DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-03
Project Title:	Soda Mountain Solar
TN #:	268062
Document Title:	Staff Memorandum on Record of Proceedings_Attachment 1
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Ngoc Tran
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	12/29/2025 2:54:31 PM
Docketed Date:	12/29/2025

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From: Knight, Eric@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BE42548337F44852A291A9845F226F62-KNIGHT, ERI]

Sent: 4/23/2024 3:29:48 PM

To: Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a62a013861764f1e8556eaf023a2cc94-WildlifeRhi]; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ea932fbeeeda4e2a8c4f7fb48a2a96a0-f495410a-65]; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=efe78fbc6c1e408da007e97ea1d8cdf6-WildlifeHar]; Maher, Lani@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5dd1ddd3656b47ad999ed889a3382664-WildlifeLan]; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4f4ad51c29814356b0c486d7bbf5aefa-WildlifeMag]; Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3d237d12712944c6a4e00bb8f0489ecd-WildlifeAli]; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=dfec6a2d0599454d9cfdb19c10daefc1-WildlifeHei]; McCann, Lisa@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7d5473ae9c748d69e0d530034014f87-Waterboards]; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6a535479ac2448c29afb308a1cd6fede-Waterboards]; Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov; Hughes, Joseph@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7dd5e80572b644209e9607ba7bdcb630-Hughes, Jos]; Fooks, Brett@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=870df74143964b71ada0039bf13c5a9a-Fooks, Bret]; Kerr, Steven@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d0d5a66bed2249fca830918f58b3b921-Kerr, Steve]; Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]; Khoshmashrab, Shahab@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=debfeb665b7a45629f72eaeb824bce58-Khoshmashra]; Abulaban, Abdel-Karim@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c1ff1d38281a4068b2708271d22c0d94-Abulaban, A]; Pinkerton, Matthew@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88b6ef1fba134a2cb0aacd56262dc6c4-Pinkerton,]; Carr, Chris [chriscarr@paulhastings.com]; Grunbaum, Lucas [lucasgrunbaum@paulhastings.com]; Stroud, Andrea@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9703ce11dc9547c78c64f22894500b5c-Martine, An]

CC: Crader, Phillip@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7210c7994d3941d4a5501541b6a379f1-Waterboards]; Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=67ab2660d3724727a6074450f5a5e96d-DTSCWLorent]; Badie, Mona@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4230574616834c8a8b023cf986dc310c-Badie, Mona]; Qaqundah, James@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7da5ec0923de49488685fdaa76c71e51-Qaqundah, J]; Huber, Elizabeth@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=93f40660c3d446578d63390926fd5e5a-Huber, Eliz]; Vorters, Dian@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c5604e712a74c029e412542e0db72ac-Vorters, Di]; Guerra, Christina@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3c08929c117e4da5bfb45f48fa749c0a-Waterboards]; Steinert, Tiffany@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=fdbc9163bf404f4d84f0a53c6ed84ab0-Waterboards]; Riordan, Patrick@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ac5d55bd7fad49519eaa9e71fc43871d-Riordan, Pa]; LeFevre, Ellen@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f0c948f76117430ca17ff1486b21fd91-LeFevre, El]; Hamblin, Mark@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=071cd87e7be047d7837b2754f0b5d7dd-Hamblin, Ma]; Koch, Andrea@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8024cfdec6344412812ea6c8320f29b2-Koch, Andre]; Michael Cocchimiglio [mci@vcrenewables.com]; Dustin Thaler [dut@vcrenewables.com]; Hannah Gbeh [hannahgbeh@gmail.com]; Ziad Alaywan [ziad@zglobal.biz]; Kara Laurenson-Wright [Kara.LaurensonWright@swca.com]; Pauline Roberts [PKRoberts@swca.com]; Babula, Jared@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6cf386251c7a47f697f411cee0910882-Babula, Jar]; Anderson, Kari@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2a783549590f4febb0eb8d96a79b60aa-Anderson, K]; Mayer, Alex@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1a7ef7ec23eb4292abd2748ce1b69948-ef756fa8-50]; Ponce, Mariah@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bc5faa5d564c4cf3a2f49468b736b6c2-b2346f64-e7]; Kelsey, Tanner@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ad103077f815400c88cfa8e9576c5f0c-6b814579-63]; Ziff, Briana@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9d1539e61a02423dad0bea24f0056535-0e930594-04]; Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]; Sanzenbacher, Peter [peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov]; Cordes, Isabeau J [icordes@blm.gov]; Donnell, Julie A [jdonnell@blm.gov]; bganderson@blm.gov; psamples@blm.gov; Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]; Longman, Renee@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56333a9acba74875b8c0175b8bea5d52-77429d54-8c]; Crisp, Ann@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b89c4de7ece742679d19e1e3ee713dc2-Crisp, Ann@]; Bastida, Jack@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd18303173c0467f956829def1aff7cf-Bastida, Ja]

Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project Opt-In Certification Pre-filing Meeting [UPDATED WITH ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS]
Attachments: Project Description and Location - Soda Mountain Solar Project.docx
Location: https://energy.zoom.us/j/87087956004?pwd=MDk5TjU5M0RQRVBtWUYyRGJCTEwrUT09

Start: 4/25/2024 9:30:00 PM
End: 4/25/2024 11:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Required Attendees: Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife; Maher, Lani@Wildlife; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife; Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife; McCann, Lisa@Waterboards; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards; Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov; Hughes, Joseph@Energy; Fooks, Brett@Energy; Kerr, Steven@Energy; Roark, Gabriel@Energy; Khoshmashrab, Shahab@Energy; Abulaban, Abdel-Karim@Energy; Pinkerton, Matthew@Energy; Carr, Chris; Grunbaum, Lucas; Stroud, Andrea@Energy

Optional Attendees: Crader, Phillip@Waterboards; Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC; Badie, Mona@Energy; Qaqundah, James@Energy; Huber, Elizabeth@Energy; Vorters, Dian@Energy; Guerra, Christina@Waterboards; Steinert, Tiffany@Waterboards; Riordan, Patrick@Energy; LeFevre, Ellen@Energy; Hamblin, Mark@Energy; Koch, Andrea@Energy; Michael Cocchimiglio; Dustin Thaler; Hannah Gbeh; Ziad Alaywan; Kara Laurenson-Wright; Pauline Roberts; Babula, Jared@Energy; Anderson, Kari@Energy; Mayer, Alex@Energy; Ponce, Mariah@Energy; Kelsey, Tanner@Energy; Ziff, Briana@Energy; Hannah Gbeh; Sanzenbacher, Peter; Cordes, Isabeau J; Donnell, Julie A; bganderson@blm.gov; psamples@blm.gov; Worrall, Lisa@Energy; Longman, Renee@Energy; Crisp, Ann@Energy; Bastida, Jack@Energy

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Meeting ID: 870 8795 6004
Passcode: 594201

Agenda
1. Introductions
2. Overview of Opt-in Certification Process (CEC)
3. Project Presentation (Applicant)
4. Agency-Applicant Discussion
5. Schedule

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

Soda Mountain Solar Project

Project Proponent: Soda Mountain Solar LLC.

Project Description: The project under consideration is the construction, operation, maintenance, and future decommissioning of a 300-megawatt photovoltaic solar facility with battery energy storage systems and related facilities on approximately 1,490 acres of land administered by BLM in the unincorporated portion of San Bernardino County, approximately 6 miles southwest of the town of Baker, California, along I-15, as shown in Figures 1 and 2 below. The proposed project components are as follows:

1. The solar plant site (i.e., all facilities that create a footprint in and around the field of solar panels, including the solar field consisting of solar power arrays identified as the East Array and South Notice of Preparation and Notice of Public Scoping Meeting for a Draft EIR Soda Mountain Solar Project 4 Arrays 1, 2, and 3), operation and maintenance buildings and structures, stormwater infrastructure, and related infrastructure and improvements.
2. A substation and switchyard for interconnection to the existing transmission system.
3. Approximately 300 megawatts of battery energy storage systems across 16 acres of land.

The proposed project would operate year-round and would generate electricity during daylight hours. The proposed project would generate and deliver solar-generated power to the regional electrical grid through an interconnection with the existing Mead-Adelanto 500-kilovolt transmission line operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Project Location: The project site is located entirely on BLM-administered land in a rural area of the Mojave Desert, approximately 6 miles southwest of the town of Baker, approximately 50 miles northeast of the city of Barstow, and on the east side of Interstate (I) 15 (see Figures 1 and 2). It is approximately 0.5 miles from the western boundary of the Mojave National Preserve. The project site is in the Mojave Desert Air Basin and within a sub-basin of the Soda Lake Valley Groundwater Basin. The lands in the vicinity of the site contain existing infrastructure developments that include the I-15 highway, two transmission lines, a distribution line, wireless cellular communication towers, a fiber-optic line, a fuel pipeline, and a telephone line. The former Arrowhead Trail Highway that was replaced by I-15 also traverses the eastern side of the project site. In addition, a gas station is located approximately 0.6 miles from the southwest corner of the project site.

Primary access to the project area during construction and operation would be via a gated entrance from Rasor Road. Additionally, a California Department of Transportation access road to the Opah Ditch pit mine would be used for construction of the collection line to the substation and for project site access. An existing Southern California Edison–owned 115-kilovolt sub-transmission line and a Los Angeles Department of Water and Power–operated 500-kilovolt transmission line run along the west side of I-15. The Rasor Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area, to the southeast of the project area, is currently accessed via Rasor Road, and access to the off-highway vehicle area would continue following the proposed relocation of this road.

Location Maps

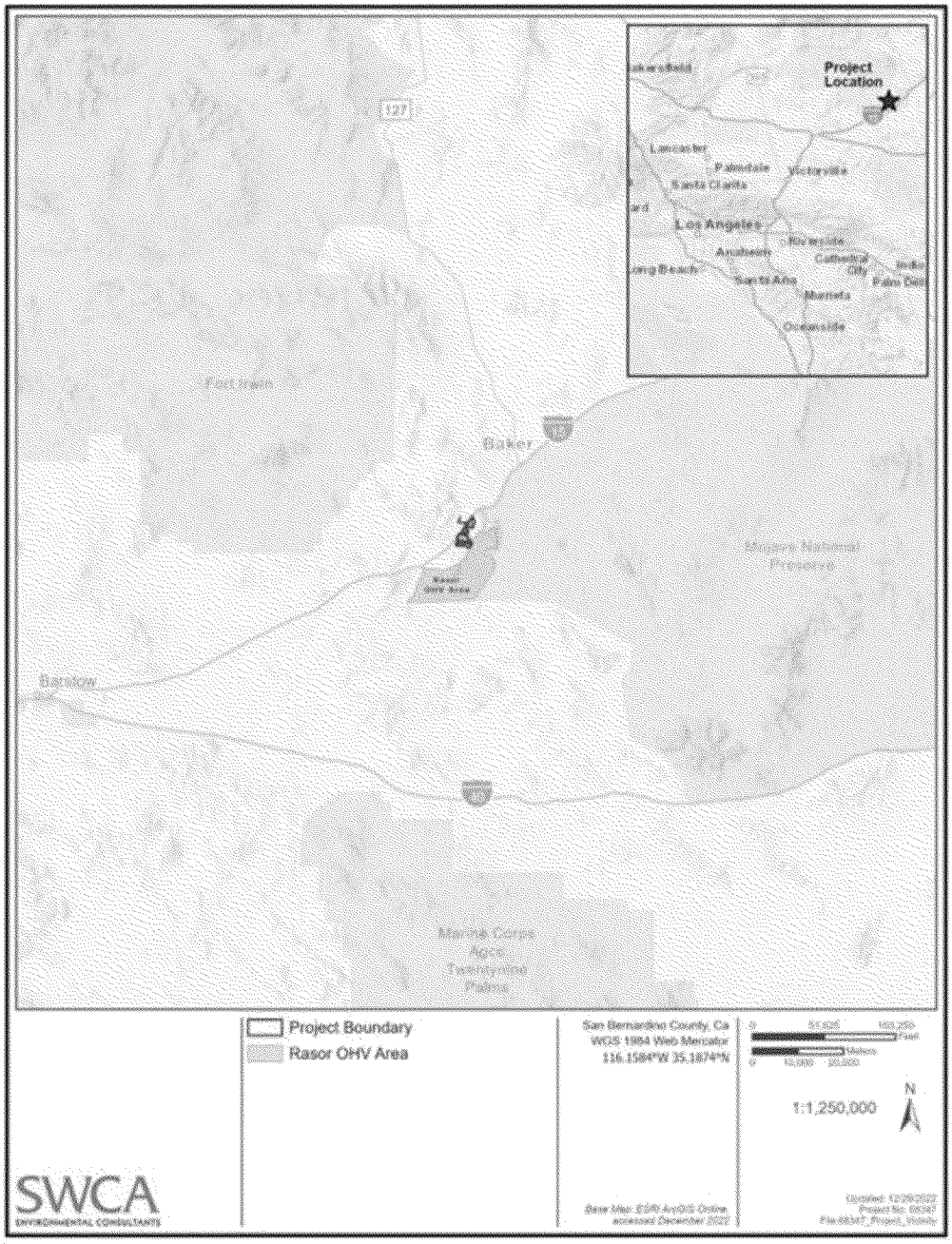


Figure 1. Project Vicinity

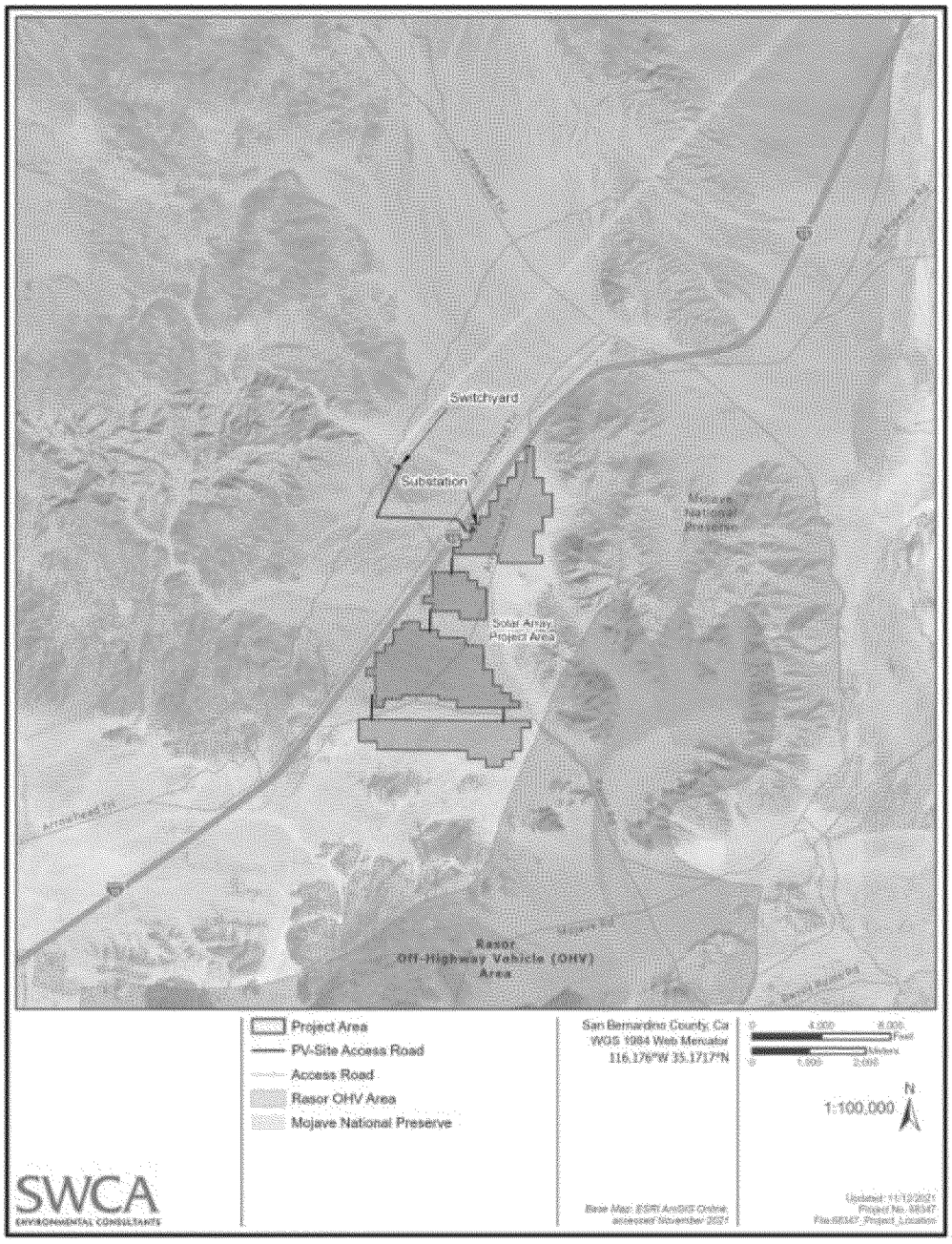


Figure 2. Project Overview Site Plan

From: Knight, Eric@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BE42548337F44852A291A9845F226F62-KNIGHT, ERI]
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Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project Opt-In Certification Pre-filing Meeting - Power Points for today's meeting

Attachments: CEC's Opt In Certification Program_Soda prefiling.pdf; Soda Mt Solar CEC Pre App 4.23.24.pdf

Attached are copies of today's presentations. Looking forward to your participation in the discussion.

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931



California Energy Commission

Soda Mountain Solar – Opt-In Certification Prefiling Meeting

Eric Knight, Manager, Siting & Environmental Branch

April 25, 2024

CEC Authority

June 30, 2022

- Governor Newsom Signs Assembly Bill 205

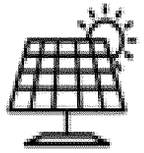
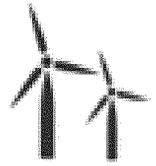
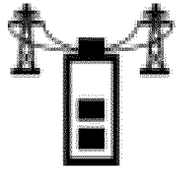
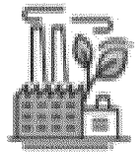
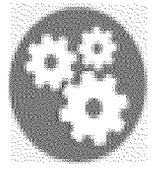
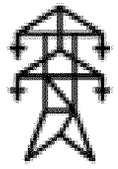
October 12, 2022

- CEC Adopts Emergency Regulations

October 24, 2022

- Office of Administrative Law Approves the Emergency Regulations

Eligible Facilities

Solar photovoltaic power plant of at least 50 MW 	Terrestrial wind power plant of at least 50 MW 	Energy storage system of at least 200 MWh 
Non-fossil-fueled thermal power plant of at least 50 MW (i.e., jurisdictional facility) 	Manufacturing/assembly facility for renewable energy/energy storage systems or components with at least $250 million investment 	Transmission from an eligible power plant or energy storage system to the first point of interconnection 

Opt-In Coordination Plans



Source: CDFW



Source: State Water Board



Source: DTSC

Opt-In Process Outline

Pre-Filing Meeting

- 30 Days Prior to Filing
- Docket Established
- Application and Fees Submitted

Data Completeness Review

- 30 Days to Conduct Application Completeness Review
- Additional Information can be Requested
- Application Shared with Local Government, Other Public Agencies, and Native American Tribes

CEQA ++ Environmental Review

- 270 Days to Conduct Environmental Review (once application deemed complete)
- CEC Required Process Milestones

270 Day Process Milestones

- **Notice of EIR Preparation** *(Day 3)*
- **Invite Tribal Consultation** *(Day 5)*
- **Informational/Scoping Meeting** *(Day 30)*
- **Discovery Request Due** *(30 Day Turnaround)*

30 Days

150 Days

- **Draft EIR and Notice of Availability Published** *(Day 150)*
- **Draft EIR Meeting** *(30 – 60 Days from published date)*
- **Draft EIR Public Comment** *(60 Days from published date)*

- **Final EIR** *(By Day 240)*
- **CEC Business Meeting Decision** *(By Day 270)*
- **Partner Agencies Applicable Permit Decisions** *(By Day 360)*

270 Days

CEC Findings Required to Approve Opt-In Projects

- Project Provides an Overall Net Positive Economic Benefit to the Local Government
- Applicant Signed a Community Benefits Agreement
- Applicant Paying Prevailing Wage to Skilled and Trained Workforce
- Project Complies with Applicable Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards or Required for Public Convenience or Necessity
- Significant effects of the project will be avoided or mitigated, or statement of overriding considerations for significant effects found infeasible to avoid or mitigate

CEC Website



- Alphabetical List of Power Plants
  - Dockets
  - Subscriptions
- Opt-in Fact Sheet (coming soon)
- Opt-in FAQ
- Opt-in Process Timeline

Thank You

Eric Knight, Manager, Siting and Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

STEPsiting@energy.ca.gov

CEC Pre-Application Meeting 2024

SODA MOUNTAIN SOLAR PROJECT

- 300 megawatt photovoltaic solar
- 300 megawatt battery energy storage
- 2,670 acres of BLM land
- Unincorporated San Bernardino County



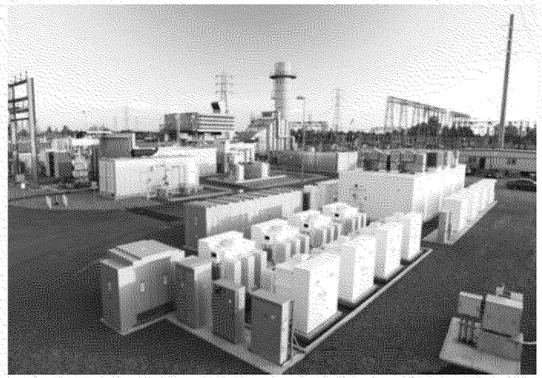
VC RENEWABLES

About the Applicant Team



Specializes in the development, construction and operation of solar and battery storage assets in the Americas, and actively manages those assets across their lifespan, including project development, construction, operation oversight, compliance and financial management.

Including the Soda Mountain project, VCR's current California solar and storage development portfolio consists of 740 MW of solar and 1,900 MW-hours of storage capacity.

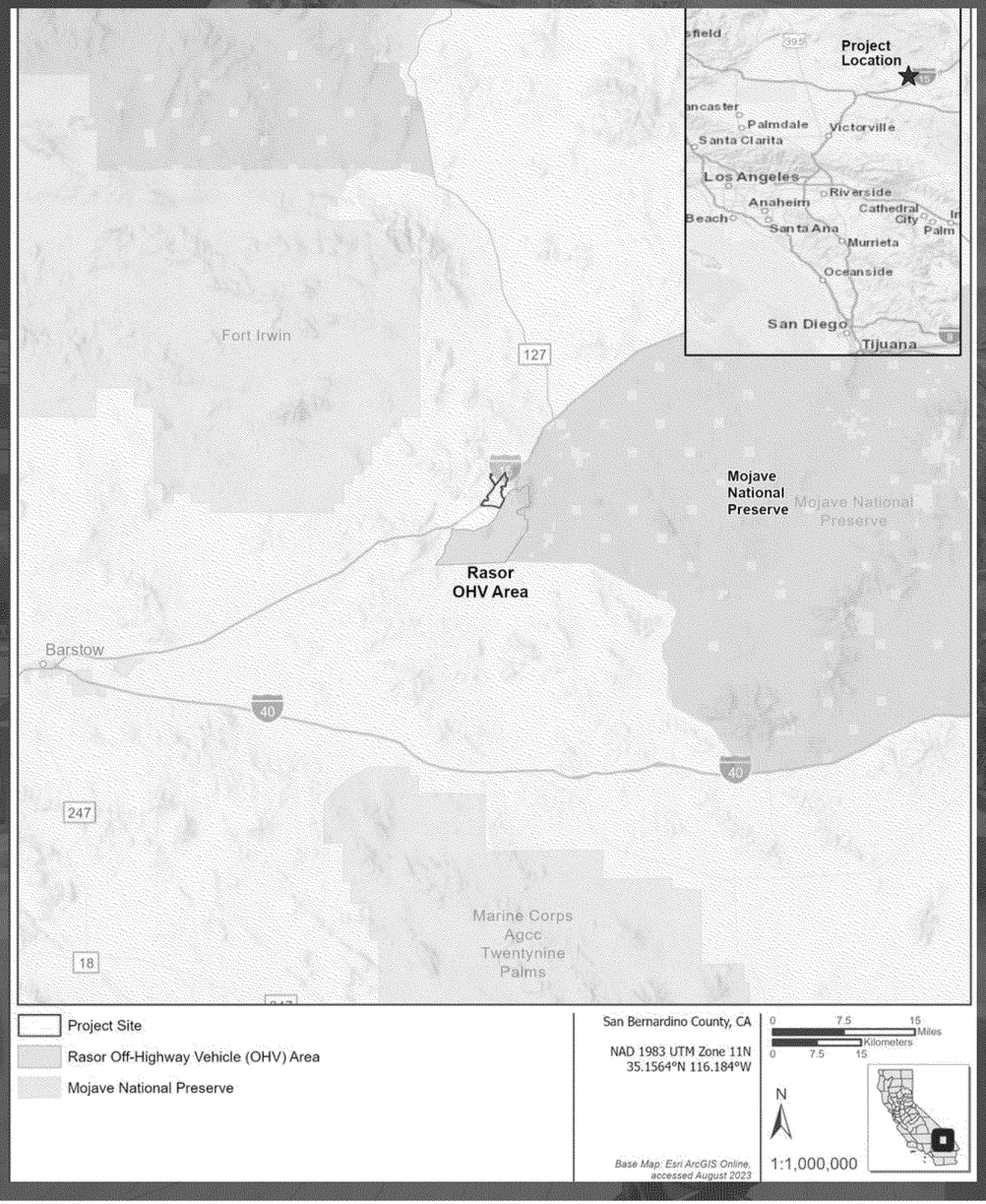


www.vcrenewables.com



VCR is a wholly owned subsidiary of Vitol, the world's largest privately held energy trading company. Vitol has invested more than $2BN in sustainable assets and its renewable generation portfolio consists of 1.2 GW of operating projects.

PROJECT LOCATION



- Approximately 2,670 acres of BLM land in unincorporated San Bernardino County, located 6 miles southwest of the town of Baker, California.
- Bounded directly to the east by the Mojave National Preserve (administered by the National Park Service) and BLM lands, including the Rasor Off-Highway Vehicle recreation area at the southeast corner.
- Interstate 15 (I-15), the former Arrowhead Trail Highway, runs along the western boundary of the project site, with Rasor Road Services Shell Oil gas station located off I-15 southwest of the project site, along the access road to the project site.

EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS



The project site is composed of rural desert land and is almost entirely undeveloped.

Rasor Road, an unimproved BLM public access road, runs from the southwest corner of the site and splits into two forks.



Infrastructure surrounding the site includes two high-voltage electric transmission lines, an electrical distribution line, wireless cellular telephone towers, two fiber-optic cables, and two fuel pipelines. The two high-voltage electrical transmission lines to the west of I-15 are a 115-kV sub-transmission line owned by Southern California Edison and the Marketplace-Adelanto 500-kV transmission line operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).



The project site is located within the BLM's California Desert District, within the jurisdiction of the Barstow Field Office.

CDFW has an existing agreement to build a wildlife crossing in the area for the High Speed Rail Project.

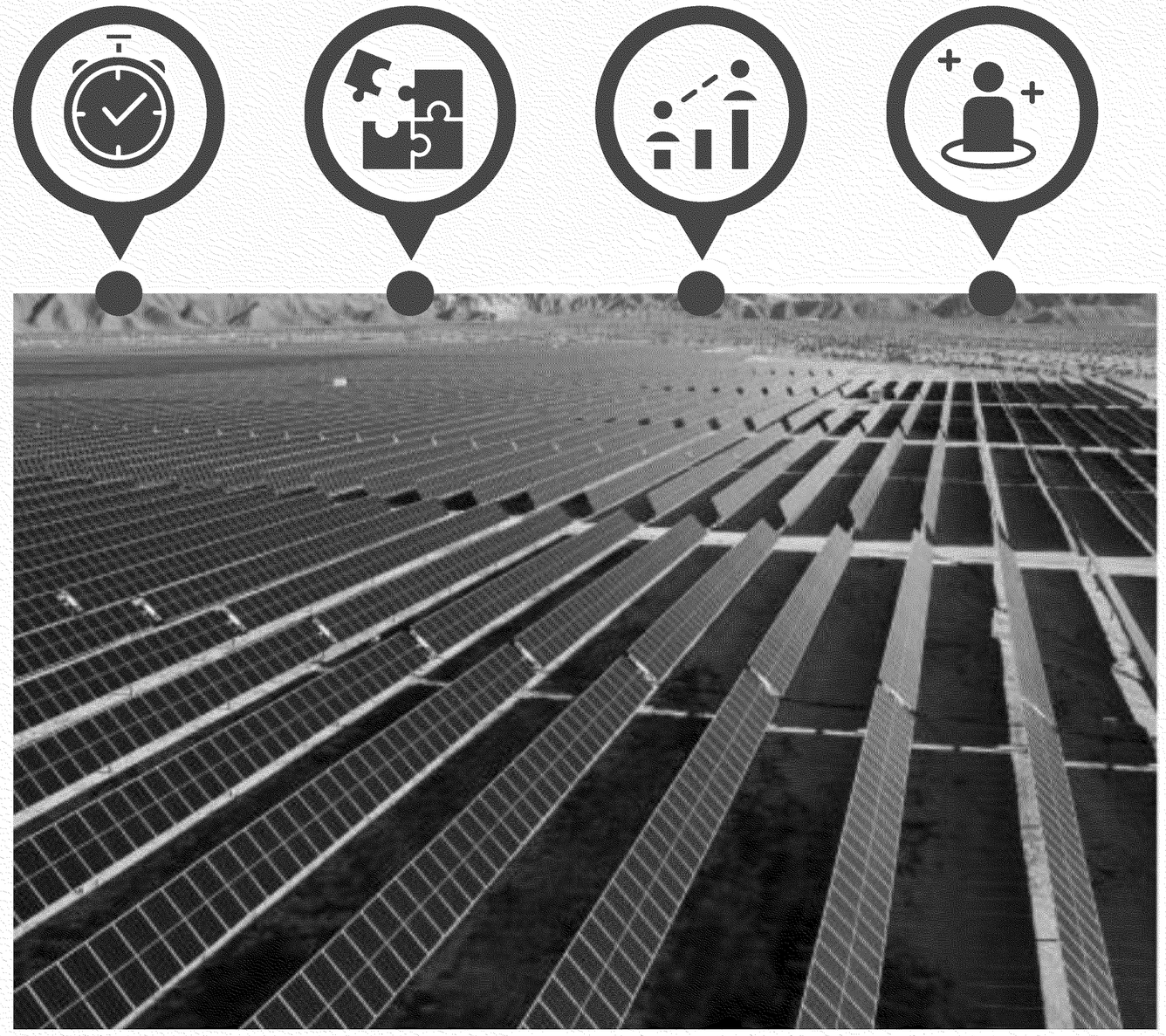
Project Overview

- Proposal to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a 300 megawatt (MW) photovoltaic solar, and 300 MW battery energy storage facility.

- Construction and operation would result in the disturbance of approximately 2,081 acres of 2,670 acre site.

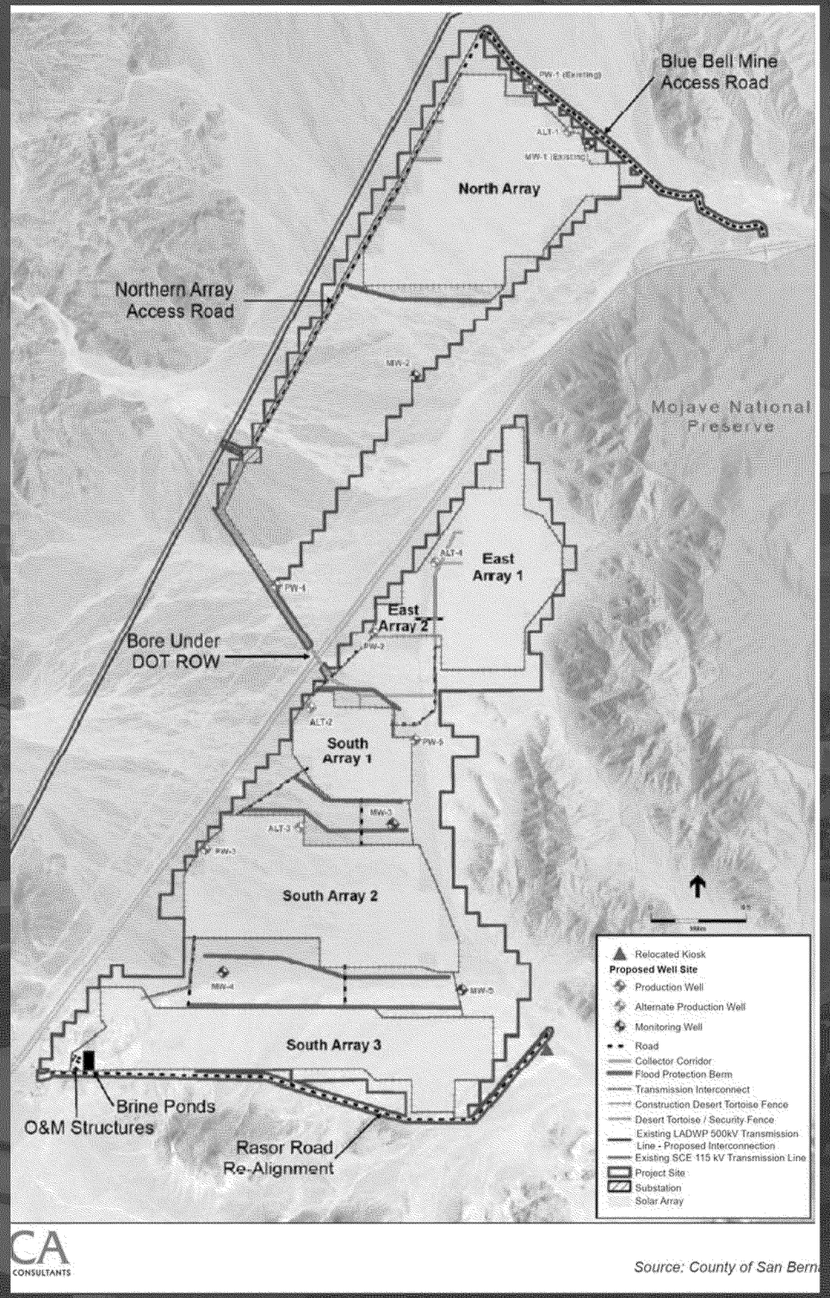
- The Project would generate and deliver renewable solar power to the regional electrical grid through an interconnection with the existing Mead-Adelanto 500-kV transmission line operated by the LADWP.

- 2015 EIR/EIS was prepared with a ROD issued by BLM. However, the County of San Bernardino declined to issue groundwater well permits or certify the Project's EIR.

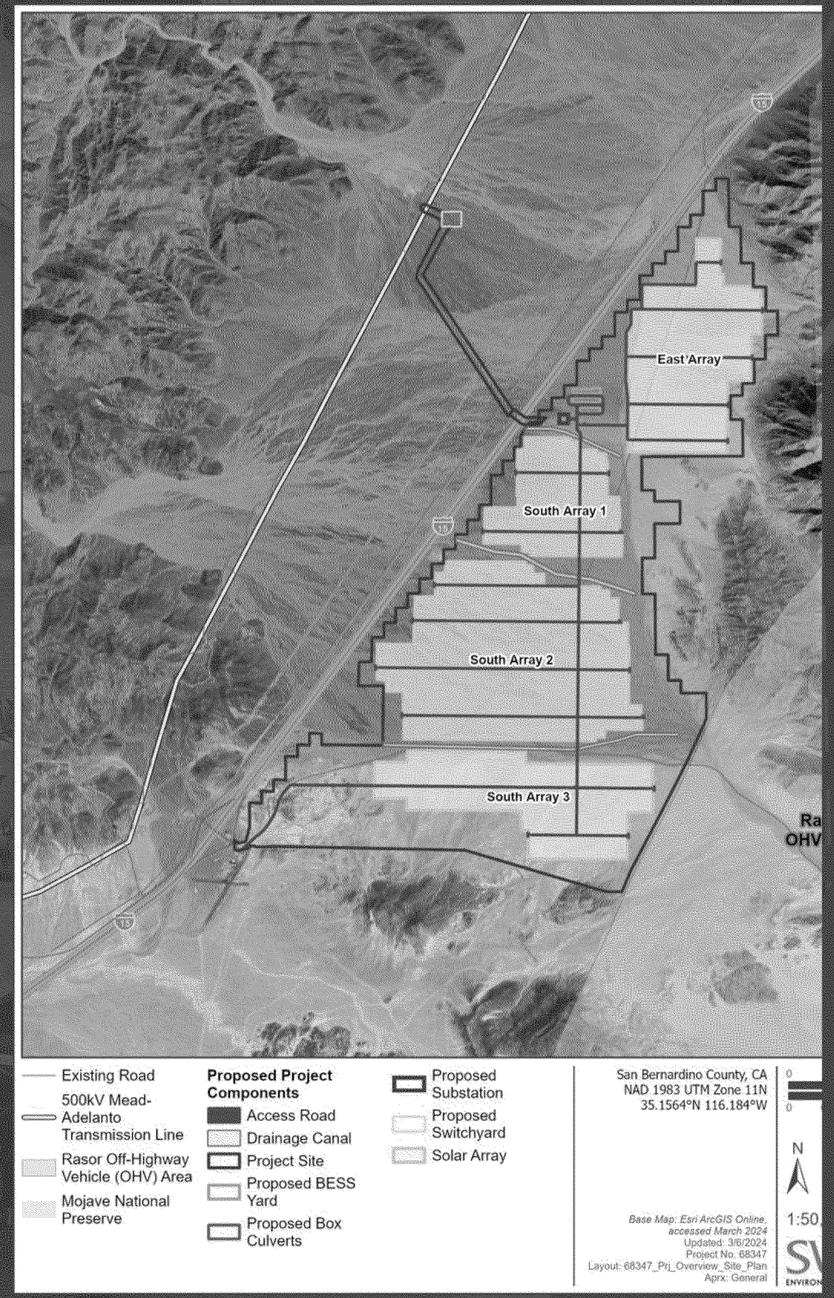


PROJECT HISTORY

The revised project configuration removes 571 acres from the original development footprint (the North Solar Array). This reduces impacts to visual resources, biological resources and desert bighorn sheep.



2015 Project



2024 Project

Project Components

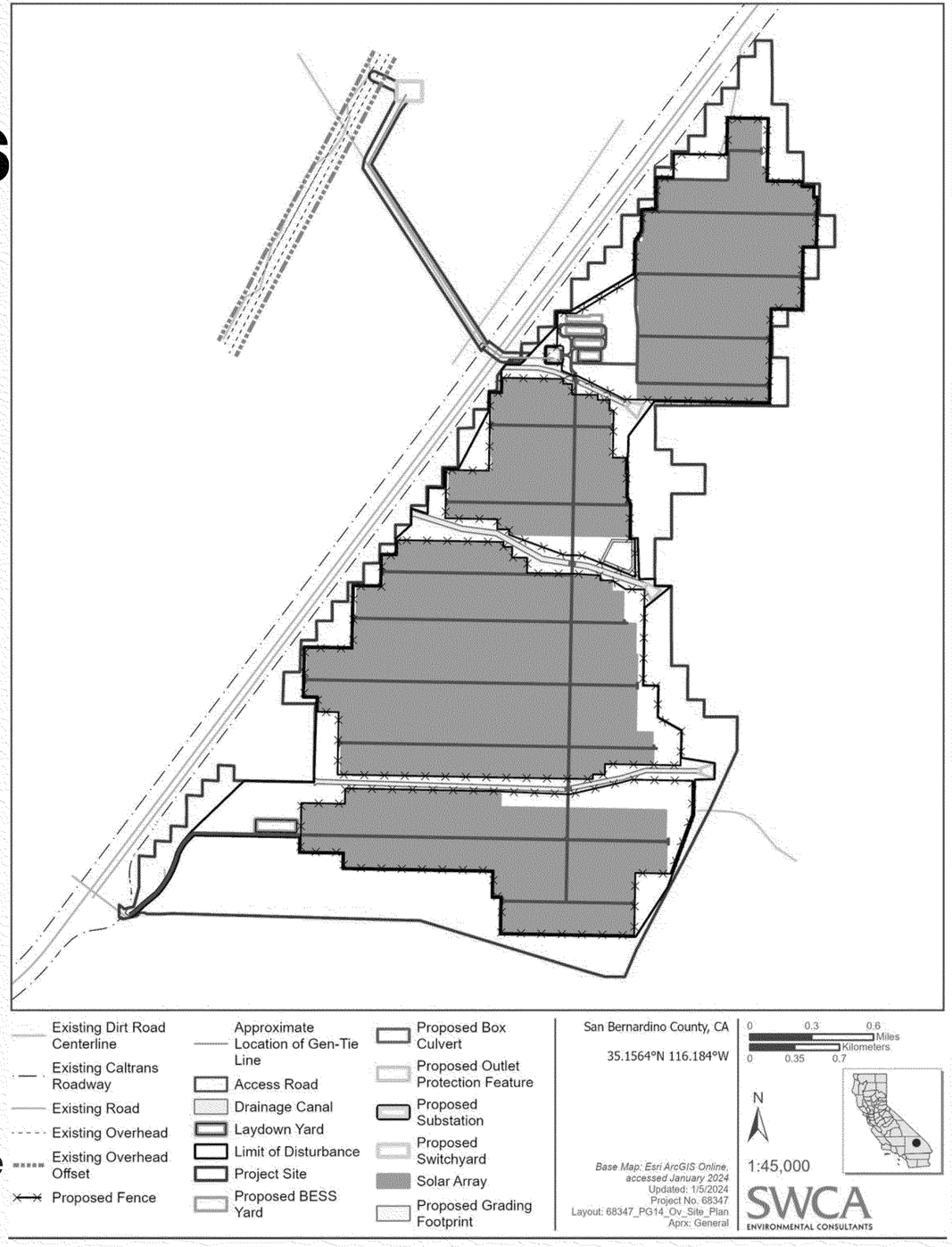
The proposed project components are as follows:

- The solar plant site (i.e., all facilities that create a footprint in and around the field of solar panels, including approximately 300 MW of photovoltaic solar power arrays identified as the East Array and South Arrays 1, 2, and 3); operation and maintenance buildings and structures; storm water infrastructure; and other related infrastructure and improvements.

- A substation and switchyard for interconnection to the existing transmission system.

- Approximately 300 MW of battery energy storage systems across 18 acres.

The project will connect to an existing tranmission line with availability capacity.



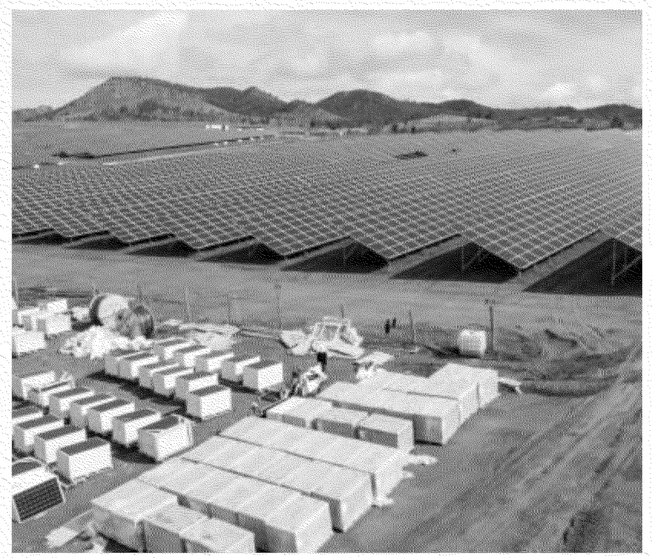
PROJECT CONSTRUCTION



Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2025 and occur over an approximately 18-month period and consist of overlapping construction stages.



Stage 1 would include mobilization, site preparation, fencing, preparation of laydown areas, and trenching. Stage 2 would include installation of solar array structural components including cables, piles, racking systems, inverters, and modules. Stage 3 would include installation of solar panels, battery storage systems, commissioning, and testing.



An average of 200 construction workers would operate daily on-site, with an anticipated 300 construction workers during peak construction activities.

PROJECT OPERATION



The project substation would be uncrewed during operation. However, a workforce of approximately 25 to 40 personnel would visit the substation on an as needed basis for maintenance, equipment operation, and/or security.



Operational needs at the site include monitoring and optimizing the power generated by the solar arrays and interconnection with the transmission lines, operating the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system, troubleshooting the collector lines and repairing damaged cables, and conducting panel-washing activities periodically through the year.



The project would be remotely controlled, eliminating the need for permanent on-site employees. The facility would not be accessible to the public, and access will be infrequent and limited to authorized personnel.



CEQA Status

Current CEQA Status: CDFW is in the process of preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Project. CDFW published a Notice of Preparation on January 18, 2023, and held a public scoping meeting on February 2, 2023.

Technical Reports Prepared:

- Air Quality and GHG Emissions
- Aquatic Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Phase 1 ESA
- Paleontological Resources
- Noise
- Stormwater/ Drainage
- Transportation and Traffic
- Water Supply
- Visual Resources



Environmental Analysis

Aquatic Resources

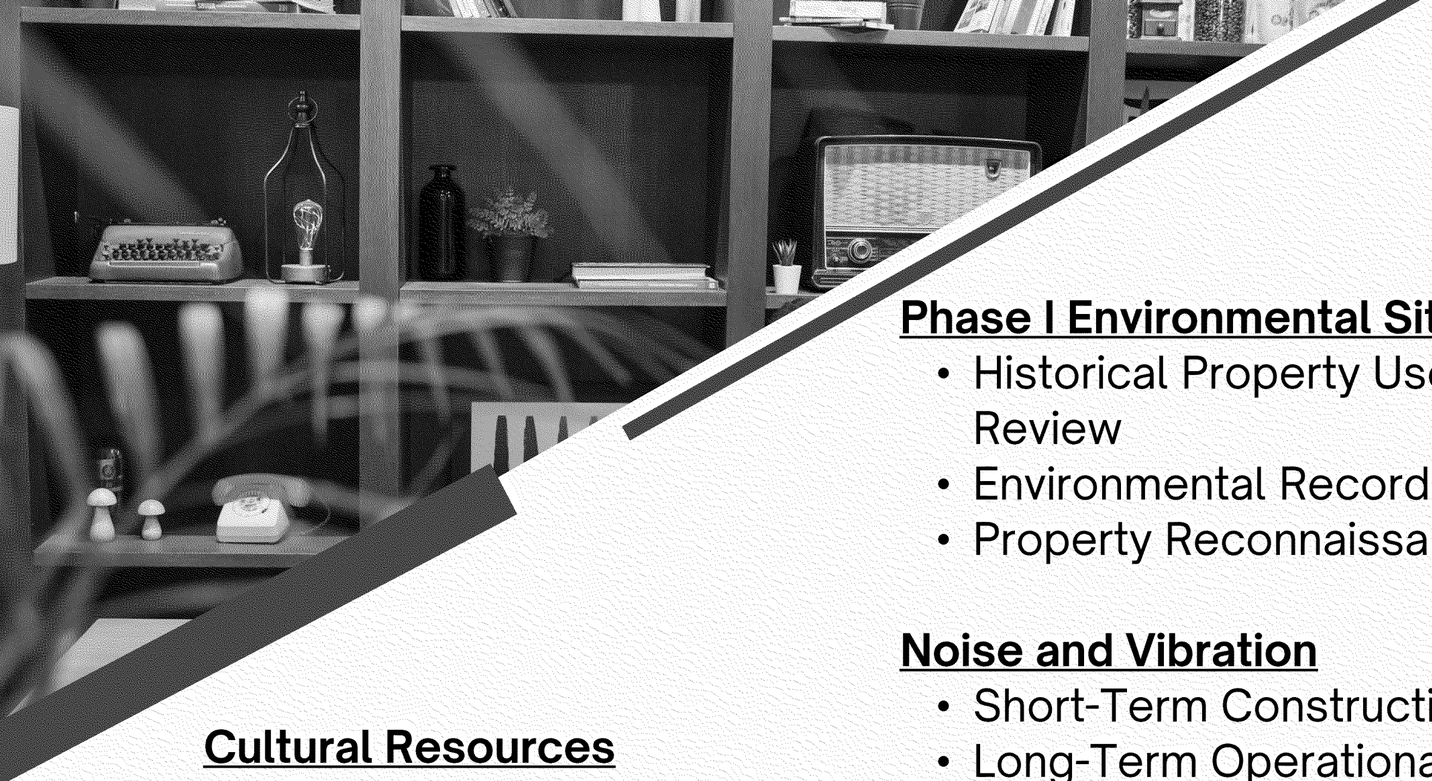
- Field Delineation Survey
- Remote Sensing and Drone Data
- Machine Learning Assisted Modeling
- Aquatic Resources Inventory

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Carbon Monoxide Hotspots
- Toxic Air Contaminants
- Greenhouse Gases
- Displaced Grid Electricity Emissions

Biological Resources

- Vegetation and Habitat Mapping
- Special-Status Species Potential for Occurance
- Reconnaisance-level Field Survey
- Rare Plant Survey
- Crotch’s Bumble Bee Survey
- Desert Tortoise Survey
- Mojave Fringe-toad Lizard Survey
- Avian Use Surveys
- Burrowing Owl Survey
- Desert Kit Fox Survey
- American Badger Survey
- Bat Survey



Environmental Analysis

Cultural Resources
- Field Surveys
- Records Review
- CDFW AB 52 Notification

Paleontological Resources
- Museum Records Searches
- Reconnaissance Survey

Stormwater Drainage
- Hec-Ras Modeling

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment
- Historical Property Use and Records Review
- Environmental Records Review
- Property Reconnaissance

Noise and Vibration
- Short-Term Construction
- Long-Term Operational Traffic Noise
- Traffic Noise

Economic Impact
- Direct Economic Impacts
- Direct and Indirect Sale Taxes Revenue
- Local Government Revenues

Water Supply
- Project Water Demand
- Water Availability

Transportation and Traffic
- Traffic Generation
- Level of Service Analysis
- Off-Ramp Queueing Analysis
- Site Performance Review
- Vehicle Miles Traveled Analysis
- Construction Traffic Management
- Recreationalist Access

Visual Resources
- Visual Context
- Viewsheds
- Key Observation Points
- Visual Simulations
- Visual Contrast Analysis
- Glare Analysis

Before



KOP 4: View from Interstate 15 Northbound looking northeast - Existing Condition

After



KOP 4: View from Interstate 15 Northbound looking northeast - Simulated Condition



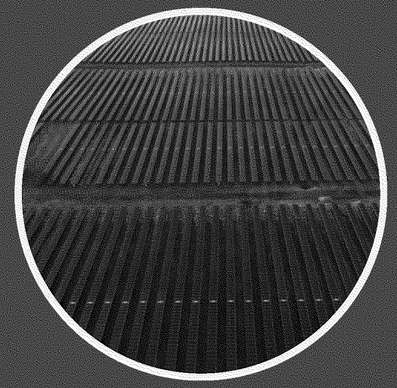
KOP 8: View from Transmission Line Access Road looking southeast - Existir



KOP 8: View from Transmission Line Access Road looking southeast - Simulated Condition



PROJECT NEED



Supports long-term clean energy reliability by providing zero emitting power generation paired with battery energy storage.

Supports the State's GHG emissions reduction targets for 2030 and the State goal of 100 percent zero carbon electricity resources by 2045.

Would connect to the existing LADWP Mead – Adelanto 500-kV transmission line that has ample unused capacity therefore eliminating the need for new transmission lines.

Existing Interconnection Agreement.

Battery Storage increases grid and generation reliability, dispatchability and stability.

Provides the capacity needed to support decommissioning of existing thermal and nuclear power plants.

Economic Benefits

The Project will create high-wage, highly skilled jobs for construction professionals, including carpenters, electricians, and heavy equipment operators; provide permanent jobs for Californians; and help reduce unemployment.

5,505 full-time equivalent (FTE) job years over the construction period and 32 FTEs for the full estimated 30-year operations cycle or 960 FTE-years.

Project development costs are expected to total approximately $1.29 billion.

Direct, indirect, and induced sale taxes during construction will generate $78 million to the State and County.

During the 30-year operating period, the indirect and induced State and County sales taxes will generate $16.2 million.

Community Benefits

The Project will employ a strategy to ensure a coalition of community-based organizations benefit from project construction and operation.

Our goal is to be an active member and steward of the communities where we develop, own and operate clean energy projects.

Our aim is to create long-term relationships and positive impacts that serve our local communities.

Our team is in the process of identifying, researching and meeting with local community-based organizations.

The plan is to make significant investments over the next ten years with community-based initiatives and programs.

Thank you!
Please let us know if you have any:

- Questions
- Information Requests
- Issues of Concern
- Community Benefit Suggestions



SODA MOUNTAIN SOLAR PROJECT

- 300 megawatt photovoltaic solar
- 300 megawatt battery energy storage
- 2,670 acres of BLM land
- Unincorporated San Bernardino County

From: Knight, Eric@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BE42548337F44852A291A9845F226F62-KNIGHT, ERI]
Sent: 7/12/2024 10:37:14 PM
To: ndesai@npca.org
CC: lbasulto@npca.org; Vorters, Dian@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c5604e712a74c029e412542e0db72ac-Vorters, Di]
Subject: FW: Soda Mountain Solar opt-in process

Hi Neal,

That is correct, the applicant intends on filing an opt-in application with the CEC by July 22nd. Those signed up for the CEC subscription "Siting Division General List" California Natural Resources Agency (govdelivery.com) – see 4th subscription under Power Plant Licensing Projects – will receive an email alert that the docket has been opened for this proceeding. That alert will recommend signing up for the Soda Mountain Solar subscription to continue to receive email alerts about the project. That subscription will appear in the list under "Project Under Review Topics".

Similar to the other 4 projects filed under the Opt-in program Power Plant Listing (ca.gov), Soda Mountain Solar will have its own webpage on the CEC's website where you can access its docket log, sign up for the subscription, access the e-comment and e-filing feature, etc. The docket is where the applicant will upload their application materials. Once CEC has confirmed that we've received all files associated with their application, we'll initiate our 30-day completeness review – there will be an announcement of that in the docket.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Eric

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Neal Desai <ndesai@npca.org>
Sent: Friday, July 12, 2024 8:36 AM
To: Energy - STEP Siting <STEPsiting@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Luke Basulto <lbasulto@npca.org>
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar opt-in process

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Eric,
Writing to check-in on a project called Soda Mountain Solar that we heard has abandoned its review process under CDFW and is seeking approval via CEC, I believe through the opt-in process under AB 205. Is this correct and if yes, could you share with us where things are at (eg pre application stage?, application

submitted?, etc). If any materials have been submitted by the applicant, would you be able to please share them with us?
Thank you,
Neal

==========

Neal Desai
Senior Program Director, Pacific Region | National Parks Conservation Association
Mobile: 510.368.0845 |ndesai@npca.org
(Pronouns: he/him/his)

Preserving Our Past. Protecting Our Future.
Speak up for national parks. Join us at npca.org

From: Knight, Eric@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BE42548337F44852A291A9845F226F62-KNIGHT, ERI]
Sent: 4/18/2024 1:08:57 AM
To: Crader, Phillip@Waterboards [Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov]; McCann, Lisa@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7d5473ae9c748d69e0d530034014f87-Waterboards]
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

Thank you Phil – sorry I wasn't able to accommodate your schedule

From: Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 11:18 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>; McCann, Lisa@Waterboards <Lisa.McCann@waterboards.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

That time is a conflict for me, so Lisa will cover this for the State Board.

Thanks!

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 8:49 AM
To: McCann, Lisa@Waterboards <Lisa.McCann@waterboards.ca.gov>; Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

EXTERNAL:

Wonderful!

From: McCann, Lisa@Waterboards <Lisa.McCann@waterboards.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 8:48 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>; Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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I can make it from at least 230-330.

Sincerely,

Lisa

Lisa Horowitz McCann

She/her/hers
Environmental Program Manager
Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board
916-323-0884
lisa.mccann@waterboards.ca.gov

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 8:42 AM
To: Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>
Cc: McCann, Lisa@Waterboards <Lisa.McCann@waterboards.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

EXTERNAL:

Hi Phil – Thanks, you as well! Is there any chance that 4/25 from 2:30-4:00 has become available for either you or Lisa or both? That date/time works for regional board as well as CDFW (HQ and region). Thanks, Eric

From: Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 11:02 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: McCann, Lisa@Waterboards <Lisa.McCann@waterboards.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Hi Eric,

I hope all is well.

The times below work for Lisa McCann and me. Please include both of us on the appointment.

Thanks!

4/17
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/18
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/19
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/23
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/24
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon

4/25
9:00-10:30
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 9:36 PM
To: Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife <Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov>; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife <Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov>; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife <Heidi.Calvert@wildlife.ca.gov>; Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC <Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov>; Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards <jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov>
Cc: Koch, Lori@DTSC <Lori.Koch@dtsc.ca.gov>; Ferouz, Muzhda@DTSC <Muzhda.Ferouz@dtsc.ca.gov>; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife <Rhiannon.Mulligan@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife <Donovan.Wakeman@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife <Alexander.Branch@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Maher, Lani@Wildlife <Lani.Maher@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Germinario, Lena@Wildlife <Lena.Germinario@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

Hi, Opt-in MOU partners –

Soda Mountain Solar LLC has stated their intent to file an opt-in application for certification (AB 205) with the CEC for their proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project, a 300-MW photovoltaic solar facility with battery energy storage systems and related facilities on approximately 1,490 acres of land administered by BLM in the unincorporated portion of San Bernardino County, approximately 6 miles southwest of the town of Baker. See the attached project description – most of the content was pulled from the Notice of Preparation CDFW issued for the project in January 2023. (Link to January 2023 NOP).

Would you each let me know your availability for a 1 ½ hour pre-filing meeting via Zoom for these dates/times:

4/17
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/18
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/19
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/23
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/24
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon

4/25
9:00-10:30
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Thank you!

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Knight, Eric@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BE42548337F44852A291A9845F226F62-KNIGHT, ERI]
Sent: 4/18/2024 2:50:13 PM
To: Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC [Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov]
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

You got it Wayne, thanks!

From: Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC <Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 7:16 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Hi Eric, yes, if you could just let them know of our permitting role and how that would effect their timeline if the project included treating, storing, or disposing hazardous waste on site.

Thank you!

Wayne Lorentzen, P.E.
Permitting Division Manager
Hazardous Waste Management Program
916-327-1194
wayne.lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1001 "I" Street, Sacramento, CA 95812-0806
California Environmental Protection Agency

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 6:13 PM
To: Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC <Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

Hi Wayne – I'm sorry I wasn't able to accommodate DTSC. Now that DTSC has reviewed several of these opt-in applications, is there anything you'd like for me to convey to this applicant on behalf of DTSC? Eric

From: Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC <Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 9:38 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Hi Eric, the entire department has an All Staff meeting at that time.

Wayne Lorentzen, P.E.
Permitting Division Manager
Hazardous Waste Management Program
916-327-1194
wayne.lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1001 "I" Street, Sacramento, CA 95812-0806
California Environmental Protection Agency





From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 8:44 AM
To: Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC <Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

Hi Wayne – Is there any chance 4/25 from 2:30-4 has become available for DTSC? Thanks, Eric

From: Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC <Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 10:39 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>; Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife <Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov>; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife <Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov>; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife <Heidi.Calvert@wildlife.ca.gov>; Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards <jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov>
Cc: Koch, Lori@DTSC <Lori.Koch@dtsc.ca.gov>; Ferouz, Muzhda@DTSC <Muzhda.Ferouz@dtsc.ca.gov>; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife <Rhiannon.Mulligan@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife <Donovan.Wakeman@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife <Alexander.Branch@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Maher, Lani@Wildlife <Lani.Maher@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Germinario, Lena@Wildlife <Lena.Germinario@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Hi Eric, DTSC can be available the following times:

4/17
2:30-4:00

4/18
1:00-2:30

4/23
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Wayne Lorentzen, P.E.
Permitting Division Manager
Hazardous Waste Management Program
916-327-1194
wayne.lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1001 "I" Street, Sacramento, CA 95812-0806
California Environmental Protection Agency

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 9:36 PM
To: Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife <Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov>; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife <Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov>; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife <Heidi.Calvert@wildlife.ca.gov>; Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC <Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov>; Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards <jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov>
Cc: Koch, Lori@DTSC <Lori.Koch@dtsc.ca.gov>; Ferouz, Muzhda@DTSC <Muzhda.Ferouz@dtsc.ca.gov>; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife <Rhiannon.Mulligan@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife <Donovan.Wakeman@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife <Alexander.Branch@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Maher, Lani@Wildlife <Lani.Maher@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Germinario, Lena@Wildlife <Lena.Germinario@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

Hi, Opt-in MOU partners –

Soda Mountain Solar LLC has stated their intent to file an opt-in application for certification (AB 205) with the CEC for their proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project, a 300-MW photovoltaic solar facility with battery energy storage systems and related facilities on approximately 1,490 acres of land administered by BLM in the unincorporated portion of San Bernardino County, approximately 6 miles southwest of the town of Baker. See the attached project description – most of the content was pulled from the Notice of Preparation CDFW issued for the project in January 2023. (Link to January 2023 NOP).

Would you each let me know your availability for a 1 ½ hour pre-filing meeting via Zoom for these dates/times:

4/17
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/18
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/19
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/23

1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/24
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon

4/25
9:00-10:30
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Thank you!

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Cordes, Isabeau J [icordes@blm.gov]
Sent: 4/23/2024 1:48:34 PM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]; Donnell, Julie A [jdonnell@blm.gov]; Anderson, Brandon G [bganderson@blm.gov]; Samples, Portia J [psamples@blm.gov]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Good morning Eric,

A few of us from the BLM Barstow and possibly CDD offices would like to attend this upcoming Thursday. Would you please pass the meeting invite along to myself, Portia, Julie, and Brandon (all included on this email).

Thank you,

Isa Cordes
(she/her)
Realty Specialist
Barstow Field Office
U.S. Department of the Interior, Region 8 and 10
Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:00 am - 4:30 pm PST as my primary hours

---

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 4:38 PM
To: Cordes, Isabeau J <icordes@blm.gov>; Stamer, Marc R <mstamer@blm.gov>; Donnell, Julie A <jdonnell@blm.gov>; Sanzenbacher, Peter M <peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Isabeau, Marc, Julie, and Peter –

Just following up to inform you that the pre-filing meeting has been scheduled for this Thursday, 4/25 from 2:30-4:00. The meeting will be remote only via Zoom (log in instructions to follow). Does BLM or USFWS have any interest in attending this meeting? If so, I will forward the appointment – the CEC very much welcomes participation by your agencies. CDFW and State Water Board/RWQCB will be attending.

Thank you,
Eric

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Knight, Eric@Energy
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 10:01 PM
To: icordes@blm.gov; mstamer@blm.gov; jdonnell@blm.gov; peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov; Chris.Warrick@lus.sbcounty.go; Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov
Subject: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

Hello –

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has been informed by Soda Mountain Solar LLC of their intent to file an application for certification with the CEC under the Opt-in Certification Program created by Assembly Bill (AB) 205 for their Soda Mountain Solar Project, a 300-MW photovoltaic solar facility with battery energy storage systems and related facilities on approximately 1,490 acres of land administered by BLM in the unincorporated portion of San Bernardino County, approximately 6 miles southwest of the town of Baker. See the attached project description – most of the content was pulled from the Notice of Preparation CDFW issued for the project in January 2023. (Link to January 2023 NOP).

AB 205 allows certain clean energy projects to optionally seek certification (permitting) from the CEC. Upon the filing of the opt-in application, the CEC has exclusive permitting authority in lieu of any local permits and state permits (with certain exceptions). By statute, the CEC is the lead agency under CEQA for any project that opts into its jurisdiction. Pursuant to the program's implementing regulations, the applicant must request a pre-filing consultation meeting at least 30 days prior to filing the application with the CEC. The CEC must invite the local government that would have had permitting authority and may invite other relevant state and federal agencies to participate. You can find more information about the Opt-in Certification Program here: Power Plant Licensing (ca.gov)

At the meeting, the applicant and their consultants will present the project and studies performed in support of the application. The meeting will be an opportunity for CEC technical specialists, representatives from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the State Water Board/regional board to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposal. The County, BLM, and USFWS are encouraged to as well.

If interested, please let me know your availability for a 1 ½ hour meeting via Zoom for these proposed dates/times.

4/17
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/18
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/19
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/23
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/24
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon

4/25
9:00-10:30
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Regards,

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards [jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov]
Sent: 4/10/2024 6:16:42 PM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]; Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3d237d12712944c6a4e00bb8f0489ecd-WildlifeAli]; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4f4ad51c29814356b0c486d7bbf5aefa-WildlifeMag]; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=dfec6a2d0599454d9cfdb19c10daefc1-WildlifeHei]; Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=67ab2660d3724727a6074450f5a5e96d-DTSCWLorent]; Crader, Phillip@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7210c7994d3941d4a5501541b6a379f1-Waterboards]
CC: Koch, Lori@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3269442b99e4b6eac71ca1ce19d5078-DTSCLKoch]; Ferouz, Muzhda@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5970a2c9e7942c19e64ec8ca6a4b057-DTSCMFerouz]; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a62a013861764f1e8556eaf023a2cc94-WildlifeRhi]; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ea932fbeeeda4e2a8c4f7fb48a2a96a0-f495410a-65]; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=efe78fbc6c1e408da007e97ea1d8cdf6-WildlifeHar]; Maher, Lani@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5dd1ddd3656b47ad999ed889a3382664-WildlifeLan]; Germinario, Lena@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56b542cba4f747059f0acb2ea9a17abf-WildlifeLen]; Guerra, Christina@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3c08929c117e4da5bfb45f48fa749c0a-Waterboards]; Steinert, Tiffany@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=fdbc9163bf404f4d84f0a53c6ed84ab0-Waterboards]
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Hi Eric, the Lahontan Regional Water Board staff are available the following days/times.

4/19
10:30-noon
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/24
10:30-noon

4/25
2:30-4:00

Jan Zimmerman, PG
Supervising Engineering Geologist
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
760/241-7376, desk; 760/553-4989, cell
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 9:36 PM
To: Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife <Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov>; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife <Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov>; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife <Heidi.Calvert@wildlife.ca.gov>; Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC <Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov>; Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards <jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov>
Cc: Koch, Lori@DTSC <Lori.Koch@dtsc.ca.gov>; Ferouz, Muzhda@DTSC <Muzhda.Ferouz@dtsc.ca.gov>; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife <Rhiannon.Mulligan@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife <Donovan.Wakeman@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife <Alexander.Branch@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Maher, Lani@Wildlife <Lani.Maher@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Germinario, Lena@Wildlife <Lena.Germinario@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

EXTERNAL:

Hi, Opt-in MOU partners –

Soda Mountain Solar LLC has stated their intent to file an opt-in application for certification (AB 205) with the CEC for their proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project, a 300-MW photovoltaic solar facility with battery energy storage systems and related facilities on approximately 1,490 acres of land administered by BLM in the unincorporated portion of San Bernardino County, approximately 6 miles southwest of the town of Baker. See the attached project description – most of the content was pulled from the Notice of Preparation CDFW issued for the project in January 2023. (Link to January 2023 NOP).

Would you each let me know your availability for a 1 ½ hour pre-filing meeting via Zoom for these dates/times:

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1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/18
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/19
9:00-10:30
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4/24
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon

4/25
9:00-10:30
1:00-2:30

2:30-4:00

Thank you!

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC [Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov]
Sent: 4/10/2024 5:39:17 PM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]; Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3d237d12712944c6a4e00bb8f0489ecd-WildlifeAli]; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4f4ad51c29814356b0c486d7bbf5aefa-WildlifeMag]; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=dfec6a2d0599454d9cfdb19c10daefc1-WildlifeHei]; Crader, Phillip@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7210c7994d3941d4a5501541b6a379f1-Waterboards]; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6a535479ac2448c29afb308a1cd6fede-Waterboards]
CC: Koch, Lori@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3269442b99e4b6eac71ca1ce19d5078-DTSCLKoch]; Ferouz, Muzhda@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5970a2c9e7942c19e64ec8ca6a4b057-DTSCMFerouz]; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a62a013861764f1e8556eaf023a2cc94-WildlifeRhi]; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ea932fbeeeda4e2a8c4f7fb48a2a96a0-f495410a-65]; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=efe78fbc6c1e408da007e97ea1d8cdf6-WildlifeHar]; Maher, Lani@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5dd1ddd3656b47ad999ed889a3382664-WildlifeLan]; Germinario, Lena@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56b542cba4f747059f0acb2ea9a17abf-WildlifeLen]
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Eric, DTSC can be available the following times:

4/17
2:30-4:00

4/18
1:00-2:30

4/23
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Wayne Lorentzen, P.E.
Permitting Division Manager
Hazardous Waste Management Program
916-327-1194
wayne.lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1001 "I" Street, Sacramento, CA 95812-0806
California Environmental Protection Agency

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 9:36 PM
To: Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife <Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov>; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife <Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov>; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife <Heidi.Calvert@wildlife.ca.gov>; Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC <Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov>; Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards <jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov>
Cc: Koch, Lori@DTSC <Lori.Koch@dtsc.ca.gov>; Ferouz, Muzhda@DTSC <Muzhda.Ferouz@dtsc.ca.gov>; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife <Rhiannon.Mulligan@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife <Donovan.Wakeman@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife <Alexander.Branch@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Maher, Lani@Wildlife <Lani.Maher@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Germinario, Lena@Wildlife <Lena.Germinario@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Would you each let me know your availability for a 1 ½ hour pre-filing meeting via Zoom for these dates/times:

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1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Thank you!



Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Knight, Eric@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BE42548337F44852A291A9845F226F62-KNIGHT, ERI]
Sent: 4/16/2024 4:00:03 PM
To: Cruz, Manikhone [Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov]
CC: Sansonetti, Nancy [Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov]
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

Thanks Manie, we welcome the county's participation. Thanks for confirming no county permits will be required.

From: Cruz, Manikhone <Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 8:50 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Sansonetti, Nancy <Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov>
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Hi Eric,

I'd be glad to attend the meeting at the day and time specified below. However, it has been confirmed with our Permits Division that no road or flood permits will be required for this project.

Thank you,
Manie Cruz
Planner II – Capital Improvement Section
Department of Public Works; Environmental Management Division
Phone: (909) 387-8109, Fax: (909) 387-7876
825 East Third Street, Room 123
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0835

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Our job is to create a county in which those who reside and invest can prosper and achieve well-being.
www.SBCounty.gov

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 8:39 AM
To: Cruz, Manikhone <Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov>
Cc: Sansonetti, Nancy <Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov>
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

Some people who received this message don't often get email from eric.knight@energy.ca.gov. Learn why this is important

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Hi Manie – Thank you for your interest in the pre-filing meeting. Is there any chance that you or someone else with the county could do 4/25 from 2:30-4? – Eric

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Cruz, Manikhone <Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 10:10 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Sansonetti, Nancy <Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov>
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Hi Eric,

I am interested in attending the meeting and my availability for a 1 ½ hour meeting via Zoom are:

4/17
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/23
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Manie Cruz
Planner II – Capital Improvement Section
Department of Public Works; Environmental Management Division
Phone: (909) 387-8109, Fax: (909) 387-7876
825 East Third Street, Room 123
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0835

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www.SBCounty.gov

From: Sansonetti, Nancy <Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 10:05 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Cruz, Manikhone <Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov>
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

Thank you Eric - I have referred this to planner Manie Cruz to attend and follow up on. Please let me know if you have any questions.
Nancy

Nancy J. Sansonetti, AICP
Supervising Planner – Capital Improvement Section
Department of Public Works; Environmental Management Division
Phone: 909-387-8109
Fax: 909-387-7876
825 E. Third Street, Rm. 123
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0835

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

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www.SBCounty.gov

AICP Certified
American Institute of Certified Planners

@SBCoPublicWorks

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If you are receiving this email outside of working hours, please enjoy your evening, weekend or PTO. You are not expected to respond until you return to work ☺.

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 10:01 PM
To: icordes@blm.gov; mstamer@blm.gov; jdonnell@blm.gov; peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov; Chris.Warrick@lus.sbcounty.go; Sansonetti, Nancy <Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov>
Subject: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

You don't often get email from eric.knight@energy.ca.gov. Learn why this is important

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Hello –

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certain exceptions). By statute, the CEC is the lead agency under CEQA for any project that opts into its jurisdiction. Pursuant to the program's implementing regulations, the applicant must request a pre-filing consultation meeting at least 30 days prior to filing the application with the CEC. The CEC must invite the local government that would have had permitting authority and may invite other relevant state and federal agencies to participate. You can find more information about the Opt-in Certification Program here: Power Plant Licensing (ca.gov)

At the meeting, the applicant and their consultants will present the project and studies performed in support of the application. The meeting will be an opportunity for CEC technical specialists, representatives from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the State Water Board/regional board to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposal. The County, BLM, and USFWS are encouraged to as well.

If interested, please let me know your availability for a 1 ½ hour meeting via Zoom for these proposed dates/times.

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4/24
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4/25
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1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Regards,

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Knight, Eric@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BE42548337F44852A291A9845F226F62-KNIGHT, ERI]
Sent: 4/23/2024 3:31:25 PM
To: Sanzenbacher, Peter M [peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

You bet, just added her. Thanks again

From: Sanzenbacher, Peter M <peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 8:29 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

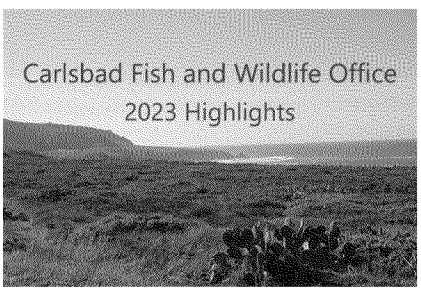
Thanks, Eric. Can you also please include Kristina Drake with the USFWS Desert Tortoise Recovery Office. Her email address is kristina_drake@fws.gov
I think she would like to attend but might not be able to because of work travel.

Best,
Peter

--

Peter Sanzenbacher
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Mojave Desert Division
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office
777 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite 208
Palm Springs, CA 92262
Email: peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov
~~Office: 760-322-2070 x425~~
Cell: 442-222-0165

http://www.fws.gov/carlsbad/



From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 8:24 AM
To: Sanzenbacher, Peter M <peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

That's great Peter, will do. Several folks from BLM will also be attending.

From: Sanzenbacher, Peter M <peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 5:21 PM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>; Cordes, Isabeau J <icordes@blm.gov>; Stamer, Marc R <mstamer@blm.gov>; Donnell, Julie A <jdonnell@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

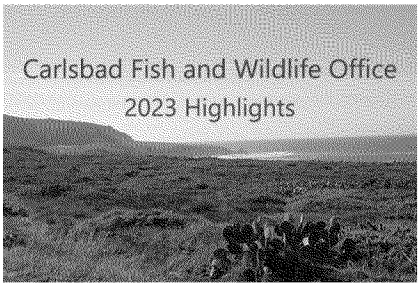
H Eric,
I would like to attend for the USFWS. Please include me on the Zoom invite list. I will be out in the field that day but I'm assuming that I will have cell phone coverage.

Thanks,
Peter

--

Peter Sanzenbacher
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Mojave Desert Division
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office
777 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite 208
Palm Springs, CA 92262
Email: peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov
~~Office: 760-322-2070 x425~~
Cell: 442-222-0165

http://www.fws.gov/carlsbad/



From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 4:38 PM
To: Cordes, Isabeau J <icordes@blm.gov>; Stamer, Marc R <mstamer@blm.gov>; Donnell, Julie A <jdonnell@blm.gov>; Sanzenbacher, Peter M <peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Isabeau, Marc, Julie, and Peter –

Just following up to inform you that the pre-filing meeting has been scheduled for this Thursday, 4/25 from 2:30-4:00. The meeting will be remote only via Zoom (log in instructions to follow). Does BLM or USFWS have any interest in attending this meeting? If so, I will forward the appointment – the CEC very much welcomes participation by your agencies. CDFW and State Water Board/RWQCB will be attending.

Thank you,
Eric

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Knight, Eric@Energy
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 10:01 PM
To: icordes@blm.gov; mstamer@blm.gov; jdonnell@blm.gov; peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov; Chris.Warrick@lus.sbcounty.go; Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov
Subject: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Regards,

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

To: Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a62a013861764f1e8556eaf023a2cc94-WildlifeRhi]; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ea932fbeeeda4e2a8c4f7fb48a2a96a0-f495410a-65]; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=efe78fbc6c1e408da007e97ea1d8cdf6-WildlifeHar]; Maher, Lani@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5dd1ddd3656b47ad999ed889a3382664-WildlifeLan]; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4f4ad51c29814356b0c486d7bbf5aefa-WildlifeMag]; Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3d237d12712944c6a4e00bb8f0489ecd-WildlifeAli]; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=dfec6a2d0599454d9cfdb19c10daefc1-WildlifeHei]; McCann, Lisa@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7d5473ae9c748d69e0d530034014f87-Waterboards]; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6a535479ac2448c29afb308a1cd6fede-Waterboards]; Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov; Hughes, Joseph@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7dd5e80572b644209e9607ba7bdcb630-Hughes, Jos]; Fooks, Brett@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=870df74143964b71ada0039bf13c5a9a-Fooks, Bret]; Kerr, Steven@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d0d5a66bed2249fca830918f58b3b921-Kerr, Steve]; Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]; Khoshmashrab, Shahab@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=debfeb665b7a45629f72eaeb824bce58-Khoshmashra]; Abulaban, Abdel-Karim@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c1ff1d38281a4068b2708271d22c0d94-Abulaban, A]; Pinkerton, Matthew@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88b6ef1fba134a2cb0aacd56262dc6c4-Pinkerton,]; Carr, Chris [chriscarr@paulhastings.com]; Grunbaum, Lucas [lucasgrunbaum@paulhastings.com]; Stroud, Andrea@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9703ce11dc9547c78c64f22894500b5c-Martine, An]

CC: Crader, Phillip@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7210c7994d3941d4a5501541b6a379f1-Waterboards]; Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=67ab2660d3724727a6074450f5a5e96d-DTSCWLorent]; Badie, Mona@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4230574616834c8a8b023cf986dc310c-Badie, Mona]; Qaqundah, James@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7da5ec0923de49488685fdaa76c71e51-Qaqundah, J]; Huber, Elizabeth@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=93f40660c3d446578d63390926fd5e5a-Huber, Eliz]; Vorters, Dian@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c5604e712a74c029e412542e0db72ac-Vorters, Di]; Guerra, Christina@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3c08929c117e4da5bfb45f48fa749c0a-Waterboards]; Steinert, Tiffany@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=fdbc9163bf404f4d84f0a53c6ed84ab0-Waterboards]; Riordan, Patrick@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ac5d55bd7fad49519eaa9e71fc43871d-Riordan, Pa]; LeFevre, Ellen@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f0c948f76117430ca17ff1486b21fd91-LeFevre, El]; Hamblin, Mark@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=071cd87e7be047d7837b2754f0b5d7dd-Hamblin, Ma]; Koch, Andrea@Energy

[/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8024cfdec6344412812ea6c8320f29b2-Koch, Andre]; Michael Cocchimiglio [mci@vcrenewables.com]; Dustin Thaler [dut@vcrenewables.com]; Hannah Gbeh [hannahgbeh@gmail.com]; Ziad Alaywan [ziad@zglobal.biz]; Kara Laurenson-Wright [Kara.LaurensonWright@swca.com]; Pauline Roberts [PKRoberts@swca.com]; Babula, Jared@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6cf386251c7a47f697f411cee0910882-Babula, Jar]; Anderson, Kari@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2a783549590f4febb0eb8d96a79b60aa-Anderson, K]; Mayer, Alex@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1a7ef7ec23eb4292abd2748ce1b69948-ef756fa8-50]; Ponce, Mariah@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bc5faa5d564c4cf3a2f49468b736b6c2-b2346f64-e7]; Kelsey, Tanner@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ad103077f815400c88cfa8e9576c5f0c-6b814579-63]; Ziff, Briana@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9d1539e61a02423dad0bea24f0056535-0e930594-04]; Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]; Sanzenbacher, Peter [peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov]; Cordes, Isabeau J [icordes@blm.gov]; Donnell, Julie A [jdonnell@blm.gov]; bganderson@blm.gov; psamples@blm.gov; Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]; Longman, Renee@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56333a9acba74875b8c0175b8bea5d52-77429d54-8c]; Crisp, Ann@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b89c4de7ece742679d19e1e3ee713dc2-Crisp, Ann@]; Bastida, Jack@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd18303173c0467f956829def1aff7cf-Bastida, Ja]; kristina_drake@fws.gov

Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project Opt-In Certification Pre-filing Meeting - Power Points for today's meeting

Attachments: CEC's Opt In Certification Program_Soda prefiling.pdf

Attached are copies of today's presentations. Looking forward to your participation in today's discussion.

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931



California Energy Commission

Soda Mountain Solar – Opt-In Certification Prefiling Meeting

Eric Knight, Manager, Siting & Environmental Branch

April 25, 2024

CEC Authority

June 30, 2022

- Governor Newsom Signs Assembly Bill 205

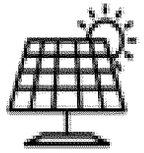
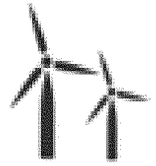
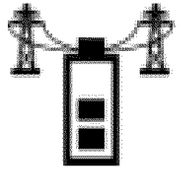
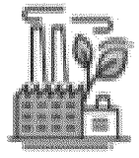
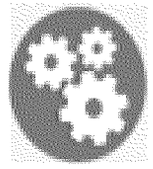
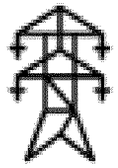
October 12, 2022

- CEC Adopts Emergency Regulations

October 24, 2022

- Office of Administrative Law Approves the Emergency Regulations

Eligible Facilities

Solar photovoltaic power plant of at least 50 MW 	Terrestrial wind power plant of at least 50 MW 	Energy storage system of at least 200 MWh 
Non-fossil-fueled thermal power plant of at least 50 MW (i.e., jurisdictional facility) 	Manufacturing/assembly facility for renewable energy/energy storage systems or components with at least $250 million investment 	Transmission from an eligible power plant or energy storage system to the first point of interconnection 

Opt-In Coordination Plans



Source: CDFW



Source: State Water Board



Source: DTSC

Opt-In Process Outline

Pre-Filing Meeting

- 30 Days Prior to Filing
- Docket Established
- Application and Fees Submitted

Data Completeness Review

- 30 Days to Conduct Application Completeness Review
- Additional Information can be Requested
- Application Shared with Local Government, Other Public Agencies, and Native American Tribes

CEQA ++ Environmental Review

- 270 Days to Conduct Environmental Review (once application deemed complete)
- CEC Required Process Milestones

270 Day Process Milestones

- **Notice of EIR Preparation** *(Day 3)*
- **Invite Tribal Consultation** *(Day 5)*
- **Informational/Scoping Meeting** *(Day 30)*
- **Discovery Request Due** *(30 Day Turnaround)*

30 Days

150 Days

- **Draft EIR and Notice of Availability Published** *(Day 150)*
- **Draft EIR Meeting** *(30 – 60 Days from published date)*
- **Draft EIR Public Comment** *(60 Days from published date)*

- **Final EIR** *(By Day 240)*
- **CEC Business Meeting Decision** *(By Day 270)*
- **Partner Agencies Applicable Permit Decisions** *(By Day 360)*

270 Days

CEC Findings Required to Approve Opt-In Projects

- Project Provides an Overall Net Positive Economic Benefit to the Local Government
- Applicant Signed a Community Benefits Agreement
- Applicant Paying Prevailing Wage to Skilled and Trained Workforce
- Project Complies with Applicable Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards or Required for Public Convenience or Necessity
- Significant effects of the project will be avoided or mitigated, or statement of overriding considerations for significant effects found infeasible to avoid or mitigate

CEC Website



- Alphabetical List of Power Plants
  - Dockets
  - Subscriptions
- Opt-in Fact Sheet (coming soon)
- Opt-in FAQ
- Opt-in Process Timeline

Thank You

Eric Knight, Manager, Siting and Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

STEPsiting@energy.ca.gov

Sent: 7/11/2024 8:59:14 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Subject: RE: Soda Mt. Solar Project Description - CEC Website

Hi Hannah – First off let me say I'm sorry for not replying earlier. I was off last week and have been digging out of a hole ever since. Thank you for sending the project description and figures, we'll get your project webpage and docket set up in time for your filing

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 8:53 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Fw: Soda Mt. Solar Project Description - CEC Website

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Eric,

I hope you are doing well and had a great 4th of July! I am checking in to make sure you received the project description information for the Soda Mountain Solar Project docket webpage, which I sent on 7/2 (re-attached to this email). Also attached to this email is the list of agencies/organizations that we have been in contact with for the project and we suggest including on your distribution list.

We will not be ready to submit on Monday 7/15. However, we should be ready to submit either later that week or Monday 7/22. We are planning to wire the application fee the same day I upload the files to the docket. I setup my account with the CEC for uploading the files, but see our project isn't listed in the docketing options yet. If there is any additional information that you require from my side to get this set up, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you!
Hannah

Hannah Gbeh

CEO

Resolution Environmental

262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118

760-504-4109

hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com

www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:57 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Soda Mt. Solar Project Description - CEC Website

Hi Eric,

I hope you are having a good week! Attached is a short project description for the Soda Mountain Solar Project CEC website, including some figures. If you have any issues with these files, please let me know. We are still targeting July 15th for a submittal, but if that shifts, I will let you know.

Thank you!
Hannah

Hannah Gbeh

CEO

Resolution Environmental

262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118

760-504-4109

hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com

www.resolutionenvironmental.com

Sent: 6/20/2024 11:01:02 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain Solar Project Opt-In Application Submittal
Attachments: W-9 form (rev Oct 2018) 11-17-2021.pdf

Hi Hannah – Here's the W-9 as requested.

At least a week before you file your application, please provide me with a brief project description for the project's webpage. We can then get started on setting up the docket, which will need to be opened before you can begin filing your application. What is also helpful is a project site map, both regional and site specific. As we need to send notices to CDFW, State/Regional Water Boards, DTSC, and interested local, state, regional, and federal agencies once we receive the application, it is helpful if we know now what agencies and staff members you have contacted.

We would prefer fewer large pdf files to be uploaded to the docket. We also use Kiteworks to receive air quality modeling files and project GIS shape files. We can put you in contact with our GIS Unit, who will send out an invitation to you (or your designee) for uploading any files to Kiteworks.

Thanks!
Eric

From: Knight, Eric@Energy
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 9:19 AM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain Solar Project Opt-In Application Submittal

Hi Hannah –

1. I've attached the wiring instructions for paying the application fee, which must be submitted with the application (Pub. Resources Code section 25806 (a)). Alternatively, a paper check can be mailed to:

California Energy Commission
Attn: Accounting MS2
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

With either method, include the project name so we can track it.

Current fees are here Licensing and Compliance (ca.gov). The intel I have is the fees will be adjusted July 1 as follows:

FY 24/25
Annual Compliance Fee: $35,629
Application Fee: $356,282
MW or MWh charge: $712
Application NTE: $1,068,853

2. On this webpage you'll find information about using the CEC's e-filing system E-Filing and E-Commenting (ca.gov). In particular see the first bullet – User Training Guide

3. We would prefer you use a matrix format. I've attached a copy of the data completeness worksheets staff will use that you can adapt.

Lastly, are you available tomorrow or Thursday afternoon to discuss the timing of your filing?

Thanks,
Eric

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 9:00 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project Opt-In Application Submittal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Eric,

I hope you are doing well and had a nice weekend! I am planning to submit the AB 205 Opt-In Application for the Soda Mountain Solar Project on or near July 1st, 2024. I have a few questions for you:

1. **Application Fee:** Could you please provide me with the instructions on how we can pay the application fee?
2. **Document Transmittal**: Could you please provide me with the instructions for uploading the application and associated documents to the CEC system?
3. **Formatting**: Do you prefer a matrix format (like the other projects have submitted) when answering Appendix B, or would you prefer our answers be formatted like below (as if completing an application)? Either option is fine with me, I just want to provide the answers in a format easiest for CEC to review. If you have no preference, I will just submit in the matrix format similar to the other projects.

(A) Maps at a scale of 1:24,000 (or appropriate map scale agreed to by staff) showing the location of the geothermal leaseholds, along with a description by section, township, range, county, and assessor's parcel numbers of the leaseholds

This question is not applicable to the project.

(B) Full-page color photographic reproductions of the geothermal leaseholds

This question is not applicable to the project.

(C) A description of the process by which the geothermal leasehold was selected and the consideration given to engineering constraints, site geology, environmental impacts, water, steam, waste and fuel constraints, electric transmission constraints, and any other factors considered by the applicant. Include references to any environmental documents which address steam field development;

This question is not applicable to the project.

Thank you!

Hannah Gbeh

CEO

Resolution Environmental

262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118

760-504-4109

hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com

www.resolutionenvironmental.com

To: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain Solar Project Opt-In Application Submittal
Attachments: CEC Wire information.pdf; Data Completeness Worksheets 2023_Template.docx

Hi Hannah –

1. I've attached the wiring instructions for paying the application fee, which must be submitted with the application (Pub. Resources Code section 25806 (a)). Alternatively, a paper check can be mailed to:

California Energy Commission
Attn: Accounting MS2
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

With either method, include the project name so we can track it.

Current fees are here Licensing and Compliance (ca.gov). The intel I have is the fees will be adjusted July 1 as follows:

FY 24/25
Annual Compliance Fee: $35,629
Application Fee: $356,282
MW or MWh charge: $712
Application NTE: $1,068,853

2. On this webpage you'll find information about using the CEC's e-filing system E-Filing and E-Commenting (ca.gov). In particular see the first bullet – User Training Guide

3. We would prefer you use a matrix format. I've attached a copy of the data completeness worksheets staff will use that you can adapt.

Lastly, are you available tomorrow or Thursday afternoon to discuss the timing of your filing?

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 9:00 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project Opt-In Application Submittal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Eric,

I hope you are doing well and had a nice weekend! I am planning to submit the AB 205 Opt-In Application for the Soda Mountain Solar Project on or near July 1st, 2024. I have a few questions for you:

1. **Application Fee:** Could you please provide me with the instructions on how we can pay the application fee?

2. **Document Transmittal**: Could you please provide me with the instructions for uploading the application and associated documents to the CEC system?
3. **Formatting**: Do you prefer a matrix format (like the other projects have submitted) when answering Appendix B, or would you prefer our answers be formatted like below (as if completing an application)? Either option is fine with me, I just want to provide the answers in a format easiest for CEC to review. If you have no preference, I will just submit in the matrix format similar to the other projects.

(A) Maps at a scale of 1:24,000 (or appropriate map scale agreed to by staff) showing the location of the geothermal leaseholds, along with a description by section, township, range, county, and assessor's parcel numbers of the leaseholds

This question is not applicable to the project.

(B) Full-page color photographic reproductions of the geothermal leaseholds

This question is not applicable to the project.

(C) A description of the process by which the geothermal leasehold was selected and the consideration given to engineering constraints, site geology, environmental impacts, water, steam, waste and fuel constraints, electric transmission constraints, and any other factors considered by the applicant. Include references to any environmental documents which address steam field development;

This question is not applicable to the project.

Thank you!

Hannah Gbeh

CEO

Resolution Environmental

262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118

760-504-4109

hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com

www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Knight, Eric@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BE42548337F44852A291A9845F226F62-KNIGHT, ERI]
Sent: 4/9/2024 5:00:58 AM
To: icordes@blm.gov; mstamer@blm.gov; jdonnell@blm.gov; peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov; Chris.Warrick@lus.sbcounty.go; Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov
Subject: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project
Attachments: Project Description and Location - Soda Mountain Solar Project.docx

Hello –

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has been informed by Soda Mountain Solar LLC of their intent to file an application for certification with the CEC under the Opt-in Certification Program created by Assembly Bill (AB) 205 for their Soda Mountain Solar Project, a 300-MW photovoltaic solar facility with battery energy storage systems and related facilities on approximately 1,490 acres of land administered by BLM in the unincorporated portion of San Bernardino County, approximately 6 miles southwest of the town of Baker. See the attached project description – most of the content was pulled from the Notice of Preparation CDFW issued for the project in January 2023. (Link to January 2023 NOP).

AB 205 allows certain clean energy projects to optionally seek certification (permitting) from the CEC. Upon the filing of the opt-in application, the CEC has exclusive permitting authority in lieu of any local permits and state permits (with certain exceptions). By statute, the CEC is the lead agency under CEQA for any project that opts into its jurisdiction. Pursuant to the program's implementing regulations, the applicant must request a pre-filing consultation meeting at least 30 days prior to filing the application with the CEC. The CEC must invite the local government that would have had permitting authority and may invite other relevant state and federal agencies to participate. You can find more information about the Opt-in Certification Program here: Power Plant Licensing (ca.gov)

At the meeting, the applicant and their consultants will present the project and studies performed in support of the application. The meeting will be an opportunity for CEC technical specialists, representatives from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the State Water Board/regional board to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposal. The County, BLM, and USFWS are encouraged to as well.

If interested, please let me know your availability for a 1 ½ hour meeting via Zoom for these proposed dates/times.

4/17
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/18
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/19
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/23
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/24

9:00-10:30
10:30-noon

4/25
9:00-10:30
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Regards,

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife [Alexander.Branch@Wildlife.ca.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2024 4:12:43 PM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
CC: Maher, Lani@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5dd1ddd3656b47ad999ed889a3382664-WildlifeLan]; Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3d237d12712944c6a4e00bb8f0489ecd-WildlifeAli]; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4f4ad51c29814356b0c486d7bbf5aefa-WildlifeMag]; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a62a013861764f1e8556eaf023a2cc94-WildlifeRhi]
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi, Eric. CDFW Office of the General Counsel is available as follows:

4/23
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/25
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Harllee Branch, Senior Attorney (IV)
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Office of the General Counsel
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 809-3098



California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Managing California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 9:36 PM
To: Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife <Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov>; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife <Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov>; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife <Heidi.Calvert@wildlife.ca.gov>; Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC <Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov>; Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards <jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov>
Cc: Koch, Lori@DTSC <Lori.Koch@dtsc.ca.gov>; Ferouz, Muzhda@DTSC <Muzhda.Ferouz@dtsc.ca.gov>; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife <Rhiannon.Mulligan@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife <Donovan.Wakeman@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife <Alexander.Branch@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Maher, Lani@Wildlife <Lani.Maher@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Germinario, Lena@Wildlife <Lena.Germinario@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Hi, Opt-in MOU partners –

Soda Mountain Solar LLC has stated their intent to file an opt-in application for certification (AB 205) with the CEC for their proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project, a 300-MW photovoltaic solar facility with battery energy storage systems and related facilities on approximately 1,490 acres of land administered by BLM in the unincorporated portion of San Bernardino County, approximately 6 miles southwest of the town of Baker. See the attached project description – most of the content was pulled from the Notice of Preparation CDFW issued for the project in January 2023. (Link to January 2023 NOP).

Would you each let me know your availability for a 1 ½ hour pre-filing meeting via Zoom for these dates/times:

4/17
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/18
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/19
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/23
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/24
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon

4/25
9:00-10:30
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Thank you!

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife [Rhiannon.Mulligan@Wildlife.ca.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2024 2:18:50 PM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
CC: Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ea932fbeeeda4e2a8c4f7fb48a2a96a0-f495410a-65]
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Hi, Eric.

At CDFW headquarters we only had a couple of dates where both Donovan and I were not available. Below are the dates where at least one of us is available.

4/17
2:30-4:00

4/18
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/19
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/23
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/24
9:00-10:30

4/25
9:00-10:30
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Thanks!

Rhiannon Mulligan
MS Teams
Call/text: 916- 594-6360

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 9:36 PM

To: Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife <Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov>; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife <Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov>; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife <Heidi.Calvert@wildlife.ca.gov>; Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC <Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov>; Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards <jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov>
Cc: Koch, Lori@DTSC <Lori.Koch@dtsc.ca.gov>; Ferouz, Muzhda@DTSC <Muzhda.Ferouz@dtsc.ca.gov>; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife <Rhiannon.Mulligan@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife <Donovan.Wakeman@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife <Alexander.Branch@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Maher, Lani@Wildlife <Lani.Maher@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Germinario, Lena@Wildlife <Lena.Germinario@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Hi, Opt-in MOU partners –

Soda Mountain Solar LLC has stated their intent to file an opt-in application for certification (AB 205) with the CEC for their proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project, a 300-MW photovoltaic solar facility with battery energy storage systems and related facilities on approximately 1,490 acres of land administered by BLM in the unincorporated portion of San Bernardino County, approximately 6 miles southwest of the town of Baker. See the attached project description – most of the content was pulled from the Notice of Preparation CDFW issued for the project in January 2023. (Link to January 2023 NOP).

Would you each let me know your availability for a 1 ½ hour pre-filing meeting via Zoom for these dates/times:
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1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/18
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9:00-10:30
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1:00-2:30
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4/23
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/24
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon

4/25
9:00-10:30
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Thank you!

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Cruz, Manikhone [Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2024 5:09:30 PM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
CC: Sansonetti, Nancy [Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov]
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Eric,

I am interested in attending the meeting and my availability for a 1 ½ hour meeting via Zoom are:

4/17
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/23
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Manie Cruz
Planner II – Capital Improvement Section
Department of Public Works; Environmental Management Division
Phone: (909) 387-8109, Fax: (909) 387-7876
825 East Third Street, Room 123
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0835

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Our job is to create a county in which those who reside and invest can prosper and achieve well-being.
www.SBCounty.gov

From: Sansonetti, Nancy <Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 10:05 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Cruz, Manikhone <Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov>
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

Thank you Eric - I have referred this to planner Manie Cruz to attend and follow up on. Please let me know if you have any questions.
Nancy

Nancy J. Sansonetti, AICP
Supervising Planner – Capital Improvement Section
Department of Public Works; Environmental Management Division
Phone: 909-387-8109
Fax: 909-387-7876
825 E. Third Street, Rm. 123
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0835

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

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www.SBCounty.gov

AICP Certified
American Institute of Certified Planners

@SBCoPublicWorks

County of San Bernardino Confidentiality Notice: This communication contains confidential information sent solely for the use of the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, you are not authorized to use it in any manner, except to immediately destroy it and notify the sender.

If you are receiving this email outside of working hours, please enjoy your evening, weekend or PTO. You are not expected to respond until you return to work ☺.

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 10:01 PM
To: icordes@blm.gov; mstamer@blm.gov; jdonnell@blm.gov; peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov; Chris.Warrick@lus.sbcounty.go; Sansonetti, Nancy <Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov>
Subject: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

You don't often get email from eric.knight@energy.ca.gov. Learn why this is important

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you can confirm the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello –

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has been informed by Soda Mountain Solar LLC of their intent to file an application for certification with the CEC under the Opt-in Certification Program created by Assembly Bill (AB) 205 for their Soda Mountain Solar Project, a 300-MW photovoltaic solar facility with battery energy storage systems and related facilities on approximately 1,490 acres of land administered by BLM in the unincorporated portion of San Bernardino County, approximately 6 miles southwest of the town of Baker. See the attached project description – most of the content was pulled from the Notice of Preparation CDFW issued for the project in January 2023. (Link to January 2023 NOP).

AB 205 allows certain clean energy projects to optionally seek certification (permitting) from the CEC. Upon the filing of the opt-in application, the CEC has exclusive permitting authority in lieu of any local permits and state permits (with certain exceptions). By statute, the CEC is the lead agency under CEQA for any project that opts into its jurisdiction. Pursuant to the program's implementing regulations, the applicant must request a pre-filing consultation meeting at least 30 days prior to filing the application with the CEC. The CEC must invite the local government that would have had permitting authority and may invite other relevant state and federal agencies to participate. You can find more information about the Opt-in Certification Program here: Power Plant Licensing (ca.gov)

At the meeting, the applicant and their consultants will present the project and studies performed in support of the application. The meeting will be an opportunity for CEC technical specialists, representatives from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the State Water Board/regional board to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposal. The County, BLM, and USFWS are encouraged to as well.

If interested, please let me know your availability for a 1 ½ hour meeting via Zoom for these proposed dates/times.

4/17
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/18
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/19
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/23
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/24
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon

4/25
9:00-10:30
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Regards,

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife [Heidi.Calvert@wildlife.ca.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2024 5:37:29 PM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Good morning,

The following work for me (I am on vacation next week):

4/23
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/24
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon

4/25
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Thank you.

Heidi Calvert
Inland Deserts Regional Manager
(760) 614-5098 cell
Heidi.Calvert@wildlife.ca.gov

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 9:36 PM
To: Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife <Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov>; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife <Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov>; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife <Heidi.Calvert@wildlife.ca.gov>; Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC <Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov>; Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards <jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov>
Cc: Koch, Lori@DTSC <Lori.Koch@dtsc.ca.gov>; Ferouz, Muzhda@DTSC <Muzhda.Ferouz@dtsc.ca.gov>; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife <Rhiannon.Mulligan@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife <Donovan.Wakeman@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife <Alexander.Branch@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Maher, Lani@Wildlife <Lani.Maher@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Germinario, Lena@Wildlife <Lena.Germinario@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Hi, Opt-in MOU partners –

Soda Mountain Solar LLC has stated their intent to file an opt-in application for certification (AB 205) with the CEC for their proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project, a 300-MW photovoltaic solar facility with battery energy storage systems and related facilities on approximately 1,490 acres of land administered by BLM in the unincorporated portion of San

Bernardino County, approximately 6 miles southwest of the town of Baker. See the attached project description – most of the content was pulled from the Notice of Preparation CDFW issued for the project in January 2023. (Link to January 2023 NOP).

Would you each let me know your availability for a 1 ½ hour pre-filing meeting via Zoom for these dates/times:

4/17
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/18
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/19
9:00-10:30
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2:30-4:00

4/23
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2:30-4:00

4/24
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon

4/25
9:00-10:30
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Thank you!

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife [Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2024 4:14:41 PM
To: Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=efe78fbc6c1e408da007e97ea1d8cdf6-WildlifeHar]; Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
CC: Maher, Lani@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5dd1ddd3656b47ad999ed889a3382664-WildlifeLan]; Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3d237d12712944c6a4e00bb8f0489ecd-WildlifeAli]; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a62a013861764f1e8556eaf023a2cc94-WildlifeRhi]
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Eric,

I'm also available the times OGC has listed below.

From: Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife <Alexander.Branch@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 9:13 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Maher, Lani@Wildlife <Lani.Maher@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife <Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov>; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife <Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov>; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife <Rhiannon.Mulligan@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

Hi, Eric. CDFW Office of the General Counsel is available as follows:

4/23
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/25
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Harllee Branch, Senior Attorney (IV)
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Office of the General Counsel
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 809-3098

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Managing California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

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Cc: Koch, Lori@DTSC <Lori.Koch@dtsc.ca.gov>; Ferouz, Muzhda@DTSC <Muzhda.Ferouz@dtsc.ca.gov>; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife <Rhiannon.Mulligan@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife <Donovan.Wakeman@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife <Alexander.Branch@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Maher, Lani@Wildlife <Lani.Maher@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Germinario, Lena@Wildlife <Lena.Germinario@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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1:00-2:30
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2:30-4:00

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10:30-noon

4/25
9:00-10:30
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Thank you!

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife [Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2024 4:17:01 PM
To: Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4f4ad51c29814356b0c486d7bbf5aefa-WildlifeMag]; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=efe78fbc6c1e408da007e97ea1d8cdf6-WildlifeHar]; Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
CC: Maher, Lani@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5dd1ddd3656b47ad999ed889a3382664-WildlifeLan]; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a62a013861764f1e8556eaf023a2cc94-WildlifeRhi]
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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I am available the following times.

4/23
2:30-4:00

4/25
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Thank you,

Alisa Ellsworth, Environmental Program Manager
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region, North
787 North Main Street Suite 220
Bishop, Ca 93514
(760) 937-2519
Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov



From: Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife <Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 9:15 AM
To: Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife <Alexander.Branch@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Maher, Lani@Wildlife <Lani.Maher@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife <Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov>; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife <Rhiannon.Mulligan@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Cc: Maher, Lani@Wildlife <Lani.Maher@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife <Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov>; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife <Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov>; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife <Rhiannon.Mulligan@Wildlife.ca.gov>
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4/25
1:00-2:30
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Harllee Branch, Senior Attorney (IV)
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Office of the General Counsel
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 809-3098

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Managing California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

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To: Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife <Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov>; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife <Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov>; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife <Heidi.Calvert@wildlife.ca.gov>; Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC <Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov>; Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards <jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov>
Cc: Koch, Lori@DTSC <Lori.Koch@dtsc.ca.gov>; Ferouz, Muzhda@DTSC <Muzhda.Ferouz@dtsc.ca.gov>; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife <Rhiannon.Mulligan@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife <Donovan.Wakeman@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife <Alexander.Branch@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Maher, Lani@Wildlife <Lani.Maher@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Germinario, Lena@Wildlife <Lena.Germinario@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi, Opt-in MOU partners –

Soda Mountain Solar LLC has stated their intent to file an opt-in application for certification (AB 205) with the CEC for their proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project, a 300-MW photovoltaic solar facility with battery energy storage systems and related facilities on approximately 1,490 acres of land administered by BLM in the unincorporated portion of San

Bernardino County, approximately 6 miles southwest of the town of Baker. See the attached project description – most of the content was pulled from the Notice of Preparation CDFW issued for the project in January 2023. (Link to January 2023 NOP).

Would you each let me know your availability for a 1 ½ hour pre-filing meeting via Zoom for these dates/times:

4/17
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/18
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/19
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/23
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/24
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon

4/25
9:00-10:30
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Thank you!

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Sansonetti, Nancy [Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2024 5:04:35 PM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
CC: Cruz, Manikhone [Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov]
Subject: RE: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Thank you Eric - I have referred this to planner Manie Cruz to attend and follow up on. Please let me know if you have any questions.
Nancy

Nancy J. Sansonetti, AICP
Supervising Planner – Capital Improvement Section
Department of Public Works; Environmental Management Division
Phone: 909-387-8109
Fax: 909-387-7876
825 E. Third Street, Rm. 123
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0835

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Our job is to create a county in which those who reside and invest can prosper and achieve well-being.
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AICP Certified
American Institute of Certified Planners

@SBCoPublicWorks

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If you are receiving this email outside of working hours, please enjoy your evening, weekend or PTO. You are not expected to respond until you return to work ☺.

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 10:01 PM
To: icordes@blm.gov; mstamer@blm.gov; jdonnell@blm.gov; peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov; Chris.Warrick@lus.sbcounty.go; Sansonetti, Nancy <Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov>
Subject: Opt-in Certification Pre-filing Meeting Request for Soda Mountain Solar Project

You don't often get email from eric.knight@energy.ca.gov. Learn why this is important

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you can confirm the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello –

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has been informed by Soda Mountain Solar LLC of their intent to file an application for certification with the CEC under the Opt-in Certification Program created by Assembly Bill (AB) 205 for their Soda Mountain Solar Project, a 300-MW photovoltaic solar facility with battery energy storage systems and related facilities on approximately 1,490 acres of land administered by BLM in the unincorporated portion of San Bernardino County, approximately 6 miles southwest of the town of Baker. See the attached project description – most of the content was pulled from the Notice of Preparation CDFW issued for the project in January 2023. (Link to January 2023 NOP).

AB 205 allows certain clean energy projects to optionally seek certification (permitting) from the CEC. Upon the filing of the opt-in application, the CEC has exclusive permitting authority in lieu of any local permits and state permits (with certain exceptions). By statute, the CEC is the lead agency under CEQA for any project that opts into its jurisdiction. Pursuant to the program's implementing regulations, the applicant must request a pre-filing consultation meeting at least 30 days prior to filing the application with the CEC. The CEC must invite the local government that would have had permitting authority and may invite other relevant state and federal agencies to participate. You can find more information about the Opt-in Certification Program here: Power Plant Licensing (ca.gov)

At the meeting, the applicant and their consultants will present the project and studies performed in support of the application. The meeting will be an opportunity for CEC technical specialists, representatives from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the State Water Board/regional board to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposal. The County, BLM, and USFWS are encouraged to as well.

If interested, please let me know your availability for a 1 ½ hour meeting via Zoom for these proposed dates/times.

4/17
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/18
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/19
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/23
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

4/24
9:00-10:30
10:30-noon

4/25
9:00-10:30
1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00

Regards,

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Sent: 5/20/2024 4:51:59 PM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]; Dustin Thaler [dut@vcrenewables.com]; Ziad Alaywan [ziad@zglobal.biz]
Subject: Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project Opt-In Certification Pre-filing Meeting

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Hi Eric,

I hope you had a nice weekend!

Thank you for coordinating the Soda Mountain Solar Project Opt-In Certification Pre-filing meeting for us on Thursday, April 25, 2024. I wanted to notify you that we are planning to submit an Application for the Opt-In Certification within the next 45-60 days.

Based on our pre-application meeting, our team would also like to reach out directly to the RWQCB staff in attendance so that we may schedule a field visit with them and coordinate on the jurisdictional delineation for the project. If you have any issues with that approach, or you would like to schedule a phone call with me to discuss this field visit, our submittal timeline or your preference for receiving the application and related documents, please let me know. I will be the CEC's main point of contact moving forward for this project.

Thank you!
Hannah

Hannah Gbeh
CEO
Resolution Environmental
262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118
760-504-4109
hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com
www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:11 AM
To: Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife <Rhiannon.Mulligan@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife <Donovan.Wakeman@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife <Alexander.Branch@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Maher, Lani@Wildlife <Lani.Maher@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife <Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov>; Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife <Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov>; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife <Heidi.Calvert@wildlife.ca.gov>; McCann, Lisa@Waterboards <Lisa.McCann@waterboards.ca.gov>; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards <jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov>; Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov <Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov>; Hughes, Joseph@Energy <Joseph.Hughes@energy.ca.gov>; Fooks, Brett@Energy <Brett.Fooks@energy.ca.gov>; Kerr, Steven@Energy <Steven.Kerr@energy.ca.gov>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Khoshmashrab, Shahab@Energy <Shahab.Khoshmashrab@energy.ca.gov>; Abulaban, Abdel-Karim@Energy <Abdel-Karim.Abulaban@energy.ca.gov>; Pinkerton, Matthew@Energy <Matthew.Pinkerton@energy.ca.gov>; Carr, Chris <chriscarr@paulhastings.com>; Grunbaum, Lucas <lucasgrunbaum@paulhastings.com>; Stroud, Andrea@Energy <Andrea.Stroud@energy.ca.gov>

Cc: Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>; Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC <Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov>; Badie, Mona@Energy <Mona.Badie@energy.ca.gov>; Qaqundah, James@Energy <James.Qaqundah@energy.ca.gov>; Huber, Elizabeth@Energy <Elizabeth.Huber@energy.ca.gov>; Vorters, Dian@Energy <Dian.Vorters@Energy.ca.gov>; Guerra, Christina@Waterboards <Christina.Guerra@waterboards.ca.gov>; Steinert, Tiffany@Waterboards <Tiffany.Steinert@Waterboards.ca.gov>; Riordan, Patrick@Energy <Patrick.Riordan@Energy.ca.gov>; LeFevre, Ellen@Energy <Ellen.LeFevre@energy.ca.gov>; Hamblin, Mark@Energy <Mark.Hamblin@energy.ca.gov>; Koch, Andrea@Energy <Andrea.Koch@energy.ca.gov>; Michael Cocchimiglio <mci@vcrenewables.com>; Dustin Thaler <dut@vcrenewables.com>; Hannah Gbeh <hannahgbeh@gmail.com>; Ziad Alaywan <ziad@zglobal.biz>; Kara Laurenson-Wright <Kara.LaurensonWright@swca.com>; Pauline Roberts <PKRoberts@swca.com>; Babula, Jared@Energy <Jared.Babula@energy.ca.gov>; Anderson, Kari@Energy <Kari.Anderson@Energy.ca.gov>; Mayer, Alex@Energy <Alex.Mayer@Energy.ca.gov>; Ponce, Mariah@Energy <Mariah.Ponce@Energy.ca.gov>; Kelsey, Tanner@Energy <Tanner.Kelsey@energy.ca.gov>; Ziff, Briana@Energy <Briana.Ziff@Energy.ca.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; Sanzenbacher, Peter <peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov>; Cordes, Isabeau J <icordes@blm.gov>; Donnell, Julie A <jdonnell@blm.gov>; bganderson@blm.gov <bganderson@blm.gov>; psamples@blm.gov <psamples@blm.gov>; Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Longman, Renee@Energy <Renee.Longman@Energy.ca.gov>; Crisp, Ann@Energy <Ann.Crisp@energy.ca.gov>; Bastida, Jack@Energy <Jack.Bastida@energy.ca.gov>; kristina_drake@fws.gov <kristina_drake@fws.gov>
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project Opt-In Certification Pre-filing Meeting - Power Points for today's meeting

Attached are copies of today's presentations. Looking forward to your participation in the discussion.

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Carr, Chris [chriscarr@paulhastings.com]
Sent: 5/23/2024 9:20:34 PM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
CC: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]; Grunbaum, Lucas [lucasgrunbaum@paulhastings.com]
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project

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Hi Eric:

Hope this e-mail finds you and yours doing well.

Thank you again for pulling together the pre-filing meeting at the end of last month. I know it's quite a lift with all the calendars involved.

Wanted to send you a quick note to let you know that Hannah Gbeh, who led the presentation for the project team at the meeting, will serve as the primary point of contact for this project going forward. She will, for example, reach out to coordinate on submission of the application and the like, and be the day-to-day processing point of contact. I have cc'ed her on this e-mail.

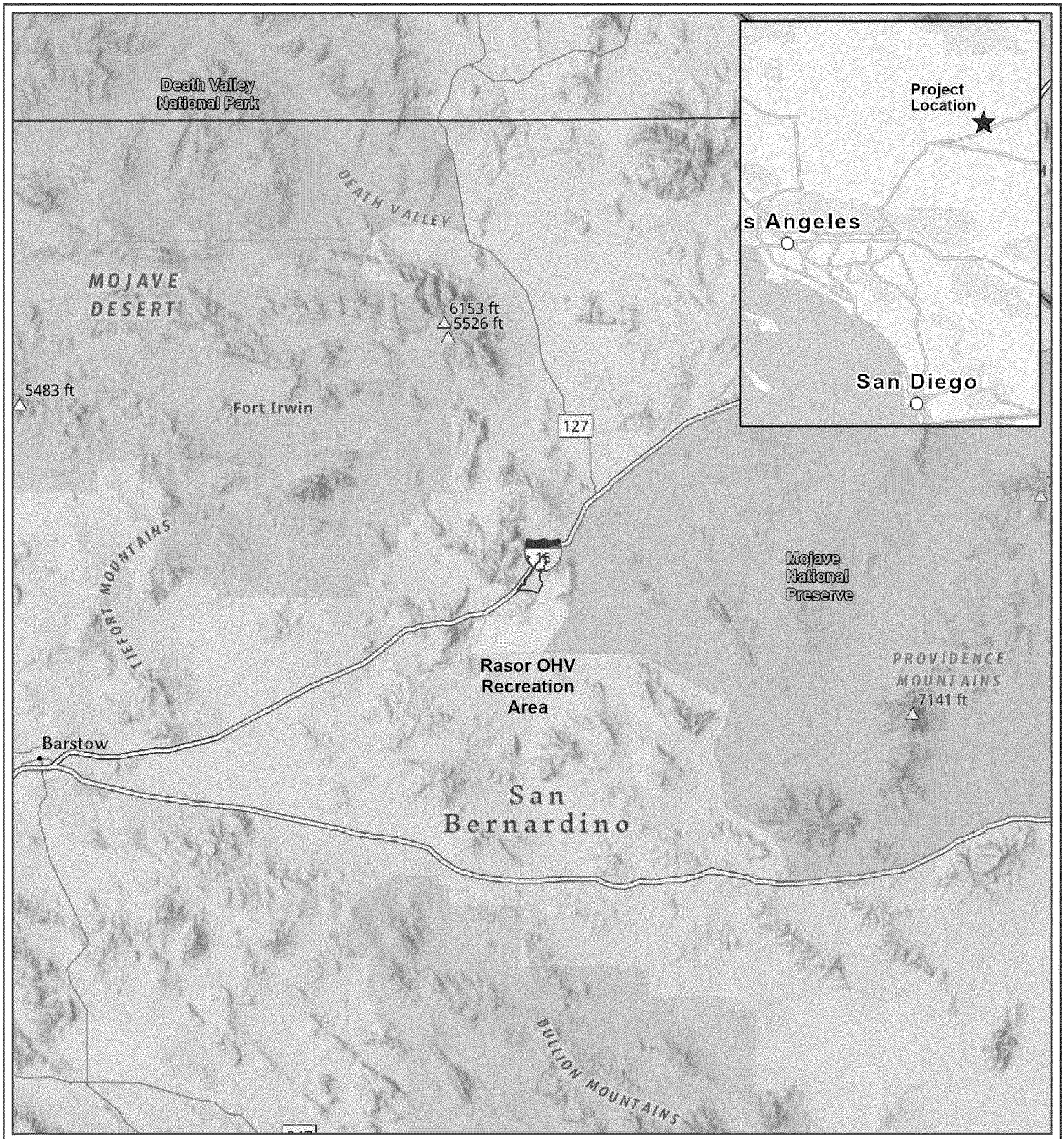
Lucas and I will continue to represent the applicant on the legal front, and look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues on this and other projects.

Best. Chris.

PAUL HASTINGS

Chris Carr | **Partner**
Paul Hastings LLP | 101 California Street, Forty-Eighth Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111 | Direct: +1.415.856.7070 | Main: +1.415.856.7000 | Mobile: +1.415.373-2720 | chriscarr@paulhastings.com | www.paulhastings.com

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Project Site

Rasor Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area (OHVR) Area

National Park Service

San Bernardino County, CA
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
35.1564°N 116.184°W

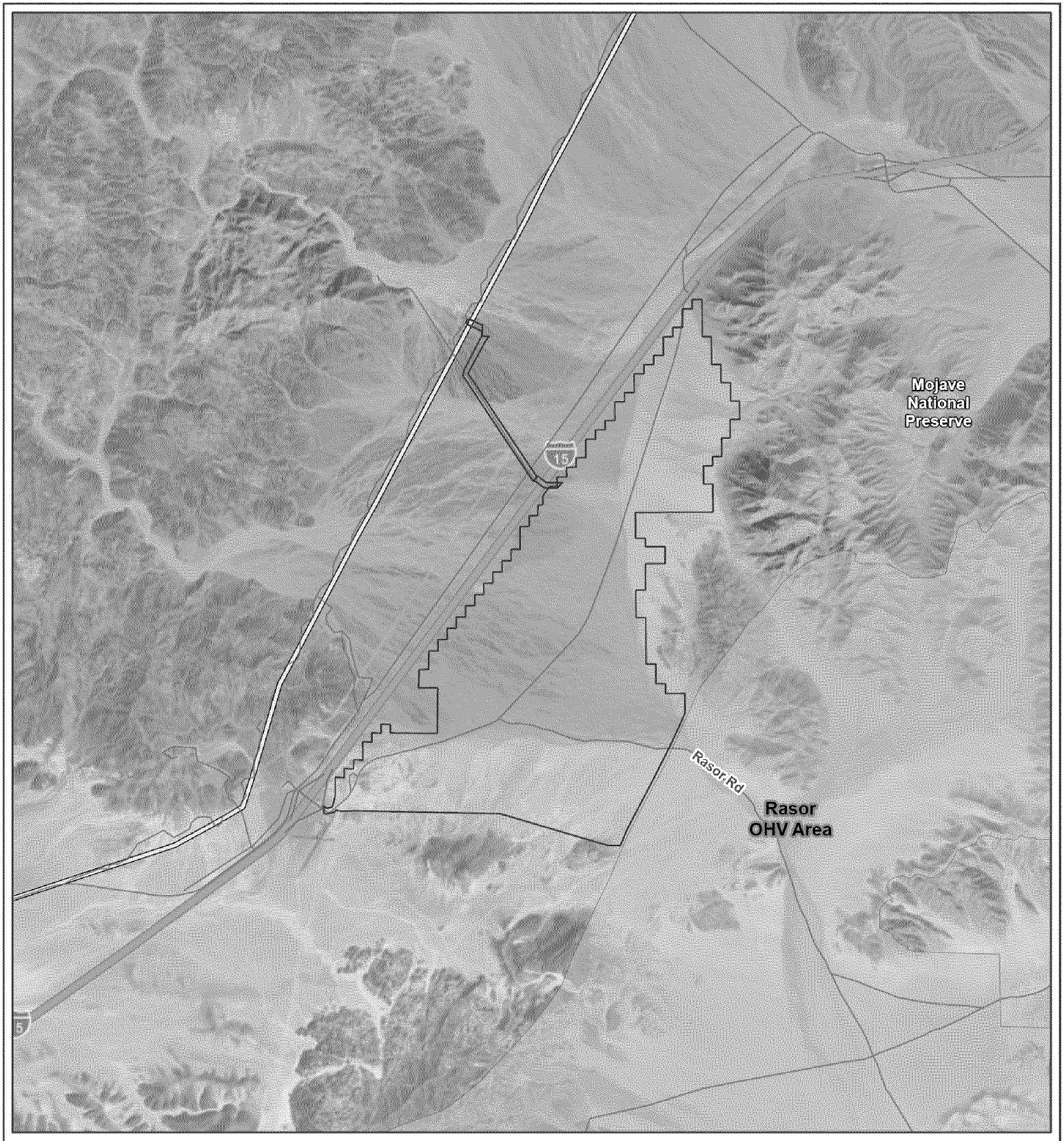
0 7.5 15 Miles
0 7.5 15 Kilometers

N

1:1,000,000

Base Map: Esri ArcGIS Online, accessed June 2024
Updated: 6/12/2024
Project No. 68347
Layout: 68347_Project_Vicinity
Aprx: General

SWCA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS



Existing Dirt Road

500kV Mead-Adelanto Transmission Line

Project Site

Rasor Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area

Mojave National Preserve

San Bernardino County, CA

NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
35.1564°N 116.184°W

0 0.5 1 Miles
0 0.5 1 Kilometers

N

1:70,000

Base Map: Esri ArcGIS Online, accessed November 2023
Updated: 11/30/2023
Project No. 68347
Layout: 68347_Project_Loc
Aprx: General

SWCA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Soda Mountain Solar, LLC (applicant), proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) electrical generating and storage facility and associated infrastructure to generate and deliver renewable electricity to the statewide electricity transmission grid. The project would generate up to 300 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy and include up to 300 MW of battery storage. The project also includes future decommissioning, which is anticipated to occur after 30 years of operation. The project is located on approximately 2,670 acres of land administered by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District, within the jurisdiction of the Barstow Field Office in San Bernardino County. The project components are as follows:

1. The solar plant site (i.e., all facilities that create a footprint in and around the field of solar panels, including the solar field consisting of solar power arrays identified as the East Array and South Arrays 1, 2, and 3), operation and maintenance buildings and structures, stormwater infrastructure, and related infrastructure and improvements.
2. A substation and switchyard for interconnection to the existing transmission system.
3. Approximately 300 MW of battery energy storage system across 18 acres.

The project would operate year-round and would generate electricity during daylight hours. The project would generate and deliver solar-generated power to the regional electrical grid through an interconnection with the existing Marketplace-Adelanto 500-kV transmission line operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

From: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Sent: 7/11/2024 3:53:22 PM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: Fw: Soda Mt. Solar Project Description - CEC Website
Attachments: 68347_Project_Vicinity_20240612.jpg; 68347_Project_Location_20231130.jpg; CEC Docket PD Soda Mountain Solar.docx; Soda Mountain - CEC Distribution List Permits and Orgs.docx; Soda Mountain - CEC Distribution List Permits and Orgs.docx

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Hi Eric,

I hope you are doing well and had a great 4th of July! I am checking in to make sure you received the project description information for the Soda Mountain Solar Project docket webpage, which I sent on 7/2 (re-attached to this email). Also attached to this email is the list of agencies/organizations that we have been in contact with for the project and we suggest including on your distribution list.

We will not be ready to submit on Monday 7/15. However, we should be ready to submit either later that week or Monday 7/22. We are planning to wire the application fee the same day I upload the files to the docket. I setup my account with the CEC for uploading the files, but see our project isn't listed in the docketing options yet. If there is any additional information that you require from my side to get this set up, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you!
Hannah

Hannah Gbeh
CEO
Resolution Environmental
262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118
760-504-4109
hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com
www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:57 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Soda Mt. Solar Project Description - CEC Website

Hi Eric,

I hope you are having a good week! Attached is a short project description for the Soda Mountain Solar Project CEC website, including some figures. If you have any issues with these files, please let me know. We are still targeting July 15th for a submittal, but if that shifts, I will let you know.

Thank you!

Hannah

Hannah Gbeh
CEO
Resolution Environmental
262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118
760-504-4109
hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com
www.resolutionenvironmental.com

Table 1. Permits Required for Soda Mountain Solar Project

Regulatory Agency	Permit Required	Agency Contact	Schedule
Federal Permits			
Bureau of Land Management	Grant of Right-of-Way National Environmental Policy Act Compliance	**Name**: Portia Samples **Title**: Realty Specialist **Address**: 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311 **Phone**: 760 252-6000 **Email**: psamples@blm.gov **Name**: Isabeau Cordes **Title**: Realty Specialist **Address**: 2601 Barstow Road Barstow, CA 92311 **Phone**: 760 252-6000 **Email**: icordes@blm.gov **Name**: Julie Donnell **Title**: Assistant Field Manager **Address**: 2601 Barstow Road Barstow, CA 92311 **Phone**: 760 252-6000 **Email**: jdonnell@blm.gov **Name**: Brandon Anderson **Title**: Assistant District Manager **Address**: 1201 Bird Center Drive Palm Springs, CA 92262 **Phone**: 760 833-7100 **Email**: bganderson@blm.gov	Concurrent with CEC Opt-In Application
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Section 7 Consultation of the federal Endangered Species Act	**Name**: Peter Sanzenbacher **Title**: Supervisor, Desert Division **Address**: 777 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite 208, Palm Springs, CA 92262 **Phone**: 760-322-2070 **Email**: peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov	Concurrent with CEC Opt-In Application
State Permits			
California Energy Commission	AB 205 Opt-In Certification and Environmental Impact Report Certification	**Name:** Eric Knight **Title:** Manager, Siting & Environmental Branch Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division **Address:** 715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 **Email:** eric.knight@energy.ca.gov **Phone:** (916) 591-9931	July 2024-Present

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board	Construction General Permit Waste Discharge Requirements Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit	**Name**: Tiffany Steinert **Title**: Engineering Geologist **Address**: 15095 Amargosa Road, Building 2, Suite 210, Victorville, CA 92394 **Phone**: 760-241-7305 **Email**: tiffany.steinert@waterboards.ca.gov **Name**: Lisa Horowitz McCann **Title**: Environmental Program Manager **Address**: 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, CA 94612 **Phone**: 916-323-0884 **Email**: lisa.mccann@waterboards.ca.gov	Concurrent with CEC Opt-In Application
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Incidental Take Permit Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement	**Name:** Magdalena Rodriguez **Title**: Renewable Energy Project Manager **Address**: 3602 Inland Empire Blvd, Suite C-220, Ontario, CA 91764 **Phone:** (909) 844-2520 **Email**: Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov **Name**: Alisa Ellsworth **Title**: Environmental Program Manager **Address**: 3602 Inland Empire Blvd, Suite C-220, Ontario, CA 91764 **Phone**: 760-900-4448 **Email**: Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov **Name:** Dr. Shankar Sharma **Title**: Staff Environmental Scientist of Renewable Energy **Address**: 3602 Inland Empire Blvd, Suite C-220, Ontario, CA 91764 **Phone:** 909-228-3692 **Email:** Shankar.Sharma@wildlife.ca.gov **Name:** Alexander Branch **Title**: Attorney **Address**: 715 P Street, 17th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 **Phone**: 916-809-3908 **Email**: alexander.branch@wildlife.ca.gov	Concurrent with CEC Opt-In Application

California Department of Transportation	Encroachment Permit Oversize/Heavy Load Permit	**Name**: James Camarillo **Title**: Associate Transportation Planner, District 8 – Planning Division, Office of Local Development Review San Bernardino Coordinator **Address**: 464 W. 4th Street MS-726, San Bernardino, CA 92401 **Phone**: 909-383-4555 / 909-963-8604 **Email**: james.camarillo@dot.ca.gov	After project approval and prior to construction.
Department of Toxic Substances Control	Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP)	**Name**: Wayne Lorentzen **Title**: Division Chief **Address**: 1001 "I" Street, P.O. Box 806, Sacramento, CA 95812 **Phone**: 916-255-3883 **Email**: Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov	After project approval and prior to construction. Updated/new HMBP submittal for operational phase.
California Department of Environmental Protection	Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP)	**Name**: Elizabeth Brega **Title**: Senior Environmental Scientist **Address**: 1001 "I" St., Sacramento, CA 95814 **Phone**: 916-318-8156 **Email**: elizabeth.brega@calepa.ca.gov	After project approval and prior to construction. Updated/new HMBP submittal for operational phase.
Local			
Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District	Authority to Construct	Name: Brad Poiriez Title: Executive Director Address: 14306 Park Avenue, Victorville, CA 92392 Phone: 760-245-1661 Email: bradp@mdaqmd.ca.gov	After project approval and prior to construction.
County of San Bernadino	Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Permit Construction Waste Management Plan Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP)	**Name:** Nancy Sansonetti **Title:** Supervising Planner, Environmental Management Division **Address:** 825 East Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92414 **Phone:** 909-387-7910 **Email:** Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov **Name:** Manikhone Cruz Title: Planner, Department of Public Works	After project approval and prior to construction. Updated/new HMBP submittal for operational phase.

		Address: 825 East Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415 **Phone:** 909-387-1869 **Email:** Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov	

Table 2. Individuals, Organizations and Agencies that Commented on NOP for CDFW EIR

Organization	Contact
California Department of Transportation	**Name**: James Camarillo **Title**: Associate Transportation Planner, District 8 – Planning Division, Office of Local Development Review San Bernardino Coordinator **Address**: 464 W. 4th Street MS-726, San Bernardino, CA 92401 **Phone**: 909-383-4555 / 909-963-8604 **Email**: james.camarillo@dot.ca.gov
California Highway Patrol	**Name**: E. Meeker **Title**: Captain, Commander, Barstow Area **Address**: 300 East Mountain View St., Barstow, CA 92311 **Phone**: 760-255-5900
County of San Bernadino	**Name:** Nancy Sansonetti **Title:** Supervising Planner, Environmental Management Division **Address:** 825 East Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92414 **Phone:** 909-387-7910 **Email:** Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov **Name:** Manikhone Cruz **Title:** Planner, Department of Public Works **Address:** 825 East Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415 **Phone:** 909-387-1869 **Email:** Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov
Native American Heritage Commission	**Name:** Cameron Vela **Title:** Cultural Resources Analyst **Address:** 1550 Harbor Boulevard, Suite 100, West Sacramento, CA 95691 **Phone:** 916-373-3710 **Email:** Cameron.Vela@nahc.ca.gov
United States Department of the Interior National Parks Service	**Name:** Edward Clark **Title:** Superintendent MOJA, Acting **Address:** 2701 Barstow Rd., Barstow CA 92311 **Phone:** 760-252-6100 **Email:** Edward_clark@nps.gov **Name:** Dr. Debra Hughson **Title:** Chief of Science and Resource Stewardship **Address:** 2701 Barstow Rd., Barstow CA 92311 **Phone:** 760-252-6100

	Email: debra_hughson@nps.gov
Oregon State University	**Name:** Christina Aiello **Title:** Research Associate, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Sciences **Address:** 315 SE Mayberry Ave, Corvallis, OR 97333 **Phone:** 702-481-3957 **Email:** christina.aiello@oregonstate.edu **Name:** Clinton Epps **Title:** Professor, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Sciences **Address:** 1415 NW Dixon St., Corvallis, OR 97330 **Email:** Clinton.Epps@oregonstate.edu
Basin and Range Watch	**Name:** Kevin Emmerich **Title:** Co-Founder **Address:** PO Box 70, Beatty, NV 89003 **Email:** emailbasinandrange@gmail.com
California Native Plant Society	**Name:** Brendan Wilce **Title:** Conservation Program Coordinator **Address:** 2707 K Street, Suite I, Sacramento, CA 95816 **Phone:** 916-447-2677 **Email:** bwilce@cnps.org
Defenders of Wildlife	**Name:** Jeff Aardahl **Title:** Senior California Representative **Address:** P.O. Box 401, Folsom, CA 95763 **Phone:** 916-313-5800 **Email:** jaardahl@defenders.org
Desert Tortoise Council	**Title:** Edward L. LaRue, Jr., M.S. **Title:** Ecosystems Advisory Committee, Chairperson **Address:** 3807 Sierra Highway, #6-4514, Action, CA 93510 **Email:** eac@deserttortoise.org
Morongo Basin Conservation Association	**Name:** Steve Bardwell **Title:** President **Address:** P.O. Box 24, Joshua Tree, CA 92252 **Email:** info@mbconservation.org
National Parks Conservation Association	**Name:** Neal Desai **Title:** Senior Program Director **Address:** PO Box 11332, Santa Rosa, CA 95406 **Phone:** 415-989-9921 **Email:** ndesai@npca.org

From: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Sent: 7/17/2024 5:44:21 PM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: Re: Soda Mt. Solar Project Description - CEC Website

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you Eric! Much appreciated.

My goal is to submit the application on Monday (7/22) via the docket system. If that changes, I will let you know.

Hannah

Hannah Gbeh
CEO
Resolution Environmental
262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118
760-504-4109
hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com
www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 9:00 AM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Subject: RE: Soda Mt. Solar Project Description - CEC Website

Hi Hannah – The Soda Mountain Solar docket and webpage are available. Soda Mountain Solar Project | California Energy Commission

When do you expect to begin uploading your application?

Thanks,
Eric

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Friday, July 12, 2024 4:11 PM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Soda Mt. Solar Project Description - CEC Website

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Thank you Eric! I really appreciate your coordination in this effort. I hope you have a great weekend!

Hannah

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 2:02:16 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Subject: RE: Soda Mt. Solar Project Description - CEC Website

Hi Hannah –

First off let me say I'm sorry for not replying earlier. I was off last week and have been digging out of a hole ever since. Thank you for (re)sending the project description and figures, we'll get your project webpage and docket set up in time for your filing and notify you.

And thank you for the agency contact list.

I will let give our accounting folks a heads up to be on the lookout for your wire transfer.

Thank you,
Eric

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 8:53 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Fw: Soda Mt. Solar Project Description - CEC Website

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Eric,

I hope you are doing well and had a great 4th of July! I am checking in to make sure you received the project description information for the Soda Mountain Solar Project docket webpage, which I sent on 7/2 (re-attached to this email). Also attached to this email is the list of agencies/organizations that we have been in contact with for the project and we suggest including on your distribution list.

We will not be ready to submit on Monday 7/15. However, we should be ready to submit either later that week or Monday 7/22. We are planning to wire the application fee the same day I upload the files to the docket. I setup my account with the CEC for uploading the files, but see our project isn't listed in the docketing options

yet. If there is any additional information that you require from my side to get this set up, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you!
Hannah

Hannah Gbeh
CEO
Resolution Environmental
262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118
760-504-4109
hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com
www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:57 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Soda Mt. Solar Project Description - CEC Website

Hi Eric,

I hope you are having a good week! Attached is a short project description for the Soda Mountain Solar Project CEC website, including some figures. If you have any issues with these files, please let me know. We are still targeting July 15th for a submittal, but if that shifts, I will let you know.

Thank you!
Hannah

Hannah Gbeh
CEO
Resolution Environmental
262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118
760-504-4109
hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com
www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
Sent: 7/22/2024 6:33:15 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
CC: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)

Hi Hannah,

Travis' email is: travis.david@energy.ca.gov

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 10:05 AM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Lisa,

Thank you for your email! Yes, we are on track to start filing today. I am just waiting on confirmation from my client that he has wired the application fee and then I will start uploading and sending files. Could you please send me Travis David's email so I can transmit the GIS shape files to him? I will also send you the visual simulations and air quality modeling files.

Thank you!
Hannah

Hannah Gbeh

CEO

Resolution Environmental

262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118

760-504-4109

hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com

www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 10:00 AM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)

Hi Hannah,

I will be the Project Manager for the Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03). Let me know if you have any questions. You can transmit GIS shape files to Travis David. He is in our GIS/Cartography Unit. You can send visual simulations and air quality modeling files to me.

Are you on track to start filing today?

Thanks,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov



From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
Sent: 7/23/2024 7:43:11 PM
To: Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4f4ad51c29814356b0c486d7bbf5aefa-WildlifeMag]
CC: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: RE: New Opt-In Application being submitted- Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)

Thanks. Will do.

From: Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife <Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 12:43 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: New Opt-In Application being submitted- Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Lisa,

Yes Please send to me, Alisa Ellsworth, and Heidi Calvert when the application is official.

Magdalena

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 12:30 PM
To: Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife <Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov>
Cc: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: New Opt-In Application being submitted- Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Magdalena,

A new Opt-In Application is being submitted to the CEC. The Soda Mountain Solar Project is proposed in San Bernardino County. I see on the MOU contact list that you, Elisa Ellsworth, and Heidi Calvert listed as the contacts for Opt-In projects proposed in Region 6.

Is this still accurate?

Once we have access to the application, I will send a notification to you all, consistent with the MOU.

Thanks,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division

715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov



From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
Sent: 7/23/2024 9:44:41 PM
To: Lauren DeOliveira [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=59b95046bca34d92ac4e6f09cfc85b02-e4a00264-59]; Francois, Alexis N [afrancois@blm.gov]; Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]
CC: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

We have a confidentiality request process that will need to be used to submit the documents to our docket unit. If the confidentiality request is granted, only those technical staff will have access to the documents. They have signed a non-disclosure agreement.

It would seem appropriate for BLM staff to submit the documents under request for confidentiality to the docket unit for this project's docket(24-OPT-03).

From: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:12 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

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Hi Alexis,

Yes, absolutely. Whatever time works best for you tomorrow is fine with me.

Thank you!

Lauren DeOliveira, M.S., RPA

Cultural Resources Group Manager

Aspen Environmental Group

Office: 818-338-6625

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:09 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Hello Gabriel,

Thank you for the notification. I will work with Lauren and provide the necessary data the BLM Barstow Field Office is in possession of to complete these obligations. Lauren, do you have availability tomorrow afternoon to discuss?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 1:36 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good afternoon,

I supervise the CEC's Cultural Resources Unit and we have contracted with Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen) to prepare the cultural and tribal cultural resources analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act and our Opt-in Program. Aspen archaeologist and Cultural Resources Group Leader, Lauren DeOliveira, is the lead analyst for this work. If the Bureau of Land Management needs additional information from Aspen or the CEC to share the Soda Mountain cultural resources documents, please let us know. Otherwise, please coordinate directly with Lauren. Her email address is in the "To" field of this email.

Note that the Opt-in data requirements for cultural and tribal cultural resources documentation is very specific, representing the bare-minimum information that the CEC and its contractors need to review the application for completeness and analyze the proposed Soda Mountain project. Our data completeness requirements extend to the records search data, as codified in Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 1704, Appendix B(g)(2)(B):

"The results of a literature search to identify cultural resources and tribal cultural resources within an area not less than a 1-mile radius around the project site and not less that than one-quarter (0.25) mile on each side of the linear facilities. Identify any cultural resources or tribal cultural resources listed pursuant to ordinance by a city or county or recognized by any local historical or archaeological society or museum. Literature searches to identify the above cultural resources and tribal cultural resources must be completed by, or under the direction of, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Standards for the technical area addressed.

Copies of California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms (Title 14 CCR section 4853) shall be provided for all cultural resources and tribal cultural resources (ethnographic, architectural, historical, and archaeological) identified in the literature search as being 45 years or older or of exceptional importance as defined in the National Register Bulletin Guidelines, (36CFR60.4(g)). A copy of the USGS 75-minute quadrangle map of the literature search area delineating the areas of all past surveys and noting the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) identifying number shall be provided. Copies also shall be provided of all technical reports whose survey coverage is wholly or partly within 0.25 mile of the area surveyed for the project under section (g)(2)(C), or which report on any archaeological excavations or architectural surveys within the literature search area."

Many thanks,

Gabriel

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Cultural Resources Unit
Safety & Reliability Branch
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division
1-916-237-2544

California Energy Commission
Website: www.energy.ca.gov

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
Sent: 7/25/2024 2:39:08 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N [afrancois@blm.gov]; Lauren DeOliveira [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=59b95046bca34d92ac4e6f09cfc85b02-e4a00264-59]; Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
CC: Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]; Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Thank so much Alexis.

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 3:42 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

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I plan on getting the relevant documents discussed with Lauren today, uploaded to the confidential docket tomorrow. I will let you all know if I have any questions during this process, but the pdf instructions are very helpful.

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

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From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 3:04 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Hi all,

Thank you Gabriel for sending the confidential filing instructions to Alexis. I wanted to make sure that you all know that once technical staff have confirmed they have access to these last files (to be filed with a confidential request), we can begin the 30-day completeness review.

Thanks,

Lisa

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 8:15 AM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Good morning,

Attached, you will find filing instructions for uploading documents to our project dockets, including filing confidential cultural resources documents. By filing confidential documents in this manner, other parties to the proposed Soda Mountain project and the public will be aware that confidential cultural resource documents exist, while being unable to access them. The Docket Number for Soda Mountain is 24-OPT-03. Once filed, I will be able to arrange for Lauren's access to the confidential files.

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Best regards,

Gabriel

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:12 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Alexis,

Yes, absolutely. Whatever time works best for you tomorrow is fine with me.

Thank you!

Lauren DeOliveira, M.S., RPA

Cultural Resources Group Manager

Aspen Environmental Group

Office: 818-338-6625

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:09 PM

To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Hello Gabriel,
Thank you for the notification. I will work with Lauren and provide the necessary data the BLM Barstow Field Office is in possession of to complete these obligations. Lauren, do you have availability tomorrow afternoon to discuss?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 1:36 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good afternoon,

I supervise the CEC's Cultural Resources Unit and we have contracted with Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen) to prepare the cultural and tribal cultural resources analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act and our Opt-in Program. Aspen archaeologist and Cultural Resources Group Leader, Lauren DeOliveira, is the lead analyst for this work. If the Bureau of Land Management needs additional information from Aspen or the CEC to share the Soda Mountain cultural resources documents, please let us know. Otherwise, please coordinate directly with Lauren. Her email address is in the "To" field of this email.

Note that the Opt-in data requirements for cultural and tribal cultural resources documentation is very specific, representing the bare-minimum information that the CEC and its contractors need to review the application for completeness and analyze the proposed Soda Mountain project. Our data completeness requirements extend to the records search data, as codified in Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 1704, Appendix B(g)(2)(B):

"The results of a literature search to identify cultural resources and tribal cultural resources within an area not less than a 1-mile radius around the project site and not less that than one-quarter (0.25) mile on each side of the linear facilities. Identify any cultural resources or tribal cultural resources

listed pursuant to ordinance by a city or county or recognized by any local historical or archaeological society or museum. Literature searches to identify the above cultural resources and tribal cultural resources must be completed by, or under the direction of, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Standards for the technical area addressed.

Copies of California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms (Title 14 CCR section 4853) shall be provided for all cultural resources and tribal cultural resources (ethnographic, architectural, historical, and archaeological) identified in the literature search as being 45 years or older or of exceptional importance as defined in the National Register Bulletin Guidelines, (36CFR60.4(g)). A copy of the USGS 75-minute quadrangle map of the literature search area delineating the areas of all past surveys and noting the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) identifying number shall be provided. Copies also shall be provided of all technical reports whose survey coverage is wholly or partly within 0.25 mile of the area surveyed for the project under section (g)(2)(C), or which report on any archaeological excavations or architectural surveys within the literature search area."

Many thanks,

Gabriel

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Cultural Resources Unit
Safety & Reliability Branch
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division
1-916-237-2544

California Energy Commission
Website: www.energy.ca.gov

From: Knight, Eric@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BE42548337F44852A291A9845F226F62-KNIGHT, ERI]
Sent: 6/18/2024 4:47:19 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain Solar Project Opt-In Application Submittal

Thanks Hannah. Let's do 9 on Wednesday. I'll send you a Teams appt.

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 9:22 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project Opt-In Application Submittal

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Thank you Eric! And yes, a call to discuss the submittal timing would be great. I am free tomorrow from 8am - 10am or Thursday anytime. Please just let me know what works best for you.

Thanks!
Hannah

Hannah Gbeh

CEO

Resolution Environmental

262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118

760-504-4109

hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com

www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 9:19 AM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain Solar Project Opt-In Application Submittal

Hi Hannah –

1. I've attached the wiring instructions for paying the application fee, which must be submitted with the application (Pub. Resources Code section 25806 (a)). Alternatively, a paper check can be mailed to:

California Energy Commission

Attn: Accounting MS2
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

With either method, include the project name so we can track it.

Current fees are here Licensing and Compliance (ca.gov). The intel I have is the fees will be adjusted July 1 as follows:

FY 24/25
Annual Compliance Fee: $35,629
Application Fee: $356,282
MW or MWh charge: $712
Application NTE: $1,068,853

2. On this webpage you'll find information about using the CEC's e-filing system E-Filing and E-Commenting (ca.gov). In particular see the first bullet – User Training Guide

3. We would prefer you use a matrix format. I've attached a copy of the data completeness worksheets staff will use that you can adapt.

Lastly, are you available tomorrow or Thursday afternoon to discuss the timing of your filing?

Thanks,
Eric

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 9:00 AM
To: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project Opt-In Application Submittal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Eric,

I hope you are doing well and had a nice weekend! I am planning to submit the AB 205 Opt-In Application for the Soda Mountain Solar Project on or near July 1st, 2024. I have a few questions for you:

1. **Application Fee:** Could you please provide me with the instructions on how we can pay the application fee?
2. **Document Transmittal**: Could you please provide me with the instructions for uploading the application and associated documents to the CEC system?
3. **Formatting**: Do you prefer a matrix format (like the other projects have submitted) when answering Appendix B, or would you prefer our answers be formatted like below (as if completing an application)? Either option is fine with me, I just want to provide the answers in a format easiest for CEC to review. If you have no preference, I will just submit in the matrix format similar to the other projects.

(A) Maps at a scale of 1:24,000 (or appropriate map scale agreed to by staff) showing the location of the geothermal leaseholds, along with a description by section, township, range, county, and assessor's parcel numbers of the leaseholds

This question is not applicable to the project.

(B) Full-page color photographic reproductions of the geothermal leaseholds

This question is not applicable to the project.

(C) A description of the process by which the geothermal leasehold was selected and the consideration given to engineering constraints, site geology, environmental impacts, water, steam, waste and fuel constraints, electric transmission constraints, and any other factors considered by the applicant. Include references to any environmental documents which address steam field development;

This question is not applicable to the project.

Thank you!

Hannah Gbeh

CEO

Resolution Environmental

262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118

760-504-4109

hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com

www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]

Sent: 4/20/2024 10:21:59 PM

To: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]; Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a62a013861764f1e8556eaf023a2cc94-WildlifeRhi]; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ea932fbeeeda4e2a8c4f7fb48a2a96a0-f495410a-65]; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=efe78fbc6c1e408da007e97ea1d8cdf6-WildlifeHar]; Maher, Lani@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5dd1ddd3656b47ad999ed889a3382664-WildlifeLan]; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4f4ad51c29814356b0c486d7bbf5aefa-WildlifeMag]; Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3d237d12712944c6a4e00bb8f0489ecd-WildlifeAli]; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=dfec6a2d0599454d9cfdb19c10daefc1-WildlifeHei]; McCann, Lisa@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7d5473ae9c748d69e0d530034014f87-Waterboards]; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6a535479ac2448c29afb308a1cd6fede-Waterboards]; Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov; Hughes, Joseph@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7dd5e80572b644209e9607ba7bdcb630-Hughes, Jos]; Fooks, Brett@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=870df74143964b71ada0039bf13c5a9a-Fooks, Bret]; Kerr, Steven@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d0d5a66bed2249fca830918f58b3b921-Kerr, Steve]; Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]; Khoshmashrab, Shahab@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=debfeb665b7a45629f72eaeb824bce58-Khoshmashra]; Abulaban, Abdel-Karim@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c1ff1d38281a4068b2708271d22c0d94-Abulaban, A]; Pinkerton, Matthew@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88b6ef1fba134a2cb0aacd56262dc6c4-Pinkerton,]; Carr, Chris [chriscarr@paulhastings.com]; Grunbaum, Lucas [lucasgrunbaum@paulhastings.com]; Stroud, Andrea@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9703ce11dc9547c78c64f22894500b5c-Martine, An]

CC: Crader, Phillip@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7210c7994d3941d4a5501541b6a379f1-Waterboards]; Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=67ab2660d3724727a6074450f5a5e96d-DTSCWLorent]; Badie, Mona@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4230574616834c8a8b023cf986dc310c-Badie, Mona]; Qaqundah, James@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7da5ec0923de49488685fdaa76c71e51-Qaqundah, J]; Huber, Elizabeth@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=93f40660c3d446578d63390926fd5e5a-Huber, Eliz]; Vorters, Dian@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c5604e712a74c029e412542e0db72ac-Vorters, Di]; Guerra, Christina@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3c08929c117e4da5bfb45f48fa749c0a-Waterboards]; Steinert, Tiffany@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=fdbc9163bf404f4d84f0a53c6ed84ab0-Waterboards]; Riordan, Patrick@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ac5d55bd7fad49519eaa9e71fc43871d-Riordan, Pa]; LeFevre, Ellen@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f0c948f76117430ca17ff1486b21fd91-LeFevre, El]; Hamblin, Mark@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=071cd87e7be047d7837b2754f0b5d7dd-Hamblin, Ma]; Koch, Andrea@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8024cfdec6344412812ea6c8320f29b2-Koch, Andre]; Michael Cocchimiglio [mci@vcrenewables.com]; Dustin Thaler [dut@vcrenewables.com]; Hannah Gbeh [hannahgbeh@gmail.com]; Ziad Alaywan [ziad@zglobal.biz]; Kara Laurenson-Wright [Kara.LaurensonWright@swca.com]; Pauline Roberts [PKRoberts@swca.com]; Babula, Jared@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6cf386251c7a47f697f411cee0910882-Babula, Jar]; Anderson, Kari@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2a783549590f4febb0eb8d96a79b60aa-Anderson, K]; Mayer, Alex@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1a7ef7ec23eb4292abd2748ce1b69948-ef756fa8-50]; Ponce, Mariah@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bc5faa5d564c4cf3a2f49468b736b6c2-b2346f64-e7]; Kelsey, Tanner@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ad103077f815400c88cfa8e9576c5f0c-6b814579-63]; Ziff, Briana@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9d1539e61a02423dad0bea24f0056535-0e930594-04]; Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]; Sanzenbacher, Peter [peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov]; Cordes, Isabeau J [icordes@blm.gov]; Donnell, Julie A [jdonnell@blm.gov]; bganderson@blm.gov; psamples@blm.gov; Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]; Longman, Renee@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56333a9acba74875b8c0175b8bea5d52-77429d54-8c]; Crisp, Ann@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b89c4de7ece742679d19e1e3ee713dc2-Crisp, Ann@]; Bastida, Jack@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bd18303173c0467f956829def1aff7cf-Bastida, Ja]; kristina_drake@fws.gov

Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project Opt-In Certification Pre-filing Meeting [UPDATED WITH ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS]
Attachments: Project Description and Location - Soda Mountain Solar Project.docx
Location: https://energy.zoom.us/j/87087956004?pwd=MDk5TjU5M0RQRVBtWUYyRGJCTEwrUT09

Start: 4/25/2024 9:30:00 PM
End: 4/25/2024 11:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Required Attendees: Mulligan, Rhiannon@Wildlife; Wakeman, Donovan@Wildlife; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife; Maher, Lani@Wildlife; Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife; Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife; McCann, Lisa@Waterboards; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards; Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov; Hughes, Joseph@Energy; Fooks, Brett@Energy; Kerr, Steven@Energy; Roark, Gabriel@Energy; Khoshmashrab, Shahab@Energy; Abulaban, Abdel-Karim@Energy; Pinkerton, Matthew@Energy; Carr, Chris; Grunbaum, Lucas; Stroud, Andrea@Energy

Optional Attendees: Crader, Phillip@Waterboards; Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC; Badie, Mona@Energy; Qaqundah, James@Energy; Huber, Elizabeth@Energy; Vorters, Dian@Energy; Guerra, Christina@Waterboards; Steinert, Tiffany@Waterboards; Riordan, Patrick@Energy; LeFevre, Ellen@Energy; Hamblin, Mark@Energy; Koch, Andrea@Energy; Michael Cocchimiglio; Dustin Thaler; Hannah Gbeh; Ziad Alaywan; Kara Laurenson-Wright; Pauline Roberts; Babula, Jared@Energy; Anderson, Kari@Energy; Mayer, Alex@Energy; Ponce, Mariah@Energy; Kelsey, Tanner@Energy; Ziff, Briana@Energy; Hannah Gbeh; Sanzenbacher, Peter; Cordes, Isabeau J; Donnell, Julie A; bganderson@blm.gov; psamples@blm.gov; Worrall, Lisa@Energy; Longman, Renee@Energy; Crisp, Ann@Energy; Bastida, Jack@Energy; kristina_drake@fws.gov

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• 162.255.36.11 (US East)

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Passcode: 594201

Agenda
1. Introductions
2. Overview of Opt-in Certification Process (CEC)
3. Project Presentation (Applicant)
4. Agency-Applicant Discussion
5. Schedule

Eric Knight
Manager
Siting & Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division

California Energy Commission
(916) 591-9931

From: Lauren DeOliveira [Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com]
Sent: 7/24/2024 11:15:33 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N [afrancois@blm.gov]; Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]
CC: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks, Alexis! We can meet this afternoon at 4:30 to chat through some this. I'll send out an invite right now.

Lauren DeOliveira, M.S., RPA
Cultural Resources Group Manager
Aspen Environmental Group
Office: 818-338-6625

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 9:34 AM
To: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

They just sent me over the GIS data but I can definitely send over the draft report to the docket. And yes I'm available this afternoon, feel free to send an invite!

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 9:31:55 AM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Hi Alexis,

Thank you so much for the call this morning. I just spoke with Gabriel and certainly, copies of the 2009 and 2013 reports will be helpful. We also talked about the situation with the 2024 cultural data, and we think it would be beneficial for us to get eyes on the draft document just to be sure the applicant's consultant has met all of CEC's survey requirements. We want to ensure we are being mindful of your time and not requiring the consultant to conduct additional survey work later down the road (and needing new FAs) because they didn't meet CEC requirements initially.

We can certainly jump on a call and explain a bit more if you have 30 mins to spare either this afternoon or anytime between 11 am-2:00 pm tomorrow. Just let me know what time works best for you and I'll schedule a Teams meeting with the three of us.

Thanks so much!

Lauren DeOliveira, M.S., RPA
Cultural Resources Group Manager
Aspen Environmental Group
Office: 818-338-6625

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 8:16 AM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Thank you Gabriel!

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 8:14 AM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Good morning,

Attached, you will find filing instructions for uploading documents to our project dockets, including filing confidential cultural resources documents. By filing confidential documents in this manner, other parties to the proposed Soda Mountain project and the public will be aware that confidential cultural resource documents exist, while being unable to access them. The Docket Number for Soda Mountain is 24-OPT-03. Once filed, I will be able to arrange for Lauren's access to the confidential files.

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Best regards,

Gabriel

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:12 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

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Hi Alexis,

Yes, absolutely. Whatever time works best for you tomorrow is fine with me.

Thank you!

Lauren DeOliveira, M.S., RPA
Cultural Resources Group Manager
Aspen Environmental Group
Office: 818-338-6625

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:09 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Hello Gabriel,
Thank you for the notification. I will work with Lauren and provide the necessary data the BLM Barstow Field Office is in possession of to complete these obligations. Lauren, do you have availability tomorrow afternoon to discuss?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 1:36 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good afternoon,

I supervise the CEC's Cultural Resources Unit and we have contracted with Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen) to prepare the cultural and tribal cultural resources analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act and our Opt-in Program. Aspen archaeologist and Cultural Resources Group Leader, Lauren DeOliveira, is the lead analyst for this work. If the Bureau of Land Management needs additional information from Aspen or the CEC to share the Soda Mountain

cultural resources documents, please let us know. Otherwise, please coordinate directly with Lauren. Her email address is in the "To" field of this email.

Note that the Opt-in data requirements for cultural and tribal cultural resources documentation is very specific, representing the bare-minimum information that the CEC and its contractors need to review the application for completeness and analyze the proposed Soda Mountain project. Our data completeness requirements extend to the records search data, as codified in Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 1704, Appendix B(g)(2)(B):

"The results of a literature search to identify cultural resources and tribal cultural resources within an area not less than a 1-mile radius around the project site and not less that than one-quarter (0.25) mile on each side of the linear facilities. Identify any cultural resources or tribal cultural resources listed pursuant to ordinance by a city or county or recognized by any local historical or archaeological society or museum. Literature searches to identify the above cultural resources and tribal cultural resources must be completed by, or under the direction of, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Standards for the technical area addressed.

Copies of California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms (Title 14 CCR section 4853) shall be provided for all cultural resources and tribal cultural resources (ethnographic, architectural, historical, and archaeological) identified in the literature search as being 45 years or older or of exceptional importance as defined in the National Register Bulletin Guidelines, (36CFR60.4(g)). A copy of the USGS 75-minute quadrangle map of the literature search area delineating the areas of all past surveys and noting the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) identifying number shall be provided. Copies also shall be provided of all technical reports whose survey coverage is wholly or partly within 0.25 mile of the area surveyed for the project under section (g)(2)(C), or which report on any archaeological excavations or architectural surveys within the literature search area."

Many thanks,

Gabriel

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Cultural Resources Unit
Safety & Reliability Branch
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division
1-916-237-2544

California Energy Commission
Website: www.energy.ca.gov

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
Sent: 7/23/2024 9:56:27 PM
To: David, Travis@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08b483b8d5464b41b536daf809eb1a0d-David, Trav]; Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) - Visual Simulation, Air Quality and GIS files

Thanks Travis.

From: David, Travis@Energy <travis.david@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:28 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) - Visual Simulation, Air Quality and GIS files

Thank you Hannah, I have received the Visual Resources, Air Quality, and Biological Resources data linked below.

Lisa, would you like me to distribute this data to anyone specific?

Travis David
Electric Generation System Specialist
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 3:23 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; David, Travis@Energy <travis.david@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) - Visual Simulation, Air Quality and GIS files

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Hi Lisa,

No, these files are not confidential. Thank you for checking! Also - I will send you the other GIS files shortly. I am uploading all the files to the docket right now, and should have the non-confidential and confidential items completed shortly.

One additional note: The Bureau of Land Management will not allow us to publicly or confidentially docket our Appendix F, Archeological Resource Assessment or Appendix G, Historical Resources Assessment. They will only release this report if a CEC staff member contacts them directly - please see below. - Hannah
---

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 2:17 PM
To: Rafaella Lisboa <Rafaella.Lisboa@swca.com>
Cc: Michael Bever <Michael.Bever@swca.com>; Kara Laurenson-Wright <Kara.LaurensonWright@swca.com>; Susan Zamudio-Gurrola <Susan.Zamudio-Gurrola@swca.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Revised CR Technical Report

I did some follow up on this request, if the CEC needs it they can provide their own archaeologist or an archaeologist they have contracted for the project. Typically, once the application has been submitted one will be assigned to the project from CEC and they handle the reporting data.

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

Hannah Gbeh

CEO

Resolution Environmental

262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118

760-504-4109

hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com

www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 2:55 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; David, Travis@Energy <travis.david@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) - Visual Simulation, Air Quality and GIS files

One more thing, were the bio files to be considered as confidential? Please let me know. If they are to be confidential, please submit them through to docket system, preceded by a confidential request letter.

Thanks,

Lisa

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 2:47 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; David, Travis@Energy <travis.david@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) - Visual Simulation, Air Quality and GIS files

Thanks Hannah. We also need the GIS shape files for the project site boundaries and linears.

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 1:26 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; David, Travis@Energy <travis.david@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) - Visual Simulation, Air Quality and GIS files

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Lisa and Travis,

Below are links to access the visual simulation files, air quality modeling files and GIS shape files for the Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03). If you have any issues accessing this information, or prefer receiving it in a different format, please let me know.

Best,
Hannah Gbeh

Visual Simulation Files

Appendix B - Attachment B_AERMOD Meteorological Data

Appendix B_Attachment D_HARP Input Data and Output Results

Soda Mountain SWCA NR GIS Data

Hannah Gbeh

CEO

Resolution Environmental

262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118

760-504-4109

hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com

www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
Sent: 7/23/2024 10:02:15 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) - GIS Files

Thanks Hannah. Our cultural staff have reached out to the BLM contact.

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 12:54 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) - GIS Files

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Hi Lisa,

I have now uploaded the last confidential item to our docket, so our first submittal is complete.

If you have any issues getting the Archeological and Historical reports from the Bureau of Land Management, please let me know. I have re-pasted our BLM contact below, for convenience. Thank you! - Hannah

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
Email: afrancois@blm.gov

Hannah Gbeh

CEO

Resolution Environmental

262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118

760-504-4109

hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com

www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 7:40 AM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) - GIS Files

Great. Thanks Hanna.

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 7:39 AM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) - GIS Files

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Thank you for your help on this project! I have uploaded all the documents to the docket system, with the exception of 1 confidential request that I need reformatted by a consultant in order to upload correctly. I should have that uploaded by later today and will let you know when it is submitted.

If you need any additional information, just let me know.

Thanks!
Hannah

Hannah Gbeh

CEO

Resolution Environmental

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hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com

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From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 7:31 AM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) - GIS Files

Thanks so much Hannah.

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 4:57 PM

To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) - GIS Files

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Hi Lisa,

The requested GIS files are accessible via the link below. Thank you!

-Hannah

Civil Design KMZ_Soda Mountain

Hannah Gbeh

CEO

Resolution Environmental

262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118

760-504-4109

hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com

www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Francois, Alexis N [afrancois@blm.gov]
Sent: 7/25/2024 11:28:41 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

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We will need to use the FTP, the older reports are definite too big for an email to accomodate.

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 3:53 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

You can send it directly to me, Alexis. I apologize for my colleagues sending you on this confidentiality runaround.

We have an ftp service if the file size is too large to email.

Thanks,

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 3:48 PM
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Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

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Perfect, I will draft a memo stating what is confidential, which is literally just all of it. Do I still upload it to the CEC docket website or send directly to you?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
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To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

I am in a meeting now but just received this from my counsel:

Here is what our regs say regarding confidential records coming from another governmental agency. Section 2505

(b) Governmental Entities. When another federal, state, regional, or local agency or state-created private entity, such as the California Independent System Operator, possesses information pertinent to the responsibilities of the Commission that has been designated by that agency as confidential under the Public Records Act, or the Freedom of Information Act, the Commission, the Executive Director, or the Chief Counsel may request, and the agency shall **submit the information to the Commission without an application for confidential designation. The Commission shall designate this information confidential.**

If BLM can provide the records with a letter identifying what parts of the record are confidential and if a public summary can be docketed that would be adequate. I suspect that location information of resources is the main concern so maybe only maps and location information needs to be protected.

So, we don't need to do the confidential filing thing.

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 3:32 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

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Hi Gabriel,
My power is finally back on and I just wanted to confirm that the first document for the upload, the confidentiality request, is just a letter/memo including the information on page 2 of the CEC-13 Application?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880

I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

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From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:56 AM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Okay, Alexis, follow this link:
https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx?perms=1&returnurl=http%3a%2f%2fefiling.energy.ca.gov%2fdefault.aspx

If you do not already have an efiling account use the "Register as a New User" button.

Holler if you need additional assistance.

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:45 AM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

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Hi Gabe,
I have gathered all of the documents we discussed for the docket. I have reviewed both the attachments to begin the confidentiality request but I do not have the link to the actual website to get that started as shown on page 3 section 2 in the efiling instructions document. Can you please direct me?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
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(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
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From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 8:14 AM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Good morning,

Attached, you will find filing instructions for uploading documents to our project dockets, including filing confidential cultural resources documents. By filing confidential documents in this manner, other parties to the proposed Soda Mountain project and the public will be aware that confidential cultural

resource documents exist, while being unable to access them. The Docket Number for Soda Mountain is 24-OPT-03. Once filed, I will be able to arrange for Lauren's access to the confidential files.

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Best regards,

Gabriel

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:12 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

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Hi Alexis,

Yes, absolutely. Whatever time works best for you tomorrow is fine with me.

Thank you!

Lauren DeOliveira, M.S., RPA
Cultural Resources Group Manager
Aspen Environmental Group
Office: 818-338-6625

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:09 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Hello Gabriel,
Thank you for the notification. I will work with Lauren and provide the necessary data the BLM Barstow Field Office is in possession of to complete these obligations. Lauren, do you have availability tomorrow afternoon to discuss?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
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From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 1:36 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

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Good afternoon,

I supervise the CEC's Cultural Resources Unit and we have contracted with Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen) to prepare the cultural and tribal cultural resources analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act and our Opt-in Program. Aspen archaeologist and Cultural Resources Group Leader, Lauren DeOliveira, is the lead analyst for this work. If the Bureau of Land Management needs additional information from Aspen or the CEC to share the Soda Mountain cultural resources documents, please let us know. Otherwise, please coordinate directly with Lauren. Her email address is in the "To" field of this email.

Note that the Opt-in data requirements for cultural and tribal cultural resources documentation is very specific, representing the bare-minimum information that the CEC and its contractors need to review the application for completeness and analyze the proposed Soda Mountain project. Our data completeness requirements extend to the records search data, as codified in Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 1704, Appendix B(g)(2)(B):

"The results of a literature search to identify cultural resources and tribal cultural resources within an area not less than a 1-mile radius around the project site and not less that than one-quarter (0.25) mile on each side of the linear facilities. Identify any cultural resources or tribal cultural resources listed pursuant to ordinance by a city or county or recognized by any local historical or archaeological society or museum. Literature searches to identify the above cultural resources and tribal cultural resources must be completed by, or under the direction of, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Standards for the technical area addressed.

Copies of California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms (Title 14 CCR section 4853) shall be provided for all cultural resources and tribal cultural resources (ethnographic, architectural, historical, and archaeological) identified in the literature search as being 45 years or older or of exceptional importance as defined in the National Register Bulletin Guidelines, (36CFR60.4(g)). A copy of the USGS 75-minute quadrangle map of the literature search area delineating the areas of all past surveys and noting the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) identifying number shall be provided. Copies also shall be provided of all technical reports whose survey coverage is wholly or partly within 0.25 mile of the area surveyed for the project under section (g)(2)(C), or which report on any archaeological excavations or architectural surveys within the literature search area."

Many thanks,

Gabriel

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Cultural Resources Unit
Safety & Reliability Branch
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division
1-916-237-2544

California Energy Commission
Website: www.energy.ca.gov



From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=ED87FF1E22CD49F3AAFF644C82538D46-ROARK, GABR]
Sent: 7/25/2024 3:51:45 PM
To: 'Francois, Alexis N' [afrancois@blm.gov]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

I'll have that to you in a few minutes, Alexis.

Gabriel

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:45 AM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

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Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
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Sent: 7/25/2024 11:39:09 PM
To: 'Francois, Alexis N' [afrancois@blm.gov]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Okay, I sent you an upload link from our ftp service, Kiteworks. Have a great weekend!

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 4:29 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

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Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

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To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Okay, Alexis, follow this link:
https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx?perms=1&returnurl=http%3a%2f%2fefiling.energy.ca.gov%2fdefault.aspx

If you do not already have an efiling account use the "Register as a New User" button.

Holler if you need additional assistance.

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:45 AM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

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Hi Gabe,
I have gathered all of the documents we discussed for the docket. I have reviewed both the attachments to begin the confidentiality request but I do not have the link to the actual website to get that started as shown on page 3 section 2 in the efiling instructions document. Can you please direct me?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office

Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 8:14 AM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Good morning,

Attached, you will find filing instructions for uploading documents to our project dockets, including filing confidential cultural resources documents. By filing confidential documents in this manner, other parties to the proposed Soda Mountain project and the public will be aware that confidential cultural resource documents exist, while being unable to access them. The Docket Number for Soda Mountain is 24-OPT-03. Once filed, I will be able to arrange for Lauren's access to the confidential files.

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Best regards,

Gabriel

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:12 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Alexis,

Yes, absolutely. Whatever time works best for you tomorrow is fine with me.

Thank you!

Lauren DeOliveira, M.S., RPA

Cultural Resources Group Manager

Aspen Environmental Group

Office: 818-338-6625

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:09 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Hello Gabriel,
Thank you for the notification. I will work with Lauren and provide the necessary data the BLM Barstow Field Office is in possession of to complete these obligations. Lauren, do you have availability tomorrow afternoon to discuss?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 1:36 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

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Good afternoon,

I supervise the CEC's Cultural Resources Unit and we have contracted with Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen) to prepare the cultural and tribal cultural resources analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act and our Opt-in Program. Aspen archaeologist and Cultural Resources Group Leader, Lauren DeOliveira, is the lead analyst for this work. If the Bureau of Land Management needs additional information from Aspen or the CEC to share the Soda Mountain cultural resources documents, please let us know. Otherwise, please coordinate directly with Lauren. Her email address is in the "To" field of this email.

Note that the Opt-in data requirements for cultural and tribal cultural resources documentation is very specific, representing the bare-minimum information that the CEC and its contractors need to review the application for completeness and analyze the proposed Soda Mountain project. Our data completeness requirements extend to the records search data, as codified in Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 1704, Appendix B(g)(2)(B):

"The results of a literature search to identify cultural resources and tribal cultural resources within an area not less than a 1-mile radius around the project site and not less that than one-quarter (0.25) mile on each side of the linear facilities. Identify any cultural resources or tribal cultural resources listed pursuant to ordinance by a city or county or recognized by any local historical or archaeological society or museum. Literature searches to identify the above cultural resources and tribal cultural resources must be completed by, or under the direction of, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Standards for the technical area addressed.

Copies of California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms (Title 14 CCR section 4853) shall be provided for all cultural resources and tribal cultural resources (ethnographic, architectural, historical, and archaeological) identified in the literature search as being 45 years or older or of exceptional importance as defined in the National Register Bulletin Guidelines, (36CFR60.4(g)). A copy of the USGS 75-minute quadrangle map of the literature search area delineating the areas of all past surveys and noting the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) identifying number shall be provided. Copies also shall be provided of all technical reports whose survey coverage is wholly or partly within 0.25 mile of the area surveyed for the project under section (g)(2)(C), or which report on any archaeological excavations or architectural surveys within the literature search area."

Many thanks,

Gabriel

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Cultural Resources Unit
Safety & Reliability Branch
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division
1-916-237-2544

California Energy Commission
Website: www.energy.ca.gov



From: Francois, Alexis N [afrancois@blm.gov]
Sent: 7/29/2024 7:30:29 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]; Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
CC: Lauren DeOliveira [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=59b95046bca34d92ac4e6f09cfc85b02-e4a00264-59]; Roger Hatheway [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=320e3daadd884f89bba45f499c3e8612-f57fd1cf-d6]; Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]; Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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The records search information is located within the report I submitted to Gabriel.

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
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---

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 3:27 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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Hi Hannah and Alexis Francois,

Our cultural resources staff report that the confidential BLM files do not contain the record search documents. Do you know if they were supposed to be part of either Appendix F, Archaeological Resources or Appendix G, Historical Resources Assessment?

It makes a difference if the record search files were supposed to be in either appendix or if they weren't. Staff will need them. If they were supposed to be part of either appendix, then we don't have access to it yet and can't signal that the application has been completely submitted and is accessible.

Thanks,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov



From: Francois, Alexis N [afrancois@blm.gov]
Sent: 7/29/2024 7:32:27 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]; Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]; Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]
CC: Lauren DeOliveira [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=59b95046bca34d92ac4e6f09cfc85b02-e4a00264-59]; Roger Hatheway [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=320e3daadd884f89bba45f499c3e8612-f57fd1cf-d6]; Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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Let me know if there is anything else I can provide, happy to help.

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:31 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

Thank you, Alexis.

That said, the CEC staff has not confirmed that we have all of the cultural resource documents that we need, Hannah. We are working on that determination.

Cheers,

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:28 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark,

Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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I was able to provide, directly to Gabriel, the previous survey reports, the current survey report that just took place, the GIS data for both, and the previous SHPO correspondences.

Alexis Francois, M.A.
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(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

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From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 11:00 AM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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Hi All,

I hope you all had a great weekend! My understanding is BLM has the all the cultural resources documents needed to now upload to the CEC site. Could we please confirm that is correct? I would really like to start our 30 day review timeline today.

Thank you!
Hannah Gbeh
760-504-4109

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From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 4:33:56 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; 'afrancois@blm.gov' <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

Hi Lisa,

I've reached out to my cultural resources team for an answer on this and expect they will get back to me Monday morning. Thanks for all your help with this.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Hannah

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From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 3:27:51 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; 'afrancois@blm.gov' <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

Hi Hannah and Alexis Francois,

Our cultural resources staff report that the confidential BLM files do not contain the record search documents. Do you know if they were supposed to be part of either Appendix F, Archaeological Resources or Appendix G, Historical Resources Assessment?

It makes a difference if the record search files were supposed to be in either appendix or if they weren't. Staff will need them. If they were supposed to be part of either appendix, then we don't have access to it yet and can't signal that the application has been completely submitted and is accessible.

Thanks,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
Sent: 7/29/2024 11:45:58 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N [afrancois@blm.gov]; Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
CC: Lauren DeOliveira [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=59b95046bca34d92ac4e6f09cfc85b02-e4a00264-59]; Roger Hatheway [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=320e3daadd884f89bba45f499c3e8612-f57fd1cf-d6]; Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]; Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

Thanks Alexis. I think that might be it.

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 3:57 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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I have completed the confidential filing. Is there anything else being requested at this time?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
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2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

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From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:54 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

Hi Alexis,

We would still need the files submitted confidentially. I misspoke, Gabriel sent the confidential guidelines to you.
The difference between the BLM submitting the documents as a confidential filing and the applicant submitting documents as a confidential filing is that BLM can determine that files are confidential and the CEC would treat the subsequent filing as confidential and the applicant requests confidential status and the CEC evaluates the requests and either grants or denies the request.

For the docket system, BLM would first submit a letter listing the documents that BLM has determined are confidential. The next submittal will be all of the documents in one filing. The system treats the first document filed through confidential filing as public. The next confidential filing is treated as confidential and withheld from public availability.

I hope this helps.

Thanks,

Lisa

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:32 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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I discussed with Gabriel that since it is coming from a federal agency that I wouldn't need to do the confidential efiling. If that is not the case, can you please send me a template or application for the confidential filing so I can start that process?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
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2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
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Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

Thanks for that Alexis. We also need them to be submitted under confidential filing to the project's docket. You can refer to the guidance I sent you last week.

Lisa

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:28 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
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Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
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Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
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To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; 'afrancois@blm.gov' <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
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Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov



From: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Sent: 7/30/2024 4:45:53 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N [afrancois@blm.gov]; Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]
CC: Lauren DeOliveira [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=59b95046bca34d92ac4e6f09cfc85b02-e4a00264-59]; Roger Hatheway [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=320e3daadd884f89bba45f499c3e8612-f57fd1cf-d6]; Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]; Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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Hi,

Both the 2009 and 2013 reports that they reference are available as Appendix D to the SWCA 2024 report and are searchable. Alexis may have provided the BLM's scanned files as separate files but if you look at Appendix D of our Cultural Report (page 70), it is all searchable.

Will this work?

Hannah

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 7:58:38 AM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

The previous surveys conducted in 2009 and 2013 were only available to me via scanned documents that the previous archaeologist had on file, so the searchable document format like the 2024 survey reports were not available to me.

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 7:56 AM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>

Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

I heard from docket the confidential filing was rejected as the files were not searchable. Hopefully this will be a simple solve by ocr'ing the files.

I check that my documents are searchable by doing a find search for a common word that will be in the document and searching through each page.

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 3:57 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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I have completed the confidential filing. Is there anything else being requested at this time?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:54 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

Hi Alexis,

We would still need the files submitted confidentially. I misspoke, Gabriel sent the confidential guidelines to you.
The difference between the BLM submitting the documents as a confidential filing and the applicant submitting documents as a confidential filing is that BLM can determine that files are confidential and the CEC would treat the subsequent filing as confidential and the applicant requests confidential status and the CEC evaluates the requests and either grants or denies the request.

For the docket system, BLM would first submit a letter listing the documents that BLM has determined are confidential. The next submittal will be all of the documents in one filing. The system treats the first document filed through confidential filing as public. The next confidential filing is treated as confidential and withheld from public availability.

I hope this helps.

Thanks,

Lisa

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:32 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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I discussed with Gabriel that since it is coming from a federal agency that I wouldn't need to do the confidential efiling. If that is not the case, can you please send me a template or application for the confidential filing so I can start that process?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:29 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

Thanks for that Alexis. We also need them to be submitted under confidential filing to the project's docket. You can refer to the guidance I sent you last week.

Lisa

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:28 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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I was able to provide, directly to Gabriel, the previous survey reports, the current survey report that just took place, the GIS data for both, and the previous SHPO correspondences.

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 11:00 AM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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Hi All,

I hope you all had a great weekend! My understanding is BLM has the all the cultural resources documents needed to now upload to the CEC site. Could we please confirm that is correct? I would really like to start our 30 day review timeline today.

Thank you!
Hannah Gbeh
760-504-4109

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From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 4:33:56 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; 'afrancois@blm.gov' <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

Hi Lisa,

I've reached out to my cultural resources team for an answer on this and expect they will get back to me Monday morning. Thanks for all your help with this.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Hannah

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From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 3:27:51 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; 'afrancois@blm.gov' <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

Hi Hannah and Alexis Francois,

Our cultural resources staff report that the confidential BLM files do not contain the record search documents. Do you know if they were supposed to be part of either Appendix F, Archaeological Resources or Appendix G, Historical Resources Assessment?

It makes a difference if the record search files were supposed to be in either appendix or if they weren't. Staff will need them. If they were supposed to be part of either appendix, then we don't have access to it yet and can't signal that the application has been completely submitted and is accessible.

Thanks,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

From: Francois, Alexis N [afrancois@blm.gov]
Sent: 7/31/2024 7:20:44 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]
CC: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]; Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]; Lauren DeOliveira [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=59b95046bca34d92ac4e6f09cfc85b02-e4a00264-59]; Roger Hatheway [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=320e3daadd884f89bba45f499c3e8612-f57fd1cf-d6]; Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: 1 Document(s) filed in Soda Mountain Solar, 24-OPT-03, Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management

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I will resubmit, there was confusion yesterday on what needed to be uploaded the second time around.

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 10:39 AM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: 1 Document(s) filed in Soda Mountain Solar, 24-OPT-03, Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management

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Hi Alexis,

When you submitted this to the docket, did you submit all the documents listed in this letter? If not, you will need to file the ones you didn't file yesterday after this letter. You will also need to submit another letter to list the remaining files that you will be submitting.

These are the only documents that I see were submitted to the docket.

Cultural Inventory Report 2009 Cultural Inventory Report 2009 for Soda Mtn Solar 70 page(s)		CEC/Drew Brohan	Bureau of Land Management
Cultural Resources Inventory 2013 Cultural resources inventory report for additional survey for soda mountain solar 19 page(s)		CEC/Drew Brohan	Bureau of Land Management

The CEC network is still having issues, but you might be able to docket. We can't access confidential files yet.

Thanks,

Lisa

From: California Energy Commission <CEC@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 2:49 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: 1 Document(s) filed in Soda Mountain Solar, 24-OPT-03, Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management

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Dear Subscribers,

The following 1 Document(s) submitted to Docket Number **24-OPT-03** have been published:

Docket Number: 24-OPT-03
Project Title: Soda Mountain Solar
TN Number: 258195
Title: Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management
Description:
Filer: Alexis Francois
Organization: Bureau of Land Management
Role: Public Agency
Submission Date: 7/30/2024 2:08:53 PM
Docketed Date: 7/30/2024
Subject(s):
Submission Type: Document
Page(s): 2

Thank you,
07/30/2024 14:47:54.329

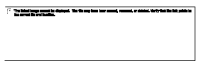
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From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
Sent: 8/1/2024 10:55:50 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]; Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]; Lauren DeOliveira [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=59b95046bca34d92ac4e6f09cfc85b02-e4a00264-59]; Roger Hatheway [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=320e3daadd884f89bba45f499c3e8612-f57fd1cf-d6]; Francois, Alexis N [afrancois@blm.gov]
CC: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

Okay. Hannah. Will do. Thanks.

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:54 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

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Hi Lisa,

Thank you for this information. Please start the 30-day review and we will address this during our first data request response.

Thank you all for your help with this!

Hannah

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From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:40 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

Hi Hannah and all,

Just bringing Hannah into the conversation as it is her application. Hannah, according to CEC staff copies of the original site records and reports do not appear to have been docketed.

Alexis said the seven pdfs that she just docketed and we downloaded was all of the data that she have been able to find from predecessors recovered files and she will continue to search for additional information in our physical docket room in-office.

I wanted you to be aware that original site records and reports haven't been submitted an we could either wait to start the 30-completeness review until we get them, or ask for them in a data request. CEC staff think we can start the review now. Is that what you would prefer to do, or wait until these missing files are docketed?

Let me know. I have a memo I was just about to post to the docket to start the clock tomorrow, but can hold off if you prefer.

Thanks,

Lisa

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:34 PM
To: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

I do think that is the way to go. Thanks.

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:30 PM
To: Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

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Hi Team,

I'm fine with moving forward if that is the consensus and Gabriel is ok with that approach. We'll address the missing record search information in a data request.

Lauren DeOliveira, M.S., RPA

Cultural Resources Group Manager

Aspen Environmental Group

Office: 818-338-6625

From: Roger Hatheway <RHatheway@aspeneg.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:24 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

Thanks Alexis.

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From: Roger Hatheway <RHatheway@aspeneg.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:24:22 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

You are the boss, but I cannot speak for Lauren.

These are very big missing pieces of the puzzle.

Does Alexis already have these?

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From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:20:59 PM
To: Roger Hatheway <RHatheway@aspeneg.com>; Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

I suspected that was the case, just looking at the page count of the files.

Lisa, are we sure we want to start the clock knowing that we are missing such a big piece of the required application material?

Roger and Lauren, the plus side to starting the clock now is that we will have 30 days to review the completeness of the records search materials, since that will be a data request in our data (in)completeness recommendation. Maybe we should just go with it.

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Roger Hatheway <RHatheway@aspeneg.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:18 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

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I just took a quick look, and unless I am missing something, copies of the original site records and reports do not appear to have been docketed.

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:02 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Roger Hatheway <RHatheway@aspeneg.com>; Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

Great. Thanks.

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:01 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

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Yes that is the correct amount.

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From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:00:33 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

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Hi Alexis,

I have 7 pdfs downloaded. Is that the correct amount?
TN258195_20240730T140839_Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management
20240801T120535_Soda Solar Blue Bell Mine Survey
20240801T120524_Soda_Mountain_Solar_HRA
20240730T140849_Cultural Resources Inventory 2013

20240730T140840_Cultural Inventory Report 2009
20240723T124841_Confidential H Appendix A and B
20240723T124839_Confidential D1 Appendix C

Please confirm I have it all.

Thanks,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov



From: Francois, Alexis N [afrancois@blm.gov]
Sent: 8/1/2024 3:32:05 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]
CC: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]; Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]; Lauren DeOliveira [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=59b95046bca34d92ac4e6f09cfc85b02-e4a00264-59]; Roger Hatheway [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=320e3daadd884f89bba45f499c3e8612-f57fd1cf-d6]; Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: 1 Document(s) filed in Soda Mountain Solar, 24-OPT-03, Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management

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I attempted to resubmit the other documents with the edited confidentiality letter to reflect the submission but the system noted that these documents were already on file. It seems like you all have everything you need at this time, if not please clarify what exactly needs to be submitted.

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 10:39 AM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: 1 Document(s) filed in Soda Mountain Solar, 24-OPT-03, Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management

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Hi Alexis,

When you submitted this to the docket, did you submit all the documents listed in this letter? If not, you will need to file the ones you didn't file yesterday after this letter. You will also need to submit another letter to list the remaining files that you will be submitting.

These are the only documents that I see were submitted to the docket.

Cultural Inventory Report 2009 Cultural Inventory Report 2009 for Soda Mtn Solar 70 page(s)		CEC/Drew Brohan	Bureau of Land Management
Cultural Resources Inventory 2013 Cultural resources inventory report for additional survey for soda mountain solar 19 page(s)		CEC/Drew Brohan	Bureau of Land Management

The CEC network is still having issues, but you might be able to docket. We can't access confidential files yet.

Thanks,

Lisa

From: California Energy Commission <CEC@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 2:49 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: 1 Document(s) filed in Soda Mountain Solar, 24-OPT-03, Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management

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View as a webpage/ Share

Dear Subscribers,

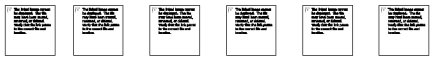
The following 1 Document(s) submitted to Docket Number **24-OPT-03** have been published:

Docket Number: 24-OPT-03
Project Title: Soda Mountain Solar
TN Number: 258195
Title: Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management
Description:
Filer: Alexis Francois
Organization: Bureau of Land Management
Role: Public Agency
Submission Date: 7/30/2024 2:08:53 PM
Docketed Date: 7/30/2024
Subject(s):
Submission Type: Document
Page(s): 2

Thank you,
07/30/2024 14:47:54.329

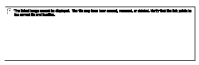
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715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



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From: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Sent: 7/30/2024 10:43:57 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]; Francois, Alexis N [afrancois@blm.gov]
CC: Lauren DeOliveira [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=59b95046bca34d92ac4e6f09cfc85b02-e4a00264-59]; Roger Hatheway [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=320e3daadd884f89bba45f499c3e8612-f57fd1cf-d6]; Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]; Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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Hi Lisa,

My understanding is that BLM has resubmitted all the required files. If you need any additional information from our team, please let me know.

Thanks to all for your help with this project!

Best,
Hannah Gbeh
760-504-4109

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From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 11:23:14 AM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

It looks like docket is back up. Alexis, please submit the confidential items again with OCR on all pages. Let me know if you have a problem.

Thanks,

Lisa

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 11:12 AM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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Hi Lisa,

Apologies for the confusion and back and forth on this. All the reports need to be docketed as confidential by BLM. Alexis will be re-submitting the confidential docket request, along with searchable files, this afternoon.

Thanks,
Hannah

Hannah Gbeh

CEO

Resolution Environmental

262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118

760-504-4109

hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com

www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 9:51 AM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

Okay. In that case, as long as both reports have already been submitted to the docket, then we can have Alexis remove them from the BLM confidential filing.

Regarding the 2024 survey reports, it appears from Alexis that BLM does not have those. Is that something that has already been filed to the project docket? If not, then it needs to be filed. If it is a BLM report, then Alexis needs it and then can file to the docket. Otherwise Hannah, you can file it to the docket.

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 9:46 AM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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Hi,

Both the 2009 and 2013 reports that they reference are available as Appendix D to the SWCA 2024 report and are searchable. Alexis may have provided the BLM's scanned files as separate files but if you look at Appendix D of our Cultural Report (page 70), it is all searchable.

Will this work?

Hannah

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From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 7:58:38 AM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

The previous surveys conducted in 2009 and 2013 were only available to me via scanned documents that the previous archaeologist had on file, so the searchable document format like the 2024 survey reports were not available to me.

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 7:56 AM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

I heard from docket the confidential filing was rejected as the files were not searchable. Hopefully this will be a simple solve by ocr'ing the files.

I check that my documents are searchable by doing a find search for a common word that will be in the document and searching through each page.

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 3:57 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>

Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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I have completed the confidential filing. Is there anything else being requested at this time?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:54 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

Hi Alexis,

We would still need the files submitted confidentially. I misspoke, Gabriel sent the confidential guidelines to you.
The difference between the BLM submitting the documents as a confidential filing and the applicant submitting documents as a confidential filing is that BLM can determine that files are confidential and the CEC would treat the subsequent filing as confidential and the applicant requests confidential status and the CEC evaluates the requests and either grants or denies the request.

For the docket system, BLM would first submit a letter listing the documents that BLM has determined are confidential. The next submittal will be all of the documents in one filing. The system treats the first document filed through confidential filing as public. The next confidential filing is treated as confidential and withheld from public availability.

I hope this helps.

Thanks,

Lisa

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:32 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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I discussed with Gabriel that since it is coming from a federal agency that I wouldn't need to do the confidential efiling. If that is not the case, can you please send me a template or application for the confidential filing so I can start that process?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:29 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

Thanks for that Alexis. We also need them to be submitted under confidential filing to the project's docket. You can refer to the guidance I sent you last week.

Lisa

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:28 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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I was able to provide, directly to Gabriel, the previous survey reports, the current survey report that just took place, the GIS data for both, and the previous SHPO correspondences.

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 11:00 AM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>

Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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Hi All,

I hope you all had a great weekend! My understanding is BLM has the all the cultural resources documents needed to now upload to the CEC site. Could we please confirm that is correct? I would really like to start our 30 day review timeline today.

Thank you!
Hannah Gbeh
760-504-4109

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From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 4:33:56 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; 'afrancois@blm.gov' <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

Hi Lisa,

I've reached out to my cultural resources team for an answer on this and expect they will get back to me Monday morning. Thanks for all your help with this.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Hannah

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From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 3:27:51 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; 'afrancois@blm.gov' <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

Hi Hannah and Alexis Francois,

Our cultural resources staff report that the confidential BLM files do not contain the record search documents. Do you know if they were supposed to be part of either Appendix F, Archaeological Resources or Appendix G, Historical Resources Assessment?

It makes a difference if the record search files were supposed to be in either appendix or if they weren't. Staff will need them. If they were supposed to be part of either appendix, then we don't have access to it yet and can't signal that the application has been completely submitted and is accessible.

Thanks,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov



Sent: 7/31/2024 4:57:26 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

We haven't yet. The docket system is back up and Alexis will be filing the rest of the confidential BLM documents. Once we receive access to those files, I will let you know and start the review clock. Depending upon when we get access to the documents

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 9:07 AM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

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Hi Lisa,

I wanted to check in and see if we have formally started our 30-day review for the Soda Mountain Solar Project? I appreciate your assistance with this project!

Best,
Hannah

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 3:27:51 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; 'afrancois@blm.gov' <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM Cultural files

Hi Hannah and Alexis Francois,

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It makes a difference if the record search files were supposed to be in either appendix or if they weren't. Staff will need them. If they were supposed to be part of either appendix, then we don't have access to it yet and can't signal that the application has been completely submitted and is accessible.

Thanks,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov


STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENERGY COMMISSION

Sent: 8/1/2024 10:36:29 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N [afrancois@blm.gov]; Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]; Roger Hatheway [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=320e3daadd884f89bba45f499c3e8612-f57fd1cf-d6]; Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
CC: Lauren DeOliveira [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=59b95046bca34d92ac4e6f09cfc85b02-e4a00264-59]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

Hi Hannah,

Bringing you into this conversation.

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:24 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

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This is all the data I have been able to find from predecessors recovered files. I will continue to search for additional information in our physical docket room in-office.

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:20 PM
To: Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

I suspected that was the case, just looking at the page count of the files.

Lisa, are we sure we want to start the clock knowing that we are missing such a big piece of the required application material?

Roger and Lauren, the plus side to starting the clock now is that we will have 30 days to review the completeness of the records search materials, since that will be a data request in our data (in)completeness recommendation. Maybe we should just go with it.

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Roger Hatheway <RHatheway@aspeneg.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:18 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

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I just took a quick look, and unless I am missing something, copies of the original site records and reports do not appear to have been docketed.

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:02 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Roger Hatheway <RHatheway@aspeneg.com>; Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

Great. Thanks.

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:01 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

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Yes that is the correct amount.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:00:33 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- cultural files

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Alexis,

I have 7 pdfs downloaded. Is that the correct amount?
TN258195_20240730T140839_Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management
20240801T120535_Soda Solar Blue Bell Mine Survey
20240801T120524_Soda_Mountain_Solar_HRA
20240730T140849_Cultural Resources Inventory 2013
20240730T140840_Cultural Inventory Report 2009
20240723T124841_Confidential H Appendix A and B
20240723T124839_Confidential D1 Appendix C

Please confirm I have it all.

Thanks,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov



To: Rodriguez, Magdalena@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4f4ad51c29814356b0c486d7bbf5aefa-WildlifeMag]; Ellsworth, Alisa@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3d237d12712944c6a4e00bb8f0489ecd-WildlifeAli]; Calvert, Heidi@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=dfec6a2d0599454d9cfdb19c10daefc1-WildlifeHei]; Sharma, Shankar@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ff57c77ed43c4a89b8604d77f99a3104-WildlifeSha]; Branch, Alexander(Harllee)@Wildlife [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=efe78fbc6c1e408da007e97ea1d8cdf6-WildlifeHar]
CC: Chris Huntley [Chuntley@aspeneg.com]; Jamison Miner [jminer@aspeneg.com]; Justin Wood [jwood@aspeneg.com]; Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: CDFW Notification of Receipt of Opt-in application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) per MOU
Attachments: SodaMountain_MOU Agencies Notice of Application Receipt.pdf

Hello,

This email serves as notification of receipt of an Opt-in application under Public Resources Code 25519 for the proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03). This project is proposed in San Bernardino County, California. The attached letter outlines project information and your responsibilities under Assembly Bill 205.

Chris Huntley, Jamison Miner, and Justin Wood (Aspen) will be your technical staff contacts for Biological Resources. They will reach out to you to discuss the data completeness worksheet and data request format. We will include any data requests you have of the applicant in our Data Completeness Letter that will be posted to the proceeding's docket. Eric Knight is the acting unit supervisor.

If you have any technical questions, please contact Chris, Jamison, Justin, and Eric. If you have questions about the project in general or about the Opt-in process, please contact me.

This information should be provided within 15-days per the MOU, which falls on Friday August 16, 2024.
We appreciate your timely responses and look forward to coordinating with you as the evaluation moves forward.

Thank you,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov


STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENERGY COMMISSION
SINCE 1974

August 1, 2024

Notice of Receipt of Opt-In Application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)/ Request for Comments and Information

This letter serves as notice pursuant to the California Energy Commission (CEC) Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and California State Water Resources Control Board and the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards (collectively, the Water Boards) that Soda Mountain Solar, LLC ("Applicant"), has requested that the CEC staff commence data completeness review of the Soda Mountain Solar Project (project) (24-OPT-03) opt-in application. Files associated with the application were uploaded to the project docket (24-OPT-03) from July 23 through August 1, 2024. The associated fee for processing the application has been received by CEC. Based on the record present in the project docket, the effective filing date is confirmed as August 1, 2024. Pursuant to Public Resources Code, section 25545.4(a), CEC staff will review the application and the CEC's Executive Director will make a determination of completeness within 30 days of the filing of the application. The Executive Director will respond to the request for a completeness determination on or before September 3, 2024.

The project webpage can be accessed at the following link: https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/solar-photovoltaic-pv/soda-mountain-solar-project. To stay informed about this project and receive notice of upcoming public meetings, sign up to the project subscription, which can be accessed on the project webpage. Once enrolled, automatic email notifications are sent via govDelivery when documents and notices are posted to the project's docket.

The entire application can be accessed at the following link: https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-OPT-03. Given the number of individual documents involved, sharing this link to the docket constitutes sharing the application files. Please contact us if you have trouble accessing any documents.

The CEC staff is now conducting a "Data Completeness" review of the application using data completeness worksheets that track information required under California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1877 and data requests for any areas that are incomplete or require additional information, or a clarification of information is required.

Pursuant to the MOUs, your agency is obligated to provide information supporting the CEC staff's application completeness determination. This critical period is the opportunity that your agency has to ensure it has all the information it needs pursuant

to the MOU, including the baseline data and proposed mitigation to evaluate the project's direct, indirect and cumulative impacts and its compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards, and provide permit conditions for this application. Also, during this period you will need to make all data requests for this project through CEC staff (e.g., clarification of information, requests for information, etc.) to ensure that the application has what your agency would need to issue a permit or for the CEC to issue an in-lieu permit. The CEC staff in the areas of Biological Resources, Water Resources, and Hazards and Hazardous Materials will reach out to you to coordinate on the data completeness review by the CEC and MOU agencies and are copied in this email.

The following is the relevant language on your agency's obligations to provide information supporting the CEC's completeness determination pursuant to the MOUs. Here is the relevant language from the CDFW MOU: "Within 15 days of receipt of an opt-in application, CDFW will review the opt-in application to determine whether it contains all the information required to assess compliance with applicable California Fish and Wildlife Laws; CDFW will identify and notify Energy Commission staff in writing of any data deficiencies and discuss proposed studies or outstanding data necessary to correct such deficiencies."

The applicable language for the Water Boards is: "Within 15 days of receipt of the application for certification, Water Boards' staff will review the application for certification to determine whether it contains all the information required to apply for the following permits, if applicable: Waste Discharge Requirements, NPDES Permits, and/or a Section 401 Certification or Waiver from the Regional Board; and Water Boards' staff will identify and notify Energy Commission staff of any data deficiencies."

The applicable language for DTSC is: "DTSC staff will make best efforts to review the application of certification within 15 to 25 days to determine whether it contains all the information required for an assessment of the following and whether applicable: waste generation and storage standards, site remediation, and waste reduction requirements; DTSC staff will identify and notify Energy Commission staff of any data deficiencies."

Please use the relevant portions of the Data Completeness sheets which correspond to the issues of interest to your agency and your permitting authorities, to guide your review of the application and preparation of data requests for areas of the application with incomplete or missing information. We will incorporate your data requests into the Executive Director's completeness determination. In addition, please provide any other information consistent with the language from the MOUs copied above.

For CDFW and the Water Boards, this information should be provided within 15 days per the MOUs, which falls on Friday August 16, 2024.

For DTSC this information should be provided within 15-25 days per the MOU, which ranges from Friday August 16 to Monday 26, 2024.

We appreciate your timely responses and look forward to coordinating with you as the evaluation moves forward.

Lisa Worrall
Project Manager
California Energy Commission
lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

SMSP00207

Sent: 8/1/2024 11:16:15 PM
To: Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=67ab2660d3724727a6074450f5a5e96d-DTSCWLorent]; Koch, Lori@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3269442b99e4b6eac71ca1ce19d5078-DTSCLKoch]; Ferouz, Muzhda@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5970a2c9e7942c19e64ec8ca6a4b057-DTSCMFerouz]
CC: Paul Miller [pmiller@therchgroup.com]; Jeff Harvey [jharvey@therchgroup.com]; Fooks, Brett@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=870df74143964b71ada0039bf13c5a9a-Fooks, Bret]; Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: DTSC Notification of Receipt of Opt-in application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) per MOU

Hello,

This email serves as notification of receipt of an Opt-in application under Public Resources Code 25519 for the proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03). This project is proposed in San Bernardino County, California. The attached letter outlines project information and your responsibilities under Assembly Bill 205.

Jeffrey Harvey and Paul Miller (Aspen) will be your technical staff contacts for Hazardous Materials. They will reach out to you to discuss the data completeness worksheet and data request format. We will include any data requests you have of the applicant in our Data Completeness Letter that will be posted to the proceeding's docket. Brett Fooks is the unit supervisor.

If you have any technical questions, please contact Jeffrey, Paul, and Brett. If you have questions about the project in general or about the Opt-in process, please contact me.

This information should be provided within 15-25 days per the MOU, which ranges from Friday August 16 to Monday August 26, 2024.

We appreciate your timely responses and look forward to coordinating with you as the evaluation moves forward.

Thank you,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

From: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Sent: 8/1/2024 3:40:51 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]
Subject: Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) contact for LADWP

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Lisa,

Yes, here is the contact information for LADWP staff:

- **Dennis Lei**, Electrical Engineering Associate, (213) 668-4580, Dennis.Lei@ladwp.com, 111 N. Hope St. Los Angeles CA 90012
- **Faranak Sarbaz**, Power Engineer Manager, (213) 367-4211, Faranak.Sarbaz@ladwp.com, 111 N. Hope St. Los Angeles CA 90012
- **Sunaja Lakshman**, Electrical Engineer, (213) 367-3281, Sunaja.Lakshman@ladwp.com, 111 N. Hope St. Los Angeles CA 90012
- **Tin Ha**, Electrical Engineering Associate, (213) 367-2456, Tin.Ha@ladwp.com, 111 N. Hope St. Los Angeles CA 90012

Thanks!
Hannah

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 4:29 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) contact for LADWP

Hi Hannah,

Do you have any contact information for LADWP staff?

Thanks,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

From: Fredieu, Pamela@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=3539CC476C1F4597AF4EBB6024EB875E-FREDIEU, PA]
Sent: 8/1/2024 6:10:13 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N [afrancois@blm.gov]
CC: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]; Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]
Subject: Re: 24-OPT-03

please call me at 916-461-5512.

Let's work this out hopefully.

Thank you,

Pamela Fredieu (she/her)
Legal Secretary
Chief Counsel's Office
California Energy Commission
1-916-645-3951

California Energy Commission
Website: www.energy.ca.gov

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 11:05 AM
To: Fredieu, Pamela@Energy <Pamela.Fredieu@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: 24-OPT-03

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Pamela,
I was directed to you by Lisa to inquire about the docket documents I submitted for 24-OPT-03. I attempted to submit additional documents yesterday and today but I received an error stating that these documents were already submitted. I had originally submitted these documents but they were rejected due to their format, so my reattempt was to provide the correct formatted documents. Can you please advise on how I can move forward?

Alexis Francois, M.A.

Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=ED87FF1E22CD49F3AAFF644C82538D46-ROARK, GABR]
Sent: 7/26/2024 12:00:58 AM
To: 'Francois, Alexis N' [afrancois@blm.gov]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Just in the nick of time! Happy weekend to you.

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 4:57 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I uploaded everything but the original GIS data which I have attached here. Please let me know if you have any questions on the files, I labeled them by year so you could quickly tell the new from the old.

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 4:39 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Okay, I sent you an upload link from our ftp service, Kiteworks. Have a great weekend!

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 4:29 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We will need to use the FTP, the older reports are definite too big for an email to accomodate.

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 3:53 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

You can send it directly to me, Alexis. I apologize for my colleagues sending you on this confidentiality runaround.

We have an ftp service if the file size is too large to email.

Thanks,

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 3:48 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Perfect, I will draft a memo stating what is confidential, which is literally just all of it. Do I still upload it to the CEC docket website or send directly to you?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 3:40 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

I am in a meeting now but just received this from my counsel:

Here is what our regs say regarding confidential records coming from another governmental agency. Section 2505

(b) Governmental Entities. When another federal, state, regional, or local agency or state-created private entity, such as the California Independent System Operator, possesses information pertinent to the responsibilities of the Commission that has been designated by that agency as confidential under the Public Records Act, or the Freedom of Information Act, the Commission, the Executive Director, or the Chief Counsel may request, and the agency shall **submit the information to the Commission without an application for confidential designation. The Commission shall designate this information confidential.**

If BLM can provide the records with a letter identifying what parts of the record are confidential and if a public summary can be docketed that would be adequate. I suspect that location information of resources is the main concern so maybe only maps and location information needs to be protected.

So, we don't need to do the confidential filing thing.

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 3:32 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Gabriel,
My power is finally back on and I just wanted to confirm that the first document for the upload, the confidentiality request, is just a letter/memo including the information on page 2 of the CEC-13 Application?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:56 AM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Okay, Alexis, follow this link:
https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx?perms=1&returnurl=http%3a%2f%2fefiling.energy.ca.gov%2fdefault.aspx

If you do not already have an efiling account use the "Register as a New User" button.

Holler if you need additional assistance.

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:45 AM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Gabe,
I have gathered all of the documents we discussed for the docket. I have reviewed both the attachments to begin the confidentiality request but I do not have the link to the actual website to get that started as shown on page 3 section 2 in the efiling instructions document. Can you please direct me?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 8:14 AM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Good morning,

Attached, you will find filing instructions for uploading documents to our project dockets, including filing confidential cultural resources documents. By filing confidential documents in this manner, other parties to the proposed Soda Mountain project and the public will be aware that confidential cultural resource documents exist, while being unable to access them. The Docket Number for Soda Mountain is 24-OPT-03. Once filed, I will be able to arrange for Lauren's access to the confidential files.

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Best regards,

Gabriel

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)

Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:12 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Alexis,

Yes, absolutely. Whatever time works best for you tomorrow is fine with me.

Thank you!

Lauren DeOliveira, M.S., RPA

Cultural Resources Group Manager

Aspen Environmental Group

Office: 818-338-6625

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:09 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Hello Gabriel,
Thank you for the notification. I will work with Lauren and provide the necessary data the BLM Barstow Field Office is in possession of to complete these obligations. Lauren, do you have availability tomorrow afternoon to discuss?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 1:36 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>

Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good afternoon,

I supervise the CEC's Cultural Resources Unit and we have contracted with Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen) to prepare the cultural and tribal cultural resources analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act and our Opt-in Program. Aspen archaeologist and Cultural Resources Group Leader, Lauren DeOliveira, is the lead analyst for this work. If the Bureau of Land Management needs additional information from Aspen or the CEC to share the Soda Mountain cultural resources documents, please let us know. Otherwise, please coordinate directly with Lauren. Her email address is in the "To" field of this email.

Note that the Opt-in data requirements for cultural and tribal cultural resources documentation is very specific, representing the bare-minimum information that the CEC and its contractors need to review the application for completeness and analyze the proposed Soda Mountain project. Our data completeness requirements extend to the records search data, as codified in Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 1704, Appendix B(g)(2)(B):

"The results of a literature search to identify cultural resources and tribal cultural resources within an area not less than a 1-mile radius around the project site and not less that than one-quarter (0.25) mile on each side of the linear facilities. Identify any cultural resources or tribal cultural resources listed pursuant to ordinance by a city or county or recognized by any local historical or archaeological society or museum. Literature searches to identify the above cultural resources and tribal cultural resources must be completed by, or under the direction of, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Standards for the technical area addressed.

Copies of California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms (Title 14 CCR section 4853) shall be provided for all cultural resources and tribal cultural resources (ethnographic, architectural, historical, and archaeological) identified in the literature search as being 45 years or older or of exceptional importance as defined in the National Register Bulletin Guidelines, (36CFR60.4(g)). A copy of the USGS 75-minute quadrangle map of the literature search area delineating the areas of all past surveys and noting the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) identifying number shall be provided. Copies also shall be provided of all technical reports whose survey coverage is wholly or partly within 0.25 mile of the area surveyed for the project under section (g)(2)(C), or which report on any archaeological excavations or architectural surveys within the literature search area."

Many thanks,

Gabriel

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Cultural Resources Unit
Safety & Reliability Branch
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division
1-916-237-2544

California Energy Commission
Website: www.energy.ca.gov



From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
Sent: 8/1/2024 5:53:22 PM
To: 'afrancois@blm.gov' [afrancois@blm.gov]
CC: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]; Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]; Lauren DeOliveira [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=59b95046bca34d92ac4e6f09cfc85b02-e4a00264-59]; Roger Hatheway [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=320e3daadd884f89bba45f499c3e8612-f57fd1cf-d6]; Tom Murphy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=463dbdcbf27b4e0c941a172dd16d9dd1-4a1c3ea9-3b]
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FW: 1 Document(s) filed in Soda Mountain Solar, 24-OPT-03, Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management

Hi Alexis,

I inquired about the status of your filing yesterday and Pamela Fredieu with the Docket Unit did not see any filing yesterday. I suggest you reach out to her so she can assist you with the remaining filings.

Thanks,

Lisa

From: Fredieu, Pamela@Energy <Pamela.Fredieu@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 10:48 AM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Camberos, Blanca@Energy <Blanca.Camberos@Energy.ca.gov>; Brewer, Marianna@Energy <Marianna.Brewer@Energy.ca.gov>; Energy - Docket Optical System <docket@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: 1 Document(s) filed in Soda Mountain Solar, 24-OPT-03, Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management

Lisa:

The one listed is the only one that has been received and docketed in the past 3 days. Nothing else has been submitted.

TN # 258195 and show that it was published on 7/30/24

Thank you,
Docket Unit Staff

Pamela Fredieu (she/her)

Legal Secretary

Chief Counsel's Office

California Energy Commission

1-916-645-3951

California Energy Commission

Website: www.energy.ca.gov

From: Energy - Docket Optical System <docket@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 10:39 AM
To: Brewer, Marianna@Energy <Marianna.Brewer@Energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Fredieu, Pamela@Energy <Pamela.Fredieu@energy.ca.gov>; Camberos, Blanca@Energy <Blanca.Camberos@Energy.ca.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FW: 1 Document(s) filed in Soda Mountain Solar, 24-OPT-03, Confidential Docket Request - Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management

Hi Marianna,

The email below came into the Docket email box a little while ago and I think it is in reference to something you were working on for her yesterday, so I am forwarding it to you.

I tried to help her, but I'm not sure what was all involved.

Thanks,

Wendi

Wendi DuBose

Legal Assistant

Chief Counsel's Office

California Energy Commission

Wendi.Dubose@energy.ca.gov

916-314-3924

www.energy.ca.gov



From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 9:44 AM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System <docket@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: 1 Document(s) filed in Soda Mountain Solar, 24-OPT-03, Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management

No. Apparently BLM submitted confidential documents yesterday (afternoon, probably). See the email from BLM below for more details.

From: Energy - Docket Optical System <docket@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 9:37 AM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: 1 Document(s) filed in Soda Mountain Solar, 24-OPT-03, Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management

Hi Lisa,

I have TN # 258195 and show that it was published on 7/30/24. Is this the one that's in question?

Thanks,

Docket Staff

Docket Unit

California Energy Commission

www.energy.ca.gov



From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 9:01 AM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System <docket@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FW: 1 Document(s) filed in Soda Mountain Solar, 24-OPT-03, Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management

Can you advise. Thanks.

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 8:32 AM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: 1 Document(s) filed in Soda Mountain Solar, 24-OPT-03, Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management

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I attempted to resubmit the other documents with the edited confidentiality letter to reflect the submission but the system noted that these documents were already on file. It seems like you all have everything you need at this time, if not please clarify what exactly needs to be submitted.

Alexis Francois, M.A.

Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office

2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311

(760) 252-6015-Office

Call Sign: 6880

I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 10:39 AM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roger Hatheway <rhatheway@aspeneg.com>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: 1 Document(s) filed in Soda Mountain Solar, 24-OPT-03, Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management

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Hi Alexis,

When you submitted this to the docket, did you submit all the documents listed in this letter? If not, you will need to file the ones you didn't file yesterday after this letter. You will also need to submit another letter to list the remaining files that you will be submitting.

These are the only documents that I see were submitted to the docket.

Cultural Inventory Report 2009 Cultural Inventory Report 2009 for Soda Mtn Solar 70 page(s)		CEC/Drew Brohan	Bureau of Land Management
Cultural Resources Inventory 2013		CEC/Drew Brohan	Bureau of Land Management

Cultural resources inventory report for additional survey for soda mountain solar 19 page(s)			

The CEC network is still having issues, but you might be able to docket. We can't access confidential files yet.

Thanks,

Lisa

From: California Energy Commission <CEC@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 2:49 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: 1 Document(s) filed in Soda Mountain Solar, 24-OPT-03, Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management

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View as a webpage/ Share



Dear Subscribers,

The following 1 Document(s) submitted to Docket Number **24-OPT-03** have been published:

Docket Number: 24-OPT-03
Project Title: Soda Mountain Solar
TN Number: 258195
Title: Confidential Docket Request -Soda Mountain_Bureau of Land Management
Description:
Filer: Alexis Francois
Organization: Bureau of Land Management
Role: Public Agency
Submission Date: 7/30/2024 2:08:53 PM
Docketed Date: 7/30/2024
Subject(s):
Submission Type: Document
Page(s): 2

Thank you,
07/30/2024 14:47:54.329

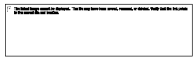
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715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



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This email was sent to lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov from the California Natural Resources Agency utilizing govDelivery. California Natural Resources Agency, 715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



From: Lauren DeOliveira [Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com]
Sent: 7/31/2024 7:43:21 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N [afrancois@blm.gov]; Roark, Gabriel@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed87ff1e22cd49f3aaff644c82538d46-Roark, Gabr]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for the update, Alexis!

Lauren DeOliveira, M.S., RPA
Cultural Resources Group Manager
Aspen Environmental Group
Office: 818-338-6625

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 12:39 PM
To: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

This is the response I got regarding the report and data from the 2023 survey

The report associated with the 2023 FWA FA-680-23-0009 is technically the first draft of this current one. We're using the same BLM Report number as you had requested back then (FA-680-23-0009).

Basically, in 2023 we only did a reconnaissance survey of the areas where the solar arrays would be. I'll upload the 2023 report in that same sharepoint folder so you can compare. We didn't provide you with the GIS data and I believe it probably was because we didn't do a Class III, but rather a reconnaissance survey.

This current 2024 report and GIS data contains everything that was reported in 2023 from the recon. survey plus the additional Class III work that we did under the 2024 FWA.

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 9:55 AM
To: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Sounds great, thank you!

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 9:54:38 AM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

No problem, Gabriel.

Alexis, I'll send out a meeting invite for Wednesday.

Thanks!

Lauren DeOliveira, M.S., RPA
Cultural Resources Group Manager
Aspen Environmental Group
Office: 818-338-6625

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:44 AM
To: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Good morning,

I suggest that you two meet without me. I have a public workshop on Wednesday and am out of the office on Thursday as well. Lauren has my full confidence.

Cheers,

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:32 AM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

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Thank you, Alexis!

Gabriel, does Wednesday work for you?

Lauren DeOliveira, M.S., RPA
Cultural Resources Group Manager
Aspen Environmental Group
Office: 818-338-6625

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 6:39 AM

To: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Hi Lauren,
I am available Wednesday after 9am through noon and after 2pm. Let me know if any of those times work or if I need to propose more.

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 2:11 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Hi Alexis,

Do you have some time next week to meet with me and Gabriel again about Soda Mountain? We'd like explain our initial thoughts about the Class III and get your take as well.

Also, did SWCA submit a Class I to BLM?

Thank you, and happy Friday!

Lauren DeOliveira, M.S., RPA
Cultural Resources Group Manager
Aspen Environmental Group
Office: 818-338-6625

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 9:34 AM
To: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

They just sent me over the GIS data but I can definitely send over the draft report to the docket. And yes I'm available this afternoon, feel free to send an invite!

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 9:31:55 AM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Hi Alexis,

Thank you so much for the call this morning. I just spoke with Gabriel and certainly, copies of the 2009 and 2013 reports will be helpful. We also talked about the situation with the 2024 cultural data, and we think it would be beneficial for us to get eyes on the draft document just to be sure the applicant's consultant has met all of CEC's survey requirements. We want to ensure we are being mindful of your time and not requiring the consultant to conduct additional survey work later down the road (and needing new FAs) because they didn't meet CEC requirements initially.

We can certainly jump on a call and explain a bit more if you have 30 mins to spare either this afternoon or anytime between 11 am-2:00 pm tomorrow. Just let me know what time works best for you and I'll schedule a Teams meeting with the three of us.

Thanks so much!

Lauren DeOliveira, M.S., RPA
Cultural Resources Group Manager
Aspen Environmental Group
Office: 818-338-6625

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 8:16 AM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Thank you Gabriel!

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 8:14 AM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Good morning,

Attached, you will find filing instructions for uploading documents to our project dockets, including filing confidential cultural resources documents. By filing confidential documents in this manner, other parties to the proposed Soda Mountain project and the public will be aware that confidential cultural resource documents exist, while being unable to access them. The Docket Number for Soda Mountain is 24-OPT-03. Once filed, I will be able to arrange for Lauren's access to the confidential files.

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Best regards,

Gabriel

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

From: Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:12 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

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Hi Alexis,

Yes, absolutely. Whatever time works best for you tomorrow is fine with me.

Thank you!

Lauren DeOliveira, M.S., RPA
Cultural Resources Group Manager
Aspen Environmental Group
Office: 818-338-6625

From: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:09 PM
To: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <Ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>
Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

Hello Gabriel,
Thank you for the notification. I will work with Lauren and provide the necessary data the BLM Barstow Field Office is in possession of to complete these obligations. Lauren, do you have availability tomorrow afternoon to discuss?

Alexis Francois, M.A.
Archaeologist, BLM-Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd. Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6015-Office
Call Sign: 6880
I work a Maxi-flex schedule, with Mon-Thurs, 6:30 am - 5 pm as my core hours

---

From: Roark, Gabriel@Energy <gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 1:36 PM
To: Francois, Alexis N <afrancois@blm.gov>; Lauren DeOliveira <ldeoliveira@aspeneg.com>

Cc: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Soda Mountain Confidential Cultural Resources Documents

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Good afternoon,

I supervise the CEC's Cultural Resources Unit and we have contracted with Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen) to prepare the cultural and tribal cultural resources analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act and our Opt-in Program. Aspen archaeologist and Cultural Resources Group Leader, Lauren DeOliveira, is the lead analyst for this work. If the Bureau of Land Management needs additional information from Aspen or the CEC to share the Soda Mountain cultural resources documents, please let us know. Otherwise, please coordinate directly with Lauren. Her email address is in the "To" field of this email.

Note that the Opt-in data requirements for cultural and tribal cultural resources documentation is very specific, representing the bare-minimum information that the CEC and its contractors need to review the application for completeness and analyze the proposed Soda Mountain project. Our data completeness requirements extend to the records search data, as codified in Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 1704, Appendix B(g)(2)(B):

"The results of a literature search to identify cultural resources and tribal cultural resources within an area not less than a 1-mile radius around the project site and not less that than one-quarter (0.25) mile on each side of the linear facilities. Identify any cultural resources or tribal cultural resources listed pursuant to ordinance by a city or county or recognized by any local historical or archaeological society or museum. Literature searches to identify the above cultural resources and tribal cultural resources must be completed by, or under the direction of, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Standards for the technical area addressed.

Copies of California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms (Title 14 CCR section 4853) shall be provided for all cultural resources and tribal cultural resources (ethnographic, architectural, historical, and archaeological) identified in the literature search as being 45 years or older or of exceptional importance as defined in the National Register Bulletin Guidelines, (36CFR60.4(g)). A copy of the USGS 75-minute quadrangle map of the literature search area delineating the areas of all past surveys and noting the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) identifying number shall be provided. Copies also shall be provided of all technical reports whose survey coverage is wholly or partly within 0.25 mile of the area surveyed for the project under section (g)(2)(C), or which report on any archaeological excavations or architectural surveys within the literature search area."

Many thanks,

Gabriel

Gabriel Roark (he/him/his)
Supervisor & Assistant Tribal Liaison

Cultural Resources Unit
Safety & Reliability Branch
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division
1-916-237-2544

California Energy Commission
Website: www.energy.ca.gov



From: White, Adam@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D64512C47C48429DBDCF6845422B6BD1-74F7464F-8C]
Sent: 8/8/2024 2:47:37 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6a535479ac2448c29afb308a1cd6fede-Waterboards]; Crader, Phillip@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7210c7994d3941d4a5501541b6a379f1-Waterboards]; Steinert, Tiffany@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=fdbc9163bf404f4d84f0a53c6ed84ab0-Waterboards]; McCann, Lisa@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7d5473ae9c748d69e0d530034014f87-Waterboards]
CC: Abulaban, Abdel-Karim@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c1ff1d38281a4068b2708271d22c0d94-Abulaban, A]; Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]; Guerra, Christina@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3c08929c117e4da5bfb45f48fa749c0a-Waterboards]
Subject: RE: Waterboards Notification of Receipt of Opt-in application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) per MOU
Importance: Low

Jan- Please let your staff know to contact me if they have questions about accessing the docket. I have already reached out earlier this week and spoke with Tiffany to coordinate. Also, Lisa McCann, you were listed in the application. Please let us know if you need to be included in future emails (and yes I am the same Adam White from the Central Coast Region 3) .

Also, for clarification, the Mojave Water Agency contact is for an issue related to project water supply, not waste discharge.

Adam White
Associate Civil Engineer
Geo Sciences Unit
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division

California Energy Commission
Website: www.energy.ca.gov

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 4:59 PM
To: Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards <jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov>; Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>; Steinert, Tiffany@Waterboards <Tiffany.Steinert@Waterboards.ca.gov>; McCann, Lisa@Waterboards <Lisa.McCann@waterboards.ca.gov>
Cc: White, Adam@Energy <Adam.White@Energy.ca.gov>; Abulaban, Abdel-Karim@Energy <Abdel-Karim.Abulaban@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>; Guerra, Christina@Waterboards <Christina.Guerra@waterboards.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Waterboards Notification of Receipt of Opt-in application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) per MOU

Hello Jan,

The links for the project website, project docket, and project description were in the attached letter.

Here is the link to the project website: https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/solar-photovoltaic-pv/soda-mountain-solar-project

From this link, it is easy to access the other links.

I also sent notification to the Watermaster Services Manager, Jeffrey D. Ruesch with the Mojave Water District and Adam has already begun coordination with him.

Regards,

Lisa

From: Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards <jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 4:17 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>; Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>; Steinert, Tiffany@Waterboards <Tiffany.Steinert@Waterboards.ca.gov>; McCann, Lisa@Waterboards <Lisa.McCann@waterboards.ca.gov>
Cc: White, Adam@Energy <Adam.White@Energy.ca.gov>; Abulaban, Abdel-Karim@Energy <Abdel-Karim.Abulaban@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>; Guerra, Christina@Waterboards <Christina.Guerra@waterboards.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Waterboards Notification of Receipt of Opt-in application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) per MOU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for the notification. For the Regional Board, Tiffany Steinert and her supervisor Christina Guerra will be your technical contacts and are assigned to review and comment on the project. They will reach out to Adam separately to coordinate. Please provide us with links to application documentation so that we can begin reviewing and evaluating the project for water quality.

Thank you.

Jan Zimmerman, PG
Supervising Engineering Geologist
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
760/241-7376, desk; 760/553-4989, cell
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 2, 2024 8:39 AM
To: Crader, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Crader@waterboards.ca.gov>; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards <jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov>; Steinert, Tiffany@Waterboards <Tiffany.Steinert@Waterboards.ca.gov>; McCann, Lisa@Waterboards <Lisa.McCann@waterboards.ca.gov>
Cc: White, Adam@Energy <Adam.White@Energy.ca.gov>; Abulaban, Abdel-Karim@Energy <Abdel-Karim.Abulaban@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Waterboards Notification of Receipt of Opt-in application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) per MOU

Caution: External Email. Use caution when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact DIT or use the Phish Alert Button.

Hello,

This email serves as notification of receipt of an Opt-in application under Public Resources Code 25519 for the proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03). This project is proposed in San Bernardino County, California. The attached letter outlines project information and your responsibilities under Assembly Bill 205.

Adam White will be your technical staff contact for Water Resources. He will reach out to you to discuss the data completeness worksheet and data request format. We will include any data requests you have of the applicant in our Data Completeness Letter that will be posted to the proceeding's docket. Abdel-Karim (Karim) Abulaban is the unit supervisor.

If you have any technical questions, please contact Adam and Karim. If you have questions about the project in general or about the Opt-in process, please contact me.

This information should be provided within 15-days per the MOU, which falls on Friday August 16, 2024.
We appreciate your timely responses and look forward to coordinating with you as the evaluation moves forward.

Thank you,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
Sent: 8/2/2024 3:38:46 PM
To: Crader, Phillip@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7210c7994d3941d4a5501541b6a379f1-Waterboards]; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6a535479ac2448c29afb308a1cd6fede-Waterboards]; Steinert, Tiffany@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=fdbc9163bf404f4d84f0a53c6ed84ab0-Waterboards]; McCann, Lisa@Waterboards [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7d5473ae9c748d69e0d530034014f87-Waterboards]
CC: White, Adam@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d64512c47c48429dbdcf6845422b6bd1-74f7464f-8c]; Abulaban, Abdel-Karim@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c1ff1d38281a4068b2708271d22c0d94-Abulaban, A]; Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: Waterboards Notification of Receipt of Opt-in application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) per MOU
Attachments: SodaMountain_MOU Agencies Notice of Application Receipt.pdf

Hello,

This email serves as notification of receipt of an Opt-in application under Public Resources Code 25519 for the proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03). This project is proposed in San Bernardino County, California. The attached letter outlines project information and your responsibilities under Assembly Bill 205.

Adam White will be your technical staff contact for Water Resources. He will reach out to you to discuss the data completeness worksheet and data request format. We will include any data requests you have of the applicant in our Data Completeness Letter that will be posted to the proceeding's docket. Abdel-Karim (Karim) Abulaban is the unit supervisor.

If you have any technical questions, please contact Adam and Karim. If you have questions about the project in general or about the Opt-in process, please contact me.

This information should be provided within 15-days per the MOU, which falls on Friday August 16, 2024.
We appreciate your timely responses and look forward to coordinating with you as the evaluation moves forward.

Thank you,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov


STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENERGY COMMISSION
SINCE 1974

August 2, 2024

Notice of Receipt of Opt-In Application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)/ Request for Comments and Information

This letter serves as notice pursuant to the California Energy Commission (CEC) Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and California State Water Resources Control Board and the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards (collectively, the Water Boards) that Soda Mountain Solar, LLC ("Applicant"), has requested that the CEC staff commence data completeness review of the Soda Mountain Solar Project (project) (24-OPT-03) opt-in application. Files associated with the application were uploaded to the project docket (24-OPT-03) from July 23 through August 1, 2024. The associated fee for processing the application has been received by CEC. Based on the record present in the project docket, the effective filing date is confirmed as August 1, 2024. Pursuant to Public Resources Code, section 25545.4(a), CEC staff will review the application and the CEC's Executive Director will make a determination of completeness within 30 days of the filing of the application. The Executive Director will respond to the request for a completeness determination on or before September 3, 2024.

The project webpage can be accessed at the following link: https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/solar-photovoltaic-pv/soda-mountain-solar-project. To stay informed about this project and receive notice of upcoming public meetings, sign up to the project subscription, which can be accessed on the project webpage. Once enrolled, automatic email notifications are sent via govDelivery when documents and notices are posted to the project's docket.

The entire application can be accessed at the following link: https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-OPT-03. Given the number of individual documents involved, sharing this link to the docket constitutes sharing the application files. Please contact us if you have trouble accessing any documents.

The CEC staff is now conducting a "Data Completeness" review of the application using data completeness worksheets that track information required under California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1877 and data requests for any areas that are incomplete or require additional information, or a clarification of information is required.

Pursuant to the MOUs, your agency is obligated to provide information supporting the CEC staff's application completeness determination. This critical period is the opportunity that your agency has to ensure it has all the information it needs pursuant

to the MOU, including the baseline data and proposed mitigation to evaluate the project's direct, indirect and cumulative impacts and its compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards, and provide permit conditions for this application. Also, during this period you will need to make all data requests for this project through CEC staff (e.g., clarification of information, requests for information, etc.) to ensure that the application has what your agency would need to issue a permit or for the CEC to issue an in-lieu permit. The CEC staff in the areas of Biological Resources, Water Resources, and Hazards and Hazardous Materials will reach out to you to coordinate on the data completeness review by the CEC and MOU agencies and are copied in this email.

The following is the relevant language on your agency's obligations to provide information supporting the CEC's completeness determination pursuant to the MOUs. Here is the relevant language from the CDFW MOU: "Within 15 days of receipt of an opt-in application, CDFW will review the opt-in application to determine whether it contains all the information required to assess compliance with applicable California Fish and Wildlife Laws; CDFW will identify and notify Energy Commission staff in writing of any data deficiencies and discuss proposed studies or outstanding data necessary to correct such deficiencies."

The applicable language for the Water Boards is: "Within 15 days of receipt of the application for certification, Water Boards' staff will review the application for certification to determine whether it contains all the information required to apply for the following permits, if applicable: Waste Discharge Requirements, NPDES Permits, and/or a Section 401 Certification or Waiver from the Regional Board; and Water Boards' staff will identify and notify Energy Commission staff of any data deficiencies."

The applicable language for DTSC is: "DTSC staff will make best efforts to review the application of certification within 15 to 25 days to determine whether it contains all the information required for an assessment of the following and whether applicable: waste generation and storage standards, site remediation, and waste reduction requirements; DTSC staff will identify and notify Energy Commission staff of any data deficiencies."

Please use the relevant portions of the Data Completeness sheets which correspond to the issues of interest to your agency and your permitting authorities, to guide your review of the application and preparation of data requests for areas of the application with incomplete or missing information. We will incorporate your data requests into the Executive Director's completeness determination. In addition, please provide any other information consistent with the language from the MOUs copied above.

For CDFW and the Water Boards, this information should be provided within 15 days per the MOUs, which falls on Friday August 16, 2024.

For DTSC this information should be provided within 15-25 days per the MOU, which ranges from Friday August 16 to Monday 26, 2024.

We appreciate your timely responses and look forward to coordinating with you as the evaluation moves forward.

Lisa Worrall
Project Manager
California Energy Commission
lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

SMSP00242

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
Sent: 8/2/2024 3:40:05 PM
To: Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=67ab2660d3724727a6074450f5a5e96d-DTSCWLorent]; Koch, Lori@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3269442b99e4b6eac71ca1ce19d5078-DTSCLKoch]; Ferouz, Muzhda@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5970a2c9e7942c19e64ec8ca6a4b057-DTSCMFerouz]
CC: Paul Miller [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4d4ce365f8bd442a8cb7d479381e2476-8906af8e-0e]; Jeff Harvey [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=52c190f26db14416a814461317c23a6a-e402137a-db]; Fooks, Brett@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=870df74143964b71ada0039bf13c5a9a-Fooks, Bret]; Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: DTSC Notification of Receipt of Opt-in application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) per MOU
Attachments: SodaMountain_MOU Agencies Notice of Application Receipt.pdf

Hello,

This email serves as notification of receipt of an Opt-in application under Public Resources Code 25519 for the proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03). This project is proposed in San Bernardino County, California. The attached letter outlines project information and your responsibilities under Assembly Bill 205.

Jeffrey Harvey and Paul Miller (Aspen) will be your technical staff contacts for Hazardous Materials. They will reach out to you to discuss the data completeness worksheet and data request format. We will include any data requests you have of the applicant in our Data Completeness Letter that will be posted to the proceeding's docket. Brett Fooks is the unit supervisor.

If you have any technical questions, please contact Jeffrey, Paul, and Brett. If you have questions about the project in general or about the Opt-in process, please contact me.

This information should be provided within 15-25 days per the MOU, which ranges from Friday August 16 to Monday August 26, 2024.

We appreciate your timely responses and look forward to coordinating with you as the evaluation moves forward.

Thank you,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov


STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENERGY COMMISSION
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From: Paul Miller [pmiller@therchgroup.com]
Sent: 8/8/2024 9:56:16 PM
To: Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=67ab2660d3724727a6074450f5a5e96d-DTSCWLorent]; Koch, Lori@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3269442b99e4b6eac71ca1ce19d5078-DTSCLKoch]; Ferouz, Muzhda@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5970a2c9e7942c19e64ec8ca6a4b057-DTSCMFerouz]
CC: Jeff Harvey [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=52c190f26db14416a814461317c23a6a-e402137a-db]; Fooks, Brett@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=870df74143964b71ada0039bf13c5a9a-Fooks, Bret]; Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]; Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]
Subject: RE: DTSC Notification of Receipt of Opt-in application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) per MOU
Attachments: SodaMountain_MOU Agencies Notice of Application Receipt.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Wayne,

Thank you for previously letting CEC know that you have no additional data requests for the Darden Clean Energy Project (23-OPT-02) and the Perkins Renewable Energy Project (24-OPT-01).

There are two other Opt-in project getting started. This email is for the Soda Mountain Solar Project.
https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/solar-photovoltaic-pv/soda-mountain-solar-project

I am reaching out now in anticipation of any data requests related to the Soda Mountain Solar Project – follow up from the email (from Lisa Worrall) of August 2nd (see below)

Jeffrey Harvey, Ph.D., and I will be leading the technical staff contact for Hazardous Materials.
For your convenience, I have reattached the letter from that email that discusses the MOU.

The applicable language for DTSC is: "DTSC staff will make best efforts to review the application of certification within 15 to 25 days to determine whether it contains all the information required for an assessment of the following and whether applicable: waste generation and storage standards, site remediation, and waste reduction requirements; DTSC staff will identify and notify Energy Commission staff of any data deficiencies."
For DTSC this information should be provided within 15-25 days per the MOU, which ranges from Friday August 16 to Monday August 26, 2024, therefore a response by Monday August 26, 2024 is appreciated.

Let me know if you have any questions about the application or questions related to data requests.

Paul Miller
Managing Principal
pmiller@TheRCHGroup.com
(916) 212-9600 Cell
(916) 782-4427 (All RCH Staff)

RCH GROUP
planning & environmental consulting

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 2, 2024 8:40 AM
To: Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC <Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov>; Koch, Lori@DTSC <Lori.Koch@dtsc.ca.gov>; Ferouz, Muzhda@DTSC <Muzhda.Ferouz@dtsc.ca.gov>
Cc: Paul Miller <pmiller@therchgroup.com>; Jeff Harvey <Jharvey@therchgroup.com>; Fooks, Brett@Energy <Brett.Fooks@energy.ca.gov>; Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: DTSC Notification of Receipt of Opt-in application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) per MOU

Hello,

This email serves as notification of receipt of an Opt-in application under Public Resources Code 25519 for the proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03). This project is proposed in San Bernardino County, California. The attached letter outlines project information and your responsibilities under Assembly Bill 205.

Jeffrey Harvey and Paul Miller (Aspen) will be your technical staff contacts for Hazardous Materials. They will reach out to you to discuss the data completeness worksheet and data request format. We will include any data requests you have of the applicant in our Data Completeness Letter that will be posted to the proceeding's docket. Brett Fooks is the unit supervisor.

If you have any technical questions, please contact Jeffrey, Paul, and Brett. If you have questions about the project in general or about the Opt-in process, please contact me.

This information should be provided within 15-25 days per the MOU, which ranges from Friday August 16 to Monday August 26, 2024.

We appreciate your timely responses and look forward to coordinating with you as the evaluation moves forward.

Thank you,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov


STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENERGY COMMISSION
SINCE 1974

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
Sent: 8/9/2024 12:39:56 AM
To: jpatrovs@blm.gov
CC: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)- BLM/CEC coordination

Hi Joan,

I was given your contact information from Hannah Gbeh with Resolution Environmental, the applicant's project manager for the Soda Mountain Solar Project.

I am the project manager for the California Energy Commission. Eric Knight is my supervisor and the branch manager for the Siting and Environmental Branch.

We received the project's application on August 1st and are reviewing the application for completeness. This is a 30 day process set by statute and at the end we will file a letter with staff's determination of completeness. Thus far, project applications have not been complete at the time of submittal to the CEC.

We will file our letter on September 3rd.

Here is a link to the project's website: https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/solar-photovoltaic-pv/soda-mountain-solar-project. If you would like to automatically be notified when something is posted to the project's docket (electronic repository), you can sign up in the subscription box on the right side, midway down the webpage. The link to the project's docket is: https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-OPT-03.

We received some contacts for BLM staff but would like to have technical staff contacts if possible. We would appreciate a biological resources contact and cultural and tribal cultural resources staff. Also, we would like a water resources contact. I can share a list of our technical staff and it would be helpful to know our counterparts at BLM.

On another project that is mostly on BLM land, we have found it helpful to hold monthly meetings between the project managers after the 30 completeness review period. I am interested to know the status of your NEPA work.

Thanks,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
Sent: 8/7/2024 8:08:56 PM
To: Pagaling, Reginald@NAHC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=eba1ee892bf148ce8e3b5931b77eb256-Reginald.Pa]; Lakin, Matt (he/him/his) [Lakin.Matthew@epa.gov]; Sandy, Martha@OEHHA [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=392c48a395a3413f8e97fcf715170a52-OEHHAMartha]; Graham, Courtney@ARB [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7b3ac0cafb8c4c4f99520768df9aa165-Courtney.Gr]; Fancher, Rebecca@ARB [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b762529fc82446dba72e85757aeedbf8-Rebecca.Fan]; Camarillo, James@DOT [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f9f6367c3b9f46cabf51aadb7e4a7373-s134878]; Brega, Liz@EPA [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f10e263bf1c0422e95fa5105bc935a9e-epaebrega]; bradp@mdaqmd.ca.gov; CHP-835AMail [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9e12a09f321243eb87ca3312df0b17d8-835AMail]; DIR DOSHREG6SantaAna [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d92daa35c56a4b67a851324a74ca8a7e-DOSHREG6San]; Fulcher, David@CALFIRE [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d2bea14286574d37b8a7d5f6a66ba02a-CALFIREdful]; plenys.thomas@epa.gov; Nemeth, Karla@DWR [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c8104f3ff2d4442da64e83a7bd26350c-DWRknemeth]; Katherine.kennedy@faa.gov; Crowfoot, Wade@CNRA [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=757a334aeb7b4e64a8e82747a9c3573f-CNRAwade.cr]; james.a.booth@usda.gov; peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov; psamples@blm.gov; icordes@blm.gov; jdonnell@blm.gov; bganderson@blm.gov; jruesch@MojaveWater.org; Dennis.Lei@ladwp.com; Faranak.Sarbaz@ladwp.com; Sunaja.Lakshman@ladwp.com; Tin.Ha@ladwp.com
CC: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: Federal, State, and other agency Notice of Receipt of Opt-In Application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) /Request for Comments and Information
Attachments: Soda Mtn_All other agencies_Notice of Application Receipt.pdf

Hello,

This email serves as notification of receipt of an Opt-In Application under Public Resources Code 25519 for the proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03). This project is proposed in San Bernardino County, California. The attached letter outlines project information and the reasons under Assembly Bill 205 why we are contacting you.

If you have questions, please contact me.

I appreciate your timely responses and look forward to coordinating with you as the project moves forward.

Thank you,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367

Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

August 7, 2024

Notice of Receipt of Opt-In Application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) / Request for Comments and Information

This letter serves as notification that the California Energy Commission (CEC) has received an opt-in application for the Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03). Soda Mountain Solar, LLC ("Applicant"), proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) electrical generating and storage facility and associated infrastructure to generate and deliver renewable electricity to the statewide electricity transmission grid. The Soda Mountain Solar Project (project) would generate up to 300 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy and include up to 300 MW of battery storage. The project also includes future decommissioning, which is anticipated to occur after 30 years of operation. The project is located on approximately 2,670 acres of land administered by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District, within the jurisdiction of the Barstow Field Office in San Bernardino County.

The project components are as follows: 1) The solar plant site (i.e., all facilities that create a footprint in and around the field of solar panels, including the solar field consisting of solar power arrays), operation and maintenance buildings and structures, stormwater infrastructure, and related infrastructure and improvements. 2) A substation and switchyard for interconnection to the existing transmission system. 3) Approximately 300 MW of lithium-ion battery energy storage system across 18 acres.

The project would operate year-round and would generate electricity during daylight hours. The project would generate and deliver solar-generated power to the regional electrical grid through an interconnection with the existing Marketplace-Adelanto 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

The Project Description (TN 257912) section of the application can be accessed directly at the following link: https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=257912&DocumentContentId=93845.

In 2022, Assembly Bill 205 established a new Opt-In Certification Program for eligible non-fossil-fueled power plants, energy storage, and manufacturing and assembly facilities to optionally seek certification through the CEC. Upon receipt of an application, the CEC has the exclusive authority to certify the site and related facility. With certain exceptions, the issuance of a certificate by the CEC is in lieu of any permit, certificate, or similar document required by any state, local, or regional agency, or federal agency to the extent permitted by federal law, and supersedes any applicable statute,

ordinance, or regulation of any state, local, or regional agency, or federal agency to the extent permitted by federal law. The CEC is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act and is required to prepare an environmental impact report for any facility that elects to opt into the CEC's jurisdiction.

The CEC provides the following notice pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25545.8, which states that subsections (g) and (k) of Public Resources Code section 25519 apply to an opt-in application. The relevant language from Public Resources Code section 25519 is as follows:

> (g) The commission shall transmit a copy of the application to each federal and state agency having jurisdiction or special interest in matters pertinent to the proposed site and related facilities and to the Attorney General.
>
> (k) The commission shall transmit a copy of the application to any governmental agency not specifically mentioned in this act, but which it finds has any information or interest in the proposed site and related facilities, and shall invite the comments and recommendations of each agency. The commission shall request any relevant laws, ordinances, or regulations that an agency has promulgated or administered.

The CEC has set up a web page for the project at the following link: https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/solar-photovoltaic-pv/soda-mountain-solar-project.

The documents which comprise the opt-in application can be found in the project docket, which is accessible via the project webpage or directly at the following link: https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-OPT-03.

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25519(k), the CEC invites the comments and recommendations of your agency, and requests that you send us any relevant laws, ordinances, or regulations that your agency has promulgated or administered that are applicable to the proposed project.

To stay informed about this project and receive notice of upcoming public meetings, sign up to the project subscription, which can be accessed on the project webpage. Once enrolled, automatic email notifications are sent via govDelivery when documents and notices are posted to the project docket.

Feel free to reach out to me directly via email if you have any questions about this notice. Thank you.

Lisa Worrall
Project Manager
California Energy Commission
lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

Enclosures: Figure 2-1 Project Site Vicinity (from application, TN 257912)
Figure 2-6 Project Overview Site Plan (from application TN 257912)

SMSP00254

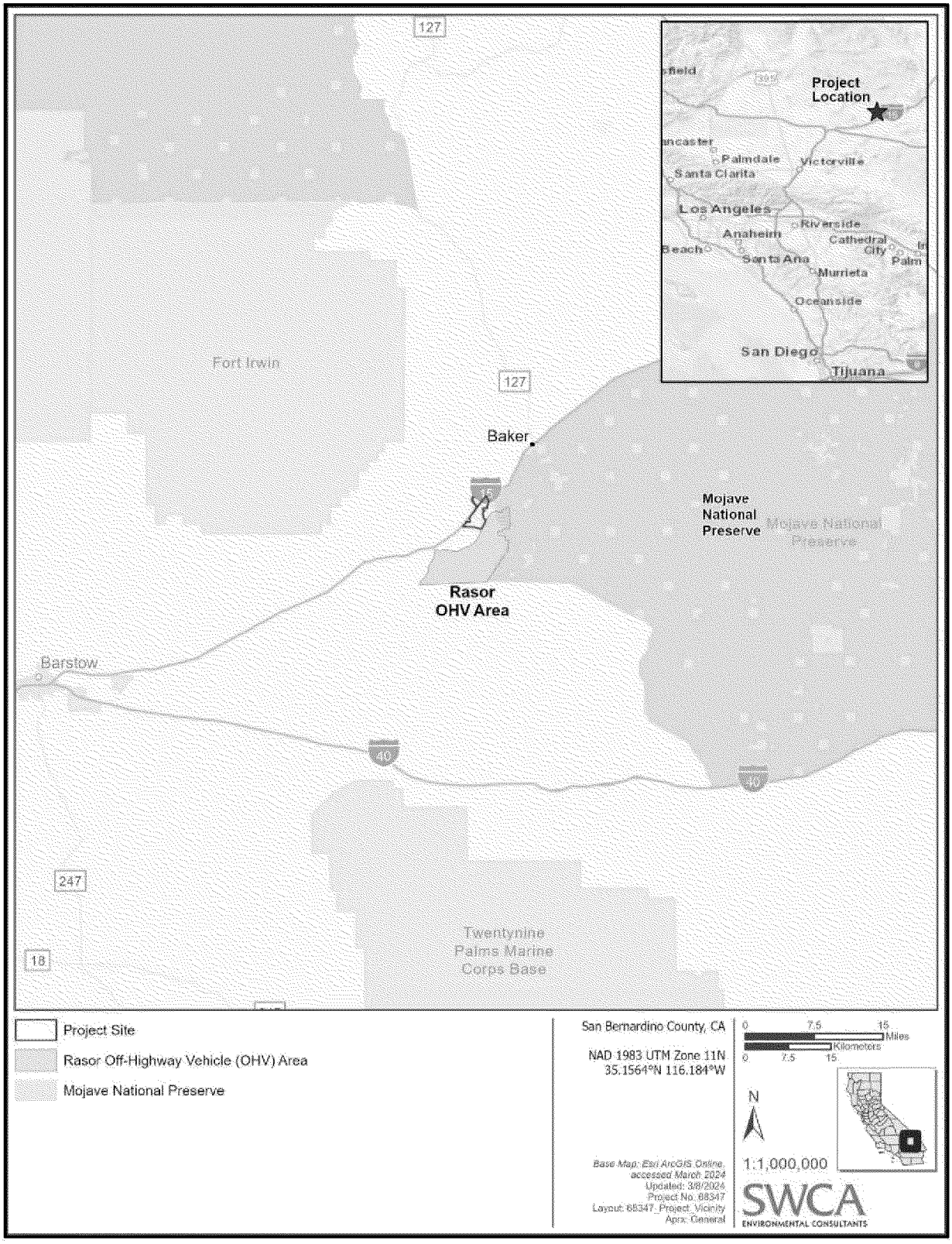


Figure 2-1. Project site vicinity.

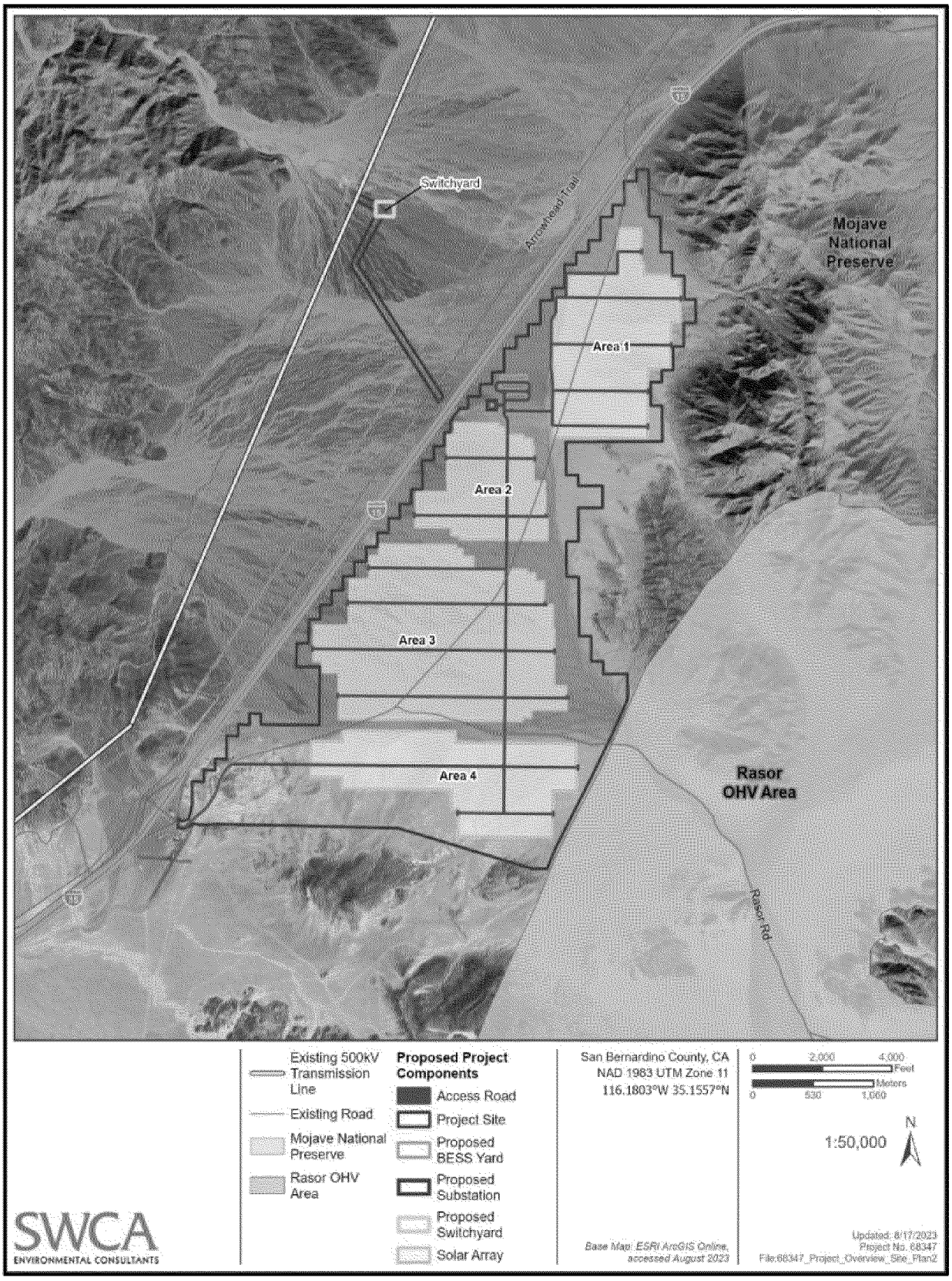


Figure 2-6. Project overview site plan.

From: Patrovsky, Joan E [jpatrovs@blm.gov]
Sent: 8/9/2024 8:22:58 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]
CC: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]; Kaufman, Zoe (Caroline) [zkaufman@blm.gov]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Request to Meet and Discuss Soda Mountain Solar amendment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Happy friday Lisa,

September 9th 1-2pm works for our team.

We do not plan to have our Solicitor at this meeting. She will be advised after our intro meeting with CEC. We will have some management from local field office, district and state office in attendance.

I will send a MS teams invitation or does a Zoom meeting work best for you?
Let me know on your list of attendees.

If you wish to draft an agenda, please do so and send for consideration.

Thank you for information on the project website and looking forward to our meeting.

Have a good weekend,
Joan Patrovsky, PMP
Project Manager
U.S. Department of the Interior - Region 8 and 10
Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District Office

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 10:55 AM
To: Patrovsky, Joan E <jpatrovs@blm.gov>
Cc: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>; Kaufman, Zoe (Caroline) <zkaufman@blm.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Request to Meet and Discuss Soda Mountain Solar amendment

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Joan,

Are you and your staff available to meet in September 9th from 1-2 pm. Our staff will be very busy for the next 30 days conducting our completeness review.

Let me know. I have put a hold on the time with our staff. At this point for this first meeting, I have included our technical supervisors, branch managers, and assigned legal staff (as optional).

Thanks,

Lisa

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

From: Patrovsky, Joan E <jpatrovs@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 5:46 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>; Kaufman, Zoe (Caroline) <zkaufman@blm.gov>
Subject: Request to Meet and Discuss Soda Mountain Solar amendment

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Hello Lisa,

looks like you hit send before me...

My name is Joan Patrovsky, I am the assigned Bureau of Land Management Project Manager for a filed application by VC Renewables, LLC to amend their existing authorization for the above on public lands.

Currently their application is not complete and a potential preapplication meeting will be held in late October. This meeting is subject to an acceptable plan of development (POD) and other support documentation.

BLM's NEPA path for this amendment application has not been determined. Additional details from a revised POD, site layout, BESS information and other field data are needed.

Our team would like to have an introduction meeting regarding agency roles and environmental clearance regarding the Soda Mountain Solar project.

Please reply with potential dates during the weeks of August 19, 26 and September 9 for our teams to meet,

We understand that a reach out to our lead archaeologist has been initiated along with some additional field surveys.

The holder has advised that they filed an application with CEC to opt-in under AB205.

On another matter, BLM has advised the holder to connect with CalTrans and the Brightline train regarding their undergrounding of the generation transmission line, the Brightline train has a lease to construct within the median of Interstate 15.

Joan Patrovsky, PMP
Project Manager
U.S. Department of the Interior - Region 8 and 10
Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District Office

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
Sent: 8/9/2024 9:03:11 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
CC: Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain Sola Project (24-OPT-03)

Thanks Hannah. I appreciate that. Have a great weekend too.

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 1:55 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Soda Mountain Sola Project (24-OPT-03)

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It's a **HUGE** application and I am happy to help locate any information to assist! I hope you both have a nice weekend!

-Hannah

Hannah Gbeh

CEO

Resolution Environmental

262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118

760-504-4109

hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com

www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 1:53 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain Sola Project (24-OPT-03)

Thanks Hannah. I saw that after I sent the email.

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 1:51 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Cc: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Soda Mountain Sola Project (24-OPT-03)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Lisa,

Thank you for this email! This information is provided in Appendix A1, Section 1.4, page 5 (see text below). We are happy to embed this text within the Executive Summary/Project Description for the next submittal, if that would be better.

If you need any additional information or this is not the information you were looking for, please don't hesitate to let me know. Thank you! - Hannah

"It is anticipated the solar facility would provide around 1,000 GWh or 1,000,000 MWh of electricity per year. Heat and mass balance diagrams are not applicable to the solar facility and the solar facility would not consume fuel. The plant would operate approximately 4,000 hours per year. The BESS would produce approximately 438 GWh or 438 MWh per year (considering 1 discharge cycle per day per year). It is anticipated that the BESS would operate in charge mode 1,570 hours each year and in discharge mode 1,460 hours each year (assuming 1 cycle per day per year)."

Hannah Gbeh

CEO

Resolution Environmental

262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118

760-504-4109

hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com

www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 12:35 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Knight, Eric@Energy <Eric.Knight@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Soda Mountain Sola Project (24-OPT-03)

Hi Hannah,

How may megawatt hours is the 300 MW BESS for Soda Mountain Solar Project? We couldn't find that information in the Executive Summary or Project Description.

Thanks,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov



From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
Sent: 8/7/2024 8:14:33 PM
To: ehs.customerservice@dph.sbcounty.gov
Subject: FW: Local Agency Notice of Receipt of Opt-In Application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) /Request for Comments and Information
Attachments: Soda Mtn_LocalJurisdiction_Notice of Application Receipt.pdf

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 12:58 PM
To: Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov; Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov; info@sbcfire.org; rornelas@sbcsd.org; planningcsu@lus.sbcounty.gov; ehs.customerservice@bph.sbcounty.gov
Subject: Local Agency Notice of Receipt of Opt-In Application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) /Request for Comments and Information

Hello,

This email serves as notification of receipt of an Opt-In Application under Public Resources Code 25519 for the proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03). This project is proposed in San Bernardino County, California. The attached letter outlines project information and the reasons under Assembly Bill 205 why we are contacting you.

If you have questions, please contact me.

I appreciate your timely responses and look forward to coordinating with you as the project moves forward.

Thank you,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

August 7, 2024

Notice of Receipt of Opt-In Application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) / Request for Comments and Information

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The project components are as follows: 1) The solar plant site (i.e., all facilities that create a footprint in and around the field of solar panels, including the solar field consisting of solar power arrays), operation and maintenance buildings and structures, stormwater infrastructure, and related infrastructure and improvements. 2) A substation and switchyard for interconnection to the existing transmission system. 3) Approximately 300 MW of lithium-ion battery energy storage system across 18 acres.

The project would operate year-round and would generate electricity during daylight hours. The project would generate and deliver solar-generated power to the regional electrical grid through an interconnection with the existing Marketplace-Adelanto 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

The Project Description (TN 257912) section of the application can be accessed directly at the following link: https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=257912&DocumentContentId=93845.

In 2022, Assembly Bill 205 established a new Opt-In Certification Program for eligible non-fossil-fueled power plants, energy storage, and manufacturing and assembly facilities to optionally seek certification through the CEC. Upon receipt of an application, the CEC has the exclusive authority to certify the site and related facility. With certain exceptions, the issuance of a certificate by the CEC is in lieu of any permit, certificate, or similar document required by any state, local, or regional agency, or federal agency

to the extent permitted by federal law, and supersedes any applicable statute, ordinance, or regulation of any state, local, or regional agency, or federal agency to the extent permitted by federal law. The CEC is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act and is required to prepare an environmental impact report for any facility that elects to opt into the CEC's jurisdiction.

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> (f) Upon receipt of an application, the commission shall forward the application to local governmental agencies having land use and related jurisdiction in the area of the proposed site and related facility. Those local agencies shall review the application and submit comments on, among other things, the design of the facility, architectural and aesthetic features of the facility, access to highways, landscaping and grading, public use of lands in the area of the facility, and other appropriate aspects of the design, construction, or operation of the proposed site and related facility.
>
> (k) The commission shall transmit a copy of the application to any governmental agency not specifically mentioned in this act, but which it finds has any information or interest in the proposed site and related facilities, and shall invite the comments and recommendations of each agency. The commission shall request any relevant laws, ordinances, or regulations that an agency has promulgated or administered.

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1877, subsection (f), the CEC staff shall provide information to the local government for review and comment. The relevant language from California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1877 is as follows:

> (f) The opt-in application shall contain preliminary information demonstrating overall net positive economic benefit to the local government that would have had permitting authority over the site and related facility, consistent with Public Resources Code section 25545.9. Staff shall provide the submitted information to the local government for review and comment.

The CEC has set up a web page for the project at the following link: https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/solar-photovoltaic-pv/soda-mountain-solar-project.

The documents which comprise the opt-in application can be found in the project docket, which is accessible via the project webpage or directly at the following link: https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-OPT-03.

The applicant has provided information to demonstrate that the project would provide a net positive economic benefit to the local government that would have had permitting authority in Appendix S Community Benefit Agreement Strategy (TN 257940). We look forward to receiving the County of San Bernardino's comments pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 25519(f) and 25519(k), and California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1877(f) at your earliest convenience.

The CEC also wishes to make the County of San Bernardino aware that Public Resources Code section 25538 applies to an opt-in application. The language from Public Resources Code section 25538 is as follows:

> Upon receiving the commission's request for review under subdivision (f) of Section 25519 and Section 25506, the local agency may request a fee from the commission to reimburse the local agency for the actual and added costs of this review by the local agency. The commission shall reimburse the local agency for the added costs that shall be actually incurred by the local agency in complying with the commission's request.

To stay informed about this project and receive notice of upcoming public meetings, sign up to the project subscription, which can be accessed on the project webpage. Once enrolled, automatic email notifications are sent via govDelivery when documents and notices are posted to the project docket.

Feel free to reach out to me directly via email if you have any questions about this notice. Thank you.

Lisa Worrall
Project Manager
California Energy Commission
lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

Enclosures: Figure 2-1 Project Site Vicinity (from application, TN 257912)
Figure 2-6 Project Overview Site Plan (from application TN 257912)

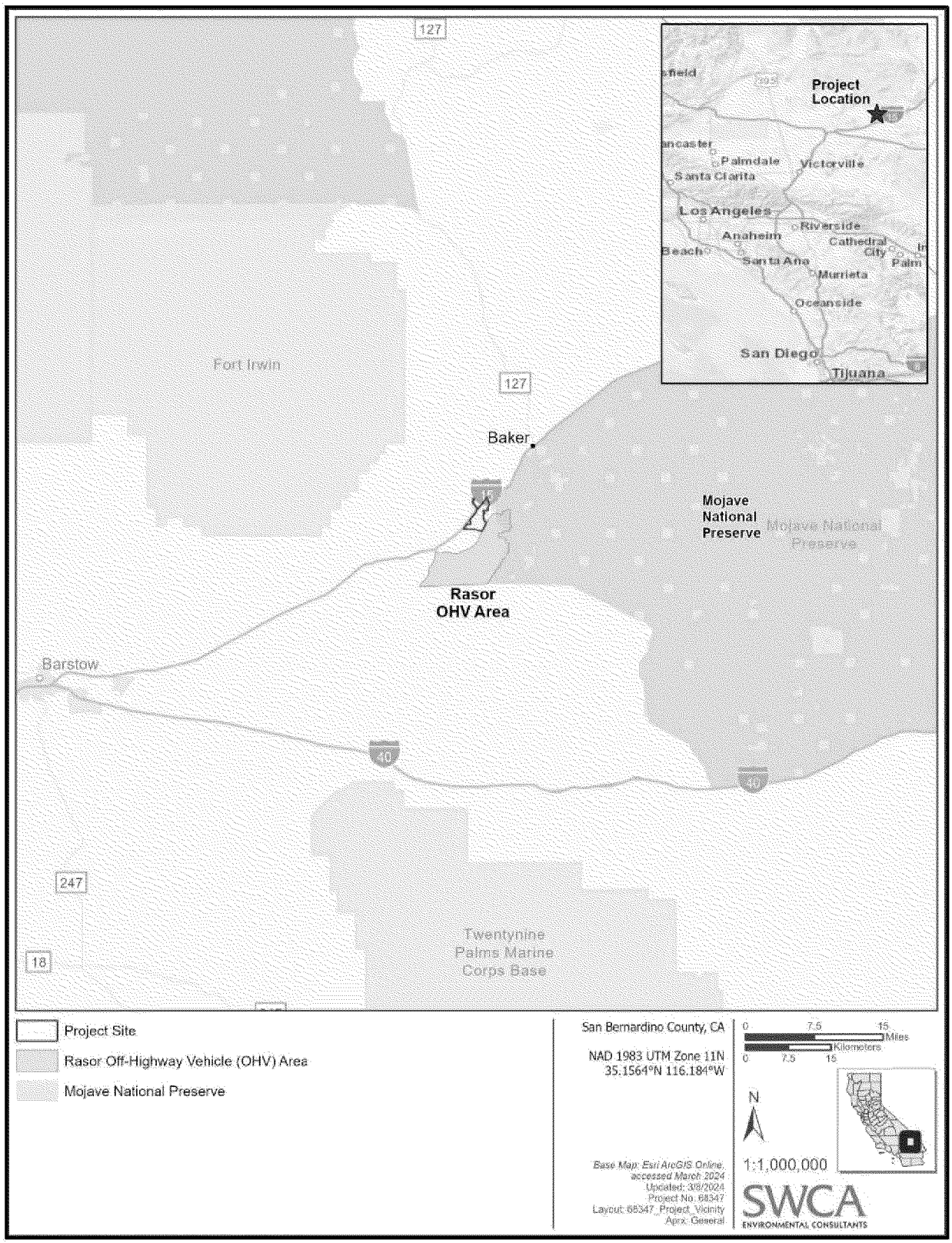


Figure 2-1. Project site vicinity.

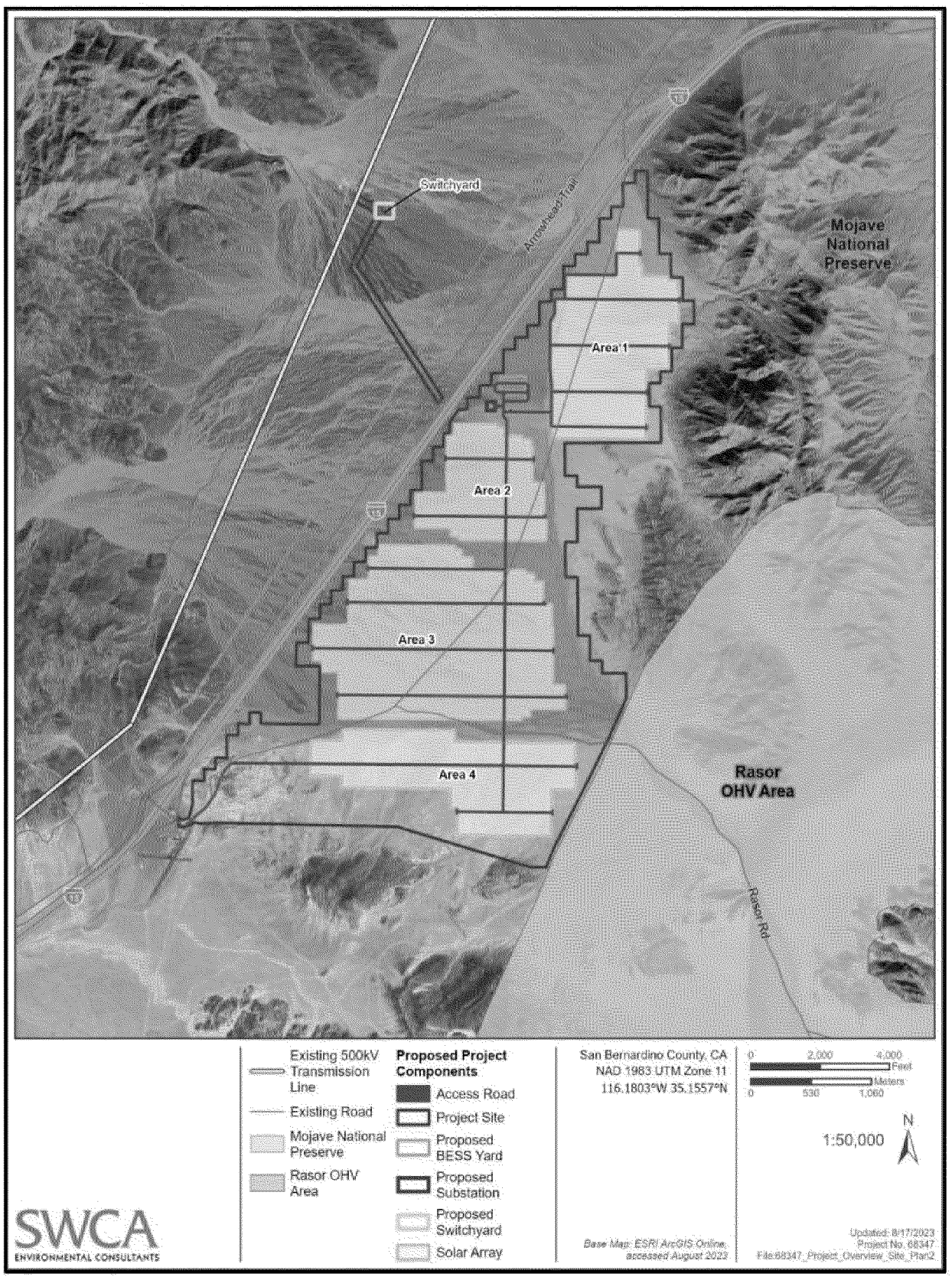


Figure 2-6. Project overview site plan.

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
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To: Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov; Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov; info@sbcfire.org; rornelas@sbcsd.org; planningcsu@lus.sbcounty.gov; ehs.customerservice@bph.sbcounty.gov
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Subject: Local Agency Notice of Receipt of Opt-In Application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) /Request for Comments and Information
Attachments: Soda Mtn_LocalJurisdiction_Notice of Application Receipt.pdf

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Thank you,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

August 7, 2024

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to the extent permitted by federal law, and supersedes any applicable statute, ordinance, or regulation of any state, local, or regional agency, or federal agency to the extent permitted by federal law. The CEC is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act and is required to prepare an environmental impact report for any facility that elects to opt into the CEC's jurisdiction.

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The applicant has provided information to demonstrate that the project would provide a net positive economic benefit to the local government that would have had permitting authority in Appendix S Community Benefit Agreement Strategy (TN 257940). We look forward to receiving the County of San Bernardino's comments pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 25519(f) and 25519(k), and California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1877(f) at your earliest convenience.

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Lisa Worrall
Project Manager
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Enclosures: Figure 2-1 Project Site Vicinity (from application, TN 257912)
Figure 2-6 Project Overview Site Plan (from application TN 257912)

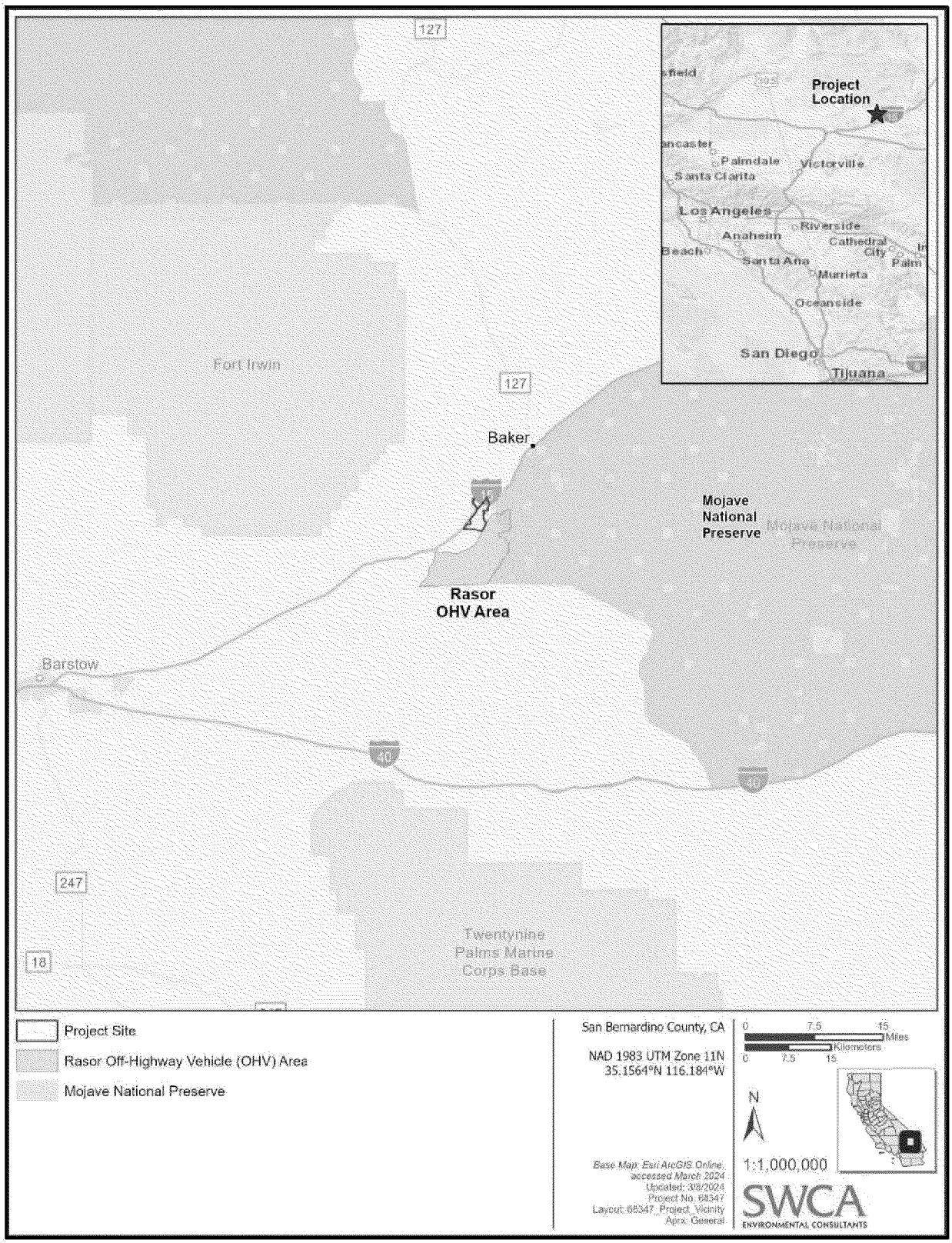


Figure 2-1. Project site vicinity.

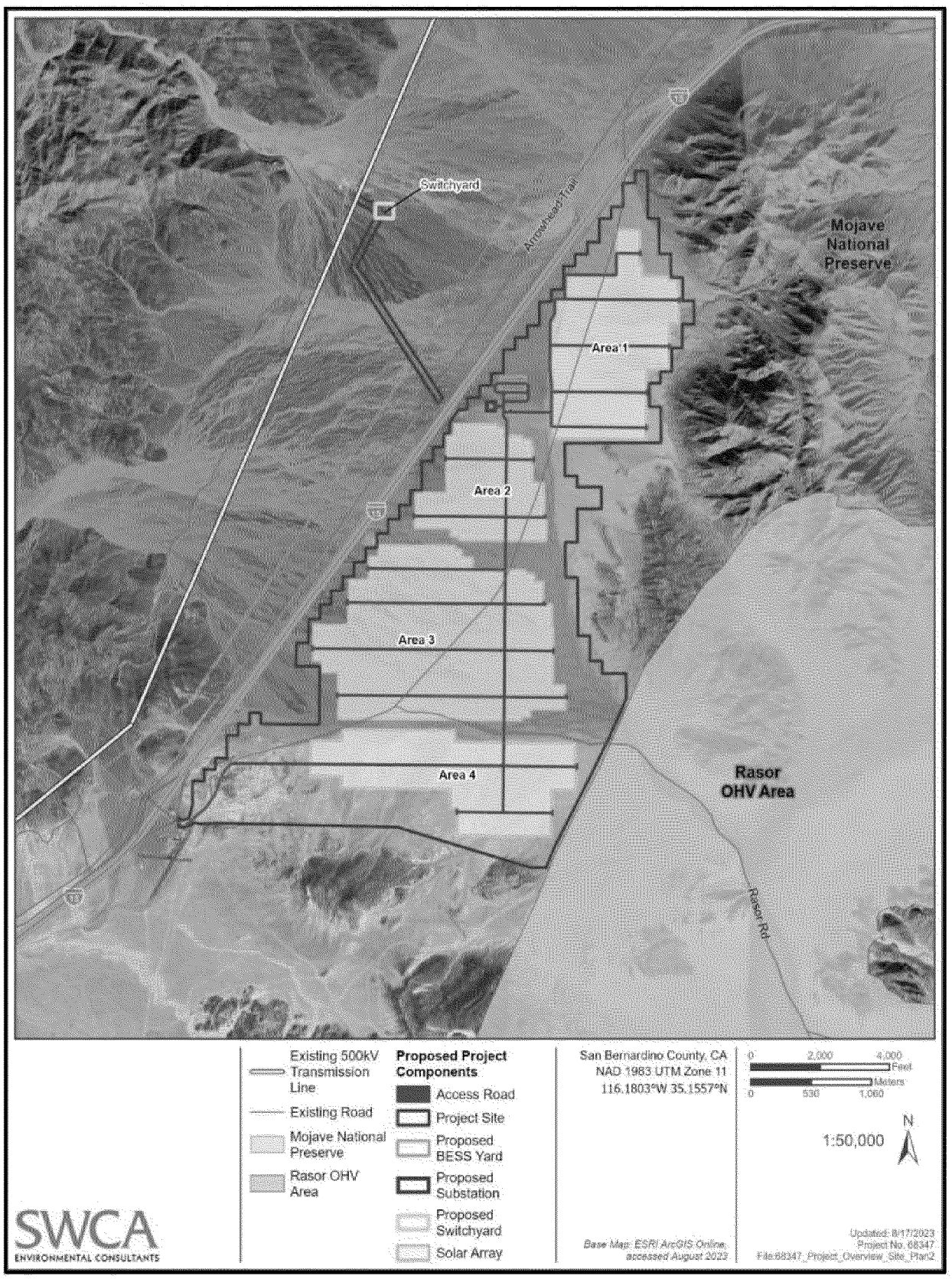


Figure 2-6. Project overview site plan.

From: Beck, Brian [Brian.Beck@lus.sbcounty.gov]
on behalf of LUS - Duty Planner [LUS-DutyPlanner@lus.sbcounty.gov]
Sent: 8/8/2024 4:20:16 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]; Sansonetti, Nancy [Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov]; Cruz, Manikhone [Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov]; info@sbcfire.org; Ornelas, Raylene [rornelas@sbcsd.org]; Planning CSU [PlanningCSU@lus.sbcounty.gov]; ehs.customerservice@bph.sbcounty.gov
Subject: RE: Local Agency Notice of Receipt of Opt-In Application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) /Request for Comments and Information

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Hi Lisa,

Thank you for this information. I have forwarded to County of San Bernardino Planning Department Management for input and direction.

Thank you,

Brian

Brian Beck
Planner II
Land Use Services Department
Phone: 909-387-4140
Cell: 909-601-2654
Fax: 909-387-3223
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0187



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www.SBCounty.gov

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From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 12:58 PM
To: Sansonetti, Nancy <Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov>; Cruz, Manikhone <Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov>; info@sbcfire.org; Ornelas, Raylene <rornelas@sbcsd.org>; Planning CSU <PlanningCSU@lus.sbcounty.gov>; ehs.customerservice@bph.sbcounty.gov
Subject: Local Agency Notice of Receipt of Opt-In Application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) /Request for Comments and Information

You don't often get email from lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov. Learn why this is important

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Hello,

This email serves as notification of receipt of an Opt-In Application under Public Resources Code 25519 for the proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03). This project is proposed in San Bernardino County, California. The attached letter outlines project information and the reasons under Assembly Bill 205 why we are contacting you.

If you have questions, please contact me.

I appreciate your timely responses and look forward to coordinating with you as the project moves forward.

Thank you,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
Sent: 8/2/2024 3:40:05 PM
To: Lorentzen, Wayne@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=67ab2660d3724727a6074450f5a5e96d-DTSCWLorent]; Koch, Lori@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a3269442b99e4b6eac71ca1ce19d5078-DTSCLKoch]; Ferouz, Muzhda@DTSC [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a5970a2c9e7942c19e64ec8ca6a4b057-DTSCMFerouz]
CC: Paul Miller [pmiller@therchgroup.com]; Jeff Harvey [jharvey@therchgroup.com]; Fooks, Brett@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=870df74143964b71ada0039bf13c5a9a-Fooks, Bret]; Knight, Eric@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be42548337f44852a291a9845f226f62-Knight, Eri]
Subject: DTSC Notification of Receipt of Opt-in application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) per MOU
Attachments: SodaMountain_MOU Agencies Notice of Application Receipt.pdf

Hello,

This email serves as notification of receipt of an Opt-in application under Public Resources Code 25519 for the proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03). This project is proposed in San Bernardino County, California. The attached letter outlines project information and your responsibilities under Assembly Bill 205.

Jeffrey Harvey and Paul Miller (Aspen) will be your technical staff contacts for Hazardous Materials. They will reach out to you to discuss the data completeness worksheet and data request format. We will include any data requests you have of the applicant in our Data Completeness Letter that will be posted to the proceeding's docket. Brett Fooks is the unit supervisor.

If you have any technical questions, please contact Jeffrey, Paul, and Brett. If you have questions about the project in general or about the Opt-in process, please contact me.

This information should be provided within 15-25 days per the MOU, which ranges from Friday August 16 to Monday August 26, 2024.

We appreciate your timely responses and look forward to coordinating with you as the evaluation moves forward.

Thank you,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov


STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENERGY COMMISSION
SINCE 1974

August 2, 2024

Notice of Receipt of Opt-In Application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)/ Request for Comments and Information

This letter serves as notice pursuant to the California Energy Commission (CEC) Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and California State Water Resources Control Board and the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards (collectively, the Water Boards) that Soda Mountain Solar, LLC ("Applicant"), has requested that the CEC staff commence data completeness review of the Soda Mountain Solar Project (project) (24-OPT-03) opt-in application. Files associated with the application were uploaded to the project docket (24-OPT-03) from July 23 through August 1, 2024. The associated fee for processing the application has been received by CEC. Based on the record present in the project docket, the effective filing date is confirmed as August 1, 2024. Pursuant to Public Resources Code, section 25545.4(a), CEC staff will review the application and the CEC's Executive Director will make a determination of completeness within 30 days of the filing of the application. The Executive Director will respond to the request for a completeness determination on or before September 3, 2024.

The project webpage can be accessed at the following link: https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/solar-photovoltaic-pv/soda-mountain-solar-project. To stay informed about this project and receive notice of upcoming public meetings, sign up to the project subscription, which can be accessed on the project webpage. Once enrolled, automatic email notifications are sent via govDelivery when documents and notices are posted to the project's docket.

The entire application can be accessed at the following link: https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-OPT-03. Given the number of individual documents involved, sharing this link to the docket constitutes sharing the application files. Please contact us if you have trouble accessing any documents.

The CEC staff is now conducting a "Data Completeness" review of the application using data completeness worksheets that track information required under California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1877 and data requests for any areas that are incomplete or require additional information, or a clarification of information is required.

Pursuant to the MOUs, your agency is obligated to provide information supporting the CEC staff's application completeness determination. This critical period is the opportunity that your agency has to ensure it has all the information it needs pursuant

to the MOU, including the baseline data and proposed mitigation to evaluate the project's direct, indirect and cumulative impacts and its compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards, and provide permit conditions for this application. Also, during this period you will need to make all data requests for this project through CEC staff (e.g., clarification of information, requests for information, etc.) to ensure that the application has what your agency would need to issue a permit or for the CEC to issue an in-lieu permit. The CEC staff in the areas of Biological Resources, Water Resources, and Hazards and Hazardous Materials will reach out to you to coordinate on the data completeness review by the CEC and MOU agencies and are copied in this email.

The following is the relevant language on your agency's obligations to provide information supporting the CEC's completeness determination pursuant to the MOUs. Here is the relevant language from the CDFW MOU: "Within 15 days of receipt of an opt-in application, CDFW will review the opt-in application to determine whether it contains all the information required to assess compliance with applicable California Fish and Wildlife Laws; CDFW will identify and notify Energy Commission staff in writing of any data deficiencies and discuss proposed studies or outstanding data necessary to correct such deficiencies."

The applicable language for the Water Boards is: "Within 15 days of receipt of the application for certification, Water Boards' staff will review the application for certification to determine whether it contains all the information required to apply for the following permits, if applicable: Waste Discharge Requirements, NPDES Permits, and/or a Section 401 Certification or Waiver from the Regional Board; and Water Boards' staff will identify and notify Energy Commission staff of any data deficiencies."

The applicable language for DTSC is: "DTSC staff will make best efforts to review the application of certification within 15 to 25 days to determine whether it contains all the information required for an assessment of the following and whether applicable: waste generation and storage standards, site remediation, and waste reduction requirements; DTSC staff will identify and notify Energy Commission staff of any data deficiencies."

Please use the relevant portions of the Data Completeness sheets which correspond to the issues of interest to your agency and your permitting authorities, to guide your review of the application and preparation of data requests for areas of the application with incomplete or missing information. We will incorporate your data requests into the Executive Director's completeness determination. In addition, please provide any other information consistent with the language from the MOUs copied above.

For CDFW and the Water Boards, this information should be provided within 15 days per the MOUs, which falls on Friday August 16, 2024.

For DTSC this information should be provided within 15-25 days per the MOU, which ranges from Friday August 16 to Monday 26, 2024.

We appreciate your timely responses and look forward to coordinating with you as the evaluation moves forward.

Lisa Worrall
Project Manager
California Energy Commission
lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

SMSP00281

From: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Sent: 8/8/2024 3:50:34 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]
CC: Ponce, Mariah@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bc5faa5d564c4cf3a2f49468b736b6c2-b2346f64-e7]
Subject: Re: Soda Mountain App for Confidentiality Question

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Hi Lisa,

Below is Michael's full contact info. We also had a call yesterday with BLM and our Project Manager's contact information is listed below. Joan said she would reach out to you directly regarding the project. If you need anything else, please let me know.

Thank you!
Hannah

Mike Cocchimiglio
Chief Executive Officer &
Head of Development
VC Renewables
110 Edison Place, Suite 312
Newark, NJ 07102
T: 201-275-4867
E: mci@vcrenewables.com

Joan Patrovsky, PMP
Project Manager
U.S. Department of the Interior - Region 8 and 10
Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District Office
jpatrovs@blm.gov

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From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 8:45:31 AM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Cc: Ponce, Mariah@Energy <Mariah.Ponce@Energy.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain App for Confidentiality Question

Hi Hannah,

Can you get me Michael Cocchimiglio's email address?

Thanks,

Lisa

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

From: Ponce, Mariah@Energy <Mariah.Ponce@Energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 4:04 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Soda Mountain App for Confidentiality Question

Hi Lisa,

We received a few applications for confidential designation for Soda Mountain from Michael Cocchimiglio of VC Renewables. Do you have Michael's email address? He didn't list one on his applications.

Thank you,
Mariah

Mariah Ponce
Attorney I
Chief Counsel's Office
California Energy Commission
(916) 559-4166

ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION. This communication with its contents may contain confidential or information subject to legal privileges, including the attorney-client privilege and attorney work product doctrine. Unauthorized interception, review, use or disclosure is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

From: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Sent: 8/8/2024 11:38:56 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]
Subject: Soda Mt Word Files - Executive Summary and Project Description
Attachments: 2_Project Description.docx; 1_Executive Summary.docx

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Hi Lisa,

Attached are the requested Project Description and Executive Summary word files. If you would like any of the other documents in a word version, please don't hesitate to let me know. I completely agree that word files are easier to actually utilize while pdfs are better for public docketing purposes.

Thank you for all your help with this project!

Best,
Hannah

Hannah Gbeh
CEO
Resolution Environmental
262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118
760-504-4109
hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com
www.resolutionenvironmental.com

CHAPTER 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Introduction

Soda Mountain Solar, LLC (applicant), proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) electrical generating and storage facility and associated infrastructure to generate and deliver renewable electricity to the statewide electricity transmission grid. The project also includes future decommissioning, which is anticipated to occur after 30 years of operation. This project is known as the Soda Mountain Solar Project (proposed project or project).

The project is located on approximately 2,670 acres of land administered by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Desert District, within the jurisdiction of the Barstow Field Office in San Bernardino County. As described in Section 2.1, the BLM performed a separate review of the project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The project would disturb approximately 2,081 acres overall. The project would generate up to 300 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy and include up to 300 MW of battery storage. The power produced by the project would be conveyed to the regional electrical grid through an interconnection with the existing Mead-Adelanto 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).

2.2 Description of the Proposed Project

2.3 Project Location

The project is located entirely on federally owned land managed by the BLM. The 2,670-acre project site is located approximately 7 miles southwest of the community of Baker in unincorporated San Bernardino County, California (Figures 2-3, 2-4, and 2-5), approximately 50 miles northeast of Barstow. The project site is located in portions of Sections 1 and 11–14, Township 12 North, Range 7 East; Sections 25 and 36, Township 13 North, Range 7 East; Sections 6, 7, 8, and 18, Township 13 North, Range 8 East, San Bernardino Meridian, California.

The project is bounded directly to the east by the Mojave National Preserve (administered by the National Park Service) and BLM lands, including the Rasor Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Area at the southeast corner. Interstate 15 (I-15), the former Arrowhead Trail Highway, runs along the western boundary of the project site. The Rasor Road Services Shell Oil gas station is located off I-15 southwest of the project site, along the access road to the project site. A residence is next to the gas station, roughly 260 feet southwest of the proposed boundary. Approximately four storm drain culverts run under I-15 adjacent to the project site. Primary access to the project site is from a north-bound exit off I-15.

There are no other sensitive receptors within 1,500 feet of the project site, and actual construction occurs more than 3,500 feet from this standalone home.

2.3.1.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The project would occupy the alluvial valley dividing the northern and southern portions of the Soda Mountains in the Mojave Desert. The project site is composed of rural desert land and is almost entirely undeveloped. Rasor Road, an unimproved BLM public access road, runs from the southwest corner of the site and splits into two forks after approximately 1.4 miles. The Rasor Road fork continues from west to

east, to the Rasor OHV recreation area. Arrowhead Trail, the other fork, continues northward through the project site.

Based on a review of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map, unnamed tributaries are located east of the project site and flow from west to east (FEMA 2023). On-site runoff primarily drains to the southeast side of the project site. FEMA Zone D floodplains, which represent areas of undetermined flood hazards, are located within the project site. Additionally, the project is not located within the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) 100-year DWR Awareness floodplain. The project site is located in the Mojave Desert Air Basin and within a sub-basin of the Soda Lake Valley Groundwater Basin.

There are no existing overhead or underground transmission lines on the project site that would be affected by the proposed project. Infrastructure surrounding the site includes the four-lane I-15, two high-voltage electric transmission lines, an electrical distribution line, wireless cellular telephone towers, two fiber-optic cables, and two fuel pipelines. The two high-voltage electrical transmission lines to the west of I-15 are a 115-kV sub-transmission line owned by Southern California Edison (SCE) and the Mead-Adelanto 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line operated by the Los Angeles Department of Public Works (LADWP), as shown on Figure 2-2. The project would utilize one of the existing culverts under I-15 to connect the gen-tie to the Mead-Adelanto transmission line. The Mead-Adelanto Transmission Project is a 202-mile long, 500 kV alternating current transmission line that extends between a southwest terminus at the Adelanto substation in Southern California and a northeast terminus at Marketplace Substation approximately 17 miles southwest of Boulder City, Nevada.

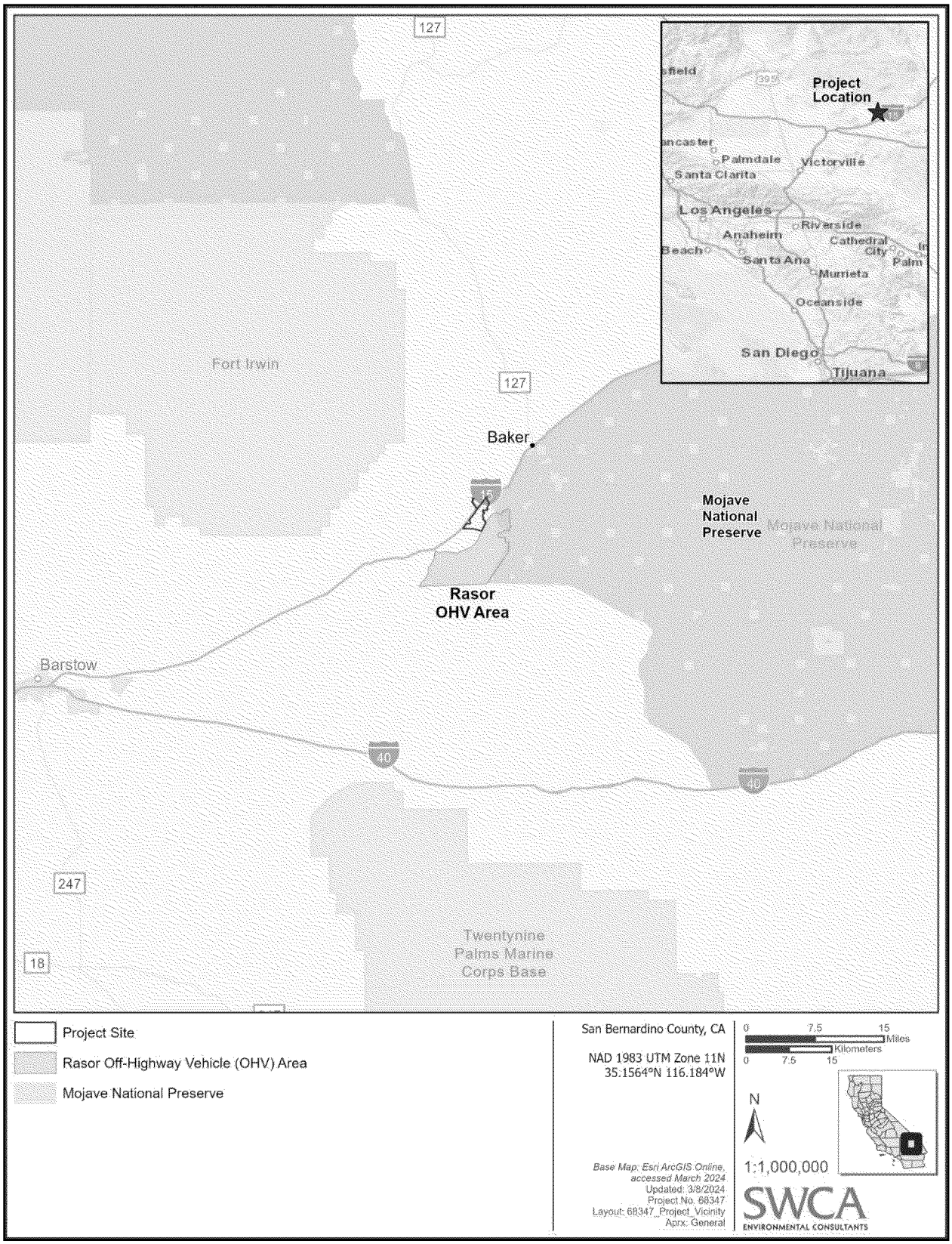


Figure 2-1. Project site vicinity.

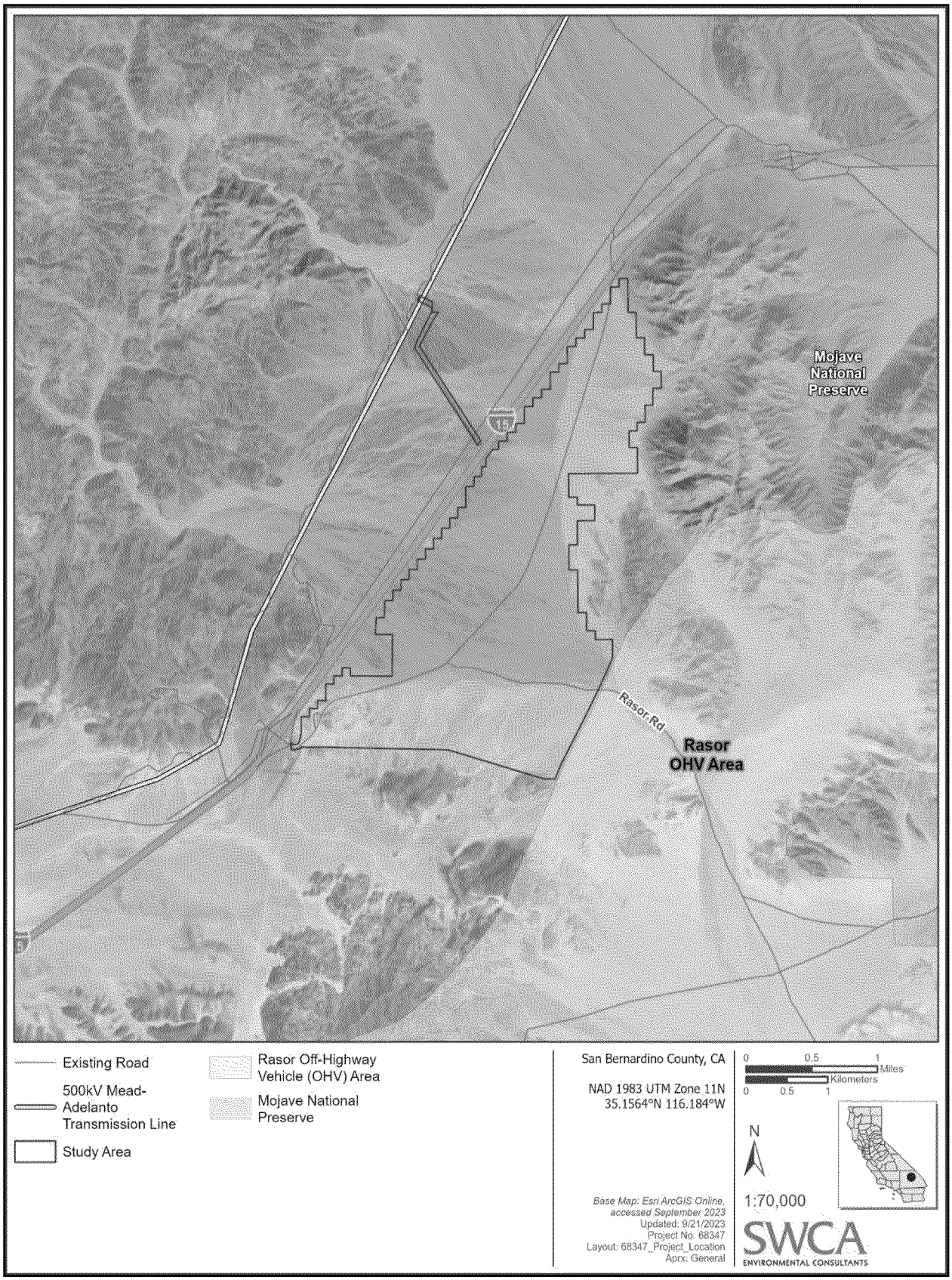


Figure 2-2. Project site location.

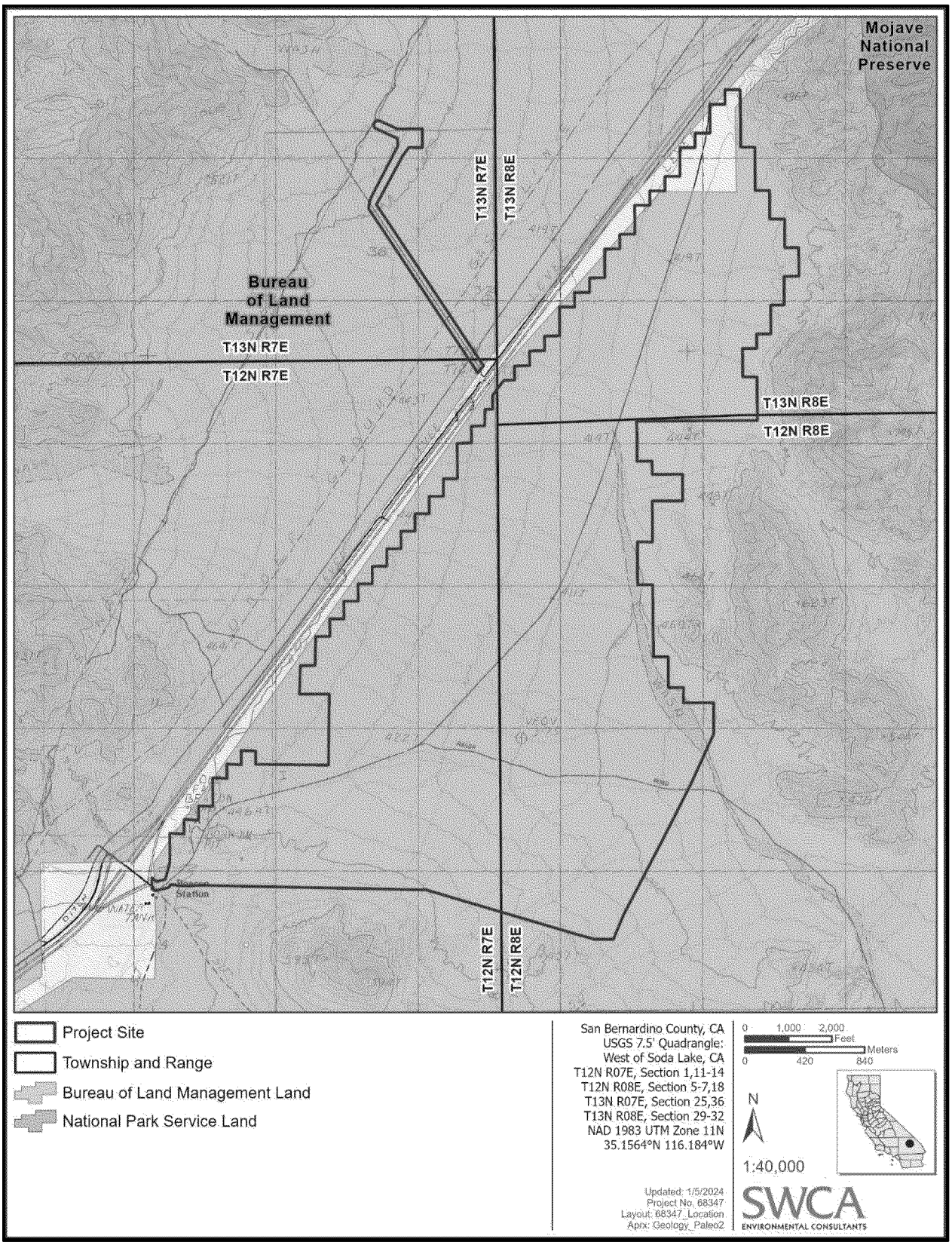


Figure 2-3. Public Land Survey location.



Figure 2-4. Existing view from west looking east at I-15 and project site.

2.3.1.2 LAND USE AND ZONING

As shown in Figure 2-5, the project site is located within the BLM's California Desert District, within the jurisdiction of the Barstow Field Office, and the planning boundary of the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). The BLM signed its ROD approving the DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) to the CDCA Plan in September 2016 (BLM 2016). The DRECP is a landscape-level plan established by the California Energy Commission, the BLM, the CDFW, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) which plan covers 22.5 million acres of public land in seven California counties. The DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment includes land use allocations to replace the multiple-use classes established in the CDCA Plan. The project is within lands classified as General Public Land for management. However, given the BLM signed the ROD for the project in March 2016, before the BLM approved the DRECP LUPA, neither the BLM process for project review and approval nor the Conservation and Management Actions (CMAs) outlined in the DRECP are applicable to this project.

The generation-tie line (gen-tie line) west of I-15 would be located within an Area of Critical Environmental Concern and a designated federal Section 368 Energy Corridor adjacent to I-15 (corridor number 27-225).

2.3.1.3 SITE SELECTION

The project site was selected given the BLM's issuance of a Record of Decision (ROD) and associated amendment to the CDCA Plan in March 2016. The site is located within a designated federal Section 368 Energy Corridor adjacent to I-15 (Corridor number 27-225). Additionally, an existing Southern California Edison (SCE)-owned 115 kV sub transmission line and an LADWP-operated 500 kV transmission line run parallel to and adjacent to the western perimeter of the project site. The project site is located immediately adjacent to existing roadways that provides readily available access for construction and operations. The project site was selected based on consideration of the project objectives, engineering constraints, site geology, environmental impacts, water, waste and fuel constraints, and electric transmission constraints, among other factors.

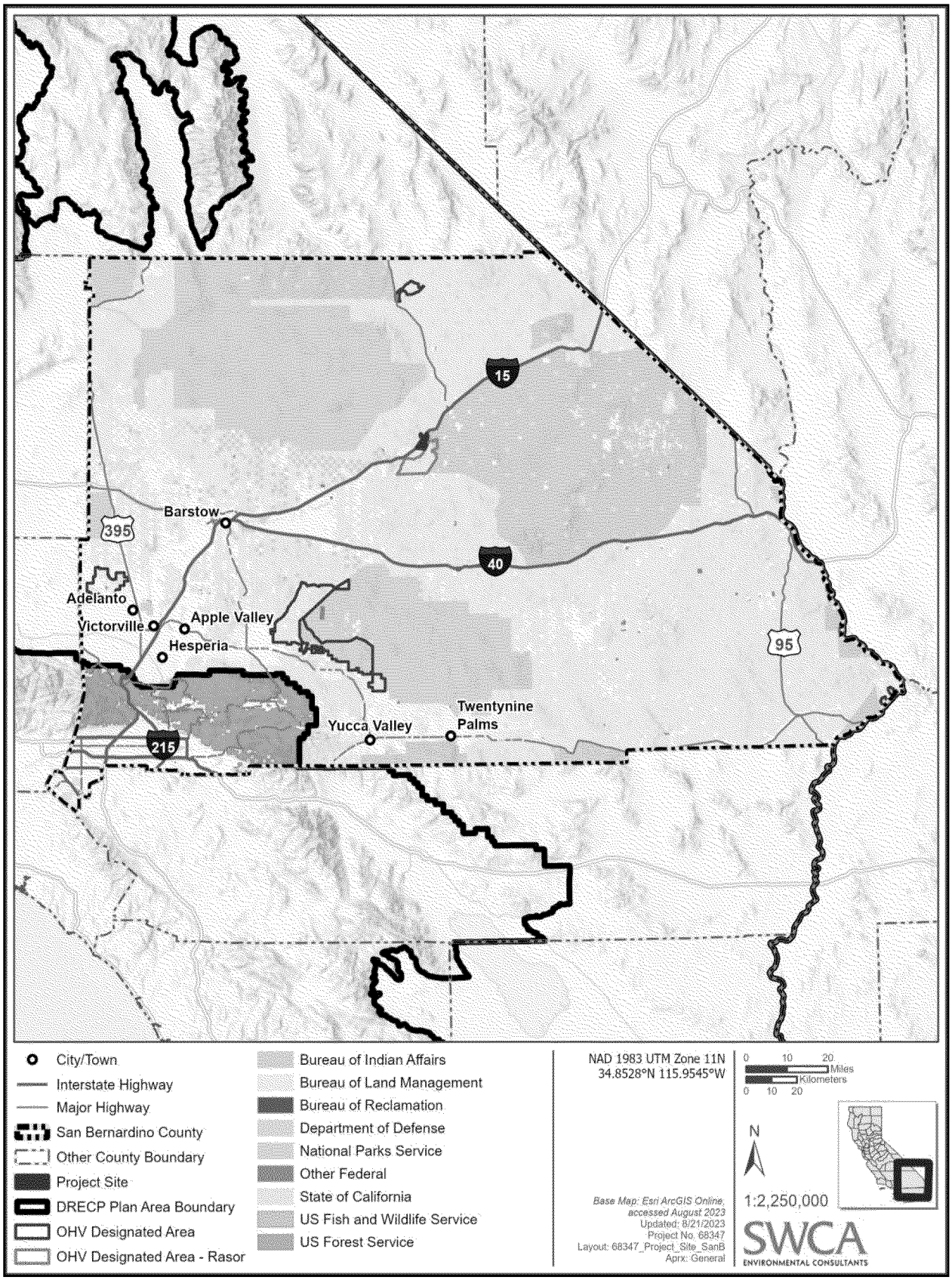


Figure 2-5. Land use management in San Bernardino County.

2.4 Generating Facility Description and Design

The project proposes to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a proposed 300-MW PV solar facility located on approximately 2,670 acres. The approximate disturbance acreage for the project would be 2,081 acres. As shown in Figures 2-6 through 2-8, the project components are as follows:

1. The solar plant site (i.e., all facilities that create a footprint in and around the field of solar panels, including the solar field consisting of solar power arrays identified as the East Array and South Arrays 1, 2, and 3), operation and maintenance buildings and structures, stormwater infrastructure, and related infrastructure and improvements.
2. A substation and switchyard for interconnection to the existing transmission system.
3. Approximately 300 MW of battery energy storage system (BESS) across 18 acres.

The project would operate 24 hours per day year-round and would generate electricity during daylight hours when the sun is shining. The project would generate and deliver solar-generated power to the regional electrical grid through an interconnection with the existing Mead-Adelanto 500-kV transmission line operated by LADWP.

The following description of project components and infrastructure is based on the project's preliminary site design. During final design, the configuration and number of components may vary as a result of micro-siting but would occur within the project footprint analyzed within this EIR.

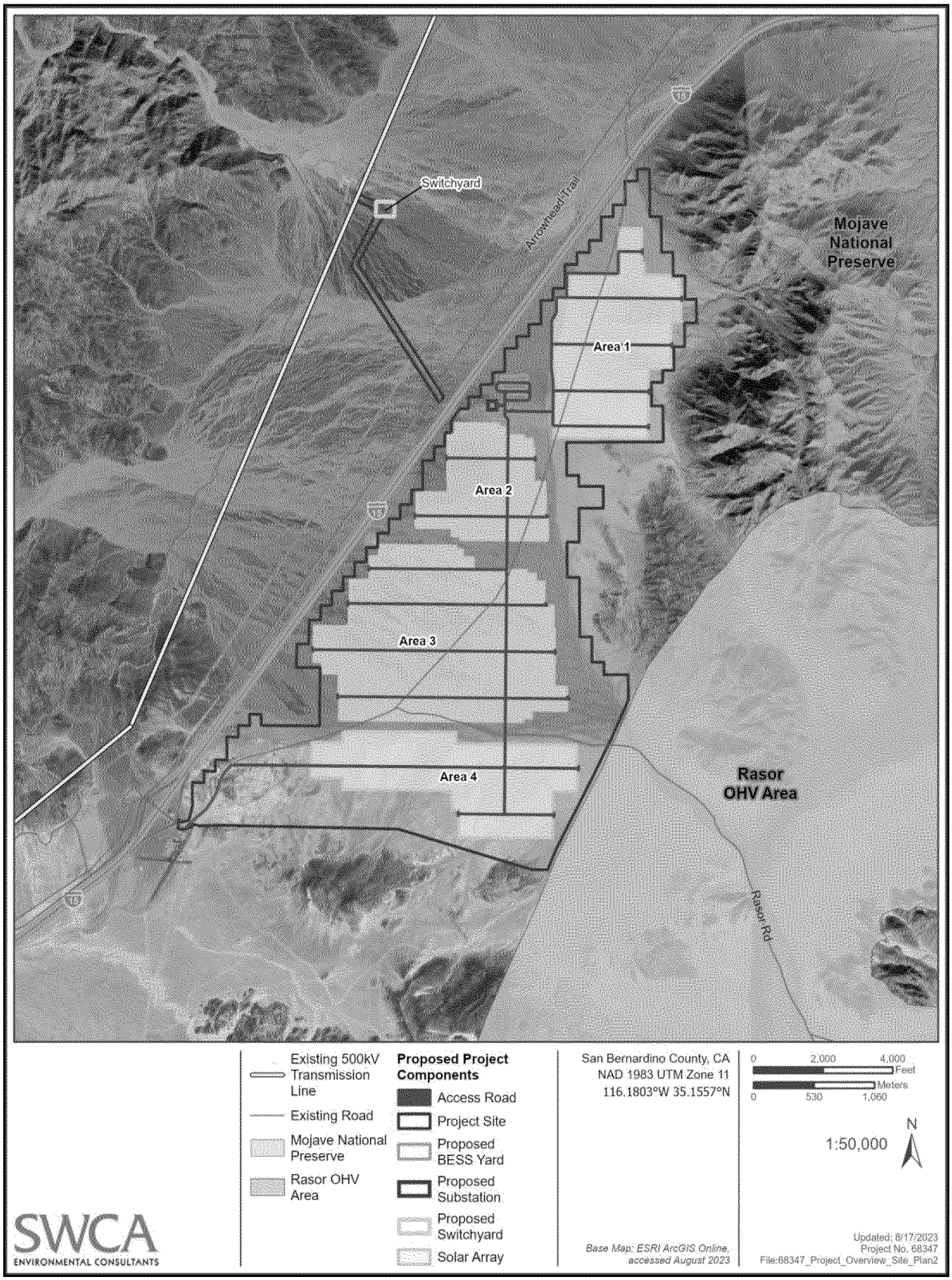


Figure 2-6. Project overview site plan.

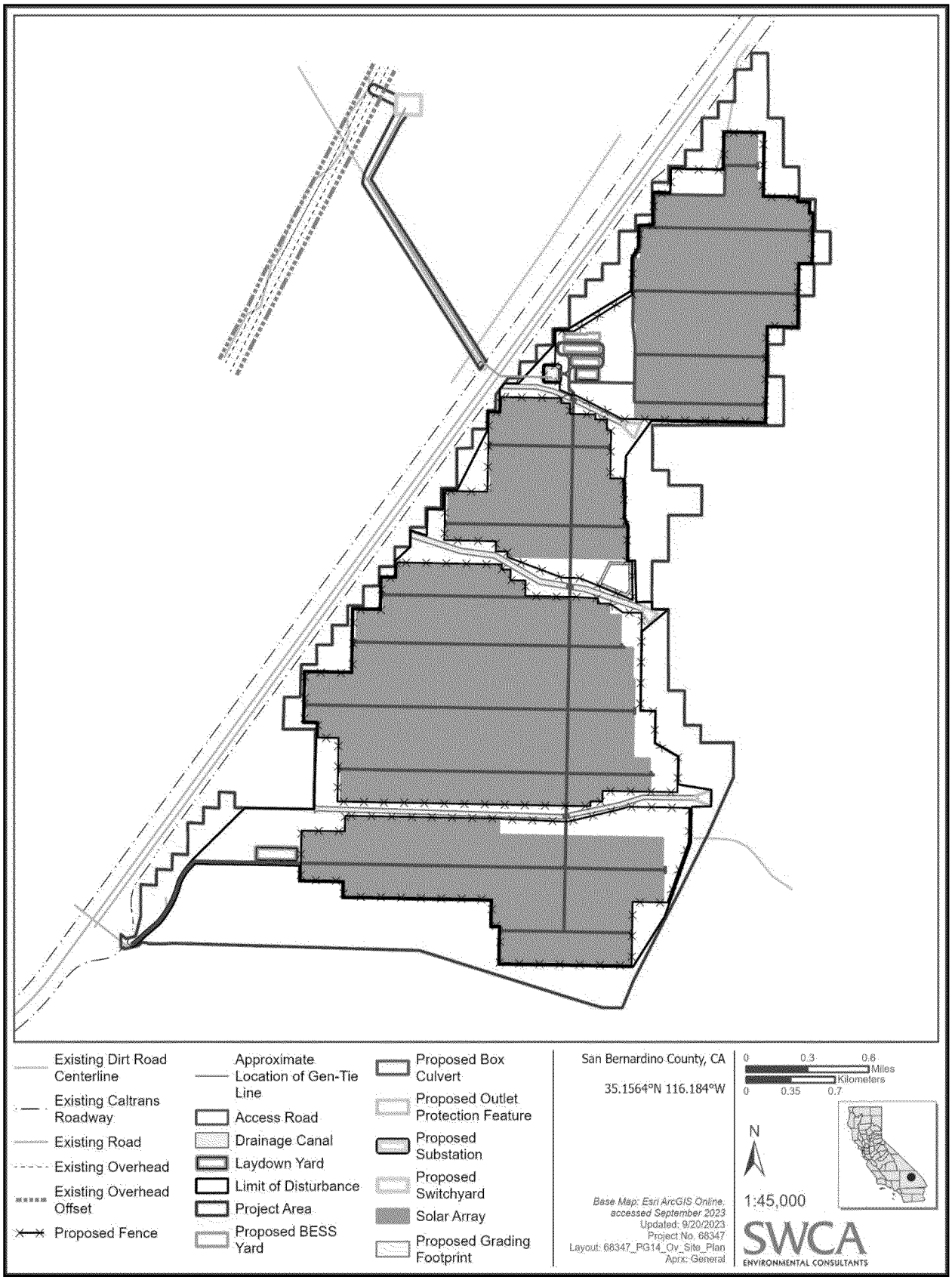


Figure 2-7. Existing and proposed conditions.



Figure 2-8. Simulated view from west looking east at I-15 and constructed project.

2.4.1 *Solar Panel Arrays and Support Structures*

2.4.1.1 SOLAR PANEL ARRAYS

Solar cells, also called photovoltaic (PV) cells, convert sunlight directly into electricity (voltage), which is called the "PV effect." PV cells are located on panels; rows of solar panels form an array. The PV modules are uniformly dark in color, non-reflective, and designed to be highly absorptive of all light that strikes their glass surfaces. Arrays controlled by a single motor create a system called a single-axis solar tracker, which rotates throughout the day to increase total solar exposure. For the project, hundreds of solar trackers would be interconnected to form a utility-scale PV system. The solar panel arrays would be organized into Area 1, Area 2, Area 3, and Area 4 on the southeast side of I-15, as shown in Figure 2-6.

2.4.1.2 SUPPORT AND MOUNTING STRUCTURES

The single-axis solar tracker would be mounted on structures supported by steel piles (e.g., cylindrical pipes, H-beams, or similar), which would be driven into the soil using pile/vibratory/rotary driving technique. Driven pier foundations are a "concrete-free" foundation solution that would result in minimal site disturbance and facilitate site reclamation during decommissioning. Most pier foundations would be driven to approximate depths of 8 to 12 feet deep depending upon the required embedment depth. The piles would be spaced 10 to 15 feet apart. The support structure would be elevated at least 1 foot above the base flood elevation and approximately 6 to 12 feet tall, depending on site topography.

2.4.1.3 ELECTRICAL CONNECTION SYSTEM

Solar panels would be electrically connected using string wiring secured to the panel support system. String wiring terminates at PV array combiner boxes, which are lockable electrical boxes mounted on or near an array's support structure. Output wires from combiner boxes would be routed along an underground trench system approximately 3 to 4 feet deep and 1 to 3 feet wide, including trench and disturbed area, to the inverters and transformer pads. Inverters are a key component of solar PV power-generating facilities because they convert the direct current (DC) power generated by the solar panel into alternating current (AC) power that is compatible for use with the transmission network. The output voltage of the inverters would be stepped up to 34.5- to 60-kV AC power and transmitted by underground collection lines to the project substation.

2.4.2 *Substation and Switchyard*

The 90,000-square-foot high-voltage substation would be located adjacent to Area 1 and Area 2 on a concrete ground foundation (see Figures 2-6 and 2-7). The substation would include transformers, breakers, switches, meters, and related equipment. The substation is where all of the underground 34.5-kV collection lines are combined, and the voltage is then stepped up to 500 kV via a transformer. All interconnection equipment, including the control room if required, would be installed aboveground and within the footprint of the substation.

The gen-tie line would connect the collector lines from the substation to the project switchyard by boring under I-15. The gen-tie would be located within an existing Caltrans culvert. The switchyard would be 0.8-mile northwest of I-15, adjacent to the LADWP Mead-Adelanto 500-kV transmission line ROW. The switchyard would permanently occupy approximately 5 acres on a concrete ground foundation. A permanently gated, 8-foot-high chain-link fence with three-strand barbed wire meeting National Electric Safety Code requirements would be constructed around both the substation and switchyard.

2.4.3 *Battery Energy Storage System*

A BESS absorbs, holds, and then reinjects electricity into the electrical grid. The project is anticipated to include up to 300 MW of BESS for dispatch into the local electrical grid via the same point of interconnection as the solar arrays. The BESS would be located adjacent to the substation and Area 1. Up to 18 acres may be utilized for the BESS throughout the project site at full buildout.

2.4.3.1 BATTERIES

Individual lithium-ion cells form the core of the BESS and are assembled in sealed battery modules. The battery modules would be installed in self-supporting racks electrically connected either in series or parallel to each other. The operating rack-level DC voltage currently ranges between 700 and 1,500 volts (V). The individual battery racks are connected in series or a parallel configuration to deliver the BESS energy and power rating.

2.4.3.2 BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM ENCLOSURE AND CONTROLLER

The BESS containers would house the batteries described above, as well as the BESS controller. The BESS controller is a multilevel control system for the battery modules, power conversion system, medium-voltage system, and up to the point of connection with the electrical grid. The controllers ensure that the BESS effectively mimics conventional turbine generators when responding to grid emergency conditions. The BESS enclosure would also house required heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) and fire protection systems. The battery storage containers would be built using standard International Organization for Standardization (ISO) shipping containers, and each would measure approximately 20 feet in length, 6 feet in width, and 8 feet in height, although other smaller form-factor structures exist that may be used.

The safety system would include a fire detection and suppression control system that would be triggered automatically when the system senses imminent fire danger. A fire suppression control system would be provided within each on-site battery enclosure. If necessary, the safety system would use either a waterless evaporating fluid, a sustainable clean agent (not a hydrofluorocarbon clean agent), or an alternative suppression agent, such as an inert gas.

2.4.4 *Operation and Maintenance Area Facilities*

2.4.4.1 BUILDINGS

The following permanent buildings would be constructed as part of the project:

1. Operation and maintenance building (approximate dimensions: 5,000 square feet, 30 feet high)
2. Maintenance facility (approximate dimensions: 2,400 square feet, 35 feet high)
3. Warehouse facility (approximate dimensions: 6,000 square feet, 35 feet high)
4. Substation (approximate dimensions: 90,000 square feet)

The operation and maintenance building, maintenance facility, and warehouse facility would all be located at the southwest corner of the site. The operation and maintenance building may consist of offices, a restroom, and a storage area and would include a heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system. All

of these facilities would be monitored by on-site operation and maintenance personnel and/or remotely. A septic system would be constructed adjacent to the permanent project buildings to serve the sanitary wastewater treatment needs.

One 500-horsepower emergency diesel generator would be located on site to supply emergency power, as needed.

2.4.4.2 PARKING AREAS

Parking areas would be located adjacent to the buildings described above, in the southwest corner of the site. The parking areas are not expected to exceed approximately 0.33 acre, or 13,200 square feet. Parking would be provided for the anticipated regular employees during project operation, for visitors, and for other equipment anticipated to be on-site at any time.

2.4.4.3 ACCESS ROADS

Primary operational access to the project site would be provided via the existing Rasor Road, that runs from I-15 eastward to the Rasor OHV recreation area. The portion of Rasor Road that would serve as the entrance and primary access road within the site is approximately 0.4 mile in length and oriented north-south. The project would maintain and improve this portion of Rasor Road to be 20 feet wide and include a gated entrance to the project site which can be accessed approximately 250 feet southeast from the I-15 northbound off-ramp. North of I-15, the existing LADWP/SCE transmission maintenance road would be upgraded for access to the LADWP switchyard. A Caltrans access road may also be used for construction of the gen-tie line.

Internal access roads would be developed between the arrays. These internal access roads would be 16 feet wide and include a 35-foot turning radius at the project boundary. The Rasor Road primary access road will intersect with an internal access road which leads to the substation. The existing Rasor Road that continues past the internal access road will continue to serve as the main access to Rasor OHV recreation area. The proposed project does not include any improvements to the remainder of Rasor Road.

These roads would consist of compacted native material and would be graded as necessary but would generally follow the existing terrain. Larger boulders that could impede vehicle access would be removed. These permanent access roads would be compacted to meet load requirements for vehicle traffic over the life of the project.

2.4.4.4 SITE SECURITY AND FENCING

All project components would be surrounded by warning signage, perimeter security fencing, desert tortoise exclusionary fencing, and perimeter security cameras. Combined security and desert tortoise fencing would be installed surrounding each individual array field and extend to include the substation and BESS area. The security fencing would be an 8-foot-high chain-link fence with an additional 1 foot of barbed wire. The line posts and terminal posts of the fence would be buried up to 3.5 feet deep, and the distance between posts would not exceed 10 feet. All permanent tortoise exclusionary fencing would be constructed in accordance with Chapter 8, Desert Tortoise Exclusion Fence, of the USFWS's 2009 Desert Tortoise Field Manual (USFWS 2009).

2.4.4.5 LIGHTING

Lighting would be provided at the Rasor Road site entrance, operation and maintenance building, substation, and switchyard. Exterior security lighting would be installed to provide safe access to project

facilities as well as visual surveillance. Some portable lighting also could be required for essential nighttime maintenance activities. All lighting would be kept to the minimum required for safety and security; sensors, motion detectors, and switches would be used to keep lighting turned off when not required. All lights would be downward, shielded, and directed so as to minimize light exposure.

2.4.5 *Landscaping*

The project would plant a variety of native and drought tolerant trees and shrubs along the western boundary of the project site. There would be approximately 30 acres of landscaped areas on site, including 5 acres of irrigated landscaped areas.

2.4.6 *Drainage and Erosion Control*

Grading of up to 2,081 acres and other types of ground treatment would be conducted outside of existing major drainage channels and would not involve substantial changes to site topography. Once construction is complete, the topography beneath the solar panels would generally be the same as the baseline condition except in areas where soil has been compacted or rocks and isolated surface undulations have been removed by grading. Native vegetation would be allowed to reestablish naturally and would be trimmed during operation as necessary.

Security fencing would not be used in the major drainage channels in between the array fields to minimize impacts to wildlife corridors and stormwater flow. If needed along larger drainages, breakaway fencing would consist of a driven post with detachable connections just above ground level, which allow the fencing to yield to the force of a storm event without damage to the embedded portion of the post. Following such an event, the fence would be reattached to the post. The entrance to each access road along the perimeter would include a security gate.

The design of the array fields would avoid placing solar panels within the stormwater flow corridors downstream of the existing culverts under I-15 so that flows from the culverts would continue to follow existing braided flow channels. Three drainage channels would be constructed between the array fields. Each channel would be approximately 3 feet below grade and vary in width and length. Ten temporary sediment basins of varying sizes and depths would be constructed adjacent to the drainage channels and throughout the site and removed at the conclusion of construction.

Development within the channels would be limited to access road crossings and potential subsurface collector lines. Twelve box culverts and eight low-water crossings would be installed at the intersection of access roads and drainage channels, and permanent protection berms would be constructed along the edges of the arrays near these flow corridors to prevent occasional side channel flows from entering the array fields. Temporary and permanent fiber rolls would also be installed on slopes before they transition into steeper slopes to control runoff.

2.4.7 *Solid Waste and Hazardous Materials Management*

Construction would generate solid waste. All waste generated during construction would be stored in wind-proof and wildlife-proof containers that periodically would be transported to an off-site disposal facility authorized to accept the waste. During construction, portable sanitary facilities would be located in the project area and maintained by a local contractor. Concurrently, a septic system would be designed and constructed adjacent to the project buildings to support operation and maintenance employee's sanitary needs. An approximately 2,500-gallon septic tank and adjacent leaching area would be installed.

During operation and maintenance, some PV panels would require replacement due to breakage or other damage or to take advantage of new technologies. Removed PV panels would be recycled or disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal standards and regulations.

Hazardous materials that may be used and stored during construction and/or operation and maintenance could include gasoline and diesel fuel paints, thinners, solvents, sealants, lubricants, hydraulic fluids, herbicides. Facility transformers would contain non-polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-rated dielectric fluid.

Hazardous materials would be stored within secondary containment to control any potential leaks of oils, grease, fuels, and other hazardous materials stored at the project site. All potential contaminants would be stored and used at least 50 feet from any defined or constructed channels or basins at all times. If quantities exceed regulatory thresholds, a spill prevention control and countermeasure (SPCC) plan would be developed prior to project construction in accordance with applicable regulations and would include a facility diagram that would identify the location and contents of hazardous materials containers; potential equipment failures; containment and diversionary structures; facility drainage; personnel, training, and spill prevention procedures; and emergency contact information. Diversionary structures meeting the requirements of the SPCC plan would be provided for oil-containing equipment, including transformers, at the project site. Transformers would be inspected on a regular basis to detect and respond to any leakage.

All use, storage, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials associated with the project would be done in strict accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and guidelines. Employees would be trained in the appropriate protocol for notification and cleanup of hazardous materials. Additionally, the site would be supplied with adequate spill containment kits and personal protective equipment in case of a release.

2.5 Construction

The following sections provide details about the timeline and process for construction of the project. Once construction is complete, the project would operate for approximately 30 years.

2.5.1 *Construction Schedule and Workforce*

Construction of the project is anticipated to begin in 2025 and occur over an approximately 18-month period and consist of overlapping construction stages. Stage 1 would include mobilization, site preparation, fencing, preparation of laydown areas, and trenching. Stage 2 would include installation of solar array structural components including cables, piles, racking systems, inverters, and modules. Stage 3 would include installation of solar panels, battery storage systems, commissioning, and testing. Stage 1 would be from months 1 to 8, Stage 2 would be from months 4 to 12, and Stage 3 would occur during months 10 to 18. An average of 200 construction workers would operate daily on-site, with an anticipated 300 construction workers during peak construction activities.

The typical construction work schedule is expected to be from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. However, to meet schedule demands or to reduce impacts, it may be necessary to work early mornings, evenings, or nights and on weekends during certain construction phases. The work schedule may be modified throughout the year to account for changing weather conditions (e.g., starting the workday earlier in the summer months to avoid work during the hottest part of the day for health and safety reasons). If construction work takes place outside these typical hours, activities would comply with San Bernardino County standards for construction noise levels. For safety reasons, certain construction tasks, including final electrical terminations, must be performed after dark when no energy is being produced. The project would use restricted nighttime task lighting during construction. Lighting would

include only what is needed to provide a safe workplace, and lights would be focused downward, shielded, and directed toward the interior of the site to minimize light exposure outside the construction area.

2.5.2 *Preconstruction Activities (Stage 1)*

Prior to construction, all contractors, subcontractors, and other on-site personnel would receive Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training regarding the appropriate work practices necessary to effectively understand and implement the biological commitments in the project description, implement the mitigation measures, comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations, avoid and minimize impacts, and understand the importance of these resources and the purpose and necessity of protecting them.

Qualified biologists would conduct preconstruction surveys for sensitive species. Sensitive resource areas would be flagged so they are avoided or appropriately managed during construction. Preconstruction field survey work would include identifying precise locations of the project site boundary and desert tortoise and security fencing. Construction staging areas would be established for storing materials, construction equipment, and vehicles. These features would be subsequently staked in the field. No paint or permanent discoloring agents would be applied to rocks or vegetation to indicate survey or construction limits. All off-road vehicle travel, fence installation, and staging area establishment would be surveyed and/or monitored by qualified biologists, archaeologists, and tribal monitors, as appropriate. The preconstruction field surveys would be conducted during daylight hours, and vary in length and timing, depending on the species found on-site. The proposed WEAP training would be required before a worker would be allowed to work on the site. These trainings would also occur on a continuous basis during construction.

2.5.3 *Site Preparation (Stage 1)*

As shown in Figure 2-9, approximately 2,081 acres throughout the site would be disturbed. Grubbing and grading would be required across a majority of the site to level rough or undulating areas of the site and to prepare soils for concrete foundations for substation equipment, inverters, energy storage systems, and the operations and maintenance buildings. Grubbing would involve the removal of vegetation from the construction site, while grading would include earthwork to achieve a certain base or slope. There would be approximately 630,000 cubic yards of cut and 180,100 cubic yards of fill, thus requiring approximately 449,900 cubic yards of cut on site. The 449,900 cubic yards of net cut will be transported to the nearest Class II or Class III landfill with the capacity to receive it.

Per Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District Rule 403, as part of project construction, the applicant would develop a Dust Control Plan that describes all applicable dust control measures to address construction-related dust (Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District 2020). Further, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) or SWPPP-equivalent document required by the Lahontan RWQCB would be prepared by a qualified engineer or erosion control specialist and would be implemented before construction. The SWPPP would be designed to reduce potential impacts related to erosion and surface water quality during construction activities and throughout the life of the project. It would include project information and best management practices (BMPs). The BMPs would include dewatering procedures, stormwater runoff quality control measures, concrete waste management, stormwater detention, watering for dust control, and construction of perimeter silt fences, as needed.

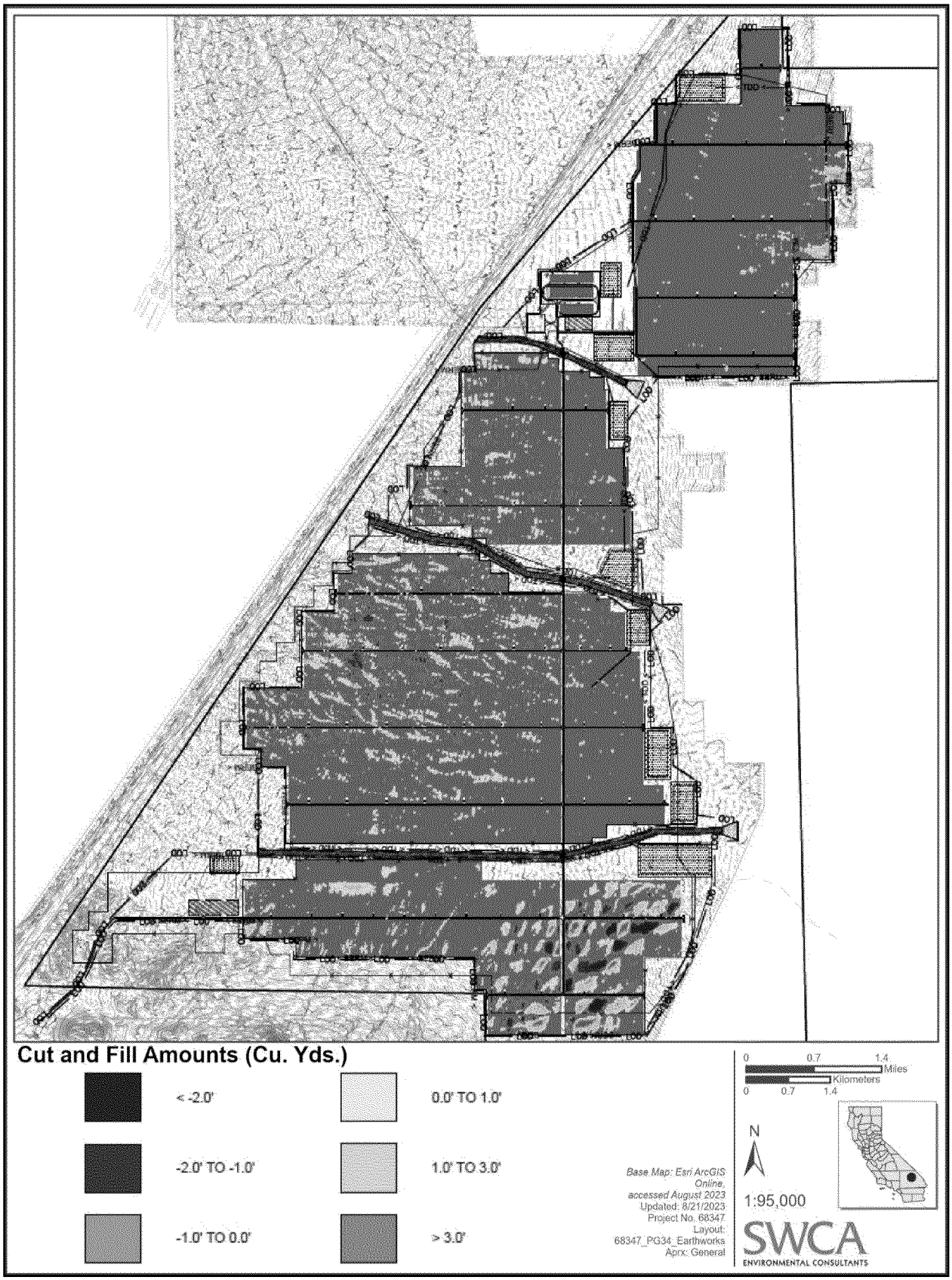


Figure 2-9. Proposed earthwork.

2.5.4 *Solar Array Assembly and Construction (Stage 2)*

Construction of the solar arrays would begin with the installation of array support posts, which would be driven into the soil using a pile/vibratory/rotary driving technique to a depth of approximately 8 to 12 feet. Once the support structures are in place, solar panels would be attached to the support frame. The assembled groups of solar panels would be wired together into strings through connectors on the back of the modules. Assembled panel sections would then be connected to combiner boxes located throughout the arrays that would deliver power to the inverter. Output wires from combiner boxes would be routed along an underground trench system approximately 3 to 4 feet deep and 1 to 3 feet wide, to the inverters and transformer pads. Inverters would be mounted on concrete pads or driven piles. Inverters and transformers would be brought in by tractor-trailers through the Rasor Road site entrance and delivered directly to the mounting pad sites.

2.5.5 *Substation and Switchyard Construction (Stage 3)*

Construction of the project substation, switchyard, and interconnection to the 500-kV transmission line would occur concurrently with the construction of the solar arrays. One tower would be removed from the existing line and two turning structures would be constructed adjacent to the removed tower. The turning structures would direct the 500-kV transmission line into and out of the new switchyard. The substation and switchyard would be graded and compacted to an approximately level grade.

A substation and switchyard grounding grid would be installed as required. Multiple concrete pads and/or piers would be constructed as foundations for substation equipment and the remaining area would be graveled. Concrete piers and footings would be installed to support the transmission towers, switchyard, and substation buswork. Electrical transformers, switchgear, and related substation facilities would be designed and installed/constructed to transform the 34.5-kV power on the collection lines to the transmission line voltage.

2.5.6 *Electrical Construction Activities (Stage 3)*

Buried electrical lines for DC array wiring and AC wiring between inverters and transformers would then be installed using trenching machines. The trenches would be approximately 3 to 4 feet deep and 1 to 3 feet wide. The trenched areas would be filled once the cables are buried. After this work is complete, and depending on the level of ground preparation chosen, the surveyors, vegetation cutters, graders, and trenchers would move on to the next block. It is anticipated that the solar panels would require one washing during the construction phase prior to energizing and performance testing of the arrays in order to remove the dust that has accumulated on the panels during construction.

The medium-voltage collection cables would be trenched at depths up to 4 feet using a trenching machine. The trenches would be approximately 12 to 24 inches wide. Multiple trenches may be placed adjacent to each other, depending on the number of collector circuits in a particular location. The cables would be manually placed within the trenches in layers (as necessary) followed by a backfill and compaction operation. Alternatively, a cable lay box would be used to automate the cable placement and backfill process. The main trenching operations would be for installation of DC cables from the combiner boxes to the inverter skids and installation of AC collector circuits between inverter skids and the substation. The collector cable would be installed by circuit in conduits, with each circuit contained in a single 6-inch-diameter conduit (typical) spaced approximately 10 feet on center. The exact locations would be determined during detailed design.

The gen-tie line would be routed to the project switchyard by boring under I-15. The boring operation would be accomplished by constructing a boring pit on each side of I-15 to initiate and terminate the bore.

The gen-tie line would cross I-15 through bores in a 200-foot-wide corridor at a 90-degree angle and would be installed per Caltrans requirements. Alternative design concepts for boring design, including through an existing culvert, may be considered based on project requirements. No overhead generation tie lines crossing I-15 are proposed.

2.5.7 *Construction Equipment and Materials*

Standard construction equipment would be used during construction, including earth-moving equipment (e.g., bulldozers, excavators, backhoes) and road-building equipment (e.g., compactors, scrapers, graders). Construction equipment would include air compressors, all-terrain passenger vehicles, backhoes, cranes, a drill rig, tractor-trailers, flat-bed trucks, front-end loaders, pick-up trucks, pile drivers, trenchers, and water trucks. Construction equipment and maintenance trucks would be maintained at all times to minimize leaks of motor oils, hydraulic fluids, and fuels. No extremely hazardous materials are currently anticipated to be produced, used, stored, or disposed of as a result of the project.

Most of the fuel required by construction and operation staff vehicles and engines would be procured at commercial gas stations in the local area, such as at the service station at Rasor Road or in Baker. To fuel construction equipment, mobile fueling and maintenance vehicles would be brought on a daily basis as needed. A limited amount of #2 diesel and gasoline petroleum fuels (approximately 500 gallons each) would be stored in the staging areas in above-grade steel tanks with secondary containment.

Concrete would be required for building or structure footings and foundations and pads for inverters, transformers, water tank footings, and substation equipment. In areas where driven support posts are not practical for the solar arrays, precast concrete ballasted supports may be used.

2.5.8 *Construction Vehicle Access and Traffic*

All construction materials would be delivered by truck. Most truck traffic would occur on designated truck routes and major streets. Construction traffic would include periodic truck deliveries of materials and supplies, recyclables, trash, and other truck shipments, and construction worker commuting vehicles. Most construction equipment and vehicles would be brought to the site at the beginning of the construction process during construction mobilization and remain on-site throughout the duration of the construction activities for which they were needed. Generally, the equipment and vehicles would not be driven on public roads while in use for the project.

Over the approximately 18-month construction period, the project would require approximately 5,000 truckloads of construction materials per month for delivery of components and construction materials, including concrete. Up to 90,000 truckloads would result over the total construction period, excluding travel by construction workers. As water is obtained from an off-site source during construction, an estimated 17 water transport truck trips per day would also be required. Average truck traffic would be approximately 80 trucks per day, 25 days per month. The project would use a just-in-time delivery system with supplies and components delivered on a schedule to minimize on-site storage needs.

The project would prepare a Construction Traffic Management Plan, to provide construction vehicle information, facilitate traffic control methods, and provide a designated contact for addressing complaints.

2.5.9 *Construction Water Supply and Use*

Project construction would take place over approximately 18 months. Water would be needed primarily for dust control and soil compaction during the first 90 days of grading activities, with small amounts

used for sanitary and other purposes. During Stage 1 and Stage 2 of construction, which includes the 90-day grading period, the project would require approximately 196,500 gpd, or approximately 220 af/yr. Water requirements in the second year of construction are expected to be less than 110 af/yr, or half of the requirement of the first year of construction. Five temporary water tanks of 100,000 gallons would be brought on-site by truck to store water in anticipation of construction water needs. The tanks would be housed on trailers located along access roads or within areas that have been cleared for installation of project components. The tanks may be moved around the site as construction progresses and would be used to fill on-site water trucks. The temporary water storage tanks would be removed after construction. Water used for construction would be supplied by two existing private groundwater wells in Newbury Springs, San Bernardino County.

2.6 Operation and Maintenance

The project would begin operation in 2027 and operate 7 days a week, 365 days a year, with an approximately 35-year anticipated lifespan. Operational needs at the site include monitoring and optimizing the power generated by the solar arrays and interconnection with the transmission lines, operating the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, troubleshooting the collector lines and repairing damaged cables, and conducting panel-washing activities periodically through the year. Additional maintenance would be required to maintain the administrative buildings, fencing and signage, roadways, and other ancillary facilities at the site.

2.6.1 *Operation and Maintenance Workforce*

The project substation would be uncrewed during operation; however, a workforce of approximately 25 to 40 personnel would visit the substation on an as needed basis for maintenance, equipment operation, and/or security. The project would be remotely controlled, eliminating the need for permanent on-site employees. Final staffing levels and configuration would be based on the final site configuration and early operating and maintenance experience. The facility would not be accessible to the public, and access will be infrequent and limited to authorized personnel.

2.6.2 *Automated Facility Control and Monitoring System*

The project would be operated and monitored by means of a SCADA system located in the control building. Sensors located at each inverter/tracker combiner would report operational parameters. Data access and inverters are controlled, either on-site or remotely, through a high-security system. The non-conductive fiber-optic communications cable would be co-located with the low-voltage DC and AC wiring to reduce environmental impacts.

Personnel communication would use two-way radio/receptor stations, which would require a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) license.

2.6.3 *Operational Water Supply and Use*

Project operation would require water for potable use, dust control, panel washing, and fire protection. The water for the project would be supplied by two existing private groundwater wells located in Newberry Springs, San Bernardino County. This water would be trucked in from these wells and installed in three permanent water storage tanks to support project operations.

An approximately 36,000-gallon water tank would be installed on a high point near the operation and maintenance building to provide storage of panel-washing water. Water would be used to clean the PV

panels; dust and dirt build-up reduces the amount of incoming solar radiation striking the active PV layer within the panel. To reduce this effect, panel washing with water stored in the 36,000-gallon water tank would be conducted two or three times per year over a 3-week period during operations, or additionally as necessitated. The water would drain by gravity to panel-washing trucks for use. The project estimates that each panel washing, including additional miscellaneous operational water needs, would require a total of 1,200 gallons per day (gpd) or 1.3 acre-feet per year (af/yr). Based on these project assumptions, the average annual water usage for panel washing would be approximately 3,600 gpd or 3.9 af/yr. In total, an estimated 5.6 af/yr of water would be used for panel washing, dust control and suppression during operation.

Another approximately 22,500-gallon tank would be located near the operation and maintenance building to provide storage of fire suppression water. The tank would not require a regular supply of water because the water would be withdrawn only in the event of a fire. The tank would be monitored periodically and refilled as needed to replace evaporative losses. For fire suppression water supply, the project would conform to County requirements, which incorporate National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards 1142 and 13 by reference and provide minimum requirements for fire suppression water supply where no public water supply is available (Standard 1142) and sprinkler systems (Standard 13).

2.7 Decommissioning and Site Reclamation

The solar ROW grant is authorized for a 30-year term and would be subject to renewal at that time. When the project reaches the end of its useful life, structures and equipment would be removed for reuse or sold as scrap, and the land surface would be reclaimed. A Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan has been prepared for the project. Because site conditions are likely to change over the life of the project, and to ensure that the decommissioning and site reclamation plan addresses all necessary conditions, the draft will be finalized and approved by the BLM and/or CDFW before decommissioning and reclamation activities begin.

Upon decommissioning, aboveground structures would be dismantled and removed from the site. Where required by the BLM and/or CDFW, concrete pads or foundations would be demolished, and rubble would be removed to an off-site disposal facility authorized to accept the waste. Belowground facilities may be disconnected at the surface and left in place in conformance with guidance and approval from the BLM. New project access roads and corridors would be closed, with the exception of Rasor Road, which would remain accessible.

Decommissioning of the substation and switchyard would involve deconstruction of structures. Salvaged materials would be recycled to the extent possible. Material that cannot be recycled would be transported for disposal in authorized landfills. Underground cabling and conduit may be left in place. The substation and office/storage areas would be graded to approximate the natural contour.

The applicant would prepare and implement a final closure and reclamation plan addressing removal of structures and site restoration in conformance with BLM and/or CDFW requirements at the time of decommissioning. Construction hours and site cleanliness practices would be approximately the same during decommissioning as during construction.

CHAPTER 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

Soda Mountain Solar, LLC (applicant), proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) electrical generating and storage facility and associated infrastructure to generate and deliver renewable electricity to the statewide electricity transmission grid. The project would generate up to 300 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy and include up to 300 MW of battery storage. The project also includes future decommissioning, which is anticipated to occur after 30 years of operation.
The project is located on approximately 2,670 acres of land administered by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Desert District, within the jurisdiction of the Barstow Field Office in San Bernardino County (County).

1.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project's primary goal is to contribute to the achievement of California's renewable energy goals and create a vital new point of interconnection for renewable energy in San Bernardino County to connect to California's electric transmission infrastructure. The project objectives are identified as follows:

- Assist the State of California in achieving or exceeding its Renewables Portfolio Standard and greenhouse gas emissions reduction objectives by developing and constructing new California Renewables Portfolio Standard–qualified solar power generation facilities producing approximately 300 MW.
- Produce and transmit electricity at a competitive cost.
- Provide a new source of energy storage that assists the state in achieving its energy storage mandates.
- Use the existing transmission unused capacity that provides approximately 300 MW of capacity.
- Utilize existing energy infrastructure to the extent possible by locating solar power generation facilities near existing infrastructure, such as electrical transmission facilities.
- Site solar power generation facilities in areas of San Bernardino County that have the best solar resource to maximize energy production and the efficient use of land.
- Develop a solar power generation facility in San Bernardino County that would support the economy by investing in the local community, creating local construction jobs, and increasing tax and fee revenue to the County.

1.3 PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located entirely on federally owned land managed by the BLM. The 2,670-acre project site is located approximately 7 miles southwest of the community of Baker in unincorporated San Bernardino County, California, approximately 50 miles northeast of Barstow. The project site is located in portions of Sections 1 and 11–14, Township 12 North, Range 7 East; Sections 25 and 36, Township 13 North, Range 7 East; Sections 6, 7, 8, and 18, Township 13 North, Range 8 East, San Bernardino Meridian, California.

1.4 PROJECT ELEMENTS

The project proposes to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a 300-MW PV solar facility located on approximately 2,670 acres. The project components are as follows:

1. The solar plant site (i.e., all facilities that create a footprint in and around the field of solar panels, including the solar field consisting of solar power arrays identified as the East Array and South Arrays 1, 2, and 3), operation and maintenance buildings and structures, stormwater infrastructure, and related infrastructure and improvements.
2. A substation and switchyard for interconnection to the existing transmission system.
3. Approximately 300 MW of battery energy storage system (BESS) across 18 acres.

The project would operate year-round and would generate electricity during daylight hours when the sun is shining. The project would generate and deliver solar-generated power to the regional electrical grid through an interconnection with the existing Marketplace-Adelanto 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).

1.5 PROJECT SCHEDULE

Construction of the project is anticipated to begin in 2025, occur over an approximately 18-month period, consist of overlapping construction stages. The project would begin operation in 2027 and operate 7 days a week, 365 days a year, with an approximately 30-year anticipated lifespan.

1.6 PROJECT OWNERSHIP

The project site is located entirely on lands owned by the BLM. The BLM lease owner of the project is a Limited Liability Company named Soda Mountain Solar LLC. The operator of the project is VC Renewables. The power produced by the project would be conveyed to the regional electrical grid through an interconnection with the existing transmission line operated by LADWP.

1.7 BACKGROUND AND PROJECT HISTORY

On December 14, 2007, the project applicant, Soda Mountain Solar, LLC, filed a right-of-way (ROW) grant application with the BLM to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission the project (Case File Number CACA-049584). A ROW grant requires compliance with applicable state environmental laws, including the need to obtain an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) and Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), waste discharge requirements (WDRs) from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and associated approvals of any required mitigation measures. This original project application covered 4,179 acres of BLM-administered land and included a 358-MW solar facility on a proposed development footprint of approximately 2,222 acres (Figure 1-1). All of the land within the project application area was within the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, a Congress-designated, 25-million-acre expanse of resource-rich desert lands in southern California through the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The proposed project required an amendment to the CDCA Plan to allow use of the project site for solar development. The ROW grant application and proposed project's need for a CDCA Plan Amendment (PA) triggered the need for environmental analysis of potential impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

As part of the original project proposal, Soda Mountain Solar, LLC, applied for groundwater well permits with the County of San Bernardino on August 2, 2012. The groundwater well permit applications triggered the need for environmental analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The BLM and the County jointly prepared a proposed PA to the CDCA Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under NEPA and CEQA.

The BLM and the County published the final CDCA PA and EIS/EIR document on June 12, 2015. The BLM issued a Record of Decision (ROD) to approve a revised configuration of the application and associated amendment to the CDCA Plan in March 2016 (BLM 2016). Compared with the original project analyzed in the PA and EIS/EIR, the revised project configuration in the ROD removed 571 acres from the proposed development (the North Solar Array), reduced impacts to visual resources, and included future efforts to restore connectivity for desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) (Figure 1-2).

Soda Mountain Solar, LLC, also filed revised groundwater well permit applications with the County on May 12, 2016. The County held a hearing on adoption of the EIR and approval of the groundwater permits on August 23, 2016. Despite the project receiving a ROD from the BLM and recommendation from the County Planning Staff to approve the project, the County Board of Supervisors declined to certify the EIR. As the County did not certify the EIR, no decision was made regarding the groundwater permits. The revised project configuration approved in the BLM ROD is the same as the proposed project being analyzed under this EIR, with the additional removal of any groundwater wells.

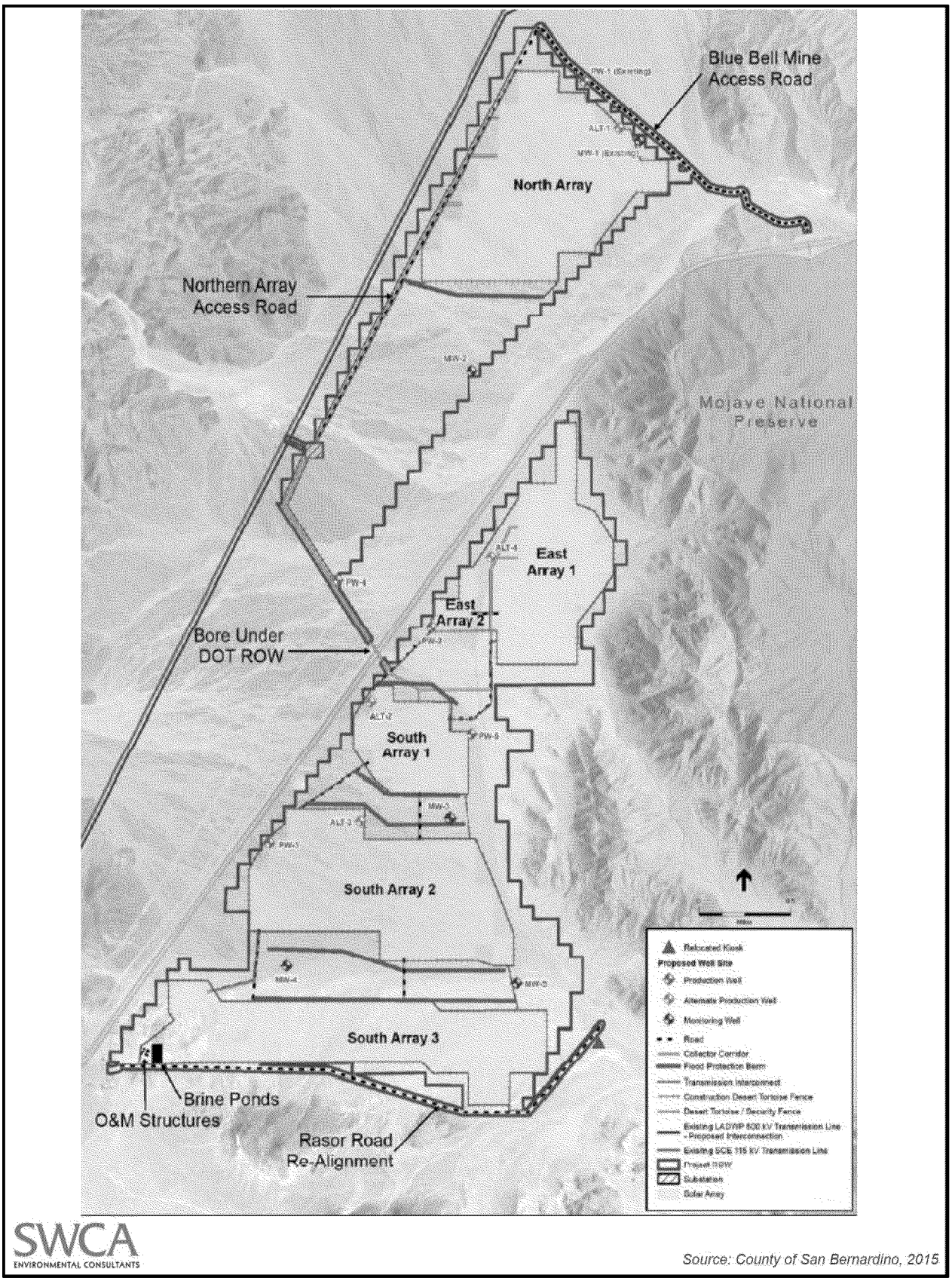


Figure 1-1. Project proposed in 2015.

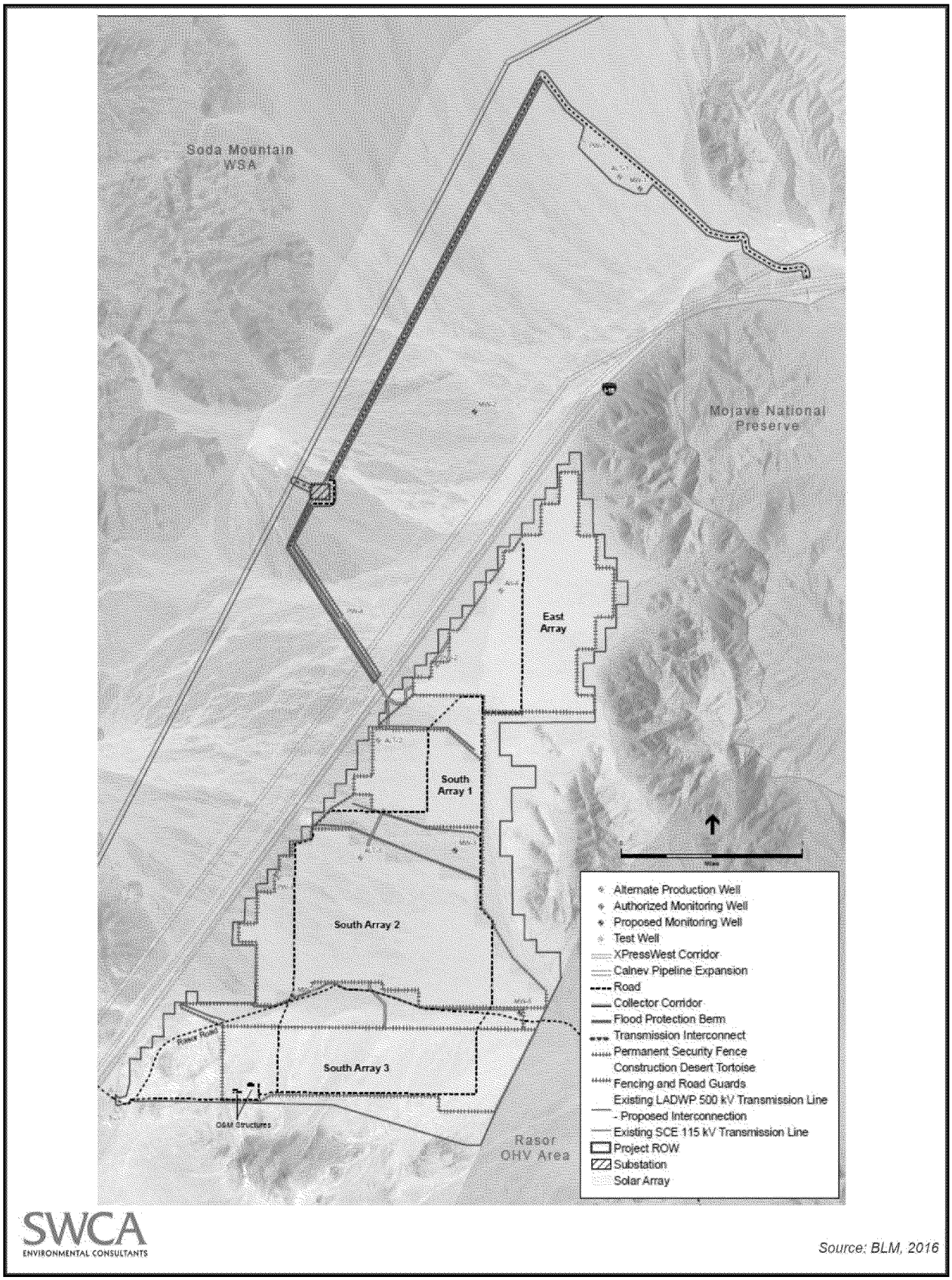


Figure 1-2. Project approved by BLM in 2016.

1.7.1 References Cited

Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 2016. *Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, Land Use Plan Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan, Bishop Resource Management Plan, and Bakersfield Resource Management Plan*. Available at: https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/lup/66459/133474/163144/DRECP_BLM_LUPA.pdf. Accessed January 2024.

From: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Sent: 8/2/2024 5:58:30 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]
Subject: Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM and CDFW technical staff contacts

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Lisa,

We don't have any additional contacts for these agencies at this time. We pre-approved this contact list with both BLM and CDFW, and these were the staff members they requested be involved in the project review and noticing.

Thanks!
Hannah

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 2, 2024 10:53:57 AM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Subject: RE: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM and CDFW technical staff contacts

I saw that, but was wondering if there were other BLM staff that are technical staff, like biologists. The contacts in the document are realty staff, not environmental staff.

From: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Sent: Friday, August 2, 2024 10:22 AM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM and CDFW technical staff contacts

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Lisa,

Please see Table 1 on the attached docket item. Hopefully this provides all the information you need. However, if there is anything else that would be helpful to you, just let me know and I will provide it ASAP.

Thank you so much for your help with this project!

Thanks!
Hannah

Hannah Gbeh

CEO

Resolution Environmental

262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118

760-504-4109

hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com

www.resolutionenvironmental.com

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 2, 2024 10:14 AM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM and CDFW technical staff contacts

Hi Hannah,

Can you send me contact information for BLM and CDFW technical staff? If this takes some time to get, can you prioritize biological, water resources staff.

Thanks,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov



From: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Sent: 8/2/2024 5:22:21 PM
To: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e4bbc7048b38485084bdb03fb494b25b-Worrall, Li]
Subject: Re: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM and CDFW technical staff contacts
Attachments: TN257943_20240722T171324_Appendix V Supplemental Information .pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Lisa,

Please see Table 1 on the attached docket item. Hopefully this provides all the information you need. However, if there is anything else that would be helpful to you, just let me know and I will provide it ASAP.

Thank you so much for your help with this project!

Thanks!
Hannah

Hannah Gbeh
CEO
Resolution Environmental
262 B. Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118
760-504-4109
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From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy <Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 2, 2024 10:14 AM
To: Hannah Gbeh <hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com>
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) BLM and CDFW technical staff contacts

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Thanks,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov


STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENERGY COMMISSION
SINCE 1974

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-03
Project Title:	Soda Mountain Solar
TN #:	257943
Document Title:	Appendix V Supplemental Information
Description:	Facility Definitions, Permit Applications Submitted, Permits Required, Relevant Regulatory Framework, Prohibited Area Analysis and Environmental Leadership and Development Project Requirements.
Filer:	Hannah Gbeh
Organization:	Resolution Environmental
Submitter Role:	Applicant Consultant
Submission Date:	7/22/2024 5:19:38 PM
Docketed Date:	7/23/2024

Soda Mountain Solar Project
Supplemental Application Information

1.0 Facility Definitions

In accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 20 § 1877 (b), the following provides an explanation of how the Soda Mountain Solar Project (Project) meets one or more of the definitions of "facility" in California Public Resources Code § 25545(b). (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1877(b); Pub. Resources Code, § 25545(b))

Per California Public Resources Code § 25545(b), "facility" means any of the following:

> (1) A solar photovoltaic or terrestrial wind electrical generating powerplant with generating capacity of 50MW or more and any facilities appurtenant thereto. (Pub. Resources Code, § 25545(b)(1))
>
> (2) An energy storage system as defined in Section 2835 of the Pub. Util. Code that can store 200 MWh or more of electrical energy. (Pub. Resources Code, § 25545(b)(2))
>
> (3) A stationary electrical generating powerplant using any source of thermal energy, with a generating capacity of 50 MW or more, excluding any powerplant that burns, uses, or relies on fossil or nuclear fuels. (Pub. Resources Code, § 25545(b)(3))
>
> (4) A discretionary project that applicant has certified that a capital investment of at least $250,000,000 will be made over a period of 5 years. Provide what the facility would manufacture, produce, or assemble, and how the facility's products or services would be used in the manufacture, production, or assembly of the following:
>
> a. Energy storage systems or component manufacturing,
> b. Wind systems or component manufacturing,
> c. Solar photovoltaic energy systems or component manufacturing, or
> d. Specialized products, components, or systems that are integral to renewable energy or energy storage technologies.
> (Pub. Resources Code, § 25545(b)(4); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1877(b))

The Soda Mountain Solar Project involves the construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic facility that would generate up to 300 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy and include up to 300 MW of battery storage. Therefore, the Project meets the definition of a "facility" per California Public Resources Code § 25545(b), paragraph (1).

Facilities included as part of the Soda Mountain Solar Project include:

1. The solar plant site (i.e., all facilities that create a footprint in and around the field of solar panels, including the solar field consisting of solar power arrays identified as the East Array and South Arrays 1, 2, and 3), operation and maintenance buildings and structures, stormwater infrastructure, and related infrastructure and improvements;
2. A substation and switchyard for interconnection to the existing transmission system; and
3. Approximately 300 MW of battery energy storage system (BESS) across 18 acres.

The power produced by the project would be conveyed to the regional electrical grid through an interconnection with the existing Marketplace-Adelanto 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).

2.0 Permit Applications Submitted

Table 1 below identifies the agencies with jurisdiction over the project and identifies the required permits for the Soda Mountain Solar Project, including a schedule for obtaining required permits and any discussions that have occurred with these regulatory agencies. Table 2 identifies the location within the CEC application where relevant laws, regulations, ordinances, standards, adopted local, regional, state, and federal land use plans, leases, and permits applicable to the proposed project are discussed, including the applicability of, and conformance with each.

2.1 Permitting History

On December 14, 2007, the project applicant, Soda Mountain Solar, LLC, filed a right-of-way (ROW) grant application with the BLM to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission the project (Case File Number CACA-049584). A ROW grant requires compliance with applicable state environmental laws, including the need to obtain an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) and Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), waste discharge requirements (WDRs) from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and associated approvals of any required mitigation measures. This original project application covered 4,179 acres of BLM-administered land and included a 358-MW solar facility on a proposed development footprint of approximately 2,222 acres. All of the land within the project application area was within the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, a Congress-designated, 25-million-acre expanse of resource-rich desert lands in southern California through the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The proposed project required an amendment to the CDCA Plan to allow use of the project site for solar development. The ROW grant application and proposed project's need for a CDCA Plan Amendment (PA) triggered the need for environmental analysis of potential impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

As part of the original project proposal, Soda Mountain Solar, LLC, applied for groundwater well permits with the County of San Bernardino on August 2, 2012. The groundwater well permit applications triggered the need for environmental analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The BLM and the County jointly prepared a proposed PA to the CDCA Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under NEPA and CEQA. The BLM and the County published the final CDCA PA and EIS/EIR document on June 12, 2015. The BLM issued a Record of Decision (ROD) to approve a revised configuration of the application and associated amendment to the CDCA Plan in March 2016 (BLM 2016). Compared with the original project analyzed in the PA and EIS/EIR, the revised project configuration in the ROD removed 571 acres from the proposed development (the North Solar Array), reduced impacts to visual resources, and included future efforts to restore connectivity for desert bighorn sheep (Ovis canadensis nelsoni).

Soda Mountain Solar, LLC, also filed revised groundwater well permit applications with the County on May 12, 2016. The County held a hearing on adoption of the EIR and approval of the groundwater permits on August 23, 2016. Despite the project receiving a ROD from the BLM and recommendation from the County Planning Staff to approve the project, the County Board of Supervisors declined to certify the EIR. As the County did not certify the EIR, no decision was made regarding the groundwater permits. The revised project configuration approved in the BLM ROD is the same as the proposed project being analyzed under this CEC Opt-In Application, with the additional removal of any groundwater wells.

On June 6, 2022, the Applicant submitted an Incidental Take Permit application to CDFW to incidentally take Agassiz's desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizii). In accordance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 783.5, CDFW cannot finalize the Incidental Take Permit until CDFW has received a certified CEQA document. Prior to submitting an AB 205 Opt-In Application with the California Energy Commission (CEC), it was determined that CDFW would serve as the CEQA lead agency for the project.

CDFW issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on January 18, 2023. Table 3 identifies the organizations that commented on the 2023 NOP.

In accordance with the provisions of Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 1704, Appendix B, Soda Mountain, LLC and VC Renewables (Applicant) submitted an Opt-In Application in July 2024, seeking authority to construct and operate the Soda Mountain Solar Project (Project) to the California Energy Commission (CEC). The Applicant has withdrawn its Incidental Take Permit Application from CDFW, allowing the CEC to serve as Lead Agency for the Project.

Table 2-1. Permits Required for Soda Mountain Solar Project

Regulatory Agency	Permit Required	Agency Contact	Schedule
Federal Permits			
Bureau of Land Management*	Grant of Right-of-Way National Environmental Policy Act Compliance	**Name**: Portia Samples **Title**: Realty Specialist **Address**: 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311 **Phone**: 760 252-6000 **Email**: psamples@blm.gov **Name**: Isabeau Cordes **Title**: Realty Specialist **Address**: 2601 Barstow Road Barstow, CA 92311 **Phone**: 760 252-6000 **Email**: icordes@blm.gov **Name**: Julie Donnell **Title**: Assistant Field Manager **Address**: 2601 Barstow Road Barstow, CA 92311 **Phone**: 760 252-6000 **Email**: jdonnell@blm.gov **Name**: Brandon Anderson **Title**: Assistant District Manager **Address**: 1201 Bird Center Drive Palm Springs, CA 92262 **Phone**: 760 833-7100 **Email**: bganderson@blm.gov	Concurrent with CEC Opt-In Application
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*	Section 7 Consultation of the federal Endangered Species Act	**Name**: Peter Sanzenbacher **Title**: Supervisor, Desert Division **Address**: 777 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite 208, Palm Springs, CA 92262 **Phone**: 760-322-2070 **Email**: peter_sanzenbacher@fws.gov	Concurrent with CEC Opt-In Application
State Permits			

California Energy Commission*	AB 205 Opt-In Certification and Environmental Impact Report Certification	**Name:** Eric Knight **Title:** Manager, Siting & Environmental Branch Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division **Address:** 715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 **Email:** eric.knight@energy.ca.gov **Phone:** (916) 591-9931	July 2024-Present
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board*	Construction General Permit Waste Discharge Requirements Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit	**Name**: Tiffany Steinert **Title**: Engineering Geologist **Address**: 15095 Amargosa Road, Building 2, Suite 210, Victorville, CA 92394 **Phone**: 760-241-7305 **Email**: tiffany.steinert@waterboards.ca.gov **Name**: Lisa Horowitz McCann **Title**: Environmental Program Manager **Address**: 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, CA 94612 **Phone**: 916-323-0884 **Email**: lisa.mccann@waterboards.ca.gov	Concurrent with CEC Opt-In Application
California Department of Fish and Wildlife*	Incidental Take Permit Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement	**Name:** Magdalena Rodriguez **Title**: Renewable Energy Project Manager **Address**: 3602 Inland Empire Blvd, Suite C-220, Ontario, CA 91764 **Phone:** (909) 844-2520 **Email**: Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov **Name**: Alisa Ellsworth **Title**: Environmental Program Manager **Address**: 3602 Inland Empire Blvd, Suite C-220, Ontario, CA 91764 **Phone**: 760-900-4448 **Email**: Alisa.Ellsworth@wildlife.ca.gov **Name:** Dr. Shankar Sharma **Title**: Staff Environmental Scientist of Renewable Energy **Address**: 3602 Inland Empire Blvd, Suite C-220, Ontario, CA 91764 **Phone:** 909-228-3692 **Email:** Shankar.Sharma@wildlife.ca.gov **Name:** Alexander Branch **Title**: Attorney	Concurrent with CEC Opt-In Application

		Address: 715 P Street, 17th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 **Phone**: 916-809-3908 **Email**: alexander.branch@wildlife.ca.gov	
California Department of Transportation*	Encroachment Permit Oversize/Heavy Load Permit	**Name**: James Camarillo **Title**: Associate Transportation Planner, District 8 – Planning Division, Office of Local Development Review San Bernardino Coordinator **Address**: 464 W. 4th Street MS-726, San Bernardino, CA 92401 **Phone**: 909-383-4555 / 909-963-8604 **Email**: james.camarillo@dot.ca.gov	After project approval and prior to construction.
Department of Toxic Substances Control	Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP)	**Name**: Wayne Lorentzen **Title**: Division Chief **Address**: 1001 "I" Street, P.O. Box 806, Sacramento, CA 95812 **Phone**: 916-255-3883 **Email**: Wayne.Lorentzen@dtsc.ca.gov	After project approval and prior to construction. Updated/new HMBP submittal for operational phase.
California Department of Environmental Protection	Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP)	**Name**: Elizabeth Brega **Title**: Senior Environmental Scientist **Address**: 1001 "I" St., Sacramento, CA 95814 **Phone**: 916-318-8156 **Email**: elizabeth.brega@calepa.ca.gov	After project approval and prior to construction. Updated/new HMBP submittal for operational phase.
Local			
Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District	Authority to Construct	Name: Brad Poiriez Title: Executive Director Address: 14306 Park Avenue, Victorville, CA 92392 Phone: 760-245-1661 Email: bradp@mdaqmd.ca.gov	After project approval and prior to construction.
County of San Bernadino	Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Permit Construction Waste Management Plan Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP)	**Name:** Nancy Sansonetti **Title:** Supervising Planner, Environmental Management Division **Address:** 825 East Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92414 **Phone:** 909-387-7910 **Email:** Nancy.Sansonetti@dpw.sbcounty.gov **Name:** Manikhone Cruz	After project approval and prior to construction. Updated/new HMBP submittal for operational phase.

		Title: Planner, Department of Public Works **Address:** 825 East Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415 **Phone:** 909-387-1869 **Email:** Manikhone.Cruz@dpw.sbcounty.gov	
* Indicates agency has been involved or is currently involved in discussions related to the project.			

Table 2-2. Relevant Regulatory Framework for Soda Mountain Solar Project

Environmental Issues Area	Regulatory Compliance Discussion
3-1 Aesthetics	Section 3.1.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.1-1 – 3.1-10
3-2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources	Section 3.2.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.2-1 – 3.2-6
3-3 Air Quality	Section 3.3.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.3-1 – 3.3-13
3-4 Biological Resources	Section 3.4.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.4-1 – 3.4-9
3-5 Cultural Resources	Section 3.5.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.5-1 – 3.5-7
3-6 Energy	Section 3.6.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.6-1 – 3.6-4
3-7 Geology and Soils	Section 3.7.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.7-1 – 3.7-6
3-8 GHG Emissions	Section 3.8.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.8-1 – 3.8-6
3-9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Section 3.9.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.9-1 – 3.9-11
3-10 Hydrology and Water Quality	Section 3.10.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.10-1 – 3.10-9
3-11 Land Use	Section 3.11.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.11-1 – 3.11-8
3-12 Mineral Resources	Section 3.12.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.12-1 – 3.12-4
3-13 Noise	Section 3.13.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.13-1 – 3.13-8
3-14 Population and Housing	Section 3.14.1 Regulatory Setting, p. 3.14-1
3-15 Public Services	Section 3.15.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.15-1 – 3.15-4
3-16 Recreation	Section 3.16.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.16-1 – 3.16-4
3-17 Transportation	Section 3.17.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.17-1 – 3.17-10
3-18 Tribal Cultural Resources	Section 3.18.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.18-1 – 3.18-3
3-19 Utilities and Service Systems	Section 3.19.1 Regulatory Setting, pp. 3.19-1 – 3.19-9
A. Engineering Generation Facility Description, Design and Operation	N/A
B. Visual Resources Technical Report	Section 3 Regulatory Setting, pp. 8-15
C. Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Technical Report	Section 4 Regulatory Setting, pp. 22-34
D1. Biological Resources Technical Report	Section 2 Regulatory Overview, pp. 6-14
D2. Desert Bighorn Sheep Study	N/A
E1. Aquatic Resources Delineation	Section 1.5 Regulatory Background, pp. 22-24
E2. Aquatic Resources Impact Assessment	N/A
F. Archeological Resources Assessment	
G. Historical Resources Assessment	Regulatory Framework, pp. 5-10
H. Paleontological Resources Technical Report	Regulatory Setting, pp. 13-17

I. Phase I Environmental Site Assessment	N/A
J. Water Supply Assessment	Section 3 Groundwater Management, pp. 6-10
K. Stormwater Drainage Report	N/A
L. Noise and Ground Vibration Technical Report	Section 4 Regulatory Setting, pp. 15-21
M. Transportation Analysis	Regulatory Standards, p. 11
N. Public Noticing Package	N/A
O. System Impact Restudy	N/A
P. Socioeconomic Impacts	N/A
Q. Worker Safety Plan	Section 1.3 Laws, Ordinances, Regulations and Standards, Table E, pp. 18-32
R. Waste Management Plan	Section 1.5 Laws, Ordinances, Regulations and Standards, Table E, pp. 21-29
S. Community Benefit Agreement Strategy	N/A
T. Labor Certifications	N/A
U. Closure and Decommissioning Plan	N/A
V. Supplemental Information	N/A

3.0 Prohibited Area Analysis

The following analysis identifies whether the Soda Mountain Solar Project is located at a prohibited area in accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 20 § 1877 (e) or Pub. Resources Code, § 25527.

> *Per Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1877(e), identify whether the project is, on a prohibited site as identified in Public Resources Code section 25527 or on a site designated by the California Coastal Commission under Public Resources Code section 30413(b) or on a site designated by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission under Government Code section 66645(b). Include documentation of the approval of the public agency having ownership or control of the land.*

The Soda Mountain Solar Project is not located on a prohibited site as identified in Public Resources Code section 25527 or on a site designated by the California Coastal Commission under Public Resources Code section 30413(b) or on a site designated by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission under Government Code section 66645(b). The project is located entirely on federally owned land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The 2,670-acre project site is located approximately 7 miles southwest of the community of Baker in unincorporated San Bernadino County, California, approximately 50 miles northeast of Barstow. The project site is located in portions of Sections 1 and 11–14, Township 12 North, Range 7 East; Sections 25 and 36, Township 13 North, Range 7 East; Sections 6, 7, 8, and 18, Township 13 North, Range 8 East, San Bernardino Meridian, California. The project site occurs on the following San Bernardino County Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN): 0543-24-117-0000, 0543-24-119-0000, 0543-20-107-0000, 0543-25-101-0000, 0543-20-110-0000, 0543-20-109-0000, 0543-25-112-0000, and 0543-21-118-0000.

> *Per Pub. Resources Code, § 25527, The following areas of the state shall not be approved as a site for a facility, unless the commission finds that such use is not inconsistent with the primary uses of*

such lands and that there will be no substantial adverse environmental effects and the approval of any public agency having ownership or control of such lands is obtained:

1. *State, regional, county and city parks; wilderness, scenic or natural reserves; areas for wildlife protection, recreation, historic preservation; or natural preservation areas in existence on the effective date of this division.*
2. *Estuaries in an essentially natural and undeveloped state.*

In considering applications for certification, the commission shall give the greatest consideration to the need for protecting areas of critical environmental concern, including, but not limited to, unique and irreplaceable scientific, scenic, and educational wildlife habitats; unique historical, archaeological, and cultural sites; lands of hazardous concern; and areas under consideration by the state or the United States for wilderness, or wildlife and game reserves.

1. Section 3.11, Land Use and Planning, Section 3.11.3, Impact Analysis, pages 3-11-9 through 3.11-11 contains a detailed discussion of the state, regional and county land uses relevant to the project site, including the Project's anticipated effects. As stated in this analysis, the project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation.

2. The Soda Mountain Solar Project site does not contain any estuaries in an essentially natural and undeveloped state. Therefore, the Project site is not located on a prohibited site per *Pub. Resources Code, § 25527(2).*

4.0 Environmental Leadership Development Project Requirements

In compliance with Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1877(h), the Project Applicant, Soda Mountain Solar, LLC, submits the following discussion as to how the Project meets the requirements of Public Resources Code sections 21183 and 21183.6.

4.1 The Project exceeds the minimum investment requirement of Public Resources Code Section 21183(a)(1).

Public Resources Code Section 21183(a)(1): *The project will result in a minimum investment of one hundred million dollars ($100,000,000) in California upon completion of construction.*

The Applicant certifies that it will invest in excess of one hundred million dollars ($100,000,000) in California during development, construction and operation of the Project. A "Socioeconomic Impacts on San Bernardino County of the Proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project" was completed by Michael Baker International in July 2024 and included with the CEC AB 205 Opt-In Application Submittal for the Project as Appendix P (Confidential). This report verifies the Project meets this requirement.

4.2 The Project will satisfy the requirements of Public Resources Code Sections 21183(b) and 21183.5(c) by creating high-wage, highly skilled jobs that pay prevailing wages and living wages; providing construction jobs and permanent jobs for Californians; helping reduce unemployment; and promoting apprenticeship training.

Public Resources Code Section 21183(b): *The project creates high-wage, highly skilled jobs that pay prevailing wages and living wages, provides construction jobs and permanent jobs for Californians, helps reduce unemployment, and promotes apprenticeship training. For purposes of this subdivision, a project is deemed to create jobs that pay prevailing wages, create highly skilled jobs, and promote apprenticeship training if the applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Governor that the project will comply with Section 21183.5.*

The Applicant certifies that all applicable requirements set forth in Public Resources Code Sections 21183(b) and 21183.5(c) will be satisfied. The Project will create high-wage, highly skilled jobs for construction professionals, including carpenters, electricians, and heavy equipment operators; provide permanent jobs for Californians; and help reduce unemployment. The Applicant will ensure that all construction workers, contractors, subcontractors, and apprentices employed will be paid in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21183.5(c)(1), and that a skilled and trained workforce will be used to perform all construction work in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21183.5(c)(2). Included with the CEC AB 205 Opt-In Application Submittal for the Project is a copy of a signed commitment furnished by the Applicant demonstrating that the Applicant will satisfy all applicable requirements.

The Project's construction activities are expected to support employment for an average of 200 full-time equivalent ("FTE") job years over the construction period (direct impact consisting of laborers, electricians, ironmen, craftsmen, supervisory personnel, support personnel, construction management and other skilled labor). During the operating period, the number of personnel required to operate the Project is estimated at 32 FTEs or 960 FTE-years for the full estimated 30-year operations period. Activities would include panel washing, tightening of mechanical fasteners, replacement of damaged or exposed wiring, tracker drive maintenance or fluid replenishment, and PCS maintenance such as filter replacement, equipment testing, maintenance, equipment operation, security, and minor equipment repair. Occasionally there will be a need to replace a PV panel and battery cells.

A "Socioeconomic Impacts on San Bernardino County of the Proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project" was completed by Michael Baker International in July 2024 and included with the CEC AB 205 Opt-In Application Submittal for the Project as Appendix P (Confidential). This report contains labor wage estimates during project construction and operation.

4.3 The Project will not result in any net additional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 21183(c)(1) and 21183.6.

> Public Resources Code Section 21183(c): *For a project described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 21180, the project does not result in any net additional emission of greenhouse gases, including greenhouse gas emissions from employee transportation. For purposes of this paragraph, a project is deemed to meet the requirements of this paragraph if the applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Governor that the project will comply with Section 21183.6.*

Project Emissions. An Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Study was prepared for the Project by SWCA environmental consultants ("SWCA") in June 2024 and included with the CEC AB 205 Opt-In Application Submittal for the Project as Appendix C. The report quantifies the expected construction and operational greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions for the Project. GHG emissions include carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), and nitrous dioxide (NO_2). Construction was assumed to occur over an 18-month period (March 2025 to August 2026), while annual operational emissions were estimated for 2027, the Project's first full year of operations, and projected to remain the same for the Project's approximately 30-year lifespan.

Construction of the Project is anticipated to result in approximately 8,304 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) emissions. Construction-related emissions are expected to peak in 2025 with approximately 5,068 metric tons of CO_2e emissions, and then decrease to 3,236 metric tons of CO_2e emissions in 2026. In total, construction will result in 8,304 metric tons of CO_2e emissions, which equates to 277 metric tons of CO_2e emissions per year amortized over the life of the project. Total and annual

construction-related emissions will be well below the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District's (MDAQMD) annual GHG threshold of significance of 90,718 metric tons (100,000 short tons).

Operation of the Project is anticipated to result in approximately 1,310 metric tons of CO_2e emissions every year, for a total of approximately 39,577 metric tons of CO_2e emissions during the Project's 30-year operating life. Total and annual construction-related emissions are well below MDAQMD's annual GHG threshold of significance of 90,718 metric tons (100,000 short tons).

In summary, the project's emissions are as follows:

- Total GHG emissions: Emissions from construction total 8,304 metric tons of CO_2e per year and operation will total approximately 1,310 metric tons of CO_2e per year.
- Amortized annual GHG emissions: Annual project emissions from operation (1,310 metric tons of CO_2e) and construction (277 metric tons of CO_2e) will total approximately 1,587 metric tons of CO_2e during the project 30-year operating life.
- Peak annual GHG emissions: GHG emissions are expected to peak in 2025 at approximately 5,068 metric tons of CO_2e

In addition, the Project would comply with all rules, regulations, emission control strategies and air quality plans set forth by the MDAQMD and would not result in significant elevated health risks at sensitive receptors due to proximity to nearby pollution sources. The Project would be consistent with the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 ("AB 32") scoping plan strategies, the California Air Resources Board ("CARB") emission reduction strategy presented in the Scoping Plans, and the San Bernardino County Policy Plan and GHG Plan. The Project would also help California meet its ambitious Renewables Portfolio Standard ("RPS") requirements and GHG reduction goals.

Displaced GHG Emissions – EPA's AVERT Model. The Project is expected to result in an overall net reduction of GHG emissions because the Project will displace other energy sources with higher GHG emissions (e.g., natural gas). The Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Study relies on the Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator and Avoided Emissions and Generation Tool ("AVERT"), both developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), to calculate the GHG emissions avoided as a result of the Project. For a 300-MW solar facility in California such as the Project, these models calculate that 305,730 metric tons (337,010 tons) of CO_2e emissions would be avoided every year.

In total, the Project's amortized GHG emissions will be approximately 1,587 metric tons of CO_2e emissions per year during the 30-year operating life of the Project. However, the Project will displace approximately 305,730 metric tons of CO_2e emissions annually. The Project will offset 200-times more GHG emissions than it generates. The Project is therefore expected to result in a net reduction of approximately 305,730 metric tons of CO_2e emissions annually.

Displaced GHG Emissions – California Grid Analysis. Grid operators constantly balance electricity generation with electricity demand in a region. Demand is lowest overnight, when most consumers are sleeping and when many businesses are closed. Demand begins to ramp up in the morning as people wake up and businesses start opening. Demand stays elevated throughout the day, rises slightly in the evening as people come home from work and residential electricity consumption increases, and then drops off again in the late evening.

Renewable and zero-carbon sources of energy do not operate on-demand like traditional fossil fuel power plants. As a result, as more solar capacity has come online in California, grid operators at the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) have observed a drop in net load (or the demand remaining after subtracting variable renewable generation) in the middle of the day when solar generation tends to be highest. When graphed for a typical day, the pattern created by the midday dip in the net load curve,

followed by a steep rise in the evenings when solar generation drops off, looks like the outline of a duck, so this pattern is often called a "duck curve." As solar capacity in California continues to grow, the midday dip in net load is getting lower, deepening the duck curve and presenting challenges for grid operators.

The growth of zero-carbon resources, especially solar resources, has shifted grid reliability concerns from the peak hour (hour with the highest energy demand) to net peak hours (hours when energy demand minus wind and solar generation is largest). The changing resource mix is driving a change in the characteristics of the electricity system and requires consideration of the net demand curve, particularly total electricity demand less the wind and solar generation. The "duck curve" is characterized by more drastic increases in net demand in the evening hours as solar decreases, and a net peak that occurs later in the evening when solar generation is substantially diminished or nonexistent (CEC 2022).

Storing some midday solar generation flattens the duck curve, and dispatching the stored solar generation in the evening shortens the duck's neck (NREL 2015). Presently, fossil-fuel power plants, particularly those operating on natural gas, provide about 75 percent of the flexible capacity for grid reliability. As more renewable power enters the system, other resources such as storage and demand-side management are essential to maintain reliability with high concentrations of renewables (CARB 2022). Energy storage systems like the Project's BESS therefore present an opportunity to improve California's ability to efficiently integrate renewable resources and avoid GHG emissions associated with fossil fuel resources.

The Project's solar and BESS components are anticipated to operate together, with the BESS beginning operations on day one of Project operation. The Project is expected to produce approximately 953,171 MWh every year. Approximately forty-seven percent (47%) percent of that electricity, or approximately 445,840 MWh per year, will be stored in the BESS for dispatch to the grid during evening hours.

The most common form of generation currently used to meet evening demand peak is conventional combined cycle natural gas. In 2019, the CEC calculated that natural gas facilities generated approximately 0.373 metric tons of CO_2e emissions per MWh (CEC 2019a). Therefore, operation of the BESS as planned (445,840 MWh/year dispatched during evening hours) would displace or avoid approximately 166,298 metric tons of CO_2e emissions every year.

As noted above, the Project is expected to generate a total of 39,577 metric tons of CO_2e emissions during the life of the project, or approximately 1,587 metric tons of CO_2e emissions annually. Based on the above calculation, it would take less than three months of BESS operations to fully offset all emissions associated with construction and operation of the Project. Or stated differently, over the life of the project, discharge of electricity from the BESS during evening hours would displace 166,298 metric tons of CO_2e every year, or more than one hundred times (100x) the amount of CO_2e emissions expected to be generated annually from construction and operation of the Project (1,587 metric tons of CO_2e).

To further demonstrate the Project's ability to displace emissions associated with existing fossil fuel resources, we provide a comparison to two natural gas power plants in Southern California.

The Haynes Generating Station (Units 1 & 2) in Los Angeles County, which has a 460 MW installed capacity, generated a total of 414,456 MWh in 2020, 2021 and 2022. These units have a GHG intensity of 0.42 metric tons of CO2e emissions per MWh, resulting in approximately 174,071 metric tons of CO_2e emissions between 2020 and 2022 (CEC 2019b). In comparison, the Project's BESS is able to dispatch approximately 445,840 MWh in a single year during hours similar to when the Haynes units currently operate. The Project could therefore generate sufficient energy in a single year to displace all of the electricity generated from Haynes over three years. In that scenario, the Project would avoid or displace approximately 174,071 metric tons of CO_2e emissions in a single year.

As another example, the Valley Generation Station in Los Angeles County, which has a nameplate capacity of 264 MW, generated an average of 592,100 MWh per year between 2018 and 2022. This unit has a GHG intensity of 0.42 metric tons of CO_2e emissions per MWh, resulting in approximately 249,000 metric tons of CO_2e emissions every year between 2018 and 2022 (CEC 2019b). In comparison, the Project's BESS is able to generate 445,840 MWh per year during hours similar to when the Valley Generation Station operates. The Project could therefore displace nearly approximately seventy-five percent (75%) of the emissions associated with operation of the Valley Generation Station, or approximately 187,490 metric tons of CO_2e emissions every year.

This analysis demonstrates that the Project would not result in any net additional GHG emissions, and would in fact result in a substantial net reduction of GHG emissions throughout the life of the Project.

4.4 The Project will satisfy the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 21183(d) by complying with applicable requirements of Chapters 12.8 and 12.9 relating to recycling of commercial solid waste and organic waste.

> Public Resources Code Section 21183(d): *The applicant demonstrates compliance with the requirements of Chapter 12.8 (commencing with Section 42649) and Chapter 12.9 (commencing with Section 42649.8) of Part 3 of Division 30, as applicable.*

Chapters 12.8 and 12.9 set forth requirements to address diversion and recycling of solid and organic wastes. Chapter 12.8 generally requires businesses that generate four cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week to arrange for recycling services consistent with state or local laws or requirements, to the extent these services are offered and reasonably available from a local service provider. Chapter 12.9 generally requires business that generate two cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste to arrange for recycling services specifically for organic waste. Businesses can comply with this requirement in various ways, including but not limited to source separating organic waste from other waste and subscribing to a basic level of organic waste recycling service that includes collection and recycling of organic waste.

Construction of the Project is expected to require approximately 630,000 cubic yards of cut and 180,100 cubic yards of fill, for a net export of approximately 449,900 cubic yards. A majority of the waste that is expected to be generated during both construction activities and operational activities associated with the Project would be classified as nonhazardous waste; however, it is anticipated that some hazardous waste would be generated. A Waste Management Plan has been prepared for the proposed project (Appendix R) and the Applicant certifies that the Project will comply with all applicable requirements of Chapters 12.8 and 12.9 of Part 3 of Division 30 of the Public Resources Code during construction and operation of the Project.

4.5 The Applicant has executed a binding agreement establishing the requirements set forth in Public Resources Code Sections 21183, subdivisions (e), (f), and (g).

> Public Resources Code Section 21183(e): *The project applicant has entered into a binding and enforceable agreement that all mitigation measures required under this division to certify the project under this chapter shall be conditions of approval of the project, and those conditions will be fully enforceable by the lead agency, or another agency designated by the lead agency. In the case of environmental mitigation measures, the applicant agrees, as an ongoing obligation, that those measures will be monitored and enforced by the lead agency for the life of the obligation.*
>
> Public Resources Code Section 21183(f): *The applicant agrees to pay the costs of the trial court and the court of appeal in hearing and deciding any case challenging a lead agency's action on a certified project under this division, including payment of the costs for the appointment of a special master if*

deemed appropriate by the court, in a form and manner specified by the Judicial Council, as provided in the California Rules of Court adopted by the Judicial Council under Section 21185.

Public Resources Code Section 21183(g): *The applicant agrees to pay the costs of preparing the record of proceedings for the project concurrent with review and consideration of the project under this division, in a form and manner specified by the lead agency for the project. The cost of preparing the record of proceedings for the project shall not be recoverable from the plaintiff or petitioner before, during, or after any litigation.*

Included as **Attachment 1** to this document is a letter of acknowledgement and agreement transmitted from the Applicant to CEC, the CEQA lead agency, demonstrating satisfaction of the requirements of Public Resources Code 21183, subdivisions (e), (f), and (g). An EIR is being prepared for the proposed Project pursuant to CEQA. Prior to approval of the Project, the EIR must be certified by the CEC, and a mitigation monitoring and reporting plan must be adopted that contains appropriate mitigation measures to reduce the Project's impacts on the environment. The Applicant agrees to make any mitigation measures required under CEQA and SB 7 conditions of approval for the Project and fully enforceable by CEC or other appropriate agencies delegated by CEC. The Applicant also agrees to pay the court costs in hearing and deciding any case challenging CEC's action on the Project, as well as the costs of preparing the administrative record for the Project concurrent with the CEQA review process.

4.6 The record of proceedings for the Project is being prepared in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21186, as required under Public Resources Code Section 21183(h).

Public Resources Code Section 21183(h): *For a project for which environmental review has commenced, the applicant demonstrates that the record of proceedings is being prepared in accordance with Section 21186.*

Included as **Attachment 2** to this document is a written statement from the Applicant affirming compliance with the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 21183(h). The EIR for the Project is being prepared and the draft EIR will be circulated for public review in the coming months. As required under Public Resources Code Section 21186, the draft EIR and all other document submitted to, or relied on by, the lead agency in preparing the draft EIR will be made available on an internet website maintained by CEC at the time the draft EIR is released.

4.7 References

SWCA Environmental Consultants Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Technical Report, June 2024

CEC Staff Report, 2019, "Review of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's 2017 Power Integrated Resource Plan" (CEC-200-2019-015), pg. 16 (Table 3), *available at*: https://www.energy.ca.gov/filebrowser/download/1901.

California Energy Commission (CEC), 2022, "Final 2021 Integrated Energy Policy Report, Vol. II: Ensuring Reliability in a Changing Climate" (CEC-100-2021-001-V2), *available at*: https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx? tn=241583.

National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), 2015, "Overgeneration from Solar Energy in California: A Field Guide to the Duck Chart" (NREL/TP-6A20-65023, Nov. 2015), *available at*: https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy16osti/65023.pdf.

California Air Resources Board, 2022, "California's Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality," *available at*: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/2022-sp.pdf.

CEC Staff Report, 2019 (CEC 2019a). "Estimated Cost of New Utility-Scale Generation in California: 2018 Update" (CEC-200-2019-005), *available at*: https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/CEC-200-2019-005.pdf.

CEC Staff Report, 2019 (CEC 2019b), "Review of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's 2017 Power Integrated Resource Plan" (CEC-200-2019-015), pg. 16 (Table 3), *available at*: https://www.energy.ca.gov/filebrowser/download/1901.

5.0 Document Preparers

Table 5-1 Soda Mountain Solar Report Preparers

Opt-In Application Item		Preparer
0.0	Data Response Worksheet	Resolution Environmental
1.0	Executive Summary	SWCA Environmental Consultants
2.0	Project Description	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.0	Environmental Impacts Analysis	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.1	Aesthetics	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.2	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.3	Air Quality	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.4	Biological Resources	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.5	Cultural Resources	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.6	Energy	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.7	Geology and Soils	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.8	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.9	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.10	Hydrology and Water Quality	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.11	Land Use and Planning	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.12	Mineral Resources	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.13	Noise	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.14	Population and Housing	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.15	Public Services	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.16	Recreation	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.17	Transportation	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.18	Tribal Cultural Resources	SWCA Environmental Consultants
3.19	Utilities and Service Systems	SWCA Environmental Consultants
4.0	Alternatives	SWCA Environmental Consultants
5.0	Other CEQA Considerations	SWCA Environmental Consultants
6.0	Report Preparation	SWCA Environmental Consultants
A	Engineering Generation Facility Description, Design and Operation	Resolution Environmental Z Global Kleinfelder Engineering
B	Visual Resources Technical Report	SWCA Environmental Consultants
C	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Technical Report	SWCA Environmental Consultants
D1	Biological Resources Technical Report	SWCA Environmental Consultants
D2	Desert Bighorn Sheep Study	Dudek
E1	Aquatic Resources Delineation	SWCA Environmental Consultants
E2	Aquatic Resources Impact Assessment	SWCA Environmental Consultants
F	Archeological Resource Assessment	SWCA Environmental Consultants
G	Historical Resources Assessment	SWCA Environmental Consultants
H	Paleontological Resources Technical Report	SWCA Environmental Consultants
I	Phase I Environmental Site Assessment	SWCA Environmental Consultants
J	Water Supply Assessment	SWCA Environmental Consultants
K	Stormwater Drainage Report	SWCA Environmental Consultants

L	Noise and Ground Vibration Technical Report	SWCA Environmental Consultants
M	Transportation Analysis	Kittleson and Associates
N	Public Noticing Package	Z Global
O1	System Impact Restudy	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
O2	Large Generator Interconnection Agreement	Southern California Public Power Authority (Authority Interest – LADWP)
P	Socioeconomic Impacts	Michael Baker International
Q	Worker Safety Plan	Michael Baker International
R	Waste Management Plan	Michael Baker International
S	Community Benefit Agreement Strategy	Resolution Environmental
T	Labor Certifications	Resolution Environmental
U	Closure and Decommissioning Plan	Resolution Environmental
V	Supplemental Information	Resolution Environmental

VC Renewables
A VITOL COMPANY

July 8, 2024

Eric Knight, Siting and Environmental Branch Manager

California Energy Commission

715 P Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Soda Mountain Solar, LLC's Acknowledgement of Obligations under Public Resources Code Sections 21183(e)-(g).

Dear Mr. Knight,

Soda Mountain Solar, LLC (Applicant) is submitting an application for certification of the Soda Mountain Solar Project (Project) as an Environmental Leadership Development Project (ELDP) subject to streamlined judicial review under the Jobs and Economic Improvement through Environmental Leadership Act of 2021, also known as SB 7.

By this letter, the Applicant hereby acknowledges and agrees to its obligations under Public Resources Code Sections 21183(e), (f), and (g). Those statutory provisions provide as follows:

Section 21183(e)

> The applicant has entered into a binding and enforceable agreement that all mitigation measures required under this division [the California Environmental Quality Act] to certify the project under this chapter [the Act] shall be conditions of approval of the project, and those conditions will be fully enforceable by the lead agency or another agency designated by the lead agency. In the case of environmental mitigation measures, the applicant agrees, as an ongoing obligation, that those measures will be monitored and enforced by the lead agency for the life of the obligation.

Section 21183(f)

> The applicant agrees to pay the costs of the trial court and the court of appeal in hearing and deciding any case challenging a lead agency's action on a certified project under this division [the California Environmental Quality Act], including payment of the costs for the appointment of a special master if deemed appropriate by the court, in a form and manner specified by the Judicial Council, as provided in the California Rules of Court adopted by the Judicial Council under Section 21185.

Section 21183(g)

> The applicant agrees to pay the costs of preparing the record of proceedings for the project concurrent with review and consideration of the project under this division, in a form and manner specified by the lead agency for the project. The cost of preparing the record of proceedings for the project shall not be recoverable from the plaintiff or petitioner before, during, or after any litigation.

The Applicant acknowledges and agrees that its commitment to comply with the requirements of SB 7 has no impact on CEC's review or processing of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Project, does not obligate CEC to approve the Project, and does not impact CEC's discretion under applicable law to require modifications or alterations to the Project.

Sincerely,



Michael Cocchimiglio

CEO & Head of Development

Acknowledged and agreed to by:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

By: _____

[Name], [Title]

Date: _____

VC Renewables
A VITOL COMPANY

July 8, 2024

Eric Knight, Siting and Environmental Branch Manager

California Energy Commission

715 P Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Soda Mountain Solar, LLC's Affirmation of Compliance with Public Resources Code Sections 12283(h) and 21186.

Dear Mr. Knight,

Soda Mountain Solar, LLC (Applicant), is submitting an application for certification of the Soda Mountain Solar Project (Project) as an Environmental Leadership Development Project (ELDP) subject to streamlined judicial review under the Jobs and Economic Improvement through Environmental Leadership Act of 2021, also known as SB7 (the Act).

By this letter, Soda Mountain Solar, LLC, affirms and agrees that the record of proceedings is being and will be prepared in accordance with Public Resources Code Sections 21183(h) and 21186. Those statutes provide as follows:

Section 21183(h)

For a project for which environmental review has commenced, the applicant demonstrates that the record of proceedings is being prepared in accordance with Section 21186.

Section 21186

Notwithstanding any other law, the preparation and certification of the record of proceedings for a leadership project certified by the Governor shall be performed in the following manner:

> (a) The lead agency for the project shall prepare the record of proceedings under this division concurrently with the administrative process.
>
> (b) All documents and other materials placed in the record of proceedings shall be posted on, and be downloadable from, an internet website maintained by the lead agency commencing with the date of the release of the draft environmental impact report.
>
> (c) The lead agency shall make available to the public in a readily accessible electronic format the draft environmental impact report and all other documents submitted to, or relied on by, the lead agency in preparing the draft environmental impact report.
>
> (d) Any document prepared by the lead agency or submitted by the applicant after the date of the release of the draft environmental impact report that is a part of the record of the proceedings shall be made available to the public in a readily accessible electronic format within five days after the document is released or received by the lead agency.

(e) The lead agency shall encourage written comments on the project to be submitted in a readily accessible electronic format and shall make any comment available to the public in a readily accessible electronic format within five days of its receipt.

(f) Within seven days after the receipt of any comment that is not in an electronic format, the lead agency shall convert that comment into a readily accessible electronic format and make it available to the public in that format.

(g) Notwithstanding paragraphs (b) to (f), inclusive, documents submitted to or relied on by the lead agency that was not prepared specifically for the project and are copyright protected are not required to be made readily accessible in an electronic format. For those copyright protected documents, the lead agency shall make an index of these documents available in an electronic format no later than the date of the release of the draft environmental impact report, or within five days if the document is received or relied on by the lead agency after the release of the draft environmental impact report. The index must specify the libraries or lead agency offices in which hard copies of the copyrighted materials are available for public review.

(h) The lead agency shall certify the final record of proceedings within five days of its approval of the project.

(i) Any dispute arising from the record of proceedings shall be resolved by the superior court. Unless the superior court directs otherwise, a party disputing the content of the record shall file a motion to augment the record at the time it files its initial brief.

(j) The contents of the record of proceedings shall be as set forth in subdivision (e) of Section 21167.6. The California Energy Commission (CEC) is serving as the CEQA lead agency for the Project. CEC is currently in the process of preparing the EIR. CEC and its CEQA consultant are in possession of all currently available materials constituting the administrative record of proceedings for the Project and the Applicant understands they are in the process of storing those materials in a centralized database for prompt posting to a publicly available website upon release of the Draft EIR.

The Applicant acknowledges that, at the time the draft EIR is released, all then-available materials to be included in the record of proceedings must be publicly available and downloadable from an internet website maintained by CEC. The Applicant further acknowledges that materials prepared or received after the release of the draft EIR must be promptly posted from the same website within the time limits prescribed by Public Resources Code Section 21186.

Thank you for considering our application. Please let me know if we can answer any questions or provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Michael Cocchimiglio

CEO & Head of Development

From: Worrall, Lisa@Energy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E4BBC7048B38485084BDB03FB494B25B-WORRALL, LI]
Sent: 8/8/2024 5:44:13 PM
To: Hannah Gbeh [hannah@resolutionenvironmental.com]
Subject: Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) Request for word doc for Executive Summary and Project Description

Hi Hannah,

Could I have a word document version of the Executive Summary and Project Description. This is helpful as we want to reflect how you describe the proposed project and a word document makes it easier.

Thanks,

Lisa Worrall
Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
Direct: (916) 661-8367
Email: lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov