

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
Airspace Advisory Committee

Date: July 3, 2001

File: AIRSPACE
General

From: **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**
DIVISION OF RIGHT OF WAY
Mail Station 37

Subject: Information Item-Wireless Infrastructure Companies

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION:

In May of 1997, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopted Resolution G-97-06, authorizing the Department to directly negotiate long-term development leases (licenses) with wireless telecommunications carriers. As a result of that action, the Wireless Licensing Program, a component of the Airspace Branch, commenced its five-year life. This successful program, due for renewal by the CTC on June 30, 2002, is currently restricted to wireless cellular and PCS (Personal Communication Service) telecommunications carriers licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

Since the Program's inception, the wireless industry has evolved into much more than just portable telephones. Current technologies available to the public include such things as wireless internet, elaborate paging and information services, digital and satellite radio. As the Department begins to prepare for renewal of this program, Right of Way would like the Airspace Advisory Committee to consider broadening the type and class of wireless providers that may be permitted access to our freeways under the Wireless Licensing Program.

There are many options and factors to consider within the next year. As part of the process in reevaluating and possibly expanding the Program, Crown-Castle, a world-wide telecommunications infrastructure company, has been asked to appear before the Committee to propose how they and others in their industry might gain access to our wireless program. Their presentation is for informational and educational purposes only and their presence at this meeting should in no way to be construed as an endorsement by the Department for entering into any agreement with Crown-Castle.

It is hoped their presentation can provide a broader understanding of the wireless industry, its future and any possible applicability to the future of the Wireless Licensing Program.

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