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TO: El Dorado County Zoning Administrator **Agenda of:** November 18, 2015

FROM: Jennifer Franich, Associate Planner **Item Number:** 4.a.

DATE: October 9, 2015

SUBJECT: Five-Year Review of Special Use Permit S64-0012 for the continued operation of an existing non-stealth wireless telecommunications facility

File Number: S64-0012-R-3/Verizon Wireless 5-Year Review (Mt. Aukum)

Applicant: Epic Wireless (Agent: Roger Roach)

Property Owner: American Tower Corporation

Request: Five-year review of an existing cellular telecommunications facility.

Location: South side of Tower Road, one half mile northeast of the intersection with Mt. Aukum Road (County Route E16) in the Mt. Aukum Area, Supervisorial District 2 (Exhibit A).

Parcel Number: 046-081-22

Acreage: 3.0 acres

General Plan: Agricultural Lands (AL)

Zoning: Residential Agricultural 20 (RA-20)

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Zoning Administrator take the following actions:

1. Find Special Use Permit S64-0012-R-3 to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines;
2. Find that based on this five-year review period, the approved telecommunication facility substantially conforms to the Conditions of Approval for S64-0012-R;
3. Remove Condition of Approval number eight as follows:

~~8. Due to the ever changing technology of wireless communication systems, this special use permit shall be reviewed by the County Development Services Department every five years. At each five year review, the permit holder shall provide the Development Services Department with a status report on the then current use of the subject site and related equipment. Development Services shall review the status and present that report to the approving authority with a recommendation whether to:~~

~~(A) Allow the facility to continue to operate under all applicable conditions; or~~

~~(B) Hold a public hearing to determine whether to modify the conditions of approval in order to reduce identified adverse impacts; or initiate proceedings to revoke the special use permit, requiring the facility's removal if it is no longer an integral part of the wireless communications system.~~

~~By operation of this condition, it is the intent of County to reserve the right to modify or add new conditions, consistent with the language specified above. The failure of the County to conduct or complete a five year review in a timely fashion shall not invalidate the Special Use Permit. The applicant shall pay a fee determined by the Development Services Director to cover the cost of processing a five year review on a time and materials basis.~~

4. Add a new Condition of Approval as follows:

13. Generator maintenance: Any routine maintenance that requires running the generator or automatic cycling of the generator shall be performed between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Background: The existing structure was originally a communications facility for the transcontinental microwave radio network of the Western Union Telegraph Company. The facility served the Automatic Digital Network (AUTODIN), an important defense communications network. They also housed mainframe computer systems for the General Services Administration's Advanced Record System, a text-message system serving the civilian agencies of the federal government. Special Use Permit S64-0012 was approved by the Planning

Commission on March 31, 1964 to allow an addition to the existing building for a radio beam site and for general service administration personnel for computers. In 2009, under Special Use Permit revision S64-0012-R, Verizon Wireless added six new wireless antennas and removed four existing omni antennas on the existing building-mounted tower. A five-year review of the facility permit and status report is required under condition eight of the Conditions of Approval.

Staff Analysis: The applicant is requesting a five-year review of the existing cellular telecommunications facility. To show that the facility is operating in compliance with all applicable conditions of approval for S64-0012-R, the applicant has provided the attached status report, site photos, and as-built plans (Exhibits B through D). The applicant has also submitted an updated Radio Frequency Emissions (RFE) Compliance Report, which certifies that the tower will remain in compliance with RFE limits (Exhibit E).

The proposed removal of Condition of Approval number eight will bring the conditions up to date with the standard conditions for non-stealth telecommunication facility permits that do not require ongoing maintenance for aesthetic purposes. The added Condition of Approval number thirteen is a condition that the Planning Commission has requested for similar projects.

Environmental Review: Staff has determined that, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), this action is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. This is a five-year review as required by the conditions of approval for the existing telecommunications tower facility authorized under the special use permit. The review for compliance with the conditions of approval for the special use permit includes any remedial measures to be taken to ensure compliance. It can be found that the compliance review will not have an impact on the environment and is therefore not subject to CEQA.

SUPPORT INFORMATION

Exhibit A.....	Location Map
Exhibit B	S64-0012-R-3 Conditions of Approval; with Responses
Exhibit C	Current Site Photos
Exhibit D.....	S64-0012-R-3 As-Built Plans
Exhibit E	RFE Compliance Report; July 30, 2015