

ES EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ES.1 BACKGROUND AND PROJECT OVERVIEW

This document is a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) that meets the requirements of both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the Centinela Solar Energy Project (proposed project, or Proposed Action). The Draft EIR/EA analyzes the impacts of Centinela Solar Energy, LLC's (Applicant) Centinela Solar Energy (CSE) Project (proposed project/Proposed Action).

The application for this project was filed with BLM as an Application for a Right-of-Way (ROW) authorization to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission, an approximate 2,067-acre, 275-megawatt (MW) solar energy project including a photovoltaic (PV) solar field, substation, operations and maintenance (O&M) facilities, Gen-tie Line (transmission), and temporary construction lay down areas.

The proposed project/Proposed Action consists of two primary components located within Imperial County: 1) a solar photovoltaic electric generation facility located on privately owned land (Centinela Solar Energy [CSE] Facility) which is under the jurisdiction of Imperial County; and 2) a single circuit aboveground 230-kilovolt (kV) electrical generation line (Gen-tie Line) approximately six miles long connecting the CSE Facility with the Imperial Valley Substation which is on land managed by the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Approximately 1.25 miles of the Gen-tie Line cross private lands and 4.25 miles of the transmission line extend through BLM land. The proposed permanent ROW for the electrical transmission line corridor would be 125-foot wide. The CSE project area (which includes the CSE Facility on private land and Gen-tie Line corridor through private property easements and federal lands managed by the BLM) is located south of Seeley, California, near Mount Signal and approximately 8 miles southwest of the City of El Centro. (Refer to the regional location for the proposed project is shown in **Figure 2.0-1**. The proposed project layout is shown in **Figure 2.0-5** in Chapter 2.0).

This Draft EIR/EA presents the potential effects of the Centinela Solar Energy Project and alternatives on BLM land and other affected lands and resources. The Proposed Action plus three full action alternatives (Alternative 1 – Double Circuit Gen-tie Line Structures, Alternative 2 – Reduced CSE Facility Site, Alternative 3 – Use Existing Electric Line Towers and 230-kV Line Looping) and one no action alternative (Alternative 4 – No Action/No Project) were evaluated.

ES.2 PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action consists of two primary components located in unincorporated western Imperial County southeast of the Imperial Valley Substation: 1) the CSE Facility; and 2) the Gen-tie Line. The key components of the Proposed Action include PV arrays (PV modules, mounting structures, direct current (DC) electrical wiring, power conditioning equipment including inverters and transformers, and the alternating current (AC) collector system that transmits electricity from the PV Arrays to the CSE Facility substation); the CSE Facility substation; the common services area; and ancillary systems such as fencing, security, lighting, fire protection, access roads, and other systems. Further details of the Proposed Action are described in Chapter 2.0 subsections 2.1.5.2 and 2.1.5.3.

ES.3 PURPOSE AND NEED

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidance published by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) states that the Purpose and Need section “shall briefly specify the underlying purpose and need to

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which the agency is responding in proposing the alternatives including the proposed action” (40 CFR Section 1502.13). The following discussions describe the BLM purpose, Imperial County purpose, and the Applicant’s objectives in putting forth the proposed Centinela Solar Energy Project.

ES.3.1 BLM PURPOSE

The BLM’s purpose and need for the Centinela Solar Energy Project Gen-tie Line is to respond to the Applicant’s application under Title V (Rights-of-Way) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) as Amended (43 U.S.C. 1761). The application is for a ROW grant to construct, operate, and maintain a Gen-tie line consisting of a single circuit 230-kV aboveground electric transmission line on public lands. The application requests compliance with the FLPMA, BLM ROW regulations, and other applicable federal laws.

In conjunction with FLPMA, BLM authorities include:

- Executive Order 13212, dated May 18, 2001, which mandates that agencies act expediently and in a manner consistent with applicable laws to increase the “production and transmission of energy in a safe and environmentally sound manner.”
- The Energy Policy Act 2005 (EPAAct), which sets forth the “sense of Congress” that the Secretary of the Interior should seek to have approved non-hydropower renewable energy projects on the public lands with a generation capacity of at least 10,000 MW by 2015.

Secretarial Order 3285A1, dated March 11, 2009, and amended on February 22, 2010, which “establishes the development of renewable energy as a priority for the Department of the Interior.”

The BLM will decide whether to deny the proposed ROW, grant the ROW, or grant the ROW with modifications, if necessary. Modifications may include modifying the proposed use or changing the route or location of the proposed facilities (43 CFR 2805.10(a)(1)).

BLM’s purpose in preparing this joint EIR/EA is to comply with the requirements of NEPA (the EA component of the document) to evaluate the potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action. Consistent with requirements of NEPA, this EIR/EA would serve as a decision-making tool to assist BLM in its decision to approve, modify, or reject the Proposed Action.

ES.3.2 IMPERIAL COUNTY PURPOSE

The purpose of the Proposed Action, also called “Project Objectives” under CEQA, is to capitalize on Imperial County’s abundant solar energy (sunlight) to generate renewable energy consistent with the renewable energy objectives of the Imperial County General Plan. The following statements represent objectives of Imperial County and the Applicant:

- Construct and operate a solar energy facility which would help meet the increasing demand for clean, renewable electrical power.
- Construct and operate a solar power facility with minimal impacts to the environment by locating the facility on previously disturbed land.
- Operate a facility at a location that ranks amongst the highest in solar resource potential in the nation.

- Align transmission lines with existing lines contained within an existing utility corridor to minimize impacts to BLM land.
- Provide economic investment and diversification of the economic base for Imperial County.
- Reinforce Imperial County's position as a leader in the renewable energy sector.
- Operate a renewable energy facility that does not produce substantial noise, does not emit greenhouse gases, and reduces existing water use on the project site.
- Meet the increasing demand for clean, renewable electrical power.
- Help reduce reliance on foreign sources of fuel, promote national security, diversify energy portfolios, contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and generate "green" jobs.
- Contribute much needed on-peak power to the electrical grid in California.
- Help California meet its statutory and regulatory goal of increasing renewable power generation.
- Assist California in meeting its Renewable Portfolio Standard goals of 33 percent of electrical power retail sales by 2020 consistent with SB X1 2.
- Support U.S. Secretary of the Interior Salazar's Orders 3283 and 3285 making the production, development and delivery of renewable energy top priorities for the United States.
- Support the greenhouse gas reduction goals of Assembly Bill 832 (California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006).

The objectives of the County for preparing the EIR/EA are to comply with the requirements of CEQA/NEPA to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project/Proposed Action.

ES.3.3 APPLICANT'S OBJECTIVES

The Applicant's objectives, consistent with the directives of the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) program, are specified as follows:

- Construct, operate and maintain solar energy generating facilities using proven technology to reliably and economically produce electricity during daylight hours
- Construct, operate and maintain above ground high-voltage electric line(s) and associated facilities to reliably and economically deliver the power produced by the generating facilities to the electric grid
- Complete construction and begin commercial operations on a schedule consistent with the Applicant's contractual obligations under the Power Purchase Agreements with San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E)
- Minimize impacts to environmental resources by locating project features on previously disturbed lands to the extent practicable
- Locate project infrastructure on federal lands inside designated energy corridors where practicable.

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ES.3.4 CEQA OBJECTIVES

The overall intent of the proposed Centinela Solar Energy Project is to promote the use of renewable energy to provide energy to local and statewide utility customers. The objectives for the proposed Centinela Solar Energy Project are to:

- Provide energy from the Proposed Action to help meet California’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirement for renewable energy;
- Develop a solar energy project on the lands with suitable area and exposure to sunlight to maximize energy production and provide the lowest-cost renewable, non-polluting electricity;
- Incorporate the BLM’s Best Management Practices (BMPs) for developing solar energy and ensuring minimal environmental impacts.

ES.4 DECISION TO BE MADE

As defined by the purpose and need, the BLM is responding to the Applicant’s application for a ROW grant to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a Gen-tie Line on public lands. In doing so, the BLM will adopt one of the alternatives described below (refer to Section ES.3.5).

Alternatives considered in the EIR/EA are based on issues identified by the BLM, and Imperial County and from comments received during the public scoping process. The BLM is required to consider a range of alternatives that are considered “reasonable,” usually defined as alternatives that are realistic (not speculative), technologically and economically feasible, and responsive to the purpose and need of the project.

This document provides information to the authorized officer to make the following decision:

- Should the proposed ROW grant be issued? If so, should it be requested or modified?

Similarly, Imperial County must respond to the application submitted by Centinela Solar Energy, LLC’s. In rendering a decision whether to approve the proposed project and issue the necessary permits to construct and operate the proposed Centinela Solar Energy Facility, the County must determine whether the project is consistent with the policies of the Imperial County General Plan and conforms to applicable regulations and standards set forth in County ordinances. The County must also make findings pursuant to CEQA that the project’s impacts on the physical environment have been mitigated to the degree feasible.

ES.5 ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives were evaluated for inclusion in the EIR/EA using appropriate screening criteria pursuant to NEPA and CEQA. These criteria were used to evaluate whether a potential alternative would: achieve the project purpose and meet most project objectives; be feasible; and offer environmental advantages over the proposed project, including avoidance or reduction of significant environmental impacts. As part of the alternatives screening process, ten alternatives with a transmission line component on BLM land and other affected land and resources were considered by BLM. Two of these alternatives (Alternative 1 and Alternative 3), as well as the Proposed Action, were carried forward for detailed analysis. In addition, Alternative 2, a reduced private land alternative proposed by the County, was analyzed. Alternative 2 also includes a transmission line component on BLM land. Refer to Chapter 2.0 subsections 2.1.5.2, 2.1.5.3, 2.2.2, 2.2.3 and 2.2.4 for a detailed description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives.

ES.5.1 PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action consists of two primary components located in unincorporated western Imperial County southeast of the Imperial Valley Substation: 1) the CSE Facility; and 2) the Gen-tie Line. The key components of the Proposed Action include PV arrays (PV modules, mounting structures, DC electrical wiring, power conditioning equipment including inverters and transformers, and the AC collector system that transmits electricity from the PV Arrays to the CSE Facility substation); the CSE Facility substation; the common services area; and ancillary systems such as fencing, security, lighting, fire protection, access roads, and other systems. Further details of the Proposed Action are described in subsections 2.1.5.2 and 2.1.5.3 of Chapter 2.0.

ES.5.2 ALTERNATIVE 1 – DOUBLE CIRCUIT GEN-TIE LINE STRUCTURES

Under Alternative 1, the Applicant would construct its Gen-tie Line in the same alignment identified for the Proposed Action but install tower structures capable of supporting an additional 230-kV circuit. The gen-tie line from the next project built subsequent to the Applicant's could be strung on the open side of the towers built by the Applicant preventing, in part, impacts associated with the construction of a separate set of gen-tie structures. The Applicant would construct double-circuit structures for the segment of the Gen-tie Line that is not parallel to the existing 230-kV structures leading into Imperial Valley Substation (i.e., for the east-west segment of the Gen-tie Line south of SR 98).

ES.5.3 ALTERNATIVE 2 – REDUCED CSE FACILITY SITE

Alternative 2 would occupy all the same private land parcels currently encompassed in the CSE Facility site with the exception of the three parcels under Williamson Act Contract. Removal of these three parcels would result in disturbance of approximately 335 fewer acres and preserve existing agricultural uses and lands under Williamson Act Contracts. A Gen-tie Line alignment for Alternative 2 may be chosen from the Proposed Action, Alternative 1 or Alternative 3 as described in Chapter 2.0, subsections 2.1.5.3, 2.2.2 and 2.2.4, respectively. Any Gen-tie Line alignment selected would include a portion extending through BLM land. The amount of power produced by Alternative 2 would be reduced approximately 45-MW to 230-MW.

ES.5.4 ALTERNATIVE 3 - USE EXISTING ELECTRIC LINE TOWERS AND 230-KV LINE LOOPING AND UNDERCROSSING

Alternative 3 includes construction of a "loop-in" to connect the CSE Facility via the Gen-tie Line to the radial SDG&E line (refer to Figure 2.0-37 and Figure 2.0-39 in Chapter 2.0). To interconnect (loop-in) the Gen-tie Line with the radial SDG&E electric line, a 450-foot by 350-foot 230-kV electric switchyard using a four-breaker ring bus ("Ring Bus") would be constructed immediately east of the Westside Main Canal and south of SR 98 along the proposed Gen-tie Line alignment. An approximately 1.4-mile long 230-kV electric line on new single or double circuit towers would be constructed on the CSE Facility site. A double circuit 230-kV electric line would connect the CSE Facility substation to the Ring Bus. Two 230-kV lines (approximately 2.5 miles in length with 1.2 miles on BLM land) would be constructed westward from the Ring Bus along the proposed Gen-tie Line route to the SDG&E towers. The two 230-kV lines would require undercrossing structures to pass beneath the existing north-south 230-kV lines. The radial SDG&E line would be cut and each end spliced together with one of the new CSE 230-kV lines to complete the loop. Alternative 3 would eliminate approximately 3 miles of new tower structures (approximately 11 towers) on native desert lands managed by the BLM compared to the Proposed Action or Alternative 1.

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ES.6 SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES AND IMPACTS

Table ES-1 summarizes the alternatives and the environmental impacts resulting from the each alternative pursuant to NEPA and CEQA (Guidelines Section 15123(b)(1)). All of the alternatives would require a grant of ROW from BLM and a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and Variance from Imperial County.

**TABLE ES-1
SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES AND IMPACTS**

Environmental Effects	Level of Impact/Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Impact/Significance After Mitigation
VISUAL RESOURCES			
PROPOSED ACTION			
<u>Direct and Indirect Impacts</u>			
Construction			
Construction of the proposed Centinela Solar Energy Project would cause temporary visual impacts on BLM lands (temporary access roads, temporary lay-down areas, construction equipment staging areas, and disturbance associated with constructing the tower structures) and private lands. Disturbance to BLM land would be addressed through the Restoration Plan. Areas of agricultural land temporarily disturbed by construction of the Gen-tie Line, but not part of the CSE Facility, will be 15 days following compl use following construction. Following restoration, no direct impacts would occur.	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
Operation and Maintenance			
<i>KOP #1 – Northeast corner of the intersection of Brockman Road and State Route (SR) 98</i>			
The change from an agricultural field to a solar field would be noticeable, the overall visual contrast would be considered moderate. The addition of the solar field appears subordinate from KOP #1. No scenic views would be blocked by the project. The overall visual change from KOP #1 would be weak based intervening obstructions (buildings, billboards) and existing vertical utility lines that are prominent in this view.	MI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<i>KOP #2 – Brockman Road Across from the Eastern Boundary of the Proposed CSE Facility</i>			
The resulting visual contrast would be moderate, with the PV solar field dominating the view and altering the existing visual character of the site	MI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA

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Environmental Effects	Level of Impact/Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Impact/Significance After Mitigation
<p>and its surrounding landscape. View blockage resulting from the project would be low as no scenic background features are present to be obstructed by the project. The overall visual change would be a weak direct impact to visual resources.</p>	MI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<p><i>KOP #3 – Junction of SR 98 and Drew Road at Western-most Boundary of CSE Facility Site</i> Although more extensive electrical infrastructure is located west of this view in Utility Corridor N, the proposed Gen-tie Line would be the dominant feature in this view along SR 98. View blockage would be low as the proposed tower structures are not massive. The resulting visual contrast would be moderate as the tower structures and Gen-tie Lines would appear dominant relative to the existing landscape features (flat agricultural fields). The overall visual change would be a weak direct impact to visual resources.</p>	MI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<p><i>KOP #4 – Secondary Access Point Along Brockman Road north of Kubler Road</i> The PV solar modules would appear dominant in the foreground/midground. However, view blockage of the background mountain range would be weak based on the height of the PV panel structures (6- to 8-feet). The overall visual change would result in a weak direct impact to visual resources.</p>	MI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<p><i>KOP #5 – Fisher Road east of Drew Road on the Western Boundary of the CSE Facility site</i> The resulting visual change would be weak as the structures on the CSE Facility site would appear subordinate relative to the existing landscape features (primarily linear forms along road, adjacent canal, and row of landscape). View blockage would be low as no scenic resources are</p>	MI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA

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<p>located in the area. The overall visual change would result in a weak direct impact to visual resources.</p> <p>KOP #6 – SR 98 west of Utility Corridor N</p> <p>The proposed Gen-tie Line tower and transmission line(s) would not block views as there are no dominant background features (e.g. no visible mountain range). The Gen-tie Line with its vertical form and linear transmission line(s) would differ from the existing flat, horizontal desert with scattered vegetation, but would blend in with the existing structures in Utility Corridor N. Based on the overall featureless landform, the project would result in a weak direct impact to visual resources. Because, the proposed Gen-tie Line would be located in designated Utility Corridor N, and the proposed 230-kV line would be similar to the existing transmission facilities located within this corridor, no adverse direct or indirect impacts to visual resources within BLM lands would occur.</p> <p>Decommissioning</p> <p>Visual recovery from land disturbance associated with decommissioning would occur as part of reclaiming the project site to agricultural uses and reduce direct visual impacts. No indirect (following decommissioning) impacts would occur.</p> <p>CEQA Significance Determinations</p> <p>Adverse Effect on a Scenic Vista</p> <p>No impact to a scenic vista would occur under CEQA during construction, operations and maintenance or decommissioning.</p> <p>Degrade Existing Visual Character of the Site</p> <p>Less than significant impacts under CEQA would occur with regard to substantially degrading the existing visual character or quality of the site</p>	<p>MI</p> <p>MI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>LTS</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>

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<p>as a result of construction of the CSE Facility or Gen-tie Line, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning.</p> <p>New Source of Substantial Light or Glare New sources of light and glare associated with construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Action would result in a less than significant impact under CEQA.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 1 - Same as Proposed Action.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 2 - Similar to, or slightly less than, what would occur for the Proposed Action as 335 fewer acres would be converted to a solar facility.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 3 - Similar to, or less than, what would occur for the Proposed Action based on 3 miles less of Gen-tie Line.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 4 - No new development is proposed under the No Action/No Project Alternative. No visual or light and glare impact would occur under CEQA.</p>	<p>LTS</p> <p>MI/NI/LTS</p> <p>MI/NI/LTS</p> <p>MI/NI/LTS</p> <p>NI</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>
LAND USE AND SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS			
<p>PROPOSED ACTION Direct and Indirect Impacts Construction Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 1976 Construction and operation of the proposed Gen-tie Line component of the Proposed Action is consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Policy Act. The CSE Facility site is on privately-owned land</p>	<p>NI</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p>

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and therefore not subject to the FLPMA. As the Gen-tie Line is consistent with the FLPMA, no direct or indirect impacts to the plan would occur.			
<p>California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, 1980 as Amended The proposed Gen-tie Line is allowed within Corridor N, a Plan Amendment is not needed. However, the Applicant has submitted an application for a grant of right-of-way (ROW) from the BLM. The project’s consistency with the CDCA Plan would result in no direct or indirect impacts to land use.</p>	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<p>Yuha Desert Management Plan (YDMP) The proposed project is within the YDMP and is consistent with its goal to reduce impacts from electrical transmission lines and access roads. This is accomplished through locating the Gen-tie Line within Utility Corridor N. Thus, no direct or indirect impacts to land use as proposed in the YDMP would occur.</p>	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<p>Flat-tailed Horned Lizard (FTHL) Rangewide Management Strategy The Proposed Action is designed to be consistent with the FTHL Rangewide Management Strategy. As such, no direct impacts to the Strategy would occur.</p>	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<p>Operations and Maintenance The proposed project would be consistent with applicable habitat conservation plans including the CDCA Plan, Yuha Desert Management Plan, and FTHL Rangewide Management Strategy. No direct or indirect impacts would occur to these conservation plans in association with operations and maintenance of the Proposed Action.</p>	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<p>Decommissioning Some direct land use conflicts with surrounding agricultural lands may</p>	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA

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<p>occur during decommissioning activities. However, these impacts would be temporary in nature and discussed in other applicable sections of this EIR/EA (e.g. Section 4.4 Air Quality, Section 4.7, Cultural Resources, Section 4.12 Biological Resources,). Therefore, direct impacts to land use associated with decommissioning are anticipated.</p> <p><u>CEQA Significance Determinations</u></p> <p><i>Conflicts with Applicable Plans</i> No conflicts with applicable plans (FLPMA, CDCA, YDMP, FTHL Rangewide Strategy, ALUCP) or with applicable HCP. Impacts of the project on the Imperial County General Plan and County of Imperial Land Use Ordinance, Title 9 are less than significant under CEQA</p> <p><i>Conflict with Habitat Conservation Plan</i> Impacts to applicable habitat conservation plans would be less than significant under CEQA.</p> <p>NEPA Requirements</p> <p><i>Conflict with the management goals of any special designation area</i> Temporary effects associated with fugitive dust, noise, visual alterations and potential plant and wildlife disturbance would occur in the ACEC. Fugitive dust during construction activities could impact the air quality. Adverse effects to biological resources during construction (such as disturbance of FTHL, wetlands, and avian species) would be reduced through implementation of mitigation measures.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 1 - Same as Proposed Action</p>	<p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>MI</p> <p>NI/MI/LTS</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2; BIO-1; BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-4, BIO-5, BIO-6, BIO-7 and BIO-8 (to address direct impacts associated with development of the proposed land use on the project site).</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2; BIO-1; BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-4, BIO-5, BIO-6, BIO-7 and BIO-8 (to address direct impacts associated with</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>MI</p> <p>MI</p>

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<p>ALTERNATIVE 2 - Same as Proposed Action</p>	<p>NI/MI/LTS</p>	<p>development of the proposed land use on the project site). Refer to mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2; BIO-1; BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-4, BIO-5, BIO-6, BIO-7 and BIO-8 (to address direct impacts associated with development of the proposed land use on the project site).</p>	<p>MI</p>
<p>ALTERNATIVE 3 - Same as Proposed Action</p>	<p>NI/MI/LTS</p>	<p>Refer to mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2; BIO-1; BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-4, BIO-5, BIO-6, BIO-7 and BIO-8 (to address direct impacts associated with development of the proposed land use on the project site).</p>	<p>MI</p>
<p>ALTERNATIVE 4 - No new development is proposed under the No Action/No Project Alternative.</p>	<p>NI/MI/LTS</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NI</p>
<p>TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION</p>			
<p>PROPOSED ACTION</p>			
<p><u>Direct and Indirect Impacts</u> Existing (Year 2011) Plus Project Conditions - analyzes the direct and indirect impacts of combining total project traffic (construction and shuttle trips) with existing conditions.</p>	<p>NI</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p><u>Construction Intersections</u> Under existing (Year 2011) Plus Project Conditions, the study</p>	<p>NI</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p>

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<p>intersections were calculated to operate at LOS C or better. Therefore, no direct and indirect impacts to study area intersections would result from construction traffic.</p> <p>Roadway Segments Under existing (Year 2011) Plus Project Conditions, the roadway segments were calculated to operate at LOS C or better. Four roadway segments would operate at LOS C. Therefore no direct and indirect impacts to study area roadway segments would result from construction traffic.</p> <p>Freeway Segments Under existing (Year 2011) Plus Project Conditions, the freeway segments were calculated to operate above LOS C (at LOS A and LOS B). No direct project impacts were calculated due to the addition of construction traffic to existing traffic would occur. Moreover, the increases in traffic resulting from project construction would not exceed V/C ratios or LOS standards.</p> <p>Operations and Maintenance Operations and maintenance would not occur during Year 2011 Plus Project Conditions. Therefore, this aspect of the Proposed Action is not discussed with regard to Year 2011 Plus Project Conditions.</p> <p>Decommissioning Decommissioning would not occur during Year 2011 Plus Project Conditions. Therefore, this aspect of the Proposed Action is not discussed with regard to Year 2011 Plus Project Conditions.</p> <p>Year 2012 Conditions (Without Project) - reflect when the project is anticipated to be at the peak month of construction activities (mid-2012).</p> <p>Construction</p>	<p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>

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Environmental Effects	Level of Impact/ Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Impact/ Significance After Mitigation
<p>Intersections Under Year 2012 Conditions Without Project, the study intersections were calculated to operate at LOS C or better. No direct project impacts were calculated due to the addition of project traffic to existing traffic would occur.</p>	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<p>Roadway Segments Under Year 2012 Conditions Without Project, the study area roadway segments were calculated to operate at LOS C or better. No direct project impacts were calculated due to the addition of project traffic to existing traffic would occur.</p>	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<p>Freeway Segments Under Year 2012 Conditions Without Project, the freeway segments were calculated to operate at above LOS C at LOS A and LOS B. No direct project impacts were calculated due to the addition of project traffic to existing traffic would occur.</p>	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<p>Operations and Maintenance Operations and maintenance would not occur during Year 2012 Conditions Without Project. Therefore, this aspect of the Proposed Action is not discussed with regard to Year 2012 Conditions Without Project.</p>	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<p>Decommissioning Decommissioning would not occur during Year 2012 Conditions Without Project. Therefore, this aspect of the Proposed Action is not discussed with regard to Year 2012 Conditions Without Project. <u>Year 2012 Plus Project Conditions</u> - examines the addition of peak month construction traffic from the Proposed Action onto Year 2012 Conditions Without Project.</p>	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA

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<p>Construction</p> <p>Intersections Under Year 2012 Plus Project Conditions with the Drew Road interchange open, the study intersections were calculated to operate at LOS C or better. Therefore, no direct or indirect construction traffic impacts to study area intersections would occur under Year 2012 Plus Project Conditions for the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Roadway Segments All roadway segments were calculated to operate at LOS C or better with no change in LOS from Year 2012 Conditions Without Project. Therefore, no direct or indirect construction traffic impacts to study area roadway segments would occur under Year 2012 Plus Project Conditions for the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Freeway Segments Under year 2012 Plus Project Conditions, the freeway segments were calculated to operate above LOS C at LOS A and LOS B. Therefore, no direct or indirect construction traffic impacts to study area freeway segments would occur under Year 2012 Plus Project Conditions for the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Operations and Maintenance Operations and maintenance would not occur during Year 2012 Plus Project Conditions. Therefore, this aspect of the Proposed Action is not discussed with regard to Year 2012 Plus Project Conditions.</p> <p>Decommissioning Decommissioning would not occur during Year 2012 Plus Project Conditions. Therefore, this aspect of the Proposed Action is not discussed with regard to Year 2012 Plus Project Conditions.</p>	<p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>

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Environmental Effects	Level of Impact/ Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Impact/ Significance After Mitigation
<p><u>CEQA Significance Determinations</u> <i>Conflict with Applicable Circulation Plan, Ordinance or Policy/Conflict with an Applicable Congestion Management Program</i> <u>Year 2011 Plus Project Conditions</u> Construction Construction traffic impacts under Year 2011 Plus Project Conditions are considered less than significant under CEQA. Operations and Maintenance/Decommissioning Operations and maintenance or decommissioning would not occur during Year 2011 Plus Project Conditions. Therefore, no CEQA significance determinations can be made. <i>Imperial County Threshold – Increase in Traffic</i> <i>Imperial County Threshold – Exceed LOS</i> <u>Year 2012 Conditions Without Project</u> Construction Construction traffic impacts under Year 2012 Conditions Without Project without construction of the Proposed Action are considered less than significant under CEQA. Operations and Maintenance/Decommissioning Operations and maintenance or decommissioning would not occur during Year 2012 Conditions Without Project. <u>Year 2012 Plus Project Conditions</u> Construction Construction traffic impacts to study area intersections, roadway segments, and freeway segments would be considered less than significant under CEQA for Year 2012 Plus Project Conditions for the</p>	<p>LTS</p> <p>NI</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>

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<p>Proposed Action.</p> <p>Operations and Maintenance/Decommissioning Operations and maintenance or decommissioning would not occur during Year 2012 Plus Project Conditions. Therefore, no CEQA significance determinations can be made.</p> <p>Hazards due to a Design Feature Less than significant impacts under CEQA would occur in association with hazards due to a design feature during construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Emergency Access Construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Action would result in less than significant impacts to emergency access under CEQA.</p> <p>Parking Capacity No impacts to parking capacity under CEQA would occur during construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Alternative 1 – Same as Proposed Action Alternative 2 – Similar to Proposed Action Alternative 3 – Similar to Proposed Action Alternative 4 - No new development is proposed under the No Action/No Project Alternative.</p> <p>Cumulative Impacts <u>Year 2012 Plus Project Plus Cumulative Conditions</u></p> <p>Construction Conflict with an Applicable Congestion Management Program The proposed project would result in a cumulatively significant</p>	<p>NI</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI/LTS</p> <p>NI/LTS</p> <p>NI/LTS</p> <p>NI</p> <p>CC</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>CUM-1 The calculated cumulative impacts on study area intersections result from traffic generated by new</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>LCC</p>

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Environmental Effects	Level of Impact/ Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Impact/ Significance After Mitigation
<p>contribution to Year 2012 Plus Project Plus Cumulative Conditions based on the County significance criteria (refer to Table 4.3-3 in Section 4.3) at three intersections (refer to Table 5.3-3):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Intersection of Forrester Road at I-8 EB Ramp 2) Intersection of SR 98 at Brockman Road 3) Intersection of SR 98 at Clark Road <p>This is considered a cumulatively considerable impact under CEQA. Mitigation Measure CUM-1 addresses cumulative construction impacts to roadway intersections through the payment of fair share contributions based on the project’s temporary construction traffic. Payment of fair share fees, if the intersections ready failing conditions during construction, would reduce impacts to less than significant under CEQA.</p>		<p>development (refer to Table 5.3-1 and 5.3-2). If a majority of the proposed new developments do not materialize, then the cumulatively impacted intersections may continue to operate at acceptable levels of service and would not require mitigation. Normally, the recommended mitigation for cumulative impacts is a “fair share” contribution based on the Caltrans’ fair share formula for future intersection improvements. In the case of the proposed project, it should be noted that the fair share participation is based on the project’s temporary construction traffic that is significantly higher than the project’s traffic after completion of construction (for example 360 temporary construction employees compared to 5 to 7 permanent operation employees). The fair share contributions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the intersection of Forrester Road/I-8 EB Ramps, the construction traffic fair share responsibility is 23.7 percent and the permanent operation fair share is 0.6 percent based on the number of operational employees. • At the intersection of SR 98/Brockman Road, the construction traffic fair share responsibility is 33.8% and permanent operation fair share is 0.2 percent based on the number of operational 	

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		<p>employees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the intersection of SR 98/Clark Road, the construction traffic fair share responsibility is 12.8 percent and 0.1 percent based on the number of operational employees. <p>The project fair share responsibility should be validated at month six and yearly during the entire construction period. If the three intersections noted above are calculated to operate at unacceptable LOS during the validation period, then the Applicant shall pay the fair share amount based on project construction traffic. If the three intersections noted above are calculated to operate at acceptable LOS, then the Applicant shall not be required to pay the fair share amount because the intersection would be documented to operate at acceptable LOS.</p> <p>It is recommended that the Applicant enter into an agreement with the County to fulfill the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) cumulative mitigation requirement, but not be obligated to pay a fair share should the three cumulatively impacted intersections never reach failing conditions during the project's temporary construction period.</p>	

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<p>Operation and Maintenance <u>Horizon Year 2050 Plus Project Conditions</u> Under Horizon Year 2050 Plus Project conditions, the study segments with reported volumes and LOS were calculated to operate at LOS B or better when built to year 2050 roadway classifications. Thus, the proposed project would have a less than cumulatively considerable contribution to cumulative traffic volumes under CEQA.</p> <p>Decommissioning Decommissioning traffic is assumed to be far less because decommissioning activities could be spread out over a longer timeframe. Further analysis would be required at the time of decommissioning to verify roadway LOS and potential LOS impacts under CEQA.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 1 - Same as Proposed Action ALTERNATIVE 2 – Similar to Proposed Action ALTERNATIVE 3 - Similar to Proposed Action ALTERNATIVE 4 - No new development is proposed under the No Action/No Project Alternative.</p>	<p>LCC</p> <p>NI/LTS/CC NI/LTS/CC NI/LTS/CC NA</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measure CUM-1, above. Refer to mitigation measure CUM-1, above. Refer to mitigation measure CUM-1, above. No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>LCC LCC LCC NA</p>
AIR QUALITY			
<p>PROPOSED ACTION <u>Direct and Indirect Impacts</u> Construction NO_x and PM₁₀ Based on the modeling, NO_x would exceed the ICAPCD significance threshold of 100 pounds per day. Likewise, PM₁₀ would exceed the ICAPCD significance threshold of 150 pounds per day. Exceedance of ICAPCD thresholds is considered a direct impact to air quality. Mitigation</p>	<p>DI</p>	<p>AQ-1 The following practices are required to reduce construction related PM₁₀ impacts to a level below significance: • Apply water during grading/grubbing activities to</p>	<p>MI</p>

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<p>measures AQ-1, AQ-2, AQ-3 and AQ-4 would be implemented to reduce NO_x and PM₁₀ impacts.</p>		<p>all active disturbed areas at least three times daily.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply water to all onsite roadways at least three times daily or use magnesium chloride or other County approved dust suppression additives and apply water once daily. • Reduce all construction related traffic speeds onsite to below 15 miles per hour (mph). <p>AQ-2</p> <p>The following practices are standard mitigation measures for Fugitive PM₁₀ Control based on guidance from the <i>ICAPCD 2007 CEQA Air Quality Handbook</i> regarding construction sites larger than 5 acres in size. These measures shall be implemented by the project contractor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All disturbed areas, including Bulk Material storage which is not being actively utilized, shall be effectively stabilized and visible emissions shall be limited to no greater than 20 percent opacity for dust emissions by using water, chemical stabilizers, dust suppressants, tarps or other suitable material such as vegetative ground cover. • All on site and off site unpaved roads will be effectively stabilized and visible emissions shall be limited to no greater than 20 percent opacity for dust emissions by paving, chemical 	

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		stabilizers, dust suppressants and/or watering. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All unpaved traffic areas one (1) acre or more with 75 or more average vehicle trips per day will be effectively stabilized and visible emission shall be limited to no greater than 20 percent opacity for dust emissions by paving, chemical stabilizers, dust suppressants and/or watering. • The transport of Bulk Materials shall be completely covered unless six inches of freeboard space from the top of the container is maintained with no spillage and loss of Bulk Material. In addition, the cargo compartment of all Haul Trucks is to be cleaned and/or washed at delivery site after removal of Bulk Material. • All Track-Out or Carry-Out will be cleaned at the end of each workday or immediately when mud or dirt extends a cumulative distance of 50 linear feet or more onto a paved road within an urban area. • Movement of Bulk Material handling or transfer shall be stabilized prior to handling or at points of transfer with application of sufficient water, chemical stabilizers or by sheltering or enclosing the operation and transfer line. • The construction of any new Unpaved Road is prohibited within any area with a population of 	

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<p>DPM Heavy equipment and diesel fueled vehicles would emit DPM during construction. This is considered a direct impact to air quality. However, mitigation measures AQ-3 and AQ-4 would reduce DPM emissions by requiring the use of alternative powered equipment (e.g. electric) and cleaner fuel (aqueous diesel). No adverse direct impact would occur as a result of DPM.</p>	DI	<p>500 or more unless the road meets the definition of a Temporary Unpaved Road. Any temporary unpaved road shall be effectively stabilized and visible emissions shall be limited to no greater than 20 percent opacity for dust emission by paving, chemical stabilizers, dust suppressants and/or watering.</p> <p>AQ-3 The following practices are standard mitigation measures for construction combustion equipment based on guidance from the <i>ICAPCD 2007 CEQA Air Quality Handbook</i> regarding construction sites larger than 5 acres in size. These measures apply to NO_x emissions and shall be implemented by the project contractor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of alternative fueled or catalyst equipped diesel construction equipment, including all off-road and portable diesel powered equipment. • Minimize idling time either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the time of idling to 5 minutes as a maximum. • Limit, to the extent feasible, the hours of operation of heavy duty equipment and/or the amount of equipment in use. • Replace fossil fueled equipment with electrically driven equivalents (provided they are not run via a portable generator set) 	MI

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<p>Operations and Maintenance</p> <p>ROG ROG emissions during operations and maintenance would be 0.02 pounds per day which is far below than the allowable Tier 1 Standards of 55 pounds per day identified by the ICAPCD (Table 4.4-2). Therefore, no direct or indirect impacts of criteria pollutants would occur in association with operations of the Proposed Action.</p> <p>DPM Once operational, the Proposed Action would not generate DPM or expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutants. Therefore, no direct impacts resulting from toxic emissions would occur.</p> <p>Decommissioning At the time of decommissioning approximately 30 years in the future it is likely that equipment engine technology would be more advanced and fuel would be cleaner than what is currently used today. Therefore, criteria pollutant emissions and DPM generated during decommissioning would be substantially less than the emissions estimated for project construction. Therefore, direct impacts (resulting from decommissioning) and indirect impacts (returning the project site to agricultural practices) to criteria pollutant emissions, toxic emissions, or air quality standards</p>	<p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>MI</p>	<p>AQ-4 The project contractor shall use aqueous diesel fuel and diesel oxidation catalysts on all diesel equipment (i.e. construction equipment, not vehicles registered to drive on public highways).</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>

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<p>associated with decommissioning of the Proposed Action would be expected to be minimal.</p> <p>CEQA Significance Determinations</p> <p>Construction <i>Conflict with Applicable Air Quality Plan</i> Construction emissions were determined to be significant for NO_x before mitigation. Thus, the Proposed Action would result in less than significant impacts to applicable air quality plans under CEQA following implementation of mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2, AQ-3 and AQ-4.</p> <p>Operations and Maintenance Operations and maintenance of the Proposed Action would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the ICAPCD air quality plans under CEQA.</p> <p>Decommissioning The Proposed Action would result in less than significant impacts under CEQA with regard to conflicting or obstructing an applicable air quality attainment plan during decommissioning.</p> <p>Violate Air Quality Standard/Cause Air Quality Violation</p> <p>Construction Construction emissions of NO_x and PM₁₀ would exceed the ICAPCD significance thresholds. With Implementation of mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2, AQ-3 and AQ-4, the Proposed Action would result in less than significant impacts under CEQA with regard to violation of an air quality standard or contribution to an existing air quality violation.</p> <p>Operations and Maintenance The Proposed Action is anticipated to have no impact to with regard to</p>	<p>PS</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>PS</p> <p>NI</p>	<p>Refer to mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2, AQ-3 and AQ-4, above.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2, AQ-3 and AQ-4, above.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>LTS</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>NA</p>

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<p>causing an air quality violation during operations and maintenance.</p> <p>Decommissioning The Proposed Action would result in less than significant impacts to air quality standards during decommissioning under CEQA. Furthermore, the Proposed Action is not anticipated to cause an air quality violation during decommissioning activities.</p> <p>Diesel-Related Toxic Emissions</p> <p>Construction The project would generate high levels of emissions during month six of Phase I construction. With the incorporation of T-BACT, the Proposed Action would result in less than significant impacts under CEQA with regard to exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.</p> <p>Operations and Maintenance Once operational, the Proposed Action would not generate DPM or expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutants. Therefore, no CEQA significance determinations can be made with regard to Criterion 4 for the Proposed Action during operations and maintenance.</p> <p>Decommissioning Decommissioning activities are assumed to be less intensive in nature than construction. Therefore, the Proposed Action is not expected to result in a significant health risk impact during decommissioning. The Proposed Action is anticipated to result in less than significant impacts under CEQA with regard to exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations during decommissioning.</p>	<p>MI</p> <p>PS</p> <p>NI</p> <p>LTS</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>Required to implement T-BACT.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>

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ALTERNATIVE 1 – Same as Proposed Action	PS, LTS, NI	Refer to mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2, AQ-3 and AQ-4, above.	NI/NA/LTS
ALTERNATIVE 2 – Similar to Proposed Action	PS, LTS, NI	Refer to mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2, AQ-3 and AQ-4, above.	NI/NA/LTS
ALTERNATIVE 3 – Similar to Proposed Action	PS, LTS, NI	Refer to mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2, AQ-3 and AQ-4, above.	NI/NA/LTS
ALTERNATIVE 4 - No new development is proposed under the No Action/No Project Alternative.	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NI
Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change			
<p>PROPOSED ACTION <u>Direct and Indirect Impacts</u> Construction Total annual CO₂ emissions associated with peak construction activity would be 2,932.02 tons/year, which is below the established CEQA threshold of 10,000 tons/year and the NEPA indicator of 25,000 tons/year, as described above. Therefore, construction of the Proposed Action would not have a direct or indirect impact on climate change.</p>	NI	Though not required, the following greenhouse gas offset measures have been included in this EIR/EA to further reduce construction related impacts to climate change and GHGs. CC-1 Diesel Equipment (Compression Ignition) Offset Strategies 1. Use electricity from power poles rather than temporary diesel power generators. 2. Construction equipment operating onsite should be equipped with two to four degree engine timing retard or pre-combustion chamber engines. 3. Construction equipment used for the project should utilize EPA Tier 2 or better	NI

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<p>Operations and Maintenance Annually the Proposed Action would produce approximately 825.48 metric tons per year of CO₂ (2.08 metric tons per day x 365 days/year + 66.28 tons/year from mobile sources), which is below the NEPA indicator of 25,000 metric tons or the CEQA threshold of 10,000 metric tons or more CO₂e per year. Therefore, the operation of the Proposed Action</p>	<p>NI</p>	<p>engine technology. CC-2 Vehicular Trip (Spark Ignition) Offset Strategies 1. Encourage commute alternatives by informing construction employees and customers about transportation options for reaching their location (i.e. post transit schedules/routes). 2. Help construction employees rideshare by posting commuter ride sign-up sheets, employee home zip code map, etc. 3. When possible, arrange for single construction vendor who makes deliveries for several items. 4. Plan construction delivery routes to eliminate unnecessary trips. 5. Keep construction vehicles well maintained to prevent leaks and minimize emissions, and encourage employees to do the same.</p> <p>No mitigation required. Mitigation measures CC-1 and CC-2 recommended.</p>	<p>NI</p>

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<p>would not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have an adverse impact on the environment. Likewise, the Proposed Action would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.</p> <p>The Proposed Action would assist in alleviating dependence on fossil fuels and would provide an overall benefit to air quality and climate change by providing a clean, renewable source of energy.</p> <p>Decommissioning</p> <p>Total annual CO₂ emissions associated with decommissioning activities were assumed to mirror the construction emissions and fall established CEQA threshold of 10,000 tons/year and the NEPA indicator of 25,000 tons/year. Therefore, decommissioning of the Proposed Action would not have a direct or indirect impact on climate change.</p> <p>CEQA Determinations</p> <p>Generate Greenhouse Gas Emissions</p> <p>Total annual CO₂ emissions associated with peak construction activity would be 2,932.02 tons/year, which is below the established CEQA threshold of 10,000 tons/year. This is a less than significant impact under CEQA.</p> <p>Total annual CO₂ emissions associated with decommissioning activities are estimated to generate a maximum of 2,932.02 tons/year, which is below the established CEQA threshold of 10,000 tons/year. This is a less than significant impact under CEQA.</p> <p>Conflict with Applicable Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan, Policy or Regulation</p> <p>Operations and maintenance of the Proposed Action is consistent with</p>	<p>BI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation required. Mitigation measures CC-1 and CC-2 recommended.</p> <p>No mitigation required. Mitigation measures CC-1 and CC-2 recommended.</p> <p>No mitigation required. Mitigation measures CC-1 and CC-2 recommended.</p> <p>No mitigation required. Mitigation measures CC-1 and CC-2 recommended.</p>	<p>BI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p>

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<p>regulations or requirements adopted to implement statewide plans for the reduction or mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. This is a less than significant impact under CEQA.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 1 – Same as the Proposed Action (2,932.02 tons/year for construction and decommissioning; 825.48 metric tons per year for operations and maintenance)</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 2 – Similar/slightly less than the Proposed Action (2,527.6 tons/year for construction and decommissioning; 825.48 metric tons per year for operations and maintenance)</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 3 - Same as the Proposed Action (2,932.02 tons/year for construction and decommissioning; 825.48 metric tons per year for operations and maintenance)</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 4 - No new development is proposed under the No Action/No Project Alternative.</p>	<p>NI/BI/LTS</p> <p>NI/BI/LTS</p> <p>NI/BI/LTS</p> <p>NI</p>	<p>and CC-2 recommended.</p> <p>No mitigation required. Mitigation measures CC-1 and CC-2 recommended.</p> <p>No mitigation required. Mitigation measures CC-1 and CC-2 recommended.</p> <p>No mitigation required. Mitigation measures CC-1 and CC-2 recommended.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>NA</p>
GEOLOGY AND SOILS			
<p>PROPOSED ACTION <u>Direct and Indirect Impacts</u> Construction <i>Groundshaking</i> Direct (e.g. ground shaking, liquefaction) and indirect impacts (e.g. settlement of foundations) could occur in association with these hazards. Direct impacts to the site could occur from strong seismic ground shaking. Indirect impacts could occur in the form of damage to equipment that would require replacement.</p>	<p>DI</p>	<p>GS-1 The Applicant shall implement the recommendations of the Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation Report and any subsequent geotechnical investigations on the final project design regarding seismicity. The project shall be engineered and constructed</p>	<p>NI</p>

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Environmental Effects	Level of Impact/Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Impact/Significance After Mitigation
<p>Liquefaction/Unstable Soils Direct impacts could occur in association with differential settlement. Mitigation measures GS-2 (geotechnical report for Gen-tie Line, ground improvements such as deep soil mixing [cement] and vibro-compaction) and GS-3 (foundation design to withstand liquefaction during a seismic event) are identified to address potential for liquefaction.</p>	DI	<p>using earthquake resistant design and materials. Design of structures on the CSE Facility site and along the Gen-tie Line route shall comply with the latest edition of the California Building Code for a “Maximum Considered Earthquake” for Site Class D (stiff soil profile). The design shall incorporate the seismic coefficients provided in Section 2.4 of the Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation Report prepared by Landmark (2011). All geotechnical investigations shall be conducted and incorporated into project design prior to issuance of a building permit from the Imperial County Planning and Development Services, Building Division.</p> <p>GS-2 A site specific geotechnical investigation shall be prepared for the Gen-tie Line route to determine potential for liquefaction induced settlement. The investigation shall be conducted prior to issuance of a building permit by the Imperial County Planning and Development Services, Building Division.</p> <p>The Applicant shall implement the recommendations of the Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation Report and any subsequent geotechnical investigations with regard to site preparation, building foundations and settlement, drilled piers, driven steel piles, Gen-tie Line</p>	NI

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		<p>foundations, building slabs on-grade. These recommendations shall be required as a condition of project approval by the Imperial County Planning and Development Services, Building Division.</p> <p>Ground improvement methods shall be implemented to mitigate potential for liquefaction damage to structures on the CSE site and Gen-tie Line. Available methods include deep soil mixing (cement), vibro-compaction, vibro-replacement, geopiers, stone columns, compaction, grouting, deep dynamic compaction, deep foundation system, rigid mat foundations. All recommendations and improvement methods shall be incorporated into final building design prior to issuance of building permit by the Imperial County Planning and Development Services, Building Division.</p> <p>GS-3</p> <p>To reduce potential for differential settlement upon liquefaction, final foundation design shall require structures to be founded on either: 1) grade-beam footings to tie floor slabs and isolated columns to continuous footings (conventional or post-tensioned); or, 2) structural flat-plate mats, either conventionally reinforced or tied with post-tensioned tendons. Foundation design shall be</p>	

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<p>Expansive Soils The solar field and Gen-tie Line structures could be subject to direct impacts resulting from potential swelling forces and reduction in soil strength resulting from saturation. However, mitigation measure GS-4 (replace expansive soils or condition soils to minimize expansion) implemented during project construction would reduce direct impacts associated with expansive soils. Likewise, indirect impacts associated with repairs or replacement of facilities damaged by expansive soils would be avoided.</p> <p>Septic Systems No direct or indirect impacts to soil capability with regard to supporting septic systems would occur in association with the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Operations and Maintenance No direct or indirect impacts to geology and soils would occur during operation of the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Decommissioning No direct or indirect impacts would result in association with decommissioning the Proposed Action.</p>	<p>DI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p>	<p>incorporated into final building plans prior to issuance of building permit by the Imperial County Planning and Development Services, Building Division.</p> <p>GS-4 The following actions shall be required as conditions of project approval by the Imperial County Planning and Development Services, Building Division:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansive silts/clays on the CSE Facility and Gen-tie Line route shall be replaced. • Subgrade soils shall be conditioned to a minimum of 5 percent above optimum moisture (ASTM D1557) within the drying zone of surface soils • Foundations shall be designed to resist shrink/swell forces of silt/clay soil. <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p>

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Environmental Effects	Level of Impact/ Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Impact/ Significance After Mitigation
<u>CEQA Significance Determinations</u>			
Construction			
<i>Exposure to Seismic Risk/Unstable Soils</i>			
Exposure of the site to strong seismic ground shaking is considered a potentially significant impact under CEQA for the Proposed Action. Liquefaction is considered a potentially significant impact under CEQA.	PS	Refer to mitigation measures GS-1, GS-2 and GS-3, above.	LTS
<i>Soil Erosion</i>			
Construction soil erosion impacts are considered potentially significant short-term impacts under CEQA but would be controlled on-site in accordance with County standards including preparation, review and approval of a grading plan by the County Engineer; implementation of a dust control plan (Rule 801); and compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit. These actions would mitigate the potential soil erosion impact to a level less than significant under CEQA for the Proposed Action.	PS	Required compliance with applicable standards would serve as mitigation.	LTS
<i>Expansive and Corrosive Soils</i>			
Exposure of proposed structures to expansive soils on the project site is considered a potentially significant impact under CEQA.	PS	Refer to mitigation measure GS-4, above.	LTS
Potential damage to foundations as a result of soil chemistry is considered a potentially significant impact under CEQA.	PS	GS-5 The following actions shall be required as conditions of project approval by the Imperial County Planning and Development Services, Building Division: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant shall implement the recommendations of the Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation Report and any subsequent 	LTS

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		<p>geotechnical investigations based on final project design with regard to concrete mixes and corrosivity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project shall comply with the recommendations of the California Building Code regarding concrete subjected to moderate sulfate concentrations. <p>GS-6 The following actions shall be required as conditions of project approval by the Imperial County Planning and Development Services, Building Division:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steel pipes coated with epoxy corrosion inhibitors, asphaltic and epoxy coatings, cathodic protection or encapsulating the portion of the pipe lying above groundwater with a minimum of 3-inches of densely consolidated concrete shall be used to mitigate corrosion of steel. No unprotected metallic water pipes or conduits shall be placed below building foundations. Foundations designs shall provide a minimum concrete cover of 3-inches around steel reinforcing or embedded components (anchor bolts, etc.) exposed to native soil or landscape water (to 18 inches above grade). If the 3-inch concrete edge distance cannot be achieved, all embedded steel components (anchor bolts, etc.) shall be epoxy dipped for corrosion protection or 	

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		a corrosion inhibitor and a permanent waterproofing membrane shall be placed along the exterior face of the exterior footings. Hold-down straps shall not be used at foundation edges due to corrosion of metal at its protrusion from the slab edge. Additionally, the concrete shall be thoroughly vibrated at footings during placement to decrease the permeability of the concrete. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copper piping within 18-inches of ground surface shall be wrapped with two layers of 10 millimeter plumbers’ tape or sleeved with polyvinylchloride (PVC) piping to prevent contact with soil. The trap primer shall be completely encapsulated in a PVC sleeve and Type K copper should be used if polyethylene tubing cannot be used. Fire protection piping (risers) shall be placed outside of the building foundation. 	
<p>Soil Capability to Support Septic Tanks/Alternative Wastewater Disposal System Impacts to soil ability to support the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems are considered less than significant under CEQA for the Proposed Action</p>	LTS	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<p>ALTERNATIVE 1 – Similar to the Proposed Action.</p>	NI/LTS/PS	Refer to mitigation measures GS-1, GS-2, GS-3, GS-4, GS-5 and GS-6 above.	NA/NI/LTS
<p>ALTERNATIVE 2 – Slightly less than the Proposed Action based on 335 fewer</p>	NI/LTS/PS	Refer to mitigation measures GS-1, GS-2, GS-3, GS-4, GS-5 and GS-6 above.	NA/NI/LTS

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<p>acres of development</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 3 - Slightly less than the Proposed Action based on approximately 3 miles less of Gen-tie Line (11 fewer towers).</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 4 - No new development is proposed under the No Action/No Project Alternative.</p>	<p>NI/LTS/PS</p> <p>NI</p>	<p>Refer to mitigation measures GS-1, GS-2, GS-3, GS-4, GS-5 and GS-6 above.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA/NI/LTS</p> <p>NI</p>
CULTURAL RESOURCES			
PROPOSED ACTION			
<u>Direct and Indirect Impacts</u>			
Construction			
<p>Construction activities associated with the Proposed Action would not directly affect the sites from ground disturbance activities. There is a potential for indirect effects to sites adjacent to the impact areas due to increased traffic during construction. Construction activities, such as grading, could increase the amount of sheet flow and water runoff during heavy rainfall events that could cause damage to cultural sites outside the construction area. Subsurface activities always have some potential to affect previously unknown cultural resources, including human remains.</p>	<p>IE</p>	<p>Refer to mitigation measures CR-3 and CR-4, below.</p>	<p>MI</p>
Operations and Maintenance			
<p>Operational impacts are not expected to result in direct or indirect effects to these sites. Maintenance activities could result in grading, excavation, and trenching impacts if repairs are needed; however, there would be no new direct or indirect effects above those described during the construction phase.</p>	<p>NI</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p>
Decommissioning			
<p>Decommissioning activities would involve the implementation of a reclamation plan, which would involve activities for returning the project</p>	<p>NI</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p>

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<p>site to a condition that is consistent with the original condition (i.e. agricultural or native desert) at the end of the operational life of the project. The implementation of the reclamation plan would occur in the areas that were disturbed during the original construction activities, and no effects beyond those that occur during the original construction activities are anticipated.</p> <p>CEQA Significance Determinations Substantial Adverse Change to a Historical Resource</p> <p>The Proposed Action APE includes a total of 43 cultural resources. One of these resources has been determined eligible, and four are recommended eligible. Ground disturbance from grading, excavation, and trenching during construction, operation, maintenance, or decommission of the project, could cause a “substantial adverse change” in the “significance” of these sites. This is considered a potentially significant impact under CEQA. With the implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-5, and CR-6, the impact can be reduced to a less than significant level under CEQA.</p>	<p>PS</p>	<p>CR-1 To the extent practicable, the CSE Facility and Gentle Line will be engineered and designed to avoid any cultural resources eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such resources will be mitigated as specified in accordance with the approved historic properties treatment plan for the project.</p> <p>CR-2 Cultural resources sites eligible for listing in the CRHR or NRHP adjacent to project features but not directly impacted by construction shall be avoided during construction. Temporary fencing or other approved marking around the perimeter of such sites will be required to ensure that project impacts remain within the proposed impact area and that cultural resources are avoided by project personnel.</p> <p>CR-3 In the event of an unanticipated discovery of</p>	<p>LTS</p>

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		<p>cultural resources, including prehistoric, and historic archaeological finds, during construction or operation, all grading, excavation, and site disturbance shall cease in the area of the discovery, and the find left undisturbed until a qualified professional archaeologist is contacted to evaluate the discovery and make recommendations as to significance, disposition, mitigation, and/or salvage. Applicant shall provide contingency funding sufficient to allow for implementation of avoidance measures or appropriate mitigation.</p> <p>CR-4 If human remains are discovered, work will be halted in that area, and the procedures set forth in CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15064.5 (d) and (e), California PRC Sec. 5097.98 and state HSC Sec. 7050.5, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) shall be followed, as applicable.</p> <p>CR-5 A cultural monitor will be present in areas where construction or restoration surface-disturbing activities are occurring throughout the work day from initial clearing through habitat restoration.</p> <p>CR-6 The areal limits of construction activities would be predetermined, with activity confined within those</p>	

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<p>Substantial Adverse Change to an Archaeological Resource The Proposed Action APE includes a total of 43 cultural resources. Thirty-eight of these resources have been determined to not be eligible, but may still be a "significant" archaeological resource under CEQA. Ground disturbance from grading, excavation, and trenching during construction, operation, maintenance, or decommission of the project, could cause a "substantial adverse change" in the "significance" of these sites. This is considered a potentially significant impact under CEQA. With the implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-5, and CR-6, the impact can be reduced to a less than significant level under CEQA.</p> <p>Disturb Human Remains There are no known human remains in the Proposed Action APE. However, during subsurface excavation activities for the Proposed Action, there will be a potential to impact previously unknown human remains. Mitigation Measures CR-4 and CR-5 will ensure that the potential impacts to previously unknown human remains do not rise to the level of significance pursuant to CEQA.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 1 Direct and Indirect Impacts Construction Same as Proposed Action. Operations and Maintenance Same as Proposed Action.</p>	<p>PS</p> <p>PS</p> <p>IE</p> <p>NI</p>	<p>limits. No paint or permanent discoloring agents may be applied to rocks or vegetation to indicate survey or construction activity limits.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-5, and CR-6, above.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures CR-4 and CR-5, above.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures CR-3 and CR-4, above.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>MI</p> <p>NA</p>

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<p>Decommissioning Same as Proposed Action.</p> <p>CEQA Significance Determinations</p> <p><i>Substantial Adverse Change to a Historical Resource</i> Alternative 1 includes a total of 43 cultural resource sites. One of these sites has been determined eligible and four are recommended eligible. Ground disturbance from grading, excavation, and trenching during construction, operation, maintenance, or decommission of the project, could cause a “substantial adverse change” in the “significance” of these sites. This is considered a potentially significant impact under CEQA. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-5, and CR-6, can reduce the impact to a less than significant level under CEQA</p> <p><i>Substantial Adverse Change to an Archaeological Resource</i> Alternative 1 includes a total of 43 cultural resource sites. Thirty-eight of these sites have been determined to not be eligible, but may still be a “significant” archaeological resource under CEQA. Ground disturbance from grading, excavation, and trenching during construction, operation, maintenance, or decommission of the project, could cause a “substantial adverse change” in the “significance” of these sites. This is considered a potentially significant impact under CEQA. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-5, and CR-6 can reduce the impact to a less than significant level under CEQA.</p> <p><i>Disturb Human Remains</i> There are no known human remains in the Alternative 1 APE. However, during subsurface excavation activities for Alternative 1, there will be a potential to impact previously unknown human remains. Mitigation Measures CR-4 and CR-5 will ensure that the potential impacts to</p>	<p align="center">NI</p> <p align="center">PS</p> <p align="center">PS</p> <p align="center">PS</p>	<p align="center">No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p align="center">Refer to mitigation measures CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-5, and CR-6, above.</p> <p align="center">Refer to mitigation measures CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-5, and CR-6, above.</p> <p align="center">Refer to mitigation measures CR-4 and CR-5, above</p>	<p align="center">NA</p> <p align="center">LTS</p> <p align="center">LTS</p> <p align="center">LTS</p>

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<p>previously unknown human remains do not rise to the level of significance pursuant to CEQA.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 2 <u>Direct and Indirect</u> Construction Same as Proposed Action.</p> <p>Operations and Maintenance Same as Proposed Action.</p> <p>Decommissioning Same as Proposed Action</p> <p>Substantial Adverse Change to a Historical Resource Alternative 2 includes a total of 43 cultural resource sites. One of these sites has been determined eligible and four are recommended eligible. Ground disturbance from grading, excavation, and trenching during construction, operation, maintenance, or decommission of the project, could cause a “substantial adverse change” in the “significance” of these sites. This is considered a potentially significant impact under CEQA. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-5, and CR-6, can reduce the impact to a less than significant level under CEQA.</p> <p>Substantial Adverse Change to a Historical Resource Alternative 2 includes a total of 43 cultural resource sites. Thirty-eight of these sites have been determined to not be eligible, but may still be a “significant” archaeological resource under CEQA. Ground disturbance from grading, excavation, and trenching during construction, operation, maintenance, or decommission of the project, could cause a “substantial adverse change” in the “significance” of these sites. This is considered a</p>	<p>IE</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>PS</p> <p>PS</p>	<p>Refer to mitigation measures CR-3 and CR-4, above.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-5, and CR-6, above.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-5, and CR-6, above.</p>	<p>MI</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p>

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<p>potentially significant impact under CEQA. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-5, and CR-6 can reduce the impact to a less than significant level under CEQA.</p> <p><i>Disturb Human Remains</i> Same as Proposed Action</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 3 <u>Direct and Indirect Impacts</u></p> <p><i>Construction</i> Ground disturbance activities during construction activities associated with Alternative 3 would not affect the sites described above. Grading will be reduced compared to the Proposed Action because Alternative 3 will eliminate the need for 11 transmission towers, and consequently result in avoidance of 11 cultural resources. This would be a beneficial effect on these known cultural resources. There is a potential for indirect effects to sites adjacent to the impact areas due to increased traffic during construction.</p> <p><i>Operations and Maintenance</i> Same as the Proposed Action.</p> <p><i>Decommissioning</i> Same as the Proposed Action.</p> <p><u>CEQA Significance Determinations</u> <i>Substantial Adverse Change to a Historical Resource</i> Alternative 3 includes a total of 32 cultural resource sites. One of these sites has been determined eligible and four are recommended eligible. Ground disturbance from grading, excavation, and trenching during construction, operation, maintenance, or decommission of the project, could cause a “substantial adverse change” in the “significance” of these</p>	<p>PS</p> <p>IE/BI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>PS</p>	<p>Refer to mitigation measures CR-3 and CR-4, above.</p> <p>Refer to Mitigation Measures CR-3, and CR-4, above.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-5, and CR-6, above.</p>	<p>LTS</p> <p>MI</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>LTS</p>

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NOISE			
PROPOSED ACTION			
<u>Direct and Indirect Impact</u>			
Construction			
<i>Off-Site Traffic Related Noise Impacts</i>			
As no sensitive receptors would be impacted by construction traffic noise, no direct or indirect noise impacts would occur in association with roadway traffic noise during construction.	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<i>On-Site Construction Equipment Noise</i>			
Construction noise levels would comply with Imperial County's Property Line Noise Level Limits of 75 dBA (Table 4.8-1) at all project property lines for both Phase I and Phase II of project construction. Therefore, no direct or indirect construction equipment noise impacts would occur.	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<i>PV Panel Installation Noise</i>			
The noise levels would comply with the Imperial County's Property Line Noise Level Limits of 75 dBA standard at all project site property lines for both Phase I and Phase II construction. Therefore, no direct or indirect noise impacts resulting from PV panel installation are anticipated.	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<u>Operations and Maintenance</u>			
<i>Transformer/Inverter and Array Tracker Noise Levels</i>			
No direct or indirect noise impacts from transformer/inverter and tracker noise are anticipated because The combined noise level at the nearest property line was projected to be 43.5 dBA Leq which is below the property line standard of 45 dBA Leq.	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<i>Substation Noise Levels</i>			
The proposed substation will comply with the County's most restrictive property line standard of 45 dBA Leq (Table 4.8-1). No direct or indirect	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA

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<p>noise impacts would occur in association with the proposed substation.</p> <p>Water Treatment Facility Noise The water treatment plant control building would include a compressor, a stand-by diesel generator, fans and the hydropneumatic (i.e. collecting gases over water or other liquids) pumps. The noise level from the control building would depend on the orientation of the building and the location of any ventilation/louvers. Noise levels were found to be 58 dBA at 25 feet from the sides of the building that contained no openings, and as high as 77 dBA at 25 feet on the sides of the building that do contain openings or louvers. This worst-case noise level of 77 dBA was analyzed to the nearest property line to the east across Brockman Road as can be seen in Figure 4.8-3.</p> <p>The water treatment facility is proposed next to the Substation south of SR 98 between Brockman Road and Carpenter Canal No. 1. The water treatment facility is also 2,000 feet or more from the nearest property line. The unshielded noise from a similar water treatment facility was 77 dBA at 25 feet. The reduction in the noise level at a distance of 2,000 feet is -38.1 dBA resulting in a noise level below 39 dBA at the nearest property line from the water treatment facility. Therefore, the proposed water treatment facility will comply with the County’s most restrictive property line standard of 45 dBA Leq (Table 4.8-1). No direct or indirect noise impacts would occur in association with operation of the water treatment facility.</p> <p>Corona Affect Noise Levels No direct or indirect noise impacts from the Corona Affect are anticipated from Gen-tie Line during both wet and dry conditions</p>	<p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>

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Environmental Effects	Level of Impact/Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Impact/Significance After Mitigation
<p>because measured Corona Affect noise levels shown in Table 4.8-8 were found to be below the County’s most restrictive nighttime standard of 45 dBA.</p> <p>Decommissioning Noise from On-Site Decommissioning Activities Equipment used during decommissioning activities would be similar to that used during construction. No direct or indirect on-site noise impacts are anticipated in association with decommissioning.</p> <p>Noise from Traffic Associated with Decommissioning No direct or indirect traffic noise impacts are anticipated in association with decommissioning as advanced engine technologies 30 years in the future would produce less noise.</p> <p><u>CEQA Significance Determinations</u> Construction Noise Levels in Excess of Standards/Temporary Increase in Noise Off-site Traffic Noise No sensitive uses would be affected by the increase in off-site traffic noise, and the increase is considered “normally acceptable”, this is considered a less than significant impact under CEQA.</p> <p>On-Site Construction Equipment Noise On-site construction equipment noise levels would comply with Imperial County’s Property Line Noise Level Limits of 75 dBA. Thus, short-term on-site construction noise impacts are considered less than significant under CEQA.</p> <p>PV Panel Installation Noise PV panel installation is anticipated to comply with Imperial County’s Property Line Noise Level Limits of 75 dBA at all project property lines for</p>	<p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>

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<p>both Phases I and II construction. No sensitive receptors would be affected. Therefore, the short-term construction noise resulting from PV panel installation is considered a less than significant impact under CEQA.</p> <p>Operations and Maintenance Noise Levels in Excess of Standards/Permanent Increase in Noise Transformer/Inverter and Array Tracker Noise Levels The Proposed Action would not exceed Imperial County property line noise standard of 45 dBA Leq or expose individuals to substantial permanent noise increases in association with operation of transformers/inverters and trackers. This is considered a less than significant impact under CEQA.</p> <p>Substation Noise Levels The proposed substation will comply with the County’s most restrictive property line standard of 45 dBA Leq (Table 4.8-1). Therefore, the Proposed Action would not exceed Imperial County property line noise standards or expose individuals to substantial permanent noise increases in association with operation of the onsite substation. This is considered a less than significant impact under CEQA.</p> <p>Water Treatment Facility Noise The Proposed Action would not exceed the Imperial County property line noise standard of 45 dBA Leq or expose individuals to substantial permanent noise increases in association with operation of the water treatment plant. This is considered a less than significant impact under CEQA.</p> <p>Corona Affect Noise Levels The Corona Affect from Gen-tie Line during both wet and dry conditions</p>	<p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>

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<p>would be within acceptable limits (45 dBA). Therefore, noise associated with the Corona Affect is considered a less than significant under CEQA for the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Decommissioning Temporary Increase in Noise Noise from On-Site Decommissioning Activities On-site noise impacts in association with decommissioning the Proposed Action would be temporary and are anticipated to be similar to construction noise levels which were all determined to be within thresholds or “normally acceptable” limits. Therefore, noise from on-site decommissioning activities is considered a less than significant impact under CEQA.</p> <p>Traffic Noise Associated with Decommissioning Noise impacts from traffic associated with decommissioning the Proposed Action would likely be somewhat less than the noise levels estimated for construction-related traffic which was determined to be below thresholds. Therefore, traffic noise associated with decommissioning activities is considered a less than significant impact under CEQA.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 1 – Similar to the Proposed Action ALTERNATIVE 2 – Similar to, or slightly less than, what would occur for the Proposed Action because construction, operational and decommissioning noise would occur over 335 fewer acres. ALTERNATIVE 3 - Similar to the Proposed Action. ALTERNATIVE 4 - No new development is proposed under the No Action/No Project Alternative.</p>	<p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>NI/LTS</p> <p>NI/LTS</p> <p>NI/LTS</p> <p>NI</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>

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Environmental Effects	Level of Impact/Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Impact/Significance After Mitigation
AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES			
PROPOSED ACTION			
<u>Direct and Indirect Construction</u>			
<p>Construction activities associated with the Proposed Action would directly convert Prime Farmland (138 acres), Farmland of Statewide Importance (1,927 acres), and Unique Farmland (two acres) to a nonagricultural use. Additionally, the construction activities would directly require the termination of Williamson Act contracts on three parcels totaling 335 acres. The construction activities associated with the Proposed Action would result in the reclassification of the project site to a nonagricultural use during the operational life of the alternative, and it would be ineligible for a Williamson Act Contract during that time.</p>	DI	Refer to mitigation measures AR-1 and AR-3, below.	MI
Operations and Maintenance			
<p>During the operations and maintenance phase of the Proposed Action, the project site would be reclassified to a nonagricultural use. There would be no new direct impacts above those described during the construction phase. Indirect impacts could include nuisance conditions associated with pests and weeds that affect adjacent agricultural lands.</p>	IE	Refer to mitigation measures AR-4, below.	MI
Decommissioning			
<p>Decommissioning activities would involve the implementation of an Agricultural Reclamation Plan, which would involve activities for returning the project site to a condition that supports agricultural production at the end of the operational life of the Proposed Action. The implementation of the Agricultural Reclamation Plan would make the project site eligible for reclassification to the original Important Farmland</p>	BI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA

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Environmental Effects	Level of Impact/Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Impact/Significance After Mitigation
<p>classifications and cause the project site to be re-eligible for a Williamson Act Contract.</p> <p><u>CEQA Significance Determinations</u></p> <p><i>Conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance</i></p> <p>Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in a potentially significant impact for conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance under CEQA. With the implementation of Mitigation Measures AR-1 and AR-3, conservation easements on comparable agricultural lands could be provided during the construction and operational phases and the project site would be returned to agricultural lands at the end of the operational phase, reducing the impact to a less than significant level under CEQA.</p>	PS	<p>AR-1</p> <p>Prior to the issuance of a grading permit or building permit (whichever is issued first) for the Proposed Action, the mitigation of impacts to agricultural lands shall be accomplished via one of the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1: The Permittee shall procure Agricultural Conservation Easements on a 2 to 1 basis for all prime agricultural land converted to a non-agricultural use, and on a 1 to 1 basis for the net amount of all non-prime agricultural land converted to a non-agricultural use less any agricultural land conserved under mitigation measure BIO-3. The land procured shall be of similar quality farmland, outside of the path of development. The Conservation Easement shall meet the State Department of Conservation’s regulations and shall be recorded prior to issuance of any grading or building permits. • Option 2: The Permittee shall pay an “Agricultural In-Lieu Mitigation Fee” in the amount of 20 percent of the fair market value 	LTS

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Environmental Effects	Level of Impact/ Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Impact/ Significance After Mitigation
		<p>per acre, based on five comparable sales of land used for agricultural purposes as of the effective date of the permit, for the net amount of all agricultural land converted to a non-agricultural use less any agricultural land conserved under mitigation measure BIO-3. The Agricultural In-Lieu Mitigation Fee shall also include program administrative costs on a cost recovery/time and material basis. Any fees paid for cancellation of Williamson Act fees under AR-2 shall be deducted from the fees due under this option. Fair market value per acre shall be based on five comparable sales of land used for agricultural purposes as of the effective date of the permit, including program costs on a cost recovery/time and material basis. The Agricultural In-Lieu Mitigation Fee, will be placed in a trust account administered by the Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner’s office and will be used for such purposes as the acquisition, stewardship, preservation, and enhancement of agricultural lands within Imperial County.</p> <p>AR-3 The Applicant shall develop an Agricultural Reclamation Plan that details the restoration of the project site at the end of the operational life of the</p>	

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Environmental Effects	Level of Impact/Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Impact/Significance After Mitigation
<p>Conflicts with Zoning or Williamson Act Contract</p> <p><i>Zoning</i> The uses under the Proposed Action are allowed as a conditional uses in Agricultural zones and with the issuance of a conditional use permit, the proposed uses would be consistent with zoning. Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in a less than significant impact associated with zoning conflicts under CEQA.</p> <p><i>Williamson Act</i> Early termination of the Williamson Act contracts is being requested to facilitate development of the project. This is considered a potentially significant impact under CEQA. With the implementation of Mitigation Measures AR-1 and AR-2, comparable agricultural lands could be conserved for the construction and operational phases of the Proposed</p>	<p>LTS</p> <p>PS</p>	<p>project. The Plan shall include the removal of all facilities installed and restoration to a condition such that the land would be in a condition similar to pre-project conditions and suitable for irrigated, agricultural use. The Agricultural Reclamation Plan shall include a site restoration cost estimate prepared by a California-licensed general contractor or civil engineer. The Permittee shall provide financial assurance/bonding in the amount equal to the site restoration cost estimate to return the land to its current agricultural condition after the solar facility ceases operations and closes.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measure AR-1, above. AR-2 Prior to the issuance of a grading permit or building permit (whichever is issued first) for grading or improvement activities on parcels 052-170-076, 052-170-078 and 052-170-035,</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>LTS</p>

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<p>Action and the three Williamson Act contracts would be terminated prior to activities on the affected parcels, reducing this impact to a less than significant level under CEQA.</p> <p>Conversion of Farmland Implementation of the Proposed Action could result in a potentially significant impact to adjacent agricultural lands associated with potential pest and weed nuisance conditions for conversion of farmland under CEQA. Implementation of mitigation measure AR-4 would require preparation and implementation of a Weed and Pest Management Plan</p>	<p>PS</p>	<p>conflicts with Williamson Act contracts shall be accomplished via one of the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1: Allow the Williamson Act contract to expire under the notice of non-renewal that has been filed by the property owner of the three parcels (052-170-076, 052-170-078 and 052-170-035) that are under contract; or • Option 2: Obtain a Cancellation of the Williamson Act contract of the three parcels (052-170-076, 052-170-078 and 052-170-035) from the County by demonstrating that the cancellation is consistent with the purposes of the Act and that it is in the public interest. The grounds for cancellation are codified in Government Code section 51282, and cancellation is subject to discretionary approval of the County. Under this option the landowner of the three parcels who cancel Williamson Act contracts will be required to pay a fee of 12.5 percent of the unrestricted value of the property. <p>AR-4 Prior to the issuance of a grading permit or building permit (whichever occurs first), a Weed and Pest Control Plan shall be developed by the Project Applicant and approved by the County of Imperial Agricultural Commissioner. The Plan shall provide</p>	<p>LTS</p>

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Environmental Effects	Level of Impact/Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Impact/Significance After Mitigation
<p>that would reduce this impact to less than significant.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 1 <u>Direct and Indirect</u> Construction</p>	DI	<p>the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Monitoring, preventative, and management strategies for weed and pest control during construction activities at the CSE Facility and portions of the Gen-Tie line that are adjacent agricultural lands; 2) Control and management of weeds and pests in areas temporarily disturbed during construction where native seed will aid in site revegetation; and, 3) A long-term strategy for weed and pest control and management during the operation of the CSE Facility and portions of the Gen-Tie line that are adjacent agricultural lands. Such strategies may include, but are not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use of specific types of ground cover and maintenance (mowing, replacement, etc.) of such ground cover; b. Use of specific types of herbicides and pesticides on a scheduled basis; and c. Maintenance and management of project site conditions to reduce the potential for a significant increase in pest-related nuisance conditions on adjacent agricultural lands. <p>Refer to Mitigation Measures AR-1 and AR-3</p>	MI

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Environmental Effects	Level of Impact/ Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Level of Impact/ Significance After Mitigation
<p>Same as the Proposed Action: directly convert Prime Farmland (138 acres), Farmland of Statewide Importance (1,927 acres), and Unique Farmland (two acres) to a non-agricultural use.</p> <p>Operations and Maintenance Same as the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Decommissioning Same as the Proposed Action.</p> <p>CEQA Significance Determinations <i>Conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance</i> Same as the Proposed Action: directly convert Prime Farmland (138 acres), Farmland of Statewide Importance (1,927 acres), and Unique Farmland (two acres) to a non-agricultural use.</p> <p>Conflicts with Zoning or Williamson Act Contract <i>Zoning</i> Same as Proposed Action. <i>Williamson Act</i> Reclassification of the project site to a non-agricultural use during the operational life of the solar facility. Ineligible for a Williamson Act Contract during operational life.</p> <p>Conversion of Farmland Same as Proposed Action.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 2 Direct and Indirect Construction Slightly less than the Proposed Action: convert 138 acres of Prime</p>	<p>IE</p> <p>BI</p> <p>PS</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>PS</p> <p>PS</p> <p>DI</p>	<p>Refer to mitigation measures AR-4, below.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>Refer to Mitigation Measures AR-1 and AR-3</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures AR-1 and AR-2, above.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures AR-4, above.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures AR-1 and AR-3.</p>	<p>MI</p> <p>NA</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>NA</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>MI</p>

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<p>Farmland, 1,592 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance, and two acres of Unique Farmland to a non-agricultural use), or slightly less than (Alternative 2 would result in a reduction of direct impacts to 335 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance), what would occur for the Proposed Action. The construction activities associated with Alternative 2 would result in the reclassification of the project site to a nonagricultural use during the operational life of the alternative.</p> <p>Operations and Maintenance Same as the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Decommissioning Similar to the Proposed Action but slightly less based on 335 fewer acres of agricultural land conversion. The implementation of the Agricultural Reclamation Plan would make the project site eligible for reclassification to the original Important Farmland classifications.</p> <p>CEQA Significance Determinations <i>Conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance</i> Slightly less than the Proposed Action: convert 138 acres of Prime Farmland, 1,592 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance, and two acres of Unique Farmland to a non-agricultural use), or slightly less than (Alternative 2 would result in a reduction of direct impacts to 335 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance), what would occur for the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Conflicts with Zoning or Williamson Act Contract <i>Zoning</i> Same as the Proposed Action</p>	<p>IE</p> <p>BI</p> <p>PS</p> <p>LTS</p>	<p>Refer to mitigation measure AR-4, below.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>Refer to Mitigation Measures AR-1 and AR-3.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>MI</p> <p>NA</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>NA</p>

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<p><i>Williamson Act</i> No impact to a Williamson Act Contract under CEQA. Reclassification of the project site to a non-agricultural use during the operational life of the solar facility.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 3 <u>Direct and Indirect</u> Construction Same as the Proposed Action: directly convert Prime Farmland (138 acres), Farmland of Statewide Importance (1,927 acres), and Unique Farmland (two acres) to a non-agricultural use.</p> <p>Operations and Maintenance Same as the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Decommissioning Same as the Proposed Action.</p> <p><u>CEQA Significance Determinations</u> <i>Conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance</i> Same as the Proposed Action: directly convert Prime Farmland (138 acres), Farmland of Statewide Importance (1,927 acres), and Unique Farmland (two acres) to a non-agricultural use.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 4 - No new development is proposed under the No Action/No Project Alternative.</p>	<p>NI</p> <p>DI</p> <p>IE</p> <p>BI</p> <p>PS</p> <p>NI</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures AR-1 and AR-2, above.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures AR-4, below.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required</p> <p>Refer to Mitigation Measures AR-1 and AR-3.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>MI</p> <p>MI</p> <p>NA</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>NI</p>

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HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS			
PROPOSED ACTION			
<u>Direct and Indirect Impacts</u>			
Construction			
<i>Pesticide Residue</i>			
The potential presence of low concentrations of agricultural chemicals on the project site is not anticipated to be at hazardous levels. Furthermore, the proposed project does not contain a residential or commercial component that would expose people to potential pesticides/herbicides. Therefore, no direct impact (exposure during construction) or indirect impact (exposure following construction during operations and maintenance) would occur relative to pesticide residue in association with construction of the Proposed Action.	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<i>On-site Hazards</i>			
The presence of hydrocarbon stains, oil stains and solid waste materials represents a direct impact (currently present hazard) and indirect impact (potential for further contamination through leakage). Following implementation of mitigation measures HM-1 and HM-2, direct and indirect impacts associated with on-site hazards would be eliminated during construction of the Proposed Action.	DI	HM-1 The Applicant shall implement the recommendations of the Phase I Environmental Site Assessments regarding remediation of on-site hazards prior to issuance of a grading permit by the Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The upper 12-inches of oil stained soils on parcel 052-170-018 shall be removed and properly disposed of prior to property transaction. • Clean-up of illegal solid waste on parcel 052-170-018 shall be performed prior to property transfer. 	NI

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 55-gallon drums shall be removed on parcel 052-170-018 and disposed of properly. <p>HM-2 If during grading or excavation work, the contractor observes visual or olfactory evidence of contamination or if soil contamination is otherwise suspected, work near the excavation site shall be terminated, the work area cordoned off, and appropriate health and safety procedures implemented for the location by the contractor’s Health & Safety Officer. Samples shall be collected by an Occupational Safety and Health Administration-trained individual with a minimum of 40-hours hazardous material site worker training. Laboratory data from suspected contaminated material shall be reviewed by the contractor’s Health and Safety Officer. If the sample testing determines that contamination is not present, work may proceed at the site. However, if contamination is detected above regulatory limits, the Bureau of Land Management and the Imperial County Public Health Department shall be notified. All actions related to encountering unanticipated hazardous materials at the site shall be documented and submitted to the Bureau of Land Management for federal lands and</p>	

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<p>Hazardous Materials on Adjacent Properties Based on the results of database searches, no direct (currently existing) or indirect (future hazards or contamination) impacts are anticipated in association with hazardous materials on adjacent properties during construction of the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Herbicide Use No direct (during construction) or indirect (in the future during operations and maintenance) impact is anticipated to occur in association with herbicide use during construction of the Proposed Action because use of herbicides would occur in accordance with all recommended application procedures as identified on product labels as well as in cooperation with the County Agricultural Commissioner.</p> <p>Hazardous Materials Use <i>Transport</i> All hazardous materials transported to the site will be managed in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Should a vehicle such as a gasoline tank be required, transport would occur in compliance with Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) regulations. Thus, no direct (accidental release during transport) or indirect (residual contamination following accidental release) impacts associated with transport of hazardous materials would occur as part of construction of the Proposed Action.</p> <p><i>Use and Storage</i> All hazardous materials used on the project site will be kept in segregated</p>	<p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p>	<p>the Imperial County Public Health Department for County lands.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>

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<p>storage with secondary containment as required. Therefore, no direct (spill during construction) or indirect (contamination remaining after construction) impact resulting from accidental release of hazardous materials used or stored on-site would occur during construction of the Proposed Action.</p> <p><i>Disposal</i> Left-over or spent materials would be generated during construction of the project. All hazardous wastes shipped off-site for disposal will be transported by a licensed and permitted hazardous waste hauler. Therefore, no direct (during disposal) or indirect (residual contamination remaining after construction) impact would occur in association with release of hazardous materials disposal during construction of the Proposed Action.</p> <p><u>Operation and Maintenance</u></p> <p><i>Herbicides</i> If herbicides are used, they would be applied in accordance with all recommended application procedures as identified on product labels as well as in cooperation with the County Agricultural Commissioner for application on County lands. Weed abatement on BLM lands will be based on compliance with the Habitat Restoration Plan. Thus, no direct (during application of herbicides) or indirect (residual contamination from spill or misuse) impact would occur with regard to use of herbicides during operation and maintenance of the Proposed Action.</p> <p><i>Transport, Use and Storage, Disposal of Hazardous Materials</i> Small quantities of hazardous materials would be transported to the site (in accordance with DTSC regulations, as applicable) and used and stored</p>	<p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>

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<p>on-site for miscellaneous, general maintenance activities. All hazardous materials will be managed in compliance with applicable laws and regulations regarding transport, use, disposal and storage. Therefore, no direct (accidental release of hazardous materials during transport, storage and use or disposal) or indirect (residual contamination remaining after storage and use) impacts would occur during operations and maintenance of the Proposed Action.</p> <p><i>Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan</i> The Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) recommended that the segments of the Gen-tie Line that span the Westside Main Canal and SR 98 include lighting and marker balls to improve visibility and serve as a safety feature for aircraft. Mitigation measure HM-3 would reduce potential direct impacts associated with this hazard during operations and maintenance of the Proposed Action.</p> <p><u>Decommissioning</u> Compliance with applicable laws, as well as standards enforced by the agencies including DTSC would reduce potential impacts from the use of hazardous materials at the project site such that no direct (spill or accidental release) or indirect (residual contamination after decommissioning) impact would occur during decommissioning of the Proposed Action.</p> <p><u>CEQA Significance Determinations</u> Construction <i>Hazardous Materials, Use, Disposal and Accidental Release</i> <i>Pesticide Residue</i> Impacts associated with exposure to pesticide residue during construction are considered less than significant under CEQA for the</p>	<p>DI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>LTS</p>	<p>HM-3 The Gen-tie tower structures on private land shall be lighted and marker balls shall be attached on all spans over the Westside Main Canal and SR 98 per the recommendations of the ALUC.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measure AQ-1, above.</p>	<p>MI</p> <p>NA</p> <p>LTS</p>

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<p>Proposed Action because watering disturbed soils during grading and earthmoving would minimize dust and any associated air dispersal of pesticide residues (refer to mitigation measure AQ-1 in Section 4.4, Air Quality).</p> <p>On-site Hazards The presence of oil stained soils, unauthorized solid waste piles and 55-gallon drums on the project site is considered a potentially significant impact under CEQA. Following implementation of mitigation measures HM-1 and HM-2, impacts associated with exposure to on-site hazards during construction would be less than significant under CEQA for the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Hazardous Materials on Adjacent Properties No hazardous materials sites were identified within 1-mile radii searches conducted of the project parcels (GS Lyon, 2010a, 2010b, 2011a, 2011b). Therefore, no impacts under CEQA are anticipated with regard to the presence of hazardous materials on adjacent properties during construction of the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Herbicide Use Use of herbicides during construction would occur in accordance with all recommended application procedures as identified on product labels and in cooperation with the County Agricultural Commissioner. Therefore, no impact under CEQA is anticipated to occur in association with herbicide use during construction of the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Hazardous Materials Use Transport All hazardous materials (such as diesel fuel, oil and grease for heavy</p>	<p>PS</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>LTS</p>	<p>Refer to mitigation measures HM-1 and HM-2, above.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>LTS</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>

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<p>equipment) transported to the site during construction would occur in compliance with Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) regulations. Thus, less than significant impacts under CEQA are anticipated in association with transport of hazardous materials during construction of the Proposed Action.</p> <p><i>Use and Storage</i></p> <p>No acutely toxic hazardous materials would used during construction and none of the materials are anticipated to pose a significant potential for off-site impacts such as contamination through a large release of chemicals. Therefore, potential for accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials used or stored during construction is considered a less than significant impact under CEQA for the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Disposal</p> <p>All construction waste, including petroleum products, and other potentially hazardous materials, will be required to be removed to a disposal facility authorized to accept such materials (refer to Table 2.0-5 in Chapter 2.0). Therefore, less than significant impacts under CEQA would occur in association with release of hazardous materials disposal during construction of the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Operation and Maintenance</p> <p><i>Herbicides</i></p> <p>If herbicides are used, they would be applied in accordance with all recommended application procedures as identified on product labels as well as in cooperation with the County Agricultural Commissioner. Thus, a less than significant impact with regard to herbicide use would occur under CEQA during operations and maintenance of the Proposed Action.</p>	<p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>

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<p><i>Transport, Use and Storage, Disposal of Hazardous Materials</i> Compliance with applicable laws, regulations imposed by management agencies (such as DTSC), the requirements of the HMMP, and the Design Features and BMPs, would be adequate to address storage and handling of hazardous materials on the project site. Any hazardous materials requiring disposal will be disposed of in an approved landfill. Therefore, potential for accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials during operations and maintenance is considered a less than significant impact under CEQA for the Proposed Action.</p>	LTS	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<p><u>Decommissioning</u> Compliance with applicable laws, as well as standards enforced by agencies including DTSC, would reduce potential impacts from the use of hazardous materials at the project site such that no direct (spill or accidental release) or indirect (residual contamination after decommissioning) would occur during decommissioning of the Proposed Action. Therefore, potential for accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials during decommissioning is considered a less than significant impact under CEQA for the Proposed Action.</p>	LTS	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<p>ALTERNATIVE 1 – Same as the Proposed Action.</p>	DI/NI/LTS/PS	Refer to mitigation measure AQ-1; HM-1, HM-2 and HM-3, above.	MI/NA/LTS
<p>ALTERNATIVE 2 – Same as the Proposed Action.</p>	DI/NI/LTS/PS	Refer to mitigation measure AQ-1; HM-1, HM-2 and HM-3, above.	MI/NA/LTS

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ALTERNATIVE 3 – Same as the Proposed Action.	DI/NI/LTS/PS	Refer to mitigation measure AQ-1; HM-1, HM-2 and HM-3, above.	MI/NA/LTS
ALTERNATIVE 4 - No new development is proposed under the No Action/No Project Alternative.	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY			
PROPOSED ACTION			
<u>Direct and Indirect Impacts</u>			
Construction			
<i>Drainage and Flooding</i>			
Based on topography of the site and engineering of the project, no direct or indirect impacts would occur in association with drainage and flooding during construction of the Proposed Action.	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<i>Erosion, Sedimentation and Runoff Pollutants</i>			
With implementation of the requirements of the SWPPP and associated BMPs, construction of the Proposed Action would result in no direct or indirect impacts with regard to soil erosion, sedimentation or runoff pollutants.	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required in addition to requirements of the SWPPP and associated BMPs.	NA
<u>Operations and Maintenance</u>			
<i>Drainage and Flooding</i>			
Based on the provision of new infrastructure, and conclusions of the Drainage Study (Nolte, 2011) that there is adequate capacity in the existing configuration of the 33 basins on the CSE Facility site, no direct or indirect impacts to drainage or hydrology would occur during operations and maintenance of the Proposed Action.	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<i>Erosion, Sedimentation and Runoff Pollutants</i>			
With implementation of the requirements of the SWPPP and associated BMPs, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Action would result in	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required in addition to requirements of the SWPPP and	NA

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<p>no direct or indirect impacts with regard to soil erosion, sedimentation or runoff pollutants.</p> <p>Decommissioning The BMPs and stipulations developed for construction activities to reduce erosion (refer to Table 2.0-6 in Chapter 2.0) would be applied to similar activities during the decommissioning phase. Modification to the drainage pattern would be minimal, but beneficial as both pervious (gravel roads) and impervious (foundations, common services area) would be removed. Therefore, beneficial direct (removing existing structures) and indirect impacts (returning to agricultural uses with entirely pervious surfaces) to hydrology and water quality would result in association with decommissioning the Proposed Action.</p> <p>CEQA Significance Determinations</p> <p>Construction Violate Water Quality Standards/Erosion/Degrade Water Quality The project site is relatively flat and requires minimal grading. In addition, soil erosion, sedimentation and runoff (e.g. runoff containing grease, oils, sediment, and heavy metals) will be controlled during construction in accordance with an NPDES Construction General Permit, SWPPP and associated BMPs. Therefore, less than significant impacts under CEQA would occur relative to violating water quality standards and degrading water quality during construction of the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Operations and Maintenance Violate Water Quality Standards/Degrade Water Quality <i>Solar Panel Washing</i> Only demineralized water would be used to wash the panels. Any runoff</p>	<p>BI</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p>	<p>associated BMPs.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required beyond NPDES Construction General Permit, SWPPP and associated BMPs.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>BI</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>NA</p>

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<p>from panel washing would percolate through the ground, as a majority of the surfaces in the solar field will remain pervious. Therefore, less than significant impacts under CEQA would occur relative to violating water quality standards and degrading water quality during operations and maintenance of the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Erosion and Siltation During operation of the project, soil erosion and sedimentation will be controlled in accordance with the NPDES General Industrial Permit and associated SWPPP and site-specific BMPs to reduce or prevent pollutants associated with industrial activities in storm water discharges. Therefore, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Action would result in less than significant impacts under CEQA with regard to soil erosion, sedimentation or runoff pollutants.</p> <p>Alter Existing Drainage Pattern/On or Off-site Flooding Provision of new infrastructure (e.g. detention and retention basins) and the findings of the drainage study provide evidence that there is adequate capacity in the existing configuration of the 33 basins on the CSE Facility site. Therefore, less than significant impacts under CEQA would occur with regard to alteration of the existing drainage pattern and on- or off-site flooding for the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Decommissioning Modification to the drainage pattern would be minimal, and impacts to hydrology and water quality are anticipated to be less than significant under CEQA in association with decommissioning the Proposed Action.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 1 – Same as the Proposed Action</p>	<p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p> <p>NI/BI/LTS</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required in addition to requirements of the SWPPP and associated BMPs.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures recommended or required beyond NPDES Construction General Permit, SWPPP and associated BMPs.</p>	<p>LTS</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NI/NA/LTS</p>

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<p>ALTERNATIVE 2 – Similar to, or slightly less than, what would occur for the Proposed Action based on 335 fewer acres of disturbance. Unnamed washes may or may not be spanned depending on selection of Gen-tie Line alignment.</p>	NI/BI/LTS	No mitigation measures recommended or required beyond NPDES Construction General Permit, SWPPP and associated BMPs.	NI/NA/LTS
<p>ALTERNATIVE 3 - Similar to, or less than, what would occur for the Proposed Action based on 3 miles less of Gen-tie Line. Unnamed washes would not be spanned due to shorter Gen-tie Line proposed for Alternative 3.</p>	NI/BI/LTS	No mitigation measures recommended or required beyond NPDES Construction General Permit, SWPPP and associated BMPs.	NI/NA/LTS
<p>ALTERNATIVE 4 - No new development is proposed under the No Action/No Project Alternative.</p>	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NI
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES			
PROPOSED ACTION			
<u>Direct and Indirect Impacts</u>			
Vegetation Communities			
<p>The Proposed Action would result in approximately 1,924.64 acres of permanent impacts and an additional 17.25 acres of temporary impacts.</p>	DI	Refer to mitigation measures BIO-1 and BIO-4, below.	MI
Special Status Plant Species			
<p>The ribbed cryptantha is the only priority plant species that occurs within the Project Area. This plant is a California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 4.3 species. Impacts are anticipated to be relatively minor based on the species diffuse pattern throughout the area in and around the Gen-tie corridor and the small size of anticipated disturbance within the Project Area. This species is in not expected within the private lands. Species-specific mitigation requirements would not be necessary. No other special status or priority plant species are expected to occur within the</p>	MI	Refer to mitigation measures BIO-1 and BIO-4, below.	MI

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<p>private lands, or on the Gen-tie corridor on BLM land. Therefore, no adverse impacts to special status or priority plant species are expected to occur as a result of Proposed Action.</p> <p>Federally Listed Wildlife Species</p> <p><i>Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (SWFL)</i></p> <p>Construction of the Proposed Action is not likely to directly affect SWFL individuals, because there is no preferred nesting habitat on private or BLM land in the project area and no habitat used during migration is proposed to be removed. Light and noise from heavy equipment during construction may result in short-term avoidance of small areas of foraging habitat that are near construction activities. Given the brief amount of time SWFL may be foraging within the action area during migration, and the implementation of impact avoidance and implementation of protection measures, any effects to SWFL from noise and lighting would be minimal and short-term. Operations and maintenance activities are not expected to provide a significant source of disturbance to avian species, including SWFL, outside of the solar field. Suitable migration habitat in the private land portion of the survey area occurs in Greeson Wash, along Mount Signal Drain, and along the Westside Main Canal and Wormwood Canal. The project will not directly disturb acreage inside these habitats. No project features will be built within, over or under Greeson Wash or its riparian habitat. Project electric lines spanning SWFL or YCR habitat shall be equipped with flight diverters for overhead crossings or be placed underground using directional boring or similar construction techniques to avoid surface disturbance. No indirect effects to SWFL foraging habitat along the Westside Main Canal, Mount Signal Drain, or Greeson Wash are expected</p>	<p>NI/MI</p>	<p>Specific protection measures, design features and the Avian and Bat Protection Plan (ABPP) will be implemented to minimize disturbance and avoid project related impacts to migration. Refer to mitigation measures BIO-4 and BIO-7, below.</p>	<p>MI</p>

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<p>to occur resulting from run-off. Agricultural dirt roads currently exist adjacent to the Westside Main Canal, Mount Signal Drain, and Greeson Wash. Therefore, no additional grading of solar field access roads adjacent to potentially suitable migration habitat (riparian or hydrophytic vegetation) will occur, resulting in no indirect or indirect impacts to these habitats from sedimentation.</p> <p><i>Yuma Clapper Rail</i> Construction of the Proposed Action is not likely to have more than a discountable effect on YCR individuals, as the potential habitat area is small and somewhat isolated.</p> <p><i>Peninsular Bighorn Sheep</i> No effects to Peninsular bighorn sheep are anticipated because there is no suitable habitat for the species in the Project Area. The closest known habitat is approximately 14 miles west of the Project Area, and the nearest known occurrence is 18 miles west of the Project Area.</p> <p><u>State Listed Wildlife Species</u> <i>Greater Sandhill Crane</i> Greater Sandhill Cranes may forage during the winter in the active agricultural habitats present within the survey area. Approximately 1,908.04 acres of agricultural land would be removed under the Proposed Action. Given the large amount of potentially suitable foraging habitat in the immediate vicinity of the Project Area and the Imperial Valley, it is unlikely that the loss of this potentially suitable foraging habitat would adversely affect wintering Greater Sandhill Cranes. No impacts to this</p>	<p>MI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p>	<p>Specific protection measures, design features and the Avian and Bat Protection Plan (ABPP) will be implemented to minimize disturbance and avoid project related impacts to migration. Refer to mitigation measures BIO-4 and BIO-7, below.</p> <p>No mitigation measures are recommended or required.</p> <p>No mitigation measures are recommended or required beyond mitigation measures BIO-4, BIO-6, and BIO-7, below.</p>	<p>MI</p> <p>NI</p> <p>NI</p>

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<p>species are expected on BLM land because suitable habitat for these species is not present within the Gen-tie survey area and occurrence is not expected.</p> <p>Light and noise from heavy equipment during construction is not expected to adversely modify the behavioral patterns of foraging Sandhill Cranes given the vast amount of foraging habitat in the immediate vicinity of the survey area. Work will be conducted primarily during daylight hours; however, if it becomes necessary to conduct work at night, lighting will be needed for worker safety.</p> <p>Sandhill cranes are susceptible to collision with transmission lines during windy conditions.</p> <p><u>BLM Sensitive Wildlife Species</u> <i>Burrowing Owl</i> A total of 51 occupied Burrowing Owl burrows were observed within the survey area. While direct removal of these burrows are not anticipated as the result of project implementation, adjacent agricultural fields, which represent suitable foraging habitat for these burrows will be graded during construction activities.</p> <p>Impacts to any Burrowing Owl individuals and/or active Burrowing Owl burrows could be adverse, and mitigation in the form of avoidance and impact minimization would be required to reduce the impact. Final mitigation measures and design criteria will be decided in consultation with the pertinent state agency.</p>	<p>MI</p> <p>DI</p> <p>DI</p>	<p>Minimization and avoidance measures to reduce potential noise effects to avian species, including Sandhill Crane, will be implemented as outlined in the ABPP. Refer to mitigation measures BIO-4 and BIO-7, below.</p> <p>Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) measures to avoid and minimize potential collisions will be implemented as detailed in the ABPP. Refer to mitigation measures BIO-4 and BIO-7, below.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures BIO-3, BIO-4 and BIO-6, below.</p>	<p>MI</p> <p>MI</p> <p>MI</p>

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<p>Mountain Plover There is a low risk of death or injury to Mountain Plover as a result of the Proposed Action. The Mountain Plover does not nest within the private or BLM lands or in the Imperial Valley. No impacts to this species are expected as the result on BLM land because suitable habitat for these species is not present within the Gen-tie survey area and occurrence is not expected. Approximately 1,908.04 acres of potential foraging habitat for Mountain Plover would be permanently removed. Conservatively assuming that entire acreage is suitable foraging habitat at any given time, this loss of foraging habitat would account for approximately 0.9 percent of the estimated foraging habitat (using the five-year average of 214,962 acres) available in the Imperial Valley. The permanent loss of 0.9 percent of suitable foraging habitat in the Imperial Valley is a negligible loss of habitat in the Imperial Valley.</p>	MI	Refer to mitigation measures BIO-4 and BIO-7, below.	MI
<p>Pallid Bat and California Leaf-nosed Bat These species may use all or portions of the Project Area for foraging, though neither is expected to roost within the Project Area or immediate vicinity. Project implementation would result in the permanent disturbance of approximately 1,886 acres of potentially suitable foraging habitat. This disturbance would reduce the quality of the foraging habitat, but is not expected to totally eliminate it. The potential for continued foraging following project implementation would be supported by the larger drains and canals within the CSE Facility that would remain undisturbed and could continue to support prey populations for both species. Given the large amount of suitable foraging habitat in the immediate vicinity of the project and the continued foraging</p>	MI	Refer to mitigation measures BIO-4 and BIO-7, below.	MI

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<p>opportunities following project implementation, the Proposed Action is not expected to significantly impact either the pallid bat or the California leaf-nosed bat.</p> <p>Golden Eagle Suitable nesting habitat is not present within the private land portion of the survey area, and the species is not expected to nest within or in the immediate vicinity of the survey area. As such, impacts to nesting golden eagles are not expected.</p> <p>The Gen-tie line would represent a potential impact to Golden Eagles by presenting a risk of collisions. Bird flight diverters will be installed on the Gen-tie Line along the segments that cross the Westside Main Canal and Mount Signal Drain, which would alleviate some of the risk. The impact to Golden Eagles from the construction of the Gen-tie line is expected to be minimal given the relative infrequency within which Golden Eagles use the Project Area, combined with the use of bird flight diverters, and the implementation of an ABPP.</p> <p>Colorado Desert Fringe-toed Lizard Direct impacts to Colorado desert fringe-toed lizard may occur during construction of the Gen-tie line. These impacts would be considered adverse and mitigation would be required, although mitigation for FTHL would also act as mitigation for this species, and no additional mitigation is anticipated.</p> <p>Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Direct impacts to FTHL may occur during construction of the Gen-tie line. These impacts could be adverse and mitigation would be required. In accordance with the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Rangewide Management Strategy, compensation would be required for impact to FTHL habitat.</p>	<p>NI</p> <p>MI</p> <p>DI</p> <p>DI</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures BIO-4 and BIO-6, below.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures BIO-4 and BIO-5, below.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures BIO-4 and BIO-5, below.</p>	<p>NI</p> <p>MI</p> <p>MI</p> <p>MI</p>

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<p><i>Sensitive Natural Communities</i> <i>Creosote Bush–White Bursage Scrub and Desert Wash Vegetation</i> Creosote bush–white bursage scrub, mesquite woodland, and desert wash vegetation are the three sensitive natural communities potentially affected by the proposed project. These communities are considered sensitive whether or not they have been disturbed. Impacts to creosote bush–white bursage scrub and desert wash vegetation, though very limited in extent, could be considered potentially adverse and may require mitigation to offset this impact to sensitive habitats to reduce levels to less than significant.</p> <p><u>Jurisdictional Waters</u> <i>ACOE Jurisdiction</i> The jurisdictional delineation indicates there are a maximum of 85 hydrologic features, 20 of which may be considered potential wetland, riparian and/or waters of United States within the boundaries of both the private and BLM lands.</p> <p><i>CDFG Jurisdiction</i> The preliminary estimated impacts to ACOE jurisdictional waters are not expected to exceed 0.06 acre of fill to manmade systems on private lands and 0.01 acre of impacts to jurisdictional habitat on public (BLM managed) lands. The final determination of impacts to ACOE jurisdictional waters is subject to a verification of the jurisdictional delineation and a formal jurisdictional determination by the ACOE.</p> <p>The preliminary estimated impacts to CDFG jurisdictional areas on private lands are not expected to exceed 6.14 acres of fill to manmade systems and 0.09 acre of permanent impacts and 0.04 acre of temporary</p>	<p>DI</p> <p>DI</p> <p>DI</p>	<p>Refer to mitigation measures BIO-1, BIO-2, and BIO-4, below.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures BIO-4 and BIO-8, below.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measure BIO-8, below.</p>	<p>MI</p> <p>MI</p> <p>MI</p>

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<p>disturbance to CDFG jurisdictional habitat on BLM managed lands.</p> <p>Wildlife Movement and Nursery Sites Wildlife movement corridors are considered sensitive by resource and conservation agencies. A chain link perimeter fence will surround the proposed CSE Facility on private lands, allowing small mammals and reptiles to move freely through the site. Although medium- and large-sized mammals will not be able to move through the CSE Facility, it should not inhibit their movement through the Yuha Basin. The proposed Gen-tie line on BLM land would not inhibit the movement of wildlife in and around the Gen-tie survey area. No fencing or other terrestrial obstruction would be installed in this area. Moreover, the proposed Gen-tie line would be collocated with several other existing transmission lines and would not represent a novel feature on the landscape. Thus, there is no anticipated impact to wildlife movement or nursery sites, and no additional mitigation would be required.</p> <p>California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) The BLM manages all land uses within the CDCA to minimize impacts to this sensitive area. The proposed transmission lines are an allowable use under the CDCA, as the proposed right-of-way falls within the CDCA designated "Utility Corridor N", and within the West-wide Energy Corridor Segment 115-238, which is designated as a multi-modal transmission corridor.</p> <p>CEQA Significance Determinations Impacts to Candidate, Sensitive, or Special Status Species The Proposed Action could adversely affect special federal and/or state listed species, as well as BLM sensitive wildlife species. These include: southwestern willow flycatcher, Yuma clapper, mountain plover, Sandhill</p>	<p>NI</p> <p>MI</p> <p>PS</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p> <p>All proposed impacts to resources discussed this section are in conformance with the CDCA and maintain the integrity and intent of the Conservation Plan.</p> <p>BIO-1 Vegetation Communities Mitigation for permanent and temporary impacts to creosote bush-white burr sage scrub, arrow</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>MI</p> <p>LTS</p>

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<p>crane, burrowing owl, pallid bat, California leaf-nosed bat, golden eagle, Colorado Desert fringe-toed lizard, and flat-tailed horned lizard. The potential impacts to the avian species include removal of foraging habitat, noise and lighting, and collision risks. The potential impacts to the reptile species include loss of habitat during construction, and direct mortality, injury or harassment of individuals during construction and operations and maintenance activities. With the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-8 the impact to special status species is considered a less than significant impact pursuant to CEQA.</p> <p>Impacts to Riparian Habitat or Sensitive Natural Community The Proposed Action potentially affects three sensitive natural communities including: creosote bush–white bursage scrub, mesquite woodland, and desert wash. Soil disturbance associated with construction, and operations and maintenance could result in the introduction of non-native invasive plant species that would undermine the habitat quality and integrity of the native plant communities. Through avoidance of those jurisdictional areas with high functional values, CSE is reducing the potential detrimental effects of the project on wildlife and flood attenuation. The project is minimizing the effects of secondary disturbance to endangered species or migratory birds by implementing conservation measures for construction near riparian habitat. With the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-8 the impact to sensitive native plant communities is considered a less than significant impact pursuant to CEQA.</p> <p>Impacts to Wetlands The preliminary estimated impacts to ACOE jurisdictional waters on</p>	<p>PS</p> <p>PS</p>	<p>weed scrub, arrow weed scrub/tamarisk scrub, tamarisk scrub, big salt bush scrub, bush seepweed scrub, palo verde woodland, mesquite woodland, mesquite-catclaw scrub, mesquite bosque, encelia-white bursage wash scrub, ephedra-encelia wash scrub, smoke tree wash scrub and white bursage scrub shall be accomplished through required mitigation acres. Table 7 from the BTR describes the proposed impacts to each vegetation community. All native habitats in the project area are considered potentially suitable flat-tailed horned lizard habitat and are within a designated management area. As such, disturbance to these habitats will be mitigated at a 6:1 ratio (see BIO-5). Thus, disturbance to native vegetation communities will not require unique mitigation but will rely on the requirements of mitigation measure BIO-5.</p> <p>BIO-2 Noxious, Invasive and Non-Native Weeds To minimize the introduction and spread of weed species a Weed Management Plan will be developed and implemented. The weed management plan will include a discussion of specific weeds identified on site that will be targeted for eradication or control as well as a variety of measures that will be undertaken during</p>	<p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p>

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<p>installation of the chain link fence would not inhibit any wildlife from their movement through the Yuha Basin. With the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-8 the impact to wildlife movement is considered a less than significant impact pursuant to CEQA.</p> <p>Conflict with Local Policies and Ordinances Implementation of the Proposed Action does not conflict the any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-8 will ensure consistency and ensure that the Proposed Action has a less than significant impact pursuant to CEQA.</p> <p>Conflict with an Adopted Habitat Conservation Plan The Project Area is in an area designed as "Utility Corridor N" in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA). The Proposed Action is an allowable use under the CDCA. All proposed impacts to resources discussed in this section are in conformance with the CDCA and maintain the integrity and intent of the Conservation Plan. Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-8 will ensure consistency and ensure that the Proposed Action has a less than significant impact pursuant to CEQA.</p>	<p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p>	<p>infestations of invasive weed species. However, inadvertent application of herbicide to adjacent native plants must be avoided, which can often be challenging when weeds are interspersed with native cover. Before applying herbicide, contractors will be required to obtain any required permits from state and local authorities. Only a State of California and federally certified contractor will be permitted to perform herbicide applications. All herbicides will be applied in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and permit stipulations. Only herbicides and adjuvants approved by the State of California and federal agency for use on public lands will be used within or adjacent to the project site. Invasive plants species on BLM lands would be prevented, controlled, and treated through an Integrated Pest Management approach per the Vegetation Treatments on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Report (PER 2007). Only herbicides approved by BLM in California will be used on BLM lands. Herbicide application can only occur on BLM lands with an approved Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP).</p> <p>BIO-3 Burrowing Owl 1)Burrowing owls are known to occur in and along</p>	<p>LTS</p> <p>LTS</p>

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		<p>the active agricultural fields within the proposed CSE facility site. The following measures will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impact to burrowing owl during construction activities:</p> <p>2) To the extent practicable, initial grading and clearing within the project footprint should take place between September 1 and January 31 to avoid impacts to any breeding burrowing owls. Occupied burrows shall not be removed during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31) unless a qualified biologist approved by CDFG verifies through non-invasive methods that either (a) the birds have not begun egg-laying and incubation; or (b) that juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival. If initial grading and clearing within the project footprint is to begin during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), the following measures (#2 through #4 below) will be implemented.</p> <p>3) Within 30-days prior to initiation of initial grading and clearing, pre-construction clearance surveys for this species shall be conducted by qualified and agency-approved biologists to determine the presence or absence of this species within the grading area. The proposed grading areas shall be clearly demarcated in the</p>	

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		<p>field or via GPS by the project engineers and Designated Biologist prior to the commencement of the pre-construction clearance survey. The surveys shall follow the protocols provided in the Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines.</p> <p>4)When removal of occupied burrows is unavoidable, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented outside of the breeding season. Passive relocation methods are to be used by the biological monitors to move the owls out of the impact zone. This includes covering or excavating all burrows and installing one-way doors into occupied burrows. This will allow any animals inside to leave the burrow, but will exclude any animals from re-entering the burrow. A period of at least one week is required after the relocation effort to allow the birds to leave the impacted area before excavation of the burrow can begin. The burrows should then be excavated and filled in to prevent their reuse. The removal of active burrows on-site requires construction of new burrows or the enhancement of existing unsuitable burrows (i.e., enlargement or clearing of debris) at a mitigation ratio of 2:1 at least 50 meters from</p>	

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		<p>the impacted area and must be constructed as part of the above-described relocation efforts.</p> <p>5)As the project construction schedule and details are finalized, an approved biologist shall ensure that the BUOW Mitigation and Monitoring Plan will be updated and detail the approved, site-specific methodology proposed to minimize and mitigate impacts to this species. Passive relocation, destruction of burrows, and construction of artificial burrows can only be completed upon prior approval by and in cooperation with the CDFG.</p> <p>6)These measures shall be implemented, if passive relocation of some burrows are determined to be an unfavorable alternative for BUOW and occupied burrows are near construction activities: During the BUOW nesting season (February 1 to August 31), the qualified biologist shall establish and mark a 250 foot non-disturbance buffer circle around the burrow. The buffer shall be staked and roped-off prior to initiating any construction activity. No activity shall take place within the avoidance buffer area to ensure that disturbance to nesting birds does not occur. Any disturbance to nesting BUOW would require prior consultation, approval and mitigation in accordance with California Fish and</p>	

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		<p>Game requirements.</p> <p>7) Disturbing nesting BUOW that may cause changes of behavior, plugging the burrow entrance or causing the burrow to collapse could effectively destroy the nest, and as such, require a State permit.</p> <p>8) If an active, non-breeding BUOW burrow is detected during preconstruction surveys, prior to onsite construction related activities, the qualified biologist shall establish and flag an avoidance buffer circle around the burrow area at a 160-foot radius.</p> <p>Compensation Consultation with CDFG intended to determine the amount and conditions of compensatory mitigation for foraging habitat lost as a result of project implementation is currently ongoing. The applicant is currently preparing a compensatory mitigation plan that includes on-site mitigation. Consultation with CDFG regarding on-site mitigation is ongoing and agency approval of the project Burrowing Owl Mitigation Plan would be required before the start of construction. If on-site mitigation is not possible, the applicant would mitigate for impacts to foraging habitat either through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Impact-Directed</p>	

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		<p>Environmental Accounts program or independent acquisition of like habitat. Exact mitigation acreages will be determined in consultation with CDFG in accordance with the CDFG Staff Report Guidelines on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (1995).</p> <p>BIO-4 General O&M</p> <p>A number of general mitigation measures, designed to reduce potential direct and indirect impacts to resources in the project area will be implemented after construction as standard Operation and Maintenance protocols. To reduce the potential impact to biological resources during operations and maintenance, the following will be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief Annual Report will be submitted to the relevant resource agencies documenting the implementation of the following general measures as well as any resource-specific measures such as habitat restoration and/or compensation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Speed limits along all Gen-tie Line access roads and unpaved roads within the solar energy facility will not exceed 15 miles per hour. Gen-tie line access for O&M activities shall be kept to the minimum necessary for operations and be accomplished during the winter months when feasible. This limited access and annual 	

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		<p>timing is designed to prevent FTHL mortality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual formal Worker Education Training shall be established for all employees and any subcontractors at the CSE Facility to provide instruction on sensitive species identification; measures to avoid contact, disturbance, and injury; and reporting procedures in the case of dead and/or injured wildlife species. The USFWS and the BLM shall be notified per approved guidelines and channels of authority if mortality should occur. Species requiring reporting will be decided in consultation with the BLM and USFWS and will be detailed in the Wildlife Mortality Reporting Program. ○ A Raven Control Plan shall be implemented that details specific measures for storage and disposal of all litter and trash produced by the CSE Facility and its employees. This plan is designed to discourage scavengers that may also prey on wildlife in the vicinity. All employees will be familiar with this plan and littering shall be prohibited. This plan will be approved by the BLM and CDFG. ○ A Weed Management Plan shall be implemented that describes specific on-going measures to remove weedy plant species from 	

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		<p>the solar energy facility and encourages native plant growth. This plan should be prepared in conformance with herbicide and native seed/planting guidelines outlined in the project’s Site Reclamation and Revegetation Plan, and will be approved by the BLM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Wildlife Mortality Reporting Program shall be implemented to identify and report any dead or injured animals observed by personnel conducting O&M activities within the solar energy facility and along the Gen-tie Line. An appropriate reporting format for dead or injured special status wildlife observed within the solar energy facility and along the Gen-tie Line will be developed in coordination with the USFWS and the BLM. In addition, reporting of any dead or injured avian species found along the Gen-tie line will follow the existing USFWS Bird Fatality/Injury Reporting Program (https://birdreport.fws.gov/). Species requiring reporting will be decided in consultation with the BLM and USFWS. ○ An Avian and Bat Protection Plan (ABPP) shall be implemented that outlines conservation measures for construction and O&M activities that might reduce potential impacts to bird populations. These measures incorporate APLIC 	

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		<p>design guidelines for overhead utilities (2006) by incorporating recommended or other methods that enhance the visibility of the lines to avian species. The ABPP will also address disturbance minimization, timing of construction, minimization of activities that would attract prey and predators, and incorporation of the Wildlife Mortality Reporting Program and Raven Control Plan discussed above.</p> <p>BIO-5 Flat-tailed Horned Lizard In accordance with the FTHL Rangewide Management Strategy (ICC 2003), the measures proposed below are designed to avoid, minimize, and/or compensate for potential direct and indirect effects construction of the proposed project may have on FTHL. The following will be implemented when conducting construction activities on the Gen-tie Line and within the creosote bush-white burr sage scrub and other native vegetation types in the Gen-tie line ROW:</p> <p>1) Prior to ground-disturbing activities, an individual</p>	

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		<p>shall be designated and approved by the BLM as the Designated Biologist¹ (i.e. field contact representative) along with approved Biological Monitors as needed for construction, particularly within the Yuha MA. The Designated Biologist will be designated for the period during which on-going construction and post-construction monitoring and reporting by an approved biologist is required, such as annual reporting on habitat restoration. Each successive Designated Biologist will be approved by the BLM's Authorized Officer (i.e., BLM field manager, El Centro). The Designated Biologist will have the authority to ensure compliance with the conservation measures for the FTHL and will be the primary agency contact for the implementation of these measures. The Designated Biologist will organize and oversee the work of the biological monitors and have the authority and responsibility to halt activities that are in violation of the conservation measures. An organizational chart shall be provided to BLM</p>	

¹ A qualified designated biologist must have (1) a bachelor's degree with an emphasis in ecology, natural resource management, or related science; (2) three years of experience in field biology or current certification of a nationally recognized biological society, such as the Ecological Society of America or the wildlife society (3) previous experience with applying terms and conditions of a biological opinion; and, (4) the appropriate permit and/or training if conducting focused or protocol surveys for listed or proposed species.

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		<p>prior to ground-disturbing activities with a clear chain of command and contact information (cell phones). A detailed list of responsibilities for the Designated Biologist is summarized below. To avoid and minimize impacts to biological resources, the Designated Biologist will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify BLM’s Authorizing Officer at least 14 calendar days before initiating ground disturbing activities. • Immediately notify BLM’s Authorized Officer in writing if the Project applicant is not in compliance with any conservation measures, including but not limited to any actual or anticipated failure to implement conservation measures within the time periods specified. • Conduct compliance inspections at a minimum of once per month during on-going construction after clearing, grubbing, and grading are completed, and submit a monthly compliance report to BLM’s Authorized Officer until construction is complete. <p>2)The boundaries of all areas to be disturbed (including staging areas, access roads, and sites for temporary placement of spoils) will be delineated with stakes and flagging prior to construction activities. Where feasible, the areas</p>	

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		<p>shall be cleared of FTHL and fenced (according to the Strategy) to exclude FTHL from re-entering these construction areas, particularly in the MA and other high-use areas such as for staging of equipment or parking areas. Spoils will be stockpiled in disturbed areas lacking native vegetation or where habitat quality is poor, such as the agricultural fields rather than native desert. To the extent possible, disturbance of shrubs and surface soils due to stockpiling will be minimized. All disturbances, vehicles, and equipment will be confined to the flagged and cleared areas. To the extent possible, surface disturbance will be timed to minimize mortality to FTHL (see FTHL Construction Measure #7 below).</p> <p>3) Approved Biological monitor(s) will assist the Designated Biologist in conducting pre-construction surveys and in monitoring of mobilization, ground disturbance, grading, construction, operation, closure, and restoration activities. The biological monitor(s) will have experience conducting FTHL field monitoring, have sufficient education and field experience to understand FTHL biology, be able to identify FTHL scat, and be able to identify and follow FTHL tracks. The Designated Biologist will submit</p>	

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		<p>the resume, at least three references, and contact information of the proposed biological monitors to the BLM for approval. To avoid and minimize impacts to biological resources, the Biological Monitors will assist the Designated Biologist with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be present during construction (e.g., grubbing, grading, solar panel installation) activities that take place in FTHL habitat to avoid or minimize take of FTHL. Activities include, but are not limited to, ensuring compliance with all impact avoidance and minimization measures, monitoring for FTHLs and removing lizards from harm’s way, and checking avoidance areas (e.g., washes) to ensure that signs, and stakes are intact and that human activities are restricted in these avoidance zones. • At the end of each work day, inspect all potential wildlife pitfalls (trenches, bores and other excavations) for wildlife and then backfill. If backfilling is not feasible, all trenches, bores, and other excavations will be contoured at a 3:1 slope at the ends to provide wildlife escape ramps, or completely and securely covered to prevent wildlife access. • During construction, examine areas of active 	

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		<p>surface disturbance periodically, at least hourly, when surface temperatures exceed 29°Celsius (C; 85°F) for the presence of FTHL.</p> <p>4) Prior to Project initiation, a worker environmental awareness program (WEAP) shall be developed and implemented, and will be available in both English and Spanish. Wallet-sized cards summarizing this information will be provided to all construction, operation, and maintenance personnel. The education program will include the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biology and status of the FTHL, • protection measures designed to reduce potential impact to the species, • function of flagging designating authorized work areas, • reporting procedures to be used if a FTHL is encountered in the field, and • driving procedures and techniques for commuting to, and driving on, the project site, to reduce mortality of FTHL on roads. <p>5) FTHLs shall be removed from harm’s way during all construction activities, per mitigation measure #6 below. To the extent feasible, methods to find FTHLs will be designed to achieve a maximal capture rate and will include, but not be limited to using strip transects, tracking, and raking</p>	

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		<p>around shrubs. During construction, the minimum survey effort will be 30 minutes per 0.40 ha (30 minutes per 1 ac). Persons that handle FTHLs will first obtain all necessary permits and authorization from the CDFG. If the species is federally listed, only persons authorized by both CDFG will handle FTHLs. FTHL removal surveys will also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Horned Lizard Observation Data Sheet and a Project Reporting Form, per Appendix 8 of the RMS, will be completed. During construction, quarterly reports describing FTHL removal activity, per the reporting requirements described in Mitigation Measure #1 above, will be submitted to the BLM. <p>6) The removal of FTHLs out of harm’s way shall include relocation to nearby suitable habitat in low-impact (e.g., away from roads and solar panels) areas of the Yuha MA. Relocated FTHLs will be placed in the shade of a large shrub in undisturbed habitat. If surface temperatures in the sun are less than 24° Celsius (C) 75° Fahrenheit (F) or exceed 38°C (100° F), the Designated Biologist or biological monitor, if authorized, will hold the FTHL for later release. Initially, captured FTHLs will be held in a cloth</p>	

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		<p>bag, cooler, or other appropriate clean, dry container from which the lizard cannot escape. Lizards will be held at temperatures between 75° F and 90° F and will not be exposed to direct sunlight. Release will occur as soon as possible after capture and during daylight hours. The Designated Biologist or biological monitor will be allowed some judgment and discretion when relocating lizards to maximize survival of FTHLS found in the Project area.</p> <p>7) To the maximum extent practicable, grading in FTHL habitat will be conducted during the active season, which is defined as March 1 through September 30, or if ground temperatures are between 24°C (75° F) and 38 °C (100° F). If grading cannot be conducted during this time, any FTHLs found will be removed to low-impact areas (see above) where suitable burrowing habitat exists, (e.g., sandy substrates and shrub cover).</p> <p>8) Temporarily disturbed areas associated with Gen-tie Line construction and staging areas, will be revegetated according to the Site Reclamation and Revegetation Plan (SRRP) approved by the BLM. The SRRP must be approved in writing by the BLM prior to any vegetation-disturbing activities. Restoration involves recontouring the</p>	

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		<p>land, replacing the topsoil (if it was collected), and maintaining (i.e., weeding, replacement planting, supplemental watering, etc.), and monitoring the restored area for a period of 5 years (or less if the restoration meets all success criteria). Components of the SRRP will typically include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The incorporation of Desert Bioregion Revegetation/Restoration Guidance measures. These measures generally include alleviating soil compaction, returning the surface to its original contour, pitting or imprinting the surface to allow small areas where seeds and rain water can be captured, planting seedlings that have acquired the necessary root mass to survive without watering, planting seedlings in the spring with herbivory cages, broadcasting locally collected seed immediately prior to the rainy season, and covering the seeds with mulch. <p>Operations and Maintenance To reduce the potential impact to FTHL during O&M, the following will be implemented when conducting O&M along the Gen-tie line: 1) At least 15 days prior to the commencement of construction and within 15 days following</p>	

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		<p>completion of construction activities, the Designated Biologist will provide the BLM a Project FTHL Status Report, which will include, at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A general description of the status of the project site within the MA. • A copy of the table in the Project biological monitoring report with notes showing the current implementation status of each conservation measure. • An assessment of the effectiveness of each completed or partially completed measure in avoiding and minimizing project impacts • A completed a Project Reporting Form from the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Rangewide Management Strategy (RMS; ICC 2003) • A summary of information regarding any FTHL mortality in conjunction with the Project’s Wildlife Mortality Reporting Program. • Recommendations on how conservation measures might be changed to more effectively avoid, minimize, and offset future project impacts on the FTHL. <p>2)The Designated Biologist or biological monitor(s) will evaluate and implement the best measures to reduce FTHL mortality along access and maintenance roads, particularly during the FTHL</p>	

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		<p>active season (March 1 through September 30). These measures will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A speed limit of 15 miles per hour when driving access roads within suitable FTHL habitat. The Designated Biologist may reduce this speed limit to 10 mph in areas identified as active wildlife corridors as needed to reduced mortality. All vehicles required for O&M within suitable FTHL habitat must remain on the designated access/maintenance roads. Cross country vehicle and equipment use outside of designated work areas in suitable FTHL habitat shall be prohibited. • O&M activities occurring within suitable FTHL habitat including weed abatement or any other O&M activity that may result in ground disturbance will be conducted outside of the FTHL active season whenever feasible. If any O&M activities must be conducted during the FTHL active season that may result in ground disturbance within suitable FTHL habitat, such as weed abatement or vehicles requiring access outside of a designated access road, a biological monitor will be present during activities to reduce FTHL impacts. <p>Implementation of these measures would be based</p>	

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		<p>on annual FTHL activity levels, the best professional judgment of the Designated Biologist, and site specific road utilization. FTHL found on access/maintenance roads will be relocated out of harm's way by the Designated Biologist or qualified FTHL monitor.</p> <p>Compensation In accordance with the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Rangewide Management Strategy, mitigation would be required for impacts to FTHL habitat. FTHL are known to occur in the native vegetation along the proposed Gen-tie ROW. In accordance with the Rangewide Management Strategy, compensation for permanent impact to this habitat within the Yuha Desert FTHL MA will be at a 6:1 ratio. Acreages of proposed disturbance to FTHL habitat by alternative can be found in Table 8 of the BTR.</p> <p>No mitigation for FTHL is required for the active agricultural land within the CSE solar energy facility or the Gen-tie Line on agricultural land, as it does not provide habitat for this species.</p> <p>BIO-6 Nesting Raptors Raptors and active raptor nests are protected under California Fish and Game Code 3503.5, 3503, 3513. To prevent direct and indirect noise impact to nesting raptors such as red-tailed hawk, the</p>	

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		<p>following measures should be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To the extent practicable, initial grading and clearing within the project site should take place outside the raptors’ breeding season of February 1 to July 15. • If construction occurs between February 1 and July 15, an approved biologist shall conduct a pre-construction clearance survey for nesting raptors in suitable nesting habitat (e.g., tall trees or transmission towers) that occurs within 500 feet of the survey area. If any active raptor nest is located, the nest area will be flagged, and a 500-foot buffer zone delineated, flagged, or otherwise marked. No work activity may occur within this buffer area, until an approved biologist determines that the fledglings are independent of the nest. <p>Operations and Maintenance Mitigation Mitigation for potential impact to raptors and other avian species due to collision with the proposed Gen-tie line is discussed below in BIO-7 (Mitigation for Migratory Birds and Other Sensitive Non-migratory Bird Species), including the development of an ABPP.</p> <p>BIO-7 Migratory Birds and Other Sensitive Non-migratory Bird Species</p>	

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		<p>To reduce the potential indirect impact to migratory birds, bats and raptors, an Avian and Bat Protection Plan (ABPP) shall be prepared following the USFWS’s guidelines and then implemented by the Project proponent. This ABPP will outline conservation measures for construction and O&M activities that might reduce potential impacts to bird populations and will be developed by the applicant in conjunction with and input from the USFWS.</p> <p>Construction Conservation Measures</p> <p>Construction conservation measures to be addressed in the ABPP include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimizing disturbance to vegetation to the maximum extent practicable. • For the protection of migratory birds, prior to construction, the applicant shall prepare an Avian and Bat Protection Plan (ABPP) for review by the BLM and FWS that will specify the procedures by which: a) Biologists shall conduct a preconstruction migratory bird nesting survey in the project area that takes place during the breeding season (January 15 through August 15); b) If any active nest is located, the nest area shall be flagged for avoidance, and a 200-foot buffer zone will be delineated, flagged, or otherwise marked; 300-foot buffers shall be established for 	

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		<p>Federally listed bird nests and 500-foot for nesting raptors; c) No work activity shall occur within this avoidance buffer areas until an approved biologist determines that the fledglings are independent of the nest or has verified nest failure; d) Regular reporting and notification requirements shall be met; e) Buffer reduction under certain warranted circumstances shall be possible following coordination with the Federal and State wildlife agencies based on individual species biology and behavior. This ABPP achieves compliance with the Migratory Bird Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimize wildfire potential. • Minimize activities that attract prey and predators. • Control of non-native plants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Apply APLIC design guidelines for overhead utilities (APLIC 2006) by incorporating recommended or other methods that enhance the visibility of the lines to avian species. ○ All overhead electric lines shall be designed to be raptor-safe in accordance with the Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2006 (Avian Power Line Interaction Committee [APLIC] 2006). 	

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		<p>○ For the span of the Gen-tie Line crossing the Westside Main Canal, bird flight diverters shall be installed on the shield wire(s) with spacing in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendations.</p> <p>Operations and Maintenance Measures Operations and maintenance conservation measures to be incorporated into the ABPP include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that no project features including evaporation ponds or other impounded structures by covering or enclosing will act as attractive nuisances or entrap wildlife or avian species. • Preparation of a Raven Control Plan that avoids introducing water and food resources in the area surrounding the solar energy facility. • Incorporate APLIC guidelines for overhead utilities as appropriate to minimize avian collisions with Gen-tie Line facilities (APLIC 2006). • Minimize noise • Minimize use of outdoor lighting. • Implement post—construction avian monitoring that will incorporate the Wildlife Mortality Reporting Program <p>BIO-8 Jurisdictional Waters The Proposed Action is anticipated to impact up to</p>	

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		<p>6.3 acres of CDFG jurisdictional riparian habitat. Mitigation for permanent impacts to CDFG riparian habitat is typically at a 2:1 ratio, while mitigation for temporary impacts to CDFG riparian habitat is typically at a 1:1 ratio. The Applicant anticipates offsetting these impacts through independent acquisition of compensatory lands or through a combined NFWF contribution for FTHL compensation as detailed in Mitigation Measure BIO-5, or through compensation as detailed in Mitigation Measure BIO-3 replacement for burrowing owl foraging habitat. As the acreage for FTHL mitigation well exceeds the amount required for impacts to CDFG resources, it is not anticipated that additional mitigation would be necessary as long as the FTHL or burrowing owl compensation meets the requirements and approval of CDFG as riparian habitat mitigation. A Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement would also need to be authorized for impact to CDFG resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize project effects on wetlands, streambeds, and stream banks (i.e., California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) jurisdictional areas) by designing and siting project features outside of these areas to the extent practicable. 	

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<p>ALTERNATIVE 1 – Same as the Proposed Action.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 2 – Similar to, or less than, what would occur for the Proposed Action based on 335 fewer acres of disturbance. Alternative 2 would result in total disturbance (temporary and permanent) of 1,606.88 acres of vegetation including 17.25 acres of temporary disturbance for the Gen-tie Line. Approximately 0.06 acres of jurisdictional waters would be impacted on Private lands and 0.01 acres on BLM land. Approximately 6.14 acres of CDFG Jurisdictional areas would be permanently impacted by the CSE Facility and 0.09 acres would be impacted permanently by the Gen-tie Line. Approximately 0.04 acres would be temporarily impacted by the Gen-tie Line.</p>	<p>PS/MI/PI</p> <p>PS/MI/PI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads shall be maintained at-grade and built as near as practicable at right angles to streams and washes. Culverts shall be installed where necessary. All construction and maintenance activities shall be conducted in a manner that will minimize disturbance to native vegetation, drainage channels, and intermittent or perennial stream banks. In addition, road construction shall include dust control measures in accordance with local dust control requirements. All existing unmarked roads shall be left in a condition equal to or better than their condition prior to the construction of the electric line. <p>Refer to mitigation measures BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-4, BIO-5, BIO-6, BIO-7 and BIO-8, above.</p> <p>Refer to mitigation measures BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-4, BIO-5, BIO-6, BIO-7 and BIO-8, above.</p>	<p>LTS/MI/NA</p> <p>LTS/MI/NA</p>

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<p>ALTERNATIVE 3 - Similar to, or slightly less than, what would occur for the Proposed Action based on 3 miles less of Gen-tie Line. Alternative 3 would result in total disturbance (temporary and permanent) of 1,937.56 acres of vegetation including 10.14 acres of temporary disturbance for the Gen-tie Line. Approximately 0.06 acres of jurisdictional waters would be impacted on private lands and 0.01 acres on BLM land. Approximately 6.14 acres of CDFG Jurisdictional areas would be permanently impacted by the CSE Facility and 0.03 acres would be impacted permanently by the Gen-tie Line. Approximately 0.09 acres would be temporarily impacted by the Gen-tie Line.</p>	PS/MI/PI	Refer to mitigation measures BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-4, BIO-5, BIO-6, BIO-7 and BIO-8, above.	LTS/MI/NA
<p>ALTERNATIVE 4 - No new development is proposed under the No Action/No Project Alternative.</p>	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA

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PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES			
Direct and Indirect Impacts			
Construction			
Gen-tie Line			
DI	Excavation activities associated with development of the Gen-tie Line on previously undisturbed lands managed by the BLM could result in a direct impact to paleontologically sensitive geologic rock units with a high fossil yield potential (Class 4). Mitigation measures PR-1 through PR-5 provide recommendations to protect paleontological resources and avoid adverse direct impacts. Through these measures (e.g., relocation, on-site monitoring), adverse direct impacts to paleontological resources within the Gen-tie Line segment on BLM lands would be avoided during construction of the Proposed Action.	PR-1 Based on results from the field survey conducted on July 6, 2011, the need for additional mitigation to protect paleontological resources shall be determined. The Authorized Officer, in consultation with Regional Paleontologist or the Paleontology Lead, shall analyze the Addendum (SDNHM, 2011) for survey findings and any mitigation recommendations. If no further mitigation is needed, the Authorized Officer will promptly notify the Applicant that no additional paleontological surveys or mitigation measures will be required and the project may proceed pending any other approvals. The project file must be documented indicating acceptance of the survey report and identifying any additional mitigation requirements. If it is determined that additional mitigation efforts are needed to protect or preserve the paleontological resources, the Applicant would be notified as soon as possible. The Authorized Officer and/or the Paleontology Lead usually develop and approve the mitigation procedures or recommend a project be redesigned in consultation with the Applicant. Factors such as locality or specimen significance, economics, safety, and project urgency will be considered when developing mitigation measures. Additional mitigation measures shall be developed and implemented as timely as possible so as not to delay project actions.	MI
DI	CSE Facility Deeper excavation activities associated with the construction of tower structures (20 to 40 feet in depth) on private lands on Lake Cahuilla deposits could result in direct impacts to paleontological sensitive geologic rock units (PYFC Class 4) (SDNHM 2011).		MI
NI	Operations and Maintenance No direct impacts to paleontological resources are anticipated in association with operation and maintenance of the Proposed Action. Indirect impacts to paleontological resources during operation and maintenance is anticipated to be low because no major ground disturbing activities or excavations would be anticipated as part of routine maintenance.		NA
NI	Decommissioning Areas subject to decommissioning would have been disturbed during construction. Mitigation Measures PR-1 through PR-5 requiring on-site monitoring and other activities to reduce destruction of paleontological resources would have been implemented during construction. Therefore no direct (at the time of decommissioning) or indirect (in the future after decommissioning is completed) impacts to paleontological resources within the project area are anticipated during decommissioning of the Proposed Action.		NA

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		<p>is to change the project location based on the results of the field survey. Relocation, however, may necessitate a field survey of the new area, as well as resurveys by other resource specialists. Anticipation of this contingency prior to or during the original survey may allow for survey of an expanded area at the same time. If relocation will eliminate impacts and is acceptable to all parties, then a report to the file, including a map showing the original and revised locations, must be completed documenting the change. Approval for the project to proceed in the revised location may then be granted by the Authorized Officer to the Applicant. When avoidance is not possible, appropriate mitigation may include excavation or collection (data recovery), stabilization, monitoring, protective barriers and signs, or other physical and administrative protection measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deferred Fossil Collection. In some cases, fossil material may have been identified, but not completely collected during the initial field survey, such as a partial dinosaur or other large fossil assemblage. It may be possible to complete the recovery of this material and all related data prior to beginning construction activities, and thus mitigate the adverse impact. This may require a shift in the project schedule and must be coordinated with the Applicant. Approval by the Authorized Officer for the project to proceed will only be granted when recovery of the fossil material and field data is completed. A report to the file and the 	
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		<p>Applicant documenting the recovery and indicating that no further mitigation is required must be completed, and the report signed by the Authorized Officer. If the discovery cannot be fully collected within the available time frame, it may have to be avoided by relocating or redesigning the project.</p> <p>PR-2 Based on the field survey and reporting results identified in Mitigation Measure PR-1, a Monitoring Plan shall be developed and implemented (if required). A monitoring plan can be developed by a BLM paleontologist or a qualified paleontologist hired by the Applicant. The plan must be appropriately scaled to the size and complexity of the anticipated monitoring. If developed by a third party, the appropriate Paleontology Lead or Regional Paleontologist shall review the plan for sufficiency prior to acceptance. Monitoring of the project may proceed when the monitoring plan is approved by the Authorized Officer. A monitoring plan indicates the treatments recommended for the area of the proposed disturbance and must minimally address the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.The recommended approach to additional specimen collection, such as total or partial recovery or sampling; and, 2.The specific locations and intensity of monitoring or sampling recommended for each geologic unit, stratigraphic layer, or area impacted. Monitoring intensity is determined based on the analysis of existing data and/or field surveys and any previous monitoring efforts. <p>Types of Monitoring. There are two types of</p>	
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		<p>monitoring: a) on-site, performed during ongoing operations, and b) spot-checks, performed during or after disturbance, or at key times during the progress of the project.</p> <p>a. On-site monitoring – In areas with a high probability for buried fossils, the presence of a monitor at the site of disturbance at all times that disturbance is occurring may be warranted. The need for a full-time monitor is based on the findings of the survey, the local geology, and the proposed actions. Efforts will be made to complete fossil recovery with minimal work stoppage. However, in some cases, an extended period of work stoppage may be required, so coordination with the Applicant or representative is important. Prior to beginning the monitoring work, the monitor, company supervisor, and machinery operators shall agree on procedures for brief work stoppages to allow for examination of finds. It is critical that safety be of utmost concern because of the presence of heavy machinery and open trenches. The monitor must assess any finds, collect loose fossil material and related data, and take appropriate steps to mitigate any current or potential damage. Consideration of the size of the expected fossils must also be considered; for example, microfossils may not be visible during excavation activities. It may be appropriate to collect samples of matrix for later recovery of micro-vertebrate fossils or other analyses. Activities planned to occur during nighttime should be assessed relative to the potential to uncover significant fossils.</p>	
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		<p>Fossils may not be visible at night in trenching or grading operations, so construction activities may need to be suspended during night time in sensitive areas.</p> <p>b. Spot-checking – In areas with a moderate to high probability for unknown fossil material, it may be more appropriate to check only at key times rather than maintain continuous monitoring of operations. Key times for scheduling spot-checking are when the fossil-bearing bedrock is exposed to view or prior to placing spoil material back into the excavation. Spot-checking requires close coordination with the Applicant and the paleontologist, and usually requires the paleontologist to be available on short notice.</p> <p>The paleontologist shall report areas potentially containing fossils in the final report to allow for future assessment of sites, even if no fossils were located during the project monitoring.</p> <p>Types of Field Personnel. It may be necessary to employ a number of paleontology field personnel simultaneously. There may be a lack of fully qualified paleontologists to perform all the necessary monitoring during the scheduled times of construction. Use of additional personnel for field work is permissible, but Field Agents and Field Monitors (described below) must be requested by the Permittee and authorized by the BLM prior to field work.</p> <p>1. Principal Investigator – The person listed as Permittee (Permit item 1a) on the Paleontological Resources Use Permit is the Principal Investigator (PI) and is responsible for all actions under the permit, for meeting all permit terms and conditions, and for the performance of</p>	
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		<p>all other personnel. This person is also the contact person for the Applicant and the BLM.</p> <p>2. Field Agent – Other qualified paleontologists may perform field work independently of the Plunder the conditions of this permit. Résumés must be submitted to BLM and must demonstrate qualifications equivalent to those of Permittees. Field Agents must be listed on the permit under “Name(s) of individual(s) responsible for planning, supervising, and carrying outfield work” (Permit item 8) or authorized in a separate letter from BLM. They must follow all the permit terms and conditions applicable to field work and must carry a copy of the permit, included terms and conditions, and separate authorizing letter (if used) while in the field. Fieldwork results must be reported to the PI, who will then submit required reports.</p> <p>3. Field Monitor – Field Monitors may be used for supplemental on-site monitoring of surface disturbing activities when the PI or a Field Agent is performing field work elsewhere. Field Monitors must have sufficient field experience to demonstrate acceptable knowledge of fossil identification, collection methods, and paleontological techniques. The PI must supply a summary of each person’s experience to the BLM prior to field work. Field Monitors must be approved by the BLM prior to performing field work and must carry a copy of the permit while in the field. The PI or Field Agent must be in communication with the Field Monitor using a portable communication device, such as a cell phone or two-way radio, and are required to be</p>	
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		<p>near enough to the Field Monitor to allow for prompt examination of all fossil discoveries (no more than two hours away) by the PI or Field Agent.</p> <p>4. Field Assistant – Additional personnel not meeting the previously cited experience or knowledge levels may be used during field work, but must be under direct, on-site supervision of either the PI or a Field Agent as part of a supervised crew. Field assistants must have at least four to eight hours of training or experience received from a qualified paleontologist in identifying paleontological resources prior to performing field work or when first used in this capacity. A listing of all Field Assistants (including contact information) must be supplied prior to any field work. All discoveries made by a Field Assistant must be immediately reported to the PI or Field Agent on site. To ensure proper supervision, an appropriate ratio of Field Assistants per PI or Field Agent must be maintained. The complexity of the project, the area to be covered, and the experience of the assistants are some of the factors that should be considered in determining the proper ratio, but commonly five to seven assistants is the maximum number that can be supervised by one PI or Field Agent.</p> <p>Work Stoppage. If significant fossil material is discovered during construction activities, the PI, Field Agents, and Field Monitors have the authority to temporarily halt surface disturbing actions until an assessment of the find is completed and appropriate protection measures taken. Efforts will be made to complete fossil recovery with minimal work stoppage. However,</p>	
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		<p>in some cases, an extended period of work stoppage may be required. If the paleontological resource can be avoided, mitigated, or collected within approximately two hours, work may resume after approval from the PI or Field Agent, and the Authorized Officer must be notified as soon as possible of the discovery and any mitigation efforts that were undertaken. If the find cannot be mitigated within a reasonable time (two hours), the concurrence of the Authorized Officer or official representative for a longer work stoppage must be obtained. Work may not resume until approval is granted from both the PI or Agent and the Authorized Officer.</p> <p>PR-3 Upon completion of all field work, the PI must submit within 30days, a written final report to the Authorized Officer, Paleontology Lead, and the designated repository. A copy of the report may be provided to the Applicant if required, but without the BLM Locality forms. Reports must include the details and information as specified on page 14 of Attachment 1 of the BLM’s “Guidelines for Assessment and Mitigation of Potential Impacts to Paleontological Resources”, as applicable.</p> <p>If the survey was performed by BLM, a report similar in contents must be written and filed in the project file, and the Applicant notified as soon as possible upon completion.</p> <p>PR-4 When the final report with the specimen inventory and the signed receipt of confirmation of museum deposition are accepted by the BLM,</p>	
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		<p>mitigation for paleontological resources related to the project will be considered completed. The Applicant will be notified in writing as soon as possible by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the Paleontology Lead or Regional Paleontologist and a copy of the notification placed in the project file.</p> <p>The responsibility of the Applicant ends when appropriate mitigation related directly to the project is completed and final approval is received from the Authorized Officer. Any additional field collection, quarrying, final specimen preparation, etc. will be considered to be research, and will be the responsibility of the consulting paleontologist or another approved party. The Applicant will not be held responsible for completion of any research project. However, the Applicant can choose to sponsor further research. A separate research permit will be required for additional research activities.</p> <p>PR-5</p> <p>Fossil specimens and related data collected from BLM land during field surveys and mitigation remain the property of the Federal government. They must be placed in the approved repository(s) identified on the Paleontological Resource Use Permit held by the consulting paleontologist as soon as practical and receipt(s) of collections submitted to the BLM, but no later than 60 days after all field work is completed. Written approval from the Paleontology Lead or Regional Paleontologist is required if additional time is needed for transfer of all specimens and field data.</p>	
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<p>CEQA Significance Determination/NEPA Requirements Destruction of Paleontological Resources Construction Gen-tie Line Excavation activities associated with construction of the Gen-tie line on previously undisturbed lands managed by the BLM could directly destroy paleontologically sensitive geologic rock units with high fossil yield potential. Mitigation Measures PR-1 through PR-5 provide recommendations to reduce impacts to paleontological resources. Through these measures, direct and indirect impacts to paleontological resources within the Gen-tie Line segment on BLM lands would be reduced to less than significant levels under CEQA for the Proposed Action.</p> <p>CSE Facility Deeper excavation activities (20 to 40 feet in depth) associated with construction of tower structures on private lands could result in a direct impact to paleontologically sensitive geologic rock units, as any resources at these depths are anticipated to be intact. This is considered a potentially significant impact under CEQA. With implementation of BMPs identified by the Applicant, direct and indirect impacts to paleontological resources during construction of the CSE Facility would be reduced to less than significant under CEQA for the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Operations and Maintenance No direct impacts to paleontological resources are anticipated in association with operation and maintenance of the Proposed Action. No major ground disturbing activities or excavations would be anticipated as part of routine maintenance. Thus, direct and indirect impacts to paleontological resources during operations and maintenance are considered less than significant under CEQA for the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Decommissioning Areas subject to decommissioning would have been disturbed during construction. Likewise, mitigation measures PR-1 through PR-5 would</p>	PS	Refer to mitigation measures PR-1 through PR-5, above.	LTS
	PS	Refer to mitigation measures PR-1 through PR-5, above.	LTS
	LTS	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	LTS
	LTS	No mitigation measures recommended or required beyond mitigation measures PR-1 through PR-5, above.	LTS

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<p>be implemented during construction to address construction-related impacts to paleontological resources. Thus, direct and indirect impacts to paleontological resources during decommissioning are considered less than significant under CEQA for the Proposed Action.</p>			
<p>ALTERNATIVE 1 – Same as the Proposed Action.</p>	DI/NI/PS/LST	Refer to mitigation measures PR-1 through PR-5, above.	MI/NA/L TS
<p>ALTERNATIVE 2 – Similar to, or slightly less than, what would occur for the Proposed Action as 335 fewer acres would be converted to a solar facility.</p>	DI/NI/PS/LST	Refer to mitigation measures PR-1 through PR-5, above.	MI/NA/L TS
<p>ALTERNATIVE 3 - Potentially less than, what would occur for the Proposed Action based on 3 less miles of Gen-tie Line requiring construction on BLM land.</p>	DI/NI/PS/LST	Refer to mitigation measures PR-1 through PR-5, above.	MI/NA/L TS
<p>ALTERNATIVE 4 - No new development is proposed under the No Action/No Project Alternative.4 No new development is proposed under the No Action/No Project Alternative.</p>	DI/NI/PS/LST	Refer to mitigation measures PR-1 through PR-5, above.	MI/NA/L TS

<p>Environmental Justice (NEPA only)</p>			
<p>PROPOSED ACTION</p>			
<p>Direct and Indirect Impacts</p>			
<p>Construction</p>			
<p>Human Health Effects</p>			
<p>No adverse impacts would occur associated with hazards associated with traffic, emergency access, noise, and flooding. The potential for adverse impacts associated with air quality, including exposure to air pollutants, increased dust, and toxic emissions would be reduced to acceptable levels with implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-1 through AQ-4 and no adverse impacts would occur. The potential for adverse impacts associated with geology and soils would be reduced to acceptable levels with implementation of Mitigation Measures GS-1 through GS-6. The potential exposure to hazards and hazardous materials, including Valley Fever-related dust exposure, on-site hazardous materials, and hazardous conditions, would be reduced to acceptable levels with implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-1, AQ-2, HM-1, and HM-2. Thus, there would</p>	NI	Refer to mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-4, GS-1, GS-2, GS-3, GS-4, GS-5 and GS-6, HM-1 and HM-2.	NA

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<p>associated with project design, emergency access, air quality, noise, and flooding. The potential for adverse impacts associated with geology and soils, including exposure to hazards associated with seismic events and soils failure, would be reduced to acceptable levels with implementation of Mitigation Measures GS-1 through GS-6. The potential exposure to hazards and hazardous materials, including Valley Fever-related dust exposure, on-site hazardous materials, and hazardous conditions, would be reduced to acceptable levels with implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-1, AQ-2, and HM-3. Thus, there would be no adverse impacts associated with these issues that would affect minority or low-income populations disproportionately.</p>			
<p>Environmental Effects No adverse impacts would occur associated with visual resources, land use and special designations, increased traffic, climate change, cultural resources and human remains, hydrology and water quality, and paleontological resources. The potential for adverse impacts associated with land use and special designations would be reduced to acceptable levels with implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2. Impacts to agricultural resources would be reduced to acceptable levels with implementation of Mitigation Measures AR-4 and AR-5. Potential impacts to biological resources, including special-status species and sensitive habitats, would be reduced to acceptable levels with implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-4, BIO-5, BIO-6, and BIO-7. Thus, there would be no adverse impacts associated with these issues that would affect minority or low-income populations disproportionately.</p>	NI	Refer to mitigation measures BIO-2, BIO-4, BIO-5, BIO-6 and BIO-7; AR-4 and AR-5.	NA
<p>Socioeconomic Effects Total full-time employment, or the full-time employment equivalent, associated with the Proposed Action is anticipated to range from 8 to 10 persons. Operation and maintenance activities associated with the Proposed Action are not anticipated to result in any high or adverse decrease in the quantity or quality of employment, therefore no indirect or direct socioeconomic impacts are anticipated associated with operation and maintenance activities. Thus, there would be no adverse impacts associated with socioeconomics that would affect minority or low-income populations.</p> <p>Decommissioning</p>	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA

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<p>Human Health Effects No adverse impacts would occur associated with traffic hazards associated with design features, emergency access, air quality, geology and soils, noise, hazards and hazardous materials, and flooding. Thus, there would be no adverse impacts associated with these issues that would affect minority or low-income populations.</p>	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<p>Environmental Effects No adverse impacts were identified associated with visual resources, land use and special designations, transportation and circulation, climate change, cultural resources and human remains, agricultural resources, hydrology and water quality, biological resources, paleontological resources, and recreation. Thus, there would be no adverse impacts associated with these issues that would affect minority or low-income populations.</p>	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<p>Socioeconomic Effects Decommissioning would return the project site to a state similar to the current agricultural land present on the project site. There would be no indirect or direct adverse impacts associated with decommissioning as the resultant employment and socioeconomic conditions would be comparable to the existing conditions of the project site. Thus, there would be no adverse impacts associated with socioeconomics that would affect minority or low-income populations.</p>	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
<p>NEPA EO 12898 Construction Impacts on Low-income or Minority Populations All potential adverse health, environmental, or socioeconomic effects would be reduced to acceptable levels with implementation of the identified mitigation measures. There would be no direct or indirect adverse health, environmental, or socioeconomic effects associated with construction. Therefore, no minority or low-income populations would disproportionately affected by any high and adverse human health, environmental, or socioeconomic effects.</p>	NI	Refer to mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-4, AQ-5; GS-1, GS-2, GS-3, GS-4, GS-5 and GS-6; HM-1 and HM-2; BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-5, BIO-6, BIO-7, and BIO-8; CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-4, CR-5 and CR-6; AR-1, AR-2, AR-3, and AR-4; and PR-1.	NA
<p>Operations and Maintenance All potential adverse health, environmental, or socioeconomic effects</p>	NI	Refer to mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-4, AQ-5; GS-1, GS-2, GS-3, GS-4, GS-5 and GS-6;	NA

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<p>would be reduced to acceptable levels with implementation of the identified mitigation measures. There would be no direct or indirect adverse health, environmental, or socioeconomic effects associated with operations and maintenance activities. Therefore, no minority or low-income populations would disproportionately affected by any high and adverse human health, environmental, or socioeconomic effects.</p>		<p>HM-1 and HM-2; BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-5, BIO-6, BIO-7, and BIO-8; CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-4, CR-5 and CR-6; AR-1, AR-2, AR-3, and AR-4; and PR-1.</p>	
<p>Decommissioning There would be no direct or indirect adverse health, environmental, or socioeconomic effects associated with decommissioning. Therefore, no minority or low-income populations would disproportionately affected by any high and adverse human health, environmental, or socioeconomic effects.</p>	<p>NI</p>	<p>Refer to mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-4, AQ-5; GS-1, GS-2, GS-3, GS-4, GS-5 and GS-6; HM-1 and HM-2; BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-5, BIO-6, BIO-7, and BIO-8; CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-4, CR-5 and CR-6; AR-1, AR-2, AR-3, and AR-4; and PR-1.</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>ALTERNATIVE 1 – Same as the Proposed Action</p>	<p>NI</p>	<p>Refer to mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-4, AQ-5; GS-1, GS-2, GS-3, GS-4, GS-5 and GS-6; HM-1 and HM-2; BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-5, BIO-6, BIO-7, and BIO-8; CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-4, CR-5 and CR-6; AR-1, AR-2, AR-3, and AR-4; and PR-1.</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>ALTERNATIVE 2 – Same as the Proposed Action</p>	<p>NI</p>	<p>Refer to mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-4, AQ-5; GS-1, GS-2, GS-3, GS-4, GS-5 and GS-6; HM-1 and HM-2; BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-5, BIO-6, BIO-7, and BIO-8; CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-4, CR-5 and CR-6; AR-1, AR-2, AR-3, and AR-4; and PR-1.</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>ALTERNATIVE 3 - Similar to the Proposed Action</p>	<p>NI</p>	<p>Refer to mitigation measures AQ-1, AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-4, AQ-5; GS-1, GS-2, GS-3, GS-4, GS-5 and GS-6; HM-1 and HM-2; BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-5, BIO-6, BIO-7, and BIO-8; CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-4, CR-5 and CR-6; AR-1, AR-2, AR-3, and AR-4; and PR-1.</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>ALTERNATIVE 4 - No new development is proposed under the No Action/No Project Alternative.</p>	<p>NI</p>	<p>No mitigation measures recommended or required.</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Recreation (NEPA only)</p>			

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<p>Proposed Action Direct and Indirect Impacts Construction Several access roads identified on the WECO Plan would be crossed during construction of the proposed Gen-tie Line. Construction of the Gen-tie Line in Utility Corridor N may temporarily disrupt, but would not entirely preclude use of the roads for access to recreational uses on BLM lands. As such, the construction of the Gen-tie Line and new temporary and permanent bladed access roads proposed as part of the Proposed Action would not directly or indirectly disrupt access to recreational activities in established Federal, State, or local recreation areas and/or wilderness areas; substantially reduce the scenic, biological, cultural, geologic, or other important factors that contribute to the value of Federal, State, local, or private recreation facilities or wilderness areas; or, diminish the enjoyment of existing recreational opportunities.</p> <p>Operations and Maintenance The existing open access roads on the east and west sides of the Westside Main Canal would be spanned overhead by the Gen-tie Line. Likewise, two limited access roads on BLM lands in Utility Corridor N would also be spanned by the Gen-tie Line Action (Refer to Figure 3.15-1 in Section 3.15). The presence of the Gen-tie Line would not result in direct or indirect impacts to use of these roads or disrupt access to recreational activities in established Federal, State, or local recreation areas and/or wilderness areas; substantially reduce the scenic, biological, cultural, geologic, or other important factors that contribute to the value of Federal, State, local, or private recreation facilities or wilderness areas; or, diminish the enjoyment of existing recreational opportunities during operations and maintenance of the Proposed Action.</p> <p>Decommissioning Following decommissioning, open access roads located on the east and west sides of the Westside Main Canal, as well as the two limited access roads in Utility Corridor N would no longer be spanned by the Gen-tie Line. Decommissioning of the Gen-tie Line would not result in direct or indirect impacts to use of these roads or disrupt access to recreational activities in established Federal, State, or local recreation areas and/or</p>	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA

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wilderness areas; substantially reduce the scenic, biological, cultural, geologic, or other important factors that contribute to the value of Federal, State, local, or private recreation facilities or wilderness areas; or, diminish the enjoyment of existing recreational opportunities.			
Alternative 1 – Same as the Proposed Action	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
Alternative 2 – Same as the Proposed Action	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
Alternative 3 - Similar to the Proposed Action	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA
Alternative 4 - No new development is proposed under the No Action/No Project Alternative.	NI	No mitigation measures recommended or required.	NA

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