

MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. C54
was approved as Minute Item
No. 54 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 2
to P at its 2/27/96
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM
C54

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02/27/96

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W 25176

Young

TWO GENERAL LEASES - RIGHT OF WAY USE

PRC 7884,7885

APPLICANT:

A T & T Corp.
1431 N. Market Blvd., Suite 9
Sacramento, California 95834-0844

LAND USE:

- (A) One crossing of the Scott River and one crossing of the Klamath River, Siskiyou County.
- (B) One crossing of School lands, Glenn County.

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:

- (A) 0.05 Acres of submerged lands in the bed of the Scott River, and 0.09 Acres of submerged lands in the bed of the Klamath River, Siskiyou County.
- (B) 0.90 Acres Of School Lands, Glenn County.

LAND USE:

Installation, operation and maintenance of a underground fiber optic cable and associated facilities.

PROPOSED LEASE TERMS:

- (A) Continuous use plus one year
- (B) 49 years

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CONSIDERATION:

- (A) Exempt by law
- (B) \$100 per annum; five year rent review

BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- (A) Pursuant to Public Utilities Code 7901
- (B) Pursuant to 2 Cal. Code Regs. 2003

AB 884:

07/14/96

**OTHER PERTINENT
INFORMATION:**

1. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15025), the staff has prepared a Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, identified as ND 672, State Clearinghouse No. 95123014. The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared and circulated for public review from December 1, 1995, through January 19, 1996, pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

During the public comment period, staff received letters from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the California Department of Transportation-district 3 (CDOT), the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Department of Interior-Bureau of Reclamation and the Siskiyou County Planning Department. The concerns of each agency and the staff's responses thereto are summarized below. The Staff's detailed responses to each comment received have been included as Exhibit "D", and have been furnished to each commentor.

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California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

CDFFP was concerned that, although almost all of the project is on land under US Forest Service protection, some portions of the line may be in areas for which the CDFFP has jurisdiction. For these areas the Department would require a Fire Prevention and Response Plan be prepared and reviewed by the Department. Such a plan has been prepared and reviewed by the rangers of the Siskiyou Ranger Unit in accordance with the Department's request.

California Department of Fish and Game

CDFG had general comments on the monitoring of construction mitigations and a few specific comments on stream crossing methodology. The monitoring of construction during this project is being worked out between the applicant, Commission staff, CDFG and the US Forest Service. The comments in the CDFG letter will be incorporated in the final monitoring plan. The changes suggested by the Department for stream crossings have been incorporated in the project design.

California Department of Transportation

The Department of Transportation wanted two changes in wording for areas where the fiber optic line will cross under State Highways. These changes have been made in the project design.

Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

The Department wished to remind the applicant that, as a part of obtaining a Section 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers, the project will have to get a coastal consistency review from the Department. The applicant has already begun this process, and has contacted the Department with a draft document.

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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Department approved of all steam crossing methods described in the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, and wished to be assured that all procedures will be carried forward to the final document. These procedures are being made a part of the final Mitigation Monitoring Plan.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

The Bureau wished to remind the agencies and applicant to avoid conflicts with the Trinity River Restoration Program, although they did not see any conflicts in the project as designed. Staff has made special arrangements with monitors from the CDFG staff to check erosion control measures in the Trinity River watershed.

Siskiyou County Planning Department

The Department had one comment on traffic volumes near the city of Fort Jones, and one on the need for fire services availability during the construction period. The change in traffic counts has been made in the document, and the need for fire support has been addressed in connection with the comment from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection discussed above.

Based upon the Initial Study, the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, and the comments received in response thereto, and the Mitigation Monitoring Plan incorporated therein, there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment. (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15074 (b))

The environmental document is identified as Exhibit "B" (On file at the Sacramento office of the State Lands Commission).

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FURTHER APPROVAL REQUIRED:

State Lands Commission, California Department of Transportation, California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Land Description
Scott River Crossing- Sheet 1 of 3
Klamath River Crossing - Sheet 2 of 3
School Lands Crossing - Sheet 3 of 3
- B. ND 672, State Clearinghouse No. 95123014 (On file at the Sacramento office of the State Lands Commission)
- C. Mitigation Monitoring Plan
- D. Staff's responses to comments received during the public review period

RECOMMENDED

ACTION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT THE PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, ND 672, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 95123014, WAS PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CEQA AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN AND THE COMMENTS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE THERETO.
2. ADOPT THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT, AS APPROVED, WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

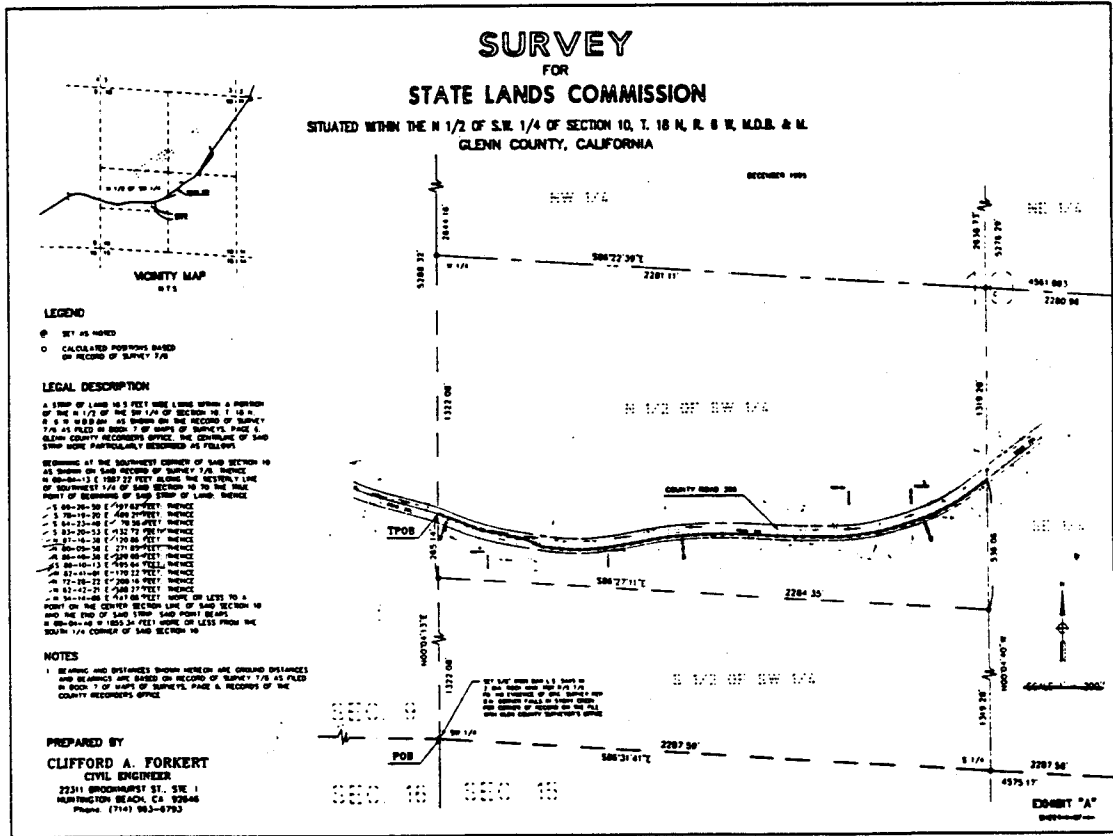
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3. ADOPT THE MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN, AS CONTAINED IN EXHIBIT C, ATTACHED HERETO.
4. FIND THAT THIS ACTIVITY IS CONSISTENT WITH THE USE CLASSIFICATION DESIGNATED FOR THE LAND PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTIONS 6370 ET. SEQ.
5. AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE TO A T & T CORP., AS TO THE SCOTT RIVER AND THE KLAMATH RIVER CROSSINGS, A CONTINUOUS USE PLUS ONE YEAR GENERAL LEASE - RIGHT OF WAY USE, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 27, 1996; EXEMPT FROM CONSIDERATION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE 7901, FOR CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A FIBER OPTIC CABLE ON THE LAND DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT "A", SHEETS 1 AND 2 OF 3, ATTACHED AND BY REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF.
6. ADDITIONALLY, AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE TO A T & T CORP. A 49-YEAR GENERAL LEASE - RIGHT OF WAY USE, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 27, 1996; IN CONSIDERATION OF \$100 PER ANNUM WITH THE STATE RESERVING THE RIGHT TO FIX A DIFFERENT RENTAL ON EACH FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEASE, FOR CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A FIBER OPTIC CABLE ON THE LAND DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT "A", SHEETS 3 OF 3, ATTACHED AND BY REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF.

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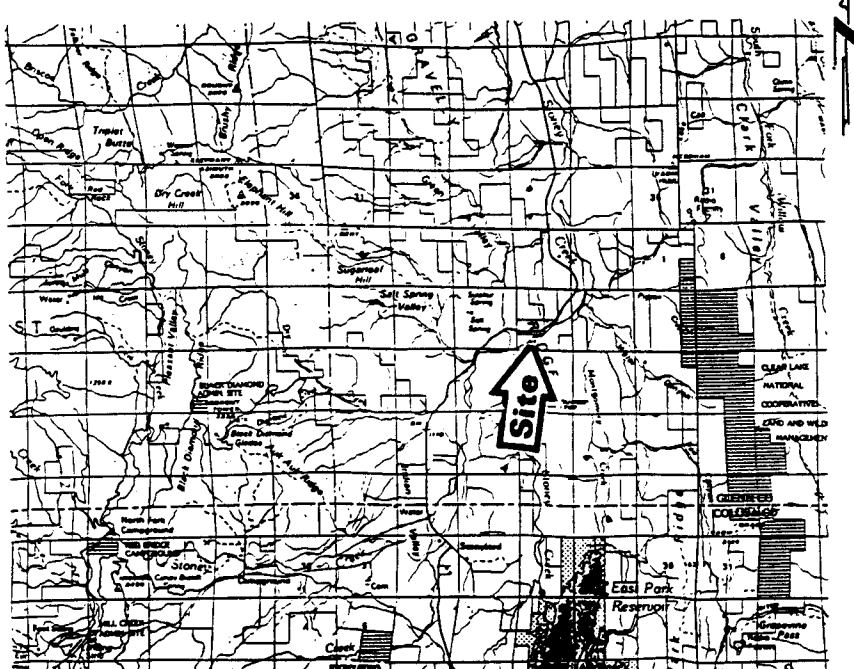
SITE MAP

NO SCALE



NO SCALE

LOCATION MAP



This Exhibit is solely for purposes of generally defining the lease premises, and is not intended to be, nor shall it be construed as, a waiver or limitation of any State interest in the subject or any other property.

EXHIBIT "A"

W25176

A.T. & T. CORP.

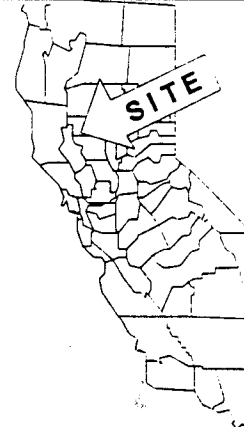
Fiber Optic Cable Project

Bandon, Ore.

to
Cloverdale, Calif.

Glenn County, Calif.

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Exhibit B

**ND 672, State Clearinghouse No. 95123014 (On file at the
Sacramento office of the State Lands Commission)**

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EXHIBIT "C"
MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM
AT&T FIBER OPTIC LINE--BANDON, OREGON TO CLOVERDALE, CALIFORNIA

During the Initial Study phase, several potential environmental impacts were identified, both by the applicant and by various resource agencies. Each of these potential impacts has been addressed in the Negative Declaration which was circulated for this project, and changes were made in the project to reduce these potential impacts to level of "less than significant". The potential impacts, the changes made in the project, which are referred to in the Negative Declaration and the material below as "Environmental Commitments", and the monitoring responsibility for each is listed below.

For over-all mitigation monitoring, both the applicant and the resource agencies will provide teams to oversee the construction process. AT&T will provide, as described in detail in the Negative Declaration, Environmental Resource Coordinators, Administrators and Monitors for each segment of construction. The California Department of Fish and Game will provide Lead Environmental Inspectors, and SLC and CDFG will provide Monitoring Administration. Daily reports from each construction spread will be sent from laptop computers to SLC and CDFG project supervisors, who will coordinate with the field inspectors.

As a part of this effort the applicant has committed to joint training sessions, to include construction supervisors, the applicant's environmental team and the SLC/CDFG project teams. These sessions will cover the reporting methods, lines of authority, special resources in the construction areas and the environmental commitments agreed to by the applicant. These sessions will be completed prior to the beginning of construction.

The following sections list the impacts and mitigations for each of the resource areas discussed in the Negative Declaration:

Water Quality and Erosion

Impact: Construction activities could result in temporary water quality degradation.

Environmental Commitment WQ-1: Implement Erosion Control Measures during Construction. Erosion control measures will include storing spoils out of the stream or ditch corridor (above the ordinary high-water mark) and protecting receiving waters from these erosion source areas by surrounding them with silt fences, certified weed-free straw bales, or other sediment control devices. In addition, stream channels will be protected from surface runoff along the alignment during the wet season by placing certified weed-free straw bales, silt fences, or other appropriate sediment control

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devices in roadside drainage ditches downstream of construction activities. Erosion control measures will be incorporated into bid specification packages and construction contracts.

Timing: The construction contractor (assisted by contract compliance inspectors and the environmental coordinator) will routinely inspect construction activities to verify that erosion control measures are being implemented, especially during wet weather.

Vegetation and Wetland Resources

Impact: Construction activities could result in the introduction or spread of noxious weeds into currently uninfected areas, potentially resulting in the displacement of native herbaceous species.

Environmental Commitment V-1: Control dispersal of noxious weeds during construction activities. To prevent the spread of noxious weeds into previously uninfected areas, AT&T and the construction contractor will implement the following measures:

- Noxious weed control areas and designated cleaning sites will be identified on construction drawings. These sites will be located at least 100 feet from water bodies.
- Construction crews will clean soil and plant matter from equipment at designated cleaning sites after performing construction activities in noxious weed control areas.
- The construction contractor will be required to use only certified weed-free straw bales to avoid the introduction of noxious weeds into wetlands and drainages. In upland areas, the construction contractor may elect to use rice straw bales, as recommended by DFG.

These measures will be incorporated into bid specification packages and construction drawings.

Timing: During construction activities in identified noxious weed areas, the construction contractor (assisted by contract compliance inspectors and the environmental coordinator) will routinely inspect construction activities to verify that construction equipment is being cleaned of soil and plant matter (away from natural waterways) in designated cleaning areas.

Impact: 118 seasonal drainages (other waters of the United States) will be temporarily disturbed during trenching activities (Table E-3 in Appendix E).

Environmental Commitment V-2: Comply with state and federal permit

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conditions. Project engineers will continue to coordinate with the Corps (Sacramento, San Francisco, and Portland Districts) to obtain a Section 404 permit and confirm that the work is authorized under an existing nationwide permit. Project engineers also will continue to coordinate with DFG (Region 1) to obtain the required streambed alteration agreements.

Based on ongoing consultation with the Corps, the project qualifies for Nationwide Permit 12. Under Nationwide Permit 12, the Corps authorizes discharges of material into waters of the United States for backfill or bedding for utility lines, provided that preconstruction contours do not change. Nationwide Permit 12 states that:

- material resulting from trench excavation can be temporarily sidecast (up to 3 months) into waters of the United States (except for perennial waterways that are prohibited under Section 1603 of the California Fish and Game Code) provided that the material is deposited by methods that prevent dispersal by currents or other forces;
- the area of waters of the United States that is disturbed must be limited to the minimum extent necessary to construct the utility line; and
- any exposed slopes and stream banks must be stabilized immediately upon completion of the utility line.

AT&T will incorporate all permit conditions into the final project description and site restoration plans. Permit conditions also will be incorporated into contract specifications and will be implemented by the construction contractor. The construction contractor (assisted by contract compliance inspectors and the environmental coordinator) will routinely inspect construction activities to verify that the above protective measures and permit conditions have been implemented. Additional reporting requirements that may be specified as conditions of permits will be incorporated into the project.

Timing: Each permit will specify timing requirements. (Note: This measure will be expanded to include timing for additional actions and reporting requirements that may be specified in permits.)

Environmental Commitment V-3: Restore drainages to preconstruction conditions.

Consistent with the Corps Nationwide Permit 12, the drainage bed and bank will be restored in a manner that encourages vegetation to reestablish to its preconstruction condition and reduces the effects of erosion on the drainage system. The following measures will be implemented as part of post-project site restoration:

- Drainage banks will be recontoured using manual tools rather than heavy equipment that could exacerbate erosion.
- Discarded soil will be left in roughened condition to ~~reduce erosion and promote~~

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revegetation.

- Drainage banks may be stabilized using biodegradable jute or a nonreseeding erosion-control grass (i.e., "Escort" sterile wheat) that will bind the soil initially and break down within a few years. If more aggressive erosion control treatments are needed, geotextile mats, excelsior blankets, or other soil stabilization products will be used.
- Trees, shrubs, debris, or soils that are inadvertently deposited below the ordinary high-water mark of drainages will be removed in a manner that minimizes disturbance of the drainage bed and bank.

Timing: Each drainage trenched during cable installation will be stabilized and restored after completion of the crossing. The contract compliance inspector and environmental coordinator will routinely inspect construction activities to ensure that drainages are restored to preconstruction conditions.

Also see Environmental Commitment V-5 below.

Impact: Approximately 0.04 acre of riparian vegetation could be removed during installation of the fiber optic cable across Little Elder Creek and Khoery Creek in Oregon (drainages 302, 303, and 304).

Environmental Commitment V-2: Comply with state and federal permit conditions. Conditions of state and federal permits will be incorporated into construction contracts and implemented by the construction contractor. This environmental commitment is described above.

Environmental Commitment V-3: Restore drainages to preconstruction conditions. Drainages will be restored to preconstruction conditions. This environmental commitment is described above.

Environmental Commitment V-4: Minimize impacts on riparian vegetation. In general, appropriate trenching methods will be used to minimize disturbance of drainage channels and adjacent riparian vegetation. Specifically, the following measures will be implemented to minimize impacts on these sensitive resources:

- locate the drainage-crossing cable on sites with sparse or no woody riparian vegetation, or on sites dominated by herbaceous species rather than shrubs or trees; and

- identify the limits of construction along drainages and through riparian vegetation by flagging or fencing the construction zone. As part of the environmental training program, construction crews will be briefed on the importance of confining construction activities to the demarcated zone.

Timing: Before construction activities are initiated in a designated segment, the limits of the construction zone will be identified by the environmental coordinator, assisted by the lead biological monitor and the construction contractor. The biological monitor will routinely inspect construction activities to ensure that protective measures are working and remain in place during construction. The contract compliance inspector also will confirm that the construction zone has been identified and that protective measures are in place before construction activities begin in designated segments.

Environmental Commitment V-5: Monitor disturbed riparian sites and implement a revegetation plan, as needed, to restore riparian sites to preconstruction conditions. Disturbed riparian sites will be monitored and, as needed, a revegetation plan will be implemented to restore riparian sites to preconstruction conditions.

To ensure that riparian vegetation reestablishes along drainages 302, 303, and 304 (on private land in Oregon), AT&T will retain a qualified restoration ecologist to monitor disturbed sites immediately after construction and at years 1 and 3 after completion of construction activities. Data gathered during 1995 field surveys for this analysis will be used as baseline data for each disturbed riparian site. Data that will be gathered on each site during the monitoring visits will include:

- relative cover and types of plant species establishing on the sites,
- percent absolute vegetation cover,
- wildlife habitat evaluation, and
- erosion problems.

A brief letter report summarizing the results of monitoring and recommending additional needed actions will be submitted to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) after each monitoring visit.

After the third-year monitoring visit, the restoration ecologist will coordinate with ODFW and determine whether site restoration is required. Where necessary, a revegetation plan for disturbed riparian sites will be developed and implemented to restore riparian vegetation to preconstruction condition and ensure that no permanent loss of habitat values occurs as a result of the project.

This revegetation plan will include a plant pallette, design specifications, implementation plan, maintenance requirements, and monitoring program. A minimum of 5 years of monitoring (or as required as a condition of permits) will be conducted to document the degree of success or failure in achieving the success criteria and to identify remedial actions that may be needed. Annual monitoring reports will be

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submitted to ODFW. The report will summarize the data collected during monitoring periods, describe how the habitats are progressing in terms of the success criteria (described below), and discuss any remedial actions performed.

After the 5-year monitoring period (plus 3 years prior to the revegetation plan, totaling 8 years), implementation of environmental commitments for riparian habitats will be considered successful when the following criteria are met:

- establishment of a riparian habitat that is composed of a similar mix of species removed during cable installation;
- development of at least 75% absolute cover of native riparian vegetation on each site;
- growth of riparian species that rate good or excellent vigor and growth based on a qualitative comparison of leaf turgor, stem caliber, leaf color, and foliage density in the planted sites with individuals of the same species in the adjacent riparian areas;
- less than 5% of absolute cover on each site will be composed of weedy annual or perennial species; and
- plantings at each site are self-sustaining without human support (e.g., weed control, rodent control, or irrigation).

Additional reporting requirements that may be specified as conditions of permits will be incorporated into the project.

Timing: A qualified restoration ecologist will begin monitoring disturbed sites within 60 days of completion of construction across the drainage. Similar monitoring will occur at 1 and 3 years after construction. If a revegetation plan is required based on the results of the third-year postconstruction monitoring, monitoring will occur annually for an additional 5 years.

Impact: Drainages and associated riparian vegetation could be indirectly or inadvertently affected by construction equipment or placement of fill material.

Environmental Commitment V-6: Protect riparian vegetation adjacent to the construction zone. Riparian vegetation close to the construction zone that could be indirectly or inadvertently affected by construction activities was identified during a preconstruction survey, and results of the survey were provided to project engineers. Riparian vegetation close to the construction zone that could be indirectly or inadvertently affected by construction activities will be protected by temporary fencing or certified weed-free straw bales and posted with signs to restrict access. AT&T will ensure that riparian vegetation requiring temporary fencing for protection are identified in construction drawings and staked prior to any ground-disturbing activities.

Identification and protection of riparian vegetation that occurs close to the construction zone will include one of the following measures, depending on site-specific conditions.

Install Barrier Fencing and Post Signs. Riparian vegetation with a high potential to be affected that occurs close to construction areas will be fenced with 4-foot T-posts and barrier fencing (temporary orange mesh construction fencing). "Restricted Area" signs will be posted on the posts. Barrier fencing will be installed in consultation with the biological monitor and will encompass the sensitive resource and an appropriate protection buffer. In general, buffers will increase with resource sensitivity and available distance within the construction ROW.

Install Sedimentation Fencing or Straw Bales and Post Signs. Some riparian areas may require sedimentation fencing or straw bales for full protection. In coordination with the biological monitor, AT&T will install sedimentation fencing or certified weed-free straw bales to prevent fill material from inadvertently entering sensitive areas. In upland areas, the construction contractor may elect to use rice straw, as recommended by DFG. "Restricted Area" signs will be posted around these riparian vegetation areas, and all construction activities will be prohibited within the fenced zone. As requested by the Siskiyou National Forest, straw bales will not be used as a protection measure on Region 6 lands.

Timing: Riparian vegetation requiring temporary fencing for protection will be identified in construction drawings and will be staked before construction activities begin in designated areas. Protective fencing will remain in place until all construction activities in the area are complete. Protective measures will be removed by the construction contractor in consultation with the environmental coordinator and contract compliance inspector.

Environmental Commitment V-7: Retain biological monitors to oversee construction activities near specified riparian vegetation areas. AT&T will retain biological monitors to oversee construction activities near specified riparian areas. Biological monitors will be assigned and be responsible for overseeing designated construction segments. Biological monitors will locate and stake previously identified sensitive resources before construction activities begin in specified segments and will assist the construction contractor in installing the necessary construction protection devices. Biological monitors also will be onsite during construction where their presence is needed and as required in the environmental document.

Biological monitors will routinely patrol construction activities in specified construction segments to ensure that barrier fencing, stakes, posted signs, and required buffers are maintained and to help educate the contractor's personnel about the resources and avoidance needs. Field biological monitors will be authorized to cease construction activities with the potential to disturb sensitive resources until appropriate measures are implemented to protect the resource. Biological monitors will report all problems encountered to the lead biological monitor. The environmental coordinator will

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coordinate with resource agencies, as needed.

Timing: Ongoing during construction. Biological monitors will be retained by January 1996 and will be prepared to begin construction monitoring in February 1996. Construction activities will be monitored continually in designated areas.

Impact: Approximately 1.64 acres of jurisdictional wetlands will be temporarily disturbed during construction as a result of site preparation, trenching, grading, or backfilling activities.

Environmental Commitment V-8: Restore jurisdictional wetlands to preconstruction conditions. To ensure that wetlands are returned to their preconstruction condition, specific guidelines for reestablishing conditions conducive to natural site regeneration have been incorporated into postproject design. Wetlands will be restored to preconstruction condition by implementing the following measures:

- Recontouring the ground surface to maintain preconstruction wetland hydrology.
- Stockpiling the topsoil from the excavated site with intact roots, rhizomes, and seed bank.
- Replacing the topsoil and subsoil immediately after conducting construction activities in the wetland (Nationwide Permit 12 requires that topsoil be stockpiled and replaced). Topsoil will be kept moist, stored separately from subsoil, and subsequently replaced with a minimum of handling.

Timing: The ground surface will be recontoured and the topsoil and subsoil will be replaced immediately after construction is completed in a designated segment.

Environmental Commitment V-9: Monitor disturbed jurisdictional wetlands and implement a revegetation plan, as needed, to restore wetlands to preconstruction conditions. To ensure that wetlands return to preconstruction conditions, AT&T will retain a qualified restoration ecologist to monitor disturbed wetland sites immediately after construction and at years 1 and 3 after construction activities cease. The objective of these monitoring visits will be to determine whether the natural wetland hydrology and wetland vegetation are re-establishing. Information gathered during the 1995 wetland delineation conducted by Jones & Stokes Associates will be used as baseline data for the monitoring visits. Data that will be gathered on each site during the monitoring visits will include:

- relative cover and types of plant species establishing on the sites,
- percent absolute vegetation cover,
- hydrologic and soil conditions, and
- erosion problems.

In addition to monitoring actions described above, a brief letter report summarizing the results of monitoring and recommending additional actions that may be needed will be submitted to DFG, Corps, and USFS after each monitoring visit.

After the third-year monitoring visit (in consultation with the Corps and other appropriate agencies), the restoration ecologist will determine whether site restoration is required. After the third year, wetlands should be dominated by the same or a similar mix and cover of native species that were located on the site during the 1995 wetland delineation. Where necessary, a revegetation plan for disturbed wetlands will be developed and implemented to restore the wetlands to preconstruction conditions and ensure that no permanent loss of habitat values occurs as a result of the project.

This revegetation plan will include a plant palletete, design specifications, implementation plan, maintenance requirements, and monitoring program. The revegetation plan will comply with the USFS R5 policy that dictates the use of genetically local sources of native plant material in restoration projects on USFS lands. A minimum of 5 years of monitoring (or as required as a condition of the Section 404 permit) will be conducted to document the degree of success or failure in achieving the success criteria and to identify remedial actions, if needed. Annual monitoring reports will be submitted to the Corps and other appropriate agencies (e.g., USFS). The report will summarize the data collected during monitoring periods, describe how the wetlands are progressing in terms of the success criteria (described below), and discuss any remedial actions performed.

After the 5-year monitoring period (plus 3 years prior to the revegetation plan, totalling 8 years), implementation of environmental commitments for disturbed wetlands will be considered successful when the following criteria are met:

- establishment of wetland vegetation that is composed of a similar mix of species removed during cable installation,
- development of at least 75% absolute cover of wetland vegetation on each site, and
- return of natural wetland hydrological functions.

Timing: A qualified restoration ecologist will begin monitoring disturbed sites within 60 days after construction is complete. Similar monitoring will occur at 1 and 3 years after construction. If a revegetation plan is required based on the results of the third-year postconstruction monitoring, monitoring will occur annually for an additional 5 years.

Impact: Wetlands could be indirectly or inadvertently affected by construction equipment, placement of fill material, or alteration of site hydrology.

Environmental Commitment V-10: Protect jurisdictional wetlands adjacent to the construction zone. Jurisdictional wetlands occurring close to the construction zone that could be indirectly or inadvertently affected by construction activities were

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identified during the design stage, and the alignment was designed to avoid these areas to the fullest extent. Identified sensitive resource areas and appropriate protection measures will be included in bid specifications and construction drawings. AT&T will ensure that protective barriers are in place around wetlands prior to any ground-disturbing activities. Wetlands will be protected by one of the following measures, depending on site-specific conditions.

- Install barrier fencing and post signs
- Install sedimentation fencing or straw bales and post signs.

Refer to Environmental Commitment V-6 for a more detailed description of these measures.

Timing: The environmental coordinator assisted by the lead biological monitor will identify the specific location of protective barriers before construction activities are initiated near sensitive resources. The biological monitor will routinely inspect protected areas to ensure that barriers remain in place and are effective. Protective barriers will remain in place until all construction activities are complete in areas near sensitive resources.

Environmental Commitment V-7: Retain biological monitors to oversee construction activities near specified wetland areas. AT&T will retain biological monitors to oversee construction activities near specified riparian areas. (See the previous detailed discussion of this environmental commitment.)

Timing: Ongoing during construction. Biological monitors will be retained by January 1996 and will be prepared to begin construction monitoring in February 1996.

Impact: Use of selected flat areas near the alignment for construction of temporary or permanent facilities, equipment staging areas, or overnight camp sites could result in permanent loss or substantial disturbance of sensitive vegetation resources.

Environmental Commitment V-11: Obtain site clearance for equipment staging and storage areas, and overnight camp sites. All temporary and permanent facilities will be sited to avoid potential impacts on sensitive vegetation resources. AT&T will require the construction contractor to obtain site clearance before establishing equipment staging areas, storage sites, and overnight camp sites. As discussed earlier in Section 2.9.4, "Staging Areas", contractors will provide the locations of proposed staging areas to the environmental coordinator before establishing them in the field.

The staging area will be an area that is already heavily disturbed (paved or compacted dirt and gravel) and is located at least 100 feet from drainages or bodies of water. Staging areas will not be located on a riparian reserve. If such an area cannot be located, an alternative site (or sites) will be selected by the construction contractor.

The selected site then will be surveyed by qualified biological and cultural resources

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field monitors to ensure that no sensitive resources are located on the site that would be disturbed by staging activities. If sensitive resources are found, an appropriate buffer zone would be staked and flagged to avoid impacts. If impacts on sensitive resources cannot be avoided, the site is located within 100 feet of a drainage, or if the site is located on a riparian reserve, the site will not be used. No equipment refueling or fuel storage will take place within 100 feet of a drainage or body of water.

Assisted by environmental field monitors, the environmental coordinator will determine whether the selected staging area meets the criteria identified above (an area that has been heavily disturbed, at least 100 feet from a water body, and not on a riparian reserve) and whether additional environmental clearance is required for the site. If sensitive resources are identified on the site that cannot be protected by environmental commitments described in the environmental document for similar resources, an alternate site will be selected.

The environmental coordinator will consult with responsible agencies for their concurrence on protection measures that may be needed for sensitive resources on or adjacent to staging areas. On state and federal lands, the environmental coordinator will consult with USFS, BLM, or Caltrans biologists.

Obtaining site clearance will be made a condition of construction contracts. AT&T will require evidence of clearance from the construction contractor before authorizing construction to begin.

Timing: The environmental coordinator will provide environmental clearance for staging areas before construction contractors establish staging areas or initiate staging activities. The contract compliance inspector will confirm that staging areas have received environmental clearance before construction activities begin in these areas.

Impact: Special-status plant species in Oregon could be affected directly or indirectly by construction activities.

Twenty-four occurrences (refer to occurrence site numbers in Table 3.2-5) support special-status plant species that occur on sites protected by terrain (e.g., steep slopes) or vegetation (conifers) and therefore have a low to moderate potential to be disturbed by the project.

Nineteen occurrences support special-status plant species on unprotected road shoulders, level terrain, or lower toe slopes. These occurrences have a moderate to high potential for disturbance from construction equipment.

Environmental Commitment V-12: Stake and flag special-status plant populations with a low to moderate potential to be disturbed during cable installation. Before construction activities are initiated near occurrences with a low to moderate potential to be affected by the project (Table 3.2-5), a biological monitor will stake and flag a

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buffer at 5-foot intervals around each occurrence, and "Restricted Area" signs will be posted. In general, the buffer will depend on specific site conditions and the amount of space available for staking. The biological monitor will use a combination of field notes, photographs, maps, and field stakes to locate special-status plant populations during the preconstruction staking period. All construction activities will be prohibited in these designated areas.

Timing: Protective barriers will be in place before construction activities are initiated in segments with designated sensitive resources and will remain in place until all construction activities that could disturb the identified resource are complete.

Sites with designated sensitive vegetation resources and specified protection measures will be included in bid specifications and incorporated into construction contracts. The biological monitor will identify the specific location of protective barriers before construction. The construction contractor will install protective barriers. The biological monitor will routinely inspect protected areas during construction to ensure that barriers are working and remain in place. The biological monitor will oversee the removal of protective barriers when all construction activities are complete in the area.

Environmental Commitment V-13: Install temporary fencing or straw bales around special-status plant populations with a moderate to high potential to be disturbed during cable installation. Before construction activities are initiated near occurrences of special-status plants with a moderate to high potential to be affected by the project (Table 3.2-5), a biological monitor will ensure that construction fencing or sedimentation fencing, or certified weed-free straw bales are placed around each occurrence, as identified in Table 3.2-5. (Refer to Environmental Commitment V-6 for a more detailed discussion of these measures. No straw bales will be used on the Siskiyou National Forest.) The biological monitor will use a combination of field notes, photographs, maps, and field stakes to locate special-status plant populations during the preconstruction period.

Timing: Protective barriers will be in place before construction activities are initiated in segments with designated sensitive resources and will remain in place until all construction activities that could disturb the resource are complete.

Sites with designated sensitive vegetation resources and specified protection measures will be included in bid specifications and incorporated into construction contracts. The biological monitor will identify the specific location of protective barriers before construction. The construction contractor will install protective barriers. The biological monitor will routinely inspect protected areas during construction to ensure that barriers are working and remain in place. The biological monitor will oversee the removal of protective barriers when all construction activities are complete in the area.

Environmental Commitment V-14: Retain biological monitors to oversee construction near specified special-status plant populations in Oregon. AT&T will

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retain biological monitors to oversee construction activities at designated special-status plant occurrences (Table 3.2-5). Some special-status plant populations in the study area have a moderate to high potential to be affected by construction activities based on their location in or adjacent to the road ROW. To ensure that these populations are not adversely affected by the project, on-site biological monitors will be retained before any ground-disturbing activities are initiated near the populations.

The environmental coordinator will coordinate with the appropriate agencies (USFS, BLM, or ODA) to identify the biological monitor's responsibilities, including establishing the monitoring protocol in the field and a primary contact for resolving problems encountered during monitoring.

Timing: Ongoing during construction. Biological monitors will be retained by January 1996 and will be prepared to begin construction monitoring in February 1996.

Impact: Special-status plant species in California could be affected directly or indirectly by construction activities.

Fifty-six occurrences (refer to occurrence site numbers in Table 3.2-6) support special-status plant species on sites with a low to moderate potential to be indirectly or inadvertently affected by construction activities. These occurrences support special-status plants that are protected by terrain (e.g., steep slopes) or vegetation (conifers) and therefore have a low to moderate potential to be disturbed by the project.

Thirty-three occurrences support special-status plant species with a high potential to be indirectly or inadvertently affected by construction activities because they occur on unprotected road shoulders, level terrain, or lower toe slopes. Population occurrences with the highest potential to be affected by construction activities are identified in Table 3.2-6.

Environmental Commitment V-15: Submit bid set of construction drawings to resource agencies for review and comment prior to any ground-disturbing activities. AT&T will submit a bid set of construction drawings for the California portion of the fiber optic cable project to resource agencies (DFG, USFS, Caltrans, and BLM) for concurrence on avoidance measures for special-status plant populations located in the study area. AT&T assumes that the resource agencies will review and comment on the drawings within 30 days of their receipt. Construction activities will not be initiated until the resource agencies have reviewed and commented on the construction drawings. The construction drawings will include the following:

- the location of the special-status plant population (indicated with a symbol in the note box),
- the type of protection method (e.g., construction fence, silt fence, certified weed-free straw bales, or stake/flag) that will be used to protect the population (indicated

in the note box), and

- the biological monitor requirement (indicated in the note box).

As part of the environmental training program, the contractor and construction crews will be informed about the responsibilities for avoiding and protecting special-status plant populations to the fullest extent.

Timing: Construction activities will not be initiated until the resource agencies have reviewed and commented on the construction drawings.

Environmental Commitment V-16: Stake and flag special-status plant populations with a low to moderate potential to be disturbed during cable installation. Before construction activities are initiated near occurrences that have a low to moderate potential to be affected by the project (Table 3.2-6), a biological monitor will stake and flag a buffer at 5-foot intervals around each occurrence, and "Restricted Area" signs will be posted. In general, the buffer will depend on specific site conditions and the amount of space available for staking. The biological monitor will use a combination of field notes, photographs, maps, and field stakes to locate special-status plant populations during the preconstruction staking period. All construction activities will be prohibited in these designated areas.

Timing: Protective barriers will be in place before construction activities are initiated in segments with designated sensitive resources and will remain in place until all construction activities that could disturb the resource are complete.

Environmental Commitment V-17: Install temporary fencing or straw bales around special-status plant populations in California with a moderate to high potential to be disturbed during cable installation. Before construction activities are initiated near occurrences that have a moderate to high potential to be disturbed by the project (Table 3.2-6), a biological monitor will identify the location of barrier fencing or siltation fencing, or straw bales (Table 3.2-6). (Refer to Environmental Commitment V-6 for a more detailed discussion of these measures. No straw bales will be used on the Siskiyou National Forest.) Identification and protection of special-status plants with a high potential to be indirectly or inadvertently? disturbed will include installing barrier fencing and posting signs or installing sedimentation fencing or straw bales and posting signs. Signs will be posted around each occurrence. The biological monitor will use a combination of field notes, photographs, maps, and field stakes to locate special-status plant populations during the preconstruction period (this period will vary, depending on when construction will occur in specified segments). All construction activities will be prohibited in these designated areas.

Timing: Protective barriers will be in place before construction activities are initiated in segments with designated sensitive resources and will remain in place until all construction activities that could disturb the resource are complete.

Environmental Commitment V-18: Retain biological monitors to oversee construction near specified special-status plant populations in California. AT&T will retain biological monitors to oversee construction activities at designated special-status plant occurrences (Table 3.2-6). Some special-status plant populations in the study area have a moderate to high potential to be directly affected by construction activities based on their location in or adjacent to the road ROW. To ensure these populations are not adversely affected by the project, on-site biological monitors will be retained before any ground-disturbing activities are initiated near the populations.

The environmental coordinator will coordinate with DFG to identify the lead biological monitor's responsibilities, including establishing the monitoring protocol in the field and a primary DFG contact for resolving problems encountered during monitoring. (See the previous detailed discussion of this environmental commitment.)

Timing: Ongoing during construction. Biological monitors will be retained by January 1996 and will be prepared to begin construction monitoring in February 1996. Construction activities will be monitored continually in designated areas.

Impact: Trenching, grading, and other construction activities associated with the project would temporarily disturb common vegetation types in the study area, especially grasslands.

Environmental Commitment V-19: Reestablish preconstruction conditions to allow natural colonization of plant species and reseed, if necessary. To ensure that impacts on common vegetation types are not permanent, native topsoil will be immediately replaced and the natural site topography reestablished. Preconstruction conditions will be reestablished to allow natural colonization of plant species.

Site restoration will focus on reestablishing preconstruction conditions (including replacing the topsoil with seedbank and mycorrhizae) to allow natural reestablishment of local plant species. In compliance with USFS R5 policy on the use of native plant material in restoration, AT&T will encourage natural regeneration and restoration of disturbed sites. In areas that require immediate stabilization, non-vegetative techniques that allow natives to reestablish will be used, including weed- and disease-free mulching, erosion blankets, or sterile straw waddles.

Erosion control seed mixes may be necessary on selected small sites. However, seed mixes will be applied as a last resort and probably will not be necessary, especially along public road ROWs that are annually graded or maintained. Because plant species in standard seed mixes could result in the displacement of more desirable native plant species in an area (most road shoulders in the study area, however, are dominated by non-native species), seed mixes will include locally indigenous plant species that would be appropriate for local site conditions. In the event that erosion control activities necessitate reseeding on USFS lands, AT&T will comply with the R5 policy requiring that plant materials used in all revegetation projects originate from genetically local

sources of native species. AT&T will not use commercially available stock if the genetic origin and physiological quality is unknown. If erosion control mix is used, AT&T or its consultant will coordinate with the appropriate land management agencies to discuss the native seed mix.

Erosion control methods on sites adjacent to special-status plant species will focus on non-vegetative techniques. Erosion control seed mixes will not be used near any special-status plant populations.

The need for site-specific erosion control measures (non-vegetative or mechanical techniques) will be determined on a site-specific basis by the biological monitor and contract compliance inspector. If a native plant erosion control seed mix is required for long-term site stability, non-vegetative techniques will be used in the short-term (up to 1 year) until a native seed source is identified and obtained (seed may be collected from the local region or obtained from nursery stock, if the appropriate genetic stock are available).

Timing: Preconstruction site conditions will be reestablished immediately following cable installation. If a native plant erosion control seed mix is required for long-term site stability, non-vegetative techniques will be used in the short-term (up to 1 year) until a native seed source is identified and obtained (seed may be collected from the local region or obtained from nursery stock, if the appropriate genetic stock are available).

Impact: Sensitive vegetation types (other than riparian and wetland types) that occur in the study area but outside the construction zone could be indirectly or inadvertently affected disturbed by construction activities.

Environmental Commitment V-20: Confine construction equipment and associated activities to the construction corridor (road or utility ROW). AT&T will ensure that all sensitive vegetation types are avoided to the fullest extent by confining construction activities to the designated construction corridor (road ROW or dirt road). During the environmental training program, construction personnel will be informed about the importance of confining construction activities to designated areas. Contract compliance inspectors and environmental resource coordinators will ensure that construction equipment and associated activities avoid any disturbance of sensitive vegetation types outside the construction corridor.

Timing: Direct impacts on sensitive vegetation types were avoided during project design. On-site inspectors will ensure that indirect or inadvertent impacts will also be avoided during construction activities.

Impact: Construction activities could result in the spread of Port Orford cedar root disease into uninfected stands of Port Orford cedars.

Environmental Commitment V-21: Control the spread of port Orford cedar root disease during construction activities. The spread of Port Orford cedar root disease will be controlled by implementing the following measures:

- steam clean all equipment that passes through the infected stands along Happy Camp Road on the Siskiyou National Forest;
- clean equipment only as designated cleaning stations (e.g., Page Mountain snow park) and dispose of all soil and other material as stipulated by the USFS; and
- coordinate with USFS foresters and forest pathologists to ensure all measures have been implemented to prevent the spread of the root disease.

Infected stands of Port Orford cedar observed during field surveys and potential wash stations have been mapped and provided to project engineers. AT&T will receive confirmation from the Siskiyou National Forest that the proposed wash stations are appropriately located.

Timing: Construction equipment will be cleaned and inspected after trenching through forest areas that are infected with Port Orford cedar root disease.

Wildlife Resources

Table 2-2 illustrates critical biological periods for wildlife species along the project alignment. If construction activities occur outside the designated critical period for a species, no additional measures would be required.

Impact: Approximately 0.04 acre of riparian vegetation will be disturbed during trenching activities at three drainage crossings along the project alignment (Table E-3 in Appendix E).

Environmental Commitment V-3: Restore drainages to preconstruction conditions. Consistent with the Corps Nationwide Permit 12, the drainage bed and bank will be restored in a manner that encourages vegetation to reestablish to its preconstruction condition and reduces the effects of erosion on the drainage system. The following measures will be implemented as part of post-project site restoration:

- Drainage banks will be recontoured using manual tools rather than heavy equipment that could exacerbate erosion.
- Discarded soil will be left in roughened condition to reduce erosion and promote revegetation.

- Drainage banks may be stabilized using biodegradable jute or a nonreseeding erosion-control grass (i.e., "Escort" sterile wheat) that will bind the soil initially and break down within a few years. If more aggressive erosion control treatments are needed, geotextile mats, excelsior blankets, or other soil stabilization products will be used.
- Trees, shrubs, debris, or soils that are inadvertently deposited below the ordinary high-water mark of drainages will be removed in a manner that minimizes disturbance of the drainage bed and bank.

Timing: Each drainage trenched during cable installation will be stabilized and restored after completion of the crossing. The contract compliance inspector and environmental coordinator will routinely inspect construction activities to ensure that drainages are restored to preconstruction conditions.

Environmental Commitment V-4: Minimize impacts on riparian vegetation. In general, appropriate trenching methods will be used to minimize disturbance of drainage channels and adjacent riparian vegetation. Specifically, the following measures will be implemented to minimize impacts on these sensitive resources:

- locate the drainage-crossing cable on sites with sparse or no woody riparian vegetation, or on sites dominated by herbaceous species rather than shrubs or trees; and
- identify the limits of construction along drainages and through riparian vegetation by flagging or fencing the construction zone. As part of the environmental training program, construction crews will be briefed on the importance of confining construction activities to the demarcated zone.

Timing: Before construction activities are initiated in a designated segment, the limits of the construction zone will be identified by the environmental coordinator, assisted by the lead biological monitor in coordination with the construction contractor. The biological monitor will routinely inspect construction activities to ensure that protective measures are working and remain in place during construction. The contract compliance inspector also will confirm that the construction zone has been identified and that protective measures are in place.

Impact: Inadvertent damage to vernal pools from construction equipment, materials handling, or other construction-related activities could result in direct mortality and loss of habitat for vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp.

Environmental Commitment W-1: Implement the mitigation plan for vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp. The mitigation plan for vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp is described in the biological assessment (Appendix I).

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Avoidance measures to prevent impacts on vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp include boring and rerouting. Construction protection measures for avoided areas include temporary fencing, hydrologic and water quality measures, an environmental training program, and construction monitoring.

The biological monitor will work with project engineers to establish buffers around each vernal pool according to the specifications outlined in the biological assessment (Appendix I). Temporary fencing will be installed in consultation with a qualified resource specialist. The environmental coordinator and biological monitor will ensure that appropriate setbacks have been established around each vernal pool and temporary fencing installed around them before ground-disturbing activities that could affect pools are initiated. The biological monitor will report on a daily basis to the environmental coordinator concerning the status of construction activities near vernal pools.

Timing: Orange construction fencing will be placed between the roadside and each vernal pool site before construction activities are initiated. The environmental coordinator, assisted by the biological monitor, will ensure that protective barriers are in place and working. The contract compliance inspector also will confirm that protective fencing is in place before construction begins. The biological monitor will continuously monitor construction activities near identified vernal pools.

Impact: The proposed project could indirectly disturb suitable shrimp habitat in 27 vernal pools through downslope effects of construction activities.

Environmental Commitment W-1: Implement the mitigation plan for vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp. The mitigation plan for vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp is described in the biological assessment (Appendix I) and is summarized in the preceding discussion.

The biological monitor will work with project engineers to implement specific impact avoidance measures for each vernal pool site, according to the specifications outlined in the biological assessment (Appendix I). Impact avoidance measures include rerouting the cable to the side of the road opposite the vernal pool, boring underground, and installing sedimentation fencing.

Timing: The environmental coordinator and lead biological monitor will ensure that all measures are implemented before ground-disturbing activities that could affect vernal pools are initiated. The biological monitor will continuously monitor construction activities near identified vernal pools and will report on a daily basis to the environmental coordinator on the status of construction activities near vernal pools.

Impact: Implementation of the proposed project could result in removal or disturbance of 14 elderberry shrubs.

Environmental Commitment W-2: Establish a 20-foot setback from each

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elderberry shrub that could be disturbed. A setback of at least 20 feet will be established from the dripline of each elderberry shrub to the project work area. No ground-disturbing activities will be permitted within the buffer area except in areas where the cable will be placed within the road pavement.

Timing: Where necessary, the cable has been routed to the opposite side of the road during the design phase to achieve the 20-foot setback requirement. Prior to any ground-disturbing activities, a qualified biologist familiar with the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB) and VELB habitat will work with project engineers to establish the 20-foot buffer around each shrub.

Environmental Commitment W-3: Install temporary fencing around elderberry shrubs. AT&T will install temporary fencing around elderberry shrubs before initiating ground-disturbing activities that could disturb the shrubs. Each of the 14 elderberry shrubs will be fenced at the edge of the 20-foot buffer (unless the fence would encroach onto a roadway) with 4-foot T-posts and temporary orange mesh barricade fencing. "Restricted Area" signs will be posted on the posts. Barrier fencing will be installed and removed in consultation with a qualified resource specialist.

Timing: Temporary fencing will be installed around elderberry shrubs before ground-disturbing activities that could disturb the shrubs are initiated. Protective fencing will remain around elderberry shrubs until construction activities within the designated construction segment are complete.

Environmental Commitment W-4: Retain biological monitors to oversee construction activities near specified sensitive wildlife resources. AT&T will retain qualified biological monitors to oversee construction activities near specified sensitive wildlife resources. Qualifications of biological monitors will be determined by the resource or activity to be monitored. Biological monitors will be assigned and be responsible for overseeing designated construction segments. The biological monitor will have the authority to cease construction activities that could disturb sensitive wildlife resources. (Refer to the earlier detailed discussion of field biological monitors in Environmental Commitment V-7 and Section 2.9.3, "Field Monitors".)

The biological monitor will work with project engineers to establish a 20-foot buffer around each shrub. Barrier fencing will be installed in consultation with a qualified resource specialist. The environmental coordinator and biological monitor will ensure that a 20-foot setback has been established around the elderberry shrubs and temporary fencing installed around them before ground-disturbing activities that could affect the shrubs are initiated. The biological monitor will report on a daily basis to the environmental coordinator concerning the status of construction activities near elderberry shrubs.

Timing: Ongoing during construction. Biological monitors will be retained by January 1996 and will be prepared to begin construction monitoring in February 1996.

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Construction activities will be monitored continually in designated areas (Table 3, Volume III).

Impact: In-water construction activities at drainage crossings (if approved by the appropriate agencies) could temporarily disturb habitat occupied or potentially occupied by southern torrent salamanders, northern red-legged frogs, foothill yellow-legged frogs, northwestern pond turtles, and other special-status amphibians.

Environmental Commitment W-5: Minimize impacts on habitat and reduce the potential for mortality of special-status amphibians and reptiles. If special site conditions require that in-water trenching be conducted, AT&T will consult with appropriate resource agencies for authorization. The following environmental commitment will be implemented at all drainages where in-water work will occur along the project alignment. A qualified wildlife biologist acceptable to DFG and USFS will implement the following actions:

- At all drainages where in-water work will occur, temporary barriers will be installed on the upstream and downstream sides of the drainage to prevent animals from entering the work area.
- All animals, including eggs and tadpoles, found within the work area will be collected and removed to an appropriate location outside the work area. When the site is considered adequately cleared of all special-status species by the qualified biologist, trenching work can proceed.
- After construction is completed, the site will be recontoured to its preproject condition, and barriers will be removed to permit the movement of animals.
- Construction monitoring will be continued at each site until construction and restoration activities are complete.

Timing: A biological monitor will install temporary barriers no more than 2 days before trenching. Barriers will be removed immediately after trenching is complete, allowing restoration of the site. Monitoring will continue at all drainages where in-water work will occur until construction and restoration activities are complete.

Environmental Commitment V-3: Restore drainage and riparian vegetation to preconstruction conditions. (Refer to earlier discussion under "Vegetation and Wetland Resources".)

Timing: Each drainage trenched during cable installation will be stabilized and restored after completion of the crossing. The contract compliance inspector and environmental coordinator will routinely inspect construction activities to ensure that drainages are restored to preconstruction conditions.

Environmental Commitment V-4: Minimize impacts on riparian vegetation.
(Refer to earlier discussion under "Vegetation and Wetland Resources".)

The environmental coordinator will ensure that permits have been issued by appropriate agencies to allow in-water construction activities at drainage crossings. A qualified biologist will monitor construction activities throughout the construction period in-water crossings. The biological monitor will report daily to the environmental coordinator concerning the success of measures to protect sensitive resources and any remedial actions that may be necessary.

Timing: Before construction activities are initiated in a designated segment, the limits of the construction zone will be identified by the environmental coordinator, assisted by the lead biological monitor in coordination with the construction contractor. The biological monitor will routinely inspect construction activities to ensure that protective measures are working and remain in place during construction. The contract compliance inspector also will confirm that the construction zone has been identified and that protective measures are in place.

Impact: Construction along seven portions of the alignment north of Seiad Valley could temporarily disturb habitat occupied or potentially occupied by Del Norte salamanders or Siskiyou Mountain salamanders.

Environmental Commitment W-6: Conduct monitoring surveys for salamanders. AT&T will retain a qualified wildlife biologist, with knowledge of the habits and identification of both salamander species, to conduct preconstruction and construction monitoring surveys for Del Norte and Siskiyou Mountain salamanders. No more than 1 day before construction in potential habitat areas, the biological monitor will conduct a thorough survey of the work area. All Del Norte salamanders encountered will be relocated to a suitable location outside of the work area. During construction activities, the biological monitor will inspect potential habitat areas as construction proceeds to identify Del Norte and Siskiyou Mountain salamanders and relocate any Del Norte salamanders encountered during construction.

If Siskiyou Mountain salamanders are encountered during preconstruction or construction surveys, the biological monitor will immediately notify the environmental coordinator and the construction supervisor. Impacts on Siskiyou Mountain salamander will be avoided by rerouting the project alignment into the pavement and away from the immediate area of the salamander detection. The cable will enter the pavement 20 feet on each side of where the salamander detection was made, and stay between 5 and 10 feet from the edge of the pavement depending on engineering constraints. This will provide an adequate buffer to avoid any direct or indirect impacts on Siskiyou Mountain salamanders.

The environmental coordinator will ensure that preconstruction and construction monitoring surveys have been conducted by a qualified wildlife biologist. The contract

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compliance inspector will also confirm that protective measures are in place before initiating construction activities. The biological monitor will have the authority to cease construction activities that could disturb sensitive wildlife resources. The biological monitor will report daily to the environmental coordinator, who will coordinate with construction supervisors and resource agencies.

Timing: Preconstruction surveys will be conducted no more than 1 day before ground-disturbing activities that could disturb either salamander species. Construction activities will be continuously monitored in areas designed as suitable habitat for the species.

Environmental Commitment W-4: Retain biological monitors to oversee construction activities near specified sensitive wildlife resources. AT&T will retain qualified biological monitors to oversee construction activities near special-status reptiles and amphibians. (Refer to the earlier detailed discussion of this environmental commitment and Environmental Commitment V-7.)

Timing: Ongoing year-round during construction. Biological monitors will be retained by January 1996 and will be prepared to begin construction monitoring in February 1996. Construction activities will be monitored continually in designated areas (Table 3, Volume III).

Impact: USFWS has determined that construction activities occurring within 0.25 mile of an active northern spotted owl nest during the breeding season (March 15 through August 30) could cause nest abandonment.

Environmental Commitment W-7: Implement seasonal restrictions for construction activities within 0.25 mile of an active northern spotted owl nest. The breeding season for northern spotted owls is from March 15 to August 30. If construction occurs outside this window, no other actions are required.

If seasonal restrictions are not feasible, owl activity will be confirmed at each of the seven sites. To determine activity at these seven sites during the construction year, AT&T will retain a qualified biologist to conduct a survey, using the USFWS protocol, to determine whether pairs are present and determine the reproductive status of each site. To determine the status of potential breeding sites, three complete survey visits between April 1 and June 1 will be required. If preconstruction surveys determine no nesting activity by owls, no further actions are required. If owls are found breeding, but the nest is further than 0.25 mile from the project alignment, no further actions are required. If a pair is breeding, and its nest is within 0.25 mile of the project alignment, no construction activity will occur within 0.25 mile of the nest site from March 15 through August 30.

Timing: Three survey visits will be made between April 1 and June 1 1996. If the nest of a breeding pair is within 0.25 mile of the project alignment, no construction

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activity will occur within 0.25 mile of the nest site from March 15 through August 30.

Environmental Commitment W-4: Retain biological monitors to oversee construction activities near sensitive wildlife resources. AT&T will retain qualified biological monitors to oversee construction activities near northern spotted owl nests. (Refer to the earlier detailed discussion of this environmental commitment and Environmental Commitment V-7.)

The environmental coordinator will verify that preconstruction surveys are complete and that necessary buffers are in place before construction activities that could disturb northern spotted owls are initiated. Biological monitors will be assigned and be responsible for overseeing designated construction segments. The biological monitor will have the authority to cease construction activities that could disturb sensitive wildlife resources. The biological monitor will report daily to the environmental coordinator, who will coordinate with construction supervisors and resource agencies.

Timing: Ongoing during construction. Biological monitors will be retained by January 1996 and will be prepared to begin construction monitoring in February 1996. Construction activities will be monitored continually in designated areas (Table 3, Volume III).

Impact: USFWS has determined that noise disturbance from construction activities could cause the abandonment of marbled murrelet nests.

Environmental Commitment W-8: Implement seasonal and daily restrictions for construction activities within 0.25 mile of sites occupied by marbled murrelets. The Siskiyou National Forest has established the following guidelines for avoiding impacts on potential marbled murrelet breeding sites (Craig pers. comm.).

No construction activity will occur within 0.25 mile of occupied sites between April 1 and September 15 until 2 hours after sunrise, and construction activities must cease 2 hours before sunset. There are no restrictions on construction activities between the period of 2 hours after sunrise and 2 hours before sunset.

To avoid impacts on marbled murrelets, the above timing restrictions will be implemented within 0.25 mile of the two occupied sites in the Myrtle Grove area, two potentially occupied sites in the Eden Valley area, and one potentially occupied site between the Myrtle Grove and Eden Valley areas along the Coquille River (Figure 3.3-1a through 1f).

Timing: Between April 1 and September 15, no construction activity will occur within 0.25 mile of designated occupied sites until 2 hours after sunrise, and construction activities will cease 2 hours before sunset.

Environmental Commitment W-4: Retain biological monitors to oversee

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construction activities near sensitive wildlife resources. AT&T will retain qualified biological monitors to oversee construction activities near sites occupied by marbled murrelets. (Refer to the earlier detailed discussion of this environmental commitment and Environmental Commitment V-7.)

Seasonal and daily restrictions to avoid impacts on marbled murrelets will be incorporated into construction contracts. Biological monitors will be assigned and be responsible for overseeing designated construction segments. The biological monitor will have the authority to cease construction activities that could disturb marbled murrelets. The biological monitor will report daily to the environmental coordinator, who will coordinate with construction supervisors and resource agencies.

Timing: Biological monitors will be retained by January 1996 and will be prepared to begin construction monitoring in February 1996. Continual monitoring of construction activities will occur in designated areas (Table 3, Volume III).

Impact: Noise associated with construction activities could result in nest abandonment by the peregrine falcon, or force nestlings to fledge early, which could cause their death.

Environmental Commitment W-9: Avoid ground-disturbing activities within 0.5 mile of the peregrine falcon nest between March 1 and August 30. Ground-disturbing activities will be avoided within 0.5 mile of the peregrine falcon nest between March 1 and August 30, unless BLM determines that the nest is inactive during the construction year. If BLM determines that the nest is inactive or breeding is not occurring during the construction year, seasonal restrictions will not be required. Construction activities could proceed before the August 30 seasonal restriction, if the nest site is monitored by a qualified biologist to determine the status of the nest site. If it is determined that young are fledged before August 30, construction work can proceed.

Timing: Between March 1 and August 30, ground-disturbing activities within 0.5 mile of the peregrine falcon nest will be avoided, unless BLM determines that the nest is inactive during the construction year *or*

Before August 30, ground-disturbing activities within 0.5 mile of the peregrine falcon nest can occur if monitoring by a qualified biologist determines that young are fledged.

Environmental Commitment W-4: Retain biological monitors to oversee construction activities near sensitive wildlife resources. AT&T will retain a qualified biological monitor to oversee construction activities near the peregrine falcon nest. (Refer to the earlier detailed discussion of this environmental commitment and Environmental Commitment V-7.)

Measures to avoid impacts on the peregrine falcon nest will be incorporated into

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construction contracts. Biological monitors will be assigned and be responsible for overseeing designated construction segments. The biological monitor will have the authority to cease construction activities that could disturb sensitive wildlife resources. The biological monitor will report daily to the environmental coordinator, who will coordinate with construction supervisors and resource agencies.

Timing: Between March 1 and August 30, the biological monitor will ensure that no ground-disturbing activities occur within 0.5 mile of the peregrine falcon nest until young have fledged, unless BLM determines that the nest is inactive during the construction year.

Impact: Three osprey nests could be affected from construction activities, two in California (on the Klamath River and Rodman Slough, near Clear Lake) and one on the Rouge River in Oregon.

Environmental Commitment W-10: Avoid construction activities within 600 feet of osprey nests between March 1 and June 30. Construction activities within 600 feet of osprey nests will be avoided between March 1 and June 30, unless a qualified wildlife biologist determines that a nest site is inactive or breeding is not occurring during the construction year. If it is determined that the nest is inactive or breeding is not occurring during the construction year, seasonal restrictions will not be required.

Timing: Between March 1 and June 30 construction activities within 600 feet of osprey nests will be avoided, unless a qualified biologist determines that a nest site is inactive or breeding is not occurring during the construction year.

Environmental Commitment W-4: Retain biological monitors to oversee construction activities near sensitive wildlife resources. AT&T will retain qualified biological monitors to oversee construction activities near osprey nests. (Refer to the earlier detailed discussion of this environmental commitment and Environmental Commitment V-7 in Section 3.2, "Vegetation and Wetland Resources".)

Measures to avoid impacts on ospreys will be incorporated into construction contracts. Biological monitors will be assigned and be responsible for overseeing designated construction segments. The biological monitor will have the authority to cease construction activities that could disturb sensitive wildlife resources. The biological monitor will report daily to the environmental coordinator, who will coordinate with construction supervisors and resource agencies.

Timing: Between March 1 and June 30, a biological monitor will ensure that construction activities do not occur within 600 feet of osprey nests, unless a qualified biologist determines that a nest site is inactive or breeding is not occurring during the construction year.

Impact: Construction activities could disturb a pair of goshawks during the breeding

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period (March 1 through August 30). Noise associated with construction activities could result in nest abandonment or force nestlings to fledge early, which could cause their death.

Environmental Commitment W-11: Avoid ground-disturbing activities within 0.25 mile of the known northern goshawk breeding site between March 1 and August 30. Ground-disturbing activities will be avoided within 0.25 mile of the known northern goshawk breeding site between March 1 and August 30 unless a qualified wildlife biologist determines that the nest is inactive or breeding is not occurring during the construction year. If it is determined that the site is inactive or breeding is not occurring during the construction year, seasonal restrictions will not be required. Construction activities could proceed earlier than August 30, if the nest site is monitored by a qualified biologist to determine its status. If the biologist determines that young are fledged before August 30, construction work can proceed.

Timing: Ground-disturbing activities will be avoided within 0.25 mile of the known northern goshawk breeding site between March 1 and August 30, unless a qualified wildlife biologist determines that the nest is inactive or breeding is not occurring during the construction year, or that young have fledged.

Environmental Commitment W-4: Retain biological monitors to oversee construction activities near sensitive wildlife resources. AT&T will retain qualified biological monitors to oversee construction activities near northern goshawk breeding sites. (Refer to the earlier detailed discussion of this environmental commitment and Environmental Commitment V-7.)

Measures to avoid impacts on goshawks will be incorporated into construction contracts. Biological monitors will be assigned and be responsible for overseeing designated construction segments. The biological monitor will have the authority to cease construction activities that could disturb sensitive wildlife resources. The biological monitor will report daily to the environmental coordinator, who will coordinate with construction supervisors and resource agencies.

Timing: The biological monitor will ensure that ground-disturbing activities do not occur within 0.25 mile of the known northern goshawk breeding site between March 1 and August 30, unless a qualified wildlife biologist determines that the nest is inactive or breeding is not occurring during the construction year, or that young have fledged.

Impact: Construction activities planned between March 1 and September 1 could result in the loss of swallow nests in the project area from installation of the cable along the undersides of bridges.

Environmental Commitment W-12: Restrict swallows from nesting during construction or obtain a permit from USFWS. AT&T will implement the following actions to restrict swallows from nesting during construction.

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- a. A qualified wildlife biologist will inspect the nests during the cliff swallows' nonbreeding season (September-February). If all swallow nests are abandoned, the nests may be removed.
- b. If the proposed bridge modifications are to occur during the cliff swallows' breeding season (March-August), the nests will be removed before March 1. After nest removals, the underside of the bridge will be covered with 1/2- to 3/4-inch mesh net or poultry wire. All net installation will be completed before March 1. The netting must be anchored so that swallows cannot attach their nests to the bridge through gaps in the net. All net installations will be done to the satisfaction of USFWS.
- c. If swallows begin building nests on the bridge after net installation, the mud placed by the swallows will be removed. The means of entering the net will be identified, and the net will be repaired.
- d. If a swallow successfully completes a nest during bridge modifications, AT&T will contact USFWS to obtain the appropriate removal permits.
- e. The netting will remain under the bridge from March 1 until September 1 or until the bridge modifications are completed, whichever comes first.
- f. If netting of the bridge does not occur by March 1 and cliff swallows subsequently colonize the bridge, modifications to the bridge will not begin before September 1, unless AT&T obtains permits from USFWS.

Timing: Installation of cable along the undersides of bridges can occur between September 2 and February 28 with no actions required for swallows. Cable installation to undersides of bridges between March 1 and September 1 is restricted as specified above.

Environmental Commitment W-13: Retain biological monitors to oversee construction activities near bridges occupied by swallows. AT&T will retain qualified biological monitors to oversee construction activities near bridges occupied by swallows. (Refer to the earlier detailed discussion of this environmental commitment and Environmental Commitment V-7.)

AT&T will ensure that appropriate measures are implemented to restrict swallows from nesting during construction or obtain a permit from USFWS. If a permit is necessary, additional reporting may be required. Additional reporting that is specified in permit conditions will be incorporated into the project.

Timing: Installation of cable along the undersides of bridges can occur between September 2 and February 28 with no actions required for swallows. Cable installation

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under bridges between March 1 and September 1 will be monitored as specified in Environmental Commitment W-12.

Fisheries Resources

Environmental commitments incorporated into the project relating to water quality and hazardous materials also protect fisheries resources. No additional actions are required.

Noise

Impact: Noise from construction activities may disturb residences, hospitals, or places of worship along the project alignment.

Environmental Commitment N-1: Limit construction activity to weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. within 1,000 feet of hospitals and places of worship. The construction contractor will limit activity within 1,000 feet of hospitals and places of worship to Monday through Friday, between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., throughout the entire construction period. This measure will be made a condition of the construction contract.

Timing: The construction contractor (assisted by contract compliance inspectors and the environmental coordinator) will routinely inspect construction activities to verify that the above measure is being implemented.

Impact: Construction activity occur within 1,000 feet of campgrounds and wilderness areas in the national forests and BLM districts that the alignment crosses may disturb uses in these areas.

Environmental Commitment N-2: Limit construction activity to Monday through Saturday during daylight hours within 1,000 feet of campgrounds and wilderness areas. The construction contractor will limit construction activity within 1,000 feet of campgrounds and wilderness areas to Monday through Saturday during daylight hours throughout the construction period. This measure will be made a condition of the construction contract.

Timing: The construction contractor (assisted by contract compliance inspectors and the environmental coordinator) will routinely inspect construction activities to ensure that construction is limited as specified above.

Land Use

Table 1-2 describes the ROW easements, grants, licenses

encroachment permits, and
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condition use permits that are required for the project. Forty five agencies must approve the proposed project before construction can begin.

No additional measures are required.

Employment

The project would result in beneficial impacts on local economies in the project corridor. No environmental commitments are required.

Traffic and Circulation

Impact: Project construction activities could result in traffic delays on roads leading to recreation areas and roads near populated areas.

Environmental Commitment T-1: Implement traffic control practices. The following measures will be incorporated into construction contracts.

- During the construction period, access to homes will be maintained along any type of roadway.
- Traffic control practices during construction of the northern portion of the project alignment are as follows:
 - On paved roads, at least one lane of traffic will be kept open at all times during construction, and construction crew members will control the flow of traffic. Traffic control measures will be in conformance with local and state specifications and will include safety cones, barricades, and flaggers. Flaggers and construction workers will wear orange safety vests.
 - On unpaved roads, two different approaches will be taken: on well-traveled roads, one lane of traffic will be kept open at all times using methods described above for paved roads. Detours will not be provided on roads in low-traffic areas, but crews will stop working to let vehicles through.
- Traffic control practices during construction of the southern portion of the project alignment will be similar to those implemented along the northern portion of the alignment, except that feasible detours will be provided on unpaved roads that carry a relatively high volume of recreation-related traffic.
- During the entire construction period, the construction contractor will limit construction activity on roads along the project alignment within a 5-mile radius of recreation areas to Monday through Thursday.

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- Where the project alignment passes through populated areas (i.e., along SR 242 in Oregon and along Lakeport, Nice, Weaverville, and Fort Jones in California), the construction contractor will limit construction activity, during the entire construction period, to Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Timing: Traffic control practices will be implemented in designated areas as specified above during construction.

Public Services

Impact: Project construction activities present a fire danger to federal lands. The fire danger would be highest if construction crews operate on federal lands in August and September.

Environmental Commitment P-1: Implement fire management plans specified by USFS and BLM. Construction contractors will follow fire management protocols as specified in their contracts. Contractors will be responsible for determining the fire activity level for the next day and complying with contract provisions for that predicted activity level, including equipment requirements for each crew and the types of activities that will be restricted during high activity levels.

If the contractors choose to set up their own weather stations, the stations will be monitored by USFS and BLM. In addition, USFS and BLM contracting officers will be responsible for inspecting activities covered under the contracts and will notify contractors of deficiencies. The contractors will be responsible for correcting any fire-plan deficiencies and must extinguish and promptly report any fires directly or indirectly started by their crews.

As part of construction, the USFS and BLM will require each contractor to designate a person to contact the USFS and BLM Fire Management Officers daily to determine the fire activity level for the next day's work. During construction scheduling, project engineers will coordinate the construction schedule to minimize fire season conflicts by coordinating with Fire Management Officers at applicable national forests and BLM resource areas. The construction contractor will provide the name of the person designated to contact USFS and BLM to the environmental coordinator. This measure will be incorporated into construction contracts.

Timing: During construction scheduling, project engineers will coordinate the construction schedule with USFS and BLM to minimize fire season conflicts.

During construction, a designated individual will contact the USFS and BLM Fire Management Officers daily to determine the fire activity level for the next day's work. Construction activities will be limited to those allowed for the existing daily fire hazard condition.

Utilities

Based on the proposed construction methods and the alignment design, the project will not result in significant adverse impacts on existing utilities, and no additional environmental commitments are required.

Hazardous Materials

The prevention and containment measures relating to the control of hazardous materials are discussed in detail in Appendix N of the Proposed Negative Declaration, "Spill Prevention and Response". The plans developed in that section have been approved by the various resource agencies, and are summarized below:

Spill Prevention and Response Program

Several active measures will be taken to prevent spills. However, if an accidental spill does occur, it will be contained to prevent it from entering streams, wetlands, or other environmentally sensitive areas. As an added measure of protection, certain activities will not be allowed near streams and wetlands. The following describes some of the spill prevention and containment measures that will be taken to protect the environment:

- **Containment in staging areas.** Depending on the topography, soil conditions, and location of staging areas in relation to waterbodies (i.e., streams, rivers, ponds, wetlands, and ditches), various combinations of spill containment structures may be installed to contain any potential spill or runoff to the site. The containment structures may include silt fences, certified weed-free straw bales, sand bags, water bars, and/or baffles.
- **Secondary containment at storage tanks.** It is not anticipated that fuel storage tanks will be erected for this project. However, if tanks are erected, or if existing storage tanks are used, a secondary containment tub will be placed around the tanks to contain leakage. The containment tub will have sufficient capacity to contain the entire contents of the tank in the event of total tank failure.
- **Equipment fueling, storage, servicing, and maintenance restrictions.** No refueling, storage, servicing, or maintenance of equipment will take place within 100 feet of drainages to reduce the potential of contamination by spills. Any fluids drained from machinery during servicing will be collected in leak-proof containers and disposed of at appropriate disposal or recycling facilities. No refueling or servicing will be done without absorbent material or drip pans underneath to contain spilled fuel. If these activities result in any accumulation of materials on

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the soil, this soil will be removed and properly disposed of as hazardous waste.

- **Absorbent material and drip pans.** Absorbent materials, including absorbent pads, mats, socks, pillows, and granules, will be kept onsite and available for immediate use. Drip pans will be used when refueling or servicing equipment. All refueling and service vehicles will be required to have an ample stock of these materials on hand.
- **Equipment in good operating condition.** Construction equipment will be maintained and kept in good operating condition to reduce the likelihood of line breaks and seepage.
- **Human waste and chemical toilets.** Human waste at the construction site will be properly disinfected and disposed of. Portable chemical toilets will be used for this purpose. The chemical toilets, which are self contained, will be maintained in good working condition with no leaks. The toilets will not be placed near environmentally sensitive areas and will be pumped weekly or as necessary to prevent overflow.
- **Containment around guided bore sites.** Where guided bores are used near streams or wetlands, certified weed-free straw bales or sedimentation fencing will be installed between the bore site and any flowing stream or wetland. The bales or fence will contain any of the bentonite water mixture that may seep from the site and prevent it from entering the stream or wetland. Portable pumps also will be kept onsite to control seepage to the surface beyond the straw bales and to prevent the mixture from entering streams or wetlands. If the material seeps to the surface in the channel of the stream or wetland, a pump will be used to pump it back to the drill site.
- **Prevention of wet spoil leakage from dump trucks.** When wet spoils need to be hauled away, the dump trucks hauling the spoils will either be sealed to prevent leakage or will sit onsite until dripping ceases.
- **Excess supplies of containment equipment.** Excess supplies of certified weed-free straw bales, sedimentation fencing, and portable pumps will be available for use as needed.

Refer to Appendix N, "Spill Prevention and Response", for additional information. A spill prevention and contingency plan will be developed at a later date as part of the documents for bidding and construction specifications. The purpose of that plan will be to inform contractors of the hazardous materials, spill prevention, emergency response, and responsibilities associated with construction.

Timing: Before construction is initiated, construction contractors will be familiarized with the spill prevention and contingency plan. Spill prevention actions will be

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implemented during all construction activities that could result in a spill. Emergency response actions will be implemented immediately in the event of a spill.

Cultural Resources

In compliance with procedures required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a technical report documenting the methods and results of the inventory of cultural resources within the area of potential effect (APE) of this project is in preparation. This inventory report describes all cultural resources that have been identified in the APE and will recommend ways to avoid impacts on these resources or mitigate impacts. Measures to avoid cultural resources or mitigate impacts on resources will include:

- avoidance of the site by placing the conduit outside the area of cultural resource sites,
- avoidance of the site by placing the conduit in a bore under archaeological sites,
- avoidance of impacts on archaeological sites by placing the conduit in an existing road berm (previously disturbed material),
- avoidance of potentially historic bridges by not attaching the cable to the bridge, and
- evaluation for NRHP eligibility of potentially historic bridges that cannot be avoided.

A total of 76 cultural resource locations have been identified in the APE of this project, including 45 archaeological sites and 31 bridges. Of the 45 archaeological sites, 16 sites will be avoided by placing the conduit outside the documented boundary of the site area, 19 sites will be avoided by placing the conduit in a road fill or in an existing road cut below cultural material, seven sites (where burials are likely) will be avoided by placing the conduit in a bore below cultural material (minimum depth of 10 feet below the surface), and three sites are developed towns where no cultural remains were identified in the APE.

Of the total 76 cultural resources, 31 are bridges. Of these, 11 have previously been determined to be ineligible for listing in the NRHP and need not be considered further. Impacts on 15 bridges in the APE will be avoided by not attaching to the bridge, and five bridges will be evaluated for NRHP eligibility.

Impact: Potential damage to identified and unidentified archaeological sites because of the following construction-related activities:

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- buried cultural material could be present outside the documented site boundaries or in the fill used to construct the road berm,
- construction activities could inadvertently affect portions of known sites that are buried, and
- construction activities in road berms could affect buried human remains that were incorporated into the fill from the surrounding archaeological site.

Environmental Commitment C-1: Implement an archaeological monitoring plan.

A qualified archaeological monitor will be present during ground-disturbing activities at 27 locations identified in Table 3.12-1. These locations are near known archaeological sites, in areas where the conduit will be placed in road berm through an archaeological site area, or in areas of potential archaeological sensitivity where direct observation was not possible due to pavement or other factors.

A qualified archaeological monitor will be present at ground-disturbing activities at 27 locations where sensitive archaeological resources have been identified. The archaeological monitor will be authorized to halt construction activities that could affect these resources.

Timing: A qualified archaeological monitor will monitor ground-disturbing activities at 27 locations where sensitive archaeological resources have been identified.

Impact: Buried cultural resources that were not identified during field surveys could be inadvertently unearthed during excavation activities.

Environmental Commitment C-2: Stop work if cultural resources are discovered during ground-disturbing activities. If buried cultural resources, such as chipped or ground stone, historic debris, building foundations, or human bone, are inadvertently discovered during ground-disturbing activities, work will stop in that area and within 100 feet of the find until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate treatment measures in consultation with the SHPO and other appropriate agencies.

The construction contractor and environmental coordinator will ensure that work is halted until appropriate treatment measures are implemented if cultural resources are discovered during construction activities. The environmental coordinator will obtain concurrence from the SHPO and other appropriate agencies on measures to be implemented before resuming construction activities in the area of a find.

Timing: Ongoing during construction activities.

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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

1416 NINTH STREET
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SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2090
(916) 653-4875



January 17, 1996

Ms. Francine Demos-Petropoulos
Project Manager
Jones & Stokes Associates
2600 V Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, California 95818-1918

Dear Ms. Demos-Petropoulos:

**Draft Initial Study for AT&T Fiber Optic Cable Project:
Bandon, Oregon, to Cloverdale, California**

The California Department of Fish and Game has reviewed the Draft Initial Study (DIS) for the AT&T Fiber Optic Cable Project: Bandon, Oregon, to Cloverdale, California, and offers the following comments.

General Comment - Mitigation Monitoring Plan Required

It was noted that Section 4.0, Mitigation Monitoring Plan, present in the Administrative Draft Initial Study (ADIS) for the AT&T Fiber Optic Cable Project: Bandon, Oregon, to Cloverdale, California, was not present in the DIS. On page 3.2-35 under "**Environmental Commitment V-18: Retain biological monitors to oversee construction near specified special-status plant population**", the second paragraph stated that "The environmental coordinator will coordinate with DFG to identify the lead biological monitor's responsibilities, including establishing the monitoring protocol in the field and a primary DFG contact for resolving problems encountered during monitoring." Successful avoidance of significant impacts falls almost entirely on the strength of a mitigation monitoring plan and this detailed plan needs to be completed and approved by the Federal and State project agencies prior to start of construction.

General Comment - Field Reports

It would be beneficial if Federal and State agencies would receive copies of environmental reports on a daily basis. Reports of potential disturbance to a sensitive resource must be reported no later than the start of business the day following the incident. The recent Tuscarora pipeline project made use of computer program and lap computers for field data entry. Data was uploaded at the end of the day to a central computer which generated and sent a daily report by facsimile at 3:00 a.m. to all interested parties.

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SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Page 2-34

Environmental Commitment V-8: Restore jurisdictional wetlands to preconstruction conditions, last bullet on page - please identify who is responsible for keeping stockpiled topsoil moist and stored separately from subsoil. The Department is concerned that unless responsibility for this task is specifically assigned it may not be done.

Page 3.1-6

3.1.2.3 Impact Analysis, top paragraph, second to last sentence - sentence states that "Erosion control measures will be implemented during and following construction in the wet season." To be effective, erosion control measures should be implemented in sensitive areas where there is any possibility of rain causing resource damage. Tying erosion control measures to the wet season does not allow protection during summer rain events.

Page 3.1-8

Impact: Potential Short-Term Water Quality Degradation and Siltation from Accidental Seepage of Bentonite into Streams - biological monitors should be present at all live stream crossings where boring is utilized to monitor turbidity both upstream of the boring operations and at a specified distance downstream from the bore to determine whether bentonite is entering the stream channel.

Third paragraph, second to last sentence - this sentence states that "If the drilling mixture were to enter a streambed, drilling would immediately cease and containment measures described in Appendix N, 'Spill Prevention and Response' would be implemented." On page N-5 of Appendix N under the bullet titled "Containment certified weed-free straw bales around guided bore sites", the last sentence states that "If the material seeps to the surface in the channel of the stream or wetland, a pump will be used to pump it back to the drill site." This prescription will not work in a flowing stream. Please provide containment measures for this impact. The Department suggests material be present to rapidly build one or more filter fences capable of containing bentonite. Once contained, cleanup procedure will need to be site-specific and under the direction of the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Department.

Third paragraph, last sentence - please identify the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Department as the agencies to be contacted if bentonite seeps to the surface in the channel of a stream or wetland.

Page 3.1-9

Impact: Potential Short-Term Water Quality Degradation from Construction in Flood Plains, first paragraph, second to last sentence - where "shallow groundwater flows are temporarily rerouted and flows to wetlands are reduced during construction" the wetland should be monitored to verify that diversion of this water does not result in an impact.

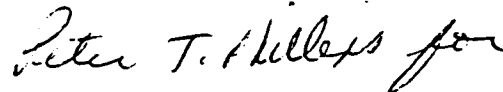
Ms. Francine Demos-Petropoulos
January 17, 1996
Page Three

Page 3.3-21

Impact: Disturbance and Potential Mortality of Del Norte Salamander and Siskiyou Mountain Salamander, second sentence - this sentence states that "Although no Siskiyou Mountain salamanders have been recorded from the area, portions of the Del Norte salamander habitat areas also may be suitable for the Siskiyou Mountain salamander...." Siskiyou Mountain salamanders have been found in talus adjacent to the roadway along Highway 96 west of the mouth of the Scott River. There are several experts on the species who may clarify this species status. These experts include Dr. Hartwell Welsh of the Redwood Sciences Laboratory, Dr. Bruce Bury and Dr. R. A. Nussbaum. Several agency biologists may also provide useful information. These biologists are Mr. David Clayton of the Siskiyou National Forest, Mr. Sam Cuenca of the Klamath National Forest and Mr. Richard Callas of the California Department of Fish and Game.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Natural Heritage Supervisor Mr. Jim Nelson at (916) 225-2315.

Sincerely,



John Turner, Chief
Environmental Services Division

cc: See attached list.

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Ms. Francine Demos-Petropoulos
January 17, 1996
Page Four

cc: Mr. Chris Brungardt
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~~Mr. Goodyear K. Walker~~
State Lands Commission
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100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
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Mr. Dan French
US Forest Service
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Messrs. Jim Nelson, Randal C. Benthin, Don Koch, Mark Stopher
Bruce Deuel, Terry Healey, Craig Martz and Bob Williams
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February 9, 1996

Mr. John Turner, Chief
Environmental Services Division
California Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

SUBJECT: Response to Comments Received on the Draft Initial Study for the AT&T Fiber Optic Cable Project: Bandon, Oregon to Cloverdale, California

Dear Mr. Turner:

This letter responds to comments in the January 19, 1996 letter from the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) concerning the draft initial study for the AT&T fiber optic cable project that was prepared by Jones & Stokes Associates.

General Comment 1: Successful avoidance of significant impacts falls almost entirely on the strength of a mitigation and monitoring plan and this detailed plan needs to be completed and approved by the federal and state project agencies prior to start of construction.

Jones & Stokes Associates (AT&T/BHC-Forkert environmental consultant) will coordinate with Mr. Jim Nelson and Ms. Angela Bolten (designated project coordinator) of DFG to identify the biological monitor's responsibilities and reporting process. Jones & Stokes Associates has scheduled a meeting with DFG in February to discuss the monitoring protocol and reporting process. A mitigation monitoring plan will be prepared by Jones & Stokes Associates and DFG for biological resources.

General Comment 2: It would be beneficial if Federal and State agencies would receive copies of environmental reports on a daily basis.

Jones & Stokes Associates and BHC-Forkert (AT&T project engineers) will coordinate with DFG and other agencies to determine field reporting requirements. As specified in this comment, reports of potential disturbance to sensitive resources will be reported no later than the start of the business day following the disturbance. The reporting method is currently being negotiated between DFG and AT&T.

Mr. John Turner, Chief
February 9, 1996
Page 2

Specific Comment 3: Identify who is responsible for keeping stockpiled topsoil moist and stored separately from subsoil.

In most cases, the soil excavated from a trench will be immediately replaced in the trench after the cable is installed. When soil is stored overnight or for longer periods of time, the contract compliance inspector will be responsible for ensuring that the subsoil is stored separately from the topsoil. Biological monitors will periodically check these sites to ensure that soil is being stored and preserved properly.

Specific Comment 4: Erosion control measures should be implemented in sensitive areas where there is any possibility of rain causing resource damage.

In sensitive resource areas that could be affected by runoff from the construction site or deposition of soil, erosion control measures will be implemented before construction activities are initiated.

Specific Comment 5: Biological monitors should be present at all live stream crossings where boring is utilized to monitor turbidity both upstream of the boring operations and at a specified distance downstream from the bore to determine whether bentonite is entering the stream channel.

Each construction site will be supervised by a contract compliance inspector, who will be responsible for visually monitoring bore sites. The inspector will monitor the streams at specified distances downstream from the bore site. In addition, biological monitors will periodically visit and monitor bore sites across live stream crossings. This process was presented to Mr. Jim Nelson in a letter from Chris Brungardt (BHC) on January 12, 1996.

Specific Comment 6: The Department suggests material be present to rapidly build one or more filter fences capable of containing bentonite.

Each drainage bore site will contain extra straw bales, sand bags, and siltation fence that could be used to build one or more barriers for containing bentonite. The contract compliance inspector will be responsible for ensuring that this material is onsite before a stream is bored. In the event of a bentonite leak, the leak will be reported to DFG and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. All cleanup procedures will be site-specific, based on existing conditions encountered at each drainage bore site.

Specific Comment 7: Please identify the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Department as the agencies to be contacted if bentonite seeps to the surface in the channel of a stream or wetland.

These agencies will be contacted if bentonite seepage occurs in a drainage or wetland.

Mr. John Turner, Chief
February 9, 1996
Page 3

Specific Comment 8: When shallow groundwater flows are temporarily rerouted and flows to wetlands are reduced, the wetlands should be monitored to verify that diversion of this water does not result in an impact.

These wetland sites will be monitored during and after construction activities by the contract compliance inspector and biological monitor.

Specific Comment 9: Several experts on the Siskiyou Mountain salamander are available to clarify this species status.

Experts and other knowledgeable individuals on the Siskiyou Mountain salamander will be contacted in the future for further information, if necessary.

Thank you for your comments. Please call me if you have any questions or additional comments.

Sincerely,



Francine Demos-Petropoulos
Project Manager

cc: Kirk Walker, California State Lands Commission
Chris Brungardt, BHC-Forkert, A Joint Venture

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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January 17, 1996

Post-It Fax Note	7671	Date	1/17/96	# of Pages	1
To	Kirk Walker	From	Francine Demos		
Co./Dept	SLC	Co.	Jones: Stokes		
Phone #		Phone #	737-3000		
Fax #	574-1885	Fax #	737-3030		

GREG015, GGLE034
03-CAL(Various)
AT&T Bandon to Cloverdale Fiber Optic Cable
Glenn Co. CUP95-09
Draft Initial Study (3 Volumes)

Ms. Francine Demos-Petropoulos, Project Manager
Jones & Stokes Associates
2600 V Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95818-1914

Dear Ms. Demos-Petropoulos:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above referenced document. The proposed project is to install a two- to four-inch fiber optic cable (to be placed at an average depth of four feet) from Bandon, Oregon to Cloverdale, California. Prior comments on this project were provided April 6, 1995.

COMMENTS

Approximately 3.4 miles of buried cable will be along State Route (SR) 162, between County Road 307 and County Road 306 at Elk Creek.

The optic cable profiles at crossings of SR 162 should be provided. They should show depth with respect to the existing Centerline, edge of pavement and roadside ditches, as well as horizontal reference. Datum should be USGS.

The placement of the cable must be in accordance with Caltrans Encroachment Permit requirements for utilities.

Caltrans District 3 has received the Encroachment Permit application and it is still pending.

In Item 3.8.2, on Page 3.8-3 of Volume I, the word "easement" should be changed to "encroachment".

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Terri Pencovic, Inter Governmental Review/CEQA Coordinator, at (916) 741-4199.

Sincerely,

E. A. "LIB" HARAUGHTY, Chief
Office of Transportation Planning - Rural

cc: Kevin Honomichl, Brungardt Honomichl & Comp
8575 West 110th, Suite 210, Overland Park, KS 66201
John Benoit, Director, Glenn County Planning, Willows (with 4/6/95 letter)

CALENDAR PAGE	208.51
MINUTE PAGE	000454



February 9, 1996

Mr. Lib Haraughty, Chief
California Department of Transportation
District 3
P.O. Box 911
Marysville, CA 95901

SUBJECT: Response to Comments Received on the Draft Initial Study for the AT&T Fiber Optic Cable Project: Bandon, Oregon to Cloverdale, California

Dear Mr. Haraughty:

This letter responds to your January 17, 1996 letter regarding the draft initial study for the AT&T fiber optic cable project. BHC-Forkert (AT&T project engineers) will provide Caltrans District 3 with fiber optic cable profiles or other necessary information at crossings of State Route 162, between County Road 307 and County Road 306 at Elk Creek (approximately 3.4 miles). The fiber optic cable project will comply with Caltrans encroachment permit requirements for utilities. AT&T does realize that the approval from Caltrans will be in the form of an encroachment permit and not an easement.

As directed by the California State Lands Commission (SLC) (the state lead agency), the draft initial study will be converted into the negative declaration, which will be adopted by the SLC with no changes. This determination was made by SLC based on the minimal number of public and agency comments received on this draft document. For this reason, the word "easement" on page 3.8.2 of Volume I will not be changed to "encroachment".

Thank you for your comments. Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Francine Demos-Petropoulos
Project Manager

cc: Kirk Walker, California State Lands Commission
Chris Brungardt, BHC-Forkert, A Joint Venture

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

COAST-CASCADE REGION

P. O. BOX 670

135 RIDGWAY AVENUE

SANTA ROSA, CA 95402-0670

(707) 576-2275



January 12, 1996

Goodyear K. Walker
 Division of Environmental Planning
 and Management
 State Lands Commission
 100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
 Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

Re: AT&T Fiber Optic Cable Project

In reviewing the above project, I noted that although there is some mention of fire control measures through USFS and BLM areas, there is nothing noting requirements for the remainder of the project.

It can be assumed that if the project is not within the USFS boundaries in California, then the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is the responsible fire protection and prevention agency. Roughly, this will include at least 150 miles of the project.

The project will transverse through six Ranger Units; Siskiyou, Shasta-Trinity, Tehama-Glenn, Lake-Napa, Mendocino and Sonoma.

Although the CDF does not impose an "activity level" for the operation of equipment at any given time, necessary precautions need to be taken when operating during periods when the vegetation is dry and especially during extreme fire weather conditions. These conditions are consistent with high air temperatures, low humidities and winds.

The construction companies need to comply with the following laws of the California Public Resource Code at all times.

- PRC 4442 All equipment with internal combustion engines requires an approved spark arrester, unless exempted due to being turbo charged. All vehicles require a muffler in good operating condition.
- PRC 4428 A sealed box of tools will be located within each operating area. Since this type project tends to be very mobile, covering from 300 to 2500 feet per day, the tools need to move with the construction crews so that they are immediately available in case of fire. Each separate construction contract would be considered a separate operating area.

CALENDAR PAGE 208.53

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Goodyear K. Walker
January 12, 1996
Page Two

PRC 4427 Requires clearances, tools and backpack pump when welding or grinding.

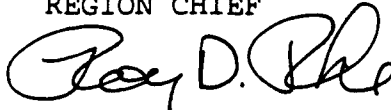
The proposed negative declaration notes that a rock saw may be used in some areas. This type of saw has caused fires for us in the past. The construction company can mitigate the fire hazard posed by this saw by providing a minimum 3000 gallon water tender at the site of the sawing and wet the vegetation down prior to operating.

Because some areas of USFS and BLM lands are protected by CDF and vice-versa, the contractor should become familiar with the dispatch agency for the particular area being worked and have the capabilities of reporting all fires immediately to that agency.

If the construction project is not on USFS or BLM lands, prior to construction, the construction company should determine the responsible CDF Ranger Unit for the area of operation and advise the Fire Prevention Bureau Chiefs of the activity in their areas. Attached is a list of the Fire Prevention Bureau Chiefs of the entire construction project.

Sincerely,

LLOYD I. KEEFER
REGION CHIEF



By: Roy D. Pike
Deputy Chief
Fire Prevention/Law Enforcement

jpt

Attachment

CALENDAR PAGE	208.54
MINUTE PAGE	000457

Following are the Fire Prevention Bureau Chiefs for the respective California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Ranger Units which the project transects.

Ranger Unit	Bureau Chief	Telephone #	Address
Siskiyou	Mark Reina	916-842-3516	1809 Fairlane Rd., Yreka, 96097
Shasta-Trinity	Paul Bertagna	916-225-2420	1000 Cypress Ave., Redding, 96001
Tehama-Glenn	Dale Eberhardt	916-529-8520	604 Antelope Blvd., Red Bluff, 96080
Lake-Napa	Mike Velasquez	707-963-3601	1572 Railroad Ave., St. Helena, 94574
Sonoma	Rod Pedersen	707-576-2342	2210 West College, Santa Rosa, 95401
Mendocino	Ed Baxman	707-459-7420	17501 North Hwy 101, Willits, 95490

Contact for the Coast Cascade Region Office is Roy Pike, Fire Prevention Program Manager, 707-576-2906, 135 Ridgway Ave., Santa Rosa, Ca 95402.

CALENDAR PAGE 208.55

MINUTE PAGE 000458



February 9, 1996

Mr. Lloyd I. Keefer, Region Chief
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Coast-Cascade Region
P.O. Box 670
135 Ridgway Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0607

SUBJECT: Response to Comments Received on the Draft Initial Study for the AT&T Fiber Optic Cable Project: Bandon, Oregon to Cloverdale, California

Dear Mr. Keefer:

This letter responds to your January 12, 1996 letter regarding the draft initial study for the AT&T fiber optic cable project. A fire prevention and response plan for the fiber optic cable project was prepared by AT&T project engineers (BHC-Forkert) and accompanies this letter. In early January, this plan was sent to Mr. Mark Reina of the Siskiyou Ranger District for review. As indicated in your letter, construction contractors will comply with the California Public Resource Codes 4442, 4428, and 4427. Contractors will be informed of your request of providing a minimum 3,000-gallon water tender at sites where a rock saw may be used. Additionally, a list of dispatch agencies and regional Fire Prevention Bureau Chiefs will be incorporated into the fire plan and distributed to contractors prior to construction.

Thank you for your comments. Please call me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Francine Demos-Petropoulos
Project Manager

Enclosure

cc: Kirk Walker, California State Lands Commission (w/out enclosure)
Chris Brungardt, BHC-Forkert, A Joint Venture (w/out enclosure)

Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc.

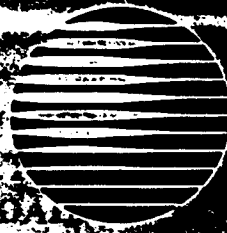
2600 V Street, Suite 100 • Sacramento, CA 95818-1914 • Fax 916/737-3000

CALENDAR PAGE 208.56

MINUTE PAGE

000-159

FIRE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE
FOR THE AT&T
BANDON, OREGON TO CLOVERDALE, CALIFORNIA
FIBER OPTIC CABLE PROJECT



AT&T

Fire Prevention and Response Plan

Prepared for

AT&T

for the AT&T
Bandon, Oregon to
Cloverdale, California
Fiber Optic Cable Project

December 1995

BHC-Forkert, *a joint venture*

CALENDAR PAGE 208.57

MINUTE PAGE 000480

**FIRE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PLAN
FOR THE AT&T
BANDON, OREGON TO CLOVERDALE, CALIFORNIA
FIBER OPTIC CABLE PROJECT**

Prepared for:
AT&T Corp.,
Atlanta, Georgia

Prepared by:
BHC-Forkert, *a joint venture*

December 1995

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000462

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

This Fire Prevention and Response Plan was prepared at the request of the U.S. Forest Service. The main purpose of the plan is to make the Contractor aware of fire prevention and response methods and requirements. This plan sets forth responsibilities for the prevention, suppression, and suppression activities associated with fire within or adjacent to the Project area.

1.1 PROJECT DEFINITION

The AT&T fiber optic cable project is defined as the area shown on the construction drawings covering the route from Bandon, Oregon to Cloverdale, California, a distance of approximately 600 miles. The project area includes the land directly adjacent to the alignment and the Contractors yards and staging areas, access roads, camps and other areas used during construction

1.2 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Land Managers - Those agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the California Department of Forestry, and other agencies, responsible for fire protection.

Field Representatives - The term Field Representative shall refer to those individuals representing the Land Managers.

AT&T - The term AT&T shall refer to AT&T Corp and their representatives

Contractor - The term contractor shall refer to the construction contractors hired by AT&T to install the facilities associated with this project.

Fireguard - The title Fireguard shall refer to the individual assigned by the Contractor to carry out the duties of the Fireguard as outlined in this plan.

Sale Activity Level - The Sale Activity Level is a level of fire danger calculated and posted by the U.S. Forest Service through the National Fire Danger Rating Process.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITY

This section outlines those responsibilities assigned to AT&T and their Contractors and the U.S. Forest Service.

2.1 AT&T AND/OR ITS CONTRACTOR(S):

Are responsible for all suppression cost for project-caused fires.

Will initiate action to suppress all project caused fires unless relieved by the Land Mangers. The Contractor shall determine the level of fire fighting activity his personnel can safely engage in.

Will insure that prevention, detection, presuppression, and suppression activities are in accord with this Fire Plan and state, county, and Federal laws, ordinances, rules and regulations pertaining to fire.

Will accompany the Field Representatives on fire tool and equipment inspections and will take corrective action upon notification if any fire protection requirements are not in compliance.

Will curtail or shut down any operation or construction activity which poses an unacceptable fire hazard and risk until appropriate safeguards are taken.

Will take the following action should a fire occur within the project area:

Immediately alert the available project crews and send available manpower with tools and equipment to control the fire. The Contractor shall determine the level of fire fighting activity his personnel can safely engage in.

Designate a person to act as coordinator who will handle messages and initiate action upon request until relieved by the Forest Service or California Department of Forestry.

Immediately notify the nearest Field Representative and appropriate agency of fire location, action taken, and status of fire (see Fire Call Directory).

2.2 THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE:

Is responsible for all fire prevention, presuppression, and suppression activities on lands within the fire protection area.

Will discuss these fire protection measures with AT&T and their Contractor(s) in implementation of these fire protection measures.

Will inspect the project area for compliance with fire protection requirements and will notify AT&T in the event deficiencies occur.

May delegate the above activities to the field representative.

3.0 ORGANIZATION

AT&T and the Forest Service will exchange lists of personnel immediately concerned with the project.

The aforementioned listing will show names, company names, titles, addresses, and phone numbers, and will be kept current reflecting all changes as soon as possible.

Each Contractor shall furnish a list to AT&T of the manpower and equipment used on the project. AT&T shall forward this list to the U.S. Forest Service.

4.0 FIRE PRECAUTION

This section addressed the fire precaution levels and measures to be implemented for the purposes of preventing fires.

4.1 FIRE PRECAUTION LEVELS

The US Forest Service will determine the fire danger level for each work day. These are known as "Fire Sale Levels" and range from 1 to 5. Each level has individual restrictions on what work can take place.

4.1.1 Sale Activity Level - Fire precaution measures will be implemented by AT&T and their Contractor's based on Sale Activity Levels, as calculated by the Land Managers through the National Fire Danger Rating Process.

4.1.2 Red Flag Conditions - Prediction made during the daily Fire Weather Forecast for extreme Fire Behavior Conditions, such as high winds, low humidity, high incidence of lightning activity, or movement of a frontal system through the area. These conditions generally exist for short time periods (generally less than 24 hours), but may require special precautionary measures.

4.1.3 Hoot-owl Restrictions - Will be in effect when Sale Activity Level 4 is reached. See descriptions of Precautions Required below.

4.1.4 Closures and Restrictions - Fire closures or restrictions will be invoked under 36 CFR 261.50 and will be applicable to National Forest System Lands only. State fire laws, regulations, and closure actions will be used for state and private lands. These closures and restrictions will be as proclaimed by the California Department of Forestry.

4.1.5 Fire Precaution Schedule - The Contractor will conduct operations in accordance with the Fire Precaution Schedule. The Fire Guard shall contact the National Forest Dispatch of the forest they are working in each day between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time Zone to obtain the Sale Activity Level to be followed the next day within the local operating area. The Fire Guard shall, no later than 9:00 a.m. the following day, advise their Contractor(s) of any change in the Fire Precaution Schedule.

FIRE PRECAUTION SCHEDULE	
SALE ACTIVITY LEVEL	DESCRIPTION OF PRECAUTIONS REQUIRED
0, 1, 2	Normal Fire precautions as shown in Section IV.
3	Normal Fire Precautions as shown in Section IV, except designated areas for smoking; warming or cooking fires will require a written permit.
4	Hoot-Owl Restrictions
	Fire Guard(s) required for a period of ½ hour after end of regular shift
	Restrictions should be lifted as soon as there is a significant break in burning conditions due to precipitation, longer nights, lower temperatures, or higher humidities.
5	Shutdown all operations; except operations on mineral soil may continue with special Land manager's permit
	Restrictions on blasting and welding may be imposed.
Area Closure	Total shutdown of all operations and area closed to entry. Advance notice will be given as soon as area closure appears a reality, followed by a meeting convened to discuss the situation at that time.

In certain specific instances, the Land Manager may modify the above clauses to more closely reflect the true status of localized risks and hazards. Some of these instances are illustrated below

Under unusually severe conditions or with operations that constitute an unusual risk, the Land Managers may institute any or all of the above stipulations, or may require additional action in certain specialized cases.

In specific instances where it can be adequately demonstrated that little or no risk is incurred, the Land Managers may permit certain construction activities to take place under carefully controlled conditions.

4.2 FIRE PRECAUTION MEASURES

4.2.1 Fire Prevention - The Contractor shall implement the following precautionary measures when conducting the operations described.

Burning - Forest Service and/or California Department of Forestry burning permits are required and shall contain special stipulations pertinent to the particular job. Burning will be allowed when conditions are within predetermined prescriptions. AT&T Contractor will provide specific on-site fuels and weather data to the Land Manager to determine acceptable burning conditions are in keeping with the prescription. When special burning restrictions due to Air Quality are imposed, by either the State of California or the Forest Service, burning permits will be suspended or modified.

Blasting - Only blasting caps approved in the blasting permit will be allowed. During periods when Sale Activity Level 3 or 4 is in effect, a Fire Guard shall be required where blasting is done. The Fire Guard shall remain on duty for at least one hour after blasting is finished, and who shall be equipped with at least a round-pointed, size "0" or larger shovel and a back-pack pump filled with water. Blasting hours are restricted under Sale Activity Level of 4. Blasting is prohibited under Sale Activity Level 5.

Welding - All welding and cutting shall be done in areas cleared to mineral soil a minimum of 10 feet around the welding area. Two back-pack pumps full of water, one five (5) pound dry powder or CO fire extinguisher, and one size "0" round-pointed shovel with a minimum 46" long handle will be carried with the welder at all times. The Fire Guard will be notified each day of all areas where welding and cutting was done. When the Sale Activity Level is 3 or 4, the Fire Guard will inspect all areas after welding and cutting has stopped. No welding will be permitted at a Sale Activity Level of 5.

Spark Arrester - Each internal combustion engine shall be provided with a spark arrester or spark arresting device meeting Forest Service Standard 5100-1a, or SAE recommended practice J335(b) and J350(a). Engines used to provide motive power for trucks, truck tractors, buses, and passenger vehicles, except motorcycles, do not need a spark arrester if the exhaust system is equipped with a muffler as defined in the California Vehicle Code. An exhaust driven turbocharger is considered to be a satisfactory spark arrester if all exhausted gases pass throughout the rotating turbine wheel, there is no exhaust gas bypass to the atmosphere, and the turbocharger is in effective mechanical condition. Internal combustion engine exhaust system, arresters and other devices shall be properly installed and maintained. All flues used in construction operations and in construction camps shall be equipped with spark arresters in good working order and meeting Forest Service standards.

Lunch and Warming Fires - All lunch and warming fires shall be completely extinguished at the end of each workday and at no time be left unattended. Lunch and warming fires will not be permitted during dry periods, as specified by the Land Manager's Field Representative.

Smoking - Smoking and fire rules shall be posted on the Contractor's field office project bulletin board during the fire season. Supervisory personnel shall oversee and require compliance with these rules. Smoking is prohibited during the fire season except in designated areas agreed upon by AT&T and the Land Manger. Under no circumstances will smoking be permitted while operating equipment or while walking or working in areas of vegetation.

Warning Devices - Tar pots, torches, highway flares or other devices with open flame will not be allowed. Only electric or battery operated warning devices will be used within the project area.

Small Engine Sites, Parking Areas, and Staging Areas - Equipment parking areas and small stationary engine sites, where permitted, shall be cleared of all flammable material and equipped as required by law. Glass jugs or bottles shall not be used as containers for gasoline or other flammable.

Refueling - Fuel trucks will have a large extinguisher charged with necessary chemical to control electrical and gas fires with a minimum of 40 B:C or higher rating.

4.2.2 Fire Presuppression

Continuous access to all roads for emergency vehicles during construction shall be maintained

AT&T and their Contractor(s) shall equip each vehicle, truck or tractor with a minimum of one five (5) pound dry chemical fire extinguisher with 5 B:C or higher rating, a round-pointed size "0" shovel or equivalent, and one double-bit axe or pulaski.

The Contractor shall provide one fire tanker for each segment. The fire tanker will be centrally located on active areas of the project and available for use. The tanker shall contain a tank of no less than a 300 gallon capacity, upon which shall be mounted a live hose reel or live hose basket with 250 feet of at least 3/4 inch I.D. heavy-duty rubber hose; a portable or power takeoff pump with discharge capacity of at least 20 gallons per minute at 150 P.S.I. pressure. Gear type pumps shall be provided with a bypass or pressure relief valve so the hose nozzle may be shut while the pump is operating. The tanker unit shall have a hose nozzle of the shutoff type, adjustable for straight stream, spray or fog; at least 12 feet of one inch suction hose with an intake screen; and an additional 250 feet of 3/4 inch heavy-duty rubber hose or one inch cotton jacket rubber lined or linen hose to be carried on the unit for use as needed. Tools, adapters, accessories and fuel necessary to operate the pump and truck shall be provided. Fuel

sufficient to run the pumping unit for at least two hours shall be maintained with the unit at all times.

The Contractor shall provide one sealed tool cache with hasp for each trenching or plow crew. The cache will be provided and maintained by Contractor(s) for emergency fire fighting use at each operating location, or in some cases moved in conjunction with the Contractor's operation or as specified by the Field Representative, and in number designated by the Field Representative. The tool boxes shall be red in color, and labeled "For Fire Fighting Only" and be proportionate for the operation, as specified in California Public Resource Code (CPRC), Section 4428(a). The chain saw requirements of CPRC 4428(b) shall also be followed. As a guide, a fire tool box may contain an inventory similar to the following:

- Electric head lamps with batteries
- First aid kit
- Knapsacks
- Pulaskis with sheaths
- Round-pointed size "0" shovels
- Back-pack pump, filled with water

5.0 FIRE SUPPRESSION

AT&T and their Contractor(s) and subcontractors will take aggressive action to prevent and suppress fires on and adjacent to the permitted area.

AT&T and their Contractor(s) should notify the closest fire dispatcher using the numbers provided in the Fire Call Directory immediately upon discovery of a fire.

In the event that AT&T or its Contractor(s) are the first personnel to arrive at the scene of a fire, they should take aggressive suppression action as described above, until a Forest Service, State, County, or other fire suppression force arrives and assumes control of managing the incident. The Contractor shall determine the level of fire fighting activity his personnel can safely engage in.

Available personnel and equipment will be provided by AT&T and their Contractor to fight fires on the project area as needed to completely suppress the fire. Personnel and equipment will remain on AT&T or Contractor's payroll for all project-caused fires. The Contractor shall determine the level of fire fighting activity his personnel can safely engage in.

When fires are the responsibility of the Land Manager, the Land Manager shall reimburse the Contractor for all wages and equipment use costs, as appropriate, according to fire fighting rates common to the area. The Land Managers will make every effort to avoid calling on AT&T or project Contractor(s) for action on fires outside the permitted areas except in emergencies.

CALENDAR PAGE	208.66
MINUTE PAGE	000469

6.0 DURATION OF THE PLAN

This plan will apply to any and all Contractor(s) and their employees on the project, and AT&T is responsible for insuring that all such Contractor(s) and their employees are aware of the contents of this plan. This plan will be in effect until the project is completed.

Review and revision will occur annually, if needed, jointly by the Land Manger and AT&T.

7.0 ADDITIONAL DUTIES

7.1 DUTIES OF THE FIREGUARD

The Contractors Fireguard shall be responsible for the following duties.

1. Make regular inspections of all tools and equipment for compliance with the Land manger's specifications. Tool caches to be inspected weekly.
2. Make regular inspections for compliance with all state, county, and Federal laws, ordinances, and regulations pertaining to fire, flammable fuels, and explosives used in conjunction with this project.
3. Inform AT&T of the Sale Activity Level daily as required in the Fire Plan.
4. Post smoking and fire rules in conspicuous places.
5. Make initial attack on fire within and adjacent to the permitted area.
6. Accompany the USFS Field Representative on fire inspections of the project.
7. Keep the USFS Field Representative informed of all burning and blasting operations.
8. Insure that all contractor employees are made aware of the contents of the Fire Plan.
9. Remain on duty in the immediate area of construction whenever any construction activity is in progress and during additional periods as stated under Fire Precaution Schedule.
10. Report all fires to the appropriate Fire Protection office immediately.
11. Assume supervision of fire suppression activities until officially relieved by a Forest Service or other fire suppression officer.

7.2 DUTIES OF AT&T

AT&T's representatives shall be responsible for the following:

1. Be aware of the Sale Activity Level daily as required in the Fire Plan.
2. Accompany the USFS Field Representative on fire inspections of the project (if requested to do so by the Field Representative).
3. Insure that all contractors employees are made aware of the contents of the Fire Plan.
4. Report all fires to the appropriate Fire Protection office immediately.

FIRE CALL DIRECTORY

[CONTACTS AND PHONE NUMBERS TO BE PROVIDED AT THE TIME OF CONSTRUCTION]

CALENDAR PAGE	208.69
MINUTE PAGE	000472



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Planning Department

P.O. BOX 1085 • YREKA, CALIFORNIA 96097
(916) 842-8200 • FAX (916) 842-8211

RICHARD D. BARNUM
PLANNING DIRECTOR

January 9, 1996

Goodyear K. Walker
Division of Environmental Planning and Management
State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 - South
Sacramento, California 95825-8202

Dear Mr. Walker:

Subject: Proposed Negative Declaration A T & T FiberOptic Cable Project Bandon, Oregon to Cloverdale, California (File Reference No. W 25176, Neg. Dec. 672)

In accordance with your December 6, 1995, cover letter submitted with the above-referenced Negative Declaration, staff has reviewed the draft Initial Study for this project. The following are staff's comments with regard to environmental impacts:

1. **Traffic and Circulation**

Section 3.8.1.2 - California Roads and Highways of the Initial Study correctly states that ADTs on State Route 3 along the project alignment are higher near the City of Fort Jones. Staff recommends that the project manager for this section of State Highway 3 take into account a considerable increase of ADT that occurs during the morning and evening commute from the cities of Fort Jones and Etna to Yreka along State Highway 3. This section of the project within Siskiyou County will receive the most amount of traffic.

2. **Public Services**

Section 3.9.3 addresses impacts and Mitigation Measures necessary for fire protection. Staff has been in contact with the California Department of Forestry who had concerns regarding fire related impacts which occurred during a previous fiberoptic cable project. Staff recommends contacting Mark Reina with the California Department of Forestry at (916) 842-3517 regarding these concerns.

CALENDAR PAGE	208.70
MINUTE PAGE	000473

Goodyear K. Walker
Page 2 of 2
January 9, 1996

Siskiyou County also supports the measures necessary for the protection of water quality, vegetation and wildlife resources within the County. We also support the efforts and mitigations necessary to reduce the spread of noxious weeds in the construction area. Also attached are comments received from the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department.

As has been indicated in earlier correspondence, a Use Permit shall be required to be approved by the Siskiyou County Planning Commission for this project. I have been informed by Jones and Stokes that David Evans and Associates shall be submitting this Use Permit for processing in the very near future.

That concludes this Department's comments with respect to this Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration. Thank you for providing this information to Siskiyou County. If staff can be of any further assistance, please contact me at this office.

Sincerely,
Siskiyou County Planning Department
Richard D. Barnum, Planning Director



Dan C. Breedon
Associate Planner

DCB:lrf

**LEADERSHIP
ETHICS
DECISION MAKING
ORGANIZATIONAL PAPER**

presented by:
Michael A. Lyon
183rd session
MS 355

presented to:
Special Agent James M. Kelly

CALIFORNIA
SOCIETY OF
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
1983

CALENDAR PAGE	208.72
MINUTE PAGE	000475

Planning

MEMORANDUM

SISKIYOU COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

TO: Sheriff Byrd

DATE: 12-14-95

SISKIYOU CO. PLANNING

FROM: Captain Murphy

SUBJECT: ADIS for ATT Cable Project

'96 JAN 9 AM 8 15

This project will not impact our function within the SCSD at all. This is a project that will stay away from the I-5 corridor and will be along the Hwy 3 corridor/Scott River Road. Limited Environmental concerns.

CALENDAR PAGE	208.73
MINUTE PAGE	000476



February 9, 1996

Mr. Dan C. Breedon, Associate Planner
County of Siskiyou Planning Department
P.O. Box 1085
Yreka, CA 96097

SUBJECT: Response to Comments Received on the Initial Study for the AT&T Fiber Optic
Cable Project: Bandon, Oregon to Cloverdale, California

Dear Mr. Breedon:

This letter responds to your January 9, 1996 letter regarding the draft initial study prepared for the AT&T fiber optic cable project. AT&T is aware of increases in traffic levels during the morning and evening commutes and will take this into consideration during construction. Jones & Stokes Associates has sent a fire prevention and response plan to Mr. Mark Reina and Mr. Lloyd Keefer with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. David Evans and Associates (AT&T project engineer) will continue to coordinate with Siskiyou County to obtain necessary permits and approvals.

Thank you for your comments. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Francine Demos-Petropoulos
Project Manager

cc: Kirk Walker, California State Lands Commission
Chris Brungardt, BHC-Forkert, A Joint Venture

Oregon

January 16, 1996



DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND
WILDLIFE

ROGUE DISTRICT
OFFICE

Ms. Francine Demos-Petropoulos
Project Manager
Fones & Stokes Associates, Inc.
2600 V Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95818-1914

Re: AT&T Fiber Optic Cable Project from Bandon, Oregon to Cloverdale,
California

The purpose of this letter is to provide comments on the Draft Initial Study on the AT&T Fiber Optic Cable Project from Bandon, Oregon to Cloverdale, California. These comments are limited to project activities, that are proposed near or in streams, riparian areas and wetlands within the Rogue River basin in Oregon.

The Draft Initial Study contains several important provisions that should be retained in the final document to minimize project impacts to streams, riparian areas and wetlands. These provisions include:

1. Most construction activities will occur in existing public road right-of-ways, which will minimize project impacts to previously undisturbed areas (Volume I, Section 2.3, page 2-4).
2. The various methods proposed for crossing streams (bridge attachment, guided boring, trenching over or boring under culverts, and trenching) include sediment control, spill containment and erosion control provisions to minimize negative impacts to streams and riparian areas resulting from these activities (Volume I, Section 2.3.2.4 pages 2-6 to 2-9; Section 2.9.1, pages 2-20 to 2-22; Section 2.9.6, page 2-28; and Section 2.9.7, page 2-29).
3. All but a small number of drainage crossings will use methods (bridge attachment, guided boring, or trenching over or boring under culverts) that avoid in-water work (Volume II, Table E-1).
4. Where trenching is used to cross drainages, crossings will be made when all or most streams are dry. Where streams are still flowing, provisions are included to isolate in-water work from the flowing stream, and control sediment and



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turbidity resulting from trenching activities (Volume I, Section 2.3.2.4 pages 2-8 & 2-9).

- 5. Spoils from boring and trenching activities will be deposited away from waterways (Volume I, Section 2.9.6, page 2-28).
- 6. Except for bridge attachment crossings, conduit will be placed well below the expected scour level of the stream channel (Volume I, Section 2.3.2.4, page 2-6)
- 7. All in-water work will occur within agency-designated in-water work windows (Volume I, Section 2.95, page 2-27).
- 8. Staging areas will be set back at least 100 feet from water bodies; and riparian and wetland areas near construction areas will be staked, fenced and posted for protection (Volume I, Section 2.3.8 page 2-12; Section 2.9.1, page 2-21; Section 2.9.4, pages 2-26 & 2-27; and Section 2.9.7, page 2-33).
- 9. Disturbance of wetlands and riparian vegetation related to construction activities will be minimized, and disturbed areas will be restored to pre-construction conditions (Volume I, Section 2.3.2.4, page 2-8; Section 2.9.7, pages 2-28 to 2-36; Section 2.9.8, pages 2-44 & 2-45; and Section 3.2.3.3, pages 3.2-19 to 3.2-28).
- 10. Pre-construction meetings will be held with contractors to reinforce the need for compliance with environmental resource avoidance and protection measures (Volume I, Section 2.9.2 page 2-25).

ODFW requests that all stream, riparian and wetland protection provisions that address the above issues be retained in the Final document.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. Please feel free to contact me at this office, if you have questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Evenson
District Fisheries Biologist
Upper Rogue Fish District

cc: HCD

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February 9, 1996

Mr. Michael D. Evenson, District Fisheries Biologist
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Rogue District Office
1495 East Gregory Road
Central Point, OR 97502

SUBJECT: Response to Comments Received on the Initial Study for the AT&T Fiber Optic
Cable Project: Bandon, Oregon to Cloverdale, California

Dear Mr. Evenson:

This letter responds to your January 22, 1996 letter regarding the draft initial study for the AT&T fiber optic cable project. All of the stream, riparian, and wetland provisions listed in your letter that were obtained from the draft initial study will be retained in the negative declaration that will be adopted by the California State Lands Commission.

Thank you for your comments. Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Francine Demos-Petropoulos
Project Manager

cc: Kirk Walker, California State Lands Commission
Chris Brungardt, BHC-Forkert, A Joint Venture

January 12, 1996

Ms. Francine Demos-Petropoulos
Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc.
2600 V Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95818-1914

DEPARTMENT OF
LAND
CONSERVATION
AND
DEVELOPMENT

Dear Ms. Demos-Petropoulos,

**SUBJECT: Draft Initial Study - AT&T Fiber Optic Cable Project - Bandon, OR to Cloverdale, CA
Preliminary Coastal Zone Management Comments**

Thank you for providing copies of Volumes I and II of the Draft Initial Study referenced above for our review. As you know, part of the proposed project would occur in the State of Oregon's coastal zone (from the Bandon Cable Landing Facility through Coos County). Coastal zone activities would include burying of cables in existing right-of-ways, stream crossings, and construction of a new regeneration station in Powers, OR.

The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) is the state agency charged with oversight of the Oregon Coastal Management Program and coastal consistency review of federal permits. The draft study identifies the need for a Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (either Nationwide Permit #12 or an individual permit). Per the federal Coastal Zone Management Act and implementing regulations at 15 CFR §930 Subpart D, the Corps of Engineers permit is subject to review for consistency with the Oregon Coastal Management Program. We will review the federal application for coastal consistency when it is distributed for review by the federal agency.

To be consistent with the Oregon Coastal Management Program, the proposed project must be consistent with:

- ① the Statewide Planning Goals, [Please note the Statewide Planning Goals apply when: (1) a city or county does not have an acknowledged comprehensive plan, (2) a plan amendment or goal exception is being proposed, or (3) the project is within the State's territorial sea (0 to 3 miles offshore).]
- ② the applicable acknowledged city or county comprehensive plans (those plans approved by the Land Conservation & Development Commission as being in compliance with the Statewide Planning Goals),
- ③ selected state laws (e.g. Removal/ Fill Law and Oregon Water Quality Standards).

The local coastal jurisdictions of Coos County, City of Myrtle Point, and City of Powers have acknowledged comprehensive plans. The draft study identifies the

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Governor



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need for AT&T to obtain a conditional use permit and an encroachment permit from Coos County and a conditional use permit from the City of Powers. It is not clear from the draft study whether the project route passes through or by the City of Myrtle Point. However, the City of Myrtle Point is not listed in Table 1-2, *Required Permits and Approvals for the Proposed Project*, included in Section I of Volume I.

A Division of State Lands (DSL) permit for fill or removal work in wetlands will likely be required. DSL regulates removal/fill of 50 cy or more in jurisdictional wetlands, including riparian areas.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) pre-certified Nationwide Permit #12 as being in compliance with the Oregon water quality standards provided special conditions are met. If those special conditions will not be met or if the Corps of Engineers determines an individual permit is required, then AT&T will need to obtain from DEQ a Certificate of Reasonable Assurance (401) under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

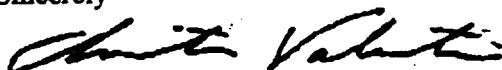
In summary, AT&T will need to obtain the local and state permits identified above to demonstrate consistency with the Oregon Coastal Management Program.

Advisories

According to the draft study, local approvals are also needed from Curry, Douglas, and Josephine Counties. Although portions of Curry and Douglas Counties are within the coastal zone, the sections affected by this project appear to be outside of the coastal zone. Josephine County is completely outside of the coastal zone. However, we encourage you to continue consultation with these counties regarding potential project impacts and the required local approvals.

If you have any questions about the Oregon Coastal Management Program, please feel free to call me at 503-373-0093.

Sincerely



Christine Valentine
Consistency Review Specialist

- cc. Patty Everndon, Coos County Planning Dept.
- John Boyd, Douglas County Planning Dept.
- Chuck Nordstrom, Curry County Planning Dept.
- Joan Miller, City of Myrtle Point
- Susan Chauncey, City of Powers
- Colleen S. McGary, Project Engineer, David Evans & Associates

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February 9, 1996

Ms. Christine Valentine, Consistency Review Specialist
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
1175 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97310-0590

SUBJECT: Response to Comments Received on the Draft Initial Study for the AT&T Fiber
Optic Cable Project: Bandon, Oregon to Cloverdale, California

Dear Ms. Valentine:

This letter responds to your January 12, 1996 letter regarding the draft initial study for the AT&T fiber optic cable project. AT&T's engineering consultant (David Evans and Associates) is in the process of obtaining local and state permits in Oregon and will demonstrate consistency with the Oregon Coastal Management Program as part of this permitting process. The fiber optic cable route passes by the City of Myrtle Point and not through its boundaries. Coos County is not requiring a conditional use permit or an encroachment permit for this project. David Evans and Associates is in the process of obtaining a conditional use permit from the City of Powers. Conditional use permits have been obtained from Curry, Douglas, and Josephine Counties.

If you have any other comments or questions regarding permit acquisition, please contact Colleen McGearry with David Evans and Associates at (360) 427-9355.

Sincerely,

Francine Demos-Petropoulos
Project Manager

cc: Kirk Walker, California State Lands Commission
Chris Brungardt, BHC-Forkert, A Joint Venture



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Northern California Area Office
16349 Shasta Dam Boulevard
Shasta Lake, California 96019-8400

JAN 19 1996

IN REPLY REFER TO:

NC-351
ENV-4.10

Ms. Francine Demos-Petropoulos, Project Manager
Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc.
2600 V Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, California 95818-1914

Re: AT&T Fiber Optic Cable Project - Administrative Draft - Initial Study

Dear Ms. Demos-Petropoulos:

In general, the proposed project will not adversely impact Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region programs even though the cable alignment crosses a large number of drainages in the Klamath, Trinity, or Sacramento River Basins. These are areas of concern for our Klamath and Northern California Area Offices.

The principal concern we have is the potential for interference with the habitat restoration efforts under the Trinity River Restoration Program. None the less, that potential for conflict appears limited, and can probably be wholly avoided, if it exists, by coordination of efforts. The most probable forms of interference we anticipate would be incremental increases in the already severe sedimentation problems associated with the readily eroded, decomposed granites in the Trinity River Basin. There may be minor conflicts with existing or potential habitat restoration work along the Trinity River, but, if so, these could be resolved by coordination between the respective field staffs.

Conflicts appear to be absent with respect to Reclamation programs in other watersheds. Although there are a fair number of drainage crossings involving trenching in the Scott River drainage, with two involving perennial streams and six potentially doing so, we have no reason to expect them to cause difficulty if those crossings are acceptable to the fishery agencies. Generally, the trenched stream crossing in the other drainages, in the streams along the western portion of the Sacramento River Valley, appear to involve ephemeral streams or perennial streams without anadromous fish. Many are upstream of Black Butte Dam and have no potential for impacts on anadromous fishes.

Sincerely,

Dr. Buford Holt
Environmental Specialist

cc: KO-100

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February 9, 1996

Dr. Buford Holt, Environmental Specialist
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Northern California Area Office
16349 Shasta Dam Boulevard
Shasta Lake, CA 96019-8400

SUBJECT: Response to Comments Received on the Draft Initial Study for the AT&T Fiber Optic Cable Project: Bandon, Oregon to Cloverdale, California

Dear Dr. Holt:

This letter responds to your comments received on January 19, 1996 regarding the draft initial study for the AT&T fiber optic cable project. The fiber optic cable will be installed within existing road right-of-ways to avoid direct and indirect effects on sensitive natural resources. Any conflicts that could arise between the Trinity River Restoration Program and the fiber optic cable project will be resolved through early coordination efforts between the Bureau of Reclamation and the project environmental coordinators. To the fullest extent possible, sedimentation associated with cable installation will be controlled throughout all phases of construction by using sedimentation fencing, straw bales, and other acceptable measures. The onsite contract inspectors will ensure that sedimentation within the Trinity River Basin is controlled and the necessary erosion control measures are implemented correctly.

Thank you for your comments. Please call me if you have any additional comments. We would appreciate a contact person with the Trinity River Restoration Program for future coordination efforts.

Sincerely,

Francine Demos-Petropoulos
Project Manager

cc: Kirk Walker, California State Lands Commission
Chris Brungardt, BHC-Forkert, A Joint Venture

Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc.

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