CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

SOUTH CENTRAL COAST AREA 89 SOUTH CALIFORNIA ST., SUITE 200 VENTURA, CA 93001 (805) 641 - 0142

STAFF REPORT: REVOCATION REQUEST

APPLICATION NO.: R-4-98-219

Filed:

March 1, 1999

49th Day: 180th Day: N/A

Staff:

N/A MHC-\

Staff Report:

9/22/99

Hearing Date:

10/12-15/99

APPLICANT: Remote Communications

PROJECT LOCATION: Castro Peak, Malibu: Los Angeles County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Erection of one 170 foot and two 120 foot communication towers, and appurtenant facilities.

PERSON REQUESTING REVOCATION: Alan M. Lurya representing SoCal Communications, 4199 Campus Drive, Suite 700, Irvine, Orange County.

SUBSTANTIVE FILE DOCUMENTS: Coastal Development Permit Malibu/Santa Monica Land Use Plan

STAFF NOTE: This item was continued from the Commission's September 14-17 Commission meeting agenda.

PROCEDURAL NOTE: The California Code of Regulations, Title 14 Division 5.5, Section 13105 states that the grounds for the revocation of a coastal development permit are as follows:

Grounds for revocation of a permit shall be:

- a) Intentional inclusion of inaccurate, erroneous or incomplete information in connection with a coastal development permit application, where the Commission finds that accurate and complete information would have caused the Commission to require additional or different conditions on a permit or deny an application;
- b) Failure to comply with the notice provisions of Section 13054, where the views of the person(s) not notified were not otherwise made known to the Commission and could have caused the Commission to require additional or different conditions on a permit or deny an application. 14 Cal. Code of Regulations Section 13105.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTION:

The request for revocation contends that the grounds in Section 13105(a) exist because the applicant gave inaccurate and erroneous information to the Commission in the coastal development permit application. The contentions as to incorrect information include the following:

- 1) The applicant intentionally included inaccurate, erroneous, and incomplete information regarding the need for the facilities and the use of the least visually obtrusive tower design, the effects of radio transmission on the surrounding land uses and wildlife, the impacts of the project on the access road serving the property. (See Exhibit 3.)
- 2) The applicant failed to comply with the notice provisions of Section 13054, by failing to provide the Commission with a current mailing address for the adjacent property owner requesting the subject revocation. (See Exhibit 3.)

SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission deny the request for revocation on the basis that no grounds exist for revocation under either Section 13105(a) or (b).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

The staff recommends that the Commission adopt the following resolution:

I. Denial

The Commission hereby <u>denies</u> the request for revocation on the basis that (1) there was no intentional inclusion of inaccurate, erroneous or incomplete information in connection with the coastal development permit application where accurate and complete information would have caused the Commission to require additional or different conditions on the permit or deny the application; and (2) there was no failure to comply with the notice provisions of Section 13054 where the views of the persons not notified were not otherwise made known to the Commission and could have caused the Commission to require additional or different conditions or deny the application.

II. Findings and Declarations

The Commission hereby finds and declares as follows

A. Project Description and Background

On March 9, 1999 the Commission approved Coastal Development Permit 4-98-219 (Remote Communications) for the construction of a 120-foot transmission tower as part

of an expansion of Phase I of a previously approved telecommunication facility (Coastal Development Permit 4-97-074). Additionally, the project, as approved by the Commission, authorized the development of two additional phases of the project site. Phase II consists of 4 prefabricated communications buildings (10 x 40 feet), a 170 foot tower, electrical generator, a 1000 gallon fuel tank, security building (10 X 35 feet), emergency lighting and fencing. Phase II consists of a prefabricated communications building (10 X 40 feet), 120 foot tower, electrical generator, 1000 gallon fuel tank, emergency lighting, and fencing. The expansion of Phase I and the addition of Phase II and III will not require any grading, and will be serviced via an existing road and driveway. (See Exhibits 1 and 2 with exhibits attached thereto.)

The purpose of the proposed development is to provide a wide range of communication services, including broadcasting, cellular telephone transmissions, pager signal transmissions, and facsimile transmissions for both private and governmental agencies (e.g., U.S. Marshall, U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Customs Service).

The subject site is located on a 20.18 acre lot on the Castro Peak ridgeline within the unincorporated area of Malibu. Access to the site is by Castro Peak Motorway, an unpaved fire road with access from Latigo Canyon Road. The Phase I site is currently developed with a series of temporary antennas and three storage vaults which were previously approved by the Commission in past permit action. (See Exhibits 1 and 2 with exhibits attached thereto.)

B. Grounds for Revocation

Section 13105(a)

Pursuant to 14 California Code of Regulations (C.C.R.) Section 13108, the Commission has the discretion to grant or deny a request to revoke a coastal development permit if it finds that any of the grounds, as specified in 14 C.C.R. Section 13105 exist. 14 C.C.R. Section 13105 states, in part, that the grounds for revoking the permit shall be as follows: (1) that the permit application intentionally included inaccurate, erroneous or incomplete information where accurate and complete information would have caused the Commission to act differently; and (2) that there was a failure to comply with the notice provisions of Section 13054, where the views of the person(s) not notified were not otherwise made known to the Commission and could have caused the Commission to act differently.

The South Central Coast District office has received a written request for revocation of the subject coastal development permit from Alan M. Lurya, representing Socal Communications Sites, LLC (Exhibit 3.). The request for revocation is based on the grounds that the applicant submitted inaccurate, erroneous, or incomplete information and that there was inadequate notice.

The first ground for revocation in 13105© contains three essential elements or tests which the Commission must consider:

- a. Did the application include inaccurate, erroneous or incomplete information relative to the coastal development permit?
- b. If the application included inaccurate, erroneous or incomplete information, was the inclusion intentional (emphasis added)?

c. If the answer to a and b is yes, would accurate and complete information have caused the Commission to require additional or different conditions or deny the application?

The request for revocation states that the applicant, Remote Communications, gave inaccurate and erroneous information as part of the Coastal Development Permit Application. In order to qualify for grounds for revocation the request must factually demonstrate the above. As indicated above, the first standard consists, in part, of the inclusion of inaccurate, erroneous or incomplete information in connection with a coastal development permit application.

The request has asserted that inaccurate and erroneous answers were given in regards to the need for the facilities and the use of the least visually obtrusive tower design, the effects of radio transmission on the surrounding land uses and wildlife, and the impacts of the project on the access road serving the property. (See Exhibit 3.)

The Commission notes that, in order to satisfy 13105(a), the applicant must have submitted the incorrect information.

The individual grounds for revocation are discussed and evaluated separately below:

* Need for the facilities and use of least visually obtrusive tower design

The applicant for revocation asserts that the project applicant did not submit adequate information regarding the need for the facilities. The applicant submitted complete and accurate information regarding the purpose of the facilities, and detailed information (including scaled graphic depictions of the towers) as part of the Coastal Development Permit Application. This information was considered sufficient to file the application and prepare a staff report and recommendation to the Commission. No new information regarding the purpose or the visual effects of the proposed development has been provided as part of the request for revocation which contradicts the information previously provided by the applicant. It should be noted that the Commission has previously approved the development of communications on this site, and other facilities on Castro Peak. Further, Special Condition #2 regarding future redesign of telecommunication facilities applies to future technological changes, and to future conditions.

Therefore, the applicant did not submit inaccurate, erroneous or incomplete information. (See Exhibit 4.)

* Effects of radio transmission on the surrounding land uses and wildlife

The applicant for revocation asserts that that proposed transmission towers might generate harmful electromagnetic radiation, which have not been properly evaluated. The applicant submitted complete and accurate information regarding the impacts of the facilities on the project site, including evidence of having received authorization from County of Los Angeles and the Federal Communication Commission for the operation of the proposed transmission facilities (as well as previously approved transmission facilities on the same site). Neither the Commission staff nor the Commission required the current applicant to produce an engineering study of the pattern of microwave

radiation generated by the facilities. Further, no new information regarding the effects of the proposed development has been provided as part of the request for revocation. The Commission notes that the licensing of these facilities, which includes consideration of the pattern of microwave radiation generated off-site, is regulated by the Federal Communications Commission. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 specifically stipulates that:

No State or local government or instrumentality thereof may regulated the placements, construction, and modification of personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that such facilities comply with the [FCC] regulations concerning such emissions.

Therefore, the applicant did not submit inaccurate, erroneous or incomplete information. (See Exhibit 4.)

* Impacts of the project on the access road serving the property

The applicant for revocation asserts that the use of the existing access road for construction and maintenance of the permitted facilities has the potential to cause landslides or slope failures. The applicant submitted complete and accurate information regarding the means of accessing the project via an existing unpaved road. The access, road, over which the applicant has a prescriptive easement, has been used previously to construct communications facilities previously approved by the Commission without adverse impacts to the road or surrounding area. No new information regarding effects of the proposed development has been provided as part of the request for revocation which contradicts the information previously provided by the applicant. The Commission notes that the project site as well as the surrounding area on Castro Peak is currently developed with a wide array of telecommunication facilities which are also serviced by the unpaved road which is proposed to serve the development which is the subject of this revocation request. (See Exhibit 6.)

Therefore, the applicant did not submit inaccurate, erroneous or incomplete information. (See Exhibit 4.)

In summary, based on the reasons stated above the Commission finds that inaccurate or erroneous or incomplete information was <u>not</u> included in the Coastal Development Permit application relating to impacts of the proposed project.

The second standard consists of determining whether the inclusion of inaccurate information was intentional. As indicated above, there is no evidence that the applicant submitted any inaccurate, erroneous or incomplete information. Even assuming for the purpose of this analysis only that there was inaccurate information, there is no evidence that its submission was intentional. Therefore, the Commission finds that there was not any intentional inclusion of inaccurate, erroneous or incomplete information about the amendment application submittal.

The third standard for the Commission to consider is whether accurate information would have resulted in the requirement of additional or different conditions or the denial of the application. As stated, there is no evidence of that the applicant intentionally submitted inaccurate, erroneous, or incomplete information. Even assuming that the applicant

intentionally submitted inaccurate information there is no evidence that it would have caused the Commission to reach a different decision.

In reviewing proposed projects for their consistency with the Coastal Act, the Commission refers to the local land use plan as guidance. According to the Malibu/Santa Monica Mountains Land Use Plan (LUP), the subject site is designated Mountain Land and zoned A-1-1. Thus, the proposed project is consistent with the designated use of that area.

Further, in reviewing the project the Commission considered consistency of the proposed development with applicable policies of the Santa Monica Mountains Land Use Plan and the Coastal Act, including protection of scenic and visual resources, landform alteration, geologic and natural hazards, and found that the project was consistent with these provisions. Specifically, the applicant submitted detailed graphic representations of the scale and visual effects of the proposed facilities, including the transmission towers which clearly depicted the proposed project and enabled the Commission to make an informed decision on the projects potential visual effects. (See Exhibit 2, original staff report with exhibits attached thereto.) The assertion by the applicant for revocation that the project's use of the access road may cause landslides or slope failure is speculative and unsupported. The proposed use of the road is consistent with its past use and there is no evidence that the road is unable to handle the traffic generated by project.

The Commission finds that the information regarding the issues raised by the requested revocation was sufficient to evaluate the projects consistency with the applicable Coastal Act policies, and that the information provided in the revocation request would not have resulted in the requirement of additional or different conditions or the denial of the application.

The Commission finds, therefore, that the grounds for revocation contained in Section 13105(a) have not been met because all three elements of 13105(a) are not satisfied.

Section 13105 (b)

In review of a request for revocation of a coastal development permit, the Commission also examines whether grounds for revocation exist under Section 13105 (b). The Commission must determine whether or not there a failure to comply with the notice provisions of Section 13054, where the views of the person(s) not notified were not otherwise made known to the Commission and could have caused the Commission to act differently.

The Commission notes that the applicant for revocation (Alan Lurya) has asserted that the applicant knowingly supplied the Commission an out-of-date incorrect address for Socal Communications, the adjacent property owner in whose name the revocation request has been filed. Specifically, the application for revocation asserts that "The applicant subverted the permit process by willfully failing to disclose to the Commission the change of ownership from Bevan to Socal from January 1999 until the permit was granted." Socal additionally alleges that because the applicant (Remote Communications) did not provide the name and address of the new owner (Socal), to the Commission, Socal did not receive notice of the hearing at which the permit for Remote Communications was approved.

An examination of the permit application file and relevant documents does not support the assertion that the requirements of Section 13054 were not met. The applicant submitted an application for the proposed development on August 7, 1998, and included a list of property owners within 100 feet of the proposed project. (See Exhibit 5) The application was deemed complete and filed on December 16, 1998. According to the applicant for revocation, the ownership of the adjacent property in question (Bevan) changed hands (to Socal), in January 1999, after the submission of the Coastal Development Permit application (4-98-219) and after the application was deemed complete. Therefore, at the time of the submission and filing of the application, the adjacent property list supplied by the applicant was accurate and complete and met the Commission's filing and noticing requirements and therefore was consistent with the notice provisions as set forth in Section 13054 of the Commission's Administrative Regulations. Additionally, the applicant provided the Commission staff with evidence of having conspicuously posted the proposed development site with a Notice of Pending Permit provided by the Commission staff. (See Exhibit 5.) There is no requirement for an applicant to notify the Commission of a change in ownership of adjacent property that occurs while an application is pending.

The Commission therefore finds in regards to Section 13054(b) regarding whether or not the applicant complied with the notice provisions of 13054, the applicant for revocation has not submitted any evidence that there was a failure to comply with the notice provisions nor has staff's investigation disclosed any notice problems. With respect to the second portion of the section as to whether the views of the persons who were not notified were otherwise made known to the Commission could have caused the Commission to require additional or different conditions on a permit or deny an application, see the above analysis regarding the views of the applicant for revocation.

As listed above, the request for revocation does not show that the requirements of 14 C.C.R. 13105 (a) or (b) are met. The Commission finds, therefore, that this revocation request should be denied on the basis that: (1) there is no evidence of the intentional inclusion of inaccurate, erroneous or incomplete information in connection with a coastal development permit application which could have caused the Commission to require additional or different conditions on a permit or deny an application, and (2) there is no evidence that the notice provisions of Section 13054 were not complied with where the views of the person(s) not notified were not otherwise made known to the Commission and could have caused the Commission to require additional or different conditions on a permit or deny an application.



APPLICATION FOR COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMITURNIA

SECTION I. APPLICANT

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SOUTH CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT

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	▲				
8.	Will the proposed development convert land currently or previously used for agriculture to another use?	•	Yes	xQk.	No
	If yes, how many acres will be converted?	-			
9.	is the proposed development in or near:		•		
	a. Sensitive habitat areas (Biological survey may be required)	æ	Yes	0	No
	b. Areas of state or federally listed rare, threatened, or endangered species	0	Yes	Ø	No
	c. 100-year floodplain (Hydrologic mapping may be required)	Ø	Yes	Ø	No
	d. Park or recreation area adjacent property owned by Nat. Park	SVOR	Yes	O	No
10.	is the proposed development visible from:				•
	a. State Highway 1 or other scenic route	0	Yes		No
	b. Park, beach, or recreation area	0	Yes	x Sak	
	c. Harbor area	ø	Yes	XXX	No
11.	Does the site contain any: (If yes to any of the following, please explain on an attach	ed sheet.)		
	a. Historic resources	0	Yes	E	Nb
	b. Archaeological resources	0	Yes	13	No
	c. Paleontological resources		Yes) (M	Nb
12.	Where a stream or spring is to be diverted, provide the following information:	•			
	Estimated streamflow or spring yield (gpm)			•	
	If well is to be used, existing yield (gpm)			,	
	If water source is on adjacent property, attach Division of Water Rights approapproval.	val and	proper	ly owne	 Y'S

SECTION IV. REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

The following items must be submitted with this form as part of the application.

1. Proof of the applicant's legal interest in the property. A copy of any of the following will be acceptable: current tax bill, recorded deed, lease, easement, or current policy of title insurance. Preliminary title reports will not be accepted for this purpose. Documentation reflecting intent to purchase such as a signed Offer to Purchase along with a receipt of deposit or signed final escrow document is also acceptable, but in such a case, issuance of the permit may be contingent on submission of evidence satisfactory to the Executive Director that the sale has been completed.

The identity of all persons or entities which have an ownership interest in the property superior to that of the applicant must be provided.

- Assessor's parcel map(s) showing the page number, the applicant's property, and all other properties
 within 100 feet (excluding roads) of the property lines of the project site. (Available from the County
 Assessor.)
- Copies of required local approvals for the proposed project, including zoning variances, use permits, etc.,
 as noted on Local Agency Review Form, Appendix B. Appendix B must be completed and signed by the
 local government in whose jurisdiction the project site is located.
- 4. Stamped envelopes addressed to each property owner and occupant of property situated within 100 feet of the property lines of the project site (excluding roads), along with a list containing the names, addresses and assessor's parcel numbers of same. The envelopes must be plain (i.e., no return address), and regular business size (9 1/2" x 4 1/6"). Include first class postage on each one. Metered: postage is not acceptable. Use Appendix C, attached, for the listing of names and addresses. (Alternate notice provisions may be employed at the discretion of the District Director under extraordinary circumstances.)
- Stamped, addressed envelopes (no metered postage, piesse) and a list of names and addresses of allother parties known to the applicant to be interested in the proposed development (such as persons expressing interest at a local government hearing, etc.).
- 6. A vicinity or location map (copy of Thomas Bros. or other road map or USGS quad map) with the project site clearly marked.
- 7. Copy(s) of project plans, drawn to scale, including site plans, floor plans, elevations, grading and drainage plans, landscape plans, and septic system plans. Trees to be removed must be marked on the site plans in addition, a reduced site plan, 8 1/2" x 11" in size, must be submitted. Reduced copies of complete project plans will be required for large projects. NOTE: See Instruction page for number of sets of plans required.
- Where septic systems are proposed, evidence of County approval or Regional Water Quality Control
 Board approval. Where water wells are proposed, evidence of County review and approval.
- A copy of any Draft or Final Negative Declaration, Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Environmental
 impact Statement (EIS) prepared for the project. If available, comments of all reviewing agencies and
 responses to comments must be included.
- 10. Verification of all other permits, permissions or approvals applied for or granted by public agencies (e.g., Department of Fish and Game, State Lands Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard). For projects such as seawalls located on or near state tidelands or public trust lands, the Coastal Commission must have a written determination from the State Lands Commission whether the project would encroach onto such lands and, if so, whether the State Lands Commission has approved such encroachment. See memo to "Applicants for shorefront development" dated December 13, 1993.
- 11. For development on a bluff face, bluff top, or in any area of high geologic risk, a comprehensive, site-specific geology and soils report (including maps) prepared in accordance with the Coastal Commission's Interpretive Guidelines. Copies of the guidelines are available from the District Office.

SECTION V. NOTICE TO APPLICANTS

Under certain circumstances, additional material may be required prior to issuance of a coastal development permit. For example, where offers of access or open space dedication are required, preliminary title reports,

	•		
	I surveys, legal descriptions, subordination agreements, and other outside agreem suance of the permit.	nents will be rec	rined briot
of c	ddition, the Commission may adopt or amend regulations affecting the issuance castal development permits. If you would like notice of such proposals during pendency of this application, if such proposals are reasonably related to this lication, indicate that desire	Yes	cs No
SEC	CTION VI. COMMUNICATION WITH COMMISSIONERS	•	-
and disc jeor writ	isions of the Coastal Commission must be made on the basis of information available. Therefore, permit applicants and interested parties and their represensus with commissioners any matters relating to a permit outside the public heapardize the fairness of the hearing and result in invalidation of the Commission and material sent to a commissioner should also be sent to the commission office and distribution to other Commissioners.	tatives are adv aring. Such cor 's decision by	rised not to ntacts may court. Any
SEC	CTION VIL CERTIFICATION	•	•
1.	I hereby certify that I, or my authorized representative, have completed an Notice of Pending Permit card in a conspicuous place on the property within the application to the Commission office.		
2.	I hereby certify that I have read this completed application and that, to the binformation in this application and all attached appendices and exhibits is understand that the failure to provide any requested information or any missupport of the application shall be grounds for either refusing to accept this appermit, for suspending or revoking a permit issued on the basis of such makes a may seem proper to the Commission.	complete and statements su oplication, for d	i correct. I ibmitted in lenying the
3.	I hereby authorize representatives of the California Coastal Commission to comy property. Unless arranged otherwise, these site inspections shall take place as the second of the California Coastal Commission to comy property. Unless arranged otherwise, these site inspections shall take place as the second of the California Coastal Commission to comy property. Unless arranged otherwise, these site inspections shall take place as the california Coastal Commission to comy property. Unless arranged otherwise, these site inspections shall take place as the california Coastal Commission to comy property. Unless arranged otherwise, these site inspections shall take place as the california Coastal Commission to compare the california Coastal Commission to coastal Commission to coastal Commission to coastal Coast	ace between the	e hours of
	NOTE: IF SIGNED ABOVE BY AGENT, APPLICANT MUST SIG	N BELOW.	
SEC	CTION VIII. AUTHORIZATION OF AGENT		
l he	reby authorize SEE ATTACHED to	act as my repr	aviitetnesa
	to bind me in all matters concerning this application.	act as my repr	esentaria A
. •			
	Signature of Applicant(s (Only the applicant(s) may sign here to aut)) orize an agenti	
	family and additional and an ann		

APPLICATION FOR COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT

APPENDIX A

DECLARATION OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Government Code Section 84308 prohibits any Commissioner from voting on a project if he or she has received campaign contributions in excess of \$250 within the past year from project proponents or opponents, their agents, employees or family, or any person with a financial interest in the project.

In the event of such contributions, a Commissioner must disquality himself or herself from voting on the project.

Each applicant must declare below whether any such contributions have been made to any of the listed. Commissioners or Alternates (see last page).

CHECK ONE	•
The applicants, their agents, employees, far in the project have not contributed over the within the past year.	nily and/or any person with a financial interest \$250 to any Commissioner(s) or Alternate(s)
The applicants, their agents, employees, far in the project have contributed over \$250 below within the past year.	nily, and/or any person with a financial interest to the Commissioner(s) or Alternate(s) listed
Commissioner or Alternate	
Commissioner or Alternate	
Commissioner or Alternate	
Ourdige Insum Juz	July 30, 1998
Signiture of Applicant or Authorized Agent CAROLYN INGRAM SEITZ, Consultant	Dete
Please print your name CAROLYN INGRAM SEITZ, Co	nsultant



Ellen D Fielding 1618 Varna Ave "housand Oaks CA 91423

- 1 Gordon R Haight 20606 Pacific Coast Hwy Malibu CA 90265
- 2 Lin C Gee Co TRt Al & David B McCoy Co TR 24690 Saddle Peak Rd Malibu CA 90265

- Douglas H. Langevin 4. ^.8196 Pawtuckett Dr. Huntington Beach, Ca. 92646
- Darrell L & Patricia F Bevan 1164 Auberton Ln Newbury Pk CA 91320
- 5 National Park Service

- Rodolph & Parnela Borchert TR R & P Trust 28856 Cliffside Dr Malibu CA 90265
- Uri S Gingburg 4215 Admirally Wy Marina Del Rey CA 90292
- 8 Kirsten Seyferth
 303 California Ave #85
 Santa Monica CA 90403

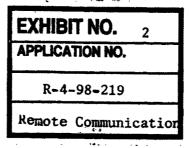
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AUG 0.7 1998

COASTAL COMMISSION
SOUTH CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

SOUTH CENTRAL COAST AREA 89 SOUTH CALIFORNIA ST., SUITE 200 VENTURA, CA 93001 (805) 641 - 0142



Filed: 10/28/98
49th Day: 12/16/98
180th Day: 04/26/99
Staff: MHC-V
Staff Report: 02/25-98

March 9, 1999

Hearing Date:

Page 1 of 115

STAFF REPORT: REGULAR CALENDAR

APPLICATION NO.: 4-98-219

APPLICANT: Remote Communications Systems

AGENT: Carolyn Seitz

PROJECT LOCATION: Castro Peak, Santa Monica Mountains, Los Angeles County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: One 170-ft, two 120-ft communication towers, and

appurtenant facilities

Lot area:

20.18 acres.

Ht above fin grade: 170 feet

LOCAL APPROVALS RECEIVED: Los Angeles County CUP 96-054

SUBSTANTIVE FILE DOCUMENTS: Application 4-98-219; Santa Monica Mountain/Malibu Land Use Plan; Coastal Development Permit 4-94-234 (GTE Mobilnet of S.B.); Coastal Development Permit 4-94-203-A (GTE Moilnet of S.B.); Coastal Development Permit 4-97-074 (RCSI).

STAFF NOTE

Based upon the information submitted to the Commission with the subject application, it is the Commission's understanding that the various communications facilities proposed here will be used by the applicant to provide a wide range of communication services, including broadcasting, cellular phone transmissions, pager signal transmissions, and facsimile transmissions. Accordingly, the Commission's consideration of certain aspects of the proposed development is bound by the requirements of federal law. Under 47 United States Code Section 332©(7) (the Telecommunications Act of 1996), while state and local governments may regulate the placement, construction and modifications of person wireless services facilities to a certain extent, such governments may not unreasonably discriminate among providers of personal wireless services, and any decision to deny a permit for a personal wireless service facility must be in writing and must be supported by substantial evidence. (47U.S.C. Section 332©(7)(B).) These provisions are similar to the requirements of California law, including the Coastal Act. The Telecommunications Act also prevents state and local governments from regulating the effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that such facilities comply with the requirements of the Federal Communications Commission (CC) concerning such emissions. (47 U.S.C. Section 332(c)(7)(B) iv)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

The staff recommends that the Commission adopt the following resolution:

I. Approval with Conditions

The Commission hereby grants, subject to the conditions below, a permit for the proposed development on the grounds that the development, as conditioned, will be in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 3 of the California Coastal Act of 1976, will not prejudice the ability of the local government having jurisdiction over the area to prepare a Local Coastal Program conforming to the provisions of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act, and will not have any significant adverse effects on the environment within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act.

II. Standard Conditions

- 1. Notice of Receipt and Acknowledgment. The permit is not valid and development shall not commence until a copy of the permit, signed by the permittee or authorized agent, acknowledging receipt of the permit and acceptance of the terms and conditions, is returned to the Commission office.
- 2. Expiration. If development has not commenced, the permit will expire two years from the date on which the Commission voted on the application. Development shall be pursued in a diligent manner and completed in a reasonable period of time. Application for extension of the permit must be made prior to the expiration date.
- 3. Compliance: All development must occur in strict compliance with the proposal as set forth below. Any deviation from the approved plans must be reviewed and approved by the staff and may require Commission approval.
- 4. <u>Interpretation.</u> Any questions of intent or interpretation of any condition will be resolved by the Executive Director or the Commission.
- 5. <u>Inspections.</u> The Commission staff shall be allowed to inspect the site and the development during construction, subject to 24-hour advance notice.
- 6. <u>Assignment.</u> The permit may be assigned to any qualified person, provided assignee files with the Commission an affidavit accepting all terms and conditions of the permit.
- 7. Terms and Conditions Run with the Land. These terms and conditions shall be perpetual, and it is the intention of the Commission and the permittee to bind all future owners and possessors of the subject property to the terms and conditions.

III. Special Conditions

- 1. Future Development Deed Restriction
- (a.) This permit is only for the development described in coastal development permit No. 4-98-219. Pursuant to Title 14 California Code of Regulations section 13253(b)(6), the exemptions otherwise provided in Public Resources Code section

30610 (b) shall not apply to the communication facilities included in this permit. Accordingly, any future improvements to the permitted structure, shall require an amendment to Permit No. 4-98-219 from the Commission or shall require an additional coastal development permit from the Commission or from the applicable certified local government.

(b.) Prior to the issuance of the Coastal Development Permit, the applicant shall execute and record a deed restriction in a form and content acceptable to the Executive Director, reflecting the above restrictions on development. The deed restriction shall run with the land, binding all successors and assigns, and shall be recorded free of prior liens that the Executive Director determines may affect the enforceability of the restriction. This deed restriction shall not be removed or changed without a Commission amendment to this coastal development permit.

2. Future Redesign of Telecommunications Facilities

Prior to the issuance of the coastal development permit, the applicant shall submit a written agreement stating that where future technological advances would allow for reduced visual impacts resulting from the proposed communication facility, the applicant agrees to make those modifications which would reduce the visual impact of the proposed facilities. In addition, the applicant agrees that if in the future, the facility is no longer needed, the applicant agrees to abandon the facility and be responsible for the removal of all permanent structures, and restoration of the site consistent with the character of the surrounding area. Before performing any work in response to the requirements of this condition, the applicant shall contact the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission to determine if an amendment to this coastal development permit is necessary.

IV. Findings and Declarations

The Commission hereby finds and declares:

A. <u>Project Description and Background</u>

The applicant is proposing the construction of a 120-foot transmission tower as part of an expansion of Phase I of a previously approved telecommunication facility (Coastal Development Permit 4-97-074). Additionally, the applicant proposes the development of two additional phases of the project site. Phase II consists of 4 prefabricated communications buildings (10 x 40 feet), a 170 foot tower, electrical generator, a 1000 gallon fuel tank, security building (10 X 35 feet), emergency lighting a fencing. Phase II consists of a prefabricated communications building (10 X 40 feet), 120 foot tower, electrical generator, 1000 gallon fuel tank, emergency lighting, and a fencing. The expansion of Phase I and the addition of Phase II and III will not require any grading, and will be serviced via an existing road and driveway. (See Exhibits 1 through 4.)

The purpose of the proposed development is to provide a wide range of communication services, including broadcasting, cellular telephone transmissions, pager signal transmissions, and facsimile transmissions.

The subject site is located on a 20.18 acre foot lot on the Castro Peak ridgeline within the unincorporated area of Malibu (Exhibit 1-2). Access to the site is by Castro Peak Motorway, an unpaved fire road with access from Latigo Canyon Road. The Phase I site is currently developed with a series of temporary antennas and three storage vaults which were previously approved by the Commission in past permit action.

B. Visual Resources and Landform Alteration

Section 30251 of the Coastal Act states 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.

Section 30251 of the Coastal Act requires scenic and visual qualities to be considered and protected. To assist in the determination of whether a project is consistent with Section 30251 of the Coastal Act, the Commission has, in past coastal development permit actions, looked to the Malibu/ Santa Monica Mountains LUP for guidance. The Malibu/ Santa Monica Mountains LUP has been found to be consistent with the Coastal Act and provides specific standards for development within the Santa Monica Mountains. The following LUP policies pertain to the proposed project:

- Policy 125 New development shall be sited and designed to protect public views from LCP-designated scenic highways to and along the shoreline and to scenic coastal areas, including public parklands. Where physically and economically feasible, development on sloped terrain should be set below road grade.
- Policy 129 Structures should be designed and located so as to create an attractive appearance and harmonious relationship with the surrounding environment.
- Policy 130 In highly scenic areas and along scenic highways, new development shall:
 - ♦ Be sited and designed to protect views to and along the ocean and to and along other scenic features, as defined and identified in the Malibu LCP.
 - ♦ Minimize the alteration of natural landforms.
 - ♦ Be landscaped to conceal raw-cut slopes.
 - ♦ Be visually compatible with and subordinate to the character of its setting.
 - Be sited so as not to significantly intrude into the skyline as seen from public viewing places.
- Policy 131 Where feasible, prohibit placement of structures that will break the ridgeline view, as seen from public places.

The proposed project includes the construction of a 170 foot high and two 120 foot high open lattice steel communications towers, the installation five prefabricated buildings under 10 feet high, a miscellaneous appurtenant facilities (generators, fuel tanks, and lighting an fencing). The construction of the tower will not increase the amount of paved surfaces and does not include any grading; however, it does have the potential to create adverse visual effects. The subject site is located on Castro Peak, which the LUP designates as a "significant ridgeline." Significant ridgelines constitute a scenic resource of the Coastal Zone due to their visibility from many vantage points including Highway 101. Castro Peak is one of the highest and most prominent peaks in the Santa Monica Mountains. The peak's high elevation and geographic location provides for an ideal radio communications site.

The site currently has one 35-foot high temporary wooden tower approved by the Commission in Coastal Development Permit 4-97-074, that provides antenna space for several Federal agencies as well as privately owned pager companies (See Exhibit 3). The property owned by Darrel Bevan located to the east of the subject site contains a cellular service site operated by Pac Tell Cellular approved by the Commission per Coastal Development Permit 4-94-016. This property also has two large towers with several antenna dishes attached, several amateur radio sites attached to the top of telephone poles, and several equipment structures. Some of the existing development on Bevan's parcel was constructed without the benefit of a coastal development permit and is currently being investigated by the Commission's Enforcement unit. A portion of the area on Castro Peak is owned by the County of Los Angeles and is currently developed with a 120-foot tall orange and white striped steel lattice communications tower and 80 foot

The proposed 170-foot and two 120-foot steel communications tower will be sited immediately north of the existing County of Los Angeles facilities located on the ridgeline of the mountaintop. The existing towers owned and operated by the County of Los Angels are painted white and orange as a precautionary safety measure for aviation. The Commission recently granted a Coastal Development Permit (4-98-074) to the County of Los Angeles for an additional 80-foot communication tower immediately south of the site, which is the subject of this application. The new towers will be visible from Highway 101 and Highway 1, a designated scenic highway, as well as several hiking trails and scenic areas within the Santa Monica Mountains.

There is another pending coastal development permit application that has been received by the Commission Darrel Bevan. Bevan, the owner of APN 4464-022-005, is proposing to relocate an existing unpermitted 60-foot tower from National Parks Service Land and increase the height to 120 feet. Therefore, the cumulative visual impact from these towers is of concern.

The tower location clusters development on the ridgeline in order to minimize the adverse visual effects seen from public places. The proposed towers will not result in any additional significant adverse visual impacts as seen from public viewing points or scenic highways in the area. Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed tower is consistent with the existing permitted development located on Castro Peak due to its proposed height and location.

However, to ensure that any additional microwave dishes or antennas added to the proposed tower will not significantly increase the height of the tower and create adverse visual impacts the Commission finds that proposed project can only be approved attached with Special Condition One (1). Special Condition One (1) requires that any modification

to the approved coastal development permit including additions or improvements to the structures will require a coastal development permit or amendment.

Further, in the future, the communications equipment on site may become obsolete based on advanced technology. Should this occur, there would not be any need for the proposed development. Although the individual effect of this development is not significant, the cumulative effect of additional towers and structures on this ridgeline, as technology progresses, can create adverse visual impacts. Therefore, in the event that future technological advances allow for a reduced visual impact, the Commission finds it necessary to require the applicant to agree to make those modifications which would reduce the visual impact of the proposed facility. Likewise, if in the future, the facility is no longer needed, the applicant shall agree to abandon the facility and be responsible for he removal of all permanent structures, and restoration of the site as outlined in Special Condition Two (2).

The Commission finds the proposed 170-foot and two 120-foot towers in the proposed location as specifically designed here are consistent with Section 30251 of the Coastal Act. The Commission notes that other towers in alternative locations, with different designs and in different heights might not be consistent with the Coastal Act policies. Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed project, as conditioned, is consistent with Section 30251 of the Coastal Act.

C. . Geological and Natural Hazards

Section 30253 of the Coastal Act states in part that new development shall:

- (1) Minimize risks to life and property in areas of high geologic, flood, and fire hazard.
- (2) Assure stability and structural integrity, and neither create nor contribute significantly to erosion, instability, or destruction of the site or surrounding area or in any way require the construction of protective devices that would substantially alter natural landforms along bluffs and cliffs.

The proposed development is located in the Santa Monica Mountains, an area that is generally considered to be subject to an unusually high amount of natural hazards. Geologic hazards common to the Santa Monica Mountains include landslides, erosion, and flooding. In addition, fire is an inherent threat to the indigenous chaparral community of the coastal mountains. Wild fires often denude hillsides in the Santa Monica Mountains of all existing vegetation, thereby contributing to an increased potential for erosion and landslides on property. Section 30253 of the Coastal Act requires that new development minimizes risk to life and property in areas of high geologic, flood and fire hazard, and assures stability and structural integrity.

Section 30253 of the Coastal Act requires that new development minimizes risk to life and property in areas of high geologic, flood and fire hazard, and assures stability and structural integrity. The applicant is proposing the construction of one 170-foot and two 120-foot high open lattice steel communications towers, the installation five prefabricated buildings, and appurtenant facilities. Previous geological investigations of the Castro Peak site have indicated that the soil and rock conditions at the site are suitable for drilled cast-in-pile type foundations which have been used for existing, previously approved, and currently proposed open lattice communications towers.

Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed development as proposed, is consistent with Section 30253 of the Coastal Act.

D. Local Coastal Program

Section 30604(a) of the Coastal Act states that:

Prior to certification of the local coastal program, a coastal development permit shall be issued if the issuing agency, or the commission on appeal, finds that the proposed development is in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 30200) of this division and that the permitted development will not prejudice the ability of the local government to prepare a local program that is in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 30200).

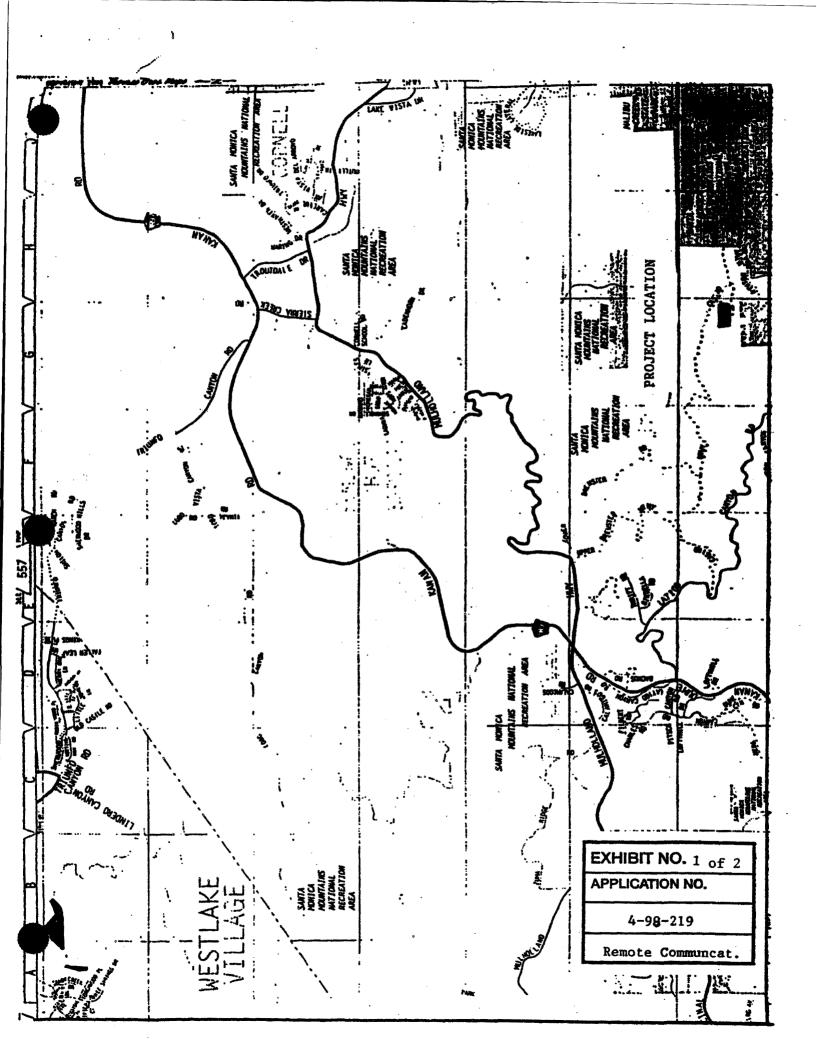
Section 30604(a) of the Coastal Act provides that the Commission shall issue a Coastal Permit only if the project will not prejudice the ability of the local government having jurisdiction to prepare a Local Coastal Program which conforms with Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act. The preceding sections provide findings that the proposed project will be in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 3 if certain conditions are incorporated into the project and accepted by the applicant. As conditioned, the proposed development will not create adverse impacts and is found to be consistent with the applicable policies contained in Chapter 3.

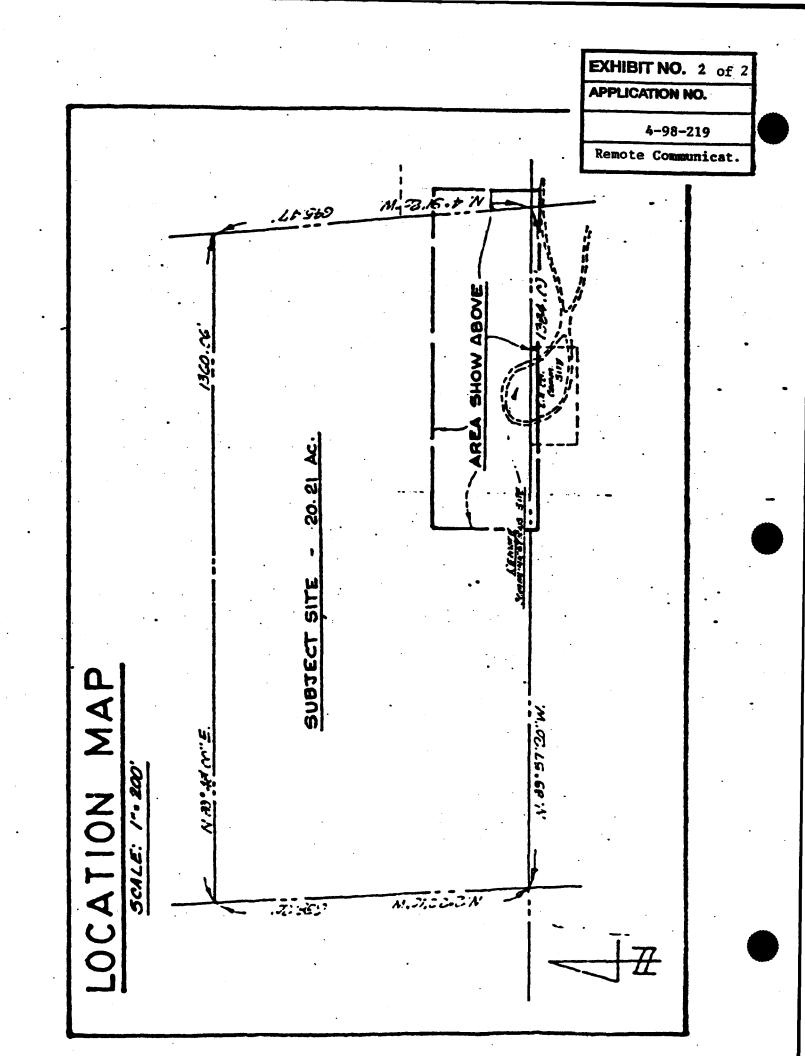
Therefore, the Commission finds that approval of the proposed development, as conditioned, will not prejudice the County's ability to prepare a Local Coastal Program for Malibu which is also consistent with the policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act as required by Section 30604(a).

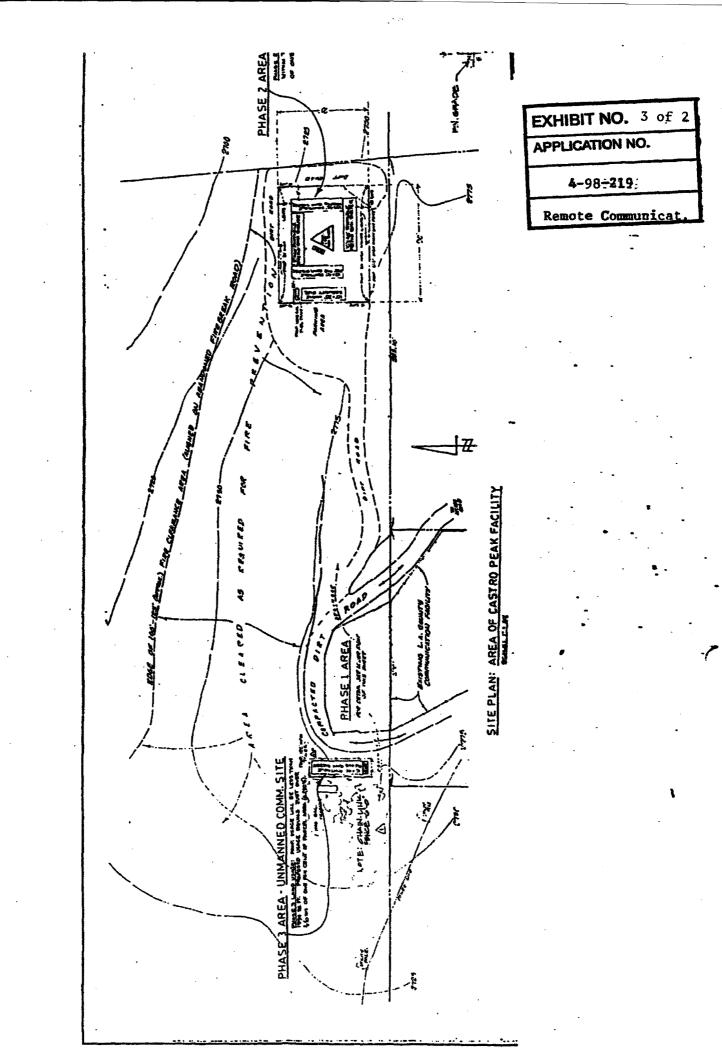
E. California Environmental Quality Act

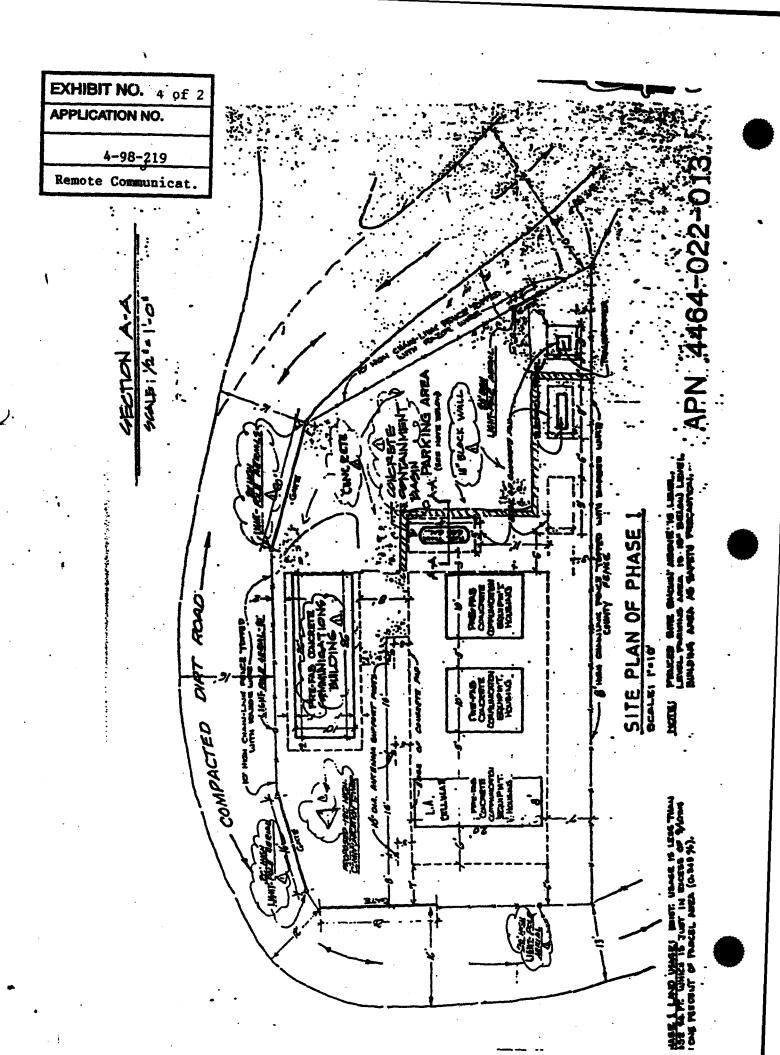
Section 13096(a) of the Commission's administrative regulations requires Commission approval of a Coastal Development Permit application to be supported by a finding showing the application, as conditioned, to be consistent with any applicable requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Section 21080.5(d)(2)(A) of CEQA prohibits a proposed development from being approved if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen any significant adverse effects which the activity would have on the environment.

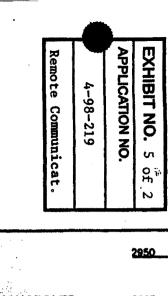
The proposed project, as conditioned, will not have any significant adverse effects on the environment, within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970. Therefore, the proposed project, as conditioned, has been adequately mitigated and is consistent with CEQA and the policies of the Coastal Act.

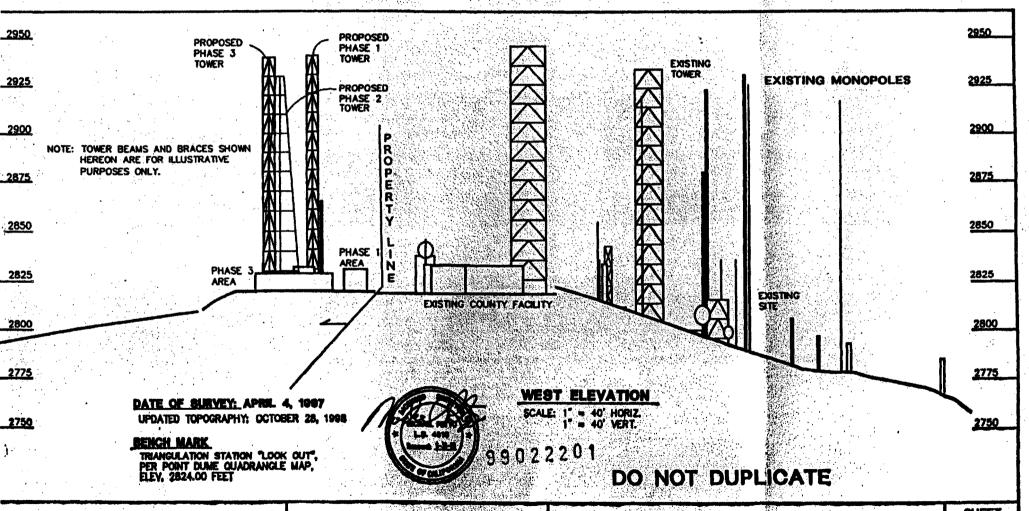












SURVENCES

M. PETYO & ASSOC. INC, 17082 SKY PARK CIRCLE, SUITE B IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92514 (949) 250-0272

PREPARED BY:

PREPARED FOR:

R.C.S.L REMOTE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS P.O. BOX 1510 SIMI VALLEY, CA 83062-1510 PROFILE VIEWS
TOWERS, ANTENNAS & FACILITIES

CASTRO PEAK

SHEET 1

DRAWN: 2/16/09

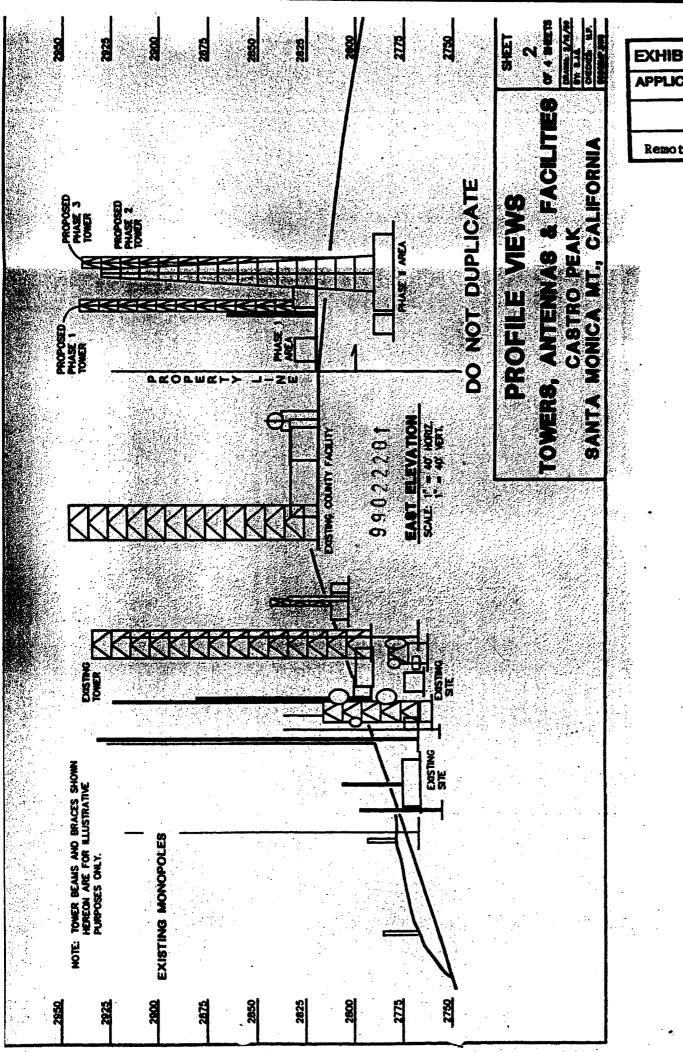
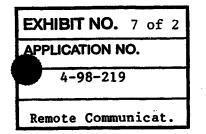
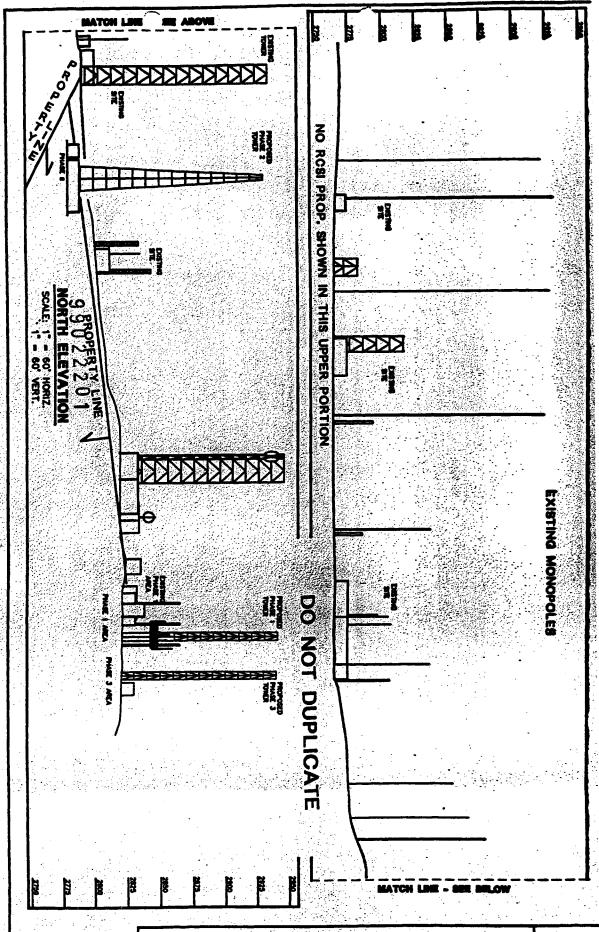


EXHIBIT NO. 6 of 2
APPLICATION NO.

4-98-219

Remote Communicat

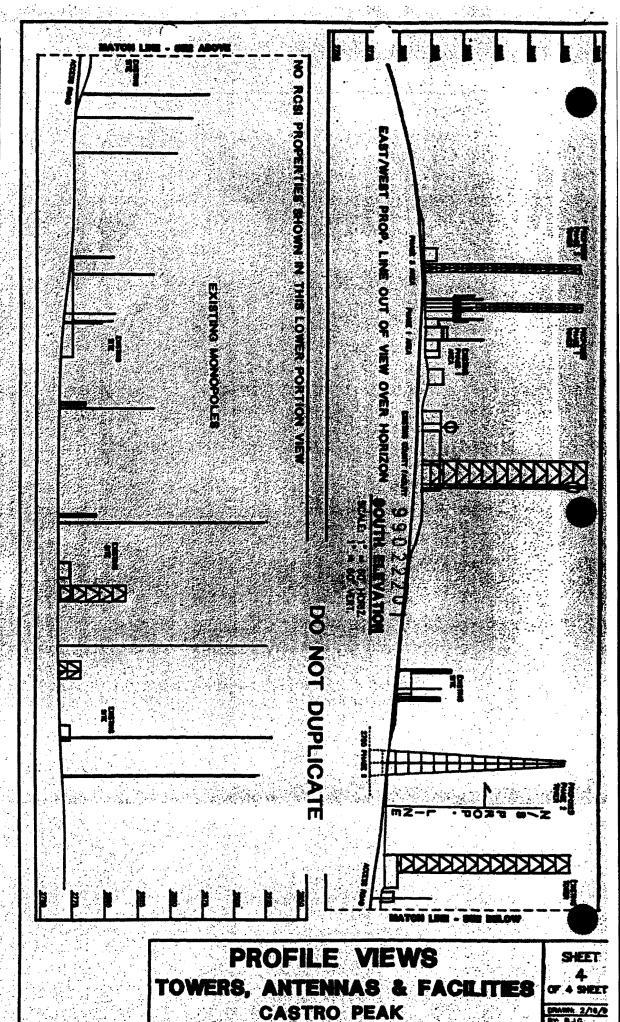




PROFILE VIEWS
TOWERS, ANTENNAS & FACILITIES
CASTRO PEAK
SANTA MONICA MT. CALIFORNIA

SHEET 3 of 4 sheet

DRAWN: 2/16/1 BY: B.J.G. CHECKED: M.P APPLICATION NO.
4-98-219
Remote Communicat.



SANTA MONICA MT. CALIFORNIA

Law Offices of ALAN M. LURYA

4199 Campus Drive, Suite 700 Irvine, California 92612

R-4-98-219
Remote Communication
Fax: (\$49) 854-4897

July 19, 1999

California Coastal Commission South Coast District Office 89 S. California Street Ventura, CA 93001



RE: Application No. 4-98-219 REMOTE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM PERMIT TO EXPAND COMMUNICATIONS SITES and Permit thereon approved on May 11, 1999

SUBJECT: Request to Revoke Coastal Commission Permit and Request to Suspend Said Permit Pending Final Hearing By Commission

To the Executive Director:

This request is made by Socal Communication Sites, LLC, ("Socal") which is the owner of a contiguous parcel of real property, consisting of approximately 20+acres situated South of the subject property. This request to revoke the above described permit, and pending a hearing on the revocation, to summarily suspend the permit, is made pursuant to Calif. Code of Regulation Section 13105 et seq.

Socal Communication Sites' grounds for revocation are-

- 1. The applicant intentionally included inaccurate, erroneous and incomplete information, and complete and accurate information would have caused the commission to require additional or different conditions on a permit or deny an application.
- 2. The applicant failed to comply with the notice requirements of Section 13054, where the views of the person not notified were otherwise not made known to the commission and could have caused the commission to require additional or different conditions on a permit or deny an application. Said failure to comply was wilful and deliberate. See Rule 13105
- 3. Because Socal is a contiguous property owner, located within 100 feet of the Subject Property it was statutorily entitled to notice of the proceedings and entitled to participate therein. The applicant subverted the permit process by

willfully failing to disclose to the Commission the change of ownership from Bevan to Socal from January 1999 until the permit was granted. The applicant knew that the Notice of Hearing set on April 23, 1999 would not reach Socal because the Notice of Addresses supplied to the Commission listed the old property owner Bevan. The applicant also knew that Socal and Bevan were hostile (as Socal was foreclosing on Bevan's property.) The applicant knew that Socal took title to its property by foreclosure, and obtained a trustee's deed upon a sale which occurred in January 1999. The applicant knew this fact in January 1999 because applicant was specifically informed by Socal. Also, Socal and applicant are business competitors and have had extensive prior dealings regarding the property. Furthermore, the Socal owns the road over which Remote passes to reach its property, and there were extensive discussions regarding the road immediately upon Socal having obtained title to the property. By reason of the foregoing, the applicant wilfully and delberately violated Rule 13105 by allowing and causing notice of hearing to go to an inaccurate address.

- 4. Socal Communication Sites is authorized under Rule 13106 to initiate these proceedings, in that it did not have an opportunity to fully participate in the permit proceedings by reason of the applicant's failure to give adequate notice and the inclusion of inaccurate information aforesaid.
- 5. Revocation is appropriate because Socal had information and views which, if brought to the Commission's attention at the hearing both would and could have caused the Commission to have either denied or modified the permit. Failure to give statutory notice requires under the authority of Rule 13105 (b) that revocation shall occur if that person's information "could" have affected the outcome. This is a lenient standard for the objector to meet. As shall be shown, Socal has abundant views regarding the for denial or modification of the permit which were not addressed meaningfully by others.
- 6. Had Socal been given notice of the permit proceedings, it would have raised these points—
- A. The applicant has no legitimate need for three new towers nor improvements. Because of this fact, any degradation of the ridgeline is unjustified. Applicant currently has three wooden towers (telephone poles) which can accommodate its needs. If painted properly for camouflage, these have a much smaller impact on the environment.

There is no justification presented in the application that three additional towers are necessary. Technical information which was unknown to the Commission, but known to Socal Communications would show that any reasonable expansion of Remote's business can be accommodated on its existing towers. Remote should be forced to justify by business records that it needs the towers. Furthermore, the Commission should be aware that there is no technical

reason why the towers need be as high as they are proposed to be. This means that the Commission should consider reducing the proposed height of the towers to minimize their impact on the environment.

This brings us to the question of whether the Commission could or would have been influenced by the views of Socal. Socal notes that the permit was issued with numerous conditions, including <u>"2.Future Redesign of Telecommunications Facilities</u>. This clause require applicant to agree that "where future technological changes would allow for reduced visual impacts resulting from the proposed communication facility applicant agrees to make those modifications which would reduce the impact of the proposed facilities."

The information which Socal would present is that the at the present time it is technologically feasible to either eliminate the towers or to drastically change their design to limit damage to the environment. Based on the Commission's concern expressed in this paragraph limiting the permit, and the further demand expressed therein that the applicant agree that "if in the future the facility is no longer needed the applicant agrees to abandon the facility" and be responsible for the "removal of all permanent structures" and "restoration of the site". It is respectfully suggested that Socal has met its burden of proving that it had information which would have resulted in either a denial or modification of the permit.

Socal would have proposed during the permitting process that the Commission require that the applicant:

- 1. Submit an engineering study showing that the towers are necessary and why a smaller or less obtrusive tower was not reasonably feasible.
- 2. Submit a customer list or customer information to show that it had the actual need for the tower, and that a smaller tower or facility would not serve its needs.
- 3. Permit detailed public scrutiny of the representations and the assumptions underlying such studies.
- B. Applicant has not produced any engineering study as to the pattern of microwave radiation and the levels generated offsite. There is no guarantee that Socal, its employees, and agents will not be exposed to unsafe levels of microwave energy. Furthermore, the County of Los Angeles has a radio site immediately next to the facility, and there is no assurance that County workers will be protected.

Socal has no way to know how many antennas will be oriented by Remote, and what the radiation flux will be on its property. Exposure to high power microwave radiation generated on site can cause severe health risks, including cataracts. These effects must be taken into account. Socal has caretakers and

workers on the property 24 hours 7 days per week. Its viewpoint is that these radiation levels must be addressed and steps taken to shield Socal personnel from such radiation. This survey should have been done before the permit was granted. This radiation also has an unknown effect on wildlife that may originate on Park Service Land and cross onto this radiation area. There should be some biological study that there will be no negative effect on wildlife, including any endangered or ecologically sensitive species.

C. Applicant's building plans contain no provision to restore sensitive hillsides or ridgelines damaged as a result of landslides and erosion. The heavy equipment to be used is incompatible with the narrow, dirt unimproved road, and may trigger such a slide.

Socal, had it been given an opportunity to participate in the proceedings, would have pointed out to the Commission that the proposed construction will require that the applicant bring heavy 18 wheel trucks over an unimproved dirt road on an extremely steep grade. We are not only referring to Castro Motorway (unpaved) but to the access road from the motorway to the site. This access road belongs to Socal. Socal states that the Commission should have required a geological report or soils report that the heavy equipment necessary to build this project will not trigger a landslide, which would destroy the road, and scar the ridgeline. A landslide is possible because the dirt road is right next to the cliff. Also, the vibration of the heavy equipment may trigger such slides. At a minimum, the Commission should have required that this issue be addressed by applicant.

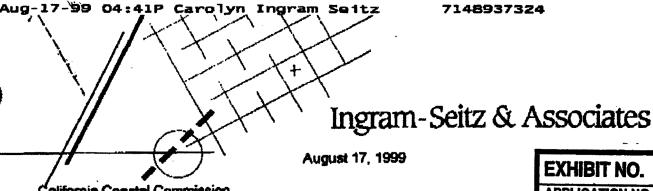
Based on the foregoing the permit should be revoked by the Commission, and should be suspended by the Executive Director, pending a hearing.

Very body yours,

Alan M. Lurya Attorney at Law

AML/dl

ce Remote Communications System c/o Carolyn Ingram Seitz P.O. Box 784 Westminster, CA 92684-0784



California Coastal Commission South Central Coast Area Suite 200 89 South California Street Ventura, California 93001

Attention:

MARK H. CAPELLI, COASTAL PROGRAM ANALYST

RE:

COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT 4-98-219

Atop Castro Peak - Malibu/Santa Monica Mountains Area

Remote Communications Systems, Inc.

Dear Mr. Capelli:

This letter is being written in response to your letter dated August 10, 1999, and the letter received from Alan M. Lurya requesting that the Commission consider revocation of the Coastal Development Permit issued to Remote Communications Systems, Inc. I will do my best to answer Mr. Lurya's statements as he listed them in his letter and I will restate his grounds, questions, issues or concerns by showing them in bold, underlined text. Our responses follow thereon:

- The applicant intentionally included inaccurate, erroneous and incomplete information, and complete and accurate information would have caused the commission to require additional or different conditions on a permit or deny an application. Mr. Lurya does not state. what the inaccurate, erroneous or incomplete information is. We are not aware of any inaccurate, erroneous or incomplete information. The site plan that was submitted with this application is virtually the same site plan as was considered by the Commission at the time they granted an earlier Permit for Phase One of this project. That site plan showed Phase Two and Phase Three which were the subject of the current application and Permit. The prior Permit's number is 4-97-074. The application materials were completed and submitted by applicant and by this firm with the best information available to us at the time. Had any deficiency or error come to light, we would have taken action to remedy same without hesitation.
- The applicant falled to comply with the notice requirements of Section 13054, where the ylews of the person not notified were otherwise not made known to the commission and could have caused the commission to require additional or different conditions on a pennit or deny an application. Said failure to comply was wilful and deliberate. Applicant caused to be prepared a certified ownership list and mailing envelopes as was required by statute at the time the permit application was filed. The malling list was certified by Carlton Rodeheaver of American Permit Service and that certification was automitted along with the list and mailing envelopes as was required. We are not aware of any failure of the part of this applicant to intentionally or unintentionally fall to follow adopted procedures. All regularments for notice for which the applicant is responsible were fully discharged by applicant or applicant's representatives.

EXHIBIT NO. APPLICATION NO. R-4-98-219 Remote Communicatio

Page 1 or 6

Mark H. Capelli August 17, 1999 Page Two

- Because Socal is a configuous property owner, located within 100 feet of the subject property it was statutorily entitled to notice of the proceedings and entitled to participate therein. The applicant subverted the permit process by wilfully failing to disclose to the Commission the change of ownership from Buvan to Socal from January 1999 until the pennit was granted. The apolicant knew that the Notice of Hearing set on April 23, 1999 would not reach Socal because the notice of addresses supplied to the Commission listed the old property owner Bevan. The applicant also know that Social and Bevan were hostile (as Soci was foreclosing on Bevan's property.) The applicant knew that Societock title to its property by foreclosure, and obtained a trustee's deed upon sale which occurred in January 1999. The applicant knew this fact in January 1999 because applicant was specifically informed by Socal Also, Social and applicant are business competitors and have had extensive prior dealings reparding the property. Furthermore, the Socal owns the road over which Remote passes to reach its property, and there were extensive discussions recording the road immediately upon Socal having obtained title to the property. By reason of the foregoing, the applicant withilly and delberately (sic) violated Rule 13105 by ellowing and causing notice of hearing to go to an ineccurate address. This applicant did what was required and submitted accurate mailing lists and envelopes at the time they were required. Applicant has no control over changes of ownership after the date the required materials are submitted to the Coestal Commission. As far as applicant and its representatives are aware, there is no provision in the body of laws governing the Coestal Commission and its procedures that requires the applicant do any more than submit true and accurate information at the time the application is submitted. The statutes do not require an update to the list. James A. Kay, Jr., owner of Socal has been aware of the pendency of this development from the beginning. He was the former tenant on the property that is the subject of this Permit. He is now the owner of the adjoining property. He has submitted written materials about this project and attended public hearings conducted by this Commission in the past. No effort was made at any time to conceat. the current permit process from Mr. Kay or his company. Socal. Mr. Kay's tenants and caretakers. John and Ruth Burroughs were also made aware of the pending hearing on the subject Permit by applicant. Applicant posted the hearing notice sign well in advance of the hearing and completed the required affidavit of posting and submitted it timely as well. The issue Mr. Lurya raises about the road is not relevant. If the Commission and/or staff are interested in reviewing Court rulings regarding the road issue, applicant would be happy to supply copies of these rulings or orders. The issue over the road is a civil matter that has nothing to do with issuance of this Permit.
- 4. Social Communications Sites is authorized under Rule 13106 to initiate these proceedings, in that it did not have an opportunity to fully participate in the permit proceedings by reason of the applicant's failure to give adequate notice and the inclusion of the inaccurate information aforesaid. Applicant restates its position that it did exactly as was required and submitted complete, true and accurate information. Mr. Lurya still fails to state what the basis of his assertion is that applicant included "inaccurate, erroneous and incomplete information".
- 5. Revocation is appropriate because Socal had information and views which. If brought to the Commission's attention at the hearing both would and could have caused the Commission to have either denied or modified the permit. Failure to give stautory notice requires under the authority of Rule 13105 (b) that revocation shall occur if that person's information "could" have affected the journment. This is a lenient standard for the objector to meet. As shall be shown, Socal has abundant views reparding the for (sic) denial or modification of the permit which were not addressed meaningfully by others.

Mark H. Capelli August 17, 1999 Page Three

As far as this Applicant is aware, its statutory burden was met in submitting the required materials at the time the permit application was filed.

- 6. Had Socal been given notice of the permit proceedings, it would have raised these points:
 - A. The applicant has no legitimate need for three new towers nor improvements.

 Because of this fact, any degradation of the ridgeline is unjustified. Applicant currently has three wooden towers (telephone poles) which can accommodate its needs. If painted properly for camouflage, these have a much smaller impact on the environment.

There is no justification presented in the application that three additional towers are necessary. Technical information which was unknown to the Commission, but known to Social Communications would show that any reasonable expansion of Remote's business can be accommodated on its existing towers. Remote should be forced to justify by business records that it needs the towers. Furthermore, the Commission should be aware that there is no technical reason why the towers need be as high as they are proposed to be. This means that the Commission should consider reducing the proposed height of the towers to minimize their impact on the environment.

This brings us to the question of whether the Commission could or would have been influenced by the views of Socal. Socal notes that the permit was issued with numerous conditions, including "2. Future Redesign of Telecommunications Facilities. This clause require (sic) applicant to agree that "where future technological changes would allow for reduced visual impacts resulting from the proposed communication facility applicant agrees to make those modifications which would reduce the impact of the proposed facilities."

The information which Socal would present is that the at the present time (sic) it is technologically feasible to either eliminate the towers or to drastically change their design to limit damage to the environment. Based on the Commission's concern expressed in this paragraph limiting the permit, and the further demand expressed therein that the applicant agree that "if in the future the facility is no longer needed the applicant agrees to abandon the facility" and be responsible for the "removal of all permanent structures" and "retoration of the site". It is respectfully suggested that Socal has met its burden of proving that it had information which would have resulted in either a denial or modification of the permit.

Socal would have proposed during the permitting process that the Commission require the applicant:

1. Submit an engineering study showing that the towers are necessary and why a smaller or less obtrusive tower was not reasonably feasible.

2. Submit a customer list or customer information to show that it had the actual need for the tower, and that a smaller tower or facility would not serve its needs.

 Permit detailed public scrutiny of the representations and the assumptions underlying such studies. Mark H. Capelli August 17, 1999 Page Four

Applicant is confident that they have supplied information sufficient to justify the need for the additional towers on this site. The Coastal Commission staff and administration and the Commission itself also gave this Permit a thorough review and concurred that the need had been adequately demonstrated. Socal is a competitor of Remote Communications as Mr. Lurya pointed out. There is as great a need for towers to serve the customers of Remote as there is a need on Mr. Kay's or Socal's site and on the County's site immediately adjacent to both properties.

The information mentioned in Mr. Lurya's letter about changes in technology is interesting. The condition contained in the Permit is a standard condition placed on all communications facilities permits, requiring modification of facilities and/or abandonment of equipment and restoration of the site. It is also a standard condition imposed on all Conditional Use Permit applications by the Regional Planning Commission for the County of Los Angeles. Applicant considers this condition a "common sense" condition. Applicant had no problem over the Imposition of this condition and has agreed to comply should technological changes allow for modifications of the facilities.

Mr. Lurya's request for customer lists is inappropriate. It has no bearing on the Permit.

Mr. Lurya also requests that engineering studies be conducted. The kinds of studies he is requesting are best left to the purview of the FCC. They have no real bearing on the request for a Coastal Development Permit.

B. Applicant has not produced any engineering study as to the pattern of microwave radiation and the levels generated offsite. There is no quarantee that Socal, its employees, and egents will not be exposed to unsafe levels of microwave energy. Furthermore, the County of Los Angeles has a radio site immediately next to the facility, and there is no assurance that County workers will be protected.

Socal has no way to know how many antennas will be oriented by Remote, and what the radiation flux will be on its property. Exposure to high power microwave radiation generated on site can cause severe health risks, including geteracts. These effects must be taken into account. Socal has caretakers and workers on the property 24 hours per day 7 days per week, its viewpoint is that these radiation levels must be addressed and steps taken to shield Socal personnel from such radiation. This survey should have been done before the permit was granted. This radiation also has an unknown effect on wildlife that may originate on Park Service Land and cross onto this radiation area. There should be some biological study that there will be no negative effect on wildlife, including any endangered or ecologically sensitive appeales.

The Federal Communications Commission has jurisdiction over radiation studies associated with development of communications facilities. They specifically preempt local jurisdictions from review or comment on studies of this type according to the Federal Communications Act.

All of the customers who use this site are licensed by the proper regulatory authorities. Applicant did willingly reveal at public hearings that the United States Mershal and the United States Secret Service are among its customers, as is the United States Customs Service. These are federal agencies and as such, are subject to other bodies of regulation that govern their communications equipment and frequencies. Anytime a communications company desires to operate from a facility such as is

Mark H. Capelli August 17, 1999 Page Five

proposed and as is currently operating on Castro Peak, they are required to submit plans to the FCC. It is up to the FCC to determine whether there is any potential for interference or for any other potential harm from radiation. No such concern has been expressed nor is any known by this Applicant about this site.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning reviewed the potential for environmental impacts, including biological concerns and determined that there was a potential for concern unless specific mitigation measures were implemented. These measures included fencing only the immediate communications facilities and not the whole property and use of nighttime lighting only in emergencies. There was a condition imposed that the security lighting be on a timer so that it would shut off automatically and not illuminate the site all night. These conditions are spelled out in the Conditional Use Permit and the Mitigated Negative Declaration attached thereto and have been submitted to the Coastal Commission and its staff for review. Applicant believes proper consideration was given to all of the environmental concerns.

C. Applicant's building plans contain no provision to restore gensitive hillsides or ridgelines damaged as a result of landslides and erosion. The heavy equipment to be used is incompatible with the narrow, dirt unimproved road, and may trigger such a slide.

Socal, had it been given an opportunity to participate in the proceedings, would have pointed out that the appplicant bring heavy 18 wheel trucks over an unimproved dirt road on an extremely steep grade. We are not only referring to Castro Peak Motorway (unpaved) but to the access road from the motorway to the site. This access road belongs to Socal. Socal states that the commission should have required a geological report or soils report that the heavy equipment necessary to build this project will not rigger a landslide, which would destroy the road, and scar the ridgeline. A landslide is possible because the dirt road is right next to the cliff. Also, the vibration of the heavy equipment may trigger such slides. At a minimum, the Commission should have required that this issue be addressed by applicant.

Applicant's property has existed in its current state for quite some time. No substantive grading is required to build Phase Two or Phase Three. Much of the subject property that is proposed for these additional sites is on what was historically the fire break or fire road on the mountain top. The vegetation around these sites is natural. There is as much or little potential for landslides on this hilltop as there is on any other hilltop in the world. The site is not watered or infigured, and there is no domestic vegetation on this site.

Applicant has no knowledge that "building plans" as stated in Mr. Lurya's letter, would require submittal of plans for revegetation of any kind. Building plans usually have to do with construction of a building or structure.

There is no proposal to clear the property of vegetation.

In addition, while heavy equipment may use Castro Peak Motorway to access this site when necessary, heavy equipment also accesses Socal's site, the County's site and other properties. The neighbors along Castro Peak Motorway have cooperated for many years in the maintenance of the road. Having said that, the issue over the road is not relevant. If there is an issue, it would be a civil matter, not a Coastal Commission matter.

Mark H. Capelli August 17, 1999 Page Six

SUMMARY

This Applicant believes that the County of Los Angeles and the Coastal Commission have done a thorough job of reviewing this project, and that no errors in fact are known.

The mailing list and its certification were filed as required and certified to be accurate by the person responsible for their preparation. The site was posted as was required, well in advance of the public hearing on the Coastal Development Permit and evidence of posting was filed timely.

The Federal Communications Commission governs the operation and RF emissions of licensess on communications sites. The customers who use this facility, both the existing and proposed facilities are licensed by the proper regulatory authorities.

Disclosure of all of the customers for this site is irrelevant. The federal agencies who use this site are known. The private clients deserve to have their privacy protected. Disclosure wouldn't serve any useful purpose.

Applicant's project was thoroughly reviewed by the County of Los Angeles for evaluation of potential environmental impacts and any potential impacts have been discussed and mitigated as is evidenced in the Conditional Use Permit and its Mitigated Negative Declaration. The Coastal Commission staff also reviewed this project and it is our understanding concurred with the findings of the County of Los Angeles.

Communications facilities have existed on this site for decades.

No significant grading is necessary or proposed.

Any other issues raised by Mr. Lurya fall under the jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission and/or the Courts of the State of California.

Mr. Lurya's statement in his letter about Socal being a competitor of Remote Communications. Systems, Inc., is the only real basis for the effort to secure revocation of this permit.

We respectfully request that the Coastal Commission once again concur with the staff recommendation and ratify the issuance of this Permit.

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to call.

Thank you.

Sincerely.

CAROL VI INCRAM SEIT

CIS/dbm Enclosures

cc: Remote Communications Systems, Inc.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

SOUTH CENTRAL COAST AREA UTH CASSFORMA ST., SUITE 200 TURA, CA 23001 (805) 641 - 0142

Date: April 22, 1999

Remote Communication Systems P.O. Box 1510 Simi Valley, CA 93062-1510



DECLARATION OF POSTING

TO: South Central Coast District

Pursuant to the requirements of California Administrative Code 13054(b), this certifies that I/we have posted the "Public Notice" of application to obtain Coastal Commission Permit No. 4-98-219.

for: Expand communications site, add 120-ft. steel tower, four prefab communications buildings, 170 ft. steel tower, generator, fuel tank, security building, emergency lighting, and fencing, and communications building, 120-ft. tower, generator, fuel tank, emergency lighting, and fence.

located: NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 17, T1s, R 18W

The public notice was posted at a conspicuous place, easily read by the public and as close as possible to the site of the proposed development.

(Signature)

(Date)

NOTE: YOUR APPLICATION <u>CANNOT</u> BE PROCESSED UNTIL THIS "<u>DECLARATION</u> <u>OF POSTING</u>" IS RETURNED TO THIS OFFICE. If the site is not posted at least eight days prior to the meeting at which the application is scheduled for hearing, or the Declaration of Posting is not received in our office prior to the hearing, your application will be removed from its scheduled agenda and will not be rescheduled for Commission action until the Declaration of Posting has been received by this office.

EXHIBIT NO.

APPLICATION NO.

K-4-98-219

Remote Communication

ELLEN D. FIELDING

COPY

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MAJL TAX STATEMENTS TO:

Communicary transfer tax is \$ __ C __ .

() computed on the consideration or value of property conveyed, CR
() computed on the consideration as value laws liens and
administrate resolution at time of sale.

THER IS NOW A SUMMERS OF AN IMMERS - QUART TIME ONLY.

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EASEMENT

There is a prescriptive easement over the access road crossing the Bevan property, which was created by the Fielding use since 1958. As part of a settlement between the Bevans and Mrs. Fielding, Case No. SC 046212, the prescriptive easement shall continue as it has since 1958. This is NOT a conveyance or transfer of a new interest. The recording of this Easement quiets title to the easement and supercedes the Notice of Pendency of Action recorded 12/2/97 as Instrument No. 97-1904514.

FOR A VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.

L. DARRELL BEVAN and FATRICIA F. BEVAN, husband and wife, being the record owners of that certain real property located in the County of Los Angeles, State of California, described as follows:

The Westerly one-half of the Southeast One-quarter of the Northeast one-quarter of Section 17, Township I South, Range 18 West, San Bernardino Meridian, in the County of Los Angeles, State of California

and more commonly known as 1953 Latigo Canyon Road, or 1955 Latigo Canyon Road, or 3900 Castro Motorway, and all in Malibu, California

hereby recognize ELLEN D. FIELDING, as owner of that certain real property, adjacent to the Bevan property, in the County of Los Angeles, State of California, described as:

EXHIBIT NO. 6

K-4-98-219

Romote Communication

The Northwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 17 Township, I South Range, 18 West, San Bernardino Meridian in the County of Los Angeles, except the North 25 acres,

and to her successors and assigns, an appurtenant easement for ingress and egress coexistent with the current roadway and the prescriptive easement and described as follows:

A strip of land 20 feet in width, the center line being described as followed:

Beginning at the Northwest corner of the West half of the Southeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 17, Township 1 South, Range 18 West, San Bernardino Meridian, according to the Official Plat thereof, in the County of Los Angeles, State of California; thence along the North line of said Southeast 1/4 of said Northeast 1/4 South 89° 57' 20" East 315 feet to the true point of beginning; thence South 46° 30' East 22 feet; thence South 62*45' East 50 feet; thence South 2" 30' West 13.2 feet to the beginning of a tangent curve concave northwesterly, having a radius of 35 feet and a central angle of 72° 48'; thence along said curve an arc distance of 44.47 feet to the beginning of the compound curve concave northerly, having a radius of 190 feet and a central angle of 16° 01'; thence along said curve an arc distance of 53.11 feet; thence North 88° 41' West 90 feet; thence North 75° 20' West 151 feet to the beginning of a tangent curve concave southerly, having a radius of 300 feet and a central angle of 11° 01' 32"; thence along said curve an arc distance of 57.73 feet to the West line of said Southeast 1/4 of said Northeast 1/4 of said Section 17.

There is a right reserved to L. Darrell Bevan and Patricia F. Bevan, and to them alone, to relocate this easement pursuant to certain terms, conditions, and limitations specified in the settlement agreement between the parties.

Dated: March 23, 1998

DARRELL BEVAN

Dated: March 23, 1998

DATOTOTA E DEVAN

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF REDUCENCEDES VENTURA

On March 23, 1998, before me, CFRYL M. HALL, a Notary Public, personally appeared L. DARRELL BEVAN personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person whose name are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that she executed the same in her authorized capacity, and that by her signature on the instrument the person executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Simature

COMPLANTAGE
CONVENIEND & 1007701
Noticy Public — Challenge
Venien County
My Courte Space Aug 9, 2000

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF IXEKENDELES VERTURA

On March 21, 1998, before me, CHENYL M. HALL , a Notary Public, personally appeared PATRICIA F. BEVAN personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person whose name are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that she executed the same in her authorized capacity, and that by her signature on the instrument the person executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature

Complaint of the control of the cont