

1 increasing the potential for erosion during storm events. Additionally, the use of construction equipment  
2 may involve the accidental release of fuel, oils, brake dust, lubricants, antifreeze, and other potentially  
3 hazardous substances at the construction site. These water quality pollutants could become entrained in  
4 surface water during storm events, and/or be infiltrated into groundwater and the underlying aquifer,  
5 resulting in the degradation of water quality.

6 Finding: The Standard Condition and Mitigation Measure outlined below would reduce to a less-  
7 than-significant level the Project's impact associated with water quality standards and waste discharge  
8 requirements. The Standard Condition and Mitigation Measure reflect changes or alterations that the  
9 County has required, or incorporated into, the Project that would avoid or substantially lessen the  
10 potentially significant impact as identified in the EIR. (CEQA Guidelines §15091(a)(1)).

11 Standard Conditions: Waters of the State are present on the Project site in the form of desert  
12 washes. Due to the presence of Waters of the State, the Applicant would be required to submit a Report of  
13 Waste Discharge (ROWD) pursuant to California Water Code Section 13260 to the Colorado River  
14 RWQCB. [DEIR p. 4.9-25]

15 Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.10-1 in the Mitigation Monitoring  
16 and Reporting Program would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

17 Mitigation Measure 4.10-1 states:

18 The Applicant or its construction contractor shall prepare comprehensive stormwater pollution and  
19 erosion control best management practices (BMPs) for the Project to prevent all construction pollutants  
20 from contacting stormwater, with the intent of keeping sedimentation or any other pollutants from moving  
21 off-site and into receiving waters. BMPs shall be in place prior to the start of construction related activities  
22 and remain in place throughout all phases of Project construction and decommissioning. A BMP  
23 monitoring and maintenance schedule with clearly identified parties responsible for monitoring and  
24 maintenance of BMPs shall be in place prior to the start of construction or decommissioning activities and  
25 remain in place throughout all phases of Project construction and decommissioning. Additionally, the  
26 County will be provided opportunity to review and approve the comprehensive stormwater pollution and  
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1 erosion control BMPs prior to the start of construction activities. Stormwater pollution and erosion control  
2 BMPs at a minimum shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 3 1. Ensure that all stormwater, erosion, and sediment control BMPs are consistent with measures  
4 approved by the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) and are installed,  
5 inspected, maintained, and repaired under the direction of a certified erosion control specialist.
- 6 2. Provide adequate erosion control training to all equipment operators, site superintendants, and  
7 managers to ensure that stormwater and erosion controls are maintained and remain effective.
- 8 3. Employ temporary erosion control measures (such as silt fences, staked straw bales, and  
9 temporary revegetation) for disturbed areas. No disturbed surfaces will be left without erosion  
10 control measures in place so as to limit on-site and off-site erosion and to remain sediment on-  
11 site.
- 12 4. Stabilize inactive areas, such as temporary stockpiles, using an appropriate combination of  
13 BMPs to cover the exposed material, intercept runoff, reduce its flow velocity, release runoff as  
14 sheet flow, and provide a sediment control mechanism (such as silt fencing, fiber rolls, or  
15 hydroseeded vegetation). Standard soil stabilization BMPs include geotextiles, mats, erosion  
16 control blankets, vegetation, silt fence surrounding the stockpile perimeter, and fiber rolls at the  
17 base and on side slopes.
- 18 5. Limit grading to the minimum area necessary for construction and operation of the Project.
- 19 6. Limit vegetation disturbance/removal to the maximum extent practicable.
- 20 7. Temporarily stabilize active, disturbed areas undergoing fill placement before and during rain  
21 events expected to produce site runoff. Stabilization methods include combined BMPs that  
22 protect materials from rain, manage runoff, and reduce erosion.
- 23 8. Do not perform construction activities involving grading, hauling, and placement of backfill  
24 materials during periods of rain.
- 25 9. Schedule construction activities that disturb soils, such as grading, hauling, and placement of  
26 backfill to minimize land disturbance during peak runoff periods and to the immediate area  
27 required for construction. Retain existing vegetation where possible.

- 1 10. Regularly inspect all stormwater and erosion controls, especially before and following  
2 significant run-off-producing rain events.
- 3 11. Inspect and maintain BMPs after each qualifying storm event (minimum of one-quarter inch of  
4 rainfall as measured by onsite device) to ensure their integrity.
- 5 12. Develop a spill prevention and countermeasure plan that will identify proper storage, collection,  
6 and disposal measures for potential pollutants (such as fuel, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) used on-  
7 site. The plan will also require the proper storage, handling, use, and disposal of petroleum  
8 products.
- 9 13. Establish fuel and vehicle maintenance areas away from all drainage courses and design these  
10 areas to control runoff.
- 11 14. Install a stabilized construction entrance/exit and stabilization of disturbed areas.
- 12 15. Properly manage construction materials, including a water plan, to treat disturbed areas during  
13 construction and reduce dust.
- 14 16. Manage waste and aggressively control litter.
- 15 17. Obtain all necessary permits and approvals.

16 *Timing/Implementation: Submit BMPs prior to start of construction; implement BMPs*  
17 *throughout construction*

18 *Enforcement/Monitoring: Riverside County*

19 Rationale: Implementation of the above Standard Condition and Mitigation Measure would reduce  
20 the Project's potential impact associated with violating water quality standards or waste discharge  
21 requirements to less than significant by requiring the use of comprehensive stormwater pollution and  
22 erosion control BMPs for the Project to prevent all construction pollutants from contacting stormwater.  
23 [DEIR pp. 4.10-25 through 4.10-28]

24 **2. Violate Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge Requirements During Operation**  
25 **and Maintenance (Impact 4.10-2):** Accidental releases from the 1-acre evaporation pond could result  
26 from accidental overtopping during a storm event. This could result in a release of concentrated brine and  
27  
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1 associated water quality pollutants from the evaporation pond and into adjacent surface runoff and could  
2 result in a significant impact with respect to water quality.

3 Finding: The Mitigation Measure outlined below would reduce to a less-than-significant level the  
4 Project's impact associated with water quality standards and waste discharge requirements. The Mitigation  
5 Measure reflects changes or alterations that the County has required, or incorporated into, the Project that  
6 would avoid or substantially lessen the potentially significant impact as identified in the EIR. (CEQA  
7 Guidelines §15091(a)(1)).

8 Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.10-2 in the Mitigation Monitoring  
9 and Reporting Program would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

10 Mitigation Measure 4.10-2 states:

11 The proposed evaporation ponds shall be sized to accommodate operational discharges plus a 25-  
12 year storm event within the tributary area, with no less than 1 foot of freeboard.

13 *Timing/Implementation: Final Project design*

14 *Enforcement/Monitoring: Riverside County*

15 Rationale: Implementation of the above Mitigation Measure would reduce the Project's potential  
16 impact associated with violating water quality standards or waste discharge requirements to less than  
17 significant by requiring that evaporation ponds be designed to protect against accidental overtopping during  
18 a storm event. [DEIR p. 4.10-29]

19 **3. Violate Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge Requirements During**  
20 **Decommissioning (Impact 4.10-3)**: Decommissioning impacts generally would be similar to those  
21 indicated for construction, with respect to potential for release of construction related water quality  
22 pollutants.

23 Finding: The Standard Condition and Mitigation Measure outlined above in Section III(H)(1) of  
24 these Findings would reduce to a less-than-significant level the Project's impact associated with water  
25 quality standards and waste discharge requirements. The Standard Condition and Mitigation Measure  
26 reflect changes or alterations that the County has required, or incorporated into, the Project that would  
27



1 avoid or substantially lessen the potentially significant impact as identified in the EIR. (CEQA Guidelines  
2 §15091(a)(1)).

3 Mitigation Measure: Implementation of the Mitigation Measure 4.10-1 in the Mitigation Monitoring  
4 and Reporting Program would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

5 Rationale: Implementation of the Standard Condition and Mitigation Measure 4.10-1 outlined in  
6 Section III(H)(1) would reduce the Project's potential impact associated with violating water quality  
7 standards or waste discharge requirements to less than significant by requiring the use of comprehensive  
8 stormwater pollution and erosion control BMPs for the Project to prevent all construction pollutants from  
9 contacting stormwater. [DEIR p. 4.10-30]

10 **4. Deplete Groundwater Supplies or Interfere Substantially with Groundwater Recharge**  
11 **(Impact 4.10-4)**: Construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Project could  
12 deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit  
13 in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table.

14 Finding: The Mitigation Measure outlined below would reduce to a less-than-significant level the  
15 Project's potential impacts on groundwater. The Mitigation Measure reflects changes or alterations that the  
16 County has required, or incorporated into, the Project that would avoid or substantially lessen the  
17 potentially significant impact as identified in the EIR. (CEQA Guidelines §15091(a)(1)).

18 Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.10-4 in the Mitigation Monitoring  
19 and Reporting Program would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

20 Mitigation Measure 4.10-4 states:

21 A Groundwater Monitoring and Mitigation Plan shall be prepared prior to construction. The Plan  
22 shall be prepared by a qualified professional geologist, hydrogeologist, or civil engineer registered in the  
23 State of California and submitted by the Applicant to the Riverside County Department of Environmental  
24 Health for approval, and to the RWQCB for review and comment. This Plan shall provide detailed  
25 methodology for monitoring background and site groundwater levels, water quality, and flow. Monitoring  
26 shall be performed during pre-construction, construction, and operation of the Project, with the intent to  
27 establish pre-construction and Project- related groundwater level and water quality trends that can be  
28

1 quantitatively compared against observed and simulated trends near the Project pumping wells and near  
2 potentially affected existing private wells, if any. Water quality monitoring shall include annual sampling  
3 and testing for constituents as required by the California Department of Health for the proposed on-site  
4 potable use.

5 The Groundwater Monitoring and Mitigation Plan shall include a schedule for submittal of quarterly  
6 data reports by the Applicant to the County, for the duration of the monitoring period. These quarterly data  
7 reports shall be prepared and submitted to the County for review and approval, and shall include water level  
8 monitoring data (trend analyses) from all pumping and monitoring wells. Based on the results of the quarterly  
9 reports, the Applicant and County shall determine if the Project's pumping activities have resulted in water  
10 level decline in the baseline at any of the monitoring wells, including nearby operating private wells, if any. If  
11 significant drawdown occurs at active off-site groundwater supply wells, the Applicant shall immediately  
12 reduce groundwater pumping until water levels stabilize or recover, to a reasonable level. The measure of the  
13 significance of the water level decline and associated mitigation measure for operating water supply wells  
14 shall be outlined in the Groundwater Monitoring and Mitigation Plan.

15 The Groundwater Monitoring and Mitigation Plan shall also include a schedule for submittal of  
16 annual data reports by the Applicant to the County, for the first 5 years of the Project (including the  
17 construction period). These annual data reports shall be prepared and submitted to the County for review  
18 and approval, and shall include at a minimum the following information:

- 19 1. Daily usage, monthly range, and monthly average of daily water usage in gallons per day;
- 20 2. Total water used on a monthly and annual basis in acre-feet; summary of all water level data and  
21 water quality data;
- 22 3. Identification of trends that indicate potential for off-site wells to experience decline of water  
23 level; and
- 24 4. Identification of all sources of water by type (i.e., groundwater, surface water, municipal water)  
25 and well/location used on private or County-owned land.

26 The County shall determine whether operating groundwater supply wells surrounding the Project site  
27 are influenced by Project activities. The Groundwater Monitoring and Mitigation Plan shall describe  
28

1 additional mitigation measures that may be implemented if the County determines that additional mitigation  
2 is required, which shall be implemented as agreed upon in the Plan and with the concurrence of the County.  
3 After the first 5 years of the Project, the Applicant and the County shall jointly evaluate the effectiveness of  
4 the Groundwater Monitoring and Mitigation Plan and determine if monitoring frequencies or procedures  
5 should be revised or eliminated.

6 *Timing/Implementation: Prepare plan prior to construction; implement monitoring and*  
7 *mitigation if required during pre-construction, construction, and operation*

8 *Enforcement/Monitoring: Riverside County*

9 Rationale: Implementation of the above mitigation measure would reduce the Project's potential  
10 impacts on groundwater quality to less than significant by requiring monitoring of background and site  
11 groundwater levels, water quality, and flow, and adaptive management in the event that impacts are  
12 detected through monitoring. [DEIR pp. 4.10-30 through 4.10-37]

13 **5. Alter the Existing Drainage Pattern of the Site or Area Resulting in Erosion or Siltation**

14 **(Impact 4.10-5)**: Although on-site grading would be minimized, and major features of existing on-site  
15 drainages would be preserved, the installation of proposed facilities, including roads, fencing, and solar  
16 arrays, could interfere with existing drainage patterns on-site. These changes could result in altered  
17 hydrology on site or downstream, thereby causing increases in erosion and sedimentation.

18 Finding: The Mitigation Measure outlined below would reduce to a less-than-significant level the  
19 Project's potential impacts on drainage patterns. The Mitigation Measure reflects changes or alterations that  
20 the County has required, or incorporated into, the Project that would avoid or substantially lessen the  
21 potentially significant impact as identified in the EIR. (CEQA Guidelines §15091(a)(1)).

22 Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.10-5 in the Mitigation Monitoring  
23 and Reporting Program would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

24 Mitigation Measure 4.10-5 states:

25 The Applicant shall prepare a Comprehensive Drainage, Stormwater, and Sedimentation Plan prior  
26 to the initiation of construction (or decommissioning as relevant), and ensure that recommendations of that  
27 plan are implemented.

28

1 The Applicant shall ensure that additional stormwater retention measures and facilities, including  
2 but not limited to retention basins and other facilities or features designed to retain stormwater on site, shall  
3 be implemented within the Project site. Stormwater retention facilities shall be designed to accommodate  
4 increases in flows that would be generated as a result of Project implementation, in comparison to existing  
5 conditions as identified in DEIR Tables 4.10-12 and 4.10-13, such that Project implementation would not  
6 result in a net increase in discharge from the site under either a 10-year or 100-year storm event.

7 At the installation sites for new buildings, roads, the switchyard, transformers, solar panels, the gen-tie  
8 line, transmission towers, and other facilities that would be installed in association with the Project, designs  
9 for these facilities shall be described in a detailed delineation report, which shall be submitted to, reviewed,  
10 and approved by the County Flood Control District with respect to potential generation of altered stormwater  
11 flows, erosion, and sedimentation prior to issuance of building permits and prior to grading permit issuance.  
12 Additionally, solar panels shall have a minimum clearance of 24 inches above the highest adjacent ground  
13 when upright to ensure flows are not obstructed. The use of flow-obstructing fencing shall be avoided;  
14 instead, fencing that allows for the passage of water while minimizing buildup of debris shall be utilized on  
15 site, such as an elevated chain link fence with a bottom portion of collapsible tortoise fence to allow it to  
16 collapse if too much ponding or debris buildup occurs. To ensure implementation of Applicant Proposed  
17 Measure BIO-1b and Mitigation Measure 4.4-2a, the Applicant shall coordinate with the County, BLM,  
18 CDFW, and USFWS to determine appropriate fencing design. All proposed grading and impervious surfaces  
19 on site shall be reviewed and approved by the County, with respect to its potential to cause or result in  
20 additional erosion and sedimentation, increased stormwater flows, or altered drainage patterns that could lead  
21 to unintentional ponding or flooding on site or downstream, and/or additional erosion and sedimentation.  
22 Stormwater flows emanating from proposed impervious surfaces shall be retained on site and/or directed into  
23 channels and other stormwater infrastructure, and shall be sized such that unintentional ponding, flooding,  
24 erosion, or sedimentation would not occur on site or downstream.

25 *Timing/Implementation: Prior to initiation of construction or decommissioning*

26 *Enforcement/Monitoring: Riverside County*

1        Rationale: Implementation of the above mitigation measure would reduce the Project's potential  
2 impacts on drainage patterns to less than significant by requiring the preparation of Comprehensive  
3 Drainage, Stormwater, and Sedimentation Plan prior to the initiation of construction (or decommissioning as  
4 relevant), and ensuring that recommendations of that plan are implemented. [DEIR pp. 4.10-38 through 4.10-  
5 47]

6        **6. Alter the Existing Drainage Pattern of the Site or Area Resulting in Flooding On- or Off-Site**  
7 **(Impact 4.10-6)**: Because the Project is located within a flood hazard area, as identified by Riverside  
8 County Floodplain Management Ordinance No. 458, in the event that a major storm event occurs during  
9 Project construction, unanticipated flooding could occur on site. Unless construction practices and  
10 procedures are carefully managed, construction period flooding could result in damages to on site facilities,  
11 interference with the construction process, and potential exposure of employees to flood conditions,  
12 resulting in a significant impact. As evaluated by the Department of Water Resources, the Project site is  
13 also located within an "Awareness Floodplain" area.

14        Finding: The Mitigation Measure outlined below would reduce to a less-than-significant level the  
15 Project's potential impacts on flooding. The Mitigation Measure reflects changes or alterations that the  
16 County has required, or incorporated into, the Project that would avoid or substantially lessen the  
17 potentially significant impact as identified in the EIR. (CEQA Guidelines §15091(a)(1)).

18        Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.10-6 in the Mitigation Monitoring  
19 and Reporting Program would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

20        Mitigation Measure 4.10-6 states:

21        The Applicant shall ensure that during construction, temporary construction related structures such  
22 as bridges, roads, berms, and other facilities, would be constructed so as to avoid interference with 100-  
23 year flood flows. Temporary installation of the following types of facilities shall be avoided: temporary  
24 elevated earthen structures such as roads and berms; earthen bridges or other structures within a waterway  
25 or flood conveyance that could interfere with flood flows; dams; unnecessary ditches; other major  
26 structures that could concentrate flood flows. Additionally, to the extent practicable, the Applicant shall  
27 ensure that the construction process proceeds in a manner so as to minimize exposure of facilities to  
28

1 construction period flooding. Temporary ditches and trenches (such as for pipes, wires, or other  
2 infrastructure) should be completed and backfilled as quickly as possible, and should not be left open for  
3 extended periods. Drainage infrastructure should be installed prior to installation of the solar arrays and  
4 other facilities on site. Other facilities that may be susceptible to flood damage during construction should  
5 be managed so as to minimize construction time of those facilities.

6 *Timing/Implementation: During construction, operation and maintenance, and*  
7 *decommissioning*

8 *Enforcement/Monitoring: Riverside County*

9 Rationale: Implementation of the above mitigation measure would reduce the Project's potential  
10 impacts on flooding to less than significant by requiring the Project to avoid interference with 100-year  
11 flood flows and minimize exposure of facilities to flooding. [DEIR pp. 4.10-47 through 4.10-48]

12 **7. Exceed the Capacity of Existing or Planned Stormwater Drainage Systems or Provide**  
13 **Substantial Additional Sources of Polluted Runoff (Impact 4.10-7):** Flood flows associated with 100-  
14 year storm events could inundate maintenance areas, fill areas, and parking lots, potentially entraining  
15 constituents that can adversely affect stormwater quality (such as oil, grease, and sediment) that could  
16 result in polluted runoff being discharged from the Project site. Additionally, inundation of the evaporation  
17 pond by flood flows could result in overtopping of the evaporation pond, potentially resulting in an  
18 exceedance of the capacity of the evaporation pond to contain stormwater runoff as well as the entrainment  
19 of constituents (such as sediments) into stormwater runoff being discharged from the inundated evaporation  
20 pond.

21 Finding: The Mitigation Measure outlined below would reduce to a less-than-significant level the  
22 Project's potential impacts related to stormwater drainage systems and polluted runoff. The Mitigation  
23 Measure reflects changes or alterations that the County has required, or incorporated into, the Project that  
24 would avoid or substantially lessen the potentially significant impact as identified in the EIR. (CEQA  
25 Guidelines §15091(a)(1)).

26 Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.10-7 in the Mitigation Monitoring  
27 and Reporting Program would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

1 Mitigation Measure 4.10-7 states:

2 In order to ensure that proposed on-site buildings and staff therein are protected from flooding, all  
3 on-site buildings and fill areas shall be placed outside of frequent flood flow areas. Additionally, proposed  
4 on-site buildings, maintenance areas, designated parking lots, and associated facilities shall be constructed  
5 at a finished floor elevation of at least 1 foot above the highest anticipated flood flows during a 100-year  
6 event. The proposed evaporation pond shall include berms or levees that reach at least 2 feet above the  
7 highest anticipated flood flows during a 100-year storm event, or at least 2 feet above the highest adjacent  
8 ground, whichever is greater, in order to protect the evaporation pond from incident flooding events and  
9 ensure that the ponds are not inundated by flood flows. Slope protection shall be provided for all fill areas  
10 exposed to erosive flows. In specific areas where frequent flows are anticipated, posts for solar panels shall  
11 be constructed on a deepened footing, as recommended by the geotechnical engineer, in order to withstand  
12 anticipated scouring.

13 *Timing/Implementation: Final Project design*

14 *Enforcement/Monitoring: Riverside County*

15 Rationale: Implementation of the above mitigation measure would reduce the Project's potential  
16 impacts related to stormwater drainage systems and polluted runoff to less than significant by requiring  
17 Project design to accommodate 100-year flood flows. [DEIR pp. 4.10-49, 4.10-50]

18 **8. Expose People or Structures to a Significant Risk of Loss, Injury Or Death Involving**  
19 **Flooding (Impact 4.10-9):** There are no dams or levees located in the vicinity of the Project area that could  
20 expose people or structures to flooding due to failure of a dam or levee. However, the Project would be  
21 located in an area that may be subject to overland flooding, which could result in a significant impact by  
22 exposing people or structures to significant risk. On-site inundation of the solar arrays during flood periods  
23 is anticipated as a matter of Project design. However, some of the proposed facilities on-site would require  
24 protection from flooding to protect people and structures.

25 Finding: The Mitigation Measure outlined below would reduce to a less-than-significant level the  
26 Project's potential impacts related to exposing people or structures to flooding. The Mitigation Measure  
27 reflects changes or alterations that the County has required, or incorporated into, the Project that would  
28

1 avoid or substantially lessen the potentially significant impact as identified in the EIR. (CEQA Guidelines  
2 §15091(a)(1)).

3 Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.10-9 in the Mitigation Monitoring  
4 and Reporting Program would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

5 Mitigation Measure 4.10-9 states:

6 Prior to initiation of Project operation, the Applicant shall complete a Flood Safety Plan for the site  
7 and submit the plan to the County for review and approval. The Flood Safety Plan shall delineate specific  
8 actions to be completed during a flood event, in order to protect workers and facilities as relevant. The Plan  
9 shall identify refuge areas that would not be susceptible to 100-year flooding, and provide requirements and  
10 guidance with respect to avoiding injury, death, or equipment damage during a flood event. The Plan shall  
11 be adhered to and updated, as needed, during the entire operation period of the Project.

12 *Timing/Implementation: Prior to initiation of operation*

13 *Enforcement/Monitoring: Riverside County*

14 Rationale: Implementation of the above mitigation measure would reduce the Project's potential  
15 impacts related to exposing people or structures to flooding to less than significant by requiring the  
16 preparation and implementation of a Flood Safety Plan that would identify refuge areas for workers and  
17 guidance as to how to avoid injury, death or equipment damage. [DEIR pp. 4.10-51, 4.10-52]

18 **DD. Transportation and Traffic**

19 **1. Construction- and Decommissioning-Related Increased Roadway Hazards (Impact 4.17-3):**

20 Truck trips associated with the construction and decommissioning of the proposed facilities on the Project  
21 site would temporarily change the mix of vehicle types on area roads. During construction and  
22 decommissioning activities, there would be work related to gen-tie and transmission lines that would occur  
23 within existing roadways. Traffic safety hazards could occur due to: (1) conflicts where construction vehicles  
24 access a public right-of-way from the Project area; (2) conflicts where road width is narrowed; or  
25 (3) increased truck traffic in general (and their slower speeds and wider turning radii) during construction,  
26 operation, maintenance, and decommissioning.



1        Finding: The Mitigation Measure outlined below would reduce to a less-than-significant level the  
2 Project's impacts associated with increased roadway hazards. The Mitigation Measure reflects changes or  
3 alterations that the County has required, or incorporated into, the Project that would avoid or substantially  
4 lessen the potentially significant impact as identified in the EIR. (CEQA Guidelines §15091(a)(1)).

5        Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.17-3 in the Mitigation Monitoring  
6 and Reporting Program would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

7        Mitigation Measure 4.17-3 states:

8        The Applicant and/or its contractor shall prepare and implement a traffic control plan to reduce  
9 construction- and decommissioning-related traffic impacts on the roadways at and near the work site, as  
10 well as to reduce potential traffic safety hazards and ensure adequate access for emergency responders. The  
11 Applicant and/or its contractor shall coordinate development and implementation of this plan with the BLM  
12 and other jurisdictional agencies (e.g., Riverside County, City of Blythe, and Caltrans), as appropriate. To  
13 the extent applicable, the traffic control plan shall conform to Part 6 (Temporary Traffic Control) of the  
14 California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (Caltrans, 2010), and shall include, but not be  
15 limited to, the following elements:

- 16        1. Implementing circulation and detour plans to minimize impacts on local road circulation during  
17        temporary lane closures. Flaggers and/or signage shall be used to guide vehicles through and/or  
18        around the work zone.
- 19        2. Identifying truck routes designated by Riverside County and local jurisdictions. Haul routes that  
20        minimize truck traffic on local roadways shall be utilized to the extent possible.
- 21        3. Providing sufficient-sized staging areas for trucks accessing work zones to minimize disruption  
22        of access to adjacent public right-of-ways.
- 23        4. Controlling and monitoring worker vehicle movement through the enforcement of standard  
24        construction specifications by on-site inspectors.
- 25        5. Scheduling truck trips outside the peak morning and evening commute hours to the extent  
26        possible.
- 27        6. Limiting the duration of lane closures to the extent possible.

- 1 7. Storing all equipment and materials in designated contractor staging areas on or adjacent to the  
2 worksite, such that traffic obstruction is minimized.
- 3 8. Implementing roadside safety protocols. Advance "Road Work Ahead" warning and speed  
4 control signs (including those informing drivers of state-legislated double fines for speed  
5 infractions in a work zone) shall be posted to reduce speeds and provide safe traffic flow  
6 through the work zone.
- 7 9. Providing advance notification to administrators of police and fire stations (including fire  
8 protection agencies), ambulance service providers, and recreational facility managers of the  
9 timing, location, and duration of construction and decommissioning activities and the locations  
10 of detours and lane closures, where applicable. Maintain access for emergency vehicles within,  
11 and/or adjacent to, roadways affected by construction and decommissioning activities at all  
12 times.
- 13 10. Repairing and restoring adversely affected roadway pavements to their pre-construction  
14 condition.

15 *Timing/Implementation: During construction and Decommissioning*

16 *Enforcement/Monitoring: Riverside County*

17 Rationale: Implementation of the above Mitigation Measure would reduce the Project's impacts to  
18 less than significant by requiring the implementation of traffic control best management practices and  
19 requiring that the Applicant repair any roadway damage resulting from construction or decommissioning  
20 traffic. [DEIR pp. 4.17-15 through 4.17-16]

21 **2. Inadequate Emergency Access (Impact 4.17-5)**: Construction and decommissioning activities  
22 would occur along specific corridors and easements, with minimal lane closures expected. Drivers of  
23 vehicles traveling behind a slow-moving heavy truck would be slowed, but rules of the road dictate that  
24 emergency vehicles have the right-of-way, and Project-related activities would not substantially impair  
25 emergency access. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.17-3 would further reduce this potential  
26 impact.

1        Finding: The Mitigation Measure outlined above in Section III(I)(1) of these Findings would reduce  
2 to a less-than-significant level the Project's impacts associated with inadequate emergency access. The  
3 Mitigation Measure reflects changes or alterations that the County has required, or incorporated into, the  
4 Project that would avoid or substantially lessen the potentially significant impact as identified in the EIR.  
5 (CEQA Guidelines §15091(a)(1)).

6        Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.17-3 in the Mitigation Monitoring  
7 and Reporting Program would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

8        See Mitigation Measure 4.17-3 outlined above in Section III(I)(1) of these Findings.

9        Rationale: Implementation of the above Mitigation Measure would reduce the Project's impacts to  
10 less than significant by requiring the Applicant and/or its contractor(s) to notify local police and emergency  
11 responders regarding the timing, location, and duration of construction activities and the locations of lane  
12 closures, where applicable. [DEIR pp. 4.17-16 through 4.17-17]

13        **3. Cumulatively Considerable Contribution to Traffic Impacts to the Surrounding Road**  
14 **Network (Impact 6-2)**: It is likely that a portion of construction traffic, including worker and haul trucks, for  
15 all projects in the cumulative scenario would traverse the same portion of I-10 as Project construction-related  
16 traffic. Although the construction period, workforce, and schedule for the majority of foreseeable future  
17 projects are generally unknown, in a worst-case scenario where construction peak periods overlapped for all  
18 projects proposed in the Project area, the LOS of I-10 could be temporarily degraded, but likely would not be  
19 degraded below the acceptable LOS C, and would not result in any permanent LOS degradation. Levels of  
20 congestion (delay) at on- and off-ramps along I-10 could be adversely affected due to the temporary influx of  
21 construction-related traffic; however, even a worst-case scenario would not likely exceed the capacity of I-10,  
22 which in this area has two lanes in both directions to accommodate the anticipated increase in traffic while  
23 maintaining adequate traffic flow along the freeway mainline.

24        Finding: The Mitigation Measures outlined below would reduce to a less-than-significant level the  
25 Project's cumulatively considerable contribution to traffic impacts to the surrounding road network. The  
26 Mitigation Measures reflect changes or alterations that the County has required, or incorporated into the  
27  
28

1 Project, that would avoid or substantially lessen the potentially significant impact as identified in the EIR.  
2 (CEQA Guidelines §15091(a)(1)).

3 Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.17-3 and 6-2 in the Mitigation  
4 Monitoring and Reporting Program would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

5 See Mitigation Measure 4.17-3, outlined above in Section III(I)(1) of these Findings. Mitigation  
6 Measure 6-2 states:

7 Prior to construction, the Applicant shall develop a Coordinated Transportation Management Plan  
8 and work with Riverside County and the BLM to prepare and implement a transportation management plan  
9 for roadways adjacent to and directly affected by the planned Project facilities, and to address the  
10 transportation impact of the multiple overlapping construction projects within the vicinity of the Project in  
11 the region. The transportation management plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following  
12 requirements:

- 13 1. Coordination of individual traffic control plans for Project and nearby projects.
  - 14 2. Coordination between the contractor and Riverside County in developing circulation and detour  
15 plans that include safety features (e.g., signage and flaggers). The circulation and detour plans  
16 shall address:
    - 17 a. Full and partial roadways closures;
    - 18 b. Circulation and detour plans to include the use of signage and flagging to guide vehicles  
19 through and/or around the construction zone, as well as any temporary traffic control  
20 devices;
    - 21 c. Bicycle detour plans, where applicable;
    - 22 d. Parking along arterial and local roadways; and
    - 23 e. Haul routes for construction trucks and staging areas for instances when multiple trucks  
24 arrive at the work sites.
- 25 Protocols for updating the transportation management plan to account for delays or changes in  
26 the schedules of individual projects.

1        Rationale: Implementation of the above Mitigation Measures would reduce the Project's  
2 contribution to cumulative impacts on the local road network to less than significant and not cumulatively  
3 considerable by requiring the Applicant to develop and implement a Coordinated Transportation  
4 Management Plan that would require the Project to coordinate its traffic plan to address and avoid the  
5 transportation impacts of the multiple overlapping construction projects within the Project vicinity. [DEIR  
6 pp. 6-47 through 6-49]

7 **EE. Utilities and Service Systems**

8        **1. Exceed Wastewater Treatment Requirements of the Applicable Regional Water Quality**  
9 **Control Board (Impact 4.18-1)**: If the Applicant were to use brine from the reverse osmosis water  
10 treatment system as a land-applied dust suppressant or apply brine to the ground for any other purpose,  
11 such use would conflict with the requirements of the Colorado River RWQCB regarding the disposal of  
12 brine, and would result in a significant impact.

13        Finding: The Mitigation Measure outlined below would reduce to a less-than-significant level the  
14 Project's impacts associated with wastewater treatment requirements. The Mitigation Measure reflects  
15 changes or alterations that the County has required, or incorporated into, the Project that would avoid or  
16 substantially lessen the potentially significant impact as identified in the EIR. (CEQA Guidelines  
17 §15091(a)(1)).

18        Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.18-1 in the Mitigation Monitoring  
19 and Reporting Program would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

20        See Mitigation Measure 4.18-1 states:

21        In order to ensure that the selected reverse osmosis brine disposal method would not conflict with  
22 Colorado River RWQCB requirements or policies, the Applicant shall not use brine as a land-applied dust  
23 suppressant or apply brine to the ground for any other purpose.

24        Rationale: Implementation of the above Mitigation Measure would reduce the Project's impacts to  
25 less than significant by prohibiting the Applicant and/or its contractor(s) from using brine as a land-applied  
26 dust suppressant. [DEIR pp. 4.17-7, 4.18-8]

1           **2. Require and Result in the Construction of New Storm Water Drainage Facilities (Impact**

2 **4.18-2):** The Project would include installation of new stormwater and drainage facilities on site.

3           Finding: The Mitigation Measure outlined above in Section III(H)(5) of these Findings would  
4 reduce to a less-than-significant level the Project's potential impacts on drainage. The Mitigation Measure  
5 reflects changes or alterations that the County has required, or incorporated into, the Project that would  
6 avoid or substantially lessen the potentially significant impact as identified in the EIR. (CEQA Guidelines  
7 §15091(a)(1)).

8           Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.10-5 in the Mitigation Monitoring  
9 and Reporting Program would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

10           See Mitigation Measure 4.10-5 in Section III(H)(5) of these Findings.

11           Rationale: Implementation of the above mitigation measure would reduce the Project's potential  
12 impacts due to the construction of new drainage facilities to less than significant by requiring the  
13 preparation of Comprehensive Drainage, Stormwater, and Sedimentation Plan prior to the initiation of  
14 construction (or decommissioning as relevant), and ensuring that recommendations of that plan are  
15 implemented. [DEIR p. 4.18-9]

16           **3. Not Comply with Federal, State, and Local Statutes and Regulations Related to Solid Waste**

17 **(Impact 4.18-2):** The disposal of broken or degraded solar panels during all phases of the Project could  
18 require special handling or disposal practices and would be guided by the Broken PV Module Detection  
19 and Handling Plan described in Mitigation Measure 4.9-1b.

20           Finding: Mitigation Measure 4.9-1b outlined above in Section III(G)(1) of these Findings would  
21 reduce to a less-than-significant level the Project's potential impacts with regard to the disposal of  
22 cadmium telluride-containing solar panels. The Mitigation Measure reflects changes or alterations that the  
23 County has required, or incorporated into, the Project that would avoid or substantially lessen the  
24 potentially significant impact as identified in the EIR. (CEQA Guidelines §15091(a)(1)).

25           Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.9-1b in the Mitigation Monitoring  
26 and Reporting Program would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

27           See Mitigation Measure 4.9-1b in Section III(G)(1) of these Findings.



1            Finding: The Board of Supervisors finds that the cumulative impact to scenic vistas and the existing  
2 character and quality of the landscape would be long-term, adverse, and is not expected to be mitigated to a  
3 less-than-significant level with implementation of feasible mitigation measures. No feasible mitigation is  
4 available to reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level and this impact would remain significant and  
5 unavoidable. (CEQA Guidelines §15091(a)(3)). Consequently, a Statement of Overriding Considerations  
6 would be necessary should the Board of Supervisors wish to approve the Project. (CEQA Guidelines  
7 §15093)

8            Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measures 6-1a through 6-1d in the Mitigation  
9 Monitoring and Reporting Program would reduce this impact, but not below established thresholds of  
10 significance.

11            Mitigation Measure 6-1a states:

12            Visual design elements shall be integrated into the construction plans, details, shop drawings and  
13 specifications; these shall include, but not be limited to, grubbing and clearing, vegetation thinning and  
14 clearing, grading, revegetation, drainage, and structural plans. Visual design elements within the plans shall  
15 be measureable and monitored while under construction, while operational, and when decommissioned.  
16 The plans shall include a monitoring and compliance plan that establishes the monitoring requirements and  
17 thresholds for acceptable performance. A careful study of the site shall be performed to identify appropriate  
18 colors and textures for materials; both summer and winter appearance shall be considered as well as  
19 seasons of peak visitor use (September 15 to April 15). Visual design elements to be integrated into  
20 construction plans, details, shop drawings and specifications must at a minimum include:

- 21            1. Vegetation and ground disturbance associated with access road construction, gen-tie and  
22            distribution line installations, and the perimeter access road shall be minimized and take  
23            advantage of existing clearings wherever feasible.
- 24            2. Along all off-site access roads, all off-site gen-tie and distribution line corridors, and all internal  
25            access roads 16 feet or wider, graveled surfaces, areas to be permanently cleared of vegetation,  
26            and (if applicable) cut slopes shall be treated with rock stains or other color treatment  
27            appropriate with the surrounding landscape.



- 1 3. Openings in vegetation for facilities, structures, roads, and gen-tie line monopoles (and/or H-  
2 frames), shall be feathered and shaped to repeat the size, shape, and characteristics of naturally  
3 occurring openings.
- 4 4. A form of color treatment shall be used to reduce visual contrast between the backs or non-  
5 energy gathering side of the solar panels and the landscape setting. Since not all of the panels  
6 are visible outside the Project footprint, the exact location or color treatment method that will be  
7 required shall be determined prior to installation.
- 8 5. Security fencing shall be coated with black poly-vinyl or other visual contrast reducing color.
- 9 6. Materials, coatings, or paints having little or no reflectivity shall be used whenever possible.
- 10 7. Grouped structures, including the water tanks and prefabricated buildings, shall be painted the  
11 same color to reduce visual complexity and color contrast.
- 12 8. The gen-tie line and the distribution line shall utilize nonspecular conductors and nonreflective  
13 coatings on insulators.
- 14 9. The choice of color treatments shall be based on the appearance at typical viewing distances and  
15 consider the entire landscape around the proposed development as it would be viewed from  
16 publically accessible locations. Appropriate colors for smooth surfaces often need to be two to  
17 three shades darker than the background color to compensate for shadows that darken most  
18 textured natural surfaces. Choice of colors shall be made in consultation with a County  
19 landscape architect or other designated visual resource specialist.
- 20 10. A lighting plan shall be prepared that documents how lighting will be designed and installed to  
21 minimize night-sky impacts during facility construction and operations. Lighting for facilities  
22 should not exceed the minimum number of lights and brightness required for safety and  
23 security, and should not cause excessive reflected glare. Low-pressure sodium light sources  
24 should be used to reduce light pollution. Full cut-off luminaires should be used to minimize  
25 uplighting. Lights should be directed downward or toward the area to be illuminated. Light  
26 fixtures should not spill light beyond the Project boundary. Lights in highly illuminated areas  
27 that are not occupied on a continuous basis should have switches, timer switches, or motion  
28

1 detectors so that the lights operate only when the area is occupied. Where feasible, vehicle  
2 mounted lights should be used for night maintenance activities. Wherever feasible, consistent  
3 with safety and security, lighting should be kept off when not in use. The lighting plan should  
4 include a process for promptly addressing and mitigating complaints about potential lighting  
5 impacts.

6 *Timing/Implementation: Prior to final design and during all Project phases*

7 *Enforcement/Monitoring: Riverside County*

8 Mitigation Measure 6-1b states:

9 Construction Phase Visual Mitigation. A pre-construction meeting with County landscape  
10 architects, BLM landscape architects, or other designated visual/scenic resource specialists shall be held  
11 before construction begins to coordinate on the mitigation strategy and confirm the compliance-checking  
12 schedule and procedures. Final design and construction documents will be reviewed for completeness with  
13 regard to the visual mitigation elements, assuring that requirements and commitments are adequately  
14 addressed. The construction documents shall include, but not be limited to grading, drainage, revegetation,  
15 vegetation clearing, and feathering plans. Specific measures shall include the following:

- 16 1. The Applicant shall reduce visual impacts during construction by clearly delineating  
17 construction boundaries and minimizing areas of surface disturbance; preserving existing, native  
18 vegetation to the extent feasible; utilizing undulating surface-disturbance edges; stripping,  
19 salvaging, and replacing topsoil; using contoured grading; controlling erosion; using dust  
20 suppression techniques; and restoring exposed soils to their original contour and vegetation.
- 21 2. Visual impact mitigation objectives and activities shall be discussed with equipment operators  
22 before construction activities begin.
- 23 3. Existing rocks, vegetation, and drainage patterns shall be preserved to the extent feasible.
- 24 4. Brush-beating or mowing or using protective surface matting rather than removing vegetation  
25 shall be employed where feasible.
- 26 5. Slash from vegetation removal shall be mulched and spread to cover fresh soil disturbances as  
27 part of the revegetation plan. Slash piles shall not be left in sensitive viewing areas.

- 1 6. The visual color contrast of graveled surfaces shall be reduced with approved color treatment  
2 practices.
- 3 7. No paint or permanent discoloring agents shall be applied to rocks or vegetation to indicate  
4 surveyor construction activity limits.
- 5 8. All stakes and flagging shall be removed from the construction area and disposed of in an  
6 approved facility.

7 *Timing/Implementation: Prior to and during construction*

8 *Enforcement/Monitoring: Riverside County*

9 Mitigation Measure 6-1c states:

10 Operation and Maintenance Phase Visual Mitigation. Minimum measures are as follows:

- 11 1. The Applicant shall maintain revegetated surfaces until a self-sustaining stand of vegetation is  
12 re-established and visually adapted to the undisturbed surrounding vegetation. No new  
13 disturbance shall be created during operations without prior approval from the County.
- 14 2. Interim restoration shall be undertaken during the operating life of the Project as soon as  
15 possible after disturbances.
- 16 3. Painted facilities shall be kept in good repair and repainted when color fades or flakes.
- 17 4. The color treatment method used to reduce visual contrast between the backs or non-energy  
18 gathering side of the solar panels and the landscape setting shall be kept in good repair, and  
19 repaired/retreated when it no longer effectively reduces the visual contrast.

20 *Timing/Implementation: Throughout operation and maintenance of Project*

21 *Enforcement/Monitoring: Riverside County*

22 Mitigation Measure 6-1d states:

23 A Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan, covering visual impact mitigation measures, shall  
24 be in place prior to construction, and reclamation activities should be undertaken as soon as possible after  
25 disturbances occur and be maintained throughout the life of the Project. The following  
26 decommissioning/reclamation activities/practices shall be implemented to partially mitigate visual impacts  
27 associated with solar energy development, where feasible:

- 1 1. Pre-development visual conditions shall be reviewed, and the visual elements of form, line,  
2 color, and texture shall be restored to pre-development visual compatibility or to that of the  
3 surrounding landscape setting conditions, whichever achieves the better visual quality and most  
4 ecologically sound outcome.
- 5 2. A Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan shall be developed, approved by the County,  
6 and implemented. The plan shall require that all aboveground and near-ground structures be  
7 removed. Some structures shall be removed only to a level below the ground surface that will  
8 allow reclamation/restoration. Topsoil from all decommissioning activities shall be salvaged and  
9 reapplied during final reclamation. The plan shall include provisions for monitoring and  
10 determining compliance with the plan.
- 11 3. Soil borrow areas, cut-and-fill slopes, berms, water bars, and other disturbed areas shall be  
12 contoured to approximate naturally occurring slopes, thereby avoiding form and line contrasts  
13 with the existing landscapes. The Applicant shall contour to a rough texture (i.e., use large  
14 rocks/boulders, grade uneven surfaces, and/or vegetation mulches/debris) in order to trap seed  
15 and to discourage off-road travel, thereby reducing associated visual impacts.
- 16 4. A combination of seeding, planting of nursery stock, transplanting of local vegetation within the  
17 proposed disturbance areas, and staging of decommissioning activities enabling direct  
18 transplanting shall be considered. Where feasible, native vegetation shall be used for  
19 revegetating to establish a composition consistent with the form, line, color, and texture of the  
20 surrounding undisturbed landscape.
- 21 5. Stockpiled topsoil shall be reapplied to disturbed areas, and the areas shall be revegetated by  
22 using a mix of native species selected for visual compatibility with existing vegetation, where  
23 applicable, or by using a mix of native and non-native species if necessary to ensure successful  
24 revegetation. Gravel and other surface treatments shall be removed or buried.
- 25 6. Rocks, brush, and vegetal debris shall be restored whenever possible to approximate pre-  
26 existing visual conditions.

27 *Timing/Implementation: Throughout life of Project*

1 *Enforcement/Monitoring: Riverside County*

2 Rationale: Implementation of Mitigation Measures 6-1a, b, c, and d would slightly reduce the  
3 cumulative visual impacts, but not to such a degree as to avoid or substantially reduce the impacts to visual  
4 values of the region. No mitigation is feasible that would reduce impacts from these locations to less than  
5 significant, as screening techniques to reduce impacts from Project components would be wholly  
6 ineffective in mitigating visual impacts from other cumulative projects given the size, scale, and character  
7 of the cumulative projects (i.e., large-scale solar energy facilities). For the reasons discussed above, in  
8 combination with other projects in the cumulative scenario, there would be significant and unavoidable  
9 cumulative impacts to visual resources, including scenic vistas, and visual character. [DEIR pp. 6-13  
10 through 6-18]

11 **GG. Air Quality**

12 **2. Construction and Decommissioning Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions (Impact 4.3-1):** The  
13 MDAB is designated as non-attainment of the California ozone and PM10 standards. Construction  
14 activities associated with the Project could have a temporary impact on regional air quality through short-  
15 term increases in VOC, NO<sub>x</sub>, and PM10. The maximum daily emissions for VOC, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, SO<sub>x</sub>, and  
16 PM2.5 are below the respective MDAQMD thresholds. However, with regard to PM10, the estimated  
17 maximum daily emissions would exceed the MDAQMD threshold, indicating that Project-related PM10  
18 emissions could result in an exceedance of the state PM10 24-hour AAQS. Even with implementation of  
19 APM AIR-1, the MDAQMD daily threshold would continue to be exceeded.

20 Finding: The Board of Supervisors finds that daily PM10 emissions associated with Project  
21 construction and decommissioning activities may be as high as 91 pounds and are not expected to be  
22 mitigated to a less than significant level with implementation of feasible mitigation measures. Thus, this  
23 impact would remain significant and unavoidable. (CEQA Guidelines §15091(a)(3).) Consequently, a  
24 Statement of Overriding Considerations would be necessary should the Board of Supervisors wish to  
25 approve the Project. (CEQA Guidelines §15093)

26 Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.3-1 in the Mitigation Monitoring and  
27 Reporting Program would reduce this impact, but not below established thresholds of significance.

1 Mitigation Measure 4.3-1 states:

2 Pursuant to Rule 403-2, the Applicant shall prepare and submit to the MDAQMD a dust control  
3 plan prior to commencing construction related earth-moving activity that describes all applicable dust  
4 control measures that will be implemented for the Project.

5 *Timing/Implementation: Prior to commencement of earth-moving activities*

6 *Enforcement/Monitoring: Riverside County*

7 Rationale: APM AIR-1 and Mitigation Measure 4.3-1 represent the best available fugitive dust  
8 control measures that would be feasible to implement during construction of the Project. No feasible  
9 mitigation is available to reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level. The MDAQMD daily threshold  
10 would be exceeded and this impact would be significant and unavoidable. [DEIR pp. 4.3-16 through 4.3-19;  
11 Final EIR p. 3-4]

12 **3. Cumulatively Considerable Net Increase of Criteria Pollutant Which Could Contribute to**  
13 **Existing Nonattainment Conditions (Impact 4.3-3)**: The Mojave Desert Air Basin is designated as non-  
14 attainment of the California ozone and PM10 standards. Construction and decommissioning activities  
15 associated with the Project could have a temporary impact on regional air quality through short-term  
16 increases in VOC, NO<sub>x</sub>, and PM10, which could be cumulatively significant when combined with other  
17 projects. The maximum daily construction emissions of ozone precursors (i.e., VOC and NO<sub>x</sub>) would not  
18 exceed the MDAQMD CEQA significance thresholds; however, the maximum daily emissions of PM10  
19 primarily related to fugitive dust would exceed the MDAQMD CEQA significance threshold.

20 Finding: The Board of Supervisors finds that even with implementation of the best available control  
21 technology to reduce fugitive dust during construction and decommissioning, the maximum daily emissions  
22 would continue to exceed the significance threshold. Therefore, the Project would be cumulatively  
23 considerable with respect to short-term construction emissions of PM10 and this impact is not expected to  
24 be mitigated to a less-than-significant level with implementation of feasible mitigation measures. No  
25 feasible mitigation is available to reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level and this impact would  
26 remain significant and unavoidable. (CEQA Guidelines §15091(a)(3)). Consequently, a Statement of  
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1 Overriding Considerations would be necessary should the Board of Supervisors wish to approve the  
2 Project. (CEQA Guidelines §15093.)

3 Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.3-1 in the Mitigation Monitoring and  
4 Reporting Program would reduce this impact, but not below the established threshold of significance.

5 See Mitigation Measure 4.3-1 in Section (IV)(A)(1).

6 Rationale: APM AIR-1 and Mitigation Measure 4.3-1 represent the best available fugitive dust  
7 control measures that would be feasible to implement during construction of the Project. The MDAQMD  
8 daily threshold would be exceeded and this impact would be significant and unavoidable. [DEIR pp. 4.3-21,  
9 4.3-22; Final EIR p. 3-5]

10 **HH. Biological Resources**

11 **1. Construction Impacts on Special-Status and Migratory Birds (Impact 4.4-5A)**: Construction  
12 of the Project could attract both local birds and birds migrating through the area, potentially resulting in on-  
13 site mortality and injury to a variety of birds, including fully-protected, special status, and other avian species  
14 protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The potential for direct impacts to special-status birds to occur  
15 during the construction phase could continue through the operation and maintenance phase until solar panels  
16 and other infrastructure are removed during decommissioning.

17 Finding: The Board of Supervisors finds that although the implementation of Mitigation  
18 Measure 4.4-5A is likely to reduce impacts to common and special-status avian and bat species to less-  
19 than-significant levels, due to the inherent uncertainty associated with collision risk, it is possible that  
20 impacts could be significant even after mitigation. Thus, no further feasible mitigation is available to  
21 reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level and this impact could remain potentially significant and  
22 unavoidable (CEQA Guidelines §15091(a)(3)).

23 Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.4-5A in the Mitigation Monitoring  
24 and Reporting Program would reduce this impact, but may not reduce it below the established threshold of  
25 significance.

1 Mitigation Measure 4.4-5A states:

2 The Project owner shall prepare a Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy (BBCS) in consultation with  
3 the County in consultation with CDFW for review and comment.

- 4 1. The Project owner will survey and monitor onsite avian use prior to commencing construction  
5 to document species composition. The Project owner will submit all data gathered onsite to the  
6 County in consultation with CDFW, and also will make consulting biologists available to  
7 answer inquiries.
- 8 2. The Project owner will implement a statistically robust avian and bat mortality and injury  
9 monitoring program to identify the extent of potential avian or bat mortality or injury from  
10 collisions with facility structures, including assessing levels of collision-related mortality and  
11 injury with PV panels.
- 12 3. The Project owner will implement an adaptive management and decision-making framework for  
13 reviewing, characterizing, and responding to monitoring results.
- 14 4. The Project owner will identify specific conservation measures and/or programs to avoid,  
15 minimize, reduce, or eliminate avian and bat injury or mortality over time and will evaluate the  
16 effectiveness of those measures.

17 The BBCS shall include the following components:

- 18 1. A description and summary of the baseline survey methods, raw data, and results.
- 19 2. Avian and bat mortality and injury monitoring that includes:
  - 20 a) Onsite monitoring that will systematically survey representative locations within the facility,  
21 at a level that will produce statistically robust data; account for potential spatial bias; and  
22 allow for the extrapolation of survey results to non-surveyed areas within the solar plant site  
23 boundary and the survey interval based on scavenger and searcher efficiency trials and  
24 detection rates.
  - 25 b) Low-visibility and high-wind weather event reporting to document potential weather-related  
26 collision risks that may be associated increased risk of avian or bat collisions with Project  
27 features, including foggy, highly overcast, or rainy night-time weather typically associated  
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1 with an advancing frontal system, and high wind events (40 miles per hour winds) that are  
2 sustained for period of greater than 4 hours.

3 c) Statistically robust scavenger and searcher efficiency trials prior and post construction to  
4 document the extent to which avian or bat fatalities remain visible over time and can be  
5 detected within the Project area and to adjust the survey timing and survey results to reflect  
6 scavenger and searcher efficiency rates.

7 d) Statistical methods used to generate facility estimates of potential post construction avian  
8 and bat impacts based on the observed number of detections during standardized searches  
9 during the monitoring season for which the cause of death can be determined and is  
10 determined to be facility-related.

11 e) Field detection and mortality or injury identification, cause attribution, handling and  
12 reporting requirements.

13 3. Post-construction monitoring studies included in the BBCS shall be conducted by a third party  
14 contractor for at least 3 years following commencement of commercial operation of each  
15 individual unit. At the end of the three-year period, the County in consultation with CDFW shall  
16 determine whether the survey program shall be continued.

17 4. An adaptive management program shall be developed to identify and implement reasonable and  
18 feasible measures needed to reduce levels of avian or bat mortality or injury attributable to  
19 Project operations and facilities to less than ecologically significant levels. Any such impact  
20 reduction measures must be commensurate (in terms of factors that include geographic scope,  
21 costs, and scale of effort) to the level of avian or bat mortality or injury that is specifically and  
22 clearly attributable to the Project facilities. Adaptive actions undertaken will be discussed and  
23 evaluated in survey reports. The adaptive management program shall include the following  
24 elements:

25 i. Reasonable measures for characterizing the extent and significance of detected mortality and  
26 injuries clearly attributable to the Project.

1 ii. Potential measures that the Project owner could implement to adaptively respond to detected  
2 mortality and injuries attributable to the Project, including passive avian diverter  
3 installations along the perimeter or at other locations within the Project to avoid site use, the  
4 use of sound, light or other means to discourage site use consistent with applicable legal  
5 requirements, onsite prey or habitat control measures consistent with applicable legal  
6 requirements, and additional perch and nest minimizing of Project facilities.

7 Adaptive Mitigation: The County in consultation with CDFW may require the Project owner to  
8 implement adaptive mitigation for ecologically significant onsite injury or mortality of birds and  
9 bats. The costs for such mitigation shall not exceed \$100,000. Such measures shall be approved by  
10 the County and CDFW and may include, but not be limited to: (i) restoration of degraded habitat  
11 with native vegetation; (ii) restoration of agricultural fields to bird habitat; (iii) management of  
12 agricultural fields to enhance bird populations; (iv) invasive plant species and artificial food or  
13 water source management; (v) control and cleanup of potential avian hazards, such as lead or  
14 microtrash; (vi) retrofitting of buildings to minimize collisions; (vii) retrofitting of conductors and  
15 above ground cables to minimize collisions; (viii) animal control programs; (ix) support for avian  
16 and bat research and/or management efforts conducted by entities approved by the County and  
17 CDFW within the Project's mitigation lands or other approved locations; (x) funding efforts to  
18 address avian diseases or depredation due to the expansion of predators in response to  
19 anthropomorphic subsidies that may adversely affect birds that use the mitigation lands or other  
20 approved locations; and (xi) contribute to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund managed by the  
21 Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. Adaptive mitigation will be discussed and evaluated in  
22 survey reports.

23 5. Monitor the death and injury of birds and bats from collisions with PV panels. The monitoring  
24 data shall be used to inform an adaptive management program that would avoid and minimize  
25 Project-related avian and bat impacts. The study design shall be approved by the County and  
26 CDFW. The monitoring shall include detailed specifications on data and carcass collection  
27 protocol and a rationale justifying the proposed schedule of carcass searches. The program also  
28

1 shall include seasonal trials to assess bias from carcass removal by scavengers as well as  
2 searcher bias.

3 Prior to the start of construction, the BBCS shall be submitted to the County in consultation with  
4 CDFW for review and comment. A final BBCS shall be submitted to the County within 60 days of  
5 construction commencement. Survey results shall be verified by the following:

- 6 1. The results of onsite injury and mortality monitoring will be reported monthly. The reports will  
7 include all monitoring data required as part of the monitoring program.

8 The reports shall also assess any adaptive management measure implemented during the prior year  
9 as approved by the County in consultation with CDFW. The County in consultation with CDFW shall  
10 determine if additional monitoring is warranted based on data quality and sufficiency of analysis, or if  
11 needed, to document efficacy of any adaptive management measures undertaken by the Project owner.

12 If a carcass or injured live special status species is found at any time by the monitoring study or  
13 Project operations staff, the Project owner, Designated Biologist, or other qualified biologist, the  
14 Designated Biologist shall contact the County in consultation with CDFW by e-mail, fax or other electronic  
15 means within one working day of any such detection. Verification of other injuries or mortalities shall be  
16 within 48 hours.

17 In addition, the Project owner shall follow APLIC guidelines for avian protection on powerlines and  
18 shall use current guidelines to reduce bird mortality from collision and electrocution with powerlines. The  
19 APLIC (2006) and USFWS recommend the following:

- 20 1. Provide 60-inch minimum horizontal separation between energized conductors or energized  
21 conductors and grounded hardware;
- 22 2. Insulate hardware or conductors against simultaneous contact if adequate spacing is not  
23 possible;
- 24 3. Use structure designs that minimize impacts to birds; and
- 25 4. Shield wires to minimize the effects from bird collisions.

26 *Timing/Implementation: Prior to completion of final design of the gen-tie line and*  
27 *distribution line*

1 *Enforcement/Monitoring: County of Riverside*

2 Rationale: Mitigation Measure 4.4-5A represents the best available bird and bat conservation measures  
3 that would be feasible to implement during all phases of the Project. Although implementation of this  
4 mitigation measure is likely to reduce impacts to common and special-status avian and bat species to less-  
5 than-significant levels , due to the inherent uncertainty associated with collision risk, it is possible that  
6 impacts could be significant even after mitigation, and this impact could remain be significant and  
7 unavoidable at the Project-specific and cumulative levels. [Revised DEIR pp. 2-64 through 2-69, 2-93, 2-94]

8 **2. Construction Impacts on Special-Status Bats (Impact 4.4-11):** One potential bat roost was  
9 identified outside the western boundary of the proposed Unit 2 of the solar plant site. The Project would  
10 avoid this potential bat roost, as it is located in a wash that would be avoided. If a special-status bat is  
11 present in the vicinity of the Project, there is a possibility that the Project could disrupt nighttime bat  
12 foraging activities beginning when the solar PV panels are installed and concluding when they are removed  
13 from the site as a potential consequence of the “fake lake effect.” There also is a possibility that the “fake  
14 lake effect” could attract insects to the PV panels if the insects mistake the panels for water, and thereby  
15 create a concentrated food source for bats. Although most bats use echolocation to locate their prey and  
16 successfully avoid other objects, the Project could pose a collision risk for bats.

17 Finding: The Board of Supervisors finds that although the implementation of Mitigation  
18 Measure 4.4-5A is likely to reduce construction-related impacts to special-status avian and bat species to  
19 less-than-significant levels, due to the inherent uncertainty associated with collision risk, it is possible that  
20 impacts could be significant even after mitigation. Thus, no further feasible mitigation is available to  
21 reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level and this impact would remain potentially significant and  
22 unavoidable (CEQA Guidelines §15091(a)(3)).

23 Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.4-5A in the Mitigation Monitoring  
24 and Reporting Program would reduce this impact, but may not reduce it below the established threshold of  
25 significance.

26 See Mitigation Measure 4.4-5A outlined above in Section IV(C)(1) of these Findings.  
27  
28

1        Rationale: Mitigation Measure 4.4-5A represents the best available bird and bat conservation  
2 measures that would be feasible to implement during all phases of the Project. Although implementation of  
3 this mitigation measure is likely to reduce impacts to common and special-status avian and bat species to  
4 less-than-significant levels, due to the inherent uncertainty associated with collision risk, it is possible that  
5 impacts could be significant even after mitigation, and this impact could remain be significant and  
6 unavoidable at the Project-specific and cumulative levels. [Revised DEIR pp. 2-77, 2-93, 2-94]

7        **3. Operation and Maintenance Impacts on Special-Status and Migratory Birds and Special-**  
8 **Status Bats (Impact 4.4-12A)**: The potential impacts to birds and bats described above for construction  
9 would be similar during operation and maintenance (e.g., potential collision with panels).

10        Finding: The Board of Supervisors finds that although the implementation of Mitigation  
11 Measure 4.4-5A is likely to reduce operation and maintenance-related impacts to special-status avian and  
12 bat species to less-than-significant levels, due to the inherent uncertainty associated with collision risk, it is  
13 possible that impacts could be significant even after mitigation. Thus, no further feasible mitigation is  
14 available to reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level and this impact would remain potentially  
15 significant and unavoidable (CEQA Guidelines §15091(a)(3)).

16        Mitigation Measure: Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.4-5A in the Mitigation Monitoring  
17 and Reporting Program would reduce this impact, but may not reduce it below the established threshold of  
18 significance.

19        See Mitigation Measure 4.4-5A outlined above in Section IV(C)(1) of these Findings.

20        Rationale: Mitigation Measure 4.4-5A represents the best available bird and bat conservation  
21 measures that would be feasible to implement during all phases of the Project. Although implementation of  
22 this mitigation measure is likely to reduce impacts to common and special-status avian and bat species to  
23 less-than-significant levels, due to the inherent uncertainty associated with collision risk, it is possible that  
24 impacts could be significant even after mitigation, and this impact could remain be significant and  
25 unavoidable at the Project-specific and cumulative levels. [Revised DEIR pp. 2-77, 2-93, 2-94]

26        **4. Decommissioning Impacts on Special-Status and Migratory Birds and Special-Status Bats**  
27 **(Impact 4.4-13A)**:



1 project design features discussed in the EIR, and the Mitigation Measures set forth in the Mitigation  
2 Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project, some of the Project's cumulative impacts discussed in  
3 this Section V cannot be fully mitigated to a less-than-significant level. For each impact that is determined  
4 to be significant and unavoidable, a Statement of Overriding Considerations has been prepared for that  
5 impact and is set forth in Section VIII below.

## 6 **II. No Contribution to a Cumulative Impact**

7 As outlined above in Section II of these Findings, the Project would have no impact with respect to:

- 8 • Damaging Scenic Resources within a State Scenic Highway (Section II(A)(2));
- 9 • Agriculture and Forestry Resources (Section II(B));
- 10 • Conflicting With or Obstructing Implementation of the Applicable Air Quality Plan (Section  
11 II(C)(1));
- 12 • Federally Protected Wetlands (Section II(D)(5));
- 13 • Local Policies or Ordinances Protecting Biological Resources (Section II(D)(6));
- 14 • Habitat Conservation Plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans (Section II(D)(7));
- 15 • Peak and Base Period Demands for Electricity and Other Forms of Energy (Section II(F)(3));
- 16 • Compliance with Existing Energy Standards (Section II(F)(4));
- 17 • Hazardous Emissions, Materials, Substances, or Waste Within 0.25 Mile of an Existing or  
18 Proposed School (Section II(I)(1));
- 19 • Hazardous Materials Sites (Section II(I)(2));
- 20 • Airstrip Hazards (Section II(I)(4));
- 21 • Other Degradation of Water Quality (Section II(J)(1));
- 22 • Placing Housing Within a 100-Year Flood Hazard Area (Section II(J)(2));
- 23 • Inundation by Seiche, Tsunami, or Mudflow (Section II(J)(4));
- 24 • Land Use and Planning (Section II(K));
- 25 • Loss of Availability of a Locally Important Mineral Resource Recovery Site (Section II(L)(2));
- 26 • Groundborne Vibration and Noise (Section II(M)(2));
- 27 • Airstrip Noise Levels (Section II(M)(6));

- 1 • Displacing Existing Housing (Section II(N)(2));
- 2 • Displacing People, Necessitating the Construction of Replacement Housing (Section II(N)(3));
- 3 • New or Physically Altered Police Protection Facilities, Schools, or Other Public Facilities
- 4 (Section II(O)(2));
- 5 • Change in Air Traffic Patterns (Section II(Q)(3));
- 6 • New or Expanded Water or Wastewater Treatment Facilities (Section II(R)(1)); and
- 7 • Wastewater Treatment Capacity (Section II(R)(3)).

8 Therefore, the Project would not contribute to cumulative impacts with respect to the above  
9 resources. [DEIR pp. 6-13 through 6-49]

10 **JJ. Contributions to Cumulative Impacts Not Requiring Mitigation or that Can be Mitigated to a**  
11 **Less-Than-Significant Level**

12 As outlined above in Sections III(A) through (J) of these Findings, the Project would result in  
13 impacts related to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural and paleontological resources,  
14 energy consumption, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality,  
15 transportation and traffic, and utilities and service systems; however, these incremental Project-specific  
16 impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

17 **KK. Cumulatively Considerable Contributions to Potentially Significant Impacts that Cannot be**  
18 **Mitigated to a Less-Than-Significant Level**

19 As detailed above in Section IV(A)(1) of these Findings, the Project would cause a cumulatively  
20 considerable contribution to an adverse cumulative effect on a scenic vista and/or on the visual character  
21 and quality of the landscape. Although the Applicant would be required to implement Mitigation Measures  
22 6-1a through 6-1d, this impact would remain significant and unavoidable and the Project's contribution to  
23 this cumulative impact would be cumulatively considerable. [DEIR pp. 6-13 through 6-17]

24 As detailed above in Sections IV(C)(1) through (4) of these Findings, the Project would have a  
25 cumulatively considerable contribution to an adverse cumulative effect on migratory and special-status  
26 birds and bats during all Project phases. Although the Applicant would be required to implement Mitigation



1 Measure 4.4-5A, this impact could remain significant and unavoidable and the Project's contribution to this  
2 cumulative impact could be cumulatively considerable. [DEIR pp. 2-93, 2-94]

3 **SECTION VI**

4 **FINDINGS REGARDING GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS**

5 Pursuant to Sections 15126(d) and 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines, this section is provided to  
6 examine ways in which the Project could foster economic or population growth or the construction of  
7 additional development, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment.

8 Growth-inducing effects are not necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the  
9 environment. This issue is presented to provide additional information on ways in which this Project could  
10 contribute to significant changes in the environment beyond the direct consequences of implementing the  
11 Project.

12 Implementation of the Project would involve the construction, operation and maintenance, and  
13 decommissioning of a solar PV plant with a capacity of up to 250 MW. The Project would have a peak  
14 construction workforce of approximately 750 craft workers and an average of approximately 341 workers.  
15 During operation and maintenance, it would employ up to 13 full-time employees. The Project would  
16 produce electricity and would connect to the regional electric grid via Southern California Edison's  
17 Colorado River Substation.

18 The County finds that the Project would not induce growth for the following reasons:

- 19 1. The peak level of employment for construction of the Project would represent about 0.9 percent  
20 of craft workers in the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Metropolitan Statistical Area. Because  
21 the number of construction workers required represents such a small portion of the region's  
22 available labor force, it is assumed that minimal in-migration would occur as a result of Project  
23 construction activities. Therefore, the Project would not have notable impacts on existing  
24 population levels or employment distribution within the study area. [DEIR pp. 7-2 and 7-3]
- 25 2. The Project would not develop additional housing or result in direct population growth. The  
26 small number of permanent employees (up to 13) would not have a significant population  
27 growth-inducing impact. [DEIR p. 7-3; see also DEIR p. 4.14-9]

1 3. The Project is not intended to supply power related to growth for any particular development,  
2 either directly or indirectly, and would not result in direct growth-inducing impacts.  
3 Additionally, the Project would not facilitate growth indirectly through the additional generation  
4 of electric power in the Southern California region because it is intended to replace the existing  
5 use of fossil fuel-based energy. Southern California in general, and Riverside County in  
6 particular, have experienced rapid population growth over the last 20 years. Growth is expected  
7 to continue with or without implementation of the Project. Therefore, Project implementation  
8 would be in response to anticipated future load growth and would be consistent with current  
9 regional planning projections. [DEIR p. 7-3]

## 10 SECTION VII

### 11 FINDINGS REGARDING PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

#### 12 A. Background

13 Section 15126.6 of the CEQA Guidelines requires EIRs to consider and discuss alternatives to a  
14 proposed Project. Subsection (a) states:

- 15 (a) An EIR shall describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the  
16 location of the project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the  
17 project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the  
18 project, and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives. An EIR need not  
19 consider every conceivable alternative to a project. Rather it must consider a  
20 reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives that will foster informed decision-  
21 making and public participation. An EIR is not required to consider alternatives that  
22 are infeasible. The lead agency is responsible for selecting a range of project  
23 alternatives for examination and must publicly disclose its reasoning for selecting  
24 those alternatives. There is no ironclad rule governing the nature or scope of the  
25 alternatives to be discussed other than the rule of reason.

26 Subsection 15126.6(b) states the purpose of the alternatives analysis:

1 (b) Because an EIR must identify ways to mitigate or avoid the significant effects that a  
2 project may have on the environment (Public Resources Code Section 21002.1), the  
3 discussion of alternatives shall focus on alternatives to the project or its location which  
4 are capable of avoiding or substantially lessening any significant effects of the project,  
5 even if these alternatives would impede to some degree the attainment of the project  
6 objectives, or would be more costly.

7 In Subsection 15126.6(c), the CEQA Guidelines describe the selection process for a range of  
8 reasonable alternatives:

9 (c) The range of potential alternatives to the proposed project shall include those that  
10 could feasibly accomplish most of the basic objectives of the project and could avoid  
11 or substantially lessen one or more of the significant effects. The EIR should briefly  
12 describe the rationale for selecting the alternatives to be discussed. The EIR should  
13 also identify any alternatives that were considered by the lead agency but were rejected  
14 as infeasible during the scoping process and briefly explain the reasons underlying the  
15 lead agency's determination. Additional information explaining the choice of  
16 alternatives may be included in the administrative record. Among the factors that may  
17 be used to eliminate alternatives from detailed consideration in an EIR are: (i) failure to  
18 meet most of the basic Project objectives, (ii) infeasibility, or (iii) inability to avoid  
19 significant environmental impacts.

20 The range of alternatives required is governed by a "rule of reason" that requires the EIR to set forth  
21 only those alternatives necessary to permit a reasoned choice. The EIR shall include sufficient information  
22 about each alternative to allow meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison with the proposed project.  
23 Alternatives are limited to ones that would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the  
24 proposed project. Of those alternatives, the EIR need examine in detail only the ones that the lead agency  
25 determines could feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project.

26 However, when significant impacts can be mitigated by the adoption of mitigation measures, the  
27 lead agency has no obligation to consider the feasibility of alternatives with respect to that impact in its  
28

1 findings, even if the alternative would mitigate the impact to a greater degree than the proposed project.  
2 (Pub. Res. Code §21002; Kings County Farm Bureau v. City of Hanford (1990) 221 Cal.App.3d 692, 730-  
3 731; Laurel Heights Improvement Association v. Regents of the University of California (1988) 47 Cal.3d  
4 376, 400-403; Laurel Hills Homeowners Association v. City Council (1978) 83 Cal.App.3d 515, 521.) The  
5 County has adopted mitigation measures to avoid or substantially lessen the potentially significant  
6 environmental impacts identified in the EIR. However, the following impacts would remain significant:

- 7 • Cumulatively Considerable Contribution to an Adverse Cumulative Effect on a Scenic Vista  
8 and/or on the Visual Character and Quality of the Landscape [DEIR pp. 6-13 through 6-18]
- 9 • Construction and Decommissioning Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions [DEIR pp. 4.3-16 through  
10 4.3-19; Final EIR p. 3-4]
- 11 • Cumulatively Considerable Net Increase of Criteria Pollutant Which Could Contribute to  
12 Existing Nonattainment Conditions [DEIR pp. 4.3-21, 4.3-22; Final EIR p. 3-5]
- 13 • Construction Impacts on Special-Status and Migratory Birds [Revised DEIR pp. 2-64 through 2-  
14 69, 2-93, 2-94]
- 15 • Construction Impacts on Special-Status Bats [Revised DEIR pp. 2-77, 2-93, 2-94]
- 16 • Operation and Maintenance Impacts on Special-Status and Migratory Birds and Special-Status  
17 Bats [Revised DEIR pp. 2-77, 2-93, 2-94]
- 18 • Decommissioning Impacts on Special-Status and Migratory Birds and Special-Status Bats  
19 [Revised DEIR pp. 2-78, 2-93, 2-94]

20 The County used the following criteria to help define a reasonable range of alternatives: [DEIR p. 3-  
21 2]:

- 22 • a cost-efficient, environmentally sound solar powered generating facility
- 23 • capable of producing a minimum of 250 MW and up to 750 MW
- 24 • on predominantly contiguous lands
- 25 • within close proximity to transmission infrastructure and access roads.

26 The Applicant's Objectives for the Project (DEIR page 2-5) are as follows:  
27  
28

- 1 • Construct, operate, and maintain an efficient, cost-competitive, reliable, safe and  
2 environmentally-sound solar powered generating facility using proven PV technology capable  
3 of generating a minimum of 500 MW and up to 750 MW that would help achieve: (i) the State  
4 of California objectives mandated by Senate Bill (SB) 1078 (California Renewable Portfolio  
5 Standard Program), (ii) AB 32 (California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006), and (iii)  
6 other local mandates adopted by the state's municipal electric utilities to meet the requirements  
7 for the long term wholesale purchase of renewable electric energy for distribution to their  
8 customers.
- 9 • Develop a site on contiguous lands with an excellent solar resource.
- 10 • Develop a site within close proximity to transmission infrastructure and access roads in order to  
11 minimize environmental impacts.
- 12 • Receive authorization for constructing and operating a range of panel types and tracking options  
13 so that the Project can take advantage of the rapid improvements in PV technology/ efficiency  
14 that are anticipated to take place between early permitting and commencing construction.

15 There are two types of alternatives evaluated in the EIR. First are the alternatives that were  
16 considered but rejected from further consideration. Reasons for elimination included failure to meet basic  
17 project objectives, infeasibility, or inability to avoid significant environmental impacts (CEQA Guidelines  
18 §15126.6(c)), as well as conflicts with land use plans, policies, or regulations; lack of reasonable access to  
19 an alternative site; or remote or speculative implementation [DEIR pp. 3-7, 3-8]. Those alternatives were:

- 20 • **Private Land Alternatives, including the Palo Verde Mesa Solar Project Site** - An all-  
21 private land alternative was not carried forward for detailed evaluation in the DEIR because no  
22 private parcels or combinations of parcels of sufficient size were available that met the  
23 Applicant's minimum Project requirements. The Palo Verde Mesa Solar Project site was  
24 determined not to represent an alternative to the Project. [DEIR p. 3-8]
- 25 • **Alternatives on BLM-administered Land** - Three potential sites were evaluated. The County  
26 initially considered these potential alternative sites, and rejected them from detailed consideration  
27 based on lack of land use jurisdiction, lack of Applicant site control, greater potential  
28

1 environmental consequences than the Project, and previous BLM decisions regarding these  
2 potential alternative sites. [DEIR pp. 3-8, 3-9]

- 3 • **Brownfields / Degraded Lands Alternative** - Current and former Superfund sites, mine sites,  
4 and other “brownfield” locations were identified, none of which met the basic objectives.  
5 Additionally, seven parcels or groups of parcels of abandoned private farmland in Eastern  
6 Riverside County were considered; none of these parcels or parcel groupings was available for  
7 sale or long-term lease and met the minimum requirements for an all-private-land alternative.  
8 [DEIR pp. 3-9, 3-10]
- 9 • **Other Types of Energy Projects** - Other types of energy (e.g., solar thermal power tower and  
10 distributed generation (DG) solar, natural gas, and coal) were screened by the County and were  
11 found not to lessen the environmental impacts of the Project or to be technically and  
12 economically infeasible to develop. [DEIR pp. 3-10, 3-11]

13 Second are the alternatives that were considered in detail. Those alternatives are:

- 14 • **Reduced Acreage Alternative** [DEIR pp. 3-4 through 3-6]
- 15 • **Eastern Route Alternative** [DEIR pp. 3-4 through 3-7]
- 16 • **No Project Alternative** [DEIR p. 3-7]

17 A complete discussion for alternatives that were considered in detail is provided below.

18 **B. Alternatives Considered but Rejected from Further Consideration**

19 In determining an appropriate range of alternatives to be evaluated in the EIR, several possible  
20 alternatives were initially considered and rejected. Alternatives were rejected either because they could not  
21 accomplish most of the basic objectives of the Project, would not have resulted in a reduction of potentially  
22 significant impacts, or were considered infeasible. The specific reasons for not selecting each of the  
23 rejected alternatives are described below.

24 **1. Private Land Alternatives, including the Palo Verde Mesa Solar Project Site.** An all-private  
25 land alternative was not carried forward for detailed evaluation in the DEIR because no private parcels or  
26 combinations of parcels of sufficient size were available that met the Applicant’s minimum Project  
27

1 requirements. The Palo Verde Mesa Solar Project site was determined not to represent an alternative to the  
2 Project. [DEIR p. 3-8]

3 Finding. Based upon the Supporting Explanation below, the Board of Supervisors rejects the Private  
4 Land Alternatives because they do not meet the basic Project objectives as none were capable of producing  
5 at least 250 MW on predominately contiguous land. (CEQA Guidelines §15126.6(c)(i)).

6 Supporting Explanation. An all-private land alternative was not carried forward for detailed  
7 evaluation in the DEIR because no private parcels or combinations of parcels of sufficient size were available  
8 that met the Applicant's minimum Project requirements. A California-licensed real estate broker with relevant  
9 experience researched the availability of a minimum of 1,500 acres to accommodate up to a 250 MW Project.  
10 To merit further inquiry, the available acreage would have needed to be contiguous or nearly so; listed or  
11 advertised for sale or lease in the November-December 2011 timeframe, located within 20 miles of the CRS,  
12 and in proximity to a reasonable gen-tie line option. Research in accordance with these parameters evaluated  
13 more than 195,300 acres of private land within 20 miles of the CRS. Of these, 68 individual private parcels,  
14 representing approximately 4,732 acres, were for sale or lease. Of these, the largest contiguous block of land  
15 was approximately 858 acres and consisted of 7 parcels and 4 unique land owners. These parcels were  
16 insufficient to meet the basic objectives of the Project.

17 The County currently is considering an application for a 486 MW solar PV facility on the 3,400-  
18 acre Palo Verde Mesa Solar Project site. Because the Palo Verde Mesa Solar Project site is under  
19 consideration as a separate, independent Project, and its impacts are potentially cumulative with the effects  
20 of the Project [DEIR p. 6-9], it does not represent an alternative to the Project [DEIR p. 3-8]

21 **2. Alternatives on BLM-administered Land** - Three potential sites were evaluated. The  
22 County initially considered these potential alternative sites, and rejected them from detailed consideration  
23 based on lack of land use jurisdiction, lack of Applicant site control, greater potential environmental  
24 consequences than the Project, and previous BLM decisions regarding these potential alternative sites.  
25 [DEIR pp. 3-8, 3-9]

26 Finding. Based upon the Supporting Explanation below, the Board of Supervisors rejects the  
27 Alternatives on BLM-administered Land based on lack of land use jurisdiction, lack of Applicant site  
28

1 control and previous BLM decisions regarding these potential alternative sites that would make their  
2 development infeasible (CEQA Guidelines §15126.6(c)(ii)). This alternative would also not avoid or  
3 substantially lessen the environmental impacts of the Project (CEQA Guidelines §15126.6(c)(iii)). Each of  
4 the stated grounds for rejecting the Alternatives on BLM-administered Land is independently sufficient to  
5 justify rejection of this alternative.

6 Supporting Explanation. Much of the BLM-administered land in the California desert is precluded  
7 from development by special designations such as wilderness areas and Areas of Critical Environmental  
8 Concern (ACECs), and many potentially suitable areas outside these designated areas are precluded  
9 because they are in use or are proposed for other solar energy projects [see Figure 6-1, *Cumulative*  
10 *Projects*, DEIR p. 6-12]. Of the remaining BLM-administered land in the California Desert District, three  
11 potential sites were evaluated: Desert Center 1, Mule Mountain, and Black Hill. The potential Desert  
12 Center 1 site is located adjacent to State Highway 177 north of I-10 in a location that could be subsumed in  
13 expansions of the Joshua Tree National Park and/or the McCoy Wilderness. The BLM previously has  
14 rejected proposed solar energy use of this area. The potential Mule Mountain site is located south of I-10,  
15 due south of the western half of the Project site, in an area that California Natural Diversity Data Base  
16 records indicate would support desert tortoise, Mojave fringe-toed lizard, Harwood's milk vetch, cave  
17 myotis, and California leaf-nosed bat. Additionally, the site is crossed by two large desert wash systems.  
18 Because development of this site would likely result in greater environmental impacts than the Project and  
19 alternatives analyzed, it was eliminated from further consideration. Although the Applicant had submitted an  
20 application for this site in 2007, based in part on this information, the Applicant since has relinquished  
21 control of the Mule Mountain site. The potential Black Hill site is located northeast of the proposed Project  
22 site, adjacent to the Big Maria Mountains Wilderness, in an area that subsequent inquiry revealed to raise  
23 concerns about environmental consequences, conflicting uses, road access, and access to transmission. The  
24 site is adjacent to wilderness and crossed by three open routes designated in the BLM's Northern and Eastern  
25 Colorado Plan and numerous ephemeral washes. Because development of this site would likely result in  
26 greater environmental impacts than the Project and alternatives analyzed, the County eliminated it from  
27 further consideration. [DEIR pp. 3-8, 3-9]



1           **3. Brownfields / Degraded Lands Alternative.** Current and former Superfund sites, mine sites,  
2 and other “brownfield” locations were identified, none of which met the basic objectives. Additionally,  
3 seven parcels or groups of parcels of abandoned private farmland in Eastern Riverside County were  
4 considered; none of these parcels or parcel groupings was available for sale or long-term lease and met the  
5 minimum requirements for an all-private-land alternative. [DEIR pp. 3-9, 3-10]

6           Finding. Based upon the Supporting Explanation below, the Board of Supervisors rejects the  
7 Brownfields/Degraded Lands Alternative because it does not meet the basic Project objectives (CEQA  
8 Guidelines §15126.6(c)(i)). This alternative would also not avoid or substantially lessen the environmental  
9 impacts of the Project (CEQA Guidelines §15126.6(c)(iii)). Each of the stated grounds for rejecting the  
10 Brownfields/Degraded Lands Alternative is independently sufficient to justify rejection of this alternative.

11           Supporting Explanation. The USEPA has identified 5,000 contaminated sites nationwide for potential  
12 reuse for renewable energy development as part of its RE-Powering America’s Lands Initiative. Four  
13 locations with excellent utility solar power potential are identified along the I-10 corridor between Riverside  
14 and the Arizona border (where I-10 becomes Arizona State Route 95)<sup>8</sup>: The Coachella Valley Disposal Site is  
15 a 75-acre USEPA-tracked landfill near Coachella, California. Mecca Landfill II is an 80-acre USEPA-tracked  
16 landfill near Mecca, California. The Blythe Disposal Site is a 78-acre USEPA-tracked landfill near Blythe,  
17 California. Finally, the Eagle Mountain Landfill is a 160-acre USEPA-tracked landfill in the City of Desert  
18 Center. None of these sites is large enough to meet the Applicant’s minimum Project requirements. An  
19 additional degraded with the potential for utility-scale PV solar site is identified within nearly 50 miles of  
20 the proposed site: Wiley Wells Water Point (CAMA), which is a formerly used defense site located south  
21 of I-10 and 12 miles west of Ripley.

22           Additionally, the County is aware of seven parcels or groups of parcels of abandoned private  
23 farmland in Eastern Riverside County. The parcels/parcel groupings are 130 acres, 40 acres, 6,840 acres,  
24 1,100 acres, 240 acres, 330 acres, and 320 acres, respectively. None of these parcels or parcel groupings  
25  
26

27 <sup>8</sup> The first contaminated site identified by the tool along SR 95 in Arizona is more than 80 miles from the California border.  
28

1 was available for sale or long-term lease and met the minimum requirements for an all-private-land  
2 alternative at the time of alternatives screening. [DEIR pp. 3-9, 3-10]

3 **4. Other Types of Energy Projects.** Other types of energy projects (e.g., solar thermal power  
4 tower and DG solar, natural gas, and coal) were screened by the County and were found not to lessen the  
5 environmental impacts of the Project or to be technically and economically infeasible to develop. [DEIR  
6 pp. 3-10, 3-11]

7 Finding. Based upon the Supporting Explanation below, the Board of Supervisors rejects the Other  
8 Types of Energy Projects Alternative because it would be technically or economically infeasible (CEQA  
9 Guidelines §15126.6(c)(ii)). This alternative also would not avoid or substantially lessen the environmental  
10 impacts of the Project (CEQA Guidelines §15126.6(c)(iii)). Each of the stated grounds for rejecting the  
11 Other Types of Energy Projects Alternative is independently sufficient to justify rejection of this  
12 alternative.

13 Supporting Explanation. Other types of energy projects (e.g., solar thermal power tower and DG  
14 solar, natural gas, and coal) were screened by the County but not carried forward for detailed analysis based  
15 on one or more of the criteria. For example, for DG solar to be a viable alternative to the Project, there would  
16 have to be sufficient newly installed solar panels to generate 250 MW of capacity. California has  
17 approximately 40 million square feet (approximately 920 acres) of installed distributed solar. An additional  
18 approximately 75 million square feet (approximately 1,700 acres) would be required to provide 250 MW. In  
19 addition to planning and permitting barriers, replacing the action alternatives with a DG solar energy  
20 alternative would be speculative based on existing limitations on the integration of DG into the electric grid,  
21 expense, and the lack of electricity storage in most systems. Neither natural gas nor coal energy generation  
22 technology would be expected to avoid or substantially reduce effects to environmental resources associated  
23 with the Project, and may create new or more significant effects than the Project, particularly with respect to  
24 air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

25 Conservation and demand-side management projects also were not carried forward for detailed  
26 analysis. These could consist of a variety of approaches to reduce electricity use, including energy  
27 efficiency and conservation, building and appliance standards, and load management and fuel substitution.  
28

1 At the scale that would be required to replace the Project, such projects would be technically and  
2 economically infeasible for the Applicant to implement. Further, with population growth and increasing  
3 demand for energy, conservation and demand-management alone is not sufficient to address all of  
4 California's energy needs.

5 **C. Alternatives Considered in Detail in the EIR**

6 The following Alternatives were considered in detail in the EIR. These are rejected for various  
7 reasons as set forth below.

8 **1. Reduced Acreage Alternative.** Under the Reduced Acreage Alternative, common elements to  
9 the Project include: the Unit 1 solar field, the perimeter/fence maintenance road, Unit 1 substation,  
10 distribution line, water treatment area, O&M building, main access road, and the temporary laydown area.  
11 The Reduced Acreage Alternative would not include construction of Unit 2. As a result, less permanent  
12 disturbance, less time to construct, and less water would be required than for the Project.

13 The Reduced Acreage Alternative would permanently disturb approximately 2,259 acres on the  
14 solar plant site (477 acres private land and 1,782 acres on BLM-administered land) and permanently disturb  
15 approximately 5.5 acres off-site. (DEIR Table 3-2.) It is estimated that the construction schedule would be  
16 reduced relative to the proposed Project by up to 24 months. The workforce and types of equipment used  
17 during construction would be the same as for the Project, although the duration of equipment use required  
18 for the Reduced Acreage Alternative would be shorter. The total water usage during construction of the  
19 Reduced Acreage Alternative would be approximately 450 acre-feet (AF). Operation and maintenance-  
20 related water demand would be approximately half of what would be required for the Project.  
21 Approximately 70 days would be required to complete panel washing per year. The demand for water to  
22 wash the panels would be approximately 67,000 to 99,000 gallons per day (gpd) or 15 to 22 acre-feet per  
23 year (AFY). The amount of potable water required for up to 13 on-site staff members would be  
24 approximately 14,000 gallons per month.

25 **Finding:** Based upon the Supporting Explanation below, the Board of Supervisors rejects the  
26 Reduced Acreage Alternative because it would not further State and County policies to the same degree as  
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1 the Project, would not fully meet the objectives for the Project and would not avoid or substantially lessen  
2 the significant unavoidable impacts of the Project, (CEQA Guidelines §15126.6 (c)).

3 Supporting Explanation: The Reduced Acreage Alternative would not further State and County  
4 policies to the same degree as the Project. (The County may weigh policy considerations in its  
5 determination whether to reject an alternative discussed in the DEIR and to approve the proposed project.  
6 *California Native Plant Soc'y v City of Santa Cruz* (2009) 177 CA4th 957, 1001.) Here, the Reduced  
7 Acreage Alternative would provide less renewable energy for delivery to the regional power grid in  
8 accordance with the California Renewables Portfolio Standard goals. It would do less to assist the State of  
9 California in complying with the mandates established by Executive Order S-14-08 requiring investor-  
10 owned utilities to purchase 33 percent of their energy portfolio from renewable energy sources by 2020. It  
11 would also not fulfill the County General Plan policies to the same degree as the Project, specifically, LU  
12 15.15: "Permit and encourage, in an environmentally and fiscally responsible manner, the development of  
13 renewable energy resources and related infrastructure, including but not limited to, the development of  
14 solar power plants in the County of Riverside."

15 The Reduced Acreage Alternative would also not fully meet the objectives for the Project. (An  
16 alternative may be found infeasible on the ground it will not fully satisfy project objectives. *Rialto Citizens*  
17 *for Responsible Growth v City of Rialto* (2012) 208 CalApp4th 899, 947.) Specifically, the Alternative  
18 would produce only up to 250 MW, versus a minimum of 500 MW and up to 750 MW, thereby failing to  
19 meet one of the Applicant's basic objectives. The Alternative will also have less of a beneficial contribution  
20 in helping California achieve its Renewables Portfolio Standard goals and on reducing net GHG emissions.  
21 Namely, California's objectives mandated by Senate Bill (SB) 1078 (California Renewable Portfolio  
22 Standard Program), (ii) AB 32 (California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006), and (iii) other local  
23 mandates adopted by the state's municipal electric utilities to meet the requirements for the long term  
24 wholesale purchase of renewable electric energy for distribution to their customers.

25 The Reduced Acreage Alternative would result in reduced impacts compared to the Project but  
26 would not necessarily avoid or substantially lessen the significant unavoidable impacts of the Project.  
27 [DEIR at 5-3, 7, 8] Because it would result in approximately half the ground disturbance of the Project, the  
28

1 Reduced Acreage Alternative would result in proportionately reduced impacts for a number of resources  
2 including: geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, and utilities and service systems. However, the  
3 level of significance of these impacts would be the same under this alternative as under the Project because  
4 these are all Project impacts that are less than significant with mitigation. [DEIR at 5-3] The Reduced  
5 Acreage Alternative would result in more consumption of fossil fuel based energy as it would produce up  
6 to 500 MW less renewable energy for consumption in Southern California than the Project. [DEIR at 5-4].  
7 The Reduced Acreage Alternative would also result in less than one-third the net reduction of GHG  
8 emissions because it would produce less renewable energy, and so would have overall greater impacts on  
9 GHG emissions than the Project. [Id.]. Under the Reduced Acreage Alternative, overall construction and  
10 decommissioning emissions would be lessened, but maximum daily PM10 emissions would remain a  
11 significant and unavoidable impact, as they are under the Project. [DEIR 5-3] Further, the Reduced  
12 Acreage Project would not reduce or materially lessen the Project's significant and unavoidable cumulative  
13 impacts on a scenic vista and/or on the visual character and quality of the landscape. [DEIR 5-3, 6-13, 6-  
14 14; Revised DEIR 2-83]

15 The Reduced Acreage Project would not reduce or materially lessen Project-specific construction  
16 impacts on special-status and migratory birds, Project-specific construction impacts on special-status bats,  
17 Project-specific operation and maintenance impacts on special-status and migratory birds and special-status  
18 bats; or Project-specific decommissioning impacts on special-status and migratory birds and special-status  
19 bats. Specifically, under the Reduced Acreage Alternative, significant unavoidable impacts could still  
20 occur to avian species and special status bats, including potential mortality and injury to special-status birds  
21 (such as the federally and state endangered Yuma clapper rail, and special status brown pelican and  
22 yellow-headed blackbird) and some common bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act,  
23 associated with the phenomena sometimes colloquially known as the "fake lake effect." [Revised DEIR 2-  
24 83] The USFWS and CDFW are continuing to evaluate the cause of unexpected avian impacts  
25 documented in avian monitoring reports for other solar projects; however, because it cannot be said with  
26 certainty that solar projects are not causing or contributing to impacts, the County conservatively concludes  
27 that there is some potential for the Project's alternatives to result in specific impacts. [Id.] Further, given  
28

1 the large number of proposed solar facilities under the cumulative scenario (see DEIR Table 6-3, p. 6-6 et  
2 seq.), unmitigated risks may remain at most solar facilities. Thus, the cumulative impact of the Reduced  
3 Acreage Alternative to special status and other birds and to special status bats could remain significant and  
4 unavoidable. [Revised DEIR 2-83, 2-94]

5 **2. Eastern Route Alternative.** Under this Alternative, the Eastern Route gen-tie line would be  
6 approximately 14.5 miles long, extending south from the proposed solar plant site approximately in parallel  
7 with the eastern and south-eastern border of the BSPP site until it diverts south from the BSPP toward the  
8 Colorado River Substation south of I-10. Approximately 123 gen-tie structures would be required. The  
9 Applicant would improve, and thereafter maintain and decommission approximately 2 miles of the  
10 north/south aligned, unimproved access road constructed for the BSPP before veering east, where the  
11 Applicant would construct, maintain, and decommission a new access road parallel to the gen-tie line within  
12 the ROW. The full length of the improved access road would serve as the gen-tie line maintenance road. Like  
13 the maintenance road associated with the proposed Central Route, the maintenance road for the Eastern Route  
14 would be 24 feet wide with 3-foot shoulders and spur roads would be 15 feet approximately 800 to 1,000 feet  
15 apart including end structures to accommodate changes in direction, would be made of concrete or a self-  
16 weathering steel with a matte finish, designed in accordance with the *Suggested Practices for Avian*  
17 *Protection on Power Lines: the State of the Art in 2006*<sup>9</sup> and reinforced as necessary to withstand design  
18 loads. The lines would be insulated from the poles using porcelain insulators engineered for safe and reliable  
19 operation. Shield wires along the length of the line would protect against lightning strikes. Also like the  
20 proposed Central Route, direct embedded foundations would be used for tangent structures, and anchor bolted  
21 drilled shaft foundations for angle and dead-end structures. The corridor for the Eastern Route would be  
22 approximately 100 feet wide (50 feet on either side of the line).

23 The portion of the Eastern Route that differs from the proposed Central Route begins within the  
24 solar plant site and continues to the point where each of these lines meet, which is approximately 2 miles  
25

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26 <sup>9</sup> Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC), 2006. *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines: the State*  
27 *of the Art in 2006*. PIER Final Project Report CEC-500-2006-022. Available online:  
28 [http://www.dodpif.org/downloads/APLIC\\_2006\\_SuggestedPractices.pdf](http://www.dodpif.org/downloads/APLIC_2006_SuggestedPractices.pdf).

1 north of I-10, as shown in Figure 3-1 on DEIR p. 3-5. This unique portion of the Eastern Route would be  
2 7.5 miles long, as compared to the 5.5 miles that would be unique to the proposed Central Route. From the  
3 point at which the alternative route meets the proposed route until interconnection with the Colorado River  
4 Substation, the gen-tie line routes would be the same.

5 Finding: Based upon the Supporting Explanation below, the Board of Supervisors rejects the  
6 Eastern Route Alternative because it would not avoid or substantially lessen the significant unavoidable  
7 impacts of the Project. (CEQA Guidelines §15126.6 (c)(iii)).

8 Supporting Explanation: The Eastern Route Alternative would have greater impacts compared to  
9 the proposed Central Route with respect to significant and unavoidable air quality impacts [DEIR pp. 4.3-  
10 26, 4.3-27]. It would have approximately the same impacts compared to the proposed Central Route with  
11 respect to significant and unavoidable cumulative aesthetic impacts [DEIR pp. 4.1-32, 6-13 through 6-18].  
12 The impacts of the Eastern Route Alternative would be the same as those of the Central Route with respect  
13 to all other resources [DEIR pp. 5-8, 5-9]

14 **3. No Project Alternative.** Under the No Project Alternative, the County would not approve the CUP  
15 or PUP and would not enter into a DA for the Project. Because the Project would not be approved, no new  
16 structures or facilities would be constructed, operated and maintained, or decommissioned on the  
17 approximately 477 acres subject to the County's land use jurisdiction, and no related ground disturbance or  
18 other Project-specific impacts would occur there. Regardless, Project development could proceed on public  
19 land as approved by the BLM in March 2013 with the exception that a gen-tie line alignment other than the  
20 one approved by BLM would be required to interconnect the solar plant site and Colorado River Substation  
21 because the BLM-approved route would cross County land. Supplemental environmental review by the BLM  
22 could be required to evaluate the effects of such a change. [DEIR p. 3-7]

23 Finding: Based upon the Supporting Explanation below, the Board of Supervisors rejects the No  
24 Project Alternative because it would not avoid or substantially lessen the significant unavoidable impacts of  
25 the Project and would not further State and County policies to the same degree as the Project. (CEQA  
26 Guidelines §15126.6 (c)(iii)).

1           Supporting Explanation: As identified on DEIR pages 5-5 and 5-6, under the No Project  
2 Alternative, the portions of the Project that are located on private and County-owned lands would not be  
3 built and therefore would have no environmental impacts related to Project construction, operation,  
4 maintenance, and decommissioning. However, the effects of the portions of the Project that are located on  
5 public lands administered by the BLM could occur regardless of the County's decision. Additionally, the  
6 Applicant would need to implement a different gen-tie line than either the Central Route or the Eastern  
7 Route to avoid crossing the County-owned parcel, and any route from the Project site to the Colorado River  
8 Substation that would avoid this parcel would need to be substantially longer than either route analyzed in  
9 the EIR, and could therefore result in greater environmental impacts than either the Central Route or  
10 Eastern Route. Additionally, the No Project Alternative would reduce the beneficial effects of renewable  
11 energy generated and transmitted to the grid and the resulting net reduction in GHG emissions.

12 **D.    Environmentally Superior Alternative**

13           The Reduced Acreage Alternative, described in detail in Section VII(C) of these Findings (above)  
14 was identified in the DEIR, as required by CEQA Guidelines §15126.6(e)(2), as the Environmentally  
15 Superior Alternative. [DEIR 5-2 through 5-4] It was identified as the Environmentally Superior  
16 Alternative based on differences in intensity and duration of significant impacts (see DEIR Table 5-2) and  
17 the ability of the alternative to meet most of the basic Project objectives. The Environmentally Superior  
18 Alternative would result in approximately half the ground disturbance of the Project and would thus result  
19 in proportionately reduced impacts for a number of resources including: geology and soils, hydrology and  
20 water quality, and utilities and service systems. [DEIR 5-2 through 5-4, DEIR Table 5-2].

21           Finding: Based upon the Supporting Explanation contained in Section VII(C) of these Findings, the  
22 Board of Supervisors rejects the Environmentally Superior Alternative because it would not further State  
23 and County policies to the same degree as the Project, would not fully meet the objectives for the Project  
24 and would not avoid or substantially lessen the significant unavoidable impacts of the Project. (CEQA  
25 Guidelines §15126.6 (c).)



1 SECTION VIII

2 STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

3 A. The County declares that, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, the County has  
4 balanced the benefits against any unavoidable environmental impacts in determining whether to approve  
5 the Project. If the benefits outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental impacts, then those impacts  
6 may be considered "acceptable" under CEQA.

7 B. The County declares that the EIR has identified and discussed significant effects that may occur  
8 as a result of the Project. With the implementation of existing regulations and the mitigation measures  
9 discussed in the EIR, the environmental effects of the Project can be mitigated to less than significant  
10 levels, except for unavoidable significant impacts to:

- 11 • Cumulatively considerable contribution to an adverse cumulative effect on a scenic vista and/or  
12 on the visual character and quality of the landscape;
- 13 • Project-specific construction and decommissioning criteria air pollutant emissions;
- 14 • Cumulatively considerable net increase of a criteria pollutant which could contribute to existing  
15 nonattainment conditions;
- 16 • Project-specific construction impacts on special-status and migratory birds
- 17 • Project-specific construction impacts on special-status bats;
- 18 • Project-specific operation and maintenance impacts on special-status and migratory birds and  
19 special-status bats; and
- 20 • Project-specific decommissioning impacts on special-status and migratory birds and special-  
21 status bats.

22 C. The County declares that it has made a reasonable and good faith effort to eliminate or  
23 substantially mitigate the impacts listed above. To the extent any mitigation measures could not be  
24 incorporated, such mitigation measures are infeasible because of specific economic, legal, social,  
25 technological and other considerations and the benefits of the Project outweigh the unmitigated impacts.

26 D. The County declares that, having reduced the significant adverse environmental effects of the  
27 Project to the extent feasible by adopting the mitigation measures, having considered the entire  
28

1 administrative record on the Project, and having weighed the benefits of the Project against its unavoidable  
2 adverse impacts after mitigation, the County has determined that the following social, economic, and  
3 environmental benefits of the Project outweigh the potential unavoidable significant adverse impacts and  
4 render those potential adverse environmental impacts acceptable. Each benefit set forth below constitutes  
5 an overriding consideration warranting approval of the Project, independent of the other benefits, and the  
6 County determines that the adverse environmental impacts of the Project are “acceptable” if any of these  
7 benefits would be realized. The Project would provide the following benefits:

- 8 • The Project would produce up to a minimum of 500 MW and up to 750 MW of electricity from  
9 a renewable source for delivery to the regional power grid in accordance with the California  
10 Renewables Portfolio Standard goals.
- 11 • Energy produced by the Project would assist the State of California in complying with the  
12 mandates established by Executive Order S-14-08 requiring investor-owned utilities to purchase  
13 33 percent of their energy portfolio from renewable energy sources by 2020.
- 14 • The production of energy from solar facilities like the Project has the added benefit of reducing  
15 air quality impacts and GHG emissions that would be produced by fossil-fuel based generation  
16 facilities.
- 17 • The Project would use a reliable and proven solar technology (PV) with minimal disturbance to  
18 or depletion of natural resources as compared to alternative types of development (including  
19 solar thermal trough, which would require extensive grading). Once operational, PV solar panels  
20 use no fuel source other than the energy from the sun, as opposed to natural gas or coal.
- 21 • The Project would employ an average of 341 construction workers over a 46-month period (the  
22 total number of construction workers would range between 43 and 600 at a time) (DEIR, p. 2-  
23 45) and would provide approximately 20 permanent, full-time jobs (DEIR, p. 2-50) in Riverside  
24 County.
- 25 • The Project would provide other important benefits to the local and regional economy from the  
26 purchase of equipment and supplies, increased sales and use tax revenue as agreed upon in the  
27 terms of Section 4.3 of Development Agreement No. 77, property taxes, annual public benefit  
28

1 payments and increases as agreed upon in the terms of Section 4.2 of Development Agreement  
2 No. 77 for thirty years, ] and benefits to local motels, hotels, and other purveyors of temporary  
3 housing [DEIR, p. 4.14-3].

- 4 • The Project would result in the contribution of significant development impact fees calculated in  
5 accordance with the Riverside County Development Impact Fee Ordinance (Ordinance No. 659;  
6 Riverside County, 2006), and as agreed upon in Section 4.4 of Development Agreement No. 77,  
7 to assure that Project pays its fair share of the capital costs associated with commercial growth.
- 8 • As set forth in the Condition of Approval 80.Planning.2 for CUP No. 3682, the Project owner  
9 would post or establish financial assurances related to the decommissioning and restoration of  
10 the site should the solar facility become inoperable within the anticipated lifespan of the Project  
11 or at the end of the permit period (anticipated to be approximately 30 years) in order to ensure  
12 the maintenance of the health, safety, and welfare of the County's citizens. To the extent the  
13 solar equipment is removed, the land will be available for other uses consistent with applicable  
14 land use regulations.
- 15 • The Project optimizes the use of the site, which possesses characteristics ideal for locating a  
16 solar energy facility. These characteristics include, but are not limited to, proximity to the  
17 electrical grid and minimal conflicts with surrounding land uses.
- 18 • The Project is located in BLM's Riverside Solar Energy Zone, considered by BLM to be a  
19 preferred location for solar energy projects in Southern California.

## 20 SECTION IX

### 21 CONSISTENCY WITH GENERAL PLAN

22 Through the imposition of conditions of approval, project design, and mitigation measures, the Project  
23 is consistent with Land Use Policies of the "Open Space: Rural" designation, including:

- 24 a) Require that structures are designed to maintain the environmental character in which they are  
25 located. (General Plan Policy LU 20.1)
- 26 b) Require that development is designed to blend with undeveloped natural contours of the site and  
27 avoid an unvaried, unnatural, or manufactured appearance. (General Plan Policy LU 20.2)

- 1 c) Require that adequate and available circulation facilities, water resources, sewer facilities, and/or  
2 septic capacity exist to meet the demands of the proposed land use. (General Plan Policy LU 20.3)
- 3 d) Ensure that development does not adversely impact the open space and rural character of the  
4 surrounding area. (General Plan Policy LU 20.4)

5 Specifically, the Project site is located within the County General Plan's "Open Space – Rural" land use  
6 designation, which applies to "remote, privately owned open space areas with limited access and a lack of  
7 public services." [DEIR p. 4.11-2] The General Plan Open Space policies, however, do not categorically  
8 forbid development. Further, the consistency zoning applied to the Project site by the County likewise does  
9 not preclude development. Instead, the site is zoned W-2-10 (Controlled Development 10-acre minimum),  
10 which allows development subject to the County's zoning ordinance. Ordinance No. 348 allows for the  
11 development of electrical power, public utilities, and related transmission lines in the W-2-10 zone, subject  
12 to County permitting. [DEIR p. 4.11-3] Accordingly, the fact that the Project proposes to develop land  
13 within the Open Space land use designation does not create a General Plan inconsistency, provided that the  
14 Project furthers the County's overall General Plan objectives and policies. (See *San Franciscans*  
15 *Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco* (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 656, 677-  
16 679.)

17 Here, substantial evidence in the record – including the following – demonstrates that the Project is  
18 consistent with the above Open Space policies:

- 19 • The Project is required to use materials, coatings, and paints with little or no reflectivity wherever  
20 possible, in order to reduce visual impacts and help the Project blend into the existing surroundings.  
21 (Mitigation Measures 4.1-3 and 6-1a.) Similarly, the gen-tie line itself must include nonspecular  
22 conductors and use nonreflecting coatings in order to minimize potential contrast with the existing  
23 rural setting. (Mitigation Measure 4.1-3.) A form of color treatment shall be used to reduce visual  
24 contrast between the backs or non-energy gathering side of the solar panels and the landscape  
25 setting. Since not all of the panels are visible outside the Project footprint, the exact location or  
26 color treatment method that will be required shall be determined prior to installation (Mitigation  
27 Measure 6-1a.) Each of these measures will ensure that, to the fullest extent feasible, project  
28

1 structures will blend into the character of the site, will avoid an unnatural or manufactured  
2 appearance, and will help to maintain the existing character of the surrounding area consistent with  
3 the above General Plan policies.

- 4 • The Project is required to implement a lighting plan, both during construction and operation, which  
5 will minimize any night sky impacts, reduce light pollution, and preserve the nighttime darkness  
6 that is characteristic of the area. (Mitigation Measures 4.1-3 and 6-1a.) This measure will,  
7 therefore, ensure that the Project blends, to the fullest extent feasible, with the character of the  
8 surrounding lands and the undeveloped nature of the area consistent with the above General Plan  
9 policies.
- 10 • The Project will use soil stabilizers that reduce air quality emissions, but the County requires those  
11 stabilizers to be carefully applied so that no increase in environmental impacts beyond those shown  
12 in the EIR (including loss of vegetation) will occur. (Applicant Proposed Measure AIR-1;  
13 Mitigation Measure 6-1b.) These measures will ensure that roadways are designed to maintain, to  
14 the fullest extent possible, the existing rural character of the Project area consistent with the above  
15 General Plan policies. Likewise, these measures will avoid and prevent unnecessary impacts to the  
16 open space and rural character that surrounds the site consistent with the above General Plan  
17 policies.
- 18 • The Project will implement a Revegetation Plan to restore all temporarily disturbed areas and return  
19 them to their pre-construction condition. (Applicant Proposed Measure BIO-2; Mitigation  
20 Measures 6-1b and 6-1d.) This plan will also include the reuse and restoration of rocks, brush, and  
21 vegetal debris in order to approximate pre-construction visual conditions. These measures will  
22 ensure that, to the fullest extent possible, the existing rural character of the project area is  
23 maintained, that the Project blends in to the existing vegetation and open space nature of the  
24 surrounding lands, and that the open space and rural nature of the Project area is preserved and  
25 protected consistent with the above General Plan policies.
- 26 • The Project will contour all disturbed areas to approximately naturally occurring slopes, thereby  
27 avoiding form and line contrast with the existing landscape. (Mitigation Measure 6-1d.) Such  
28

1       contouring will include the use of boulders and rocks, vegetal debris, and other resources to ensure  
2       that the contouring maintains existing conditions to the fullest extent feasible consistent with the  
3       above General Plan policies

- 4       • The Project will ensure that the hydrology downstream of the Project site is maintained in its  
5       current condition. (Applicant Proposed Measure HYDRO-1.) This measure will ensure that the  
6       existing rural character of the area's hydrology is preserved in its existing condition. This measure  
7       will also ensure that modifications to drainage conditions will not occur in a manner that results in  
8       unnatural or manufactured appearances. Likewise, this measure will avoid and prevent unnecessary  
9       impacts to the open space and rural character that surrounds the site. Finally, this measure ensures  
10      that the Project will not require the construction of new drainage facilities to accommodate the  
11      proposed land use that might otherwise interfere with the open space nature of the area consistent  
12      with the above General Plan policies.
- 13     • The Project will use existing and available roadways for purposes of construction-related  
14     circulation. (Mitigation Measure 4.4-4a.) Similarly, the Project is required to construct adequate  
15     roadways to allow for access to the Project site consistent with the proposed land use, but all such  
16     roadways are required to be limited to the minimum area of disturbance necessary. (Mitigation  
17     Measure 4.4-4a.) These measures will limit any impacts to the existing rural environment and  
18     character of the site by requiring that existing roadways be used, where feasible, and that any new  
19     roadways be limited and clearly marked consistent with the above General Plan policies.
- 20     • The project will provide all necessary Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control stormwater  
21     and runoff impacts associated with the proposed land use and will also implement a comprehensive  
22     Drainage, Stormwater, and Sedimentation Control Plan. (Mitigation Measures 4.10-1 and 4.10-5.)  
23     Such BMPs and measures include litter monitoring and removal, stormwater and sediment control  
24     measures, the application of soil stabilizers, the preclusion of construction activities during rain  
25     events, and other measures to ensure that the Project has adequate stormwater facilities consistent  
26     with the above General Plan policies.

- 1 • The Project will be located a great distance from sensitive receptors, travel corridors, and  
2 population centers. [DEIR p. 2-2 (Project site is 13 miles northwest of Blythe; 32 miles east of  
3 Desert Center; and 6 miles north of Interstate-10)] The Project incorporates screening and contrast-  
4 reducing elements, as described above. Due to this distance and these screening elements, as well  
5 as the size and orientation of the Project components, the Project would not block scenic elements  
6 in the landscape or dominate the viewshed. [DEIR p. 4.1-26] Accordingly, the Project's structures  
7 are designed to maintain the character of the area in which they are located; the development will  
8 blend into the surrounding landscape to the extent feasible; and the Project's impacts to open space  
9 and the area's rural character are reduced to the fullest extent feasible consistent with the above  
10 General Plan policies.
- 11 • The Project is conditioned such that the Project must not preclude the maintenance of the  
12 north/south Off Highway Vehicle connectivity to the west side of the Big Maria Wilderness Area  
13 and to the northeast side of the Palen-McCoy Wilderness Area. [DEIR p. 4.16-9] Accordingly, the  
14 Project will not interfere with the existing open-space recreational uses that occur in the area or the  
15 rural character of the uses that occur in the area, consistent with the above General Plan policies.
- 16 • The Project has minimal water demands, with an anticipated 30-year total water demand of only  
17 930 to 1,350 acre feet. [DEIR p. 4.18-9] Water will be provided through existing and available  
18 groundwater sources beneath the Project site, and no significant impacts are anticipated as a result  
19 of this minimal usage. [DEIR p. 4.18-10] Similarly, no sewer infrastructure is needed to  
20 accommodate the Project's minimal wastewater needs, as the Project proposes to treat all such  
21 wastewater on-site. [DEIR p. 4.18-10] Accordingly, the Project will meet all waters resource and  
22 sewer needs that will be constructed as part of the Project, which is consistent with the above  
23 General Plan policies.
- 24 • Open space areas exist on all sides of the Project site within County jurisdiction and would not be  
25 developed as part of the proposed Project. Accordingly, the Project will not result in a change to  
26 the overall rural character of the area.
- 27  
28

1 Accordingly, as confirmed by substantial evidence in the record and as stated in the EIR prepared and  
2 circulated for the Project, the Project “is consistent with the open space protection policy of the Riverside  
3 County General Plan.” [DEIR p. 4.4-118; see also DEIR pp. 4.11-4 through 4.11-5 (confirming that “no  
4 impact” would occur relative to local land use plans).]

5 Even if the Project were to be found somewhat inconsistent with one or more of the above Open Space  
6 policies, the Project remains consistent with the spirit and intent of the General Plan as a whole. Indeed,  
7 guidance issued by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (General Plan Guidelines, 2003, p.  
8 164) confirms that a project is properly found consistent with an applicable general plan if the project will  
9 further the overall objectives and policies of the general plan and not obstruct their attainment. An  
10 agency’s determination on these matters must be given great deference. (*San Franciscans Upholding the*  
11 *Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco* (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 656, 677-679 [court  
12 deferred to County’s determination that project was consistent with general plan]; *No Oil, Inc. v. City of*  
13 *Los Angeles* (1987) 196 Cal.App.3d 223, 243-249 [court deferred to City’s interpretation of own municipal  
14 codes].)

15 Here, the Project is consistent with and will further the overall objectives and policies of the General  
16 Plan as a whole. In addition to the furtherance of the policies that are limited to the Open Space Element  
17 and discussed above, the County has adopted County-wide policies that are specific to solar resources, such  
18 as those provided by the Project. General Plan Policy LU 15.15 specifically states: “Permit and encourage,  
19 in an environmentally and fiscally responsible manner, the development of renewable energy resources and  
20 related infrastructure, including but not limited to, the development of solar power plants in the County of  
21 Riverside.” Given that solar power plants must be sited in areas where substantial sunlight exists, such as  
22 the County’s desert areas, the Project is consistent with the General Plan’s encouragement of the  
23 development of solar plants.

24 Additionally, General Plan Policy LU 8.2 states: “Require that development protect environmental  
25 resources by compliance with the Multipurpose Open Space Element of the General Plan and Federal and  
26 State regulations such as CEQA, NEPA, the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act.” Again, the Project  
27 has undergone comprehensive CEQA, NEPA, and related environmental review as part of the County’s  
28



1 consideration of the Project. Moreover, the construction of the Project (a solar power plant) will reduce the  
2 region's reliance on electricity generated by fossil fuels as well as the pollutants that fossil fuel-dependent  
3 generation creates. Accordingly, the Project is consistent with and furthers this policy as well.

4 **SECTION X**

5 **CERTIFICATION OF EIR**

6 The County finds that it has reviewed and considered the EIR in evaluating the Project, that the EIR  
7 is an accurate and objective statement that fully complies with the Public Resources Code and the CEQA  
8 Guidelines and that the EIR reflects the independent judgment of the Board of Supervisors. The Board of  
9 Supervisors consequently certifies the EIR.

10 The Board of Supervisors declares that no new significant information as defined by CEQA  
11 Guidelines section 15088.5 has been received by the County after circulation of the Revised DEIR nor  
12 added by the County to the EIR that would require recirculation.

13 The Board of Supervisors certifies the EIR based on, without limitation, the following finding and  
14 conclusions:

15 **A. Finding:** The significant environmental impacts set forth in Section IV of this Resolution have  
16 been identified in the EIR and will require mitigation, but cannot be mitigated to a less than significant  
17 level.

18 **B. Conclusions:**

- 19 1. All significant environmental impacts from the implementation of the Project have been  
20 identified in the EIR and, with implementation of the identified mitigation measures impacts  
21 will be mitigated to a less than significant level, except for the impacts listed in Section IV  
22 of this Resolution.
- 23 2. Environmental, economic, social and other considerations and benefits derived from the  
24 Project override and make infeasible mitigation measures beyond those incorporated into the  
25 Project.
- 26 3. Other reasonable alternatives to the Project that could feasibly achieve the basic goals and  
27 objectives of the proposed Project have been considered and rejected in favor of the Project.

1 **SECTION XI**

2 **ADOPTION OF MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

3 Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21081.6, the Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the  
4 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program attached to this Resolution as Exhibit "A". In the event of  
5 any inconsistencies between the mitigation measures as set forth herein and the Mitigation Monitoring and  
6 Reporting Program, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program shall control.

7 **SECTION XII**

8 **PROJECT APPROVAL**

9 Based upon the entire administrative record before the Board of Supervisors, including the above  
10 findings and all written and oral evidence presented during the administrative process, the Board of  
11 Supervisors hereby approves the McCoy Solar Energy Project.

12 **SECTION XIII**

13 **CUSTODIAN OF RECORD**

14 The custodians of the documents and materials that constitute the record of proceedings on which  
15 this decision is based are the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and the County Planning Department.  
16 These documents and materials are located at 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California. This information is  
17 provided in compliance with Public Resources Code section 21081.6.

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**RESOLUTION 2014-054**

**EXHIBIT A**

**MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

# APPENDIX G

## Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

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### Introduction

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that a Lead Agency establish a program to monitor and report on mitigation measures adopted as part of the environmental review process to avoid or reduce the severity and magnitude of potentially significant environmental impacts associated with project implementation. CEQA (Pub. Res. Code §21081.6(a)(1)) requires that a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) be adopted at the time that the agency determines to carry out a project for which an EIR has been prepared, to ensure that mitigation measures identified in the EIR are fully implemented.

This document describes a preliminary MMRP for ensuring the effective implementation of the mitigation measures that are recommended in the EIR for Riverside County's approval of McCoy Solar, LLC's Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and Public Use Permit (PUP) applications and related documents, including Development Agreement (DA) No. 77, to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission the Project. Current versions as of the publication of the Final EIR of all mitigation measures identified in the Draft EIR and Revised DEIR are presented in Table G-1, which is provided at the end of this MMRP.

Riverside County would only implement/enforce the MMRP as it applies to land under County jurisdiction e.g., the 477 acres of private land within Unit 1 of the solar field. The BLM would be responsible for implementing/enforcing mitigation measures on BLM land pursuant to the BLM Record of Decision and Right of Way Grant issued to the Project.

The MMRP is a working guide to facilitate not only the implementation of mitigation measures by the Applicant, but also the monitoring, compliance, and reporting activities of the County and any monitors it may designate. If the Final EIR is certified and the Project is approved, this MMRP would be updated to reflect the final (approved) mitigation measures and thereafter would serve as a self-contained general reference for the MMRP adopted by the County for the Project.

If the County approves the Applicant's CUP and PUP applications and enters into a DA for the Project, the Applicant would be responsible for implementation of any mitigation measures and other commitments governing the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the Project. The County would act as the lead agency for monitoring compliance with all mitigation measures required by this EIR. All approvals and permits obtained by the Applicant would be submitted to the County for mitigation compliance prior to commencing the activity for which the permits and approvals were obtained.

The MMRP describes implementation and monitoring procedural guidance, responsibilities, and timing for each mitigation measure identified in the EIR, including:

**Significant Impact:** Identifies the Impact Number and statement from the EIR.

**Mitigation Measure:** Provides full text of the mitigation measure as provided in the EIR.

**Monitoring Responsibility / Action:** Designates responsibility for implementation of the mitigation measures and when appropriate, summarizes the steps to be taken to implement them.

**Mitigation Timing:** Identifies the stage of the Project during which the mitigation action will be taken.

**Monitoring Schedule and Reporting Procedure:** Specifies procedures for documenting and reporting mitigation implementation.

The responsibilities of mitigation implementation, monitoring and reporting extend to several County departments. The manager or department lead of the identified unit or department will be directly responsible for ensuring the Applicant complies with the mitigation. The Planning Department is responsible for the overall administration of the program and for assisting relevant departments and project managers in their oversight and reporting responsibilities.

TABLE G-1  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Aesthetics, Visual Quality, and Light and Glare</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.1-3:</b> The Project would create a new source of light and glare that could adversely affect views in the area.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.1-3: Minimize Light and Glare.</b> Visual design elements shall be integrated into the construction plans, details, shop drawings and specifications to minimize impacts from light and glare, including the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Materials, coatings, or paints having little or no reflectivity shall be used whenever possible.</li> <li>2. The gen-tie line and the distribution line shall utilize nonspecular conductors and nonreflective coatings on insulators.</li> </ol> <p>A lighting plan shall be prepared that documents how lighting will be designed and installed to minimize night-sky impacts during facility construction and operations. Lighting for facilities should not exceed the minimum number of lights and brightness required for safety and security, and should not cause excessive reflected glare. Low-pressure sodium light sources should be used to reduce light pollution. Full cut-off luminaires should be used to minimize uplighting. Lights should be directed downward or toward the area to be illuminated. Light fixtures should not spill light beyond the project boundary. Lights in highly illuminated areas that are not occupied on a continuous basis should have switches, timer switches, or motion detectors so that the lights operate only when the area is occupied. Where feasible, vehicle mounted lights should be used for night maintenance activities. Wherever feasible, consistent with safety and security, lighting should be kept off when not in use. Visual design elements within the lighting plan shall be measurable and monitored while under construction, while operational, and when decommissioned. The plan shall include a monitoring and compliance plan that establishes the monitoring requirements and thresholds for acceptable performance. The lighting plan shall include a process for promptly addressing and mitigating complaints about potential lighting impacts.</p>	<p>Integrate light and glare design elements into the construction plans, details, shop drawings and specifications.</p> <p>Promptly address and mitigate complaints about potential lighting impacts.</p>	<p>Develop and implement a monitoring and compliance plan for the lighting plan.</p> <p>Maintain and monitor compliance with the light and glare objectives, adaptive management adjustments, and modifications.</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p> <p>During operation and maintenance</p>
<p><b>Impact 6-1:</b> The Project would have a cumulatively considerable contribution to an adverse cumulative effect on a scenic vista and/or on the visual character and quality of the landscape.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 6-1a: Project Design, Building and Structural Materials.</b> Visual design elements shall be integrated into the construction plans, details, shop drawings and specifications; these shall include, but not be limited to, grubbing and clearing, vegetation thinning and clearing, grading, revegetation, drainage, and structural plans. Visual design elements within the plans shall be measurable and monitored while under construction, while operational, and when decommissioned. The plans shall include a monitoring and compliance plan that establishes the monitoring requirements and thresholds for acceptable performance. A careful study of the site shall be performed to identify appropriate colors and textures for materials; both summer and winter appearance shall be considered as well as seasons of peak visitor use (September 15 to April 15). Visual design elements to be integrated into construction plans, details, shop drawings and specifications must at a minimum include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vegetation and ground disturbance associated with access road construction, gen-tie and distribution line installations, and the perimeter access road shall be minimized and take advantage of existing clearings wherever feasible.</li> </ol>	<p>Integrate visual design elements into the construction plans, details, shop drawings and specifications.</p>	<p>Develop and implement a monitoring and compliance plan for integrating the visual design elements.</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Aesthetics, Visual Quality, and Light and Glare (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 6-1 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>2. Along all off-site access roads, all off-site gen-tie and distribution line corridors, and all internal access roads 16 feet or wider, gravelled surfaces, areas to be permanently cleared of vegetation, and (if applicable) cut slopes shall be treated with rock stains or other color treatment appropriate with the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>3. Openings in vegetation for facilities, structures, roads, and gen-tie line monopoles (and/or H-frames), shall be feathered and shaped to repeat the size, shape, and characteristics of naturally occurring openings.</p> <p>4. A form of color treatment shall be used to reduce visual contrast between the backs or non-energy gathering side of the solar panels and the landscape setting. Since not all of the panels are visible outside the project footprint, the exact location or color treatment method that will be required shall be determined prior to installation.</p> <p>5. Security fencing shall be coated with black poly-vinyl or other visual contrast reducing color.</p> <p>6. Materials, coatings, or paints having little or no reflectivity shall be used whenever possible.</p> <p>7. Grouped structures, including the water tanks and prefabricated buildings, shall be painted the same color to reduce visual complexity and color contrast.</p> <p>8. The gen-tie line and the distribution line shall utilize nonspecular conductors and nonreflective coatings on insulators.</p> <p>9. The choice of color treatments shall be based on the appearance at typical viewing distances and consider the entire landscape around the proposed development as it would be viewed from publicly accessible locations. Appropriate colors for smooth surfaces often need to be two to three shades darker than the background color to compensate for shadows that darken most textured natural surfaces. Choice of colors shall be made in consultation with a County landscape architect or other designated visual resource specialist.</p> <p>10. A lighting plan shall be prepared that documents how lighting will be designed and installed to minimize night-sky impacts during facility construction and operations. Lighting for facilities should not exceed the minimum number of lights and brightness required for safety and security, and should not cause excessive reflected glare. Low-pressure sodium light sources should be used to reduce light pollution. Full cut-off luminaires should be used to minimize uplighting. Lights should be directed downward or toward the area to be illuminated. Light fixtures should not spill light beyond the project boundary. Lights in highly illuminated areas that are not occupied on a continuous basis should have switches, timer switches, or motion detectors so that the lights operate only when the area is occupied. Where feasible, vehicle mounted lights should be used for night maintenance activities. Wherever feasible, consistent with safety and security, lighting should be kept off when not in use. The lighting plan should include a process for promptly addressing and mitigating complaints about potential lighting impacts.</p>			



TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Aesthetics, Visual Quality, and Light and Glare (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 6-1 (cont.)</b></p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 6-1b: Construction Phase Visual Mitigation.</b> A pre-construction meeting with County landscape architects, BLM landscape architects, or other designated visual/scenic resource specialists shall be held before construction begins to coordinate on the mitigation strategy and confirm the compliance-checking schedule and procedures. Final design and construction documents will be reviewed for completeness with regard to the visual mitigation elements, assuring that requirements and commitments are adequately addressed. The construction documents shall include, but not be limited to grading, drainage, revegetation, vegetation clearing, and feathering plans. Specific measures shall include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Applicant shall reduce visual impacts during construction by clearly delineating construction boundaries and minimizing areas of surface disturbance; preserving existing, native vegetation to the extent feasible; utilizing undulating surface-disturbance edges; stripping, salvaging, and replacing topsoil; using contoured grading; controlling erosion; using dust suppression techniques; and restoring exposed soils to their original contour and vegetation.</li> <li>2. Visual impact mitigation objectives and activities shall be discussed with equipment operators before construction activities begin.</li> <li>3. Existing rocks, vegetation, and drainage patterns shall be preserved to the extent feasible.</li> <li>4. Brush-beating or mowing or using protective surface matting rather than removing vegetation shall be employed where feasible.</li> <li>5. Slash from vegetation removal shall be mulched and spread to cover fresh soil disturbances as part of the revegetation plan. Slash piles shall not be left in sensitive viewing areas.</li> <li>6. The visual color contrast of graveled surfaces shall be reduced with approved color treatment practices.</li> <li>7. No paint or permanent discoloring agents shall be applied to rocks or vegetation to indicate surveyor construction activity limits.</li> <li>8. All stakes and flagging shall be removed from the construction area and disposed of in an approved facility.</li> </ol> <p><b>Mitigation Measure 6-1c: Operation and Maintenance Phase Visual Mitigation.</b> Minimum measures are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Applicant shall maintain revegetated surfaces until a self-sustaining stand of vegetation is re-established and visually adapted to the undisturbed surrounding vegetation. No new disturbance shall be created during operations without prior approval from the County.</li> <li>2. Interim restoration shall be undertaken during the operating life of the Project as soon as possible after disturbances.</li> <li>3. Painted facilities shall be kept in good repair and repainted when color fades or flakes.</li> </ol>	<p>Develop a visual impact mitigation strategy</p> <p>Include grading, drainage, revegetation, vegetation clearing, and feathering plans in the construction documents</p> <p>Demonstrate how visual objectives will be met, monitored, and measured for conformance in the construction documents</p>	<p>Include compliance-checking schedule and procedures in mitigation strategy.</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>
		<p>Maintain and monitor compliance with the visual objectives, adaptive management adjustments, and modifications approved by the County</p> <p>landscape architect or other designated visual/scenic resource specialist.</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>During operation</p>

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
Aesthetics, Visual Quality, and Light and Glare (cont.)				
Impact 6-1 (cont.)	<p>4. The color treatment method used to reduce visual contrast between the backs or non-energy gathering side of the solar panels and the landscape setting shall be kept in good repair, and repaired/re-treated when it no longer effectively reduces the visual contrast.</p> <p>Mitigation Measure 6-1d: Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan. A Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan, covering visual impact mitigation measures, shall be in place prior to construction, and reclamation activities should be undertaken as soon as possible after disturbances occur and be maintained throughout the life of the Project. The following decommissioning/reclamation activities/practices shall be implemented to partially mitigate visual impacts associated with solar energy development, where feasible:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pre-development visual conditions shall be reviewed, and the visual elements of form, line, color, and texture shall be restored to pre-development visual compatibility or to that of the surrounding landscape setting conditions, whichever achieves the better visual quality and most ecologically sound outcome.</li> <li>2. A Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan shall be developed, approved by the County, and implemented. The plan shall require that all aboveground and near-ground structures be removed. Some structures shall be removed only to a level below the ground surface that will allow reclamation/restoration. Topsoil from all decommissioning activities shall be salvaged and reapplied during final reclamation. The plan shall include provisions for monitoring and determining compliance with the plan.</li> <li>3. Soil borrow areas, cut-and-fill slopes, berms, water bars, and other disturbed areas shall be contoured to approximate naturally occurring slopes, thereby avoiding form and line contrasts with the existing landscapes. The Applicant shall contour to a rough texture (i.e., use large rocks/boulders, grade uneven surfaces, and/or vegetation mulches/debris) in order to trap seed and to discourage off-road travel, thereby reducing associated visual impacts.</li> <li>4. A combination of seeding, planting of nursery stock, transplanting of local vegetation within the proposed disturbance areas, and staging of decommissioning activities enabling direct transplanting shall be considered. Where feasible, native vegetation shall be used for revegetating to establish a composition consistent with the form, line, color, and texture of the surrounding undisturbed landscape.</li> <li>5. Stockpiled topsoil shall be reapplied to disturbed areas, and the areas shall be revegetated by using a mix of native species selected for visual compatibility with existing vegetation, where applicable, or by using a mix of native and non-native species if necessary to ensure successful revegetation. Gravel and other surface treatments shall be removed or buried.</li> <li>6. Rocks, brush, and vegetal debris shall be restored whenever possible to approximate pre-existing visual conditions.</li> </ol>	<p>Develop decommissioning and site reclamation plan</p> <p>Implement approved decommissioning and site reclamation plan</p>	<p>Include provisions for monitoring and determining compliance with the plan.</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p> <p>During decommissioning and site reclamation</p>

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Air Quality</b>				
<b>Impact 4.3-1:</b> Construction and decommissioning of the Project would generate emissions of criteria air pollutants which could contribute to existing nonattainment conditions and further degrade air quality.	<b>Mitigation Measure 4.3-1:</b> The Applicant shall prepare and submit to the MDAQMD a dust control plan prior to commencing construction related earth-moving activity that describes all applicable dust control measures that will be implemented for the Project.	Submit plan to the MDAQMD	--	Prior to earth-moving activity
<b>Impact 4.3-2:</b> Operation and maintenance activities associated with the Project would generate emissions of criteria air pollutants which could contribute to existing nonattainment conditions and further degrade air quality.	<b>Mitigation Measure 4.3-2:</b> The Applicant shall ensure that all areas where desert pavement has been disturbed during construction of the Project shall be applied with a non-toxic soil stabilizer prior to Project operation. The Applicant shall develop, for review and approval by the County, a plan that outlines the frequency of non-toxic soil stabilizer applications based on the specifications of the selected soil stabilizer.	Submit plan to Riverside County	--	All Project phases
<b>Impact 4.3-4A:</b> The Project would expose workers to Coccidioides fungal spores if they are present in desert soils.	Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.3-2 and Mitigation Measure 4.4-3a.1.b.	Implement Mitigation Measure 4.3-2 and Mitigation Measure 4.4-3a.1.b.		
<b>Biological Resources</b>				
<b>Impact 4.4-1:</b> Project construction would have a substantial adverse effect on special-status plants	<b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-1a: Qualifications of Designated Biologist.</b> The Applicant shall assign at least one Designated Biologist to the Project. The Applicant shall submit the resume of the proposed Designated Biologist(s), with at least three references and contact information, to the County for approval in consultation with CDFW and USFWS.  The Designated Biologist must meet the following minimum qualifications: 1. Bachelor's degree in biological sciences, zoology, botany, ecology, or a closely related field; 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. Have at least one year of field experience with biological resources found in or near the Project area;	Approve qualifications of designated biologist.	--  Prior to construction	

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
<b>Impact 4.4-1 (cont.)</b>	<p>4. Meet the current USFWS Authorized Biologist qualifications criteria (<a href="http://www.fws.gov/ventura/speciesinfo/protocols_guidelines">www.fws.gov/ventura/speciesinfo/protocols_guidelines</a>), demonstrate familiarity with protocols and guidelines for the desert tortoise, and be approved by the USFWS;</p> <p>5. Possess a CESA Memorandum of Understanding pursuant to §2081(a) for desert tortoise.</p> <p>In lieu of the above requirements, the resume shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the County, in consultation with CDFW and USFWS, that the proposed Designated Biologist or alternate has the appropriate training and background to effectively implement the mitigation measures.</p>			
	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-1b: Duties of the Designated Biologist.</b> The Applicant shall ensure that the Designated Biologist performs the activities described below during any site mobilization activities, construction-related ground disturbance, grading, boring or trenching activities. The Designated Biologist may be assisted by the approved Biological Monitor(s) but remains the contact for the Applicant and the County. The Designated Biologist Duties shall include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advise the Applicant's construction and operation managers on the implementation of the biological resources mitigation measures;</li> <li>2. Consult on the preparation of the Biological Resources Mitigation, Implementation, and Monitoring Plan (BRMIMP) to be submitted by the Applicant;</li> <li>3. Be available to supervise, conduct and coordinate mitigation, monitoring, and other biological resources compliance efforts, particularly in areas requiring avoidance or containing sensitive biological resources, such as special-status species or their habitat;</li> <li>4. Clearly mark sensitive biological resource areas and inspect these areas at appropriate intervals for compliance with regulatory terms and conditions;</li> <li>5. Inspect active construction areas where animals may have become trapped prior to construction commencing each day. At the end of the day, inspect for the installation of structures that prevent entrapment or allow escape during periods of construction inactivity. Periodically inspect areas with high vehicle activity (e.g., parking lots) for animals in harm's way;</li> <li>6. Notify the Applicant and the County of any non-compliance with any biological resources mitigation measure;</li> <li>7. Respond directly to inquiries of the County regarding biological resource issues;</li> <li>8. Maintain written records of the tasks specified above and those included in the BRMIMP. Summaries of these records shall be submitted in the Monthly Compliance Report and the Annual Compliance Report;</li> <li>9. Train the Biological Monitors as appropriate, and ensure their familiarity with the BRMIMP, Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training, and USFWS guidelines on desert tortoise surveys and handling procedures<sup>1</sup>; and</li> </ol>	<p>Ensure that the designated biologist performs all required activities during any site disturbing activities. Ensure that any non-conformance is reported to the County.</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>During ground disturbing activities</p>

<sup>1</sup> Available at: [http://www.fws.gov/ventura/species\\_information/protocols\\_guidelines/](http://www.fws.gov/ventura/species_information/protocols_guidelines/)

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
<b>Impact 4.4-1 (cont.)</b>	<p>10. Maintain the ability to be in regular, direct communication with representatives of CDFW, USFWS, and the County, including notifying these agencies of dead or injured listed species and reporting special-status species observations to the California Natural Diversity Data Base.</p>			
	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-1c: Identification of Biological Monitors.</b> The Designated Biologist shall submit the resume, at least three references, and contact information of the proposed Biological Monitors to the County. The resume shall demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the County, the appropriate education and experience to accomplish the assigned biological resource tasks. The Biological Monitor is the equivalent of the USFWS-approved biologist (also "Service-approved biologist").</p> <p>Biological Monitor(s) training by the Designated Biologist shall include familiarity with the mitigation measures, BRMIMP, WEAP, and USFWS guidelines on desert tortoise surveys and handling procedures.</p>	<p>Review and approve the proposed Biological Monitors</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>
	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-1d: Duties of Biological Monitors.</b> The Biological Monitors shall assist the Designated Biologist in conducting surveys and in monitoring of site mobilization activities, construction-related ground disturbance, grading, boring or trenching. The Designated Biologist shall remain the contact for the Applicant and the County.</p>	<p>Ensure the Biological Monitors assist the Designated Biologist</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>During site disturbing activities</p>
	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-1e: Authority of the Designated Biologist and Biological Monitors.</b> The Applicant's construction/operation manager shall act on the advice of the Designated Biologist and Biological Monitor(s) to ensure conformance with the biological resources mitigation measures. The Designated Biologist shall have the authority to immediately stop any activity that is not in compliance with these conditions and/or order any reasonable measure to avoid take of an individual of a listed species. If required by the Designated Biologist and Biological Monitor(s) the Applicant's construction/operation manager shall halt all site mobilization, ground disturbance, grading, boring, trenching, and operation activities in areas specified by the Designated Biologist. The Designated Biologist shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Require a halt to all activities in any area when determined that there would be an unauthorized adverse impact to biological resources if the activities continued;</li> <li>2. Inform the Applicant and the construction/operation manager when to resume activities; and</li> <li>3. Notify the County if there is a halt of any activities and advise the County of any corrective actions that have been taken or would be instituted as a result of the work stoppage.</li> </ol> <p>If the Designated Biologist is unavailable for direct consultation, the Biological Monitor shall act on behalf of the Designated Biologist.</p>	<p>Ensure conformance with the biological resources mitigation measures and advice of the Designated Biologist and Biological Monitors</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>Prior to and during construction</p>
	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-1f: Biological Resources Mitigation Implementation and Monitoring Plan.</b> The Applicant shall develop a BRMIMP, and shall submit two copies of the proposed BRMIMP to the County for review and approval. The Applicant shall implement the measures identified in the approved BRMIMP. The BRMIMP shall incorporate avoidance and minimization measures described in final versions of the Invasive Weed Management Plan (Mitigation Measure 4.4-8), the Special-Status Plant Species Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Plan (Mitigation Measure 4.4-1g) and</p>	<p>Review and approve the proposed BRMIMP</p>	<p>As detailed in listed monitoring plans</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-1 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan (Mitigation Measure 4.4-7), the Desert Tortoise Relocation Translocation Plan (Mitigation Measure 4.4-2b), the Raven Management Plan (Mitigation Measure 4.4-3b), the Burrowing Owl Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (Mitigation Measure 4.4-8), and all other biological mitigation and/or monitoring plans associated with the Project.</p> <p>The BRMIMP shall be prepared in consultation with the Designated Biologist and shall include accurate and up-to-date maps depicting the location of sensitive biological resources that require temporary or permanent protection during construction and operation. The BRMIMP shall include complete and detailed descriptions of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All biological resources mitigation, monitoring, and compliance measures proposed and agreed to by the Applicant;</li> <li>All biological resources mitigation measures identified as necessary to avoid or mitigate impacts;</li> <li>All biological resource mitigation, monitoring and compliance measures required in federal agency terms and conditions, such as those provided in the USFWS Biological Opinion;</li> <li>All sensitive biological resources to be impacted, avoided, or mitigated by Project construction, operation, and closure;</li> <li>All required mitigation measures for each sensitive biological resource;</li> <li>All measures that shall be taken to avoid or mitigate temporary disturbances from construction activities;</li> <li>Duration for each type of monitoring and a description of monitoring methodologies and frequency;</li> <li>Performance standards to be used to help decide if/when proposed mitigation is or is not successful;</li> <li>All performance standards and remedial measures to be implemented if performance standards are not met;</li> <li>Biological resources-related facility closure measures including a description of funding mechanism(s);</li> <li>A process for proposing plan modifications to the County and appropriate agencies for review and approval; and</li> <li>A requirement to submit any sightings of any special-status species that are observed on or in proximity to the Project site, or during Project surveys, to the CNDDB per CDFW requirements.</li> </ol> <p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-1g: Special-Status Plant Species Impact Avoidance and Minimization, and Compensation.</b> For this four-part measure, the Applicant shall: A) prepare and implement a Special-Status Plant Species Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Plan that meets the approval of County; B) ensure adequate special-status plant surveys and reporting; C) avoid, minimize and mitigate for impacts to special-status plants; and D) fund or support a compensatory mitigation program for special-status plants through land acquisition, restoration/enhancement, or a combination of acquisition and restoration/ enhancement.</p>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
Impact 4.4-1 (cont.)	<p>In this discussion, the term "Project Disturbance Area" encompasses all areas to be temporarily and permanently disturbed by the Project, including the plant site, linear facilities, and areas disturbed by temporary access roads, fence installation, construction work lay-down and staging areas, parking, storage, or by any other activities resulting in disturbance to soil or vegetation.</p> <p><b>A) Special-Status Plant Impact Avoidance and Minimization Measures</b></p> <p>This measure contains the Best Management Practices and other measures designed to avoid accidental impacts to plants occurring outside of the Project Disturbance Area and within 100 feet of the Project Disturbance Area during construction, operation, and decommissioning. The Applicant shall incorporate all measures for protecting special-status plants in close proximity to the site into the BRMIMP (Mitigation Measure 4.4-1f). These measures shall include the following elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Site Design Modifications:</b> Incorporate site design modifications to minimize impacts to special-status plants along the Project linears: limiting the width of the work area; adjusting the location of staging areas, lay downs, spur roads and poles or towers; driving and crushing vegetation as an alternative to blading temporary roads to preserve the seed bank, and minor adjustments to the alignment of the roads and pipelines within the constraints of the Project Area. If engineered diversion channels are included, their discharge points shall be designed to maintain the natural surface drainage patterns between the engineered channel and the outlet of the natural washes that flow toward the south and east, downstream of the Project. These modifications shall be clearly depicted on the grading and construction plans, and on report-sized maps in the BRMIMP.</li> <li><b>Establish Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs).</b> Prior to the start of any ground- or vegetation-disturbing activities, a qualified Project biologist shall establish ESAs to protect avoided special-status plants that occur outside of the Project Disturbance Areas and within 100 feet of Project Disturbance Areas. This includes plant occurrences identified during the late season 2011 surveys. The locations of ESAs shall be clearly depicted on construction drawings, which shall also include all avoidance and minimization measures on the margins of the construction plans. The boundaries of the ESAs shall be placed a minimum of 20 feet from the uphill side of the occurrence and 10 feet from the downhill side. Where this is not possible due to construction constraints, other protection measures, such as silt-fencing and sediment controls, may be employed to protect the occurrences. Equipment and vehicle maintenance areas, and wash areas, shall be located 100 feet from the uphill side of any ESAs. ESAs shall be clearly delineated in the field with temporary construction fencing and signs prohibiting movement of the fencing or sediment controls under penalty of work stoppages and additional compensatory mitigation. ESAs shall also be clearly identified (with signage or by mapping on site plans) to ensure that avoided plants are not inadvertently harmed during construction, operation, or closure.</li> <li><b>Special-Status Plant Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP).</b> The WEAP (Mitigation Measure 4.4-17, below) shall include training components specific to protection of special-status plants that may occur in the Study Area.</li> </ol>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
Impact 4.4-1 (cont.)	<p>4. <i>Herbicide and Soil Stabilizer Drift Control Measures.</i> Special-status plant occurrences within 100 feet of the Project Disturbance Area shall be protected from herbicide and soil stabilizer drift. The Invasive Weed Management Plan (Mitigation Measure 4.4-3a) shall include measures to avoid chemical drift or residual toxicity to special-status plants consistent with guidelines such as those provided by the Nature Conservancy's The Global Invasive Species Team (Hillmer and Liedtke, 2003), the USEPA, and the Pesticide Action Network Database.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>5. <i>Erosion and Sediment Control Measures.</i> Erosion and sediment control measures shall not inadvertently impact special-status plants (e.g., by using invasive or non-native plants in seed mixes, introducing pest plants through contaminated seed or straw, etc.). These measures shall be incorporated in any required Drainage, Erosion, and Sedimentation Control Plans.</p> <p>6. <i>Avoid Special-Status Plant Occurrences.</i> Areas for spoils, equipment, vehicles, and materials storage areas; parking; equipment and vehicle maintenance areas, and wash areas shall be placed at least 100 feet from any ESAs.</p> <p>7. <i>Monitoring and Reporting Requirements.</i> The qualified botanist shall conduct weekly monitoring of the ESAs that protect special-status plant occurrences during construction and decommissioning activities.</p>			
	<p><b>B) Ensure Adequate Special-Status Plant Surveys and Reporting</b></p> <p>At least 30 days prior to construction, the Applicant shall ensure that botanical surveys have been fully performed and reported on the proposed and alternative gen-tie routes, as described below:</p>			
	<p>1. <i>Survey Timing.</i> Surveys shall be timed to detect: a) summer annuals triggered to germinate by the warm, tropical summer storms (which may occur any time between June and October). Fall-blooming perennials that respond to the cooler, later season storms (typically beginning in September or October) shall only be required if blooms and seeds are necessary for identification or the species are summer-deciduous and require leaves for identification. The surveys shall not be timed to coincide with the statistical peak bloom period of the target species but shall instead be based on plant phenology and the timing of a significant storm event (i.e., a 10mm or greater rain or multiple storm events of sufficient volume to trigger germination, as measured at or within 1 mile of the Project site). Surveys shall occur at the appropriate time to capture the characteristics necessary to identify the taxon.</p>			
	<p>2. <i>Surveyor Qualifications and Training.</i> Surveys shall be conducted by a qualified botanist knowledgeable in the complex biology of the local flora, and consistent with CDFW protocols (CDFG, 2009). Each surveyor shall be equipped with a GPS unit and record a complete tracklog; these data shall be compiled and submitted along with the Summer-Fall Survey Botanical Report (described below). Prior to the start of surveys, all crew members shall, at a minimum, visit reference sites (where available) and/or review herbarium specimens of all BLM Sensitive plants, CNPS List 1B or 2 (Nature Serve rank S1 and S2) or proposed List 1B or 2 taxa, and any new</p>			

<sup>2</sup> Available at: <http://www.pesticideinfo.org>



TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p>	<p><b>Impact 4.4-1 (cont.)</b></p>			
	<p>reported or documented taxa, to obtain a search image. Because the potential for range extensions is unknown, the list of potentially occurring special-status plants shall include all special-status taxa known to occur within the Sonoran Desert region and the eastern portion of the Mojave in California. The list shall also include taxa with bloom seasons that begin in fall and extend into the early spring as many of these are reported to be easier to detect in fall, following the start of the fall rains.</p>			
	<p>3. <b>Survey Coverage.</b> The survey coverage or intensity shall be in accordance with the most recent BLM Survey Protocols, which specify that intuitive controlled surveys shall only be accomplished by botanists familiar with the habitats and species that may reasonably be expected to occur in the project area (BLM, 2009).</p>			
	<p>4. <b>Documenting Occurrences.</b> If a special-status plant is detected, the full extent of the population on-site shall be recorded using GPS in accordance with BLM survey protocols. Additionally, the extent of the population within 1 mile of Project boundaries shall be assessed at least qualitatively to facilitate an accurate estimation of the proportion of the population affected by the Project. For populations that are very dense or very large, the population size may be estimated by simple sampling techniques. When populations are very extensive or locally abundant, the surveyor must provide some basis for this assertion and roughly map the extent on a topographic map. All but the smallest populations (e.g., a population occupying less than 100 square feet) shall be recorded as area polygons; the smallest populations may be recorded as point features. All GPS-recorded occurrences shall include: the number of plants, phenology, observed threats (e.g., OHV or invasive exotics), and habitat or community type. The map of occurrences submitted with the final botanical report shall be prepared to ensure consistency with definition of an occurrence by CNDDDB, i.e., occurrences found within 0.25 mile of another occurrence of the same taxon, and not separated by significant habitat discontinuities, shall be combined into a single 'occurrence'. The Applicant shall also submit the raw GPS shape files and metadata, and completed CNDDDB forms for each 'occurrence' (as defined by CNDDDB).</p>			
	<p>5. <b>Reporting.</b> Raw GPS data, metadata, and CNDDDB field forms shall be provided to the County within 2 weeks of the completion of each survey. If surveys are split into two or more periods (e.g., a late summer survey and a fall survey), then a summary letter shall be submitted following each survey period.</p>			
	<p>6. The Final Summer-Fall Botanical Survey Report shall be prepared consistent with CDFW guidelines (CDFG, 2009), and BLM 2009 guidelines and shall include all of the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the BLM designation, NatureServe Global and State Rank of each species or taxon found (or proposed rank, or CNPS List);</li> <li>the number or percent of the occurrence that will be directly affected, and indirectly affected by changes in drainage patterns or altered geomorphic processes;</li> <li>the habitat or plant community that supports the occurrence and the total acres of that habitat or community type that occurs in the Project Disturbance Area;</li> </ol>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-1 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>d. an indication of whether the occurrence has any local or regional significance (e.g., if it exhibits any unusual morphology, occurs at the periphery of its range in California, represents a significant range extension or disjunct occurrence, or occurs in an atypical habitat or substrate);</p> <p>e. a completed CNDDDB field form for every occurrence (occurrences of the same species within 0.25 mile or less of each other combined as one occurrence, consistent with CNDDDB methodology), and</p> <p>f. two maps: one that depicts the raw GPS data (as collected in the field) on a topographic base map with Project features; and a second map that follows the CNDDDB protocol for occurrence mapping.</p> <p><b>C) Avoidance Requirements for Special-Status Plants</b></p> <p>The Applicant shall avoid impacts to special-status plant populations whenever possible, as described below.</p> <p>1. <i>Mitigation for CNDDDB Rank 1 Plants.</i> Avoidance on Linear Corridors Required: If species with a CNDDDB rank of 1 is detected within the Project Disturbance Area, the Applicant shall prepare and implement a Special-Status Plant Mitigation Plan (Plan) that describes measures to avoid and minimize impacts to plant populations on the Project linear corridors and construction laydown areas, unless such avoidance would create greater environmental impacts in other resource areas (e.g. Cultural Resource Sites) or other restrictions (e.g., FAA or other restrictions for placement of transmission poles). The Applicant shall provide compensatory mitigation as described below in Section D for impacts to Rank 1 plants that cannot be avoided.</p> <p>2. <i>Preservation of the Germplasm of CNDDDB Rank 1 Plants.</i> For all significant impacts to CNDDDB Rank 1 Plants, regardless of whether compensatory mitigation is required, mitigation shall include seed collection from the affected special-status plants on-site prior to construction to conserve the germplasm and provide a seed source for restoration efforts. The seed shall be collected under the supervision or guidance of a reputable seed storage facility such as the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden Seed Conservation Program, San Diego Natural History Museum, or the Missouri Botanical Garden. The costs associated with the long-term storage of the seed shall be the responsibility of the Applicant. Any efforts to propagate and reintroduce special-status plants from seeds in the wild shall be carried out under the direct supervision of specialists such as those listed above and as part of a Habitat Restoration/Enhancement Plan approved by the County.</p> <p>3. Avoidance and protection of desert dry wash woodland riparian habitat. A 50-foot buffer shall be fenced around the approximately 4.2-acre area identified as desert dry wash woodland (riparian) within solar plant site Unit 2 as shown in EIR Figure 4.4-1. Fencing shall consist of three- or four-strand smooth wire fence that shall be erected concurrent with the installation of solar plant site perimeter fencing prior to construction within Unit 2. The desert dry wash woodland fencing shall be maintained and the enclosed area monitored for avian use for the duration of the Project.</p>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-1 (cont.)</b></p>	<p><b>D) Off-Site Compensatory Mitigation for Special-Status Plants</b></p> <p>This section describes performance standards for mitigation for a range of options for compensatory mitigation.</p> <p>Where compensatory mitigation is required under the terms of Section C, above, the Applicant shall mitigate Project impacts to special-status plant occurrences with compensatory mitigation. Compensatory mitigation shall consist of acquisition of habitat supporting the target species, or restoration/enhancement of populations of the target species, and shall meet the performance standards for mitigation described below. Compensatory mitigation shall be at a ratio of 3:1 for Rank 1 plants, with 3 acres of habitat acquired or restored/enhanced for every acre of habitat occupied by the special-status plant that will be disturbed by the Project Disturbance Area (for example, if the area occupied by the special-status plant collectively measured is 0.25 acre, the compensatory mitigation will be 0.75 acre). The mitigation ratio for Rank 2 plants shall be 2:1. So, for the example above, the mitigation ratio would be 0.5 acre for the Rank 2 plants.</p> <p>The Applicant shall provide funding for the acquisition and/or restoration/ enhancement, initial improvement, and long-term maintenance and management of the acquired or restored lands. The actual costs to comply with this condition will vary depending on the Project Disturbance Area, the actual costs of acquiring compensation habitat, the actual costs of initially improving the habitat, the actual costs of long-term management as determined by a Property Analysis Record (PAR) report, and other transactional costs related to the use of compensatory mitigation.</p> <p>The Applicant shall comply with other related requirements of this measure, as follows:</p> <p><b>I. Compensatory Mitigation by Acquisition:</b> The requirements for the acquisition initial protection and habitat improvement, and long-term maintenance and management of special-status plant compensation lands include all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Selection Criteria for Acquisition Lands.</b> The compensation lands selected for acquisition may include any of the following three categories:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Occupied Habitat, No Habitat Threats: The compensation lands selected for acquisition shall be occupied by the target plant population and shall be characterized by site integrity and habitat quality that are required to support the target species, and shall be of equal or better habitat quality than that of the affected occurrence. The occurrence of the target special-status plant on the proposed acquisition lands should be viable, stable or increasing (in size and reproduction).</li> <li>b. Occupied Habitat, Habitat Threats: Occupied compensation lands characterized by habitat threats may also be acquired as long as the population could be reasonably expected to recover with habitat restoration efforts (e.g., OHV or grazing exclusion, or removal of invasive non-native plants) and is accompanied by a Habitat Enhancement/Restoration Plan as described in Section D.II, below.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-1 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>c. Unoccupied but Adjacent. The Applicant may also acquire habitat for which occupancy by the target species has not been documented, if the proposed acquisition lands are adjacent to occupied habitat. The Applicant shall provide evidence that acquisitions of such unoccupied lands would improve the defensibility and long-term sustainability of the occupied habitat by providing a protective buffer around the occurrence and by enhancing connectivity with undisturbed habitat. This acquisition may include habitat restoration efforts where appropriate, particularly when these restoration efforts will benefit adjacent habitat that is occupied by the target species.</p> <p>2. <i>Review and Approval of Compensation Lands Prior to Acquisition.</i> The Applicant shall submit a formal acquisition proposal to the County describing the parcel(s) intended for purchase. This acquisition proposal shall discuss the suitability of the proposed parcel(s) as compensation lands for special-status plants in relation to the criteria listed above, and must be approved by the County.</p> <p>3. <i>Management Plan.</i> The Applicant or approved third party shall prepare a management plan for the compensation lands in consultation with the entity that will be managing the lands. The goal of the management plan shall be to support and enhance the long-term viability of the target special-status plant occurrences. The Management Plan shall be submitted for review and approval to the County.</p> <p>4. <i>Integrating Special-Status Plant Mitigation with Other Mitigation lands.</i> If all or any portion of the acquired desert tortoise, waters of the state, or other required compensation lands meets the criteria above for special-status plant compensation lands, the portion of the other species' or habitat compensation lands that meets any of the criteria above may be used to fulfill that portion of the obligation for special-status plant mitigation.</p> <p>5. <i>Compensation Lands Acquisition Requirements.</i> The Applicant shall comply with the following requirements relating to acquisition of the compensation lands after the County, has approved the proposed compensation lands:</p> <p>a. Preliminary Report. The Applicant, or an approved third party, shall provide a recent preliminary title report, initial hazardous materials survey report, biological analysis, and other necessary or requested documents for the proposed compensation land to the County. All documents conveying or conserving compensation lands and all conditions of title are subject to review and approval by the County. For conveyances to the state, approval may also be required from the California Department of General Services, the Fish and Game Commission and the Wildlife Conservation Board.</p> <p>b. Title/Conveyance. The Applicant shall acquire and transfer fee title to the compensation lands, a conservation easement over the lands, or both fee title and conservation easement, as required by the County. Any transfer of a conservation easement or fee title must be to CDFW, a non-profit organization qualified to hold title to and manage compensation lands (pursuant to California Government Code §65965), or to another public agency approved by</p>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

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<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p>	<p>the County. If an approved non-profit organization holds fee title to the compensation lands, a conservation easement shall be recorded in favor of CDFW or another entity approved by the County, if an entity other than CDFW holds a conservation easement over the compensation lands, the County may require that CDFW or another entity approved by the County, in consultation with CDFW, be named a third-party beneficiary of the conservation easement. The Applicant shall obtain approval of the County of the terms of any transfer of fee title or conservation easement to the compensation lands.</p> <p>c. Initial Protection and Habitat Improvement. The Applicant shall fund activities that the County requires for the initial protection and habitat improvement of the compensation lands. These activities will vary depending on the condition and location of the land acquired, but may include trash removal, construction and repair of fences, invasive plant removal, and similar measures to protect habitat and improve habitat quality on the compensation lands. The costs of these activities are estimated to be \$330 per acre, using the estimated cost per acre for desert tortoise mitigation as a best available proxy, at the ratio of 3:1 for Rank 1 plants and 2:1 for Rank 2 plants, but actual costs will vary depending on the measures that are required for the compensation lands. A non-profit organization, CDFW, or another public agency may hold and expend the habitat improvement funds if it is qualified to manage the compensation lands (pursuant to California Government Code §65965), if it meets the approval of the County in consultation with CDFW, and if it is authorized to participate in implementing the required activities on the compensation lands. If CDFW takes fee title to the compensation lands, the habitat improvement fund must be paid to CDFW or its designee.</p> <p>d. Property Analysis Record. Upon identification of the compensation lands, the Applicant shall conduct a Property Analysis Record (PAR) or PAR-like analysis to establish the appropriate amount of the long-term maintenance and management fund to pay the in-perpetuity management of the compensation lands. The PAR or PAR-like analysis must be approved by the County before it can be used to establish funding levels or management activities for the compensation lands.</p> <p>e. Long-term Maintenance and Management Funding. In accordance with Mitigation Measure 4.4-1h (<i>Phasing</i>), the Applicant shall deposit in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT) Account a non-wasting capital long-term maintenance and management fee in the amount determined through the PAR or PAR-like analysis conducted for the compensation lands.</p> <p>f. The County, in consultation with CDFW, may designate another non-profit organization to hold the long-term maintenance and management fee if the organization is qualified to manage the compensation lands in perpetuity. If CDFW takes fee title to the compensation lands, CDFW shall determine whether it will hold the long-term management fee in the special deposit fund, leave the money in the REAT Account, or designate another entity to manage the long-term maintenance and management fee for CDFW and with CDFW supervision.</p>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b> <b>Impact 4.4-1 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>g. Interest, Principal, and Pooling of Funds. The Applicant shall ensure that an agreement is in place with the long-term maintenance and management fund (endowment) holder/manager to ensure the following requirements are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Interest generated from the initial capital long-term maintenance and management fund shall be available for reinvestment into the principal and for the long-term operation, management, and protection of the approved compensation lands, including reasonable administrative overhead, biological monitoring, improvements to carrying capacity, law enforcement measures, and any other action that is approved by the County and is designed to protect or improve the habitat values of the compensation lands.</li> <li>ii. Withdrawal of Principal. The long-term maintenance and management fund principal shall not be drawn upon unless such withdrawal is deemed necessary by the County or by the approved third-party long-term maintenance and management fund manager, to ensure the continued viability of the species on the compensation lands.</li> <li>iii. Pooling Long-Term Maintenance and Management Funds. An entity approved to hold long-term maintenance and management funds for the Project may pool those funds with similar non-wasting funds that it holds from other projects for long-term maintenance and management of compensation lands for special-status plants. However, for reporting purposes, the long-term maintenance and management funds for this Project must be tracked and reported individually to the County.</li> </ul> <p>h. Other Expenses. In addition to the costs listed above, the Applicant shall be responsible for all other costs related to acquisition of compensation lands and conservation easements, including but not limited to the title and document review costs incurred from other state agency reviews, overhead related to providing compensation lands to CDFW or an approved third-party, escrow fees or costs, environmental contaminants clearance, and other site cleanup measures.</p> <p>i. Mitigation Security. The Applicant shall provide financial assurances in accordance with Mitigation Measure 4.4-1h (<i>Phasing</i>), below, to the County to guarantee that an adequate level of funding is available to implement any of the mitigation measures required by this condition that are not completed prior to the start of ground-disturbing Project activities. Financial assurances shall be provided to the County in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, a pledged savings account or another form of approved security ("Security"). The amount of the Security shall be \$2,280 per acre, using the estimated cost per acre for desert tortoise mitigation as a best available proxy, at a ratio of 3:1 for Rank 1 plants and 2:1 for Rank 2 plants, for every acre of habitat supporting the target special-status plant species which is impacted by the Project. The actual costs to comply with this condition will vary depending on the actual costs of acquiring compensation habitat, the costs of initially improving the habitat, and the actual costs of long-term management as</p>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
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<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p>				
<p><b>Impact 4.4-1 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>determined by a PAR report. Prior to submitting the Security to the County, the Applicant shall obtain the County's approval of the form of the Security. The County may draw on the Security if the County determines the Applicant has failed to comply with the requirements specified in this condition. The County may use money from the Security solely for implementation of the requirements of this condition. The County's use of the Security to implement measures in this condition may not fully satisfy the Applicant's obligations under this condition, and the Applicant remains responsible for satisfying the obligations under this condition if the Security is insufficient. The unused Security shall be returned to the Applicant in whole or in part upon successful completion of the associated requirements in this condition.</p> <p>j. The Applicant may elect to comply with the requirements in this condition for acquisition of compensation lands, initial protection and habitat improvement on the compensation lands, or long-term maintenance and management of the compensation lands by funding, or any combination of these three requirements, by providing funds to implement those measures into the REAT Account established with the NFWF. To use this option, the Applicant must make an initial deposit to the REAT Account in an amount equal to the estimated costs (as set forth in the Security section of this condition) of implementing the requirement. If the actual cost of the acquisition, initial protection and habitat improvements, or long-term funding is more than the estimated amount initially paid by the Applicant, the Applicant shall make an additional deposit into the REAT Account sufficient to cover the actual acquisition costs, the actual costs of initial protection and habitat improvement on the compensation lands, and the long-term funding requirements as established in an approved PAR or PAR-like analysis. If those actual costs or PAR projections are less than the amount initially transferred by the Applicant, the remaining balance shall be returned to the Applicant.</p> <p>The responsibility for acquisition of compensation lands may be delegated to a third party other than NFWF, such as a non-governmental organization supportive of desert habitat conservation, by written agreement of the Energy Commission. Such delegation shall be subject to approval by the County, in consultation with CDFW, BLM, and USFWS, prior to land acquisition, enhancement or management activities. The Applicant, or an approved third party to which the Applicant has delegated land acquisition activities pursuant to an executed agreement, shall acquire the land, in fee or in easement, no more than 18 months after the start of Project ground-disturbing activities.</p>			
	<p>ii. <b>Compensatory Mitigation by Habitat Enhancement/Restoration:</b></p> <p>As an alternative or adjunct to land acquisition for compensatory mitigation the Applicant may undertake habitat enhancement or restoration for the target special-status plant species. Habitat enhancement or restoration activities must achieve protection at a 3:1 ratio for Rank 1 plants and 2:1 for Rank 2 plants, with improvements applied to 3 acres, or 2 acres, respectively, of habitat for every acre of special-status plant habitat directly or indirectly disturbed by the Project Disturbance Area (for example, if the area occupied by the special-status plant collectively measured is</p>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-1 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>0.25 acre, the improvements would be applied to an area equal to 0.75 acre at a 3:1 ratio, or 0.5 acre at a 2:1 ratio). Examples of suitable enhancement projects include but are not limited to the following: i) control unauthorized vehicle use into an occurrence (or pedestrian use if clearly damaging to the species); ii) control of invasive non-native plants that infest or pose an immediate threat to an occurrence; iii) exclude grazing by wild burros or livestock from an occurrence; or iv) restore lost or degraded hydrologic or geomorphic functions critical to the species by restoring previously diverted flows, removing obstructions to the wind sand transport corridor above an occurrence, or increasing groundwater availability for dependent species.</p> <p>If the Applicant elects to undertake a habitat enhancement project for mitigation, the project must meet the following performance standards: The proposed enhancement project shall achieve rescue of an off-site occurrence that is currently assessed, based on the NatureServe threat ranking system (Master et al., 2009; see also Morse et al., 2004) with one of the following threat ranks: a) long-term decline &gt;30 percent; b) an immediate threat that affects &gt;30 percent of the population, or c) has an overall threat impact that is High to Very High. "Rescue" would be considered successful if it achieves an improvement in the occurrence trend to "stable" or "increasing" status, or downgrading of the overall threat rank to slight or low (from "High" to "Very High").</p> <p>If the Applicant elects to undertake a habitat enhancement project for mitigation, they shall submit a Habitat Enhancement/Restoration Plan to the County for review and approval, and shall provide sufficient funding for implementation and monitoring of the Plan. The amount of the Security shall be \$2,280 per acre, using the estimated cost per acre for Desert Tortoise mitigation as a best available proxy, at the ratio of 3:1 for Rank 1 plants and 2:1 for Rank 2 plants, for every acre of habitat supporting the target special-status plant species which is directly or indirectly impacted by the project. The amount of the security may be adjusted based on the actual costs of implementing the enhancement, restoration and monitoring. The implementation and monitoring of the enhancement/restoration may be undertaken by an appropriate third party such as NFWF, subject to approval by the County. The Habitat Enhancement/Restoration Plan shall include each of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Goals and Objectives.</b> Define the goals of the restoration or enhancement project and a measurable course of action developed to achieve those goals. The objective of the proposed habitat enhancement plan shall include restoration of a target special-status plant occurrence that is currently threatened with a long-term decline. The proposed enhancement plan shall achieve an improvement in the occurrence trend to "stable" or "increasing" status, or downgrading of the overall threat rank to slight or low (from "High" to "Very High").</li> <li>2. <b>Historical Conditions.</b> Provide a description of the pre-impact or historical conditions (before the site was degraded by weeds or grazing or ORV, etc.), and the desired conditions.</li> <li>3. <b>Site Characteristics.</b> Describe other site characteristics relevant to the restoration or enhancement project (e.g., composition of native and pest plants, topography and drainage patterns, soil types, geomorphic and hydrologic processes important to the site or species).</li> </ol>			



TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
Impact 4.4-1 (cont.)	<p>4. Ecological Factors. Describe other important ecological factors of the species being protected, restored, or enhanced such as total population, reproduction, distribution, pollinators, etc.</p> <p>5. Methods. Describe the restoration methods that will be used (e.g., invasive exotics control, site protection, seedling protection, propagation techniques, etc.) and the long-term maintenance required. The implementation phase of the enhancement must be completed within five years.</p> <p>6. Budget. Provide a detailed budget and time-line, and develop clear, measurable, objective-driven annual success criteria.</p> <p>7. Monitoring. Develop clear, measurable monitoring methods that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the restoration and the benefit to the affected species. The Plan shall include a minimum of five years of quarterly monitoring, and then annual monitoring for the remainder of the enhancement project, and until the performance standards for rescue of a threatened occurrence are met. At a minimum the progress reports shall include: quantitative measurements of the projects progress in meeting the enhancement project success criteria, detailed description of remedial actions taken or proposed, and contact information for the responsible parties.</p> <p>8. Reporting Program. The Plan shall ensure accountability with a reporting program that includes progress toward goals and success criteria. Include names of responsible parties.</p> <p>9. Contingency Plan. Describe the contingency plan for failure to meet annual goals.</p> <p>10. Long-term Protection. Include proof of long-term protection for the restoration site. For private lands this would include conservations easements or other deed restrictions; projects on public lands must be contained in a Desert Wildlife Management Area, Wildlife Habitat Management Area, or other land use protections that will protect the mitigation site and target species.</p>			
	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-1h: Phasing.</b> The Applicant shall provide compensatory mitigation for the total Project Disturbance Area and may provide such mitigation in multiple phases for distinct construction elements (e.g., Unit 1, Unit 2, etc.). These phases will generally include installation of fencing, clearing, grubbing and grading, and development of common facilities first, followed by the remaining power block units. All construction activities for the non-linear features during these subsequent phases will occur within desert tortoise exclusionary fenced areas that have been cleared in accordance with USFWS protocols.</p> <p>Prior to initiating each phase of construction the Applicant shall submit the actual construction schedule, a figure depicting the locations of proposed construction and amount of acres to be disturbed. Mitigation acres are calculated based on the compensation requirements for each resource type including desert tortoise (Mitigation Measure 4.4-3d), western burrowing owl (Mitigation Measure 4.4-8), Mojave fringe-toed lizard (Mitigation Measure 4.4-4d), and state waters (Mitigation Measure 4.4-4b). Compensatory mitigation for each phase shall be implemented according to the timing required by each condition.</p>	Review and approve phasing schedule, mitigation acreage, and compensatory mitigation for each phase of construction.	--	Prior to each phase of construction

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p>				
<p><b>Impact 4.4-2:</b> Project construction would have a substantial adverse direct effect on desert tortoise.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-2a: Measures to Avoid Take of Desert Tortoise.</b> The Applicant shall undertake appropriate measures to manage the construction site and related facilities in a manner to avoid or minimize impacts to desert tortoise. Methods for clearance surveys, fence specification and installation, tortoise handling, artificial burrow construction, egg handling, and other procedures shall be consistent with those described in the USFWS (2009) <i>Desert Tortoise Field Manual</i> or more current guidance provided by CDFW and USFWS. The Applicant shall also implement all terms and conditions described in the Biological Opinion prepared by USFWS. The Applicant shall implement the following measures:</p>	<p>Implement listed measures</p>	<p>Reporting as needed on desert tortoise observations</p>	<p>Prior to and during construction</p>
	<p>1. <b>Desert Tortoise Exclusion Fence Installation.</b> To avoid impacts to desert tortoises, permanent exclusion fencing shall be installed along the permanent perimeter security fence (boundaries) as phases are constructed. Biological monitoring or temporary fencing shall be used along linear features or any subset of the plant site phasing that does not correspond to permanent perimeter fencing. All fencing installation corridors shall be flagged to assist biologists in studying the fence route and surveyed within 24 hours prior to the initiation of fence construction. Clearance surveys of the desert tortoise exclusion fence and utility rights-of-way alignments shall be conducted by the Designated Biologist(s) using techniques outlined in the USFWS' 2009 <i>Desert Tortoise Field Manual</i> and may be conducted in any season with USFWS and CDFW approval. Biological Monitors may assist the Designated Biologist under his or her supervision. These fence clearance surveys shall provide 100-percent coverage of all areas to be disturbed and an additional transect along both sides of the fence line. Disturbance associated with desert tortoise exclusionary fence construction shall not exceed 30 feet on either side of the proposed fence alignment. Prior to the surveys the Applicant shall provide to the County, CDFW, and USFWS a figure clearly depicting the limits of construction disturbance for the proposed fence installation. The fence line survey area shall be 90 feet wide centered on the fence alignment. Where construction disturbance for fence line installation can be limited to 15 feet on either side of the fence line, this fence line survey area may be reduced to an area approximately 60 feet wide centered on the fence alignment. Transects shall be no greater than 15 feet apart. All desert tortoise burrows, and burrows constructed by other species that might be used by desert tortoises, shall be examined to assess occupancy of each burrow by desert tortoises and handled in accordance with the <i>Desert Tortoise Field Manual</i>. Any desert tortoise located during fence clearance surveys shall be handled by the Designated Biologist(s) in accordance with the <i>Desert Tortoise Field Manual</i>.</p> <p>a. <b>Timing, Supervision of Fence Installation.</b> The exclusion fencing shall be installed in any area subject to disturbance prior to the onset of site clearing and grubbing in that area. The fence installation shall be supervised by the Designated Biologist and monitored by the Biological Monitors to ensure the safety of any tortoise present.</p> <p>b. <b>Fence Material and Installation.</b> All desert tortoise exclusionary fencing shall be constructed in accordance with the USFWS' <i>Desert Tortoise Field Manual</i> (Chapter 8 – Desert Tortoise Exclusion Fence).</p>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p>	<p><b>Impact 4.4-2 (cont.)</b></p>			
	<p>c. <i>Security Gates.</i> Security gates shall be designed with minimal ground clearance to deter ingress by tortoises. The gates may be electronically activated to open and close immediately after the vehicle(s) have entered or exited to prevent the gates from being kept open for long periods of time.</p>			
	<p>d. <i>Fence Inspections.</i> Following installation of the desert tortoise exclusion fencing for both the permanent site fencing and temporary fencing in the utility corridors, the fencing shall be regularly inspected. If tortoise were moved out of harm's way during fence construction, permanent and temporary fencing shall be inspected at least two times a day for the first 7 days to ensure a recently moved tortoise has not been trapped within the fence. Thereafter, permanent fencing shall be inspected monthly and during and within 24 hours following all major rainfall events. A major rainfall event is defined as one for which flow is detectable within the fenced drainage. Any damage to the fencing shall be temporarily repaired immediately to keep tortoises out of the site, and permanently repaired within 48 hours of observing damage. Inspections of permanent site fencing shall occur for the life of the Project. Temporary fencing shall be inspected weekly and, where drainages intersect the fencing, during and within 24 hours following major rainfall events. All temporary fencing shall be repaired immediately upon discovery and, if the fence may have permitted tortoise entry while damaged, the Designated Biologist shall inspect the area for tortoise.</p>			
	<p>2. <i>Desert Tortoise Clearance Surveys within the Plant Site.</i> Clearance surveys shall be conducted in accordance with the final USFWS-approved <i>Desert Tortoise Translocation Plan, McCoy Solar Energy Project</i> (Appendix F in the Biological Assessment; TetraTech EC Inc., 2012) and shall consist of two surveys covering 100 percent the Project area by walking transects no more than 15 feet apart. If a desert tortoise is located on the second survey, a third survey shall be conducted. Each separate survey shall be walked in a different direction or parallel but offset to allow opposing angles of observation. Clearance surveys for non-linear areas of Phase 1A may be conducted outside the active season. Clearance surveys of the remaining portions of the power plant site may only be conducted when tortoises are most active in the Project vicinity (March through May or September through mid-November). Clearance surveys of linear features may be conducted during anytime of the year. Surveys outside of the active season in areas other than Phase 1A require approval by USFWS and CDFW. Any tortoise located during clearance surveys of the power plant site and linear features shall be relocated and monitored in accordance with the Desert Tortoise Relocation/Translocation Plan:</p>			
	<p>a. <i>Burrow Searches.</i> During clearance surveys all desert tortoise burrows, and burrows constructed by other species that might be used by desert tortoises, shall be examined by the Designated Biologist, who may be assisted by the Biological Monitors, to assess occupancy of each burrow by desert tortoises and handled in accordance with the <i>Desert Tortoise Field Manual</i>. To prevent reentry by a tortoise or other wildlife, all burrows shall be collapsed once absence has been determined, but only on the last survey pass and if not occupied by other wildlife. Tortoises taken from burrows and from elsewhere on the power plant site shall be relocated or translocated as described in the Desert Tortoise Relocation/Translocation Plan.</p>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
<b>Impact 4.4-2 (cont.)</b>	<p>b. <i>Burrow Excavation/Handling.</i> All potential desert tortoise burrows located during clearance surveys would be excavated by hand, tortoises removed, and collapsed or blocked to prevent occupation by desert tortoises. All desert tortoise handling and removal, and burrow excavations, including nests, would be conducted by the Designated Biologist, who may be assisted by a Biological Monitor in accordance with the <i>Desert Tortoise Field Manual</i>.</p> <p>c. <i>Monitoring Following Clearing.</i> Following the desert tortoise clearance and removal from the power plant site and utility corridors, workers and heavy equipment shall be allowed to enter the Project site to perform clearing, grubbing, leveling, and trenching. A Designated Biologist shall oversee site clearing and shall be on-site during grading activities to find and move tortoises missed during the initial tortoise clearance survey. Should a tortoise be discovered, it shall be relocated or translocated as described in the Desert Tortoise Relocation/Translocation Plan.</p> <p>3. <i>Reporting.</i> The Designated Biologist shall record the following information for any desert tortoises handled: a) the locations (narrative and maps) and dates of observation; b) general condition and health, including injuries, state of healing and whether desert tortoise voided their bladders; c) location moved from and location moved to (using GPS technology); d) gender, carapace length, and diagnostic markings (i.e., identification numbers or marked lateral scutes); e) ambient temperature when handled and released; and f) digital photograph of each handled desert tortoise as described in the paragraph below. Desert tortoise moved from within Project areas shall be marked and monitored in accordance with the Desert Tortoise Relocation/Translocation Plan (Mitigation Measure 4.4-2b).</p>			
	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-2b: Desert Tortoise Relocation/Translocation Plan.</b> The Applicant shall develop and implement a final Desert Tortoise Relocation/Translocation Plan (Plan) that is consistent with current USFWS approved guidelines, and meets the approval of the County. The Plan shall include guidance during different phases of Project construction and shall include measures to minimize the potential for repeated translocations of individual desert tortoises. The final Plan shall include all revisions deemed necessary by the County, USFWS, and CDFW.</p> <p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-2c: Project Notifications and Reporting.</b> The Applicant shall provide County staff with reasonable access to the Project site and compensation lands under the control of the Applicant and shall otherwise fully cooperate with the County's efforts to verify the Project owner's compliance with, or the effectiveness of, mitigation measures. The Designated Biologist shall do all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Notification.</b> Notify the County at least 14 calendar days before initiating construction-related ground disturbance activities; immediately notify the County in writing if the Applicant is not in compliance with any required conditions of project approval, including but not limited to any actual or anticipated failure to implement mitigation measures within the specified time periods;</li> <li><b>Monitoring During Grubbing and Grading.</b> Remain on-site daily while vegetation salvage, grubbing, grading, and other ground-disturbance construction activities are taking place to avoid or minimize take of listed species, to check for compliance with all impact avoidance and minimization measures, and to check all exclusion zones to ensure that signs, stakes, and fencing are intact and that human activities are restricted in these protective zones.</li> </ol>	Develop and implement plan	--	Prior to, during, and after construction
		Implement listed measures	Daily monitoring during grubbing and grading Monthly compliance monitoring and reporting	Prior to, during, and after construction

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing	
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p>	<p><b>Impact 4.4-2 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>3. <b>Monthly Compliance Inspections.</b> Conduct compliance inspections at a minimum of once per month after clearing, grubbing, and grading are completed and submit a monthly compliance report to the County, USFWS, and CDFW during construction.</p> <p>4. <b>Notification of Injured, Dead, or Relocated Listed Species.</b> In the event of a sighting in an active construction area (e.g., with equipment, vehicles, or workers), injury, kill, or relocation of any listed species, the County, CDFW, and USFWS shall be notified immediately by phone. Notification shall occur no later than noon on the business day following the event if it occurs outside normal business hours so that the agencies can determine if further actions are required to protect listed species. Written follow-up notification via FAX or electronic communication shall be submitted to these agencies within two calendar days of the incident and include the following information as relevant:</p> <p>a. <b>Injured Desert Tortoise.</b> If a desert tortoise is injured as a result of Project-related activities during construction, the Designated Biologist shall immediately take it to a CDFW-approved wildlife rehabilitation and/or veterinarian clinic. Any veterinarian bills for such injured animals shall be paid by the Applicant. Following phone notification as required above, the County, CDFW, and USFWS shall determine the final disposition of the injured animal, if it recovers. Written notification shall include, at a minimum, the date, time, location, circumstances of the incident, and the name of the facility where the animal was taken.</p> <p>b. <b>Desert Tortoise Fatality.</b> If a desert tortoise is killed by Project-related activities during construction or operation, submit a written report with the same information as an injury report. These desert tortoises shall be salvaged according to guidelines described in the USGS publication <i>Salvaging Injured, Recently Dead, Ill, and Dying Wild, Free-Roaming Desert Tortoise</i>. The Applicant shall pay to have the desert tortoises transported and necropsied. The report shall include the date and time of the finding or incident.</p> <p>5. <b>Stop Work Order.</b> The County may issue the Applicant a written stop work order to suspend any activity related to the construction or operation of the Project to prevent or remedy a violation of one or more required conditions of project approval (including but not limited to failure to comply with reporting, monitoring, or habitat acquisition obligations) or to prevent the illegal take of an endangered, threatened, or candidate species. The Applicant shall comply with the stop work order immediately upon receipt thereof.</p>	<p>Review and approve the Weed Management Plan and ensure implementation of the Invasive Weed Management Plan</p>	<p>Daily and annual monitoring; annual and final monitoring reports</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>
<p><b>Impact 4.4-3: Project construction would have a substantial adverse indirect effect on desert tortoise.</b></p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-3a: Invasive Weed Management Plan.</b> Prior to beginning construction on the Project, the Applicant will prepare, circulate to the County for comment and approval, and then implement an Invasive Weed Management Plan that meets County approval to prevent the spread of existing weeds and the introduction of new weeds to the Project Area. The objective of the Weed Management Plan shall be to prevent the introduction of any new weeds and the spread of existing weeds as a result of Project construction, operation, and decommissioning. The Weed Management Plan shall include at a minimum the following information: specific weed management objectives and measures for each target non-native weed species; baseline conditions; a map of the Weed Management Areas; weed risk assessment and measures to prevent the introduction and spread of weeds; monitoring and surveying methods; and reporting requirements.</p>	<p>Review and approve the Weed Management Plan and ensure implementation of the Invasive Weed Management Plan</p>	<p>Daily and annual monitoring; annual and final monitoring reports</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>	

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-3 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>The Plan shall be consistent with BLM's <i>Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in 17 Western States</i> (BLM, 2007) and the National Invasive Species Management Plan (National Invasive Species Council, 2008), and will be implemented by the Applicant to reduce the potential for the introduction of invasive species during construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Project. The draft plan will be reviewed and approved by the County.</p> <p>The following measures are required in the Plan and will be implemented by the Applicant to monitor and control invasive species:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Preventative Measures During Construction.</b> Equipment Cleaning: To prevent the spread of weeds into new habitats, and prior to entering the Project work areas, construction equipment will be cleaned of dirt and mud that could contain weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes. Equipment will be inspected to ensure they are free of any dirt or mud that could contain weed seeds and the tracks, feet, tires, and undercarriage will be carefully washed, with special attention being paid to axles, frame, cross members, motor mounts, underneath steps, running boards, and front bumper/brush guard assemblies. Other construction vehicles (e.g. pick-up trucks) that will be frequently entering and exiting the site will be inspected and washed on an as-needed basis.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Vehicle Washing:</b> All vehicles will be washed off-site when possible. Should off-site washing prove infeasible, an on-site cleaning station will be set up to clean equipment before it enters the work area. Either high-pressure water or air will be used to clean equipment and the cleaning site will be situated away from any sensitive biological resources. If possible, water used to wash vehicles and equipment will be collected and re-used. Ingress and egress will be limited to defined routes.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Site Soil Management:</b> Soil management will consist of limiting ground disturbance to the minimum necessary for construction activities and using dust suppressants to minimize the spread of seeds. Disturbed vegetation and topsoil will be re-deposited at or near the area from which they are removed to eliminate the transport of soil-borne invasive weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes. During reclamation of the temporarily cleared areas, the contractor will return topsoil and vegetative material to the areas from which they were stripped. County-approved dust suppressants (e.g. water and/or palliative) will be minimized on the site as much as possible, but will use during construction to minimize the spread of airborne weed seeds, especially during very windy days. As appropriate, temporary drift fences may be installed to help control sand movement during construction.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Weed-free Products:</b> Any use of hay or straw bales on the Project site will be limited to certified weed-free material. Other products such as gravel, mulch, and soil may also carry weeds and these products, too, will be certified weed-free. If needed, mulch will be made from the local, on-site native vegetation cleared from the Project area.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Personnel Training:</b> Weed management will be part of mandatory site training for all construction personnel and will be included in initial Worker Environmental Awareness Program training briefings. Training will include weed identification and the threat of impacts including impacts to local agriculture, vegetation communities, wildlife, and creating fire potential. Training will also cover the importance of preventing the spread of weeds.</p> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>  Impact 4.4-3 (cont.)</p>	<p>e. <i>Mechanical Weed Removal:</i> The Applicant primarily will use mechanical weed removal techniques with the use of herbicides on BLM-administered lands restricted to BLM-approved usage and on County-governed lands restricted to County-approved usage in areas that are not accessible through mechanical means or where mechanical weed removal is impractical.</p> <p>f. <i>Herbicides:</i> The Applicant will use only County-approved pre- and/or post-emergent herbicides, as applicable. Pre-emergent herbicides will be applied to the soil before the weed seed germinates and is usually incorporated into the soil with irrigation or rainfall. Post-emergent herbicides will be applied directly to plants. Herbicides will be investigated in detail, made a part of the Invasive Weed Management Plan, and approved by County before use.</p> <p>g. <i>Pesticides:</i> Pesticide use will be limited to non-persistent, immobile pesticides applied only in accordance with label and application permit directions and stipulations for terrestrial and aquatic applications. Any pesticide applications, if used, will be conducted within the framework of County programs and policies, and will entail only the use of USEPA registered pesticides.</p> <p>2. <i>Containment and Control Measures.</i> When Project monitoring (see below) indicates that invasive species are spreading, invasive species will be removed using mechanical and chemical methods. The Applicant will use mechanical weed removal methods as the preferred method, but herbicides may be used when conditions (such as wind, proximity of native vegetation) are such that the effect on native species is expected to be minimal. During suppression or eradication activities, care will be taken to have the least affect on native plant species. Herbicides used will be limited to those approved by the County. Herbicides will be applied before the invasive species flower and set seed.</p> <p>If monitoring indicates the spread of athel (Tamarix spp.), a woody invasive species, then athel will be controlled by cutting the trees and applying Garlon™ Ultra Herbicide to the stump immediately after cutting. All cut material generated during athel clearance will be removed from the site by truck. This material will be covered with a tarp or other material that will keep athel cuttings or seed from being spread by truck movement.</p> <p>The Applicant and its contractors will follow the BLM's Herbicide Use Standard Operating Procedures provided in Appendix B of the Record of Decision for the Final Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (BLM, 2007) on BLM-administered lands and will follow Riverside County requirements on County-governed lands. Personnel responsible for weed control will be trained in the proper and safe use of all equipment and chemicals used for weed control.</p> <p>3. <i>Monitoring.</i> Baseline weed conditions will be assessed during the pre-construction phase of the Project, during pre-construction surveys and staking and flagging of construction areas. A stratified random sampling technique will be used to identify and count the extent of weeds on the site. Monitoring will take place each year during construction, and annually for 3 years following the completion of construction. The purpose of annual monitoring will be to determine if weed</p>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
Impact 4.4-3 (cont.)	<p>populations identified during baseline surveys have increased in density or are spreading as a result of the Project. Control methods will be implemented when measurable weed increases, as well as visually verified increases, are detected during monitoring. This will include small patches of unusually high density weeds (e.g., concentrations in swales) that are growing as a result of Project activities.</p> <p>During construction, daily monitoring records will be kept by biological monitors that will include information relevant to invasive weeds. During Project operations and maintenance, noxious and invasive weed list and provide monitoring and management appropriate to any new species in coordination with the County.</p> <p>After the 3 years of operations monitoring is complete, general management and monitoring of the Project area will be conducted by designated site personnel each year during both the germinating and early growing season (November through April) to eliminate new weed individuals prior to seed set. Throughout construction and long-term monitoring, personnel will be trained to identify weedy and native species and work with a trained vegetation monitor to determine where elimination is necessary.</p> <p>4. <b>Reporting.</b> Results of monitoring and management efforts will be included in annual reports and a final monitoring report completed at the end of three years of post-construction monitoring. Copies of these reports will be kept on file at the site. Copies of each annual report as well as the final monitoring report will be sent to the County for review and comment. The County will use the results of these reports to determine if any additional monitoring or control measures are necessary.</p> <p>5. <b>Success Criteria.</b> Weed control will be ongoing on the Project site for the life of the Project, but plan success will be determined by the County after the 3 years of operations monitoring through the reporting and review process. Success criteria will be defined as having no more than 10 percent increase in a weed species or in overall weed cover in any part of the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-3b: Raven Monitoring and Control Plan.</b> The Applicant shall implement a Raven Monitoring and Control Plan that is consistent with the most current USFWS-approved raven management guidelines, and which meets the approval of the County in consultation with USFWS and CDFW. A raven management plan included in the Applicant's BA shall provide the basis for the final plan, subject to review, revisions and approval from the County, CDFW, and USFWS. The management plan shall include but not be limited to a program to monitor raven presence in the Project vicinity, determine if raven numbers are increasing, and to implement raven control measures as needed based on monitoring results. The purpose of the plan is to avoid any Project-related increases in raven numbers during construction, operation, and decommissioning. The Applicant shall also provide funding for implementation of the USFWS Regional Raven Management Program, as described below.</p>	<p>Review and approve the Raven Monitoring and Control Plan</p> <p>Ensure the collection of fees for the USFWS Regional Raven Management Program</p>	<p>To be determined as part of plan elements.</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>



TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
Impact 4.4-3 (cont.)	<p>1. The Raven Plan shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Identify conditions associated with the Project that might provide raven subsidies or attractants;</li> <li>b. Describe management practices to avoid or minimize conditions that might increase raven numbers and predatory activities;</li> <li>c. Describe control practices for ravens;</li> <li>d. Establish thresholds that would trigger implementation of control practices;</li> <li>e. Address monitoring and nest removal during construction and for the life of the Project, and;</li> <li>f. Discuss reporting requirements.</li> </ul> <p>2. USFWS Regional Raven Management Program: The Applicant shall submit payment to the project sub-account of the REAT Account held by NFWF to support the USFWS Regional Raven Management Program. The one-time fee shall be as described in the cost allocation methodology or more current guidance as provided by USFWS or CDFW.</p> <p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-3c: Measures to Minimize Wildlife Impacts from Evaporation Ponds.</b> As directed by the County, USFWS, and CDFW based on current wildlife management information and data, the Applicant shall cover the evaporation ponds prior to any discharge with 1.5-inch mesh netting designed to exclude birds and other wildlife from drinking or landing on the water of the ponds. Netting with mesh sizes other than 1.5 inches may be installed if approved by the County in consultation with CDFW and USFWS. The netted ponds shall be monitored regularly to verify that the netting remains intact, is fulfilling its function in excluding birds and other wildlife from the ponds, and does not pose an entanglement threat to birds and other wildlife. The ponds shall include a visual deterrent in addition to the netting, and the pond shall be designed such that the netting shall never contact the water. Monitoring of the evaporation ponds shall include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Monthly Monitoring:</b> The Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor shall regularly survey the ponds at least once per month starting with the first month of operation of the evaporation ponds. The purpose of the surveys shall be to determine if the netted ponds are effective in excluding birds, if the nets pose an entrapment hazard to birds and wildlife, and to assess the structural integrity of the nets. The monthly surveys shall be conducted in 1 day for a minimum of 2 hours following sunrise (i.e., dawn), a minimum of 1 hour mid-day (i.e., 11:00 to 13:00), and a minimum of 2 hours preceding sunset (i.e., dusk) in order to provide an accurate assessment of bird and wildlife use of the ponds during all seasons. Surveyors shall be experienced with bird identification and survey techniques. Operations staff at the Project site shall also report finding any dead birds or other wildlife at the evaporation ponds to the Designated Biologist within one day of the detection of the carcass. The Designated Biologists shall report any bird or other wildlife deaths or entanglements within two days of the discovery to the County, CDFW, and USFWS.</li> </ul>	<p>Retain and schedule Designated Biologist and Biological Monitor</p> <p>Cover the evaporation ponds prior to any discharge</p>	<p>Monthly, quarterly, and biannual monitoring of ponds as described</p>	<p>Throughout pond operation</p>

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
Impact 4.4-3 (cont.)	<p>2. <b>Dead or Entangled Birds:</b> If dead or entangled birds are detected, the Designated Biologist shall take immediate action to correct the source of mortality or entanglement. The Designated Biologist shall make immediate efforts to contact and consult the Compliance Project Manager (CPM), CDFW, and USFWS by phone and electronic communications prior to taking remedial action upon detection of the problem, but the inability to reach these parties shall not delay taking action that would, in the judgment of the Designated Biologist, prevent further mortality of birds or other wildlife at the evaporation ponds.</p> <p>3. <b>Quarterly Monitoring:</b> If after 12 consecutive monthly site visits no bird or wildlife deaths or entanglements are detected at the evaporation ponds by or reported to the Designated Biologist, monitoring can be reduced to quarterly visits.</p> <p>4. <b>Biannual Monitoring:</b> If after 12 consecutive quarterly site visits no bird or wildlife deaths or entanglements are detected by or reported to the Designated Biologist and with approval from the County, USFWS and CDFW, future surveys may be reduced to two surveys per year, during the spring nesting season and during fall migration. If approved by the County, USFWS and CDFW, monitoring outside the nesting season may be conducted by the Environmental Compliance Manager.</p> <p>5. <b>Modification of Monitoring Program:</b> Without respect to the above requirements the Applicant, CDFW or USFWS may submit to the County a request for modifications to the evaporation pond monitoring program based on information acquired during monitoring, and may also suggest adaptive management measures to remedy any problems that are detected during monitoring or modifications if bird impacts are not observed. Modifications to the evaporation pond monitoring described above and implementation of adaptive management measures shall be made only after approval from the County, in consultation with USFWS and CDFW.</p>			
	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-3d: Compensatory Mitigation for Desert Tortoise Habitat Losses.</b> To fully mitigate for habitat loss and potential take of desert tortoise, the Applicant shall provide compensatory mitigation at a 1:1 ratio for impacts to 4,900 acres, adjusted to reflect the final footprint of the selected Project alternative. For the purposes of this measure, the Project footprint means all lands directly disturbed in the construction and operation of the Project, including all linear features, as well as undeveloped areas inside the Project's boundaries that will no longer provide viable long-term habitat for the desert tortoise. To satisfy this measure, the Applicant shall acquire, protect and transfer 1 acre of desert tortoise habitat for every acre of habitat within the final Project footprint, and provide associated funding for the acquired lands, as specified below. Mitigation Measure 4.4-3d, below, may provide the Applicant with another option for satisfying some or all of the requirements in this measure. In lieu of acquiring lands itself, the Applicant may satisfy the requirements of this measure by depositing funds into the REAT Account established with the NFWF, as provided below in section 3.h. of this measure.</p> <p>The timing of the mitigation shall correspond with the timing of the site disturbance activities. However, if security is posted in accordance with 3.g. below (Mitigation Security), the Applicant shall acquire, in fee or in easement, the land, no more than 18 months after the start of Project ground-disturbing activities.</p>	Review and approve the acquisition proposal	--	Prior to construction

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-3 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>If compensation lands are acquired in fee title or in easement, the requirements for acquisition, initial improvement and long-term management of compensation lands include all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Selection Criteria for Compensation Lands.</b> The compensation lands selected for acquisition in fee title or in easement shall:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. be within the Colorado Desert Recovery Unit, with potential to contribute to desert tortoise habitat connectivity and build linkages between desert tortoise designated critical habitat, known populations of desert tortoise, and/or other preserve lands;</li> <li>b. provide habitat for desert tortoise with capacity to regenerate naturally when disturbances are removed;</li> <li>c. be prioritized near larger blocks of lands that are either already protected or planned for protection, or which could feasibly be protected long-term by a public resource agency or a non-governmental organization dedicated to habitat preservation;</li> <li>d. be connected to lands with desert tortoise habitat equal to or better quality than the Project site, ideally with populations that are stable, recovering, or likely to recover;</li> <li>e. not have a history of intensive recreational use or other disturbance that does not have the capacity to regenerate naturally when disturbances are removed or might make habitat recovery and restoration infeasible;</li> <li>f. not be characterized by high densities of invasive species, either on or immediately adjacent to the parcels under consideration, that might jeopardize habitat recovery and restoration;</li> <li>g. not contain hazardous wastes that cannot be removed to the extent that the site could not provide suitable habitat; and</li> <li>h. have water and mineral rights included as part of the acquisition, unless the County, in consultation with CDFW and USFWS, agrees in writing to the acceptability of land.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <b>Review and Approval of Compensation Lands Prior to Acquisition.</b> The Applicant shall submit a formal acquisition proposal to the County, CDFW, and USFWS describing the parcel(s) intended for purchase. This acquisition proposal shall discuss the suitability of the proposed parcel(s) as compensation lands for desert tortoise in relation to the criteria listed above. Approval from the County and CDFW, in consultation with BLM and the USFWS, shall be required for acquisition of all compensatory mitigation parcels.</li> <li>3. <b>Compensation Lands Acquisition Requirements.</b> The Applicant shall comply with the following requirements relating to acquisition of the compensation lands after the County and CDFW, in consultation with BLM and the USFWS, have approved the proposed compensation lands:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Preliminary Report.</b> The Applicant, or approved third party, shall provide a recent preliminary title report, initial hazardous materials survey report, biological analysis, and other necessary or requested documents for the proposed compensation land to the County and CDFW. All documents conveying or conserving compensation lands and all conditions of title are subject</li> </ol> </li> </ol>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-3 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>to review and approval by the County and CDFW, in consultation with the USFWS. For conveyances to the state, approval may also be required from the California Department of General Services, the Fish and Game Commission, and the Wildlife Conservation Board.</p> <p>b. <i>Title/Conveyance.</i> The Applicant shall transfer fee title to the compensation lands, a conservation easement over the lands, or both fee title and conservation easement as required by the County and CDFW. Transfer of either fee title or an approved conservation easement will usually be sufficient, but some situations, e.g., the donation of lands burdened by a conservation easement to BLM, will require that both types of transfers be completed. Any transfer of a conservation easement or fee title must be to CDFW, a non-profit organization qualified to hold title to and manage compensation lands (pursuant to California Government Code §65965), or to BLM under terms approved by the County and CDFW. If an approved non-profit organization holds title to the compensation lands, a conservation easement shall be recorded in favor of CDFW in a form approved by CDFW. If an approved non-profit holds a conservation easement, CDFW shall be named a third-party beneficiary.</p> <p>c. <i>Initial Habitat Improvement Fund.</i> The Applicant shall fund the initial protection and habitat improvement of the compensation lands. Alternatively, a non-profit organization may hold the habitat improvement funds if it is qualified to manage the compensation lands (pursuant to California Government Code §65965) and if it meets the approval of CDFW and the County. If CDFW takes fee title to the compensation lands, the habitat improvement fund must be paid to CDFW or its designee.</p> <p>d. <i>Property Analysis Record.</i> Upon identification of the compensation lands, the Applicant shall conduct a PAR or PAR-like analysis to establish the appropriate long-term maintenance and management fee to fund the in-perpetuity management of the acquired mitigation lands.</p> <p>e. <i>Long-term Maintenance and Management Fund.</i> The Applicant shall deposit in NFWF's REAT Account a non-wasting capital long-term maintenance and management fee in the amount determined through the PAR analysis conducted for the compensation lands.</p> <p>The County, in consultation with CDFW, may designate another non-profit organization to hold the long-term maintenance and management fee if the organization is qualified to manage the compensation lands in perpetuity. If CDFW takes fee title to the compensation lands, CDFW shall determine whether it will hold the long-term management fee in the special deposit fund, leave the money in the REAT Account, or designate another entity to manage the long-term maintenance and management fee for CDFW and with CDFW supervision.</p> <p>f. <i>Interest, Principal, and Pooling of Funds.</i> The Applicant, the County and CDFW shall ensure that an agreement is in place with the long-term maintenance and management fee holder/manager to ensure the following conditions:</p> <p>i. Interest generated from the initial capital long-term maintenance and management fee shall be available for reinvestment into the principal and for the long-term operation, management, and protection of the approved compensation lands, including reasonable administrative overhead, biological monitoring, improvements to carrying</p>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-3 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>capacity, law enforcement measures, and any other action approved by CDFW designed to protect or improve the habitat values of the compensation lands.</p> <p>ii. Withdrawal of Principal. The long-term maintenance and management fee principal shall not be drawn upon unless such withdrawal is deemed necessary by the CDFW or the approved third-party long-term maintenance and management fee manager to ensure the continued viability of the species on the compensation lands. If CDFW takes fee title to the compensation lands, monies received by CDFW pursuant to this provision shall be deposited in a special deposit fund established solely for the purpose to manage lands in perpetuity unless CDFW designates NFWF or another entity to manage the long-term maintenance and management fee for CDFW.</p> <p>iii. Pooling Long-Term Maintenance and Management Fee Funds. CDFW, or a County- and CDFW-approved non-profit organization qualified to hold long-term maintenance and management fees solely for the purpose to manage lands in perpetuity, may pool the endowment with other endowments for the operation, management, and protection of the compensation lands for local populations of desert tortoise. However, for reporting purposes, the long-term maintenance and management fee fund must be tracked and reported individually to the CDFW and County.</p> <p>iv. Other expenses. In addition to the costs listed above, the Applicant shall be responsible for all other costs related to acquisition of compensation lands and conservation easements, including but not limited to title and document review costs, expenses incurred from other state agency reviews, and overhead related to providing compensation lands to CDFW or an approved third party; escrow fees or costs; environmental contaminants clearance; and other site cleanup measures.</p> <p>9. <i>Mitigation Security.</i> The Applicant shall provide financial assurances to the County and CDFW with copies of the document(s) to the USFWS, to guarantee that an adequate level of funding is available to implement the mitigation measures described herein. These funds shall be used solely for implementation of the measures associated with the Project in the event the Applicant fails to comply with the requirements specified in this measure, or shall be returned to the Applicant upon successful compliance with the requirements in this measure. The County's or CDFW's use of the security to implement required measures may not fully satisfy the Applicant's obligations under this condition. Financial assurance can be provided to the County and CDFW in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, a pledged savings account or another form of security ("Security"). Prior to submitting the Security to the County, the Applicant shall obtain the County's and CDFW's approval, in consultation with the USFWS, of the form of the Security. Security shall be provided in the amounts calculated as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. land acquisition costs for compensation land, calculated at \$500/acre.</li> <li>ii. initial protection and improvement activities on the compensation land, calculated at \$330/acre.</li> <li>iii. Long term maintenance and management fee, calculated at \$1,450 an acre.</li> </ol>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
Impact 4.4-3 (cont.)	<p>The amount of security shall be adjusted for any change in the Project footprints for each phase as described above.</p> <p>h. The Applicant may elect to fund the acquisition and initial improvement of compensation lands through NFWF by depositing funds for that purpose into NFWF's REAT Account. Initial deposits for this purpose must be made in the same amounts as the security required in 3.9, above, and may be provided in lieu of security. If this option is used for the acquisition and initial improvement, the Applicant shall make an additional deposit into the REAT Account if necessary to cover the actual acquisition costs and administrative costs and fees of the compensation land purchase once land is identified and the actual costs are known. If the actual costs for acquisition and administrative costs and fees are less than \$500 per acre, the excess money deposited in the REAT Account shall be returned to the Applicant. Money deposited for the initial protection and improvement of the compensation lands shall not be returned to the Applicant.</p> <p>The responsibility for acquisition of compensation lands may be delegated to a third party other than NFWF, such as a non-governmental organization supportive of desert habitat conservation, by written agreement of the County and CDFW. Such delegation shall be subject to approval by the County and CDFW, in consultation with the USFWS, prior to land acquisition, initial protection or maintenance and management activities.</p>			
Impact 4.4-4: Project construction would have a substantial adverse effect on Mojave fringe-toed lizard.	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-3e: In-Lieu Fees to Satisfy Compensation Requirements.</b> The Applicant may choose to satisfy its mitigation obligations by paying an in-lieu fee instead of acquiring compensation lands, pursuant to California Fish and Game Code §§2069 and 2099 or any other applicable in-lieu fee provision, to the extent the in-lieu fee provision is found by the Fish and Game Commission to mitigate the impacts identified herein.</p>	Ensure payment of in-lieu fees, if required	--	Prior to operation
Impact 4.4-4: Project construction would have a substantial adverse effect on Mojave fringe-toed lizard.	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-4a:</b> The Applicant shall undertake the following measures to manage the construction site and related facilities in a manner to avoid or minimize impacts to biological resources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Limit Area of Disturbance.</b> The boundaries of all areas to be disturbed (including staging areas, access roads, and sites for temporary placement of spoils) shall be delineated with stakes and flagging prior to construction activities in consultation with the Designated Biologist. Spoils and topsoil shall be stockpiled in disturbed areas lacking native vegetation and which do not provide habitat for special-status species. Parking areas, staging and disposal site locations shall similarly be located in areas without native vegetation or special-status species habitat. All disturbances, Project vehicles and equipment shall be confined to the flagged areas.</li> <li><b>Minimize Road Impacts.</b> New and existing roads that are planned for construction, widening, or other improvements shall not extend beyond the flagged impact area as described above. All vehicles passing or turning around would do so within the planned impact area or in previously disturbed areas. Where new access is required outside of existing roads or the construction zone, the route shall be clearly marked (i.e., flagged and/or staked) prior to the onset of construction.</li> </ol>	Implement listed measures	Construction monitoring as described	Prior to and during construction

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p>	<p><b>Impact 4.4-4 (cont.)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <b>Minimize Traffic Impacts.</b> Vehicular traffic during Project construction and operation shall be confined to existing routes of travel to and from the Project site, and cross country vehicle and equipment use outside designated work areas shall be prohibited. The speed limit shall not exceed 25 miles per hour within the Project area, on maintenance roads for linear facilities, or on access roads to the Project site, except on paved access roads where the speed limit shall not exceed 45 miles per hour.</li> <li>4. <b>Monitor During Construction.</b> In areas that have not been fenced with desert tortoise exclusion fencing and cleared, the Designated Biologist shall be present at the construction site during all Project activities that have potential to disturb soil, vegetation, and wildlife. The Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor shall walk immediately ahead of equipment during brushing and grading activities.</li> <li>5. <b>Minimize Impacts of Transmission/Pipeline Alignments, Roads, Staging Areas.</b> Staging areas for construction on the plant site shall be within the area that has been fenced with desert tortoise exclusion fencing and cleared. For construction activities outside of the plant site (transmission line, pipeline alignments) access roads, pulling sites, and storage and parking areas shall be designed, installed, and maintained with the goal of minimizing impacts to native plant communities and sensitive biological resources. Transmission lines and all electrical components shall be designed, installed, and maintained in accordance with the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee's (APLIC's) Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines (APLIC, 2006) and Mitigating Bird Collisions with Power Lines (APLIC, 1994) to reduce the likelihood of large bird electrocutions and collisions.</li> <li>6. <b>Avoid Use of Toxic Substances.</b> Soil bonding and weighting agents used on unpaved surfaces shall be non-toxic to wildlife and plants.</li> <li>7. <b>Minimize Lighting Impacts.</b> Facility lighting shall be designed, installed, and maintained to prevent side casting of light towards wildlife habitat.</li> <li>8. <b>Minimize Noise Impacts.</b> Loud construction activities (e.g., unsilenced pile driving) shall be avoided from February 15 to April 15 when it would result in noise levels over 65 dBA in nesting habitat (excluding noise from passing vehicles). Loud construction activities may be permitted from February 15 to April 15 only if:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the Designated Biologist provides documentation (e.g., nesting bird data collected using methods described in Mitigation Measure 4.4-6b and maps depicting location of the nest survey area in relation to noisy construction) to the County indicating that no active nests would be subject to 65 dBA noise, or</li> <li>b. the Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor monitors active nests within the range of construction-related noise exceeding 65 dBA. The monitoring shall be conducted in accordance with Nesting Bird Monitoring and Management Plan approved by the County. The Plan shall include adaptive management measures to prevent disturbance to nesting birds from construction related noise. Triggers for adaptive management shall be evidence of</li> </ol> </li> </ol>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-4 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>Project-related disturbance to nesting birds such as: agitation behavior (displacement, avoidance, and defense); increased vigilance behavior at nest sites; changes in foraging and feeding behavior, or nest site abandonment. The Bird Monitoring and Management Plan shall include a description of adaptive management actions, which shall include, but not be limited to, cessation of construction activities that are deemed by the Designated Biologist to be the source of disturbance to the nesting bird.</p> <p>9. <b>Avoid Vehicle Impacts to Desert Tortoise.</b> Parking and storage shall occur within the area enclosed by desert tortoise exclusion fencing to the extent feasible. No vehicles or construction equipment parked outside the fenced area shall be moved prior to an inspection of the ground beneath the vehicle for the presence of desert tortoise. If a desert tortoise is observed, it would be left to move on its own. If it does not move within 15 minutes, a Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor under the Designated Biologist's direct supervision may remove and relocate the animal to a safe location if temperatures are within the range described in the USFWS' 2009 Desert Tortoise Field Manual.<sup>3</sup></p> <p>10. <b>Avoid Wildlife Pitfalls:</b></p> <p>a. <b>Backfill Trenches.</b> At the end of each work day, the Designated Biologist shall ensure that all potential wildlife pitfalls (trenches, borer, and other excavations) outside the area fenced with desert tortoise exclusion fencing have been backfilled. If backfilling is not feasible, all trenches, borer, and other excavations shall be sloped at a 3:1 ratio at the ends to provide wildlife escape ramps, or covered completely to prevent wildlife access, or fully enclosed with desert tortoise-exclusion fencing. All trenches, borer, and other excavations outside the areas permanently fenced with desert tortoise exclusion fencing shall be inspected periodically throughout the day, at the end of each workday and at the beginning of each day by the Designated Biologist or a Biological Monitor. Should a tortoise or other wildlife become trapped, the Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor shall remove and relocate the individual as described in the Desert Tortoise Relocation/Translocation Plan. Any wildlife encountered during the course of construction shall be allowed to leave the construction area unharmed.</p> <p>b. <b>Avoid Entrapment of Desert Tortoise.</b> Any construction pipe, culvert, or similar structure with a diameter greater than 3 inches, stored less than 8 inches aboveground and within desert tortoise habitat (i.e., outside the permanently fenced area) for one or more nights, shall be inspected for tortoises before the material is moved, buried or capped. As an alternative, all such structures may be capped before being stored outside the fenced area, or placed on pipe racks. These materials would not need to be inspected or capped if they are stored within the permanently fenced area after the clearance surveys have been completed.</p> <p>11. <b>Minimize Standing Water.</b> Water applied to dirt roads and construction areas (trenches or spoil piles) for dust abatement shall use the minimal amount needed to meet safety and air quality standards in an effort to prevent the formation of puddles, which could attract desert tortoises and</p>			

<sup>3</sup> Available at: [http://www.fws.gov/ventura/species\\_information/protocols\\_guidelines/](http://www.fws.gov/ventura/species_information/protocols_guidelines/)



TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p>	<p><b>Impact 4.4-4 (cont.)</b></p>			
	<p>common ravens to construction sites. A Biological Monitor shall patrol these areas to ensure water does not puddle and shall take appropriate action (e.g., coordinating with the contractor to reduce watering frequency) to reduce water application where necessary.</p>			
	<p>12. <b>Dispose of Road-killed Animals.</b> Road-killed animals or other carcasses detected on roads near the Project area shall be immediately reported to the Designated Biologist and picked up within 24 hours. The contractor and Designated Biologist shall be responsible for securing all required federal or State permits to handle and dispose of collected animals, including handling and disposal for scientific use. For special-status species roadkill, the Biological Monitor shall contact CDFW, and USFWS within 1 working day of receipt of the carcass for guidance on disposal or storage of the carcass. The Biological Monitor shall maintain and report special-status species records as described in Mitigation Measure 4.4-2.</p>			
	<p>13. <b>Minimize Spills of Hazardous Materials.</b> All vehicles and equipment shall be maintained in proper working condition to minimize the potential for fugitive emissions of motor oil, antifreeze, hydraulic fluid, grease, or other hazardous materials. The Designated Biologist shall be informed of any hazardous spills immediately as directed in the Project Hazardous Materials Plan. Hazardous spills shall be immediately cleaned up and the contaminated soil properly disposed of at a licensed facility. Servicing of construction equipment shall take place only at a designated area. Service/maintenance vehicles shall carry a bucket and pads to absorb leaks or spills.</p>			
	<p>14. <b>Worker Guidelines.</b> During construction all trash and food-related waste shall be placed in self-closing containers and removed daily from the site. Workers shall not feed wildlife or bring pets to the Project site. Except for law enforcement personnel, no workers or visitors to the site shall bring firearms or weapons.</p>			
	<p>Vehicular traffic shall be confined to existing routes of travel to and from the Project site, and cross country vehicle and equipment use outside designated work areas shall be prohibited. The speed limit when traveling on dirt access routes within desert tortoise habitat shall not exceed 25 miles per hour.</p>			
	<p>15. <b>Implement Erosion Control Measures.</b> Standard erosion control measures shall be implemented for all phases of construction and operation where sediment run-off from exposed slopes threatens to enter waters of the state. Sediment and other flow-restricting materials shall be moved to a location where they shall not be washed back into the stream. All disturbed soils and roads within the Project site shall be stabilized to reduce erosion potential, both during and following construction. Areas of disturbed soils (access and staging areas) with slopes toward a drainage shall be stabilized to reduce erosion potential.</p>			
	<p>16. <b>Monitor Ground-Disturbing Activities Prior to Pre-Construction Site Mobilization.</b> If pre-construction site mobilization requires ground-disturbing activities such as for geotechnical borings or hazardous waste evaluations, a Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor shall be present to monitor any actions that could disturb soil, vegetation, or wildlife.</p>			
	<p>17. <b>Revegetation of Temporarily Disturbed Areas.</b> The Applicant shall prepare and implement a Revegetation Plan to restore all areas subject to temporary disturbance to pre-Project grade and</p>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-4 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>conditions. Temporarily disturbed areas within the Project area include, but are not limited to: all proposed locations for linear facilities, temporary access roads, berms, areas surrounding the drainage diffusers, construction work temporary lay-down areas not converted to part of the solar field, and construction equipment staging areas. The Revegetation Plan shall include a description of topsoil salvage and seeding techniques and a monitoring and reporting plan, and the following performance standards by the end of monitoring year 2:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. at least 80 percent of the species observed within the temporarily disturbed areas shall be native species that naturally occur in desert scrub habitats; and</li> <li>b. relative cover and density of plant species within the temporarily disturbed areas shall equal at least 60 percent.</li> </ol> <p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-4b: Mitigation for Impacts to Sensitive Riparian Habitat and State Waters.</b> The Applicant shall implement the following measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate for direct and indirect impacts to waters of the state and to satisfy requirements of California Fish and Game Code §§1600 and 1607.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Acquire Off-Site State Waters:</b> The Applicant shall acquire, in fee or in easement, a parcel or parcels of land that includes at least 196.9 acres of state jurisdictional waters, or comparable area based on actual project impact to jurisdictional features that meets BLM and CDFW mitigation ratios, as identified in APM HYDRO-1. The parcel or parcels comprising the 196.6 acres of ephemeral washes shall include at least 10.8 acres of desert dry wash woodland. Under the Reduced Acreage Alternative, the mitigation requirement for impacts to riparian habitat and state waters would be a minimum of 63.3 acres that included at least 1.5 acres of desert dry wash woodland. If the Eastern Route Alternative were constructed the mitigation requirements for impacts to riparian habitat and state waters would be incrementally smaller than under the Central Route gen-tie line; however, these requirements would need to be finalized to include the impacts of road facilities on riparian habitat located on Project linears south of the Project. The terms and conditions of this acquisition or easement shall be as described in Mitigation Measure 4.4-3d (<i>Desert Tortoise Compensatory Mitigation</i>). Mitigation for impacts to state waters shall occur within the Palo Verde and surrounding watersheds, as close to the Project site as possible. If security is posted in accordance with Provision 2 below (Security for Implementation of Mitigation), the Applicant shall acquire, in fee or in easement, the land, no more than 18 months after the start of Project ground-disturbing activities.</li> <li>2. <b>Security for Implementation of Mitigation:</b> The Applicant shall provide financial assurances to the County and CDFW to guarantee that an adequate level of funding is available to implement the acquisitions and enhancement of state waters as described in this condition. These funds shall be used solely for implementation of the measures associated with the project. Financial assurance can be provided to the County and CDFW in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, a pledged savings account or Security prior to initiating ground-disturbing project activities. Prior to submittal to the County, the Security shall be approved by the County, in consultation with CDFW</li> </ol>	<p>Ensure provision of funding by the Applicant</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>Prior to operation</p>

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-4 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>and the USFWS, to ensure funding. An estimate of \$448,932 in required Security funds was developed for land costs or the estimated costs of enhancement and endowment (see Mitigation Measure 4.4-3d, Compensatory Mitigation for Desert Tortoise Habitat Losses, for a discussion of the assumptions used in calculating the Security) based on an estimate of \$2,280 per acre (196.9 acres) to fund acquisition, enhancement and long-term management. For the Reduced Acreage Alternative, the Security amount is estimated to be \$144,324. The estimate for the 59-acre Eastern Route Alternative is \$134,520, which does not include road impacts on portions of the Eastern Route that deviates from the proposed Project gen-tie line. These amounts may change based on land costs or the estimated costs of enhancement and endowment. The final amount due will be determined by the PAR analysis conducted pursuant to Mitigation Measure 4.4-3d and approved by the County and CDFW. The final mitigation acreage is also subject to CDFW concurrence with project impacts to waters of the state that were developed by the Applicant.</p> <p>3. <b>Preparation of Management Plan:</b> The Applicant shall submit to the County and CDFW a draft Management Plan that reflects site-specific enhancement measures for the drainages on the acquired compensation lands. The objective of the Management Plan shall be to enhance the wildlife value of the drainages, and may include enhancement actions such as weed control, fencing to exclude livestock, or erosion control.</p> <p>4. <b>Code of Regulations:</b> The Applicant shall provide a copy of the BRMMP and CDFW permits to all contractors, subcontractors, and the Applicant's Project supervisors. Copies shall be readily available at work sites at all times during periods of active work and must be presented to any CDFW personnel upon demand. The County reserves the right to issue a stop work order or allow CDFW to issue a stop work order after giving notice to the Applicant. If the County in consultation with CDFW, determines that the Applicant has breached any of the terms or conditions or for other reasons, including but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The information provided by the Applicant regarding streambed alteration is incomplete or inaccurate;</li> <li>b. New information becomes available that was not known to it in preparing the terms and conditions; or</li> <li>c. The Project or Project activities as described in the EIR have changed.</li> </ul> <p>5. <b>Best Management Practices:</b> The Applicant shall also comply with the following conditions to protect drainages near the Project Disturbance Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Applicant shall minimize road building, construction activities and vegetation clearing within ephemeral drainages to the extent feasible.</li> <li>b. The Applicant shall not allow water containing mud, silt, or other pollutants from grading, aggregate washing, or other activities to enter ephemeral drainages or be placed in locations that may be subjected to high storm flows.</li> </ul>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
Impact 4.4-4 (cont.)	<p>c. The Applicant shall comply with all litter and pollution laws. All contractors, subcontractors, and employees shall also obey these laws, and it shall be the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure compliance.</p> <p>d. Spoil sites shall not be located at least 30 feet from the boundaries and drainages or in locations that may be subjected to high storm flows, where spoils might be washed back into drainages.</p> <p>e. Raw cement/concrete or washings thereof, asphalt, paint or other coating material, oil or other petroleum products, or any other substances that could be hazardous to vegetation or wildlife resources, resulting from Project-related activities, shall be prevented from contaminating the soil and/or entering waters of the state. These materials, placed within or where they may enter a drainage by the Applicant or any party working under contract or with the permission of the Applicant, shall be removed immediately.</p> <p>f. No broken concrete, debris, soil, silt, sand, bark, slash, sawdust, rubbish, cement or concrete or washings thereof, oil or petroleum products or other organic or earthen material from any construction or associated activity of whatever nature shall be allowed to enter into, or placed where it may be washed by rainfall or runoff into, waters of the state.</p> <p>g. When operations are completed, any excess materials or debris shall be removed from the work area. No rubbish shall be deposited within 150 feet of the high water mark of any drainage.</p> <p>h. No equipment maintenance shall occur within 150 feet of any ephemeral drainage where petroleum products or other pollutants from the equipment may enter these areas under any flow.</p>			
	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-4c: Channel Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan.</b> If engineered diversion channels are included in the Project, then, at least 12 months prior to Project closure, the Applicant shall prepare a draft Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan to remove the engineered diversion channels from the Project site, and implement the final plan upon site closure. The goal of the plan shall be to restore the site's topography and hydrology to a relatively natural condition and to establish native plant communities within the Project Disturbance Area. The Channel Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan shall include a cost estimate for implementing the proposed decommissioning and reclamation activities, and shall be consistent with the guidelines in BLM's 43 CFR 3809.550 et seq., subject to review and revisions from the County in consultation with USFWS and CDFW.</p>	Review and approve the Channel Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan	--	At least 12 months prior to Project closure
	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-4d: Compensatory Mitigation for Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard Habitat Losses.</b> To mitigate for permanent habitat loss and direct impacts to Mojave fringe-toed lizards the Applicant shall provide compensatory mitigation at a 3:1 ratio, which may include compensation lands purchased in fee or in easement in whole or in part, for impacts to stabilized or partially stabilized desert dune habitat (19 acres x 3 = 57.0 acres); or three times (3X) the acreage of sand dune/partially stabilized sand dune habitat permanently impacted by the final Project footprint, whichever is greater. If compensation lands are acquired, the Applicant shall provide funding for the acquisition in fee title or</p>	Ensure compensatory mitigation is acquired	--	Prior to operation

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-4 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>In easement, initial habitat improvements, and long-term maintenance and management of the compensation lands.</p> <p>1. <b>Criteria for Compensation Lands:</b> The compensation lands selected for acquisition shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be sand dune or partially stabilized sand dune habitat within the McCoy Valley or Chuckwalla Valley with potential to contribute to Mojave fringe-toed lizard habitat connectivity and build linkages between known populations of Mojave fringe-toed lizards and preserve lands with suitable habitat;</li> <li>To the extent feasible, be connected to lands currently occupied by Mojave fringe-toed lizard;</li> <li>To the extent feasible, be near larger blocks of lands that are either already protected or planned for protection, or which could feasibly be protected long-term by a public resource agency or a non-governmental organization dedicated to habitat preservation;</li> <li>Provide quality habitat for Mojave fringe-toed lizard, that has the capacity to regenerate naturally when disturbances are removed;</li> <li>Not have a history of intensive recreational use or other disturbance that might make habitat recovery and restoration infeasible;</li> <li>Not be characterized by high densities of invasive species, either on or immediately adjacent to the parcels under consideration, that might jeopardize habitat recovery and restoration;</li> <li>Not contain hazardous wastes that cannot be removed to the extent the site is suitable for habitat;</li> <li>Not be subject to property constraints (i.e. mineral leases, cultural resources); and</li> <li>Be on land for which long-term management is feasible.</li> </ol> <p>2. <b>Security for Implementation of Mitigation:</b> The Applicant shall provide financial assurances to the County to guarantee that an adequate level of funding is available to implement the acquisitions and enhancement of Mojave fringe-toed lizard habitat as described in this measure. These funds shall be used solely for implementation of the measures associated with the Project. Financial assurance can be provided to the County according to the measures outlined in Mitigation Measure 4.4-3d. The final amount due will be determined by an updated appraisal and a PAR analysis conducted as described in Mitigation Measure 4.4-3d.</p>			
<p><b>Impact 4.4-5A:</b> Project construction would have a substantial adverse effect on special-status and migratory avian species.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-5A: Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy (BBCS).</b></p> <p>The Project owner shall prepare a Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy (BBCS) in consultation with the County in consultation with CDFW for review and comment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Project owner will survey and monitor onsite avian use prior to commencing construction to document species composition. The Project owner will submit all data gathered onsite to the County in consultation with CDFW, and also will make consulting biologists available to answer inquiries.</li> </ol>	<p>Prepare BBCS, implement avian and bat mortality and injury monitoring program</p>	<p>Monitoring and reporting as determined in approved plan</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p>	<p>2. The Project owner will implement a statistically robust avian and bat mortality and injury monitoring program to identify the extent of potential avian or bat mortality or injury from collisions with facility structures, including assessing levels of collision-related mortality and injury with PV panels.</p> <p>3. The Project owner will implement an adaptive management and decision-making framework for reviewing, characterizing, and responding to monitoring results.</p> <p>4. The Project owner will identify specific conservation measures and/or programs to avoid, minimize, reduce, or eliminate avian and bat injury or mortality over time and will evaluate the effectiveness of those measures.</p> <p>The BBCS shall include the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A description and summary of the baseline survey methods, raw data, and results.</li> <li>2. Avian and bat mortality and injury monitoring that includes:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Onsite monitoring that will systematically survey representative locations within the facility, at a level that will produce statistically robust data; account for potential spatial bias; and allow for the extrapolation of survey results to non-surveyed areas within the solar plant site boundary and the survey interval based on scavenger and searcher efficiency trials and detection rates.</li> <li>b) Low-visibility and high-wind weather event reporting to document potential weather-related collision risks that may be associated with increased risk of avian or bat collisions with project features, including foggy, highly overcast, or rainy night-time weather typically associated with an advancing frontal system, and high wind events (40 miles per hour winds) that are sustained for period of greater than 4 hours.</li> <li>c) Statistically robust scavenger and searcher efficiency trials prior and post construction to document the extent to which avian or bat fatalities remain visible over time and can be detected within the project area and to adjust the survey timing and survey results to reflect scavenger and searcher efficiency rates.</li> <li>d) Statistical methods used to generate facility estimates of potential post construction avian and bat impacts based on the observed number of detections during standardized searches during the monitoring season for which the cause of death can be determined and is determined to be facility-related.</li> <li>e) Field detection and mortality or injury identification, cause attribution, handling and reporting requirements.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Post-construction monitoring studies included in the BBCS shall be conducted by a third party contractor for at least 3 years following commencement of commercial operation of each individual unit. At the end of the three-year period, the County in consultation with CDFW shall determine whether the survey program shall be continued.</li> <li>4. An adaptive management program shall be developed to identify and implement reasonable and feasible measures needed to reduce levels of avian or bat mortality or injury attributable to Project</li> </ol>			

**TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-5A (cont.)</b></p>	<p>operations and facilities to less than ecologically significant levels. Any such impact reduction measures must be commensurate (in terms of factors that include geographic scope, costs, and scale of effort) to the level of avian or bat mortality or injury that is specifically and clearly attributable to the project facilities. Adaptive actions undertaken will be discussed and evaluated in survey reports. The adaptive management program shall include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Reasonable measures for characterizing the extent and significance of detected mortality and injuries clearly attributable to the Project.</li> <li>ii. Potential measures that the Project owner could implement to adaptively respond to detected mortality and injuries attributable to the Project, including passive avian diverter installations along the perimeter or at other locations within the Project to avoid site use, the use of sound, light or other means to discourage site use consistent with applicable legal requirements, onsite prey or habitat control measures consistent with applicable legal requirements, and additional perch and nest minimizing of project facilities.</li> </ul> <p>Adaptive Mitigation: The County in consultation with CDFW may require the Project owner to implement adaptive mitigation for ecologically significant onsite injury or mortality of birds and bats. The costs for such mitigation shall not exceed \$100,000. Such measures shall be approved by the County and CDFW and may include, but not be limited to: (i) restoration of degraded habitat with native vegetation; (ii) restoration of agricultural fields to bird habitat; (iii) management of agricultural fields to enhance bird populations; (iv) invasive plant species and artificial food or water source management; (v) control and cleanup of potential avian hazards, such as lead or microtrash; (vi) retrofitting of buildings to minimize collisions; (vii) retrofitting of conductors and above ground cables to minimize collisions; (viii) animal control programs; (ix) support for avian and bat research and/or management efforts conducted by entities approved by the County and CDFW within the Project's mitigation lands or other approved locations; (x) funding efforts to address avian diseases or depredation due to the expansion of predators in response to anthropomorphic subsidies that may adversely affect birds that use the mitigation lands or other approved locations; and (xi) contribute to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund managed by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. Adaptive mitigation will be discussed and evaluated in survey reports.</p> <p>5. Monitor the death and injury of birds and bats from collisions with PV panels. The monitoring data shall be used to inform an adaptive management program that would avoid and minimize Project-related avian and bat impacts. The study design shall be approved by the County and CDFW. The monitoring shall include detailed specifications on data and carcass collection protocol and a rationale justifying the proposed schedule of carcass searches. The program also shall include seasonal trials to assess bias from carcass removal by scavengers as well as searcher bias.</p> <p>Prior to the start of construction, the BBCS shall be submitted to the County in consultation with CDFW for review and comment. A final BBCS shall be submitted to the County within 60 days of construction commencement. Survey results shall be verified by the following:</p>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
<p><b>Impact 4.4-5A (cont.)</b></p>	<p>1. The results of onsite injury and mortality monitoring will be reported monthly. The reports will include all monitoring data required as part of the monitoring program.</p> <p>The reports shall also assess any adaptive management measure implemented during the prior year as approved by the County in consultation with CDFW. The County in consultation with CDFW shall determine if additional monitoring is warranted based on data quality and sufficiency of analysis, or if needed, to document efficacy of any adaptive management measures undertaken by the Project owner.</p> <p>If a carcass or injured live special status species is found at any time by the monitoring study or Project operations staff, the Project owner, Designated Biologist, or other qualified biologist, the Designated Biologist shall contact the County in consultation with CDFW by e-mail, fax or other electronic means within one working day of any such detection. Verification of other injuries or mortalities shall be within 48 hours.</p> <p>In addition, the Project owner shall follow APLIC guidelines for avian protection on powerlines and shall use current guidelines to reduce bird mortality from collision and electrocution with powerlines. The APLIC (2006) and USFWS recommend the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Provide 60-inch minimum horizontal separation between energized conductors or energized conductors and grounded hardware;</li> <li>ii. Insulate hardware or conductors against simultaneous contact if adequate spacing is not possible;</li> <li>iii. Use structure designs that minimize impacts to birds; and</li> <li>iv. Shield wires to minimize the effects from bird collisions.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Impact 4.4-6:</b> Project construction would have a substantial adverse effect on nesting birds.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-6: Pre-construction Nest Surveys.</b> Pre-construction nest surveys shall be conducted if construction activities would begin from February 1 through July 31. The Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor conducting the surveys shall be experienced bird surveyors familiar with standard nest-locating techniques such as those described in Martin and Guepel (1993). The goal of the nesting surveys shall be to identify the general location of the nest sites, sufficient to establish a protective buffer zone around the potential nest site, and need not include identification of the precise nest locations. Surveyors performing nest surveys shall not concurrently be conducting desert tortoise surveys. The bird surveyors shall perform surveys in accordance with the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Surveyors shall cover all potential nesting habitat areas that could be disturbed by each phase of construction. Surveys shall also include areas within 500 feet of the boundaries of the active construction areas (including linear facilities);</li> <li>2. At least two pre-construction surveys shall be conducted, separated by a minimum 10-day interval. One of the surveys shall be conducted within a 14-day period preceding initiation of construction activity. Additional follow-up surveys may be required if periods of construction inactivity exceed 3 weeks, an interval during which birds may establish a nesting territory and initiate egg laying and incubation;</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure the completion of required surveys to CDFW protocol standards</p>	<p>Monitoring during nesting season Report of survey results</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>



TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
Impact 4.4-6 (cont.)	<p>3. If active nests or suspected active nests are detected during the survey, a buffer zone (protected area surrounding the nest, the size of which is to be determined by the Designated Biologist in consultation with CDFW) and monitoring plan shall be developed. Nest locations shall be mapped and submitted, along with a report stating the survey results, to the County, and</p> <p>4. The Designated Biologist shall monitor the nest until he or she determines that nestlings have fledged and dispersed; activities that might, in the opinion of the Designated Biologist, disturb nesting activities, shall be prohibited within the buffer zone until such a determination is made.</p>			
Impact 4.4-7: Project construction would have a substantial adverse effect on golden eagle.	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-7: Measures to Minimize Impacts to Golden Eagles.</b> The Applicant shall implement the following measures to avoid or minimize Project-related construction impacts to golden eagles during initial Project construction and again prior to Project decommissioning.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Annual Inventory During Construction:</b> For each calendar year during which construction will occur an inventory shall be conducted to determine if golden eagle territories occur within one mile of the Project boundaries. Survey methods for the inventory shall be as described in the <i>Interim Golden Eagle Inventory and Monitoring Protocols</i>; and <i>Other Recommendations</i> (Pagel et al., 2010), or more current guidance from the USFWS.</li> <li><b>Inventory Data:</b> Data collected during the inventory shall include at least the following: territory status (unknown, vacant, occupied, breeding successful, breeding unsuccessful); nest location, nest elevation; age class of golden eagles observed; nesting chronology; number of young at each visit; digital photographs; and substrate upon which nest is placed.</li> <li><b>Determination of Unoccupied Territory Status:</b> A nesting territory or inventoried habitat shall be considered unoccupied by golden eagles only after completing at least two full surveys in a single breeding season. In circumstances where ground observation occurs rather than aerial surveys, at least two ground observation periods lasting at least 4 hours or more are necessary to designate an inventoried habitat or territory as unoccupied as long as all potential nest sites and alternate nests are visible and monitored. These observation periods shall be at least 30 days apart for an inventory, and at least 30 days apart for monitoring of known territories.</li> <li><b>Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan:</b> If an occupied nest<sup>4</sup> is detected within 1 mile of the Project boundaries, the Applicant shall prepare and implement a Golden Eagle Monitoring and Management Plan for the duration of construction to ensure that Project construction activities do not result in injury or disturbance to golden eagles. The monitoring methods shall be consistent with those described in the <i>Interim Golden Eagle Inventory and Monitoring Protocols</i>; and <i>Other Recommendations</i> (Pagel et al., 2010) or more current guidance from the USFWS. The Monitoring and Management Plan shall be prepared in consultation with the USFWS. Triggers for</li> </ol>	<p>Ensure completion of surveys for Golden Eagles pursuant to USFWS survey methods</p> <p>Develop and implement Golden Eagle Monitoring and Management Plan</p>	<p>Annual inventory reporting</p> <p>Monitoring as needed and described in monitoring and management plan</p>	Prior to construction and decommissioning

4 An occupied nest is one used for breeding by a pair of golden eagles in the current year. Presence of an adult, eggs, or young, freshly molted feathers or plucked down, or current years' mutes (whitewash) also indicate site occupancy. Additionally, all breeding sites within a breeding territory are deemed occupied while raptors are demonstrating pair bonding activities and developing an affinity to a given area. If this culminates in an individual nest being selected for use by a breeding pair, then the other nests in the nesting territory will no longer be considered occupied for the current breeding season. A nest site is considered occupied throughout the periods of initial courtship and pair-bonding, egg laying, incubation, brooding, fledging, and post-fledging dependency of the young.

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-7 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>adaptive management shall include any evidence of Project-related disturbance to nesting golden eagles, including but not limited to: agitation behavior (displacement, avoidance, and defense), increased vigilance behavior at nest sites, changes in foraging and feeding behavior, or nest site abandonment. The Monitoring and Management Plan shall include a description of adaptive management actions, which shall include, but not be limited to: cessation of construction activities that are deemed by the Designated Biologist to be the source of golden eagle disturbance.</p>			
<p><b>Impact 4.4-8: Project construction would have a substantial adverse effect on burrowing owl.</b></p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-8: Burrowing Owl Protection and Mitigation.</b> The Applicant shall implement the following measures to avoid, minimize and offset impacts to burrowing owls:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Pre-Construction Surveys:</b> The Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor shall conduct pre-construction surveys for burrowing owls no more than 30 days prior to initiation of construction activities. Surveys shall be focused exclusively on detecting burrowing owls, and shall be conducted from 2 hours before sunset to 1 hour after or from 1 hour before to 2 hours after sunrise. The survey area shall include the Project Disturbance Area and surrounding 500-foot survey buffer for each phase of construction in accordance with Mitigation Measure 4.4-1h (Phasing).</li> <li><b>Implement Burrowing Owl Mitigation Plan:</b> The Applicant shall prepare and implement a final Burrowing Owl Mitigation Plan. The Plan shall be approved by the County in consultation with USFWS and CDFW, and shall:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify suitable sites as close as possible to the Project site, and within 1 mile of the Project Disturbance Areas for creation or enhancement of burrows prior to passive relocation efforts;</li> <li>provide guidelines for creation or enhancement of at least two natural or artificial burrows per relocated owl;</li> <li>provide detailed methods and guidance for passive relocation of burrowing owls occurring within the Project disturbance area; and</li> <li>describe monitoring and management of the passive relocation effort, including the created or enhanced burrow location and the project area where burrowing owls were relocated from and provide a reporting plan.</li> </ol> </li> <li>include the following elements related to artificial burrow relocation:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A brief description of the project and project site pre-construction;</li> <li>The mitigation measures that will be implemented;</li> <li>Potential conflicting site uses or encumbrances;</li> <li>A comparison of the occupied burrow site(s) and the artificial burrow site(s) (e.g., vegetation, habitat types, fossorial species use in the area, and other features);</li> <li>Artificial burrow(s) proximity to the project activities, roads and drainages;</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>Ensure completion of preconstruction surveys and review and approve the Burrowing Owl Mitigation Plan</p> <p>Ensure acquisition of mitigation for burrowing owl habitat</p>	<p>Monitoring as determined necessary in plan</p>	<p>No more than 30 days prior to construction</p>

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
Impact 4.4-8 (cont.)	<p>vi. Artificial burrow(s) proximity to other burrows and entrance exposure; Photographs of the site of the occupied burrow(s) and the artificial burrows;</p> <p>vii. Map of the project area that identifies the burrow(s) to be excluded as well as the proposed sites for the artificial burrows;</p> <p>viii. A brief description of the artificial burrow design;</p> <p>ix. Description of the monitoring that will take place during and after project implementation including information that will be provided in a monitoring report.</p> <p>x. A description of the frequency and type of burrow maintenance</p> <p>Because elements (iv) through (vii) rely on information that can be obtained only during pre-construction surveys, those elements of the Plan shall be included in a separate relocation plan if and when relocation activities are proposed.</p> <p>f. address the following elements related to the exclusion plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Confirm by site surveillance that the burrow(s) is empty of burrowing owls and other species by use of a fiber-optic endoscope or comparable device;</li> <li>ii. Describe the type of scope and appropriate timing of scoping to avoid impacts;</li> <li>iii. Describe occupancy factors to look for and what will guide determination of vacancy and excavation timing (e.g., one-way doors should be left in place 48 hours to ensure burrowing owls have left the burrow before excavation, visited twice daily and monitored for evidence that owls are inside and can't escape);</li> <li>iv. Identify how the burrow(s) will be excavated (excavation using hand tools with refilling to prevent reoccupation is preferable whenever possible (may include using piping to stabilize the burrow to prevent collapsing until the entire burrow has been excavated and it can be determined that no owls reside inside the burrow));</li> <li>v. Describe removal of other potential owl burrow surrogates or refugia on site; Photographing the excavation and closure of the burrow to demonstrate success and sufficiency;</li> <li>vi. Describe required monitoring of the exclusion site to evaluate success and, if needed, to implement remedial measures to prevent subsequent owl use to avoid take;</li> <li>vii. Identify how the impacted site will continually be made inhospitable to burrowing owls and fossorial mammals (e.g., by allowing vegetation to grow tall, heavy disking, or immediate and continuous grading) until development is complete.</li> </ol> <p>3. <b>Implement Avoidance Measures:</b> If an active burrowing owl burrow is detected within 500 feet from the Project disturbance area the following avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented:</p>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-8 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>a. <i>Establish Non-Disturbance Buffer.</i> Fencing shall be installed at a 250-foot radius from the occupied burrow to create a non-disturbance buffer around the burrow. The non-disturbance buffer and fence line may be reduced to 160 feet if all Project-related activities that might disturb burrowing owls would be conducted during the non-breeding season (September 1st through January 31st). Signs shall be posted in English and Spanish at the fence line indicating no entry or disturbance is permitted within the fenced buffer.</p> <p>b. <i>Monitoring.</i> If construction activities would occur within 500 feet of the occupied burrow during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31st) the Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor shall monitor to determine if these activities have potential to adversely affect nesting efforts, and shall make recommendations to minimize or avoid such disturbance.</p> <p>4. <b>Acquire Compensatory Burrowing Owl Habitat.</b> Consistent with CDFW mitigation guidance (CBOC, 1993), the Applicant shall acquire, in fee or in easement, at least 45 acres of land suitable to support a resident population of burrowing owls and shall provide funding for the enhancement and long-term management of these compensation lands (based on three owl pairs and four unpaired owls observed during focused surveys and 6.5 acres per pair or individual bird; to be adjusted based on final survey findings). The responsibilities for acquisition and management of the compensation lands may be delegated by written agreement to CDFW or to a third party, such as a non-governmental organization dedicated to habitat conservation, subject to approval by the County, in consultation with CDFW prior to land acquisition or management activities. Additional funds shall be based on the adjusted market value of compensation lands at the time of construction to acquire and manage habitat.</p> <p>a. <i>Criteria for Burrowing Owl Mitigation Lands:</i> The terms and conditions of this acquisition or easement shall be as described in Mitigation Measure 4.4-3d [Desert Tortoise Compensatory Mitigation], with the additional criteria to include that the 45 acres of mitigation land must provide suitable habitat for burrowing owls. The 45 acres of burrowing owl mitigation lands may be included with the desert tortoise mitigation lands only if this burrowing owl criterion is met. If the 45 acres of burrowing owl mitigation land is separate from the acreage required for desert tortoise compensation lands, the Applicant shall fulfill the requirements described below in this measure.</p> <p>b. <i>Security:</i> If the 19.5 acres of burrowing owl mitigation land is separate from the acreage required for desert tortoise compensation lands, the Applicant or an approved third party shall complete acquisition of the proposed compensation lands within the time period specified for this acquisition. Alternatively, financial assurance can be provided by the Applicant to the County and CDFW, according to the measures outlined in Mitigation Measure 4.4-3d. These funds shall be used solely for implementation of the measures associated with the Project. Financial assurance can be provided to the County in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, a pledged savings account, or another form of security ("Security") prior to initiating ground-disturbing Project activities. Prior to submittal, the Security shall be approved by the County in consultation with CDFW and the USFWS to ensure funding. The final amount due will be determined by an updated appraisal and PAR analysis conducted as described in Mitigation Measure 4.4-3d.</p>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-9:</b> Project construction would have a substantial adverse effect on American badger and desert kit fox.</p>	<p><b>Measure 4.4-9: American Badger and Desert Kit Fox Protection.</b> To avoid direct impacts to American badgers and desert kit fox, the Applicant shall implement the following measures:</p> <p>1. <b>Prepare Desert Kit Fox Management Plan:</b> At least 45 days prior to construction, the Applicant shall submit a Desert Kit Fox Management Plan that: 1) incorporates baseline desert kit fox census and health survey findings into a cohesive management strategy that minimizes disease risk to kit fox populations; 2) specifically identifies preconstruction survey methods for kit foxes and large carnivores (e.g., badgers) in the Project area; 3) describes preconstruction and construction-phase passive relocation methods from the site, and; 4) coordinates survey findings prior to and during construction to meet the information needs of wildlife health officials in monitoring the health of kit fox populations. The Plan shall include contingency measures that would be performed if canine distemper were documented in the Project area possible dispersal areas adjacent to the Project site, and measures to address potential kit fox reoccupancy of the site (as documented at the Genesis site). The contents and requirements of the Plan shall be subject to review and approval by the County and CDFW.</p> <p>2. <b>Implement Desert Kit Fox Management Plan:</b> If canine distemper is not identified in the Project area or relocation areas during baseline surveys, the mitigation strategy may utilize passive means or active means with appropriate CDFW authorization to relocate kit foxes from the site. The approach below assumes that canine distemper is not detected during baseline surveys.</p> <p>a. <b>Pre-Construction Surveys:</b> Biological Monitors shall conduct pre-construction surveys for desert kit fox and American badger no more than 30 days prior to initiation of construction activities. Surveys shall also consider the potential presence of dens within 100 feet of the project boundary (including utility corridors and access roads) and shall be performed for each phase of construction. If dens are detected each den shall then be further classified as inactive, potentially active, or definitely active.</p> <p>b. Inactive dens that would be directly impacted by construction activities shall be excavated by hand and backfilled to prevent reuse by badgers or kit fox.</p> <p>c. Potentially and definitely active dens that would be directly impacted by construction activities shall be monitored by the Biological Monitor for three consecutive nights using a tracking medium (such as diatomaceous earth or fire clay) and/or infrared camera stations at the entrance.</p> <p>d. If no tracks are observed in the tracking medium or no photos of the target species are captured after three nights, the den shall be excavated and backfilled by hand.</p> <p>e. If tracks are observed, the den shall be progressively blocked with natural materials (rocks, dirt, sticks, and vegetation piled in front of the entrance) for the next three to five nights to discourage the badger or kit fox from continued use. After verification that the den is unoccupied it shall then be excavated and backfilled by hand to ensure that no badgers or kit fox are trapped in the den. BLM approval may be required prior to release of badgers on public lands.</p>	<p>Develop and implement Desert Kit Fox Management Plan</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>At least 45 days prior to construction</p>

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
Impact 4.4-9 (cont.)	<p>f. If an active natal den (a den with pups) is detected on the site, the County and CDFW shall be contacted within 24 hours to determine the appropriate course of action to minimize the potential for animal harm or mortality. The course of action would depend on the age of the pups, location of the den on the site (e.g., is the den in a central area or in a perimeter location), status of the perimeter site fence (completed or not), and the pending construction activities proposed near the den. A 500-foot no-disturbance buffer shall be maintained around all active dens.</p> <p>g. The following measures are required to reduce the likelihood of distemper transmission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. No pets shall be allowed on the site prior to or during construction, with the possible exception of vaccinated kit fox scat detection dogs during preconstruction surveys, and then only with prior CDFW approval;</li> <li>ii. Any sick or diseased kit fox, or documented kit fox mortality shall be reported to CDFW and the County within 8 hours of identification. If a dead kit fox is observed, it shall be collected and stored according to established protocols distributed by CDFW Wildlife Investigations Lab (WIL), and the WIL contacted to determine carcass suitability for necropsy.</li> </ol>			
Impact 4.4-11: The Project would have a substantial adverse effect on special-status avian and bat species.	Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.4-5A.	Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.4-5A		
Impact 4.4-12: Project operation and maintenance would have a substantial adverse effect on special-status plants and non-avian and bat wildlife.	Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.4-3a	Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.4-3a		
Impact 4.4-12A: Project operation and maintenance could have a substantial adverse effect on special-status and migratory birds and special status bat species.	Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.4-5A.	Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.4-5A		

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b>				
<b>Impact 4.4-13:</b> Project decommissioning would have a substantial adverse effect on special-status plants and non-avian and bat wildlife.	Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.4-3a.	Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.4-3a		
<b>Impact 4.4-13A:</b> Project decommissioning could have a substantial adverse effect on special-status avian and bat species until PV panels and other Project structures are removed.	Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.4-5A	Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.4-5A		
<b>Impact 4.4-14:</b> Project construction would have a substantial adverse effect on sensitive vegetation communities including riparian habitat.	Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.4-1f, 4.4-1g, 4.4-3a, 4.4-4a, and 4.4-4b	Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.4-1f, 4.4-1g, 4.4-3a, 4.4-4a, and 4.4-4b		
<b>Impact 4.4-15:</b> Project operation and maintenance would have a substantial adverse effect on sensitive vegetation communities including riparian habitat.	Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.4-1f, 4.4-1g, 4.4-3a, 4.4-4a, and 4.4-4b	Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.4-1f, 4.4-1g, 4.4-3a, 4.4-4a, and 4.4-4b		
<b>Impact 4.4-16:</b> Project decommissioning would have a substantial adverse effect on sensitive vegetation communities including riparian habitat.	Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.4-1f, 4.4-1g, 4.4-3a, 4.4-4a, and 4.4-4b	Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.4-1f, 4.4-1g, 4.4-3a, 4.4-4a, and 4.4-4b		

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Biological Resources (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.4-17:</b> Project-related interference with the movement of native non-avian and bat wildlife through existing migratory corridors.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.4-17: Worker Environmental Awareness Program.</b> The Applicant shall develop and implement a Project-specific Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) and shall secure approval for the WEAP from the County. The WEAP shall be administered to all on-site personnel including surveyors, construction engineers, employees, contractors, contractor's employees, supervisors, inspectors, subcontractors, and delivery personnel. The WEAP shall be implemented during site preconstruction, construction, operation, and closure. The WEAP shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be developed by or in consultation with the Designated Biologist and consist of an on-site or training center presentation in which supporting written material and electronic media, including photographs of protected species, is made available to all participants;</li> <li>2. Discuss the locations and types of sensitive biological resources on the Project site and adjacent areas, and explain the reasons for protecting these resources; provide information to participants that no snakes, reptiles, or other wildlife shall be harmed;</li> <li>3. Place special emphasis on desert tortoise, including information on physical characteristics, distribution, behavior, ecology, sensitivity to human activities, legal protection, penalties for violations, reporting requirements, and protection measures;</li> <li>4. Include a discussion of fire prevention measures to be implemented by workers during Project activities; request workers dispose of cigarettes and cigars appropriately and not leave them on the ground or buried;</li> <li>5. Describe the temporary and permanent habitat protection measures to be implemented at the Project site;</li> <li>6. Identify whom to contact if there are further comments and questions about the material discussed in the program; and</li> <li>7. Include a training acknowledgment form to be signed by each worker indicating that they received training and shall abide by the guidelines.</li> </ol> <p>The specific program can be administered by a competent individual(s) acceptable to the Designated Biologist and County.</p>	<p>Prepare and implement WEAP</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>
<p><b>Impact 4.4-18:</b> Project operation and maintenance could substantially interfere with the movement of native non-avian or bat wildlife movement corridors.</p>	<p>Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.4-3a</p>	<p>Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.4-3a</p>		



TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Cultural Resources</b>				
<p><b>Impact 4.5-1:</b> The project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource, as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.5-1:</b> The implementation of measures contained in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) prepared for the proposed undertaking in accordance with the requirements of §106 of the NHPA and executed on February 22, 2013, as it may be amended from time to time, will lead to avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of potential adverse effects to historic properties. The MOA is binding on the Applicant and the proposed undertaking.</p>	<p>Implement MOA measures.</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>All phases of Project</p>
<p><b>Impact 4.5-3:</b> The Project would not disturb known human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.5-3:</b> If human remains are uncovered during Project construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning activities, the Applicant and/or its contractors shall immediately halt all work, contact the County Coroner to evaluate the remains, and follow the procedures and protocols set forth in CEQA Guidelines §15064.5 (e)(1). If the County Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the Coroner shall contact the NAHC, in accordance with Health and Safety Code §7050.5(c), and Public Resources Code 5097.98 (as amended by AB 2641). Pursuant to Public Resources Code 5097.98, the Applicant shall ensure that the immediate vicinity, according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards or practices, where the Native American human remains are located, is not damaged or disturbed by further development activity until the landowner has discussed and conferred, as prescribed in Public Resources Code §5097.98, with the most likely descendants regarding their recommendations, if applicable; taking into account the possibility of multiple human remains.</p>	<p>Implement listed measures.</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>All phases of Project</p>
<b>Energy Conservation</b>				
<p><b>Impact 4.6-4:</b> During construction and decommissioning the use of diesel and gasoline for worker commutes and haul trips would constitute an inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary use of energy resources.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.6-4:</b> The Applicant shall develop and implement a construction- and decommissioning-phase Transportation Energy Management Plan in consultation with Riverside County to reduce construction- and decommissioning-related transportation energy consumption. The plan shall include but not be limited to the following measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Require that on-site equipment and vehicle operators minimize equipment and vehicle idling time either by shutting equipment off when not in use or by limiting idling time to a maximum of 5 minutes.</li> <li>2. Designate a Transportation Energy Manager (TEM) to coordinate ridesharing by construction and decommissioning employees. The TEM shall encourage carpooling by posting commuter ride sign-up sheets, maintaining and posting an employee home zip code map, and educating employees about how to access the incentives they may be eligible for under Riverside County's Core Rideshare Program.</li> <li>3. Provide priority parking on-site for vehicles with two or more passengers.</li> <li>4. When feasible, arrange for a single construction vendor who makes deliveries for several items.</li> <li>5. Plan construction delivery and waste hauling routes to eliminate unnecessary trips.</li> </ol> <p>The plan shall be submitted to Riverside County for review and approval prior to the issuance of a grading permit.</p>	<p>Implement listed measures</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>During construction and decommissioning</p>

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Geology and Soils</b>				
<p><b>Impact 4.7-1:</b> Construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project could expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving strong seismic ground shaking.</p> <p><b>Impact 4.7-2:</b> Construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project could expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction.</p> <p><b>Impact 4.7-5:</b> The Project would be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site soil subsidence and hydrocompaction.</p> <p><b>Impact 4.7-6:</b> The Project would be located on expansive soil, creating substantial risks to life or property.</p> <p><b>Impact 4.7-4:</b> The Project would result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.7-1: Conduct geotechnical studies to assess soil characteristics and aid in appropriate foundation design.</b> The Applicant and/or its contractor shall perform a design-level geotechnical study that includes subsurface exploration and material testing necessary to determine the CBC seismic design category and site soil class for which each of the Project components must be designed. The geotechnical study shall identify the presence, if any, of potentially adverse soil conditions such as liquefiable soils, expansive soils, corrosive soils, and soils that may settle or experience hydrocompaction. Based on the nature, location and severity of adverse soil conditions, the geotechnical study shall recommend appropriate and feasible design features necessary to reduce the potential for liquefiable, expansive, corrosive, or collapsible soils to adversely affect Project facilities. Such measures might include use of corrosion-resistant materials and coatings; use of non-corrosive, non-expansive backfills; use of cathodic protection systems; soil-treatment processes; redirection of surface water and drainage away from expansive foundation soils; and/or any other combination of soil preparation methods or foundation designs necessary to avoid or reduce the adverse effects of soils on Project structures.</p> <p>Studies shall be carried out by a registered geologist or certified geotechnical engineer, and shall conform to industry standards of care and ASTM standards for field and laboratory testing. For completeness and direct correlation to the Project, the Applicant shall provide the geotechnical consultant with the most recent copy of the Project case exhibit (tract map, parcel map, plot plan, etc.) for incorporation into the report. Furthermore, the consultant shall plot all appropriate geologic and geotechnical data on this case exhibit and include it as an appendix/figure/plate in the report. Study results and proposed solutions shall be provided for review and approval to the County at least 60 days before final Project design.</p>	<p>Conduct geotechnical studies and submit to Riverside County</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>
	<p>Implement Mitigation Measures 4.10-1 and 4.10-5</p>	<p>See Mitigation Measures 4.10-1 and 4.10-5</p>	<p>See Mitigation Measures 4.10-1 and 4.10-5</p>	<p>See Mitigation Measures 4.10-1 and 4.10-5</p>

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Hazards and Hazardous Materials</b>				
<p><b>Impact 4.9-1:</b> The Project would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.9-1a: Hazardous Materials Safety Plan.</b> The Applicant shall prepare and implement a site-specific Hazardous Materials Safety Plan that shall identify the chemicals potentially present in on-site soils, health and safety hazards associated with those chemicals, monitoring to be performed during site activities, soil handling methods required to minimize the potential for harmful exposures, appropriate personal protective equipment, and emergency response procedures. The Plan shall be included in and implemented as part of the Project's larger Safety and Health Program. The plan shall be submitted to the County for approval prior to commencement of construction activities and shall be distributed to all construction crew members prior to construction and operation of the Project.</p>	<p>Submit plan to Riverside County and implement measures</p>	<p>Monitoring to be performed during site activities.</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>
	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.9-1b: Broken PV Module Detection and Handling Plan.</b> If photovoltaic (PV) panels containing cadmium telluride (CdTe) are used on the Project site, the Applicant shall prepare and implement a Broken PV Module Detection and Handling Plan. The plan shall describe the Applicant's plan for identifying, handling and disposing of PV modules that may break, chip, or crack at some point during the Project's life cycle to ensure the safe handling, storage, transport, and recycling and/or disposal of the modules and related electrical components in a manner that is compliant with applicable law and protective of human health and the environment. The plan shall be submitted to the County for review and approval prior to commencement of construction activities and prior to delivery of CdTe-containing PV panels to the Project site and shall be distributed to all construction crew members and temporary and permanent employees prior to construction and operation of the Project. All available data from the panel manufacturer(s) regarding materials used and safety procedures and/or concerns shall be appended to the plan to assist the County with identifying potential hazards and abatement measures.</p>	<p>Submit plan to Riverside County and implement measures</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>Prior to installation of CdTe-containing PV panels</p>
<p><b>Impact 4.9-2:</b> The Project could create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.9-2: UXO Identification, Training, and Reporting Plan.</b> The Applicant shall prepare and implement a UXO Identification, Training, and Reporting Plan to properly train all site workers in the recognition, avoidance, and reporting of military waste debris and ordnance. The Applicant shall submit the plan to the County and BLM for review and approval prior to the start of construction. The plan shall contain, at a minimum, the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A description of the training program outline and materials, and the qualifications of the trainers;</li> <li>2. Identification of available trained experts that will respond to notification of discovery of any suspected ordnance (unexploded or not);</li> <li>3. Procedures to stop work immediately in the vicinity of suspected UXO and to notify the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;</li> <li>4. A work plan to recover and remove discovered ordnance, and complete additional field screening, possibly including geophysical surveys to investigate adjacent areas for surface, near-surface or buried ordnance in all proposed land disturbance areas.</li> <li>5. Documentation of all surveys and investigations performed to evaluate and remove discovered ordnance.</li> </ol>	<p>Develop and implement UXO Identification, Training, and Reporting Plan</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>Submit plan at least 30 days prior to the initiation of construction  If required, submit survey results within 30 days of completion of the surveys</p>

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Hazards and Hazardous Materials (cont.)</b>				
<b>Impact 4.9-2 (cont.)</b>	The Applicant shall submit the UXO Identification, Training, and Reporting Plan to the County and BLM for approval no less than 30 days prior to the initiation of construction activities at the site or within the linear corridors, as appropriate. The results of geophysical surveys shall be submitted to the County and BLM within 30 days of completion of the surveys.			
<b>Impact 4.9-4:</b> The Project could impair implementation of or physically interfere with and adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.  <b>Impact 4.9-5:</b> The Project could expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.9-4: Fire Safety Plan.</b> The Applicant shall prepare and implement a Fire Safety Plan to ensure the safety of workers and the public during Project construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning activities. This plan shall complement or supplement provisions of the Applicant's proposed Emergency Action Plan. The Fire Safety Plan shall be provided to the RCFD for approval before the Applicant receives grading permits. The Fire Safety Plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All internal combustion engines used at the Project site shall be equipped with spark arrestors. Spark arrestors shall be in good working order.</li> <li>Once initial two-track roads have been cut and initial fencing completed, light trucks and cars shall be used only on roads where the roadway is cleared of vegetation. Mufflers on all cars and light trucks shall be maintained in good working order.</li> <li>Fire rules shall be posted on the project bulletin board at the contractor's field office and areas visible to employees.</li> <li>Equipment parking areas and small stationary engine sites shall be cleared of all extraneous flammable materials.</li> <li>The Applicant shall make an effort to restrict use of chainsaws, chippers, vegetation masticators, grinders, drill rigs, tractors, torches, and explosives to outside of the official fire season. When the above tools are used, water tanks equipped with hoses, fire rakes, and axes shall easily accessible to personnel.</li> <li>Smoking shall be prohibited in wildland areas and within 50 feet of combustible materials storage, and shall be limited to paved areas or areas cleared of all vegetation.</li> <li>Each Project construction site (if construction occurs simultaneously at various locations) and the proposed solar plant site shall be equipped with fire extinguishers and fire-fighting equipment sufficient to extinguish small fires.</li> <li>The Applicant shall coordinate with the RCFD to create a training component for emergency first responders to prepare for specialized emergency incidents that may occur at the Project site.</li> <li>All construction workers, plant personnel, and maintenance workers visiting the plant and/or transmission lines to perform maintenance activities shall receive training on the proper use of fire-fighting equipment and procedures to be followed in the event of a fire. Training records shall be maintained and be available for review by the RCFD.</li> <li>Vegetation near all solar panel arrays, ancillary equipment, and access roads shall be controlled through periodic cutting and spraying of weeds, in accordance with the Vegetation Management Plan.</li> </ol>	Submit plan to RCFD and implement measures	Maintain personnel training records on-site	Prior to issuance of grading permits

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Hazards and Hazardous Materials (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impacts 4.9-4 and 4.9-5 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>11. The RCFD shall be consulted during plan preparation and fire safety measures recommended by the agencies included.</p> <p>12. The plan shall list fire prevention procedures and specific emergency response and evacuation measures that would be required to be followed during emergency situations.</p> <p>13. All on-site employees shall participate in annual fire prevention and response training exercises with the RCFD.</p> <p>14. The Applicant shall designate an emergency services coordinator from among the full-time on-site employees who shall perform routine patrols of the site during the fire season equipped with a portable fire extinguisher and communications equipment. The Applicant shall notify the County and BLM of the name and contact information of the current emergency services coordinator in the event of any change.</p> <p>15. Remote monitoring of all major electrical equipment (transformers and inverters) will screen for unusual operating conditions. Higher than nominal temperatures, for example, can be compared with other operational factors to indicate the potential for overheating which under certain conditions could precipitate a fire. Units could then be shut down or generation curtailed remotely until corrective actions are taken.</p> <p>16. Fires ignited on-site shall be immediately reported to the RCFD and BLM FIRE. The engineering, procurement, and construction contract(s) for the Project shall clearly state the requirements of this mitigation measure.</p>			
<p><b>Hydrology and Water Quality</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.10-1:</b> Project construction would not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.</p> <p><b>Impact 4.10-3:</b> Decommissioning of the Project would not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.10-1:</b> The Applicant or its construction contractor shall prepare comprehensive stormwater pollution and erosion control best management practices (BMPs) for the Project to prevent all construction pollutants from contacting stormwater, with the intent of keeping sedimentation or any other pollutants from moving off-site and into receiving waters. BMPs shall be in place prior to the start of construction related activities and remain in place throughout all phases of project construction and decommissioning. A BMP monitoring and maintenance schedule with clearly identified parties responsible for monitoring and maintenance of BMPs shall be in place prior to the start of construction or decommissioning activities and remain in place throughout all phases of project construction and decommissioning. Additionally, the County will be provided opportunity to review and approve the comprehensive stormwater pollution and erosion control BMPs prior to the start of construction activities. Stormwater pollution and erosion control BMPs at a minimum shall include, but not be limited to, the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure that all stormwater, erosion, and sediment control BMPs are consistent with measures approved by the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) and are installed, inspected, maintained, and repaired under the direction of a certified erosion control specialist.</li> <li>2. Provide adequate erosion control training to all equipment operators, site superintendents, and managers to ensure that stormwater and erosion controls are maintained and remain effective.</li> </ol>	<p>Develop and implement BMPs</p>	<p>Adhere to BMP monitoring and maintenance schedule</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>

**TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Hydrology and Water Quality (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impacts 4.10-1 and 4.10-3 (cont.)</b></p>	<p>3. Employ temporary erosion control measures (such as silt fences, staked straw bales, and temporary revegetation) for disturbed areas. No disturbed surfaces will be left without erosion control measures in place so as to limit on-site and off-site erosion and to remain sediment on-site.</p> <p>4. Stabilize inactive areas, such as temporary stockpiles, using an appropriate combination of BMPs to cover the exposed material, intercept runoff, reduce its flow velocity, release runoff as sheet flow, and provide a sediment control mechanism (such as silt fencing, fiber rolls, or hydroseeded vegetation). Standard soil stabilization BMPs include geotextiles, mats, erosion control blankets, vegetation, silt fence surrounding the stockpile perimeter, and fiber rolls at the base and on side slopes.</p> <p>5. Limit grading to the minimum area necessary for construction and operation of the Project.</p> <p>6. Limit vegetation disturbance/removal to the maximum extent practicable.</p> <p>7. Temporarily stabilize active, disturbed areas undergoing fill placement before and during rain events expected to produce site runoff. Stabilization methods include combined BMPs that protect materials from rain, manage runoff, and reduce erosion.</p> <p>8. Do not perform construction activities involving grading, hauling, and placement of backfill materials during periods of rain.</p> <p>9. Schedule construction activities that disturb soils, such as grading, hauling, and placement of backfill to minimize land disturbance during peak runoff periods and to the immediate area required for construction. Retain existing vegetation where possible.</p> <p>10. Regularly inspect all stormwater and erosion controls, especially before and following significant run-off-producing rain events.</p> <p>11. Inspect and maintain BMPs after each qualifying storm event (minimum of one-quarter inch of rainfall as measured by onsite device) to ensure their integrity.</p> <p>12. Develop a spill prevention and countermeasure plan that will identify proper storage, collection, and disposal measures for potential pollutants (such as fuel, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) used on-site. The plan will also require the proper storage, handling, use, and disposal of petroleum products.</p> <p>13. Establish fuel and vehicle maintenance areas away from all drainage courses and design these areas to control runoff.</p> <p>14. Install a stabilized construction entrance/exit and stabilization of disturbed areas.</p> <p>15. Properly manage construction materials, including a water plan, to treat disturbed areas during construction and reduce dust.</p> <p>16. Manage waste and aggressively control litter.</p> <p>17. Obtain all necessary permits and approvals.</p>			

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Hydrology and Water Quality (cont.)</b>				
<p><b>Impact 4.10-2:</b> Project operation and maintenance would violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.10-2: Evaporation Pond Design.</b> The proposed evaporation ponds shall be sized to accommodate operational discharges plus a 25-year storm event within the tributary area, with no less than 1 foot of freeboard.</p>	<p>Implement approved evaporation pond design</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>Prior to construction of evaporation ponds</p>
<p><b>Impact 4.10-4:</b> Construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Project would not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.10-4: Groundwater Monitoring and Mitigation Plan.</b> A Groundwater Monitoring and Mitigation Plan shall be prepared prior to construction. The Plan shall be prepared by a qualified professional geologist, hydrogeologist, or civil engineer registered in the State of California and submitted by the Applicant to the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health for approval, and to the RWQCB for review and comment. This Plan shall provide detailed methodology for monitoring background and site groundwater levels, water quality, and flow. Monitoring shall be performed during pre-construction, construction, and operation of the Project, with the intent to establish pre-construction and Project-related groundwater level and water quality trends that can be quantitatively compared against observed and simulated trends near the Project pumping wells and near potentially affected existing private wells, if any. Water quality monitoring shall include annual sampling and testing for constituents as required by the California Department of Health for the proposed on-site potable use.</p> <p>The Groundwater Monitoring and Mitigation Plan shall include a schedule for submittal of quarterly data reports by the Applicant to the County, for the duration of the monitoring period. These quarterly data reports shall be prepared and submitted to the County for review and approval, and shall include water level monitoring data (trend analyses) from all pumping and monitoring wells. Based on the results of the quarterly reports, the Applicant and County shall determine if the Project's pumping activities have resulted in water level decline in the baseline at any of the monitoring wells, including nearby operating private wells, if any. If significant drawdown occurs at active off-site groundwater supply wells, the Applicant shall immediately reduce groundwater pumping until water levels stabilize or recover, to a reasonable level. The measure of the significance of the water level decline and associated mitigation measure for operating water supply wells shall be outlined in the Groundwater Monitoring and Mitigation Plan.</p> <p>The Groundwater Monitoring and Mitigation Plan shall also include a schedule for submittal of annual data reports by the Applicant to the County, for the first 5 years of the project (including the construction period). These annual data reports shall be prepared and submitted to the County for review and approval, and shall include at a minimum the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily usage, monthly range, and monthly average of daily water usage in gallons per day;</li> <li>• Total water used on a monthly and annual basis in acre-feet; summary of all water level data and water quality data;</li> <li>• Identification of trends that indicate potential for off-site wells to experience decline of water level; and</li> </ul>	<p>Develop and implement plan</p>	<p>Adhere to monitoring, annual sampling, and quarterly reporting schedules in plan.</p>	<p>All phases of Project</p>

**TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR**

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Hydrology and Water Quality (cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Impact 4.10-4 (cont.)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of all sources of water by type (i.e., groundwater, surface water, municipal water) and well/location used on private or County-owned land.</li> </ul> <p>The County shall determine whether operating groundwater supply wells surrounding the Project site are influenced by Project activities. The Groundwater Monitoring and Mitigation Plan shall describe additional mitigation measures that may be implemented if the County determines that additional mitigation is required, which shall be implemented as agreed upon in the Plan and with the concurrence of the County. After the first 5 years of the Project, the Applicant and the County shall jointly evaluate the effectiveness of the Groundwater Monitoring and Mitigation Plan and determine if monitoring frequencies or procedures should be revised or eliminated.</p>			
<p><b>Impact 4.10-5:</b> Construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Project would substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.10-5: Comprehensive Drainage, Stormwater, and Sedimentation Control Plan.</b> The Applicant shall prepare a Comprehensive Drainage, Stormwater, and Sedimentation Plan prior to the initiation of construction (or decommissioning as relevant), and ensure that recommendations of that plan are implemented.</p> <p>The Applicant shall ensure that additional stormwater retention measures and facilities, including but not limited to retention basins and other facilities or features designed to retain stormwater on site, shall be implemented within the Project site. Stormwater retention facilities shall be designed to accommodate increases in flows that would be generated as a result of Project implementation, in comparison to existing conditions as identified in Draft EIR Tables 4.10-12 and 4.10-13, such that Project implementation would not result in a net increase in discharge from the site under either a 10-year or 100-year storm event.</p> <p>At the installation sites for new buildings, roads, the switchyard, transformers, solar panels, the gen-tie line, transmission towers, and other facilities that would be installed in association with the Project, designs for these facilities on land under County jurisdiction shall be described in a detailed delineation report, which shall be submitted to, reviewed, and approved by the County Flood Control District with respect to potential generation of altered stormwater flows, erosion, and sedimentation prior to issuance of building permits and prior to grading permit issuance. Additionally, solar panels shall have a minimum clearance of 24 inches above the highest adjacent ground when upright to ensure flows are not obstructed. The use of flow-obstructing fencing shall be avoided; instead, fencing that allows for the passage of water while minimizing buildup of debris shall be utilized on site, such as an elevated chain link fence with a bottom portion of collapsible tortoise fence to allow it to collapse if too much ponding or debris buildup occurs. To ensure implementation of Applicant Proposed Measure BIO-1b and Mitigation Measure 4.4-2a, the Applicant shall coordinate with the County, BLM, CDFW, and USFWS to determine appropriate fencing design. All proposed grading and impervious surfaces on site shall be reviewed and approved by the County, with respect to its potential to cause or result in additional erosion and sedimentation, increased stormwater flows, or altered drainage patterns that could lead to unintentional ponding or flooding on site or downstream, and/or additional erosion and sedimentation. Stormwater flows emanating from proposed impervious surfaces shall be retained on site and/or directed into channels and other stormwater infrastructure, and shall be sized such that unintentional ponding, flooding, erosion, or sedimentation would not occur on site or downstream.</p>	<p>Submit Comprehensive Drainage, Stormwater, and Sedimentation Control Plan</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>



TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Hydrology and Water Quality (cont.)</b>				
<p><b>Impact 4.10-6:</b> Construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the Project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface run-off in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.10-6: Construction period flood protection.</b> The Applicant shall ensure that during construction, temporary construction related structures such as bridges, roads, berms, and other facilities, would be constructed so as to avoid interference with 100-year flood flows. Temporary installation of the following types of facilities shall be avoided: temporary elevated earthen structures such as roads and berms; earthen bridges or other structures within a waterway or flood conveyance that could interfere with flood flows; dams; unnecessary ditches; other major structures that could concentrate flood flows. Additionally, to the extent practicable, the Applicant shall ensure that the construction process proceeds in a manner so as to minimize exposure of facilities to construction period flooding. Temporary ditches and trenches (such as for pipes, wires, or other infrastructure) should be completed and backfilled as quickly as possible, and should not be left open for extended periods. Drainage infrastructure should be installed prior to installation of the solar arrays and other facilities on site. Other facilities that may be susceptible to flood damage during construction should be managed so as to minimize construction time of those facilities.</p>	<p>Ensure that temporary construction structures such as bridges, roads, berms, and other facilities, would be constructed so as to avoid interference with 100-year flood flows</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>
<p><b>Impact 4.10-7:</b> The Project would create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.10-7:</b> In order to ensure that proposed on-site buildings and staff therein are protected from flooding, all on-site buildings and fill areas shall be placed outside of frequent flood flow areas. Additionally, proposed on-site buildings, maintenance areas, designated parking lots, and associated facilities shall be constructed at a finished floor elevation of at least 1 foot above the highest anticipated flood flows during a 100-year event. The proposed evaporation pond shall include berms or levees that reach at least 2 feet above the highest anticipated flood flows during a 100-year storm event, or at least 2 feet above the highest adjacent ground, whichever is greater, in order to protect the evaporation pond from incident flooding events and ensure that the ponds are not inundated by flood flows. Slope protection shall be provided for all fill areas exposed to erosive flows. In specific areas where frequent flows are anticipated, posts for solar panels shall be constructed on a deepened footing, as recommended by the geotechnical engineer, in order to withstand anticipated scouring.</p>	<p>Plan construction of all buildings and fill areas outside of frequent flood flow areas  Plan development of all other staff-use areas at a finished floor elevation of at least 1 foot above the highest anticipated flood flows during a 100-year event</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>
<p><b>Impact 4.10-9:</b> The Project would expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.10-9: Flood Safety Plan.</b> Prior to initiation of Project operation, the Applicant shall complete a Flood Safety Plan for the site and submit the plan to the County for review and approval. The Flood Safety Plan shall delineate specific actions to be completed during a flood event, in order to protect workers and facilities as relevant. The Plan shall identify refuge areas that would not be susceptible to 100-year flooding, and provide requirements and guidance with respect to avoiding injury, death, or equipment damage during a flood event. The Plan shall be adhered to and updated, as needed, during the entire operation period of the Project.</p>	<p>Submit Flood Safety Plan to Riverside County</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>Prior to start of operation</p>

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<p><b>Transportation and Traffic</b></p>	<p><b>Impact 4.17-3:</b> Project construction and decommissioning could substantially increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.17-3: Traffic Control Plan.</b> The Applicant and/or its contractor shall prepare and implement a traffic control plan to reduce construction- and decommissioning-related traffic impacts on the roadways at and near the work site, as well as to reduce potential traffic safety hazards and ensure adequate access for emergency responders. The Applicant and/or its contractor shall coordinate development and implementation of this plan with the BLM and other jurisdictional agencies (e.g., Riverside County, City of Blythe, and Caltrans), as appropriate. To the extent applicable, the traffic control plan shall conform to Part 6 (Temporary Traffic Control) of the <i>California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices</i> (Caltrans, 2010), and shall include, but not be limited to, the following elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implementing circulation and detour plans to minimize impacts on local road circulation during temporary lane closures. Flaggers and/or signage shall be used to guide vehicles through and/or around the work zone.</li> <li>2. Identifying truck routes designated by Riverside County and local jurisdictions. Haul routes that minimize truck traffic on local roadways shall be utilized to the extent possible.</li> <li>3. Providing sufficient-sized staging areas for trucks accessing work zones to minimize disruption of access to adjacent public right-of-ways.</li> <li>4. Controlling and monitoring worker vehicle movement through the enforcement of standard construction specifications by on-site inspectors.</li> <li>5. Scheduling truck trips outside the peak morning and evening commute hours to the extent possible.</li> <li>6. Limiting the duration of lane closures to the extent possible.</li> <li>7. Storing all equipment and materials in designated contractor staging areas on or adjacent to the worksite, such that traffic obstruction is minimized.</li> <li>8. Implementing roadside safety protocols. Advance "Road Work Ahead" warning and speed control signs (including those informing drivers of state-legislated double fines for speed infractions in a work zone) shall be posted to reduce speeds and provide safe traffic flow through the work zone.</li> <li>9. Providing advance notification to administrators of police and fire stations (including fire protection agencies), ambulance service providers, and recreational facility managers of the timing, location, and duration of construction and decommissioning activities and the locations of detours and lane closures, where applicable. Maintain access for emergency vehicles within, and/or adjacent to, roadways affected by construction and decommissioning activities at all times.</li> <li>10. Repairing and restoring adversely affected roadway pavements to their pre-construction condition.</li> </ol>	<p>--</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>
<p><b>Impact 6-2:</b> The Project could result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to traffic impacts to the surrounding road network.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 6-2: Coordinated Transportation Management Plan.</b> Prior to construction, the Applicant shall develop a Coordinated Transportation Management Plan and work with Riverside County and the BLM to prepare and implement a transportation management plan for roadways adjacent to and directly affected by the planned Project facilities, and to address the transportation impact of the multiple overlapping construction projects within the vicinity of the Project in the region. The transportation management plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coordination of individual traffic control plans for Project and nearby projects.</li> </ol>	<p>Develop and implement a Traffic Control Plan</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>

TABLE G-1 (Continued)  
MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED IN THIS FINAL EIR

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed in this Draft EIR	Implementing Actions	Monitoring/Reporting Requirements	Timing
<b>Transportation and Traffic (cont.)</b>				
Impact 6-2 (cont.)	<p>2. Coordination between the contractor and Riverside County in developing circulation and detour plans that include safety features (e.g., signage and flaggers). The circulation and detour plans shall address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Full and partial roadways closures;</li> <li>b. Circulation and detour plans to include the use of signage and flagging to guide vehicles through and/or around the construction zone, as well as any temporary traffic control devices;</li> <li>c. Bicycle detour plans, where applicable;</li> <li>d. Parking along arterial and local roadways; and</li> <li>e. Haul routes for construction trucks and staging areas for instances when multiple trucks arrive at the work sites.</li> </ul> <p>3. Protocols for updating the transportation management plan to account for delays or changes in the schedules of individual projects.</p>			
<b>Utilities and Service Systems</b>				
Impact 4.18-1: The Project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.	<p><b>Mitigation Measure 4.18-1:</b> In order to ensure that the selected reverse osmosis brine disposal method would not conflict with Colorado River RWQCB requirements or policies, the Applicant shall not use brine as a land-applied dust suppressant or apply brine to the ground for any other purpose.</p>	Avoid applying brine to ground (divert all brine to evaporation ponds).	--	All Project phases