

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM**

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

PROJECT LABEL:

APN: 0416-041-52	USGS Quad: Minneola, CA
Applicant: Ralph Laks	T, R, Section: T 9N R 01E SEC 25
Project # PROJ-2020-00145/P201800520	Community Plan: Daggett
Staff: Tom Nieves, Contract Planner	LUZD: RC – Resource Conservation
Rep	Overlays: Burrowing Owl, Desert Tortoise, Mojave Ground Squirrel
Proposal: Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate an 4.8 Megawatt photovoltaic solar power generating facility on approximately 35 acres	

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Lead agency: County of San Bernardino
Land Use Services Department
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

Contact person: Anthony DeLuca, Senior Planner
Phone No: (909) 387-3067 **Fax No:** (909) 387-3223
E-mail: Anthony.DeLuca@lus.sbcounty.gov

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Summary

Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate a 4.8-Megawatt photovoltaic solar power generating facility with battery storage capabilities on approximately 35 acres in the community of Daggett. The Project involves the installation of solar photovoltaic modules mounted on either stationary fixed-tilt ground-mounted racking or single-axis trackers. Also included would be PV panel support structures, battery storage system enclosures, combiner boxes, electrical inverters, transformers and data monitoring equipment. Electrical conduit, transmission and collection lines will both overhead and buried. Access to the project site will be on an all-weather road while the interior perimeter road will be all-weather and the interior roads will be unpaved. Security fencing will be installed along the perimeter of the project site.

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

Land uses on the project site and surrounding parcels are governed by the San Bernardino County General Plan/Development Code. The following table lists the existing land uses and zoning districts. The property is zoned Resource Conservation (RC). The properties to the north, south, west and east are vacant, zoned Rural Living (RL) and consist of vacant land. The property to the south is zoned Resource Conservation and is also vacant.

Existing Land Use and Land Use Zoning Districts			
Location	Existing Land Use	Land Use Category	Zoning Designation
Project Site	Vacant	RC – Resource Conservation	RC – Resource Conservation
North	Vacant	RL – Rural Living	RL – Rural Living
South	Vacant, Interstate Highway 40	RC – Resource Conservation	RC – Resource Conservation
East	Vacant	RL – Rural Living	RL – Rural Living
West	Vacant	RL – Rural Living	RL – Rural Living

Project Site Location, Existing Site Land Uses and Conditions

The 35-acre project site is located on the north of and adjacent to Interstate Highway 40 and is bisected by National Trails Highway (Route 66). The site is approximately one mile west of Hidden Springs Road in the community of Daggett. The Project Site is vacant.

Figure 1 Vicinity Map (Aerial View)

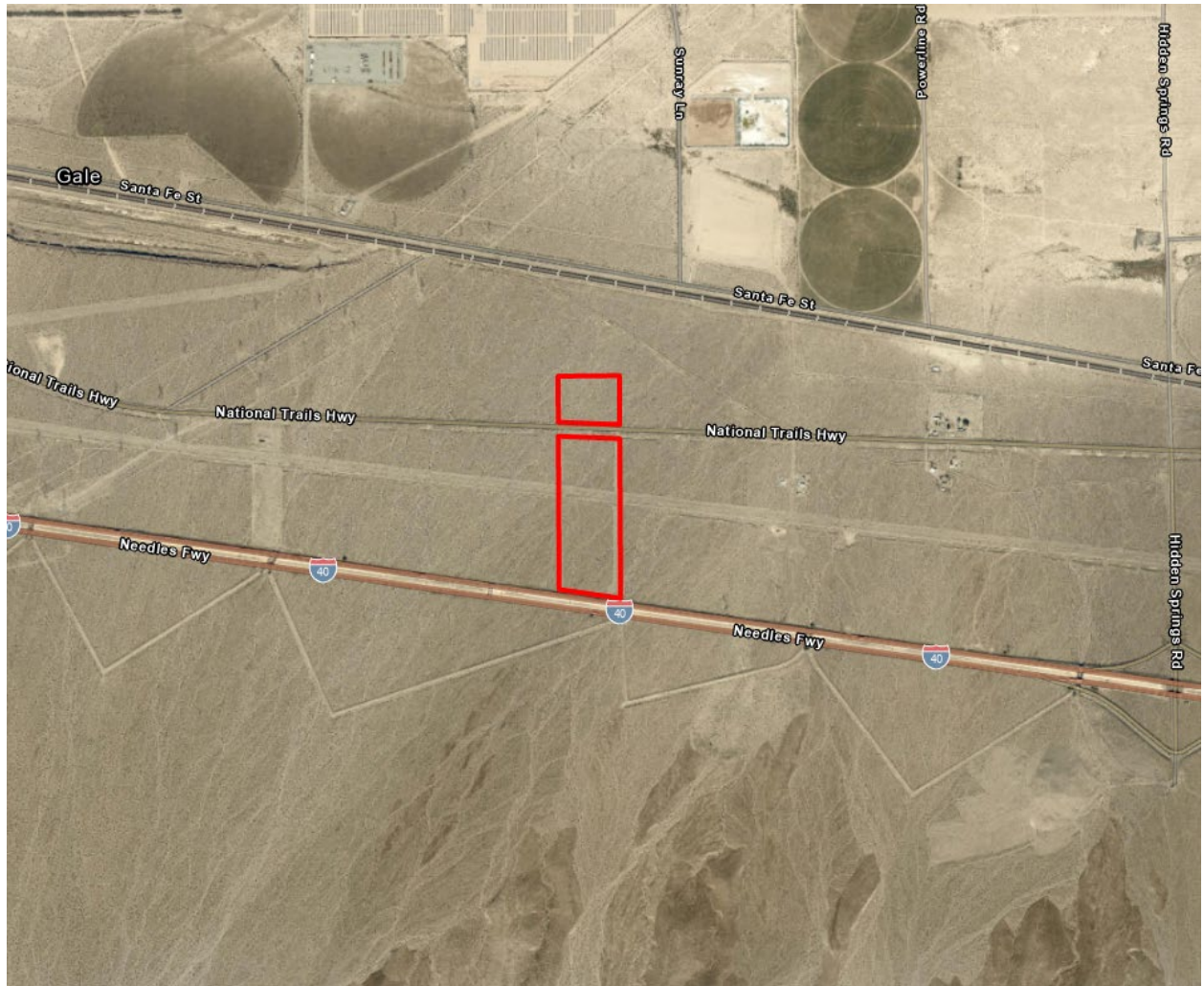


Figure 2 Aerial Photo

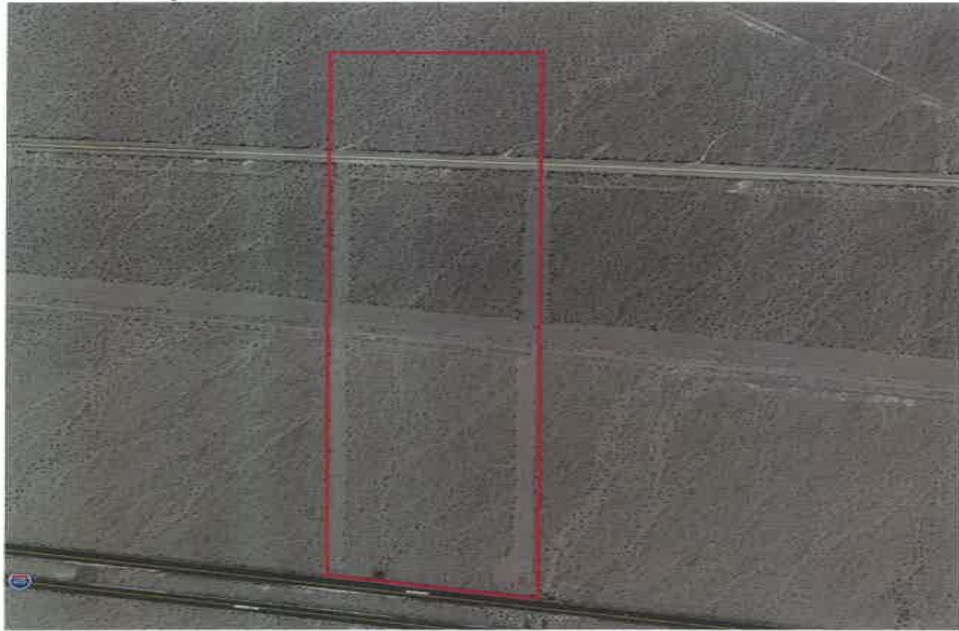


Figure 3 Conditional Use Permit – Site Plan

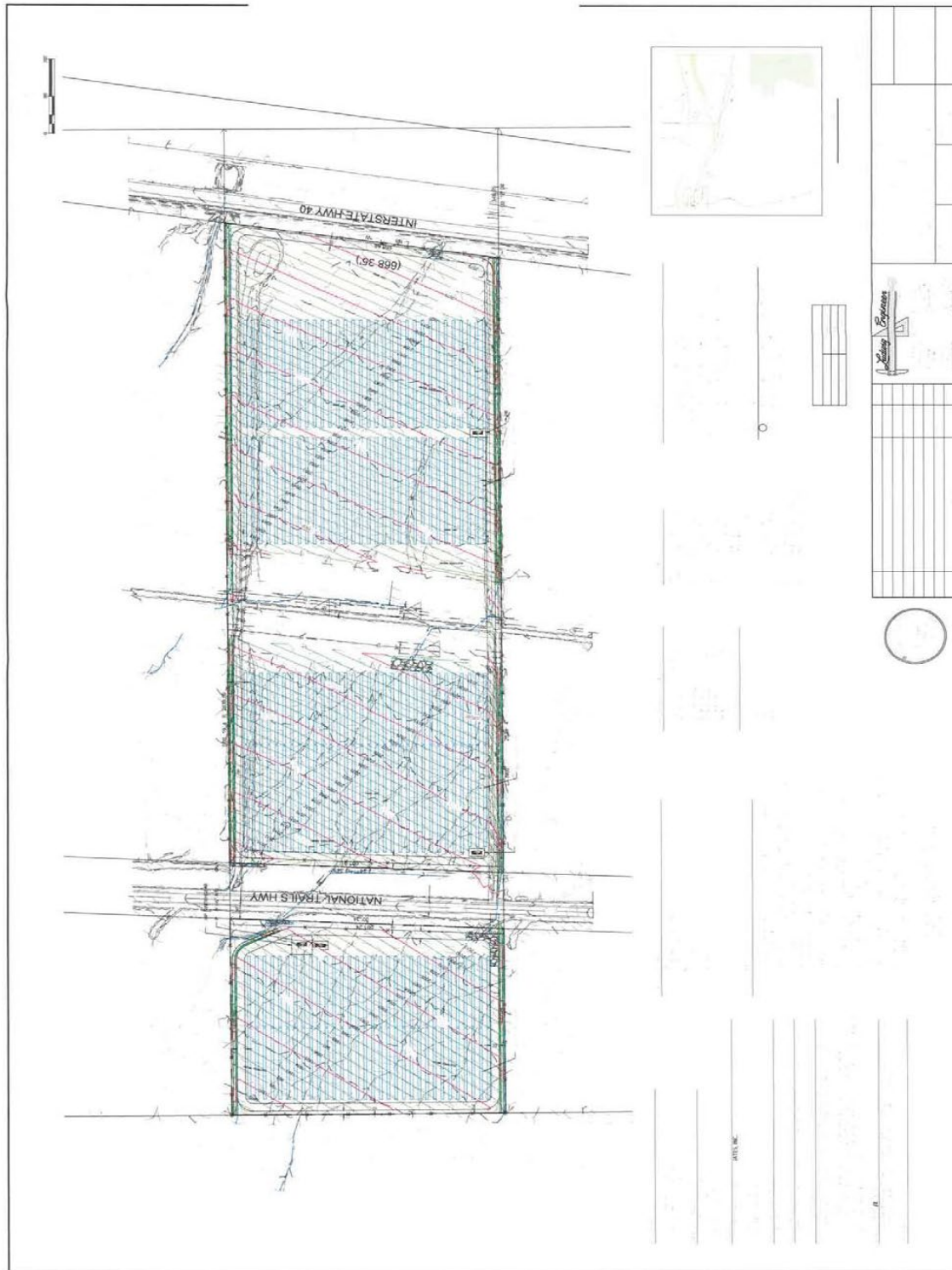


Figure 5 Site Photographs



Looking east along National Trails Highway



Looking west along National Trails Highway

Figure 5 Site Photographs – continued



Looking northwest at project site from I-40 (westbound)



Looking northeast at project site from I-40 (westbound)

ADDITIONAL APPROVAL REQUIRED BY OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES

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

Federal: N/A

State of California: CA Fish & Wildlife, Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD)
County of San Bernardino: Land Use Services – Building and Safety, Traffic, Land Development Engineering – Roads/Drainage; Public Health – Environmental Health Services; Public Works, Surveyor; and County Fire

Local: N/A

CONSULTATION WITH CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun? The required notification of affected tribes has occurred. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (SMBMI) has requested consultation and standard language regarding mitigation of inadvertent discovery of tribal cultural resources including human remains has been provided for future development on the site.

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21083.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

EVALUATION FORMAT

This Initial Study is prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq. and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000, et seq.). Specifically, the preparation of an Initial Study is guided by Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. This format of the study is presented as follows. The project is evaluated based on its effect on 20 major categories of environmental factors. Each factor is reviewed 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. The effect of the project is categorized into one of the following four categories of possible determinations:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
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Substantiation is then provided to justify each determination. One of the four following conclusions is then provided as a summary of the analysis for each of the major environmental factors.

1. **No Impact:** No impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
2. **Less than Significant Impact:** No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
3. **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated:** 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 of mitigation measures)
4. **Potentially Significant Impact:** Significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required to evaluate these impacts, which are (List of the impacts requiring analysis within the EIR).

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 will 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Air Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Geology/Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hazards & Hazardous Materials
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tribal Cultural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Utilities/Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildfire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory Findings of Significance

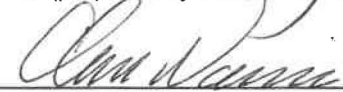
DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION shall be prepared.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there shall 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 shall be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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 Tom Nieves, Contract Planner)

7-27-21
Date


Signature: (Chris Warrick, Supervising Planner)

7-27-21
Date

Issues		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS – Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, 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)	In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which will adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUBSTANTIATION: (Check <input type="checkbox"/> if project is located within the view-shed of any Scenic Route listed in the General Plan): San Bernardino Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials					

- a) **Less than Significant Impact.** There will not be a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. The project will have a less than significant impact.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Both National Trails Highway (Route 66) and Interstate 40 are designated as County Scenic Routes. However, neither is designated as a State Scenic Highway. There are no protected trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings on the project site; therefore, the proposed project would not substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings.
- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character of the site and its surroundings. The proposed project would have a less than significant impact on the existing visual character and quality of the site and its surroundings.
- d) **Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed development must comply with SBCC Chapter 83.13 Sign Regulations and SBCC§ 83.07.030 “Glare and Outdoor Lighting – Desert Region”, which includes light trespass onto abutting residential properties, shielding, direction, and type. Adherence will result in a less than significant impact.

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

	Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
II.	AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY 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 Dept. 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 forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to 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 forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: (Check ☐ if project is located in the Important Farmlands Overlay):
San Bernardino County Countywide Plan; California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program;

- a) **No Impact.** The California Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, is responsible with mapping Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Farmland of Local Importance (Farmland)

across the state. As proposed the project would not convert Farmland to non-agricultural use. There will be no impact.

- b) **No Impact.** The proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract. The proposed project area is not under a Williamson Act contract. There is no impact and no further analysis is warranted. No impact is expected.
- c) **No Impact.** The proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. The proposed project area has never been designated as forest land or timberland because the site is within the desert region and does not contain forested lands. There will be no impact.
- d) **No Impact.** The proposed project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. The proposed project site is within the desert region of the county and does not contain forested lands. There is no impact and no further analysis is warranted. There will be no impact.
- e) **No Impact.** The proposed project would not involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. There will be no impact.

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

<i>Issues</i>		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
III. AIR QUALITY - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district might 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b)	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d)	Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUBSTANTIATION: (Discuss conformity with the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management Plan, if applicable): California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod; Version 2016.3.2); Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District 2017 (MD AQMD); Air Quality and GHG Impact Analysis, Giroux & Associates					

- a) **No Impact.** A project is consistent with a regional Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) if it does not exceed the Mojave Desert AQMD daily threshold or cause a significant impact on air quality, or if the project is already included in the AQMP projection. Emissions with regional effects during project construction, calculated with the CalEEMod; Version 2016.3.2, would not exceed criteria pollutant thresholds established by the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD). Compliance with MDAQMD Rules and Regulations during construction would reduce construction-related air quality impacts from fugitive dust emissions and construction equipment emissions. Construction emissions for the proposed project would not exceed the localized significance thresholds (LSTs).

Pollutant emissions from project operation, also calculated with CalEEMod, would not exceed the MDAQMD criteria pollutant thresholds. LSTs would not be exceeded by long-term emissions from project operations. The proposed project would not result in substantial increases in CO concentrations in the project vicinity that would result in the exceedance of federal or State CO concentration standards.

The proposed use is consistent with the Countywide Plan. The Countywide Plan is consistent with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Comprehensive Plan Guidelines and the MDAQMD Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). Thus, the proposed project would be consistent with the regional AQMP.

- b) **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.** MDAQMD has established daily emissions thresholds for construction and operation of a proposed project in the Basin. The emissions thresholds were established based on the attainment status of the Basin with regard to air quality standards for specific criteria pollutants. Because the concentration standards were set at a level that protects public health within an adequate margin of safety (MDAQMD 2017), these emissions thresholds are regarded as conservative and would overstate an individual project's contribution to health risks.

CEQA significance thresholds for construction and operational emissions established for the Basin are shown in **Table 1** below.

Emissions Source	Table 1: Pollutant Emissions Threshold (lbs/day)					
	ROG	NO _x	CO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO _x
Construction Activities	137	137	548	82	82	137
Operation Activities	137	137	548	82	82	137
CO: carbon monoxide lbs/day: pounds per day NO _x : nitrogen oxides PM ₁₀ : particulate matter less than 10 microns in size			PM _{2.5} : particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size MDAQMD: Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District SO _x : sulfur oxides			

Source: MDAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds; Air Quality and GHG Impacts Analysis, Giroux & Associates

Projects in the Basin with construction- or operation-related emissions that exceed any of their respective emission thresholds would be considered significant under MDAQMD guidelines. These thresholds, which MDAQMD developed and that apply throughout the

Basin, apply as both project and cumulative thresholds. If a project exceeds these standards, it is considered to have a project-specific and cumulative impact. Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District recommends mitigation measure identified below so as to ensure compliance with district standards and reduction of impacts to a less than significant level.

c) **Less than Significant Impact.**

Sensitive receptors include residences, schools, hospitals, and similar uses that are sensitive to adverse air quality. There are no sensitive receptors within 500 feet of the Project site. **Table 2** and **Table 3** below show that the localized significance thresholds for project construction and operational emissions would not be exceeded.

Emissions Source Construction	Table 2: Construction Localized Impact Analysis (lbs/day)			
	NO _x	CO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
With Fugitive Dust Mitigation	22.7	11.5	4.0	2.3
Localized Significance Threshold (LST)	137	548	82	82
Exceeds Threshold?	No	No	No	No

Source: Air Quality and GHG Impacts Analysis, Giroux & Associates

Emissions Source Operation	Table 3: Operational Localized Impact Analysis (lbs/day)			
	NO _x	CO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
Total	0.255	0.603	0.158	0.043
Localized Significance Threshold (LST)	137	548	82	82
Exceeds Threshold?	No	No	No	No

- d) **Less than Significant Impact.** Construction: Heavy-duty equipment in the project area during construction would emit odors, primarily from the equipment exhaust. However, the construction activity would cease to occur after construction is completed. No other sources of objectionable odors have been identified for the proposed project, and no mitigation measures are required. Therefore, objectionable odors posing a health risk to potential on-site and existing off-site uses would not occur as a result of the proposed project.

Operation: The proposed project could release localized odors. Such odors in general would be confined mainly to the project site and would readily dissipate. Therefore, objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people would not occur as a result of the project. The impacts associated with odors would be less than significant and no mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measure:

AQ-1 Dust Control. Prepare and submit to the MDAQMD, prior to commencing earth-moving activity, a Dust Control Plan that describes all applicable dust control measures that will be implemented at the project.

AQ-2 Signage. Signage, compliant with MDAQMD specifications, shall be erected prior to the commencement of construction which provides the public with contact information regarding non-compliance conditions

AQ-3 Watering. Water truck shall be utilized to maintain moist disturbed areas and actively spread water during visible dusting episodes to minimize fugitive dust emissions. For projects with exposed sand or fines deposits (and for projects that expose such soils through earthmoving), chemical stabilization or covering with a stabilizing layer of gravel will be required to eliminate visible dust/sand from sand/fines deposits.

AQ-4 Perimeter Fencing. All perimeter fencing shall be wind fencing or the equivalent, to a minimum of four feet of height or the top of all perimeter fencing. The owner/operator shall maintain the wind fencing as needed to keep it intact and remove windblown dropout. This wind fencing requirement may be superseded by local ordinance, rule or project-specific biological mitigation prohibiting wind fencing.

AQ-5 Road Maintenance. All maintenance and access vehicular roads and parking areas shall be stabilized with chemical, gravel or asphaltic pavement sufficient to eliminate visible fugitive dust from vehicular travel and wind erosion. Take actions to prevent preproject-related track out onto paved surfaces, and clean any project-related track out within 24 hours. All earthen surfaces within the project area shall be stabilized by natural or irrigated vegetation, compaction chemical or other means sufficient to prohibit visible fugitive dust from wind erosion.

<i>Issues</i>		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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 Wildlife 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service? | | | | |
| c) | Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands as (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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) | Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) | Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

SUBSTANTIATION:

(Check if project is located in the Biological Resources Overlay or contains habitat for any species listed in the California Natural Diversity Database ☐): General Biological Resources Assessment, **Avian Protection Plan, RCA Associates, Inc.; San Bernardino County Countywide Plan**

- a) **Less Than Significant With Mitigation.** There is some potential that the project could have substantial adverse effects, either directly or through habitat modifications, on 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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Implementation of Mitigation Measures identified herein will ensure that project impacts are less than significant
- b) **Less Than Significant With Mitigation.** There is some potential that the project could have a substantial adverse effect on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service. Implementation of Mitigation Measures identified herein will ensure that project impacts are less than significant.
- 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. No impact will occur.
- d) **Less Than Significant.** There is little potential that the project could interfere substantially with the movement of native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or

with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

- e) **No Impact.** The existing vegetation does not include trees or plant species that are considered rare. This project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. There will be no impact.
- f) **No 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. There will be no impact.

Mitigation measures required:

BIO-1 Preconstruction Surveys. Preconstruction surveys for burrowing owl, desert tortoise and nesting birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Section 3503 of the California Fish and Wildlife Code shall be conducted prior to the commencement of Project-related ground disturbance.

- a. Appropriate survey methods and timeframes shall be established to ensure that chances of detecting the target species are maximized. In the event that listed species, such as desert tortoise, are encountered, authorization from the CDFW and USFWS must be obtained. If nesting birds are detected, avoidance measures shall be implemented to ensure that nests are not disturbed until the young have fledged.
- b. Pre-construction surveys shall encompass all areas within the potential footprint of disturbance for the project, as well as a reasonable buffer around these areas. .

BIO-2 Focused Plant Survey. A focused plant survey is recommended for all special status plant species that have the potential to occur of the site to be performed during the blooming season (April – June) to determine the potential environmental effects of the proposed project on special status plants and sensitive natural communities following recommended protocols by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

BIO-3 CDFW and USFWS Notification. If any sensitive species are observed on the property during future activities, CDFW and USFWS (as applicable) shall be contacted to discuss specific mitigation measures which may be required for the individual species. CDFW and USFWS are the only agencies which can grant authorization for the “take” of any sensitive species and can approve the implementation of any applicable mitigation measures.

BIO-4 Ongoing General Avoidance and Minimization Measures. The following general avoidance and minimization measures are required to further reduce impacts to special-status species present on the property or that have potential to occur on the property:

- Confine all work activities to a pre-determined work area;
- To prevent inadvertent entrapment of animals during the construction phase of a project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2 ft deep should be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more

escape ramps constructed of earthen fill or wooden planks shall be installed. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals;

- Animals are attracted to den-like structures, such as pipes and may enter stored pipes, and become trapped or injured. To prevent kit fox use of these structures, all construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4-inches or greater should be capped while stored on site;
- All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps should be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or project site;
- No pets, such as dogs or cats, should be permitted on the project site to prevent harassment, mortality of kit foxes, or destruction of dens;
- Use of rodenticides and herbicides in project areas should be restricted. This is necessary to prevent primary or secondary poisoning of kit foxes and the depletion of prey populations on which they depend. All uses of such compounds should observe label and other restrictions mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other State and Federal legislation, as well as additional project-related restrictions deemed necessary by the Service. If rodent control must be conducted, zinc phosphide should be used because of a proven lower risk to kit fox;
- Establishing buffers and no work zones around active bird nests near the project work areas;
- Requiring all project personnel to check underneath vehicles and equipment for wildlife prior to operation; and
- Requiring that a biological monitor be present during vegetation removal activities and/or during certain activities conducted in the nesting bird season.

<i>Issues</i>		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:					
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §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)	Disturb any human remains, including those outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment, RCA Associates; San Bernardino County Countywide Plan; Cultural Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), South Central Coast Information Center, California State University, Fullerton; Submitted Project Materials

- a) **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Data from the records search results indicated that although no cultural resources are within the project site itself, 14 cultural resources have been recorded within the half mile project buffer. Monitoring of construction activities, consistent with CUL-1, would reduce impacts to historical resources to less than significant.
- b) **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Compliance with mitigation measure **CUL-1** described below, and monitoring recommendations would reduce impacts to archaeological resources to less than significant.
- c) **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Compliance with mitigation measure **CUL-2** described below, and monitoring recommendations would reduce impacts to the inadvertent discovery of human remains to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

CUL 1: In the event that archaeological materials are encountered during construction, all construction work should be halted and a qualified archaeologist consulted to determine the appropriate treatment of the discovery (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15064.5(f)). Work on the other portions of the project outside of the buffered area may continue during this assessment period. Additionally, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Cultural Resources Department (SMBMI) shall be contacted, as detailed within **TCR-1 and TCR-2**, regarding any pre-contact/contact-era/historic finds and be provided information after the archaeologist makes his/her initial assessment of the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment.

If significant cultural resources, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), are discovered and avoidance cannot be ensured, the archaeologist shall develop a Monitoring and Treatment Plan, the drafts of which shall be provided to SMBMI for review and comment, as detailed within TCR-1. The archaeologist shall monitor the remainder of the project and implement the Plan accordingly.

Monitoring: Monitoring of earthmoving activities by a qualified archaeologist and/or tribal monitor (including initial grubbing and vegetation removal) is recommended to mitigate potential impacts to undocumented archaeological resources.

CUL 2: In the event human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the County Coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify an MLD. With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall

complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD will have the opportunity to offer recommendations for the disposition of the remains.

Monitoring: Monitoring of earthmoving activities by a qualified archaeologist and/or tribal monitor (including initial grubbing and vegetation removal) is recommended to mitigate potential impacts to undiscovered human remains.

Issues		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
VI. ENERGY – Would the project:					
a)	Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b)	Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: San Bernardino County Countywide Plan; Renewable Energy and Conservation Element of the General Plan 2017; California Energy Commission Title 24

- a) **Less than Significant Impact.** Construction will be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday in accordance with the County of San Bernardino Development Code standards. No construction activities are permitted outside of these hours or on Sundays and Federal holidays. The proposed project will be conditioned to comply with GHG operational standards during temporary construction. Adherence would ensure that there would not be a significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation.
- b) **No Impact.** The County of San Bernardino adopted a Renewable Energy and Conservation Element (RECE) as part of the County's General Plan August 8, 2017. The proposed project will directly assist in the implementation and the achieving of the goals and policies of the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element. Additionally, the proposed project would be required to meet Title 24 Energy Efficiency requirements. Adherence would ensure that the project would not conflict with or obstruct the recently adopted RECE or any other state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map Issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems 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): **San Bernardino County Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials; California Building Code; Public Resources Code; Geotechnical Investigation report, Noorzay Geotechnical Services, Inc.**

- a) i) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project site is not located within an official earthquake fault zone or within a quarter of a mile of a mapped fault. However, all of

Southern California is subject to major earthquake activity. In terms of proximity to an active fault the impact can be considered less than significant.

ii) **Less than Significant Impact.** Consistent with most of Southern California, the subject property is within an area that is subject to severe ground shaking. Compliance with California Building Code Seismic Design Standards, Chapter 16: *Structural Design* will assure a less than significant impact.

iii) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project site is not located in an area of high liquefaction susceptibility. Compliance with California Building Code Seismic Design Standards, Chapter 16: *Structural Design* would further assure a less than significant impact.

iv) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project site is not located in an area of the desert that could have the potential for landslides during a ground disturbing event such as an earthquake. There would be less than significant impact.

- b) **Less than Significant Impact.** The existing near-surface sandy soils may be subject to water erosion. Erosion control plans and grading plans will be required to be submitted, approved, and implemented for the proposed development so as to minimize soil erosion. A less than significant impact is expected.
- c) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project is not identified as being located on a geologic unit or 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. Impacts would thus be less than significant.
- d) **Less than Significant Impact.** The soils materials encountered during the field investigation were considered granular and non-critically expansive. The project site is not located in an area that has been identified by the County Building and Safety Geologist as having the potential for expansive soils. The impact would be less than significant.
- e) **No Impact.** During short-term construction, wastewater will be disposed via portable toilets. The project will not generate wastewater and will not require septic systems during long-term operation. Therefore, the capability of project soils to support the use of septic tanks is not applicable.

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

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input 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: Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District 2017 (MDAQMD); San Bernardino County Countywide Plan; Air Quality and GHG Impact Analysis, Giroux & Associates

- a) **Less than Significant Impact.** Construction and operation of the proposed project would generate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, with the majority of energy consumption (and associated generation of GHG emissions) occurring during the project's construction. Typically, more than 80 percent of the total energy consumption takes place during the use of buildings and less than 20 percent of energy is consumed during construction. The following activities associated with the proposed project could directly or indirectly contribute to the generation of GHG emissions.

Construction Activities: During construction of the project, GHGs would be emitted through the operation of construction equipment and from worker and vendor vehicles, each of which typically uses fossil-based fuels to operate. The combustion of fossil-based fuels creates GHGs (e.g., CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O). Furthermore, CH₄ is emitted during the fueling of heavy equipment. Emissions resulting from construction-generated activities would not exceed MDAQMD significance thresholds and impacts would be less than significant.

Motor Vehicle Use: Transportation associated with the proposed project would result in GHG emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels in daily automobile and truck trips.

GHG emissions related to temporary construction activities are detailed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Construction-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Emission Source	CO ₂
Annual (Maximum Tons per Year)	
Construction-Related Emissions	168.8
MDAQMD Annual Threshold	7,000
Exceeds Annual Threshold?	No

Source: Air Quality and GHG Impacts Analysis, Giroux & Associates

Operational Activities: As shown in Table 2, the project will result in GHG emissions of 35 MT CO₂e/yr, which is lower than the County DRP review standard of 3,000 MT CO₂e/yr. Emissions resulting from operation-generated activities would not exceed MDAQMD significance thresholds and impacts would be less than significant.

Long-term operational greenhouse Gas Emissions are represented in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Operational-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Emissions Source	CO ₂
Annual (Maximum Metric Tons per Year)	
Total	35.0
MDAQMD Annual Threshold	7,000
Exceeds Annual Threshold?	No

Source: Air Quality and GHG Impacts Analysis, Giroux & Associates

- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (GHG Plan) was published in March of 2014. The GHG Plan establishes a GHG emissions reduction target for the year 2020 that is 15 percent below year 2007 emission levels. The GHG Plan is consistent with AB 32 and sets the County on a path to achieve a more substantial long-term reduction in the post-2020 period. Achieving this level of emissions would ensure that the contribution to greenhouse gas emissions from activities covered by the GHG Plan would not be cumulatively considerable.

All new development is required to quantify a project's GHG emissions and adopt feasible mitigation to reduce project emissions below a level of significance. A review standard of 3,000 metric tons of CO₂e per year is used to identify and mitigate project emissions.

As shown above in Table 2, the proposed project will generate less than 3,000 metric tons of CO₂e per year. Therefore, the Project complies with the emissions reduction target in the County's GHG Plan as well as MDAQMD thresholds. Project impact would be less than significant.

<i>Issues</i>		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:					
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? | | | | |
| 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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, will the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) | Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) | Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

SUBSTANTIATION: Phase I ESA Report, GS Lyon Consultants, Inc.; San Bernardino County Countywide Plan

- a) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project would have a less than significant impact to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. All such uses proposed on-site in the will be subject to permit and inspection by the Hazardous Materials Division of the County Fire Department and in some instances additional land use review.
- b) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project would have a less than significant impact to the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The use and storage of all hazardous materials is subject to permit and inspection by the Hazardous Materials Division of the County Fire Department.
- c) **No Impact.** Emissions and handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, or substances, would have a less than significant impact on any existing or proposed schools that are within a quarter mile from the project site as there are no existing or proposed schools within a quarter mile of the project site
- d) **No Impact.** The project site is not included on the San Bernardino County list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code 65962.5 and therefore, will not create a significant hazard to the public or environment.

- e) **No Impact.** The project site is not located within 2 miles of an FAA approved landing facility. The property would not be subject to some of the annoyances or inconveniences associated with proximity to airport operations, such as noise, vibration, or odors.
- f) **No Impact.** The project site is not within an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Therefore there will be no impact.
- g) **No Impact.** The project will not expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

<i>Issues</i>		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:					
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b)	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input 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 or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i.	result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii.	substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii.	create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv.	impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d)	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: ***San Bernardino County Countywide Plan; Drainage Study, Ludwig Engineering Associates, Inc.***

- a) **Less than Significant With Mitigation.** With the implementation of proposed mitigation measures, the project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. The on-site waste water treatment systems must be approved by the County Environmental Health Services based on requirements by the Lahontan Region Water Quality Control Board.
- b) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project will utilize minimal amounts of domestic water during long-term operation and thus will not 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.
- c) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project will not substantially alter any existing drainage pattern of the site or surrounding area, course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-site or off-site. The project site will not be mass graded. Grading plans, drainage plans and compliance with WQMP measures will be reviewed and approved by the County.
 - i. Based on project-specific Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and Hydrology Report, implementation of the proposed drainage improvements for the site would not result in substantial erosion or siltation on-site or off-site.
 - ii. Although some impervious surfaces will be added to the site, implementation of the proposed drainage improvements would reduce impacts due to increased surface runoff and would not result in flooding on-site or off-site
 - iii. The proposed project would not create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of runoff;
 - iv. The proposed project design would not impede or redirect flood flows.
- d) **No Impact.** The Project will not risk release of pollutants due to project inundation in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones.
- e) **No Impact.** The proposed development will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

Mitigation Measures:

HYD-1 Construction Phase. Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the project proponent shall submit a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to be reviewed and approved by San Bernardino County. The SWPPP shall be designed to minimize runoff in accordance with the Construction General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, and shall specify best management practices to prevent all construction pollutants from contacting stormwater, with the intent of keeping sedimentation or any other pollutants from moving off-site and into receiving waters. The requirements of the SWPPP shall be incorporated into design specifications and

construction contracts. Recommended BMPs for the construction phase may include the following:

1. Stockpiling and disposing of demolition debris, concrete, and soil properly;
2. Installation of a stabilized construction entrance/exit and stabilization of disturbed areas;
3. Protecting existing natural drainage features and stabilizing disturbed areas;
4. Implementing erosion controls;
5. Properly managing construction materials; and
6. Managing waste, aggressively controlling litter, and implementing sediment controls.

HYD -2 Grading Plan. Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the project proponent shall prepare a final grading plan to minimize the potential for changes, in on-site drainage patterns that result in increased erosion, sedimentation, or changes in drainage patterns off-site. The final grading plan shall include applicable drainage infrastructure, including facilities to manage stormwater on-site. Stormwater management facilities, shall be sized appropriately so as to ensure that County standards for hydromodification and drainage are met. The grading plan shall be prepared in accordance with the San Bernardino Grading Code and approved by the County.

<i>Issues</i>		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:					
a)	Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b)	Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUBSTANTIATION: San Bernardino County Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials					

- a) **No Impact.** The project will not physically divide an established community, because the project site is located in a very sparsely developed area.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** There will be no significant environmental impact resulting from a conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect because the project is consistent with all applicable land use policies and regulations of the County Development Code, and Countywide Plan.

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

<i>Issues</i>		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the project:					
a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that will be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: (Check ☐ if project is located within the Mineral Resource Zone Overlay): **San Bernardino County Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials; California Department of Conservation: Mineral Land Classification Maps**

- a) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that will be of value to the region and the residents of the state.
- b) **Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed project will not 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.

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

<i>Issues</i>		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XIII. NOISE - Would the project result in:					
a)	Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in 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)	Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c)	For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

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 ☐): **San Bernardino County Countywide Plan; Noise Impact Analysis, Giroux & Associates**

- a) **Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed solar power generating facility will not result in the generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the County's Countywide Plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.
- b) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project will not generate excessive ground borne vibration or noise levels and will not expose persons to excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels. The project is required to comply with the vibration standards of the County Development Code. No vibration exceeding these standards is anticipated to be generated by the proposed uses.
- c) **Less than Significant Impact.** Although the proposed project is in the vicinity of an airport land use plan, and within two miles of a Daggett-Barstow Airport, a public use airport, there will be a less than significant impact in terms of exposing people working in the area to excessive noise levels.

<i>Issues</i>		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING - Would the project:					
a)	Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: **San Bernardino County Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials.**

- a) **No Impact.** The project will not induce substantial population growth in an area either directly or indirectly. The project is not proposing new homes or businesses and is not extending roads or other infrastructure.
- b) **No Impact.** The proposed use will not displace any housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing because no housing units are proposed to be demolished as a result of this proposal.

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

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XV. 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:				
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Public Facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: San Bernardino County Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials

- a) **Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed project will not result 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, including fire and police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities.

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

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XVI. 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 will occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

SUBSTANTIATION: San Bernardino County Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials

- a) **Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed project will not result in new residents or customers and thus will not significantly increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.
- b) **Less than Significant Impact.** This project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment, because the type of project proposed will not result in an increased demand for recreational facilities.

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

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
XVII. TRANSPORTATION – Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: Trip Generation Report, KOA Corporation; San Bernardino County Countywide Plan;

- a) **No Impact.** The project will not conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- b) **Less than Significant Impact.** All area intersections are anticipated to operate at acceptable level of service (LOS) based on analysis of existing conditions plus project-generated increases.

- c) **Less Than Significant With Mitigation.** The project will not substantially increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses because the project site is adjacent to an established road and access is provided at points with good site distance. There are no incompatible uses proposed by the project that will impact surrounding land uses. Although no significant traffic impacts were identified, a truck haul plan should be prepared so as to minimize the impact of construction traffic. That requirement is identified in mitigation measure CIR-1.
- d) **Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed project will have access from National Trails Highway (Route 66). The project will not result in inadequate access for emergency purposes.

Mitigation Measure:

CIR-1 Truck Haul Plan. A truck haul plan shall be developed by the project developer and reviewed by the appropriate agencies to further minimize the impact of construction traffic. The truck haul plan should consider the following recommendations:

- Limit any potential lane closures on Harper Lake Road to off-peak travel periods.
- Schedule receipt of construction materials during non-peak travel periods, to the extent possible.
- Coordinate deliveries to minimize loading and unloading time.
- Adequately trained flaggers should be used at the project driveway to control heavy vehicle access to/from Harper Lake Road, as necessary.
- Require the construction workers to park at a predetermined off-street parking area.
- The project access driveways should be constructed in conformance with County of San Bernardino standards, including provisions for sight distance.

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

- a) Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:
 - i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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|-----|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ii) | A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-----|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

SUBSTANTIATION: *Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment, RCA Associates, Inc.; San Bernardino County Countywide Plan; Cultural Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), South Central Coast Information Center, California State University, Fullerton*

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 took effect on July 1, 2015. AB 52 requires a lead agency to make best efforts to avoid, preserve, and protect tribal cultural resources.

Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21083.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) also contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

Prior to the release of the CEQA document for a project, AB 52 requires the lead agency to initiate consultation with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project if: (1) the California Native American tribe requested the lead agency, in writing, to be informed by the lead agency through formal notification of proposed project in the geographic area that is traditionally and through formal notification of proposed projects in the geographic area that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribe, and (2) the California Native American tribe responds, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of the formal notification, and requests the consultation.

Tribal consultation request letters were sent to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Serrano Nation of Mission Indians, and the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians. The San Manuel tribe requested consultation. Consultation with the San Manuel Tribe is on-going. Language has been included as mitigation for the inadvertent discovery of tribal cultural resources.

- a) **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The results of the search of the Sacred Lands File by the NAHC did not indicate the presence of any Native American cultural resources within the Project area. Nonetheless, adherence to mitigation measures TCR-1 and TCR-2 will reduce any impacts to tribal cultural resources to a less than significant level.
- b) **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The project proponent shall consider the significance of any possible resource to a California Native American tribe. With required mitigation and/or monitoring requested by tribes with ancestral interest in the project area, as noted below, the impact will be reduced to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures

TCR-1: The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Cultural Resources Department (SMBMI) shall be contacted, as detailed in CR-1, of any pre-contact/contact-era/historic cultural resources discovered during project implementation, and be provided information regarding the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment. Should the find be deemed significant, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), a cultural resources Monitoring and Treatment Plan shall be created by the archaeologist, in coordination with SMBMI, and all subsequent finds shall be subject to this Plan. This Plan shall allow for a monitor to be present that represents SMBMI for the remainder of the project, should SMBMI elect to place a monitor on-site.

TCR-2: Any and all archaeological/cultural documents created as a part of the project (isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be supplied to the applicant and Lead Agency for dissemination to SMBMI. The Lead Agency and/or applicant shall, in good faith, consult with SMBMI throughout the life of the project.

<i>Issues</i>		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the project:					
a)	Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c)	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"/>
d)	Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: *County of San Bernardino Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials*

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed project does not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, as determined by County Public Health – Environmental Health Services.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed project will not require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. The proposed project will have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources.
- No Impact** During construction, the project will be served by portable toilets and will not generate wastewater. The project will not generate wastewater during operation.
- d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project will not generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals.
- e) **Less than Significant Impact.** This project falls within a County Franchise Area. If subscribing for the collection and removal of construction and demolition waste from the project site, all developers, contractors, and subcontractors shall be required to receive services through the grantee holding a franchise agreement in the corresponding County Franchise Area (Burrtec-Empire Disposal). The developer shall provide adequate space and storage bins for both refuse and recycling materials. This requirement is to assist the County in compliance with the recycling requirements of Assembly Bill (AB) 2176. A Construction Waste Management Plan will be prepared in two parts to show adequate handling of waste materials; disposal, reuse, or recycling as required by the County Department of Public Works Solid Waste Management Department.

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

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XX. WILDFIRE: If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- breaks, emergency water resources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?
- d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

SUBSTANTIATION: County of San Bernardino Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials

- a) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, there will be no impact.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** All construction shall adhere to all applicable standards and requirements. Implementation of the proposed Project will not cause a significant impact due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, thereby exposing project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire.
- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project will not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water resources, power lines or other utilities). The project is not expected to exacerbate fire risk that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.
- d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project will not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:				

- a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

- or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?
- b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐
- c) Does the project have environmental effects, which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

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- a) **Less than Significant With Mitigation.** The project will not conflict with local policies or ordinances related to biological resources. The project is not within an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan area. The project will implement required mitigation measures BIO-1 through BIO-4, as identified in Section IV of this document, so as not to 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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- b) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project does not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. The Daggett community contains the infrastructure necessary to efficiently serve this project as well as the planned and approved projects to be constructed in the future. The project will construct and install the services, infrastructure and utilities necessary to serve the project.
- c) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project will not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly, as there are no such impacts identified by the studies conducted for this project or identified by review of other sources or by other agencies.

All potential impacts have been thoroughly evaluated and have been deemed to be neither individually significant nor cumulatively considerable in terms of any adverse effects upon the region, the local community or its inhabitants. At a minimum, the project will be required to meet the conditions of approval for the project to be implemented. It is anticipated that all such conditions of approval will further insure that no potential for adverse impacts will be introduced by construction activities, initial or future land uses authorized by the project approval.

MITIGATION/MONITORING MEASURES:

XXII. 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. (Compliance monitoring will be verified by existing procedures for condition compliance)

BIOLOGICAL MITIGATION MEASURES

BIO-1 Preconstruction Surveys. Preconstruction surveys for burrowing owl, desert tortoise and nesting birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Section 3503 of the California Fish and Wildlife Code shall be conducted prior to the commencement of Project-related ground disturbance.

- a. Appropriate survey methods and timeframes shall be established to ensure that chances of detecting the target species are maximized. In the event that listed species, such as desert tortoise, are encountered, authorization from the CDFW and USFWS must be obtained. If nesting birds are detected, avoidance measures shall be implemented to ensure that nests are not disturbed until the young have fledged.
- b. Pre-construction surveys shall encompass all areas within the potential footprint of disturbance for the project, as well as a reasonable buffer around these areas. .

BIO-2 Focused Plant Survey. A focused plant survey is recommended for all special status plant species that have the potential to occur of the site to be performed during the blooming season (April – June) to determine the potential environmental effects of the proposed project on special status plants and sensitive natural communities following recommended protocols by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

BIO-3 CDFW and USFWS Notification. If any sensitive species are observed on the property during future activities, CDFW and USFWS (as applicable) shall be contacted to discuss specific mitigation measures which may be required for the individual species. CDFW and USFWS are the only agencies which can grant authorization for the “take” of any sensitive species and can approve the implementation of any applicable mitigation measures.

BIO-4 Ongoing General Avoidance and Minimization Measures. The following general avoidance and minimization measures are required to further reduce impacts to special-status species present on the property or that have potential to occur on the property:

- Confine all work activities to a pre-determined work area;
- To prevent inadvertent entrapment of animals during the construction phase of a project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2 ft deep should be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen fill or wooden planks shall be installed. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals;
- Animals are attracted to den-like structures, such as pipes and may enter stored pipes, and become trapped or injured. To prevent kit fox use of these structures, all construction pipes,

culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4-inches or greater should be capped while stored on site;

- All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps should be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or project site;
- No pets, such as dogs or cats, should be permitted on the project site to prevent harassment, mortality of kit foxes, or destruction of dens;
- Use of rodenticides and herbicides in project areas should be restricted. This is necessary to prevent primary or secondary poisoning of kit foxes and the depletion of prey populations on which they depend. All uses of such compounds should observe label and other restrictions mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other State and Federal legislation, as well as additional project-related restrictions deemed necessary by the Service. If rodent control must be conducted, zinc phosphide should be used because of a proven lower risk to kit fox;
- Establishing buffers and no work zones around active bird nests near the project work areas;
- Requiring all project personnel to check underneath vehicles and equipment for wildlife prior to operation; and
- Requiring that a biological monitor be present during vegetation removal activities and/or during certain activities conducted in the nesting bird season.

CULTURAL MITIGATION MEASURES

CUL-1: In the event that archaeological materials are encountered during construction, all construction work should be halted and a qualified archaeologist consulted to determine the appropriate treatment of the discovery (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15064.5(f)). Work on the other portions of the project outside of the buffered area may continue during this assessment period. Additionally, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Cultural Resources Department (SMBMI) shall be contacted, as detailed within **TCR-1 and TCR-2**, regarding any pre-contact/contact-era/historic finds and be provided information after the archaeologist makes his/her initial assessment of the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment.

If significant cultural resources, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), are discovered and avoidance cannot be ensured, the archaeologist shall develop a Monitoring and Treatment Plan, the drafts of which shall be provided to SMBMI for review and comment, as detailed within TCR-1. The archaeologist shall monitor the remainder of the project and implement the Plan accordingly.

Monitoring: Monitoring of earthmoving activities by a qualified archaeologist and/or tribal monitor (including initial grubbing and vegetation removal) is recommended to mitigate potential impacts to undocumented archaeological resources.

CUL-2: In the event human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The

County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the County Coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify an MLD. With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD will have the opportunity to offer recommendations for the disposition of the remains.

Monitoring: Monitoring of earthmoving activities by a qualified archaeologist and/or tribal monitor (including initial grubbing and vegetation removal) is recommended to mitigate potential impacts to undiscovered human remains.

CUL-3. In order to determine whether or not the proposed Project will impact historical resources, the two resources listed above (P36-023244 and JS-003) will need to be evaluated using CRHR eligibility criteria. Evaluation for these sites will likely require archival research, and an inventory of artifact types present. If either site is evaluated as eligible, it will be a Historical Resource, as defined by CEQA. If a Historical Resource cannot be avoided by solar farm construction, mitigation measures, likely consisting of data recovery, would be required.

HYDROLOGY MITIGATION MEASURES

HYD-1. Construction Phase - Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the project proponent shall submit a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to be reviewed and approved by San Bernardino County. The SWPPP shall be designed to minimize runoff in accordance with the Construction General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, and shall specify best management practices to prevent all construction pollutants from contacting stormwater, with the intent of keeping sedimentation or any other pollutants from moving off-site and into receiving waters. The requirements of the SWPPP shall be incorporated into design specifications and construction contracts. Recommended BMPs for the construction phase may include the following:

1. Stockpiling and disposing of demolition debris, concrete, and soil properly;
2. Installation of a stabilized construction entrance/exit and stabilization of disturbed areas;
3. Protecting existing natural drainage features and stabilizing disturbed areas;
4. Implementing erosion controls;
5. Properly managing construction materials; and
6. Managing waste, aggressively controlling litter, and implementing sediment controls.

HYD -2. Grading Plan - Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the project proponent shall prepare a final grading plan to minimize the potential for changes, in on-site drainage patterns that result in increased erosion, sedimentation, or changes in drainage patterns off-site. The final grading plan shall include applicable drainage infrastructure, including facilities to manage stormwater on-site. Stormwater management facilities, shall be sized appropriately so as to ensure that County standards for hydromodification and drainage are met. The grading plan shall be prepared in accordance with the San Bernardino Grading Code and approved by the County.

TRANSPORTATION MITIGATION MEASURES

CIR-1 – A truck haul plan shall be developed by the project developer and reviewed by the appropriate agencies to further minimize the impact of construction traffic. The truck haul plan should consider the following recommendations:

- Limit any potential lane closures on Harper Lake Road to off-peak travel periods.
- Schedule receipt of construction materials during non-peak travel periods, to the extent possible.
- Coordinate deliveries to minimize loading and unloading time.
- Adequately trained flaggers should be used at the project driveway to control heavy vehicle access to/from Harper Lake Road, as necessary.
- Require the construction workers to park at a predetermined off-street parking area.
- The project access driveways should be constructed in conformance with County of San Bernardino standards, including provisions for sight distance.

TRIBAL CULTURAL MITIGATION MEASURES

TCR-1: The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Cultural Resources Department (SMBMI) shall be contacted, as detailed in CR-1, of any pre-contact/contact-era/historic cultural resources discovered during project implementation, and be provided information regarding the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment. Should the find be deemed significant, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), a cultural resources Monitoring and Treatment Plan shall be created by the archaeologist, in coordination with SMBMI, and all subsequent finds shall be subject to this Plan. This Plan shall allow for a monitor to be present that represents SMBMI for the remainder of the project, should SMBMI elect to place a monitor on-site.

TCR-2: Any and all archaeological/cultural documents created as a part of the project (isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be supplied to the applicant and Lead Agency for dissemination to SMBMI. The Lead Agency and/or applicant shall, in good faith, consult with SMBMI throughout the life of the project.

GENERAL REFERENCES

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Cultural Resources Assessment, CRM TECH

Preliminary Hydrology and Hydraulic Calculations, Ludwig Engineering Associates, Inc.

Preliminary Water Quality Management Plan, Ludwig Engineering Associates, Inc.

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