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**Request for Comments
California Highway Patrol Special Use Permit Amendment
USDA Forest Service
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Bridgeport Ranger District**

The Bridgeport Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is proposing to amend the existing special use authorization for California Highway Patrol's (CHPs) facilities at the Pine Grove Communication Site. This amendment would allow CHP to upgrade their existing site to provide adequate communications facilities to increase public and officer safety and to enhance law enforcement. The CHP site was constructed in 1969 and has been operated under a special use permit since that time. The site currently operates a 365 day per year, 24 hours per day radio system for public safety.

California Highway Patrol's site is located at the Pine Grove Communication Site, Section 33, T 10 N, R 25 E, Lyon County, Nevada, Mount Diablo Principal Meridian (Figure 1). The Pine Grove Communication Site has a developed footprint of approximately 10 acres. Within the communication site, the area adjacent to each of the structures is primarily denuded of vegetation, and the soils are compacted. The habitat outside the footprint is pinyon pine. The CHP facilities presently cover about 0.083 acres of land.

This site upgrade would support CHP's proposed digital multi-channel telecommunications system and would increase the site area to approximately 0.143 acres (90' x 70'). The modifications would consist of the construction of a 590 square foot vault, a generator room and vestibule for snow conditions, a four-legged self-supporting 120-foot tower with high structural integrity to support the proposed equipment loads, a 1000-gallon propane tank on a concrete pad, and associated support infrastructure (Figure 2). The new tower and vault would be designed to meet California Title 24 code requirements including Essential Services Seismic Standards. The expansion of the site would require building outside of the existing fenced area (Figure 2).

Site improvements would include rough and finish grading for the new vault pad, tower footings, and extension of underground utilities and fencing. Two empty vaults at the existing site would be removed prior to construction of the new vault. Demolition of the occupied vault, the existing tower, footings, and associated structures would occur after construction of the new vault. Construction materials and the demolished facilities would be trucked to and from the site via National Forest System (NFS) road 192. Maintenance (grading) of the access road from NFS 192 to the existing CHP site may occur if required to transport construction supplies to the site. Construction could take place over two years due to the 8,173-foot site elevation and potential winter snow conditions. Actual construction would take approximately six months.

The maximum tower height allowed under the Pine Grove Communication Site Management Plan is 80 feet. The CHP has requested that the communication site management plan be amended to allow a maximum tower height of 120 feet. The increased tower height would provide for better separation of their existing antennae and allow expansion in the future.



Your comments on this proposal are being requested to help identify key issues, develop alternatives and/or mitigation measures, and analyze effects of the proposal. Please be as specific as possible in expressing your comments so they can be effectively addressed. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection.

Comments should be mailed to Bridgeport Ranger District, Attn: Linda Crawley, HC 62 Box 1000, Bridgeport, CA 93517, faxed to 760-932-5899, or emailed to: comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-bridgeport@fs.fed.us. Although your comments are always welcome, comments received by **April 15, 2012**, will be most helpful. For more information about this proposal, please contact Linda Crawley, at lcrawley@fs.fed.us or by telephone at (775) 355-5377.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael O. Crawley".

MICHAEL O. CRAWLEY
District Ranger