

# Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2019029064

Project Title: CAL FIRE Banner Mountain Communications Tower Project

Lead Agency: California Department of General Services

Contact Name: Terry Ash

Email: Terry.Ash@dgs.ca.gov

Phone Number: (916) 376-3824

Project Location: Nevada City, Nevada County

*City*

*County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) proposes to construct and operate the Banner Mountain Communications Tower Project, which would install a new 148-foot telecommunications tower with microwave dishes at the existing CAL FIRE Banner Mountain communications facility to support current microwave technology and decrease dependency and overloading of an existing communications tower at the site.

The objective of the project is to upgrade/supplement CAL FIRE's telecommunications infrastructure with a new telecommunications tower to support the State's Public Safety Microwave Network and continue to provide an essential emergency communications linkage for CAL FIRE'S fire protection and emergency response command and control throughout the area.

Construction is estimated to start in 2021 and take approximately 150 days over 16 months.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

--Biological Resources - Potential impacts to special-status plant and wildlife species would be less than significant with implementation of MM B-1 (California Red-legged Frog Avoidance), MM B-2 (Special-status Bird Avoidance), and MM B-3 (Update of Baseline Conditions).

--Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources - Potential impacts to previously unidentified historical, archaeological or tribal cultural resources or human remains would be less than significant with implementation of MM CR-1 (Train Construction Personnel), MM CR-2 (Inadvertent Discovery of Historical Resources, Unique Archaeological Resources or Tribal Cultural Resources), and MM CR-3 (Treatment of Human Remains).

--Hazards/Hazardous Materials and Hydrology/Water Quality - Potential water and soil contamination impacts from an accidental spill would be less than significant with implementation of MM H-1 (Prepare and Implement Worker Environmental Awareness Program [WEAP]) and MM H-2 (Prepare and Implement a Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan).

--Mandatory Findings of Significance - The Proposed Project's impacts would not be cumulatively considerable and cumulative impacts would be less than significant with the implementation of the aforementioned mitigation measures.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

DGS discussed the proposed project with the Nevada County Planning Department to identify any potential public concerns given the project's location on the top of Banner Mountain near Nevada City. The County identified public concerns about potential noise, visual, and radio frequency impacts on past cellular tower projects in the area. Therefore, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services performed radio frequency field measurements at the existing Banner Mountain communications facility, which are included as an IS/MND appendix, to document that the maximum exposure levels are below the Federal Communication Commission's guidelines for Occupational/Controlled exposure within the fenced site, as well as for General Population/Uncontrolled exposure in the surrounding area.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)