

DOCKETED

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WILLOW ROCK
ENERGY STORAGE



March 2026

Monthly Compliance Report

Willow Rock Energy Storage Center 21-AFC-02

Submitted by **GEM A-CAES LLC**
Prepared by **WSP Inc.**

Monthly Compliance Report

Report for the Period Ending March 18, 2026

1. Introduction

The Willow Rock Energy Storage Center (WRESC) will be a nominal 520-megawatt (MW) gross (500 MW net) and 4,160 megawatt-hour (MWh) gross (4,000 MWh net) facility using Hydrostor, Inc.'s (Hydrostor's) proprietary advanced compressed air energy storage (A-CAES) technology.

Located in unincorporated Kern County (County), approximately 4 miles north of Rosamond, California, the energy stored at the WRESC will be delivered to Southern California Edison's (SCE's) Whirlwind Substation, via a new approximately 19-mile, 230 kilovolt (kV) generation tie (gen-tie) line. Once in operation, the WRESC will be capable of operating 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and 365 days per year, with an approximately 50-year lifespan.

Pursuant to the Conditions of Certification (CoCs) identified in the California Energy Commission's (CEC's) Staff Assessment and Final Decision published to the project's docket (TN 268093), this is the Monthly Compliance Report (MCR) to the CEC's Compliance Project Manager (CPM). This MCR will include details on recent, or upcoming, submittals to the CPM, Delegate Chief Building Official (DCBO), Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), Kern County, and/or other relevant authorities pursuant to the requirements outlined in the COCs.

2. Summary of Monthly Compliance Report Content

As required under CoC COM-6, each month, the project's MCR outlines the key elements necessary for compliance. These elements include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The AFC number (Section 3)
- Initial list of dates for each of the events identified on the Key Events List (Section 3)
- Reporting period (Section 4)
- A summary of the current project construction status, a revised/updated schedule if there are significant delays, and an explanation of any significant changes to the schedule (Section 5)
- Documents required by specific CoCs to be submitted along with the MCR. Each of these items shall be identified in the transmittal letter, as well as the conditions they satisfy, and submitted as attachments to the MCR (Section 6)
- Updated compliance matrix showing the status of all Conditions of Certification (**Attachment A**)
- A list of Conditions of Certification that have been satisfied during the reporting period, and a description or reference to the actions that satisfied the condition (Section 7)
- A list of any submittal deadlines that were missed, accompanied by an explanation and an estimate of when the information will be provided (Section 8)
- Cumulative listing of any approved changes to Conditions of Certification (Section 9)

- Listing of any filings submitted to, and permits issued by, other governmental agencies during the month (Section 10)
- A projection of project compliance activities scheduled during the next two months and information on any changes made to the project construction schedule that would affect compliance with Conditions of Certification (Section 11)
- Listing of the month’s additions to the on-site compliance file (Section 12)
- Listing of incidents, complaints, notices of violation, official warnings, and citations received during the month; a description of the actions taken to date to resolve the issues; and the status of any unresolved actions noted in the previous MCRs (Section 13)

Consistent with the requirement of CoC COM-4, the Pre-construction Compliance Matrix attached to this MCR (**Attachment A**) focuses on only those conditions that must be fulfilled before the start of construction. The matrix identifies the following elements:

- The technical area (e.g., biological resources, worker safety, etc.)
- The condition number
- Brief description of the verification action or submittal required by the Condition Certification
- The date the submittal is required (e.g., 60 days prior to construction, after final inspection, etc.)
- The expected or actual submittal date
- A column for the date a submittal or action is going to be approved by the Delegate Chief Building Official (DCBO), CPM, or delegate agency and the compliance status of each condition (e.g., “not started,” “in progress” or “completed” (including the date))

3. Key Event List

The key events outlining the major milestones and activities associated with the project are presented in **Table 1**.

Project: Willow Rock Energy Storage Center
Docket #: 21-AFC-02
Compliance Project Manager: Anwar Ali

Table 1: Key Events List and Dates

Event Description	Date
SAFC Certification Date	December 2025
Obtain Site Control	March 2025
On-line Date (Commercial Operation Date)	July 2030
PRE-CONSTRUCTION	
Start Preliminary Site Assessments (American Land Title Association [ALTA] Survey)	February/March 2026
Start Pre-Construction Activities (Biological Surveys)	March/April 2026

Event Description	Date
SITE ACTIVITIES	
Start Site Mobilization & Early Works Construction (Dawn Road Improvements)	June 2026
Start Grading for Early Works Construction (Subsurface Pad)	July 2026
Start Reservoir Excavation & Site Grading (Whole Site)	January 2027
Start Shaft Hoist Building & Structure Installation / Batch Plant	September 2026
Start Water Shaft Construction	January 2027
Begin Pouring Major Foundation Concrete (Water Shaft Hoist)	January 2027
Start Cavern Construction	March 2029
Begin Installation of Major Equipment (Spheres)	December 2027
Completion of Installation of Major Equipment	February 2030
First Plant Synchronization (Startup)	May 2030
TRANSMISSION LINE ACTIVITIES	
Start Transmission Line Construction	July 2027
Complete Transmission Line Construction	February 2029
Energization and Interconnection Tests	May 2029
WATER SUPPLY LINE ACTIVITIES	
Start Early Works Construction (AVEK Water Supply Line Connection)	October 2026
Complete Water Supply Line Construction	January 2027
Start Filling Reservoir	August 2028
Complete Filling Reservoir	June 2029

4. Reporting Period

This is the second WRESC MCR. The reporting period for this MCR covers activities and project developments from February 18, 2026 through March 18, 2026.

5. Current Project Construction Status

The WRESC is currently in a pre-construction planning phase, conforming design requirements to all applicable Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Statutes (LORS), and ensuring all obligations of the CoCs are met. There are no key submittals or Notices to Proceed (NTP) to report on in this MCR.

6. Documents Submitted with this MCR

Table 2 presents the documents that are submitted as part of this MCR to support ongoing review, verification, and documentation of project activities during the reporting period.

Table 2: Documents submitted along with this MCR

Title	Relevant CoC	Location in MCR
Preconstruction Compliance Matrix	COM-4	Attachment A

7. Conditions of Certification Satisfied During the Reporting Period

Table 3 identifies the Conditions of Certification that were satisfied during the reporting period, along with a brief description of the actions that fulfilled each requirement and the corresponding dates.

Table 3: Satisfied Conditions of Certification during the reporting period

CoC #	Description	Date
WATER-7	AVEK Water Supply Agreement	February 20, 2026
BIO-1	Designated Biologist Qualifications	February 27, 2026
BIO-3	Biological Resources Monitors	February 27, 2026
CUL/TRI-1	Cultural Resources Specialist Qualifications	February 27, 2026
CUL/TRI-3	Cultural Resources - Curation Fees	February 27, 2026
CUL/TRI-6	Cultural Resources - authority to halt ground disturbance	February 27, 2026
PAL-1	Paleontological Resources Specialist	February 27, 2026
PAL-5	Paleontological Resources - WEAP Trainer	February 27, 2026
BIO-15	Special Status Reptiles Annual Survey Plan	March 10, 2026
BIO-16	Desert Tortoise Survey Plan	March 10, 2026
BIO-23	Mohave Ground Squirrel Survey Plan	March 10, 2026
COM-7	Kern County Key Events List – Kick-off Meetings with Kern County Planning, Public Works, and Fire	March 2-12, 2026
COM-4	Pre-construction compliance matrix is prepared and presented in Attachment A of this MCR.	March 18, 2026
COM-6	This document represents the second Monthly Compliance Report.	March 18, 2026

8. Delayed or Missed Compliance Deadlines

No compliance deadlines were delayed or missed during the reporting period. All required actions and submittals remain on schedule, and no deviations from the approved compliance timeline were identified.

9. Approved Changes to Conditions of Certification

On March 16, 2026, the CEC’s CPM approved WRESC’s Construction Sequencing approach, which governs how certain CoCs will be submitted and satisfied in phases consistent with construction activities. CPM agreed on the items below related to Construction Sequencing, under specific CoCs:

- BIO-12: Western Joshua Tree Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures
- WATER-1: Construction Drainage, Erosion, and Sediment Control Plan
- CIVIL-1 and CIVIL-4: Grading plan
- GEN-2: Master drawings and master specifications list

Note: For items requiring submittal to both CPM and the DCBO, and at CPM’s request, GEM will coordinate with the DCBO to obtain confirmation of this approach for the related Condition of Certification.

In addition, the CEC’s CPM approved Gem’s request to revise the verification timing for certain Worker Safety–related plans, such that verification is now required 90 days prior to the start of cavern construction rather than prior to the general start of construction. On March 16, 2026, CPM agreed to the following items related to verification timelines under specific CoCs:

- WORKER SAFETY-1: Project Construction Health & Safety Program - The CEC’s CPM agreed to change the verification deadline for the following plans to 90 days prior to the start of cavern construction:
 - Construction Exposure Monitoring Program
 - Mining Safety & Health Plan
 - Construction Fire Protection Plan (only for underground information)
- WORKER SAFETY-5: Project Controlled Detonations Plan - The CEC’s CPM agreed to change the verification deadline to 90 days prior to the start of cavern construction.
- WORKER SAFETY-11: Items 6, 8, and 9 - The CEC’s CPM agreed to change the verification deadline to 60 days prior to the start of cavern construction for items 6, 8, and 9. In addition, regarding item 1 (provision of at least two emergency access gates equipped with Knox Boxes for KCFD, CHP, and KCSO), CPM agreed that Knox Boxes are typically required during the operational phase.

10. Other Governmental Agency Filings and Submittals

Table 4 identifies the other governmental agency filings and submittals during the reporting period, along with the corresponding dates.

Table 4: Other governmental agency filing and submittals and engagement during reporting period

Government Agency	File/Permit/Engagement	Date
Kern County (County)	COM-7 et al Compliance Kick-off Meetings with County Planning, Public Works, CAO, and Fire	March 2, 2026 and ongoing
Delegate Chief Building Official (DCBO)	GEN, WORKER SAFETY, et al DCBO Kick-off Meetings with Project Owner and contractors	March 18, 2026 and ongoing

Government Agency	File/Permit/Engagement	Date
CEC Staff Counsel	WATER-5 and WATER-6 communications regarding DSOD's need for CEC-DSOD Memorandum of Understanding to be completed before Project Owner can file DSOD application with fees to initiate review of 30% design. Project Owner is ready to file as soon as DSOD is ready to receive.	March 10, 2026 and ongoing

11. Two Month Schedule Outlook-Month Schedule

Planned compliance activities over the next two months include:

- Preparation and submittal of reports, survey plans, management plans, and programs that are required to be submitted 30, 45, and 60 days prior to start of construction in accordance with project CoCs, including:
 - WORKER SAFETY-1: Construction PPE Program, Construction Injury & Illness Prevention Plan, Rock Crusher Safety Program, Batch Plant Safety Program, Construction Emergency Action Plan, Construction Emergency Response Plan, and Construction Fire Prevention Plan (only for aboveground construction activities) are under internal review
 - WORKER-SAFETY-6: Sampling and Analysis Plan is under internal review
 - WORKER SAFETY-7: Valley Fever Prevention and Response Plan is under internal review including coordination with Kern County
 - COM-13: Emergency Response Site Contingency Plan is currently drafted for internal review
 - HAZ-1: Construction Hazardous Material Business Plan is currently drafted for internal review
 - HAZ-4: Construction Site Security Plan is under internal review
 - HAZ-6: Soils Management Plan
 - AQ-SC2: Air Quality Construction Mitigation Plan
 - BIO-5: Biological Worker Environmental Awareness Program
 - BIO-6: Biological Resources Mitigation Implementation and Monitoring Plan
 - BIO-8: Vegetation Management Plan
 - BIO-9: Integrated Weed Management Plan
 - BIO-10: Invasive Species Management Plan
 - BIO-11: Special-Status Plant Survey Plan
 - BIO-12: Western Joshua Tree Relocation Plan
 - BIO-13: Crotch's Bumble Bee Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan
 - BIO-24: Updated Jurisdictional Waters Report
 - TRANS-1: Construction Traffic Management Plan
 - GEO-1: Geotechnical Investigations and Geohazards Report
 - CUL/TRI-4: Cultural and Tribal WEAP

- PAL-3: Paleontological Resources Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
- PAL-4: Paleontological WEAP
- NOISE-3: Employee Noise Control Program
- SOLID WASTE-1: Construction Waste Management Plan
- PH-1: Valley Fever Management Plan
- Conduct various biological resources surveys in accordance with project CoCs and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) guidelines, including:
 - BIO-11: Special Status Plants surveys
 - BIO-13: Crotch's Bumble Bee surveys
 - BIO-15: Special Status Reptiles surveys
 - BIO-16: Desert Tortoise surveys
 - BIO-17: Nesting Bird surveys
 - BIO-19: Burrowing Owl surveys
 - BIO-20: Swainson's Hawk surveys
 - BIO-21: Small Mammal surveys
 - BIO-22: American Badger, Desert Kit Fox, and Ringtail surveys
 - BIO-23: Mohave Ground Squirrel surveys
- Submittal of various documents to CEC CPM and DCBO for review and approval, including:
 - GEN-2: Schedule of facility design submittals, master drawings, and master specifications list
 - GEN-4 and GEN-5: Resume and registration number of the registered engineer (RE)
 - GEN-5: Resume and qualifications of responsible design engineer, mechanical engineer, and electrical engineer
 - CIVIL-1: The design of the proposed drainage structures and the grading plan; erosion and sedimentation control plan and related calculations and specifications
 - WORKER SAFETY-3: Name and contact information of Construction Safety Supervisor (CSS)
 - WORKER SAFETY-4: Proof of agreement to fund the Safety Monitor services for review and approval. [Note: DCBO contracting and staff resources planning is underway]
 - WORKER SAFETY-10: Proof that a portable AED will be made available as soon as physically possible along with a copy of the training and maintenance program for review and approval
 - WORKER SAFETY-11: Information on facility gates, remote fire or heat sensors, fire water flow, closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, Command and Control protocol for staff and annual joint training program with the KCFD. [Note that verification timeline for items, 6, 8, and 9 of this CoC has been modified. For more information, refer to Section 9 of this MCR]
 - WORKER SAFETY-12: A copy of an agreement with KCFD regarding Urban Search and Rescue Unit
 - HAZ-7: Resume of an experienced and qualified environmental professional
 - AQ-SC1: Name, resume, qualifications, and contact information for the on-site AQCMM and all AQCMM Delegates

- CUL/TRI-2: Notice that the AFC, data responses, confidential cultural resources documents, all supplements, FSA, and Final CEC Decision have been provided to the CRS
- PAL-2: Construction maps and drawings
- LAND-1: Kern County verification that temporary construction laydown areas are consistent uses and confirmation that Holliday Rock is allowed to receive the cavern rock
- SOCIO-2: Proof of payment to the Mojave Unified School District of the statutory development fees
- PB-1: Verification with Kern County on the process for documenting sales and use taxes from project construction

Some other activities that are currently underway include:

- TRANS-2: Kern County Public Works and the Project Owner are working on design specifications for the Early Works Dawn Road Improvements. Kern County Public Works confirmed encroachment agreements are required for work in public road right-of-way (i.e., Dawn Road Improvements and AVEK Water Supply Interconnection at Sierra Highway), but no grading permits (or building permits), as those plans and specifications are reviewed and approved by the DCBO.
- BIO-12: Western Joshua Tree Census was redone in October 2025 and will be submitted to CEC and CURE for conditions of certification compliance and Environmental Settlement Agreement compliance, respectively. The draft Western Joshua Tree Relocation Plan has been revised and is under internal review for submittal to the agencies soon. CEC CPM confirmed that tree removal in sequence with construction is acceptable; the Project Owner intends to include it as an option in the Relocation Plan.
- BIO-14: Habitat Management Plan Acquisition planning is underway, given the defined Limits of Disturbance in compliance with CIVIL-1, CIVIL-4, PAL-2, GEN-2, WATER-1, etc., as well as results of BIO-19 and BIO-13.
- LAND-2: Construction Site Plan is underway, which feeds the Limits of Disturbance and associated CoCs referenced above.
- SOCIO-1: Contracting and staff resources planning is underway.
- WATER-1, WATER-2: Construction Drainage, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan and Waste Discharge Requirements planning is underway.
- WATER-5, WATER-6: As soon as the CEC and DSOD have completed their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and DSOD is ready to receive the Project Owner's application and fees, the information will be submitted to DSOD with 30% design plans for review. Project Owner has been coordinating with DSOD on timing of plan submittals and reviews given the delay on the MOU while design continues to advance.
- COM-7: Kern County confirmed they will be notified based on the Key Events List and likely more due to the Project Owner's close working relationship. For example, Kern County requested a Compliance Binder to coordinate on conditions of certification related to them such as LAND-1, LAND-2, PB-1, PH-1, etc., and the Project Owner will work closely with the Planning Department to meet their communication preferences.

Refer to **Attachment A** for details on the various project requirements, associated deliverables, and their expected submittal dates.

12. New additions to the on-site compliance file

Construction and site mobilization have not yet commenced, and as a result, there are currently no new additions to the on-site compliance file. All documentation remains unchanged until work begins and further updates become available.

13. Incidents and Corrective Actions

Construction activities and site mobilization have not yet commenced for this project. As a result, there are currently no identified incidents, nonconformances, or corrective actions to report at this stage. This section will be updated as soon as physical works begin and any compliance related items that require monitoring or action arise.

Willow Rock Energy Storage Center Pre-Construction Compliance Matrix

CoC COM-4

Status Legend
Complete
Not Started
In Progress
Overdue
No Action Unless Event Occurs

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
Facility Design	GEN-2	Before submitting the initial engineering designs for DCBO review, the project owner shall furnish the CPM and the DCBO with a schedule of facility design submittals, master drawings and master specifications list. The master drawings and master specifications list shall contain a list of proposed submittal packages of designs, calculations, and specifications for major structures, systems, and equipment. Major structures, systems, and equipment are structures and their associated components or equipment that are necessary for energy storage and/or power production, costly or time consuming to repair or replace, are used for the storage, containment, or handling of hazardous or toxic materials, or could become potential health and safety hazards if not constructed according to applicable engineering LORS. The schedule shall contain the date of each submittal to the DCBO. To facilitate audits by the CEC staff, the project owner shall provide specific packages to the CPM upon request.	At least 60 days (or a project owner and DCBO mutually agreed upon alternative time frame) prior to the start of rough grading, the project owner shall submit to the DCBO and to the CPM the schedule, and the master drawings and master specifications list of documents to be submitted to the DCBO, for review and approval. These documents shall be the pertinent design documents for the major structures, systems, and equipment defined above in Condition of Certification GEN-2. Major structures, systems, and equipment shall be added to or deleted from the list only with CPM approval. The project owner shall provide schedule updates in the monthly compliance report (MCR).	Schedule of facility design submittals, and master drawings and master specifications list to be submitted to the DCBO and CPM	Pre-construction	At least 60 days prior to the start of rough grading (or a mutually agreed-upon alternative time frame)	Hydrostor	In Progress	02-Apr-26			According to discussions held during the Hydrostor–CPM meeting on March 5, 2026, and CEC’s CPM Email on March 16, 2026, CEC CPM has no issues with Hydrostor’s request for plan submittal in alignment with construction sequencing. Hydrostor confirmed with the DCBO during the Kick-off Meeting on March 18, 2026 that plan submittals in alignment with construction sequencing is acceptable and common.
Facility Design	GEN-4	Prior to the start of rough grading, the project owner shall assign a California-registered architect, or a structural or civil engineer, as the resident engineer in charge of the project. The resident engineer may delegate responsibility for portions of the project to other registered engineers. Registered mechanical and electrical engineer may be delegated responsibility for mechanical and electrical portions of the project, respectively. A project may be divided	At least 30 days (or a project owner and DCBO mutually agreed upon alternative time frame) prior to the start of rough grading, the project owner shall submit to the DCBO for review and approval, the resume and registration number of the resident engineer and any other delegated engineers assigned to the project. The project owner shall notify the CPM of the DCBO’s approvals of the RE and other delegated engineer(s) within	Submit resume and registration number of the registered engineer (RE) to the DCBO	Pre-construction	At least 30 days (or a project owner and DCBO mutually agreed upon alternative time frame) prior to the start of rough grading	Hatch	In Progress	15-May-26			

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
		<p>into parts, provided that each part is clearly defined as a distinct unit. Separate assignments of general responsibility may be made for each designated part.</p> <p>The resident engineer shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor progress of construction work requiring DCBO design review and inspection to ensure compliance with LORS; 2. Ensure that construction of all facilities subject to DCBO design review and inspection conforms in every material respect to applicable LOR these Conditions of Certification, approved plans, and specifications 3. Prepare documents to initiate changes in approved drawings and specifications when either directed by the project owner or as required by the conditions of the project; 4. Be responsible for providing project inspectors and testing agencies with complete and up-to-date sets of stamped drawings, plans, specifications, and any other required documents; 5. Be responsible for the timely submittal of construction progress rep to the DCBO from the project inspectors, the contractor, and other engineers who have been delegated responsibility for portions of the project; and 6. Be responsible for notifying the DCBO of corrective action or the disposition of items noted on laboratory reports or other tests when they do not conform to approved plans and specifications. <p>The resident engineer (or their delegate) must be located at the project site or be available at the project site within a reasonable time, during any hours in which construction takes place.</p> <p>The resident engineer shall have the authority to halt construction and to require changes or remedial work if the work does not meet requirements. If the resident engineer or the delegated engineers are reassigned or replaced, the project owner shall submit the name, qualifications, and registration number of the newly assigned engineer to the DCBO for review and approval. The project owner shall notify the CPM of the DCBO's approval of the new engineer.</p>	<p>five days of the approval. If the resident engineer or the delegated engineer(s) is subsequently reassigned or replaced, the project owner shall within five days submit the name, qualifications, and registration number of the newly assigned engineer to the DCBO for review and approval. The project owner shall notify the CPM of the DCBO's approval of the new engineer within five days of the approval.</p>									

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
Facility Design	GEN-5	<p>Prior to the start of rough grading, the project owner shall assign at least one of each of the following California registered engineers to the project: a civil engineer; a soils, geotechnical, or civil engineer experienced and knowledgeable in the practice of soils engineering; and an engineering geologist. Prior to the start of construction, the project owner shall assign at least one of each of the following California registered engineers to the project: a design engineer who is either a structural engineer or a civil engineer fully competent and proficient in the design of project structures and equipment supports; a mechanical engineer; and an electrical engineer. (California Business and Professions Code, sections 6704, 6730, 6731, and 6736 require state registration to practice as a civil engineer or structural engineer in California.)</p> <p>The tasks performed by the civil, mechanical, electrical, or design engineers may be divided between two or more engineers, as long as each engineer is responsible for a particular segment of the project (for example, proposed earthwork, civil structures, project structures, equipment support). No segment of the project shall have more than one responsible engineer. The transmission line may be the responsibility of a separate California registered electrical engineer. The project owner shall submit to the DCBO for review and approval, the names, qualifications, and registration numbers of all responsible engineers assigned to the project.</p> <p>If any one of the designated responsible engineers is subsequently reassigned or replaced, the project owner shall submit the name, qualifications and registration number of the newly assigned responsible engineer to the DCBO for review and approval. The project owner shall notify the CPM of the DCBO's approval of the new engineer.</p> <p>1. The civil engineer shall:</p> <p>a. Review the foundation investigations, geotechnical, or soils reports prepared by the soils engineer, the geotechnical engineer, or by a civil engineer experienced and knowledgeable in the practice of soils engineering;</p>	<p>At least 30 days (or a project owner and DCBO mutually agreed upon alternative time frame) prior to the start of rough grading, the project owner shall submit to the DCBO for review and approval, resumes and registration numbers of the responsible civil engineer, soils (geotechnical) engineer, and engineering geologist assigned to the project.</p> <p>At least 30 days (or a project owner and DCBO mutually agreed upon alternative time frame) prior to the start of construction, the project owner shall submit to the DCBO for review and approval, resumes and registration numbers of the responsible design engineer, mechanical engineer, and electrical engineer assigned to the project.</p> <p>The project owner shall notify the CPM of the DCBO's approvals of the responsible engineers within five days of the approval.</p> <p>If any one of the designated responsible engineers is subsequently reassigned or replaced, the project owner shall within five days submit the name, qualifications, and registration number of the newly assigned responsible engineer to the DCBO for review and approval.</p> <p>The project owner shall notify the CPM of the DCBO's approval of the new engineer within five days of the approval.</p>	Submit resumes and registration numbers of the responsible design engineer, mechanical engineer, and electrical engineer	Pre-construction	<p>At least 30 days (or a project owner and DCBO mutually agreed upon alternative time frame) prior to the start of rough grading</p> <p>Note: Note: The project owner shall notify the CPM of the DCBO's approvals of the responsible engineers within five days of the approval</p>	Hydrostor	In progress	15-May-26			

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
		<p>b. Design (or be responsible for the design of), stamp, and sign all plans, calculations, and specifications for proposed site work, civil works, and related facilities requiring design review and inspection by the DCBO. These include, but may not be limited to grading, site preparation, excavation, compaction, construction of secondary containment, foundations, erosion and sedimentation control structures, drainage facilities, underground utilities, culverts, site access roads, and sanitary sewer systems; and</p> <p>c. Provide consultation to the resident engineer during the construction phase of the project and recommend changes in the design of the civil works facilities and changes to the construction procedures.</p> <p>2. The soils engineer, geotechnical engineer, or civil engineer experienced and knowledgeable in the practice of soils engineering, shall:</p> <p>a. Review all the engineering geology reports;</p> <p>b. Prepare the foundation investigations, geotechnical, or soils reports containing field exploration reports, laboratory tests, and engineering analysis detailing the nature and extent of the soils that could be susceptible to liquefaction, rapid settlement, or collapse when saturated under load;</p> <p>c. Be present, as required, during site grading and earthwork to provide consultation and monitor compliance with requirements set forth in the 2022 Building Code (depending on the site conditions, this may be the responsibility of either the soils engineer, the engineering geologist, or both); and</p> <p>d. Recommend field changes to the civil engineer and resident engineer.</p> <p>e. This engineer shall be authorized to halt earthwork and to require changes if site conditions are unsafe or do not conform to the predicted conditions used as the basis for design of earthwork or foundations.</p> <p>3. The engineering geologist shall:</p> <p>a. Review all the engineering geology reports and prepare a final soils grading report; and</p> <p>b. Be present, as required, during site grading and earthwork to provide consultation and monitor compliance with the requirements set forth in the</p>										

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		2022 Building Code (depending on the site conditions, this may be the responsibility of either the soils engineer, the engineering geologist, or both). 4. The design engineer shall: a. Be directly responsible for the design of the proposed structures and equipment supports; b. Provide consultation to the RE during design and construction of the project; c. Monitor construction progress to ensure compliance with engineering LORS; d. Evaluate and recommend necessary changes in design; and e. Prepare and sign all major building plans, specifications, and calculations. 5. The mechanical engineer shall be responsible for, and sign and stamp a statement with, each mechanical submittal to the DCBO, stating that the proposed final design plans, specifications, and calculations conform to all of the mechanical engineering design requirements set forth in the CEC's decision. 6. The electrical engineer shall: a. Be responsible for the electrical design of the project; and b. Sign and stamp electrical design drawings, plans, specifications, and calculations.										
Facility Design	CIVIL-1	The project owner shall submit to the DCBO for review and approval the following: 1. Design of the proposed drainage structures and the grading plan; 2. An erosion and sedimentation control plan; 3. Related calculations and specifications, signed and stamped by the responsible civil engineer; and 4. Soils, geotechnical, or foundation investigations reports required by the 2022 Building Code.	At least 15 days (or a project owner and DCBO mutually agreed upon alternative time frame) prior to the start of site grading the project owner shall submit the documents described above to the DCBO for design review and approval. In the next MCR following the DCBO's approval, the project owner shall submit a written statement certifying that the documents have been approved by the DCBO.	Submittal of items 1-5 to DCBO	Pre-construction	At least 15 days (or a project owner and DCBO mutually agreed upon alternative time frame) prior to the start of site grading	WSP for items 2 & Hatch and CMT for items 1, 3 and 4	In Progress	29-May-26			According to discussions held during the Hydrostor–CPM meeting on March 5, 2026, and CEC's CPM Email on March 16, 2026, CEC CPM has no issues with Hydrostor's request for plan submittal in alignment with construction sequencing. Hydrostor confirmed with the DCBO during the Kick-off Meeting on March 18, 2026 that plan submittals in alignment with construction sequencing is acceptable and common.
Worker Safety and Fire Protection	WORKER SAFETY-1	The project owner shall submit to the CPM a copy of the Project Construction Health and Safety Program containing the following: • a Construction Personal Protective Equipment Program; • a Construction Exposure Monitoring Program which shall include a Sampling and Analysis Plan for monitoring wastewater from the cavern initial access construction if Method 1 is chosen, and a Sampling and Analysis Plan for routine sampling	At least 90 days prior to the start of construction, the project owner shall submit to the CPM for review and approval a copy of the Project Construction and Safety and Health Program. At the same time, the project owner shall also provide to the CPM a copy of letters requesting comments submitted to KCFD and Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO). Written responses from the KCFD and KCSO, if any, detailing	a) Submit to the CPM the Project Construction Health and Safety Program (PCSHSP) b) Written responses from the KCFD and KCSO, if any, detailing resolved comments	Pre-construction	a) 90 days prior to the start of construction b) Within 30 days of receipt by the project owner Note: upon approval of CPM on March 16,	WSP	In Progress	ASAP			On March 5, 2026, during the Hydrostor-CPM call, Mr. Ali and Mr. Brett Fooks approved to change the verification of the condition to "90 days prior to construction of cavern" for the following three plans: - Construction Exposure Monitoring Program - Mining Safety & Health Plan - Fire Protection Plan (the underground information)

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		<p>of excavated dust, soil, and rock removed from the cavern for the determination of hazardous wastes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Construction Injury and Illness Prevention Program; • a Rock Crusher Safety Program that includes a dust and particulate emissions controls; • a Concrete Batch Plant Safety Program; • a Construction Emergency Action Plan; • an Emergency Response Plan; • a Hazardous Material Business Plan (HMBP); • a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC); • a Mining Safety and Health Plan that demonstrates compliance with all applicable MSHA regulations for the construction of the underground cavern; and • a Construction Fire Prevention Plan that includes thoroughly detailed Fire Detection and Suppression Plans for both surface and underground construction activities, Emergency Rescue Plans for both surface and underground construction, and methods of access for emergency responders through locked gates at the surface and into the underground cavern. <p>The Personal Protective Equipment Program, the Exposure Monitoring Program, the Injury and Illness Prevention Program, the Rock Crusher Safety Protocol, the Concrete Batch Plant Safety Protocol, and the SPCC shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval concerning compliance of the program with all applicable safety orders. The Construction Emergency Action Plan, Construction Emergency Response Plan, the Controlled Detonations Plan, the HMBP, and the Fire Prevention Plan shall be submitted to the Kern County Fire Department (KCFD) for review and comment prior to submittal to the CPM for approval. The Controlled Detonations Plan shall also be submitted to the Kern County Sheriff's Office for review and comment.</p>	resolved comments shall be submitted to the CPM within 30 days of receipt by the Project Owner.			2026, the verification requirement was modified from 90 days prior to construction to 90 days prior to construction of cavern for the 1) Construction Exposure Monitoring Program and 2) Mining Safety & Health Plan and 3) Construction fire Prevention Plan (underground information)						

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Worker Safety and Fire Protection	WORKER SAFETY-3	The project owner shall provide a site Construction Safety Supervisor (CSS) who, by way of training and/or experience, is knowledgeable of compressed air energy projects, worker safety issues concerning underground mining, and relevant worker safety-related LORS. The CSS shall be capable of identifying workplace hazards relating to the construction activities; and has authority to take appropriate action to ensure compliance and mitigate hazards. The CSS shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have overall authority for coordination and implementation of all occupational safety and health practices, policies, and programs; • ensure that the safety program for the project complies with Cal OSHA and federal regulations related to A-CAES projects; • ensure that all construction and commissioning workers and supervisors receive adequate safety training; • conduct accident and safety-related incident investigations and provide emergency response reports for injuries, and inform the CPM of safety-related incidents; and, • ensure that all the plans identified in WORKER SAFETY-1 and WORKER SAFETY-2 are implemented. 	At least 30 days prior to the start of site mobilization, the project owner shall submit to the CPM the name and contact information for the CSS. The contact information of any replacement CSS shall be submitted to the CPM within one business day. The CSS shall submit in the Monthly Compliance Report (MCR) a monthly safety inspection report to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a record of all employees trained for that month (all records shall be kept on site for the duration of the project); • summary report of safety management actions and safety-related incidents that occurred during the month; • report of any continuing or unresolved situations and incidents that may pose danger to life or health; • report of any visits from Cal OSHA and/or any complaints from workers to Cal OSHA; and, • report of accidents, injuries, and near misses that occurred during the month. 	Submit to the CPM the name and contact information for the CSS	Pre-construction	At least 30 days prior to the start of site mobilization	Hatch	In Progress	1-May-26			
Worker Safety and Fire Protection	WORKER SAFETY-4	The project owner shall make payments to the DCBO for the services of a Safety Monitor based upon a reasonable fee schedule to be negotiated between the project owner and the DCBO. Those services shall be in addition to other work performed by the DCBO. The Safety Monitor shall be selected from an independent company not affiliated with the DCBO and report directly to the DCBO and would be responsible for verifying that the CSS, as required in WORKER SAFETY-3, implements all appropriate Cal OSHA and CEC safety requirements. The Safety Monitor shall conduct on-site (including linear facilities) safety inspections at intervals necessary to fulfill those responsibilities.	At least 60 days prior to the start of construction, the project owner shall provide proof of its agreement to fund the Safety Monitor services to the CPM for review and approval.	Provide proof of agreement to fund the Safety Monitor services to the CPM for review and approval	Pre-construction	At least 60 days prior to the start of construction	Hydrostor	In Progress	2-Apr-26			

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Worker Safety and Fire Protection	WORKER SAFETY-6	The project owner shall prepare and submit a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) to conduct laboratory periodic testing of the water from the AVEK Water Agency to be used for dust control and surface soils from the dirt roads on the site, have a state certified laboratory conduct the analysis of hexavalent chromium, or provide copies of an equivalent analysis if available from AVEK, and submit both the SAP and lab results to the CPM for review and approval prior to the use or ground application of water from those wells.	At least 60 days prior to the starting of construction, the project owner shall submit the SAP to the CPM for review and approval. At least 30 days prior to the planned use of the AVEK supplied water, the project owner shall submit the laboratory findings to the CPM for review and approval of the use of the AVEK water for dust control and human consumption, and the surface soil tests shall be used to determine a baseline level of hexavalent chromium. At least every six months, sampling and analysis shall be repeated and the results submitted to the CPM for review.	a) Submit to the CPM the Final SAP b) Submit to the CPM the laboratory findings of the use of the AVEK water for dust control and human consumption, and the surface soil tests	Pre-construction	a) At least 60 days prior to the start of construction b) At least 30 days prior to the planned use of the AVEK supplied water	WSP	In Progress	2-Apr-26			
Worker Safety and Fire Protection	WORKER SAFETY-7	The project owner shall develop and implement a worker Valley Fever Prevention and Response Plan that includes an enhanced Dust Control Plan containing the requirements described in AQ-SC3 and additionally requires: 1. The mandatory on-site use of earth moving and excavating equipment with environmental cabs (with air conditioning (AC) and HEPA filters) and keeping the doors of the cab closed; 2. Mandatory site worker use of dust masks (NIOSH N-95 or better) in areas where active trenching occurs, even if dust is not visually detected; 3. Implementation of enhanced dust control methods (increased frequency of watering to no less than three (3) times each day at locations where active trenching is conducted), use of dust suppression chemicals, etc. consistent with AQ-SC3) immediately whenever visible dust comes from or onto the site; 4. Specific training on Valley Fever as per Labor Code, section 6109, which requires that employers of workers in high-incidence counties (Kern County is included) shall provide effective awareness training on Valley Fever to all employees before work begins and annually by that date thereafter; 5. Medical referral protocol; and 6. Reporting of medically-diagnosed cases to the California Department of Public Health, Cal OSHA, and the CPM.	At least 60 days prior to the commencement of site mobilization, the Valley Fever Prevention and Response Plan shall be provided to the CPM for review and approval.	a) Provide to the CPM the Draft Valley Fever Prevention and Response Plan b) Specific training on Valley Fever as per Labor Code Section 6109	Pre-construction	At least 60 days prior to the commencement of site mobilization	Hydrostor and WSP	In Progress	2-Apr-26			

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Worker Safety and Fire Protection	WORKER SAFETY-10	The project owner shall ensure that a portable automated external defibrillator (AED) is on site during construction, commissioning, and operations and shall implement a program to ensure that workers are properly trained in its use and that the equipment is properly maintained and functional. During construction and commissioning the following persons shall be trained in its use and shall be on site whenever the workers that they supervise are on site: the Construction Project Manager or delegate, the CSS or delegate, and all shift foremen. During operations, all project employees on site shall be trained in its use. The training program shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval.	At least 30 days prior to the start of site mobilization, the project owner shall submit to the CPM proof that a portable AED is available to be made available on site as soon as physically possible along with a copy of the training and maintenance program for review and approval.	Submit to the CPM proof that a portable AED is available to be made available on site as soon as physically possible along with a copy of the training and maintenance program for review and approval	Pre-construction & Construction & O&M	At least 30 days prior to the start of site mobilization	Hydrostor	Not Started	1-May-26			
Worker Safety and Fire Protection	WORKER SAFETY-11	The project owner shall do the following at the project site: 1. Provide at least two gates into the facility wide enough for emergency access with both equipped with Knox Boxes for access by the KCFD, the California Highway Patrol (CHP), and KCSO; 2. Install remote fire or heat sensors at sufficient locations to cover the entire facility (e.g., thermal infrared); 3. Provide fire water flow of at least 1,500 gallons per minute; 4. Install closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras with Pan, Tilt, Zoom (PTZ), and low-light capability that cover the entire area of the facility and which would have their own separate power supply; 5. Establish a Command and Control protocol for staff to perform emergency duties and responsibilities during the detection, initiation, and escalation of an on-site ground level or underground level fire or rescue operation; 6. Ensure that three certified professionals, one to conduct underground gas testing, one to serve as a safety inspector, and one Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) to conduct air sampling and analysis, are present onsite every day and visit the cavern at intervals as dictated by a plan reviewed and approved by the CPM; 7. Establish an annual joint training program with the KCFD that includes table-top exercises for fire and rescue operations; 8. Consult with the KCFD in preparing	At least 60 days prior to the starting of construction, the project owner shall provide all the information required above to the KCFD for review and approval, and to the DCBO for plan check approval and construction inspection. The project owner shall also schedule, after consultation and agreement of all parties involved, the pre-cavern construction and excavation conference at least 60 days prior to the start of cavern excavation and shall give the CPM at least 30 days written notice of the meeting. The project owner shall also provide a letter that the KCFD, CHP, and KCSO have been given access to the Knox boxes.	a) Provide all the information to the KCFD for review and comment, to the CPM for review and approval, and to the DCBO for plan check approval and construction inspection b) Schedule, after consultation and agreement of all parties involved, the pre-cavern construction and excavation conference c) Notify CPM of the excavation conference meeting	Pre-construction	a) At least 60 days prior to the start of construction b) At least 60 days prior to the start of construction c) At least 30 days prior to the meeting Note: upon approval of CPM on March 16, 2026, the verification requirement was modified from 60 days prior to construction to 60 days prior to construction of cavern for items 6, 8 and 9 of the condition.	Hatch & CMT & Hydrostor	In Progress	2-Apr-26			On March 5, 2026, during the Hydrostor-CPM call, Mr. Ali and Mr. Brett Fooks approved to change the verification of the condition to "90 days prior to construction of cavern" for items 6, 8, and 9 of this condition.

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		subsurface fire protection and rescue procedures; and 9. Hold a pre-construction and excavation conference with the CPM, Cal OSHA Mining and Tunneling Unit, the DCBO, and the DCBO Safety Monitor to review all safety plans for the cavern excavation and revise those plans as necessary.										
Worker Safety and Fire Protection	WORKER SAFETY-12	The project owner shall either: 1. Reach an agreement with the KCFD regarding funding to provide mitigation for direct and cumulative project-related impacts, or 2. If no agreement can be reached, provide funding for a fully equipped Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Unit and building, including necessary equipment for use in Eastern Kern County, and staffing costs during the construction phase and agreements to pay for emergency response if the USAR is not delivered before construction begins, which shall consist of a lump sum of \$1,900,000 for the USAR, plus a lump sum payment in the amount of \$2,400,000 for the first year of staffing and made annually until the final Certificate of Occupancy for operations is issued by Kern County or as authorized by the CEC, or if construction begins and the new USAR Unit has not been delivered, then the applicant shall sign an agreement with the KCFD to reimburse costs for responding to incidents at the Willow Rock site. Such an agreement will terminate once the USAR Unit is delivered, and the staffing annual payment is made.	At least 30 days prior to the start of site mobilization, the project owner shall provide to the CPM for review and approval either: a. A copy of the agreement with the KCFD, or b. Documentation that a letter of credit has been provided to the KCFD in the amounts listed above and that a letter of credit will be provided each year (plus yearly negotiated increases), in the amounts listed above, or an agreement to reimburse the KCFD for the costs for responding to incidents at the Willow Rock site until the USAR Unit is completed and occupied.	Provide to the CPM a copy of the agreement with the KCFD, or documentation that a letter of credit has been provided/a reimbursal agreement	Pre-construction	At least 30 days prior to the start of site mobilization	Hydrostor	In Progress	1-May-26			
Air Quality	AQ-SC1	Air Quality Construction Mitigation Manager (AQCMM): The project owner shall designate and retain an on-site AQCMM who shall be responsible for directing and documenting compliance with Conditions of Certification AQ-SC3, AQ-SC4 and AQ-SC5 for the entire project site. The on-site AQCMM may delegate responsibilities to one or more AQCMM Delegates. The AQCMM and AQCMM Delegates shall have full access to all areas of construction on the project site and shall have the authority to stop any or all construction activities as warranted by applicable construction mitigation conditions. The AQCMM and AQCMM Delegates may have other	At least 30 days prior to the start of ground disturbance, the project owner shall submit to the CPM for approval, the name, resume, qualifications, and contact information for the on-site AQCMM and all AQCMM Delegates.	Submit to the CPM the name, resume, qualifications, and contact information for the on-site AQCMM and all AQCMM Delegates	Pre-construction	At least 30 days prior to the start of ground disturbance	Hatch	In Progress	1-May-26			

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		responsibilities in addition to those described in this condition. The AQCMM shall not be terminated without written consent of the Compliance Project Manager (CPM).										
Air Quality	AQ-SC2	Air Quality Construction Mitigation Plan (AQCMP): The project owner shall provide an AQCMP, for approval, which details the steps that will be taken and the reporting requirements necessary to ensure compliance with Conditions of Certification AQ-SC3, AQ-SC4, and AQ-SC5.	At least 30 days prior to the start of any ground disturbance, the project owner shall submit the AQCMP to the CPM for approval. The CPM will notify the project owner of any necessary modifications to the plan within 15 days from the date of receipt.	Submit to the CPM the Air Quality Construction Mitigation Plan (AQCMP)	Pre-construction	At least 30 days prior to the start of any ground disturbance	WSP	In Progress	1-May-26			
Biological Resources	BIO-1	Designated Biologist Selection. The project owner shall assign at least one Designated Biologist to the project (multiple personnel may be required to ensure compliance with Conditions of Certification). The project owner shall submit the resume of the proposed Designated Biologist, with at least three references and contact information, to the California Energy Commission (CEC) Compliance Project Manager (CPM) for review and approval. The Designated Biologist must meet the following minimum qualifications: 1. Bachelor's degree in biological sciences, zoology, botany, ecology, or a closely related field; 2. Three years of experience in field biology or current certification of a nationally recognized biological society, such as The Ecological Society of America or The Wildlife Society; and 3. At least three years of field experience with biological resources found in or near the project area. In lieu of the above requirements, the resume shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the CPM that the proposed Designated Biologist or alternate has the appropriate training and background to effectively implement the Conditions of Certification. For work related to western Joshua tree, Crotch's bumble bee and/or burrowing owl, the above qualifications shall also apply. In addition, the Designated Biologist(s) must meet the following minimum qualifications: 1. Knowledgeable in the biology and natural history of western Joshua tree and its woodlands, Crotch's bumble bee and/or burrowing owl, exclusion and/or monitoring	The project owner shall submit to the CPM resumes and any other relevant documentation for Designated Biologist(s) approval at least 75 days prior to the start of site mobilization and/or construction-related ground disturbance activities. No site mobilization or construction related activities shall commence until a Designated Biologist has been approved by the CPM. If a Designated Biologist needs to be replaced, the specified information regarding the proposed replacement must be submitted to the CPM at least ten working days prior to the termination or release of the preceding Designated Biologist. In an emergency, the project owner shall immediately notify the CPM to discuss the qualifications and approval of a short-term replacement while a permanent Designated Biologist is proposed to the CPM for consideration.	Submit to the CPM resumes and any other relevant documentation for Designated Biologist(s)	Pre-construction	At least 75 days prior to the start of site mobilization and/or construction-related ground disturbance activities	WSP	Complete (2/27/2026)	18-Mar-26			

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		techniques as applicable, construction and operational impact monitoring; 2. Demonstrable experience implementing exclusion and/or monitoring techniques and construction and operational impact monitoring for western Joshua tree, Crotch's bumble bee or burrowing owl; 3. Demonstrable experience implementing conditions of a CDFW Incidental Take Permit or acting as a Designated Biologist, or other experience implementing a CDFW Incidental Take Permit as a Biological Monitor.										
Biological Resources	BIO-3	Biological Monitor Selection. The project owner's CPM-approved Designated Biologist shall submit the resume, at least three references, and contact information of the proposed Biological Monitor(s) to the CPM for approval and the CDFW for review and comment. The resume shall demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the CPM, the appropriate education and experience to accomplish the assigned biological resource tasks.	The project owner shall submit the specified information to the CPM for review and approval at least 30 days prior to the start of any site mobilization activities. Within 10 days of completion of training, the Designated Biologist shall submit a written statement to CPM confirming that individual Biological Monitor(s) have been trained including the date when training was completed. If additional biological monitors are needed during construction or for species specific surveys, the specified information shall be submitted to the CPM for approval at least 10 days prior to their first day of monitoring activities.	a) Submit information requested of the proposed Biological Monitor(s) to the CPM b) Submit confirmation to the CPM of individual training for Biological Monitor(s)	Pre-construction	a) At least 30 days prior to the start of any site mobilization activities b) Within 10 days of completion of training	WSP	a: Complete (2/27/2026) b: In Progress	a: 2/27/2026 b: 5/1/2026			
Biological Resources	BIO-5	Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP). The project owner shall develop and implement a project-specific Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) and shall submit the draft WEAP for review and approval from the CPM and CDFW for review and comment. The WEAP shall be administered to all onsite personnel who will enter the project site including but not limited to surveyors, construction engineers, employees, contractors, contractor's employees, supervisors, inspectors, subcontractors (but excluding delivery personnel), biologists, cultural, tribal, and paleontological monitors. An abbreviated WEAP (WEAP Light) can be provided to vendors, such as delivery personnel (e.g., building materials, concrete, heavy equipment, etc.), who periodically enter the project site and are limited to areas such as existing access roads and/or lay down areas. The WEAP Light shall also be submitted for review and approval	At least 45 days prior to start of site mobilization the project owner shall provide to the CPM for review and approval the draft WEAP and all supporting written materials and electronic media prepared or reviewed by the Designated Biologist and a resume of the person(s) administering the program. At least 10 days prior to site mobilization the project owner shall submit the approved final WEAP and implement the training for all workers. The project owner shall provide in the Monthly Compliance Report the number of persons who have completed the training in the prior month and a running total of all persons who have completed the training to date. Training acknowledgement forms signed during construction shall be kept on file by the project owner for at least 6 months after the start of	Submit the approved final WEAP to the CPM and implement the training for all workers	Pre-construction	At least 45 days prior to start of site mobilization	WSP	In Progress	17-Apr-26			

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		<p>from the CPM. The WEAP shall be implemented during site mobilization, vegetation clearing, preconstruction, construction, commissioning, operation, non-operation, and closure. All workers must complete the WEAP prior to commencing work on the project. The WEAP and the WEAP Light may be recorded for later electronic viewing by new workers who begin work after the initial presentations.</p> <p>The WEAP shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be developed by or in consultation with the Designated Biologist (see BIO-1) and consist of an on-site or training center presentation in which supporting written material and electronic media in English, as well as Spanish or other languages, as applicable, including photographs of protected species and their habitat, is made available to all participants; 2. Identify the lead agencies, provide an overview of the Conditions of Certifications, other regulatory permit requirements, and applicable LORS that must be complied with and the ramifications of non-compliance which may include fines, imprisonment, work stoppages, or loss of employment depending on the violation; 3. Identify the roles of environmental staff and define communication protocols and chain of command between environmental and construction staff. Define what actions monitors can approve such as stopping work under specific circumstances, providing guidance to comply with conditions, conducting surveys, and what actions monitors cannot approve such as directing work, expanding work areas from approved limits, changing Conditions of Certification requirements, or approving variances to permit conditions. Identify key field contacts and ensure that this information is posted in all break areas; 4. Provide examples of environmental signage and flagging that would be used to delineate work limits; areas for avoidance, state and or federal drainages, or other protected areas, evacuation routes, and approved staging areas; 5. Discuss the locations and types of sensitive biological resources on the Project site and adjacent areas, and explain the reasons for protecting 	<p>commercial operation. Throughout the life of the project, the WEAP shall be repeated annually for permanent operational employees and shall be routinely administered within 1 week of arrival to any new construction personnel, foremen, contractors, subcontractors, and other personnel potentially working within the project area. Training acknowledgement forms shall be maintained by the project owner and shall be made available to the CPM upon request. Workers shall receive and be required to visibly display a hard-hat sticker or certificate that they have completed the training.</p> <p>During project operation, signed statements for operational personnel shall be kept on file for 6 months following the termination of an individual's employment.</p>										

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		<p>these resources; provide information to participants that no snakes or other wildlife shall be intentionally harmed (unless posing a reasonable and immediate threat to humans);</p> <p>6. Describe standard environmental commitments and best management practices that apply to the project including but not limited to: storing trash in closed receptacles and removing weekly to prevent attracting animals, capping pipes and other cavities that could be used by birds and small mammals; collecting and removing the carcasses of dead animals; limiting work to daytime hours, limiting work during periods of high rainfall, preventing vehicles and equipment from operating within a stream unless specifically authorized by other permits or Conditions of Certification; restricting smoking to designated areas; storing chemicals and fuel in designated areas; spill prevention measures; and reporting requirements;</p> <p>7. Identify project vehicle speeds on paved and unpaved access roads;</p> <p>8. Place special emphasis on the protection of nesting birds, species of special concern and listed species including pictures and information on physical characteristics, distribution, behavior, ecology, sensitivity to human activities, legal protection, penalties for violations, reporting requirements, and protection measures;</p> <p>9. Provide pictures of the sensitive plants and wildlife known to occur in the project area, including western Joshua tree, Crotch's bumble bee, desert tortoise, legless lizards, Swainson's hawk, bald and golden eagles, burrowing owl, loggerhead shrike, Mohave ground squirrel, American badger, desert kit fox, ringtail, and other sensitive plants and wildlife. Provide information on sensitivity to human activities, legal protection, reporting requirements, and how to identify construction avoidance zones for these species as marked by flagging, staking, or other means, as described above;</p> <p>10. Provide an overview for all personnel of the risk of potential impacts to small mammals, birds, and reptiles from vehicle strikes on all project roads (paved and unpaved) during construction, operations,</p>										

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		<p>closure phases, reporting requirements, and protection measures;</p> <p>11. Describe the risk of wildfires in desert communities and the measures that will be taken to reduce these risks such as avoiding parking in tall vegetation, limits to where workers can smoke; the locations of fire safety equipment, contact information and the procedure should a wildfire be ignited, required tools for each piece of equipment such as a shovel, Pulaski, and fire extinguisher, restrictions on welding and controlled detonations, use of the Project Activity Level (PAL) system that describes what activities can occur based on specific weather conditions including Red Flag days;</p> <p>12. Provide an overview of potential impacts to avian and bat species from collisions with the cooling towers, generation tie-line, and other features associated with the operations phase, reporting requirements, and protection measures;</p> <p>13. Identify whom to contact if there are further comments and questions about the material discussed in the program; and</p> <p>14. Include a training acknowledgment form to be signed by each worker indicating that they received training and shall abide by the guidelines. A small wallet card or pamphlet with key contacts and resource information shall be prepared and provided after the training. A hard hat sticker shall also be provided to each worker to demonstrate to the monitors that they have participated in the training. The WEAP Light shall include a summary of the items above as they relate to the limited areas that vendors need to access such as existing access roads and/or lay down areas. The specific program can be administered by a competent individual(s) acceptable to the Designated Biologist and documented within the Monthly Compliance Reports.</p>										
Biological Resources	BIO-6	Biological Resources Mitigation Implementation and Monitoring Plan. The project owner shall develop a Biological Resources Mitigation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (BRMIMP). The project owner shall provide the draft BRMIMP to the CPM for review and comment. No site	The project owner shall submit the draft BRMIMP to the CPM for review and approval at least 45 days prior to start of any site mobilization. The project owner shall provide the final BRMIMP to the CPM at least 10 days prior to start of any site mobilization.	Provide the BRMIMP to the CPM	Pre-construction	At least 45 days prior to start of any site mobilization	WSP	In Progress	17-Apr-26			

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		<p>mobilization or construction activities may occur prior to approval of the final BRMIMP by the CPM. Under no circumstances shall ground disturbance proceed without implementation of all applicable permit conditions.</p> <p>The BRMIMP shall be prepared in consultation with the Designated Biologist and shall include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All biological resources mitigation, monitoring, and compliance measures proposed and agreed to by the project owner; 2. All biological resources Conditions of Certification identified as necessary to avoid or mitigate impacts; 3. All biological resource mitigation, monitoring, and compliance measures required in state or federal agency terms and conditions, such as those provided in the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Activities Stormwater General Permit and Waste Discharge Certification; 4. A discussion of all sensitive biological resources that could be impacted by project site mobilization, construction, operation, and decommissioning; 5. A detailed description of measures that shall be taken to avoid or mitigate impacts on each special-status species potentially impacted by construction and operation, including remedial actions; 6. All required mitigation measures for each sensitive biological resource; 7. All locations on a map, at an approved scale (typically 1:6,000 or other scale with CPM approval), of special-status biological resource areas subject to disturbance and areas requiring temporary protection and avoidance during construction and operation; 8. Aerial photographs, at an approved scale (typically 1:6,000 or other scale with CPM approval), of all areas to be disturbed during project construction activities; include one set prior to any site or related facilities mobilization disturbance and one set subsequent to completion of project construction. The aerial photographs shall include a reference map that shows the aerial map location in reference to the project site, reference key on each aerial, and displays the project 	<p>If any federal permits have not yet been received when the final BRMIMP is submitted, these permits shall be submitted to the CPM within 5 days of their receipt, and the BRMIMP shall be revised or supplemented to reflect the permit condition(s). The project owner shall submit to the CPM and CDFW the revised or supplemented BRMIMP within 10 days following the project owner's receipt of any additional federal permits. Any changes to the approved BRMIMP shall be submitted to the CPM at least 10 days prior to implementation and must be approved by the CPM in consultation with CDFW prior to implementation.</p> <p>Implementation of BRMIMP measures shall be reported in the Monthly Compliance Reports by the Designated Biologist (e.g., survey results, construction activities that were monitored, non-compliance incidences and resolution, species observed, etc.). Within 30 days after completion of project construction, the project owner shall provide to the CPM, for review and approval, a written construction termination report identifying which items of the BRMIMP have been completed, a summary of all CPM-approved modifications to mitigation measures made during the project's site mobilization and construction activities, and which mitigation and monitoring items are still outstanding.</p> <p>To verify that the extent of construction disturbance does not exceed that described in these conditions, the project owner shall submit aerial photographs, at an approved scale, taken before and after construction to the CPM and CDFW. The first set of aerial photographs shall reflect site conditions prior to any preconstruction site mobilization and construction activities and shall be submitted prior to initiation of such activities. The second set of aerial photographs shall be taken subsequent to completion of construction and shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval, and CDFW</p>									

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		<p>boundary. Provide planned timing of aerial photography and a description of why times were chosen;</p> <p>9. Provide a final accounting of the actual acreage to be permanently or temporarily impacted and a determination of whether more or less habitat compensation is necessary than the estimates in BIO-14;</p> <p>10. All measures that shall be taken to avoid or mitigate temporary disturbances from construction activities;</p> <p>11. Duration for each type of monitoring and a description of monitoring methodologies and frequency;</p> <p>12. Performance standards to be used to help decide if/when proposed mitigation is or is not successful;</p> <p>13. All performance standards and remedial measures to be implemented if performance standards are not met;</p> <p>14. A process for proposing plan modifications to the CPM and appropriate agencies for review and approval;</p> <p>15. All final versions of required plans including WEAP, Vegetation Management Plan, Weed Control Plan, Invasive Species Management Plan, Nesting Bird Management Plan, and all other individual biological mitigation and/or monitoring plans associated with the project shall be included as attachments; and</p> <p>16. A requirement to submit any sightings of any special-status species that are observed on or in proximity to the project site, or during project surveys, to the CNDDDB, per CDFW requirements.</p>	<p>for review and comment, no later than 30 days after completion of construction. The project owner shall also provide a final accounting in whole acres of vegetation communities/cover types present before and after construction no later than 30 days after completion of construction. Construction acreages shall be rounded to the nearest acre. The project owner shall also provide Geographic Information Systems (GIS) shapefiles of all pre-and post-disturbance areas no later than 30 days after completion of construction.</p>									
Biological Resources	BIO-8	<p>Vegetation Management Plan. The project owner shall develop a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP). The VMP shall contain the requirements to stabilize temporarily disturbed areas, including proposed stabilization measures, seed mixes, schedules, success criteria, reporting requirements, and any remediation activities. No site mobilization or construction activities may occur prior to approval of the final VMP by the CPM.</p> <p>The VMP shall be developed by a qualified botanist or restoration ecologist approved by the CPM. The Plan shall identify all areas of permanent and temporary impacts and describe how temporarily</p>	<p>The project owner shall submit the draft VMP to the CPM for approval at least 45 days prior to the start of any site mobilization. The project owner shall provide the final VMP to the CPM and CDFW at least 7 days prior to start of any site mobilization. Any changes to the approved VMP must be approved by the CPM. Quarterly, annual, and final revegetation status reports shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval no more than 30 days after each reporting period.</p>	<p>a) Provide the VMP to the CPM and CDFW b) Submittal of quarterly, annual and final revegetation status reports to the CPM</p>	Pre-construction & Construction	<p>a) At least 45 days prior to start of any site mobilization b) No more than 30 days after each reporting period</p>	WSP	In Progress	17-Apr-26			

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		<p>disturbed areas in desert areas shall be stabilized to prevent the establishment and spread of invasive species. Invasive weeds are defined as Cal-IPC High or Moderate species except where allowances for annual grasses as described below.</p> <p>The Plan shall specify success criteria and materials and methods for site preparation, reseeding, maintaining, and monitoring revegetated areas in the following categories. Successful establishment of native desert scrub communities is not required, since temporary impacts are being considered as permanent to offset impacts to listed species, and revegetation efforts shall include an initial seeding event followed by weed management.</p> <p>A. The goal of revegetation on these sites shall be to stabilize disturbed areas and prevent the establishment of California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) High or Moderate species that could colonize adjacent habitats. Permanent, and temporary impacts shall be offset through compensatory mitigation (BIO-14);</p> <p>B. At a minimum, all temporary disturbed areas shall be recontoured, scarified, and stabilized with a seed mix consisting of local natives, including grasses and wildflowers preferred by Crotch's bumble bee, and shrubs. At a minimum the VMP shall include but not be limited to the following requirements.</p> <p>1. Site Maps. The Plan shall include the types and acreages of habitats to be restored. These areas shall be identified on maps with sufficient detail for a desktop review and provided as GIS files. The VMP shall provide drawings and or schematics outlining the location of seedings and/or plantings.</p> <p>2. Revegetation Methods. Describe the methods of active revegetation to be used depending on site location and habitat. Active revegetation is defined as any area that receives seed or container plants, irrigation (if proposed), weeding, and monitoring. The methods shall include any proposed site preparation such as topsoil salvage, re-contouring, decompaction, pre-installation weeding, or other proposed methods.</p> <p>3. Topsoil Salvage Requirements. Topsoil and the seed bank it contains</p>										

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		<p>shall be conserved on areas where soil is excavated to the degree possible based on the five-year construction timeframe, or alternate timeframe as approved by the CPM. Topsoil salvage shall occur provided the area does not support any Cal-IPC Rank Moderate or High with the exception of Brome and Mediterranean grasses. Salvage shall be accomplished by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Woody material such as Joshua trees shall be removed from the soil surface and piled in an area that will be out of the way during construction. The upper 6 to 8 inches of soil, where present, shall be scraped from the disturbance footprint and piled into a windrow in an area that shall not be disturbed during construction. b. Topsoil stockpiles shall be clearly marked for avoidance. c. Windrows shall be immediately protected from wind and rain erosion by covering them or hydro-mulching. Erosion protection shall be renewed as needed. d. Salvaged topsoil shall be respread on areas that shall be revegetated following construction. Salvaged topsoil versus subsoil shall be used for this purpose unless the location is identified as weed infested using the methods outlined in BIO-9. <p>4. Seed Mix and Application. Describe the proposed seed mix, quality control requirements, and application methods such as hydroseeding, broadcast seeding, imprinting, use of container plants, cuttings, or other treatments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The proposed seed mix shall be acquired from local sources unless approved by the CPM, in consultation with CDFW. b. Describe the timing of the seed application and measures to ensure that hydroseeding equipment has been cleaned prior to use on the project site. c. The methods shall describe any proposed use of slurry binders, soil stabilizers, or use of mycorrhizal fungi. d. Describe the proposed timing of the seeding and other revegetation efforts such as container plantings, cuttings, or other methods. e. It is recommended that coarse woody debris from damaged Joshua trees be strategically placed across the revegetation areas to foster the 										

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		<p>development of micro habitats for plants and wildlife.</p> <p>5. Success Criteria. The VMP shall include success criteria and percent cover for each of the proposed temporarily disturbed areas. Prior to initial ground disturbance of any areas that would be treated, the restoration ecologist shall develop a baseline goal for treatment including the percentage cover and type of weeds and the grass and forb cover. The goal of the VMP is to prevent the establishment of high-priority invasive weeds that are considered controllable (i.e. species that can be effectively suppressed or eliminated through standard management practices) such as Russian thistle (<i>Salsola tragus</i>) and Sahara mustard (<i>Brassica tournefortii</i>).</p> <p>After 5 years upland areas shall be dominated by native annuals, forbs, and low growing perennials with a total cover of 60 percent. Cover of high-priority invasive species rated by Cal-IPC High or Moderate species shall not exceed 5 percent total cover with the exception of brome grasses (<i>Bromus spp.</i>) or Mediterranean grass (<i>Schismus barbatus</i>), which shall be managed to the extent feasible to control spread.</p> <p>6. Implementation Schedule. The VMP shall include a defined implementation schedule and plan including any revegetation activities including conducting biological or cultural resources clearance surveys, avian monitoring, or other license requirements; ensuring soil conditions are prepared for treatment, and the implementation of any required erosion control devices.</p> <p>7. Site Preparation. All work areas shall be clearly delineated prior to revegetation work; and this shall include any soil preparation measures, including locations of recontouring, de-compacting, imprinting, or other treatments; details for topsoil storage, as applicable; plant material collection and acquisition guidelines, plants from the project site, as well as obtaining replacement plants from outside the project area (sources for plant materials shall be limited to locally occurring native species from the local area if needed); a plan drawing or schematic depicting the temporary disturbance areas described above;</p>										

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		<p>time of year that the planting or seeding shall occur and the methodology of the planting; a description of the irrigation, if used; success criteria; a monitoring program to measure the success criteria, commensurate with the Plan's goals and contingency measures for failed revegetation efforts not meeting success criteria.</p> <p>8. Plant Acquisition. Plant acquisition shall be limited to locally collected seed, and cuttings if used, unless approved by the CPM, in consultation with the CDFW.</p> <p>9. Final Site Grading and Seeding. The VMP shall include proposed plans for final site grading and seeding, developed in consideration of site-specific conditions and subject to approval by the CPM. At final grade, the last few inches shall not be compacted to more than 75 percent to facilitate penetration by plant roots, unless otherwise approved by the CPM based on soil type and site conditions. Salvaged topsoil shall be spread over the finish grade, which shall retain surface roughness, such as small ridges, where appropriate to enhance seedling wind protection and moisture collection from rain and fog. Hydroseed or drill seeding with soil stabilization seed mixture shall be applied between October 1 and mid-November, unless alternate timing is approved by the CPM. The hydroseed or drill seed mix shall contain a mulch and binder to retard wind erosion by providing a crust over the soil surface. Native plant seeds shall be added to the hydroseed mixture or hand broadcasted onto the site just prior to hydroseeding. Care shall be taken to avoid premature germination of native species caused by prolonged immersion in the hydroseeding equipment.</p> <p>On slopes, the project owner shall augment the erosion control seed mixture with seed of species native to the region, based on seed availability and habitat conditions. Seed mixtures appropriate for desert habitats shall be developed using native species sourced from the region and shall be approved by the CPM. The VMP shall include details of seed sources, application methods, and any proposed deviations from these guidelines with supporting rationale.</p>										

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		<p>10. Maintenance and Monitoring. The revegetation areas shall be monitored and maintained for a minimum of 5 years by a qualified botanist or restoration ecologist. At the end of the five-year monitoring period the qualified botanist or restoration ecologist in consultation with the Designated Biologist shall prepare a final monitoring report detailing the success of the revegetation efforts and shall provide recommendations, if needed. This final monitoring report shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval. After the initial 5-year monitoring period, the CPM shall determine if additional monitoring or remedial actions are required. Invasive weed management shall be started within 3 months of planting or seeding, or earlier if weeds have begun to flower, unless alternate timeframe is approved by the CPM. Weeding shall proceed as frequently as necessary to prevent weeds from spreading off the project site into the adjacent area and to prevent seed set. An effort shall be made to cut weeds before they develop seeds to minimize the spread of invasive weeds. Any new Cal-IPC High or Moderate species weed species not currently present in the project area prior to construction shall be eradicated (see BIO-9 and BIO-10).</p> <p>11. Reporting. Quarterly and annual revegetation status reports shall include a map of all areas planted or managed, percent weed cover, status of revegetation efforts including percent native cover and survivorship, and any remedial actions taken.</p>										
Biological Resources	BIO-9	<p>Integrated Weed Management Plan. The project owner shall develop an Integrated Weed Management Plan (IWMP). The IWMP shall be prepared in consultation with the Designated Biologist and shall include accurate and up-to-date maps depicting the location of weed occurrences across the project site and generation-tie line alignment. The IWMP shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval. The IWMP shall contain all required measures to identify, control, and manage existing and potential weed infestations on the project site. No site mobilization, ground disturbance, or construction activities may occur prior to approval of the final IWMP by the CPM. The IWMP shall</p>	<p>The project owner shall submit the draft IWMP to the CPM for review and approval at least 60 days prior to start of any pre-construction site mobilization activities. The project owner shall provide the final IWMP to the CPM and CDFW at least 7 days prior to the start of any site mobilization. Any changes to the approved IWMP must be approved by the CPM. The annual report shall be submitted within 30 days of completion of the late season surveys.</p>	Provide the final IWMP to the CPM and CDFW	Pre-construction	At least 60 days prior to the start of any site mobilization	WSP	In Progress	2-Apr-26			

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		<p>be implemented prior to any site mobilization, and during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the project.</p> <p>2. Weed Definition. The IWMP shall describe the methods of preventing or controlling the introduction or spread of weeds or new weed infestations. For the purposes of the IWMP, "weeds" shall include all plants designated as noxious weeds or pest plants by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), including those listed in Title 3, California Code of Regulations Section 4500 or assigned a CDFA pest rating of A, B, or Q, or the agencies most recent ranking system. Weeds shall also include any other non-native plant species ranked in the California Invasive Plant Inventory by the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) or its most recent ranking system.</p> <p>3. Weed Risk Assessment. The IWMP shall provide an assessment of the project's potential to spread invasive non-native weeds rated Cal IPC High or Moderate species into new areas, or to introduce new non-native invasive weeds into the project site. This IWMP must list known and potential non-native and invasive weeds occurring on the project site and in the project region and identify threat rankings, including Cal-IPC and CDFA, and potential consequences of project-related occurrence or spread for each species. This assessment shall include, but is not limited to, weeds that (1) are currently ranked as having a high or moderate for ecological impact in the California Invasive Plant Inventory maintained by the Cal-IPC (Cal-IPC 2025), (2) aid and promote the spread of wildfires, and (3) have the potential to displace native vegetation communities.</p> <p>4. Success Criteria. The IWMP shall identify goals for control of each species (e.g., eradication, suppression, or containment) likely to be found within the project area. The goals shall include the following success criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the exception of brome and Mediterranean grasses which are ubiquitous in the project area, all plant species with rates of dispersal and 										

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		<p>establishment listed as “High” or “Moderate” on the California Invasive Plant Inventory shall have documented absence, or have been removed from the site for at least three years, for the CPM to deem the site control successful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site shall not contain more than 5% exotic plant species rated by Cal-IPC as High or Moderate for the CPM to deem the site control successful. The IWMP shall include the following measures to guide weed inventory, prevention, control, and monitoring activities: <p>5. The project owner shall inventory the entire project site, covering all areas subject to ground-disturbing activity, including, but not limited to, construction work sites, staging areas, and any potential new or improved access roads. Weed occurrences shall be mapped and described according to species, density, and area covered. The map shall be updated at least once per year during the construction phase.</p> <p>2. Weed infestations identified in the pre-construction weed inventory shall be evaluated to identify potential for project-related spread. The IWMP shall identify any infestations to be controlled or eradicated prior to start of project construction, or other site-specific weed management requirements (e.g., avoidance of soil transport and site-specific vehicle washing where threat or spread potential is high).</p> <p>3. The CPM shall be notified via email within 30 days if any weed species detected on the project site has not been previously recorded in Kern or Los Angeles County, based on available records from the CDFA, the Cal-IPC, the Calflora Database, or other relevant regional floristic data sources.</p> <p>4. Control and follow-up monitoring of pre-construction weed treatment sites shall follow methods identified in appropriate sections of the IWMP. The monitoring section shall also describe methods for post-eradication monitoring to evaluate success of control efforts and any need for follow-up control.</p> <p>5. The IWMP shall specify methods to minimize potential transport of weed seeds onto the project site, or from one section of the project site to</p>										

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		<p>another. The project site may be divided into "weed zones," based on known presence or likelihood of invasive species in specific areas. The IWMP shall specify inspection procedures for construction materials and equipment entering the project area. Vehicles and equipment shall be inspected and cleaned at entry points to specified portions of the project site, and prior to leaving work sites where weed occurrences must be contained locally.</p> <p>6. The IWMP shall include prevention measures based on Prevention Best Management Practices for Transportation and Utility Corridors (https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/library/publications/tuc/) and Cal-IPC's Preventing the Spread of Invasive Plants: Best Management Practices for Land Managers (https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/library/publications/landmanagers/) or most recent guidance.</p> <p>7. Construction equipment shall be cleaned of dirt and mud that could contain weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes. Equipment shall be inspected to ensure it is free of any dirt or mud that could contain weed seeds, and the tracks, outriggers, tires, and undercarriages shall be thoroughly washed, as needed. Special attention shall be given to axles, frame, cross members, motor mounts, underneath steps, running boards, and front bumper/brush guard assemblies. Other construction vehicles (e.g., pick-up trucks) that frequently enter and exit the site shall be inspected and washed on an as-needed basis. Tools (e.g. chainsaws, hand clippers, pruners, etc.) shall also be cleaned of dirt and mud before entering project work areas.</p> <p>8. All vehicles shall be washed off-site when possible. If off-site washing is infeasible, on-site cleaning stations shall be set up at designated locations to clean equipment before it enters the work area. Wash stations shall be located away from native habitat or special-status species occurrences. Wastewater from cleaning stations shall not be allowed to run off the cleaning station site. A daily log shall be maintained for all vehicle and equipment washing activities stating the location, date and time, types of</p>											

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		<p>equipment, methods used, and personnel present.</p> <p>9. Erosion control materials (e.g., straw wattles, hay bales) shall be certified free of weed seed before they are brought onto the site. The IWMP shall prohibit on-site storage or disposal of mulch or green waste that may contain weed material. Mulch or green waste shall be removed from the site in a covered vehicle to prevent seed dispersal and transported to a licensed landfill or composting facility.</p> <p>10. The IWMP shall specify guidelines for any soil, sand, gravel, mulch, or fill material that will be imported into the project area, transported from site to site within the project area, or transported from the project area to an off-site location, to prevent the introduction or spread of weeds to or from the project area.</p> <p>11. The IWMP shall specify methods to survey for weeds during construction and operation; and shall identify the botanists responsible for weed monitoring and identification. The botanists shall be approved pursuant to BIO-1 and/or BIO-3. The IWMP shall include a monitoring schedule to ensure timely detection and immediate control of weed infestations to prevent further spread. Surveying and monitoring for weed infestations shall occur at least two times per year, to coincide with the early detection period for early season and late season weeds (i.e., species germinating in winter and flowering in late winter or spring, and species germinating later in the season and flowering in summer or fall).</p> <p>12. The IWMP shall include methods for marking invasive weeds on the project site and for recording and communicating these locations to weed control personnel. The map of weed locations (referenced above under Item 1) shall be updated at least annually and provided to the CPM in both Arc-GIS -compatible digital format (e.g. shapefiles) and PDF map format.</p> <p>13. The IWMP shall specify manual and chemical weed control methods to be employed. The IWMP shall include only weed control measures with a demonstrated record of effectiveness for target weeds, based on the best available information, including relevant agency guidance, peer-</p>										

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		<p>reviewed studies, and documented control successes for the target species. The plan shall describe methods for promptly scheduling and implementing control activity when any weed infestation is present, to ensure timely and effective weed control. Weed infestations shall be controlled or eradicated within 10 days upon detection, and prior to seed production, to prevent further spread. If detected after seed production, measures shall be taken to prevent further spread, including containment, seed removal, and increased monitoring.</p> <p>14. All proposed weed control methods must minimize the extent of any disturbance to native vegetation, limit ingress and egress to defined routes, and avoid damage from herbicide use or other control methods to any environmentally sensitive areas identified within or adjacent to the project site. Herbicide use must comply with the following restrictions unless approved by the CPM in consultation with CDFW.</p> <p>a. Herbicide applicators must follow the best management practices described by the Guidance to Protect Habitat from Pesticide Contamination published by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation or most recent guidance;</p> <p>b. Herbicides marked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's bee hazard icon shall be avoided;</p> <p>c. Herbicides shall not be sprayed onto any native flowering plant, with special care to avoid special status plants and foraging species used by bumble bees.</p> <p>d. Only herbicides with a short residual toxicity to bees shall be used. Pesticide toxicity shall be verified using UC Agriculture and Natural Resource's Bee Precaution Database, or equivalent current resource.</p> <p>e. Targeted application methods shall be used instead of broadcast spraying whenever feasible.</p> <p>f. All herbicide application must be conducted by a Licensed and Certified Pesticide Applicator, licensed by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR), and shall be applied as directed by the manufacturer and all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.</p> <p>15. Weed infestations shall be treated</p>										

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		<p>at least annually until eradication, suppression, or containment goals are met. For an infestation to be considered eradicated, no new seedlings or resprouts shall be observed for three (3) consecutive, normal rainfall years. Upon approval by the CPM, weed control efforts may be discontinued for that site.</p> <p>16. Manual control shall include well-timed removal of weeds or their seed heads with hand tools. Removed seed heads and plants shall be disposed of in accordance with guidelines from the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner, if such guidelines are available. If no guidelines are available, all materials shall be sealed in bags and transported to a licensed green-waste or composting facility to prevent seed dispersal.</p> <p>17. The IWMP shall include specific plans for any herbicide use based on known locations. The plan shall indicate where herbicides will be used, which herbicides will be used and specify techniques to be used to avoid drift or residual toxicity to native vegetation or special-status plants and wildlife. An updated herbicide work plan shall be developed based on the results of ongoing weed surveys and submitted annually with the annual monitoring report and updated weed location maps.</p> <p>18. Herbicides shall not be applied during or within 72 hours of predicted rain. Only water-safe herbicides shall be used in drainage areas or within channels (engineered or not) where they could run off into downstream areas. Herbicides shall not be applied when wind velocities exceed six (6) mph. All herbicide applications shall follow U.S. Environmental Protection Agency label instructions and shall be in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Any herbicide proposed for usage must be approved in advance by the CPM and use shall not conflict with BIO-13.</p> <p>19. The IWMP shall specify a reporting schedule, with no less than one report submitted annually, and shall define the contents of each report and reports shall be submitted by the project owner to document weed control activities, including treatment methods, locations, dates, monitoring results, and effectiveness of control measures.</p>										

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Biological Resources	BIO-10	<p>Invasive Species Management Plan. The project owner shall develop and implement an Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP). The ISMP shall be prepared in consultation with the Designated Biologist and shall include an education program (see BIO-5) to describe the risk that invasive species pose to native wildlife and the control methods required during pre-construction site mobilization, and during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the project. The ISMP shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval. The ISMP shall include the following:</p> <p>1. Invasive Species Education Program. The program shall consist of a presentation by the Designated Biologist(s) or Biological Monitor(s) that includes a discussion of the invasive species currently present within the project site as well as those that may pose a threat to or have the potential to invade the project site. The discussion shall include a physical description of each species and information regarding their habitat preferences, local and statewide distribution, modes of dispersal, and ecological impacts. The program shall also include a discussion of best management practices (BMPs) to be implemented at the project site to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive species into and out of the project site. The program shall provide interpretation for non-English speaking workers. The presentation may be recorded for later electronic viewing by new workers who begin work after the initial presentations. The program shall be repeated annually for the life of the project. Copies of program materials shall be maintained at the project site for workers to reference as needed. The program shall be included as part of the WEAP training and implemented, as required under BIO-5.</p> <p>2. Invasive Species. The ISMP shall describe the best management practices (BMPs) that prevent the introduction, transfer, and spread of invasive species, including plants, animals, and microbes (e.g., algae, fungi, parasites, bacteria, etc.), from one project site and/or waterbody to another. If decontamination is not done on site, transport contaminated</p>	<p>The project owner shall submit the draft ISMP to the CPM for review and approval at least 45 days prior to the start of any site mobilization activities. The project owner shall provide the final ISMP to the CPM at least 7 days prior to start of any site mobilization. No site mobilization, ground disturbance, or construction activities may occur prior to approval of the final ISMP by the CPM.</p>	Provide the final ISMP to the CPM	Pre-construction	At least 45 days prior to the start of any site mobilization	WSP	In Progress	17-Apr-26			

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		<p>equipment in sealed plastic bags and keep separate from clean gear. For locations known to be infested with invasive species, use dedicated equipment that is only used in infested waters and store this equipment separately. Prevention BMPs and guidelines for invasive plants are available California Invasive Plant Council's website at: https://www.cal-ipc.org/solutions/prevention/ and for invasive mussels and aquatic species are available at the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers website: https://stopaquatichitchhikers.org/ or most recent guidance. These measures shall be adapted to conform when working in desert areas without connectivity to intermittent or perennial water sources.</p> <p>3. Inspection of Project Equipment. Inspect all vehicles, tools, boots, and other project-related equipment and remove all visible soil or mud, plant materials, and animal remnants. All water must be drained from equipment prior to entering and exiting the project site and/or between each use in different waterbodies.</p> <p>4. Decontamination of Project Equipment. All tools, waders and boots, and other equipment that will enter the project site and/or between each use in different waterbodies, shall be decontaminated to avoid the introduction and transfer of organisms between waterbodies. Decontamination methods and protocols shall be outlined in the ISMP and may include techniques to clean gear and equipment such as thorough drying, hot water treatment, freezing, or other scientifically supported practices. All equipment must be thoroughly cleaned prior to decontamination, with particular attention paid to areas where organisms may be trapped (e.g., seams, laces, net corners, etc.). Repeat decontamination shall be required if the equipment/clothing is removed from the site, used within a different waterbody, and returned to the project site or different waterbody. Methods shall follow current best management practices as outlined in the CDFW Aquatic Invasive Species Decontamination Protocol or most current guidance. Decontamination measures can be adapted based on site-specific conditions when working</p>										

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		<p>in desert areas without connectivity to intermittent or perennial water sources. Decontamination measures shall ensure that terrestrial arthropods such as Argentine ants do not invade adjacent desert lands.</p> <p>5. Decontamination of Vehicles and Equipment. Vehicles and other project-related equipment too large to immerse in a hot water bath shall be decontaminated by using effective methods designed to eliminate potential biological contaminants. This may include using pressurized hot water, flushing of internal systems, and thorough draining and drying. Methods shall follow current best management practices as outlined in the CDFW Aquatic Invasive Species Decontamination Protocol or most current guidance. Decontamination procedures can be adapted to conform when working in desert areas without connectivity to intermittent or perennial water sources. Decontamination measures shall ensure that terrestrial arthropods such as Argentine ants do not invade adjacent desert lands.</p> <p>6. Decontamination Sites. The project owner shall identify a decontamination site approved by the CPM. The project owner shall ensure the decontamination of vehicles and other project-related gear and equipment is located in a designated location where runoff can be contained and not allowed to pass into CDFW-jurisdictional areas and other sensitive habitat. Preferably this will consist of an off-site location such as a construction yard or other approved vehicle washing location. Rinse water shall be disposed of at least 100 feet from any surface water.</p> <p>7. Notification of Invasive Species. If an invasive species not previously known to occur within the project site is discovered during project activities the project owner or Designated Biologist shall notify the CPM and CDFW within 24-hours, or by Monday if during the weekend, or by the next business day if during a state or federal holiday. The report shall include photos and a completed Suspect Invasive Species Report (available online at: https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Report). In addition, the project owner or Designated Biologist shall</p>										

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		provide an email to the Invasive Species Program at: invasives@wildlife.ca.gov or current CDFW email for reporting. Notification may also be provided by calling (866) 440-9530 or current CDFW phone number for reporting. Upon receiving guidance from the CPM, in coordination with CDFW, the project owner will take further action, as appropriate to the species.										
Biological Resources	BIO-12	<p>Western Joshua Tree Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures. To avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to western Joshua tree (WJT), the project owner shall ensure the following are implemented:</p> <p>1. Western Joshua Tree Census, Relocation Plan and Conservation Fund Fees. The project owner shall submit an updated Western Joshua Tree Census and final Western Joshua Tree Relocation Plan to the CPM for review and approval, and to CDFW for review and comment, prior to any site mobilization or ground-disturbing activities within 50 feet of any WJT. The updated census shall confirm the location of previously mapped WJTs, survey the portions of the project area that were not previously surveyed by the project owner due to site access constraints, and incorporate any new WJT stems or trunks that have arisen since completion of the prior surveys. The updated census shall include all WJT within the project area and a 50-foot buffer around the project area, including but not limited to, the Willow Rock site, generation tie-line, new access roads, laydown areas, staging areas, and other facilities. Additionally, the project owner shall update the Western Joshua Tree Relocation Plan if necessary to account for any newly identified or previously unmapped WJTs. The Western Joshua Tree Relocation Plan shall include, at a minimum, the following:</p> <p>a. Name and contact information for the project owner;</p> <p>b. APNs for locations where trees are proposed for removal (with maps at an approved scale);</p> <p>c. Name and qualifications of the desert native plant specialist overseeing relocation efforts;</p> <p>d. Details of the locations where trees will be transplanted, including</p>	<p>The project owner shall submit the draft Western Joshua Tree Relocation Plan to the CPM review and approval, in consultation with CDFW, no less than 45 days prior to commencing any project activities that will impact western Joshua trees, including site mobilization and/or construction. The project owner shall submit the final Western Joshua Tree Relocation Plan and pay the WJTCA mitigation fees prior to any project activities that will impact western Joshua trees.</p> <p>The annual status report for the relocated western Joshua tree shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval, in consultation with CDFW, by January 31 of the following year.</p> <p>If a new WJT stem or trunk is detected, the project owner shall submit a Notification of New Stem or Trunk to the CPM and to CDFW for review and comment prior to any project activities that may impact the new WJT. No impacts may occur until the CPM approves the notification and CDFW has received applicable mitigation fees.</p>	<p>a) Submit the Western Joshua Tree Relocation Plan</p> <p>b) Pay the WJTCA mitigation fees</p> <p>c) The annual status report for the relocated western Joshua tree shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval, in consultation with CDFW</p> <p>d) If a new WJT stem or trunk is detected, the project owner shall submit a Notification of New Stem or Trunk to the CPM and to CDFW</p>	Pre-construction	<p>a) Prior to any project activities that will impact western Joshua trees</p> <p>b) Prior to any project activities that will impact western Joshua trees</p> <p>c) by January 31 of the following year</p> <p>d) Prior to any project activities that may impact the new WJT</p>	WSP for items a, c, d and e & Hydrostor for item b	<p>a: In Progress</p> <p>b: In Progress</p> <p>c: Not Started</p> <p>d: No Action Unless Event Occurs</p>	<p>a: 4/17/2026</p> <p>b: 4/17/2026</p>			

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		<p>landowner name(s), address(es), APN(s), maps, approximate distance from original tree location, approximate difference in elevation from original tree location; site description including habitat and previous impacts;</p> <p>e. A calculation of the number of trees to be relocated based on the CDFW Relocation Guidelines and Protocols (https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Environmental-Review/WJT/Permitting/WJTCA-ITP#apply) or most recent guidelines. The total number of relocated trees shall be a percentage of the number of trees lethally taken for the project and must at least meet or exceed the CDFW calculation for each size class depending on the method used (i.e., tree spade removal, bare root, or a combination of both).</p> <p>f. A Tree Relocation Spreadsheet that includes a unique identifier (tree ID), size class, original location and recipient site locations (lat/long), relocation area name, anticipated removal and transplanting dates, the relocation method used, storage information (if applicable), overall tree health assessment, photos, and any other pertinent information for each tree proposed for relocation;</p> <p>g. A signed statement from the landowner from each relocation site granting the project owner permission to relocate trees to their land, provide access to implement the maintenance and monitoring measures, and allow staff to access the property to conduct compliance inspections (if trees will be relocated outside of the project area).</p> <p>h. In addition to submitting an updated Western Joshua Tree Census prior to site mobilization as specified in BIO-12, Item 1, the project owner shall conduct an updated Western Joshua Tree census prior to site mobilization for each phase of construction in any areas that were surveyed more than 12 months prior but remained undisturbed, as confirmed in consultation with CDFW. This requirement applies to all project components that will be disturbed, including, but not limited to, the Willow Rock site, the generation tie line, new access roads, laydown areas, staging areas, and other facilities. The project owner shall update the Western Joshua Tree Relocation Plan to</p>										

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		<p>account for any newly identified trees and provide this prior to site mobilization for each phase of the project. The survey methods and schedule shall be included in the Western Joshua Tree Relocation Plan. Upon review and approval by the CPM of the Final Western Joshua Tree Relocation Plan, the CPM will provide an invoice for the required mitigation fee. Based on preliminary data submitted by the applicant, this is estimated to be \$319,580.00 for Option 1 – Without Berm and \$457,394.75 for the Option 2 - With Berm (see Table 7.A-3); however, the total fee shall be dependent on the final number of trees and class sizes that are authorized for take, and based on the amount of fees in effect pursuant to California Fish and Game Code section 1927.8(b) at the time of the review and approval of the Final Western Joshua Tree Relocation Plan. The project owner shall submit the mitigation fee payment to the CDFW Region 4 office by check or money order with a copy of the invoice attached. No impacts to WJT shall be authorized until confirmation by CDFW that the mitigation fee has been received from the project owner. The check shall be submitted to the following address, or most current Region 4 office location: California Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 4 1234 E. Shaw Avenue Fresno, CA 93710 reg4assistant@wildlife.ca.gov (559) 243 – 4005 ext. 151</p> <p>2. Western Joshua Tree Relocation Post-Relocation Reporting and Annual Reporting. The project owner shall have a Designated Biologist approved by the CPM oversee all Western Joshua Tree Relocation activities. At the completion of relocation, the project owner shall submit a post-relocation report, consistent with current CDFW Western Joshua Tree Relocation Guidelines and Protocols (April 2025), no more than 30 days after relocation is completed and shall conduct annual monitoring of each relocated tree for a period of 3 years, or as required by current CDFW guidelines. An annual status report shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval, and to CDFW for review and comment. Each report</p>										

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		<p>shall include a health assessment of each relocated tree (with unique identifiers), a description of current habitat conditions (including any new disturbances), and representative photos and maps. The content of the reports shall be detailed in the Western Joshua Tree Relocation Plan.</p> <p>3. Notification of New Stem or Trunk: If a new WJT stem or trunk is identified prior to or during construction or operation, once the project site has been fully cleared of the WJT identified in the census, if a new western Joshua tree stem or trunk arises from the ground, regardless of whether it germinates from seed, a trunk re-sprout occurs, or otherwise, project owner shall prepare a Notification of New Stem or Trunk and submit it to the CPM before conducting or resuming project activities that will impact any WJT individual that was not included in the census and included in the invoice, including any new WJT stem or trunk that arises from the ground (e.g., new sprouts or resprouts) [that are size class A or B]. The Notification of New Stem or Trunk shall include the following about any new WJT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A unique identifier for each WJT (i.e., WJT ID); b. GPS location for each WJT (latitude and longitude); c. At least one color photo of each WJT identified; d. Size class for each WJT (size class A is any WJT less than one meter in height, size class B is any WJT one meter or greater but less than five meters in height, size class C is any WJT greater than five meters in height); e. Anticipated impact for each WJT (i.e., removal, relocation, trimming, or encroachment, or no impact); f. If the WJT will be encroached upon (individual will not be removed and project activities will take place within 15 meters of the base of the WJT), the distance from the base where project activities will take place; and g. A map showing the location of new WJT in relation to WJT for which take is authorized by the license. <p>The project owner shall submit the Notification of New Stem or Trunk prior to conducting activities that may result in take of or impacts to the new stem or trunk (i.e., removal, trimming,</p>										

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		<p>relocation, or encroachment). After the CPM has confirmed the number and size class of individual WJT to be impacted, an invoice for the mitigation fees pursuant to the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (WJTCA) at Fish and Game Code section 1927.3, subdivisions (d)-(e) shall be issued to the project owner by the CPM as required under Item 1.</p> <p>The Notification of New Stem or Trunk and invoice shall be submitted to the CPM and serve as the basis for CPM authorization of additional take coverage for the new WJT individual(s) provided that the Notification of New Stem or Trunk the project owner submits is complete and mitigation fees are received prior to any impacts to any new WJT individuals identified in the Notification of New Stem or Trunk.</p> <p>4. WJT Stockpiles: If dead and or removed WJT are stockpiled on site, they shall not be placed within 50-feet (approximately 15 meters) of a WJT that are being preserved on site, relocated on site, or encroached upon.</p> <p>5. Recurring Assessment: The project owner shall conduct a Recurring Assessment of the project site to determine whether any new WJT individuals have emerged. The Recurring Assessments shall begin six months after the completion of ground-disturbing activities for each phase of project construction and be repeated annually for the duration of construction activities following the initial assessment, then every five years for the life of the project, unless approved by the CPM. If a new WJT is found, the project owner shall prepare and submit a Notification of New Stem or Trunk and submit it to the CPM before conducting project activities that will impact it. The project owner shall submit the results of the Recurring Assessment as part of Annual Status Report and during operation the results shall be submitted as part of the Annual Compliance Report.</p> <p>6. No-Work Buffers: The project owner shall ensure no work is conducted within the no-work buffers for WJT that will be preserved on site. Prior to beginning relocation, the project owner shall minimize work within the buffer of WJT that will be relocated to the maximum extent possible. After</p>										

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		<p>relocation, the project owner shall ensure no work is conducted within the no-work buffer for relocated WJT. The no-work buffers are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 feet (approximately 15 meters) surrounding any WJT individual that is five meters or greater in height • 25 feet (approximately 7.5 meters) surrounding any WJT individual is one meter or greater but less than 5 meters in height • 10 feet (approximately 3 meters) surrounding any WJT individual less than one meter in height <p>The project owner shall mark no-work buffers using fencing, stakes and ropes, or stakes and flagging of a different color than the color used to identify WJT individuals authorized to be taken. If WJT individuals occur in groups, the project owner may mark a single 50-foot (approximately 15-meter) buffer around the entire group, measured from the base of the trunk of the outer-most WJTs. Any adjustments to the buffer size shall be approved by the CPM, in coordination with CDFW. The project owner shall maintain the no-work buffer markings for the duration of project construction. After all construction activities are completed, the project owner must remove all materials used to mark no-work buffers.</p> <p>7. Trenching: During storm events, the project owner shall not perform trenching activities within 50 feet (approximately 15 meters) of WJT preserved on site or relocated on site, as soils around the root zone of WJT may be more susceptible to erosion during such events. The project owner shall only perform trenching activities during periods of dry weather (with less than a 40 percent chance of rain), unless approved by the CPM. Within at least 12 hours prior to the onset of predicted rain (40 percent chance of rain or more based on the National Weather Service) or immediately upon the onset of unpredicted rain, the project owner shall ensure that all trenching activities are ceased, all associated erosion control measures shall be in place, and all motorized equipment and fueling materials shall be removed from areas where runoff from these items can be reasonably foreseen to come into contact with WJT preserved on site, or relocated on site, or encroached upon.</p>										

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		Trenching halted due to rain may resume when rain ceases. The project owner shall monitor the National Weather Service 72-hour forecast for the project site. Weather forecasts shall be documented and shall be provided upon request by the CPM.										
Biological Resources	BIO-13	<p>Crotch's Bumble Bee Impact Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures for Take. To avoid, minimize, and mitigate take of Crotch's bumble bee, the project owner shall ensure the following are implemented during all phases of the project:</p> <p>The Designated Biologist and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall conduct pre-construction surveys and monitoring for Crotch's bumble bee. Surveys shall be conducted by a qualified entomologist(s) or biologist(s) familiar with the life history and ecology of Crotch's bumble bee. All proposed surveyors shall be approved by the CPM, in coordination with the CDFW, pursuant to BIO-1 and/or BIO-3.</p> <p>Surveys shall cover all project work areas, including staging and parking areas, plus a 200-foot buffer, where accessible to account for ground borne vibration associated with controlled detonations, unless a smaller buffer is approved by the CPM. Surveys shall follow the non-invasive protocols established by CDFW in "Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species" or more recent CDFW-approved methods, as available (CDFW 2023a).</p> <p>1. Crotch's Bumble Bee Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan. The project owner shall submit a Crotch's Bumble Bee Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan to the CPM for review and approval, and to the CDFW for review and comment, prior to beginning any site mobilization or ground disturbing activities. The Crotch's Bumble Bee Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan shall include a map of the project area indicating where Crotch's bumble bee are likely to occur; a detailed description of the survey methodology (survey details shall be in accordance with the Colony Active Period Season - Pre-Construction Survey described below under Item 3); bumble bee</p>	<p>The project owner shall submit the draft Crotch's Bumble Bee Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan no less than 45 days prior to commencing the surveys to the CPM for review and approval and to the CDFW for review and comment. The project owner shall provide the final plan to the CPM and CDFW at least 7 days prior to the start of any site mobilization. The project owner shall submit the results of each survey to the CPM for review and approval and to the CDFW for review and comment no more than 45 days after the completion of the surveys.</p> <p>The project owner shall submit information describing the findings of the bumble bee surveys and implementation of any avoidance measures in the Monthly Compliance Report (per BIO-6) and the Annual Compliance Report, during operation, to the CPM.</p>	<p>a) Crotch's Bumble Bee Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan to the CPM and CDFW</p> <p>b) Submit the results of each survey to the CPM and CDFW</p> <p>c) Submit to the CPM information describing the findings of the bumble bee surveys and implementation of any avoidance measures</p>	Pre-construction	<p>a) At least 45 days prior to the start of any survey</p> <p>b) No more than 45 days after the completion of the surveys</p> <p>c) In the MCR and ACR</p>	WSP	In Progress	<p>Item a: April 7, 2026</p> <p>Item b: July 13, 2026</p>			

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		<p>identification and handling methods; measures that will be implemented to minimize impacts to foraging bees during ground disturbing and vegetation removal activities; measures to minimize impacts to overwintering bees during overwintering habitat removal; and measures to minimize impacts to bumble bee nests that are discovered during project activities. The plan shall identify nest relocation techniques and locations where Crotch's bumble bee nests will be relocated to; an assessment of the habitat and floristic resources found within the relocation sites; and a detailed description of the relocation process including method of removal, transport, and relocation. The Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan shall provide the name and contact information for a native bumble bee researcher who will assist and/or consult on techniques to relocate Crotch's bumble bee nests and the procedure for notification, collection, and salvage of Crotch's bumble bee carcasses. Only the CPM-approved Designated Biologist(s), or personnel following direction from and under the supervision of the CPM-approved Designated Biologist(s), are authorized to handle and transport Crotch's bumble bee individuals and Crotch's bumble bee nests for salvage. Handling of Crotch's bumble bee individuals and nests by any personnel not specifically authorized by the CPM is prohibited. Upon written approval of the Crotch's Bumble Bee Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan by the CPM, it shall be implemented and remain in effect for the duration of the project license. The plan may be updated by the project owner, in consultation with and subject to the approval of the CPM, to reflect best available science, address unanticipated issues associated with implementation, or update mitigation and conservation strategies. In such cases, the CPM will contact the project owner to discuss needs to update the plan. Any proposed changes to the Crotch's Bumble Bee Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan shall be submitted, in writing, to the CPM for approval prior to the implementation of any proposed modifications.</p> <p>2. Overwintering Season Surveys</p>										

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		<p>(Pre-Construction and During Operation). If initial ground disturbing construction activities in any given work area occurs during the overwintering season (November 1 through January 31), the CPM approved Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall conduct overwintering season surveys within areas of suitable habitat (i.e., where vegetation and floral resources occur) in each area planned for project activities no more than 10 days in advance of vegetation removal or ground disturbance in that area of the project site.</p> <p>If ground disturbing activities during operation occur within areas of suitable habitat (i.e., where vegetation and floral resources occur) during the overwintering season, the CPM-approved Designated Biologist(s) shall conduct overwintering season surveys throughout the project site in areas planned for ground disturbance no more than 10 days in advance of ground or vegetation removal activities, unless approved by the CPM.</p> <p>Overwintering season surveys shall look for potential Crotch's bumble bee overwintering queens and hibernacula such as leaf litter, logs, and rodent burrows. If overwintering queens or other Crotch's bumble bee are found utilizing hibernacula during surveys, the project owner shall implement the Overwintering Site Buffer (see Item 5, below).</p> <p>3. Colony Active Period Season (Pre-Construction and Pre-Maintenance). If initial ground disturbing construction activities, including site mobilization, in any given work area occur during the Colony Active Period (February 1 to September 30), the CPM-approved Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall search for Crotch's bumble bee throughout the area planned for project activities in accordance with the Crotch's Bumble Bee Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan.</p> <p>Survey efforts for each area shall include at least two visual surveys consisting of meandering transects occurring no more than 10 days prior to the start of ground and vegetation disturbing activities in that area. The CPM approved Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological</p>										

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		<p>Monitor(s) shall conduct the surveys at least four days apart, with the second survey occurring within two days prior to starting ground and/or vegetation removal activities in that area. The survey duration shall be appropriate to the size of the area planned for project activities plus 50 feet based on the metric of a minimum of one person-hour of searching per three acres of suitable habitat.</p> <p>The CPM approved Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall conduct surveys between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM (Pacific Time) on sunny days between 55-and 95-degrees Fahrenheit with sustained wind speeds measuring less than 10 miles per hour. Survey efforts are further detailed in the Crotch's Bumble Bee Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan, and any variances to the Survey Protocol, including variances to survey temperatures or timing, shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval prior to implementation.</p> <p>If ground disturbing activities occur during operation within areas of suitable habitat during the colony active period, the CPM-approved Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall search for Crotch's bumble bee throughout the areas planned for ground disturbance in accordance with the Crotch's Bumble Bee Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan.</p> <p>If ground disturbing activities are halted for longer than three days within a work area supporting suitable habitat during the Colony Active Period defined as the Queen Flight Season (February 1 through March 31), the CPM-approved Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall perform a minimum of one additional survey in the work area in accordance with the Crotch's Bumble Bee Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan prior to reinitiating project activities in the work area.</p> <p>If a Crotch's bumble bee nest is detected during project surveys or any project activities, the project owner shall implement the Crotch's Bumble Bee Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan unless the nest can be avoided per the Crotch's Bumble Bee Nest Site Buffer measures (Item 6).</p>										

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		<p>4. Pre-Construction Survey and Observation Submittal (Construction, Operation, and Maintenance). The project owner shall provide the Colony Active Period Season - Pre-Construction Survey (Item 3) results or Overwintering Survey Results (to the CPM no more than ten days prior to initiating or resuming (Item 2) if initial disturbance not complete) project activities in each work area, unless alternate timing is approved by the CPM. The CPM-approved Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall notify the CPM if an overwintering individual and/or nest is observed within 100-feet of the project area during site mobilization, construction, or operation. Pre-construction surveys and observational submittals shall include a Keyhole Markup Language (KML) map, or KML-Zipped (KMZ) map, and Geographic Information System (GIS) shapefiles of all Crotch's bumble bee detections and/or nests found during survey efforts or during any incidental observations, and photographs of the individual or nest. The map shall include an outline of the project site, and any distinct work area(s) surveyed within the project area, title, north arrow, scale bar, and legend.</p> <p>5. Overwintering Site Buffer (Construction, Operation, and Maintenance). If any overwintering Crotch's bumble bee are found during focused overwintering surveys, during ground and/or vegetation disturbing activities, including site mobilization or construction activities, or during operation of the project, the project owner, in consultation with the CPM-approved Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall immediately stop and prohibit all ground disturbing activities within 50 feet of the queen and/or hibernaculum. The project owner shall delineate the 50-foot buffer and notify all workers not to enter the environmentally sensitive area. This buffer may be adjusted with the approval of the CPM based on project activities and potential to disturb the nest.</p> <p>If an overwintering queen is exposed, the CPM approved Designated Biologist(s) shall implement the Crotch's Bumble Bee Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan. The</p>											

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		<p>CPM-approved Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall record the queen's global positioning system (GPS) location (including datum and horizontal accuracy in feet) and include photographs and a map of the queen's location as detailed in Item 4 (Pre-Construction Survey and Observation Submittal). Upon notice from the CPM, the project owner shall increase the size and modify the environmentally sensitive area buffer accordingly.</p> <p>6. Crotch's Bumble Bee Nest Site Buffer (Construction, Operation, and Maintenance). If a Crotch's bumble bee nest is identified during Colony Active Period Season focused surveys, during ground and/or vegetation disturbing site mobilization or construction activities, or during operation of the project, the project owner shall ensure establishment of a 50-foot no disturbance buffer around each nest. Buffers shall remain in place until the nest has senesced, project activities are complete, or the nest has been relocated in accordance with the Crotch's Bumble Bee Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan. This buffer may be adjusted with the approval of the CPM based on project activities and potential to disturb the nest. To determine if a nest has senesced, the CPM-approved Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall monitor the nest for senescence in late summer and fall (September-October). Nest senescence can typically be denoted after the presence of reproductives (gynes and males) are observed. Nests shall be monitored for a minimum of one hour per day for three consecutive days during optimal weather conditions (i.e., from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM, low wind, and low cloud cover conditions, etc.). If there has been no nest activity after the above conditions are met, or the nest has been relocated, the no disturbance buffer may be removed upon approval of the CPM. Survey efforts shall be further detailed in Crotch's Bumble Bee Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan (Item 1).</p> <p>7. Daily Work Area Monitoring (Construction and Operation). The CPM approved Designated</p>											

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		<p>Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall be on-site during all initial ground disturbing site mobilization and/or construction activities in any given work area to visually monitor for Crotch's bumble bee and to detect flight activity. Visual sweeps of each work area shall occur prior to beginning daily project activities, and a minimum of three times throughout the workday, unless alternate timing is approved by the CPM.</p> <p>The CPM approved Designated Biologist(s) shall be on-site during all ground disturbing operation activities occurring within areas of suitable habitat. The Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall visually monitor for Crotch's bumble bee and to detect flight activity. Visual sweeps of each work area shall occur prior to beginning ground disturbing activities, and a minimum of three times throughout the workday for the duration of ground disturbing activities, unless alternate timing is approved by the CPM.</p> <p>8. Crotch's Bumble Bee Observations and Notification. All workers shall inform the CPM-approved Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) if a Crotch's bumble bee nest is observed within or near a work area during implementation of any project activity, including ground or vegetation disturbing construction or operation activities. If a nest is observed all activities occurring within 50 feet of the nest shall cease and the project owner shall implement a 50-foot no disturbance buffer. If an overwintering Crotch's bumble bee nest cannot be avoided, then Item 1 (Crotch's Bumble Bee Mortality Reduction and Relocation Plan) shall be implemented.</p> <p>9. Weed Management Plan. See BIO-9 (Integrated Weed Management Plan).</p> <p>10. Pesticide and Herbicide Use. The project owner shall not use substances such as herbicides, insecticides, or rodenticides except for the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herbicides may be used if needed for noxious weed control or habitat restoration and enhancement. • Pesticides (including insecticides) may only be applied post construction in indoor areas where contact with 											

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		wildlife and foraging Crotch's bumble bee could not occur. Prior to any such use of herbicides or pesticides, the project owner shall consult with the CPM and may only use herbicides or pesticides upon the CPM's express written approval for each type of use. The project owner shall ensure that any herbicide use only occurs when Crotch's bumble bees are dormant, or when flowers within the application area are no longer in bloom, unless authorized by the CPM to control weeds. 11. Document Crotch's Bumble Bee Observations. Survey data shall be submitted to the CNDDDB and shall include specifying the type of observation (e.g. individual bee or nest), type of vegetation cover, slope, aspect, GPS location, distance to foraging location (if known), and any other relevant conditions noted. Negative survey results shall also be reported to the CNDDDB.										
Biological Resources	BIO-14	Habitat Management Land Acquisition for western Joshua tree woodlands, Crotch's Bumble Bee, and Western Burrowing Owl To mitigate for impacts to western Joshua tree woodlands, Crotch's bumble bee, and western burrowing owl the project owner shall fulfill the following requirements: The project owner shall mitigate for impacts to Crotch's bumble bee and western burrowing owl habitat by one or a combination of both of the following methods, subject to prior approval by the CPM in coordination with CDFW, with the final amount to be calculated as described below. a) Credit Purchase: Purchase 843 acres – or an adjusted value calculated based on the assessment of the defined project disturbance footprint – of Crotch's bumble bee and western burrowing owl mitigation or conservation bank credits at a location approved in advance by the CPM, in coordination with CDFW; and/or b) Habitat Management Lands: Provide for both the permanent protection and management of 843 acres – or an adjusted value calculated based on the assessment of the defined project disturbance footprint – of Habitat Management (HM) lands pursuant to Item 3 (Habitat Management Lands Acquisition and Protection) and the calculation and	The project owner shall provide verification that the required acquisition, protection and transfer of all HM lands and record any required conservation easements no later than 18 months from the date of start of site mobilization, even if a security is provided. The project owner shall provide the Draft Management Plan to the CPM for review and approval and to CDFW for review and comment no later than 60 days prior to construction. The project owner shall submit the Final Management Plan to the CPM and CDFW no later than 7 days prior to construction.	a) Provide verification that the required acquisition, protection and transfer of all HM lands and record any required conservation easements b) Submit the Final Management Plan to the CPM and CDFW	Pre-construction	a) No later than 18 months from the date of start of site mobilization, even if a security is provided b) No later than 60 days prior to construction (draft plan) C) No later than 7 days before construction (final plan)	Hydrostor	In progress	Item a: 12/1/2027 Item b: 4/2/2026			

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		<p>deposit of the management funds pursuant to Item 5 (Endowment Fund). The proposed mitigation lands shall also include additional acres of western Joshua tree woodland at the same 3:1 ratio should the identified community be impacted along the optional transmission line route, or if a community is identified based on updated surveys or natural community mapping and/or CPM guidance on the Willow Rock site.</p> <p>The amount of mitigation actually required may be adjusted up or down from the 843 acres provided here, based on the final accounting conducted under BIO-6 and calculated based on the project's actual direct permanent and temporary loss of suitable Crotch's bumble bee and western burrowing owl habitat, identified prior to ground disturbance as approved by the CPM, in consultation with CDFW. Mitigation lands shall not be required for areas of the project site that are avoided and areas of the project site or transmission line construction that comprise roadway rights-of-way that support disturbed or developed habitat or are subject to routine vegetation management unless they have the potential to support sensitive plants or wildlife. The project owner shall submit detailed maps identifying areas of permanent and temporary habitat loss, areas avoided, and areas exempt under this condition for approval by the CPM, in consultation with CDFW prior to site mobilization. Maps shall be provided in a format acceptable to the CPM.</p> <p>The purchase of mitigation or conservation bank credits or permanent protection and funding for perpetual management of HM lands must be complete before starting project activities, or within 18 months of the date of the site mobilization, if Security is provided pursuant to the Security (Item 11) below for all uncompleted obligations.</p> <p>1. Cost Estimates. For the purposes of determining the Security amount, it is estimated the cost for the CPM or its contractors to complete acquisition, protection, and perpetual management of the HM lands is as follows:</p> <p>a. Land acquisition costs for HM lands identified in the Item 3 (Habitat</p>										

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		<p>Management Lands Acquisition and Protection) below, estimated at \$2,698.00/acre for 843 acres: \$2,274,414.00, or an adjusted value calculated based on the assessment of the defined project disturbance footprint. The adjusted Security amount shall be determined by the CPM, in coordination with CDFW, based on the final acre amount calculated, as detailed above. Land acquisition costs are estimated using local fair market current value per acre for lands with habitat values meeting mitigation requirements.</p> <p>b. All other costs are necessary to review and acquire the land in fee title and record a conservation easement as described below in Item 3b. (Conservation Easement) below: \$558,750.00. These costs would be adjusted based on the assessment of the defined project disturbance footprint.</p> <p>c. Start-up costs for HM lands, including initial site protection and enhancement costs as described in the Item 3f (Start-up Activities) below, estimated at \$344,549.00 for 843 acres or an adjusted value calculated based on the assessment of the defined project disturbance footprint.</p> <p>d. Interim management period funding as described in the Item 4 (Interim Management) (Initial and Capital)) below, estimated at \$466,799.00 for 843 acres or an adjusted value calculated based on the assessment of the defined project disturbance footprint.</p> <p>e. Long-term management funding as described in the Item 5 (Endowment Fund) below, estimated at \$2,918,823.00 for 843 acres or an adjusted value calculated based on the assessment of the defined project disturbance footprint. Long-term management funding is estimated initially for the purpose of providing Security to ensure implementation of HM lands management.</p> <p>f. Related transaction fees including but not limited to account set-up fees, administrative fees, title and documentation review and related title transactions, expenses incurred from other state agency reviews, and overhead related to transfer of HM lands to CDFW as described in the Item 10 (Reimburse CDFW), estimated at \$13,600.00 for 843 acres</p>										

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		<p>or an adjusted value calculated based on the assessment of the defined project disturbance footprint.</p> <p>g. All costs associated with the CPM engaging an outside contractor to complete the mitigation tasks, including but not limited to acquisition, protection, and perpetual funding and management of the HM lands and restoration of temporarily disturbed habitat. These costs include but are not limited to the cost of issuing a request for proposals, transaction costs, contract administration costs, and costs associated with monitoring the contractor's work \$45,479.00 for 843 acres or an adjusted value calculated based on the assessment of the defined project disturbance footprint.</p> <p>2. Mitigation Bank Credits. If the project owner elects to purchase credits to complete Crotch's bumble bee, and western burrowing owl compensatory mitigation obligations, then project owner shall purchase 843 acres, or an adjusted value calculated based on the assessment of the defined project disturbance footprint. The adjusted Security amount shall be determined by the CPM, in coordination with CDFW, based on the final acre amount calculated in accordance with BIO-14, of Covered Species credits from a mitigation or conservation bank approved in advance by the CPM prior to initiating project activities, or no later than 18 months from the start of site mobilization, if Security is provided pursuant to Item 11 (Security) below. Prior to the purchase of credits, the project owner shall obtain CPM approval to ensure the mitigation or conservation bank is appropriate to compensate for the impacts of the project. The project owner shall submit to the CPM a copy of the Bill of Sale(s) and Payment Receipt prior to initiating site mobilization or within 18 months from start of site mobilization, if Security is provided.</p> <p>3. Habitat Management Lands Acquisition and Protection. If the project owner elects to provide for the acquisition, permanent protection, and perpetual management of HM lands to complete compensatory mitigation obligations, then the project owner shall:</p> <p>a. Fee Title. Transfer fee title of the</p>										

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		<p>HM lands to CDFW pursuant to terms approved in writing by CDFW. Alternatively, the CPM, in consultation with CDFW, may authorize a governmental entity, special district, non-profit organization, for-profit entity, person, or another entity to hold title to and manage the property provided that the district, organization, entity, or person meets the requirements of Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended.</p> <p>b. Conservation Easement. If CDFW does not hold fee title to the HM lands, CDFW shall act as grantee for a conservation easement over the HM lands or shall, in its sole discretion, approve a non-profit entity, public agency, or Native American tribe to act as grantee for a conservation easement over the HM lands provided that the entity, agency, or tribe meets the requirements of Civil Code section 815.3. If CDFW elects not to be named as the grantee for the conservation easement, CDFW shall be expressly named in the conservation easement as a third-party beneficiary. The project owner shall obtain written approval from the CPM, in coordination with CDFW, of any conservation easement before its execution or recordation. No conservation easement shall be approved by the CPM unless it complies with Civil Code sections 815-816, as amended, and Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended and includes provisions expressly addressing Government Code sections 65966(j) and 65967(e). Because the "doctrine of merger" could invalidate the conservation interest, under no circumstances can the fee title owner of the HM lands serve as grantee for the conservation easement.</p> <p>c. HM Lands Approval. The project owner shall obtain CPM written approval of the HM lands, in coordination with CDFW, before acquisition and/or transfer of the land by submitting, at least 90 days before acquisition and/or transfer of the HM lands, documentation identifying the land to be purchased or property interest conveyed to an approved entity as mitigation for the project's impacts on western Joshua tree woodland, Crotch's bumble bee, and western burrowing owl.</p>										

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		<p>d. HM Lands Documentation. The project owner shall provide a recent preliminary title report, Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, and other necessary documents (please contact CPM for document list). All documents conveying HM lands and all conditions of title are subject to approval from the CPM; and if applicable, the Wildlife Conservation Board, and the Department of General Services.</p> <p>e. Land Manager. Designate both an interim and long-term land manager, approved by the CPM, in consultation with CDFW. The interim and long-term land managers may, but need not, be the same. The interim and/or long-term land managers may be the landowner or another party. The land manager shall prepare a draft management plan for CPM review and approval, in consultation with CDFW, and written approval as part of the HM lands acquisition process. The project owner shall notify the CPM of any subsequent changes in the land manager within 30 days of the change. If CDFW will hold fee title to the mitigation land, CDFW will also act as both the interim and long-term land manager unless otherwise specified. The grantee for the conservation easement cannot serve as the interim or long-term manager without the express written authorization of the CPM, in consultation with CDFW.</p> <p>f. Start-up Activities. Provide for the implementation of start-up activities, including the initial site protection and enhancement of HM lands, once the HM lands have been approved by the CPM. Start-up activities include, at a minimum: (1) conducting a baseline biological assessment and land survey report within four months of recording or transfer; (2) developing and transferring GIS data if applicable; (3) establishing initial fencing; (4) conducting litter removal; (5) conducting initial habitat restoration or enhancement, if applicable; and (6) installing signage.</p> <p>4. Interim Management (Initial and Capital). Provide for the interim management of the HM lands. The project owner shall ensure that the interim land manager implements the interim management of the HM lands as described in the final management plan and conservation easement</p>										

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		<p>approved by the CPM, in consultation with CDFW. The interim management period shall be a minimum of three years from the date of HM land acquisition and protection and full funding of the Endowment and includes expected management following start-up activities. Interim management period activities described in the final management plan shall include fence repair, continuing trash removal, site monitoring, and vegetation and invasive species management. The project owner shall either (1) provide Security to the CPM for the minimum of three years of interim management that the land owner, the project owner, or land manager agrees to manage and pay for at their own expense, (2) establish an escrow account with written instructions approved in advance in writing by the CPM to pay the land manager annually in advance, or (3) establish a short-term enhancement account with a CPM-approved entity for payment to the land manager.</p> <p>5. Endowment Fund. If the project owner elects to provide for the acquisition, permanent protection, and perpetual management of HM lands to complete compensatory mitigation obligations, then the project owner shall ensure that the HM lands are perpetually managed, maintained, and monitored by the long-term land manager as described in this Condition of Certification, the conservation easement, and the final management plan approved by the CPM. After obtaining CPM approval, in consultation with CDFW, of the HM lands, the project owner shall provide long-term management funding for the perpetual management of the HM lands by establishing a long-term management fund (Endowment). The Endowment is a sum of money, held in a CPM-approved (in consultation with CDFW) fund that is permanently restricted to paying the costs of long-term management and stewardship of the mitigation property for which the funds were set aside, which costs include the perpetual management, maintenance, monitoring, and other activities on the HM lands consistent with the Condition of Certification, the conservation easement, and the management plan required by Item 3e</p>										

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		<p>(Land Manager). Endowment as used in the Certification shall refer to the endowment deposit and all interest, dividends, other earnings, additions and appreciation thereon. The Endowment shall be governed by this license, Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended, and Probate Code sections 18501-18510, as amended. After the interim management period, the project owner shall ensure that the designated long-term land manager implements the management and monitoring of the HM lands according to the final management plan. The long-term land manager shall be obligated to manage and monitor the HM lands in perpetuity to preserve their conservation values in accordance with this license, the conservation easement, and the final management plan. Such activities shall be funded through the Endowment.</p> <p>6. Identify an Endowment Manager. The Endowment shall be held by the Endowment Manager, which shall be either the CEC and/or CDFW or another entity qualified pursuant to Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended.</p> <p>a. The project owner shall submit to the CPM for review and approval, a written proposal that includes: (i) the name of the proposed Endowment Manager; (ii) whether the proposed Endowment Manager is a governmental entity, special district, nonprofit organization, community foundation, or congressionally chartered foundation; (iii) whether the proposed Endowment Manager holds the property or an interest in the property for conservation purposes as required by Government Code section 65968(b)(1) or, in the alternative, the basis for finding that the Project qualifies for an exception pursuant to Government Code section 65968(b)(2); and (iv) a copy of the proposed Endowment Manager's certification pursuant to Government Code section 65968(e).</p> <p>7. Calculate the Endowment Funds Deposit. After obtaining CPM written approval, in consultation with CDFW, of the HM lands, long-term management plan, and Endowment Manager, the project owner shall prepare an endowment assessment</p>										

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		<p>(equivalent to a Property Analysis Record (PAR)) to calculate the amount of funding necessary to ensure the long-term management of the HM lands (Endowment Deposit Amount). Note that the endowment for the easement holder should not be included in this calculation. The project owner shall submit to the CPM, in consultation with CDFW, for review and approval the results of the endowment assessment before transferring funds to the Endowment Manager.</p> <p>a. Capitalization Rate and Fees. The project owner shall obtain the capitalization rate from the selected Endowment Manager for use in calculating the endowment assessment and adjust for any additional administrative, periodic, or annual fees.</p> <p>b. Endowment Buffers/Assumptions. The project owner shall include in the endowment assessment assumptions the following buffers for endowment establishment and use that will substantially ensure long-term viability and security of the Endowment:</p> <p>c. 10 Percent Contingency. A 10 percent contingency shall be added to each endowment calculation to hedge against underestimation of the fund, unanticipated expenditures, inflation, or catastrophic events.</p> <p>d. Three Years Delayed Spending. The endowment shall be established assuming spending will not occur for the first three years after full funding.</p> <p>e. Non-annualized Expenses. For all large capital expenses to occur periodically but not annually such as fence replacement or well replacement, payments shall be withheld from the annual disbursement until the year of anticipated need or upon request to Endowment Manager and the CPM, in consultation with CDFW.</p> <p>8. Transfer Long-term Endowment Funds. The project owner shall transfer the long-term endowment funds to the Endowment Manager upon the CPM's approval of the Endowment Deposit Amount identified above.</p> <p>9. Management of the Endowment. The approved Endowment Manager may pool the Endowment with other endowments for the operation, management, and protection of HM</p>										

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		<p>lands for local populations of Crotch's bumble bee and western burrowing owl but shall maintain separate accounting for each Endowment. The Endowment Manager shall, at all times, hold and manage the Endowment in compliance with this Certification, Government Code sections 65965-65968, as amended, and Probate Code sections 18501-18510, as amended.</p> <p>Notwithstanding Probate Code sections 18501-18510, the Endowment Manager shall not make any disbursement from the Endowment that will result in expenditure of any portion of the principal of the endowment without the prior written approval of the CPM in its sole discretion. The project owner shall ensure that this requirement is included in any agreement of any kind governing the holding, investment, management, and/or disbursement of the Endowment funds.</p> <p>Notwithstanding Probate Code sections 18501-18510, if the CPM, in consultation with CDFW, determines in its sole discretion that an expenditure needs to be made from the Endowment to preserve the conservation values of the HM lands, the Endowment Manager shall process that expenditure in accordance with directions from the CPM. The Endowment Manager shall not be liable for any shortfall in the Endowment resulting from the CPM's decision to make such an expenditure.</p> <p>10. Reimburse CDFW. The project owner shall reimburse CDFW for all reasonable costs incurred by CDFW related to transfer of the HM lands to CDFW, if applicable, including, but not limited to transaction fees, account set-up fees, administrative fees, title and documentation review and related title transactions, costs incurred from other state agency reviews, and overhead related to transfer of HM lands to CDFW.</p> <p>11. Security: The project owner may proceed with project activities only after the project owner has ensured the funding (Security) to complete any activity required by the Item 3 (Habitat Management Land Acquisition and Protection) that has not been completed before project activities begin. Permittee shall provide Security</p>										

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		<p>as follows:</p> <p>a. Security Amount. The Security shall be in the amount of \$6,622,414.00 or in the amount identified in the Item 1 (Cost Estimates) specific to the obligation that has not been completed. This amount is determined by the CPM and is based on cost estimates which are sufficient for the CEC or its contractors to complete land acquisition, property enhancement, startup costs, initial management, long-term management, and monitoring.</p> <p>b. Security Form. The Security shall be in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit or another form of Security approved in advance in writing by the CPM, in consultation with CDFW.</p> <p>c. Security Timeline. The Security shall be provided to the CPM before starting site mobilization.</p> <p>d. Security Holder. The Security shall be held by the CPM or in a manner approved in advance in writing by the CPM.</p> <p>e. Security Transmittal. The project owner shall transmit security to the CPM by way of an approved instrument such as an escrow agreement, irrevocable letter of credit, or other.</p> <p>f. Security Drawing. The Security shall allow the CPM to draw on the principal sum if the CPM, in its sole discretion, determines that the project owner has failed to comply with this Condition of Certification.</p> <p>g. Security Release. The Security (or any portion of the Security then remaining) shall be released to the project owner after the CPM has conducted an on-site inspection and received confirmation that all secured requirements have been satisfied, as evidenced by either:</p> <p>i. Copy of Bill of Sale(s) and Payment Receipt(s) or Credit Transfer Agreement for the purchase of Crotch's bumble bee and/or western burrowing owl credits. OR</p> <p>ii. Written documentation of the acquisition of the HM lands.</p> <p>iii. Copies of all executed and recorded conservation easements.</p> <p>iv. Written confirmation from the approved Endowment Manager of its receipt of the full Endowment.</p> <p>12. Additional Funding. The CPM, in consultation with CDFW, may require the project owner to provide additional</p>										

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		HM lands and additional funding to ensure the impacts of the taking are minimized and fully mitigated, as required by law, if the project owner does not complete these requirements within the specified timeframe.										
Biological Resources	BIO-15	<p>Special-Status Reptile Avoidance and Minimization Measures. The Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall conduct pre-construction surveys for special-status reptiles, including coast horned lizard and multiple species of legless lizards. Surveys shall be conducted by qualified biologists, approved by the CPM pursuant to BIO-1 and BIO-3.</p> <p>1. Surveys. Prior to ground-disturbing or vegetation removal activities, including during site mobilization and construction, within 100 feet of habitat that has the potential to support legless or horned lizards, the Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall conduct surveys to detect this species. An annual survey plan shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval. One week prior to any ground disturbance and within 24 hours of beginning work in suitable habitat, the Designated Biologist and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall conduct surveys for these species, unless an alternate timeframe is approved by CPM. Survey methods may include the placement of cover boards prior to the surveys and gently raking in soft friable soils, leaf litter, and debris piles, or other methods approved by the CPM. The surveys shall be timed to coincide with the time of day and year when these species can be detected. Prior to conducting the surveys, the biologist shall locate the microhabitats for these species and determine a location to place cover boards or rake soils. A map of proposed survey areas shall be provided to the CPM for review and approval prior to initiating the surveys.</p> <p>2. If Detected. If special-status reptiles are detected the Designated Biologist and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall remain in the work area throughout the duration of activities to ensure that impacts are avoided. If it is not possible to allow the animal to leave the work area on its own, the Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall relocate it to</p>	The project owner shall submit the proposed annual survey plan 45 days prior to commencing the surveys to the CPM for review and approval and to the CDFW for review and comment. The project owner shall provide the final plan to the CPM at least 10 days prior to the start of any site mobilization. The project owner shall submit the pre-construction survey reports to the CPM and CDFW within seven days of completing the surveys.	<p>a) Submit the proposed special-status reptiles annual survey plan to the CPM and CDFW</p> <p>b) Submit the final plan to the CPM</p> <p>c) Submit the pre-construction survey reports to the CPM and CDFW</p>	Pre-construction	<p>a) 45 days prior to commencing the surveys</p> <p>b) At least 10 days prior to the start of any site mobilization</p> <p>c) Within seven days of completing the surveys</p>	WSP	<p>a: Complete (3/10/2026)</p> <p>b: Not Started</p> <p>c: Not Strated</p>	<p>a: 3/10/2026</p> <p>b: 5/22/2026</p> <p>c: 6/7/2026</p>			

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		<p>the nearest suitable habitat out of harm's way.</p> <p>3. Notification. The project owner or Designated Biologist(s) shall notify the CPM and CDFW within 24-hours if either of these species are detected and include this information in Monthly Compliance Reports.</p> <p>4. Release Locations Criteria. Prior to capturing or relocating either species, the most appropriate release location(s) shall be determined in adjacent habitat as close as possible to the capture point.</p> <p>5. Mortality or Serious Injury. If the cumulative mortality or serious injury (i.e., compromising survival in the wild) across the entire project site during relocation activities exceeds more than three animals by species, the Designated Biologist(s) shall notify the CPM and CDFW within 24 hours and evaluate if a different method should be utilized or if additional measures are required.</p> <p>6. Reporting. A report documenting survey results, including surveyor name(s), date(s) of survey, location (with maps), weather conditions, and any observations or detections of sensitive reptiles shall be prepared and submitted to the CPM and CDFW. In addition, a monitoring report that includes the location, description, and duration of the activities, any observations or detections of sensitive reptiles found during the surveys or project activities, and any relocation efforts shall be provided during monthly and annual compliance reporting.</p>										
Biological Resources	BIO-16	<p>Desert Tortoise Avoidance Measures. To avoid impacts to desert tortoise, the Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall conduct pre-construction surveys prior to site mobilization and/or construction. Surveys shall be conducted by qualified biologists approved by the CPM, in coordination with CDFW and/or USFWS, pursuant to BIO-1 and BIO-3. The Designated Biologist(s) shall also prepare and implement a Raven Management and Reporting Plan (Raven Plan), per Item 5, to minimize project-related predator subsidies and prevent any increases in raven numbers or activity within desert tortoise habitat during construction and operation phases.</p>	The project owner shall submit the proposed annual survey plan 45 days prior to commencing the surveys to the CPM for review and approval and to the CDFW and USFWS for review and comment. The project owner shall submit the pre-construction survey reports to the CPM, CDFW, and USFWS no more than 45 days after each survey effort has been completed. The project owner shall submit the receipt of payment to the USFWS Regional Raven Management Program 14 days prior to site mobilization. A report documenting survey results shall be prepared and submitted to the CPM, CDFW, and USFWS within	<p>a) Desert tortoise pre-construction surveys</p> <p>b) Desert tortoise pre-construction survey reports</p> <p>c) Raven Management Plan</p> <p>d) Submit receipt of payment to the USFWS Regional Raven Management Program</p>	Pre-construction	<p>a) 45 days prior to start of survey</p> <p>b) No more than 45 days after each survey effort has been completed</p> <p>c) 45 days prior to site mobilization</p> <p>d) 14 days prior to site mobilization</p>	WSP for items a-c & Hydrostor for item d	<p>a: Complete (3/10/2026)</p> <p>b-d: Not Started</p>	<p>a: 3/10/2026</p> <p>b: 7/15/2026</p> <p>c: 4/17/2026</p> <p>d: 5/18/2026</p>			

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		<p>1. Surveys. Prior to ground-disturbing or vegetation removal activities within 200 feet of the project site in suitable desert tortoise habitat the Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall conduct protocol surveys to detect this species on the Willow Rock project site and laydown areas if construction is not initiated prior to the 2026 spring survey season. Clearance surveys shall be conducted for all linear facilities prior to any ground disturbance. In addition, surveys shall be conducted one week prior to any ground disturbance and within 24 hours of beginning work in suitable habitat. Methods for clearance surveys and exclusion fence specifications shall be consistent with those described in the most recent Desert Tortoise Field Manual or more current guidance provided by CDFW and/or USFWS. Any potential burrows, sign, or tortoises shall be noted, recorded using a precision GPS device, and identified on project maps submitted to the CPM.</p> <p>2. Desert Tortoise Fencing. The project owner shall install desert tortoise exclusion fencing around the project site, laydown, staging and parking areas. Exclusion fence specifications shall be approved by the CPM and be consistent with those described in the most recent Desert Tortoise Field Manual or more current guidance provided by CDFW and USFWS. Fencing shall not be required to conduct work at or along the generation-tie line corridor. After the completion of fencing installation, the Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall conduct 5 meter clearance sweeps of the project site prior to site mobilization. Follow-up surveys shall also be conducted within fourteen (14) days preceding additional construction after a gap in significant construction activities of 60 calendar days or more. Surveys shall include 100 percent of the area disturbed and a surrounding buffer of 200 feet. A map of proposed survey areas shall be provided to the CPM for review and approval, and the CDFW and USFWS, for review and comment prior to initiating the surveys. New clearance surveys shall be conducted if the desert tortoise fence is breached</p>	14 days of completing the surveys.									

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		<p>(e.g., large gaps, torn fencing, or cavities that could allow desert tortoises to enter the site) for more than 24 hours.</p> <p>3. If Desert Tortoise Detected. If adult or juvenile desert tortoises or potentially active burrows are detected during the pre-clearance surveys the Designated Biologist and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall contact the CPM, CDFW, and USFWS immediately for guidance. No work shall occur within 200-feet of any potential burrow or desert tortoise pending coordination with the CPM, CDFW, and USFWS. Handling of desert tortoise shall not be allowed pending the completion of appropriate take authorization from the CEC, in coordination with CDFW, and USFWS, per Item 4.</p> <p>4. Supplemental Mitigation for Desert Tortoise. Desert tortoise are not expected to occur within the project site. If a desert tortoise is detected during construction or operation, and an incidental take is necessary, take authorization shall only be pursued if it is determined by the CPM after consultation with CDFW and USFWS, that such take would not jeopardize the species persistence in the region. Upon confirmation, standard desert tortoise incidental take authorization conditions to minimize and fully mitigate impacts shall be required. These standard measures, approved by the CPM after consultation with CDFW and USFWS, and based on the specific facts of the situation, may include:</p> <p>(1) Acquisition of permanent habitat compensation lands calculated on the importance of the habitat in the project area and standard USFWS and CDFW protocols;</p> <p>(2) Tortoise burrow identification, monitoring, and possible burrow excavation by an authorized biologist;</p> <p>(3) Establishment of exclusion or avoidance zones around active burrows or sightings;</p> <p>(4) Worker environmental awareness training;</p> <p>(5) Preparation and submittal of Monthly Compliance Reports; and</p> <p>(6) Other measures as determined by the CPM, in consultation with CDFW and USFWS.</p> <p>5. Raven Management and Reporting Plan. The Designated Biologist shall prepare and implement a Raven</p>										

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		<p>Management and Reporting Plan (Raven Plan) consistent with CDFW and USFWS raven management guidelines. The purpose of the Raven Plan shall be to minimize project-related predator subsidies (e.g. common ravens and coyotes) and prevent any increases in raven numbers or activity within desert tortoise habitat during construction and operation phases. The Plan shall address all project components and their potential effects on raven numbers and activity. The Raven Plan shall be reviewed and approved by CPM, in coordination with the CDFW and USFWS, prior to the start of site mobilization activities. The Raven Plan shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify all potential project activities as well as structures, components, and other features that could provide predator subsidies or attractants. This includes but is not limited to: improperly managed food waste; road-killed animals; water storage facilities; pooled water from leaks, dust control, or wastewater; debris from brush and other vegetation clearing; as well perch or nest sites on project facilities and other infrastructure. As required by BIO-7, Item 18, all trash and food waste will be disposed of in secure, self-closing bins to prevent access by wildlife. • Describe specific management practices to avoid or minimize conditions that might increase raven numbers and predatory activities. This includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Collect and dispose of animals killed on the site or project access roads to reduce food subsidies; o Water used for the project shall be applied to avoid puddling; o Inactive common raven nests will be removed in accordance with USFWS guidelines. If re-nesting occurs, further measures will be coordinated with the CPM, in coordination with CDFW and USFWS; and o Active nests will be reported to CPM, CDFW, and USFWS for consideration of egg-oiling or other authorized management measures. • The Designated Biologist and/or Biological Monitor shall oversee implementation of the Raven Plan. • The project owner shall contribute to the USFWS Regional Raven Management Program by making a 										

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		<p>one-time payment of \$105 per acre of long-term or permanent project disturbance.</p> <p>6. Reporting. A report documenting survey results, including surveyor name(s), date(s) of survey, location (with maps), weather conditions, and any observations or detections of desert tortoise or their sign will be prepared and submitted to the CPM, CDFW, and USFWS. In addition, a monitoring report that includes the location, description, and duration of the activities, any observations or detections of desert tortoise found during the surveys or project activities, and any relocation efforts will be provided during monthly and annual compliance reporting.</p>										
Biological Resources	BIO-17	<p>Nesting Bird Avoidance and Minimization Measures. The project owner shall prepare and implement a Nesting Bird Management Plan (NBMP) in coordination with the Designated Biologist and submit to the CPM for review and approval. The project owner shall submit the resumes of avian monitors under BIO-1 and/or BIO-3 prior to site mobilization and/or construction, if these activities are planned to occur during the breeding season. The NBMP shall describe methods to minimize potential project effects to nesting birds. Where scheduling allows the project owner shall clear or remove any vegetation, conduct site preparation in open or barren areas, or other project-related activities that may adversely affect breeding birds outside the nesting season. Pre-construction nest surveys shall be conducted during the breeding season for local and migratory birds and will be timed to account for seasonal variation that occurs in the Mojave Desert (January 1 to August 31 for raptors and March 1 to August 31 for other species).</p> <p>1. Survey Requirements. Surveys shall cover all potential nesting habitat and substrates within the project site and areas surrounding the project site within 500 feet of the project boundary, unless otherwise prohibited due to legal access or safety issues, upon approval from the CPM.</p> <p>2. Survey Schedules. At least two pre-construction surveys shall be conducted, separated by a minimum 10-day interval. Pre-construction</p>	<p>At the end of each year's nest season, the project owner shall submit an annual NBMP report to the CPM and CDFW no more than 30 days after the end of the nesting season. The project owner shall submit pre-construction survey reports to the CPM and CDFW no more than 30 days after each survey effort has been completed. The project owner shall provide a letter report detailing the outcome of the care of any injured birds or nest failures to the CPM and the CDFW within 14 days of the incident.</p>	<p>a) Nesting Bird Management Plan b) Annual NBMP report c) Letter report detailing the outcome of the care of any injured birds or nest failures d) Nesting bird pre-construction survey reports</p>	Pre-construction	<p>a) 45 days prior to site mobilization b) No more than 30 days after the end of the nesting season c) Within 14 days of incident d) No more than 30 days after each survey effort has been completed</p>	WSP	In Progress	17-Apr-26			

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		<p>surveys shall be conducted no more than 14 days prior to initiation of construction activity. One survey needs to be conducted within the 3-day period preceding initiation of site mobilization, brush clearing, ground disturbance, or construction activity. Surveys shall be repeated throughout site mobilization and construction phases to ensure that birds are not nesting on equipment or have moved into an area after the initial vegetation clearance has been completed.</p> <p>3. Nest and Avian Monitoring and Surveys During Construction. Additional follow-up surveys shall be required if periods of construction inactivity exceed three weeks during January 1 through August 31 in any given area, an interval during which birds may establish a nesting territory and initiate egg laying and incubation.</p> <p>4. Nest Detection. If active nests are detected during surveys, a no-disturbance buffer zone (protected area surrounding the nest) shall be established around each nest. Fencing and/or flagging will be used to delineate the no-activity zone. To minimize the potential to affect the reproductive success of the nesting pair, the extent of the no-activity zone shall be based several factors, including the distance of the activity to the nest, the type and extent of the proposed activity, the duration and timing of the activity, the sensitivity and habituation of the species, and the dissimilarity of the proposed activity to background activities. The no-activities zone shall be large enough to avoid nest abandonment. Specific buffers shall also be proposed for any shrike caches should they be detected during construction. The NBMP shall define species-specific or guild-specific default buffers to be applied if an active nest is encountered. These buffer distances shall be reviewed and approved by the CPM, in consultation with CDFW. The default buffers may be modified in the NBMP, with CPM approval. For special-status species, if an active nest is identified, the size of each buffer zone shall be determined by the Designated Biologist in consultation with the CPM (or as described in Conditions of Certification specific for those species). Nest locations shall be mapped using GPS</p>										

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		<p>technology.</p> <p>The plan shall include a table outlining default buffer distances for specific avian groups during construction, detailing the avian groups, species potentially nesting within the project limits and survey area, and corresponding horizontal buffer distances based on disturbance level (DL) in feet, unless alternative table format is approved by the CPM. Typical default buffer distances are 500 feet for most raptors and 250 feet for most passerines, as well as other species or guild-specific buffers. Nest buffers shall be delineated using the following process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon discovery of an active nest the default buffer identified in the NBMP shall be applied • The Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) with avian experience may adjust the buffer based on nest location characteristics (e.g. natural barriers), type and extent of project disturbance, and observed bird behavior. The nest buffer will be sufficiently large to avoid disturbance to the nesting birds and based on the default buffers included in the approved NBMP. • Nest buffer reductions for special status species shall be requested in writing via email to the CPM for review and approval. <p>5. Active Nest Protection. If active nests are detected during the survey, the Designated Biologist(s) or Biological Monitor(s) shall monitor all nests with buffers at least once per week, to determine whether birds are being disturbed. If signs of disturbance or distress are observed, the Designated Biologist(s) or Biological Monitor(s) shall immediately implement adaptive measures to reduce disturbance, in coordination with the CPM. These measures could include, but are not limited to, increasing buffer size, halting disruptive construction activities in the vicinity of the nest until fledging is confirmed, or placement of visual screens or sound dampening structures between the nest and construction activity. The Designated Biologist(s) or Biological Monitor(s) shall monitor the nest until it is determined that nestlings have fledged and dispersed or the nest is no longer active. Activities that might,</p>										

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		<p>in the opinion of the Designated Biologist(s) or Biological Monitor, disturb nesting activities (e.g., exposure to exhaust), shall be prohibited within the buffer zone until such a determination is made. Any nest buffer reduction would require full time monitoring if reduced from the levels identified in the approved NBMP.</p> <p>6. NBMP Content. The NBMP shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. definitions of default nest avoidance buffers for each species or group of species, depending on characteristics and conservation status for each species and the nature of planned project activities in the vicinity; b. a notification procedure for buffer distance reductions should they become necessary; c. a pre-construction survey protocol (surveys no longer than 3 days prior to starting work activity at any site); d. a monitoring protocol, to be implemented until adjacent construction activities are completed or the nest is no longer active, including qualifications of monitors, monitoring schedule, and field methods, to ensure that any project-related effects to nesting birds shall be minimized; e. a protocol for documenting and reporting any inadvertent contact with or effects to birds or nests; f. Specify the responsibilities of construction workers and site personnel with regard to nests and nest issues and specify a direct communication protocol to the Biological Monitor and/or Designated Biologist; g. Specify a procedure to be implemented following accidental disturbance of nests, including wildlife rehabilitation options; and h. Specify a procedure for removal of inactive nests, including verification that the nest is inactive and a notification/approval process. The NBMP will be applicable throughout the nesting season (from January 1 through August 31). <p>7. Nest deterrents. The NBMP shall describe any proposed measures or deterrents to prevent or reduce bird nesting activity on project equipment or facilities, such as buoys, visual or auditory hazing devices, bird repellents, securing of materials, and</p>										

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		<p>netting of materials, vehicles, and equipment.</p> <p>It shall also include timing for installation of nest deterrents and field confirmation to prevent effects to any active nest; guidance for the contractor to install, maintain, and remove nest deterrents according to product specifications; and periodic monitoring of nest deterrents to ensure proper installation and functioning and prevent injury or entrapment of birds or other animals. If an active nest is located on project facilities, materials or equipment, the project owner shall avoid disturbance or use of the facilities, materials or equipment (e.g., by red-tag) until the nest is no longer active.</p> <p>8. Nest Start Removal. Prior to removing any suitable nesting habitat, preconstruction nesting bird surveys should inform as to where existing raptor nests, and other special status bird nests, occur throughout the project area. The locations of existing special status bird nests within the habitat removal footprint shall be recorded and mapped by a qualified biologist. Such nests shall be removed outside of the nesting bird season. Due to the potential for nest building during active construction, a biological monitor shall be employed for the duration of project construction to regularly inspect for nest building attempts that may occur on/within construction equipment and/or within an area of active construction disturbance.</p> <p>In the event nest building is detected, the biologist shall deter birds from nesting using non-invasive methods to modify the circum-stances. In the event a nest is built, and eggs are laid, the nest shall be considered active nest and shall be avoided. This may include placing a buffer around a piece of equipment or closing off a work area until the nest has fledged. This measure shall not be employed for state or federal special status species.</p> <p>9. Accidental Nest Disturbance. The NBMP shall specify a procedure to be implemented following accidental disturbance of nests, including wildlife rehabilitation options. It also shall describe any proposed measures, and applicable circumstances, to prevent take of precocial young of ground-</p>										

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		<p>nesting birds such as killdeer or quail. The project owner shall identify an appropriate wildlife care facility before starting site mobilization. The location of the care facility shall be provided to the CPM prior to site mobilization. The project owner shall bear any costs associated with the care or treatment of project related injured birds. The project owner shall provide a letter report detailing the outcome of the care to the CPM.</p> <p>10. Reporting. Throughout the construction phase of the project, nest locations, project activities in the vicinity of nests (including helicopter traces), and any adjustments to buffer areas shall be updated and available to the CPM, weekly or other CPM-approved timeframe. All buffer reduction notifications and prompt notifications of nest-related non-compliance and corrective actions will be made via email to the CPM. The draft NBMP shall include a proposed format for regular reporting (e.g., spreadsheet available online, tracking each nest). In addition, the NBMP shall specify the format and content of nest data to be provided in regular monitoring and compliance reports. At the end of each year's nest season, the project owner shall submit an annual NBMP report to the CPM and CDFW. Specific contents and format of the annual report will be reviewed and approved by the CPM in consultation with CDFW.</p>										
Biological Resources	BIO-19	<p>Burrowing Owl Impact Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures for Take. The project owner shall implement the following measures to avoid, minimize and offset impacts to breeding and foraging burrowing owls during site mobilization, construction, operation, and decommissioning:</p> <p>1. Burrowing Owl Mortality Reduction Plan. The project owner shall submit a Burrowing Owl Mortality Reduction Plan prepared by the Designated Biologist(s) for review and approval to the CPM, and CDFW for review and comment, prior to beginning any project activities including site mobilization, surveying, fencing, or ground disturbance. Burrow exclusion, burrow excavation, artificial burrow construction, and other relocation activities shall not proceed until this plan has been approved in writing by the CPM in coordination with the</p>	<p>The Designated Biologist shall provide the preconstruction survey results to the CPM within 14 days of the completion of the survey. If surveys detect burrowing owls within 1,600 feet of proposed construction activities, the Designated Biologist shall provide the CPM documentation indicating that a non-disturbance buffer has been installed no less than 10 days prior to the start of any project-related site disturbance activities. The documentation shall include information as specified in Items 4 and 5, or as otherwise requested by the CPM.</p> <p>If pre-construction surveys detect burrowing owls or active burrowing owl burrows within the project disturbance area, the project owner shall provide to the</p>	<p>a) Burrowing Owl Mortality Reduction Plan b) BUOW pre-construction surveys c) BUOW pre-construction survey report d) Documentation indicating that a non-disturbance buffer has been installed</p>	Pre-construction	<p>a) 30 days prior to site mobilization b) Within 30 days prior to commencing ground or vegetation disturbing activities c) Within 14 days of survey effort completion d) No less than 10 days prior to the start of any project-related site disturbance activities</p>	WSP	In Progress	<p>a: 5/1/2026 b: 4/5/2026 c: 5/10/2026</p>			

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		<p>CDFW. The Burrowing Owl Mortality Reduction Plan shall include, but not be limited to detailed description of survey methodology; detailed burrow exclusion and excavation methods; project activities that may be performed within burrowing owl avoidance buffers; identification of a wildlife rehabilitation center or veterinary facility capable of and willing to treat injured burrowing owl or care for at-risk burrowing owl, burrowing owl eggs, and/or burrowing owl chicks; and procedure for collection and storage of burrowing owl (BUOW) carcasses. Only CPM approved Designated Biologist(s) (s), or personnel following directions from and under the supervision of the Designated Biologist(s), are authorized to handle and transport injured burrowing owl for treatment or impacted burrowing owl eggs for salvage. All other burrowing owl handling is prohibited. Once the Burrowing Owl Mortality Reduction Plan is approved in writing by the CPM, it shall be used for the duration of the project unless updated by request of the CPM to reflect best available science, or to update mitigation and conservation strategies. If any updates are required, the CPM will contact the project owner to discuss potential updates. Any proposed changes to the Burrowing Owl Mortality Reduction Plan shall be submitted, in writing, to the CPM for review and approval and the CDFW for review and comment in writing prior to the implementation of any proposed modifications.</p> <p>2. Burrowing Owl Burrow Replacement Plan. The project owner shall replace each known burrowing owl burrow (as defined below under Burrow Avoidance) that cannot be avoided within the project area with an artificial burrow to compensate for the loss of important shelter used by BUOW for protection, reproduction, and escape from predators. The project owner shall submit a Burrowing Owl Burrow Replacement Plan prepared by an approved Designated Biologist(s) to the CPM. Implementation of the Burrowing Owl Burrow Replacement Plan shall not proceed until this plan has been approved in writing by the CPM in</p>	<p>CPM a Burrowing Owl Mortality Reduction Plan prior to the start of activities (the measures described in the plan shall be incorporated into the BRMIMP and implemented.) The plan shall be for review and comment by the CPM and shall be finalized no less than 30 days prior to commencing site mobilization.</p> <p>The project owner shall submit the Burrowing Owl Mortality Reduction Plan and Burrow Replacement Plan to the CPM for review and comment at least 30 days prior to initiation of site mobilization. Within 30 days of the conclusion of the construction period, the project owner shall submit a final Burrowing Owl Mitigation Implementation Report detailing location of all burrowing owl observed, take measures implemented, and their effectiveness.</p> <p>During operations, the project owner shall include in the Annual Compliance Report an accounting of all burrowing owl documented on site, including copies of the Designated Biologist and/or Biological Monitor's field notes, any buffer zones erected, maps, additional avoidance and minimization measures implemented, and their perceived effectiveness.</p>										

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		<p>coordination with the CDFW. The Burrowing Owl Burrow Replacement Plan shall include, but not be limited to: a discussion and map of potential artificial burrow replacement locations; description of the replacement burrow design and dimensions (e.g., depth and width of burrow, width of burrow entrance, orientation of burrow entrance, number and placement of entrances to natal burrows); artificial burrow installation methods; long-term artificial burrow protection and maintenance methods; and timing of BUOW burrow installation/construction.</p> <p>Once the burrowing owl Burrow Replacement Plan is approved in writing by the CPM, it shall be used for the duration of the project unless it is updated by the CPM to reflect best available science, or to update mitigation and conservation strategies in which case the CPM will contact the project owner to discuss needed updates. If any updates are required, the CPM will contact the project owner to discuss potential updates. Any proposed changes to the Burrowing Owl Mortality Reduction Plan shall be submitted, in writing, to the CPM for review and approval and the CDFW for review and concurrence in writing prior to the implementation of any proposed modifications.</p> <p>3. Burrowing Owl Pre-Construction Nesting Surveys and Reporting. The Designated Biologist and/or Biological Monitor shall conduct preconstruction surveys for burrowing owls to identify potential, known, and/or nesting burrowing owl burrows. A potential burrowing owl burrow is any subterranean hole three inches or larger for which no evidence is present to conclude that the burrow is being used or any past use by a burrowing owl; a known burrowing owl burrow is a burrow that shows evidence the burrow is being used, known to have been used, or past use by a burrowing owl, or an "atypical" burrow (e.g., a pipe, culvert, buckled concrete, etc.) showing signs of occupancy (e.g. burrowing owl presence, whitewash, pellets, prey remains, etc.); and a nesting burrowing owl burrow is used for nesting (e.g. known burrowing owl burrow indications of the presence of eggs, chicks, dependent young, and/or brooding or egg incubation.</p>										

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		<p>The survey area shall include the project disturbance area and surrounding 300-meter survey buffer, as accessible.</p> <p>If surveys detect burrowing owls within 1,600 feet of proposed construction activities, the Designated Biologist shall provide to the CPM documentation indicating that non-disturbance buffer fencing has been installed no less than 10 days prior to the start of any project-related site disturbance activities. The documentation shall include information as specified in Items 4 and 5, or as otherwise requested by the CPM.</p> <p>4. Burrow Map. The Designated Biologist(s) shall provide a Keyhole Markup Language (KMZ) map and GIS shapefiles to the CPM of all burrowing owl burrows found during the surveys conducted during the surveys required under Item 3 requirements (Burrowing Owl Pre-Construction Surveys and Reporting). The map shall show the details and locations of all burrowing owl sightings and potential, known, and nesting burrowing owl burrows as defined in the Burrowing Owl Burrow Avoidance section. The map shall include an outline of the project site, and any distinct work area(s) surveyed within the project area, title, north arrow, scale bar, and legend.</p> <p>If a territory or nest is confirmed during the surveys the project owner shall notify the CPM and CDFW within 48 hours. In coordination with the Designated Biologist(s), CPM and CDFW, a 1,600 foot line of sight disturbance-free buffer shall be established and demarcated by fencing or flagging and placed on project maps. This buffer may be adjusted as determined by a qualified avian biologist in coordination with the CPM and CDFW. Nest locations shall be mapped using GPS technology and provided the CPM.</p> <p>5. BUOW Burrow Avoidance. The Designated Biologist shall establish no-disturbance buffer zones around potential, known and nesting burrowing owl burrows according to the following guidelines:</p> <p>a. If a potential burrowing owl burrow (any subterranean hole three inches or larger for which no evidence is present to conclude that the burrow is</p>										

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		<p>being used or any past use by a burrowing owl) is discovered, the Designated Biologist shall establish a minimum 50-foot no-disturbance buffer around the burrow.</p> <p>b. If a known burrowing owl burrow (a burrow that is known to have been used or shows evidence of current or past use) or an "atypical" burrow (e.g., a pipe, culvert, buckled concrete, etc.) showing signs of occupancy (e.g. burrowing owl presence, whitewash, pellets, prey remains, etc.) is discovered, the Designated Biologist(s) shall establish a minimum no-disturbance buffer of at least 100 feet around the burrow. A no-disturbance buffer of at least 1,600 feet shall be established around known burrowing owl burrows currently occupied by burrowing owl during the nesting season (typically February 1 to August 31 in this area). Nest buffer reductions are described below.</p> <p>c. If a nesting burrowing owl burrow (e.g. known burrowing owl burrow with indications of the presence of eggs, chicks, dependent young, and/or brooding or egg incubation) is discovered within or immediately adjacent to the project site, the project owner and/or Designated Biologist shall notify the CPM and CDFW immediately through email. A no-disturbance buffer of at least 1,600 feet shall be established around the nest burrow. A no-disturbance buffer of at least 1,600 feet shall be established around known burrowing owl burrows currently occupied by burrowing owl during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31). If burrowing owl burrows cannot be avoided as described above, then the project owner shall follow Item 6 (Burrowing Owl Burrow Blockage), Item 7 (Burrowing Owl Burrow Excavation), and Item 1 (Burrowing Owl Mortality Reduction Plan), as appropriate. If the approved Designated Biologist determines burrowing owl are visibly stressed by project activities or by workers in the vicinity after these no-disturbance buffers the Designated Biologist shall immediately increase the non-disturbance buffer to a distance where the visible stress is no longer observed. The increased no-disturbance buffers will be reviewed</p>										

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		<p>and approved by the CPM, in coordination with CDFW, based on their behavioral observations of the affected burrowing owl.</p> <p>The buffers prescribed above shall not be reduced or otherwise modified without prior written approval from the CPM, in coordination with the CDFW. If the approved Designated Biologist(s) determines that specific project activities are not likely to affect the burrowing owl using known or nesting burrowing owl burrows due to the nature of the specific project activities, or due to objects or topography that might reduce potential noise disturbance and obstruct view of the project activities from the nest, then the CPM approved Designated Biologist(s) may email a written request to the CPM to reduce the buffer distance with documented observational data (Buffer Reduction Request). The CPM will review each Buffer Reduction Request on a case-by-case basis and provide a determination in response to each Buffer Reduction Request in writing. The CPM may request additional and ongoing biological monitoring prior to approving a Buffer Reduction Request.</p> <p>6. BUOW Burrow Blockage. If the CPM has approved the blockage of a known burrowing owl burrow, the Designated Biologist shall block rather than destroy any unoccupied known burrowing owl burrow located within the buffer distances limits prescribed in Item 5 (Burrowing Owl Burrow Avoidance), but outside the discrete work area(s) within the project area(s) where ground and vegetation disturbing project activities will be performed. Burrows (including burrows in natural substrate and in under man-made structures) may be blocked only immediately after the CPM-approved Designated Biologist(s) has conducted four consecutive 24-hour periods of monitoring with infrared camera and determined that burrowing owl is not currently present. Burrow blockage shall be done in a manner that prevents burrowing animals from digging back into the burrow. All blocked burrows shall be monitored by the approved Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) at least once every 48 hours while the</p>										

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		<p>blockage is in place to ensure that the exclusion material is still intact. If burrowing owl regains access to the burrow, the project owner or Designated Biologist shall contact the CPM immediately and obtain written guidance regarding how to proceed. All blocked burrows shall be unblocked within 48 hours of completion of construction activities within the prescribed buffer distance.</p> <p>7. Burrowing Owl Burrow Excavation. The approved Designated Biologist(s), and/or Biological Monitor under direct supervision of the approved Designated Biologist(s), shall excavate known or potential burrows that exhibit signs of current or past burrowing owl use or characteristics suggestive of a burrowing owl burrow (including burrows in natural substrate and in/under man-made structures) that cannot be avoided per guidance in Item 5 (Burrowing Owl Burrow Avoidance), that are within the project site. Burrows to be destroyed shall be fully excavated, filled with dirt, and compacted to ensure that burrowing owl cannot reenter or use the burrow during the period that project activities occur in the project site.</p> <p>a. Excavation of known burrowing owl burrows shall only occur after the approved Designated Biologist(s) has determined that burrowing owl is not currently present after 4 consecutive 24-hour periods of monitoring with infrared cameras. If the excavation process reveals evidence of current use by burrowing owl, then burrow excavation shall cease immediately, and camera monitoring as described above shall be conducted or resumed as applicable. burrowing owl burrows shall be carefully excavated with hand tools, or by mechanical means if a specific methodology is approved in writing by the CPM, until it is clear no individuals of burrowing owl are inside.</p> <p>b. Potential burrowing owl burrows without any signs of burrowing owl use or characteristics suggesting it is a burrowing owl burrow may be excavated under the direct supervision of the approved Designated Biologist(s) without prior camera monitoring.</p> <p>c. Nesting burrowing owl burrows used for nesting shall not be excavated until biological and camera monitoring confirm that the chicks</p>										

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		<p>have fledged and are no longer dependent on the nest and then only after written concurrence from the CPM. An established burrowing owl burrow no-disturbance buffer may be removed once the burrow is collapsed and the burrowing owl (s) is/are no longer using the burrow.</p> <p>8. Burrowing Owl Injury. If a burrowing owl is injured or found dead within the vicinity of the project area, project owner shall notify the CPM of the injury or mortality to the burrowing owl immediately by email. The Designated Biologist(s) shall follow the Burrowing Owl Mortality Reduction Plan to either immediately transport injured individuals to a CPM-approved wildlife rehabilitation center or veterinary facility or follow approved collection and storage procedures for deceased animals. The project owner shall bear any cost associated with care and recovery of any injured burrowing owl adults, nestling(s) or egg(s) and hacking (controlled release of captive reared young).</p> <p>9. Burrowing Owl Observations and Notification. All workers shall be trained to identify burrowing owl and shall inform the approved Designated Biologist(s) if a burrowing owl is seen within or near the project area during implementation of any project activity. All work in the vicinity of the burrowing owl which could harm the individual, shall cease until the individual moves from the project area of its own accord or the approved Designated Biologist(s) passively encourages the individual to move out of harm's way, in compliance with the timing and methods identified in the CPM-approved Burrowing Owl Mortality Reduction Plan.</p> <p>10. Operation Activities Designated Biologist On-site. The approved Designated Biologist(s) shall be onsite during all ground and vegetation disturbing activities. The approved Designated Biologist(s) shall be on-site during all non-emergency ground and vegetation disturbing project activities performed at night.</p> <p>11. Vehicle Parking (Site Mobilization, Construction and Operation). During site mobilization, construction, operation, and maintenance activities or while implementing burrowing owl take minimization measures, the project owner shall not allow vehicles</p>										

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		<p>to park on top of known or potential burrowing owl burrows. Vehicles left overnight shall not be located within 50 feet of known burrowing owl burrows. Workers shall inspect for burrowing owl under vehicles and equipment every time the vehicles and equipment are moved. If a burrowing owl is present, the worker shall wait for the burrowing owl to move unimpeded to a safe location. Alternatively, the approved Designated Biologist(s) shall be contacted to passively encourage the burrowing owl to move away from the vehicle or equipment, in compliance with the timing and methods identified in the Burrowing Owl Mortality Reduction Plan.</p> <p>12. Pipes and Materials Inspection (Site Mobilization, Construction, Operation). The project owner shall ensure that all pipes or similar materials stockpiled or replaced in the project area are capped or otherwise enclosed at the ends to prevent entry by burrowing owl. The project owner shall ensure that any permanent pipes or similar materials or structures are left open where burrowing owl or other species may enter them and become trapped. The approved Designated Biologist shall thoroughly inspect all such materials for burrowing owl, before they are moved, buried, or capped. If a burrowing owl is discovered inside such material, that section of material shall not be moved until the animal has escaped of its own accord. Alternatively, the approved Designated Biologist may passively encourage the burrowing owl. to move away from the pipes, culverts, or similar structures, in compliance with the timing and methods identified in the Burrowing Owl Mortality Reduction Plan.</p> <p>13. Ground and Vegetation Disturbing (Site Mobilization, Construction, and Operation). Burrowing Owl Pre-Construction Surveys and Reporting (Item 3) shall be implemented within 30 calendar days prior to commencing ground or vegetation disturbing activities during operation in each distinct work area(s) within the project site. If the approved DB identifies any potential, known, or nesting BUOW burrows, the burrow(s) shall be monitored following the Burrowing Owl Burrow Blockage (Item 6) and</p>										

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		<p>Burrowing Owl Burrow Excavation (Item 7) as applicable, unless avoided per the Burrowing Owl Burrow Avoidance requirements (Item 5).</p> <p>14. Burrowing Owl Observations (Operation). During operational activities within the project site, all workers shall inform the approved Designated Biologist if a burrowing owl is observed within or near the project area. All work in the vicinity of the burrowing owl, which could injure or kill the animal, shall cease immediately until the burrowing owl moves from the project area of its own accord or the approved DB passively encourages the individual to move out of harm's way, in compliance with the timing and methods identified in the approved Burrowing Owl Mortality Reduction Plan.</p> <p>15. Burrowing Owl Injury (Operation). If a burrowing owl is injured or found dead within the vicinity of the project area, the project owner shall notify the CPM of the injury or mortality to the burrowing owl immediately. The approved Designated Biologist shall follow the approved Burrowing Owl Mortality Reduction Plan to either immediately transport injured individuals to a CDFW-approved wildlife rehabilitation center or veterinary facility or follow approved collection and storage procedures for deceased animals. The project owner shall bear any cost associated with care and recovery of any injured burrowing owl adults, nestling(s) or egg(s) and hacking (controlled release of captive reared young).</p>										
Biological Resources	BIO-20	<p>Swainson's Hawk Avoidance and Minimization Measures. The DB and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall conduct protocol surveys for Swainson's hawks and avoid all occupied nests. Survey schedule and requirements shall be as identified below unless otherwise authorized by the CPM in consultation with CDFW.</p> <p>1. Survey Requirements. The Designated Biologist shall provide the resumes of proposed Swainson's hawks surveyors to the CPM for approval and the CDFW and USFWS for concurrence prior to conducting surveys, pursuant to BIO-1 and/or BIO-3. Prior to conducting the surveys, the project owner or Designated Biologist shall provide a map identifying all potential nesting</p>	<p>zones may be proposed if there is compelling ecological justification for the reduction with the approval of the CPM, in coordination with the CDFW. Alternative buffers must be approved in writing by the CPM, in consultation with CDFW. The Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor shall monitor the nest until it is determined that nestlings have fledged and dispersed or the nest is no longer active. Activities that might, in the opinion of the Designated Biologist(s) or Biological Monitor(s), disturb nesting activities (e.g., exposure to exhaust), shall be prohibited within the buffer zone until such a determination is made.</p>	<p>a) Proposed Swainson's hawks biologists and avian monitors b) Swainson's hawk pre-construction surveys c) Swainson's hawk pre-construction survey reports d) A letter report detailing the outcome of any nest failures to the CPM and the CDFW</p>	Pre-construction	<p>a) No less than 45 days prior to conducting the surveys and or site mobilization whichever comes first. b) 3 rounds of survey in two periods c) No more than 30 days after each survey effort has been completed d) Within 14</p>	WSP	<p>a: In Progress b: Not Started c: Not Started d: No Action Unless Event Occur</p>	<p>a: ASAP b: April 2026 c: 5/16/2026</p>			

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		<p>habitat in or within 0.5-miles of proposed disturbance areas during construction to the CPM and CDFW. One round of protocol surveys will be completed within 5-miles of the generation tie-line corridor, unless otherwise prohibited due to legal access or safety issues, to assist in the location where aerial markers or bid flight diverters shall be installed. Surveys in Period I may not be used for this purpose. Preconstruction surveys for Swainson's hawks shall occur annually during the construction phase of the project in all areas supporting suitable roosting or breeding habitat within 0.5 miles of project disturbance areas including but not limited to the SCE Whirlwind switching station, Willow Rock site, access roads, lay down areas, and generation tie-line alignment where active construction is proposed. Surveys will be designed and carried out by a qualified biologist with experience in the natural history and nesting behavior of Swainson's hawks. The survey periods will follow a specified schedule: Period I occurs from 1 January to 31 March, Period II occurs from 1 April to 30 April, Period III occurs from 1 May to 30 May, and Period IV occurs from 1 June to 15 July. No fewer than three surveys per period in at least two survey periods excluding survey period I shall be completed immediately prior to the start of project construction, unless approved by the CPM, in coordination with CDFW.</p> <p>2. Nesting Season Inventory Data. At a minimum, data collected during the nesting season surveys shall include the following: territory status (unknown, vacant, occupied, breeding successful, breeding unsuccessful); nest location, number observed; nesting chronology; number of young at each visit; photographs; and characterization of the habitat in which the nest is placed.</p> <p>3. Nest Detection. If an active or occupied nest is confirmed during the surveys within 0.5 miles of the project site or gen-tie line the project owner shall notify the CPM and CDFW within 48 hours. In coordination with the CPM and CDFW a 0.5-mile line of sight disturbance-free buffer shall be established and demarcated by the</p>	<p>5. Accidental Nest Disturbance. The project owner or Designated Biologist shall notify the CPM and CDFW within 48 hours if an active nest fails and if the failure was project related or predation.</p> <p>6. Reporting. The Designated Biologist shall prepare a Swainson's Hawk Survey Report and submit the document to the CPM for review and approval and the CDFW for review and comment. Throughout the construction phase of the project, nest locations, project activities in the vicinity of nests, and any adjustments to buffer areas shall be updated and available to the CPM. Nest data and, if applicable, nest activity monitoring results and any adaptive management actions taken, shall be provided to CPM and CDFW in monitoring reports submitted as part of the Monthly Compliance Report, as data becomes available and if specific nest monitoring or any adaptive management actions are taken, and summarized in annual monitoring reports. All buffer reduction notifications and prompt notifications of nest-related non-compliance and corrective actions will be made via email to the CPM and CDFW. At the end of each year's nest season, the project owner shall submit an annual monitoring report to the CPM and CDFW. Specific contents and format of the annual report shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval, in consultation with CDFW.</p>			days of the incident							

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		<p>DB with fencing or flagging and placed on project maps. This buffer may be adjusted as determined by a qualified avian biologist, approved pursuant to BIO-1 and/or BIO-3 in coordination with the CPM and CDFW. This buffer shall remain in place until the Designated Biologist has verified that the nest is no longer active or occupied. Nest locations shall be mapped using GPS technology and provided to the CPM.</p> <p>4. Active Nest Protection. If surveys detect nesting Swainson's hawks, a 0.5 mile no-disturbance buffer zone shall be implemented around the nests until the end of the breeding season, or a qualified biologist determines that the nest is no longer active. Alternate buffer zones may be proposed if there is compelling ecological justification for the reduction with the approval of the CPM, in coordination with the CDFW. Alternative buffers must be approved in writing by the CPM, in consultation with CDFW. The Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor shall monitor the nest until it is determined that nestlings have fledged and dispersed or the nest is no longer active. Activities that might, in the opinion of the Designated Biologist(s) or Biological Monitor(s), disturb nesting activities (e.g., exposure to exhaust), shall be prohibited within the buffer zone until such a determination is made.</p> <p>5. Accidental Nest Disturbance. The project owner or Designated Biologist shall notify the CPM and CDFW within 48 hours if an active nest fails and if the failure was project related or predation.</p> <p>6. Reporting. The Designated Biologist shall prepare a Swainson's Hawk Survey Report and submit the document to the CPM for review and approval and the CDFW for review and comment. Throughout the construction phase of the project, nest locations, project activities in the vicinity of nests, and any adjustments to buffer areas shall be updated and available to the CPM. Nest data and, if applicable, nest activity monitoring results and any adaptive management actions taken, shall be provided to CPM and CDFW in monitoring reports submitted as part of the Monthly Compliance Report, as data becomes</p>										

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		available and if specific nest monitoring or any adaptive management actions are taken, and summarized in annual monitoring reports. All buffer reduction notifications and prompt notifications of nest-related non-compliance and corrective actions will be made via email to the CPM and CDFW. At the end of each year's nest season, the project owner shall submit an annual monitoring report to the CPM and CDFW. Specific contents and format of the annual report shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval, in consultation with CDFW.										
Biological Resources	BIO-21	<p>Small Mammal Avoidance and Minimization Measures. The Designated Biologist and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall conduct pre-construction surveys to identify areas that support dense concentrations of small mammal burrows that could be utilized by Tulare grasshopper mouse, Tehachapi pocket mouse, and San Joaquin pocket mouse. Surveys shall be conducted by qualified biologists approved by the CPM, in coordination with CDFW, pursuant to BIO-1 and/or BIO-3.</p> <p>1. Surveys. Prior to any site mobilization, including ground-disturbing or vegetation removal activities, that will occur in suitable habitat during the general breeding season for pocket mice (May 1 through July 15) the Designated Biologist and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall conduct focused surveys to identify dense concentrations of potential burrows for pocket mice. Surveys shall encompass work areas and a 50-foot buffer, unless approved by the CPM or otherwise prohibited due to legal access or safety issues. Any areas supporting dense concentrations of potential burrows for pocket mice shall be recorded using a precision GPS unit and included on maps.</p> <p>In addition, prior to site mobilization on the Willow Rock project site and laydown areas a clearance survey conducted in the proposed work areas shall be conducted by the Designated Biologist and/or Biological Monitor(s) to identify any new or modified dense small mammal burrow concentrations that may have not been identified during pre-construction surveys.</p> <p>2. Salvage of Pocket Mice. During</p>	The project owner shall submit the pre-construction survey reports to the CPM and the CDFW no more than 30 days after each survey effort has been completed. Monitoring reports shall be submitted in the Monthly Compliance Report during construction and Annual Compliance Report, as needed, during operation.	<p>a) Small mammal pre-construction surveys</p> <p>b) Small mammal pre-construction survey reports</p>	Pre-construction	<p>a) Prior to any site mobilization, including ground-disturbing or vegetation removal activities, that will occur in suitable habitat during the general breeding season for pocket mice (May 1 through July 15)</p> <p>b) Within 30 days of survey effort completion</p>	WSP	<p>a: Not Started</p> <p>b: Not Started</p>	<p>a: early May for initial survey and June for clearance survey</p> <p>b: 6/24/2026</p>			

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		<p>initial grading the Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall make every effort to salvage small mammals such as pocket mice that may be displaced during initial ground disturbance. Mice will be collected, stored in a container that provides refuge, then relocated to adjacent habitat and placed under a shrub.</p> <p>3. Mortality or Serious Injury of Small Mammals. If mortality or serious injury (i.e., compromising survival in the wild) occurs to any special status small mammal (e.g., Tulare pocket mouse, Tehachapi pocket mouse, San Joaquin pocket mouse, etc.), the project owner or Designated Biologist shall immediately contact the CPM to evaluate if additional measures are required, in coordination with CDFW.</p> <p>4. Reporting. A report documenting survey results, including surveyor name(s), date(s) of survey, location (with maps), weather conditions, and any records of any areas supporting densely concentrated small mammal burrows or observations of special-status small mammals will be prepared and submitted to the CPM and CDFW. In addition, a monitoring report that includes the location, description, and duration of the activities, any observations or detections of these species found during the surveys or project activities, any salvage efforts that were implemented, and any mortalities or injuries that were reported will be provided during monthly and annual compliance reporting.</p>										
Biological Resources	BIO-22	<p>American Badger, Desert Kit Fox, and Ringtail Avoidance and Minimization Measures. The Designated Biologist and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall conduct pre-construction surveys for American badger, desert kit fox, and ringtail. Surveys shall be conducted by qualified biologists approved by the CPM, in coordination with CDFW, pursuant to BIO-1 and/or BIO-3. These measures shall be included in the BRMIMP and implemented.</p> <p>1. Surveys. Pre-construction surveys for American badger, desert kit fox, and ringtail shall be conducted within a 500-foot radius of all project disturbance areas, where legal access is granted, to detect individuals and dens. Surveys shall be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the start of</p>	The project owner shall submit the pre-construction survey reports to the CPM and CDFW no more than 30 days after each survey effort has been completed. If required, the project owner shall submit a draft American Badger and Desert Kit Fox Eviction Plan to the CPM for review and approval and CDFW for review and comment. As final plan shall be submitted no less than 7 days prior to implementation.	<p>a) American badger and desert kit fox pre-construction surveys</p> <p>b) American badger and desert kit fox pre-construction survey report</p> <p>c) IF REQUIRED, American Badger and Desert Kit Fox Eviction Plan</p>	Pre-construction	<p>a) No more than 14 days prior to the start of project activities</p> <p>b) Within 30 days of survey effort completion</p> <p>c) 7 days prior to implementation</p>	WSP	<p>a: Not Started</p> <p>b: Not Started</p> <p>c: No Action Unless Event Occurs</p>	<p>a: Start of Survey: May 18, 2026</p> <p>b: June 17, 2026</p>			

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		<p>project activities; however the project owner may elect to conduct additional surveys to map and detect potential dens that occur on or near disturbance areas.</p> <p>Surveys shall be conducted using 20 meter (65-feet) spaced transects or less depending on topography to ensure 100 percent visual coverage of the survey area, unless approved by the CPM. Surveys shall be conducted during favorable weather conditions, avoiding periods of heavy wind or rain, fog, or other climate conditions that could potentially affect the ability of the surveyors to detect dens. All potential dens shall be examined for evidence of use by American badger, desert kit fox, or ringtail (i.e., scat, tracks, or fur). Any dens or den complexes identified during the surveys shall be classified as inactive, potentially active, or active.</p> <p>The Designated Biologist and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall monitor all potentially active den entrances within 500-feet of project disturbance areas with infrared cameras for five consecutive days to determine den occupancy. Occupancy shall be determined through camera footage and/or by checking the apron of the den entrance(s) for tracks in loose dirt and by using a tracking medium (e.g. diatomaceous earth). If desert kit fox or ringtail are detected during surveys, the project owner shall notify the CPM and CDFW immediately.</p> <p>2. If Dens are Detected. If a desert kit fox or ringtail den is determined to be active, it shall be avoided by a minimum of 500 feet during the pupping season (January 1 through August 31 for desert kit fox; May 1 through August 31 for ringtail) and by a minimum of 200 feet outside of the pupping season (September 1 through December 31 for desert kit fox; September 1 through April 30 for ringtail). If an American badger den is determined to be active, it shall be avoided by a minimum of 250 feet during the pupping season (March 1 through August 31) and by a minimum of 100 feet during the non-pupping season (September 1 through February 28). Avoidance buffers shall be established by the Designated Biologist using staking, flagging, or other conspicuous materials. No</p>										

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		<p>project activities will be permitted within the avoidance buffers. The Designated Biologist may modify the avoidance buffer distances based on the location of the den, specific site conditions, and nature of proposed work activities, with prior written approval from the CPM in coordination with CDFW. The avoidance buffer shall remain in place until the Designated Biologist(s) confirms that the young have left the den or the den has been naturally abandoned or failed.</p> <p>3. Passive Relocation. No passive relocation shall be allowed at any time if active ringtail dens are identified and confirmed during surveys or biological monitoring. If confirmed active American badger or desert kit fox dens cannot be avoided, the project owner shall submit an American Badger and Desert Kit Fox Eviction Plan to the CPM for review and approval and the CDFW for review and comment. The American Badger and Desert Kit Fox Eviction Plan shall address proposed eviction activities outside the pupping season, and shall include, at a minimum, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods and materials used for construction and maintenance of one-way eviction doors; • Use of continuous camera monitoring of dens for at least five consecutive days to confirm that no American badger or desert kit fox individuals are present and to ensure none are trapped during eviction; • Specific timing of eviction activities; • Design, materials, and methods used for construction and maintenance of artificial burrows and/or identification of location and discussion of preexisting, suitable, and unoccupied natural dens; • Methods of den collapse; and • Details regarding a "protect-in-place" option (i.e., evict but no collapse). Passive relocation during the pupping season shall not be authorized. Passive relocation outside the pupping season shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the CPM, in consultation with CDFW. <p>4. Notification of Detection. The project owner or Designated Biologist shall notify the CPM as well as CDFW within 24-hours if an American badger or desert kit fox, or any other special status mammal is detected during the</p>										

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		<p>surveys or during routine monitoring. The report shall include the number of animals detected, photos, and the location of the detection. Upon receiving notification, the CPM and CDFW may provide guidance for further action as appropriate to the species.</p> <p>5. Monitoring. The Designated Biologist and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall remain onsite throughout the duration of any project activities that are conducted within 300 feet of the edge of the avoidance buffer. The biologist will have the authority to halt work, if it is determined that the animals are exhibiting increased levels of distress (e.g., displaying defensive behavior, pacing, leaving the den).</p> <p>6. Report Mortalities and Serious Injuries Immediately. If any special status mammal species are found dead or injured during any project-related activities, the project owner or Designated Biologist shall immediately notify the CPM and CDFW and shall provide written notification to CPM and CDFW within 48 hours. The CPM and CDFW shall review the activities resulting in mortality and determine if additional protective measures are required.</p> <p>7. Reporting. A report documenting survey results, including surveyor name(s), date(s) of survey, location (with maps), weather conditions, and any observations or detections of sensitive mammals or their dens will be prepared and submitted to the CPM and CDFW. In addition, a monitoring report that includes the location, description, and duration of the activities, any observations or detections of these species found during the surveys or project activities will be provided during monthly, quarterly, and annual compliance reporting.</p>										
Biological Resources	BIO-23	Mohave Ground Squirrel Avoidance and Minimization Measures. The Designated Biologist and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall conduct pre-construction surveys for Mohave ground squirrel prior to the start of any site mobilization or other ground-disturbing activities, if those activities begin after or concurrently with the 2026 survey season for Mohave ground squirrel. Surveys shall be conducted by qualified biologists approved by the CPM, in coordination	The project owner shall submit survey protocols no less than 45 days prior to conducting the surveys and/or site mobilization whichever comes first to the CPM for review and approval and CDFW for review and comment. The project owner shall submit the pre-construction survey reports to the CPM and CDFW no more than 21 days after the survey effort has been completed.	<p>a) Mohave Ground Squirrel Survey protocols</p> <p>b) Mohave Ground Squirrel pre-construction surveys (please note that late season 2025 surveys have been completed)</p> <p>c) Mohave Ground Squirrel Pre-construction survey reports</p>	Pre-construction	a) 45 days prior to conducting the surveys and/or site mobilization whichever comes first b) Prior to the start of any site mobilization or other	WSP	a: Complete (3/10/2026) b: Not Started c: Not Strated	a: 3/10/2026 b: 3/20/2026 c: 4/17/2026			

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		<p>with CDFW, pursuant to BIO-1 and/or BIO-3. These measures shall be included in the BRMIMP and implemented.</p> <p>1. Pre-Construction Surveys. To confirm non-occupancy status of the project site, the Designated Biologist(s) and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall conduct camera or live trapping prior to site mobilization, including any ground-disturbing or vegetation removal activities that will occur in suitable habitat. Surveys shall follow protocols approved by the CPM in coordination with CDFW. The Designated Biologist and/or Biological Monitor(s) shall conduct trapping for the Willow Rock site, P1 north and south, P2 and the VH property or a representative site mutually agreed upon by the CPM, in coordination with the CDFW. Surveys shall encompass work areas and a 50-foot buffer, unless approved by the CPM. Any observations shall be recorded using a precision GPS unit and included on maps submitted to the CPM.</p> <p>2. No Detection. If surveys are negative, the site will be considered not occupied and construction may proceed upon approval by the CPM. No additional surveys would be required for the duration of construction unless a period of one year or more passes prior to any ground-disturbing activities. Additional follow-up surveys shall be required if periods of construction inactivity exceeds more than one year in any given area.</p> <p>3. If Detected. If Mohave ground squirrels are detected a 300-foot non-disturbance buffer shall be established around the detection site where no construction activities may occur. This non-disturbance buffer shall remain in place until the CPM and CDFW have been consulted and have provided direction on appropriate next steps.</p> <p>4. Notification of Detection. The project owner or Designated Biologist shall notify the CPM and CDFW within 24 hours of any Mohave ground squirrel detected during the surveys. The report shall include the number of animals detected, photographs (if available), and the location of the detection. Upon receiving notification, the CPM and CDFW will provide guidance for further action as appropriate to the species.</p>				ground disturbing activities, if those activities begin after or concurrently with the 2026 survey season for Mohave ground squirrel c) Within 21 days of survey effort completion						

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		<p>5. Supplemental Mitigation for Mohave Ground Squirrel. If Mohave ground squirrels are detected and an incidental take authorization is necessary and if the issuance of take authorization will not jeopardize the species persistence in the region, standard Mohave Ground Squirrel incidental take permit conditions to minimize and fully mitigate impacts shall be required as approved by the CPM after consultation with CDFW. These standard measures, as refined by the CPM based on the facts of the situation, may include:</p> <p>(1) Acquisition of permanent habitat compensation lands, calculated on the importance of the habitat in the project area and standard CDFW protocols;</p> <p>(2) Burrow excavation and avoidance measures;</p> <p>(3) Establishment of avoidance zones;</p> <p>(4) Worker environmental awareness training;</p> <p>(5) Monthly Compliance Reports; and</p> <p>(6) Any other measures as determined by the CPM in consultation with CDFW.</p> <p>6. Reporting. A report documenting survey results, including surveyor name(s), date(s) of survey, location (with maps), weather conditions, and any observations or detections of Mohave ground squirrels shall be prepared and submitted to the CPM and CDFW. In addition, a monitoring report that includes the location, description, and duration of the activities, any observations or detections of the species found during the surveys or project activities shall be provided during monthly and annual compliance reporting.</p>										
Biological Resources	BIO-24	<p>Lake and Streambed Equivalency Conditions. The project owner shall implement the following measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate for potential direct and indirect impacts to jurisdictional waters of the state and to satisfy the requirements of California Fish and Game Code, sections 1600 through 1607:</p> <p>1. Copies of Requirements, Stop Work Authority: The project owner shall provide a copy of the Streambed Impact Minimization and Compensation Measures identified in this Condition of Certification and any other water related permit conditions to all contractors, subcontractors, and the project owner's project</p>	The project owner shall provide the updated Jurisdictional Report that clearly delineates all proposed permanent and temporary impacts, the proposed engineering drawings for each crossing type, and the hydrologic studies used to inform the engineering design to the CPM for review and approval no less than 45 days prior to site mobilization. The project owner shall provide Final Reports and Plans to the CPM and the CDFW no later than 14 days prior to the installation of any engineered crossing, bridge, or new culvert.	<p>a) Updated Jurisdictional Waters Report</p> <p>b) Maps of all proposed temporary and permanent work areas shall be provided to the CPM</p>	Pre-construction & Construction	<p>a) 45 days prior to the installation of any engineered crossing, bridge or new culverts</p> <p>b) No less than 30 days prior to site mobilization</p>	WSP & Hatch	<p>a: In Progress</p> <p>b: In Progress</p>	<p>a: 4/17/2026</p> <p>c: 5/1/2026</p>			

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		<p>supervisors. This includes copies of the Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) required by WATER-1. Copies shall be maintained at each work site and be readily available during periods of active work and must be presented to any the CPM or CDFW upon demand. The CPM reserves the right to issue a stop work order after giving notice to the project owner, if the CPM, in consultation with CDFW, determines that the project owner is not in compliance with any of the requirements of this condition, including but not limited to the existence of any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The information provided by the project owner regarding streambed alteration is incomplete or inaccurate; b. New information becomes available that was not known to the CPM or the CDFW at the time of project certification; or c. The project or project activities as approved in the Final Commission Decision have changed. <p>2. Provide Maps of Proposed Disturbance Areas. The project owner shall provide detailed maps of all proposed temporary work areas that have the potential to result in temporary or permanent impacts to any jurisdictional feature. This includes providing maps of work areas around each of the generation tie-line poles, staging areas, pull and tensioning sites, or other work areas. Maps, at an approved scale of all proposed temporary and permanent work areas shall be provided to the CPM and CDFW prior to any site mobilization. At the conclusion of construction, the project owner shall provide a true-up of any jurisdictional features that were subject to temporary or permanent impacts.</p> <p>3. General Species Protection Measures. Species specific protection measures including surveys and monitoring are included in separate Conditions of Certification. General protective conditions applicable to all species are identified below.</p> <p>4. Best Management Practices: The project owner shall comply with the following conditions to protect drainages near the project disturbance area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. No In-Water Work. The project owner shall not operate vehicles or equipment in ponded or flowing water 	<p>Maps of all proposed temporary and permanent work areas shall be provided to the CPM no less than 30 days prior to any site mobilization. At the conclusion of construction, the project owner shall provide a true-up of any jurisdictional features that were subject to temporary or permanent impacts the CPM no more than 30 days following the cessation of construction along the generation tie- line in the Construction Termination Report.</p>									

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		<p>except as described in this condition.</p> <p>b. Stream Diversion. When work in a flowing stream is unavoidable, stream flow shall be diverted around or through the work area during construction operations. Any proposed Stream Diversion Plan shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval, and the CDFW for review and comment.</p> <p>c. Diversion Method. Stream flow shall be diverted using gravity flow through temporary culverts/pipes or pumped around the work site with the use of hoses. Any alternative methods shall be included in the Stream Diversion Plan submitted to the CPM under Item 5b.</p> <p>d. Work in Dry Weather. The National Weather Service 72-hr forecast for the project area shall be monitored prior to work proposed in or near drainages. Project activities within drainages shall be restricted if the forecast predicts a 60% chance or more of a greater than ¼-inch of precipitation event within a 24-hour period, unless otherwise approved by the CPM, in coordination with CDFW. Ground-disturbing project activities in drainages shall cease during these events and resume only if the site is not saturated or does not contain ponded or flowing water.</p> <p>e. Moving Equipment. When any activity requires moving of equipment across a flowing drainage, such operations shall be conducted without substantially increasing stream turbidity. Vehicles driven across drainages when water is present shall be completely clean of petroleum residue and water levels shall be below the vehicles' axels.</p> <p>f. Materials. Rock, gravel, and/or other materials shall not be taken from the bed, channel, or bank of any river, lake, or stream.</p> <p>g. Temporary Fill. All temporary fills shall be constructed of pre-approved, non-erodible materials and fill areas shall have a liner between the bottom of the fill and the river, lake, or stream sediments. Following completion of project activities, all temporary fill material shall be removed and the disturbed portions of the bed, channel, and bank shall be returned to previous contours. Minor amounts of fill material that have sunk into the sediment below the natural channel bottom may remain, but only if there is</p>										

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		<p>no accretion in bed or channel elevation above the original contour.</p> <p>h. Bank Stabilization. Suitable, non-erodible materials that will withstand wash out shall be used for bank stabilization. Only clean material such as rock riprap free of trash, debris and deleterious material shall be used as bank stabilization, and placement shall extend above the normal high-water mark. Asphalt and broken concrete are not acceptable materials.</p> <p>i. Operating Equipment and Vehicle Leaks. Any equipment or vehicles driven and/or operated within or adjacent to any lake or stream shall be checked and maintained daily to prevent leaks of materials that could be deleterious to aquatic and terrestrial life or riparian habitat.</p> <p>j. Clean Equipment Prior to Entering Stream. All heavy equipment that will be entering the live stream shall be cleaned of materials deleterious to aquatic life including oil, grease, hydraulic fluid, soil and other debris prior to entering the water.</p> <p>k. Stationary Equipment Leaks. Stationary equipment such as motors, pumps, generators, and welders, within or adjacent to any lake or stream shall be positioned over drip pans. Stationary heavy equipment shall have suitable containment to handle a catastrophic spill/leak.</p> <p>l. Equipment Maintenance and Fueling. No equipment maintenance or fueling shall be done within or within 50 ft of any stream channel or lake margin where petroleum products or other pollutants from the equipment may enter these areas.</p> <p>m. Equipment Storage. Staging and storage areas for equipment, materials, fuels, lubricants and solvents, shall be located outside of a stream channel and banks and contained in a leakproof berm or other secondary containment.</p> <p>n. Staging and Storage Areas. Staging and storage areas for equipment, materials, fuels, lubricants, and solvents shall be located more than fifty (50) feet from a stream channel and banks. All equipment and fuel stored on site shall be bermed to contain any spilled material and shall be protected from rain. Berms shall consist of plastic covered dirt or sandbags.</p> <p>o. Stockpiled Materials. Building</p>										

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		<p>materials and/or construction equipment shall not be stockpiled or stored where they may be washed into the water or cover aquatic or riparian vegetation. Stockpiles shall be covered when measurable rain is forecasted.</p> <p>p. Excavation Equipment. Prior to working within a stream, all equipment shall be closely examined for oil and fuel discharges. Any contaminants shall be cleaned prior to any work within a streambed and shall be maintained daily.</p> <p>q. Remove Structures. Project-related structures and associated materials not designed to withstand high water flows or placed in seasonally dry portions of a stream or lake that could be washed downstream or could be deleterious to aquatic life, wildlife, or riparian habitat shall be moved to areas above high water before such flows occur.</p> <p>r. Location of Spoil Sites. Spoil sites shall not be within a lake or stream or locations that may be subjected to high storm flows, where spoils may be washed back into a lake or stream, or where it may impact streambed habitat, aquatic or riparian vegetation.</p> <p>s. Removal of Debris, Materials and Rubbish. All project generated debris, building materials and rubbish shall be removed and properly disposed of in a legal manner, from a stream and from areas within twenty-five (25) feet of the high-water mark where such materials could be washed into a stream following completion of project activities.</p> <p>t. Wash Water. Water containing mud, silt, or other pollutants from equipment washing or other activities, shall not be allowed to enter a lake or flowing stream or placed in locations that may be subjected to high storm flows.</p> <p>5. Hazardous Materials and Concrete</p> <p>a. Hazardous Substances. Raw cement/concrete or washings thereof, asphalt, paint or other coating material, oil or other petroleum products, or any other substances which could be hazardous to aquatic life, resulting from project-related activities, shall be prevented from contaminating the soil and/or entering the waters of the state.</p> <p>b. Toxic Materials. Any hazardous or toxic materials that could be deleterious to aquatic life that could be</p>										

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		<p>washed into a stream, or its tributaries shall be contained in watertight containers or removed from the project site.</p> <p>c. Hazardous Materials. Debris, soil, silt, bark, slash, sawdust, rubbish, creosote-treated wood, raw cement/concrete or washings thereof, asphalt, paint or other coating material, oil or other petroleum products, or any other substances which could be hazardous to aquatic life, wildlife, or riparian habitat resulting from the project-related activities shall be prevented from contaminating the soil and/or entering the waters of the state.</p> <p>d. Sacked Concrete. The use of sacked concrete, asphalt pieces or asphalt containing pavement grindings within twenty (20) feet of the top-of-bank of a stream /outside of the ordinary high-water mark is prohibited, or where it may enter the channel.</p> <p>e. Concrete – Primary Containment. Wet concrete shall be contained and prevented from entering any lake or stream unless as authorized by this Condition of Certification. No concrete shall be poured within the high flow line if the 10-day weather forecast indicates any chance of rain above ¼” in a 24-hour period, unless approved by the CPM, in coordination with CDFW.</p> <p>f. Concrete – Biological Monitor. At all times when pouring or working with wet concrete a Designated Biologist and/or Biological Monitor shall be present to inspect containment structures and ensure that no concrete or other debris enters into a lake or stream outside of those structures.</p> <p>g. Concrete – Secondary Containment. Secondary containment shall be installed between the primary containment structures (i.e. headwall form, roadway forms) and the lake or stream to prevent wet concrete from entering into the lake or stream upon failure or leak of primary structures. No concrete shall be poured within the high flow line if the 10-day weather forecast indicates any chance of rain above ¼” in a 24-hour period, unless approved by the CPM, in coordination with CDFW.</p> <p>h. Creosote-Treated Wood. Creosote-treated wood products for decking shall not be used in waters of the state. Alternatives that may be</p>											

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		<p>appropriate include steel, concrete, plastic, or wood products treated with preservatives that do not contain creosote or other materials that are deleterious to aquatic life.</p> <p>i. Spill Containment. All activities performed in or near a stream shall have absorbent materials designated for spill containment and cleanup activities on-site for use in an accidental spill. In the event of a spill the project owner shall immediately notify the CPM, CDFW, Lahontan RWQCB, and the California Emergency Management Agency at 1-800-852-7550, or most current phone number, and immediately initiate the cleanup activities.</p> <p>6. Crossings. The installation of bridges, culverts, or other structures shall be such that water flow (velocity and low flow channel width) is not impaired. Bottoms of temporary culverts shall be placed at or below stream channel grade.</p> <p>a. Sized to Accommodate Storm Flows. If proposed, all crossing sites shall be designed to accommodate the estimated 100-year flow including sediment load and debris without diverting and shall be installed in accordance with design plans and diagrams provided to the CPM for review and approval. Culvert sizing factors shall include culvert capacity loss from placement of the culvert pipe bottom below stream bed grade, transportation of bed load, and the abundance and size of woody debris likely to be introduced to a stream upstream of the culvert crossing, in addition to the 100-year flow.</p> <p>b. Alignment. If used, all crossing structures shall be properly aligned within a stream and shall be otherwise designed and sized to assure resistance to washout and erosion of a streambed, stream banks, and/or fill.</p> <p>c. Allow Passage of Wildlife. Installation of bridges, culverts or other structures shall be such that water flow during storm events is not impaired and upstream or downstream passage of wildlife is assured at all times. Ensure that any debris is cleared if the structure is in place.</p> <p>d. Single Pipes Only. Multiple-pipe crossings shall not be constructed or reconstructed within the bank full channel, unless approved by the CPM in coordination with the CDFW.</p>										

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		<p>Completed culvert pipe installations shall result in water flow during rainfall events that is neither impeded nor impounded at the pipe inlet, nor accelerated downstream of the crossing structure.</p> <p>7. Vegetation</p> <p>a. Demarcation of Work Areas. All work areas shall be adequately marked to prohibit unauthorized and unnecessary disturbance to vegetation. All areas shall be mapped and identified on plans for all project personnel.</p> <p>b. Vegetation Disposal. All native vegetation not proposed for salvage (i.e., cuttings) shall be chipped and left on-site in a manner optimizing erosion control purposes in accordance with the recommendations of an erosion control specialist. All non-native vegetation shall be removed and disposed of at an approved disposal location according to state and local laws and ordinances.</p> <p>c. Hand tools Near Mature Trees. Wherever possible, hand tools shall be used (i.e. chainsaws, clippers, brush whackers, etc.) to remove vegetation near mature native trees as to not damage trees or disturb the substrate.</p> <p>d. Remove Debris from Stream Zones. All removed vegetation and debris shall be moved outside the normal high-water mark prior to inundation by water. All removed vegetation and debris shall be disposed of according to state and local laws and ordinances.</p> <p>e. Minimum Removal. Disturbance or removal of vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete operations. The disturbed portions of any stream channel or lake margin within the high-water mark of a stream or lake shall be restored to as near their original condition as possible.</p> <p>f. Stabilize Exposed Areas. All exposed/disturbed areas within the project site shall be stabilized to the greatest extent possible.</p> <p>8. Herbicide Use</p> <p>a. Herbicide/Pesticide Use Permitted in Accordance with Law. All herbicide use conditions for mixing, application and clean-up shall conform to all applicable federal, state, and local regulations. Nothing in this condition represents an herbicide/pesticide use recommendation that allows for an</p>										

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		<p>action that conflicts with herbicide/pesticide use regulations.</p> <p>b. Licensed Applicators Only. Any application of herbicide shall be overseen by a licensed applicator in accordance with all applicable, federal, state, local laws, and/or guidelines.</p> <p>c. Prevent Overspray of Herbicides/Pesticide. Conduct all treatment activities in a manner to minimize overspray of herbicide on to adjacent native vegetation and where there is no potential of contamination to a river, stream or waters of the state.</p> <p>d. Herbicide/Pesticide Mixing. Ensure that herbicide-mixing sites are located in areas devoid of vegetation, and where there is no potential of a spill reaching a vegetated area or a river, stream or waters of the state.</p> <p>e. Avoid Treatment in Sensitive Areas. Areas identified as sensitive by the Designated Biologist or with suspected occupied nesting or denning habitats shall not be treated with pesticides or herbicides. Environmental damage caused by the application or use of substances that prove harmful to fish and aquatic wildlife per Fish and Game Code, section 5650 shall not occur.</p> <p>9. Invasive Species Control and Special Status Species Protection Measures have been included in separate Conditions of Certification, see BIO-10 (Invasive Species Management Plan) and BIO-7 (General Impact Avoidance and Minimization Measures).</p> <p>10. Mitigation for Permanent and Temporary Impacts to Jurisdictional Features</p> <p>a. Acquire Off-Site Jurisdictional Features. There are no permanent impacts to jurisdictional features and no off-site mitigation is proposed. However, if there are unanticipated temporary or permanent impacts to jurisdictional features the project owner shall provide verification to the CPM that the lands acquired under BIO-14 support a minimum of 3:1 ratio for any permanent impacts and 1:1 for temporary impacts to jurisdictional features.</p>										
Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources	CUL/TRI-1	APPOINTMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS OF CULTURAL RESOURCES PERSONNEL CULTURAL RESOURCE	To meet all time requirements set forth in the Conditions of Certification, the project owner shall submit the prospective	a) Submit the prospective CRS's and any Alternate CRS's qualifications	Pre-construction	45 days prior to the start of ground disturbance	WSP a, c-e Hydrostor for b	a: Complete(2/27/2026)	a: 2/27/2026 b: 2/27/2026 d: 4/17/2026 e: 2/27/2026			

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		<p>SPECIALIST The project owner shall assign a Cultural Resource Specialist (CRS) to the project. The project owner may elect to assign one or more alternate CRSs as well. The project owner shall submit the resumes of the proposed CRS and Alternative CRS(s), with at least three references and their contact information, to the CEC's Compliance Project Manager (CPM) for review and approval. The CRS and Alternate CRS(s) shall have training and background that conform to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards, as published in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, part 61. In addition, the CRS and Alternate CRS(s) shall have the following qualifications:</p> <p>A background in anthropology, archaeology, history, architectural history, or a related field, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 10 years of archaeological or historical experience (as appropriate for the project site), with resources mitigation and fieldwork; • At least three years of field experience in California; and • At least three years of experience in a decision-making capacity on cultural resources projects in California and the appropriate training and experience to knowledgably make recommendations regarding the significance of cultural resources. <p>The project owner may replace the CRS by submitting the required resume, references and contact information of the proposed replacement CRS to the CPM. The CRS shall manage all cultural resource monitoring, mitigation, curation, and reporting activities, and any pre-construction cultural resource activities, unless management of these is otherwise provided for in accordance with the Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources Conditions of Certification. The CRS shall serve as the primary point of contact on all cultural resource matters for the CEC. The CRS shall retain Native American Monitors and may elect to obtain the services of Cultural Resource Monitors (CRMs) and other technical specialists, if needed, to assist in monitoring, mitigation, and curation activities. The project owner shall ensure that the CRS makes</p>	<p>CRS's and any Alternate CRS's qualifications at least 45 days prior to the start of ground disturbance associated with site mobilization and construction. The project owner may replace a CRS by submitting the required resume, references and contact information to the CPM at least 10 working days prior to the termination or release of the then-current CRS. In an emergency, the project owner shall immediately notify the CPM to discuss the qualifications and approval of a short-term replacement while a permanent CRS is proposed to the CPM for consideration. At least 20 days prior to site mobilization, the CRS shall provide proof of qualifications for any anticipated CRMs and additional specialists for the project to the CPM. Within 15 days of receiving from a California Native American tribe a request that Native American Monitors be employed, the project owner shall submit a copy of the request and a copy of a response letter to the group notifying them that Native American Monitors have been employed and identifying the Native American Monitors. If efforts to obtain the services of qualified Native American Monitors are unsuccessful, the project owner shall inform the CPM of this situation in writing at least 30 days prior to the beginning of post-certification cultural resources field work or construction-related ground disturbance. At least 5 days prior to additional CRMs or Native American Monitors beginning on-site duties during the project, the CRS shall review the qualifications of the proposed CRMs or Native American Monitors and send approval letters to the CPM, identifying the monitors and attesting to their qualifications. At least 10 days prior to any technical specialists beginning tasks, the resume(s) of the specialists shall be provided to the CPM for review and approval.</p>	<p>b) The project owner shall confirm in writing to the CPM that the approved CRS will be available for onsite work and is prepared to implement the cultural resources conditions. c) If efforts to obtain the services of qualified Native American Monitors are unsuccessful, the project owner shall inform the CPM of this situation in writing d) The CRS shall review the qualifications of the proposed CRMs or Native American Monitors and send approval letters to the CPM, identifying the monitors and attesting to their qualifications. e) The resume(s) of technical specialists shall be provided to the CPM for review and approval</p>		associated with site mobilization and construction.		<p>b: Complete (2/27/2026) c: No Action Needed Unless Event Occurs d: In progress e: Complete</p>				

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		<p>recommendations regarding the CEQA significance of any cultural or tribal cultural resources that are newly discovered or that may be affected in an unanticipated manner. After all ground disturbances are completed and the CRS has fulfilled all responsibilities specified in these Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources Conditions of Certification, the project owner may discharge the CRS, after receiving approval from the CPM.</p> <p>CULTURAL RESOURCE MONITORS The CRS may assign CRMs. CRMs shall have the following qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. or B.A. degree in anthropology, archaeology, historical archaeology, or a related field; and three years of archaeological field experience in California; or • A.S. or A.A. degree in anthropology, archaeology, historical archaeology, or a related field, and three years of archaeological field experience in California; or • Enrollment in upper division classes pursuing a degree in the fields of anthropology, archaeology, historical archaeology, or a related field, and three years of archaeological field experience in California. <p>NATIVE AMERICAN MONITORS Preference in selecting Native American Monitors shall be given to members or representatives of the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation, Tejon Indian Tribe, and Kern Valley Indian Community. Monitors should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional ties to the area being monitored • Knowledge of local Native American village sites and habitation patterns • Knowledge and understanding of Health and Safety Code, section 7050.5 and Public Resources Code, section 5097.9 et seq. • Ability to effectively communicate the requirements of Health and Safety Code, section 7050.5 and Public Resources Code, section 5097.9 et seq. • Ability to work with law enforcement officials and the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to ensure the return of all associated grave goods taken from a Native American grave during excavation • Ability to travel to project sites within traditional tribal territory • Knowledge and understanding of 	<p>At least 10 days prior to the start of construction-related ground disturbance, the project owner shall confirm in writing to the CPM that the approved CRS will be available for onsite work and is prepared to implement the cultural resources conditions.</p> <p>No ground disturbances shall occur prior to CPM approval of the CRS and alternates unless such activities are specifically approved by the CPM.</p>									

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		<p>Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15064.5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to advocate for the preservation in place of Native American cultural features through knowledge and understanding California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) mitigation provisions • Ability to read a topographical map and be able to locate site and reburial locations for future inclusion in the NAHC's Sacred Lands Inventory • Knowledge and understanding of archaeological practices, including the phases of archaeological investigation <p>CULTURAL RESOURCE TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS The resume(s) of any additional technical specialist(s) (e.g., geoarchaeologist, historical archaeologist, historian, architectural historian, or physical anthropologist), shall be submitted to the CPM for approval. The resume of each proposed specialist shall demonstrate that their training and background meet the U.S. Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for their specialty (if appropriate), as published in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 61. The resumes of specialists shall include the names and telephone numbers of contacts familiar with the work of these persons on projects referenced in the resumes and demonstrate to the satisfaction of the CPM that these persons have the appropriate training and experience to undertake the required research. All specialists are under the supervision of the CRS.</p>										
Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources	CUL/TRI-2	<p>INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO THE CRS</p> <p>Prior to the start of ground disturbance, the project owner shall provide the CRS with copies of the application for certification (AFC), data responses, confidential cultural resources reports, all supplements, the cultural and tribal cultural resources section from the CEC's Final Staff Assessment (FSA), and the Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources Conditions of Certification from the CEC's Final Decision for the project, if the CRS does not already possess copies of these materials. The project owner shall also provide the CRS and the CPM with maps and drawings showing the footprints of the power plant, all linear facility routes, all</p>	<p>At least 15 days prior to the start of ground disturbance, the project owner shall provide the CPM notice that the AFC, data responses, confidential cultural resources documents, all supplements, FSA, and Final CEC Decision have been provided to the CRS, if needed, and the subject maps and drawings to the CRS and CPM. The CPM will review submittals in consultation with the CRS and approve maps and drawings suitable for cultural resources planning activities.</p> <p>At least 15 days prior to the start of ground disturbance, if there are changes to any project-related footprint, the project owner shall</p>	<p>a) Provide to the CPM notice that the AFC, data responses, confidential cultural resources documents, all supplements, FSA, and Final Commission Decision have been provided to the CRS</p> <p>b) If there are changes to any project-related footprint, the project owner shall provide revised maps and drawings for the changes to the CRS and CPM.</p> <p>c) Weekly, during ground disturbance, a schedule of the next</p>	Pre-construction Construction	<p>a) At least 15 days prior to the start of ground disturbance</p> <p>b) At least 15 days prior to the start of ground disturbance</p> <p>c) Within 5 days of changing the scheduling of phases of a phased project</p>	WSP for a and c Hydrostor for b	<p>a: In Progress</p> <p>b: No Action Unless Event Occurs</p> <p>c: Not Started</p>	a: 5/15/2026			

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		<p>access roads, and all laydown areas. Maps shall include the appropriate United States Geological Survey quadrangles and a map at an appropriate scale (e.g., 1:24,000 and 1 inch = 200 feet, respectively) for plotting cultural features or materials. If the CRS requests enlargements or strip maps for linear facility routes, the project owner shall provide copies to the CRS and CPM. The CPM shall review map submittals and, in consultation with the CRS, approve those that are appropriate for use in cultural resources planning activities. No ground disturbance shall occur prior to CPM approval of maps and drawings unless such activities are specifically approved by the CPM. Maps shall include any cultural and tribal cultural resources, including any historic built environment resources, identified in the FSA's project area of analysis (PAA). If construction of the project would proceed in phases, maps and drawings not previously provided shall be provided to the CRS and CPM prior to the start of each phase. Written notice identifying the proposed schedule of each project phase shall be provided to the CRS and CPM.</p> <p>Weekly, until ground disturbance is completed, the project construction manager shall provide to the CRS and CPM a schedule of project activities for the following week, including the identification of area(s) where ground disturbance will occur during that week.</p> <p>The project owner shall notify the CRS and CPM of any changes to the scheduling of the construction phases. The project owner shall provide the documents described in the first paragraph of this condition to the new CRS if the approved CRS is terminated or resigns.</p>	<p>provide revised maps and drawings for the changes to the CRS and CPM. At least 15 days prior to the start of each phase of a phased project, the project owner shall submit the appropriate maps and drawings, if not previously provided, to the CRS and CPM. Weekly, during ground disturbance, a schedule of the next week's anticipated project activity shall be provided to the CRS and CPM by letter, e-mail, or fax. Within 5 days of changing the scheduling of phases of a phased project, the project owner shall provide written notice of the changes to the CRS and CPM. If a new CRS is approved by the CPM as provided for in CUL/TRI-1, the project owner shall provide the CPM notice that the AFC, data responses, confidential cultural resources documents, all supplements, FSA, Final Commission Decision, and maps and drawings have been provided to the new CRS within 10 days of such approval.</p>	<p>week's anticipated project activity shall be provided to the CRS and CPM by letter, e-mail, or fax</p>								
Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources	CUL/TRI-3	<p>CULTURAL AND TRIBAL RESOURCES MITIGATION AND MONITORING PLAN (CTRMMP) Prior to the start of ground disturbance, the project owner shall submit the CTRMMP, as prepared by or under the direction of the CRS in coordination with the appropriate cultural resources representative(s) for the consulting tribes (Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation, Tejon Indian Tribe, and Kern Valley Indian Community) choosing to participate in</p>	<p>Upon approval of the CRS proposed by the project owner, the CPM will provide to the project owner an electronic copy of the draft model CTRMMP for the CRS. At least 30 days prior to the start of ground disturbance, the project owner shall submit the CTRMMP to the CPM for review and approval. At least 30 days prior to the start of ground disturbance, in a letter</p>	<p>a) Submit the CTRMMP to the CPM for review and approval, including the agreement to pay curation fees for any materials generated or collected during archaeological investigations b) Provide to the CPM a written commitment from, a curation facility</p>	Pre-construction	<p>a) At least 30 days prior to the start of ground disturbance b) Within 90 days after completion of ground disturbance (including landscaping)</p>	WSP	<p>a: In Progress b: Complete c: Not Started</p>	<p>a: 5/1/2026 b: 2/27/2026 c: TBD</p>			

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		<p>the development of the CTRMMP, to the CPM. Along with the draft CTRMMP and letters or statements of support of the CTRMMP from the consulting tribes, the applicant shall submit documentation demonstrating the project owner's efforts to develop the CTRMMP in coordination with the consulting tribes, describing efforts to engage the consulting tribes, and identifying the consulting tribes who collaborated with the project owner in the development of the CTRMMP. The project owner shall afford the consulting tribes the opportunity to provide letters or statements of support for the CTRMMP to accompany the project owner's submittal of the CTRMMP to the CPM for review and approval. Ground disturbance may be initiated only after approval of the CTRMMP by the CPM. The CTRMMP shall follow the content and organization of the draft model CTRMMP, provided by the CPM, and the authors' name(s) shall appear on the title page of the CTRMMP. The CTRMMP shall identify measures to minimize potential impacts on cultural and tribal cultural resources. Implementation of the CTRMMP shall be the responsibility of the CRS and the project owner. Copies of the CTRMMP shall reside with the CRS, alternate CRS, each CRM, and the project owner's on-site construction manager. No ground disturbance shall occur prior to CPM approval of the CTRMMP, unless such activities are specifically approved by the CPM. Portions of the CTRMMP that describe or map the location(s) of cultural and tribal cultural resources shall be designated as confidential. The CTRMMP shall include the following elements and measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following statement included in the Introduction: "Any discussion, summary, or paraphrasing of the Conditions of Certification in this CTRMMP is intended as general guidance and as an aid to the user in understanding the Conditions of Certification and their implementation. The Conditions of Certification, as written in the CEC Decision, shall supersede any summarization, description, or interpretation of the conditions in the CTRMMP. The Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources Conditions of Certification from the 	<p>to the CPM, the project owner shall agree to pay curation fees for any materials generated or collected during archaeological investigations (survey, testing, data recovery). Within 90 days after completion of ground disturbance (including landscaping), if archaeological materials requiring curation were generated or collected, the project owner shall provide to the CPM a copy of an agreement with, or other written commitment from, a curation facility that meets the standards stated in the SHRC's Guidelines for the Curation of Archaeological Collections (1993, or future updated guidelines from SHRC), to accept the archaeological materials from this project. This agreement shall stipulate the payment of fees necessary for permanent curation of the collections and associated records and the obligation of the project owner to pay for those fees. Any agreement concerning curation will be retained and available for audit for the life of the project.</p>	that meets the standards stated in the SHRC's Guidelines for the Curation of Archaeological Collections								

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		<p>CEC Decision are contained in Appendix A.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proposed general research design that includes a discussion of cultural research questions and testable hypotheses specifically applicable to the project area, and a discussion of artifact collection, retention/disposal, and curation policies as related to the research questions formulated in the research design. The research design will specify that the preferred treatment strategy for any cultural or tribal cultural resource is avoidance. A specific mitigation plan shall be prepared for any unavoidable impacts to any historical resources, unique archaeological resources, or tribal cultural resources (as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act and determined by the CPM). Specific mitigation plans will be required for known historical resources within the Willow Rock facility and preferred gentle route (avoidance, capping, or archaeological data recovery), namely, WRESC-ZEV-MULTI-SITE-1, WRESC-ZEV-PRE-SITE-2, WRESC-ZEV-PRE-SITE-3, WRESC-P1-PRESITE-1, WRESC-PREF-HIST-SITE-3, P-15-007591, and P-15-014902. A prescriptive treatment plan may be included in the CTRMMP for limited data types. Specification of the implementation sequence and the estimated time frames needed to accomplish all project-related tasks during the ground-disturbance and post-ground-disturbance analysis phases of the project. • Identification of the person(s) expected to perform each of the tasks, their responsibilities, and the reporting relationships between project construction management and the mitigation and monitoring team. • A description of how Native American observers or monitors will be included, the procedures to be used for selecting them, and their roles and responsibilities (including monitoring of archaeological work). • A statement regarding the disposition of artifacts that includes the identification of potential on-site reburial location(s) for Native American archaeological materials collected because of project activities. Reburial shall not occur until all ground-disturbing activities associated with the project have been completed, 										

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		<p>all monitoring has ceased, cataloguing and recording of cultural resources have been completed, and final reports issued to the CPM, the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), and consulting tribes. All Native American archaeological materials not subject to the provisions of Public Resources Code, sections 5097.98 et seq. are subject to a reburial agreement that shall be developed between the project owner and the consulting tribes. The reburial agreement shall be appended to the CTRMMP and outline the determined reburial process and location(s) and include provisions to protect the reburial area(s) from future impacts and to provide access to culturally affiliated California Native American descendants. The CTRMMP shall also include provisions to accommodate culturally appropriate treatment of Native American human remains and associated items that could be preferred by a designated most likely descendent, should Native American human remains be encountered. A description of all impact-avoidance measures (such as flagging or fencing) to prohibit or otherwise restrict access to cultural or tribal cultural resources that are to be avoided during ground disturbance, construction, and/or operation, and identification of areas where these measures are to be implemented. The description shall address how these measures would be implemented prior to the start of ground disturbance and how long they would be needed to protect the resources from project-related effects. A statement that all encountered cultural and tribal cultural resources over 50 years old shall be recorded on Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms and mapped and photographed. In addition, all archaeological materials retained during archaeological investigations (survey, testing, data recovery) shall be curated in accordance with the California State Historical Resources Commission's (SHRC's) Guidelines for the Curation of Archaeological Collections (1993, or future updated guidelines from the SHRC), into a retrievable storage collection in a public repository or museum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A statement that all cultural and tribal 										

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		<p>cultural resources encountered will be subject to the protocols detailed within the CTRMMP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A statement that the removal of any Native American cultural materials shall be conducted in the presence of a tribal monitor representing the consulting tribes unless otherwise decided by cultural resources representatives of the consulting tribes, and all removed materials shall be temporarily curated on-site. • A statement that the project owner will pay all curation fees for recovered artifacts and for related documentation produced during cultural and tribal cultural resource investigations conducted for the project. The project owner shall identify three facilities that meet American Association of Museums (AAM)-accreditation that can accept archaeological materials resulting from project activities into their permanent collections and provide for the proper care of these objects in accordance with the SHRC's Guidelines for the Curation of Archaeological Collections (1993, or future updated guidelines from the SHRC). The project owner shall coordinate with the consulting tribes to identify at least one facility located within Kern County willing to curate Native American archaeological materials in their permanent collections. Should it occur that avoidance, preservation in place, and on-site reburial are not an option for the treatment and disposition of Native American archaeological material, the project owner shall release control of those items to the identified facility. • A statement demonstrating when and how the project owner will comply with Health and Human Safety Code, section 7050.5(b), and Public Resources Code, section 5097.98(b) and (e), including the statement that the project owner will notify the CPM and the NAHC of the discovery of human remains. • A statement that the CRS has access to equipment and supplies necessary for site mapping, photography, and recovery of any archaeological materials that are encountered during ground disturbance and cannot be treated prescriptively. • A description of the contents, format, and review and approval process of 										

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		the final Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources Report (CTCRR), which shall be prepared according to Archaeological Resource Management Report (ARMR) guidelines.										
Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources	CUL/TRI-4	<p>CULTURAL RESOURCES WORKER ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS PROGRAM (WEAP) Prior to and for the duration of ground disturbance, the project owner shall provide WEAP training to all new workers within their first week of employment at the project site, along the linear facilities routes, and at laydown areas, roads, and other ancillary areas. The cultural and tribal cultural resources part of this training shall be prepared by the CRS, and shall be conducted by the CRS or an Alternative CRS. WEAP training may be presented in-person, in the form of a video, or as a mix of the two formats. The CRS and/or Alternative CRS shall collaborate with the consulting tribes in preparing and presenting the training. During the training and during construction, the CRS shall be available (by telephone or in person) to answer questions posed by employees. The training may be discontinued when ground disturbance is completed or suspended, but must be resumed when ground disturbance, such as landscaping, resumes. The training shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A discussion of the cultural sensitivity of the project area; • A discussion of applicable laws and penalties under law; • Samples or visuals of artifacts that might be found in the project vicinity; • A discussion of what such artifacts may look like when partially buried, or wholly buried and then freshly exposed; • A discussion of what prehistoric and historical archaeological deposits look like at the surface and when exposed during construction, and the range of variation in the appearance of such deposits; • Instruction that the CRS, Alternate CRS, and CRMs have the authority to halt ground disturbance around a discovery to an extent sufficient to ensure that the resource is protected from further impacts, as determined by the CRS; • Instruction that employees, if the 	<p>At least 30 days prior to the beginning of ground disturbance, the CRS shall provide the draft text and/or training video for the cultural and tribal cultural resources WEAP, including Native American participation, and graphics and the informational brochure to the CPM for review and approval. The CRS shall also identify who will be conducting the cultural and tribal cultural resources portion of the training.</p> <p>At least 15 days prior to the beginning of ground disturbance, the CPM will provide to the project owner a WEAP Training Acknowledgement form for each WEAP-trained worker to sign.</p> <p>At least 10 days prior to each WEAP training offered, the CRS shall inform the cultural resources representatives for the consulting tribes of the upcoming training and invite them to attend and/or participate should they elect to. Monthly, until ground disturbance is completed, the project owner shall provide in the Monthly Compliance Report (MCR) the WEAP Training Acknowledgement forms of workers who have completed the training in the prior month and a running total of all persons who have completed training to date.</p>	<p>a) CRS to provide Cultural and Tribal WEAP b) a WEAP Training Acknowledgement form for each WEAP-trained worker b) CRS shall inform the cultural resources representatives for the consulting tribes of the upcoming training and invite them to attend and/or participate should they elect to</p>	Pre-construction	<p>a) At least 30 days prior to the beginning of ground disturbance b) At least 15 days prior to the beginning of ground disturbance c) At least 10 days prior to each WEAP training offered</p>	WSP	<p>a: In Progress b: Not Started c: Not Started</p>	a: 5/1/2026			

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		<p>CRS, Alternate CRS, or CRMs are not present, are to halt work on their own in the vicinity of a potential cultural or tribal cultural resource discovery, and shall contact their supervisor and the CRS or CRM, and that redirection of work would be determined by the construction supervisor and the CRS;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An informational brochure that identifies reporting procedures in the event of a discovery; • An acknowledgement form signed by each worker indicating that they have received the training; and • A sticker that shall be placed on hard hats indicating that environmental training has been completed. <p>No ground disturbance shall occur prior to implementation of the WEAP program unless such activities are specifically approved by the CPM.</p>										
Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources	CUL/TRI-5	<p>UNDISCOVERED CULTURAL RESOURCES The project owner shall ensure that a CRS, alternate CRS, or CRM and Native American Monitor shall be present for any ground disturbance associated with construction of the project, including but not limited to tree/shrub removal and planting, clearing/grubbing, grading, excavation, trenching, compaction, fence/gate removal and installation, and hardscape installation. Prior to the start of ground disturbance, the project owner shall notify the CPM and all interested California Native American tribes of the date on which ground disturbance will begin. Where excavation equipment is actively removing dirt and hauling the excavated material farther than 50 feet from the location of active excavation, full-time archaeological monitoring shall require at least two monitors per excavation area. In this circumstance, one monitor shall observe the location of active excavation, and a second monitor shall inspect the dumped material. For excavation areas where the excavated material is dumped no farther than 50 feet from the location of active excavation, one monitor shall observe both the location of active excavation and inspect the dumped material. If the CRS believes that the required number of monitors is not appropriate in certain locations, a letter or e-mail</p>	<p>At least 30 days prior to the start of ground disturbance, the CPM will notify all Native Americans with whom the CEC communicated during the project review of the date on which the project's ground disturbance will begin.</p> <p>At least 30 days prior to the start of ground disturbance, the CPM will provide to the CRS an electronic copy of a form to be used as a daily monitoring log and information to be included in the cover sheet for the daily monitoring logs.</p> <p>While monitoring is on-going, the project owner shall submit each day's monitoring logs and cover sheet merged into one PDF document by email within 24 hours.</p> <p>The CRS and/or project owner shall notify the CPM of any incidents of non-compliance with the conditions and/or applicable LORS by telephone or email within 24 hours.</p> <p>The CRS shall provide daily maps of artifacts along with the daily monitoring logs if more than 10 artifacts are found per day, or as requested by the CPM.</p> <p>The CRS shall provide weekly maps of artifacts if there more than 50 artifacts are found per week, or as requested by the CPM. The map shall be submitted</p>	<p>a) Prior to the start of ground disturbance, the project owner shall notify the CPM and all interested California Native American tribes of the date on which ground disturbance will begin.</p> <p>b) notify the CPM and all interested California Native American tribes of the date on which ground disturbance will begin.</p> <p>c) Submit each day's monitoring logs</p> <p>d) Notify the CPM of any incidents of non-compliance</p> <p>e) Provide weekly maps of artifacts if there more than 50 artifacts are found per week</p> <p>f) Copies of any comments or information provided by California Native American tribes in response to the project owner's transmittals of information</p>	Pre-construction and Construction	<p>a) CoC doesn't specify the date.</p> <p>b) Within 24 hours</p> <p>c) Within 24 hours</p> <p>d) The map shall be submitted within two business days after the end of each week</p> <p>e) Within 15 days of receiving them</p>	WSP	Not Started	a: 5/29/2026			

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		<p>detailed the justification for changing the number of monitors shall be provided to the CPM for review and approval prior to any change in the number of monitors.</p> <p>The research design in the CTRMMP shall govern the collection, treatment, retention/disposal, curation, and reburial of any archaeological materials encountered. On forms provided by the CPM, monitors shall keep a daily log of any monitoring and other cultural and tribal cultural resource activities and any instances of non-compliance with the Conditions of Certification or applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS). The daily monitoring logs shall at a minimum include the following information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First and last name of the monitors • Time in and out • Weather. Specify if weather conditions led to work stoppages. • Work location (project component). Provide specifics (e.g., power block, landscaping). • Proximity to cultural or tribal cultural resource(s). Specify if work conducted within 1,000 feet of a known cultural resource. • Work type (machine) • Work crew (company, operator, and foreman) • Depth of excavation • Description of work • Stratigraphy • Artifacts, listed with the following identifying features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Field artifact #: When recording artifacts in the daily monitoring logs, the CRS shall institute a field numbering system to reduce the likelihood of repeat artifact numbers. A typical numbering system could include a project abbreviation, monitor's initials, and a set of numbers given to that monitor: e.g., WRESC-MB-123. o Description o Measurements o Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates o Whether artifacts are likely to be isolates or components of larger resources 	<p>within two business days after the end of each week.</p> <p>While monitoring is on-going, the project owner shall submit monthly MCRs and accompanying weekly summary reports. The project owner shall attach any new DPR 523A forms, under confidential cover, completed for finds treated prescriptively, as specified in the CTRMMP.</p> <p>Final updated DPR 523 forms with sites (where artifacts are collected month after month) can be submitted at the completion of monitoring, as agreed upon with the CPM.</p> <p>At least 24 hours prior to implementing a proposed change in monitoring level, the project owner shall submit to the CPM, for review and approval, a letter or e-mail (or some other form of communication acceptable to the CPM) detailing the CRS's justification for changing the monitoring level.</p> <p>Within 15 days of receiving them, the project owner shall submit to the CPM copies of any comments or information provided by California Native American tribes in response to the project owner's transmittals of information.</p>									

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Assessment of significance of any finds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions taken • Plan for the next workday <p>A cover sheet shall be submitted with each day's monitoring logs and shall at a minimum include the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Count and list of first and last names of all monitors for that day • General description (in paragraph form) of that day's overall monitoring efforts, including monitor names and locations • Any reasons for halting work that day • Count and list of all artifacts found that day: include artifact #, location (i.e., grading in Unit X), measurements, UTMs, and very brief description (i.e., historic can, granitic biface, quartzite flake) • Whether any artifacts were found out of context (i.e., in fill, caisson drilling, flood debris, spoils pile) <p>Copies of the daily monitoring logs and cover sheets shall be provided by email from the CRS to the CPM, as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each day's monitoring logs and cover sheet shall be merged into one PDF document • The PDF title and headings, and emails shall clearly indicate the date of the applicable monitoring logs • PDFs for any revised or resubmitted versions shall use the word "revised" in the title <p>Daily and/or weekly maps shall be submitted along with the monitoring logs as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CRS shall provide daily and/or weekly maps of artifacts at the request of the CPM. A map shall also be provided if artifact locations show complexity, high density, or other unique considerations. • Maps shall include labeled artifacts, project boundaries, previously recorded sites and isolates, aerial imagery background, and appropriate scales <p>From the daily monitoring logs, the CRS shall compile a monthly monitoring summary report to be included in the MCR. If there are no monitoring activities, the summary report shall specify why monitoring did not occur.</p>										

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		<p>The Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources section of the MCR shall be prepared in coordination with the CRS and shall include a monthly summary report of cultural and tribal cultural resources-related monitoring. The summary shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List the number of monitors daily, as well as provide monthly monitoring-day totals Give an overview of cultural and tribal cultural resource monitoring work for that month and discuss any issues that arose Describe fulfillment of requirements of each cultural and tribal cultural resource mitigation measure Summarize the confidential appendix to the MCR, without disclosing any specific confidential details Include the artifact concordance table (as discussed below), but with removal of UTM's <p>Each MCR, prepared under supervision of the CRS, shall be accompanied by a confidential appendix that contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed DPR 523A forms for all artifacts recorded or collected in that month. For any artifact without a corresponding DPR form, the CRS shall specify why the DPR form is not applicable or pending (i.e. as part of a larger site update). A concordance table that matches field artifact numbers with the artifact numbers used in the DPR 523 forms shall be included. The sortable table shall contain each artifact's date of collection and UTM coordinates and note if an artifact has been deaccessioned or otherwise does not have a corresponding DPR 523 form. Any post-field log recordation changes to artifact numbers shall also be noted. DPR forms shall be submitted as one combined PDF. The PDF shall organize DPR forms by site and/or artifact number The PDF shall include an index and bookmarks <p>If artifacts from a given location (near each other or an existing resource) are collected month after month, and if agreed upon with the CPM, a final updated DPR 523 form for the</p>										

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		<p>resource may be submitted at the completion of monitoring. The monthly concordance table shall note that the DPR 523 form for the included artifacts is pending.</p> <p>The CRS or alternate CRS shall report daily to the CPM on the status of the project's cultural and tribal cultural resource-related activities, unless reducing or ending daily reporting is requested by the CRS and approved by the CPM. If the CRS and consulting tribes believe that the current level of monitoring is not appropriate in certain locations, a letter or e-mail detailing the justification for changing the level of monitoring shall be provided to the CPM for review and approval prior to any change in the level of monitoring. The CRS, at his or her discretion, or at the request of the CPM, may informally discuss cultural and tribal cultural resource monitoring and mitigation activities with CEC technical staff.</p> <p>Cultural and tribal cultural resources monitoring activities are the responsibility of the CRS. Any interference with monitoring activities, removal of a monitor from duties assigned by the CRS, or direction to a monitor to relocate monitoring activities by anyone other than the CRS shall be considered non-compliance with these Conditions of Certification.</p> <p>Upon becoming aware of any incidents of non-compliance with the conditions and/or applicable LORS, the CRS and/or the project owner shall notify the CPM.</p> <p>The CRS shall also recommend corrective action to resolve the problem or achieve compliance with the Conditions of Certification. When the issue is resolved, the CRS shall write a report describing the issue, the resolution of the issue, and the effectiveness of the resolution measures. This report shall be provided in the next MCR for the review of the CPM.</p>										
Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources	CUL/TRI-6	AUTHORITY TO HALT CONSTRUCTION IN THE EVENT OF A DISCOVERY The CRS shall have the authority to halt ground disturbance in the event of a discovery. Redirection of ground	At least 30 days prior to the start of ground disturbance, the project owner shall provide the CPM and CRS with a letter confirming that the CRS, Alternate CRS, CRMs, and Native American Monitors	a) Provide the CPM a letter confirming that the CRS, Alternate CRS, CRMs, and Native American Monitors have the	Pre-construction	a) At least 30 days prior to the start of ground disturbance b) No later	Hydrostor for item a & WSP for items b,c,d and e	a: Complete (2/27/2026) b-e: No Action Unless	a: 02/27/2026 b-e: TBD			

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		<p>disturbance shall be accomplished under the direction of the construction supervisor in consultation with the CRS.</p> <p>If a cultural or tribal cultural resource over 50 years of age is found (or if younger, determined exceptionally significant by the CRS), or impacts to such a resource can be anticipated, ground disturbance shall be halted or redirected in the immediate vicinity (within 60 feet) of the discovery sufficient to ensure that the resource is protected from further impacts. If the discovery includes human remains, work in the immediate vicinity (within 100 feet) shall be halted or redirected more than 100 feet away from the discovery, the project owner shall comply with the requirements of Health and Human Safety Code § 7050.5(b) and shall additionally notify the CPM and the NAHC of the discovery of human remains. No action with respect to the disposition of human remains of Native American origin shall be initiated without direction from the CPM. Monitoring, including Native American monitoring, and daily reporting, as provided in other conditions, shall continue during the project's ground-disturbing activities elsewhere, while the halting or redirection of ground disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery shall remain in effect until the CRS has visited the discovery, and all the following has occurred:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CRS has notified the project owner, and the CPM has been notified within 24 hours of the discovery, or by Monday morning if the cultural or tribal cultural resource discovery occurs between 8:00 AM on Friday and 8:00 AM on Sunday morning, including a description of the discovery (or changes in character or attributes), the action taken (i.e., work stoppage or redirection), a recommendation of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) significance, and recommendations for data recovery from any cultural or tribal cultural resource discoveries, whether or not a determination of CEQA significance has been made. • If the discovery would be of interest to California Native American tribes, the CRS has notified all California Native American tribes that expressed a desire to be notified in the event of 	<p>have the authority to halt ground disturbance in the vicinity of a cultural or tribal cultural resource discovery, and that the project owner shall ensure that the CRS notifies the CPM within 24 hours of a discovery, or by Monday morning if the cultural resources discovery occurs between 8:00 AM on Friday and 8:00 AM on Sunday morning.</p> <p>Unless the discovery can be treated prescriptively, as specified in the CTRMMP, completed DPR 523 forms for resources newly discovered during ground disturbance shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval no later than 24 hours following the notification of the CPM, or 48 hours following the completion of data recordation/recovery, whichever the CRS decides is more appropriate for the subject cultural or tribal cultural resource. Within 48 hours of the discovery of a resource of interest to Native Americans, the project owner shall ensure that the CRS notifies all California Native American tribes that expressed a desire to be notified in the event of such a discovery, and the CRS must inform the CPM when the notifications are complete.</p> <p>No later than 30 days following the discovery of any Native American cultural materials, the project owner shall submit to the CPM copies of the information transmittal letters sent to the chairpersons and designated cultural resources representatives of the California Native American tribes or groups who requested the information. Additionally, the project owner shall submit to the CPM copies of letters of transmittal for all subsequent responses to Native American requests for notification, consultation, and reports and records.</p> <p>Within 15 days of receiving them, the project owner shall submit to the CPM copies of any comments or information provided by California Native American tribes in response to the project owner's transmittals of information.</p>	<p>authority to halt ground disturbance in the vicinity of a cultural or tribal cultural resource discovery</p> <p>b) Completed DPR 523 forms for resources newly discovered during ground disturbance</p> <p>c) Ensure that the CRS notifies all California Native American tribes that expressed a desire to be notified</p> <p>d) Copies of the information transmittal letters sent to the chairpersons and designated cultural resources representatives of the California Native American tribes or groups</p> <p>e) Copies of any comments or information provided by California Native American tribes</p>		<p>than 24 hours following the notification of the CPM, or 48 hours following the completion of data recordation/recovery, whichever the CRS decides is more appropriate</p> <p>c) Within 48 hours of the discovery of a resource of interest to Native Americans</p> <p>d) No later than 30 days following the discovery of any Native American cultural materials</p> <p>e) Within 15 days of receiving them</p>		Event Occurs				

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		<p>such a discovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CRS has completed field notes, measurements, and photography for a DPR 523 Primary Record form. Unless the find can be treated prescriptively, as specified in the CTRMMP, the "Description" entry of the DPR 523 Primary Record form shall include a recommendation on the CEQA significance of the discovery. If the find is of interest to the consulting tribes, the CRS's recommendation on the CEQA significance of the discovery shall be developed in coordination with the consulting tribes. The project owner shall submit completed forms and statements of support of the proposed recommendations from the consulting tribes (for finds of interest to the consulting tribes) to the CPM. The CRS, the project owner, the consulting tribes (for finds of interest to the consulting tribes), and the CPM have conferred, and the CPM has concurred with the significance finding concerning the discovery and approved the CRS's proposed data recovery, if any, including the curation of the artifacts, or other appropriate mitigation; and any necessary data recovery and mitigation have been completed <p>Ground disturbance may resume only with the approval of the CPM.</p>										
Geology, Paleontology, and Minerals	GEO-1	<p>As described in the Building Code Sections 1803.2 to 1803.5, if the DCBO determines that investigative conditions exist, the project owner shall perform geotechnical investigations for questionable soils, expansive soils, shallow groundwater, deep foundations, rock strata, excavations near foundations, compacted fill material, controlled low-strength material, alternate setback and clearance, and Seismic Design Categories C through F. In accordance with the California Business and Professions Code and Building Code Section 1803.1, the geotechnical investigations shall be conducted by a registered design professional.</p> <p>As described in the Building Code Section 1803.6, the project owner shall write a geotechnical report that documents the results from the geotechnical investigations and provides project design recommendations to mitigate</p>	<p>As described in the Building Code Section 1803.6, the project owner shall submit a written geotechnical report to the CEC's DCBO for review and approval. The project owner shall provide the CPM copies of the geotechnical investigations and geohazards report and any comments by the DCBO at least 60 days prior to grading.</p>	<p>Submit a written geotechnical report to the CEC's DCBO for review and approval and provide the CPM copies with any comments by the DCBO</p>	Pre-Construction	At least 60 days prior to grading	WSP	In Progress	16-Apr-26			

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		<p>geologic hazards. In accordance with the CBC Section 1803.1, the geotechnical report shall be prepared and signed by a California registered geotechnical engineer, certified engineering geologist, and a registered geophysicist, where applicable.</p> <p>In accordance with the Building Code Section 1803.7, the geotechnical investigation report shall include a geohazards report that considers seismic hazards. The geohazard report shall identify site-specific geologic and seismic conditions that may require mitigation. The report shall recommend project design criteria to mitigate geologic and seismic hazards. The project owner shall incorporate recommendations for project design criteria into the final project design. An appropriate qualified California-certified licensed engineering geologist, in consultation with a California registered geotechnical engineer, shall prepare the geohazards portion of the geotechnical report.</p>										
Geology, Paleontology, and Minerals	PAL-1	<p>The project owner shall provide the CPM with the resume, qualifications, and contact information of its paleontological resource specialist (PRS) for review and approval. The PRS's resume shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the CPM the appropriate education and experience to accomplish the required paleontological resource tasks. The PRS's resume shall also include the names and phone numbers of references that can be contacted to verify information.</p> <p>As determined by the CPM, the PRS shall meet the minimum qualifications for a Qualified Professional Paleontologist as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations, CFR, Title 43, Subtitle A, Part 49 – Paleontological Resources Preservation and in the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology's Standard Procedures for the Assessment and Mitigation of Adverse Impacts to Paleontological Resources (SVP 2010). The qualifications of the PRS shall include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institutional affiliations, appropriate credentials, and college degree (M.S., Ph.D., or equivalent). 2. Ability to recognize and collect fossils in the field. 3. Local geological and 	<p>At least 60 days prior to the start of ground disturbance, the project owner shall submit a resume and statement of availability of its designated PRS for on-site work to the CPM for review and approval. CPM approval is required prior to the initiation of ground disturbing activities. At least 30 days prior to ground disturbance, the PRS or project owner shall provide a letter with resumes naming anticipated PRMs for the project. The letter shall state that the identified PRMs meet the minimum qualifications for paleontological resource monitoring as required by this Condition of Certification. If additional PRMs are needed during the project, the PRS shall provide additional letters and resumes to the CPM. The letter shall be provided to the CPM for approval no later than one week prior to the monitor's beginning on-site duties. Prior to any change of the PRS, the project owner shall submit the resume of the proposed new PRS to the CPM for review and approval.</p>	<p>a) A resume and statement of availability of its designated PRS for on-site work to the CPM for review and approval b) Letter with resumes naming anticipated PRMs for the project, etc.</p>	Pre-Construction	<p>a) At least 60 days prior to the start of ground disturbance b) At least 30 days prior to ground disturbance</p>	WSP	<p>a: Complete (2/27/2026) b: Complete (2/27/2026)</p>	<p>a: 2/27/2026 b: 2/27/2026</p>			

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		<p>biostratigraphic expertise.</p> <p>4. Proficiency in identifying vertebrate and invertebrate fossils.</p> <p>5. At least three years of paleontological resource mitigation and field experience in California and at least one year of experience leading paleontological resource mitigation and field activities.</p> <p>The project owner shall ensure that the PRS obtains qualified paleontological resource monitors (PRMs) to monitor as he or she deems necessary on the project. PRMs shall have the equivalent of the following qualifications:</p> <p>1. B.S. or B.A. degree in geology or paleontology and a minimum of one year of relevant paleontological resource monitoring experience in California; or</p> <p>2. A.S. or A.A. in geology, paleontology, or biology and a minimum of four years of relevant paleontological resource monitoring experience in California; or</p> <p>3. Enrollment in upper division classes pursuing a bachelor's degree or a more advanced degree in the field of geology or paleontology and a minimum of three years of relevant paleontological resource monitoring experience in California.</p> <p>If the approved PRS is replaced prior to completion of project mitigation and submittal of the paleontological resources report (PRR), the project owner shall obtain CPM approval for the replacement PRS. The project owner shall keep resumes on file for the qualified PRSs and PRMs. The PRM's resume shall include the names and contact information of references. If a PRM is replaced, the resume of the replacement PRM shall also be provided to the CPM for review and approval.</p>										
Geology, Paleontology, and Minerals	PAL-2	<p>The project owner shall provide the PRS and the CPM, for review and approval, maps and drawings showing the footprint of the power plant, construction laydown areas, and all related facilities. Maps shall identify all areas of the project where ground disturbance is anticipated. If the PRS requests enlargements or strip maps for linear facility routes, the project owner shall provide copies to the PRS and CPM. The site grading plan and the plan and profile drawings for the utility lines would be acceptable for</p>	<p>At least 30 days prior to the start of ground disturbance, the project owner shall provide maps and drawings to the PRS and CPM for review and approval. If there are planned changes to the footprint of the project, revised maps and drawings shall be provided to the PRS and CPM at least 15 days prior to the start of ground disturbance. If there are changes to the scheduling of the construction phases, the project owner shall</p>	<p>a) Provide maps and drawings to the PRS and CPM for review and approval.</p> <p>b) Revised maps and drawings shall be provided to the PRS and CPM.</p> <p>c) Any changes to the scheduling of construction phases will be provided in a letter to the CPM.</p>	Pre-Construction	<p>a) At least 30 days prior to the start of ground disturbance</p> <p>b) At least 15 days prior to the start of ground disturbance</p> <p>c) Within 5 days of identifying the changes</p>	Hatch & CMT	<p>a: In Progress</p> <p>b: No Action Unless Event Occurs</p> <p>c: No Action Unless Event Occurs</p>	a: 5/1/2026			

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		<p>this purpose. The plan drawings must show the location, depth, and extent of all ground disturbances and be at a scale between 1 inch = 40 feet (1:480) and 1 inch = 100 feet (1:1,200). If the footprint of the project or its linear facilities change, the project owner shall provide maps and drawings reflecting those changes to the PRS and CPM.</p> <p>If construction of the project proceeds in phases, maps and drawings may be submitted prior to the start of each phase. A letter identifying the proposed schedule of each project phase shall be provided to the PRS and CPM. Before work commences on affected phases, the Project owner shall notify the PRS and CPM of any construction phase scheduling changes.</p> <p>At a minimum, the project owner shall ensure that the PRS or PRM consults weekly with the project superintendent and construction field manager to confirm area(s) to be worked the following week, until ground disturbance is completed.</p>	submit a letter to the CPM within five days of identifying the changes.									
Geology, Paleontology, and Minerals	PAL-3	<p>The project owner shall ensure that the PRS prepares a Paleontological Resources Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (PRMMP) and submits it to the CPM for review and approval. Approval of the PRMMP by the CPM shall occur prior to any ground disturbance. The PRMMP shall function as the formal guide for monitoring, collecting, sampling, and reporting activities, and may be modified with CPM approval. The PRMMP shall be used as the basis of discussion when on-site decisions or changes are proposed. Copies of the PRMMP shall include all updates and reside with the PRS, each PRM, the project's on-site manager, and the CPM.</p> <p>The PRMMP shall be developed in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, CFR, Title 43, Subtitle A, Part 49 – Paleontological Resources Preservation and the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology's Standard Procedures for the Assessment and Mitigation of Adverse Impacts to Paleontological Resources (SVP 2010). The PRMMP shall include, but not be limited to, the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Procedures for, and assurance, that those procedures would be followed in the performance and sequence of 	At least 30 days prior to ground disturbance, the project owner shall provide a copy of the PRMMP to the CPM for review and approval. Approval of the PRMMP by the CPM shall occur prior to any ground disturbance. The PRMMP shall include an affidavit of authorship by the PRS and acceptance of the PRMMP by the project owner evidenced by a signature.	Final PRMMP	Pre-Construction	At least 30 days prior to ground disturbance	WSP	In Progress	1-May-26			

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
		<p>project-related tasks, such as any literature searches, pre-construction surveys, worker environmental training, field work, flagging or staking, construction monitoring, mapping and data recovery, fossil preparation and collection, identification and inventory, preparation of final reports, and transmittal of materials for curation.</p> <p>2. Identification of the person(s) expected to assist with each of the tasks required by the PRMMP and these Conditions of Certification.</p> <p>3. A thorough discussion of the geologic units expected to be encountered, the location and depth of the units relative to the project when known, and the known sensitivity of those units based on the occurrence of fossils either in that unit or in correlative units.</p> <p>4. An explanation of why sampling is needed, a description of the sampling methodology, and how much sampling is expected to take place and in which geologic units. This should include descriptions of the sampling procedures that shall be used for fine-grained and coarse-grained units.</p> <p>5. A discussion of the locations where monitoring of project construction activities is deemed necessary, and a proposed plan for monitoring and sampling at these locations.</p> <p>6. A discussion of procedures to be followed: (a) in the event of a significant fossil discovery, (b) stopping construction in the area of the discovery, (c) resuming construction, and (d) how notifications shall be performed.</p> <p>7. A discussion of equipment and supplies necessary for collection of fossil materials and any specialized equipment needed to prepare, remove, load, transport, and analyze large-sized fossils or extensive fossil deposits.</p> <p>8. Procedures to inventory, prepare, and deliver fossil materials the PRS or CPM deem appropriate for curation in a retrievable storage collection at a public repository or museum that meet the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology's standards and requirements for the curation of paleontological resources.</p> <p>9. Identification of the institution that has agreed to receive data and fossil materials collected, requirements or specifications for materials delivered</p>										

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		for curation and how they shall be met, and the name and phone number of the contact person at the institution. 10. A copy of the paleontological resources Conditions of Certification. 11. A copy of the daily monitoring log form.										
Geology, Paleontology, and Minerals	PAL-4	<p>Prior to ground disturbance the project owner and the PRS shall prepare a CPM-approved Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP). The WEAP shall address the possibility of encountering paleontological resources in the field, the sensitivity and importance of these resources, and legal obligations to preserve and protect those resources. The purpose of the WEAP is to train project workers to recognize palaeontologic resources and identify procedures they must follow to ensure there are no impacts to sensitive palaeontologic resources. The WEAP shall include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A discussion of applicable laws and penalties under the law. 2. Good quality photographs or physical examples of fossils expected to be found in units of high palaeontologic sensitivity at, or near, the project site. 3. Information that the PRS and PRM have the authority to stop or redirect construction in the event of a discovery or unanticipated impact on a paleontological resource. 4. Instruction that employees are to stop or redirect work in the vicinity of a find and to contact their supervisor and the PRS or PRM. 5. An informational brochure that identifies reporting procedures in the event of a discovery. 6. A WEAP certification of completion form signed by each worker indicating that they have received the training. 7. A sticker that shall be placed on hard hats indicating that environmental training has been completed. 8. The project owner shall submit the training script and, if the project owner is planning to use a video for training, a copy of the training video, with the set of reporting procedures for workers to follow that shall be used to present the WEAP and qualify workers to conduct ground disturbing activities that could impact paleontological resources. 	At least 30 days prior to ground disturbance, the project owner shall submit the draft WEAP, including the brochure and sticker, to the CPM for review and comments. The submittal shall also include a draft training script and the set of reporting procedures for workers to follow. At least 15 days prior to ground disturbance, the project owner shall submit to the CPM for approval the final WEAP and training script. If the project owner is planning to use a video for training, a copy of the training video shall be submitted following final approval of the WEAP and training script.	Final Paleontological WEAP and training script.	Pre-Construction	At least 30 days prior to ground disturbance	WSP	In Progress	15-May-26			

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
Geology, Paleontology, and Minerals	PAL-5	No worker shall excavate or perform any ground disturbance activity prior to receiving CPM-approved WEAP training by the PRS, unless specifically approved by the CPM. Prior to project ground disturbance, the following workers shall be WEAP trained by the PRS in-person: project managers, construction supervisors, foremen, and all general workers involved with or who operate ground-disturbing equipment or tools. Following the start of ground disturbing activities and after the initial WEAP training conducted prior to ground disturbance, a CPM- approved video or in-person training may be used for new employees. If a video is used, a qualified trainer shall be present to monitor training and respond to questions. The training program may be combined with other training programs prepared for cultural and biological resources, hazardous materials, or other areas of interest or concern. A WEAP certification of completion form shall be used to document who has received the required training.	In the Monthly Compliance Report (MCR), the project owner shall provide copies of the WEAP certification of completion forms with the names of those trained, trainer identification, and type of training (in-person and/or video) offered that month. The MCR shall also include a running total of all persons who have completed the training to date. The resume and qualifications of the trainer shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval prior to providing WEAP training. If the project owner requests an alternate paleontological WEAP trainer, the resume and qualifications of the trainer shall be submitted to the CPM for review and approval prior to installation of an alternate trainer. Alternate trainers shall not conduct WEAP training prior to CPM authorization.	Resume and qualifications of the trainer submitted to the CPM for review and approval prior to providing WEAP training.	Pre-Construction	Prior to providing WEAP training.	WSP & Hydrostor	a: Complete (2/27/2026) b: Not Started	a: 2/27/2026 b: 6/18/2026			
Hazards, Hazardous Materials/ Waste, and Wildfire	HAZ-1	The project owner shall prepare a Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) and a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan, one of each for construction and one of each for operations and provide these plans to the Kern County Public Health Services Department - Hazardous Materials Program (the CUPA), for review and comment and to the Compliance Project Manager (CPM) for review and approval.	At least 60 days prior to the start of construction and 60 days prior to the start of operation, the project owner shall prepare and submit the respective HMBP and SPCC Plan to the Kern County Public Health Services Department - Hazardous Materials Program, for review and comment and to the CPM for review and approval. The project owner shall also provide the CPM with a copy of the transmittal letter to the Kern County HazMat Compliance Program requesting review and comment. At least 30 days prior to the start of construction and 30 days prior to the start of operation, the project owner shall provide copies of any comment letters received from the Kern County Public Health Services Department - Hazardous Materials Program along with any changes to the respective HMBP and SPCC plans for CPM review and approval. After CPM review and approval, the project owner shall provide complete copies of the final respective HMBP and SPCC Plan to the Kern County Public	a) Prepare and submit the respective HMBP and SPCC Plan to the Kern County Public Health Services Department - Hazardous Materials Program and to the CPM, with a copy of the transmittal letter b) Provide copies of any comment letters received from the Kern County Public Health Services Department - Hazardous Materials Program along with any changes to the respective HMBP and SPCC plans for CPM	Pre-construction & O&M	a) At least 60 days prior to the start of construction and 60 days prior to the start of operation b) At least 30 days prior to the start of construction and 30 days prior to the start of operation	WSP	In Progress	2-Apr-26			

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			Health Services Department - Hazardous Materials Program, sending copies of the correspondence to the CPM.									
Hazards, Hazardous Materials/ Waste, and Wildfire	HAZ-4	<p>Prior to commencing construction, a site-specific Construction Site Security Plan for the construction phase shall be prepared and made available to the CPM for review and approval. The Construction Site Security Plan shall include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. perimeter security consisting of fencing enclosing the construction area; 2. security guards during hours when construction personnel are not present at the site; 3. site access control consisting of a check-in procedure or tag system for construction personnel and visitors; 4. written standard procedures for employees, contractors, and vendors when encountering suspicious objects or packages on site or off site; 5. protocol for contacting law enforcement and the CPM in the event of suspicious activity, incident, or emergency; and evacuation procedures. 	At least 30 days prior to commencing construction, the project owner shall notify the CPM that a site-specific Construction Security Plan is available for review and approval.	Notify the CPM that a site-specific Construction Security Plan is available	Pre-construction	At least 30 days prior to commencing construction	WSP	In Progress	1-May-26			
Hazards, Hazardous Materials/ Waste, and Wildfire	HAZ-6	<p>The project owner shall prepare and submit to the CPM a Soils Management Plan (SMP) prior to any ground disturbing activities. The SMP shall be prepared/approved by an environmental professional, a California Registered Civil Engineer, or a California Registered Geologist with sufficient experience in hazardous waste management. The purpose of the SMP is to establish appropriate management practices and procedures for handling impacted soil and/or groundwater or other materials that may be encountered during construction activities to ensure worker protection from toxicant exposure. The SMP shall be updated as needed to reflect changes in laws, regulations, or site conditions. All ground disturbing activities at the site and potential disposal of contaminated soil and/or groundwater shall be conducted in accordance with the SMP. Where actions are required in accordance with the SMP, an SMP summary report, which includes all analytical data and other findings, shall be submitted once the earthwork has been completed.</p>	At least 45 days prior to any ground disturbance, the project owner shall submit the SMP to the Kern County Public Health Services Department - Hazardous Materials Program for review and comment and to the CPM for review and approval. An SMP summary shall be submitted to the CPM within 30 days of completion of any ground disturbance.	<p>a) Submit the Soils Management Plan (SMP) to the Kern County Public Health Services Department - Hazardous Materials Program and to the CPM</p> <p>b) An SMP summary shall be submitted to the CPM within 30 days of completion of any ground disturbance.</p>	Pre-construction	At least 45 days prior to any ground disturbance b) Within 30 days of completion of any ground disturbance.	WSP	In Progress	17-Apr-26			

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
		<p>Topics covered by the SMP shall include, but not be limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Land use history including description and locations of any known contamination. 2. The nature and extent of any previous investigations and remediation at the site. 3. The nature and extent of any unremediated contamination at the proposed site. 4. A listing and description of institutional controls such as the county's excavation ordinance and other local, state, and federal regulations and laws that would apply to the project. 5. Names and positions of individuals involved with site management and their specific roles. 6. An earthwork schedule. 7. A description of protocols for the investigation and evaluation of any previously unidentified contamination that may be encountered in time. The protocol shall be for temporary and permanent controls that may be required to reduce exposure to onsite workers, visitors, and the public. 8. A site-specific Health and Safety Plan (HSP) to be implemented by all contractors and subcontractors at the site. The HSPs shall be specific to each of the contractors' or subcontractors' scopes of work. The HSPs shall be prepared by a Certified Industrial Hygienist and would protect onsite workers by including engineering controls, personal protective equipment, monitoring, and security to prevent unauthorized entry and to reduce construction related hazards. The HSPs shall address the possibility of encountering subsurface chemical contamination and include procedures to protect workers and the public. The HSPs shall be updated as needed if site conditions change significantly, such as discovery of contaminated soil or groundwater. Copies of the approved HSPs shall be kept at the project site. 12. Hazardous waste determination and disposal procedures for known and previously unidentified contamination. 13. Requirements for site-specific techniques at the site to minimize dust, manage stockpiles, run-on and run-off controls, waste disposal procedures, etc. 										

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		14. Copies of relevant permits or closures from regulatory agencies.										
Hazards, Hazardous Materials/ Waste, and Wildfire	HAZ-7	The project owner shall provide the resume of an experienced and qualified environmental professional who shall be available for consultation during site characterization (if needed), demolition, excavation, and grading activities, to the CPM for review and approval. The resume shall reflect experience in remedial investigation and feasibility studies. The environmental professional performing the interviews and site reconnaissance shall possess sufficient education, training, and experience to assess the nature, history, and setting of the subject property/area and shall review and interpret the information used to form the basis of the findings, opinion and conclusions in the report. The qualified person shall be given full authority by the project owner to oversee any earth moving activities that have the potential to disturb contaminated soil and/or groundwater.	At least 30 days prior to the start of site mobilization, the project owner shall submit the resume to the CPM for review and approval.	Submit the resume for consultation during site characterization (if needed), demolition, excavation, and grading activities to the CPM for review and approval	Pre-construction	At least 30 days prior to the start of site mobilization	WSP	In Progress	1-May-26			
Land Use, Agriculture, and Forestry	LAND-1	Prior to the commencement of construction, the project owner shall provide the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department with the location of all properties accepting excavated rock from the project in unincorporated Kern County, including quantity of rock to be accepted. Prior to the commencement of construction, the project owner shall obtain any necessary permits from the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department, or other relevant departments, for development of temporary laydown and parking areas referred to as Villa Haines (VH). The project owner shall pay Kern County fees for review and comment and demonstrate compliance with requirements for development of the laydown and parking areas referred to as P1, P2 N, and P2 S. The project owner shall ensure that local regulations are complied with during construction, operation, and restoration of laydown and parking areas.	At least 30 days prior to development of any temporary laydown and parking areas, the project owner shall provide to the CPM the required approved permits for the temporary laydown or parking area (VH) and provide documentation showing payment of Kern County fees for review and comment of the laydown and parking areas P1, P2 N, and P2 S and demonstrating compliance with requirements of the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department, or any other relevant departments.	Provide to the CPM the required approved permits from for the temporary laydown or parking area VH, documentation showing payment of Kern County fees, and demonstrating compliance with requirements	Pre-construction	At least 30 days prior to development of any temporary laydown and parking areas	Hydrostor with WSP's support & Hatch	In progress	1-May-26			

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
Land Use, Agriculture, and Forestry	LAND-2	Prior to any grading or development for the permanent project facilities under CEC jurisdiction (including the Willow Rock Energy Storage Center, gen-tie line, and optional architectural berm) the project owner shall develop a construction site plan (including the temporary rock crushing facility and concrete batch plant) and operation site plan (including the optional architectural berm) and submit it to the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department for review and comment, and to the CPM for approval, to ensure compliance with local regulations, including conditions required by the ALUCP. The project owner shall adhere to CPM-approved site plans during construction and operation and ensure that local regulations are complied with during construction and operation of the permanent project facilities.	At least 60 days prior to any grading or development for permanent project facilities under CEC jurisdiction (including the Willow Rock site, gen-tie line, and a potential architectural berm) the project owner shall submit proposed site plans for these facilities to the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department for review, comment, and approval, and to the CPM for review and approval. The project owner shall provide any review comments from Kern County to the CPM at least 30 days prior to any grading or development for these permanent project facilities.	a) Submit proposed site plans for these facilities to the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department and to the CPM b) Provide any review comments from Kern County to the CPM	Pre-construction and pre O&M	a) At least 60 days prior to any grading or development for permanent project facilities b) At least 30 days prior to any grading or development for these permanent project facilities	Hatch	In Progress	16-Apr-26			
Noise and Vibration	NOISE-1	Prior to the start of ground disturbance, the project owner shall notify residences within one mile of the project site and linear facilities, by mail, or by other effective means, of the commencement of project construction. At the same time, the project owner shall establish a telephone number for use by the public to report any undesirable noise conditions associated with the construction, and operation of the project. If the telephone is not staffed 24 hours a day, the project owner shall include an automatic answering feature, with date and time stamp recording, to answer calls when the phone is unattended. This or a similarly effective telephone number shall be posted at the project site during construction where it is visible to passersby. This telephone number shall be maintained until the project has been operational for at least one year.	At least 15 days prior to ground disturbance, the project owner shall transmit to the compliance project manager (CPM) a statement, signed by the project owner's project manager, stating that the above notification has been performed, and describing the method of that notification. This communication shall also verify that the telephone number has been established and posted at the site and shall provide that telephone number.	Transmit to the CPM a statement, signed by the PM, stating that this notification has been performed and describe the method	Pre-construction	At least 15 days prior to ground disturbance	Hydrostor	Not Started	17-May-26			
Noise and Vibration	NOISE-3	EMPLOYEE NOISE CONTROL PROGRAM. The project owner shall submit to the CPM for review and approval a noise control program. The noise control program shall be used to reduce employee exposure to high (above permissible) noise levels during construction in accordance with Title 8, California Code of Regulations, Sections 5095-5099, and Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1910.95.	At least 30 days prior to the start of ground disturbance, the project owner shall submit the noise control program to the CPM for review and approval. The project owner shall make the program available to Cal-OSHA upon request.	Submit the noise control program to the CPM and make available to Cal-OSHA upon request	Pre-construction	At least 30 days prior to the start of ground disturbance	WSP/Hatch	In Progress	1-May-26			

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
Noise and Vibration	NOISE-6	<p>CONSTRUCTION NOISE RESTRICTIONS. Heavy equipment operation and noisy construction work relating to any project features, including linear facilities and pile driving within 1,000 feet of an occupied residential dwelling, and controlled detonations shall be restricted to the times delineated below:</p> <p>Mondays through Fridays: 6:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. Saturdays and Sundays: 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.</p> <p>Construction work including construction of the access roads to the project site, pile driving, controlled detonations shall be performed in a manner that ensures excessive noise (noise that draws a project-related complaint) is prohibited and the potential for noise complaints is reduced as much as practicable. Haul trucks and other engine-powered equipment shall be equipped with adequate mufflers and other state-required noise attenuation devices. Haul trucks shall be operated in accordance with posted speed limits. Truck engine exhaust brake use (jake braking) shall be limited to emergencies.</p> <p>Avoid Controlled Detonations at Night. Controlled detonations shall be limited to daylight hours and shall terminate 30 minutes before sunset and shall not resume until 30 minutes after sunrise, unless authorized by the CPM. Sunrise and sunset times are established by the U.S. Naval Observatory Astronomical Applications Department for the geographic area where the project is located. The schedule of controlled detonations shall be provided to the CPM.</p> <p>Construction activities associated with the gen-tie transmission lines and poles within 1,000 feet of an occupied residence or school shall implement the following measures or other sound attenuating mitigation measures practicable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide noise-producing equipment with noise-attenuating shields, shrouds or portable barriers or enclosures, and acoustical lining or acoustical paneling; • Use electric construction equipment instead of diesel-powered and gasoline-powered equipment; 	Prior to ground disturbance, the project owner shall transmit to the CPM a statement acknowledging that the above restrictions will be observed throughout the construction of the project.	Transmit a statement to the CPM acknowledging that the above restrictions will be observed throughout the construction of the project	Pre-Construction	Prior to ground disturbance	Hydrostor	Not Started	29-May-26			

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct truck loading, unloading, and hauling operations so noise is kept to a minimum. 										
Public Health	PH-1	<p>The project owner shall develop and implement a Valley Fever Management Plan to minimize personnel and public exposure to potential Valley Fever. The Valley Fever Management Plan shall include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment, vehicles, and other items shall be thoroughly cleaned of dust before they are moved off site to other work locations. Wherever possible, grading and trenching work shall be phased so that earth-moving equipment is working well ahead or downwind of workers on the ground. The area immediately behind grading or trenching equipment shall be sprayed with water before ground workers move into the area. In the event that a water truck runs out of water before dust is sufficiently dampened, ground workers being exposed to dust shall leave the area until a truck can resume water spraying. To the greatest extent feasible, heavy-duty earth-moving vehicles shall be closed-cab and equipped with a High Efficiency Particulate Arresting (HEPA)-filtered air system. Workers shall receive training in procedures to minimize activities that may result in the release of airborne <i>Coccidioides immitis</i> (CI) spores to recognize the symptoms of Valley Fever, and shall be instructed to promptly report suspected symptoms of work-related Valley Fever to a supervisor. Evidence of training shall be provided to the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department within five days of the training session. A Valley Fever informational handout shall be provided to all onsite construction personnel. The handout shall, at a minimum, provide information regarding the symptoms, health effects, preventative measures, and treatment. Additional information and handouts can be obtained by contacting the Kern County Public Health Services Department. Onsite personnel shall be trained on the proper use of personal protective equipment, including respiratory 	<p>At least 30 days prior to the start of the ground disturbance, the project owner shall submit the Valley Fever Management Plan to the CPM for review and approval. The CPM will notify the project owner of any necessary modifications to the plan within 15 days from the date of receipt. The project owner shall provide the CPM a Monthly Compliance Report to include a summary of all actions taken to maintain compliance with this condition.</p>	Submit the Valley Fever Management Plan to the CPM	Pre-construction	At least 30 days prior to the start of the ground disturbance	WSP/Hatch	In Progress	1-May-26			

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
		equipment. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)–approved respirators shall be provided to onsite personal, upon request. When exposure to dust is unavoidable, provide appropriate NIOSH-approved respiratory protection to affected workers. If respiratory protection is deemed necessary, employers must develop and implement a respiratory protection program in accordance with Cal/OSHA's Respiratory Protection standard (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 5144).										
Socioeconomic s	SOCIO-1	The project owner and its contractors shall make a good faith effort to hire at least 50 percent of their workers from local Kern County communities. The project owner shall provide the contractors a list of training programs that provide skilled workers and shall require the contractor to advertise locally for available jobs, notifying the training programs of job availability, all in conjunction with normal hiring practices of the contractor.	At least 60 days prior to the start of construction, the project owner shall submit a letter to the CEC's Compliance Project Manager (CPM) detailing the hiring efforts prior to commencement of construction, which encourages all contractors of the project site to hire at least 50 percent of their workers from local Kern County communities.	Submit a letter to the CEC's CPM detailing the hiring efforts	Pre-construction	At least 60 days prior to the start of construction	Hatch & CMT & Gen-tie EPC	In progress	2-Apr-26			
Socioeconomic s	SOCIO-2	The project owner shall pay the current one-time statutory school facility development fee to Mojave Unified School District as authorized by Education Code Section 17620 and the Mojave Unified School District Board Policy BP 7211 Facilities: Developer Fees.	At least 30 days prior to the start of construction, the project owner shall provide to the CPM proof of payment to the Mojave Unified School District of the statutory development fees.	Provide to the CPM proof of payment to the Mojave Unified School District of the statutory development fees	Pre-construction	At least 30 days prior to the start of construction	Hydrostor	In Progress	1-May-26			
Solid Waste Management	SOLID WASTE-1	The project owner shall prepare a Construction Waste Management Plan and an Operation Waste Management Plan for all wastes generated during construction and operation of the facility, respectively, and shall submit both plans to the Compliance Project Manager (CPM) for review and approval. The plans shall contain, at a minimum, the following: 1. A description of all waste streams, including projections of frequency, amounts generated, and hazard classifications. 2. Methods of managing each waste, including treatment methods and entities contracted for treatment services, waste testing methods to assure correct classification, methods of transportation, disposal requirements and sites, and recycling and waste minimization/reduction plans. 3. A description of methods for maintaining waste shipping and	No less than 30 days prior to the start of site mobilization, the project owner shall submit the Construction Waste Management Plan to the CPM for review and approval.	a) Submit the Construction Waste Management Plan to the CPM b) Submit the Operation Waste Management Plan to the CPM	Pre-construction & Pre O&M	a) No less than 30 days prior to the start of site mobilization b) No less than 30 days prior to the start of project operation	WSP/Hatch	In Progress	1-May-26			

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
		disposal documents, including manifest and bills of lading, receipts and invoices. All waste shipping papers, receipts, and applicable documentation shall be readily available for review.										
Transportation	TRANS-1	<p>Prior to the start of construction, the project owner shall prepare a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). The CTMP shall address the movement of workers, vehicles, equipment, and materials, including arrival and departure schedules, carpooling, a parking/staging plan, and designated workforce and delivery routes. Traffic control plans shall be prepared as necessary to address construction staging, as well as any roadway or lane closures and shall include any signage or roadway lighting improvements deemed necessary during construction. The CTMP shall address means of access for emergency vehicles to the project site, as well as means of maintaining access to any adjacent residential and commercial property during the construction and maintenance of the project.</p> <p>The CTMP shall include procedures to restore damage to existing roadways caused by project construction traffic, including corresponding traffic index calculations. The construction contractor shall work with Kern County and Caltrans to prepare a schedule and mitigation plan for the roadways along construction routes, in accordance with the procedures established by the CTMP.</p> <p>The CTMP shall include measures to ensure safe ingress and egress at the project access intersections. Measures may include removal of vegetation to provide unobstructed line of sight, addition of advanced warning signs, and active work zone traffic control/traffic management as approved by the CPM. The CTMP shall also be submitted to Kern County and Caltrans for review and comment.</p>	<p>At least 60 calendar days prior to the start of construction, the project owner shall submit the CTMP to Kern County, Caltrans, and California Highway Patrol (CHP) for review and comment and to the CPM for review and approval. The project owner shall also provide the CPM with a copy of the transmittal letter to Kern County, Caltrans, and CHP requesting review and comment. The CTMP shall include transportation demand management (TDM) measures to reduce project-generated VMT during construction. The CTMP shall outline VMT reduction measures, which may include, by way of example, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide information regarding lodging for specialized workers about lodging options close to the site. · Create or promote existing carpooling programs to encourage employees to carpool. · Offer a shuttle service for employees with pick-up points at nearby hotels housing specialized workers or park-and-ride lots. <p>At least 30 calendar days prior to the start of construction, the project owner shall provide copies of any comment letters received from Kern County, Caltrans, CHP, or any other interested agencies, along with any changes to the CTMP, for CPM review and approval. After CPM review and approval, the project owner shall provide completed copies of the final CTMP to Kern County, Caltrans, CHP, and any other interested agencies, sending copies of the correspondence to the CPM.</p>	Submit the CTMP to Kern County, Caltrans, and California Highway Patrol (CHP) for review and comment and to the CPM for review and approval	Pre-construction	At least 60 calendar days prior to the start of construction	WSP	In Progress	2-Apr-26			
Transportation	TRANS-2	<p>The project owner shall provide an irrevocable offer of dedication to Kern County for the following roadways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawn Road: 55 feet from the centerline along the entire subject property and the off-site portion from the westerly project boundary to the 	<p>The project owner shall ensure that all proposed on-site access and parking improvement plans for both the construction and operation phases are submitted to Kern County and Caltrans for review and comment, and to the</p>	a) Submit all proposed on-site access and parking improvement plans for construction and operation phases to Kern County and Caltrans, and CPM for	Pre-construction & Pre O&M	a) Prior to construction b) Prior to construction for any site access improvements	Hatch for a & Hydrstor for b and c	In Progress	29-May-26			

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		<p>westerly boundary of Lot 3 of County Parcel Map No. 260.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sierra Highway: 45 feet from the centerline on both sides, totaling 90 feet in width. <p>Concurrent with the site mobilization and grading activities, the project owner shall also commence construction of an asphalt concrete paved road approach at the proposed Dawn Road entrance at Sierra Highway, extending 200 feet into the project site.</p> <p>Prior to the commencement of operations, the project owner shall pave Dawn Road from the project entrance westerly to the Caltrans boundary at SR 14. The paving shall meet Type B Standards, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60-foot-wide roadway with paved shoulders Structural sections suitable for heavy truck traffic Asphalt concrete surfacing and necessary tie-ins <p>The project owner shall ensure that site access intersections and corresponding roadway and parking improvements are designed according to standards adopted by Kern County and, where applicable, Caltrans, to ensure safe ingress and egress at the project access intersections during the construction and operation phases.</p>	<p>CPM for review and approval before construction begins.</p> <p>The project owner shall offer right-of-way dedication for the segments of Dawn Road and Sierra Highway adjacent to the project site prior to the start of construction.</p> <p>Concurrent with the site mobilization and grading activities, the project owner shall obtain an encroachment permit from the Kern County Public Works Department to construct an asphalt concrete paved road approach at the proposed Dawn Road entrance at Sierra Highway, extending 200 feet into the project site.</p> <p>Prior to the commencement of operations, the project owner shall obtain an encroachment permit from the Kern County Public Works Department and pave Dawn Road from the project entrance west to the Caltrans right-of-way at SR 14.</p> <p>The project owner shall also obtain an encroachment permit from Caltrans prior to construction for any site access improvements within Caltrans right-of-way.</p>	<p>approval</p> <p>b) Obtain an encroachment permit from Kern County PWD and Caltrans</p>		within Caltrans ROW						
Water Resources	WATER-1	<p>Construction Drainage, Erosion And Sedimentation Control Plan. Prior to site mobilization, the Project owner shall obtain approval from the Compliance Project Manager (CPM) of the Drainage Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan (DESCP) for managing stormwater during Project construction and operations. The DESCP must ensure proper protection of water quality and soil resources, demonstrate no increase in off-site flooding potential, include provisions for sediment and stormwater retention from both the main facility and transmission right of way, and identify all monitoring and maintenance activities. The DESCP shall contain, at minimum, the elements presented below that outline site management activities and erosion and sediment-control BMPs to be implemented during site mobilization, excavation, construction, and post construction (operating) activities.</p> <p>A. Vicinity Map – A map(s), at a</p>	<p>No later than thirty (30) days prior to start of site mobilization, the Project owner shall submit a copy of the final DESCP to the CPM for review and to Kern County and the Lahontan RWQCB if required. The CPM shall consider comments if received by the county and RWQCB before approval of the DESCP. The DESCP shall be consistent with the grading and drainage plan as required by Condition of Certification CIVIL-1, and relevant portions of the DESCP shall clearly show approval by the chief building official. The Project owner shall provide in the Monthly Compliance Report with a narrative on the effectiveness of the drainage, erosion, and sediment-control measures and the results of monitoring and maintenance activities. Once operational, the Project owner shall update and maintain the DESCP for the life of the Project</p>	<p>Submit a copy of the final DESCP to the CPM for review and to Kern County and the LRWQCB if required</p>	Pre-construction	No later than thirty (30) days prior to start of site mobilization	WSP	In Progress	1-May-26			<p>According to discussions held during the Hydrostor–CPM meeting on March 5, 2026, and CEC’s CPM Email on March 16, 2026, CEC CPM has no issues with Hydrostor’s request for plan submittal in alignment with construction sequencing, but Hydrostor confirmed with the DCBO during the Kick-off Meeting on March 18, 2026 that plan submittals in alignment with construction sequencing is acceptable and common.</p>

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		<p>minimum scale 1 inch=500 feet, shall be provided indicating the location of all Project elements (construction sites, laydown area, pipelines) with depictions of all significant geographic features including swales, storm drains, and sensitive areas.</p> <p>B. Site Delineation – All areas subject to soil disturbance for the proposed Project (Project phases, laydown area, all linear facilities, landscaping areas, and any other Project elements) shall be delineated showing boundary lines of all construction areas and the location of all existing and proposed structures, pipelines, roads, and drainage facilities.</p> <p>C. Watercourses and Critical Areas – The DESC shall show the location of all nearby watercourses including swales, storm drains, and drainage ditches. It shall indicate the proximity of those features to the proposed Project construction, laydown, and landscape areas and all transmission and pipeline construction corridors.</p> <p>D. Drainage Map – The DESC shall provide a topographic site map(s), at a minimum scale of 1 inch=200 feet, showing existing, interim, and proposed drainage swales and drainage systems and drainage-area boundaries. On the map, spot elevations are required where relatively flat conditions exist. The spot elevations and contours shall be extended off site for a minimum distance of 100 feet.</p> <p>E. Drainage of Project Site Narrative – The DESC shall include a narrative of the drainage measures necessary to protect the site and potentially affected soil and water resources within the drainage downstream of the site. The narrative shall include the summary pages from the hydraulic analysis prepared by a professional engineer and erosion control specialist. The narrative shall state the watershed size(s) in acres that was used in the calculation of drainage features.</p> <p>F. Clearing and Grading Plans – The DESC shall provide a delineation of all areas to be cleared of vegetation and areas to be preserved. The plan shall provide elevations, slopes, locations, and extent of all proposed grading as shown by contours, cross sections, or other means. The locations of any disposal areas, fills, or</p>	and shall provide in the annual compliance report information on the results of monitoring and maintenance activities.									

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		<p>other special features shall also be shown. Existing and proposed topography shall be illustrated by tying in proposed contours with existing topography.</p> <p>G. Clearing and Grading Narrative – The DESCPC shall include a table with the estimated quantities of material excavated or filled for the site and all Project elements (Project site, laydown area, transmission and pipeline corridors, roadways, and bridges) whether such excavation or fill is temporary or permanent, and the amount of such material to be imported or exported.</p> <p>H. Soil Wind and Water Erosion Control - The plan shall address exposed soil treatments to be used during construction and operation of the proposed Project for both road and non-road surfaces including specifically identifying all chemical based dust palliatives, soil bonding, and weighting agents appropriate for use at the proposed Project site that would not cause adverse effects to vegetation. BMPs shall include measures designed to prevent wind and water erosion including application of chemical dust palliatives after rough grading to limit water use. All dust palliatives, soil binders, and weighting agents shall be approved by the CPM prior to use.</p> <p>I. Best Management Practices Plan – The DESCPC shall identify on the topographic site map(s) the location of the site specific BMPs to be employed during each phase of construction (initial grading, Project element excavation and construction, and final grading/stabilization). BMPs shall include measures designed to control dust, stabilize construction access roads and entrances, and control storm water runoff and sediment transport.</p> <p>J. Best Management Practices Narrative – The DESCPC shall show the location (as identified in (I) above), timing, and maintenance schedule of all erosion-and sediment-control BMPs to be used prior to initial grading, during all Project element (site, pipelines) excavations and construction, final grading/stabilization, and operation. Separate BMP implementation schedules shall be provided for each Project element for each phase of</p>										

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		<p>construction. The maintenance schedule shall include post-construction maintenance of structural-control BMPs, or a statement provided about when such information would be available.</p> <p>K. Project Schedule – The DESC shall identify on the topographic site map the location of the site-specific BMPs to be employed during each phase of construction (initial grading, Project element construction, and final grading/stabilization). Separate BMP implementation schedules shall be provided for each Project element for each phase of construction.</p> <p>L. Erosion Control Drawings – The erosion-control drawings and narrative shall be designed, stamped and sealed by a professional engineer or erosion control specialist.</p> <p>M. Agency Comments – The DESC shall include copies of recommendations, conditions, and provisions from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB).</p> <p>N. Monitoring Plan – Monitoring activities shall include routine measurement of the volume of accumulated sediment in the onsite drainage ditches, and storm water diversions.</p>										
Water Resources	WATER-2	<p>Waste Discharge Requirements. The project owner shall comply with the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) established in Attachment A to these Conditions of Certification. These requirements relate to discharges, or potential discharges, of waste that could affect the quality of waters of the state, and were developed in consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board and/or the applicable California Regional Water Quality Control Board (hereafter "Water Boards"). The WDRs established in Attachment A serve as if they were prescribed under Water Code section 13263 by the Water Boards. These requirements are enforceable by both the CEC and the Water Boards. The Water Boards are authorized to verify compliance of these WDRs, including conducting investigations and inspections and requiring technical and monitoring reports. The Water Boards are also authorized, in coordination with the</p>	<p>At least sixty (60) days prior to construction, the project owner shall submit to Lahontan RWQCB all necessary information and applicable fees, submitting copies of all application submittals to the CPM. At least thirty (30) days prior to construction of the gen-tie line, the project owner shall submit to the CPM and Lahontan RWQCB for review and approval all plans to control the potential impacts to ephemeral streams from fill and excavation activities associated with construction of the gen-tie line. Within ten (10) days of its mailing or receipt, the project owner shall submit to the CPM any correspondence with the SWRCB or the Lahontan RWQCB regarding this activity. The project owner shall notify the CPM in writing of any violations and include these in the Annual Compliance Report. Any monitoring documentation</p>	<p>a) Submit to LRWQCB all necessary information and applicable fees, submitting copies of all application submittals to the CPM b) Submit to the CPM and LRWQCB for review and approval all plans to control the potential impacts to ephemeral streams from fill and excavation activities associated with construction of the Gen-tie line c) Submit to the CPM any correspondence with the SWRCB or the LRWQCB regarding this activity</p>	Pre-construction	<p>a) At least sixty (60) days prior to construction b) At least thirty (30) days prior to construction of the Gen-tie line c) Within ten (10) days of its mailing or receipt</p>	Hatch & CMT & Gen-tie EPC	<p>a: In Progress b: Not Started c: Not Started</p>	a: 4/2/2026			

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		CEC, to enforce the WDRs pursuant but not limited to Water Code sections 13300, 13301, 13304, and 13350. The CEC and the Water Boards shall confer with each other and coordinate, as needed, in the enforcement of the requirements, consistent with Public Resources Code section 25532. The project owner shall pay the annual waste discharge permit fee associated with the Willow Rock Energy Storage Center to the Water Boards. The project owner shall make payments to the State Water Resources Control Board, based upon a fee schedule in California Code of Regulations, Title 23, section 2200 for a Discharge to Land with a Threat to Water Quality Rating of 2 and Complexity Rating of C.	associated with the SWRCB Order shall be included in the Annual Compliance Report.									
Water Resources	WATER-7	Water Use and Reporting. Supply of fresh water for the project construction shall be provided by the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK). The project owner shall enter into a water agreement with AVEK. Total water use during the 5-year construction period shall not exceed 1,400 acre-feet (AF). Project operation water use shall not exceed 4 acre-feet per year (AFY). The project owner shall record daily water use for the project's construction and operation. The project owner shall comply with the water use limits and reporting requirements described below.	Within ten (10) days of its mailing or receipt, the project owner shall submit to the CPM any correspondence with the AVEK concerning construction and operations water supply. This shall include the water agreement with AVEK. During project construction, the MCR shall include a summary of monthly water use. The project's annual compliance report shall include a monthly and annual summary of water use identifying construction or operations and water source.	Submit to the CPM any correspondence with the AVEK concerning construction and operations water supply, including the water agreement with AVEK	Pre-construction	Within ten (10) days of its mailing or receipt	Hatch/Hydrostor	Complete (2/20/2026)	2/20/2026			
Public Benefits	PB-1	The project owner shall work with the County to determine how the use of sales and use taxes from the construction of the project can be maximized. This process shall include, but is not necessarily limited to, the project owner obtaining a street address within the unincorporated portion of Kern County for acquisition, purchasing and billing purposes, and registering this address with the State Board of Equalization. As an alternative to the aforementioned process, the project owner may make arrangements with Kern County for a guaranteed single payment that is equivalent to the amount of sales and use taxes that would have otherwise been received (less any sales and use taxes actually paid), with the amount of the single payment to be determined via a formula approved by Kern County. The project owner shall allow the County to use this sales tax	At least 30 days prior to the start of construction, the project owner shall submit a letter to the CEC's Compliance Project Manager detailing the agreement with Kern County on the use of sales and taxes from project construction or proof of payment of the equivalent amount of sales and use taxes was paid to Kern County.	Submit a letter to the CEC's Compliance Project Manager detailing the agreement with Kern County on the use of sales and taxes from project construction or proof of payment of the equivalent amount of sales and use taxes was paid to Kern County	Pre-construction	At least 30 days prior to the start of construction	Hydrostor	In progress	1-May-26			

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
		information publicly for reporting purposes.										
Compliance Conditions and Compliance Monitoring Plan	COM-3	<p>Compliance Verification Submittals. Verification lead times associated with the start of construction may require the project owner to file submittals during the certification process, particularly if construction is planned to commence shortly after certification. The verification procedures, unlike the conditions, may be modified as necessary by the CPM after notice to the project owner.</p> <p>A cover letter or cover email from the project owner or an authorized agent is required for all compliance submittals and correspondence pertaining to compliance matters. The cover letter subject line shall identify the project by AFC number, cite the appropriate Condition of Certification number(s), and give a brief description of the subject of the submittal. When submitting supplementary or corrected information, the project owner shall reference the date of the previous submittal and the Conditions of Certification applicable.</p> <p>All reports and plans required by the project's Conditions of Certification shall be submitted in a searchable electronic format (.pdf, MS Word or Excel, etc.) and include standard formatting elements such as a table of contents identifying by title and page number each section, table, graphic, exhibit, or addendum. All report and/or plan graphics and maps shall be adequately scaled and shall include a key with descriptive labels, directional headings, a bar scale, and the most recent revision date.</p> <p>The project owner is responsible for the content and delivery of all verification submittals to the CPM and that the actions required by the verification were satisfied by the project owner or an agent of the project owner. All submittals shall be submitted electronically by email.</p>	n/a	Compliance Verification Submittals	Pre-construction & Construction	File submittals during the certification process, particularly if construction is planned to commence shortly after certification. The verification procedures, unlike the conditions, may be modified as necessary by the CPM after notice to the project owner.	WSP	In progress	n/a			
Compliance Conditions and Compliance Monitoring Plan	COM-4	<p>Pre-Construction Matrix and Tasks Prior to Start of Construction. Prior to construction, the project owner shall submit to the CPM a compliance matrix including only those conditions that must be fulfilled before the start of construction. The matrix shall be included with the project owner's first compliance submittal or prior to the first pre-construction meeting,</p>	n/a	Submit to the CPM a compliance matrix including only those conditions that must be fulfilled before the start of construction	Pre-construction	First compliance submittal or prior to the first pre-construction meeting, whichever comes first	WSP	Complete MCR 1: 2/19/2026 MCR 2: 3/19/2026	2/19/2026 - along with first MCR 3/19/2026 - along with second MCR			

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
		<p>whichever comes first, and shall be submitted in a format similar to the description below.</p> <p>Site mobilization and construction activities shall not start until the following have occurred:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the project owner has submitted the pre-construction matrix and all compliance verifications pertaining to pre-construction Conditions of Certification; and 2. the CPM has issued a Notice to Proceed letter to the project owner. <p>The deadlines for submitting various compliance verifications to the CPM allow staff sufficient time to review and comment on, and, if necessary, also allow the project owner to revise the submittal in a timely manner. These procedures help ensure that project construction proceeds according to schedule. Failure to submit required compliance documents by the specified deadlines may result in delayed authorizations to commence various stages of the project.</p> <p>If the project owner anticipates site mobilization immediately following project certification, it may be necessary for the project owner to file compliance submittals prior to project certification. In these instances, compliance verifications can be submitted in advance of the required deadlines and the anticipated authorizations to start construction. The project owner must understand that submitting items required in compliance verifications prior to these authorizations is at the owner's own risk. Any approval by CEC staff prior to project certification is subject to change based upon the Decision, or amendment thereto, and early staff compliance approvals do not imply that the CEC will certify the project for actual construction and operation.</p>										
Compliance Conditions and Compliance Monitoring Plan	COM-5	<p>Compliance Matrix. The project owner shall submit a compliance matrix to the CPM with each MCR and ACR. The compliance matrix shall identify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the technical area (e.g., biological resources, facility design, etc.); 2. the condition number; 3. brief description of the verification action or submittal required by the Condition of Certification; 4. the date the submittal is required (e.g., 60 days prior to construction, after final inspection, etc.); 5. the expected or actual submittal 	n/a	Submit a compliance matrix to the CPM with each MCR and ACR	Pre-construction & Construction & Closure	60 days prior to construction, after final inspection, etc.	WSP	In Progress	n/a			

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
		<p>date;</p> <p>6. the date a submittal or action was approved by the Delegate Chief Building Official (DCBO), CPM, or delegate agency, if applicable;</p> <p>7. the compliance status of each condition (e.g., "not started," "in progress" or "completed" (include the date)); and</p> <p>8. if the Condition of Certification was amended, the updated language and the date the amendment was proposed or approved.</p> <p>The CPM can provide a template for the compliance matrix upon request.</p>										
Compliance Conditions and Compliance Monitoring Plan	COM-6	<p>Monthly Compliance Report (MCR). The first MCR is due 30 days following the filing to the docket of the Decision unless otherwise agreed to by the CPM.</p> <p>The first MCR shall include the AFC number and an initial list of dates for each of the events identified on the Key Events List. (The Key Events List form is found at the end of this Compliance Conditions and Compliance Monitoring Plan section.) During pre-construction, construction, or closure, the project owner or authorized agent shall submit an electronic searchable version of the MCR to the CPM within 10 business days after the end of each reporting month.</p> <p>MCRs shall be submitted each month until construction is complete, and the final certificate of occupancy is issued by the DCBO. MCRs shall be clearly identified for the month being reported. The MCR shall contain, at a minimum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a summary of the current project construction status, a revised/updated schedule if there are significant delays, and an explanation of any significant changes to the schedule; 2. documents required by specific Conditions of Certification to be submitted along with the MCR. Each of these items shall be identified in the transmittal letter, as well as the conditions they satisfy, and submitted as attachments to the MCR; 3. an initial, and thereafter updated, compliance matrix showing the status of all Conditions of Certification; 4. a list of Conditions of Certification that have been satisfied during the reporting period, and a description or reference to the actions that satisfied the condition; 	n/a	Submit Monthly Compliance Reports to the CPM	Pre-construction & Construction & Closure	The first MCR is due 30 days following the filing to the docket of the Decision unless otherwise agreed to by the CPM.	WSP	Complete (19th of each month)	MCR 1: 2/19/2026 MCR 2: 3/18/2026		MCR 1: TN268710	

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
		<p>5. a list of any submittal deadlines that were missed, accompanied by an explanation and an estimate of when the information will be provided;</p> <p>6. a cumulative listing of any approved changes to Conditions of Certification;</p> <p>7. a listing of any filings submitted to, and permits issued by, other governmental agencies during the month;</p> <p>8. a projection of project compliance activities scheduled during the next two months; the project owner shall notify the CPM as soon as any changes are made to the project construction schedule that would affect compliance with Conditions of Certification;</p> <p>9. a listing of the month's additions to the on-site compliance file; and</p> <p>10. a listing of incidents, complaints, notices of violation, official warnings, and citations received during the month; a list of any incidents that occurred during the month, a description of the actions taken to date to resolve the issues; and the status of any unresolved actions noted in the previous MCRs.</p>										
Compliance Conditions and Compliance Monitoring Plan	COM-7	<p>Kern County Notification of Key Events. The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department shall be provided contact information including cell phone, office numbers and e-mails for the Project Owner's Representatives(s) and the CEC Compliance Project Manager (CPM). The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department, Kern County Fire Department, and Kern County Public Works Department shall all be notified by e-mail for the following milestones:</p> <p>a. Commencement of any road construction</p> <p>b. Moving equipment for grading onto the site</p> <p>c. Beginning of any blasting or excavation</p> <p>d. Filling of the retention pond</p> <p>e. Completion of excavation</p> <p>f. Completion of facilities</p>	n/a	The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department shall be provided with contact information for the Project Owner's Representatives and the CPM. Kern County shall be given e-mail notifications before Construction milestones and completion of activities	Pre-construction & Construction	-	Hydrostor		Started March 2, 2026 and ongoing			

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
Compliance Conditions and Compliance Monitoring Plan	COM-13	Emergency Response Site Contingency Plan. No less than 60 days prior to the start of construction (or other CPM-approved) date, the project owner shall submit, for CPM review and approval, an Emergency Response Site Contingency Plan (Contingency Plan). Subsequently, no less than 60 days prior to the start of commercial operation, the project owner shall update (as necessary) and resubmit the Contingency Plan for CPM review and approval. The Contingency Plan shall evidence a facility's coordinated emergency response and recovery preparedness for a series of reasonably foreseeable emergency events. The CPM may require Contingency Plan updating over the life of the facility. Contingency Plan elements include, but are not limited to: 1. a site-specific list and direct contact information for persons, agencies, and responders to be notified for an unanticipated event; 2. a detailed and labeled facility map, including all fences and gates, the windsock location (if applicable), the on and off-site assembly areas, and the main roads and highways near the site; 3. a detailed and labeled map of population centers, sensitive receptors, and the nearest emergency response facilities; 4. a description of the on-site, first response and backup emergency alert and communication systems, site-specific emergency response protocols, and procedures for maintaining the facility's contingency response capabilities, including a detailed map of interior and exterior evacuation routes, and the planned location(s) of all permanent safety equipment; 5. an organizational chart including the name, contact information, and first aid/emergency response certification(s) and renewal date(s) for all personnel regularly on-site; 6. a brief description of reasonably foreseeable, site-specific incidents and accident sequences (on- and off-site), including response procedures and protocols and site security measures to maintain twenty-four-hour site security; 7. procedures for maintaining contingency response capabilities;	n/a	a) Submit to the CPM an Emergency Response Site Contingency Plan b) update and resubmit the plan	Pre-construction and Pre- O&M	No less than 60 days prior to the start of construction (or other CPM-approved) date b) No less than 60 days prior to the start of commercial operation	WSP	In Progress	2-Apr-26			

Technical Resource	CoC Code	CoC	CoC Verification	Summary of CoC and Verification	Project Phase	Timeline (Date Due to CEC CPM or DCBO)	Lead Responsible Party	Status (Not Started, In Progress, Completed)	Date/ Expected Date sent to CPM, DCBO	Date Approved by CPM, DCBO	Log Number	Comments
		and 8. the procedures and implementation sequence for the safe and secure shutdown of all non-critical equipment and removal of hazardous materials and waste (see also specific Conditions of Certification for the technical areas of Public Health, Solid Waste Management, Hazards, Hazardous Materials Management, Hazardous Waste, and Wildfire, and Worker Safety and Fire Protection).										

CoC = Condition of Certification

Hatch = Topside Engineering, Procurement and Construction

Cementation (CMT) = Subsurface Engineering, Procurement and Construction

WSP = Environmental Contractor