



## Memorandum

<b>To:</b>	Dallas Pugh Permitting Manager The AES Corporation 5000 East Spring Street, Suite 130, Long Beach, CA 90815
<b>From:</b>	Brad Haley, Senior Biologist, ICF
<b>Date:</b>	June 14, 2021
<b>Re:</b>	<b>Estrella Solar Project: Joshua Tree Survey for the 110<sup>th</sup> Street Overhead Alignment and the Underground Alignment Between El Campo and Estrella Solar Footprints.</b>

### Background

Biological surveys were performed for this project in spring and summer of 2020. These surveys and preparation of the biological technical reports occurred prior to the candidacy listing of Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). As such, a survey was performed in order to map and identify the presence or absence of Joshua trees in order to discuss potential effects to the species and mitigation, if needed.

### Survey Methods

The proposed overhead alignment along 110<sup>th</sup> Street West between West Avenue H and West Avenue B as well as the underground route along West Avenue B, 95<sup>th</sup> Street West, West Avenue A-8, and 90<sup>th</sup> Street West was surveyed by driving and visually surveying the proposed Gen-Tie alignment for Joshua trees and protected desert cacti. The survey area consisted of the proposed impact area of the Gen-Tie routes and areas within 100 feet of the impact area boundaries.

### Survey Results

The area was surveyed by ICF biologist Kara Martinusen on June 8, 2021 between the hours of 4:00 and 5:30pm. Weather conditions during the survey was 74 degrees Fahrenheit, 8 miles per hour winds, and 0 percent cloud cover. The survey area consisted of fallow agriculture fields of non-native annual weeds (mustard) and grasses. Some small areas consisted of rabbitbrush scrub and saltbush scrub. No Joshua trees or protected desert cacti were found within the survey area (proposed Gen-Tie impact areas with 100-foot buffer).