Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP, Director
2700 "M" Street, Suite 350
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2323
Phone: (661) 862-8800
Fax: (661) 862-8801 TTY Relay 1-800-735-2929
Email: dsa@co.kern.ca.us
Web Address: http://pcd.kerndsa.com/

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Planning
Community Development
Administrative Operations

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

DATE: September 13, 2019

To: See Attached Mailing List

FROM: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Attn: Cindi Hoover
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 862-8629
hooverc@kerncounty.com

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department as Lead Agency (per CEQA Guidelines Section 15050) has required that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (per CEQA Guidelines Section 15161) be prepared for the project identified below. The Planning and Natural Resources Department solicits the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval of projects.

Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be received by **October 14, 2019 at 5pm.** In addition, comments can be submitted at a **scoping meeting** that will be held at the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department on **October 4, 2019 at 1:30pm** at the address shown above.

PROJECT TITLE: Pastoria Solar Project by Pastoria Solar Energy Company, LLC; CUP No. 9, Map 219; WALUC Cancellation No. 19-02; GPA No. 10, Map 219.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley, directly east of the community of Grapevine. The proposed project is east of Interstate 5 (I-5). The site is located within Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, Township 10 North, Range 19 West (SBB&M).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Pastoria Solar Project by Pastoria Solar Energy Company, LLC (project proponent), is a proposed photovoltaic electrical generating facility with capacity to generate up to 115 megawatt hours (MW) of renewable electrical energy and store up to 40 MW energy in a Battery Storage System (BESS). The proposed project is situated on approximately 650 acres of privately owned land.

Implementation of the project as proposed would include: **(a)** Conditional Use Permits to allow for the construction and operation of 115 MW photovoltaic electrical generating facility with up to 40 MW of BESS (Section 19.12.030.G) in an A District; **(b)** Cancellation of an existing Williamson Act Land Use Contract on four parcels; **(c)** Amendment to the Circulation Element of the Kern County General Plan to remove sections and midsection line road reservations, as follow: the Section line between Section 11, T10N, R19W and Section 12, T10N, R19W; the Section line between Section 13, T10N, R19W and Section 14, T10N, R19W; the Section line between Section 11, T10N, R19W and Section 14, T10N, R19W; the Section line between Section 12, T10N, R19W and Section 13, T10N, R19W; the south half of the north-south mid-section line and the east half of the east-west midsection line Section 11, T10N, R19W; the north half of the north-south mid-section line and the east half of the east-west midsection line Section 14, T10N, R19W; the south half of the north-south mid-section line and the west half of the east-west midsection line Section 12, T10N, R19W; the north half of the north-south mid-section line and the west half of the east-west midsection line Section 13, T10N, R19W. The project would be supported by a 220-kV

overhead transmission corridor. The project's permanent facilities would include, PV panels, BESS, fencing, service corridors, a power collection system, communication cables, overhead and underground transmission lines, electrical switchyards, and one onsite project substation.

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

Signature:

Name: Cindi Hoover, Planner II

GPA #10; CUP #9, Map #219
WO #PP19149 (EIR 03-19)
I:\Planning\WORKGRPS\WP\LABELS\eir03-19ceh.nop.doc
Sc 07/23/19

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

Bakersfield City Planning Dept
1715 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

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

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

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

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

City of McFarland
401 West Kern Avenue
McFarland, CA 93250

City of Ridgecrest
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

City of Shafter
336 Pacific Avenue
Shafter, CA 93263

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

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

City of Wasco
764 E Street
Wasco, CA 93280

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Caliente/Bakersfield
3801 Pegasus Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93308-6837

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

Edwards AFB, Sustainability Office
412 TW/XPO, Bldg 2750, Rm 204-38
195 East Popson Avenue
Edwards AFB, CA 93524

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Division of Ecological Services
2800 Cottage Way #W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

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

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

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

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

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

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

State Dept of Conservation
Division of Oil & Gas
4800 Stockdale Highway, Ste 108
Bakersfield, CA 93309

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

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

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

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

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

California Regional Water Quality
Control Board/Central Valley Region
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706-2020

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

State Dept of Water Resources
Div. Land & Right-of-Way
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Kern County
Agriculture Department

Kern County Airports Department

Kern County Public Works Department/
Building & Development/Floodplain

Kern County Public Works Department/
Building & Development/Survey

Kern County
Env Health Services Department

Kern County Fire Dept
Cary Wright, Fire Marshall

Kern County Library/Beale
Local History Room

Kern County Library/Beale
Andie Sullivan

Kern County Library
Arvin Branch
201 Campus Drive
Arvin, CA 93203

Kern County Parks & Recreation

Kern County Sheriff's Dept
Administration

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

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

Arvin Union School Dist
737 Bear Mountain Blvd
Arvin, CA 93203

General Shafter School Dist
1825 Shafter Road
Bakersfield, CA 93313

Kern High School Dist
5801 Sundale Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Attention Mary Baker
1300 17th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

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

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

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Dist
12109 Highway 166
Bakersfield, CA 93313-9630

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

San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution Control District
1990 East Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726

Kern Mosquito Abatement Dist
4705 Allen Road
Bakersfield, CA 93314

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

AT&T California
OSP Engineering/Right-of-Way
4540 California Avenue, 4th Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93309

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

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

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

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

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

Pacific Gas & Electric Co
Land Projects
650 "O" Street, First Floor
Fresno, CA 93760-0001

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
Attn: John Valenzuela, Chairperson
P.O. Box 221838
Newhall, CA 91322

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

Eric Anderson
1309 Leisure Lane
Frazier Park, CA 93225

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

Mary Ann Lockhart
P.O. GG
Frazier Park, CA 93225

Metro Water Dist of So CA
Ms. Rebecca De Leon
Environmental Planning Team
700 N. Alameda Street, US3-230
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recurrent Energy
Seth Israel
300 California Street, 8th Floor
San Francisco, CA 92109

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

David Walsh
22941 Banducci Road
Tehachapi, CA 93561

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

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

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

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

Terra-Gen
Randy Hoyle, Sr. Vice Pres
11512 El Camino Real, Suite 370
San Diego, CA 92130

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

Darren Kelly, Sr. Business Mgr
Terra-Gen Power, LLC
1095 Avenue of the Americas, 25th Floor, Ste A
New York, NY 10036-6797

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

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

Mountain Enterprise
Attn: Patric Hedlund
P.O. Box 610
Frazier Park, CA 93225

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

U.S. Marine Corps
Attn: Patrick Christman
Western Regional Environmental Officer
Building 1164/Box 555246
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5246

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

EDP Renewables Company
53 SW Yamhill Street
Portland, OR 97204

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

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

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

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

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

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

SCH # _____

Project Title: Pastoria Solar Project by Pastoria Solar Energy, LLC

Lead Agency: Kern County Planning Department — Contact Person: Cindi Hoover

Mailing Address: 2700 "M" Street Suite 100 — Phone: (661) 862-8629

City: Bakersfield — Zip: 93301-2323 — County: Kern

Project Location: County: Kern — City/Nearest Community: Grapevine

Cross Streets: Edmonston Pumping Plant Road and Laval Road — Zip Code: 93203

Lat. / Long.: 34° 57'18.49119N / 118° 51'19.62314W — Total Acres: 650

Assessor's Parcel No.: 241-310-08, 10, 15, 17 — Section: 11,12,13,14 Twp.: 10N — Range: 19W — Base: SBB&M

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: _____ — Waterways: California Aqueduct

Airports: _____ — Railways: _____ — Schools: _____

Document Type:

CEQA: ☒ NOP ☐ Early Cons ☐ Neg Dec ☐ Mit Neg Dec ☐ Draft EIR ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR (Prior SCH No.) _____ Other _____

NEPA: ☐ NOI ☐ EA ☐ Draft EIS ☐ FONSI

Other: ☐ Joint Document ☐ Final Document ☐ Other _____

Local Action Type:

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

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Educational _____
☐ Recreational _____

☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Transportation: Type _____
☐ Mining: Mineral _____
☒ Power: Type Solar MW 115
☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☐ Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

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

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Undeveloped Grazing Land. Kern County General Plan: *8.1(Intensive Agriculture); 8.3 (Extensive Agriculture);* 8.4 (Mineral and Petroleum); 2.1 (Flood Hazard), *Zoning:* A (Exclusive Agriculture).

Project Description: The project includes a request for land use entitlements necessary to facilitate the future construction and operation of a solar facility and associated infrastructure to generate a combined 115 megawatts of renewable electrical energy on approximately 650 acres of privately-owned land. Implementation of the project as proposed would require: a) Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 9, Map No. 219; b) Williamson Act Land Use Contract Cancellation No. 19-02; c) General Plan Amendment (GPA) No. 10, Map No. 219.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

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

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

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

Starting Date September 13, 2019 Ending Date October 14. 2019

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

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

Applicant: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____ **Date:** 09/13/19

Cindi Hoover, Planner II

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

INITIAL STUDY/ NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Pastoria Solar Project by Pastoria Solar Energy Company, LLC

Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 219
Williamson Act Land Use Contract Cancellation 19-02
General Plan Amendment No. 10, Map No. 219

PLN19-00469
(PP19149)

LEAD AGENCY:

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

Contact:
Cindi Hoover, Planner II
(661) 862-8629; hooverc@kerncounty.com

September 2019

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Location

Pastoria Solar Energy Company LLC is proposing to develop the Pastoria Solar Project (proposed project), a solar photovoltaic (PV) electrical energy generating facility and associated infrastructure necessary to generate up to 115 megawatts (MW) of renewable electric energy with the ability to store up to 40 MW in a battery energy storage system (BESS), on approximately 650 acres of privately owned land in unincorporated portions of Kern County, California. **Figure 1**, *Regional Vicinity*, shows the regional location of the proposed project. The project site consists of four quarter-section parcels of land, summarized in **Table 1**, *Project Assessor Parcel Numbers, Corresponding Map Codes, Zoning and Acreage*. All project site parcels are owned by the Tejon Ranch Corporation, with whom the project proponent has site control through an option-to-lease agreement. As shown in **Figure 2**, *Project Vicinity*, the proposed project consists of four parcels, bisected by an existing, south-to-north agricultural haul road, herein referred to as the eastern parcels and western parcels. Each site would contain solar energy generation facilities, which together would comprise the project site. As shown in **Figure 3**, *Site Plan*, energy storage and interconnection facilities would be located on the eastern boundary of the east site. The eastern parcels encompass approximately 323 acres and the western parcels comprise approximately 324 acres.

The topography of the project area is relatively flat, however, the foothills at the base of the Tehachapi Mountain Range are approximately 1-mile south of the project site. Elevations in the project area range from approximately 900 feet above mean sea level (amsl) on the valley floor just north of the project site to 4,815 feet at Grapevine Peak, which is 3.65 miles southwest of the project site. Elevation across the project site range from approximately 1,169 feet at the southwest corner to 1,027 feet at the northeast corner, for a change of 142 feet over 1.41 miles (approximately 2 percent slope).

The nearest populated areas to the project site are the unincorporated communities of Grapevine, Wheeler Ridge, Mettler, and Lebec, which are located approximately 3 miles west, 5 miles northwest, 9 miles northwest, and 5 miles southwest of the project site, respectively. The City of Bakersfield, located approximately 25 miles to the north, is the nearest metropolitan area in relation to the project site. Other communities within the vicinity are the City of Arvin, the unincorporated community of Weedpatch, the unincorporated community of Lamont, the unincorporated communities of Frazier Park, Pinion Pines, and Pine Mountain Club (collectively referred to as the Mountain Communities) which are located approximately 15 miles north, 18 miles north, 19 miles north, and 9.5 miles southwest of the project site, respectively. Figure 1 illustrates the location and surrounding vicinity of the project.

The project site is located within the United States Geological Survey USGS 7.5–minute Pastoria Creek quadrangle and is in portions of Sections 11, 12, 13, and 14 of Township 10 North, Range 19 West. The project site can be reached by traveling from Interstate 5 (I-5) east along Edmonston Pumping Plant Road for approximately 4 miles then turning north onto an existing agricultural haul road, for approximately 0.7 miles.

Land uses in the region include a mix of agricultural production, agricultural grazing, undeveloped land; energy, mining, and utility facilities, a major commerce center, and highway commercial. Vegetation in the project area is predominated by modern cultigens and other nonnative species, such as Russian thistle (tumbleweed) and grasses, but also includes cheatgrass and doveweed. Topography across the project site is relatively flat. The major north-south route in the area is I-5, an eight lane interstate located approximately 4 miles west of the project site, which also provides access to State Route 99, a major north-south route serving the Bakersfield metro area. Edmonston Pumping Plant Road, which is located approximately 0.7 miles south of the project site, is a private two-lane roadway traveling east-west. It connects to Grapevine Road near the I-5/Grapevine Road interchange, and travels approximately six miles east to the Edmonston Pumping Plant operated by the State Department of Water Resources. Access to the site would be provided by an existing agricultural haul road which runs south to north between Edmonston Pumping Plant Road to the south, and Lebec Road to the north. The proposed project site would be on either side of the agricultural

haul road and there would be two separate entrances on each side, to the east and west halves of the facility from this road.

The Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) are summarized in Table 1, *Project Assessor Parcel Numbers, Corresponding Map Codes, Zoning and Acreage*.

TABLE 1
PROJECT ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBERS, CORRESPONDING MAP CODES, ZONING AND ACREAGE

Project Site	APN	Acreage	Existing General Plan Designation	Zoning
Western Parcels	241-310-10	161.93	8.1/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture Min 20 Acres)/Flood Hazard); 8.4/2.5 (Mineral and Petroleum/Flood Hazard)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
	241-310-15	161.52	8.3/2.5 (Extensive Agriculture (Min 20 Acres)/Flood Hazard)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
Eastern Parcels	241-310-08	161.77	8.3/2.5 (Extensive Agriculture (Min 20 Acres/Flood Hazard)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
	241-310-17	162.42	8.1/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture (Min 20 Acres)/Flood Hazard)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)

Environmental Setting

The project site is within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Kern County General Plan, and as shown in **Figure 4**, *Existing General Plan & Land Use Designations*, is designated as map codes 8.1/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture (Min 20 Acres)/Flood Hazard), 8.3/2.5 (Extensive Agriculture (Min 20 Acres)/Flood Hazard), and 8.4/2.5 (Mineral and Petroleum/Flood Hazard). As shown in **Figure 5**, *Existing Zoning,* all four parcels are currently located within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) zone district. Pursuant to Kern County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 19.12.030.G, Conditional Use Permit(s) (CUP) are required to allow for the construction and operation of a PV solar facility. The proposed project also includes a request for an amendment to the Circulation Element of the Kern County General Plan to eliminate future road reservations along portions of the section lines of Sections 11, 12, 13, and 14, as shown in **Figure 6**, *Proposed Amendments to Circulation Element*. Current use of the site is primarily for grazing; farming has not occurred on the project site within the past 10 years. The project site is bordered immediately to the west and south by vineyards and grazing land. While the eastern border is also adjacent to grazing lands, the Pastoria Creek stream channel and Cattle Creek traverses this area. The northern border of the project site is adjacent to grazing land with the exception of an oil pumping facility located 0.17 miles from the northern border.

Elevations in the project area range from approximately 900 feet above mean sea level (amsl) on the valley floor just north of the project site to 4,815 feet (ft) at Grapevine Peak, approximately 3.65 miles southwest of the project site in the Tehachapi Mountain Range. Elevations on the project site range from 1,169 ft at the southwest corner to 1,027 ft at the northeast corner for a total change of 142 ft over 1.41 miles resulting in a nearly level project site with an approximate 2 percent grade.

As shown in **Figure 7**, *Flood Zone*, the project site is designated as Zone "A" on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) as issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which indicates the site is in an area of flood hazard. The project site is not identified as a wetland area on the National Wetlands Inventory. There are no identified State-designated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones on the project site. The nearest active fault is the Pleito Fault, which is located approximately 2 miles southwest of the project site. The Garlock Fault is located approximately 6 miles southeast of the project site.

The project site is located within the boundary of Agricultural Preserve Number 13, as is the standard practice in Kern County for any land that is zoned A (Exclusive Agriculture). All four parcels are designated as grazing land by the Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP). As shown in **Figure 8**, *Williamson Act Land Use Contract Cancellation*, the project site is currently subject to an existing Williamson Act Land Use contract filed for non-renewal in 2014 and set to expire in 2023; thus, the project would require a Williamson Act Land Use Contract Cancellation to facilitate the proposed project.

A portion of the project site is designated as a mineral recovery area by the Kern County General Plan and as a mineral resource zone by the Department of Conservation's State Mining and Geology Board. Based on a review of records maintained by the California Department of Conservation/Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR), six plugged wells were identified on the project site as shown in **Figure 9**, *OnSite Plugged Wells* (https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/doggr/wellfinder/#close). While the wells have been plugged, they have not been abandoned and, thus, are not precluded from future mineral extraction. Records maintained by the Kern County Assessor indicate there is one Mineral Rights APN (241-220-10) within the boundaries of the project site.

The project would be served by the Kern County Sherriff's Office (KCSO) for law enforcement and public safety, Kern County Fire Department (KCFD) for fire protection, and Kern County Medical Emergency Service for emergency medical and rescue services. The nearest KCSO substation that would serve the project is the Frazier Park Substation located approximately 9.6 miles southwest of the project site at 617 Monterey Trail, Suite C in the community of Frazier Park. The nearest KCFD fire station that would serve the project is Station No. 55 (Tejon), located at 5441 Dennis Mc Carthy Drive in the community of Lebec, approximately 4.3 miles northwest of the site. The nearest hospitals are Mercy Hospital, in the City of Bakersfield, and Kern Medical Center, in the City of Bakersfield, each approximately 26 miles to the north. The nearest school to the project is El Tejon Elementary, located approximately 5 miles south in the community of Lebec.

The proposed project is not located within an Airport Sphere of Influence, per the Kern County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP). The closest public airport is the Bakersfield Municipal Airport, approximately 24 miles to the north. The closest private airport, Skydive San Joaquin Valley Airport, is located in Bakersfield approximately 12 miles to the northwest of the project site.

Surrounding Land Uses

Land uses in the region consist largely of agriculture with a mix of row crops and grazing land. The general area to the north of the project site is primarily used for almond and pistachio farming while lands to the south contain vineyards. The area to the west of the project site is predominantly grazing land while the area to the east has few vineyards. Existing infrastructure within the area includes the Pastoria Energy Facility (PEF), a natural gas-fired, combined-cycle power plant, located approximately 0.5 mile east of the project site. The California Aqueduct, which runs east-west and extends to the Edmonston Pumping Plant, is approximately 0.7-mile south of the project site. There is also a gravel quarry operation to the southeast of the site, between the PEF and Edmonston Pumping Plant.

The nearest populated areas to the project site are the unincorporated communities of Grapevine, Wheeler Ridge, Mettler, and Lebec, which are located approximately 3 miles west, 5 miles northwest, 9 miles northwest, and 5 miles southwest of the project site, respectively. The City of Bakersfield, located approximately 25 miles to the north, is the nearest metropolitan area in relation to the project site. Other communities within the vicinity are the City of Arvin, the unincorporated community of Weedpatch, the

unincorporated community of Lamont, the unincorporated communities of Frazier Park, Pinion Pines, and Pine Mountain Club (collectively referred to as the Mountain Communities) which are located approximately 15 miles north, 18 miles north, 19 miles north, and 9.5 miles southwest of the project site, respectively. The immediate project area has few nearby residences. The nearest residence is about 2.5 miles to the northwest and there is a small cluster of homes about 2.7 miles northwest. **Table 2**, *Project Site and Surrounding Land Uses*, presents the existing land uses, General Plan designations, and Zoning classification for the project site and surrounding area.

TABLE 2
PROJECT SITE AND SURROUNDING LAND USES

	Existing Land Use	Existing Map Code Designation	Existing Zone Classification
Project Site Western Parcels	Undeveloped	8.1 / 2.5 (Intensive Agriculture (Min 20 Acres)/Flood Hazard) 8.4/2.5(Mineral and Petroleum/ Flood Hazard) 8.3/2.5(Extensive Agriculture (Min 20 Acres)/Flood Hazard)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
Project Site Eastern Parcels	Undeveloped	8.1/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture (Min 20 Acres) /Flood Hazard) 8.3/2.5 (Extensive Agriculture (Min 20 Acres)/Flood Hazard)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
North		8.1/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture (Min 20 Acres)/Flood Hazard) 8.4/2.5 (Mineral and Petroleum/Flood Hazard)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
East		8.3/2.5 (Extensive Agriculture (Min 20 Acres)/Flood Hazard)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
South		8.3/2.5 (Extensive Agriculture (Min 20 Acres) / Flood Hazard)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
West		8.1/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture (Min 20 Acres)/Flood Hazard) 8.3/2.5 (Extensive Agriculture (Min 20 Acres) /Flood Hazard)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)

Project Description

Project Overview

The proposed project would develop a PV solar facility and associated infrastructure necessary to generate up to 115 megawatts of renewable electrical energy with the ability to store up to 40 MW/ 160 MWh of energy on approximately 650 acres of privately owned land in the southern portion of the San Joaquin Valley, in unincorporated Kern County.

The proposed project consists of the following requests:

- Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map 219 (solar facility)

- Williamson Act Land Use Contract Cancellation 19-02
- General Plan Amendment No. 10, Map 219 (Circulation)

As shown in Table 1, *Project Assessor Parcel Numbers, Corresponding Map Codes, Zoning and Acreage,* the proposed project consists of 4 parcels. The project site is entirely zoned A (Exclusive Agriculture). Therefore, pursuant to Chapter 19.12.030.G, a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is required for the construction and operation of the PV solar facility under this zoning.

Figure 2, *Project Vicinity*, shows the boundaries of the proposed project. The proposed project consists of two development areas that comprise the project site and would be built in several phases pending power purchase agreements. The facilities would be designed to produce up to a combined 115 MW of solar power, including storage of 40 MW in a BESS, at the point of interconnection to the transmission grid.

The energy storage equipment along with the project substation would be located on an approximate one (1) acre portion of the project site. A 0.5-mile long generation tie-line (gen-tie) is proposed to electrically interconnect the project to the regional grid system. The gen-tie would run east from the project to the existing PEF switchyard from which power would be conveyed through existing conductors to Southern California Edison's (SCE's) Pastoria Substation.

The proposed project consists of approximately 350,000 PV panels arranged in a grid pattern over the project site. The proposed project would include installation of PV panels that would be mounted on steel support posts that would be pile driven into the ground and connected to inverters. The PV panels would be made of a thin film material or polycrystalline silicon material covering the glass panes, which would be dark in color, highly absorptive, and have minimum reflectivity. The PV panels would be manufactured at an off-site location and transported to the project site for installation.

The project's PV panels would be mounted on single-axis tracking pivots that would be aligned north-south in rows evenly spaced apart, providing adequate construction and maintenance access. The north-south rows of the trackers would be grouped into rectangular arrays that extend across the project site in an east-west direction. In some cases, these arrays would be separated by 20-foot-wide maintenance corridors. The tracking pivots rotate the panels from east to west during the day to increase the capture of solar energy and have a pivoting range of up to 120 degrees. Where needed, the post length and associated pivot location would be designed with sufficient clearance to accommodate the relevant design storm and associated freeboard requirements. The panels would measure between 4 feet to 7 feet in height and stow horizontally during nighttime and as operational conditions dictate. The proposed facility is intended to operate year round and would generate electricity during the daylight hours.

The power generated on the project site would assist the state in complying with the Renewables Portfolio Standard under Senate Bill (SB) 100. Signed into law in September 2018, SB 100 requires California utilities to procure higher percentages of renewable energy sold to retail customers than previously required. The new targets are for 50 percent renewable resources by December 31, 2026, 60 percent by December 31, 2030, and 100 percent from eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources by 2045. The power generated on the project site would be sold to California investor-owned utilities, municipalities, community choice aggregators, or other purchasers in furtherance of the goals of the California Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. The project has an anticipated operational life of up to 35 years. At the end of the project's operational term, the project proponent would determine whether the project site should be decommissioned and deconstructed, or if it would seek an extension of its CUP. If any portion of the project site is decommissioned, it would be converted to other uses in accordance with the applicable land use regulations in effect at that time.

The combined project facilities would include the following components:

- Installation of up to 115-MW of solar PV modules, mounted on a single-axis racking system. The mounting systems for the modules would be mounted on steel support posts that would be pile driven into the ground;

- Installation of an energy storage facility and accessories that would provide 40 MW/160 MWh of energy storage capacity for the electrical grid;
- Installation of a 220 kV generation tie-line (gen-tie line) would extend from the onsite substation due east for 0.5 mile to connect with Southern California Edison's Pastoria Substation;
- A collector substation including circuit breakers, disconnect switches, metering protection equipment, and main step-up transformer(s);
- Underground or aboveground collection systems throughout the solar facilities (the collection systems would be aggregated at multiple circuit breakers or medium-voltage switchgear positions within the project facilities, leading to the collector substation);
- 34.5 kilovolt (kV) to 220 kV step-up conversion station;
- Onsite access corridors; and
- Perimeter security fencing and nighttime directional lighting at the on-site substation.

Project Facilities

Solar Arrays

The proposed project would use solar panels mounted on single-axis tracking pivots that would be aligned north-south in rows evenly spaced apart, providing adequate construction and maintenance access. The tracking pivots rotate the panels from east to west during the day to increase the capture of solar energy and have a pivoting range of up to 120 degrees. Where needed, the post length and associated pivot location would be designed with sufficient clearance to accommodate the relevant design storm and associated freeboard requirements. The panels would stow horizontally during nighttime and as operational conditions dictate. The tracking pivots would be supported by posts that would be driven directly into the ground, without a need for concrete foundations. The north-south rows of the trackers would be grouped into rectangular arrays that extend across the project site in an east-west direction. In some cases, these arrays would be separated by 20-foot-wide maintenance corridors. The maximum height of the single axis tracker would be up to 7-feet above grade at the beginning and end of each day.

Electrical Collector System and Inverters

The direct current (DC) power generated by the solar arrays would be transmitted using electric lines held in cable trenches or above ground cable trays to the inverters where the power would be converted to alternating current (AC) power for delivery to the grid. The inverters would be enclosed in metal cases and mounted on concrete slabs and would be dispersed among the arrays.

The AC power from the inverters would then be transmitted to the on-site switch gear by underground or overhead lines. Overhead communications lines would not be needed as the equipment used to control the trackers utilizes wireless technology.

Substation

The substation required to step up the power generated by the project to transmission voltage would be located on the eastern property line. The substation would occupy an area that would be approximately 200 feet by 200 feet in size. Transformers would be in a concrete lined basin that is designed to contain any fluid spills. The substation would be surrounded by a 6-foot-high chain link fence topped with barbed wire, and gravel would cover the ground surface. Lighting would be installed in the substation for security and for use at times when nighttime emergency repair work is required.

Generation Tie-Line and Interconnection to the Statewide Grid

A 220 kV gen-tie line would extend from the onsite substation due east for 0.5 mile to connect with the substation at the PEF. From this point, power would be transmitted to the SCE grid at the Pastoria Substation through an existing line. The project's gen-tie line would cross under the existing transmission corridor that is between the project site and the PEF.

Energy Storage System

The proposed project would install a 40 MW BESS and associated infrastructure that would provide energy storage capacity for the electric grid. The system is proposed to be located adjacent to the onsite collector substation and would include rechargeable battery packs, a Battery Management System (BMS), a Thermal Management System (TMS), grid-tied bi-directional inverters, step-up transformers, and required Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) devices, which would all work together as a single system. The lithium ion energy storage batteries would be housed in a structure or within conex boxes. The BESS would be modular, fully integrated, and AC-coupled. In the event a single structure is constructed near the onsite substation, a height (including any screening for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) of approximately 30 feet is anticipated as a worst-case scenario. The batteries under this configuration are housed in open-air-style racking (similar to computer racking) 10 to 12 feet high. The associated inverters, transformers, and switchgear would be located immediately adjacent to the structure on concrete pads. The energy storage structure would also have a fire rating in conformance with County standards and specialized fire suppression systems installed for the battery rooms. All non-battery rooms would have County-approved standard sprinkler systems. The structure would also have HVAC cooling in the battery room to maintain energy efficiency. Power to the HVAC, lighting, etc. would be provided via a connection to the onsite substation service transformer with connection lines installed aboveground and/or belowground. The BESS would be unmanned, with remote operational control and periodic inspections and maintenance performed as necessary. Power stored by the BESS would be delivered via 220 kV circuits to a grid interconnection point at the SCE Pastoria Substation.

Construction Activities

The construction activities for the proposed project fall into three main categories: (1) site preparation; (2) system installation; and (3) testing, commissioning, and cleanup. The entire construction process is estimated to take approximately 240 construction days, over the course of a 12-month period. Site grading and earthwork is anticipated to begin during the third quarter of 2020, with operations beginning in the third quarter of 2021.

Schedule and Workforce

Construction would primarily occur during daylight hours, Monday through Friday, between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., as required to meet the construction schedule. Additional hours/days may be necessary to facilitate the schedule. Any construction work performed outside of the normal work schedule would be coordinated with the appropriate agencies and would conform to the Kern County Noise Ordinance (Chapter 8.36).

The onsite construction workforce is expected to peak at up to 400 individuals; however, the average daily workforce is expected to be 190 construction, supervisory, support, and construction management personnel onsite during construction. It is anticipated that the construction workforce would commute to the project site each day from local communities and report to the designated construction staging yards prior to the beginning of each workday. Parking for construction personnel would be provided onsite. Portable toilets would be used and would be maintained by a private offsite company during the construction period.

Deliveries

During project construction, approximately 5 to 10 trucks per day would deliver loads to the site over a 12-month period. Temporary staging areas would be created on the site to store construction materials and construction equipment.

Construction activities would proceed as follows:

- Site Preparation: Excavation and grading would be minimal and staged to minimize dust, maintain existing drainage patterns, and ensure stability of the equipment installations.
- Installation of Fencing: The permanent security fence would be installed around the perimeter of the project site. The east and west halves of the site would be separately fenced. Fencing would be designed to allow movement of sensitive wildlife such as the San Joaquin kit fox.
- Access Corridors: The access corridors would be built of compacted native material to provide access to the panels for maintenance.
- Installation of the Solar Arrays and Inverters: The solar trackers would be assembled and installed and the solar panels would be attached to them. Concrete slabs would be poured at the inverter locations, and the inverter equipment would be put in place, or prefabricated equipment would be installed.
- Electrical Work: Installation of the underground electric lines to connect the solar arrays with the inverters and the inverters to the substation.
- Installation of the Substation and Transmission Interconnection: The substation site would be fenced and covered in gravel and the substation equipment would be installed. The substation would then be connected directly to the gen-tie line leading to the PEF.

Site Preparation

Currently the project site contains cattle feeding/watering stations located in the northwest quadrant and a communications-repeater structure is located in the northeast corner, which would be removed as part of the proposed project. The areas to be developed as access corridors would be smoothed and compacted. Grading and compaction would also be required at the inverter, BESS, and substation sites to provide stable bases for the installation of equipment. The primary method of vegetation removal would be to mow existing vegetation, leaving root structures in place. The concept is to maintain existing drainage to the greatest extent practicable. Spot grading would be utilized to remove small berms using a diesel motor grader. Stormwater retention basins would be prepared using a combination of diesel scrapers, bulldozers, and end loaders. Diversion swales and berms would be prepared at the project perimeter using similar heavy equipment. A series of rip-rap cutoff trenches within major drainage corridors, perpendicular to natural drainage direction, would be constructed as necessary to control erosion. Interior access corridors would consist of compacted native soil.

Concrete footings and pads for the inverters, substation transformers and equipment would be required. Final concrete specifications would be determined during detailed design engineering. Concrete may be produced on the project site and would be poured throughout the site by truck, or purchased from an off-site supplier and trucked in to the project site. If concrete is produced onsite a Conditional Use Permit for a concrete batch plant would be required pursuant to Kern County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 19.12.030 G.

Fencing

All fence installation requirements would be evaluated, and the best-fit scenario would be incorporated in the project site based on the County's final determination. Proposed fences would be installed around the perimeter of the two project halves (eastern parcels and western parcels), substation, and other areas requiring controlled access for safety and security purposes. The fencing is anticipated to be six-foot-tall chain link style fencing topped by one foot of three-strand barbed wire for a total height of seven feet. A

five-inch clearance would be provided, as measured from the ground to the bottom of the fence, for wildlife passage. The fencing would remain for the life of the project.

Access Corridors

Access to the site would be along an existing access way extending north from Edmonston Pumping Plant Road and reaching the southern boundary of the project site. By agreement with the property owners, the existing access road running north-south through the center of the project site would remain. The proposed project would be constructed in two halves (eastern parcels and western parcels), one on either side of the existing access road. Two separate entrances on each side would provide access to the east and west halves of the facility from this road.

The proposed project would include onsite 20-foot-wide access drives within maintenance corridors. The access drives would be compacted native surface to access the tracking solar PV panel arrays and other equipment for maintenance and to provide access for fire-fighting equipment. The locations of these corridors are identified on the site plan (Figure 3).

Solar Array Assembly

The solar arrays would be constructed with support structures and associated electrical equipment and cabling. First, steel piles would be driven into the soil using pneumatic techniques, similar to a hydraulic rock hammer attachment on the boom of a rubber-tired backhoe excavator. The piles, or "standards," are typically spaced approximately 10 feet apart and installed to a revealed height of approximately 4 feet above grade. Once the standards have been installed, the horizontal cross-members would be placed and secured. The arrays would consist of a motorized single-axis tracking system. For a single-axis tracking system, the trackers and their associated motors would be mounted to the horizontal cross-members.

The project would use solar panels mounted on single-axis tracking pivots that would be aligned north-south in rows evenly spaced apart, providing adequate construction and maintenance access. The tracking pivots rotate the panels from east to west during the day to increase the capture of solar energy and have a pivoting range of up to 120 degrees. Where needed, the post length and associated pivot location would be designed with sufficient clearance to accommodate the relevant design storm and associated freeboard requirements. The panels would stow horizontally during nighttime and as operational conditions dictate.

Concrete would be required for the footings and pads for the inverters, substation transformers and equipment. Final concrete specifications would be determined during detailed design engineering. Concrete may be produced on the project site and would be poured throughout the site by truck, or purchased from an off-site supplier and trucked in to the project site. During this work, there would be multiple crews working on the site with various equipment and vehicles, including special vehicles for transporting the modules and other equipment. As the solar arrays are installed, the substations and solar switchyard would be constructed and the electrical collection and communication systems would be installed. Within the solar fields, the electrical and communication wiring would be installed in underground trenches, and/or aboveground cable trays, although some of the mid-voltage collection runs and communication systems may be on overhead lines. The wiring would connect to the appropriate electrical and communication terminations and the circuits would be checked and commissioned prior to operation.

Inverters and Onsite Electrical and Communication Lines

The direct current (DC) power generated by the solar arrays would be transmitted using electric lines held in cable trenches or above ground cable trays, to inverters, where it would be converted to alternating current (AC) power for delivery to the grid. The inverters would be enclosed in metal cases and mounted on concrete slabs and would be dispersed among the arrays.

The AC power from the inverters would then be transmitted to the onsite switch gear by underground lines. Because the equipment that controls the trackers communicates using wireless technology, there would be no need for overhead communications lines on the site.

Substation and Generational Tie-Line

The substation required to step up the power generated by the project to transmission voltage would be located on the eastern property line. The substation would occupy an area that would be approximately 200 feet by 200 feet in size (0.92 acres). Transformers would be in a concrete lined basin that is designed to contain any fluid spills. The substation would be surrounded by a 6-foot-high chain link fence topped with 12 inches of barbed wire, and its ground surface would be covered with gravel. Lighting would be installed in the substation for security and for use at times when nighttime emergency repair work is required.

A 220 kV generator tie-line would extend from the onsite substation due east for 0.5 mile to connect with the PEF. From this point, power would be transmitted to the SCE grid at the Pastoria Substation through an existing line. The project's gen-tie line would cross under the existing transmission corridor that is between the project site and the PEF.

Construction Water Use

During construction of the proposed project, water would be required for common construction related purposes, including but not limited to dust suppression, soil compaction, and grading. Dust-control water may be used for ingress and egress of onsite construction vehicle equipment traffic and for the construction of the solar equipment. A sanitary water supply would not be required during construction, because restroom facilities would be provided by portable units to be serviced by licensed providers.

The overall construction water usage is anticipated to be approximately 58.6 acre-feet per year (AFY) during the 12-month construction period. During construction, water would be purchased from a local water purveyor. Water demand during construction is expected to be the same if the project is constructed during a year with normal precipitation, a year with less-than-average precipitation, or a multiyear period of less-than-average precipitation.

Worksite Safety Program

A Worker Health and Safety Program would be implemented for the project site. Program elements would include: mandatory viewing of a safety video required for all onsite workers, tailgate safety meetings, life safety, on-site fire extinguishers, and safety training specific to the trackers and solar modules.

Fire Safety and Emergency Plan

The proposed project would comply with all required and endorsed activities to limit the risk of injury or accidents onsite. Emergency contact information would be posted outdoors in an easily visible place and its location would be shared with all contractors during the required initial safety training before any worker is allowed onsite. Signage would be posted around the solar collection units, combiner boxes, disconnect switches and inverters, clarifying dangers and shock hazards. All National Electric Code regulations governing PV systems signage would be followed.

In the case of an electrical fire, the only features associated with the solar collection units that are flammable are the wires as the solar collection modules are constructed of silica, glass and aluminum. The inverter equipment and the transformer in the substation are large pieces of equipment that are also flammable. Fire extinguishers mounted on the inverter and transformer pads would be regularly inspected.

The solar collectors would be arranged in a series of north-south rows, with an alley between each row. The rows would be laid out in segments that are each up to 300 feet long. The segments are separated by alleyways and 20-foot-wide corridors of compacted native material which can accommodate large fire trucks.

In case of emergency, the entire plant would be shut off using a utility disconnect. The site utility disconnect would be located on the transformer pad and in an area that is accessible at all times. Master switch operation would require site access through the main gate only.

Disposal of Construction Materials

During construction, the building contractor would arrange to have trash, construction recycling, and regular recycling bins delivered to the site in accordance with Kern County Building Code requirements and guidelines. During construction, every effort would be made to minimize packaging and construction waste.

Construction recycling, regular recycling, and non-recyclable trash would be regularly picked up during the construction period. All project components would arrive by truck on pallets, which would be removed from the project site by the same truck.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials Compliance

To ensure minimum exposure of construction workers to hazardous materials (e.g., construction related fuels and paints), construction activities would comply with applicable worker protection laws and regulations, including the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), and Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). The construction contractor selected for the project would be responsible for ensuring that construction workers are trained in accordance with local, state, and federal requirements for handling hazardous materials.

Project Operations and Maintenance

Project operation would include periodic inspection, maintenance, and repair of the solar arrays. During project operation, one to two employees would be onsite intermittently every month (less than four trips a week) to perform maintenance duties. Ongoing maintenance would include periodic panel replacement and cleaning of the solar panels to maintain performance and efficiency. The site would be monitored by personnel stationed at the PEF approximately 0.5 miles east of the proposed project.

Access Roads

Once operational, access to the project site would be along an existing agricultural road extending north from Edmonston Pumping Plant Road. This unnamed roadway bisects the project site north-south along the section line (T10N, R19W, Sections 11 and 12). The proposed project would be on each side of this road and there would be two separate entrances to each side, to the east and west halves, of the facility from this road. Secondary access to the site would be by traveling south from Laval Road via the unnamed north-south agricultural road through the center of the site to the project's northern boundary.

The project would include 20-foot-wide maintenance corridors of compacted native surface to access the tracking solar PV panel arrays and other equipment for maintenance and provide access for fire-fighting equipment. The locations of these corridors are identified on the site plan in Figure 3.

Utilities and Infrastructure

There would be no office building on the project site and the energy required to operate the solar trackers would be generated by the project. The project site would need electric power only for the emergency lighting system in the substation and in the BESS. This power will be provided via backfeed from the Southern California Edison interconnection to the grid. No diesel generators would be used during operation.

Operational Water Use

Panel washing would occur up to two times per year. Water for the maintenance of the solar panels would consume approximately 250,000 gallons (0.76 acre feet) per washing, which would be transported onto the site and sprayed onto the panels from trucks driving slowly along access corridors adjacent to the panels. Operational water would be purchased through the Tejon-Castac Water District and would be accessed at irrigation supply turnouts within the project site on the property boundaries. Annual water consumption for all uses would be approximately 1.53 AFY.

Site Security

The project site would be surrounded by a 6-foot-high chain link fence topped with 12 inches of three strand barbed wire and the east and west halves of the project would be separately fenced. The only lighting that would be installed on the project site would be at the substation for security and use at times when nighttime repair activities may be required. The solar field would not require lighting.

A sign would be provided at the entrances to the east and west halves of the project on the unnamed north-south agricultural road that identifies the project and project owner. Signage on the site would be restricted to that which is necessary for site security and for safety.

Waste Disposal

The project would produce a small amount of waste associated with maintenance activities, which could include broken and rusted metal, defective or malfunctioning modules, electrical materials, empty containers, and other miscellaneous solid waste, including the typical refuse generated by workers. Most of these materials would be collected and delivered back to the manufacturer or to recyclers. Non- recyclable waste would be placed in covered dumpsters and removed on a regular basis by a certified waste-handling contractor for disposal at a Class III landfill. The closest Class III municipal landfill is the Bena Sanitary Landfill in Bakersfield.

Project Decommissioning

The proposed project has an anticipated operational life of up to 35 years, after which the project proponent may choose to update site technology and recommission, or to decommission the site and remove the systems and their components. All decommissioning and restoration activities would adhere to the requirements of the appropriate governing authorities and in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and County regulations in effect at that time. Following the expiration of a power purchase agreement for the proposed project, the Applicant may, at its discretion, choose to enter into subsequent power purchase agreements or to decommission and remove the system and its components. The project site could then be converted to other uses in accordance with the applicable land use regulations in effect at that time.

It is anticipated that during project decommissioning, project structures would be removed from the ground on the project site. Aboveground equipment that would be removed would include module posts and support structures, on-site transmission poles that are not shared with third parties, and the overhead collection system within the project site; inverters, transformers, electrical wiring, and equipment on the inverter pads. The substation would be removed if it is owned by the project proponent; however, if a public or private utility assumes ownership of the substation, the substation may remain onsite to be used as part of the utility service to supply other applications.

Equipment would be de-energized prior to removal, salvaged (where possible), placed in appropriate shipping containers, and secured in a truck transport trailer for shipment off site to be recycled or disposed of at an appropriately licensed disposal facility. Removal of the solar modules would include removing the racks on which the solar panels are attached and placing them in secure transport crates and a trailer for storage, for ultimate transportation to another facility. Once the solar panels have been removed, the racks would be disassembled and the structures supporting the racks would be removed. Site infrastructure would be removed, including the fences and the concrete pads that may support the inverters, transformers, and related equipment. The demolition debris and removed equipment may be cut or dismantled into pieces that can be safely lifted or carried with the equipment being used. The fencing and gates would be removed, and all materials would be recycled to the extent feasible. Project roads would be restored to their pre-construction condition unless the landowner elects to retain the improved roads for access throughout that landowner's property. The area would be thoroughly cleaned and all debris removed. The development areas would be restored to pre-construction conditions including aggregate base rock removal, regrading of the site as necessary, reseeding, and sediment and erosion control. A collection and recycling program would be executed to promote recycling of project components and minimize disposal in landfills.

Relationship of the Project to Other Solar Projects

The proposed project is being developed independently of other approved or proposed solar projects in the County. If approved, the proposed project would be subject to their own use permits, conditions of approval, interconnection agreements, and power purchase agreements.

Project Objectives

The project proponent has identified the following primary objectives for the proposed project:

- Construct and operate a solar energy generation facility with energy storage capabilities to help California advance its Renewable Portfolio Standard and energy storage goals
- Site the project as near as possible to a substation with available transmission capacity
- Site the project in a location that minimizes conflicts with residential, conservation, and agricultural land uses

Proposed Discretionary Actions/ Approvals

To implement this project, the following discretionary and ministerial permits/approvals may be required, including but not limited to the following:

Federal

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
  - Section 10 Permit (Incidental Take and Habitat Conservation Plan Agreement)

State

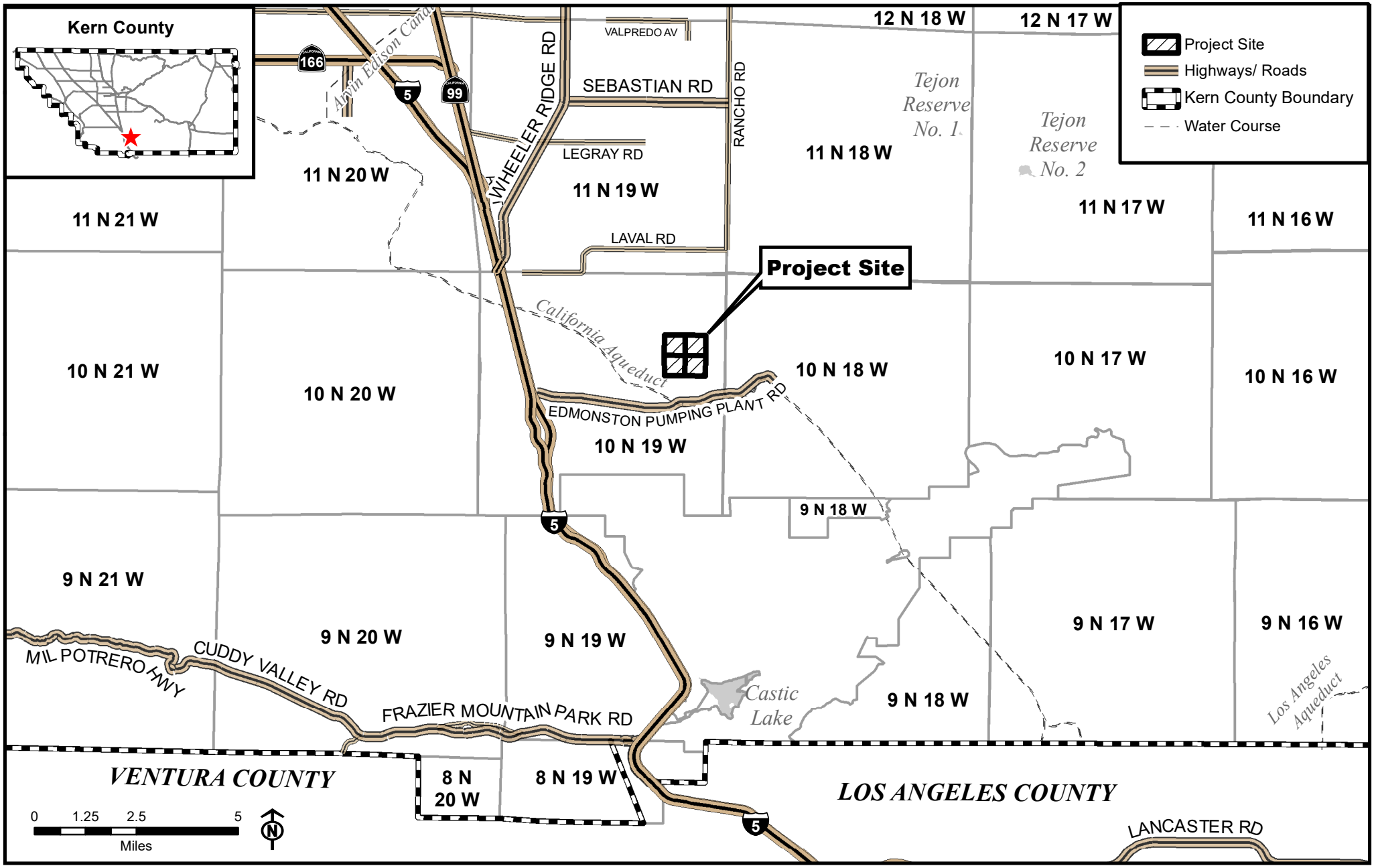
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
  - Section 1600 et seq. permits (Streambed Alteration Agreements)
  - Section 2081 Permit (State-listed endangered species)
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
  - Water Quality Certification (401 Permit)
  - Waste Discharge Requirements
  - National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
  - Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit
  - Oversized Loads Permit

Local

- County of Kern
  - Certification of Final Environmental Impact Report
  - Adoption of 15091 and 15093 Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations
  - Adoption of Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
  - Approval of Kern County Conditional Use Permit (CUP 9, Map 219)
  - Approval of Williamson Act Land Use Contract Cancellation

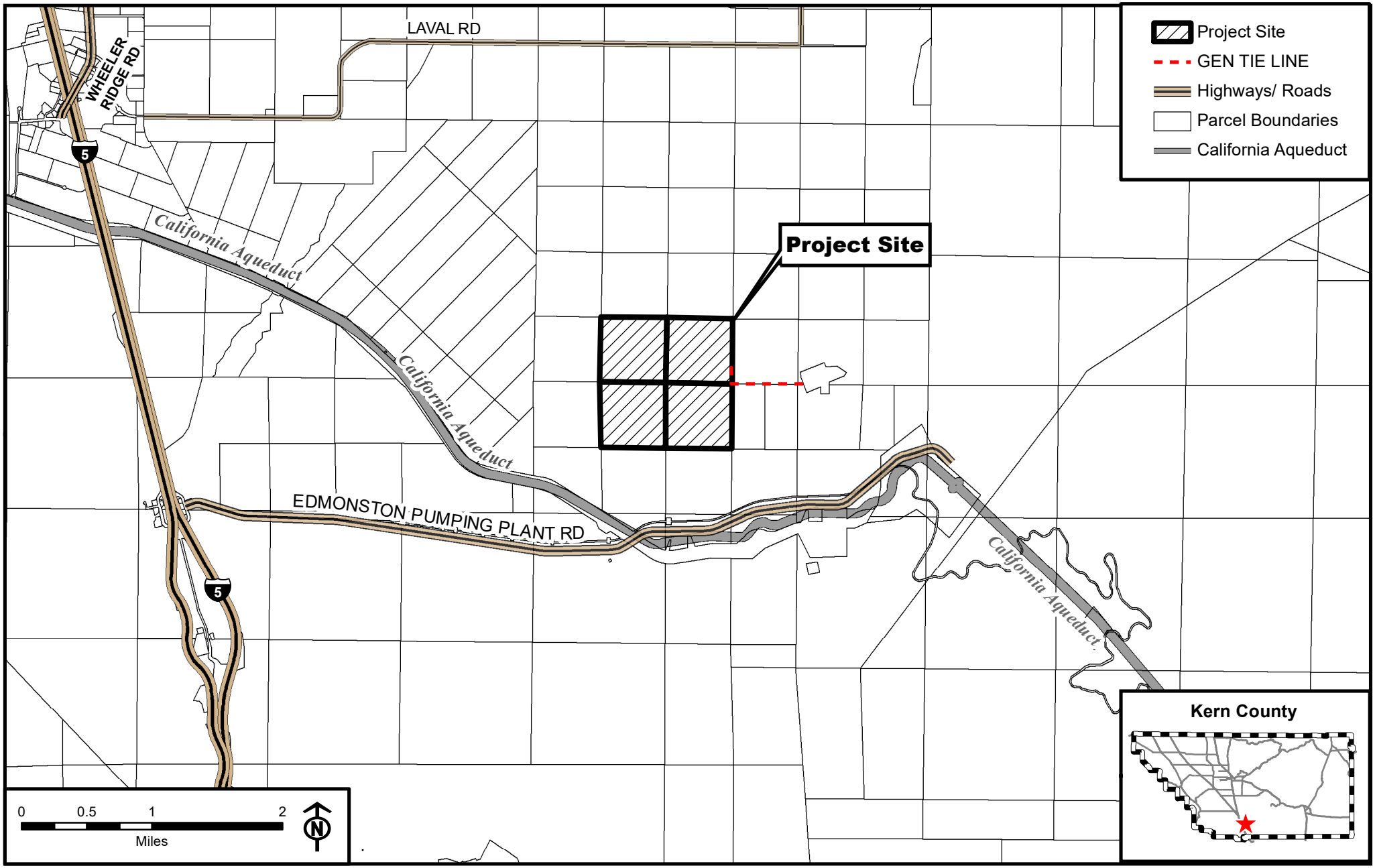
  - Approval of General Plan Amendment (Circulation) (GPA 10, Map 219)
  - Approval of Grading Permits
  - Approval of Building Permits
  - Fire Safety Plan
- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)
  - Fugitive Dust Control Plan
  - Any other permits as required

Other additional permits or approvals from responsible agencies may be required for the proposed project.



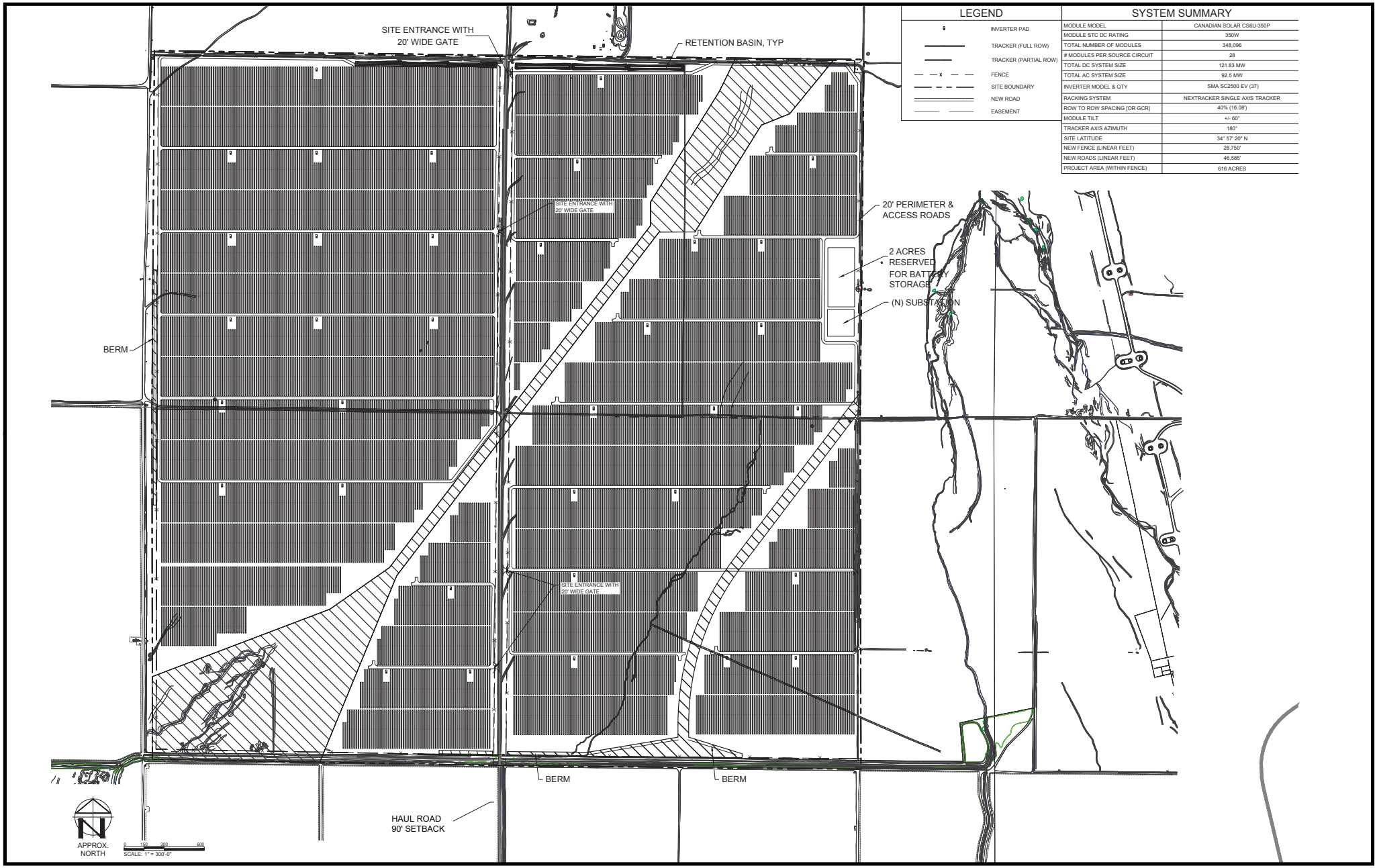
CUP 9, Map No. 219; WALUC 19-02; GPA 10, Map No. 219

Figure 1. Regional Vicinity



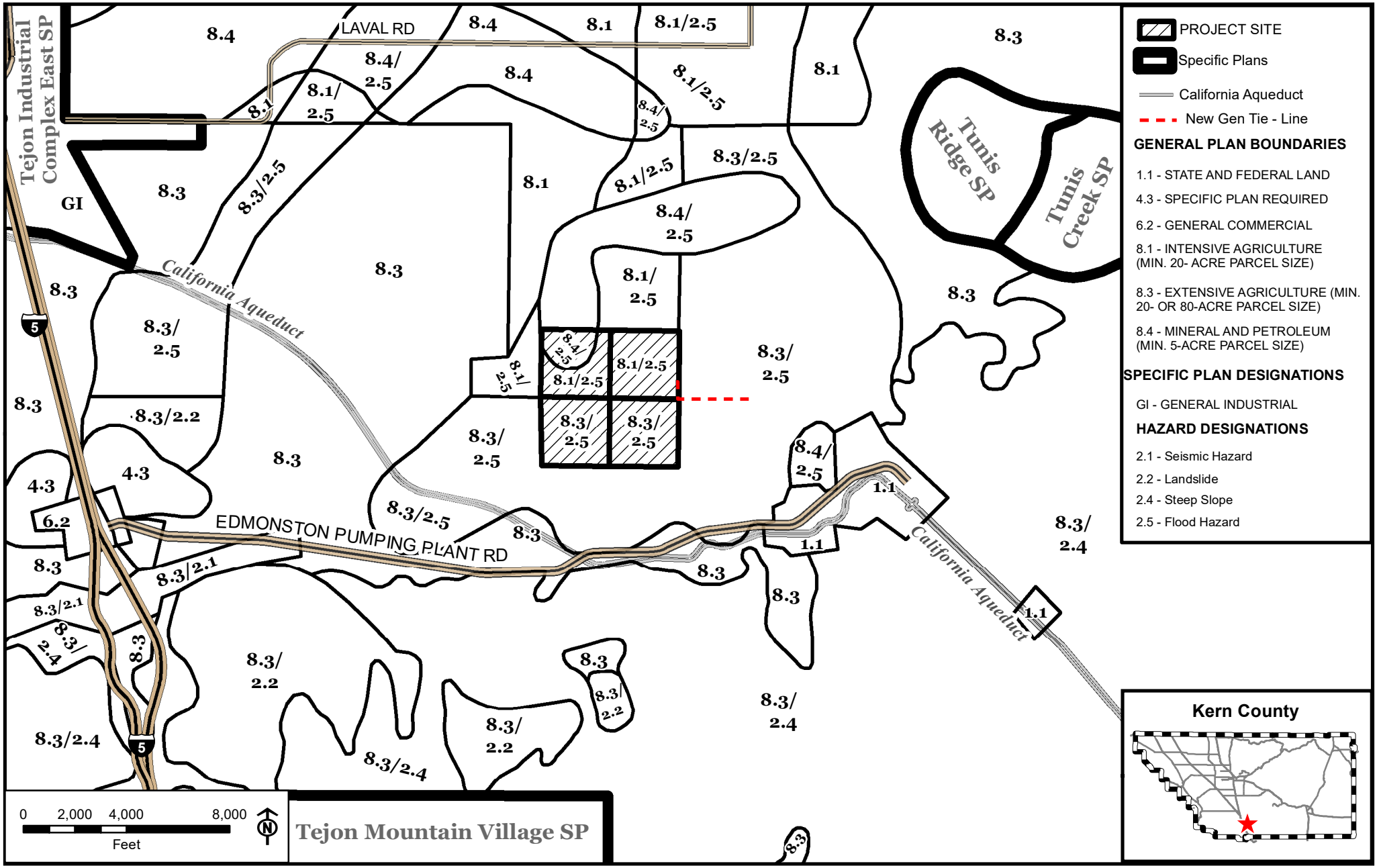
CUP 9, Map No. 219; WALUC 19-02; GPA 10, Map No. 219

Figure 2. Project Vicinity



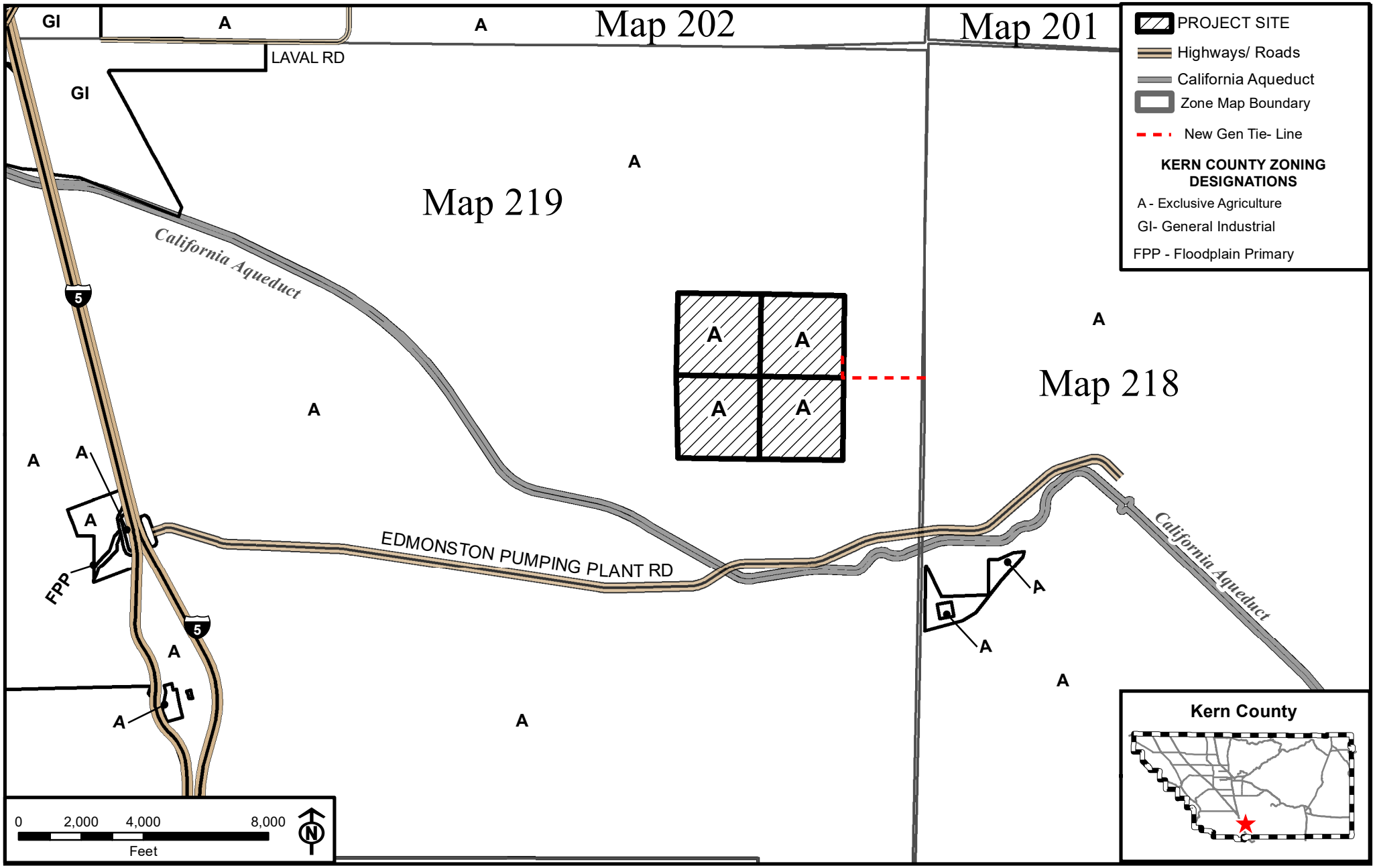
CUP 9, Map No. 219; WALUC 19-02; GPA 10, Map No. 219

Figure 3. Site Plan



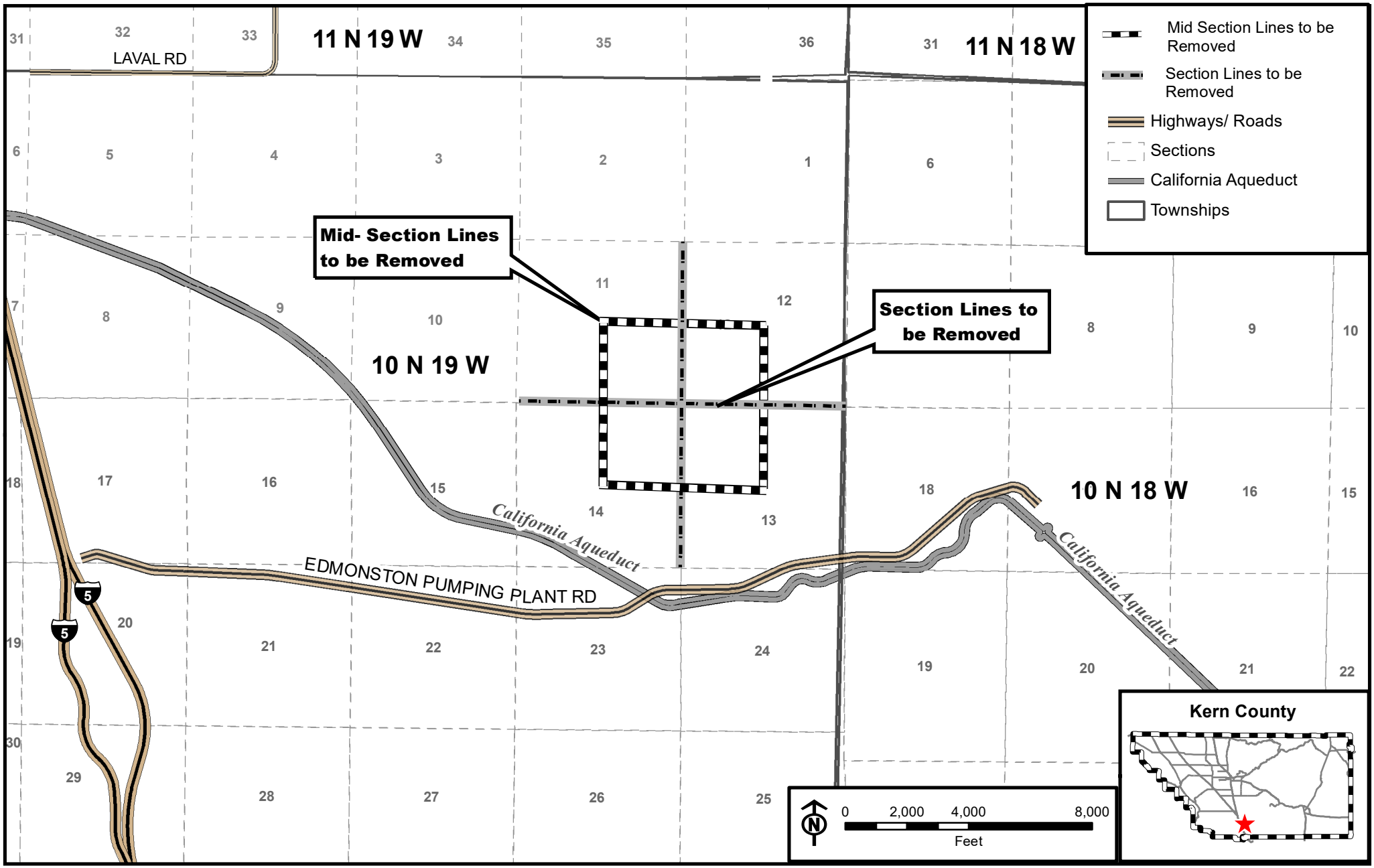
CUP 9, Map No. 219; WALUC 19-02; GPA 10, Map No. 219

Figure 4. Existing General Plan & Land Use Designations



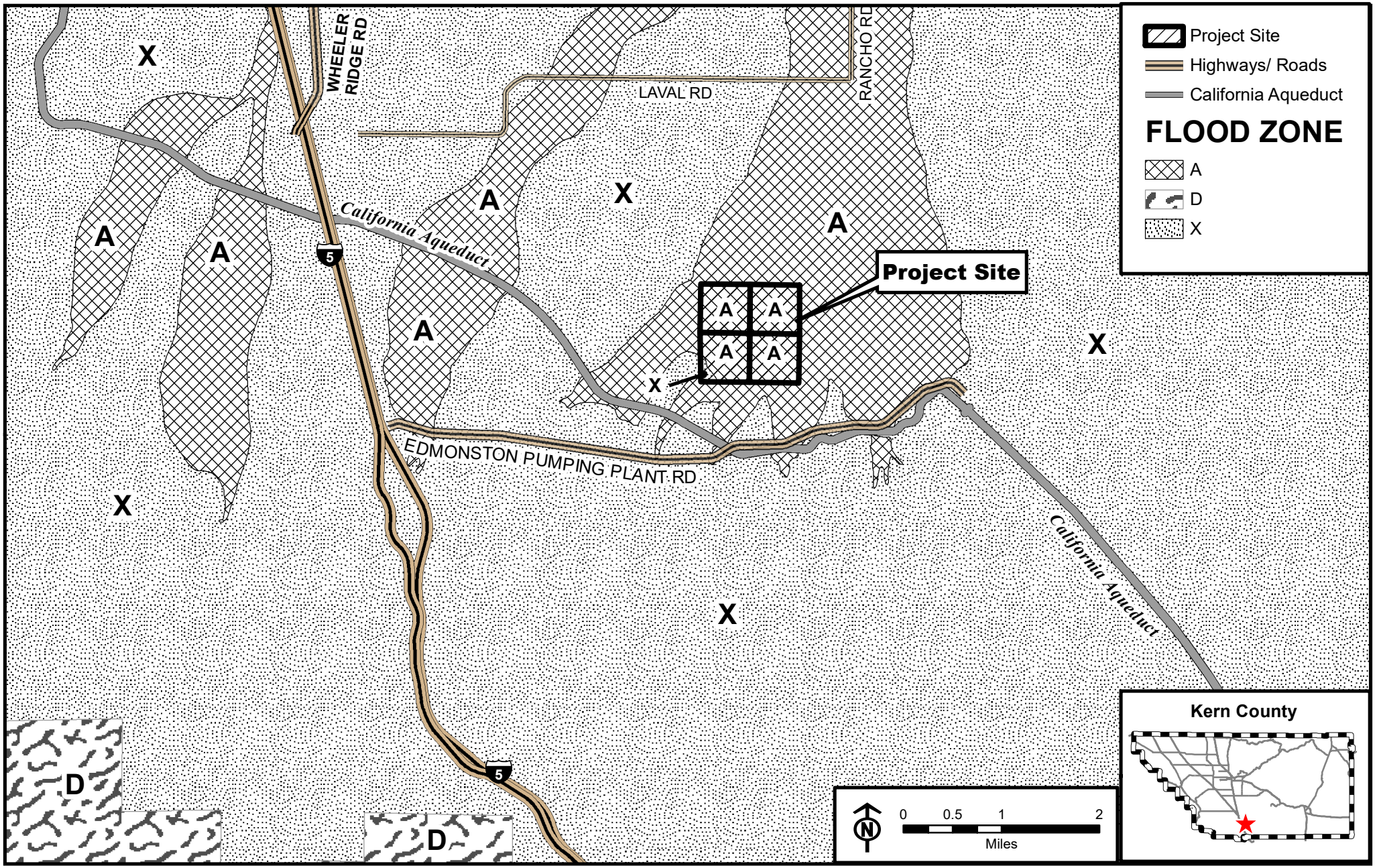
CUP 9, Map No. 219; WALUC 19-02; GPA 10, Map No. 219

Figure 5. Existing Zoning



CUP 9, Map No. 219; WALUC 19-02; GPA 10, Map No. 219

Figure 6. Proposed Amendments to Circulation Element



CUP 9, Map No. 219; WALUC 19-02; GPA 10, Map No. 219

Figure 7. Flood Zone

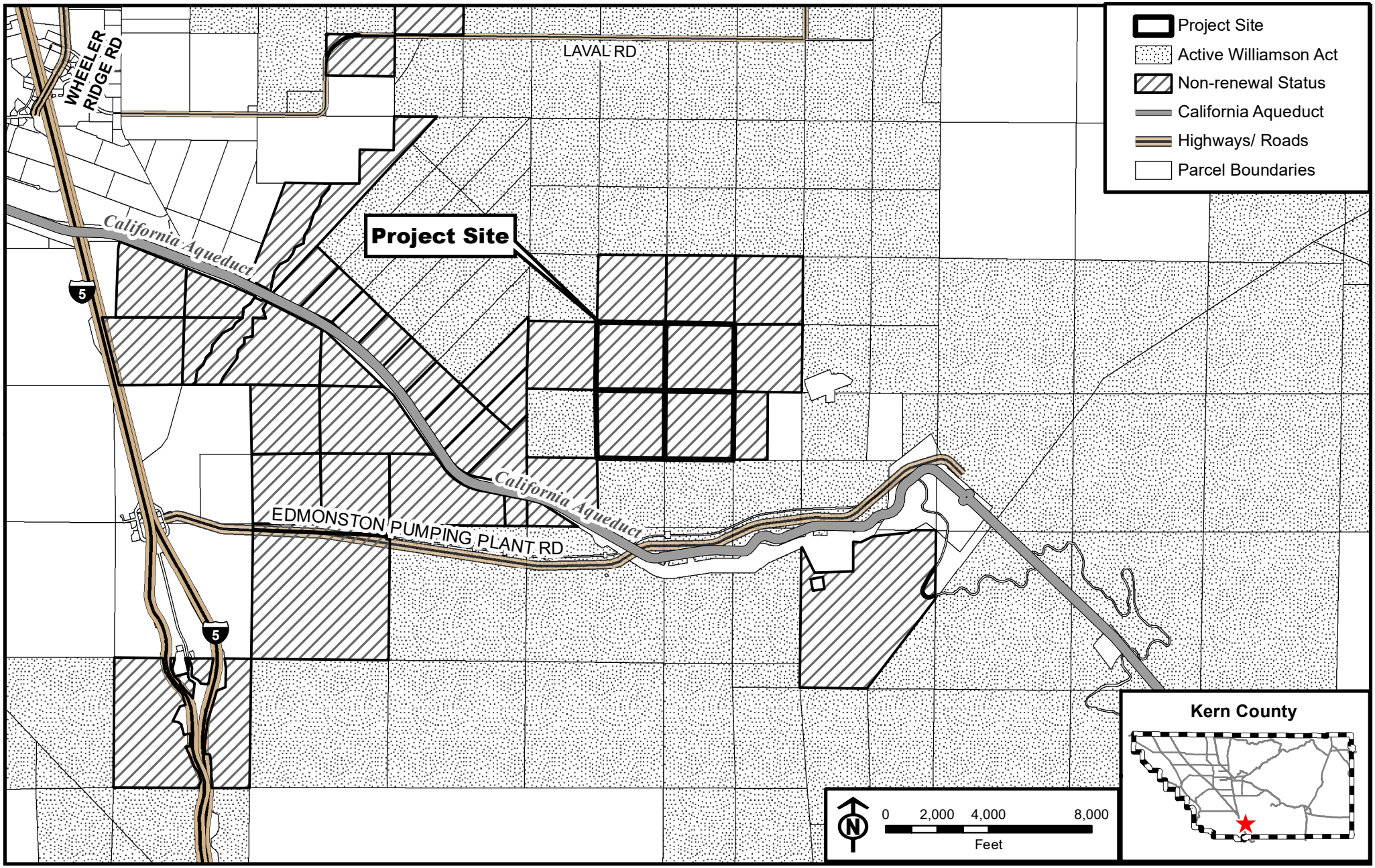
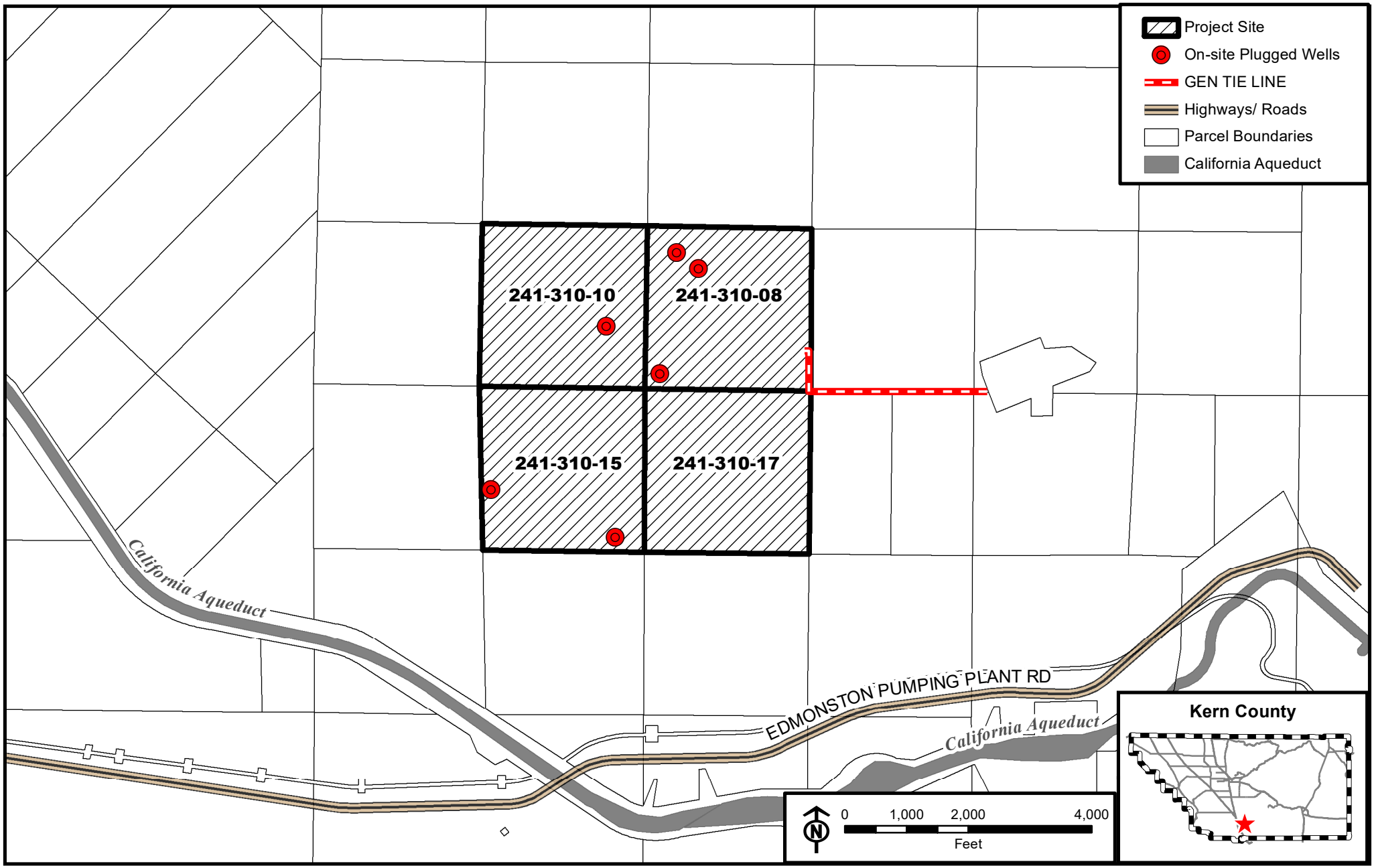


Figure 8. Williamson Act Land Use Contract Cancellation

CUP 9, Map No. 219; WALUC 19-02; GPA 10, Map No. 219



CUP 9, Map No. 219; WALUC 19-02; GPA 10, Map No. 219

Figure 9. OnSite Plugged Wells

KERN COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

DETERMINATION. (To be completed by the Lead Agency)
On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

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

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

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect (a) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (b) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENT IMPACT REPORT (EIR) is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Cindi Hoover — 09/13/2019

Signature — Date

Cindi Hoover — Planner II

Printed Name — Title

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

(1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a Lead Agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

(2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

(3) Once the Lead Agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.

(4) Negative Declaration: "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The Lead Agency must describe the mitigation measure and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.

(5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

   (a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

   (b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist where within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

   (c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

(6) Lead Agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

(7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion

(8) The adopted guidelines state "This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, Lead Agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected." Kern County has adopted this format and included all questions from Appendix G.

(9) The explanation of each issue should identify:

   (a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and

   (b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

I. AESTHETICS

Would the project:

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

RESPONSES:

a) A scenic vista is an area identified or known for high scenic quality. Scenic vistas may be designated by a federal, state, or local agency and may also include an area that is designated, signed, and accessible to the public for the express purposes of viewing and sightseeing. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) states that a highway may be designated scenic depending upon how much of the natural landscape can be seen by travelers, the scenic quality of the landscapes, and the extent to which development intrudes upon the traveler's enjoyment of the view. While not designated as a scenic highway, the I-5 has views of the Tehachapi Mountains to the southeast and the San Emigdio Mountains to the southwest are known for their high scenic quality, when traveling southbound on the interstate, and could be identified as a scenic vista. Portions of the project site can be viewed from vehicles on I-5 when traveling southbound. Thus, the construction and operation of the proposed project has the potential to alter the views of a scenic vista, as viewed from vehicles traveling on the I-5. The alteration of vistas from I-5 and other perspectives will be further evaluated in the EIR.

b) There are currently no designated state scenic highways throughout the County; however, the California Scenic Highways Master Plan designates three State highways in Kern County as "Eligible State Scenic Highway(s)." Route 1 consists of State Route 14 and State Highway 395 from north of Mojave and continues to the Inyo County line. Route 2 consists of State Route 58 between Mojave and Boron. Route 3 consists of five miles of State Route 41 in northwest Kern County. As the proposed project is not in the vicinity of any designated state scenic highways nor eligible state scenic highways, impacts to scenic resources within state scenic highways would be less than significant; however, this topic will be further evaluated in the EIR.

c) The project is located in a sparsely developed, non-urbanized area of Kern County. Development within the vicinity of the project site includes PEF and SCE's Pastoria Substation. The existing visual character of the area also includes the rolling foothills at the base of the Tehachapi Mountains as well as the silhouetted trees atop the mountainous ridgeline. The proposed project itself is located on a flat alluvial fan filled with long grass like vegetation apt for grazing. Placement of photovoltaic solar panels and associated infrastructure on the project site would not only alter the existing visual character of the area but may also be visible from publicly accessible vantage points. Impacts as a result of development of the proposed project to the existing visual character and quality of the area will be further evaluated in the EIR.

d) The PV modules are designed to absorb sunlight to maximize electrical output; therefore, they would not create significant reflective surfaces or the potential for glint/glare during the day. All lighting at the proposed solar facilities would be designed to meet Kern County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 19.81- Outdoor Lighting-Dark Skies Ordinance requirements. However, further analysis of the specific lighting and effects of nighttime light and glare from the proposed project will be provided in the EIR.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES				
Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or Williamson Act contract?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)) or timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code section 4526) or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104 (g),	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Result in the cancellation of an open space contract made pursuant to the California Land Conservation Act of 1965 or Farmland Security Zone Contract for any parcel of 100 or more acres (Section 15206(b)(3) Public Resources Code?	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

a) As shown on the California Department of Conservation (CDC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) 2016 Important Farmland Map, no designated Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance have been identified within the boundaries of the proposed project. The CDC FMMP 2016 Important Farmland Map, designates the project site as "Grazing Land." Surrounding properties are designated as either: (a) "Nonagricultural and Natural Vegetation"; (b) "Prime Farmland"; (c) "Farmland of Statewide Importance"; or (d) "Unique Farmland" (California Department of Conservation, 2016). Given that surrounding properties are designated as prime, unique, and of statewide importance, potential impacts will be

further evaluated in the EIR. Construction and/or operation of the project is not anticipated to result in the conversion of designated farmland to a non-agricultural use; however, further analysis is warranted in the EIR.

b) As shown in Figure 8, *Williamson Act Land Use Contract Cancellation*, all four parcels within the proposed project boundaries are designated Zone A (Agriculture) and are all included in an existing Williamson Act Land Use Contract set to expire in the year 2023. While the existing Williamson Act Land Use Contract was filed for nonrenewal and solar energy generation is considered a compatible use in Zone A with approval of a CUP according to the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, construction and operation of the proposed project on the parcels would interfere with the land being utilized for traditional agricultural purposes during the lifespan of the proposed project. Potential impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.

c) No lands within or immediately adjacent to the proposed project are zoned forest land or timberland or timberland zoned Timberland Production; thus, the proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for any of the aforementioned zoning designations and there would be no impact anticipated, however, this topic will be further discussed in the EIR.

d) As noted above, no lands within or immediately adjacent to the project are zoned forest land or timberland and do not contain any forested areas. Due to a lack of forest land on the site, the proposed project does not involve any changes to the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in impacts resulting in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Therefore, there would be no impact anticipated, however, this topic will be further discussed in the NOP.

e) While there is no designated Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance within the project site, surrounding properties are designated as prime, unique, and of statewide importance. Thus, potential changes stemming from the proposed project on the existing environment and potential conversion of surrounding Farmland to non-agricultural use will be further evaluated in the EIR.

No lands within or immediately adjacent to the project are zoned forest land and do not contain any forested areas. Due to a lack of forest land on the site, the proposed project does not involve any changes to the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

f) As shown in Figure 8, *Williamson Act Land Use Contract Cancellation*, all four parcels within the proposed project boundaries are included in an existing Williamson Act Land Use Contract made pursuant to the California Land Conservation Act of 1965. The contract was filed for nonrenewal in 2014 but is valid until the year 2023. Should the proposed project be approved, construction and operation of the project could potentially occur before 2023 and would result in cancellation of an existing Williamson Act Land Use Contract. Impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY				
The significance criteria established by the applicable Air pollution control district shall be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard? Specifically, would implementation of the project (in a specific location) exceed any of the following adopted thresholds:	☒	☐	☐	☐
i. San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District:				
Operational and Area Sources				
Reactive Organic Gases (ROG) 10 tons per year.	☒	☐	☐	☐
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x) 10 tons per year.	☒	☐	☐	☐
Particulate Matter (PM_{10}) 15 tons per year.	☒	☐	☐	☐
Stationary Sources as determined by District Rules				
Severe Nonattainment 25 tons per year.	☒	☐	☐	☐
Extreme Nonattainment 10 tons per year.	☒	☐	☐	☐

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

III. AIR QUALITY

(Continued)

ii. Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District.

Operational and Area Sources				
Reactive Organic Gases (ROG) 25 tons per year.	☐	☐	☒	☐
Oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) 25 tons per year.	☐	☐	☒	☐
Particulate Matter (PM_{10}) 15 tons per year.	☐	☐	☒	☐
Stationary Sources as determined by District Rules				
25 tons per year.	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☒	☐	☐	☐
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people.	☐	☐	☒	☐

RESPONSES:

a) The project site is located entirely within the jurisdiction of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD), in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, which is designated as nonattainment (level of a criteria air pollutant is higher than the level allowed by the State standards) for Ozone 1 hour, Ozone 8 hour, and PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ pollutants under State ambient air quality standards. The air basin is also in non-attainment for Ozone 8 hour and $PM_{2.5}$ pollutants under Federal ambient air quality standards. Construction stemming from the proposed project could generate emissions that could result in exceedance of significance thresholds established by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD), Kern County, the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to result in significant impacts to air quality in the area and violations of adopted air quality standards. Further analysis of air quality impacts is warranted to determine whether the project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable plans for attainment and, if so, to determine the reasonable and feasible mitigation measures that could be imposed. An Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Analysis is being prepared for the project and potential impacts will be evaluated in the EIR.

b) (i-ii) The San Joaquin Air Basin is a nonattainment area for the State and Federal ozone standards and the State PM_{10} standard. As the project site is located entirely within the SJVAPCD, all rules and regulations set forth by the SJVAPCD apply to all project activities. The air quality analysis will include a quantitative discussion of emissions created by this project in the San Joaquin Air Basin. Operational and cumulative contributions could be potentially significant and, thus, will be analyzed in the EIR.

c) The project's construction-related activities could result in diesel exhaust emissions and dust that could adversely affect air quality for the nearest sensitive receptors. Exposure to Valley Fever from fugitive dust generated during construction is a potentially significant impact. Potential cocci spores could be stirred up during excavation, grading, and earth-moving activities, exposing construction workers to these spores and to the possibility of contracting Valley Fever. While surrounding land uses consist primarily of undeveloped land, there are a few agricultural operations as well as the operation of PEF within a half mile of the proposed project. Employees of these operations may potentially be exposed to dust and construction related emissions stemming from the proposed project and, thus, impacts to sensitive receptors will be further evaluated in the EIR.

d) The proposed project is located in a sparsely developed area, and would not have any permanent stationary sources or equipment located on site that would generate objectionable odors or other emissions. However, during construction activities short-term, temporary odors from vehicle exhausts and other construction equipment would occur. These odors, however, are not expected to affect a substantial number of people because the site is located in sparsely populated areas and any odors or emissions would be temporary and would disperse rapidly. This will be further evaluated in the EIR.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

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

RESPONSES:

a) A database query of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants revealed several special-status species that occur in the region including burrowing owl (Athene cunicularia), the northern harrier (Circus cyaneus), the golden eagle (Aguila chrysaetos), and several rare plant species including the Bakersfield saltbrush (Atriplex tularensis). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) designates the following special status species as being potentially affected by activities on the proposed project site: San Joaquin Kit Fox (Vulpes macrotis mutica), California Condor (Gymnogyps californianus), Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard (Gambelia silus), California Red-legged Frog (Rana draytonii), and Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp (Branchinecta lynchi). The proposed project is also located within the boundaries of the California Condor critical habitat. Detailed field studies are in progress and impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.

b) Riparian habitats are found along rivers, creeks, streams, and lakes and generally consist of plant communities of woody vegetation. While the proposed project site does not contain any rivers, creeks, stream, or lakes, it is immediately adjacent to lands through which both Pastoria Creek and Cattle Creek pass through. As there are potential riparian habitats in the area due to these water sources, potential impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.

c) The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) provided by USFWS does not identify any wetlands within the project site; however, there is a fresh water wetland present on a parcel immediately adjacent to the proposed project and, thus, impacts to wetlands will be further evaluated in the EIR.

d) The proposed project is located within the boundaries of the California Condor critical habitat. Construction and development of the project may result in impacts to the habitat of this species. As the project site is currently vacant grazing land, other wildlife species may also use the land during migratory periods. Impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.

e) The Kern County General Plan (KCGP) includes oak tree conservation policies. There are no oak trees present on the project site. As proposed, the project is not anticipated to conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources but potential impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.

f) The proposed project is not situated within the boundaries of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan including the locally adopted Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Therefore, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant; however, potential impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

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

RESPONSES:

(a- b) The proposed project consists of currently undeveloped land. Development of the proposed project would require ground disturbance for grading, installation of the solar arrays and gen-tie lines; this development could potentially impact historical resources and archaeological resources. A cultural resources survey will be conducted for the project. Further evaluation in the EIR is warranted to identify potential impacts to historical and archaeological resources and to formulate avoidance or mitigation measures, if applicable.

c) Construction of the proposed project would require ground disturbing activities including but not limited to excavation, grading, and clearing to implement project components. As ground disturbing activities may result in the possible disturbance of human remains, impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

VI. ENERGY

Would the project:

a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☒	☐

RESPONSES:

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

Following implementation of the proposed project, energy would cease to be consumed onsite and would instead switch to production. Energy use associated with operation of the proposed project would be typical of a solar facility. No operation and maintenance facilities are proposed for the project and emergency lighting would only be provided at the substation and in the energy storage area. Energy required to operate the solar trackers would be generated by the project. Maintenance activities during operations, such as landscape maintenance, could involve the use of electric or gas-powered equipment. In addition to onsite energy use, the proposed project would result in transportation energy use associated with employee vehicle trips generated by the proposed project. Further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

b) Due to the increased onsite consumption of energy during construction, the project has the potential to conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for energy efficiency. Operation of the project would lead to an overall increase in the County's Renewable Energy Portfolio, and would align with the stated General Plan policy to encourage the development of renewable energy within Kern County. Impacts are considered to be less than significant; however, further analysis is warranted and this topic will be discussed and analyzed in the EIR.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

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

RESPONSES:

a)

i. There are no active fault zones or seismic hazard zones within the project site as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map. The nearest active fault is the Pleito Fault, located approximately 2 miles southwest from the proposed project. Construction of the proposed project would be subject to all applicable ordinances of the Kern County Building Code (Chapter 17.08). Kern County has adopted the California Building Code (CBC) 2016 Edition (CCR Title 24) effective January 1, 2017, which imposes substantially the same requirements as the International Building Code (IBC), 2015 Edition, with some modifications and amendments. Adherence to all applicable regulations would mitigate any potential impacts associated with the proposed project. Impacts are expected to be less than significant but will be further evaluated in the EIR.

ii. Due to the location of active faults in the general region, strong seismic ground shaking could occur at the project site, resulting in damage to structures that are not properly designed to withstand strong ground shaking. Should strong seismic ground shaking occur, damage to the PV modules and other ancillary facilities (e.g., substation) could result. However, construction of the proposed project would be subject to all applicable ordinances of the Kern County Building Code (Chapter 17.08), IBC, and CBC earthquake construction standards, including those relating to soil characteristics. Impacts are expected to be less than significant; however, further analysis of this issue will be discussed in the EIR.

iii. Liquefaction potential occurs when there is a combination of unconsolidated soil type and high groundwater combined with high potential seismic activity. The potential for substantial adverse effects to the project due to seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, will be examined in the EIR.

iv. The project site is not considered to be a high risk area for landslides, as it is relatively flat and is not subject to movement of rock, debris, or soil. However, the potential for substantial adverse effects to the project due to landslides will be examined in the EIR.

b) The project would require minimal grading and filling over most of the site. Access corridors, as well as, inverter, battery storage, and substation sites would be either smoothed, compacted, or graded. As a result, project construction would have the potential to result in erosion, sedimentation, and discharge of construction debris from the site. Vegetation clearing and grading activities, for example, could lead to exposed or stockpiled soils susceptible to peak stormwater runoff flows and wind forces. The compaction of soils by heavy equipment may minimally reduce the infiltration capacity of soils (exposed during construction) and increase runoff or erosion potential. An erosion and sediment control plan would be prepared that specifies best management practices (BMPs) to prevent construction pollutants, including eroded soils (such as topsoil), from moving off the site. Although impacts are anticipated to be less than significant with implementation of the project proponent's approach to site preparation and the County and state requirements, impacts related to soil erosion or the loss of topsoil will be evaluated further in the EIR.

c) The project lies in a relatively flat-lying plain where landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, and collapse are not expected to occur. Liquefaction potential occurs when there is a combination of unconsolidated soil type and high groundwater combined with high potential seismic activity. Impacts related to geologic instability are not anticipated to occur or pose a hazard to the proposed project or surrounding area; nevertheless, the potential for substantial adverse effects to the project due to geologic instability and liquefaction will be examined in the EIR.

d) Expansive soils are fine-grained soils (generally high plasticity clays) that can undergo a significant increase in volume with an increase in water content and a significant decrease in volume with a decrease in water content. Changes in the water content of a highly expansive soil can result in

severe distress to structures constructed on or against the soil. The EIR will confirm the presence or absence of expansive soils within the project area.

e) Portable bathroom facilities would be utilized only during construction. Because no employees would be working on site on a regular basis during operations, no wastewater disposal facilities (i.e., septic systems) would be needed and no permanent bathroom facilities would be constructed as part of the project. Thus, there would be no impact anticipated, however, this topic will be further discussed in the EIR.

f) Kern County is rich in paleontological resources. If paleontologically sensitive formations are located under the project, ground disturbance could result in potentially significant impacts to paleontological resources. Thus, a paleontological study for the project will be performed. While impacts are anticipated to be less than significant, further evaluation in the EIR is warranted to identify potential impacts and to formulate avoidance or mitigation measures, if applicable.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

a) Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions emitted by human activity are implicated in global climate change or global warming. The principal GHGs are CO_2, methane (CH_4), NOX, ozone, water vapor, and fluorinated gases. The temporary construction activities associated with the project, which would involve operation of heavy off-road equipment, on-road trucks (for deliveries and hauling), and construction worker commute trips, would generate GHGs. However, as a solar facility, the project is expected to displace traditional sources of electricity production that involve combustion energy sources (e.g., burning coal, fuel oil, or natural gas). As such, the provision of clean, renewable energy by the project would produce GHG-free electricity that is anticipated to offset GHGs that would otherwise be generated by traditional sources of electricity. The potential impacts associated with GHG emissions generated during construction of the project and the potential GHG offsets resulting from operation of the project will be further evaluated in the EIR.

b) California has passed several bills and the governor has signed at least three executive orders regarding GHGs. Assembly Bill (AB) 32 (the Global Warming Solutions Act) was passed by the California legislature on August 31, 2006 that require the State's global warming emissions to be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020. The reduction will be accomplished through an enforceable statewide cap on GHG emissions that was phased in starting in 2012.

In 2002, California established its Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) Program, with the goal of increasing the percentage of renewable energy in the State's electricity mix to 20 percent renewable energy by 2017. In 2006, under SB 107, the RPS Program codified the 20 percent goal. The RPS Program requires electric utilities and providers to increase procurement from eligible renewable energy resources by at least one percent of their retail sales annually until they reach 20 percent by 2017. On November 17, 2008, the governor signed Executive Order S-14-08, requiring California utilities to reach the 33 percent renewable goal by 2020. In 2015, SB 350 was enacted to increase the RPS to 50 percent and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by the year 2030. Under SB 100, signed into law in September 2018, California requires utilities to achieve new targets of 50 percent renewable resources by December 31, 2026, 60 percent by December 31, 2030, and 100 percent from eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources by 2045. The Project is intended to: (1) reduce importation of power from fossil fuel power plants; and (2) contribute to a reduction in GHGs. Heavy equipment operation, truck deliveries, and construction worker commute trips associated with construction of the proposed

project would temporarily generate GHGs; however, operation of the project would offset GHGs generated by traditional sources of electricity. The project's potential GHG impacts and the potential GHG offsets resulting from operation of the project will be further evaluated in the EIR.

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

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (Continued)				
h) Would implementation of the project generate vectors (flies, mosquitoes, rodents, etc.) or have a component that includes agricultural waste? Specifically, would the project exceed the following qualitative threshold: The presence of domestic flies, mosquitoes, cockroaches, rodents, and/or any other vectors associated with the project is significant when the applicable enforcement agency determines that any of the vectors:				
i. Occur as immature stages and adults in numbers considerably in excess of those found in the surrounding environment; and	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. Are associated with design, layout, and management of project operations; and	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. Disseminate widely from the property; and	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. Cause detrimental effects on the public health or well-being of the majority of the surrounding population.	☐	☐	☒	☐

RESPONSES:

a) The project would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials as defined by the Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act and is not expected to create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. During construction, the project would include the transport of general construction materials (i.e., concrete, wood, metal, and fuel, etc.) as well as materials necessary to construct the proposed PV solar arrays. Project-related infrastructure would not emit hazardous materials, or be constructed of acutely hazardous materials or substances that could adversely impact the public or onsite workers. Wastes to be generated during construction of the project would also be non-hazardous, and would consist of cardboard, wood pallets, copper wire, scrap steel, common trash, and wood wire spools. Although field equipment used during construction activities could contain various hazardous materials (i.e., hydraulic oil, diesel fuel, grease, lubricants, solvents, adhesives, and paints, etc.), these materials are not considered to be acutely hazardous and would be used in accordance with the manufacturers' specifications and all applicable regulations.

The project would be subject to all local, state, and federal laws pertaining to the use of hazardous materials on the site and would be subject to review by the Kern County Public Health Services Department/Environmental Health Services Division.

The PV panels include semiconductor materials, such as cadmium telluride or Crystalline or amorphous silicon, which are encapsulated within the PV panels. The chemical properties of the semiconductor materials and the construction of the PV panels minimize risk of exposure to human health or the environment. Broken PV panels would be replaced and disposed of off-site in compliance with local, state and federal laws, and would therefore not be a source of pollution or threat to human health or the environment. Impacts resulting from the transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials during construction and operation of the proposed project will be evaluated further in the EIR.

b) The proposed project would be subject to all local, state, and federal laws pertaining to the use of hazardous materials on the site and would be subject to review by the Kern County Environmental Health Services Division. However, construction and operation of the proposed project may include the accidental release of storage materials, such as cleaning fluids and petroleum products including lubricants, fuels, and solvents. In addition, the proposed project would also include a BESS. Potentials hazards associated with BESS include increased potential for electrical shock and chemical release associated with the batteries used. The energy storage structure would have a fire rating in conformance with County standards and specialized fire suppression systems installed for the battery rooms. Also, implementation of established construction controls and safety procedures would reduce the risk of hazardous materials spills and releases during project construction. Implementation of BMPs would ensure that hazardous materials used on site during operation would neither be released into the environment nor expose operational personnel to hazardous materials. Nevertheless, the potential impacts from reasonably foreseeable upset or accidental conditions will be further addressed in the EIR.

c) The nearest school to the project is El Tejon Elementary, located approximately 5 miles south in the community of Lebec. The project would not emit hazardous materials or involve handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school; however, this impact will be further evaluated in the EIR.

d) A review of the California EPA, Department of Toxic Substances Control's latest list of parcels relating to hazardous wastes pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code will be conducted to determine if the project site is listed. The results will be presented in the EIR and any potential impacts will be evaluated.

e) The nearest public airport identified by the Kern County ALUCP is the Bakersfield Municipal Airport, located approximately 24 miles north of the project site. The project site is not within the sphere of influence (SOI) of any airport identified by the Kern County ALUCP. Therefore, the impacts are anticipated to be less than significant, however, this topic will be further discussed in the EIR.

f) The project would not interfere with any known existing emergency response plans, emergency vehicle access, or personnel access to the project site. The project site is located in a remote area with two access roads available to access the property in the event of an emergency. Therefore, no impacts related to impairment of the implementation of, or physical interference with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan are anticipated.

g) Construction and operation of the proposed project would not result in increased risk of wildfires in the area. The proposed project would comply with all applicable wildland fire management plans and policies established by CalFire and the KCFD. Accordingly, the proposed project is not expected to expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. Impacts are expected to be less than significant; however, further analysis of this issue will be discussed in the EIR.

h) (i.-iv.) Project-related infrastructure is not expected to result in features or conditions that could potentially provide habitat for vectors such as mosquitoes, flies, cockroaches, or rodents (such as standing water, agricultural products, or agricultural waste). The project site would produce a small amount of solid waste from construction activities. This may include paper, wood, glass, plastics from packing material, waste lumber, insulation, scrap metal and concrete, empty nonhazardous containers, and vegetation waste. These wastes would be segregated, where practical, for recycling. Non-recyclable wastes would be placed in covered dumpsters and removed on a regular basis by a certified waste-handling contractor for disposal at a Class III landfill. Construction and operation of the proposed solar arrays and associated facilities would not produce excessive wastes, standing water, or other features that would attract nuisance pests or vectors. Therefore, impacts that could potentially occur are anticipated to be less than significant; however, further analysis will be included in the EIR.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY				
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	☒	☐	☐	☐
i. result in a substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site	☒	☐	☐	☐
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-or offsite;	☒	☐	☐	☐
iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☒	☐	☐	☐
iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?	☒	☐	☐	☐
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☒	☐	☐	☐
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

RESPONSES:

a) The project site is within the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) jurisdiction. Project construction activities have the potential to result in erosion, sedimentation, and discharge of construction debris, and could result in the discharge of wastewater and urban runoff at the project site. If not properly managed, this wastewater could violate the water quality standards or waste discharge requirements of the RWQCB. However, the construction contractor would be required to incorporate BMPs consistent with the County zoning ordinance and with guidelines provided in the California Stormwater Quality Association's Construction Best Management Practice Handbook, including the preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and a soil erosion and sedimentation control plan to reduce potential impacts related to construction of the proposed project.

Project construction activities (such as grading) could potentially degrade water quality through erosion and subsequent sedimentation of drainage routes. The project would not contain facilities that would be considered a substantial source of polluted runoff. Accidental release of potentially harmful materials, such as engine oil, diesel fuel, and cement slurry could degrade the water quality of nearby streams. However, the project would be required to develop a drainage control plan and implement BMPs that would reduce the impact of project activities on surrounding water quality. Potential impacts to water quality will be evaluated further in the EIR.

b) During construction of the proposed project, water would be required for common construction related purposes including but not limited to dust suppression, soil compaction, and grading. Dust-control water may be used for ingress and egress of on-site construction vehicle equipment traffic and for the construction of the solar equipment. A sanitary water supply would not be required during construction because restroom facilities would be provided by portable units to be serviced by licensed providers. The overall construction water usage is anticipated to be approximately 58.6 AFY during the 12-month construction period. During construction, the water used is anticipated to be purchased from a Tejon-Castac Water District. During operation and maintenance of the project, it is anticipated that water would be required for panel washing only. Because staff would not be onsite full time no permanent restroom facilities with septic tanks would be provided for the staff. The annual water usage is expected to be up to approximately 1.53 AFY. A water supply assessment will be completed for the project to analyze potential impacts to groundwater. These impacts will be addressed further in the EIR.

c) (i-iv) The project would utilize construction techniques that minimize soil disturbance and allow water to flow across the project site. Such techniques include minimal vegetation removal and minimizing large-scale grading to areas where site topography requires smoothing for external fence lines and where grading is needed for project structures. Existing drainage would be preserved to the extent possible. Internal corridors would consist of compacted native soil.

A SWPPP and/or Drainage Control Plan, as necessary, would be prepared for the project. Although no known stream course would be altered as a result of the project, a braided stream channel known as Pastoria Creek and Cattle Creek run adjacent to the site to the east and the gen–tie line crosses this feature. This channel carries runoff from the Tehachapi mountains during rainstorms. The project area drains mainly through Pastoria Creek. The National Wetlands Inventory indicates that irrigation drain way features along the southern project boundary intercept some of the runoff that would otherwise cross the project site. Thus, a hydrology study will be prepared for the project in accordance with Kern County requirements to analyze potential impacts to drainage patterns including alteration of nearby streambeds.

Development of the project site would slightly decrease the impervious surface area of the project site, and could result in an increase in sheet flow across the site. A drainage control plan would be prepared, if necessary, that would incorporate BMPs to limit erosion during construction and operation of the project. A SWPPP would be prepared that would provide recommendations on the proper control and treatment of any storm water prior to discharge. The project would alter drainage

patterns at the site by developing a previously undeveloped site. With adherence to site-specific BMPs, potential pollutants would be minimized to the extent practicable and should not exceed numeric thresholds for water quality protection.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) designates the project site as Flood Zone A. Flood Zone A indicates special flood hazard areas subject to inundation by the one percent annual chance flood (i.e., the 100-year floodplain). The project would be reviewed by the Kern County Public Works Department for adherence to all floodplain management standards if deemed necessary. Further analysis is required in the EIR.

d) The project is not located near an ocean or enclosed body of water, and therefore would not be subject to inundation by seiche or tsunami. Mudflows are a type of mass wasting or landslide, where earth and surface materials are rapidly transported downhill under the force of gravity, and are often triggered by heavy rainfall and soil that is not able to sufficiently drain or absorb water and the super-saturation results in soil and rock materials to become unstable and slide away. Due to the relatively flat topography of the project and surrounding area, the potential to be inundated by mudflow is considered remote. However, according to the FEMA FIRM designates the project site as Flood Zone A. Flood Zone A indicates special flood hazard areas subject to inundation by the one percent annual chance flood (i.e., the 100-year floodplain) which could result in the release of pollutants due to project inundation. The project would be reviewed by the Kern County Public Works Department for adherence to all floodplain management standards if deemed necessary. Further analysis is required in the EIR.

e) Relative to a sustainable groundwater management plan, the project site is located within the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin. The San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin is classified as a high priority groundwater basin and, therefore, is required to prepare a sustainable groundwater management plan by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR, 2019). The project would not utilize groundwater for construction or operation. Water for the proposed project is anticipated to be purchased from Tejon-Castac Water District and supplied from the California Aqueduct. A water supply assessment will be completed for the project to analyze potential impacts to groundwater. These impacts will be addressed further in the EIR.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

a)	Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

a) The project would be developed on primarily open, undeveloped land that has been historically used for grazing. The surrounding area is primarily open grazing land, or land in agricultural production. There are scattered rural residences in the project vicinity, the nearest of which is 2.5 miles away. The project site is approximately 3 miles directly east of the community of Grapevine. The project would not physically divide or restrict access to the community of Grapevine or any other community. Therefore, impacts related to the physical division of an established community are anticipated to be less than significant, however, this issue will be further discussed further in the EIR.

b) The project is located within the Kern County General Plan area and has land use designations of 8.1/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture (Minimum 20 acres)/Flood Hazard), and 8.3/2.5 (Extensive Agriculture (Minimum 20 acres)/Flood Hazard), and 8.4/2.5 (Mineral and Petroleum (Minimum 20 acres)/Flood Hazard). As proposed, there would be no changes to the map code designations of the project site. Solar energy-generating facilities are an allowable use under the 8.1, 8.3, and 8.4 map code designations. The project proponent has requested an amendment to the Circulation Element of the Kern County General Plan to eliminate future road reservations along portions of the section lines and mid-section lines of Sections 11, 12, 13, and 14 T10N, R19W, SBB&M.

The site is currently zoned A (Exclusive Agriculture). According to the Kern County Zoning Ordinance Section 19.12.030 G, solar energy electrical generators, when not accessory to a permitted or conditionally permitted use, are permitted within the A zone district subject to the approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). The project proponents are requesting one CUP to allow for the construction and operation of a PV solar facility and associated infrastructure necessary to generate 115 megawatts (MW) of renewable electrical energy including storage of 40 MW in a BESS.

The current zoning classifications of the project site are consistent with the current Kern County General Plan map code designations. Therefore, with approval of the requested CUP, the project would not have the potential to conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. An evaluation will be presented in the EIR.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

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

RESPONSES:

a) A portion of the project site is designated as a mineral recovery area by the Kern County General Plan and as a mineral resource zone by the Department of Conservation's State Mining and Geology Board. Based on a review of records maintained by the California Department of Conservation/Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR), as shown in Figure 9, *OnSite Plugged Wells*, six plugged wells were identified on the project site (https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/doggr/wellfinder/#close). While the wells have been plugged, they have not been abandoned and, thus, are not precluded from future mineral extraction. Construction and operation of the proposed project is not anticipated to interfere with mineral extraction and processing, and would not have significant impacts on future mineral development. An evaluation will be presented in the EIR.

b) As mentioned previously, the project site is located within a designated mineral and petroleum resource site within the Kern County General Plan. The project site is not located within the NR (Natural Resources) or PE (Petroleum Extraction) zoned districts. Based on a review of records maintained by the California Department of Conservation/Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR), as shown in Figure 9, *OnSite Plugged Wells*, six plugged wells were identified on the project site (https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/doggr/wellfinder/#close). While the wells have been plugged, they have not been abandoned and, thus, the installation of the solar facilities would not preclude future mineral resource development nor would it result in the loss of a locally important mineral resource recover site. Impacts are expected to be less than significant; however, further analysis of this issue will be discussed in the EIR.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

XIII. NOISE

Would the project result in:

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

RESPONSES:

(a) Land uses determined to be "sensitive" to noise as defined by the Kern County General Plan include residential areas, schools, convalescent and acute care hospitals, parks and recreational areas, and churches. The nearest residence is located approximately 2.5 miles northwest of the project site. The nearest school is located approximately 5 miles south in the community of Lebec.

Construction activity associated with the operation of heavy equipment, including post driving, has the highest potential for creating noise. A noise analysis will be included in the EIR to determine the project's consistency with the Kern County Noise Ordinance (Kern County Code of Ordinances, Title 8, Chapter 8.36) and any other applicable regulations. Thus, further analysis of this impact will be analyzed in the EIR.

b) Ground borne vibration and ground borne noise could originate from the operation of heavy off-road equipment during the construction phase of the project. Steel piles would be driven into the soil using pneumatic techniques, similar to a hydraulic rock hammer attachment on the boom of a rubber-tired backhoe excavator. The project would be expected to comply with all applicable requirements for long-term operation, as well as with measures to reduce excessive ground borne vibration and noise to ensure that the project would not expose persons or structures to excessive ground borne vibration. Operation of the solar PV panels would not result in ground borne vibration or noise being emitted, resulting in no impact. Further analysis of ground borne vibration and ground borne noise during will be included in the EIR.

c) Due to the quiet nature of solar facilities, operation of the project would generate very little noise. Traffic during the operational phase of solar facility would be for routine access and maintenance activities and would primarily consist of personal vehicles for a small maintenance crew. Nevertheless, a noise analysis will be included in the EIR to determine the project's consistency with the Kern County Noise Ordinance (Kern County Code of Ordinances, Title 8, Chapter 8.36) and any other applicable regulations. Thus, further analysis of ambient noise levels and the project's potential impact on those levels will be included in the EIR.

d) The project is not located within the sphere of influence of any airport as identified by the Kern County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. Thus, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant; however, this topic will be further discussed in the EIR.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

RESPONSES:

a) Although the project would provide new employment consistent with the adopted Kern County General Plan goals, plans, and policies, long-term employment opportunities would be minimal. The project would not include onsite operations and maintenance staff. During project operation, one to two employees would be onsite intermittently every month (less than four trips a week) to perform maintenance duties.

The project would require an average of 190 daily onsite construction workers and approximately 400 construction workers at peak construction. The entire construction process is estimated to take approximately 240 construction days, over the course of a 12-month period. It is anticipated that the construction workforce would commute to the site from various local communities and the number of workers expected to relocate to the surrounding area is not expected to be substantial. If temporary housing should be necessary, it is expected that accommodations would be available in the nearby hotels in Bakersfield, Grapevine, or other local communities. Therefore, the project would not directly or indirectly induce the development of any new housing or business.

Typical established local thresholds of significance for housing and population growth pursuant to the *CEQA Guidelines*, Section 15064.7, include effects that would induce substantial growth or concentration of a population beyond County projections, alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the population beyond that projected in the General Plan Housing Element, result in a substantial increase in demand for additional housing, or create a development that significantly reduces the ability of the County to meet housing objectives set forth in the General Plan Housing Element. The effects of the project in relation to these local thresholds are minimal. Therefore, impacts regarding substantial population growth would be less than significant and no further analysis is warranted.

b) The proposed project is located on former agricultural land with no existing housing; as such, the proposed project would not displace any existing housing such that it would necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, displacement of existing housing would not occur and no further evaluation is required in the EIR.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project **:**

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

i.	Fire Protection?	☒	☐	☐	☐
ii.	Police Protection?	☒	☐	☐	☐
iii.	Schools?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv.	Parks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
v.	Other Public Facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐

RESPONSES:

a) (i) **Fire Protection:** Fire suppression and emergency medical services are provided by the KCFD. The nearest KCFD fire station that would serve the project is Station No. 55 (Tejon), located at 5441 Dennis Mc Carthy Drive in the community of Lebec, approximately 4.3 miles northwest of the site. Adherence to all applicable regulations would reduce wildfire ignitions and prevent the spread of wildfires. However, project construction and operation activities may result in increased need for fire-fighting personnel and facilities. Given the location of the project in the rural environment and KCFD's obligation to respond to all structure fires in their jurisdiction, fire-fighting capacity in the project area could result in potential impacts on fire services from construction and operation of the solar facilities. This will be evaluated in the EIR.

(ii) **Police Protection:** Law enforcement services in the project area are provided by the KCSO. The nearest KCSO that would serve the project is the Frazier Park Substation located approximately 9.6 miles southwest of the site at 617 Monterey Trail, Suite C in the community of Frazier Park. Although the potential is low, the project may attract vandals or other security risks, and construction activities would result in increases in traffic volumes along surrounding roads, which could increase demand on law enforcement services. Access would be limited to the project during construction and operation, thereby minimizing the need for police services; nonetheless, the project's impacts on sheriff services are potentially significant and will be evaluated in the EIR.

(iii) **Schools:** The entire construction process is estimated to occur over a 12-month period. An average of 190 daily onsite workers, and a peak workforce of 400 workers could be required for project construction. It is expected most of these workers would live in the region and would commute to the project site from where their children are already enrolled in school. Even if workers came from out of the area, they would likely return to their out-of-town residences once the facilities were built and would not take their children out of their current schooling situation. Therefore, temporary increases in population are not expected to adversely affect local school populations. Additionally, operation of the project would not require any full-time workers, with intermittent workers being on-site for inspection, maintenance, and repair of solar arrays and accessory components. Employees would likely commute to the project site from their existing permanent residences; however, even if the maintenance employees were hired from out of the area and had to relocate to southern Kern County, the resulting addition of potential families to this area would not result in a substantial increase in the number of users at local schools, however, this topic will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(iv-v) **Parks and Other Public Facilities:** The temporary workers during the construction period (an average of 190 workers and a peak workforce of 400 workers) would not result in a substantial additional demand for parks or other public facilities such as post office, courthouse, and/or library services. Additionally, operation of the project would not require any full-time workers, with intermittent workers being on-site for inspection, maintenance, and repair of solar arrays and accessory components. Employees would likely commute to the Project from their existing permanent residences, however even if the maintenance employees were hired from out of the area and relocated to eastern Kern County, the resulting potential addition of families to the area is not anticipated to result in a substantial increase in the number of users of local parks however, this topic will be further evaluated in the EIR.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

XVI. RECREATION

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

RESPONSES:

(a-b) The project does not include new recreational facilities, and would not appreciably increase demands on existing facilities. The average daily workforce during construction is expected to consist of 190 personnel, with a peak workforce of 400 personnel for short periods of time. The temporary increase in use of recreation facilities during construction that might be caused by an influx of workers would be minimal. Operation of the project would require employees for maintenance and monitoring activities, but would likely be drawn from the local labor force and would commute from their existing permanent residences to the project site during those times. However, even if the maintenance/monitoring employees were hired from out of the area and relocated to eastern Kern County, the resulting addition of families to this area would not result in a substantial increase in the number of users at local parks. As a result, there would not be a detectable increase in the use of parks or other recreational facilities and no further evaluation is required in the EIR.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

XVII. TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:

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

RESPONSES:

a) Construction activities associated with the project would temporarily contribute to traffic volumes on nearby roadways. Worker commute vehicles would account for the majority of traffic trips to and from the site. During the construction phase, it is estimated there would be an increase in workers commuting to and from the project site. Operation of the project would not require any full time workers onsite. Project-generated traffic would result in an increase of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and will therefore need to be analyzed for consistency with State and local guidance. The impact will be evaluated further in the EIR.

b) The project is located in unincorporated Kern County. Construction of the project would result in an increase in truck traffic at the site; therefore, it is anticipated that the project may exceed any LOS standard established by the County Congestion Management Plan for designated roads or highways. Implementation of the proposed project would generate traffic on the existing roadway network. As such, impacts are considered potentially significant. This impact will be discussed and analyzed in the EIR.

c) The project proposes access from existing roads. The site would be accessed from gates off of an agricultural road. The agricultural road currently connects Laval Road, north of the project, to Edmonston Pumping Plant Road, south of the project site. Edmonston Pumping Plant Road currently provides access for agricultural users, as well as transport from the nearby mine, to I-5. The project would not include the development of sharp curves, dangerous intersections or other hazardous design features. The project would be setback from roadways as required by the Kern County Zoning Ordinance. Additionally, all roadways, including off-site improvements, constructed in association with the proposed project would be subject to existing zoning standards and safety specifications for roadways. However, the average daily workforce during construction of the project would be 190, with a peak workforce of 400 employees. Therefore, construction of the project would temporarily increase non-agricultural traffic on Edmonston Pumping Plant Road and/or Laval Road that may increase hazards during construction from incompatible uses. As such,

impacts are considered potentially significant. This impact will be discussed and analyzed in the EIR.

d) As described in item (a) above, construction of the project would generate VMT, which could temporarily increase the daily traffic volumes on local roadways and intersections. However, the project would not physically impede the existing emergency response plans, emergency vehicle access, or personnel access to the site. The project site and vicinity are accessible via a number of existing roads, with alternative access roads allowing easy access in the event of an emergency. Therefore, no adverse impacts related to impairment of the implementation of or physical interference with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan is anticipated. Impacts are considered less than significant, but will be discussed in the EIR.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

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

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

RESPONSES:

a) (i-ii) The proposed project could potentially impact tribal cultural resources. All tribes with possible cultural affiliation and that have expressed, in writing, their interest in projects located within the project area will be notified, per Assembly Bill 52. Further evaluation in the EIR is warranted to identify potential impacts to tribal cultural resources and to formulate avoidance or mitigation measures, if applicable.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS				
Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Comply with federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste	☐	☐	☒	☐

RESPONSES:

a) Portable toilet facilities, serviced by licensed providers, would be delivered to the project site for the construction period. They would be pumped out periodically and waste would be held in holding tanks until disposed of offsite in an appropriate manner by the contracted sanitary service provider. No new or expanded wastewater treatment facilities would be required, since wastewater generated by the project would be disposed of by a contractor at an approved offsite location. Although the project is not proposing construction of any new or expanded water or wastewater treatment facilities, this issue will be further addressed in the EIR. The project would create additional impervious surfaces on the project site and may require water for dust suppression during construction and panel washing. These changes would not substantially increase the amount of stormwater runoff. The pattern and concentration of runoff could be altered by project activities, such as grading of the site and roads. However, a drainage plan would be required to be approved by the Kern County Public Works Department/Floodplain Management Section prior to issuance of building permits. With adherence to all applicable regulations, it is anticipated that the project would

not require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects. However, further analysis is warranted in the EIR.

b) Water for construction and panel washing would be purchased from the Tejon-Castac Water District delivered at existing irrigation turnouts on the site boundaries. Potable water would be brought to the site for drinking and domestic needs during construction. Construction of the project would require approximately 58.6 acre-feet of water. During operation and maintenance of the project, it is anticipated that water would be required for panel washing. It is expected that operation of the project would require approximately 1.53 AFY. The project is not anticipated to impact water supplies and new or expanded entitlements would not be required. However, a water supply assessment will be completed and further analysis will be discussed in the EIR.

c) The project is not expected to generate a significant amount of wastewater. Wastewater generated by the project would be disposed of by a contractor at an approved offsite location. Therefore, wastewater generated would be negligible and would not exceed wastewater treatment capacity of any treatment providers. Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant, however, further discussion of this topic will be provided in the EIR.

d) The proposed project is not expected to generate a significant amount of waste that would exceed the capacity of local landfills. Materials brought to the project site would be used to construct facilities, and few residual materials are expected. Non-hazardous construction refuse and solid waste would be either collected and recycled or disposed of at a local Class III landfill, while any hazardous waste generated during construction would be disposed of at an approved location. The closest Class III municipal landfill is the Bena Sanitary Landfill, which is located approximately 26 miles north of the project. It is not anticipated that the amount of solid waste generated by the proposed project would exceed the capacity of local landfills. Further analysis of this issue will be included in the EIR.

e) The project would generate solid waste during construction and operation, thus requiring the consideration of waste reduction and recycling measures. The 1989 California Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939) requires Kern County to attain specific waste diversion goals. In addition, the California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act of 1991, as amended, requires expanded or new development projects to incorporate storage areas for recycling bins into the proposed project design. The proposed project would be required to comply with the 1989 California Integrated Waste Management Act and the 1991 California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act of 1991. Further analysis of this issue will be included in the EIR.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

XX. WILDFIRE

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

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

RESPONSES:

a) The project is not classified as a high fire hazard severity zone and is not anticipated to physically impede the existing emergency response plans, emergency vehicle access, or personnel access to the site. The site is located in a rural, sparsely developed area with limited population. The project site is not located along an identified emergency evacuation route and is not identified in any adopted emergency evacuation plan. Therefore, less-than-significant impacts related to impairment of the implementation of, or physical interference with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan are anticipated. Nevertheless, further analysis will be conducted in the EIR.

b) Given the sites flat topography, the project site is not anticipated to expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire due to slope, prevailing winds and other factors, or pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire. Nevertheless, further analysis will be conducted in the EIR.

c) The project is for the development of a solar energy generation and storage facility, this facility would include the construction of power transmission lines, inverters, access corridors, and energy storage facility. Due to the presence of electrical equipment on site, this project has the potential to exacerbate wildfire risk and will be further evaluated in the EIR.

d) The project site is not considered to be a high risk area for landslides as it is relatively flat and is not subject to post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes that would expose people or structures to significant risks.

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

RESPONSES:

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

b) The project has the potential to cumulatively contribute to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, and traffic impacts. The EIR will evaluate the project's contribution to cumulative impacts in these and other areas.

c) The proposed project would not result in the long-term operation of any emission sources that would adversely affect nearby sensitive receptors. However, short-term construction activities could result in temporary increases in pollutant concentrations. Pollutants of primary concern commonly associated with construction-related activities include toxic air contaminants (i.e., DPM), asbestos, and fugitive dust. Within the project area, the potential for increased occurrences of Valley Fever is also of concern. Human health impacts from the short-term cumulative contribution to air quality impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.