

# **CULTURAL RESOURCES SITE RECORD SEARCH RESULTS**

## **MARATHON SOLAR PROJECT SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

*Submitted by the Project Applicant:*

**Marathon Solar, LLC**

P.O. Box 31159

Santa Barbara, CA 93130

*Prepared for:*



**WDG Capital Partners**

P.O. Box 31159

Santa Barbara, CA 93130

*Prepared by:*

**URS**

130 Robin Hill Road, Suite 100

Santa Barbara, CA 93117

(805) 692-0600 ◆ Fax: (805) 964-0259

URS Project Number 28907132

January 2012

**CULTURAL RESOURCES SITE RECORD SEARCH RESULTS  
MARATHON SOLAR PROJECT**

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# CULTURAL RESOURCES SITE RECORD SEARCH RESULTS

## MARATHON SOLAR PROJECT

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report provides the results of a cultural resources site record search conducted for the Marathon Solar Project. The record search was conducted at the San Bernardino Archeological Information Center (SBAIC) by URS archaeologist Dustin Kay on September 19, 2011. This summary of the record search results was prepared by URS Principal Project Manager and Principal Archaeologist, Craig Woodman, M.A., R.P.A. (2004).

### 2.0 PROJECT SITE

The Project site comprises approximately 154 acres in the Lucerne Valley, in the western Mojave Desert in unincorporated San Bernardino County. The site is located approximately six miles southeast of the intersection of State Routes 18 and 247, which occurs in the unincorporated town of Lucerne Valley. Access to the site can be achieved via Camp Rock Road, which forms the site's eastern border. Joshua Avenue, an unpaved County road, forms the western border of the site. The site's northern and southern borders are not marked by physical features. The site is located within Township 4 North, Range 1 East (San Bernardino Base and Meridian), within the Cougar Buttes USGS 7.5-minute series quadrangle. The site is nearly square, with the exception of a 300-foot by 600-foot indentation in the northeastern corner (see Figure 1).

The project site is comprised of two adjacent parcels, both of which are currently unimproved and vacant. Both parcels are zoned LV/AG (Agriculture), which has a minimum 10-acre lot size and is intended for commercial agricultural operations, agriculture support services, rural residential uses and similar and compatible uses. The site is privately owned, and is not within or adjacent to any designated sensitive resource areas, ecological reserves, or other formally protected lands.

Elevations within the Project site range from approximately 3,240 to 3,346 feet above mean sea level, with the overall grade sloping gradually from the southeast to the northwest. The northern foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains, a major regional mountain range with elevations exceeding 11,000 feet, are located approximately three miles south of the site. The site exhibits micro topography associated with ephemeral drainage channels that traverse the site, but major landforms and topographic features are absent. The Project site surface is covered with pebbles and small cobbles that reflect the alluvial origins of the area.

Much of the land surrounding the Project site has been subdivided into large residential lots for rural living, but only a few of these lots have been developed with residences. The closest residence to the Marathon site is located adjacent to the site's western boundary, at the intersection of Joshua Avenue and Cochise Trail.

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The Project site is characterized by relatively intact desert vegetation; creosote bush/white burr sage scrub occurs in all areas. Dominant species on-site include native shrubs such as creosote bush, white burr sage, cheesebush (*Ambrosia [Hymenoclea] salsola* var. *salsola*), and Mojave yucca (*Yucca schedigera*). Joshua trees are present. The understory is comprised mainly of non-native herbs such as red brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*), red-stem fillaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), and Mediterranean grass (*Schismus barbatus*). Aside from common insects, a total of 12 wildlife species were observed by URS biologists on-site. The species detected were primarily common birds, mammals (mostly rabbits), and reptiles. Because the site does not support any unique or especially valuable habitat features, such as perennial sources of drinking water, it is unlikely that wildlife are attracted to the site.

### **3.0 PREVIOUS STUDIES**

The site record search indicates that the Project site has not been previously surveyed for cultural resources; four previous studies have been conducted within one mile of the site. Attachment A contains a map of previous study locations and copies of the studies. The four studies conducted within a one-mile radius of the Project site (SBAIC survey record numbers 1060544, 1061461, 1062993, and 1061121) include two small surveys adjacent to the project site, including a five-acre survey prepared in 1977 and a one-acre survey conducted in 1984; a 1993 survey of the SCE transmission line that runs along Camp Rock Road immediately adjacent to the Project site's eastern border; and a 1981 survey of 11 miles of replacement water mains in the Lucerne Springs residential tract northwest of the project site.

### **4.0 PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SITES**

No sites have been recorded in the site record search area.

### **5.0 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Four surveys with negative results have been conducted adjacent to the Marathon Solar Project site in similar topographic situations. Although several surveys are dated, the consistent absence of cultural resources in this poorly-watered area is notable. In addition, although not a formal survey, URS Principal Archaeologist Craig Woodman walked several transects through the Marathon Solar Project site during a 2011 site visit and found no cultural resources. He also noted that, although the site surface contained abundant pebbles and cobbles, these were predominantly small and the overall impression was the site did not represent a good source of lithic raw material suitable for chipped stone reduction. As noted above, the lack of valuable habitat features such as water makes it unlikely that game and other wildlife would be attracted to the site. The negative results of past surveys coupled with the limited nature of onsite resources, including water, suggest that the Project site is unlikely to contain significant cultural resources that would yield important information about prehistory or history. No further archaeological work is recommended at this time; however,

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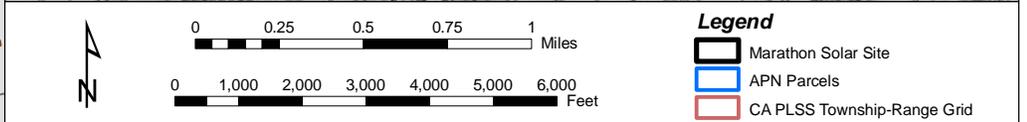
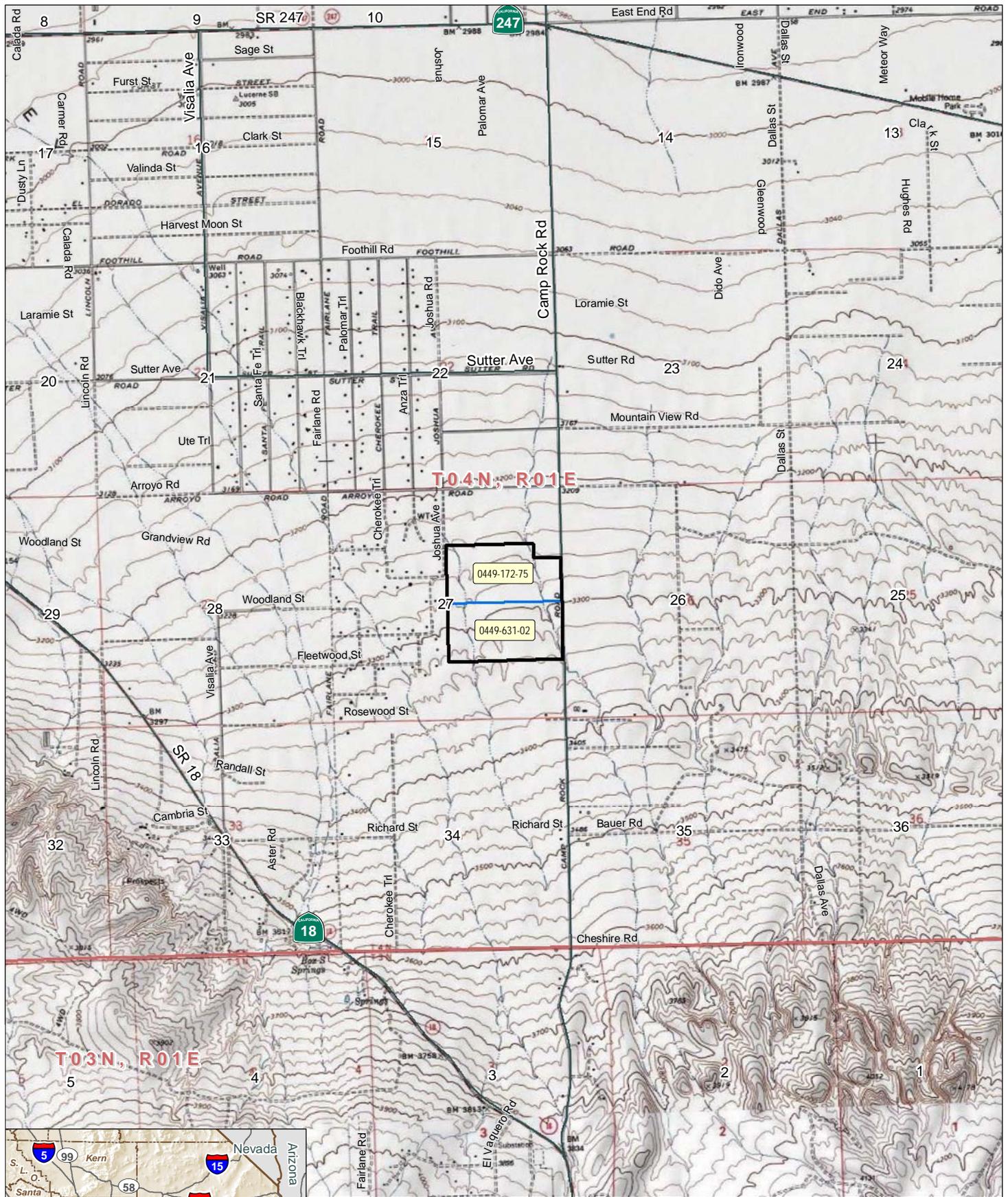
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if cultural resources are discovered during construction, the County should be contacted and a qualified archaeologist should record and evaluate the discovery and determine whether data recovery or other mitigation is required.

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**FIGURE 1  
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP OF PROJECT AREA**



**Marathon Solar Project**  
San Bernardino County, CA

URS Corporation

Source: [1] Seamless, scanned images of United States Geological Survey (USGS) paper topographic 1:24,000-scale maps by National Geographic TOPOI, [2] California Geospatial Information Library PLS, [3] San Bernardino County Office of the Assessor, [4] ESRI StreetMap USA (2007).

**Figure 1. Topographic Map of Project Area**

2011

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**ATTACHMENT A  
PREVIOUS STUDIES**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INFORMATION CENTER**  
 San Bernardino County Museum  
 2024 Orange Tree Lane (909) 307-2669 x 255  
 Redlands, CA 92374 FAX (909) 307-0689  
[rlaska@sbcm.sbcounty.gov](mailto:rlaska@sbcm.sbcounty.gov)



San Bernardino  
County

INVOICE

Invoice Number: 11-09-19-01  
 Title of Project: Alamo Solar  
 Investigator: Dustin Kay  
 Firm: URS Corporation  
 Address: 130 Robin Hill Rd  
 Goleta, CA 93117

Client Project Number:

ARCHIVE ROOM  
 SEP 23 2011

Phone Number: 805-692-0653

**FEES** (1 hour minimum, 1/2 hour increments thereafter):

**Staff Record Search**

Record Search	_____ hour (s)	x \$150/hour	= \$
Expedited Record Search	_____ hour (s)	x \$225/hour	= \$
Planning Review	_____ project (s)	x \$75/project	= \$

**Special Studies By Client**

In-house Record Search	4 _____ hour (s)		
	1 _____ person (s)	x \$100/hour/person	= \$400.00

**Other**

Photocopying	439 _____ pages	x \$.15/page (8.5 x 11)	= \$ 65.85
+Hourly rate	_____ hour (s)	x \$40/hour	= \$
Expedited rate	_____ hour (s)	x \$60/hour	= \$
FAX/SCAN Transmission	_____ pages	x \$1/page	= \$
Other:			= \$

**TOTAL CHARGES \$465.85**

  
 Assistant Center Coordinator

Date 21 September 2011

Make check payable to: *Archaeological Information Center*  
 2024 Orange Tree Lane  
 Redlands, CA 92374

Payment can also be made with a credit card by phone. Call Eric Prien, (909) 307-2669 x 269

FOR CENTER USE ONLY	
Payment received on: _____	Check: _____
Subsequent notices sent on: _____	
Comments: ID # 1080433	

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Redlands, CA 92374 FAX (909) 307-0689  
[rlaska@sbcm.sbcounty.gov](mailto:rlaska@sbcm.sbcounty.gov)



San Bernardino  
County

ACCESS AGREEMENT

I, the undersigned, have been granted access to the historical resources information at the San Bernardino County Archaeological Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System.

I understand that any CHRIS confidential information I receive shall not be disclosed to individuals who do not qualify for access to such information, as specified in Section III (A-E) of the CHRIS Information Center Rules of Operation Manual, or in publicly distributed documents without written consent of the Information Center Coordinator.

I agree to submit historical Resource Records and Reports based in part on the CHRIS information released under this Access Agreement to the Information Center within sixty (60) calendar days of completion.

I agree to pay for CHRIS services provided under this Access Agreement within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt of billing.

I understand that failure to comply with this Access Agreement shall be grounds for denial of access to CHRIS information.

Name: Dustin Kay *Craig Woodman* Invoice No: 11-09-19-0  
Affiliation: URS Corporation  
Address: 3500 Porsche Way, Suite 300  
City, State, Zip: Ontario, CA 91764-4937  
Billing Address if different from above:  
City, State, Zip:

*CRAG WOODMAN*  
URS Corporation  
130 Robin Hill Road  
Goleta, CA 93117  
805-672-0653

Telephone: 909-980-2169

Fax:

Purpose of Access: CRM

E-mail:

Project Name: *ABINCOAT SOLAR MARATHON* Project No: *Alamo*

Township, Range, Section: *SECTION 34*

Signature of Researcher

PLEASE, SIGN AND MAIL TO CENTER

*8/20/2011*

Date

For Self-Searches

Time in: *3:45 pm*

Time out: *4:45 pm*

# of hours: *1-0*

# of copies: *125*

Quad(s): *CONBAR BRITES LUCERNE VALLEY*

Be sure to leave a copy of the APE map with this Agreement.