KERN COUNTY
Planning & Natural Resources

Craig M. Murphy, Director
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2323
Phone: (661) 862-8600
TTY Relay 1-800-735-2929
Email: planning@kerncounty.com
Web Address: https://kernplanning.com

DATE: November 4, 2026

TO: See Attached Mailing List

FROM: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Mark Tolentino, Planner III
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 862-5041; TolentinoM@kerncounty.com

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation (NOP) to a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Golden Valley Technology Hub Project by California Resources Corporation (PP27401)

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department as Lead Agency (per CEQA Guidelines Section 15062) has determined that preparation of an EIR (per CEQA Guidelines 15161) is necessary for the proposed project identified below. Agencies on the attached mailing list may need to use the EIR prepared by the Department when considering their permit or other approvals for the proposed project.

PROJECT TITLE: Golden Valley Technology Hub Project by California Resources Corporation (CRC) (PP27401) (PLN26-00123); ZCC No. 20, Map 139; CUP No. 7, Map 119; CUP No. 18, Map 139; CUP No. 19, Map 139; ZV No. 6, Map 139; TPM No. 12691.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The NOP for the above referenced project is available for public review at the Planning and Natural Resources Department, which is located at the address listed above or it can be accessed on the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department website at: **https://kernplanning.com/planning/notices-of-preparation**

AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENT: The Planning and Natural Resources Department solicits the comments of agencies, interested parties, and surrounding property owners as to the scope and content of the environmental information for the proposed project and the upcoming EIR. Any comments should be submitted to the planner whose contact information is identified above prior to the close of the NOP public review period. As mandated by State law, the NOP public review period for the proposed project is 30 days.

November 4, 2026 – December 4, 2026

SCOPING MEETING: A scoping meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.** at the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department, which is located at the address listed above for an overview of the CEQA process as well as the proposed project, and to receive comments for the preparation of the EIR.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed data center is on an approximate 82-acre portion of an approximate 656-acre parcel (APN: 298-170-01), which is privately owned by the project proponent and has been previously disturbed and historically used for oil field-related activities. It is located within the existing Elk Hills Oil Field (EHOF) approximately 5 miles north of the City of Taft and adjacent to the unincorporated community of Valley Acres in western Kern County. Access to the site is provided locally by Elk Hills Road and regionally by way of Highway 119 and Highway 33.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed Golden Valley Technology Hub Project (proposed project) would involve the construction and operation of a 395,500 square-foot, 275-megawatt (MW) data center at the EHOF in Kern County,

California. The proposed project would include development of a data center and associated infrastructure on an approximately 82-acre site that is currently used as an oil field service and contractor storage yard. The existing 550-MW Elk Hills Power Plant (EHPP) would be the primary source of electricity for the data center and in the case of an outage, backup power would be supplied through an existing interconnection with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E). Additionally, an approximately 180-MW battery energy storage system would be installed at the data center site to balance electrical loads. A redundant emergency backup generation system consisting of fifteen (15) 2.5-MW diesel generators would also be located at the data center site to provide power to critical IT systems during the unlikely event of outages of both the EHPP and PG&E grid. In addition to the data center site, the proposed project includes construction of ancillary infrastructure to support the data center's operation including electrical transmission lines, water pipelines, and fiber optic lines. Except for the fiber optic lines and a new potable water line, the entirety of the proposed project would be contained within the EHOF.

Implementation of the proposed project includes the following discretionary approvals from Kern County:

a. A change in zone classification from NR (40) (Natural Resources – 40 Acres) to A (Exclusive Agriculture), or a more restrictive district on approximately 82 acres (ZCC No. 20, Map 139).

b. A conditional use permit for a temporary construction laydown area on approximately 5.56 acres in the A (Exclusive Agriculture) District (Section 19.12.030.K) (CUP No. 7, Map 119).

c. A conditional use permit for the construction and operation of a 395,500-square-foot, 275-MW data center server with 54,250-square-foot administrative office building and associated infrastructure on approximately 82 acres in the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zoning District (Sections 19.08.085, 19.12.020.D, 19.12.020.F, 19.12.030.K). Associated infrastructure would include two (2) approximate 141,250 square-foot outdoor, electrical yards (282,500 square feet for both), a new substation, a battery energy storage system, mechanical yard with onsite closed-loop water cooling system, and fifteen (15) accessory emergency backup generators. Offsite infrastructure would include transmission lines, fiber-optic lines and a new water pipeline (CUP No. 18, Map 139).

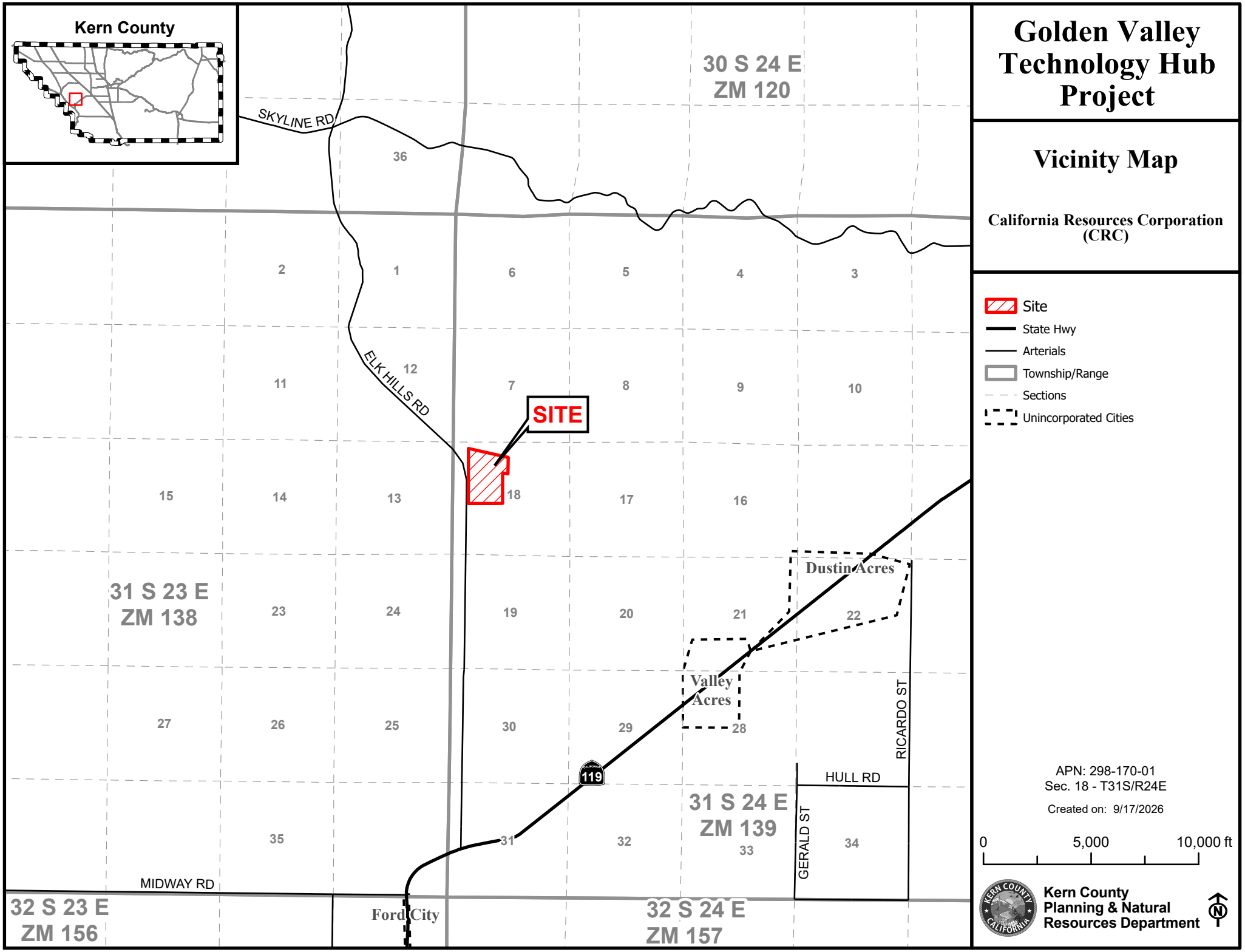
d. A conditional use permit for a temporary construction laydown area on approximately 8.90 acres in the A-1 (Limited Agriculture) District (Section 19.08.085) (CUP No. 19, Map 139).

e. A zone variance to allow for a reduction in the required number of parking spaces from 217 to 137 (Section 19.106.040) (ZV No. 6, Map 139)

f. Tentative Parcel Map No. 12691 proposing the division of an approximate 667.71 acre (gross) parcel into an 82.00-acre (gross) parcel and a 585.71-acre (gross) Designated Remainder that includes the 11.57 acre Elk Hills Road R/W, to allow Development Variations to the Land Division Ordinance to authorize 30-foot-wide off-site private access easement where 40-foot-wide public access easements are required (Sections 18.55.030.A.5.f & i, and 18.55.050. B.1.c). Portion of Section 18, Township 31 South, Range 24 East, M.D.B&M.

Signature:  Date: 11/04/2026

Lead Agency Contact: Mark Tolentino Title: Planner III



Golden Valley Technology Hub Project

Vicinity Map

California Resources Corporation (CRC)

- Site
- State Hwy
- Arterials
- Township/Range
- Sections
- Unincorporated Cities

APN: 298-170-01
Sec. 18 - T31S/R24E

Created on: 9/17/2026

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Kern County Planning & Natural Resources Department

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Golden Valley Tech Hub (PP27401)
Notification List (10/19/26)

298 030 04 00 2
CALIFORNIA RESOURCES ELK HILLS LLC
27200 TOURNEY RD STE 315
SANTA CLARITA CA 91355

298 170 02 00 7
CALIFORNIA RESOURCES ELK HILLS LLC
9600 MING AV
BAKERSFIELD CA 93311

298 010 09 00 1
CALIFORNIA RESOURCES ELK HILLS LLC
27200 TOURNEY RD STE 200
SANTA CLARITA CA 91355-4910

City of Arvin
P.O. Box 548
Arvin, CA 93203

Bakersfield City Planning Dept
1715 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Bakersfield City Public Works Dept
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

California City Planning Dept
21000 Hacienda Blvd.
California City, CA 93515

Delano City Planning Dept
P.O. Box 3010
Delano, CA 93216

City of Maricopa
P.O. Box 548
Maricopa, CA 93252

City of McFarland
401 West Kern Avenue
McFarland, CA 93250

City of Ridgecrest
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

City of Shafter
336 Pacific Avenue
Shafter, CA 93263

City of Taft
Planning & Building
209 East Kern Street
Taft, CA 93268

City of Tehachapi
Attn: John Schlosser
115 South Robinson Street
Tehachapi, CA 93561-1722

City of Wasco
764 E Street
Wasco, CA 93280

Inyo County Planning Dept
P.O. Drawer "L"
Independence, CA 93526

Kings County Planning Agency
1400 West Lacey Blvd, Bldg. 6
Hanford, CA 93230

Los Angeles Co Reg Planning Dept
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

San Bernardino Co Planning Dept
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

San Luis Obispo Co Planning Dept
Planning and Building
976 Osos Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

County of Santa Barbara
Planning and Community Development

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Tulare County Planning & Dev Dept
5961 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93291

Ventura County RMA Planning Div
800 South Victoria Avenue, L1740
Ventura, CA 93009-1740

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Caliente/Bakersfield
35126 McMurtrey Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Division of Ecological Services
2800 Cottage Way #W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

North West Kern Resource Cons Dist.
5080 California Avenue, Suite 150
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX Office
75 Hawthorn Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 997
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

U.S. Postal Service
Address Management Systems
28201 Franklin Parkway
Santa Clarita, CA 91383-9321

State Air Resources Board
Stationary Resource Division
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
1400 - 10th Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95814

Office of the State Geologist
Headquarters
715 "P" Street, MS 1901
Sacramento, CA 95814

California State University
Bakersfield - Library
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93309

State Dept of Food & Agriculture
1220 "N" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Integrated Waste Management
P.O. Box 4025, MS #15
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025

California Regional Water Quality
Control Board/Central Valley Region
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706-2020

DTSC
HWMP – Permitting – CEQA Unit
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Center for Biological Diversity
2100 Franklin St, Suite 375
Oakland, CA 94612

Earthworks
1958 University Ave
Berkley CA, 94704

So. San Joaquin Valley Arch Info Ctr
California State University of Bkfd
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93311

State Dept of Conservation
Director's Office
715 "P" Street, MS 1900
Sacramento, CA 95814

State Dept of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
715 "P" Street, MS 1904
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Energy Commission
James W. Reed, Jr.
1516 Ninth Street
Mail Stop 17
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Highway Patrol
Planning & Analysis Division
P.O. Box 942898
Sacramento, CA 94298-0001

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Drinking Water
Attn: Jesse Dhaliwal, Sr. Sanitary Eng
4925 Commerce Drive, Suite 120
Bakersfield, CA 93309

State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Ste 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

State Dept of Water Resources
San Joaquin Dist.
4201 S Sabodan St
Bakersfield, CA 93313

LIUNA
6800 District Boulevard
Bakersfield CA 93313

Leadership Counsel for Justice &
Accountability
Attn: Emma De La Rosa
1522 18th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Caltrans/Dist. 6
Planning/Land Bank Bldg.
P.O. Box 12616
Fresno, CA 93778

State Dept of Conservation
Geologic Energy Management Division
11000 River Run Boulevard
Bakersfield, CA 93311

State Dept of Conservation
Dept. of Resources, Recycling, &
Recovery
P.O. Box 4025
Sacramento, CA 95812

California Fish & Wildlife
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710

State Office of Historical Pres
Attention Susan Stratton
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 95296-0001

Public Utilities Comm Energy Div
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

State Dept of Toxic Substance Control
Environmental Protection Agency
1515 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93612

Adam Lazar
Center for Biological Diversity
351 California Street, #600
San Francisco, CA 94104

Lozeau Drury LLP
1939 Harrison Street, Suite 150
Oakland, CA 94612

Kevin Johnston
2476 Buena Vista Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

Robert Burgett
9261 - 60th Street, West
Mojave, CA 93501

Lozeau Drury LLP
1939 Harrison Street, Suite 150
Oakland, CA 94612

PG&E Company Electric Generation
Interconnection (EGI) Department
P.O. Box 770000
Mail Code N9H
San Francisco, CA 94177

Wayne Mayes
Iberdrola Renewables
1125 NW Couch St, Ste 700, 7th Fl
Portland, OR 97209

Michael Strickler
Iberdrola Renewables
1125 NW Couch St, Ste 700, 7th Fl
Portland, OR 97209

Recurrent Energy
Attn: Seth Israel
300 California Street, 8th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94101-1407

Kate Kelly
Kelly Group
P.O. Box 868
Winters, CA 95694

Carol Lawhon
Tehachapi Area Assoc of Realtors
803 Tucker Road
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Crimson Resource Management
Attn: Kristine Boyer
5001 California Avenue, Suite 206
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Taft Union High School Dist.
701 - 7th Street
Taft, CA 93268

Taft City School Dist.
820 North 6th Street
Taft, CA 93268

Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Attention School District Facility Services
1300 - 17th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

KernCOG
1401 19th Street - Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Local Agency Formation Comm/LAFCO
5300 Lennox Avenue, Suite 303
Bakersfield, CA 93309

West Kern Water Dist.
P.O. Box 1105
Taft, CA 93268-1105

Kern County Water Agency
3200 Rio Mirada Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93308

West Side Rec & Parks Dist.
500 Cascade Place, Building C
Taft, CA 93268

San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution Control District
1990 East Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726

West Side Mosquito
Abatement Dist.
P.O. Box 205
Taft, CA 93268

Adams, Broadwell, Joseph & Cardozo
Attention: Rachel Levine
601 Gateway Boulevard, Suite 1000
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Kern Audubon Society
Attn: Frank Bedard, Chairman
7612 Angela Ave
Bakersfield CA 93308

Los Angeles Audubon
926 Citrus Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036-4929

Center on Race, Poverty, & the
Environnent
5901 Christie Avenue, Suit 208
Emeryville, CA 94608

Center on Race, Poverty, & the
Environment
CA Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
1012 Jefferson Street
Delano, CA 93215

Defenders of Wildlife
P.O. Box 401
Folsom, CA 95763

Native American Heritage Council
of Kern County
Attn: Gene Albitre
18169 Highway 155
Woody, CA 93287

Joyce LoBasso
P.O. Box 6003
Bakersfield, CA 93386

Pacific Gas & Electric Co
Land Projects
650 "O" Street, First Floor
Fresno, CA 93760-0001

Sierra Club/Kern Kaweah Chapter
P.O. Box 3357
Bakersfield, CA 93385

Southern California Gas Co
35118 McMurtrey Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308-9477

Southern California Gas Co
Transportation Dept
P.O. Box 513249
Los Angeles, CA 90051

Verizon California, Inc.
Attn: Engineering Department
520 South China Lake Boulevard
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Bill Barnes
Dir of Asset Mgmt.
AES Midwest Wind Gen
P.O. Box 2190
Palm Springs, CA 92263-2190

Sarah K. Friedman
Beyond Coal Campaign/Sierra Club
1417 Calumet Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90026

Structure Cast
Larry Turpin, Precast Sales Manager
8261 McCutchen Road
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Wind Stream, LLC
Albert Davies
1275 - 4th Street, No. 107
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Kern County Museum
3801 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Terra-Gen Power, LLC
Randy Hoyle
11512 El Camino Real, Suite 370
San Diego, CA 92130-3025

Renewal Resources Group
Holding Company
Rupal Patel
113 South La Brea Avenue, 3rd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Darren Kelly
Sr. Business Manager
Terra-Gen Power, LLC
1095 Ave of the Americas – FL 25, Ste A
New York, NY 10036-6797

David Walsh
22941 Banducci Road
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Congentrix Sunshine, LLC
Rick Neff
9405 Arrowpoint Blvd
Charlotte, NC 28273

Fotowatio Renewable Ventures
Sean Kiernan
44 Montgomery Street, Suite 2200
San Francisco, CA 94104

EDP Renewables Company
North America, LLC
53 SW Yamhill Street
Portland, OR 97204

David Laughing Horse Robinson
P.O. Box 20849
Bakersfield, CA 93390

Kern Valley Indian Council
Attn: Robert Robinson, Chairperson
P.O. Box 401
Weldon, CA 93283

Kern Valley Indian Council
Historic Preservation Office
P.O. Box 401
Weldon, CA 93283

Tejon Indian Tribe
Attn: Curtis Alcantar
4941 David Road
Bakersfield CA 93307

Morongo Band of Mission Indians
12700 Pumarra Rd
Banning CA 92220

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
Attn: Darrell Mike
46-200 Harrison Place
Coachella, CA 92236

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Attn: Michael Mirelez
P.O. Box 1160
Thermal, CA 92274

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
Attn: Anthony Madrigal Jr.
46-200 Harrison Place
Coachella, CA 92236

Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation
Attn: Alexandra McCleary
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, CA 92346

Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Attn: Aurelia R. Torres
12700 Pumarra Road
Banning, CA 92220

Precision Engineering
Attn: Luke Risner
1234 O Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Center for Biological Diversity
Attn: Ann K Brown
P.O. Box 11374
Portland, OR 97211-0374

Earthjustice
Attn: Andria So
707 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 4300
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Texas Capital
Attn: Alex Simonson
2000 McKinley Ave
Dallas, TX 75201

Data Center Knowledge
Attn: Shane Snider
5018 Jeylnn Street
Raleigh, NC 27616

RBC Capital Markets
Attn: Scott Hanold
250 Nicollett Mall, Suite 12
Minneapolis, MN 55401

~~298 030 11 00 2~~
~~U S A~~
~~*~~
~~*~~

~~Sempra Generation~~
~~Marilyn Burke~~
~~101 Ash Street HQ 14A~~
~~San Diego, CA 92101~~

~~Pacific Gas & Electric Co~~
~~Matt Coleman, Land Mgt~~
~~1918 "H" Street~~
~~Bakersfield, CA 93301 4319~~

~~T.T. Case~~
~~P.O. Box 2416~~
~~Tehachapi, CA 93581~~

~~Marcus V. da Cunha~~
~~Vice President of Development~~
~~EcoPlexus, Inc.~~
~~650 Townsend Street, Suite 310~~
~~San Francisco, CA 94103~~

Kern County Public Works Department
Operations & Maintenance
Regulatory Monitoring & Reporting

Kern County Public Works Department
Building & Development
Development Review

Kern County Public Works Department
Building & Development
Code Compliance

Kern County Public Works Department
Building & Development
Floodplain

Kern County Public Works Department
Building & Development
Survey

Kern County
Env Health Services Department

Kern County Library/Beale
Local History Room

Kern County Library/Beale
Andie Sullivan

Kern County Fire Dept (FIRE BOX)
Regina Arriaga
Roxanne Routh
Jim Killam

Kern County Fire Dept
Aaron Duncan

County Clerk

Kern County Airports Department

Kern County Administrative Officer

Kern County
Agriculture Department

Kern County Sheriff's Dept
Administration

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Golden Valley Technology Hub Project by California Resources Corporation (CRC)

Lead Agency: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department | Contact Person: Mark Tolentino, Planner III

Mailing Address: 2700 M Street, Suite 100 | Phone: 661-862-5041

City: Bakersfield | Zip: 93301 | County: Kern County

Project Location: County: Kern | City/Nearest Community: Taft, Unincorporated Areas, Valley Acres, Dustin Acres

Cross Streets: Elk Hills Road | Zip Code: 93268

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 35 ° 14 ′ 3.855 ″ N / 119 ° 26 ′ 33.21 ″ W Total Acres: 82

Assessor's Parcel No.: 298-170-01 | Section: 18 | Twp.: 31S | Range: 24E | Base: MDB&M

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: HWY 119 | Waterways: N/A

Airports: N/A | Railways: N/A | Schools: N/A

Document Type:

CEQA: ☒ NOP ☐ Draft EIR | NEPA: ☐ NOI | Other: ☐ Joint Document
☐ Early Cons ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR | ☐ EA | ☐ Final Document
☐ Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____ | ☐ Draft EIS | ☐ Other: _____
☐ Mit Neg Dec Other: _____ | ☐ FONSI

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ Specific Plan ☒ Rezone ☐ Annexation
☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ Master Plan ☐ Prezone ☐ Redevelopment
☐ General Plan Element ☐ Planned Unit Development ☒ Use Permit ☐ Coastal Permit
☐ Community Plan ☒ Site Plan ☒ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) ☒ Other: Zone Variance

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
☒ Office: Sq.ft. 54,250 Acres 1.25 Employees 300
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☒ Industrial: Sq.ft. 395,500 Acres 9.07 Employees 300
☐ Educational: _____
☐ Recreational: _____
☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____

☐ Transportation: Type _____
☐ Mining: Mineral _____
☒ Power: Type Battery Energy Storage System MW 125
☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☒ Other: Data Center

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☒ Aesthetic/Visual ☒ Fiscal ☒ Recreation/Parks ☒ Vegetation
☒ Agricultural Land ☒ Flood Plain/Flooding ☒ Schools/Universities ☒ Water Quality
☒ Air Quality ☒ Forest Land/Fire Hazard ☒ Septic Systems ☒ Water Supply/Groundwater
☒ Archeological/Historical ☒ Geologic/Seismic ☐ Sewer Capacity ☒ Wetland/Riparian
☒ Biological Resources ☒ Minerals ☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☒ Growth Inducement
☐ Coastal Zone ☒ Noise ☒ Solid Waste ☒ Land Use
☒ Drainage/Absorption ☒ Population/Housing Balance ☒ Toxic/Hazardous ☒ Cumulative Effects
☒ Economic/Jobs ☒ Public Services/Facilities ☒ Traffic/Circulation ☒ Other: GHG, Wildfire, Energy, Tribal

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Oil and Gas Operations / NR (40) Natural Resources - 40 Acres and A-1 (Limited Agriculture) / 8.4 Mineral and Petroleum (Minimum 5-Acre Parcel Size)

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

The proposed project Golden Valley Technology Hub Project would involve the construction and operation of a 395,500 square-foot, 275-megawatt (MW) data center at the Elk Hills Oil Field (EHOF) in Kern County, California. The proposed Project would include development of data center building and associated infrastructure on an approximately 82-acre site that is currently used as an oil field service and contractor storage yard. The existing 550-MW Elk Hills Power Plant (EHPP) would be the primary source of electricity for the data center and in the case of an outage, backup power would be supplied through an existing interconnection with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E). Additionally, an approximately 180-MW battery energy storage system would be installed at the data center site to balance electrical loads. A redundant emergency backup generation system consisting of fifteen (15) 2.5-MW diesel generators would also be located at the data center site to provide power to critical IT systems during the unlikely event of outages of both the EHPP and PG&E grid. In addition to the data center site, the proposed project includes construction of ancillary infrastructure to support the data center's operation including electrical transmission lines, water pipelines, and fiber optic lines. Except for the fiber optic lines, the entirety of the project would be contained within the EHOF. The proposed project includes land-use entitlement requests for a Zone Classification Change, Conditional Use Permits, a Zone Variance, and a Tentative Parcel Map from the Kern County Planning & Natural Resources Department.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "**X**".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "**S**".

X	Air Resources Board		Office of Historic Preservation
	Boating & Waterways, Department of		Office of Public School Construction
	California Emergency Management Agency		Parks & Recreation, Department of
X	California Highway Patrol		Pesticide Regulation, Department of
X	Caltrans District # 6	X	Public Utilities Commission
	Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	X	Regional WQCB # 5
X	Caltrans Planning		Resources Agency
	Central Valley Flood Protection Board		Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
	Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy		S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
	Coastal Commission		San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
	Colorado River Board		San Joaquin River Conservancy
X	Conservation, Department of		Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
	Corrections, Department of		State Lands Commission
	Delta Protection Commission		SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
	Education, Department of	X	SWRCB: Water Quality
X	Energy Commission		SWRCB: Water Rights
X	Fish & Game Region # Fresno		Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
	Food & Agriculture, Department of	X	Toxic Substances Control, Department of
	Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	X	Water Resources, Department of
	General Services, Department of		
	Health Services, Department of		Other:
	Housing & Community Development		Other:
X	Native American Heritage Commission		

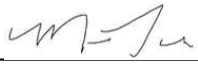
Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 11/04/2026 Ending Date 12/04/2026

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm:
Address:
City/State/Zip:
Contact:
Phone:

Applicant: California Resources Corporation (CRC) Attn: Eric Miner
Address: 1 World Trade Center Way, Suite 1500
City/State/Zip: Long Beach CA 90831
Phone: (661) 763-6107

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  **Date:** 11/04/2026

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Golden Valley Technology Hub Project
by California Resources Corporation (CRC)

Zone Classification Change No. 20, Map 139
Conditional Use Permit No. 7, Map 119
Conditional Use Permit No. 18, Map 139
Conditional Use Permit No. 19, Map 139
Zone Variance No. 6, Map 139
Tentative Parcel Map No. 12691

PLN26-00123
(PP27401)

LEAD AGENCY:

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November 2026

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1. Introduction

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department (County) will initiate the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Golden Valley Technology Hub Project by California Resource Corporation (CRC) in the unincorporated area of southwest Kern County, California.

1.1. Project Proposal

The Golden Valley Technology Hub Project (proposed project) is a proposal by California Resources Corporation (CRC) construction and operation construction and operation of a 275-megawatt (MW) data center at the Elk Hills Oil Field (EHOF) in Kern County, California. The proposed Project would include development of a data center and associated infrastructure on an approximately 82-acre site that is currently used as an oil field service and contractor storage yard. The existing 550 MW Elk Hills Power Plant (EHPP) would be the primary source of electricity for the data center; in the case of an outage, backup power would be supplied through an existing interconnection with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E). Additionally, an approximately 125 MW / 180 MW hour Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) would be installed at the data center site to balance electrical loads. A redundant emergency backup generation system consisting of fifteen 2.5 MW diesel generators would also be located at the data center site to provide power to critical IT systems during the unlikely event of outages of both the EHPP and PG&E grid. In addition to construction of the data center, the proposed Project includes construction of ancillary infrastructure to support the data center's operation including electrical transmission lines, water pipelines, and fiber-optic lines. The proposed facility would provide processing capacity for providers of cloud services and artificial intelligence (AI) services. At this time, no specific end user has been identified for the proposed data center.

The proposed project would include supporting infrastructure for the proposed data center, including approximately 4.9 miles of a new 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to deliver power to the data center from CRC's existing 550 MW EHPP, a new BESS, emergency backup diesel generators, new fiber-optic lines to connect the data center to the regional fiber-optic network, and a new water pipeline to deliver potable water (water safe for consumption) to the site. The proposed data center will use a closed-loop cooling system of water-cooled chillers paired with dry cooling towers (dry coolers); water supplied for the cooling system (e.g., when the system is initially filled prior to commencement of operation) will be trucked to the site from an offsite vendor.

The proposed project is described in further detail below in **Section 1.7**, *Project Characteristics*.

1.2. Project Objectives

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15124(b) requires that a project includes a clearly written statement of the objectives sought by the project proponent. The statement of objectives should include the underlying purpose of the proposed project and may discuss the benefits. The following are the proposed project's objectives:

- Develop high-capacity digital infrastructure to support artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and data processing services to sustain California's continued leadership in the digital economy.

- Secure a firm, reliable, and dispatchable power supply sufficient to serve an approximately 275-MW load without placing new demand on the constrained regional transmission grid, by making efficient use of existing energy and electrical infrastructure.
- Promote efficient land use by locating development in areas compatible with industrial land uses and proximate to existing, electrical infrastructure.
- Minimize environmental impacts to the extent feasible while achieving the Project's primary purpose, including optimizing energy and water efficiency; and, where practicable, using previously disturbed areas, existing infrastructure, and established right-of-way (ROW).
- Uplift Kern County communities by attracting substantial new investment to the region while creating new high-paying jobs and developing the local workforce.

Maps and Figures

Figure 1 Vicinity Map

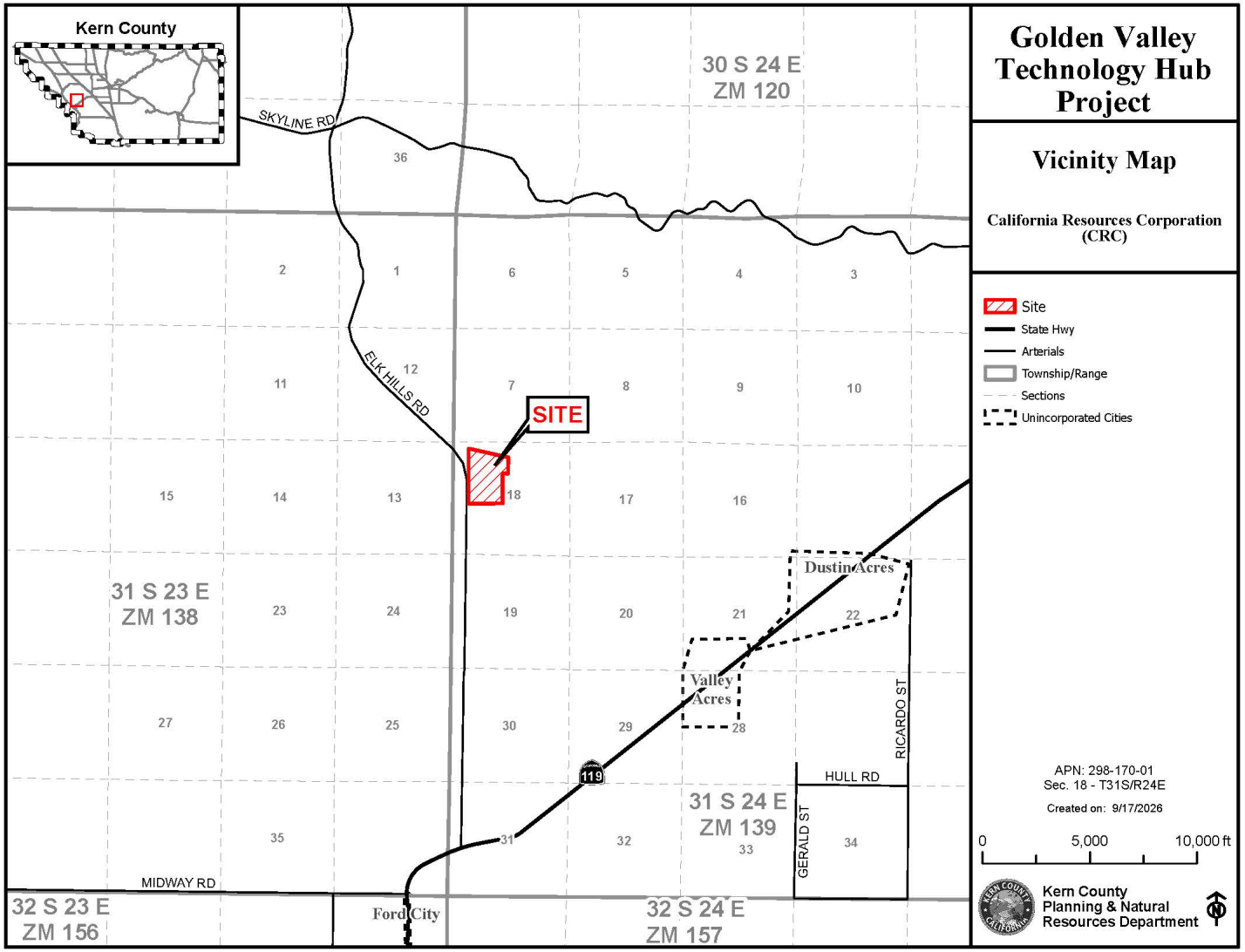


Figure 2 Existing General Plan Map

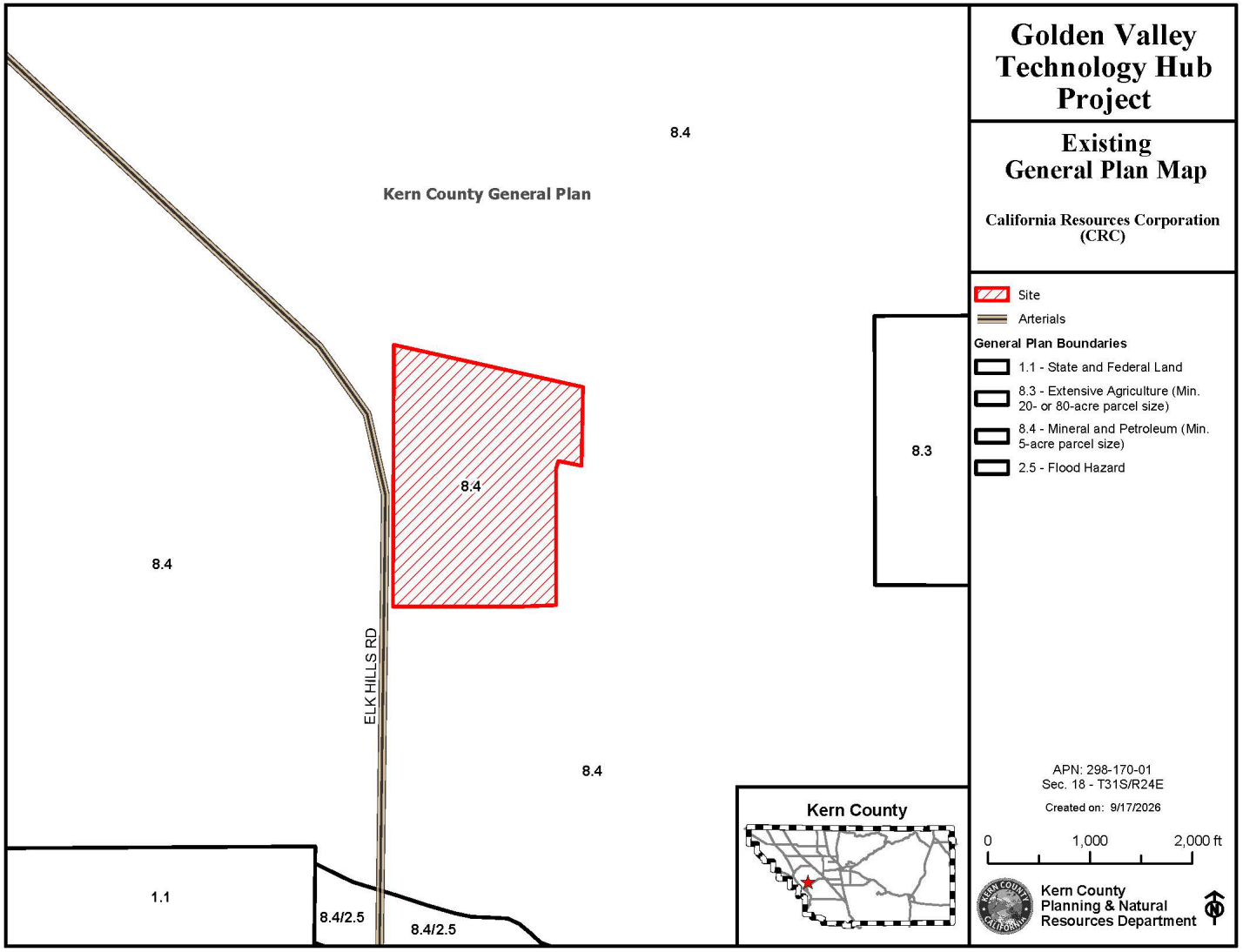


Figure 3 Existing Zone Classifications

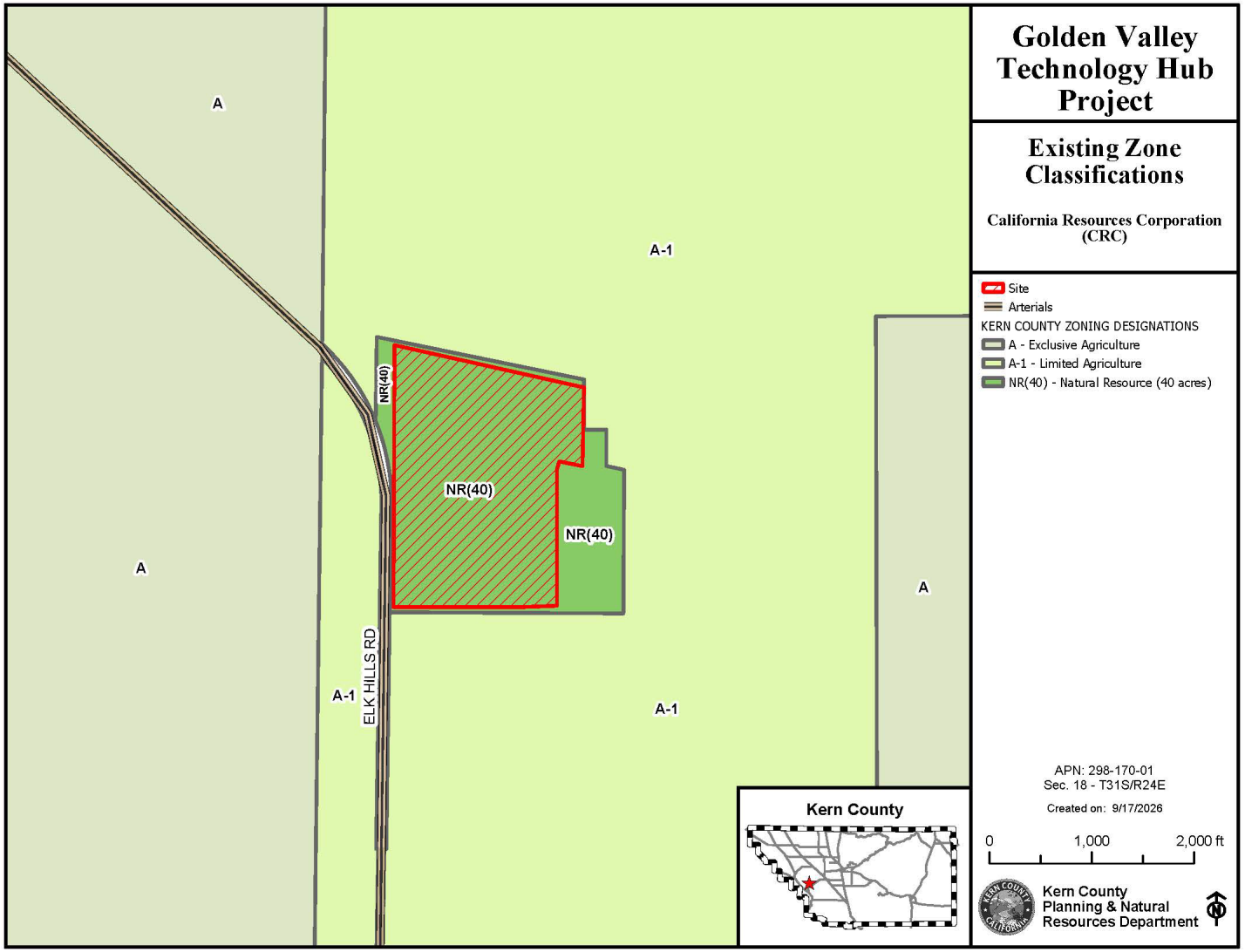


Figure 4 Proposed Zone Classifications

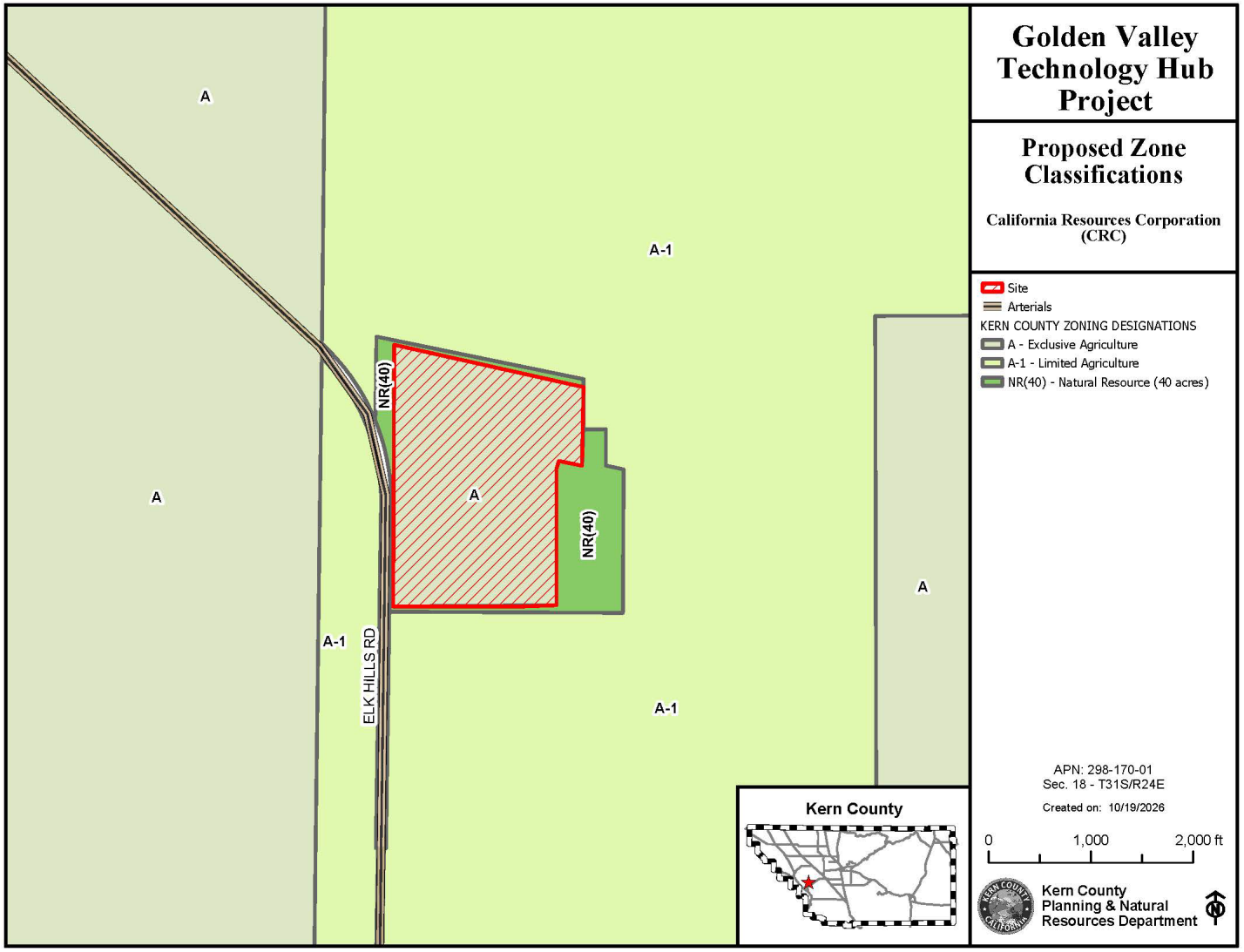


Figure 5 Aerial Map

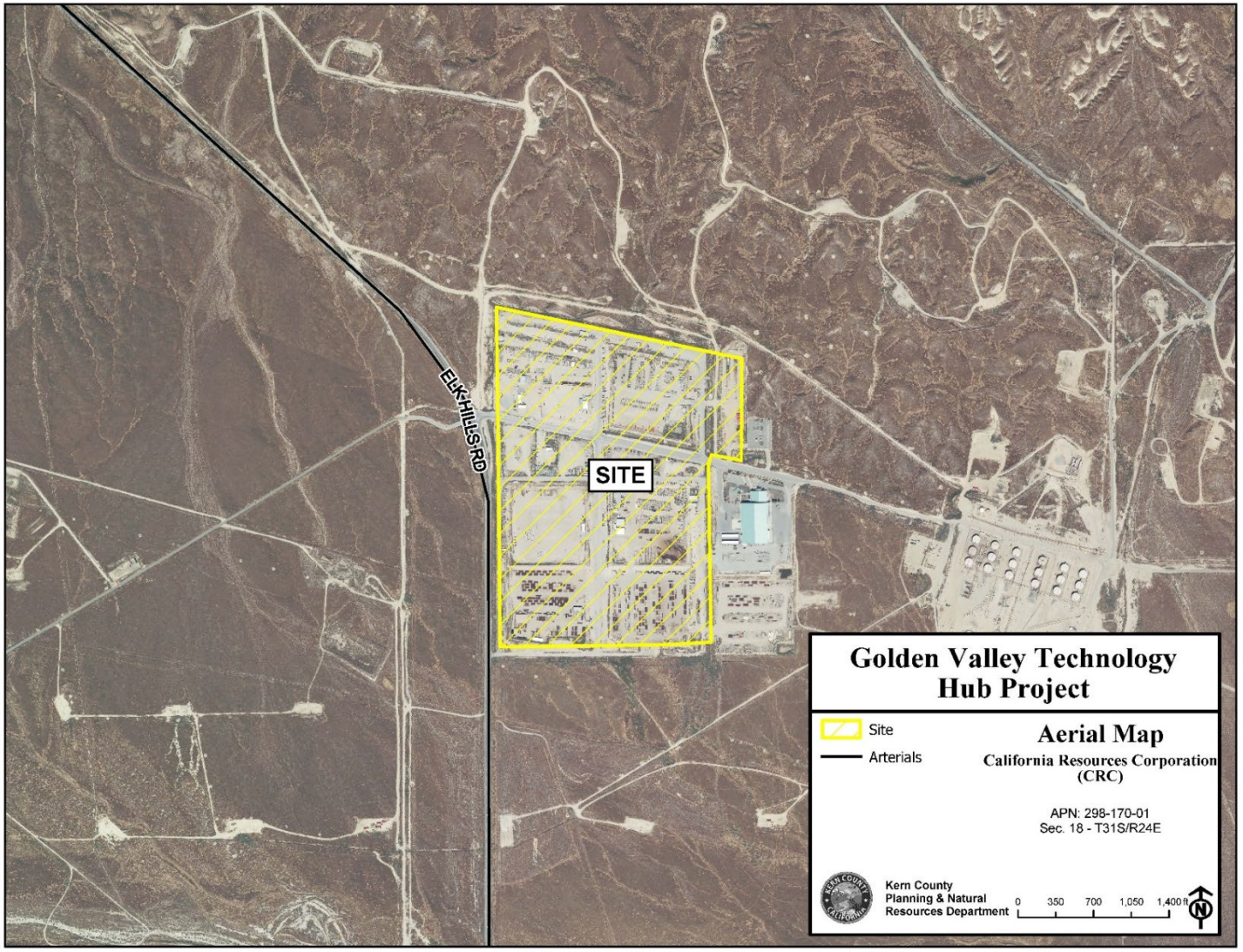


Figure 6 Assessor's Parcelization Map

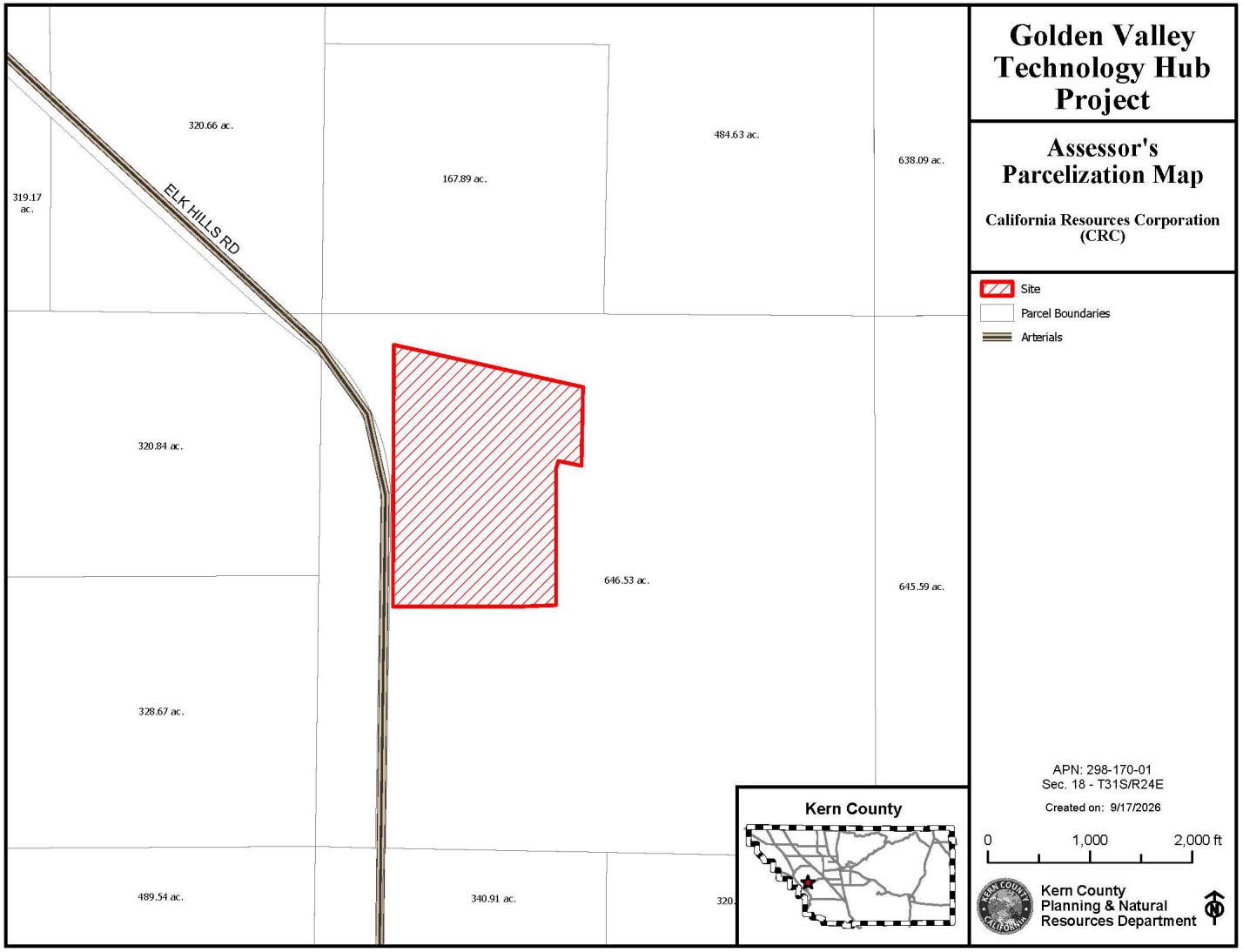


Figure 7 Tentative Parcel Map

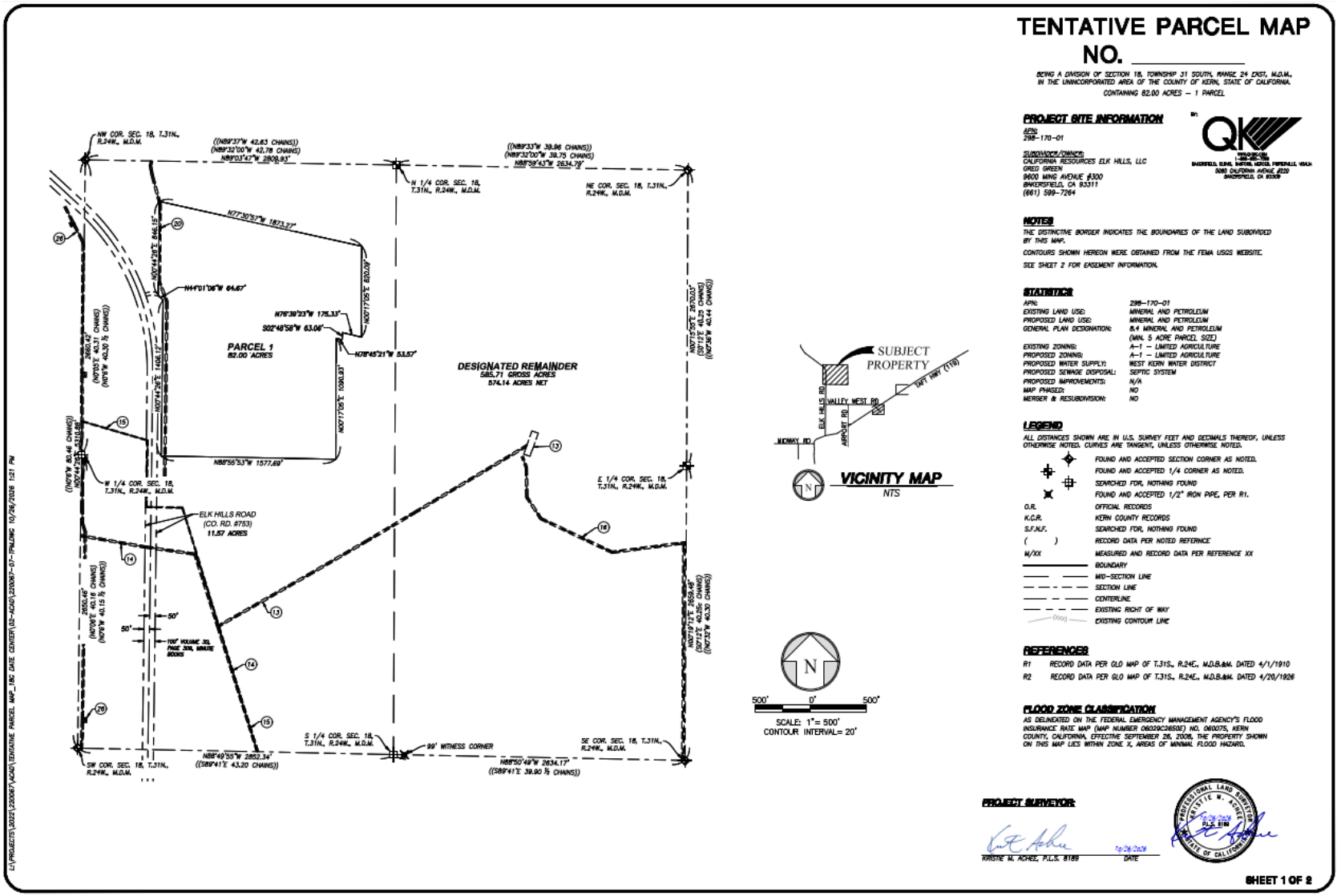


Figure 8 Proposed Data Center Site Existing Conditions

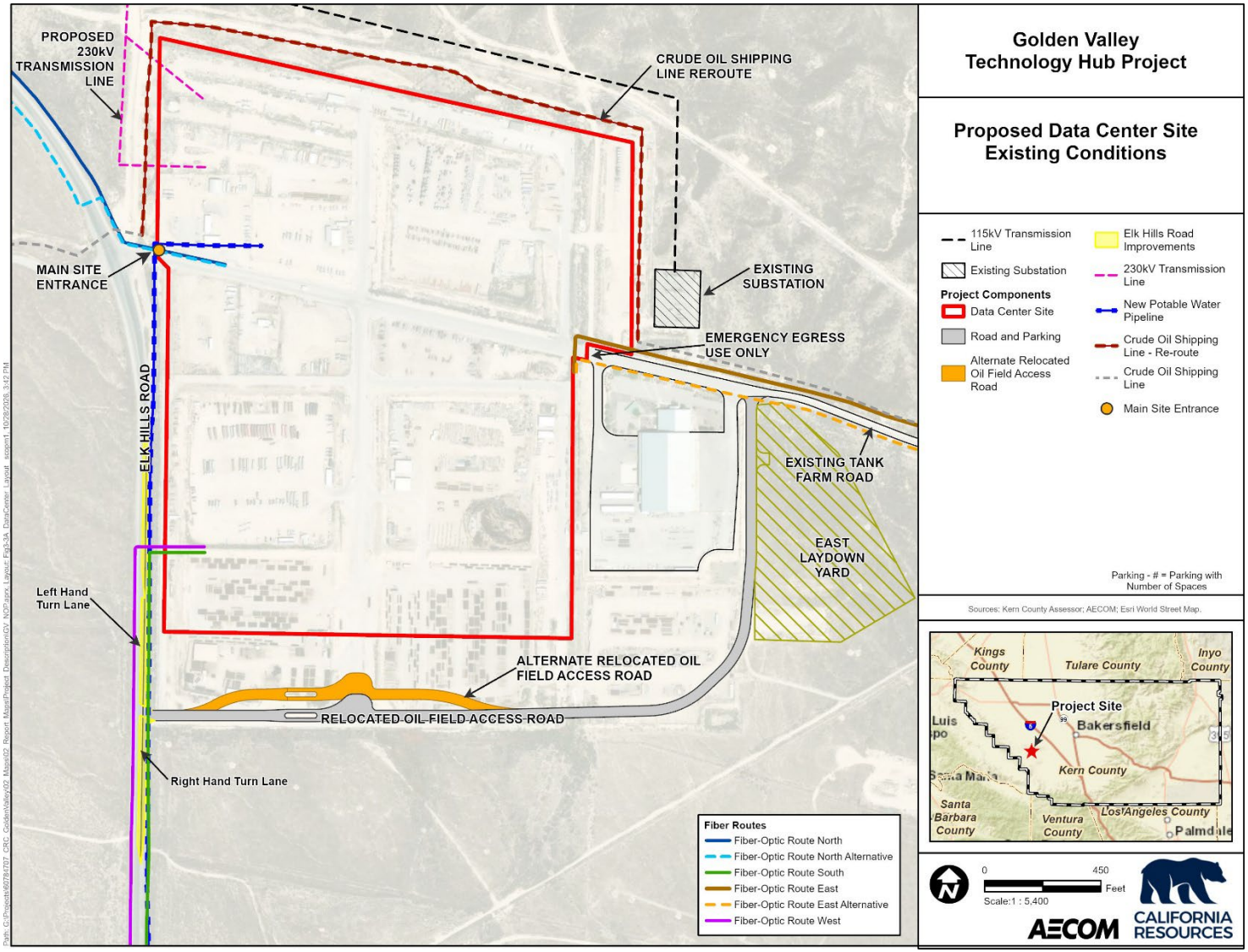


Figure 9 Proposed Data Center Site Layout

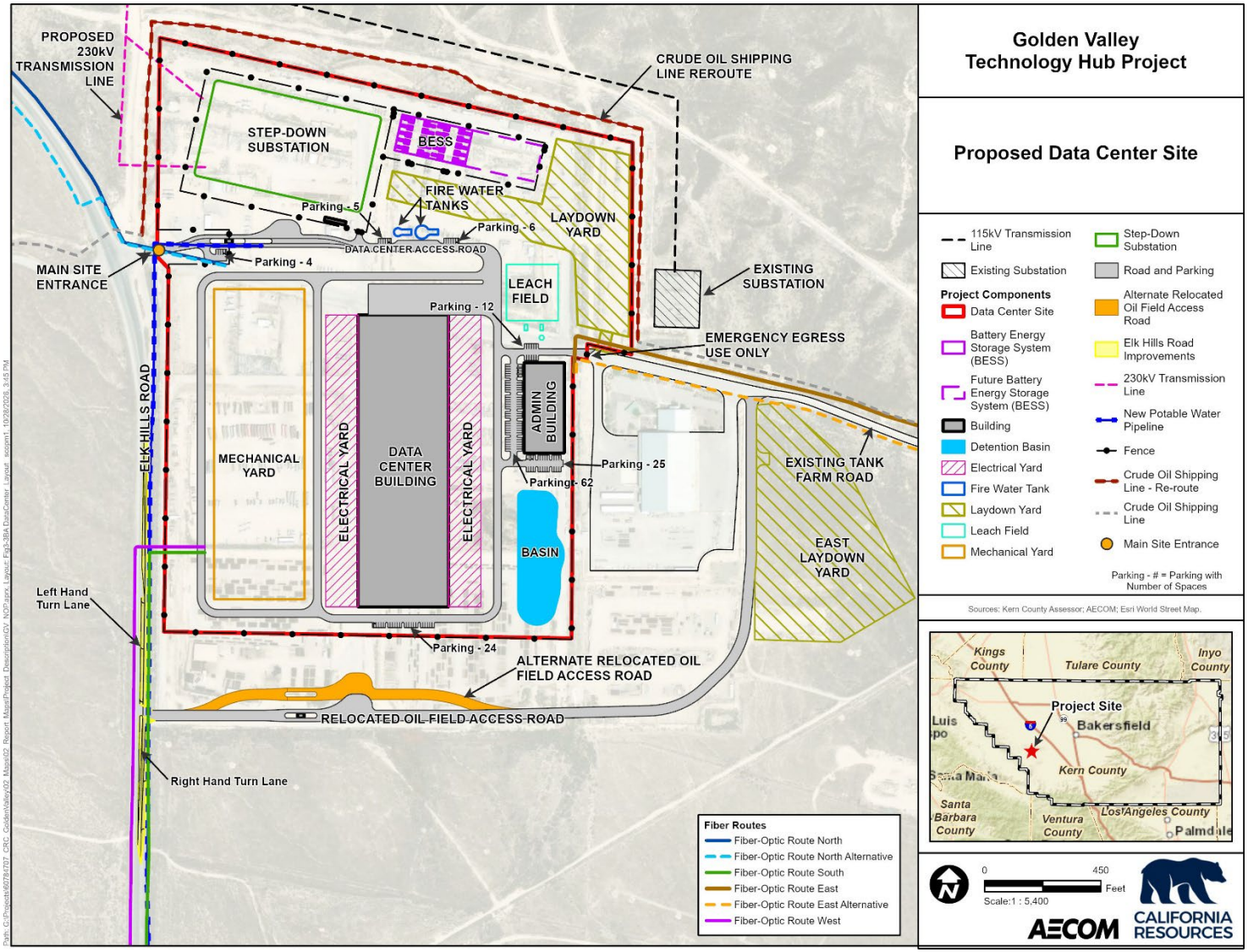
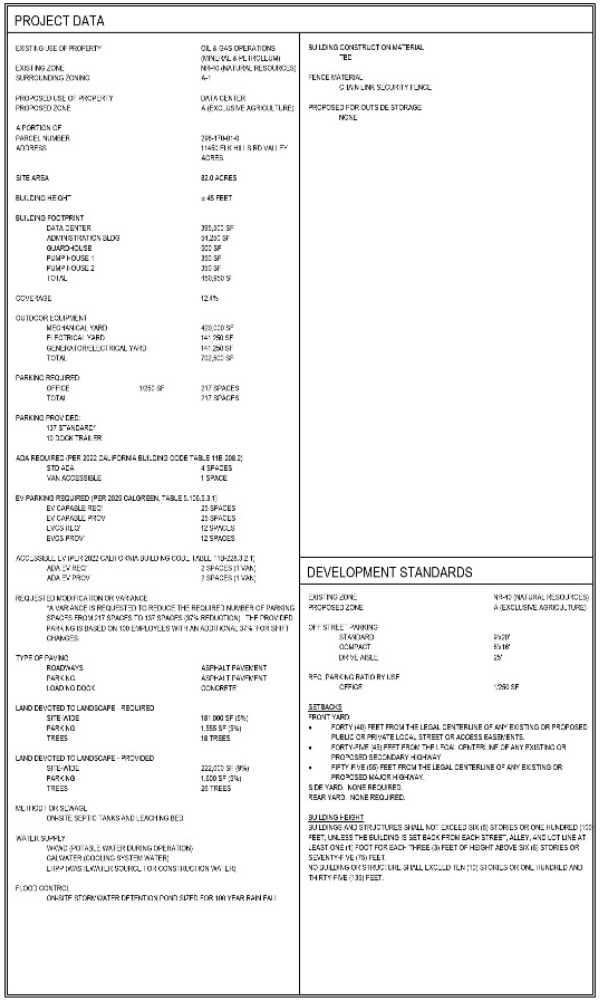


Figure 10 Site Plan



PROJECT DATA

EXISTING USE OF PROPERTY	OIL & GAS OPERATIONS (MINERAL & PETROLEUM)
EXISTING ZONE	NR-40 (NATURAL RESOURCES)
SURROUNDING ZONING	A-1
PROPOSED USE OF PROPERTY	DATA CENTER
PROPOSED ZONE	A (EXCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE)
A PORTION OF PARCEL NUMBER	295-170-07-9
ADDRESS	11450 ELK HILLS RD VALLEY ACRES
SITE AREA	82.0 ACRES
BUILDING HEIGHT	± 45 FEET

BUILDING FOOTPRINT

DATA CENTER	300,000 SF
ADMINISTRATION BLDG	54,200 SF
GUARDHOUSE	300 SF
PUMP HOUSE 1	350 SF
PUMP HOUSE 2	350 SF
TOTAL	150,850 SF
COVERAGE	12.4%

OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

MECHANICAL YARD	420,000 SF
ELECTRICAL YARD	141,250 SF
GENERATOR/ELECTRICAL YARD	141,250 SF
TOTAL	702,500 SF

PARKING REQUIRED

OFFICE	1/250 SF	217 SPACES
TOTAL		217 SPACES

PARKING PROVIDED:
137 STANDARD*
10 DOCK TRAILER

ADA REQUIRED (PER 2022 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE TABLE 11B-208.2)

STD ADA	4 SPACES
VAN ACCESSIBLE	1 SPACE

EV PARKING REQUIRED (PER 2020 CALGREEN, TABLE 5.106.5.3.1)

EV CAPABLE REQ	25 SPACES
EV CAPABLE PROV	25 SPACES
EVCS REQ	12 SPACES
EVCS PROV	12 SPACES

ACCESSIBLE EV (PER 2022 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE, TABLE 11B-228.3.2.1)

ADA EV REQ	2 SPACES (1 VAN)
ADA EV PROV	2 SPACES (1 VAN)

REQUESTED MODIFICATION OR VARIANCE
*A VARIANCE IS REQUESTED TO REDUCE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES FROM 217 SPACES TO 137 SPACES (37% REDUCTION). THE PROVIDED PARKING IS BASED ON 100 EMPLOYEES WITH AN ADDITIONAL 37% FOR SHIFT CHANGES.

TYPE OF PAVING

ROADWAYS	ASPHALT PAVEMENT
PARKING	ASPHALT PAVEMENT
LOADING DOCK	CONCRETE

LAND DEVOTED TO LANDSCAPE - REQUIRED

SITE WIDE	181,000 SF (5%)
PARKING	1,555 SF (5%)
TREES	18 TREES

LAND DEVOTED TO LANDSCAPE - PROVIDED

SITE-WIDE	222,070 SF (6%)
PARKING	1,600 SF (5%)
TREES	20 TREES

MULTIPLE OR SEWAGE
ON-SITE SEPTIC TANKS AND LEACHING BED

WATER SUPPLY
WKCWD POTABLE WATER DURING OPERATION
GROUNDWATER/COOLING SYSTEM WATER
LIMITATIONS TO LIMITED SOURCES FOR CONSTRUCTION WATER

FLOOD CONTROL
ON-SITE STORM WATER DETENTION POND SIZED FOR 100 YEAR RAINFALL

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL
TBD

FENCE MATERIAL
6' CHAIN LINK SECURITY FENCE

PROPOSED FOR OUTSIDE STORAGE
NONE

DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

EXISTING ZONE	NR-40 (NATURAL RESOURCES)
PROPOSED ZONE	A (EXCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE)

OFF STREET PARKING

STANDARD	9'x20'
COMPACT	8'x16'
DRIVE AISLE	25'

REQ. PARKING RATIO BY USE
OFFICE 1/250 SF

SETBACKS
FRONT YARD
- FORTY (40) FEET FROM THE LEGAL CENTERLINE OF ANY EXISTING OR PROPOSED PUBLIC OR PRIVATE LOCAL STREET OR ACCESS EASEMENTS.
- FORTY-FOUR (44) FEET FROM THE LEGAL CENTERLINE OF ANY EXISTING OR PROPOSED SECONDARY HIGHWAY.
- FIFTY-FIVE (55) FEET FROM THE LEGAL CENTERLINE OF ANY EXISTING OR PROPOSED MAJOR HIGHWAY.

SIDE YARD. NONE REQUIRED.
REAR YARD. NONE REQUIRED.

BUILDING HEIGHT
BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES SHALL NOT EXCEED SIX (6) STORIES OR ONE HUNDRED (100) FEET, UNLESS THE BUILDING IS SET BACK FROM EACH STREET, ALLEY, AND LOT LINE AT LEAST ONE (1) FOOT FOR EACH THREE (3) FEET OF HEIGHT ABOVE SIX (6) STORIES OR SEVENTY-FIVE (75) FEET.
NO BUILDING OR STRUCTURE SHALL EXCEED TEN (10) STORIES OR ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE (135) FEET.

BEACON GOLDEN VALLEY TECHNOLOGY HUB PROJECT KERN COUNTY SITE

Development Plan

Project No. 10459461
Kern County, California
October, 2026



HDR ENGINEERING, INC. | CA0443AE
1917 S. 67TH STREET
OMAHA, NE 68106
(402) 399-1000

INDEX OF DRAWINGS

GENERAL
XG0001 COVER SHEET

SITE
XC0101 CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN
XC0102 CONSTRUCTION PLAN

LANDSCAPING
XL0101 CONCEPTUAL SITE LANDSCAPE PLAN

Figure 10B Site Plan

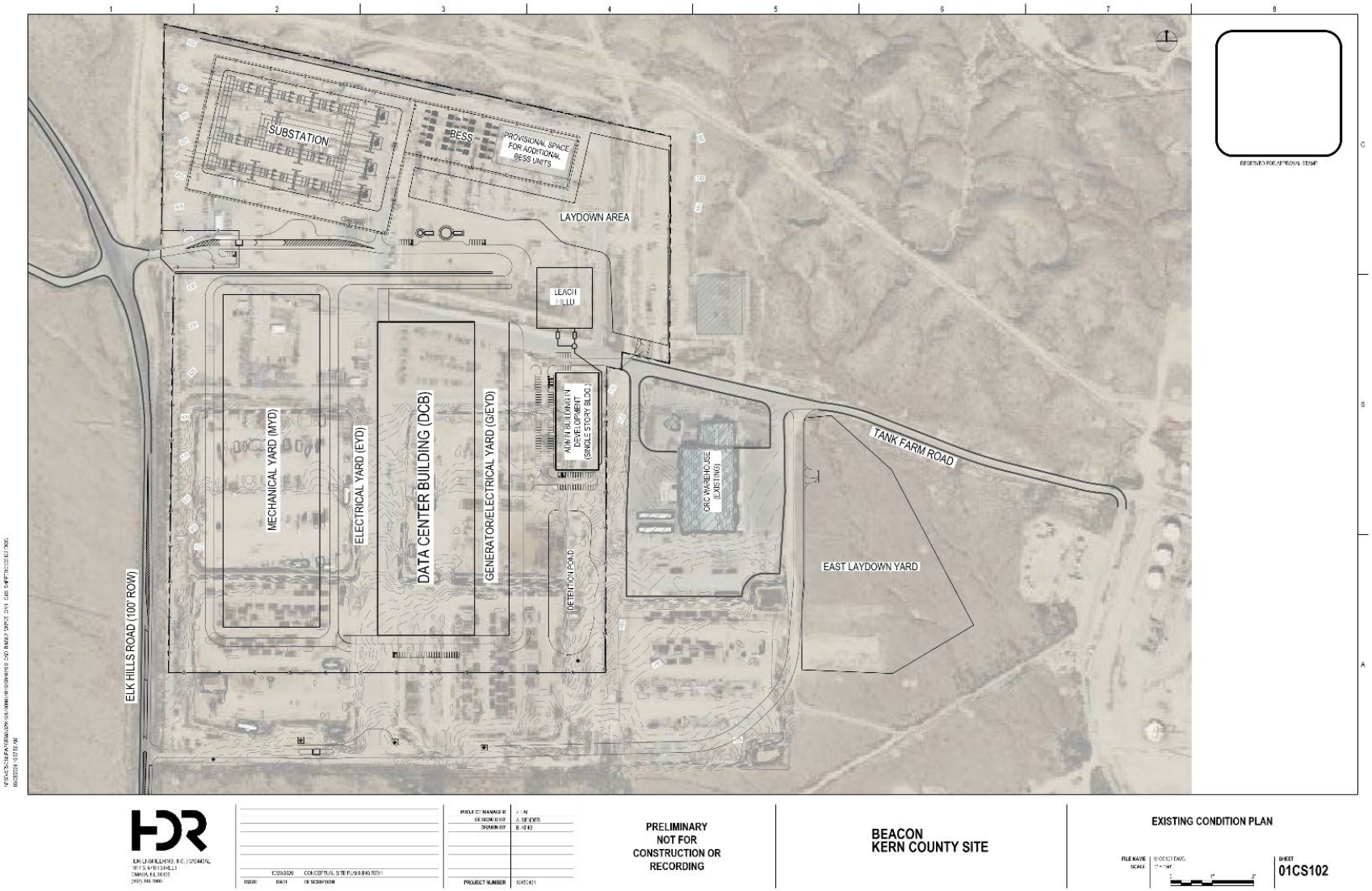


Figure 10C Site Plan

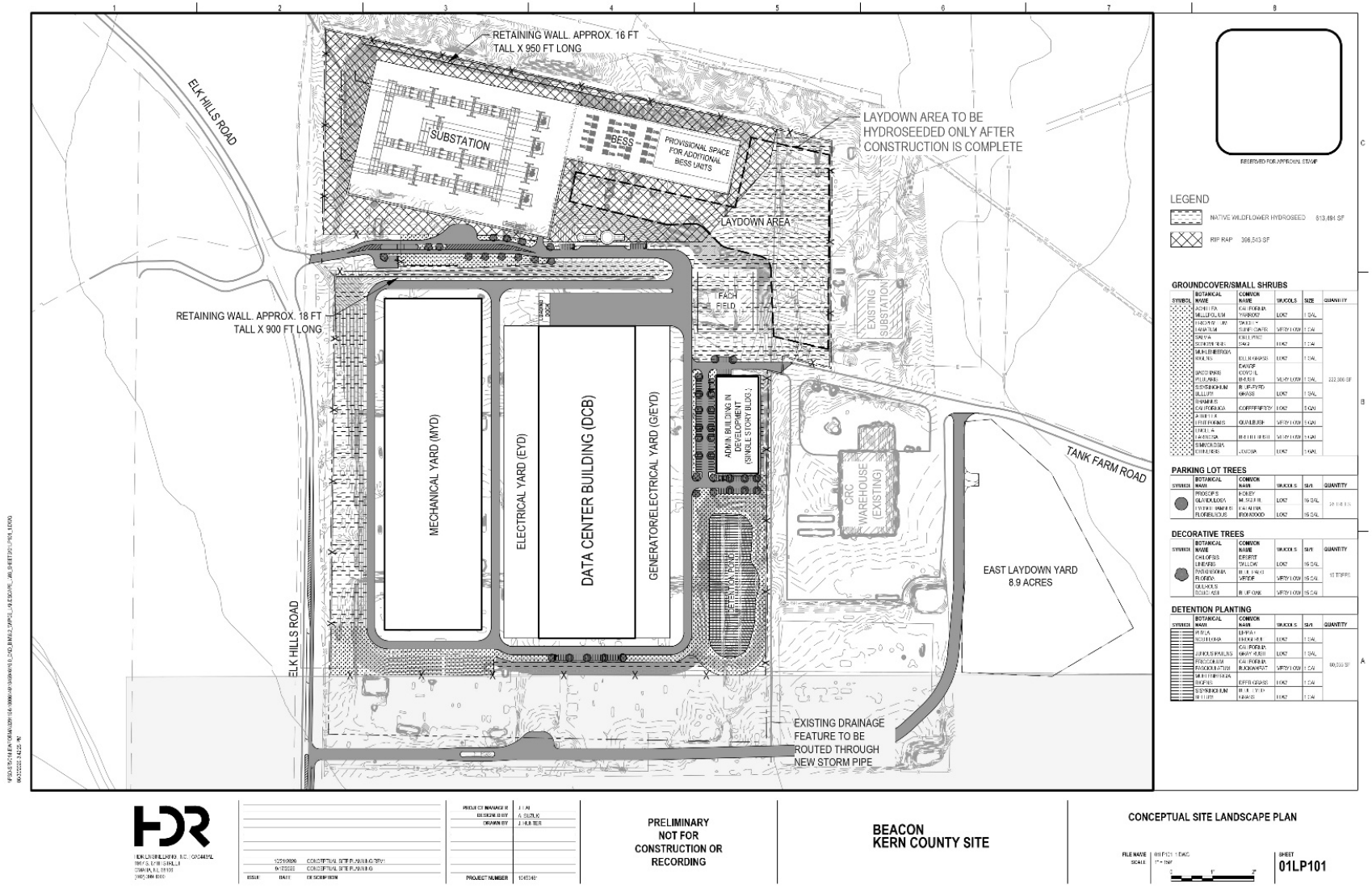
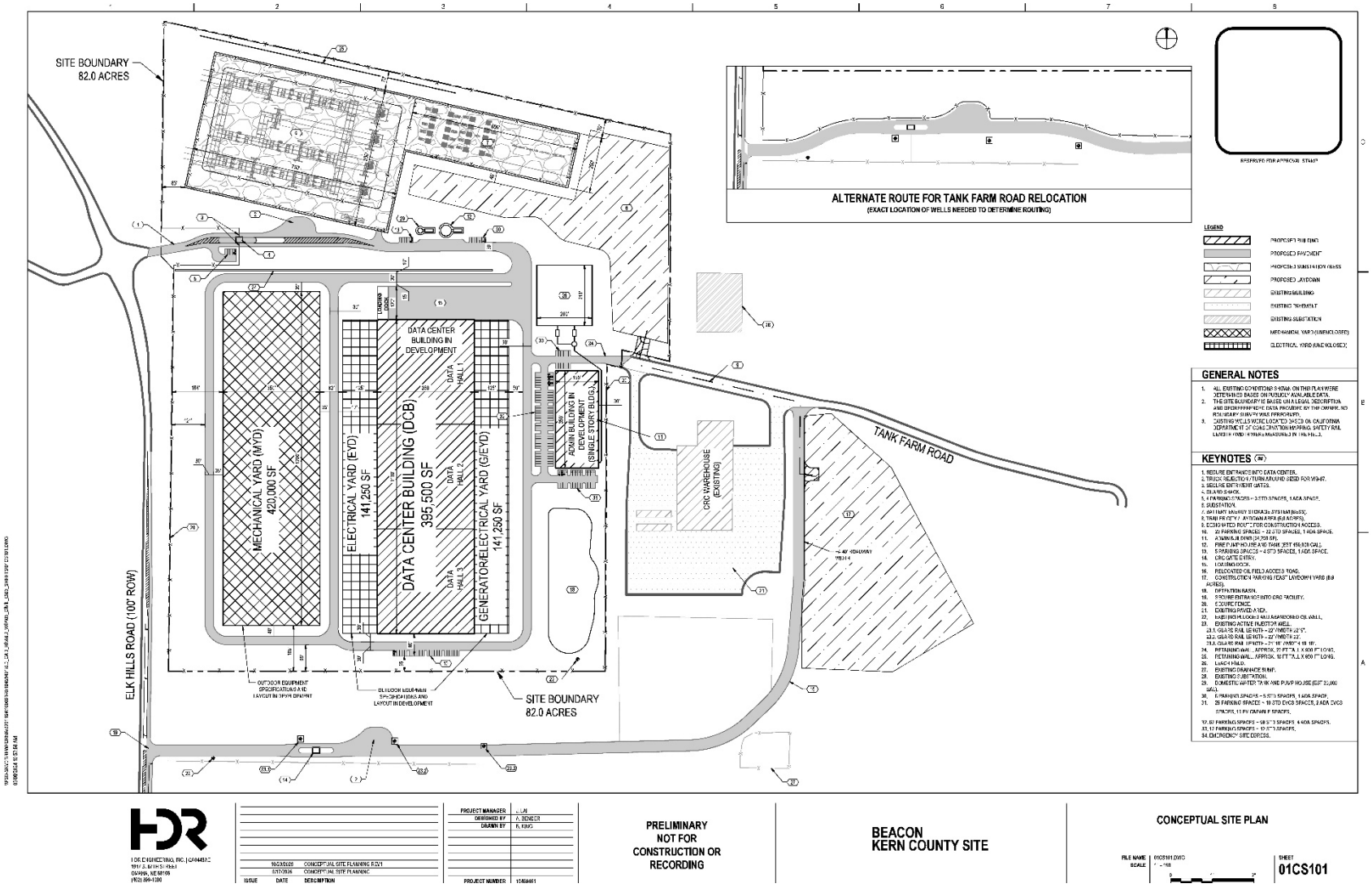


Figure 10D Site Plan



HDR ENGINEERING, INC. | COA#4330
1917 S. 67TH ST. Suite 1
OMAHA, NE 68106
(402) 399-1000

ISSUE	DATE	DESCRIPTION
1	06/30/2026	CONCEPTUAL SITE PLANNING R2V1
0	04/30/26	CONCEPTUAL SITE PLANNING

PROJECT MANAGER	J. LIN
DESIGNED BY	A. BERGER
DRAWN BY	R. KING
PROJECT NUMBER	10484461

PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION OR RECORDING

BEACON
KERN COUNTY SITE

CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN

FILE NAME 01CS101.DWG
SCALE 1" = 150'

SHEET
01CS101

Figure 11 Project Fiber-Optic Routes

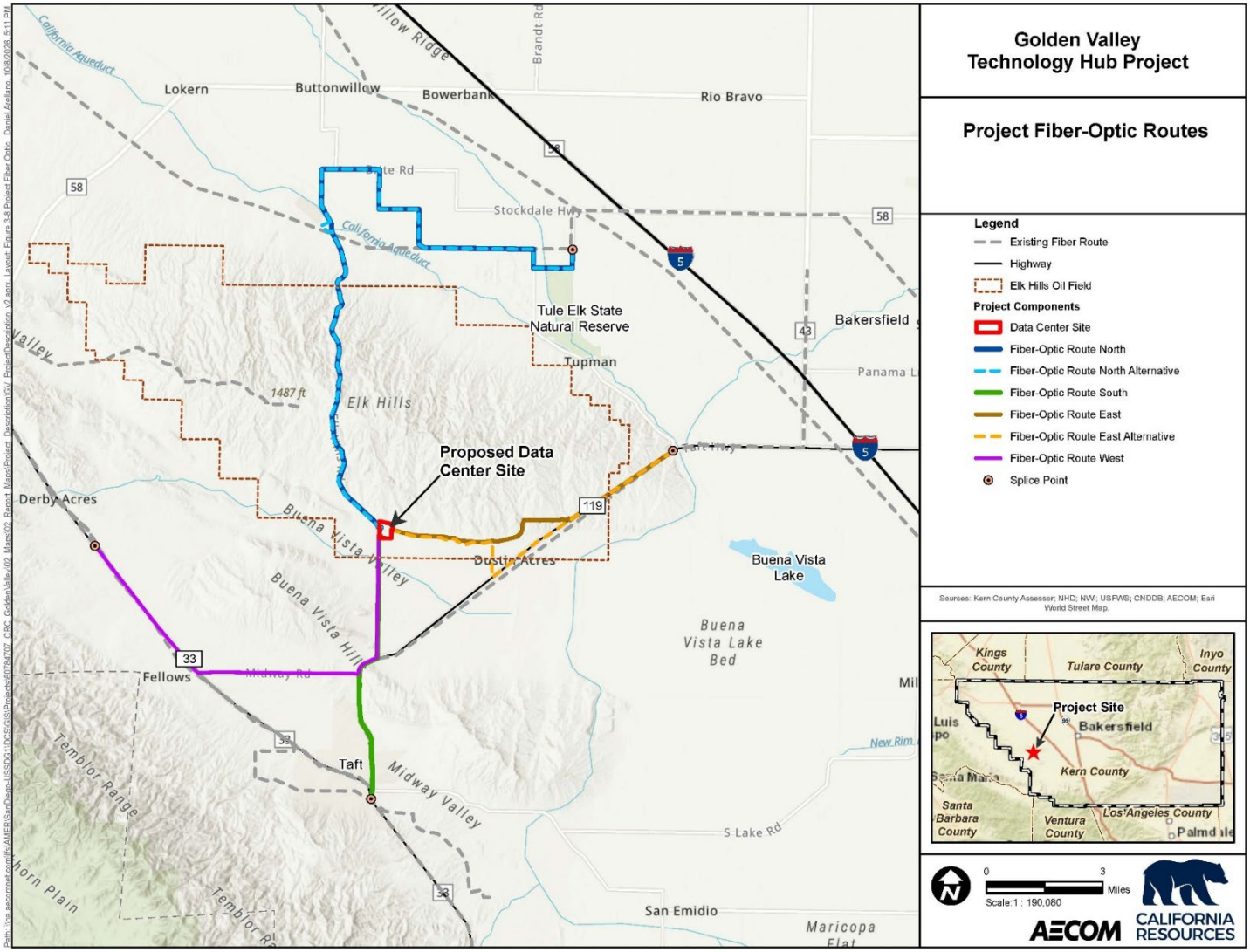


Figure 12 Project Power Infrastructure

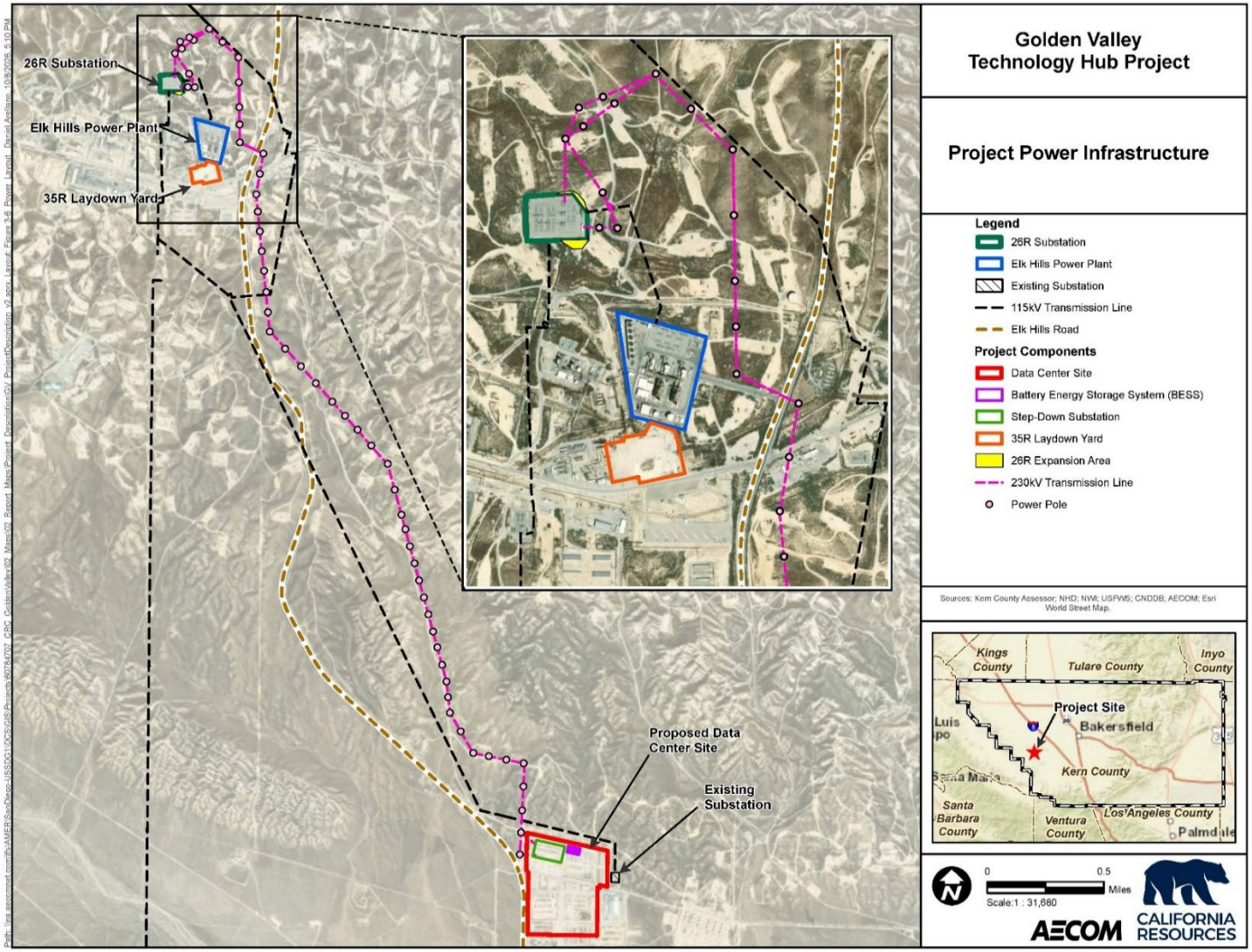


Figure 13 Potable Water Pipeline

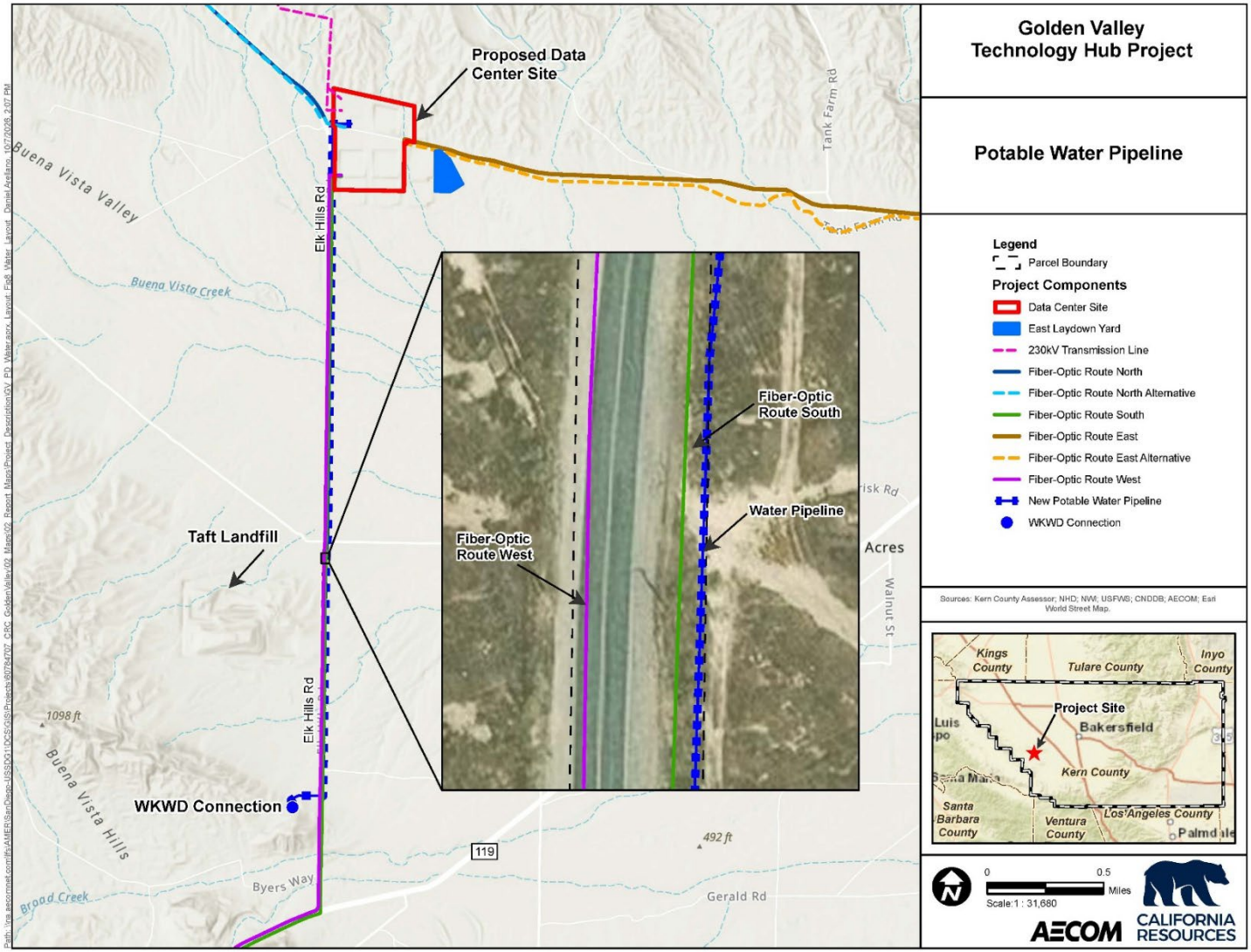


Figure 14 18G Relocation Sites

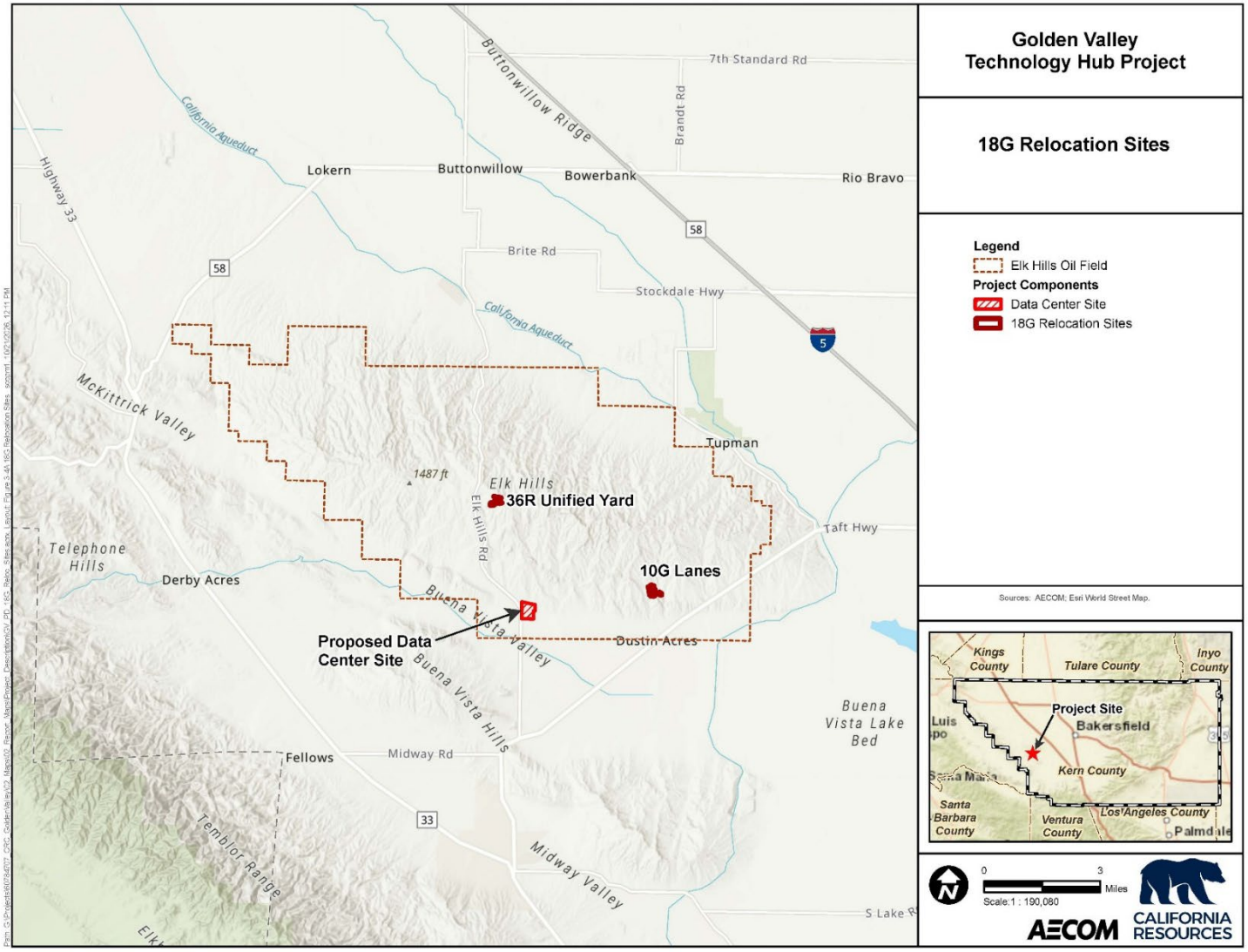


Figure 15 18G Relocation Site 36R Unified Yard

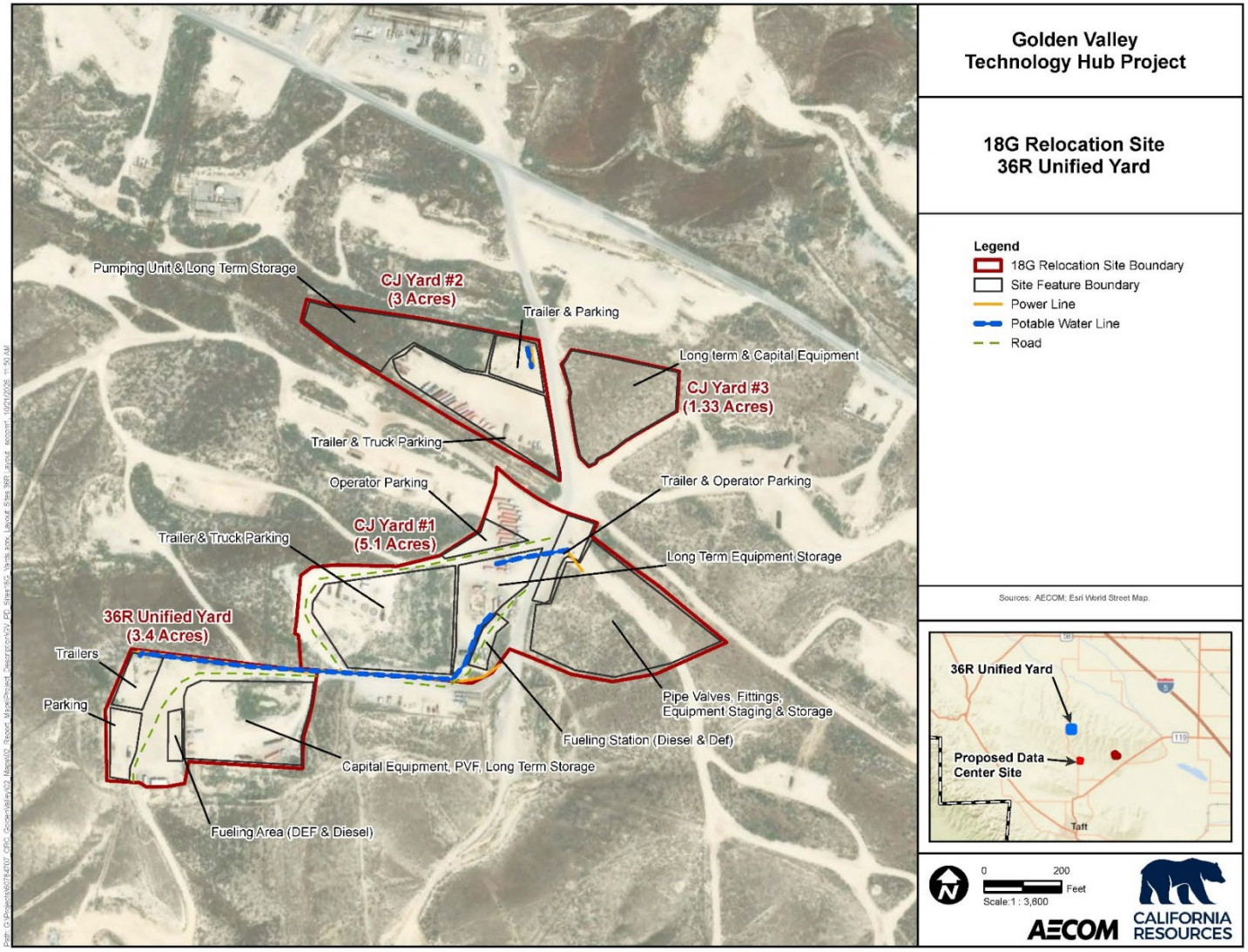
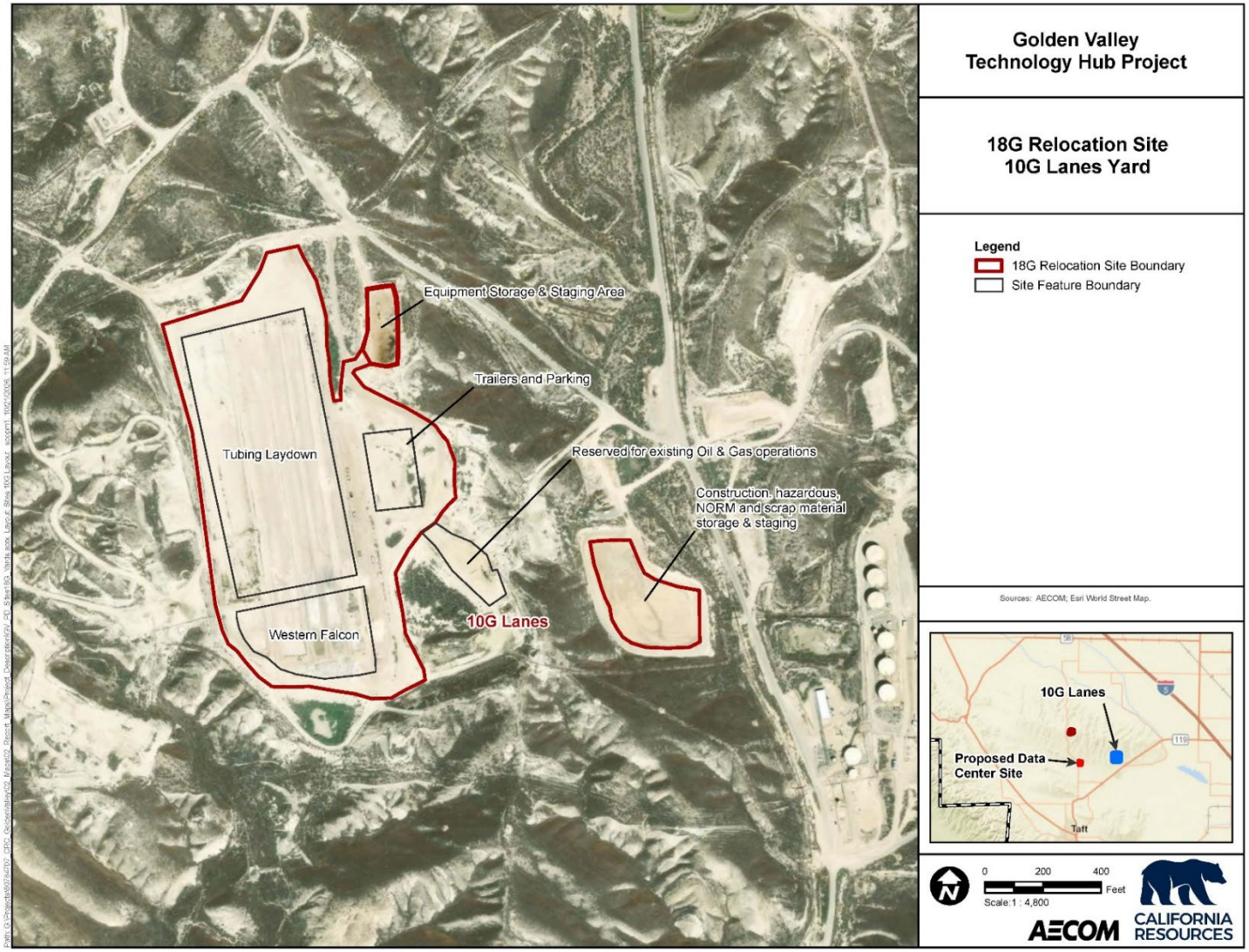


Figure 16 18G Relocation Site 10G Lanes Yard



1.3. Project Location

The proposed project would be sited in an unincorporated area of Kern County, approximately 25 miles southwest of the City of Bakersfield, in Section 18, Township 31 South, Range 24 East. The proposed project is in the EHOF on the western side of the San Joaquin Valley, although some of the supporting infrastructure would be constructed outside of the EHOF. The EHOF is privately owned and operated by CRC and encompasses approximately 75 square miles (47,800 acres).

The 82-acre proposed data center site (APN 298-170-01) is situated near the southern end of the EHOF property, approximately 3.5 miles south of the EHPP, on a parcel intersected by Elk Hills Road. The proposed data center site would be accessed from Interstate 5 via State Route (SR) 119 to Elk Hills Road. The primary access to the site from Elk Hills Road is via the existing intersection with a private oil field access road. This access point would be maintained during construction and operation of the data center. The private oil field access road would be relocated, and a new intersection would be constructed south of the data center parcel.

An undeveloped 8.90-acre site, identified as the East Laydown Yard on **Figure 9,** *Proposed Data Center Site Layout*, immediately east of the proposed data center site and on the same parcel (APN 298-170-01), would be used as a temporary laydown and parking area during Project construction. An additional, previously developed 5.56-acre site, identified as 35R on **Figure 12**, *Project Power Infrastructure* (APN 158-090-19), would also be used for temporary laydown and parking during construction. The 35R Laydown Yard is south of the EHPP, adjacent to Skyline Road.

A new 230-kV transmission line would extend north/northwest from the proposed data center site to the existing "26R" substation, located north of the EHPP. The 35R Laydown Yard, would be used for laydown and staging during construction of the transmission line and substation improvements.

The proposed fiber-optic routes are shown on **Figure 11,** *Project Fiber-Optic Routes*. Fiber-Optic Route North and Fiber-Optic Route North Alternative would extend north from the proposed data center toward the unincorporated community of Buttonwillow and a tie-in point south of Stockdale Highway. Fiber-Optic Route South would extend south to the City of Taft. Fiber-Optic Route East and Fiber-Optic Route East Alternative would extend east and parallel State Route (SR) 119 toward the California Aqueduct but will not cross the waterway. Fiber-Optic Route West would extend westward along Midway Road and then parallel SR 33 toward the unincorporated community of Derby Acres. The route alignments were selected based on a review of prior projects completed near or adjacent to the proposed Project areas, early coordination with local permitting agencies, and consideration of known environmental constraints, such as cultural resource avoidance areas and waters of the State. Fiber-Optic Route North Alternative provides an alternative crossing of the California Aqueduct to accommodate Department of Water Resources (DWR) encroachment requirements. Fiber-Optic Route East Alternative includes an alternate alignment between the existing oil field access road and SR 119 to accommodate permitting requirements and potential utility or infrastructure constraints. Each alternate route represents an either/or option, such that only one alignment would be constructed for each route. This EIR evaluates all alignment options for each resource area. Due to existing environmental constraints, no viable alternate alignments were identified for Fiber-Optic Route South and Fiber-Optic Route West.

1.4. Environmental Setting

1.4.1. Regional

The Project area is bordered by the Temblor Range to the west, the Tehachapi Mountains to the southeast, the San Emigdio Mountains to the south, and the San Joaquin Valley to the north. The topography of the Project area includes the southwestern margins of the San Joaquin Valley north of the Elk Hills at approximately 300 feet above mean sea level (MSL), higher areas within the Elk Hills up to 1,300 feet, and the Buena Vista Valley at approximately 500 to 600 feet above MSL near Taft. The data center site would be located on gently south-facing slopes at the transition from the Elk Hills to the Buena Vista Valley. The data center site elevation is approximately 600 feet above MSL, while the EHPP, the 26R Substation and portions of the fiber-optic lines that cross the Elk Hills would be located at elevations of approximately 1,300 feet above MSL.

The most extensive land uses in western Kern County are agricultural, oil and gas production, recreation, and open space uses, which are interspersed with residential, commercial, and industrial uses. The Elk Hills area has been continuously operating for oil production since the discovery of oil at this location in 1911.

The proposed data center site is not designated by the California Department of Conservation as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland, but is designated as Semi-Agricultural and Rural Commercial Land, with a small section on the eastern side of the parcel designated as Urban and Built-Up Land. Other land surrounding the proposed data center site includes Vacant or previously Disturbed Land, and Nonagricultural and Natural Vegetation. No land in the proposed data center site footprint and powerline route is subject to a Williamson Act Land Use Contract. Fiber-Optic Route North would be constructed in public road rights-of-way adjacent to agriculture land north of the aqueduct. Although some of the adjacent parcels have Williamson Act designation, the fiber-optic line would be installed within the public road ROW, and no agricultural lands would be affected.

The proposed data center site and most of the proposed fiber-optic routes are located within oil fields that are mapped and regulated by the State of California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) and designated in the Kern County General Plan for mineral and petroleum resource areas with associated resource extraction uses. In addition, the Project is on land designated as a Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ 3) by the California Department of Conservation's State Mining and Geology Board, where known or inferred mineral occurrences of undetermined mineral resource significance are present.

The data center site is not in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-designated floodplain. The proposed potable water pipeline, and Fiber-Optic Route North and Fiber-Optic Route North Alternative, would cross FEMA-designated 100-year floodplains. Fiber-Optic Route West intersects approximately 14 features that are in a FEMA-designated 100-year floodplain.

There are no identified State-designated Alquist Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones within the proposed project site, and the nearest active fault is the San Andreas Fault approximately 18 miles south of the proposed project site.

1.4.2. Local

The data center site lies within the administrative boundaries of the Kern County General Plan (KCGP). **Table** 1**,** *Project Assessor Parcel Number, Existing Map Code Designations, Proposed Map Code Designations, Existing Zone Classifications, Proposed Zone Classifications, and Acreage*, lists the existing KCGP designation, which are also depicted on **Figure 2,** *Existing General Plan Map*. The data center site has a KCGP land use map code designation of 8.4 (Mineral and Petroleum). This designation is for areas which contain producing or potentially productive petroleum fields, natural gas, and geothermal resources, and mineral deposits of regional and Statewide significance. The data center site is subject to the provisions of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance and spans Zone Map 139. The proposed data center site has a zone classification of Natural Resource (NR). The project includes a request for a zone change at the data center site from NR to Exclusive Agriculture (A). Site and surrounding zoning is illustrated on **Figure 3,** *Existing Zone Classifications*. The East Laydown Yard has an existing zoning designation of A-1 (Limited Agriculture) and the 35R Laydown Yard has an existing zoning designation of A (Exclusive Agriculture).

While the project is within the administrative boundaries of the KCGP, surrounding unincorporated communities around the data center site include Derby Acres, a small rural community of approximately 300 residents, roughly 15 miles west; Valley Acres, a rural-suburban community with approximately 500 residents, approximately 1.5 miles southeast; Dustin Acres, a rural-suburban community with approximately 600 residents, southeast of the project site; McKittrick, a small community with approximately 100 residents, approximately 10 miles northwest; and Taft, a city of approximately 8,500 residents, approximately 10 miles south.

Table 1 Project Assessor Parcel Number, Existing Map Code Designations, Proposed Map Code Designations, Existing Zone Classifications, Proposed Zone Classifications, and Acreage

APN	Existing Map Code Designation	Existing Zone Classification	Proposed Zone Classification	Parcel Acreage	Project Site Acreage
298-170-01	8.4 – Mineral and Petroleum	NR 40 – Natural Resources and A 1 (Limited Agriculture)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)	656	82

Table 2, *Surrounding Land Uses, Map Code Designations, and Zone Classifications*, below, summarizes the existing surrounding property's land uses, map code designations, and zone classifications.

Table 2 Surrounding Land Uses, Map Code Designations, and Zone Classifications

Location	Existing Land Use	Existing KCGP Map Code Designations	Existing Zoning
Project Site	18G Yard equipment storage, modular offices, and contractor trailers supporting oil and gas exploration and production, and utilities. A private oil field access road traverses the project site	8.4 – Mineral and Petroleum	NR (40) (Natural Resources – 40 Acres)
North	Oil and gas production facilities and undeveloped land in the EHOF	8.4 – Mineral and Petroleum	A-1 (Limited Agriculture)
East	Warehouse that supports oil and gas production activities and undeveloped land in the EHOF	8.4 – Mineral and Petroleum	A-1 (Limited Agriculture) & A (Exclusive Agriculture)
South	Vacant (including oil and gas production facilities and undeveloped land in the EHOF)	8.4 – Mineral and Petroleum	(A-1) Limited Agriculture
West	Vacant (including oil and gas production facilities and undeveloped land in the EHOF)	8.4 – Mineral and Petroleum	A-1 (Limited Agriculture) & A (Exclusive Agriculture)

Notes:
EHOF = Elk Hills Oil Field
KCGP = Kern County General Plan

1.5. Site Characteristics

The proposed data center site is currently used by CRC for oil field and contractor storage operations that include oil field equipment storage, service vehicle parking, modular offices, and contractor trailers that support oil and gas exploration, and production uses at the EHOF and surrounding oil fields. There are existing utilities on site, including overhead electrical and communications towers and lines, underground fresh and potable water lines, septic systems, and portable restroom units. The site is adjacent to an existing 115 kV to 12.47 kV substation, with existing 115-kV distribution lines on the western, northern, and eastern sides of the site.

The 18G Yard is an active oil field equipment and contractor storage yard operated as part of CRC's EHOF operations under Chapter 19.98 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance. As is typical of oil field storage yards, the inventory of equipment and materials and the level of contractor activity at the 18G Yard fluctuate over time as equipment is used and as it moves among the 18G Yard and CRC's other storage yards in response to the location of production and maintenance activity within the EHOF, weather, seasonal factors, supply conditions and other EHOF operational factors. Such ordinary-course movement of equipment and materials among CRC's existing storage yards is part of the existing operations and is not a component of the proposed project. The permanent relocation of contractor offices and supporting infrastructure to two new locations at the 10G Lanes and 36R yards shown on **Figure 14**, *18G Relocation Sites,* are evaluated as a component of the Project as discussed in **Section 1.7.6**, *18G Relocation Yards*.

A water disposal pipeline runs from the EHPP to the proposed data center site. The pipeline delivers cooling blowdown water from the EHPP to three existing Class V injection wells on the south side of the data center site that are permitted under the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Underground

Injection Control (UIC) program. CRC has received EPA approval for six Class I wells that will replace the existing Class V injection wells. The existing Class V wells would be plugged and abandoned in accordance with EPA UIC requirements upon completion of the Class I wells, which is anticipated to occur in 2027. However, the water disposal pipeline from EHPP would be retained and used to provide water for dust control during construction.

A 12-inch crude oil shipping line parallels the north side of the existing oil field access road that traverses the 18G Yard. The proposed project would include relocation of the crude oil shipping line along the northern margin of the data center site. Other in-service utilities and out-of-service underground oil and water pipelines within the proposed data center site would be removed during the initial site preparation phase of the proposed data center Project. Any removed piping will be tested prior to disposal and disposed of at an approved waste or recycling facility. Pipeline removal would be conducted in accordance with State Fire Marshal (OSFM) requirements under 49 C.F.R. Part 195.402(c)(10). Non-hazardous waste would be transported to Taft Landfill, located at 13351 Elk Hills Road.

None of the proposed project locations are identified on the Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites (Cortese) List compiled by the Department of Toxic Substances Control and other applicable agencies under California Government Code Section 65962.5.

1.6. Discretionary Actions

The proposed project would involve the construction and operation of a 275-MW data center at the EHOP in Kern County, California. The proposed project would include development of a data center and associated infrastructure on an approximately 82-acre site that is currently used as an oil field service and contractor storage yard. The existing EHPP would be the primary source of electricity for the data center; in the case of an outage, backup power would be supplied through an existing interconnection with PG&E. Additionally, an approximately 125-MW / 180 MW hour BESS would be installed at the data center site to balance electrical loads. A redundant emergency backup generation system consisting of fifteen 2.5-MW diesel generators would also be located at the data center site to provide power to critical IT systems during the unlikely event of outages of both the EHPP and PG&E grid. In addition to construction of the data center site, the proposed project includes construction of ancillary infrastructure to support the data center's operation including electrical transmission lines, water pipelines, and fiber-optic lines. Except for portions of the fiber-optic lines, and the water pipeline, the entirety of the proposed project would be contained within the EHOP. Implementation of the proposed project includes the following discretionary approvals from Kern County: (approvals anticipated from additional responsible and trustee agencies are discussed in **Section 1.12**, *Required Entitlements*):

a. A change in zone classification from NR (40) (Natural Resources – 40 Acres) to A (Exclusive Agriculture), or a more restrictive district on approximately 82 acres (Zone Classification Change [ZCC] No. 20, Map 139).

b. A conditional use permit for temporary construction laydown area on approximately 5.56 acres in the A (Exclusive Agriculture) District (Section 19.12.030.K) (CUP No. 7, Map 119).

c. A conditional use permit for the construction and operation of a 395,500-square-foot, 275-MW data center server with 54,250-square-foot administrative office building and associated

infrastructure on approximately 82 acres in the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zoning District (Sections 19.08.085, 19.12.020.D, 19.12.020.F, 19.12.030.K). Associated infrastructure would include two (2) approximate 141,250 square-foot outdoor, electrical yards (282,500 square feet for both), a new substation, battery energy storage systems, mechanical yard with onsite closed-loop water cooling system, and 15 accessory emergency backup generators. Offsite infrastructure would include transmission lines, fiber-optic lines and a new water pipeline (CUP No. 18, Map 139).

d. A conditional use permit for temporary construction laydown area on approximately 8.90 acres in the A-1 (Limited Agriculture) District (Section 19.08.085) (CUP No. 19, Map 139).

e. A zone variance to allow for a reduction in the required number of parking spaces from 217 to 137 (Section 19.106.040) (ZV No. 6, Map 139)

f. Tentative Parcel Map No. 12691 Proposing the division of an approximate 667.71 acre (gross) parcel into an 82.00-acre (gross) parcel and a 585.71-acre (gross) Designated Remainder that includes the 11.57 acre Elk Hills Road R/W; To allow Development Variations to the Land Division Ordinance to authorize 30-foot-wide off-site private access easement where 40-foot-wide public access easements are required (Sections 18.55.030.A.5.f & i) and (18.55.050. B.1.c). Portion of Section 18, Township 31 South, Range 24 East, M.D.B&M.

The proposed ZCC would change the existing zoning district designation from NR (40) (Natural Resource – 40-acre minimum) to A (Exclusive Agriculture). The purpose of the Exclusive Agriculture (A) district is to designate areas suitable for agricultural uses and to prevent the encroachment of incompatible uses onto agricultural lands and the premature conversion of such lands to nonagricultural uses. Uses in the A zoning district are limited primarily to agricultural uses and other activities compatible with agricultural uses. However, pursuant to Section 19.08.085 of the Kern County Zoning Code and a July 9, 2025, Determination of Zoning Classification issued by the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department, data center servers are conditionally permitted uses in the Exclusive Agriculture (A), Medium Industrial (M-2), and Heavy Industrial (M-3) Zone Districts. As the proposed data center project site is currently in the NR Zone District, the request to change the zone classification would facilitate the processing of the CUP request. The proposed additional CUPs would allow for the installation of temporary construction staging, or "laydown" yards on nearby, off-site parcels.

With regard to the proposed zone variance, where special physical circumstances exist limiting the development of a particular property in accordance with development standards of a zoning district, relief from the development standards may be secured by the granting of a variance from those standards. As outlined in Chapter 19.82, Off-street Parking, Section 19.82.020.C.1 states business or professional office shall provide one (1) standard parking space per two hundred and fifty (250) square feet of gross building area. The proposed 54,250 square-foot administrative offices building would therefore require a minimum of 217 parking spaces per this standard. However, as discussed below in **Section 1.9.1**, Data Center Site, operating hours would be 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, using approximately three 8-hour shifts with up to 100 workers per shift. As such, the required number of parking spaces at any given time would far exceed the anticipated need during any individual shift. The proposed 137 spaces is anticipated to provide sufficient accommodation for required parking during each shift as well as additional spaces needed during overlapping demand during shift changes.

The proposed parcel map would be processed in accordance with the State Subdivision Map Act and Chapter 18.25 of the Kern County Land Division Ordinance. The parcel map process consists of two phases: tentative parcel map approval and final parcel map review and recordation. The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department serves as the Advisory Agency and processes the application through tentative approval. The County Surveyor subsequently reviews the final parcel map for conformance with the approved tentative map and applicable conditions of approval.

1.7. Project Characteristics

The proposed project would include the following facilities and components, which are described in greater detail below, and shown on **Figure 10**, *Site Plan*:

1. Data center site and associated East Laydown Yard,
2. New 230-kV transmission line and associated 35R Laydown Yard,
3. Four fiber-optic line alignment options plus two alternatives,
4. New potable water pipeline,
5. Crude oil shipping pipeline relocation, and
6. 18G Yard Relocation Sites

The data center site would be comprised of several onsite features including the main data center building, administration building, electrical yard, and mechanical yard, described below. Off-site project elements include the 230-kV transmission lines, fiber-optic lines, and freshwater pipeline. The Project also includes the permanent cessation of 18G Yard operations and relocation of the 18G Yard functions to the relocation yards, the rerouting of an existing oil field access road and widening of Elk Hills Road at the intersection with the access road, and the relocation of an existing crude oil shipping pipeline. Additional details are provided in the following sections.

1.7.1. Data Center Site

As shown on **Figure 9,** *Proposed Data Center Site Layout*, and described previously, the data center site would occupy an approximately 82-acre site in the EHOF. This site is currently being used for EHOF oil and gas operations. It is developed open space, with modular buildings for contractor offices and equipment and material storage, and it includes employee parking. Existing utilities include a septic system, potable and fresh water supply lines, and overhead electrical and communication lines.

Data Center Building

The core of the data center site is the data center building. The building footprint would be an approximately 395,500-square-foot, up to 45-foot pre-engineered metal or precast concrete building. The building would be insulated and would use high efficiency mechanical and electrical equipment to meet applicable energy efficiency standards. Using modular construction, the building design would support up to three 60 MW data halls, with a 5 MW network core. It would require roughly 185 MW for information technology (IT) load, with an additional 90 MW of load for cooling and ancillary functions, yielding approximately 275 MW of total load and a peak power usage efficiency (PUE) quotient of 1.49, which is lower than the data center industry average PUE of approximately 1.6 (Statista 2025). The generation capacity of the EHPP is 550 MW, and current commitments for that capacity are approximately 200 MW. The proposed data center would use 275 MW of the remaining unused capacity of 350 MW.

The building would be designed to be architecturally compatible with the surrounding oil and gas production and operations facilities. Final architectural features will be developed during subsequent design phases and will comply with applicable Kern County architectural, design, and development standards. The data center building would be designed to comply with the development standards outlined in Chapter 19.80 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, including required building setbacks. These development standards apply to pavement of parking lots and driveways, adequate parking, underground utility services, retention of drainage water, adequate water supply and sewage disposal, fire protection, glare reduction from exterior lighting, trash receptacle and outside industrial storage area screening, landscaping, and dust control.

The data center will include conventional uninterruptible power systems (UPS) to facilitate smooth transition to backup generation. The interior battery systems would be separated from the outdoor BESS and would comply with all applicable fire code requirements.

The data center building and integrated data halls are designed to continue operations through upgrades and facility maintenance and would not be decommissioned.

Administration Building

The data center site would include an approximately 54,250-square-foot administration building consisting of office space, secure material storage, and space for multiple telecommunications and network service providers to interconnect their equipment. The administration building would also house a reception area, breakroom, restrooms, offices, conference rooms, shower facilities, storage areas, and a loading dock. The administration building will be designed to comply with the development standards outlined in Chapter 19.80 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance. The administrative building would be constructed as a standalone building within the data center site and would support data center operations, as shown on **Figure 9,** *Proposed Data Center Site Layout*. A discussion of operational hours and staffing is provided in **Section 1.9**, *Project Operations and Maintenance*.

Building Heights

The data center building and the administration building would be single story buildings and would not exceed 45 feet in height. Screen walls and rooftop mechanical and electrical equipment would extend up to approximately 10 feet above the roof line, for a maximum overall structure height of 55 feet. Screen walls would conceal rooftop mechanical and electrical equipment and provide sound attenuation.

Electrical Yard

Two secure, outdoor, electrical yards would be constructed adjacent to the eastern and western sides of the data center building. The size of each electrical yard is approximately 141,250 square feet (282,500 square feet for both). The electrical yards contain the power infrastructure necessary to provide continuous operations, including transformers, switch gears, automatic transfer switches, and monitoring equipment. The electrical yards would be a secure, fenced restricted area with strict security and safety protocols. Although the electrical yard is open-air, the components would be weather proofed to withstand outdoor conditions, using concrete pads with protective housing.

Approximately 15 backup diesel generators (2.5 MW) would be situated in the electrical yard in weatherproof, sound-attenuated enclosures that meet National Electrical Manufacturers Association

(NEMA) standards. NEMA provides industry standards for protection of electrical enclosures from environmental conditions such as dust, water, and corrosion. The backup diesel generators would provide secondary (emergency) backup power to the network core and other critical functions if both the EHPP and the PG&E grid were to go offline. The diesel generators would be equipped with engines that meet EPA Tier 4 Final certification level per the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Best Available Control Technology Guideline 3.1.1. In addition to emergency operation, each generator would be operated periodically for readiness testing and maintenance, and during commissioning, not to exceed 100 hours per engine per year, consistent with San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District permit conditions and Rule 4702. Diesel fuel for generators would be stored in UL 142 double-wall "belly tanks" that are integrated into each generator's base. The outer wall of the tank would serve as secondary spill containment, with an integrated leak detection space between the primary and outer tanks. Fuel tanks would be topped off as needed from a tanker truck delivery to a dedicated fill port located within a spill containment area. A Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan would be prepared and implemented in accordance with the Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act, and spill control kits would be staged at each fill point.

Mechanical Yard

The mechanical yard, which would be west of the data center building, would consist of the cooling plant that houses the chillers for the data center. The cooling plant would use closed loop water-cooled chillers paired with dry coolers that are designed to provide process cooling water to the data center at 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Dry coolers are proposed that use a fraction of the water that a traditionally water-cooled system would use. The cooling plant would be modular, with each module sized for cooling 10 MW of IT load (up to six chillers per module). Six modules are required to serve each 60 MW data hall; therefore, the three 60 MW data halls included at build-out of the Project would require and would include 18 modules plus one module (with four chillers) for the network core. Most of the exterior mechanical equipment, including chillers, would be located within the Mechanical Yard. Rooftop heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system would be installed on the data center building. See **Figure 10**, *Site Plan.*

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

The data center building would use a BESS to smooth load swings at the point of common coupling. The BESS would be on the northern side of the data center site, adjacent to the proposed step-down substation. The BESS would smooth transient load swings by repeatedly charging and discharging lithium iron phosphate batteries to manage fluctuations in power demand and maintain stability at the point of common coupling; it is not sized or intended to serve as the facility's uninterruptible power supply. A cogeneration power plant such as EHPP, although reliable, has relatively slow ramp rates for the transient power load changes that the data center would experience. The BESS addresses the worst-case load swings, which can typically be 15 to 25 percent of peak IT load.

A containerized BESS solution sourced from a Tier 1 original equipment manufacturer is proposed for this Project. Tier 1 refers to established BESS manufactures and integrators with a significant deployed track record and demonstrated financial and technical capabilities, as identified through recognized industry bankability assessments. The BESS would be sized to 125 MW with a capacity of up to 180 MWh; final system sizing would be determined during detailed design but would not exceed these values. The BESS

would be charged from the Project's power supply and would not export power to the PG&E grid or participate in wholesale electricity markets.

The BESS would use lithium iron phosphate battery chemistry, with the specific number of battery units (up to the maximum capacities stated above) to be confirmed following the sizing study conducted during detailed engineering design. Units would be housed in dedicated containers equipped with continuous health-monitoring sensors capable of detecting thermal anomalies ("hot spots") at the individual cell level, thereby mitigating the risk of ignition and fire propagation. All BESS containers would be designed, installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 855, *Standards for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems*; Chapter 12 (Energy Systems) of the California Fire Code, including Section 1206 (Electrical Energy Storage Systems; applicable Kern County Fire Department permit and planning review requirements; and all applicable permit conditions in effect at the time of the Project phase.

The proposed BESS site includes space for up to three augmentations at years 8, 16, and 24 to maintain the capacity and performance of the BESS. No new grading or development space would be needed for the three augmentations. The BESS would adhere to any required setbacks determined in consultation with the Kern County Fire Department.

Vehicular Access, Circulation, and Parking

The existing 18G entrance would include a new private data center access road and would be the primary access to the data center site from Elk Hills Road. As shown on **Figure 9,** *Proposed Data Center Site Layout*, an existing oil field access road would be relocated to the southern end of the 18G yard. The data center site entrance would be secured, with access monitored through a dedicated guard house. The site entrance road would be the primary access point for the data center building, loading dock, electrical and mechanical yards, step-down substation, and BESS once in operation. A secondary, unmanned gated emergency access point would be constructed on the eastern side of the data center site, which would connect to the relocated oil field access road (**Figure 9,** *Proposed Data Center Site Layout*).

The Project would include the rerouting of a portion of an existing oil field access road to provide safe and reliable access to the Project site while maintaining access to existing and future CRC operations. The existing oil field access road is a private roadway used by CRC personnel and contractors to access existing oil field and logistics infrastructure. Because the roadway currently crosses the proposed data center site, approximately 3,500 feet of the existing oil field access road would be relocated around the Project site to maintain an access route for CRC personnel, operations vehicles, and emergency response vehicles. The relocated road would begin on the eastern side of the data center site; it would follow the eastern and southern sides of the data center site to a new intersection with Elk Hills Road at the southwestern corner of the data center site. The new road will be an all-weather road, approximately 40 feet wide, and would include travel lanes and shoulders, with associated drainage improvements, signage, and connections to the existing roadway network. A new guard house would be installed on the new access road alignment to manage access to the EHOF. The existing 18G entrance would be retained for access to the data center facility.

As shown on **Figure 9,** *Proposed Data Center Site Layout*, Elk Hills Road would be widened to accommodate turn lanes for oil field-related traffic accessing the rerouted oil field access road, including

employee vehicles, heavy equipment, delivery trucks, and emergency response vehicles. As proposed, the improvements would include a left-turn lane from southbound Elk Hills Road, and a right-turn lane from northbound Elk Hills Road, acceleration lanes, roadway shoulders, pavement transitions, signage, striping, and associated drainage modifications. The roadway improvements would extend approximately 1,700 feet along Elk Hills Road and would be designed to allow vehicles entering and exiting the rerouted oil field access road to decelerate, queue, turn, and accelerate outside the existing through-travel lanes.

The data center access road would accommodate construction and operations related traffic, including initial construction and heavy equipment vehicles, followed by employee and contractor vehicles, delivery trucks, and emergency response, and occasional business-related and educational tours from local schools and local, state, and federal agency representatives. Up to 137 parking stalls would be provided at the data center site. As shown on **Figure 9,** *Proposed Data Center Site Layout,* parking stalls would be constructed at the main site entrance near the guard shack; adjacent to the administration building and data center building; near the fire water tank and pump house; and on the southern side of the data center building. Site access would be designed to comply with the development standards outlined in Chapter 19.80 and Chapter 19.82 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance. Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible parking would be provided and designed, in accordance with Title 24 of the California Administrative Code and all applicable federal requirements.

Water and Wastewater

Water Supply

Utility and potable water will be supplied to the Project site from the WKWD via a new 3.1 mile, 2- to-4-inch pipeline from an existing WKWD supply point south of the Taft Landfill. Non-potable water required for dust control during construction would be supplied by cooling tower blowdown water from EHPP, subject to Regional Water Quality Control Board authorization. This water would be conveyed to the data center site using an existing supply pipeline.

The proposed data center will use a closed-loop mechanical cooling system for water-cooled chillers paired with dry cooling towers (i.e., dry coolers). The cooling system will require reverse osmosis-treated or demineralized water that would be transported to the data center site from an off-site vendor, principally during initial start-up and commissioning prior to the commencement of operations. The water use for the Project is discussed in the following section.

Water Usage

The primary water uses at the data center site are shown in **Table 3**, *Water Usage Summary*, and include construction water, cooling and condensate system initial fill, fire water system initial fill, and typical operations. Each of these uses is further described in the following sections.

Table 3 Water Usage Summary

Water Use	Description	Quantity
Construction (non-potable)	Dust control, equipment cleaning	30,000 gallons per day (0.092 acre foot per day) (over 30 months)

Table 3 Water Usage Summary		
Water Use	**Description**	**Quantity**
Cooling System	Closed loop cooling system	450,000 gallons (one-time fill) in three stages ~2 to 3 months apart + small makeup volumes (<1% annually)
Condensate System	Closed loop cooling system	150,000 gallons (one-time fill) + small makeup volumes (<1% annually)
Fire Water System	Fire suppression	480,000 gallons (one time fill) + small makeup volumes (<1% annually)
Operation (potable)	Sinks, toilets, landscaping	10,000 gallons/day (~0.03 acre foot/day)

Construction

Construction water demand will be no more than 30,000 gallons per day (0.092 acre foot per day) over the course of 30 months. Water will be used for various activities including dust control, and hydrotesting of piping. Non-potable construction water is anticipated to be supplied by cooling tower blowdown water from the EHPP.

Cooling and Condensate Systems

The proposed data center will use a closed-loop cooling system of water-cooled chillers paired with dry cooling towers (dry coolers). As a closed-loop system, minimal water is consumed during operation of the data center. The closed-loop system will be designed to fully comply with California Title 24, Part 6 building energy efficiency standards using the Performance Compliance Pathway, ensuring optimal energy performance and the maximization of integrated economizer free-cooling hours.

The cooling system will require an initial fill volume of approximately 600,000 gallons, consisting of approximately 450,000 gallons for process chilled water and approximately 150,000 gallons for condenser water. The cooling system will use reverse osmosis-treated or demineralized water that will be trucked to the data center site from an offsite vendor, anticipated to be in the City of Bakersfield, approximately 40 miles from the Project site. The system will be filled in phases. Approximately 300,000 gallons will be required for the initial phase, consisting of approximately 150,000 gallons for condenser water and approximately 150,000 gallons for the first data hall. The remaining 300,000 gallons will be delivered in two subsequent increments of approximately 150,000 gallons each as the second and third data halls are constructed.

Water for the closed loop cooling system will require low concentration additives for corrosion prevention, biocide, pH buffer, and scale/deposit control. Additive concentrations would be monitored continuously by sensors and topped off as needed, typically on a quarterly schedule. Chemicals would be delivered as needed, rather than stored on site. Additives will be sufficiently diluted so that cooling system water would not require hazardous materials handling or disposal measures for system maintenance or repairs. A portion of the cooling system would be infrequently drained (approximately every ten years), and the discharged water would be trucked offsite and disposed of at an appropriate facility nearby. Anticipated chemicals that would be used for closed loop cooling, and their concentrations, are listed in Table 4, *Closed-Loop Cooling System*.

Table 4 Closed-Loop Cooling System		
Purpose	**Chemical**	**Concentration**
Corrosion Inhibitor	Nitrate-based (steel piping) Molybdate/phosphate blend (mixed metal piping) Azole (copper piping)	600 to 1,200 ppm 50 to 200 ppm 20 to 500 ppm
Biocide (non-oxidizing)	isothiazolone or DBNPA	50 to 150 ppm active, dosed intermittently
pH Buffer	sodium hydroxide or borate	pH of 8.0 to 9.5
Scale/deposit control	polymaleate or phosphonate-based polymer dispersant	5 to 20 ppm

Dry coolers operate in a closed loop, with minimal to no make-up water during normal operations, and do not produce cooling-tower blowdown or wastewater discharge. Although minor water losses may occur during system maintenance, it is anticipated that make-up water will be approximately 0.1 percent (600 gallons) of the total system volume per year initially, increasing to approximately 1 percent (6,000 gallons) as the system ages. Make-up water would be trucked in from a supplier in Bakersfield.

Firewater System

The data center will also have a firewater system, consisting of pumps and a water tank that holds 480,000 gallons. Water use is expected to require an initial fill of 480,000 gallons, plus additional makeup water annually (< 1 percent of total volume) due to testing and maintenance of the system. Fire water would be provided via the new pipeline from the WKWD.

Potable Water System

During operations the data center will consume no more than 10,000 gallons per day (0.03 acre foot/day) of potable water, primarily used for landscape irrigation and office needs (e.g., drinking water and sanitary needs). Potable water for operations would be sourced from the WKWD and delivered to the site by pipeline.

Wastewater

The proposed project site is currently served by a septic system at various locations on the property. The existing system will be removed and a new system installed adjacent to the administration building. As shown on **Figure 9,** *Proposed Data Center Site Layout*, a new leach field and associated piping will be installed in the southeastern area of the data center site.

Stormwater

Stormwater will be managed on site with a retention basin, approximately 1.80 acres (approximately 80,081 sq ft), east of the data center building and north of the relocated oil field access road. The retention basin will be approximately 10 feet deep and will have a capacity that exceeds a 100-year rainfall event amount. All stormwater runoff from the site will be collected in the retention basin and will dissipate through evaporation and/or percolation through a permeable liner. No surface water discharge is proposed.

Landscaping and Lighting

All landscaping and lighting would be designed to comply with the development standards outlined in Chapter 19.80 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance. Furthermore, Kern County's Dark Sky Ordinance (Section 19.81.050) mandates that outdoor lighting be designed, shielded, and aimed to confine illumination to work areas, and minimize glare and light spillover.

1.7.2. Electrical Transmission Lines and Substation Improvements

Electricity would be supplied to the data center site from the existing EHPP via the proposed 230-kV transmission line that would connect the existing 26R substation to the data center's new step-down substation, data center substation (see **Figure 12**, *Project Power Infrastructure*). New utility poles would be installed to carry the new 230-kV conductors to the data center site; and existing utility corridors, roads, and well pads would be used to the extent feasible to minimize new disturbances associated with power pole installation. In areas without existing access to the proposed pole locations, new temporary access roads would be constructed and reclaimed after construction activities.

The existing 26R substation, a CRC-owned substation outside the EHPP facility boundary, would be modified to create a dedicated export position for the data center. The upgrades to the 26R substation would increase the size by 0.80 acre (up to 1 acre). The expanded area would include a relocated section of the fenceline and modifications to the perimeter access road to accommodate an additional 230-kV breaker-and-a-half (BAAH) or ring bus position of new bays, serving as the confirmed dual-feed tie-in point for the two new 230-kV transmission line circuits to the data center site.

A new dedicated step-down substation (18G-2) would be constructed at the data center site, occupying an approximately 10-acre footprint. It would incorporate up to two high-voltage (HV) bus sections in a 2N configuration fed from 230 kV, stepping down to 34.5 kV distribution via four 230/34.5-kV transformers.

Project-related electrical work would be limited to modifications at the existing 26R substation and construction of the new 230-kV transmission line and data center electrical infrastructure. Therefore, the power plant's existing license issued by the CEC on December 20, 2000 (Publication Number P800-00-013, Docket No. 99-AFC-01), would not be amended.

In cases where planned or unplanned outages occur at the EHPP, backup power to the proposed data center would be supplied by PG&E through an existing interconnection pursuant to a standby service arrangement with PG&E. PG&E has conducted a preliminary engineering study and concluded that there is sufficient standby power that can be supplied without requiring upgrades to existing infrastructure.

1.7.3. Fiber-Optic Lines/Connections

The data center would be connected to regional fiber-optic networks. Four fiber-optic alignments are proposed (see **Figure 11,** *Project Fiber-Optic Routes*) and two of the alignments also include route options (detailed below) to provide flexibility for construction. Depending on the route or design option selected, the proposed Project would require installation of up to 50 total linear miles of fiber-optic lines. The fiber-optic lines would be installed underground at a minimum depth of 36 inches, and typically 6 feet underground, using trenching. Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) or jack-and-bore techniques would be used in environmentally sensitive areas or to cross major infrastructure such as roads or canals such as the

California Aqueduct. Existing utility corridors and public road rights-of-way have been used as the planned routes to the extent feasible to minimize new disturbances associated with installation.

Fiber-Optic Route North would follow Elk Hills Road north from the proposed data center site and would be entirely within County ROWs. This route would cross the DWR's California Aqueduct, continuing north on Buttonwillow Drive, then turning east on Brite Road, south on Wasco Way, east on Stockdale Road, south on Freeborn Road, east on Adohr Road, south on Wasco Road, east on Static Road, and finally north on Morris Road. Depending on the requirements of the DWR, a design alternative crossing at the aqueduct (Fiber-Optic Route North Alternative) is being considered. Fiber-Optic Route North would be approximately 19 miles long; if the design alternative route needs to be used, the distance of the route would increase to approximately 20 miles.

Fiber-Optic Route South would be approximately 7 miles long and would use the ROW on the eastern side of Elk Hills Road south to SR 119/Taft Highway. There, the route would connect with the Caltrans ROW crossing under the highway and remain in the Caltrans ROW through the City of Taft, where SR 119 meets SR 33.

Fiber-Optic Route East would follow an existing oil field access road from the proposed data center site in the EHOF property to the Caltrans right-of-way on SR 119. This route would generally follow the EHOF communication utility pole line adjacent to the road to the EHOF Main Gate 2 entrance at SR 119. A design option for Fiber-Optic Route East (Fiber-Optic Route East Alternative) would follow an existing oil field access road east from the proposed data center site for approximately 3 miles; turn south on a paved portion of a separate access road to the public Tank Farm Road; then turn northeast onto SR 119. As described in **Section 1.3,** *Project Location*, the Fiber-Optic Route East Alternative provides an alternate alignment between the private oil field access road and SR 119 to accommodate permitting requirements and potential utility or infrastructure constraints and to minimize construction delays and costs. Fiber-Optic Route East would be approximately 8 miles, and the design option route would be approximately 9 miles.

Fiber-Optic Route West would follow the County ROW along Elk Hills Road south to SR 119, where it would enter Caltrans ROW. The route would follow SR 119 southwest, to the intersection with Midway Road, proceed west to SR 33, then continue north on SR 33 to just south of Bill Kirby Road. The distance for this route would be approximately 12 miles.

1.7.4. Potable Water Pipeline

A new 3.1-mile potable water pipeline would be constructed to supply the data center site (**Figure 13**, *Potable Water Pipeline*). The 2- to-4-inch-diameter belowground pipeline would connect to an existing West Kern Water District (WKWD) pipeline approximately 3,500 feet north of the intersection of Elk Hills Road with State Route 119 and south of Taft Landfill. The potable water pipeline would be primarily located within the Elk Hills Road right of way and would parallel portions of the proposed Fiber-Optic Route South and Route West alignments.

1.7.5. Crude Oil Shipping Line Reroute

The existing 12-inch-diameter crude oil pipeline that traverses the 18G site would be relocated along the northern margin of the proposed data center site as shown on **Figure 9,** *Proposed Data Center Site Layout*.

The new pipeline segment would be approximately 0.7 mile and would connect to the existing pipeline on the east and west sides of the data center site.

1.7.6. 18G Relocation Yards

The proposed project includes the permanent cessation of storage yard operations at the 18G Yard. The existing buildings, storage facilities, and equipment will be relocated to two yards within the EHOF. The location and size of the proposed relocation yards is presented in **Table 5**, *18G Relocation Sites*.

Table 5 18G Relocation Sites

Site Name	Location	Approximate Size (Acres)
36R Yard	EHOF (36R) (APN 158-090-04)	14.8 acres (4.85 ac of new disturbance)
10G Lanes Yard	EHOF (10G) (APN 298-070-06)	16.00 acres (No new disturbance)

The locations of the proposed relocation sites are shown on **Figure 14**, *18G Relocation Sites*. The existing condition and proposed layout of the yards are shown on **Figure 15**, *18G Relocation Site 36R Unified Yard*; and **Figure 16**, *18G Relocation Site 10G Lanes Yard*. The proposed relocation sites for the 18G functions have been previously disturbed and developed. The relocation sites would include the same types of uses and infrastructure as the existing 18G Yard, namely trailers, septic systems, utility connections, fencing, lighting, gravel surfacing, and storage tanks.

The proposed project includes the permanent cessation of storage yard operations at the 18G Yard, including the removal of existing structures, equipment and infrastructure, relocation of existing utilities, and remediation of soil as needed.

1.8. Project Construction

1.8.1. Data Center Site

Site Preparation

Out-of-service underground piping at the data center site, including water and crude oil pipelines, would be excavated and removed, and the soil would be remediated. The in-service Crude Oil Shipping Line would be relocated outside the data center site as shown on **Figure 9,** *Proposed Data Center Site Layout*. Construction of the crude oil pipeline reroute is described separately in **Section 1.8.5,** *Crude Oil Shipping Line Reroute*. The site preparation phase of work would last approximately 3 to 4 months and would require heavy equipment including but not limited to excavators, backhoes, cranes, loaders, dozers, and dump trucks.

Demolition debris, removed utilities, excavated materials, and other construction waste would be recycled, reused, or disposed of at appropriately permitted facilities. Any contaminated soil, residual liquids, or other regulated materials encountered during removal or abandonment activities would be handled in accordance with applicable hazardous materials and hazardous waste regulatory requirements. If asbestos-containing

pipe or other asbestos-containing materials are encountered, such materials would be managed in accordance with applicable asbestos handling, notification, worker protection, transportation, and disposal requirements. Removal or disturbance of asbestos-containing material would be performed by qualified personnel using appropriate containment, dust control, personal protective equipment, and disposal procedures. Asbestos-containing material would be transported to an appropriately permitted disposal facility authorized to accept such waste such as Clean Harbors Buttonwillow Landfill, located at 2500 West Lokern Road, in Buttonwillow, or another licensed facility..

Site Grading

The data center site would be graded to provide the elevations and footprints needed to construct the proposed data center facilities. Cut and fill at the data center site is anticipated to be balanced but may require approximately 330 cubic yards of net import of soil material. Grading will be conducted using earthmovers, scrapers, excavators, dozers, water trucks, paddlewheels, haul vehicles, and graders. Onsite trenching also would be required to enable the placement of underground electrical, communication, and water lines, and deep excavations would be needed for building foundations. Up to 30,000 gallons per day (0.09 acre foot per day) of non-potable construction water will be sourced from the discharge line of the coolers at EHPP using an existing pipeline that runs on the western edge of the data center site.

Applicable local, state, and federal requirements and best management practices (BMPs), including BMPs under the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan would be implemented during the construction phase. Activities would be implemented according to the requirements of the grading, structural, and electrical permits issued by the Kern County Building Department. Consistent with the Kern County zoning ordinance and with guidelines provided in the California Stormwater Quality Association's Construction Best Management Practice Handbook, BMPs would be implemented, including preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and a soil erosion and sedimentation control plan. Site preparation would occur in conformance with Kern County BMPs and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District rules for dust control.

Data Center Building

Construction of the data center building would begin after the site grading is completed, which would include erosion and sediment controls being in place. After the general site grading is completed, the data center building location would be prepared for the placement of building foundations, stormwater drainage, and the pipelines that will service the facility. The building foundations would be installed followed by the building envelope and slab on grade. When the structure is completed, interior fit-out components such as electrical, plumbing, and drywall would be installed. This work is followed by installation of flooring, construction of data halls, mechanical and electrical components such as piping and cable containment, and life safety and building security systems. The equipment used for construction of the building shell and interior is anticipated to include concrete pumps, mobile cranes, forklifts, boom lifts, and rigging gear. Before IT equipment is installed and the facility is brought online, a rigorous, multi-stage commissioning process is undertaken to verify that the building's infrastructure can handle continuous, uninterrupted workloads. Testing would be conducted to validate the performance of the mechanical, electrical, and security systems.

Mechanical Yard

Reinforced concrete pads would be poured to support the heavy loads and vibrations of the chillers. Cranes will be used to install modular components on the concrete pads, and structural steel framing will be installed to route chilled water piping into the data center building. Integrated system testing would be conducted to verify that the mechanical yard meets design criteria and safety before the system is brought online.

Electrical Step-Down Substation

Construction of the electrical step-down substation will use similar construction equipment as described above for the data center building, particularly for grading and clearing the substation site; additional construction equipment would include heavy-haul flatbed trucks for transporting oversized transformers and switchgear. Once the site is cleared, construction would include installation of a grounding matrix to safely dissipate fault currents and protect sensitive equipment, pouring concrete pads, excavation of trenches, and installation of vibration-dampening footings to support transformers and steel support structures. Rough terrain or crawler cranes would be used to lift and position transformers, circuit breakers, and disconnect switches onto their foundations. Equipment such as high-voltage cabling, and communication lines that link the step-down substation to the EHPP operations would be installed, as well as a building or shelter to house the relay panels and battery systems. The switchgear and transformers are then installed and connected to the facility. Extensive testing would be conducted before the step-down substation is brought online, including relay calibration, and simulated stress scenarios.

Battery Energy Storage System

After clearing and grading is completed, equipment foundations for the battery containers, inverter/transformer stations and other equipment would be installed. Other infrastructure installations would include underground duct banks, cable trenches, and grounding systems that would provide the safe routes necessary for high-, medium- and low-voltage power and cabling. The battery modules would be installed within enclosures equipped with an integrated heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system and safety monitoring. The power conversion system and associated medium-voltage equipment would be installed, followed by step-up transformers, voltage switchgear, protection and metering systems, and communications equipment. Cable termination, testing and commissioning would be conducted after the battery modules are installed. These activities would include verification of grounding continuity, insulation testing, functional checks of protection and control systems, and staged energization of auxiliary supplies and medium- and high voltage systems. The BESS would then be commissioned through a sequence of functional and performance tests to demonstrate safe operation under all modes (charging, discharging, standby, and emergency conditions), followed by grid compliance testing and readiness for operation.

Potable Water Supply During Construction

Potable water would be delivered to the Project site for use by construction personnel during the initial project construction phases before the permanent potable-water connection is available. The temporary potable water supply would consist of a combination of single-use bottled water, refillable five-gallon water containers, and bulk potable water delivered by tanker truck to temporary onsite storage tanks. The distribution method would vary depending on the intended use and location of construction activities.

Bottled water and five-gallon containers would primarily support drinking-water needs in work areas and break facilities, while the temporary storage tanks would supply handwashing stations, sanitation facilities, and other potable uses.

Potable water deliveries would increase as the construction workforce grows and would be sufficient to support the anticipated peak workforce until a permanent potable water connection is available. Bulk potable water would be transported in sanitary tanker trucks and transferred to temporary food-grade storage tanks equipped with appropriate pumps, fittings, and backflow-prevention measures. Delivery frequency would be adjusted based on workforce levels, weather conditions, water consumption, and remaining onsite storage. The temporary potable-water tanks would be removed after approximately 8 months once the permanent potable-water system is placed into service. Bottled water and five-gallon water deliveries may continue thereafter, as needed, to support personnel working throughout the remainder of construction.

Sanitation Facilities During Construction

During construction, portable toilet facilities and construction trailers equipped with toilets would be provided for the project workforce. The number and location of sanitation facilities would be adjusted as construction activities progress and workforce levels change. Portable toilets would be distributed near active work areas, laydown areas, break areas, and other locations readily accessible to workers, while trailer-mounted restrooms would primarily serve personnel working in construction management, administrative, and support areas.

The combined number of portable toilets and toilets within construction trailers would be sufficient to meet applicable Cal/OSHA sanitation requirements. Associated handwashing facilities would also be provided throughout the site. Portable toilets and trailer holding tanks would be routinely inspected, cleaned, restocked, and pumped by a licensed sanitation contractor, with service frequency adjusted based on workforce levels and usage. Wastewater and sewage removed from the portable facilities and construction trailers would be transported by vacuum service trucks to an authorized wastewater treatment or disposal facility.

1.8.2. Electrical Transmission Line

The proposed project would include construction of a new double-circuit overhead transmission line connecting the existing 26R Substation to the data center site. The transmission line would use six phase conductors (three per side) with overhead shield wires for lightning protection. The transmission line would be supported by galvanized steel monopoles with a height of up to 140 feet, depending on terrain, clearance, and span requirements. The pole span will range from approximately 500 – 1,200 feet with adjustments for topography, crossings, and design clearances. A Kern County Encroachment Permit would be required to span the powerline across Elk Hills Road.

Each pole would be supported by a drilled-pier concrete foundation with an approximate diameter of 6 to 9 feet and an approximate depth of 40 to 50 feet. Excess rock, soil, and subsurface materials from drilling the foundation will be leveled adjacent to the concrete foundation and revegetated. The temporary construction footprints will be up to 200 by 200 feet depending on site conditions and equipment needs to facilitate grading operations, crane operations, drill rigs, and material handling. The permanent disturbance

area per structure would be limited to an area of approximately 50 by 50 feet to accommodate the pole and a small maintenance pad. Conductors would be installed on the poles using helicopters to pull a lightweight "sock line" between each tower. The sock line would then be used to pull the high voltage electrical conductor between the poles.

Minor upgrades would be made to the existing 26R Substation, to accommodate the new 230-kV transmission line infrastructure. Upgrades within the existing substation would require approximately 0.80 acre (up to 1 acre) expansion of the substation limits to accommodate the relocation of the perimeter access road.

An existing disturbed site (35R) adjacent to the EHPP will be used as equipment staging and laydown area, and worker parking during powerline construction. Additional minor staging or pull/tension sites may be established along the alignment within the temporary works areas as needed for stringing operations and logistics.

The transmission line work area would be accessed during construction from existing roads and access routes. If existing access is insufficient for large equipment such as cranes and drill rigs, temporary access roads and work pads would be constructed within permitted limits and required erosion and sediment controls will be implemented before ground disturbance.

1.8.3. Fiber Optic Lines

The proposed fiber-optic lines would be constructed concurrently with construction of the proposed data center. As shown on **Figure 11,** *Project Fiber-Optic Routes*, fiber-optic lines would be constructed within existing public ROWs and, for Fiber-Optic Route East, along CRC's private oil field access road within the EHOF, connect the data center to multiple provider tie-in points. Construction methods would generally minimize surface disturbance to avoid sensitive resources. Multi-duct conduit would be installed with a vibratory plow or similar low impact trencher. Subsurface access vaults would be installed at regular intervals. Road and utility crossings, and environmentally sensitive areas would be constructed using HDD or jack-and-bore construction methods that avoid surface disturbance.

The fiber-optic lines would generally be installed within public rights-of-way, approximately 5 feet from the outer edge of the ROW to avoid new permanent disturbance. In areas where a vibratory plow is used, the disturbance area would consist of an approximately 4- to 6-inch-wide trench that would be backfilled after the line is installed and compacted to restore existing grade. At water crossings (canals and defined state or federal waters) and major road crossings, trenchless HDD methods would be used to avoid open-cuts and minimize environmental impacts. Open trenching or hydro-excavation would be used selectively for utility exposures and pipeline crossings where required by utility owners, or environmental permit conditions. Handholds, which serve as a demarcation point for carrier splicing, would be placed below grade approximately every 7,000 feet and would consist of an approximately 3-foot by 6-foot by 4-foot concrete vault. The estimated temporary construction footprint, including staging, is approximately 0.30 to 0.50 acre per mile.

Underground conduit would be installed at a minimum depth of 36 inches and typically 6 feet underground, with warning tape placed approximately 18 to 24 inches below grade. Standard conduit configuration

includes two multi-duct bundles and two additional conduits to accommodate current and future carrier needs. All areas would be backfilled and restored to original site conditions to the extent feasible.

1.8.4. Potable Water Pipeline

Construction of the proposed water supply line would occur concurrently with construction of the proposed data center. Construction of the water supply system includes installing an underground pipeline almost entirely within existing public road ROWs to connect from the West Kern Water District delivery point to the data center site. Most of the route will run within the Elk Hills Road ROW to minimize surface disturbance and avoid sensitive resources.

The work consists of placing a single, 2- to 4-inch-diameter non-metallic pipe inside a trench dug with a vibratory plow, trencher or other construction equipment depending on site conditions. The pipe would be installed with a minimum of 36 inches of cover.

At water crossings (canals and defined state or federal waters), major road and utility crossings, and environmentally sensitive areas, trenchless HDD or jack & bore would be used. The estimated temporary construction footprint, including staging, assembling, and stringing, spoils placement, and equipment work areas is expected to be up to 38 ft wide. All temporarily disturbed areas shall be backfilled and restored to original pre-project topographic and vegetative conditions, except within the permanent operational right-of-way or where permanent above-ground structures prevent revegetation. Typical construction equipment for construction of the water pipeline is summarized in **Table 6**, *Construction Equipment by Activity*.

Table 6 Construction Equipment by Activity

Construction Activity	Typical Equipment
New Yard Prep and Relocation	Track excavators, bull dozers, wheel loaders, dump trucks, graders, water trucks, cranes, and hydro cranes
Oil Field Access Road Reroute/ Elk Hills Road Widening	Reclaimer/soil stabilizer, motor graders, dozer, loader, rollers, water trucks, asphalt rollers, and pavers
Crude Oil Shipping Line Reroute	Water trucks, backhoes, loaders, graders, flatbed trucks, welding trucks, pickups, reachlifts, cranes, side booms, water buffalos, vacuum excavation trucks, and non-destructive evaluation (NDE) trucks
18G Subsurface Pipe Abandonment	Vacuum excavation trucks, hydraulic excavators, rough terrain cranes, backhoe loaders, dozers, vibratory rollers, compactors, water trucks
Data Center Site Work	Excavators, Bobcat skid, backhoes, loaders, graders, rollers, dozers, lifts, cranes
Data Center Core + Shell	Boom and scissor lifts, excavators, cranes, generators, large cranes
Data Halls/Fitout	Boom lifts, scissor lifts, gradall lifts, excavators
Fiber-Optic	Vibratory plow, HDD/Direction Drill Rig, HDD Mud System, vibratory plate compactor, fiber blowing system, excavators, dozers, skid steers, water truck, dump trucks, portable air compressors
26R Substation Modifications	Excavators, backhoes, compactors, cranes, telehandlers, forklift, cable puller/ tensioners, generators, compressors

Table 6 Construction Equipment by Activity	
Construction Activity	**Typical Equipment**
230-kV Construction	Loaders, graders, excavator, boom crane, helicopters, pullers, puller-tensioners, bucket trucks, fuel trucks
Water Pipeline Construction	Excavators, vibratory plows, backhoes, loaders, graders, flatbed trucks, pickups, water buffalos, water trucks, reach lifts, cranes, welding trucks, spool trucks, HDD/Direction Drill Rigs, HDD Mud Systems, vacuum excavation trucks
Note: HDD = horizontal directional drilling	

1.8.5. Crude Oil Shipping Line Reroute

Relocation of the existing Crude Oil Shipping Line would be constructed concurrently with site preparation for the proposed data center. The relocated 12-inch pipeline would be installed adjacent to the northern margin of the data center site on land owned by CRC.

A new 12-inch-diameter pipe would be installed either above ground on pipe supports or in a trench dug with a trencher or other construction equipment depending on site conditions and review by the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). If buried, the pipe would be installed with a minimum of 36 inches of cover though additional depth of cover may be required depending on location and DOT requirements. The estimated temporary construction footprint, including staging, assembling, stringing, spoils placement, and equipment work areas is expected to be no more than 150 ft wide (75 ft from centerline on either side.)

All work areas would be backfilled using native soil and maintained as part of CRC's active pipeline corridors to allow for operational monitoring and inspections. Typical construction equipment for construction of the crude oil shipping line is summarized in **Table 6**, *Construction Equipment by Activity*.

1.8.6. Construction Equipment

A variety of construction equipment, including heavy civil equipment, would be used for construction of the proposed project. **Table 6**, *Construction Equipment by Activity*, provides a representative summary of the types of construction equipment that will be used during the various phases of construction activity, from site preparation to building fit-out and handover, along with the general time frame anticipated for each phase of construction across the entire 30-month construction lifecycle. The construction lifecycle, 30 months as described previously, and subsequent equipment use by phase, is subject to procurement delays, long-lead equipment shortages, and weather. Temporary lighting would be used during nighttime construction activities as necessary to maintain safe working conditions and comply with applicable occupational safety requirements. Although the Kern County Zoning Ordinance generally subjects new temporary and permanent outdoor lighting to the County's Dark Skies Ordinance, temporary lighting expressly approved as part of a discretionary permit is exempt from those requirements.

1.8.7. Construction Schedule

Construction of the data center and ancillary infrastructure would be phased and is anticipated to begin in the first quarter of 2028. Construction, including commissioning and start-up activities, would take up to 30 months. Construction duration and major activities anticipated during each phase are described in **Table 7**, *Construction Duration and Major Activities for Data Center Buildout*, with several elements of

the Project being constructed concurrently. Data halls would be commissioned and placed into operation sequentially, beginning approximately 14 months after the start of construction, so that initial data center operations would overlap the final months of construction.

Table 7 Construction Duration and Major Activities for Data Center Buildout

Estimated Duration	Phasing	Description
Up to 4 months	18G Relocation Yards Preparation	Clearing, grading, and paving; installation of fencing, lighting and relocation of trailers and supporting electrical and water infrastructure
Up to 2 months	Oil Field Access Road Reroute/Elk Hills Road Widening	Clearing and grading; subgrade preparation; base layers; asphalt paving; compaction; striping
Up to 5 months	Crude Oil Shipping Line Reroute & 18G Subsurface Pipe Abandonment	Purge combustibles from pipeline; disconnect infrastructure; sealing or removal of pipe; site restoration Route surveying; trenching, pipe support installation; pipe alignment, joint welding/sealing; pressure testing; surface restoration
Up to 13 months	Data Center Site Work	Mass grading, underground utilities (stormwater, wastewater, fiber ducts, medium-voltage duct banks), building foundations, new roadways, and parking
Up to 14 months	Data Center Core and Shell Buildout	Pre-engineering metal building framing; interior partitions and office spaces; installation of first trenches of medium-voltage gear; duct work, mechanical plant sized to capacity
Up to 16 months	Data Halls/Fitout	Testing of electrical, cooling, and SCADA/BMS/EPMS integrated systems; phased IT load ramp
Up to 21 months	Fiber-Optic Construction	Place underground conduits; trenching; pulling fiber cable; fiber splicing; network testing
Up to 10 months	26R Modifications	26R switchyard modifications and new line construction, data center campus step-down substation energization
Up to 6 months	230-kV Transmission Line Construction	Construction of heavy foundations and 26R substation expansion; grid connection tie-ins
Up to 5 months	Potable Water Pipeline Construction	Route surveying; trenching, pipe alignment, joint welding/sealing; pressure testing; surface restoration

Notes:
BMS = building management system
EPMS = electrical power monitoring system
IT = information technology
SCADA = supervisory control and data acquisition

1.8.8. Workforce

The average daily workforce during the 30-month construction period would be approximately 800 workers. At peak construction, which includes the Data Center Site Work, Core and Shell, and Data Halls and Fit out construction phases, approximately 1,500 workers would be required. Construction of the fiber-optic lines would require approximately 20 workers per day on average across the 21-month construction phase. Modification and construction of the 26R Substation and 230-kV transmission line will require

approximately 25 workers on average over 10 months. Pipeline rerouting and subsurface abandonment would require roughly 40 workers over approximately 5 months, and construction of the water pipeline would require approximately 16 workers over 5 months.

1.8.9. Access and *Traffic*

Temporary access routes, staging and laydown areas would be used to construct the data center, electric transmission lines, fiber-optic lines, and the new potable water pipeline. An existing oil field access road would be permanently relocated along the southern margin of the data center site within a corridor approximately 40 feet wide. Transmission line pole locations would be accessed from established roads, other existing cleared areas, or new routes, using off-road construction equipment and a temporary 20-foot-wide travel path. Fiber-optic lines would be constructed primarily within existing public rights-of-way (and, for Fiber-Optic Route East, along CRC's private oil field access road within the EHOF) using a 15- to 20-foot-wide temporary work area and up to 100 feet by 40 feet for the HDD temporary workspaces.

Traffic control plans would be prepared and submitted to Kern County Public Works and Caltrans for review and approval for the proposed activities associated with public ROWs. Construction traffic would primarily include personal vehicles and trucks delivering construction materials and supplies to the Project site. Anticipated deliveries of materials and equipment would occur during construction hours. Construction employees are expected to travel from population centers such as Bakersfield and Taft to the site, parking vehicles on site at the data center construction site or at an adjacent laydown/staging area. Construction employees would park at the temporary laydown and staging areas shown on **Figure 9,** *Proposed Data Center Site Layout.*

Personnel, construction equipment, and material deliveries would access the data center site via Elk Hills Road. Elk Hills Road near the southwestern corner of the site would be improved with dedicated right-hand and left-hand turn lanes. Engineering drawings will be submitted to the Kern County Public Works for review and approval of the road improvements. Three temporary construction entrances would be utilized: one on the eastern side of the Project area, where the private oil field access road enters the site; one on the southwestern side of the site; and one at the main entrance from Elk Hills Road.

Up to 1,500 construction personnel would be on site daily. The traffic control plan will include measures such as ride-sharing and off-peak work schedules to minimize traffic during peak periods.

Rerouting of Private Oil Field Access Road

An approximately 3,500-foot-long segment of an existing oil field access road, as shown on **Figure 9,** *Proposed Data Center Site Layout*, would be relocated during the first phase of construction. The relocated roadway would be completed and placed into service before the existing portion of the oil field access road is closed so that continuous access for CRC personnel, contractors, operations vehicles, and emergency response vehicles would be maintained. Construction of the relocated roadway would be coordinated with initial site clearing, grading, and utility relocation activities.

Construction would begin with surveying and staking of the approximately 3,500-foot-long roadway alignment, followed by clearing and grubbing within the construction limits. Existing vegetation, debris, and other surface obstructions would be removed, and unsuitable soil would be excavated where necessary. The roadway would then be graded to establish the required horizontal alignment, vertical profile, drainage,

and roadway cross-section. Fill material would be placed and compacted in lifts, followed by installation of aggregate base and asphalt concrete pavement. Drainage improvements, which may include roadside ditches, culverts, and erosion-control features, would be installed as required. Final activities would include construction of roadway connections, placement of shoulders, installation of signage and pavement markings, and restoration or stabilization of temporarily disturbed areas. Lastly, a security guard house and gate would be installed to regulate access to the oil field.

Typical equipment used to construct the relocated oil field access road would include excavators, bulldozers, motor graders, scrapers, loaders, compactors, water trucks, dump trucks, asphalt paving machines, rollers, cranes or backhoes for drainage installations, and smaller support vehicles. Once the relocated roadway is operational, the portion of the existing oil field access road within the Project development area would be removed, abandoned, or incorporated into subsequent site grading, as applicable.

Widening of Elk Hills Road

Improvements to Elk Hills Road would be completed prior to the peak period of Project construction traffic and before the Project becomes operational. As described in **Table 7**, *Construction Duration and Major Activities for Data Center Buildout*, construction will be phased, which will maintain traffic on Elk Hills Road and access to nearby CRC facilities throughout the work. Traffic control plans would be prepared and submitted to Kern County Public Works and will include temporary traffic controls, that would be implemented and may include construction signage, cones, barriers, flaggers, reduced speed limits, temporary lane shifts, and short-duration lane closures. Work affecting the existing travel lanes would be coordinated to minimize disruption to roadway users.

Construction would begin with surveying, utility locating, and establishment of roadway improvement limits. Areas adjacent to the existing roadway would be cleared and graded to accommodate the new left-turn, right-turn, and acceleration lanes, shoulders, pavement transitions, and associated drainage improvements. Existing pavement may be saw-cut or milled at the limits of the improvements to provide a suitable connection between the existing roadway and new pavement. Roadway subgrade would be prepared and compacted, followed by placement of aggregate base and asphalt concrete pavement. Drainage facilities would be installed or modified as required to maintain existing drainage patterns and prevent erosion or ponding.

Following completion of the roadway widening, the new pavement would be tied into the existing roadway surface. Final construction activities would include pavement grinding or overlay where required, installation of striping, signage, delineators, shoulders, and other traffic-control features, and stabilization of disturbed areas. Typical construction equipment would include excavators, motor graders, loaders, compactors, water trucks, dump trucks, asphalt paving machines, pavement milling machines, rollers, striping equipment, and miscellaneous support vehicles.

1.8.10. Temporary Laydown and Staging Areas

Two temporary laydown and staging areas, one located in the same parcel as the project site (APN 298-170-01) and another one located on 35R (APN 158-090-19), as shown on **Figure 9,** *Proposed Data*

Center Site Layout, and **Figure 12**, *Project Power Infrastructure*, respectively, will be required for construction of the proposed project.

The temporary laydown and staging area on 18G is an 8.90-acre site east of the proposed data center administration building as shown in **Figure 9,** *Proposed Data Center Site Layout*. The other temporary laydown and staging area, is an existing developed 5.56-acre site in Section 35R, Township 30 South, Range 23 East, immediately south of the EHPP. This site will be used as equipment staging and laydown area during construction of the transmission line.

In addition to laydown and staging, these temporary sites will be used as parking areas during project construction.

1.8.11. Hours of Construction

Most construction activities would take place between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; and between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, if weekend work is necessary to maintain project construction schedules. During summer months, construction hours may be shifted earlier in the day to avoid peak afternoon temperatures. Although nearby sensitive receptors are greater than 1 mile from the proposed data center site, construction activities would comply with Kern County Code Noise Control (Chapter 8.36.020). Most construction activities would occur during daylight hours; limited nightwork could potentially include, concrete pours, pipeline tie-in connections, refueling equipment, staging equipment and material for the following day's construction activities, quality assurance/control, and commissioning. Nighttime work would be less than 1 percent of total construction hours. All lighting used during nightwork would be directed downward to the work area and used only for durations necessary to safely complete the task.

1.8.12. Construction Waste Management

Construction and demolition-related waste would be generated, managed, and disposed of consistent with applicable laws and regulations. This includes compliance with the State of California Green Building Code Requirements, which require submittal of a Construction Waste Management Plan prior to construction for approval by the Kern County Building Department; recycling and/or reuse of a minimum of 65 percent waste; and recycling or reuse of 100 percent of tree stumps, rocks, and associated vegetation and soils resulting from land clearing.

1.9. Project Operations and Maintenance

Upon completion of all construction activities, the Project operator would ensure that the facility would be properly operated and maintained. The Project operator would develop an operations and maintenance (O&M) plan to be implemented throughout the life of the data center, and would include safety procedures, and coordination with Kern County Fire, Health and Safety, and CalOSHA. O&M personnel would conduct maintenance activities for each item required by the routine schedule provided by the supplier or as required to keep the equipment in operation. Maintenance activities may occur 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, to ensure system reliability and safety. Routine maintenance would be completed by onsite maintenance crews or contractor maintenance crews, depending on the type of O&M required. The site facility supervisor would help to coordinate annual agency inspections from Kern County Fire Department and/or Kern County Public Health.

1.9.1. Data Center Site

Operating Hours

The proposed data center would operate 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, using approximately three 8-hour shifts with up to 100 workers per shift. Workers would access buildings through badge-in entry points. Non-employee visitors would be required to have an appointment and check in at the administration building. Deliveries would occur at the administration building or designated loading dock. Employees would access the data center site through the entrance from Elk Hills Road, which would be north of the relocated oil field access road intersection (**Figure 9,** *Proposed Data Center Site Layout*).

Water Supply

Operation of the data center would include a closed-loop cooling system, which would require an initial fill of 450,000 gallons for process chilled water and another 150,000 gallons for condenser water, as discussed above. Up to 10,000 gallons per day (0.03 acre foot per day) of potable water would be used for domestic and sanitary purposes including but not limited to sinks, toilets, and showers within the administrative building, and for the site's landscaping. Domestic and sanitary water would be provided by the West Kern Water District.

Water Discharge

The closed loop cooling system would not produce a regular discharge because the water would be recirculated without replacement. However, maintenance or repair of the system may result in a small amount of water loss, up to 0.1 percent (approximately 600 gallons) annually increasing to approximately 1 percent (approximately 6,000 gallons) in later years as the equipment ages and maintenance becomes more frequent. In the unlikely event that a portion of the cooling system needs to be drained, the discharged water would be trucked off site and disposed of at an appropriate facility.

The cooling system serving the data center and the administration building would produce condensate, but the discharge would be minimal. If needed, a condensation line from the HVAC system would be connected to the onsite septic system, subject to Kern County Environmental Health approval.

The onsite septic system would include tanks for collection of sludge and a permitted leach field for disposal of effluent streams. The sludge would be pumped annually and trucked to an approved treatment facility.

Mechanical Yard

The cooling plant in the mechanical yard would require the water quality to be maintained to minimize corrosion, scale buildup, and bacteria growth. As part of the initial water quality control and corrosion protection, demineralized or reverse osmosis water would be used for system filling. Water quality would be continuously monitored, with treatment additives replenished as needed, typically on a quarterly basis, and comprehensive water quality testing conducted at least annually to maintain water quality performance.

Electrical Yard

The backup diesel generators in the electrical yard would be maintained as detailed in the facilities O&M program described previously to ensure reliability for life-safety needs and compliance with applicable air quality, fire, and environmental regulations. The O&M program for the backup diesel generators would

include routine inspections, including the inspection of the secondary containment structures established around the diesel tanks, preventive servicing, emissions control, fuel quality management, safety, and recordkeeping, with non-emergency activities scheduled to minimize operational impacts.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Once online, the BESS maintenance process typically involves a combination of routine inspections, preventive measures, and corrective actions.

The anticipated maintenance frequency includes continuous automated monitoring and alarms, monthly to quarterly visual inspections, software updates, basic electrical testing, and annual comprehensive evaluations of battery health, thermal management, and electrical systems. This program would support consistent performance, protect workers and public safety, and extend the service life of the BESS while minimizing environmental and operational risks.

Maintenance of the BESS includes routine inspections of the BESS enclosures, battery modules, and associated equipment. These inspections include visual checks for physical damage, corrosion, loose connections, and any evidence of leaks, as well as verifying environmental conditions in the BESS housing, such as temperature, humidity, and ventilation, to keep the equipment within its recommended operating range. Safety systems, including fire detection and suppression, alarms, and emergency shutdowns, would be tested regularly to confirm readiness.

Battery performance maintenance includes reviewing the state of charge and voltage to ensure the thermal management system maintains appropriate battery temperatures. Control software and firmware would be updated periodically to improve performance and security. Electrical equipment, including wiring, circuit breakers, inverters, and protection devices, would be tested at planned intervals to identify and address emerging issues before they affect operations.

Corrective maintenance includes replacing and/or repairing degraded or faulty components (e.g., individual cells or modules) and electrical systems, such as addressing insulation breakdowns or loose terminations. Corrective maintenance also includes recalibrating sensors, meters, and control systems to maintain accurate monitoring and dispatch. All work would be performed by qualified personnel following manufacturer guidance and industry best practices to ensure safe procedures and consistent system reliability.

The BESS would be supported by secure, real-time remote monitoring to track performance and detect anomalies, in addition to predictive analytics to identify trends and schedule maintenance proactively, minimizing downtime and extending equipment life. These capabilities enable early intervention and support effective coordination with site operations. O&M of the BESS includes maintaining detailed records of inspections, maintenance activities, and performance metrics to demonstrate regulatory compliance and support continuous improvement. End-of-life batteries and components would be managed through approved county and state recycling or disposal pathways, consistent with environmental regulations. Maintenance activities would generally occur during standard working hours. When used, the backup generators would support the network core and other critical functions (approximately 10 to 15 percent of the total facility load) when required due to power interruptions and would also be operated during commissioning activities and for scheduled readiness testing and maintenance.

Facility Maintenance

Overall facility maintenance would include landscaping and grounds maintenance, site and exterior maintenance, and roof and drainage maintenance. Building maintenance for both the proposed data center building and the administration building include janitorial cleaning and trash handling. The proposed project would comply with Kern County requirements for industrial buildings; mandatory three-stream waste disposal (trash, recycling, and organics); and all requirements of California Senate Bill 1383 for color-coded, labeled containers. CRC will be responsible for maintaining the relocated section of the private oil field access road.

All landscaping would be designed in accordance with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection requirements for defensible space around structures. The Proposed data center is within the Kern County Local Responsibility Area (LRA) and has been designated as a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire). Project components east of Elk Hills Road are within the Kern County LRA and components west of the road are within the State Responsibility Area (SRA). The project components are primarily within the High FHSZ.

In addition, a vegetation management plan would be implemented during operations to guide the use of mowers and other hand-tools, to help manage accumulation of potential fire fuels around infrastructure.

Hazardous Material Management

During operations, hazardous materials (as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 25501) would be stored and used on-site. These materials are expected to include ultra-low-sulfur diesel fuel stored in emergency generator belly tanks; mineral oil contained within transformers at the step-down substation and electrical yards; lithium iron phosphate batteries within the BESS and building-mounted battery systems; refrigerants used in chillers and HVAC equipment; cooling-system treatment chemicals; and limited quantities of solvents, detergents, lubricants, and similar products used for routine equipment maintenance. Hazardous materials would be managed, handled, stored, and transported in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. The operator would prepare and maintain a Hazardous Materials Business Plan, as required, and comply with applicable spill prevention, containment, and reporting requirements, including the Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act.

Hazardous waste generated during operation of the proposed project, such as used oil, spent solvents, spent filters, and used batteries, would be managed in accordance with applicable federal and state hazardous waste regulations. The facility is anticipated to operate as a Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG), with hazardous waste generation remaining below the applicable monthly regulatory threshold of 100 kilograms (220 pounds). All hazardous waste would be accumulated, stored, transported, and disposed of in accordance with Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations and other applicable requirements.

Spill prevention and containment measures during construction and operations would adhere to applicable EPA regulations on Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure requirements, as well as applicable state and local guidance.

1.10. Health and Safety

The proposed project would adhere to all Kern County Improvement Standards to ensure accessibility for emergency vehicles and safe operation during construction or project operation. The proposed project would implement measures for worker safety during construction, in accordance with California Division of Occupational Safety and Health regulations, guidance, and other BMPs. The proposed project would have an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) that would be reviewed and approved by the Kern County Fire Department. The ERP would address potential emergencies, including chemical releases, fires, and injuries. All employees would be expected to use communication devices, cell phones, or walkie-talkies to provide aid in the event of an emergency. The ERP would also identify emergency contact names and emergency access points, including access to the nearest helicopter landing pad, just south of the EHPP.

Safety training would be required for all personnel working on the Project site. Training would include both classroom and hands-on training in O&M procedures, when applicable; general safety items; and the planned maintenance program for operational personnel. Training would include emergency procedures, fire prevention, and discussion of the location and proper use of emergency equipment. In addition, contact numbers for various local emergency response agencies, including fire, police, and medical services, would be provided; and instruction for communication procedures to report potential health hazards and concerns would be a part of the training.

The proposed project also would include training on OSHA-compliant electrical safety training program (29 CFR 1910.332) to prevent electrical hazards, which would reduce the potential for igniting combustible materials. The proposed project also would limit areas where employees can smoke, and parking areas for personnel, heavy equipment, and project operations would be provided at a safe distance from dry vegetation.

1.11. Emergency Management

An Emergency Response Plan would be implemented by the facility owner/operator to provide guidance during various emergencies that may occur. The plan would address a variety of incidents that may occur regarding facilities, equipment, and building occupants.

The proposed data center site would use an early detection Very Early Smoke Detection Apparatus system, an advanced aspirating smoke detection system that provides the earliest possible warning of an impending fire by actively sampling air through a network of pipes.

1.12. Required Entitlements

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department as the CEQA Lead Agency (per CEQA Guidelines Section 15052) has discretionary responsibility for the proposed project. Implementation of this project may require the project proponent to obtain discretionary and ministerial permits/approvals. These discretionary and ministerial permits/approvals include but are not limited to:

- **Federal**

- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Section 10 Incidental Take Permit and Habitat Conservation Plan (if required)
- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) General Permit

- **State**

  - California Department of Fish and Wildlife Section 2081 Incidental Take Permit (state-listed endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act)(if required)

  - California Department of Fish and Wildlife Section 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (if required).

  - Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Section 401 Water Quality Certification (if the Project would affect jurisdictional Waters of the United States)

  - Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Waste Discharge Requirements under the California Porter-Cologne Act or waiver for land application of EHPP cooling tower blowdown water for dust control.

  - Caltrans Encroachment Permit and Permit for Transport of Oversized Loads (if required)

  - California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) – Construction Site Well Review (application) Form (PRC 3208.1) for identification of abandoned wells within or near the proposed project area.

  - Central Valley Flood Protection Board Encroachment Permit for crossing of designated floodway.

  - DWR California Aqueduct Encroachment Permit for crossing of Fiber-Optic North Route.

  - State Historic Preservation Officer Section 106 Coordination under the National Historic Preservation Act (if federal approval is required)

  - Consultation with California Native American tribes under Assembly Bill 52

- **Local**

  - County of Kern

    - Certification of Final EIR
    - Adoption of 15091 Findings of Fact and 15093 Statement of Overriding Considerations
    - Adoption of Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
    - Approval of ZCC, CUPs, Zone Variance for the proposed project.
    - Approval and subsequent recordation of Parcel Map with Development Variations under the Kern County Land Division Ordinance
    - Approval of Kern County Grading, Electrical, and Building Permits
    - Approval of Kern County Encroachment Permits or Franchise Agreements (if required)

- Approval of Kern County Environmental Health Services Division (CUPA) Hazardous Materials Business Plan and Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act Program
- Approval of Kern County Fire Department Fire Safety and Evacuation Plan and Emergency Action Plan for the BESS
- Approval of Kern County Fire Department Commissioning Plan for the BESS
- Approval of Kern County Fire Department Construction and Operational Permits for the BESS
- Approval of Kern County Public Health Services Department Environmental Health Services Division Onsite Wastewater Treatment System/Septic System Permit or Variance (if required)

Other jurisdictions would have authority over different aspects of the Project, such as air quality or other local encroachment permits, including:

- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
  - Approval of Fugitive Dust Control Plan
  - Authority to Construct/Permit to Operate

- City of Taft Encroachment Permit for the permanent installation of the fiber route.

- West Kern Water District
  - Water Supply Assessment and Will-Serve Commitment

The preceding discretionary actions/approvals are potentially required and do not necessarily represent a comprehensive list of all possible discretionary permits/approvals required. Other additional permits or approvals from responsible agencies may be required for the proposed project.

2. Kern County Environmental Checklist Form

2.1. Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines, the County intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate potential environmental effects of the project and to propose mitigation measures to reduce any significant effects identified.

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "potentially significant impact" as indicated by the Kern County Environmental Checklist. As such, the analysis contained within the EIR will focus on these issue areas.

☒ Aesthetics	☒ Agricultural and Forestry Resources	☒ Air Quality
☒ Biological Resources	☒ Cultural Resources	☒ Energy
☒ Geology and Soils	☒ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☒ Hazards and Hazardous Materials
☒ Hydrology and Water Quality	☒ Land Use and Planning	☒ Mineral Resources
☒ Noise	☒ Population and Housing	☒ Public Services
☒ Recreation	☒ Transportation and Traffic	☒ Tribal Cultural Resources
☒ Utilities/Service Systems	☒ Wildfire	☒ Mandatory Findings of Significance

2.2. Determination

(To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially

significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect (a) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (b) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENT IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature: 	Date: November 4, 2026
	Title:
Lead Agency Representative: Mark Tolentino	Planner III