DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-03
Project Title:	Soda Mountain Solar
TN #:	259699
Document Title:	Section 3-11 Land Use and Planning - October 2024 - Revision 1
Description:	This document replaces in full TN # 257908. Revisions made address CEC data requests LAND-1 through LAND-5. The Land Use and Planning Section evaluates the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts the Project may have on land use and planning and identifies any required Applicant-Proposed Measures (APM) and any required Mitigation Measures.
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Submission Date:	10/25/2024 3:36:43 PM
Docketed Date:	10/25/2024

3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

This section describes the existing land use conditions on the project site and in the surrounding area and discusses the impacts that would occur with the implementation of the project. Potential land use and planning effects may occur from conflicts with existing or authorized land uses or with applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations. Land use considerations are assessed in this section by comparing the current and proposed land uses, land ownership, and land use designations or limitations of land uses, identifies the criteria bused for determining the significance of land use and planning impacts, and evaluates the potential impacts of the project.

3.11.1 Regulatory Setting

3.11.1.1 Federal

FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) establishes public land policy; and guidelines for administration; and provides for the management, protection, development, and enhancement of public lands. FLPMA Section 202 requires the BLM to develop land use plans, also known as resource management plans (RMPs), to guide the BLM's management of public lands. FLPMA Title V, Section 501, establishes the BLM's authority to grant a right-of-way (ROW) for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electrical energy (FLPMA, as amended, 2001). The BLM is responsible for responding to requests regarding the development of energy resources on BLM-administered lands in a manner that balances diverse resource uses and considers the long-term needs for renewable and non-renewable resources for future generations.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was enacted by the federal government in 1970 (42 United States Code [USC] 4321 et seq.). NEPA applies to most government actions that might affect natural resource management. NEPA requires the federal government to evaluate potential environmental impacts of proposed federal actions. Under NEPA, federal project proponents must consider reasonable alternatives to projects that may lessen the environmental impacts. Environmental review under NEPA can involve three levels of analysis: 1) Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) determination; 2) Environmental Assessment (EA)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI); or 3) EIS.

A federal action may be categorically excluded from a detailed environmental analysis if the federal action does not "individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment" (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1508.4). If a federal agency determines that a CATEX does not apply to, or sufficiently address, a proposed action, that agency must then prepare an EA. The EA determines whether a federal action has the potential to cause significant environmental effects. An EA is typically brief and addresses the need for the project, describes project alternatives, evaluates impacts, and provides reference sources consulted. An EIS is the most rigorous and detailed level of project environmental review and is prepared for proposed major federal actions determined to significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The NEPA environmental review process provides opportunities for public comment, which is often required before decisions about natural resource use can be made.

On December 14, 2007, the project applicant, Soda Mountain Solar, LLC, filed a ROW grant application with the BLM to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission the project (Case File Number CACA-049584). A ROW grant requires compliance with applicable state environmental laws and associated approvals of any required mitigation measures. The BLM issued a Record of Decision (ROD) to approve a revised configuration of the project and the associated amendment to the CDCA Plan in March 2016 (BLM 2016a).

SECTION 368 OF THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 directed federal agencies to identify corridors for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines, and electricity transmission and distribution facilities (energy corridors) on federal land in the 11 contiguous western states. The energy corridors are managed as the preferred locations for the development of energy transportation projects on lands managed by the BLM. Each corridor has a defined centerline, width, and compatible use (underground-only, electric-only, or multi-modal).

The West-wide Energy Corridor (WWEC) Record of Decision (ROD) designated 20 utility corridors in California (BLM 2009). The ROD approved amendments to 92 BLM resource management plans (RMPs) to designate approximately 5,000 miles of Section 368 energy corridors on BLM-administered lands in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AREA PLAN OF 1980, AS AMENDED

The CDCA encompasses 25 million acres in southern California designated by Congress in 1976 through the FLPMA. The BLM manages about 10 million of those acres. Congress directed the BLM to prepare and implement a comprehensive long-range plan for the management, use, development, and protection of public lands within the CDCA. The CDCA Plan is based on the concepts of multiple-use, sustained yield, and maintenance of environmental quality. The CDCA Plan provides overall regional guidance for BLM-administered lands in the CDCA and establishes long-term goals for the protection and use of the California desert (BLM 1999).

The CDCA Plan establishes four multiple-use classes (MUCs); MUC guidelines; and plan elements for specific resources or activities, such as motorized vehicle access, recreation, and vegetation harvesting. The MUCs classify lands as follows: Class C (Controlled) includes areas recommended as suitable for wilderness designation; Class L (Limited Use) lands are managed for generally lower intensity uses for the purpose of protecting sensitive natural, scenic, ecological, and cultural resources; Class M (Moderate Use) provides for a wide variety of present and future uses including mining, livestock grazing, recreation, and energy and utility development; and Class I (Intensive Use) provides for concentrated use of lands and resources to meet human needs, where reasonable protection is provided for sensitive natural and cultural resources. Unclassified lands consist of scattered and isolated parcels that are managed on a case-by-case basis. The Project was located within MUCs L, M, and I.

DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN

In September 2016, BLM adopted the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) to the CDCA Plan, Bishop Resource Management Plan, and Bakersfield Resource Management Plan (BLM 2016b). The DRECP LUPA addresses solar, wind, geothermal energy generation, and transmission projects on 10.8 million acres of BLM-administered lands in the desert regions of southern California.

The BLM DRECP LUPA establishes several land use classifications, including Development Focus Areas (DFAs), Variance Process Lands (VPLs), Recreation Management Areas, General Public Lands, and various conservation land use designations. In DFAs, renewable energy projects are incentivized and permitting is streamlined. VPLs are carried over from the Western Solar Plan[1] designations and have moderate to low ecological value and uncertain renewable energy potential. Renewable energy projects may be implemented on VPLs, but they must first be evaluated under a variance process and then approved by BLM to proceed through NEPA environmental review. BLM Conservation Areas include National Landscape Conservation System lands, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), and Wildlife Allocations. Recreation Management Areas are designated for recreation actions. This designation includes Extensive Recreation Management Areas, which entail management specifically to address recreation use and demand; and Special Recreation Management Areas, which are high-priority areas for recreation and have unique value and importance for recreation. General Public Lands are BLM-administered lands that do not have any of the above designations.

The DRECP LUPA includes a list of over 200 Conservation and Management Actions (CMAs) that prescribe avoidance, minimization, and compensatory mitigation actions that are applicable to new projects on BLM-administered lands in the DRECP plan area. The CMAs address siting, design, preconstruction, construction, maintenance, implementation, operation, and decommissioning activities of renewable energy projects. The applicability of each CMA to a particular project depends on the BLM land designation(s) at the project area, project type, and resources present at the site.

The majority of the project area is located on DRECP General Public Lands, and the gen-tie route is within an ACEC. The project ROD was issued before the DRECP was adopted, and mitigation requirements for the project as described in the ROD are written as project-specific mitigation measures (MMs) rather than CMAs.

3.11.1.2 State

The project would be located entirely on BLM-administered public lands, therefore state laws, regulations, and policies do not apply. However, while it is not subject to state laws and regulations, the following were reviewed for informational purposes.

CALIFORNIA PLANNING AND ZONING LAW

Under Government Code Sections 6500066499.58, each city and county must adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan. State law gives cities and counties wide latitude in how a jurisdiction may create a general plan, but there are fundamental requirements that must be met. These requirements include the inclusion of seven mandatory elements described in the Government Code, including a section on land use. Each of the elements must contain text and descriptions that set forth objectives, principles, standards, policies, and plan proposals; diagrams and maps that incorporate data and analysis; and mitigation measures.

CALIFORNIA CODES

There are 29 legal codes enacted by the California State Legislature, which together form the general statutory law for the state. The official codes are maintained by the California Legislative Counsel for the Legislature. Government Code Section 53091(d) states, “Building ordinances of a county or city shall not

[1] The BLM’s 2012 Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment/ROD for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States.

apply to the location or construction of facilities for the production, generation, storage, treatment, or transmission of water, wastewater, or electrical energy by a local agency."

Section 53091(e) further states, "Zoning ordinances of a county or city shall not apply to the location or construction of facilities for the production, generation, storage, treatment, or transmission of water, or for the production or generation of electrical energy, facilities that are subject to Section 12808.5 of the Public Utilities Code, or electrical substations in an electrical transmission system that receives electricity at less than 100,000 volts. Zoning ordinances of a county or city shall apply to the location or construction of facilities for the storage or transmission of electrical energy by a local agency, if the zoning ordinances make provision for those facilities."

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) review of transmission line applications occurs under two concurrent and parallel processes: (1) environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and (2) review of project needs and costs under the Public Utilities Code Section 1001 et seq. and General Order 131-D. Rules relating to the planning and construction of electric generation, transmission/power/distribution line facilities, and substations located in California, state that no electric public utilities will begin construction of any new electric generating plant, or modification, alteration, or addition to an existing electric generating plant, or of electric transmission/power/distribution line facilities, or new, upgraded, or modified substations, exceeding 50 kilovolts (kV), without first complying with the provisions of the General Order.

ASSEMBLY BILL 205

Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 205 into law on June 30, 2022. This legislative effort significantly expands the California Energy Commission (CEC)'s jurisdiction. AB 205 allows developers to opt into a streamlined environmental review and authorization process for certain solar, wind, and other qualifying clean energy projects under exclusive state jurisdiction. The law also provides new funding for qualifying generation and energy storage facilities. Before AB 205, the CEC's siting authority was limited to thermal power plants with capacities of 50 megawatts (MW) or more. AB 205 expands CEC's siting authority to include non-thermal generating facilities and establishes a new siting certification process for the following eligible facilities:

- Solar photovoltaic (PV) and onshore wind generating facilities with capacities of 50 MW or more.
- Energy storage facilities capable of storing at least 200 MWh of energy.
- Facilities for the manufacture, production, or assembly of energy storage systems, wind systems, solar PV systems, or the components of those systems if the developer certifies the project will require a capital investment of $250 million over a period of five years.
- Transmission lines from the above-mentioned generating or storage facilities to the first point of interconnection.
- Thermal generation facilities with capacities of 50 MW or more that are not powered by fossil or nuclear fuels.

AB 205 gives CEC exclusive siting authority over these eligible projects if a developer submits an application to CEC under this certification process instead of an application for entitlements from the jurisdiction in which the project is located. CEC's siting certification is in lieu of any permit, certificate, or similar document required by any state, local, or regional agency, or federal agency to the extent permitted by federal law. It also supersedes any applicable statute, ordinance, or regulation of any state,

local, or regional agency, or federal agency to the extent permitted by federal law, with limited exceptions. AB 205 specifically provides that the certification does not supersede the authority of an exclusive list of agencies: the California State Lands Commission, the California Coastal Commission (CCC), the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) or the applicable regional water quality control boards, local air quality management districts, or the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

3.11.1.3 Local

The project would be located entirely on BLM-administered public lands, therefore local laws, regulations, and policies do not apply. However, while it is not subject to the County of San Bernardino land use plans and ordinances, local plans were reviewed for informational purposes.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

The following policies identified in the Land Use Element of the San Bernardino County General Plan are relevant to this analysis (San Bernardino County 2024):

Goal LU-1 Fiscally Sustainable Growth: Growth and development that builds thriving communities, contributes to our Complete County and is fiscally sustainable.

- **Policy LU-1.1 Growth** We support growth and development that is fiscally sustainable for the County. We accommodate growth in the unincorporated county when it benefits existing communities, provides a regional housing option for rural lifestyles, or supports the regional economy.

Goal LU-2 Land Use Mix and Compatibility An arrangement of land uses that balances the lifestyle of existing residents, the needs of future generations, opportunities for commercial and industrial development, and the value of the natural environment.

- **Policy LU-2.3 Compatibility with natural environment** We require that new development is located, scaled, buffered, and designed for compatibility with the surrounding natural environment and biodiversity.

The following policies identified in the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element of the San Bernardino County General Plan are relevant to this analysis (San Bernardino County 2024):

Goal RE-2 Renewable Energy Systems The County will be home to diverse and innovative renewable energy systems that provide reliable and affordable energy to our unique Valley, Mountain, and Desert regions

- **Policy RE-2.1** Support solar energy generation, solar water heating, wind energy and bioenergy systems that are consistent with the orientation, siting and environmental compatibility policies of the General Plan.
- **Policy RE-2.2** Promote use of energy storage technologies that are appropriate for the character of the proposed location.
- **Policy RE-2.6** Encourage energy efficiency through appropriate renewable energy systems.

3.11.2 Environmental Setting

3.11.2.1 Project Location

The project is located entirely on federally-owned land managed by the BLM (see Figure 3.11-1). The 2,670-acre project site is located in unincorporated San Bernardino County, California, approximately 7 miles southwest of the community of Baker and 50 miles northeast of the City of Barstow. The project site is located in portions of Sections 1 and 11–14, Township 12 North, Range 7 East; Sections 25 and 36, Township 13 North, Range 7 East; Sections 6, 7, 8, and 18, Township 13 North, Range 8 East, San Bernardino Meridian, California.

San Bernardino County is located on the eastern edge of the Los Angeles metropolitan region. It is the largest county within the continental United States by area, containing three distinct planning regions, that are identified as Valley, Mountain, and Desert. The project site is within the Desert Planning Region, which is the largest of the three regions, encompassing a significant portion of the Mojave Desert and containing approximately 93 percent of the land within San Bernardino County. This region is an assemblage of mountain ranges interspersed with long, broad valleys that often contain dry lakes (San Bernardino County 2024).

3.11.2.2 Existing Conditions

The project would occupy the alluvial valley dividing the northern and southern portions of the Soda Mountains in the Mojave Desert. The project site is composed of rural desert land and is almost entirely undeveloped. Rasor Road, an unimproved BLM public access road, runs from the southwest corner of the site and splits into two branches after approximately 1.4 miles. The Rasor Road fork continues from west to east, to the Rasor OHV recreation area. Arrowhead Trail, the other fork, continues northward through the project site.

3.11.2.3 Surrounding Land Uses

The Rasor Road Services Shell Oil gas station located off I-15 is adjacent to and southwest of the project site. There is a residence adjacent to the gas station, roughly 260 feet southwest of the project boundary. The next closest residential development is approximately 6 miles away in Baker.

Infrastructure currently surrounding the site includes the four-lane I-15, two high-voltage electric transmission lines, an electrical distribution line, wireless cellular telephone towers, two fiber-optic cables, and two fuel pipelines. There are two high-voltage electrical transmission lines to the west of I-15 owned by Southern California Edison (SCE) and the Los Angeles Department of Public Works (LADWP).

BLM-administered areas near the project site include the Soda Mountains Expansion ACEC and Soda Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA) to the northwest and Rasor Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Area to the southeast. To the east of the project site is the western boundary of the 1.6-million-acre Mojave National Preserve, which is managed by the National Park Service.

Three military installations are located within a 25-mile radius of the project site. The Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake and the National Training Center Fort Irwin are to the northwest, and Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command Twentynine Palms is to the southeast.

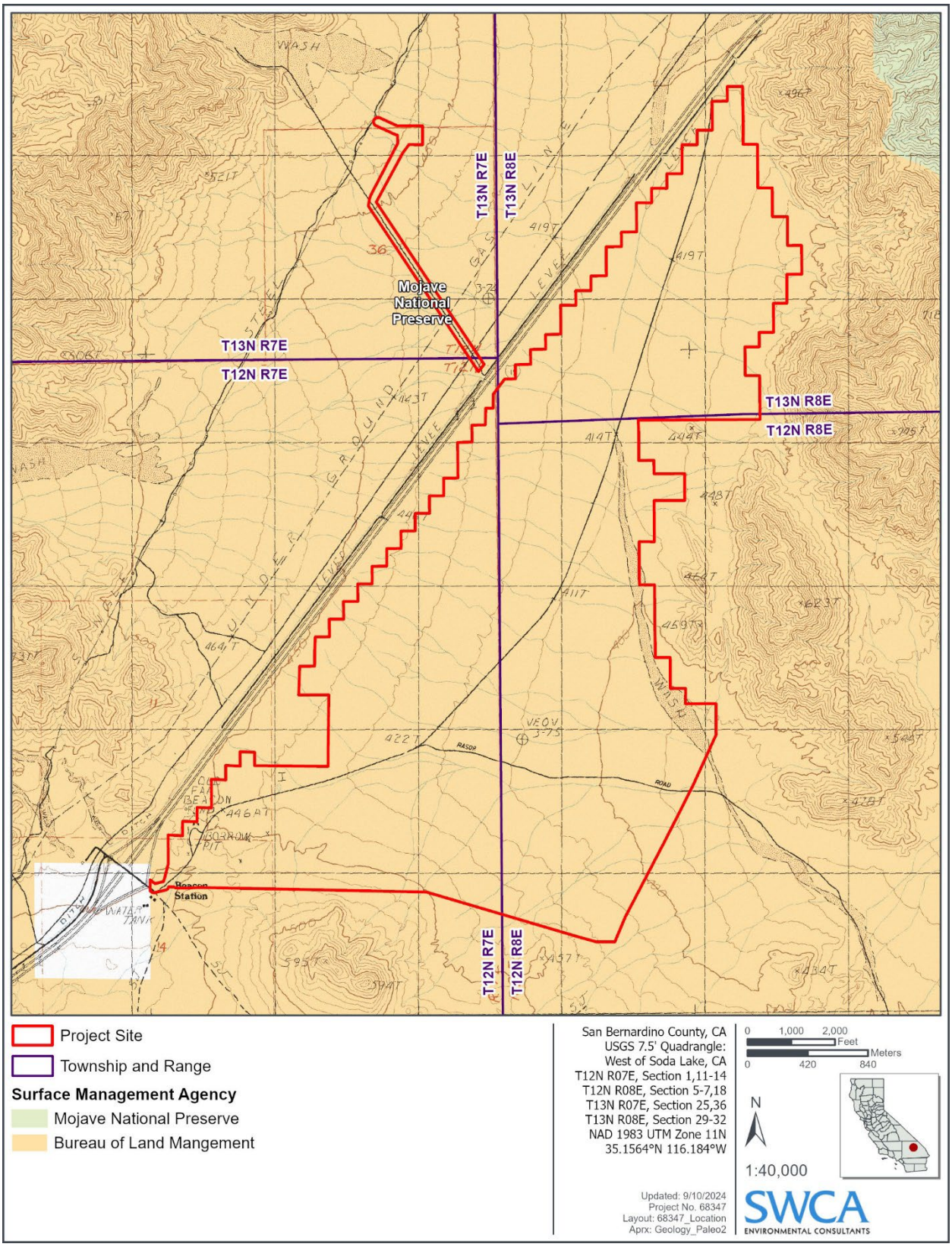

Figure 3.11-1. Project location and management agency.

3.11.2.4 Existing Land Use and Zoning

DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN

The project site is located within the BLM's California Desert District, within the jurisdiction of the BLM Barstow Field Office, and the planning boundary of the CDCA Plan and the DRECP. Within the DRECP, the project is classified as General Public Lands, which do not have a specific land use allocation or designation. These areas are available to renewable energy applications, but do not benefit from permit review streamlining or other incentives.

However, given the BLM signed the ROD for the project in March 2016, before the BLM approved the DRECP LUPA, neither the BLM process for project review under the DRECP nor the CMAs outlined in the DRECP are applicable to this project.

SECTION 368 ENERGY CORRIDOR

As shown in Figure 3.11-2, a 2-mile-wide Section 368 energy corridor (27-225) as designated in Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 runs parallel to the east and west of I-15 through the project vicinity, overlapping the project site (BLM 2024).

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

The project gen-tie falls within the Soda Mountains Expansion Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) as designated by the BLM (BLM 2016). ACECs are designated where the BLM has determined that important historical, cultural, scenic, fish and wildlife, or other natural resources occur, and special protection is warranted. In addition, ACECs may be designated for safety in areas with natural hazards. The Soda Mountains Expansion ACEC abuts the northern edge of I-15 and encompasses 16,720 acres between I-15 and the Soda Mountain Wilderness Study area. It was designated to protect plant and wildlife connectivity between surrounding wilderness and wilderness study areas.

Renewable energy development is not compatible with ACEC unit values and criteria. However, transmission activities are allowed in ACECs within the DRECP, as described in CMA ACEC-LANDS-1 (BLM 2016b). Disturbance within each ACEC in the DRECP is limited to a specified percentage of the total ACEC area; for the Soda Mountains Expansion ACEC, the disturbance is capped at 1%.

The Soda Mountains Expansion ACEC was designated as a part of the DRECP LUPA in September 2016 (BLM 2016b), after the project ROD was issued in March 2016. The project is consistent with that described in the project ROD, and therefore the project would not need to conform to the CMAs outlined in the DRECP that would otherwise apply to activities within this ACEC.

The ACEC is the only federal, state, or local designated conservation area within or directly adjacent to the project site. Within 10 miles, there is no USFWS-designated critical habitat for ESA-listed species, no USFWS-authorized habitat conservation plans, and no CDFW natural community conservation plans.

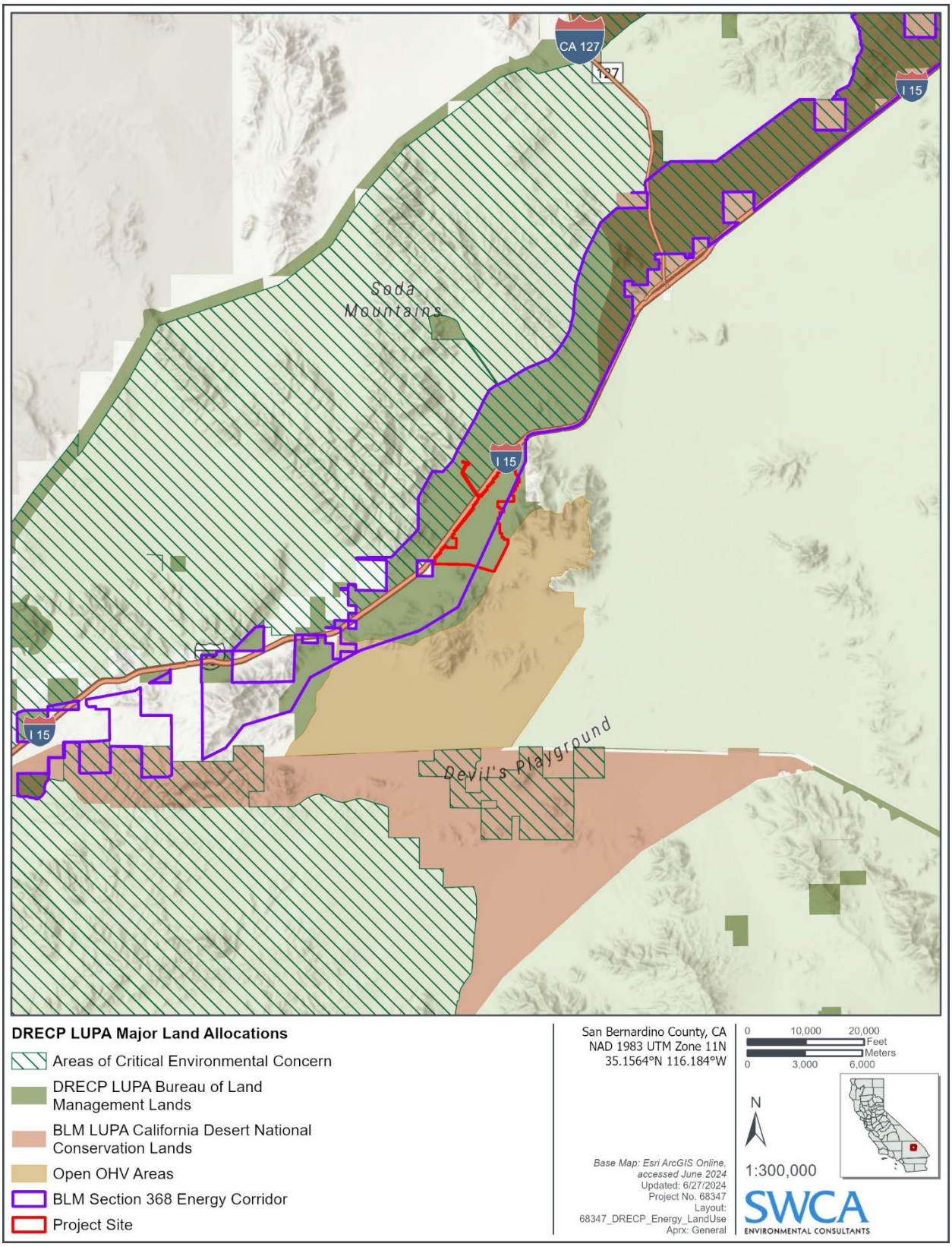

Figure 3.11-2. DRECP Land Use Allocations.

3.11.2.5 Recent Proposed Zone Changes, General Plan Amendments, Discretionary Reviews

There are no recent or proposed zone changes and/or general plan amendments noticed by an elected or appointed board, commission, or similar entity at the state or local level. In addition, there are no discretionary reviews by public agencies initiated or completed within 18 months at the state or local level.

3.11.3 Impact Analysis

3.11.3.1 Thresholds of Significance

The determinations of significance of project impacts are based on applicable policies, regulations, goals, and guidelines defined by CEQA. Specifically, the project would be considered to have a significant effect on land use and planning if the effects exceed the significance criteria described below:

1. Physically divide an established community.
2. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

Both of these thresholds are discussed under Section 3.11.4, Impact Assessment, below.

3.11.3.2 Methodology

Evaluation of potential land use conflicts that may result from the project was based on a review of relevant land use planning documents and of the proposed solar facilities sites and surrounding area. The focus of the land use analysis is on land use conflicts that would result from the implementation of the project. Land use conflicts are identified and evaluated based on existing or authorized land uses, land uses proposed as part of the project, land use designations, and standards and policies related to land use.

3.11.3.3 Applicant-Proposed Measures

The Applicant has identified and committed to implement the following APMs as part of the proposed Projects to avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts to land use and planning, to the extent feasible. The APMs, where applicable, are discussed in the impact analysis section below. These measures include the following:

- **APM LU-1:** Prior to the start of construction, the Applicant shall provide cadastral survey data to the BLM for all sections within the requested ROW. All section corners shall be surveyed and monumented, and a record map completed and filed with San Bernardino County to ensure the descriptions for all lands within the Right-of-Way are recorded correctly.
- **APM LU-2:** Prior to issuance of the Notice-To-Proceed, the Applicant shall provide 100 percent design drawings to the BLM for review and approval.

3.11.3.4 Impact Assessment

Impact LUP-1: Would the project physically divide an established community? (Less than Significant)

The project is within an undeveloped rural area and located entirely on federally owned land managed by the BLM. The 2,670-acre project site is located in a sparsely populated area and the nearest community is Baker, located approximately 7 miles away. The project site is bounded directly to the west by I-15, to the east by the Mojave National Preserve, and the Rasor OHV recreation area at the southeast corner.

The project includes the development of a solar facility and gen-tie line. The gen-tie line would connect the collector lines from the substation to the project switchyard by boring under I-15 within an existing Caltrans culvert. The project would not negatively impact current operations of the I-15. The project would not result in the construction of new access routes that have the potential to divide existing communities, nor does the project propose the elimination of existing area roadways that could have the potential to isolate uses or create a division between existing uses. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant**.

Impact LUP-2: Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? (Less than Significant)

As part of the Opt-In Application process, the CEC would review the project for consistency with local land use plans, policies, and regulations. AB 205 (Chapter 61, § 2022) expands CEC's authority under the Warren-Alquist Act to establish a new certification program for eligible non-fossil-fueled power plants and related facilities to optionally seek certification from the CEC.

The project is located entirely on federally owned land within the planning boundary of the CDCA Plan and the DRECP. Given the project is on federal land, it is not subject to local land use regulations and policies. The BLM issued a Record of Decision (ROD) to approve the project and associated amendment to the CDCA Plan in March 2016 (BLM 2016). The project gen-tie falls within the Soda Mountains Expansion ACEC as designated as a part of the DRECP LUPA in September 2016, after the project ROD was issued in March 2016. The project as described here is consistent with that described in the project ROD, and therefore the project would not need to conform to the CMAs outlined in the DRECP that would apply to activities within this ACEC approved after the DRECP took effect. Construction and operation of the project gen-tie would impact up to 36 acres of the Soda Mountains Expansion ACEC, approximately 0.22% of its total area. The gen-tie construction would temporarily disrupt wildlife activity in the area, and temporarily and permanently remove some habitat for plants and wildlife. The project, including the solar facility and gen-tie line would be consistent with the CDCA as amended by the DRECP LUPA, and its CMAs including for the ground disturbance within the ACEC.

The revised project configuration approved in the BLM ROD is largely consistent with the proposed project being analyzed under this EIR, including anticipated impacts and disturbance areas. However, the project approved under the 2016 ROD did not include battery energy storage systems (BESS); the project submitted an amended SF-299 application (Application for Transportation, Utility Systems, Telecommunications and Facilities on Federal Lands and Property) and Plan of Development outlining the addition of the BESS. Consultation with the BLM to add this component to the project and the extent to which further analysis of the BESS component will be required by BLM prior to issuing the ROW Grant authorization remains ongoing.

The project would not have the potential to conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. Impacts would be **less than significant**.

3.11.4 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

3.11.5 Cumulative Impacts

Impact C-LUP-1: Would the impacts of the proposed project, in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects, contribute to a cumulative impact related to land use and planning? (Less than Significant)

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions making up the cumulative scenario are identified in Table 3.1-1 in Section 3.4.1 Projects Included in Cumulative Conditions Scenario. Many solar and renewable energy projects have been proposed, approved, or constructed in the project area, both on private and public land. Similar to the project, some cumulative projects would block access to recreational opportunities or preclude other types of multiple use (e.g., agriculture, mining, grazing). With appropriate permitting, each project would avoid impacts on land use. During the permitting of the cumulative projects, multiple uses would be reviewed by BLM or the County to ensure there would be appropriate access and no direct conflicts.

As part of its planning process, BLM has set aside millions of acres for uses other than renewable development (e.g., recreation, mining, conservation) and has directed renewable development to DFAs. Additionally, the County's General Plan anticipated the potential for multiple solar projects in the area and, because each project must undergo this type of review and because the agencies have identified Desert Center as an area where renewable energy is acceptable, the project, in conjunction with other past, present, and probable future projects, would not result in a cumulatively considerable or significant land use impact. Therefore, the project **would not result in cumulatively considerable impacts** relative to land use and planning.

3.11.6 References Cited

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