

MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. C08
was approved as Minute Item
No. 8 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 08/30/89
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

A 5
S 7

C08

08/30/89
W 24395 PRC 7325
Fong

GENERAL PERMIT - RIGHT-OF-WAY USE

APPLICANT: Contel of California
Attn: Steev Fletcher
350 Lagoon Street
Bishop, California 93514

AREA, TYPE LAND AND LOCATION:
Relicted land adjacent to Mono Lake located
adjacent to Highway 395 in Mono County.

LAND USE: Installation, operation, and maintenance of two
buried cables (a fiber optic telephone cable
and a 50 pair twisted copper conductor) and a
buried 1 1/4" diameter conduit.

TERMS OF PROPOSED PERMIT:
Initial period: Indefinite period beginning
September 1, 1989.

Consideration: The public use and benefit.

BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION:
Section 7901, Public Utilities Code.

APPLICANT STATUS:
N/A.

PREREQUISITE CONDITIONS, FEES AND EXPENSES:
Filing fees and processing costs have been
received.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. C 0 8 (CONT'D)

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

- A. P.R.C.: Div. 6, Parts 1 and 2; Div. 13.
- B. Cal. Code Regs.: Title 2, Div. 3;
Title 14, Div. 6.

AB 884: 01/31/90.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. A Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was prepared and adopted for this project by the United States Forest Service. The document was circulated for public review as broadly as State and local law may require and notice was given meeting the standards in 14 Cal. Code Regs. 15072(a). Therefore, pursuant to 14 Cal. Code Regs. 15225, the staff recommends the use of the federal FONSI in place of a Negative Declaration.
2. Contel of California proposes to place approximately 26.5 miles of fiber optic telephone cable from Lee Vining to Bridgeport. Approximately one-half mile of the project crosses State lands. The project will consist of two (2) buried cables (one 16 fiber optic cable, one 50-pair twisted copper conductor cable) and a buried 1 1/4" diameter conduit.

APPROVALS OBTAINED:

United States Forest Service, California
Department of Transportation, and Mono County.

FURTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED:

Bureau of Land Management.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Land Description.
- B. Location Map.
- C. FONSI

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 008 (CONT'D)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT THE FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT PREPARED AND ADOPTED FOR THIS PROJECT BY THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA. THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO 14 CAL. CODE REGS. 15225, ADOPT SUCH FEDERAL DOCUMENT FOR USE IN PLACE OF A NEGATIVE DECLARATION.
2. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT AS APPROVED, WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
3. AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE TO CONTEL OF CALIFORNIA OF A GENERAL PERMIT - RIGHT-OF-WAY USE, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 1989 FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BENEFIT; FOR THE INSTALLATION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF TWO (2) BURIED TELEPHONE CABLES AND A BURIED 1 1/4" DIAMETER CONDUIT ON THE LAND DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED AND BY REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF.

EXHIBIT "A"

W 24395

LAND DESCRIPTION

A strip of relicted land 10 feet wide in the bed of Mono Lake, Mono County, California, said centerline lying 5 feet on each side of a centerline, said centerline lying immediately beneath a 16 fiber optic telephone cable.

END OF DESCRIPTION

PREPARED AUGUST 4, 1989 BY BIU 1.

CALENDAR PAGE	<u>40</u>
MINUTE PAGE	<u>2631</u>

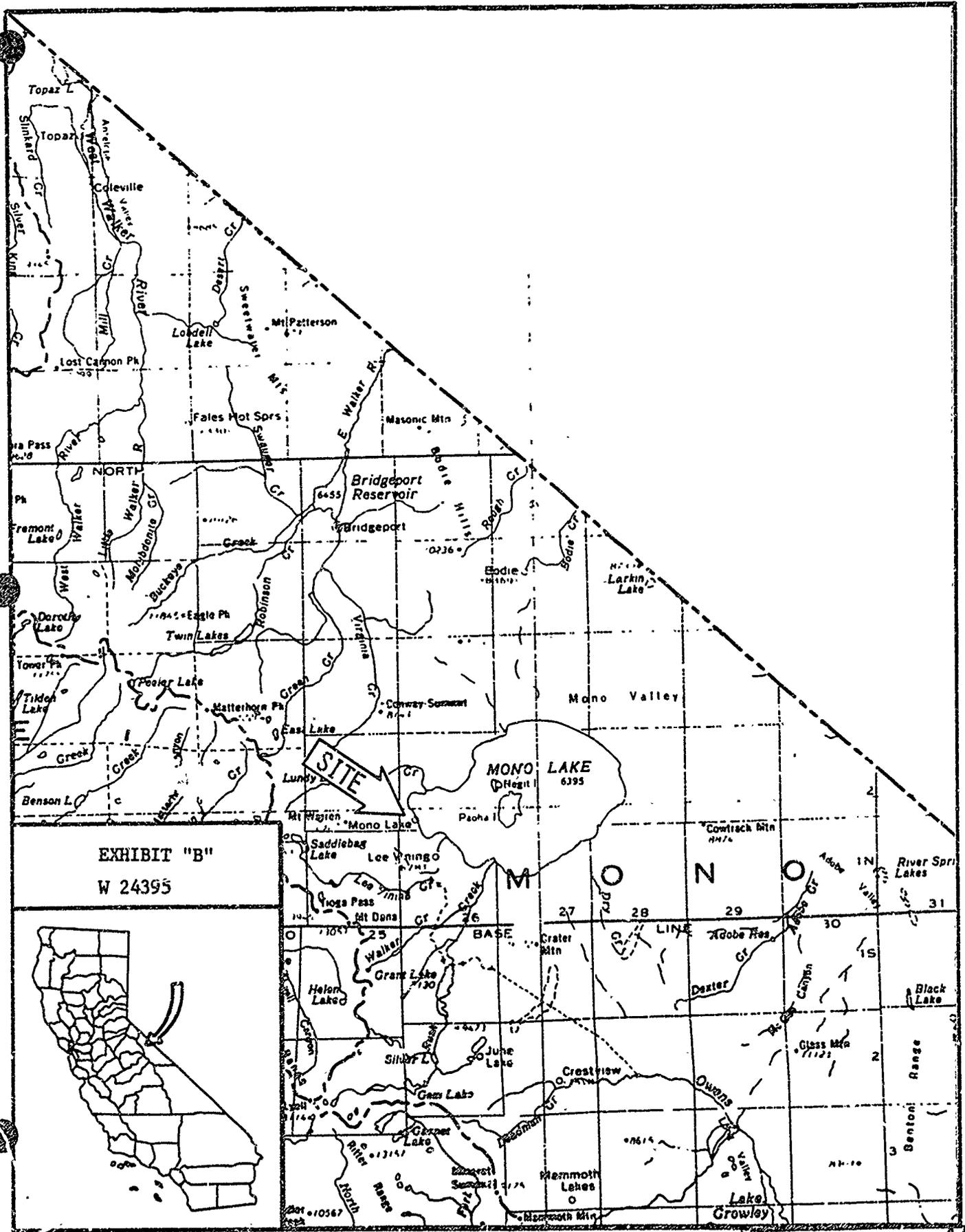


EXHIBIT "B"
W 24395



DECISION NOTICE
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Concerning the
Environmental Assessment
for the

TELEPHONE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
TO BE PROVIDED BY
CONTEL OF CALIFORNIA

Mono County, California
U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Inyo National Forest
Mono Lake Ranger District

An environmental assessment that discusses improvements to the long distance telephone facilities between the communities of Lee Vining and Bridgeport, California, has been completed. The assessment is available for public review at the Mono Lake Ranger District office at Lee Vining and the ConTEL of California Office at Bishop.

Six alternatives were considered in detail:

Alternative 1 - Placement of a buried fiber optic cable along the following route: existing dirt roads and trails, a portion of the Mono Lake bed above the projected high water elevation of 6390 feet, existing buried telephone cable routes, existing Southern California Edison Company (SCE) pole lines and patrol roads, and along Mono County maintained roads.

Alternative 2 - A buried fiber optic cable would be placed adjacent to the right-of-way lanes of U.S. 395, deviating from the route where rock outcrops and other impassable terrain prohibit burial.

Alternative 3 - Placement of a buried fiber optic cable within either graded shoulder of U.S. 395, by trenching entirely with a back-hoe.

Alternative 4 - A buried fiber optic cable would be placed in an existing patrol road along the SCE 115 KV pole line west of U.S. 395 to a point westerly of the Tioga Lodge property. It would proceed easterly from this point across U.S. 395 and continue northerly along the same route described in Alternative 1.

Alternative 5 - Existing microwave equipment at the Crestview and Conway Summit radio repeaters would be replaced with digital-type transmission equipment, with some modifications to the existing buildings and antennas.

Alternative 6 - No improvements would be made to the existing telephone system. No action would be taken and the present system would remain unchanged.

Based on the analysis and evaluation described in the environmental assessment (EA), it is my decision to adopt Alternative 1 for the portions of the project affecting Inyo National Forest land. This alternative includes placement of a buried fiber optic cable along existing roads, cable routes, pole lines and a portion of the Mono Lake bed above the projected elevation of 6390 feet. The reasons for choosing this alternative are specified as follows:

1. Alternative 1 has low impact on undisturbed areas and utilizes existing roads and facilities as much as possible.
2. Alternative 1 minimizes disturbance of sensitive resources and avoids areas of high erosion potential and significant visual impact on steep terrain along portions of U.S. 395.
3. Safety, traffic control and construction concerns along U.S. 395 would be minimized or avoided with Alternative 1.
4. Alternative 1 is more compatible with the environmental components of reducing the potential for soils erodibility, limiting disturbance of brush and vegetation in sensitive areas, avoiding impacts to significant cultural resources and wildlife and fish habitats, while providing improved communication services.

I have determined through the environmental analysis that this is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. This finding of no significant impact is based on the following criteria discussed in detail in the EA:

1. No threatened or endangered plant or animal species would be affected by this proposal.
2. No wetlands or floodplains would be significantly affected by this project.
3. Significant cultural resources will be avoided during construction of trenches and burial of all cable.
4. No significant adverse environmental effects on natural resources, including cumulative effects, are associated with this proposal.

This project is in accordance with NEPA Implementing Regulations, 40 CFR 1509.27 and with the goals, objectives and management direction of the Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (8/88). This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217.3. The 30-day appeal period begins with the date of this decision. Project implementation may begin on July 23, 1989.

Questions regarding this decision should be sent to the District Ranger, Mono Lake Ranger District, P.O. Box 429, Lee Vining, California, 93541.

Bill Bramlette
BILL BRAMLETTE
District Ranger

June 23, 1989
Date of Decision

CALENDAR PAGE	43
MINUTE PAGE	2634