



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Pacific  
Southwest  
Region

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File Code: 1920-2-1/2720  
Date: AUG 26 2002

Mr. John Boccio, CPUC  
c/o Environmental Science Associates  
436 14th Street, Suite 600  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Boccio:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for a Telecommunications Program proposed by Semptra Communications, that would provide telecommunications infrastructure and services to selected markets throughout California using state-of-the-art fiber optic cable technology.

The DEIR programmatically addresses environmental impacts of the proposed project, and acknowledges that site-specific installation and implementation of the proposal may occur on some federal lands. The Forest Service manages National Forests within California that are within or adjacent to your proposed project area. All uses of National Forest System land require a special use authorization that is supported by an environmental analysis, compliant with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. This site-specific NEPA analysis must precede the granting of any special use authorization.

A-1

The Forest Service is interested in a "seamless" approval process and wants to be involved in your planning. I encourage you to make early contact with the Forest Supervisors for any National Forest System land you identify in the site-specific installation and implementation of your proposal, so that all planning requirements and permits can be addressed in a timely fashion.

A-2

Sincerely,

JACK A. BLACKWELL  
Regional Forester

- cc: Christine Nota, Regional Forester's Representative, Sacramento  
Peggy Hernandez, R.O. Lands  
Dick Andrews, NEPA Group Leader, Region 5  
Raina Fulton, Lands Staff Officer, Angeles National Forest  
Bruce Emmens, Lands Staff Officer, Los Padres National Forest  
Bernice Bigelow, Planner, Cleveland National Forest  
Craig Cowie, Lands Staff Officer, Cleveland National Forest  
Ruth Wenstrom, Planner, San Bernardino National Forest  
Douglas Pumphrey, Lands Staff Officer, San Bernardino National Forest



**A. UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE, PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION, JACK A BLACKWELL – REGIONAL FORESTER**

**A-1** Comment noted. The CPUC will insure that Sempra Communications is aware that appropriate permits must be obtained from the Forest Service for any subsequent activity that may be proposed on, entirely or in part, National Forest lands within California prior to commencement of construction.

**A-2** Comment noted. The CPUC will encourage Sempra Communications to contact the forest supervisors for any National Forest System land identified in site-specific work plans early in the process to ensure permits can be addressed in a timely fashion.