

## **Appendix Q**

### Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program



# Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

## Introduction

California Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 requires that, upon certification of an EIR, “the public agency shall adopt a reporting or monitoring program for the changes made to the Project or conditions of Project approval, adopted in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. The reporting or monitoring program shall be designed to ensure compliance during Project implementation.” (PRC Section 21000–21177)

This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program was developed in compliance with Section 21081.6 of the California Public Resources Code and Section 15097 of the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000–15387 and Appendices A–L.), and includes the following information:

- A list of applicant proposed measures and mitigation measures
- The timing for implementation of the applicant proposed measures and mitigation measures
- The party responsible for implementing or monitoring the applicant proposed measures and mitigation measures
- The date of completion of monitoring

The County of Riverside must adopt this Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, or an equally effective program, if it approves the proposed Project with the mitigation measures that were adopted or made conditions of Project approval.

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<b><i>Applicant Proposed Measures</i></b>					
<b>Air Quality</b>					
<b>APM-AIR-1.</b> The Applicant will prepare and implement a dust control plan that includes the use of dust palliatives to ensure compliance with Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District Rule 403. The dust control plan is expected to focus on reducing fugitive dust from construction activities.	No applicant proposed measures proposed.	N/A	Prior to construction	Applicant	
<b>APM-AIR-2.</b> The Applicant will use construction equipment that meets U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Tier 3 or higher emissions standards.	No applicant proposed measures proposed.	N/A	During construction	Applicant	
<b>Biological Resources</b>					
<b>APM-BIO-1.</b> The Applicant will conduct pre-construction survey for desert tortoise. This includes an approved biologist(s) walking ten-meter transects of the entire Project site in accordance with the latest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protocols (USFWS 2019). This will provide 100% coverage of the Project site.	No applicant proposed measures proposed.	N/A	Prior to construction	Applicant/ Qualified Biologists and Biological Monitors	
<b>APM-BIO-2.</b> All construction equipment brought to the site will be cleaned and inspected daily to ensure any soil or debris which may spread invasive or exotic weed species has been removed.	No applicant proposed measures proposed.	N/A	During construction	Applicant	

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<p><b>APM-BIO-3 Worker Environmental Awareness Program (“WEAP”).</b> The Applicant or the construction contractor will implement a WEAP to educate on-site workers about sensitive environmental issues associated with the Project. The program will be administered to all on-site construction personnel including surveyors, construction engineers, employees, contractors, contractor’s employees, supervisors, inspectors, subcontractors, and delivery personnel. The WEAP will be implemented during site mobilization, ground disturbance, grading, construction, operation, and commissioning.</p>	<p>No applicant proposed measures proposed.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>During construction</p>	<p>Applicant/ Qualified Biologists and Biological Monitors</p>	
<p><b>APM-BIO-4 Construction Monitoring.</b> An approved biologist will conduct construction monitoring during all construction activity types to ensure that construction activities are always contained within the staked and flagged construction areas. The construction monitor will have the authority to stop work and report directly to the Applicant’s Environmental Manager or construction contractor to ensure compliance with the applicant-proposed measures, and mitigation measures. The construction monitor will provide the Applicant’s Environmental Manager with weekly updates and quarterly</p>	<p>No applicant proposed measures proposed.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>During construction</p>	<p>Applicant/ Qualified Biologists and Biological Monitors</p>	

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<p>monitoring reports. After construction has been completed, the construction monitor will provide the Applicant’s Environmental Manager with a final monitoring report. The Applicant’s Environmental Manager will provide BLM, or the County and BLM, with weekly status updates on the status of construction and monitoring efforts and will provide the County, or the County and BLM, with copies of the quarterly monitoring reports and the final monitoring report. The County will be responsible for ensuring that construction monitoring is conducted during all construction activities.</p>					
<p><b>APM-BIO-5.</b> If construction-related activities are to occur during the bird breeding season (January 15 through September 15), a qualified biologist will conduct a nesting bird survey prior to the start of any site disturbing work. If an occupied nest is located within the work area or within a 300-foot buffer surrounding the work area, work will be avoided until the nest fails naturally or the nestlings fledge on their own. Dependent on species and disturbance tolerance, a biological monitor may monitor and actively buffer the nest during construction-related activities. The results of the survey will be</p>	<p>No applicant proposed measures proposed.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>	<p>Applicant/ Qualified Biologists and Biological Monitors</p>	

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submitted to the County, or the County and BLM.					
<p><b>APM-BIO-6 Den Collapse.</b> In the event desert kit fox dens are found during the preconstruction surveys or during construction and in compliance with California Department of Fish and Wildlife approved guidance for desert kit fox on other nearby similar projects, a hazing program shall be implemented by an approved biologist to entirely rule out the potential for kit fox to be using the den(s) and allow for excavation and collapse. The hazing program shall consist of plugging all den entrances lightly with light paper filled trash bags in addition to the use of wildlife cameras. Wildlife cameras will be setup first for three consecutive days to determine if kit fox are currently using a burrow. If no activities are recorded, then the den entrances will be plugged with sandbags to adequately prevent kit fox from re-entering the den. The dens and cameras will be checked first thing each morning for another three consecutive days. If no activity is observed and the bags are observed in place each morning from the prior night's hazing process, the den entrances will be plugged with sandbags and/or excavated and collapsed to prevent kit fox use. If kit fox activities</p>	No applicant proposed measures proposed.	N/A	Prior to and during construction	Applicant/ Qualified Biologists and Biological Monitors	

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<p>are recorded, and it is within the kit fox breeding season (December until September), then the cameras will be left in place and adequate buffer (500 feet) will be established until the no activity is observed for three consecutive days. The approved biologist will document the hazing program within the weekly status updates required under APM-BIO-4.</p>					
<b>Cultural Resources</b>					
<p><b>APM-CUL-1.</b> A cultural resources monitoring and discovery plan will be prepared prior to construction of the Project. The plan will include a description of areas to be monitored during construction, a discovery plan that will address unanticipated cultural resources, and provisions for the education of construction workers, similar to the WEAP.</p>	<p>No applicant proposed measures proposed.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>	<p>Applicant</p>	
<b>Hazards and Hazardous Materials</b>					
<p><b>APM-HAZ-1a.</b> Appropriate spill containment and clean-up kits shall be kept on site during construction and maintained during the operation of the Project.</p>	<p>No applicant proposed measures proposed.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>During construction</p>	<p>Applicant</p>	
<p><b>APM-HAZ-1b.</b> In accordance with the Emergency Planning &amp; Community Right to Know Act, the Applicant will supply the local emergency response agencies</p>	<p>No applicant proposed measures proposed.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	

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with a hazardous materials management plan and an associated emergency response plan and inventory specific to the site; the plan will be filed with the County, or the County and BLM, and implemented.					
<b>APM-HAZ-1c.</b> During construction of the Project, Best Management Practices for handling, storing, and disposing of hazardous materials and waste will be followed.	No applicant proposed measures proposed.	N/A	Prior to construction	Applicant	
<b>APM-HAZ-1d.</b> The Applicant will prepare a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan that identifies the procedures for primary and secondary containment for oil products stored on site as well as training in spill management in the event of an unexpected release. The plan will be filed with the County, or the County and BLM.	No applicant proposed measures proposed.	N/A	Prior to construction	Applicant	
<b>APM-HAZ-1e.</b> The Applicant will develop an Environmental Health and Safety Plan for the construction and operation of the Project to ensure all activities comply with all County, state, and federal regulatory requirements. Illness and injury prevention programs will be developed for construction and operation.	No applicant proposed measures proposed.	N/A	Prior to construction	Applicant	

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<p><b>APM-HAZ-2.</b> Project facilities will be designed, constructed, and operated in accordance with applicable fire protection and other environmental, health and safety requirements. In compliance with County of Riverside requirements, a project-specific fire prevention plan for both construction and operation of the Project will be completed prior to initiation of construction.</p>	<p>No applicant proposed measures proposed.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Prior to and during construction</p>	<p>Applicant</p>	
<p><b>Noise</b></p>					
<p><b>APM-NOI-1.</b> The Applicant will limit most construction activity to daytime hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. consistent with Riverside County noise ordinance limitations.</p>	<p>No applicant proposed measures proposed.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>During construction</p>	<p>Applicant</p>	
<p><b>Aesthetics</b></p>					
<p><b>APM-VR-1 Lighting Control.</b> Consistent with safety and security considerations, the Applicant will design and install all permanent exterior lighting such that (a) lamps and reflectors are not visible from beyond the Project site, including any off-site security buffer areas; (b) lighting shall not cause excessive reflected glare; (c) direct lighting shall not illuminate the nighttime sky, except for required Federal Aviation Administration aircraft safety lighting (which shall be an on-demand, audio-visual warning system</p>	<p>No applicant proposed measures proposed.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Prior to and during construction</p>	<p>Applicant</p>	

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that is triggered by radar technology); (d) illumination of the Project and its immediate vicinity shall be minimized; (e) skyglow caused by Project lighting will be avoided; and (f) the lighting shall comply with County policies and ordinances. All permanent light sources shall be below 2,500 Kelvin color temperature (warm white) and shall have cutoff angles not to exceed 45 degrees of nadir.					
<b>APM-VR-2 Surface Treatment of Project Structures/Buildings.</b> The Applicant will treat the surfaces of all non-temporary, large Project structures and buildings (O&M building, inverters, electrical enclosures, transmission line poles and conductors) visible to the public such that (a) their colors minimize visual contrast by blending with the characteristic landscape colors; (b) their colors and finishes do not create excessive glare; and (c) their colors and finishes are consistent with local policies and ordinances. The transmission line conductors shall be non-specular and non-reflective, and the insulators shall be non-reflective and non-refractive.	No applicant proposed measures proposed.	N/A	During construction	Applicant	
<b>Hydrology and Water Quality</b>					
<b>APM-WAT-1.</b> The Applicant will prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (“SWPPP”). The SWPPP	No applicant proposed measures proposed.	N/A	Prior to and during construction	Applicant	

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<p>will evaluate potential for erosion and sedimentation to occur on site and downstream because of construction, as well as potential for construction-related releases of fuels, oils, solvents, concrete wash-out, greases, paints, and other potential water quality pollutants to become entrained in storm water, or otherwise result in the degradation of surface water or groundwater quality. The evaluation shall implement specific measures to minimize potential effects on water quality. These measures may include, but would not be limited to, installation of temporary settling basins, stabilization of disturbed soils, replanting vegetation after disturbance, limitations on construction during wet periods, installation of temporary erosion control devices (fiber rolls, staked straw bales, detention basins, check dams, geofabric, dikes, and temporary revegetation), covering stockpiled loose material during rain events, equipment maintenance to prevent leaks, application of erosion protection to cut and fill slopes, and other Best Management Practices. Sediment shall be retained on site by sediment basins, traps, or other measures. No disturbed surfaces shall be left without erosion control measures in place during the rainy season. Spill kits to absorb the potential</p>					

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hazardous spills will be on hand during construction to minimize soil contamination and eventual groundwater contamination.					

**Mitigation Measures**

**Aesthetics**

<p><b>MM-VIS-1 Project Design.</b> To the extent possible, the Applicant or Project owner /operator shall implement proper design fundamentals to reduce the visual contrast to the landscape. These primarily focus on the reduction of unnecessary disturbance. Design strategies to address these fundamentals may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The boundaries of all areas to be disturbed shall be delineated with stakes and flagging before construction, in consultation with the Designated Biologist and County Visual specialist.</li> <li>• Spoils and topsoil where feasible shall be stockpiled in disturbed areas approved by the Designated Biologist.</li> <li>• Project vehicles and equipment shall be confined to the flagged areas.</li> <li>• Where removal of all vegetation is unnecessary, vegetation along roadways and boundaries of</li> </ul>	<p>No mitigation required.</p>	<p>MM-VIS-1 was added to account for impacts of the current project design, which includes an altered site layout and facilities on BLM land.</p>	<p>Prior to and during construction</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	
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<p>other disturbed areas shall be scalloped (refers to incorporating irregular (non-straight) edges of vegetation to make edges/transitions between managed and non-managed areas appear more natural) and feathered (refers to thinning edges of vegetation to make transitions from vegetated to non-vegetated area softer and less abrupt) to reduce the hard line visual impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New and existing roads that are planned for construction, widening, or other improvements:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ shall not extend beyond the minimum necessary and shall be flagged as described above.</li> <li>○ All vehicles passing or turning around shall do so within the planned impact area or in previously disturbed areas.</li> <li>○ Where new access is required outside of existing roads or the construction zone, the route shall be clearly marked (i.e., flagged or staked) before the onset of construction.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reduce the amount of disturbed area and blend the disturbed areas into the characteristic landscape.</li> </ul>					

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Where feasible, replace soil, brush, rocks, and natural debris over disturbed area.</li> </ul>					

**Agricultural and Forestry Resources**

<p>No mitigation required</p>	<p><b>MM-AG-1</b> Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant shall provide written evidence of completion of at least one of the following measures to mitigate the impact to agricultural resources caused by conversion of land subject to the grading permit to non-agricultural uses. Important Farmlands of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmlands as shown on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency that is in effect as of the date of approval of the Project</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acquire and record agricultural conservation easement(s) meeting the following criteria:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Two acres placed under conservation easement for each net acre of Important Farmland converted to non-agricultural uses during the life of the Project. A plot plan shall be submitted substantiating the net acreage calculation, which shall be consistent with the</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>As analyzed in the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) prepared for the Project and included as Appendix E to this SEIR, the agricultural land proposed for development is no longer actively cultivated and has low agricultural viability, unlike the status when Palo Verde Mesa Solar Project was analyzed. Therefore MM-AG-1 no longer applies.</p>			
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	<p>definition of “Net Acreage” in County Policy B-291.</p> <p>b. Land subject to the conservation easement shall be located in Riverside County and must be of the same or higher State of California Department of Conservation farmland classification (Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance) as the land that has been converted to nonagricultural uses.</p> <p>c. The conservation easement must be held by a third party having the capacity to hold such an easement and in an easement form acceptable to Riverside County.</p> <p>d. The Applicant must provide to the easement holder an endowment sufficient to generate funds for ongoing monitoring and enforcement of the easement.</p> <p>2. Purchase of credits from an established agricultural land mitigation bank in an amount sufficient to achieve a level of protection at least equivalent to Section 1 of Mitigation Measure AG-1 above;</p>				

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	<p>3. Contribution of agricultural land or equivalent funding to an organization that provides for the preservation of farmland in California in an amount sufficient to achieve a level of protection at least equivalent to Section 1 of Mitigation Measure AG-1 above; or</p> <p>4. Participation in any agricultural land mitigation program adopted by Riverside County that provides equal or more effective mitigation than the measures listed above.</p>				

**Air Quality**

<p><b>MM-AQ-1. Valley Fever Training.</b> Prior to any Project grading activity, the primary Project construction contractor shall prepare and implement a worker training program that describes potential health hazards associated with Valley Fever, common symptoms, proper safety procedures to minimize health hazards, and notification procedures if suspected work-related symptoms are identified during construction. The worker training program shall identify safety measures to be implemented by construction contractors during construction. At a minimum, safety measures shall include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide high efficiency particulate air (HEPA)-filtered air-conditioned enclosed cabs on heavy</li> </ul>		<p>MM-AQ-1 is included for the Grace Solar Energy Project due to the potential increased risk for Valley Fever at the project site.</p>	<p>Prior to any Project grading activity</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	
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<p>equipment. Train workers on proper use of cabs, such as turning on air conditioning prior to using the equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide communication methods, such as two-way radios, for use by workers in enclosed cabs.</li> <li>▪ Provide personal protective equipment (PPE), such as half-mask and/or full-mask respirators equipped with particulate filtration, to workers active in dusty work areas.</li> <li>▪ Provide separate, clean eating areas with hand-washing facilities for construction workers.</li> <li>▪ Clean equipment, vehicles, and other items before they are moved off site to other work locations.</li> <li>▪ Provide training for construction workers so they can recognize the symptoms of Valley Fever and promptly report suspected symptoms of work-related Valley Fever to a supervisor.</li> <li>▪ Direct workers that exhibit Valley Fever symptoms to immediately seek a medical evaluation.</li> <li>▪ Prior to initiating any grading, the construction contractor shall provide the County with copies of all educational training material.</li> </ul>					

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<b>Biological Resources</b>					
<p><b>MM-BIO-1 Biological Monitoring.</b> The Applicant shall assign at least one Designated Biologist (i.e., agency-approved Qualified Biologist) who shall be approved by the lead agencies (U.S. Bureau of Land Management [BLM] and County of Riverside) and relevant permitting agencies (e.g., California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS], and Regional Water Quality Control Board, as applicable). The Designated Biologist shall serve as the primary point of contact regarding biological resource compliance. The Designated Biologist shall have demonstrated expertise with the biological resources within the Project area, as well as hold a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Riverside. Designated Biologist duties shall vary during construction, operation, maintenance, and future decommissioning of the Project. Additionally, Authorized Biologist(s) and Biological Monitor(s) trained and supervised by the Designated Biologist may be necessary to fulfill compliance with Mitigation Measures and permit conditions. Clear definitions of Authorized and Designated Biologists are outlined below. In general, the duties of the Designated Biologist shall include the following:</p>	<p><b>MM- BIO-1:</b> The Lead Biologist shall monitor the work area biweekly during ground disturbing construction activities. The Lead Biologist shall conduct monitoring for any area subject to disturbance from construction activities that may impact biological resources. The Lead Biologist’s duties include minimizing impacts to special-status species, native vegetation, wildlife habitat, and unique resources. Where appropriate, the inspector will flag the boundaries of biologically sensitive areas and monitor any construction activities in these areas to ensure that ground disturbance activities and impacts occur within designated limits. The Lead Biologist will also be responsible for ensuring the BMPs shall be employed to prevent loss of habitat caused by Project-related impacts (e.g. Grading or clearing for new roads) within the gen-tie line corridor. The resume of the proposed Lead Biologist will be provided to the County (as appropriate) for concurrence prior to onset of ground-disturbing activities. The Lead Biologist will have demonstrated expertise with the biological resources within the Project area.</p>	<p>MM-BIO-1 was updated to reflect current best practices for biological monitoring and site-specific resources.</p>	<p>During Construction</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communicate with representatives of lead and permitting agencies, as appropriate.</li> <li>▪ Conduct or oversee Worker Environmental Awareness Program.</li> <li>▪ Conduct or oversee pre-construction surveys, inspection, and monitoring duties as defined in all Mitigation Measures.</li> <li>▪ Halt any activities in any area if it is determined that the activity, if continued, would cause an unauthorized adverse impact to biological resources.</li> <li>▪ Clearly mark sensitive biological resource areas and inspect these areas at appropriate intervals for compliance with regulatory terms and conditions.</li> <li>▪ During construction, prepare and submit monthly compliance reports and other reporting requirements.</li> </ul> <p><b>Definitions of Roles</b>                      Lead Agency–Approved Designated Biologist/Qualified Biologist: A biologist who the lead agency has reviewed and determined has the skills and experience necessary to effectively survey and monitor for the biological resources that may be present on the Project site. The lead agency–approved Qualified Biologist shall be required to halt Project</p>					

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<p>activities to protect resources, if necessary. The Applicant shall assign at least one lead agency–approved Qualified Biologist as a Designated Biologist. Lead agency–approved Qualified Biologist(s) may also serve as Biological Monitor(s). Authorized Biologist: A biologist who has been approved based on a combination of qualifications and experience by the BLM and USFWS to handle listed species, or species proposed to be listed for movement purposes or to otherwise avoid harm and impacts to the species. An Authorized Biologist can fulfill the survey and monitoring duties similar to the lead agency–approved Qualified Biologist. The lead agency shall complete an initial review of the Authorized Biologists and determine if they have appropriate qualifications and experience to handle desert tortoises. Then lead agency shall submit those credentials to USFWS for review and approval at least 30 days prior to the need for the biologist to perform those activities in the field. USFWS shall provide approvals based on appropriate qualifications and experience to avoid and minimize adverse effects to the species.</p>					
<p><b>MM-BIO-2 Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP).</b> The Applicant shall conduct an education program for all persons employed or otherwise working in the Project area</p>	<p><b>MM-BIO-2:</b> Pre-construction surveys shall be conducted for State and federally listed Threatened and Endangered, Proposed, Petitioned, and Candidate plants in a 250-foot</p>	<p>MM-BIO-2 was revised to cover biological resource specific requirements to</p>	<p>Prior to construction activities</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	

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<p>before performing any work on the Project site. The WEAP shall consist of a presentation from the Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor(s) that includes a discussion of the biology and general behavior of special-status species, including information about distribution and habitat, sensitivity of the special-status species to human activities, legal protections, recovery efforts, and penalties for violations. All construction crews and contractors shall be required to participate in WEAP training prior to starting work on the Project. The Applicant shall prepare and distribute a fact sheet handout containing this information for workers. WEAP training materials shall be provided in English and Spanish. Upon completion of the WEAP, employees shall sign a form stating that they attended the WEAP training and understand all protection measures. At a minimum, the WEAP shall do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Be developed by or in consultation with the Designated Biologist and consist of an onsite or training center presentation with supporting written material and electronic media, including photographs of protected species, available to all participants.</li> <li>▪ Include a review of Mitigation Measures and permit requirements.</li> </ul>	<p>radius around all areas subject to ground-disturbing activity including, but not limited to, tower pad preparation and construction areas, solar facilities, pulling and tensioning sites, assembly yards, and areas subject to grading for new access roads. The surveys shall be conducted during the appropriate blooming period(s) by an authorized plant ecologist/biologist according to protocols established by the USFWS, CDFW, BLM, and California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Measures shall be taken to avoid and minimize impacts to special-status plant species that are found to be present during the preconstruction surveys. This includes avoiding unnecessary or unauthorized trespass by workers and equipment, staging and storage of equipment and materials, refueling activities, and littering or dumping debris in areas known to contain special-status plant species that are not within the designated construction footprint.</p>	<p>be included in the WEAP training. The previous MM-BIO-2 requirements for pre-construction surveys are covered in the other new, species-specific mitigation measures. Mitigation measure language has been updated to reflect current best practices and project specifics.</p>			

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Include a review of the special-status species and other sensitive resources that may occur in the Project area, as well as the locations of the sensitive biological resources, their legal status and protections, and measures to be implemented for avoidance of these sensitive resources.</li> <li>▪ Include desert tortoise–specific training that includes a detailed description; distribution; general behavior; sensitivity to human activities; regulatory status, including prohibitions and penalties incurred for violations; mandatory conservation measures; and procedures if a desert tortoise is observed on site.</li> <li>▪ Provide an explanation of the function of flagging that designates authorized work areas and specify the prohibition of construction activities.</li> <li>▪ Discuss general environmental and safety protocols, such as vehicle speed limits, hazardous substance spill prevention and containment measures, and fire prevention and protection measures.</li> <li>▪ Discuss the federal, state, and local regulatory setting (e.g., Endangered Species Acts,</li> </ul>					

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Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and Migratory Bird Treaty Act) and the consequences of non-compliance.</li> <li>▪ Describe workers’ responsibilities for avoiding the introduction of invasive weeds onto the Project site and surrounding areas.</li> <li>▪ Provide contact information for the Designated Biologist and instructions for notification of any vehicle/wildlife collisions or dead or injured wildlife species encountered during Project-related activities.</li> <li>▪ Include a training acknowledgment form to be signed by each worker indicating that they received training and will abide by the guidelines. A record of all personnel trained shall be maintained throughout the construction period. Along with their signature, each worker shall receive a sticker for their hard hat indicating they received the training.</li> </ul>					
<p><b>MM-BIO-3 Minimization of Impacts to Native Vegetation.</b> The Applicant shall undertake the following measures during construction and decommissioning to avoid or minimize impacts to natural, or native, vegetation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prior to ground-disturbing activities, work areas (including,</li> </ul>	<p><b>MM-BIO-3</b> In areas identified as suitable habitat during the 2011 and 2012 surveys, biological monitors shall conduct pre-construction surveys for American badger no more than 30 days prior to initiation of construction activities. Surveys shall also consider the potential presence of dens within 100 feet of the Project boundary (including</p>	<p>MM-BIO-3 revised to address impacts to native vegetation, based on organization of analysis in the SEIR. The previous MM-BIO-3 requirements for American Badger</p>	<p>Prior to ground-disturbing activities</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	

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<p>but not limited to, staging areas, access roads, and sites for temporary placement of construction materials and spoils) shall be delineated with construction fencing (e.g., the common orange vinyl material) or staking to clearly identify the limits of work. No paint or permanent discoloring agents shall be applied to rocks or vegetation to indicate surveyor construction activity limits or for any other purpose. Fencing/staking shall remain in place for the duration of construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All disturbances, access roads, staging areas, vehicles, and equipment shall be confined to the fenced/flagged authorized work areas.</li> <li>▪ To the greatest extent practicable, construction activities shall minimize disturbance to soil and native vegetation.</li> <li>▪ Best management practices shall be used where applicable for prevention and control of soil erosion and to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive plant species.</li> <li>▪ Hazardous materials, including motor oil, fuel, antifreeze, hydraulic fluid, and grease, shall be contained, and spills or leaks shall be promptly corrected and</li> </ul>	<p>utility corridors and access roads) and shall be performed for each phase of construction. If dens are detected each den shall then be further classified as inactive, potentially active, or definitely active. Inactive dens that would be directly impacted by construction activities shall be excavated by hand and backfilled to prevent reuse by badgers Potential dens that would be directly impacted by construction activities shall be monitored by the Biological Monitor for three consecutive nights using a tracking medium such as diatomaceous medium or fire clay and/or infrared camera stations at the entrance. If no tracks are observed in the tracking medium or no photos of the target species are captured after three nights, the den shall be excavated and backfilled by hand. If tracks are observed, the badger dens shall be fitted with the one-way trap doors to encourage badgers to move off-site. After 48 hours post-installation, the den shall be excavated and collapsed, following the same protocol as with western burrowing owl burrows. These dens shall be collapsed prior to construction of the desert tortoise fence, to allow badgers the opportunity to move off-site without impediment. If an active natal den is detected on the site, the CDFW shall</p>	<p>are covered under new MM-BIO-11. Mitigation measure language has been updated to reflect current best practices and project specifics.</p>			

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<p>cleaned up according to applicable regulations. Any such spills or leaks that occur shall be reported to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and County of Riverside.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vehicles and equipment shall be properly maintained to prevent spills and leaks, and refueling shall not be conducted outside of the authorized work areas or within 100 feet of any sensitive resource (e.g., riparian areas).</li> <li>▪ Upon completion of construction activities, all unused materials, equipment, staking and flagging, and refuse shall be removed and properly disposed of, including wrapping material, cables, cords, wire, boxes, rope, broken equipment parts, twine strapping, buckets, and metal and plastic containers</li> </ul>	<p>be contacted within 24 hours. The course of action would depend on the age of the pups, location of the den site, status of the perimeter site fence, and the pending construction activities proposed near the den. A 500-foot no disturbance buffer shall be maintained around all active dens. Alternatively, a designated biologist authorized by CDFW, shall trap and remove badgers from occupied dens and move them off-site into appropriate habitat</p>				
<p><b>MM-BIO-4 Minimization of Impacts to Wildlife.</b> The Applicant shall undertake the following measures, overseen by the Designated Biologist, during construction and decommissioning to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Wildlife Avoidance.</b> Project activities shall avoid interference with wildlife (including ground-dwelling species, birds, and bats) by allowing animals to escape</li> </ul>	<p><b>MM-BIO-4:</b> In areas identified as suitable habitat during the 2011 and 2012 surveys, biological monitors shall conduct pre-construction surveys for kit fox no more than 30 days prior to initiation of construction activities. Surveys shall also consider the potential presence of dens within 100 feet of the Project boundary (including utility corridors and access roads) and shall be performed for each phase of construction. The methodologies for pre-construction kit fox surveys shall</p>	<p>MM-BIO-4 revised to address impacts to wildlife, based on organization of analysis in the SEIR. The previous MM-BIO-4 requirements for Kit Fox are covered under new MM-BIO-11. Mitigation measure language</p>	<p>During construction and decommissioning</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	

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<p>from a work site prior to disturbance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Sensitive Biological Resources.</b> Sensitive biological resource areas near all work activities shall be clearly communicated and marked (e.g., flagged) in the field. Avoidance buffers shall be established and maintained by the Designated Biologist.</li> <li>▪ <b>Minimize Traffic Impacts.</b> The Applicant shall specify and enforce maximum vehicle speed limits to minimize risk of wildlife collisions and fugitive dust. Vehicles shall not exceed a speed limit of 15 miles per hour (mph) throughout the Project site on unpaved roads. To the extent possible, night-time construction-related activity shall be minimized, but if work must be conducted at night, the speed limit shall be 10 mph. Dust suppression shall occur during construction activities as needed.</li> <li>▪ <b>Minimize Lighting Impacts.</b> Night lighting, when in use, shall be designed, installed, and maintained to prevent side casting of light toward surrounding wildlife habitat. New light sources shall be minimized, and lighting shall be designed to limit the lighted area to the minimum necessary (e.g., using downcast lights).</li> </ul>	<p>be included in the BRMIMP, as prescribed by Mitigation Measure BIO-10. If dens are detected each den shall then be further classified as inactive, potentially active, or definitely active. Inactive dens that would be directly impacted by construction activities shall be excavated by hand and backfilled to prevent reuse by kit fox. Potential dens that would be directly impacted by construction activities shall be monitored by the Biological Monitor for three consecutive nights using a tracking medium such as diatomaceous medium or fire clay and/or infrared camera stations at the entrance. If no tracks are observed in the tracking medium or no photos of the target species are captured after three nights, the den shall be excavated and backfilled by hand. If tracks are observed, the kit fox dens shall be fitted with the one-way trap doors to encourage kit fox to move off-site. After 48 hours post-installation, the den shall be excavated and collapsed, following the same protocol as with inactive western burrowing owl burrows. These dens shall be collapsed prior to construction of the desert tortoise fence, to allow kit fox the opportunity to move off-site without impediment. If an active natal den is detected on the site, the CDFW shall be contacted within 24 hours. The</p>	<p>has been updated to reflect current best practices and project specifics.</p>			

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Avoid Use of Toxic Substances.</b> Use of chemicals, fuels, lubricants, or other toxic substances shall comply with all local, state, and federal regulations to minimize the possibility of contamination of habitat or primary or secondary poisoning of predators. All uses of such compounds shall observe label and other restrictions mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other state and federal legislation. Soil bonding and weighting agents used for dust suppression on unpaved surfaces shall be nontoxic to wildlife and plants.</li> <li>▪ <b>Minimize Noise and Vibration Impacts.</b> The Applicant shall conform to noise requirements specified in the noise analysis of the Environmental Impact Report to minimize noise to offsite habitats.</li> <li>▪ <b>Water.</b> Potable and non-potable water sources, such as tanks, ponds, and pipes, shall be covered or otherwise secured to prevent animals (including birds) from entering. Prevention methods may include storing water within closed tanks. Water sources (e.g., hydrants, tanks) shall be checked periodically by</li> </ul>	<p>course of action would depend on the age of the pups, location of the den site, status of the perimeter site fence, and the pending construction activities proposed near the den. A 500-foot no disturbance buffer shall be maintained around all active dens. The Riverside County Planning Department shall verify that all pre-construction surveys were conducted. If the presence for the Desert kit fox is identified, the measures as provided in Chapter 4 of the EIR shall be implemented. Riverside Completion Requirement until CDFW provides direction on how to proceed. Habitat-based mitigation or other appropriate mitigation as discussed previously for desert tortoise and western burrowing owl shall provide mitigation for impacts to non-listed special-status species that inhabit overlapping suitable habitat. The following measures are required to reduce the likelihood of distemper transmission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No pets shall be allowed on the site prior to or during construction;</li> <li>▪ Any kit fox hazing activities that include the use of animal repellents such as coyote urine must be cleared through the CDFW prior to use; and</li> <li>▪ Any documented kit fox mortality shall be reported to</li> </ul>				

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<p>Biological Monitors to ensure they do not create longstanding ponded areas, which could attract wildlife and wildlife predators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Food and Trash.</b> No deliberate feeding of wildlife shall be allowed. Further, to avoid attracting wildlife, all food-related trash items, including wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps (organic waste) shall always be contained and properly disposed of in self closing, sealable containers with lids that latch to prevent wind and wildlife (e.g., ravens and coyotes) from opening the containers. Particular attention shall be paid to “micro-trash” (including such small items as screws, nuts, washers, and nails; coins; rags; small electrical components; small pieces of plastic, glass, and wire; and any debris or trash that is colorful or shiny). All trash receptacles shall be regularly inspected, emptied, and removed from the Project area at a minimum of once a week to prevent spillage and to maintain sanitary conditions.</li> <li>▪ <b>Firearms and Dogs.</b> All personnel and any other individuals associated with the Project shall be prohibited from bringing any firearms to the Project site, except those in the possession of authorized security personnel or</li> </ul>	<p>the CDFW within 24 hours of identification. If a dead kit fox is observed, it shall be retained and protected from scavengers until the CDFW determines if the collection of necropsy samples is justified.</p>				

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<p>local, state, or federal law enforcement officials. No pets shall be permitted on the Project site except dogs that may be used to aid in official and approved monitoring procedures/protocols or service dogs under Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Wildlife Entrapment.</b> All pipes, culverts, and similar structures stored or installed aboveground shall be inspected by the Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor(s) before the material is moved, buried, or capped. The Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor(s) shall inspect all open holes and trenches a minimum of once a day and just prior to backfilling. If open holes or trenches remain overnight, an escape ramp shall be created every 100 feet to allow wildlife to exit. The ramp may be constructed of either dirt fill or wood planking or other suitable material that is placed at an angle no greater than 30 degrees. If any worker discovers an animal that has become trapped, the worker shall halt activities and notify the Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor immediately.</li> <li>▪ <b>Dead or Injured Wildlife.</b> Dead or injured special-status wildlife species shall be reported to the</li> </ul>					

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<p>lead agency and permitting agencies, as applicable, within 24 hours of detection. The Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor shall complete a Wildlife Incident Form and safely move the carcasses out of the road or work area and dispose of the animal. Disposal of any special-status species requires advance coordination with the County of Riverside, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If an animal is entrapped, the Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor shall free the animal if possible, or work with construction crews to free it, in compliance with safety requirements, or work with applicable agencies to resolve the situation. Injured wildlife shall be transported to an approved wildlife rehabilitation center (noted below). The Applicant shall be responsible for paying the cost of transportation and rehabilitation of injured wildlife. – Ramona Wildlife Shelter, 18740 Highland Valley Road, Ramona, California; 619.299.7012 – El Paseo Animal Hospital in Palm Desert, California; 760.491.1008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Pest Control.</b> No anticoagulant rodenticides, such as Warfarin and related compounds (indandiones and</li> </ul>					

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<p>hydroxycoumarins), may be used within the Project site or in support of any Project activities. If rodent control must be conducted, the use shall be restricted to the interiors of buildings, and zinc phosphide shall be used because of the lower risk of poisoning burrowing mammals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>California Natural Diversity Database.</b> All observations of special-status species, alive or dead, shall be recorded and reported to the California Natural Diversity Database by the Biological Monitor or Authorized Biologist</li> </ul>					
<p><b>MM-BIO-5 Integrated Weed Management Plan.</b> The Applicant shall prepare and implement an Integrated Weed Management Plan to minimize and prevent noxious, non-native, and invasive weeds from infesting the site and spreading into surrounding habitat. The Integrated Weed Management Plan shall be approved by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for implementation on BLM-administered lands. If required, the Integrated Weed Management Plan shall also be approved by the County of Riverside for implementation on private lands. The Integrated Weed Management Plan shall identify weed species occurring or potentially occurring in</p>	<p><b>MM-BIO-5: Desert Tortoise Protection. (1) Qualified Biologist:</b> In the following measures, a "qualified biologist" is defined as a person with appropriate education, training, and experience to conduct tortoise surveys, monitor Project activities, provide worker education programs, and supervise or perform other implementing actions. The person must demonstrate an acceptable knowledge of tortoise biology, desert tortoise impact minimization techniques, habitat requirements, sign identification techniques, and survey procedures. Evidence of such knowledge may include work as a compliance monitor on a project in desert tortoise habitat, work on</p>	<p>MM-BIO-5 revised to address an integrated weed management plan, based on organization of analysis in the SEIR. The previous MM-BIO-5 requirements for desert tortoise are covered under new MM-BIO-9. Mitigation measure language has been updated to accurately reflect recent Project-specific</p>	<p>Prior to and during construction</p>	<p>County of Riverside/ Bureau of Land Management (BLM)</p>	

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<p>the Project area, means to prevent their introduction or spread (e.g., vehicle cleaning and inspections), monitoring methods to identify infestations, and timely implementation of manual or chemical (as appropriate) suppression and containment measures to control or eradicate invasive weeds. All construction vehicles (e.g., trucks, trailers, machinery) shall be washed (either by water or pressurized air) off site before entering the Project site to limit the spread of weeds. All wattles and bales shall be certified weed-free and shall be removed at the completion of activities. The Integrated Weed Management Plan shall include a reporting schedule to be implemented by the Designated Biologist. The Integrated Weed Management Plan shall identify herbicides proposed for use and include conditions to avoid application of herbicides in or around any environmentally sensitive areas. The Applicant shall avoid use of products containing the active ingredients 2,4-D, diquat, glyphosate, hexazinone, or triclopyr.</p>	<p>desert tortoise trend plot or transect surveys, conducting surveys for desert tortoise, or other research or field work on desert tortoise. Attendance at a training course endorsed by the agencies (e.g., Desert Tortoise Council tortoise training workshop) is a supporting qualification. All qualified biologists must be approved by the USFWS, CDFW, and the Riverside Environmental Programs Department (EPD) prior to starting any work on site. The names and qualifications of proposed qualified biologists shall be provided to USFWS, CDFW, and EPD for approval at least 30 days prior to the biologists implementing desert tortoise protection measures described herein. A qualified biologist will be on-site during all construction. The qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction clearance survey of the Project area, watch for tortoises wandering into the construction areas, check under vehicles, and examine excavations and other potential pitfalls for entrapped animals. The qualified biologist will be responsible for overseeing compliance with desert tortoise protective measures and for coordination with the Field Contact Representative (FCR) (described below). The qualified biologist shall have the authority to halt all Project</p>	<p>focused survey data and current best practices.</p>			

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	<p>activities that are in violation of these measures or that may result in the take of a tortoise. The qualified biologist shall have a copy of the conservation measures prescribed by USFWS for the gen-tie line through the section 7 consultation process previously issued informal consultation letter issued for the Blythe Solar Project (FWS ERIV 12B0299 12I0497) for construction of the shared gen-tie line when work is being conducted on-site. The qualified biologist is not authorized to handle or relocate desert tortoises as part of this project without proper authorization from USFWS and CDFW.</p> <p><b>(2) Preconstruction Clearance Survey:</b> The qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction clearance survey of the Project area. Transects for clearance surveys will be spaced 15 feet apart. Clearance will be considered complete after two successive surveys have been conducted without finding any desert tortoises. Clearance surveys must be conducted during the active season for desert tortoises (April through May or September through October). The qualified biologist is not authorized to handle or relocate desert tortoises a part of this Project without proper authorization from USFWS and CDFW. If a tortoise or tortoise burrow is located during</p>				

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	<p>clearance surveys, the USFWS and CDFW will be contacted for direction on how to proceed.</p> <p><b>(3) Field Contact Representative:</b> The Project Applicant will designate a FCR who will be responsible for overseeing compliance with desert tortoise protective measures and for coordination with the USFWS and CDFW. The FCR will have the authority to halt all Project activities that are not in compliance with the conservation measures prescribed by USFWS for the gen-tie line through the section 7 consultation process measures in the previously issued informal consultation letter (FWS ERIV 12B0299 12I0497). The FCR will have a copy of these conservation measures this letter when work is being conducted on the site. The FCR may be an agent for the company, the site manager, any other Project employee, a biological monitor, or other contracted biologist. The Neither the FCR nor any other project proponent may bar or limit any communications between any Natural Resource Agency or The County of Riverside Environmental Programs Division and any project biologist, biological monitor or contracted biologist. Any incident occurring during the Project activities that is considered by the qualified biologist to be in non-</p>				

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	<p>compliance with these measures will be documented immediately by the qualified biologist. The FCR will ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken. Corrective actions will be documented by the qualified biologist. The following incidents will require immediate cessation of the Project activities causing the incident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) location of a desert tortoise within the exclusion fencing;</li> <li>(2) imminent threat of injury or death to a desert tortoise;</li> <li>(3) unauthorized handling of a desert tortoise, regardless of intent;</li> <li>(4) operation of construction equipment or vehicles outside a project area cleared of desert tortoise, except on designated roads; and</li> <li>(5) conducting any construction activity without a biological monitor where one is required.</li> </ul> <p><b>(4) Worker Training:</b> Prior to the onset of construction activities, a desert tortoise education program will be presented by the FCR or qualified biologist to all personnel who will be present on work areas within the Project area. Following the onset of construction, any new employee will be required to formally complete the tortoise education program prior to working</p>				

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	<p>on-site. At a minimum, the tortoise education program will cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A detailed description of the desert tortoise, including color photographs;</li> <li>▪ The distribution and general behavior of the desert tortoise;</li> <li>▪ Sensitivity of the species to human activities;</li> <li>▪ The protection the desert tortoise receives the FESA and CESA Act, including prohibitions and penalties incurred for violation of the FESA and CESA Act;</li> <li>▪ The protective measures being implemented to conserve the desert tortoise during construction activities; and</li> <li>▪ Procedures and a point of contact if a desert tortoise is observed on-site.</li> </ul> <p><b>(5) Site Fencing:</b> Desert tortoise exclusion fencing will be installed around the Project area, and will remain in place for the life of the Project. The fence will adhere to USFWS design guidelines, available at:  <a href="http://www.fws.gov/venturaispecies_information/protocols_guidelines/docs/dtIDT_Exclusion-Fence_2005.pdf">http://www.fws.gov/venturaispecies_information/protocols_guidelines/docs/dtIDT_Exclusion-Fence_2005.pdf</a>. The qualified biologist will conduct a clearance survey before the tortoise fence is</p>				

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	<p>enclosed to ensure no tortoises are on the Project area. If a tortoise is found, all construction activity will halt and the USFWS and CDFW contacted for direction on how to proceed. Once installed, exclusion fencing will be inspected at least monthly and following all rain events, and corrective action taken if needed to maintain the integrity of the tortoise barrier. Fencing around the Project area will include a desert tortoise exclusion gate. This gate will remain closed at all times, except when vehicles are entering or leaving the Project area. If it is deemed necessary to leave the gate open for extended periods of time (e.g., during high traffic periods), the gate may be left open as long as a qualified biologist is present to monitor for tortoise activity in the vicinity. Sites with potential hazards to desert tortoise (e.g., auger holes, steep-sided depressions) that are outside of the desert tortoise exclusion fencing will be fenced by installing exclusionary fencing, or not left unfilled overnight.</p> <p><b>(6) Refuse Disposal:</b> All trash and food items shall be promptly contained within closed, raven-proof containers. These will be regularly removed from the Project area to reduce the attractiveness of the area to common ravens and other desert predators. The FCR will be</p>				

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	<p>responsible for ensuring that trash is removed regularly from the site such that containers do not overflow, and that the trash containers are kept securely closed when not in use.</p> <p><b>(7) Tortoises under vehicles:</b> The underneath of vehicles parked outside of desert tortoise exclusion fencing will be inspected immediately prior to the vehicle being moved. If a tortoise is found beneath a vehicle, the vehicle will not be moved until the desert tortoise leaves of its own accord.</p> <p><b>(8) Tortoises on roads:</b> If a tortoise is observed on or near the road accessing the Project area, vehicular traffic will stop and the tortoise will be allowed to move off the road on its own.</p> <p><b>(8) Tortoise Observations:</b> No handling of desert tortoise or burrow excavation is allowed as part of the proposed action, unless authorized by USFWS and CDFW. If a tortoise is observed on or near the road accessing the Project area, vehicular traffic will stop and the tortoise will be allowed to move off the road on its own. If a tortoise is observed outside of exclusion fencing, construction will stop and the tortoise shall be allowed to move out of the area on its own. If a tortoise or tortoise burrow is</p>				

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	<p>observed within the exclusion fencing, all construction will stop, and the USFWS and CDFW contacted for direction on how to proceed. The following activities are not authorized and will require immediate cessation of the construction activities causing the incident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) location of a desert tortoise within the exclusion fencing;</li> <li>(2) imminent threat of injury or death to a desert tortoise;</li> <li>(3) unauthorized handling of a desert tortoise, regardless of intent;</li> <li>(4) operation of construction equipment or vehicles outside a project area cleared of desert tortoise, except on designated roads; and</li> <li>(5) conducting any construction activity without a biological monitor where one is required.</li> </ul> <p><b>(9) Dead or Injured Specimens:</b>            Upon locating a dead or injured tortoise, the Applicant or agent is to immediately notify the Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office by telephone within three days of the finding. Written notification must be made within five days of the finding, both to the appropriate USFWS field office and to the USFWS' Division of Law Enforcement. The information provided must include the date and</p>				

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	time of the finding or incident (if known), location of the carcass or injured animal, a photograph, cause of death, if known, and other pertinent information.				
<p><b>MM-BIO-6 Vegetation Resources Management.</b> The Applicant shall assign a vegetation specialist to oversee and implement salvage and transplantation of plant species protected pursuant to the California Desert Native Plants Act (CDNPA) and revegetation of milkweed species used as host and nectar sources for Monarch butterfly. Where the area occupied by a CDNPA species was delineated (versus a point count), additional census surveys shall be required to determine the exact number of CDNPA plants to be removed. On the private lands under the jurisdiction of the County of Riverside, the Applicant shall obtain a permit from the County of Riverside pursuant to the CDNPA for the purposes of salvage or removal of protected species during construction, if required. Salvage and transplantation activities pursuant to the CDNPA on private lands shall be conducted in concert with such activities on U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)–administered lands under BLM policy. Revegetation of temporarily disturbed areas is not anticipated to</p>	<p><b>MM-BIO-6: Burrowing Owl Protection:</b> A Draft Burrowing Owl Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (Plan) has been developed to describe monitoring, reporting, and management of the burrowing owl during the construction, O&amp;M, and decommissioning of the proposed Project, as required by CDFW and County of Riverside. It has been prepared following the 2012 CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW, 2012), and describes a multitiered approach to prevent or reduce impacts during construction and operation of the Project. Below is a general summary of the Plan requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pre-construction surveys will be conducted throughout the Project area and laydown areas for burrowing owls, possible burrows, and sign of owls (e.g., pellets, feathers, white wash) no less than 1430 days prior to construction site grading;</li> <li>▪ Time lapses between project phases/activities could trigger the need for subsequent take avoidance surveys, as stated in</li> </ul>	<p>MM-BIO-6 revised to address vegetation resources management, based on organization of analysis in the SEIR. The previous MM-BIO-6 requirements for burrowing owl are covered under new MM-BIO-8. Mitigation measure language has been updated to accurately reflect recent Project-specific focused survey data and the latest wildlife agency-recommended best practices.</p>	<p>Prior to and during construction</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	

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<p>occur on the private lands within the solar and battery energy storage system site; however, salvaged materials from the private lands portion of the Project site may be transplanted within BLM-administered lands along the transmission line route as part of revegetation efforts of temporarily disturbed areas, with BLM approval. Revegetation of the BLM administered lands along the transmission route shall include a seed mix including native milkweed species (e.g., <i>Asclepias subulata</i> and <i>Asclepias albicans</i>).</p>	<p>Appendix D of the CDFW 2012 survey guidelines. The approved Biologist will determine when subsequent surveys are needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Should any of the pre-construction surveys yield positive results for the presence of burrowing owl or active burrows within the Project area, the approved Biologist will coordinate with the Construction Contractor to implement avoidance and set-back distances. Disturbance of owls or occupied burrows during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31) will not be permitted and to minimize disturbance, use of down-hole cameras to inspect burrows will be used only after one way doors and visual monitoring have taken place;</li> <li>▪ If suitable burrows are observed and documented during the preconstruction surveys within the Project footprint and determined to be inactive, these burrows will be excavated and filled in under the supervision of the approved Biologist(s) prior to clearing and grading;</li> <li>▪ To compensate for impacts to burrowing owls in activity areas on the northern part of the Project, 146 acres of habitat</li> </ul>				

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	<p>have been identified adjacent to the Project area. A letter agreeing to dedicate the existing compensation lands must be approved by CDFW and the County prior to ground disturbance. Land used for compensation must be of equal value or better than the land impacted. Ownership of compensation lands will be transferred prior to any surface disturbance to one of the following: the County, or an entity acceptable to the County or CDFW that can effectively manage listed species and their habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Plan provides detailed methods and guidance for passive relocation of burrowing owls occurring within the Project disturbance area; and</li> <li>▪ The Plan describes monitoring and management of the passive relocation, including a three-year monitoring program</li> </ul>				
<p><b>MM-BIO-7 Minimization of Impacts to Birds and Bats.</b> The Applicant shall undertake the following measures to avoid or minimize impacts to birds and bats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy.</b> The Applicant shall prepare a Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy (BBCS) for</li> </ul>	<p><b>MM- BIO-7:</b> If Project construction activities cannot occur completely outside the bird breeding season, then pre-construction surveys for active nests shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 1,200 days before the initiation of construction that would occur between January 1 and September 30. The qualified biologist will hold a current</p>	<p>MM-BIO-7 revised to reflect current best practices regarding bird and bat protection and site specific information.</p>	<p>Prior to and after construction</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	

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<p>review and approval by the applicable lead and permitting agencies. The BBCS shall include baseline data on the distribution of bird and bat species within the Project area, risk assessment, measures to avoid and minimize adverse impacts, a description of relevant monitoring and reporting, and a framework for adaptive management. The BBCS shall include design requirements consistent with the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Nesting Bird Protection.</b> If vegetation removal or ground disturbance occurs during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31), pre-construction surveys for active nests shall be conducted by qualified biologists at the direction of the Designated Biologist. Nest surveys shall be completed no more than 3 days prior to initiation of vegetation removal or ground disturbance, and shall be repeated every 2 weeks in areas of ongoing construction activity. If an active nest is found, an exclusion buffer shall be established and marked in the field by the Designated Biologist. The </li> </ul>	<p>Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Riverside to conduct nesting bird surveys. If breeding birds with active nests are found, a biological monitor shall establish a species-specific buffer around the nests for construction activities, 250 feet or 1,200 feet for raptor nests. Extent of protection will be based on proposed management activities, human activities existing at the onset of nesting initiation, species, topography, vegetative cover, and other factors. When appropriate, a no disturbance buffer around active nest sites will be required from nest-site selection to fledging. If for any reason a bird nest must be removed during the nesting season, written documentation providing concurrence from the USFWS and CDFW authorizing the nest relocation shall be obtained. All nest removals shall occur after the nest is demonstrated to be inactive by a qualified biologist and have been shown to not result in take as defined by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). A Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy (BBCS) will be developed for this Project and include additional protections for avian species. The BBCS would be based on specific recommendations from the USFWS and CDFW, and would provide:</p>				

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<p>Project shall maintain a buffer adequate to avoid otherwise prohibited take, possession, or destruction of any bird, nest, or egg. Nesting bird management shall be described further in a Nesting Bird Management Plan or incorporated in the BBCS and submitted to the applicable lead and permitting agencies for review and approval.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a statement of the Applicant’s understanding of the importance of bird and bat safety and management’s commitment to remain in compliance with relevant laws;</li> <li>▪ documentation of conservation measures PVMSP would implement through design and operations to avoid and reduce bird and bat fatalities at both solar generation facilities as well as the associated gen-tie line, including consideration of bird height and wingspan requirements and use of flight diverters, perch and nest discouraging material, etc.; consistent, practical and up-to-date direction to PVMSP staff on how to avoid, reduce, and monitor bird and bat fatalities;</li> <li>▪ establishment of accepted processes to monitor and mitigate bird and bat fatalities; establishment of accepted fatality thresholds that, if surpassed, would trigger adaptive changes to management and mitigation management;</li> <li>▪ an adaptive management framework to be applied, if thresholds are surpassed; and</li> <li>▪ A three year post-construction monitoring study. The BBCS will be submitted to USFWS and</li> </ul>				

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	<p>CDFW for review at least 60 days prior to construction. The BBCS would be considered a “living document” that articulates the Applicant’s commitment to develop and implement a program to increase avian and bat safety and reduce risk. As progress is made through the program or challenges are encountered, the BBCS may be reviewed, modified, and updated.</p> <p>The initial goals of this BBCS are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provide a framework to facilitate compliance with federal law protecting avian species and a means to document compliance for regulators and the interested public;</li> <li>▪ allow the Agent to manage risk to protected bird and bat species in an organized and cost-effective manner;</li> <li>▪ establish a mechanism for communication between BMSP managers and natural resource regulators (primarily USFWS and CDFW);</li> <li>▪ foster a sense of stewardship with BMSP owners, managers, and field engineers; and articulate and cultivate a culture of wildlife awareness (specifically birds and bats) and</li> </ul>				

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	<p>the importance of their protection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ articulate and cultivate a culture of wildlife awareness (specifically birds and bats) and importance of their protection.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>MM-BIO-8 Burrowing Owl Protection.</b> The Applicant shall implement the following measures to avoid the impacts to and take of burrowing owl and to mitigate impacts to burrowing owl should they occur.</p> <p><b>Measures to Avoid Burrowing Owl Impact and Take</b></p> <p>The Applicant shall implement the following measures to avoid impacts to and take, as defined by California Fish &amp; Game Code Section 86, of burrowing owl:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Take Avoidance Pre-Construction Surveys.</b> A qualified avian biologist shall conduct a pre-construction take avoidance survey for burrowing owls no less than 14 days and no greater than 30 days prior to initiation of construction activities, including brushing, clearing, grubbing, and grading of the Project site, regardless of time of year. If construction activities have ceased for 30 days or more following the</li> </ul>	<p><b>MM-BIO-8:</b> To mitigate for permanent habitat loss and direct impacts to Mojave fringe-toed lizards the Applicant shall provide compensatory mitigation at a 3:1 ratio, which may include compensation lands purchased in fee or in easement in whole or in part, for impacts to stabilized or partially stabilized desert dune habitat (i.e., dune, sand ramp, or fine-sandy wash habitat). Suitable Mojave fringe-toed lizard habitat is located throughout the gen-tie line corridor and potential habitat was detected on approximately three percent of the Project area (creosote bush scrub habitat). If compensation lands are acquired, the Applicant shall provide funding for the acquisition in fee title or in easement, initial habitat improvements and long-term maintenance and management of the compensation lands. A letter agreeing to dedicate the existing compensation lands must be approved by BLM, USFWS, CDFW and the County prior to ground disturbance used for compensation must be of equal value or better</p>	<p>MM-BIO-8 revised to address burrowing owl protection, based on organization of analysis in the SEIR. Mitigation measure language has been updated to reflect current best practices and project specifics. Additionally, the previous EIR identified three active burrows along the proposed gen-tie line, whereas the current design has a different gen-tie line location and no active burrows were identified in recent surveys as discussed in the Biological Resources Report. The previous MM-BIO-8 requirements for</p>	<p>Prior to and during construction</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	

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<p>initial pre-construction survey or subsequent activities on the site would result in clearing or ground disturbance activities, a take avoidance survey shall be repeated prior to the activity. The pre-construction survey focused exclusively on detecting burrowing owls shall be conducted within Project construction or activity areas in accordance with the most current CDFW guidelines (CDFG 2012, or updated guidelines as they become available). If no burrowing owls are observed, a second survey shall be conducted within 24 hours prior to commencement of ground-disturbing activities to confirm absence. Burrowing owl surveys shall record potentially occupied burrows (i.e., suitable burrows with observed burrowing owls or with burrowing owl sign such as pellets, feathers, or white wash within the last three years) or presence of burrowing owls within the Project area and within 150</p>	<p>than the land impacted. Ownership of compensation lands will be transferred prior to any surface disturbance to one of the following: the County, or an entity acceptable to the agencies that can effectively manage listed species and their habitats.</p>	<p>Mojave fringe-toed lizards are no longer necessary due to implementation of applicant proposed measures.</p>			

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<p>meter (500 feet) of the Project. Burrows that are suitable for burrowing owl use but are not determined to be potentially occupied are not subject to the Burrow Avoidance Measures described below, and may be collapsed under the supervision of the Designated Biologist/Authorized Biologist after confirming they are not occupied by other special-status species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Avoidance.</b> Should the pre-construction survey or subsequent surveys identify burrowing owl presence or potentially occupied burrows within the project site or activity area, the following measures shall be implemented to avoid impacts to and take of burrowing owl: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Burrow Avoidance:</b> If a potentially occupied burrowing owl burrow is detected within any Project disturbance area, or within a 150-meter buffer of the disturbance area, no-disturbance buffers shall be established based on the level of disturbance as directed in the 2012 CDFG</li> </ul> </li> </ul>					

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<p>Staff Report or in accordance with the most current CDFW guidelines. If the 2012 CDFG Staff Report’s initial recommended buffers cannot feasibly be maintained, the Applicant shall prepare and implement a Burrowing Owl Avoidance Plan describing required methods to avoid take of burrowing owl, whose measures may include but need not be limited to buffer reductions as determined by a Designated Biologist/Authorized Biologist based on site conditions, increased burrow monitoring, and/or the creation of artificial burrows. The Applicant shall comply with the plan to ensure that Project activities do not result in “take” (i.e., hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill or attempt to do so) of burrowing owl.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Construction Monitoring:</b> Monitoring of the site for new burrows shall be conducted for the period following the initial pre-</li> </ul>					

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<p>construction survey or subsequent surveys until construction activities are completed. If burrowing owls begin using a burrow on the site at any time after the initial pre-construction survey or subsequent surveys, the procedures described above for Burrow Avoidance shall be implemented. During construction, best management practices shall be employed, as directed by the Designated Biologist/Authorized Biologist, to discourage burrowing owls from colonizing new portions of the site. Such measures include, but are not limited to ensuring that the ends of all large pipe and culverts are covered when they are not being worked on and covering rubble piles, dirt piles, ditches, and berms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Individual Burrowing Owl Avoidance.</b> Burrowing owls associated with burrows shall be avoided through the Burrow Avoidance measures described above. Locations of observed</li> </ul>					

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<p>burrowing owl individuals not associated with a burrow during the pre-construction survey, subsequent surveys, or during construction monitoring shall be avoided through the procedures described above for Burrow Avoidance. Construction activities shall not proceed in the location of the observed burrowing owl individual until monitoring determines that the burrowing owl is no longer present.</p> <p><b>Additional Measures to Mitigate Burrowing Owl Impacts</b></p> <p>The Applicant shall implement the following measures to mitigate unavoidable impacts to burrowing owl:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CDFW Consultation.</b> If the Avoidance measures listed above under Measures to Avoid Burrowing Owl Impact and Take cannot be implemented or would not result in avoiding take of burrowing owl, the Applicant shall consult with CDFW and, if the species is a candidate, threatened or endangered species under CESA at such time, seek incidental take authorization from CDFW. Applicant shall implement all conditions of the Incidental Take Permit should it be issued.</li> </ul>					

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Compensatory Mitigation.</b> Compensatory mitigation shall be provided, as specified in the California Burrowing Owl Survey Consortium’s 1993 Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines (1993) or as determined through an Incidental Take Permit, if necessary, at the following compensatory mitigation ratios: replacement of occupied habitat with occupied habitat (9.75 acres per potentially occupied burrow), replacement of occupied habitat with habitat contiguous to currently occupied habitat (13.0 acres per potentially occupied burrow), replacement of occupied habitat with suitable unoccupied habitat (19.5 acres per potentially occupied burrow). Compensatory mitigation shall be accomplished through one or more of the following actions:</li> <li>• <b>Conservation Bank Credit Purchase:</b> Purchase of conservation bank credits sufficient to meet the compensatory mitigation ratios defined above at a CDFW-approved conservation/mitigation bank with burrowing owl credits and a bank service area covering the Project site.</li> <li>• <b>Permittee-Responsible Mitigation:</b> Execute and fund the</li> </ul>					

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<p>long-term protection and management of off-site habitat compensation lands sufficient to meet the compensatory mitigation ratios defined above. Applicant shall provide long-term protection of the habitat compensation lands through fee title acquisition, conservation easement, or both. A long-term habitat management plan shall be prepared for the habitat compensation lands, and a Property Analysis Record (PAR) or PAR-like analysis shall be prepared to estimate the long-term management costs for the lands. A non-wasting endowment shall be established to fund management of the lands in perpetuity, and a qualified entity shall hold the endowment and serve as long-term land manager for the lands.</p>					
<p><b>MM-BIO-9 Desert Tortoise Protection.</b> No desert tortoise may be handled or relocated without authorization from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The Applicant shall employ Authorized Biologists and Biological Monitors who are qualified desert tortoise biologist(s) for purposes of implementing the desert tortoise protection measures identified below. The Designated</p>	<p><b>MM- BIO-9:</b> Impacts to areas under jurisdiction of the USACE, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and CDFW shall be avoided as necessary to reduce impacts to less than significant levels. A formal jurisdictional delineation of regulated waters and wetlands shall be conducted on the Project site prior to construction to verify avoidance of such resources. Where avoidance of jurisdictional areas is not necessary to reduce</p>	<p>MM-BIO-9 revised to address desert tortoise protection, based on organization of analysis in the SEIR. The previous MM-BIO-9 requirements for aquatic features are covered under new MM-BIO-12. Mitigation</p>	<p>Prior to and during construction</p>	<p>California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)/ County of Riverside</p>	

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<p>Biologist noted in MM-BIO-1 may also serve as a qualified desert tortoise biologist if they meet the following qualifications. The Authorized Biologist and Biological Monitor desert tortoise biologist qualifications shall be subject to review and approval by the applicable lead and permitting agencies. Minimum qualifications shall include prior approval by CDFW and USFWS as an authorized desert tortoise biologist and/or at least 2 years of experience on trend plots or transect surveys, conducting surveys for desert tortoise, or other research or field work on desert tortoise. Attendance at a training course endorsed by CDFW and USFWS (e.g., Desert Tortoise Council tortoise training workshop) is required.</p> <p>The Biological Monitor shall monitor Project activities within desert tortoise habitat, ensure proper implementation of protective measures, and report incidents of noncompliance in accordance with a Biological Opinion and/or permits. Monitors shall have sufficient desert tortoise training and field experience to detect the presence of desert tortoises through observations of animals and sign, including scat and burrows. A Biological Monitor is typically not authorized to handle desert tortoises, determine</p>	<p>impacts to less than significant levels, including emergency repairs, and access/spur roads within the ephemeral channel, the applicant shall provide the necessary mitigation required as part of wetland permitting. This will include creation, restoration, and/or preservation of suitable jurisdictional habitat along with adequate buffers to protect the function and values of jurisdictional area mitigation. The location(s) of the mitigation will be determined in consultation with the Applicant and the responsible agency(s) as part of the permitting process.</p>	<p>measure language has been updated to reflect current best practices and project specifics.</p>			

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<p>presence/absence of desert tortoises, or conduct clearance surveys.</p> <p>The Authorized Biologist is approved to conduct activities that may result in “take” of desert tortoise, including locating tortoises and their sign, recording and reporting tortoise and sign observations in accordance with approved protocol, and ensuring that the effects of the Project on desert tortoise and its habitat are minimized in accordance with a Biological Opinion or permit. For purposes of the federal Endangered Species Act, “take” means to “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” An Authorized Biologist shall have thorough knowledge of desert tortoise behavior, natural history, and ecology, and demonstrate substantial field experience and training to successfully handle desert tortoises; excavate burrows to locate desert tortoises or eggs; relocate desert tortoises; reconstruct desert tortoise burrows; unearth and relocate desert tortoise eggs; and locate, identify, and record all forms of desert tortoise sign.</p> <p>The Authorized Biologist(s) shall be responsible for overseeing compliance with desert tortoise protective measures, conducting pre-construction surveys for all work</p>					

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<p>areas, monitoring for evidence of tortoises in construction areas, checking under vehicles and equipment, inspecting excavations and other potential entrapments, and ensuring worker compliance with all desert tortoise protection measures. Any incident that is considered by the Authorized Biologist(s) to be in non-compliance with desert tortoise protective measures shall be documented. The Authorized Biologist(s) shall have the authority to halt any Project activity that is in violation of desert tortoise protective measures or that may result in take of a desert tortoise. The following incidents shall require immediate cessation of any Project activities: location of a desert tortoise within 100 feet (30 meters) during the non-active season and within 250 feet during the active season (September–October and April–May) of an active work area; imminent threat of injury or death to a desert tortoise; unauthorized handling of a desert tortoise, regardless of intent; and operation of construction equipment or vehicles outside of authorized work areas. Work activities may resume once the Designated Biologist or Authorized Biologist(s) determines that there is no threat to the desert tortoise and/or the tortoise has walked more than 100 feet (30 meters) away during the non-active</p>					

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<p>season and at least a 250 feet away during the active season from the work area, and the tortoise shall be visually monitored so that if it returns to the work site, it shall not be injured or killed. The Applicant shall be responsible for implementing the following requirements, under direction of the Authorized Biologist(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Worker Training.</b> The Worker Environmental Awareness Program described in MM-BIO-2 shall incorporate desert tortoise-specific training.</li> <li>▪ <b>Exclusion Fencing.</b> Prior to construction of the solar and battery energy storage system (BESS) site, it shall be fully enclosed by temporary or permanent desert tortoise exclusion fencing. All exclusion fencing shall adhere to the County approved desert tortoise exclusion fencing design that incorporates recommendations from the 2009 (or most current) USFWS design guidelines. To the extent feasible and permissible by County of Riverside flood control design guidelines, permanent exclusion fence shall be integrated with the site security fence for maximum durability. Temporary desert tortoise exclusion fencing may be installed along the linear facility routes</li> </ul>					

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<p>within the approved right-of-way. Temporary fencing shall be removed after completion of construction. The qualified desert tortoise biologist(s) shall monitor the installation of all fencing. Once installed, exclusion fencing shall be inspected at least monthly until construction completion and following all rain events, and corrective action shall be taken if fence maintenance is needed. After an area is fenced and until desert tortoises are removed, the Designated Biologist shall be responsible for ensuring that desert tortoises are not being exposed to extreme temperatures or predators as a result of their pacing the fence. Remedies may include the use of shelter sites placed along the fence, immediate translocation, removal to a secure holding area, or other means determined by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), USFWS, and CDFW, as applicable. Exclusion fencing shall incorporate tortoise guards, or cattle guards, and/or gates at each road entry point. Gates shall always remain closed, except when vehicles are entering or leaving the Project site. If it is deemed necessary to leave the gate open for extended periods of time (e.g., during high traffic</p>					

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<p>periods), the gate may be left open if a qualified desert tortoise biologist is present to monitor potential tortoise activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Shade Structures.</b> Shade structures shall be installed every 1,000 feet (300 meters) along the exterior of the perimeter fence where tortoises may encounter newly installed fencing, or per the most current USFWS guidance. Shade structures shall be maintained for 2 years following completion of the perimeter fence.</li> <li>▪ <b>Pre-Construction Surveys.</b> Pre-construction surveys shall be performed prior to ground disturbance to ensure no desert tortoises are present within the direct disturbance area. Pre-construction surveys shall be conducted in unfenced Project areas no more than 7 days prior to ground disturbance. Clearance surveys shall also be conducted after the solar and BESS site has been fully enclosed by temporary or permanent desert tortoise exclusion fencing.</li> <li>▪ <b>Avoidance.</b> Any potentially occupied burrows shall be avoided until monitoring or field observations (e.g., with a motion-activated camera or fiber-optic mounted video camera) determines absence. If a live</li> </ul>					

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<p>tortoise or an occupied tortoise burrow is identified in the work area, all Project activities that may result in take shall cease. The tortoise shall be allowed to leave on its own without handling or harassment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Unfenced Work Areas.</b> If a tortoise is observed on or near the road accessing a work area, vehicles shall stop to allow the tortoise to move off the road on its own. The ground beneath vehicles parked outside of cleared areas within desert tortoise exclusion fencing shall be inspected immediately prior to the vehicle being moved. If a tortoise is found beneath a vehicle, the vehicle shall not be moved until the desert tortoise leaves on its own. Any work conducted in an area that is not fully enclosed by exclusion fencing must be monitored by a qualified desert tortoise biologist who shall stop work if a tortoise enters the work area. Work activities shall only proceed when the tortoise has moved away on its own and there is no threat of injury or death. Work sites with potential hazards to desert tortoises (e.g., auger holes, steep-sided depressions) shall be enclosed by a temporary</li> </ul>					

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<p>exclusion fence and not left open overnight.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Dead or Injured Tortoises.</b> If a dead or injured desert tortoise is found within the Project area, the Applicant or Designated Biologist shall notify by phone and email USFWS, CDFW, and BLM within 24 hours of detection. The information provided must include the date and time of the finding or incident (if known), location of the carcass or injured animal, a photograph, possible cause of death or injury if known, and other pertinent information.</li> </ul>					
<p><b>MM-BIO-10 Raven Management.</b> The Applicant shall provide funding to the Renewable Energy Action Team Account held by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) Regional Raven Management Program. The one-time fee shall be \$105 per acre of direct impacts, and the fee shall be determined based on final calculation of impacted acreage. The Applicant shall also implement the following requirements, under direction by the Designated Biologist, where appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Applicant shall incorporate raven management into the Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy (BBCS) (MM-BIO-8) to address activities that may occur during the pre-construction, construction, decommissioning, and</li> </ul>	<p><b>MM-BIO-10:</b> A Biological Resources Mitigation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (BRMIMP) will be developed to summarize all of the various biological mitigation, monitoring, and compliance measures and include measures from the various biological plans and permits developed for PVMSP. The BRMIMP shall include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All biological resources mitigation, monitoring, and compliance measures outlined in this EIR;</li> <li>2. All biological resource mitigation, monitoring and compliance measures required in federal agency terms and conditions, such as conservation measures prescribed by USFWS</li> </ol>	<p>MM-BIO-10 revised to address raven management, based on organization of analysis in the SEIR. The previous MM-BIO-10 requirements for a BRMIMP are covered under new MM-BIO-1. Mitigation measure language has been updated to reflect current best practices and project specifics.</p>	<p>Prior to and during construction</p>	<p>Applicant/Qualified Biologists and Biological Monitors</p>	

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<p>operations and maintenance phases of the Project that may attract common ravens, a nuisance species that is a predator of desert tortoises and other sensitive species in the Project vicinity. The measures contained in the BBCS specific to raven management shall be designed to do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify conditions associated with the Project that might provide raven subsidies or attractants.</li> <li>▪ Describe management practices to avoid or minimize conditions that might increase raven numbers and predatory activities.</li> <li>▪ Describe monitoring during construction and operations, including methods to identify individual ravens that prey on desert tortoises.</li> <li>▪ The Worker Environmental Awareness Program described in MM-BIO-2 shall incorporate discussion of ravens and responsibilities to control subsidies.</li> <li>▪ Raven food sources shall be reduced by managing waste. Trash and food items shall always be contained in closed containers.</li> <li>▪ Raven food sources shall be reduced by managing surface disturbance and dead wildlife. The Designated Biologist or</li> </ul>	<p>for the gen-tie line through the section 7 consultation process those provided in the USFWS concurrence letter that the Project is “not likely to incidentally take or otherwise adversely affect federally listed species” (FWS ERIV 12B0299 121o497);</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. All biological resource mitigation, monitoring and compliance measures outlined in the Burrowing Owl Mitigation and Monitoring Plan and the Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy (the full biological plans will be included in the attachments to the BRMIMP);</li> <li>4. All locations on a map, at an approved scale, of sensitive biological resource areas subject to disturbance and areas requiring temporary protection and avoidance during construction and operation;</li> <li>5. Duration for each type of monitoring and a description of monitoring methodologies and frequency;</li> <li>6. Performance standards to be used to help decide if/when proposed mitigation is or is not successful; and</li> <li>7. A process for proposing plan modifications to appropriate agencies for review and</li> </ol>				

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<p>Biological Monitor(s) shall, to the extent authorized, relocate wildlife from harm's way during ground-disturbing activities to minimize incidental kill to the extent feasible. Vehicle traffic speeds shall adhere to posted limits and not exceed 15 miles per hour on all unpaved roads. If dead wildlife remains and roadkill are found, they shall be collected and disposed of (e.g., buried, when possible).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water availability shall be reduced. Excess water shall not be used for fugitive dust control, and standing water issues shall be corrected promptly. Water tanks shall be maintained in proper operating condition. Designated Biologist and Biological Monitors shall monitor raven activity during construction. All raven sightings/ encounters shall be documented in daily logs.</li> <li>▪ All inactive raven nests (i.e., no eggs or nestlings present) shall be removed.</li> <li>▪ The Designated Biologist shall notify the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and USFWS (Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office at 760.322.2070) of any active raven nests encountered within the Project area. Nests within 100</li> </ul>	<p>approval. The BRMIMP document shall be provided at least 6090 days prior to start of any Project-related ground disturbing activities to the USFWS, CDFW, and County for review and approval. Implementation of BRMIMP measures will be reported in the monthly compliance reports by the Lead Biologist (i.e., survey results, construction activities that were monitored, species observed)</p>				

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<p>feet of active work areas shall be monitored weekly to identify any evidence of predation on desert tortoises, and results shall be reported to BLM, CDFW, and USFWS accordingly. Access shall be granted to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation contractors responsible for surveying and treating active raven nests. Treatment shall consist of flying to within 3 feet (1 meter) of a target nest with a ground-piloted aerial vehicle (i.e., drone) (U.S. made) outfitted with a remote fluid applicator. The fluid applicator system would apply a few milliliters of low-viscosity food-grade oil, which halts egg development due to oxygen deprivation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contractors visiting the Project site on maintenance or compliance monitoring visits shall check for evidence of predation of desert tortoise (juvenile or hatchling desert tortoise carcasses). If carcasses are found, the contractors shall contact the Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office (760.322.2070) to report the matter.</li> <li>▪ Adaptive management actions shall be implemented if ravens are found to roost or nest on Project infrastructure. These may include increased monitoring and</li> </ul>					

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
reporting, refined strategies for refuse management, and design strategies and passive repellent methods.					
<p><b>MM-BIO-11 Desert Kit Fox and American Badger Relocation.</b> The Applicant shall implement the following measures to protect desert kit fox and American badger:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Biological Monitors shall perform pre-construction surveys for kit fox/badger dens in the Project disturbance area and a 100-foot (30-meter) buffer beyond the Project disturbance area, where landowner access is permitted, within 30 days of initiation of construction activities.</li> <li>▪ All potential desert kit fox/badger dens with signs of current or recent use (i.e., tracks, scat, fresh throw mounds) identified during pre-construction surveys shall be monitored for a minimum of 3 consecutive nights (between August 1 and January 14) or 5 consecutive nights (between January 15 and July 31) to determine occupancy status. Occupancy monitoring shall be performed using a tracking medium (such as diatomaceous earth or fire clay) and/or infrared camera stations at the entrance(s). Each den shall be</li> </ul>		MM-BIO-11 added to address desert kit fox and American badger relocation, based on organization of analysis in the SEIR. This was previously covered under MM-BIO-3 and MM-BIO-4. Mitigation measure language has been updated to reflect current best practices and project specifics.	Prior to and during construction	County of Riverside	

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<p>classified as inactive or active following the evaluation period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If no tracks are observed in the tracking medium or no photos of the target species are captured after the monitoring period, the den shall be classified as inactive. Inactive dens in the direct path of disturbance may be excavated by hand and backfilled to reduce the likelihood of reuse by badgers or kit fox. An Authorized Biologist shall ensure that desert tortoises are not present prior to excavation of inactive desert kit fox dens. If a desert tortoise is present, the Authorized Biologist shall implement protective measures described in MM-BIO-9 (Desert Tortoise Protection). Dens not directly impacted by construction shall not be excavated.</li> <li>▪ If an active den is found outside the natal season (August 1 through January 14), the den may be subject to passive relocation. Prior to any relocation of desert kit fox and American badger, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) must be notified of the active den and methods proposed for relocation. Relocation may occur by progressively blocking the den with natural materials (e.g., rocks, dirt, sticks, or vegetation) or</li> </ul>					

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<p>artificial, non-injurious materials placed in front of the entrance for a minimum of 5 consecutive nights to discourage continued use. Additional deterrents, such as natural mixtures of aromatic organics (e.g., onions, garlic, and essential oils), transistor radios, and ultrasonic emitters, may be used. The use of one-way doors may be used. Installation of one-way doors shall take place in the afternoon while desert kit fox/badgers are inactive and deep within the den complex. After verification that passive relocation has been successful and the den has been unoccupied for 5 consecutive nights, the den may be fully excavated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If an active den is found during the natal season (January 15 through July 31), a 500- foot (150-meter) no-disturbance buffer shall be established. All active dens found during the natal season shall be presumed natal and shall not be subject to passive relocation activities unless approval is obtained from CDFW.</li> <li>▪ Buffers may be reduced, expanded, or temporarily modified to allow certain low impact activities (e.g., vehicle access) to occur as determined feasible by the Designated Biologist without adversely</li> </ul>					

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<p>affecting the den. All modifications to the size of exclusion buffers or allowance of certain Project activities within the exclusion buffer shall be documented by the Designated Biologist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Current guidelines from CDFW regarding minimizing transmission of canine distemper virus shall be followed.</li> </ul>					
<p><b>MM-BIO-12 Stream Protection and Compensation.</b> Prior to ground-disturbing activities in waters potentially regulated by the state, the Applicant shall confer with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and shall obtain appropriate authorization. The Applicant shall implement all conditions associated with regulatory agency agreements and authorizations, including compensatory mitigation, and, unless otherwise specified by CDFW and/or the RWQCB, shall implement the measures identified below to minimize and compensate for impacts to regulated waters:</p> <p>— Construction crews shall minimize disturbance to wetlands, streambeds, and banks of any state-jurisdictional waters to the extent feasible.</p>		<p>MM-BIO-12 added to address stream protection and compensation for aquatic resources, based on organization of analysis in the SEIR. This was previously covered under MM-BIO-9. Mitigation measure language has been updated to reflect current best practices and project specifics.</p>	<p>Prior to ground-disturbing activities in waters potentially regulated by the state</p>	<p>California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)/ County of Riverside</p>	

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Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<p>— Vehicles and equipment shall not be operated in standing or flowing water.</p> <p>— The Applicant shall prevent water containing mud, silt, or other pollutants from grading or other activities from entering ephemeral drainages or being placed in locations that may be subjected to high storm flows.</p> <p>— Raw cement/concrete or washings thereof, asphalt, paint or other coating material, oil or other petroleum products, or any other substances that could be hazardous to vegetation or wildlife resources resulting from Project-related activities shall be prevented from entering ephemeral drainages.</p> <p>— No petroleum products or other pollutants from the equipment shall be allowed to enter any state jurisdictional waters.</p> <p>— No broken concrete, debris, soil, silt, sand, bark, slash, sawdust, rubbish, or other organic or earthen material from any construction or associated activity shall be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall or runoff into off-site state jurisdictional waters.</p> <p>— Stationary equipment, such as motors, pumps, generators, and</p>					

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Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<p>welders, shall be positioned over drip pans. Stationary heavy equipment shall have suitable containment to handle a catastrophic spill/leak. Cleanup equipment, such as brooms, absorbent pads, and skimmers, shall always be on site. The cleanup of all spills shall begin immediately.</p> <p>— All excess materials or debris shall be removed from the work area after completion of construction.</p> <p>— Project impacts to state jurisdictional ephemeral washes (non-wetland waters) on private lands shall be compensated at a 1:1 ratio. An estimated 0.1 acres of Project impacts to ephemeral washes on private lands at a 1:1 compensation ratio would require an estimated 0.1 acres of habitat compensation. The final required compensation acreage for ephemeral washes shall be based on the final calculations of impacts to these communities on private lands. It's important to note that mitigation ratios described herein may change during regulatory permitting process.</p> <p>— Project impacts to riparian vegetation shall be compensated according to MM-BIO-13.</p>					
<p><b>MM-BIO-13 Compensation for Impacts to Native Vegetation.</b> The Applicant shall provide habitat</p>		<p>MM-BIO-13 added to address impacts to native</p>	<p>Prior to ground disturbance</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<p>compensation for the final impact acreages to sensitive native vegetation from the Project. An estimate of required compensation acreages for impacts occurring on private lands is provided below; however, final compensation shall be based on final calculation of impacted acreage. Habitat compensation for impacts to native vegetation on U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)–administered lands shall be based on BLM’s review of Project conformance with Conservation and Management Action LUPA-BIO-COMP-1. Habitat compensation for Project impacts on private lands shall be provided for impacts to the following native vegetation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Riparian Vegetation (Blue Palo Verde–Ironwood Woodland): Impacts to riparian communities (blue palo verde–ironwood woodland) on private lands shall be compensated at a 3:1 ratio. An estimate 12.6 acres of Project impacts to riparian communities on private lands at a 3:1 compensation ratio would require an estimated 37.8 acres of habitat compensation. The final required compensation acreage for riparian communities shall be based on the final calculations of impacts to these communities on private lands.</li> </ul>		<p>vegetation and reflects current best practices, regulatory requirements, and project specifics.</p>			

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Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Other Sensitive Vegetation Communities: Impacts to the white bursage association and rigid spineflower–hairy desert sunflower desert pavement association on private lands shall be compensated at a 1:1 ratio. A estimate of 46.1 acres of permanent impacts to the white bursage association and 33.4 acres of permanent impacts to rigid spineflower–hairy desert sunflower desert pavement, and 0.6 acres of permanent impacts to arrow weed thickets would require an estimate of 80.2 acres of habitat compensation. The final required compensation acreage for other sensitive communities shall be based on the final calculations of impacts to these communities on private lands.</li> <li>▪ No habitat compensation shall be required for impacts to common native vegetation communities, non-native vegetation, or other land cover types, such as disturbed habitat, fallow lands, agriculture, or urban/developed lands, on private lands.</li> <li>▪ The Applicant shall provide funding or bonding for the acquisition and conservation of compensation lands. Conservation instruments, associated documentation,</li> </ul>					

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<p>and/or securities shall be submitted to the applicable agencies for review and approval prior to initiating ground disturbance, pursuant to the requirements of permits and authorizations issued by lead, responsible, and permitting agencies</p>					
<p><b>MM-BIO-14 Special-Status Plant Impact Avoidance and Minimization Measures</b></p> <p><b>Pre-Construction Surveys:</b> Prior to ground-or vegetation-disturbing activities, focused protocol surveys for Harwood’s eriastrum, which blooms March-June, shall be conducted within suitable habitat. Suitable habitat for this species is within the vicinity of the Phase 2 transmission line south of I-10. Prior to conducting the focused protocol survey, a reference population check shall be conducted. Reference population checks involve locating known populations of special-status plant species during a time frame when they are known to be blooming or exhibit other phenological characteristics that allow for species identification. Observations of reference populations during peak phenology provide assurance to the lead agencies and resource agencies that these species would be identifiable if they are</p>		<p>MM-BIO-14 was added to address impacts to special-status species, specifically Harwood’s eriastrum, a BLM sensitive species.</p>	<p>Prior to ground or vegetation disturbing activities.</p>	<p>BLM Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office</p>	

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Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<p>present in areas proposed for ground disturbance.</p> <p><b>Special-Status Plan Impact Avoidance and Minimization Measures.</b> The Applicant shall incorporate the following measures to avoid and minimize impacts to Harwood’s Eriastrum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Site Design Modifications:</b> Incorporate site design modifications to minimize impacts to Harwood’s eriastrum along the Phase 2 transmission line including: (1) limiting the width of the work area; (2) adjusting the location of staging areas, lay downs, spur roads and poles or towers; and (3) driving and crushing vegetation as an alternative to blading temporary roads to preserve the seed bank. These modifications shall be clearly depicted on the grading and construction plans.</li> <li>2. <b>Establish Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs).</b> Prior to the start of any ground- or vegetation-disturbing activities, a qualified designated biologist shall establish ESAs to protect avoided Harwood’s eriastrum that occur outside of the project disturbance areas and</li> </ol>					

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<p>within 20 feet of project disturbance areas. The locations of ESAs shall be clearly depicted on construction drawings, which shall also include all avoidance and minimization measures on the margins of the construction plans. ESAs shall also be clearly identified (with signage and by mapping on site plans) to ensure that avoided plants are not inadvertently harmed during construction, operation, or closure.</p> <p>3. <b>Special-Status Plant Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP).</b> The WEAP (MM-BIO-2) shall include training components specific to protection of Harwood’s eriastrum.</p> <p>4. <b>Avoid Harwood’s Eriastrum Plant Occurrences.</b> Areas for spoils, equipment, vehicles, and materials storage areas; parking; equipment and vehicle maintenance areas, and wash areas shall be placed at least 100 feet from any ESAs.</p> <p>5. <b>Monitoring and Reporting Requirements.</b> The designated biologist shall conduct weekly monitoring</p>					

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<p>of the ESAs that protect Harwood’s eriastrum occurrences during construction and decommissioning activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation for Impacts to Harwood’s Eriastrum.</b> If impacts to Harwood’s eriastrum cannot be avoided, the Applicant shall mitigate impacts to Harwood’s eriastrum through one or a combination of the following measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Off-site Compensation.</b> The Applicant shall provide compensation lands consisting of occupied Harwood’s eriastrum habitat at a 1:1 ratio for any occupied habitat affected by the Project. Occupied habitat shall be calculated in the Project area and on the compensation lands as including each occurrence. Off-site compensation shall be incorporated into the Projects’ Habitat Compensation Plan for review and approval by the County and the BLM. Compensatory mitigation required for MM-BIO-13 may be fulfilled by the compensatory mitigation lands acquired the measure to the extent that the</li> </ol>					

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<p>mitigation lands also meet the requirements of this mitigation measure.</p> <p><b>2. Salvage.</b> The Applicants shall prepare and implement a Harwood’s eriastrum Salvage and Relocation Plan to be reviewed and approved by the County and BLM prior to disturbance of any Harwood’s eriastrum. The Applicants shall contract with biologists qualified to conduct this work and salvage all the topsoil of the identified occurrence of Harwood’s eriastrum from the Project sites and transfer them to a suitable unoccupied off-site location. This would fulfill the mitigation requirement.</p> <p><b>Horticultural Propagation and Off-Site Introduction.</b> If salvage and relocation is not believed to be feasible for Harwood’s eriastrum, then the Applicants shall consult with a qualified entity to develop and implement an appropriate experimental seed amplification and relocation strategy.</p>					
<b>Cultural Resources</b>					
<p><b>MM-CUL-1</b> Prior to the issuance of grading permits, the developer/permit applicant shall enter into</p>	<p><b>MM-CUL-1:</b> Prior to any ground disturbances within the Project area, the Applicant shall, for a period of at</p>	<p>MM-CUL-1 was revised to include the County</p>	<p>Prior to issuance of grading permits</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	

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Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<p>agreement(s) with the consulting tribe(s) for the appropriate number of Native American Monitor(s). In conjunction with the Archaeological Monitor(s), the Native American Monitor(s) shall attend the pre-grading meeting with the contractors to provide Cultural Sensitivity Training for all construction personnel. In addition, an adequate number of Native American Monitor(s) shall be on-site during all initial ground disturbing activities and excavation of soils in each portion of the project site (on-site and off-site work associated with this project) including clearing, grubbing, tree removals, grading and trenching. In conjunction with the Archaeological Monitor(s), the Native American Monitor(s) have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect or halt the ground disturbance activities to allow identification, evaluation, and potential recovery of cultural resources. Activities will be documented in Tribal Monitoring Notes which will be required to be submitted to the County Archaeologist prior to grading final inspection. The developer/permit applicant shall submit a fully executed copy of the agreement(s) to the County Archaeologist to ensure compliance with this condition of approval. Upon verification, the Archaeologist shall clear this</p>	<p>least 60 days, make a good faith effort to enter into a contract with and retain monitors designated by Tribal representatives. These monitors shall be known as the Tribal Participants for this Project. The developer shall notify the appropriate Tribe of all new phases of development. The Tribal Participants shall be required on-site during all construction-related ground disturbing activities. The developer shall submit the signed contract between the appropriate Tribe and the developer. The Project Archaeologist shall include in the report any concerns or comments the Tribal Participant has regarding the Project and shall include as an appendix any written correspondence or reports prepared by the Tribal Participant</p>	<p>standard language, clarify monitoring procedures, and strengthen cultural protection.</p>			

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<p>condition. This agreement shall not modify any condition of approval or mitigation measure.</p>					
<p><b>MM-CUL-2</b> The developer/permit holder or any successor in interest shall comply with the following for the life of this permit. If during ground disturbance activities, unanticipated cultural resources* are discovered, the following procedures shall be followed: All ground disturbance activities within 100 feet of the discovered cultural resource shall be halted and the Project archaeologist shall call the County Archaeologist immediately upon discovery of the cultural resource. A meeting shall be convened between the developer, the project archaeologist**, the Native American tribal representative, and the County Archaeologist to discuss the significance of the find. At the meeting with the aforementioned parties, a decision is to be made, with the concurrence of the County Archaeologist, as to the appropriate treatment (documentation, recovery, avoidance, etc.) for the cultural resource. Resource evaluations shall be limited to nondestructive analysis. Further ground disturbance shall not resume within the area of the discovery until the appropriate treatment has been accomplished.</p> <p>* A cultural resource site is defined, for this condition, as being a feature and/or three or more artifacts in close</p>	<p><b>MM-CUL-2:</b> The County advocates avoidance as the preferred choice, and development of a discovery plan (see CUL-3) shall occur prior to Project construction. If, during ground disturbance activities associated with construction, operation and maintenance, or decommissioning, potentially significant archaeological sites are discovered that were not identified and evaluated in the archaeological survey reports or EIR conducted prior to Project approval, the following procedures shall be followed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All ground disturbance activities within 100 feet of the discovered archaeological resource shall be halted until a meeting is convened between the developer, the Project Archaeologist, the Tribal Participants, and the County to discuss the significance of the find.</li> <li>2. At the meeting, the significance of the discoveries shall be discussed in consultation with the Tribal Participants and the Project Archaeologist. The County shall determine the appropriate mitigation (documentation, evaluation,</li> </ol>	<p>MM-CUL-2 was revised to include the County standard language, provide more detailed procedures for the discovery of unanticipated cultural resources, clarify the roles of involved parties, and ensure timely coordination with the County Archaeologist.</p>	<p>During ground disturbing activities</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	

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<p>association with each other. Tribal Cultural Resources are also considered cultural resources.</p> <p>** If not already employed by the project developer, a County approved archaeologist and a Native American Monitor from the consulting tribe(s) shall be employed by the project developer to assess the significance of the cultural resource, attend the meeting described above, and continue monitoring of all future site grading activities as necessary.</p>	<p>recovery, avoidance, etc.) by implementing CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b) regarding mitigation related to impacts on historical resources and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(c) and 21083.2(g) regarding archaeological resources. Mitigation shall comply with Mitigation Measure CUL-3.</p> <p>3. Further ground disturbance shall not resume within the area of the discovery until a meeting is convened with the aforementioned parties and a decision is made with the concurrence of the County as to the appropriate preservation or mitigation measures. The Applicant shall comply with the determinations of the County.</p>				
<p><b>MM-CUL-3</b> Prior to issuance of grading permits: The applicant/developer shall provide evidence to the County of Riverside Planning Department that a County certified professional archaeologist (Project Archaeologist) has been contracted to implement a Cultural Resource Monitoring Program (CRMP). A Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan shall be developed in consultation with the monitoring tribe(s) that addresses the details of all activities and provides procedures that must be followed in order to reduce the impacts to cultural, tribal</p>	<p><b>MM-CUL-3:</b> Prior to obtaining the Project-related grading permit from the County, the Applicant shall have the Project Archaeologist prepare and submit for approval a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP). The CRMP shall be submitted to the County for approval. The CRMP shall map all known significant or unevaluated cultural resources within the Project area, as described in this EIR. The CRMP shall detail how the one CRHR-eligible resource in the Project area (P-33-002846) and ten cultural resources (P-33-020942, P-33-</p>	<p>MM-CUL-3 was revised to include the County standard language , streamline and clarify the requirements for cultural resource monitoring and coordination with the County and Tribal Representatives.</p>	<p>Prior to issuance of grading permits</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	

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<p>cultural and historic resources to a level that is less than significant as well as address potential impacts to undiscovered buried archaeological resources associated with this project. A fully executed copy of the contract and a digitally-signed copy of the Monitoring Plan shall be provided to the County Archaeologist to ensure compliance with this condition of approval. If feasible, and as agreed upon by agency staff, a combined CRMP will be prepared covering work both on private and BLM lands. This will be intended to ensure consistency, where possible, in cultural resources management strategies. Working directly under the Project Archaeologist, an adequate number of qualified Archaeological Monitors shall be present to ensure that all earth moving activities are observed and shall be on-site during all grading activities for areas to be monitored including off-site improvements. Inspections will vary based on the rate of excavation, the materials excavated, and the presence and abundance of artifacts and features. The Professional Archaeologist may submit a detailed letter to the County of Riverside during grading requesting a modification to the monitoring program if circumstances are encountered that reduce the need for monitoring</p>	<p>020943, P-33-020944, P-33-020945, P-33-020946, P-33-020947, P-33-020948, P- 33-020949, P-33-020950, P-33-020951) in the Project area that have not been evaluated for CRHR-eligibility are avoided by Project design, and how these 11 resources would be marked and protected as Environmentally Sensitive Areas during construction. The CRMP shall also map additional areas that are considered to be of high sensitivity for discovery of buried significant cultural resources, including burials, cremations, or sacred features. The CRMP shall include protocol for collection and disposition of recorded archaeological isolates prior to Project construction, through coordination between the Applicant, County, and Tribal Participants. The CRMP shall detail provisions for monitoring construction in these high-sensitivity areas. For all post-review discoveries, the CRMP shall detail the methods, consultation procedures, and timelines for implementing Mitigation Measures CUL-2 and CUL-5, including procedures for halting construction, making appropriate notifications to agencies, officials, and Native American tribes, and assessing CRHR-eligibility. The CRMP shall specify what actions shall be undertaken if, as a result of the</p>				

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	<p>process required by the CRMP, it is determined that the Project would significantly impact previously unknown cultural resources. The actions to be taken shall comply with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b). The CRMP shall be presented to all construction personnel, with Tribal Participants in attendance, in the form of a worker education program by the Project Archaeologist prior to commencement of groundbreaking. During subsequent safety meetings on the job site, the Project Archaeologist and/or their qualified representative shall inform all new construction personnel of the cultural resources issues associated with the Project.</p>				
<p><b>MM-CUL-4</b> Prior to Grading Permit Final Inspection, a Phase IV Cultural Resources Monitoring Report shall be submitted that complies with the Riverside County Planning Department’s requirements for such reports for all ground disturbing activities associated with this grading permit. The report shall follow the County of Riverside Planning Department Cultural Resources (Archaeological) Investigations Standard Scopes of Work posted on the TLMA website. The report shall include results of any feature relocation or residue analysis required as well as evidence of the required</p>	<p><b>MM-CUL-4:</b> Prior to the final inspection of the first building permit, the Applicant shall prompt the Project Archaeologist to submit one (1) wet-signed hard copy and one (1) CD of a Cultural Resources Monitoring Report (CRMR) that complies with the current County Planning Department’s requirements for Phase IV Cultural Resource Monitoring Reports. The report shall include documentation of the required cultural/historical sensitivity training for the construction staff held during the</p>	<p>MM-CUL-4 was revised to include the County standard language, align with County reporting standards and streamline the final documentation process. The updated version clarifies the required contents of the Phase IV Cultural Resources</p>	<p>Prior to Grading Permit Final Inspection</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	

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<p>cultural sensitivity training for the construction staff held during the required pre-grade meeting and evidence that any artifacts have been treated in accordance to procedures stipulated in the Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan.</p>	<p>pre-grade meeting, which shall include the County’s attendance. The County shall review the report to determine adequate mitigation compliance. The accepted report shall be submitted to the County, California Historical Resources Information System Eastern Information Center, the Patton Memorial Museum, and Tribal Participants.</p>	<p>Monitoring Report, emphasizes compliance with County protocols, and ensures that tribal monitoring notes and sensitivity training are properly documented and submitted to relevant parties.</p>			
<p><b>MM-CUL-5</b> If human remains are found on this site, the developer/permit holder or any successor in interest shall comply with State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. Pursuant to State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, if human remains are encountered, no further disturbance shall occur until the Riverside County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin. Further, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 (b), remains shall be left in place and free from disturbance until a final decision as to the treatment and their disposition has been made. If the Riverside County Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission shall be contacted by the Coroner within the period specified by law (24 hours). Subsequently, the Native American Heritage Commission shall</p>	<p><b>MM- CUL-5:</b> If human remains are encountered during the course of construction, work in the immediate area shall be halted, a 100-foot diameter buffer established, and arrangements made to protect the remains in place until their disposition has been arranged according to this section. The treatment of human remains and associated and unassociated funerary objects discovered during any ground-disturbing activity shall comply with applicable State laws. This shall include immediate notification of the Riverside County coroner and, in the event of the coroner’s determination that the human remains are Native American, notification of the California State Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), who shall appoint a Most Likely Descendant (MLD) (California Public</p>	<p>MM-CUL-5 was revised to include the County standard language and reflect feedback received during tribal consultation and current county requirements.</p>	<p>Prior to and during ground disturbance</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	

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<p>identify the “Most Likely Descendant”. The Most Likely Descendant shall then make recommendations and engage in consultation with the property owner concerning the treatment of the remains as provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. There will be no photography of human remains or associated resources.</p>	<p>Resources Code [PRC] Section 5097.98). The Project Archaeologist, Applicant, County, and MLD shall make all reasonable efforts to develop an agreement for the treatment, with appropriate dignity, of human remains and associated and unassociated funerary objects (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(d)). The agreement should take into consideration the appropriate excavation, removal, recordation, analysis, custodianship, curation, and final disposition of the human remains and associated and unassociated funerary objects. The PRC allows 48 hours to reach agreement on these matters. If the MLD and the other parties do not agree on the reburial method, PRC Section 5097.98(b) shall be followed: “the landowner or his or her authorized representative shall reinter the human remains and items associated with Native American burials with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance.” Should any dispute arise, the County will request that the NAHC act to mediate the dispute. The site of any reburial of Native American human remains or cultural artifacts shall remain confidential, shall not be disclosed, and shall not be governed by public disclosure requirements of the</p>				

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	California Public Records Act (California Government Code Section 6250). No construction activities will be allowed within 100 feet of the discovery site of human remains until a Notice to Proceed is provided by the				
<p><b>MM-CUL-6</b> Temporary fencing shall be required for the protection of cultural site(s) P-33-002846, P-33-020942, P-33-020943, P-33-020945, P-33-020946, P-33-020947, P-33-020948, P-33-020949, P-33-020950, P-33-020951-during grading activities. Prior to commencement of grading or brushing, the project archaeologist shall confirm the site boundaries and determine an adequate buffer for protection of the site(s). The applicant shall direct the installation of fencing under the supervision of the project archaeologist and Native American Monitor. The fencing can be removed only after grading operations have been completed.</p>		MM-CUL-6 was revised to include the County standard language and added to ensure adequate protection of known cultural sites.	Prior to and during grading activities	County of Riverside	
<p><b>MM-CUL-7</b> Prior to issuance of grading permits: the developer/ applicant shall provide evidence to the Riverside County Planning Department that an Environmental Constraints Sheet has been included in the Grading Plans. This sheet shall indicate an area to be used for relocation of the bedrock milling features that cannot be avoided by this project. In addition, a permanent space within this area will be</p>		MM-CUL-7 was revised to include the County standard language and added to ensure adequate protection of known cultural sites, and to reflect feedback received during	Prior to issuance of grading permits	County of Riverside	

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predetermined and designated on a confidential map for reburial of any artifacts that will be impacted and/or discovered during grading.		tribal consultation.			
<b>MM-CUL-8</b> At the conclusion of all construction activities, the Project proponent and landowner shall record a deed restriction on the avoidance areas, P-33-002846, P-33-020942, P-33-020943, P-33-020945, P-33-020946, P-33-020947, P-33-020948, P-33-020949, P-33-020950, P-33-020951 (and the reburial location, if used) with the County to restrict development of these areas in the future. Deed restrictions shall not disclose the nature of the avoidance areas. A copy of the deed restriction(s) shall be submitted to the County planning staff as proof of compliance prior to the issuance of certificates of occupancy for the Project.		MM-CUL-8 was revised to include the County standard language and added to ensure adequate protection of known cultural sites, and to reflect feedback received during tribal consultation.	Conclusion of all construction activities	County of Riverside	
<b>MM-CUL-9</b> Prior to Grading Permit Final Inspection. In the event cultural resources are identified during ground disturbing activities, the landowner(s) shall relinquish ownership of all cultural resources, (with the exception of sacred items, burial goods, and Human Remains) and Provide evidence to the satisfaction of the County Archaeologist that all archaeological materials recovered during the archaeological investigations (this includes		MM-CUL-9 was revised to include the County standard language and added to ensure adequate protection of known cultural sites, and to reflect feedback received during tribal consultation.	Prior to Grading Permit Final Inspection	County of Riverside	

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<p>collections made during an earlier project, such as testing of archaeological sites that took place years ago), have been handled through the following methods.</p> <p>Historic Resources- all historic archaeological materials recovered during the archaeological investigations (this includes collections made during an earlier project, such as testing of archaeological sites that took place years ago), shall be curated at the Western Science Center, a Riverside County curation facility that meets State Resources Department Office of Historic Preservation Guidelines for the Curation of Archaeological Resources ensuring access and use pursuant to the Guidelines.</p> <p>Desert Training Center related resources- any artifacts related to Desert Training Activities shall be curated with the General Patton Memorial Museum.</p> <p>Pre-contact resources-A fully executed reburial agreement with the appropriate culturally affiliated Native American tribe(s) or band(s). This shall include measures and provisions to protect the reburial area from any future impacts. Reburial shall not occur until all cataloguing, analysis and special studies have been completed on the cultural resources. Details of contents and location of the reburial shall be included in the Phase</p>					

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IV Report. The details of any disposition of artifacts shall be documented in the Phase IV report.					
<b>Geology and Soils</b>					
<p><b>MM-GEO-1</b> Grading for new access roads or work areas in areas covered by desert pavement shall be avoided or minimized. If avoidance of these areas is not possible, the desert pavement surface shall be protected from damage or disturbance from construction vehicles temporary surface mats. A plan to identify and avoid damaging sensitive desert pavement shall be prepared and submitted to the lead agency (Riverside County) for review and approval prior to construction. This plan shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Defining all locations of surface disturbance including new access roads and grading locations.</li> <li>▪ Developing specific measures to protect desert pavement from damage or disturbance by using temporary mats.</li> <li>▪ Applying a nontoxic soil stabilizer before Project operation. The applicant shall develop, for review and approval by Riverside County, a plan that outlines the frequency of nontoxic soil stabilizer applications, based on the specifications of the selected soil stabilizer.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MM- GEO-1:</b> Prior to final design and construction, a site-specific subsurface geotechnical evaluation/report shall be prepared to evaluate the potential ground-shaking hazard, which would meet the requirements of the most recent version of the California Building Code. A state certified Project geologist shall ensure appropriate structural design and mitigation techniques achieve adequate protection according to industry standards and building code requirements.</p>	<p>MM-GEO-1 was revised to reflect the specific environmental and geotechnical conditions of the Project Site based on the updated geotechnical report and focuses on protecting sensitive surface features, specifically desert pavement.</p>	<p>Prior and during construction activities</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	

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Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Evaluating the potential for replacement of desert pavement with a similar gravel-sized layer where required.</li> </ul>					
	<p><b>MM-GEO-2:</b> Should future data suggest the presence of active faulting at the Project area, a fault evaluation may be performed. Mitigation of potential fault rupture hazard would typically include locating improvements away from the trace of an active fault, designing structures for an acceptable amount of movement, or implementing systems to maintain safety and that allow for displacement that could be repaired.</p>	<p>MM-GEO-2 was removed as the analysis was updated to reflect the specific environmental and geotechnical conditions of the Project Site based on the updated geotechnical report.</p>			
	<p><b>MM-GEO-3:</b> Based on the nature, location and severity of adverse soil conditions, the geotechnical study shall recommend appropriate and feasible design features necessary to reduce the potential for liquefiable, expansive, corrosive, or collapsible soils, as necessary, to adversely affect Project facilities. Such measures might include removal of loose soil layers to be replaced with compacted fill or specialized foundation design, including the use of deep foundation systems, to support structures in accordance with industry standards and building code requirements</p>	<p>MM-GEO-3 was removed as the analysis was updated to reflect the specific environmental and geotechnical conditions of the Project Site based on the updated geotechnical report.</p>			
	<p><b>MM-GEO-4:</b> Removal of loose soil layers shall be replaced with compacted fill or specialized</p>	<p>MM-GEO-4 was removed as the analysis was</p>			

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	foundation design, including the use of deep foundation systems, to support structures. The septic system shall be placed in soils capable of adequately supporting the septic system as determined by the Project Geologist and in accordance with County requirements specified in the Department of Environmental Health Technical Guidance Manual	updated to reflect the specific environmental and geotechnical conditions of the Project Site based on the updated geotechnical report.			

**Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

<b>MM-HAZ 1 Soil Management Plan.</b> Prior to the issuance of a grading permit and before earthwork activity or soil disturbance occurs, the Project applicant/developer or their designated contractor shall retain a qualified environmental consultant to prepare a soil management plan (SMP) that outlines the proper screening, handling, characterization, transportation, and disposal procedures for contaminated or potentially contaminated soils on site. Contaminated or potentially contaminated soils include those impacted by organochlorine pesticides from historical agricultural uses and fuels from former underground storage tanks as discussed in the Phase II ESA (CBRE 2020). Potential conditions and/or hazards that may be encountered during construction activities include but may not limited to buried piping, buried storage tanks,	<b>MM-HAZ-1:</b> Prior to issuance of a grading permit, a Phase II soil investigation shall be prepared by a qualified environmental consultant to evaluate the potential presence of residual pesticides or herbicides from past agricultural land uses. The investigation shall be in accordance with the recommendations of the November 27, 2012 Kennedy Jenks Phase I report. Any soils found to contain residual contaminants in exceedance of regulatory action levels that are determined by the consultant to represent a potential hazard to construction workers or future workers and visitors shall be removed from the site in accordance with Riverside County Department of Environmental Health oversight.	MM-HAZ-1 was revised based on the updated geotechnical report for the Project area and specifies the need for the SMP.	Prior to the issuance of a grading permit and before earthwork activity or soil disturbance	County of Riverside	
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<p>areas of soil staining, or other suspect conditions that can be identified visually and/or from odors within the Project’s proposed disturbance area. The SMP shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Procedures for field screening, stockpiling, sampling, characterizing contaminated or potentially contaminated soils.</li> <li>▪ Procedures and requirements for onsite soil reuse, offsite soil reuse, and offsite soil disposal (landfilling).</li> <li>▪ Health and safety and training procedures for workers who may come in contact with contaminated soils.</li> <li>▪ Onsite soil management requirements to avoid fugitive dust and stormwater runoff, including stockpile management.</li> <li>▪ Response and reporting procedures in the event a release of contaminated soils or violation of air quality or water quality rules occurs (Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District and Colorado Regional Water Quality Control Board, respectively).</li> <li>▪ Requirements if contaminated soil is identified during Project construction activities. These include, but are not limited to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Stop work requirements for further evaluation of identified contamination;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>					

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Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Notification requirements;</li> <li>- Documentation requirements for sampling, analysis, and required actions in conformance with regulatory standards; and</li> <li>- Protocols for resuming earthwork activities.</li> <li>▪ Procedures for the identification, notifications, permitting, handling, abandonment, and disposal of underground storage tanks, piping, sumps, or other features, should any be identified during demolition and construction activities.</li> <li>▪ Procedures to meet all applicable federal, state, and local regulations (including Riverside County Department of Environmental Health and Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District) associated with handling, excavating, stockpiling, and disposing of contaminated soils</li> <li>▪ The proposed disposal facility that will accept the contaminated soils and procedures for authorization and transportation. The SMP will be implemented by the Project applicant or their designated contractor for all earthwork activities and activities that have the potential to encounter previously unidentified hazardous materials or wastes on</li> </ul>					

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the Project site and within off-site disturbance areas.					
<p><b>MM-HAZ 2 Worker Environmental Awareness Program.</b> A Worker Environmental Awareness Program shall be prepared, and all construction crews and contractors shall be briefed on the plan prior to starting work on the Project. The plan shall address health and safety issues associated with normal and unusual (emergency) conditions. The program shall include, but not be limited, to the following information and guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environmental health and safety protocol (including, but not limited to, hazards of valley fever, including the symptoms, proper work procedures, when and how to use personal protective equipment, and informing supervisors of suspected symptoms of work-related valley fever)</li> <li>▪ An emergency response plan</li> <li>▪ Environmental awareness training, which shall include environmental, cultural, health, and safety training</li> <li>▪ Noise/ear protection protocol</li> <li>▪ First aid training</li> <li>▪ Fire protection and extinguisher maintenance, guidance, and documentation</li> <li>▪ Disposal of hazardous materials and waste guidance in</li> </ul>	<p><b>MM-HAZ-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program.</b> The Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) shall include a personal protective equipment (PPE) program, an Emergency Action Plan (EAP), and an Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) to address health and safety issues associated with normal and unusual (emergency) conditions. Construction-related safety programs and procedures shall include a respiratory protection program, among other things. Construction would be undertaken sequentially in accordance with a Construction Plan that shall include the final design documents, work plan, health and safety plans, permits, project schedule, and operation and maintenance manuals. Construction Plan documents shall relate at least to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental health and safety training (including, but not limited, to training on the hazards of Valley Fever, including the symptoms, proper work procedures, how to use PPE, and informing supervisor of suspected symptoms of work-related Valley Fever)</li> </ol>	MM-HAZ-2 was revised to clarify requirements of the WEAP and to reflect current best practices and site-specific needs.	Prior to initiation of construction activities	County of Riverside	

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accordance with local, state, and federal regulations	2. Site security measures 3. Site first aid training 4. Construction testing (non-destructive examination, hydro, etc.) requirements 5. Site fire protection and extinguisher maintenance, guidance, and documentation 6. Furnishing and servicing of sanitary facilities records 7. Trash collection and disposal schedule/records 8. Disposal of hazardous materials and waste guidance in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations				
	<b>MM-HAZ-3:</b> Prior to issuance of a grading or building permit, the Applicant shall submit all required plans and proposals to the Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission (RCALUC) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for Title 14 CFR Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 77 review. Commencement of construction shall not begin prior to final approval from RCALUC and FAA with any modifications required as part of the review incorporated into project design	MM-HAZ-3 was removed as the Project is required to obtain approvals from RCALUC and FAA as part of regulatory requirements, thus does not need to be included as a mitigation measure.			
<b>Hydrology and Water Quality</b>					
	<b>MM-HYD-1:</b> Existing drainage crossings shall be utilized at streams, washes, and irrigation channels to the full extent necessary to reduce	MM-HYD-1 was removed to reflect specific site conditions and			

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	<p>impacts to less than significant levels. New access roads not required for ongoing operation and maintenance shall be permanently closed after construction using the most effective and least environmentally damaging methods appropriate to that specific area, with concurrence of the land manager (e.g., stockpiling and replacing topsoil, rock replacement) in a manner that most closely matches undisturbed conditions of the area to emulate natural drainage patterns.</p>	<p>regulatory context of the Grace Solar Energy Center Project. An applicant proposed measure was developed to address erosion, sedimentation, and water quality through a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). This ensures compliance with regulatory requirements.</p>			
	<p><b>MM-HYD-2:</b> Roads would be built as near as possible to right angles to streams and washes. Culverts would be installed where necessary and sized in accordance with local county regulations. All construction and maintenance activities shall be conducted in a manner that would minimize disturbance to vegetation and drainage channels, including ephemeral stream banks. Culverts shall also be designed with minimum impacts to floodplains. Any encroachment into or modification of the floodplain shall only be permitted in accordance with the District's approval based on</p>	<p>MM-HYD-2 was removed as it includes best management practices already accounted for in the Project design and regulatory requirements, thus does not need to be included as a mitigation measure.</p>			

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	demonstrative evidence that no adverse effects would occur upstream or downstream of the site. In addition, road construction would include dust-control measures during construction especially in sensitive areas. All existing roads would be left in a condition equal to or better than their condition prior to the construction of the gen-tie line and other Project components.				
	<b>MM-HYD-3:</b> Stormwater drainage inside substations would be designed to minimize erosion and increase sediment control. Internal runoff would be released from the switching station by means of surface drainage structures designed to filter contaminants from water flow. Drainage from the property would be collected and controlled by surface improvements, as detailed in the Drainage, Erosion, and Sedimentation Control Plan (BMP-1).	MM-HYD-3 was removed as the associated concerns are addressed through Project design. An applicant proposed measure was developed to address erosion, sedimentation, and water quality through a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). This ensures compliance with regulatory requirements.			
	<b>MM-HYD-4:</b> New impervious areas associated with temporary construction would be restored to	MM-HYD-4 was removed to reflect specific site			

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	existing conditions, including but not limited to revegetation, to the extent possible after completion of Project construction.	conditions and regulatory context of the Grace Solar Energy Center Project. A site restoration and revegetation plan and integrated weed management plan would be finalized prior to construction, which would cover restoration requirements.			
	<b>MM- HYD-5:</b> All new buildings (e.g., substation) shall be floodproofed by constructing the finished floor a minimum of 24 inches above the highest adjacent ground or 100 year water surface elevation, whichever is greater, based on a final Floodplain Delineation Study with supporting calculations in accordance with County requirements. The final Floodplain Delineation Study shall be approved by the County prior to issuance of a building permit. Slope protection may be required for buildings on fill. New buildings shall be located outside of the well-defined watercourses of the floodplains. Additionally, the solar panels shall have a minimum clearance of 24 inches above the highest adjacent	MM-HYD-5 was removed to reflect specific site conditions and regulatory context of the Grace Solar Energy Center Project. The associated concerns are addressed through Project design.			

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	ground when upright to ensure flows are not obstructed				
	<b>MM-HYD-6:</b> No flow obstructing fences (chain link, block wall, etc.) shall be constructed along the north and west property lines, since these types of fences obstruct flows causing damage to adjacent properties. Fencing used in these areas shall contain openings of 3 inches high by 6 inches wide for first 18" from the bottom, and openings of 4 inches high by 6 inches wide for the next 8 inches and so forth. This fencing or equivalent shall be provided to allow the free flow of storm or flood runoff. No setback is required with the use of this fencing. A detail of this fencing shall be provided to the County of Riverside.	MM-HYD-6 was removed as this is addressed through Project design and fencing requirements are addressed as a condition of approval under the CUP. Thus, a mitigation measure is not necessary.			

**Noise**

<b>MM-NOI-1 Construction Restrictions.</b> Heavy equipment operation, noisy construction work relating to any Project features onsite, and truck trips associated with materials and equipment deliveries shall be restricted to the times delineated below, unless a special permit has been issued by the County of Riverside: during June through September, between 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and during October through May, between 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thus, construction activities outside of the County's allowable daytime hours	<b>MM-NOI-1:</b> Construction shall be prohibited in areas within 0.25 mile (1,320 feet) of residents, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. during the months of June through September and the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. during the months of October through May. The construction contractor shall locate equipment staging in areas that will create the greatest distance between construction-related noise sources and noise sensitive receivers nearest the project site during project construction. No music or	MM-NOI-1 was revised to consolidate applicable noise-related requirements into a single, mitigation measure and reflect project specific updates. The limitation of nighttime construction is required when	During construction	County of Riverside	
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**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<p>would be limited to light-duty equipment and vehicles.</p> <p>During all project site construction, the construction contractors shall equip all construction equipment, fixed or mobile, with properly operating and maintained mufflers, consistent with manufacturers' standards. Haul truck engines and other engines powering fixed or mobile construction equipment shall be equipped with adequate mufflers. Haul trucks shall be operated in accordance with posted speed limits. Truck engine exhaust brake use shall be limited to emergencies. The construction contractor shall locate equipment staging in areas to create the greatest distance between construction-related noise sources and noise sensitive receivers nearest the Project site during Project construction. Where feasible, the construction contractor shall place all stationary construction equipment so that emitted noise is directed away from the noise sensitive receptors nearest the Project site. No music or electronically reinforced speech from construction workers shall be audible at noise sensitive properties.</p>	<p>electronically reinforced speech from construction workers shall be audible at noise-sensitive properties. During all project site construction, the construction contractors shall equip all construction equipment, fixed or mobile, with properly operating and maintained mufflers, consistent with manufacturers' standards. Where feasible, the construction contractor shall place all stationary construction equipment so that emitted noise is directed away from the noise sensitive receptors nearest the project site.</p>	<p>nighttime construction would take place within 0.25 miles of residences.</p>			
	<p><b>MM-NOI-2:</b> Prior to and during construction, decommissioning, and ground disturbing activities, the applicant shall provide at least two</p>	<p>MM-NOI-2 was removed since the updated MM-NOI-1 includes the</p>			

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Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
	<p>weeks’ advance notice of construction and decommissioning. Notices shall be mailed directly to land owners and residents within 2,400 feet of the Project boundary, and signs shall be a minimum size of 4 feet high by 6 feet wide and posted at the solar facility in areas accessible to the public. Notices shall announce when and where construction would occur; provide tips on reducing noise intrusion (e.g., closing windows facing the planned construction); and provide contact information for the local public liaison for any noise complaints.</p>	<p>necessary measures to reduce site specific noise impacts and notices to nearby residents were not determined to be required for the updated Project.</p>			
	<p><b>MM-NOI-3:</b> The applicant would implement a Hearing Conservation Program and Personal Protective Equipment Program that would provide personal protective devices for specific jobs that would produce excessive noise levels. The Applicant shall comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) regulations on occupational noise exposure.</p>	<p>MM-NOI-3 was removed since the OSHA regulations apply to construction workers onsite and not to offsite receptors that are assessed under CEQA. At off-site locations, construction noise levels would be below the levels that would be anticipated to cause hearing damage at the length of time for which these</p>			

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		receptors would be exposed to these sounds.			

**Paleontological Resources**

<p><b>MM-PALEO-1 Paleontological Resources Impact Mitigation Program.</b> Prior to commencement of any site disturbing activity including grading or excavation, the Applicant shall retain a qualified paleontologist per the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (2010) guidelines. The paleontologist shall prepare a Paleontological Resource Impact Mitigation Program (PRIMP) for the Project. PRIMP shall be consistent with the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (2010) guidelines and shall outline requirements for pre-construction meeting attendance and worker environmental awareness training; where monitoring is required within the Project site based on construction plans and/or geotechnical reports; procedures for adequate paleontological monitoring and discoveries treatment; paleontological methods (including sediment sampling for microvertebrate fossils); and reporting, and collections management. The PRIMP shall be provided to the construction contractor, the Applicant and the lead agency. The qualified paleontologist shall attend the pre-construction</p>	<p><b>MM-PALEO-1:</b> Prior to issuing any grading or excavation permits for activities within any area of the Project area, and prior to any Project-related ground-disturbing activities of that area, the Applicant shall implement procedures to monitor, avoid, and/or recover unique paleontological resources discovered during ground-disturbing activities. These procedures, the Paleontological Resources Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (PRMMP), shall be developed by a qualified vertebrate paleontologist and submitted for approval by the County of Riverside for private lands, and the BLM for BLM-managed lands. The PRMMP shall specify how mitigation measures Paleontology-1, Paleontology-2, and Paleontology-3 shall be implemented. This PRMMP shall be consistent with the provisions of CEQA, as well as with regulations currently implemented by the County of Riverside, the BLM and the proposed guidelines of the SVP. The PRMMP shall include, but not be limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A requirement that, during excavations in areas underlain</li> </ol>	<p>MM-PALEO-1 was revised to consolidate multiple measures into a one mitigation measure and reflects the site specific paleontological sensitivity and current best practices.</p>	<p>Prior to commencement of any grading activity on site</p>	<p>County of Riverside</p>	
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**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<p>meeting and a qualified paleontological monitor shall be on site during all rough grading and other significant ground-disturbing activities (including augering) in previously undisturbed, fine-grained Quaternary alluvial deposits of Pleistocene age. In the event that paleontological resources (e.g., fossils) are unearthened during construction activities, the qualified paleontological monitor shall temporarily halt and/or divert ground disturbing activity to allow recovery of paleontological resources. The area of discovery shall be roped off with a 50 foot radius buffer. Once documentation and collection of the find is completed, the qualified paleontological monitor shall remove the rope and allow grading to recommence in the area of the find.</p> <p>Paleontological specimens recovered from the Project site, if any, shall be processed in the laboratory. Processing shall include removal of any matrix so that the fossil can be identified to the lowest possible taxonomic level. The specimens shall then be identified and cataloged into a paleontological database. Specimens shall be prepared for curation prior to repository accessioning.</p> <p>The qualified paleontologist shall produce a Paleontological Monitoring Report describing the paleontological discoveries in their stratigraphic and</p>	<p>by geologic units identified as having a high paleontologic sensitivity under Society of Vertebrate Paleontology guidelines (or a PFYC rating of 3b or higher) and likely to contain paleontologic resources, a qualified vertebrate paleontologist, who is a Registered Professional Geologist, shall direct the paleontologic monitoring by a qualified paleontologic monitor. Areas of concern include all previously undisturbed paleontologic sensitive sediments of the fossiliferous Pleistocene Palo Verde Mesa Alluvium. alluvial deposits of the Palo Verde Mesa and alluvial deposits of the McCoy Wash area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. A requirement that paleontologic monitors be equipped to salvage fossils as unearthened to avoid construction delays and to remove samples of sediments likely to contain the remains of small fossil invertebrates and vertebrates. Monitors shall be empowered to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow removal of abundant or large specimens.</li> <li>3. Identification of the processes for preparation of recovered specimens to a point of</li> </ol>				

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<p>geographic context and detailing the procedures for preparing, curating, and accessioning the paleontological collection into a suitable repository. The report of monitoring results shall be submitted to the lead agency. If no significant paleontological resources are recovered during Project ground-disturbing activities, a final Monitoring Memorandum shall be produced and submitted to the lead agency.</p>	<p>identification. If the paleontologic monitor determines that the resource is unique, it shall be prepared for permanent preservation, including washing of sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates.</p> <p>4. A requirement that a report be prepared documenting all finds with permanent retrievable paleontologic storage for curation of specimens. The paleontologist should have a written repository agreement in hand prior to the initiation of mitigation activities. Mitigation of adverse impacts to unique paleontologic resources is not complete until such curation into an established museum repository has been fully completed and documented.</p> <p>5. A requirement that a report be prepared documenting all finds with an appended itemized inventory of specimens. The report and inventory, when submitted to the County with respect to private lands, and to the BLM with respect to BLM-managed lands, along with confirmation of the curation of recovered unique paleontological specimens into an established, accredited museum repository, would</p>				

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
	signify completion of the PRMMP to mitigate impacts to paleontologic resources.				
	<b>MM-PALEO-2:</b> Prior to issuance of the first grading permit, a worker training program shall be prepared and include information on the recognition of the types of paleontological resources that could be encountered within the Project area and referral of finds to the paleontologic monitor if they are found. This information shall be presented to Project construction personnel and Project operation and maintenance personnel by a qualified professional paleontologist.	MM-PALEO-2 was removed since MM-PALEO-1 was updated and covers anticipated impacts to paleontological resources. The PRMMP will further detail the necessary requirements. A WEAP is covered under other mitigation measures.			
	<b>MM-PALEO-3:</b> If construction or other Project personnel discover any potential fossils during construction, operation and maintenance, or decommissioning, the fossils shall be left undisturbed and the paleontological monitor shall be notified immediately and shall then take appropriate actions to evaluate the find in accordance with the PRMMP.	MM-PALEO-2 was removed since MM-PALEO-1 was updated and covers anticipated impacts to paleontological resources. The PRMMP will further detail the necessary requirements.			
<b>Transportation</b>					
<b>MM-TRAF-1 Construction Management Plan.</b> Prior to initiation of construction activities, a construction traffic management plan	<b>MM-TRA-1:</b> A construction phase Traffic Management Plan would be prepared in consultation with Caltrans and Riverside County for	MM-TRAF-1 was updated to reflect current best practices. The	Prior to and during construction	County of Riverside	

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<p>shall be prepared and filed with the County of Riverside. The construction traffic management plan shall include strategies to reduce the number of trucks that would be generated during both the AM (7:00 to 9:00 AM) and PM (4:00 to 6:00 PM) peak hours. Potential traffic management measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Warning signage to meet County and Caltrans requirements for driver awareness of construction activity in the vicinity.</li> <li>▪ Stagger work shifts to reduce peak periods of congestion.</li> <li>▪ Limit time for heavy truck deliveries.</li> <li>▪ Use of flaggers at key locations to alert motorists to slow moving trucks.</li> <li>▪ Informing emergency service providers of construction traffic schedule</li> </ul>	<p>the roadway network potentially affected by construction activities at the Project area and offsite gen-tie line facilities. In order to achieve acceptable LOS, the Traffic Management Plan would include a plan to split the workforce and stagger arrival times during peak construction periods along with a traffic LOS and queue monitoring program, as determined necessary by the County’s Transportation Department staff. The plan would be based upon the analysis set forth in this EIR. Carpooling shall also be required of contractor employees during the construction phase to help achieve acceptable LOS levels. In addition to the above-mentioned measures, other approaches could be considered to reduce peak hour traffic, such as requiring contractors to arrange employee busing and/or employee participation in park and ride.</p>	<p>Construction Management Plan would provide additional details on regulatory requirements.</p>			
	<p><b>MM-TRA-2:</b> The contractor would conduct construction activities in accordance with Caltrans’ applicable limitations on vehicle sizes and weights, Construction Excavation Permits obtained from Riverside County, Encroachment Permits from Caltrans, and permits and licenses from the California Highway Patrol and Caltrans for the transport of hazardous substances</p>	<p>MM-TRAF-2 was removed since the measure includes regulatory requirements and thus, does not require a separate mitigation measure. Additional requirements would be detailed</p>			

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
		in the Construction Management Plan as described in MM-TRA-1.			
	<b>MM-TRA-3:</b> Construction traffic coordination shall be required to address potential cumulative traffic issues associated with concurrent construction of several large projects with large workforces, approximately from 2015 through 2017. The Applicant shall coordinate construction traffic with applicable traffic management (e.g., Caltrans, Riverside County, and City of Blythe) as well as BLM Representatives, as determined appropriate and necessary by the listed agencies. The Applicant shall also coordinate construction traffic with other proponents of renewable energy projects in the I-10 corridor. Cumulatively considerable projects shall be identified and the appropriate staggered arrival times or other approaches (such as busing, park and ride, or carpooling) will be prescribed to achieve an acceptable LOS	MM-TRAF-2 was removed as requirements would be detailed in the Construction Management Plan as described in MM-TRA-1.			
<b>Tribal Cultural Resources</b>					
<b>MM-CUL-1 through MM-CUL-9</b> (SEE CULTURAL RESOURCES SECTION ABOVE)	<b>MM-CUL-1 through MM-CUL-5</b>	See reasoning under Cultural Resources Section Above.			

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Grace Solar Energy Center Measure	Palo Verde Mesa Measures	Reason for Measure Change	Implementation Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Initials/Date
<b>Wildfire</b>					
<p><b>MM-FIRE 1 Maintenance Truck Equipment.</b> The Applicant shall ensure all maintenance trucks are equipped with a fire extinguisher or other firefighting equipment in accordance with state and federal regulations. Compliance with this measure shall be documented in monitoring logs provided to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Bureau of Land Management.</p>		<p>MM-FIRE-1 was added to reflect the specific wildfire risk and operational needs of the Grace Solar Energy Center and ensures that all maintenance vehicles are equipped with the necessary equipment in accordance with state and federal regulations.</p>	<p>Prior and during construction</p>	<p>Applicant</p>	