Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP, Director
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2323
Phone: (661) 862-8600
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: November 22, 2022

To: See attached Mailing List

FROM: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Attn: Janice Mayes, Planner III
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 862-8793
mayesj@kerncounty.com

RE: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR THE BULLHEAD SOLAR PROJECT, BY EDF RENEWABLES, LLC (PP22404)

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department, as Lead Agency (pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Guidelines Section 15052) has determined that preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 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 about the proposed project. Your agency will 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 Initial Study 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 limits mandated by State law, your response must be received by **December 23, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.** In addition, comments can also be submitted at a **scoping meeting** that will be held at the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department on **December 14, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.** at the address shown above.

PROJECT TITLE: Bullhead Solar Project, By EDF Renewables, LLC; GPA No. 8, Map No. 214; CUP No. 48, Map No. 214; CUP No. 49, Map No. 214; Ag Exclusion Map No. 214; SPA No. 42, Map No. 231; SPA No. 43, Map 231; ZCC No. 158, Map No. 231; CUP No. 121, Map No. 231; CUP No. 122, Map No. 231; Vacation of Public Access Easements 03 098 231, Map No. 231; SPA No. 35, Map No. 232; SPA No. 36, Map No. 232; ZCC No. 36, Map No. 232; CUP No. 49, Map No. 232; CUP No. 50, Map No. 232.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located within the unincorporated area of Kern County, north and south of Dawn Road west of Sierra Hwy 14 between 105th Street West and 75th Street West. The project site is just south of the City of Rosamond and would connect to the Big Beau Solar site via private road. Other communities in the vicinity of the project site include the cities of Lancaster, Palmdale, and Neenach in Los Angeles County, which are roughly 17 miles southeast, 24 miles southeast, and 18 miles southwest of the project, respectively. Edwards Air Force Base is 22 miles east of the project's eastern boundary.

The project site is located on 1,343.2-acres comprised of 21 privately owned parcels in Section 1 of Township 9 North, Range 14 West; Sections 5 and 6 of Township 9 North, Range 13 West; and Sections 31, 32, and 33 of Township 10 North, Range 13W in the San Bernardino Base and Meridian (SBB&M).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Bullhead Solar Project (proposed project) involves the construction and operation of a solar facility and associated infrastructure, including telecommunications towers and internal roads, to generate up to 270 megawatts (MW) of renewable electrical energy with a Battery Energy Storage System capable of storing approximately 270 MW, or 1,080 megawatt-hours (MWh) of energy, within approximately 25 acres of the 1,343.2 acres project site. The project is proposed by EDF Renewable, LLC, and would be developed near the existing Big Beau Solar Project.

Implementation of the project, as proposed, would include:

- Amendments to the Land Use Element of the Willow Springs Specific Plan as follows:
    - Specific Plan Amendment No. 43, Map No. 231 from Map Code 5.3/4.4 (Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre/Comprehensive Planning Area) to Map Code 5.3 (Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre) on approximately 288 acres, and from Map Code 6.2/4.4 (General Commercial/Comprehensive Planning Area) to Map Code 6.2 (General Commercial) on approximately 15 acres; and
    - Specific Plan Amendment No. 35, Map No. 232 from Map Code 5.3/4.4 (Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre/Comprehensive Planning Area) to Map Code 5.3 (Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre) on approximately 160 acres;
- Changes in Zone Classifications as follows:
    - Zone Classification Change No. 158, Map No. 231 from E(5) RS MH FPS (Estate, 5 Acres, Residential Suburban, Mobile Home Combining, Flood Plain Secondary Combining) to A FPS (Exclusive Agriculture, Flood Plain Secondary Combining), or a more restrictive district, on approximately 94 acres and from E(2 ½) RS MH FPS (Estate, 2 ½ Acres, Residential Suburban, Mobilehome Combining, Flood Plain Secondary Combining) district, to A FPS (Exclusive Agriculture, Flood Plain Secondary Combining), or a more restrictive district, on approximately 215.7 acres; and
    - Zone Classification Change No. 36, Map No. 232 from E (5) RS FPS (Estate, 5 Acres, Residential Suburban, Flood Plain Secondary Combining) district on approximately 8.4 acres, and E 2 ½ RS FPS (Estate, 2 ½ Acres, Residential Suburban, Flood Plain Secondary Combining) district on approximately 151.7 acres to A FPS (Exclusive Agriculture, Flood Plain Secondary Combining), or a more restrictive district.
- Conditional Use Permits to allow for the construction and operations of a combined approximate 270 MW solar facility, as well as ancillary structures including an approximate 270 MW battery storage system with up to 1,080 MWh of storage capacity, within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District pursuant to Section 19.12.030.G of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance (in Zone Maps 214, 231, and 232):
    - Conditional Use Permit No. 48, Map No. 214 for approximately 842 acres;
    - Conditional Use Permit No. 121, Map No. 231 for approximately 331 acres; and
    - Conditional Use Permit No. 50, Map No. 232 for approximately 160 acres
- Conditional Use Permits to allow the construction and operation of a microwave telecommunications tower, within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District pursuant to Section 19.12.030.f F of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance (in Zone Maps 214, 231, and 232):
    - Conditional Use Permit No. 49, Map No. 214;
    - Conditional Use Permit NO. 122, Map No. 231; and
    - Conditional Use Permit No. 49, Map No. 232

- Amendment to the Circulation Element of the Kern County General Plan No. 8, Map No. 214 to remove future road reservations on section and mid- section lines within the project boundaries of Sections 31, 32, and 33 of Township 10 North, Range 13 West, (SBB&M);

- Amendments to the Circulation Element of the Willow Springs Specific Plan as follows:

    - Specific Plan Amendment No. 42, Map No. 231 to remove future road reservations on section and mid-section lines within the project boundaries of Section 6, Township 9 North, Range 13 West, SBB&M; and

    - Specific Plan Amendment No. 36, Map No. 232 to remove future road reservations on section lines with the project boundaries of Section 1 of Township 9 North, Range 14 West, SBB&M;

- Petition for Exclusion from the Boundaries from Agricultural Preserve 24, in Zone Map No. 214, for approximately 842 acres of the project site; and

- Non-summary Vacations of various public access easements in Zone Map No. 232, in and around the project site.

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

Signature: Janice Mayes

Name: Janice Mayes, Planner III

I:\Planning\WORKGRPS\WP\
LABELS\BULLHEAD SOLAR.docx
BULLHEAD SOLAR
AN: 10/27/22

City of Arvin
P.O. Box 548
Arvin, CA 93203

Jo Ellen Alexander
P.O. Box 2000
Rosamond, CA 93560

Bakersfield City Planning Dept
1715 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Bakersfield City Public Works Dept
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

California City Planning Dept
21000 Hacienda Blvd.
California City, CA 93515

Delano City Planning Dept
P.O. Box 3010
Delano, CA 93216

City of Maricopa
P.O. Box 548
Maricopa, CA 93252

City of McFarland
401 West Kern Avenue
McFarland, CA 93250

City of Ridgecrest
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

City of Shafter
336 Pacific Avenue
Shafter, CA 93263

City of Taft
Planning & Building
209 East Kern Street
Taft, CA 93268

City of Tehachapi
Attn: John Schlosser
115 South Robinson Street
Tehachapi, CA 93561-1722

City of Wasco
764 E Street
Wasco, CA 93280

Inyo County Planning Dept
P.O. Drawer "L"
Independence, CA 93526

Kings County Planning Agency
1400 West Lacey Blvd, Bldg 6
Hanford, CA 93230

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

San Luis Obispo Co Planning Dept
Planning and Building
976 Osos Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Santa Barbara Co Resource Mgt Dept
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Tulare County Planning & Dev Dept
5961 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93291

Ventura County RMA Planning Div
800 South Victoria Avenue, L1740
Ventura, CA 93009-1740

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

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

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
777 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite 208
Palm Springs, CA 92262

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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 997
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Division
1325 "J" Street, #1350
Sacramento, CA 95814-2920

U.S. Postal Service
Address Management Systems
28201 Franklin Parkway
Santa Clarita, CA 91383-9321

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 Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
1400 - 10th Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95814

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
11000 River Run Boulevard
Bakersfield, CA 93311

State Dept of Conservation
Office of Land Conservation
801 "K" Street, MS 18-01
Sacramento, CA 95814

State Mining and Geology Board
801 K Street, MS 20-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

State Dept of Food & Agriculture
1220 "N" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

State Office of Historical Pres
Attention Susan Stratton
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 95296-0001

Integrated Waste Management
P.O. Box 4025, MS #15
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Drinking Water
Attn: Jesse Dhaliwal, Sr. Sanitary Eng
4925 Commerce Drive, Suite 120
Bakersfield, CA 93309

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

State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Ste 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

State Dept of Toxic Substance Control
Environmental Protection Agency
1515 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93612

Cal Environmental Protection Agency/
Dept of Toxic Substances Control, Reg 1
Attn: Dave Kereazis, Permit Div - CEQA
8800 Cal Center Drive, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95826

State Dept of Water Resources
San Joaquin Dist.
3374 East Shields Avenue, Room A-7
Fresno, CA 93726

Kern County
Agriculture 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 (Put in FIRE BOX)
Regina Arriaga
Roxanne Routh
Jim Killam

Kern County Fire Dept
Cary Wright, Fire Marshall

Kern County Library/Beale
Local History Room

Kern County Library/Beale
Andie Sullivan

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

Kern County Museum
3801 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Kern County Parks & Recreation

Kern County Sheriff's Dept
Administration

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

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

Kern County Public Works Department/
Building & Development/Code
Compliance

Rosamond Municipal Advisory Council
P.O. Box 626
Rosamond, CA 93560

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

Southern Kern Unified School Dist
P.O. Box CC
Rosamond, CA 93560

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

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

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

Kern County Water Agency
3200 Rio Mirada Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93308

East Kern Air Pollution
Control District

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

California Farm Bureau
2300 River Plaza Drive, NRED
Sacramento, CA 95833

Mojave Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 935
Mojave, CA 93502

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

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

Southern California Edison
P.O. Box 410
Long Beach, CA 90801

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

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

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

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

Chumash Council of Bakersfield
2421 "O" Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2441

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

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

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

Santa Rosa Rancheria
Ruben Barrios, Chairperson
P.O. Box 8
Lemoore, CA 93245

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

Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians
Chairperson
115 Radio Street
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Tubatulabals of Kern County
Attn: Robert Gomez, Chairperson
P.O. Box 226
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

Tule River Indian Tribe
Neal Peyron, Chairperson
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258

Matthew Gorman
The Gorman Law Firm
1346 E. Walnut Street, Suite 220
Pasadena, CA 91106

Eight Bar Ranch
Jon and Helen Lantz
11300 Cameron Canyon Road
Mojave, CA 93501

Fairmont Town Council
Attn: Barbara Rogers
P.O. Box 2320
Rosamond, CA 93560

Joyce LoBasso
P.O. Box 6003
Bakersfield, CA 93386

Leadership Counsel for Justice &
Accountability
1527 - 19th Street, Suite 212
Bakersfield, CA 93301

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

Mojave Foundation
Attn: Todd Quelet
16922 Airport Boulevard
Mojave, CA 93501

Vestas
1417 NW Everett Street
Portland, OR 97209

Southern California Edison
Planning Dept.
510 S. China Lake Blvd.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

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

Steve Yatsko
Terra-Gen Power
11512 El Camino Real Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92130

Lozeau Drury, LLP
410 12th Street Suite 250
Oakland, CA 94607

Center for Biological Diversity
351 California Street #600
San Francisco, CA 94104

Sierra Club
Beyond Coal Campaign
1417 Calumet Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90026

Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP, Director
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2323
Phone: (661) 862-8600
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: November 22, 2022

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

Interested Parties

FROM: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Janice Mayes, Planner III
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301

RE: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report – Bullhead Solar, LLC/EDF Renewables Development, Inc. (PP22404)

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 project identified below. The purpose of this letter is to notify surrounding property owners within 1,000 feet of the project boundaries of this determination. A copy of the Notice of Preparation/Initial Study (NOP/IS) prepared for this project is available for viewing at the following Kern County website: https://kernplanning.com/planning/notices-of-preparation/.

The NOP is also available for review at the Planning and Natural Resources Department, located at 2700 "M" Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93301. The purpose of the 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/IS and submit written comments regarding this project should you wish to do so. Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be received by **December 23, 2022 at 5pm.** Your comments can also be submitted at a scoping meeting that will be held at the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department on **December 14, 2022 at 1:30pm** at the address shown 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: Bullhead Solar Project, By EDF Renewables, LLC; GPA No. 8, Map No. 214; CUP No. 48, Map No. 214; CUP No. 49, Map No. 214; Ag Exclusion Map No. 214; SPA No. 42, Map No. 231; SPA No. 43, Map 231; ZCC No. 158, Map No. 231; CUP No. 121, Map No. 231; CUP No. 122, Map No. 231; Vacation of Public Access Easements 03 098 231, Map No. 231; SPA No. 35, Map No. 232; SPA No. 36, Map No. 232; ZCC No. 36, Map No. 232; CUP No. 49, Map No. 232; CUP No. 50, Map No. 232.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located within the unincorporated area of Kern County, north and south of Dawn Road off Sierra Hwy 14 between 105th Street West and 75th Street West. The project site is just south of the City of Rosamond and would connect to the Big Beau Solar site via private road. Other communities in the vicinity of the project site include the cities of Lancaster, Palmdale, and Neenach in Los

Angeles County, which are roughly 17 miles southeast, 24 miles southeast, and 18 miles southwest of the project, respectively. Edwards Air Force Base is 22 miles east of the project's eastern boundary.

The project site is located on approximately 1,343 acres and is comprised of 22 privately owned parcels in Section 1 of Township 9 North, Range 14 West; Sections 5 and 6 of Township 9 North, Range 13 West; and Sections 31, 32, and 33 of Township 10 North, Range 13W in the San Bernardino Base and Meridian (SBB&M).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Bullhead Solar Project (proposed project) involves the construction and operation of a solar facility and associated infrastructure, including telecommunications towers and internal roads, to generate up to 270 megawatts (MW) of renewable electrical energy with a Battery Energy Storage System capable of storing approximately 270 MW, or 1,080 megawatt-hours (MWh) of energy, within the approximately 25 acres of the project site. The project is proposed by EDF Renewable, LLC, and would be developed near the existing Big Beau Solar Project.

Implementation of the project as proposed includes the following requests:

- Amendments to the Land Use Element of the Willow Springs Specific Plan as follows:
    - Specific Plan Amendment No. 43, Map No. 231 from Map Code 5.3/4.4 (Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre/Comprehensive Planning Area) to Map Code 5.3 (Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre) on approximately 288 acres, and from Map Code 6.2/4.4 (General Commercial/Comprehensive Planning Area) to Map Code 6.2 (General Commercial) on approximately 15 acres; and
    - Specific Plan Amendment No. 35, Map No. 232 from Map Code 5.3/4.4 (Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre/Comprehensive Planning Area) to Map Code 5.3 (Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre) on approximately 160 acres;
- Changes in Zone Classifications as follows:
    - Zone Classification Change No. 158, Map No. 231 from E(5) RS MH FPS (Estate, 5 Acres, Residential Suburban, Mobile Home Combining, Flood Plain Secondary Combining) to A FPS (Exclusive Agriculture, Flood Plain Secondary Combining), or a more restrictive district, on approximately 115 acres and from E(2 ½) RS MH FPS (Estate, 2 ½ Acres, Residential Suburban, Mobilehome Combining, Flood Plain Secondary Combining) district, to A FPS (Exclusive Agriculture, Flood Plain Secondary Combining), or a more restrictive district, on approximately 215.7 acres; and
    - Zone Classification Change No. 36, Map No. 232 from E (5) RS FPS (Estate, 5 Acres, Residential Suburban, Flood Plain Secondary Combining) district on approximately 8.4 acres, and E 2 ½ RS FPS (Estate, 2 ½ Acres, Residential Suburban, Flood Plain Secondary Combining) district on approximately 151.7 acres to A FPS (Exclusive Agriculture, Flood Plain Secondary Combining), or a more restrictive district.
- Conditional Use Permits to allow for the construction and operations of a combined approximate 270 MW solar facility, as well as ancillary structures including an approximate 270 MW battery storage system with up to 1,080 MWh of storage capacity, within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District pursuant to Section 19.12.030.G of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance (in Zone Maps 214, 231, and 232):
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    - Conditional Use Permit No. 121, Map No. 231 for approximately 331 acres; and
    - Conditional Use Permit No. 50, Map No. 232 for approximately 160 acres

- Conditional Use Permits to allow the construction and operation of a microwave telecommunications tower, within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District pursuant to Section 19.12.030.f F of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance (in Zone Maps 214, 231, and 232):
    - Conditional Use Permit No. 49, Map No. 214;
    - Conditional Use Permit No. 122, Map No. 231; and
    - Conditional Use Permit No. 50, Map No. 232
- Amendment to the Circulation Element of the Kern County General Plan No. 8, Map No. 214 to remove future road reservations on section and mid-section lines within the project boundaries of Sections 31, 32, and 33 of Township 10 North, Range 13 West, (SBB&M);
- Amendments to the Circulation Element of the Willow Springs Specific Plan as follows:
    - Specific Plan Amendment No. 42, Map No. 231 to remove future road reservations on section and mid-section lines within the project boundaries of Section 6, Township 9 North, Range 13 West, SBB&M; and
    - Specific Plan Amendment No. 36, Map No. 232 to remove future road reservations on section lines with the project boundaries of Section 1 of Township 9 North, Range 14 West, SBB&M;
- Petition for Exclusion from the Boundaries from Agricultural Preserve 24, in Zone Map No. 214, for approximately 842 acres of the project site; and
- Nonsummary Vacations of various public access easements in Zone Map No. 232, in and around the project site.

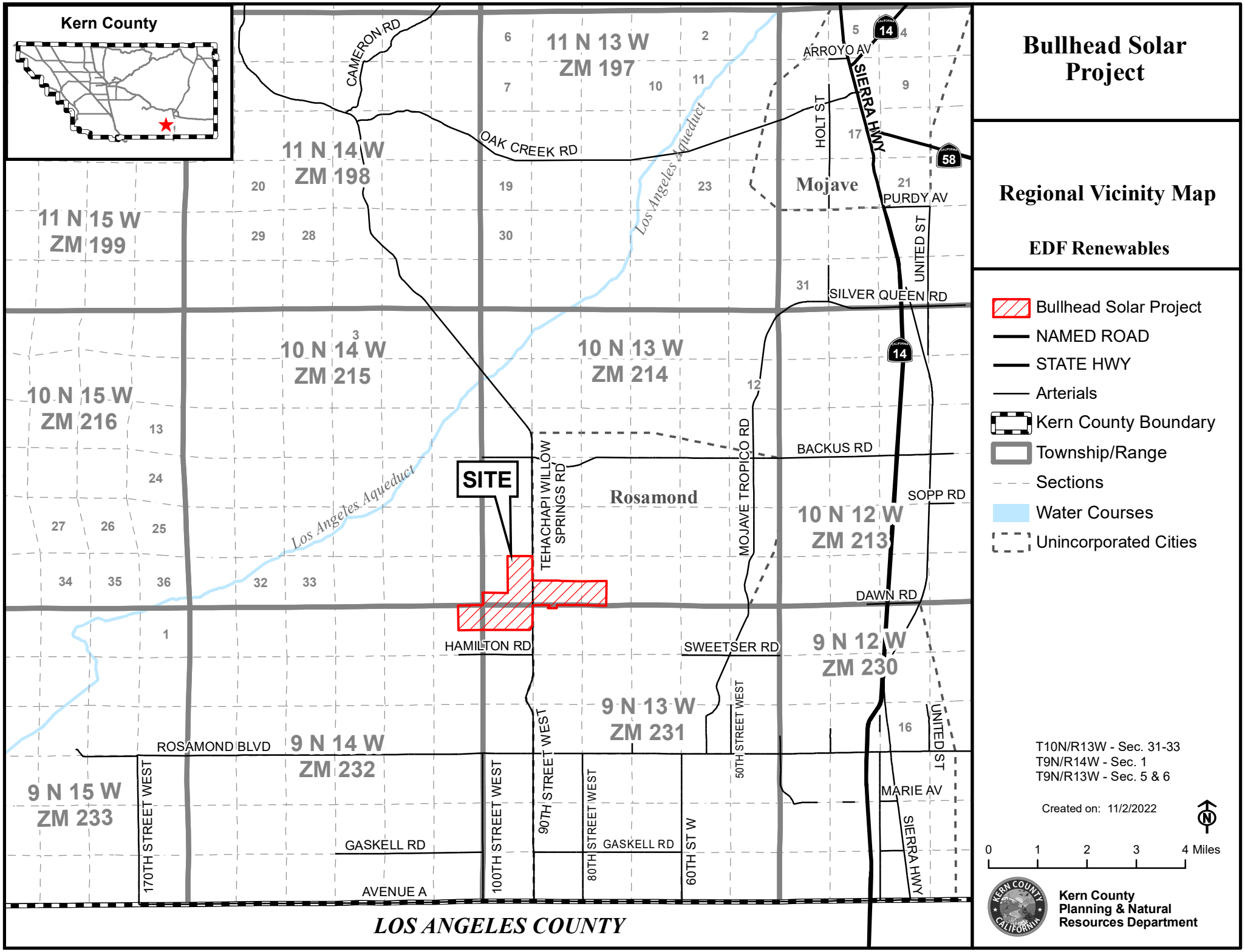
Document can be viewed online at: https://kernplanning.com/planning/notices-of-preparation/

Should you have any questions regarding this project, or the Notice of Preparation, please feel free to contact me at (661) 862-8793 or mayesj@kerncounty.com

Sincerely,

Janice Mayes, Planner III
Advanced Planning Division

Attachment: Vicinity Map showing project boundary



Bullhead Solar Project

Regional Vicinity Map

EDF Renewables

- Bullhead Solar Project
- NAMED ROAD
- STATE HWY
- Arterials
- Kern County Boundary
- Township/Range
- Sections
- Water Courses
- Unincorporated Cities

T10N/R13W - Sec. 31-33
T9N/R14W - Sec. 1
T9N/R13W - Sec. 5 & 6

Created on: 11/2/2022

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Kern County Planning & Natural Resources Department

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BULLHEAD SOLAR
AN: 10/27/22

315 050 14 00 1
AGBAYANI ELMER & CRISTINA REV TRUST
1554 HILLMONT AV
SAN JOSE CA 95127-4521

474 120 04 00 2
AHMAD BASHIR
1148 HERMINA ST
MILPITAS CA 95035-3003

315 030 02 00 0
AIM DEVELOPMENTS LLC
4000 MACARTHUR BL STE 600
NEWPORT BEACH CA 92660

346 371 03 00 5
ALTMAN LIVING TRUST
22330 ANDERMATT DR
TEHACHAPI CA 93561

346 032 55 00 4
AURORA SOLAR LLC
1125 NW COUCH ST STE 700
PORTLAND OR 97209-4129

474 120 17 00 0
BARCUS B B
5616 45TH AV S W
SEATTLE WA 98116

474 120 39 00 4
BAYNOSA RODOLFO B & LUZ C TR
1873 BERRY HILL DR
CHINO HILLS CA 91709-4897

358 051 18 00 3
BEEMAN HARRY LELAND
4448 STUMBERG LN
BATON ROUGE LA 70816-6523

315 230 02 00 8
BLACK LIVING TRUST
13590 N NIGHTSTAR CT
MARANA AZ 85653

346 363 07 00 8
BLUE CUBE VENTURE LLC
13089 PEYTON DR C473
CHINO HILLS CA 91709

474 120 11 00 2
BLYDENBURG ALAN C & DEBRA L
PO BOX 56867
SHERMAN OAKS CA 91413-1867

315 040 12 00 2
BONALES VERONICA
PO BOX 1326
FERNDALE CA 95536-1326

315 011 50 00 0
BORUCHIN JOHN & DORA LIV TRUST
42 E 69TH ST
NEW YORK NY 10021-5093

346 032 48 00 4
BROSIUS SCOTT EVERETT
2105 MAIN ST
SANTA MONICA CA 90405-2215

315 050 25 00 3
BURTON GARY EDWARD O
3200 BERRY HOLW
MELISSA TX 75454-3032

315 050 24 00 0
BURTON LESLIE JEAN CAMPBELL TRUST
5401 NE 197TH ST APT B
LAKE FOREST PRK WA 98155

315 050 23 00 7 **DUP**
CAMPBELL LESLIE JEAN REVOCABLE TRUST
5401 NE 197TH ST APT B
LAKE FOREST PRK WA 98155

315 060 02 00 9
CANON FERNANDO B
16902 MARINABAY DR
HUNTINGTON BCH CA 92649-2916

346 373 03 00 9
CANONES RONITO A & CRISTETA ET AL
26486 JEAN BAPTISTE WY
MORENO VALLEY CA 92555-2543

346 240 37 00 9
CENTURY DEV CORP
P O BOX 7076
EDMOND OK 73083

346 240 27 00 0 **DUP**
CENTURY DEVELOPMENT CORP
P O BOX 7076
EDMOND OK 73083

315 050 28 00 2
CITY OF LOS ANGELES D W P
P O BOX 51111 RM 633
LOS ANGELES CA 90051-0100

315 050 35 00 2
CITY OF LOS ANGELES D W P
PO BOX 51111 # 1031
LOS ANGELES CA 90051-5700

315 050 44 00 8
CITY OF LOS ANGELES D W P
111 N HOPE ST RM 340
LOS ANGELES CA 90012-2607

346 032 52 00 5
CITY OF LOS ANGELES D W P
111 N HOPE ST
LOS ANGELES CA 90012

346 372 01 00 6
COLMENAR FMLY TR
2825 ORO BLANCO CI
ESCONDIDO CA 92027-5257

315 050 38 00 1
CORONA EZEQUIEL
8715 FAVORITO AV
ROSAMOND CA 93560

474 120 06 01 7
COSTELLO FMLY LIV TR
100 HILLCREST LN
KENTFIELD CA 94904

346 031 08 00 1
CRYSTAL ORGANIC FARMS LLC
P O BOX 81498
BAKERSFIELD CA 93380

346 363 05 00 2
CUDAL MARCELINO M & ZENAIDA V TRUST
757 SANDY HOOK AV
LA PUENTE CA 91744-2656

358 051 08 00 4
CUMMINGS CHARLES D & LINDA G
HCR 3 BOX 226
ROSAMOND CA 93560

346 240 41 00 0
D A REALTY TRUST
P O BOX 7076
EDMOND OK 73083

358 051 14 00 1
DAGEFORDE TRUST
16804 NE 10TH WY
VANCOUVER WA 98684-6424

346 361 02 00 9
DE LOS SANTOS FAMILY TRUST
1316 ARABIC ST
WILMINGTON CA 90744-4904

346 363 06 00 5
DL INVESTORS 1 LLC
166 W WASHINGTON ST STE 730
CHICAGO IL 60602

315 011 01 00 8
EDF RENEWABLES DEV INC
15445 INNOVATION DR
SAN DIEGO CA 92128

474 120 37 00 8 **DUP**
EDF RENEWABLES DEVELOPMENT INC
15445 INNOVATION DR
SAN DIEGO CA 92128

346 240 30 00 8
ESQUER VICTOR J
1368 CERRITOS CT
CHULA VISTA CA 91910-7106

358 051 17 00 0
EVERETTE SUZANNE E
PO BOX 50
LAKE ARROWHEAD CA 92352-0050

346 240 28 00 3
FOX THOMAS R LIVING TRUST
2288 OLD TRACY RD
MOUNTAIN HOME AR 72653

315 050 36 00 5
GABRIEL LAND CO
1022 SELBY AV
LOS ANGELES CA 90024

315 040 04 00 9
GLENN MARILYN R
5334 CAMELLIA AV
SACRAMENTO CA 95819-1716

346 240 26 00 7
GM GABRYCH FAMILY L P
2006 OLD HIGHWAY 395
FALLBROOK CA 92028-8816

358 052 03 00 6
GOMEZ AMADO
40701 RANCHO VISTA BL SP 256
PALMDALE CA 93551-2713

315 011 18 00 8
GRIFFIN LEONARD W & LAURA SURVIVORS TRUST
48009 70TH ST E
LANCASTER CA 93535

315 050 41 00 9 **DUP**
GRIFFIN LEONARD W & LAURA SURVIVORS TRUST
48009 EAST 70TH STREET
LANCASTER CA 93534

358 052 05 00 2
GUERRERO RODOLFO GAMINO
10057 HAMILTON RD
ROSAMOND CA 93560-6931

315 230 07 00 3
HAAG ROBERT W SR & SCHMID TAMARA
5491 TEHACHAPI WILLOW SP RD
ROSAMOND CA 93560-7504

346 240 31 00 1
HAMILTON P A & MURRAY HELEN T
343 W PALM AV APT 5
EL CAJON CA 92020

346 363 02 00 3
HIATT FREDERICK H & GERALDINE TRUST
12757 TREE RANCH RD
OJAI CA 93023

315 030 10 00 3
HNF INTERNAT INC
22 COLLETON RIVER DR
HENDERSON NV 89052-6646

315 050 43 00 5
IRA SERVICES, TRUST CO
P O BOX 7080
SAN CARLOS CA 94070-7080

346 240 36 00 6
KARIM RAHIM
6358 POINT ISABEL WY
LAS VEGAS NV 89122-7662

346 371 06 00 4
KAWASHIMA FRANK T & BETTY S
1215 E NORWOOD PL.
ALHAMBRA CA 91801

315 050 22 00 4
KETTLES HARRIET LIVING TRUST
1016 EDWARDS PL
LOMPOC CA 93436-3416

358 051 43 00 5
KIMARI HENRY N & KELLY A
843 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD
CORDOVA AL 35550-4019

315 050 37 00 8 **DUP**
L A CITY OF
PO BOX 51111 # 1031
LOS ANGELES CA 90051-5700

315 050 39 00 4
L A CITY OF
PO BOX 51111
LOS ANGELES CA 90051-0100

315 230 01 00 5 **DUP**
L A CITY OF
PO BOX 51111 RM 1031
LOS ANGELES CA 90051-5700

346 372 02 00 9
LAMBE DONALD S & NORA S
1671 W NINE ONE HALF MILE RD
CANTONMENT FL 32533-7704

346 372 03 00 2
LAYGO ARMANDO L
19 LOS FELIS DR
POMONA CA 91766

315 050 42 00 2
LOS ANGELES CITY OF
PO BOX 51111 RM 1031
LOS ANGELES CA 90051-0100

346 363 11 00 9
MARLETT MARK
1117 SW WAY THRU THE WOODS
DECATUR AL 35603-1268

315 050 12 00 5
MONTGOMERY PAUL H
1629 CYRENE DR
CARSON CA 90746

346 250 01 00 7
OPEN SP HOME OWNERS ASSC #4
P O BOX 20010
ENCINO CA 91416

315 050 33 00 6
PARADA RAYMOND J TRUST
P O BOX 10520
PRESCOTT AZ 86304

315 050 40 00 6
PRESSMAN BARRY K REVOCABLE TRUST
2261 MONACO DR
OXNARD CA 93035-2915

315 050 16 00 7
ROBINSON ROGER WARREN & SYLVA IRENE TRUST
1450 W IVYTON ST
LANCASTER CA 93534-2115

358 052 04 00 9
RUTKOWSKI BARBARA J
11705 SCENIC HILLS BL
HUDSON FL 34667-5619

474 120 45 00 1
LANDSGAARD OLAF
P O BOX 2567
ROSAMOND CA 93560-6420

474 120 41 00 9
LE ME VAN & NGUYEN SEN THI
4609 LA CRESCENT LP
SAN JOSE CA 95136-2686

346 363 04 00 9
MAGALING BENITO B & EVELYN M
323 WILLITS ST
DALY CITY CA 94014-1931

346 032 26 00 0
MARTINEZ JULIO O & LUCIANA A
2813 GREEN MOUNTAIN LN
ESCONDIDO CA 92025-7549

315 050 15 00 4
MOORISH SCIENCE TEMPLE OF AMER
815 N LA BREA AV 153
INGLEWOOD CA 90302

315 040 11 00 9
ORTEGA ISMAEL & EMELDA
12521 WINGO ST
PACOIMA CA 91331

474 120 13 00 8
PETERSON WESLEY A
P O BOX 2249
MESA AZ 85214

358 051 09 00 7
QUEALY JESSICA
5527 105TH ST W
WILLOW SPRINGS CA 93560-7500

346 363 03 00 6
RODIL AUREA T
136-08 68 DR APT A
FLUSHING NY 11367

358 051 15 00 4
RYAN FAMILY REVOCABLE TRUST
10568 MOUNTAIN BROW RD
SONORA CA 95370-8015

358 052 01 00 0
LAPIS LAND CO LLC
P O BOX 81498
BAKERSFIELD CA 93380-1498

315 040 05 00 2
LOMBARDI IDA C REV TRUST
2201 SACRAMENTO ST STE 403
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94115-2314

346 240 06 00 9
MANNIKUS ERLINDA & YENKO EMMA ET AL
10 PIKEVIEW TERR
SECAUCUS NJ 07094

358 051 10 00 9
MC INTOSH TED A
8608 E 268TH AV
BUCKLEY WA 98321-9295

346 240 07 00 2
OH ALEX S & SEONG H
19551 RINALDI ST U 24
PORTER RANCH CA 91326-1687

358 052 08 00 1
PADILLA LUZVIMINDA V
3633 KIM CT
LANCASTER CA 93536

315 011 48 00 5
PHAN FON & WONG DIANA
PO BOX 290983
PHELAN CA 92329-0983

315 040 02 00 3
RINARD JOAN GIGNAC TRUST
2738 N KEYSTONE ST
BURBANK CA 91504

358 051 13 00 8
ROMERO ULICES JAVIER TORRES
23450 NEWHALL AV SP 26
NEWHALL CA 91321

346 031 07 00 8
SCHIFF MARK AKIRA
20553 GALLOWAY DR
SANTA CLARITA CA 91350

358 051 04 00 2
SEGAL MICHAEL & BRENDA
1426 STATE HIGHWAY 58
MOJAVE CA 93501-1961

358 051 05 00 5 **DUP**
SEGAL MICHAEL & BRENDA
1426 HIGHWAY 58
MOJAVE CA 93501

358 051 06 00 8
SEGAL MICHAEL & BRENDA TRUST
1426 STATE HIGHWAY 58
MOJAVE CA 93501-1961

346 371 07 00 7
SIMS BENNIE G SR & CHERYL L
9601 LOMITA CT APT 222
ALTA LOMA CA 91701

346 371 08 00 0
SORIANO FRANDEROOSE C &
OLIVIA C
19940 ROYAL AV
HAYWARD CA 94541-3652

346 240 19 00 7
TAMAYO 2014 TRUST
1279 N REEDER AV
COVINA CA 91724-1623

346 240 24 00 1 **DUP**
TAMAYO TRUST
1279 N REEDER AV
COVINA CA 91724-1623

346 363 10 00 6
TERRADO VIRGELIA G
363 KAHA ST
KAILUA HI 96734

358 051 12 00 5
TIDWELL DERRIL W & PATRICIA A
4568 HALE AV
LA VERNE CA 91750-2531

358 051 11 00 2
TIDWELL PATRICIA A
4568 HALE AV
LA VERNE CA 91750-2531

346 240 10 00 0
TIEN FMLY TR
6571 BROWNSTONE PL
RANCHO CUCAMONG CA 91739-
2011

315 040 03 00 6
TORRES PABLO & ROMERO
MAGDALENA PEREZ
23450 NEWHALL AV SP 70
NEWHALL CA 91321

358 052 09 00 4
US SOLAR ASSETS LLC
135 MAIN ST FLR 6
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105-8113

346 363 12 00 2
VEAL IRREVOCABLE TRUST
8861 MONTROSE AV
WESTMINSTER CA 92683-5448

346 361 03 00 2
VICTORIA LUZ B ET AL
2425 WOODLEY AV
LAKELAND FL 33803

315 060 01 00 6
WEBB KIRK LIVING TRUST
1308 ABBOT AV
SAN GABRIEL CA 91776-3216

346 240 32 00 4
WELCH SHERI
37715 38TH AVE S
AUBURN WA 98001-8749

346 031 05 00 2
WESTN NATURAL RESOURCES LLC
11455 EL CAMINO REAL STE 160
SAN DIEGO CA 92130

315 050 02 00 6
WILLEY FAMILY TRUST
5792 TEHACHAPI WILLOW SPG RD
ROSAMOND CA 93560

346 240 17 00 1
WOODCLIFF INC
19313 STARLIGHT DR
TARZANA CA 91356

474 120 38 00 1
YOON YANG SUB & KUM SOOK
TRUST
11723 COORSGOLD LN
NORTHRIDGE CA 91326

474 120 12 00 5
YOUNG JASON
6195 105TH ST WEST
ROSAMOND CA 93560

346 361 01 00 6
ADVMINVESTMENTS LLC
1369 ALLENFORD AV
LOS ANGELES CA 90049

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: Bullhead Solar Project by EDF Renewables, LLC

Lead Agency: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department | Contact Person: Janice Mayes

Mailing Address: 2700 M Street, Suite 100 | Phone: 661-862-8612

City: Bakersfield | Zip: CA | County: Kern

Project Location: County: Kern | City/Nearest Community: Rosamond

Cross Streets: Staddling Dawn Rd between 105th Street West and 75th Street West | Zip Code: 93501

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 34.9 ° 136 ′ ″ N / 118.29 ° 131 ′ ″ W | Total Acres: 1343

Assessor's Parcel No.: Multiple | Section: Multiple | Twp.: 9N/10N | Range: 13W/14W | Base: SBBM

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

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

Document Type:

CEQA: ☒ NOP ☐ Draft EIR | NEPA: ☐ NOI | Other: ☐ Joint Document
☐ Early Cons ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR | ☐ EA | ☐ Final Document
☐ Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____ | ☐ Draft EIS | ☐ Other: _____
☐ Mit Neg Dec Other: _____ | ☐ FONSI

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ Specific Plan ☐ Rezone ☐ Annexation
☒ General Plan Amendment ☐ Master Plan ☐ Prezone ☐ Redevelopment
☐ General Plan Element ☐ Planned Unit Development ☒ Use Permit ☐ Coastal Permit
☐ Community Plan ☐ Site Plan ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) ☒ Other: Nonsummary vacation of public access

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Educational: _____
☐ Recreational: _____
☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Transportation: Type _____
☐ Mining: Mineral _____
☒ Power: Type Solar PV MW 270
☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☐ Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

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

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Land Use: Agriculture/ Zoning: A (Exclusive Agriculture, Floodplain); E 2.5 RS MH FPS (Estate2.5 Acre, Residential Suburban, Mobilehome Combining, Flood Plain Secondary); E 5 MH FPS (Estate 5 Acre, Mobilehome Combining, Flood Plain Secondary)/Kern County General Plan: 8.I(Intensive Agr

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

The Bullhead Solar is a proposed project photovoltaic (PV) solar facility with associated infrastructure on approximately 1,343.2 acres of privately-owned land in southeastern Kern County. As stated above, the proposed project would generate up to 270 MW of renewable electrical energy with a battery energy storage system (BESS) capable of storing approximately 270 MW, or 1,080 MWh of storage capacity. The proposed project includes the installation of solar development with associated PV panels, battery storage, inverters, converters, generators, foundations, transformers, and preferred and optional generation-tie (gen-tie) routes to the Rosamond and Whirlwind Substations, only one of which would be constructed. The project also includes laydown yards, a meteorological station, a microwave/ communication tower, and a substation.

Implementation of the project as proposed includes the following requests:

- Amendments to the Land Use Element of the Willow Springs Specific Plan as follows:
    - Specific Plan Amendment No. 43, Map No. 231 from Map Code 5.3/4.4 (Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre/Comprehensive Planning Area) to Map Code 5.3 (Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre) on approximately 288 acres, and from Map Code 6.2/4.4 (General Commercial/Comprehensive Planning Area) to Map Code 6.2 (General Commercial) on approximately 15 acres; and
    - Specific Plan Amendment No. 35, Map No. 232 from Map Code 5.3/4.4 (Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre/Comprehensive Planning Area) to Map Code 5.3 (Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre) on approximately 160 acres;
- Changes in Zone Classifications as follows:
    - Zone Classification Change No. 158, Map No. 231 from E(5) RS MH FPS (Estate, 5 Acres, Residential Suburban, Mobile Home Combining, Flood Plain Secondary Combining) to A FPS (Exclusive Agriculture, Flood Plain Secondary Combining), or a more restrictive district, on approximately 94 acres and from E(2 ½) RS MH FPS (Estate, 2 ½ Acres, Residential Suburban, Mobilehome Combining, Flood Plain Secondary Combining) district, to A FPS (Exclusive Agriculture, Flood Plain Secondary Combining), or a more restrictive district, on approximately 215.7 acres; and
    - Zone Classification Change No. 36, Map No. 232 from E (5) RS FPS (Estate, 5 Acres, Residential Suburban, Flood Plain Secondary Combining) district on approximately 8.4 acres, and E 2 ½ RS FPS (Estate, 2 ½ Acres, Residential Suburban, Flood Plain Secondary Combining) district on approximately 151.7 acres to A FPS (Exclusive Agriculture, Flood Plain Secondary Combining), or a more restrictive district.
- Conditional Use Permits to allow for the construction and operations of a combined approximate 270 MW solar facility, as well as ancillary structures including an approximate 270 MW battery storage system with up to 1,080 MWh of storage capacity, within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District pursuant to Section 19.12.030.G of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance (in Zone Maps 214, 231, and 232):
    - Conditional Use Permit No. 48, Map No. 214 for approximately 842 acres;
    - Conditional Use Permit No. 121, Map No. 231 for approximately 331 acres; and
    - Conditional Use Permit No. 50, Map No. 232 for approximately 160 acres
- Conditional Use Permits to allow the construction and operation of a microwave telecommunications tower, within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District pursuant to Section 19.12.030.f F of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance (in Zone Maps 214, 231, and 232):
    - Conditional Use Permit No. 49, Map No. 214;
    - Conditional Use Permit NO. 122, Map No. 231; and
    - Conditional Use Permit No. 49, Map No. 232
- Amendment to the Circulation Element of the Kern County General Plan No. 8, Map No. 214 to remove future road reservations on section and mid-section lines within the project boundaries of Sections 31, 32, and 33 of Township 10 North, Range 13 West, (SBB&M);
- Amendments to the Circulation Element of the Willow Springs Specific Plan as follows:
    - Specific Plan Amendment No. 42, Map No. 231 to remove future road reservations on section and mid-section lines within the project boundaries of Section 6, Township 9 North, Range 13 West, SBB&M; and
    - Specific Plan Amendment No. 36, Map No. 232 to remove future road reservations on section lines with the project boundaries of Section 1 of Township 9 North, Range 14 West, SBB&M;
- Petition for Exclusion from the Boundaries from Agricultural Preserve 24, in Zone Map No. 214, for approximately 842 acres of the project site; and
- Nonsummary Vacations of various public access easements in Zone Map No. 232, in and around the project site.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

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

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

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

Starting Date November 22, 2022 Ending Date December 23, 2022

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: PlaceWorks
Address: 700 South Flower Street, Suite 600
City/State/Zip: Los Angelex, CA 90017
Contact: Addie Farrell, Principal
Phone: 213-623-1443 Ext 2119

Applicant: EDF Renewables, LLC. / Scott Kuhlke, Director
Address: 1999 Harrison Street, Suite 675
City/State/Zip: Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: 510-457-2168

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: Janie Hayes **Date:** November 22, 2022

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

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NOTICE OF PREPARATION/INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Bullhead Solar Project
by EDF Renewables, LLC

General Plan Amendment No. 8, Map 214 (Circulation);
Conditional Use Permit No. 48, Map 214;
Conditional Use Permit No. 49, Map 214;
Agricultural Preserve 24, Exclusion, Map 214;

Specific Plan Amendment No. 42, Map 231 (Circulation);
Specific Plan Amendment No. 43, Map 231;
Zone Classification Change 158, Map 231;
Conditional Use Permit No. 121, Map 231;
Conditional Use Permit No. 122, Map 231;
Vacation of Public Access Easements 03 098 231

Specific Plan Amendment No. 35, Map 232;
Specific Plan Amendment No. 36, Map 232 (Circulation);
Zone Classification Change No. 36, Map 232;
Conditional Use Permit No. 49, Map 232;
Conditional Use Permit No. 50, Map 232

(PP22404)

LEAD AGENCY:

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

Contact: Janice Mayes, Planner III
(661) 862-8793
mayesj@kerncounty.com

November 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 Bullhead Solar Project in the unincorporated area of southern Kern County, California.

1. Project Description

1.1. Project Location

The proposed Bullhead Solar Project (proposed project) is a proposal by EDF Renewables, LLC (Project Proponent) to construct and operate a photovoltaic (PV) solar facility and associated infrastructure, including telecommunications towers and internal roads, to generate up to 270 megawatts (MW) of renewable electrical energy with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) capable of storing approximately 270 MW, or 1,080 megawatt-hours (MWh), within approximately 25 acres of the project site. The project includes preferred and optional generation-tie (gen-tie routes) to the Rosamond and Whirlwind Substations, only one of which would be constructed. The proposed project is adjacent the previously approved Big Beau Solar Project and will utilize the same interconnection infrastructure.

The project site is located on a approximately 1,342 arcres on of 21 privately owned parcels in the southern unincorporated area of Kern County, CA in Section 1 of Township 9 North, Range 14 West; Sections 5 and 6 of Township 9 North, Range 13 West; and Sections 31, 32, and 33 of Township 10 North, Range 13W in the San Bernardino Base and Meridian (SBB&M). Please see **Figure 1:** *Regional Vicinity Map* and **Figure 2:** *Local Vicinity Map*, below, for further details. The land is controlled via lease or owned by the Project Proponent.

The project is generally located in southern Kern County. The project site is south of the Tehachapi Mountains on lands that gradually slope downward from the northwest to the southeast. It is approximately 19 miles south of the city of Tehachapi, 12 miles southwest of the community of Mojave, 8 miles northwest of the community of Rosamond, and 2 miles north of the community of Willow Springs. Other communities in the vicinity of the project site include cities of Lancaster, Palmdale, and Neenach in Los Angeles County, which are roughly 17 miles southeast and 24 miles southeast, and 18 miles southwest of the project, respectively. Edwards Air Force Base is 22 miles east of the project's eastern boundary.

The project site is approximately 12 miles southwest of State Route (SR) 58 and approximately 34 miles east of Interstate (I) 5. SR-14 (Antelope Valley Freeway) is approximately 7 miles to the east of the site, and SR-138 (West Avenue D) is approximately 9 miles to the south in Los Angeles County. The project site is located east and west of Tehachapi-Willow Springs Road, generally bounded by Favorito Avenue to the south, Champagne Avenue to the north, 105th Street West and the Big Beau Solar Project to the west, and 75th Street West to the east.

Figure 1: *Regional Vicinity Map*

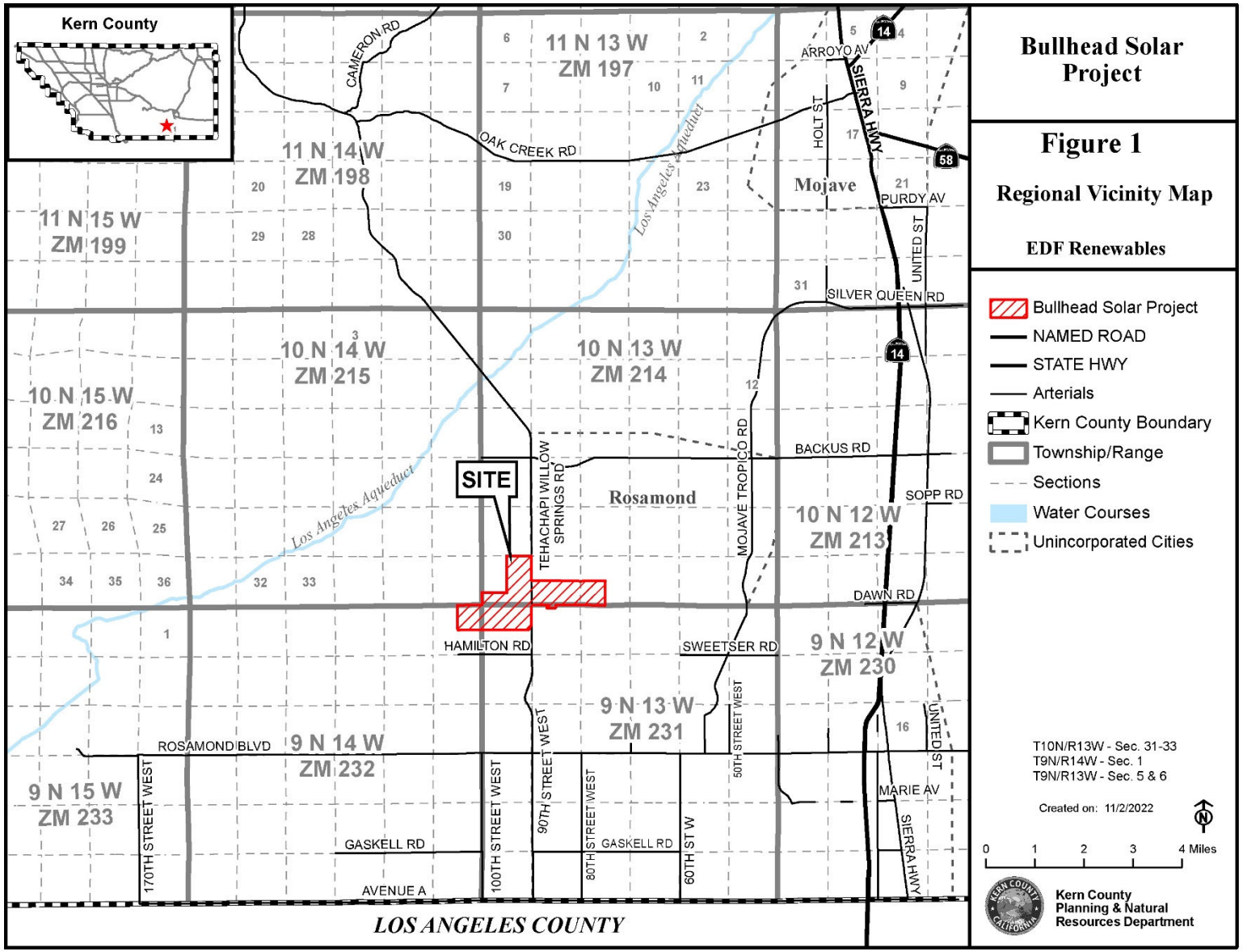
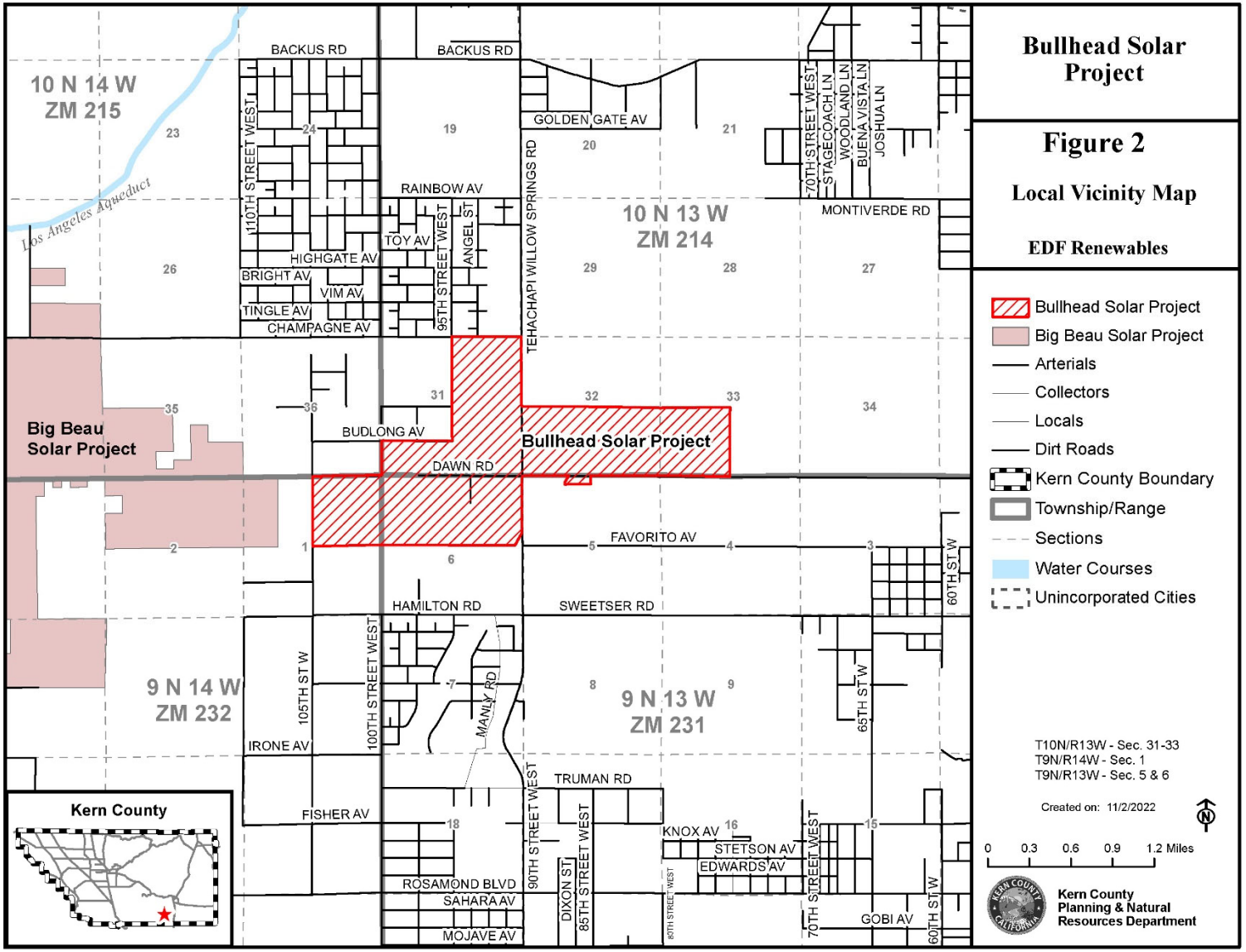


Figure 2: *Local Vicinity Map*



The project site is located within the Willow Springs, CA, United States Geological Survey 7.5-Minute topographic quadrangle map (quad). Proposed access roads that would be used to access the project site fall within the Willow Springs and Little Buttes quads. The gen-tie route options fall within the Willow Springs, Little Buttes and Tylerhorse Canyon quads. The project is in an area of low population density and is traversed by a network of dirt roads. This area of the County is recognized by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory as having solar and wind resources that are suitable for renewable energy development.

Primary regional access to the project site would be via SR-14 (Antelope Valley Freeway on to Rosamond Boulevard. SR-14 is 7 miles to the east of the project area, and access would be gained by heading west on Rosamond Boulevard, north on Tehachapi Willow Springs Road, and west on Dawn Road.

1.2. Environmental Setting

The proposed project is located on approximately 1,343.2 acres of privately-owned land located in southern Kern County, California. A larger study area has been provided for evaluation to ensure that all lands potentially affected by the proposed project are included in the analysis.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) delineates flood hazard areas on its Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). According to the FIRMs for the project area, approximately 99 percent of the project site is located in Zone A, defined as an area subject to the 1 percent annual chance of flooding; also referred to as a 100-year flood event see **Figure 3***, FEMA Floodplain Map*, below. As a result, the project could be subject to flooding however the construction would comply with construction and design specifications of the Kern County Floodplain Management Ordinance. A very small area of the northeast corner of the site falls within Zone X, areas determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance of flood).

Portions of the project are within an area that has been designated by the California Department of Conservation (DOC) as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland. Within the project area, approximately 29 percent of lands are considered Farmland of Statewide Importance, and approximately 9 percent of lands are considered Grazing Land. The California Department of Conservation designates the remainder of the project as Nonagricultural Natural Vegetation or Vacant and Disturbed Land.

Approximately 842 acres of the proposed project site (approximately 62 percent) are within the Kern County Agricultural Preserve Number 24 boundary. The land is currently fallow as noted in the Farmland History report for this proposed project. If approved, the proposed project would remove the 842 acres of land from Agricultural Preserve number 24. Although the land is currently in an agricultural preserve, (which is a prerequisite to placement under a Williamson Act contract), there are no parcels within the proposed project site that are under any Williamson Act contracts that would be affected by the removal. For additional details, please see the Agricultural Maps, **Figure 4,** *Existing Agricultural Boundaries* Map and **Figure 5,** *Proposed Agricultural Boundaries Map,* below.

Portions of the project study area also lie within an area designated as Important Farmland (i.e., land categorized as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland) by the California Department of Conservation (DOC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program [FMMP].

Any project construction on land categorized as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland would constitute a direct impact on Important Farmland. Approximately 401 acres (29 percent) of land within the project study area is considered Important Farmland, however, the project footprint that may be constructed on Important Farmland would not interfere with agricultural use, since the acreage lies fallow. Most of the land is categorized as Farmland of Statewide Importance (395 acres)

and the remainder is Unique Farmland (6 acres) (DOC 2018). Other FMMP land uses occupying the project study area include Grazing Land and Other Land. Other Land is further designated under the DOC Rural Land Mapping Project as Nonagricultural or Natural Vegetation and Vacant or Disturbed Land. No land within the project study area is designated as Prime Farmland or Unique Farmland.

Figure 3: *FEMA Floodplain Map*

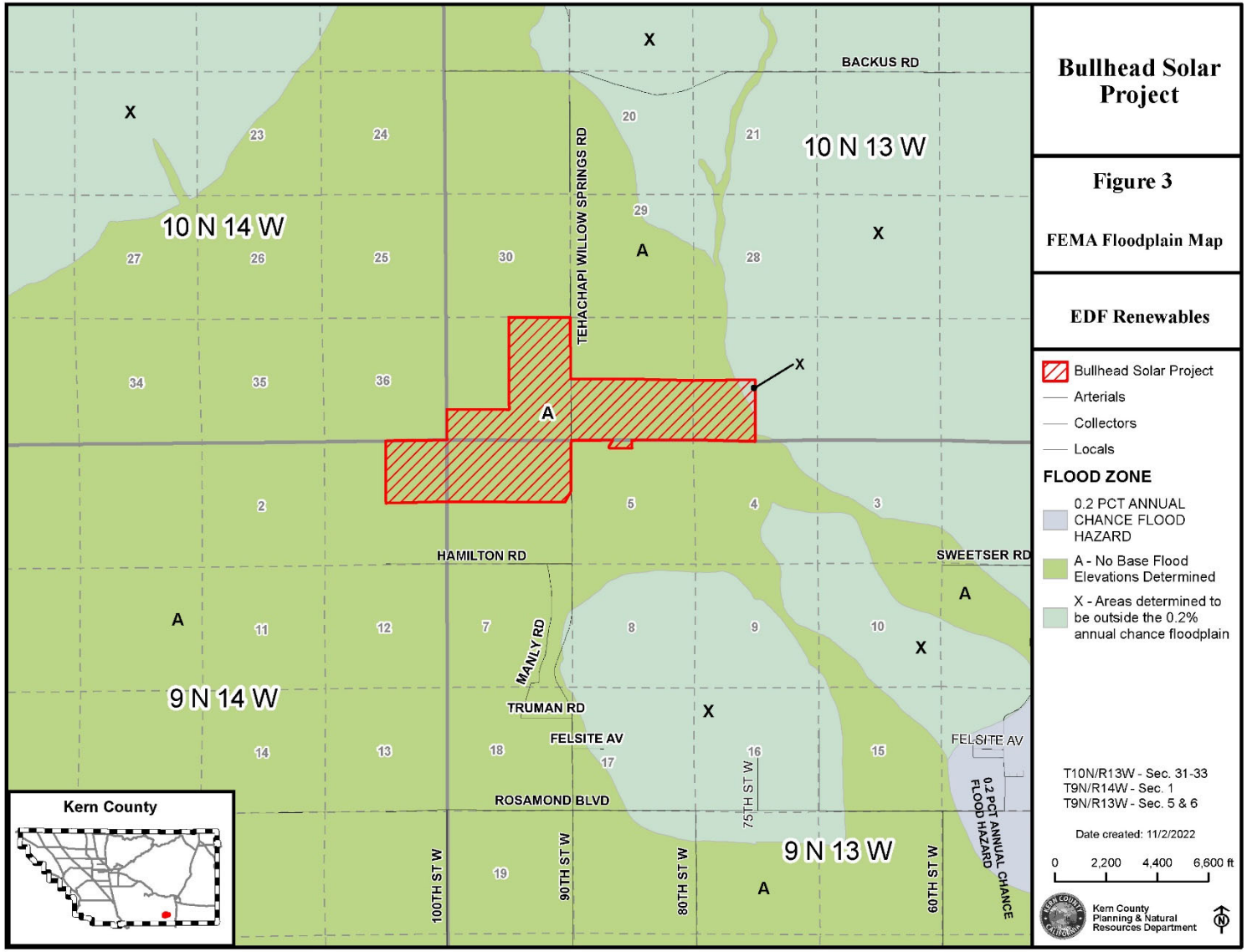


Figure 4: *Existing Agricultural Preserve Map*

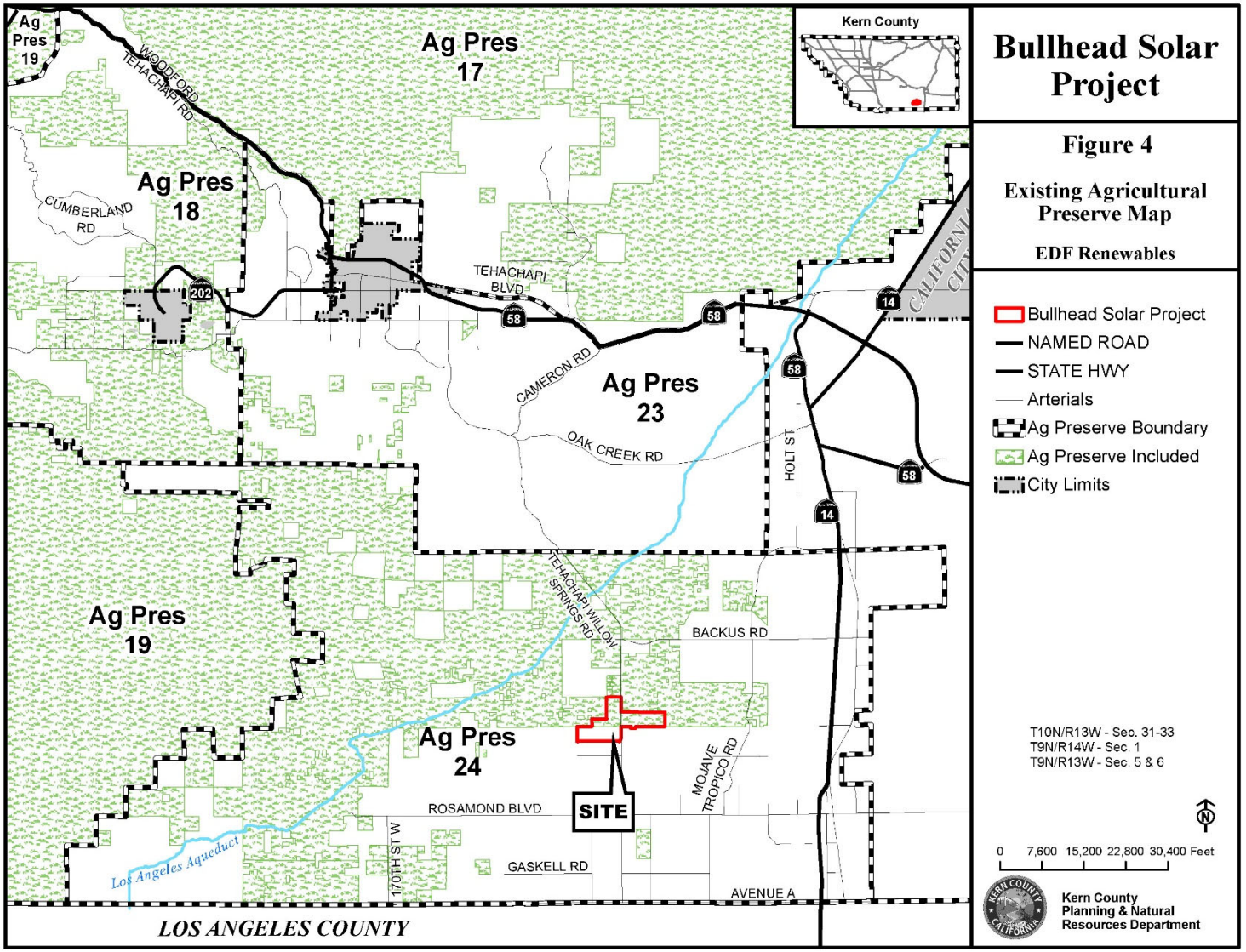
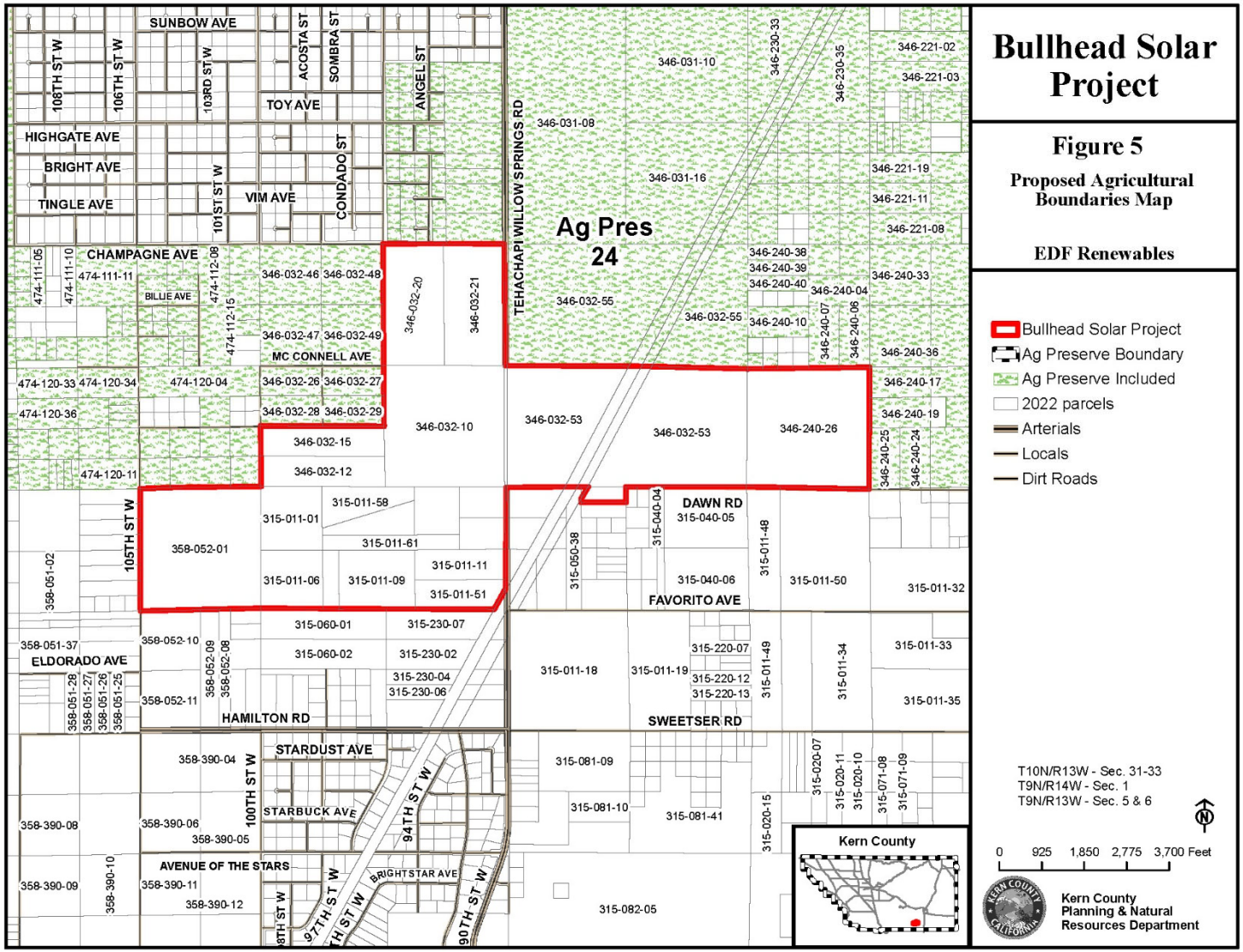


Figure 5: *Proposed Agricultural Preserve Map*



The project is in an area of protected military airspace, indicating that review is required for all structures over 500 feet in height. The solar PV facilities would have a maximum height of 15 feet and would not exceed the specified height limits. Additionally, the maximum height of the microwave/ communication tower (approximately 90 feet) and gen-tie transmission poles (approximately 160 feet) would be well under the specified 500-foot height limit.

The project site is not within a mineral recovery area or within a designated mineral and petroleum resource site designated by the Kern County General 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.

Table 1*: Project Assessor Parcel Numbers, Existing Map Codes, Existing* Zoning, *and Acreage*, below identifies the individual parcels by their respective assessor parcel numbers (APN), which zone map they fall within, the parcel acreages, existing and proposed zoning designations, existing and proposed General Plan Designations and the applicable plan area. Please see **Figure 6,** *Existing General Plan Designations Map*, **Figure 7**, *Proposed General Plan Designations Map*, **Figure 8** *Existing Zoning Classifications Map*, and **Figure 9***, Proposed Zoning Classifications Map*, below.

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

APN	Map	GIS Acres	Zoning	Proposed Zoning	General Plan Designation	Proposed Designation	KCGP or Willow Springs
34603210	214	158.2	A FP	A FP	8.1	8.1	KCGP
34603212	214	41.4	A FP	A FP	8.1	8.1	KCGP
34603215	214	41.3	A FP	A FP	8.1	8.1	KCGP
34603220	214	80.8	A FP	A FP	8.1	8.1	KCGP
34603221	214	78.6	A FP	A FP	8.1	8.1	KCGP
34603253	214	283	A FP	A FP	8.3; 8.1	8.3; 8.1	KCGP
34624026	214	158.8	A FP; A	A FP; A	8.3; 8.3/2.5	8.3; 8.3/2.5	KCGP
31501101	231	42.9	E (5) RS MH FPS	A FPS;	5.3/4.4	5.3	Willow Springs
31501104	231	15.1	E (2 1/2) RS MH FPS;	A FPS	6.2/4.4;	6.2	Willow Springs
31501105	231	15.7	E (2 1/2) RS MH FPS;	A FPS	5.3/4.4;	5.3	Willow Springs
31501106	231	39.4	E (2 1/2) RS MH FPS;	A FPS	5.3/4.4	5.3	Willow Springs

APN	Map	GIS Acres	Zoning	Proposed Zoning	General Plan Designation	Proposed Designation	KCGP or Willow Springs
31501108	231	10.3	E (2 1/2) RS MH FPS	A FPS	5.3/4.4	5.3	Willow Springs
31501109	231	48.5	E (2 1/2) RS MH FPS	A FPS	5.3/4.4	5.3	Willow Springs
31501111	231	29.5	E (2 1/2) RS MH FPS	A FPS	5.3/4.4	5.3	Willow Springs
31501151	231	27.6	E (2 1/2) RS MH FPS	A FPS	5.3/4.4	5.3;	Willow Springs
31501158	231	27.9	E (5) RS MH FPS	A FPS	5.3/4.4	5.3	Willow Springs
31501160	231	23.6	E (5) RS MH FPS	A FPS	5.3/4.4	5.3	Willow Springs
31501161	231	22.7	E (2 1/2) RS MH FPS;	A FPS	5.3/4.4	5.3	Willow Springs
31505040	231	7.1	E (2 1/2) RS MH FPS	A FPS	5.6	5.6	Willow Springs
35805201	232	160.1	E (2 1/2) RS FPS & E (5) RS FPS	A FPS	5.3/4.4	5.3	Willow Springs
35805103	232	10.19	E (2 1/2) RS FPS	A FPS	5.3/4.4	5.3	Willow Springs

Willow Springs Plan Map Code:
4.4=Comprehensive Plan Area
5.3= Residential, 10 Dwelling Units/Net Acre Maximum; 4,254 Sq. Ft. Area/Unit
5.6=Residential, Min 2.5 Gross Acres/Unit
6.2= General Commercial

Kern County General Plan Map Code:
2.5= Flood Hazard Overlay
8.1= Intensive Agriculture (Min. 20 Acre Parcel Size)
8.3= Extensive Agriculture (Min. 20 Acre Parcel Size);

Zone Designation:
A= Exclusive Agriculture
E(2 ½)= Estate, 2 ½ Acre Minimum
E(5)= Estate, 5 Acre Minimum
FP= Floodplain, Combining District
FPS= Floodplain Secondary, Combining District
MH= Mobilehome Combining District
RS= Residential Suburban, Combining District

Surrounding Land Uses

Table 2*, Existing Project Site and Surrounding Properties, Existing Land Use, General Plan Map Code Designations, and Zoning*, below, identifies the existing land use, the existing general plan land use designation, and the existing zoning for the project site and surrounding areas. Additionally, such conditions are described for adjacent lands to the north, east, south, and west of the project site.

TABLE 2
EXISTING PROJECT SITE AND SURROUNDING PROPERTIES, EXISTING LAND USE, GENERAL PLAN MAP CODE DESIGNATIONS, AND ZONING

Location	Existing Land Use	Existing General Plan Map Code Designations	Existing Zoning
Project Site	**Agricultural**	**8.1 Intensive Agriculture; 8.3 (Extensive Agriculture; 8.3/ 2.5 (Extensive Agriculture Flood Hazard Overlay); 5.3/4.4, 5.5, 5.6, (Residential) Willow Springs Specific Plan; 6.2 (General Commercial) Willow Springs Specific Plan**	**A (Exclusive Agriculture); E (Estate 2.5 Acre, Residential Suburban, Mobilehome Combining, Flood Plain Secondary); E (Estate 5 Acre, Mobilehome Combining, Flood Plain Secondary)**
North	Agricultural, Vacant Land, Rural Residential, Wind and Solar Development	8.1 (Intensive Agriculture); 8.3 (Extensive Agriculture 20 Acres); 8.3/2.5 (Extensive Agriculture 20-80 Acres, Flood Hazard Overlay); 8.5 (Resource Management)	A (Exclusive Agriculture, Flood Plain); PL (Platted Lands, Residential Suburban, Flood Plain)
South	Agricultural, Vacant Land, Rural Residential	1.1(State and Federal Land) 3.1 (Parks and Recreation Areas) 3.2(Educational Facilities) 5.5 (Residential-Maximum 1 Unit/Net Acre) 5.3/4.4(Residential-Maximum 10 Units/Net Acre, Comprehensive Plan Area- WSSP) 5.6 (Residential, Min 2.5 Gross Acres/Unit) 5.7(Residential-1 Unit/per 5 Acres) 6.2 (General Commercial); 8.1 (Intensive Agriculture); 8.5 (Resource Management)	A (Exclusive Agriculture); E (Estate 5 Acre, Residential Suburban Combining, Flood Plain Secondary); E (Estate 2 ½ Acre, Residential Suburban Combining, Flood Plain Secondary); E (Estate 2 ½ Acre, Residential Suburban Mobile Home Combining, Flood Plain Secondary); E (Estate 1 Acre, Residential Suburban Combining, Flood Plain Secondary); OS (Open Space)
East	Agricultural, Vacant Land, Rural Residential, Solar Development	8.3 (Extensive Agriculture, Flood Plain) 8.5 (Resource Management) 5.7 (Residential-1 Unit/per 5 Acres)	A (Exclusive Agriculture); A (Exclusive Agriculture, Flood Plain); E (Estate 5 Acre, Residential Suburban Combining, Flood Plain Secondary); E (Estate 2 ½ Acre, Residential Suburban Combining, Flood Plain Secondary)
West	Solar and Wind Development	5.3/4.4(Residential-Maximum 10 Units/Net Acre, Comprehensive Plan Area- WSSP) 5.6 (Residential, Min 2.5 Gross Acres/Unit) 8.5 (Resource Management)	A (Exclusive Agriculture, Floodplain)

Existing land use in the vicinity of the project site generally includes undeveloped lands, rural residential, active and fallow agricultural lands, access roadways, the California aqueduct, high-voltage transmission line corridors, and solar and wind development uses to the north, south, east and west of the project site.

The sensitive receptor closest to the project site is a rural residence that sits directly adjacent to the south of the project site, on APN 315-230-07. There are several other sensitive receptors located within 1,000

feet of the project site. Willow Springs International Motorsports Park, a local park, is located approximately 2 miles southeast of the project site. The closest school to the site is the Tropico Middle School, located approximately 6 miles southeast of the project site.

The proposed project would be served by the Kern County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement and public safety services, with the closest substation being the Rosamond Substation. Fire protection and emergency medical services would be provided by the Kern County Fire Department, with the closest station being Rosamond Substation, located at 3179 35th Street West, Rosamond, and Kern County Emergency Medical Services for medical care and emergency services.

The nearest public airport to the project site is the Rosamond Skypark, located at 4000 Knox Avenue, Rosamond, approximately 7 miles southeast of the project site. The project site is not located within any safety or noise zones for the Rosamond Skypark.

Figure 6: *Existing General Plan Designation Map*

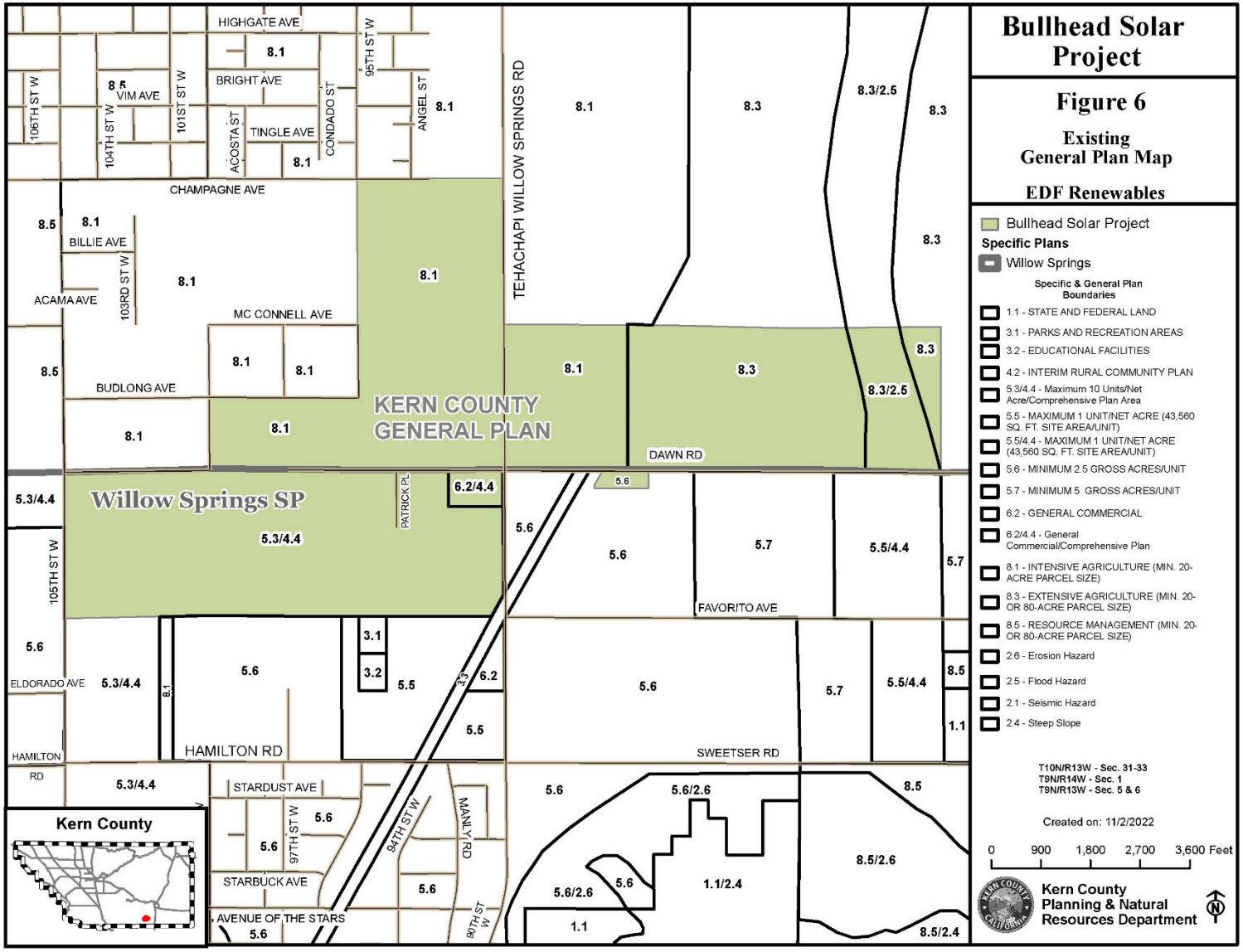


Figure 7: *Proposed General Plan Designation Map*

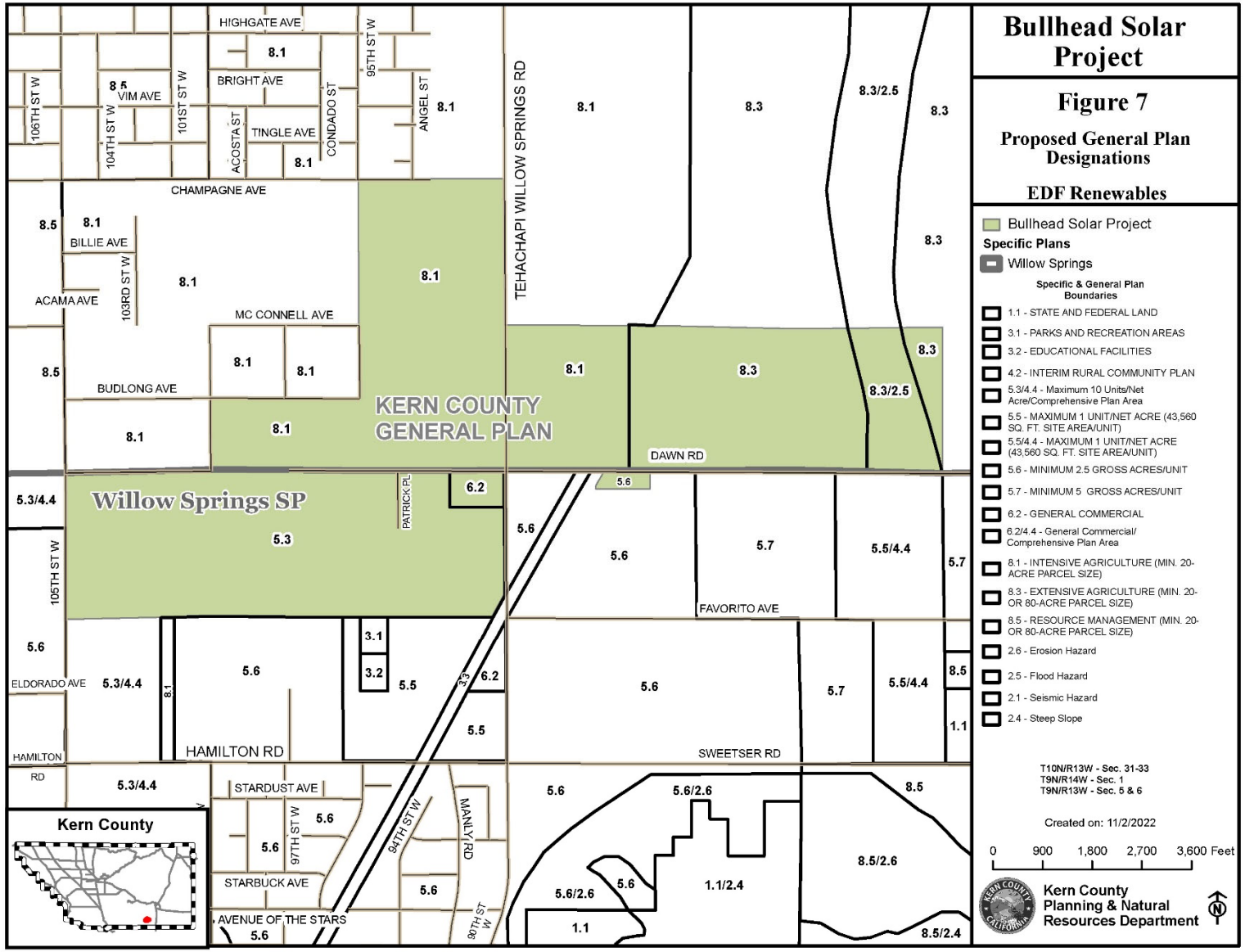


Figure 9: *Proposed Zoning Designation Map*

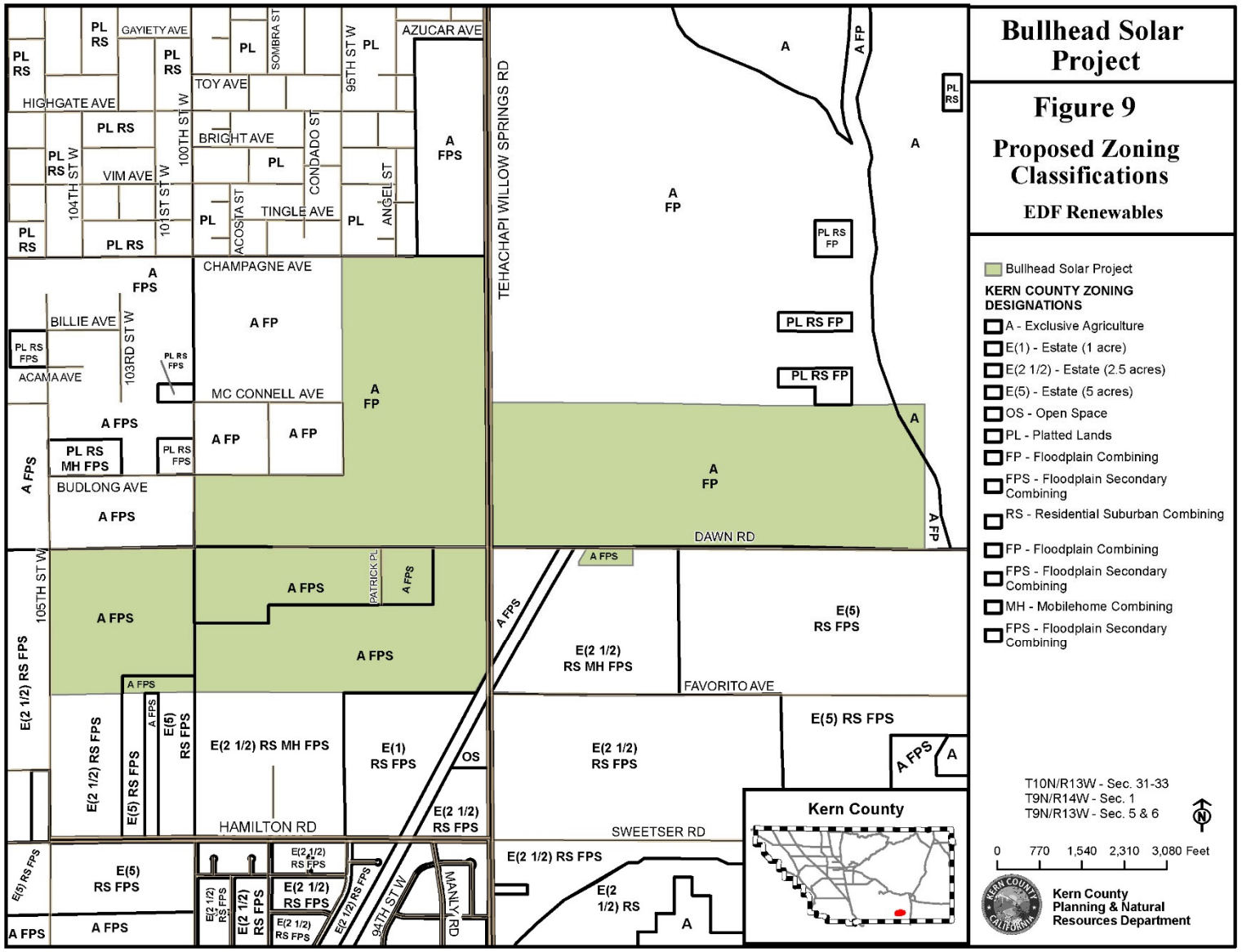
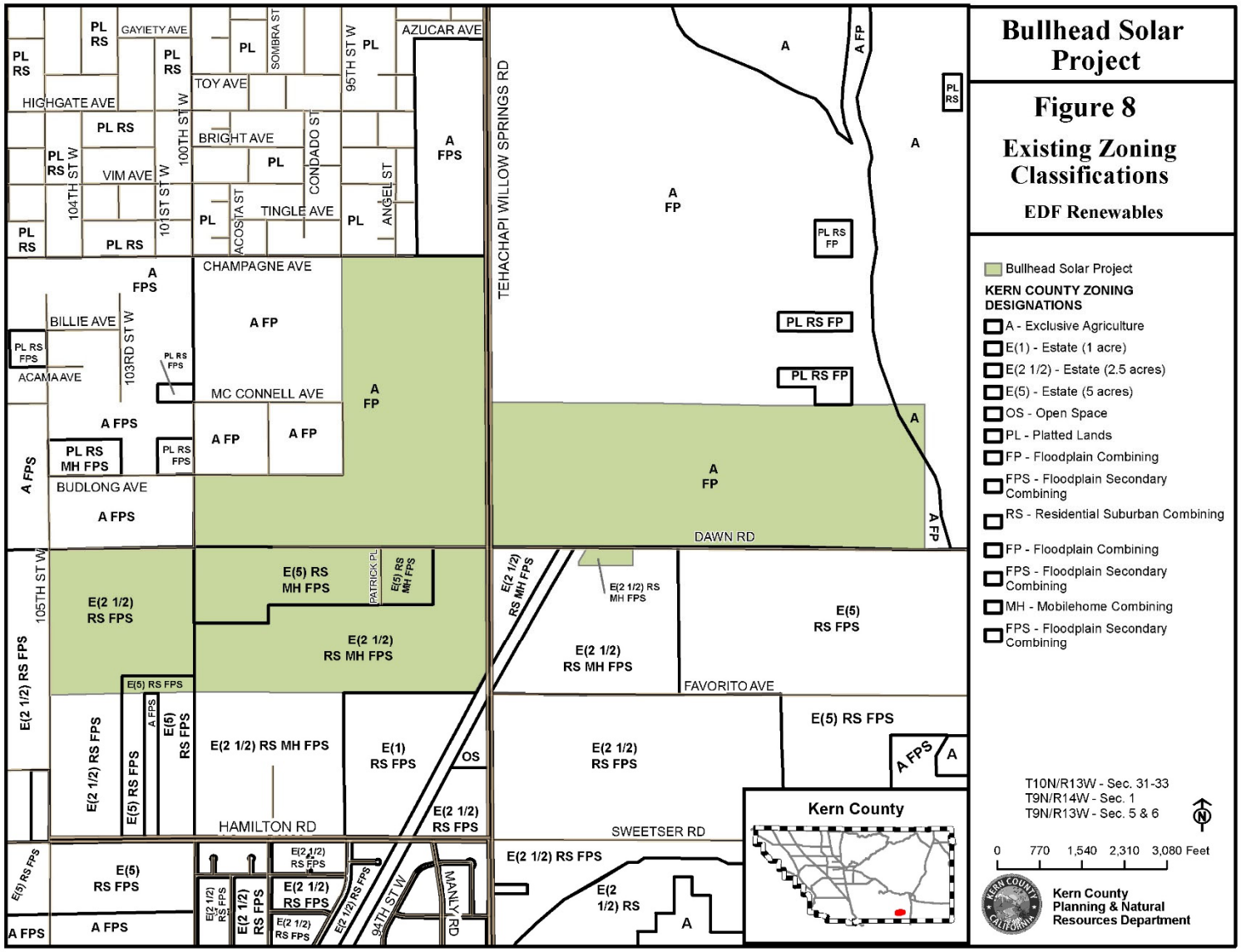


Figure 8: *Existing Zoning Designation Map*



1.3. Project Description

Project Overview

The Bullhead Solar is a proposed project photovoltaic (PV) solar facility with associated infrastructure on approximately 1,343 acres of privately-owned land in southeastern Kern County. As stated above, the proposed project would generate up to 270 MW of renewable electrical energy with a battery energy storage system (BESS) capable of storing approximately 270 MW, or 1,080 MWh of storage capacity. The proposed project includes the installation of solar development with associated PV panels, battery storage, inverters, converters, generators, foundations, transformers, and preferred and optional generation-tie (gen-tie) routes to the Rosamond and Whirlwind Substations, only one of which would be constructed. The project also includes laydown yards, a meteorological station, a microwave/ communication tower, and a substation.

Implementation of the project as proposed includes the following requests:

- Amendments to the Land Use Element of the Willow Springs Specific Plan as follows:
    - Specific Plan Amendment No. 43, Map No. 231 from Map Code 5.3/4.4 (Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre/Comprehensive Planning Area) to Map Code 5.3 (Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre) on approximately 288 acres, and from Map Code 6.2/4.4 (General Commercial/Comprehensive Planning Area) to Map Code 6.2 (General Commercial) on approximately 15 acres; and
    - Specific Plan Amendment No. 35, Map No. 232 from Map Code 5.3/4.4 (Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre/Comprehensive Planning Area) to Map Code 5.3 (Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre) on approximately 160 acres;
- Changes in Zone Classifications as follows:
    - Zone Classification Change No. 158, Map No. 231 from E(5) RS MH FPS (Estate, 5 Acres, Residential Suburban, Mobile Home Combining, Flood Plain Secondary Combining) to A FPS (Exclusive Agriculture, Flood Plain Secondary Combining), or a more restrictive district, on approximately 115 acres and from E(2 ½) RS MH FPS (Estate, 2 ½ Acres, Residential Suburban, Mobilehome Combining, Flood Plain Secondary Combining) district, to A FPS (Exclusive Agriculture, Flood Plain Secondary Combining), or a more restrictive district, on approximately 215.7 acres; and
    - Zone Classification Change No. 36, Map No. 232 from E (5) RS FPS (Estate, 5 Acres, Residential Suburban, Flood Plain Secondary Combining) district on approximately 8.4 acres, and E 2 ½ RS FPS (Estate, 2 ½ Acres, Residential Suburban, Flood Plain Secondary Combining) district on approximately 151.7 acres to A FPS (Exclusive Agriculture, Flood Plain Secondary Combining), or a more restrictive district.
- Conditional Use Permits to allow for the construction and operations of a combined approximate 270 MW solar facility, as well as ancillary structures including an approximate 270 MW battery storage system with up to 1,080 MWh of storage capacity, within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District pursuant to Section 19.12.030.G of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance (in Zone Maps 214, 231, and 232):
    - Conditional Use Permit No. 48, Map No. 214 for approximately 842 acres;

  - Conditional Use Permit No. 121, Map No. 231 for approximately 331 acres; and
  - Conditional Use Permit No. 50, Map No. 232 for approximately 160 acres

- Conditional Use Permits to allow the construction and operation of a microwave telecommunications tower, within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District pursuant to Section 19.12.030.f F of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance (in Zone Maps 214, 231, and 232):
  - Conditional Use Permit No. 49, Map No. 214;
  - Conditional Use Permit No. 122, Map No. 231; and
  - Conditional Use Permit No. 49, Map No. 232

- Amendment to the Circulation Element of the Kern County General Plan No. 8, Map No. 214 to remove future road reservations on section and mid-section lines within the project boundaries of Sections 31, 32, and 33 of Township 10 North, Range 13 West, (SBB&M);

- Amendments to the Circulation Element of the Willow Springs Specific Plan as follows:
  - Specific Plan Amendment No. 42, Map No. 231 to remove future road reservations on section and mid-section lines within the project boundaries of Section 6, Township 9 North, Range 13 West, SBB&M; and
  - Specific Plan Amendment No. 36, Map No. 232 to remove future road reservations on section lines with the project boundaries of Section 1 of Township 9 North, Range 14 West, SBB&M;

- Petition for Exclusion from the Boundaries from Agricultural Preserve 24, in Zone Map No. 214, for approximately 842 acres of the project site; and

- Nonsummary Vacations of various public access easements in Zone Map No. 232, in and around the project site.

The power generated on the project site would assist the state in complying with the Renewables Portfolio Standard under Senate Bill 350, which requires that by December 31, 2030, 50 percent of all electricity sold in the state shall be generated from renewable energy sources. The power generated on the project site would be sold to California investor-owned utilities, municipalities, community choice aggregators, or other purchasers in furtherance of the goals of the California Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. The project has an anticipated operational life of up approximately 35 years. 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 CUPs. 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.

1.4. Project Facilities, Construction, and Operations

Project Facilities

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

- Photovoltaic (PV) Solar modules and trackers
- Inverters and transformer systems
- Battery energy storage system (BESS)
- Onsite substation
- Microwave/Telecommunications Tower and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system
- Onsite meteorological station
- Generation-tie (Gen-tie) lines and electrical collection system
- Site access road(s)
- Site Security
- Lighting
- Stormwater Management

PV Solar Modules and Trackers

The proposed project would use up to 270-MW PV-system blocks to convert solar energy directly to electrical power for export to the electrical grid.

Solar power is generated through PV modules converting sunlight striking the modules directly to low-voltage direct-current (DC) power, which is subsequently transformed to AC power via an inverter that is placed on site. The proposed project site would develop modules using either fixed tilt or tracker technology. Trackers tilt the panels to follow the course of the sun, optimizing the incident angle of sunlight on their surface. The PV panel modules are mounted on steel support posts that are pile-driven into the ground. The arrays are typically placed on an aluminum rail such that with a maximum tilt of 60 degrees the top of the array would be a maximum of 15 feet above grade at the tallest point and approximately 2 feet above the grade at the lowest point.

The PV modules are made of semiconductor material encapsulated in glass in which the PV effect converts light (photons) into electrical current. PV is best known as a method for generating electric power by using solar cells to convert energy from the sun into electricity. Energy from the sun is transmitted to the Earth as photons, which contain different levels of energy corresponding to different frequencies of the solar spectrum. When a photon is absorbed by a PV cell, the energy of the photon is transferred to an electron in

an atom within the PV cell. This added energy allows the electron to escape from the atom to become part of the current in an electrical circuit. **Figure 10***, Proposed Site Plan,* shows the proposed layout of the solar panels within the project sites.

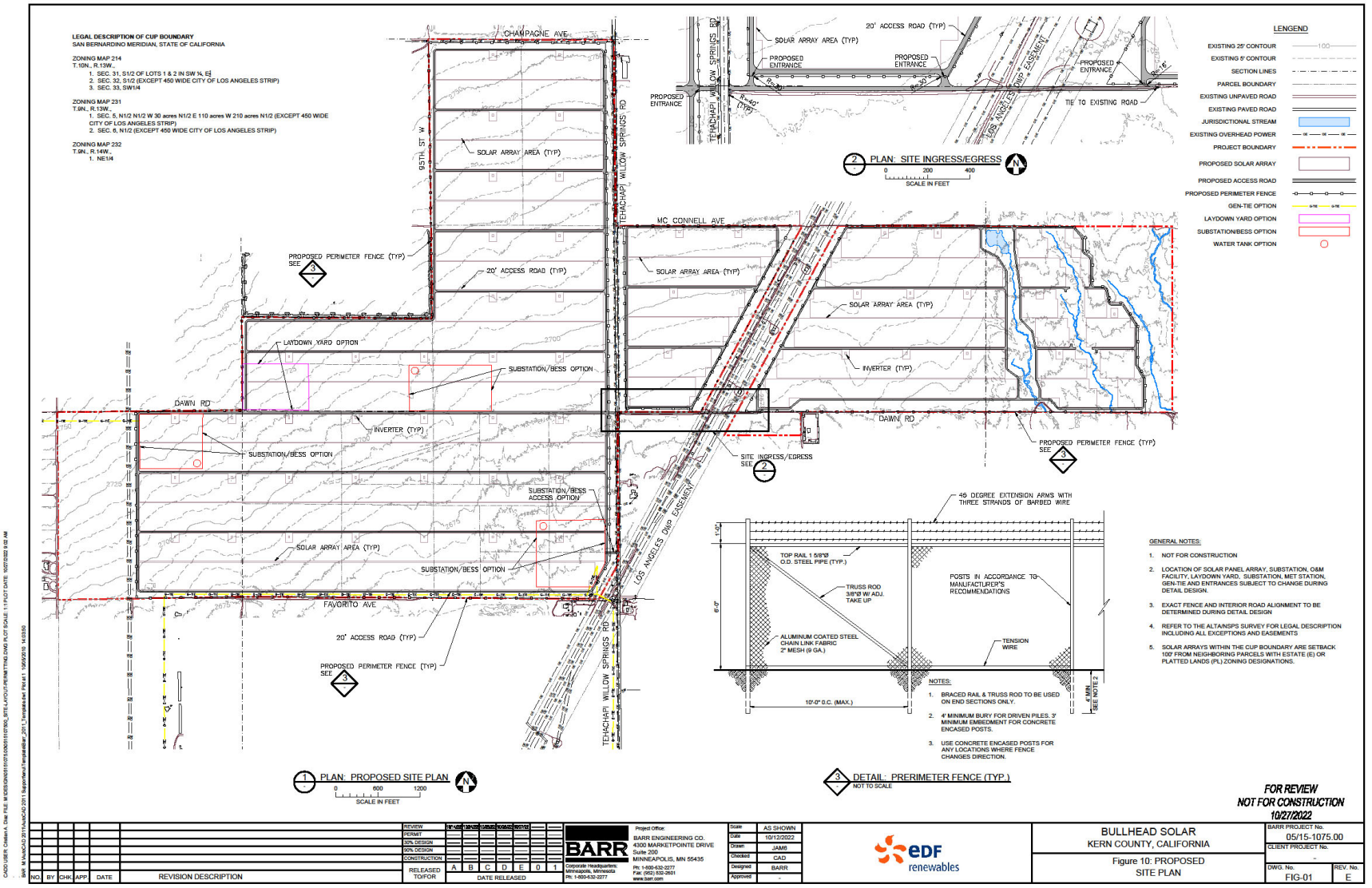
Inverters and Transformer Systems

Within the proposed solar arrays there would be power conversion stations (PCS), also known as inverters, that would contain at a minimum one inverter and one transformer. Inverters are usually housed within an enclosed structure, which helps to reduce the resulting operational noise levels. PCS would also likely include an exhaust fan, as well as a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, which is typically mounted to the exterior of the enclosure. Noise levels generated by PCS would be associated with operation of the inverters, transformer, exhaust fans, and HVAC systems.

Battery Energy Storage System

The proposed project would include a BESS, which would be located immediately adjacent to the proposed substation. The BESS would provide approximate 270 MW, or 1,080 MWh, of energy storage. The BESS would likely consist of containers housing lead acid-based and/or lithium ion batteries connected in strings and mounted on racks. AC-coupled BESS design standards typically include lighting, monitoring equipment, cooling units, active exhaust venting, multiple fire detection units including gas/heat/smoke detectors, and fire suppression systems, which adequately address fire risk associated with the unit. AC-coupled BESS units typically require their own inverters on their own skid. However, some BESS equipment (e.g., inverters, auxiliary transformer to control the HVAC system) may be adjacent to the container instead of within the container. The BESS configuration would include up to 270 MW, or 1,080 MWh, of stored energy with up to 316 battery energy storage containers with associated inverters. A water storage tank will be installed to provide water supply needed for fire protection and operations, based on consultation with Kern County Fire Department. The BESS site would include self-contained container units, measuring approximately 70-feet long by 12-feet wide by 13-feet high (including HVAC units; one on each end depending on container dimensions), situated in a parallel configuration. Each container would have a storage capacity of up to approximately 4 megawatt-hours. Foundational pads for the BESS containers and inverters would include structural material like crushed aggregate, concrete, and/or steel. The containers would be non-walk-in type and equipped with doors along the length of the containers plus one on each end. AC-coupled BESS would be incorporated and consolidated within or adjacent to the project substation area and would require up to 25 acres within the substation yard to house the BESS containers.

Figure 10: *Proposed Site Plan*



Substation

The proposed project would include construction of one substation facility in one of three potential locations (see **Figure 10,** *Proposed Site Plan*), above, within the project boundary. The substation would collect the power generated by the PV solar system blocks, transport the power via the underground/overhead power collection system, and then convert the power for transmission in an overhead 220-kV line to the Rosamond Switching Station or Whirlwind Substation.

Equipment at the project substation would include transformers, bus work, switches, breakers, and all associated equipment required to be compliant with utility-grade interconnection services. The substation facilities would house the power generation control and relaying equipment, station batteries, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA) and communication systems, and potentially housing with radio or microwave communication mounted on a transmission tower up to 90 feet tall. The project substation would be remotely operated and periodically maintained but would not be permanently staffed. The substation site would be cleared, graded, and graveled. A security fence would be installed around the perimeter for safety and security purposes. The fence would consist of an up to 6-foot chain-link fence with up to three strands of barbed wire for a total maximum height of 8 feet. For safety purposes this fence would not be adapted for wildlife movement. The BESS would be co-located within or adjacent to the substation yard. Construction and operations of the project substation and battery storage would affect up to 25 acres.

Telecommunications Tower and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System

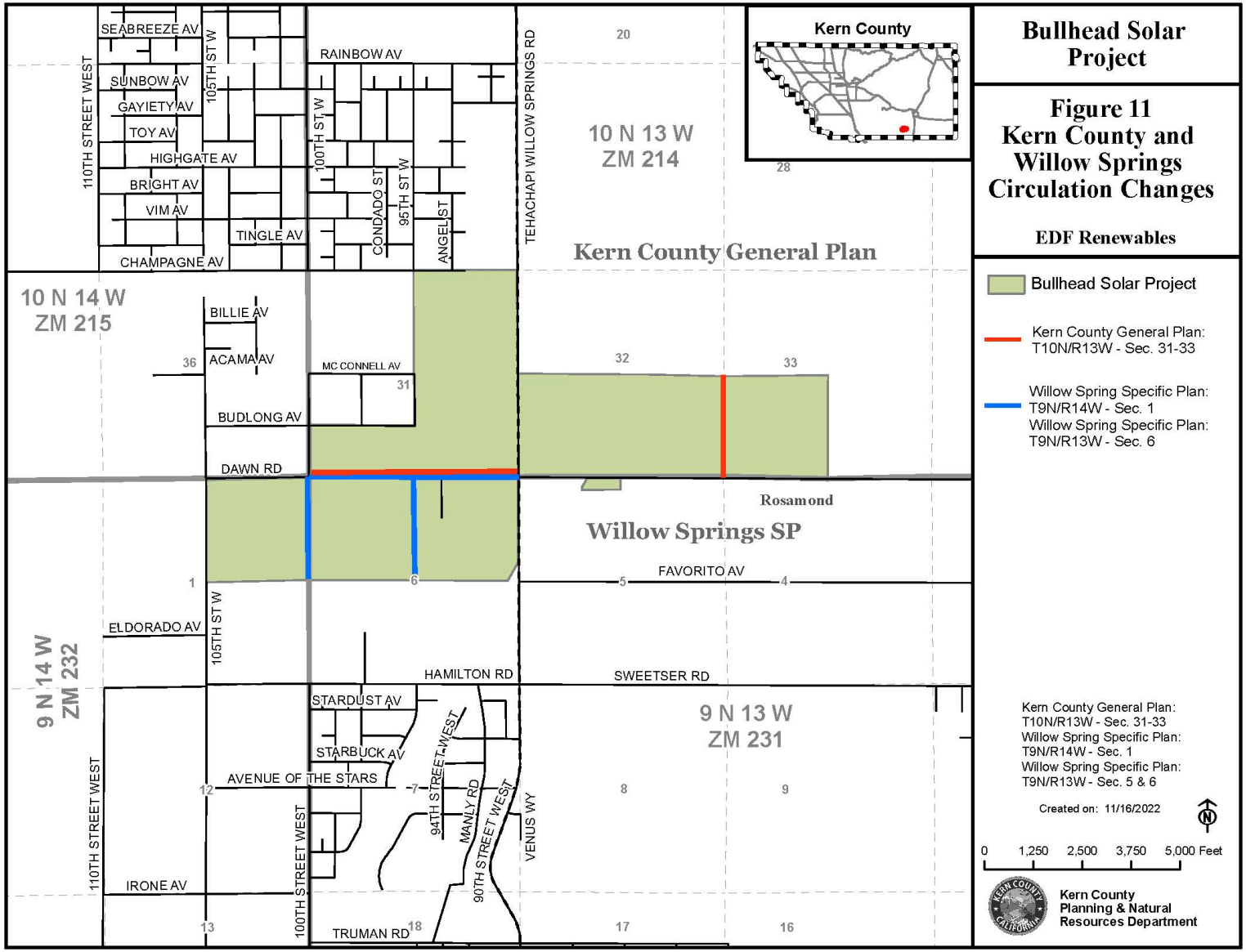
The proposed project would require redundant telecommunication connections. The primary telecommunication line would consist of fiber optic cable and/or copper telecommunication line installed above and/or below ground. Supporting the proposed project would be one microwave/communication tower to be located with the substation in one of various potential locations, consisting of up to three 6-foot high-performance microwave dish(es) fixed to a steel monopole of up to 90 feet in height. An approximately 12-foot by 20-foot equipment shelter would also be included within a fenced area. The shelter would have a maximum height of 10 feet. The proposed project radio equipment would be within the equipment shelter and connected to the microwave dish(es) via coaxial or fiber optic cables. If the microwave tower were to be outside the selected substation footprint, fencing would consist of an up to 6-foot chain-link fence with up to three strands of barbed wire (up to 2 feet high), for a total maximum height of 8 feet.

The SCADA system is critical to the CAISO and utility interconnection and for the proper O&M of the project. It uses proprietary software; a fiber optic transmission system; a telephone, radio, and/or microwave communications network; and other means of communication such as radio links and phase loop communication systems. The SCADA system functions as a remote start, stop, reset, and tag-out system for facilities, thereby minimizing the manpower and site diagnostic information generated from the panels. The SCADA system would also control the proposed project substation, allowing for fully centralized operation of the project to meet all CAISO and utility interconnection requirements.

Onsite Meteorological Data Collection System

The proposed project may require a meteorological data collection system. The systems would be mounted within the project site. The systems would include a variety of instruments to collect meteorological data. Meteorological data would be collected at the maximum height of the solar panels approximately 15 feet above the ground.

Figure 11: *Proposed Kern County General Plan and Willow Springs Specific Plan Circulation Changes*



Generation-Tie Lines and Electrical Collection System

The proposed project includes four options for gen-tie routes including three deviation routes: Rosamond Option 1, Rosamond Option 2, Rosamond Option 3, Rosamond Option 3.1 (deviation), Whirlwind Option 1, and Whirlwind Options 1.1 and 1.2 (deviations). Only one route would be constructed. The selected gen-tie route would be constructed within a 125-foot-wide corridor and would consist of utility poles, trenches, and a corresponding dirt access road. Rosamond Gen-tie Option 1 and Rosamond Gen-tie Option 3 would be a Franchise Agreement with the County and would be constructed within the Kern County right-of-way on Tehachapi Willow Springs Road and Rosamond Boulevard. Utility trench elements would be incorporated into the shoulder of the roads. The utility trenches would not add to the footprint of the gen-tie road. All utility poles associated with the gen-tie would be erected inside the limits of the corridor. Whirlwind Gen-tie Option 1 is proposed to be partially co-located on existing poles on previously surveyed properties (i.e., the Antelope Valley Transmission Line [AVTL]).

The project power generated would be fed to the project substation through a 34.5-kV power collection system. The transmission poles would accommodate the underground feeder splice lines to the overhead lines and would range in height but be no taller than 160 feet. The likely materials for the poles would be wood, non-reflective metal, and/or spun concrete. These overhead lines would be carried via new and existing electrical poles to the Rosamond Switching Station or the Whirlwind Substation. Proposed underground transmission lines (if necessary) and fiber optic lines would be co-located with roads.

Underground collection cables would be installed in conjunction with roads and panel arrays within the proposed project site, connecting each solar panel to a feeder circuit; each feeder circuit would in turn be connected to the switching/substation. Overhead circuits could be used to avoid environmentally sensitive areas or other constraints that are inherent to the proposed project site. The different solar panel circuits would gather at the substation (or switchyard) and would then be sent to the overhead electricity lines leading to a grid interconnection point. See **Figure 10***, Proposed Site Plan,* which shows the gen-tie line alignment.

Site Access

The primary access to the project from the regional transportation system would be gained by exiting SR-14 (Antelope Valley Freeway) on to Rosamond Boulevard. SR-14 is 7 miles to the east of the project area, and access would be gained by heading west on Rosamond Boulevard, north on Tehachapi Willow Springs Road, and west on Dawn Road. One possible secondary route has been identified from the western side the project area; however, the Tehachapi Willow Springs Road access would be the primary route.

A secondary route to the site is from 120th Street West, heading north from Rosamond Boulevard. In association with other solar projects in the area, 120th Street West is currently graded and recently widened. 120th Street West connects to the adjacent and previously permitted BigBeau Solar Project; construction vehicles could use 120th Street West, and then continue through the BigBeau site to access the Bullhead Solar project site. In addition to the primary and secondary routes, access to the Bullhead Solar project site also could be accomplished through other routes from within the adjacent BigBeau Solar Project, to the west of the Bullhead site.

Internal access roads would be approximately 20 feet wide and would be accessed via multiple gates. The access points and interior driveways would be constructed in accordance with Kern County and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) requirements and maintained to ensure on-site circulation for emergency vehicles during all weather conditions.

Site Security

Security fencing would be installed in accordance with Kern County zoning requirements. Based on current Kern County ordinances, the project applicant has the option to fence either the boundaries of the entire proposed project site, each solar panel row independently, or a grouping of solar blocks. At this time, it has not been determined which of these options would be used. A security fence would be installed that would consist of an up to 6-foot chain-link fence with up to three strands of barbed wire, for a total maximum height of 8 feet. Fencing around the panel blocks would be adapted prior to the commencement of operations to allow for the movement of wildlife. All fence installation requirements would be evaluated, and the best-fit scenario would be incorporated within the project site based upon Kern County's final determination.

Security services would be provided during construction, and any additional security would be provided on an as-needed basis. The security personnel would be responsible for controlling egress and ingress, enforcing safety requirements, and ensuring compliance with all other policies for control of the proposed project site during the construction phase. After construction, these duties would become the responsibility of the O&M provider. A Knox-Box containing keys for the proposed project would be installed to permit emergency access to the site.

Lighting

Operation of the proposed project would require onsite nighttime lighting for safety and security. The level and intensity of lighting would be the minimum needed per the County's *Dark Skies Ordinance* (Chapter 19.81 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance). Lighting at the facility would be restricted to areas required for safety and security. Exterior lights would be shielded, while being directed downward and on site so that light or glare would be minimized. Switched lighting would be provided in areas where continuous lighting is not required for normal operation, safety, or security.

Stormwater Management

To meet current Kern County site development requirements, a detention/retention basin or basins may be required, depending on the change in hydrological conditions on site and, if necessary, based on an engineering-level hydrological assessment for the site at the base of each solar array block for stormwater management. The required storage would be provided via shallow ponding at the downstream limit of the sub-basin(s).

Construction Activities

The construction period for the proposed project from site preparation through construction and testing is expected to commence in the third quarter of 2024 and would extend for approximately 18 months into 2026.

Construction of the proposed project would include, but not be limited to, the following activities: (1) moving of equipment onto the site; (2) site preparation and grading; (3) access road improvements, if needed; (4) gen-tie line construction; (5) internal roads construction; (6) electrical substation and microwave tower construction; (7) solar array structural, underground, and panel installation, and battery storage construction; (8) PV and battery storage commission; and (9) project finalization/commercial operation. The various elements of the proposed project would be constructed concurrently on the property.

Schedule and Workforce

It is anticipated that the construction traffic would use Rosamond Boulevard, Tehachapi Willow Springs and 120th Street West as points of ingress/egress to the property and that, once on site, they would access

various sections via the existing and improved network of dirt roads. Employees may also access the site through the adjacent BigBeau Solar Project, owned and operated by the project proponent. It is estimated that on average there would be 201 construction workers per day with a peak of up to 627 workers. Construction employees may be able to carpool from respective population centers such as Tehachapi and Rosamond, and report to the designated construction staging yards prior to the beginning of each workday. One or more of the proposed laydown yards may be used as a parking and meeting area for the construction employees.

Construction activities are typically expected to occur between 6:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Additional hours may be necessary to make up schedule deficiencies or to complete critical construction activities. The proposed project would be constructed by several specialized construction contractors, with construction activities taking place as specified in the County's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8.36, as required to meet the construction schedule. Construction activities are allowable between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on weekdays and between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on weekends. 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.

Construction materials and supplies would be delivered to the project site by truck. It is anticipated that all such materials and supplies would be stored in a laydown area on-site within the project boundaries for each phase of. When possible, equipment and materials would be stored in proximity to the area where work would be undertaken. For work along the gen-tie routes, it is anticipated that adequate land areas within the affected easements or rights-of-way would be available to accommodate staging/laydown areas during the construction phase and that off-site lands would not be affected. Truck deliveries would normally occur during daylight hours. However, there could be offloading and/or transporting to the project site on weekends and during evening hours.

Site Preparation, Earthwork and Construction Control Measures

The project site would be cleared and graded as needed to allow for the installation of the solar arrays, BESS, related infrastructure, access road improvements, interior access roads, and temporary construction laydown areas. Sediment and erosion controls would be installed in accordance with an approved Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Stabilized construction entrances and exits would also be installed at the project entrance driveways to ensure that potential for tracking of sediment onto adjacent public roadways is minimized.

The project site is mostly flat and would require minimal grading to allow for installation of the PV panels and BESS. Minimal grading is expected for the construction of the PCS, substation, BESS, internal circulation and tracker installation. The primary access road via Tehachapi Willow Springs Road is paved. Dawn Road, internal circulation roads and the secondary access road of 120th Street West are all dirt and would require some improvement, however 120th Street West has been improved already for other nearby projects. If needed, road improvement activities may include grading, widening, compacting, and/or applying an approved soil stabilizer. In addition, a 20-foot wide–minimum road is required around the perimeter of the solar arrays for the fire department and emergency vehicles. Additional internal maintenance roads would be located throughout the project area. Spacing between each row would depend on final panel type, orientation, and any County regulations. Internal access roads would be up to 20 feet wide and would be cleared and compacted for equipment and emergency vehicle travel and access to the solar blocks. These project site access roads would remain in place for ongoing operations and maintenance activities after construction is completed.

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. 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. On-site trenching also would be required to enable the placement of underground electrical and communication lines. Certain access roads and turn-arounds may also be surfaced with aggregate or decomposed granite in conformance with emergency access requirements. Proposed grading would balance on-site and import or export of soils would not be required.

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, (BMP)s 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 all site entrance points from public roads to reduce the tracking of sediment onto adjacent public roadways. All site preparation would occur in conformance with County BMPs and Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District rules for dust control.

Construction Water Use

Water would be required during the construction phase for dust suppression during such activities as clearing, grading, and soil compaction. During construction, water is anticipated to be supplied by well water purchased from a local supplier and or use of the on-site wells at the project site. This local groundwater is suitable as a primary supply for soil compaction and dust control but may not be suitable for potable use. Water would be obtained from on-site wells or delivered via truck from an off-site source(s) within the project vicinity. If water is trucked into the site, it is anticipated that an available local water source would be selected to minimize truck trips/lengths in transporting water to/from the site.

Water usage during construction, primarily for dust-suppression purposes, is not anticipated to exceed 200 acre-feet over the 18-month construction phase.

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.

Electrical Supply

The temporary construction facilities would obtain electricity from a temporary drop off line from the local electrical distribution system. Up to fifteen portable electrical generators that meet local and State emission controls would be used during construction.

Project Operation and Maintenance Activities

Once the proposed project is constructed, maintenance would generally be limited to the following:

- Cleaning of PV panels
- Monitoring electricity generation
- Providing site security
- Facility maintenance – replacing or repairing inverters, wiring, and PV modules

Schedule and Workforce

During the operational phase, the proposed project would be operated on an unstaffed basis and monitored remotely. Periodically, personnel would visit the site for inspection, security, maintenance, and system monitoring purposes. Approximately up to an additional 15 part-time and/or full-time staff will be on site for maintenance and operational activities, these additional staff will be located at the adjacent, previously constructed BigBeau Solar O&M building.

The facility would operate seven days a week, 24 hours a day, generating electricity during normal daylight hours when the solar energy is available. Maintenance activities may occur seven days a week, 24 hours a day to ensure PV panel output when solar energy is available.

Operational Water Usage

Water demand for panel washing, dust control and fire suppression is not expected to exceed 11 acre-feet per year, and would peak at 8 acre-feet over a three-month window annually for panel washing. Water is anticipated to be obtained from on-site wells or delivered via truck from an off-site source(s) within the project vicinity. If water is trucked into the site, it is anticipated that an available local water source would be selected to minimize truck trips/lengths in transporting water to/from the site.

Electrical Supply

Power for plant auxiliaries would be provided by the project's electrical generation or supplied by the local power provider. The proposed project would require power for electrical enclosures, tracker motors, associated structures, and for lighting and security.

Project Features and Best Management Practices

The following sections describe standard 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
- Lead acid-based and/or lithium ion batteries – used for emergency backup

Hazardous materials and wastes will be managed, used, handled, stored, and transported in accordance with applicable local and State regulations. All hazardous wastes will 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.

Chemical storage tanks (if any) would be designed and installed to meet applicable local and state regulations. 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.

Spill Prevention and Containment

Spill prevention and containment for construction and operation of the proposed project will adhere to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) guidance on Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC).

Wastewater/Septic System

No wastewater service is anticipated to be required. Portable facilities will be available during the construction phase and the nearby BigBeau Solar O&M facility will be available for operations 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 will have an Emergency Response Plan (ERP). The ERP will address potential emergencies including chemical releases, fires, and injuries. All employees will 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 followed, 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 in 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 both personal and heavy equipment. Project operations would be provided over mineral soil, asphalt, or concrete and at a safe distance from dry vegetation. In addition, heavy equipment would also be equipped with other mechanisms such spark arresters or turbo-charging (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 project has an anticipated operational life of up to 35 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. At the end of the proposed project site's operational term, the applicant may determine that the proposed project site should be decommissioned and deconstructed, or it may seek an extension of its CUPs. Because the PV arrays' supporting equipment would sit on the surface of the land, the land would be largely unaltered from its natural state when the arrays are removed after the proposed project's lifetime. EDFR would work with the County to put an agreement in place to ensure the decommissioning of the proposed project site after its productive lifetime. It is anticipated that, during project decommissioning, project structures that would not be needed for subsequent use would be removed from the project site. Equipment would be de-energized prior to removal, salvaged (where possible), and shipped off-site to be recycled or disposed of at an appropriately licensed disposal facility. Once the solar modules are removed, the racks would be disassembled, and the structures supporting the racks would be removed. Site infrastructure would be removed, including fences, and concrete pads that may support the inverters, transformers and related equipment. The demolition debris and removed equipment may be cut or dismantled into pieces that can be safely lifted or carried by standard construction equipment. The fencing and gates would be removed, and all materials would be recycled to the extent practical. 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. Materials would be recycled to the extent feasible, with the remainder disposed of in landfills in compliance with all applicable laws. The site would revert to undeveloped land that supports agricultural production and wildlife habitat. The decommissioning and restoration process involves removing aboveground and belowground structures, restoring topsoil, revegetation, and seeding. Temporary erosion and sedimentation control BMPs would be used during the decommissioning phase.

The proposed project would use BMPs to ensure the collection and recycling of modules and batteries and to avoid the potential for modules and batteries to be disposed of as municipal waste.

1.5. Project Objectives

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

- The project would establish solar PV power-generating facilities that are of a sufficient size and configuration to provide approximately 270 MW of electricity to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) grid and help to meet the increasing demand of the State of California for clean, renewable electrical power at a competitive cost.
- The project would enhance existing electrical distribution infrastructure and provide greater support to existing and future customer loads to ensure Southern California Edison can provide power to all customers, including customers in Kern County.
- Support California's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions consistent with the timeline established in 2006 under California Assembly Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which requires the California Air Resources Board to reduce statewide emissions of GHGs to at least the 1990 emissions level by 2020. This timeline was updated in 2016 under SB 32, which requires that statewide GHG emissions are reduced to at least 40 percent below the statewide GHG emissions limit by 2030.
- Support California's aggressive RPS Program consistent with the timeline established by SB 100 (De León, also known as the "California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program: emissions of greenhouse gases"), as approved by the California legislature and signed by Governor Brown in September 2018, which increases RPS in 2030 from 50 percent to 60 percent and establishes a goal of 100 percent RPS by 2045.
- Develop an economically feasible and commercially financeable solar and battery storage energy project.
- Expand the reach of renewable energy development through the creation of high-capacity battery energy storage systems (BESS).
- Assist Kern County in promoting its role as the state's leading producer of renewable energy.
- Provide green jobs to Kern County residents and the state of California.
- Site and design the project in an environmentally responsible manner consistent with current Kern County guidelines by:
    - Locating generative facilities in a rural portion of southern Kern County which receives intense solar radiation;
    - Using existing electrical transmission facilities, rights-of-way, roads, and other existing infrastructure where practicable;
    - Minimizing water use; and
    - Reducing greenhouse has emissions.

1.6. Proposed Discretionary Actions/Required Approvals

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department as the Lead Agency (per CEQA Guidelines Section 15052) for the proposed project has discretionary responsibility for the proposed project. To implement this project, the project proponent may need to obtain discretionary and ministerial permits/approvals including, but not limited to, the following:

Federal

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Section 10 Incidental Take Permit and Habitat Conservation Plan (if required)
- United States Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit (if required)
- Section 401 of the Clean Water Act certification or waiver

State

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
    - Section 1600 et seq. permits (Streambed Alteration Agreements) (if required)
    - Section 2081 Permit (State-listed endangered species) (if required)
- Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
    - Waste Discharge Requirements
    - 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 Conditional Use Permits
    - Approval of General Plan Amendments to the Circulation Element

- Approval of Specific Plan Amendments to Willow Springs Specific Plan
- Approval of Zone Changes
- Approval of a franchise agreement for a portion of one of the gen-tie lines that follows Tehachapi Willow Springs Road and Rosamond Boulevard
- Approval of Exclusion from Agricultural Preserve 24
- Approval of Vacation of Public Access Easements
- Approval of Kern County Grading and Building Permits
- Approval of Kern County Access Road Design and Encroachment Permits
- Approval of Fire Safety Plan
- California Desert Native Plants Permit to Harvest Native Plants

- **Eastern 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.

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.

☒	Aesthetics	☒	Agricultural and Forestry Resources	☒	Air Quality
☒	Biological Resources	☒	Cultural Resources	☒	Energy
☒	Geology and Soils	☒	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☒	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
☒	Hydrology and Water Quality	☒	Land Use and Planning	☐	Mineral Resources
☒	Noise	☐	Population and Housing	☒	Public Services
☐	Recreation	☒	Transportation and Traffic	☒	Tribal Cultural Resources
☒	Utilities/Service Systems	☒	Wildfire	☒	Mandatory Findings of Significance

2.2. Determination

(To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of 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:	Date:
/s/	11/22/2022
Printed Name:	Title:
Janice Mayes	Planner III

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 where 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, 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.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact

I. Aesthetics

Would the project:

a.	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c.	In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from public accessible vantage points) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☒	☐	☐	☐
d.	Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

(a-d) The aesthetic features of the existing visual environment in the project area are relatively uniform, with broad, dry, flat landscapes. The project site is generally surrounded by undeveloped land, agricultural land, rural residential, linear infrastructure corridors (transmission and aqueduct), as well as wind and solar development projects. The proposed project would be located on mostly undeveloped rangeland and previously farmed agricultural lands, consisting of privately owned parcels. The BigBeau Solar Project is being constructed to the immediate west, with start of operations anticipated for 2022, the Valentine Solar Project to the northwest, the Catalina Renewable Energy Project, and undeveloped lands are located to the north of the project site. There are buildings, fencing, and ancillary structures and features associated with low-density rural residential and farmland development within the vicinity of the project site. The surrounding cultural environment also consists of adjacent and nearby wind farms, with wind turbines found primarily in the hilly areas west of the project site. The project vicinity is also traversed by a network of paved and unpaved roads, trails from off-road vehicles, and transmission lines. In addition, the Pacific Crest Trail, a significant recreational resource, is approximately 6 miles west–southwest of the project site and has background views of the project site. The natural environment of the project site is largely undeveloped, with little vegetative cover (e.g., Mojave creosote bush scrub, Joshua trees, rabbitbrush scrub, desert saltbush scrub, fields/pastures, ruderal habitat), as well as fallow agricultural fields. No officially designated scenic vistas or scenic vistas identified by signage and accessible to the public have been identified in the project vicinity. However, the flat terrain allows for expansive views out

and over the desert landscape. Views from the surrounding hills and mountains, including the Pacific Crest Trail, also allow for viewpoints out and over the landscape.

While the project is consistent with the renewable energy development in the area, the proposed project would alter the landscape on the project site and portions of the project would be visible from public roads such as Tehachapi Willow Springs Road and Rosamond Boulevard. The solar arrays are designed to absorb sunlight to maximize electrical output; therefore, they are not anticipated to create significant reflective surfaces or the potential for glint/glare during the day.

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

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 nonagricultural use?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act Contract?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c.	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d.	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☒	☐	☐	☐
f.	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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

RESPONSES:

(a) Portions of the project study area lie within an area designated as Important Farmland (i.e., land categorized as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland by the California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program [FMMP]). No land within the project study area is designated as Prime Farmland. Generally, proposed gen-tie lines follow existing roads or transmission lines and do not cross agricultural lands. Any proposed gen-tie lines outside the project footprint that may be constructed on Important Farmland would be buried and not interfere with agricultural use. The above project impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(b) The project site and surrounding area includes land that is partially zoned as A (Exclusive Agriculture). According to the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, a commercial solar facility is a compatible use within the A zone district. The construction and operation of a solar energy generating facility on the site would require the approval of a CUP. Approximately 842 acres, or 62 percent, of the project site is within the Kern County Agricultural Preserve Number 24 boundary. Lying within an agricultural preserve is a prerequisite for placement under a Williamson Act contract. However, no parcels within the project study area are under any Williamson Act contracts. Nonetheless, the project will require a Petition for Exclusion to remove the portions of the project subject to the boundaries of Agricultural Preserve Number 24. The above project impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(c) No lands affected by the proposed 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) 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 and forest land or timberlands do not occur in the project vicinity. As mentioned in response (a) above, the project site does include lands classified as Unique Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance. The above project impacts will be further evaluated 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). No impact would occur, and no further evaluation is required in the EIR.

III. Air Quality

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district shall be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard? Specifically, would implementation of the project 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.	☐	☐	☒	☐
Oxides of nitrogen (NO_X): 10 tons per year.	☐	☐	☒	☐
Particulate matter (PM_{10}): 15 tons per year.	☐	☐	☒	☐
Stationary Sources - as Determined by District Rules				
Severe nonattainment: 25 tons per year.	☐	☐	☒	☐
Extreme nonattainment: 10 tons per year.	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District.				
Operational and Area Sources				
Reactive organic gases (ROG): 25 tons per year.	☒	☐	☐	☐
Oxides of nitrogen (NO_X): 25 tons per year.	☒	☐	☐	☐
Particulate matter (PM_{10}): 15 tons per year.	☒	☐	☐	☐
Stationary Sources – as Determined by District Rules				
25 tons per year.	☒	☐	☐	☐
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☒	☐	☐	☐
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

RESPONSES:

(a-d) The project site 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 (PM_{10}) 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 PM_{10} 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 (Attainment Plan). As the proposed project would generate emissions of ozone precursors (along with PM_{10}) during construction, the project could potentially conflict with EKAPCD's Ozone AQAP. Thus, further analysis of the project's air quality impacts is warranted to determine whether the project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of EKAPCD's applicable air quality plan for attainment and, if so, to determine the reasonable and feasible mitigation measures that could be imposed. These issues will be evaluated in the EIR.

The proposed project is not located within the San Joaquin Valley Unified 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 EKAPCD in the MDAB, which is designated as a nonattainment area for the State and federal ozone standards and the State PM_{10} standard. As such, the emissions of ozone precursors (ROG and NOx) and PM_{10} 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 emissions to the MDAB will be analyzed in the EIR

Sensitive receptors located in the project area are rural residential dwellings located at varying distances from the project site. Nearby sensitive receptors could be exposed to pollutant emissions during construction of the proposed project. The proposed project's construction-related activities would result in diesel exhaust emissions and dust (also known as PM_{10}) that could adversely affect air quality for the nearest sensitive receptors and will be further evaluation in the EIR.

Additionally, exposure to Valley Fever from fugitive dust generated during project construction is a potentially significant impact. There is the potential that cocci spores could be stirred up during excavation, grading, and earth-moving activities, exposing construction workers and nearby sensitive receptors to these spores and thereby to the possibility of contracting Valley Fever. Thus, impacts to sensitive receptors via exposure to substantial pollutant concentrations are considered potentially significant and will be evaluated further in the EIR.

The project would not have any stationary sources or equipment located on-site that would generate objectionable odors. During construction activities, only short-term, temporary odors from vehicle exhaust and construction equipment engines would occur. These odors would be temporary and would be dispersed rapidly. Therefore, project impacts are expected to be less than significant; however, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact

IV. Biological Resources

Would the project:

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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☒	☐	☐	☐
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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c.	Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☒	☐	☐	☐
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?	☒	☐	☐	☐
e.	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☒	☐	☐	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

RESPONSES:

(a-d) The project site contains undeveloped land, fallow agricultural lands, and natural vegetation consisting primarily of desert scrub habitat. There is a 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.

The natural habitat onsite consists primarily of desert scrub; no riparian habitat was found to be present. Field surveys for sensitive natural communities will be completed and results incorporated into the EIR.

Potential federal or State-protected water-based resources such as streams and washes could be present on the project site and might be impacted by project construction activities. A determination as to whether the project site contains features under federal or State jurisdiction will be conducted as part of the EIR. Impacts to protected wetlands would be considered potentially significant. The project site and surrounding area may be used for migration or dispersal by some wildlife species. Project construction and operation could also remove foraging habitat.

These project impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(e) The CDFW has considered Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) to be a candidate species protected under California Endangered Species Act (CESA) since October 9, 2020. As a candidate species, Joshua tree now has full protection under CESA and any take of the species would require authorization under CESA. For projects where "take" is incidental to carrying out an otherwise lawful activity, an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) may be obtained from the CDFW. Scattered, widely spaced Joshua trees occur throughout portions of the proposed project site; however, they do not occur at a density high enough to consider them a distinct woodland community. Potential impacts to Joshua tree will be analyzed in the EIR. Additionally, sensitive natural plant community and compliance with the California Desert Native Plants Act of the California Food and Agricultural Code, Division 23, is required for the removal of cacti.

(f) The project site is located within the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) West Mojave Plan (WMP) planning areas. However, the WMP applies only to federal public lands managed by the BLM and is not an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) or Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP). The project site is also located within a BLM-designated Development Focus Area pursuant to BLM's Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). Development Focus Areas have been identified because of their potential for energy generation and minimal conflict with sensitive biological resources and are therefore more likely to be appropriate for renewable energy development. However, at this time the DRECP applies only to federal public lands managed by the BLM and is not an adopted HCP or NCCP. There are no anticipated impacts to these designated areas or plans because the project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP or NCCP.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact

V. Cultural Resources

Would the project:

a.	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c.	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

RESPONSES:

(a-c) The project site consists of undeveloped but previously disturbed land. Development of the proposed project would require ground disturbance for grading, installation of the solar arrays, gen-tie line, other electrical improvements such as the BESS and placement of underground electrical and communications lines. The proposed project could potentially impact historical or cultural resources, including resources that are undiscovered or that may be buried underground. A cultural resources survey 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. Although, impacts to human remains are anticipated to be less than significant, inadvertent discovery of such remains is possible and this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	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?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☒	☐

RESPONSES:

(a-b) Construction of the proposed project would involve on-site energy demand and consumption related to use of oil 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 sites 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.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact

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.	☐	☐	☒	☐
	ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	iv. Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b.	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d.	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e.	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems in areas where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f.	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

(a-f) Due to the location of active faults in the general region, strong seismic ground shaking could occur at the project site, resulting in damage to above and below ground structures and other site improvements if not properly designed to withstand strong ground shaking. Construction of the proposed project would be subject to all applicable ordinances of the Kern County Building Code (Chapter 17.08). Kern County has adopted the California Building Standards Code (CBC) which imposes substantially similar requirements for design to resist strong ground motions as the International Building Code (IBC). Adherence to applicable regulations would minimize the potential impacts associated with the proposed project.

A Geology and Soils study of the project site will be conducted to determine the physical characteristics of the underlying soils and geologic formations and to identify if any unstable conditions exist that could be exacerbated by proposed construction activities. The results of these investigations will be provided in the EIR.

The project site is located in an area with sediments that are conducive to fossil preservation, including Holocene- to Pleistocene-age older alluvium and numerous fossils have been recorded in the region. A paleontological survey and study will be required for the proposed project to determine the potential for significant impacts.

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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact

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?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

(a-b) Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions emitted by human activity are implicated in global climate change or global warming. The principal GHGs are CO_2, methane (CH_4), 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, water conveyance, 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 production 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 and the project's potential GHG impacts, with respect to the objectives of statewide programs to reduce GHGs associated with energy generation will be examined in the EIR.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c.	Emit hazardous emissions or involve handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d.	Be located on a site that 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e.	For a project located within the adopted Kern County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f.	Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g.	Expose people or structures, directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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:				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
i. Occur as immature stages and adults in numbers considerably in excess of those found in the surrounding environment; and	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. Are associated with design, layout, and management of project operations; and	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. Disseminate widely from the property; and	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. Cause detrimental effects on the public health or well-being of the majority of the surrounding population.	☐	☐	☒	☐

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, 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.

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. Potentials hazards associated with BESS include increased potential for electrical shock and chemical release associated with the batteries used.

Impacts resulting from the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, or due to an accidental release of hazardous materials, during construction and operation of the proposed project will be evaluated further in the EIR.

(c) The closest school to the project site is the Tropico Middle School, located approximately 6 miles southeast of the project site. The project site is not located within one quarter mile of a school. Additionally, the proposed project is not anticipated to emit hazardous emissions or involve handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste. Therefore, there would be no impact and no further analysis is required in the EIR.

(d-f) Based on a review of the Cortese List Data Resources, there are no hazardous materials sites located on the project site.

The nearest public airport to the project site is the Rosamond Skypark located approximately 7 miles southeast of the project site. The project site is not located within any safety or noise zones for the Rosamond Skypark. Due to the nature of the proposed land use, impacts from air traffic hazards or excessive aircraft noise are not anticipated to occur for people residing or working in the project area with respect to the project's proximity to an airport. Therefore, there would be no impact and no further analysis is warranted in the EIR.

As required by routine and standard construction specifications administered by Kern County, road access would be maintained throughout construction, and appropriate detours would be provided in the event of potential road closures. Therefore, no impacts related to impairment of the implementation of or physical interference with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan would occur during construction.

The small size of the operational work force would not generate significant traffic volumes during an emergency evacuation scenario that could complicate area-wide emergency evacuation efforts. No impacts are anticipated, further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

(g-h) 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 a Fire Hazard Severity Zone in a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) (CalFire, 2007). The proposed project would comply with all applicable wildland fire management plans and policies established by CalFire 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.

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.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact

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?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☒	☐	☐	☐
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:				
	i. result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☒	☐	☐	☐
	ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	☒	☐	☐	☐
	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	☒	☐	☐	☐
	iv. impede or redirect flood flows?	☒	☐	☐	☐
d.	In flood hazard, tsunami, seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e.	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

(a-b) Construction of the project would be subject to County, State, and federal water quality regulations. The project site is located within the jurisdiction of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Project construction activities have the potential to result in erosion, sedimentation, and discharge of construction debris, and could result in the discharge of wastewater and runoff at the project site. During construction, potable water would be brought to the site for

drinking and domestic needs. Non-potable water usage during construction, primarily for dust-suppression purposes, is not expected to exceed 200 acre-feet over the 18-month construction phase. A comprehensive hydrology and water quality impact analysis as well as a water supply assessment will be prepared, and the findings will be further analyzed in the EIR.

(c) Construction and operational 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 A hydrologic study will be prepared for the project in accordance with Kern County requirements. Potentially significant impacts will be analyzed in the EIR.

During construction and following installation of the solar arrays, the majority of the site would remain as pervious surface. An estimated 11-acre feet per year of water is projected for operations associated with annual panel washing, dust suppression and fire suppression. It is anticipated that panels would be washed annually over a three-month period using a maximum of 8 acre-feet. 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. The construction period Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and the operational period Water Quality Management Plan would ensure the proper control and treatment, if necessary, of any storm water prior to discharge. This impact will be further discussed 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 the super-saturation 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.

According to the FIRMs for the project area, approximately 99 per cent of the project site is located in Flood Zone A, defined as an area subject to the 1 percent annual chance of flooding; also referred to as a 100-year flood event. As a result, the project could be subject to flooding however the construction would comply with construction and design specifications of the Kern County Floodplain Management Ordinance. The project would be reviewed by the Kern County Public Works Department for adherence to all applicable floodplain management standards. Because of the potential for flood hazards to occur, and related risk of release of pollutants due to project inundation, further analysis of this is required in the EIR.

(e) The project site is located within the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin which is an adjudicated basin, with all water rights having been previously prescribed. Ongoing management of this basin is governed by the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). As such, all water usage for the project will conform to existing adjudication plans. A water supply assessment will be completed for the project to analyze potential impacts to groundwater resources, including any potential conflicts with the IRWMP. This impact will be further analyzed in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. Land Use and Planning					
Would the project:					
a.	Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b.	Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☒	☐

RESPONSES:

(a) The project site is located on undeveloped, but previously disturbed land. The project area is predominantly developed with permitted solar and wind energy facilities and there are scattered rural residences located near or adjacent to the project site. The project site is located approximately 13 miles southwest of the unincorporated community of Mojave and approximately 5 miles west of the unincorporated community of Rosamond. The proposed project would not physically encroach into or divide or restrict access to the communities of Mojave or Rosamond. Therefore, impacts are considered to be less than significant and no further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

(b) The project site is located within the Kern County General Plan area with portions of the project being located within the Willow Springs Specific Plan area. As shown on **Figure 6***, Existing General Plan Land Use Designations*, the portion of the project site within the Kern County General Plan area is designated as Map Code 8.1 (Intensive Agriculture, Minimum 20 Acre Parcel Size), Map Code 8.3 (Extensive Agriculture, Minimum 20 Acre Parcel Size), and Map Code 8.3/2.5 (Extensive Agriculture, Minimum 20 Acre Parcel Size, Flood Hazard Overlay). No change to the existing land use designations of the Kern County General Plan is required. The portion of the project site within the Willow Springs Specific Plan area is designated as Map Code 5.3/4.4 (Residential -Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre/Comprehensive Planning Area), Map Code 5.5 (Residential-Maximum 10 Units per Net Acre); Map Code 5.6 (Residential-Min 2.5 Gross Acres/Unit), and Map Code 6.2/4.4 (General Commercial/Comprehensive Planning Area). The project proposes to amend the Land Use Element of the Willow Springs Specific Plan to remove the 4.4 (Comprehensive Planning Area) Map Code designation from the project area, where applicable.

The project study area includes both agriculture and residential estate zone districts as shown in **Figure 8**, *Existing Zoning Classifications*, above. Solar development is a conditionally permitted use in the Agriculture zone district per Chapters 19.12 and 19.14 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance. Solar development is not a permitted use in residential zone districts like the Estate zoning district per Chapter 19.16 of the Zoning Ordinance. Therefore, approval of a zone change would be required to rezone portions of the project area classified within the Estate zone district to the Agriculture zone district for the construction and operation of the proposed project, with approval of the requested Conditional Use Permits (CUPs); see **Figure 8***, Existing Zoning Classifications* and **Figure 9***, Proposed Zoning Classifications.* The proposed Agriculture zoning classification of the project site is consistent with the existing and proposed Willow Springs Specific Plan map code designations.

An amendment to the Willow Springs Specific Plan Circulation Element is requested to eliminate future road reservations along portions of the section and mid-section lines within Section 1 in Zone Map 232 and Section 6 in Zone Map 231. Similarly, an amendment to the Kern County General Plan Circulation Element is requested to remove future road reservations along portions of the section lines within Sections 31, 32, and 33 in Zone Map 214 (See *Figure 11, Kern County and Willow Springs Circulation Changes)*. This would allow solar panels to be placed throughout the site with no setbacks from the midsection line of future road reservations. However, the proposed project would not affect property owner access to any other surrounding properties.

The project proponent is requesting six CUPs to allow for the construction and operation of the proposed project; three CUPs to allow development of a solar facility within the Exclusive Agriculture zone district across three separate zone maps and an additional three CUPs to allow construction and operation of microwave communication tower in the Exclusive Agriculture zone district on the conditionally permitted sites in three separate zone maps. With approval of the zone change classifications and CUPs, the proposed project would be an allowable use within the Agriculture zone district. 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 the CUPs. 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.

With approval of the requested CUPs and zone change classifications, the proposed project is not anticipated to have the potential 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 mitigating an environmental effect. However, further assessment will be provided in the EIR.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact

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 a mineral recovery area nor within a designated mineral and petroleum resource site by neither the Kern County General Plan nor by the Willow Springs Specific Plan. Additionally, the site is not identified as a mineral resource zone by the Department of Conservation's State Mining and Geology Board, nor has it been designated by the California Geologic Energy Management Division (formerly known as the Department of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR)) as a recognized oil field. Construction and operation of the proposed project would not interfere with mineral extraction and processing and would not have significant impacts on future mineral development. Therefore, it is determined that there would be no impacts to Mineral Resources and no further analysis is warranted in the EIR.

(b) As mentioned previously, the project site is not located within a mineral recovery site designated by the Willow Springs Specific Plan or within a designated mineral and petroleum resource site within the Kern County General Plan. The project site is not located within the County's NR (Natural Resources) or PE (Petroleum Extraction) 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. There would be no impact and no further analysis is warranted in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. Noise					
Would the project result in:					
a.	Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c.	A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

RESPONSES:

(a-c) 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, recreational areas, and churches. The closest school to the site is the Tropico Middle School, located approximately 6 miles southeast of the project site. Rural residential homes are located in the project area and could be exposed to short-term construction and long-term operational noise, primarily associated with the battery energy storage system.

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 for the majority of the operation where the solar panels are located. Groundborne vibration and groundborne noise could originate from the operation of heavy off-road equipment and heavy-duty trucks delivering materials and machinery during the construction phase of the project. Operation of the proposed project would generate very little noise and would generate minimal noise from employee vehicle trips and work including repairs and maintenance of the facilities. Potential noise impacts during project construction and operations will be further analyzed in the EIR.

(d) The nearest public airport to the project site is the Rosamond Skypark located approximately 7 miles southeast of the project site. The project site is not located within any safety or noise zones for the Rosamond Skypark. Noise from occasional aircraft flyovers would not have a significant effect on the small workforce on-site who would normally be working indoors except when outdoor maintenance or repair activities are required. The proposed project would not generate any impacts

that could worsen the levels of aircraft noise. There would be no impacts and no further analysis of this issue is warranted in the EIR.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact

XIV. Population and Housing

Would the project:

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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b.	Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

RESPONSES:

(a) Although the proposed project would provide new employment consistent with the adopted Kern County General Plan goals, plans, and policies, long-term employment opportunities would be minimal. Up to 15 part-time and/or full-time staff would operate the facility and would be located at the adjacent BigBeau Solar O&M building.

It is estimated that up to 627 workers per day would be required during peak construction periods for the proposed project. The entire construction process is anticipated to take 18 months. 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 are 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 Rosamond, Mojave and Lancaster. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to directly or indirectly induce the development of any new housing or businesses within the local communities.

During the operational phase, the project would require up to 15 full- or part-time equivalent (FTE) personnel who would commute to the site. Due to the small number of full-time employees, it is anticipated that the local housing stock would be adequate to accommodate operations personnel should they relocate to the area, without requiring the need for the construction of new housing. The proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce substantial unplanned population growth and further analysis in the EIR is not warranted.

(b) The project site is currently undeveloped and does not contain any occupied housing units; some unoccupied residential structures do exist but would be removed prior to construction. These properties were acquired by EDFR for the purpose of the Bullhead Solar project. The proposed project would therefore not displace any existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No further evaluation of this issue is required in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact

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?	☒	☐	☐	☐
ii.	Police protection?	☒	☐	☐	☐
iii.	Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv.	Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
v.	Other public facilities?	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

(a)(i) The Kern County Fire Department (KCFD) provides fire suppression and emergency medical services to the project area. The project site would be served by Fire Station #15, located at 3219 35th West Street in Rosamond. Adherence to all applicable regulations would reduce wildfire ignitions and prevent the spread of wildfires. However, construction and operation activities may result in increased demand for firefighting services in the area. 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.

(a)(ii) Law enforcement and public safety services in the project area are provided by the Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO). The project site would be served by the Rosamond Substation at 3179 35th Street West. Although the potential is low, the proposed project may attract vandals or other security risks, and construction activities would result in increases in traffic volumes along surrounding roads, which could increase demand on law enforcement services. On-site security measures (i.e., on-site monitoring equipment, gated access, motion sensor lighting) would be provided and access to the project site during construction and operation would be restricted, thereby minimizing the need for law enforcement services. Nonetheless, project impacts on local sheriff services could be potentially significant. This issue will be evaluated in the EIR.

(a)(iii) It is expected that most of the construction workers would live in the broader region and commute to the project site from surrounding communities where their children are already enrolled in school and where their contribution to local taxes, including funds for schools, is assessed locally. 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 15 part- or full-time positions) and not expected to generate a permanent increase in population that would impact school populations. Therefore, no significant impacts to schools are anticipated to occur and further analysis is not warranted in the EIR.

(a)(iv) 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 15 part- or full-time equivalent (FTE) employees would not result in construction of new housing units that could significantly increase the local population and related demand for public parkland. Therefore, no significant impacts to parks are anticipated to occur, and further analysis of this issue is not warranted in the EIR.

(a)(v) Implementation of the proposed project may have impacts on the ability of the County to provide adequate county-wide comprehensive public facility services. Unlike other businesses in California, large scale solar has an exclusion from property taxes on their equipment. This property tax exclusion results in the project not providing the revenue needed to provide services and facilities for both the project and the communities that prevent decline of the physical neighborhoods in unincorporated Kern County. This is a direct impact from the project structure and the land if built with another type of land use would produce property tax revenue to provide necessary services and facilities and prevent physical decline of homes and businesses due to vacancy and inability for response for all services, including code enforcement to law enforcement, fire, roads and health and safety issues such as elderly care and child protection services. The cumulative impacts of this active solar tax exclusion over the life of the over 36,000 acres of projects within the County has resulted in a loss to the General Fund over the last 10 years of over $103 million and deepened the on-going fiscal emergency of the County. Public policies in the Kern County General Plan and Willow Springs Specific Plan require development to address economic deficiencies in public services and facilities costs. Therefore, the proposed project's impacts on public facilities are potentially significant and will be evaluated in the EIR.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact

XVI. Recreation

Would the project:

a.	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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b.	Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

RESPONSES:

(a) It is estimated that up to 627 workers per day during peak construction periods would be required on-site during construction of the proposed project. The construction phase is anticipated to last 18 months. These temporary workers would not have time to visit any local parks or recreation facilities during the workday. Further, few workers are expected to relocate to this area temporarily while the construction is underway and there would be 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 residences 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.

(b) The proposed project does not include or require the construction of new or expansion of existing recreational facilities, and there are no recreational facilities on the project site that would be affected. No impact would result and no further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b.	Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c.	Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d.	Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐

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.

Further analysis in the EIR is required to determine whether construction traffic could disrupt normal traffic flows or otherwise conflict with the County's roadway performance policies and programs.

During operation, the proposed project would require up to 15 part- or 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 to the solar development are also anticipated to produce negligible traffic impacts. 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 VMT characteristics in this part of Kern County or elsewhere. Long-term, operational traffic would be limited, with a small work force of approximately 15 part- or full-time equivalent employees. It is not known where the employees would

live or how long their commuting trips would be. 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-VMT" 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 would be regionally accessed from SR-14 to the east. 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, especially at intersections where queuing could occur. This requires further analysis in the EIR.

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. No new roads are proposed for access to the project; primary access would be from existing public Tehachapi Willow Springs Road and secondary access could be provided by 120th Street West via the adjacent and previously permitted Big Beau Solar Project. New internal access roads and circulation would be designed to assure safe ingress/egress to county roads. The project buildings and other structures would be set back from roadways 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) Emergency vehicle access must be maintained at all times throughout construction activities, in accordance with the County's routine/standard construction specifications. Further, construction activities would not be permitted to impede emergency access to any local roadways or surrounding properties. Construction period impacts are considered less than significant but will be further analyzed in the EIR.

Although no significant operational impacts related to emergency access are anticipated to occur, further analysis of this issue will be provided in the EIR.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact

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 or historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☒	☐	☐	☐
	ii.	A resource 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 Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

(a)(i), (a)(ii) Since the project site is undeveloped, there is a potential for tribal cultural resources to exist either on-site or on surrounding lands. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to directly or indirectly impact tribal cultural resources during site clearance and earthmoving activities or from long-term development of the site. All tribes with possible cultural affiliation and interest within the project area will be notified pursuant to the requirements of Assembly Bill 52, and consultation with the potentially affected tribes will occur, as appropriate, between the County and the tribes. Further evaluation in the EIR is warranted to identify potential impacts to tribal cultural resources and to formulate avoidance or mitigation measures, if applicable.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c.	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e.	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☒	☐

RESPONSES:

(a) 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. The proposed project does not require expanded or new storm drainage facilities because the proposed solar facility would not generate a significant increase in the amount of impervious surfaces that would increase runoff during storm events. 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. Impacts would be less than significant in this regard; however, further analysis in the EIR will be provided.

(b) Water demand for long-term operational demands (panel washing, dust and fire suppression) is not expected to exceed 11 acre-feet per year during operation. Water usage during construction, primarily for dust-suppression purposes, is not expected to exceed 200 acre-feet over the 18 month construction phase. Water is anticipated to be obtained from on-site wells during construction or delivered via

truck from an off-site source(s) for operations. 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) No septic system or wastewater disposal is proposed for the project; wastewater generated during the operations phase would be accommodated in the adjacent BigBeau Solar O&M facility that was previously evaluated for that project. 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 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, operation, and decommissioning, thus requiring the consideration of waste reduction and recycling measures. Further analysis of the pertinent solid waste reduction and management regulations applicable to this project will be included in the EIR.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b.	Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☒	☐	☐	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

RESPONSES:

a) The project site is not identified for any purpose in an adopted emergency evacuation plan to address wildfires or other types of emergencies. Emergency evacuation plans would not be impacted by the proposed project.

b) 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 a Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Therefore, the potential for wildfire on the project site does not exist. The site is located in a rural, sparsely developed area with limited population. Slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, would not exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire, as the area is not listed as within a Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

c) Adherence to applicable regulations would reduce wildfire ignitions and prevent the spread of wildfires. The proposed project involves the development of a solar energy generation and battery energy storage facility, along with associated facilities including power transmission lines (gen-tie lines), a substation and inverters. Impacts are anticipated to be potentially significant for wildfires in association with battery energy storage facilities and associated infrastructure, therefore further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

d) The project site is not considered to be a high risk area for landslides as it is relatively flat; therefore, there would be no impacts involving landslides or other slope failures, or other drainage changes that would expose people or structures to significant risks in a post-wildfire burned landscape condition. No further analysis is warranted in the EIR relative to this issue.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact

XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance

a.	Does the project have the potential to substantially 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?	☒	☐	☐	☐
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.)	☒	☐	☐	☐
c.	Does the project have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

(a) The EIR's biological, cultural, and tribal cultural resources sections will discuss specific project impacts on plants and wildlife, including avian species, and impacts to cultural and tribal cultural resources. The document will also evaluate the project's contribution to cumulative biological, cultural, and tribal cultural resources impacts and propose mitigation that will reduce the impacts, where feasible.

(b) The project has the potential to contribute to cumulatively significant aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, traffic, noise, and wildfire impacts. Such impacts could occur during the construction phases and/or as a result of the fully built and operational project. The EIR will evaluate the project's contribution to cumulative impacts in these and other areas.

(c) The proposed project would not result in long-term air pollutant emissions that would adversely affect nearby sensitive receptors, however it could result in long-term impacts to sensitive noise 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 short-term cumulative contribution to air quality impacts from project construction will be further evaluated in the EIR.