

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



SENT BY E-MAIL

June 24, 2015

Tim Jordan, Senior Biologist
Tierra Right of Way Services, Ltd.
1575 East River Road, Suite 201
Tucson, Arizona 85719
tjordan@tierra-row.com

SUBJECT: PEA Deemed Complete for TDS Telecom's Winterhaven Last Mile Underserved Broadband Project in Imperial County, California (Commission Resolution T-17410)

Dear Mr. Jordan:

The California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC's) Infrastructure Permitting and CEQA section completed its review of TDS Telecom's Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA). The CPUC received the PEA on April 30, 2015 and submitted a deficiency letter to TDS on May 28, 2015. TDS responded to the deficiency letter on June 17, 2015.

The CPUC has determined that the PEA is now complete. The CPUC's Information and Criteria List and PEA Checklist and United States Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) NEPA Guidebook were used as basic guides for determining PEA adequacy. The CPUC will prepare an Initial Study and Negative Declaration. If mitigation is required, a Mitigated Negative Declaration will be prepared. At this time, the CPUC does not anticipate that preparation of an Environmental Impact Report will be required. Based on discussions with BIA, preparation of an Environmental Assessment is anticipated to be the appropriate level of review for National Environmental Policy Act compliance. Therefore, the CPUC will coordinate with BIA to prepare a joint Initial Study/Environmental Assessment. Scheduling details for a public meeting early in the environmental planning process will follow.

The CPUC reserves the right to request additional information at any point during the process. Questions should be directed to Rob Peterson at (415) 703-2820. Please copy the CPUC's consultant, Tom Engels, Horizon Water and Environment (tom@horizonh2o.com), on communications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Peterson".

Rob Peterson
Energy Division, Infrastructure Permitting and CEQA

CC:

Gary Cantley, Regional Archeologist, BIA Western Regional Office
Charles Lewis, BIA Western Regional Office
Irene Herder, BIA, Superintendent, Fort Yuma Agency
Gail Long, Manager, State Government Affairs, TDS Telecom
Susie Rogers, Manager - Right of Way Services, Tierra Right of Way Services, Ltd.
Tom Engels, Principal, Horizon Water and Environment
Zenaida Tapawan-Conway, Broadband, Policy, and Analysis Branch, CPUC
Xiao Selena Huang, Broadband, Policy, and Analysis Branch, CPUC
Mary Jo Borak, Supervisor, Infrastructure Permitting and CEQA, CPUC
Jack Mulligan, Attorney, CPUC