

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the lead agency, the County of Santa Barbara (County) has prepared this Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Draft Program EIR) to provide information about the potential environmental impacts associated with the Utility-Scale Solar Amendments Project (Project). This Draft Program EIR has been prepared in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000 et seq.), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.), and the County's procedures for implementing CEQA. The principal State CEQA Guidelines sections governing the content of this document are Sections 15120 through 15132 (Contents of an EIR), and Section 15168 (Program EIR). The State Clearinghouse Number is 2024110254.

This chapter of the Draft Program EIR meets State CEQA Guidelines Section 15123 requiring that an EIR contain a summary. Per Section 15123, the summary shall contain a brief description of the Project's proposed actions and consequences, including identification of each significant effect and proposed mitigation measures and alternatives that would reduce or avoid those effects. The summary must also contain a description of the areas of controversy known to the lead agency and identification of issues to be resolved, including the choice among alternatives and whether or how to mitigate the significant effects.

ES.1 Project Location and Overview

The County proposes the Project to expand the potential for renewable energy generation within the unincorporated County. The Project would not affect lands under the jurisdiction of the federal government (e.g., Los Padres National Forest and Vandenberg Space Force Base), the University of California and other State lands, and tribal governments.

As identified in the County's Strategic Energy Plan (SEP), the County has the capacity for up to 2,925 megawatts (MW) of solar photovoltaic energy generated annually from utility-scale and distributed/on-site solar systems combined. The Project would implement the County Board of Supervisors (Board) recommendation to encourage local renewable energy generation by allowing solar development in various areas of the County and by establishing a streamlined permitting process to promote utility-scale solar development to reach this potential.

Proposed amendments to County regulations would establish the streamlined permitting process. The majority of the proposed amendments would be within the three zoning ordinances: County Land Use Development Code (LUDC), Montecito LUDC (MLUDC), and Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance (CZO). In addition, the Project includes amendments to the County's Comprehensive Plan Land Use Element and the Coastal Land Use Plan. To facilitate utility-scale solar development throughout the unincorporated county, the Project would, in part, remove the Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Overlay within the LUDC and allow utility-scale solar as a conditional use on lands zoned Professional and

Institutional (PI), Agricultural I (AG-I), Agricultural II (AG-II), Public Utility (PU), Light Industry (M-1), General Industry (M-2), Industrial Research Park (M-RP), and Coastal Related Industry (M-CR) within the Inland Area and Coastal Zone portions of the unincorporated county. In addition, the Project would create and define a new category of solar energy facility, termed “community-scale.” Community-scale solar would be conditionally allowed within the same zoning designations.

The three ordinances would also be revised to streamline permitting for rooftop and small ground-mounted solar energy systems, and to clarify the County’s existing permitting process for standalone battery ESS. Battery ESS facilities are currently permitted as public utility facilities or private services in the LUDC, MLUDC, and CZO. The ordinance definitions and use tables would be revised to clarify that battery ESS facilities are a permitted use. Stand-alone battery ESS would be subject to the same proposed development standards as battery ESS components of a Tier 3 or 4 solar energy facility, for permitting consistency across all three ordinances and within the unincorporated county.

The final Project component is to update the Uniform Rules for Agricultural Preserves and Farmland Security Zones (Uniform Rules). The Uniform Rules amendments would allow utility-scale and community-scale solar energy facilities to be placed within Williamson Act agricultural preserve contracted lands, within specific parameters. The proposed amendments include adding a definition for “agrivoltaics”,¹ defining “compatible use” specifically as it pertains to locating an energy facility with agriculture, and adding a definition for “solar energy facility” and “solar-use easement.”²

As described in more detail in Section 2.4, *Project Components*, the solar energy systems and facilities would be categorized based on size. The smaller-scale systems (e.g., rooftop and small ground-mounted solar energy systems) would be categorized as Tier 1 or Tier 2, respectively. Tier 1 or 2 systems could occur on all unincorporated County lands (regardless of the zoning designation). Larger solar energy facilities (e.g., community-scale and utility-scale) would be categorized as Tier 3 and Tier 4, respectively. Tier 3 or 4 facilities would be allowed on lands zoned as described above.

The Project would include revised or new development standards for each tier of solar energy systems or facilities to be permitted. The existing development standards within the Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facilities chapter of the County LUDC (Chapter 35.59) would be amended as needed to provide standards for all tiers of solar energy facilities and systems and to mitigate potential resource and land use impacts. These development standards would be applied across all three ordinances.

ES.2 Issues Raised during Notice of Preparation Process and Areas of Controversy

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15123 states that an EIR shall identify areas of controversy known to the lead agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public during the scoping process. The County received comment letters from public agencies and the public during the public review period in response to the Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Scoping of a Program EIR. The County also held a hybrid

¹ Agrivoltaics is the term used to describe the co-location of solar and agriculture uses.

² As described by the California Department of Conservation, parties holding a Williamson Act or Farmland Security Zone contract may mutually agree to rescind a contract (or a portion of) in order to simultaneously enter into a solar-use easement, allowing solar as a compatible use.

scoping meeting on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. The County received five comment letters provided by agencies, organizations, and individuals during the scoping comment period; no one attended the hybrid scoping meeting, so no verbal comments were received.

CEQA requires that an EIR identify areas of controversy known to the lead agency, including issues that the lead agency and/or the public raise (CEQA Guidelines Section 15123). Based on comments received during the scoping process, the following environmental issues are known to be of concern and may be controversial:

- Cumulative impacts on visual resources;
- Cumulative impacts on agricultural resources and coastal agriculture;
- Hydrological impacts;
- Range of the sizes for the tiers;
- Direct and cumulative impacts related to wildfires; and
- Cumulative impacts, such as potential overlapping effects on agricultural resources, rural character, and viewsheds.

ES.3 Significant and Unavoidable Environmental Impacts

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(a) requires that the EIR describe any significant impacts that cannot be avoided, including those effects that can be mitigated but not reduced to less-than-significant levels. As indicated in Chapter 3, *Environmental Impact Analysis*, of this Draft Program EIR, the Project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts to aesthetics, agricultural resources, and cultural resources, which are discussed below and are summarized in Chapter 5, *Other CEQA Considerations*.

ES.3.1 Aesthetics

The Project would result in potentially significant impacts related to direct and indirect substantial adverse effects to public scenic vistas associated with the future development of Tier 3 and Tier 4 solar energy facilities (Impact AV-1). While mitigation would reduce some of the impacts, because the specific locations and designs for future projects are unknown at this time, potentially significant and unavoidable impacts could result even with implementation of MM AV-1.

The Project would result in potentially significant impacts related to local or state scenic corridors (Impact AV-2). Depending on the scale and location with respect to scenic resources in the state and local scenic corridors, significant and unavoidable impacts could result. Development standards and implementation of MM AV-1 would reduce potential conflicts with visual and aesthetic resources in identified scenic corridors. However, even with implementation of applicable standards and mitigation measures, impacts would be significant and unavoidable.

Future solar energy projects could degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views or conflict with applicable regulations governing scenic quality (Impact AV-3). While MM AV-1 would reduce some adverse visual impacts, future solar energy projects could degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views or conflict with applicable regulations governing scenic quality. Therefore, residual impacts would be significant and unavoidable.

With regard to cumulative impacts, the Project in combination with future growth and related projects, would result in significant and unavoidable aesthetic impacts, related to public scenic vistas, local or state scenic corridors, and visual character or quality of public views or conflicts with applicable regulations governing scenic quality. The Project's contribution to this potentially significant cumulative impact would be cumulatively considerable.

ES.3.2 Agricultural Resources

Future Tier 3 and Tier 4 solar energy facilities enabled under the Project could directly convert farmland into non-agricultural uses or otherwise impair agricultural land productivity through constructing, operating, and maintaining facilities on agricultural land (Impact AG-1). Although the zoning code amendments and mitigation measures would reduce some of the designated farmland impacts to insignificant levels with implementation of MM AG-1 for those Tier 3 or 4 facilities that are decommissioned, the effectiveness at reducing all impacts is unknown, and the amendments as proposed do not require or guarantee decommissioning within a certain time frame. Therefore, even with implementation of MM AG-1, impacts would remain significant and unavoidable.

The Project could also conflict with existing agricultural zoning or Williamson Act contracts (Impact AG-2). Compliance with the Uniform Rules and proposed development standards would offset most impacts and help preserve the viability of agricultural lands. The Uniform Rules amendments would support the planning for shared (agrivoltaics) uses on agricultural preserve lands and plan for land restoration or remediation if or when the solar energy facility is terminated. Implementation of MM AG-1 would document pre-construction agricultural conditions on designated Farmlands and provide a baseline for decommissioning. Together, the Uniform Rules and development standards (as amended by the Project) and MM AG-1 would reduce potentially significant impacts to agricultural preserves and zoning conflicts. However, the proposed amendments and MM AG-1 do not require decommissioning within a certain time frame. Additionally, landowners may elect to cancel or unenroll Williamson Act contracts to develop Tier 3 or 4 facilities without being subject to the Uniform Rules. Therefore, even with implementation of MM AG-1, impacts would remain significant and unavoidable.

With regard to cumulative impacts, the Project would allow solar energy development that could involve cumulative effects resulting in the loss of or conversion of agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses, or otherwise reduce productivity for remaining agricultural lands due to land use conflicts. Therefore, the Project, in combination with future development and related projects in the unincorporated County, would result in a potentially significant impact to agricultural resources. Even with implementation of MM AG-1, the Project would incrementally contribute to a cumulative loss of farmland and impacts would be cumulatively significant and unavoidable.

ES.3.3 Cultural Resources

Implementation of MMs CR-2 through CR-5 would reduce many of the potential direct and indirect adverse effects to archaeological and unique archaeological resources associated with the Project. However, given the high cultural sensitivity of the Project area, there is the potential for unintended impacts to unknown resources. Further, because the specific locations and designs for future projects are unknown at this time, impacts are considered significant and unavoidable.

Implementation of MMs TCR-1 through TCR-3 would reduce direct and indirect adverse effects to tribal cultural resources associated with Tier 2 solar energy system and Tiers 3 and 4 solar energy facility Projects. However, given the high sensitivity of the Project area, there is the potential for unintended impacts to unknown tribal cultural resources. Further, because the specific locations and designs for future projects are unknown at this time, impacts are considered significant and unavoidable. Similarly, implementation of MM PR-1 through PR-4 would reduce potential direct and indirect adverse effects to unique paleontological resources or sites, but due to the unknown number, locations, and designs of future Tier 3 and 4 facilities, impacts are considered significant and unavoidable.

Even with implementation of MMs CR-1 through CR-5 and similar anticipated mitigation requirements for related projects in areas of heightened sensitivity within unincorporated Santa Barbara County, the Project may still result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to archaeological and unique archaeological resources. With regard to tribal cultural resources, even with implementation of MMs TCR-1 through TCR-3 and similar anticipated mitigation requirements for related projects in areas of heightened sensitivity within unincorporated Santa Barbara County, the Project may still result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to tribal cultural resource impacts. Therefore, the Project would contribute to a significant and unavoidable cumulative impact. In addition, the incremental impact of the future solar energy facilities enabled by the Project, combined with those of the cumulative projects, could result in a cumulative impact on paleontological resources. Although, implementation of MMs PR-1 through PR-4 would lessen the Project's contribution toward cumulative effects on paleontological resources, impacts could be cumulatively considerable, and the impact would be significant.

ES.4 Summary of Project Alternatives

CEQA Guidelines section 15126.6(a) states that an EIR must describe and evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives to the project that could feasibly attain most of the project's basic objectives but avoid or substantially lessen any identified significant adverse environmental effects of the project. An EIR is not required to consider every conceivable alternative to a project or alternatives that are infeasible. Rather, it must consider a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives that will foster informed decision-making and public participation.

CEQA also requires an EIR to evaluate a "no project" alternative to allow decision-makers to compare impacts of approving a project with the impacts of not approving it. The alternatives development process, alternatives eliminated from further consideration, and alternatives considered in the EIR are described in greater detail in Chapter 4, *Alternatives*.

ES.4.1 Alternative 1 – No Project Alternative

Consistent with Section 15126.6(e)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the No Project Alternative represents what would be reasonably expected to occur in the foreseeable future if the Project were not adopted. Under the No Project Alternative, the proposed amendments discussed in Chapter 2 would not be approved. The proposed amendments to the County's Land Use Element, Coastal Land Use Plan, County LUDC, Montecito LUDC, Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance, and Uniform Rules for Agricultural Preserves and Farmland Security Zones would not be incorporated into the County's plans

and codes. Given this, utility-scale solar facilities would only be allowed in the 600-acre overlay area, and the process for permitting and developing utility-scale solar systems would not be streamlined.

ES.4.2 Alternative 2 – Reduction of Solar on Williamson Act-Contracted Lands

Under Alternative 2, Reduction of Solar on Williamson Act-Contracted Lands, the location and requirements for Tier 1 and Tier 2 would be the same as under the Project. In general, Alternative 2 would limit or prevent the development of Tier 3 or 4 facilities within certain Williamson Act contracted lands, thereby reducing the overall acres that could be developed with Tier 3 and Tier 4 solar energy facilities. Alternative 2 would not allow Tier 3 and Tier 4 facilities in lands that qualify as a “Prime” contract under the County’s Williamson Act Uniform Rules. Alternative 2 would allow solar energy facilities on some contracted lands designated as “Nonprime,” however, Alternative 2 would have specific stipulations. Tier 3 and 4 facilities would be limited to agricultural preserve contract premises that total 500 acres or more, and Tier 4 facility footprints could not exceed 100 acres in size. In total, under Alternative 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4 facilities could be located on approximately 285,691 acres of Williamson Act-contracted land, which would represent a reduction of approximately 216,198 acres (or approximately 43 percent reduction) compared to the Project.

ES.4.3 Alternative 3: Removal of Utility-Scale Solar in Coastal Areas

Alternative 3, Removal of Utility-Scale Solar in Coastal Areas, would reduce the areas in the unincorporated County where utility-scale solar energy facilities (Tier 4) would be allowed. Under Alternative 3, only solar energy systems (Tiers 1 and 2) and community-scale solar energy facilities (Tier 3) would be allowed in the Coastal Zone. Under the Project, there are approximately 59,374 acres within the Coastal Zone where zoning amendments would allow Tier 1-4 facilities. There are no parcels zoned M-1, M-2, and M-CR in the Coastal Zone. None of the M-RP or PI zoned parcels in the Coastal Zone are large enough to support Tier 4 facilities. Some parcels zoned AG-I, AG-II, and PU would be large enough for Tier 4 facilities, under the Project. There are 5,955 acres zoned for AG-I, 53,066 acres zoned for AG-II, and 322 acres zoned for PU. Alternative 3 would prevent Tier 4 facilities from being developed within the Coastal Zone on these acreages, even if the zoning designation allowed for it and the parcel was large enough. In total, Alternative 3 would reduce the land available for Tier 4 facility development by eight percent.

ES.5 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123(b)(1), **Table ES-1, *Summary of Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and Residual Impacts***, summarizes the environmental impacts of the Project and the required mitigation measures to eliminate or reduce the potential significant environmental impacts of the Project. The residual impact after mitigation is also identified. Detailed discussions of each of the identified impacts and mitigation measures, including pertinent support data, can be found in the specific resource section in Chapter 3 of this Program EIR.

TABLE ES-1
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES, AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS

Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
<i>Aesthetics</i>		
Impact AV-1: Future solar energy systems and facilities enabled and streamlined for permitting under the Project could potentially result in substantial adverse effects on public scenic vistas.	Potentially significant	MM AV-1: Appearance and Measures to Reduce Visual Effects. The County shall require Design Review approval for Tier 3 or 4 solar energy facilities proposed in a watershed of a state or local scenic highway corridor. The applicant/owner shall provide for County review visual photo simulations, plan, aerial imagery, and other materials of the proposed solar energy facility from key observation points as a site-specific evaluation to demonstrate from key perspectives the approximate appearance of a proposed facility and its related infrastructure. Locations for key observation points shall be determined through consultation with the County and land managers with jurisdiction, as appropriate, over the specific locations proposed. Site-specific actions may be enhanced or modified during project-specific County reviews and permitting for each facility proposed in the future. The following types of actions are appropriate for facility applicant/owner to consider to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential aesthetics and visual quality impacts. In addition to visual simulation requirements, the applicant/owner shall submit a narrative to demonstrate how the appearance of solar facilities would not interfere with public scenic views. The application narrative shall describe the site-specific siting and design methods planned for the solar energy facility to demonstrate how the siting and design of the facility will reduce adverse visual impacts. Suggested siting and design considerations shall include, but are not limited to the following listed measures. Measures to reduce visual dominance in the landscape: • Avoid locating facilities where placement would alter the visual setting and reduce the historic significance or function. • Avoid locating facilities in areas of high scenic value or in scenic corridors identified in the County Comprehensive Plan. Site solar energy facilities outside the viewsheds of highly scenic value areas, scenic corridors, highly sensitive viewing locations, and/or areas with limited visual absorption capability and/or high scenic integrity. If they must be sited within viewsheds of scenic resources, they should be as far away as possible, as visual impacts generally diminish as viewing distance increases. • Preserve existing rocks, vegetation, and drainage patterns to the maximum extent possible. • Consult with the appropriate land management agencies, planning entities, Tribes, and the local public early to provide advanced input on the identification

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		of important visual, historic, cultural or tribal cultural resources near a proposed facility site and on the siting and design process to foster communication with interested parties and rectify potential conflicts. Evidence of the applicant/proponent's consultation efforts may be requested by County staff to support permit applications. • Use GIS tools, the County Scenic Values Model, and visual impact simulation for conducting project level visual analyses (including mapping), analyzing visual characteristics of landscapes, visualizing the potential impacts of facility siting and design. • Utilize topography and vegetation as screening devices to limit public view of the facility from visually sensitive areas. • Avoid siting near prominent landscape features (e.g., peaks and waterfalls, coastal scenic views). • Avoid siting higher profile structures on ridgelines, summits, or other locations where structures would be silhouetted against the sky from important view locations or scenic vistas. Avoid siting interconnections/gen-tie lines and access roads (associated with solar facilities) along ridge tops or through valley bottoms. • Site linear features to follow natural land contours rather than straight lines, particularly up slopes. Fall-line cuts should be avoided. Site facilities to take advantage of natural topographic breaks and avoid siting on steep slopes. • Where array fields would be bisected by public roadways, railways, trails, or other linear features used by the public, set the edges of the solar array fields either side of the feature back enough so as not to create a visual "tunnel" effect. • In oak woodlands, chaparral areas or shrublands, linear facilities should follow the edges of clearings rather than pass through their center. Limit tree removal to the greatest extent feasible; openings in vegetation for facilities, structures and roads should mimic the size, shape, and characteristics of naturally occurring openings. • Match the siting and design of facilities, structures, roads, and other elements with the existing landscape. Added features should be visually subordinate to the landscape. • Provide visual order and unity among clusters of solar panel arrays to avoid visual disruptions.

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		- Where screening topography and vegetation are absent, use natural-looking earthwork berms and vegetative or architectural screening to minimize visual impacts. Vegetative screening can be particularly effective along roadways. - Set structures, roads, and other facility elements as far back from road, trail, and river crossings as possible to avoid a visual tunnel effect and use vegetation to screen views from crossings. Measures for siting interconnections, gen tie lines and access roads: - Choose locations for interconnection and gen-tie line and right-of-way road crossings of other roads, streams, and other linear features within a corridor to avoid areas of high scenic value and other visually sensitive areas and to minimize disturbance to vegetation and landforms. The rights-of-way should cross linear features (e.g., trails, roads, and rivers) at right angles whenever possible to minimize the viewing area and duration. - Co-locate interconnector and gen-tie lines and roads within a corridor to use existing/shared rights-of-way, existing/shared access and maintenance roads, and other infrastructure, or place gen-tie lines underground in order to reduce visual impacts. Minimize the number of structures required or co-locate to share pads, fences, access roads, lighting, etc. - Choose low-profile structures for solar panels, ancillary buildings, and other structures to reduce their visibility in the landscape. - Minimize signage. Paint or coat reverse sides of signs to reduce color contrast with the existing landscape. Verify that proposed signage conforms to community land use requirements and County codes. - Design structures and roads to minimize and balance cuts and fills. MM AV-2: Measures to Reduce Construction-Related Visual Impacts. The County shall require Tier 3 and 4 solar energy facilities to incorporate measures to reduce potential visual impacts from construction-related activities. The applicant shall incorporate the following measures into their site plans prior to permit approval and implement at the conclusion of construction as applicable. P&D shall confirm implementation of the measures prior to Final Building Inspection Clearance. - Restore disturbed surfaces to their original contours as closely as possible and revegetate immediately at the conclusion of construction and decommissioning. - Slash from vegetation removal should be mulched and spread to cover fresh soil disturbances (preferred) or should be buried. Topsoil from cut/fill activities should be segregated and spread on freshly disturbed areas to reduce color

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		contrast and aid rapid revegetation. Piles should not be left in sensitive view areas. • Round road-cut slopes and vary the cut/fill pitch to reduce contrasts in form and line. • Excess fill material should not be disposed of downslope in order to avoid creating color contrast with existing vegetation/soils. Minimize color and contrast from fill piles. • Implement dust abatement measures in arid environments to minimize the impacts of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, construction, and wind on exposed surface soils.
Impact AV-2: Future solar energy facilities enabled and streamlined for permitting under the Project could substantially damage scenic resources, such as trees and rock outcroppings within a local or State Scenic Highway corridors.	Potentially significant	MM AV-1: Appearance and Measures to Reduce Visual Effects MM AV-2: Measures to Reduce Construction-Related Visual Impacts.
Impact AV-3: The Project could potentially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of a site and its surroundings in rural areas or potentially conflict with zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality in urban areas, including policies and development standards in the County's Comprehensive Plan, Coastal Land Use Plan and Community Plans.	Potentially significant	MM AV-1: Appearance and Measures to Reduce Visual Effects MM AV-2: Measures to Reduce Construction-Related Visual Impacts
Impact AV-4: The Project could result in a new source of substantial light and glare that may adversely affect day or nighttime views.	Potentially significant	MM AV-1: Appearance and Measures to Reduce Visual Effects MM AV-2: Measures to Reduce Construction-Related Visual Impacts MM AV-3: Measures to Reduce Reflection, Contrast, and Glare. The County shall require Tier 3 and 4 solar energy facilities to minimize glare, color contrast, and reflectivity to the extent feasible. The applicant/owner shall incorporate the following measures into their construction and operational plans: • Paint grouped structures the same color to reduce visual complexity and contrast. • Use materials and surface treatments that repeat and/or blend with the existing landscape.

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		• Use nonreflective paints and coatings on visible structures to reduce reflectance and glare. Paint structures before or immediately after installation. • Use non-specular conductors and nonreflective coatings on insulators for interconnector and gen-tie lines, as appropriate. • Establish a toll-free number or website comment form for the public to report complaints related to glare from solar panels. If a complaint is received regarding glare from panels, investigate to determine whether the complaint is legitimate and whether the facility is the source of the glare. If it is determined that the facility is the source of glare and it is causing human health or safety hazards (e.g., road or air travel concerns), take all feasible measures to reduce the glare.
Cumulative	Potentially significant	MM AV-1 through MM AV-3
3.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources		
Impact AG-1: Future solar energy facilities enabled under the Project could potentially convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance to non-agricultural uses or otherwise impair agricultural land productivity.	Potentially significant	MM AG-1: Decommissioning Plan Agricultural Viability Analysis. For Tier 1 and 4 facilities proposed to be located on Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance, (as defined by the California Department of Conservation), the owner/applicant shall perform a pre-project agricultural viability analysis to document the baseline conditions for agricultural and clarify planned solar or agrivoltaics development on the parcels. The analysis shall consist of a Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) for the subject parcels proposed for solar facility use. The analysis shall be prepared using the standard U.S. Department of Agriculture LESA system methodology (USDA or successor) or a similar method recognized by the U.C. Cooperative Extension or other locally recognized agricultural standard, subject to County approval. The analysis shall be submitted to the County and shall include, but not be limited to, the following information: • A list of crop history for the past 10 years, including a statement whether irrigated or dry farming practices were in effect; estimated annual water use and source (as applicable, if known). • Specify whether the land was used for organic farming; under organic certification; or if integrated pest management practices were utilized at the subject parcels. • Site photos; • A description of the proposed use of the parcels (or a site plan); • A brief description of neighboring land uses and access considerations;

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		• A brief description of any proposed (planned) shared agricultural and solar development (agrivoltaics use); and • The decommissioning plan shall require the planned conservation of topsoil (a part of the planned solar development) to reestablish agricultural viability following the solar facility term of use.
Impact AG-2: Future solar facilities enabled under the Project would potentially conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract.	Potentially significant	MM AG-1: Decommissioning Plan Agricultural Viability Analysis.
Impact AG-3: Future solar facilities enabled under the Project could potentially involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use.	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Cumulative	Potentially Significant	MM AG-1: Decommissioning Plan Agricultural Viability Analysis.
3.3 Air Quality		
Impact AQ 1: Implementation of the Project would result in insignificant impacts in regard to conflict with or interference with the applicable air quality plan.	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Impact AQ 2: Implementation of the Project would result in an insignificant cumulatively considerable net increase of ROC, NO _x , or PM ₁₀ for which the SCCAB is in nonattainment for an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard.	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Impact AQ 3: Implementation of the Project could expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations and impacts would be potentially significant.	Potentially significant	MM AQ 1: Fugitive Dust Control. Dust control measures outlined below shall be implemented where they are applicable and feasible. The list shall not be considered all-inclusive, and any other measures to reduce fugitive dust emissions not listed shall be encouraged. • <i>Land Preparation, Excavation and/or Demolition.</i> The following dust control measures shall be implemented:

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		a) Dust generated by the development activities shall be kept to a minimum with a goal of retaining dust on the site. b) During clearing, grading, earth moving, excavation, or transportation of or fill materials, use water trucks or sprinkler systems to prevent dust from leaving the site and to create a crust after each day's activities cease. c) During construction, use water trucks or sprinkler systems to keep all areas of vehicle movement damp enough to prevent dust from leaving the site. d) Wet down the construction area after work is completed for the day and whenever wind exceeds 15 mph. e) When wind exceeds 15 mph, have site watered at least once each day including weekends and/or holidays. f) Order increased watering as necessary to prevent transport of dust off-site. g) Cover soil stockpiled for more than two days or treat with soil binders to prevent dust generation. Reapply as needed. h) If the site is graded and left undeveloped for over four weeks, the Owner/Applicant shall immediately: (i) Seed and water to re-vegetate graded areas and/or (ii) Spread soil binders; and/or; (iii) Employ any other method(s) deemed appropriate by P&D or APCD. • <i>Site Construction.</i> After clearing, grading, earth moving and/or excavating is completed within any portion of the project sites, the following dust control practices shall be implemented: - Once initial leveling has ceased, all temporarily open and inactive soil areas within the construction site shall be (1) seeded and watered until plant growth is evident, (2) treated with a dust palliative, or (3) watered twice daily until soil has sufficiently crusted to prevent fugitive dust emissions. - Dependent on specific site conditions (season and wind conditions), revegetation shall occur in those areas so planned as soon as practical after installation of the solar panels. A native seed mix of grass and flowers shall also be added to the spread topsoil to enhance regrowth. - All active disturbed soil areas shall be sufficiently watered at least twice daily or have dust palliatives applied to prevent excessive dust. • <i>Vehicular Activities.</i> During all phases of construction, the following vehicle control measures shall be implemented: - On-site vehicle speeds on unpaved surfaces shall be limited to 15 miles per hour.

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		- All areas with vehicle traffic on unpaved surfaces shall be paved, treated with dust palliatives, or watered a minimum of twice daily. - Streets adjacent to the project sites shall be kept clean, and project-related accumulated silt shall be removed. - Access to the project sites shall be by means of an apron into the project sites from adjoining surfaced roadways. The aprons shall be surfaced or treated with dust palliatives. If operating on soils that cling to the wheels of vehicles, a grizzly, wheel washer, or other such device shall be used on the road exiting the project sites, immediately prior to the pavement, in order to remove most of the soil material from vehicle tires. MM AQ-2: Valley Fever. During heavy grading where the top 12 inches of soil would be disturbed, and in locations with potential Valley Fever fungal spores (i.e., disturbance of the top soil of undeveloped land to a depth of about 12 inches in dry, alkaline, sandy soils; virgin, undisturbed, non-urban areas; windy areas; and archaeological resources probable or known to exist in the area (Native American midden sites), construction contractors will comply with the following measures to reduce potential Valley Fever impacts: • Require crews to use respirators during project clearing, grading, and excavation operations in accordance with California Division of Occupational Safety and Health regulations. • Require that the cabs of grading and construction equipment be air-conditioned or enclosed with sufficient ventilation and particulate matter filtration systems. • Require crews to work upwind from excavation sites where possible. • Where acceptable to the fire department, control weed growth by mowing instead of disking, thereby leaving the ground undisturbed and with a mulch covering. • During rough grading and construction, ensure that the access way into the project site from adjoining paved roadways is paved or treated with environmentally safe dust control agents.
Impact AQ 4: Implementation of the Project would not result in other emissions, such as odors, adversely affecting a substantial number of people.	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Cumulative	Potentially significant	MM AQ-1: Fugitive Dust Control. MM AQ-2: Valley Fever.

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SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES, AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS

Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
Biological Resources		
Impact BIO-1: Future solar energy facilities enabled for permitting under the Project could potentially result in 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.	Potentially significant	MM BIO-1: Construction Activities and Staging Areas for Tier 2 Solar Energy Systems. All site preparation, ground disturbances, construction activities, staging of equipment, and structural development shall be limited to areas of the site that have been previously disturbed or are developed in order to avoid potential sensitive biological resources. The construction staging and equipment laydown areas shall be designated on the site plans. The construction staging and equipment laydown areas shall be located at least 100 feet from any sensitive biological resources. No field alteration to plans shall allow construction, storage or staging outside of the designated areas. The County shall incorporate the requirements of this mitigation measure as a minimum objective development standard into the Utility-Scale Solar Ordinance prior to the final adoption of the ordinance. P&D building inspectors and/or compliance monitoring staff shall ensure that construction staging and equipment laydown areas are confined to the areas designated on the site plans. MM BIO-2: Nesting Birds. For construction of all future Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4 solar energy facilities, if the site provides suitable habitat for nesting birds and construction is scheduled to commence during the avian nesting season (February 1–August 31 for songbirds, and January 15 to August 31 for raptors), then a qualified biologist(s) shall conduct two nesting bird surveys to identify active nests within the work areas and a 500-foot buffer. The first survey shall occur within 7 days prior to initiation of construction activities, and the second survey shall occur no more than 72 hours prior to construction activities. Surveys shall be conducted at the appropriate time of day during appropriate weather conditions, as determined by a qualified biologist(s). Surveys shall encompass all suitable areas including trees, shrubs, bare ground, burrows, cavities, and structures. Survey duration shall take into consideration the size of the work area; density and complexity of the habitat; number of survey participants; survey techniques employed; and shall be sufficient for complete and accurate data collection. Pre-construction surveys shall focus on both direct and indirect evidence of nesting including nest locations and nesting behavior (e.g., copulation, carrying of food or nest materials, nest building, removal of fecal sacs, flushing suddenly from atypically close range, agitation, aggressive interactions, feigning injury or distraction displays, or other behaviors that indicate nesting). If a nest is suspected but not confirmed, the qualified biologist(s) shall establish a no-disturbance buffer until additional surveys can be completed or until the location can be inferred based on observations. The qualified biologist(s) shall not risk

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		failure of the nest to determine the exact location or status of the nest and will make every effort to limit potential predation as a result of the survey/monitoring efforts (e.g., limit number of surveyors, limit time spent at/near nest, scan the work areas for potential nest predators before approaching, immediately depart nest area if indicators of stress or agitation are displayed). If a nest is observed thought to be inactive, the qualified biologist(s) shall monitor the nest for one (four hours for raptors during the non-breeding season) prior to approaching the nest to determine status. The qualified biologist(s) shall use their best professional judgement regarding the monitoring period and whether approaching the nest is appropriate. If an active nest is detected, a suitable avoidance buffer shall be established by the qualified biologist(s) in the field. Construction activities shall not occur within the buffer until a qualified biologist(s) determines that the nest is no longer active (e.g., chicks have fledged). Appropriate buffer distances are generally 300 feet for passerine species and up to 500 feet for listed special-species and raptors; however, these may be increased or reduced at the discretion of the qualified biologist(s) depending on site-specific factors such as the location of the nest, species tolerance to human presence, and the types of construction-related noise, vibrations, and human activities that are expected occur. The buffer shall be delineated to ensure that its location is known by all persons working within the vicinity but shall not be marked in such a manner that it attracts predators. Once the buffer is established, the qualified biologist(s) shall document baseline behavior, stage of reproduction, expected fledge date, and existing work area conditions including vertical and horizontal distances from proposed work areas, visual and acoustic barriers, and existing level of disturbance. The qualified biologist(s) shall monitor the nest daily at the onset of construction activities and at the onset of changes in construction activities (e.g., increase in number or type of equipment, change in equipment usage, etc.) to determine the efficiency of the buffer. If the qualified biologist(s) determines that construction activities may be causing an adverse reaction, the qualified biologist(s) shall adjust the buffers accordingly. If construction temporarily ceases for a period greater than 7 days, and activities are expected to recommence during the avian nesting season, the work areas and 500-foot buffer shall be resurveyed. If nesting birds are present within 500 feet of work areas, construction WEAP training shall be implemented by the qualified biologist(s) during construction activities to avoid or minimize potential impacts to nesting birds (see MM BIO-3: Construction Worker Environmental Awareness Program) and monitoring may be recommended for any work in the vicinity of nest avoidance buffers if determined necessary by the qualified biologist(s) (see MM BIO-8: Qualified Biological Monitor).

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		The applicant/owner, under the direction of the qualified biologist(s), may also take steps to discourage nesting within the work areas including moving equipment and materials daily, covering material with tarps or fabric, and securing open areas and construction materials. The qualified biologist(s) shall ensure that none of the deterrent materials pose an entanglement risk to birds or other species. MM BIO-3: Vegetation Mapping and Habitat Assessment. Applicants for Tier 3 or Tier 4 solar energy facilities shall have a biological resource assessment prepared as part of the permit application, which shall include, at a minimum, vegetation mapping and a habitat assessment of the work area and 500-foot buffer conducted by a qualified biologist. Vegetation mapping shall be conducted using The Manual of California Vegetation, second edition (Sawyer, Keeler-Wolf, & Evens, 2009) or the most updated version. Any suitable habitat identified to support special-status plants, invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals shall be identified and mapped. In addition, any sensitive natural communities, aquatic resources, wildlife corridors, habitat for nesting birds, and protected native trees shall be identified and mapped. If any suitable habitat for special-status species, suitable habitat for nesting birds, sensitive natural communities, aquatic resources, wildlife corridors, or protected trees is determined to be present within work areas or a 500-foot buffer, then siting of future Tier 3 or Tier 4 solar energy facility projects should avoid sensitive biological resources to the maximum extent feasible. Based on the site-specific conditions and the project-specific design proposed, one or more of the following mitigation measures shall be implemented, as applicable. MM BIO-4: Special-Status Plant Species. For construction of future Tier 3 or Tier 4 solar energy facilities, if suitable habitat for special-status plant species is identified to be present within work areas and/or a 500-foot buffer during the Habitat Assessment, a special-status plant survey of the work area and 500-foot buffer, focusing on the special-status plant species with a moderate to high potential to occur within the Project area (see Appendix C of the Program EIR), shall be conducted by a qualified biologist(s) prior to construction. The survey shall take place during the appropriate blooming period for each species in accordance with CDFW's Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities (2018). If any special-status plant species are observed during the focused survey, an appropriate setback buffer of at least 50 feet shall be established and delineated by a qualified biologist(s) and these species shall be avoided by construction activities. If avoidance of the special-status plant species is not feasible and impacts to special-status plants may be significant, a mitigation strategy for special-status plant species that may be impacted shall be developed by a qualified biologist.

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		The mitigation strategy may include partial avoidance; preservation; and/or on-site or off-site restoration, translocation, and/or seed collection to create a similar population (e.g., based on number of individual plants, similar density over area, or both). If restoration and/or translocation is needed, a restoration/revegetation plan must be prepared and approved by CDFW. At a minimum, the plan shall specify the following: • A summary of impacts; • The location of the mitigation site; • Methods for harvesting seeds or salvaging and transplanting individuals to the impacted; • Measures for propagating plants or transferring living plants from the salvage site to the mitigation site; • Site preparation procedures for the mitigation site; • A schedule and action plan to maintain and monitor the mitigation site; • Performance standards by which to measure the success of the mitigation; • Contingency measures, such as replanting or weeding, if mitigation efforts are not successful. The Plan may also contain other conservation measures, such as the following: The upper four inches of topsoil during excavations shall be stockpiled separately and used to restore any disturbed areas. Actions shall be taken to ensure seed bank and topsoil remains viable for plant propagation (i.e., return to area in the same season as was removed, height of stockpiles minimized to the extent feasible, protect stockpiles from wind erosion or other damage, soil not treated with pesticides, and/or any cover, if added, would not result in soil sterilization). If construction results in potential direct or indirect impacts to endangered/threatened plant species, the applicant/owner shall consult with USFWS and/or CDFW to ensure compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act and/or California Endangered Species Act, which may include obtaining a “take” permit (e.g., Biological Opinion from USFWS, CESA Section 2081 Incidental Take Permit or CESA Section 2080.1 Consistency Determination from CDFW) and mitigation for permanent impacts (e.g., at a minimum mitigation-to-impact ratio 1:1 or greater). MM BIO-5: Construction Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP). For construction of future Tier 3 or Tier 4 solar energy facilities, if sensitive biological resources (i.e., suitable habitat for special-status species, suitable habitat for nesting birds, sensitive natural communities, aquatic resources, wildlife corridors, or protected native trees are determined to be present within

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		future solar energy facilities sites and/or a 500-foot buffer during the Habitat Assessment, the applicant/owner shall retain a qualified biologist(s) to conduct pre-construction WEAP training for all personnel entering the work area where sensitive species and/or their habitats may be present. The WEAP shall inform workers in recognizing special-status species, their habitat, regulated biological resources known to occur or to potentially occur within the future solar facilities sites, avoidance buffers and measures necessary to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to biological resources, and what to do if the species is observed. • All personnel associated with construction shall attend the WEAP training to initiation of construction activities (including, but not limited to, site preparation, staging and mobilization, vegetation clearance/mowing/trimming, grading, and excavation). The training shall include information about the special-status species potentially occurring within the work areas, identification of special-status species and their habitats, a description of the regulatory requirements and general ecological characteristics of special-status species, and a review of the limits of construction and measures required to avoid and/or minimize impacts to biological resources within the work area. A fact sheet conveying this information and pertinent contacts shall also be prepared for distribution to all contractors, their employees, and other personnel involved with construction. • Interpretation shall be provided for non-English speaking workers. • All employees entering the work areas shall be required to sign a form provided by the qualified biologist(s) documenting they have attended the WEAP and understand the information presented to them. The signed form shall be provided to the applicant/owner as documentation of training completion. The crew foreman shall be responsible for ensuring crew members adhere to the guidelines and restrictions designed to avoid impacts to special status species and other regulated biological resources. If new personnel are brought onto the work area after completion of the initial WEAP training, the training shall be conducted for all new personnel before they enter the work area where sensitive species and/or their habitats may be present. MM BIO-6: Invasive Plant Species Control Measures. For construction of future Tier 3 or Tier 4 solar energy facilities, the applicant/owner shall conduct activities in a manner that prevents the introduction, transfer, and spread of invasive plant species from one work area and/or watershed to another. Prevent best practices and guidelines for controlling the spread of invasive plants can be found on the California Invasive Plant Council's website (https://www.cal-ipc.org). The applicant/owner shall require construction contractors to ensure that equipment is free of invasive plant seeds, propagules, and any material which may contain them (e.g., soil). For purposes of this mitigation measure, invasive plant species

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		shall include all species with a Cal-IPC rating of moderate or high. Prior to entering the work areas, equipment shall be inspected to confirm it is free of mud, dirt, and debris. For larger work areas that would be accessed via non-paved roads, tire track stations shall be installed at the work area entrances and exits, where appropriate. Staging areas and access routes shall avoid weed infestations, and weed infestations within the work area(s) shall be flagged and avoided to the maximum extent feasible. Only certified weed-free materials (e.g., fiber rolls, straw, and hay) shall be used during construction of future solar energy facilities. Compliance reporting summarizing the invasive plant species control measures implemented for the project should be submitted to the County. MM BIO-7: General Construction Best Management Practices. For construction and decommissioning of all future Tier 3 or Tier 4 solar energy facilities, the applicant shall require construction contractors to adhere to the following general construction best management practices: • To minimize the risk of vehicle collisions with wildlife and minimize dust, construction vehicles shall limit speed to 10 miles per hour within the unpaved limits of construction. • All open trenches or excavations shall be fenced and/or sloped to prevent entrapment of wildlife species or have wildlife ramps available to allow for escape. • All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps generated during construction activities shall be disposed of in closed containers only and removed daily from the work area. • No deliberate feeding of wildlife shall occur. • No pets shall be allowed within work areas. • No firearms shall be allowed within work areas. • Storage and staging areas shall be located outside of sensitive habitat and sensitive biological resources areas in accordance with the County's standards condition (i.e., storage areas shall be located at least 100 feet from any storm drain, waterbody, or sensitive biological resources). All vehicle and equipment maintenance shall be performed in designated staging areas. • Access to the construction area shall be limited to established work hours. • Construction activities shall not be conducted at night (i.e., between dusk and dawn) within 500 feet of sensitive biological resources or wildlife corridors. Any nighttime lighting needed (e.g., security lighting) shall be shielded and directed downwards to minimize light spillover and/or glare.

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		• All construction equipment used within work areas shall be properly maintained to avoid leaks of oil, fuel, or residues. • Construction contractors shall equip construction equipment, fixed or mobile, with properly operating and maintained mufflers, consistent with manufacturer standards to reduce construction equipment noise to the maximum extent possible. The construction contractor will place all stationary construction equipment so that noise emitted is directed away from sensitive biological resources, and stage equipment in areas that will create the greatest distance between construction-related noise sources and sensitive biological resources. • Provisions shall be in place to remediate accidental spills from construction equipment or other construction activities. All vehicle maintenance/fueling/staging shall occur a minimum of 100 feet away from riparian habitat or water body. Suitable containment procedures shall be implemented to prevent spills. A minimum of one spill kit shall be available at each work location near riparian habitat or water bodies. • No equipment shall be permitted to enter wetted portions of any affected drainage channel unless authorized by a permit from USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW. • If the construction of future solar energy facilities has the potential to degrade water quality, water sampling shall be implemented to identify the pre-construction baseline, and to monitor during construction for comparison to baseline. • Any worker who inadvertently injures or kills a special-status species or finds one dead, injured, or entrapped shall immediately report the incident to the construction foreman or biological monitor. The construction foreman or biological monitor shall immediately notify the applicant/owner, who then shall immediately inform CDFW. • Upon completion of construction of the future solar energy facilities, a qualified biologist(s) shall prepare a Final Compliance report documenting compliance activities implemented during construction, including the pre-construction survey results. MM BIO-8: Qualified Biological Monitor. For construction and/or decommissioning of future Tier 3 or Tier 4 solar energy facilities, the applicant/owner shall retain a qualified biological monitor(s) with relevant experience with the biological resources and regulations in the County if any sensitive biological resources (i.e., suitable habitat for special-status species, suitable habitat for nesting birds, sensitive natural communities, aquatic resources, or protected native trees) are determined to be present within future solar facilities sites and/or 50-foot buffer during the Habitat Assessment. The qualified biologist(s) shall be

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		onsite during all ground-disturbing and vegetation removal activities in areas sensitive biological resources. The qualified biologist(s) shall also monitor and implemented exclusion buffers for work occurring near sensitive biological resources weekly or as needed, and check potential, atypical, and known nests/burrows/burrow complexes/dens every two weeks while construction activities occurring within suitable habitat for special-status species. The qualified biologist shall recommend appropriate setback buffers for protection of sensitive biological resources, where necessary, and shall have the authority to temporarily stop work if any special-status species are observed that may be impacted by construction activities. MM BIO-9: Revegetation Plan. For construction of future Tier 3 or Tier 4 solar energy facilities, for temporary impacts to natural communities to be returned to pre-work conditions, or for decommissioning, a Revegetation Plan(s) (one or more) shall be prepared by a qualified biologist(s) prior to starting construction of the future Tier 3 and Tier 4 facilities and shall be implemented by the applicant/owner following completion of construction. The Revegetation Plan shall guide and ensure successful restoration of self-sustaining habitats, and shall include, at a minimum, the following: • A native planting palette appropriate for each vegetation type being restored and appropriate to local conditions. • Qualitative and quantitative monitoring methods to ensure that performance standards are tracked and met for a minimum 3-year period or until pre-work conditions are restored to equivalent or better condition. MM BIO-10: Listed Endangered/Threatened Wildlife Species. For construction of future Tier 3 or Tier 4 solar energy facilities, if suitable habitat for listed endangered/threatened wildlife species are determined to be present within work areas and/or 500-foot buffer during the Habitat Assessment (including but not limited to suitable habitat for Crotch's bumble bee, vernal pool fairy shrimp, monarch butterfly, Kern primrose sphinx moth, tidewater goby, unarmored threespine stickleback, steelhead trout, California tiger salamander, arroyo toad, foothill yellow-legged frog, California red-legged frog, western spadefoot, southwestern pond turtle, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, tricolored blackbird, burrowing owl, western snowy plover, southwestern willow flycatcher, California condor, bald eagle, Belding's savannah sparrow, light-footed Ridgway's rail, swallow, California least tern, least Bell's vireo, Nelson's antelope squirrel, gray kangaroo rat, and San Joaquin kit fox), then protocol surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist(s) in accordance with the most recent applicable USFWS and/or CDFW protocol guidelines, if applicable (see CDFW's Survey and Monitoring Protocols and Guidelines (CDFW n.d.)). For listed special-status

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		species that do not have established protocol survey guidelines, a focused survey methodology shall be established by a qualified biologist(s) in accordance with industry best practices and in coordination with USFWS and/or CDFW. Special status species observed will be reported to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). If endangered/threatened wildlife species are observed during the protocol or focused surveys, an appropriate setback buffer (e.g., 500 feet or other appropriate buffer), as recommended by the qualified biologist, shall be established and the project design shall be sited to avoid direct and indirect impacts to occupied habitat to the maximum extent feasible. In addition to avoiding direct mortality of these endangered/threatened wildlife species and direct impacts to occupied habitat, additional avoidance and minimization measures may be required, including: • Conducting pre-construction surveys (e.g., within 7 days prior to initial ground disturbance or vegetation clearing, or multiple pre-construction surveys may be required if recommended by USFWS and/or CDFW). For endangered/threatened avian species, pre-construction surveys should at a minimum follow the County's Standard Condition Bio-23 that requires nest bird surveys no more than one week (7days) prior to commencement of vegetation removal, grading, or other construction activities. • Requiring construction monitoring (e.g., conducting weekly surveys within suitable habitat and a 50-foot buffer for western snowy plover, and conducting daily preconstruction surveys and/or consistent monitoring for light-footed Ridgway's rail). • Establishing a suitable avoidance buffer around known territories (e.g., establishing a 250-foot avoidance buffer around suitable vernal pools and seasonal wetlands/swale habitat for California tiger salamander and/or western spadefoot, establishing a 700-foot avoidance buffer around tidal marsh areas, the protection of light-footed Ridgway's rail, and establishing 100 foot buffer for dens and 200-foot buffers around natal dens for San Joaquin kit fox). • Restricting construction activities within suitable habitat (e.g., limiting construction activities within 250 feet of intermittent or perennial waterways suitable for California tiger salamander and/or arroyo toad to compacted soil immediately adjacent to the roadway with no burrows, and prohibiting disturbance of substrates within California tiger salamander and/or arroyo toad suitable habitat). • Restricting activities around certain times of year (e.g., limiting construction from May 1-January 15 within suitable habitat for Kern primrose sphinx moth, limiting construction to May 1-October 31 within suitable upland and aquatic habitat for California tiger salamander and western spadefoot, limiting

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		construction to June 1-October 15 within 250-feet of suitable vernal pool and seasonal wetland/swale habitat for California tiger salamander and western spadefoot, limiting construction to May 1-October 31 within suitable habitat for California red-legged frog, limiting construction to September 1-January 31 within suitable habitat for light-footed Ridgway's rail, limiting construction to September 1-January 31 within suitable habitat for burrowing owl, limiting construction to September 1-March 1 within suitable habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher, and limiting construction to September 1-February 28 within suitable habitat for western snowy plover). - Restricting activities during certain conditions (e.g., prohibiting construction activities in or adjacent to suitable light-footed Ridgway's rail habitat within two hours before or after high tides). If impacts cannot be feasibly avoided and construction could result in potential direct or indirect impacts to endangered/threatened wildlife species and/or occupied habitats, the applicant shall consult with USFWS and CDFW to ensure compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act and/or California Endangered Species Act, which may include obtaining a "take" permit (e.g., Biological Opinion from USFWS, CESA Section 2081 Incidental Take Permit from CESA Section 2080.1 Consistency Determination from CDFW) and mitigation to avoid permanent impacts to occupied habitat (e.g., at a minimum mitigation-to-impact ratio of 2:1 or greater). MM BIO-11: Non-Listed Special-Status Wildlife Species. For construction of future Tier 3 or Tier 4 solar energy facilities, if suitable habitat for non-listed special-status species is determined to be present within work areas and/or 50-foot buffer during the Habitat Assessment (including suitable habitat for American bumble bee, arroyo chub, Coast Range newt, northern California legless lizard, California legless lizard, California glossy snake, coastal whiptail, coast horned lizard, coast patch-nosed snake, two-striped gartersnake, Cooper's hawk, southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, golden eagle, Bell's sparrow, short-eared owl, ferruginous hawk, white-tailed kite, California horned lark, prairie falcon, American peregrine falcon, double-crested cormorant, California brown pelican, yellow warbler, pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, western mastiff bat, western red bat, San Diego desert woodrat, Tulare grasshopper mouse, and American badger), then prior to construction within 500 feet of areas that could support non-listed special-status wildlife species, the following measures shall be applicable to the future solar energy facilities: - Pre-construction clearance surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist(s) within 7 days prior to the start of construction (including staging and mobilization). The surveys shall cover the entire work area plus a minimum

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		200-foot buffer, if feasible, and shall identify all special-status wildlife species that may occur within work areas and/or 200-foot buffer. • If any special-status animal species are present within or near work areas, a WEAP training shall be implemented by the qualified biologist(s) during construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to these species (see MM BIO-3: Construction Worker Environmental Awareness Program). • If any special-status animal species are present within or near work areas, an appropriate setback buffer, as recommended by the qualified biologist, shall be established. • A qualified biologist(s) shall be present during all initial ground disturbing activities, including vegetation removal. • All trenches, pipes, culverts or similar structures shall be inspected for animals prior to burying, capping, moving, or filling. At the end of each workday, excavations shall be secured with cover or a ramp to prevent wildlife entrapment. • Any non-listed special-status species observed by the qualified biologist(s) or construction crew shall be allowed to move out of harm's way or shall be relocated from the work area either through direct capture or through passive exclusion by a qualified biologist(s) with appropriate permits. • Any special-status species observed will be reported to the CNDDDB. MM BIO-12: Bats. For construction of future Tier 3 or Tier 4 solar energy facilities, if suitable habitat for bat species is determined to be present within work areas and/or 500-foot buffer during the Habitat Assessment, then prior to construction within 500 feet of areas that could support bat species, the following measures shall be applicable to the future solar energy facilities: • To determine if daytime, nighttime, wintering (hibernacula), and/or maternal roost sites are present, a qualified biologist(s) with relevant experience and training shall conduct presence/absence surveys for bats during each season prior to the start of construction. Surveys shall be conducted during favorable weather conditions to understand the extent of bat usage. Each survey shall consist of one dusk emergence survey (start one hour before sunset and last three hours) and one daytime visual inspection of all potential roosting habitats within work areas. Visual inspections shall focus on the identification of bat signs (i.e., individuals, guano, urine staining, corpses, feeding remains, scratch marks, and/or bats squeaking and chattering). Surveys shall be conducted using acoustic detectors and by searching tree cavities, crevices, and other areas

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		where bats may roost. Bat detectors, bat call analysis, and visual observation shall be used during all dusk emergence surveys. • If active hibernacula or maternity roosts are identified in the work areas and a 500-foot buffer, Project construction shall only occur between September 1 and March 31, outside of the maternity roosting season when young bats are present but are not yet ready to fly out of the roosts. Maternity roosts shall not be evicted, excluded, removed, or disturbed. A minimum 500-foot no-disturbance buffer shall be provided around hibernacula. Buffers shall remain in place until the end of construction activities or until a qualified bat biologist determines that the hibernacula are no longer active, and construction activities shall not occur between 30 minutes before sunset and 30 minutes after sunrise. Hibernacula roosts shall not be evicted, excluded, removed, or disturbed. • Exclusion devices may be installed to discourage bats from occupying the areas outside of the maternity season in consultation with the CDFW. Netting shall not be used as an exclusion material. If a roost is determined by a qualified biologist(s) to be used by a large number of bats (large hibernacula), bat boxes shall be installed near the work areas prior to installing exclusion devices. The number of bat boxes installed will depend on the size of the hibernaculum and shall be determined through consultations with the CDFW. If a maternity colony has become established, all construction activities shall be postponed within a 500-foot buffer around the maternity colony until it is determined by a qualified biologist(s) that the young have dispersed. Once it has been determined that the roost is clear of bats, the roost shall be removed immediately. • Any exclusion devices shall be designed to avoid entrapment of birds or bats and allow exit from, but not entry to, the exclusion area. Exclusion devices shall be installed between September 30 and February 1 and removed at the end of construction. A qualified bat biologist(s) shall be present upon exclusion device installation and repair to survey for and ensure that birds and bats are not trapped behind exclusion devices. • Exclusion monitoring shall occur daily by a qualified biologist(s) to determine the effectiveness of devices. Any exclusion device repair must be completed within three days of observation under supervision of a qualified biologist(s) to ensure that bat entrapment does not occur. MM BIO-13: Critical Habitat. For construction of future Tier 3 or Tier 4 solar energy facilities on lands designated as critical habitat (see Draft Program EIR Figure 3.4-3), if critical habitat will potentially be impacted by construction, but there is no “federal nexus” (e.g., impacts to a federally listed species, impacts to USACE waters or wetlands, federal funding), then no further mitigation is

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		necessary. However, if critical habitat will potentially be impacted by construction; there is a federal nexus; and the habitat to be impacted contains PCEs to support the federally-listed species (as defined in the Federal Register designating critical habitat for that species), then consultation with the USFWS shall be required and may include mitigation for permanent impacts to critical habitat (e.g., at a minimum mitigation-to-impact ratio of 1:1 or greater, or as determined by the USFWS).
Impact BIO-2: Future solar energy facilities enabled for permitting under the Project could potentially result in a substantial adverse effect on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS.	Potentially significant	MM BIO-1: Construction Activities and Staging Areas for Tier 2 Solar Energy Systems. MM BIO-3: Vegetation Mapping and Habitat Assessment. MM BIO-5: Construction Worker Environmental Awareness Program. MM BIO-6: Invasive Plant Species Control Measures. MM BIO-7: General Construction Best Management Practices. MM BIO-8: Qualified Biological Monitor. MM BIO-9: Revegetation Plan. MM BIO-14: Sensitive Natural Communities. For construction of future Tier 2 and Tier 4 solar energy facilities, if any sensitive natural communities are determined to be present within work areas and/or 500-foot buffer during the Habitat Assessment, solar energy facilities shall be designed to avoid sensitive natural communities to the maximum extent feasible. Sensitive natural communities identified for avoidance shall be demarcated (e.g., using brightly colored flagging) and avoided during construction. The marked boundaries shall be maintained for the duration of construction activities in each work area and shall be clearly visible to personnel on foot and by heavy equipment operators. If sensitive natural communities can be avoided, then no further mitigation is necessary. If future solar facilities cannot be sited to avoid permanent impacts to sensitive natural communities, impacts to sensitive natural communities shall be mitigated by one of the methods mentioned below in a way that exceeds the biological value that which is destroyed at a minimum 1:1 impact-to-mitigation ratio. This may include, but is not limited to: • The purchase of credits from a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program; • On- and/or off-site land acquisition and preservation; and/or • On- and/or off-site creation, restoration, and/or enhancement of sensitive natural communities.

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		If compensatory mitigation is to occur on- or off-site (i.e., not a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program), a Sensitive Natural Community Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall be prepared by a qualified biologist/restoration ecologist. The plan shall include details related to implementation requirements (e.g., seeding, planting and/or staking of sensitive natural community species; salvage/dispersal of disturbed seed bank; and/or removal of invasive, non-native species), performance standards, maintenance requirements, success criteria (e.g., less than 5 percent invasive species cover), and future monitoring requirements (e.g., five years of monitoring or until success criteria have been met).
Impact BIO-3: Future solar energy facilities enabled for permitting under the Project could potentially result in a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.	Potentially significant	MM BIO-1: Construction Activities and Staging Areas for Tier 2 Solar Energy Systems. MM BIO-3: Vegetation Mapping and Habitat Assessment. MM BIO-5: Construction Worker Environmental Awareness Program. MM BIO-6: Invasive Plant Species Control Measures. MM BIO-7: General Construction Best Management Practices. MM BIO-8: Qualified Biological Monitor. MM BIO-9: Revegetation Plan. MM BIO-15: Aquatic Resources. For construction of future Tier 3 or Tier 4 solar energy facilities, if any aquatic resources are determined to be present within wetland areas and/or a 500-foot buffer during the Habitat Assessment, an aquatic resource delineation shall be conducted to determine the limits of potential jurisdictional aquatic resources within the vicinity of the system or facility. The solar energy system or facility shall be designed to avoid aquatic resources to the maximum extent feasible. Aquatic resources and an appropriate avoidance buffer to be determined by a qualified biologist, which should be consistent with applicable County resource protection policies and with the County's Standard Condition Bio-07 that requires habitat setback (e.g., typically 50 to 100 feet depending on the resource and project type) from either side of sensitive riparian habitat areas or as noted in the current Standard Conditions at the time of Project implementation, shall be demarcated using brightly colored flagging) and avoided during construction. The marked boundaries shall be maintained for the duration of construction activities in each work area and shall be clearly visible to personnel on foot and by heavy equipment operators. If aquatic resources can be avoided, then no further mitigation is necessary. If aquatic resources will potentially be impacted by construction, then the appropriate regulatory permits shall be obtained (e.g., CWA Section 404 National

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		Permit from the USACE, CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification or Port of Los Angeles Act Waste Discharge Requirement permit from the RWQCB, and Streambed Alteration Agreement permit under Section 1602 of the California Fish and Wildlife Code from the CDFW). The following would be incorporated, as a minimum, into the permitting, subject to approval by the regulatory agencies: • On- and/or off-site creation, restoration and/or enhancement of USACE/RWQCB jurisdictional wetlands, waters of the U.S., and/or waters of the State at a ratio no less than 2:1 for permanent impacts, and for temporary impacts, restore impact area to pre-work conditions (i.e., pre-work contours and revegetate with native species, where appropriate). Off-site creation, restoration, and/or enhancement at a ratio no less than 2:1 may include the purchase of mitigation credits at an agency-approved off-site mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program. • On- and/or off-site creation, restoration, and/or enhancement of CDFW/CCO jurisdictional streambed and associated riparian habitat at a ratio no less than 2:1 for permanent impacts, and for temporary impacts, restore impact area to pre-work conditions (i.e., pre-work contours and revegetate with native species, where appropriate). Off-site creation, restoration, and/or enhancement at a ratio no less than 2:1 may include the purchase of mitigation credits at an agency-approved off-site mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program.
Impact BIO-4: Future solar energy systems and facilities enabled for permitting under the Project could interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.	Potentially significant	MM BIO-1: Construction Activities and Staging Areas for Tier 2 Solar Energy Systems. MM BIO-2: Nesting Birds. MM BIO-3: Vegetation Mapping and Habitat Assessment. MM BIO-5: Construction Worker Environmental Awareness Program. MM BIO-6: Invasive Plant Species Control Measures. MM BIO-7: General Construction Best Management Practices. MM BIO-8: Qualified Biological Monitor. MM BIO-9: Revegetation Plan. MM BIO-12: Bats. MM BIO-16: Wildlife Connectivity. If the results of the Habitat Assessment identify a wildlife corridor or important habitat linkage within the work area and/or 500-foot buffer, then future solar energy facilities would be designed to include mitigation as determined by a qualified biologist, such as a minimum setback of 100 feet or greater from the wildlife movement corridor or habitat linkage.

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
Impact BIO-6: Future solar energy systems and facilities enabled for permitting under the Project could conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.	Potentially significant	MM BIO-1: Construction Activities and Staging Areas for Tier 2 Solar Energy Systems. MM BIO-2: Nesting Birds. MM BIO-3: Vegetation Mapping and Habitat Assessment. MM BIO-4: Special-Status Plant Species. MM BIO-5: Construction Worker Environmental Awareness Program. MM BIO-6: Invasive Plant Species Control Measures. MM BIO-7: General Construction Best Management Practices. MM BIO-8: Qualified Biological Monitor. MM BIO-9: Revegetation Plan(s). MM BIO-10: Listed Endangered/Threatened Wildlife Species. MM BIO-11: Non-Listed Special Status Wildlife Species. MM BIO-12: Bats. MM BIO-13: Critical Habitat. MM BIO-14: Sensitive Natural Communities. MM BIO-15: Aquatic Resources. MM BIO-16: Wildlife Connectivity.
Impact BIO-6: Future solar energy systems and facilities enabled for permitting under the Project could conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.	No impact	N/A
Cumulative	Potentially significant	MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-16
<i>Cultural, Paleontological, and Tribal Resources</i>		
Impact CR-1: Future solar energy systems and facilities enabled under the Project could potentially result in an adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5.	Potentially significant	MM CR-1: Historical Resources. The County's Standard Conditions of Approval require that a County P&D-qualified architectural historian be retained to perform significance assessments, identify appropriate preservation treatments, and document historic buildings as appropriate (CulRes-10 and CulRes-11). A County P&D-qualified architectural historian should be retained in order to implement MM CR-1. Qualified architectural historians meet or exceed the Secretary of the

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		Interior's Professional Qualification Standards in architectural history and/or history and are listed on the County's Pre-Approved Consultant List. Tier 1 and 2: Prior to issuance of a building permit for a Tier 1 or Tier 2 solar energy system, County P&D staff shall identify properties with structures or features that are 50 years in age or older for review as follows: • Should a property be determined to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources, as a County Landmark or Place of Historic Merit, alterations should follow the County Standard Conditions of Approval CulRes-10 and CulRes-11 as appropriate. • Should a property over 50 years in age not have been previously identified historic resource, unless waived by the Director, a Phase 1 historic resource evaluation shall be prepared by a P&D-qualified architectural historian to determine if the property meets the eligibility standards as a historic resource pursuant to CEQA in accordance with the County's Environmental Threshold process for significance determination of historic sites/resources. If a property is determined not to be a historic resource as part of the historic resources evaluation, a Building Permit may be issued. • Should a property be determined eligible as a historic resource, then a Phase 2 assessment shall be prepared by a P&D-qualified architectural historian to ensure that proposed Tier 1 and Tier 2 modifications will not impact the historic integrity of the building and would be in conformance with the County's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual process for significance determination of historic sites/resources (including Appendix the Manual regarding Fieldwork and Reporting Guidelines for Cultural Resources). A Phase 2 study for Tier 1 and 2 installations may be waived by the P&D Director based upon the Phase 1 evaluation conclusions. Tier 3 and 4: As part of the permit review process for Tier 3 or Tier 4 solar energy facility projects, properties should be reviewed to determine if a listed historic resource, or a potentially eligible historic resource is present within a 0.50-mile radius of the property for proposed Tier 3 and Tier 4 solar energy facilities. Based on the applicant/owner prepared site plan available databases and repositories shall be reviewed in order to determine whether known historic resources and potential historic districts are located within a 0.50-mile radius of the proposed site. Listed historic resources in the Project area include those as on the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources, or are County Landmark or Place of Historic Merit. Additional recorded built environment databases, including the BERD, County database, and CCIC data should be consulted to determine if a property has previously been identified as eligible or potentially eligible historic resource at the project level.

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		• Should a property with structures or features over 50 years in age not have previously identified as a historic resource, a Phase 1 historic resources evaluation shall be prepared by a P&D-qualified architectural historian to determine if the property meets the eligibility standards as a historic resource pursuant to CEQA. Should a property be determined eligible as a historic resource, be listed as on the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources, as a County Landmark or Place of Historical Merit, or be located within a 0.5-mile radius of an identified historical resource and be subject to Project impacts, then a Phase 2 letter report shall be prepared by a P&D-qualified architectural historian to ensure that proposed Tier 3 and Tier 4 solar energy facilities will not impact the historic integrity of the resource and would be in conformance with the County's Environmental Thresholds process for significance determination of historic sites/resources after the following are analyzed: - Realign or redesign the proposed solar energy facility to avoid impacts to known historic resources where possible. The solar energy facility shall be designed in such a way that disturbance to the building and/or site will be minimally intrusive to historic resources. When possible, new solar facilities should be sited in such a manner as to avoid visual intrusion from the property's public right-of-way. New facilities proposed to be located within or adjacent to historic resources (including buildings, structures, landscapes, districts, and sites) should be constructed, operated, and maintained in such a way that will be minimally intrusive to the historic resource and will not damage or destroy the resource's character-defining features. Further, when installing solar energy facilities within a 0.50-mile radius of historic properties, historic resource avoidance and installation guidance from the National Park Service's technical guidance entitled "Solar Panels on Historic Properties" should be followed and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (Standards) are encouraged to be reviewed to ensure that proposed installations are consistent with Standards 9 and 10. - If avoidance of a significant architectural/built environment resource is feasible, Phase 3 mitigation for historic resources shall be implemented in conformance with the County's Environmental Thresholds process for significance determination of historic sites/resources. Additional mitigation options may include, but are not limited to, documentation of the resource, specific design and siting plans for historical resources and historic districts, or in the case of Tier 3 and 4 solar energy facilities, plans for alteration or adaptive re-use of a historical resource that are in conformance with County Standard Conditions of Approval CulRes-10 and CulRes-11.

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
Impact CR-2: Future solar energy systems and facilities enabled under the Project could potentially result in an adverse change in the significance of an archaeological or unique archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5.	Potentially significant	MM CR-2: Stop Work at Encounter. The applicant/owner or contractors shall stop or redirect work immediately in the event archaeological remains are encountered during grading, construction, landscaping or other construction-related activity. The applicant/owner shall immediately contact P&D staff and retain a P&D-approved archaeologist and Native American representative to evaluate the significance of the find in compliance with the provisions of the County Archaeological Guidelines and conduct appropriate mitigation funded by the applicant/owner. MM CR-3: Cul Phases 1, 2, and 3. For proposed Tier 2 projects proposing ground disturbance in previously undeveloped areas, and for all Tier 3 and 4 solar energy projects, all ground disturbances shall be subject to a Phase 1 archaeological survey in compliance with the provisions of the County Archaeological Guidelines. If significant resources are encountered and potential impacts are unavoidable, the applicant/owner shall have a P&D approved archaeologist prepare and complete a Phase 2 subsurface testing program in coordination with P&D. If the Phase 2 program finds that one is warranted, the applicant/owner shall have a P&D approved archaeologist prepare and complete a Phase 3 data recovery excavation consistent with County Archaeological Guidelines. All work shall be funded by the applicant/owner. The applicant/owner shall submit the required archaeological studies for P&D review and approval. The applicant/owner shall include as noted on the drawings all plan components, graphically depicting all those related to earth movement, construction, and temporarily and/or permanently installed protection measures. Any required archaeological studies shall be submitted to P&D prior to the issuance of grading/building permits. The applicant/owner shall install any required resource protection measures or carry out required recovery onsite prior to the issuance of grading/building permits and the pre-construction meeting. MM CR-4: Cultural Resource Monitor. If warranted, based on the results of Phase 1 and 2 cultural resource investigations, for proposed Tier 3 and Tier 4 solar energy projects, the applicant/owner shall have all earth disturbances including excavation, scarification and placement of fill within the archaeological site area monitored by a P&D approved archaeologist and a Native American consultant in compliance with the provisions of the County Archaeological Guidelines. Prior to the issuance of grading/building permits, the applicant/owner shall submit for P&D review and approval, a contract or Letter of Commitment between the Owner/Applicant and the archaeologist, consisting of a project description and scope of work, and once approved, shall execute the contract. The Owner/Applicant shall provide P&D compliance monitoring staff with the name and contact information for the assigned on-site monitor(s) prior to grading/building permit issuance and pre-construction meeting. P&D compliance monitoring staff shall confirm monitoring.

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		by archaeologist and Native American consultant and P&D grading inspectors shall spot check field work. MM CR-5: Cultural Resource Buffer. If the Phase 1 and 2 cultural resource investigations identify the presence of an archaeological site in the project vicinity, the applicant/owner shall temporarily fence the archaeological site and a 100-foot buffer area with chain link fencing flagged with color or other material authorized by P&D where ground disturbance is proposed within 100 feet of the site and a buffer. P&D compliance monitoring staff shall verify installation of fencing by reviewing photo documentation or by site inspection prior to approval of grading permits and ensure fencing remains in place throughout grading and construction through site inspections.
Impact CR-3: Future solar energy systems and facilities enabled under the Project could potentially disturb human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries.	Potentially significant	MM CR-6: Encountering Human Remains. For proposed Tier 2, 3, and 4 solar energy projects, the applicant/owner or contractors shall stop or redirect work immediately in the event human remains are encountered during earthwork, grading, construction or other construction-related activity. If human remains are discovered, the County Coroner must be notified within 48 hours, and no further disturbance to the site shall take place where the remains were found. If the remains are determined by the coroner to be Native American, the coroner is responsible for contacting the California Native Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours. The NAHC, pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98, will immediately notify those persons it believes to be most likely descended from the deceased Native Americans so they can inspect the burial site and make recommendations for treatment or disposal.
Impact CR-4: Future solar energy systems and facilities enabled under the Project could potentially result in an adverse change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource pursuant to Section 15064.5.	Potentially significant	MM TCR-1: Retention of a Native American Representative. The applicant/owner shall retain a P&D-approved Native American Representative to carry out all mitigation related to tribal cultural resources as required for proposed Tier 2 and 4 solar energy projects in accordance with MMs CR-2 through CR-5. For Tier 2 solar energy system projects, this is limited to the circumstances in which MM CR-2 is applicable (i.e., unanticipated discovery of an archaeological or unique archaeological resource that may qualify as tribal cultural resource as defined in the language therein. For Tier 3 and 4 solar energy facility projects, this shall occur prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, and a tribal cultural resources sensitivity training session shall be held for those construction personnel who will be directly involved in the ground disturbing activities. The training session shall be carried out by the P&D-approved Native American Representative or their appointee and shall focus on how to identify tribal cultural resources to

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		may be encountered during ground disturbing activities and the procedures to be followed in such an event. MM TCR-2: Native American Monitor. For Tier 3 and 4 solar energy facility projects, the Native American Representative or their appointee shall conduct Native American monitoring during project-related ground disturbance in accordance with MM CR-4 above. Native American monitoring shall include completion of daily monitoring logs that provide descriptions of the relevant ground-disturbing activities observed by the monitor; the types of construction activities performed; locations of ground-disturbing activities; soil types; cultural related materials; and any other facts, conditions, materials, or discoveries of significance to the Tribe. Monitor logs shall identify and describe any discovered tribal cultural resources, including but not limited to, Native American cultural and historical artifacts, remains, places of significance, etc., as well as any discovered Native American (ancestral) human remains and burial goods. Copies of monitor logs shall be provided to the County upon written request to the Tribe. MM TCR-3: Tribal Cultural Resource Buffer. For Tier 3 and 4 solar energy facility projects, in the event of a discovery of potential tribal cultural resources, the County P&D-approved Archaeologist identified in MMs CR-2 and CR-3 [in consultation with the Native American Monitor] shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt ground-disturbance activities to allow identification, evaluation, and potential recovery of such potential resources. After consulting with the Native American Monitor and the County, the P&D-approved Archaeologist shall establish an appropriate buffer area in accordance with industry standards, reasonable assumptions regarding the potential for additional discoveries in the vicinity, and safety considerations for those making an evaluation and potential recovery of the discovery. This buffer area shall be established around the find where ground-disturbing activities shall not be allowed to continue. Work shall be allowed to continue outside of the buffer area. Within three (3) business days of such discovery, a meeting shall take place between the Qualified Archaeologist, the Tribe, and the County to discuss the significance of the find and whether it qualifies as a tribal cultural resource pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21074(a). If, as a result of the meeting and after consultation with the Tribe and the P&D-approved Archaeologist, the County determines, based on substantial evidence, that the resource is in fact a tribal cultural resource, the P&D-approved Archaeologist shall develop a reasonable and feasible treatment plan, with input from the Tribe as necessary, and with the concurrence of the County. The treatment measures in the treatment plan shall be in compliance with any applicable federal, State, or local laws, rules or regulations.

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		The treatment plan shall also include measures regarding the curation of the recovered resources. The applicant/owner or contractor may recommence ground disturbance activity inside of the specified radius of the discovery site only after it has complied with all of the recommendations developed and approved pursuant to the process set forth in the above paragraphs. The recovered tribal cultural resources may be placed in the custody of the Tribe who may choose to use them for their educational purposes or they may be curated at a public, non-profit institution with a research interest in the materials. If neither the Tribe nor an institution accepts the resources, they may be donated to a local school or historical society in the area for educational purposes. Notwithstanding the above paragraph, any information determined to be confidential in nature by the County, shall be excluded from submission to the CCIC or the general public under the applicable provisions of the California Public Records Act, Sections 7927.000 and 7929.005.
Impact CR-5: Future solar energy systems and facilities enabled under the Project could directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.	Potentially significant	MM PR-1: Paleontological Resources. Prior to permit issuance for proposed Tier 3 and 4 solar energy projects, if paleontological resources are predicted under the standards of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (2010) in locations in which the solar energy facilities would be located, recommendations shall be implemented, which may include, but would not be limited to, the following: • The Applicant shall retain a paleontologist who meets the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology's (SVP, 2010) definition for qualified professional paleontologist (Qualified Paleontologist) to carry out all mitigation related to paleontological resources. • Prior to the start of ground-disturbing activities, the Qualified Paleontologist or their designee shall conduct construction worker paleontological resources sensitivity training for all construction personnel. Construction personnel shall be informed on how to identify the types of paleontological resources that may be specifically encountered in the rock units in the construction area, the proper procedures to be enacted in the event of an inadvertent discovery of paleontological resources, and safety precautions to be taken when working near paleontological monitors. MM PR-2: Paleontological Monitoring. If necessary, for proposed Tier 3 and 4 solar energy projects, paleontological monitoring shall be conducted during ground-disturbing activities in those regions identified as having a high potential to host significant paleontological resources. Monitoring shall be conducted by a qualified paleontological monitor (SVP, 2010) working under the direct supervision of the Qualified Paleontologist. Monitoring shall consist of visual

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		inspecting fresh exposures of rock for larger fossil remains and, where appropriate, collecting sediment samples to wet or dry screen to test promising horizons for smaller fossil remains. If the Qualified Paleontologist determines full-time monitoring is no longer warranted, based on the specific geologic conditions at the surface or at depth, the Qualified Paleontologist may recommend that monitoring be reduced to periodic spot-checking or cease entirely. MM PR-3: Procedures for Paleontological Resource Recovery. If a potential fossil is found, the paleontological monitor shall be allowed to temporarily divert or redirect grading and excavation activities in the area of the exposed fossil to facilitate evaluation of the discovery. A buffer area of 50-foot radius shall be established around the find where construction activities shall not be allowed to continue. Work shall be allowed to continue outside of the buffer area. If a fossil is determined to be significant, the Qualified Paleontologist shall implement a paleontological salvage program to remove the resources from their location, following the guidelines of the SVP (2010). Any fossils encountered and recovered shall be prepared to the point of identification, catalogued, and curated at a public, non-profit institution with a research interest in the material and with retrievable storage, such as the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History or the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, if such an institution agrees to accept the fossils. If no institution accepts the fossil collection, they shall be donated to a local school in the area for educational purposes. Accompanying notes, maps, and photographs shall also be filed at the repository and/or school. If construction personnel discover any potential fossils during construction when the paleontological monitor is not present, regardless of the depth of work or location, work at the discovery location shall cease in a 50-foot radius of the discovery until the Qualified Paleontologist has assessed the discovery and recommended and implemented appropriate treatment as described earlier in this measure. MM PR-4: Paleontological Resource Monitoring Report. At the conclusion of paleontological monitoring, the Qualified Paleontologist shall prepare a report summarizing the results of the monitoring and salvage efforts, the methodology used in these efforts, as well as a description of the fossils collected and their significance. The report shall be submitted by the implementing agency to the relevant repository, and representatives of other appropriate or concerned agencies to signify the satisfactory completion of the project and required mitigation measures.
Cumulative	Potentially significant	MMs CR-1 through CR-6, MMs TCR-1 through TCR-3, and MMs PR-1 through PR-4

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
Energy		
Impact ENG 1: Implementation of the Project could result in a potentially significant environmental impact if energy (electricity, natural gas, or transportation) used during construction or operation results in the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Impact ENG 2: Implementation of the Project could conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency if, during construction or operation, the Project doesn't comply with applicable rules or regulations, resulting in a significant impact.	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Cumulative	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Greenhouse Gas Emissions		
Impact GHG 1: Implementation of the Project could generate GHG emissions, directly or indirectly, that exceed the County of Santa Barbara or SBCAPCD screening thresholds or significance thresholds resulting in a significant impact on the environment.	Potentially significant	MM GHG-1: For Tier 3 and Tier 4 solar energy facilities, construction and decommissioning GHG emissions shall be evaluated based on project-specific information and compared to the County of Santa Barbara Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual brightline threshold as applicable. If project level emissions exceed the applicable threshold, GHG emissions shall be reduced to below the threshold. Any reduction of GHG emissions used for compliance purposes (e.g., carbon credits) must be real, permanent, quantifiable, verifiable, enforceable, and additional pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) §38562(d)(1) and (2). Project applicants shall submit to County Planning and Development for review and approval documentation on GHG quantification, contractor equipment and fuel specifications, or other documents to ensure GHG reductions are consistent with HSC §38562(d)(1) and (2). Measures to reduce emissions shall include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following: • Use commercially available and feasible low or zero carbon technology construction equipment and/or trucks or vehicles in place of diesel-fueled models. Example technologies may include compressed natural gas, electric, hybrid-electric, fuel cell, or other commercially available technologies. Feasible means the equipment, trucks, or vehicles are capable of performing construction activities in a comparable manner to diesel-fueled models (with respect to time, safety, equipment power requirements, etc.) and which result in appreciable GHG reductions.

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		• Purchase carbon credits from a reputable carbon market. Priority should be given to those credits generated within the County of Santa Barbara, and in decreasing preference, credits generated within the region, in-state, and out-of-state. • Measures that result in appreciable GHG reductions such as, but not limited to, reducing truck trips or trip lengths for material hauling and transport, reducing construction worker commuting trips or trip lengths, or other similar types of measures.
Impact GHG 2: Implementation of the Project would not contribute to cumulative GHG impacts since the Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs.	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Cumulative	Insignificant	No mitigation required
<i>Hazards and Hazardous Materials</i>		
Impact HAZ-1: Future solar energy systems and facilities enabled under the Project could create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Impact HAZ-2: Future solar energy systems and facilities enabled under the Project could create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Impact HAZ-3: Future solar energy systems and facilities enabled under the Project could emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.	Insignificant	No mitigation required

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
Impact HAZ-4: Future solar energy systems and facilities enabled under the Project could 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, could create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.	Potentially significant	MM HAZ-1: Site Management Plan. If there is evidence of potential contamination during the application process for a Tier 3 or Tier 4 solar energy project, and at the discretion of the County, an Environmental Site Assessment shall be performed to provide due diligence. For all future solar energy systems and facilities, if contaminated soils or hazardous conditions are incidentally discovered during construction of a solar energy system or facility, the applicant shall prepare a Site Management Plan that identifies measures, including treatment, or excavation and removal of on-site contaminated soils, and needed redistributions of clean fill material on the project site, that shall be implemented prior to or as part of the development of the solar energy project. The plan shall include measures to ensure the safe transport, use, and disposal of contaminated and building debris removed from the site. If ground-disturbing activities encounter contaminated groundwater during dewatering activities, the construction contractor shall report the contamination to the appropriate agencies and either treat the extracted groundwater to remove the contaminants before discharge to the sanitary sewer system, or dispose of the dewatering effluent at an offsite facility permitted to accept the waste. The appropriate federal, state, and local agencies shall be notified if evidence of previously undiscovered soil or groundwater contamination (e.g., undocumented underground storage tanks (USTs), stained soil, stressed vegetation, or soil and groundwater with odors suggesting contamination) is identified during construction. Any contaminated areas shall be cleaned up in accordance with recommendations of the Regional Board, DTSC, or other appropriate federal, state, or local regulatory agencies. The construction contractor shall comply with the Site Management Plan and applicable federal, state, and local laws. The Site Management Plan shall outline specific procedures for handling and reporting of hazardous materials, and for disposing of hazardous materials removed from the site at an appropriate off-site facility.
Impact HAZ-5: Future solar energy systems and facilities that would occur as a result of the Project that are located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport could result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area.	Potentially significant	MM HAZ-2: FAA Traffic Coordination Plan. Applicants of solar energy facilities that utilize helicopters to install gen-tie lines within an airport influence area or within two miles of a public airport shall coordinate with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) prior to Project construction to develop an FAA Traffic Coordination Plan. The applicant shall prepare the FAA Traffic Coordination Plan based on consultation with the FAA and any applicable Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans. The FAA Traffic Coordination Plan may include flight restrictions and coordination efforts prior to the commencement of any transmission line construction and operational maintenance activities. The FAA shall approve the Traffic Coordination Plan prior to the commencement of construction.

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Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
Cumulative	Potentially significant	MM HAZ-1: Site Management Plan. MM HAZ-2: FAA Traffic Coordination Plan.
<i>Land Use and Planning</i>		
Impact LU-1: While the Project would allow solar energy systems and facilities in areas throughout the County, the Project would not divide an established community. Impacts would be insignificant with mitigation.	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Impact LU-2: The proposed zoning amendments and related development enabled and streamlined for permitting under the Project would not conflict with applicable County land use plans, policies, or regulations.	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Impact LU-3: The proposed zoning amendments and related development would not cause adverse quality-of-life effects on existing communities due to loss of privacy, neighborhood incompatibility, traffic, noise, or loss of sunlight/solar access.	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Cumulative	Insignificant	No mitigation required
<i>Noise</i>		
Impact NOI 1: Future solar energy facilities enabled by the Project could generate a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.	Potentially significant	MM NOI-1: Pile Driving Noise. For future solar energy system and facility projects with pile driving activities occurring within 50 feet of noise-sensitive receptors, temporary construction noise barriers shall be installed at the project site boundary or adjacent to pile driving equipment such that the barriers intersect the line-of-sight to noise-sensitive receptors as practicable. The temporary barriers shall be made of a solid material or affixed with sound-deadening blankets or curtains. Open access points or gates shall be permissible to allow for adequate and safe worker, vehicle, and equipment access to the construction area and pile driving area. MM NOI-2: Construction Hours. For all Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4 Projects, owner/applicant, including all contractors and subcontractors shall limit construction activity, including equipment maintenance and site preparation, to hours between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (or as otherwise specified in Community Plan/Area: Montecito 7:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.; Hope Ranch 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.)

TABLE ES-1
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES, AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS

Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		Eastern Goleta Valley 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. if within 1,600 feet of a sensitive receptor; Toro Canyon 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. if within 1,600 feet of a sensitive receptor; Orcutt 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.; Los Alamos 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. if project is within 1,600 ft. of a sensitive receptor) Monday through Friday. No construction shall occur on weekends or State holidays. Non-noise generating interior construction activities such as plumbing, electrical, drywall and painting (which does not include the use of compressors, tile saws, or other noise-generating equipment) are not subject to these restrictions. Any subsequent amendment to the Comprehensive General Plan, applicable Community or Specific Plan, or Zoning Code noise standard upon which these construction hours are based shall supersede the hours stated herein. MM T-1: Construction Traffic Control Plan.
Impact NOI 2: Future solar energy facilities enabled under the Project could result in a potentially significant impact regarding groundborne vibration damage to structures and human annoyance from construction and operation.	Potentially significant	MM NOI-2: Construction Hours. MM NOI-3: Pile Driving Vibration. Future solar energy system and facility projects are required to limit pile driving activities to at least 60 feet away from any off-site buildings or structures.
Impact NOI 3: Future solar energy facilities enabled under the Project would not result in workers being exposed to excessive noise levels from a private airstrip or airport.	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Cumulative	Potentially significant	MM NOI-1: Pile Driving Noise, MM NOI-2: Construction Hours, MM NOI-3: Pile Driving Vibration, and MM T-1: Construction Traffic Control Plan
Transportation		
Impact T-1: The Project would not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Impact T-2: The Project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b).	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Impact T-3: The Project would not substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses.	Insignificant	No mitigation required

TABLE ES-1
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES, AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS

Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
Impact T-4: The Project could result in inadequate emergency access.	Potentially significant	Mitigation Measure T-1: Construction Traffic Control Plan. As required by the County for Tier 3 and 4 solar facilities and as determined necessary for Tier 1 and 2 solar systems, the applicant shall prepare and implement a traffic control plan to reduce construction-related impacts on roadway operation, safety hazards, alternative transportation, parking, and emergency access. Construction traffic control plans typically include the following components, which shall be included as necessary depending on the scale of the project: 1. A street layout showing the location of construction activity and surrounding streets that designates detour routes to avoid or minimize to the extent practicable travel on residential or neighborhood streets, including special signage. 2. A tentative start date and construction duration period for each phase of construction. 3. The name, address, and emergency contact number for those responsible for maintaining the traffic control devices during the course of construction. Additionally, the construction traffic control plan should include the following components, as necessary: 1. Provide access for emergency vehicles at all times. 2. Avoid creating additional delay at intersections currently operating at congested conditions, either by choosing routes that avoid these locations or limiting construction activities to nonpeak hours. 3. Maintain access for driveways and private roads, except for brief periods during construction, in which case property owners will be notified. 4. Provide adequate off-street parking areas at designated staging areas for construction-related vehicles. 5. Maintain pedestrian and bicycle access and circulation during construction where safe to do so. If construction encroaches a sidewalk, a safe detour will be provided for pedestrians at the nearest crosswalk. If construction encroaches on a bike lane, warning signs will be posted that indicate bicyclists and vehicles are sharing the roadway. 6. Use traffic controls that include flag persons wearing Occupational Safety and Health Administration-approved vests and using a “Stop/Slow” paddle to direct motorists of construction activity. 7. Maintain access to transit services and ensure that public transit vehicles are not detoured.

TABLE ES-1
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES, AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS

Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		8. Post standard construction warning signs in advance of the construction area and at any intersection that provides access to the construction area. 9. Post construction warning signs in accordance with local standards or those set forth in the California MUTCD (Caltrans 2010) in advance of the construction area and at any intersection that provides access to the construction area. 10. During lane closures, notify local police and fire departments, Sheriff, and the Office of Emergency Management of construction locations to ensure that alternative evacuation and emergency routes are designed to maintain response times during construction periods, if necessary. 11. Provide written notification to contractors regarding appropriate routes to and from construction sites, and weight and speed limits for local roads used to access construction sites. Submit a copy of all such written notifications to local agencies with jurisdiction.
Cumulative	Potentially significant	MM T-1: Construction Traffic Control Plan.
<i>Utilities and Service Systems</i>		
Impact UT-1: Future solar energy facilities enabled under the Project could require relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, stormwater drainage, electric power or telecommunication facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Impact UT-2: Future solar energy facilities enabled under the Project could result in a water demand in excess of local or regional supplies.	Potentially significant	MM UT-1: Water Supply Assessment. Utility-scale solar energy facilities (Tier 4) proposed on sites with a footprint of 40 acres (or larger) in size shall demonstrate that the project's water demand can be met through local or regional supplies. The applicant/owner shall provide a Can and Will Serve letter or other similar commitment from the water provider or a water supply assessment (WSA). The WSA shall be subject to County review and shall demonstrate that the project would have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project's operational water demand and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, and multiple dry years over a 20-year projection. The WSA shall meet the standards outlined by Senate Bill (SB) 610 and California Water Code 10912 (updated State requirements as applicable) and include analysis of reasonable effects on surface and groundwater supplies. A WSA associated with a project must include a discussion of the availability of an identified water supply and

TABLE ES-1
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES, AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS

Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
		normal-year, single-dry-year, and multiple-dry-year conditions over a 20-year forecast, accounting for the projected water demand of the project in addition to other existing and planned uses of the identified water supply.
Impact UT-3: Future solar energy facilities enabled under the Project would not generate demand for wastewater treatment in exceedance of local or regional wastewater systems' capacity.	Insignificant	No mitigation required
Impact UT-4: Future solar energy facilities that would occur under the Project could generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals, and potentially conflict with federal, state, or local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.	Potentially significant	MM UT-2: Solid Waste Management and Diversion Plan. The applicant/owner shall prepare and submit a solid waste management and diversion plan to the County for review and approval before the start of construction and decommissioning (if applicable). The solid waste diversion plan shall outline how the applicant/owner will sort, measure, and record the disposal of solid waste to ensure that at least 65 percent of inert materials will be recycled, reused, or otherwise diverted from the landfill. The plan shall detail reporting requirements to the County. Measures in the plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following: • Training for construction workers in materials recycling; • Provision of space and/or bins for appropriate storage of recyclable materials on-site; • Establishment of a recyclable materials pick-up area; and • Development of a recordation system tracking tool that details and quantifies the amount of solid waste generated during construction, solid waste recycled, and solid waste delivered to the solid waste disposal facility. The tracking information shall be reported on a monthly basis throughout construction to demonstrate the amount of solid waste generated by the project and the proportion diverted. If it is determined, through consultation with Santa Barbara County, that proposed construction and decommissioning activities would not trigger the project-specific threshold of 350 tons of solid waste, documentation of the consultation shall be provided to the County in lieu of the mitigation measure's solid waste diversion plan and reporting requirements.
Cumulative	Potentially Significant	MM UT-1: Water Supply Assessment. MM UT-2: Solid Waste Management and Diversion Plan.

TABLE ES-1
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES, AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS

Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
Wildfires		
Impact WF-1: The Project could substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.	Potentially Significant	MM T-1: Construction Traffic Control Plan.
Impact WF-2: The Project could exacerbate wildfire risk or uncontrolled spread of a wildfire.	Potentially Significant	MM WF-1: Operational Site Safety Management Plan. Prior to issuance of building permit for the construction of a Tier 3 or 4 solar energy facility, an Operation Site Safety Management Plan shall be developed for review and approval by the appropriate fire district. This Plan shall include at minimum: • A program for regular inspections, proper storage practices, and maintaining fire suppression systems to ensure equipment is running properly. • Site specific vegetation clearance requirements. • Battery ESS fire-suppression techniques and trainings for first responders. • Fire Code review requiring a Fire Hazards Analysis for battery ESS over 7 systems. MM WF-2: Construction Ignition Risk Reduction. During construction of 3 or 4 solar energy facilities, measures shall be taken to mitigate the potential brush or grass fires from use of heavy equipment, welding, vehicles with catalytic converters, etc. These requirements shall include, but are not limited to, the following: • All equipment with the potential to work off-road shall be equipped with appropriate mufflers and have extinguishers mounted on each vehicle; • Personnel shall be briefed on the dangers of wildfire and be able to respond accordingly should the need arise; • On-site supervisor(s) shall have a cell phone or other means of initiating a response time in a timely manner in the event of a medical emergency and fire; • All dead and decadent vegetation immediately surrounding the facility shall be removed and soil disturbance should be kept at a minimum; • Smoking shall be in a designated area and/or in enclosed cab only; • Hot work permit is required as needed; • A source of on-site water for emergency use shall be available on each construction site during construction.
Impact WF-3: The Project would require infrastructure that could exacerbate fire risk.	Potentially Significant	MM WF-2: Construction Ignition Risk Reduction.

TABLE ES-1
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION MEASURES, AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS

Impact	Impact Classification	Mitigation Measure(s)
Impact WF-4: The Project could expose people or structures to significant risks as a result of post-fire stability.	Potentially Significant	MM WF-3: Erosion and Sediment Control Plan. Where required by the latest edition of the California Green Code and/or Chapter 14 of the Santa Barbara County Code, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and/or an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) shall be implemented as part of the development of Tier 3 or Tier 4 solar energy facilities. Grading and erosion and sediment control plans shall be designed to minimize erosion during construction and shall be implemented for the duration of the grading period and until re-graded areas have been stabilized by structures or long-term erosion control measures or permanent landscaping. The Owner/Applicant shall submit the SWPPP, SWMP or ESCP using Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed to stabilize the site, protect natural watercourses/creeks, prevent erosion, convey storm water runoff to existing drainage systems keeping contaminants and sediments onsite. The SWPPP or ESCP shall be a part of the Grading Plan submitted and must be approved prior to issuance of grading permits.
Cumulative	Potentially Significant	MM T-1: Construction Traffic Control Plan. MM WF-1: Operational Site Safety Management Plan. MM WF-2: Construction Ignition Risk Reduction. MM WF-3: Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.

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