



---

## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** SUP-Chambers Group, Wayne Bischoff

**Project Number:** 12-moja-032/PEPC 42472

**Project Description:**

Wayne Bischoff (Chambers Group) has applied for a special use permit to conduct an above-ground archeological survey over an AT&T fiber optic cable line right-of-way that traverses the northern section of Soda Dry Lake. Dr. Bischoff would like to complete the survey, a one-day effort, between June 1 and September 1, 2012. AT&T Corporation is planning to replace 87.927 miles of fiber optic cable between Halloran Summit Road and the Slash X Ranch, all within San Bernardino County. The section that crosses into Mojave National Preserve totals roughly 4.8 miles. The survey will include up to 20 feet to either side of the centerline.

The survey team will consist of up to 12 archeologists with two to three four-wheel-drive vehicles. They will use systematic pedestrian transects spaced at intervals no greater than 10 feet (3 meters) apart. The team will closely examine the ground surface for evidence of prehistoric and/or historic activity. They will use handheld GPS units with sub-meter accuracy to record the location of the survey boundary and any cultural resources located during the survey. Any archeological sites or finds will be mapped and recorded on California Department of Parks and Recreation forms, as appropriate, and will be documented with digital photography and georeferenced data. Temporally and functionally diagnostic prehistoric artifacts and unique or diagnostic historic-period artifacts will be hand drawn and digitally photographed. Previously recorded sites will be revisited and updated on a CDPR form with information regarding the site's current condition and integrity.

Chambers Group will prepare a cultural resources technical report consistent with BLM 8100 manual and the Office of Historic Preservation's ARMR guidelines to summarize its findings. The report will include CDPR forms in a confidential appendix.

**Project Locations:**

**Location**

---

<b>County:</b>	San Bernardino	<b>State:</b>	CA
<b>District:</b>	Soda Dry Lake	<b>Section:</b>	
<b>Geo. Marker:</b>		<b>Other:</b>	

**Mitigation(s):**

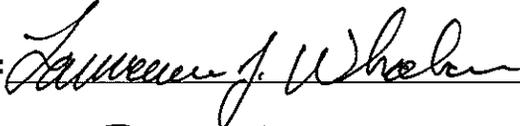
- Archeological Resources: The permit holder must be accompanied by the park archeologist during all field work.

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

E.5 Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.

Mojave National Preserve staff has completed an expedited review of the proposed activities. The mitigation above requires the permit holder to be accompanied by the Preserve's archeologist during all field work. No potentially significant adverse impacts to the natural or cultural resources of the Preserve are anticipated at this time; the Preserve's archeologist will be able to assess any cultural resources discovered during survey work. A special use permit may be issued to Wayne Bischoff to complete the work described above. Any subsequent actions proposed by the applicant's client, AT&T Corporation, on NPS lands must undergo a separate review and permitting process.

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Superintendent:  Date: 5/23/12

NPS Contact:  Date: 23 May 2012