

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A FINAL INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE
DECLARATION FOR THE CHANNEL ISLANDS TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT IN
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

TO: All Interested Parties

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Final IS/MND) to evaluate the Channel Island Telecommunication Company (CITC) application for the Channel Island Telecommunications Project (project). The application requires approval by the CPUC of a grant request by the applicant to install and operate the proposed telecommunications facilities. The Final IS/MND has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Final IS/MND responds to public comments submitted regarding the Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (Draft IS/EA) that was prepared for this project, and also describes any changes and corrections made to the Draft IS/EA. The National Park Service is the Lead Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and will prepare a decision document for the EA.

Project Summary. CITC is proposing to install telecommunication facilities at up to 15 locations within the Channel Islands National Park. These new telecommunication facilities would serve to improve the currently limited telecommunication capabilities on the islands, and would allow for private and government cellular phone and internet service between the islands and the mainland. CITC's stated goals for the project include:

1. Improved communication for NPS and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration staff, researchers, NPS residents, and recreational visitors at the five islands, as well as between the islands and the mainland.
2. Communication in the case of an emergency or accident to allow for swifter emergency response.
3. Improved real-time reporting of weather data to allow for more accurate travel predictions, which will reduce unnecessary and/or aborted boat and aircraft trips to and from the islands for both NPS and commercial/recreational vehicles.

Project Location. The project is located at up to 15 project locations on four of the five islands that comprise the Channel Islands National Park. The four islands are San Miguel, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Santa Rosa islands. All proposed telecommunication facilities would be installed on or near existing structures and within previously disturbed areas.

Final IS/MND Availability. The Final IS/MND is being published on Tuesday, December 18, 2012. The Final IS/MND will be available for review on the CPUC website (<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/mha/channelislands/channelislands.htm>) and at the following two libraries:

Ventura County Library
Avenue Library Branch
606 N. Ventura Avenue
Ventura, CA 93001

Santa Barbara County Central Library
40 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

The CPUC will conduct a meeting on Thursday, December 20, 2012, to decide whether to adopt the Final IS/MND and approve the proposed project. Any questions regarding the Final IS/MND can be directed to:

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