

June 15, 2010

Eric Solorio
Project Manager
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (RSPP), Docket No. 09-AFC-9, Preliminary Spring 2010 Biological Survey Results

Dear Mr. Solorio:

Please find the Preliminary Spring 2010 Biological Survey Results, for the RSPP site. Also included are the GIS datafiles associated with the survey.

This has been docketed in accordance with CEC requirements.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 510-809-4662 (office) or 949-433-4049 (cell).

Sincerely,



Billy Owens
Director, Project Development

DOCKET

09-AFC-9

DATE JUN 15 2010

RECD. JUN 15 2010



**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV**

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
For the *RIDGECREST SOLAR
POWER PROJECT***

Docket No. 09-AFC-9

**PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 6/9/2010)**

APPLICANT

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Elizabeth Copley, declare that on June 15, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (Docket No. 09-AFC-9) Preliminary Spring 2010 Biological Survey Results. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at:

[\[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_ridgecrest\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_ridgecrest).

The documents have been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

For service to all other parties:

- sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- by personal delivery;
- by delivering on this date, for mailing with the United States Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date to those addresses **NOT** marked "email preferred."

AND

For filing with the Energy Commission:

- sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below (preferred method);

OR

- depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Attn: Docket No. 09-AFC-9
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.





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June 15, 2010

Mr. Eric Solorio
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

**Subject: Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (09-AFC-9)
Preliminary Spring 2010 Survey Results for Biological Resources**

Dear Mr. Solorio:

On behalf of Ridgecrest Solar I, LLC, AECOM is submitting preliminary results of biological surveys conducted in spring 2010 for desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*, DT), rare plants, and incidental wildlife occurrences for the Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (RSPP). This information was requested at the Ridgecrest Staff Workshops conducted on May 3 and 4, 2010.

Please note that the results provided herein are the results of our observations within portions of the Proposed Project study area and associated buffers that were surveyed in 2010. These results do not represent total impacts within the reconfigured Project disturbance area because we surveyed wider corridor widths and additional areas for contingency in the engineering design that ultimately will not be disturbed by construction of the RSPP. The preliminary survey results are presented in figures and tables attached.

Table 1 and Figure 1 present a summary of observations of DT sign and DT occurrences noted during spring 2010 surveys. Figure 2 present the rare plant population counts observed during spring 2010 surveys. No rare plants were detected within the Biological Resources Survey Area. Table 2 and Figure 3 present incidental wildlife occurrences observed during protocol surveys for DT, rare plants, western burrowing owl, and jurisdictional waters. Results from the fall and spring 2009 surveys are not included in the tables and figures for DT, rare plants or incidental wildlife occurrences.

It is important to note that some of the results presented in the tables and figures attached may represent repeated observations of individuals or sign previously reported in the Proposed Project study area in 2009. Repeated observations may have occurred because of Project reconfiguration, which resulted in some areas that were surveyed as part of the Project buffer in 2009 being resurveyed at greater intensity as part of the Project disturbance area in 2010. In addition, individuals may have moved from areas surveyed in 2009 to areas surveyed in 2010. As such, it is possible that 2010 survey results identified some of the same DT previously found in 2009. For example, Figure 1 shows a number of DT observations that occur in areas that either overlap with or border areas previously surveyed in 2009; therefore one or more of these observations could have been a repeated record from 2009. Due to survey methodologies implemented; however, it is not possible to know exactly which observations represent repeated observations.

**Table 1
 Ridgecrest Solar Power Project Desert Tortoise Observations Spring 2010**

Sign	Class*	Proposed Project Study Area	Buffer	Incidental Observations Outside Buffer Area	Grand Total
Tortoises	adult	9	2	1	12
	juvenile	2	1	1	4
	Total	11	3	2	16
Tortoise Burrows	1	8	14	1	23
	2	1	9	1	11
	3	1	-	-	1
	4	1	-	-	1
	5	-	1	-	1
	Total	11	24	2	37
Tortoise Pallets	1	2		-	2
	2	4	2	-	6
	3	4	1	-	5
	4	-	-	-	-
	5	2		1	3
	Total	12	3	1	16
Tortoise Scat	1	-	1	-	1
	2	-	1	-	1
	3	2	4	-	6
	4	3	1	-	4
	5	-	1	3	4
	Total	5	8	3	16
Tortoise Shell Remains	1	-	1	-	1
	2	-	1	1	2
	3	1	1	-	2
	4	1	2	1	4
	5	9	3	-	12
	Total	11	8	2	21
Tortoise Egg Shell Fragment		1	-	1	-
Sets of Tortoise Tracks		2	-	2	-

Mr. Eric Solorio
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Table 2
Ridgecrest Solar Power Project Sensitive Wildlife Occurrences

Species	Proposed Project Study Area	Buffer	Grand Total
Kit Fox Burrow	3	2	5
Kit Fox Burrow Complex	15	2	17
Le Conte's Thrasher	1	-	1
Loggerhead Shrike	-	1	1
Western Burrowing Owl	3	7	10
Western Burrowing Owl Active Burrows	-	1	1
Burrows with Western Burrowing Owl sign	12	10	22

Please let us know if you have any questions.

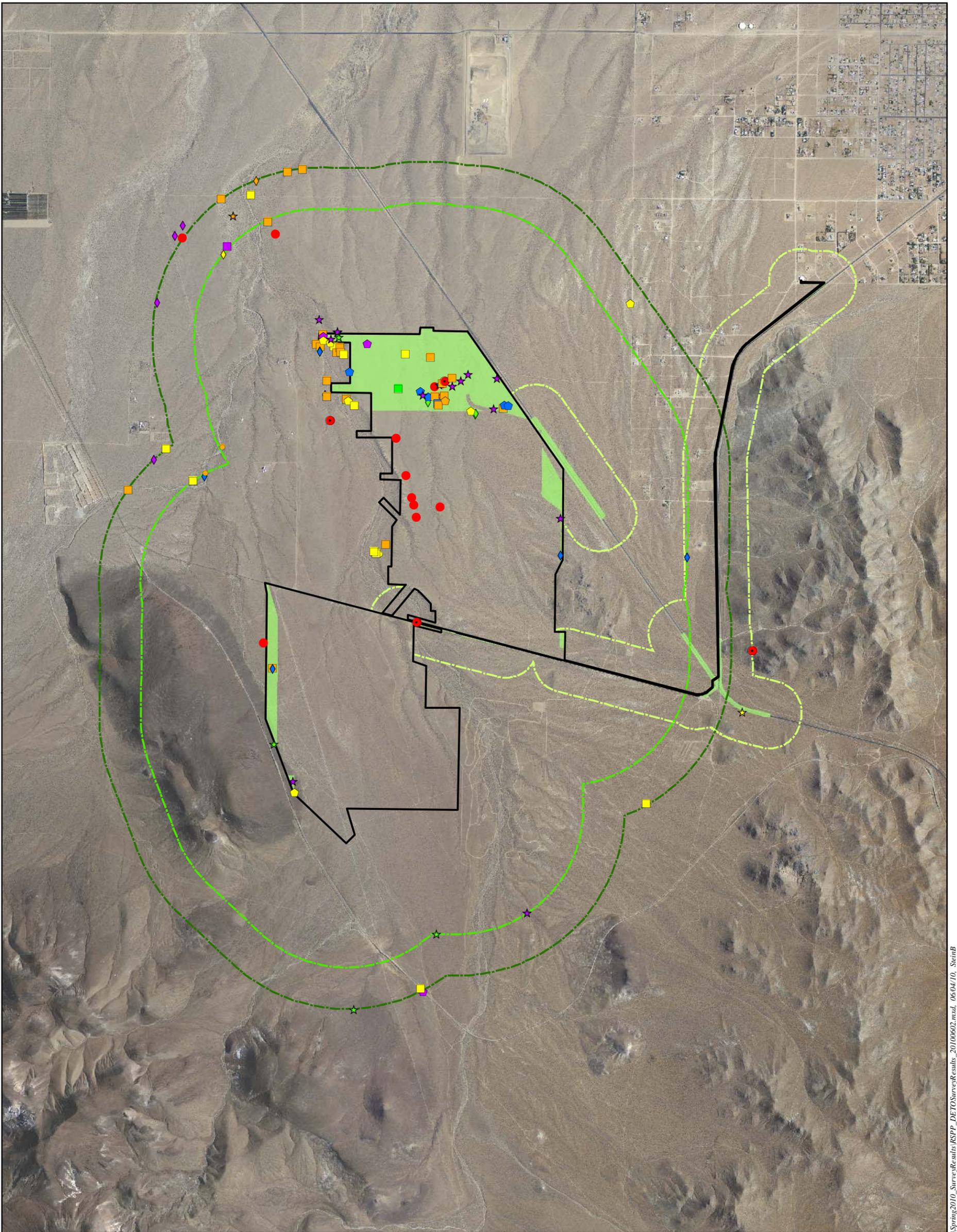
Sincerely,



Bill Graham
Principal

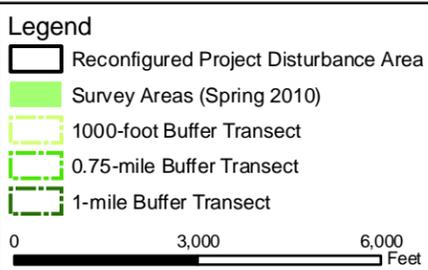
Enclosure: Figure 1. Preliminary Results Desert Tortoise Spring 2010 Surveys
Figure 2. Preliminary Results Botany Rare Plants Spring 2010 Surveys
Figure 3. Preliminary Results Incidental Wildlife Occurrences Spring 2010 Surveys
CD. Raw Data Files in Excel and Shapefiles

cc: Alice Harron, Solar Millennium
Billy Owens, Solar Millennium
Scott Galati, Solar Millennium Counsel
Mark Luttrell, AECOM
Elizabeth Copley, AECOM



Desert Tortoise Observations (Spring 2010)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ● Adult Tortoise | ■ Tortoise Burrow - Class 5 | ◆ Tortoise Scat - Class 2 | ★ Tortoise Carcass - Class 4 |
| ● Juvenile Tortoise | ■ Tortoise Pallet (Active) - Class 1 | ◆ Tortoise Scat - Class 3 | ★ Tortoise Bone Fragment (Class 5) |
| ■ Tortoise Burrow - Class 1 | ■ Tortoise Pallet - Class 2 | ◆ Tortoise Scat - Class 4 | ● Tortoise Tracks |
| ■ Tortoise Burrow - Class 2 | ■ Tortoise Pallet - Class 3 | ◆ Tortoise Scat - Class 5 | ● Tortoise Egg Shell Fragment |
| ■ Tortoise Burrow - Class 3 | ■ Tortoise Pallet - Class 4 | ★ Tortoise Carcass - Class 1 | |
| ■ Tortoise Burrow - Class 4 | ■ Tortoise Pallet - Class 5 | ★ Tortoise Carcass - Class 2 | |
| | ◆ Tortoise Scat - Class 1 | ★ Tortoise Carcass - Class 3 | |



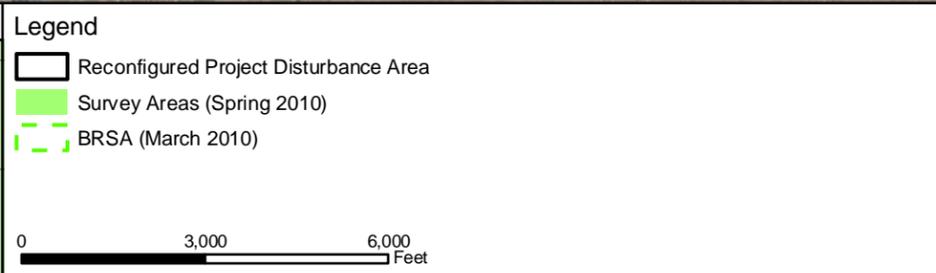
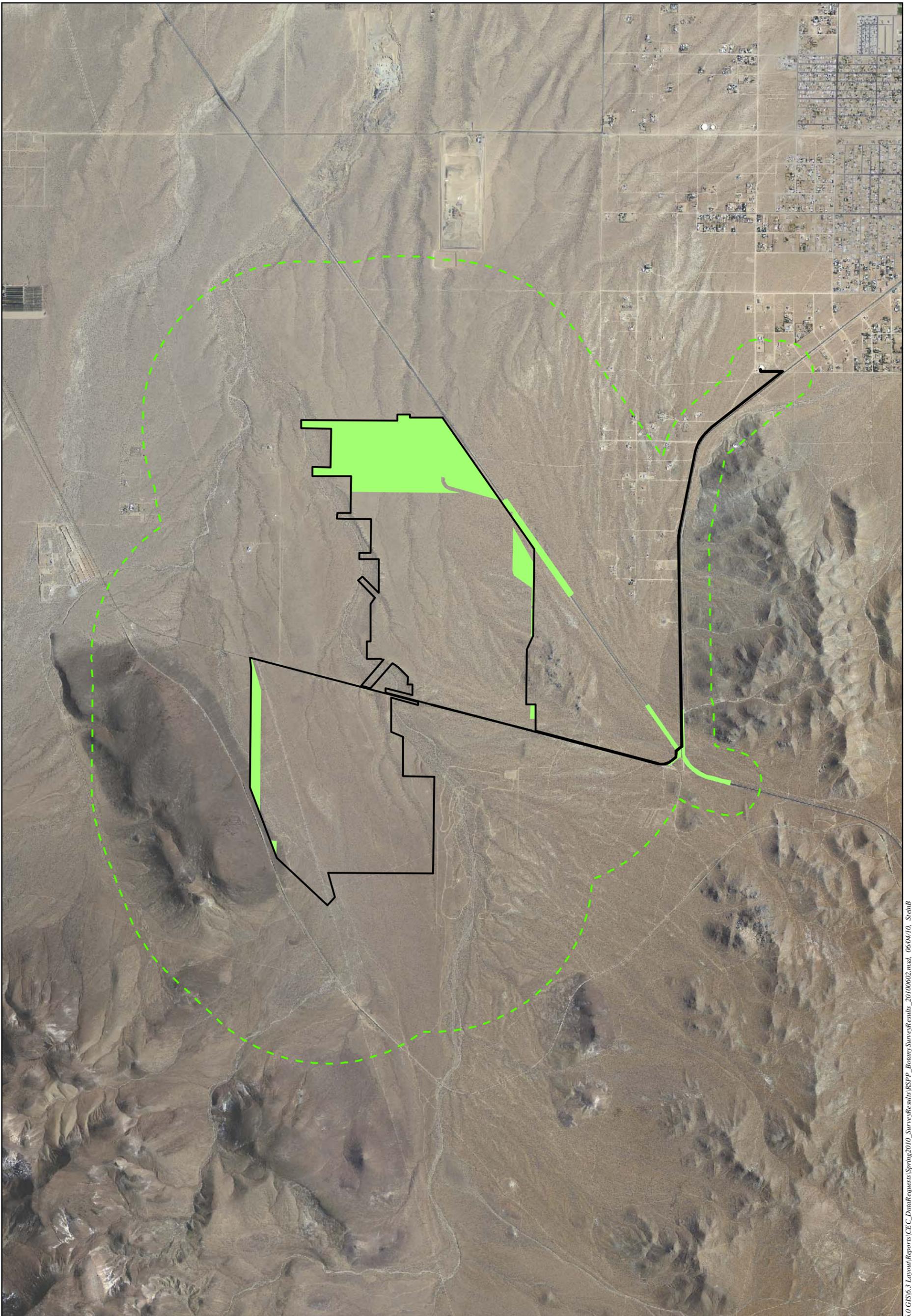
Ridgecrest Solar Power Project
 Figure 1
 Preliminary Results
 Desert Tortoise
 Spring 2010 Surveys

Source: NAIP 2005; AECOM 2010

1 inch = 3,000 feet

AECOM

Date: June 2010



Ridgcrest Solar Power Project

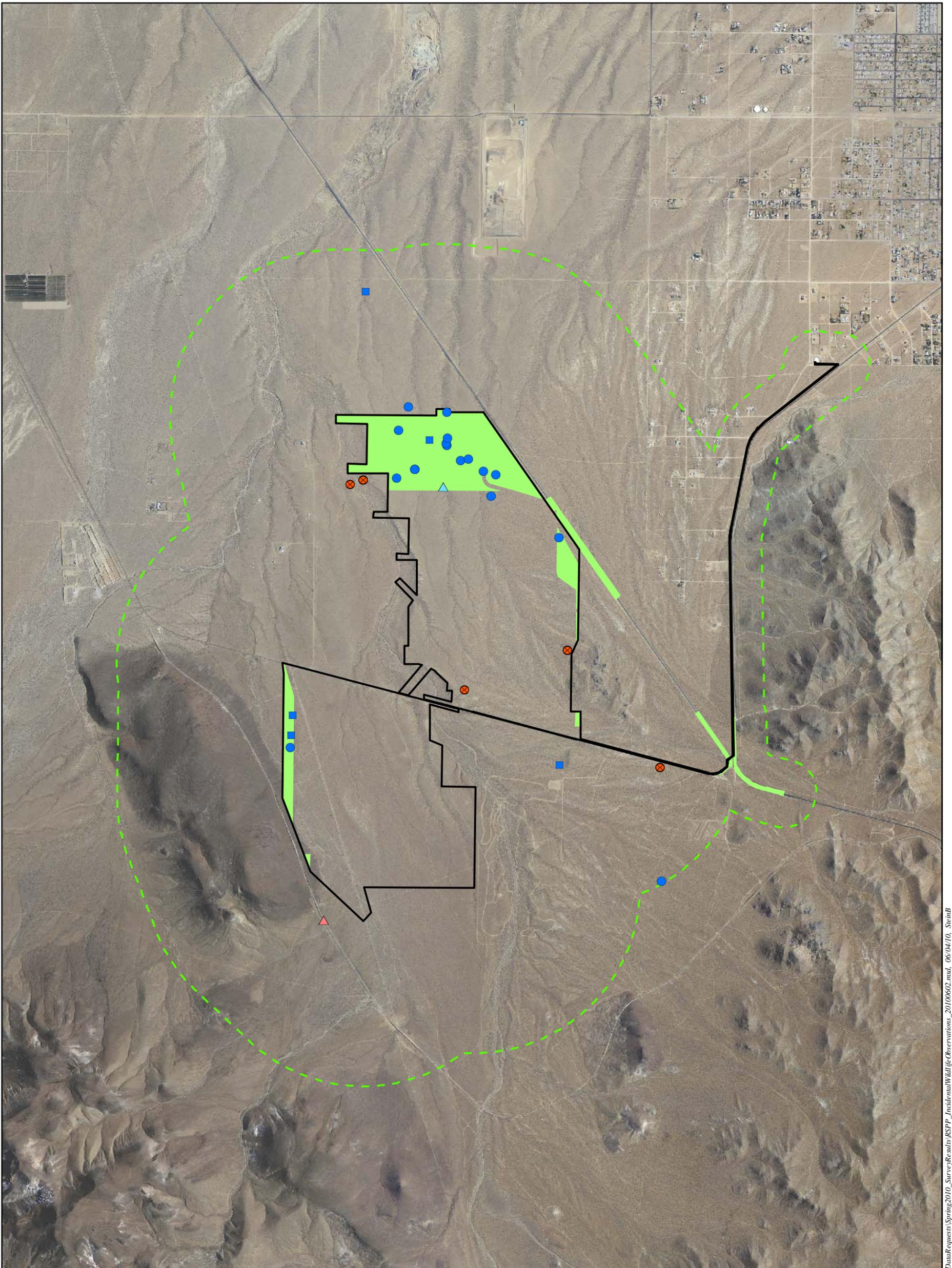
**Figure 2
Preliminary Results
Botany Rare Plants
Spring 2010 Surveys**

Source: NAIP 2005; AECOM 2010

1 inch = 3,000 feet

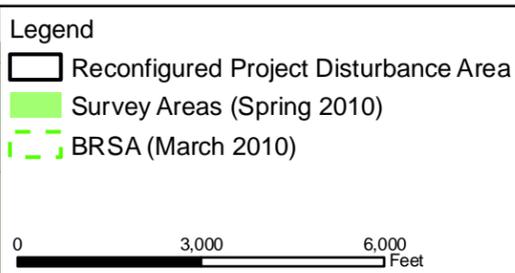
AECOM

Date: June 2010



Sensitive Wildlife Observations

- Kit Fox Burrow
- Kit Fox Burrow Complex
- ▲ Le Conte's Thrasher
- ▲ Loggerhead Shrike
- ⊗ Western Burrowing Owl



Ridgecrest Solar Power Project
Figure 3
Incidental Wildlife Observations
Spring 2010 Surveys

Source: NAIP 2005; AECOM 2010

1 inch = 3,000 feet

AECOM

Date: June 2010