

# Section 1: Introduction

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## 1.1 Overview

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The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) prepared this Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the proposed Channel Islands Telecommunications Project. This Final IS/MND contains comments received on the Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) and MND; it also contains responses to the comments. The Draft IS/EA is incorporated by reference into this document.

## 1.2 Proposed Project

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The Channel Islands Telephone Company (CITC) has submitted an application to the CPUC to install telecommunication facilities at up to 15 locations on four islands within the Channel Islands National Park, including:

- San Miguel Island
- Santa Barbara Island
- Santa Cruz Island
- Santa Rosa Island

The proposed project would provide cellular telephone and landline service at all ranger stations, campgrounds, and residences on the four islands, the Santa Rosa Island and San Miguel Island airstrips, and all portions of the four islands within an approximately 0.5-mile radius of each of the 15 facility locations.

## 1.3 Environmental Review

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### 1.3.1 LEAD AGENCIES

The lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed project is the CPUC because it has the role of reviewing a grant request from the applicant for this project. NPS is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) because the proposed project would involve lands under National Park Service (NPS) jurisdiction and would, therefore, require issuance of a right-of-way permit from NPS.

### 1.3.2 DRAFT INITIAL STUDY/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

A Draft IS/EA was prepared in compliance with CEQA and NEPA. The CEQA public review period for the Draft IS/EA was held from November 14, 2012 to December 14, 2012.

### 1.3.3 FINAL INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

This Final IS/MND was prepared in compliance with CEQA only. The NPS will prepare a separate final NEPA document for the project at a later date.

## 1.4 Document Organization

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The Final IS/MND contains the following elements:

**Section 1: Introduction** – This section contains background information on the project and environmental review process.

**Section 2: Responses to Comments** – This section contains the comments received on the Draft IS/EA and the responses to those comments.

**Section 3: Revisions and Errata** – This section includes the revisions to the Draft IS/EA as a result of responses to comments or as a result of staff corrections to the Draft IS/EA, including corrections and modifications of text, tables, figures, and references

**Section 4: Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan** – The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan outlines the proposed mitigation measures and describes how and when those measures would be implemented.

**Section 5: References** – This section contains references used to prepare the Final IS/MND.