Site 1. TIONESTA 3R

Environmental Checklist

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

1. Facility Title:
Level 3 Communications Infrastructure Project, Tionesta 3R

2. Lead Agency Name and Address:
California Public Utilities Commission
Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 703-2782

3. Contact Person and Phone Number:
Gary Finni, Level 3 Communications, LLC
6689 Owens Drive, Suite A, Pleasanton, CA 94588
(925) 398-3000

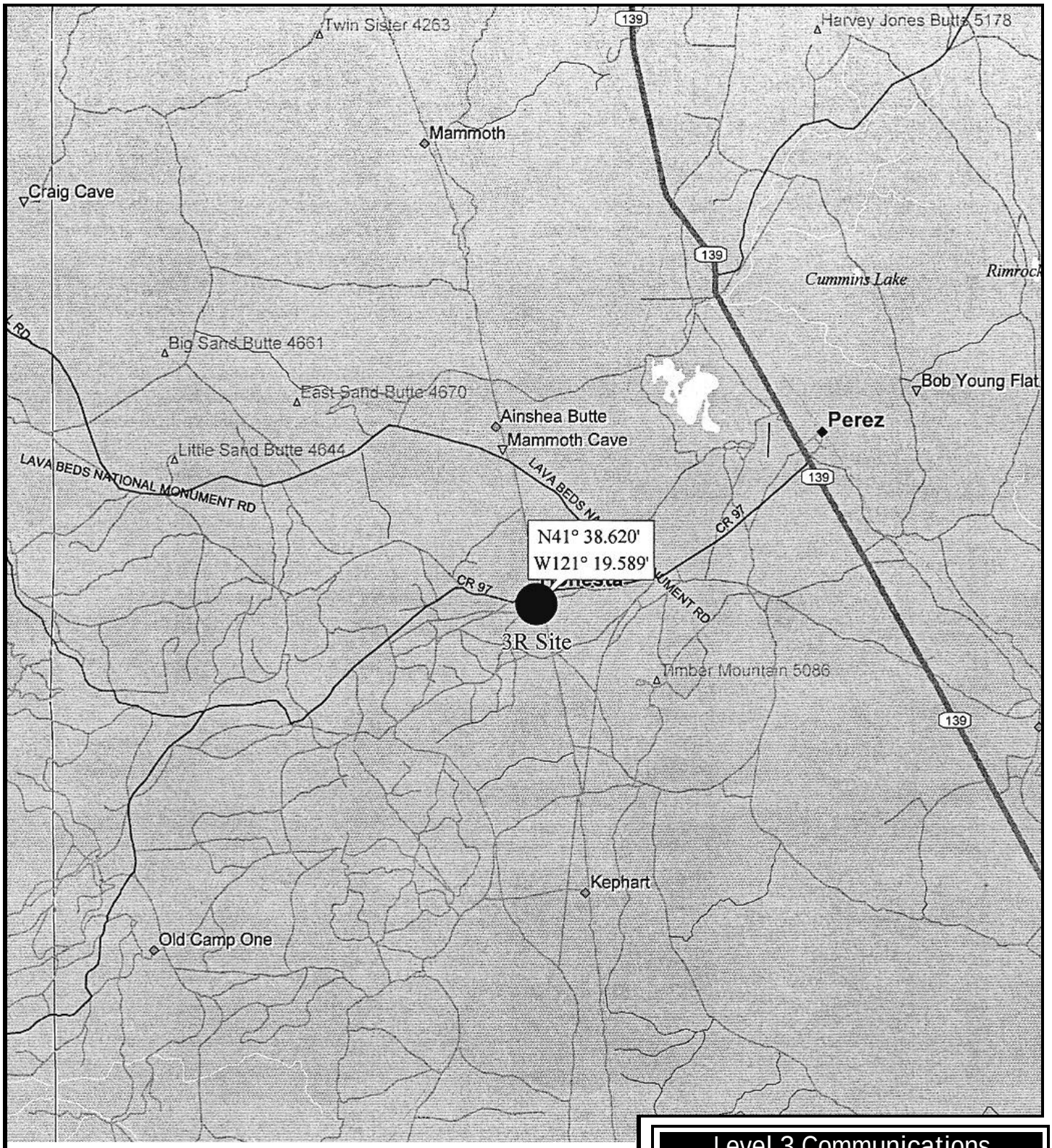
4. Facility Location:
The project site is located approximately 500 feet southwest of the intersection of County Road 97 and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway, in Modoc County, California. The site is surrounded on two sides by land owned by Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc. The site is located on Modoc County Assessor's Parcel Number 9-09-52. The 1.7 acre parcel is rectangular in shape (150' by 500'), with the long axis running east-west. The BNSF tracks and Right-of-Way (ROW), where Level 3 Communications Infrastructure network line will be located, are located approximately 300 feet east of the parcel. Approximately 300 feet south of the parcel, and bordering the Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc. property to the south, is a spur of the BNSF system.

Currently the site is used to stockpile rock materials used by Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc., a pumice and rock processing company. A gravel road borders the north, east, and west sides of the site. Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc. borders the site to the south. A barbed wire fence, approximately 2-3 feet tall, is located on the north side of the site (on the south border of the gravel road). On-site water is provided by well, and sewage disposal is provided by a septic system.

Overhead utilities are located along the railroad running north-south. A Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) easement, with additional overhead utilities running east-west, is located approximately 350 feet south of the project site. The project network line will leave the BNSF ROW at this east-west PG&E easement, bore underneath the railroad tracks, and travel west approximately 450 feet. An estimated 350 feet of line will be laid on private property from the site to the PG&E easement.

The site is located just south of CR 97, a paved, two-lane, east-west County-owned road. A gravel road off CR 97 provides access to the site; it is two lanes wide. The gravel road used to access the project site is also used by Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc., as well as a residence located south of the site.

A site vicinity map is provided as Figure 1-1. A site plot plan is provided as Figure 1-2. Additional maps and detail are available in the PEA (PEA, 2000, following p. 1-37)

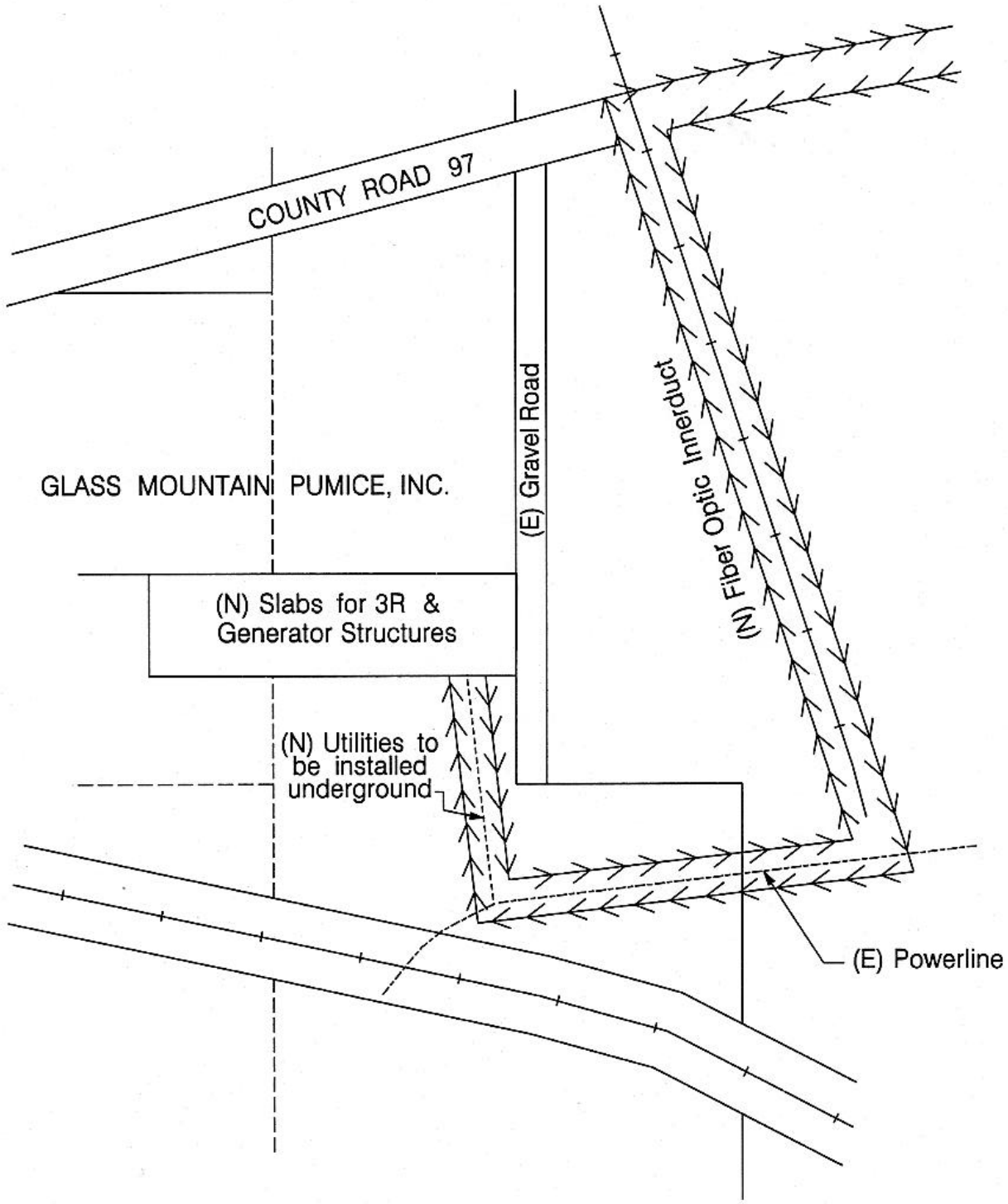


Level 3 Communications Infrastructure Project

Figure 1-1

Tionesta 3R
Site Vicinity Map

Aspen
EnvironmentalGroup



Source: PEA,2000

Level 3 Communications
Infrastructure Project

Figure 1-2

Tionesta 3R
Conceptual Plot Plan

Aspen
EnvironmentalGroup

5. Proponent's Name and Address:
Level 3 Communications, LLC ("Level 3")
1450 Infinite Drive, Louisville, CO 80027
(303) 926-3000

6. General Plan Designation: None

7. Zoning: None. (See discussion under Land Use Planning [Section IX]).

8. Description of Facility:
This checklist evaluates the design, construction, and operation of the Tionesta 3R. This facility will be located outside of an existing utility corridor.

A regeneration station is an integral part of the operation of a fiber network. Regeneration is the process of re-shaping, re-timing, and re-modulating the optical signal. The resulting signal is filtered of noise and directed to its end destination along the fiber. Current technology dictates that regeneration stations be placed at 300-mile intervals along the long-haul network. Regeneration can be accomplished at a 3R, and also at distribution nodes, terminals, and gateway facilities. The 3R structure also performs the signal amplification (i.e., ILA) function.

The Tionesta 3R will be constructed on a 1.7-acre (150 feet by 500 feet) parcel located approximately 500 feet southwest of the intersection of County Road 97 and the BNSF ROW. The site is currently occupied by Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc., a rock-crushing facility, which will remain active on the remainder of the parcel during project construction and operation. The 3R will encompass 11,500 square feet of the parcel. The facility will include one 4,500 square feet concrete tilt-up building and an equipment yard measuring 125 by 56 feet. The 3R component will rest on a new, concrete slab. The equipment yard will contain one 400 kW (587 hp) diesel-powered standby emergency generator and one cooling unit. A separate pad with vibration isolators will be constructed for the standby generator to effectively reduce groundborne vibration caused by generator operation. The vibration isolator would also reduce structure-borne noise by interrupting noise transmission paths caused by "sounding-board" effect. The generator will be housed in a separate, prefabricated shelter measuring 11 feet wide by 29 feet long by 12 feet tall. The equipment yard will be located adjacent to the 3R building and will be oriented to comply with all applicable local ordinances and minimize environmental impacts on surrounding land uses.

No additional buildings will be constructed. Control and maintenance functions will occur within the proposed facility.

Fencing around the 3R facility will be of chain link construction and will be eight feet tall. A locked gate will restrict access to the site. A small porch light will be provided at each structure entrance.

The Tionesta 3R will require electricity and telephone hookup. Overhead utility lines will be run from existing electric and telephone lines located approximately 350-feet south of the 3R site. Utility poles will be located on the adjacent property of Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc. per a negotiated easement agreement. The 3R facility will operate using 400-amp, 480-volt, three-phase electrical service.

Water and sewer facilities will also be required on-site. However, no municipal water and sewer service is available at the site. Therefore, a well and septic tank will be required and will be constructed in accordance with all local ordinances.

Some grading of previously disturbed surfaces currently impacted by rock crushing operations will be required for the installation of 3R building and the adjacent equipment yard.

Figure 1-2 is a conceptual plot plan of the Tionesta 3R site showing setbacks and locations of utility and vehicle access. The area bounded by the setbacks is the "development window" within which the 3R facility will be situated. The precise location of the 3R facility will be determined during the engineering design phase of the project.

The fiber optic cable feed will access the 3R facility from existing utility ROW (a PG&E easement) located approximately 350 feet south of the project site. The cable will go from the BNSF ROW west along the PG&E ROW and then run due north across Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc. land to the 3R site. The fiber optic cable feed will remain on existing utility ROW for the remainder of the alignment in the vicinity of the Tionesta 3R. Access and egress to the site will follow parallel routes through a negotiated easement on the property of Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc. The connection to the 3R facility will be installed at a depth of approximately 42 inches either by plowing in the conduit (which does not require a trench) or by digging a trench, laying the conduit, and back-filling. During construction, no offsite areas will be required for mobilization or parking of construction or worker vehicles. No demolition waste will be generated, but there will be a small amount of waste from site clearing activities. An estimated 390 cubic yards of waste will be generated during construction.

One 400-kilowatt (kW), 587-hp diesel-powered generator will provide emergency power to the 3R facility. The pre-cast concrete generator housing or shelter will be approximately 11 feet wide, 29 feet long, and 12 feet high. It will arrive at the site preassembled and be installed on a concrete foundation. Insulation will be provided as needed for noise abatement. The generator will be mounted on a 1,400-gallon, double-walled, aboveground storage tank. The storage tank is designed to support the weight of the generator. This mounting design is common for emergency generators (PEA, 2000, p. 1-3).

During operation at 100-percent load, the 587-hp generator consumes approximately 29 gallons of diesel fuel per hour (gph). At 75 percent load, fuel consumption rate is 21 gph. During most of the 30 minutes of testing and maintenance run time each week, the generators will run at 50-percent load. However, for the purposes of this "worst-case" calculation, a 75-percent load and 30 hours of run time each year (i.e., 1/2-hour/week times 52 weeks, plus four hours contingency) is assumed. This results in an estimated fuel consumption of 630 gallons per year for testing and maintenance purposes. Testing of the emergency generator will be controlled remotely and will not be part of site maintenance activities.

Each generator will be equipped with a spill tray beneath the filling port and a spill emergency response kit. The kit will consist of a 55-gallon drum containing oil-absorbing booms and pads, tarps, duct tape, and shovels. These materials will be placed near the filling port for immediate access should a release occur. A laminated placard listing the number of an emergency response contractor and appropriate spill-reporting procedures will be contained in the drum and will also be displayed near the filling port. Should a release occur that Level 3 personnel could not manage, the emergency response contractor will be called.

Technical staff will be trained in safety and spill-response procedures that should be implemented during diesel fuel deliveries. These written procedures will define the necessary steps for use and disposal of spill containment equipment located at the site. A Level 3 technician will accompany any third party contractor delivering fuel. Because the facilities are kept locked, the Level 3 technician will unlock/lock the security gate during ingress and egress. The technician will advise the contractor as to the location of the filling port for the fuel tank, describe the site safety requirements, observe the fueling process, and listen for the high fuel alarm. Should a release occur, the Level 3 technician will immediately initiate containment and cleanup procedures.

The 3R site will not be permanently manned. The site will be visited approximately once a week for routine maintenance, data downloading, and fuel tank filling, as required (assumed for analysis purposes to be 60 trips per year).

Current and potential cumulative projects in the vicinity of the proposed Tionesta 3R site are provided in Table 1-1 of the PEA (PEA, 2000, follows p. 1-37). Criteria for inclusion of a project in the cumulative impact assessment are as follows:

- Projects that are within two miles of the site. In some cases these projects are in more than one jurisdiction
- Projects that are scheduled for construction from one year before to one year after the "construction window" for the project facilities, or between March 1999 to March 2003
- Current projects that include those which have been approved by the lead agency and have had their environmental document signed, approved, and/or certified
- Potential projects that have been formally submitted to the lead agency and which are defined well enough to discern where they are, what they are (type of land use), and how big they are (acres, dwelling units, square footage, etc.). Although these submitted, but not approved projects are considered "speculative" under CEQA, they give an indication of potential future development around the facility site.

Table 1-1 of the PEA indicates that there are no currently approved projects for development within a two mile radius of the project site. One future project is listed in the table. It is a 345kV transmission line originating near Medicine Lake.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Environmental Setting:

The project site is bordered on the south by Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc., a pumice and rock processing facility. Bordering the site to the east and west are gravel roadways used by Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc., as well as a near-by residence. The pumice and rock processing facility gives the immediate site area an industrial visual character. The company office of Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc. is located approximately 500 feet south of the site. The closest residence is a single-family dwelling located approximately 700 feet south of the site. The BNSF railroad is located approximately 300 feet east of the site and CR 97 is located just north of the site. The remaining land in the project vicinity is vacant. Resource-specific baseline settings are provided in Sections I – XVI of this checklist.

10. Other Agencies Whose Approval is Required:

The site is located within the jurisdiction of Modoc County. The site lies within the Northeast Plateau Air Basin and within the jurisdiction of the Modoc County Air Pollution Control District (MCAPCD).

The project would require a discretionary conditional use permit from the Modoc County Planning Department (PEA, 2000, p. 1-4). Although the project is on land designated as "General Agricultural" by the Modoc County General Plan (1988), limited commercial and industrial areas are allowed, and the project is compatible with the "Industrial" zoning of the site location. Approval of the conditional use permit requires review by the Modoc County Planning Department/Planning Director and a public hearing before the Planning Commission. According to the County Planning Director, the approval process will be discussed with the applicant on an individual project basis (PEA, 2000, p. 1-4).

A well to provide water at the site will have to be drilled. A permit from Modoc County will be required prior to drilling the well (PEA, 2000, p. 1-4).

Specific local policies relevant to each of the sixteen environmental impact issue areas are provided in Table 1-2 of the PEA (PEA, 2000, follows p. 1-37). When there are no relevant and applicable policies, this fact is stated with an explanation. Sources for the policies are provided at the end of the listing.

11. Determination:

On the basis of the analysis of this Initial Study, the proposed facility would have a less than significant effect on the environment because all potential impacts have been mitigated through either (1) the additional Mitigation Measures recommended in the checklist, or (2) the Environmental Commitments described below.

The proposed facility is an element of the project addressed in a Petition to Modify an existing Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) (Decision No. 98-03-066). That CPCN was supported by a Mitigated Negative Declaration that included mitigation measures to be implemented in the design, construction, and operation of the previously approved telecommunications facilities within existing utility rights-of-way. The project will incorporate all of the mitigation measures outlined in the previous Decision, as well as those of this environmental review, into its design and construction of the project. Therefore, the actions previously imposed as mitigation measures in the CPCN Decision are now Environmental Commitments for the facility addressed herein. In summary, these Environmental Commitments include:

- Measures to mitigate potential impacts to various resources
- All required local, regional, state and federal approvals and permits required for construction and operation of the project
- Coordination with local and resource management agencies
- Notifications of adjacent property owners
- Coordination with other utility projects in the area
- Documentation and reporting of compliance.

A complete list of mitigation measures from the previous Negative Declaration is provided in Appendix B of the PEA (PEA, 2000, Volume 3).

I. AESTHETICS

Setting

The site is located in a predominantly rural landscape dominated by naturally-appearing land forms and vegetation. Existing visual quality, viewer sensitivity, and viewer exposure are all considered moderate (see the Visual Analysis Data Sheet found at the end of this Initial Study Checklist). Visual quality is a measure of the overall impression or appeal of an area as determined by the particular landscape characteristics such as landforms, rockforms, water features, and vegetation patterns, as well as associated public values. Viewer sensitivity addresses the level of interest or concern of viewers regarding an area's visual resources and is closely associated with viewer's expectations for the area. Viewer exposure describes the degree to which viewers are exposed to views of the landscape. Visual absorption capability (a landscape's ability to accept alteration without diminishment of visual quality (or creation of visual contrast) is also rated low. Visual contrast evaluates a potential project's or activity's consistency with the visual elements of form, line, color, and texture. Project-induced visual contrast will be moderate and the proposed ILA facility will result in significant visual impacts unless additional Mitigation Measures 1-I-1 through 3 are adopted. Specifically, the industrial appearance of the proposed project has the potential to degrade the existing visual character of the project vicinity (see I.c below) and the proposed facility lighting has the potential to create nighttime glare visible to motorists on County Road 97 (see I.d below). Figure 1-I-1 shows the location of the Key Viewpoint from which the Visual Analysis Data Sheet was developed. Figure 1-I-2 shows the view from the Key Viewpoint. These figures are found at the end of this Initial Study Checklist. Also, see PEA Photos 1-A through F for additional views.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

a) Less Than Significant. Although scenic vistas are available to motorists along County Road 97, views are generally drawn to the west and east, away from the site. The proposed facilities would not significantly obstruct those views, nor would the proposed project obstruct views from the residence located to the south of the project site.

b)	Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No Impact. The site is not located on, or in close proximity to, scenic resources such as trees or rock outcroppings. The site is also not visible from any designated scenic highway or roadway.

c)	Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☒	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☐

c) Less Than Significant with Mitigation. Although the adjacent railway, road infrastructure, and Glass Mountain Pumice facilities are visible in views from County Road 97, panoramic views provide an overall impression of a rural landscape dominated by naturally appearing features. Viewer exposure would be moderate due to the proposed project's foreground proximity and the open, level terrain between County Road 97 and the site. The proposed facilities would be more prominent in views from County Road 97 than the existing Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc. facilities. The geometric form, vertical and horizontal lines, and industrial appearance of the ILA structures would be inconsistent with the existing, more naturally-appearing landscape, resulting in a moderate degree of visual contrast. However, through application of additional mitigation measures 1-I-3 and 1-I-2, impacts would be less than significant.

d) Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
	☐	☒	☐	☐

d) Less than Significant with Mitigation. Exterior lighting of the ILA facility will include lamps at each structure entrance. Given the relative lack of exterior lighting in the immediate vicinity of the site (particularly between the site and County Road 97), such lighting has the potential to create nighttime glare if not properly controlled. However, through application of additional mitigation measure 1-I-3, impacts would be less than significant.

Measure 1-I-1: All project facilities including buildings, fencing, and signs, will be painted with neutral earth-tone colors that will blend with existing facilities and the background of existing vegetation. A specific painting plan will be submitted for CPUC approval prior to issuance of a construction notice to proceed to ensure that the proposed colors do not unduly contrast with the surrounding landscape colors. All treatments will be in non-reflective colors. The painting plan will also be submitted sufficiently early to ensure that any precolored structures can have colors approved and included in bid specifications for buildings. Adherence to the approved painting plan will be determined by the CPUC construction monitor.

Measure 1-I-2: Appropriate tree species will be planted along the north and west sides of the ILA site to soften the industrial appearance of the ILA facility and to more effectively blend the facility with the existing landscape as viewed from County Road 97. A specific landscaping plan will be prepared showing the location of proposed landscaping, the varieties and sizes of plants to be used, and the proposed time to maturity for each species. The landscaping plan will be submitted for CPUC approval prior to issuance of a construction notice to proceed. Adherence to the approved landscaping plan will be determined by the CPUC construction monitor.

Measure 1-I-3: Except as required by security and worker safety requirements, night lighting will be hooded to direct illumination downward and inward toward the areas to be illuminated in order to minimize nighttime light and glare, backscatter to the nighttime sky, and visibility of lighting to motorists on County Road 97 and the nearby residence. A specific lighting plan consistent with operational and safety needs will be submitted to the CPUC for approval prior to issuance of a construction notice to proceed. The plan will include provisions for timed and/or motion detection-controlled switches. The lighting plan will also propose a procedure to resolve any lighting complaints. Adherence to the approved lighting plan will be determined by the CPUC construction monitor.

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Setting

The site does not hold any special agricultural designations and is not currently used for agricultural purposes. The site is undeveloped but is used to stockpile materials from Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc. However, due to the site's lack of accurate General Plan and Zoning designations (see Section IX below), the potential exists for the inconsistency with local agricultural policy directives once land use and zoning designations are developed. Therefore, it is possible that significant agricultural impacts could occur.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No Impact. The site is not located on land designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Local or Statewide Importance. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the conversion of such farmland to non-agricultural uses.

b)	Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☒	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☐

b) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation. Currently the subject parcels do not have County adopted General Plan Land Use or Zoning designations. The circumstances leading to this situation are reviewed under Section IX (Land Use Planning) of this Initial Study. If the County adopts General Plan and Zoning designations that allow for uses such as the proposed facility, no impact will occur. However, if the County adopts General Plan and Zoning designations for the subject properties that are agricultural in nature, then the proposed facility would create a potentially significant impact due to policy/land use inconsistencies. To mitigate the potentially significant impact to a level of less than significant, the following mitigation is recommended:

Prior to the start of any construction-related activity, Level (3) shall ensure that the County has adopted General Plan Land Use and Zoning designations for the subject property, and that the proposed 3R facility fully conforms with these designations. Documentation of compliance with this measure shall be submitted to the assigned project Environmental Monitor at least two business days prior to construction. (Measure 1-IX-1).

c)	Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No Impact. Though the site is currently undeveloped, it does not appear to retain properties of significant agricultural value. While project construction would result in the permanent conversion of an undeveloped to a developed site, it would not result in the conversion of farmland or significant agricultural potential to a non-agricultural use (see II.b above).

III. AIR QUALITY

Setting

The project site is located in the community of Tionesta in Modoc County. Modoc County is within the Northeast Plateau Air Basin and is currently designated as a non-attainment area for state air quality standards for PM10. The site is located adjacent to an industrial establishment (rock crushing plant office) and an associated residence. The distance of the closest sensitive receptor is approximately 700 feet.

The Modoc County Air Pollution Control District (MCAPCD) has not developed a specific air quality plan and recommends that project proponents apply state CEQA guidelines for emissions of criteria air pollutants.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

a) Less than significant impact. Estimated emissions generated during construction and operation of the proposed project are presented in Table 1-III-1 (PEA, 2000, Table 1-3, follows p 1-37). Given the small scale of the construction and its temporary nature, project construction would not significantly affect regional ozone concentrations. As a result, construction emissions would be considered less than significant.

With regard to operations, emissions from testing and maintaining the emergency generator are exempt from numerical threshold requirements (due to compliance with State Best Available Control Technology (BACT) requirements) and are therefore considered less than significant.

Level 3 has already committed to the following measures to minimize potential impacts:

- Level 3 will develop and implement a construction dust abatement program (e.g., watering the site twice a day) in consultation with the MCAPCD.
- The proposed emergency generator will comply with BACT requirements.

b)	Would the project violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

b) Less than significant impact. Emissions would be generated during construction of the regeneration station. Given the small scale of the construction and its temporary nature, project construction would not significantly contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation. As a result, construction emissions would be considered less than significant.

With regard to operations, emissions from testing and maintaining the emergency generator are exempt from numerical threshold requirements (due to compliance with State BACT requirements) and will therefore be considered less than significant.

See Section III(a) above for a list of Applicant proposed mitigation measures.

c)	Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal and state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

c) Less than significant impact. The Tionesta 3R site is the only site under the jurisdiction of the MCAPCD. Therefore, emissions from construction and operation of the Tionesta 3R site represent project total emissions for the district.

With regard to construction, emissions would be generated during construction of the regeneration station. Given the small scale of the construction and its temporary nature, project construction would not significantly affect the local air quality conditions. As a result, construction emissions would be considered less than significant.

Emissions from testing and maintaining the emergency generator are exempt from numerical threshold requirements (due to compliance with State BACT requirements) and are therefore considered less than significant.

See Section III(a) above for a list of Applicant proposed mitigation measures.

d)	Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

d) Less than significant impact. Sensitive receptors are defined as facilities that house children, the elderly, and ill members of the population, such as schools, day-care centers, hospitals, retirement homes, hospices, and residences. The nearest sensitive receptor to the proposed site is a residence associated with the adjacent rock crushing plant located approximately 700 feet to the southwest.

Table 1-III-1 Air Quality Calculations

Construction Engine Emissions

SOURCE	SIZE / GROSS HP	DAILY AMOUNT (1) (hrs or trips)	NUMBER OF DAYS	NUMBER OF UNITS	ONE-WAY DISTANCE (miles)	NO_x EF (2)	NO_x Daily (lbs/day)	NO_x Total (tons)	ROC EF (2)	ROC Daily (lbs/day)	ROC Total (tons)	PM_{10} EF (2)	PM_{10} Daily (lbs/day)	PM_{10} Total (tons)	SO_x EF (2)	SO_x Daily (lbs/day)	SO_x Total (tons)	CO EF (2)	CO Daily (lbs/day)	CO Total (tons)	NOTES
Site Grading (390 cy)																					
Backhoe Loader	200	4	1	1	-	2370	20.9	0.0104	180	1.6	0.0008	15	0.13	0.0001	135	1.2	0.0006	205	1.8	0.0009	6
Vac Truck	153	2	1	1	-	1660	7.3	0.0037	110	0.5	0.0002	15	0.1	0.0000	105	0.5	0.0002	110	0.5	0.0002	6
Surveying Lt-Heavy Duty Truck	117	3	1	1	-	780	5.2	0.0026	72	0.5	0.0002	44	0.3	0.0001	85	0.6	0.0003	105	0.7	0.0003	6
Worker Light Truck	175	1	1	1	30	18.4	2.44	0.0012	4.4	0.58	0.0003	0.84	0.11	0.0001	0.31	0.041	0.0000	35	4.6	0.0023	6
Semi-end Dump Trucks	20 ton	3	5	-	100	11.3	14.88	0.0372	2.2	2.91	0.0073	0.59	0.78	0.0020	0.31	0.41	0.0010	14.0	18.57	0.0464	7
Equipment Delivery Truck	Low boy	1	2	-	30	11.3	1.5	0.0015	2.2	0.3	0.0003	0.59	0.08	0.0001	0.31	0.04	0.0000	14.0	1.9	0.0019	7
Worker Light Truck	Light	4	1	-	30	1.0	0.53	0.0003	0.35	0.19	0.0001	0	0	0	0.06	0.03	0.0000	7.22	3.8	0.0019	7
Maxima and Subtotals (Demolition)							40	52.19		5.4	0.0000		1.3	0.0000		1.7	0.0000		26.8	0.00	
Pad Construction (11cy)																					
Cement Truck	10 yd3	2	1	-	30	11.3	3.0	0.0015	2.2	0.6	0.0003	0.59	0.2	0.0001	0.31	0.1	0.0000	14.0	3.7	0.0019	7
Gravel Truck	10 yd3	2	1	-	30	11.3	3.0	0.0015	2.2	0.6	0.0003	0.59	0.2	0.0001	0.31	0.1	0.0000	14.0	3.7	0.0019	7
Worker Light Truck	Light	2	3	-	30	1.00	0.3	0.0004	0.35	0.1	0.0001	0	0	0	0.06	0.0	0.0000	7.22	1.9	0.0029	7
Maxima and Subtotals (Pad Construction)							6.2	0.003		1.3	0.0007		0.31	0.0002		0.2	0.0001		9.3	0.01	
Trenching & Utility Installation (350cy)																					
Excavator	84	8	10	1	-	774	13.6	0.068	64	1.1	0.0057	13	0.2	0.0012	58	1.0	0.0051	79	1.4	0.007	6
Equipment Delivery Truck	Low boy	1	2	-	30	11.3	1.5	0.001	2.2	0.3	0.0003	0.59	0.1	0.0001	0.31	0.0	0.0000	14.0	1.9	0.002	7
Worker Light Truck	Light	2	10	-	30	1.00	0.3	0.001	0.35	0.1	0.0005	0	0	0	0.06	0.0	0.0001	7.2	1.9	0.010	7
Maxima and Subtotals (Trenching and Utility Installation)							15	0.07		1.5	0.0064		0.31	0.0013		1.1	0.0052		5.2	0.02	
Access Road Construction (75cy)																					
Grader	200	4	1	1	-	2370	21	0.010	180	1.6	0.001	15	0.13	0.0001	135	1.2	0.001	205	1.8	0.001	6
Dozer	153	4	1	1	-	1660	15	0.007	110	1.0	0.001	15	0.13	0.0001	105	0.9	0.001	110	1.0	0.001	6
Gravel Truck	10 yd3	4	1	-	30	11.3	6.0	0.0030	2.2	1.2	0.0006	0.6	0.3	0.0002	0.3	0.2	0.0001	14	7.4	0.0037	7
Compactor	-	4	1	1	-	1787	16	0.008	71	0.6	0.000	67	0.6	0.000	235	2.1	0.001	128	1.1	0.001	8
Equipment Delivery Truck	Low boy	1	2	-	30	11.3	1.5	0.002	2.2	0.3	0.000	0.6	0.08	0.0001	0.3	0.0	0.000	14	1.9	0.002	7
Worker Light Truck	Light	4	1	2	25	1.0	0.9	0.000	0.35	0.31	0.000	0	0	0	0.06	0.1	0.000	7.2	6.4	0.003	7
Maxima and Subtotals (Access Road Construction)							29	0.03		3.4	0.00		0.5	0.0008		1.4	0.002		17.5	0.01	
Shelter Placement																					
Crane	150 ton	4	1	1	-	576	5.1	0.003	82	0.7	0.0004	64	0.6	0.000	41	0.4	0.000	1624	14.3	0.007	8
Equipment Delivery Truck	Low boy	1	2	-	60	11.3	3.0	0.003	2.2	0.6	0.001	0.59	0.2	0.000	0.31	0.1	0.000	14.0	3.7	0.004	7
Worker Light Truck	Light	4	1	-	30	1.00	0.5	0.0003	0.35	0.2	0.00009	0	0	0	0.06	0.0	0.000	7.2	3.8	0.002	7
Maxima and Subtotals (Shelter Placement)							8.6	0.006		1.5	0.001		0.72	0.000		0.5	0.00		21.9	0.01	
General Construction Activities																					
Compactor	<25 hp	6	10	1	-	8	0.11	0.00054	227	3.0	0.0150	1.4	0.02	0.0001	0	0.0	0.0000	6350	84.0	0.420	8
Equipment Delivery Truck	Low boy	1	2	-	30	11.3	1.5	0.0015	2.2	0.3	0.0003	0.59	0.1	0.0001	0.31	0.0	0.0000	14.0	1.9	0.002	7
Construction Generator	<50 hp	8	12	1	-	0.02	0.0003	0.000002	0.002	0.00004	0.0000	0	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0000	0.01	0.0002	0.000	8
Water Truck	4500 gal.	1	2	-	30	11.3	1.5	0.001	2.2	0.29	0.0003	0.59	0.08	0.0001	0.31	0.04	0.00004	14.0	1.9	0.002	6
Worker Light Truck	Light	1	16	-	30	1.0	0.13	0.0011	0.35	0.05	0.0004	0	0	0	0.06	0.0	0.0001	7.2	1.0	0.008	7
Maxima and Subtotals (General Construction)							1.7	0.00		3.3	0.0160		0.1	0.0002		0.0	0.0001		86.8	0.43	
Maxima and Subtotals, Construction Engine Emissions [3]							40	0.17		6	0.036		1	0.005		1.7	0.01		87	0.53	
Total Construction Emissions (Fugitive plus exhaust)								0.17			0.036		25	0.25			0.0102			0.534	
Construction Thresholds							55			55			150			150			550		
Insignifigant Impact [9]							Yes			Yes			Yes			Yes			Yes		

Construction Fugitive Dust Emissions

SOURCE	DAILY AMOUNT (hours)	DAYS OF ACTIVITY	AREA OF GRADING / TRENCHING	PM_{10} EMISSIONS EF	PM_{10} EMISSIONS (daily lbs)	PM_{10} EMISSIONS (total tons)	NOTES
Site Grading	8	5	0.37 acres	39.4 lb/acre-day	15	0.036	15
Access Road Construction & Use	8	16	0.46 acres	39.4 lb/acre-day	18.1	0.145	14
Trenching - Cable Installation	8	10	-	0.51 lb/hr	4.1	0.020	
Wind Erosion	24	15	0.83 acres	6.6 lb/acre-day	5.5	0.041	11
Subtotal, Construction Fugitive Emissions [3]					24	0.24	13
Total PM10 Construction Emissions (Engine Exhaust and Fugitive) [3]						0.25	

(Continued)

Operation Emissions [4]

SOURCE	SIZE / GROSS HP	DAILY AMOUNT (hours)	DAYS OF ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF UNITS	ONE-WAY DISTANCE (miles)	NO_x EF (g/hr) (2)	NO_x Daily (lbs/day)	NO_x Annual (tons/year)	ROC EF (g/hr) (2)	ROC Daily (lbs/day)	ROC Annual (tons/year)	PM_{10} EF (g/hr) (2)	PM_{10} Daily (lbs/day)	PM_{10} Annual (tons/year)	SO_x EF (g/hr) (2)	SO_x Daily (lbs/day)	SO_x Annual (tons/year)	CO EF (g/hr) (2)	CO Daily (lbs/day)	CO Annual (tons/year)	NOTES
Emergency Generator	587 (400 kW)	0.5	60	1		3,550	4	0.12	36	0.04	0.00	59	0.07	0.002	410	0.45	0.014	568	0.6	0.02	6,12
Worker Light Truck	Light	-	60	1	30	1.0	0.13	0.004	0.35	0.05	0.001	0	0	0	0.06	0.01	0.0002	7.2	0.96	0.03	7
Total Operation Emissions [5]							4	0.12		0.09	0.00		0.07	0.002		0.46	0.014		1.6	0.05	
Operation Thresholds							Exempt			Exempt			Exempt			Exempt			Exempt		
Insignifigant Impact [10]							Yes			Yes			Yes			Yes			Yes		

'- = Not applicable

Unit abbreviations: g/hr = grams per hour, lb/day = pounds per day, tpy = tons per year, tpq = tons per quarter

(1) Daily amount is measured in hours for off-road construction equipment (e.g., grader), and in number of trips for on-road vehicles (e.g., worker light-truck).

(2) Emission factors are in grams per hour for off-road equipment, and in grams per mile for on-road vehicles.

(3) Construction engine emission subtotals are for the complete project. Major pieces of construction off-road equipment (e.g., grader, dozer) are used consecutively, not concurrently.

(4) Operation and construction will not occur simultaneously, and hence, the emissions are not additive.

(5) Operational emission totals are for the project. Only one generator will be tested on a single day.

(6) Emission factors are from Caterpillar Corp.

(7) EMFAC7G Emission Factors (1998, 15mph, 75°F)

(8) SCAQMD CEQA Handbook, Table A9-8-B

(9) Construction emissions have insignifigant impact when no emission of a major piece of off-road equipment exceeds threshold (i.e., major pieces are used consequently, not concurrently).

(10) Operation emissions have an insignificant impact if emergency generators are exempt from regulatory limits or if no regulations apply.

(11) Number of days subject to wind erosion equal to days for trenching.

(12) The 25-minute test cycle will be conducted mostly at 50 percent load. To be conservative, the horsepower is stated and emissions are calculated at 75 percent load.

(13) Daily construction fugitive emissions includes the specific activity plus wind erosion.

(14) Access road assumed to be 1000 feet long and 10 feet wide.

(15) Area to be graded is sum of 125 by 56 foot equipment yard, 94 by 48 foot 3R structure, and 10-foot perimeter band.

Project construction will affect only a small area within the larger 1.7-acre site. Surrounding land uses will be buffered from construction and operational impacts by the placement of 3R facilities and construction staging areas. This buffer, the 700-foot distance to the nearest receptor, and the low levels of construction emissions will assure that the sensitive receptors are not exposed to significant pollutant concentrations.

The emergency generator will produce operation emissions during testing and power outages. Testing will be limited to 30 minutes per week. The distance to sensitive receptors, the small magnitude of operational emissions, and the intermittent nature of generator operations will ensure that the impact of 3R operations on sensitive receptors is less than significant.

e)	Would the project create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

e) No impact. The project would not include activities that create objectionable odors.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Setting

The Tionesta 3R site is currently part of a rock processing facility (Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc.). The upland habitat adjacent to the site is typical of the lower elevations of Modoc County. Sagebrush (*Artemesia tridentata*) predominates on undisturbed land, giving way to rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus* sp.) and common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*) where soils have been disturbed (e.g., road shoulders). Bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) is another common overstory shrub. The herbaceous understory consists of a very sparse (< 5%) cover of bunchgrasses.

The site itself is a graded portion of the rock processing facility. It has been used for stockpiling, and is now covered with rock dust, pumice, and piles of basalt cobles and gravels 8" 2' in diameter. The very limited vegetation on the parcel includes mostly the disturbance species (mullein and rabbitbrush). There are no trees and no sign of wildlife use, although a few of the rock piles appeared to have been used as small mammal burrows sometime in the past.

The conduit access corridor from the UPRR is slightly more vegetated than the site, with a few yellow pines (*Pinus ponderosa*) in the immediate vicinity and a deer trail paralleling the north-south portion about 50' to the east. Neither the site nor the access corridor has any natural drainage features, or any signs of water-dependent vegetation, wetland soils, or other wetland attributes.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No impact. The quality of habitat for candidate, sensitive, or special status species was determined to be minimal due to the current land use and absence of vegetation, and relative to the abundance

of natural habitat on surrounding lands. A list of potential sensitive species in the area was created based upon a California Natural Diversity Database search of occurrences for the Perez Quadrangle (California Department of Fish and Game, March 2000), and knowledge of the site vicinity. Known records include golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos)* from Timber Mountain (2.5 miles west), *sage grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus*) from 1.4 miles northwest of Perez, and Townsend's (pale) big-eared bat (Corynorhinus = *Plecotus townsendii townsendii*) from Mammoth Cave (2 miles north). Table 1-IV-1 describes the potential for on-site occurrence of these species as well as three CNPS-listed plant species. Due to the poor quality of habitat on the 3R site, there should be no impacts on sensitive species associated with construction and operation of the facility. Preconstruction surveys for nesting raptor species were considered, but since no trees will be removed, and due to the high level of ambient noise from the rock operation, no impacts to nesting raptors are anticipated.

TABLE 1-IV-1
Potential for Habitat at the Tionesta 3R Site to Support Sensitive Species Occurring in the Vicinity

Moss phlox (*Phlox muscoides*) is a CNPS List 2 plant. It is generally considered to be a rock-field species within the larger ecotype of Great Basin scrub. *While the Tionesta 3R Site meets the description of rock field, the ongoing disturbance by rock-crushing and storage operations eliminates the possibility of moss phlox occurring on site.*
Newberry's cinquefoil (*Potentilla newberryi*) is a CNPS List 2 plant. It is limited to the receding shorelines of drying marshes and swamps. *The Tionesta 3R Site does not contain appropriate habitat for Newberry's cinquefoil.*
The playa phacelia (*Phacelia inundata*) is a CNPS List 2 plant. It is known only from Lassen and Modoc counties and is associated with dried edges of alkali lakes and sinks, inundated clay soils. *The Tionesta 3R Site does not contain appropriate habitat for the playa phacelia.*
The golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) is a California state species of special concern. The golden eagle ranges over a wide variety of habitats, preferring as nesting areas rolling foothill or Great Basin scrub with scattered large trees in open areas. A nest is located in a large yellow pine on the northeast slopes of Timber Mountain, about 2 miles from the site. *The Tionesta 3R Site does not contain appropriate habitat for the golden eagle.*
The pale big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens*) is a federal and California state species of concern. It lives in a wide variety of habitats but most common in mesic sites. This and other bat species known from Mammoth Cave (2.1 miles north of the site) also need appropriate roosting, maternity, and hibernacula sites free from human disturbance. *The Tionesta 3R Site does not contain appropriate habitat for the pale big-eared bat.*
Sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is a California state species of concern. It is restricted to flat or rolling terrain vegetated by sage-brush. *The Tionesta 3R Site does not contain appropriate habitat for the Sage grouse.*

Source: California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), *Perez Quadrangle, California Natural Diversity Database*, March 2000.

b)	Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No impact. No sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans (e.g., the Land Management Plan for the Modoc National Forest), policies, or regulations of the California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Forest Service or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service exists within the site.

c)	Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No impact. There are no wetlands in the vicinity of the site.

d)	Would the proposal interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

d) Less than significant impact. Great Basin sagebrush scrub extends for several miles to the north and south, broken only by Timber Mountain, the dry lake west of Perez, and stands where yellow pine/juniper crown closure is somewhat greater than in the vicinity of the site. The surrounding National Forest lands provide ample wildlife movement corridors, and any restriction to wildlife movement would not be distinguishable from that caused by the rock operation at the site currently. Due to the lack of natural habitat elements (e.g., shrubs and trees, water) within the proposed site and cable access routes, it is highly unlikely that they provide any component of a migratory wildlife corridor or native wildlife nursery.

e)	Would the proposal conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

e) No impact. No trees occur within the site or along the cable access alignment. No Forest Service resource protection policies are applicable to the site.

f)	Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

f) No impact. Use of the Tionesta site will not conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Setting

The facility site, located in the Medicine Lake Highlands region of northeastern California between Lava Beds National Monument and Timber Mountain, is part of the modern Glass Mountain Pumice Inc. mill site. The site has been graded to a depth of approximately one foot below original surface and is now covered in pumice. The site is within the area occupied by the ethnographic Achumawi in the upper Pit River drainage in northeastern California.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b)	Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) and b) No impact. An archival records search was completed for the site and for the area within a one-mile radius by the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), Northeast Information Center, CSU Chico. The search also included a check of the California Office of Historic Preservation Historic Property Data File for Modoc County, the National Register of Historic Places (listings and eligibility determinations), California Points of Historical Interest, California Register of Historical Resources, and California Historical Landmarks. The records search reported that the ILA site had not been previously surveyed and three surveys for cultural resources had been completed within a mile of the site (File No. D99-61). No historic resources within one mile of the site are listed on the California State Historic Resources Inventory, the National Register of Historic Places, the California Historical Landmarks, California Register of Historical Resources, nor the California Points of Historical Interest.

The State of California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) completed a search of the NAHC Sacred Lands file with negative results and identified locally knowledgeable Native Americans for follow-on contact/consultation. These individuals were contacted, and no response has been sent to Level (3) as of March 14, 2000.

The field survey of the parcel and off-ROW cable access corridor was negative. No cultural resources potentially eligible for the California Register of Historic Resources are present on the property.

c)	Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No impact. The project site is underlain by basalt flows (unit Qpv). Basalts are unfossiliferous and there is no potential for fossil remains to be encountered in this geologic unit. However, in the unlikely event there is an unmapped remnant of Quaternary alluvium on the site, there is a slight potential for fossil resources to be encountered (PEA, 2000, p. 1-15).

No mitigation is necessary unless in the unlikely event that fossil remains were unearthed during construction related activities. If fossils are encountered, Level 3 has already committed to temporarily divert ground disturbing around the fossil site and a qualified vertebrate paleontologist would immediately be called to the scene. The paleontologist is to recover the remains and to recommend appropriate mitigation measures following Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Guidelines for mitigation.

d)	Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

d) No impact. The CHRIS records search and field survey provided no evidence of the presence of human remains (File No. D99-61). If suspected human remains are encountered during construction, operations will stop until the proper official is notified, the find evaluated, any mitigation recommendations implemented, and Level 3 has been cleared to resume construction in the area of the find (see *Level 3 Long-Haul Fiber Optics Project Cultural Resources Procedures* (PBNS, 1999:25-39)).

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Setting

The project site is located in a region with a history of volcanic and seismic activity. The project area is located in the Medicine Lake volcanic area, an area of potential volcanic hazard (CDMG, 1994). Although currently classified as dormant, there are cinder cones in the area as young as 200 years B.P. The project site vicinity is not located within an Alquist-Priolo zone, or liquefaction, landslide, or subsidence geologic hazard area (CDMG, 1973, 1999). However, there is a fissure crossing the northwest corner of the property that may potentially be an active fault. Erosion activity is low and the soils are moderately expansive (CDMG, 1973).

Evaluation

a)	Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: i) Rupture of known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. ii) Strong seismic-related groundshaking? iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? iv) Landslides?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

a) Less than significant impact. The project site is not located within or near an Alquist-Priolo zone or in a landslide or liquefaction hazard area (CDMG, 1973, 1999). The project area may experience moderate magnitude groundshaking from fault and volcanic activity in the vicinity of the project area (Blake, 1996; CDMG, 1973). The major active faults in the vicinity of the project site are the Hat Creek-McArthur-Mayfeild fault group and the Cedar Mountain-Mahogany Mountain fault group, located approximately 11 and 33 miles from the project site, respectively. A fissure, trending about N5°E, in present in 100,000 thousand-year-old basalt exposed at the surface and crosses the northwest corner of the property. This fissure extends, discontinuously, for a few miles both north and south of the project site. There is no evidence of lateral or vertical displacement on the fissure (Donnelly-Nolan, 2000). Based on the age of the basalt and the lack

of evidence for Holocene movement, this fault should be considered only potentially active. Any potential seismic hazards will be minimized by compliance with all state and local seismic building codes.

b)	Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No impact. The project area is relatively flat and is located in an area designated as having low erosion activity (CDMG, 1973).

c)	Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No impact. The project site is relatively flat and is not located in an area with unstable soil or geologic units.

d)	Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

d) No impact. The project area is located in an area identified as having moderately expansive soil (CDMG, 1973). Compliance with state and local building codes will minimize any potential impacts.

e)	Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

e) The facility would require means of wastewater disposal. The soil in the project area should be able to support a septic system, as evidenced by use of septic systems by other facilities in the area (PEA, 2000, p. 1-17).

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Setting

Review of a database of regulatory agency recognized hazardous waste sites revealed no potentially contaminated sites at or within one mile of the project site (Vista, 1999). No schools are located within one-quarter mile of the site, ant it is not located in the vicinity of an airport or within an airport land use plan. Fuel for the standby generator would be stored in a aboveground stage tank onsite.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No impact. The Proponent will handle and store hazardous materials onsite in compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations.

b)	Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No impact. Leak monitoring and spill containment features planned for the onsite aboveground fuel storage tank minimize the risk of hazardous substance release through foreseeable upset or accident.

c)	Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No impact. The project area is located in a sparsely populated area and no schools or proposed schools are located within one-quarter mile of the project site.

d)	Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

d) No impact. The project site is not included on a list of regulatory agency recognized hazardous materials sites (Vista, 1999).

e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

e) No impact. The project site is not within an airport land use plan or within two miles of public or public use airport.

f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

f) No impact. There are no private airstrips within the vicinity of the project site.

g)	Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

g) No impact. Development of this site for use as a regeneration facility would not alter, impair, or interfere with adopted emergency response and evacuation plans.

h)	Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

h) No impact. Although the site is located in the vicinity of wildland areas, the potential for wildfire to reach the site is minimal because of the distance of the site from the wildlands and the sparseness of vegetation between the two. Level 3 has already committed to equip generators with spark arrestors.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Setting

The facility is to be constructed within a disturbed, unpaved lot. The site is currently used process and stockpile rock. The site is not located within a 100-year floodplain (PEA, 2000, Figure 1-9).

Level 3 has already committed to the following actions to ensure that hydrology/water quality impacts are minimized during construction and operation of this site. The actions will be applied as appropriate. Details regarding these actions have been provided (PEA, 2000, Appendix E, Volume 3).

- Bore under sensitive habitats when practicable
- Implement erosion control measures during construction
- Remove cover vegetation as close to the time of construction as practicable
- Confine construction equipment and associated activities to the construction corridor
- No refueling of construction equipment will take place within 100 feet of an aquatic environment
- Comply with state, federal, and local permits
- Perform proper sediment control
- Prepare and implement a spill prevention and response plan
- Remove all installation debris, construction spoils, and miscellaneous litter for proper offsite disposal
- Complete post-construction vegetation monitoring and supplemental revegetation where needed.

In addition to the foregoing, a Notification of Intent (NOI) will be submitted to the applicable RWQCB and the State Water Resources Control Board for construction of the site under the General Storm Water Permit to Discharge Storm Water Associated With Construction Activity. The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will include the following: 1) Project Description; 2) Best Management Practices for Storm Water Pollution Prevention; 3) Inspection, Maintenance, and Record Keeping; and 4) Training.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No impact Proposed construction, operation, and waste disposal activities are to be performed in accordance with all applicable regulations.

b)	Would the project substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

b) Less than significant impact. The project will extract an estimated 2,000 gallons per month from a well that will be developed on site. This rate of extraction is relatively small, and is not expected to substantially deplete groundwater supplies. Net impermeable area would be slightly increased on the site, but, due to the relatively small size of the project, the effect on groundwater recharge would be only minimally impacted.

c)	Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

c) Less than significant impact. The proposed activity will slightly alter the drainage pattern of the existing site, but will not alter the course of a stream or a river. Due to the relatively small size of the project, substantial change to the erosion or siltation characteristics on- or off-site would not be expected with the project.

d)	Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off site?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

d) Less than significant impact.The proposed activity will slightly alter the drainage pattern of the existing site, but will not alter the course of a stream or a river. Due to the relatively small size of the project, substantial change to the runoff characteristics on- or off-site would not be expected with the project.

e)	Would the project create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

e) Less than significant impact. The project is relatively small in scale, with only minor change to the net impervious area on the site. The septic system is to be constructed following local code. No substantial change in the in the amount and characteristics of runoff is expected.

f)	Would the project otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

f) Less than significant impact. Proposed construction practices are expected to minimize impacts to water quality to the less than significant level.

g)	Would the project place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

g) No impact. The project does not include housing.

h)	Would the project place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

h) No impact. The project is not located within a 100-year floodplain (PEA, 2000, Figure 1-9, follow p. 1-37).

i)	Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

i) No impactThe site is not located within an area subject to inundation from dam or levee failure (PEA, 2000, p. 1-25).

j)	Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death due to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

j) Less than significant impact. The site's distance from major water bodies and the characteristics of the surrounding terrain indicate that the project is not subject to significant risk of loss, injury or death due to the effects of these phenomena. In addition, the site is to be unmanned. Any risk to life and limb would be present only during project construction and maintenance, and is therefore considered less than significant.

IX. LAND USE PLANNING

Setting

The proposed site is located approximately 500 feet southwest of the intersection of County Road 97 and the BNSF Railway in Modoc County. The general vicinity is rural with mostly undeveloped land. The site is presently undeveloped but is used for material storage by Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc. The site is bordered on the south by Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc., and on the north, east, and west by gravel access roads. Undeveloped land extends to the north, east, and west. The nearest residence is a single-family dwelling located approximately 700 feet southwest of the site. The BNSF Railway and its associated communications infrastructure is located approximately 300 feet east of the site. See Figure 1-1 and 1-2 of this Initial Study for site location.

Due to the site's lack of adopted General Plan and Zoning designations by the County, the potential exists for project inconsistency with local land use policy and zoning directives (see IX.b), below). Therefore, it is possible that significant land use impacts could occur. See Figures 5, 7, and 8 of the PEA for locations of adjacent land uses (PEA, 2000, follows p. 1-37).

Evaluation

a)	Would the project physically divide an established community?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No Impact. Although there is one residence in the project vicinity (located approximately 700 feet southwest of the proposed site), the proposed project would not divide an existing community.

b)	Would the project conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☒	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☐

b) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation. None of the parcels belonging to Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc. have a Modoc County General Plan or Zoning designation. This situation resulted from the property being patented as a mine claim from the U.S. Forest Service to the current owners in a continuing process from 1984 to 1997. The Modoc County Planning Department was not notified of this action and the property owner never requested planning action. Consequently, County adoption of both General Plan Land Use and Zoning designations for the subject parcels has yet to occur. Adoption of these designations are considered projects under CEQA and will be subject to the CEQA review and approval process. If the parcels are ultimately zoned/designated for industrial uses that allow for the construction and operation of facilities such as the one proposed, no conflicts will occur. However, should the parcels be zoned/designated for a current or planned use that precludes uses such as the proposed 3R facility, a potentially significant impact could result. To mitigate the potentially significant impact to a level of less than significant, the following mitigation is recommended:

Prior to the start of any construction-related activity, Level (3) shall ensure that the County has adopted General Plan Land Use and Zoning designations for the subject property, and that the proposed 3R facility fully conforms with these designations. Documentation of compliance with this measure shall be submitted to the assigned project Environmental Monitor at least two business days prior to construction. (Measure 1-IX-1).

c)	Would the project conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☒	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☐

c) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation. As referenced above, the subject parcels do not currently have adopted General Plan Land Use or Zoning designations. As such, any County-adopted Habitat Conservation or Natural Community Conservation Plans would not be applicable. If the County adopts General Plan Land Use and Zoning designations for these parcels that would trigger implementation of such a Plan, a potentially significant impact could occur. To mitigate potentially significant impacts to a level of less than significant, Mitigation Measure 1-IX-1 is also recommended:

X. MINERAL RESOURCES

Setting

The project area is not located in an area designated by the state or Modoc County for mineral resources (PEA, 2000, p. 1-23).

Evaluation

a)	Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No impact. There are no known mineral resources within the project area.

b)	Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan other land use plan?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No impact. There are no known mineral resources within the project area.

XI. NOISE

Setting

The BNSF ROW runs north-south on the east side of the site, within 300 feet of the site. The nearest public receptor, an office building associated with the rock-crushing plant that occupies the surrounding parcel, is located approximately 500 feet from the site boundary.

Modoc County does not restrict the hours for construction or set a numerical threshold for noise from construction sites. With regard to operational restrictions, an L_{dn} limit of 60 dBA would apply to the facility, per the Modoc County General Plan.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

a) Less than significant. The proposed project would not generate noise levels in excess of local standards during construction activities because no numerical standards apply. Therefore, construction related potential impacts are less than significant.

With regard to operations, the generator would be located at least 500 feet from the nearest public receptor (rock crushing plant office). The resulting operational noise level of 57 dBA L_{dn} at the rock crushing plant office would comply with the maximum permissible exterior L_{dn} level of 60 dBA. Therefore, potential operation related impacts are less than significant.

b)	Would the proposal result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

b) Less than significant. The low level groundborne vibration and noise generated during construction would be short term in nature and generally would not extend more than a few feet from the active construction area. Since the nearest public receptor is 500 feet from the site, potential impacts associated with groundborne vibrations during construction are less than significant.

With regard to project operations, the emergency generator would operate during weekly test for periods of approximately 30 minutes and during power outages. The generator would be mounted on a concrete pad with rubber isolators. The vibration isolators would effectively reduce groundborne vibration by more than 95 percent. The buried innerduct would not generate perceptible vibration or noise. Therefore, potential groundborne vibration or noise impacts during project operations are less than significant.

c)	Would the proposal result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No impact. There would be no permanent noise sources at the facility. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

d)	Would the proposal result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

d) Temporary increases in ambient noise levels would occur during the construction period and may last up to two months. However, because the distance to the nearest public receptors is 500 feet, the effects of construction noise would be significantly limited. Therefore, potential impacts during construction activities are less than significant.

With regard to project operations, the emergency generator would operate during weekly test for periods of approximately 30 minutes and during power outages generating periodic noise levels. However, generator placement away from the parcel boundary, and the 500-foot distance from the proposed site property line to the nearest noise receptor would buffer receptors from the periodic increase in ambient noise levels. Potential operational impacts on ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the 3R facility are less than significant.

e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

e) No impact. The site is not located within an airport land use plan.

f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

f) No impact. The site is not located within two miles of a private airstrip.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Setting

The project site is located within Modoc County, which had a population of 9,925 as of January 1999. This represents a 0.5 percent decrease from January 1998 (PEA, 2000, p. 1-26). The community of Tionesta, located approximately two miles east of the site, has a population of roughly 30 to 50 people (PEA, 2000, p. 1-26). The only residence in the project vicinity is located approximately 700 feet south of the site.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No impact. The facility would not be permanently occupied and would not create new housing or extend roads or other infrastructure that would either directly or indirectly induce population growth.

b)	Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No impact. The project does not involve the removal of any residential housing. Consequently, no new replacement housing would be necessary.

c)	Would the project displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No impact. The project does not involve the removal of any housing and would not, therefore, displace any individuals. No replacement housing would be necessary as a result of the project.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

Setting

The site is located within Modoc County. Police protection is provided by Modoc County Sheriff's Division. Wildland fires are handled by the US Forest Service, Modoc National Forest. Structure fires are handled by the Tule Lake Fire Protection District, a volunteer fire force (even though Tionesta does not reside in that district). There are no parks, public facilities, or schools in the area (PEA, 2000, p. 1-27).

Evaluation

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any or the public services: Fire protection? Police protection? Schools? Parks? Other public facilities?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No impact. Construction and operation of the unmanned 3R facility would have no impact on local schools, parks or other public facilities. An 8-foot chain-link fence with a locked gate to restrict access to the site would surround the facility. The site would not have a significant impact on police services. The facility would contain a 1,400-gallon, double-walled, aboveground storage tank for diesel fuel. Fire protection equipment would be installed per local codes.

XIV. RECREATION

Setting

Lava Beds National Monument is located to the north of the site and the Medicine Lake recreation area and other dispersed recreation opportunities in Modoc National Forest are located to the west of the site. However, due to the un-staffed nature of the facility, the proposed project will not result in additional use of existing recreation facilities or require construction of additional recreational facilities. Therefore, no significant recreation impacts are anticipated with project implementation.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No Impact. Although Lava Beds National Monument is located to the north of the site and the Medicine Lake recreation area and other dispersed recreation opportunities in Modoc National Forest are located to the west of the site, the proposed project will not be permanently staffed. Therefore, the proposed project will not contribute additional use of any recreation facilities or recreational opportunities.

b)	Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse effect on the environment?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No Impact. The project would not include recreation facilities. Since the proposed project will not be permanently staffed, it will not require the construction of new recreation facilities, which might have an adverse effect on the environment.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Setting

The site would be located just south of County Route 97, a paved, two-lane, east-west County-owned road (see Figure 1-2). A gravel road off County Route 97 would provide access to the site, wide enough for two lanes. There are no traffic control facilities at the intersection of the gravel road and County Route 97. The BNSF railroad runs north-south approximately 300 feet east of the site and intersects with County Route 97 accordingly. There is a stop sign on County Route 97 as it intersects with the railroad tracks northeast of the site. County Route 97 intersects with State Route 139, a paved, two-lane, north-south state highway owned by Caltrans. There are no bike lanes, pedestrian

facilities, or alternative transportation facilities located in the project area. The gravel road used to access the project site is also used by Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc. (PEA, 2000, 1-28).

Evaluation

a)	Would the project cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

a) Less than significant. During construction of the proposed project, approximately 7 workers would be commuting to the site for approximately three months. Workers would commute during off-peak traffic hours (usually 6 a.m. and 3 p.m.) and would park on the site. Occasionally, trucks would deliver equipment and materials to the site as well as haul construction debris from the site to recycling centers or landfills. During the operational phase of the project, one or two service persons would visit the site approximately once a week. The project would cause a negligible increase in traffic.

b)	Would the project exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No impact. The limited project traffic would not result in a measurable increase in congestion.

c)	Would the project result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No impact. The project would not affect air traffic patterns.

d)	Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

d) No impact. Access to the proposed site would be via an existing driveway. No changes to the site design are proposed.

e)	Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

e) No impact. The project would not affect emergency access routes during construction or operation.

f)	Would the project result in inadequate parking capacity?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

f) No Impact. Parking spaces would be provided on-site to accommodate vehicles used for periodic maintenance visits.

g)	Would the project conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

g) No impact. There are no alternative transportation facilities located near the site, nor are there plans, policies, or programs supporting such transportation.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Setting

Water at the site would be provided by well water and sewer will be provided by a septic tank. Estimated monthly water consumption at the Tionesta 3R site would be 2,000 gallons. Gas and electricity to the site would be provided by Pacific Power & Light Corporation. Phone service would be provided by Cal-Orr Telephone Company.

Waste would be generated during site preparation, facility construction, and routine operations. During operation of the 3R facility, there should be no appreciable generation of solid waste since the site would not be permanently staffed and site visits would be infrequent (one per week) and of short duration (one to several hours) (PEA, 2000, p. 1-29).

Evaluation

a)	Would the project exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

a) Less than significant impact. The proposed site would produce minimal wastewater. Although a septic system would be installed, the site would be unstaffed and no toilet facilities would be installed. The proposed project would not exceed the wastewater treatments requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.

b)	Would the project require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No impact. The proposed 3R facility would produce minimal wastewater. The site would be unstaffed and no permanent toilet facilities would be installed. A septic system would be installed

according to local ordinances, and construction or expansion of a wastewater treatment facility would not be required.

c)	Would the project require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

c) Less than significant impact. The proposed project would involve paving of land. Storm water drainage facilities would be installed in compliance with Modoc County Ordinance 221 B. In addition, Level 3 would prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan that would include Best Management Practices for storm water pollution prevention.

d)	Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

d) Less than significant impact. A well would be required on site to meet the minimal water requirements.

e)	Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

e) No impact. The project would not require a wastewater treatment provider since all wastewater would be handled with an on-site septic system.

f)	Would the project be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

f) Less than significant impact. Solid waste would be generated during construction and clean up of the proposed site. Minimal waste will be generated during operation since the site would be an unmanned facility. The project's solid waste disposal needs could be served by Alturas Landfill, which is permitted by the State of California.

g)	Would the project comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

g) No impact. The proposed project would not generate a significant amount of solid waste. Landfills where waste would be deposited would be in compliance with applicable solid waste laws. The proposed project would comply with applicable solid waste laws.

References

Blake, Thomas F. 1996. EQFAULT – A Computer Program for the Deterministic Prediction of Peak Horizontal Acceleration from Digitized California Faults.

CDMG (California Division of Mines and Geology). 1973. Urban Geology, Master Plan for California, Bulletin 198.

_____. 1994. Fault Vicinity Map of California and Adjacent Areas, Map No. 6.

_____. 1999. Fault-Rupture Hazard Zones in California, Special Publication 42.

Donnelly-Nolan, Julie M. 2000. USGS, (650-329-5210, Menlo Park), Interviewed by Doug Herold (GTC) March 7.

PEA. (Proponent's Environmental Assessment). 2000. Level 3 Communication's Proponent's Environmental Assessment, Modifications of LLC's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, January.

Vista Information Solutions, Inc. 1999. California Site Assessment Plus Report: Tionesta, October 25.

FIGURE 1-I-1

Mag 17.00
Fri Feb 25 11:32 2000
Scale 1:3,906 (at center)
200 Feet
100 Meters

Local Road
Major Connector
Utility/Pipe
Railroad
Small Town

National Park
Woodland
Sand/Rock

Level 3 Communications Infrastructure Project	**Figure 1-I-2** **Tionesta ILA**	View from County Road 97, immediately north of the Tionesta ILA site. The proposed facility would be located where the processing materials are stockpiled (snow-covered mounds in the foreground).

VISUAL ANALYSIS DATA SHEET

KEY VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTION

LEVEL 3 SITE NO.
1
PROJECT COMPONENT
Tionesta ILA
VIEWPOINT LOCATION
County Road 97, immediately north of the Tionesta ILA site and Glass Mountain Pumice, Inc., just west of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway.
ANALYST
Michael Clayton
DATE
1/31/00

VISUAL QUALITY

☐ Low ☒ Moderate ☐ High	Although adjacent railway and road infrastructure, and the facilities and material stockpiles of Glass Mountain Pumice are visible in the foreground of views from this viewpoint, panoramic views provide an overall impression of a rural landscape dominated by naturally-appearing features comprised of coherent forms, lines, and colors. Landscape character is considered common and generally lacking in vivid and/or unique visual features. Therefore, overall visual quality is considered **moderate**.

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPABILITY

Slope: LOW - Level terrain with no intervening landforms to screen project from view.

Vegetative Cover: LOW - Low growing vegetation provides no opportunities to screen project components from view.

Reclamation Potential: MODERATE - Areas of vegetation and soil disturbance would recover quickly following reclamation and replanting.

VIEWER SENSITIVITY

Motorists on County Road 97 access Lava Beds National Monument to the north (turn-off before the Tionesta site), Medicine Lake to the east and other dispersed recreation opportunities in the Modoc National Forest. Viewer expectations would anticipate rural landscapes that are generally naturally-appearing. Therefore, overall viewer sensitivity is rated **moderate**.

VIEWER EXPOSURE

Visibility: High	**Duration of View:** Brief to Moderate
Distance Zones: [FG: 0-0.5mi.; MG: 0.5-4mi.; BG: 4mi.-horizon] Foreground	**Overall Viewer Exposure:** **Moderate** - due to foreground proximity; open, level terrain lacking visual screening; and opportunity for moderate view duration.
Numbers of Viewers: Few	

VISUAL IMPACT SUSCEPTIBILITY

☐ Low ☒ Moderate ☐ High	The moderate visual quality of the site combined with moderate viewer sensitivity and viewer exposure lead to an overall rating of **moderate** for visual impact susceptibility.

(over)

Level 3 Site No. 1 Viewpoint
(continued)

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION			
	LAND/WATER BODY	**VEGETATION**	**STRUCTURES**
FORM	Flat to mounded	Well-defined continuous blocks to irregular patchiness	Subordinate, geometric
LINE	Horizontal to Curvilinear	Prominent, yet somewhat irregular horizontal to diagonal	Vertical to diagonal
COLOR	Tan to indistinct	Tan, green, and brown	Grey, brown
TEXTURE	Smooth to granular	Smooth to coarse	Smooth

PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION			
	LAND/WATER BODY	**VEGETATION**	**STRUCTURES**
FORM	Same	Same	Prominent, geometric
LINE	Same	Same	Vertical, horizontal to diagonal
COLOR	Same	Same	Same
TEXTURE	Same	Same	Same

DEGREE OF CONTRAST

	LAND/WATER BODY				VEGETATION				STRUCTURES			
	NONE	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	NONE	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	NONE	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
FORM	√				√						√	
LINE	√				√						√	
COLOR	√				√				√			
TEXTURE	√				√				√			

TERM: ☒ Long ☐ Short

CONTRAST SUMMARY: ☐ None ☐ Low ☒ Moderate ☐ High

PROJECT DOMINANCE

Subordinate ☐ **Co-Dominant** ☒ **Dominant** ☐

VIEW IMPAIRMENT

None ☐ **Low** ☒ **Moderate** ☐ **High** ☐

VISUAL IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
☐	☒	☐	☐