

CITY OF SHAFTER, CALIFORNIA

Mitigated Negative Declaration

CUP 24-145(Wonderful Solar Facilities Project)

City of Shafter 336 Pacific Avenue Shafter, CA 93263

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CITY OF SHAFTER

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The City of Shafter (City) has completed an initial study (attached) of the possible environmental effects of the following-described project and has determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is appropriate. It has been found that the proposed project, as described and proposed to be mitigated (if required), would not have a significant effect on the environment. This determination has been made according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines.

Project Title: Conditional Use Permit No. 24-145

<u>Comment Period Begins:</u> September 6, 2024

Comment Period Ends: October 6, 2024

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measures (included in the project to avoid potentially significant effects) are as follows:

Biological Resources Impact Mitigation Measures

- 1. The following biological resources best management practices during construction activities shall be implemented for the project:
 - A biological resource pre-activity survey conducted by a qualified biologist no more that 30-days before the start of construction activities,
 - Biological resource monitoring during each initial phase of ground disturbance,
 - Compliance reporting provided to the required oversight agencies for all biological resource field surveys, monitoring, and additional tasks, as warranted,
 - If known or natal San Joaquin kit fox dens are identified at any time during construction, protocols enumerated in the USFWS Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance (2011) should be implemented, and the appropriate agencies contacted for guidance,
 - Vertical sided trenching deeper than 2 feet will include escape ramps at no more than a 1:1 ratio every 100 feet,
 - Vertical sided holes that are not capable of being ramped should be covered or otherwise secured to the greatest extent practicable, and

- Pipes, conduit and similar material 3 inches or greater should be capped to prevent wildlife from becoming inadvertently trapped in the piping.
- 2. If ground-disturbing activities are planned during the nesting season for migratory birds that may nest on or near the site (generally February 1 through August 31), nesting bird surveys shall occur prior to the commencement of ground disturbance for project activities. If nesting birds are present, no new construction or ground disturbance should occur within an appropriate avoidance area for that species until young have fledged, unless otherwise approved and monitored by a qualified onsite biologist. Appropriate avoidance should be determined by a qualified biologist. In general, minimum avoidance zones for active nests should be implemented as follows:
 - Ground or low-shrub nesting non-raptors 300 feet (91 meters),
 - Burrowing owl as appropriate based on nest location, existing surrounding activity, and evaluation of owl behavior (coordination with CDFW may be warranted),
 - Sensitive raptors (e.g., prairie falcon, golden eagle) 0.5 miles (0.8 kilometers), and
 - Other raptors 500 feet (152 meters).

<u>Cultural Resources Impact Mitigation Measures</u>

- 3. If cultural materials are encountered during construction activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall halt until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the find and make recommendations. Cultural resource materials may include prehistoric resources such as flaked and ground stone tools and debris, shell, bone, ceramics, and fire-affected rock as well as historic resources such as glass, metal, wood, brick, or structural remnants. If the qualified archaeologist determines that the discovery represents a potentially significant cultural resource, additional investigations may be required to mitigate adverse impacts from project implementation. These additional studies may include avoidance, testing, and evaluation or data recovery excavation.
- 4. If human remains are discovered during construction or operational activities, further excavation or disturbance shall be prohibited pursuant to Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. The specific protocol, guidelines, and channels of communication outlined by the Native American Heritage Commission, in accordance with Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code (Chapter 1492, Statutes of 1982, Senate Bill 297), and Senate Bill 447 (Chapter 44, Statutes of 1987), shall be followed. Section 7050.5(c) shall guide the potential Native American involvement, in the event of discovery of human remains, at the direction of the county coroner.

Geology and Soils Impact Mitigation Measures

5. If any paleontological resources are encountered during ground disturbance activities, all work within 25 feet of the find shall halt until a qualified paleontologist as defined by the

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Standard Procedures for the Assessment and Mitigation of Adverse Impacts to Paleontological Resources, can evaluate the find and make recommendations regarding treatment. Paleontological resource materials may include resources such as fossils, plant impressions, or animal tracks preserved in rock. The qualified paleontologist shall contact the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County or other appropriate facility regarding any discoveries of paleontological resources.

If the qualified paleontologist determines that the discovery represents a potentially significant paleontological resource, additional investigations and fossil recovery may be required to mitigate adverse impacts from project implementation. If avoidance is not feasible, the paleontological resources shall be evaluated for their significance. If the resources are not significant, avoidance is not necessary. If the resources are significant, they shall be avoided to ensure no adverse effects, or such effects must be mitigated. Construction in that area shall not resume until the resource appropriate measures are recommended or the materials are determined to be less than significant. If the resource is significant and fossil recovery is the identified form of treatment, then the fossil shall be deposited in an accredited and permanent scientific institution. Copies of all correspondence and reports shall be submitted to the Lead Agency.

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST (CEQA APPENDIX G: ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM)

1. <u>Project title:</u> Conditional Use Permit No. 24-145

(Wonderful Solar Facilities Project)

2. <u>Lead Agency name and address:</u> City of Shafter

336 Pacific Avenue Shafter, CA 93263

3. <u>Contact Person and phone number:</u> Steve Esselman

Planning Director 661-746-5002

4. Project location: See Attachment A

5. <u>Project sponsor's name and address:</u> Wonderful Nut Orchards, LLC

6801 E. Lerdo Highway Shafter, CA 93263

6. General Plan Designation: AOS (Agricultural/Open Space)

7. Zoning: A (Agricultural)

8. <u>Description of project (describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation):</u>

The project consists of a requested Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow for the construction of three solar facilities on three sites (project). The three solar facilities include: 1) Lerdo West, 2) Lerdo Middle, and 3) Ranch 3461.

The 2.3-acre Lerdo West site [Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 089-090-30] is located northeast of the Cherry Avenue and Lerdo Highway (at coordinates 35.504149, -119.232113) and would include a 716-kilowatt (kW) fixed ground mount solar photovoltaic (PV) system.

The 8.6-acre Lerdo Middle site (APN 091-320-03) is located southwest of the intersection of Wallace Road and Road 5039 (at coordinates 35.506220, -119.162031) and would include a 2,537-kW tracker solar PV system.

The 11.7-acre Ranch 3461 site (APN 091-252-34) is located east of Mendota Street (at coordinates 35.456388, -119.225118) and would include a 3,412-kW tracker solar PV system.

Preliminary site plans for each facility are found in Attachment A.

Since each proposed facility would generate greater than 5 kilowatts of electricity, these uses are conditionally allowed within the A (Agricultural) zone and therefore, a CUP is required. A CUP is a discretionary action and therefore triggers California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review.

9. <u>Surrounding land uses and setting:</u>

Each of the three solar facility sites are surrounded by agricultural uses consisting of orchards and/or row crops.

- 10. Other public agencies whose approval is anticipated to be required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):
 - City of Shafter—Mitigated Negative Declaration consideration and adoption
 - City of Shafter—Grading permit
 - City of Shafter—Building permit
 - City of Shafter—Site Plan Review
 - San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District—Air Quality Plan compliance, including Regulation VIII
 - Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Construction Activities compliance
- 11. <u>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, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?</u>

No, California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area have not requested consultation.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist in the following pages:

□ Aesthetics		☐ Agriculture & Fo	restry Resources	□ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resour	rces	☐ Cultural Resource	es	□ Energy
□ Geology/Soils		☐ G.H.G. Emission	S	□ Hazards/Haz. Mat.
☐ Hydrology/W.Q.		☐ Land Use/Planni	ng	☐ Mineral Resources
□ Noise		□ Population/Hou	sing	□ Public Services
□ Recreation		$\hfill\Box$ Transportation		□ Tribal Cultural Res.
□ Utilities/Service S	Systems	□ Wildfire		☐ Mandatory Findings
		Determinatio	n	
On the basis of this	s initial evaluation	1:		
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		ATIVE DECLARATIO		
				gnificant effect on the se because revisions in
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) have been analyzed
				uant to applicable legal
				t to that earlier EIR or ssures that are imposed
		ct, nothing further	_	isures that are imposed
3	Zan			
			September 6, 202	4
Steve Esselman, Pla	anning Director		Date	

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- 1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project would not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as onsite, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
- 5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address sitespecific conditions for the project.
- 6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

- 8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE

Aesthetics

	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the				
project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not				
limited to, trees, rock outcrops, and historic buildings within a				
state scenic highway?				
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 publicly accessible vantage point.) If the project is in an				
urbanized area, would the project conflict with the applicable				
zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality?				
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would				
adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				

- a) <u>Less than significant impact.</u> The project proposes three solar facilities on three different sites nested within existing agricultural parcels. Each of the three solar facility sites are surrounded by agricultural uses consisting of orchards and/or row crops.
 - According to the City of Shafter General Plan, the site is not within or in the vicinity of an identified scenic vista, and no known aesthetic resources exist on or near the site. The project does not lie near or within a State Designated or Eligible State Scenic Highway (Caltrans 2024). Furthermore, development of the project would not block or preclude views to any area containing important or what would be considered visually appealing landforms. The project does not include the removal of trees determined to be scenic or of scenic value, the destruction of rock outcroppings or degradation of any historic building(s). Therefore, the project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista.
- b) <u>No impact.</u> Please see response to a. above. Therefore, the project would not substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcrops, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.
- c) <u>Less than significant impact.</u> The three solar facility sites are nested within existing agricultural parcels. The sites are accessible via existing private dirt roads and currently surrounded by existing orchards. The project would not be visible from passing motorists on

nearby roads. Changes to the visual quality and character of the project site would be compatible. Therefore, the project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings in a non-urban area or conflict with the applicable zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality in an urban area.

d) Less than significant impact. Construction of the project would generally occur during daytime hours, typically from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All lighting would be directed downward and shielded to focus illumination on the desired work areas only and prevent light spillage onto adjacent properties. Additionally, the sites are located in remote agricultural areas and are not surrounded by urban uses that could be adversely affected by the construction-related light and glare. Increased truck traffic and the transport of construction materials to the project site would temporarily increase glare conditions during construction. However, this increase in glare would be minimal. Construction activity would focus on specific areas on the sites, and any sources of glare would not be stationary for a prolonged period.

During operations, security lighting at the sites would be minimal. All lighting would be directed downward and shielded to focus illumination within the sites and prevent light spillage onto off-site properties. Therefore, the project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

Agriculture and Forestry Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 nonagricultural use?		П	_	
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a			•	
Williamson Act contract?			_	
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest	Ш	Ш		Ш
land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)),				
timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526),				
or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by				
Government Code section 51104(g))?				
d) Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forest land to				
non-forest use?				
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due				
to their location or nature, could result in conversion of				
farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to				
non-forest use?			•	

Evaluation of Environmental Effects

a) Less than significant impact. The three sites have agricultural land use designations and zoning and are surrounded by agricultural uses. CEQA uses the California Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection's Farmland Mapping project (FMMP) categories of "Prime Farmland," "Farmland of Statewide Importance," and "Unique Farmland" to define "agricultural land" for the purposes of assessing environmental impacts

(PRC Section 21060.1[a]). The three sites are designated as "Prime Farmland" (DOC 2024) and make up 22.6 total acres. The solar facilities would produce solar power solely to support the energy needs for nearby agricultural operations. While the project does take out 22.6 acres of productive orchards, the solar facilities could be removed in the future and the orchards could be restored. The loss of 22.6 acres of orchards because of the project is nominal in comparison to the thousands of acres within the Shafter city limits that remain in active agricultural production. Therefore, the project would not significantly convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) to non-agricultural use.

- b) <u>Less than significant impact.</u> With the approval of a CUP, the project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use. The three sites are not subject to Williamson Act contracts. Therefore, the project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract.
- c) No impact. The Public Resources Code Section 12220 (g) and Section 4526 defines "forest land" as land that can support 10% native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits. There is no forest lands identified on the three sites or within their vicinity. Therefore, the project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of forest land or timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production.
- d) <u>No impact.</u> Please see response to c. above. Therefore, the project would not result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forest land to non-forest.
- e) <u>Less than significant impact.</u> Please see responses to a. through d. above. Therefore, the 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 or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

Air Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district				
may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would				
the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air				
quality plan?				
 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?				
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant				
concentrations?				
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors)				
adversely affecting a substantial amount of people?				

Evaluation of Environmental Effects

The discussion in this section is based on an air quality analysis prepared specifically for the project (LSA 2024).

a) <u>Less than significant impact.</u> An air quality plan describes air pollution control strategies to be implemented by a city, county, or region classified as a non-attainment area. The main purpose of the air quality plan is to bring the area into compliance with the requirements of the federal and State air quality standards. To bring the San Joaquin Valley into attainment, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) adopted the 2022 Plan for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone Standard in December 2022 to satisfy Clean Air Act requirements and ensure attainment of the 70 parts per billion (ppb) 8-hour ozone standard.

To assure the SJVAB's continued attainment of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM10) standard, the SJVAPCD adopted the 2007 PM10 Maintenance Plan in September 2007. SJVAPCD Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions) is designed to reduce PM10 emissions generated by human activity. The SJVAPCD adopted the 2018 Plan for the 1997, 2006, and 2012 particulate matter less than 2.5 microns (PM2.5) standards to address the USEPA annual PM2.5 standard of 12 μ g/m3, established in 2012.

CEQA requires that certain projects be analyzed for consistency with the applicable air quality plan. For a project to be consistent with SJVAPCD air quality plans, the pollutants emitted from a project should not exceed the SJVAPCD emission thresholds or cause a significant

impact on air quality. In addition, emission reductions achieved through implementation of offset requirements are a major component of the SJVAPCD air quality plans.

Construction of the project would not result in the generation of criteria air pollutants that would exceed SJVAPCD thresholds of significance. Implementation of SJVAPCD Regulation VIII would further reduce construction dust impacts.

Operational emissions associated with the project would not exceed SJVAPCD established significance thresholds for reactive organic gases (ROG), nitrogen oxides (NOX), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur oxides (SOX), PM10, or PM2.5 emissions (LSA 2024). Therefore, the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of SJVAPCD air quality plans.

b) Less than significant impact. The San Joaquin Vallet Air Basin (Basin) is currently designated nonattainment for the federal and State standards for O3 and PM2.5. In addition, the Basin is in nonattainment for the PM10 standard. The Basin's nonattainment status is attributed to the region's development history. Past, present, and future development projects contribute to the region's adverse air quality impacts on a cumulative basis. By its very nature, air pollution is largely a cumulative impact. No single project is sufficient in size to, by itself, result in nonattainment of an ambient air quality standard. Instead, a project's individual emissions contribute to existing cumulatively significant adverse air quality impacts. If a project's contribution to the cumulative impact is considerable, then the project's impact on air quality would be considered significant.

In developing thresholds of significance for air pollutants, the SJVAPCD considered the emission levels for which a project's individual emissions would be cumulatively considerable. If a project exceeds the identified significance thresholds, its emissions would be cumulatively considerable, resulting in significant adverse air quality impacts to the region's existing air quality conditions. The following analysis assesses the potential construction- and operation-related air quality impacts.

Construction Emissions

During construction, short-term degradation of air quality may occur due to the release of particulate matter emissions (i.e., fugitive dust) generated by grading and building activities. Emissions from construction equipment are also anticipated and would include CO, NOX, ROG, directly emitted PM2.5 or PM10, and toxic air contaminants such as diesel exhaust particulate matter.

Project construction would include site preparation, grading, building construction, paving, and architectural coating activities. Construction-related effects on air quality from the project would be greatest during the disturbance of soils. If not properly controlled, these activities would temporarily generate particulate emissions. Sources of fugitive dust would include disturbed soils at the construction site. Unless properly controlled, vehicles leaving the site would deposit dirt and mud on local streets, which could be an additional source of

airborne dust after it dries. PM10 emissions would vary from day to day, depending on the nature and magnitude of construction activity and local weather conditions. PM10 emissions would depend on soil moisture, silt content of soil, wind speed, and amount of operating equipment. Larger dust particles would settle near the source, whereas fine particles would be dispersed over greater distances from the construction site.

Water or other soil stabilizers can be used to control dust, resulting in emission reductions of 50% or more. The SJVAPCD has established Regulation VIII measures for reducing fugitive dust emissions (PM10). With the implementation of Regulation VIII measures, fugitive dust emissions from construction activities would not result in adverse air quality impacts.

In addition to dust-related PM10 emissions, heavy trucks and construction equipment powered by gasoline and diesel engines would generate CO, SOX, NOX, ROG, and some soot particulate (PM2.5 and PM10) in exhaust emissions. If construction activities were to increase traffic congestion in the area, CO and other emissions from traffic would increase slightly while those vehicles idle in traffic. These emissions would be temporary in nature and limited to the immediate area surrounding the construction site.

Construction emissions were estimated for the project and are summarized in the table below.

Construction Emissions						
Construction Year	Construction Year Annual Pollutant (tons/year)					
	ROG	NOX	СО	sox	PM10	PM2.5
		Lerdo V	Vest			
2024	<0.1	0.3	0.3	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
2025	<0.1	0.6	0.7	<0.1	0.1	<0.1
		Lerdo M	iddle			
2025	<0.1	1.1	1.2	<0.1	0.1	0.1
		Ranch 3	461			
2025	0.1	1.3	1.4	<0.1	0.1	0.1
		Total Pro	oject			
2024	<0.1	0.3	0.3	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
2025	0.1	3.0	3.3	<0.1	0.3	0.2
Maximum Annual Emissions	0.1	3.0	3.3	<0.1	0.3	0.2
SJVAPCD Threshold	10	10	100	27	15	15
Significant?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: LSA 2024.

As shown in the table above, construction emissions associated with the project would not exceed the SJVAPCD's thresholds for ROG, NOX, CO, SOX, PM10, and PM2.5 emissions. In addition to the construction period thresholds of significance, the SJVAPCD has implemented Regulation VIII measures for dust control during construction. As required by law, the project would have to comply with Regulation VIII measures.

Operational Emissions

Long-term air pollutant emission impacts associated with the project are those related to mobile sources (e.g., vehicle trips), energy sources (e.g., natural gas), and area sources (e.g., architectural coatings and the use of landscape maintenance equipment).

Mobile source emissions include ROG and NOX emissions that contribute to the formation of ozone. Additionally, PM10 emissions result from running exhaust, tire and brake wear, and the entrainment of dust into the atmosphere from vehicles traveling on paved roadways. Once operational, maintenance activities would require two workers for one week every quarter for solar panel cleaning and one visit per month to check on the equipment. To be conservative, this analysis assumes up to one visit per day, resulting in two vehicle trips per day. Thus, the project would result in minimal mobile source emissions.

Typically, area source emissions consist of direct sources of air emissions located at the project site, including architectural coatings and the use of landscape maintenance equipment. Area source emissions associated with the project would be minimal and would include emissions from the use of landscaping equipment and the use of consumer products.

Energy source emissions typically would result from activities in buildings for which natural gas is used. The project's energy requirements would be provided through the multi-site solar PV system, which generates its own power. Furthermore, the solar PV array would offset future emissions, which would otherwise be produced by non-renewable sources of electricity. The proposed project would not generate energy source emissions.

The table below provides the project's estimated operational emissions.

Operational Emissions						
Emission Type			Annual Pollut	ant (tons/yea	r)	
	ROG	NOX	со	sox	PM10	PM2.5
		Lerdo V	Vest			
Mobile Sources	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Area Sources	<0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Energy Sources	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Emissions	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
		Lerdo M	liddle			
Mobile Sources	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Area Sources	<0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Energy Sources	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Emissions	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
		Ranch 3	3461			
Mobile Sources	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Area Sources	<0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Energy Sources	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Emissions	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Total Project						
Total Project Emissions	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1

SJVAPCD Threshold	10	10	100	27	15	15
Significant?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: LSA 2024.

The results shown in table above indicate the project would result in very minimal emissions that would not exceed the significance criteria for annual ROG, NOX, CO, SOX, PM10, or PM2.5 emissions.

CO Hotspot Analysis

Vehicular trips associated with the project would contribute to congestion at intersections and along roadway segments in the vicinity of the project sites. Localized air quality impacts would occur when emissions from vehicular traffic increase because of the project. The primary mobile-source pollutant of local concern is CO, a direct function of vehicle idling time and, thus, of traffic flow conditions. CO transport is extremely limited; under normal meteorological conditions, it disperses rapidly with distance from the source. However, under certain extreme meteorological conditions, CO concentrations near a congested roadway or intersection may reach unhealthful levels, affecting local sensitive receptors (e.g., residents, schoolchildren, the elderly, and hospital patients).

Typically, high CO concentrations are associated with roadways or intersections operating at unacceptable levels of service or with extremely high traffic volumes. In areas with high ambient background CO concentrations, modeling is recommended to determine a project's effect on local CO levels.

An assessment of project-related impacts on localized ambient air quality requires that future ambient air quality levels be projected. Existing CO concentrations in the immediate project vicinity are not available. Ambient CO levels monitored at the Bakersfield Monitoring Station, the closest station to the project site, showed a 1-hour concentration of 1.5 parts per million (ppm) (the State standard is 20 ppm) and an 8-hour concentration of 0.9 ppm (the State standard is 9 ppm) in 2022. The highest CO concentrations would normally occur during peak traffic hours; hence, CO impacts calculated under peak traffic conditions represent a worst-case analysis. Reduced speeds and vehicular congestion at intersections result in increased CO emissions.

Once operational, maintenance activities would require two workers for one week every quarter for solar panel cleaning and one visit per month to check on the equipment. To be conservative, this analysis assumes up to one visit per day, resulting in two vehicle trips per day. Therefore, given the limited daily vehicle trips and anticipated lack of traffic impacts at any intersections, project-related vehicles are not expected to result in CO concentrations exceeding the State or federal CO standards. No CO hot spots would occur, and the project would not result in any project-related impacts on CO concentrations.

Cumulative Impacts

The project would contribute criteria pollutants to the area during temporary project construction. Several individual projects in the area may be under construction simultaneously with the project. Depending on construction schedules and actual implementation of projects in the area, generation of fugitive dust and pollutant emissions during construction could result in substantial short-term increases in air pollutants. However, each project would be required to comply with SJVAPCD's standard construction measures. Additionally, as discussed above, the project's short-term construction emissions would not exceed the significance thresholds. Therefore, the project's contribution to cumulative impacts associated with short-term construction emissions would not be cumulatively considerable.

Furthermore, discussed above, the project's long-term operational emissions would be minimal and would not exceed the SJVAPCD criteria pollutant thresholds. As such, the project would result in a less than significant impact related to long-term air quality emissions. Because air pollutants impacts are cumulative in nature, no typical single project can result in emissions of such a magnitude that it, in and of itself, would be significant on a project basis. Based on the project's less than significant air quality emissions, the project would not result in a significant cumulative impact related to air quality criteria emissions. In addition, the project would not result in an increase in population or employment; therefore, the project would also be consistent with the growth assumptions within the SJVAPCD's Air Quality Management Plans. Therefore, the project's contribution to long-term cumulative impacts associated with long-term emissions during project operations would not be cumulatively considerable.

In summary, the project would not 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.

c) <u>Less than significant impact.</u> Sensitive receptors are defined as residential uses, schools, daycare centers, nursing homes, and medical centers. Individuals particularly vulnerable to diesel particulate matter are children, whose lung tissue is still developing, and the elderly, who may have serious health problems that can be aggravated by exposure to diesel particulate matter. The three project sites are in rural areas surrounded by agricultural uses. There are no sensitive receptors within 1,000 feet of the three project sites.

Construction of the project may result in airborne particulates, as well as a small quantity of construction equipment pollutants (i.e., usually diesel-fueled vehicles and equipment). However, construction contractors would be required to implement SJVAPCD Regulation VIII. With implementation of Regulation VIII, project construction pollutant emissions would be below the SJVAPCD significance thresholds and therefore are not expected to result in the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

Once operational, the project would include three solar array projects. Project operational emissions of criteria pollutants would be below SJVAPCD significance thresholds; thus, they are not likely to have a significant impact on sensitive receptors. As such, once the project is constructed, the project would not be a source of substantial emissions and implementation of the project would not result in new sources of toxic air contaminants.

Therefore, the project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

d) <u>Less than significant impact.</u> This section discusses whether the project would result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial amount of people.

Odors

The SJVAPCD has not established a rule or standard regarding odor emissions, rather, the district has a nuisance rule: "Any project with the potential to frequently expose members of the public to objectionable odors should be deemed to have a significant impact."

During project construction, some odors may be present due to diesel exhaust. However, these odors would be temporary and limited to the construction period. The uses are not anticipated to emit any objectionable odors. Any odors in general would be confined mainly to the project sites and would readily dissipate.

Naturally Occurring Asbestos

The project is in Kern County, which is among the counties found to have serpentine and ultramafic rock in their soils. However, according to the California Geological Survey, no such rock has been identified in the project vicinity. When demolition is proposed during construction, the demolition of existing buildings may expose asbestos used in building materials. The project would not involve any demolition or renovation as no current development exists on the project sites. Therefore, the potential risk for naturally occurring asbestos during project construction is small and would not be significant.

Valley Fever

The three project sites are in rural areas surrounded by agricultural uses. There are no sensitive receptors within 1,000 feet of the three project sites. Except under high wind conditions, this distance is sufficient that particulate matter would settle prior to reaching the nearest sensitive receptor. In addition, crosswinds influenced by the adjacent roadways would help dissipate any particulate matter associated with the construction phase of the project. Therefore, any Valley fever spores suspended with the dust would not be anticipated to reach the sensitive receptors. However, during project construction, it is possible that workers could be exposed to Valley fever through fugitive dust. Dust control measures, consistent with SJVAPCD Regulation VIII, would reduce the exposure to the workers and

sensitive receptors. Therefore, dust from the construction of the project is not anticipated to significantly add to the existing exposure of people to Valley fever.

Therefore, the project would not result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial amount of people.

Biological Resources

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

Evaluation of Environmental Effects

The discussion in this section is based on a biological resource evaluation prepared specifically for the project (Pruett 2024).

a) Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Reviews of agency-maintained databases were conducted to determine the potential presence of sensitive biological resources and special-status species. The results indicated that 19 special-status plant species and 27 special-status wildlife species have the potential to occur in the vicinity of the project. The reconnaissance-level field survey was conducted to identify sensitive biological resources onsite and to document the suitability of the habitat on the project to support special-status species.

No listed or otherwise special-status plant species was observed. No listed or otherwise special-status plant species has been recorded as occurring within the project sites. Intensive farming limits the potential for presence of any listed plant species.

Of the 27 special-status wildlife species with the potential to occur within the vicinity of the project sites, none were observed during the field study. The biological resource evaluation determined that there is a 1) low probability of occurrence in the vicinity of the project sites for tricolored blackbird, 2) moderate probability of occurrence for burrowing owl, 3) low probability of occurrence for Swainson's hawk, 4) low probability of occurrence for California condor, 5) low probability of occurrence for pallid bat, 6) low probability of occurrence for Tipton kangaroo rat, and 7) moderate to high probability of occurrence for San Joaquin kit fox.

For the tricolored blackbird, the field study determined that no suitable nesting habitat is present but there is marginal foraging habitat at the project sites. For the burrowing owl, suitable habitat for nesting and foraging is present. For Swainson's hawk and California condor, no suitable nesting habitat is present but there is marginal foraging habitat. For pallid bat, no suitable roosting habitat is present but there is marginal foraging habitat. For Tipton kangaroo rat, suitable burrows were observed scattered across the project sites. For San Joaquin kit fox, no potential, known, or natal dens were observed, but suitable foraging habitat is present.

To reduce potential impacts to the above special-status species to a level of less than significant, Mitigation Measures 1 and 2 will be implemented. With mitigation, the project would not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- b) No impact. No riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) were found on the project sites during the field study for the project. Therefore, the project would have no impact on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community.
- c) No impact. No features, identified in wetland categories, appear on the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory mapping on the project sites. No federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act were identified during the field study for the project. Therefore, the project would have no impact on federally protected wetlands.
- d) <u>Less than significant impact.</u> Wildlife movement corridors, also referred to as dispersal corridors or landscape linkages, are generally defined as linear features along which animals can travel from one habitat or resource area to another. Wildlife movement corridors can be large tracts of land that connect regionally important habitats that support wildlife in general,

such as stop-over habitat that supports migrating birds or large contiguous natural habitats that support animals with very large home ranges [e.g., coyotes (*Canis latrans*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus californicus*)]. They can also be small scale movement corridors, such as riparian zones, that provide connectivity and cover to support movement at a local scale. No migratory wildlife corridors were identified during the literature search or field study.

Therefore, the project would not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with an established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

- e) No impact. The project does not conflict with the adopted 2005 City of Shafter General Plan Update and is not subject to any local ordinances. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.
- f) No impact. The project is within the range of the PG&E San Joaquin Valley Operations and Maintenance Habitat Conservation Plan, but this Plan applies only to PG&E operations and maintenance projects and does not apply to this project. Therefore, the project would 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.

Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a				
historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?				
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an				
archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?				
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of				
dedicated cemeteries?				

- a) No impact. The project sites are currently orchards and no structures, including potentially historic structures, are located at the project sites. Therefore, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.
- b) Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The project would only require minimal ground disturbance related to the construction of the PV solay arrays. However, there is still the potential to unearth previously unknown archeological resources at the site and grading and other ground-disturbing activities have the potential to damage or destroy such resources. Mitigation Measure 3 requires that if cultural materials are encountered during construction activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall halt until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the find and make recommendations. If the qualified archaeologist determines that the discovery represents a potentially significant cultural resource, additional investigations may be required, and these additional studies may include avoidance, testing, and evaluation or data recovery excavation. With mitigation, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource.
- c) Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. There are no known cemeteries or burials on or near the project. Although unlikely, subsurface construction activities associated with the project could potentially disturb previously undiscovered human remains. Mitigation Measure 4 requires ceasing work and contacting the County coroner and Native American tribal representatives, if needed, if previously undiscovered human remains are found. With mitigation, the project would not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries.

Energy

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

- a) Less than significant impact. The development of the three PV solar arrays would require temporary energy demands typical of other such projects that occur throughout the state and construction would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources beyond typical PV solar array construction. During operations, the PV solar arrays would reduce the consumption of energy delivered by an electrical provider that is necessary for existing nearby agricultural activities. Therefore, the project would not result in impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources.
- b) No impact. There is no adopted plan by the City of Shafter for renewable energy or energy efficiency. The project is a renewable energy project and therefore, by its very nature, does not conflict with any state plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Therefore, the project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Geology and Soils

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial 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 & Geology Special Publication No. 42.				-
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?				
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
iv. Landslides?				•
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that				
would become unstable as a result of the project, and				
potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading,				
subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the				
Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or				
indirect risks to life or property?				
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic				
tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where				
sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?				•
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource				
or site or unique geologic feature?				

- a) The following discusses the potential for the project to expose people or structures to substantial adverse effects because of various geologic hazards. Potential seismic hazards in the planning area involve strong ground shaking, fault rupture, liquefaction, and landslides.
 - i. No impact. The City of Shafter is subject to moderate to severe ground shaking because of the alluvial soils that underlie the area and its proximity to active faults. Additionally, the thick sedimentary deposits in the City create the likelihood that a strong earthquake or other disturbance in the area could cause ground subsidence (typically a gradual settling or sinking of the ground surface with little or no horizontal movement). The General Plan policy 7.1.1. requires that all new construction comply with the most recent Uniform Building Code's seismic design standards.

The project sites are not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. Per the Department of Conservation, California Geologic Survey Regulatory Maps (DOC 2020), the nearest fault line is the North of Oildale premier fault, which lies approximately 10 to 12 miles east of the project sites. The greatest potential for substantial geologic adverse effects in the City is posed by the San Andres Fault, which is located approximately 4 miles west of the Kings County boundary line within Monterey County. The distance from the nearest active faults precludes the possibility of fault rupture on the project sites. Although the project area could potentially experience ground shaking, the magnitude of the hazard would not be severe as indicated by the General Plan and project construction will comply with the applicable local and State requirements. Therefore, the project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault.

ii. <u>Less than significant impact.</u> See response to a. above. The City is surrounded on three sides by active fault systems, several of which are less than 10 miles from the City boundaries. In addition, there are faults outside the San Joaquin Valley, but close enough that a major earthquake could affect Shafter. The General Plan policy 7.1.1. requires that all new developments comply with the most recent Uniform Building Code's seismic design standards.

The project site lies within the vicinity of five earthquake fault lines – North of Oildale, Oildale, Pond, Oil Center, and Rio Bravo Ranch. Given the high seismicity of the southern San Joaquin Valley region, moderate to severe ground shaking associated with earthquakes on the nearby faults can be expected within the project area and throughout Kern County. In the event of an earthquake on one of the nearby faults, it is likely that the project would experience ground shaking.

While such seismic shaking would be less severe from an earthquake that originates at a greater distance from the project sites, the side effects could potentially be damaging to the PV solar arrays. The project is required to design structures and infrastructure to withstand substantial ground shaking in accordance with all applicable State law and applicable codes included in the California Building Code. The project shall adhere to all applicable local and State regulations to reduce any potentially significant impacts to structures resulting from strong seismic ground shaking at the project site. Therefore, the project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking.

iii. <u>Less than significant impact.</u> Liquefaction is defined as a phenomenon where earthquake-induced ground vibrations increase the pore pressure in saturated, granular soils until it is equal to the confining, overburden pressure. When this occurs, the soil can completely lose its shear strength and enter a liquefied state. The possibility of liquefaction is dependent upon grain size, relative density, confining

pressure, saturation of the soils, and intensity and duration of ground shaking. For liquefaction to occur, three criteria must be met: "low density," coarse-grained (sandy) soils, a groundwater depth of less than about 50 feet, and a potential for seismic shaking from nearby large magnitude earthquake.

The project subsurface area soils generally consist of Lewkalb, Milhalm, and Wasco sandy loam, with permeability and low permeability layers continuous beneath the site. The depth-to-groundwater at the sites are likely greater than 250 feet below ground surface (bgs), and the site is in an area of minimal rainfall. Because the depth of the groundwater at the project site is much greater than 50 feet, there is a negligible risk of liquefaction occurring at the project site during a seismic event.

Structures constructed as part of the project would be required by State law to be constructed in accordance with California Building Code construction standards. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction.

- iv. No impact. The project site is located on the floor of the San Joaquin Valley, west of the Sierra Nevada foothills. The topography is flat with no significant topological features. As such, there is no potential for rock fall and landslides to impact the project in the event of a major earthquake, as the area has no significant elevation changes. Based on the predicted maximum horizontal accelerations at the project site and the soil types, minor subsurface settlement may occur onsite during a major earthquake, and this is considered less than significant. The property is flat and there is a no potential for landslides. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving landslides.
- b) Less than significant impact. The Shafter area generally contains sandy loam soils. Due to the characteristics of the on-site soil types and the relatively flat terrain, implementation of the project would not result in significant erosion, displacement of soils or soil expansion problems. The project would be subject to City ordinances and standards relative to soils and geology. Standard compliance requirements include detailed site-specific soil analysis prior to issuance of building permits and adherence to applicable building codes in accordance with the California Building Code.

Construction of the site would temporarily disturb soils, which could loosen soil, and the removal of vegetation could contribute to future soil loss and erosion by wind and storm water runoff. The project would have to request coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (No. 2012-0006-DWQ) (General Permit) because the project would result in one or more acres of ground disturbance. To conform to the requirements of the General Permit, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would need to be prepared that specifies best management practices (BMPs) to prevent construction pollutants, including eroded soils (such as topsoil), from moving offsite. Implementation of

the General Permit and BMPs requirements would mitigate erosion of soil during construction activities.

During operation, the soils would be sufficiently compacted to required engineered specifications such that the soils at the site would not be particularly susceptible to soil erosion. Therefore, the project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

- c) Less than significant impact. See Geology and Soils responses above. As indicated in previous responses, the site is flat and does not have slopes. Additionally, the site is not located near any areas with sufficient slope that could result in off-site landslides. Moreover, the project will be designed by an engineer as to resist potential side-effects of spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Therefore, the project would not be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable because of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse.
- d) Less than significant impact. See Geology and Soils responses above. Expansive clay soils are subject to shrinking and swelling due to changes in moisture content over the seasons. These changes can cause damage or failure of foundations, utilities, and pavements. During periods of high moisture content, expansive soils under foundations can heave and result in structures lifting. In dry periods, the same soils can collapse and result in settlement of structures. According to Physical and Chemical Properties of the Soils in the USDA Kern County Soil Survey, the upper five feet of the onsite soil (sandy loam) is considered to have low shrink-swell or expansion potential. In addition, the site is not located in an area of expansive soils. Compliance with applicable City of Shafter General Plan policies, Municipal Code, and the California Building Code, would reduce potential site-specific impacts to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, the project would not be located on expansive soil creating substantial risks to life or property.
- e) <u>No impact.</u> The project would not use septic systems. Therefore, the project would not result in 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.
- f) Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The project is underlain by late Holoceneage alluvial fan deposits and middle to late Pleistocene-age older alluvial fan deposits. These deposits generally consist of unconsolidated silt, sand, gravel, cobbles, and boulders eroded from the surrounding highlands and deposited by the action of streams or rivers. In general, late Holocene-age alluvial deposits are considered unlikely to contain preserved remains of organisms that are not conspecific with modern species living in the southern San Joaquin Valley region.

The General Plan confirms that the City of Shafter has received sediments from the Coast Ranges to the west, the Sierra Nevada to the east, and to a lesser degree from activity on the San Andreas Fault system. These sediments contain different species of fossils, reflecting the

different periods of deposition. General Plan policy 6.6.3. includes a standard condition of approval for new development projects. The policy requires that if cultural or paleontological resources are encountered during grading, alteration of earth materials in the vicinity of the find be halted until a qualified expert has evaluated the find and recorded identified cultural resources. With implementation of Mitigation Measure 5, the project would not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			_	
b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of				
greenhouse gases?				

- a) Less than significant impact. Construction of the project would temporarily generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from construction activities. However, as shown in the Air Quality responses above, construction of the project would generate emissions well below the thresholds for criteria pollutants in nonattainment and it is assumed that the project would also generate nominal GHG emissions during construction. Once construction is finished, then GHG emissions would cease. During operations, the project would not generate any GHG emissions, and the energy generated by the PV solar arrays would offset energy currently needed from a traditional powerplant that generates GHG emissions. Therefore, the project would have a beneficial impact by reducing GHG emissions in comparison to the baseline condition. Therefore, the project would not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment.
- b) <u>Less than significant impact.</u> See response to a. above. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would	the project:				
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				
b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous material 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?				
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				
e)	the public or the environment? For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the				•
f)	project area? Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation				•
	plan?			•	
g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?			•	

Evaluation of Environmental Effects

a) Less than significant impact. The project would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials as defined by the Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act. However, construction activities would require the transport, storage, use, and/or disposal of hazardous materials such as fuels and greases for the fueling/servicing of construction equipment, and there is the potential for upset and accident conditions that could release such material into the environment. Such substances would be stored in temporary storage tanks/sheds that would be located at the site. Although these types of materials are not acutely hazardous, they are classified as hazardous materials and create the potential for accidental spillage, which could expose construction workers. All transport, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials used in the construction of the project would be in strict accordance with federal and state laws and regulations. During construction

of the project, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all applicable materials present at the site would be made readily available to onsite personnel. During construction, non-hazardous construction debris would be generated and disposed of at approved facilities for handling such waste. Also, during construction, waste disposal would be managed using portable toilets located at reasonably accessible onsite locations.

Once the project is operational, there may be maintenance activities that utilize gasoline and other vehicle-related chemicals that, if handled improperly, may result in spills. Day-to-day activities at PV solar arrays do not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials as defined by the Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act. Maintenance would require the transport, storage, use, and/or disposal of hazardous materials such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides. Users should follow any instructions for use and storage provided on product labels carefully to prevent any accidents at home. Users should also read product labels for disposal directions to reduce the risk of products exploding, igniting, leaking, mixing with other chemicals, or posing other hazards on the way to a disposal facility. Additionally, residential hazardous waste can be dropped off at Metro Kern County Special Waste Facility located at 4951 Standard Street or at one-day hazardous waste collection events that take place throughout the year. Therefore, the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

- b) <u>Less than significant impact.</u> Please refer to response a. above. Therefore, the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous material into the environment.
- c) <u>No impact.</u> There are no schools within 2.0 miles of the three project sites. Given the distance and the intervening uses there is a very limited potential for the project to affect the schools in the vicinity. Therefore, the project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 miles of an existing or proposed school.
- d) No impact. The project is not located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. The project site is not within the immediate vicinity of a hazardous materials site and would not impact a listed site. There is no data identifying any facilities in the vicinity that might reasonably be anticipated to emit hazardous air emissions or handle hazardous materials, substances, or wastes that might affect the proposed park. Therefore, the project would not 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.

- e) No impact. The project is not located within the boundaries of the adopted Airport Land Use Plan area. Therefore, the project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area because of a public airport or public use airport.
- f) Less than significant impact. The City of Shafter maintains an emergency plan for response to disasters, including but not limited to earthquakes, floods, fires, hazardous spills or leaks, major industrial accidents, major transportation accidents, major storms, airplane crashes, civil unrest, and national security emergencies. In a disaster, Shafter could experience significant casualties, property damage, and utility service interruptions, potentially exceeding the response capabilities of both the City and the County. The plan outlines the general authority, organization, and response actions for City staff to undertake, in compliance with existing law, when disasters happen. The objectives of the plan are to reduce loss of life, injury, and property losses through effective management of emergency forces (Shafter 2005). The emergency plan includes objectives and policies that would prevent new development from interfering with emergency response of evacuation plans. The project will comply with all local regulations related to the construction of new development that is consistent with the emergency plan. The project would also comply with the appropriate local and State requirements regarding emergency response plans and access. The proposed project would not inhibit the ability of local roadways to continue to accommodate emergency response and evacuation activities. Therefore, the project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- g) Less than significant impact. According to data from the Cal Fire, there are no fire hazard severity zones on the project site or within the City boundaries (Cal Fire 2007). The City of Shafter maintains an emergency plan for response to disasters, including fires. The objectives of the plan are to reduce loss of life, injury, and property losses through effective management of emergency forces (Shafter 2005). The emergency plan includes objectives and policies that would prevent new development from interfering with emergency response of evacuation plans. The project will comply with all local regulations related to the construction of new development that is consistent with the emergency plan. The project would also comply with the appropriate local and State requirements regarding emergency response plans and access. The proposed project would not inhibit the ability of local roadways to continue to accommodate emergency response and evacuation activities. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires.

Hydrology and Water Quality

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

Evaluation of Environmental Effects

a) Less than significant impact. As discussed in Geology and Soils above, the project site's soil types have a low-to-medium susceptibility to sheet and rill erosion by rainfall and a low susceptibility to wind erosion at the ground surface. Disturbance of onsite soils during construction could result in soil erosion and siltation, and subsequent water quality degradation through increased turbidity and sediment deposition during storm events to offsite locations. Additionally, disturbed soils have an increased potential for fugitive dust to be released into the air and carried offsite. As described in Geology and Soils, the project would be required to comply with the General Permit. To conform to the requirements of the General Permit, a SWPPP would need to be prepared that specifies BMPs to prevent construction pollutants from moving offsite. The project is required to comply with the General Permit because project-related construction activities would disturb at least 1 acre

of soil. Therefore, the project would violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

- b) Less than significant impact. The project would not require irrigation or potable water, including groundwater, and the project would not include the appreciable construction of impervious surfaces, such as asphalt or concrete surfaces, that could impede percolation of surface water into the ground. Therefore, the project would not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.
- c) The following discusses whether the project would 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.
 - i. <u>Less than significant impact.</u> The project sites are flat and grading would be minimal. The topography of the sites would not appreciably change because of grading activities. The sites do not contain any water features, streams, or rivers. The project would not develop significant areas of impervious surfaces that could significantly reduce the rate of percolation at the sites or concentrate and accelerate surface runoff in comparison to the baseline condition.

The project is not within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map, the project outside of a 100-year flood zone. The project sites are located within the FEMA Flood Hazard Zone X: Area of Minimal Flood Hazard, and therefore the potential for flooding at the sites appears to be very low. The project would comply with all City codes and regulations related to flooding.

The project requires development of a SWPPP and the use of BMPs and limit the amount of grading where feasible to reduce impacts to water quality during construction.

Therefore, the project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the sites or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite.

- ii. <u>Less than significant impact.</u> Refer to response c.i above. Therefore, the project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the sites or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or offsite.
- iii. <u>Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.</u> Refer to response c.i above. Therefore, the project would not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed

the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

- iv. <u>Less than significant impact.</u> The project sites are located outside the 500-year floodplain and is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area (FEMA 2021). Therefore, the project would not impede or redirect flood flows.
- d) No impact. As noted above, the project sites are not within a FEMA flood hazard zone, nor are they located near the ocean or a steep topographic feature (i.e., mountain, hill, bluff, etc.). Tsunamis are waves generated in oceans from seismic activity. Due to the inland location of the sites, tsunamis are not considered a hazard for the sites. Therefore, there is no potential for the sites to be inundated by tsunami or mudflow.

A seiche is a wave generated by the periodic oscillation of a body of water whose period is a function of the resonant characteristics of the containing basin as controlled by its physical dimensions. There is no body of water within the vicinity of the project sites. There is no potential for inundation of the project sites by seiche.

There are no nearby levees that would be susceptible to failure or flooding of the sites. The project site is not located within the Lake Isabella flood inundation area (Kern County 2017), which is the area that would experience flooding if there was a catastrophic failure of the Lake Isabella Dam. In the event of flooding, the City would utilize the Evacuation Plan to support its Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs). With implementation of the Evacuation Plan, the project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam.

e) <u>Less than significant impact.</u> Refer to a. through d. responses above. Therefore, the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

Land Use and Planning

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?				
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with				
any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose				
of avoiding or mitigating and environmental effect?				

- a) <u>No impact.</u> The project does not include the construction of roads or any other physical barrier. Therefore, the project would not physically divide an established community.
- b) No impact. The project consists of a CUP to construct three PV solar arrays on three sites on land zoned Agricultural. With the approval of a CUP, the project is allowed within this zone. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

Mineral Resources

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

Evaluation of Environmental Effects

a) No impact. The California Department of Conservation, Geological Survey classifies lands into Aggregate and Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) based on guidelines adopted by the California State Mining and Geology Board, as mandated by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1974. These MRZs identify whether known or inferred significant mineral resources are present in areas. Lead agencies are required to incorporate identified MRZs resource areas delineated by the State into their General Plans. The principal mineral resources within the City are oil and natural gas. The southern portion of Kern County is a major oil producing region, with oil fields extending into the southern portion of Shafter's Planning Area (Shafter 2005).

No oil or gas resources have been identified in or extracted from the project sites. According to the California Geologic Energy Management [formerly called Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR)], the project site is not located in an identified oilfield and there are no known wells located on the site. The project would not result in the loss of availability of mineral resources as the project does not propose the extraction of mineral resources. Additionally, the project would not restrict the ability of mineral rights' holders in the area to exercise their legal rights to access surrounding sites for the exploration and/or extraction of underlying oil research or other natural resources. Therefore, the project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state.

b) No impact. As noted above, the project is not designated as a mineral recovery area. The project would not alter any existing plans that protect mineral resources. As a result, the project would not interfere with known mining operations and would not result in the loss of land designated for mineral and petroleum. Therefore, the project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site that is delineated in a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan.

Noise

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 from other agencies? b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or			•	
groundborne noise levels?			•	
c) For a project 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 residing or working in the project				
area to excessive noise levels?				

- a) Less than significant impact. Project construction would generate temporary increases in noise levels. Chapter 8.24 (Noise Control Regulations) of the City of Shafter Municipal Code establishes regulations and enforcement procedures for construction noise generated in the City. The project would comply with all applicable policies, regulations, and standards and policies within the Municipal Code. Therefore, the project would not generate 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.
- b) Less than significant impact. The project is expected to create temporary groundborne vibration because of the construction activities (during site preparation and grading). According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration, vibration is sound radiated through the ground. The rumbling sound caused by the vibration is called groundborne noise. The ground motion caused by vibration is measured as particle velocity in inches per second and is referenced as vibration decibels (VdB). For example, the background vibration velocity level in residential areas is usually around 50 VdB. A list of typical vibration-generating equipment is shown in following table, although construction of the project may not use all these equipment types.

Different Levels of Groundborne Vibration					
Vibration Velocity Level Equipment Type					
104 VdB	Pile Driver (impact), typical				
94 VdB	Vibratory roller				
93 VdB	Pile Driver (sonic), typical				
87 VdB	Large bulldozer				

87 VdB	Caisson drilling			
86 VdB	Loaded trucks			
79 VdB	Jackhammer			
58 VdB	Small bulldozer			
Note: 25 feet from the corresponding equipment				

The vibration velocity level threshold of perception for humans is approximately 65 VdB. A vibration velocity level of 75 VdB is the approximately dividing line between barely perceptible and distinctly perceptible levels for many people. Typical outdoor sources of perceptible groundborne vibration are construction equipment and traffic on rough roads. For example, if a roadway is smooth, the groundborne vibration from traffic is rarely perceptible. Typically, groundborne vibration generated by construction activity attenuates rapidly with distance from the source of the vibration. Therefore, vibration issues are generally confined to distances of less than 500 feet (FTA 2006). There are no urban uses within the surrounding area of the project site. Potential sources of temporary vibration during construction of the project would be minimal and would include transportation and use of equipment on the site. Construction activity would include various site preparation, grading, in fabrication, and site cleanup work. Once constructed, the project would not have any components that would generate high vibration levels. Therefore, the project would not expose persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels.

c) No impact. As noted in the Hazards and Hazardous materials section, the project is not located within the airport land use compatibility plan boundaries for Shafter Airport/Minter Field. Therefore, the project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels for a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport.

Population and Housing

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

- a) <u>No impact.</u> The project does not include any new homes, businesses, or roads. Therefore, the project will not induce unplanned population growth in the area, either directly or indirectly.
- b) No impact. See response to a. above. Construction of the project would likely be done by construction workers residing in the City or the surrounding area who would not require new housing. The project site is undeveloped and will not involve demolition of existing housing, or construction of new housing, and will not require the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, the project would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

Public Services

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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:				
i. Fire protection?				
ii. Police protection?				
iii. Schools?				
iv. Parks?				
v. Other public facilities?				

- a) The following discusses whether the project would result in substantial adverse physical impacts to public services. The need for additional public service is generally directly correlated to population growth and the resultant additional population's need for services beyond what is currently available.
 - i. Less than significant impact. Construction and operation of the project would result in a nominal increase in demand of fire protection and police protections services leading to the construction of new or physically altered facilities. The City of Shafter will ensure that construction activities are conducted in accordance with local and State fire codes. Services are adequately planned for within the City's General Plan through policies to ensure the City maintains fire department performance and response standards by allocating the appropriate resources. The project applicant is responsible for constructing any infrastructure needed to serve the project. Therefore, the project would not 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 fire protection.
 - ii. <u>Less than significant impact.</u> See response to a.i above. Therefore, the project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or 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 police protection.
- iii. No impact. The project would not have any impacts on school facilities because it would not generate land uses that increase the number of students within the City. Therefore, the project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the 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 schools.
- iv. No impact. The project would not have any impacts on parks because it would not generate land uses that increase the number of residents within the City. Therefore, the project would not 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 parks.
- v. <u>No impact.</u> See response to a.iv above. Therefore, the project would not 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 other public facilities.

Recreation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks				
or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical				
deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				
b) 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?				

- a) <u>No impact.</u> See Public Services responses above. Therefore, the project would not increase of the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would not occur or be accelerated.
- b) <u>No impact.</u> See Public Services responses above. Therefore, the project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Transportation/Traffic

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No
Would the project:	Impact	Incorporated	Impact	Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and				
pedestrian facilities?				
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section				
15064.3, subdivision (b)?				
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design				
feature (for example, sharp curves or dangerous intersections)				
or incompatible uses (for example, farm equipment)?				•
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?				

Evaluation of Environmental Effects

The discussion in this section is based on a traffic investigation and vehicle miles travelled (VMT) evaluations prepared specifically for the project (R&S 2024).

 a) <u>Less than significant impact.</u> The City of Shafter General Plan's Transportation Program (or Circulation Element) provides policies regarding streets. One of the main objectives for streets in the Circulation Element includes ensuring that streets operate at a level of service C.

Construction Phase

During construction, traffic will consist of worker passenger vehicles/light trucks and heavy trucks delivering parts, equipment, and materials to the project sites. Construction activities would take place primarily Monday through Friday during daylight hours. Project construction is estimated to take approximately six months to complete and would involve an average daily workforce of approximately 15 personnel. The maximum daily workforce is anticipated to be 22 personnel during the peak of project construction. Heavy truck trip deliveries will be approximately two per week during the project construction phase. A conservative estimate of two deliveries per day was assumed in the trip generation calculation. The table below provides the project's estimated construction trip generation.

Trip Generation Construction Phase								
		ADT AM F		AM Peak Hour PM Peak H		ak Hour		
				IN	IN OUT		OUT	
Trip Type	Vehicle	Variable	Daily Trips	% Split	% Split	% Split	% Split	
	Type			Trips	Trips	Trips	Trips	
Worker	Passenger	22	36	100%	0	0	100%	
		Workers		18	0	0	18	

Trip Generation Construction Phase								
		ADT	AM Peak Hour		PM Peak Hour			
			IN	OUT	IN	OUT		
Trip Type	Vehicle	Variable	Daily Trips	% Split	% Split	% Split	% Split	
	Type			Trips	Trips	Trips	Trips	
Delivery	Heavy	2	4	100%	0	0	100%	
	Truck	Deliveries		2	0	0	2	
	Total			20	0	0	20	

Source: R&S 2024.

Operations Phase

Upon completion, the project would be operated and monitored remotely 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The facility's regular maintenance program would be conducted onsite primarily during daylight hours. It is anticipated that washing of the PV panels would generate the greatest volume of project traffic during the operations phase. Panel washing would occur monthly for approximately one week. It is expected that maintenance workers would commute from local communities. It is estimated that the washing of PV panels would require a daily workforce of two maintenance personnel. The table below provides the project's estimated operations trip generation.

	Trip Generation Operations Phase										
			ADT	AM Pea	ak Hour	PM Pea	ak Hour				
				IN	OUT	IN	OUT				
Trip Type	Vehicle	hicle Variable Daily Trips % Split % Split		% Split	% Split						
	Type			Trips	Trips	Trips	Trips				
Worker	Passenger	2	4	100%	0	0	100%				
		Workers		2	0	0	2				
		Total	4	2	0	0	2				

Source: R&S 2024.

Conclusion

In compliance with California Department of Transportation traffic impact study guidelines, dated December 2002, the threshold for requiring a traffic impact analysis is the addition of 50 project trips to one or more intersections during the peak hour of adjacent street traffic. The peak hour of adjacent street traffic typically occurs on weekdays during the AM or PM peak hour for commuter traffic.

The project is estimated to generate 20 peak hour trips during the peak of construction and two peak hour trips during the peak period of operation, as shown in the two tables above. Since both trip generation estimates are below the traffic impact analysis threshold of 50 peak hour trips, the project does not require further level of service analysis and is expected that the project sites would have a less than significant level of service impact.

Therefore, the project would not cause an impact and would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system.

b) <u>Less than significant impact.</u> An evaluation of VMT was conducted based on applicable CEQA Guidelines for the project. The VMT evaluation included both project construction and operations.

Guidelines for assessing project VMT as part of a transportation impact analysis under CEQA are contained in the State of California, Office of Planning and Research's "Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA," dated December 2018. This advisory includes methodology recommendations for analyzing project VMT.

The Technical Advisory contains screening thresholds for identifying whether a land use project should be expected to result in a less than significant transportation impact under CEQA. One such threshold pertains to project size. According to the Advisory, a project that generates fewer than 110 trips per day may be assumed not to cause a significant transportation impact.

As shown in the two tables above, the number of daily passenger vehicle trips generated during the construction phase and operation and maintenance (40 and 4, respectively) satisfies the small project screening threshold of 110 daily trips. The project is expected to have a less than significant transportation impact during these phases. Therefore, the project would not be in conflict or be inconsistent with CCR Section 15064.3(b).

- c) No impact. The project does not create any new roads, including roads that have a hazardous geometric design or result in incompatible uses. Therefore, the project would not substantially increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses.
- d) <u>Less than significant impact.</u> See response to c. above. The project would be required to comply with all emergency access requirements adopted and set forth in the City of Shafter Municipal Code. These requirements and all others required to be included in the project design will be verified by the City prior to project approval. Therefore, the project would not result in inadequate emergency access.

Tribal Cultural Resources

		Less Than Significant		
	Potentially Significant	with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No
	Impact	Incorporated	Impact	Impact
Would the project cause a substantial adverse chang	e 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 the terms of the size and sco	ope of the			
landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a	California			
Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Re	egister of			
Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical	resources			
as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k	:()? □			
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discr	retion and			
supported by substantial evidence, to be significant	pursuant			
to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resou	rces Code			
Section 5021.1. In applying the criteria set forth in si				
(c) of Public Resources Code 5024.1, the lead age				
consider the significance of the resource to a Californ	•			
American tribe.				

- a) No impact. The three project sites are not listed or eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources or in a local register of historical resources. Therefore, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources or in a local register of historical resources.
- b) <u>No impact.</u> See response to a. above and in the Cultural Resources section. Therefore, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is determined by the lead agency to be significant.

Utilities and Service Systems

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

- a) No impact. Refer to Geology and Soils and Hydrology and Water Quality responses above regarding potable and irrigation water, wastewater, and stormwater. The above analysis concluded that the project would not require the relocation or construction of new or expanded facilities for water potable and irrigation water, wastewater, and stormwater facilities. The project would generate it own electricity and additional electricity is not needed. No natural gas or telecommunication facilities are proposed for the project. Therefore, the project would not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects.
- b) <u>No impact.</u> Operations of the project would not require water. Therefore, the project has sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years.
- c) <u>No impact.</u> Operations of the project would not require wastewater treatment. Therefore, the project would not result in the need for a determination by the wastewater treatment

- provider which serves or may serve the project has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments.
- d) <u>Less than significant impact.</u> The project would generate a nominal amount of solid waste, mainly due to periodic replacement of solar PV array components as needed. Therefore, the project would be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs.
- e) Less than significant impact. See response to d. above. The 1989 California Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939) requires Kern County to attain specific waste diversion goals. The Shafter/Wasco Landfill is the City's primary landfill, while the Bena Landfill accepts some refuse from industrial uses within the City. Both facilities have the capacity to serve projected solid waste disposal needs through 2056 and 2046, respectively. Therefore, the project would comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulation related to solid waste.

Wildfires

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

- a) Less than significant impact. See Hazards and Hazardous Materials section regarding emergency response. According to data from the Cal Fire, there are no fire hazard severity zones on the project sites or within the City boundaries. The City of Shafter maintains an emergency plan for response to disasters, including fires. The objectives of the plan are to reduce loss of life, injury, and property losses through effective management of emergency forces (Shafter 2005). The emergency plan includes objectives and policies that would prevent new development from interfering with emergency response of evacuation plans. The project will comply with all local regulations related to the construction of new development that is consistent with the emergency plan. The project would also comply with the appropriate local and State requirements regarding emergency response plans and access. The proposed project would not inhibit the ability of local roadways to continue to accommodate emergency response and evacuation activities. Therefore, the project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- b) <u>Less than significant impact.</u> The project sites are in a region dominated by agricultural. The topography of the area is flat. Development of the project will not increase the need for fire protection services or expand the service area of the local Fire Department, and the project will comply with all applicable fire codes and regulations. Therefore, the project would not exacerbate wildfires and expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a

wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors.

- c) <u>Less than significant impact</u>. The project would develop three solar PV arrays surrounded by irrigated orchards, which pose little risk for wildfires. Therefore, the project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.
- d) No impact. The site is topographically flat land, as is the surrounding area. There are no slopes on or near the property and the project would not expose the people or structures to significant risks from downslope or downstream flooding or landslides due to a result of runoff, post fire instability or drainage changes. According to FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps the project is within an area of minimal flood hazards (FEMA 2021). Therefore, the project would 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.

Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?		•		

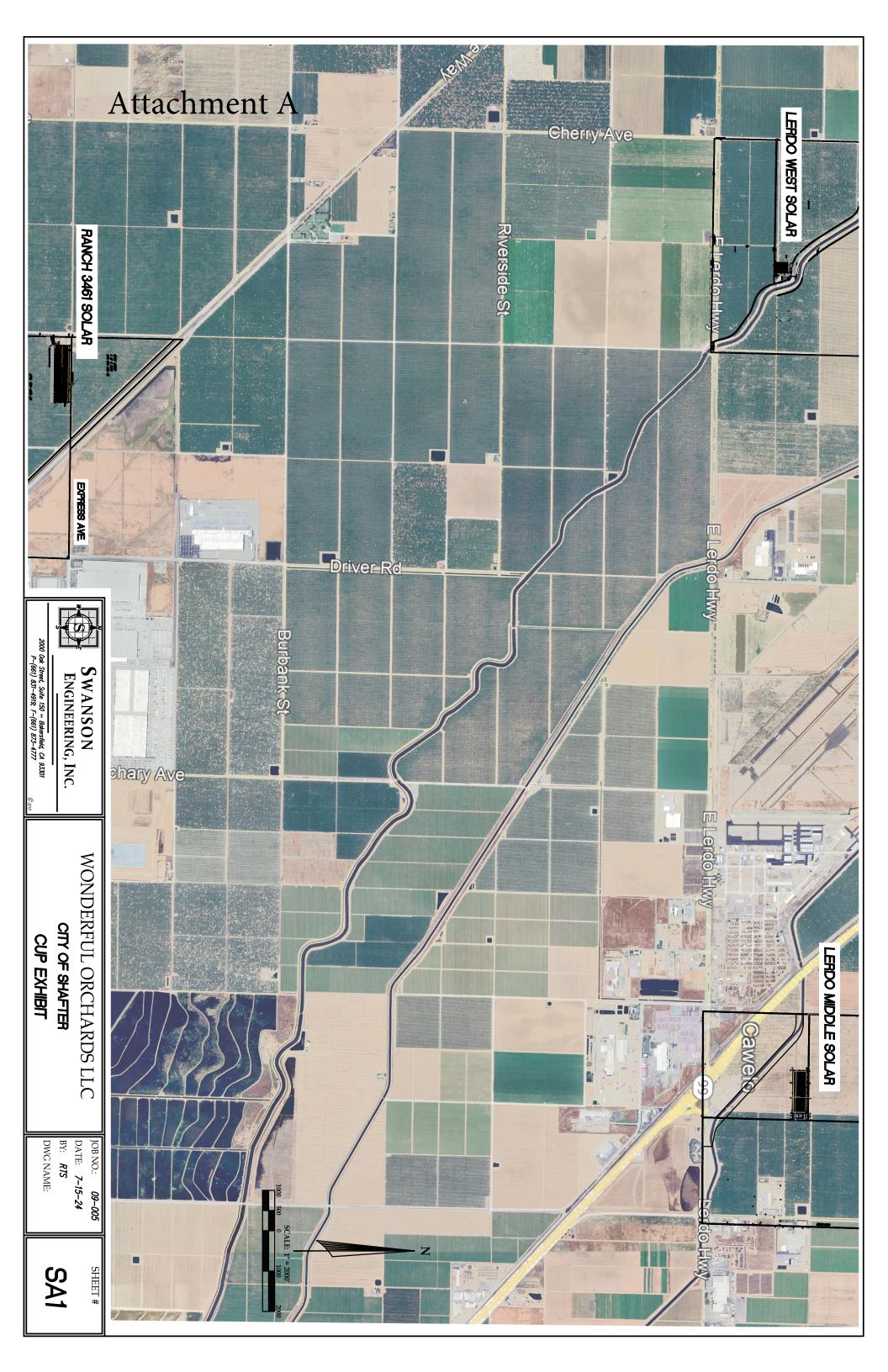
Evaluation of Environmental Effects

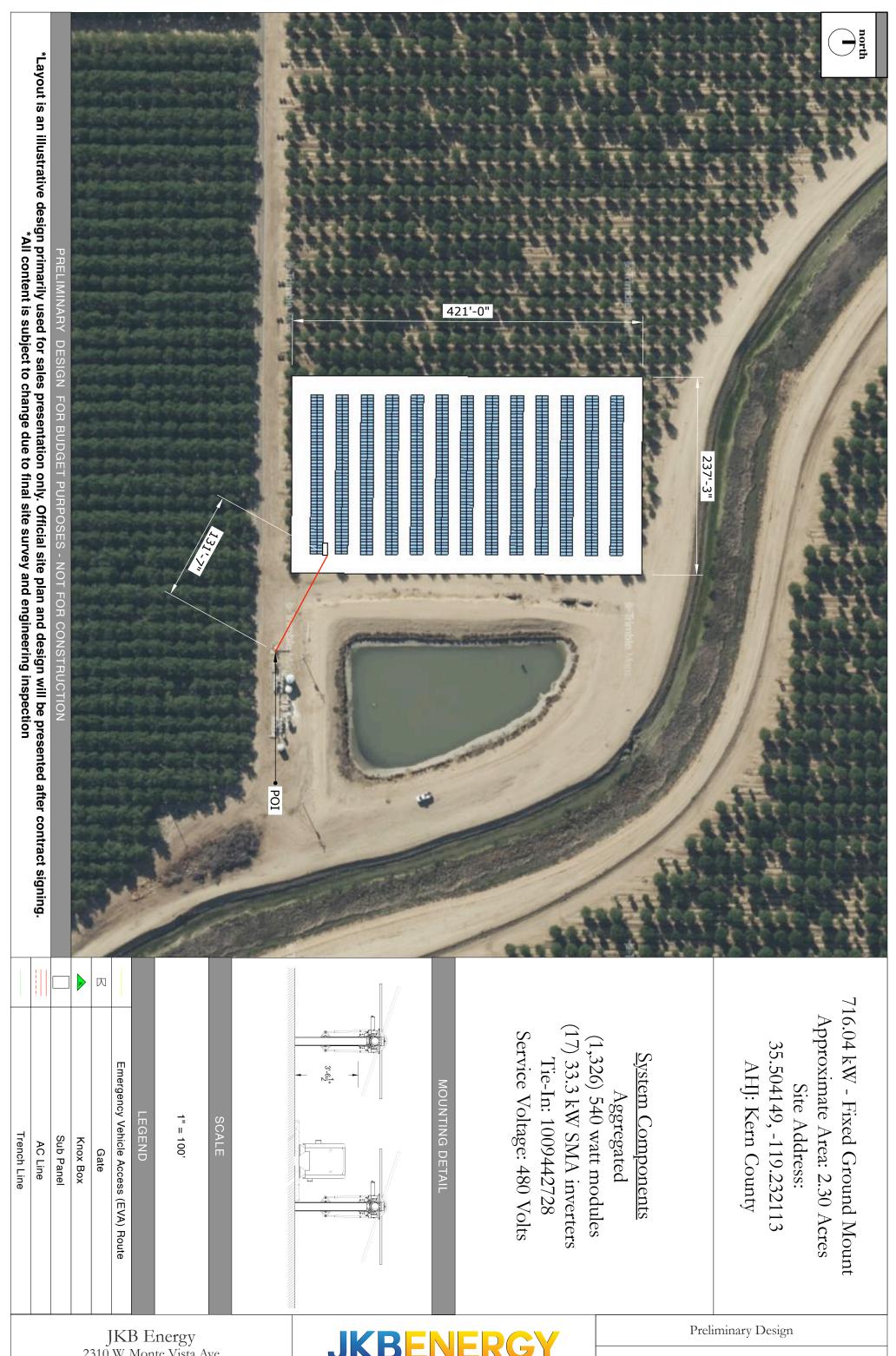
a) Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As evaluated in this document, the project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment; substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species; cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below selfsustaining levels; threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community; reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species; or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. With implementation of the mitigation measures recommended in this document, the project would not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, significantly impact biological resources, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. Therefore, with the following mitigation measures the project would have a less-thansignificant impact. Therefore, the project, with the implementation of the identified conditions of approval, best management practices, and mitigation measures, would not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

- b) Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated. As described in the impact analyses in this document, any potentially significant impacts of the project would be reduced to a less-than-significant level through implementation of the project as described and by mitigation measures. The project would not otherwise combine with impacts of related development to add considerably to any cumulative impacts in the region. With mitigation, the project would not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Therefore, the project would have a less than cumulatively considerable impact with mitigation incorporated. There is no substantial evidence that with the implementation of the identified conditions of approval, best management practices, and mitigation measures, there are any cumulative effects associated with this project.
- c) <u>Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.</u> All the project's impacts, both direct and indirect, that are attributable to the project were identified and mitigated. The project mitigation measures will substantially reduce or eliminate impacts of the project. Therefore, the project, with mitigation, would not have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

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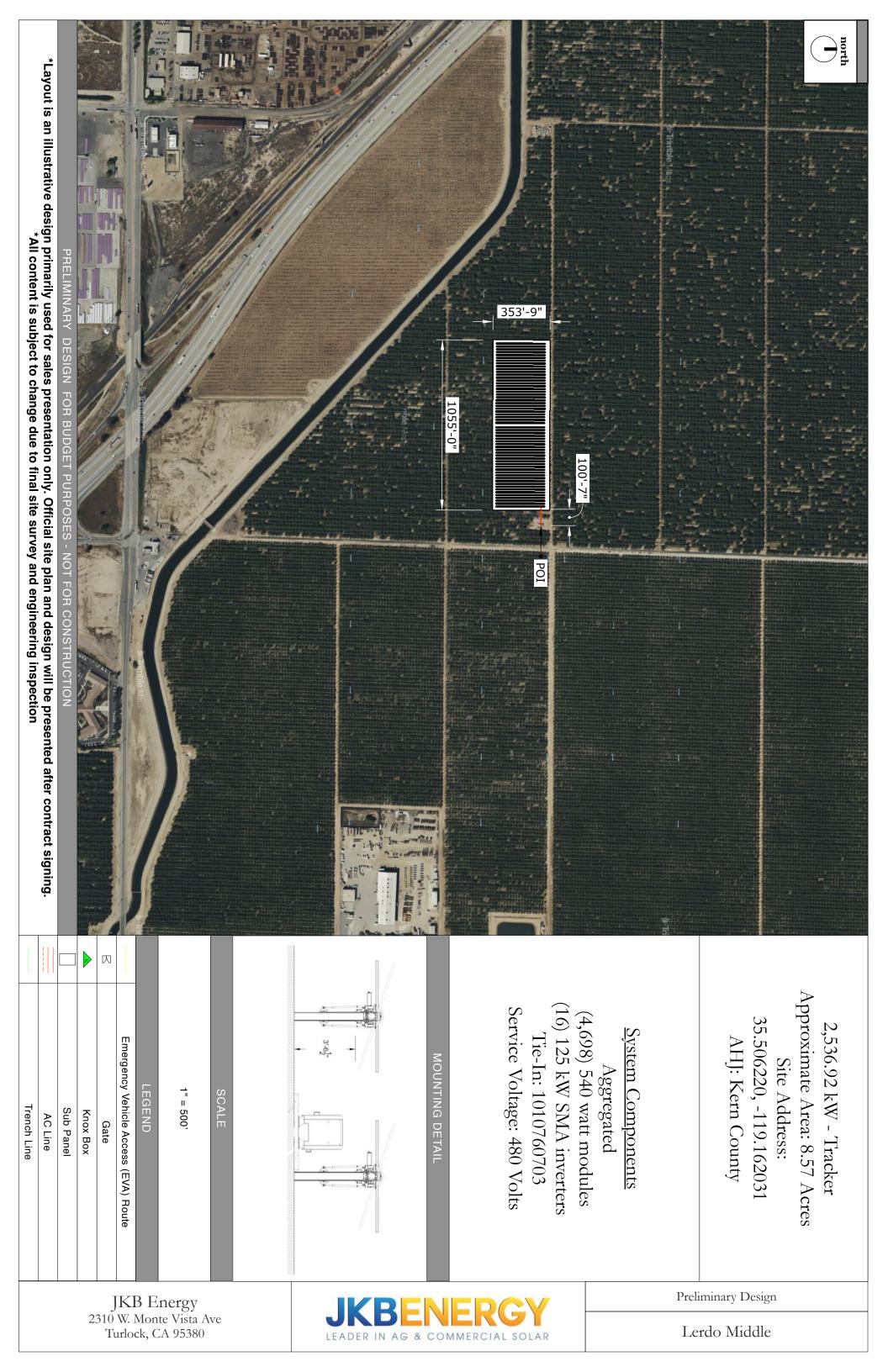


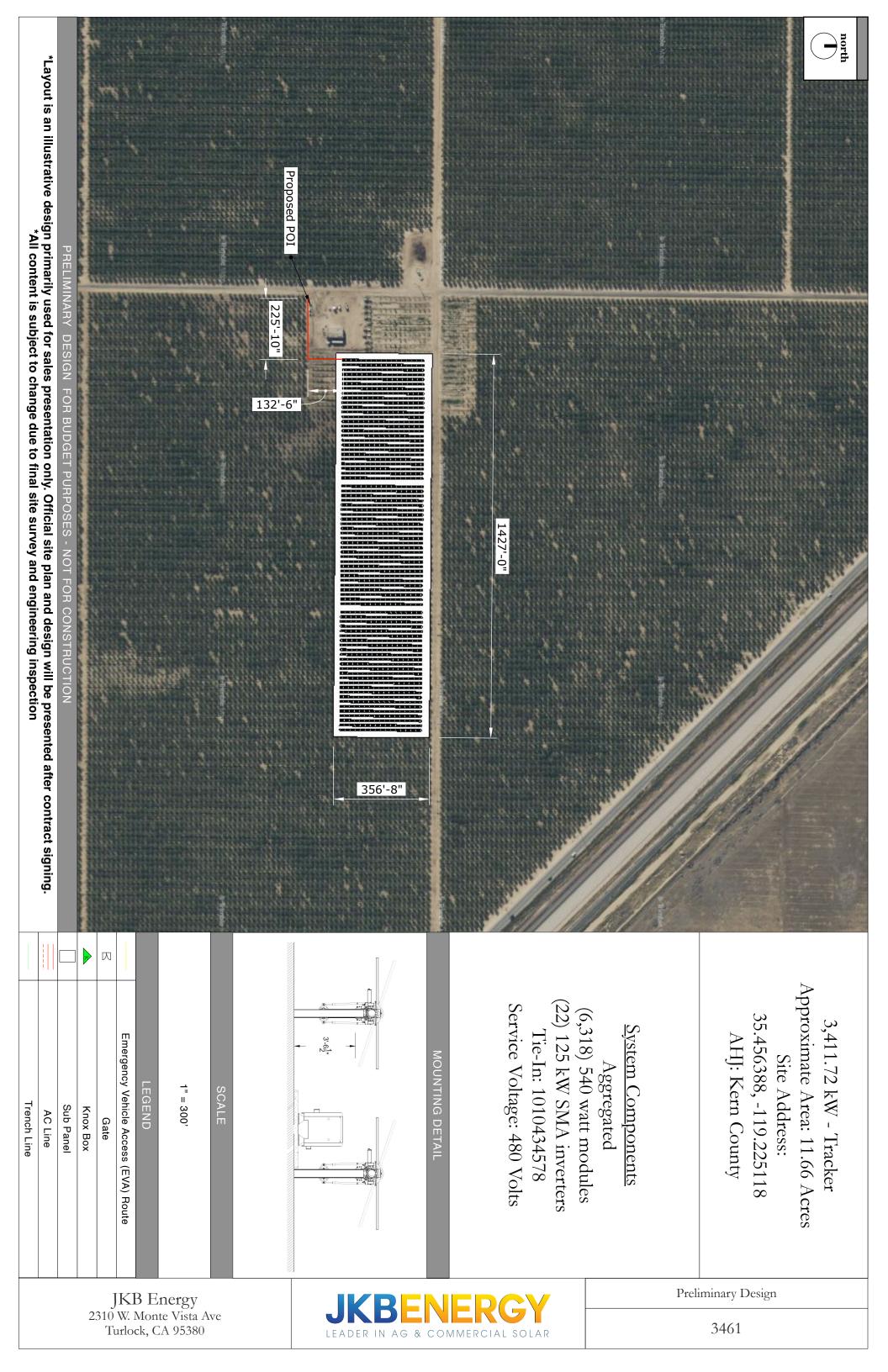


2310 W. Monte Vista Ave Turlock, CA 95380



Lerdo West





ATTACHN	ATTACHMENT "B" - Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program – CUP 24-145 (Wonderful Solar	45 (Wonderful Solar Faci	Facilities)		
No.	Mitigation Measure	Time Frame for	Responsible Monitoring	Date	Initials

	#1	No.
• •	- The	<u> </u>
activities, Biological resource monitoring during each initial phase of ground disturbance, Compliance reporting provided to the required oversight contract a qualified biologist to perform a pre-construction survey	 The following biological resources best management practices during construction activities shall be implemented for the project: A biological resource pre-activity survey conducted by a qualified biologist no more that 30-days before the start of construction 	Mitigation Measure
 This mitigation measure shall the approval for any site plan review. Contract a qualified biologist to 		Time Frame for Implementation
neasure shall be incorporated ite plan review.	Qualified Biologist; City of Shafter Planning Department	Responsible Monitoring Agency
This mitigation measure shall be incorporated as a condition of approval for any site plan review. Contract a qualified biologist to perform a pre-construction survey		Date
idition of		Initials

	 Pipes, conduit and similar material 3 inches or greater should be capped to prevent wildlife from becoming inadvertently trapped 	
<u>∞</u>	be covered or otherwise secured to the greatest extent	
	• Vertical sided holes that are not capable of being ramped should	
7.	ramps at no more than a 1:1 ratio every 100 feet,	
	• Vertical sided trenching deeper than 2 feet will include escape	
6.	agencies contacted for guidance,	
	Disturbance (2011) should be implemented, and the appropriate	
ŗ.	Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground	
1	Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the	
	time during construction, protocols enumerated in the USFWS	
4	 If known or natal San Joaquin kit fox dens are identified at any 	

During construction, place escape ramps; cover holes that cannot be ramped; and cap pipes, conduit, and similar material 3 inches or

Qualified biologist implements necessary avoidance buffers and

monitoring for Sann Joaquin kit fox, if needed.

Provide summary of the avoidance buffer activities to the Planning

Department for the record.

in the piping.

cc a -	ppi	approval and during construction
Ň	ter	Steps to Compliance:
	<u>;</u>	1. This mitigation measure shall be incorporated as a condition of approval for any site plan review.
	5	Contract a qualified biologist to perform a pre-construction survey within 30 days prior to ground disturbance activities.
	W	Provide results of survey to the Planning Department for the record.
	4.	Contract a qualified biologist to perform monitoring during each initial phase of ground disturbance.
	5	Provide results of monitoring to the Planning Department for the record, including any compliance reporting.

additional tasks, as warranted,

								#2
	by a qualified onsite biologist. Appropriate avoidance should be	until young have fledged, unless otherwise approved and monitored	should occur within an appropriate avoidance area for that species 1. This mitigation measure shall be incorporated as a condition of approval	nesting birds are present, no new construction or ground disturbance	to the commencement of ground disturbance for project activities. If \top	February 1 through August 31), nesting bird surveys shall occur prior		If ground-disturbing activities are planned during the nesting season Prior to ground
ground disturbance activities.	2. Contract a qualified	for any site plan review	1. This mitigation mea	Steps to Compliance:	:		disturbance	Prior to ground
activities.	2. Contract a qualified biologist to perform nesting birds surveys prior to	iew.	ire shall be incorporated as a co			Department	Shafter Planning	Qualified Biologist; City of
	rds surveys prior to		ondition of approval					

АТТАСН	ATTACHMENT "B" - Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program – CUP 24-145 (Wonderful Solar		Facilities)		
No.	Mitigation Measure	Time Frame for Implementation	Responsible Monitoring Agency	Date	Initials
	determined by a qualified biologist. In general, minimum avoidance 3. Qualified biologist implements necessary avoidance buffers, if needed.	3. Qualified biologist	implements necessary avoidance	e buffers, if	needed.
	zones for active nests should be implemented as follows:	4. Provide results	Provide results of avoidance buffer activities to the Planning	to the	Planning
	 Burrowing owl – as appropriate based on nest location, existing 	-			
	surrounding activity, and evaluation of owl behavior (coordination with CDFW may be warranted).				
	• Sensitive raptors (e.g., prairie falcon, golden eagle) – 0.5 miles				
	(0.8 kilometers), and				
	 Other raptors – 500 feet (152 meters). 				

gai	ado	mit	cul	det	wo	fire	flal	Cul	arc	all	#3 If C
data recovery excavation.	additional studies may include avoidance, testing, and evaluation or 3. If necessary, implement recommended pr	mitigate adverse impacts from project implementation. These	cultural resource, additional investigations may be required to	determines that the discovery represents a potentially significant 2. If prehistoric	wood, brick, or structural remnants. If the qualified archaeologist	fire-affected rock as well as historic resources such as glass, metal, 1. This mitigation measure shall be incorporate	flaked and ground stone tools and debris, shell, bone, ceramics, and	Cultural resource materials may include prehistoric resources such as	archaeologist can evaluate the find and make recommendations.	all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall halt until a qualified	If cultural materials are encountered during construction activities, During construction
	3. If necessary, implem	recommend procedures.	work, and contact	2. If prehistoric or his	for any site plan review	 This mitigation meas 	Steps to Compliance:	: :			During construction
	nent recommended pi	ures.	work, and contact a qualified archae	or historic-era cultural mat	iew.	sure shall be incorpora			Department	of Shafter Planning	Qualified Archaeolog

		ıring construction
Department	of Shafter Planning	Qualified Archaeologist; City

- rated as a condition of approval
- neologist to assess finds and aterials are discovered, halt all
- procedures
- Provide summary of all relevant activities to the Planning Department for the record.

with Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.98 outlined by the Native American Heritage Commission, in accordance Bill 297), and Senate Bill 447 (Chapter 44, Statutes of 1987), shall be of the Public Resources Code (Chapter 1492, Statutes of 1982, Senate pursuant to Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. activities, further excavation or disturbance shall be prohibited If human remains are discovered during construction or operational followed. Section 7050.5(c) shall guide the potential Native American The specific protocol, guidelines, and channels of communication During co

#4

Commission (if needed)	
American Heritage	
Coroner (if needed); Native	
Department; Kern County	
City of Shafter Planning	construction

Steps to Compliance:

This mitigation measure shall be incorporated as a condition of approval for any site plan review

No.				
9				
No. Mitigation Measure Time Frame for Implementation involvement, in the event of discovery of human remains, at the direction of the county coroner. County Corol procedures a 3. If the County the applicant	involvement, in the event of discovery of human remains, at the direction of the county coroner.			
7 Imp		'n	4.	л
Time Frame for Implementation Agend 2. If human remains are un County Coroner to evaluation procedures and protocols 3. If the County Coroner detethe applicant/developer	If human rema County Corone procedures and	If the County Co the applicant/d Commission.	If Native American h shall implement au mitigation measure	
ins	ins r to	ron eve	ure t a	
Responsible Monitoring Agency nains are uncovered, halt all work anner to evaluate the remains and foll and protocols. Coroner determines that the remains at the value of t	ins are uncovered, halt all work and to evaluate the remains and foll protocols.	roner determines that the remains a eveloper shall contact the Native	an human remains are located, the tand comply with the requiren ure.	
Responsible Monitoring Agency One of the contains are uncovered, halt all work and contains to evaluate the remains and follow the protocols. To evaluate the remains are Native eveloper shall contact the Native America	ins are uncovered, halt all work and contar to evaluate the remains and follow the protocols.	roner determines that the remains are Nativeveloper shall contact the Native America	an human remains are located, the applican tand comply with the requirements lisure.	
Time Frame for Implementation Responsible Monitoring Agency 2. If human remains are uncovered, halt all work and contact the Kern County Coroner to evaluate the remains and follow the appropriate procedures and protocols. 3. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the applicant/developer shall contact the Native American Heritage	2. If human remains are uncovered, halt all work and contact the Kern County Coroner to evaluate the remains and follow the appropriate procedures and protocols.	roner determines that the remains are Native Amer eveloper shall contact the Native American Her	 If Native American human remains are located, the applicant/developer shall implement and comply with the requirements listed in this mitigation measure. 	E Drovido cumparo of all relevant potivities to the planning Department

#5 evaluate the find and make recommendations regarding treatment. and Mitigation of Adverse Impacts to Paleontological Resources, can discoveries of paleontological resources qualified paleontologist shall contact the Natural History Museum of Paleontological resource materials may include resources such as Vertebrate Paleontology Standard Procedures for the Assessment If any paleontological resources are encountered during ground Los Angeles County or other appropriate facility regarding any fossils, plant impressions, or animal tracks preserved in rock. The until a qualified paleontologist as defined by the Society of disturbance activities, all work within 25 feet of the find shall halt ω 2 Ë 4

If the qualified paleontologist determines that the discovery represents a potentially significant paleontological resource, additional investigations and fossil recovery may be required to mitigate adverse impacts from project implementation. If avoidance is not feasible, the paleontological resources shall be evaluated for their significance. If the resources are not significant, avoidance is not necessary. If the resources are significant, they shall be avoided to ensure no adverse effects, or such effects must be mitigated. Construction in that area shall not resume until the resource

Den;	
City	
Qual	During construction

for the record.

Qualified Paleontologist;
City of Shafter Planning
Department

Steps to Compliance:

- This mitigation measure shall be incorporated as a condition of approval for any site plan review.
- Contract a qualified paleontologist, if needed
- . Perform additional investigations and fossil recovery, if needed
- Perform significance evaluation and effectuate recommendations, if needed.
- Provide summary of all relevant activities to the Planning Department for the record.

Monitoring and Reporting Program – CUP 24-14	45 (Wonderful Solar Fac	ilities)		
	Time Frame for Implementation	Responsible Monitoring Agency	Date	Initials
	Monitoring and Reporting Program – CUP 24-1	ATTACHMENT "B" - Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program – CUP 24-145 (Wonderful Solar Faction) No. Mitigation Measure Time Frame for Implementation	Monitoring and Reporting Program – CUP 24-145 (Wonderful Solar Facilities) Time Frame for Implementation Agency	ar Facilities) Responsible Monitoring Agency

appropriate measures are recommended or the materials are
determined to be less than significant. If the resource is significant
and fossil recovery is the identified form of treatment, then the fossil
shall be deposited in an accredited and permanent scientific
institution. Copies of all correspondence and reports shall be
submitted to the Lead Agency.