State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director

Redonda and Bajada Solar Projects
Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report and
Notice of Public Scoping Meeting

Date: November 12, 2025

To: Responsible/Trustee Agencies and Interested Parties

From: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, as Lead Agency

Subject: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report for the Redonda and Bajada Solar Projects and Notice of Public Scoping Meeting

NOP Public Review Period: November 12 – December 12, 2025

Public Scoping Meeting Details:

Date: December 4, 2025

Meeting Time: 5 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. or until all who wish to speak have had a reasonable opportunity to do so.

Registration Link: https://bit.ly/Redonda-BajadaSolarScopingMtg

Webinar ID: 873 9954 9731

Dial-in Phone Number: (888) 788 0099 (Toll Free)

A. Introduction

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) and section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. section 15000 et seq.), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), as the CEQA lead agency, will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Redonda and Bajada Solar Projects (Projects). Redonda PV, LLC and Bajada Renewables, LLC (Applicants) are proposing the Projects on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within a Development Focus Area (DFA) on sites identified as appropriate for renewable energy under the BLM's California Desert Conservation Area Plan as amended by the Desert Renewable Energy and Conservation Plan (DRECP). Each of the Projects would require CDFW to issue an Incidental Take Permit and a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement. The potential for discretionary approvals triggers the environmental review requirements of CEQA. CDFW will serve as the CEQA lead agency for the Projects and, in that capacity, is primarily responsible for compliance with CEQA. Separately, to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the BLM will prepare an Environmental Assessment(s) to analyze the impacts of the Applicants' requests for right-of-way (ROW) grant authorization on federal land.

The purpose of the NOP is to solicit guidance from other agencies and interested parties about the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. Information that will be most useful at this time would be descriptions of the significant environmental issues and reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures recipients of this NOP would like to see explored in a Draft EIR.

This NOP includes background information on the Projects and proposed locations (Section B), a summary of potential project impacts (Section C), and details about a virtual public scoping meeting (Section D) where oral input about the scope of the analysis may be provided. This NOP also includes information on how to provide written comments to CDFW (Section E) and where documents are available for public review (Section F).

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines section 15082(b), there will be a 30-day comment period for this NOP, beginning on November 12, 2025 and ending on December 12, 2025. CDFW welcomes agency and public input during the public review period. If no response or well-justified request for additional time is received from any responsible, federal, or trustee agency by the end of the review period, CDFW may presume that such agencies have no response.

B. Background

B.1 Description of the Projects

Redonda PV LLC and Bajada Renewables LLC are wholly owned subsidiaries of Clearway Energy Group LLC and the applicants of the Redonda Solar Project (Redonda) and the Bajada Solar Project (Bajada), respectively. Each of the Projects is summarized below.

- Redonda is proposed on up to 887 acres of federal land managed by the BLM and includes a 200-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) solar photovoltaic (PV) energy generating facility, a 250-MW battery energy storage system (BESS), access roads, and other appurtenant facilities. It would connect to the regional energy grid at the existing Arica/Victory Pass substation on the Arica/Victory Pass project site via an approximately 2.1-mile 230-kilovolt (kV) generation tie (gen-tie) line. From the Arica/Victory Pass substation, the Redonda project's generated power would be transmitted to the Southern California Edison (SCE) Red Bluff Substation via the existing Arica/Victory Pass gen-tie line.
- Bajada proposes a 350 MW AC solar PV energy generating facility and an approximately 350 MW BESS within a 2,740-acre ROW area on BLM-administered public lands. An operations and maintenance (O&M) building, project substation, onsite roads and access driveways, fencing and site security also are proposed. As proposed, Bajada includes a new, approximately 8.5-mile-long, 230 kV gen-tie line to the existing SCE Red Bluff Substation. The gen-tie ROW would be 150 feet wide and cover approximately 155 acres. The roads ROW would be approximately 15 miles and cover 55 acres.

B.2 Location of the Projects

The Projects are proposed to be located approximately 8 miles east of Desert Center (an unincorporated community in Riverside County) and adjacent to Interstate 10 (I-10) on BLM-administered public lands. Both Projects would interconnect at the existing SCE Red Bluff Substation, located south of the I-10 west of the Project sites.

Redonda Solar Project:

Centroid coordinates: Lat: 33°41'35.48"N Long: 115°14'56.47"W

Assessor's parcel numbers: 810182001, 810110026, 810120001, 810110027, 811190017, 811190004, 811190016, 811190015, 811211002, 811211001, and 811212001.

Public Land Survey System location data:

Section 06, Township 6S, Range 17E (San Bernardino Meridian)

Sections 31, 32, Township 5S, Range 17E (San Bernardino Meridian)

Sections 25, 26, 27, 28 Township 5S, Range 16E (San Bernardino Meridian)

Bajada Solar Project:

Centroid coordinates: Lat: 33°39'37.36"N Long: 115° 8'54.41"W

Assessor's parcel numbers: 810300007, 810300006, 810290009, 810170002, 810220002, 810170001, 810220001, 810211002, 810190004, 810190003, 810201001, 810202002, 810181001, 810181002, 810181003, 81018004, 810182002, 811240006, 811240005, 811232003, 811221002, and 811221001.

Public Land Survey System location data:

Sections 7,17,18; Township 6S, Range 18E (San Bernardino Meridian)

Sections 1,2,3,4,10,11, 12; Township 6S, Range 17E (San Bernardino Meridian)

Sections 4,5,6,8,9; Township 6S, Range 17E (San Bernardino Meridian)

Sections 1,2; Township 6S, Range 16E (San Bernardino Meridian)

Sections 28, 34,35,36; Township 5S, Range 16E (San Bernardino Meridian)

C. Potential Environmental Effects

The EIR will evaluate potential environmental effects of the Projects and propose mitigation to avoid and/or reduce impacts deemed potentially significant. The EIR will

analyze resource considerations relating to each of the topics included in CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, which are as follows:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture / Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology / Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology / Water Quality
- Land Use / Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population / Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities / Service Systems
- Wildfire

The EIR will also assess cumulative impacts of the Projects' incremental effects in combination with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15063(a), CDFW has elected to proceed directly to the preparation of a Draft EIR rather than preparing an Initial Study.

In compliance with CEQA Guidelines section 15126.6, the EIR will describe and evaluate the comparative merits of a reasonable range of alternatives to the Projects. The EIR also will identity potential alternatives that were initially considered but then rejected by the lead agency and will provide a brief explanation of the reasons why they were not carried forward for more detailed review. The EIR will analyze a No Project Alternative and will identify the environmentally superior alternative. The alternatives to be analyzed in the EIR will be developed during the environmental review process and will consider input received during public scoping.

D. Public Scoping Meeting

CDFW will hold one virtual public scoping meeting to inform agencies and interested parties about the Projects and how to provide written input on the scope and content of the EIR, and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to provide oral input for the CEQA process. The meeting date, time, and participation details are as follows:

Date: December 4, 2025

Start time: 5:00 p.m.

Participation Details:

Registration Link: https://bit.ly/Redonda-BajadaSolarScopingMtg

Webinar ID: 873 9954 9731

Dial-in Phone Number: (888) 788 0099 (Toll Free)

Accessing meeting materials and exhibits: A URL will be provided during the virtual meeting with guidance about how to access the meeting materials.

For more information, please contact Magdalena Rodriguez via email at magdalena.rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov or by phone at 909.844.2520.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the virtual meeting to express ideas and concerns about the Projects and to offer suggestions about potential alternatives and other projects that should be considered as part of the cumulative effects analysis.

E. Submitting Comments

CDFW is soliciting input about the scope and content of an EIR that will analyze how the Projects may affect the physical environment. This information will be considered when preparing the Draft EIR's discussion of environmental topics, potential significant effects, mitigation measures, and alternatives. Because of time limits mandated by state law, scoping input should be provided no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 12, 2025.

You may submit comments in a variety of ways: (1) by electronic mail (email), (2) by U.S. mail, or (3) by providing input orally or in writing during the virtual public scoping meeting. Comments provided by email should include "Redonda and Bajada Solar Projects Scoping Comments" in the subject line, and the name and physical address of the commenter should be contained in the body of the email.

Please send written comments to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 6
Attention: Magdalena Rodriguez, Project Manager
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C220, Ontario, California 91764
Email: magdalena.rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov

Please use this subject line: "Redonda and Bajada Solar Projects Scoping Comments"

F. Location of Documents Available for Public Review

The NOP will be available for review online at https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/CEQA. A hard copy of the NOP is available for review by appointment. Appointments may be requested via email (magdalena.rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov) to view documents in this location:

CDFW Inland Deserts Region (Region 6) Office
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764

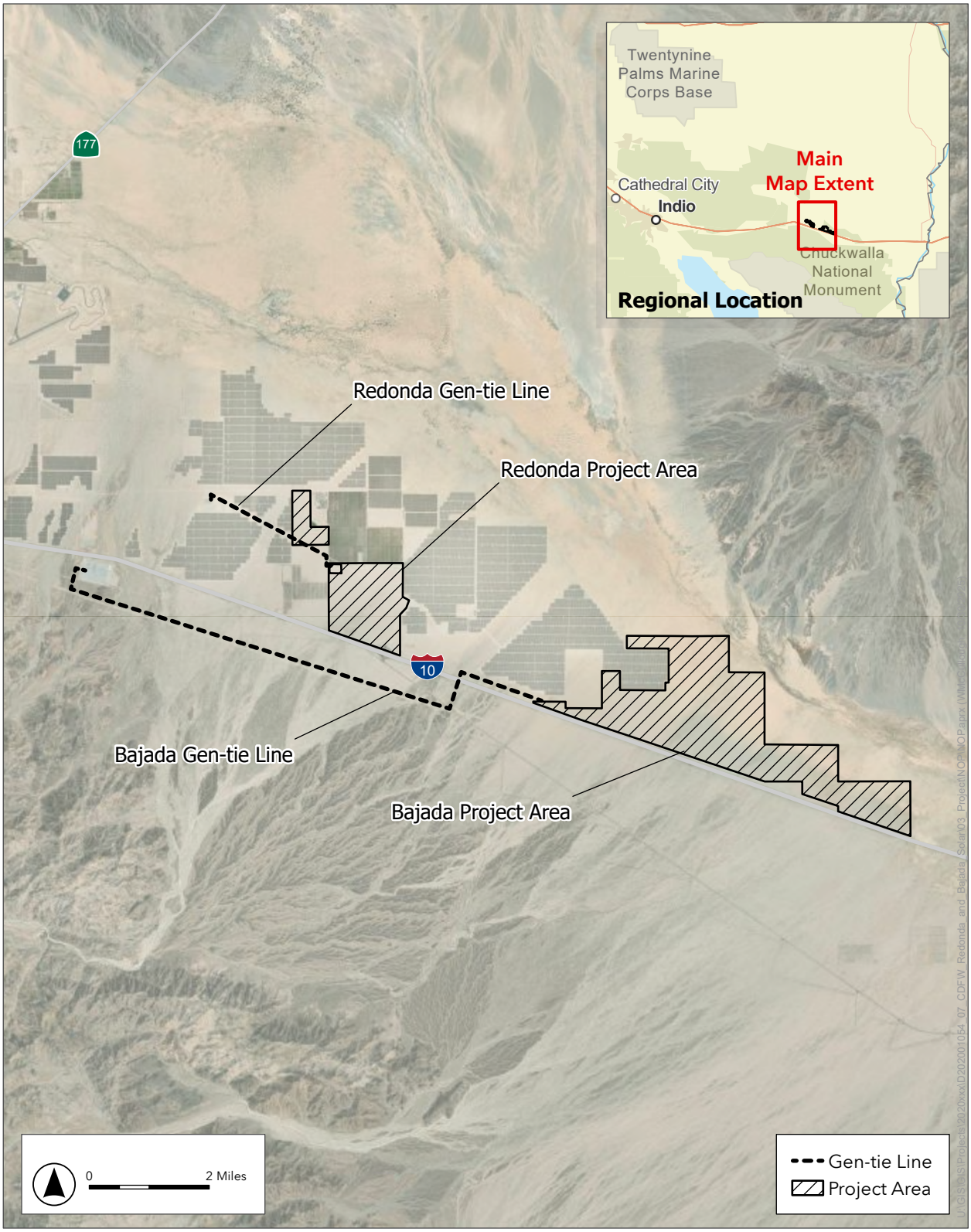


Figure 1
Project Location