Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP, Director
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2323
Phone: (661) 862-8600
Fax: (661) 862-8601 **TTY Relay 1-800-735-2929**
Email: planning@kerncounty.com
Web Address: http://kernplanning.com/

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Planning
Community Development
Administrative Operations

DATE: April 30, 2021

TO: See Attached Mailing List

FROM: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661)862-8638; JensenJ@kerncounty.com

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department as Lead Agency (per CEQA Guidelines Section 15062) has determined that preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (per CEQA Guidelines 15161) is necessary for the proposed project identified below. The Planning and Natural Resources Department solicits the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval of projects.

You are invited to view the NOP and submit written comments regarding this proposed project should you wish to do so. Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be received by **June 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m**. Comments can be submitted to the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department at the address shown above.

A Scoping meeting that will be held on **Friday, May 21, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.** In compliance with the Governor's Executive Order, the California Department of Public health's guidelines on gatherings regarding COVID-19, and Kern County Local Emergency Declaration, the scoping meeting required by the CEQA Guidelines will be conducted online. Instructions for accessing the virtual scoping meeting will be available three (3) days before the virtual scoping meeting on the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources website at https://kernplanning.com.

Comments on the scope and content of the NOP should be sent to JensenJ@kerncounty.com.

PROJECT TITLE: Sandrini Solar Project by EDPR CA Solar Park, LLC (PP20402);CUP 9, Map #159; CUP 27, Map #160; CUP 28, Map #160; CUP 27, Map #161; GPA 2, Map #159 (Circulation); GPA 3, Map #160 (Circulation); GPA 4, Map #161(Circulation); and Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project will be located in the Valley Region of unincorporated Kern County on approximately 3,447.33 acres of agricultural land. The project site is located adjacent to Interstate I-5, State Route SR-99, and SR-166 and is located northwest of the community of Mettler and southeast of the community of Kern Lake. The project site is located within Township 32S, Range 26E, Section 25; Township 32S, Range 27E, Section 30; Township 32S, Range 27E, Section 29; Township 32S, Range 27E, Section 28; Township 32S, Range 27E, Section 32; Township 32S, Range 27E, Section 33; and Township 32S, Range 28E, Section 31.

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In addition to the photovoltaic solar arrays and associated equipment as proposed, other permanent facilities would be installed as part of the project including service access roads, a power collection system, communication cables, overhead and underground transmission lines, electrical switchyards, two collector substations, inverter stations, an up to 100 MW battery energy storage system, and operations and maintenance (O&M) facilities.

Implementation of the project as proposed include the following requests:

a) Conditional Use Permits to allow for the construction and operation of six solar facilities with a total generating capacity of approximately 300 MW of alternating current of renewable energy (broken down by site, below) including up to 100 MW of energy storage (for all sites), within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District (in Zone Maps 159, 160, and 161) pursuant to Section 19.12.030.G of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance. Please note the total MW listed for each site represents the maximum MW that could be developed on the site; however, total MW for the project site would not exceed 300 MW.

- **Site 1** (Up to 20 MW)
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- General Plan Amendment No. 4, Map No. 161

c) Williamson Act Land Use Contract Cancellations:

- No. 21-01
  - Cancellation of approximately 289.11 acres from Contract #28397, Book 4273, Page 13
- No. 21-02
  - Cancellation of approximately 654.9 acres from Contract #12231, Book 4492, Page 243
- No. 21-03
  - Cancellation of approximately 619.0 acres from Contract #10965, Book 4373, Page 24
- No. 21-04
  - Cancellation of approximately 354.48 acres from Contract #28386, Book 4272, Page 933
- No. 21-05
  - Cancellation of approximately 81.28 acres from Contract #12395, Book 4493, Page 175

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

Signature: 

Name: Johnathan Jensen, Planner I

I:\Planning\WORKGRPS\WP\LABELS\
eir07-19(Revised 04-22-21)Sandrini-
nop.docx
cp04/22/21

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

Bakersfield City Planning Dept
1715 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

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

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

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

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

City of McFarland
401 West Kern Avenue
McFarland, CA 93250

City of Ridgecrest
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

City of Shafter
336 Pacific Avenue
Shafter, CA 93263

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

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

City of Wasco
764 E Street
Wasco, CA 93280

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

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

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

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

Kern River Groundwater Sustainability Agency
c/o City of Bakersfield
1600 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, Ca 93301

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

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

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

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

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

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

Edwards AFB, Mission Sustainability Liaison
412 TW, Bldg 2750, Ste 117-14
195 East Popson Avenue
Edwards AFB, CA 93524

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Caltrans/
Division of Structures
Attn: Jim Roberts
P.O. Box 1499
Sacramento, CA 95807

State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
1400 - 10th Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95814

State Dept of Conservation
Director's Office
801 "K" Street, MS 24-01
Sacramento, CA 95814-3528

State Dept of Conservation
Geologic Energy Management Division
4800 Stockdale Highway, Ste 108
Bakersfield, CA 93309

State Dept of Conservation
Office of Land Conservation
801 "K" Street, MS 18-01
Sacramento, CA 95814

California State University
Bakersfield - Library
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93309

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

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

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

State Dept of Parks & Recreation
Tehachapi District
Angeles District - Mojave Desert Sector
15701 E. Avenue M
Lancaster, CA 93535

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

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

State Dept of Toxic Substance Control
Environmental Protection Agency
1515 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93612

Cal Environmental Protection Agency/
Dept of Toxic Substances Control, Reg 1
Attn: Dave Kereazis, Permit Div - CEQA
8800 Cal Center Drive, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95826

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

Kern County
Agriculture Department

Kern County Administrative Officer

Kern County Public Works Department/
Building & Development/Floodplain

Kern County Public Works Department/
Building & Development/Survey

Kern County
Env Health Services Department

Kern County Fire Dept
David Witt, Fire Chief

Kern County Fire Dept
Cary Wright, Fire Marshall

Kern County Library/Beale
Local History Room

Kern County Library/Beale
Andie Sullivan

Kern County Library
Frazier Park Branch
3015 Mount Pinos Way
Frazier Park, CA 93225

Kern County Parks & Recreation

Kern County Sheriff's Dept
Administration

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

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

Kern County Public Works Department/
Building & Development/Code Compliance

Mojave Town Council
Bill Deaver, President
P.O. Box 1113
Mojave, CA 93502-1113

Wasco Union High School Dist
P.O. Box 250
Wasco, CA 93280

Maricopa Unified School Dist
955 Stanislaus Street
Maricopa, CA 93252

Lakeside Union School Dist
14535 Old River Road
Bakersfield, CA 93311

General Shafter School Dist
1825 Shafter Road
Bakersfield, CA 93313

Panama-Buena Vista School Dist
4200 Ashe Road
Bakersfield, CA 93313

Arvin-Edison Water Storage Dist
P.O. Box 175
Arvin, CA 93203

Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Attention School District Facility Services
1300 - 17th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

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

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

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

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

Kern County Parks & Recreation

Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Dist
P.O. Box 20820
Bakersfield, CA 93390-0820

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

Kern Mosquito Abatement Dist
4705 Allen Road
Bakersfield, CA 93314

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

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

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

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

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

U.S. Marine Corps
Command Gen MCIWEST-MCB CamPen
Attn: A/CS, G7
Box 555010, Bldg 1160, Rm 280
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5246

AT&T California
OSP Engineering/Right-of-Way
4901 Ashe Road
Bakersfield, CA 93313

Kern Audubon Society
Attn: Frank Bedard, Chairman
4124 Chardonnay Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93306

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Southern California Gas Co
35118 McMurtrey Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308-9477

Southern California Gas Co
Transportation Dept
9400 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91313-6511

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

David Walsh
22941 Banducci Road
Tehachapi, CA 93561

EDP Renewables Company
North America, LLC
53 SW Yamhill Street
Portland, OR 97204

Darren Kelly
Sr. Business Manager
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1095 Ave of the Americas – FL 25, Ste A
New York, NY 10036-6797

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

Lozeau Drury LLP
1939 Harrison Street, Suite 150
Oakland, CA 94612

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

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

Eric Anderson
1309 Leisure Lane
Frazier Park, CA 93225

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

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

Lozeau Drury LLP
1939 Harrison Street, Suite 150
Oakland, CA 94612

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

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

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

Recurrent Energy
Seth Israel
300 California Street, 8th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94101-1407

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

Joyce LoBasso
P.O. Box 6003
Bakersfield, CA 93386

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

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

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

Darren Kelly
Sr. Business Manager
Terra-Gen Power, LLC
1095 Ave of the Americas – FL 25, Ste A
New York, NY 10036-6797

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

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

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

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

Animal Control Commission
3951 Fruitvale Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308

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

Vestas
1417 NW Everett Street
Portland, OR 97209

Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP, Director
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2323
Phone: (661) 862-8600
Fax: (661) 862-8601 TTY Relay 1-800-735-2929
Email: planning@kerncounty.com
Web Address: http://kernplanning.com/

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Planning
Community Development
Administrative Operations

DATE: April 30, 2021

TO: Surrounding Property Owners within 1,000 Feet of Project Boundary; and, Interested Parties

FROM: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report – Sandrini Solar Project by EDPR CA Solar Park, LLC (PP20402).

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department has determined that preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is necessary for the proposed project identified below. The purpose of this letter is to notify surrounding property owners within 1,000 feet of the project boundaries of this determination. A copy of the Initial Study/Notice of Preparation (IS/NOP) prepared for this proposed project is available for viewing at the following Kern County website:

https://kernplanning.com/planning/notices-of-preparation/

The purpose of the IS/NOP is to describe the proposed project, specify the project location, and to identify the potential environmental impacts of the project so that Responsible Agencies and interested persons can provide a meaningful response related to potential environmental concerns that should be analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report.

You are invited to view the NOP and submit written comments regarding this proposed project should you wish to do so. Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be received by **June 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m**. Comments can be submitted to the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department at the address shown above. A Scoping meeting that will be held on **Friday, May 21, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.** In compliance with the Governor's Executive Order, the California Department of Public health's guidelines on gatherings regarding COVID-19, and Kern County Local Emergency Declaration, the scoping meeting required by the CEQA Guidelines will be conducted online. Instructions for accessing the virtual scoping meeting will be available three (3) days before the virtual scoping meeting on the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources website at https://kernplanning.com.

Comments on the scope and content of the NOP should be sent to JensenJ@kerncounty.com.

Please be advised that any comments received after the dates listed above will still be included in the public record for this project and made available to decision makers when this project is scheduled for consideration at a public hearing. Please also be advised that you will receive an additional notice in the mail once a public hearing date is scheduled for this project. You will also be provided additional opportunities to submit comments at that time.

PROJECT TITLE: Sandrini Solar Project by EDPR CA Solar Park, LLC (PP20402); CUP 9, Map #159; CUP 27, Map #160; CUP 28, Map #160; CUP 27, Map #161; GPA 2, Map #159 (Circulation); GPA 3, Map #160 (Circulation); GPA 4, Map #161(Circulation); and Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations.

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- General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 160

- General Plan Amendment No. 4, Map No. 161

c) Williamson Act Land Use Contract Cancellations:

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    - Cancellation of approximately 619.0 acres from Contract #10965, Book 4373, Page 24
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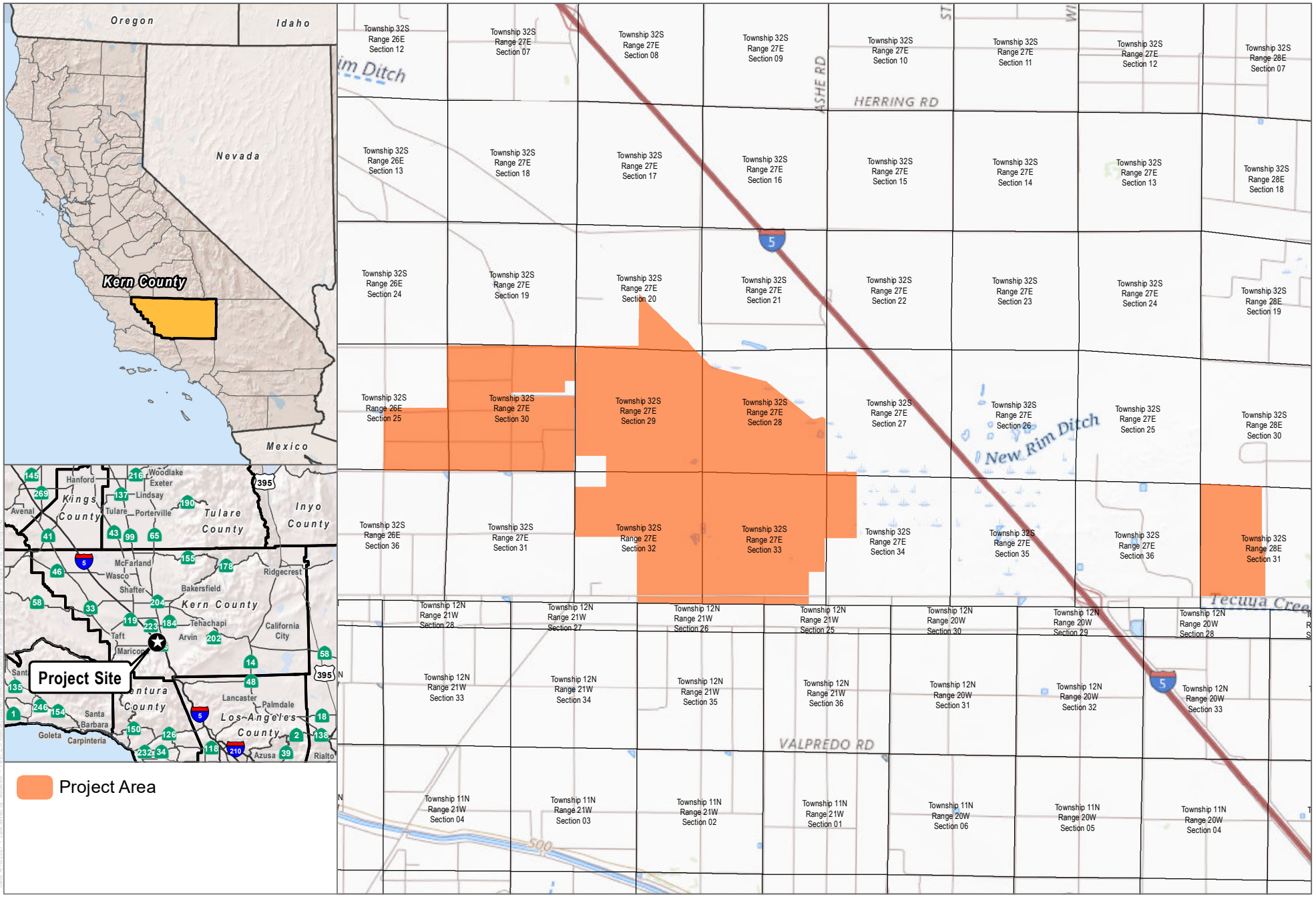
    - Cancellation of approximately 354.48 acres from Contract #28386, Book 4272, Page 933
- No. 21-05
    - Cancellation of approximately 81.28 acres from Contract #12395, Book 4493, Page 175

Should you have any questions regarding this project, or the Initial Study/Notice of Preparation, please feel free to contact me at (661) 862-8638 or JensenJ@kerncounty.com

Sincerely,

Johnathan Jensen, Planner I
Advanced Planning Division

Attachment: Vicinity Map



SOURCE: USGS National Map 2021
Conner, Conner SW & Coal Oil Canyon Quadrangles

DUDEK

0 2,750 5,500 Feet

Case Numbers:

Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 159
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 28, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 161
General Plan Amendment No. 2, Map No. 159
General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 160
General Plan Amendment No. 4, Map No. 161
Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations

Site Vicinity

Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Sandrini Solar Project ■ By: EDP Renewables North America, LLC

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noa.docx
cp04/23/21

445 061 09 00 5
BIDART BROS INC
4813 CALLOWAY DR
BAKERSFIELD CA 93312-9702

295 100 15 00 3
BOSTON RANCH CO
PO BOX 877
CORCORAN CA 93212-0877

295 050 17 00 5
C & A FARMS LLC
1306 W HERNDON AV STE 106
FRESNO CA 93711-7183

295 130 81 00 3
C & A FARMS LLC
1396 W HERNDON AV STE 101
FRESNO CA 93711-7183

295 130 85 00 5
C & A FARMS LLC
1306 W HERNDON AV STE 101
FRESNO CA 93711-7183

295 270 23 00 6
CALIFORNIA RESOURCES
PETROLEUM CORPORATION
27200 TOURNEY RD STE 200
SANTA CLARITA CA 91355-4910

445 073 15 00 9
CROP PRODUCTION SERVICES INC
3005 ROCKY MOUNTAIN AV
LOVELAND CO 80538

295 120 03 00 4
DIAMOND FARMING CO
P O BOX 81498
BAKERSFIELD CA 93380-1498

295 130 78 00 5
ECHEVERRIA F & I FAMILY TRUST
13441 EBERLE RD
BAKERSFIELD CA 93313-9797

295 130 39 00 2
GOLDEN EXPRESS TRUCKING USA
INC
606-7184 120TH ST
*

295 130 66 00 0
GRAPEVINE ENERGY LLC
5330 OFFICE CENTER CT STE 75
BAKERSFIELD CA 93309

295 100 47 00 6
GRIMM BARBARA M TRUST
7158 BUENA VISTA RD
BAKERSFIELD CA 93311-9425

295 130 41 00 7
JOO FAMILY TRUST
1134 PASADERO DR
ESCONDIDO CA 92029-3011

445 062 06 00 3
JOSEPH VINEYARD ESTS LLC
2800 ROAD 136
DELANO CA 93215

295 100 20 00 7
K&B INVESTMENTS FUND
1 RUE BIARRITZ
NEWPORT BEACH CA 92660-5101

295 120 14 00 6
KUNKEL JAMES D
2520 MOHAWK CT
WALNUT CREEK CA 94598-4302

295 120 19 00 1
KUNZ GEORGE
11858 COPUS RD
BAKERSFIELD CA 93313-9659

295 030 39 00 3
MFC KERN I LLC
PO BOX 9308
BAKERSFIELD CA 93389-9308

295 210 01 00 4
MORGAN ROSE RANCH LLC
9777 WILSHIRE BL STE 900
BEVERLY HILLS CA 90212-1902

295 050 37 00 3
NAHABEDIAN EXPLORATION GROUP
LLC (THE)
420 BRYANT CI STE D
OJAI CA 93023-4209

295 100 40 00 5
NEW SUNNY INTERNATIONAL LLC
1109 BRAMFORD CT
DIAMOND BAR CA 91765-4353

295 050 58 00 4
P & N L P
31956 PETERSON RD
MCFARLAND CA 93250-9606

295 270 28 00 1
PAC GAS & ELEC CO
PO BOX 770000
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94177-7700

295 130 79 00 8
PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CO
PO BOX 770000
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94177-7700

445 062 07 00 6
RIPLEY F C JR TRUST
30765 PACIFIC COAST HW # 374
MALIBU CA 90265

445 080 01 00 0
STEVEN M GODDARD CO INC
PO BOX 802276
SANTA CLARITA CA 91380

295 140 05 00 6
STONE WILLIAM K
1919 W 115TH ST
LOS ANGELES CA 90047

295 120 15 00 9
TBS PROP LLC
10457 VAN HORN RD
BAKERSFIELD CA 93313

295 210 02 01 6
WEST COAST GRAPE FARMS
PO BOX 789
CERES CA 95307-0789

445 062 34 00 4
WF RANCH LP
10103 HIGHWAY 166 # A
BAKERSFIELD CA 93313-7804

295 130 70 00 1
WHEELER RIDGE MARICOPA WATER STORAGE DIST
12109 HIGHWAY 166
BAKERSFIELD CA 93313-9630

295 100 19 01 4
WILLOW AVE INVS LLC
1306 W HERNDON AV # 101
FRESNO CA 93711-7183

295 140 09 00 8
ANDERSON LORI
26251 OLD RIVER RD
BAKERSFIELD CA 93311-9631

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

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

SCH # _____

Project Title: Sandrini Solar Project by EDPR CA Solar Park, LLC

Lead Agency: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department — Contact Person: Johnathan Jensen

Mailing Address: 2700 "M" Street Suite 100 — Phone: (661) 862-8638

City: Bakersfield — Zip: 93301 — County: Kern

Project Location: County: Kern — City/Nearest Community: Town of Mettler

Cross Streets: Adjacent to Interstate I-5, State Route SR-99, and SR-166 — Zip Code: 93313

Lat. / Long.: 35°6'28.85" N / 119° 5'29.15"W — Total Acres: 3,447.33

Assessor's Parcel No.: Multiple — Section: Multiple — Twp.: 32S — Range: Multiple — Base: MDB&M

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: SR 99, SR 166 — Waterways: _____

Airports: _____ — Railways: _____ — Schools: _____

Document Type:

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

NEPA: ☐ NOI ☐ EA ☐ Draft EIS ☐ FONSI

Other: ☐ Joint Document ☐ Final Document ☐ Other _____

Local Action Type:

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

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Educational _____
☐ Recreational _____
☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Transportation: Type _____
☐ Mining: Mineral _____
☒ Power: Type Solar PV MW 300
☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☒ Other: Battery Energy Storage up to 100 MW

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

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

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Undeveloped Land/*Kern County General Plan:* 8.1 (Intensive Agriculture), 8.1/2.3 (Intensive Agriculture/Shallow Groundwater), and 8.1/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture/Flood Hazard). *Kern County Zoning:* A (Exclusive Agriculture).

Project Description:

The Sandrini Solar Project (proposed project or project) as proposed by EDPR CA Solar Park, LLC (project proponent) would develop, construct, and operate a 300 megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) solar photovoltaic facility and necessary associated infrastructure, including up to 100 MW of battery energy storage, on approximately 3,447.33 acres of privately-owned land. The project site consists of four sites (Sites 1 through 4) located on 33 privately-owned parcels. The project would be supported by both a 70 kilovolt (kV) and a 230 kV overhead and/or underground electrical transmission lines originating from two on-site project collector substations and terminating at its interconnection point with Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E's) existing Wheeler Ridge Substation. The Wheeler Ridge Substation is located north of the project site near the City of Bakersfield. Both transmission lines will convey electricity back and forth between different phases of the Sandrini Solar Project and the larger electrical grid. In addition to the photovoltaic solar arrays and associated equipment as proposed, other permanent facilities would be installed as part of the project including service access roads, a power collection system, communication cables, overhead and underground transmission lines, electrical switchyards, two collector substations, inverter stations, an up to 100 MW battery energy storage system, and operations and maintenance (O&M) facilities.

Implementation of the project as proposed would require: CUP 9, Map #159; CUP 27, Map #160; CUP 28, Map #160; CUP 27, Map #161; GPA 2, Map #159 (Circulation); GPA 3, Map #160 (Circulation); GPA 4, Map #161(Circulation); and Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations #21-01, #21-02, #21-03,# 21-04, and #21-05.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

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

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

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

Starting Date April 30, 2021 Ending Date June 1, 2021

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

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

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: **/s/** **Date:** 04/30/2021

Johnathan Jensen, Planner I

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

NOTICE OF PREPARATION / INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Sandrini Solar Project
by EDPR CA Solar Park, LLC

Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 159
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 28, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 161
General Plan Amendment No. 2, Map No. 159
General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 160
General Plan Amendment No. 4, Map No. 161
Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations

PLN19-01449
(PP20402)

LEAD AGENCY:

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

Contact: Johnathan Jensen, Planner I
(661) 862-8638
jensenj@kerncounty.com

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM: Dudek

April 2021

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Introduction

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department will initiate the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Sandrini Solar Project in the unincorporated area of southern Kern County, California (County).

1. Project Description

1.1. Project Location

The proposed Sandrini Solar Project (project or proposed project) is a proposal by EDPR CA Solar Park LLC (project proponent) to construct and operate a 300 megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) solar photovoltaic facility and associated infrastructure, which would include 100 MW of battery energy storage. The proposed project would be located on 33 parcels across approximately 3,447.33 acres of privately owned land currently under agricultural use in the Valley Region of Kern County.

The site is located within Township 32S, Range 26E, Section 25; Township 32S, Range 27E, Section 30; Township 32S, Range 27E, Section 29; Township 32S, Range 27E, Section 28; Township 32S, Range 27E, Section 32; Township 32S, Range 27E, Section 33; and Township 32S, Range 28E, Section 31 (see *Figure 1, Site Vicinity*). The project is located near the unincorporated communities of Mettler, Kern Lake, and Lakeview. The project site is nestled between hilly and mountainous terrain to the south and to the east.

The project boundaries are shown on *Figure 2, Project Boundaries,* which also shows the proposed transmission line alignments being considered. An aerial view of the project location is provided on *Figure 3, Aerial Photograph.* The project area is divided into four sites (Sites 1 through 4) (see *Figures 4A through 4D, Site 1 – Site Plan* through *Site 4 – Site Plan*). *Table 1* lists project Sites 1 through 4 and includes each site's Assessor's Parcel Number (APN), acreages, existing zonings, and associated Williamson Act designations.

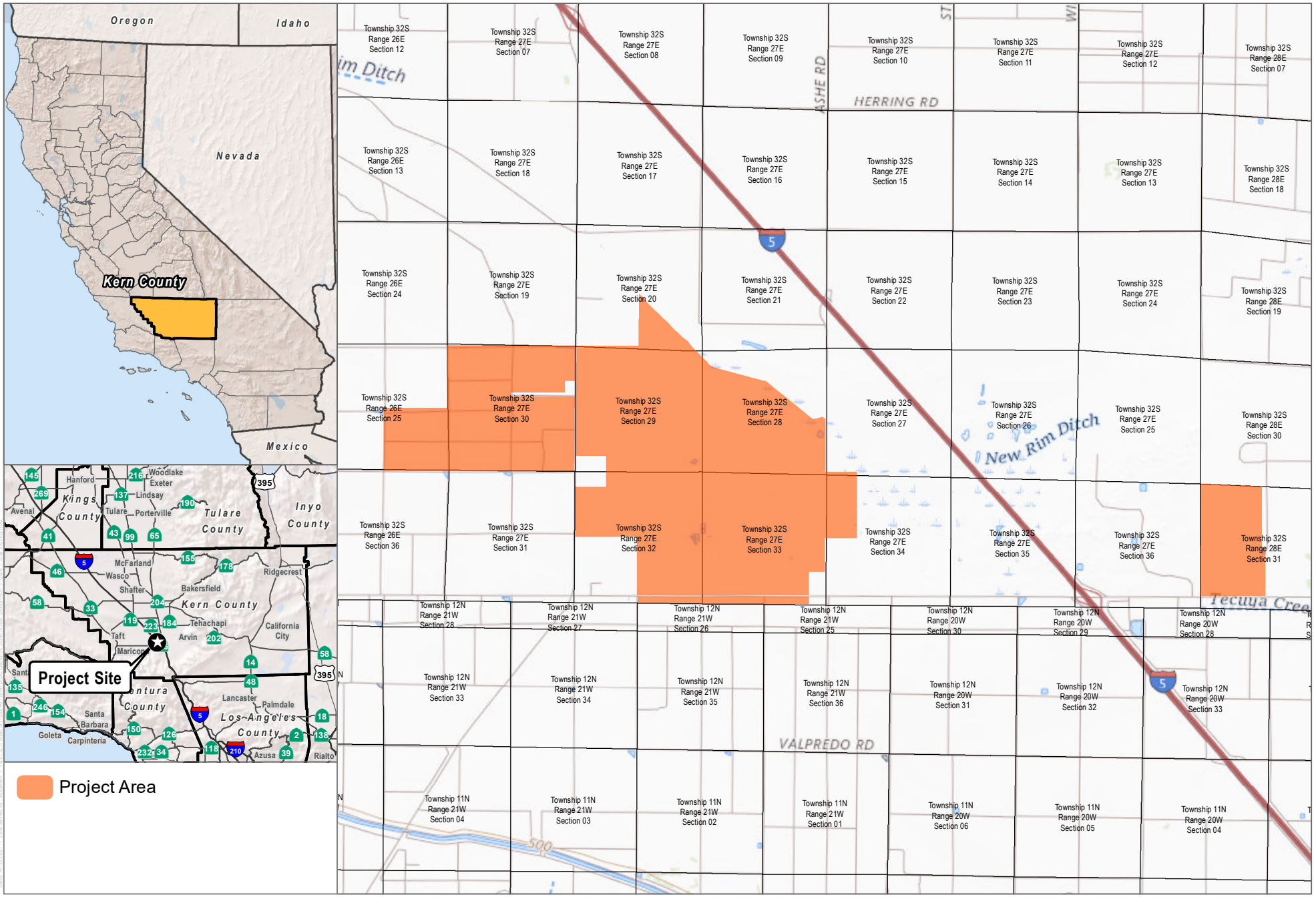
Site 1 includes 160 acres and is the western-most site of the 4 project site areas. Access to Site 1 is provided from Old River Road through Site 2. Site 2 covers 1,902.90 acres and is located immediately east of Site 1. Site 3 covers 1,095.32 acres and is located immediately south of Site 2. Access to Sites 2 and 3 is via Old River Road and Copus Road. Site 4 is a stand-alone site (i.e., not geographically connected to Sites 1, 2 or 3). Site 4 covers 289.11 acres and is located east of Sites 1, 2, and 3, between Interstate (I-) 5 and State Route (SR-) 99, and has access from Copus Road.

Transmission lines associated with the project include 70 kilovolt (kV) and a 230 kV overhead and/or underground electrical transmission lines originating from two on-site collector substations and terminating at the existing Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Wheeler Ridge Substation. Both lines would convey electricity back and forth between the various sites of the Sandrini Solar Project and the larger electrical grid.

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

Site	APN	General Plan Map Code Designation	Existing Zoning	Williamson Act Designation	Acres
1	295-050-17	8.1, 8.1/2.5	A	NA	160
				Subtotal	*160*
2	295-140-01	8.1/2.5	A	NA	216.9
	295-140-08	8.1/2.5	A	NA	10.31
	295-140-07	8.1/2.5	A	NA	20.61
	295-130-02	8.1	A	Prime	167
	295-140-02	8.1/2.5	A	NA	10.19
	295-140-03	8.1/2.5	A	NA	8.63
	295-140-04	8.1/2.5	A	NA	17.27
	295-140-06	8.1/2.5	A	NA	30.56
	295-130-04	8.1/2.5	A	Prime	40.82
	295-130-13	8.1/2.5	A	Prime	40.46
	295-130-05	8.1/2.5	A	NA	26.89
	295-130-07	8.1/2.5	A	NA	13.29
	295-130-54	8.1/2.5	A	NA	29.28
	295-130-53	8.1/2.3	A	NA	8.54
	295-100-19	8.1	A	Prime	52.4
	295-130-57	8.1	A	Prime	401
	295-130-62	8.1	A	Prime	218
	295-130-48	8.1/2.3	A	Non-Prime	175.72
	295-130-51	8.1/2.3	A	Non-Prime	96.37
	295-130-21	8.1/2.3	A	Non-Prime	158.38
	295-130-71	8.1/2.3	A	NA	159.89
	295-130-52	8.1/2.3	A	NA	1.08
				Subtotal	*1,902.90*
3	295-130-64	8.1/2.3	A	Prime	19.59
	295-130-32	8.1/2.3	A	Prime	334.89
	295-130-81	8.1/2.3	A	Mixed	170.14
	295-130-83	8.1/2.3	A	Mixed	146.68
	295-130-26	8.1/2.3	A	Non-Prime	85.31
	295-130-27	8.1/2.3	A	NA	85.47
	295-120-15	8.1/2.3	A	Prime	86.72
	295-130-86	8.1/2.3	A	Mixed	148.53
	295-130-85	8.1/2.3	A	Mixed	17.99
				Subtotal	*1,095.32*
4	445-062-34	8.1, 8.1/2.3	A	Prime	289.11
				Subtotal	*289.11*
				TOTAL	*3,447.33*

Notes: APN = Assessor's Parcel Number; 8.1 = Intensive Agriculture (Min. 20 Acre Parcel Size); 8.1/2.3 = Intensive Agriculture/Shallow Groundwater; and 8.1/2.5 = Intensive Agriculture/Flood Hazard; A = Exclusive Agriculture.



SOURCE: USGS National Map 2021
Conner, Conner SW & Coal Oil Canyon Quadrangles

DUDEK

0 2,750 5,500 Feet

Case Numbers:

Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 159
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 28, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 161
General Plan Amendment No. 2, Map No. 159
General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 160
General Plan Amendment No. 4, Map No. 161
Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations

FIGURE 1
Site Vicinity
Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Sandrini Solar Project ■ By: EDP Renewables North America, LLC

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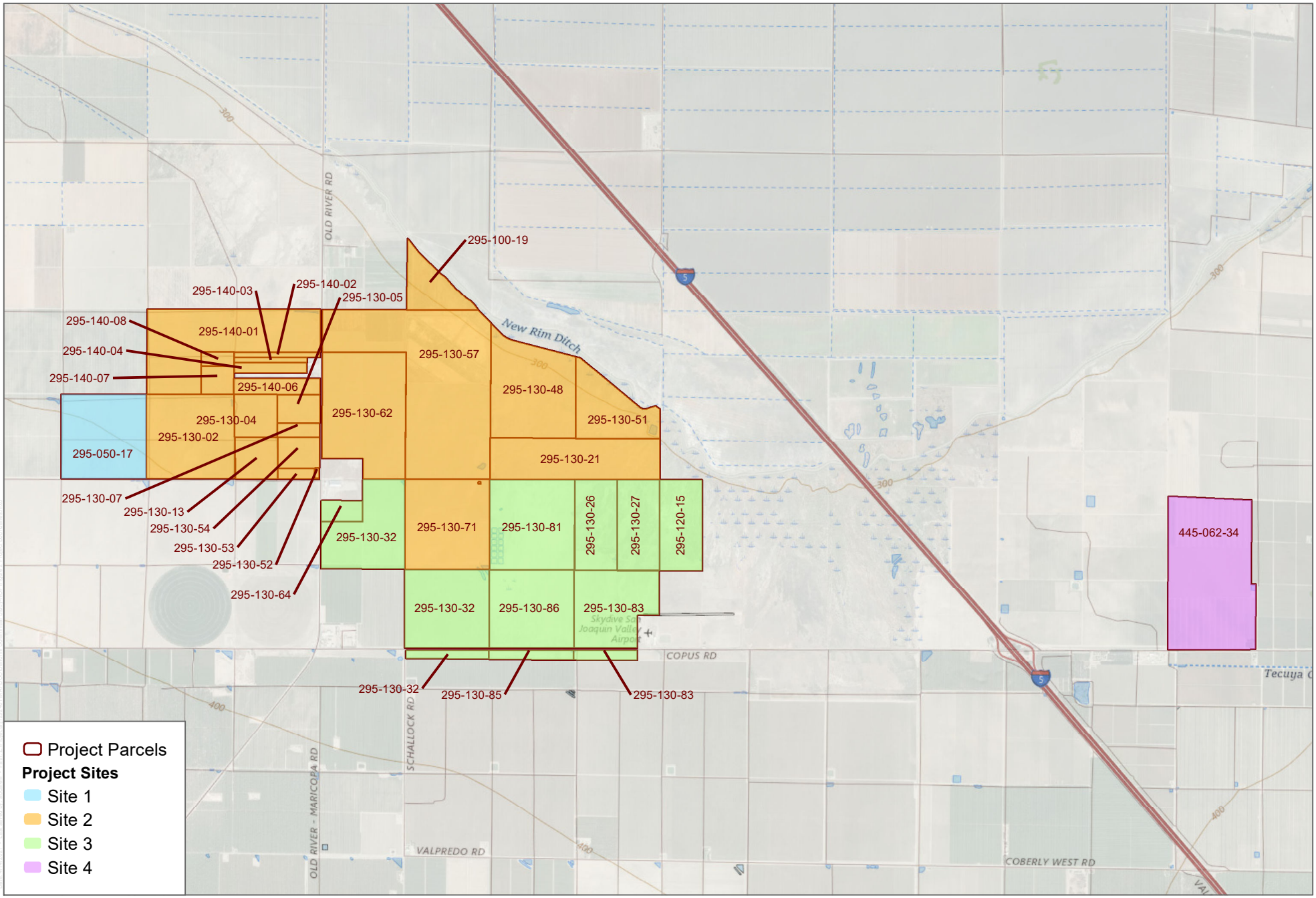

SOURCE: USGS National Map 2021; Maxar 2020

Case Numbers:

Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 159
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 28, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 161
General Plan Amendment No. 2, Map No. 159
General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 160
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Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations

DUDEK

FIGURE 2
Project Boundaries
Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Sandrini Solar Project ■ By: EDP Renewables North America, LLC

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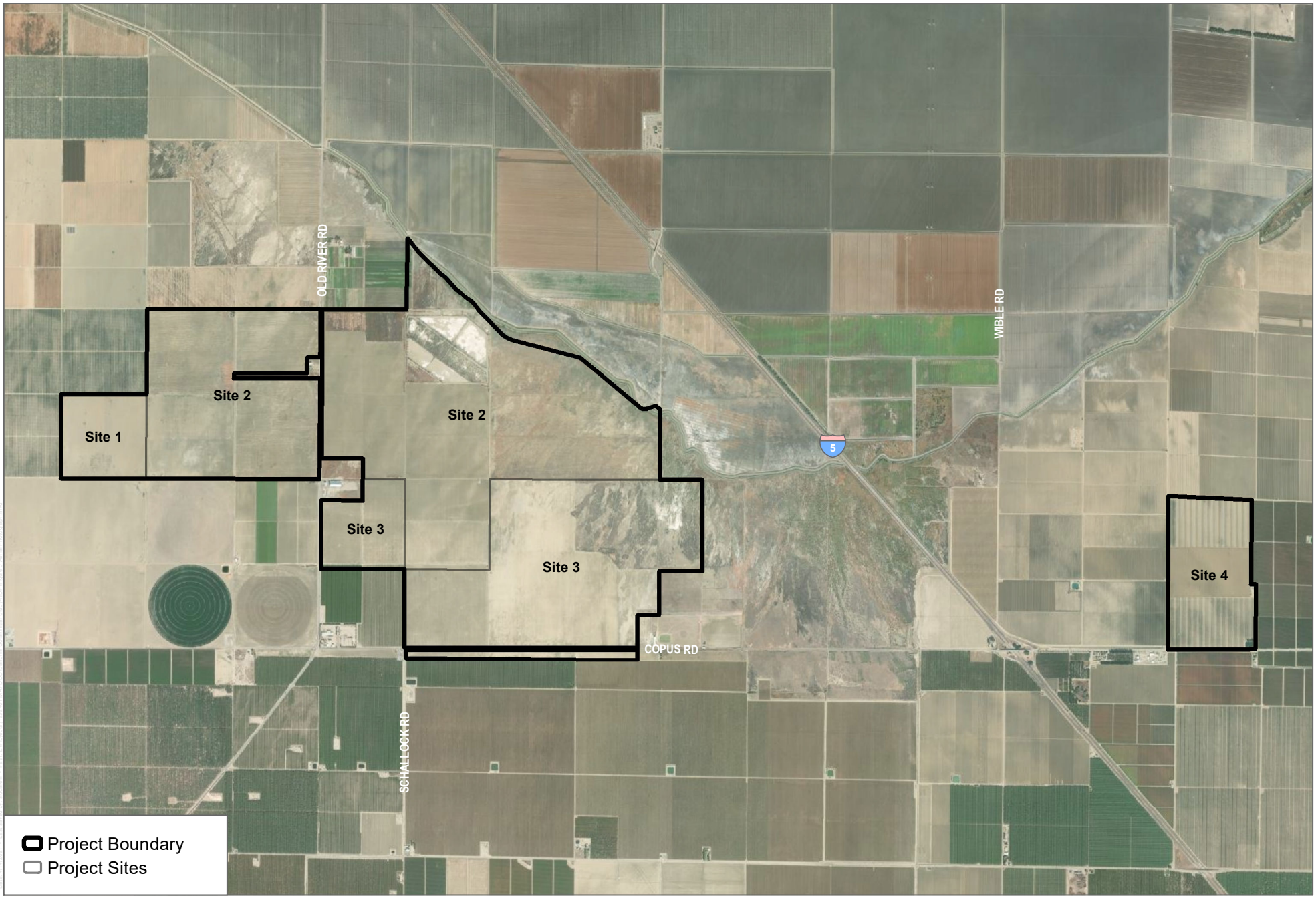

SOURCE: Maxar 2020

DUDEK

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

Case Numbers:

Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 159
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 28, Map No. 160
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Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations

FIGURE 3
Aerial Photograph
Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Sandrini Solar Project ■ By: EDP Renewables North America, LLC

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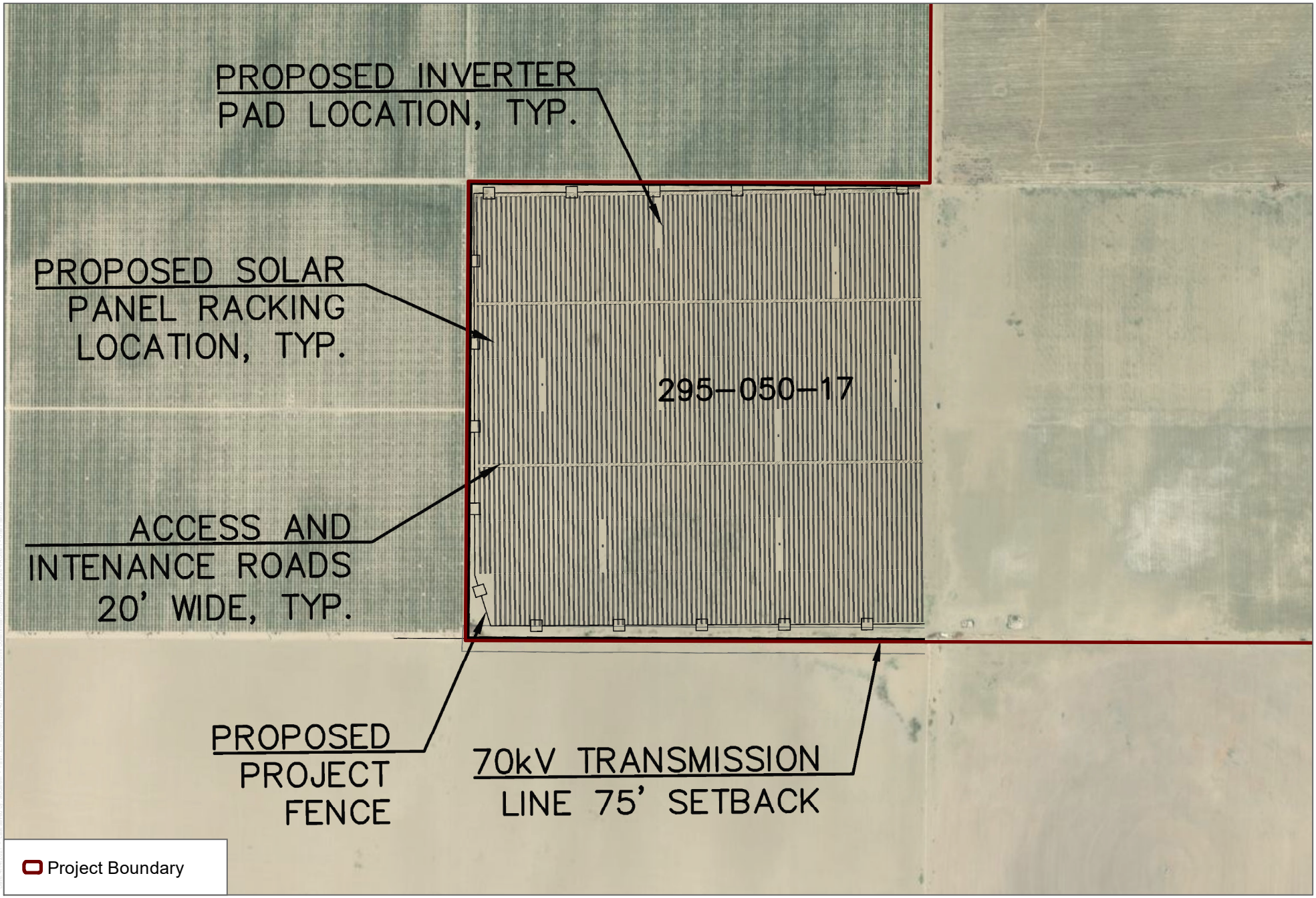

SOURCE: Maxar 2020

DUDEK

0 375 750 Feet

Case Numbers:

Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 159
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Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations

FIGURE 4A
Site 1 - Site Plan
Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Sandrini Solar Project ■ By: EDP Renewables North America, LLC

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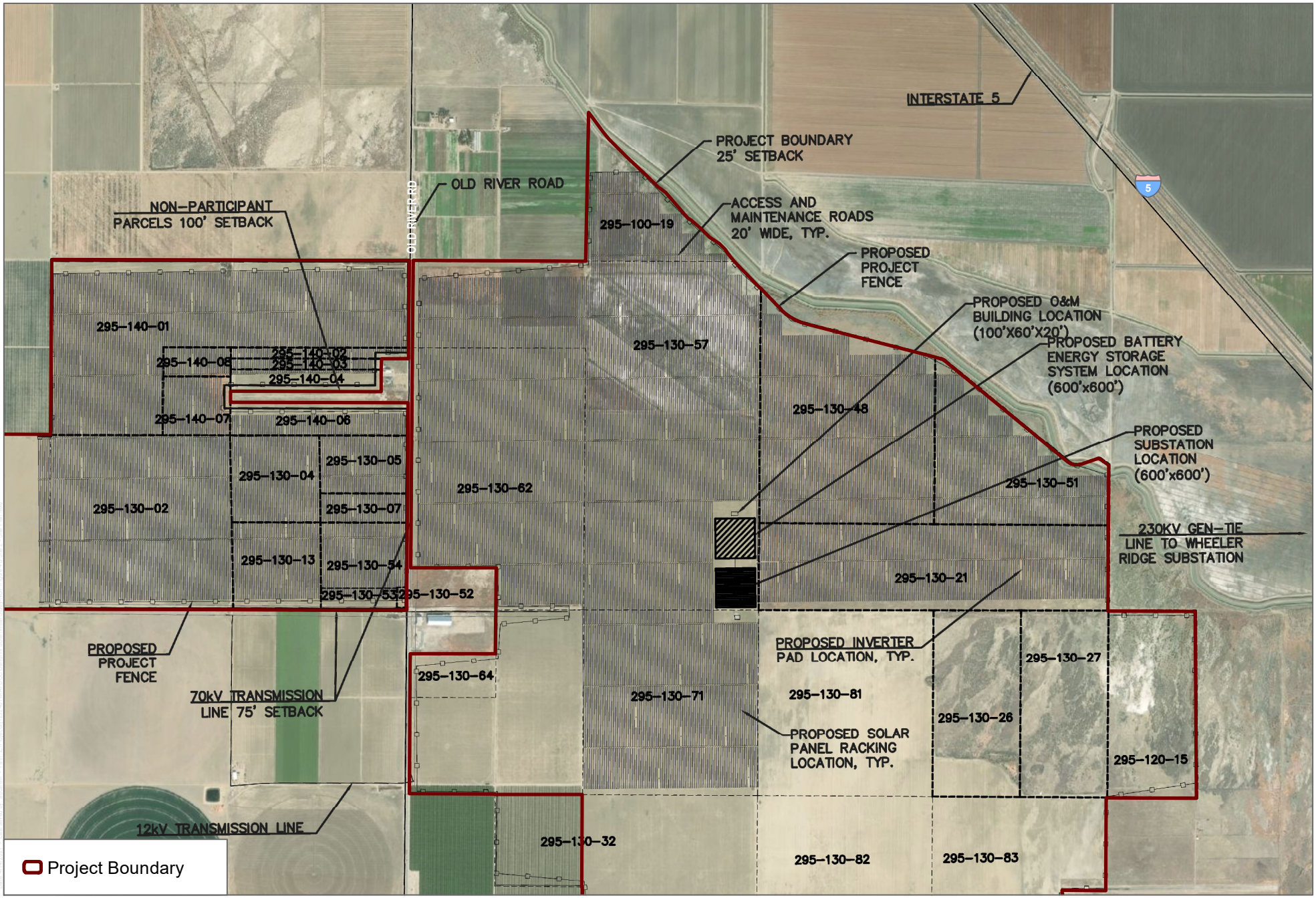

SOURCE: Maxar 2020

DUDEK

0 950 1,900 Feet

Case Numbers:

Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 159
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 28, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 161
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General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 160
General Plan Amendment No. 4, Map No. 161
Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations

FIGURE 4B
Site 2 - Site Plan
Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Sandrini Solar Project ■ By: EDP Renewables North America, LLC

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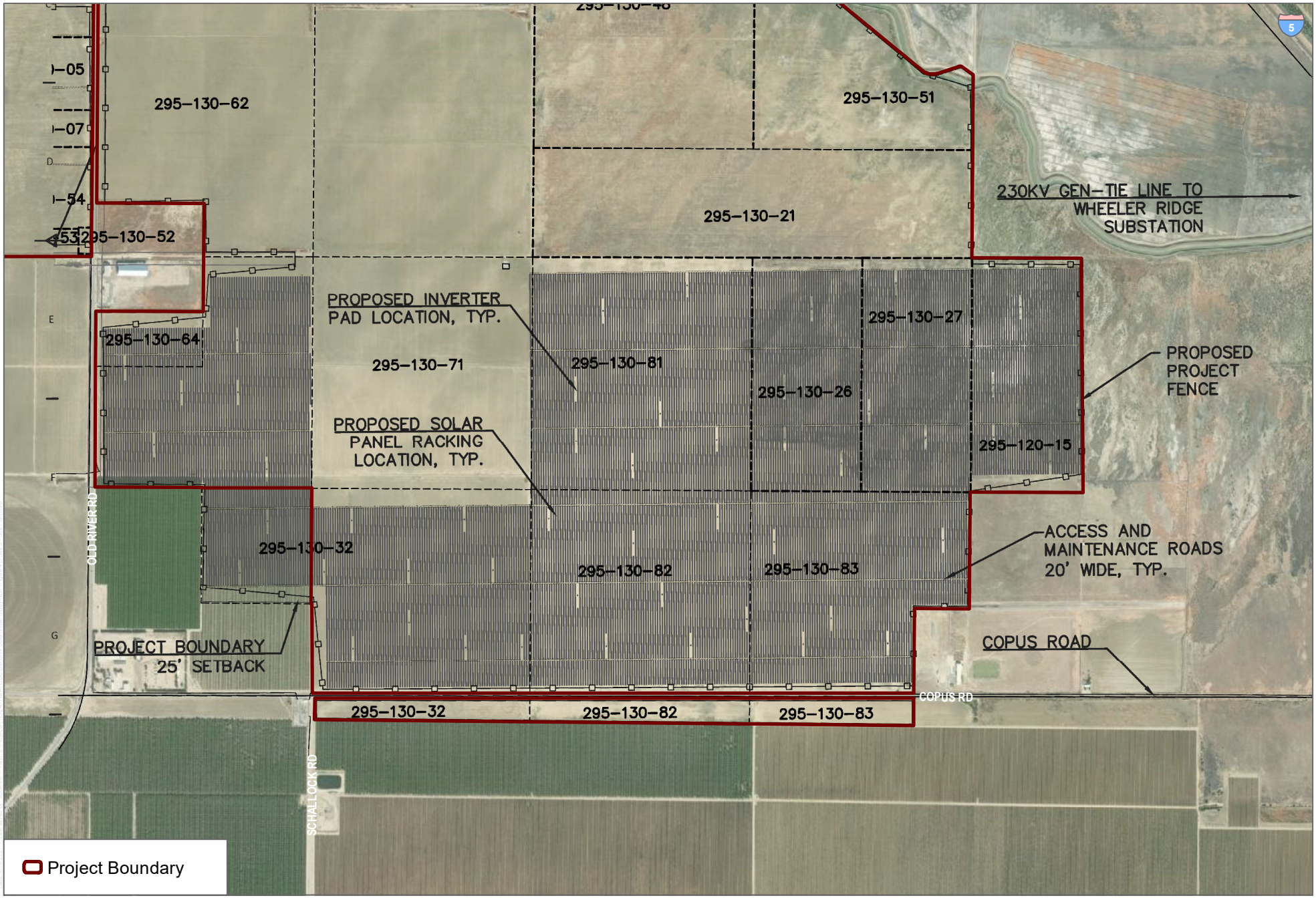

SOURCE: Maxar 2020

DUDEK

0 750 1,500 Feet

Case Numbers:

Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 159
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 28, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 161
General Plan Amendment No. 2, Map No. 159
General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 160
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Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations

FIGURE 4C
Site 3 - Site Plan
Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Sandrini Solar Project ■ By: EDP Renewables North America, LLC

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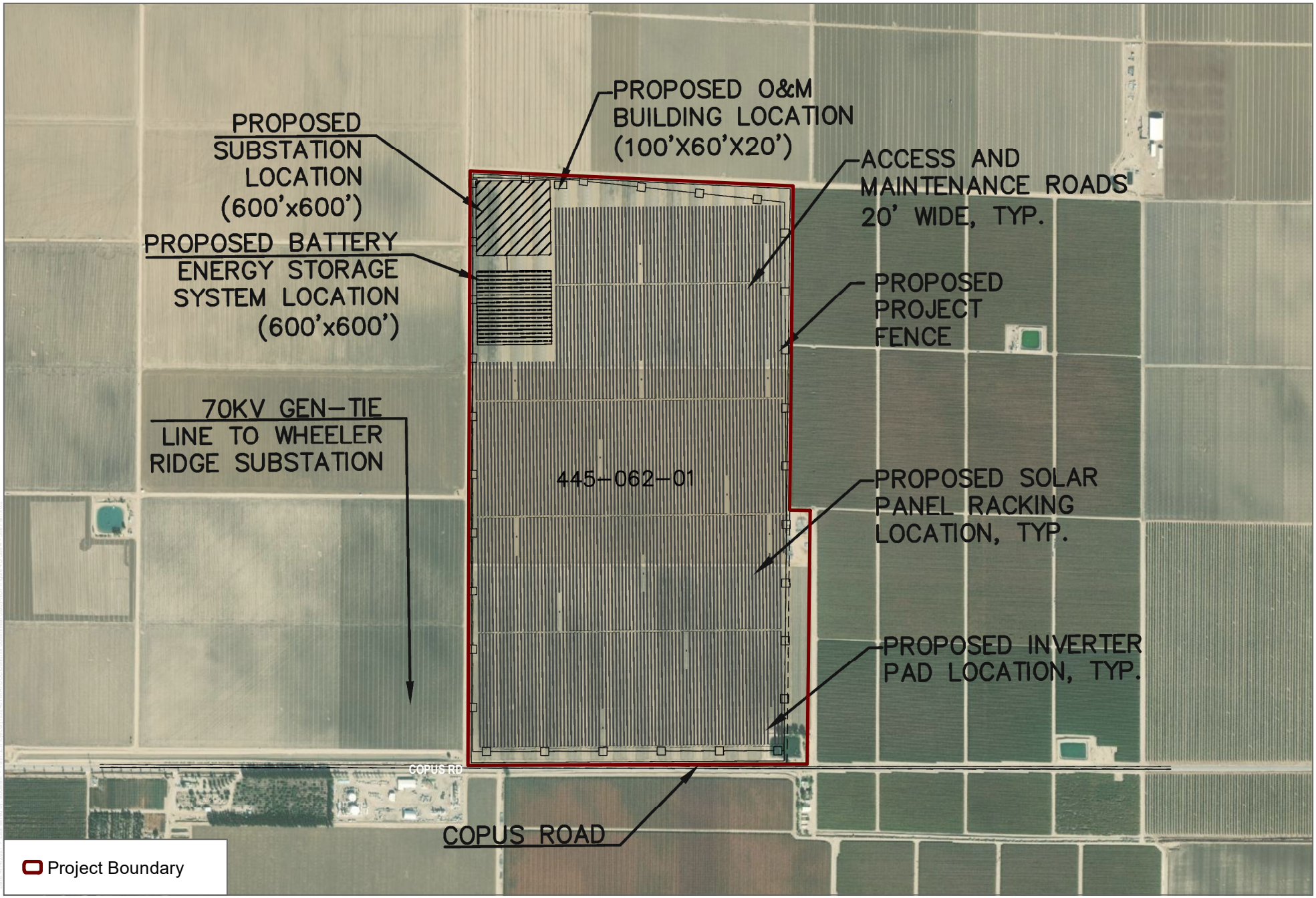

SOURCE: Maxar 2020

DUDEK

0 500 1,000 Feet

Case Numbers:

Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 159
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 28, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 161
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Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations

FIGURE 4D
Site 4 - Site Plan
Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Sandrini Solar Project ■ By: EDP Renewables North America, LLC

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1.2. Environmental Setting

The project site is located in the valley region of Kern County, specifically in proximity to I-5, SR-99, and SR-166. The project site is located primarily on flat terrain, currently used for agricultural operations or designated for agricultural use (see *Figure 1, Site Vicinity; Figure 2, Project Site Boundaries;* and *Figure 3, Aerial Photograph*). The four individual project sites that make up the proposed project are shown on *Figures 4A through 4D, Site 1 – Site Plan* through *Site 4 – Site Plan*. The project is located across multiple U.S. Geological Survey quadrangles including the Conner, Conner SW, and Coal Oil Canyon quadrangles.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) would serve the proposed project site for law enforcement and public safety services, as the KCSO serves unincorporated areas of Kern County (KCSO 2017). The KCSO Lamont Substation, located at 12022 Main Street, Lamont, California 93241, is the closest police station to the project site, located approximately 14 miles southwest. The Kern County Fire Department (KCFD) provides fire protection and emergency medical services to unincorporated areas of Kern County and thus would provide fire protection services to the proposed project site (KCFD 2020). Kern County Fire Station 55 is the fire station located closest to the proposed project site, approximately 13 miles southeast, at 5441 Dennis McCarthy Drive, Lebec, California 93243.

The nearest private airport is Creekside Airport in Arvin, California, which is approximately 12 miles northeast of the project site. The nearest public use airport is Bakersfield Municipal Airport, located at 2000 South Union Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93307, approximately 18 miles north of the proposed project site. The project site is not located within any safety or noise contour zones for these airports, nor is the proposed project site located within any designated airport land use plan areas.

There are three sensitive receptors in the project area. The first sensitive receptor is a residential home immediately adjacent to Site 4, south of Copus Road. The second sensitive receptor is a residential home immediately adjacent to Site 2, located west of Old River Road. The third sensitive receptor is a residential home located north of Copus Road, approximately 0.43 miles west of Site 3.

The project site is located entirely within the Kern County General Plan area and is comprised of 39 privately owned parcels. As shown on *Figure 5, Existing General Plan Land Use Designations,* the project site is designated as Map Code 8.1 (Intensive Agriculture), 8.1/2.3 (Intensive Agriculture/Shallow Groundwater), and 8.1/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture/Flood Hazard). As shown on *Figure 6, Existing Zoning,* the project site is zoned A (Exclusive Agriculture) (Kern County 2009).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) delineates flood hazard areas on its Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). According to the FIRMs for the project area, portions of the project are located in a 100-year flood area (Zones A, 1 percent annual chance of flooding) as shown on *Figure 7, FEMA Floodplain Zone Hazards*.

The agricultural land upon which the project would be developed is either fallow or actively planted with annual row crops. The project sites are within an area that has historically been used for agricultural crop production, and approximately 1,998.77 acres of the approximately 3,447.33 total project acres (13 of the 33 parcels within the project site boundaries) are subject to active Williamson Act Land Use contracts, as outlined in *Table 2, Williamson Act Land Use Contract Cancellations*, and as shown in *Figure 8, Williamson Act – Active and Nonrenewals*. Additionally, 9 of the 33 properties in the project boundary are identified on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) as containing Important Farmland (*Figure 9, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program Designations*). Project parcels are located within Agricultural Preserve No. 12 and No. 13.

TABLE 2. WILLIAMSON ACT LAND USE CONTRACT CANCELLATIONS

WALUC Cancellation Number	Kern County Recorded Document Number	Original Contract Date	Status	APN(s)	Acreage to be removed
21-01	Book 4273, Page 13 Doc No. 28397	4/29/1969	Active	445-062-34	289.11
21-02	Book 4492, Page 243 Doc No. 12231	2/24/1971	Active & Nonrenewal	295-100-19, 295-130-21, 295-130-48, 295-130-51, 295-120-15, 295-130-26	654.9
21-03	Book 4373, Page 24 Doc No. 10965	2/17/1970	Active	295-130-57, 295-130-62	619.0
21-04	Book 4272, Page 933 Doc No. 28386	3/31/1969	Active	295-130-32, 295-130-64	354.48
21-05	Book4493, Page 175 Doc No. 12395	11/25/1970	Nonrenewal	295-130-04, 295-130-13	81.28

Notes: WALUC = Williamson Act Land Use Contract; APN = Assessor's Parcel Number.

Approximately 1.0 percent of the project site is located on Prime Farmland as designated under the California Department of Conservation's (DOC) FMMP, 35.1 percent is located within Farmland of Statewide Importance, and 4.3 percent is located on Unique Farmland (see *Figure 9, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program Designations*). According to the DOC, Prime Farmland is defined as land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for the production of crops. Farmland of Statewide Importance is defined as land other than Prime Farmland that has a good combination of physical and chemical characteristics for the production of crops. Unique Farmland is defined as land which does not meet the criteria for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance, yet has been used for the production of specific high economic value crops at some time during the two update cycles prior to the mapping date (DOC 2020) According to the Kern County GIS Accessor Map, Site 1 is not located in an agricultural preserve; however, Site 2 and Site 3 consist of several parcels located within an agricultural preserve, as well as parcels located outside an agricultural preserve. Site 4 is located entirely within an agricultural preserve (Kern County 2021).

Portions of the proposed project site are located in Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) 1, which is defined as an area with little likelihood for the presence of significant mineral resources (Conservation Biology Institute 2020). The remainder of the proposed project not located within MRZ-1 is not designated as a mineral resource zone (see *Figure 10, Mineral Resource Zones*). A number of mineral rights holders currently maintain active rights to mineral resources on several of the parcels on which the project is proposed.

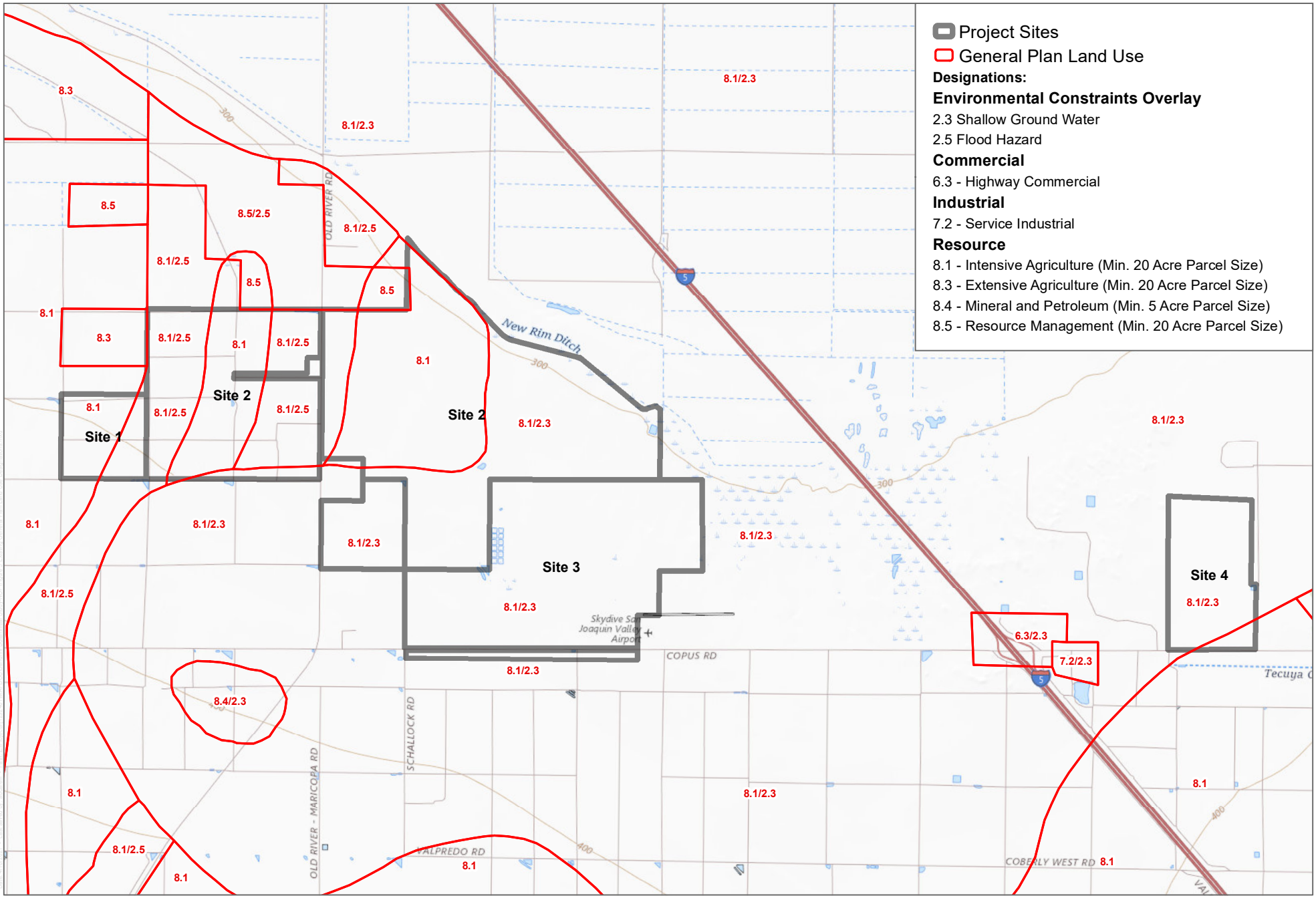
Surrounding Land Uses

Existing land uses surrounding the project site consist largely of agricultural parcels sparsely occupied by farm or rural residential uses. The primary zoning classification in the 5-mile radius surrounding the project site is A (Exclusive Agriculture). Rural residential buildings are located in the unincorporated community of Mettler, located approximately 8.5 miles from the proposed project site. There are no schools within 5 miles of the proposed project site. The nearest school is Arvin High School, located approximately 17 miles northeast at 900 Varsity Road, Arvin, California 93203. *Table 3* details the surrounding land uses, including the General Plan designations and existing zoning.

TABLE 3. EXISTING PROJECT SITE AND SURROUNDING PROPERTIES
EXISTING LAND USE, GENERAL PLAN MAP CODE DESIGNATIONS, AND ZONING

Location	Existing Land Use	Existing General Plan Map Code Designations	Existing Zoning
Site 1	Agriculture	8.1/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture/Flood Hazard)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
North	Agriculture, Resource Management	8.1 (Intensive Agriculture), 8.3 (Extensive Agriculture), 8.5 (Resource Management)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
East	Agriculture, Resource Management	8.1 (Intensive Agriculture, min. 20-acre parcel size), 8.5 (Resource Management)	A FSP (Exclusive Agriculture, Floodplain Secondary), A (Exclusive Agriculture
South	Agriculture, Mineral and Petroleum	8.1 (Intensive Agriculture, min. 20-acre parcel size), 8.4/2.3 (Mineral and Petroleum)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
West	Agriculture	8.1 (Intensive Agriculture)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
Site 2	Agriculture	8.1 (Intensive Agriculture, min. 20-acre parcel size); 8.1/2.3 (Intensive Agriculture/Shallow Groundwater); and 8.1/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture/Flood Hazard)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
North	Agriculture, Mineral and Petroleum, Resource Management	8.1 (Intensive Agriculture, min. 20-acre parcel size), 8.4/2.3 (Mineral and Petroleum), 8.5 (Resource Management)	A (Exclusive Agriculture), A-1 (Limited Agriculture)
East	Agriculture, Industrial, Highway	8.1 (Intensive Agriculture, min. 20-acre parcel size), 7.2 (Service Industrial), 6.3 (Highway, Commercial)	A (Exclusive Agriculture), A-1 (Limited Agriculture), C-2 PD (General Commercial, Precise Development), M-2 (Medium Industrial, Precise Development)
South	Agriculture	8.1 (Intensive Agriculture, min. 20-acre parcel size)	A FSP (Exclusive Agriculture, Floodplain Secondary), A (Exclusive Agriculture
West	Agriculture, Resource Management	8.1 (Intensive Agriculture, min. 20-acre parcel size), 8.3 (Extensive Agriculture), 8.5 (Resource Management)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
Site 3	Agriculture	8.1/2.3 (Intensive Agriculture/Shallow Groundwater)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
North	Agriculture, Resource Management	8.1 (Intensive Agriculture, min. 20-acre parcel size), 8.3 (Extensive Agriculture), 8.5 (Resource Management)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
East	Agriculture, Industrial, Highway	8.1 (Intensive Agriculture, min. 20-acre parcel size 7.2 (Service Industrial), 6.3 (Highway, Commercial)	A (Exclusive Agriculture), A-1 (Limited Agriculture), C-2 PD (General Commercial, Precise Development), M-2 (Medium Industrial, Precise Development)
South	Agriculture	8.1 (Intensive Agriculture, min. 20-acre parcel size)	A FSP (Exclusive Agriculture, Floodplain Secondary), A (Exclusive Agriculture
West	Agriculture, Resource Management	8.1 (Intensive Agriculture, min. 20-acre parcel size), 8.3 (Extensive Agriculture), 8.5 (Resource Management)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)

Location	Existing Land Use	Existing General Plan Map Code Designations	Existing Zoning
Site 4		8.1 (Intensive Agriculture, min. 20-acre parcel size); 8.1/2.3 (Intensive Agriculture/Shallow Groundwater)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
North	Agriculture	8.1/2.3 (Intensive Agriculture, min. 20-acre parcel size)	A (Exclusive Agriculture), A-1 (Limited Agriculture)
East	Agriculture, Commercial, Industrial, Highway, Residential	8.1 (Intensive Agriculture, min. 20-acre parcel size), 7.1 (Light Industrial), 7.2 (Service Industrial), 6.2 (General Commercial), 6.3/2.5 (Highway Commercial), 5.3 (Maximum 10 Units/Net Acre)	A (Exclusive Agriculture), A-1 (Limited Agriculture), C-2 (General Commercial), M-1 (Light Industrial, Precise Development), M-2 (Medium Industrial, Precise Development), CH (Highway Commercial), R-1 (Low Density Residential, Mobile Home)
South	Agriculture, Commercial, Industrial, Highway	8.1/2.3/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture, min. 20-acre parcel size), 7.1 (Light Industrial), 7.2/2.3 (Service Industrial), 6.2 (General Commercial), 6.3 (Highway Commercial),	A (Exclusive Agriculture), A-1 (Limited Agriculture), C-2 (General Commercial), M-1 (Light Industrial, Precise Development), M-2 (Medium Industrial, Precise Development), CH (Highway Commercial)
West	Agriculture, Commercial, Industrial, Highway	8.1/2.3 (Intensive Agriculture, min. 20-acre parcel size), 7.1 (Light Industrial), 7.2/2.3 (Service Industrial), 6.2 (General Commercial), 6.3 (Highway Commercial)	A (Exclusive Agriculture), A-1 (Limited Agriculture), C-2 (General Commercial), M-2 (Medium Industrial, CH (Highway Commercial)



SOURCE: USGS National Map 2021; Kern County 2016

DUDEK

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

Case Numbers:

Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 159
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 28, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 161
General Plan Amendment No. 2, Map No. 159
General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 160
General Plan Amendment No. 4, Map No. 161
Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations

FIGURE 5

Existing General Plan Land Use Designations

Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Sandrini Solar Project ■ By: EDP Renewables North America, LLC

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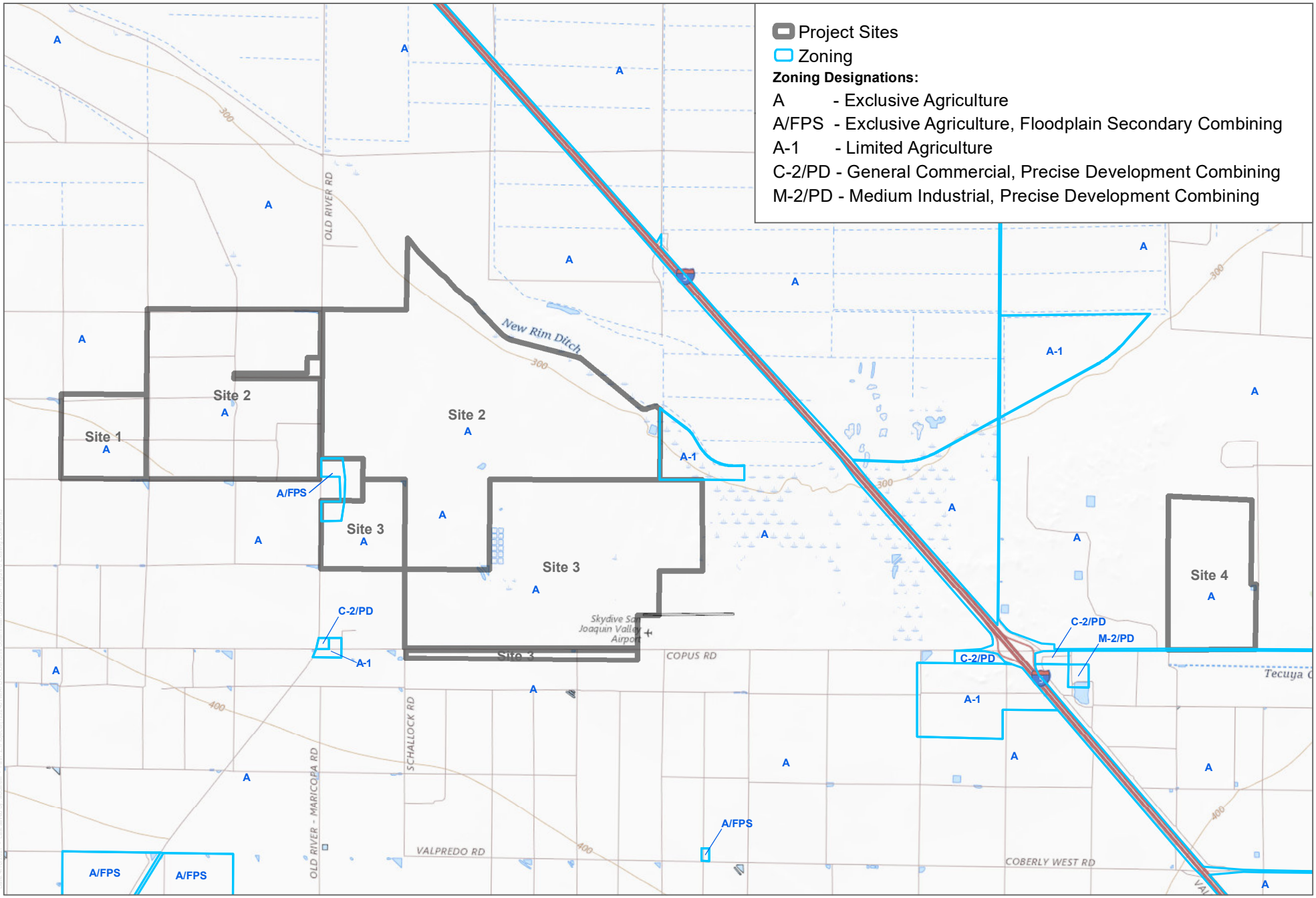

SOURCE: USGS National Map 2021; Kern County 2010

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Case Numbers:

Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 159
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 28, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 161
General Plan Amendment No. 2, Map No. 159
General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 160
General Plan Amendment No. 4, Map No. 161
Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations

FIGURE 6
Existing Zoning
Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Sandrini Solar Project ■ By: EDP Renewables North America, LLC

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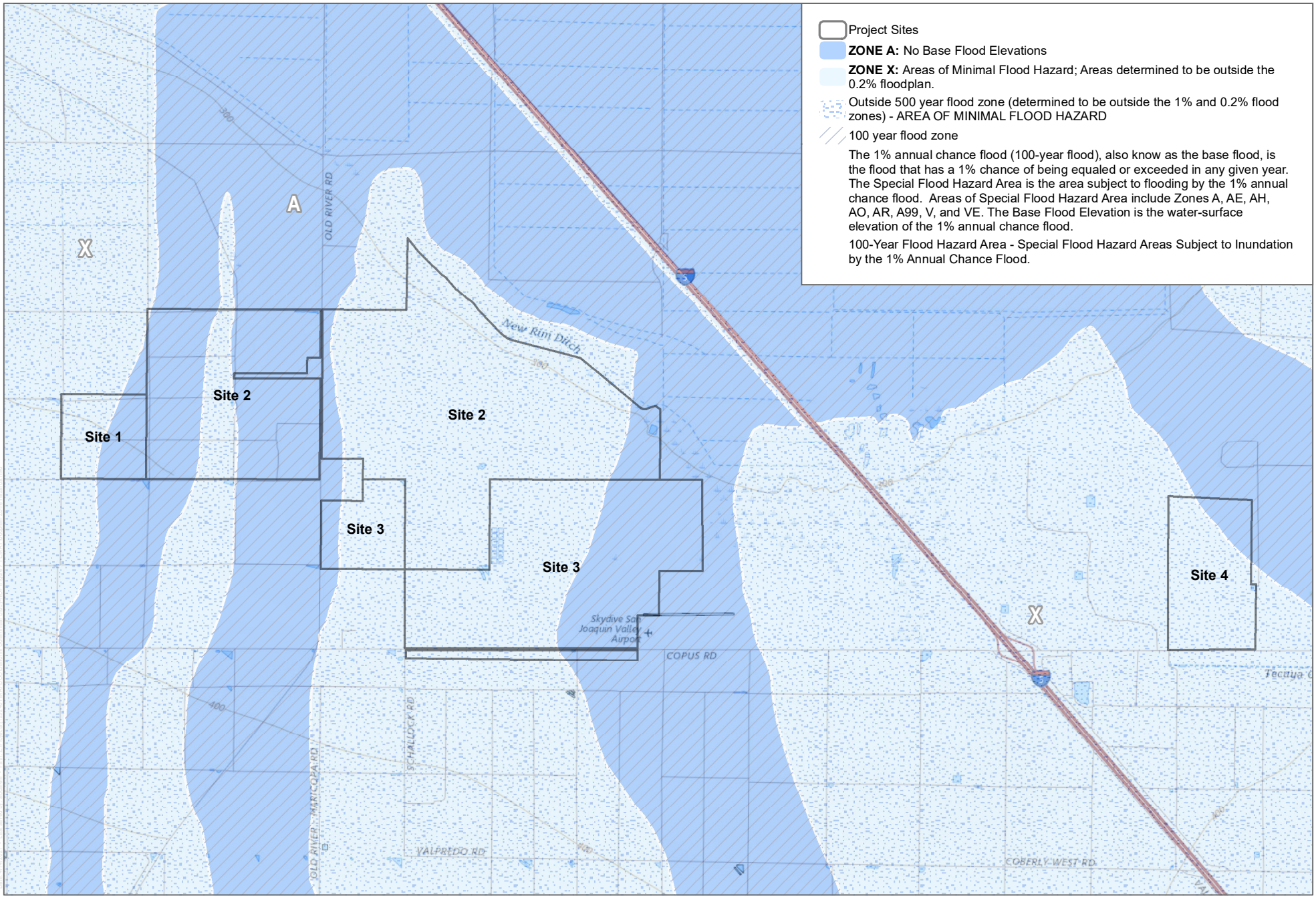

SOURCE: USGS National Map 2021; FEMA 2020

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Case Numbers:

Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 159
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 28, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 161
General Plan Amendment No. 2, Map No. 159
General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 160
General Plan Amendment No. 4, Map No. 161
Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations

FIGURE 7

FEMA Floodplain Zone Hazards

Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Sandrini Solar Project ■ By: EDP Renewables North America, LLC

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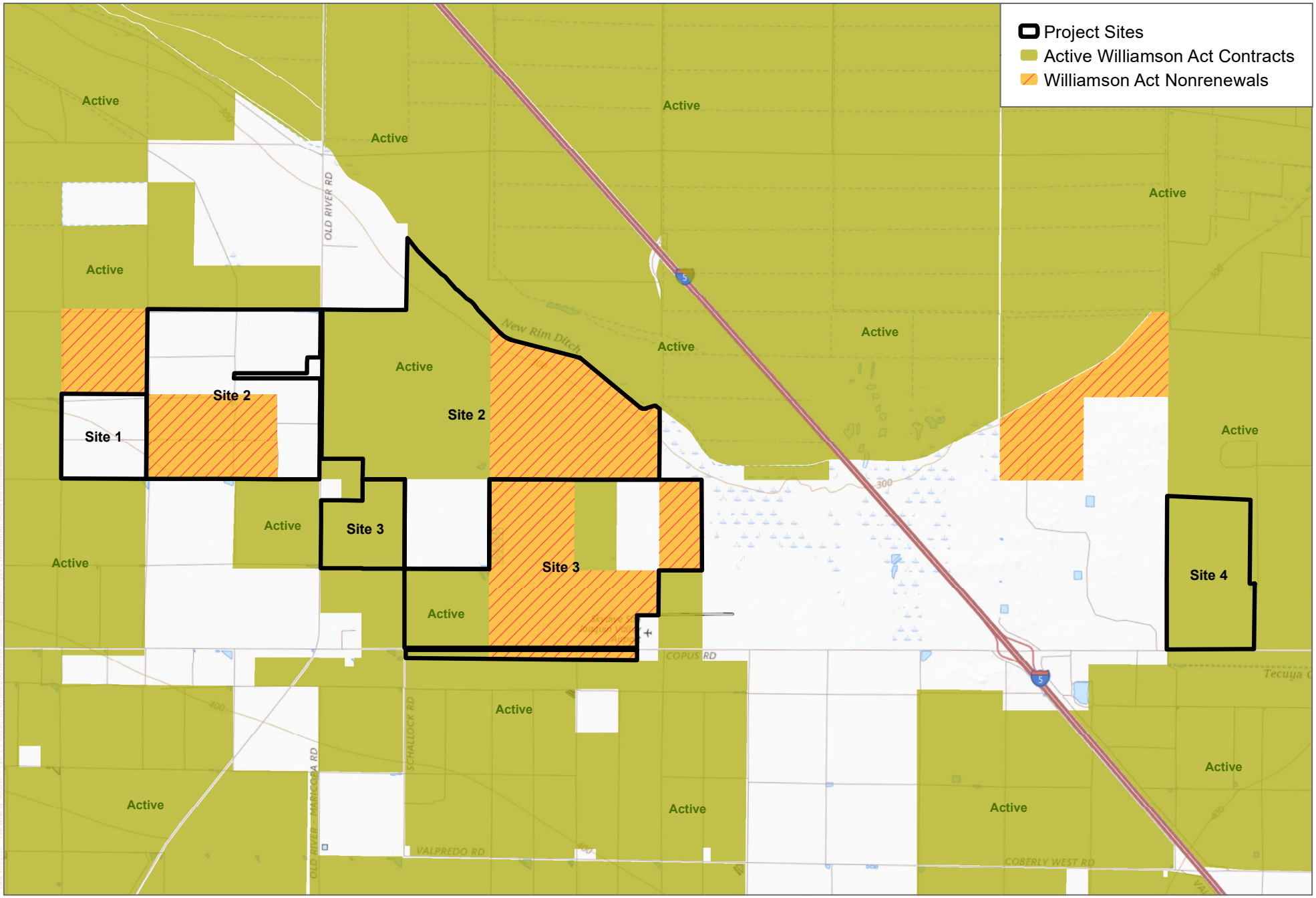

SOURCE: USGS National Map 2021; CA Dept of Conservation 2009

DUDEK

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Case Numbers:

Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 159
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 28, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 161
General Plan Amendment No. 2, Map No. 159
General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 160
General Plan Amendment No. 4, Map No. 161
Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations

FIGURE 8

Williamson Act - Active and Nonrenewals

Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Sandrini Solar Project ■ By: EDP Renewables North America, LLC

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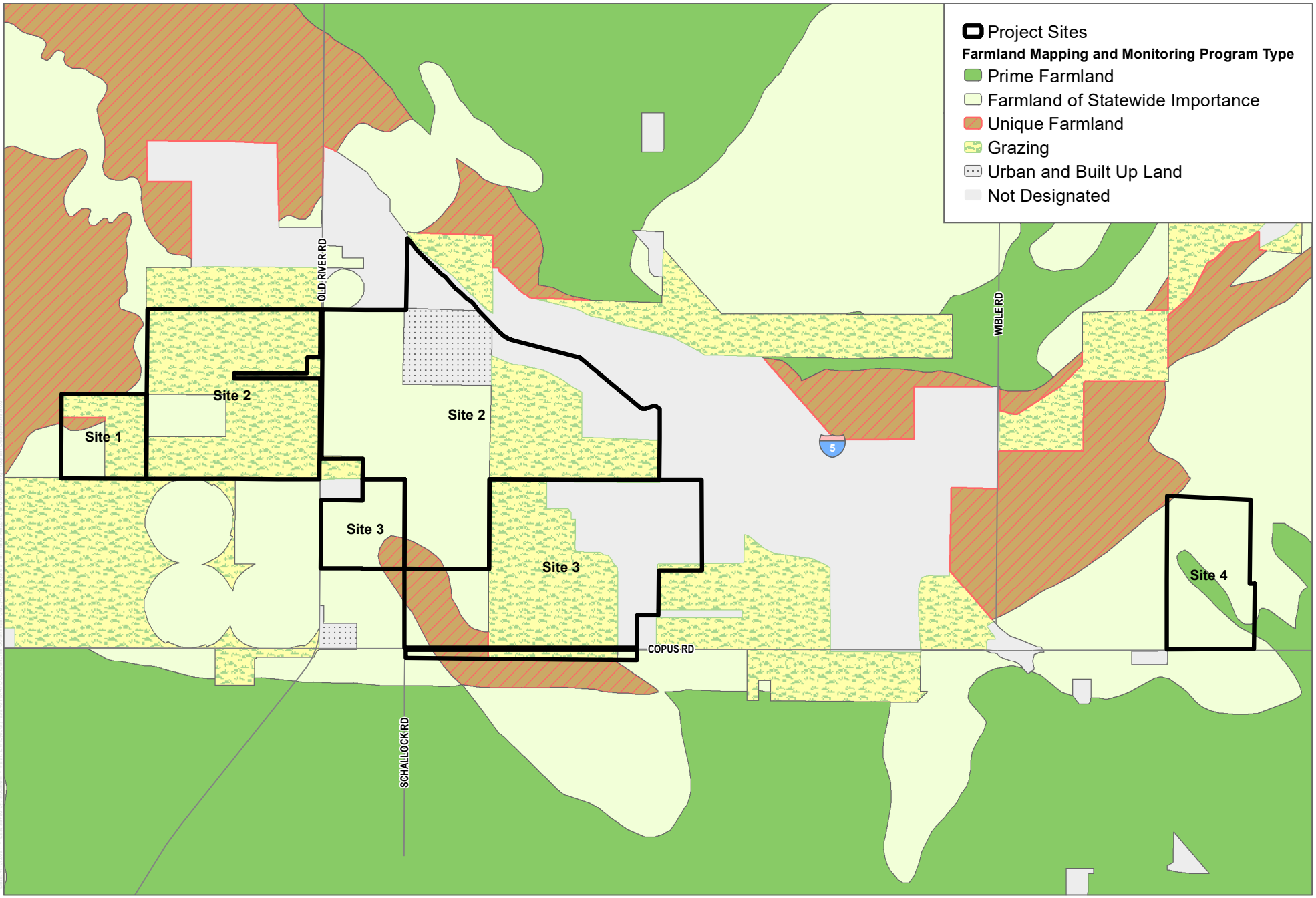

SOURCE: Maxar 2019; CA Dept of Conservation 2018

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Case Numbers:

Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 159
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 28, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 161
General Plan Amendment No. 2, Map No. 159
General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 160
General Plan Amendment No. 4, Map No. 161
Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations

FIGURE 9

Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program Designations

Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department

Sandrini Solar Project ■ By: EDP Renewables North America, LLC

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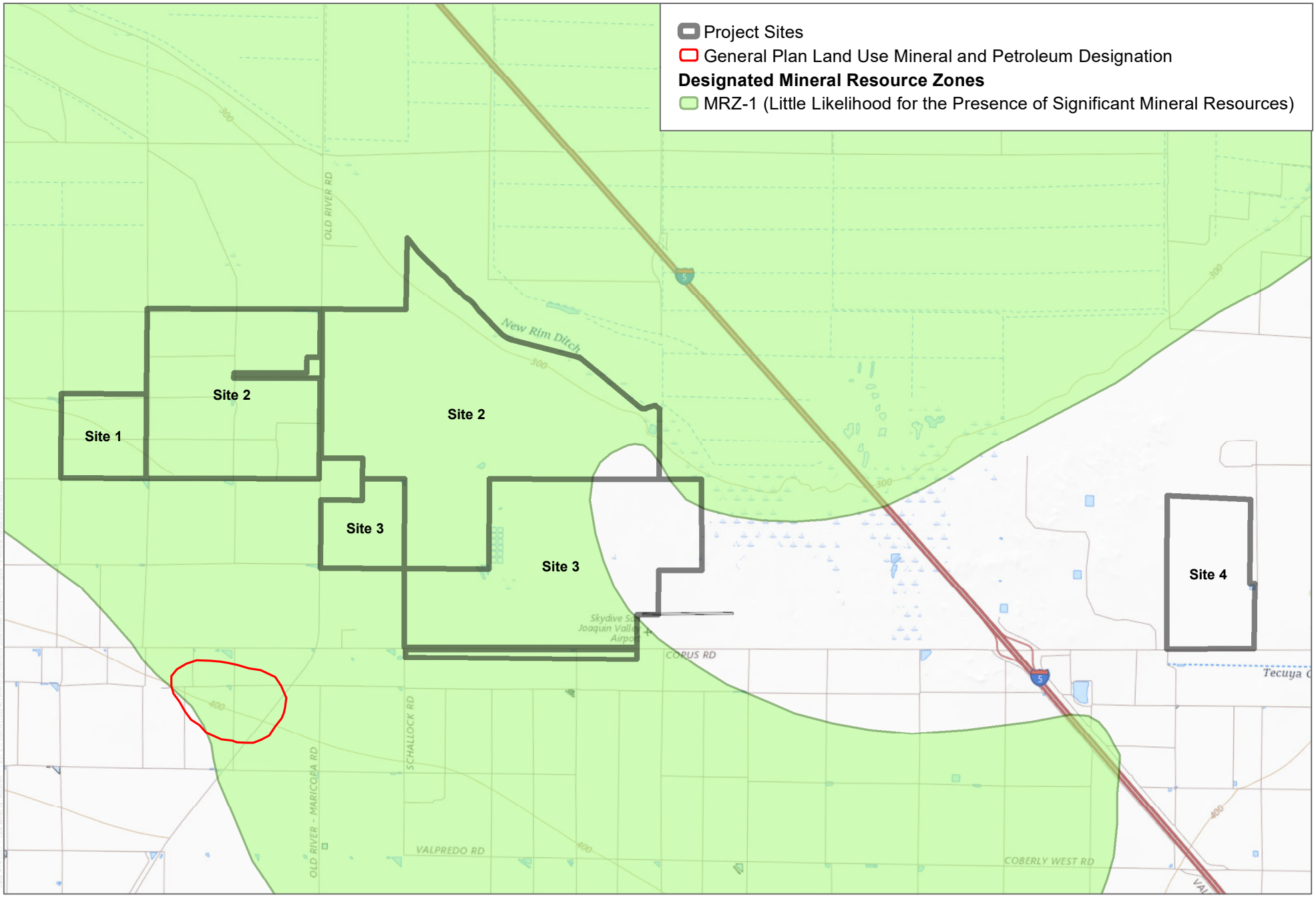

SOURCE: USGS National Map 2021;
California Department of Conservation 2009

DUDEK

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Case Numbers:

Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 159
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 28, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 161
General Plan Amendment No. 2, Map No. 159
General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 160
General Plan Amendment No. 4, Map No. 161
Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations

FIGURE 10
Mineral Resource Zones
Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Sandrini Solar Project ■ By: EDP Renewables North America, LLC

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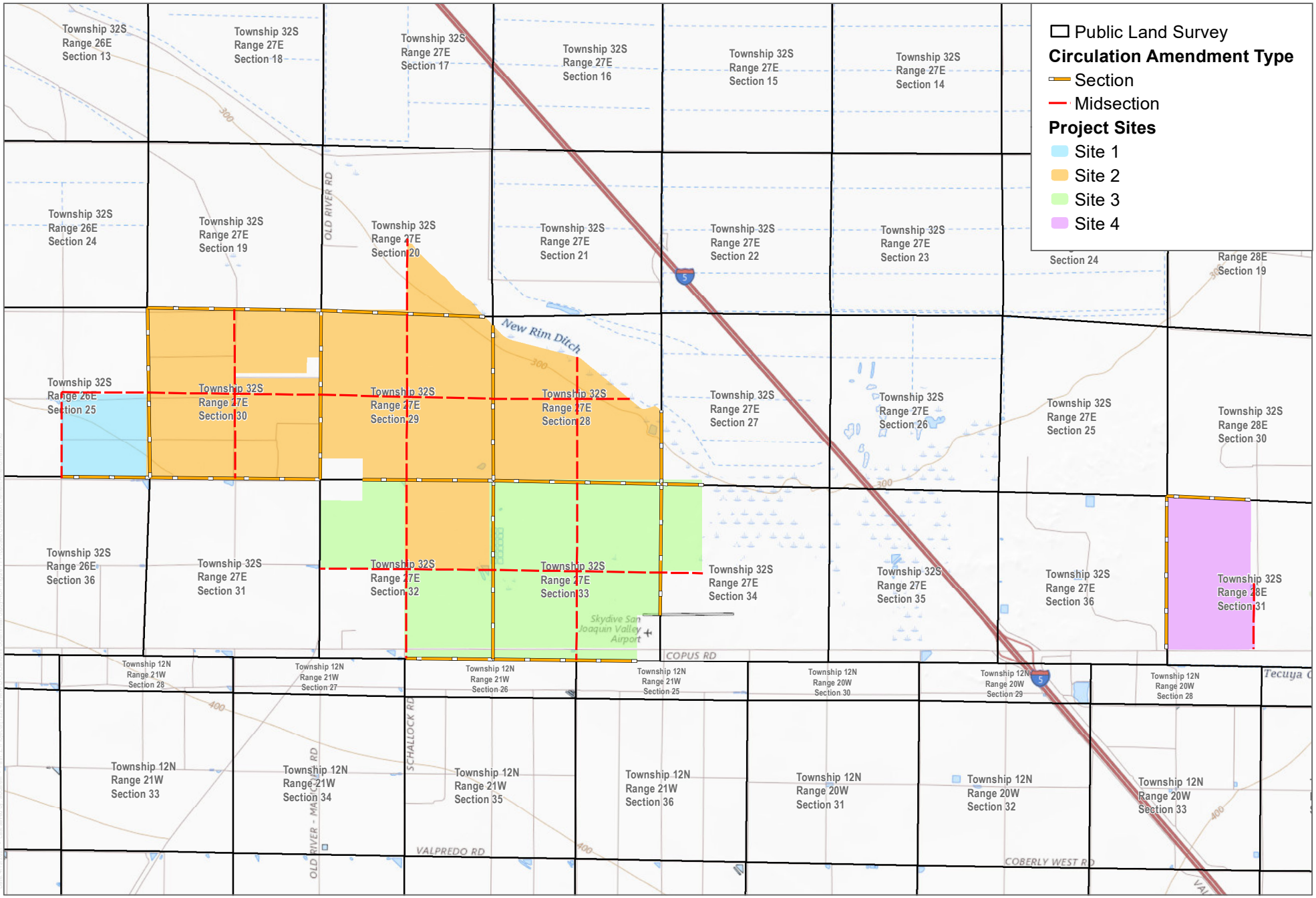

SOURCE: USGS National Map 2021

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Case Numbers:

Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 159
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 28, Map No. 160
Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 161
General Plan Amendment No. 2, Map No. 159
General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 160
General Plan Amendment No. 4, Map No. 161
Williamson Act Land Use Cancellations

FIGURE 11

Proposed Circulation Element Amendments

Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Sandrini Solar Project ■ By: EDP Renewables North America, LLC

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1.3. Project Description

Project Overview

The Sandrini Solar Project by EDPR CA Solar Park, LLC (project proponent) is a proposed photovoltaic (PV) solar facility with associated infrastructure on approximately 3,447.33 acres of privately owned land in the Valley Region of Kern County (*Figure 1, Site Vicinity*). As stated above, the facility would consist of 4 sites (Sites 1 to 4) to generate a combined (up to) 300 MW of renewable electrical energy. The project also includes the installation of associated (up to) 100 MW of battery energy storage facilities. The project would be supported by both a 70 kV and a 230 kV overhead and/or underground electrical transmission lines originating from two on-site collector substations and terminating at the PG&E Wheeler Ridge Substation. Both lines would convey electricity back and forth between various phases of the Sandrini Solar project and the larger electrical grid.

Implementation of the project as proposed include the following requests:

a) Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) to allow for the construction and operation of four solar facilities with a total generating capacity of approximately 300 MW AC of renewable energy (broken down by site, below) including up to 100 MW of energy storage (for all sites), within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District (in Zone Maps 159, 160, and 161) pursuant to Section 19.12.030.G of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance. Please note the total MW listed for each site represents the maximum MW that could be developed on the site; however, total MW for the project site would not exceed 300 MW.

   - **Site 1** (up to 20 MW)
     - CUP No. 9, Map No. 159 for approximately 160 acres
   - **Site 2** (up to 235 MW)
     - CUP No. 27, Map No. 160 for approximately 1,902.90 acres
   - **Site 3** (up to 125 MW)
     - CUP No. 28, Map No. 160 for approximately 1,095.32 acres
   - **Site 4** (up to 30 MW)
     - CUP No. 27, Map No. 161 for approximately 289.11 acres

b) General Plan Amendment to the Circulation Element of the Kern County General Plan to remove future road reservations on the section and mid-section lines within the project boundaries (refer to *Figure 11, Proposed Circulation Element Amendments*):

   - General Plan Amendment No. 2, Map No. 159
   - General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 160
   - General Plan Amendment No. 4, Map No. 161

c) Williamson Act Land Use Contract Cancellations:

- No. 21-01
  - Cancellation of approximately 289.11 acres from Contract No. 28397, Book 4273, page 13
- No. 21-02
  - Cancellation of approximately 654.9 acres from Contract No. 12231, Book 4492, page 243
- No. 21-03
  - Cancellation of approximately 619.0 acres from Contract No. 10965, Book 4373, page 24
- No. 21-04
  - Cancellation of approximately 354.48 acres from Contract No. 28386, Book 4272, page 933
- No. 21-05
  - Cancellation of approximately 81.28 acres from Contract No. 12395, Book 4493, page 175

Power generated by the project would assist the State in achieving the Renewables Portfolio Standard under Senate Bill (SB) 350, which requires 50 percent of all electricity sold in the State to be generated from renewable energy sources by December 31, 2030. Power generated by the project would be sold to California investor-owned utilities, municipalities, community choice aggregations, or other purchasers in furtherance of the California Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard.

The anticipated Commercial Operation Date for the project is December 2022, and the project is expected to operate for approximately 35 years, although a longer project life expectancy could be realized by replacing and repowering certain project components. At the end of the project's operational term, the project proponent would determine whether the project site should be decommissioned and deconstructed or if it would seek an extension of its CUP. If any portion of the project site is decommissioned, it would be converted to other uses in accordance with the applicable land use regulations in effect at that time.

1.4. Project Facilities, Construction, and Operations

Project Facilities

The combined project facilities would include the following components, which are described in greater detail thereafter:

- Solar PV modules
- Battery energy storage
- Collector substations

- Generation tie (gen-tie) line
- Interconnection to PG&E's existing Wheeler Ridge Substation
- Security/fencing
- Site access
- Project site lighting
- Operations and maintenance (O&M) facilities
- On-site meteorological stations and towers

Solar PV Modules

The project would generate direct-current (DC) electricity through a series of solar PV modules connected to one another on ground-mounted single-axis tracking structures. Electricity would flow from the panels to solar inverters via DC collection wires. Once the DC electricity has been converted to AC electricity, the output from the solar inverters would be aggregated at two on-site collector substations where it would be stepped up to a higher voltage and then moved along generator tie (gen-tie) lines to the project's point of interconnection (POI) at PG&E's Wheeler Ridge Substation.

Battery Energy Storage

The project would include a lithium-ion battery energy storage system consisting of a number of battery storage units capable of storing DC electricity. The batteries would be physically arranged in racks that would be housed in temperature-controlled facilities referred to as the battery enclosures. These enclosures are equipped with all the necessary ancillary equipment including appropriate fire suppression systems and other electrical control units.

The storage batteries would either be AC coupled or DC coupled with the solar project. When the battery storage is AC coupled, the storage facility is centralized at a project substation, and the solar and storage systems have independent inverters, medium voltage (MV) transformers, and MV collection circuits. When the battery storage is DC coupled to the solar project, the batteries are distributed throughout the solar arrays and share the solar inverter, MV transformers, and MV collection circuits. Past a project substation, downstream use of the gen-tie and POI facilities is shared by both the solar and battery storage systems.

Collector Substations

The two proposed collector substations would be the points at which the power generated from the project would be aggregated. The main purpose of the substations is to step up the voltage of the generated power to match the interconnection voltage through the use of a step-up transformer. In addition, the project substations would include protective relays and circuit breakers that would protect the grid from any disruption or disturbances, either external or internal to the project. Common substation equipment includes a control building, transformers, circuit breakers, meters, and overhead switches. The project substations would be secured with the use of a 6- or 8-foot-tall chain-link fence with triple-strand barbed wire. The internal grounds of the project substations would be covered in crushed aggregate.

Gen-Tie Line

The project would have two gen-tie lines at 230 kV and 70 kV on shared infrastructure that would connect the collector substations to the project's POI. The total length of the gen-tie would be up to 11 miles from the on-site collector substations to the existing PG&E Wheeler Ridge Substation. The project intends to construct the gen-tie lines within public rights-of-way (ROWs). The project is additionally exploring gen-tie routes that would utilize private land through transmission easements in order to provide alternate paths in the event that the public ROW routes are unavailable.

Interconnection to PG&E's Existing Wheeler Ridge Substation

The project's POI is the point at which the project's power would be delivered to the electrical grid. As previously described, the project would interconnect at PG&E's existing Wheeler Ridge Substation with 100 MW interconnecting at 70 kV, and 200 MW interconnecting at 230 kV. The project is in the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) interconnection queue and has been studied for delivery of the full 300 MW of solar generation proposed in the project's CUP application.

Security/Fencing

The facility would be secured with a 6- to 8-foot-high chain-link fence along the perimeter. Vegetation would be cleared from the area underneath the arrays as necessary, and the site would be graded per the grading and drainage plan to be submitted for County review and approval. Access roads to be located around and between the arrays may include crushed aggregate, if necessary, to prevent damage to existing soils. Solar arrays would sit on piles to elevate them above the ground surface to avoid the need for additional landscaping and post-construction site work.

Site Access

Site access to the Project would come from Copus Road, Old River Road, SR-166 via I-5 and SR-99.

Project Site Lighting

Motion sensitive, directional security lights would be installed to provide adequate illumination around the substation areas, the O&M building, each inverter-transformer station, at gates, and along perimeter fencing. All lighting would be shielded and directed downward to minimize the potential for glare or spillover onto adjacent properties. All lighting also would conform to applicable Kern County rules and regulations for outdoor lighting.

Operations and Maintenance Facilities

A typical O&M building has up to 20 parking spaces and includes Americans with Disabilities Act access, parking for employees and meets any additional parking requirements for local or state regulations. The O&M building would receive water service either through private landowners, the local water district, or a municipality. If possible, the O&M building would seek to connect to local water lines in the vicinity. Sewage from the building would be pumped into a buried septic tank on the project site, unless the building can connect to local sewage infrastructure.

Construction Activities

Project construction is anticipated to commence in December 2021 and would take place in multiple phases. Exact sequencing of phasing would depend on a number of variables, but generally the construction process would involve the following activities:

- Project site would be graded to provide a level foundation for roads, project components, and the O&M building.
- Water would be applied for dust suppression on and along project roads. The amount of water used would vary based on site conditions and local rainfall, but in general would be less than a gallon per linear foot of project roadway per day. Water would come from one of four wells directly adjacent to the project site. Following site grading and preparation, steel piles would be driven into the ground and the solar PV tables, trackers, and panels would be installed on top.
- Trenches would be dug on site to site the underground collection cables to conduct the energy output from the panels to the solar inverters, storage inverters or converters, the battery storage system, and ultimately the collector substations. Solar inverters and storage inverters or converters would be installed on site, installing the battery racks within the battery enclosures, constructing the collector substations, and then constructing the two high-voltage gen-tie lines between the collector substations and the project's POI.

Schedule and Workforce

Construction equipment would operate between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for up to a maximum of 8 hours per piece of equipment, daily. Weekend construction work is not expected to be required, but may occur on occasion, depending on schedule considerations. All construction work, including any weekend work, would be required to comply with Kern County noise ordinances. It is estimated that project would employ 650 workers during the construction period, and 11 full-time employees thereafter. The duration of construction is estimated at 12 to 18 months.

Construction Water Use

During the construction phase, if grading and grubbing are required, it is anticipated that a total of up to 750 acre-feet[1] of water would be used for dust suppression (including truck wheel washing) and other purposes. If grading and grubbing are not required, water needs would be less. During construction, non-potable water would be obtained from existing private wells adjacent to the Project Site and/or purchased from the Maricopa Wheeler Ridge Water Storage District and brought to the site from existing on-site infrastructure. During construction and decommissioning, potable water for drinking and hand washing would be brought to the site by a bottled water service provider.

Electrical Supply

Temporary power for construction would be supplied by mobile diesel-driven generator sets, batteries, by temporary electrical service from a local provider, or a combination of all three methods.

[1] One acre-foot of water equals 325,851 gallons – approximately the amount needed to cover 1 acre (roughly a football field) of ground 1 foot deep.

Project Operation and Maintenance Activities

The project would be privately owned and operated throughout its operational life. Compared to many other forms of energy generation, solar PV generation facilities have relatively low operational requirements. Normal O&M activities include panel washing with de-iodized water imported from off site every 1 to 4 years, replacing broken or malfunctioning PV panels and batteries, maintaining manageable vegetation levels in and around the site, and monitoring energy production across the project. Typical operations materials include grease, spare PV panels, and miscellaneous hardware and tools used to support maintenance activities. These materials would be stored in the O&M building and transported around the site as needed.

Schedule and Workforce

This facility is expected to employ up to 11 full-time employees responsible for maintenance and other activities related to ongoing facility operations. Employees would generally be on site during normal business hours, unless otherwise required. Employees of the project would conduct work out of an on-site O&M building.

The facility would operate 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, generating electricity during normal daylight hours when the solar energy is available. Maintenance activities may occur 7 days per week, 24 hours a day to ensure PV panel output when solar energy is available.

Water Usage

Operational water would come from the same sources as construction water. Non-potable water would be obtained from existing private wells adjacent to the project site and/or purchased from the Maricopa Wheeler Ridge Water Storage District and brought to the site from existing on-site infrastructure. Potable water would come from an on-site well or through the local water utility.

Electrical Supply Power

Electricity for plant auxiliaries would be provided by the project's electrical generation or supplied by the local power provider. The proposed project would require power for the O&M facilities, electrical enclosures, tracker motors, associated structures, and for plant lighting and security.

Decommissioning Activities

The reclamation process would commence following the project being taken offline and permanently out of service. All decommissioning, reclamation, and restoration activities for the project would adhere to the requirements of the appropriate governing authorities, and would be consistent with all applicable federal, state, and local permits and regulations.

The project's reclamation and restoration process would consist of the removal of aboveground structures, majority removal of belowground foundations and infrastructure, and restoration of the site to its pre-construction condition. The decommissioning process is anticipated to be completed roughly 12 months after the project has been out of service. The reclamation process may be completed in multiple phases in order to ensure the entire site is returned to its pre-construction condition.

Project Features and Best Management Practices

Standard project features and best management practices (BMPs) would be followed during construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed project to maintain the safety of employees and surrounding communities, and to minimize or avoid environmental impacts.

Waste and Hazardous Materials Management

The proposed project would have minimal levels of materials on site that have been defined as hazardous under 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 261. Hazardous materials and wastes would be managed, used, handled, stored, and transported in accordance with applicable local and state regulations. The following materials are expected to be used during the construction, operation, and long-term maintenance of the proposed project:

- Insulating oil – used for electrical equipment
- Lubricating oil – used for maintenance vehicles
- Various solvents/detergents – equipment cleaning
- Gasoline – used for maintenance vehicles

Spill Prevention and Containment

Spill prevention and containment for construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project would adhere to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's guidance on Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures.

Wastewater and Septic System

A septic tank potentially would be installed near the proposed project site to collect wastewater flows from the O&M building. Disposal of wastewater would meet requirements implemented by Kern County ordinances, regulations, and standards. If no O&M buildings are constructed on site, no septic systems would be installed.

Inert Solids

Inert solids would result during the construction phase of the proposed project. Potential inert solid wastes that would result from the construction activities may include recyclable items such as paper, cardboard, solid concrete and block, metals, wire, glass, types 1–4 plastics, drywall, wood, and lubricating oils. Non-recyclable items include insulation, other plastics, food waste, vinyl flooring and base, carpeting, paint containers, packing materials, and other construction wastes. Recycling and disposal of these inert solid wastes would comply with all local, state, and federal regulations.

Chemical storage tanks (if any) would be designed and installed to meet applicable local and state regulations. Any wastes classified as hazardous such as solvents, degreasing agents, concrete curing compounds, paints, adhesives, chemicals, or chemical containers would be stored (in an approved storage facility/shed/structure) and disposed of as required by local and state regulations. Material quantities of hazardous wastes are not expected.

Health and Safety

Safety precautions and emergency systems would be implemented as part of the design and construction of the proposed project to ensure safe and reliable operation. Administrative controls will include classroom and hands-on training in O&M procedures, general safety items, and a planned maintenance program. These will work with the system design and monitoring features to enhance safety and reliability.

1.5. Project Objectives

The project proponent has defined the following objectives for the project:

- Support the generation of renewable energy in the State of California per the recent objectives outlined in SB 100. This legislation increased California's Renewable Portfolio Standard and established the State's intention to implement carbon neutral and eligible renewable energy resources supply 100 percent of the State's retail electricity sales by the year 2045. The project would supply solar PV energy that would assist the State in meeting these goals.
- Establish a large-scale solar PV and energy storage facility in a manner that maximizes the production of reliable electricity in an economically feasible manner. The project would also provide California Community Choice Aggregators with carbon-neutral renewable energy to support their goals of providing clean energy to their customers.
- Use proven and established solar and energy storage technology to optimize efficiency and minimize operational risks and maintenance requirements.
- Provide long-term property tax revenues that help support public services within Kern County.
- Create green jobs within both Kern County and the broader State of California.
- Provide land payments to private landowners in Kern County.
- Develop the project in an economically feasible, commercially viable, and broadly financeable manner.
- Meet all of the above-listed objectives while designing, constructing, and operating project facilities in an environmentally responsible manner consistent with County, state, and federal requirements.

1.6. Proposed Discretionary Actions/Required Approvals

The anticipated approvals needed for the project include adoption of CUPs, General Plan Amendments to the Circulation Element of the Kern County General Plan, and cancellations of active Williamson Act Land Use Contracts. Construction and operation of the proposed solar energy facility may require additional local, state, and federal entitlements, as well as discretionary and ministerial actions and approvals including, but not limited to:

County of Kern

- Certification and certification of Final Environmental Impact Report
- Adoption of 15091 Findings and 15093 Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations
- Adoption of the proposed Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

- Approval by the Kern County Board of Supervisors for the proposed CUPs for the project site
- Approval by the Kern County Board of Supervisors for the proposed General Plan Amendments to the Circulation Element
- Approval by the Kern County Board of Supervisors for the proposed of Williamson Act Land Use Contract Cancellations
- Kern County grading and building permits
- Kern County Fire Safety Plan
- Kern County Franchise Route Agreements
- Kern County public road(s) and easement(s) vacations (if required)
- ROW crossing consent forms from Kern County, PG&E, and private easement holders

Other Responsible Agency Approvals

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Plan (if required)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit (if required)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife Section 1600 et seq. permits (Streambed Alteration Agreements) and Section 2081 Permit (State-listed endangered species)
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Water Quality Certification (401 Permit), Waste Discharge Requirements, and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Construction General Permit
- California Department of Transportation ROW Encroachment Permits and Oversized Loads Permits
- California Public Utilities Commission Section 851 Permit
- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) Fugitive Dust Control Plan
- California Public Utilities Commission as required Franchise Route Agreement Local Section 851 Permit
- SJVAPCD Authority to Construct/Permit to Operate ROW
- Crossing consent forms from Kern County, PG&E, and private easement holders

The preceding discretionary actions/approvals are potentially required and do not necessarily represent a comprehensive list of all possible discretionary permits/approvals required. Other additional permits or approvals from responsible agencies may be required for the proposed project.

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2. Kern County Environmental Checklist Form

2.1. Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "potentially significant impact" as indicated by the Kern County Environmental Checklist on the following pages.

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

2.2. Determination

(To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

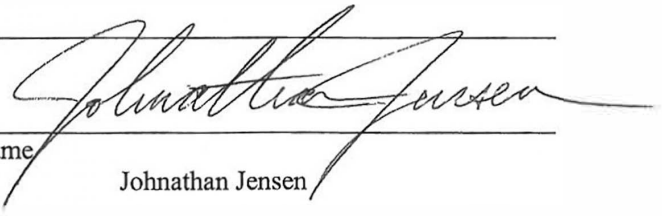
☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

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

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

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

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

Signature 

Date 4-26-21

Printed Name Johnathan Jensen

Title Planner 1

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3. Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

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

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

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

4. Negative Declaration: "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less-than-Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measure and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9. The explanation of each issue should identify:

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

    b. The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to a less than significant level.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
I.	**Aesthetics**				
Would the project:					
a.	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c.	In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from public accessible vantage points) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☒	☐	☐	☐
d.	Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

(a) A scenic vista is an area identified or known for high scenic quality. Scenic vistas may be designated by a federal, state, or local agency and may also include an area that is designated, signed, and accessible to the public for the express purposes of viewing and sightseeing. The communities of Mettler, Kern Lake, and Lakeview are unincorporated areas of the County and census-designated towns located in proximity to the project site. According to the California State Scenic Highway System Map, the nearest eligible state scenic highway is a section of SR-166 located within the County of Santa Barbara, approximately 34 miles southwest of the project site. The eligible portion of SR-166 begins at post mile 8.9 and ends at post mile 74.7. The construction of the proposed project has the potential to alter the views of a scenic vista, as viewed from vehicles traveling within the project area, the residence adjacent to the project site, or the unincorporated communities near the project boundary. Therefore, the alteration of vistas from the sensitive viewing locations will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(b) As described in (a), above, the closest eligible scenic highway is SR-166, which is located approximately 25 miles southwest of the project site. There are no known trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings designated as scenic resources within or immediately surrounding the project site. Implementation of the proposed project would not erect structures that would substantially damage scenic resources. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant; however, this topic will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(c) Refer to Response (a), above, for a description of the existing landscape character. There is a potential that the proposed project would substantially change the views from I-5 and other public roads located in the surrounding area. Views of the proposed project would also be experienced from the scattered rural residences located near the project. Placement of the PV solar panels and associated structures on the project site would alter the exiting character of the area. Residents and travelers on adjacent roads would observe alterations to the existing landscape. Changes to the visual quality and character of the project site may be potentially significant, and impacts will therefore be further evaluated in the EIR.

(d) The project sites are located on generally undeveloped or agricultural land that does not generate a source of light or glare. The communities of Mettler, Kern Lake, and Lakeview as described under Threshold (a), are unincorporated communities consisting of mainly rural households. Existing residences in these surrounding communities generate a minimal amount of light, largely from building or outdoor lighting. The solar PV modules would be designed to absorb sunlight to maximize electrical output and thus are not expected to create a substantial amount of glare or glint during daytime hours. All lighting at the proposed project site would be designed to meet Kern County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 19.81 - Outdoor Lighting - Dark Skies requirements. However, due to the nature of the project and associated project components, lighting and glare could result in a potentially significant impact. A detailed analysis of potential lighting impacts associated with the proposed project will be further evaluated in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
II.	**Agriculture and Forest Resources**				
	Would the project:				
a.	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act Contract?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c.	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d.	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e.	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☒	☐	☐	☐
f.	Result in the cancellation of an open space contract made pursuant to the California Land Conservation Act of 1965 or Farmland Security Zone Contract for any parcel of 100 or more acres (Section 15205(b)(3) Public Resources Code)?	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

(a) Land designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance occur within the proposed project sites (see *Figure 9, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program*). The percent of the project footprint that falls under each of the Prime, Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland designations is as follows: 1.0 percent falls under Prime Farmland, 35.1 percent falls under Farmland of Statewide Importance, and 4.3 percent falls under Unique Farmland. According to the DOC, Prime Farmland is defined as land which has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for the production of crops. Farmland of Statewide Importance is defined as land other than Prime Farmland which has a good combination

of physical and chemical characteristics for the production of crops. Unique Farmland is defined as land which does not meet the criteria for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance, that has been used for the production of specific high economic value crops at some time during the two update cycles prior to the mapping date (DOC 2020).

Additionally, the project site is surrounded by Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, Nonagricultural or Natural Vegetation, Grazing Land, and Urban and Built-Up land (*Figure 9, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program Designations*). Implementation of the proposed project would result in the conversion of designated Farmland to a nonagricultural use which would result in a potentially significant impact. As such, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(b) The entirety of the project site is designated as 8.1 – Intensive Agriculture, 8.1/2.3 – Intensive Agriculture/ Shallow Groundwater, and 8.1/2.5 – Intensive Agriculture/ Flood Hazard per the Kern County General Plan (see *Figure 5, Existing General Plan Land Use Designations*). Land Use 8.1 – Intensive Agriculture is used for areas devoted to the production of irrigated crops or having a potential for such use. The project sites are within an area that has historically been used for agricultural crop production and approximately 1,998.77 acres of the approximately 3,447.33 total project acres (13 of the 33 parcels within the project site boundaries) are subject to active Williamson Act Land Use contracts, as shown in Figure 8, *Williamson Act – Active and Nonrenewals.* Additionally, 9 of the 33 properties in the project boundary are identified on the FMMP as containing Important Farmland (*Figure 9, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program Designations*). However, petitions have been filed as part of the proposed project for the notice of nonrenewal and cancellation of each contract. Due to the required Williamson Act Land Use Contract Cancellations, the project could result in potentially significant impacts. This issue will be further evaluated in the EIR

(c) The project site does not consist of land nor is adjacent to land zoned as forest land, timberland, or timberland production. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any existing zoning or result in the rezoning of forest land, timberland, or timberland production and there would be no impact. Further analysis in the EIR is not required.

(d) See Threshold (c). There would be no impact. Further analysis in the EIR is not required.

(e) As discussed in Threshold (c), the project does not contain, nor is adjacent to, any forest land. As discussed in Threshold (a), there are portions of the project site located in land classified as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance. The proposed project would result in the conversation of Farmland to non-agricultural use which would result in a potentially significant impact. This issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(f) As discussed in Threshold (b), the portions of the project site are located within land under a Williamson Act Contract. The project would result in the cancellation of approximately 3,351 acres of open space contract made pursuant to the California Land Conservation Act of 1965; however, petitions have been filed as part of the proposed project for notice of nonrenewal and cancellation of each contract. Additionally, solar easements are established to provide certain land use terms and conditions to property owners to access direct sunlight. Kern County does not use solar easements to establish legal rights to sunlight. The proposed project would result in cancellation of an open space contract made pursuant to the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, which would result in a potentially significant impact; however, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

III. Air Quality

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district shall be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
a.	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard? Specifically, would implementation of the project exceed any of the following adopted thresholds:				
	i. San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District:				
	Operational and Area Sources				
	Reactive organic gases (ROG): 10 tons per year.	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Oxides of nitrogen (NO_X): 10 tons per year.	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Particulate matter (PM_{10}): 15 tons per year.	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Stationary Sources - as Determined by District Rules				
	Severe nonattainment: 25 tons per year.	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Extreme nonattainment: 10 tons per year.	☒	☐	☐	☐
	ii. Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District.				
	Operational and Area Sources				
	Reactive organic gases (ROG): 25 tons per year.	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Oxides of nitrogen (NO_X): 25 tons per year.	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Particulate matter (PM_{10}): 15 tons per year.	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Stationary Sources – as Determined by District Rules				
	25 tons per year.	☐	☐	☐	☒
c.	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☒	☐	☐	☐
d.	Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

RESPONSES:

a) The project site is located entirely within the jurisdiction of the SJVAPCD, in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, which is designated as nonattainment (level of a criteria air pollutant is higher than the level allowed by the State standards) for ozone 1 hour, ozone 8 hour, and PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ pollutants under State ambient air quality standards. The air basin is also in nonattainment for ozone 8 hour and $PM_{2.5}$ pollutants under federal ambient air quality standards (SJVAPCD 2020). Construction stemming from the proposed project could generate emissions that could result in exceedance of significance thresholds established by the SJVAPCD, Kern County, the California Air Resources Board, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to result in significant impacts to air quality in the area and violations of adopted air quality standards. Further analysis of air quality impacts is warranted to determine whether the project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable plans for attainment and, if so, to determine the reasonable and feasible mitigation measures that could be imposed. An air quality and greenhouse gas analysis is being prepared for the project, and potential impacts will be evaluated in the EIR.

(b) (i) As stated in Threshold (a), the proposed project is located in the SJVAPCD. The proposed project would likely emit pollutants such as ROG, NOx, and PM_{10} during construction and operation of the project. These emissions could potentially result in cumulatively considerable net increases that conflict with the SJVAPCD standards (SJVAPCD 2015). Impacts from project emissions would be potentially significant, and therefore, will be further analyzed as part of the air quality and greenhouse gas analysis and the EIR.

(ii) The proposed project is not located in the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

(c) The adjacent and nearby rural residences and communities would be considered sensitive receptors that could be potentially impacted by construction and operation of the proposed project. There are three sensitive receptors in the project vicinity. The first sensitive receptor is a residential home immediately adjacent to Site 4, south of Copus Road. The second sensitive receptor is a residential home immediately adjacent to Site 2, located west of Old River Road. The third sensitive receptor is a residential home located north of Copus Road, approximately 0.43 miles west of Site 3. Nearby sensitive receptors could be exposed to pollutant emissions during construction of the proposed project. The proposed project's construction-related activities would result in diesel exhaust emissions and dust (also known as PM_{10}) that could adversely affect air quality for the nearest sensitive receptors.

Additionally, exposure to valley fever from fugitive dust generated during construction is a potentially significant impact. Potential cocci spores could be stirred up during excavation, grading, and earth-moving activities, exposing construction workers to these spores and to the possibility of contracting valley fever. Therefore, impacts to sensitive receptors would be potentially significant, and this impact would be further analyzed in the EIR.

(d) The proposed project would not use any permanent stationary sources or equipment on site that would generate substantial odors. During construction activities, temporary odors from vehicle exhaust and construction equipment engines would occur. However, these odors would be temporary. Therefore, project impacts are expected to be less than significant; however, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV.	**Biological Resources**				
Would the project:					
a.	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c.	Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☒	☐	☐	☐
d.	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☒	☐	☐	☐
e.	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f.	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

RESPONSES:

(a) The proposed project site consists of flat, agricultural land. Although the majority of the land has been disturbed due to agriculture activity, there is a potential for candidate, sensitive, or special-status plants and wildlife species to be present on site or within the project's vicinity. Field surveys will be conducted to determine the presence of candidate, sensitive, or special-status plant and animal species on site and the surrounding areas. Results from those surveys will be included in the biological resources report to be prepared for the project, and information from this report will be included in the EIR analysis. Potential impacts to biological resources would be potentially significant and will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(b) The proposed project site consists primarily of flat, agricultural land. Biological field surveys will be conducted to determine if the project site contains or is adjacent to any riparian habitats and any other sensitive natural communities. Results from the surveys will be disclosed in the EIR. Potential impacts to riparian habitats or other sensitive natural communities would be potentially significant and will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(c) Potential federally or state-protected wetlands may be present on site or near the site, which may be impacted by project implementation. A determination of whether the project site contains federally or state-protected wetlands will be conducted as part of the biological resources report to be prepared for the project. Impacts to wetlands would be potentially significant and will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(d) The project site may be used for movement of native resident wildlife species or as a migratory wildlife corridor. Implementation of the proposed project may impede the movement of these wildlife species, which would result in a potentially significant impact. This issue will be further evaluated in the biological resources report and disclosed in the EIR.

(e) The Kern County General Plan includes oak tree conservation policies. There are no oak trees present on the project site. As proposed, the project is not anticipated to conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as tree preservation policy or ordinance. The proposed project would result in no impact, and no further analysis is required in the EIR.

(f) The proposed project is not situated within the boundaries of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan including the locally adopted Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan. Therefore, no impact would occur, and no further analysis is required in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. Cultural Resources					
Would the project:					
a.	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c.	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

(a) and (b) Implementation of the proposed project would require ground disturbance for grading, installation of underground transmission lines, communication and electrical lines, and installation of solar arrays. As such, there is the potential to impact unknown historical, cultural or archaeological resources during ground-disturbing activities. A cultural resources survey will be conducted for the project, the results of which will be disclosed in the EIR, to determine the presence of potential historical, cultural or archaeological resources within the project site or surrounding area. Avoidance or mitigation measures will be proposed for potential impacts to historical, cultural, or archaeological resources. Therefore, impacts would be potentially significant and will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(c) There is no evidence that the project site is located within a cemetery or an area likely to contain human remains, and discovery of human remains during project earthmoving activities is not anticipated. However, unknown or undiscovered human remains may be discovered during proposed project ground-disturbing activities. Therefore, impacts to human remains would be potentially significant and would be further evaluated in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. Energy					
Would the project:					
a.	Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☒	☐

RESPONSES:

(a) During the construction phase of the proposed project, on-site energy demand and consumption would be related to gasoline and diesel fuel for construction worker vehicle trips, and hauling and material delivery trips. Diesel-fueled portable generators may be necessary to provide additional electricity demands for temporary on-site lighting, welding, and for supplying energy to areas of the site where energy supply cannot be met via a hookup to the existing electrical grid. O&M facilities associated with the project would require electricity for interior and exterior building lighting; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC); electronic equipment; machinery; appliances; security systems; and other operations. Maintenance activities during operations, such as landscape maintenance, could involve the use of electric or gas-powered equipment. In addition to on-site energy use, the proposed project would result in transportation energy use associated with employee vehicle trips generated by the proposed project. Impacts would be potentially significant, and further analysis of the project's energy use will be conducted in the preparation of the energy utilization analysis for the project.

(b) Following implementation of the proposed project, energy would switch from consumption to production. Operation of the proposed project would lead to an overall increase in the County's Renewable Portfolio and would align with the stated General Plan policy to encourage the development of renewable energy within Kern County. Impacts are considered to be less than significant. However, further analysis is warranted to provide a broader assessment of the project's beneficial effects in terms of implementing important State and County objectives for renewable energy, and this topic will be discussed and analyzed in the EIR.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact

VII. Geology and Soils

Would the project:

a.	Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
	i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☒	☐
	ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☒	☐	☐	☐
	iv. Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b.	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c.	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	☒	☐	☐	☐
d.	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☒	☐	☐	☐
e.	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems in areas where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☒	☐	☐	☐
f.	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

(a)(i) The proposed project site is not located within a currently mapped Alquist-Priolo Fault Hazard Zone. The nearest active faults are the Coal Oil Canyon and the Mettler faults, located approximately 3.5 miles southeast of the proposed project site. Impacts related to surface fault ruptures are unlikely to occur. The proposed project would apply all applicable ordinance requirements per the Kern County Building Code (Chapter 17.08), which include seismic hazard related standards. Additionally, all structures would adhere to the California Building Code (CBC) standards. Adherence to applicable building code standards would mitigate any potential impacts; therefore, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant. Nevertheless, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(a)(ii) Strong seismic ground shaking could occur within the proposed project site due to nearby active faults in the general region. Strong seismic ground shaking could result to damage to aboveground and belowground structures associated with the project, if not properly designed to withstand strong seismic ground shaking. As discussed earlier, the proposed project would be subject to all applicable ordinances per the Kern County Building Code (Chapter 17.08) and the CBC. Adherence to applicable building code standards would mitigate any potential impacts; therefore, impacts would be less than significant. Nevertheless, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(a)(iii) Seismically induced liquefaction occurs when loose, water-saturated sediments of relatively low density are subjected to cyclic shaking that causes soils to lose strength or stiffness because of increased pore water pressure. Liquefaction generally occurs when the depth to groundwater is less than 50 feet. A preliminary geotechnical report shall be conducted prior to implementation of the proposed project to determine if there is groundwater present less than 50 feet below surface. Structures shall be constructed in accordance with the Kern County Building Code and the CBC. Therefore, impacts would be potentially significant, and impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(a)(iv) The project site is located in a relatively flat-lying plain, where landslides are not likely. Impacts related to landslides are not anticipated to occur or pose a hazard to the proposed project or surrounding area. Therefore**, no impacts** would occur. Further analysis of this issue is not warranted in the EIR.

(b) Grading, excavation, and/or ground disturbances would be required upon implementation of the proposed project components. Anticipated project construction may result in the erosion, sedimentation, and discharge of construction debris from the proposed project site. For example, grading activities could lead to exposed or stockpiled soils susceptible to peak stormwater runoff flows and wind. The compaction of soils from heavy construction equipment may reduce the infiltration capacity of soils and increase runoff and erosion potential. Because the proposed project would disturb more than 1 acre of land, coverage under the national Pollution Discharge Elimination System Construction General Permit may be required. In compliance with the Construction General Permit, a stormwater pollution prevention plan shall be prepared and shall outline BMPs to prevent pollutants from moving off site. Impacts would be potentially significant. This issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(c) As previously discussed, a geotechnical and soils report will be prepared for the proposed project site to determine the physical characteristics of the underlying soils and geologic formations and to identify any unstable conditions that could be exacerbated by proposed construction activities. Impacts would be potentially significant. This issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(d) As previously discussed, the proposed project would comply with relevant building standards in the Kern County Building Code and the CBC. Additionally, the geotechnical and soils report to be conducted for the project will determine the subsurface conditions and relevant soil properties at the project site, including potentially expansive soil conditions. Impacts would be potentially significant. This issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(e) The proposed project would include O&M facilities that would include restrooms for on-site employees, which would generate wastewater that would require disposal. A septic tank may be required in order to dispose of the anticipated wastewater generated from the proposed project site. The geotechnical report would evaluate if the soil characteristic would make it feasible for a proposed septic tank/leach field to be installed. This impact would be potentially significant, and this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(f) The proposed project would require ground-disturbing activities. These ground-disturbing activities could result in potential impacts to undiscovered paleontological formations. A paleontological resources assessment shall be conducted to determine the underlying formations and potential for fossil discoveries throughout the project site. This impact would be potentially significant, and this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions					
Would the project:					
a.	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

(a) Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions emitted by human activity are implicated in global climate change or global warming. The principal GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), oxides of nitrogen (NO_X), ozone, water vapor, and fluorinated gases. The proposed project's construction activities would generate GHGs through exhaust emissions of road equipment. The proposed project's operation is not anticipated to emit a substantial amount of GHG emissions because the project would be generating GHG-free electricity through solar PV panels. The amount of GHGs from the GHG emissions from construction and the GHG offset from the solar PV panel operation would be quantified in the GHG analysis of the EIR. Because the project is not anticipated to generate substantial emissions, and due to the nature of the project as a renewable energy generation facility, impacts would be less than significant. Nevertheless, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

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

In 2002, California established its Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) Program, with the goal of increasing the percentage of renewable energy in the State's electricity mix to 20 percent renewable energy by 2017. In 2006, under SB 107, the RPS Program codified the 20 percent goal. The RPS Program requires electric utilities and providers to increase procurement from eligible renewable energy resources by at least 1 percent of their retail sales annually until they reach 20 percent by 2017. On November 17, 2008, the governor signed Executive Order S-14-08, requiring California utilities to reach the 33 percent renewable goal by 2020. In 2015, SB 350 was enacted to increase the RPS to 50 percent and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030 and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

The proposed project is intended to: (1) reduce importation of power from fossil fuel power plants and (2) contribute to a reduction in GHGs associated with energy consumption by residential and business consumers. As discussed in Threshold (a), vehicle trips associated with

construction of the proposed project would temporarily generate GHGs; however, operation of the project would offset GHGs generated by traditional fuel combustion sources of electricity. Therefore, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant. Nevertheless, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c. Emit hazardous emissions or involve handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☒	☐	☐	☐
e. For a project located within the adopted Kern County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g. Expose people or structures, directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h. Would implementation of the project generate vectors (flies, mosquitoes, rodents, etc.) or have a component that includes agricultural waste? Specifically, would the project exceed the following qualitative threshold: The presence of domestic flies, mosquitoes, cockroaches, rodents, and/or any other vectors associated with the project is significant when the applicable enforcement agency determines that any of the vectors:				

i. Occur as immature stages and adults in numbers considerably in excess of those found in the surrounding environment; and	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. Are associated with design, layout, and management of project operations; and	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. Disseminate widely from the property; and	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. Cause detrimental effects on the public health or well-being of the majority of the surrounding population.	☐	☐	☒	☐

RESPONSES:

(a) Waste generated from the proposed project site would be nonhazardous materials. Field equipment used during construction activities may include various hazardous materials, such as diesel fuel, lubricants, and solvents, etc.; these materials are not considered to be acutely hazardous and would be used in compliance with the manufacturer's specifications. Hazardous fuels and lubricants used on field equipment shall be subject to a construction waste management plan.

Once the proposed project is in operation, there would no routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials as specified in the Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act. Additionally, infrastructure associated with the proposed project would not emit hazardous materials or be constructed out of acutely hazardous materials or substances, which could adversely impact the public or on-site workers.

The proposed project would be subject to all applicable local, state, and federal plans related to hazardous material use on the project site. Additionally, hazardous material use shall be reviewed by the Kern County Environmental Health Services Division. In accordance with the review process as set by the Kern County Environmental Health Services Division, the proposed project would be required to submit and complete a list of all materials used on site, describe how the materials would be transported and stored, and identify in what form they would be used to maintain safety and prevent possible environmental contamination or worker exposure. A Safety Data Sheet shall be made readily available to on-site personnel for all applicable materials present on site during construction. Nonhazardous construction debris would be generated and disposed of in approved facilities. During construction of the facility, human waste would be managed using portable toilets located at reasonably accessible on-site locations.

The solar PV panels may include materials that considered to be hazardous (i.e., cadmium, telluride, etc.). The proposed project would follow the manufacturer's collection and recycling program to ensure the proper collection and recycling of PV panels. Broken PV panels would be replaced to avoid a potential source of pollution to stormwater.

Impacts resulting from the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials during construction and operation of the project would be potentially significant and will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(b) Construction and operation of the proposed project may include the accidental release of storage materials, such as cleaning fluids and petroleum products including lubricants, fuels, and solvents. Electrical transformer equipment that would be installed as part of the proposed project may include

various hazardous substances, including polychlorinated biphenyls. The toxicity and potential release of these materials would depend on the quantity, type of storage container, safety protocols used on the site, location and/or proximity to schools and residences, frequency and duration of spills or storage leaks, and the reactivity of hazardous substances with other materials. In addition, the proposed project could also include an energy storage system. The energy storage system would be composed of battery storage modules placed in multiple prefabricated enclosures or containers near the on-site substation(s). Potentials hazards associated with the energy storage system include increased potential for electrical shock and chemical release associated with the batteries used.

As discussed earlier, the proposed project would be subject to all applicable local, state, and federal plans related to hazardous material use on the project site. Additionally, hazardous material use shall be reviewed by the Kern County Environmental Health Services Division. In accordance with the review process as set by the Kern County Environmental Health Services Division, the proposed project would be required to submit and complete a list of all materials used on site, describe how the materials would be transported and stored, and identify in what form they would be used to maintain safety and prevent possible environmental contamination or worker exposure. A Safety Data Sheet shall be made readily available to on-site personnel for all applicable materials present on site during construction. Nonhazardous construction debris would be generated and disposed of in approved facilities. During construction of the facility, human waste would be managed using portable toilets located at reasonably accessible on-site locations. It is anticipated that adherence to regulations and standard protocols during the storage, transportation, and use of any hazardous materials would avoid significant impacts; nonetheless, impacts are potentially significant and will be evaluated in the EIR.

(c) There are no schools within 5 miles of the proposed project site. The nearest school is Arvin High School, located approximately 10 miles northeast at 900 Varsity Road, Arvin, California 93203. Therefore, the proposed project would not emit hazardous emissions or involve handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 miles of an existing or proposed school. There would be no impact, and no further analysis is required in the EIR.

(d) A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Analysis will be prepared to evaluate potential impacts due to current and past hazardous materials/waste storage and/or use and identify potential environmental concerns related to construction and operation of the proposed project on an identified hazardous materials site. Therefore, impacts are potentially significant and will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(e) The proposed project is not located within an adopted Kern County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. Therefore, there would be no impact, and no further analysis is required in the EIR.

(f) The proposed project site is located near I-5, SR-99, and SR-160, which would provide adequate access in the event of an emergency. Access would be maintained throughout construction, and appropriate detours would be provided in the event of partial road closures. Operation of the proposed project would not substantially increase road usage because there would be no residential structures constructed as a result of the proposed project, and there would be only a total of 11 full-time employees responsible for the maintenance and other activities related to ongoing operations. Impacts are determined to be less than significant; however, this topic will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(g) The proposed project site is not located within a fire hazard severity zone. The proposed project would comply with all applicable wildland fire management plans and policies per California

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the KCFD. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people or structures to significant injury, loss, or death involving wildland fires, and impacts would be less than significant. Although impacts are anticipated to be less than significant, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(h) Project-related facilities would not result in features or conditions that could potentially provide habitat for vectors such as mosquitoes, flies, cockroaches, or rodents. During construction and operation, workers would generate small quantities of solid waste (e.g., trash, food containers) that would be stored in enclosed containers, then transported to and disposed of at approved disposal facilities. Construction and operation of the proposed solar arrays and associated facilities would not produce uncontrolled wastes that could support vectors and would not generate any standing water or other features that would attract nuisance pests or vectors. Therefore, impacts are considered to be less than significant, and further analysis is not required.

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

RESPONSES:

(a) The proposed project site is located in the Central Valley Region of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Construction associated with the proposed project would comply with all local, state, and federal water quality regulations. Project construction would have the potential to result in the discharge of wastewater and runoff pollution. BMPs and compliance with applicable regulations would reduce the potential to impact water quality and prevent soil erosion caused by

stormwater runoff. As discussed earlier, the proposed project would prepare a stormwater pollution prevention plan, which would include BMP erosion-control measures and site-specific BMPs to ensure compliance with relevant local, state, and federal regulations. Impacts would be potentially significant and will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(b) Potable water would be brought to the proposed project site for drinking and domestic needs during construction. Nonpotable water would be used during construction for dust-suppression purposes. Water would be delivered via truck or pipeline from an off-site source. The proposed project would require a water supply assessment to determine if the proposed project would substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. Impacts would be potentially significant and will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(c)(i) A hydrology flood report and hydrology study will be prepared for the proposed project in accordance with Kern County requirements. The construction of nonpermeable surfaces, such as concrete pads, and ground-disturbing construction activities could potentially result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. The proposed project would have potentially significant impacts to existing drainage patterns and flooding conditions on site. This issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(c)(ii) See Threshold (c)(i). Impacts would be potentially significant and will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(c)(iii) Although the project site would install impervious surfaces, the majority of the project site would remain as pervious surfaces. The design of the proposed project would allow stormwater infiltration to occur similar to existing conditions, and no alterations to municipal stormwater drainage systems are proposed as part of the project. The proposed project would not generate a substantial amount of polluted runoff. As discussed in Threshold (a), the proposed project would adhere to BMPs; however, impacts would be potentially significant and will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(c)(iv) FEMA delineates flood hazard areas on FIRMs. Portions of the project sites would potentially be located on a 1 percent Annual Chance Flood Hazard area (Zone A), but the proposed project site is not located within a 100-year flood area or a 500-year flood area. A hydrology flood report/hydrology technical study will be prepared for the proposed project, and further analysis of the project site to view location of floodplains as delineated by FEMA will be provided. Impacts would be potentially significant and will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(d) The proposed project is located approximately 55 miles from the nearest ocean shoreline. Additionally, the proposed project is not located near an enclosed body of water and thus would not be subject to inundation by seiche or tsunami. Therefore, there would be no impacts, and further analysis in the EIR is not required.

(e) The proposed project is located within the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin, which is governed by the Irrigated Lands Discharge Program under the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB 2006). All water usage for the proposed project would conform to all of the applicable plans and BMPs. A water supply assessment would be prepared for the proposed project to analyze the potential impacts to groundwater resources and determine if the proposed project would conflict with any relevant plans. Impacts would be potentially significant and would be further analyzed in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. Land Use and Planning					
Would the project:					
a.	Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b.	Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

(a) The proposed project is located approximately 3 miles from the nearest established community, which is the unincorporated rural community of Mettler. The proposed project would not physically divide an established community; therefore, no impact would occur. No further analysis is required in the EIR.

(b) The project site is designated as 8.1 – Intensive Agriculture, 8.1/2.3 – Intensive Agriculture/Shallow Groundwater, and 8.1/2.5 – Intensive Agriculture/Flood Hazard under Kern County's current General Plan (*Figure 5, Existing General Plan Land Use Designations*). No change to the existing land use designations is required or proposed with project implementation, and therefore, the project would not cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan or policy for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect in this regard.

As shown on *Figure 6, Existing Zoning,* the project site has a zone classification of A (Exclusive Agriculture) within Zone Maps 159, 160, and 161. No changes in zone classification are proposed. According to Kern County Zoning Ordinance Chapters 19.12.030G, solar energy electrical facilities are permitted within the A Zone District with the approval of a CUP.

The project proponent is requesting CUPs to allow for the construction and operation of a solar facility and battery energy storage system. Additionally, the project proponent is requesting multiple CUPs to allow flexibility in the construction and operation of the proposed project. With approval of the zone change classification and CUPs, the proposed solar project would be an allowable use within the A Zone District. At the end of the project's operational term, the project proponent would determine whether the project site should be decommissioned and deconstructed or if it would seek an extension of its CUPs. If any portion of the project site is decommissioned, it would be converted to other uses in accordance with the applicable land use regulations in effect at that time.

The project proponent is also requesting amendments to the Circulation Element of the Kern County General Plan to remove various section and midsection line road reservations; refer to *Figure 11, Proposed Circulation Element Amendments.*

With approval of the requested CUPs and General Plan Amendments, the proposed project is not anticipated to 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. However, further assessment will be provided in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. Mineral Resources					
Would the project:					
a.	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

(a) The majority of the project site would be located within areas designated as Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) 1, which is defined as areas with little likelihood for the presence of significant mineral resources. However, areas designated as MRZ-2, which include significant mineral deposits, are located within the County and near the project site. While the project is partially within the General Plan designation of 8.4 – Mineral and Petroleum, and 8.5 – Natural Resources, the project site is not located within NR (Natural Resources) or PE (Petroleum Extraction) zone districts. Therefore, the potential for mineral resources to occur on the project site still exists. The nearest active mine, Oil-Dri Taft Production, is located approximately 16 miles west of the project site (USGS 2003). At this distance, the project would not adversely affect operations at the mine. Additionally, several mineral rights holders currently maintain active rights to mineral resources on several of the parcels on which the project is proposed. Therefore, impacts would be potentially significant, and this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(b) See response to Threshold (a).

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. Noise					
Would the project result in:					
a.	Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c.	A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project	☒	☐	☐	☐
d.	For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or Kern County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

RESPONSES:

(a) Land uses determined to be "sensitive" to noise as defined by the Kern County General Plan include residential areas, schools, convalescent and acute care hospitals, parks and recreational areas, and churches. The Kern County General Plan Noise Element sets a 65 A-weighted decibels (dBA) day–night noise level (L_{dn}) limit on exterior noise levels for stationary sources (i.e., nontransportation) at sensitive receptors. There are three sensitive receptors located in the project vicinity. The first sensitive receptor is a residential home immediately adjacent to Site 4, south of Copus Road. The second sensitive receptor is a residential home immediately adjacent to Site 2, located west of Old River Road. The third sensitive receptor is a residential home located north of Copus Road, approximately 0.43 miles west of Site 3.

Noise would be generated during the construction phase of the proposed project, due to vehicle trips, ground-disturbing activities, and installation of project components. Operation of the proposed project would not generate a substantial amount of noise because no substantial noise-generating equipment would be located at the project site during operations, and there would be minor traffic generating by on-site employees, who would work mainly indoors, within the potential O&M building(s). The proposed project would adhere to local noise ordinances set forth in the Kern County Ordinance Code Section 8.36.020 with respect to permitted days and hours of construction. Noise related impacts would be potentially significant and will be further analyzed in the noise technical study and evaluated in the EIR.

(b) The proposed project would generate groundborne vibration and groundborne noise during construction, especially during ground-disturbing activities. Erection of the solar arrays would include support structures that may potentially need to be driven into the soil using pneumatic techniques, which could generate groundborne noise that could be audible to sensitive receptors in the area. Further analysis of groundborne noise impacts during construction will be provided in the EIR. Operation of the proposed project would emit a minimal amount of groundborne noise and vibrations. Impacts would be considered potentially significant, will be further evaluated as part of the noise technical study, and would be evaluated in the EIR.

(c) Temporary construction activities would generate noise from heavy equipment and construction activities. The proposed project is unlikely to generate substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels during operation because the solar facility would use limited staff during operation, and traffic on the access road for the solar facility would be routine access and maintenance activities and would primarily consist of personal vehicles. The project would still be further evaluated in the EIR to determine if the project is consistent with applicable regulations in the Kern County General Plan Noise Element and Kern County Zoning Ordinance. Impacts would be potentially significant.

(d) The nearest private airport is Creekside Airport in Arvin, California, which is approximately 12 miles northeast of the project site. The nearest public airport is Bakersfield Municipal Airport, located at 2000 South Union Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93307, approximately 18 miles north of the proposed project site. The project site is not located within any safety or noise zones for these airports; nor is the proposed project site located within any airport land use plan areas. Therefore, there would be no impacts, and no further analysis of this issue is warranted in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. Population and Housing					
Would the project:					
a.	Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b.	Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

RESPONSES:

(a) The proposed project would have temporary workers traveling to the project site during construction. It is estimated that up to 650 workers per day would be required during peak construction periods for the proposed project. The entire construction process is anticipated to take 12 to 18 months, and therefore, project-generated workers would only be in the local area on a temporary basis. Construction workers are expected to travel to the site from various local communities and locations throughout Southern California, and few, if any workers expected to relocate to the surrounding area because of these temporary jobs. If temporary housing should be necessary, it is expected that accommodations (i.e., extended stay hotels, apartments, RV parks, homes for rent or sale) would be available in the nearby cities and communities of Bakersfield, Taft, Arvin, Lebec, Maricopa, or Bear Valley Springs. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to directly or indirectly induce the development of any new housing or businesses within the local communities. The finished facility would have 11 full-time employees responsible for maintenance and other activities related to ongoing operations once construction is finished. Due to the small number of full-time employees, it is anticipated that the local housing stock would be adequate to accommodate operations personnel should they relocate to the area, without requiring the need for the construction of new housing. The project would not directly or indirectly induce substantial unplanned population growth, and further analysis in the EIR is not warranted.

(b) The proposed project site is located on an undeveloped site and does not contain any existing housing units. Implementation of the proposed project would not displace a substantial number of existing people or housing. Therefore, no impacts would occur. No further analysis in the EIR would be required.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. Public Services					
Would the project:					
a. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or to other performance objectives for any of the public services:					
	i. Fire protection?	☒	☐	☐	☐
	ii. Police protection?	☒	☐	☐	☐
	iii. Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	iv. Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	v. Other public facilities?	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

(a)(i) **Fire Protection.** KCFD provides fire protection and emergency medical services to unincorporated areas of Kern County and thus would provide those services to the proposed project site (KCFD 2020). The fire station closest to the proposed project site is approximately 13 miles southeast of the project site at Kern County Fire Station 55, located at 5441 Dennis McCarthy Drive, Lebec, California 93243. Construction and operation activities from the proposed project may result in increased demand for firefighting services in the area. Therefore, impacts would be considered potentially significant and would be further evaluated in the EIR.

(a)(ii) **Police Protection.** KCSO would serve the proposed project site for law enforcement and public safety services, as KCSO serves unincorporated areas of Kern County (KCSO 2017). The KCSO Lamont Substation, located at 12022 Main Street, Lamont, California 93241, is the closest police station to the project site, which is approximately 14 miles southwest. Implementation of the proposed project may attract vandals or thieves that would require response from KCSO. On-site security measures would minimize the need for KCSO services. The proposed project could potentially result in an increased demand for law enforcement services; therefore, impacts would be considered potentially significant. This issue would be further evaluated in the EIR.

(a)(iii) **Schools.** There are no schools within 5 miles of the proposed project site. The nearest school is Arvin High School, located approximately 10 miles northeast at 900 Varsity Road, Arvin, California 93203. As discussed in impacts to Population and Housing, the proposed project would not result in

a substantial increase in population and thus would not substantially impact school populations. Therefore, no impact would occur. No further analysis would be required in the EIR.

(a)(iv) **Parks.** As discussed in impacts to Population and Housing, the proposed project would not result in a substantial increase in population and thus would not substantially impact recreational facility use. Therefore, no impact would occur. No further analysis would be required in the EIR.

(a)(v) **Other Public Facilities.** Implementation of the proposed project may have impacts on the ability of the County to provide adequate County-wide comprehensive public facility services. Unlike other businesses in California, large-scale solar has an exclusion from property taxes on their equipment. This property tax exclusion results in the project not providing the revenue needed to provide services and facilities, for both the project and the communities, that prevent decline of the physical neighborhoods in unincorporated Kern County. This is a direct impact from the project structure and the land that, if built with another type of land use, would produce property tax revenue to provide necessary services and facilities and prevent physical decline of homes and businesses due to vacancy and inability for response of all services, including code enforcement, law enforcement, fire, roads, and health and safety issues such as elderly care and child protection services. The cumulative impacts of this active solar tax exclusion for over 36,000 acres of projects has resulted in a General Fund loss during the last 10 years of over $103 million and deepened the County's ongoing fiscal emergency. Public policies in the Kern County General Plan and Mojave Specific Plan require development to address economic deficiencies in public services and facilities costs. Therefore, the proposed project's impacts on public facilities are potentially significant and will be evaluated in the EIR.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact

XVI. Recreation

Would the project:

a.	Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b.	Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

RESPONSES:

(a) It is estimated that up to 650 workers per day during peak construction periods would be required on site during construction of the proposed project. These workers would not have time to visit any local parks or recreation facilities during the workday. Further, few workers are expected to relocate to this area temporarily while the construction is underway, and there would be little or no impact on local recreational resources after work hours. Operation of the project would require approximately 11 employees for maintenance and monitoring activities, but they would likely be drawn from the local labor force and would commute from their existing permanent residences to the project site during those times. However, even if the maintenance/monitoring employees were hired from out of the area and relocated to eastern Kern County, the addition of any such families to the project area would not result in a substantial increase in the number of users at local parks or recreational facilities. As a result, there would not be a detectable increase in the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities. Therefore, no deterioration of any such facilities would occur with project implementation. Impacts would not occur, and no further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

(b) The proposed project does not include or require the construction of new or expansion of existing recreational facilities, and there are no recreational facilities on the project site that would be affected. No impact would result, and no further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. Transportation and Traffic					
Would the project:					
a.	Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b.	Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c.	Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d.	Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐

RESPONSES:

(a) The project would require an amendment to the Kern County General Plan Circulation Element to remove road reservations including sections and mid-section lines in and around the project site (see *Figure 11, Proposed Circulation Element Amendment – Road Reservation Removals*). This amendment to the General Plan Circulation Element will be evaluated in detail in the EIR.

Regarding construction traffic, an undetermined volume of large truck trips would be generated, with varying numbers depending on the phase of construction. Further analysis in the EIR is required to determine whether construction traffic could disrupt normal traffic flows or otherwise conflict with the County's roadway performance policies and programs. During operation of the project, the project would only have 11 full-time employees, who would access the site with personal vehicles using local roadways and state highways that can readily accommodate such minor volumes of vehicle traffic. Ongoing maintenance and periodic repair are also anticipated to produce negligible traffic impacts and would not conflict with any County plans or programs pertaining to roadway performance. These potential impacts on the local roadway system from construction-related vehicle trips and the project's operational traffic on the area roadway system will be further evaluated in the EIR. Impacts would be potentially significant. Additionally, temporary access roads may be constructed during the construction phase of the project but would not impact the performance of the existing roadway network.

There are no dedicated pedestrian or bicycle facilities in the immediate vicinity of the project site or along the surrounding roadways. Due to the rural nature of the project area, pedestrian and bicycle traffic is limited. The project is not located along an existing bus route, and few bus stops exist on the roadways likely to be used during construction and operation. The project would not house

residents or employees, and therefore, would not have characteristics that would influence alternative means of transportation.

(b) CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b) was adopted in December 2018 by the California Natural Resources Agency. These revisions to the CEQA Guidelines criteria for determining the significance of transportation impacts are primarily focused on projects within transit priority areas and shifts the focus from driver delay to reduction of vehicular GHG emissions through creation of multimodal networks, and creation of a mix of land uses that can facilitate fewer and shorter vehicle trips. Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is a measure of the total number of miles driven for various purposes and is sometimes expressed as an average per trip or per person. Construction traffic would be temporary and would not permanently affect VMT characteristics in this part of Kern County or elsewhere. Long-term, operational traffic would be limited, with a small work force of approximately 11 full-time equivalent employees. It is not known where the employees would live or how long their commuting trips would be. According to technical guidance issued by the Office of Planning and Research, projects generating 110 or fewer daily vehicle trips may be presumed to have a less-than-significant impact involving VMT. A traffic impact analysis would be completed to further analyze the operational VMT characteristics of the project is required to determine whether the project is considered a "low-VMT" project due to small daily traffic volumes alone, or whether more extensive analysis is warranted. Impacts are considered potentially significant, and an assessment of the project's VMT characteristics will be provided in the EIR to ensure consistency with state and local guidance.

(c) The proposed project site and surrounding areas would be accessible through highways such as I-5, SR-99, SR-166, and local roads such as Copus Road, David Road, and Old River Road. There is the potential for construction traffic to occur on these access roads, and further analysis would be required in the EIR and in a traffic impact analysis.

The proposed project does not include new roadway designs or features (such as sharp curves or dangerous intersections) that could result in transportation-related hazards or safety concerns. Temporary access roads constructed during the construction phase of the proposed project would abide by all applicable setback regulations as required by the Kern County Zoning Ordinance. Therefore, impacts would be considered less than significant. However, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(d) The project site and surrounding areas would be accessible through highways such as I-5, SR-99, SR-166, and local roads such as Copus Road, David Road, and Old River Road. Emergency vehicle access would be maintained at all times during construction activities, and appropriate detours would be made should there be partial road closures. Operation of the proposed project would not adversely impact emergency access routes. There would be a total of 11 full-time employees working at the project site during operation activities. The number of daily trips from the 11 full-time employees would have a minimal effect on traffic volumes at the project site and surrounding areas. However, a traffic impact analysis will be conducted as part of the proposed project. Although impacts would likely be less than significant, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources					
Would the project:					
a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:					
	i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register or historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☒	☐	☐	☐
	ii. A resource determined by the lead agency in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☒	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES:

(ai, aii) The project may contain archaeological resources associated with Native American tribes in the project area. During ground-disturbing activities, there is the potential for tribal cultural resources to be accidentally discovered. All tribes with possible cultural affiliation and interest within the project area will be notified pursuant to the requirements of AB 52, and consultation with the potentially affected tribes will occur, as appropriate, between the County and the tribes. Further evaluation in the EIR is warranted to identify potential impacts to tribal cultural resources and to formulate avoidance or mitigation measures, if applicable. Impacts would be potentially significant.

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

RESPONSES:

(a) **Wastewater Facilities.** The proposed project site would generate a minimal amount of water during construction and operation activities. Workers on site during construction activities would have access to a portable toilet facility and wastewater would be disposed of at an off-site approved facility. During operation, wastewater generated would potentially be disposed of to a septic tank or through connection to a local sewer line. The proposed project operations would have 11 full-time employees; thus, the proposed project operation would not generate a substantial amount of wastewater that would require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded municipal wastewater facilities. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant. However, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

Stormwater Facilities. The proposed project would not expand or require new storm drainage facilities. The proposed project is unlikely to generate a significant increase in storm runoff because implementation of the proposed project would not introduce a substantial amount of impervious

surfaces. A stormwater pollution prevention plan shall be prepared as part of the proposed project. Any storm drainage/detention facilities that may be required would be minor in scale and located within the project site. Potential impacts from such facilities will be addressed in the response to the topic of Hydrology and Water Quality, Threshold (c). Impacts would be considered less than significant; however, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

Water Facilities. During construction, a minimal amount of water would be used for drinking and cleaning for on-site construction workers. During project operation, water would be used to wash solar panels and dust suppression activities. Water would be obtained from on-site wells or delivered to the site. Potential impacts to groundwater resources resulting from on-site well production will be addressed in the response to the topic of Hydrology and Water Quality, Threshold (b). Additionally, a water supply assessment shall be conducted as part of the proposed project. Impacts would be potentially significant, and this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

Power, Natural Gas, and Telecommunication Facilities. The proposed project would install a PV solar facility that would generate electrical energy to be transmitted, either via overhead or underground transmission lines, to a regional electrical facility. On-site telecommunication facilities may be installed to facilitate collection and transmission of meteorological data and data regarding solar arrays. Potential impacts of the installation of these telecommunication facilities is not anticipated to result in a significant impact. There would be no use of natural gas on site. Therefore, the proposed project would not otherwise generate the demand for or require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded off-site electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities that would, in turn, result in a significant impact to the environment. Impacts would be less than significant; however, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(b) The proposed project would require PV solar panel washing during operation. Water use for PV solar panel washing is not anticipated to exceed 60 acre-feet per year, and water usage during dust suppression activities is not anticipated to exceed 410 acre-feet per year. As discussed in Threshold (a), water would be obtained from on-site wells or delivered to the site. A water supply assessment would be conducted as part of the proposed project to analyze potential water sources and impacts to water supplies. Impacts would be potentially significant, and this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(c) As stated above, portable toilets would provide for wastewater disposal during project construction, and no connection to a public system for wastewater treatment would be required. The proposed project's operations would only have 11 full-time employees, which would not generate a substantial amount of wastewater. Wastewater disposal would be done through septic tanks or connection to a local sewer line. The proposed project would not adversely impact existing wastewater treatment facilities, and impacts would be less than significant; however, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(d) The proposed project would not generate a significant amount of solid waste from construction or operation activities. Nonhazardous construction refuse and solid waste would be either collected and recycled per the construction waste management plan or disposed of at a local Class III landfill, while any hazardous waste generated during construction would be disposed of at an approved off-site location. The closest Class III municipal landfill is the Taft Recycling and Sanitary Landfill, which is located 20.5 miles northwest of the project site. The Taft Recycling and Sanitary Landfill has a remaining capacity of 7,380,708 cubic yards, with an anticipated closure date of December 31, 2076 (CalRecycle 2011). Therefore, solid waste from the site would be transported to this landfill for

disposal. It is not anticipated that the amount of solid waste generated by the proposed project would exceed the capacity of local landfills needed to accommodate the waste. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant; however, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(e) The proposed project's construction, operation, and decommissioning phases would generate solid waste. The 1989 California Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939) requires Kern County to attain specific waste diversion goals. In addition, the California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act of 1991, as amended, requires expanded or new development projects to incorporate storage areas for recycling bins into the proposed project design. The proposed project would comply with the aforementioned regulations to reduce solid waste. Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant, but further analysis of how the proposed project would reduce solid waste would be discussed in the EIR.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
XX. Wildfire					
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:					
a.	Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b.	Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c.	Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☒	☐	☐	☐
d.	Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☒

RESPONSES:

(a) According to the CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone GIS Viewer, the proposed project site is not located within any Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CAL FIRE 2020). In compliance with applicable fire code and building code requirements, construction and maintenance/operations managers and personnel would be trained in fire prevention and emergency response. Fire suppression equipment specific to construction would be maintained on the project site. Project construction and maintenance/operations would comply with applicable existing codes and ordinances related to the maintenance of mechanical equipment, handling and storage of flammable materials, and cleanup of spills of flammable materials.

The proposed project site is located near I-5, SR-99, and SR-160, which would provide adequate access in the event of an emergency. Access would be maintained throughout construction and appropriate detours would be provided in the event of partial road closures. Operation of the proposed project would not substantially increase road usage because there would be no residential structures constructed as a result of the proposed project; further, there would be only a total of 11 full-time employees responsible for the maintenance and other activities related to ongoing operations. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant as the project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan**.** However, this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(b) The proposed project is located on flat, agricultural land. Wind can influence the rate at which wildfire spreads. Given the project site's generally flat topography, the proposed project is not anticipated to expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire due to sloping topography. Additionally, the proposed project is not located with any Fire Hazard Severity Zone per CAL FIRE (CAL FIRE 2020). Further analysis of prevailing winds is required to determine if there are periodic high winds that could influence the spreading and velocity of wildfires. Adherence to applicable regulations would reduce wildfire ignitions and prevent the spread of wildfires. The project proponent/operator would be required to develop and implement a fire safety plan that contains notification procedures and emergency fire precautions consistent with the 2019 California Fire Code and Kern County Fire Code for use during construction, operation, and decommissioning, However, as the project would have the potential to expose occupants (i.e., at the O&M facilities) to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of wildfire due to prevailing winds or other factors, impacts are potentially significant, and further analysis will be conducted in the EIR.

(c) The proposed project involves the development of a solar energy generation and storage facility. The proposed project would include the construction of power transmission lines, inverters, roads, and an energy storage facility. Due to the presence of electrical equipment on site, the impacts would be **potentially significant** and would be further evaluated in the EIR.

(d) The proposed project site is located on and surrounded by flat, agricultural land; therefore, the project site would not be at risk for landslides or downstream flooding that would expose people or structures to significant risks in a post-wildfire burned landscape condition. There would be no impacts, and no further analyzed is required in the EIR.

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

RESPONSES:

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

(b) The project has the potential to contribute to cumulatively significant aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, water quality, tribal cultural resources, GHG emissions, and traffic impacts. Such impacts could occur during the construction phases and/or as a result of the fully built and operational project. The EIR will evaluate the project's contribution to cumulative impacts in these and other areas. Impacts would be **potentially significant.**

(c) The proposed project would not result in the long-term air pollutant emissions or noise sources that would adversely affect nearby sensitive receptors. The solar farm would not include any kinds of industrial processes or equipment that would generate hazardous substances or wastes that would threaten the well-being of people on or off site. However, short-term construction activities could result in temporary increases in pollutant concentrations and potentially significant off-site noise impacts. Pollutants of primary concern commonly associated with construction-related activities

include toxic air contaminants, gaseous emissions of criteria pollutants, and fugitive dust. Within the project area, the potential for increased occurrences of valley fever and exacerbated health issues related to COVID-19 is also of concern. Human health impacts from the short-term cumulative contribution to air quality impacts from project construction will be further evaluated in the EIR. Impacts would be potentially significant.

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