

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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August 9, 2001

Reply To: FCC010611B

RECEIVED**AUG 27 2001****OHP***see
NL
f41*

Lorna Billat
Historic Archaeologist
EarthTouch LLC
2269 East Canyon View Drive
Layton, UT 84040

Re: Nextel Wireless Communications Facility, CA-0779G, 511 West 12th Street, Merced, CA

Dear Ms. Billat:

You have provided me with the results of your efforts to determine for the benefit of the FCC, whether the above cellular installation, may affect historic properties. You have done this, and are consulting with me, in order to enable the FCC to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and implementing regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

I have reviewed the documentation furnished and considered your recommendation to the FCC that the Station No. 3 Water Tower in Merced appears eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under criterion A for its association with the conservation of water in the San Joaquin Valley, an important factor in the growth and development of the area. It is Earthtouch's opinion that the water tower is also eligible under criterion C for its role as a landmark for residents and visitors of the city and because it represents a type and method of construction. Earthtouch is also recommending that no historic properties will be adversely affected as a result of this undertaking.

Given the nature of the project and the attempt to mitigate impacts, I have the following comments:

- 1) The steps taken to identify historic properties that may be affected by this undertaking are satisfactory.
- 2) I concur that the Station No. 3 Water Tower in Merced is eligible for the NRHP under criterion A for its association with the conservation of water in the San Joaquin Valley. At this time, I do not believe that there is enough information to concur that the water tower is also eligible under criterion C.
- 3) I concur in your recommendation that there are no historic properties that will be adversely affected by this undertaking.
- 4) I would not object to an official finding by the FCC that there are no historic properties that will be adversely affected by this undertaking.
- 5) I will assume that the FCC has made this finding unless I hear to the contrary from them within 15 calendar days after you have furnished them with a copy of this letter.

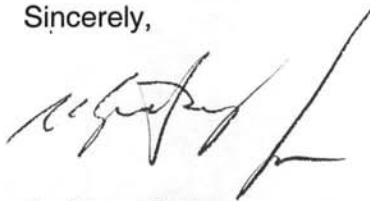
ATTACHMENT 3

Ms. Billat
August 9, 2001
Page 2 of 2

- 6) Be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, the FCC may have additional responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800.

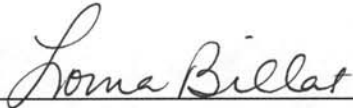
If you agree with the determinations that I have proposed, please evidence your agreement by signing the signature block below. Please return the original letter to me as soon as possible. Alternatively, you may provide me with a separate letter concurring in the proposed determinations of eligibility and effect. If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Lindquist of my staff at your earliest convenience at (916) 654-0631 or e-mail at nlind@ohp.parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Dr. Knox Mellon
State Historic Preservation Officer

AGREED:



DATE:

8/21/01

Lorna Billat
Historic Archeologist
EarthTouch LLC.