

Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP, Director
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2323
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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: September 30, 2021

TO: See Attached Mailing List

FROM: Kern County Planning and Natural
Resources Department
Attn: Ronelle Candia
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661)862-8607; SmallsT@kerncounty.com

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
REPORT (EIR) FOR THE AZALEA SOLAR PROJECT 2.0 BY SF AZALEA, LLC**

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 may need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval of the project.

You are invited to view the NOP and submit written comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental information in connection with the proposed project should you wish to do so. Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be received by **November 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 or to SmallsT@kerncounty.com. A Scoping meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.** at the address listed above.

PROJECT TITLE: Azalea Solar Project by SF Azalea, LLC (PP21401); CUP 10, Map #3; CUP 14, Map #3; and Williamson Act Land Use Cancellation # 20-06

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located approximately 2.5 miles northeast of Twisselman Road and Kings Road, approximately 16 miles south of Kettleman City, approximately 14 miles northwest of the community of Lost Hills, approximately 6 miles west of Interstate 5, and approximately 4 miles east of State Route 3. The proposed project is located in the northwestern portion of the Kern County Valley Region.

The project site is located in Section 11 of Township 25 South, Range 19 East in the Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Azalea Solar Project, as proposed by SF Azalea, LLC would develop a photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure necessary to generate up to 60 megawatt-alternating current (MW-AC) of renewable energy, on approximately 640 acres of privately-owned land. The project site consists of 1 site located on 2 parcels. The project would be supported by a 230-kilovolt (kV) gen-tie overhead and/or underground electrical transmission line(s) originating from one or more on-site substations and terminating at either the nearby PG&E Substation. The project's permanent facilities would

include, but are not limited to, service roads, a power collection system, inverter stations, transformer systems, transmission lines, electrical switchyards, project substations, energy (battery) storage system, and operations and maintenance facilities. Implementation of the project as proposed includes the following requests:

- a) Conditional Use Permit No. 10, Map No. 3 to allow for the construction and operation of a solar facility with a total generating capacity of approximately 60 megawatts-alternating current (MW-AC) of renewable energy including up to 200 megawatts of energy storage (for all sites), within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District pursuant to Section 19.12.030.G, of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance.
- b) Conditional Use Permit No. 14, Map No. 3 to allow for the construction and operation of a microwave communications tower, within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District pursuant to Section 19.12.030.F, of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance.
- c) Cancellation of an Existing Williamson Act Land Use Contract #20-06

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

Signature:
Name:


Terrance Smalls, Supervising Planner

Azalea Solar
I:\Planning\WORKGRPS\WP\LABEL
S\Azalea Solar.docx
an 9/7/2021

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

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

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

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

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

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

State Dept of Conservation
Geologic Energy Management Division
801 "K" Street, MS 20-20
Sacramento, CA 95814-3530

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

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

Kern County
Agriculture Department

County Clerk

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 Museum
3801 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

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

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

Wasco Union Elementary School Dist
639 Broadway
Wasco, CA 93280

Kern High School Dist
5801 Sundale Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309

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

Lost Hills Water Dist
3008 Sillect Avenue, Ste 205
Bakersfield, CA 93308-6340

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

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

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

West Side Mosquito
Abatement Dist.
P.O. Box 205
Taft, CA 93268

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

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

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

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

Leadership Counsel for Justice &
Accountability
1527 - 19th Street, Suite 212
Bakersfield, CA 93301

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

Vestas
1417 NW Everett Street
Portland, OR 97209

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^

David Walsh
22941 Banducci Road
Tehachapi, CA 93561^

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

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

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

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

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

Darren Kelly
Sr. Business Manager
Terra-Gen Power, LLC
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^

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP, Director
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2323
Phone: (661) 862-8600
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Email: planning@kerncounty.com
Web Address: <http://kernplanning.com/>



**PLANNING AND NATURAL
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Planning
Community Development
Administrative Operations

DATE: September 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 an Environmental Impact Report – Azalea Solar Project by
SF Azalea, LLC (PP21401)

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 interested parties and 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 the scope and content of the environmental information in connection with the proposed project should you wish to do so. Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be received by **November 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 or to SmallsT@kerncounty.com. A Scoping meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.**, at the address listed above.

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: Azalea Solar Project by SF Azalea, LLC (PP21401); CUP 10, Map #3; CUP 14, Map #3; and Williamson Act Land Use Cancellation # 20-06

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located approximately 2.5 miles northeast of Twisselman Road and Kings Road, approximately 16 miles south of Kettleman City, approximately 14 miles northwest of the community of Lost Hills, approximately 6 miles west of Interstate 5, and approximately 4 miles east

of State Route 3. The proposed project is located in the northwestern portion of the Kern County Valley Region.

The project site is located in Section 11 of Township 25 South, Range 19 East in the Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Azalea Solar Project, as proposed by SF Azlea, LLC would develop a photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure necessary to generate up to 60 megawatt-alternating current (MW-AC) of renewable energy, on approximately 640 acres of privately-owned land. The project site consists of 1 site located on 2 parcels. The project would be supported by a 230-kilovolt (kV) gen-tie overhead and/or underground electrical transmission line(s) originating from one or more on-site substations and terminating at either the Teddy Substation or the Southern California Edison's Whirlwind Substation. The project's permanent facilities would include, but are not limited to, service roads, a power collection system, inverter stations, transformer systems, transmission lines, electrical switchyards, project substations, energy (battery) storage system, and operations and maintenance facilities.

Implementation of the project as proposed includes the following requests:

- a) Conditional Use Permit No. 10, Map No. 3 to allow for the construction and operation of a solar facility with a total generating capacity of approximately 60 megawatts-alternating current (MW-AC) of renewable energy including up to 200 megawatts of energy storage (for all sites), within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District pursuant to Section 19.12.030.G, of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance.
- b) Conditional Use Permit No. 14, Map No. 3 to allow for the construction and operation of a microwave communications tower, within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District pursuant to Section 19.12.030.F, of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance.
- c) Cancellation of an Existing Williamson Act Land Use Contract

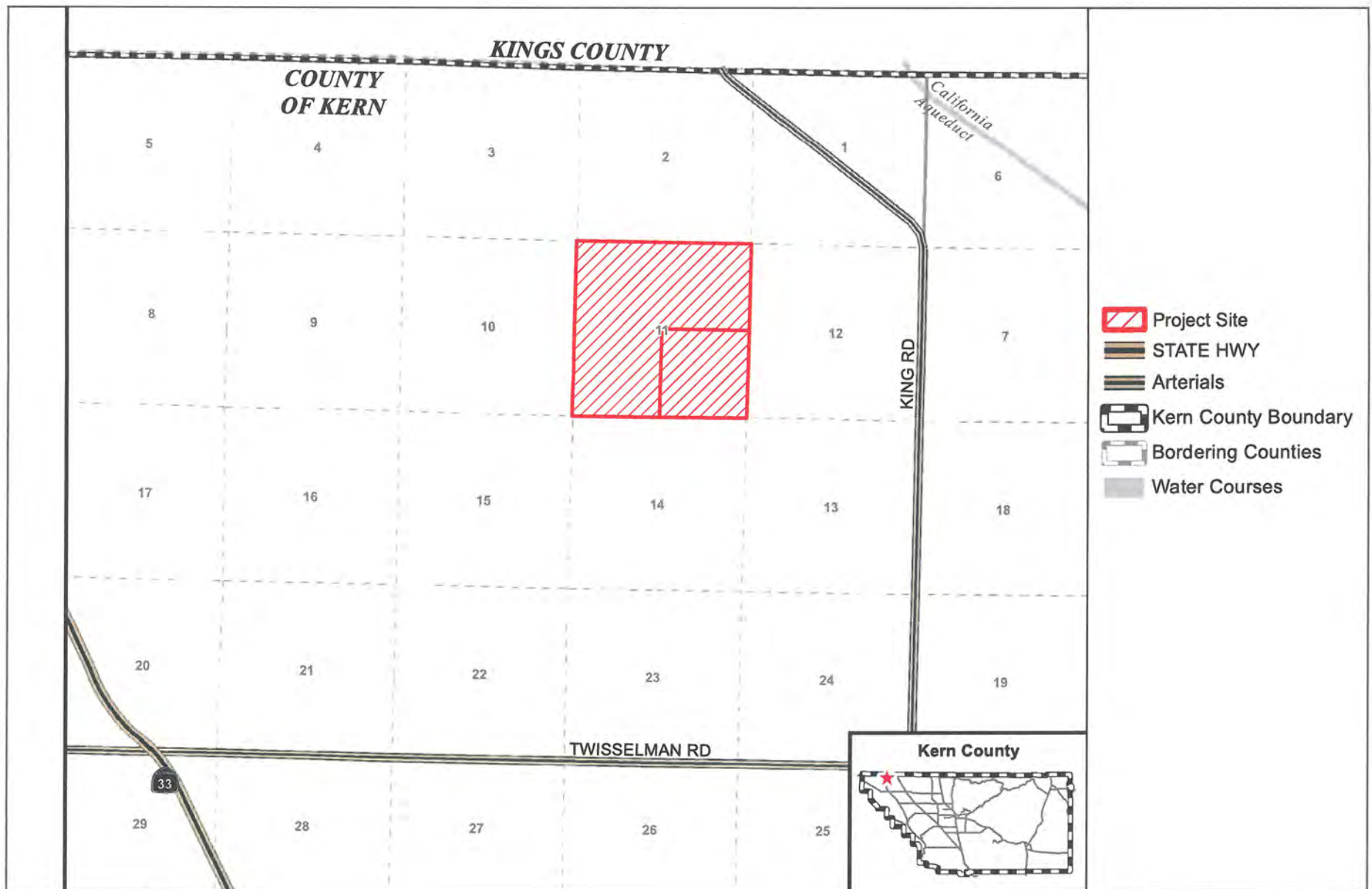
Should you have any questions regarding this project, or the Initial Study/Notice of Preparation, please feel free to contact me at (661) 862-8607 or SmallsT@kerncounty.com

Sincerely,



Terrance Smalls, Supervising Planner
Advanced Planning Division

Attachments: Figure 2 – Local Vicinity Map



SOURCE: Kern County, 2021



FIGURE 2: Local Vicinity Map

Azalea Solar Facility

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Azalea Solar Project - EIR
(CUP #10, Map #3;)
WO #PP21401

043 550 12 00 8
WEST VENTURES LLC
2770 MAIN ST STE 270
FRISCO TX 75033

043 210 17 00 4
WILLIAM & DORIS LAND &
ENERGY CO LLC
35244 OIL CITY RD
COALINGA CA 93210-9221

043 210 06 00 2
WILLIAM J MOUREN FARMING INC
35244 OIL CITY RD
COALINGA CA 93210

043 210 21 10 2
TIPTON WILLIAM W JR ET AL
777 SUNSET RIDGE RD
NORTHFIELD IL 60093

043 220 13 00 5
TURNER SARA E & REID J
1960 PARKSIDE DR
WALNUT CREEK CA 94596-3550

043 210 63 00 7
AERA ENERGY LLC
P O BOX 11164
BAKERSFIELD CA 93389-1164

043 250 02 00 2
AMIN ORCHARD CO
195 FAIRFIELD AV STE 1D
WEST CALDWELL NJ 07006

043 220 01 00 0
ANDERSON JAMES S
35244 OIL CITY RD
COALINGA CA 93210

043 210 21 01 4
BACA MARY LOUISE
8550 W CHARLESTON BLV #102 STE
340
LAS VEGAS NV 89117

043 210 08 02 6
BOGGESE GENEVIEVE F
43909 SASSARI ST
TEMECULA CA 92592-9386

043 220 14 00 8
CASTRO FAMILY TRUST
3431 DELTA AV
LONG BEACH CA 90810

043 210 04 00 6
CHEVRON USA INC
P O BOX 1392
BAKERSFIELD CA 93302-1392

043 210 08 04 4
CLARK CLIFFORD A
2821 MIRANDA AV
ALAMO CA 94507-1427

043 210 69 00 5
DBF ACQUISITION CO LLC
11444 W OLYMPIC BL FLR 10TH
LOS ANGELES CA 90064

043 220 04 00 9
DUTTON MARGIT H
11617 KLING ST
N HOLLYWOOD CA 91602

043 220 08 02 9
EICHHOLTZ JOHN P & LINDA G LIV
TR
9261 MASSOT AV
SANTEE CA 92071

043 210 08 03 5
FRAME DONALD P
3014 W KEOGH CT
VISALIA CA 93291-4229

043 210 21 04 1
GATES GILBERT HENRY TRUST
145 EL PINAR
LOS GATOS CA 95032

043 210 21 03 2
GREEN LIVING TRUST
4209 SILL PL
BAKERSFIELD CA 93306

043 210 21 05 0
HAMILTON FAMILY TRUST
8550 W CHARLESTON BLV #102
STE 340
LAS VEGAS NV 89117

043 550 05 00 8
HARVEST PETROLEUM INC
2770 N MAIN ST STE 270
FRISCO TX 75033

043 220 08 01 0
HILLEGEIST FAMILY HOLDING
TRUST
PO BOX 1047
SELAH WA 98942-4047

043 220 06 01 4
HITCHCOCK GEORGEANN K ET
AL
4338 FAIR OAKS BL
SACRAMENTO CA 95864

043 210 21 06 9
JOSEPH FAMILY TRUST
8550 W CHARLESTON BLV #102 STE
340
LAS VEGAS NV 89117

043 210 21 02 3
KHRISTY BARBARA TRUST
PO BOX 1784
MEDFORD OR 97501-0140

043 210 42 00 6
LONGBOW LLC
1701 WESTWIND DR # 126
BAKERSFIELD CA 93301-3048

043 210 21 07 8
PIVOVAROFF HARRY A & VERA
8550 W CHARLESTON BLV #102 STE
340
LAS VEGAS NV 89117

043 220 02 00 3
RAIN LLC
35244 OIL CITY RD
COALINGA CA 93210

043 210 48 00 4
ROCK CREEK OIL LLC
10350 SANTA MONICA BL # 160
LOS ANGELES CA 90025-5055

043 220 05 00 2
SINGH LAKHBIR & KAUR
SUKHINDER
6336 LAFAYETTE AV
NEWARK CA 94560-2435

043 210 21 08 7
SPIEGLMAN EVELYN
8550 W CHARLESTON BLV #102 STE
340
LAS VEGAS NV 89117

043 220 03 00 6
TAYLOR DONALDSON &
NORMA J TR
12 DEVONSHIRE DR
NOVATO CA 94947-2032

043 210 21 09 6
TIPTON BENJAMIN PARKER ET AL
1346 JAMES AV
REDWOOD CITY CA 94062-2238

043 220 06 02 3 **INC**
WALKER GEORGE S
*
UNKNOWN CA 00000

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: Azalea Solar Project by SF Azalea, LLC

Lead Agency: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department

Contact Person: Terrance Smalls

Mailing Address: 2700 "M" Street Suite 100

Phone: (661) 862-8607

City: Bakersfield

Zip: 93301

County: Kern

Project Location: County: Kern

City/Nearest Community: Rosamond

Cross Streets: Rosamond Blvd & 90th Street West

Zip Code: 93501

Lat. / Long.: 34° 50' 16.84" N, 118° 21' 31.39" W

Total Acres: 640

Assessor's Parcel No.: Multiple

Section: Multiple

Twp.: Multiple

Range: Multiple

Base: MDB&M

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: _____

Waterways: N/A

Airports: N/A

Railways: N/A

Schools: Tropico Middle School

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 Land Contract Cancellation

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 60
☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☐ Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

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

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Undeveloped Land. Zoning: A (Exclusive Agriculture) 8.3 = Exclusive Agriculture (Min. 20 Acre Parcel Size)

Project Description:

The Azalea Solar Project, as proposed by SF Azalea, LLC would develop a photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure necessary to generate up to 60 megawatt-alternating current (MW-AC) of renewable energy, on approximately 640 acres of privately-owned land. The project site consists of 1 site located on 2 parcels. The project would be supported by a 230-kilovolt (kV) gen-tie overhead and/or underground electrical transmission line(s) originating from one or more on-site substations and terminating at either the nearby PG&E Substation. The project's permanent facilities would include, but are not limited to, service roads, a power collection system, inverter stations, transformer systems, transmission lines, electrical switchyards, project substations, energy (battery) storage system, and operations and maintenance facilities.

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".

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

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

Starting Date September 30, 2021 Ending Date November 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: 09/30/2021
Terrance Smalls, Supervising Planner

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

NOTICE OF PREPARATION/INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Azalea Solar Project by SF Azalea, LLC

Conditional Use Permit No. 10, Map No. 3
Conditional Use Permit No. 14, Map No. 3
Williamson Act Land Use Cancellation No 20-06

PLN19-02332
(PP21401)

LEAD AGENCY:



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

Contact: Mr. Terrance Smalls
(661) 862-8607
smallst@kerncounty.com

September 2021

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Introduction

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

1. Project Description

1.1. Project Location

The proposed Azalea Solar Project (proposed project) is a proposal by SF Azalea, LLC (project proponent) to construct and operate a photovoltaic (PV) solar facility and associated infrastructure to generate up to 60 megawatts (MW) of renewable electrical energy and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) capable of storing approximately 38MW of energy within approximately 5 acres of the overall 640 acres of privately-owned land.

The project site is located south of the Kern County/Kings County Line, in an unincorporated area of northwestern Kern County, CA. The project site is located in Section 11 of Township 25 South, Range 19 East in the Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. Please see *Figure 1: Regional Vicinity Map* and *Figure 2: Local Vicinity Map*.

The proposed project is located solely within the jurisdiction of Kern County. The project site is located approximately 2.5 miles northeast of Twisselman Road and Kings Road, approximately 16 miles south of Kettleman City, approximately 14 miles northwest of the community of Lost Hills, approximately 6 miles west of Interstate 5, and approximately 4 miles east of State Route 3. The proposed project is located in the northwestern portion of the Kern County Valley Region. The project site is made up of two (2) privately owned parcels (Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs): 043-210-17 and 043-210-18) totaling approximately 640 acres of largely undeveloped land. Please see *Figure 3: Existing Parcel Map*. The total study area for this project is larger than the area that will be subjected to entitlements, as it includes gen tie lines and access roads across private land.

Primary access to the project site would be via an existing dirt access road along the Kern County/Kings County boundary. The existing road intersects with King Road/25 Avenue approximately one mile north of the proposed solar installation. This portion of roadway would be improved in a westerly direction from King Road/25 Avenue within Kern County jurisdiction. These improvements would be approximately 0.8 miles in length. At this end of the 0.8 miles, the roadway improvement would be continued in a southerly direction entirely within Kern County. The balance of the roadway, other improvements, and the solar facility itself would occur entirely within Kern County. Please see *Figure 4: Aerial Photograph*.

1.2. Environmental Setting

The proposed project is located on approximately 620 acres of privately-owned agricultural land located in the north western extent of Kern County, California. The project site is located within the boundaries of Agricultural Preserve No. 1 and one of the parcels is currently subject to a Williamson Act Land Use Contract. The project is in the Central California Valley Ecoregion and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Avenal Gap 7.5-minute topographical quadrangle. Development in the area surrounding the project site is



predominantly agriculture.

The project site is within the San Joaquin Valley Basin of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

The project site consists of two gently sloping, vacant, and undeveloped parcels of land covered with sparse to moderately dense non-native vegetation currently used for grazing. The site is disced on a cycle of approximately every two years to facilitate planting cover crops for cattle grazing. Habitats within the project site include agricultural field, non-native annual grassland habitat, and patches of ruderal habitat along the fenced boundaries of the project site. The project site and surrounding lands are mostly flat and exhibit little topographic variation.

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 southernmost project site is located in a 100-year flood area (Zone A, no base flood elevations determined); see *Figure 7: FEMA Floodplain Map*. However, the proposed project would not result in any construction within the Zone A area; see *Figure 8: Proposed Site Plan*. The balance of the project site is not within a flood area (Zone X, areas determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain).

The project site is not designated by the California Department of Conservation (DOC) as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland. The portion of the project site that would be developed as a solar array and the generation tie (“gen-tie”) route is classified as Grazing Land while the portion that would be developed as road access is classified as Grazing Land or Nonagricultural and Natural Vegetation. There is land designated as Prime Farmland immediately adjacent to the east and south of the project site and land designated as Unique Farmland immediately adjacent to the east of the project site. Additionally, a portion of the project site is subject to a Williamson Act Land Use contract and the project site is located within a Kern County Agricultural Preserve.

The project site is not within a mineral recovery area or within a designated mineral and petroleum resource site designated by the Kern County General Plan, nor is it identified as a mineral resource zone by the Department of Conservation’s State Mining and Geology Board. The project site is not located within the County’s NR (Natural Resources) or PE (Petroleum Extraction) Zone Districts.

Table 1: Project Assessor Parcel Numbers, Existing Map Codes, Existing Zoning, and Acreage, below identifies the individual parcels, their respective assessor parcel numbers (APN), acreages, and existing zoning designations. Please see *Figure 5: Existing General Plan Designations*, and *Figure 6: Existing Zoning Classifications*.



TABLE 1:
PROJECT ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBERS, EXISTING MAP CODES, EXISTING ZONING, AND ACREAGE

APN	Existing Map Code Designation	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	APN Acres
043-210-17	8.3/2.5	A	A	480.00
043-210-18	8.3/2.5	A	A	160.00
Project Totals				640.00
General Plan Map Code: 8.3 = Extensive Agriculture (Min. 20 Acre Parcel Size); 2.5 = Flood Hazard Overlay				
Zone Designation: A = Exclusive Agriculture				

Surrounding Land Uses

Table 2: Existing Project Site and Surrounding Properties, Existing Land Use, General Plan Map Code Designations, and Zoning, identifies the existing land use, the existing general plan land use designation, and the existing zoning for each of the two parcels within the project site. Additionally, such conditions are described for adjacent lands to the north, east, south, and west of the project site.

TABLE 2:
EXISTING PROJECT SITES 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
Project Site	Agricultural	8.3 (Extensive Agriculture; 8.3/ 2.5 (Extensive Agriculture Flood Hazard Overlay)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
North	Agricultural, Vacant Land	8.3 (Extensive Agriculture)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
South	Agricultural, Vacant Land	8.1/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture/Flood Hazard Overlay); 8.3 (Extensive Agriculture; 8.3/ 2.5 (Extensive Agriculture/Flood Hazard Overlay)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
East	Agricultural, Vacant Land	8.1 (Intensive agriculture (min. 20 acre parcel size))	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
West	Agricultural, Vacant Land	8.3 (Extensive Agriculture; 8.3/ 2.5 (Extensive Agriculture/Flood Hazard Overlay)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)

Existing land use in the vicinity of the project site generally includes undeveloped lands, agricultural lands, access roadways, a canal and a nut processing plant. Rural residential uses and other solar development are located to the south of the project site. There is one planned, solar energy and transmission project in the



vicinity of the project site. This project includes the Chalan project site, located immediately east of the proposed project site.

The sensitive receptor closest to the project site is the rural residence approximately 1 mile to the south of the project site. Lost Hills Wonderful Park, a local park, is located approximately 14 miles southeast of the project site. The closest school to the site is the A.M. Thomas Middle School, located approximately 14 miles southeast of the project site.

The proposed project would be served by the Kern County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement and public safety services, with the closest substation being the North Area Substation, located at 181 East First Street. Fire protection and emergency medical services would be provided by the Kern County Fire Department, with the closest station being Fire Station #25, located at 100 Mirasol Avenue, and Kern County Emergency Medical Services for medical care and emergency services.

The nearest public airport to the project site is the Wasco-Kern County Airport located approximately 31 miles southeast of the project site. The project site is not located within any safety or noise zones for the Wasco-Kern County Airport.

1.3. Project Description

Project Overview

The Azalea Solar project is a proposed photovoltaic (PV) solar facility with associated infrastructure on approximately 640 acres of privately-owned land in northwestern Kern County. As stated above, the proposed project would generate up to 60 MW of renewable electrical energy. The project also includes the installation of an associated BESS capable of storing approximately 38 MW of energy. The project's permanent facilities would include, but are not limited to, service roads, a power collection system, inverter stations, transformer systems, transmission lines, electrical switchyards, project substations, energy (battery) storage system, and operations and maintenance facilities.

Implementation of the project as proposed includes the following requests:

- Conditional Use Permit (CUP 10, Map No. 3) to allow for the construction and operation of an approximate 60 MW solar facility, as well as ancillary structures including a 38 MW BESS, on 640-acres within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) zone district pursuant to Section 19.12.030.G of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance.
- Conditional Use Permit (CUP 14, Map No. 3) to allow for the construction and operation of a microwave communications tower, within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District pursuant to Section 19.12.030.F of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance.
- Cancellation of a Williamson Act Contract to be processed for APN 043-210-17 within the proposed CUP boundary.

The power generated on the project site would assist the State in complying with the Renewables Portfolio Standard under Senate Bill 350, which requires that by December 31, 2030, 50 percent of all electricity sold in the state shall be generated from renewable energy sources. The power generated on the project site would be sold to California investor-owned utilities, municipalities, community choice aggregators, or other purchasers in furtherance of the goals of the California Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. The project has an anticipated operational life of up approximately 30 years. 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 project facilities would include the following components, which are described in greater detail thereafter:

- Solar PV modules and trackers
- Direct Current (DC) Collection
- Inverter and medium voltage transformers
- Battery storage
- Onsite substation
- Operations and maintenance (O&M) facilities
- Telecommunications
- Onsite meteorological data collection system
- Transmission line
- Site access road(s), and
- Lighting signage

Solar PV Module Configuration

The proposed project would utilize photovoltaic (PV) panels or modules (including but not limited to concentrated photovoltaic technology (CPV) or bi-facial technology which have similar rectangular shapes, sizes and thickness) on mounting frameworks to convert sunlight directly into electricity. Individual panels would be installed on tracker mount systems (single- or dual-axis, using galvanized steel or aluminum). The panels would rotate to follow the sun over the course of the day. Maximum panel height is anticipated to be up to 20 feet high, depending on the mounting system selected and on County building codes.

The PV panels would be arranged in rows in a uniform grid pattern, with each row separated by 10 to 20 feet. The panels would be deployed in proximity to the power conditioning stations (PCS) where the DC produced by the panels is converted to alternating current (AC) and transferred to the on-site substation and eventual delivery to the electrical grid. The proposed layout is shown in *Figure 8: Proposed Site Plan*.

Each PV module would be placed on a tracker mounting structure. The foundations for the mounting structures may extend up to 10 feet below ground, depending on the structure, soil conditions, and wind loads, and may be encased in concrete or utilize small concrete footings. A light-colored ground cover or palliative may be used to increase electricity production. Final solar panel layout and spacing would be



optimized for project area characteristics and the desired energy production profile. *Figure 8: Proposed Site Plan*, show the proposed layout of the solar panels within the project sites.

Collection, Inverter, and Transformer Systems

Photovoltaic energy generated by the panels would be delivered via cable to the PCS generally located within the solar array field. The PCS are comprised of inverters, transformers, and other electrical equipment to reach the needed collection level voltage. The footprint of each PCS, which is generally mounted on a concrete pad, would be approximately 12 feet by 30 feet. The proposed project would require approximately 40 PCS's, depending on final design details, but all would be located within the project footprint. The inverter converts the DC electricity to AC electricity, which then flows to a transformer where it is stepped up to the appropriate collection level voltage (34.5-kV). The proposed project would use Power Electronic HEM Central inverters or equivalent and one medium voltage transformers per inverter. Each inverter and transformer would be installed as per manufacturer's requirements.

Energy Storage System

The proposed project would include a BESS, which would be located immediately adjacent to the proposed substation. The BESS would provide approximate 38 MW of energy storage. The BESS would consist of commercially available lithium ion batteries housed in enclosures that conform to U.S. national safety standards. The batteries would comply with the UL 9450 standard for outdoor energy storage enclosures. The enclosures would be standard International Organization for Standardization containers. These containers are approximately 8 feet wide by 40 feet long by 9.5 feet high. The BESS would have a footprint of up to 2.5 acres in total area. The actual dimensions and number of energy storage modules and structures would vary depending on the application, supplier, and final configuration chosen depending on the final equipment. This also would depend on the final power purchase agreement requirements and on County building standards. The BESS modules would contain a safety system as required by NFPA 855 and would be tested under the UL 9540A Test Method for Evaluating Thermal Runaway Fire Propagation in Battery Energy Storage Systems. The system also would be required to have a fire rating in conformance with Kern County standards.

Substation

Output from the PCS would be transferred via electrical conduits and electrical conductor wires to an on-site substation in the northwest corner of APN 043-210-17. The proposed substation would include transformers, breakers, switches, meters, and related equipment. Interconnection equipment, including the control house, would be installed aboveground and underground within the footprint of the substation. The footprint of the substation would be approximately 200 by 200 feet and the maximum height would be approximately 75 feet. The substation would also contain a control house building approximately 15 feet by 30 feet with a maximum anticipated height of 20 feet. The substation would be surrounded by a seven-foot high barbed wire chain-link fence and would comply with electrical codes. The proposed substation layout is shown in *Figure 9: Proposed Substation General Arrangement*.

The proposed substation would include an emergency generator for use if the regional transmission system fails; this emergency generator would provide emergency power until the regional transmission system restores operations. The substation must have access to communication systems in the area to comply with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission/California Independent System Operator/Utility monitoring and control requirements. Compliance may be accomplished by underground lines, aboveground lines, or wireless communication.



Operations and Maintenance Facilities

The project would include the construction of an O&M building with associated on-site parking (unpaved) within the project site. The O&M building may be co-located with the substation. Roads, driveways, and parking lot entrances would be constructed in accordance with Kern County improvement standards. Parking spaces and walkways would be constructed in accordance with all California Accessibility Regulations.

Telecommunications

The proposed project would require redundant telecommunication connections. The primary telecommunication line would consist of fiber optic cable and/or copper telecommunication line installed above and/or below ground. The line would be attached to either existing utility lines located outside of the project site or the proposed gen-tie. The proposed telecommunication route would use a combination of existing poles, new poles, and/or below ground installations between the existing telecommunications infrastructure and the Arco Substation. Below ground installations are typically installed 24 to 48 inches below grade. Above ground lines are typically placed below existing distribution lines or on new, adjacent wooden poles. Lines would be placed within utility franchise easements to the extent feasible.

The point of interconnection to the existing telecommunication infrastructure would be located within a small telecommunications shelter. The interconnection utility service would consist of fiber stranded cables (Dielectric Self Supporting and Optical Ground Wire). A secondary internet connection would be provided using a point-to-point microwave wireless link.

Onsite Meteorological Data Collection System

The proposed project would require four meteorological data collection systems. The systems would be mounted at various locations throughout the project site. The systems would include a variety of instruments to collect meteorological data. Meteorological data would be collected at the maximum height of the solar panels approximately 15 feet above the ground.

Transmission Line

From the proposed substation, power would be transmitted to the PG&E Arco Substation via up to 230 kV overhead line(s); see *Figure 4: Aerial Photograph*, which shows the gen-tie line alignment. The gen-tie right-of way would be approximately 25 to 75 feet wide. Approximately 30 new poles would be installed to accommodate the gen-tie line. The new poles would be constructed of either steel or wood at a maximum of 90 feet tall.

Site Access and Security

The project would be accessed from King Road approximately one mile north of the project site. An access road from King Road to the north boundary of the project site would be constructed as part of the proposed project. Additional access roads would be constructed between the rows of PV panels within the project site; see *Figure 8*. Access roads would be approximately 20 feet wide and would be accessed via multiple gates to allow access to the internal access roads. The access points and interior driveways would be constructed in accordance with Kern County and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) requirements and maintained to ensure on-site circulation for emergency vehicles during all weather conditions.



The project site is currently partially enclosed by existing fencing along the east and south site boundaries. This fencing would remain and fencing surrounding other areas would be installed. The rows of PV panels would be enclosed within the project site fencing. Fencing would be a six-foot tall wire fence topped by one foot-tall three-strands of barbed wire. Fencing would be “wildlife friendly” with a five to seven-inch diagonal grid width at the lower portion to allow for the safe passage of small and medium sized mammals. The fence would include slats or similar visual screening material above the bottom diagonal grid pattern along the southern boundary that faces an existing residence.

Signage would be installed on the fence in the vicinity of the main entry gates on the north side of the project site. The signage would identify the project owner, operator, and emergency contacts and provide safety and security information. Additionally, small-scale signage would be posted at the main entry gates and intermittently along the fencing around the PV panels to indicate “No Trespassing” and “Private Property” for security and safety purposes. All signage would conform to Kern County signage requirements.

A security company would be contracted by the project proponent for security purposes during construction. A security system would also be installed as part of the proposed project. During project operation, security monitoring would occur 24 hours a day. Should the security system detect the presence of unauthorized personnel, the project manager or surrogate would verify the appropriate response and appropriate local authorities would be notified if necessary. A Knox-Box containing keys for the proposed project would be installed to permit emergency access to the site.

Stormwater Management

At this preliminary stage of site design, it has not been determined whether on-site stormwater management facilities, such as detention ponds, would be necessary. This will be determined through further hydrological analysis and if required, these facilities will be described and addressed in the EIR.

Lighting

The proposed in-site lighting would allow for maintenance and security activities during project operation. Low-level lighting would be installed at the entry gates, substation, PCS, and O&M building. Proposed lighting outside of the substation would be downward facing, shielded, or otherwise modified to prevent emission of light or glare beyond the property line or upward into the sky as required by Kern County Ordinance (Chapter 19.81) - Outdoor Lighting-Dark Skies requirements.

Arco Substation and PG&E Upgrades

To allow for project connection, the existing Arco Substation would need be modified in order to accommodate a new 70 kV bus terminal required by the project. This work would be performed by PG&E and would include the construction of new substation equipment adjacent to the existing equipment. An existing 70 kV single breaker double bus configuration would be extended with three (3) new bay structures. The first new bay structure would be for the customer-owned photovoltaic solar project generation tie-line. The second bay structure would be used to relocate the existing Arco – Tulare Lake 70kV line. The third bay structure would be used as a spare for future equipment.

Existing power poles and conductors located outside of the existing substation would also be reconfigured to connect with the new substation equipment. Limited construction of new power line structures and removal of existing structures would be necessary to optimize the power line routing into the modified substation taking into consideration land availability and access to pole locations.



Construction Activities

The construction period for the proposed project from site preparation through construction and testing is expected to commence in 2022 and would extend for approximately 12 months.

Construction of the proposed project would include the following activities:

- Site preparation
- Construction of access and internal circulation roads
- Grading and earthwork
- Panel installation
- Concrete foundations
- Structural steel work
- Electrical/instrumentation work
- Collector line installation
- Stormwater management facilities
- Architecture and landscaping

Schedule and Workforce

Construction traffic would access the project site from King Road. It is estimated that up to 500 workers per day (during peak construction periods) would be required during construction of the proposed project. Employees would have the option to drive their own automobiles to the project site however, employees would be encouraged to carpool. Employees would park within the project site. The proposed project requires the temporary construction of approximately 1.5 acres within the project site for all-weather parking spaces, temporary office facilities, and equipment staging area. This area could be expanded to accommodate increased worker needs.

The first phase of construction would include roadway improvements from the existing paved segment extending westerly from King Road/25th Avenue. A roadway extension from approximately 0.8 miles west of that point south to the proposed solar facility would be constructed to enable access. (This segment of roadway would be paved. Construction activities are typically expected to occur between 6:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Additional hours may be necessary to make up schedule deficiencies or to complete critical construction activities. Some activities may continue 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Low level noise activities may potentially occur between the hours of 10:00 pm and 7:00 am. Nighttime activities could potentially include, but are not limited to, refueling equipment, staging equipment and material for the following day's construction activities, quality assurance/control, and commissioning.

Construction materials and supplies would be delivered to the project site by truck. It is anticipated that all such materials and supplies would be stored in a staging area on-site within the project boundaries for each phase of. When possible, equipment and materials would be stored in proximity to the area where work would be undertaken. For work along the gen-tie routes, it is anticipated that adequate land areas within the



affected easements or rights-of-way would be available to accommodate staging/laydown areas during the construction phase and that off-site lands would not be affected. Truck deliveries would normally occur during daylight hours. However, there would be offloading and/or transporting to the project site on weekends and during evening hours.

Site Preparation, Earthwork and Construction Control Measures

The project site would be cleared and graded as needed to allow for the installation of the roadway extension, solar arrays, BESS, related infrastructure, interior access roads, and temporary construction staging areas. Sediment and erosion controls would be installed in accordance with an approved Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Stabilized construction entrances and exits would also be installed at the project entrance driveways to ensure that potential for tracking of sediment onto adjacent public roadways is minimized.

The project site is mostly flat and would require minimal grading to allow for installation of the PV panels. Minimal grading is expected for the construction of the PCS, substation, and driveways and tracker installation. The roadway extension is anticipated to be constructed by clearing, leveling, and surfaced with decomposed granite/gravel and/or compacted road base. Access roads within the interior of the site would be constructed by placing two to four inches of decomposed granite gravel and/or compacted road base or comparable material directly on the existing soil. Soil compaction, soil strengthening agents, or geo fabric may be used for access driveways. Compaction may also be required for the construction of the PCS, substation, control rooms, and access roads to support construction and ensure access for emergency vehicles.

Dust-minimizing techniques, such as watering active construction sites would occur and would be based on the type of operation, soil, and wind exposure. Prohibition of grading activities during periods of high wind (over 20 miles per hour), limiting vehicle speed on-site to 15 miles per hour, and covering trucks hauling dirt, sand, or loose materials would be implemented as needed. Project grading would be minimized to the extent feasible to reduce unnecessary soil disturbance and movement. Earthwork would require the use of scrapers, excavators, dozers, water trucks, paddlewheels, haul vehicles, and graders. On-site trenching also would be required to enable the placement of underground electrical and communication lines. Certain access roads and turn-arounds may also be surfaced with aggregate or decomposed granite in conformance with emergency access requirements. Proposed grading would balance on-site and import or export of soils would not be required.

Noise-generating construction activities would be limited to construction hours allowed by the County's noise ordinance. All stationary construction equipment that may result in excessive noise or vibration levels would be operated away from sensitive noise receptors to the extent feasible. Construction activities would occur such that maximum noise levels at affected sensitive noise receptors (i.e., rural residential uses) would not exceed the County's adopted noise threshold levels.

Applicable local, State, and federal requirements and best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented during the construction phase. Consistent with the County zoning ordinance and with guidelines provided in the California Stormwater Quality Association's Construction Best Management Practice Handbook, BMPs would be implemented, including preparation of a SWPPP and a soil erosion and sedimentation control plan to reduce the potential for erosion and to minimize effects on stormwater quality. Stabilized construction entrances and exits would be installed at the entrances to each site to reduce the tracking of sediment onto adjacent public roadways. All site preparation would occur in conformance with County BMPs and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District rules for dust control.



Construction Water Use

Water would be required during the construction phase for dust suppression during such activities as clearing, grading, and soil compaction. Water may also be used at ingress/egress points to minimize tracking of dirt off-site onto local roadways (King Road/25th Avenue) from construction vehicles. Water would be obtained from on-site wells or delivered via truck from an off-site source(s) within the project vicinity. If water is trucked into the site, it is anticipated that an available local water source would be selected to minimize truck trips/lengths in transporting water to/from the site.

Water usage during construction, primarily for dust-suppression purposes, is not anticipated to exceed 75 acre-feet over the 12-month construction phase. The water would be trucked and stored on-site to be primarily used for dust suppression, soil compaction, concrete hydration and other miscellaneous activities requiring non-potable water during construction.

Bottled water would be provided to the construction workers for consumption. Additionally, on-site restroom facilities for the construction workers would be provided by portable units to be serviced by licensed providers. No connection to a public sewer system is proposed or required for project construction or operation.

Electrical Supply

The temporary construction facilities would obtain electricity from a temporary drop off line from the local electrical distribution system. Up to ten portable electrical generators that meet local and State emission controls would be used during construction.

Project Operation and Maintenance Activities

Once the proposed project is constructed, maintenance would generally be limited to the following:

- Cleaning of PV panels
- Monitoring electricity generation
- Providing site security
- Facility maintenance – replacing or repairing inverters, wiring, and PV modules

Schedule and Workforce

During the operational phase, the project would employ up to 5 full-time equivalent (FTE) personnel (or personnel hours totaling 5 FTE positions (i.e., an average of 200 personnel hours per week) who would commute to the site. Additional operational staff of up to five full-time employees could be on-site at any time when urgent repairs or maintenance are required.

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

Operational Water Usage

Water demand for panel washing and O&M domestic use (sinks, lavatories, landscape irrigation, drinking) is not expected to exceed 75 acre-feet per year. Water is anticipated to be obtained from on-site wells or



delivered via truck from an off-site source(s) within the project vicinity. If water is trucked into the site, it is anticipated that an available local water source would be selected to minimize truck trips/lengths in transporting water to/from the site.

Electrical Supply

Power 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 lighting and security.

Project Features and Best Management Practices

The following sections describe standard project features and best management practices that would be applied during construction and long-term operation of the project to maintain safety and minimize or avoid environmental impacts.

Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials Management

The proposed project would have minimal levels of materials on-site that have been defined as hazardous under 40 CFR, Part 261. Materials such as the following would be used during the construction, operation, and long-term maintenance of the proposed project:

- Diesel fuel, gasoline and motor oil– used for electrical equipment
- Mineral oil - to be sealed within the transformers
- Various solvents/detergents – equipment cleaning
- Lead acid-based and/or lithium ion batteries – used for emergency backup

Hazardous materials and wastes will be managed, used, handled, stored, and transported in accordance with applicable local and State regulations. All hazardous wastes will be maintained at quantities below the threshold requiring a Hazardous Material Management Program (HMMP) (one 55-gallon drum). Though not expected, should any on-site storage of hazardous materials exceed one 55-gallon drum, an HMMP would be prepared and implemented.

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 proposed or anticipated to be used.

Non-Hazardous Wastes/Inert Solids

Inert solid wastes resulting from construction activities may include recyclable items such as paper, cardboard, solid concrete and block, metals, wire, glass, type 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. A Construction Waste Management Plan will be prepared for review by the County. Consistent with local regulations and the California Green Building Code, the Plan would provide for diversion of a minimum of 50 percent of construction waste from landfills.



Spill Prevention and Containment

Spill prevention and containment for construction and operation of the proposed project will adhere to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) guidance on Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC).

Wastewater/Septic System

A standard on-site septic tank and leach field would be used at the O&M building(s) to dispose of sanitary wastewater from sinks and lavatories, designed to meet operation and maintenance guidelines required by Kern County laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards. The septic system and leach field would be sized according the number of employees.

Health and Safety

The proposed project would adhere to all Kern County Improvement Standards to ensure accessibility for emergency vehicles and safe operation during construction on project operation. The proposed project would implement measures for worker safety during construction in accordance with California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CalOSHA) regulations and guidance and other best management practices. The proposed project will have an Emergency Response Plan (ERP). The ERP will address potential emergencies including chemical releases, fires, and injuries. All employees will be provided with communication devices, cell phones, or walkie-talkies, to provide aid in the event of an emergency.

To help ensure safety procedures are following, the proposed project would include safety training for construction workers and operational personnel. This would include both classroom and hands-on training in operating and maintenance procedures, general safety items, and the planned maintenance program. Training would include emergency procedures, fire prevention, and discussion of the location and proper use of emergency equipment. In addition, contact numbers for various local emergency response agencies, including fire, police, and medical services would be provided, and instruction for communication procedures to report potential health hazards and concerns would be a part of the training.

The proposed project also would include training on procedures to preventing electrical hazards that would reduce the potential for igniting combustible materials. The project also would limit areas where employee can smoke and parking areas for both personal, heavy equipment, and for project operations would be provided over mineral soil, asphalt, or concrete and at a safe distance from dry vegetation. In addition, heavy equipment also would also be equipped with other mechanisms such spark arresters or turbo-charging (which eliminates sparks in exhaust). Lastly, all project vehicles would be equipped with fire extinguishers, and training on their maintenance and how to extinguish small fires would be provided

As discussed above, these safety precautions and emergency systems would be implemented as part of, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project to ensure safe and reliable operation.

Decommissioning

Solar equipment has a typical lifespan of over 30 years. The proposed project expects to sell the renewable energy produced by the project under the terms of a long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with a utility or other power off taker. Upon completion of the PPA term, the project operator may, at its discretion, choose to enter into a subsequent PPA or decommission and remove the system and its components. Upon



decommissioning, the solar facility could be converted to other uses in accordance with applicable land use regulations in effect at that time.

It is anticipated that, during project decommissioning, project structures that would not be needed for subsequent use would be removed from the project site. The site would revert to undeveloped land that supports agricultural production and wildlife habitat. The decommissioning and restoration process involves removing aboveground and belowground structures, restoring topsoil, revegetation, and seeding. Temporary erosion and sedimentation control BMPs would be used during the decommissioning phase.

Equipment would be de-energized prior to removal, salvaged (where possible), and shipped off-site to be recycled or disposed of at an appropriately licensed disposal facility. Once the solar modules are removed, the racks would be disassembled, and the structures supporting the racks would be removed. Site infrastructure would be removed, including fences, and concrete pads that may support the inverters, transformers and related equipment. The demolition debris and removed equipment may be cut or dismantled into pieces that can be safely lifted or carried by standard construction equipment. The fencing and gates would be removed, and all materials would be recycled to the extent practical. Project roads would be restored to their pre-construction condition unless they may be used for subsequent land use. The area would be thoroughly cleaned and all debris removed. Materials would be recycled to the extent feasible, with the remainder disposed of in landfills in compliance with all applicable laws.

1.5. Project Objectives

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

- The project would establish solar PV power-generating facilities that are of a sufficient size and configuration to produce approximately 60 megawatts (MW) of electricity and help to meet the increasing demand of the State of California for clean, renewable electrical power at a competitive cost.
- The project would generate up to 500 jobs during construction and approximately 5 permanent jobs during operation, which would provide increased business for local contractors and vendors.
- The project would minimize environmental effects by:
 - Locating generating facilities in a rural portion of northwestern Kern County which receives intense solar radiation;
 - Using existing electrical transmission facilities, rights-of-way, roads, and other existing infrastructure where practicable;
 - Minimizing water use; and
 - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The project would assist the state of California in achieving the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for 2030, by providing a new source of renewable energy (California State Assembly Bill [AB] 32, Senate Bill [SB] 1078, SB 107, SB 350, and SB 2).

1.6. Proposed Discretionary Actions/Required Approvals

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department as the Lead Agency (per CEQA Guidelines



Section 15052) for the proposed project has discretionary responsibility for the proposed project. To implement this project, the project proponent may need to obtain discretionary and ministerial permits/approvals including, but not limited to, the following:

Federal

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Section 10 Incidental Take Permit and Habitat Conservation Plan (if required)
- United States Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit (if required)

State

- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
 - Section 851 Permit
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
 - Section 1600 et seq. permits (Streambed Alteration Agreements)
 - Section 2081 Permit (State-listed endangered species) (if required)
- Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
 - Waste Discharge Requirements
 - Regional Water Quality Certification (401 Permit) (if required)
 - National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit
 - General Construction Stormwater Permit (Preparation of a SWPPP)
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
 - Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit (if required)
 - Permit for Transport of Oversized Loads

Local

- Kern County
 - Certification of Final Environmental Impact Report
 - Adoption of Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
 - Adoption of 15091 Findings of Fact and 15093 Statement of Overriding Considerations
 - Approval of Conditional Use Permits
 - Approval of Williamson Act Contract Cancellation
 - Approval of Kern County Grading and Building Permits
 - Approval of Kern County Access Road Design and Encroachment Permits
 - Approval of Fire Safety Plan
- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
 - Approval of Fugitive Dust Control Plan
 - Authority to Construct (ATC)
 - Permit to Operate (PTO)

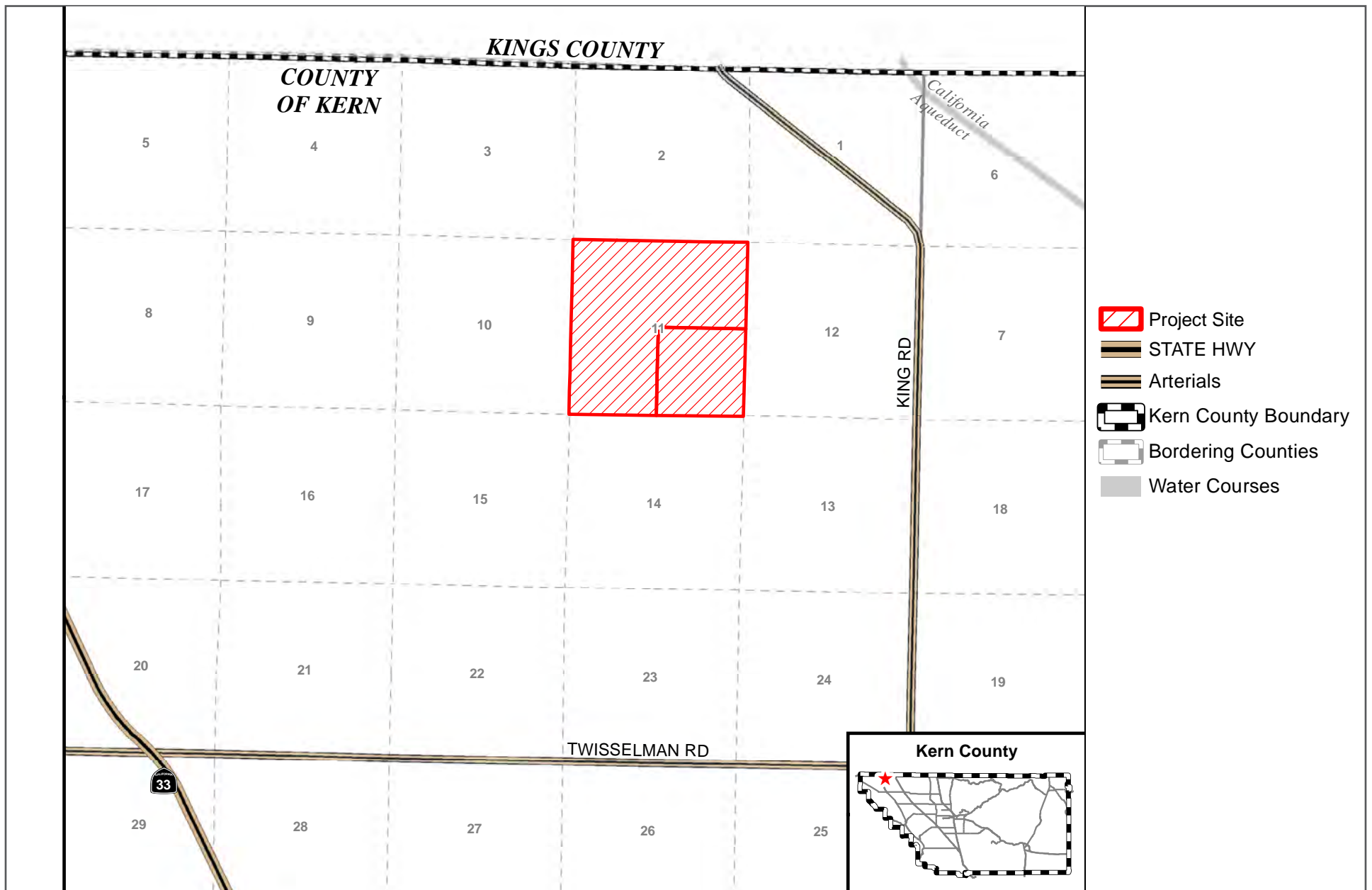


The preceding discretionary actions/approvals are potentially required and do not necessarily represent a comprehensive list of all possible discretionary permits/approvals required. Other additional permits or approvals from responsible agencies may be required for the proposed project.



SOURCE: Google Earth, 2021

FIGURE 1: Regional Vicinity Map



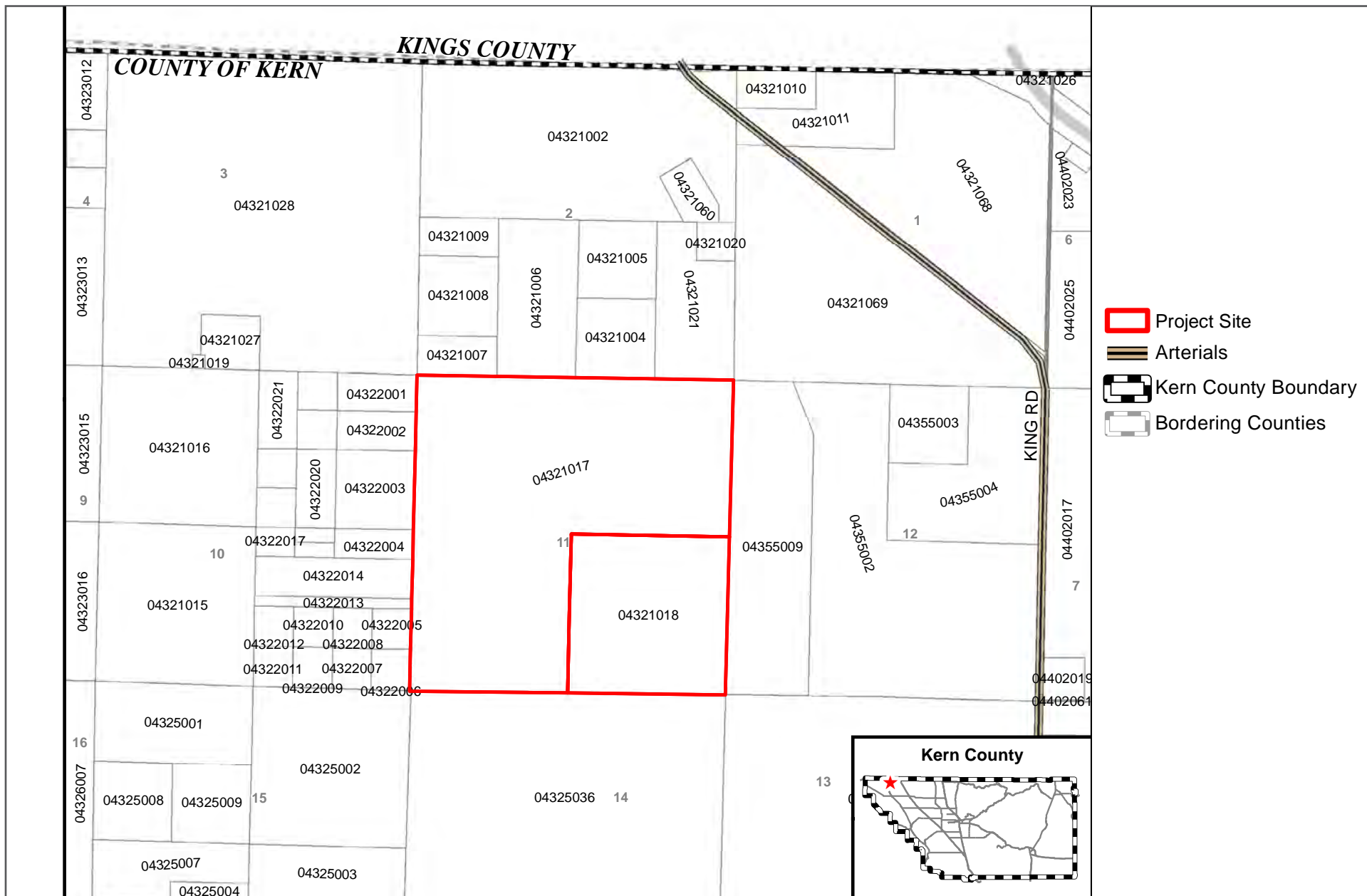
SOURCE: Kern County, 2021



N.T.S.

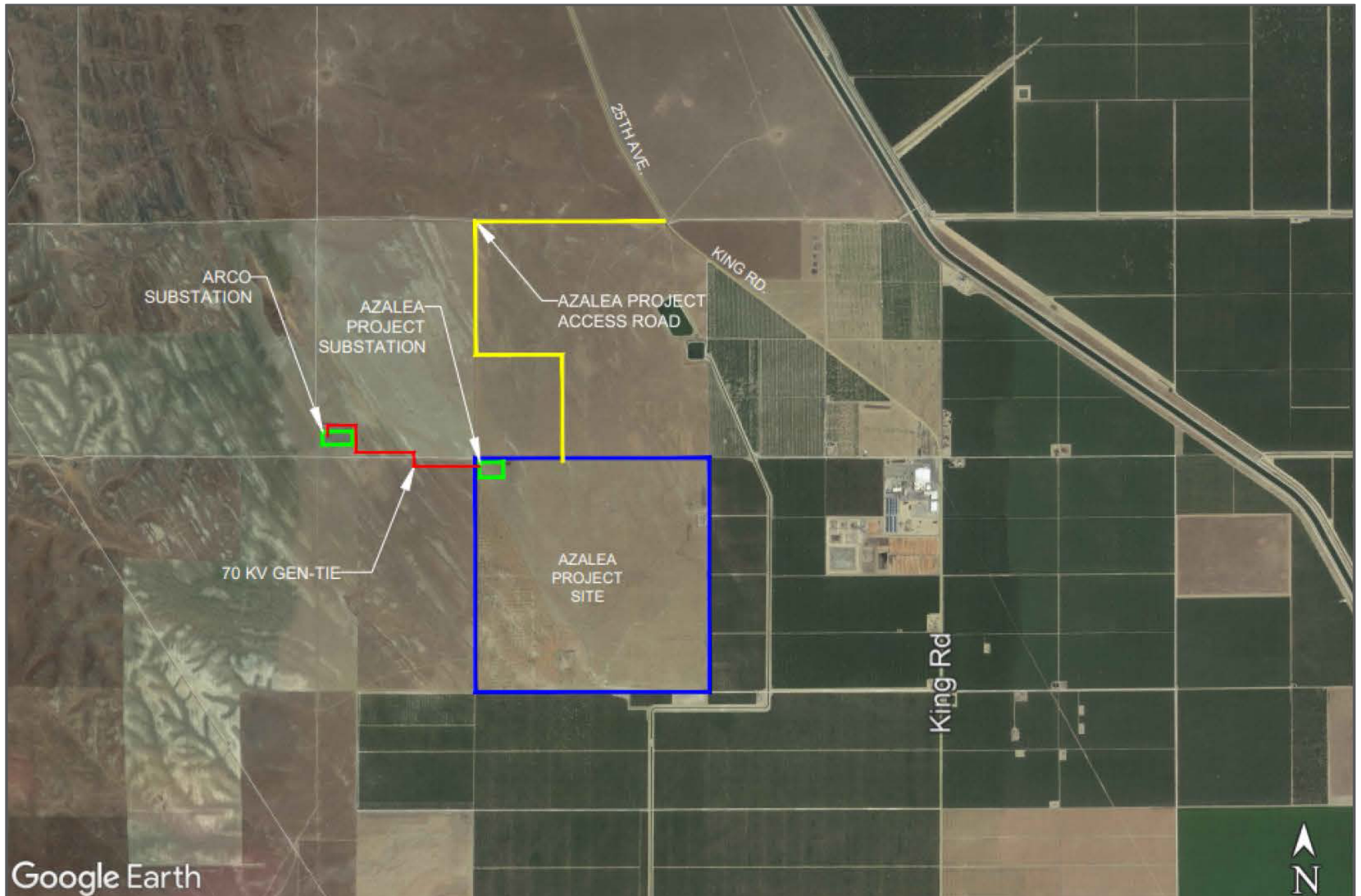
FIGURE 2: Local Vicinity Map

Azalea Solar Facility



SOURCE: Kern County, 2021

FIGURE 3: Existing Parcel Map



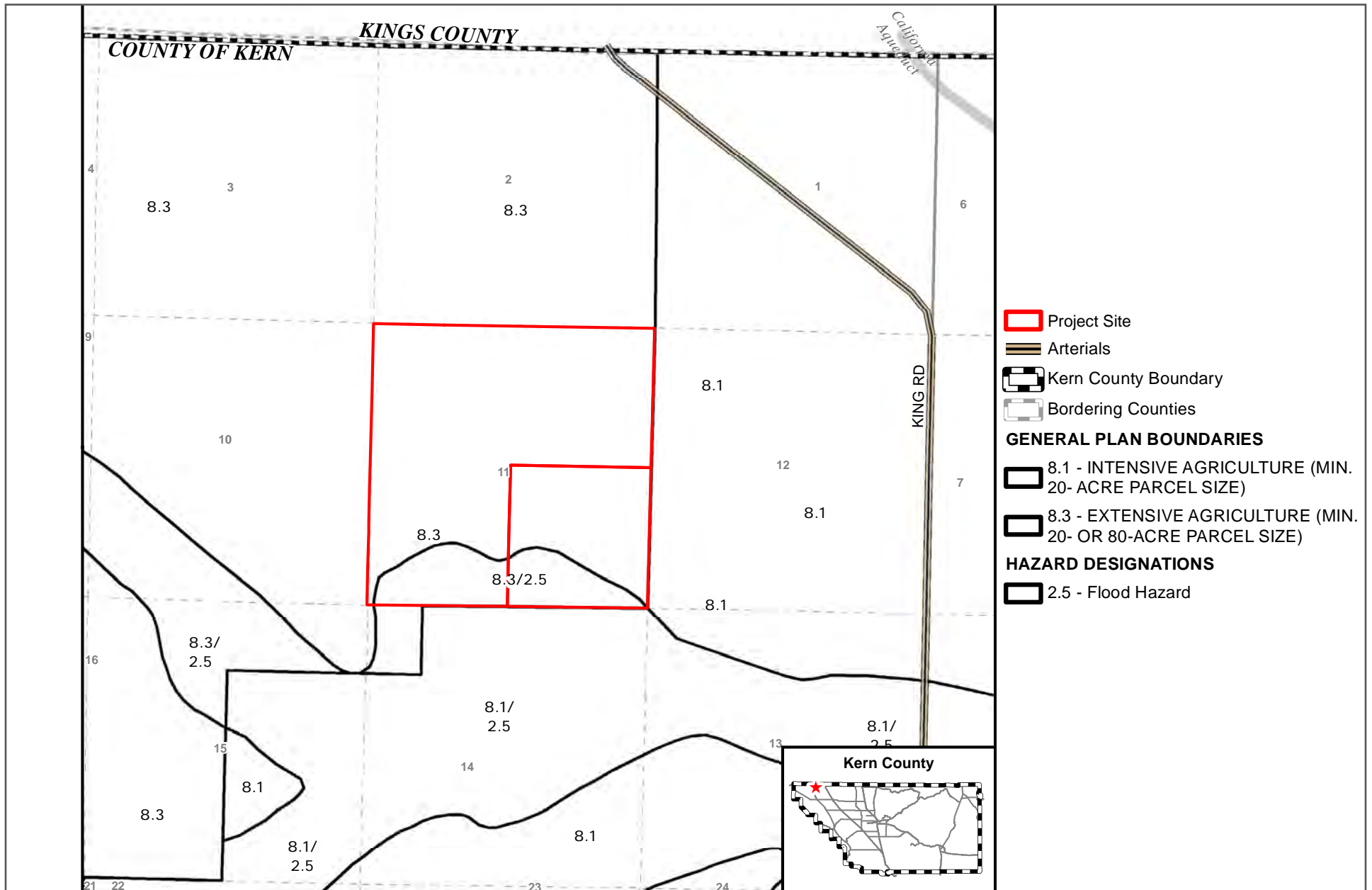
SOURCE: Google Earth, 2021



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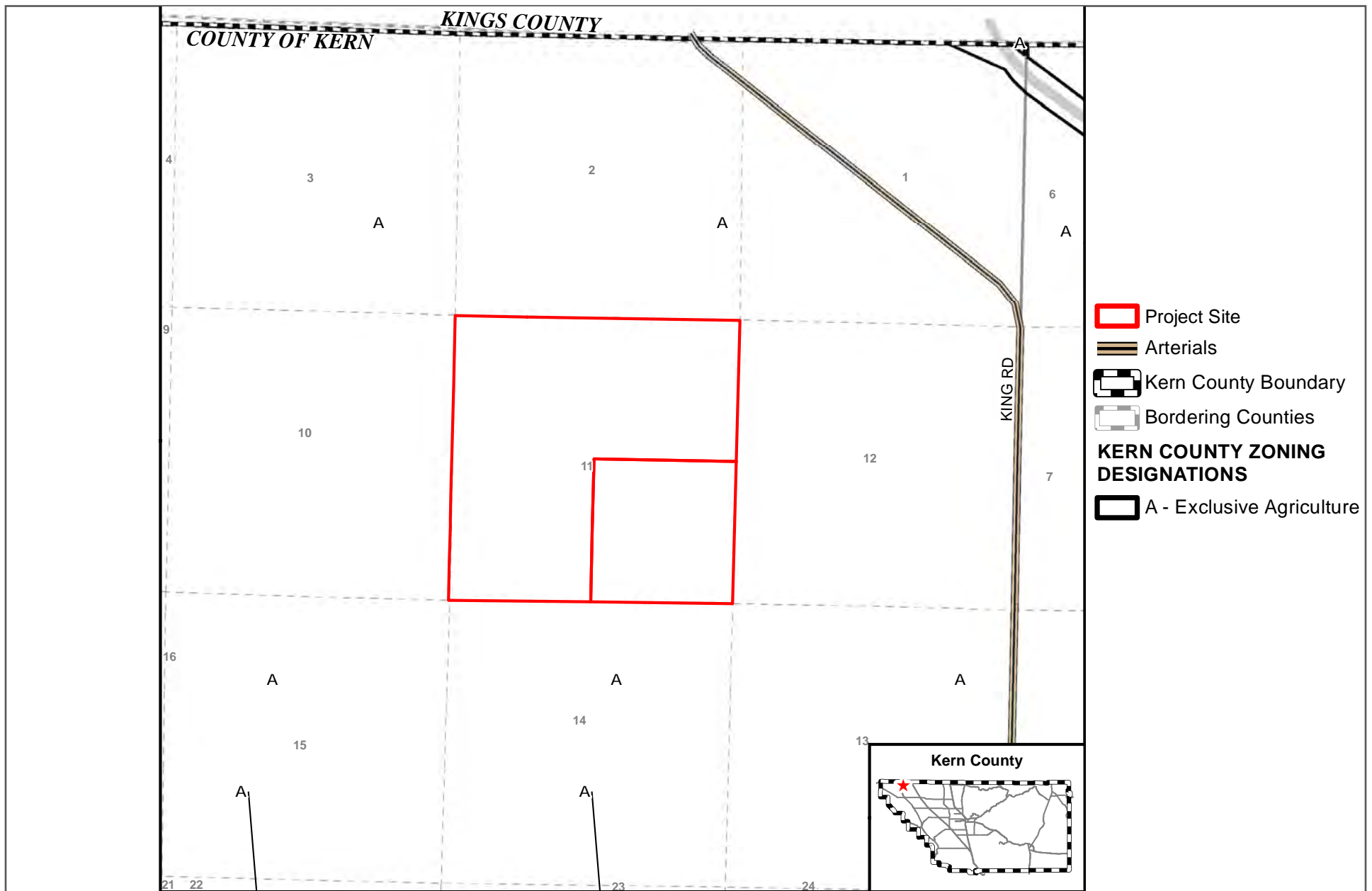
FIGURE 4: Aerial Photograph

Azalea Solar Facility



SOURCE: Kern County, 2021

FIGURE 5: Existing General Plan Designations



SOURCE: Kern County, 2021

FIGURE 6: Existing Zoning Classifications



SOURCE: US Federal Emergency Management Agency, 2021



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.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural and Forestry Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology and Water Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation and Traffic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildfire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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:

Printed Name:

Terrance Smalls

Date:

9/30/21

Title:

Supervising Planner



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 were 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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- (a-d) The aesthetic features of the existing visual environment in the project area are relatively uniform, with broad, dry, flat landscapes. The project site is generally surrounded by undeveloped land and agricultural land and facilities. The rural community of Lost Hills is located approximately 14 miles southeast of the project site and consists predominantly of rural residential uses. According to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) California Scenic Highway Mapping System, the closest eligible state scenic highway is State Route (SR) 41 between SR 46 and SR 33 located approximately 12 miles northwest of the project site. Given the distance from the project site and intervening elevated topographic features including low lying hills, the proposed project would not substantially change existing views from SR 41. The proposed project, however, would alter the landscape on the project site and portions of the project would be visible from public roads such as King Road/25th Avenue. The solar arrays are designed to absorb sunlight to maximize electrical output; therefore, they would not create significant reflective surfaces or the potential for glint/glare during the day.

The above project impacts 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act Contract?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- (a) According to the California Department of Conservation (CCDOC), California Important Farmland Finder Map, there are no agricultural lands designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance located within the project site. The portion of the project site that would be developed with the solar array is classified as Grazing Land and the portion of the site proposed to be developed with the gen-tie route is and the portion that would be developed as road access is classified as Grazing Land or Nonagricultural and Natural Vegetation. There is land designated as Prime Farmland immediately adjacent to the east and south of the project site and land designated as Unique Farmland immediately adjacent to the east of the project site. Construction



and/or operation of the proposed project would not result in the direct conversion of designated Farmland to a nonagricultural use and there would be no impact. No further analysis in the EIR is required.

- (b) The project site and surrounding area includes land that is currently zoned as A (Exclusive Agriculture). According to the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, a commercial solar facility is a compatible use within the A zone district. The construction and operation of a solar energy generating facility on the site would require the approval of a CUP. The project site does contain lands that are subject to Williamson Act contracts, either in active or in nonrenewal status. As such, there would be impacts to Williamson Act lands. This issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.
- (c) No lands affected by the proposed project are zoned as forest land or timberland, or for timberland production. Therefore, the project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause the rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned for timberland production. Therefore, there would be no impact and further analysis in the EIR is not required.
- (d) The project site is neither situated on forest or timberland nor is located near any such areas that are currently under production. There is no land in the vicinity of the project site that is zoned as forest land, timberland, or lands zoned for timberland production. Therefore, there would be no impact related to the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No further analysis is warranted in the EIR.
- (e) As mentioned in responses (c) and (d), the project site is not designated as forest land and forest land or timberlands do not occur in the project vicinity. As mentioned in response (a) above, the project site is not classified as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance however, there are active farmlands located adjacent to the project site that are classified as Prime Farmland or Unique Farmland. The proposed project could have indirect impacts on the existing environment that would affect existing agricultural uses. Therefore, further evaluation is required in the EIR.
- (f) The project site is not subject to an open space contract made pursuant to the California Land Conservation Act of 1965 or the Farmland Security Zone Contract. The project would therefore not 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). No impact would occur, and no further evaluation is required in the EIR.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
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:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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:				
<u>Operational and Area Sources</u>				
Reactive organic gases (ROG): 10 tons per year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oxides of nitrogen (NO _x): 10 tons per year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Particulate matter (PM ₁₀): 15 tons per year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Stationary Sources - as Determined by District Rules</u>				
Severe nonattainment: 25 tons per year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extreme nonattainment: 10 tons per year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District.				
<u>Operational and Area Sources</u>				
Reactive organic gases (ROG): 25 tons per year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oxides of nitrogen (NO _x): 25 tons per year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Particulate matter (PM ₁₀): 15 tons per year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Stationary Sources – as Determined by District Rules</u>				
25 tons per year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



RESPONSES:

- (a-d) The project site is located entirely within the jurisdiction of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD), in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB). The SJVAB is designated as a nonattainment area for both the State and federal ozone standards and the State particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) standard. Project construction would generate emissions of reactive organic gases (ROG) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), both of which are known as ozone precursors, and PM₁₀ that could result in significant impacts to air quality in the area.

SJVAPCD's most recently adopted air quality management plans are its 2016 Ozone Plan for 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard (SJVAPCD, 2016) and its 2018 Plan for the 1997, 2006, and 2012 PM_{2.5} Standards (SJVAPCD, 2018). Further analysis of the project's air quality impacts is warranted to determine whether the proposed project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of SJVAPCD's applicable air quality plan for attainment and, if so, to determine the reasonable and feasible mitigation measures that could be imposed.

The proposed project is not located within the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District (EKAPCD) and, therefore, its adopted thresholds do not apply. However, as noted above, the project is located within the SJVAPCD, which is designated as a nonattainment area for the State and federal ozone standards and the State PM_{2.5} standard. As such, the emissions of ozone precursors (ROG and NO_x) and PM_{2.5} during construction and operation of the project could result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of these criteria pollutants in the SJVAPCD. Thus, the project's contribution to cumulative air quality impacts in the SJVAPCD could be potentially significant.

Sensitive receptors located in the project area consist of rural residential dwellings located at varying distances from the project site. The nearest sensitive receptor to the project site is the rural residence approximately 1 mile to the south of the project site. The closest school to the site is the A.M. Thomas Middle School, located approximately 14 miles southeast of the project site. The nearest sensitive receptor, the rural residence, 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 PM₁₀) that could adversely affect air quality for the sensitive receptor.

Additionally, exposure to Valley Fever from fugitive dust generated during construction is a potentially significant impact. There is the potential that cocci spores could be stirred up during excavation, grading, and earth-moving activities, exposing construction workers and the sensitive receptor to these spores and thereby to the possibility of contracting Valley Fever.

The project would not have any stationary sources or equipment located on-site that would generate objectionable odors. During construction activities, only short-term, temporary odors from vehicle exhaust and construction equipment engines would occur. These odors would be temporary and would be dispersed rapidly.

The project impacts listed above 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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- (a-d) The project site contains undeveloped land with grassland and natural vegetation. There is a potential for candidate, sensitive, or special-status plants and wildlife species to be present on-site or in the project vicinity. The findings of field surveys conducted to determine the presence of candidate, sensitive, or special-status plant and animal species on-site and in the surrounding area will be included in the EIR.



The project site is undeveloped and is dominated by grassland and natural vegetation. Field surveys for riparian and other sensitive natural communities will be completed for the proposed project, and the results will be incorporated into the EIR.

Federal or State-protected water-based resources such as streams and washes could be present on the project site and might be impacted by project construction activities. A determination as to whether the project site contains features under federal or State jurisdiction will be conducted as part of the EIR. Impacts to protected wetlands would be considered potentially significant. The project site and surrounding area may be used for migration or dispersal by some wildlife species. Project construction and operation could also remove foraging habitat.

These project impacts will be further evaluated in the EIR.

- (e-f) The project site is located outside of the range of Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) which are protected under the California Desert Native Plants Act (CDNPA) and California Endangered Species Act (CESA). There are no oak woodlands located within the project site and the proposed project does not conflict with General Provision 1.10.10 of the Kern County General Plan regarding oak tree conservation. Implementation of the proposed project also does not have the potential to impact Joshua tree because none exist on the project site.

As currently designed, the project is considered to be consistent with the Land Use, Open Space, and Conservation Element of the Kern County General Plan. There are no other adopted conservation plans for protection of biological resources governing the project area. No impact would occur as the proposed project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan. No further analysis in the EIR is warranted.



	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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

(a-c) The project site consists of undeveloped land. Development of the proposed project would require ground disturbance for grading, installation of the solar arrays, gen-tie line, other electrical improvements such as the BESS and placement of underground electrical and communications lines. The proposed project could potentially impact historical or cultural resources, including resources that are undiscovered or that may be buried underground. A cultural resources survey will be conducted for the proposed project as part of the EIR, to determine presence or potential presence of archaeological and historical resources and identify potential impacts to historical and/or archaeological cultural resources and to formulate avoidance or mitigation measures, if applicable.

There is no evidence that the project site is located within an area likely to contain human remains, and discovery of human remains during project earthmoving activities is not anticipated. Although, impacts to human remains are anticipated to be less than significant, inadvertent discovery of such remains is possible 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
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- (a-b) Construction of the proposed project would involve on-site energy demand and consumption related to use of oil in the form of gasoline and diesel fuel for construction worker vehicle trips, hauling and materials delivery truck trips, and operation of off-road construction equipment. In addition, 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 sites where energy supply cannot be met via a hookup to the existing electricity grid.

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.

The above listed project impacts will be further evaluated 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



RESPONSES:

- (a-f) Due to the location of active faults in the general region, strong seismic ground shaking could occur at the project site, resulting in damage to above and below ground structures and other site improvements if not properly designed to withstand strong ground shaking. Construction of the proposed project would be subject to all applicable ordinances of the Kern County Building Code (Chapter 17.08). Kern County has adopted the CBC which imposes substantially similar requirements for design to resist strong ground motions as the IBC. Adherence to applicable regulations would minimize the potential impacts associated with the proposed project.

A geotechnical investigation of the project site will be conducted to determine the physical characteristics of the underlying soils and geologic formations and to identify if any unstable conditions exist that could be exacerbated by proposed construction activities. The results of these investigations will be provided in the EIR.

The above listed project impacts 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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- (a-b) Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions emitted by human activity are implicated in global climate change or global warming. The principal GHGs are CO₂, methane (CH₄), NO_x, ozone, water vapor, and fluorinated gases. The temporary construction activities associated with the proposed project, which would involve operation of heavy off-road equipment, on-road trucks (for deliveries and hauling), and construction worker commute trips, would generate GHGs through exhaust emissions. However, as a solar facility, the proposed project is expected to displace traditional sources of electricity production that involve combustion energy sources (e.g., burning coal, fuel oil, or natural gas). As such, the provision of solar energy by the proposed project would produce GHG-free electricity that is anticipated to offset GHGs that would otherwise be generated by traditional fuel combustion sources of electricity. The project's GHG emissions generated during construction of the project and the potential GHG offsets resulting from operation of the project, as well as any potential conflicts with any applicable plan, policy or regulation will be identified and quantified in the EIR. Additionally, the project's potential GHG impacts and the potential GHG offsets resulting from operation of the project will be examined in the EIR, with respect to the objectives of statewide programs to reduce GHGs associated with energy generation.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials				
Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Expose people or structures, directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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:				



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than Significant Impact	No Impact
i. Occur as immature stages and adults in numbers considerably in excess of those found in the surrounding environment; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Are associated with design, layout, and management of project operations; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Disseminate widely from the property; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Cause detrimental effects on the public health or well-being of the majority of the surrounding population.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- (a-b) Wastes that would be generated during construction of the proposed project would be non-hazardous, and would consist of materials such as cardboard, wood pallets, copper wire, scrap steel, common trash, and wood wire spools. Although field equipment used during construction activities could contain various hazardous materials (i.e., hydraulic oil, diesel fuel, grease, lubricants, solvents, adhesives, paints, etc.), these materials are not considered to be acutely hazardous, would be used in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, and all applicable regulations. In addition, hazardous fuels and lubricants used on field equipment would be subject to a Construction Waste Management Plan and, if required, a Spill Prevention, Containment and Countermeasure Plan.

The operation of the proposed project would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of any hazardous materials as defined by the Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act. During construction, the proposed project would include the transport of general construction materials (i.e., concrete, wood, metal, fuel, etc.) as well as materials necessary to construct the proposed PV arrays.

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. Potential hazards associated with BESS include increased potential for electrical shock and chemical release associated with the batteries used. Impacts resulting from the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials during construction and operation of the proposed project will be evaluated further in the EIR.

- (c) The closest school to the project site is the A.M. Thomas Middle School, located approximately 14 miles southeast of the project site. The project site is not located within one quarter mile of a school. Additionally, the proposed project is not anticipated emit hazardous emissions or involve handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste. Therefore, there would be no impact and no further analysis is required in the EIR.



- (d-f) Based on a review of the Cortese List Data Resources, there are no hazardous materials sites located on the project site. The nearest hazardous materials sites listed on the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker database are located approximately six miles southeast of the project site and are LUST cleanup sites (SWRCB, 2021). Therefore, there would be no impact and no further analysis is warranted in the EIR.

The nearest public airport to the project site is the Wasco-Kern County Airport located approximately 31 miles southeast of the project site. The project site is not located within any safety or noise zones for the Wasco-Kern County Airport. Due to the nature of the proposed land use, impacts from air traffic hazards or excessive aircraft noise are not anticipated to occur for people residing or working in the project area with respect to the project's proximity to an airport. Therefore, there would be no impact and no further analysis is warranted in the EIR.

As required by routine and standard construction specifications administered by Kern County, road access would be maintained throughout construction, and appropriate detours would be provided in the event of potential road closures. Therefore, no impacts related to impairment of the implementation of or physical interference with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan would occur during construction.

The small size of the operational work force would not generate significant traffic volumes during an emergency evacuation scenario that could complicate area-wide emergency evacuation efforts. The access road that would be constructed as part of the proposed project would not affect designated emergency evacuation routes as King Road and 25th Avenue are not designated evacuation routes. No impacts are anticipated, further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

- (g-h) According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), Kern County Fire Hazards Severity Zone Maps, the project site is located within a Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone in a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) (CalFire, 2007). Moderate zones are typically wildland supporting areas of low fire frequency and relatively modest fire behavior. The proposed project would comply with all applicable wildland fire management plans and policies established by CalFire and the Kern County Fire Department. Accordingly, the proposed project is not expected to expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires.

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 (i.e., trash, food containers, etc.) 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. Although impacts are anticipated to be less than significant, further analysis of this issue will be discussed in the EIR.



	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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. impede or redirect flood flows?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- (a-b) Construction of the project would be subject to County, State, and federal water quality regulations. The project site is located within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Project construction activities have the potential to result in erosion, sedimentation, and discharge of construction debris, and could result in the discharge of wastewater and runoff at the project site. During construction, potable water would be brought to the site for



drinking and domestic needs. Non-potable water usage during construction, primarily for dust-suppression purposes, is not expected to exceed 75 acre-feet over the 12-month construction phase. A comprehensive hydrology and water quality impact analysis as well as a water supply assessment will be prepared, and the findings will be further analyzed in the EIR.

- (c) Construction and operational activities associated with the proposed project would alter existing drainage conditions and create impervious surfaces that would have the potential to result in an increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff during storm events. A hydrologic study will be prepared for the project in accordance with Kern County requirements. Potentially significant impacts will be analyzed in the EIR.

During construction and following installation of the solar arrays, the majority of the site would remain as pervious surface. The design of the solar arrays is such that storm water infiltration would occur similar to the existing conditions. No discharges to or alterations of any municipal stormwater drainage systems are proposed. Similarly, no component of the project would generate a substantial source of polluted runoff. The construction period SWPPP and the operational period Water Quality Management Plan would ensure the proper control and treatment, if necessary, of any storm water prior to discharge. This impact will be further discussed in the EIR.

- (d) The project is not located near an ocean or enclosed body of water, and therefore would not be subject to inundation by seiche or tsunami. Mudflows are a type of mass wasting or landslide, where earth and surface materials are rapidly transported downhill under the force of gravity and are often triggered by heavy rainfall and soil that is not able to sufficiently drain or absorb water and the super-saturation results in soil and rock materials to become unstable and slide away. Due to the relatively flat topography of the project site and surrounding area, the potential to be inundated by mudflow is considered remote.

The proposed project would not result in any construction within the Zone A area. The project would be reviewed by the Kern County Public Works Department for adherence to all applicable floodplain management standards. Because of the potential for flood hazards to occur, and related risk of release of pollutants due to project inundation, further analysis of this is required in the EIR.

- (e) The project site 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), located immediately adjacent to the east and south of the project site. All water usage for the proposed project would conform to all of the applicable plans and BMPs. A water supply assessment will be completed for the project to analyze potential impacts to groundwater resources, including any potential conflicts with the IRWMP. This impact will 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- (a) The project site is located on undeveloped land. The rural community of Lost Hills is located approximately 15 miles southeast of the project site and consists predominantly of rural residential uses. Rural residential uses in Kettleman City, a census-designated place in Kern County, are also located approximately 15 miles north of the project site. The proposed project would neither physically encroach into nor divide or restrict access to Lost Hills or Kettleman City. No new roadways or other linear elements that would have the potential to restrict existing access or movement within the local community are proposed. The proposed project would not physically divide an established community and there would be no impact. Therefore, no further analysis in the EIR is warranted.
- (b) The project site is located within the Kern County General Plan area with portions of the parcels that would be developed with the project access road located in Kings County. As shown on *Figure 5: Existing General Plan Land Use Designations*, the project site consists of 6 parcels designated by the Kern County General Plan as map code 8.3/2.5 (Extensive Agriculture, Minimum 20 Acre Parcel Size, Flood Hazard Overlay) and 8.3 (Extensive Agriculture, Minimum 20 Acre Parcel Size). Kings County land use designations include General Agricultural 40 and zone AG-40. 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.

The project proponent is requesting a CUP to allow for the construction and operation of a solar facility and BESS. Use of the A zone district for a solar project is listed as an allowable use. 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.

With approval of the requested CUP the proposed project is not anticipated 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- (a) The project site is neither designated as a mineral recovery area nor within a designated mineral and petroleum resource site by the Kern County General Plan. Additionally, the site is not identified as a mineral resource zone by the State Department of Conservation – Geologic Energy Management (CalGEM) Division. However, research has found that there are mineral rights holders within the project area. While it is not anticipated that construction and operation of the proposed project would interfere with mineral extraction and processing, research is ongoing to determine the depth of the mineral rights and therefore impacts are unknown at this time. If determined to be of no impact to mineral rights holders through continued research, the topic may be scoped out from further analysis in the EIR.
- (b) As mentioned previously, the project site is not located within a designated mineral and petroleum resource site within the Kern County General Plan. The project site is not located within the County’s NR (Natural Resources) or PE (Petroleum Extraction) zoned districts. Therefore, the installation of the solar facilities would not preclude future mineral resource development nor would it result in the loss of a locally important mineral resource recover site. There would be no impact and no further analysis is warranted in the EIR.



	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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- (a-c) 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. Lost Hills Wonderful Park, a local park, is located approximately 15 miles southeast of the project site. The closest school to the site is the A.M. Thomas Middle School, located approximately 14 miles southeast of the project site.

Noise generated by the proposed project would occur primarily during the construction phase whereas as the long-term operation of the solar facility would be relatively quiet. Groundborne vibration and groundborne noise could originate from the operation of heavy off-road equipment and heavy-duty trucks delivering materials and machinery during the construction phase of the project. Operation of the proposed project would generate very little noise and would generate minimal noise from employee vehicle trips and work including repairs and maintenance of the facilities. Potential noise impacts during project construction or operations will be further analyzed in the EIR.

- (d) The nearest public airport to the project site is the Wasco-Kern County Airport located approximately 31 miles southeast of the project site. The project site is not located within any safety or noise zones for the Wasco-Kern County Airport. Noise from occasional aircraft flyovers would not have a significant effect on the small workforce on-site who would normally be working indoors except when outdoor maintenance or repair activities are required. The proposed project would not generate any impacts that could worsen the levels of aircraft noise. 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- (a) Although the proposed project would provide new employment consistent with the adopted Kern County General Plan goals, plans, and policies, long-term employment opportunities would be minimal. The proposed project would require an operational staff of up to five full-time employees.

It is estimated that up to 500 workers per day would be required during peak construction periods for the proposed project. The entire construction process is anticipated to take 12 months. Therefore, the majority of project-generated jobs would be from the local and regional area and would occur on a temporary and short-term 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 communities of Lost Hills and Kettleman City. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to directly or indirectly induce the development of any new housing or businesses within the local communities.

During the operational phase, the project would require up to five full-time equivalent (FTE) personnel (or personnel hours totaling 5 FTE positions), who would commute to the site. 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 proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce substantial unplanned population growth and further analysis in the EIR is not warranted.

- (b) The project site is currently undeveloped and does not contain any existing housing units. The proposed project would therefore not displace any existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No further evaluation of this issue is required in the EIR.



	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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Police protection?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv. Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
v. Other public facilities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

(a)(i) **Fire Protection.** The Kern County Fire Department provides fire suppression and emergency medical services to the project area. The project site would be served by Fire Station #26, located at 14670 Lost Hills Rd, in the community of Lost Hills, approximately 15 miles southeast of the project site. Adherence to all applicable regulations would reduce wildfire ignitions and prevent the spread of wildfires. However, construction and operation activities may result in increased demand for firefighting services in the area. Therefore, the potential impact on fire services from construction and operation of the project is considered potentially significant and will be further evaluated in the EIR.

(a)(ii) **Police Protection.** Law enforcement and public safety services in the project area are provided by the Kern County Sheriff's Department. The project site would be served by the North Area Substation located at 181 East First. Although the potential is low, the proposed project may attract vandals or thieves that would require response from the Sheriff's Department. On-site security measures (i.e., on-site monitoring equipment, gated access) would be provided and access to the project site during construction and operation would be restricted, thereby minimizing the need for local Sheriff surveillance. Nonetheless, project impacts on local sheriff services could potentially result in an increased demand for law enforcement services, or require the construction of new facilities that could result in an environmental impact. This issue will be evaluated in the EIR.

(a)(iii) **Schools.** During project construction, a relatively large number of construction workers would be required. It is expected that most of these workers would live in the local as well as broader regional



area and commute to the project site from the surrounding communities where their children would already be enrolled in school. In addition, employee such as these would already be making contribution through local taxes that would be used to fund schools. . The proposed project would not require employees or their children to relocate to the project area. Therefore, substantial temporary increases in population that would adversely affect local school populations are not expected. Likewise, the operational workforce is small (approximately 5 full-time positions) and not anticipated to generate a permanent increase in population that would impact school populations or require construction of new school facilities. Therefore, no significant impacts to schools are anticipated to occur and further analysis is not warranted in the EIR.

- (a)(iv) **Parks.** The population increase that would be experienced during the construction phase of the proposed project would be temporary and limited to construction workers at the project site. Such conditions would not result in a substantial new demand for parks or recreational facilities. The number of employees required for project operations would be minimal and they would not likely frequent any public parks during, before, or after their work shifts. The up to 5 full-time equivalent employees would not result in construction of numerous new housing units that could significantly increase the local population and related demand for public parkland with the result of requiring the construction of new park facilities. Therefore, no significant impacts to parks are anticipated to occur, and further analysis of this issue is not warranted 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. Public policies in the Kern County General 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- (a) It is estimated that up to 500 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 proposed project would require 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. 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, and therefore, no deterioration of any such facilities would occur or require the construction of new facilities as a result of project implementation. Impacts would not occur, and further analysis is not warranted in the EIR.
- (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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- (a) 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 roadways that are likely to be used during construction and operation of the proposed project.

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, the proposed project would require up to five full-time employees who would commute to and from the site and would result in an addition of average daily trips. Ongoing maintenance and periodic repair are also anticipated to produce negligible traffic impacts. These potential impacts on the local roadway system from construction related vehicle trips and project's operational traffic on the area roadway system will be further evaluated in the EIR.

- (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 shift the focus from driver delay to reduction of vehicular greenhouse gas 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 25 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 less than 110 or fewer daily vehicle trips may be presumed to have a less than significant impact involving VMT. Further analysis of 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. 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 would be primarily accessed from existing King Road to the east. During construction, especially during peak periods of heavy truck traffic and peak levels of construction workers, there is a potential for conflicts between construction traffic and normal traffic flows, especially at intersections where queuing could occur. This requires further analysis in the EIR.

No new roadway design or features (i.e., sharp curves, dangerous intersections, or other hazardous features) would be required that could result in transportation-related hazards or safety concerns. The new access road and internal site access roads must be designed in accordance with the County’s street standards that assure safe ingress/egress. The project buildings and other structures would be set back from roadways as required by the Kern County Zoning Ordinance. Given these considerations, significant impacts related to increased hazards are not anticipated to occur; however, additional analysis will be included in the EIR.

- (d) Emergency vehicle access must be maintained at all times throughout construction activities, in accordance with the County’s routine/standard construction specifications.. Further, construction activities would not be permitted to impede emergency access to any local roadways or surrounding properties. Construction period impacts are considered less than significant but will be further analyzed in the EIR.

Although no significant operational impacts related to emergency access are anticipated to occur, further analysis of this issue will be provided 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- (a)(i)-(a)(ii) Since the project site is undeveloped, there is a potential for tribal cultural resources to exist either on-site or on surrounding lands. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to impact tribal cultural resources during site clearance and earthmoving activities. All tribes with possible cultural affiliation and interest within the project area will be notified pursuant to the requirements of Assembly Bill 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.



	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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- (a) The proposed project would not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded municipal wastewater facilities, and no connection to a public wastewater system is required or proposed. Impacts would be less than significant in this regard; however, further analysis in the EIR will be provided. The proposed project would not require expanded or new storm drainage facilities because the proposed solar facility would not generate a significant increase in the amount of impervious surfaces that would increase runoff during storm events. The proposed project is not anticipated to result in a significant increase in water demand/use; however, water would be needed for solar panel washing and dust suppression during operation. Impacts associated with construction of the telecommunications and transmission line facilities will be evaluated in the EIR.

Impacts would be potentially significant and further analysis in the EIR is warranted.



- (b) Water demand for panel washing and O&M domestic use is not expected to exceed 60 acre-feet per year during operation. Water usage during construction, primarily for dust-suppression purposes, is not expected to exceed 75 acre-feet over the 12 month construction phase. Water is anticipated to be obtained from on-site wells or delivered via truck from an off-site source(s). A water supply assessment will be completed for the project to analyze potential water sources and potential impacts to water supplies. This potentially significant impact will be addressed further in the EIR.
- (c) The proposed project would include construction of an on-site septic system to serve the O&M building. All wastewater disposal for project operations would be handled on-site. Therefore, the project would not adversely affect any existing wastewater treatment facilities and further analysis of this issue is not warranted in the EIR.
- (d) The proposed project is not expected to generate a significant amount of solid wastes because of the small number of workers and the absence of activities that would generate wastes on an ongoing basis. 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. Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant and no further analysis in the EIR is warranted.
- (e) The proposed project would generate solid waste during construction, operation, and decommissioning, thus requiring the consideration of waste reduction and recycling measures. Further analysis of the pertinent solid waste reduction and management regulations applicable to this project will be included 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RESPONSES:

- (a-d) According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), Kern County Fire Hazards Severity Zone Maps, the project site is located within a Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone in a Local Responsibility Area. Therefore, the potential for wildfire on the project site exists. The site is located in a rural, sparsely developed area with limited population. The project site is not identified for any purpose in an adopted emergency evacuation plan to address wildfires or other types of emergencies. 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 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.



	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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Does the project have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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.
- (b) The project has the potential to contribute to cumulatively significant aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, traffic, and wildfire 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.
- (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 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.