

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AN INITIAL STUDY/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WITH PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION/FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE CHANNEL ISLANDS TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

TO: All Interested Parties

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), has prepared a Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (Draft IS/EA) to evaluate the Channel Island Telecommunication Company (CITC) application for the Channel Island Telecommunications Project (project). The application requires approval of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) from the CPUC and a right-of-way permit from the NPS. The Draft IS/EA has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Draft IS/EA and MND presents details regarding the proposed project, evaluates and describes its potential environmental impacts, identifies those impacts that could be significant, and defines mitigation measures to avoid or minimize these impacts.

Project Summary. CITC is proposing to install telecommunication facilities at up to 15 locations within the Channel Islands National Park. These new telecommunication facilities would serve to improve the currently limited telecommunication capabilities on the five islands, and would allow for private and government cellular phone and internet service between the five islands and the mainland. CITC's stated goals for the project include:

1. Improved communication for NPS and NOAA staff, researchers, NPS residents, and recreational visitors among the five islands, as well as between the islands and the mainland.
2. Communication in the case of an emergency or accident to allow for swifter emergency response.
3. Improved real-time reporting of weather data to allow for more accurate travel predictions, which will reduce unnecessary and/or aborted boat and aircraft trips to and from the islands for both NPS and commercial/recreational vehicles.

Project Location. The project is located at up to 15 project locations on four of the five islands that comprise the Channel Islands National Park. These four islands include San Miguel, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Santa Rosa islands. All proposed telecommunication facilities would be installed on or near existing structures and with previously disturbed areas.

Public and Agency Comments. The Draft IS/EA is being circulated for a 30-day review period from November 14, 2012, through December 14, 2012. The public may present comments and concerns regarding the proposed project and the adequacy of the Draft IS/EA. Copies of the Draft IS/EA are available for review at the CPUC's website (<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/mha/channelislands/channelislands.htm>) and at the following two libraries:

Ventura County Library
Avenue Library Branch
606 N. Ventura Avenue
Ventura, CA 93001

Santa Barbara County Central Library
40 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Comments will be accepted through 4:30 p.m. on December 14, 2012. Any comments received after that date will not be included in the Final IS/EA. Please send your comments regarding the Draft IS/EA, with the name and address of an appropriate contact person, to:

California Public Utilities Commission
c/o. Mr. Jeffrey Smith
Project Manager, Panorama Environmental, Inc.
One Embarcadero Center, Suite 740
San Francisco, CA 94111
Fax: (650) 373-1211
E-mail: Jeff.Smith@panoramaenv.com

National Park Service
Mr. Russell E. Galipeau, Jr.
Superintendent, Channel Islands National Park
1901 Spinnaker Drive
Ventura, CA 93001
Email: Russell_Galipeau@nps.gov