

Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP, Director
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2323
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Fax: (661) 862-8601 TTY Relay 1-800-735-2929
Email: planning@kerncounty.com
Web Address: <http://kernplanning.com/>



**PLANNING AND NATURAL
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Planning
Community Development
Administrative Operations

DATE: April 15, 2022

TO: See Attached Mailing List

FROM: Kern County Planning and Natural
Resources Department
Attn: Keith Alvidrez
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 862-5015; alvidrezk@kerncounty.com

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR THE CAPELLA SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT BY HELIOGEN SR1, LLC.

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department as Lead Agency (per CEQA Guidelines Section 15062) has determined that preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (per CEQA Guidelines 15161) is necessary for the proposed project identified below. The Planning and Natural Resources Department solicits the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency may need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval of the project.

You are invited to view the NOP and submit written comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental information in connection with the proposed project should you wish to do so. Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be received by **May 16, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.** Comments can be submitted to the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department at the address shown above or to alvidrezk@kerncounty.com. A Scoping Meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 5th, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.**, at the address listed above.

PROJECT TITLE: Capella Solar Energy Project by Heliogen SR1, LLC (PP22153); PLN21-01618: ZCC No. 63, Map No. 213; CUP No. 70, Map No. 213; Non-Summary Street Vacation.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project site is located in the unincorporated area of southeastern Kern County, approximately 4.5 miles southeast of the unincorporated community of Mojave, 14 miles northwest of Edwards Air Force Base, and approximately 4 miles south of the Mojave Air and Space Port.

The project site is bordered by Silver Queen Road to the north, Division Street to the west, and an unpaved portion of East Laguna Avenue to the south, in Section 2 of Township 10 North, Range 12 West San Bernardino Meridian & Base.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Heliogen SR1, LLC (Heliogen) is proposing to design, construct, operate, maintain, and decommission an approximate 5-megawatt (MW) modular commercial concentrating solar power plant (CSP) with a supercritical CO₂ (sCO₂) power cycle and solid media thermal (TES), which is comprised of an approximately 117-acre field of computer-controlled heliostat mirrors focusing solar energy on receiver apertures on top of an approximate 330-foot-tall, centralized power tower, and ancillary

structures, such as a 0.5-acre photovoltaic solar array, and a 9,800 square foot operations and maintenance building. The project would be operated as a test facility.

Implementation of the project as proposed includes the following requests:

- Zone Change Case No. 63, Map No. 213
 - From zone classification A-1 (Limited Agriculture) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) on approximately 142 acres
- Issuance of Conditional Use Permit No. 70, Map No. 213
 - To allow for the construction and operation of a 5 MW concentrated thermal solar facility with an ancillary solar photovoltaic component and associated infrastructure.
- A request for a Non-Summary Vacation of a portion of Farlin Street within the project boundary.

Documents can be viewed online at: <https://kernplanning.com/planning/notices-of-preparation/>

Signature:



Name:

Cindi Hoover, Planning Division Chief

I:\Planning\WORKGRPS\WP\LABELS\
Capella Solar Energy Project.docx
AT: 4/8/22

Los Angeles Co Reg Planning Dept
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

San Bernardino Co Planning Dept
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Ridgecrest Field Office
300 South Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

China Lake Naval Weapons Center
Tim Fox, RLA - Comm Plans & Liaison
429 E Bowen, Building 981
Mail Stop 4001
China Lake, CA 93555

China Lake Naval Weapons Center
Tim Fox, RLA - Comm Plans & Liaison
429 E Bowen, Building 981
Mail Stop 4001
China Lake, CA 93555

Edwards AFB, Mission Sustainability
Liaison
412 TW, Bldg 2750, Ste 117-14
195 East Popson Avenue
Edwards AFB, CA 93524

Eastern Kern Resource Cons Dist
300 South Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555-4436

Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX Office
75 Hawthorn Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

U.S. Dept of Agriculture/NRCS
5080 California Avenue, Ste 150
Bakersfield, CA 93309-0711

State Air Resources Board
Stationary Resource Division
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

So. San Joaquin Valley Arch Info Ctr
California State University of Bkfd
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Caltrans/Dist 6
Planning/Land Bank Bldg.
P.O. Box 12616
Fresno, CA 93778

Caltrans/Dist 9
Planning Department
500 South Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514

State Dept of Conservation
Director's Office
801 "K" Street, MS 24-01
Sacramento, CA 95814-3528

State Dept of Conservation
Geologic Energy Management Division
4800 Stockdale Highway, Ste 108
Bakersfield, CA 93309

California State University
Bakersfield - Library
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93309

California Energy Commission
James W. Reed, Jr.
1516 Ninth Street
Mail Stop 17
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Fish & Wildlife
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710

California Highway Patrol
Planning & Analysis Division
P.O. Box 942898
Sacramento, CA 94298-0001

Public Utilities Comm Energy Div
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

California Regional Water Quality
Control Board/Lahontan Region
15095 Amargosa Road - Bld 2, Suite 210
Victorville, CA 92392

Kern County
Agriculture Department

Kern County Airports Department

Kern County Administrative Officer

Kern County Public Works Department/
Building & Development/Floodplain

Kern County Public Works Department/
Building & Development/Survey

Kern County
Env Health Services Department

Kern County Fire Dept
Kain Linville, Fire Marshall

Kern County Fire Dept
Aaron Duncan, Fire Chief

Kern County Library/Beale
Andie Sullivan

Kern County Library
Mojave Branch
16916 1/2 Highway 14, Space D2
Mojave, CA 93501

Kern County Library/Beale
Local History Room

Kern County Sheriff's Dept
Administration

Kern County Public Works Department/
Building & Development/Development
Review

Kern County Parks & Recreation

Mojave Town Council
Bill Deaver, President
P.O. Box 1113
Mojave, CA 93502-1113

Mojave Unified School Dist
3500 Douglas
Mojave, CA 93501

Kern County Public Works
Department/Operations &
Maintenance/Regulatory Monitoring &
Reporting

KernCOG
1401 19th Street - Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Local Agency Formation Comm/LAFCO
5300 Lennox Avenue, Suite 303
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Attention School District Facility Services
1300 - 17th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

East Kern Air Pollution
Control District

Mojave Airport
1434 Flightline
Mojave, CA 93501

Kern County Water Agency
P.O. Box 58
Bakersfield, CA 93302-0058

East Kern Airport Dist Engineer
3900 Ridgemoor Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93306

Northcutt and Associates
4220 Poplar Street
Lake Isabella, CA 93240-9536

East Kern Airport Dist
Attention Stuart Witt
1434 Flightline
Mojave, CA 93501

U.S. Air Force
Attn: David Bell/AFCEC CZPW
Western Regional/Leg Branch
510 Hickam Avenue, Bld 250-A
Travis AFD, CA 94535-2729

U.S. Army
Attn: Philip Crosbie, Chief
Strategic Plans, S3, NTC
P.O. Box 10172
Fort Irwin, CA 92310

Adams, Broadwell, Joseph & Cardozo
Attention: Janet M. Laurain
601 Gateway Boulevard, Suite 1000
South San Francisco, CA 94080

U.S. Navy
Attn: Steve Chung, Plans & Liaison Officer
1220 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92132-5190

U.S. Marine Corps
Command Gen MCIWEST-MCB CamPen
Attn: A/CS, G7
Box 555010, Bldg 1160, Rm 280
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5246

U.S. Army
Attn: Tim Kilgannon, Reg 9 Coord
Office of Strategic Integration
721 - 19th Street, Room 427
Denver, CO 80202

Kern Audubon Society
Attn: Frank Bedard, Chairman
4124 Chardonnay Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93306

Los Angeles Audubon
926 Citrus Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036-4929

AT&T California
OSP Engineering/Right-of-Way
4901 Ashe Road
Bakersfield, CA 93313

Center on Race, Poverty
& The Environmental/
CA Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
1012 Jefferson Street
Delano, CA 93215

Defenders of Wildlife/
Kim Delfino, California Dir
980 - 9th Street, Suite 1730
Sacramento, CA 95814

Center on Race, Poverty
& The Environment
Attn: Marissa Alexander
1999 Harrison Street – Suite 650
San Francisco, CA 94612

Sierra Club/Kern Kaweah Chapter
P.O. Box 3357
Bakersfield, CA 93385

Southern California Edison
Planning Dept.
421 West "J" Street
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Native American Heritage Council
of Kern County
Attn: Gene Albitre
3401 Aslin Street
Bakersfield, CA 93312

Southern California Gas Co
Transportation Dept
9400 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91313-6511

David Laughing Horse Robinson
P.O. Box 20849
Bakersfield, CA 93390

Southern California Gas Co
35118 McMurtrey Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308-9477

Kern Valley Indian Council
Historic Preservation Office
P.O. Box 401
Weldon, CA 93283

Tejon Indian Tribe
Kathy Morgan, Chairperson
1731 Hasti-acres Drive, Suite 108
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Kern Valley Indian Council
Attn: Robert Robinson, Chairperson
P.O. Box 401
Weldon, CA 93283

Renewal Resources Group
Holding Company
Rupal Patel
113 South La Brea Avenue, 3rd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove, Ave, GO-1 Quad 2C
Rosemead, CA 91770

Terra-Gen Power, LLC
Randy Hoyle
11512 El Camino Real, Suite 370
San Diego, CA 92130-3025

Congentrix Sunshine, LLC
Rick Neff
9405 Arrowpoint Blvd
Charlotte, NC 28273

Fotowatio Renewable Ventures
Sean Kiernan
44 Montgomery Street, Suite 2200
San Francisco, CA 94104

David Walsh
22941 Banducci Road
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Lozeau Drury LLP
1939 Harrison Street, Suite 150
Oakland, CA 94612

Structure Cast
Larry Turpin, Precast Sales Manager
8261 McCutchen Road
Bakersfield, CA 93311

EDP Renewables Company
North America, LLC
53 SW Yamhill Street
Portland, OR 97204

Wind Stream, LLC
Albert Davies
1275 - 4th Street, No. 107
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Darren Kelly
Sr. Business Manager
Terra-Gen Power, LLC
1095 Ave of the Americas – FL 25, Ste A
New York, NY 10036-6797

Sarah K. Friedman
Beyond Coal Campaign/Sierra Club
1417 Calumet Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90026

State Dept of Public Health
Drinking Water Field Ops
265 W Bullard Avenue, Ste 101
Fresno, CA 93704-1755

Robert Burgett
9261 - 60th Street, West
Mojave, CA 93501

Bill Barnes
Dir of Asset Mgmt
AES Midwest Wind Gen
P.O. Box 2190
Palm Springs, CA 92263-2190

PG&E
Steven Ng, Manager
Renewal Dev, T&D Intercon
77 Beal Street, Room 5361
San Francisco, CA 94105

Wayne Mayes
Iberdrola Renewables
Dir Tech Serv
1125 NW Couch St, Ste 700, 7th Fl
Portland, OR 97209

Antelope Valley-East Kern
Water Agency
6500 West Avenue N
Palmdale, CA 93551

Recurrent Energy
Seth Israel
300 California Street, 8th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94101-1407

Kate Kelly
Kelly Group
P.O. Box 868
Winters, CA 95694

Michael Strickler
Iberdrola Renewables, Sr Proj Mgr
1125 NW Couch St, Ste 700, 7th Fl
Portland, OR 97209

LIUNA
Attn: Danny Zaragoza
2201 "H" Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Northcutt and Associates
4220 Poplar Street
Lake Isabella, CA 93240-9536

Carol Lawhon
Association Executive, IOM
Tehachapi Area Assoc of Realtors
803 Tucker Road
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP, Director
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Bakersfield, CA 93301-2323
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Web Address: <http://kernplanning.com/>



**PLANNING AND NATURAL
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Planning
Community Development
Administrative Operations

DATE: April 15, 2022

TO: Surrounding Property Owners within
1,000 Feet of Project Boundary; and
Interested Parties

FROM: Kern County Planning and Natural
Resources Department
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93311

**SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report – Capella Solar Energy
Project by Heliogen SR1, LLC (PP22153).**

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department has determined that preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is necessary for the proposed project identified below. The purpose of this letter is to notify interested parties and surrounding property owners within 1,000 feet of the project boundaries of this determination. A copy of the Initial Study/Notice of Preparation (IS/NOP) prepared for this proposed project is available for viewing at the following Kern County website:

<https://kernplanning.com/planning/notices-of-preparation/>

The purpose of the IS/NOP is to describe the proposed project, specify the project location, and to identify the potential environmental impacts of the project so that Responsible Agencies and interested persons can provide a meaningful response related to potential environmental concerns that should be analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report.

You are invited to view the NOP and submit written comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental information in connection with the proposed project should you wish to do so. Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be received by **May 16, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.** Comments can be submitted to the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department at the address shown above or to alvidrezk@kerncounty.com. A Scoping meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 5th, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.**, at the address listed above.

Please be advised that any comments received after the dates listed above will still be included in the public record for this project and made available to decision makers when this project is scheduled for consideration at a public hearing. Please also be advised that you will receive an additional notice in the mail once a public hearing date is scheduled for this project. You will also be provided additional opportunities to submit comments at that time.

PROJECT TITLE: Capella Solar Energy Project by Heliogen SR1, LLC (PP22153); PLN21-01618: ZCC No. 63, Map No. 213; CUP No. 70, Map No. 213; Non-Summary Street Vacation.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project site is located in the unincorporated area of southeastern Kern County, approximately 4.5 miles southeast of the unincorporated community of Mojave, 14 miles northwest of Edwards Air Force Base, and approximately 4 miles south of the Mojave Air and Space Port.

The project site is bordered by Silver Queen Road to the north, Division Street to the west, and an unpaved portion of East Laguna Avenue to the south, in Section 2 of Township 10 North, Range 12 West San Bernardino Meridian & Base

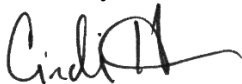
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Heliogen SR1, LLC (Heliogen) is proposing to design, construct, operate, maintain, and decommission an approximate 5-megawatt (MW) modular commercial concentrating solar power plant (CSP) with a supercritical CO₂ (sCO₂) power cycle and solid media thermal (TES), which is comprised of an approximately 117-acre field of computer-controlled heliostat mirrors focusing solar energy on receiver apertures on top of an approximate 330-foot-tall, centralized power tower, and ancillary structures, such as a 0.5-acre photovoltaic solar array, and a 9,800 square foot operations and maintenance building. The project would be operated as a test facility.

Implementation of the project as proposed includes the following requests:

- Zone Change Case No. 63, Map No. 213
 - From zone classification A-1 (Limited Agriculture) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) on approximately 142 acres.
- Issuance of Conditional Use Permit No. 70, Map No. 213
 - To allow for the construction and operation of a 5 MW concentrated thermal solar facility with an ancillary solar photovoltaic component and associated infrastructure.
- A request for a Non-Summary Vacation of a portion of Farlin Street within the project boundary.

Should you have any questions regarding this project, or the Initial Study/Notice of Preparation, please feel free to contact Keith Alvidrez, Planner I, by phone at (661) 862-5015 or email alvidrezk@kerncounty.com.

Sincerely,



Cindi Hoover
Division Chief – Plan Development & Special Projects
Planning and Natural Resources Department

By: Keith Alvidrez, Planner I










Attachments: Figure 1 – Vicinity Map

**ZZC 63, Map 213;
CUP 70, Map 213;
Street Vacation**

Vicinity Map

Heliogen SR1, LLC/ Max Margolin

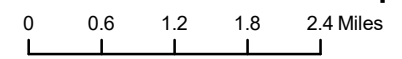
**Capella Solar
Energy Project**

-  Project Site
-  NAMED ROAD
-  STATE HWY
-  Arterials
-  Township/Range
-  Sections
-  Water Courses
-  City Limits
-  Unincorporated Cities

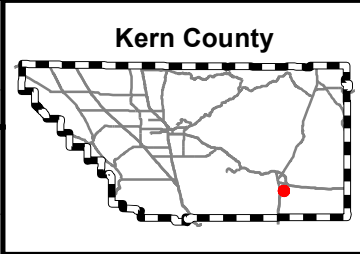
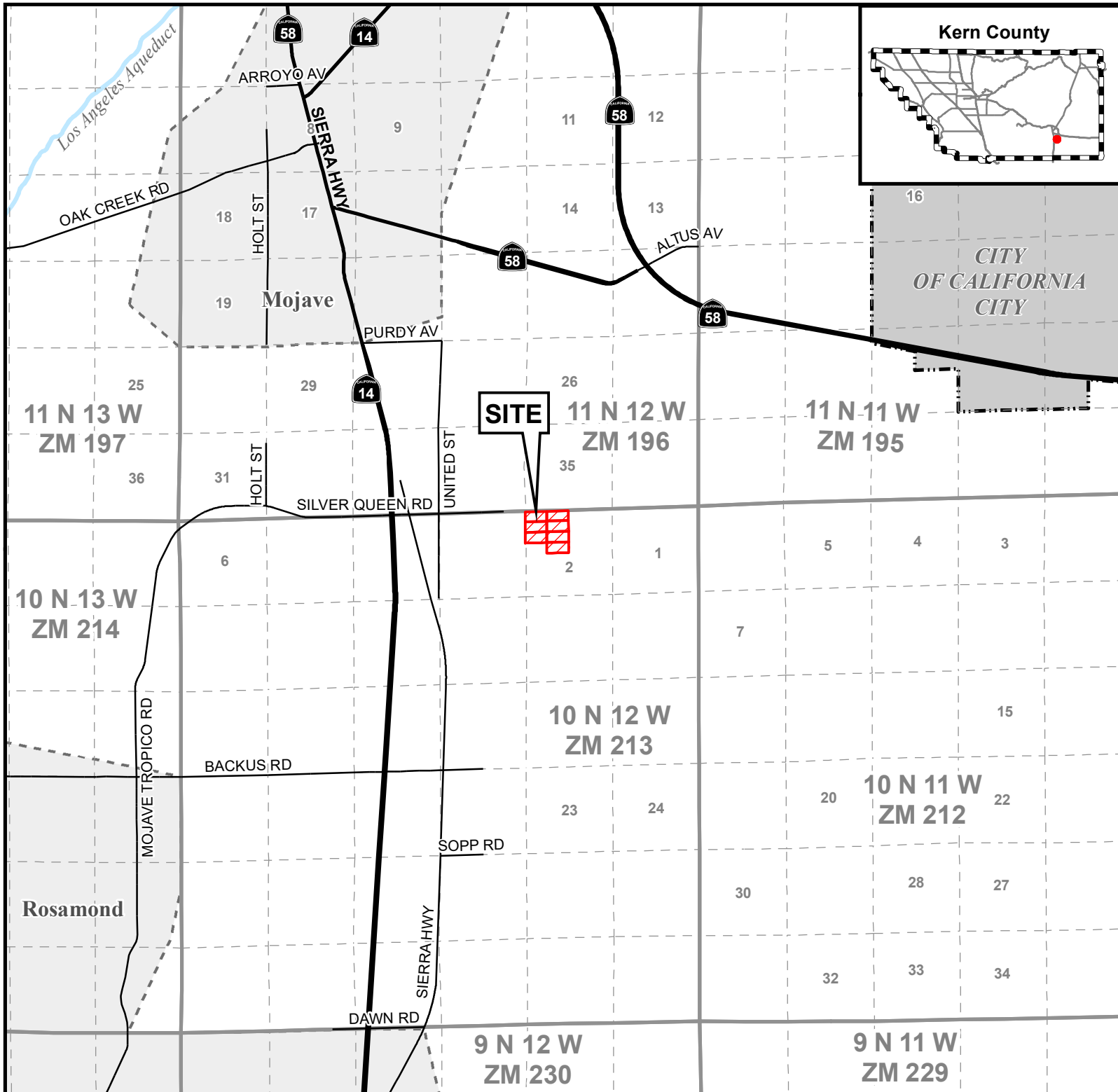
APN: 429-060-13 to 429-060-19

Sec. 2- T10N/R12W

Created on: 2/14/2022



**Kern County
Planning & Natural
Resources Department**



**CITY
OF CALIFORNIA
CITY**

SITE

11 N 13 W
ZM 197

11 N 12 W
ZM 196

11 N 11 W
ZM 195

10 N 13 W
ZM 214

10 N 12 W
ZM 213

10 N 11 W
ZM 212

Rosamond

9 N 12 W
ZM 230

9 N 11 W
ZM 229

429 070 45 00 7
AARABI REZA & SHAHIN R
5330 E HONEYWOOD LN
ANAHEIM CA 92807

429 101 20 00 9
AGUILERA ADOLFO A
9851 ANDORA AV
CHATSWORTH CA 91311

429 101 14 00 2
ALL FINANCE LLC
P O BOX 1350
TEHACHAPI CA 93581

429 101 18 00 4
ANDERSON JEFFERY C & PATRICIA
5145 VIA DANIEL
YORBA LINDA CA 92886

428 030 18 00 0
ANTELOPE VALLEY E KERN WTR AG
P O BOX 3176
QUARTZ HILL CA 93534

429 090 31 00 2
ARONSON MICHAEL B & JUDY TR
5331 SENECA PL
SIMI VALLEY CA 93063-2054

429 070 04 00 8
BERGER IRVING & BLANCHE
1438 49TH ST
BROOKLYN NY 11219-3201

429 081 03 00 5
CABOT THEODORE E & PRECY C
1380 FAIRY CHASM RD
KETCHIKAN AK 99901-6279

429 070 22 02 8
CAPETILLO JOSE SALVADOR &
ALMA LIDIA
464 REED AV
MOJAVE CA 93501

429 090 04 00 4
CAPETILLO LIANNE ARELI
464 REED AV
MOJAVE CA 93501

429 101 17 00 1
CENTURY DEVELOPMENT CORP
P O BOX 7076
EDMOND OK 73083

429 090 46 00 6
CHUA NOEL S
8 CULLEN DR
WEST ORANGE NJ 07052-1704

429 070 11 00 8
CONNOR L & G TRUST
5242 YALE AV
WESTMINSTER CA 92683-2733

428 030 33 00 3
COUNTY OF KERN
1115 TRUXTUN AV FLR 3
BAKERSFIELD CA 93301

429 101 29 00 6
COUNTY OF KERN
1115 TRUXTUN AV F-5
BAKERSFIELD CA 93301

429 081 01 00 9
DAVIS RANDOLPH S & MELINDA L
24 SYDNEY CI
HARPERS FERRY WV 25425

429 060 11 00 5
DEL SOL PROPERTIES INC
12121 WILSHIRE BL STE 600
LOS ANGELES CA 90025

429 070 23 00 3
DONAHOE DOUGLAS M &
KATHLEEN
PO BOX 1087
SUN CITY CA 92585-0087

429 060 02 00 9
DYAS ROBERT K & KATHRYN M
P O BOX 687
ROSAMOND CA 93560

429 090 39 00 6
FLAKE ROBERT J & LESLIE GAY
TRUST
15055 SW 150TH CT
BEAVERTON OR 97007-3618

429 102 05 00 3
FORECAST LAND CORP
PO BOX 36
WOODLAND HILLS CA 91365-0036

429 060 20 00 1
FOX THOMAS EUGENE & KAREN E
440 ABBEY PL
WOODLAND CA 95695-5419

429 081 08 00 0
GAINES HAROLD & LOIS J
1616 109TH PL
LOS ANGELES CA 90047

429 090 05 00 7
GALANG FAMILY TRUST
2631 WEST 225TH ST
TORRANCE CA 90505

429 081 02 00 2
GATES TRUST
8288 S. SYRACUSE CT
CENTENNIAL CO 80112-3246

429 090 47 00 9
GRONDIN EVANGELINE ET AL
978 ADIRONDACK PL
CHULA VISTA CA 91914-2653

429 081 09 00 3
HAWKINSON BRYAN
433 WILDERNESS TL
ROYSECITY TX 75189

429 070 01 00 9
IGL TRUST
965 50TH ST
BROOKLYN NY 11219-3310

429 060 05 00 8
JNB TRUST
4154 GEMSTONE AV
KINGMAN AZ 86401-7382

429 070 20 00 4
KABBASH GLORIA M
11640 KIOWA AV APT 210
LOS ANGELES CA 90049-6229

429 081 12 01 0
KLAN ERICH & OLGA M KLAN
LIVING TRUST
11889 N BLUE JAY CT
HAYDEN ID 83835-7959

429 060 03 00 2
KOVANDA EDWARD R & SHARON K
LIVING TRUST
PO BOX 453
SAN JUAN CAPIST CA 92693-0453

429 060 21 00 4
LAND PARCEL LIQUIDATORS INC
4765 PARK ENCINO LN U 333
ENCINO CA 91436-3276

429 090 07 00 3
LEE STEVEN & CHAN PUILAING
1776 S KING ST
SAN JOSE CA 95122

429 070 06 00 4
LESIN LENNY & ESTHER
14 RITA AV
MONSEY NY 10952

429 070 02 00 2
LIEBER LEO & SARAH
1558 49TH ST
BROOKLYN NY 11219-3211

429 081 04 00 8
MARTINEZ ROLANDO & SUSANA
9401 KAREN AV
CALIFORNIA CITY CA 93505-1225

429 090 38 00 3
MATLOCK ROBERT & THAO LY
PO BOX 56867
SHERMAN OAKS CA 91413-6867

429 081 05 00 1
MAYER FAMILY TRUST
5861 WESTMORELAND CI
WESTMINSTER CA 92683-3549

429 101 28 00 3
MINNIS RICHARD L & LEILA FAYE
315 BAHAMA DR
PALMETTO FL 34221

429 060 04 00 5
MIRANDA HORACE A & RUTH M
FAMILY TRUST
2259 CENTURY AV
RIVERSIDE CA 92506-4610

429 070 05 00 1
MYERS JAMES W JR & KIMBRA G
4550 CORONADO DR
OCEANSIDE CA 92057-4251

429 090 32 00 5
NGUYEN THANH
9386 WAYSIDE DR
SUNLAND CA 91040-1756

429 081 06 00 4
NOWAK DUANE & SUSAN LIV TR
1816 5TH PL
PORT HUENEME CA 93041

429 101 15 00 5
OAK INVESTMENTS LLC
P O BOX 2016
BEVERLY HILLS CA 90213

429 090 57 00 8
PALISOC SATURNINO D & GLORIA G
446 GINGER DOWNS
*

429 060 17 00 3
PEDERSEN FAMILY TRUST
3640 CALLE ESTRADA
LANCASTER CA 93536-6618

429 060 13 00 1
PEDERSEN JON
3640 CALLE ESTRADA
LANCASTER CA 93536-6618

429 102 06 00 6
PORTER HERMAN
2436 E 4TH ST # 122
LONG BEACH CA 90814

429 101 26 00 7
PREZIA JANET TRUST
17558 BURTON ST
NORTHRIDGE CA 91325

429 090 56 00 5
PW REAL EST VENTURES LLC
166 W WASHINGTON ST STE 730
CHICAGO IL 60602

429 101 16 00 8
RICHARDS PAMELA A SEPARATE
PROP TRUST
10095 SUNN CI
FOUNTAIN VALLEY CA 92708

429 060 06 00 1
ROGERS EUGENE L
4515 CALIFORNIA AV U 303
LONG BEACH CA 90807-1557

429 070 31 00 6
SASAKI FAMILY TRUST
4573 NORTH DELNO
FRESNO CA 93705

429 070 32 00 9
SATO JOHN REVOCABLE TRUST
5279 E TULARE
FRESNO CA 93727

429 090 03 00 1
SEIZED PROP
13312 RANCHERO RD STE 18
OAK HILLS CA 92344

429 090 02 00 8
SHARP DIOR
13638 BEHRENS AV
NORWALK CA 90650

429 090 48 00 2
SRISAILAN MALATHI M
7301 EL DOMINO WY # 3
BUENA PARK CA 90620

429 101 12 00 6
STATZER DONALD R & W JANELLE
1995 TRUST
1841 VALENCIA AV
CARLSBAD CA 92008-3862

429 070 42 00 8
STORY JEROME ANTHONY
16000 SHERMAN WY # 115
VAN NUYS CA 91406

429 060 10 00 2
SZYMANSKI PAUL A
5841 CORRAL WY
LA JOLLA CA 92037

429 070 12 00 1
TRUONG CHINH VIEN
25637 SIERRA BELLO CT
MORENO VALLEY CA 92551

429 090 55 00 2
TULABUT PROGRESSO G &
MARINA H
5838 ALTA VISTA AV
SAN DIEGO CA 92114

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P. O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # _____

Project Title: Capella Solar Energy Project by Heliogen SR1, LLC

Lead Agency: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department Contact Person: Keith Alvidrez

Mailing Address: 2700 "M" Street Suite 100 Phone: (661) 862-5015

City: Bakersfield Zip: 93301 County: Kern

Project Location: County: Kern City/Nearest Community: Mojave, California City

Cross Streets: Silver Queen Rd. and Division St. Zip Code: 93501

Lat. / Long.: 35.99357° N, 118.12765° W (NAD 83) Total Acres: 142

Assessor's Parcel No.: Multi Section: 2 Twp.: 10 N Range: 12 W Base: SBB&M

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: SR-14 Waterways: N/A

Airports: N/A Railways: N/A Schools: N/A

Document Type:

CEQA:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOP	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIR	NEPA:	<input type="checkbox"/> NOI	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Document
	<input type="checkbox"/> Early Cons	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplement/Subsequent EIR		<input type="checkbox"/> EA		<input type="checkbox"/> Final Document
	<input type="checkbox"/> Neg Dec	(Prior SCH No.) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIS		<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mit Neg Dec	Other _____		<input type="checkbox"/> FONSI		

Local Action Type:

<input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Update	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rezone	<input type="checkbox"/> Annexation
<input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Master Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Prezone	<input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment
<input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Element	<input type="checkbox"/> Planned Unit Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use Permit	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Permit
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Street Vacation</u>

Development Type:

<input type="checkbox"/> Residential: Units _____ Acres _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation: Type _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mining: Mineral _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Power: Type <u>Concentrated Solar</u> MW <u>5MW</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreational _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste: Type _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic/Visual	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation/Parks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vegetation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flood Plain/Flooding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools/Universities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Land/Fire Hazard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Septic Systems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Supply/Groundwater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archeological/Historical	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geologic/Seismic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sewer Capacity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetland/Riparian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minerals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Zone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Growth Inducing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drainage/Absorption	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing Balance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic/Hazardous	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic/Jobs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services/Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Circulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cumulative Effects
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>GHG, Wildfire, Tribal Cultural Resources, Energy</u>			

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation: Undeveloped / A-1 (Limited Agriculture) / 8.5 (Resource Management)

Project Description: Heliogen, SR1, LLC (Heliogen) is proposing to design, construct, operate, maintain, and decommission an approximate 5-megawatt (MW) modular commercial concentrating solar power plant (CSP) with a supercritical CO2 (sCO2) power cycle and solid media thermal (TES), which is comprised of an approximately 117-acre field of computer-controlled heliostat mirrors focusing solar energy on receiver apertures on top of an approximate 330-foot-tall, centralized power tower, and ancillary structures, such as a 0.5-acre photovoltaic solar array, and a 9,800 square foot operations and maintenance building. The project would be operated as a test facility.

Implementation of the project as proposed includes the following requests:

- Zone Change Case No. 63, Map No. 213
 - From zone classification A-1 (Limited Agriculture) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) on approximately 142 acres

- Issuance of Conditional Use Permit No. 70, Map No. 213
 - To allow for the construction and operation of a 5 MW concentrated thermal solar facility with an ancillary solar photovoltaic component and associated infrastructure.
- A request for a Non-Summary Vacation of a portion of Farlin Street within the project boundary.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
 If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

- | | |
|--|--|
| <u> S </u> Air Resources Board | <u> X </u> Office of Emergency Services |
| <u> </u> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <u> </u> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <u> </u> California Highway Patrol | <u> </u> Office of Public School Construction |
| <u> X </u> CalFire | <u> </u> Parks & Recreation |
| <u> S </u> Caltrans District # <u>6 & 9</u> | <u> </u> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <u> X </u> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <u> </u> Public Utilities Commission |
| <u> </u> Caltrans Planning (Headquarters) | <u> S </u> Regional WQCB # <u>Lahontan</u> |
| <u> </u> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <u> X </u> Resources Agency |
| <u> </u> Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy | <u> </u> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission |
| <u> </u> Coastal Commission | <u> </u> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers and Mtns Conservancy |
| <u> </u> Colorado River Board | <u> </u> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <u> S </u> Conservation, Department of | <u> </u> Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy |
| <u> </u> Corrections, Department of | <u> </u> State Lands Commission |
| <u> </u> Delta Protection Commission | <u> </u> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <u> </u> Education, Department of | <u> X </u> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <u> S </u> Energy Commission | <u> </u> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <u> S </u> Fish & Game Region # <u>Fresno</u> | <u> </u> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <u> </u> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <u> X </u> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <u> </u> General Services, Department of | <u> S </u> Water Resources, Department of |
| <u> </u> Health Services, Department of | <u> </u> Other _____ |
| <u> </u> Housing & Community Development | <u> </u> Other _____ |
| <u> </u> Integrated Waste Management Board | |
| <u> X </u> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date April 15, 2022 Ending Date May 16, 2022

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____	Applicant: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____	City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: _____	Phone _____
Phone: _____	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____ /s/ _____ **Date:** 04/15/2022
 Cindi Hoover, Division Chief

NOTICE OF PREPARATION/INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Capella Solar Energy Project by Heliogen SR1, LLC

Zone Change No. 63, Map No. 213
Conditional Use Permit No. 70, Map No. 213
Non-Summary Street Vacation

PLN21-01618
(PP22153)

LEAD AGENCY:



Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
2700 M Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2370

Contact: Keith Alvidrez
(661) 862-5015
AlvidrezK@kerncounty.com

April 2022

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INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department (County) will initiate the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Capella Solar Energy Project in the unincorporated area of southeastern Kern County, California.

1. Project Description

1.1. Project Location

The proposed Capella Solar Energy Project (proposed project) is a proposal by Heliogen SR1, LLC (project proponent) to construct and operate a 5-megawatt (MW) concentrated solar thermal facility with an ancillary solar photovoltaic component on approximately 142-acres of private land across seven (7) parcels, located in the unincorporated area of southeastern Kern County, California.

The proposed project is bordered by Silver Queen Road to the north, Division Street to the west, and an unpaved portion of East Laguna Avenue to the south in Sections 2 of Township 10 North Range 12 West San Bernardino Meridian & Base. The project site is currently undeveloped and is solely within the jurisdiction of Kern County. The project site is situated approximately 4.5 miles southeast of the unincorporated community of Mojave, 14 miles northwest of Edwards Air Force Base, and approximately 4 miles south of Mojave Air Space and Port, which is a Kern County-owned industrial park supporting companies engaged in flight development and aerospace design. It is also approximately 1.5 miles east of State Route (SR) 14 and approximately 2.9 miles south of SR 58. Please see *Figure 1: Regional Vicinity Map* and *Figure 2: Aerial & Project Site Boundaries*.

As previously mentioned, the project site is made up of seven (7) privately owned parcels (Assessor Parcel Numbers [APNs]: 429-060-13, 429-060-14, 429-060-15, 429-060-16, 429-060-17, 429-060-18, and 429-060-19) totaling approximately 142-acres of undeveloped land, as it contains no buildings or structures. Please see *Figure 3: Existing Parcel Map*. Primary access to the project site would be from SR 14 by way of Silver Queen Road. Minor road improvements may be needed along a portion of Silver Queen Road to accommodate delivery and construction traffic to allow for continuous operations at the adjacent County Landfill. Transportation and construction contractors would obtain all necessary permits for transportation-related elements of the proposed project from California Department of Transportation. The proposed project includes a request for a Non-Summary Vacation of Farlin Street, a public access easement located within the project boundary. Please see *Figure 4: Proposed Road Vacation*.

1.2. Environmental Setting

The project site is situated in the southeastern corner of the desert region, in unincorporated Kern County. Kern County is California's third largest County in land area and encompasses approximately 8,200 square miles. The County's geography includes, among other features, mountainous areas, agricultural lands, and deserts. The County's current estimated population is 914,193 residents. The project site is located within a rural area of eastern Kern County and is currently undeveloped. As previously mentioned, the project site is located approximately 1.5 miles east of SR 14 and approximately 2.9 miles south of SR 58. Undeveloped land surrounds the project site to the north, east and south, with the Mojave-Rosamond landfill located immediately to the west. Rural residential land uses occur south of the project site, with the closest residence approximately 0.4 mile away. A chemical plant is located approximately 1 mile west of the project site at United Street and an existing utility-scale solar PV facility is located west of SR-14. Other solar



development projects are located to the south of the project site. Access to the site would be provided from Silver Queen Road.

The habitat types within the project area are best described as a mixture of Mojavean desert scrub and chenopod scrub interspersed with Joshua Tree Woodlands (*Yucca brevifolia*). Desert plant communities in the vicinity of the Project area have been subject to a variety of land use changes including grazing, housing, industrial and commercial development, and landfills. Soils in the area are characterized as sandy to gravelly, with the northwest corner of the site containing Rosamond composition whereas the balance of the site contains the Adelanto composition.

The project site is within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Mojave Specific Plan, and as shown in *Table 1: Project Assessor Parcel Numbers, Existing Map Codes, Existing Zoning, and Acreage* is designated as Map Code 8.5 (Resource Management) and located within the A-1 (Limited Agriculture) zone district. However, the map code designation and zoning classification for the project site is inconsistent, therefore, the project will require a Zone Classification Change from A-1 (Limited Agriculture) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) to provide consistency between the Map Code designation and Zone classification.

**Table 1:
 Project Assessor Parcel Numbers, Existing Map Codes, Existing and Proposed Zoning, and Acreage**

APN	Existing Map Code Designation	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	APN Acres
429-060-13	8.5 (Resource Management)	A-1 (Limited Agriculture)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)	20.50
429-060-14	8.5 (Resource Management)	A-1 (Limited Agriculture)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)	20.44
429-060-15	8.5 (Resource Management)	A-1 (Limited Agriculture)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)	20.43
429-060-16	8.5 (Resource Management)	A-1 (Limited Agriculture)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)	18.72
429-060-17	8.5 (Resource Management)	A-1 (Limited Agriculture)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)	18.68
429-060-18	8.5 (Resource Management)	A-1 (Limited Agriculture)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)	20.38
429-060-19	8.5 (Resource Management)	A-1 (Limited Agriculture)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)	20.40
Project Totals				139.55

Surrounding Land Uses

Table 2: Existing Project Site and Surrounding Properties, Existing Land Use, Specific Plan Map Code Designations, and Zoning, identifies the existing land use, the existing specific plan land use designations, and the existing zoning for the project site. Additionally, such conditions are described for adjacent lands to the north, east, south, and west of the project site.



**Table 2:
 Existing Project Sites and Surrounding Properties, Existing Land Use, Specific Plan Map Code Designations, and Zoning**

Location	Existing Land Use	Existing Specific Plan Map Code Designations	Existing Zoning
Project Site	Undeveloped	8.5 (Resource Management)	A-1 (Limited Agriculture)
North	Undeveloped	3.4.1 (Solid Waste Facility Buffer)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
South	Undeveloped	8.5 (Resource Management)	A-1 (Exclusive Agriculture); A-1 FPS (Limited Agriculture, Floodplain Secondary Combining District)
East	Undeveloped	5.6 (Residential Min 2.5 Gross Acres/Unit); 8.5 (Resource Management)	A-1 (Exclusive Agriculture); A-1 MH (Limited Agriculture, Mobile Home Combining District)
West	Undeveloped/ Landfill	3.4.1 (Solid Waste Facility Buffer); 8.5 (Resource Management)	A-1 (Limited Agriculture); A (Exclusive Agriculture)

The project site is designated as Zone “X” on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) as issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which indicates the site is not in an area of flood hazard. Flood hazards in the area are shown to be approximately two (2) miles northeast and two (2) miles southwest of the site. The project site is not identified as a wetland area on the National Wetlands Inventory.

Development in the area surrounding the project site is primarily industrial and residential, with predominantly vacant land designation for agriculture purposes. However, the project site is not designated by the California Department of Conservation (DOC) as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland. Additionally, none of the seven (7) proposed parcels are subjected to a Williamson Act Land Use contract. Although the project site is located within the boundary of Agriculture Preserve Number 24.

There are no identified State-designated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones within the project site and the nearest active fault is the Garlock Fault, which is located approximately 15 miles to the northwest of the project site. Additionally, the project site is not within a mineral recovery area or within a designated mineral and petroleum resource site designated by the Kern County Mojave Specific Plan, nor is it identified as a mineral resource zone by the Department of Conservation’s State Mining and Geology Board. The project site is not located within the County’s NR (Natural Resources) or PE (Petroleum Extraction) Zone Districts and based on a review of records maintained by the California Department of



Conservation/California Department of Conservation Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), there are no wells identified on site.

The proposed project would be served by the Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) for law enforcement and public safety, the Kern County Fire Department (KCFD) for fire protection, and the Kern County Medical Emergency Service for emergency medical and rescue services. The nearest KCSO substation and KCFD fire station (Station No. 14) that would serve the project are both located in the community of Mojave, approximately 5 miles north of the project site. The nearest hospitals are the Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley Hospital at 1100 Magellan Drive and the Dignity Health Hospital at 707 West Valley Boulevard in the city of Tehachapi, approximately 25 miles northwest of the site. The nearest school is approximately 5 miles north of the proposed project site, which is Mojave Jr./Sr. High at 15732 O Street.

The proposed project is not located within an Airport Sphere of Influence (SOI) of any existing airport, per the Kern County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP). The nearest airports are the Rosamond Sky Park approximately 10 miles southwest of the site and the Mojave Air and Space port approximately 10 miles north of the site. The project is located within the R-2508 Complex area requiring military review for any structure over 100 feet in height, as identified in the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, Figure 19.08.160.

1.3. Project Description

Project Overview

Heliogen SR1, LLC (Heliogen) is proposing to design, construct, operate, maintain, and decommission an approximate 5-megawatt (MW) modular commercial concentrating solar power plant (CSP) with a supercritical CO₂ (sCO₂) power cycle and solid media thermal (TES), which is comprised of an approximately 117-acre field of computer-controlled heliostat mirrors focusing solar energy on receiver apertures on top of an approximate 330-foot-tall, centralized power tower. The project would be operated as a test facility. Other associated infrastructure would include a solar photovoltaic array, an operational and maintenance building, and internal roads, which are described in detail in Section 1.4.

Implementation of the project as proposed includes the following requests:

- Zone Change Case No. 63, Map No. 213
 - From zone classification A-1 (Limited Agriculture) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) on approximately 142 acres.
- Issuance of Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 70, Map No. 213
 - To allow for the construction and operation of a 5 MW concentrated solar facility with an ancillary solar photovoltaic component and associated infrastructure.
- A request for a Non-Summary Vacation of a portion of Farlin Street within the project boundary.

At the end of the project's operational term, the project proponent would determine whether the project site should be decommissioned and deconstructed or if it would seek an extension of its CUP. If any portion of the project site is decommissioned, it would be converted to other uses in accordance with the applicable land use regulations in effect at that time. The project has an anticipated operational life of up approximately 30 years.



The EIR/EA Process

The proposed project is located on land administered by Kern County. The United States Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) has competitively selected the proposed project for a financial assistance award. The project proponent requires various authorizations and permits from Kern County to construct and operate the proposed project. Issuance of the financial assistance award from the DOE would provide funding for the construction and operation of the proposed project. In order to consider issuance of these authorizations, permits, and DOE financial award, Kern County and the DOE will prepare a joint Environmental Information Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA). The County will prepare the EIR pursuant to CEQA requirements and the DOE will prepare an EA pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Based on these requirements, the joint EIR/EA will be prepared under the direction of both agencies to satisfy the permitting and decision-making requirements of each agency. CEQA and NEPA also require that the EIR/EA development process include public notice of the proposed project to address concerns that the public has identified regarding the proposed project during a process referred to as public scoping. The issuance of this NOP/Initial Study (IS) commences the EIR scoping process pursuant to CEQA requirements, and also satisfies the NEPA scoping process for the EA.

The analysis of the proposed project will result in the publication of a draft EIR/EA and a final EIR/EA. A comment period of a minimum of 45 days will be allocated for the review of the draft EIR/EA. A notice of availability of the draft EIR/EA will be sent to the State Clearinghouse by Kern County and the DOE will publish a separate notice for the EA pursuant to NEPA requirements. Kern County and the DOE will consider all comments on the draft EIR/EA before a final EIR/EA is issued. The final EIR/EA will include responses to comments received during the public review period on the draft EIR/EA.

1.4. Project Facilities, Construction, and Operations

Project Facilities

The project facilities would include the following components, which are described in greater detail thereafter:

- Controlled Heliostat Mirrors
- Centralized Power Tower
- Solar Photovoltaic Array
- Operations and Maintenance Building
- Internal Roads

Controlled Heliostat Mirror Configuration

The project would have approximately 21,900 heliostat mirrors that will track the sun throughout the day to reflect the solar energy to the receiver apertures. The size for each of those heliostat mirrors would be approximately 63 inches long by 47 inches wide made from galvanized tubing, steel cabling, annealed mirrored glass, plexiglass, electric cabling, and concrete. Installation of the heliostat mirrors are to be placed by a team of trained technicians where they would be ballasted by concrete that is poured onsite. The configuration of the heliostat mirrors would reach a height of approximately 57 inches tall and would be controlled by a software that continuously determines and updates the orientation from surveying the landscape through a series of cameras mounted at the top of the centralized power tower.



Centralized Power Tower

In the receiver aperture, 1mm carbo-ceramic particles are heated and then flown down a chute to be collected in the insulated hot silo. When energy is required, the hot silo particles flow down through a heat exchanger to heat a working fluid contained in a closed system. The working fluid will pass through a turbine to drive an electrical generator. The sealed power block only ejects energy into the generator or to a dry cooler. In certain very high temperature instances, a fine mist would be introduced into the air stream passing through the dry cooler to aid cooling. After the heat exchanger particles are collected in a hopper and then transported via skip hoist to the top of a cold silo where they are temporarily stored. During plant operation a second skip hoist recollects particles from the cold silo and returns them to the receiver to be reheated.

Solar Photovoltaic Array

The project would also include a small, approximately 0.5-acre PV solar field in the southeast corner of the project site. The PV field will provide the auxiliary power to the electrical systems onsite by generating direct-current (DC) electricity through a series of solar PV modules connected to one another on ground-mounted single-axis tracking structures. The tracking pivots rotate the panels from east to west during the day to increase the capture of solar energy and have pivoting range of up to 120 degrees. Where needed, the post length and associated pivot location would be designed with sufficient clearance to accommodate the relevant design storm and associated freeboard requirement. The panels would stow horizontally during nighttime and as operational conditions dictate. The maximum height of the single axis tracker would be up to 7-feet above grade at the beginning and end of each day.

Operations and Maintenance Facilities

The project would construct an onsite operation and maintenance facilities with an approximate footprint of 9,800 square feet that would include a control/administrative building, warehouse, leach field, electrical building, and 12 parking spaces at the main entrance of the project site. It would be located at the junction of Silver Queen Road and Farlin Street with three (3) full-time employees, assuming operation is five (5) days a week.

Internal Roads

Farlin Street is an existing public access easement running north-south through the project site. The project would include a request to vacate the public access easement for Farlin Street as the road would be used for internal project operations. Within the proposed project site, two additional access roads would be constructed; one road would run from the center power tower to the northeast and the second road would run from the center power tower southeast to the solar PV field. These internal access roads would be about 20 feet wide and constructed of compacted native soil.

Site Access and Security

As previously mentioned, the proposed project site is bordered by the of Silver Queen Road, Division Street, and East Laguna Avenue. Silver Queen Road is unpaved from the Kern County Mojave-Rosamond Landfill to the proposed project site approximately 2,000 feet east. Division Street and East Laguna Avenue are also unpaved. The main entrance to the project site is located at the junction of Silver Queen Road and Farlin Street, which is an existing public access easement approximately half a mile east of Division Street that would be vacated as part of the project. A new access road is proposed to be constructed from East Laguna Avenue and connect to Farlin Street south of the project site. Minor road improvements would be needed to accommodate delivery and construction traffic to allow continuous operations at the adjacent County



landfill. Employees and delivery drivers would follow posted speed limits or other reduced speeds as appropriate for safety.

A 6-foot-tall security fence would extend around the entire project site boundary. The fence posts may be set in concrete. Security cameras may also be installed at the site and be monitored at an off-site location. Security lighting would be installed around the site.

Stormwater Management

At this preliminary stage of site design, it has not been determined whether on-site stormwater management facilities, such as detention ponds, would be necessary. This will be determined through further hydrological analysis and if required, these facilities will be described and addressed in the EIR.

Construction Activities

Construction of the project is expected to occur between November 2022 and February 2024 and would last for approximately 15 months. There is no construction phasing proposed for this project and would proceed following receipt of all permits and agency approvals. It would include the following activities (listed in sequential order; some activities would occur simultaneously):

- Joshua Tree relocation;
- Surveying, staking, and installation of erosion control measures;
- Access road construction within the site;
- Site grading;
- Assembling array foundation/installing solar array fields;
- Constructing power tower and associated facilities;
- Constructing operational facilities (e.g., control/administrative building, warehouse, parking spaces, and leach field);
- Installing security fencing;
- Commissioning; and,
- Restoring temporarily disturbed areas.

Schedule and Workforce

Project construction would utilize temporary construction access through gates on the northwest portion of Silver Queen Road and Division Street. The temporary construction laydown and staging areas would be in the northwestern corner of the project site. The foundations of the heliostat field would be up to 7 feet in depth. Excavation for the power tower would be up to 20 feet in depth.

Construction would generally occur between 5:00 AM and 6:00 PM, depending on the time of year, five or six days per week, for the duration of construction. Additional hours might be necessary to make up schedule deficiencies or to complete critical construction activities. Low level noise activities may potentially occur between the hours of 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM. Nighttime activities could potentially



include, but are not limited to, refueling equipment, staging equipment and material for the following day's construction activities, quality assurance/control, and commissioning.

During construction, workers would park in the temporary staging area and would have the option to drive their own automobiles to the project site, however, employees would be encouraged to carpool. Construction vehicles and equipment would be stored in the temporary laydown area when not in use.

The on-site construction workforce would consist of laborers (skilled and unskilled), craftsmen, supervisory personnel, support personnel, and construction management personnel. The construction workforce is expected to range from 150 to 250 on-site personnel.

Site Preparation, Earthwork and Construction Control Measures

The project site is mostly flat and would require minimal grading and any sediment and erosion controls would be installed in accordance with an approved Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Project grading would be minimized to the extent feasible to reduce unnecessary soil disturbance and movement. Earthwork would require the use of scrapers, excavators, dozers, water trucks, paddlewheels, haul vehicles, and graders. Proposed grading would balance on-site and import, or export of soils would not be required.

Dust-minimizing techniques, such as watering active construction sites would occur and would be based on the type of operation, soil, and wind exposure. Prohibition of grading activities during periods of high wind (over 20 miles per hour), limiting vehicle speed on-site to 15 miles per hour, and covering trucks hauling dirt, sand, or loose materials would be implemented as needed.

Noise-generating construction activities would be limited to construction hours allowed by the County's noise ordinance. All stationary construction equipment that may result in excessive noise or vibration levels would be operated away from sensitive noise receptors to the extent feasible. Construction activities would occur such that maximum noise levels at affected sensitive noise receptors (i.e., rural residential uses) would not exceed the County's adopted noise threshold levels.

Applicable local, State, and federal requirements and best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented during the construction phase. Consistent with the County zoning ordinance and with guidelines provided in the California Stormwater Quality Association's Construction Best Management Practice Handbook, BMPs would be implemented, including preparation of a SWPPP and a soil erosion and sedimentation control plan to reduce the potential for erosion and to minimize effects on stormwater quality. Stabilized construction entrances and exits would be installed at the entrances to each site to reduce the tracking of sediment onto adjacent public roadways. All site preparation would occur in conformance with County BMPs and East Kern Air Pollution Control District rules for dust control.

Construction Water Use

The water would be trucked and stored on-site to be primarily used for dust suppression, soil compaction, concrete hydration and other miscellaneous activities requiring non-potable water during construction. Water would be delivered via truck from the Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) that is within the project vicinity. During the 15-month construction period, it is estimated that the project would require up to 47.9 acre-feet of water.

Bottled water would be provided to the construction workers for consumption. Additionally, on-site restroom facilities for the construction workers would be provided by portable units to be serviced by



licensed providers. No connection to a public sewer system is proposed or required for project construction or operation.

Operations

The solar field would be put into operation each morning after sunrise and insolation build-up and shut down in the evening when insolation drops. No gen-tie line would be constructed to deliver energy off-site or to the grid. Therefore, energy produced by the CSP facility would remain onsite.

Within the heliostat field, operations would include routine washing of mirrors on a continuous basis, with every heliostat being cleaned each 15 days. Washing would utilize water accessed from AVEK, and no additives or detergents will be required. Operational water demands, which include system washing and operation of the proposed on-site facilities, would total approximately 4.6 AFY.

Maintenance would also include clipping of vegetation that could interfere with mirror movement to a height of 12-18 inches. The proposed project would be designed for an operational life of 30 years.

Project Features and Best Management Practices

The following sections describe project features and best management practices that would be applied during construction and long-term operation of the project to maintain safety and minimize or avoid environmental impacts.

Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials Management

The proposed project would have minimal levels of materials on-site that have been defined as hazardous under 40 CFR, Part 261. Materials such as the following would be used during the construction, operation, and long-term maintenance of the proposed project:

Diesel fuel, gasoline and motor oil – used for electrical equipment

Mineral oil – to be sealed within the transformers

Various solvents/detergents – equipment cleaning

Hazardous materials and wastes would be managed, used, handled, stored, and transported in accordance with applicable local and State regulations. All hazardous wastes would be maintained at quantities below the threshold requiring a Hazardous Material Management Program (HMMP) (one 55-gallon drum). Though not expected, should any on-site storage of hazardous materials exceed one 55-gallon drum, an HMMP would be prepared and implemented.

Any wastes classified as hazardous such as solvents, degreasing agents, concrete curing compounds, paints, adhesives, chemicals, or chemical containers would be stored (in an approved storage facility/shed/structure) and disposed of as required by local and state regulations. Material quantities of hazardous wastes are not proposed or anticipated to be used.

Non-Hazardous Wastes/Inert Solids

Inert solid wastes resulting from construction activities may include recyclable items such as paper, cardboard, solid concrete and block, metals, wire, glass, type 1-4 plastics, drywall, wood, and lubricating oils. Non-recyclable items include insulation, other plastics, food waste, vinyl flooring and base, carpeting, paint containers, packing materials, and other construction wastes. A Construction Waste Management Plan will be prepared for review by the County. Consistent with local regulations and the California Green



Building Code, the Plan would provide for diversion of a minimum of 50 percent of construction waste from landfills.

Wastewater/Septic System

A standard on-site septic tank and leach field would be used at the proposed administrative building to dispose of sanitary wastewater from sinks and lavatories, designed to meet operation and maintenance guidelines required by Kern County laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards. The septic system and leach field would be sized according to the number of employees.

Health and Safety

The proposed project would adhere to all Kern County Improvement Standards to ensure accessibility for emergency vehicles and safe operation during construction on project operation. The proposed project would implement measures for worker safety during construction in accordance with California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CalOSHA) regulations and guidance and other best management practices. The proposed project would have an Emergency Response Plan (ERP). The ERP would address potential emergencies including chemical releases, fires, and injuries. All employees would be provided with communication devices, cell phones, or walkie-talkies, to provide aid in the event of an emergency.

To help ensure safety procedures are following, the proposed project would include safety training for construction workers and operational personnel. This would include both classroom and hands-on training in operating and maintenance procedures, general safety items, and the planned maintenance program. Training would include emergency procedures, fire prevention, and discussion of the location and proper use of emergency equipment. In addition, contact numbers for various local emergency response agencies, including fire, police, and medical services would be provided, and instruction for communication procedures to report potential health hazards and concerns would be a part of the training.

The proposed project also would include training on procedures to preventing electrical hazards that would reduce the potential for igniting combustible materials. The project also would limit areas where employees can smoke and parking areas for personal vehicles, heavy equipment, and for operations and maintenance employees would be provided over paved or unpaved surfaces at a safe distance from dry vegetation. In addition, heavy equipment also would also be equipped with other mechanisms such spark arresters or turbocharging (which eliminates sparks in exhaust). Lastly, all project vehicles would be equipped with fire extinguishers, and training on their maintenance and how to extinguish small fires would be provided

As discussed above, these safety precautions and emergency systems would be implemented as part of, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project to ensure safe and reliable operation.

Decommissioning

The proposed project has an anticipated operational life of up to 30 years, after which the project proponent may choose to update site technology and recommission, or to decommission the site and remove the systems and their components. All decommissioning and restoration activities would adhere to the requirements of the appropriate governing authorities and in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and County regulations in effect at that time.

It is anticipated that during project decommissioning, project structures that would not be needed for subsequent use would be removed from the project site. The site would then revert to undeveloped land



that supports wildlife habitat. The decommissioning and restoration process involves removing above ground structures, restoring topsoil, revegetation, and seeding. Additionally, temporary erosion and sedimentation control BMPs would also be used during the decommissioning phase.

Equipment would be de-energized prior to removal, salvaged (where possible), placed in appropriate shipping containers, and secured for transportation to be recycled or disposed of at an appropriately licensed disposal facility. Once the PV modules from the solar array fields and Heliostat Mirrors are removed, the centralized power tower will be disassembled, and all supporting facilities will be removed accordingly. Site infrastructure would be removed, including fences, and any concrete pads used for support. The demolition debris and removed equipment may be cut or dismantled into pieces that can be safely lifted or carried by standard construction equipment. Project roads would be restored to their pre-construction condition unless they may be used for subsequent land use. The area would be thoroughly cleaned, and all debris removed. The development areas would be restored to pre-construction conditions and all materials would be recycled to the extent feasible, with the remainder disposed of in landfills in compliance with all applicable laws.

1.5. Project Objectives

The project proponent had defined the following objectives for the proposed project:

- Design, build, operate, and test the first modular commercial concentrating solar power (CSP) plant with a supercritical CO₂ (sCO₂) power cycle and solid media thermal energy storage (TES) with the U.S. Department of Energy.
- Test the efficacy of sCO₂ power cycles operating with TES systems with solar thermal heating as a full commercial CSP plant.
- Test and implement a new solar power technology to assist the State of California in achieving their Renewable Portfolio Standards per Senate Bill (SB) 100 mandates.

1.6. Proposed Discretionary Actions/Required Approvals

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department as the CEQA Lead Agency (per CEQA Guidelines Section 15052) and the United States Department of Energy (DOE), as the federal Lead Agency for the proposed project under NEPA, has discretionary responsibility for the Capella Solar Energy Project. The proposed project is owned by Heliogen SR1, LLC. To implement this project, the project proponent may need to obtain the following discretionary and ministerial permits/approvals:

- Federal
 - Department of Energy
 - NEPA Record of Decision
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Section 10 Incidental Take Permit and Habitat Conservation Plan (if required).
- State
 - California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
 - Section 2081 Permit (State-listed endangered species) (if required)



- Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
 - Regional Water Quality Certification (401 Permit) (if required)
 - National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit
 - General Construction Stormwater Permit (Preparation of a SWPPP)
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
 - Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit (if required)
 - Permit for Transport of Oversized Loads
- Local
 - Kern County
 - Certification of Final Environmental Impact Report
 - Adoption of Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
 - Adoption of 15091 Findings of Fact and 15093 Statement of Overriding Considerations
 - Approval of Zone Change
 - Approval of Conditional Use Permit
 - Approval of Kern County Grading and Building Permits
 - Approval of Kern County Encroachment Permits
 - Approval of Fire Safety Plan
 - East Kern Air Pollution Control District
 - Approval of Fugitive Dust Control Plan
 - Authority to Construct (ATC)
 - Permit to Operate (PTO)

The preceding discretionary actions/approvals are potentially required and do not necessarily represent a comprehensive list of all possible discretionary permits/approvals required. Other additional permits or approvals from responsible agencies may be required for the proposed project.



Figure 1: Regional Vicinity Map

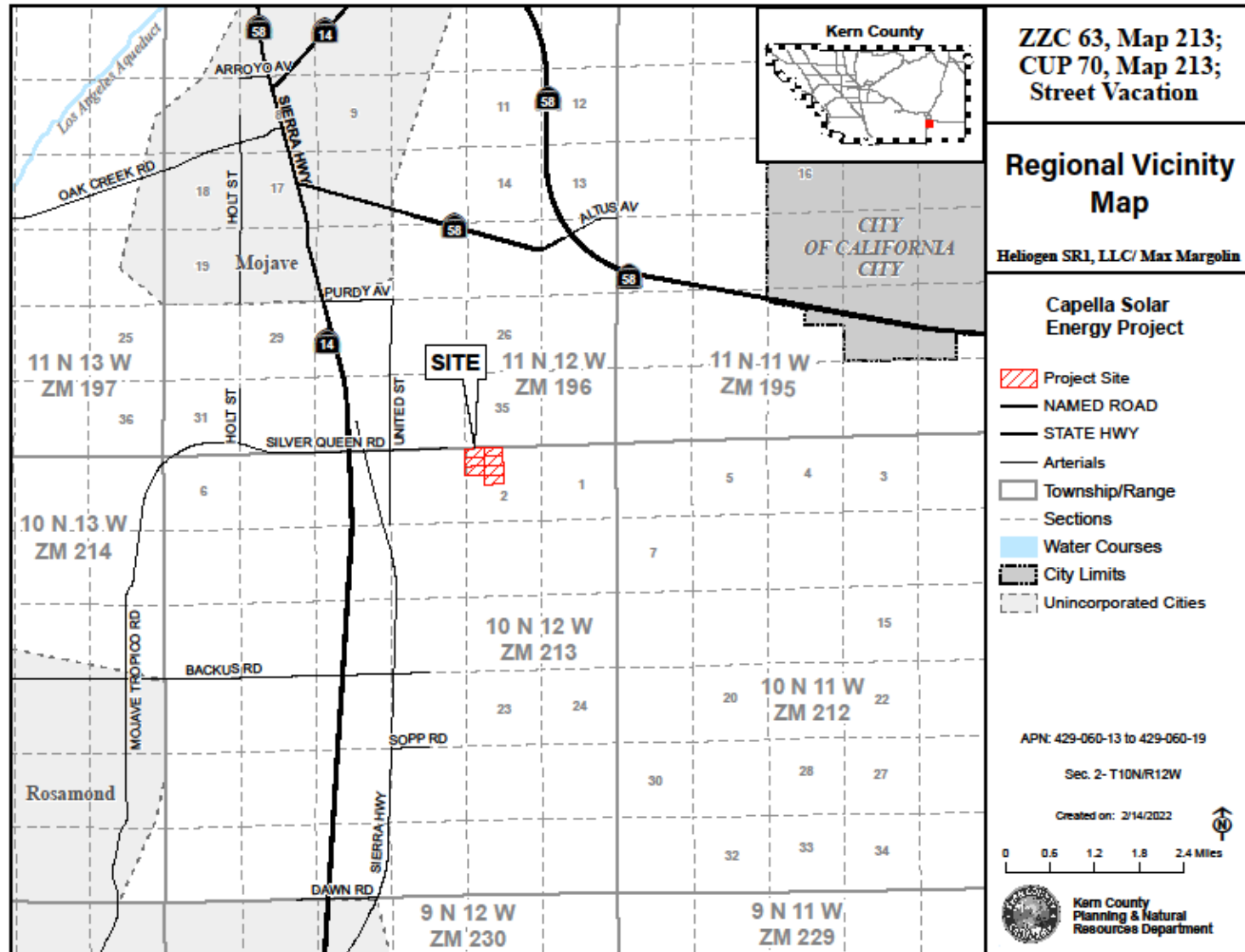




Figure 2: Aerial & Project Site Boundaries

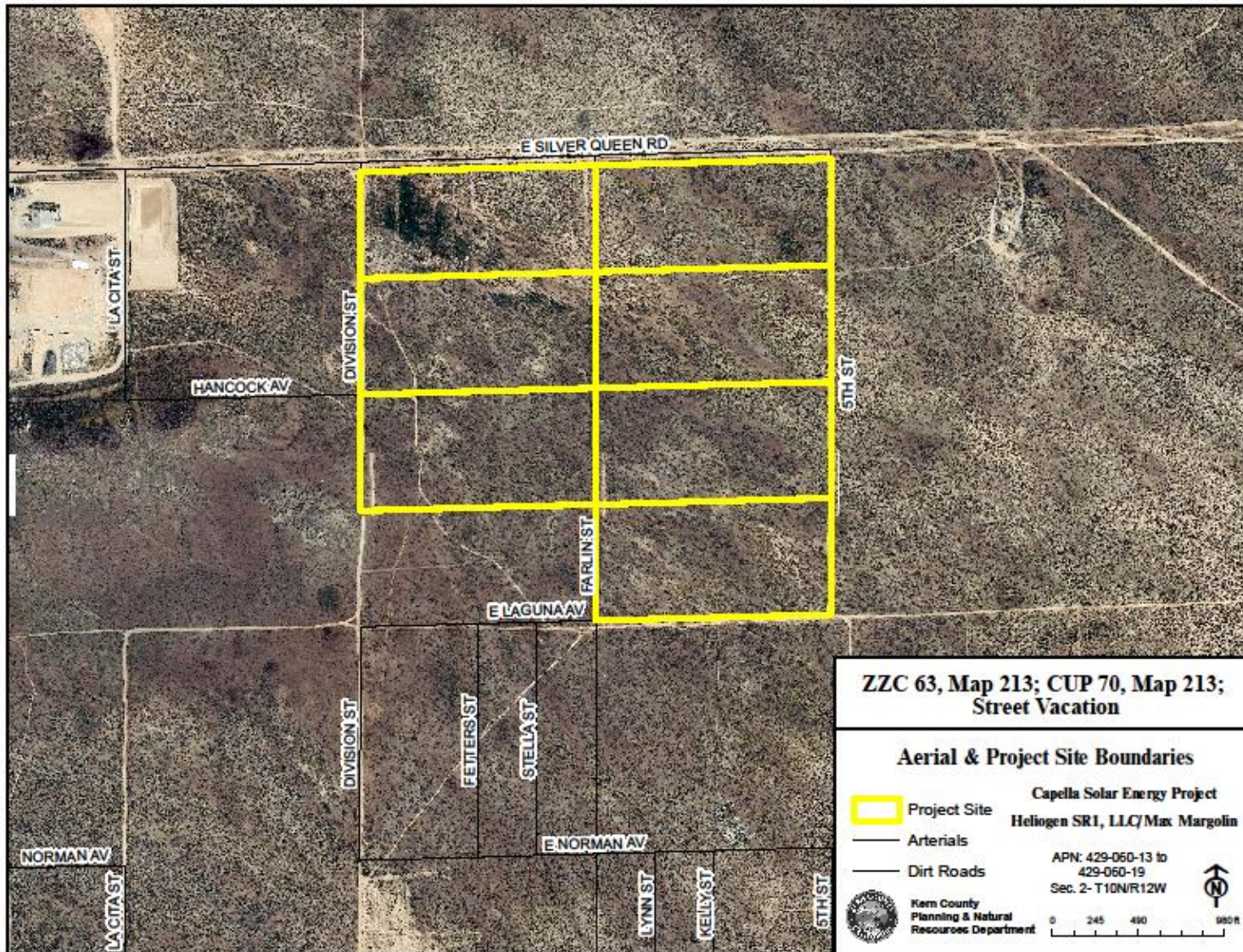




Figure 3: Existing Parcel Map

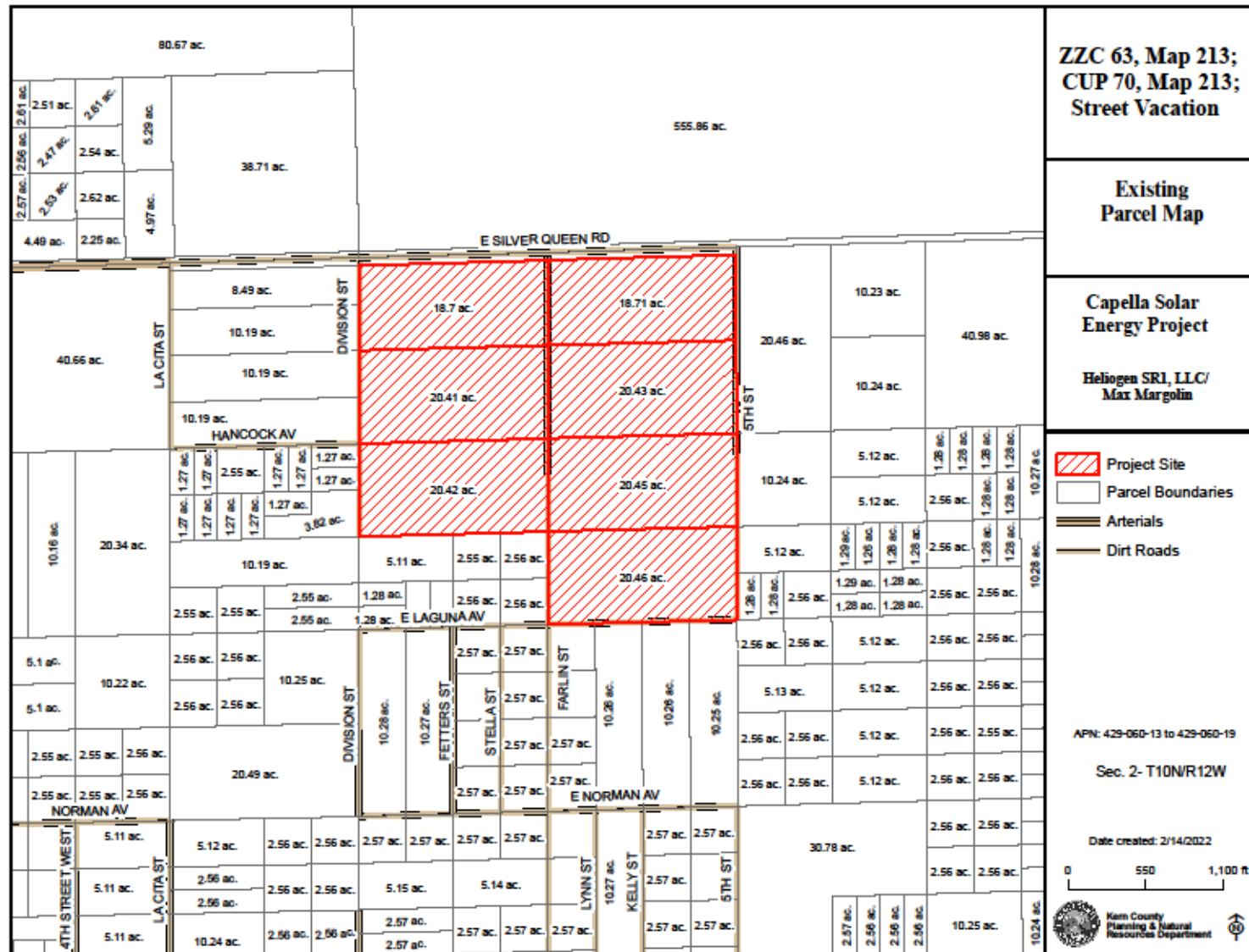




Figure 4: Proposed Road Vacation Map

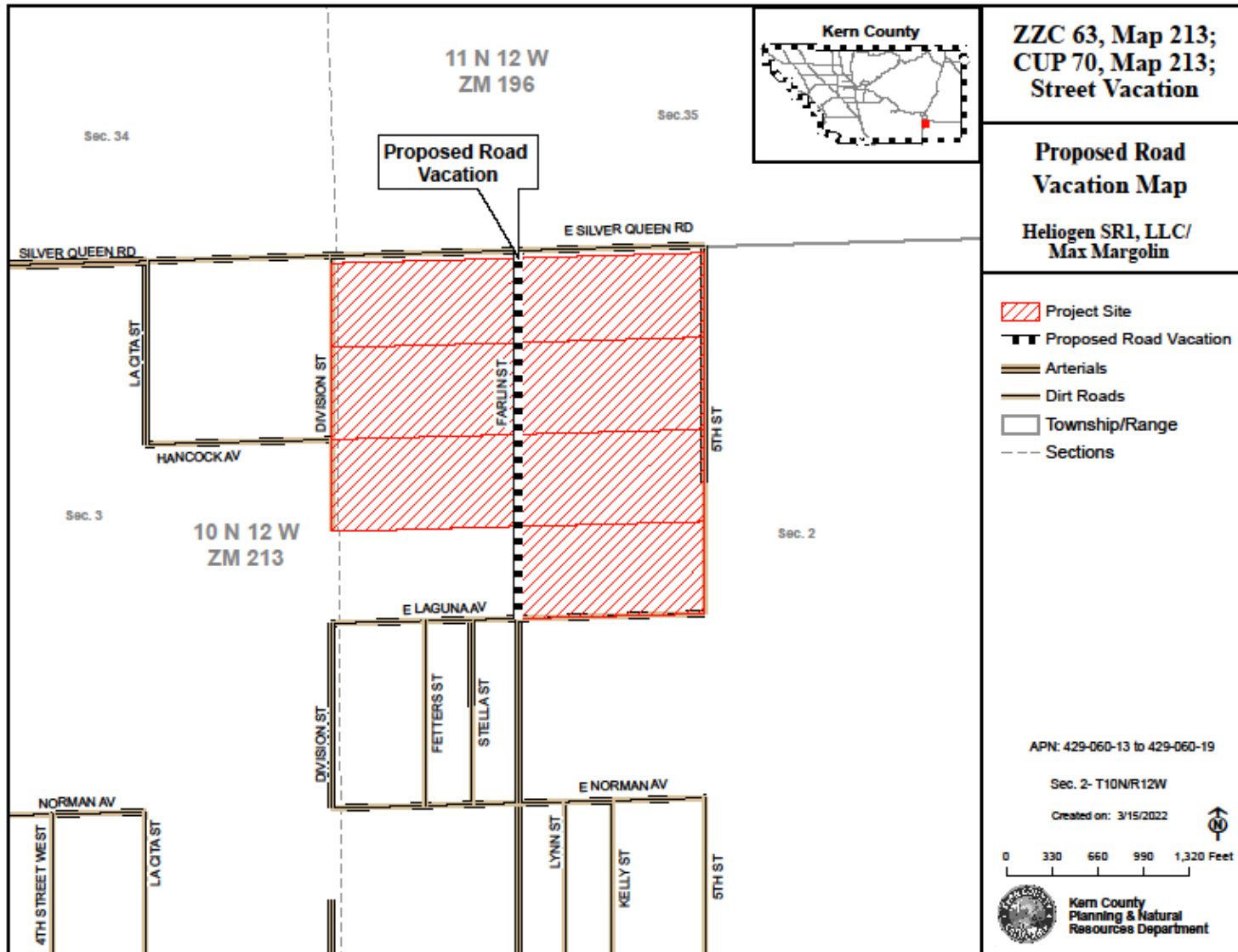




Figure 5: Existing Specific Plan Designations

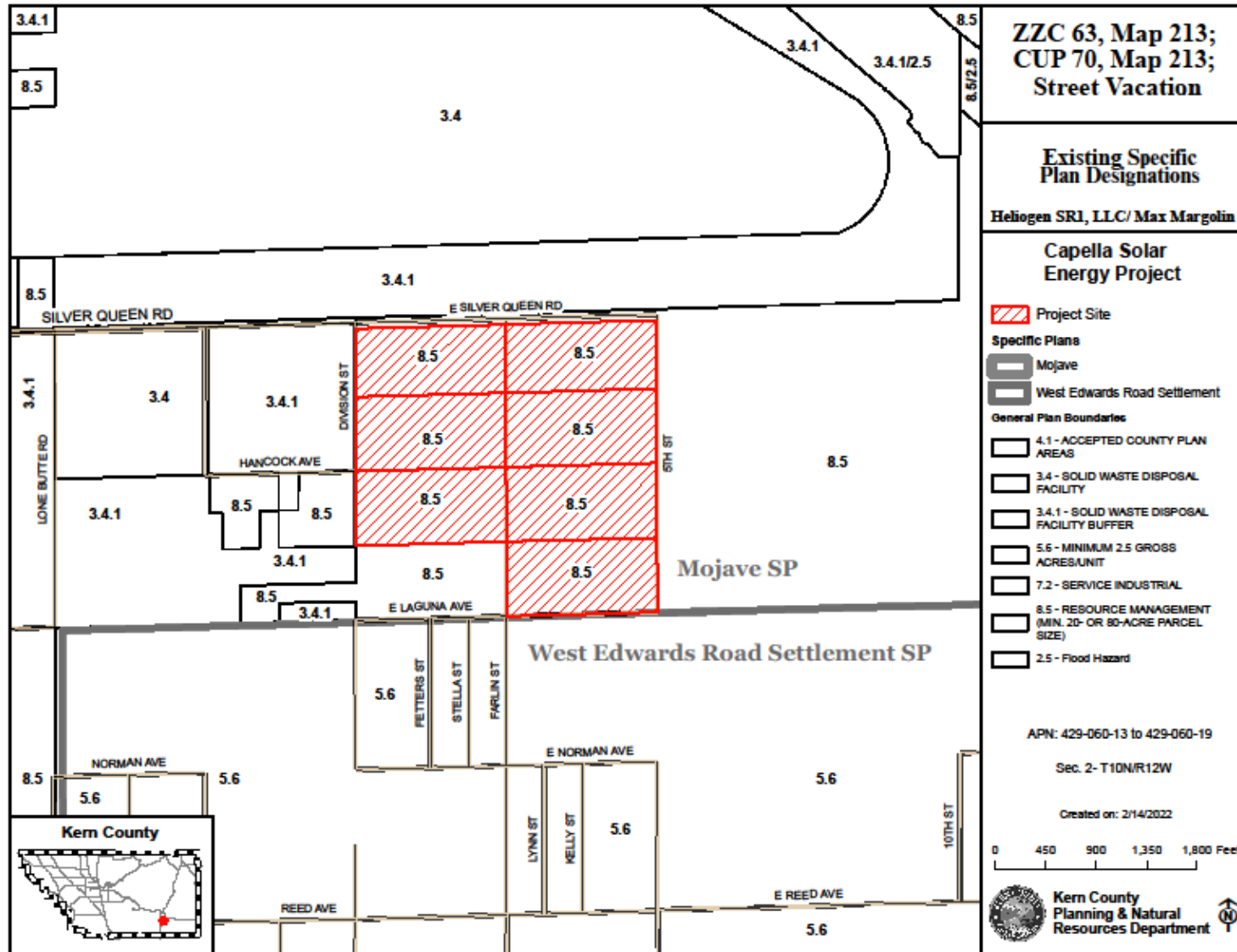
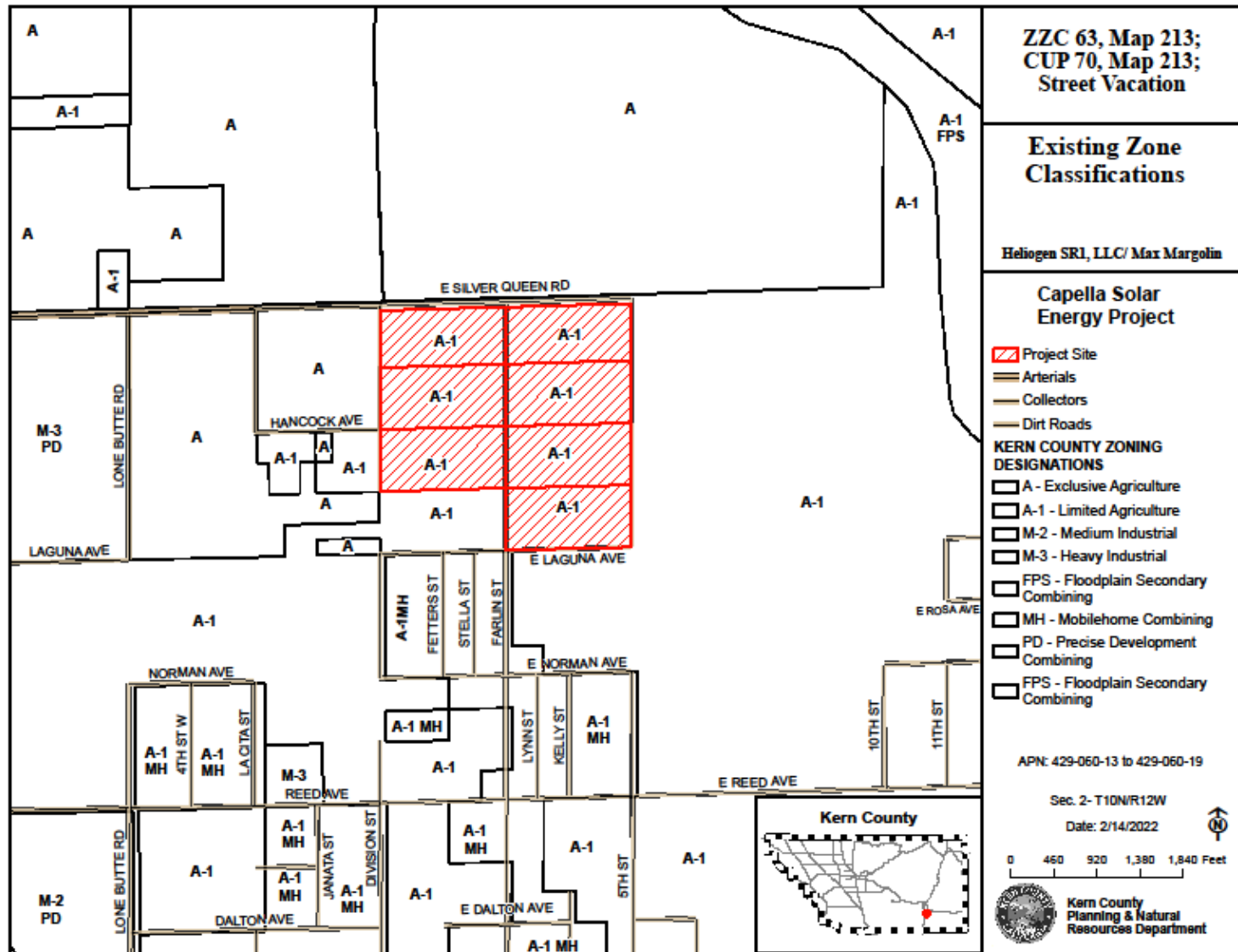




Figure 6: Existing Zoning Classification





2. Kern County Environmental Checklist Form

2.1. Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “potentially significant impact” as indicated by the Kern County Environmental Checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural and Forestry Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology and Water Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation and Traffic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildfire | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

2.2. Determination

(To be completed by the Lead Agency)

Based on this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect (a) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (b) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENT IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature:

Printed Name:

Cindi Hoover

Date:

April 15, 2022

Title:

Planning Division Chief



3. Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. Negative Declaration: “Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less-than-Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measure and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, “Earlier Analyses,” may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration, Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated”, describe the mitigation measures that were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, specific plans, and zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used, or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.



8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a. The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b. The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to a less than significant level.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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I. AESTHETICS

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State Scenic Highway? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

RESPONSES:

- a) A scenic vista is an area identified or known for high scenic quality. Scenic vistas may be designated by a federal, State, or local agency and may also include an area that is designated, signed, and accessible to the public for the express purposes of viewing and sightseeing. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) states that a highway may be designated scenic depending upon how much of the natural landscape can be seen by travelers, the scenic quality of the landscapes, and the extent to which development intrudes upon the traveler’s enjoyment of the view. While not designated as scenic highways, SR-14 and Sierra Highway to the west of the project traverse Eastern Kern and into Los Angeles County, providing views of undisturbed desert landscapes to commuters, which could be identified as scenic vistas. The undeveloped portions of the Mojave Desert that span the eastern and northern boundary of the project site could similarly be identified as scenic vistas that would be obstructed with the construction and operation of the proposed 143-acre concentrated solar facility due to components that may contrast with the existing viewshed including heliostat mirrors, solar photovoltaic components, and a power tower that is proposed to have a maximum height of up to 340 feet. Therefore, further analysis is warranted in the EIR.
- b) There are currently no designated State Scenic Highways within the County; however, the California Scenic Highways Master Plan designates three State Highways in Kern County as “Eligible State



Scenic Highway(s):” (1) SR-14 and State Highway 395 from north of Mojave continuing to the Inyo County line; (2) SR-58 between Mojave and Boron; and (3) SR-41 consisting of 5 miles in northwest Kern County. Although the proposed project is not in the vicinity of any designated State Scenic Highways, regional access would be provided by SR-14 and could potentially be visible from both State Route 14 and State Route 58, which are listed as Eligible State Scenic Highways. Due to the proximity of Eligible State Scenic Highways to the proposed project site this topic will be further evaluated in the EIR.

- c) The project site is in a sparsely developed area of Kern County, primarily surrounded by undisturbed land designated for agricultural use. There is also sparse industrial development to the south and west of the project site, which includes a municipal landfill, and outdoor storage and production facilities. The existing visual character of the area also includes undisturbed desert landscapes extending southward and east into Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB) territory. Currently, the entire project site is undeveloped and would require disturbance. Placement of the concentrated solar facility with ancillary solar photovoltaic components on the 143-acre project site would not only alter the existing visual character of the area but may also be visible from publicly accessible vantage points. Proposed development would impact the existing visual character and quality of public views of the site and its surroundings, thereby warranting further analysis in the EIR.
- d) The Project would create a new source of light and glare, which may affect day- and nighttime views of the area. During construction, nighttime lighting would be used in short durations and would be temporary, occurring only as construction lasted. The proposed 143-acre concentrated solar facility, once constructed, may also result in potential light and glare impacts that could be visible from outside the project site. All lighting for the proposed project would be designed to meet Kern County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 19.81- Outdoor Lighting-Dark Skies Ordinance requirements. Further analysis of the light and glare generated by the proposed project will be provided in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)) or timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 4526) or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g),	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in the cancelation of an open space contract made pursuant to the California Land Conservation Act of 1965 or Farmland Security Zone Contract for any parcel of 100 or more acres (Section 15206(b)(3)) Public Resources Code?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- a) According to the California Department of Conservation (CCDOC), California Important Farmland Finder Map, there are no agricultural lands designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance located within the project site. The project site is classified as Nonagricultural and Natural Vegetation. There is land designated as Urban and Built-Up



Land to the west of the project site. Construction and/or operation of the proposed project is not anticipated to result in the direct conversion of designated Farmland to a nonagricultural use, however, further analysis in the EIR will be provided.

- b) As noted previously, the project site is located within Agricultural Preserve No. 24, is zoned A-1 (Limited Agriculture) by the Kern County Zoning Ordinance and is designated 8.5 (Resource Management) by the Kern County Mojave Specific Plan. Neither the project site nor surrounding land are encumbered by an active Williamson Act contract, however further analysis will be provided on the project site in the EIR.
- c) No lands affected by the project are zoned as forest land or timberland, or for timberland production. Therefore, the project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause the rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned for timberland production. Therefore, there would be no impact and further analysis in the EIR is not required.
- d) As noted above, the project site is neither situated on forest or timberland nor is located near any such areas that are currently under production. There is no land in the vicinity of the project site that is zoned as forest land, timberland, or lands zoned for timberland production. Therefore, there would be no impact related to the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No further analysis is warranted in the EIR.
- e) As mentioned in responses (c) and (d), the project site is not designated as forest land or timberlands do not occur in the project vicinity. As mentioned in response (a) above, the project site is not classified as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Thus, there are potential changes to the existing environment stemming from the proposed project and potential conversion of surrounding Farmland to non-agricultural. Therefore, further analysis is warranted in the EIR.
- f) The project site is not subject to an open space contract made pursuant to the California Land Conservation Act of 1965 or the Farmland Security Zone Contract. The project would therefore not result in the cancellation of an open space contract made pursuant to the California Land Conservation Act of 1965 or Farmland Security Zone Contract for any parcel of 100 or more acres (Section 15205 (b)(3) Public Resources Code). Further land in the vicinity of the project site is designated as Nonagricultural and Natural Vegetation therefore, no impact is anticipated to occur. However, further evaluation is required in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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III. AIR QUALITY

The significance criteria established by the applicable Air pollution control district shall be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) | Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard? Specifically, would implementation of the project (in a specific location) exceed any of the following adopted thresholds: | | | | |

i. San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District:

Operational and Area Sources

Reactive Organic Gases (ROG) 10 tons per year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO _x) 10 tons per year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀) 15 tons per year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Stationary Sources as determined by District Rules

Severe Nonattainment 25 tons per year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Extreme Nonattainment 10 tons per year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY				
(Continued)				
ii. Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District.				
<u>Operational and Area Sources</u>				
Reactive Organic Gases (ROG) 25 tons per year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oxides of nitrogen (NO _x) 25 tons per year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀) 15 tons per year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Stationary Sources as determined by District Rules</u>				
25 tons per year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

a) The Project is located entirely within the jurisdiction of the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District (EKAPCD), in the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB). The MDAB is designated as a nonattainment area for both the State and federal ozone standards and the state particulate matter (PM₁₀) standard. Project construction would generate emissions of reactive organic gases (ROG) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), both of which are known as ozone precursors, and PM₁₀ that could result in significant impacts to air quality in the area.

EKAPCD's most recently adopted air quality management plan is its Ozone Air Quality Attainment Plan (AQAP) (EKAPCD, 2017). As the proposed project would generate gaseous emissions of ozone precursors (along with PM₁₀) during construction, the proposed project could potentially conflict with EKAPCD's Ozone AQAP or thresholds for emissions of other criteria pollutants. Therefore, further analysis of air quality impacts is warranted to determine whether the project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable plans for attainment and, if so, to determine the reasonable



and feasible mitigation measures that could be imposed. An Air Quality Study, including Greenhouse Gas Analysis and Health Risk Assessment is being prepared for the project and further analysis is warranted in the EIR.

- b) The proposed project is not located within the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and, therefore, its adopted thresholds do not apply. However, as noted in Response (a) above, the project is located within the MDAB, which is designated as a nonattainment area for the State and federal ozone standards and the State PM₁₀ standard. As such, the emissions of ozone precursors (ROG and NO_x) and PM₁₀ during construction and operation of the project could result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of these criteria pollutants in the MDAB. Thus, the project's contribution to cumulative air quality impacts in the MDAB could be potentially significant. The project's contribution of construction and operational emission to the MDB will be analyzed in the EIR.
- c) Sensitive receptors located in the project area consist of rural residential dwellings located varying distance from the project site. The nearest sensitive receptor appears to be a residence located approximately 0.4 mile east of the project site near E. Silver Queen Road. Sensitive receptors could be exposed to pollutant emissions during construction and operation of the proposed project. The proposed project's construction-related activities would result in diesel exhaust emissions and dust (also known as PM₁₀) that could adversely affect air quality for the nearest sensitive receptors. Therefore, potential significant concentrations of emissions may result in potentially significant impacts on the nearest sensitive receptor(s).

Additionally, exposure to Valley Fever and COVID-19 concerns from fugitive dust generated during construction is a potentially significant impact. There is potential that increased exposure to dust, which release *Coccidioides immitis* (CI) spores (if present) could be stirred up during excavation, grading, and earth-moving activities, exposing construction workers and sensitive receptors to these spores, increasing the likelihood of Valley Fever infection and/or exacerbate health concerns related to COVID-19. Thus, impacts to sensitive receptors via pollutant concentrations is potentially significant and will be further evaluated in the EIR.

- d) Construction would involve site preparation, excavation, and re-grading of the site. Sources of emissions would include off-road construction equipment exhaust, on-road vehicles exhaust and entrained road dust (i.e., material delivery trucks and worker vehicles), fugitive dust associated with site preparation and grading activities, and paving and architectural coating activities. However, these emissions would be temporary and would be reduced through the application of standard construction best management practices. Therefore, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

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|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or United States Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or United States Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State Habitat Conservation Plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



RESPONSES:

- a) The project site contains undeveloped land with natural vegetation. There is potential for candidate, sensitive, or special-status plants and wildlife species to be present on-site or in the project vicinity. The findings of field surveys conducted to determine the presence of candidate, sensitive, or special-status plant and animal species on-site and in the surrounding area will be included in the EIR.
- b) The project site is primarily vacant land designated for limited agricultural use. Riparian habitats are found along rivers, creeks, streams, and lakes and generally consist of plant communities of woody vegetation; thus, the project site does not contain any sensitive natural communities such as riparian habitats due to its location in the desert region of Kern County. However, impacts on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species and potential habitat modifications will be identified further in the EIR.
- c) No federally protected wetlands have been identified within the project boundaries. No impact is anticipated and will not be further analyzed in the EIR.
- d) Majority of the project site is vacant land. The project site and surrounding area may be used for land-based migration or dispersal by native wildlife species, such as migratory birds, (e.g., burrowing owl) and desert tortoise. There are no water bodies or water courses that could provide migratory habitat for fish and wildlife species. Project construction and operation could also remove foraging habitat while lighting from the project site could potentially affect movement of wildlife around the project site. Therefore, the project has the potential to significantly impact movement of native resident wildlife species. A Biological Resources/Biota Report will be prepared for the project will be incorporated in further analysis of impacts in the EIR.
- e) The Kern County General Plan includes oak tree conservation policies however there are no oak trees present on the project site. However, Joshua Trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) are protected under the California Desert Native Plants Act (CDNPA) and California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and have been documented within the project site. Implementation of the proposed project has the potential to impact Joshua Trees, indicating this impact is a potentially significant impact and will be further evaluated in the EIR.
- f) The proposed project is not situated within the boundaries of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), including the locally adopted Metropolitan Bakersfield HCP. Therefore, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant; however, potential impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

RESPONSES:

(a-c) The proposed project site consists of currently undeveloped land. Development of the proposed project would require ground disturbance for grading, excavation, installation of solar array fields, construction of power tower, including associated facilities, and operational facilities. The proposed project could potentially impact historical or cultural resources, including resources that are undiscovered or that may be buried underground.

A Cultural Resource survey and Paleontological Resources Assessment will be conducted for the proposed project as part of the EIR, to determine presence or potential presence of archaeological and historical resources and identify potential impacts to historical and/or archaeological cultural resources and to formulate avoidance or mitigation measures, if applicable.

There is no evidence that the project site is located within an area likely to contain human remains, and discovery of human remains during project earthmoving activities is not anticipated. Impacts to human remains have the potential to be significant because inadvertent discovery of such remains is possible. Therefore, the above listed impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. ENERGY				
Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

a-b) Construction of the proposed project would involve on-site energy demand and consumption related to use of fossil fuels in the form of gasoline and diesel fuel for construction worker vehicle trips, hauling and materials delivery truck trips, and operation of off-road construction equipment. In addition, diesel-fueled portable generators may be necessary to provide additional electricity demands for temporary on-site lighting, welding, and for supplying energy to areas of the site where energy supply cannot be met via a hookup to the existing electricity grid.

Following implementation of the proposed project, energy would switch from consumption to production. Operation of the proposed project would lead to an overall increase in the County's Renewable Portfolio and would align with the stated General Plan policy to encourage the development of renewable energy within Kern County.

The above listed project impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (19914), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



RESPONSES:

- a) (i-iv) The proposed project site is in an area known for seismic activity and is referred to as the Eastern California Shear Zone (ECSZ). The ECSZ is dominated by a series of northwest-trending, right-lateral, strike-slip faults that cross the Mojave Desert province east of the San Andreas Fault. Although the project site is located on alluvial soils derived from granite, liquefaction is unlikely because the groundwater levels are deep (more than 80 below ground surface). Kern County has adopted the California Building Standards Code (CBC) 2016 Edition (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Title 24) effective January 1, 2017, which imposes substantially the same requirements as the International Building Code (IBC), 2015 Edition, with some modifications and amendments. Adherence to all applicable regulations would minimize potential impacts a related to seismicity, ground failure, liquefaction, or landslides associated with the proposed project. Impacts related to fault rupture, ground failure including liquefaction, and landslides are expected to be less than significant. However, due to the potential for seismic activity throughout Kern County the potential for strong seismic ground-shaking would be potentially significant; therefore, the project proponent will submit a Site Geotechnical/Soils Characteristics study to be incorporated into further analysis in the EIR.
- b) The proposed project would require grading and filling over most of the site. As a result, project construction would have the potential to result in erosion, sedimentation, and discharge of construction debris from the site. Vegetation clearing and grading activities, for example, could lead to exposed or stockpiled soils susceptible to peak stormwater runoff flows and wind forces. The compaction of soils by heavy equipment may minimally reduce the infiltration capacity of soils (exposed during construction) and increase runoff or erosion potential. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and/or Drainage Control Plan would be prepared that specifies Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent construction pollutants, including eroded soils (such as topsoil), from moving off the site. Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant with implementation of the project applicant's approach to site preparation and the County and State requirements. However, further analysis is warranted in the EIR.
- c) The project lies in a relatively flat-lying plain where landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, and collapse are not expected to occur. Liquefaction potential occurs when there is a combination of unconsolidated soil type and high groundwater combined with high potential seismic activity. Impacts related to geologic instability are not anticipated to occur or pose a hazard to the proposed project or surrounding area; however, further analysis is warranted in the EIR.
- d) Expansive soils are fine-grained soils (generally high plasticity clays) that can undergo a significant increase in volume with an increase in water content and a significant decrease in volume with a decrease in water content. Soils that are considered expansive contain significant amounts of clay materials. A Site Geotechnical/Soils Characteristics study will be prepared for this project to confirm the presence or absence of expansive soils within the project area and further analysis is warranted in the EIR.
- e) A Site Geotechnical/Soils Characteristics study of the project site will be conducted to determine the physical characteristics of the underlying soils to determine the capability of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems, and thus will warrant further analysis in the EIR.



- f) A Paleontological Resources Assessment for the project site will be prepared to determine the existence of any unique paleontological resources, sites or unique geologic feature that have the potential of being impacted by the resulting development. Thus, further analysis is warranted in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

RESPONSES:

- a-b) Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions emitted by human activity are implicated in global climate change or global warming. The principal GHGs are CO₂, methane (CH₄), NO_x, ozone, water vapor, and fluorinated gases.

The temporary construction activities associated with the proposed project, which would involve operation of heavy off-road equipment, on-road trucks (for deliveries and hauling), and construction worker commute trips, would generate GHGs through exhaust emissions. However, as a solar facility, the proposed project is expected to displace traditional sources of electricity production that involve combustion energy sources (e.g., burning coal, fuel oil, or natural gas). As such, the provision of solar energy by the proposed project would produce GHG-free electricity that is anticipated to offset GHGs that would otherwise be generated by traditional fuel combustion sources of electricity.

The project’s GHG emissions generated during construction of the project and the potential GHG offsets resulting from operation of the project, as well as any potential conflicts with any applicable plan, policy or regulation will be identified and quantified in the EIR. Additionally, the project’s potential GHG impacts and the potential GHG offsets resulting from operation of the project will be examined in the EIR, with respect to the objectives of statewide programs to reduce GHGs associated with energy generation.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS				
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 1/4 mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within the adopted Kern County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP), would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

(Continued)

h) Would implementation of the project generate vectors (flies, mosquitoes, rodents, etc.) or have a component that includes agricultural waste?

Specifically, would the project exceed the following qualitative threshold:

The presence of domestic flies, mosquitoes, cockroaches, rodents, and/or any other vectors associated with the project is significant when the applicable enforcement agency determines that any of the vectors:

i. Occur as immature stages and adults in numbers considerably in excess of those found in the surrounding environment; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Are associated with design, layout, and management of project operations; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Disseminate widely from the property; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Cause detrimental effects on the public health or well-being of the majority of the surrounding population.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

(a-b) Wastes that would be generated during construction of the proposed project would be non-hazardous, and would consist of materials such as cardboard, wood pallets, copper wire, scrap steel, common trash, and wood wire spools. Although field equipment used during construction activities could contain various hazardous materials (i.e., hydraulic oil, diesel fuel, grease, lubricants, solvents, adhesives, paints, etc.), these materials are not considered to be acutely hazardous and would be used in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications, and all applicable regulations. In addition, hazardous fuels and lubricants used on field equipment would be subject to a Construction Waste Management Plan and, if required, a Spill Prevention, Containment and Countermeasure Plan.

The operation of the proposed project would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of any hazardous materials as defined by the Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act.



During construction, the proposed project would include the transport of general construction materials (i.e., concrete, wood, metal, fuel, etc.) as well as materials necessary to construct the proposed PV arrays. Impacts resulting from the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials during construction and operation of the proposed project will be evaluated further in the EIR.

Construction and operation of the proposed project may include the accidental release of storage materials, such as cleaning fluids and petroleum products including lubricants, fuels, and solvents. Potential hazards associated with BESS include increased potential for electrical shock and chemical release associated with the batteries used.

- (c) The nearest school, Mojave Jr/Sr. high is approximately 5 miles north of the proposed project site in the community of Mojave. It is unlikely that the project would emit hazardous materials or involve handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials or substances in proximity to these school. However, further analysis is warranted in the EIR.
- (d-f) A review of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) latest list of parcels relating to hazardous wastes pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code will be conducted to determine whether the project site is listed.

The nearest aircraft operation facilities identified by the Kern County ALUCP is the Mojave Air and Space Port, approximately 1 mile north of the proposed project site. The project site is not within the SOI of any airport identified by the Kern County ALUCP. Edwards Air Force Base is located directly east of the site and structure heights may impact overhead aircraft operations. The project is located within the R-2508 Complex area requiring military review for any structure over 100 feet in height, as identified in the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, Figure 19.08.160. Therefore, the impacts are potentially significant and further analysis is warranted in the EIR.

The proposed would not interfere with any known existing emergency response plans, emergency vehicle access, or personnel access to the project site. The project site is in a remote area with existing access roads available to access the property in the event of an emergency. Although no impacts related to impairment of the implementation of, or physical interference with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan are anticipated, this topic as well the above-mentioned impacts will be further analyzed in the EIR.

- (g) Construction of the proposed project would not result in increased risk of wildfire in the area. The proposed project would comply with all applicable wildland fire management plans and policies established by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the Kern County Fire Department. Accordingly, the proposed project is not expected to expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. Impacts are expected to be less than significant; however, further analysis is warranted in the EIR.
- (h) Project-related facilities would not result in features or conditions that could potentially provide habitat for vectors such as mosquitoes, flies, cockroaches, or rodents. During construction and operation, workers would generate small quantities of solid waste (i.e., trash, food containers, etc.) that would be stored in enclosed containers, then transported to and disposed of at approved disposal facilities. Construction and operation of the proposed solar arrays and associated facilities would not produce uncontrolled wastes that could support vectors and would not generate any standing water



or other features that would attract nuisance pests or vectors. Although impacts are anticipated to be less than significant, further analysis of this issue will be discussed in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. result in a substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



RESPONSES:

- a) Implementation of the project would result in development and site runoff contributing pollutants to the drainages. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) regulates stormwater discharge in the area. A SWPPP would be prepared for the project, which would identify potential pollutant sources that may affect the quality of discharges associated with construction activity and incorporate BMPs to address erosion and sediment control, wind erosion, source controls, and waste management to effectively prevent the off-site migration of contaminant-laden stormwater.

Surface water and groundwater quality could also be affected through the accidental release of hazardous materials during construction activities. These materials may include hydraulic oil, diesel fuel, grease, lubricants, and other petroleum-based products contained in construction vehicles and heavy equipment. Therefore, impacts to surface or groundwater may be potentially significant. Potential impacts related to water quality will be further analyzed in the EIR.

- b) During construction of the proposed project, water would be required for common construction-related purposes including but not limited to dust suppression, soil compaction, and grading. Dust control water may be used for ingress and egress of on-site construction vehicle equipment traffic. Although a sanitary water supply would not be required during construction because restroom facilities would likely be provided by portable units to be serviced by licensed providers. Operational water would be used for cleaning heliostats and dust suppression as needed. Furthermore, a SB610 water supply assessment will be completed for the project to analyze potential impacts to groundwater supplies. Therefore, further analysis is warranted in the EIR.
- c) Construction and operation activities associated with the proposed project would alter existing drainage conditions and create impervious surfaces that would have the potential to result in an increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff during storm events.

During construction and following installation of the solar arrays, the majority of the site would remain as a pervious surface. The design of the solar arrays is such that storm water infiltration would occur similar to the existing conditions. No discharges to or alterations of any municipal stormwater drainage systems are proposed. Similarly, no component of the project would generate a substantial source of polluted runoff. However, potentially significant impacts related to drainage patterns, streambed alteration, and/or increased runoff will be analyzed in the EIR.

- d) The project is not located near an ocean or enclosed body of water, and therefore would not be subject to inundation by seiche or tsunami. Mudflows are a type of mass wasting or landslide, where earth and surface materials are rapidly transported downhill under the force of gravity and are often triggered by heavy rainfall and soil that is not able to sufficiently drain or absorb water and supersaturation results in soil and rock materials to become unstable and slide away. Due to the relatively flat topography of the project site and surrounding area, the potential to be inundated by mudflow is considered remote.

The project site is designated as Zone “X” on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) as issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which indicates the site is not in an area of flood hazard. The nearest flood hazards in the area are shown to be approximately two miles northwest and two miles southeast of the proposed project site and furthermore, the project site is not identified as a wetland area on the National Wetlands Inventory. The project would be reviewed by the Kern County Public Works Department for adherence to all applicable floodplain management standards. Nonetheless, further analysis is warranted in the EIR.



- e) The California Department of Water Resources Groundwater Basin Boundary GIS tool indicates the proposed project site lies within the Fremont Valley Groundwater Basin, which is not an adjudicated basin. The basin is designated as low priority by California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118. As such, this basin is not subject to a sustainable groundwater management plan. All water usage for the proposed project would conform to the applicable plans and BMPs. A water supply assessment will be completed for the project to analyze potential impacts to groundwater resources, including any potential conflicts with the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). This impact will be further analyzed in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Physically divide an established community? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

RESPONSES:

- a) The proposed project would be located on vacant, undeveloped land in rural southeastern Kern County and would not physically divide an established community. Although there are scattered rural residences in the project vicinity approximately 0.4 mile, with the nearest clusters approximately one mile to the south, the project site is also approximately 4 miles southeast of Mojave, five miles southwest of the City of California City, and 8 miles northeast of Rosamond. The proposed project would not physically divide or restrict access to the residential development or any other community. Therefore, impacts related to the physical division of an established community are not anticipated, however, this issue will be further analyzed in the EIR.
- b) The project site is located within the Kern County Mojave Specific Plan area with an existing map code designation of 8.5 (Resource Management) and an existing zone district of A-1 (Limited Agriculture) by the Kern County Zoning Ordinance. The project proponent is requesting a CUP to allow for the construction and operation of a concentrated solar power facility. Additionally, the use of the A-1 zone district for a solar project is not consistent with the Mojave Specific Plan Land Use designation of 8.5 (Resource Management) and will require a Zone Classification Change from A-1 (Limited Agriculture) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) to be consistent. At the end of the project’s operational term, the project proponent would determine whether the project site should be decommissioned and deconstructed or if it would seek an extension of its CUP. With approval of the requested CUP, the proposed project is not anticipated to conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigation an environmental effect. However, further assessment will be provided in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?
- b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

RESPONSES:

- a) The project site is neither designated as mineral recovery area nor within a designated mineral and petroleum resources site by the Kern County Mojave Specific Plan. Additionally, the site is not identified as a mineral resources zone by the State Department of Conservation – Geologic Energy Management (CalGEM) Division. Construction and operation of the proposed project is not anticipated to interfere with mineral extraction and processing and would not have significant impacts on future mineral development. However, further analysis is warranted in the EIR.
- b) As noted previously, the proposed project site is not located within a designated mineral and petroleum resource site within the Kern County Mojave Specific Plan, nor is the site located within the NR (Natural Resources) or PE (Petroleum Extraction Combining) zoned districts. Therefore, the installation of the solar facilities would not preclude future mineral resource development, nor would it result in the loss of a locally important mineral resource recover site. Based on a review of records maintained by CalGEM the project site does not appear to have any existing of previous wells on site (<https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/doggr/wellfinder/>). Impacts are expected to be less than significant; however, further analysis of this issue will be analyzed in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XIII. NOISE

Would the project result:

a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in the ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of, excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or Kern County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- a) Land uses determined to be “sensitive” to noise as defined by the Kern County General Plan include residential areas, schools, convalescent and acute care hospitals, parks and recreational areas, and churches. Although there are scattered rural residences in the project vicinity approximately 0.4 mile away, with the nearest cluster of homes is approximately one mile to the south, the project site is also approximately 4 miles southeast of the unincorporated community of Mojave, five miles southwest of the City of California City, and 8 miles northeast of Rosamond, which contains other types of sensitive receptors.

Noise generated by the proposed project would occur primarily during the construction phase whereas the long-term operation of the solar facility would be relatively quiet. A noise analysis will be included in the EIR to determine the proposed project’s consistency with the Kern County Noise Ordinance (Kern County Code of Ordinances, Title 8, Chapter 8.36), and any other applicable regulations. Thus, further analysis is warranted in the EIR.

- b) Groundborne vibration and groundborne noise could originate from the operation of heavy off-road equipment during the construction phase of the proposed project. The proposed project would be expected to comply with all applicable requirements for long-term operation, as well as with measures to reduce excessive groundborne vibration and noise to ensure that the proposed project would not



expose persons or structures to excessive groundborne vibration. Further analysis of ground borne vibration and groundborne noise during construction and operation will be included in the EIR.

- c) Operation of the proposed project would be below EPA's 55 dBA L_{dn} noise standard. The potential for a substantial increase in ambient noise levels resulting from these noise sources will be analyzed in the EIR to determine the project's consistency with the Kern County Noise Ordinance (Kern County Code of Ordinances, Title 8, Chapter 8.36) and any other applicable regulations. Thus, further analysis is warranted in the EIR.
- d) The nearest aircraft operation facilities identified by the Kern County ALUCP is the Mojave Air and Space Port, approximately 1 mile north of the proposed project site. The project site is not located within any safety or noise zones for the Mojave Air and Space Port and not located within any SOI of airports as identified by the Kern County ALUCP. Thus, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant, however further evaluation will be included in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

RESPONSES:

- a) Although the proposed project would provide new employment consistent with the adopted Kern County General Plan goals, plan, and policies, long-term employment opportunities would be minimal. The proposed project would require an operational/maintenance staff of up to three (3) full-time employees, assuming operation five (5) days per week.

It is estimated that up to 150-250 full-time employees per day would be required during peak construction periods for the proposed project. The entire construction process is anticipated to take 15 months. Therefore, the majority of project-generated jobs would be from the local and regional area and would occur on a temporary and short-term basis. Construction workers are expected to travel to the site from various local communities and locations throughout Southern California, and few, if any workers expected to relocate to the surrounding area because of these temporary jobs. If temporary housing should be necessary, it is expected that accommodations (i.e., extended stay hotels, apartments, RV parks, homes for rent or sale) would be available in the nearby communities of California City, Mojave and Rosamond. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to directly or indirectly induce the development of any new housing or businesses within the local communities and further analysis is not warranted in the EIR.

- b) The proposed project is located on existing vacant land with no existing housing and with the balance being undisturbed. As noted above, residences in the area are sparse and rural in nature, with the nearest residence approximately 0.4 mile south of the proposed project site and clusters of residences approximately one mile. As such, the proposed project is not anticipated to create an environmental impact such that it would necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, displacement of existing housing is not expected, and further analysis is not warranted in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:

- a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or to other performance objectives for any of the public services:

i. Fire Protection?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Police Protection?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v. Other Public Facilities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

a) (i) **Fire Protection:** The Kern County Fire Department (KCFD) provides fire suppression and emergency medical services to the project area. The nearest KCFD fire station that would serve the project is Station No. 14, located at 1953 Highway 58, approximately 5 miles from the project site in Mojave. Adherence to all applicable regulations would reduce wildfire ignitions and prevent the spread of wildfires. However, proposed project construction and operation activities may result in increased need for fire-fighting personnel and facilities. Therefore, the potential impact on fire services from construction and operation of the project is considered potentially significant and will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(ii) **Police Protection:** Law enforcement services in the project area are provided by the Kern County Sheriff’s Office (KCSO). The nearest KCSO that would serve the project is the Mojave Substation, located approximately 5 miles northwest of the project site at 1771 Highway 58. Although the potential is low, the proposed project may attract vandals or other security risks, and construction activities would result in temporary increases in traffic volumes along surrounding roads, which could increase demand on law enforcement services. Access would be limited to the project site during construction and operation, thereby minimizing the need for police services; nonetheless, the proposed project’s impacts on Sheriff services are potentially significant. Therefore, further analysis is warranted in the EIR.



(iii) **Schools:** During project construction, a relatively large number of construction workers would be required. It is expected that most of these workers would live locally as well as broader regional area and commute to the project site from the surrounding communities where their children would already be enrolled in school. In addition, employees such as these would already be making contribution through local taxes that would be used to fund schools. The proposed project would not require employees or their children to relocate to the project area. Therefore, substantial temporary increases in population that would adversely affect local school populations are not expected. Likewise, the operational workforce is small (approximately three [3] full -time positions) and not anticipated to generate a permanent increase in population that would impact school populations or require construction of new school facilities. However, impacts to schools will be further analyzed in the EIR.

(iv) **Parks:** The population increase that would be experienced during the construction phase of the proposed project would be temporary and limited to construction workers at the project site. Such conditions would not result in a substantial new demand for parks or recreational facilities. The number of employees required for project operations would be minimal and they would not likely frequent any public parks during, before, or after their work shifts. The employees brought on for the construction and operation would not result in construction of numerous new housing units that could significantly increase the local population and related demand for public parkland with the result of requiring the construction of new park facilities. Therefore, less than significant impacts to parks are anticipated to occur, however, further analysis of this issue will be included in the EIR.

(v) **Other Public Facilities:** Implementation of the proposed project may have impacts on the ability of the County to provide adequate county-wide comprehensive public facility services. Public policies in the Kern County General Plan require development to address economic deficiencies in public services and facilities cost. Therefore, the proposed project's impacts on public facilities are potentially significant and will be evaluated in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XVI. RECREATION

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

RESPONSES:

a-b) The proposed project itself does not include new recreational facilities and is not anticipated to increase demands on existing facilities either. The number of workers needed during the construction phase would largely depend on the specific stage of construction. However, it would likely range between 150-250 workers. These workers would not have time to visit any local parks or recreation facilities during the workday and the workers that are relocating temporarily during construction would create little or no impact on local recreational resources after work hours.

Operation of the proposed project would require employees for maintenance and monitoring activities, but they would likely be drawn from the local labor force and would commute from their existing permanent residence to the project site. However, even if the maintenance/monitoring employees were hired from out of the area and relocated to eastern Kern County, the addition of any such families to the project area would not result in a substantial increase in the number of users at local parks or recreational facilities. As a result, there would not be a detectable increase in the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities, and therefore, no deterioration of any such facilities would occur or require the construction of new facilities as a result of project implementation. Impacts would not occur, and further analysis is not warranted in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XVII. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

Would the project:

a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 (b)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

a) There are no dedicated pedestrian or bicycle facilities in the immediate vicinity of the project site or along the surrounding roadways. Due to the rural nature of the project area, pedestrian and bicycle traffic is limited. The project is not located along an existing bus route and few bus stops exist on roadways that are likely to be used during construction and operation of the proposed project. Construction activities associated with the proposed project would temporarily contribute to traffic volumes on nearby roadways. Worker commute vehicles would account for the majority of traffic trips to and from the site. During the construction phase, it is estimated there would be an increase in workers commuting to and from the project site.

During operation, the proposed project would require up to three (3) full-time employees who would commute to and from the site and would result in an addition of average daily trips. Ongoing maintenance and periodic repair are also anticipated to produce negligible traffic impacts. In addition, the proposed project could conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. Therefore, these potential impacts on the local roadway system from construction related vehicle trips and the project’s operational traffic on the area roadway system will be further evaluated in the EIR.

b) CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b) was adopted in December 2018 by the California Natural Resources Agency. These revisions to the CEQA Guidelines criteria for determining the significance of transportation impacts are primarily focused on projects within transit priority areas and shift the focus from driver delay to reduction of vehicular greenhouse gas emissions through creation



of multimodal networks, and creation of a mix of land uses that can facilitate fewer and shorter vehicle trips. Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is a measure of the total number of miles driven for various purposes and is sometimes expressed as an average per trip or per person. Construction traffic would be temporary and would not permanently affect VMPT characteristics in this part of Kern County or elsewhere. It is not known where the employees would live or the duration of their commuting trips. According to technical guidance issued by the Office of Planning and Research, projects generating less than 110 or fewer daily vehicle trips may be presumed to have a less than significant impact involving VMT. Further analysis of the operational VMT characteristics of the project is required to determine whether the project is considered a “low-VMPT” project due to small daily traffic volumes alone, or whether more extensive analysis is warranted. An assessment of the project’s VMT characteristics will be provided in the EIR, to ensure consistency with state and local guidance.

- c) The proposed project site would be primarily accessed from existing Silver Queen Road. During construction, especially during peak periods of heavy truck traffic and peak levels of construction workers, there is a potential for conflicts between construction traffic and normal traffic flows. No new roadway design or features (i.e., sharp curves, dangerous intersections, or other hazardous features) would be required that could result in transportation-related hazards or safety concerns. The proposed project site must be designed in accordance with the County’s standards to assure safe ingress/egress for construction and operational activities. The proposed operation and maintenance facilities would be set back from the roadway as required by the Kern County Zoning Ordinance. Given these considerations, significant impacts related to increased hazards are not anticipated to occur; however, additional analysis will be included in the EIR.
- d) The proposed project would be required to comply with all emergency access requirements adopted by the Kern County Fire Department. As previously mentioned, access to the proposed project site would be from Silver Queen Road and, if necessary, it would be the primary access for first responders. Emergency vehicle access must be maintained at all times throughout construction activities, in accordance with the County’s routine/standard construction specifications. Although no significant operational impacts related to emergency access are anticipated to occur, further analysis of this issue will be provided in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1 (k) or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. A recourse determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native America tribe.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

a) (i-ii) Since the majority of project site is undeveloped, there is a potential for tribal cultural resources to exist on-site or on surrounding lands. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to impact tribal cultural resources during site clearance and earthmoving activities. All tribes with possible cultural affiliation and interest within the project area have been notified, per Assembly Bill 52. Any requests for consultation submitted in response to the AB 52 notification will be carried out between the County and the Tribes. A Cultural Resources Phase 1 Survey will be prepared and submitted for review in the EIR. Further evaluation in the EIR is warranted to identify potential impacts to tribal cultural resources and to formulate avoidance or mitigation measures, if applicable.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- a) During project construction, portable toilet facilities, serviced by licensed providers, would likely be used and delivered to the project site for the construction period. They would be pumped out periodically and waste would be held in holding tanks until disposed of off-site in an appropriate manner by the contracted sanitary service provider. The proposed project would not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded municipal wastewater facilities, and no connection to a public wastewater system is required or proposed. Impacts related to wastewater treatment facilities will be further addressed in the EIR. The proposed project does not require expanded or new storm drainage facilities because the proposed solar facility would not generate a significant increase of impervious surfaces that would also increase runoff during storm events. Additionally, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in a significant increase in water demand/use; however, water will be



needed for solar panel washing and dust suppression. Impact would be potentially significant and further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

- b) During construction of the proposed project, water would be required for common construction-related purposes including but not limited to dust suppression, soil compaction, and grading. Dust control water may be used for ingress and egress of on-site construction vehicle equipment traffic. The water usage during construction, primarily for dust-suppression purposes, is not expected to exceed 47.9 acre-feet over the 15-month construction phase. A sanitary water supply would not be required during construction because restroom facilities would be provided by portable units to be serviced by licensed providers.

Water demand for panel washing and O&M domestic uses is not expected to exceed 4.6 acre-feet per year during operation. Water is anticipated to be obtained from delivery via truck from an off-site source(s). A water supply assessment will be completed for the project to analyze potential water sources and potential impacts to water supplies. This potentially significant impact will be addressed further in the EIR.

- c) All wastewater disposal for project operations would be handled on-site. Therefore, the project would not adversely affect any existing wastewater treatment facilities and further analysis of this issue is not warranted in the EIR.
- d) The proposed project is not expected to generate a significant amount of solid wastes during operations because of the small number of workers and the absence of activities that would generate wastes on an ongoing basis. It is not anticipated that the amount of solid waste generated by the proposed project would exceed the capacity of local landfills needed to accommodate the waste. Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant and no further analysis in the EIR is warranted.
- e) The proposed project would generate solid waste during construction and operation, thus requiring the consideration of waste reduction and recycling measures. The 1989 California Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939) requires the County to attain specific waste diversion goals. In addition, the California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act of 1991, as amended, requires expanded or new development projects to incorporate storage areas for recycling bins in the proposed project design. The proposed project would be required to comply with the 1989 California Integrated Waste Management Act and the 1991 California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act of 1991. Further analysis of the pertinent solid waste reduction and management regulations applicable to this project will be included in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XX. WILDFIRE

If located in or near State responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, or other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

(a-d) According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), Kern County Fire Hazards Severity Zone Maps, the project site is not located within or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zone (VHFSZ). The proposed project site is generally located in a rural, sparsely developed area with limited population. It is classified as a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Moderate fire hazard severity zone; thus, the potential for wildfire on the project site exist, but is not considered high and is not anticipated to physically impede the existing emergency response plans, emergency vehicles access, or personnel access to the site. Additionally, it is not identified for any purpose in an adopted emergency evacuation plan and route to address wildfires or other types of emergencies.

Given the project site’s flat topography, the project site is not anticipated to expose future occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire due to slope, prevailing winds and other factors, or pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire. Further analysis of prevailing winds is required to determine if there are periodic high winds that could influence the spreading and velocity of wildfires. Adherence to applicable



regulations would reduce wildfire ignitions and prevent the spread of wildfires. Furthermore, it is not considered a high-risk area for landslides due to the flat topography and is not subject to post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes that would expose people or structures to significant risks. Nonetheless, further analysis is warranted in the EIR.



Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- a) The EIRs biological, cultural and tribal cultural resources sections shall discuss specific project impacts on plants and wildlife including avian species and impacts to cultural and tribal cultural resources and applicable mitigation. The document shall also evaluate the proposed project’s contribution to cumulative biological, cultural and tribal cultural resources impacts and propose mitigation that would reduce the impacts to less than significant levels, where necessary and feasible.
- b) The proposed project may have the potential to cumulatively contribute to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, traffic, and wildfire impacts. Such impact could occur during the construction phases and/or as a result of the fully build and operational project. The EIR will evaluate the proposed project’s contribution to cumulative impacts in these and other areas, as appropriate.
- c) The proposed project could result in the long-term operation of an emission source that would adversely affect nearby sensitive receptors. The solar facility would not include any kind of industrial processes or equipment that would generate hazardous substances or wastes that would threaten the well-being of people on- or off-site. However, short-term construction activities could result in temporary increases in pollutant concentrations and potentially significant off-site noise impacts. Pollutants of primary



concern commonly associated with construction-related activities include toxic air contaminants, gaseous emissions of criteria pollutants, and fugitive dust. Within the project area, the potential for increased occurrences of Valley Fever is also of concern. Human health impacts from the proposed project's short- and long-term cumulative contributions to air quality impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.