



HISTORIC and ARCHAEOLOGY CONSULTING
P.O. Box 15967 • San Diego, CA 92175
Phone (858) 459-0326 • www.legacy106.com

August 21, 2014

Barbara Schnier
28015 Old Mine Road
Ranchita, CA 92066

Subject: Adverse Effects of Cell Tower Construction on Adobe Buildings.

Barbara,

After examining the group of adobe buildings at 28015 Old Mine Road, Ranchita, California, it is my professional opinion the California State Historic Preservation Officer would **determine them eligible** for the State/National Register of Historic Properties. These 1944 vintage adobe residences and auxiliary buildings and those on neighboring properties along Old Mine Road might also qualify for inclusion on the National Register as contributors to an historic district of indigenous adobe buildings erected by Native American labor during World War 2. As such, the cell tower undertaking needs to be evaluated under 36 CFR 800.5(a), (b) (iv) and (v) and (f) for direct and indirect adverse effects:

(f) **Criteria of adverse effect.** An adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of an historic property that qualifies that property for inclusion on the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the properties' location, design, **setting**, materials, workmanship, feeling or association. Consideration shall be given to all qualifying characteristics of a historic property, including those that may have been identified subsequent to the original evaluation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Adverse effects may include reasonably foreseeable effects caused by the undertaking that may occur in time, be farther removed in distance or be cumulative.

(2) Examples.

(iv) Change to the character of the property's use or of physical feature within the property's setting that contribute to its historic significance.

and

(v) Introduction of visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that diminish the integrity of the property's significant historic features.

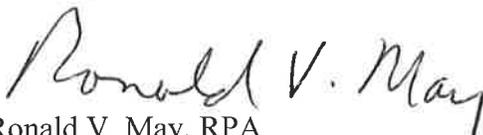
The adobe buildings were built seventy (70) years ago, of indigenous adobe and native pine trees, and by Native American labor. The architectural style is identified in Virginia and Lee McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 2002, as Ranch (1935-1975), but with Pueblo Revival (post 1910) influences. The adobe benches under the ramada style overhanging roof porches is reminiscent of Southwestern Pueblo Revival architectural style. The use of native Pine pole porch posts and some interior roof structures, such as in the guest house and auxiliary structures is another significant architecturally defining feature to this complex of buildings. These buildings bear some resemblance to Cupeno Indian adobe houses at Warner Springs to the northwest on Highway 79 and the Warner's Ranch House to the west on San Felipe Road.

The reported date of 1944 needs verification. The United States Congress ordered termination of private house construction in 1942 to divert lumber, metals, and other building materials for the national defense effort in World War 2. The proximity of these buildings to Old Mine Road and mines on Bureau of Land Management property to the north might prove to relate to construction of these buildings as contributors to the national defense efforts during the war. Should this prove to be the case, this complex of adobe buildings would elevate in historical significance under the National Historic Preservation Act.

As well, there are prehistoric archaeology sites elsewhere within the viewshed of the project that would also be impacted and diminish the location, setting, and visual historical feeling and historical association by intrusion of the cell tower within view of these potentially properties.

The adverse effects of the proposed cell tower on these eligible historic and prehistoric resources are reasonably foreseeable direct and indirect cumulative effects that must be evaluated pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act Guidelines.

Sincerely,


Ronald V. May, RPA
President and Principal Investigator

RVM:tvp

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