

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

This form and the descriptive information, in the application package constitute the contents of Initial Study pursuant to County Guidelines (Ord.3040) and State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15063).

PROJECT LABEL:

APN:	0463-141-08 & -12
APPLICANT:	Foundation Windpower, LLC
COMMUNITY:	Apple Valley
LOCATION:	Approximately 3.5 miles northeast of the intersection of Central Rd & Quarry Rd
PROJECT NO:	P201100466
STAFF:	Tracy Creason
REP(S):	SAA
PROPOSAL:	Conditional Use Permit to install two 397 ft tall wind turbines on an approximately 1600-square foot portion of two parcels totaling about 145 acres with roughly 3900 linear feet of overhead lines to provide supplemental power to the CEMEX Black Mountain Quarry Plant

USGS Quad: Stoddard Well; Fairview Valley
T, R, Section: T6N R2W Sec. 8 NW¼
Thomas Bros.: 4118; F-H 5 & 6

Planning Area: Desert Region
Zoning: IR
Overlays: Biological Resources; Cultural Resources

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Lead agency: County of San Bernardino
Land Use Services - Planning
15900 Smoke Tree St.
Hesperia, CA 92345

Contact person: TRACY CREASON, Senior Planner

Phone No: (760) 995-8140

E-mail: tcreason@lusc.sbcounty.gov

Fax No: (760) 995-8167

Project Sponsor: John Pimentel – Foundation Windpower, LLC
200 Middlefield Rd., Suite 203
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 269-8933
John.Pimentel@Foundationwindpower.com

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Foundation Windpower (Applicant) proposes to install two 397-foot tall wind turbines to supplement power at the CEMEX Black Mountain Quarry Plant. The Applicant would install the turbines on an approximately 1600-square foot portion of two parcels totaling about 145 acres. The system would include roughly 3900 linear feet of overhead lines from the turbines to the plant, proposed on 25-foot tall poles placed approximately every 300 feet mainly along an existing unpaved access road on CEMEX property. The project site is north and east of the Town of Apple Valley approximately 3.5 miles northeast of the intersection of Central Road and Quarry Road in unincorporated San Bernardino County. The project is in the First Supervisorial District. The Land Use Zoning designation for the site is IR (Regional Industrial). No hazard overlays regulate the site.

ENVIRONMENTAL/EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS:

The project site is within the Mojave Desert and is on hilly terrain, with elevations on-site ranging from 3,775 to 3,925 feet above mean sea level. The site of the proposed project lies within the Mojave Desert region, characterized by mountain ranges, broad alluvial fans, terraces, and playas.

The two parcels upon which the wind turbines are proposed are part of the almost 550 acres of property owned and used by CEMEX. According to the *Biological Assessment* prepared by BioResource Consultants, Inc., “the project site supports suitable habitat for the burrowing owl, desert tortoise, Mojave monkeyflower, and creamy blazing star. In addition, the site supports suitable habitat that provides potential roosting and nesting sites for birds protected by the CDFG [California Department of Fish and Game] and the MBTA [Migratory Bird Treaty Act].” The Assessment went on to conclude that with implementation of project avoidance and minimization measures, potential direct and indirect impacts would be less than significant.

AREA	EXISTING LAND USE	ZONING/OVERLAY DISTRICTS
Site	CEMEX Black Mountain Quarry	IR – Regional Industrial
North	CEMEX Black Mountain Quarry	IR – Regional Industrial
South	CEMEX Black Mountain Quarry	IR – Regional Industrial
East	CEMEX Black Mountain Quarry	IR – Regional Industrial
West	CEMEX Black Mountain Quarry	IR – Regional Industrial

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The proposed project is for the development of two 397-foot tall wind turbines to supplement power to the CEMEX Black Mountain Quarry Plant. Each turbine will include a pier-type foundation, approximately 15-feet in diameter and 30-feet deep. Foundation Windpower estimates that each footprint will total approximately 800-square feet. Approximately 3900 linear feet of overhead wire will connect the wind turbine transformers to the existing substation at the CEMEX Plant. Twenty-five foot tall poles, spaced approximately every 300 feet, will carry these lines to the substation. The majority of the overhead lines will follow an existing access road. The project will require new access roads to the bases of the wind turbines from those existing.

Construction of the project will take place in two phases: 1) site preparation and foundation construction, and 2) tower and turbine erection, electrical connection and commissioning. Phase 1 will occur over approximately ten to 12 working days. Phase 2 will begin between two and six months after the completion of Phase 1, depending upon the numerous factors. Phase 2 will occur over another two-week construction period. After construction, routine maintenance will occur periodically.

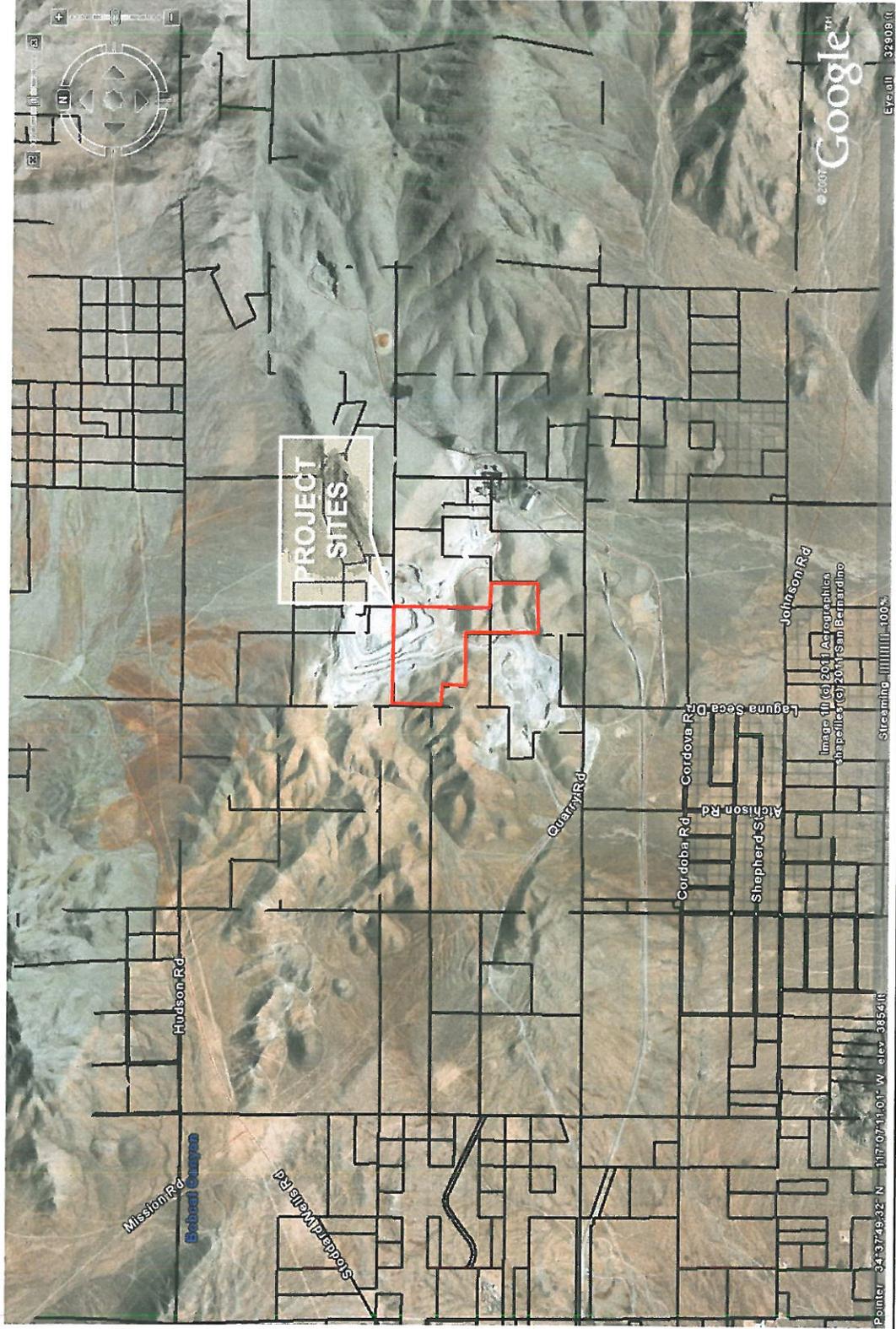
Other public agencies whose approval may be required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.):

Federal: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife

State of California: Fish and Game, Caltrans, Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Region), Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District

County of San Bernardino: Land Use Services – Code Enforcement, Building and Safety; Public Health – Environmental Health Services; Public Works – Land Development, Solid Waste, Traffic; and

Local: Apple Valley Fire



Vicinity Map
Google Maps 2007

EVALUATION FORMAT

County Staff prepared this initial study in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. This format of the study is as follows. Staff evaluated the project based upon its effect on 18 major categories of environmental factors. Staff reviewed each factor by responding to a series of questions regarding the impact of the project on each element of the overall factor. The Initial Study Checklist provides a formatted analysis that provides a determination of the effect of the project on the factor and its elements. Staff categorized the effect of the project into one of the following four categories of possible determinations:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Staff then provided substantiation to justify each determination. One of the four following conclusions summarizes of the analysis for each of the major environmental factors. These respectively are:

1. Significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required to evaluate these impacts, which are (Listing the impacts requiring analysis within the EIR).
2. Possible significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated and the following mitigation measures are required as a condition of project approval to reduce these impacts to a level below significant. The required mitigation measures are: (List mitigation measures)
3. No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required. (Optional mitigation may be added by stating: “As a precautionary measure to further reduce any potential for impacts, the following requirement shall apply”):
4. No impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

At the end of the analysis the required mitigation measures are restated and categorized as being either self- monitoring or as requiring a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

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 checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology /Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/ Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

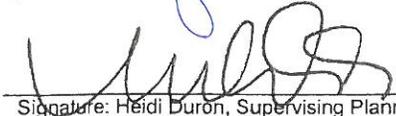
DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation, the following finding is made:

- The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- 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.
- The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- The proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- 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 (prepared by): Tracy Creason, Project Planner

5 APR 2012
Date


Signature: Heidi Duron, Supervising Planner

4/6/2012
Date

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS - Would the project				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION (Check if project is located within the view-shed of any Scenic Route listed in the General Plan):

I a) **Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed project is not visible from many areas easily accessible to the public, is situated on hilly terrain behind natural berms and ridges, and is in an area with few viewers. The applicant provided photo simulations of the proposed towers from six different locations: 1) the Wal-Mart Distribution Center near the intersection of Dale Evans Parkway and Johnson Road, 2) the intersection of Bell Mountain Road and Quarry Road, 3) the intersection of Bell Mountain Road and Interstate 15, 4) the intersection of National Trails Highway and Interstate 15, 5) the intersection of Bear Valley Road and Highway 18, and 6) the intersection of State Highway 247 and Lucerne Valley Cutoff. Of the six locations, the towers would be partially visible from the first three and unseen from the last three. The visual change potential of the proposed project is minimal. The development would alter the existing desert area but would conform to the existing adjacent CEMEX facilities. As a result, the scenic integrity of the areas surrounding this parcel would be affected slightly from its current state but would not be significantly impacted.

I b) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project would not substantially damage scenic resources or historic buildings associated with a state-designated scenic highway. A scenic highway is designated officially as a state scenic highway when the local jurisdiction adopts a scenic corridor protection program, applies for the California Department of Transportation for scenic highway approval, and receives notification from Caltrans that the highway has been designated as an official scenic highway. In the general area, Interstate 15, State Highway 18, and State Highway 247 are scenic routes. These scenic routes are 6 miles northwest, 10.2 miles south, and 8.7 miles east, respectively. The proposed towers would not be visible from either of the State Highways or from Interstate 15 to the south. The proposed towers and turbines would be partially visible from Interstate 15 to the northwest of the project site. The proposed project will not substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway, because there are no trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings on the

project site.

- I c) **Less than Significant Impact.** As mentioned above, the proposed project will be partially visible from one scenic route, Interstate 15 to the northwest of the site. It will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. The current visual character of the site includes desert wilderness, hills, ridges, and the existing CEMEX plant facilities and quarries.
- I d) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project would not be a new source of glare with the potential to adversely impact daytime views of the desert. However, because of the proposed tower height, they would include FAA-required warning lights. The project is also required to comply with San Bernardino County Ordinance No. 3900 that regulates glare, outdoor lighting, and night sky protection in the desert region. Therefore, the proposed facility would not have a significant impact on daytime or nighttime views in the area.

No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
<p>II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES - In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project, and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:</p>				
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 non-agricultural 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 forestland or conversion of forestland 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 forestland to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION (Check if project is located in the Important Farmlands Overlay):

II a-e) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not 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 non-agricultural use. The proposed project is located in an area designated "other" land on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program due to the area

being used for long-term mining activities. Zoning on the adjacent properties is IR (Regional Industrial), while zoning on nearby properties includes RC (Resource Conservation), IC (Community Industrial), RL, RL-5, RL-20, and RL-40 (Rural Living, 2.5-acre, 5-acre, 20-acre, and 40-acre minimum parcel sizes). The Town of Apple Valley is approximately 3.2 miles west of the project site. The proposed project site is in the high desert of Southern California, an area of extreme high and low temperatures, extremely low humidity, and water scarcity and will have no impact on forest resources.

No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION (Discuss conformity with the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management Plan (MDAQMP), if applicable):

III a) **Less than Significant Impact.** The Project site is located within the MDAQMP. The MDAQMD adopted the Mojave Desert Planning Area-Federal Particulate Matter Attainment Plan (Plan) in 1995 and the Ozone Attainment Plan in 2004. SESPE Consulting, Inc. prepared an Air Quality, Climate Change, and Noise Impact Assessment for the proposed project. The Air Quality Impact Analysis estimated emissions from construction and operation of the turbines as well as greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions offsets from the alternate energy generation. The project would not exceed any of the air quality thresholds associated with construction. The project would not exceed any operational air quality thresholds and in fact would result in a carbon dioxide equivalent benefit. Information found on the EPA website (<http://www.epa.gov/egrid>) supports this conclusion. In the WECC California subregion, which includes the sites associated with this proposal, the annual total output emission rate for greenhouse gases (GHGs) are:

- 681.01 pounds per MWh [Megawatt (10⁶) hour] of CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide)
- 28.29 pounds per GWh [Gigawatt (10⁹) hour] of CH₄ (Methane)
- 6.23 pounds per GWh of N₂O (Nitrous oxide)

According to the EPA, these emission rates are useful in estimating GHG emissions from electricity use. The two wind turbines proposed through this project will produce an estimated 8000 Megawatt hours of electricity in an average year, resulting in reductions in the emission rate of the GHGs listed above.

- III b) **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.** The project would contribute criteria pollutants in the area during the short-term project construction period. None of the activities associated with the proposed project would create a substantial permanent increase in the emissions of criteria pollutants that would be cumulatively considerable. The project will not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, because the proposed use(s) do not exceed established thresholds of concern as established by the District. The MDAQMD provided a response to the project notice indicating their support for “the development of renewable energy sources”, stating, “such development is expected to produce cumulative and regional environmental benefits.” The MDAQMD had no recommendations or other comments. Because the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board have designated portions of the MDAQMD as being in non-attainment for Ozone and Particulate Matter emissions, the project proponent must comply with the County’s general conditions and standards as well as project specific design and construction features to reduce any potential impacts.
- III c) **Less than Significant Impact.** Routine maintenance and repairs of the turbines would have no impact on the emissions of criteria pollutants that would be cumulatively considerable. The traffic analysis prepared for the proposed project indicates, “for the 20 years following construction, there will be approximately 20 car trips annually related to Operations and Maintenance.” After construction, the amount of air pollutants are expected to be reduced considerably as wind energy production systems do not generate emissions that would cause reduction of air quality or produce objectionable odors.
- III d) **No Impact.** The MDAQMD defines sensitive receptors as residences, schools, daycare centers, playgrounds, and medical facilities. There are widespread residences in the area, the closest being approximately 2.8 miles away. In addition, electricity generation via the use of wind turbine systems does not generate chemical emissions that would negatively contribute to air quality. Furthermore, the County’s general conditions and standards as well as project-specific design and construction features incorporated into the proposed project such as dust suppression techniques per MDAQMD’s Rule 403 would reduce any potential impacts from the project. No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no additional mitigation measures are required.
- III e) **No Impact.** Electricity generation via the use of wind turbine systems does not generate chemical emissions that would negatively contribute to air quality or produce objectionable odors. Potential odor generation associated with the proposed project would be limited to construction sources such as diesel exhaust and dust. No significant odor impacts related to project implementation are anticipated due to the nature and short-term extent of potential sources, as well as the intervening distance to sensitive receptors. Therefore, the operation of the project would have a less than significant impact associated with the creation of objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.
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Possible significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated and the following mitigation measures are required as conditions of project approval to reduce these impacts to a level below significant.

Mitigation Measure

AQ – Construction Mitigation. Developer shall submit written verification that all construction contracts and sub-contracts for the project contain provisions that require adherence to the following standards to reduce impacts to air quality: During construction, each contractor and subcontractor shall implement the following, whenever feasible:

- Approved Dust Control Plan (DCP) submitted with the Grading Plans.
 - Provide documentation prior to beginning construction demonstrating that the project proponents will comply with all MDAQMD regulations.
 - Suspend use of all construction equipment operations during second stage smog alerts. For daily forecast, call (800) 367-4710 (San Bernardino and Riverside counties).
 - Trucks/equipment shall not be left idling on site for periods in excess of ten minutes.
 - Provide temporary traffic control during all phases of construction.
 - Provide on-site food service for construction workers.
 - Use reformulated low-sulfur diesel fuel in equipment and use low-NOx engines, alternative fuels and electrification. Apply 4-6 degree injection timing retard to diesel IC engines. Use catalytic converters on gasoline-powered equipment.
 - Minimize concurrent use of equipment through equipment phasing.
 - Substitute electric and gasoline-powered equipment for diesel-powered equipment.
 - Onsite electrical power hook-ups shall be provided for electric construction tools to eliminate the need for diesel-powered electronic generators.
 - Maintain construction equipment engines in good order to reduce emissions. The developer shall have each contractor certify that all construction equipment is properly serviced and maintained in good operating condition.
 - Install storm water control systems to prevent mud deposition onto paved areas.
 - Contractors shall use low sulfur fuel for stationary construction equipment as required by AQMD Rules 431.1 and 431.2 to reduce the release of undesirable emissions.
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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:				
a) Have substantial adverse effects, 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc...) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION (Check if project is located in the Biological Resources Overlay or contains habitat for any species listed in the California Natural Diversity Database):

IV a) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** According to the *Biological Assessment* prepared by BioResource Consultants, Inc., “the project site supports suitable habitat for the burrowing owl, desert tortoise, Mojave monkeyflower, and creamy blazing star. In addition, the site supports suitable habitat that provides potential roosting and nesting sites for birds protected by the CDFG and the MBTA.” The Assessment went on to conclude that with implementation of project avoidance and minimization measures, potential direct and indirect impacts would be less than significant. These avoidance and

minimization measures are below under mitigation measures and will be part of the conditions of approval. Furthermore, area-wide eagle surveys are underway. Analysis of collected data will determine whether an eagle take permit is warranted. If necessary, the applicant will seek an eagle take permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The applicant must submit verification of compliance from USFWS to County Planning prior to operation of the turbines.

- IV b) **No Impact.** This project will not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service. The project sites, which are part of the CEMEX Black Mountain Quarry and Plant, contain previous disturbance from activities associated with those uses. The *Biological Assessment* found no wetlands or waterways on site or in the vicinity; hence, no riparian habitat.
- IV c) **No Impact.** This project will not have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means, because the project is not within an identified protected wetland. As a condition of project approval, the project proponent must comply with the Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for discharges of storm water associated with construction activity. If the project disturbs one acre or more of land, including construction staging areas, County Building and Safety will require a Construction General Permit in compliance with the State Water Resources Control Board requirements.
- IV d) **No Impact.** This project will not 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. The biological assessment identified no distinct wildlife corridors or nursery sites within or near the project site.
- IV e) **Less Than Significant Impact.** This project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. The general area contains uses associated with the Black Mountain Quarry and the CEMEX plant. As identified within the *Biological Assessment*, the site contains protected plant species. Adherence with the avoidance and minimization measures recommended in the *Biological Assessment* and included as conditions of approval will reduce any potential impact to a level less than significant.
- IV f) **Less Than Significant Impact.** This project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan, because no such plan has been adopted in the area of the project site. The site is within the proposed boundary of the West Mojave Plan, which covers 9.3 million acres in the western portion of the Mojave Desert. This interagency habitat conservation plan remains under review.
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Possible significant adverse impacts have been identified and the following mitigation measures are required as conditions of project approval to reduce these impacts to a level below significant:

Mitigation Measures

BIO – Desert Tortoise. If construction occurs between March 15 and November 1, the applicant will contract with a qualified biologist to conduct a pre-construction survey for desert tortoise. If recommended by the biologist, a biological monitor will be on site during construction. The biologist will provide a copy of the survey to County Planning, the CDFG, and USFWS.

BIO – Sensitive Plant. The applicant shall contract with a qualified biologist and/or botanist to perform a sensitive plant species pre-construction survey during the appropriate season. The Mojave monkeyflower flowers from April to June, while the creamy blazing star blooms from March to May. If the biologist finds any sensitive plants, he will delineate and record the area and establish a 'no entry' zone to reduce impact. The biologist will provide a copy of the survey to County Planning.

BIO – Nesting Birds. If construction takes place during bird nesting season (February 1 to August 31), the applicant shall contract with a biological monitor to perform a pre-construction survey within 72 hours of any on-site activities to determine if there are any active nests within the project area. If active nests occur, the biologist will establish 200-foot buffers around the nests, within which no construction activity will occur until he confirms the young have fledged. The biologist will provide a copy of the survey to County Planning.

BIO – Burrowing Owl. The applicant shall contract with a qualified biologist to conduct a 30-day pre-construction survey for burrowing owl. If found on site, as compensation for the direct loss of burrowing owl nesting and foraging habitat, the project proponent shall mitigate as required by CDFG. If found on site but not directly impacted, the biologist shall establish a 300-foot buffer around the active burrow, within which no construction activities will occur until the young have fledged and the biologist determines that the burrow is inactive. The biologist shall provide a copy of the survey to County Planning and CDFG.

BIO – Eagles. The applicant shall complete the analysis of the eagle survey data to determine the risk of the proposed project on eagles within the area. Analysis of collected data will determine whether an eagle take permit is warranted. If necessary, the applicant will seek an eagle take permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The applicant must submit verification of compliance from USFWS to County Planning prior to operation of the turbines.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION (Check if the project is located in the Cultural or Paleontologic Resources overlays or cite results of cultural resource review):

- V a) **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Archaeological Information Center of the County Museum conducted a historical resources record search at the applicant's request. The search found at least two possible historic structure and/or archaeological site locations in the area. Because of the potential for buried resources most likely associated with the Silver Mountain/Oro Grande Mining District, the applicant shall contract with an archaeological monitor. The monitor shall be on-site during any ground disturbing activities. If ground disturbing activities uncover any artifacts, the archaeologist will assess the find, determine its significance, and make recommendations. The applicant must comply with such recommendations, which would reduce any potential impacts to a level less than significant. The archaeologist must submit his report to the County Museum and to County Planning.
- V b) **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation.** As mentioned in V a), the site may contain buried resources associated with the Silver Mountain/Oro Grande Mining District. Adherence with the mitigation measure described above and listed below will reduce any potential impacts to a level less than significant.
- V c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** This project will not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature, because no such resources have been identified on the site.
- V d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** This project will not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries, because records identify no such burials grounds on this project site. If during construction of this project, the developer discovers any human remains he must contact the County Coroner, County Museum for determination of appropriate mitigation measures, and a Native American representative, if the remains are determined to be of Native American origin.

Possible significant adverse impacts have been identified and the following mitigation measures are required as conditions of project approval to reduce these impacts to a level below significant:

Mitigation Measure

CUL – Archaeological Monitor. Because of the potential for buried resources most likely associated with the Silver Mountain/Oro Grande Mining District, the applicant shall contract with an archaeological monitor. The monitor shall be on-site during any ground disturbing activities. If ground disturbing activities uncover any artifacts, the archaeologist will assess the find, determine its significance, and make recommendations. The applicant must comply with such recommendations.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 California Building Code (2001) creating substantial 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 where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION (Check if project is located in the Geologic Hazards Overlay District):

VI a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** (i-iv) The entire San Bernardino County area is particularly susceptible to strong ground shaking and other geologic hazards. However, the proposed project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone, meaning that the site is not within 500 feet of major active faults, nor is the site within 200 to 300 feet of a trough created by minor faults. The nearest fault zone is the Helendale-South Lockhart fault zone, Helendale section, which is approximately 0.95 miles southwest

of the southernmost wind turbine. With adherence to the California Building Code and the incorporation of applicable measures into project design and construction, potential project impacts associated with strong seismic ground shaking would be less than significant. The County Building and Safety Geologist will review and approve the project, and impose appropriate seismic standards.

- VI b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** No substantial grading or vegetation removal would occur for the installation of the proposed project. The applicant estimates the overall ground disturbance for two turbines, the access road extension, and the power poles to be 1.6 acres. The use of the existing access road and the retention of the vegetation onsite would maintain associated erosion at a minor level. County Building and Safety will require the applicant to submit erosion control plans for review, approval, and implementation.
- VI c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Neither the USGS nor the County identify the project site as being located on a geologic unit or on soil that has been identified as being unstable or having the potential to result in on or off site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Potential project impacts associated with landslides or liquefaction would be less than significant.
- VI d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The County Building and Safety Geologist has not identified the project site to be located in an area that has the potential for expansive soils. As a standard condition of approval, the project applicant will submit a soils report to the County Building and Safety Geologist for review and approval.
- VI e) **No Impact.** When implemented, the proposed project will be an unmanned facility that will not use septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems; therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
VII 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION:

VII a, b) **Less than Significant Impact.** As discussed in Section III of this document, the proposed project’s primary contribution to air emissions is attributable to construction activities. Project construction shall result in GHG emissions from the following construction related sources: (1) construction equipment emissions and (2) emissions from construction workers personal vehicles traveling to and from the construction site. Construction-related GHG emissions vary depending on the level of activity, length of the construction period, specific construction operations, types of equipment, and number of personnel.

The Air Quality Impact Analysis prepared by SESPE Consulting, Inc. determined that air quality impacts associated with construction do not near let alone exceed the established thresholds. Furthermore, the analysis of operational air quality impacts determined that the proposed project would result in a net benefit.

On December 6, 2011, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors adopted the County Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Plan. Although once built and operational this project will provide a “clean” source of energy that will not contribute to GHG emissions, the project must adhere to the Air Quality mitigation measures contained in section III of this document and the standard requirements of the GHG Emissions Reduction Plan.

GHGs and criteria pollutants would realize co-beneficial emissions reduction from the implementation of mitigation measures discussed in Section III, Air Quality, in this document. Furthermore, the construction of this project would result in “green” electric power generation that would otherwise be produced at a traditional fossil fuel burning plant, which generate considerably more GHG emissions. For these reasons, it is unlikely that this project would impede the state’s ability to meet the reduction targets of AB32.

No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site, which 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) 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"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

- VIII a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Implementation of the proposed project would not entail the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, with the potential exception of short-term construction-related substances such as fuels, lubricants, adhesives, and solvents. The potential risk associated with the accidental discharge during use and storage of such construction-related hazardous materials during project construction is considered low because the handling of any such materials would be addressed through the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) pursuant to the intent of the NPDES General Construction Permit. Operation of the proposed project would not require the use or storage of significant quantities of hazardous substances; therefore, no substantial potential for accidental explosion or major releases of hazardous substances is expected. Furthermore, standard operating procedures would prevent the use of these materials from causing a significant hazard to the public or environment.
- VIII b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project will not 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. Any proposed use or construction activity that might use hazardous materials is subject to permit and inspection by the Hazardous Materials Division of the County Fire Department.
- VIII c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** There are no existing or proposed schools within ¼ mile of the proposed project site. The nearest school, Rancho Verde Elementary School, is located approximately 8.5 mile southwest of the project site in the Town of Apple Valley. Additionally, operation and maintenance of the project would not produce hazardous emissions.
- VIII d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The proposed project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. No impacts related to this topic will occur due to implementation of the proposed project and, therefore, no mitigation measures are required.
- VIII e) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project site is not within the vicinity or approach/departure flight path of a public airport. The nearest public airport, Apple Valley County Airport, is approximately 5.5 miles southwest of the project site.
- VIII f) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project site is not within the vicinity or approach/departure flight path of a private airstrip. The nearest private airstrip, Holiday Ranch Airport, is approximately 4.5 miles southeast of the project site.
- VIII g) **No Impact.** Activities associated with the proposed project would not impede existing emergency response plans for the project site and/or other land uses in the project vicinity. All vehicles and stationary equipment would be staged off public roads and would not block emergency access routes. Accordingly, implementation of the proposed project will not
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impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

- VIII h) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. The proposed project includes installation of non-combustible turbine towers, blades, and nacelles. Other than an external source, the only risk of onsite wildfire ignition is due to electrical malfunctions resulting from poor installation. As long as the project proponent installs the electrical equipment properly and follows all state and county safety codes, the risk of onsite ignition is minimal.

No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level, which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structure that would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

- IX a, b, e, f) **Less than Significant Impact.** Potential water quality impacts from the proposed project are associated with short-term (construction-related) erosion/sedimentation and hazardous material use/discharge. Through conformance with applicable elements of the required NPDES Construction Permit, the applicant would avoid or reduce potential erosion/sedimentation and hazardous materials impacts below a level of significance. During construction, the applicant would truck water in from the adjacent CEMEX property if needed for dust suppression. Any water used would be absorbed into the soils onsite. Nearly all of the ground within the proposed project area would remain pervious, so water percolation and groundwater recharge would not be significantly impacted by the implementation of the project.
- IX c, d) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. The footprint of the wind turbines and the associated power poles is small. The proposed project includes approximately 1600 square feet of impervious surfaces that could divert any drainage pattern. Adherence with the County Public Works Best Management Practices (BMPs) is a standard condition of approval.
- IX g, h) **No Impact.** The proposed project would not create or result in housing within a 100-year flood hazard area or result in the placement within a 100-year flood hazard area, any structures which would impede or redirect flood flows. Furthermore, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map, Panel Numbers 5200 H and 5875 H, indicate that the proposed project area is within Zone D – an Undetermined Risk Area.
- IX i) **No Impact.** The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding because of the failure of a levee or dam. The project site is not within any identified path of a potential inundation flow that might result in the event of a dam or levee failure or that might occur from a river, stream, lake, or sheet flow situation.
- IX j) **No Impact.** Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow will not impact the project, because the project site is not adjacent to any body of water that has the potential of seiche or tsunami nor is the project site in the path of any potential mudflow.

No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
X. 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) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

- X a) **No Impact.** The project will not physically divide an established community, because there are no established communities present in the project area. There are approximately 550 acres of CEMEX-owned properties, including the project sites, in the immediate area. The Town of Apple Valley boundary exists approximately 3.5 miles west of the site.
- X b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The current General Plan land use designation for the proposed project area is Regional Industrial (IR), which allows development of electrical power generation facilities with a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). The proposed project site contains the Biotic Resources (BR) overlay, with potential for desert tortoise, burrowing owl, and two sensitive plant species in the area. As required by the BR overlay, the applicant submitted a Biological Assessment with the project application that identifies all biotic resources located on and adjacent to the site. The report concluded that, with appropriate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures, the existence of the biotic resources did not constitute an incompatible land use with the proposed project.
- X c) **No Impact.** The project will not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan, because there is no habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan within the area surrounding the project site. No habitat conservation lands are required to be purchased as mitigation for the proposed project.

No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
XI. 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>

SUBSTANTIATION (Check if project is located within the Mineral Resource Zone Overlay):

XI a, b) **No Impact.** The project will not result in the loss or availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. The purpose of the proposed wind turbines is to supplement the power used by the CEMEX plant at the Black Mountain Quarry site with an alternate, greener energy source. The quarry and plant operations will continue after installation of the wind turbines.

No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
XII. NOISE – Would the project:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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) A substantial temporary or periodic 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"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, 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"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, 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"/>

SUBSTANTIATION (Check if the project is located in the Noise Hazard Overlay District or is subject to severe noise levels according to the General Plan Noise Element):

XII a-d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The *Preliminary Acoustic Analysis* prepared for the project shows that the noise produced by the wind turbines is less than that allowed by the County Development Code. The nearest off-site sensitive receptor is approximately 3 miles from the wind turbines. This, coupled with the fact that the proposed project is adjacent to and surrounded by 550 acres of CEMEX land, which currently contains the Black Mountain Quarry and Plant, will result in limited noise impact. In comparison to the noise and vibration generated from these uses, the construction noise associated with the proposed wind turbine project would be minimal. Regardless, construction activities will comply with the noise and vibration standards of the San Bernardino County Development Code. Noise generation from construction equipment/vehicle operation would be localized, temporary, and transitory in nature.

Operation of the proposed wind turbine project would not generate audible levels of noise or perceptible levels of vibration in the surrounding area. On-site noises would be limited to the motors that rotate the blades, the blade movement, and maintenance activities. Further, the project would not include any dwellings or other development, nor would it have the potential to generate any additional vehicle trips after completion of construction.

XII e, f) **No Impact.** The project is not located within an airport land use plan area or within 2 miles of a public/public use airport or a private airstrip. The nearest public airport, Apple Valley County Airport, is approximately 5.5 miles southwest of the project site. The nearest private airstrip, Holiday Ranch Airport, is approximately 4.5 miles southeast of the project site.

No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING - Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial 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 housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

XIII a-c) **No Impact.** The project is located in an industrial area of the high desert area of San Bernardino County. The workers needed for construction and operation of the project are from the local employment base. The proposed wind turbines, although classified as infrastructure, will supplement power to the CEMEX Black Mountain Quarry plant only. They will serve no other uses and will not induce growth. There are no residential structures on the 550 acres of CEMEX-owned properties. Therefore, displacement of housing or people will not occur. No associated impacts are anticipated to occur from the proposed project

No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

a) Would the project 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 other performance objectives for any of the public services:

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

Fire Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other Public Facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

XIV a) **Fire – Less than Significant Impact.** The Apple Valley Fire Protection District provides fire coverage for the project sites. The project would not result in the need for additional fire protection services. Any development, along with the associated human activity, in previously undeveloped areas increases the potential of the occurrence of wildfires. Project construction would implement comprehensive safety measures that comply with federal, state, and local worker safety and fire protection codes and regulations for the proposed project that would minimize the occurrences of fire due to project activities during construction and for the life of the project. Because of the low probability and short-term nature of potential fire protection needs during construction, the proposed project would not result in associated significant impacts.

Police Protection – Less than Significant Impact. The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department serves the proposed project area and other unincorporated portions of the County. The Apple Valley Sheriff’s Station is located approximately 9 miles to the southwest of the project site. Due to the large expanse that the station covers, deputies regularly assist and are assisted by the California Highway Patrol, Victorville Police Department, and the BLM Rangers. The proposed project would not impact service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives related to police protection. The project’s short-term service requirements would not result in increases in the level of public service offered, or affect these agencies’ response times. As mentioned previously within this document, the location of the wind turbines is within 550 acres of CEMEX-owned property, which contains a perimeter fence.

Schools – No Impact. Long-term operation of the proposed facilities would place no demand on school services because it would not involve the construction of facilities that require such services (e.g., residences) and would not involve the introduction of a temporary or permanent human population into this area.

Parks – No Impact. Long-term operation of the proposed facilities would place no demand on parks because it would not involve the construction of facilities that require such services (e.g., residences) and would not involve the introduction of a temporary or permanent human population into this area.

Other Public Facilities – No Impact. The proposed project would not result in the introduction and/or an increase in new residential homes and the proposed project would not involve the introduction of a temporary or permanent human population into this area. Based on these factors, the proposed project would not result in any long-term impacts to other public facilities.

No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
XV. RECREATION				
a) Would the project 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) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

XV a, b) **No Impact.** The proposed wind turbine project would construct no new residences or recreational facilities. It would not induce population growth in adjacent areas and would not increase the use of recreational facilities in surrounding neighborhoods.

No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC - Would the project:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

XVI a, b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project will not create significant traffic impacts to the surrounding roadway circulation system per the thresholds of significance specified by the San Bernardino County Congestion Management Plan (CMP). Forecasts of traffic conditions on roadway segments and intersections during the life of the project anticipate maintenance at a level of service (LOS) of C or better, as required by the County General Plan. Furthermore, the proposed project is not expected to exceed any applicable level of service, individually or cumulatively, based on the incremental level and short-term duration of project-related traffic. The Traffic Analysis prepared for the proposed project states that “there will be less than 10 daily automobile trips for approximately 10 days ... approximately 16 truckloads of cement ... per foundation ... approximately 3 – 5 other deliveries ... at the beginning of the [foundation] construction phase.” During the turbine erection, electrical connection, and commissioning phase, the Traffic Analysis states “there will be approximately 12 truck trips related to the delivery of each turbine.” Due to the size of the towers and blades, these trips require specially permitted wide load tractor-trailers, which obtain permits through the California Department of Transportation

and the California Highway Patrol in order to manage their exact route. Furthermore, local jurisdictions oversee and issue permit for use of any road used for turbine transport. As part of the tower erection phase, a large erecting crane and smaller supporting crane will arrive in approximately 10 truck trips, electrical equipment will arrive in 3 – 5 truck trips, transmission wires and wood poles will arrive on another 3 – 5 truck trips, and approximately 10 daily automobile trips will transport workers for about 10 days.

- XVI c) **No Impact.** The proposed project would not affect air traffic patterns. The operation of the proposed project is not dependent upon air transport related material, labor, or services. Therefore, it would not result in increases to air traffic levels.
- XVI d) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not introduce design features, such as sharp curves or dangerous intersections within the vicinity of the project site. There are no incompatible uses proposed by the project that would impact surrounding land uses.
- XVI e) **No Impact.** The proposed project will have adequate emergency access for both fire and medical emergency vehicles. The anticipated low operational traffic volume will not impede emergency response times.
- XVI f) **No Impact.** Construction of the proposed project would not contribute to the loss of parking capacity near the project as the sites will provide adequate parking areas for future activities, such as deliveries, maintenance, and repairs.
- XVI g) **No Impact.** The public transit provider within the area is the Victor Valley Transit Authority, which provides bus service to the cities of Adelanto, Apple Valley, Hesperia, and Victorville, as well as portions of San Bernardino County. Therefore, the project would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation.

No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which 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"/>
f) Be served by a landfill(s) with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

- XVII a) **No Impact.** The proposed project does not involve the construction of facilities that would generate sewage; therefore, it would not exceed applicable wastewater treatment requirements. The proposed project's water discharge does not require treatment or permitting according to the regulations of the Lahontan RWQCB.
- XVII b) **No Impact.** The project will not require new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. Use of trucked water during construction for dust suppression would be minimal. Periodic maintenance does not include any washing of towers or blades.
- XVII c) **No Impact.** The proposed project would not require the construction or expansion of storm water drainage facilities. The insubstantial quantity of discharged water generated on the site would be absorbed into the soils. On-site soil types drain well and are suitable

for most types of development. Accordingly, implementation of the proposed project would result in no impacts.

- XVII d) **No Impact.** Use of trucked water during construction for dust suppression would be minimal. Generation of wind power requires no water. Accordingly, implementation of the proposed project would result in no impacts.
- XVII e) **No Impact.** The proposed project would not require or result in the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing wastewater treatment facilities. Implementation of the proposed project would result in no impacts.
- XVII f, g) **Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed project will be two unmanned wind turbine power generators, generating no process waste and only small quantities of solid waste during construction requiring disposal. The project must comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste disposal.

No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
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XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Does the project have the potential to 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, 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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 considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SUBSTANTIATION

XVIII a) **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Mitigation Measures have been included to address potential impacts to Air Quality, Biological Resources, and Cultural Resources. However, implementation of the proposed project would not degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife populations to drop below self sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or 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. Adherence with the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures discussed within this Initial Study will reduce any impacts to levels less than significant.

XVIII b) **Less than Significant Impact.** Cumulative impacts are defined as two or more individual affects that, when considered together, are considerable or that compound or increase other environmental impacts. The cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment that results from the incremental impact of the development when added to the impacts of other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable or probable future developments. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, developments taking place over a period. The *CEQA Guidelines*, Section 15130 (a) and (b), states:

(a) *Cumulative impacts shall be discussed when the project’s incremental effect is cumulatively considerable.*

(b) *The discussion of cumulative impacts shall reflect the severity of the impacts and*

their likelihood of occurrence, but the discussion need not provide as great detail as is provided of the effects attributable to the project. The discussion should be guided by the standards of practicality and reasonableness.

Construction of the CEMEX plant facilities and the quarry near the project site occurred after completing appropriate environmental reviews. These reviews included mitigation measures to reduce all environmental impacts to less than significant levels.

The project will use small portions of two parcels totaling approximately 145 acres for a green-energy-producing facility to provide supplemental power to the existing CEMEX Black Mountain Quarry Plant. This cleaner energy source will replace energy produced with fossil fuels, but not increase residential, commercial, or industrial development. Based on this, the project will not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. The facility will be unmanned upon completion of construction. Trips generated by periodic maintenance workers will be minimal in comparison to the overall traffic in the area. Compliance with the conditions of approval issued for the proposed development will further assure that the potential for cumulative impacts will remain below the level of significant. All existing services and infrastructure will adequately serve the project.

- XVIII c) **Less than Significant Impact.** The incorporation of design measures, County of San Bernardino policies, standards, and guidelines would ensure that there would be no substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Impacts of the proposed project would be less than significant.
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XVIII. MITIGATION MEASURES

(Any mitigation measures, which are not “self-monitoring,” shall have a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program prepared and adopted at time of project approval)

CONDITION COMPLIANCE RELEASE FORM (CCRF) MITIGATION MEASURES: (Condition compliance will be verified by existing procedure)

AQ – Construction Mitigation. Developer shall submit written verification that all construction contracts and sub-contracts for the project contain provisions that require adherence to the following standards to reduce impacts to air quality: During construction, each contractor and subcontractor shall implement the following, whenever feasible:

- Approved Dust Control Plan (DCP) submitted with the Grading Plans.
- Provide documentation prior to beginning construction demonstrating that the project proponents will comply with all MDAQMD regulations.
- Suspend use of all construction equipment operations during second stage smog alerts. For daily forecast, call (800) 367-4710 (San Bernardino and Riverside counties).
- Trucks/equipment shall not be left idling on site for periods in excess of ten minutes.
- Provide temporary traffic control during all phases of construction.
- Provide on-site food service for construction workers.
- Use reformulated low-sulfur diesel fuel in equipment and use low-NOx engines, alternative fuels, and electrification. Apply 4-6 degree injection timing retard to diesel IC engines. Use catalytic converters on gasoline-powered equipment.
- Minimize concurrent use of equipment through equipment phasing.
- Substitute electric and gasoline-powered equipment for diesel-powered equipment.
- Onsite electrical power hook-ups shall be provided for electric construction tools to eliminate the need for diesel-powered electronic generators.
- Maintain construction equipment engines in good order to reduce emissions. The developer shall have each contractor certify that all construction equipment is properly serviced and maintained in good operating condition.
- Install storm water control systems to prevent mud deposition onto paved areas.
- Contractors shall use low sulfur fuel for stationary construction equipment as required by AQMD Rules 431.1 and 431.2 to reduce the release of undesirable emissions.

BIO – Desert Tortoise. If construction occurs between March 15 and November 1, the applicant will contract with a qualified biologist to conduct a pre-construction survey for desert tortoise. If recommended by the biologist, a biological monitor will be on site during construction. The biologist will provide a copy of the survey to County Planning, the CDFG, and USFWS.

BIO – Sensitive Plant. The applicant shall contract with a qualified biologist and/or botanist to perform a sensitive plant species pre-construction survey during the appropriate season. The Mojave monkeyflower flowers from April to June, while the creamy blazing star blooms from March to May. If the biologist finds any sensitive plants, he will delineate and record the area and establish a ‘no entry’ zone to reduce impact. The biologist will provide a copy of the survey to County Planning.

BIO – Nesting Birds. If construction takes place during bird nesting season (February 1 to August 31), the applicant shall contract with a biological monitor to perform a pre-construction survey within 72 hours of any on-site activities to determine if there are any active nests within the project area. If active nests occur, the biologist will establish 200-foot buffers around the nests, within which no construction activity will occur until he confirms the young have fledged. The biologist will provide a copy of the survey to County Planning.

BIO – Burrowing Owl. The applicant shall contract with a qualified biologist to conduct a 30-day pre-construction survey for burrowing owl. If found on site, as compensation for the direct loss of burrowing owl nesting and foraging habitat, the project proponent shall mitigate as required by CDFG. If found on site but not directly impacted, the biologist shall establish a 300-foot buffer around the active burrow, within which no construction activities will occur until the young have fledged and the biologist determines that the burrow is inactive. The biologist shall provide a copy of the survey to County Planning and CDFG.

BIO – Eagles. The applicant shall complete the analysis of the eagle survey data to determine the risk of the proposed project on eagles within the area. Analysis of collected data will determine whether an eagle take permit is warranted. If necessary, the applicant will seek an eagle take permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The applicant must submit verification of compliance from USFWS to County Planning prior to operation of the turbines.

CUL – Archaeological Monitor. Because of the potential for buried resources most likely associated with the Silver Mountain/Oro Grande Mining District, the applicant shall contract with an archaeological monitor. The monitor shall be on-site during any ground disturbing activities. If ground disturbing activities uncover any artifacts, the archaeologist will assess the find, determine its significance, and make recommendations. The applicant must comply with such recommendations.

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