

# Imperial County Planning & Development Services Planning / Building

Jim Minnick

TO:

Commissioner Mike Goodsell Commissioner Jenell Guerrero Commissioner Dennis Logue Commissioner Sylvia Chavez Commissioner Jerry Arguelles

FROM:

Jim Minnick, Secretary

Planning & Development Services Director

SUBJECT:

Public Hearing for the consideration of a proposed 100-foot wireless communication facility (Conditional Use Permit #21-0022 & V #22-0002) located at 1812 Pan American Street, Calexico, CA 92231 (APN 059-512-002; Latitude 32°40′36.998″N — Longitude 115° 22′38.824″W) to determine Consistency with the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP). [Mariela Moran, Planner III] (ALUC 03-22)

DATE OF REPORT:

May 18, 2022

AGENDA ITEM NO:

2

**HEARING DATE:** 

May 18, 2022

**HEARING TIME:** 

6:00 p.m.

**HEARING LOCATION:** 

County Administration Center Board of Supervisors Chambers

940 Main Street

El Centro, CA 92243

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is Staff's recommendation that the Airport Land Use Commission finds the proposed 100-foot wireless communication facility, located at 1812 Pan American Street, Calexico, CA 92231 to be consistent with the 1996 Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

# **Project Location:**

The proposed wireless communication facility will be located at 1812 Pan American Street, Calexico, CA 92231. The property is identified as Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 059-512-002-000 and is further described as Lot 64 of Tract 941-Unit #2, Township 17 South, Range 16 East, S.B.B.M., Latitude 32°40' 36.998"N – Longitude 115°22' 38.824"W.

# Project Description:

The applicant, TowerCo IV Holding, LLC, is proposing to install a 100-foot, co-locatable monopole wireless communication facility near the border crossing east of Calexico. AT&T will be the first carrier, and additional carriers will be added over time as needed. The project requires a Conditional Use Permit (#21-0022) for the wireless communication facility and a Variance (#22-0002) to exceed the 60-foot height limitation for the Gateway Industrial (GI) zoned area by 40 feet.

The 3.9 acre parcel is currently developed with a 45,000 square foot warehouse. The proposed wireless communication facility will be located at the northeast portion of the parcel within a 50' x 50' leased area. Proposed equipment for AT&T are six (6) panel antennas, nine (9) remote radios, three (3) surge suppressors, one (1) equipment cabinet, one (1) generator and one (1) H-frame for power. Further, proposed equipment for TowerCo is one (1) H-frame for power, underground electrical services and a chain-link fence.

# General Plan/ALUCP Analysis:

The proposed wireless communication facility is located in the Gateway Specific Plan area and is not located near any County Public Airport or airstrip. The nearest airport is the Calexico International Airport located approximately eight (8) miles west of the project site.

The project site is zoned GI (Gateway Industrial) per the Imperial County Land Use Ordinance Title 9, Division 25, Section 92518.00.

The Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP), Chapter 2, Policies, Section 2.3, provides "Types of Actions Reviewed" by the Commission, which shall include:

"Any request for variance from a local agency's height limitation ordinance; and any other proposed land use action, as determined by the local planning agency, involving a question of compatibility with airport activities" (Section 2.3.3(c)(h), pg. 2-3 & 2-4)

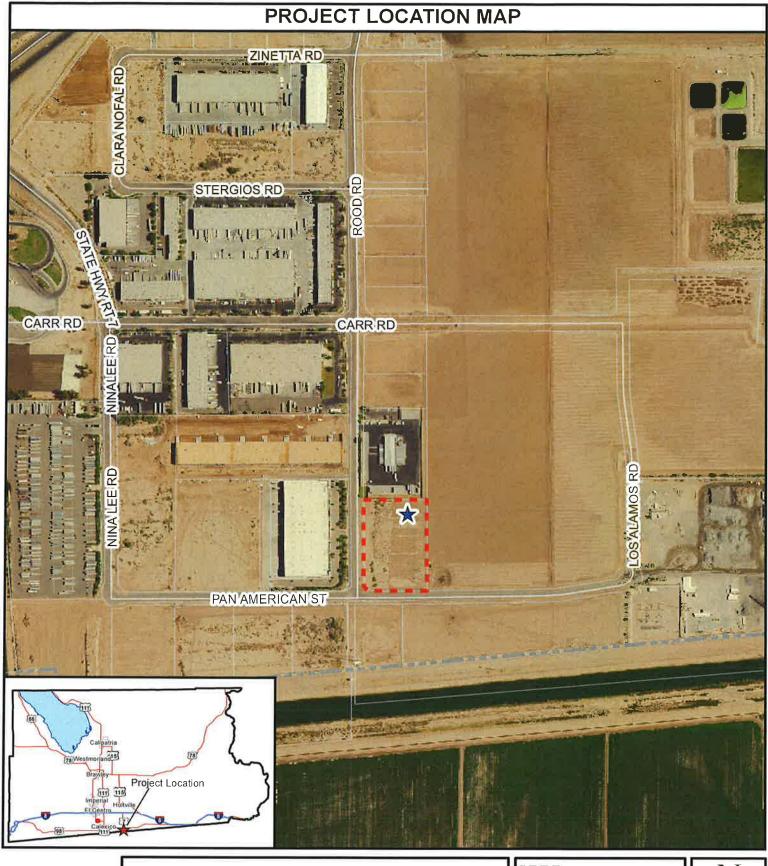
The proposed variance and conditional use permit has been submitted for the Airport Land Use Commission's review and determination of consistency with the 1996 Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) due to the nature of the application (a 100-foot wireless communication facility).

#### ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Vicinity Map B. Site Plan

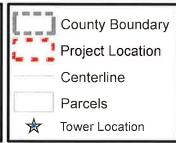
- C. Application
  D. ALUCP Section

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TOWER CO IV, LLC CUP #21-0022 / V #22-0002 APN 059-512-002-000





Tower Co TELECOM
MANAGEMENT GROUP CALEXICO BORDER CROSSING 1812 PAN AMERICAN ST., CALEXICO, CA 92231 SITE PLAN 17 HUHON SITE PLAN \*\*\* 1 CLAIR AND GUITER ZOMING: SPA - CA TO JULY FOLE # PROFERTY ::NF, TYP P! UTILITY H-FRAME ITHER POLE, MONERAY ACCESS 10'-0" STI-94CK KENN SHINPAR LOT 64 A.P.N.# 059-512-002-000 ZONING: SPA - GI GP: SPECIFIC PLAN DOCUMENT THE TOTAL TRASH STATISHESS VALLE ZONING: SPA - GI AND USE: WAREHOUSE-\*2Y8-175 10,-0, 回 LOT 63 (P) Towards Strator LEASE AREA ZONINQ: SPA - GI LAND USE: WAREHOUSE LOAD NO DOOK AREA FUVDING DOCK VEEK ALRT LIBER COUNT. UNUTY POLE NO 194208 UTLITY POLE NO. 452224 251- BVCK 10,-0 ONE WALL TYP PAN AMERICAN STREET DRIVEWAY ATAL FIBER PEDESTAL 15'-0' 5E'-0'CK -0A0A 000A FD, MONUMENT IN THE G. INF. OF YAY, AMERICAN AND ROOD HD. LIGHT POLE, 1984-(II) ATAT FIBER CMPH W/ FIBER COL. 54,30,02,W 35,36 MICH SER DRINGWAY ACCO H. HIDE ZOMING: SPA - CAL LAND USE: WAREHOUSE --PROPERTY UNE PROPERTY UNE PROPE PALM TREE BUSH TREE SESPERE TO PERSON MONUMENTS

# CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT I.C. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPT. 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 (760) 482-4236

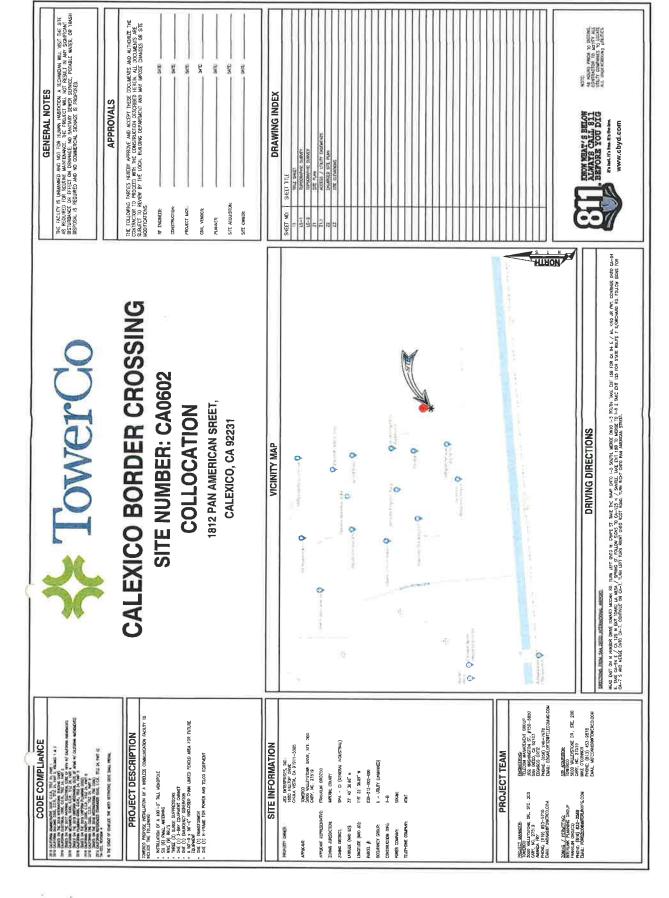
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1.	PROPERTY OWNER'S NAI	ME						
	JEX Enterprises Inc			EMAIL ADDRESS PEPE & JE-EXPORTS, COM				
2.	MAILING ADDRESS (Street / 1680 Hilltop Drive, Chula Vi	P O Box, City, State) sta, CA 1911-5305		ZIP197P-5305	PHONE NUMBE (619) 426-699	R COM		
3.	APPLICANT'S NAME				1025/420-033	0		
4.	TowerCo IV Holdings LLC  MAILING ADDRESS (Street / P O Box, City, State)			EMAIL ADDRESS forozco@interlinkpg.com				
_	3000 valleystone Drive, Suit	P O Box, City, State) e 200, Cary NC 27519		ZIP CODE	PHONE NUMBE	R		
4.	ENGINEER'S NAME Telecom Management Grou	CA. I	LICENSE NO.	EMAIL ADDRE	SS			
5.	MALLING ADDRESS (Street / P O Box, City, State)			edgar.ortiz@telecommg.com				
	302 Washington Street #150	0 Box, City, State) 0-6850, San Diego, CA		ZIP CODE 92103	PHONE NUMBER (858) 248-1678	PHONE NUMBER (858) 248-1678		
6.	ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO.		La	70.01				
	059-512-002-000			SIZE OF PROPERTY (in acres or square foot) ZONING (existing)				
7,	PROPERTY (site) ADDRESS			3.19		GI		
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	Northeast corner of Pan Ame	erican Street and Rood	Road					
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I.C. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPT. 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 (760) 482-4236

- APPLICANT MUST COMPLETE ALL NUMBERED (black) SPACES – Please type or print -

1.	PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME JEX Enterprises Inc	PEPE & JC-EXPORTS. COM							
2.	MAILING ADDRESS (Street / P O Box, City, State) 1680 Hilltop Drive, Chula Vista, CA 1911-5305	ZIP CODE 91911-5305		PHONE NUMBER (619) 426-6990					
3.	ENGINEERS NAME CA. LICENSE NO. Telecom Management Group	EMAIL ADDRESS edgar.ortiz@telecommg.com							
4.	MAILING ADDRESS (Street / P O Box, City, State) 302 Washington Street #150-6850, San Diego, CA	ZIP CODE 27519		PHONE NUMBER (619) 632-2569					
5.	ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 059-512-002-000		ZONING (existing) GI						
6.	PROPERTY (site) ADDRESS 1812 Pan American Street	SIZE OF PROPERTY (in ac 3.19			or square foot)				
7,:	GENERAL LOCATION (i.e. city, town, cross street) Northeast corner of Pan American Street and Rood Road								
8.	8. LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 64 of Tract 941 - Unit No. 2, County of Imperial								
8.	8. DESCRIBE VARIANCE REQUESTED (i.e. side yard set-back reduction, etc.)  Request to exceed the height limited of the base zone for a col-locatable telecommunication tower.								
The variance request is to allow for a co-locatable telecommunication tower in conformance with Section 92404.01(E) of the Imperial County Land Use Ordinance.  10. DESCRIBE THE ADJACENT PROPERTY									
	East Vacant West Industrial Warehouse								
	North Industrial Warehouse South Vacant								
IS TR	ture		PLAN	D SUPPORT DOCUME	INTS				
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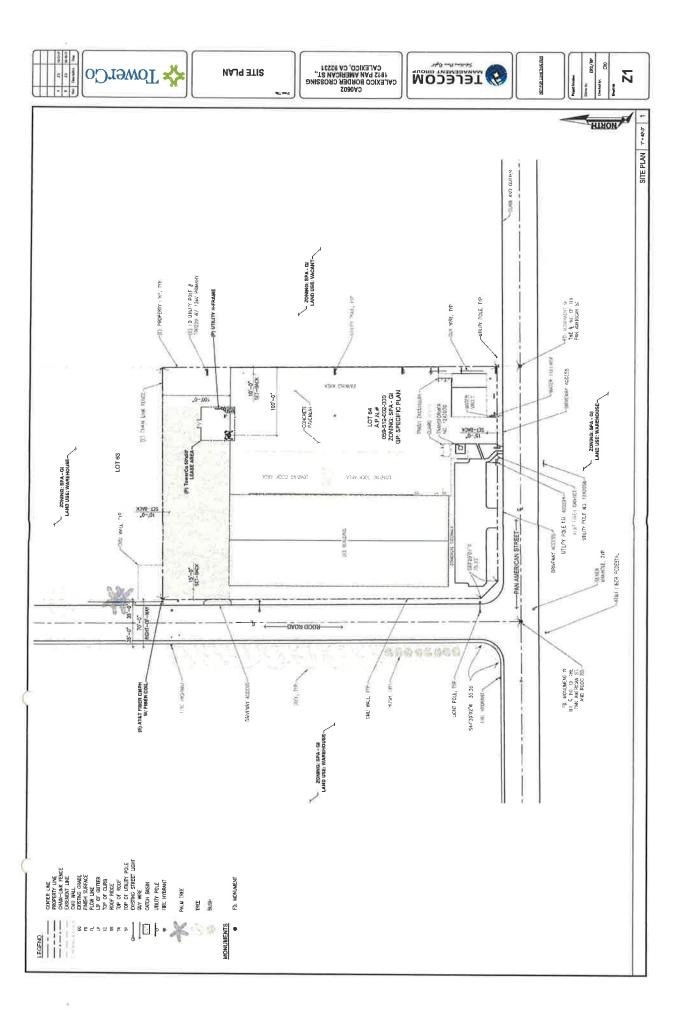
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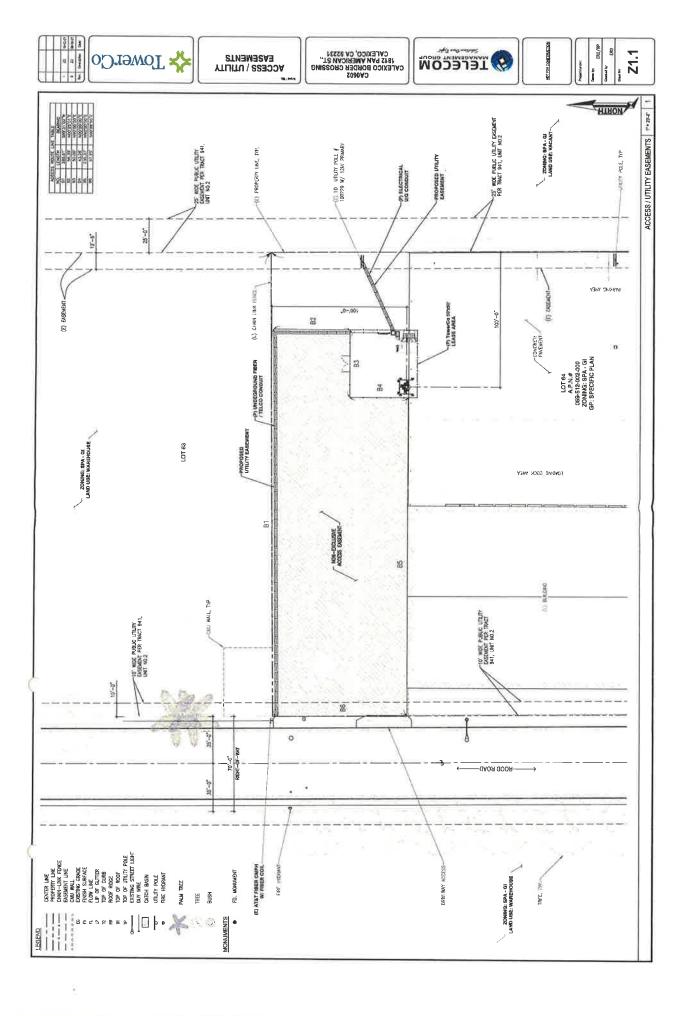
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CALEXICO BORDER CROSSING 1812 PAN AMERICAN ST., CALEXICO, CA 92231

TES SHEET

TowerCo







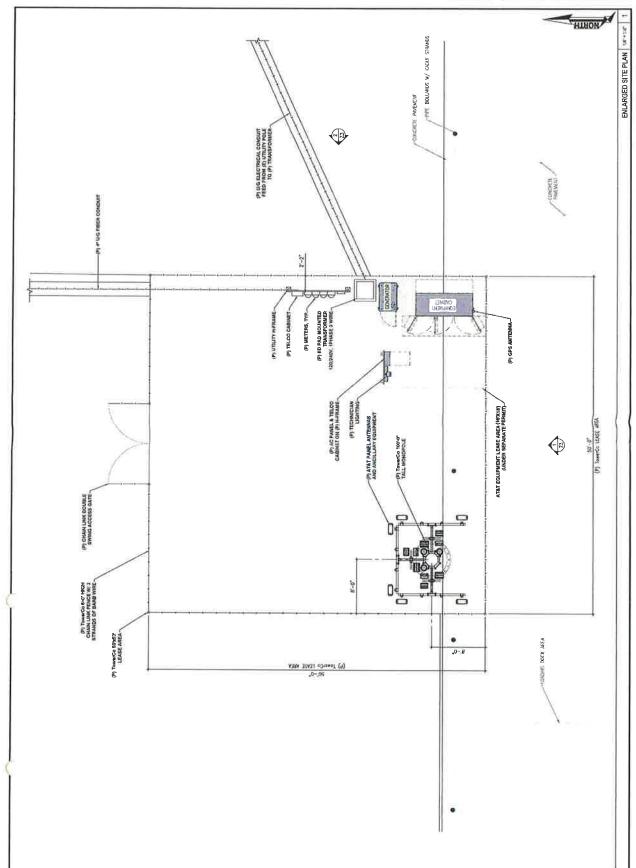
ENLARGED SITE PLAN

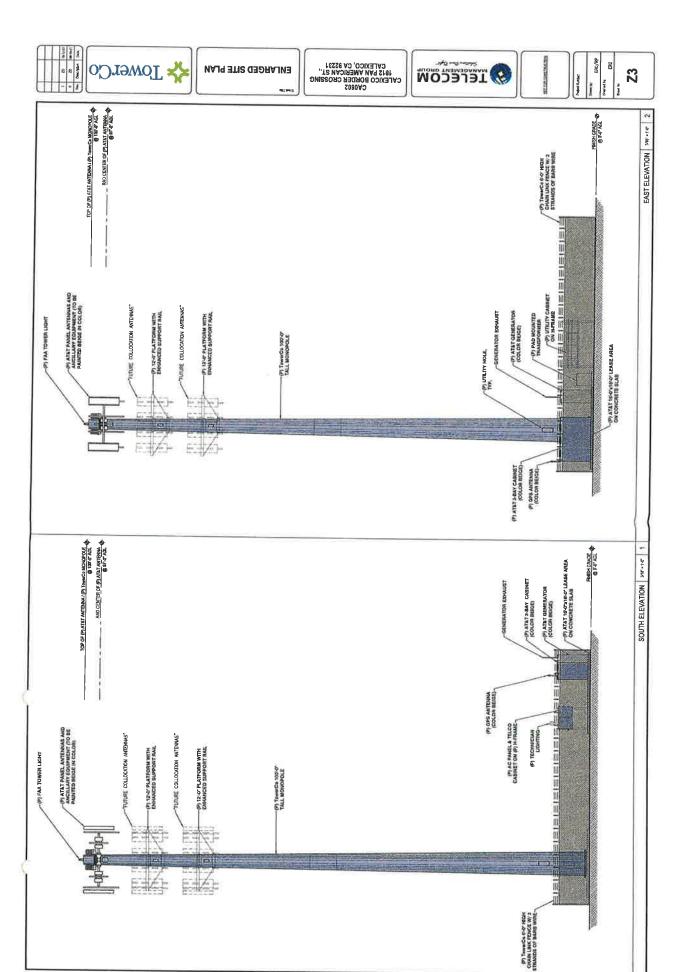
CALEXICO BORDER CROSSING 1812 PAN AMERICAN ST., CALEXICO, CA 92231





EXO/RP
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# **Project Description / Justification**

#### **Project proposal**

TowerCo is a tower developer proposing to construct a 100-foot tower near the border crossing in Calexico. The proposed tower is intended to serve a multi-carrier wireless facility with AT&T Mobility being the first carrier to occupy the subject tower. Additional carriers will be added overtime as the need arises for collocation. The property is located on northeast corner of Pan American Street and Rood Road within the unincorporated area of Imperial County. The property is zoned GI – Gateway Industrial within the Gateway of the Americas Specific Plan. The subject parcel of land is approximately 3.19 acres in size and is presently developed with an industrial warehouse building and associated parking lot. The surrounding properties are also zoned GI and are developed with similar uses.

Wireless communication facilities are regulated by Division 24, Chapter 1 of the county's municipal code. More specifically Sections 92401.00 through 92413.04 of the code. The proposed wireless communications facility and tower development is permitted subject to the Director's approval of a Conditional Use Permit and height Variance.

#### **Project objectives**

AT&T needs a facility to increase coverage for the area near the international border crossing of Calexico and the increase commerce that occurs within the vicinity. As shown on the attached coverage maps, AT&T coverage of this area is very poor to none. Coverage provided by existing towers located to the west and east of Highway 7 do not reach this area of need. Once implemented AT&T would be able to close a significant gap in their coverage for this area.

TowerCo will build the proposed tower and have AT&T as the first carrier to occupy the top portion of the tower to meet AT&T needs. The tower has been designed to support two additional antenna arrays below AT&T antenna equipment. TowerCo is leasing a 50-foot by 50-foot space within the subject property with enough ground space to support additional wireless provider's ground equipment as well as parking for routine maintenance vehicles.

#### **Equipment information**

The following equipment is proposed for AT&T.

- Six (6) panel antennas
- Nine (9) Remote Radio Unites (RRU)
- Three (3) surge suppressors
- One (1) equipment cabinet on a concrete slab
- One (1) stan-by emergency generator
- One (1) H-frame for related power and telco boxes

Additional development by TowerCo for this project include:

- One (1) H-frame to support electrical meters
- Electrical and Telco services within underground conduits
- A chain linked fence with security wires

#### Tower design



The proposed tower is 100-feet in height to provide the necessary height for AT&T to close it's current significant gap in coverage for the Calexico international crossing and surrounding industrial and commerce development. The tower height is consistent with the general requirements under Section 92401.04 towers outside the designated scenic corridors may exceed one hundred and twenty feet. The proposed tower is lower than the code requirement. Also, in conformance with the provisions of the code general requirements, the tower is proposed to be painted a non-reflective earth tone color to blend with the existing natural environment.

#### Maintenance and Operations

The proposed wireless facilities by AT&T and future collocations are unmanned and therefore do not have any impact to the existing parking requirements nor operations on the subject property. The lease area allocated by TowerCo provides enough space for the parking of maintenance vehicles. Maintenance of the wireless facilities are very infrequent and routine visits may occur once per month. The wireless provider's maintenance crew will have 24/7 access to the subject site.

AT&T proposed generator is designed for emergency power outages and will only be operated during such emergency events. The generator will be tested on a monthly basis to ensure proper operation should a power outage event occur. Because the property is located within an industrial area, no impacts to the surrounding uses area expected from the operation or testing of this equipment.

#### FCC and Federal compliance

The proposed tower will comply with all federal, state, and local requirements for the construction and operation of the proposed wireless facilities. To that end, TowerCo has engaged EBI Consulting to prepare a certified engineer's report showing compliance with RF emissions dated October 5, 2021 (attached). Based on the conclusions of this report, there are no publicly used areas that will exceed the federal standards and guidelines in terms of RF emission. The report only recommends cautionary signs to alert any climbing personnel as required by federal and carrier standards.

#### Required findings for approval

TowerCo believes that the requested Conditional Use Permit application can be approved based on the following findings:

- 1. The proposed wireless telecommunications facility complies with provisions of Section 92401.04. As stated above, the facility has been designed as a multi-user tower with enough ground space to accommodate future wireless carrier. The proposed facility is within an industrial zone where these types of facilities area permitted subject to the Planning Directors approval of a conditional use permit. The design of the tower meets the heights standards and will be painted a non-reflective earth tone color to blend with the existing desert environment. The proposed tower is situated with enough setback to buffer from other adjacent uses and to protect those properties. The proposed equipment and enclosure is at least 250-feet from the public roads. All aspects of the proposed development will be consistent with the regulations and standards of the county.
- 2. The proposed wireless telecommunications facility is consistent with FCC regulations in terms of RF emissions as demonstrated by the report submitted by EBI Consulting.



3. The facility blends in with its existing environment and will not have significant adverse visual impacts. As stated above, the facility is of a height suitable for the needs to close a significant coverage service gap for AT&T. The proposed tower and antenna components will be painted a non-reflective earth toned color to match its existing environment. The site is located within an industrial area and is not near any designated scenic corridors; therefore, no significant adverse visual impacts is anticipated.

#### Variance findings for approval

The proposed wireless telecommunication tower will be 100 foot in height. The Gateway Specific Plan General Industrial zone has a maximum height of 60 feet. A variance from the specific height requirement is necessary. As stated above and demonstrated by coverage maps, the facility needs to be design at 100 feet in height. The proposed height is consistent with the general requirements of Section 92401.04 of the Communication Facilities Ordinance. Therefore, ToweCo believes that the following finds of approval can be met.

1. There are special circumstances applicable to the property described in the variance application, that do not apply to the property or class of use in the same zone or vicinity.

The height variance is necessary to achieve the coverage objectives for the proposed wireless telecommunication facility. A reduction in height would reduce the coverage for this location requiring additional tower installation to compensate for the coverage gap.

That granting of such variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in such zone or vicinity in which the property is located.

The proposed wireless telecommunication facility is intended to provide and fill-in a coverage gap identified by AT&T. As such, the project will provide communication benefits to the public. Granting of the variance will not be materially detrimental but a benefit to the general public, emergency services, and commerce of the Specific Plan.

 That because of special circumstances applicable to subject property, including size, shape, topography, location or surroundings, the strict application of zoning laws is found to deprive subject property of privileges enjoyed by other properties in the vicinity and under identical zone classifications.

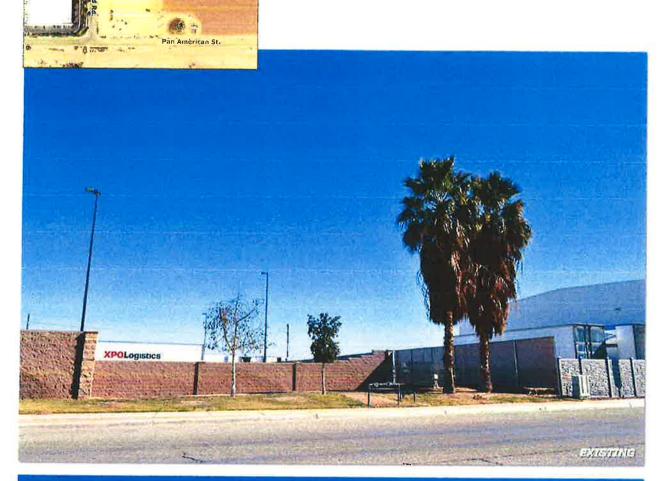
Strict application of the height regulations found in the Gateway Specific Plan would deprive the property and wireless provider with privileges otherwise allowed in other similar industrial locations outside of the Specific Plan area.

4. That such variance will not adversely affect the comprehensive general plan.

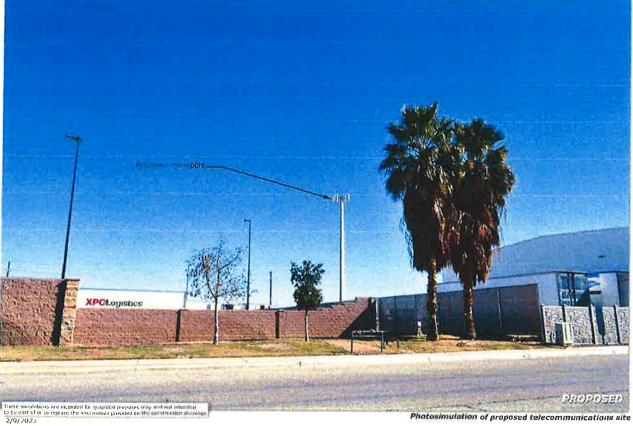
Granting of the requested variance will be consistent with the objectives of the general plan.



Calexico Border Crossing Site Number: CA0602 Collocation 1812 Pan American St. Calexico, CA 92231



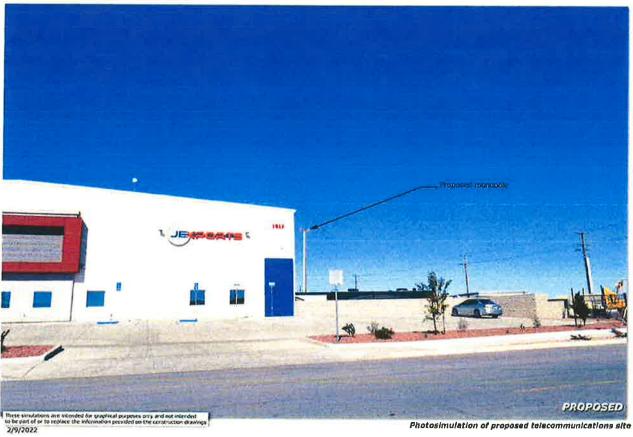
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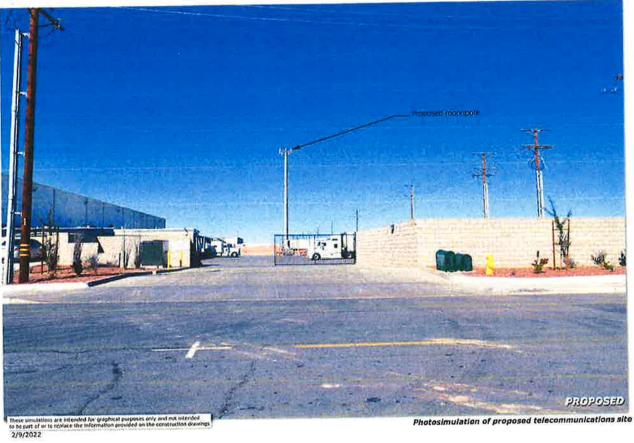


Photosimulation of proposed telecommunications site





Site Location



- 2. Countywide Impacts on Flight Safety Those lands, regardless of their location in the County, on which the uses could adversely affect the safety of flight in the County. The specific uses of concern are identified in Paragraph 2.
- 3. New Airports and Heliports The site and environs of any proposed new airport or heliport anywhere in the County. The Brawley Pioneers Memorial Hospital has a heliport area on-site.

# 2. Types of Airport Impacts

The Commission is concerned only with the potential impacts related to aircraft noise, land use safety (with respect both to people on the ground and the occupants of aircraft), airspace protection, and aircraft overflights. Other impacts sometimes created by airports (e.g., air pollution, automobile traffic, etc.) are beyond the scope of this plan. These impacts are within the authority of other local, state, and federal agencies and are addressed within the environmental review procedures for airport development.

# Types of Actions Reviewed

- 1. General Plan Consistency Review Within 180 days of adoption of the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, the Commission shall review the general plans and specific plans of affected local jurisdictions to determine their consistency with the Commission's policies. Until such time as (1) the Commission finds that the local general plan or specific plan is consistent with the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, or (2) the local agency has overruled the Commission's determination of inconsistency, the local jurisdiction shall refer all actions, regulations, and permits (as specified in Paragraph 3) involving the airport area of influence to the Commission for review (Section 21676.5 (a)).
- 2. Statutory Requirements -As required by state law, the following types of actions shall be referred to the Airport Land Use Commission for determination of consistency with the Commission's plan prior to their approval by the local jurisdiction:

- (a) The adoption or approval of any amendment to a general or specific plan affecting the Commission's geographic area of concern as indicated in Paragraph 1 (Section 21676 (b)).
- (b) The adoption or approval of a zoning ordinance or building regulation which (1) affects the Commission's geographic area of concern as indicated in Paragraph 1 and (2) involves the types of airport impact concerns listed in Paragraph 2 (Section 21676 (b)).
- (c) Adoption or modification of the master plan for an existing publicuse airport (Section 21676 (c)).
- (d) Any proposal for a new airport or heliport whether for public use or private use (Section 21661.5).
- 3. Other Project Review State law empowers the Commission to review additional types of land use "actions, regulations, and permits" involving a question of airport/land use compatibility if either: (1) the Commission and the local agency agree that these types of individual projects shall be reviewed by the Commission (Section 21676.5 (b)); or (2) the Commission finds that a local agency has not revised its general plan or specific plan or overruled the Commission and the Commission requires that the individual projects be submitted for review (Section 21676.5 (a)). For the purposes of this plan, the specific types of "actions, regulations, and permits" which the Commission shall review include:
  - Any proposed expansion of a city's sphere of influence within an airport's planning area.
  - b) Any proposed residential planned unit development consisting of five or more dwelling units within an airport's planning area.
  - Any request for variance from a local agency's height limitation ordinance.
  - Any proposal for construction or alteration of a structure (including antennas) taller than 150 feet above the ground anywhere within the County.

- e) Any major capital improvements (e.g., water, sewer, or roads) that would promote urban development.
- f) Proposed land acquisition by a government entity (especially, acquisition of a school site).
- Building permit applications for projects having a valuation greater than \$500,000.
- h) Any other proposed land use action, as determined by the local planning agency, involving a question of compatibility with airport activities.

# 4. Review Process

- 1. Timing of Project Submittal Proposed actions listed in Paragraph 3.1 must be submitted to the Commission for review prior to approval by the local government entity. All projects shall be referred to the Commission at the earliest reasonable point in time so that the Commission's review can be duly considered by the local jurisdiction prior to formalizing its actions. At the local government's discretion, submittal of a project for Airport Land Use Commission review can be done before, after, or concurrently with review by the local planning commission or other local advisory bodies.
- Commission Action Choices When reviewing a land use project proposal, the Airport Land Use Commission has a choice of either of two actions: (1) find the project consistent with the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan; or, (2) find the project inconsistent with the Plan. In making a finding of inconsistency, the Commission may note the conditions under which the project would be consistent with the Plan. The Commission cannot, however, find a project consistent with the Plan subject to the inclusion of certain conditions in the project.