

1 mi

No glare

1 1/4 mi

No glare

1 1/2 mi

No glare

1 3/4 mi

No glare

2 mi

No glare

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Solar Glare Hazard Analysis Flight Path Report

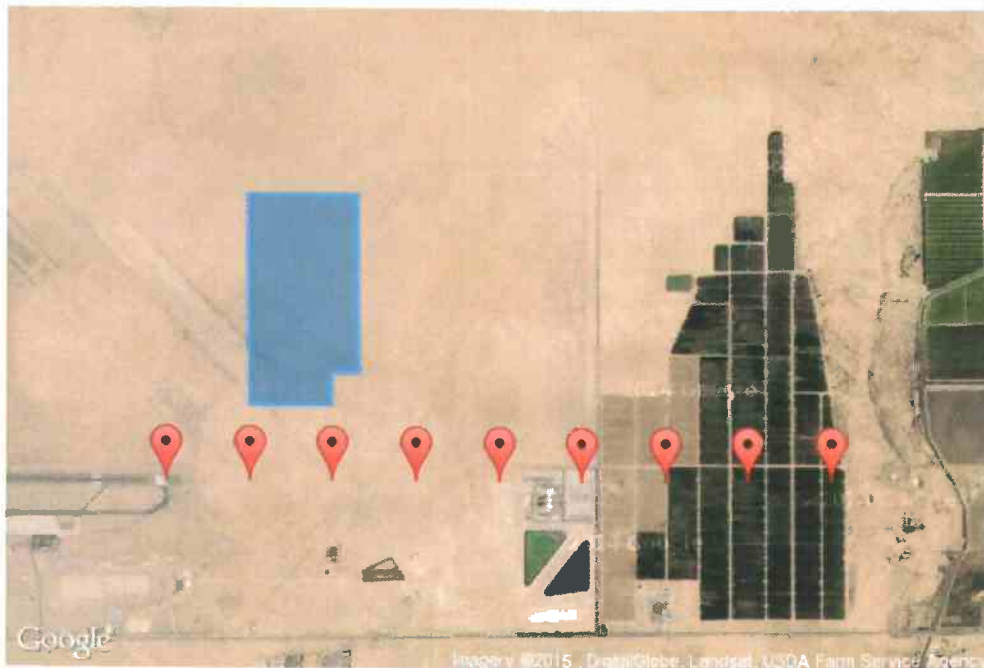
Generated April 9, 2015, 2:18 p.m.

Flight path: BLH Runway 26

Westbound Landing Approach

Glare found

 Print



Analysis & PV array parameters

Analysis name	BLH Solar Site Part A
PV array axis tracking	single
Tilt of tracking axis (deg)	0.0
Orientation of tracking axis (deg)	179.0
Offset angle of module (deg)	0.0
Limit rotation angle?	True
Maximum tracking angle (deg)	90.0
Rated power (kW)	0.0
Vary reflectivity	True
PV surface material	Light textured glass with ARC
Timezone offset	-8.0
Subtended angle of sun (mrad)	9.3
Peak DNI (W/m ²)	1000.0
Ocular transmission coefficient	0.5
Pupil diameter (m)	0.002
Eye focal length (m)	0.017
Time interval (min)	1
Correlate slope error with material	False
Slope error (mrad)	10.0

Flight path parameters

Direction (deg)	270.0
-----------------	-------

Glide slope (deg)	3.0
Consider pilot visibility from cockpit	True
Max downward viewing angle (deg)	30.0
Azimuthal viewing angle (deg)	180.0

PV array vertices

id	Latitude (deg)	Longitude (deg)	Ground Elevation (ft)	Height of panels above ground (ft)	Total elevation (ft)
1	33.619921217	-114.69771	391.82	6.0	397.82
2	33.62131	-114.69772	392.07	6.0	398.07
3	33.62133	-114.69629	391.61	6.0	397.61
4	33.62897	-114.69639	393.61	6.0	399.61
5	33.62896	-114.70204	395.25	6.0	401.25
6	33.61991	-114.70198	393.62	6.0	399.62

Flight Path Observation Points

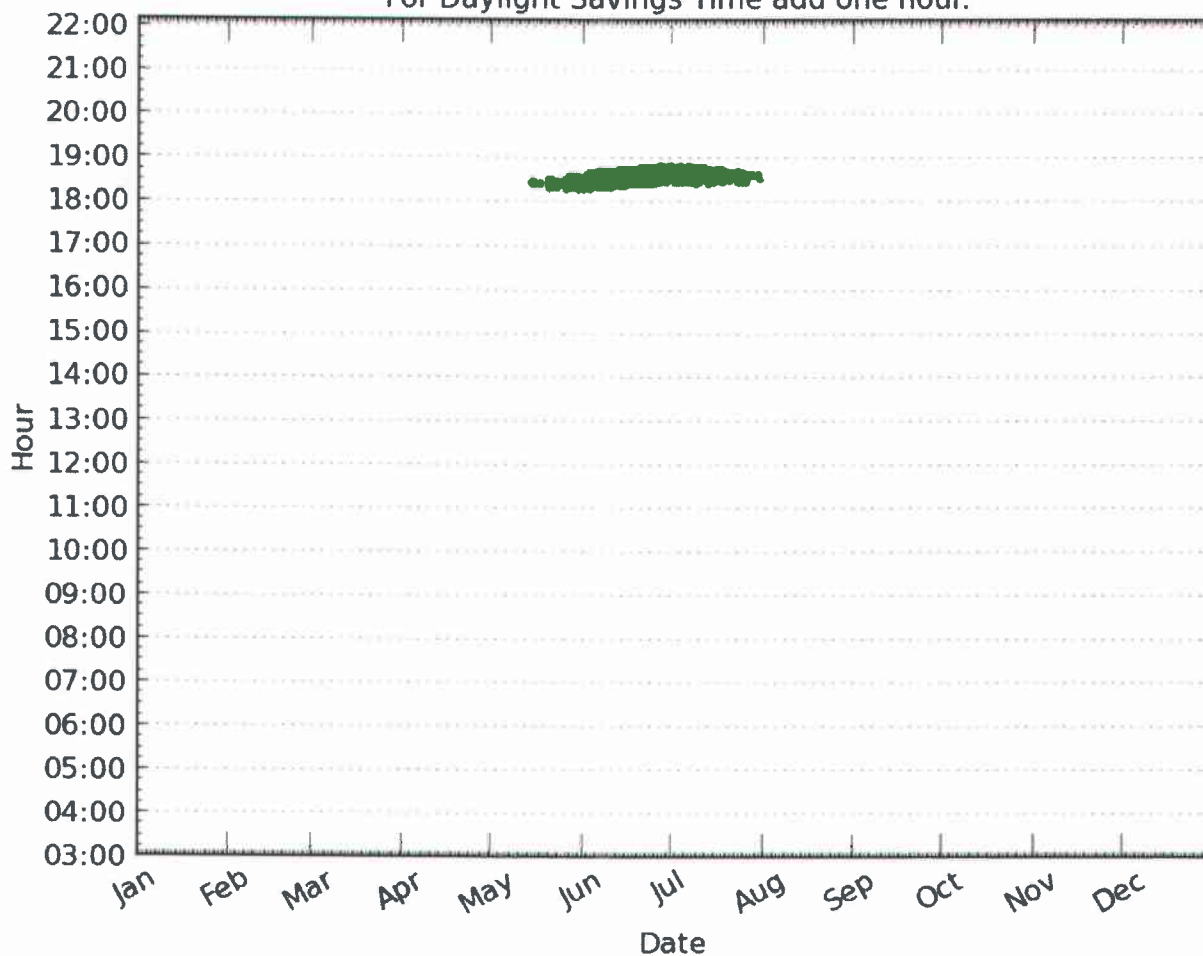
	Latitude (deg)	Longitude (deg)	Ground Elevation (ft)	Eye-level height above ground (ft)	Glare?
Threshold	33.6165332419	-114.7062639	392.59	50.0	Yes
1/4 mi	33.6165332419	-114.701919354	392.45	119.31	No
1/2 mi	33.6165332419	-114.697574808	388.81	192.14	No
3/4 mi	33.6165332419	-114.693230262	365.34	284.78	Yes
1 mi	33.6165332419	-114.688885715	339.71	379.58	Yes
1 1/4 mi	33.6165332419	-114.684541169	336.67	451.82	Yes
1 1/2 mi	33.6165332419	-114.680196623	339.61	518.05	Yes
1 3/4 mi	33.6165332419	-114.675852077	340.74	586.11	Yes
2 mi	33.6165332419	-114.671507531	341.98	654.03	Yes

Glare occurrence plots

All times are in standard time. For Daylight Savings Time add one hour.

Threshold

1-minute time interval.
All times are in standard time.
For Daylight Savings Time add one hour.



- Glare beyond 50 deg from pilot line-of-sight
- Low potential for temporary after-image
- Potential for temporary after-image
- Potential for permanent eye damage

1/4 mi

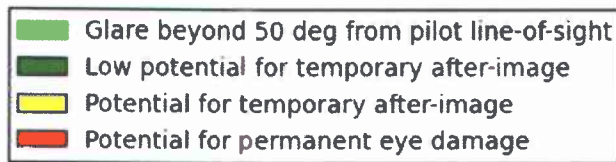
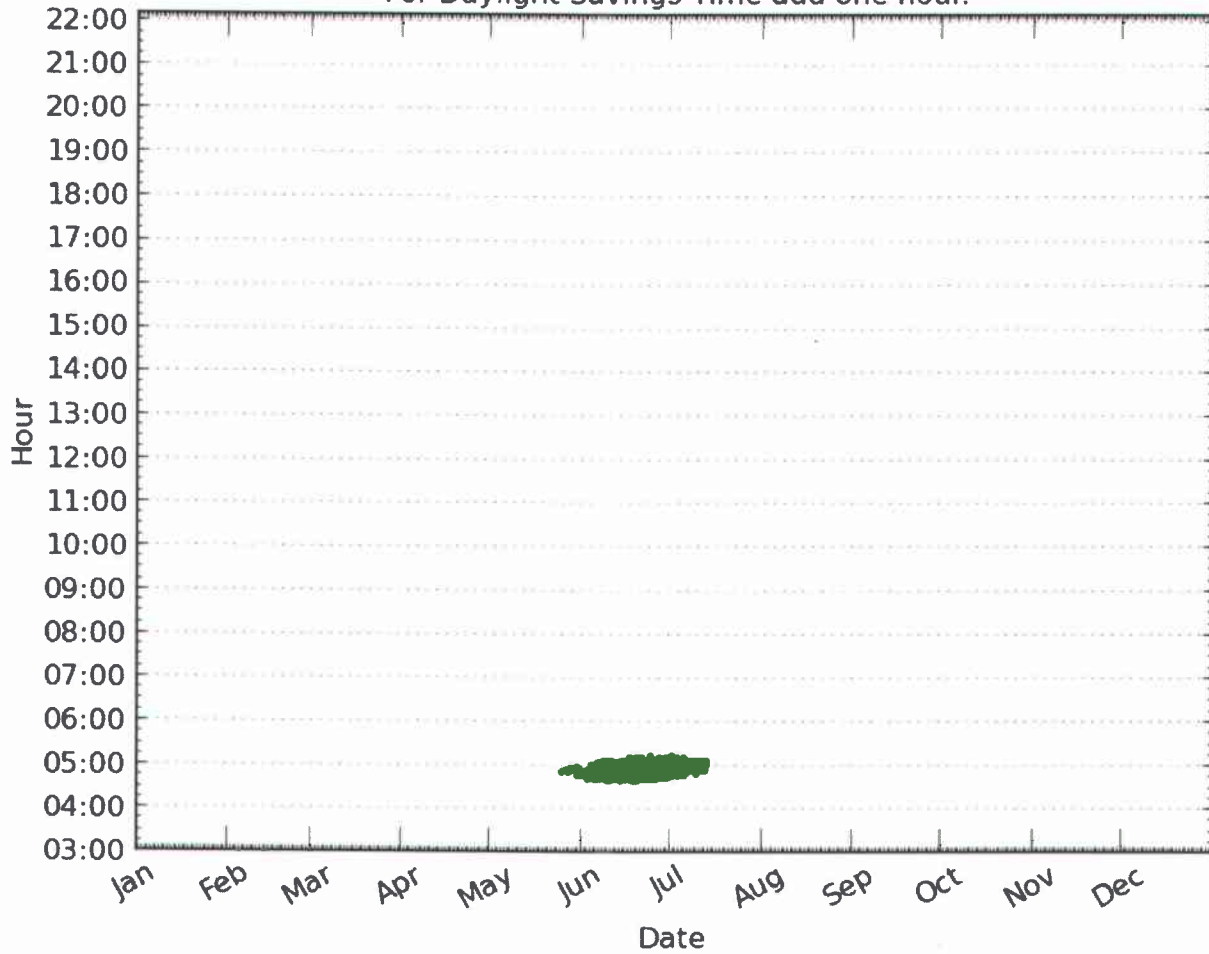
No glare

1/2 mi

No glare

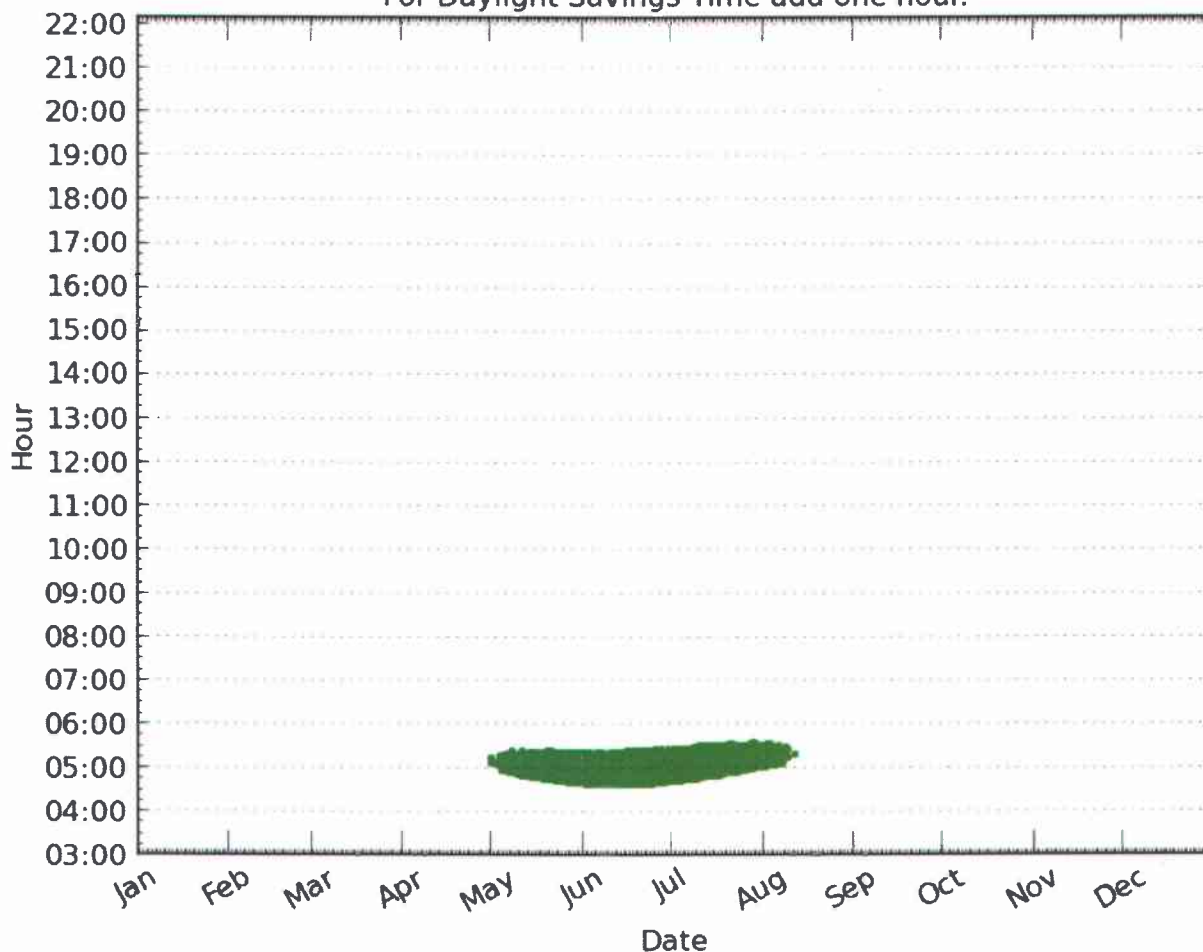
3/4 mi

1-minute time interval.
All times are in standard time.
For Daylight Savings Time add one hour.



1 mi

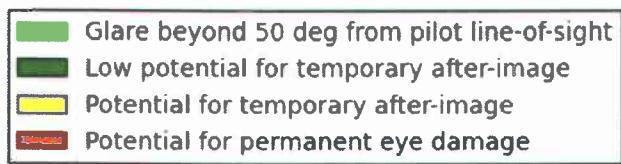
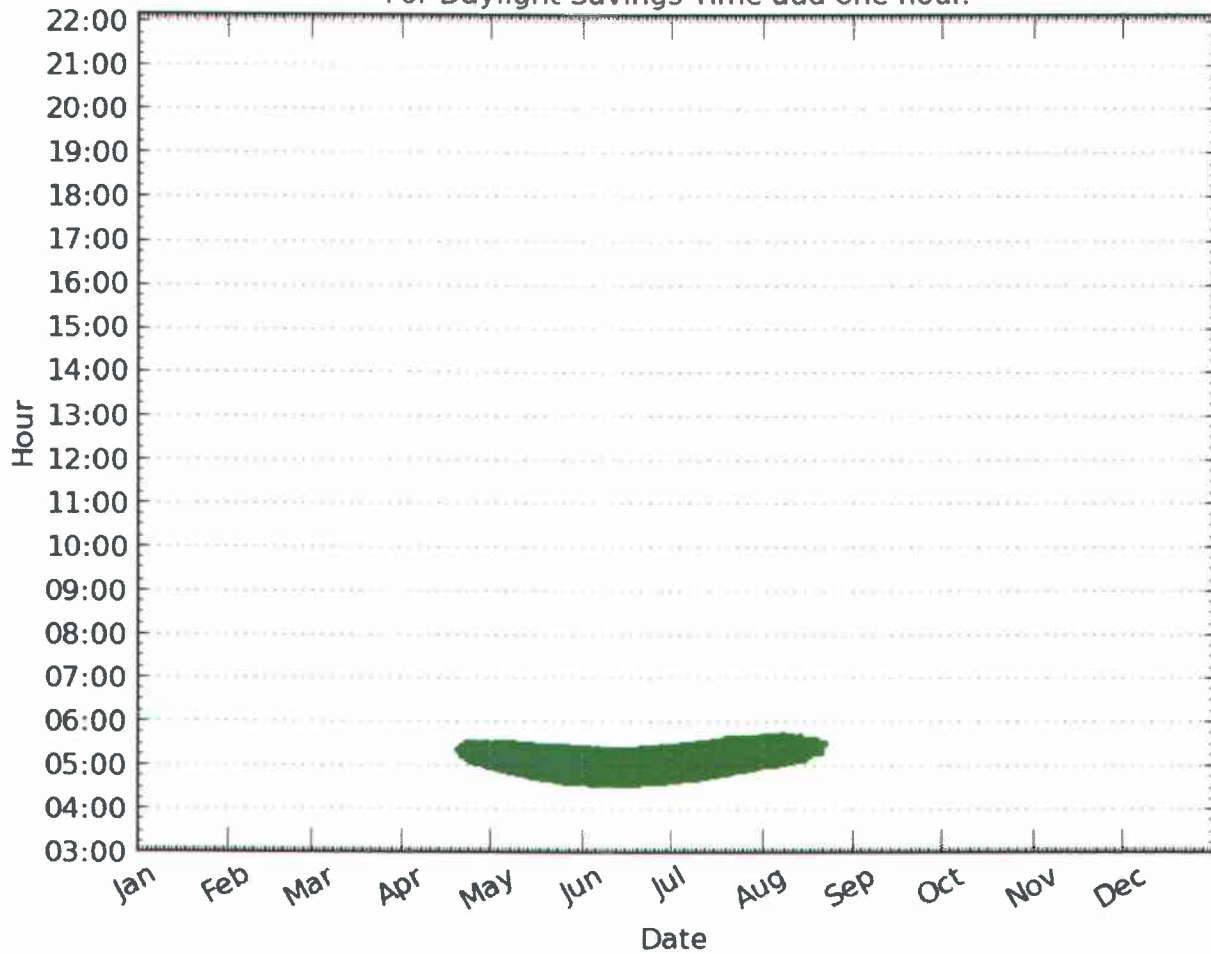
1-minute time interval.
All times are in standard time.
For Daylight Savings Time add one hour.



- Glare beyond 50 deg from pilot line-of-sight
- Low potential for temporary after-image
- Potential for temporary after-image
- Potential for permanent eye damage

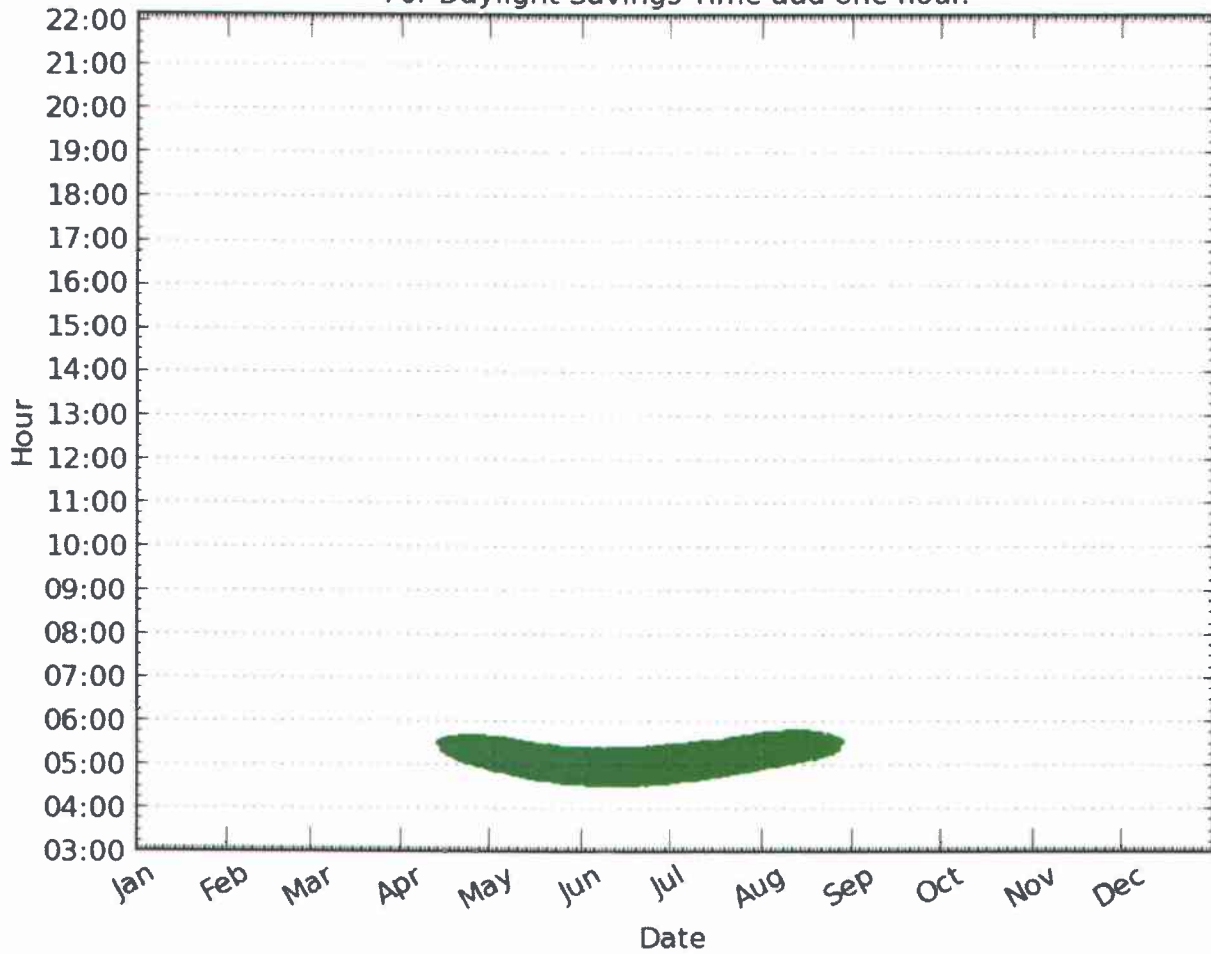
1 1/4 mi

1-minute time interval.
All times are in standard time.
For Daylight Savings Time add one hour.



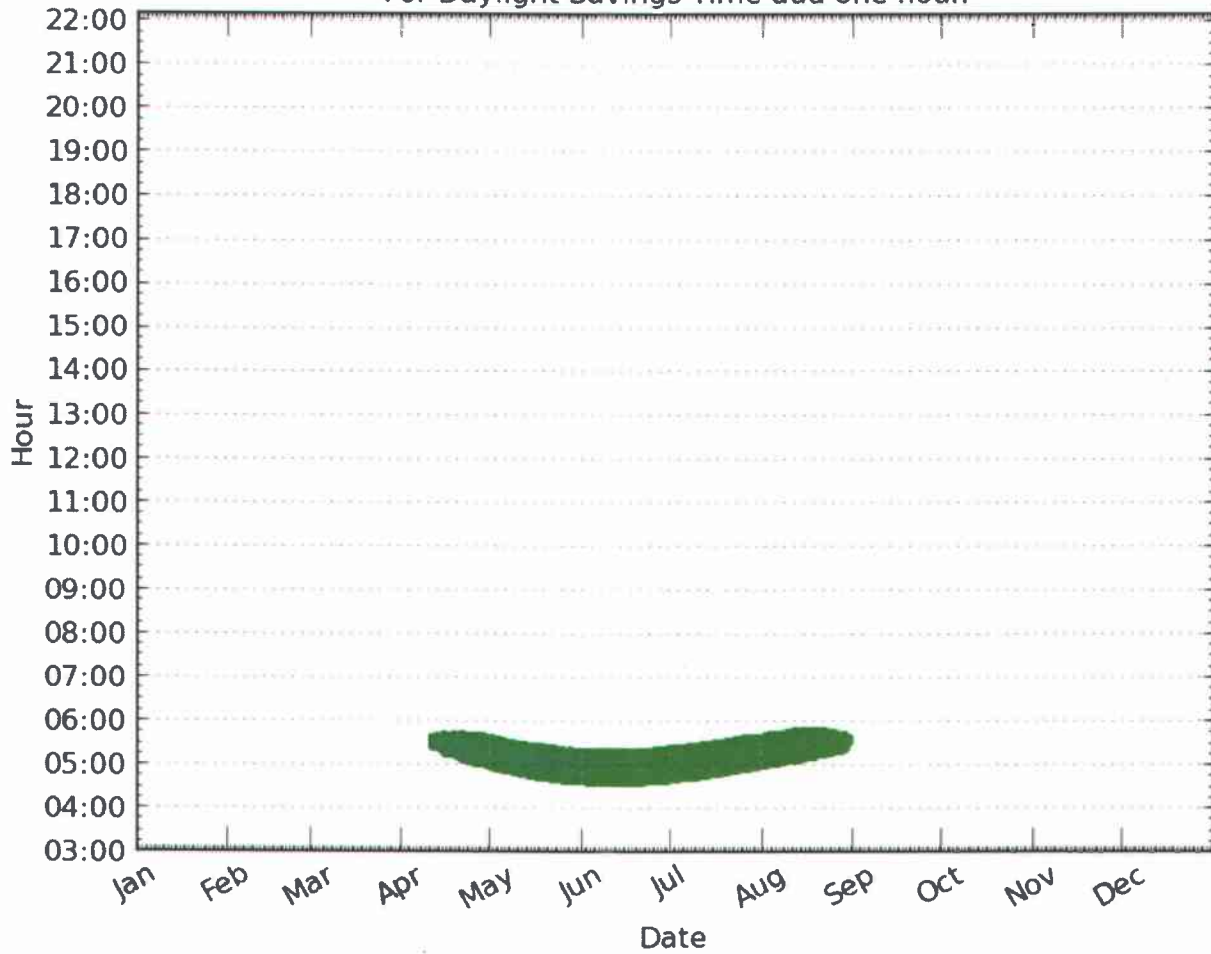
1 1/2 mi

1-minute time interval.
All times are in standard time.
For Daylight Savings Time add one hour.



1 3/4 mi

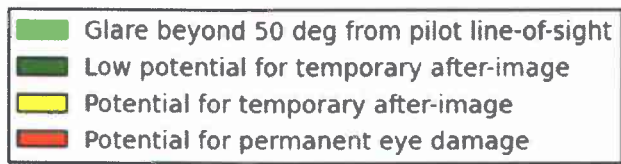
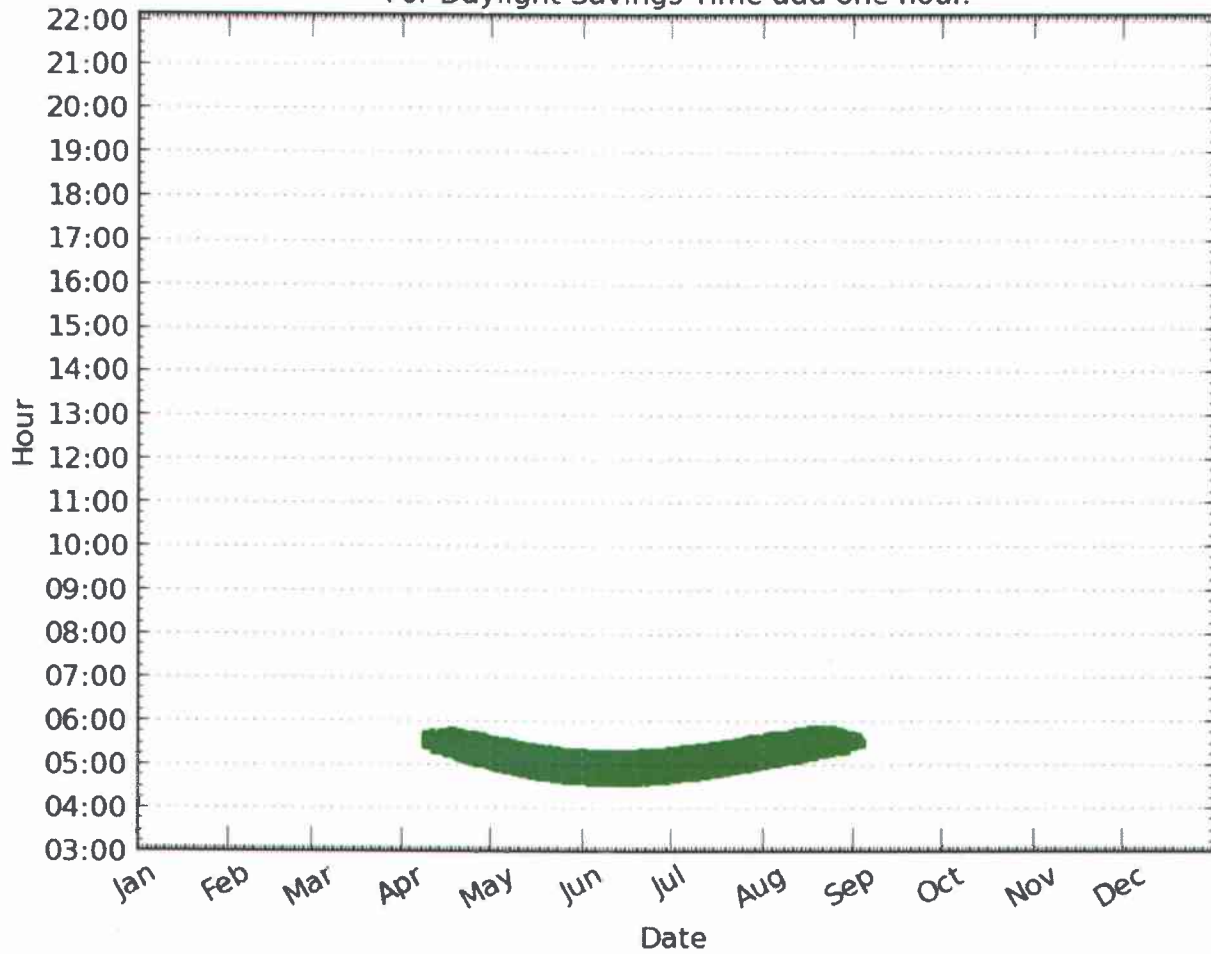
1-minute time interval.
All times are in standard time.
For Daylight Savings Time add one hour.



- Glare beyond 50 deg from pilot line-of-sight
- Low potential for temporary after-image
- Potential for temporary after-image
- Potential for permanent eye damage

2 mi

1-minute time interval.
All times are in standard time.
For Daylight Savings Time add one hour.



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Solar Glare Hazard Analysis Flight Path Report

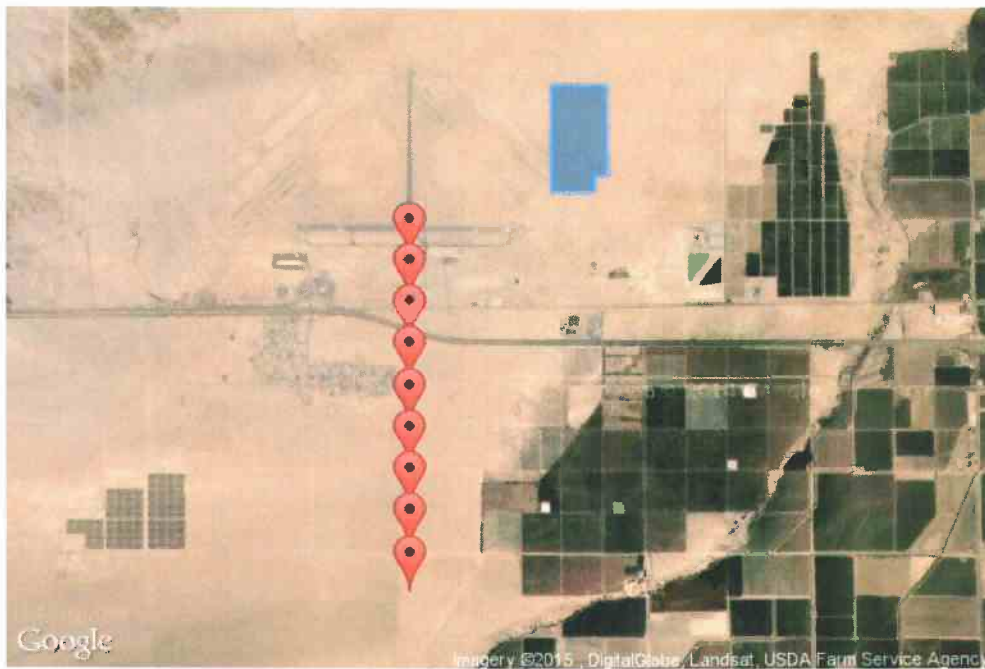
Generated April 9, 2015, 2:36 p.m.

Flight path: BLH Runway 35

Northbound Landing Approach

Glare found

 Print



Analysis & PV array parameters

Analysis name	BLH Solar Site Part B
PV array axis tracking	single
Tilt of tracking axis (deg)	0.0
Orientation of tracking axis (deg)	179.0
Offset angle of module (deg)	0.0
Limit rotation angle?	True
Maximum tracking angle (deg)	90.0
Rated power (kW)	0.0
Vary reflectivity	True
PV surface material	Light textured glass with ARC
Timezone offset	-8.0
Subtended angle of sun (mrad)	9.3
Peak DNI (W/m ²)	1000.0
Ocular transmission coefficient	0.5
Pupil diameter (m)	0.002
Eye focal length (m)	0.017
Time interval (min)	1
Correlate slope error with material	False
Slope error (mrad)	10.0

Flight path parameters

Direction (deg)	0.0
-----------------	-----

Glide slope (deg)	3.0
Consider pilot visibility from cockpit	True
Max downward viewing angle (deg)	30.0
Azimuthal viewing angle (deg)	180.0

PV array vertices

id	Latitude (deg)	Longitude (deg)	Ground Elevation (ft)	Height of panels above ground (ft)	Total elevation (ft)
1	33.619921217	-114.69771	391.82	6.0	397.82
2	33.62131	-114.69772	392.07	6.0	398.07
3	33.62133	-114.69629	391.61	6.0	397.61
4	33.62897	-114.69639	393.61	6.0	399.61
5	33.62896	-114.70204	395.25	6.0	401.25
6	33.61991	-114.70198	393.62	6.0	399.62

Flight Path Observation Points

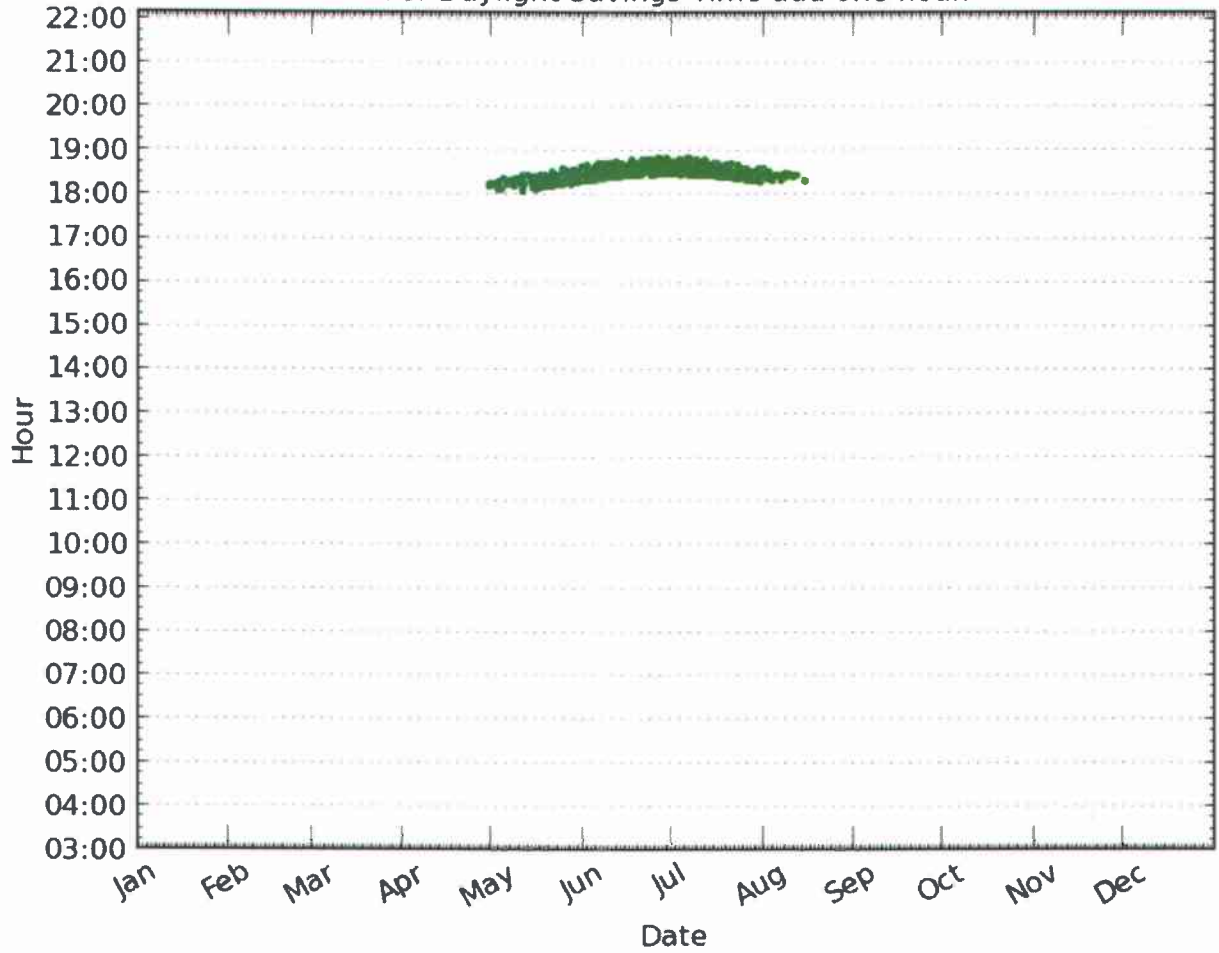
	Latitude (deg)	Longitude (deg)	Ground Elevation (ft)	Eye-level height above ground (ft)	Glare?
Threshold	33.6141163979	-114.716827512	392.71	50.0	Yes
1/4 mi	33.6105026544	-114.716827512	391.45	120.43	Yes
1/2 mi	33.6068889108	-114.716827512	389.51	191.56	No
3/4 mi	33.6032751673	-114.716827512	389.36	260.89	No
1 mi	33.5996614237	-114.716827512	391.02	328.4	No
1 1/4 mi	33.5960476802	-114.716827512	392.27	396.34	No
1 1/2 mi	33.5924339367	-114.716827512	389.07	468.71	No
1 3/4 mi	33.5888201931	-114.716827512	384.96	542.01	No
2 mi	33.5852064496	-114.716827512	370.79	625.35	No

Glare occurrence plots

All times are in standard time. For Daylight Savings Time add one hour.

Threshold

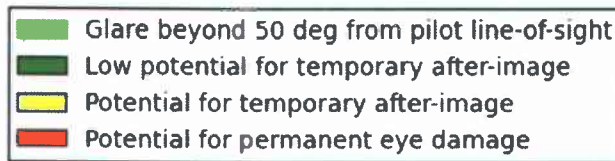
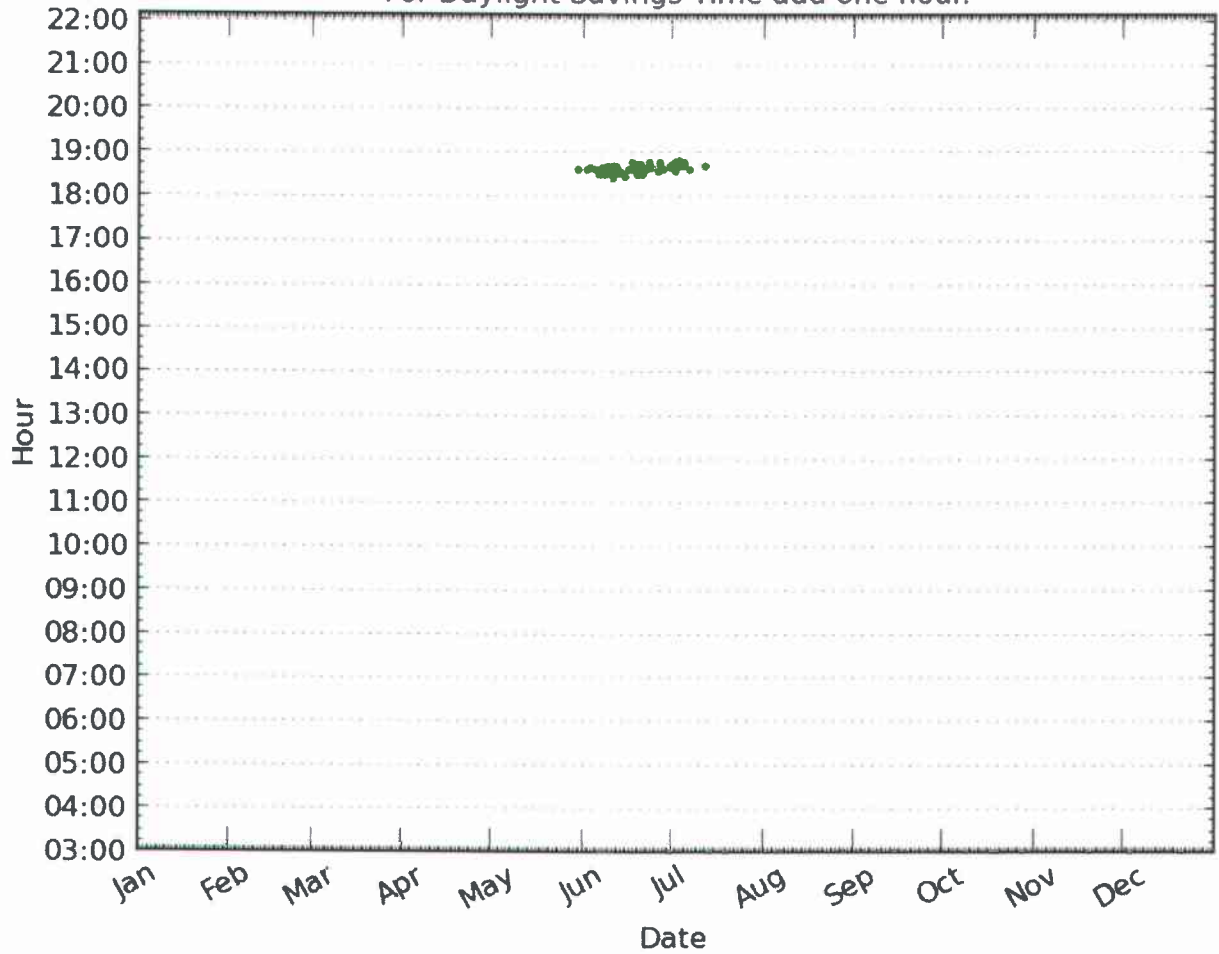
1-minute time interval.
All times are in standard time.
For Daylight Savings Time add one hour.



- Glare beyond 50 deg from pilot line-of-sight
- Low potential for temporary after-image
- Potential for temporary after-image
- Potential for permanent eye damage

1/4 mi

1-minute time interval.
All times are in standard time.
For Daylight Savings Time add one hour.



1/2 mi

No glare

3/4 mi

No glare

1 mi

No glare

1 1/4 mi

No glare

1 1/2 mi

No glare

1 3/4 mi

No glare

2 mi

No glare

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Solar Glare Hazard Analysis Flight Path Report

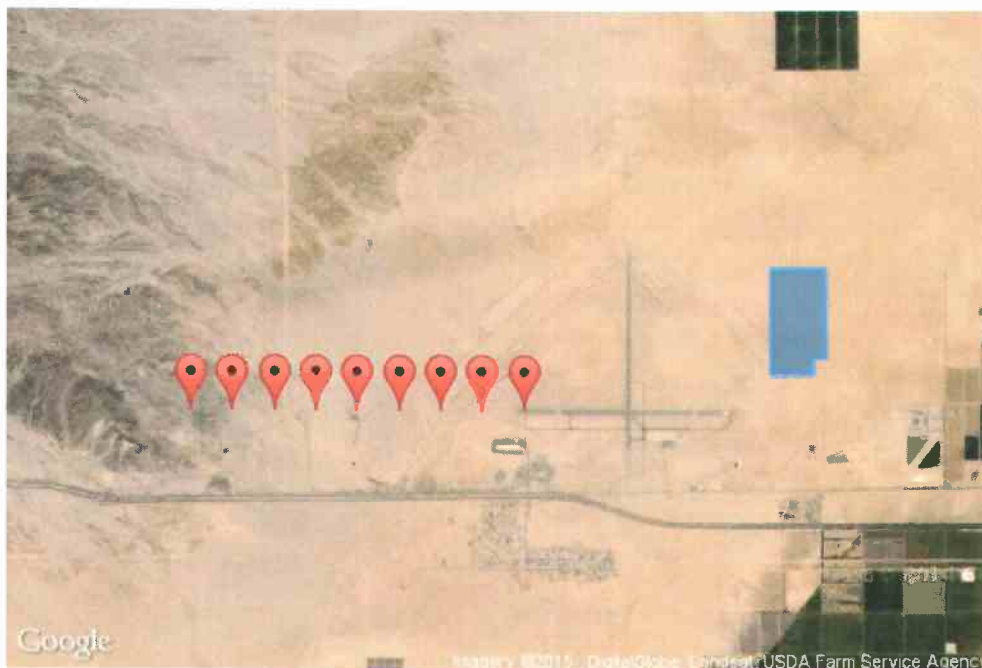
Generated April 9, 2015, 2:37 p.m.

Flight path: BLH Runway 8

Eastbound Landing Approach

Glare found

 Print



Analysis & PV array parameters

Analysis name	BLH Solar Site Part B
PV array axis tracking	single
Tilt of tracking axis (deg)	0.0
Orientation of tracking axis (deg)	179.0
Offset angle of module (deg)	0.0
Limit rotation angle?	True
Maximum tracking angle (deg)	90.0
Rated power (kW)	0.0
Vary reflectivity	True
PV surface material	Light textured glass with ARC

Timezone offset	-8.0
Subtended angle of sun (mrad)	9.3
Peak DNI (W/m ²)	1000.0
Ocular transmission coefficient	0.5
Pupil diameter (m)	0.002
Eye focal length (m)	0.017
Time interval (min)	1
Correlate slope error with material	False
Slope error (mrad)	10.0

Flight path parameters

Direction (deg)	90.0
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Glide slope (deg)	3.0
Consider pilot visibility from cockpit	False

PV array vertices

id	Latitude (deg)	Longitude (deg)	Ground Elevation (ft)	Height of panels above ground (ft)	Total elevation (ft)
1	33.619921217	-114.69771	391.82	6.0	397.82
2	33.62131	-114.69772	392.07	6.0	398.07
3	33.62133	-114.69629	391.61	6.0	397.61
4	33.62897	-114.69639	393.61	6.0	399.61
5	33.62896	-114.70204	395.25	6.0	401.25
6	33.61991	-114.70198	393.62	6.0	399.62

Flight Path Observation Points

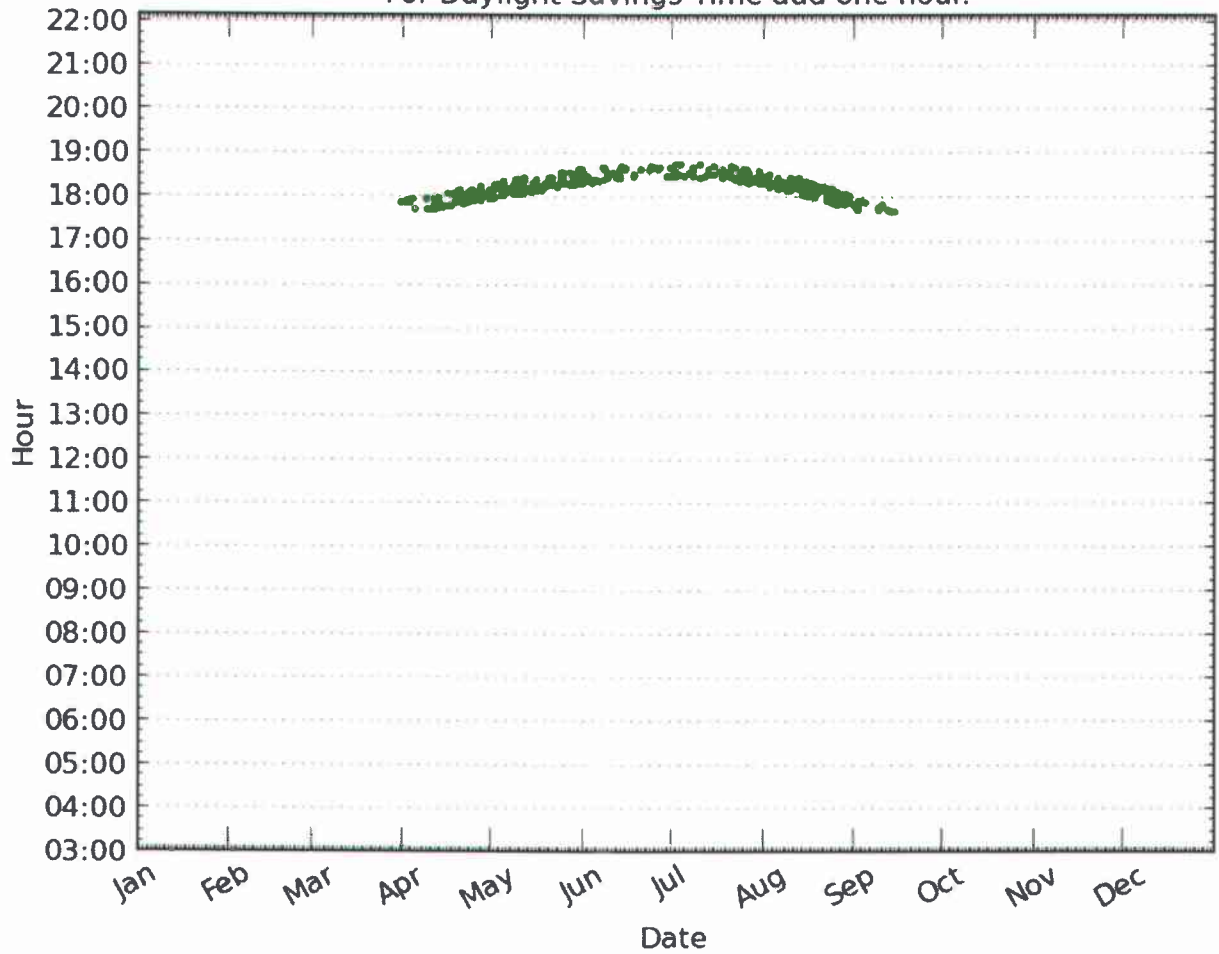
	Latitude (deg)	Longitude (deg)	Ground Elevation (ft)	Eye-level height above ground (ft)	Glare?
Threshold	33.6166038138	-114.72770977	394.31	50.0	Yes
1/4 mi	33.6166038138	-114.73205432	394.72	118.76	Yes
1/2 mi	33.6166038138	-114.73639887	395.59	187.08	Yes
3/4 mi	33.6166038138	-114.740743419	397.04	254.8	Yes
1 mi	33.6166038138	-114.745087969	402.0	319.02	Yes
1 1/4 mi	33.6166038138	-114.749432519	409.77	380.44	Yes
1 1/2 mi	33.6166038138	-114.753777068	415.94	443.44	Yes
1 3/4 mi	33.6166038138	-114.758121618	424.7	503.86	Yes
2 mi	33.6166038138	-114.762466168	462.12	535.62	Yes

Glare occurrence plots

All times are in standard time. For Daylight Savings Time add one hour.

Threshold

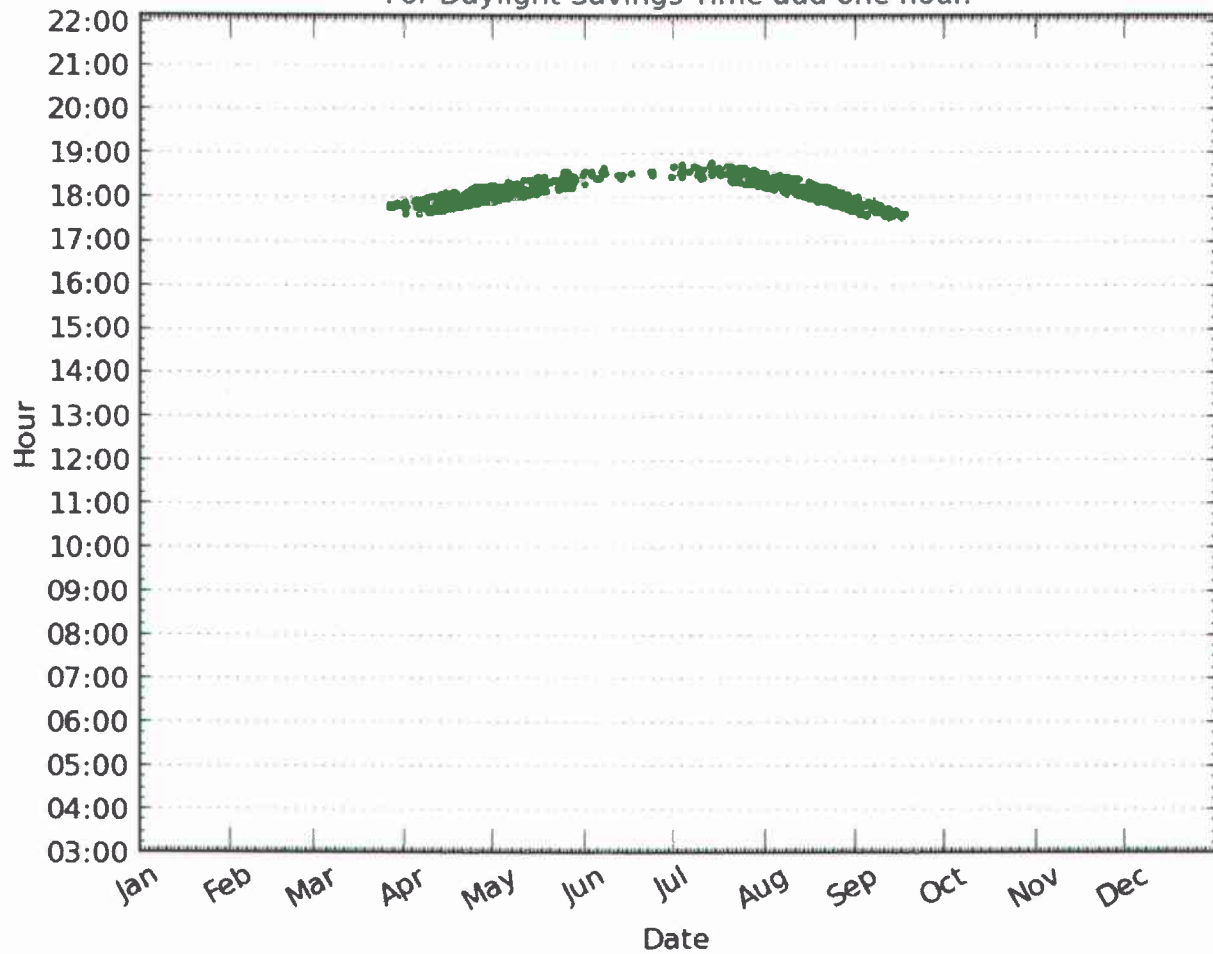
1-minute time interval.
All times are in standard time.
For Daylight Savings Time add one hour.



- Glare beyond 50 deg from pilot line-of-sight
- Low potential for temporary after-image
- Potential for temporary after-image
- Potential for permanent eye damage

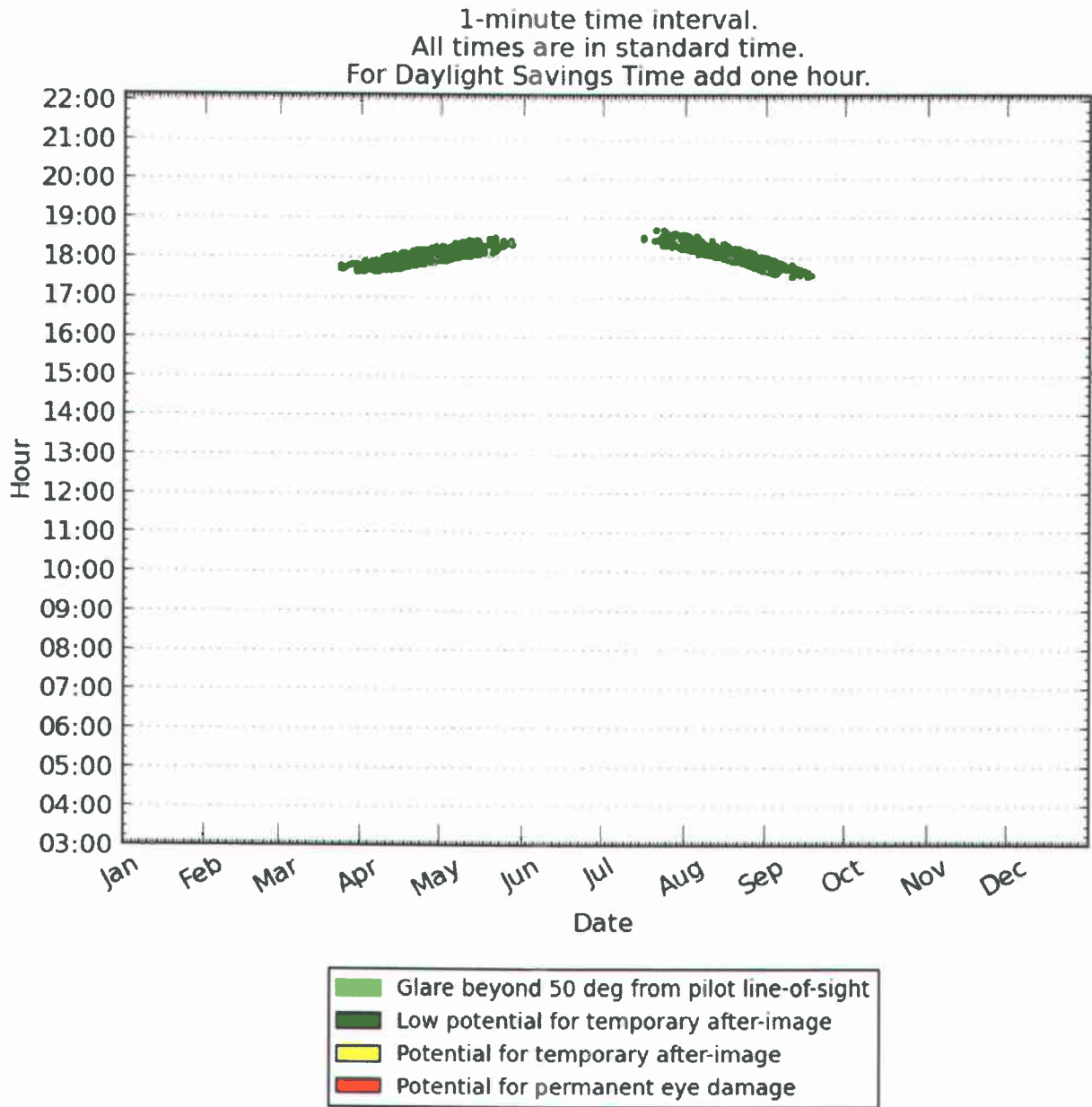
1/4 mi

1-minute time interval.
All times are in standard time.
For Daylight Savings Time add one hour.

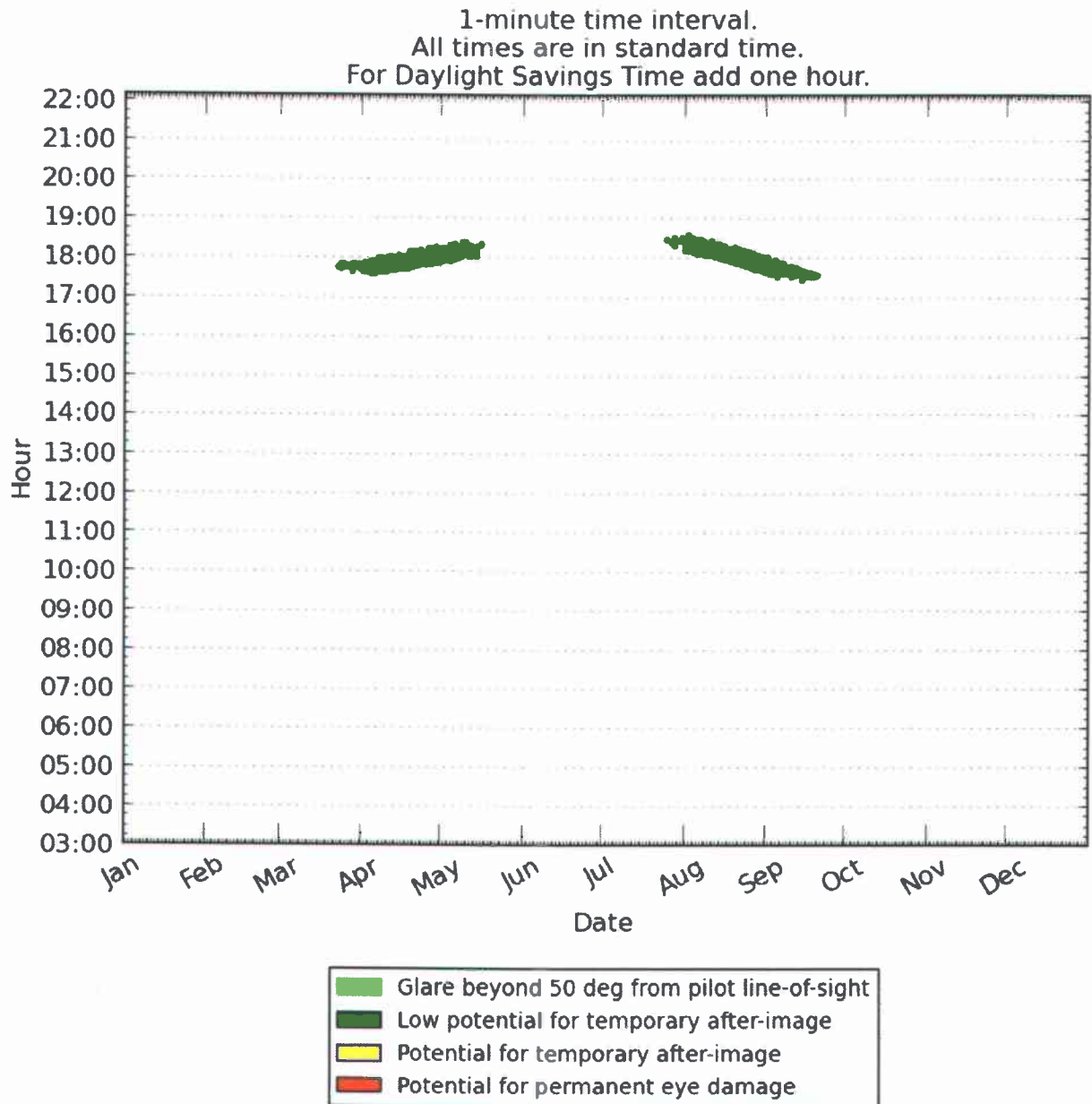


- Glare beyond 50 deg from pilot line-of-sight
- Low potential for temporary after-image
- Potential for temporary after-image
- Potential for permanent eye damage

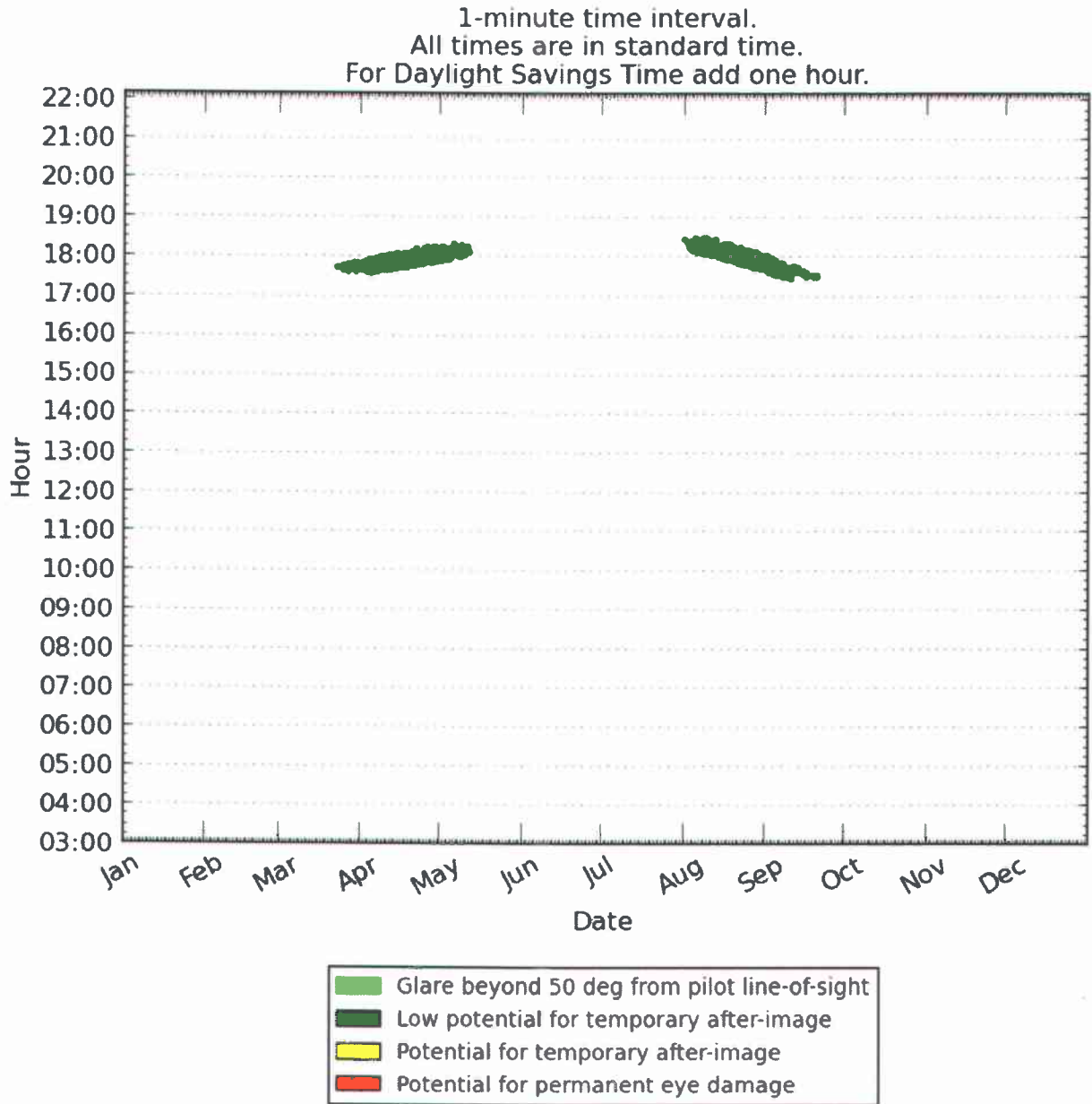
1/2 mi



3/4 mi

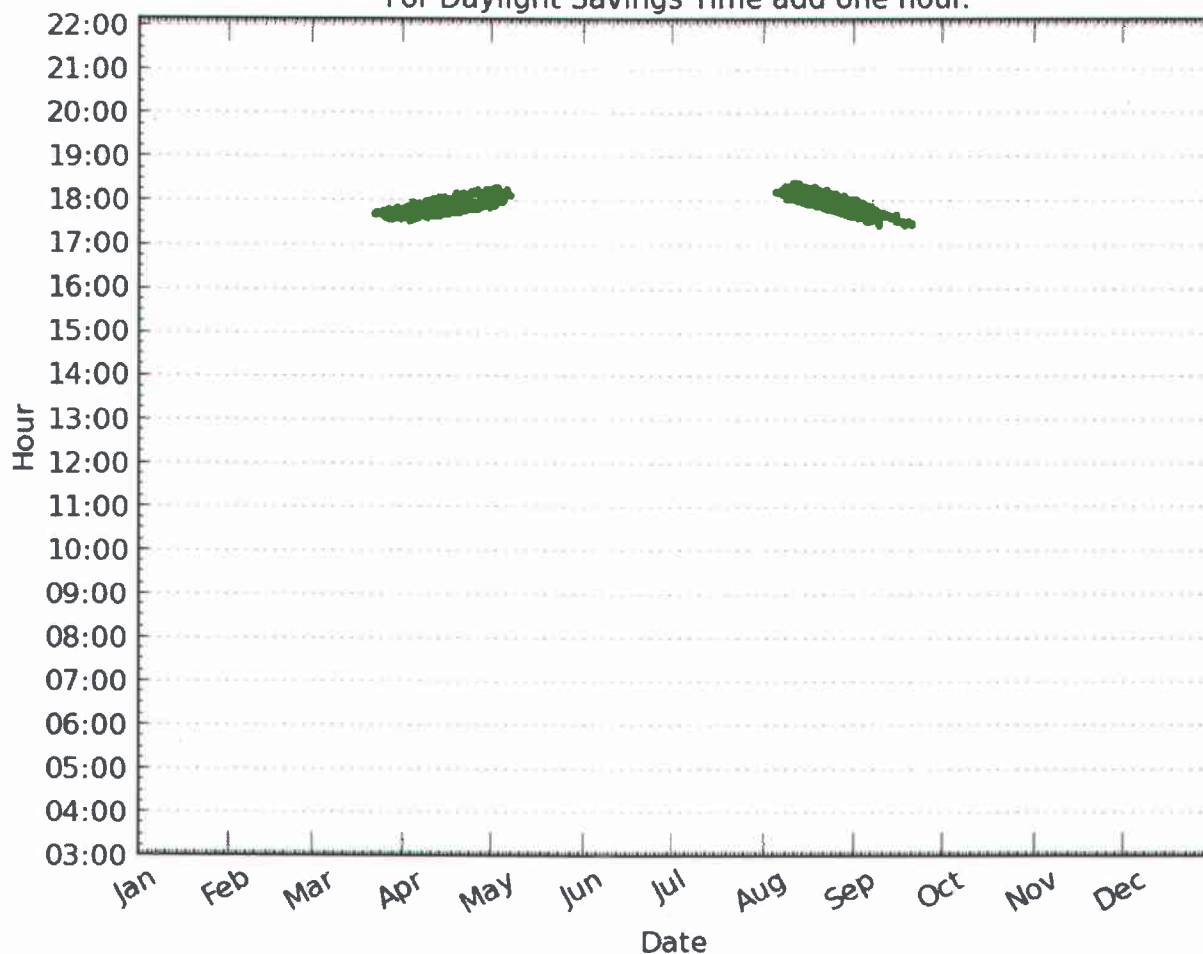


1 mi



1 1/4 mi

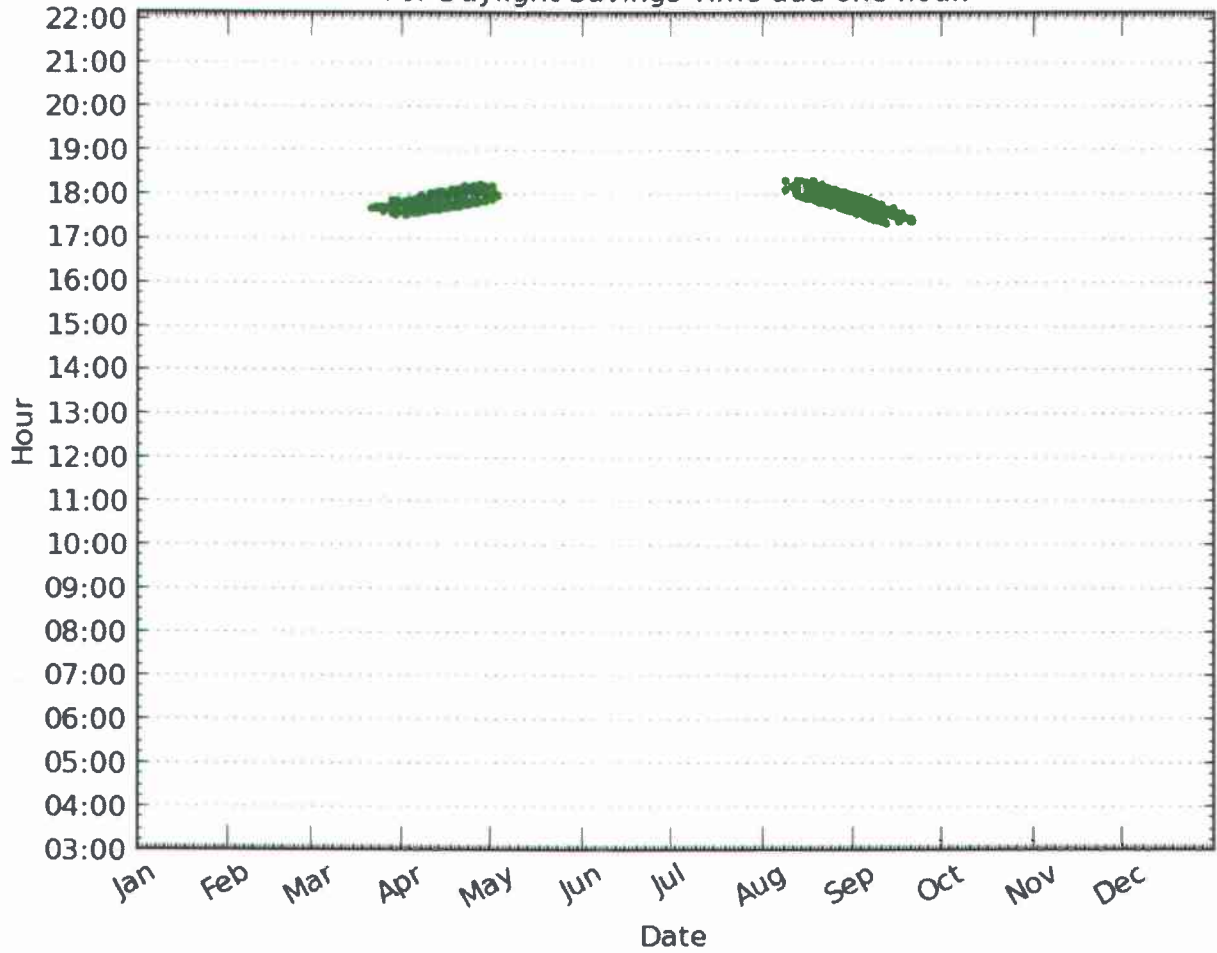
1-minute time interval.
All times are in standard time.
For Daylight Savings Time add one hour.



- Glare beyond 50 deg from pilot line-of-sight
- Low potential for temporary after-image
- Potential for temporary after-image
- Potential for permanent eye damage

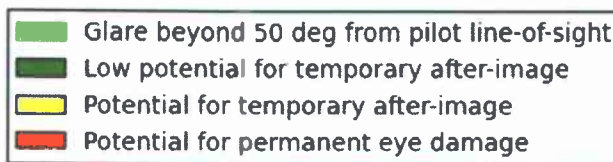
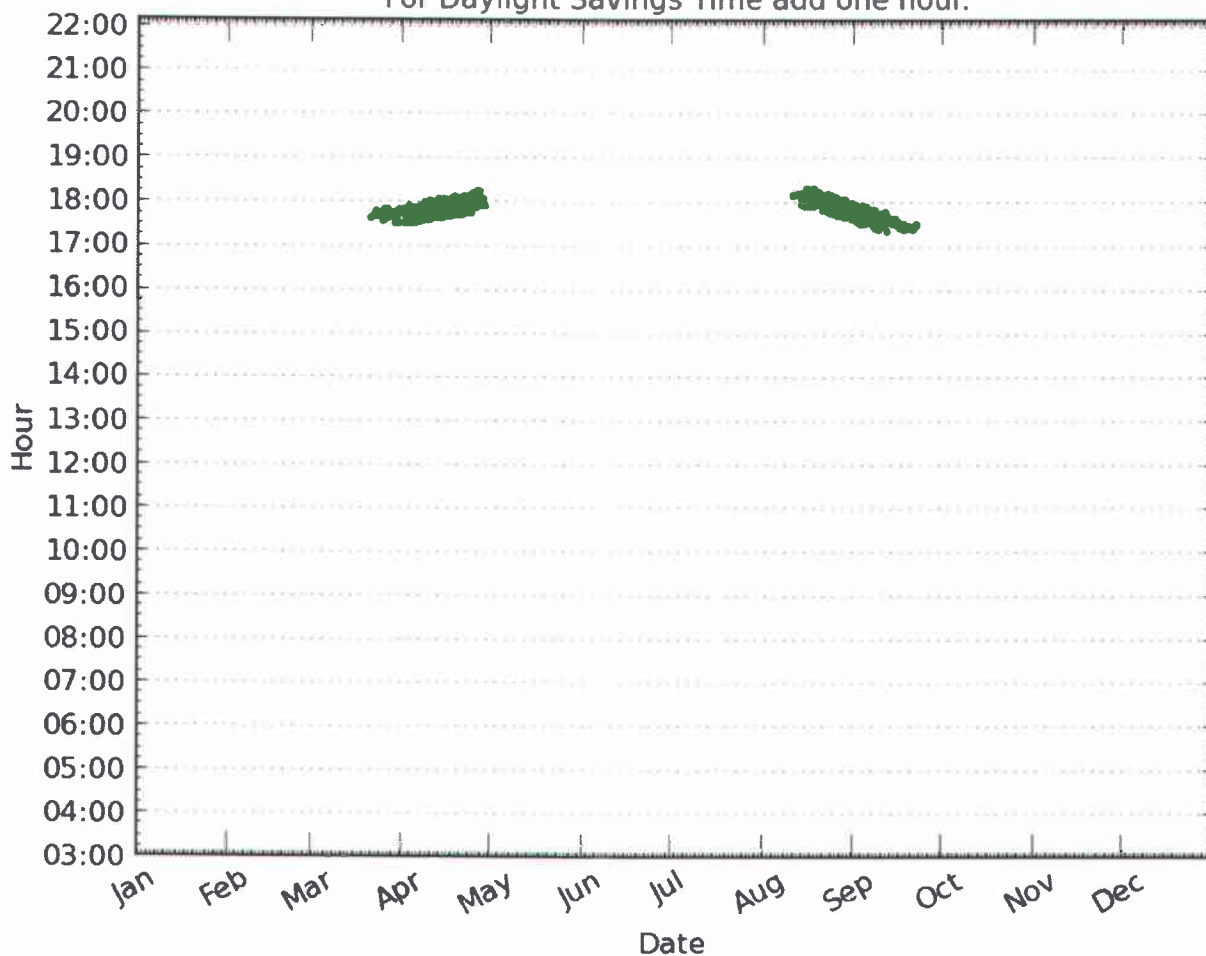
1 1/2 mi

1-minute time interval.
All times are in standard time.
For Daylight Savings Time add one hour.

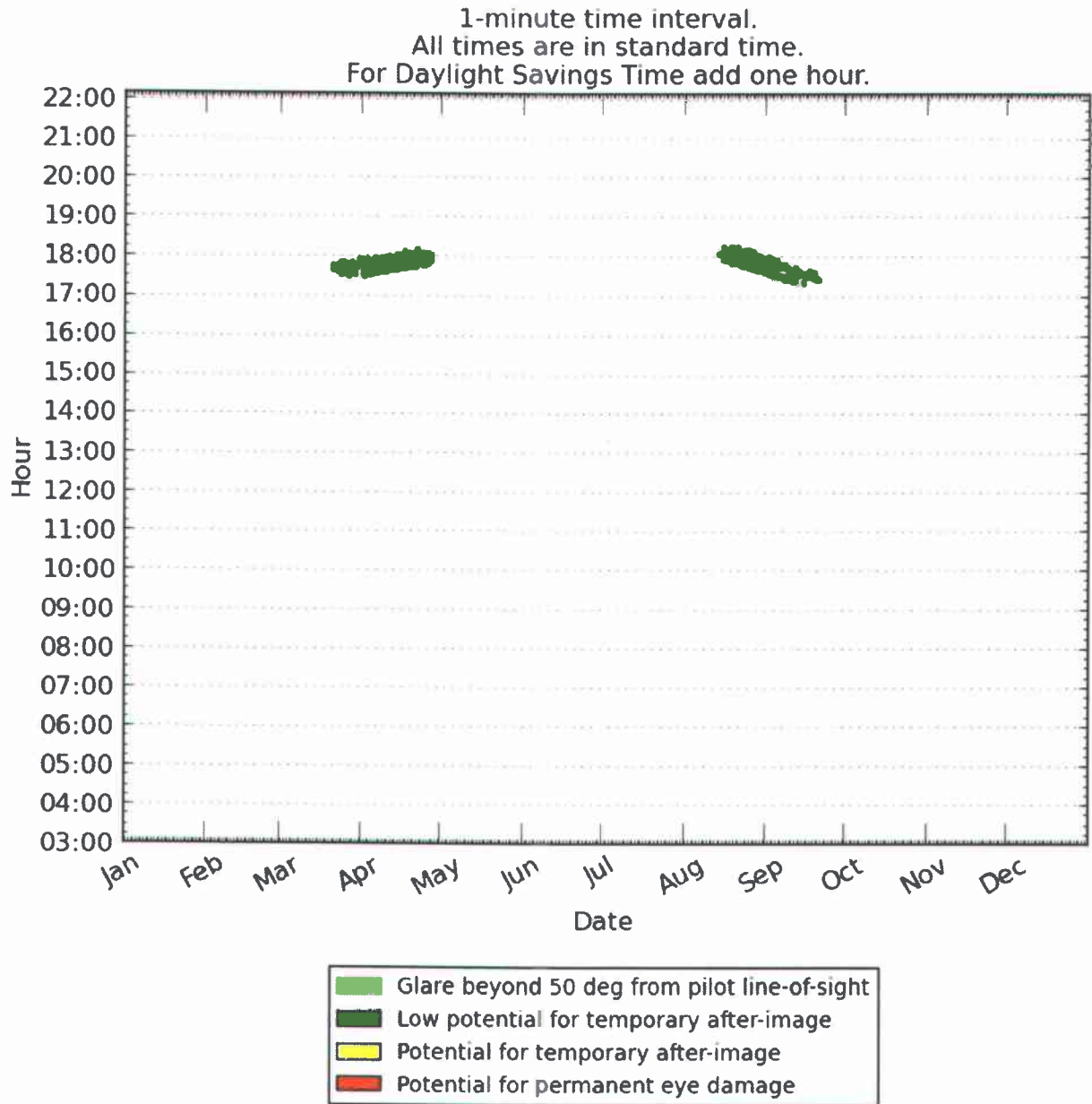


1 3/4 mi

1-minute time interval.
All times are in standard time.
For Daylight Savings Time add one hour.



2 mi



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Attachment C

Updated Biological Resources Report

Blythe II Solar Project Updated Biological Resources Report

The proposed Blythe II Solar Project is a 20 MW solar power facility to be constructed on lands on the northeast portion of the Blythe Municipal Airport. The current 20 MW project, referred to as the Blythe II Solar Project, is an independent stand-alone single-phase project which was a part of a larger 100 MW project previously approved by Riverside County, referred to as the Blythe Airport Solar 1 Project that was situated on approximately 829 acres. The majority of the project property has been previously farmed and now is fallow. The proposed Project would use proven PV technology and would deliver electricity directly into the grid adjacent to the Project. The 100 MW project was previously approved by Riverside County (PP24616, EA42340) and included consultation with state and federal wildlife agencies. **Figure 1** shows the location of the Blythe II Solar site.

The Project Proponent leases the approximately 156.5-acre site on Blythe Municipal Airport land from Riverside County. The site is northeast of the existing runways and outside of the area used for aeronautical operations. The solar facility will include PV module arrays along with approximately 20 electrical equipment pads located within the interior of the Site, which will house the inverters and transformers. The project will use crystalline silicon or thin-film PV technology mounted on power driven single-axis tracking technology, in which the PV modules follow the path of the sun throughout the day. The PV panels are non-reflective and convert sunlight into direct current (DC) electricity. The DC output of the panels is collected through one or more combiner boxes and directed to an inverter. The inverter converts the DC electricity to alternating current (AC) electricity, which then flows to a transformer where it is stepped up to distribution-level voltage. The energy generated by the PV system arrays will be collected via underground cables excavated to a depth of 2 to 3 feet along each row of panels. These cables would route the energy to the project switchyard. **Figure 2** shows the proposed layout of the 20 MW Project.

An electrical switchyard and associated electrical equipment will be located at the southeastern corner of the project site. Electricity generated by the proposed Project will be interconnected into the local electrical system via a short 33 kilovolt (kV) overhead generation tie (gen-tie) line that will be extended to the site by the local utility Southern California Edison (SCE). This line would be extended from an existing structure at the corner of Buck Boulevard and Riverside Drive and be extended west to the corner of Riverside Drive and Butch Avenue, and then north from Butch Avenue to the project switchyard. The generation tie line will be constructed on single-pole wooden structures up to approximately 50 feet in height and spanned approximately 175 to 200 feet apart.

An 8-foot chain-link security fence would be installed along the perimeter of the entire approximately 156.5 acre Site. The switchyard will also be separately fenced for security purposes. The main site entrance gate will be located at the southeast corner of the Site.

Two water storage tanks owned by Riverside County EDA, with a combined volume of 1,350,000 gallons, are located approximately one mile southwest of the Site. Current plans are to truck water from these tanks to the site during construction mainly for dust control purposes. Water will also be trucked to the Site during operation as needed for panel washing. Following construction, water use during operations is estimated at two acre-feet per year.

Primary Site access would be via existing roads – from Hobsonway to Buck Boulevard to West Riverside Avenue. Secondary access would be provided from Hobsonway via an existing dirt road.

The proposed Project will be unmanned and is expected to be serviced for routine maintenance or as-needed from full time employees located offsite and near the City of Blythe. Workers will bring their own water to the Site and portable toilets will provide the needed sanitary facilities on Site.

Regulatory Setting

Floral (plant) and faunal (animal) species that are listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as federally endangered or threatened are protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA). Section 9 of FESA prohibits the taking of species listed by the USFWS as endangered or threatened. As defined by FESA, "taking" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or to attempt to engage in such conduct. As indicated in FAA Order 1050.1E, Section 7 of FESA applies to federal agency actions and sets forth requirements for consultation to determine if a proposed action may affect endangered or threatened species and to ensure that any action the agency authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any federally-listed endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat.

In addition to the FESA, the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) prohibits the taking, importation, or sale of state-listed endangered or threatened species except in compliance with permits or conditions specified in CESA. Further special status species have been given recognition by federal and/or state agencies, as well as private conservation organizations, because of perceived or documented decline in the population size or geographic range of the species.

Survey Methods

Three site surveys were conducted at the site (May 12, 2009, August 23, 2010, and September 15, 2015). The September 2015 survey was conducted at the request of County of Riverside for a supplemental habitat assessment because the size of the original site assessed in the previous surveys was recently significantly reduced. The site surveys of the Blythe II Solar site and surrounding areas were completed by a qualified biologist. Additionally, a site tour was conducted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) [Jody Fraser, Biologist, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office] and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) [Magdalena Rodriguez, Biologist, Inland Deserts Region] on October 28, 2010.

Prior to conducting the site visits, a list of target species was developed by contacting the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) to gather existing records on special-status species occurring in the project survey area (CNDDDB 2015). In addition, special-status species identified through agency contacts with USFWS and CDFW were also included in the target list (USFWS 2015; CDFW 2015a and 2015b). **Tables 2 and 3** below identify the federally and state listed species with the potential to occur in the general area and their likelihood to occur onsite.

Field surveys of the Project Site and surrounding areas were conducted to evaluate habitat and the occurrence of listed species on the Site. Survey techniques included walking transects and driving surveys to ensure full coverage of the Project Site. Aspects such as ecology and habitat requirements of various species were reviewed. Habitat conditions and wildlife observations on and around the Project Site were recorded. Information including habitat requirements, known occurrences, and habitat types, was used to evaluate the potential effects of Project implementation on biological resources within the vicinity of the Project.

During the surveys, species sign (e.g., individuals, dens, burrows, scat, tracks, pellets, skeletal remains) was recorded. The survey area was described relative to topography, drainage type, soils, substrate, aspect-dominant, common and occasional plant species, plant cover, and anthropogenic disturbances. All plant communities were described in detail and mapped; densities were estimated visually (**Figure 3**).

In the absence of definitive species sign, species presence was assumed wherever suitable habitat existed and the relevant habitat was rated as to its quality. Development of the proposed action would result in the removal of the existing sparse vegetation and habitats from the site. In addition, a short transmission line would be built to interconnect the project to the regional electrical system.

Existing Environment

The biological resource areas of the Blythe Region of the Palo Verde Valley are dominated by three plant community types: creosote bush scrub community associated with undeveloped desert areas; riparian plant communities associated with the channel banks of the Colorado River and various canals and drains; and agricultural areas in active cultivation (Blythe General Plan 2007).

The desert region outside of the river basin where the Project is located is commonly called Sonoran Desert or "Colorado Desert", and includes the area between the Colorado River Basin and the Coast Ranges south of the Little San Bernardino Mountains and the Mojave Desert. Rainfall amounts are very minimal, approximately 3.7 inches per year, and typically restricted to the winter months. Due to low elevations, temperatures are extreme. As a consequence of these climatic variables, vegetation is drought-adapted and typically simple and sparse. Few cacti are present within the plant communities found in this region.

The Blythe area is within the Lower Colorado River Valley biotic subdivision (Brown 1994), which is the largest and most arid of the seven Sonoran Desert subdivisions. The limited precipitation and extreme heat characterizing the climate has led to the establishment of

communities of drought-, salt-, and heat-tolerant species. These plants are typified by spiny, succulent, evergreen or seasonally rapid growth habits. Vegetation spatial patterns are also influenced by biotic responses to elevation, topography, exposure, soil type, temperature, soil permeability, runoff potential, and land use.

Two types of drainage ways, minor and through-flow runnels, support the majority of vegetation observed in the Lower Colorado River Valley biotic subdivision. The minor runnels of shallow rill drainage patterns are lined by small trees and shrubs generally requiring periodic runoff. Within the minor runnel drainages, vegetation is irregularly scattered, and because the indistinct runnels may be numerous and anastomosing, the illusion is presented of trees and shrubs forming a homogeneous community over the entire desert landscape (Brown 1994). The drier interflaves host fewer perennial plants, and support a sparse seasonal cover. Desert plants growing on the interflaves compete for scarce water resources compared to plants growing along nearby runnels. Creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) and white bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*) generally dominate this perennial plant community. As the sand fraction increases, as represented by the slopes of the Palo Verde Mesa, big galleta grass (*Pleuraphis rigida*) increases in density, while creosote bush and white bursage decrease in abundance.

Through-flow channels carry periodic runoff to some regional drainage and are often incised, several-yards wide, sandy to cobbly drainages. They are densely vegetated along the banks by both trees and shrubs. The associated trees are aphyllous or microphyllous with a high proportion of chlorophyll in or beneath the bark or stems (Turner and Brown 1982) and primarily include ironwood (*Olneya tesota*), blue palo verde (*Cercidium floridum*) and honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*).

Wildlife Habitat and Plant Communities in the Project Area

The Site is on a nearly flat mesa (slope <1 %); the elevation ranges from 389 to 395 feet. The site is on a portion of the Blythe Airport. The soil is soft sand with an approximately 60% fine-gravelly substrate. Almost the entire site is abandoned agriculture (pivot circles) and old runways associated with the Blythe Airport (**Figure 2**). These areas appear to have been fallow for a significant period of time and sparse creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), galleta grass (*Pleuraphis rigida*), and brittle bush (*Encelia farinosa*) have begun to reestablish. Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) is the dominant herbaceous species. Shrub cover in the crop circles is estimated at less than 1 percent. Approximately 141.9 acres of the Project Site occur within this vegetation type (**Appendix A – Photo 1**). Average shrub cover on the entire site is estimated at less than 5 percent.

There are two small areas between and adjacent to pivot circles which support relatively disturbed native vegetation but have not been cultivated. These areas account for approximately 14.6 acres of the site. One of these patches occurs on the perimeter (perimeter patch) of the Blythe II Solar site, and one occurs on the western patch. The vegetation community is low diversity Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub (after Holland 1986). Aspect-dominant shrub species are creosote bush, salt bush (*Atriplex polycarpa*), and white bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*); Sahara mustard is the dominant herbaceous species, although a small amount of galleta grass is present in areas with the loosest sand. Shrub cover was estimated visually at approximately less than 10 percent. Site drainage is primarily by percolation. Representative photographs of the site are included in **Appendix A**.

The two habitat patches provide varying but low quality wildlife habitat due to existing and past disturbances. The eastern patch is approximately 8.3 acres and is highly disturbed. It is dominated by creosote bush and salt bush. The understory is dominated by Sahara mustard (**Appendix A – Photo 2**). This patch is traversed by two roads, has several areas that were dug out by heavy equipment, has several low berms that appear to be associated with past agricultural activities, and is littered with pieces of the old runway. This patch provides little to no habitat value.

The western patch is approximately 6.3 acres and is highly disturbed. It is surrounded by crop circles and abandoned runways. The habitat is dominated by creosote bush and salt bush (**Appendix A – Photo 3, 4**). The understory is dominated by Sahara mustard. The patch is bisected by several access roads and is littered with pieces of old runway. This patch is isolated and provides little to no habitat value.

On a larger scale, the Blythe II Solar site is surrounded by other disturbed areas including the airport, a power plant, transmission lines, and agricultural fields. The south and west boundaries directly adjoin the airport and agricultural fields. The east boundary is adjacent to a 30 to 40 foot-wide road and a 0.7 mile wide strip of disturbed creosote bush/salt bush scrub, which is then bounded by agricultural fields. The north boundary is adjacent to a 0.5 mile-wide strip of disturbed creosote bush/salt bush scrub, which is then bounded by agricultural fields. As stated in the Blythe General Plan (2007), remnant parcels of creosote bush scrub are found near the airport north of Interstate 10, but most of these areas are degraded by surface disturbances. Essentially, the site is isolated from high quality habitat on all sides. Due to limited undisturbed natural habitats in the surrounding area, wildlife abundance is low and habitats are highly fragmented.

Gen-tie Line

The primary site access would be along Riverside Drive and Butch Boulevard and the proposed gen-tie line would follow the same route. The gen-tie line would be adjacent to the roads in fallow agricultural fields. The segment along Butch would be approximately 0.1 miles long and the segment along Riverside Drive would be about 0.7 miles long. The vegetation in the fallow agricultural lands is dominated by Sahara mustard and bare ground and provides little to no habitat value.

Results

Given the sensitivity of special-status species and the relationship to edge effects (e.g., the highly disturbed nature of the site) and non-native species invasion (e.g., the dominance of Sahara mustard), the Blythe II Solar site was selected to avoid areas of high impact potential. Due to the location of the site in an area that is highly disturbed, further fragmentation of the creosote bush scrub community will not occur. No special-status plant or wildlife species were observed on the Blythe II Solar site. **Table 1** provides a summary of habitat types at the Blythe II Solar site.

Table 1 Habitat Types at the Blythe II Solar Project Site
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Habitat ID	Community Type	Acreage
Abandoned Agriculture	Barren/Scattered Creosotebush and Salt Bush	141.9
	Subtotal	141.9
Eastern Patch	Disturbed Creosotebush Scrub	8.3
Western Patch	Disturbed Creosotebush Scrub	6.3
	Subtotal	14.6
	Total	156.5

Tables 2 and 3 present the special-status species that have the potential to occur based on range and known observations, and the potential for those species to occur based on habitats present and survey observations.

**Table 2
Special-Status Plant Species Potentially Occurring in the Vicinity**

SPECIES	FEDERAL ²	STATE ²	CNPS ²	HABITAT	LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE ON THE PROJECT SITE ³
Plants					
Cove's Cassia (<i>Senna covesii</i>)	SC	---	1B	Dry washes and slopes in Sonoran Desert Scrub, below 2000 ft.	Not possible - no habitat.
Crucifixion Thorn (<i>Castela emoryi</i>)	---	---	2	Mojave and Sonoran Desert scrubs; typically associated with drainages	Not present. No individuals observed. No suitable drainage habitats on site.
Dwarf Germander (<i>Teucrium cubense</i> ssp. <i>Depressum</i>)	---	---	2	Creosote flat/Desertscrub	Possible in undisturbed areas – occurs within 1 mile of the Project Site. No individuals observed.
Foxtail Cactus (<i>Escobaria vivipera</i> var. <i>alversonii</i>)	SC	---	1B	Sandy to gravelly slopes between 250 and 4000 ft. in elevation	Not possible - no habitat.
Glandular Ditaxis (<i>Ditaxis clariana</i>)	---	---	2	Sandy flats in Mojave and Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub, below ~800 ft	Not possible – no habitat.
Harwood's Milkvetch (<i>Astragalus insularis</i> var. <i>harwoodii</i>)	---	---	2	Dunes and windblown sands below 1200 ft.	Not possible - no habitat.
Wiggins's Cholla (<i>Opuntia wigginsii</i>)	C3b	---	3	Desert flats <1000 ft in elevation	Possible in undisturbed areas – not known to occur within 1 mile of the Project Site. N/A – Taxonomically invalid species.

1/ See text for method of determination of those species potentially in project area.

2/ Applicable Status codes are as follows:

- Federal SC Species of Special Concern (species whose conservation status may be of concern to the USFWS, but have no official status [formerly C2 species])
 - Federal C3b Taxonomically invalid
 - CNPS :
 - List 1A - Plants presumed extinct in California
 - List 1B - Plants rare and endangered in California and elsewhere
 - List 2 - Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere
 - List 3 - Plants about which CNPS needs more information
 - List 4 - Plants of limited distribution
- (Note: CNPS lists 1 and 2 require CEQA consideration.)

3/ Potential for occurrence is based on survey results and habitat assessments.

**Table 3
Special-Status Animal Species Potentially Occurring in the Vicinity**

SPECIES	FEDERAL ¹	STATE ²	HABITAT	LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE ON THE PROJECT SITE ³
Amphibians				
Couch's Spadefoot (<i>Scaphiopus couchii</i>)	---	SC	Various arid communities in extreme southeastern California and east, south; requires areas that support temporary ponds for at least 8 days for breeding.	Not possible - no habitat.
Fish				
Razorback sucker (<i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>)	E	FP	Found only in the upper Green River in Utah, the lower Yampa River in Colorado and occasionally in the Colorado River near Grand Junction	Not possible, outside of known range and no habitat. No impacts affecting downstream habitats.
Reptiles				
Chuckwalla (<i>Sauromalus obesus</i>)	SC	---	Rock outcrops	Not possible - no habitat.
Desert Rosy Boa (<i>Charina trivirgata gracia</i>)	SC	---	Rocky uplands and canyons; often near stream courses	Not possible - no habitat.
Desert Tortoise (<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>)	T	T	Most desert habitats below approximately 5000 feet in elevation	Highly unlikely- poor habitat and highly disturbed. Extremely small, fragmented habitats both on the Project Site and surrounding the site
Invertebrates				
Cheeseweed Owlfly (<i>Oliarces clara</i>)	SC	---	Creosote bush scrub in rocky areas	Not possible - no habitat due to lack of rocky areas.
Mojave Desert Blister Beetle (<i>Lytta insperata</i>)	SC	---	Mojave Desert Scrub; appear to rely on flowering plants	Not possible due to the lack of sufficient flowering plants on the Project Site
California McCoy Snail (<i>Eremarionata rowelli mccoiana</i>)	SC	---	Rocky sites in gullies of the McCoy and Big Maria mountains	Not possible - no habitat
Birds				
Arizona Bell's Vireo (<i>Vireo bellii arizonae</i>)	E	E	Moist woodlands and mesquite bosques	Not possible - no habitat.
Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	---	E	Nests on cliffs, pinnacles, and in tall trees and snags	Possible as transient only
Burrowing Owl (<i>Athene cucularia</i>)	SC	SC	Open, arid habitats	Possible - suitable habitat exists on the Project Site.
California Brown Pelican (<i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>)	---	FP	Open water, especially salt water	Not possible - no habitat.
California Horned Lark (<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>)	---	WL	Open desert habitats	Possible
Ferruginous Hawk	SC	WL	Arid, open country	Possible winter transient only

**Table 3
Special-Status Animal Species Potentially Occurring in the Vicinity**

SPECIES	FEDERAL ¹	STATE ²	HABITAT	LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE ON THE PROJECT SITE ³
<i>(Buteo regalis)</i>				
Gila Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>)	---	E	Desert woodland habitats	Not possible - no habitat.
Gilded Northern Flicker (<i>Colaptes chrysoides</i>)	---	E	Woodlands, including trees in small desert towns	Not possible - no habitat.
Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	---	FP, WL	Open country; nests in large trees in open areas or cliffs	Possible forager; no local nesting habitat
LeConte's Thrasher (<i>Toxostoma lecontei</i>)	---	SC	Mojave and Sonoran Desert Scrub	Possible, but habitat is marginal
Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)	SC	SC	Arid habitats with perches	Present – observed foraging during field reconnaissance but no nesting habitat on site.
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	--	WL	Open country; nests in trees, cliffs, and on ground	Possible as winter transient only
Mountain Plover (<i>Charadrius montanus</i>)	PT	SC	Dry upland habitats, plains, bare fields	Possible as winter transient only
Northern Cardinal (<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>)	---	WL	Woodland edges, stream thickets, suburban gardens; known from Parker Dam	Not possible - no habitat.
Prairie Falcon (<i>Falco mexicanus</i>)	---	WL	Dry, open country, including arid woodlands; nests in cliffs	Possible forager; no local nesting habitat
Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)	---	SC	Open habitats: marshes, fields; nests on ground and roosts on ground, low poles	Possible as winter resident only
Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>)	T	E	River thickets and woodlands; well-vegetated	Not possible - no habitat.
White-faced Ibis (<i>Plegadis chihi</i>)	SC	WL	Freshwater marshes and flooded fields	Not possible - no habitat.
Yellow-breasted Chat (<i>Icteria virens</i>)	---	SC	Dense streamside thickets, willows; brushy hillsides and canyons	Not possible - no habitat.
Mammals				
Cave Myotis (<i>Myotis velifer</i>)	SC	SC	Caves and mines in lower desert scrub habitats	Not possible – no roosting habitat and poor foraging habitat on the Project Site.
California Leaf-nosed Bat (<i>Macrotus californicus</i>)	SC	SC	Caves and mines	Not possible – no roosting habitat and poor foraging habitat on the Project Site.
Cave Myotis (<i>Myotis velifer brevis</i>)	SC	SC	Desert habitats along the Colorado River	Not possible - no roosting habitat and poor foraging habitat on the Project Site.
Greater Western Mastiff Bat (<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>)	SC	SC	Steep, rocky canyons in Sonoran and Mojave Desert Scrub	Not possible - no roosting habitat on the Project Site.
Occult Little Brown	SC	SC	Caves, mines, tunnels,	Not possible - no roosting habitat on the

Table 3 Special-Status Animal Species Potentially Occurring in the Vicinity				
SPECIES	FEDERAL ¹	STATE ²	HABITAT	LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE ON THE PROJECT SITE ³
Bat (<i>Myotis lucifugus occultus</i>)			bridges, especially in woodland; feeds in trees	Project Site.
Pale Townsend's Big-eared Bat (<i>Plecotus townsendii pallescens</i>)	SC	SC	Broad habitat associations. Roosts in caves and manmade structures; feeds in trees	Not possible - no roosting or foraging habitat on the Project Site.
Pallid Bat (<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>)	---	SC	Several desert habitats including coniferous and non-coniferous forests, brushy terrain, rocky canyons, open farmland, and deserts where suitable roosts exist	Not possible – no roosting habitat and poor foraging habitat on the Project Site.
Spotted Bat (<i>Euderma maculatum</i>)	SC	SC	Unclear, probably roosts in cliffs, forages in riparian sites	Not possible - no roosting or foraging habitat on the Project Site.
¹ T = Threatened, E = Endangered, SC = Species of Special Concern, PT = Federally Proposed Threatened ² T = Threatened, E = Endangered, SC = State Candidate, FP = Fully Protected, WL = Watch List ³ Potential for occurrence is based on survey results and habitat assessments.				

Federally-listed Species

Plants

There are no federally-listed threatened or endangered plants with the potential to occur within the project area. Cove's cassia and foxtail cactus are federal species of concern; however, they have no official status and there is no suitable habitat for either in the project area.

Wildlife

There is one federally-listed threatened species, desert tortoise, with the potential to occur within the project area. Additionally, mountain plover is federally proposed threatened and is possible as a winter transient.

Desert Tortoise (USFWS: Threatened; CDFW: Threatened)

While tortoises are known from sites north and northeast of the project site (CNDDDB records), none are expected to occur in the project area because of the disturbed nature of the site. On the project site, no tortoise sign was observed, and no tortoise sign was observed on the BEP or BEP II sites to the southeast of the project area. The Solar Millennium Blythe Energy Project, located to the northwest, documented a fair amount of tortoise sign, and live tortoises were found during surveys for that project (Fraser 2010), although habitats in that area are relatively undisturbed, represent higher quality habitat for the desert tortoise, and is located many miles away. The Project Site was formerly farmland and is now experiencing very sparse regrowth of white bursage, creosote bush, and scattered four-winged saltbush. Previous surveys by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are consistent with the estimate of very low tortoise density in the area (BLM 2006). More recently, survey data for projects in the surrounding area have also shown lower desert tortoise densities along the I-10 corridor. The combination of the low

elevation, low shrub diversity, low ephemeral species production, presence of weedy species, lack of topographical relief and soil quality (gravelly sand) strongly suggest poor habitat quality for tortoises.

The low quality disturbed creosotebush scrub habitat patches (**Figure 2**) have gravelly sand soils that are generally hard-packed. There are no hummocks, or raised areas, at the base of shrubs, where desert tortoise prefer to excavate burrows. Certain areas support friable soils, while others do not, and very few small mammal burrows were observed, indicating that soils are generally not friable. No suitable desert tortoise burrows or other sign were observed.

These habitat patches are also dominated by Sahara mustard, which is not a good food source for desert tortoise. Desert tortoise prefer to feed on winter annuals, perennial grasses, woody perennials, and cacti, as well as non-native species such as red brome (*Bromus rubens*) and red-stem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*). The Blythe II Solar site provides a very low density of these food sources.

In addition to the degraded habitat quality, the area immediately surrounding the site is heavily disturbed by agriculture, industry, waste dumping and the airport, further decreasing habitat availability. No designated critical habitat for the desert tortoise exists on the project site. Based on the factors described above, impacts to desert tortoise are not expected, and protocol-level surveys are not recommended. In order to ensure no impacts to desert tortoise, Mitigation Measure BIO-1 will be implemented.

Mountain Plover (USFWS: Proposed Threatened; CDFW: Species of Concern)

Mountain Plovers may occasionally forage on the Project Site during the winter. No nesting habitat for this species is present on the Project Site. Foraging habitat for this species is low quality on the Project Site due to the disturbed nature of the site and the extremely low density of vegetation (prey habitat). Foraging habitat quality is higher in undisturbed areas near the Project Site and also within active agricultural fields nearby; these areas are also much larger than the Project Site. The removal of low quality foraging habitat for this species is expected to result in a less than significant impact because this species likely currently forages in higher quality foraging habitats and would be able to forage in these areas during and after project construction.

State-listed Species

Plants

There are no state-listed threatened or endangered plants with the potential to occur within the project area.

Wildlife

There are two state-listed species, desert tortoise (threatened) and bald eagle (endangered), with the potential to occur within the project area. Additionally, golden eagle is fully protected in the State of California and may forage on the project site. Desert tortoise is discussed above in the Federally-listed Species Section.

Bald Eagle (USFWS: Delisted; CDFW: Endangered) and Golden Eagle (USFWS: None; CDFG: Fully Protected)

Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles may occasionally forage on the Project Site during certain times of the year. No nesting habitat for these species is present on the Project Site. Foraging habitat for these species is low quality on the Project Site due to the disturbed nature of the site and the extremely low density of vegetation (prey habitat). Foraging habitat quality is higher in undisturbed areas near the Project Site and also within active agricultural fields nearby; these areas are also much larger than the Project Site. The removal of low quality foraging habitat for these species is expected to result in a less than significant impact because these species likely currently forage in higher quality foraging habitats and would be able to forage in these areas during and after project construction.

CNPS Species

There are two CNPS List 2 plant species with the potential to occur within the project area, including dwarf germander and glandular ditaxis.

Dwarf Germander (USFWS: None; CDFW: None; CNPS: List 2)

Marginal habitat for dwarf germander occurs in the eastern patch on the Blythe II Solar site (Figure 2). The eastern patch and the western patch are not expected to support this species because of their small size, duration of isolation and current level of disturbance. The CNDDDB occurrence appears to be a remnant because of its location in existing agricultural fields. Removal of these habitat patches would not likely affect long-term population viability, because they are small. It is not likely that these small areas support a significant population, and long-term persistence is not unlikely given their small size. The habitat in the eastern patch will be avoided until pre-construction surveys can be completed so that presence/absence can be confirmed prior to construction. The survey period for this species is March to May.

Wiggin's Cholla (USFWS: Taxonomically invalid; CDFW: None; CNPS: List 3)

The only potentially suitable habitat for this species occurs in the eastern habitat patch on the Blythe II Solar site (Figure 2). The other habitat patch is too disturbed and too isolated for this species to occur. Wiggin's cholla is not a valid species recognized in the Jepson Desert Manual (Baldwin et al. 2002); therefore, it should not be considered a rare species.

The remaining potential special status plant species may be found near the Project Site, but there is no suitable habitat for these species onsite. To ensure the proposed project would not impact the dwarf germander, glandular ditaxis, or any other special-status plant, Mitigation Measure BIO-4 will be implemented. The potential impacts to these species will be reduced to a less than significant level with the incorporation of the Mitigation Measure BIO-4.

California Wildlife Species of Special Concern

There are nine species of special concern with the potential to occur within the project area, including Burrowing Owl, California Horned Lark, Ferruginous Hawk, LeConte's Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, Merlin, Mountain Plover, Prairie Falcon, and Short-eared Owl.

Burrowing Owl (USFWS: Species of Special Concern; CDFW: Species of Special Concern)
Habitat for this species exists more than 500 feet north of the Blythe II Solar site along the berms near some of the pivot circles, although no individuals or sign were observed during either the site reconnaissance survey or the habitat assessment surveys. Burrowing owls do not currently occupy the site and no suitable burrows were observed. No burrowing owl individuals or sign were observed. However, burrowing owls could move onto the site and disturbance to nesting activities could occur. Based on this the following mitigation is recommended:

Due to the potential for burrowing owl to occur onsite, Mitigation Measure BIO-2 will be implemented. The potential impacts to this species will be reduced to a less than significant level with the incorporation of Mitigation Measure BIO-2.

Other Raptors - Ferruginous Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, Merlin, Prairie Falcon, and Short-eared Owl may occasionally forage on the Project Site during certain times of the year. No nesting habitat for these species is present on the Project Site. Foraging habitat for these species is low quality on the Project Site due to the disturbed nature of the site and the extremely low density of vegetation (prey habitat). Foraging habitat quality is higher in undisturbed areas near the Project Site and also within active agricultural fields nearby; these areas are also much larger than the Project Site. The removal of low quality foraging habitat for these species is expected to result in a less than significant impact because these species likely currently forage in higher quality foraging habitats and would be able to forage in these areas during and after project construction.

Small patches of potentially suitable habitat for the California Horned Lark and LeConte's Thrasher exist on the Project Site. Due to the potential for these species to occur onsite, Mitigation Measure BIO-3 will be implemented. The potential impacts to this species will be reduced to a less than significant level with the incorporation of the Mitigation Measures BIO-3.

The remaining potential special status wildlife species may be found near the Project Site, but there is no habitat onsite and impacts to these species would be less than significant.

There is no riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community on the Site that has been identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations. Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub is not identified as a sensitive natural community by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or in any local plans. In addition, there are no waters of the U.S. or federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 on the Site.

The Project will not interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory wildlife species or with established corridors. The ability of wildlife to move from one tract of habitat to another increases the value of the habitat. Habitats with wildlife movement opportunities allow for population dispersal and seasonal migration, and increase the area for home range activities. Wildlife movement opportunities are often called wildlife corridors. The Project Site lies on the Blythe Airport and near Interstate 10 and the BES Generation Station. The Site itself is almost entirely disturbed. Based on these factors, the Site is not a wildlife corridor, and development of the Project would not impact wildlife movement or dispersal.

There are no native wildlife nursery sites in the area and the Project will not conflict with any

local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, as none exist that would govern biological resources onsite.

Mitigation Measures

The potential impacts to the species listed above will be reduced to a less than significant level with the incorporation of the following Mitigation Measures.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1 – Desert Tortoise - Appropriate mitigation for desert tortoise will include:

1. The site shall be fenced with temporary exclusionary fencing prior to construction.
2. Pre-construction clearance surveys shall be conducted.
3. If tortoises are found, the project shall be halted and the applicant shall consult with CDFW and USFWS.
4. Once the site is determined to be clear of desert tortoise, a permanent exclusionary fence shall be constructed for the entire site, within the boundary of the existing temporary fence.
5. Once the permanent fence is completed, the temporary fence shall be removed.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2 – Burrowing Owl – Because owls could move onto the Site prior to construction, a pre-construction survey for burrowing owl shall be conducted on the Project Site by a qualified biologist within 45 (forty-five) days prior to commencing construction. The survey methodology shall follow the California Department of Fish and Game's "Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation" dated October 17, 1995 and the Burrowing Owl Consortium's "Survey Protocol & Mitigation Guidelines". The methodology and results of the survey shall be documented in a report. If burrowing owls are found onsite, grading and/or construction activities shall not commence until the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed and approved a burrowing owl mitigation plan. Said burrowing owl mitigation plan shall include provisions for exclusionary trapping and burrow protection. Should burrowing owls be present and nesting on the proposed Project Site, this impact is mitigable by avoidance of nests by a 250-foot buffer (CDFG 1995).

Mitigation Measure BIO-3 – Migratory Birds - The proposed project has the potential to impact nesting birds through grading and other construction related activities. Ground and vegetation disturbing activities shall take place outside of the recognized nesting season, if practical. The nesting season typically occurs between early February and August, but can vary slightly from year to year. If ground disturbing and vegetation disturbing activities must occur within the recognized nesting season, then nesting bird surveys shall be performed starting within one week of commencing construction throughout the nesting season to identify any nests that may be impacted by construction activities. If any active nests are located within the proposed disturbance area or within 100 feet of ground disturbing activities, a 100 foot buffer area will be flagged around the nest (500 feet from any active raptor nest) and no activity will be allowed in the buffer area until nesting is completed as verified by the project biologist. Periodic monitoring by a biologist shall be performed to determine when nesting is complete.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4 – Rare Plants - Due to the presence of potential habitat for dwarf germander, glandular ditaxis, and Wiggin's cholla, a rare plant survey must be conducted during the appropriate season for these three species. If any of the aforementioned species are encountered, avoidance, transplant, or replacement measures must occur. If any of these plants are eliminated or transplanted, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall be notified. If any of these plants are to be transplanted, they shall be planted in a suitable location under the supervision of a qualified biologist. Temporary irrigation shall be provided to transplanted plants until such time that they are able to survive on their own.

Conclusion

The smaller proposed 156.5-acre site is totally contained within the original solar project footprint that was previously analyzed. Likewise, the gen-tie route is also within the corridor previously evaluated. Both the solar site and gen-tie route contain very little habitat and what little exists is of low quality and of limited to no value to sensitive species. The updated habitat assessment conducted on September 15, 2015, identified no changes in habitat condition from the previous analysis.

Therefore, there would be no additional potential impacts associated with the current 156.5-acre Blythe II Solar Project. Impacts would be less than described for the previously approved larger site.

The potential impacts to the special status species described in this report will be reduced to a less than significant level with the incorporation of the identified Mitigation Measures

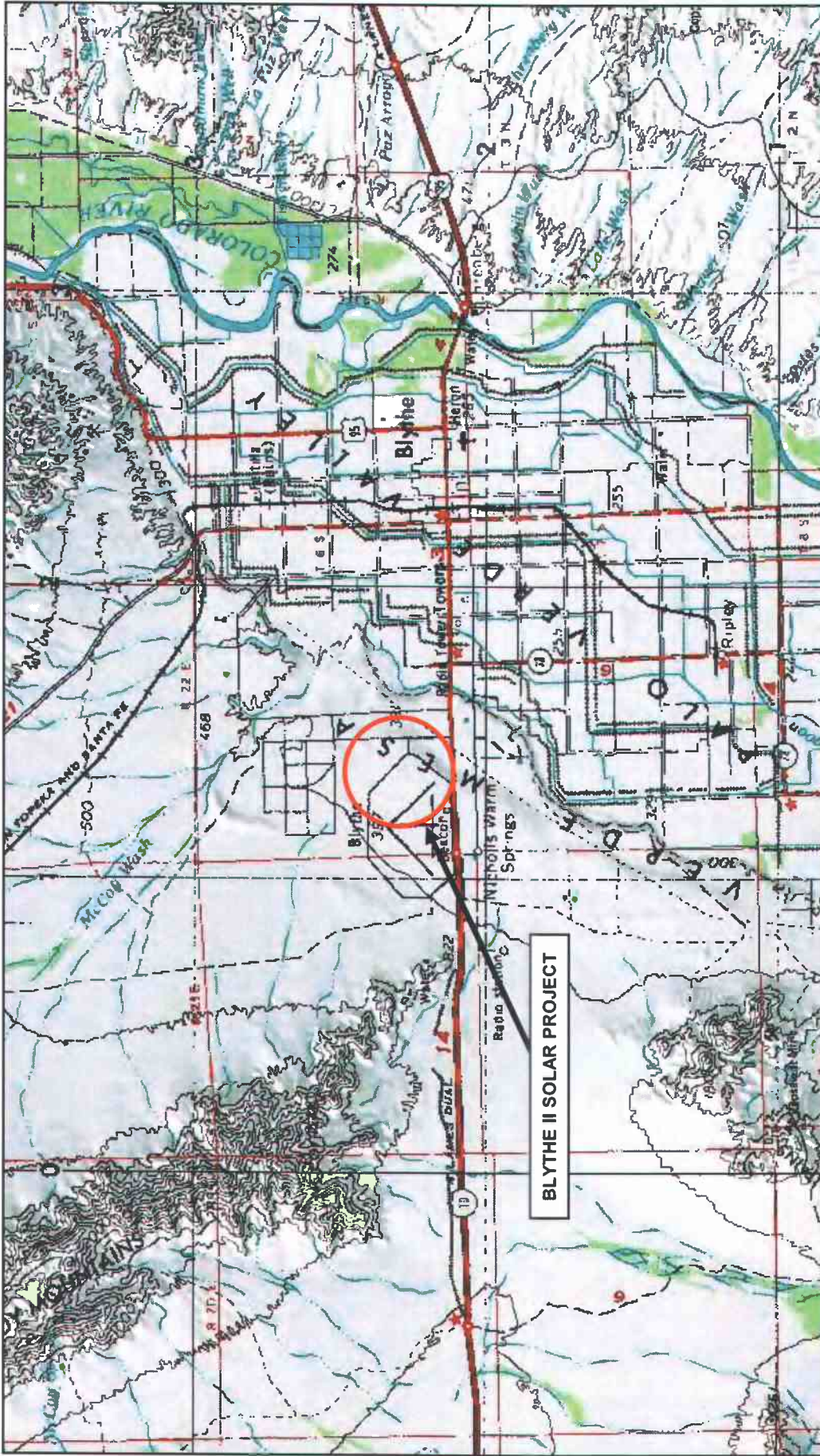


Figure 1
BLYTHE II SOLAR PROJECT
Regional Location



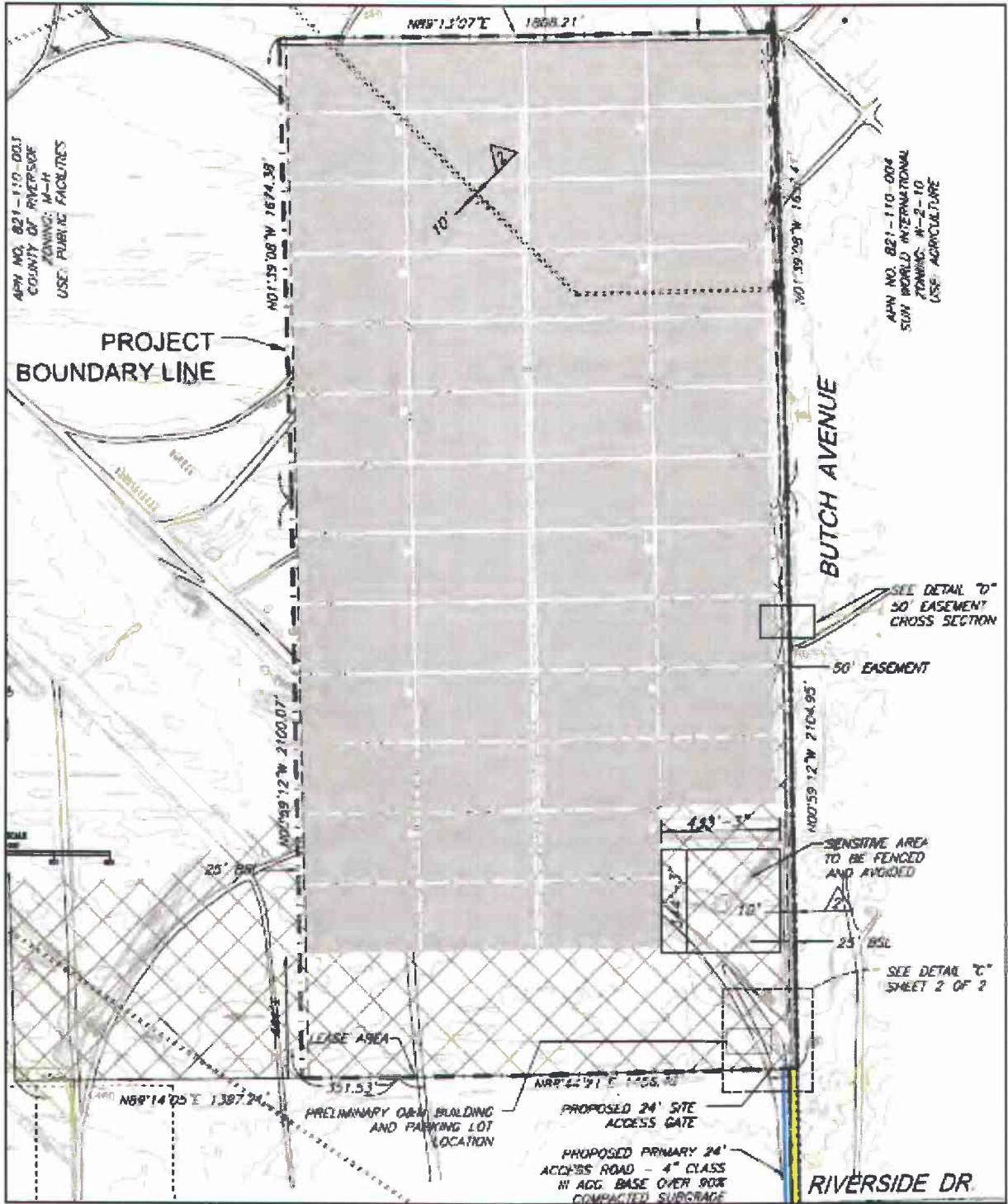
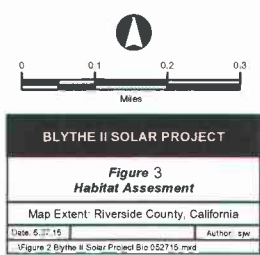
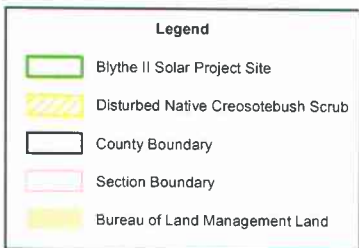


Figure 2
BLYTHE II SOLAR PROJECT
 Proposed Project Layout



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Appendix A - Site Photographs



Photo 1
Abandoned agriculture pivot depicting compact soils and sparse vegetation



Photo 2
Perimeter patch - disturbed creosotebush scrub



Photo 3
Disturbed creosotebush scrub with old pieces of runway and other refuse

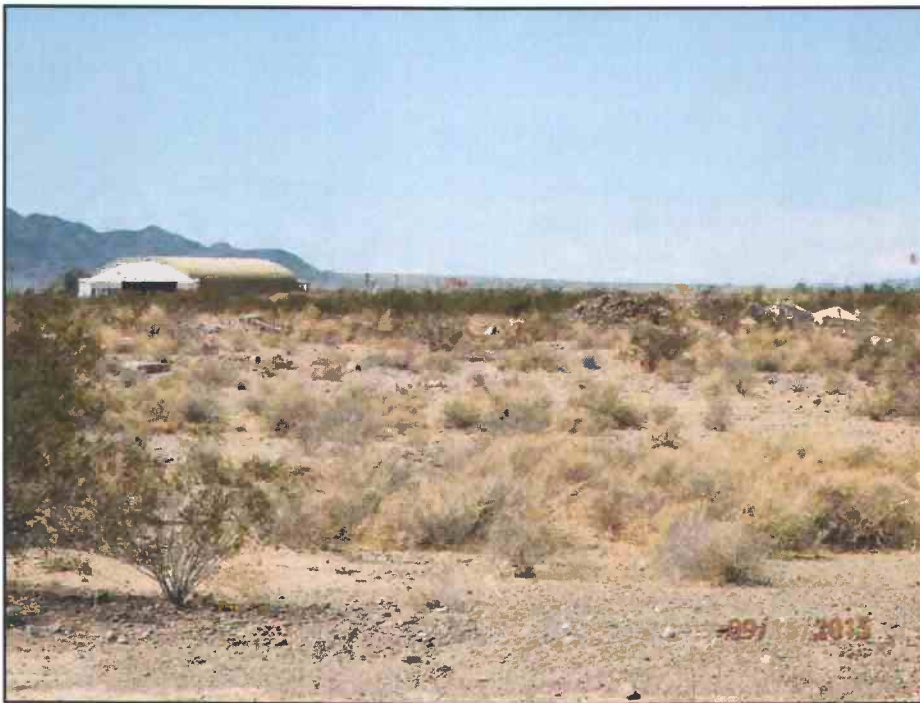


Photo 4
Interior patch with runway rubble



Photo 5
Access road and gen-tie line corridor along Butch Boulevard looking north toward solar facility
(0.1 mile segment)



Photo 6
Access Road and gen-tie line corridor along Riverside Drive looking east toward existing power plant
(0.7 mile segment)

ATTACHMENT F
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. 42340

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM: INITIAL STUDY

Environmental Assessment (E.A.) Number: 42340

Project Case Type and Number(s): Plot Plan No. 24616 – Fast Track Authorization No. 2010-06

Lead Agency Name: County of Riverside Planning Department

Address: 4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor, Riverside CA 92502

Contact Person: Raymond Juarez

Telephone Number: (951) 955-9541

Applicant's Name: US Solar Holdings, LLC

Applicant's Address: 1015 W. Hays, Boise, ID 83702

I. PROJECT INFORMATION

A. Project Location:

The site is located northeast of the community of Mesa Verde in the Palo Verde Valley Area Plan in Eastern Riverside County. Specifically, the project is proposed on previously disturbed land located on the northeast corner of the Blythe Airport, north of Interstate 10, south of 9th Avenue, and northwest of Riverside Drive and Butch Avenue.

B. Project Description:

The applicant proposes to construct a 100 megawatt Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Power Plant on 640 acres of an 829 acre lease area in five (5) twenty (20) megawatt phases inclusive of: a single axis tracking system organized in 874 x 168-foot and 874 x 370-foot power blocks with a maximum height of ten feet; a perimeter 24-foot interior access road and 25-foot interior drive aisles for emergency access and maintenance purposes; a combination of inverters and transformers on concrete pads covered by three sided open shade covers within each power block; an 8-foot high chain link fence with three strand barbed-wire around the project perimeter boundary; a temporary construction area which includes a 12' X 60' portable construction trailer, five parking spaces and portable toilets on the southeast corner of the site; and, a temporary staging area in the center of proposed Phase II on an existing concrete pad.

Water will be provided via a 6-inch diameter pipeline that will be extended from the Blythe Airport Water Production and Storage Facility to allow for a permanent source of water. The line will be undergrounded and extend east to Butch Avenue then north to the project site for a total of approximately 4,800 feet to the project site. The water will be used for fire suppression, construction and operation dust control, and solar panel maintenance.

Power will be delivered via a 33 kV gen-tie line (minor transmission line extending from the point of power generation to the point of connection into the transmission & distribution line) from the site approximately 3,200 feet due south paralleling the western side of Butch Avenue and tie into the existing 33kV Southern California Edison line that runs parallel to Hobson Way. The line will be undergrounded approximately 1,500 feet as required by the Airport Land Use Commission, and then come above ground mounted on 19-foot high poles to the point of tie in for Phase I. Phases II thru V will require complete undergrounding of two additional 33 kV gen-tie lines along Butch Avenue adjacent to the Phase I line. The point of tie in has not been determined for Phases II thru V at this time. In the event that the Phase II thru V gen-tie lines extend beyond the scope of review conducted up to Hobson Way, then additional environmental review will be required.

Primary road access is proposed from the east via Buck Boulevard north, then west along Riverside Drive, and then north along Butch Avenue. Secondary access is proposed northerly

along Butch Avenue from Hobson Way, and two 24-foot wide emergency access gates are proposed where 9th and 10th Avenue meet the project boundaries eastern fence line.

As part of the implementation and operation of the project, the applicant, US Solar Holdings, LLC, proposes to lease 829 acres on the Blythe Airport from the County of Riverside for an initial thirty (30) year lease term. This initial lease term may be extended for up to an additional twenty (20) years. In no event will the entire lease term exceed fifty (50) years. Also, there is an Option Agreement, proposed to be entered into between the County of Riverside and the applicant, whereby the applicant may exercise the right to lease portions of the real property up to the 829 acres in phased portions that coincide with the development phases of the project. The right to exercise the option to lease would only be for a term up to five years. The Lease Agreement and Option Agreement are discretionary actions to be taken by the Board of Supervisors.

C. Type of Project: Site Specific ; Countywide ; Community ; Policy .

D. Total Project Area: 829 acre site

Residential Acres:	Lots:	Units:	Projected No. of Residents:
Commercial Acres:	Lots:	Sq. Ft. of Bldg. Area:	Est. No. of Employees:
Industrial Acres: 829	Lots: 4	Sq. Ft. of Bldg. Area:	Est. No. of Employees:

E. Assessor's Parcel No(s): 821-080-040, 821-080-041, 821-110-002, 821-110-003

F. Street References: West of Butch Avenue, North of Riverside Avenue

G. Section, Township & Range Description or reference/attach a Legal Description:
Portions of Sections 19, 20, 29, and 30 - Township 6 South, Range 22 East

H. Brief description of the existing environmental setting of the project site and its surroundings:

The 640 acre site for the Blythe Airport Solar 1 Project is within an 829-acre lease area on the Blythe Airport property. The majority of the site has been previously disturbed both by past airport operations and by agriculture. This section of the airport has been designated for non-aeronautical uses in the Airport Master Plan; see airport superpad map in the Appendix, the parcel of interest is parcel B in green titled "Non Aeronautical". The existing slope at the site is relatively flat with an overall slight gradient from the northwest to the southeast.

The majority of the site is abandoned agriculture (pivot circles) and old runways associated with the Blythe Airport; see Appendix for satellite images and pictures of the site. These areas appear to have been fallow for a significant period of time and sparse creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), galleta grass (*Pleuraphis rigida*), and brittle bush (*Encelia farinosa*) have begun to reestablish. Approximately 789 acres of the 829-acre Project Site contain this vegetation type.

Several small areas between pivot circles support native vegetation. The native vegetation community is low diversity Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub (after Holland 1986). Aspect-dominant shrub species are creosote bush and white bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*); galleta grass is present in areas with the loosest sand.

Like the Site itself, the surrounding lands to the south and west of the Site are part of the Blythe Airport property. Some of these lands are previously farmed, fallow lands like the Site itself. The active portions of the airport property are used for general aviation and associated purposes. Active agriculture occurs about 0.5 miles north and east of the Site. Southeast of

the Site about 0.25 miles are the existing Blythe Energy Project and proposed Blythe Energy Project II, large combined-cycle, gas-fired power plants.

II. APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN AND ZONING REGULATIONS

A. General Plan Elements/Policies:

1. **Land Use:** The Public Facilities (PF) General Plan land use designation allows for public/quasi-public uses such as landfills, airports, utilities, and other civic uses. The proposed facility is consistent with the General Plan Land Use Policies listed in the Palo Verde Valley Area Plan.
2. **Circulation:** The proposed photovoltaic facility is consistent with the General Plan Circulation Element Policies listed in the Palo Verde Valley Area Plan relating to Vehicular Circulation, Trails and Bikeways, and Scenic Highways.
3. **Multipurpose Open Space:** The proposed photovoltaic facility is consistent with the General Plan Multipurpose Open Space Policies listed in the Palo Verde Valley Area Plan relating to watersheds, flood plains, watercourses and habitat conservation. The proposed is not within the conservation area of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan or the Coachella Valley Multi Species Habitat Conservation Plan.
4. **Safety:** The proposed photovoltaic facility is consistent with the General Plan Safety Element Policies.
5. **Noise:** The proposed photovoltaic facility is consistent with the General Plan Noise Element Policies.
6. **Housing:** The proposed photovoltaic facility is consistent with the General Plan Housing Element Policies.
7. **Air Quality:** The proposed photovoltaic facility will not have any impacts on air quality.

B. General Plan Area Plan(s): Palo Verde Valley Area Plan

C. Foundation Component(s): Community Development

D. Land Use Designation(s): Public Facilities (PF) - Public/ quasi-public uses such as landfills, airports, utilities, and other civic uses.

E. Overlay(s), if any: N/A

F. Policy Area(s), if any: N/A

G. Adjacent and Surrounding Area Plan(s), Foundation Component(s), Land Use Designation(s), and Overlay(s) and Policy Area(s), if any: Community Development: Public Facilities to the south and west, and Agriculture: Agriculture to the north and east.

H. Adopted Specific Plan Information

1. **Name and Number of Specific Plan, if any:** N/A

2. Specific Plan Planning Area, and Policies, if any: N/A

I. Existing Zoning: Manufacturing – Heavy (M-H)

J. Proposed Zoning, if any: N/A

K. Adjacent and Surrounding Zoning: Manufacturing-Heavy Zone (M-H) to the south and west, Controlled Development Areas – 10-Acre Minimum (W-2-10) to the north and east, and Natural Assets (N-A) to the north.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below (x) would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

IV. DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

A PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/NEGATIVE DECLARATION WAS NOT PREPARED

I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project, described in this document, have been made or agreed to by the project proponent. **A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.

A PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/NEGATIVE DECLARATION WAS PREPARED

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, **NO NEW ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED** because (a) all potentially significant effects of the proposed project have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration pursuant to applicable legal standards, (b) all potentially significant effects of the proposed project have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, (c) the proposed project will not result in any new significant environmental effects not identified in the earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, (d) the proposed project will not substantially increase the severity of the environmental effects identified in the earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, (e) no considerably different mitigation measures have been identified and (f) no mitigation measures found infeasible have become feasible.

I find that although all potentially significant effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration pursuant to applicable legal standards, some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in California Code of Regulations, Section 15162

exist. An **ADDENDUM** to a previously-certified EIR or Negative Declaration has been prepared and will be considered by the approving body or bodies.

I find that at least one of the conditions described in California Code of Regulations, Section 15162 exist, but I further find that only minor additions or changes are necessary to make the previous EIR adequately apply to the project in the changed situation; therefore a **SUPPLEMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required that need only contain the information necessary to make the previous EIR adequate for the project as revised.

I find that at least one of the following conditions described in California Code of Regulations, Section 15162, exist and a **SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required: (1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; (2) Substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or (3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the negative declaration was adopted, shows any the following: (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration; (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR or negative declaration; (C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measures or alternatives; or, (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR or negative declaration would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measures or alternatives.



Signature

November 10, 2010

Date

Raymond M. Juárez III

Printed Name

For Carolyn Syms Luna, Director

V. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000-21178.1), this Initial Study has been prepared to analyze the proposed project to determine any potential significant impacts upon the environment that would result from construction and implementation of the project. In accordance with California Code of Regulations, Section 15063, this Initial Study is a preliminary analysis prepared by the Lead Agency, the County of Riverside, in consultation with other jurisdictional agencies, to determine whether a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or an Environmental Impact Report is required for the proposed project. The purpose of this Initial Study is to inform the decision-makers, affected agencies, and the public of potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the proposed project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
AESTHETICS Would the project				
1. Scenic Resources				
a) Have a substantial effect upon a scenic highway corridor within which it is located?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings and unique or landmark features; obstruct any prominent scenic vista or view open to the public; or result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure C-9 "Riverside County Scenic Highways", Palo Verde Area Plan (Scenic Highways), Department of Transportation California Scenic Highways Program.

Findings of Fact:

a) The proposed Project site is located approximately 0.75 miles north of Interstate 10 (I-10). The Riverside County General Plan and Palo Verde Area Plan indicate that I-10 has been nominated for County Scenic Highway status and currently has status as an Eligible County Scenic Highway. However, the California Department of Transportation California Scenic Highways Program does not designate this segment of I-10 as eligible or as an official Scenic Highway.

There are several buildings and other development between I-10 and the project site. The low profile of the PV project, the distance from the highway, and the intervening development would result in minimal visibility from the I-10 corridor. Therefore the Project will have a less than significant impact on a scenic highway corridor.

b) Development of the proposed action would result in the removal of very sparse non-native and native vegetation from the site and the installation of acres of photovoltaic panels. The Project site is relatively flat and the PV panels have a low profile with the highest point on the panels being less than 8 feet. The chain-link fence around the site will be made of galvanized, non-reflective materials with 3-strand barbed wire on top and will be only 8-feet tall.

The Site and the area immediately surrounding it are almost completely flat. Both the solar panels and fence would create a horizontal line on the landscape that would mimic the lines of the horizon and at distance would not be readily perceptible because it would be low to the ground surface. The only direction from the Site where a large number of potential viewers would be located is south where Hobson Way and I-10 are located. Most areas south and east of the Site along these two roads are considerably lower than the Site making the Project not visible

from these locations. Locations along these roads southwest of the Site would have intervening facilities at the airport and along Hobson Way blocking potential views of the Site. As a result, the solar field would not be readily visible by large amounts of viewers from any direction from the site.

In addition, power will be delivered via a 33 kV gen-tie line from the site approximately 3, 200 feet due south paralleling the western side of Butch Avenue and tie into the existing 33kV Southern California Edison line that runs parallel to Hobson Way. The line will be undergrounded approximately 1,500 feet as required by the Airport Land Use Commission, and then come above ground mounted on 19-foot poles to the point of tie in for Phase I. Phases II thru V will require complete undergrounding of two additional 33 kV gen-tie lines along Butch Avenue adjacent to the Phase I line. The point of tie in has not been determined for Phases II thru V at this time. In the event that the Phase II thru V gen-tie lines extend beyond the scope of review conducted up to Hobson Way, then additional environmental review will be required.

Figure A-9 in Appendix A shows the location and extent of the many existing transmission lines, power plants and substations that occur in the area. Many of these are high voltage lines (161 or 230 kV) that have structures between 85 – 100 feet tall. Given the scale of the proposed poles and transmission line, and the existence of other transmission lines that are equal scale or larger scale than the proposed line, the proposed installation of a transmission line supported on 8 or 9 power poles would not cause any significant adverse aesthetic impacts. The proposed poles and transmission line would be consistent with the existing distribution lines/poles that it would connect to and would be smaller in scale than other existing higher voltage lines that occur in the area.

Mitigation: No mitigation measures are necessary.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

2. Mt. Palomar Observatory

a) Interfere with the nighttime use of the Mt. Palomar Observatory, as protected through Riverside County Ordinance No. 655?

Source: GIS database, Ord. No. 655 (Regulating Light Pollution)

Findings of Fact:

a) The proposed photovoltaic facility is over 100 miles from the Mt. Palomar Observatory. Therefore the project would not impact or interfere with the nighttime use of the Mt. Palomar Observatory, as protected through Riverside County Ordinance No. 655.

Mitigation: No mitigation measures are necessary.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

3. Other Lighting Issues

a) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Expose residential property to unacceptable light levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: On-site Inspection, Project Application Description

Findings of Fact:

- a) The Project could potentially use nighttime lighting during construction but would be limited and temporary. During operation, nighttime lighting would be restricted to security lighting purposes around the site entrance and would not result in substantial light released from the site. During daytime, the PV panels would not result in substantial glare. PV panels are designed to absorb as much light as possible as they convert sunlight directly to energy – the more efficiently they absorb light, the more efficiently they generate electrical energy. Therefore, they are made with low-glare materials. This attribute makes PV solar compatible with airport installations such as proposed because they would not create visual problems for aircraft and pilots. PV solar projects have been and are being developed at several US and international airports. Therefore, with the implementation of Condition of Approval 10.PLANNING.14, light and glare impacts will be less than significant.
- b) There are a few scattered residences in the project area and a residential development just over a mile southwest of the project site. Nighttime lighting would be restricted to temporary lighting during construction and shielded security lighting only at the site entrance during operation. Therefore the proposed photovoltaic facility will not have a significant impact on residential structures or expose them to unacceptable light levels.

Mitigation: All proposed exterior lighting shall be (1) directed downward; (2) directed in a manner that prevents light pools from extending beyond the site boundary; and (3) shielded to prevent light from escaping vertically into the night sky. Reference Condition of Approval 10.PLANNING.14

Monitoring: Monitoring shall be provided by the Riverside County Planning Department and Department of Building and Safety.

AGRICULTURE & FOREST RESOURCES Would the project

4. Agriculture

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing agricultural zoning, agricultural use or with land subject to a Williamson Act contract or land within a Riverside County Agricultural Preserve?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Cause development of non-agricultural uses within 300 feet of agriculturally zoned property (Ordinance No. 625 "Right-to-Farm")?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure OS-2 "Agricultural Resources," GIS database, and Project Application Materials.

Findings of Fact:

- a) The proposed photovoltaic facility will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use, and therefore will have no impact.
- b) The proposed photovoltaic facility will not conflict with existing agricultural use, or a Williamson Act (agricultural preserve) contract (Riv. Co. Agricultural Land Conservation Contract Maps), and therefore will have no impact.
- c) The proposed photovoltaic facility would not cause development of non-agricultural uses within 300 feet of agriculturally zoned property (Ordinance No. 625 "Right-to-Farm"), and therefore will have no impact.
- d) The proposed photovoltaic facility will not involve changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use, and therefore will have no impact.

Mitigation: No mitigation measures are necessary.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

5. Forest

a) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Govt. Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure OS-3 "Parks, Forests and Recreation Areas," and Project Application Materials.

Findings of Fact:

a-c) There are no forest lands in the project area.

Mitigation: No mitigation measures are necessary.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

AIR QUALITY Would the project

6. Air Quality Impacts				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors which are located within 1 mile of the project site to project substantial point source emissions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve the construction of a sensitive receptor located within one mile of an existing substantial point source emitter?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook Table 6-2

Findings of Fact: Air quality is regulated by federal, state, and local laws. In addition to rules and standards contained in the federal Clean Air Act and the California Clean Air Act, air quality in the project area is subject to the rules and regulations established by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) with oversight provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region IX.

The Federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requires all air quality planning regions in the country to be designated according to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for criteria air pollutants, (i.e., pollutants causing human health impacts due to their release from numerous sources), and to achieve those standards by specific mandated dates. If air pollutant concentrations in these regions do not exceed the NAAQS, they are designated attainment areas. If such concentrations do exceed the NAAQS they are designated nonattainment areas. The following criteria pollutants have been identified as having NAAQS: ozone (O₃), coarse particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 10 micrometers (PM₁₀), fine particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers (PM_{2.5}), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and lead (Pb). NAAQS for these pollutants are shown in Table 3-1. The CAA also mandates that each state submit and implement a State Implementation Plan (SIP) to demonstrate how the NAAQS will be attained and maintained.

As noted above, the CAA requires all air quality planning regions to be formally designated as attainment or nonattainment. Under the CAA, nonattainment designations for O₃ are further categorized into five levels of severity: (1) marginal, (2) moderate, (3) serious, (4) severe, and (5) extreme, and nonattainment designations for PM₁₀ are categorized into two levels of severity: (1) moderate and (2) serious. According to National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS), the MDAB is designated as a nonattainment area for ozone (O₃) and particulate matter smaller than 10 micrometers (PM₁₀).

a-b) The MDAQMD has adopted a Federal 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan (June 9, 2008), State and Federal 2004 Ozone Attainment Plan, and Federal Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) Attainment Plan (July 31, 1995) applicable to the project area. Based on the District's Ozone Attainment Plan (2004), prevailing winds from the Los Angeles Basin and the San Joaquin Valley transport ozone and ozone precursors from both regions into and through the MDAB during

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

the summer ozone season. These transport couplings have been officially recognized by CARB (CARB, 2001). Local MDAQMD emissions contribute to exceedances of both the NAAQS and CAAQS for ozone, but the MDAB would be in attainment of both standards without the influence of this transported air pollution from upwind regions. The proposed project would not conflict with the MDAB's attainment plans and would not otherwise restrict or hinder the implementation of such plans. Conversely, by providing a zero-emissions energy source and reducing the region's dependency on fossil fuel combustion for energy, the proposed project could aid the MDAB in achieving attainment of the NAAQS and CAAQS.

**Table 3-1
National Ambient Air Quality Standards**

Pollutant	Averaging Time	NAAQS ¹	
		Primary	Secondary
Ozone (O ₃)	8-Hour	0.075 ppm ² (147 µg/m ³) ³	Same as Primary
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	8-Hour	9 ppm (10 mg/m ³) ⁴	N/A ⁵
	1-Hour	35 ppm (40 mg/m ³)	N/A
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	Annual	0.053 ppm (100 µg/m ³)	Same as Primary
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	Annual	0.03 ppm (80 µg/m ³)	N/A
	24-Hour	0.14 ppm (365 µg/m ³)	N/A
	3-Hour	N/A	0.5 ppm (1300 µg/m ³)
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM10)	24-Hour	150 µg/m ³	Same as Primary
Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5)	Annual	15.0 µg/m ³	Same as Primary
	24-Hour	35 µg/m ³	Same as Primary
Lead (Pb)	Quarterly	1.5 µg/m ³	Same as Primary

¹ NAAQS = National Ambient Air Quality Standards
² ppm = parts per million (by volume)
³ µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter
⁴ mg/m³ = milligrams per cubic meter
⁵ N/A = Not applicable

Source: CDM, 2008.

During operation, the Project is expected to be subject to compliance with Riverside County Ordinance No. 484 and MDAQMD Rules 401 (Visible Emissions), 402 (Nuisance), 403 (Fugitive Dust), 406 (Specific Contaminants), 409 (Combustion Contaminants), 431 (Sulfur Content of Fuels), and 474 (Fuel Burning Equipment). Additionally, a MDAQMD Permit to Operate would only be applicable to the Project in the event that an emergency generator with a capacity greater than 50 brake-horsepower is used.

No air emissions other than those from the tailpipe emissions associated with employees and potentially from water trucks accessing the site would be expected during operations of the project after the site is stabilized. Only two to five vehicle trips per day would be expected for worker access. Water trucks would be expected to access the site for panel

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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washing up to twice a year with up to 20 truck trips per washing event spread over multiple days. Emissions during operation and construction will remain well below the MDAQMD CEQA thresholds and Federal Conformity Guidelines.

There are no residences or other sensitive receptors near the Project site and the Project would emit relatively small amounts of air emissions during construction and almost none during operation. Therefore, the Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

- c) The Riverside County portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) is designated as non-attainment for the state ozone and PM10 standards. Since the proposed Project does not conflict with any land use designations, it is in conformance with the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), and the Project's short-term and long-term emissions do not exceed the MDAQMD established thresholds of significance; the Project's net increase in criteria pollutant emissions for which the Project region is non-attainment is not cumulatively considerable.
- d) The proposed unmanned photovoltaic facility will not expose sensitive receptors which are located within 1 mile of the project site to project substantial point source emissions. The impacts to air quality will be minimal during day to day operations. Impacts during grading and construction activities have been mitigation with standard conditions of approval the county issues for all projects. Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.
- e) The proposed unmanned photovoltaic facility will not involve the construction of a sensitive receptor located within one mile of an existing substantial point source emitter as there will be no on site employees. There will be no impact.
- f) The proposed unmanned photovoltaic facility will not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people; therefore, no impact is anticipated.

Mitigation:

Reference Conditional of Approval 10.PLANNING.57

At a minimum, the following dust control measures shall be implemented during construction:

- All active areas (including haul roads) shall be watered as needed to minimize fugitive dust production in conformance with applicable regulations.
- Vehicles onsite shall not travel at speeds greater than 15 miles per hour.

Monitoring: Monitoring is provided by the Department of Building and Safety-Grading Division.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the project

7. Wildlife & Vegetation

a) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state conservation plan?

b) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any endangered, or threatened species, as listed in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (Sections 670.2 or 670.5) or in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (Sections 17.11 or 17.12)?

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c) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U. S. Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source: Biological survey of the Site, California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB), Special-status species identified through agency contacts with USFWS and CDFG in earlier studies Blythe Energy Project (1999) and Blythe Energy Project II (2005)

Findings of Fact:

- a) The proposed project does not lie within any lands affected by an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Conservation Community Plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional or state conservation plan. As a result, the proposed project will not result in any conflicts with an adopted HCP/NCCP.
- b-c) Potential for the occurrence of sensitive species was identified by contacting the USFWS and CDFG and the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB). Existing records on special-status species occurring in the project survey area were also collected. Tables 7-1 and 7-2 below identify the federally and state listed species with the potential to occur in the general area and their likelihood to occur onsite.

Field surveys of the Project Site and surrounding areas were conducted to evaluate habitat and the occurrence of listed species on the Site. Prior to conducting fieldwork, aspects such as ecology and habitat requirements of various species were reviewed. Habitat conditions and wildlife observations on and around the Project Site were recorded and information including habitat requirements, known occurrences, and habitat types, was used to evaluate the potential effects of Project implementation on biological resources within the vicinity of the Project.

During the survey, species sign (e.g., individuals, dens, burrows, scat, tracks, pellets, skeletal remains) was recorded. The survey area was described relative to: topography; drainage type; soils; substrate; aspect-dominant, common and occasional plant species; plant cover; and

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anthropogenic disturbances. All plant communities were described in detail and mapped; densities were estimated visually (Figure A-8 in Appendix A).

In the absence of definitive species sign, species presence was assumed wherever suitable habitat existed and the relevant habitat was rated as to its quality.

Development of the proposed action would result in the removal of the existing sparse vegetation and habitats from the site. In addition, a short transmission line would be built to interconnect the project to the regional electrical system.

The 829-acre Site is nearly flat with a slope <1 % and the elevation ranges from 389 to 398 feet. The soil is soft sand with an approximately 60% fine-gravelly substrate and almost the entire site is abandoned agriculture (pivot circles) and old runways. These areas have been fallow for a significant period of time and sparse creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), galleta grass (*Pleuraphis rigida*), and brittle bush (*Encelia farinosa*) have begun to reestablish. Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) is the dominant herbaceous species. Shrub cover in the crop circles is estimated at less than 1 percent. Approximately 753 acres of the Project Site occur within this vegetation type. Average shrub cover on the entire site is estimated at less than 5 percent.

There are seven small areas between and adjacent to pivot circles which support disturbed but uncultivated vegetation. These areas account for approximately 76 acres of the site. Four of these patches occur on the perimeter of the site (perimeter patches) and three occur on the interior (interior patches). The vegetation community in these areas is low diversity Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub (after Holland 1986). Aspect-dominant shrub species are creosote bush, salt bush (*Atriplex polycarpa*), and white bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*); Sahara mustard is the dominant herbaceous species, although a small amount of galleta grass is present in areas with the loosest sand. Shrub cover was estimated visually at approximately less than 10 percent.

The four perimeter patches provide varying but low quality wildlife habitat due to existing and past disturbances. The interior patches are highly disturbed, surrounded by crop circles and abandoned runways / taxiways. They are isolated and provide little to no habitat value.

On a larger scale, the Project site is surrounded by other disturbed areas including the airport, a power plant, transmission lines, and agricultural fields. The south and west boundaries directly adjoin the airport and agricultural fields. Essentially, the site is isolated from high quality habitat on all sides. Due to limited undisturbed natural habitats in the surrounding area, wildlife abundance is low and habitats are highly fragmented.

As shown on Tables 7-1 and 7-2, there is potential for the 14 special-status species listed below to occur in the areas if suitable habitat were present.

- Dwarf germander
- Glandular ditaxis
- Desert tortoise
- Bald Eagle
- Burrowing Owl
- California Horned Lark
- Ferruginous Hawk
- Golden Eagle
- LeConte's Thrasher
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Merlin
- Mountain Plover
- Prairie Falcon
- Short-eared Owl

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**Table 7-1
Special-Status Plant Species Potentially Occurring in the Vicinity of
Blythe Airport Solar I Project**

SPECIES	FEDERAL ²	STATE ²	CNPS ²	HABITAT	LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE ON THE PROJECT SITE ³
Plants					
Cove's Cassia (<i>Senna covesii</i>)	SC	---	1B	Dry washes and slopes in Sonoran Desert Scrub, below 2000 ft.	Not possible - no habitat.
Crucifixion Thorn (<i>Castela emoryi</i>)	---	---	2	Mojave and Sonoran Desert scrubs; typically associated with drainages	Not present. No individuals observed. No suitable drainage habitats on site.
Dwarf Germander (<i>Teucrium cubense</i> ssp. <i>Depressum</i>)	---	---	2	Creosote flat/Desertscrub	Possible in undisturbed areas - occurs within 1 mile of the Project Site. No individuals observed.
Foxtail Cactus (<i>Escobaria vivipera</i> var. <i>alversonii</i>)	SC	---	1B	Sandy to gravelly slopes between 250 and 4000 ft. in elevation	Not possible - no habitat.
Glandular Ditaxis (<i>Ditaxis clariana</i>)	---	---	2	Sandy flats in Mojave and Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub, below ~800 ft	Possible in undisturbed areas - not known to occur within 1 mile of the Project Site. No individuals observed.
Harwood's Milkvetch (<i>Astragalus insularis</i> var. <i>harwoodii</i>)	---	---	2	Dunes and windblown sands below 1200 ft.	Not possible - no habitat.
Wiggins's Cholla (<i>Opuntia wigginsii</i>)	C3b	---	3	Desert flats <1000 ft in elevation	Possible in undisturbed areas - not known to occur within 1 mile of the Project Site. N/A - Taxonomically invalid species.

1) See text for method of determination of those species potentially in project area.

2) Applicable Status codes are as follows:

Federal SC Species of Special Concern (species whose conservation status may be of concern to the USFWS, but have no official status [formerly C2 species])

Federal C3b Taxonomically invalid

CNPS : List 1A - Plants presumed extinct in California

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- List 1B - Plants rare and endangered in California and elsewhere
 - List 2 - Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere
 - List 3 - Plants about which CNPS needs more information
 - List 4 - Plants of limited distribution
- (Note: CNPS lists 1 and 2 require CEQA consideration.)

3) Potential for occurrence is based on survey results and habitat assessments.

Table 7-2 Special-Status Animal Species Potentially Occurring In the Vicinity of Blythe Airport Solar I Project				
SPECIES	FEDERAL ²	STATE ²	HABITAT	LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE ON THE PROJECT SITE ³
Amphibians				
Couch's Spadefoot (<i>Scaphiopus couchii</i>)	---	SC	Various arid communities in extreme southeastern California and east, south; requires areas that support temporary ponds for at least 8 days for breeding.	Not possible - no habitat.
Reptiles				
Chuckwalla (<i>Sauromalus obesus</i>)	SC	---	Rock outcrops	Not possible - no habitat.
Desert Rosy Boa (<i>Charina trivirgata gracia</i>)	SC	---	Rocky uplands and canyons; often near stream courses	Not possible - no habitat.
Desert Tortoise (<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>)	T	T	Most desert habitats below approximately 5000 feet in elevation	Highly unlikely- poor habitat and highly disturbed. Extremely small, fragmented habitats both on the Project Site and surrounding the site
Invertebrates				
Cheeseweed Owlfly (<i>Oliarces clara</i>)	SC	---	Creosote bush scrub in rocky areas	Not possible - no habitat due to lack of rocky areas.
Mojave Desert Blister Beetle (<i>Lytta insperata</i>)	SC	---	Mojave Desert Scrub; appear to rely on flowering plants	Not possible due to the lack of sufficient flowering plants on the Project Site
California McCoy Snail (<i>Eremarionata rowelli mccoiana</i>)	SC	---	Rocky sites in gullies of the McCoy and Big Maria mountains	Not possible - no habitat
Birds				
Arizona Bell's Vireo (<i>Vireo bellii arizonae</i>)	---	E	Moist woodlands and mesquite bosques	Not possible - no habitat.

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**Table 7-2
Special-Status Animal Species Potentially Occurring in the Vicinity of
Blythe Airport Solar I Project**

SPECIES	FEDERAL ²	STATE ²	HABITAT	LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE ON THE PROJECT SITE ³
Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	---	E	Nests on cliffs, pinnacles, and in tall trees and snags	Possible as transient only
Burrowing Owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>)	SC	SC	Open, arid habitats	Possible – suitable habitat exists on the Project Site.
California Brown Pelican (<i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>)	---	---	Open water, especially salt water	Not possible - no habitat.
California Horned Lark (<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>)	---	SC	Open desert habitats	Possible
Ferruginous Hawk (<i>Buteo regalis</i>)	SC	SC	Arid, open country	Possible winter transient only
Gila Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>)	---	E	Desert woodland habitats	Not possible - no habitat.
Gilded Northern Flicker (<i>Colaptes chrysoides</i>)	---	E	Woodlands, including trees in small desert towns	Not possible - no habitat.
Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	---	SC Fully Protected	Open country; nests in large trees in open areas or cliffs	Possible forager; no local nesting habitat
LeConte's Thrasher (<i>Toxostoma lecontei</i>)	---	SC	Mojave and Sonoran Desert Scrub	Possible, but habitat is marginal
Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)	SC	SC	Arid habitats with perches	Present – observed foraging during field reconnaissance but no nesting habitat on site.
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	---	SC	Open country; nests in trees, cliffs, and on ground	Possible as winter transient only
Mountain Plover (<i>Charadrius montanus</i>)	C	SC	Dry upland habitats, plains, bare fields	Possible as winter transient only
Northern Cardinal (<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>)	---	SC	Woodland edges, stream thickets, suburban gardens; known from Parker Dam	Not possible - no habitat.
Prairie Falcon	---	SC	Dry, open country,	Possible forager; no local

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**Table 7-2
Special-Status Animal Species Potentially Occurring in the Vicinity of
Blythe Airport Solar I Project**

SPECIES	FEDERAL ²	STATE ²	HABITAT	LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE ON THE PROJECT SITE ³
(<i>Falco mexicanus</i>)			including arid woodlands; nests in cliffs	nesting habitat
Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)	---	SC	Open habitats: marshes, fields; nests on ground and roosts on ground, low poles	Possible as winter resident only
Western Snowy Plover (<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>)	T	SC	Sandy or gravelly beaches	Not possible - no habitat.
Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>)	---	E	River thickets and woodlands; well-vegetated	Not possible - no habitat.
White-faced Ibis (<i>Plegadis chihi</i>)	SC	SC	Freshwater marshes and flooded fields	Not possible - no habitat.
Yellow-breasted Chat (<i>Icteria virens</i>)	---	SC	Dense streamside thickets, willows; brushy hillsides and canyons	Not possible - no habitat.
Mammals				
Cave Myotis (<i>Myotis velifer</i>)	SC	SC	Caves and mines in lower desert scrub habitats	Not possible - no roosting habitat and poor foraging habitat on the Project Site.
California Leaf-nosed Bat (<i>Macrotus californicus</i>)	SC	SC	Caves and mines	Not possible - no roosting habitat and poor foraging habitat on the Project Site.
Cave Myotis (<i>Myotis velifer brevis</i>)	SC	SC	Desert habitats along the Colorado River	Not possible - no roosting habitat and poor foraging habitat on the Project Site.
Greater Western Mastiff Bat (<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>)	SC	SC	Steep, rocky canyons in Sonoran and Mojave Desert Scrub	Not possible - no roosting habitat on the Project Site.
Occult Little Brown Bat (<i>Myotis lucifugus occultus</i>)	SC	SC	Caves, mines, tunnels, bridges, especially in woodland; feeds in trees	Not possible - no roosting habitat on the Project Site.
Pale Townsend's Big-eared Bat (<i>Plecotus</i>)	SC	SC	Broad habitat associations. Roosts in caves and manmade	Not possible - no roosting or foraging habitat on the Project Site.

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

**Table 7-2
Special-Status Animal Species Potentially Occurring in the Vicinity of
Blythe Airport Solar I Project**

SPECIES	FEDERAL ²	STATE ²	HABITAT	LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE ON THE PROJECT SITE ³
<i>townsendii pallescens</i>			structures; feeds in trees	
Pallid Bat (<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>)	--	SC	Several desert habitats including coniferous and non-coniferous forests, brushy terrain, rocky canyons, open farmland, and deserts where suitable roosts exist	Not possible – no roosting habitat and poor foraging habitat on the Project Site.
Spotted Bat (<i>Euderma maculatum</i>)	SC	SC	Unclear, probably roosts in cliffs, forages in riparian sites	Not possible - no roosting or foraging habitat on the Project Site.
Yuma Myotis (<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>)	SC	SC	Cliff crevices, caves and mines	Not possible - no roosting or foraging habitat on the Project Site.
Yuma Puma (<i>Felis concolor browni</i>)	SC	SC	Colorado River bottomlands	Not possible - no habitat.

Federally-listed Species

Plants

There are no federally-listed threatened or endangered plants with the potential to occur within the project area. Cove's cassia and foxtail cactus are federal species of concern; however, they have no official status and there is no suitable habitat for either in the project area.

Wildlife

There is one federally-listed threatened species, desert tortoise, with the potential to occur within the project area. Additionally, mountain plover is federally proposed threatened and is possible as a winter transient.

Desert Tortoise (USFWS: Threatened; CDFG: Threatened) - While tortoises have occurred north and northeast of the project site (CNDDDB records), none are expected to occur in the Project area because of the disturbed nature of the site. On the Project site, no tortoise sign was observed and no tortoise sign was observed on adjacent sites that were surveyed previously. The Project Site was formerly farmland and is now experiencing very sparse regrowth of white bursage, creosote bush, and scattered four-winged saltbush. Survey data for other projects in the surrounding area have also shown lower desert tortoise densities along the I-10 corridor. The combination of the low elevation, low shrub diversity, low ephemeral species production, presence of weedy species, lack of topographical relief and soil quality (gravelly sand) strongly suggest poor habitat quality for tortoises.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The habitat patches (Figure A-8 in Appendix A) have gravelly sand soils that are generally hard-packed. There are no hummocks, or raised areas, at the base of shrubs, where desert tortoise prefer to excavate burrows. Certain areas support friable soils, while others do not, and very few small mammal burrows were observed, indicating that soils are generally not friable. No suitable desert tortoise burrows or other sign were observed. In addition, these patches are also dominated by Sahara mustard, which is not a good food source for desert tortoise.

In addition to the degraded habitat quality, the area immediately surrounding the site is heavily disturbed by agriculture, industry, waste dumping and the airport, further decreasing habitat availability. No critical habitat for the desert tortoise exists on the project site. Based on the factors described above, impacts to desert tortoise are not expected. However, Conditions of Approval 60.EPD.2, 60.EPD.3, 60.EPD.4 will be implemented to ensure no effects from project implementation would occur.

Mountain Plover (USFWS: Proposed Threatened; CDFG: Species of Concern) - Mountain Plovers may occasionally forage on the Project Site during the winter but foraging habitat for this species is very low quality due to the disturbed nature of the site and the extremely low density of vegetation (prey habitat). No nesting habitat for this species is present on the Project Site. Foraging habitat quality is higher in undisturbed areas near the Project Site and also within active agricultural fields nearby; these areas are also much larger than the Project Site. The removal of low quality foraging habitat for this species is expected to result in a less than significant impact because this species likely currently forages in higher quality foraging habitats and would be able to forage in these areas during and after project construction.

State-Listed Species

Plants

There are no state-listed threatened or endangered plants with the potential to occur within the project area.

Wildlife

There are two state-listed species, desert tortoise (threatened) and bald eagle (endangered), with the potential to occur within the Project area. Additionally, golden eagle is fully protected in the State of California and could forage on the Project site. Desert tortoise is discussed above in the Federally-listed Species Section.

Bald Eagle (USFWS: Delisted; CDFG: Endangered) and Golden Eagle (USFWS: None; CDFG: Fully Protected) - Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles may occasionally forage on the Project Site during certain times of the year. No nesting habitat for these species is present on the Project Site. Foraging habitat for these species is very low quality due to the disturbed nature of the site and the extremely low density of vegetation (prey habitat). Foraging habitat quality is higher in undisturbed areas near the Project Site and also within active agricultural fields nearby; these areas are also much larger than the Project Site. The removal of low quality foraging habitat for these species is expected to result in a less than significant impact because these species likely currently forage in higher quality foraging habitats and would be able to forage in these areas during and after project construction.

CNPS Species

There are two CNPS List 2 plant species with the potential to occur within the project area, including dwarf germander and glandular ditaxis.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Dwarf Germander (USFWS: None; CDFG: None; CNPS: List 2) - The occurrence of this species in the CNDDDB database appears to be a remnant because its location is in existing agricultural fields. The habitat patches throughout the site are not expected to support this species because of their small size, duration of isolation and current level of disturbance. Removal of these habitat patches would not likely affect long-term population viability, because they are small. It is not likely that these small areas support a significant population, and long-term persistence is not unlikely given their small size. Perimeter patch 2 has marginal habitat for this species and will be avoided until surveys can be completed in the appropriate season (March to May) so that presence/absence can be confirmed prior to construction.

Glandular Ditaxis (USFWS: None; CDFG: None; CNPS: List 2) - Sandy soils required by this species are not present on the site. There is no suitable habitat for this species.

The remaining potential special status plant species may be found near the Project Site, but there is no suitable habitat for these species onsite. To ensure the proposed project would not impact the dwarf germander, glandular ditaxis, or any other special-status plant, Condition of Approval 60.EPD.5 will be implemented. The potential impacts to these species will be reduced to a less than significant level with the incorporation of the Condition of Approval 60.EPD.5.

California Wildlife Species of Special Concern

There are nine species of special concern with the potential to occur within the project area, including Burrowing Owl, California Horned Lark, Ferruginous Hawk, LeConte's Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, Merlin, Mountain Plover, Prairie Falcon, and Short-eared Owl.

Burrowing Owl (USFWS: Species of Special Concern; CDFG: Species of Special Concern) - Habitat for this species exists on the site along the berms near some of the pivot circles, although no individuals or sign were observed during either the site reconnaissance survey or the habitat assessment. Burrowing owls do not currently occupy the site. All suitable burrows were surveyed for owls and sign, and no burrowing owl individuals or sign were observed. However, burrowing owls could move onto the site and disturbance to nesting activities could occur. Due to the chance for burrowing owl to move onto the site, Condition of Approval 60.EPD.1 will be implemented. The potential impacts to this species will be reduced to a less than significant level with the incorporation of Condition of Approval 60.EPD.1.

Ferruginous Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, Merlin, Prairie Falcon, and Short-eared Owl may occasionally forage on the Project Site during certain times of the year. No nesting habitat for these species is present on the Project Site. Foraging habitat for these species is low quality on the Project Site due to the disturbed nature of the site and the extremely low density of vegetation (prey habitat). Foraging habitat quality is higher in undisturbed areas near the Project Site and also within active agricultural fields nearby; these areas are also much larger than the Project Site. The removal of low quality foraging habitat for these species is expected to result in a less than significant impact because these species likely currently forage in higher quality foraging habitats and would be able to forage in these areas during and after project construction.

Small patches of suitable habitat for the California Horned Lark and LeConte's Thrasher exist on the Project Site. Due to the potential for these species to occur onsite, Condition of Approval 60.EPD.6 will be implemented. The potential impacts to this species will be reduced to a less than significant level with the incorporation of the Condition of Approval 60.EPD.6.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The remaining potential special status wildlife species may be found near the Project Site, but there is no habitat onsite and impacts to these species would be less than significant.

- d) The Project will not interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory wildlife species or with established corridors. The ability of wildlife to move from one tract of habitat to another increases the value of the habitat. Habitats with wildlife movement opportunities allow for population dispersal and seasonal migration, and increase the area for home range activities. Wildlife movement opportunities are often called wildlife corridors. The Project Site lies adjacent to the Blythe Airport, Interstate 10, and the other energy projects and the Site itself is almost entirely disturbed. Based on these factors, the Site is not a wildlife corridor, and development of the Project would not impact wildlife movement or dispersal.
- e) The proposed project site does not have any riparian habitat and will not have a substantial effect on other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans; therefore, impacts will be less than significant.
- f) There are no waters of the US or federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 on the site; therefore, there will be no impact.
- g) There are no native wildlife nursery sites in the area and the Project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, as none exist that would govern biological resources onsite.

Mitigation:

Prior to the issuance of grading and/or building permits, the following mitigation shall be satisfied:

Condition of Approval 60.EPD.5 and 80.EPD.5 - Due to the presence of potential habitat for dwarf germander, glandular ditaxis, and Wiggin's cholla, a rare plant survey would be conducted during the appropriate season for these three species. Monitoring by a qualified biologist would also occur during initial clearing activities. If any of the aforementioned species are encountered, avoidance, transplant, or replacement measures will occur. If any of these plants are eliminated or transplanted, the California Department of Fish and Game will be notified. If any of these plants are to be transplanted, they will be planted in a suitable location under the supervision of a qualified biologist. Temporary irrigation will be provided to transplanted plants until such time that they are able to survive on their own.

Condition of Approval 60.EPD.2, 60.EPD.3, 60.EPD.4, 80.EPD.2, 80.EPD.3 and 80.EPD.4 mitigate impacts to Desert Tortoise.

Appropriate mitigation for desert tortoise will include:

- 1) The site will be fenced with temporary exclusionary fencing prior to construction.
- 2) Pre-construction clearance surveys will be conducted.
- 3) If tortoises are found, the project shall be halted and the applicant will consult with CDFG and USFWS.
- 4) Once the site is determined to be clear of desert tortoise, a permanent exclusionary fence will be constructed for the entire site, within the boundary of the existing temporary fence.
- 5) Once the permanent fence is completed, the temporary fence will be removed.

Condition of Approval 60.EPD.1 and 80.EPD.1 mitigates impacts to Burrowing Owls - A pre-construction survey for burrowing owls will be conducted on the Project Site by a qualified biologist within 45 (forty-five) days prior to commencing construction. The survey methodology shall follow the California Department of Fish and Game's "Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation" dated October

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17, 1995 and the Burrowing Owl Consortium's "Survey Protocol & Mitigation Guidelines". The methodology and results of the survey shall be documented in a report. If burrowing owls are found onsite, grading and/or construction activities shall not commence until the California Department of Fish and Game has reviewed and approved a burrowing owl mitigation plan. Said burrowing owl mitigation plan shall include provisions for exclusionary trapping and burrow protection. Should burrowing owls be present and nesting on the proposed Project Site, this impact is mitigable by avoidance of nests by a 250-foot buffer (CDFG 1995).

Condition of Approval 60.EPD.6 and 80.EPD.6 will mitigate potential impacts to nesting birds. The proposed project has the potential to impact nesting birds through grading and other construction related activities. Ground and vegetation disturbing activities shall take place outside of the recognized nesting season, if practical. The nesting season typically occurs between early February and August, but can vary slightly from year to year. If ground disturbing and vegetation disturbing activities must occur within the recognized nesting season, then nesting bird surveys will be performed starting within one week of commencing construction and weekly thereafter throughout the nesting season to identify any nests that may be impacted by construction activities. If any active nests are located within the proposed disturbance area or within 100 feet of ground disturbing activities, a 100 feet buffer area will be flagged around the nest (500 feet from any active raptor nest) and no activity will be allowed in the buffer area until nesting is completed as verified by the project biologist. Periodic monitoring by a biologist will be performed to determine when nesting is complete.

Monitoring: The Planning (Environmental Programs Division) and Building & Safety Department will conduct monitoring.

CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project

8. Historic Resources

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Alter or destroy an historic site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in California Code of Regulations, Section 15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Source: Field surveys, Blythe Airport Master Plan (2000), Blythe Energy Project (1999), Blythe Energy Project II (2005), Riverside County General Plan (Historic Resources), Archaeological Investigation prepared by KP Environmental, dated September 30, 2010 (PD-A-4665)

Findings of Fact:

- a-b) The proposed project could affect the remnants of the Blythe Airfield. While the Blythe Airfield contributed to local history, there are no standing structures to impact or preserve. However, potential historic artifacts may be found during construction. With the implementation of the following mitigation measures, impacts to historic sites or the significance of historic sites will be mitigated to less than significant.

Mitigation:

To mitigate impacts to a historic site and reduce potential to substantially change the significance of a historical resource, the following mitigation has been applied:

Condition of Approval 10.PLANNING.2, requires that the developer/permit holder or any successor in interest comply with the following for the life of this project: If during ground disturbance activities, cultural resources are discovered that were not assessed by the archaeological reports and/or environmental assessment conducted prior to project approval, the following procedures shall be

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followed. A cultural resources site is defined, for this condition, as being three or more artifacts in close association with each other, but may include fewer artifacts if the area of the find is determined to be of significance due to its' sacred or cultural importance. In the event cultural resources are discovered: 1) ground disturbance within 100 feet of the site shall be halted; 2) a meeting shall be held to discuss the significance of the find; and, 3) further ground disturbance shall not resume within the area of discovery until an agreement has been reached by all parties.

Condition of Approval 60.PLANNING.1 requires that prior to the issuance of grading permits, the developer/permit holder shall retain and enter into a monitoring and mitigation service contract with a County certified Archaeologist, to be assisted by an Historic Archaeologist or Historian, as needed, who has a current signed MOU with the County for professional services. The Project Monitor shall manage and oversee monitoring for all initial ground disturbing activities and excavation of each portion of the project site including clearing, grubbing, tree removals, grading, trenching, stockpiling of materials, debris removals, rock crushing, structure demolition and etc. The Project Monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect or halt the ground disturbance activities to allow identification, evaluation, treatment, or potential recovery of cultural/historic resources in coordination with the designated special interest monitor and any designated tribal monitor(s).

Condition of Approval 60.PLANNING.2 requires that special interest monitoring and curation be required for any subsurface or surface collected artifacts pertaining to sites and features associated with the World War II Desert Training Center - Blythe Army Air Base (BAAB). The BAAB site has been determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as well as the California Register. Prior to the issuance of any grading or building permits, the developer/permit holder shall enter into a written agreement to retain a monitor(s) designated by the General Patton Memorial Museum. At the Museum's discretion, there shall be one special interest monitor per array phase heading where soil disturbance occurs. This group shall be known as the Special Interest Monitor (SI Monitor) for this project. The contract shall address the treatment and ultimate disposition of historic resources which may include curation at the General Patton Memorial Museum.

Condition of Approval 60.PLANNING.4 requires that prior to issuance of any grading permits, the developer / permit holder shall submit for approval to the County Archaeologist and the County Historic Preservation Officer (CHPO) a copy of a Cultural Resources Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (CRMMP) that addresses the details of all activities that must be completed in order to reduce the impacts to cultural and historic resources to a level that is less than significant.

Condition of Approval 60.PLANNING.6 requires that prior to issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant/Permit Holder shall submit to the County Archaeologist, a completely executed agreement between the Applicant/Permit Holder and the General Patton Memorial Museum, in Chiriaco Summit, California, that includes but is not limited to, provisions for temporary curtion storage and related maintenance fees, access to qualified researchers, long term permanent curation requirements, with a public interpretive component for the preservation and presentation of the history of the Blythe Army Air Base and its role as part of the World War II Desert Training Center.

Condition of Approval 90.PLANNING.1 requires that prior to final inspection of the first building permit for each solar array phase of work, the developer/permit holder submit two (2) copies of a Phase IV Cultural Resources Monitoring Report that complies with the Riverside County Planning Department's current requirements for such reports. The report shall document all field and analytical activities for recovered cultural or historic resources and the findings. The report shall serve as a chain-of-title inventory for curation and/or repatriation purposes, and as a record of mitigation implementation and results under the California Environmental Quality Act and any applicable federal requirements. The report shall include evidence of the required cultural/historical sensitivity training for the construction staff held during the pre-grade meeting. The Planning Department shall review the report to determine

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adequate mitigation compliance. Provided the report is adequate, the Planning Department shall clear this condition.

Monitoring: The Planning and Building & Safety Departments will conduct monitoring.

9. Archaeological Resources

a) Alter or destroy an archaeological site.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source: Field surveys, Blythe Airport Master Plan (2000), Blythe Energy Project (1999), Blythe Energy Project II (2005), Riverside County General Plan (Historic Resources), Archaeological Investigation prepared by KP Environmental, dated September 30, 2010 (PD-A-4665).

Findings of Fact:

- a-b) The proposed action could affect two prehistoric sites and the remnants of the Blythe Airfield. Additional testing of the prehistoric sites would be required to determine their eligibility. Therefore, these sites will be avoided by the final layout of the proposed project. With the implementation of the following mitigation measures, impacts to the Blythe Airfield, archaeological sites, or the significance of archaeological sites will be mitigated to less than significant.
- c) Construction activities could result in the discovery of human remains. With the implementation of the mitigation measures identified below, the Project will not result in a significant adverse impact to any cultural or archaeological resources.
- d) The proposed photovoltaic is not within an area that restricts existing religious or sacred uses; therefore, no impact is anticipated.

Mitigation:

Impacts to archaeological sites, the significance of archaeological sites, or the disturbance of human remains will be mitigated to a level of less than significant with the following mitigation incorporated:

Condition of Approval 10.PLANNING.1 requires that the developer/permit holder or any successor in interest comply with the following codes for the life of this project: If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin. Further, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 (b), remains shall be left in place and free from disturbance until a final decision as to the treatment and their disposition has been made. If the Riverside County Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission shall be contacted within the period specified by law. Subsequently, the Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the "Most Likely Descendant." The Most Likely Descendant shall then make recommendations and engage in consultation with the County and the property owner concerning the treatment of the remains as provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. Human remains

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from other ethnic/cultural groups with recognized historical associations to the project area shall also be subject to consultation between appropriate representatives from that group and the County Planning /Director.

Condition of Approval 60.PLANNING.1 requires that prior to the issuance of grading permits, the developer/permit holder shall retain and enter into a monitoring and mitigation service contract with a County certified Archaeologist, to be assisted by a Historic Archaeologist or Historian, as needed, who has a current, signed MOU with the County for professional services. The Project Monitor shall manage and oversee monitoring for all initial ground disturbing activities and excavation of each portion of the project site including clearing, grubbing, tree removals, grading, trenching, stockpiling of materials, debris removals, rock crushing, structure demolition and etc. The Project Monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect or halt the ground disturbance activities to allow identification, evaluation, treatment, or potential recovery of cultural/historic resources in coordination with the designated special interest monitor and any designated tribal monitor(s).

Condition of Approval 60.PLANNING.2 requires that special interest monitoring and curation be required for any subsurface or surface collected artifacts pertaining to sites and features associated with the World War II Desert Training Center - Blythe Army Air Base (BAAB). The BAAB site has been determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as well as the California Register. Prior to the issuance of any grading or building permits, the developer/permit holder shall enter into a written agreement to retain a monitor(s) designated by the General Patton Memorial Museum. At the Museum's discretion, there shall be one special interest monitor per array phase heading where soil disturbance occurs. This group shall be known as the Special Interest Monitor (SI Monitor) for this project. The contract shall address the treatment and ultimate disposition of historic resources which may include curation at the General Patton Memorial Museum.

Condition of Approval 60.PLANNING.4 requires that prior to issuance of any grading permits, the developer / permit holder shall submit for approval to the County Archaeologist and the County Historic Preservation Officer (CHPO) a copy of a Cultural Resources Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (CRMMP) that addresses the details of all activities that must be completed in order to reduce the impacts to cultural and historic resources to a level that is less than significant.

Condition of Approval 60.PLANNING.6 requires that prior to issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant/Permit Holder shall submit to the County Archaeologist, a completely executed agreement between the Applicant/Permit Holder and the General Patton Memorial Museum, in Chiriaco Summit, California, that includes but is not limited to, provisions for temporary curtion storage and related maintenance fees, access to qualified researchers, long term permanent curation requirements, with a public interpretive component for the preservation and presentation of the history of the Blythe Army Air Base and its role as part of the World War II Desert Training Center.

Conditions of Approval 60.PLANNING.22, 60.PLANNING.23, 60.PLANNING.24, and 60.PLANNING.25 require the following take place prior to the issuance of grading permits: 1) the submittal and recordation of an environmental constraint sheet to protect and preserve historic sites; 2) preservation fencing shall be required around sensitive resources sites S-2 and S-4 including a 50 foot buffer area for each site to the satisfaction of the County Archaeologist; and, 3) Prior to issuance of the first grading permit, the two preservation fences for the sensitive resources areas shall be installed with archaeological monitoring. A monitoring report shall be submitted to the County Archaeologist upon completion of the monitoring.

Condition of Approval 90.PLANNING.1 requires that prior to final inspection of the first building permit for each solar array phase of work, the developer/permit holder submit two (2) copies of a Phase IV Cultural Resources Monitoring Report that complies with the Riverside County Planning Department's current requirements for such reports. The report shall document all field and analytical activities for

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recovered cultural or historic resources and the findings. The report shall serve as a chain-of-title inventory for curation and/or repatriation purposes, and as a record of mitigation implementation and results under the California Environmental Quality Act and any applicable federal requirements. The report shall include evidence of the required cultural/historical sensitivity training for the construction staff held during the pre-grade meeting. The Planning Department shall review the report to determine adequate mitigation compliance. Provided the report is adequate, the Planning Department shall clear this condition.

Monitoring: The Planning and Building & Safety Departments will conduct monitoring.

10. Paleontological Resources

a) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource, or site, or unique geologic feature?

Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure OS-8 "Paleontological Sensitivity"

Findings of Fact:

a) The proposed photovoltaic facility is not anticipated to directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource, site, or geologic feature. Based on the Riverside County General Plan Figure OS-8 "Paleontological Sensitivity," the site has a low potential for paleontological resources. However, in the event fossil remains are encountered during construction, ground disturbing activities will be halted. Impacts to potential Paleontological Resources will be mitigated to less than significant with the following mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation:

Condition of Approval 10.PLANNING.3 states that according to the County's General Plan, this site has been mapped as having a "Low Potential" for paleontological resources. This category encompasses lands for which previous field surveys and documentation demonstrates a low potential for containing significant paleontological resources subject to adverse impacts. As such, this project is not anticipated to require any direct mitigation for paleontological resources. However, should fossil remains be encountered during site development: 1) all site earthmoving shall be ceased in the area of where the fossil remains are encountered, Earthmoving activities may be diverted to other areas of the site; 2) the owner of the property shall be immediately notified of the fossil discovery who will in turn immediately notify the County Geologist of the discovery; 3) the applicant shall retain a qualified paleontologist approved by the County of Riverside; 4) the paleontologist shall determine the significance of the encountered fossil remains; 5) paleontological monitoring of earthmoving activities will continue thereafter on an as-needed basis by the paleontologist during all earthmoving activities that may expose sensitive strata. Earthmoving activities in areas of the project area where previously undisturbed strata will be buried but not otherwise disturbed will not be monitored. The supervising paleontologist will have the authority to reduce monitoring once he/she determines the probability of encountering any additional fossils has dropped below an acceptable level; 6) if fossil remains are encountered by earthmoving activities when the paleontologist is not onsite, these activities will be diverted around the fossil site and the paleontologist called to the site immediately to recover the remains; and, 7) any recovered fossil remains will be prepared to the point of identification and identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible by knowledgeable paleontologists. The remains then will be curated (assigned and labeled with museum* repository fossil specimen numbers and corresponding fossil site numbers, as appropriate; places in specimen trays and, if necessary, vials with completed specimen data cards) and catalogued, an associated specimen data and corresponding geologic and geographic site data will be archived (specimen and site numbers and corresponding data entered into appropriate museum repository catalogs and computerized data

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bases) at the museum repository by a laboratory technician. The remains will then be accessioned into the museum* repository fossil collection, where they will be permanently stored, maintained, and, along with associated specimen and site data, made available for future study by qualified scientific investigators. * The County of Riverside must be consulted on the repository/museum to receive the fossil material prior to being curated.

Monitoring: The Planning and Building & Safety Departments will conduct monitoring.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS Would the project

11. Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone or County Fault Hazard Zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Be subject to rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure S-2 "Earthquake Fault Study Zones," GIS database, Airport Master Plan, Riverside County Ordinance No. 484 for the Control of Blowing Sand, Geotechnical Investigation Proposed Mesa Verde-Blythe Airport Water System Improvement Project (Dec. 2005), and County Geologic Report No. 2212 by Earth Systems Southwest.

County Geologic Report (GEO) No. 2212 submitted for this project (PP24616) was prepared by Earth Systems Southwest (ESSW - the consultant-of-record) and consists of the following collection of documents:

Earth Systems Southwest, August 4, 2010, "Blythe Airport Solar 1 Project. APN's 821-080-040 & 041 and 821-110-002 & 003, Blythe, Riverside County, California."

Caruso Turley Scott Consulting Structural Engineers, 4/10, "Blythe - Steel Pile Testing to Support Photo Voltaic (PV) Panels, Blythe Airport, Blythe, CA."

C.H.J. Incorporated, December 19, 2005, "Geotechnical Investigation, Proposed Mesa Verde-Blythe Airport Water System Improvement Project, Mesa Verde-Blythe Area, Riverside County California, Prepared for Albert A. Webb Associates, Job No. 051124-3."

Ninyo & Moore, February 13, 2001, "Geotechnical Engineering Evaluation, Blythe Energy Project, Buck Boulevard Substation and Tie-lines, Blythe, California."

Ninyo & Moore, February 13, 2001, "Geotechnical Engineering Evaluation, Blythe Energy Project, Natural Gas Pipeline, Blythe, California."

Ninyo & Moore, February 13, 2001, "Geotechnical Engineering Evaluation, Blythe Energy Project, Power Plant, Blythe, California."

GEO02212 concluded:

- 1.No known active faults have been mapped on the site or in the immediate vicinity.

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2. The potential for surface fault rupture is considered nil.
3. Anticipated ground accelerations (10% probability of exceedance in 50 years) are estimated to be approximately 0.13 g.
4. The potential for liquefaction is considered low.
5. Areal subsidence due to groundwater withdrawal or seismic induced settlement of dry sands is possible, but will probably occur on an area basis and have minimal effects on the planned structures.
6. The hazards from slope instability or landslides are currently negligible.

GEO No. 2212 recommended:

1. ESSW should be provided the opportunity for a general review of final design and specifications in order that earthwork and foundation recommendations may be properly interpreted and implemented in the design and specifications.

GEO02212 satisfies the requirement for a Geologic Study for Planning / CEQA purposes. GEO02212 is hereby accepted for planning purposes. This approval is not intended, and should not be misconstrued as approval for grading permit. Engineering and other building code parameters will be reviewed and additional comments and/or conditions may be imposed by the Building and Safety Department upon application for grading and/or building permits.

Findings of Fact:

- a) The proposed photovoltaic facility will not have any full time employees on site and all proposed structures will be unmanned; therefore, impacts to people or structures are anticipated to be less than significant.
- b) There are no active or inactive faults in the project area. In addition, the Project and related features are not within any Alquist-Priolo Fault Hazard Act Special Studies Zones (Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, Special Publication 42, Fault-Rupture Hazard Zones in California). Therefore, no impact is anticipated.

Mitigation: No mitigation measures are necessary.

Monitoring: Monitoring is not required.

12. Liquefaction Potential Zone

a) Be subject to seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure S-3 "Generalized Liquefaction," and County Geologic Report (GEO) No. 2212 by Earth Systems Southwest