.

The proposed project is within a developed site that does not contain any environmentally sensitive habitat areas. However, the project is near habitat for the snowy plover, a federally listed threatened species, and Bodega Bay, which is a wintering area for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway. Bird collisions with the new communications tower are a possible impact to these sensitive resources. Based on informal consultation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that the tower may affect the federally listed snowy plover. In response to this conclusion, the Coast Guard submitted a biological opinion to the Service and developed mitigation measures to reduce the project's effect

on the plover. The mitigation measures include lowering the height of the tower to 30 feet, which is at the same height as the adjacent cypress trees. The Coast Guard will also hire an avian zoologist to conduct a pre-construction survey to determine whether any tower modifications, such as painting, attaching noise devises, or attaching lighting devices would reduce bird strikes. Finally, the Coast Guard agreed to conduct a minimum of two years of post-project monitoring. At the completion of this monitoring, the Coast Guard, in coordination with the Service, will determine if additional monitoring or mitigation is necessary. The Coast Guard has agreed to make both the pre- and post-project monitoring results available to the Commission staff. With these mitigation measures, the Service concluded that the project would not significantly affect listed species (Exhibit 5). The Commission finds that with these mitigation measures the project will not disrupt the habitat values of the area and, therefore, will be consistent with the habitat policies of the CCMP.

C. Public Access and Recreational Resources. Section 30210 of the Coastal Act provides that:

> *In carrying out the requirement of Section 4 of Article X of the California Constitution, maximum access, which shall be conspicuously posted, and recreational opportunities shall be provided for all the people consistent with public safety needs and the need to protect public rights, rights of private property owners, and natural resource areas from overuse.*

Additionally, Section 30211 of the Coastal Act provides, in part, that:

> *Development shall not interfere with the public's right of access to the sea*
> ....

The proposed project is on the shore of Bodega Bay. The Coast Guard proposes to construct the tower on Coast Guard property immediately next to an existing Coast Guard station. Coastal access and recreational opportunities are available at adjacent public beaches and limited access to the Coast Guard site is also available. The proposed project will not change or in any way affect existing access opportunities in the area. Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed project is consistent with the access and recreation policies of the CCMP.

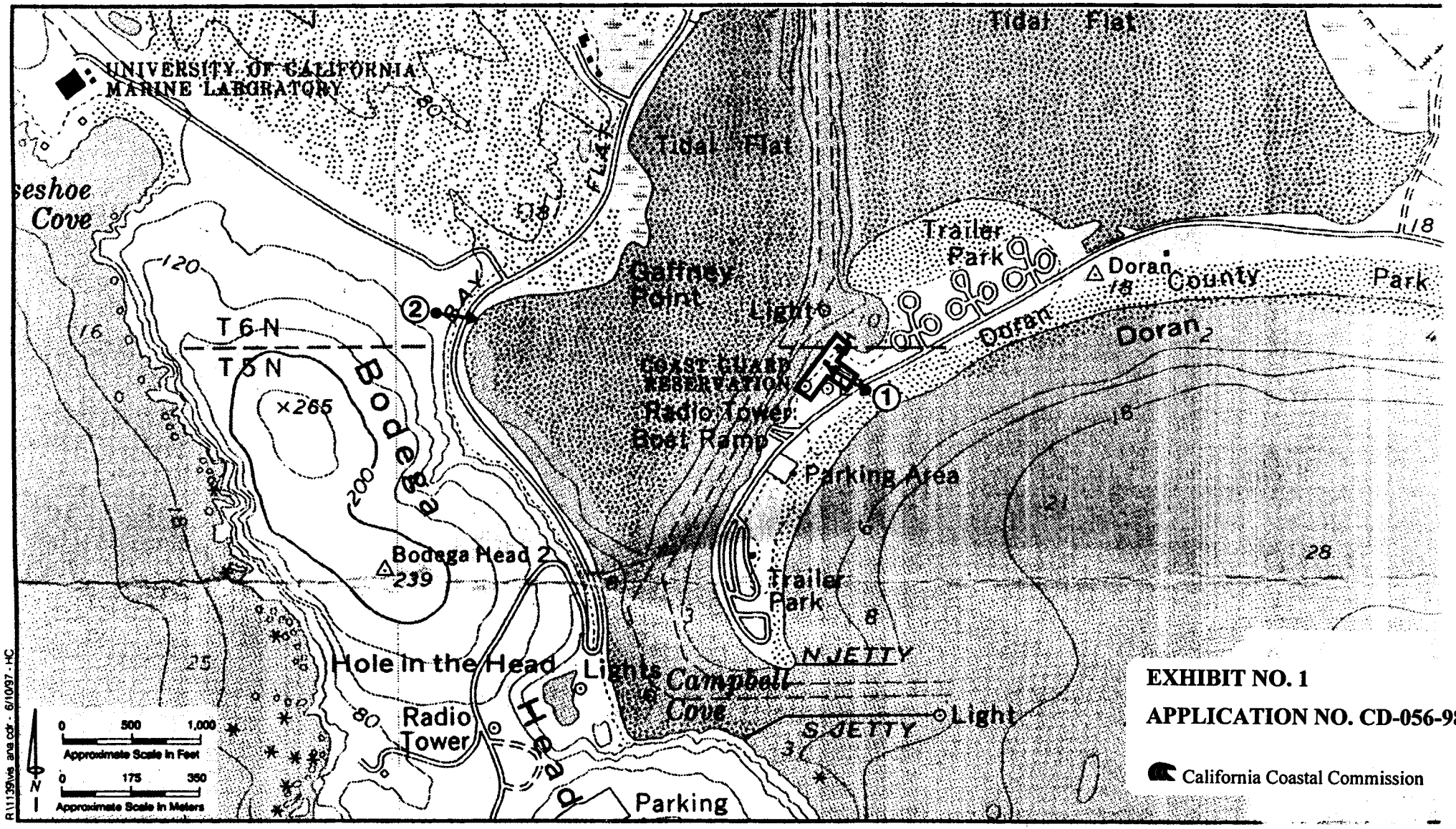


EXHIBIT NO. 1

APPLICATION NO. CD-056-98

California Coastal Commission

Station Bodega Bay was photographed November 12, 1996 from Doran Beach Regional Park at the station entrance and from Bay Flat Road, approximately 1.75 miles (2.8km) west of the station, across Bodega Harbor.

LEGEND:

① Doran Beach Regional Park (looking northwest)

② Bay Flat Road (looking east)

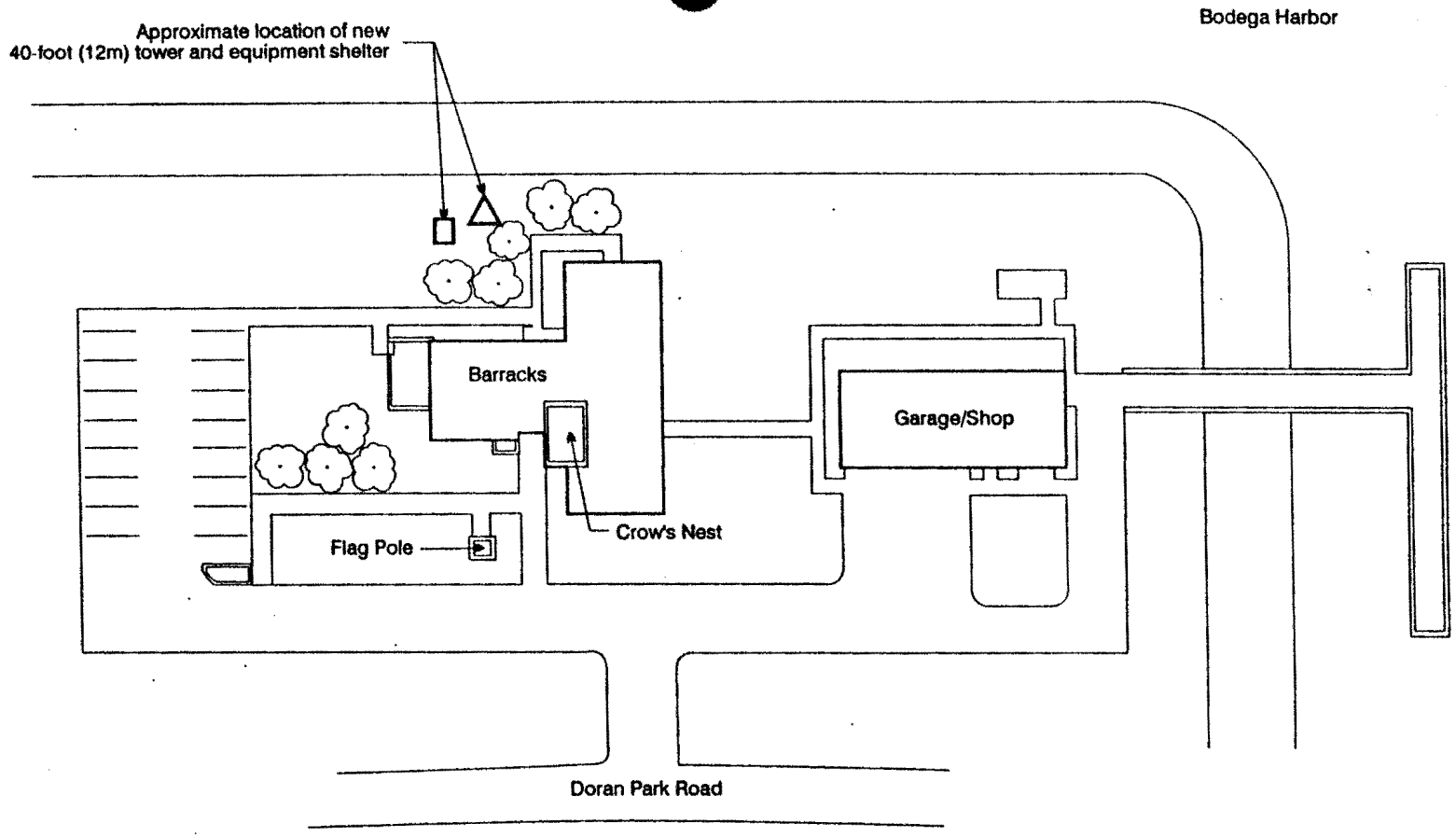
Station Bodega Bay

ce: USGS Bodega Head 7.5' quadrangle.

Station Bodega Ba
Visual Analysis Viewpoint

BACS E
Sonoma County, Californ

Figure 4-7



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Station Bodega Bay is currently not part of the BAC[illegible] he proposed action would add a 40-f[illegible]n) tower with one dish antenna and an [illegible]t (2.5m) by 10-foot (3m) equipment

LEGEND:

△ Proposed BACS Tower

□ Proposed Equipment Shelter

Source: US Coast Guard 1996b

Station Bodega Bay Site Plan

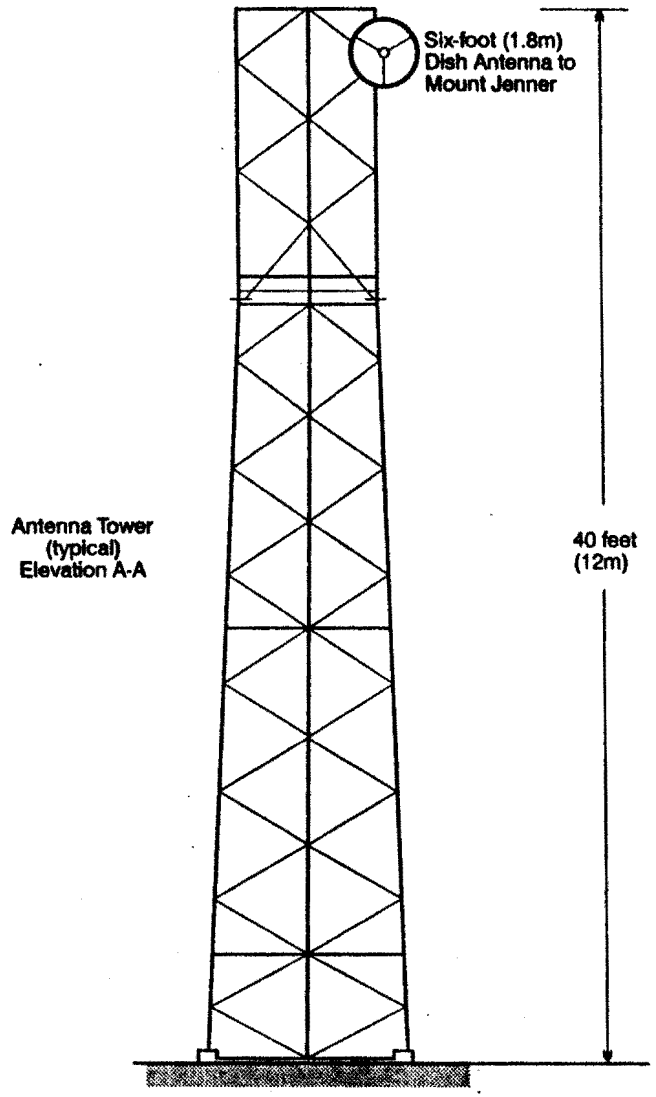
BACS EA
Sonoma County, California

EXHIBIT NO. 2

APPLICATION NO. CD-056-98

California Coastal Commission

Figure 4-5



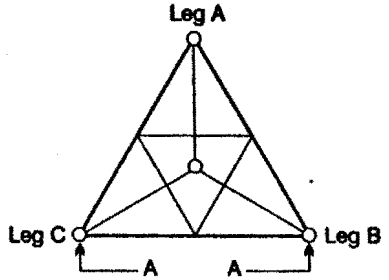


EXHIBIT NO. 3

APPLICATION NO. CD-056-98

California Coastal Commission

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The proposed six-foot (1.8m) dish antenna would be near the summit of the new 40-foot (12m) tower. This antenna would be oriented north-northwest towards Mount Jenner.

Station Bodega Bay Proposed Microwave Antenna Towe

BACS E.

Sonoma County, Californ

rce: US Coast Guard 1996b

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STATION BODEGA BAY VISUAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Recommended Alternative

The project involves installing a new communications tower behind the main building at Station Bodega Bay, between the Monterey cypress trees and the rip-rapped shoreline, that would become part of the Coast Guard's Bay Area Communications System (BACS). The choice of tower color will be based on the recommendations of an avian zoologist to reduce the potential likelihood of "taking" bird species protected under the Endangered Species Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The proposed tower was described as 40 feet (12m) high in the Environmental Assessment issued in July 1997, but was reduced to 30 feet (9m) after consultations with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The Coast Guard's recommended alternative is the 30-foot (9m) tower. The top of the currently recommended tower will be the same height as adjacent cypress trees.

One six-foot dish antenna would be located at the tower's apex and would be oriented north-northwest toward Mount Jenner. An eight-foot (2.4m) by 10-foot (3m) equipment shelter would be constructed near the new tower. Although the exact location of the proposed equipment shelter has not been determined, it probably would be constructed less than 25 feet (7.5m) from the new tower.

All construction work would be limited to dry land, which Coast Guard real property records indicate was part of the original 1.72 acres of "filled" tidelands acquired from Sonoma County in 1962. Excavation for the tower foundation would be to a depth of approximately six feet (1.8m). Excavated material below the tower footprint would be removed, the exposed subgrade would be compacted, and the removed material would be returned as structural fill or disposed of at an appropriate off-site location, as applicable. A minimal amount of trenching also would be required to install cables connecting the new shelter to the main station building. The trench probably would extend less than 25 feet (7.5m) long, 36 inches (91cm) deep, and between eight and 12 inches (20 and 30cm) wide.

Methodology

The geographic area in which impacts to visual resources would likely occur at Station Bodega Bay includes a generalized viewshed extending out to a maximum of five miles (8km). It is limited in places by terrain and structures.

Viewing distances are important in determining how noticeable a visual impact would be. Foreground distances, defined here as 0 to 0.5 miles (0

to 0.8km), permit perception of detail on individual small-scale landscape features. Middleground viewing distances, defined here as 0.5 to three miles (0.8 to 4.8km), permit relationships between large and moderately sized objects to be perceived, with some perception of colors, textures, individual forms, and details visible. Background viewing distances, defined here as greater than three miles (4.8km), generally permit only the broad perception of large features, such as land masses and large-scale landscape patterns, with little distinction of color, texture, and detail.

Viewer sensitivity refers to the level of interest that viewers are likely to have in aesthetic qualities of a view. Sensitivity varies with the type of viewer, the number of viewers, the mode of travel and duration of viewing, and viewing distance. High sensitivity views are from locations where large numbers of recreational users spend time viewing scenery or appreciating aesthetic qualities, such as a public vista point. Low sensitivity views are associated with industrial areas of low scenic quality, seen primarily by people who work in the area or areas seen in the background or seldom seen by the public. Views of moderate visual sensitivity are associated with highway views seen in the middleground by moderate numbers of people or residential views seen in the middleground in areas not characterized as view lots.

A modified Bureau of Land Management (BLM) visual resource management program methodology has been used to identify scenic quality classes applicable to the recommended alternative at Station Bodega Bay. This system uses seven factors to determine scenic quality—landform, vegetation, water, color, influence of adjacent scenery, scarcity, and human modification. Each site has been evaluated and assigned a scenic quality rating from the four categories listed below. In general, areas that have been preserved as open space or that contain historic sites or structures are assigned higher ratings than areas in which extensive development has occurred:

- Class A – areas that combine outstanding visually interesting or aesthetic features;
- Class B – areas in which there is a combination of some outstanding visual features and some that are fairly common to the region;
- Class C – areas in which the visual features are fairly common to the region; and
- Class D – areas in which there has been extensive disturbance or development, without mitigating or interesting visual features, resulting in negative scenic qualities.

Significance Criteria

Visual resources were qualitatively evaluated by assessing the nature and extent of change in existing landscape character. The analysis addresses landscape modifications as seen from sensitive viewpoints. An impact is considered significant if any of the following occurs:

- It would noticeably increase visual contrast and substantially reduce scenic quality, as seen from any high sensitivity foreground or middleground viewpoint;
- It would block or disrupt existing views or reduce public opportunities to view scenic resources; or
- Visual resource conditions would conflict with policies and regulations governing aesthetics.

Impacts can be either adverse, by degrading scenic qualities, or beneficial, by enhancing scenic qualities. Temporary visual effects that last three years or less, such as construction effects, are not considered to be significant.

Existing Conditions

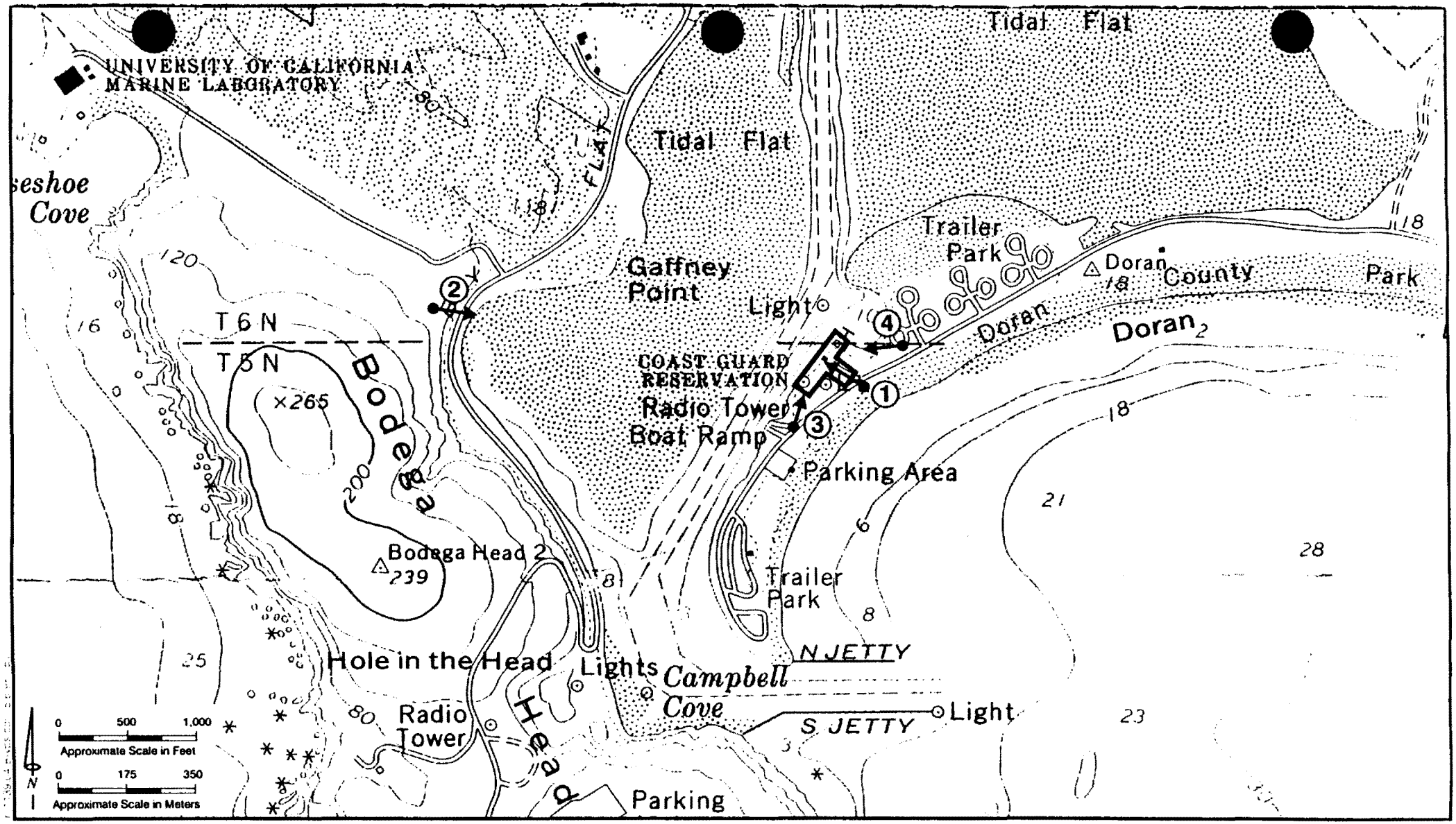
Station Bodega Bay is on a highly visible, exposed peninsula that lies between Bodega Bay and Bodega Harbor and is surrounded by Doran Beach Regional Park. There are residences along the west shoreline of Bodega Harbor, approximately one mile (1.6km) north-northwest of the station, and a golf course community along the Bodega Bay shoreline, approximately 1.5 miles (2.4km) to the southeast. The town of Bodega Bay is 1.5 miles (2.4km) to the north-northeast. Westside County Park and the South Sonoma Coast State Beach are both less than one mile (1.6km) to the north-northwest of the station across Bodega Harbor.

The existing visual character of Station Bodega Bay is distinguished by its residential scale with low structures and gently sloping roofs. Exterior walls of permanent structures are tan concrete block. The smaller temporary storage structures are painted brown. An approximate 22-foot (6.7m) observation tower above the main station building is the focal point of the station (Coast Guard 1991). There is also a radio tower (estimated 60 feet [18.3m] tall) adjacent and southwest of the station.

Although there is surrounding development, because of its closeness to the ocean and generally picturesque setting, the scenic quality of the area has been designated as Class B from all selected viewpoints (described below). Additionally, the station structures are partially screened by trees, which soften their visual contrast with the surrounding landscape.

Because of its high visibility and coastal setting, the station is surrounded by many sensitive viewpoints. These include the town of Bodega Bay, Westside and Doran County Parks, Bay Flat Road (along the west shoreline of Bodega Harbor), Highway 1 (along the east shoreline of Bodega Harbor), Bodega Head (which has a commanding 360-degree view of the entire area), Bodega Harbor and Bay, and the golf course community.

The station was photographed from several viewpoints, four of which have been selected to represent the most sensitive visual receptors (Figure 1). Viewpoints 1, 3, and 4 represent close range views of the station from points within Doran Park. Viewpoint 1 is taken from Doran Park Road at the entrance to the station looking northwest and represents views from the peninsula, including views seen by visitors to Doran Park, with the station in the foreground. Viewpoint 3 is from Doran Park Road, approximately 500 feet (152m) southwest of the station entrance looking north/northwest, and Viewpoint 4 is from the Doran Trailer Park looking west. Viewpoint 2 is taken from Westshore Road, approximately 1.75 miles (2.8km) west of the station looking southeast. Viewpoint 2 represents surrounding, more distant middleground views. These existing views and simulations of the same views with the proposed project are addressed in the following sections.



Station Bodega Bay was photographed November 12, 1996 from Doran Beach Regional Park at the station entrance and from Bay Flat Road, approximately 1.75 miles (2.8km) west of the station, across Bodega Harbor. This site was also photographed December 18, 1997 from Doran Park Road, southwest of the station entrance, and from the Doran Trailer Park, northeast of the station.

Source: USGS Bodega Head 7.5' quadrangle.

LEGEND:

1. Doran Beach Regional Park (looking northwest)
2. Bay Flat Road (looking east)
3. Doran Park Road (looking north / northeast)
4. Doran Trailer Park (looking west)

Station Bodega Bay

Station Bodega Bay Visual Analysis Viewpoints

Revised California Coastal Consistency Determination
Sonoma County, California

Figure 1

Environmental Consequences—Viewpoint 1

Existing (No Action) Conditions

Under existing conditions, the most dominant feature in Viewpoint 1 is the main station building framed behind by mature cypress trees (Figure 2). The barren, undulating hillsides west of Bodega Harbor are partially visible in the background of this view. However, the visually dominating station building diminishes the scenic attributes of this view.

40-foot (12m) Tower

As shown on Figure 3, the proposed 40-foot (12m) tower and shelter would be behind the main station building. Only the top portion of the new tower and dish antenna would be visible from the southeast; most of the tower would be screened by existing structures and landscaping. The shelter would not be visible from this viewpoint. As stated previously, the choice of tower color will be based on the recommendations of an avian zoologist to reduce potential bird strikes. Although the new tower would be visible, it would not have a significant visual impact from this viewpoint.

30-foot (9m) Tower

The proposed 30-foot (9m) tower would be almost completely screened from this view by existing structures and landscaping. As shown on Figure 4, only a small portion of the lower tower would be visible between the roofline of the main station building and the branches of the adjacent cypress trees. The proposed shelter would not be visible. The Coast Guard will select appropriate materials, colors, and textures for the new tower and equipment shelter that blend into the surrounding landscape. The new tower would not reduce the scenic quality from this viewpoint.

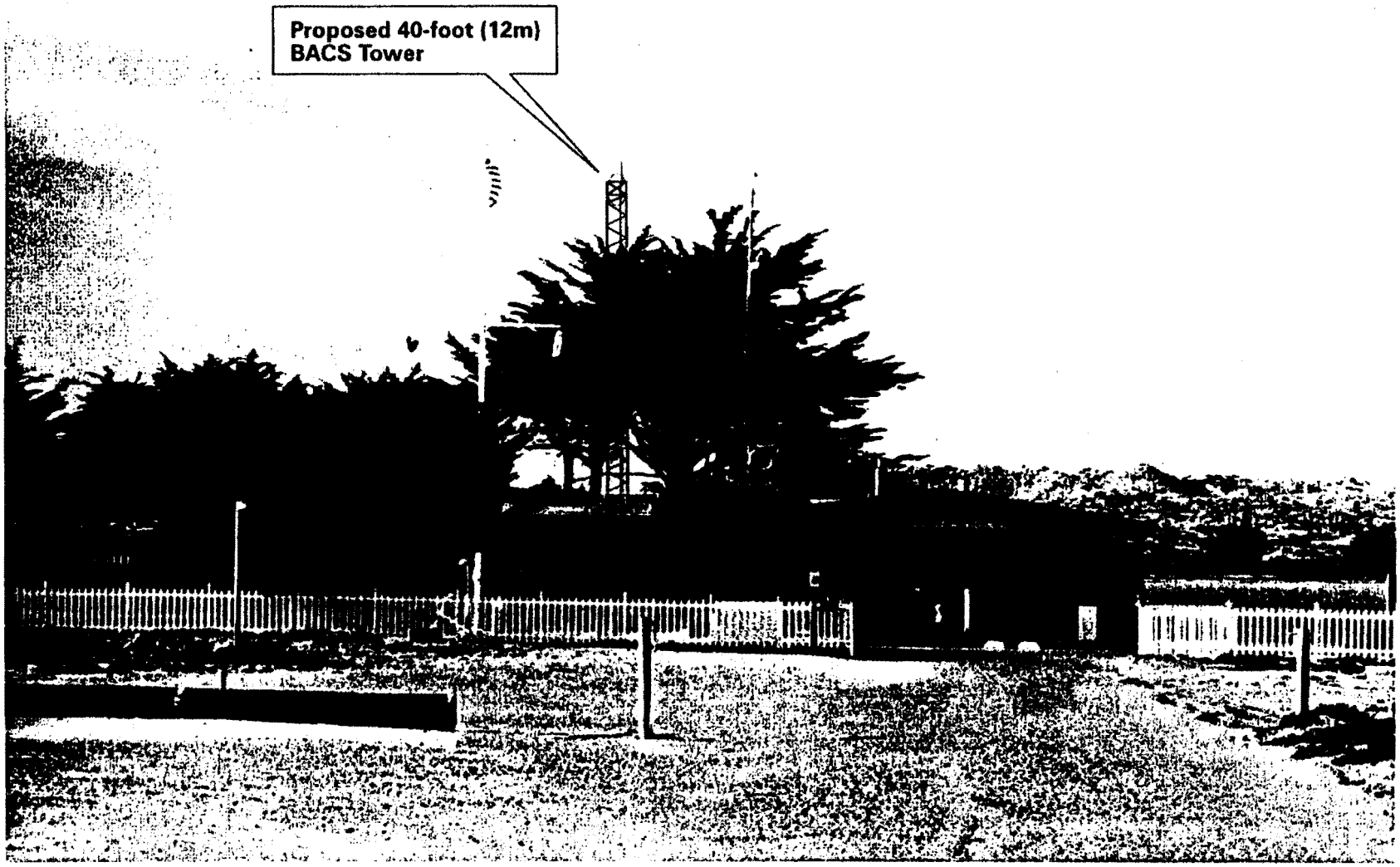
This photograph was taken from Doran Park Road at the entrance to the station looking northwest. The most dominant feature in Viewpoint 1 is the main station building framed behind by mature cypress trees.

Station Bodega Bay Viewpoint 1
Existing Visual Analysis Photograph

Revised California Coastal Consistency Determination
Sonoma County, California

Source: Tetra Tech, Inc.

Figure 2



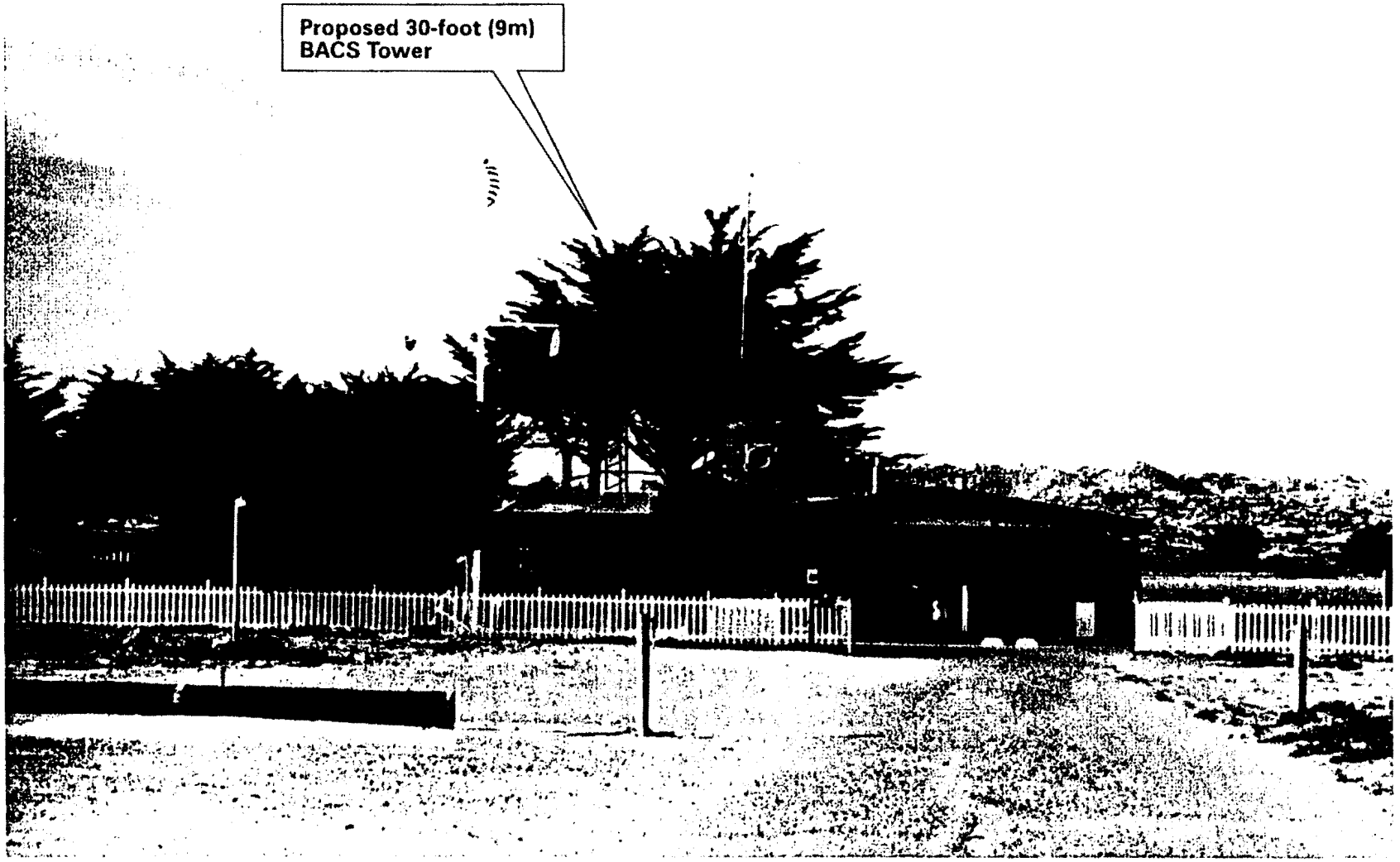
The proposed 40-foot (12m) tower and shelter would be behind the main station building and would be partially screened by structures and landscaping. The proposed dish antenna would be visible above the treeline. The shelter would not be visible from this viewpoint.

Source: Tetra Tech, Inc.

Station Bodega Bay Viewpoint 1
Visual Analysis Photograph: 40-foot (12m) Tower

Revised California Coastal Consistency Determination
Sonoma County, California

Figure 3



The proposed 30-foot (9m) tower and shelter would be behind the main station building and would be screened by structures and landscaping. The proposed dish antenna and shelter would not be visible from this viewpoint.

Source: Tetra Tech, Inc.

Station Bodega Bay Viewpoint 1
Visual Analysis Photograph: 30-foot (9m) Tower

Revised California Coastal Consistency Determination
Sonoma County, California

Figure 4

Environmental Consequences— Viewpoint 2

Existing (No Action) Conditions

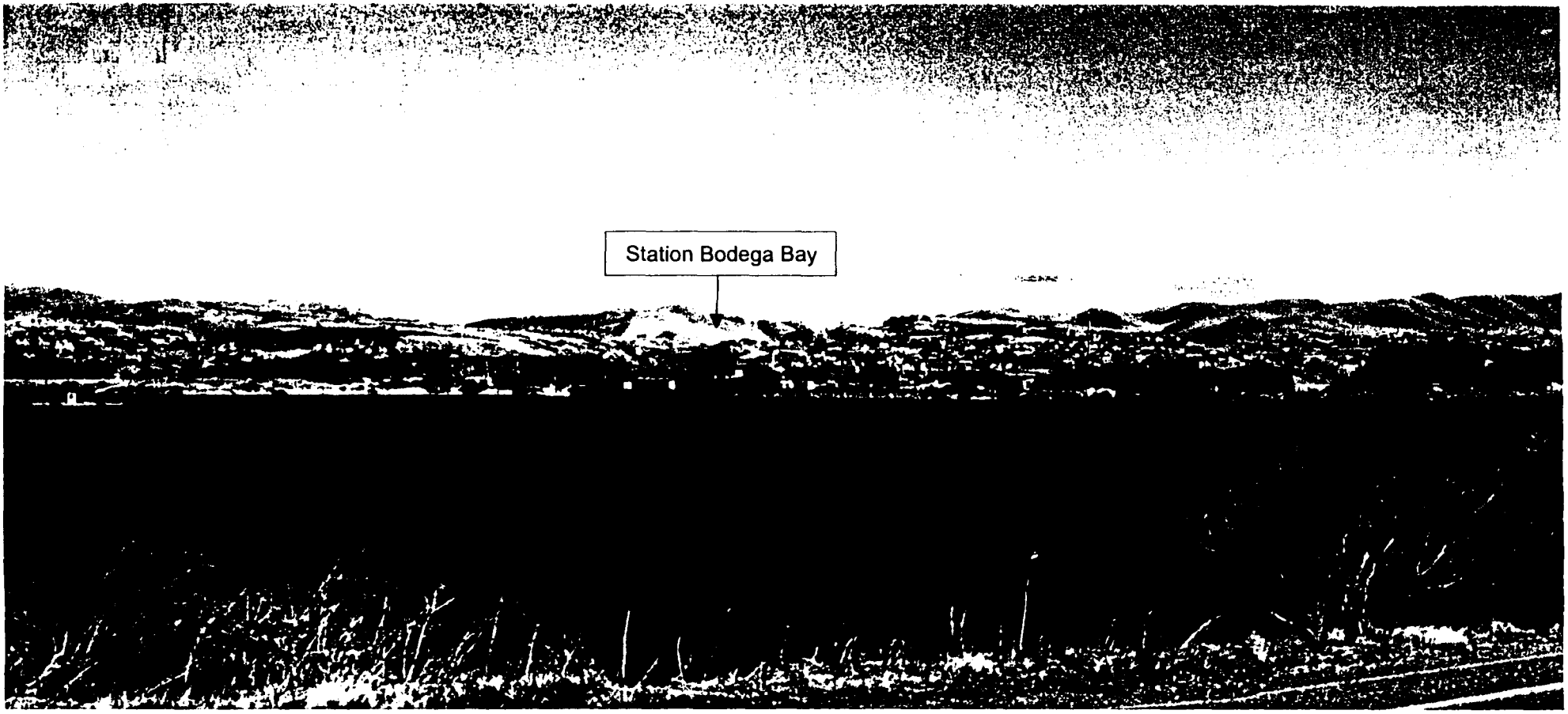
Viewpoint 2 depicts a broad panorama with Bodega Harbor in the foreground, shoreline development, including Station Bodega Bay in the middleground, and the gently rolling, undeveloped hillsides in the background (Figure 5). Views to the north are more open and expansive, while views to the south, in the direction of the station, are blocked by buildings and vegetation. The scale of Station Bodega Bay is visually compatible with the surrounding shoreline development, and there are no dominant focal points in this view.

40-foot (12m) Tower

The new 40-foot (12m) tower and equipment shelter would not be highly visible from this viewpoint because they are similar in scale and appearance to the surrounding development (Figure 6). Although the top of the proposed 40-foot tower and dish antenna would be slightly visible above the adjacent treeline, the tower would not be a dominant feature in this view. The proposed equipment shelter would be of similar color and scale to the adjacent structures and also would not be visually dominant.

30-foot (9m) Tower

Similar to the view depicted on Figure 6, the alternative 30-foot (9m) tower also would not be highly visible from this viewpoint (see Figure 7). The 30-foot (9m) tower would be similar in height to the adjacent cypress trees and therefore would be even less noticeable in this view. The Coast Guard will select appropriate materials, colors, and textures for the new tower and equipment shelter that blend into the surrounding landscape. The shelter would be an earth tone, similar to adjacent buildings. The choice of tower color will be based on the recommendations of an avian zoologist to reduce potential bird strikes.



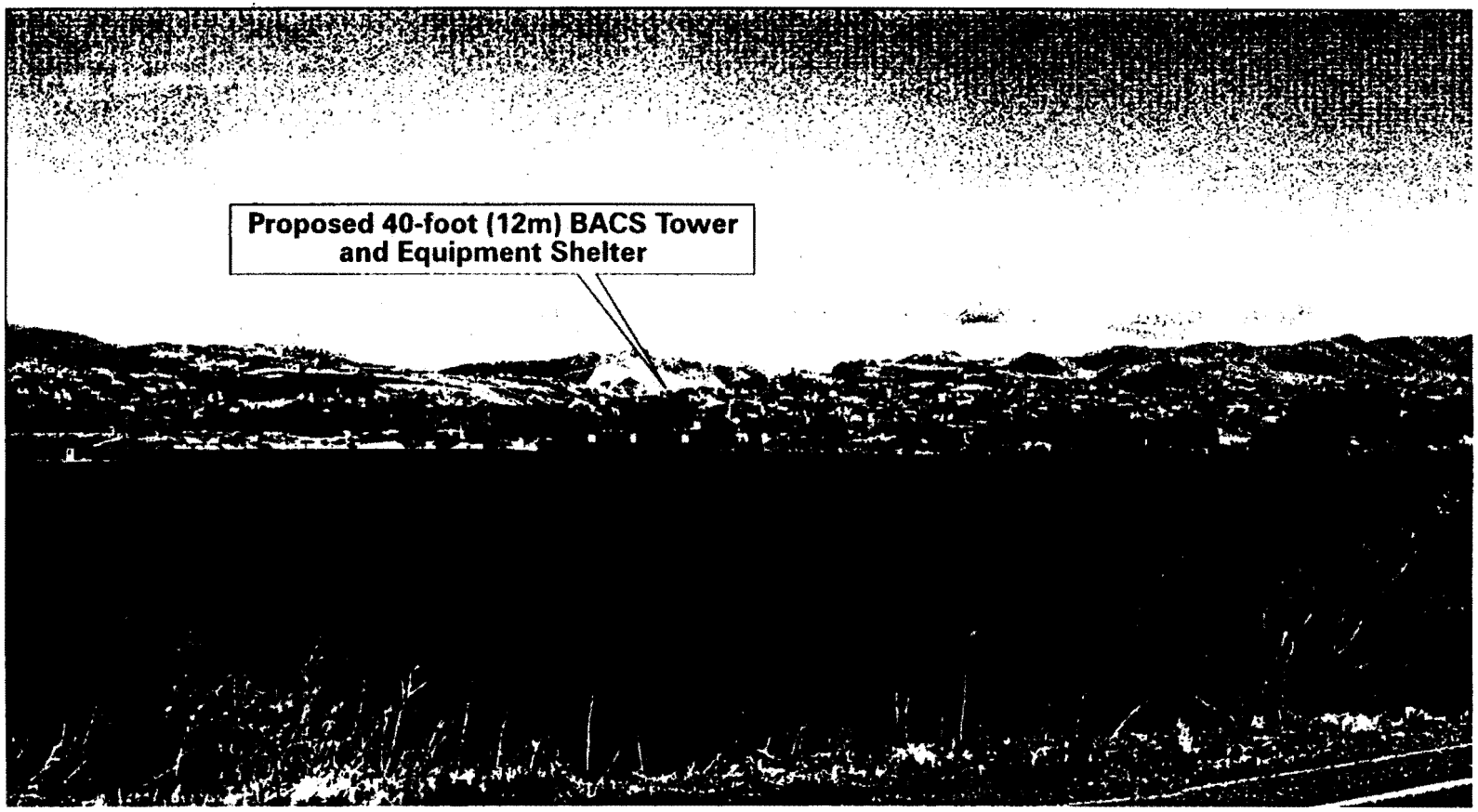
This photograph was taken from Westshore Road looking east. This view depicts a broad panorama with Bodega Harbor in the foreground, shoreline development, including Station Bodega Bay in the middleground, and gently rolling, undeveloped hills in the background.

Source: Tetra Tech, Inc.

Station Bodega Bay Viewpoint 2
Existing Visual Analysis Photograph

Revised California Coastal Consistency Determination
Sonoma County, California

Figure 5



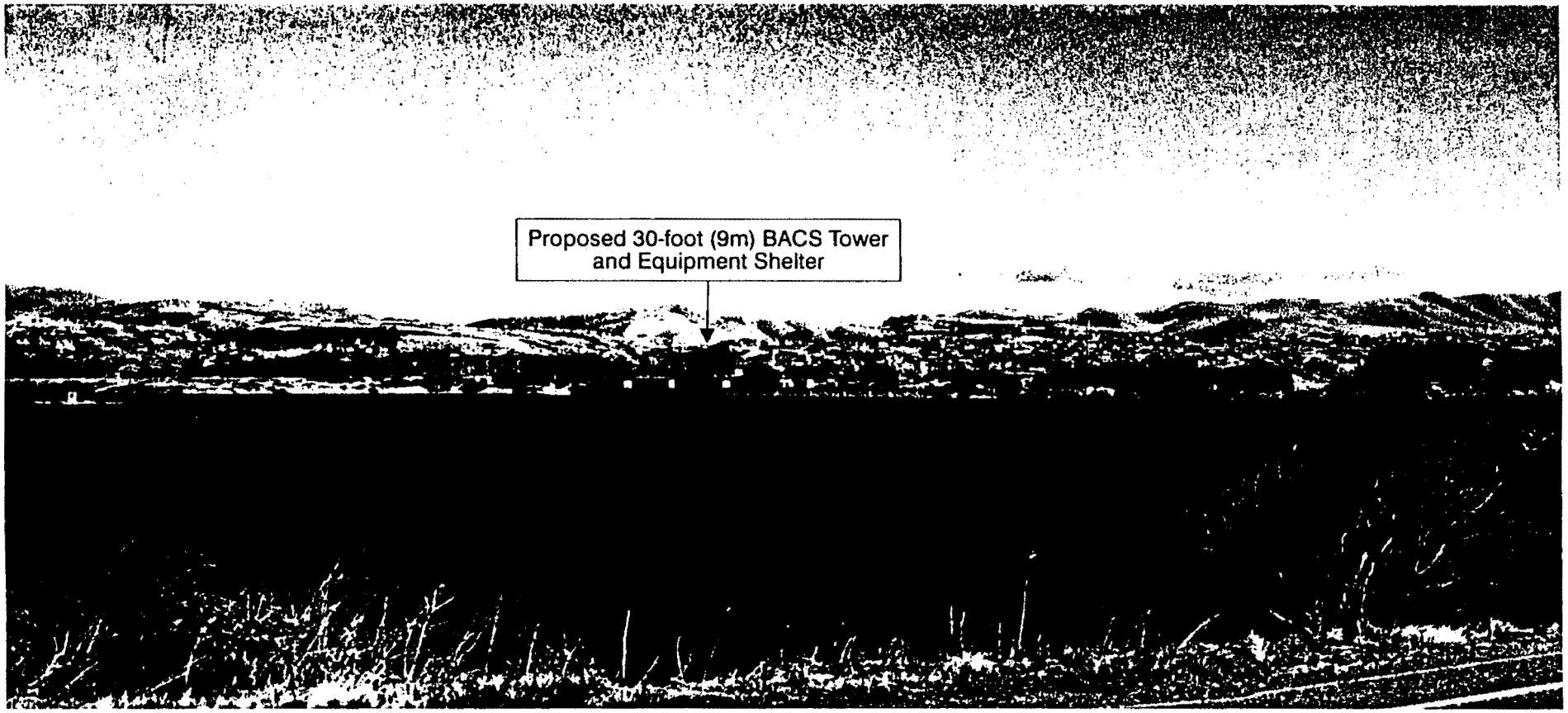
The proposed 40-foot (12m) tower and equipment shelter would not be highly visible from this viewpoint because they are similar in scale and appearance to the surrounding development. Although the top of the proposed tower and dish antenna would be visible above the existing treeline, the tower would be similar in color to the adjacent cypress trees and therefore would not be a dominant feature in this view.

Source: Tetra Tech, Inc.

Station Bodega Bay Viewpoint 2
Visual Analysis Photograph: 40-foot (12m) Tower

Revised California Coastal Consistency Determination
Sonoma County, California

Figure 6



The proposed 30-foot (9m) tower and equipment shelter would not be highly visible from this viewpoint because they are similar in scale and appearance to the surrounding development. The new tower would be similar in height and color to the adjacent cypress trees and therefore would not be a dominant feature in this view.

Source: Tetra Tech, Inc.

Station Bodega Bay Viewpoint 2
Visual Analysis Photograph: 30-foot (9m) Tower

Revised California Coastal Consistency Determination
Sonoma County, California

Figure 7

Environmental Consequences—Viewpoint 3

Existing (No Action) Conditions

Viewpoint 3 depicts a close-range view of the project site looking north/northeast from Doran Park Road. This view is characterized by a flat, undeveloped lot in the foreground, Station Bodega Bay in the middleground, and tan undeveloped hillsides in the background (Figure 8). Bodega Harbor is visible west of the station. Under existing conditions, the most dominant features in Viewpoint 3 are the mature cypress trees that surround the western side of the main station building. The panoramic nature of this view is disrupted by constructed features, such as the flag pole directly in front of the station entrance and the antenna that extends from the top of the station's observation tower. These elements diminish the scenic attributes of this view.

40-foot (12m) Tower

As shown on Figure 9, only the upper portion of the proposed 40-foot (12m) tower and dish antenna would be visible above the adjacent treeline and background ridgeline. The lower part of the tower would be screened by existing structures and landscaping. The equipment shelter also would not be visible from this viewpoint. As stated previously, the choice of tower color will be based on the recommendations of an avian zoologist to reduce potential bird strikes. The proposed tower would introduce a new vertical element into the landscape. However, given the developed nature of the landscape (flag pole, antenna, and other constructed vertical elements), the new 40-foot (12m) tower would not have a significant visual impact from this viewpoint.

30-foot (9m) Tower

The proposed 30-foot (9m) tower would be almost completely screened from this view by existing structures and landscaping. As shown on Figure 10, only the top of the 30-foot (9m) tower and dish antenna would be visible behind the adjacent treeline. The proposed shelter would not be visible. The new tower would not extend above the treeline. Therefore, the 30-foot (9m) tower would not be a dominant feature in this view and would not reduce the scenic quality from this viewpoint.

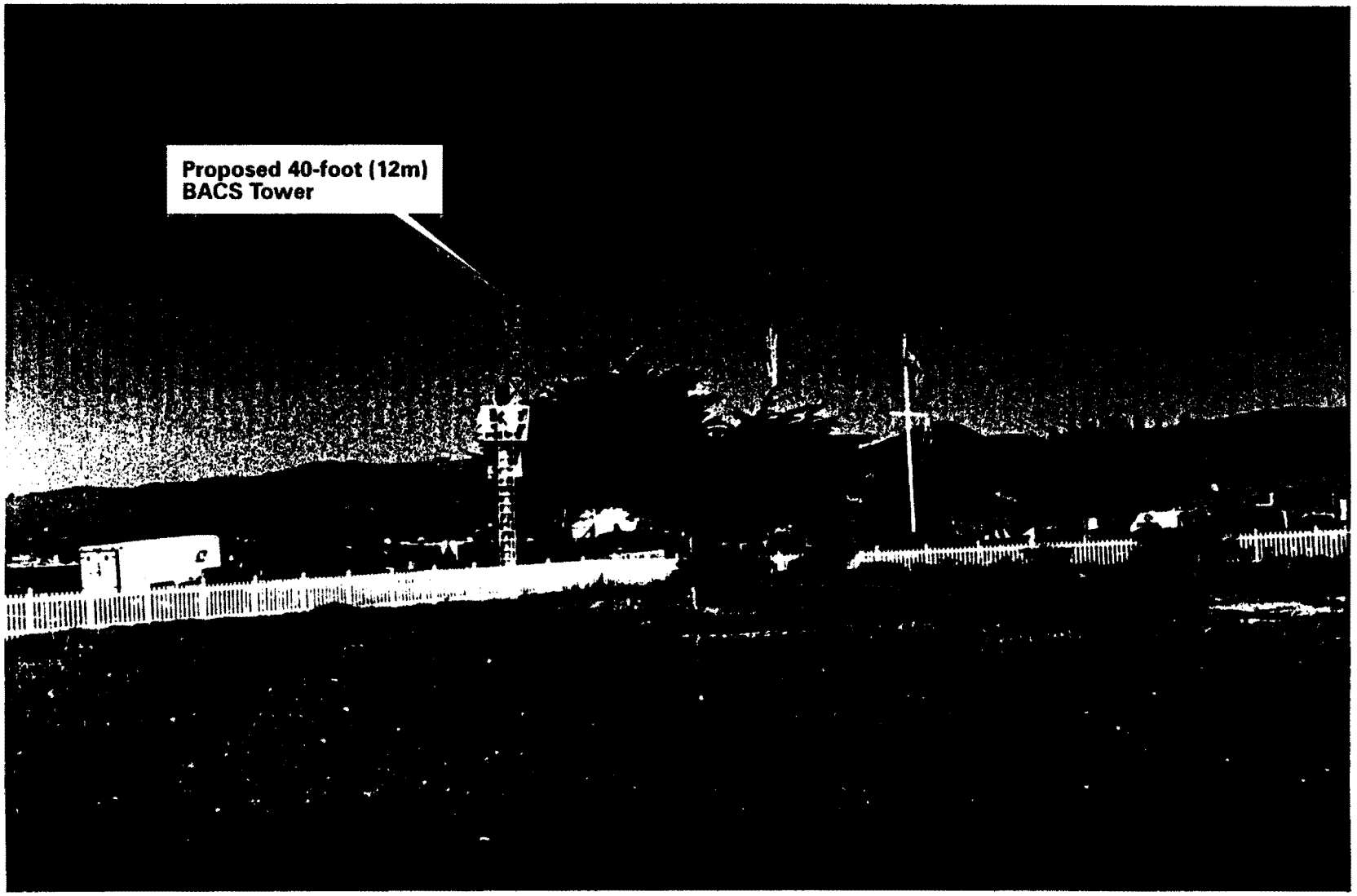
This photograph was taken from Doran Park Road, approximately 500 feet (152m) southwest of the station entrance, looking north / northeast. From this view, the station buildings are partially screened by cypress trees.

Station Bodega Bay Viewpoint 3
Existing Visual Analysis Photograph

Revised California Coastal Consistency Determination
Sonoma County, California

Source: Tetra Tech, Inc.

Figure 8



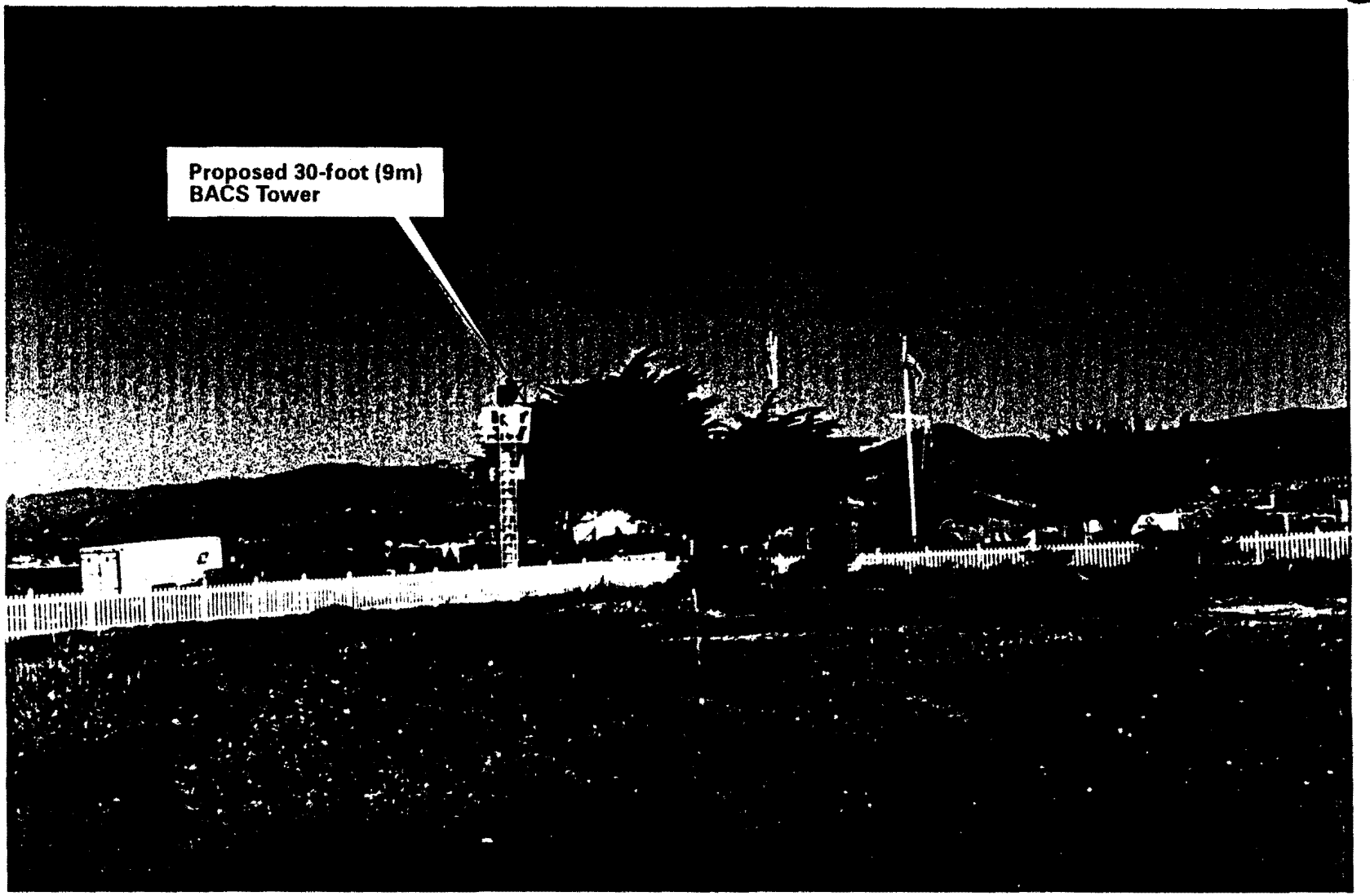
The upper portion of the proposed 40-foot (12m) tower and dish antenna would be visible behind the main station building and above the adjacent treeline. The lower portion of the tower and shelter would be screened from view by structures and landscaping.

Station Bodega Bay Viewpoint 3
Visual Analysis Photograph: 40-foot (12m) Tower

Revised California Coastal Consistency Determination
Sonoma County, California

Source: Tetra Tech, Inc.

Figure 9



Only the top of the proposed 30-foot (9m) tower and dish antenna would be visible behind the main station building and adjacent treeline. The new tower would not extend above the treeline and therefore would not be a dominant feature in this view.

Station Bodega Bay Viewpoint 3
Visual Analysis Photograph: 30-foot (9m) Tower

Revised California Coastal Consistency Determination
Sonoma County, California

Source: Tetra Tech, Inc.

Figure 10

Environmental Consequences—Viewpoint 4

Existing (No Action) Conditions

Viewpoint 4 depicts a close-range view of the project site looking west from the adjacent Doran Trailer Park. This view is characterized by picnic tables and a flat, undeveloped lot in the foreground, Station Bodega Bay and adjacent cypress trees in the middleground, and the tan undeveloped hillsides of Bodega Head in the background (Figure 11). Bodega Harbor is only slightly visible behind and west of the station. Under existing conditions, the most dominant features in Viewpoint 4 are the main station building and nearby landscaping. Similar to what is described for Viewpoint 3 (Figure 8), the panoramic nature of this view is obstructed by built vertical features, such as the flag pole and observation tower antenna, that diminish the scenic attributes of this view.

40-foot (9m) Tower

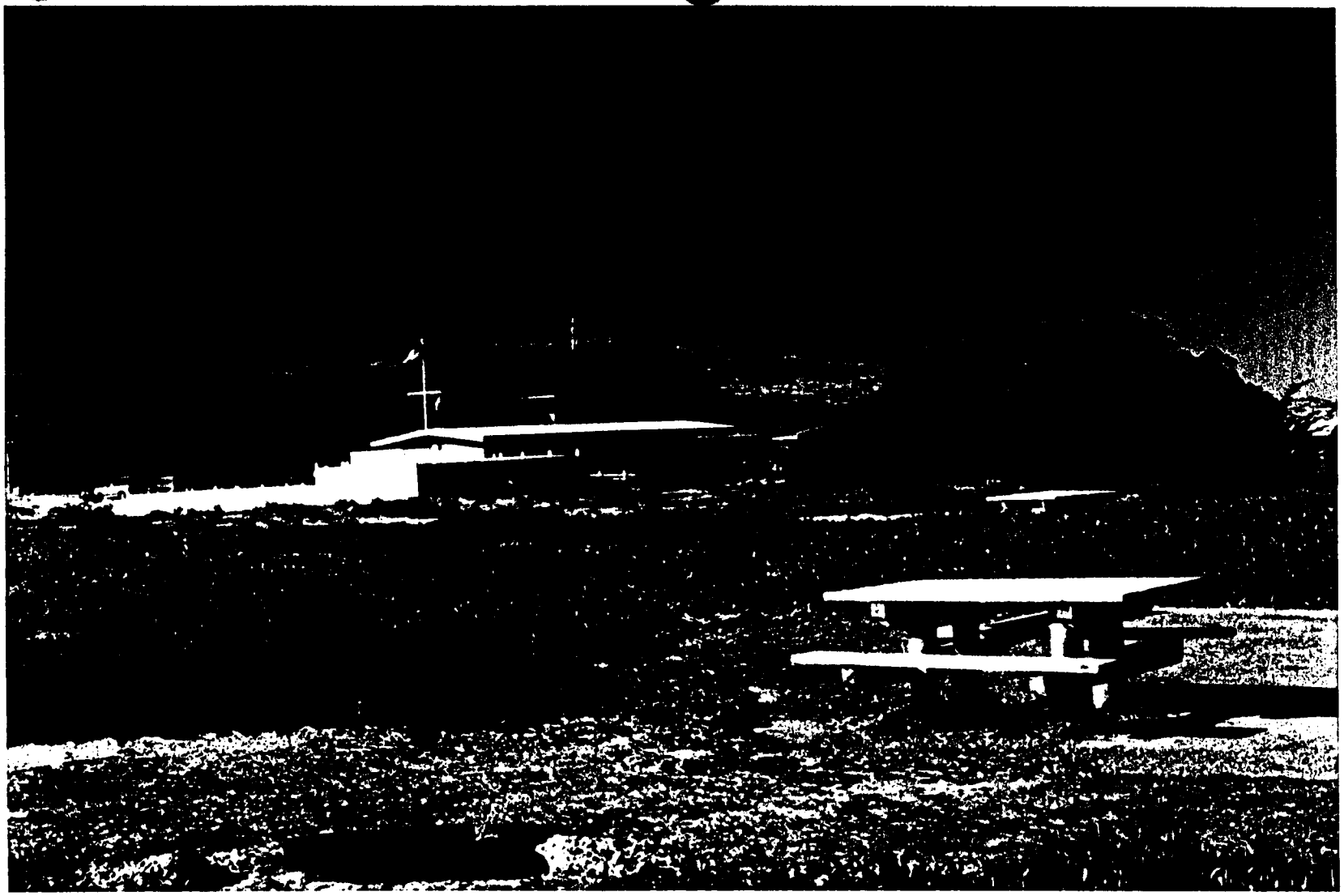
As shown on Figure 12, only the upper portion of the proposed 40-foot (12m) tower and dish antenna would be visible above the adjacent treeline and Bodega Head ridgeline. The lower part of the tower would be screened by existing structures and landscaping. The shelter also would not be visible from this viewpoint. The choice of tower color will be based on the recommendations of an avian zoologist to reduce potential bird strikes. The proposed tower would introduce a new vertical element into the landscape. However, given the developed nature of the landscape (flag pole, antenna, and other constructed vertical elements) the new 40-foot (12m) tower would not have a significant visual impact from this viewpoint..

30-foot (9m) Tower

The proposed 30-foot (9m) tower would be almost completely screened from this view by existing structures and landscaping. As shown on Figure 13, only the top of the 30-foot (9m) tower and dish antenna would be visible behind the adjacent treeline; the proposed shelter would not be visible. The new tower would not extend above the treeline; therefore, the 30-foot (9m) tower would not be a dominant feature in this view and would not reduce the scenic quality from this viewpoint.

Findings

Constructing either the 30-foot (9m) or 40-foot (12m) tower would not significantly affect the visual character or quality of the station or the surrounding landscape. However, the 30-foot (9m) tower would have less visual affect from nearby sensitive viewpoints. In addition, selecting appropriate materials and colors for the new tower and shelter that blend into the surrounding landscape would further ensure that the proposed project would have no adverse visual impacts at Station Bodega Bay.



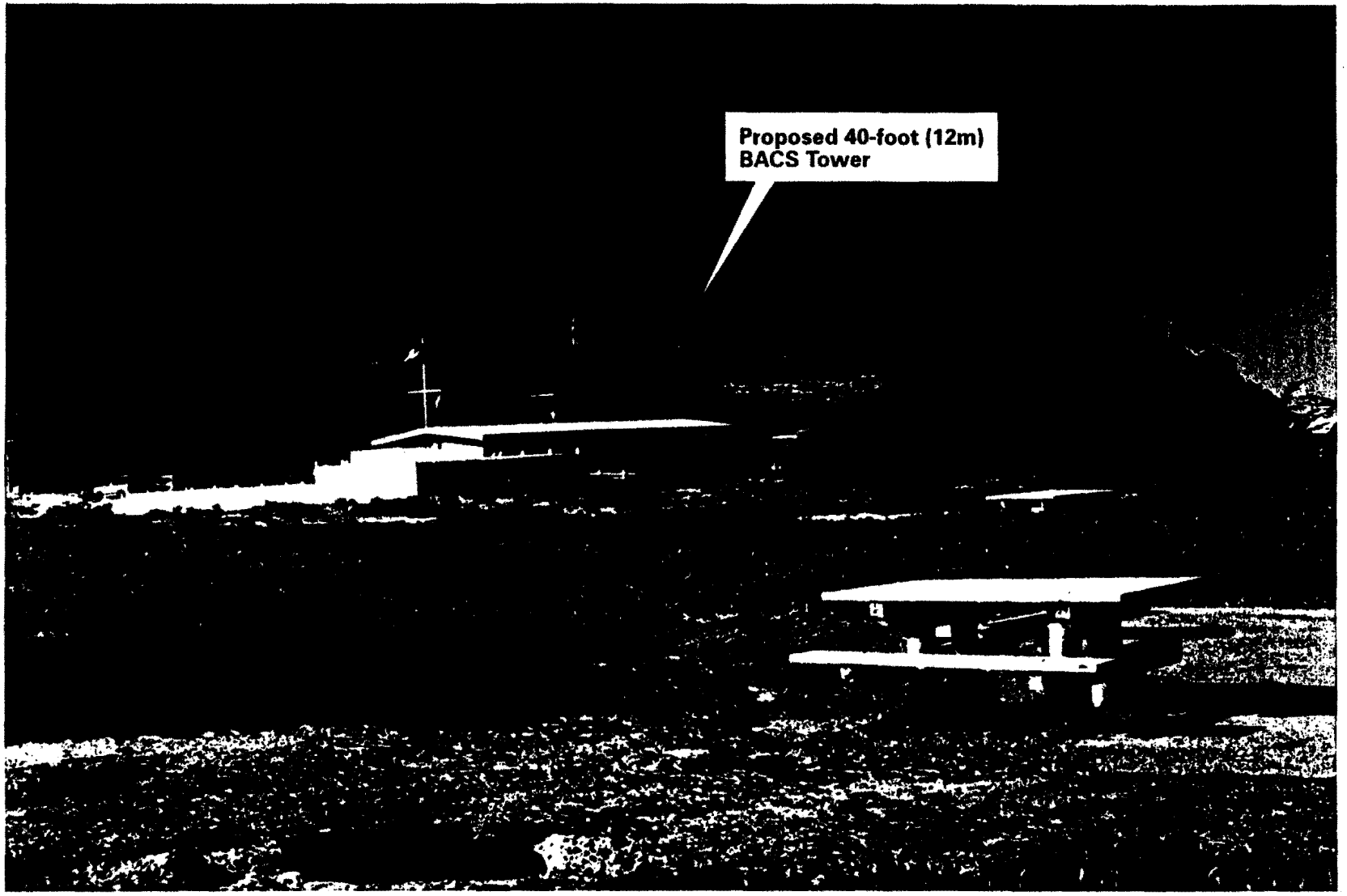
This photograph was taken from the Doran Trailer Park, approximately 40 feet (122m) northeast of the station entrance, looking west. From this viewpoint, Station Bodega Bay is dominant in the middleground, framed by adjacent cypress trees and the undeveloped hills of Bodega Head in the background.

Source: Tetra Tech, Inc.

Station Bodega Bay Viewpoint 4
Existing Visual Analysis Photograph

Revised California Coastal Consistency Determination
Sonoma County, California

Figure 11



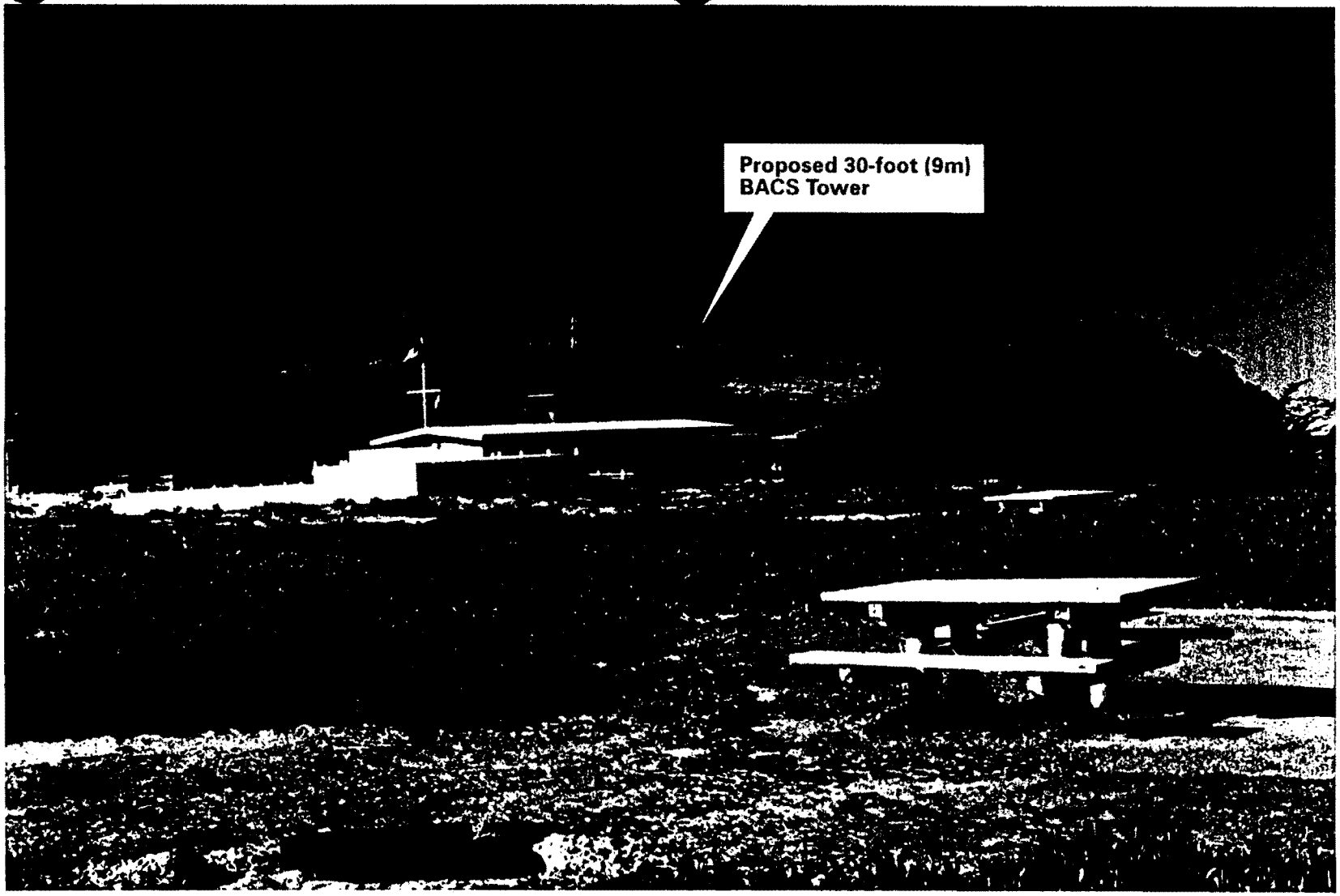
The upper portion of the proposed 40-foot (12m) tower and dish antenna would be visible behind the main station building and adjacent treeline and would extend above the Bodega Head ridgeline. The lower portion of the tower and proposed shelter would be screened by structures and landscaping.

Source: Tetra Tech, Inc.

Station Bodega Bay Viewpoint 4
Visual Analysis Photograph: 40-foot (12m) Tower

Revised California Coastal Consistency Determination
Sonoma County, California

Figure 12



Only the top of the proposed 30-foot (9m) tower and dish antenna would be visible behind the main station building and adjacent treeline. The new tower would not extend above the treeline or Bodega Head ridgeline and therefore would not be a dominant feature in this view.

Source: Tetra Tech, Inc.

Station Bodega Bay Viewpoint 4
Visual Analysis Photograph: 30-foot (9m) Tower

Revised California Coastal Consistency Determination
Sonoma County, California

Figure 13

United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130
Sacramento, California 95821-6340

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1-1-98-I-1215

May 5, 1998

Ms. Susan L. Boyle
Chief, Environmental Branch
Civil Engineering Division
U.S. Coast Guard
Coast Guard Island, Bldg., 54D
Alameda, California 94501-5100

Subject: Bay Area Communications System Upgrade, California

Dear Ms. Boyle:

This transmits the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) response to the U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) request for concurrence that the proposed Bay Area Communications System (BACS) Upgrade Project is not likely to adversely affect the federally endangered American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrimus*) (falcon) and threatened coastal population of the western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) (plover). The falcon and plover are protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Section 9 of the Act and its implementing regulations prohibit the "take" of federally listed fish and wildlife species. Take is defined by the Act as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect" any listed wildlife species. "Harm" in this definition includes significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife, by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR § 17.3).

The Service has reviewed the USCG's April 5, 1998, *Bay Area Communications System (BACS) Upgrade Biological Assessment* (BA). The USCG will upgrade its BACS system in the greater San Francisco Bay area in compliance with a Federal Communications Commission mandate to abandon the currently used 2 gigahertz (Ghz) radio frequencies for 8 Ghz frequencies. BACS system upgrades include removing antennas and demolishing unneeded/outdated facilities, and installing new facilities to replace/update existing antennas. The USCG will implement measures to reduce the likelihood of bird strikes, where appropriate, including painting towers and attaching lighting and noise devices. In addition, the USCG will conduct a 2-year study at project facilities at Station Bodega Bay, the CAMSPAC Transmitter Site at Bolinas, Mount Tamalpais West Peak, and Station Rio Vista, to confirm that project facilities comply with the requirements of the Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1916.

After review of the BA, the Service has determined the project, as proposed, is not likely to adversely affect the falcon and plover. Therefore, unless new information reveals effects of the

proposed action may affect listed species in a manner or to an extent not considered, or a new species or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the proposed action, no further action pursuant to the Act is necessary.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Dan Buford or Mr. Michael Thabault at (916) 979-2752.

Sincerely,

for Wayne S. White
Field Supervisor