
4.12 - Population and Housing

4.12.1 - Introduction

This section describes the existing setting for population and housing and potential effects from project implementation on the sites and their surrounding areas. It also considers impacts likely to be incurred in the future if additional sites are proposed or if existing sites are modified.

4.12.2 - Existing Conditions

Sites will be built on parcels that currently consist of vacant land. The only exceptions to this condition are the Big Maria, Box Springs, Elsinore Peak, Red Mountain, Santa Rosa Peak, and Whitewater sites, which currently house existing County communication facilities. Housing and habitable structures are currently not present on any of the project sites.

4.12.3 - Thresholds of Significance

According to the CEQA Guidelines' Appendix G, Environmental Checklist, to determine whether impacts to population and housing are significant environmental effects, the following questions are analyzed and evaluated:

- a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?
- b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing or persons, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

4.12.4 - Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

This section discusses potential impacts associated with the development of the project and provides mitigation measures where appropriate.

Population Growth

Impact PH-1	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?
	[CEQA Population / Housing Threshold 12(a)]

Impact Analysis

The project does not include the development of new housing or businesses as part of its implementation. Dirt roads will be improved or constructed to access each of the project sites; however, general public use of these roads or the sites themselves will not be permitted. The proposed communication towers will provide emergency services to an existing population; however, they will not necessarily encourage persons to move into previously undeveloped areas. Therefore, it can be determined that the proposed project will not induce a significant or substantial addition to the population in a given area, and that the impact would be less than significant.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Less than significant impact.

Housing Displacement / Replacement Housing

Impact PH-2	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing or people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? [CEQA Population / Housing Threshold 12(b) and 12(c)]
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Impact Analysis

None of the project sites currently contain housing or habitable structures, and no one is currently living at any of the sites. No homes or persons will be displaced as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation

No impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

No impact.