San Luis West Solar Project



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San Luis West Solar Project

VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Fresno County, California
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ATTACHMENT

Attachment A BLM Work Sheets

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AC	alternating current
AE	exclusive agriculture
APN	assessor's parcel number
Applicant	San Luis West Solar, LLC
BESS	battery energy storage system
BLM	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
CAISO	California Independent System Operator
CCR	California Code of Regulations
County	County of Fresno
DC	direct current
gen-tie	generation tie line
HVAC	heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
kV	kilovolt
KOP	Key Observation Point
MW	megawatt
O&M	operations and maintenance
PCS	power conditioning station
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric
POI	point of interconnection
Project	San Luis West Solar Project
PV	photovoltaic
Subject Property	Approximately 1,400 acres in Fresno County, California
Tetra Tech	Tetra Tech, Inc.
SLW	San Luis West
SR	state route
VRI	Visual Resource Inventory
ZVI	Zone of Visual Influence

1.0 OVERVIEW

San Luis West Solar, LLC (Applicant) proposes to construct and operate the San Luis West Solar Project (Project). The Project will consist of a 125-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) electric generation Project coupled with an estimated 30 MW battery energy storage system (BESS). The PV portion of the Project will produce electricity by way of the photovoltaic effect, which uses a semi-conductor material to convert photons from the sun into electrons, for injection into the electrical grid operated by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E). The BESS portion of the Project will store electricity either generated by the PV arrays or absorbed from the PG&E grid. In either case, the BESS will make the stored energy available for discharge during periods of peak electrical load.

The Project will be located on an approximately 1,100-acre Project site within the "AE-20" and "AE-40" (Exclusive Agriculture) zoning districts of unincorporated Fresno County, California.

Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech), was retained by the Applicant to perform a Visual Impact Assessment for the Project. This Visual Impact Assessment was prepared to identify and evaluate the potential visual and aesthetic impacts associated with construction and operation of the Project.

2.0 PROJECT LOCATION AND SETTING

2.1 Location

The Project site is located south of West Tractor Avenue , west of the California Aqueduct, and east of Interstate (I-) 5, with agricultural land and a network of unnamed agricultural roads to the south (Figure 1). The Project site extends to the south and approximately 3 miles due east of PG&E's Gates Substation, which is located at the intersection of South Trinity Avenue and West Jayne Avenue. The Project site is approximately 3 miles due south of the city of Huron on seven parcels. The Project parcels are situated adjacent or proximal to West Jayne Avenue, from the Gates substation on the western extent to the California Aqueduct on the eastern extent.

The Project site consists of three separate Subareas, herein referred to as Subareas A, B, and C (Figure 2):

- Subarea A consists of approximately 280 acres of solar arrays and associated infrastructure (i.e., internal roads, medium voltage collection lines, substation, BESS and project O&M building) located on four parcels totaling approximately 800 acres, of which approximately 650 acres are currently leased by the Project and approximately 150 acres are owned by the Project. Subarea A is located southeast of the existing PG&E Gates Substation, immediately south of West Jayne Avenue and approximately 0.5-mile due west of SR-269. The Substation will also be located within Subarea A and it is anticipated that the BESS will be co-located with the Substation in Subarea A. Two temporary laydown areas totaling approximately 10 acres would be located in Subarea A, along West Jayne Avenue.
- Subarea B consists of approximately 250 acres of solar arrays and associated infrastructure (i.e., internal roads and medium voltage collection lines) on one parcel, consisting of approximately 300 acres of fully leased land. Subarea B is bordered by SR-269 to the west, West Jayne Avenue to the south, and active row crops to the east.

- Subarea C consists of approximately 240 acres of solar arrays and associated infrastructure (i.e., internal roads and medium voltage collection lines) on approximately 325 acres of land leased by the Project. Subarea C consists of two parcels located just west of the California Aqueduct. West Jayne Avenue bisects the bottom half of Subarea C.

Energy from the various solar arrays is transmitted to the Substation via a series of 34.5 kilovolt (kV) "collection lines". As depicted in Figure 2, the collection line will begin in the middle section of Subarea B and run directly south along an existing agricultural road for approximately 0.75-mile before angling slightly west and undergrounding at West Jayne Avenue to connect with Subarea A. The collection line system will connect to the BESS and Substation in Subarea A, then a 230 kV gen-tie line will connect from Subarea A to the Point of Interconnection (POI) at the PG&E Gates substation.

2.2 Existing Setting

2.2.1 On-site Land Uses

The Project is located on privately-owned lands historically used for agriculture. The Project site is designated as Agriculture in the Fresno County General Plan. The Project parcels are subject to a flood easement in favor of the Department of Water Resources and, under the terms of such easement, generally cannot be planted to permanent crops (e.g., trees, vines, etc.). Due to the easement, the Project parcels are not home to any permanent crops such as fruit trees.

2.2.2 Surrounding Land Uses

The 5-mile area surrounding the Project consists of a mixture of AE-20 and AE-40 zoning designations (Figure 3). The Project is bordered to the east by the California Aqueduct and a federally owned, undeveloped parcel to the north. The Project is bordered to the west, south, and north by lands used for agriculture. The PG&E's Gates Substation is located to the west and north of the Project. Existing solar farms are located to the west and north of the Project and multiple transmission lines are found throughout the landscape. Nine residential uses are located immediately adjacent to West Jayne Avenue, approximately 0.3 mile east of South Siskiyou Avenue and approximately 0.4 mile west of South Madera Avenue and 0.02 miles west of Subarea C.

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Description of Project

3.1.1 Project Components

The Project would include a solar energy generating facility, direct current (DC) electricity to alternating current (AC) electricity power inverters and transformers or power conditioning stations, an on-site Project Substation, BESS, and a gen-tie line to the PG&E-owned Gates Substation. Major Project features are described below.

Key Project components consist of the following:

- PV modules (panels)

- Collection line system
- BESS components
- Project Substation
- Gen-tie line
- Interconnection
- Access roads
- Fencing
- Parking
- Lighting
- Stormwater facilities
- Telecommunications
- Meteorological data collection system
- Fire suppression emergency water storage pond

The primary components of a solar PV generation facility include solar modules (panels); a metal racking system with east-west tracking capabilities; electrical inverters; electrical transformers; medium-voltage cabling; and fencing. To support the trackers, the Project would utilize a single-axis tracking system designed to optimize power production of the modules by ensuring proper orientation to the sun both daily and seasonally.

The trackers would be separated by distances to accommodate maintenance personnel and design parameters that meet applicable Fresno County fire safety requirements. Modules would be approximately eight feet tall and organized in rows in a uniform grid pattern, with each row separated by approximately 22 feet (from post to post). The module and tracker features allow for a natural light regime between and under the modules, supporting the co-management of solar energy generation, agriculture, and wildlife.

The output of the Project's solar arrays will be conveyed to the Project Substation via a series of underground 34.5 kV collection lines that will be located in narrow trenches and buried approximately three feet below grade along a collection line corridor (Figure 2). Depending on site characteristics (soils, road constraints, etc.,) there may be limited areas where collection lines would also daylight to conductors that would be situated on a mono-pole system.

The primary components of the BESS include lithium-ion batteries which are typically housed in shipping containers featuring integrated heating, cooling, ventilation, and safety systems. The BESS components will be co-located with the Project Substation in Subarea A, across West Jayne Avenue from PG&E's Gates Substation. The BESS is anticipated to be 10 feet in height, with a layout of approximately 300 by 300 feet. Precise measurements will be determined at the Project engineering and building permit phase.

Energy generated within the Project and transmitted along the collection line system will be sent to the Project's on-site, dedicated Substation located in Subarea A (Figure 2). Energy that is collected

and aggregated at the Substation will be “stepped up” in voltage to 230 kV before being transmitted along a high voltage gen-tie line to the POI.

The overall footprint of the Project Substation is anticipated to be approximately 135 feet by 235 feet with structures such as lightning protection poles and cables reaching approximately 80 feet in height. An emergency generator may be installed for use in the event that the regional transmission system fails. If deemed necessary, the generator would likely be installed at the Substation. This emergency generator would provide emergency power until the regional transmission system restores operations. The generator would be powered by propane or diesel and is estimated to be 49 kilowatts or less in size. An approximately 220-gallon fuel tank would be immediately adjacent to the generator. If installed, the generator system will comply with applicable air quality and spill prevention and control requirements.

The Project will feature a single, approximately 230 kV gen-tie line running between the Substation in Subarea A and the PG&E Gates Substation (Figure 2). The route will feature steel or wooden transmission towers, wires, guys, conductors, and other components.

Access from public roads to the Project site would be via main entrances along West Jayne Avenue. The Applicant plans to utilize existing interior access roads, however these roads may be improved with the addition of an aggregate base or other native material with a soil stabilization material, if necessary.

A perimeter fence will be installed along the edge of all Project parcels with an approximately 50-foot setback from property lines. Fencing will conform to County requirements but typically consist of either a 6-foot-tall chain link fence with barbed wire or an 8-foot-tall ranch style fence with no barbed wire.

Security lighting may be installed to allow for ongoing maintenance and security, including at entry and egress gates and at other strategic locations around the facility. Manually controlled lights would be installed at equipment pads and the Project Substation. All Project lighting would be shielded and directed downward to minimize the potential for glare or spillover onto adjacent ownerships. If installed, all lighting would conform to applicable Fresno County outdoor lighting codes.

The Project would require connection with the existing local telecommunication service. A telecommunication line is typically comprised of fiber optic cable and/or 25-pair telephone line, which would be installed above and below ground, either attached to existing distribution lines or installed immediately adjacent to the Project Substation. The telecommunication routes would use a combination of existing poles or new poles and below ground installations.

The Project may require meteorological data collection system(s). The system(s) would include a variety of instruments to collect meteorological data, which would be mounted at various locations throughout the facility. The meteorological data would be collected at the level of the solar panels or approximately 10 feet above the ground.

Operations and maintenance (O&M) activities would take place in a new O&M building located in the northwest corner of Subarea A, as shown on the submitted Site Plan. This building would be approximately 100 by 20 feet, with a height of approximately 15 feet.

An existing pond on the southeast corner of Subarea A (APN 085-050-47S) is currently used for irrigation water storage, will be re-purposed for fire suppression emergency water storage. The pond area is approximately 1.75 acres and has an average depth estimated to be under 6 feet, providing an estimated capacity of 10 AF.

3.1.2 Construction Schedule and Activities

Construction vehicles would access the Project site from West Jayne Avenue.

During construction, materials would be placed within the Project boundaries, and specifically within two separate laydown and staging areas. These areas are outlined in the Site Plan and consist of two locations in Subarea A totaling approximately 10 acres.

The Applicant anticipates that construction would occur during a period of approximately 9 months and is anticipated to start early 2025. Construction would primarily occur during daylight hours, Monday through Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. as required to meet the construction schedule. Additional hours/days may be necessary to facilitate the schedule.

3.1.3 Operations and Maintenance Activities

Once constructed, the Project would be operated remotely, seven days per week and 365 days per year. The Project will be outfitted with a suite of sensors, monitoring equipment, and communications gear as part of the Project's telecommunications system. This allows the facility to be monitored in real time remotely by San Luis West Solar, LLC's remote operations center in Austin, Texas, which is a new, state-of-art remote monitoring center designed to provide round-the-clock operations support in accordance with National Electric Reliability Corporation standards. The remote operators will be continually aware of plant output, voltage, and local weather conditions and will receive real-time alerts in the event of abnormal operating conditions, allowing the operators to dispatch technicians as needed.

On-site O&M activities will consist of responding to abnormal operating conditions, routine maintenance and repairs, periodic panel washing, and grounds maintenance (i.e., vegetation control). Vegetation control would involve restoring and maintaining a vegetative cover, and managing vegetation with mowing, grazing, and weed control. These activities are anticipated to require site visits on the order of once to twice per month, consisting of a small ground crew.

3.1.4 Decommissioning

Decommissioning occurs at the end of a facility's useful life. This could be well beyond the initial approximately 35-year operational period, as primary Project components can be upgraded and replaced as needed in order to extend the operational lifespan of the facility by several decades. Nonetheless, at the point when the Project does reach the conclusion of its useful life, decommissioning will take place in a similar fashion to construction, but simply in reverse. A Project-specific Reclamation Plan has been developed for the Project in accordance with County requirements. Decommissioning activities would be similar in nature and duration as those associated with construction activities. Decommissioning would involve removal of all aboveground

structures, fencing, and debris. The Project-specific Reclamation Plan would be implemented to restore the site to original conditions.

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Visual Impact Criteria

For this analysis, the significance criteria outlined in Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, as amended, are applied to determine the Project's impact to existing visual resources. The California Environmental Quality Act-defined aesthetic issues of concern are:

- Would the project cause substantial adverse effects on a scenic vista?
- Would the project cause substantial damage to scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings, within a state scenic highway?
- In non-urbanized areas, would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?
- Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

3.2.2 Visual Change Criteria

Visual impacts are generally defined in terms of a project's physical characteristics and potential visibility, as well as the extent to which the project's presence would change the perceived visual character and quality of the environment in which it would be located. Tetra Tech followed the contrast rating system used by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to objectively measure potential changes to the visual environment (BLM 1986). The BLM's contrast rating system is commonly used by federal agencies to assess potential visual resource impacts from proposed projects and is widely accepted as a standard approach for analyzing potential changes to the visual environment for non-federal projects.

Potential visual impacts were characterized by determining the level of visual contrast introduced by the Project based on comparing existing conditions and photo simulations. Visual contrast is a means to evaluate the level of modification to existing landscape features. Existing landscape is defined by the visual characteristics (form, line, color, and texture) associated with the landform (including water), vegetation, and existing development.

3.2.2.1 Scenic Values Quality Criteria

The BLM's Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) classification system is a baseline description of the existing scenic values in the environment. The VRI developed by the BLM identifies the visual resources of a given area and, based upon specific standards, assigns an inventory class to each area. This process, further described in detail in BLM Manual H-8410-1 (BLM 2010), involves rating the resource's visual qualities, measuring public concern and determining the extent to which an area is visible from travel

routes and other observation points. Those three factors then determine which of the four VRI classes are assigned to each area of BLM-administered lands based on visual sensitivity level (i.e., high, medium, and low), scenic quality, and distance. These four VRI classes represent the relative values of the existing visual resources. VRI Classes I and II represent the highest visual value, Class III represents moderate value, and Class IV represents relatively low visual value.

Specific terminology used in describing the existing visual environment is provided below.

- **Contrast.** Opposition or unlikeness of different forms, lines, colors, or textures in a landscape. Contrast rating: a method of analyzing the potential visual impacts of proposed management activities.
- **Color**. The hues, variety, contrast, and harmony of colors in the visual environment.
- **Form**. The mass or shape of landforms or structures.
- **Key Observation Point (KOP).** One or a series of publicly accessible points on a travel route or at a use area or potential use area, where the view of a management activity would be representative of viewers within the area and be most revealing.
- **Landscape Visibility.** Perception of details (e.g., form, line, color, and texture) diminishes with increasing distance. The distance zone is dependent on the location of the observer relative to the Project. These distance zones are:
  - Foreground: zero to 0.5 miles from point of interest
  - Middleground: 0.5 to 5 miles from point of interest
  - Background: more than 5 miles from the point of interest
- **Scenic quality** is a measure of the visual appeal of a tract of land. In the visual resource inventory process, the apparent scenic quality is determined using seven key factors: landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications.
- **Sensitivity level.** Sensitivity levels are a measure of public concern for scenic quality. Public lands are assigned high, medium, or low sensitivity levels by analyzing the various indicators of public concern.
- **Sensitive viewers.** Refers to specific user groups associated with various land uses that have a sensitivity to landscape change, and therefore could be adversely affected by the construction and operation of a project.
- **Simulation.** A realistic visual portrayal that demonstrates the perceivable changes in landscape features caused by a proposed management activity. This is done using photography, artwork, computer graphics, and other such techniques.
- **Texture.** The visual manifestations of the interplay of light and shadow created by the variations in the surface of an object or landscape.
- **Viewshed**. The area within the project's vicinity where viewers would theoretically have visibility toward part or all of the Project components.
- **Visual quality.** The relative worth of a landscape from a visual perception point of view.

- **Visual resource.** The visible physical features on a landscape (e.g., land, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features).

Scenic quality is a measure of the visual appeal of a tract of land. The apparent scenic quality of the land is determined using seven key factors: landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications. During the rating process, each of these factors are ranked on a comparative basis with similar features within the project area. The BLM Visual Resource Management approach allows the various landscape elements that comprise visual quality to be quantified and rated with a minimum of ambiguity or subjectivity, which can be easily understood and compared by the reader.

According to this method, visual quality is rated according to the presence and characteristics of seven key components of the landscape. These components include landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications, defined as follows:

1. The ***landform*** component of the visual quality rating criteria takes into account the fact that topography becomes more interesting visually as it gets steeper or more massive, or more severely or universally sculptured. Outstanding landforms may be monumental (as found in Yosemite Valley), or they may be exceedingly artistic and subtle (such as certain ridgelines, pinnacles, peaks, and other extraordinary formations).
2. The ***vegetation*** component of the rating criteria gives primary consideration to the variety of patterns, forms, and textures created by plant life. Short-lived displays are given consideration when they are known to be recurring or spectacular. Consideration also is given to smaller scale vegetational features that add striking and intriguing detail elements to the landscape (e.g., hedgerows or trees, native grasses, etc.).
3. The ***water*** component of the rating criteria recognizes that visual quality is largely tied to the presence of water in scenery, as it is that ingredient which adds movement or serenity to a scene. The degree to which water dominates the scene is the primary consideration in selecting the rating score for the water component.
4. The ***color*** component of the visual quality rating criteria considers the overall color(s) of the basic components of the landscape (e.g., soil, rock, vegetation, etc.). Key factors that are used when rating the color of scenery are variety, contrast, and harmony.
5. The ***adjacent scenery*** component of the rating criteria takes into account the degree to which scenery outside the view being rated enhances the overall impression of the scenery under evaluation. The distance of influence for adjacent scenery normally ranges from zero to 5 miles, depending upon the characteristics of the topography, the vegetation cover, and other such factors. This factor generally is applied to views that normally would rate very low in score, but the influence of the adjacent high visual quality would enhance the visual quality and raise the score.
6. The ***scarcity*** component of the visual quality rating criteria provides an opportunity to give added importance to one or all of the scenic features that appear to be relatively unique or rare within a region. There may also be cases where a separate evaluation of each of the key

factors does not give a true picture of the overall scenic quality of an area. Often, it is a number of not so spectacular elements in the proper combination that produces the most pleasing and memorable scenery; the scarcity factor can be used to recognize this type of area and give it the added emphasis it should have.

7. The ***cultural modifications*** component of the visual quality rating criteria takes into account any humanmade modifications to the landform, water, vegetation, and/or the addition of humanmade structures. Depending on their character, these cultural modifications may detract from the scenery in the form of a negative intrusion, or they may complement and improve the scenic quality of a view.

Based on the criteria above, views are rated numerically and a total score of visual quality can be tabulated. Table 1 summarizes the points associated with the various criteria. Based on this rating system, there are a total of 32 points possible. Views that score a total of 19 points or more are typically considered very high in visual quality (Class I). Views that score a total of 12 to 19 points typically are considered to have a high to above average level of visual quality (Classes II and III). Finally, views that score a total of 11 points or less typically are considered to have average or lower visual quality (Class IV).

Using the criteria below, the visual quality of the existing visual conditions and the post-Project ("simulated" condition) visual conditions will be rated. The scores will determine the Project site's existing visual class and evaluate whether the Project will result in a lower visual class and the degree of change between the existing and post-Project visual conditions.

Table 1. Visual Quality Rating System—Scenic Quality Inventory and Evaluation Chart

Key Factors	Rating Criteria and Score		
	High	Average	Low
Landform	High vertical relief as expressed in prominent cliffs, spires, or massive rock outcrops, or severe surface variation or highly eroded formations (including major badlands or dune systems); or detail features dominant and exceptionally striking and intriguing, such as glaciers. **Score 5**	Steep canyons, mesas, buttes, cinder cones, and drumlins; or interesting erosional patterns or variety in size and shape of landforms; or detail features which are interesting though not dominant or exceptional. **Score 3**	Low rolling hills, foothills, or flat valley bottoms; or few or no interesting landscape features. **Score 1**
Vegetation	A variety of vegetative types as expressed in interesting forms, textures, and patterns. **Score 5**	Some variety of vegetation, but only one or two major types **Score 3**	Little or no variety or contrast in vegetation. **Score 1**
Water	Clear and clean appearing, still, or cascading white water, any of which are a dominant factor in the landscape. **Score 5**	Flowing or still, but not dominant in the landscape. **Score 3**	Absent or present, but not noticeable. **Score 0**
Color	Rich color combinations, variety, or vivid color; or pleasing contrasts in the soil, rock, vegetation, water, or snow fields. **Score 5**	Some intensity or variety in colors and contrast of the soil, rock, and vegetation, but not a dominant scenic element. **Score 3**	Subtle color variations, contrast, or interest; generally mute tones. **Score 1**
Influence of adjacent scenery	Adjacent scenery greatly enhances visual quality	Adjacent scenery moderately enhances overall visual quality.	Adjacent scenery has little or no influence on overall visual quality.

Key Factors	Rating Criteria and Score		
	High	Average	Low
	Score 5	**Score 3**	**Score 0**
Scarcity	One of a kind; or unusually memorable, or very rare within region. Consistent chance for exceptional wildlife or wildflower viewing, etc. ***Score 5+**	Distinctive, though somewhat similar to others within the region. **Score 3**	Interesting within its setting, but fairly common within the region. **Score 1**
Cultural modifications	Modifications add favorably to visual variety while promoting visual harmony. **Score 2**	Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area, and introduce no discordant elements. **Score 0**	Modifications add variety, but are very discordant and promote strong disharmony. **Score -4**

* A rating of greater than 5 can be given, but must be supported by written justification.
Source: BLM 2010

Contrast ratings for the expected condition with the Project were prepared for each representative viewpoint using a form adapted from BLM's Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet (Form 8400-4); the results are included in Attachment A.

3.2.2.2 Distance Zones

Viewer distance is a key factor in determining the level of visual effect, with perceived contrast generally diminishing as distance between the viewer and the affected area increases (BLM 1986). Distance zones—foreground (less than 0.5 mile), middleground (0.5 to 5 miles), and background (more than 5 miles)—provide a frame of reference for classifying the degree to which details of the viewed Project would affect visual resources.

In the relatively flat landscape setting for the Project, details of Project elements would be visually clear in the foreground; viewers still have the potential to distinguish individual forms, and texture and color are still identifiable but become muted and less detailed in the middleground and may not be identifiable. In the background, texture has disappeared, and color has flattened, making objects appear "washed out." If the shape and mass of the solar arrays are visible at a distance of greater than 5 miles (background distance zone), their visibility would be limited and they would not appear as a prominent or identifiable feature in the landscape setting, resulting in minimal or negligible visual impacts.

3.2.2.3 Viewer Sensitivity

The term "sensitive viewers" refers to specific user groups associated with various land uses that have a sensitivity to landscape change, and therefore could be adversely affected by the construction and operation of a project. In this regard, potentially sensitive viewing locations are typically associated with key travel routes, recreation areas, and residential areas. Viewpoints represent critical or typical viewpoints within, or along, an identified viewing location and are used to assess visual impacts of a proposed project. The sensitivity of viewers at each viewpoint is based on the type of use, expected concern for aesthetics, and special status or designation. Identifying groups of individuals that would likely be sensitive to visual changes is an important part of the visual assessment process and helps to

define specific locations from which to assess changes to the visual character of the landscape. An inventory of sensitive viewers considers 1) the most critical viewpoints (i.e., views from communities, residential areas, or recreational areas); 2) views from scenic areas specifically identified in local planning documents; and 3) views that represent the general area or landscape setting.

Distinctions among user groups and their expected sensitivity to landscape changes, based on activity types and viewing characteristics, are standard components of a visual assessment. For example, residential viewers are generally expected to have high concern for changes in views from their residences. Motorists' concerns generally depend on when and where travel occurs, and the type of travel involved (e.g., commuting versus recreational travel). However, because their focus is on driving to their destination and because the time they view the landscape as they drive through is more limited, they may have lower visual sensitivity.

Scenic views designated in land use plans adopted by federal, state, or local government entities typically formalize a recognized visual value of a resource and the public's desire to protect that value (e.g., a designated wilderness or scenic area). Where such officially designated lands exist, the public expectation is that the view at the location of the identified resource would be preserved, and the viewer concern is considered high.

3.2.2.4 Visual Contrast Criteria

Potential visual impacts were characterized by determining the level of visual contrast introduced by the Project based on comparing existing conditions and expected future conditions. Visual contrast is a means to evaluate the level of modification to existing landscape features. The criteria to determine the level of existing visual quality is described in Section 3.2.2.5, Scenic Values Quality Criteria.

The Project will also be evaluated as to the level of contrast Project elements exhibit to the existing visual character of the Project site and area. The level of visual contrast introduced by a project can be measured by changes in the visual characteristics that would occur as a result of project implementation. The greater the difference between the character elements found within the existing landscape and with a proposed project, the more apparent the level of visual contrast. The following general criteria were used when evaluating the degree of contrast:

- None—The contrast is not visible or perceived.
- Weak—The contrast can be seen but does not attract attention.
- Moderate—The element contrast begins to attract attention and begins to dominate the characteristic landscape.
- Strong—The element contrast demands attention, would not be overlooked, and is dominant in the landscape.

Contrast ratings for the existing condition and expected condition with the Project were prepared for each representative viewpoint using a form adapted from BLM's Visual Contrast Rating Worksheet (Form 8400-4); the results are included in Attachment A.

3.2.2.5 Overall Visual Impact Criteria

In general, visual impacts are determined based on:

- What is the level of sensitivity of the viewers. The reaction to the level of contrast the Project introduces is increased by the level of sensitivity.
- What is the level the level of contrast the Project introduces to the existing visual character of the Project site and area. Does the Project attract attention and to what degree do they dominate the landscape. If the Project is not visible or perceived, there is no visual impact.
- If the Project does attract attention and begins to dominate the landscape, what are the changes to the site's visual class. Does implementation the Project reduce the Project site's visual class to a lower level, for example reducing the visual class from Class I to Class II.
- If the viewer sensitivity and the Project contrast are moderate to high and if implementation of the Project results in lowering the visual class, impacts are likely to be significant.

3.3 Key Observation Points/Viewshed

3.3.1 Key Observation Points Criteria

KOPs were identified based on locations from which the Project infrastructure would potentially be visible and noticeable to the casual observer. The "casual observer" is considered an observer who is not actively looking or searching for the Project, but who is engaged in activities at locations with potential views of the Project. If the Project components are not noticeable to the casual observer, visual impacts can be considered minor to negligible (i.e., weak).

Six KOPs were selected as representative vantage points in the landscape with publicly accessible views of the Project (Figure 4). Factors considered in the selection of KOPs included locations with sensitive viewers (e.g., local residences and motorists) and potential for the Project to be visible (e.g., distance and view angle).

Photographs were taken from the selected KOP locations to support the discussion on existing visual setting and the analysis of potential visual impacts associated with the Project (Figures 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, and 13). Photographs of existing conditions were taken on February 29, 2024, using a full-frame digital single-lens reflex with a fixed 50-millimeter lens, or equivalent, camera.

3.3.2 Visual Simulations

A preliminary larger Project layout was simulated for a more conservative impact analysis. This layout includes the proposed Project site area. Three-dimensional visual simulations from three of the KOPs (KOPs 1, 3, and 4) were rendered to approximate the visual conditions resulting with Project implementation for the following reasons:

- KOP 3: In addition to views to the east on W. Jayne Avenue, this KOP represents nearest residential location to the Project site.
- KOP 4: This KOP represents views to the west along W. Jayne Avenue.

- KOP 1: This KOP represents views to the east along W. Jayne Avenue and the best view from the County scenic highway I-5. As views of the Project site from KOP 1 are completely obscured by existing structures and vegetation in the foreground, the Project location is highlighted in yellow.
- Simulations were not produced for KOP 2 due to intervening vegetation or for KOP 5 and KOP 6 as the views of the Project would be limited due to distance and intervening vegetation and would not attract attention due to the numerous transmission lines and/or solar facilities in the area.
- Using the photographs acquired at each KOP, a three-dimensional physical massing model was created that incorporated the solar module scale model. The model was then georeferenced and placed on global positioning system-controlled site-specific photographs to create simulations that demonstrate visual changes from the project, see Figures 6, 9, and 11.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

4.1 Regional Character

The Project site is located within the Central Valley region of Fresno County. The region consists of a single broad, flat valley, drained by the San Joaquin River and its tributaries, bound by the Sierra Nevada to the east and the Coast Range to the west. The elevation ranges from about 150 to 450 feet above sea level. Historically, the dominant habitat types were arid grasslands and shrub lands with expansive Valley Oak riparian woodlands and freshwater emergent wetlands in the proximity of water sources. Today, most of the land has been converted for agricultural uses.

I-5, approximately 1.3 miles west of the Project site, runs north to south connecting southern California to northern California and the Pacific Northwest. It is roughly paralleled to the east by the California Aqueduct. SR- 269/South Lassen Avenue runs north to south between Subarea A and Subarea B. Most roadways in the immediate Project area vicinity are unimproved or paved without curb or sidewalk improvements.

4.2 Local Setting

The Project site consists of row agricultural land used for row crops or are fallow. The agricultural lands around the Project site consist of orchards, row crops, vineyards, and fallow lands. Energy related uses are found near to the Project site, including PG&E's Gates Substation to the west and transmission towers and lines north, south, east, and west of the Project site. The California Aqueduct is located to the east of the Project site. The terrain on the Project site and the immediate area is relatively flat.

4.3 Scenic Vistas

There are no Department of Transportation designated vista points on I-5 within Fresno County (Caltrans 2024a). The nearest vista point identified by the California Department of Transportation

(Caltrans) is the Success Dam Vista Point in the Porterville area, approximately 70 miles east of the Project site.

4.4 Scenic Routes

According to the Caltrans Scenic Highway System, there are no officially designated state scenic highways in the vicinity of the Project site (Caltrans 2024b). The closest are portions of SR-198, approximately 11 miles northwest of the Project site, and SR-33, approximately 13 miles west of the Project site, which are eligible for California State Scenic Highway Designation.

The Fresno County General Plan also includes policies intended to protect scenic resources along Fresno County roadways by identifying, developing, and maintaining scenic amenities along roads and highways in Fresno County and ensuring that development enhances those resources. According to Policy OS-L.1, Fresno County has designated a system of scenic roadways that includes landscaped drives, scenic drives, and scenic highways. According to this element, the only locally designated scenic highway in the vicinity of the Project site is I-5 (Fresno County 2024). The Project site is located approximately 1.3 miles east of I-5.

4.5 Viewer Groups

In general, the types of viewers present within the viewshed of the Project are classified as local residents and motorists. The following discussion summarizes the composition of the groups identified within the viewshed of the Project and their characteristics that are relevant to the visual assessment.

Local Residents

The local resident viewer group consists of people who live within the viewshed of the Project. The closest residences are located along West Jayne Avenue between South Siskiyou Avenue and South Madera Avenue immediately west of the portion of the Project Subarea C that is south of West Jayne Avenue.

Local residents may be more sensitive to changes in their specific views as a result of the Project. The existing landscape already includes the PG&E Gates Substation and numerous transmission towers and lines and other solar facilities, and, as a result, the addition of the Project would not be as significant a change as it would if the landscape had no development.

Travelers

Travelers passing through an area typically view the landscape from motor vehicles on their way to work or other destinations. Travelers include people engaged in various types of business or personal travel. Commuters do not tend to stop along their travel routes, have a relatively narrow field of view because they are focused on road and traffic conditions, and are destination oriented. Passengers in commuter vehicles would have greater opportunities for prolonged off-road views toward landscape features and, accordingly, may have greater perception of changes in the visual environment. Through travelers are typically moving, have a relatively narrow field of view, and are destination oriented. Generally, drivers in this group are focused on driving and on the road and traffic conditions, but do have the opportunity to observe roadside scenery.

4.6 Existing Visual Character

Six KOPs were selected to assess the level of visual change resulting from the Project as described in Section 3, Project Description, on the existing environment. The locations of the six KOPs are presented in Figure 4. The KOPs were selected to capture representative vantages from I-5, West Jayne Avenue, and SR- 269/South Lassen Avenue. Photographs from each KOP under existing conditions are presented in Figures 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, and 13.

4.6.1 KOP 1

KOP 1 is at the intersection of West Jayne Avenue and I-5, approximately 1.6 miles west of the Project site Subarea A. The view from this KOP is facing east. As shown on Figure 5, the existing landscape setting is characterized by flat agricultural land. Existing built features include roadway, transmission and utility poles and lines, street lighting, street signs, and agricultural structures. Vegetation includes grasses, shrubs, and trees (orchards). Dominant colors for the landscape are brown and green, while the structures are gray, brown, and white. The vegetation consists of irregular, organic forms: grasses are continuous with irregular shaped shrubs and trees. The trees are planted in uniform linear rows. The linear and horizontal lines associated with the built features are visible and prominent from this viewpoint.

This KOP provides a typical view for drivers traveling along I-5 and east on West Jayne Avenue. Considering the short duration of visibility of the Project site while driving along the roadways, viewers would have a low sensitivity to the visual changes in the Project site.

4.6.2 KOP 2

KOP 2 is at the intersection of West Jayne Avenue and SR- 269/South Lassen Avenue, with the Project site Subarea A to the west and Subarea B to the northeast. The view from this KOP is facing north. As shown on Figure 7, the existing landscape setting is characterized by flat agricultural land. Existing built features include roadway, transmission and utility poles and lines, street lighting, fencing, and agricultural structures. Vegetation includes grasses and trees (orchards). Dominant colors for the landscape are brown and green, while the structures are gray and brown. The vegetation consists of irregular, organic forms: grasses are continuous with irregular shaped shrubs and trees. The trees are planted in uniform linear rows. The linear and horizontal lines associated with the built features are visible and prominent from this viewpoint. This KOP provides a typical view for drivers traveling east or west on West Jayne Avenue and north on SR- 269/South Lassen Avenue. Considering the short duration of visibility of the Project site while driving along the roadways, viewers would have a low sensitivity to the visual changes in the Project site.

4.6.3 KOP 3

KOP 3 on West Jayne Avenue, between South Siskiyou Avenue and South Madera Avenue, immediately west of the Project site Subarea C. The view from this KOP is facing east. As shown on Figure 8, the existing landscape setting is characterized by flat agricultural land. Existing built features include roadway, transmission and utility poles and lines. Vegetation includes row crops, grasses, and trees (orchards). Dominant colors for the landscape are brown and green, while the structures are

gray, brown, and white. The vegetation consists of irregular, organic forms: grasses are continuous with irregular shaped shrubs and trees. The trees and row crops are planted in uniform linear rows. The linear and horizontal lines associated with the built features are visible and prominent from this viewpoint. This KOP provides a typical view for drivers traveling east on West Jayne Avenue and for the residents located adjacent to this KOP to the west. Considering the short duration of visibility of the Project site while driving along the roadways, viewers would have a low sensitivity to the visual changes in the Project site. Considering the frequent viewing by local residents, viewers would have a moderate sensitivity to the visual changes on the Project site.

4.6.4 KOP 4

KOP 4 is on West Jayne Avenue, just west of the California Aqueduct, immediately east of the Project site Subarea C. The view from this KOP is facing west. As shown on Figure 10, the existing landscape setting is characterized by flat agricultural land with distant hills and mountains in the background. Existing built features include roadway, transmission and utility poles and lines, and residential and agricultural structures. Vegetation includes row crops, grasses, shrubs, and trees (orchards). Dominant colors for the landscape are brown and green, while the structures are gray, brown, and white. The vegetation consists of irregular, organic forms: grasses are continuous with irregular shaped shrubs and trees. The trees and row crops are planted in uniform linear rows. The linear and horizontal lines associated with the built features are visible and prominent from this viewpoint. This KOP provides a typical view for drivers traveling west on West Jayne Avenue. Considering the short duration of visibility of the Project site while driving along the roadways, viewers would have a low sensitivity to the visual changes in the Project site.

4.6.5 KOP 5

KOP 5 is at the intersection of SR- 269/South Lassen Avenue and West Tractor Avenue, approximately one mile north of the Project site Subarea B. The view from this KOP is facing south. As shown on Figure 12, the existing landscape setting is characterized by flat agricultural land with distant hills and mountains in the background. Existing built features include roadway, solar facilities, transmission and utility poles and lines, and agricultural structures. Vegetation includes grasses and trees (orchards). Dominant colors for the landscape are brown and green, while the structures are gray, brown, and white. The vegetation consists of irregular, organic forms: grasses are continuous with irregular shaped shrubs and trees. The trees are planted in uniform linear rows. The linear and horizontal lines associated with the built features are visible and prominent from this viewpoint. This KOP provides a typical view for drivers traveling south on SR- 269/South Lassen Avenue and West Tractor Avenue. Considering the short duration of visibility of the Project site while driving along the roadways, viewers would have a low sensitivity to the visual changes in the Project site.

4.6.6 KOP 6

KOP 6 is at the intersection of SR- 269/South Lassen Avenue and West Goodrich Avenue, approximately 1.6 miles southeast of the Project site Subarea A and 1 mile south of the Project site Subarea B. The view from this KOP is facing north. As shown on Figure 13, the existing landscape setting is characterized by flat agricultural land. Existing built features include roadway, solar facilities,

transmission and utility poles and lines, and agricultural structures. Vegetation includes grasses and trees (orchards). Dominant colors for the landscape are brown and green, while the structures are gray, brown, and white. The vegetation consists of irregular, organic forms: grasses are continuous with irregular shaped shrubs and trees. The trees are planted in uniform linear rows. The linear and horizontal lines associated with the built features are visible and prominent from this viewpoint. This KOP provides a typical view for drivers traveling north on SR-269/South Lassen Avenue and West Goodrich Avenue. Considering the short duration of visibility of the Project site while driving along the roadways, viewers would have a low sensitivity to the visual changes in the Project site.

5.0 REGULATORY SETTING

5.1 Federal

The National Scenic Byways Program, a part of the Federal Highway Administration, recognizes, preserves, and enhances selected roads throughout the United States as All-American Roads or National Scenic Byways based on one or more archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities. According to the Federal Highway Administration's America's Byways website, there are no officially designated National Scenic Byways in the vicinity of the Project site (FHWA 2024).

5.2 State

State scenic highways are those that are either officially designated as state scenic highways by the Caltrans or are eligible for such designation. The scenic designation is based on the amount of natural landscape visible by motorists, the scenic quality of the landscape, and the extent to which development intrudes on the motorist's enjoyment of the view. There are no officially designated or eligible state scenic highways in the vicinity of the Project site (Caltrans 2024).

5.3 Local

Relevant policies from the County of Fresno General Plan are summarized below by element/section (Fresno County 2024).

County of Fresno General Plan

Open Space and Conservation Element

K. Scenic Resources

Goal OS-K To conserve, protect, and maintain the scenic quality of Fresno County and discourage development that degrades areas of scenic quality.

Policy OS-K.1 Scenic Resource Preservation. The County shall encourage the preservation of outstanding scenic views, panoramas, and vistas wherever possible. Methods to achieve this may include encouraging private property owners to enter into open space easements for designated scenic areas.

Policy OS-K.4 Incorporating Scenic Features. The County should require development adjacent to scenic areas, vistas, and roadways to incorporate natural features of the site and be developed to minimize impacts to the scenic qualities of the site.

L. Scenic Roadways

Goal OS-L To conserve, protect, and maintain the scenic quality of land and landscape adjacent to scenic roads in Fresno County.

Policy OS-L.3 Scenic Roadway Management. The County shall manage the use of land adjacent to scenic drives and scenic highways based on the following principles:

b. Proposed high voltage overhead transmission lines, transmission line towers, and cell towers shall be routed and placed to minimize detrimental effects on scenic amenities visible from the right-of-way.

6.0 IMPACT ANALYSIS

6.1 Scenic Vistas

Would the proposed Project cause substantial, adverse effects on a scenic vista?

No designated scenic vistas are located within visible distance of the Project site. The Project site includes active agricultural land and is surrounded by agricultural land and solar energy generation land uses and transportation and utility infrastructure. The Project area is not a scenic vista or visible from any designated scenic vista. No impact on scenic vistas would occur.

Level of Significance: No impact.

6.2 Scenic Routes

Would the proposed Project cause substantial damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings, within a state scenic highway?

There are no officially designated or eligible state scenic highways in the vicinity of the Project site. The Fresno County General Plan identifies I-5 as a locally designated scenic highway.

The Project site includes active agricultural land and is surrounded by agricultural land and solar energy generation land uses and transportation and utility infrastructure. Views toward the Project site from I-5 are shown in Figure 5. This photograph provides a typical view for drivers traveling along I-5, likely traveling at a high rate of speed based on the posted speed limit of 65 miles per hour.

The proposed Project would convert agricultural land that contributes to the scenic qualities of views. From I-5, the solar arrays would not be visible due to the intervening vegetation and structures, see Figure 6. Based on these considerations, including the low profile of the Project facilities combined with the various existing visual encroachments in surrounding areas, the Project would not result in a substantial damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway. For these reasons, no impact would result.

Level of Significance: No impact.

6.3 Visual Character

In non-urbanized areas, would the proposed Project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point.)

During construction and operations, the Project, where visible and noticeable, may introduce visual contrast and have the potential to create visual effects within the surrounding areas. The potential visual effects and visible contrast anticipated as a result of construction and operation of the Project are discussed below. Visual simulations of the Project were rendered to approximate the visual conditions resulting with Project implementation from views from KOPs 1, 3, and 4. Based on the field visit and photos of the existing conditions, these KOPs had shown the most potential for views of the Project.

6.3.1 Construction

Development of the Project will entail construction activities that would include, but not be limited to, the clearing and grubbing of existing vegetation, grading of access roads, and installation of Project components. Construction staging and laydown areas would be established as needed for parking, construction, storage and use within the Project. Construction of the Project is expected to occur over approximately nine months. These visual changes would be transient and short term in nature.

Level of Significance: Less than significant impact.

6.3.2 Operation

Completion of the Project would introduce many new visual elements into the Project site. These would include solar project components consisting of modules, tracking system and posts, overhead collector lines, Project Substation, access and service roads, fencing, gates, security lighting, O&M building, and a BESS.

6.3.2.1 KOP 1

Figures 5 and 6 present the existing and simulated views of Project Subareas A and B components from KOP 1. Due to the existing orchards located between the Project and I-5, the Project would not be visible from this location and no impact would occur.

6.3.2.2 KOP 2

The Project Subarea B would be visible to the northeast from this location along West Jayne Avenue and SR- 269/South Lassen Avenue by a casual observer. The Project would introduce light and dark gray colors, geometric shapes, and horizontal lines into the landscape setting. The colors, regular geometric forms, and horizontal lines associated with the solar arrays would result in a visual contrast with the irregular, organic forms and colors of the existing vegetation but would be consistent with the horizontal lines associated with the orchards and row crops. Existing structures in the vicinity possess horizontal and vertical lines and gray colors (roadway, transmission and utility poles and lines, fencing, street lighting, and agricultural structures). An analysis of potential visual impacts is summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Visual Quality Rating Analysis – KOP 2

Rated Feature	Pre-Development Score	Post-Development Score	Difference in Scores
Landform	**1**	**1**	**0**
Explanation	Project site and surrounding land are flat.	Post-development the Project site would remain flat.	
Detail	No substantial change to the landforms on the Project site would result from Project implementation.		
Vegetation	**1**	**1**	**0**
Explanation	Project site limited to low-lying row crops or ruderal vegetation. A row of trees are adjacent off-site.	While the amount would be reduced, a crop cover type of vegetation would be used on the Project site. No trees removed.	
Detail	There would be little contrast between the existing and developed features in vegetation.		
Water	**0**	**0**	**0**
Explanation	No water bodies are present on the Project Subarea B site. Small pond is located on Subarea A but not visible from this location.	The Project would not introduce water to the Project site or remove the small pond located on Subarea A.	
Detail	The existing pond located on Subarea A is not visible from this location.		
Color	**2**	**2**	**0**
Explanation	Muted color with little variation: green and brown associated with vegetation; gray, brown and white associated with structures.	Muted color with little variation: green and brown associated with vegetation; gray, brown and white associated with structures. Project would add dark and light gray structures.	
Detail	The dominant colors on the Project site from this viewpoint are green (low-lying vegetation) and gray (energy facilities). Other gray, brown, and white structures are adjacent off-site. The Project would increase the amount of gray, adding similar muted colors.		
Adjacent Scenery	**1**	**1**	**0**
Explanation	Adjacent scenery provides views of orchards, row crops, and energy facilities.	Adjacent scenery provides views of orchards, row crops, and energy facilities.	
Detail	Adjacent scenery consists of orchards, row crops, and agricultural and energy facilities. The Project would replace views of row crops on the Project site with energy storage facilities, however, adjacent scenery will still be visible.		
Scarcity	**1**	**1**	**0**
Explanation	Similar viewsheds throughout the region. No unique or unusual aspects.	Similar viewsheds throughout the region. No unique or unusual aspects.	
Detail	Existing views of row crops, agricultural and energy facilities are typical of the area and are not unique or unusual.		
Cultural Modifications	**-1**	**-2**	**1**
Explanation	Manmade modifications in this view include utility and transmission lines and structures, fencing, residential structure. These features are somewhat discordant with the surrounding landscape but common.	The Project would increase manmade modifications in this view with the introduction of energy storage facilities that would replace the row crops.	
Detail	The existing view exhibits manmade modifications to the agricultural landscape. The Project would introduce views of energy storage facilities. The Project would be slightly discordant with the row crops but due to the solar facilities, utility and transmission lines and structures in the immediate area would not be an unexpected modification.		
Totals	**5**	**4**	**1**

Where the views of the Project are not blocked by adjacent orchards, travelers along these roadways would have a short duration of viewing the Project site and are expected to have a low viewer sensitivity to the visual changes on the Project site.

During the majority of the day, the panels will be oriented closer to a horizontal alignment that allows views through the Project site, reducing attention to and contrast from the Project. When the panels are at maximum tilt, the Project would begin to attract attention to the casual observer. However, the Project components would be consistent with other horizontal and vertical lines and geometric shapes visible throughout the landscape, including the solar facilities to the west of SR- 269/South Lassen Avenue and would not block views of the surrounding agricultural land.

The muted colors of the Project would be consistent with and contribute to blending into the landscape. The scenic quality of KOP 2, both under existing conditions and post-development of the Project, is identified as low (Class IV). The only key visual quality factor that would change is Cultural Modifications, as the Project elements would add manmade elements consistent with the surrounding built environment but would be slightly discordant with row crops and adjacent orchards. As shown in Table 2, visual quality would be reduced from a rating of 5 to 4, remain low, and not result in a change in visual class. None of the views from KOP 2 are protected or designated as important or significant scenic resources by the federal, state, or county regulations. Therefore, , the Project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings and would result in a less than significant visual impact.

6.3.2.3 KOP 3

Figures 8 and 9 present the existing and simulated views of Project Subarea C components from KOP 3.

The Project would be visible to the east from this location along West Jayne Avenue by a casual observer. The Project would introduce light and dark gray colors, geometric shapes, and horizontal lines into the landscape setting. The colors, regular geometric forms, and horizontal lines associated with the solar arrays would result in a visual contrast with the irregular, organic forms and colors of the existing vegetation but would be consistent with the horizontal lines associated with the orchards and row crops. Existing structures in the vicinity possess horizontal and vertical lines and gray colors (roadway and transmission and utility poles). An analysis of potential visual impacts is summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. Visual Quality Rating Analysis – KOP 3

Rated Feature	Pre-Development Score	Post-Development Score	Difference in Scores
Landform	**1**	**1**	**0**
Explanation	Project site and surrounding land are flat.	Post-development the Project site would remain flat.	
Detail	No substantial change to the landforms on the Project site would result from Project implementation.		
Vegetation	**1**	**1**	**0**
Explanation	Project site limited to low-lying row crops or ruderal vegetation.	While the amount would be reduced, a crop cover type of vegetation would be used on the Project site.	

Rated Feature	Pre-Development Score	Post-Development Score	Difference in Scores
Detail	There would be little contrast between the existing and developed features in vegetation.		
Water	**0**	**0**	**0**
Explanation	No water bodies are present on the Project Subarea C site. Small pond is located on Subarea A but not visible from this location.	The Project would not introduce water to the Project site or remove the small pond located on Subarea A.	
Detail	The existing pond located on Subarea A is not visible from this location.		
Color	**2**	**2**	**0**
Explanation	Muted color with little variation: green and brown associated with vegetation; gray, brown and white associated with structures.	Muted color with little variation: green and brown associated with vegetation; gray, brown and white associated with structures. Project would add dark and light gray structures.	
Detail	The dominant colors on the Project site from this viewpoint are green (low-lying vegetation) and brown and gray (transmission and utility poles). The Project would increase the amount of gray, adding similar muted colors.		
Adjacent Scenery	**1**	**1**	**0**
Explanation	Adjacent scenery provides views of orchards and transmission and utility poles.	Adjacent scenery provides views of orchards, row crops, and transmission and utility poles.	
Detail	Adjacent scenery consists of orchards and transmission and utility poles. The Project would replace views of row crops on the Project site with energy storage facilities, however, adjacent scenery will still be visible.		
Scarcity	**1**	**1**	**0**
Explanation	Similar viewsheds throughout the region. No unique or unusual aspects.	Similar viewsheds throughout the region. No unique or unusual aspects.	
Detail	Existing views of orchards and row crops are typical of the area and are not unique or unusual.		
Cultural Modifications	**-1**	**-3**	**2**
Explanation	Manmade modifications in this view include utility and transmission lines and structures, fencing, residential structure. These features are somewhat discordant with the surrounding landscape but common.	The Project would increase manmade modifications in this view with the introduction of energy storage facilities that would replace the row crops.	
Detail	The existing view exhibits manmade modifications to the agricultural landscape. The Project would introduce views of energy storage facilities. The Project would be slightly discordant with the row crops but due to the solar facilities, utility and transmission lines and structures in the area would not be an unexpected modification.		
Totals	**5**	**3**	**2**

During the majority of the day, the panels will be oriented closer to a horizontal alignment that allows views through the Project site, reducing attention to and contrast from the Project. Therefore, during the majority of the day, the panels would introduce a weak contrast. When the panels are at maximum tilt, the Project would attract attention to the casual observer and co-dominate the landscape resulting in a moderate to strong contrast. However, the Project components would be consistent with other horizontal and vertical lines and geometric shapes visible throughout the landscape and would not block views of the surrounding agricultural land. Where the views of the Project are not blocked by adjacent orchards, travelers along these roadways would have a short duration of viewing the Project site and are expected to have a low viewer sensitivity to the visual changes on the Project site.

Views of the Project from the adjacent residences will be partially to completely obscured by existing structures and trees adjacent to the residences. Where the Project is visible, the Project components would be consistent with other horizontal and vertical lines and geometric shapes visible throughout the landscape and would not block views of agricultural lands in the background. Residential viewers would have a moderate sensitivity to the visual changes on the Project site.

The muted colors of the Project would be consistent with and contribute to blending into the landscape. The scenic quality of KOP 3, both under existing conditions and post-development of the Project, is identified as low (Class IV). The only key visual quality factor that would change is Cultural Modifications, as the Project elements would add manmade elements consistent with the surrounding built environment but would be slightly discordant with row crops and adjacent orchards. As shown in Table 3, visual quality would be reduced from a rating of 5 to 3, remain low, and not result in a change in visual class. None of the views from KOP 3 are protected or designated as important or significant scenic resources by the federal, state, or county regulations. Therefore, the Project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings and would result in a less than significant visual impact.

6.3.2.4 KOP 4

Figures 10 and 11 present the existing and simulated views of Project Subarea C components from KOP 4.

The Project would be visible to the west from this location along West Jayne Avenue by a casual observer. The Project would introduce light and dark gray colors, geometric shapes, and horizontal lines into the landscape setting. The colors, regular geometric forms, and horizontal lines associated with the solar arrays would result in a visual contrast with the irregular, organic forms and colors of the existing vegetation but would be consistent with the horizontal lines associated with the orchards and row crops. Existing structures in the vicinity possess horizontal and vertical lines and gray colors (roadway, and transmission and utility poles, and agricultural and residential structures). An analysis of potential visual impacts is summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. Visual Quality Rating Analysis – KOP 4

Rated Feature	Pre-Development Score	Post-Development Score	Difference in Scores
Landform	**1**	**1**	**0**
Explanation	Project site and surrounding land are flat.	Post-development the Project site would remain flat.	
Detail	No substantial change to the landforms on the Project site would result from Project implementation.		
Vegetation	**1**	**1**	**0**
Explanation	Project site limited to low-lying row crops or ruderal vegetation.	While the amount would be reduced, a crop cover type of vegetation would be used on the Project site.	
Detail	There would be little contrast between the existing and developed features in vegetation.		
Water	**0**	**0**	**0**
Explanation	No water bodies are present on the Project Subarea C site. Small pond is located on	The Project would not introduce water to the Project site or remove the small pond located	

Rated Feature	Pre-Development Score	Post-Development Score	Difference in Scores
	Subarea A but not visible from this location.	on Subarea A.	
Detail	The existing pond located on Subarea A is not visible from this location.		
Color	**2**	**2**	**0**
Explanation	Muted color with little variation: green and brown associated with vegetation; gray, brown and white associated with structures.	Muted color with little variation: green and brown associated with vegetation; gray, brown and white associated with structures. Project would add dark and light gray structures.	
Detail	The dominant colors on the Project site from this viewpoint are green and brown (low-lying vegetation) and brown and gray (transmission and utility poles). The Project would increase the amount of gray, adding similar muted colors.		
Adjacent Scenery	**1**	**0**	**0**
Explanation	Adjacent scenery provides views of orchards, transmission and utility poles, and agricultural and residential structures.	Adjacent scenery provides views of orchards, row crops, transmission and utility poles, and agricultural and residential structures. .	
Detail	Adjacent scenery consists of orchards, transmission and utility poles and agricultural and residential structures. The Project would replace views of row crops on the Project site with energy storage facilities. During the majority of the day, adjacent scenery will still be visible. At maximum tilt, views of orchard and agricultural and residential structures would be partially blocked.		
Scarcity	**1**	**1**	**0**
Explanation	Similar viewsheds throughout the region. No unique or unusual aspects.	Similar viewsheds throughout the region. No unique or unusual aspects.	
Detail	Existing views of orchards and row crops are typical of the area and are not unique or unusual.		
Cultural Modifications	**-1**	**-2**	**1**
Explanation	Manmade modifications in this view include utility and transmission lines and structures, fencing, residential structure. These features are somewhat discordant with the surrounding landscape but common.	The Project would increase manmade modifications in this view with the introduction of energy storage facilities that would replace the row crops.	
Detail	The existing view exhibits manmade modifications to the agricultural landscape. The Project would introduce views of energy storage facilities. The Project would be slightly discordant with the row crops but due to the solar facilities, utility and transmission lines and structures in the area would not be an unexpected modification.		
Totals	**5**	**3**	**2**

During the majority of the day, the panels will be oriented closer to a horizontal alignment that allows views through the Project site, reducing attention to and contrast from the Project. Therefore, during the majority of the day, the panels would introduce a weak contrast. When the panels are at maximum tilt, the Project would begin to attract attention to the casual observer and begin to co-dominate the landscape resulting in a moderate contrast. However, the Project components would be consistent with other horizontal and vertical lines and geometric shapes visible throughout the landscape and for the majority of the day, would not block views of the surrounding agricultural land. Where the views of the Project are not blocked by adjacent orchards, travelers along these roadways would have a short duration of viewing the Project site and are expected to have a low viewer sensitivity to the visual changes on the Project site.

The muted colors of the Project would be consistent with and contribute to blending into the landscape. The scenic quality of KOP 4, both under existing conditions and post-development of the Project, is identified as low (Class IV). The key visual quality factors that would change are Adjacent Scenery and Cultural Modifications. For Adjacent Scenery, during the majority of the day, adjacent scenery will still be visible. At maximum tilt, views of orchard and agricultural and residential structures would be partially blocked. For Cultural Modifications, the Project elements would add manmade elements consistent with the surrounding built environment but would be slightly discordant with row crops and adjacent orchards. As shown in Table 4, visual quality would be reduced from a rating of 5 to 3, remain low, and not result in a change in visual class. None of the views from KOP 4 are protected or designated as important or significant scenic resources by the federal, state, or county regulations. Therefore, the Project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings and would result in a less than significant visual impact.

6.3.2.5 KOP 5

Due to the existing orchards located between KOP 5 and the Project, the Project would not be visible from this location and no impact would occur.

6.3.2.6 KOP 6

Existing orchards are located between KOP 6 and the Project. Little, if any of the Project is expected to be visible by a casual observer. Where visible, the Project would introduce light and dark gray colors, geometric shapes, and horizontal lines into the landscape setting. The colors, regular geometric forms, and horizontal lines associated with the solar arrays would result in a visual contrast with the irregular, organic forms and colors of the existing vegetation but would be consistent with the horizontal lines associated with the orchards and row crops. Existing structures in the vicinity possess horizontal and vertical lines and gray colors (roadway, solar facilities, transmission and utility poles and lines, and agricultural structures). An analysis of potential visual impacts is summarized in Table 5.

Table 5. Visual Quality Rating Analysis – KOP 6

Rated Feature	Pre-Development Score	Post-Development Score	Difference in Scores
Landform	**1**	**1**	**0**
Explanation	Project site and surrounding land are flat.	Post-development the Project site would remain flat.	
Detail	No substantial change to the landforms on the Project site would result from Project implementation.		
Vegetation	**1**	**1**	**0**
Explanation	Project site limited to low-lying row crops or ruderal vegetation.	While the amount would be reduced, a crop cover type of vegetation would be used on the Project site.	
Detail	There would be little contrast between the existing and developed features in vegetation.		
Water	**1**	**1**	**0**
Explanation	Small pond is located on Subarea A.	The Project would not introduce water to the Project site or remove the small pond located	

Rated Feature	Pre-Development Score	Post-Development Score	Difference in Scores
		on Subarea A.	
Detail	The existing pond located on Subarea A will not be removed, however, it is not likely to be visible from this location.		
Color	**2**	**2**	**0**
Explanation	Muted color with little variation: green and brown associated with vegetation; gray, brown and white associated with structures.	Muted color with little variation: green and brown associated with vegetation; gray, brown and white associated with structures. Project would add dark and light gray structures.	
Detail	The dominant colors on the Project site from this viewpoint are green and brown (low-lying vegetation) and brown and gray (roadway, solar facilities, transmission and utility poles and lines, and agricultural structures). The Project would increase the amount of gray, adding similar muted colors.		
Adjacent Scenery	**1**	**1**	**0**
Explanation	Adjacent scenery provides views of row crops, orchards, transmission and utility poles, solar facilities, and agricultural structures.	Adjacent scenery provides views of row crops, orchards, transmission and utility poles, solar facilities, and agricultural structures.	
Detail	Adjacent scenery consists of orchards, transmission and utility poles and agricultural and residential structures. The Project would replace views of row crops on the Project site with energy storage facilities. During the majority of the day, adjacent scenery will still be visible. At maximum tilt, views of orchard and agricultural and residential structures would be partially blocked.		
Scarcity	**1**	**1**	**0**
Explanation	Similar viewsheds throughout the region. No unique or unusual aspects.	Similar viewsheds throughout the region. No unique or unusual aspects.	
Detail	Existing views of orchards and row crops are typical of the area and are not unique or unusual.		
Cultural Modifications	**-1**	**-1**	**1**
Explanation	Manmade modifications in this view include utility and transmission lines and structures, fencing, residential structure. These features are somewhat discordant with the surrounding landscape but common.	The Project would increase manmade modifications in this view with the introduction of energy storage facilities that would replace the row crops, however, views of the Project would be limited and appear as an extension of the existing solar facilities.	
Detail	The existing view exhibits manmade modifications to the agricultural landscape. The Project would introduce views of energy storage facilities. If visible, the Project would be slightly discordant with the row crops and orchards but due to the solar facilities, utility and transmission lines and structures in the area would not be an unexpected modification.		
Totals	**6**	**6**	**1**

During the majority of the day, the panels will be oriented closer to a horizontal alignment that allows views through the Project site, reducing attention to and contrast from the Project. Therefore, during the majority of the day, the panels would introduce a weak contrast. When the panels are at maximum tilt, if visible, the Project may begin to attract attention to the casual observer but would appear as a continuation of existing solar facilities, resulting in a weak contrast. However, the Project components would be consistent with other horizontal and vertical lines and geometric shapes visible throughout the landscape and would not block views of the surrounding agricultural land. Where the views of the Project are not blocked by adjacent orchards, travelers along these roadways would have a short

duration of viewing the Project site and are expected to have a low viewer sensitivity to the visual changes on the Project site.

The muted colors of the Project would be consistent with and contribute to blending into the landscape. The scenic quality of KOP 6, both under existing conditions and post-development of the Project, is identified as low (Class IV). As shown in Table 5, visual quality would remain the same at a rating of 6 and not result in a change in visual class. None of the views from KOP 6 are protected or designated as important or significant scenic resources by the federal, state, or county regulations. Therefore, the Project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings and would result in a less than significant visual impact.

Level of Significance: Less than significant impact.

6.3.3 Decommissioning

Decommissioning will be conducted in accordance with the county-approved decommissioning plan for this Project. Temporary changes are associated with the removal of all equipment associated with the Project. These visual impacts would be short-term in nature and are not considered to be significant. After the equipment removal activities, the Project site will be returned to substantially the same condition as that which existed prior to Project development.

Level of Significance: Less than significant impact.

6.4 Light and Glare

Would the proposed Project create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

The Project is not expected to create a substantial new source of nighttime lighting or daytime glare. Unlike solar thermal facilities, which rely on large fields of mirrors to reflect light, the potential reflection from solar PV modules is inherently low since they are designed to capture and not to reflect sunlight. PV panels have a lower index of refraction/reflectivity than common sources of glare in residential environments. The glare and reflectance levels from a given PV system are lower than the glare and reflectance levels of steel, snow, standard glass, plexiglass, and smooth water (Shields 2010). The glare and reflectance levels of modules are further reduced with the application of anti-reflective coatings. PV suppliers typically use stippled glass for panels as the “texturing” of the glass to allow more light energy to be channeled/transmitted through the glass while weakening the reflected light. With the application of anti-reflective coatings and use of modern glass technology, project PV panels would display overall low reflectivity. In addition, because tracker systems follow the sun, the underside of the PV panels and most of the structure supporting them are shadowed throughout the day.

Moreover, light reflected from the PV panels would travel above the line of site of most, if not all, viewers. PV tracking systems position the array so that the sun’s rays are always perpendicular to the face of the panel. What light is reflected from the panels is reflected back towards the sun. During midday conditions, when the sun is high in the sky, the rays of the sun are reflected directly upwards. For example, when the sun is low on the horizon (near dawn or dusk), the sun's angle in the sky is low;

however, reflected rays would still be directed away from ground-level receptors because the maximum downward angle of the arrays would not be below 30 degrees. Similarly, and also due to their low reflectivity, the panels are not expected to cause visual impairment for motorists on area roadways. With the application of anti-reflective coatings, the Project would display overall low reflectivity.

The proposed Project will provide external safety lighting for both normal and emergency conditions at the primary access points. Lighting will be designed to provide the minimum illumination needed to achieve safety and security and will be downward facing and shielded to focus illumination in the immediate area. All lighting associated with the proposed Project will be subject to county approval and compliance with Fresno County requirements. Therefore, the Project will have a less than significant impact associated with lighting and glare.

Level of Significance: Less than significant impact.

7.0 REFERENCES

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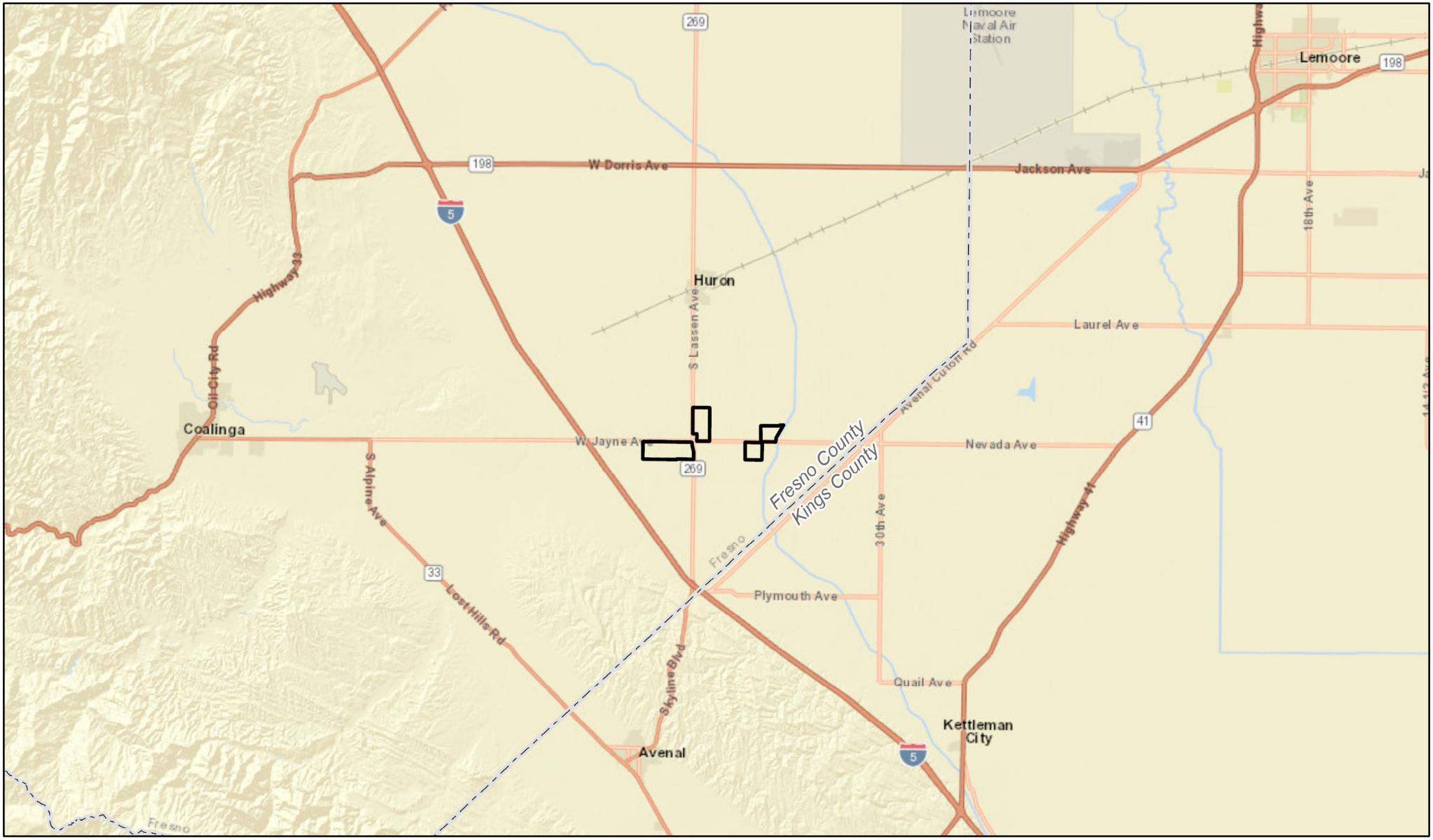
FIGURES





Project Site

N

0 2 4

Miles

Source: ESRI (2024)

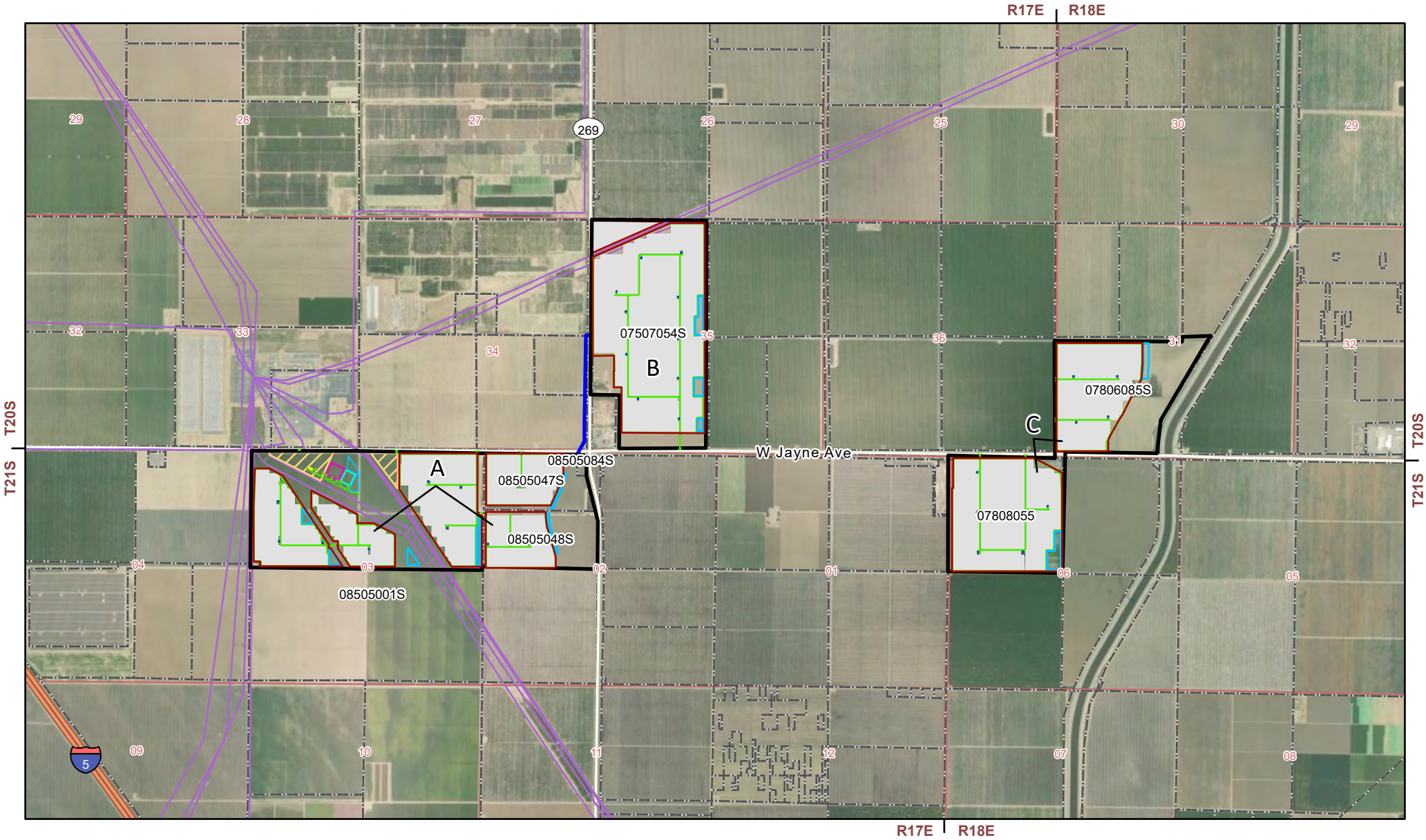
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

TETRA TECH

Figure 1
Project Vicinity

San Luis West Solar Project
Fresno County, California

\\cess706gisfs1\CES\Projects\BOT\G\PROJECTS\SAN_LUIS_WEST_1115-0009\CUP\SLW_CUP_Alt1_Layout_20241011.aprx





Project Site
Array
Inverters
O&M Building
Substation
BESS
Site Fence
Site Road
Basin
Collection Line
Laydown
Existing Transmission Line
Township/Range
Section
Parcels

N

0 0.25 0.5
Miles

Source: ESRI (2024)

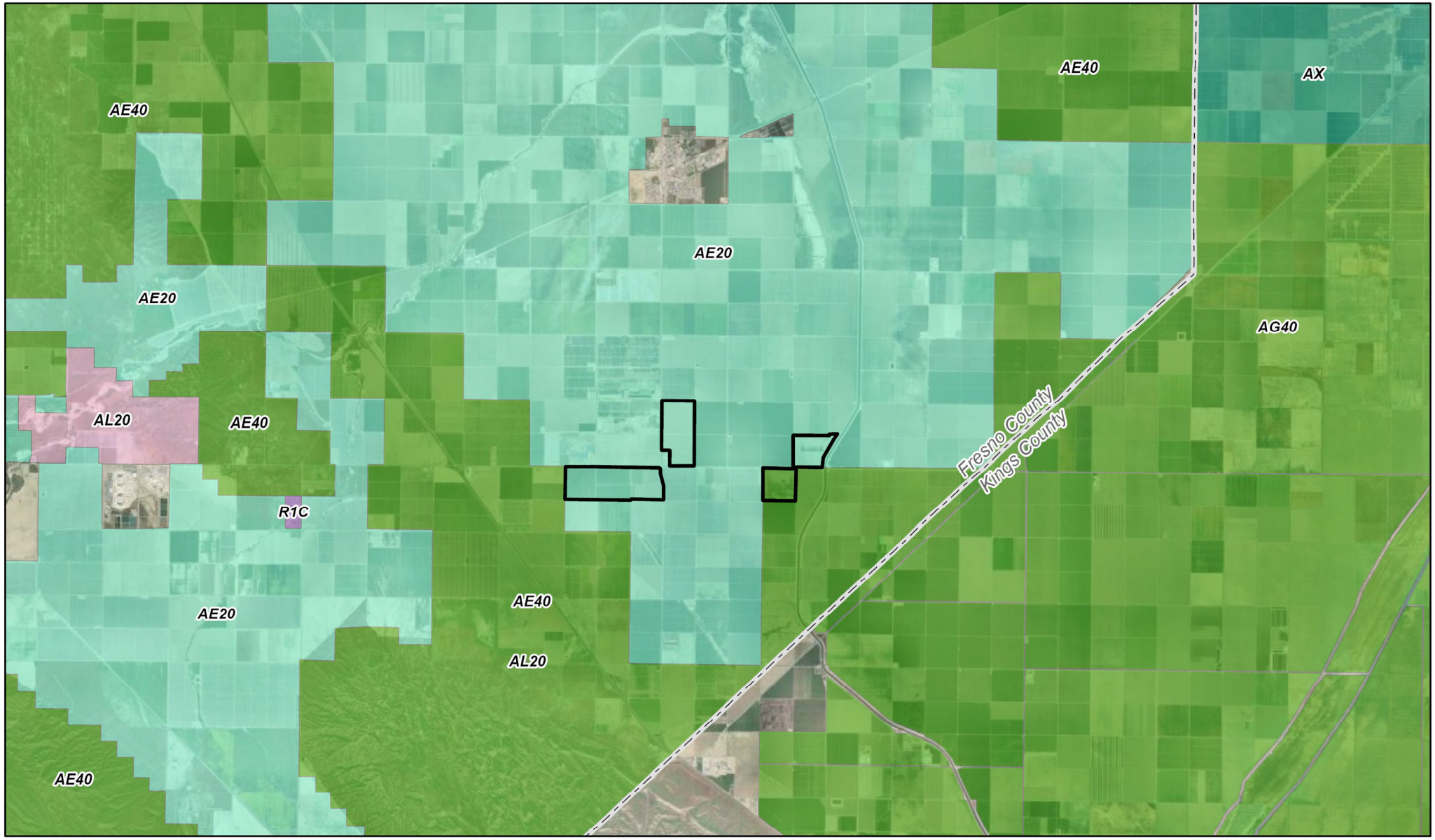
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

TETRA TECH

Figure 2
Project Layout

San Luis West Solar Project
Fresno County, California

\\cess706gisfs1\CES\Projects\BOT\G\PROJECTS\SAN_LUIS_WEST_1115-0009\CUP\SLW_CUP_Alt1_Layout_20241011.aprx





Project Site

Fresno County Zoning

- AE20 - Exclusive Agriculture (20 acres)
- AE40 - Exclusive Agriculture (40 acres)
- AL20 - Limited Agriculture (20 acres)
- R1C - Single Family Residential

Kings County Zoning

- AG40 - General Agricultural (40 acres)
- AX - Exclusive Agricultural

N

0 1 2

Miles

Source: ESRI (2024), Fresno County (2023)

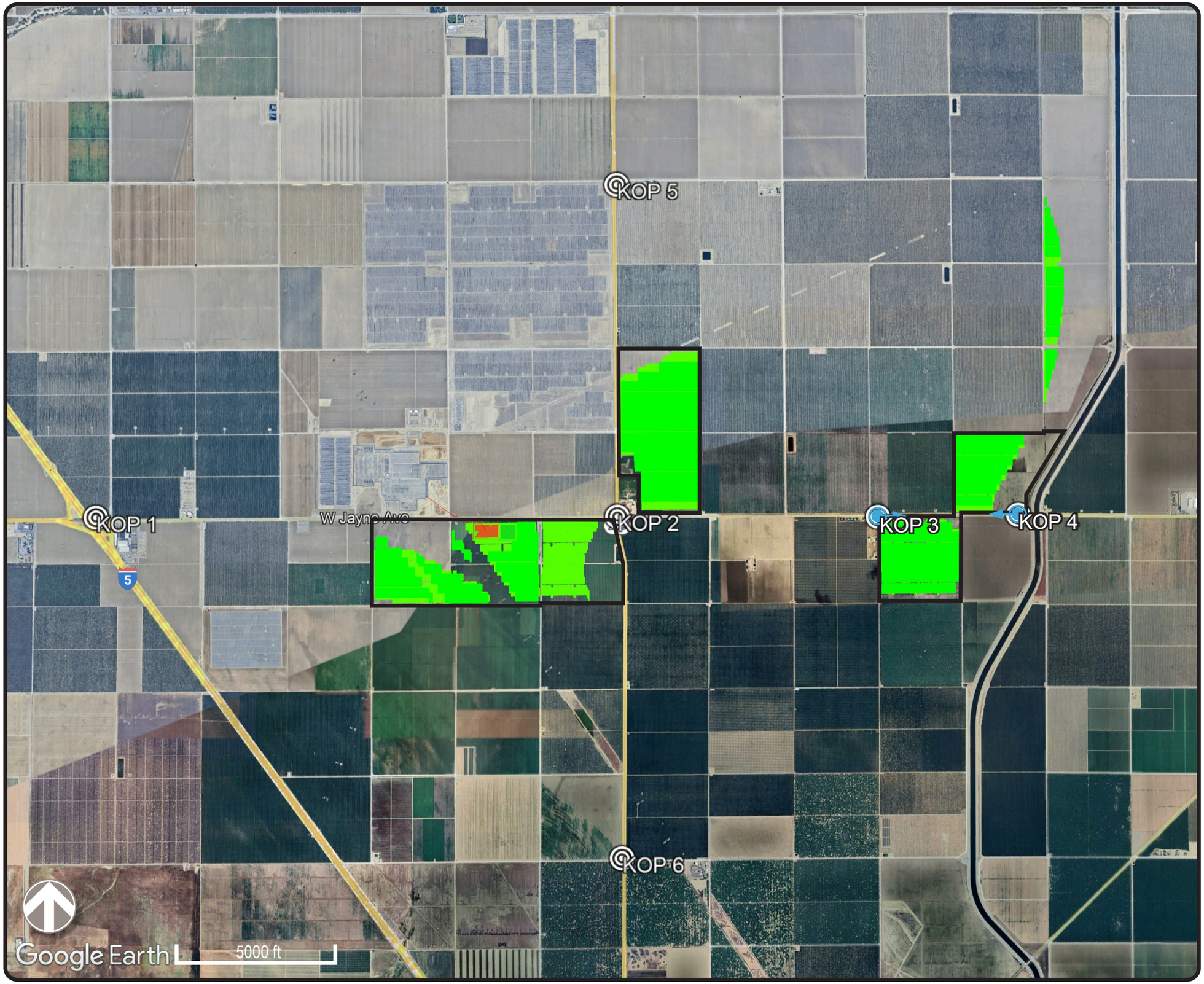
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

TETRA TECH

Figure 3
Zoning

San Luis West Solar Project
Fresno County, California

\\cess706gisfs1\CES\Projects\BOT\G\PROJECTS\SAN_LUIS_WEST_1115-0009\CUP\SLW_CUP_Alt1_Layout_20241011.aprx



SAN LUIS WEST SOLAR PROJECT

FRESNO COUNTY, CA

FIGURE 4: KEY OBSERVATION POINT LOCATION MAP

LEGEND

- PRELIMINARY PROJECT LAYOUT [1]
- KEY OBSERVATION POINT (KOP)
- KOP WITH SIMULATION / VIEW DIRECTION
- PROJECT SITE

FOOTNOTE 1: A PRELIMINARY LARGER PROJECT LAYOUT WAS SIMULATED FOR A MORE CONSERVATIVE IMPACT ANALYSIS. THIS LAYOUT INCLUDES THE PROPOSED PROJECT SITE AREA

DISCLAIMER: PRELIMINARY VISUALIZATIONS ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY; PROJECT LAYOUT IS IN DEVELOPMENT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

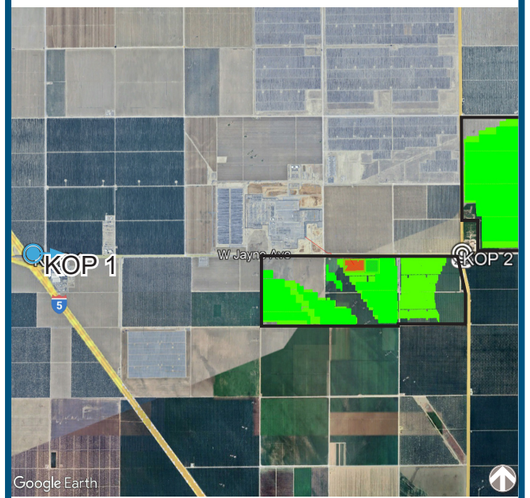


View east from I-5 and West Jayne Avenue

SAN LUIS WEST SOLAR PROJECT

FIGURE 5
KOP 1

EXISTING CONDITIONS



VICINITY MAP

LEGEND

- PHOTO SIMULATION / DIRECTION
- PRELIMINARY PROJECT LAYOUT
- KOP LOCATION
- PROJECT SITE

PHOTOGRAPH INFORMATION

TIME:	9:58 AM
DATE:	2/29/2024
WEATHER CONDITION:	PARTLY CLOUDY
VIEWING DIRECTION:	EAST
LATITIUDE:	36.137899°
LONGITUDE:	-120.157931°
DISTANCE FROM PROJECT:	8,690 FT

DISCLAIMER: PRELIMINARY VISUALIZATIONS ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY; PROJECT LAYOUT IS IN DEVELOPMENT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

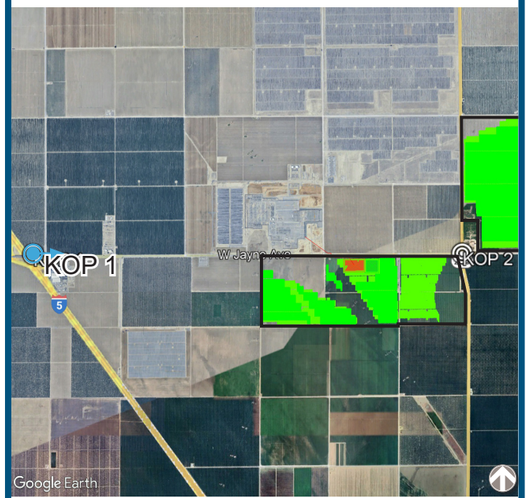


Simulated view east from I-5 and West Jayne Avenue
Project Location Highlighted. The Project Area is obscured by existing vegetation and structures.

SAN LUIS WEST SOLAR PROJECT

FIGURE 6
KOP 1

PHOTO SIMULATION



VICINITY MAP

LEGEND

- PHOTO SIMULATION / DIRECTION
- PRELIMINARY PROJECT LAYOUT
- KOP LOCATION
- PROJECT SITE

PHOTOGRAPH INFORMATION

TIME:	9:58 AM
DATE:	2/29/2024
WEATHER CONDITION:	PARTLY CLOUDY
VIEWING DIRECTION:	EAST
LATITIUDE:	36.137899°
LONGITUDE:	-120.157931°
DISTANCE FROM PROJECT:	8,690 FT

DISCLAIMER: PRELIMINARY VISUALIZATIONS ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY; PROJECT LAYOUT IS IN DEVELOPMENT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

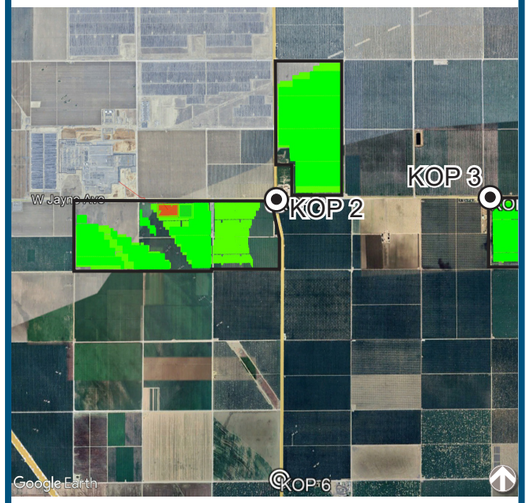
SAN LUIS WEST SOLAR PROJECT

FIGURE 7
KOP 2

EXISTING CONDITIONS



View north from intersection of West Jayne Avenue and SR-269/South Lassen Avenue



VICINITY MAP

LEGEND

- PHOTO SIMULATION / DIRECTION
- PRELIMINARY PROJECT LAYOUT
- KOP LOCATION
- PROJECT SITE

PHOTOGRAPH INFORMATION

TIME:	10:36 AM
DATE:	2/29/2024
WEATHER CONDITION:	PARTLY CLOUDY
VIEWING DIRECTION:	NORTH
LATITIUDE:	36.137937°
LONGITUDE:	-120.102777°
DISTANCE FROM PROJECT:	870 FT

DISCLAIMER: PRELIMINARY VISUALIZATIONS ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY; PROJECT LAYOUT IS IN DEVELOPMENT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

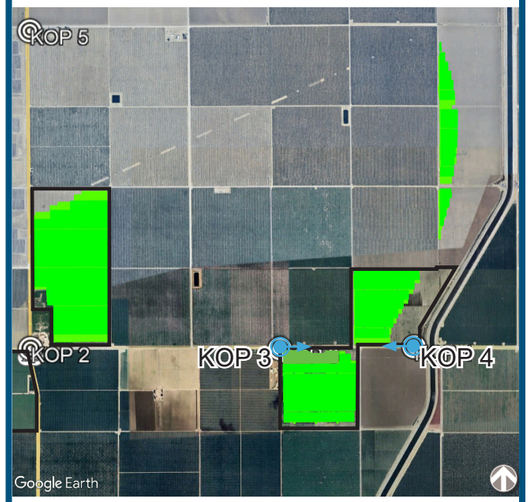


View east from West Jayne Avenue, between S. Siskiyou Avenue and S. Madera Avenue

SAN LUIS WEST SOLAR PROJECT

FIGURE 8
KOP 3

EXISTING CONDITIONS



VICINITY MAP

LEGEND

- PHOTO SIMULATION / DIRECTION
- PRELIMINARY PROJECT LAYOUT
- KOP LOCATION
- PROJECT SITE

PHOTOGRAPH INFORMATION

TIME:	11:09 AM
DATE:	2/29/2024
WEATHER CONDITION:	PARTLY CLOUDY
VIEWING DIRECTION:	EAST
LATITIUDE:	36.137879°
LONGITUDE:	-120.075138°
DISTANCE FROM PROJECT:	190 FT

DISCLAIMER: PRELIMINARY VISUALIZATIONS ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY; PROJECT LAYOUT IS IN DEVELOPMENT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

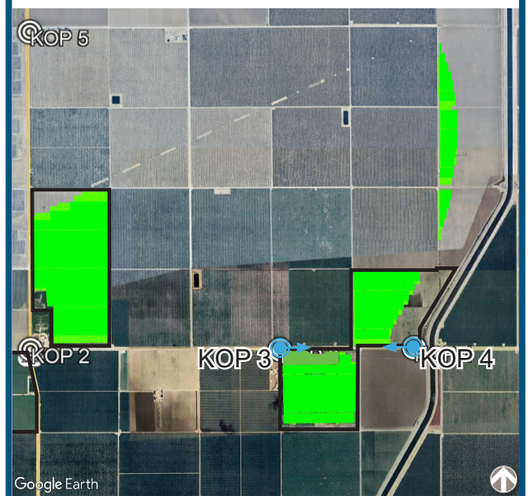


Simulated view east from West Jayne Avenue , between S. Siskiyou Avenue and S. Madera Avenue

SAN LUIS WEST SOLAR PROJECT

FIGURE 9
KOP 3

PHOTO SIMULATION



VICINITY MAP

LEGEND

- PHOTO SIMULATION / DIRECTION
- PRELIMINARY PROJECT LAYOUT
- KOP LOCATION
- PROJECT SITE

PHOTOGRAPH INFORMATION

TIME:	11:09 AM
DATE:	2/29/2024
WEATHER CONDITION:	PARTLY CLOUDY
VIEWING DIRECTION:	EAST
LATITIUDE:	36.137879°
LONGITUDE:	-120.075138°
DISTANCE FROM PROJECT:	190 FT

DISCLAIMER: PRELIMINARY VISUALIZATIONS ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY; PROJECT LAYOUT IS IN DEVELOPMENT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

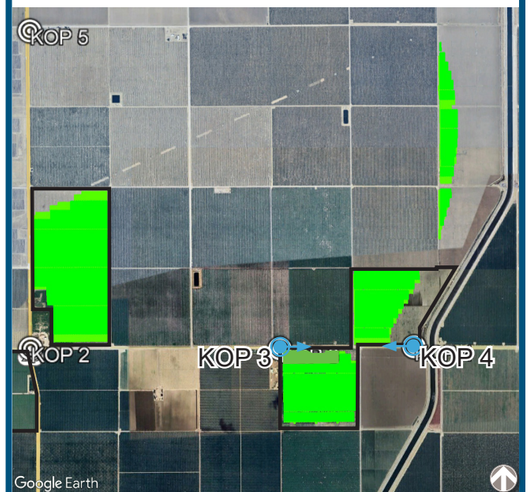


View west from West Jayne Avenue, just west of the California Aqueduct

SAN LUIS WEST SOLAR PROJECT

FIGURE 10
KOP 4

EXISTING CONDITIONS



VICINITY MAP

LEGEND

- PHOTO SIMULATION / DIRECTION
- PRELIMINARY PROJECT LAYOUT
- KOP LOCATION
- PROJECT SITE

PHOTOGRAPH INFORMATION

TIME:	11:27 AM
DATE:	2/29/2024
WEATHER CONDITION:	PARTLY CLOUDY
VIEWING DIRECTION:	WEST
LATITIUDE:	36.138028°
LONGITUDE:	-120.060248°
DISTANCE FROM PROJECT:	900 FT

DISCLAIMER: PRELIMINARY VISUALIZATIONS ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY; PROJECT LAYOUT IS IN DEVELOPMENT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

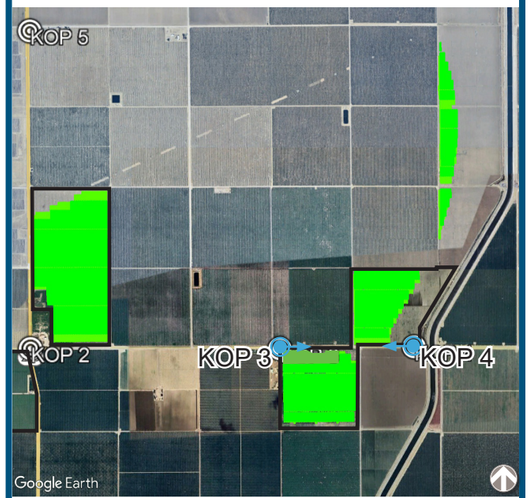


Simulated view west from West Jayne Avenue, just west of the California Aqueduct

SAN LUIS WEST SOLAR PROJECT

FIGURE 11
KOP 4

PHOTO SIMULATION



VICINITY MAP

LEGEND

- PHOTO SIMULATION / DIRECTION
- PRELIMINARY PROJECT LAYOUT
- KOP LOCATION
- PROJECT SITE

PHOTOGRAPH INFORMATION

TIME:	11:27 AM
DATE:	2/29/2024
WEATHER CONDITION:	PARTLY CLOUDY
VIEWING DIRECTION:	WEST
LATITIUDE:	36.138028°
LONGITUDE:	-120.060248°
DISTANCE FROM PROJECT:	900 FT

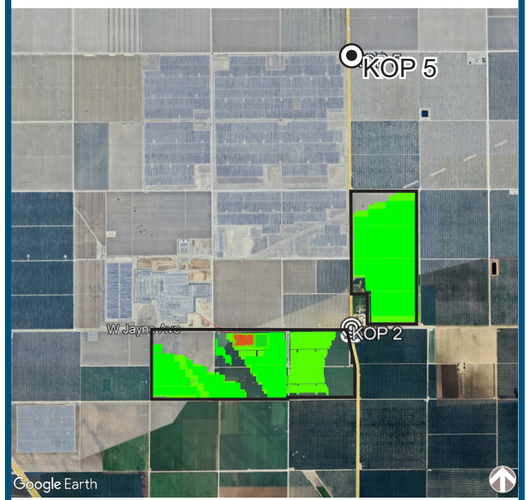
DISCLAIMER: PRELIMINARY VISUALIZATIONS ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY; PROJECT LAYOUT IS IN DEVELOPMENT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

View south from intersection of SR- 269/South Lassen Avenue and West Tractor

SAN LUIS WEST SOLAR PROJECT

FIGURE 12
KOP 5

EXISTING CONDITIONS



VICINITY MAP

LEGEND

- PHOTO SIMULATION / DIRECTION
- PRELIMINARY PROJECT LAYOUT
- KOP LOCATION
- PROJECT SITE

PHOTOGRAPH INFORMATION

TIME:	11:49 AM
DATE:	2/29/2024
WEATHER CONDITION:	PARTLY CLOUDY
VIEWING DIRECTION:	SOUTH
LATITIUDE:	36.166462°
LONGITUDE:	-120.102831°
DISTANCE FROM PROJECT:	6,220 FT

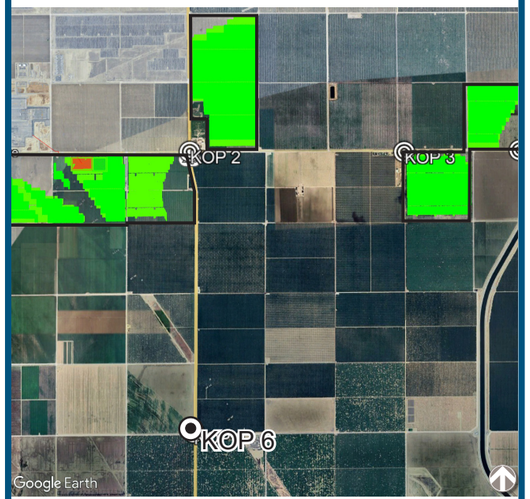
DISCLAIMER: PRELIMINARY VISUALIZATIONS ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY; PROJECT LAYOUT IS IN DEVELOPMENT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

View north from intersection of SR- 269/South Lassen Avenue and West Goodrich

SAN LUIS WEST SOLAR PROJECT

FIGURE 13
KOP 6

EXISTING CONDITIONS



VICINITY MAP

LEGEND

- PHOTO SIMULATION / DIRECTION
- PRELIMINARY PROJECT LAYOUT
- KOP LOCATION
- PROJECT SITE

PHOTOGRAPH INFORMATION

TIME:	12:06 PM
DATE:	2/29/2024
WEATHER CONDITION:	PARTLY CLOUDY
VIEWING DIRECTION:	NORTH
LATITIUDE:	36.108862°
LONGITUDE:	-120.102308°
DISTANCE FROM PROJECT:	8,300 FT

DISCLAIMER: PRELIMINARY VISUALIZATIONS ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY; PROJECT LAYOUT IS IN DEVELOPMENT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

ATTACHMENT A
WORKSHEETS

Form 8400-4
(June 2018)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: 02/29/2024
District Office: N/A
Field Office: N/A
Land Use Planning Area: N/A

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name	4. KOP Location (T.R.S)	5. Location Sketch
San Luis West Solar Project		
2. Key Observation Point (KOP) Name KOP 1, facing east		
3. VRM Class at Project Location Unclassified/Not on Federal Land	(Lat. Long)	

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	FG to MG: slight slope to flat	FG to MG: regular rows of orchards - tall and row crops - low	FG: rectangle building, FG to MG: linear roadway, angula and linear utility poles/lines and transmision towers/lines
LINE	FG to MG: horizontal	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - weak lines, contiguous	FG: vertical builidng, FG to MG: horizontal roadway, horizontal and verticle utility/transmision poles/tower/lines
COLOR	FG to MG: brown	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - green	FG: gray, white, brown MG: gray, brown
TEX-TURE	FG to MG: rough	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - dense	FG to MG: smooth

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	FG to MG: slight slope to flat	FG to MG: regular rows of orchards - tall and row crops - low	FG: rectangle building, FG to MG: linear roadway, angula and linear utility poles/lines and transmision towers/lines
LINE	FG to MG: horizontal	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - weak lines, contiguous	FG: vertical builidng, FG to MG: horizontal roadway, horizontal and verticle utility/transmision poles/tower/lines
COLOR	FG to MG: brown	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - green	FG: gray, white, brown MG: gray, brown
TEX-TURE	FG to MG: rough	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - dense	FG to MG: smooth

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING __SHORT TERM ✓LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)			
		STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
ELEMENTS	FORM				✓				✓				✓
	LINE				✓				✓				✓
	COLOR				✓				✓				✓
	TEXTURE				✓				✓				✔

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ___Yes ___No
(Explain on reverses side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended
___Yes ___No (Explain on reverses side)

Evaluator's Names Date

(Continued on Page 2)

Form 8400-4
(June 2018)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: 02/29/2024
District Office: N/A
Field Office: N/A
Land Use Planning Area: N/A

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name	4. KOP Location (T.R.S)	5. Location Sketch
San Luis West Solar Project		
2. Key Observation Point (KOP) Name KOP 2, facing northeast		
3. VRM Class at Project Location Unclassified/Not on Federal Land	(Lat. Long)	

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	FG to MG: flat	FG to MG: regular rows of orchards - tall and row crops - low, ruderal vegetation - irregular, low	FG to MG linear roadway, angular and linear utility poles/lines, ag structures, transmision towers/lines
LINE	FG to MG: horizontal	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - weak lines, contiguous, ruderal vegetation - irregular	FG to MG: horizontal roadway, horizontal and vertical utilitypoles/lines, ag structures, transmision tower/lines
COLOR	FG to MG: brown	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - green, ruderal vegetation - green, brown	FG to MG: gray, brown, white
TEX-TURE	FG to MG: rough	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - dense, ruderal vegetation - sparse	FG to MG: smooth

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	FG to MG: flat	FG to MG: regular rows of orchards - tall and row crops - low, ruderal vegetation - irregular, low	FG to MG linear roadway, angular and linear utility poles/lines, ag structures, transmision towers/lines, solar arrays
LINE	FG to MG: horizontal	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - weak lines, contiguous, ruderal vegetation - irregular	FG to MG: horizontal road, horizontal and vertical utilitypoles/lines, ag structures, transmision tower/lines, solar array
COLOR	FG to MG: brown	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - green, ruderal vegetation - green, brown	FG to MG: gray, brown, white
TEX-TURE	FG to MG: rough	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - dense, ruderal vegetation - sparse	FG to MG: smooth

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING __SHORT TERM ✓ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES											
		LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)			
		STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
ELEMENTS	FORM				✓			✓				✓	
	LINE				✓			✓				✓	
	COLOR				✓			✓				✓	
	TEXTURE				✓			✓				✓	

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ___Yes ___No
(Explain on reverses side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended
___Yes ___No (Explain on reverses side)

Evaluator's Names Date

(Continued on Page 2)

Form 8400-4
(June 2018)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: 02/29/2024
District Office: N/A
Field Office: N/A
Land Use Planning Area: N/A

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name	4. KOP Location (T.R.S)	5. Location Sketch
San Luis West Solar Project		
2. Key Observation Point (KOP) Name KOP 3, facing east		
3. VRM Class at Project Location Unclassified/Not on Federal Land	(Lat. Long)	

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	FG to MG: flat	FG to MG: regular rows of orchards - tall and row crops - low	FG to MG: linear roadway, angular and linear utility poles/lines and transmision towers/lines
LINE	FG to MG: horizontal	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - weak lines, contiguous	FG to MG: horizontal roadway, horizontal and vertical utility/transmision poles/tower/lines
COLOR	FG to MG: tan	FG to MG: orchards - pink, white, green brown, row crops - green	FG to MG: gray, brown, white
TEX-TURE	FG to MG: rough	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - dense	FG to MG: smooth

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	FG to MG: flat	FG to MG: regular rows of orchards - tall and cover vegetation - low	FG to MG: linear roadway, angular and linear utility poles/lines, transmision towers/lines, solar arrays and fencing
LINE	FG to MG: horizontal	FG to MG: orchards - weak lines, contiguous, cover vegetation - contiguous	FG to MG: horizontal roadway, horizontal and vertical utility/transmision poles/tower/lines, solar arrays and fencing
COLOR	FG to MG: tan	FG to MG: orchards - pink, white, green brown, cover vegetation - green	FG to MG: gray, brown, white
TEX-TURE	FG to MG: rough	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - dense	FG to MG: smooth

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING __SHORT TERM ✓ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)			
		STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
ELEMENTS	FORM				✓			✓			✓		
	LINE				✓			✓			✓		
	COLOR				✓			✓			✓		
	TEXTURE				✓			✓			✓		

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ___Yes ___No
(Explain on reverses side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended
___Yes ___No (Explain on reverses side)

Evaluator's Names Date

(Continued on Page 2)

Form 8400-4
(June 2018)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: 02/29/2024
District Office: N/A
Field Office: N/A
Land Use Planning Area: N/A

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name	4. KOP Location (T.R.S)	5. Location Sketch
San Luis West Solar Project		
2. Key Observation Point (KOP) Name KOP 4, facing west		
3. VRM Class at Project Location Unclassified/Not on Federal Land	(Lat. Long)	

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	FG to MG: flat BG: mountains	FG to MG: regular rows of orchards - tall and row crops - low	FG to MG: linear roadway, angular and linear utility poles/lines and transmision towers/lines, buildings
LINE	FG to MG: horizontal BG: vertical	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - weak lines, contiguous	FG to MG: horizontal roadway, horizontal and vertical utility/transmision poles/tower/lines
COLOR	FG to MG: tan BG: blue	FG to MG: orchards - green, brown, row crops - green	FG to MG: gray, brown, white
TEX-TURE	FG to BG: rough	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - dense	FG to MG: smooth

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	FG to MG: flat BG: mountains	FG to MG: regular rows of orchards - tall row crop, cover vegetation - low	FG to MG: linear roadway, angular linear utility poles ines, transmision towers lines, buildings, solar arrays & fencing
LINE	FG to MG: horizontal BG: vertical	FG to MG: orchards - weak lines, contiguous, row crop, cover vegetation - contiguous	FG to MG: horizontal roadway, horizontal and vertical utility transmision poles tower lines, buildings, solar arrays and fencing
COLOR	FG to MG: tan BG: blue	FG to MG: orchards - green brown, cover vegetation - green	FG to MG: gray, brown, white
TEX-TURE	FG to BG: rough	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - dense	FG to MG: smooth

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING __SHORT TERM ✓ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)			
		STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
ELEMENTS	FORM				✓			✓			✓		
	LINE				✓			✓			✓		
	COLOR				✓			✓			✓		
	TEXTURE				✓			✓			✓		

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ___Yes ___No
(Explain on reverses side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended
___Yes ___No (Explain on reverses side)

Evaluator's Names Date

(Continued on Page 2)

Form 8400-4
(June 2018)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: 02/29/2024
District Office: N/A
Field Office: N/A
Land Use Planning Area: N/A

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name	4. KOP Location (T.R.S)	5. Location Sketch
San Luis West Solar Project		
2. Key Observation Point (KOP) Name KOP 5, facing south		
3. VRM Class at Project Location Unclassified/Not on Federal Land	(Lat. Long)	

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	FG to MG: flat BG: mountains	FG to MG: regular rows of orchards - tall and row crops - low	FG to MG: linear roadway, angular and linear utility poles/lines and transmision towers/lines, buildings, solar arrays & fencing
LINE	FG to MG: horizontal BG: vertical	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - weak lines, contiguous	FG to MG: horizontal roadway, horizontal and vertical utility transmision poles tower lines, buildings, solar arrays and fencing
COLOR	FG to MG: tan, brown BG: brown	FG to MG: orchards - green, brown, row crops - green	FG to MG: gray, brown, white
TEX-TURE	FG to BG: rough	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - dense	FG to MG: smooth

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	FG to MG: flat BG: mountains	FG to MG: regular rows of orchards - tall row crop, cover vegetation - low	FG to MG: linear roadway, angular linear utility poles ines, transmision towers lines, buildings, solar arrays & fencing
LINE	FG to MG: horizontal BG: vertical	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - weak lines, contiguous	FG to MG: horizontal roadway, horizontal and vertical utility transmision poles tower lines, buildings, solar arrays and fencing
COLOR	FG to MG: tan, brown BG: brown	FG to MG: orchards - green brown, row crop - green	FG to MG: gray, brown, white
TEX-TURE	FG to BG: rough	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - dense	FG to MG: smooth

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING __SHORT TERM ✓ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES											
		LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)			
		STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
ELEMENTS	FORM				✓				✓				✓
	LINE				✓				✓				✓
	COLOR				✓				✓				✓
	TEXTURE				✓				✓				✔

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ___Yes ___No
(Explain on reverses side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended
___Yes ___No (Explain on reverses side)

Evaluator's Names Date

(Continued on Page 2)

Form 8400-4
(June 2018)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: 02/29/2024
District Office: N/A
Field Office: N/A
Land Use Planning Area: N/A

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name	4. KOP Location (T.R.S)	5. Location Sketch
San Luis West Solar Project		
2. Key Observation Point (KOP) Name KOP 6, facing north		
3. VRM Class at Project Location Unclassified/Not on Federal Land	(Lat. Long)	

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	FG to MG: flat	FG to MG: regular rows of orchards - tall and row crops - low	FG to MG: linear roadway, angular linear utility poles ines, transmision towers lines, buildings, solar arrays
LINE	FG to MG: horizontal	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - weak lines, contiguous	FG to MG: horizontal roadway, horizontal and vertical utility transmision poles tower lines, buildings, solar arrays
COLOR	FG to MG: tan, brown	FG to MG: orchards - green, brown, row crops - green	FG to MG: gray, brown, white
TEX-TURE	FG to MG: rough	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - dense	FG to MG: smooth

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	FG to MG: flat	FG to MG: regular rows of orchards - tall row crop, cover vegetation - low	FG to MG: linear roadway, angular linear utility poles ines, transmision towers lines, buildings, solar arrays
LINE	FG to MG: horizontal	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - weak lines, contiguous	FG to MG: horizontal roadway, horizontal and vertical utility transmision poles tower lines, buildings, solar arrays
COLOR	FG to MG: tan, brown	FG to MG: orchards - green brown, row crop - green	FG to MG: gray, brown, white
TEX-TURE	FG to MG: rough	FG to MG: orchards, row crops - dense	FG to MG: smooth

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING __SHORT TERM ✓ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES											
		LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)			
		STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
ELEMENTS	FORM				✓				✓			✓	
	LINE				✓				✓			✓	
	COLOR				✓				✓			✓	
	TEXTURE				✓				✓			✓	

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ___Yes ___No
(Explain on reverses side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended
___Yes ___No (Explain on reverses side)

Evaluator's Names Date

(Continued on Page 2)