## FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION for the City of Riverside, Public Utilities Department Cooley Solar Power Facility San Bernardino County, California

Prepared for:

City of Riverside Public Utilities Department Water Division 3750 University Ave., 3rd Floor Riverside, CA 92501 Contact: Matthew Bates (951) 826-5116 Prepared by:

SunPower Corporation 2125 E Katella Ave #220 Anaheim, CA 92806 Contact: Charles Sandschafer (714) 787-3822

## MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE Cooley Solar Power Facility San Bernardino County, CALIFORNIA

## **INTRODUCTION**

The *Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the* Cooley Solar Power Facility, San Bernardino County, California was circulated for a public review beginning February 4, 2016 and ending on February 25, 2016, 2016.

Four letters, including two of which, are confidential, on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) were received during the public review period. Letters were received from the following parties:

- California State Clearinghouse.
- Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians Kizh Nation
- Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
- San Bernardino County, Department of Public Works

Minor changes are presented in track changes and/or underline text to indicate deleted or proposed new language. Revisions are intended to correct minor discrepancies and provide additional clarification. Additional tribal consultation has resulted in minor changes to the cultural resources analysis and one additional mitigation measure. All other mitigation requirements for impacts remain unchanged and will be implemented as stated in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. The revisions do not constitute significant changes to the project or environmental setting, no new significant environmental effects have been identified for the project, and the severity of environmental impacts would not be increased. The changes do not affect the conclusions of the Draft MND. No new significant impacts have been identified.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

## Name of Project: Cooley Solar Power Facility

The City of Riverside Public Utilities Department, Water Division ("RPU") proposes to construct, operate, maintain and demolish a solar photovoltaic (PV) electrical generating facility on property owned by the City of Riverside Public Utilities Department (RPU). The Cooley site is 3.0 acres in size and the proposed solar array would be capable of generating approximately 0.52 MW of electricity. Generated power would be utilized by RPU onsite to support its water operations and production to minimize overall greenhouse gas emissions.

**Project Location:** The Project is located immediately south of East 4th Street; west of the Warm Creek channel; east of Waterman Avenue; and north of East 3rd Street (refer to Figure 1 within Attachment A) on unincorporated County of San Bernardino land within the City of San Bernardino Sphere of Influence. The site encompasses APNs: 0279-031-39 & 0279-043-15.

## FINDING

Based on the attached Initial Study and all documents referenced, the project described above will not have a significant effect on the environment in that the attached initial study identifies one or more potentially significant effects on the environment for which the City of Riverside Public Utilities Department, before release of this MND, has made or agrees to make project revisions that clearly mitigate the effects to a less than significant level.

# MITIGATION MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT TO REDUCE OR AVOID POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS TO A LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT LEVEL

## **Biological Resources**

**MM BIO-1:** Employees shall be trained to ensure that all workers on-site (including contractors) are aware of all applicable mitigation measures for biological resources. Specifically, workers shall be required to: (1) limit all activities to approved work areas; (2) pick up and properly dispose of any food, trash or construction refuse; and (3) report any spilled materials (oil, fuel, solvent, engine coolant, raw concrete, or other material potentially hazardous to wildlife) to the site supervisor.

**MM BIO-2:** All trash and food materials shall be properly contained within vehicles or closed refuse bins while on any site, and shall be regularly removed from the site (at least on a weekly basis) for proper disposal. All refuse from construction activities shall be removed from the work site upon completion of work. No raw cement, concrete or washings thereof, asphalt, paint, oil, solvents, or other petroleum products, or any other substances that could be hazardous to vegetation or wildlife resources, shall be disposed of on-site or allowed to spill onto soil. Cleanup of any spilled material shall begin immediately.

## Cultural Resources

**MM CR-1:** In the event that unanticipated resources are encountered during ground-disturbing or other construction activities, work must cease within 50 feet of the discovery and a County Cultural Resources Specialist and tribal representatives from San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians and Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians notified by phone and email. Work may continue only after the resources are recorded and evaluated by a cultural resources specialist who meets or exceeds the Secretary of the Interior Professional Qualification Standards in archaeology and examined tribal representatives qualified to identify tribal cultural resources as defined in AB 52 (PRC § 21080.3.1(a)).

**MM CR-2:** In accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code and PRC Section 5097.98, if human remains are found, the San Bernardino County Coroner shall be notified within 24 hours of the discovery. No further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie potential remains shall occur until the County Coroner has determined, within two working days of notification of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains. If the County Coroner determines that the remains do not require an assessment of cause of death and that the remains are or are believed to be Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours. In accordance with Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code, the NAHC must immediately notify those persons it believes to be the Most Likely Descendent (MLD) of the deceased Native American. The descendants shall complete their inspection within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative would then determine, in consultation with the County, the disposition of the human remains.

**MM CR-3:** Ground-disturbing activities related to construction, which extend 1 foot below the modern ground surface, shall be monitored by a cultural resources monitor. Monitoring shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist familiar with the types of historical and prehistoric resources that could be encountered within the approved project area, and under direct supervision of a cultural resources specialist who meets or exceeds the Secretary of the Interior Professional Qualification Standards in archaeology.

- Part-time monitoring at all locations where disturbance extends below 1 foot.
- In the event cultural resources are identified by the qualified archaeological monitor at the site, the three Native American tribes who have expressed an interest in the site shall be notified. One Native American monitor shall be arranged to monitor further activities. In the event the City and the interested Tribes cannot agree upon the monitor, then the City shall select a monitor and arrange for that monitor. The intensity of Native American monitoring (full or part time) will be determined by both tribal and archaeological specialists, based on the nature of the find and the possibility of finding additional resources.

**MM CR-4:** The cultural resources monitor shall document interim results of the construction monitoring program with daily monitoring logs and photographs. At the conclusion of monitoring a summary of the results shall be prepared.

- If no resources were identified, copies of the daily logs and a brief letter report summarizing the monitoring activities will be submitted to the project owner and the CEQA lead agency.
- If resources were identified during monitoring, a cultural resources report shall be prepared and all work must be halted within 50 feet of the discovery. The report shall be written by or under the direction of a cultural resources specialist who meets or exceeds the Secretary of the Interior Professional Qualification Standards in archaeology and shall be provided in the State of California Archaeological Resource Management Report format. The final document shall report on all field activities including dates, times and locations, results, samplings, and analyses. All Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms, data recovery reports, and any additional research reports shall be included as appendices. This report shall be submitted to the project owner, the CEQA lead agency and the California Historical Resource Information System (CHRIS).
- Any information gathered during tribal AB 52 consultation may not be shared with the public without prior written tribal consent. The report will conform with these confidentiality requirements (PRC § 21080.3.2).

**MM CR-5:** The project owner shall invite the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation ("Gabrieleno") to the project kickoff/pre-construction meeting where the project schedule will be outlined in detail. The project owner will notify the Gabrieleno 5 business days prior to pre-construction meeting and commencement of ground disturbing work in order to provide them an opportunity to assign a tribal monitor to visit the site. Ground-disturbing activities related to construction - including but not limited to pavement removal, pot holing or auguring, boring, grading, excavation and trenching - may be monitored full-time by one tribal monitor per project site. Gabrileno to provide at their cost, the tribal monitor. Gabrieleno to provide at their cost, the tribal monitor. Prior to entering the project site, the tribal monitor shall receive proper safety training and execute an Agreement to Release All Liability.

## Hazards & Hazardous Materials

**MM HAZ-1:** The applicant shall prepare a hazardous materials business plan to ensure proper storage, transport, and disposal of hazardous waste generated at the proposed project site during construction. An alternate or amended business plan shall be prepared for waste generated at the site during operation. At a minimum, the hazardous materials business plan shall be in compliance with California Health and Safety Code Chapter 6.5. The plan shall comply with all future revisions and updates to the regulations. Such a plan would enable workers to respond to any potential release of hazardous materials and ensure quick and safe cleanup. The plan shall include measures to implement emergency response procedures to reduce the potential for contamination and exposure of workers or the public to hazardous materials in the event of an accidental spill, by providing various measures to ensure that any spilled material is contained and any resulting surficial contaminated soil was quickly cleaned up and disposed of properly.

## Hydrology/Water Quality

**MM WQ-1:** The applicant shall prepare and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP shall:

- Identify water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize erosion and to guide the clean-up of any accident, per the California Stormwater BMP Handbook;
- Identify potential pollutant sources that may affect water quality; and
- Identify monitoring and reporting procedures to ensure all BMPs are adhered to during construction and operations.

**MM WQ-2:** The applicant shall review the final site plan prior to construction to verify that all staging areas, PV arrays, and other associated equipment are to be located outside of the 100-year flood plain as mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. If any structures are proposed within the flood plain, the applicant will revise the site plan prior to construction to relocate those structures outside of the flood plain.

## AUTHORITY TO PREPARE A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

As provided in the California Environmental quality Act (CEQA) § 21064.5, an MND may be prepared for a project subject to CEQA "when the Initial Study has identified potentially significant impacts to the environment, but revisions in the project plans or proposal as made by, or agreed to by, the applicant before the proposed negative declaration and initial study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a pint where clearly no significant effect on the environment would occur, and there is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record before the public agency that the project, as revised, may have a significant effect on the environment".

The City of Riverside Public Utilities Department is the lead agency under CEQA and is responsible for planning and implementation of the proposed project. Based on the findings for the Environmental Study Checklist that was prepared for this project, the Riverside Utilities Department has determined that preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration is the appropriate method by which to obtain compliance with CEQA. The Environmental Study Checklist is included in this Mitigated Negative Declaration. Based on this Environmental Initial Study Checklist, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazards/Hazardous Materials, and Hydrology/Water Quality are anticipated to have a potentially significant impact without mitigation. However, proposed mitigation measures reduce impacts to below a level of significance.

## PUBLIC REVIEW DISTRIBUTION

In addition to the State Clearinghouse, notice of the Mitigated Negative Declaration was published in the Press-Enterprise, San Bernardino Sun, and distributed to the owners of parcels adjacent to the proposed project.

### **RESULTS OF PUBLIC REVIEW**

() No comments were received during the public input period.

() Comments were received but did not address the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration finding or the accuracy/completeness of the Initial Study. No response is necessary. The letters are attached.

(X) Comments addressing the findings of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and or accuracy or completeness of the Initial Study were received during the public input periods. Letters and responses follow.

Copies of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Initial Study materials are available for review at the City of Riverside Public Utilities Department, Water Division, 3750 University Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Riverside, CA 92501.

11/21/16

Ginsh Balachandran Public Utilities General Manager City of Riverside

Date



STATE OF CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



## RESPONSE

1) Comment: The commenter confirms that no state agency has provided comments on the Draft MND and that compliance with the State Clearinghouse review requirements has been met pursuant to CEQA.

Response: No response required.

EDMUND G. BROWN JR. Governor

February 26, 2016

Matthew Bates City of Riverside 3750 University Avenue, 3rd Floor Riverside, CA 92503

Subject: Scheuer and Garner Solar Power Facility SCH#: 2016021027

Dear Matthew Bates:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Mitigated Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. The review period closed on February 25, 2016, and no state agencies submitted comments by that date. This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. If you have a question about the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan

Director, State Clearinghouse

1400 10th Street P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, California 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613 FAX (916) 323-3018 www.opr.ca.gov

## RESPONSE

A confidential comment letter on the Draft MND was received on February 09, 2016 from the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation regarding tribal interests. Due to requested confidentiality by the commenter, the contents of this letter are not published.

Response: Mitigation Measures CR-5 has been added to address this comment.

A confidential comment letter on the Draft MND was received on February 26, 2016 from the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians regarding tribal interests. Due to requested confidentiality by the commenter, the contents of this letter are not published.

## RESPONSE

Comment: This comment letter requests the addition of another cultural resources mitigation measure regarding the treatment and disposition of unanticipated finds.

Response: Existing Cultural Resource Mitigation Measures address the Tribe's request.

**Department of Public Works** 

**Operations** • Solid Waste Management

Surveyor • Transportation

Environmental & Construction • Flood Control



825 East Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0835 | Phone: 909.387.8109 Fax: 909.387.7876 www.S8County.gov

> Gerry Newcombe Director

> > -1

#### February 22, 2016

Matthew Bates, Utilities Senior Water Engineer Riverside Public Utilities Department, Water Division 3750 University Ave, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Riverside, CA. 92501 mbates@riversideca.gov

File: 10(ENV)-4.01

RE: CEQA – NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE COOLEY SOLAR POWER FACILITY PROJECT FOR THE RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

#### Dear Mr. Bates:

Thank you for giving the San Bernardino County Department of Public Works the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced project. We received this request on February 5, 2016 and pursuant to our review, the following comments are provided:

#### Water Resources Division (Mary Lou Mermilliod, PWE III, 909-387-8213):

- Prior to any encroachment onto San Bernardino County Flood Control District right-of-way, a
  permit shall be obtained from the District's Permits/Operations Support Division, Permit Section.
  Other on-site or off-site improvements may be required which cannot be determined at this time.
- We recommend that the project includes, and the City enforces, its most recent regulations for construction within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

#### Permits/Operations Support Division (Melissa Walker, Chief, 909-387-7995):

 Prior to any encroachment onto District right-of-way, a 408 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers shall be required.

If you have any questions, please contact the individuals who provided the specific comment, as listed above.

Sincerely,



NIDHAM ARAM ALRAYES, MSCE, PE, QSD/P Public Works Engineer III Environmental Management

NAA:PE:sr



#### RESPONSE

 Comment: The letter provided by the San Bernardino County, Department of Public Works, is an information disclosure identifying the permitting needs if the project were to encroach into the County's Flood Control District right-of-way or US Army Corps of Engineers 408 right-of-way. As stipulated by Mitigation Measure WQ-2, all project staging areas, PV arrays, and other associated equipment are to be located outside of the 100-year flood plain. No comments were provided on the adequacy of the document.

Response: No response required.

*Riverside Public Utilities Department Water Division* 



# Draft<u>Final</u> Mitigated Negative Declaration

- 1. **Project Title:** Cooley Solar Power Facility
- 2. Meeting Date: <u>December 13, 2016 at 6:30 P.M.</u>To be scheduled
- Lead Agency: City of Riverside Public Utilities Department, Water Division 3750 University Ave., 3rd Floor Riverside, CA 92501
- 4. **Responsible Agency:** County of San Bernardino 385 N Arrowhead Ave San Bernardino, CA 92415
- 5. Contact Person:<br/>Phone Number:Matthew Bates, Utilities Senior Water Engineer<br/>951-826-5116
- 6. **Project Location:** Located immediately south of East 4th Street; west of the Warm Creek channel; east of Waterman Avenue; and north of East 3rd Street (refer to Figure 1 within Attachment A) on unincorporated County of San Bernardino land within the City of San Bernardino Sphere of Influence. The site encompasses APNs: 0279-031-39 & 0279-043-15.
- 7. Project Applicant/Project Sponsor's Name and Address:

SunPower Corporation 2125 E Katella Ave #220 Anaheim, CA 92806

- 8. General Plan Designation: <u>County of San Bernardino</u>: Service Commercial <u>City Sphere of Influence</u>: Not Designated
- 9. Zoning: <u>County of San Bernardino</u>: CS Service Commercial <u>City Sphere of Influence</u>: RS – Residential Suburban (4.6 dwelling units/acre)

**Description of Project**: The proposed project includes the construction, operation, maintenance and demolition of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electrical generating facility on property owned by the City of Riverside Public Utilities Department (RPU). The Cooley site is 3.02.4 acres in size and the proposed solar array would be capable of generating approximately 0.52 MW of electricity. Generated power would be utilized by RPU onsite to support its water operations and production to minimize overall greenhouse gas emissions. Within Attachment A, Figure 1 shows the site location, while Figure 2 depicts a conceptual site plan of the proposed Cooley Solar Power Facility

(Project). The Cooley site is located within the jurisdictional boundary of the County of San Bernardino and within the City of San Bernardino Sphere of Influence.

RPU will enter into a Power Purchase Agreement to construct, operate, maintain, and potentially demolish the proposed project. The layout of the facility may be adjusted to accommodate the final engineering design, but the proposed project would remain within the project site boundary shown on Figure 2. Figure 2 presents a conceptual site plan for the Cooley site showing both the project footprint and the proposed location of the solar modules and support facilities that would be installed as part of the project. A PV solar module is a packaged, connected assembly of solar panels. The Cooley site would include approximately 1,200 total solar panels installed within the site. To ensure the safety of the public and the facility, a chain-link fence would be installed around the perimeter of the site boundary for the duration of construction and operation, with access provided by a secured gate.

Solar PV modules are installed in rows on mounting systems and track the sun from east to west. The foundations are typically steel piles, which are driven into the soil using pneumatic techniques similar to hydraulic pile driving to a maximum depth of 9 feet. Once the foundations have been installed, a tracking system is installed to support each row of PV modules. For solar tracking, motors would be installed to drive the tracking mechanism. The PV design block would be oriented in rows reflecting a standard and uniform appearance across the site. At full tilt, the low point is approximately 2.5 feet above grade and the high point is approximately 7.5 feet above grade. At noon, solar panels are horizontal and facing straight up. At horizontal tilt (noon), the panels are approximately 5 feet above grade. The panels are covered with an anti-reflective coating to reduce glare and appear dark blue in daylight and black in low light or night conditions. However some noticeable glare may occur.

Modules would be electrically connected into strings. Each string would be funneled through light gauge aluminum cable tray to combiner boxes located throughout the solar field power blocks. The output power cables from the combiner boxes would again be consolidated and feed the DC (direct current) to inverters, which convert the DC to AC (alternating current). Each inverter would be fully enclosed and pad mounted, standing approximately 95 inches (~8 feet) in height. The AC output of inverters would be fed via underground cable into the low-voltage side of the inverter step-up transformer. The underground electrical cables would be installed using standard trenching/boring techniques approximately 3 feet deep. The electricity produced by the Cooley facility would be connected to the existing customer meter.

<u>General Construction Scenario</u>. Construction is expected to take approximately ten (10) weeks. Open areas within the project site would be used for construction staging. All construction ingress and egress would occur from a secured controlled main gate located at the site entrance on East 4th Street. The maximum number of construction employees on site at any one time is forecast to be 20 persons and the maximum number of truck deliveries of equipment and material would be 5 trucks per day. Construction would occur Monday through Saturday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., with no work occurring on Sundays or holidays, consistent with the San Bernardino County Development Code, Chapters 83.01.080 and 83.01.090.

Project construction would consist of three major phases at the site:

- 1. Site preparation
- 2. PV system installation, testing, and startup
- 3. Site cleanup and restoration

<u>Site Preparation.</u> Construction of the PV facility would begin with initial clearing, grubbing, and selected grading of the site. Vegetation from the site and all trees within the solar array boundary that could shade solar panels would be removed. Any internal access roads would be graded sufficiently to bring equipment, materials, and workers to the areas under construction. The onsite staging areas would typically include construction offices, a first aid station and other temporary buildings, worker parking, truck loading and unloading areas, and an area for assembly. Buried electrical lines, PV array locations, and the locations of other facilities may be flagged and staked to guide construction activities. Best management practices (BMPs) for erosion control during site preparation would be employed during installation of initial erosion and sedimentation controls. In addition, a water truck refilling station (as required) may be established for dust control.

<u>PV System Installation, Testing, and Start-up.</u> PV system installation may require some earthwork, including grading, fill, compaction, and erosion control implementation as well as erection of the PV modules, supports, and associated electrical equipment. Construction of the PV arrays would include installation of support beams, module rail assemblies, PV modules, inverters, transformers, and buried electrical cables. System installation would begin with teams installing the panel mounting and steel pier support structures. The exact design would be finalized pending specific soil conditions. The foundation methods would include pneumatically driven piles. This activity would be followed by panel installation and electrical work. Concrete would be required for pads for the switchgear, inverters, and transformers. Any needed concrete would be produced at an off-site location by a local provider and transported to the project site by truck.

<u>Site Cleanup and Restoration</u>. Once completed, the site would be cleaned of all debris and construction equipment. The site would then be hydroseeded in accordance with the project Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to achieve site stabilization and reduce the potential for soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

<u>General Operation and Maintenance Scenario.</u> The proposed facility would be monitored remotely on a continuous basis. The project would be designed with a Data Acquisition (DAS) system for remote monitoring of facility operation. Within the site, fiber optic or other cabling required for the monitoring system would be installed throughout the solar field leading to a centrally located telecommunication cabinet. The telecommunications connections to the DAS system cabinet is wireless.

No personnel would be on-site during the majority of hours of operation. As the PV arrays produce electricity passively with minimal moving parts, maintenance requirements would be limited. Periodic maintenance of the solar facility would include technicians visiting the site for inspection and performing any necessary maintenance activities. Any required planned maintenance would be scheduled to avoid peak load periods and unplanned maintenance would occur as needed depending on the event. The proposed operator of the facility, utilizes robots for washing solar panels. This system uses a minimal amount of fluid (less than a pint of water) to clean each panel. Local water would be used with no chemicals added.

<u>General Solar Project Decommissioning Scenario</u>. The project may be decommissioned as determined by RPU. All decommissioning and restoration activities would adhere to the requirements of the appropriate governing authorities and would be in accordance with all applicable federal, State, County, and local regulations. The applicant would employ a collection and recycling program to dispose of the site materials.

San Bernardino County	City of San Bernardino Sphere of Influence
Adjacent Zoning:	Adjacent Zoning:
North: CG – General Commercial	North: RS – Residential Suburban
East: CS – Service Commercial	East: PF – Public Facility/Public Owned Flood
	Channel
South: None	South: CCS-1 – Commercial Central City South-1
West: CG – General Commercial	West: RS – Residential Suburban

## 10. Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:

# 11. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financial approval, or participation agreement.):

Based on the amount of area that would be disturbed for the facility (approximately <u>3.0</u><sup>2.4</sup> acres), the project would be subject to the requirements established in a Construction General Permit issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. A SWPPP would be prepared by the applicant and monitored by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Region 8. The County of San Bernardino would use the adopted MND (and this Initial Study) as a responsible agency when issuing any required permits for the project such as fire protection.

## 12. Documents used and/or referenced in this review:

The project site is located on unincorporated County of San Bernardino land within the City of San Bernardino Sphere of Influence. As such, the City of San Bernardino General Plan was used as a key background resource. Where applicable within the environmental analysis, both County and City of San Bernardino references, regulations, and standards have been utilized, as necessary.

- a. California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA). Model Policies for Greenhouse Gases in General Plans. June 2009. [online: http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2010/05/CAPCOA-ModelPolicies-6-12-09-915am.pdf]
- b. California Air Resources Board (CARB). Almanac Emission Projection Data 2015 Estimated Annual Average Emissions for the Mojave Desert Air Basin.

[online: http://www.arb.ca.gov/app/emsinv/2013/emssumcat.php]

- c. California Department of Conservation (DOC). Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program Survey Area. [online: http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/overview/Pages/survey\_area\_map.aspx]
- d. DOC. The California Land Conservation Act 2014 Status Report. March 2015. [online:

http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/lca/stats\_reports/Documents/2014%20LCA%20Status%20Report\_March\_2015.pdf]

- e. DOC. California Important Farmland Finder. [online: http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/ciff/ciff.html]
- f. DOC: San Bernardino County Williamson Act FY 2012/2013, Sheet 2 of 2. 2013. [online: ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/wa/sanbernardino\_so\_12\_13\_WA.pdf. Accessed August 25, 2015]
- g. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). San Bernardino County: Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
  - [online: http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire\_prevention/fhsz\_maps\_sanbernardinosw.php]
- h. California Department of Toxic Substances Control. Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites (Cortese) List. [online: http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese\_List.cfm]
- i. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Guide for the Preparation of Traffic Impact Studies.
- j. Caltrans. Scenic Highway Mapping System. [online: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16\_livability/scenic\_highways/index.htm]
- k. Caltrans. Traffic Volumes on the California State Highway System. 2014. [online: http://traffic-counts.dot.ca.gov/2014all/]
- 1. City of San Bernardino General Plan. 2005. [online: http://www.sbcity.org/cityhall/community\_development/planning/planning\_documents.asp]
- m. City of San Bernardino General Plan EIR.
   [online: http://www.sbcity.org/cityhall/community\_development/planning/planning\_documents.asp]
   City of San Demanding Internation 7. A second community\_levelopment/planning/planning\_documents.asp]
- n. City of San Bernardino Interactive Zoning and General Plan Maps. [online: http://www.sbcity.org/cityhall/infotech/gis\_\_\_mapping/default.asp]
- o. City of San Bernardino Development Code. Chapters 19.02. [online: http://www.sbcity.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=14657]
- p. City of San Bernardino. Municipal Code. [online: https://www.ci.san-bernardino.ca.us/residents/municipal\_code.asp]
- q. County of San Bernardino Development Code Chapters 82 and 88. [online: http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/planning/developmentcode.aspx]
- r. County of San Bernardino Interactive Zoning and General Plan Maps. [online: http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/ZoningOverlayMaps/ZoningMaps.aspx]
- s. County of San Bernardino General Plan. [online: http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/planning/generalplan.aspx]
- t. County of San Bernardino. Countywide Biotic Resources Overlay Map. Updated December 2012. [online: http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/ZoningOverlayMaps.aspx]
- u. County of San Bernardino. General Plan Hazards Overlays- Map FH30B. March 2012. [online: http://www.sbcounty.gov/uploads/lus/hazmaps/fh30b\_20100309.pdf]

- v. Federal Highway Administration. Construction Noise Handbook. [online: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/construction\_noise/handbook/]
- w. Google Earth. 34°06'20.56"N, 117°16'30.08"W. 2015.
- x. Jericho Systems. San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat & Burrowing Owl Habitat Suitability Assessments for the Riverside Public Utilities Proposed Cooley Solar Power Facilities Sites, City of San Bernardino, San Bernardino County, California. August 11.
- y. OPR (Governor's Office of Planning and Research). Technical Advisory, CEQA and Climate Change: Addressing Climate Change Through CEQA Review. June 19, 2008. [online: http://opr.ca.gov/docs/june08-ceqa.pdf]
- z. San Bernardino Association of Governments. Congestion Management Program. [online: http://www.sanbag.ca.gov/planning2/congestion-mgmt.html]
- aa. San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District. Engineering Investigation of the Bunker Hill Basin 2013-2014. March 2014.

[online: http://www.sbvwcd.dst.ca.us/reports-and-data/engineering-investigation/3420-engineering-investigation-report-text-03-06-14/file.html]

- bb. South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). 2007 Air Quality Management Plan. [online: http://www.aqmd.gov/home/library/clean-air-plans/air-quality-mgt-plan/2007-air-quality-management-plan]
- cc. SCAQMD. Air Quality Significance Thresholds.

[online: http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/scaqmd-air-quality-significance-thresholds.pdf?sfvrsn=]

- dd. SCAQMD. Rules and Regulations. [online: http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/rules]
- ee. SCAQMD. Localized Significance Thresholds.

[online: http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/localized-significance-thresholds]

- ff. State Water Resources Control Board. Storm Water Program: Construction Storm Water Program. [online: <u>http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water\_issues/programs/stormwater/construction.shtml]</u>
- gg. Aspen Environmental Group. CalEEMod Air Quality Calculations for Cooley Solar Projects. September 2015.
- hh. SunPower. Hydrology Study for Riverside Public Utilities (Cooley Site) Fourth Street San Bernardino, CA. October 7, 2015.
- ii. Aspen Environmental Group, Initial Cultural Records Search, September 4, 2015
- jj. Aspen Environmental Group, Cultural Resources Monitoring Justification Report, October 9, 2015

## 13. Acronyms

15. Acronyms	
AC –	Alternating Current
AQMP –	Air Quality Management Plan
CAAQS –	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CARB –	California Air Resource Board
DC –	Direct Current
DOC –	California Department of Conservation
DPM –	Diesel Particulate Matter
GHG –	Greenhouse Gas
LOS –	Level of Service
LST –	Localized Significance Thresholds
MDAB –	Mojave Desert Air Basin
MW –	Megawatts
MRZ –	Mineral Resource Zone
NAAQS –	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
PV –	Photovoltaic
RPU –	Riverside Public Utilities Department
RWQCB –	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SCADA –	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SCAQMD -	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SRA –	Source Receptor Areas
SWPPP –	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

Environmental Initial Study

## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

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 checklist on the following pages.

Aesthetics	Agriculture & Forest Resources	Air Quality
Biological Resources	Cultural Resources	Geology/Soils
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Hazards & Hazardous Materials	Hydrology/Water Quality
Land Use/Planning	Mineral Resources	Noise
Population/Housing	Public Service	Recreation
Transportation/Traffic	Utilities/Service Systems	Mandatory Findings of Significance

**DETERMINATION:** (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation which reflects the independent judgment of the City of Riverside, it is recommended that:

The City of Riverside finds that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared,

The City of Riverside finds 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.

The City of Riverside finds that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

The City of Riverside finds that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required. but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

The City of Riverside finds 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 112116

 $\boxtimes$ 

Printed Name & Title \_\_\_\_\_\_ Girish Balachandran, Public Utilities General Manager For: City of Riverside



*Riverside Public Utilities Department Water Division* 

## Environmental Initial Study

## EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
  - a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b. **Impacts Adequately Addressed.** Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c. **Mitigation Measures.** For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measure which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a. the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b. the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				$\square$
<b>1a. Response:</b> (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan EIR p Scenic Resources)	5.1-13 – Sceni	c Vistas and C	orridors, p.5.	
The proposed project site is located in a developed area and is bounde lands. The project would be visible to viewers along adjacent roadwa are identified within the project site or in the surrounding area. <b>No im</b>	ys and residen	nces. However,		
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				$\boxtimes$
<b>1b. Response:</b> (Source: Caltrans Scenic Highway Mapping System)		<u> </u>		
State Highway 330, which is located approximately 2.8 miles north highway. The proposed project would not affect any scenic resource historic buildings in the work area and there are no rock outcropping removed from the work area. <b>No impacts are anticipated</b>	es on a State s	cenic highway	v. Additionally	, there are no
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			$\square$	
1c. Response:		<u> </u>		
The immediate project area is comprised primarily of commercial located to the northwest and south of the Cooley site (see Figure 1). site in all directions consist of relatively flat open space dirt with only located on the site. Line-of-sight through the project site reveals ad foreground view. Currently, the site does not contain any particular surrounding area. The visual character of the site would change due to would only occupy approximately 40% of the site (see Figure 2). The industrial solar energy facility from some adjacent commercial and would change the visual character of portions of the project site, the substantial degradation of the site's existing visual character or surrous less than significant with no mitigation required.	Because the s some ruderal ljacent comme scenic qualiti o the installation e project woul residential lan ne visual chan inding land use	site is currently (weedy) veget ercial and resid ies that disting on of the PV fa ld create new ad uses. While age and contrast	v undeveloped ation and a few dential develop guish it from t acility; however views of a sma development st is not consi re the <b>impact</b>	, views of the w mature trees pments in the he immediate er, the facility all-engineered of the project dered to be a
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				
1d. Response:	<u> </u>	J		
The proposed solar panels are designed to reduce glare; however some of greatest concern are reflection or glare observed by drivers. Becaus to track the sun from east to west, all glare would occur either east or by a concrete lined storm drain and then a commercial facility (see residences, and North Waterman Avenue is located approximately 16 and coated with an anti-reflective coating that significantly reduces roadways or adjacent sensitive land uses and therefore this impact is of Any proposed exterior lighting to be included as part of the proposed	se the solar par west of the sit Figure 1). To 500 feet away. s glare. No p considered les	nels would sit i te. To the east the west, an e Furthermore, project glare is s than signific:	flat on the north , the project since , the PV panels s expected to ant	th-south plane te is bordered hields several s are designed affect nearby

	SUES (AND SUPPORTING FORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
					Γ
2.	AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES:				
	In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effect, lead agencies may refer to information complied by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in the Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
	a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non- agricultural use?				$\square$
ratir have No I The State cons	California Department of Conservation (DOC) has established a ngs and current land use to identify categories of Important Farm e been surveyed by the DOC to determine the status of agricultura Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Im nearest Farmland, approximately 0.5 mile northeast of the propo ewide Importance. This parcel is currently utilized as a comm struction and operation would be located at or adjacent to this Farm of the parcel. <b>No impacts are anticipated.</b>	aland. Current al land resource aportance wou osed site, is a munity garde	ly, 98 percent es. Id be located a 10-acre parcel n. No activiti	of the State's at the propose designated at es associated	private lands d project site. s Farmland of with project
	b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				$\square$
Cou The priv appr	<b>Response:</b> (Source: DOC California Land Conservation Act 20 anty Williamson Act FY 2012/2013, Sheet 2 of 2; San Bernardino ( Williamson Act (i.e., California Land Conservation Act of 1965) ate landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of 1 roximately 4,542 acres of San Bernardino County lands were enro proposed project site has been classified by the DOC as non-W tracts located within four miles of the project site. The project site is	County Land ( ) enables loca land to agricu olled in the Lan /illiamson Ac	Use Services Z l governments iltural or relate nd Conservatio t Land, and th	oning Look-up to enter into ed open space on Act Program here are no W	) contracts with use. In 2012, m. illiamson Act

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>2c. Response:</b> (Source: San Bernardino County Land Use Services	Zoning Look-ı	_	rth)	
The project site is zoned by the County of San Bernardino for comm vicinity of the project. <b>No impacts are anticipated.</b>	ercial use. No	forest land or	timberland is l	located in the
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				$\square$
2d. Response: (Source: San Bernardino County Land Use Services 2	Zoning Look-u	ıp; Google Ea	rth)	
As stated in Response 2c, no forest land or timberland is located in th	e vicinity of th	he project. No	impacts are	anticipated.
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				
<b>2e. Response:</b> (Source: DOC California Important Farmland Finder 2012/2013, Sheet 2 of 2; Google Earth)	, San Bernard	ino County Wi	illiamson Act I	FY
The project site is not located on or adjacent to Farmland, Williamso with site preparation, PV installation, and restoration would involve the to the transportation of construction equipment and personnel. Con agricultural uses in the surrounding area. <b>No impacts are anticipate</b>	e use of onsite struction and	e staging areas,	, with offsite a	ctivity limited
3. AIR QUALITY.				
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
<b>a.</b> Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			$\square$	
<b>3a. Response:</b> (Source: South Coast Air Quality Management Distri	ct – 2007 Air	Quality Mana	gement Plan)	
The project site is located within the designated Mojave Desert Air E Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The project would primarily from diesel-powered sources during temporary constructio (AQMP) proposes emission reduction measures that are designed to Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and primary California An attainment strategies in this plan include mobile source control mea federal and State levels on engine manufacturers and petroleum refine	produce limit on. The SCAQ o bring the MI mbient Air Qu asures and cle ers and retailer	ed emissions of MD 2007 Air DAB into atta nality Standard an fuel progra rs.	of nonattainm Quality Man inment of prir ls (CAAQS) p ms that are en	ent pollutants agement Plan nary National ollutants. The nforced at the
The SCAQMD adopts AQMP control measures into the SCAQMD sources of air pollution in the MDAB. The project would comply with project's emissions sources would meet or exceed the emissions con Since the 2007 AQMP assumes growth that is consistent with the impl growth projections in the 2007 AQMP, and it would not conflict with Plan. As a result, construction of the proposed project would confort than significant and no mitigation is required.	these regulat trol forecasts f ementation of or obstruct in	ory requireme for all approve this project, it plementation	nts. Therefore d AQMP cont would not exc of the State In	, the proposed trol measures. ceed the future pplementation
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to			$\square$	

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**3b. Response:** (Source: California Air Resources Board – Almanac Emissions Projections for MDAB)

The proposed project's construction emissions would be temporary, would be distributed over the entire project site (<u>3.02.4</u> acres), and would not be of a magnitude (see the emissions summary under Response 3c) that could cause new ambient air quality violations or substantially contribute to existing violations. The project's maximum daily construction criteria pollutant emissions are less than 0.01 percent of the 2015 MDAB emissions inventory for all pollutants. Additionally, construction is a short-term activity that would not affect long-term projections for air quality attainment. With compliance with all SCAQMD rules and regulations, the project's construction emissions would not cause a violation or substantially contribute to any violations of air quality standards.

The project's operation emissions would be limited to occasional inspections and panel washing events and from power needed for array tracking motors. Emissions from these sources are minimal (see the emissions summary below under Response 3c) and would not be of a magnitude that could cause new ambient air quality violations or substantially contribute to existing violations. The project's maximum daily operation criteria pollutant emissions are less than 0.001 percent of the 2015 average daily MDAB emissions inventory for all pollutants. Additionally, project operation would displace the need for fossil fuel fired electricity generation that would reduce criteria pollutant emissions, much of which may be generated within the MDAB. Therefore, the project's operation would not cause a violation or substantially contribute to any violations of air quality standards. This **impact would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.** 

c.	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non- attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air		
	quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?		

**3c. Response:** (*Source: SCAQMD – Rules; SCAQMD – Air Quality Significance Thresholds; Aspen Environmental Group,* 2015)

The SCAQMD has regulations for visible emissions, nuisance emissions, and fugitive dust emissions with which the project's construction would need to comply. The specific regulations are as follows:

- SCAQMD Rule 401 Visible Emissions,
- SCAQMD Rule 402 Nuisance Emissions, and
- SCAQMD Rule 403 Fugitive Dust

These rules limit the visible dust emissions from construction sites, prohibit emissions that can cause a public nuisance, and require the prevention and reduction of fugitive dust emissions to the extent possible. Construction emissions were estimated using CalEEMod. Fugitive dust emissions reduction measures (i.e., watering the site and unpaved access roads, reduced vehicle speeds on unpaved areas) are necessary and shall be incorporated during construction to comply with SCAQMD Rule 403.1.

The following provides the maximum daily emission estimates for construction of the project. As shown, none of the pollutant emissions during construction exceed SCAQMD emissions significance thresholds. Therefore, no mitigation beyond the required compliance applicable rules and regulations is proposed, and the proposed project's construction would not contribute significantly to a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutants.

S (AND SUP RMATION S		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact		
		CalEEMod CONSTRU	-				
Daily Emissions (lbs/day)							
Activity	VOC	NOx	СО	SOx	PM10	PM2.5	
Daily Project Emissions - Construction	10.27	84.89	67.39	0.10	12.61	5.73	
SCAQMD Daily Thresholds Construction	75	100	550	150	150	55	
Y/N - Exceeds Threshold?	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	]

The proposed project's operation is limited to inspection activities and panel cleaning events and from power needed for array tracking motors. The emission estimates for these operations and maintenance activities are provided below. As shown, project operation emissions are minimal and are well below SCAQMD emissions significance thresholds. Therefore, the proposed project's operation would not contribute significantly to a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutants.

CalEEMod MODEL RESULTS OPERATIONAL IMPACTS								
Daily Emissions (lbs/day)								
Activity	VOC	NOx	СО	SOx	PM10	PM2.5		
Daily Project Emissions - Operational	0.10	0.77	0.69	0.00	2.52	0.34		
SCAQMD Daily Thresholds Operation	55	55	550	150	150	55		
Y/N - Exceeds Threshold?	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO		

As shown in the tables above, both construction and operation of the proposed project would not exceed any SCAQMD daily emission threshold of significance and would not contribute significantly to a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutants. Emissions from decommissioning would occur 25 years in the future once site is fully operational. Therefore, applicable regional and localized thresholds are not known and no conclusive significance determination can be completed at this time. However, temporary emissions are expected to be similar or less (due to better engine technologies) than those provided above for construction. **Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.** 

	d.	Expose concentra	sensitive ations?	receptors	to	substantial	pollutant			$\boxtimes$	
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**3d. Response:** (Source: SCAQMD – Local Significance Thresholds; SCAQMD – Rules; Aspen Environmental Group, 2015)

The nearest sensitive receptors to the project site include:

• Residences directly adjacent to the northeast and south of the site.

Anderson Elementary School located directly northeast of the site.

• Low-income apartment complex approximately 1,500' east of the site.

Environmental Initial Study

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
-------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------

SCAQMD evaluates substantial pollutant concentrations of criteria pollutants (specifically NOx, CO, PM10, and PM2.5) by assessing the localized maximum daily project emissions against Localized Significance Thresholds (LSTs) that they have developed for different Source Receptor Areas (SRAs) within their jurisdiction. The project site is within SRA 34 – San Bernardino. The LST daily thresholds for NOx and CO emissions are higher than the regional thresholds evaluated under Response 3c. Therefore, the NOx and CO LST thresholds would not be exceeded and are not evaluated further.

The following presents the maximum daily onsite emissions of PM10 and PM2.5 during construction compared to their LST thresholds. As shown, construction of the proposed project would not exceed any applicable SCAQMD LST.

CalEEMod MODEL RESULTS CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS SCAQMD LST THRESHOLDS						
Activity	Daily Emissi	ions (lbs/day)				
Activity	PM10	PM2.5				
Daily Project Emissions - Construction	6.40	4.90				
SCAQMD LST Significance Threshold	22	6				
Y/N - Exceeds Threshold?	NO	NO				

The following presents the maximum daily onsite emissions of PM10 and PM2.5 during project operation compared to their LST thresholds. As shown, operation of the proposed project would not exceed any applicable SCAQMD LST.

CalEEMod MODEL RESULTS OPERATIONAL IMPACTS SCAQMD LST THRESHOLDS						
Activity	Daily Emissi	ons (lbs/day)				
Activity	PM10	PM2.5				
Daily Project Emissions - Operational	0.17	0.02				
SCAQMD LST Significance Threshold	б	2				
Y/N - Exceeds Threshold?	NO	NO				

The proposed project's emissions of toxic air pollutants would be minimal and would consist primarily of Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) emissions during project construction activities. No other toxic air pollutant emissions sources, other than emissions from construction employees' personal vehicles, are proposed during project construction or operation. Decommissioning period emissions of DPM are considered to be negligible given the technology improvements in both off-

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
		Incorporated		

road equipment (Tier IV) and on-road vehicle engines that would be universally required by the time the project is decommissioned. A review of the emissions calculation results (see the emissions summary earlier under Response 3c) indicates that the onsite off-road equipment and the primarily off-site on-road vehicle tailpipe particulate emissions, which are both primarily DPM emissions, for construction and operation annualized over an assumed 30 year project life would be negligible. The DPM emissions would be emitted and then dispersed over the project site for the off-road equipment and over the entire travel routes for the on-road vehicles. Considering the low annual quantity of toxics emissions, their dispersion over the project site and travel routes, and the distance from the project site to the nearest residential receptors, these emissions would not cause any local receptor to incur a risk.

Compliance with SCAQMD rules and regulations would reduce the fugitive dust emissions during proposed project construction and operation and reduce the associated particulate emissions and Valley Fever impacts to nearby receptors. The primary way to avoid Valley Fever is to limit exposure to the spores, and the construction methods and SCAQMD required dust control measures would limit the amount of excavation required and would provide significant control of the fugitive dust emissions during construction. The impacts during operation and decommissioning would be lower than those for construction. Therefore, it is concluded that the potential risk from Valley Fever infection due to the proposed project's construction, operation, and decommissioning would be less than significant.

The project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations during construction, operation, or decommissioning. **Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required**.

e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			$\boxtimes$	
-------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	-------------	--

**3e. Response:** 

Some objectionable odors may be temporarily created during construction-related activities, such as from diesel exhaust. However, these odors would not affect a substantial number of people in the area and would only occur proximate to the work areas for a short time, likely contained within the project site. Similarly, the project's operation and decommissioning would not include the use of malodorous substances or activities that would cause significant odors. **Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant and no mitigation is required.** 

4.	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:		
	a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		

**4a. Response:** (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan- Figure NRC-1; City of San Bernardino General Plan Chapter 12; San Bernardino Countywide Biotic Resources Overlay Map; Jericho Systems, 2015)

The proposed project site is located on vacant land that is surrounded by urban development. The site is on unincorporated San Bernardino County land, but is bordered to the south by the City of San Bernardino and is within the City's Sphere of Influence. According to the City's General Plan, the site would not be located within designated critical habitat for the San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat or the Coastal California Gnatcatcher, nor would the site be within the Cajon Creek Conservation Bank or the Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly Colton Recovery Unit. The project would be within identified burrowing owl habitat, which according to the County's Biotic Resources Overlay map extends throughout most of southeastern San Bernardino County and includes the project site.

A habitat suitability assessment for the San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*) and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) was conducted at the proposed site in August 2015 by Jericho Systems. No wildlife, including nesting

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No Impact		
INFORMATION SOURCES):	Impact	With Mitigation Incorporated	Impact	Impuet		
birds, was observed during the assessment. The habitat suitability assessment determined that only non-native grasses, bare ground and/or ruderal vegetation occurs at the site; it concluded that the site does not contain suitable habitat for any locally known listed and/or sensitive species, and none are expected to occur (Jericho Systems, 2015). Construction and operation activities would not create temporary or permanent impacts to sensitive or protected habitat or species. <b>Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant and no mitigation is required.</b>						
<ul> <li>b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?</li> </ul>						
<b>4b. Response:</b> (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan- Figur 12; San Bernardino Countywide Biotic Resources Overlay Map; Jeri			rdino General	Plan Chapter		
The proposed project site is located on vacant land that is surrounded San Bernardino County land, but is within the City of San Bernardino Plan, the site would not be located within an identified Biological Res In an August 2015 habitat suitability assessment for the San Bernardin that no natural watercourses or wetlands supporting riparian vegetation 2015).	o's Sphere of I source Area, a no Kangaroo	Influence. Acc Riparian Corr Rat and burrow	ording to the C idor, or a Perc wing owl, it wa	City's General olation Basin. as determined		
tributary to the Santa Ana River Reach 5. This channel would not be wetlands supporting riparian vegetation and habitat occur within the C not affect a protected species, it would not require an incidental take p to ensure the project reduces impacts to natural habitat, MM BIO-	The eastern boundary of the site is adjacent to Warm Creek channel, which is a concrete lined flood control channel and a tributary to the Santa Ana River Reach 5. This channel would not be disturbed by the project and no natural watercourses or wetlands supporting riparian vegetation and habitat occur within the Cooley site (Jericho Systems 2015). As the project would not affect a protected species, it would not require an incidental take permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. However, to ensure the project reduces impacts to natural habitat, MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-2 are recommended to ensure project activities do not pose a hazard to species resulting from project implementation and resulting alteration of existing site conditions.					
The eastern boundary of the site is adjacent to Warm Creek channel tributary to the Santa Ana River Reach 5. This channel would not be wetlands supporting riparian vegetation and habitat occur withir <b>implementation of MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-2, impacts would be</b>	disturbed by the Cooley	the project and site (Jericho	l no natural wa Systems 201	atercourses or		
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?						
<b>4c. Response:</b> (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan- Figur 12; Jericho Systems, 2015)	e NRC-2; City	of San Berna	rdino General	Plan Chapter		
As described in Response 4b, the eastern boundary of the site is adjac would not be disturbed by the project and no natural watercourses or w within the Cooley site (Jericho Systems, 2015). The project would be <b>anticipated.</b>	vetlands suppo	orting riparian	vegetation and	habitat occur		
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				$\boxtimes$		
<b>4d. Response:</b> (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan- Figur Plan Chapter 12; Jericho Systems, 2015; Google Earth)	res NRC-1 and	l NRC-2; City	of San Bernar	dino General		

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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As described in Response 4a, a 2015 habitat suitability assessment concluded that the project site is characterized by nonnative, ruderal habitat, which supports only locally common plants and animals capable of surviving in an urban environment (Jericho Systems, 2015). This site lacks native habitat capable of supporting any locally known listed and/or sensitive species, and no wildlife was observed during the site survey (Jericho Systems, 2015). The proposed project is not located in the vicinity of a native wildlife nursery site, and no migratory wildlife corridors were identified at or near the project. **No impacts are anticipated.** 

e.	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or		$\boxtimes$	
	ordinance?			

**4e. Response:** (Source: San Bernardino County Development Code Chapter 88.01; San Bernardino Countywide Biotic Resources Overlay Map; Jericho Systems, 2015)

Construction would begin with initial clearing, grubbing and selected grading activities. Any trees within the project site boundary that could shade the solar panels would be removed. According to the County's Development Code (Section 88.01.030, Plant Protection and Management), public utilities are not subject to the County's permitting requirements for the removal or relocation of regulated trees or plants. RPU, a public utility, is the lead agency and will be responsible for removing the tree. The project would not conflict with a local tree preservation policy or ordinance. **Impacts would be less than significant with no mitigation required.** 

f.	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat		$\square$
	Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan,		
	or other approved local, regional, or state habitat		
	conservation plan?		

**4f. Response**: (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan- Figures NRC-1 and NRC-2; City of San Bernardino General Plan Chapter 12; San Bernardino Countywide Biotic Resources Overlay Map; Jericho Systems, 2015)

According to the City of San Bernardino's General Plan, the proposed project site would not be located within an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, a Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved conservation plan. **No impacts are anticipated.** 

4	5. CULTURAL RESOURCES.		
	Would the project:		
	a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?	$\boxtimes$	

**5a. Response**: (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan Chapter 11, Historical and Archaeological Resources and Appendix 13 – Historic Context; City of San Bernardino General Plan EIR Chapter 5.4 and Appendix C – Cultural Resources; South Central Coast Information Center (SCCIC) 2015; Google Earth Historic Maps and Soils and Geologic Layers, 2015; USGS Topographic Series Maps; and Bureau of Land Management General Land Office (GLO) maps)

The records search at the South Central Coast Information Center (SCCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) revealed that no historical resources are present within the Cooley project site, and no previous cultural resource studies have been conducted on the project site. Based on the City of San Bernardino General Plan EIR (GP EIR Figures 5.4-1 and 5.4-2), the project site is not within an area of high sensitivity for historical resources. Historic maps, literature, aerial photography, local soils and geologic maps were also consulted. The project site was not physically inspected.

A review of soils, geological, and recent Google Earth satellite imagery revealed the Cooley project site is situated on or near the remnants of Warm Creek's historic natural channel, and are positioned on an alluvial fan and floodplain landform. Due to the project site's proximity to Warm Creek (which is now a concrete flood control channel), historic annual or periodic flooding from Warm Creek (prior to becoming a concrete flood control channel) could have potentially buried historical resources during flood events within the project site. Therefore, there is a moderate to high potential for buried undiscovered historical

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
INFORMATION SOURCES):	Inpact	Mitigation Incorporated	Impact	
resources on the Cooley project site. With <b>implementation of MM CI</b> The ultimate treatment of any resource would be developed individua the appropriate resource specialists.	· •			0

b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?

**5b. Response**: (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan Chapter 11, Historical and Archaeological Resources and Appendix 13 – Historic Context; City of San Bernardino General Plan EIR Chapter 5.4 and Appendix C – Cultural Resources; South Central Coast Information Center (SCCIC) 2015; Google Earth Historic Maps and Soils and Geologic Layers, 2015; USGS Topographic Series Maps; and Bureau of Land Management General Land Office (GLO) maps)

 $\mathbf{X}$ 

The SCCIC records search revealed that no archaeological resources (e.g., any unique archaeological resource or archaeological resource that is considered a historical resource) are known to be present within the Cooley project site, and no previous cultural resource studies have been conducted on the project site. Based on the City of San Bernardino General Plan EIR (GP EIR Figures 5.4-1 and 5.4-2), the project site is not within an area of high sensitivity for archaeological resources. Historic maps, literature, aerial photography, local soils and geologic maps were also consulted. The project site was not physically inspected.

A review of soils, geological, and recent Google Earth satellite imagery revealed the Cooley project site is situated on or near the remnants of Warm Creek's natural channel and are positioned on an alluvial fan and floodplain landform. As described in Response 5a, historic annual or periodic flooding from Warm Creek could have potentially buried archaeological resources during historic flood events on the project site. Therefore, there is a moderate to high potential for buried undiscovered archaeological resources on the Cooley project site. With **implementation of MM CR-1**, **impacts would be reduced to less than significant.** The ultimate treatment of any resource would be developed individually after it has been discovered and in consultation with the appropriate resource specialists.

- c. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Section 21074?
- 5c. Response: (Source: Consultation with tribal representatives; Google Earth Soils and Geologic Layers, 2015)

AB 52 establishes a formal role for California Native American tribes in the CEQA process. CEQA lead agencies are required to consult with tribes about potential tribal cultural resources in the project area, the potential significance of project impacts, the development of project alternatives and the type of environmental document that should be prepared. AB 52 directs tribes to contact all CEQA lead agencies to formally request to be notified of projects in regions the tribe is traditionally affiliated. The seven tribes that requested notification from Riverside were notified of the project by the City on August 18, 2015 by letter. Three tribes expressed interest in the project however, only two requested consultation meetings (September 10 and 14, 2015) where the results of a record search and a buried site sensitivity analysis were discussed. The Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation (Gabrieleno) provided language for a recommended mitigation measure (September 21, 2015), but did not respond to requests for an in-person consultation meeting to discuss the proposed measure prior to the publication of the Draft MND.

Based on the tribal consultation for the current Cooley project site, no known tribal cultural resources have been identified within the project site. However, as discussed under Responses 5a and 5b, historic flooding of the warm creeks natural channel may have buried potential tribal cultural resources within the Cooley site. Therefore, there is a moderate to high potential for buried undiscovered tribal cultural resources on the Cooley project site. Mitigation measures were crafted based on tribal requests during consultation meetings and submitted for their review and approval. <u>An additional mitigation measure (MM CR-5) was developed in response to an additional letter from the Gabrieleno received during the comment period.</u> With **implementation of MM CR-1 through MM CR-45**, **impacts would be reduced to less than significant.** The ultimate treatment of any resource would be developed individually after it has been discovered and in consultation with the appropriate resource specialists.

d.	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside	$\square$	
	of formal cemeteries?		

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**5d. Response:** (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan EIR, Chapter 5.4-3; SCCIC, 2015; Google Earth Historic Map Layer; USGS Topographic Series Maps; and Bureau of Land Management General Land Office (GLO) maps)

There is no indication that human remains are present within the boundaries of the project site. Background archival research failed to find any potential for human remains (e.g., formal cemeteries); however, the project site was not physically inspected. The limited nature of the planned ground disturbance makes it unlikely that human remains would be unearthed during project ground disturbance. In the unlikely event that ground disturbing activities at the project site inadvertently discover buried or surficial human remains, **implementation of MM CR-2 through MM CR-4 would reduce impacts to less than significant**. The ultimate treatment of any resource would be developed individually after it has been discovered and in consultation with the appropriate resource specialists.

6.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:		
	a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:		
	<ul> <li>Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.</li> </ul>		

**6ai. Response:** (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan EIR Figure 5.5-4 – Regional Fault Map and Figure 5.5-5 – Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones)

There are no known or identified active or potentially active faults on or adjacent to the proposed project site. The nearest Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone is located over 5 miles to the southwest. Neither construction nor operation of the proposed project would expose people or structures to the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault. **No impacts are anticipated**.

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	11. Strong seismic ground shaking?			$\square$	
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**6aii. Response:** (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan EIR Figure 5.5-4 – Regional Fault Map and Figure 5.5-5 – Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones)

A large earthquake along one of the nearby fault systems would result in moderate to strong ground shaking at the proposed project site. The proposed project does not include the construction of any housing or habitable structures. During the operational phase, the proposed project would be operated on an unstaffed basis and monitored remotely, with regular on-site personnel visits for security, maintenance, and system monitoring. No personnel would be on-site during the majority of the hours of operation. The proposed project components would be engineered and built to withstand the effects of strong ground shaking. The risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong ground shaking at the proposed project site would be minor. **Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant and no mitigation is required**.

	iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			$\square$	
6aiii.	<b>Response:</b> (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan E	EIR Figure 5.5	-6 – Liquefact	ion Susceptibi	lity)

The project site is located within an area designated with high liquefaction susceptibility. However, the project does not include any housing or habitable structures. Following construction, no personnel would be on-site during the majority of the hours of operation. Because the project would be located within an area designated with high liquefaction susceptibility, the project applicant has already conducted geotechnical studies for the site so the findings can be incorporated into the final project design, as needed. **Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant and no mitigation is required**.

## iv. Landslides?

6aiv. Response:

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
The proposed project would be located on a flat site with no notable slare anticipated.	lopes or topog	raphy within t	he project area	ı. No impacts
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			$\boxtimes$	
6b. Response:				
Construction of the proposed project would require minimal site grad accordance with the project's SWPPP to achieve site stabilization and <b>Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant and no mitigati</b>	reduce the pot	ential for soil e	erosion or the l	
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				
<b>6c. Response:</b> (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan EIR Fig 6 – Liquefaction Susceptibility)	gure 5.5-3 – P	otential Subsid	lence Areas ar	ıd Figure 5.5-
The project site is located within an area designated with high liqu located within an area of potential ground subsidence. Because the p potential ground subsidence, the project applicant has already conduc be incorporated into the final project design, as needed. <b>Impacts</b> <b>mitigation is required.</b> d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of	oroject would cted geotechni are anticipa	be located wit cal studies for	hin an area de the site so the	esignated with e findings can
the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				
<b>6d. Response</b> : (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan EIR Fig 6 – Liquefaction Susceptibility)	gure 5.5-3 – P	otential Subsid	lence Areas ar	ıd Figure 5.5-
Because the project site is located within an area designated with high 1 ground subsidence, the potential for unidentified expansive soil exist designated with potential expansive soil, the project applicant has all findings can be incorporated into the final project design, as needed. I no mitigation is required.	ts. Because the ready conduct	e project woul ed geotechnic	d be located v al studies for t	within an area the site so the
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				
6e. Response:				
The proposed project would not include the use of septic tanks or a facilities would be constructed as part of the proposed project. If on-site period, temporary portable toilets would be provided for the workers.	e sanitation fac	cilities are requ	ired during the	

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	rectly destroy a unique paleontologica runique geologic feature?	ıl 🗌			$\square$

**6f. Response:** (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan EIR, Chapter 5.4-8; Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration Import of Fill Material to Warm Creek Conservation Basins 94-Acre Project Site: City of San Bernardino and City of Colton, San Bernardino County, Chapter 5 and Appendix C, 2012; Google Earth Soils and Geologic Layers 2015, Geologic Map of California, San Bernardino Sheet, Rogers 1967; Geologic Map of the San Bernardino Quadrangle, Bortungno and Spittler, 1986)

A review of local geological maps and soils of the area indicates the project site is situated on an alluvial fan, floodplain landform and is positioned on Holocene-age alluvium (Qal) and wash (Qw) deposits created by historic erosion of Warm Creek (prior to becoming a concrete flood control channel) and other drainages within San Bernardino County. This area had been subject to massive flooding over the last 150-years, and for this reason the alluvial wash sediments are considered too young to contain significant paleontological deposits. It is considered highly unlikely that significant paleontological resources shall be encountered during project-related ground disturbance. **No impacts are anticipated.** 

7. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.			
Would the project:			
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?		$\boxtimes$	

## 7a. Response:

The direct and indirect emissions from the proposed project were calculated and those calculations and the assumptions used in those calculations are provided in Attachment B. A summary of the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions calculations from project construction is provided below.

CalEEMod MODEL RESULTS CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS			
Emission Source         Emissions (Metric Tons CO2e/Year)			
Construction Total	53.21		
Annualized Over Project Lifetime	1.82		

Additionally, operational emissions were calculated for the project. A summary of the GHG emissions calculations from project operation is provided below.

CalEEMod MODEL RESULTS OPERATIONAL IMPACTS			
Operational Annual GHG Emissions (Tons)	Emissions (CO2e)		
Operational (Mobile) Sources	3.39		
Indirect CO2 Uptake Loss	0.52		
Indirect Water Use	0.05		
Direct Increases	3.96		
Conventional Electricity Generation Offset	-503		
Increases Summary	-499.04		

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	
The SCAQMD has established a GHG significance threshold of 10,000 tons per year, with project construction emissions to					

be amortized over the project life. As presented above, the proposed project's annual indirect GHG emissions from the displacement of fossil fuel fired electricity generation is orders of magnitude greater than the proposed project's annualized direct and indirect emissions sources (including when construction GHG emissions shown above are included). Therefore, the overall effect of the proposed project is to reduce GHG emissions. The project's GHG emissions during construction would be nominal and well below the SCAQMD significance threshold, with GHG emissions being offset by construction of the proposed renewable energy facility. **Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant and no mitigation is required.** 

b. Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

**7b. Response:** (Source: Governor's Office of Planning and Research - Technical Advisory, CEQA and Climate Change: Addressing Climate Change Through CEQ) Review; California Air Pollution Control Officers Association - Model Policies for Greenhouse Gases in General Plans)

There are no federal, State, or local climate change or GHG emissions regulations that directly affect the proposed project's construction. The project is proposing SF6 containing equipment, which would be subject to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Regulation for Reducing Sulfur Hexafluoride Emissions from Gas Insulating Gear (17 CCR 95350). Additionally, there are a number of federal, State, and local plans and policies, and GHG emissions reduction strategies that are potentially applicable to the proposed project, either directly or indirectly. A summary of the compliance with all potentially applicable GHG plans, policies, and regulations is provided below.

Adopted Plan, Policy, or Regulation	Consistency Determination	Proposed Project Consistency
Federal		
40 CFR Part 98. Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Rule.	Not Applicable	The proposed project would not have emissions sources that would be subject to this regulation.
40 CFR Part 52. Proposed Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Title V Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule.	Not Applicable	The proposed project would not have emissions sources that would be subject to this regulation.
State		
AB 32. Regulation for Reducing Sulfur Hexafluoride Emissions from Gas Insulating Gear (17 CCR 95350)	Consistent	The proposed project's new SF6 containing equipment would be subject to this regulation and the project owner would be required to comply with the requirements of this regulation.
AB 32. Annual GHG Emissions Reporting	Not Applicable	The proposed project does not include emissions sources that would be subject to this regulation.
AB 32. Cap-and-Trade	Not Applicable	The proposed project does not include emissions sources that would be subject to this regulation.
California Renewable Portfolio Standard Program	Consistent	The proposed project, as dispatched to serve a publicly owned utility, would contribute towards RPS program requirements.

The table below summarizes current California emission reduction strategies to reduce GHGs, identifies the applicability of each strategy, and the proposed project design feature or mitigation measure that is proposed to comply with the applicable strategies.

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## **ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):**

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	Incorporated		

Strategy	Project Design/Mitigation to Comply with Strategy
Vehicle Climate Change Standards: AB 1493 (Pavley) required the State to develop and adopt regulations that achieve the maximum feasible and cost- effective reduction of climate change emissions emitted by passenger vehicles and light duty trucks. Regulations were adopted by CARB in September 2004. Other Light Duty Vehicle Technology: New standards would be adopted to phase in beginning in the 2017 model. Heavy-Duty Vehicle Emission Reduction Measures: Increased efficiency in the design of heavy-duty vehicles and an education program for the heavy-duty vehicle	These are CARB enforced standards; vehicles that access the project site during construction and operation are required to comply with the standards addressed under these strategies.
sector. Diesel Anti-Idling: In July 2004, CARB adopted a measure to limit diesel-fueled commercial motor vehicle idling. Achieve 50 percent (50%) Statewide Recycling Goal: Achieving the State's 50	The proposed project
Achieve 50 percent (50%) Statewide Recyching Goal. Achieving the State's 50 percent (50%) waste diversion mandate as established by the Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939, Sher, Chapter 1095, Statutes of 1989) will reduce climate change emissions associated with energy intensive material extraction and production as well as methane emission from landfills. A diversion rate of 48 percent (48%) has been achieved on a Statewide basis. Therefore, a 2 percent (2%) additional reduction is needed. Zero Waste - High Recycling: Additional recycling beyond the State's 50 percent	The proposed project would comply with these strategies by composting or through other beneficial use of vegetative waste during construction and operation, as feasible.
(50%) recycling goal. Building Energy Efficiency Standards in Place and in Progress: Public Resources Code 25402 authorizes the California Energy Commission to adopt and periodically update its building energy efficiency standards (that apply to newly constructed buildings and additions to and alterations to existing buildings).	Not applicable as no new buildings are proposed.
Green Buildings Initiative: Green Building Executive Order, S-20-04 (CA 2005), sets a goal of reducing energy use in public and private buildings by 20 percent (20%) by the year 2015, as compared with 2003 levels.	Not applicable

In summary, the proposed project would conform to State and local GHG emissions/climate change regulations and policies/strategies and **impacts are anticipated to be less than significant impacts with no mitigation required**.

8.		AZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.		
	a.	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?		
-				

### 8a. Response:

Construction of the proposed project would include the use and transport of hazardous materials in the form of fuels and lubricants required to operate construction vehicles and equipment. Such use is not unusual and would occur in compliance with BMPs to avoid accidental leaks or spills.

Hazardous or flammable materials used during construction would consist primarily of small volumes of petroleum hydrocarbons and their derivatives (e.g., fuels, oils, lubricants, and solvents) required for the operation of construction equipment. These materials would be those routinely associated with the operation and maintenance of heavy construction equipment or other support vehicles, such as gasoline, diesel fuels, and hydraulic fluids. In addition to these hazardous materials, it is anticipated that small quantities of additional common hazardous materials would be used on-site during construction, including antifreeze and used coolant, latex and oil-based paint, paint thinners and other solvents, cleaning products, and herbicides. MM HAZ-1 would ensure proper storage, transport, and disposal of hazardous wastes utilized onsite.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	
Implementation of MM HAZ-1 would reduce impacts to less that	n significant l	-			
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?					
8b. Response:	I	1	L		
As described above in Response 8a, solar facility construction, operation of hazardous materials that could result in potential adverse health a stored, or disposed of improperly, causing accidents, spills, or leaks. It to less than significant levels.	nd environme	ental impacts it	f these materia	als were used,	
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?					
8c. Response:					
Anderson Elementary School is located directly northeast of the site. As described above in Response 8a, solar facility construction, operation, and decommissioning would require the limited use of hazardous materials, such as fuel and lubricants, that could result in potential adverse health and environmental impacts if these materials were used, stored, or disposed of improperly, causing accidents, spills, or leaks. <b>Implementation of MM HAZ-1 would reduce impacts to less than significant levels</b> .					
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?					
8d. Response: (Source: California Department of Toxic Substances	Control – Con	rtese List)			
The project site is not located on an identified hazardous materials s therefore, would not create a significant hazard to the public or the en-				65962.5, and	
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?					
<b>8e. Response:</b> (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan Figure LU-4 – San Bernardino International Airport Planning Boundaries)					
The proposed project site is located approximately 2.1 miles northwest of San Bernardino International Airport and is designated within the "Airport Influence Area" by the City of San Bernardino General Plan. The proposed project does not include the construction of any housing or habitable structures. During the operational phase, the proposed project would be operated on an unstaffed basis and monitored remotely, with regular on-site personnel visits for security, maintenance, and system monitoring. No personnel would be on-site during the majority of the hours of operation. Therefore, the project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. <b>Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant and no mitigation is required.</b>					
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				$\boxtimes$	

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	
8f. Response:					
There are no private airstrips located within five miles from the prop in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. I				fore not result	
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				$\boxtimes$	
8.g Response:					
Construction, operation, and decommissioning of the project v closures/disruptions that could affect traffic flow, emergency response					
h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				$\square$	
8h. Response: (Source: CAL FIRE - San Bernardino County Fire Ha	zard Severity	Zone Map)			
<ul> <li>Severity Zone Map does not identify either project site as being locate high fire hazard zones. Therefore, the proposed project would not in <b>impacts are anticipated</b>.</li> <li>9. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:</li> </ul>	troduce any in	npacts associa			
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?					
<b>9a. Response:</b> (Source: State Water Resources Control Board website)					
Construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed project could violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements due to accelerated erosion and sedimentation and the accidental release or spill of hazardous materials. Construction of the project would require site preparation, including clearing, grubbing and selected grading, as well as erection of the PV modules, supports, and associated electrical equipment. These activities could loosen the soil and lead to accelerated erosion and sedimentation during a storm event. However, the potential for construction of the project to result in increased erosion and sedimentation is very small due to the small amount of soil disturbance and the flat topography of the project site.					
Construction activities would include the use of heavy machinery and equipment. The use of this construction equipment could result in the accidental release or spill of hazardous materials, including hydraulic oil, fuel, grease, lubricants, coolant, and other petroleum-based products. If leaked or spilled, these hazardous materials could contaminate a nearby waterbody either directly or indirectly through subsequent transport by stormwater runoff. The potential for the project to result in contamination of a nearby waterbody by hazardous materials is unlikely due to the short construction period, the minimal amount of construction equipment and associated hazardous materials to be used in construction of the project, and the flat topography of the region.					
The proposed <u>3.0</u> 2.4-acre site would require disturbance activities th As the State Water Resources Control Board's disturbance threshold likely need to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Discharge	for required p	ermitting is or	ne acre, the ap	plicant would	

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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(Construction General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ). Compliance with these requirements would include preparation of a SWPPP, which would specify BMPs to minimize erosion and to quickly contain and clean up any accidental spills or leaks.

To avoid conflicts with waste discharge requirements, MM WQ-1 would ensure that the applicant prepares a SWPPP that identifies construction and post construction related stormwater BMPs, and MM HAZ-1 would establish emergency response measures for hazardous spills that would reduce the potential for water quality contamination. With **implementation of MM WQ-1 and MM HAZ-1**, **impacts would be reduced to less than significant**.

b.	substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would	
	not support existing land uses or planned uses for which	
	permits have been granted)?	

**9b. Response:** (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan Chapter 13; SBV Water Conservation District- Engineering Investigation of the Bunker Hill Basin 2013-2014)

The project site is located within the San Bernardino Valley Water District water service boundary and the entire source of water for the purveyor and areas within its Sphere of Influence is from Bunker Hill Basin, which is an underground aquifer. According to the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District's 2014 Engineering Investigation, the amount of water withdrawn from Bunker Hill Basin during the July 2014 to June 2015 water year was estimated to be 106,173 acre-feet (includes both agriculture and non-agriculture uses).

During construction of the proposed project, water may be required for dust suppression. Construction water use would be short-term (i.e., ten weeks), and is assumed not to exceed 1 acre-feet. During project operation, the solar panels would be periodically washed, with less than one pint of water needed to clean each panel resulting in an annual water usage of 1,200 pints (or 0.0005 acre-feet) per year. Water requirements for project construction and operation would be a negligible percentage of the total amount of water that is extracted annually from Bunker Hill Basin. In addition, very few impermeable surfaces would be created during construction of the proposed project (limited to foundations for PV modules, inverters, and transformers), and neither construction nor operation of the project would interfere substantially with groundwater recharge. **Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant with no mitigation required.** 

c.	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or	$\square$	
	area, including through the alteration of the course of a		
	stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial		
	erosion or siltation on- or off-site?		

**9c. Response:** (Source: State Water Resources Control Board website- Construction Storm Water Program)

Construction of the proposed project would involve minor alterations to the existing drainage pattern as a result of some required earthwork such as grading, fill, compaction, and erosion control implementation. As part of the project's Construction General Permit (see Response 9a), and as recommended in MM WQ-1, the applicant would prepare a SWPPP that would specify BMPs to minimize erosion and/or siltation during construction. With **implementation of MM WQ-1**, **impacts would be reduced to less than significant**.

d.	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?		$\boxtimes$		
d. Response: (Source: State Water Resources Control Board website- Construction Storm Water Program)					

 $\mathbb{N}$ 

WQ-1, impacts would be reduced to less than significant.         e.       Create or contribute runoff water which would acceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?         9e.       Response:         As described in Response 9b, minimal water use would be required during project construction and operation. Neither construction nor operation of the project would substantially increase the rate or amount of runoff from the existing site. Existing or planned stormwater drainage systems would not be affected by construction or operation of the project. No impacts are anticipated.         f.       Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?       Impact and the project or and the project or analy waterbody either directly or indirectly through subsequent transport by stormwater runoff. While the potential for the project to result in contamination of a nearby waterbody is unlikely. MM HAZ-1 is recommended to minimize impacts to the extent feasible by establishing emergency response measures for hazardous spills. With implementation of MM HAZ-1, impacts would be reduced to less than significant.         g.       Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard area structures. No impacts are anticipated.         h.       Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures. No impacts are anticipated.         h.       Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures. No impacts are anticipated.         h.       Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures. No impacts are anticipated. <t< th=""><th>ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):</th><th>Potentially Significant Impact</th><th>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</th><th>Less Than Significant Impact</th><th>No Impact</th></t<>	ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact		
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ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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9j. Response: (Source: State Water Resources Control Board website- Construction Storm Water Program; Google Earth)

The proposed project is not located near to an ocean or enclosed waterbody, and would not cause or be subject to inundation by tsunami or seiche. As discussed in Response 9e, the project would not alter the rate or amount of runoff in the area. As discussed in Response 9a, the applicant would prepare a SWPPP that would specify BMPs to minimize erosion and/or siltation during construction as required by MM WQ-1. The project would not cause inundation by mudflow. With **implementation of MM WQ-1**, **impacts would be less than significant**.

10. LAND USE AND PLANNING:		
Would the project:		
a. Physically divide an established community?		

#### 10a.Response:

A community may be divided if a project were to introduce a physical barrier through that community. Such a project is generally linear, such as a highway or railroad. The proposed project involves the construction of a solar PV electrical generating facility on property owned by RPU in San Bernardino County. The site is a vacant parcel surrounded by existing residential, commercial, and industrial land uses, as well as a school located northeast of the site. The project's construction (i.e., site preparation, PV installation, and restoration) and operational activities would occur entirely onsite, with offsite activity limited to the transportation of construction equipment and personnel. Construction and operation of the project would not introduce a barrier that would divide the surrounding community. No impacts are anticipated.

b.	Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or	
	regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project	
	(including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan,	
	local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the	
	purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	

**10b. Response:** (Source: City of San Bernardino Zoning and GPLU Map; San Bernardino County Development Code Chapter 82.05, Table 82-11)

The project site, which is currently owned by RPU, is located in an unincorporated area of San Bernardino County that is within the Sphere of Influence of the City of San Bernardino. The Cooley site is zoned as CS (Service Commercial) by the County. The proposed solar facility would not necessitate a zone change to comply with County regulations.

The County of San Bernardino determined that the Project is not considered a commercial solar project and therefore, the Project is not subject to the County's Conditional Use Permit process. Thus, the project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation. **No Impacts are anticipated.** 

c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

**10c. Response:** (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan- Figures NRC-1 and NRC-2; City of San Bernardino General Plan Chapter 12; San Bernardino Countywide Biotic Resources Overlay Map; Jericho Systems, 2015)

As discussed in Response 4f, the City of San Bernardino's General Plan did not identify any habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan in the vicinity of the proposed project site. Although the site would be within identified American Bald Eagle habitat per the County's Biotic Resources Overlay maps, no nesting birds or other wildlife species were observed at the site (Jericho Systems, 2015). Project activities would be consistent with County development requirements at the proposed site, and the project would not conflict with a habitat conservation plan. **No impacts are anticipated.** 

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ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
11. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?			$\square$	

**11a. Response:** (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan- Figure NRC-3; City of San Bernardino General Plan Chapter 12; City of San Bernardino Development Code Chapter 19.08; City of San Bernardino Zoning and GPLU Map; San Bernardino County General Plan Conservation Element, Section 6)

The California Geological Survey administers a mineral lands inventory and classification process across the State. Surveyed areas are categorized into mineral resource zones (MRZ) on the basis of geologic factors (e.g., presence of mineral deposits). The project site is located in an identified MRZ-2, which is defined as areas where the available geologic information indicates that there are significant mineral deposits or that there is a likelihood of significant mineral deposits.

The City of San Bernardino has established policies in its General Plan to address the management of mineral resources. However, these policies are specific to non-mineral extractive uses in areas zoned as Industrial Extractive (IE). The proposed project site is zoned by the City as Residential Suburban (RS), and therefore the project would not conflict with the City's mineral resource policies. Although the County has identified policies for the protection of its mineral resources (County General Plan Section V), none of these policies are specific to the proposed development on land zoned by the County as Service Commercial (CS).

While the proposed project would prevent the extraction of mineral resources at the project site during its lifetime, these mineral resources would be accessible following project decommissioning. Given that a preclusion of access to mineral resources would not be permanent, and given that the project site is not zoned for mineral extraction, **impacts are anticipated to be less than significant with no mitigation required.** 

b.	Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important		$\boxtimes$
	mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general		
	plan, specific plan or other land use plan?		

**11b. Response:** (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan- Figure NRC-3; City of San Bernardino General Plan Chapter 12; City of San Bernardino Development Code Chapter 19.08; City of San Bernardino Zoning and GPLU Map; San Bernardino County General Plan Conservation Element, Section 6)

As discussed in Response 11a, the project would be located in a MRZ-2 as identified by the California Geological Survey. No additional mineral resource recovery sites at or adjacent to the proposed project have been identified in the City of San Bernardino's land use plans or in San Bernardino County's General Plan, and the project site is not zoned for mineral extraction. **No impacts are anticipated.** 

12. NOISE. Would the project result in:			
a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?		$\boxtimes$	

**12a. Response:** (Source: County of San Bernardino– Development Code, Sections 83.01.080 and 83.01.090)

The nearest noise-sensitive receptors to the project site include:

- Residences directly adjacent to the northeast and south of the site.
- Anderson Elementary School located directly northeast of the site.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
		Incorporated		

**Construction**. General Plan Noise Element, Policy N 1.6, states noise level performance standards for stationary and other locally regulated sources (such as industrial, recreational, and construction activities) will be enforced via the standards and thresholds provided in the Counties Development Code. Per Section 83.01.080(g) of the San Bernardino County Development Code, noise from temporary construction, maintenance, repair or demolition activities are exempt from any performance standards if occurring between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., except Sundays and federal holidays. Per Section 83.01.090(c) of the San Bernardino County Development Code, vibration from temporary construction, maintenance, repair or demolition activities are exempt from any performance standards if occurring between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., except Sundays and federal holidays. Per Section 83.01.090(c) of the San Bernardino County Development Code, vibration from temporary construction, maintenance, repair or demolition activities are exempt from any performance standards if occurring between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., except Sundays and federal holidays. As described in Section 8 (Description of Project) within this document, construction of the project would not occur outside of these allowable hours. Therefore, the project is compliant with this requirement and **impacts are anticipated to be less than significant with no mitigation required.** 

**Operation**. San Bernardino County Development Code Section 83.01.080 identifies the following performance standards for the proposed facility based on adjacent residential development;

- 55 dBA between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- 45 dBA between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Based on a review of noise assessments prepared for solar PV projects in California, a typical power inverter generates 66 dBA Leq (i.e., time weighted average of the level of sound in decibels on scale A which is relatable to human hearing) measured at a distance of 50 feet without an enclosure. Inverters and other on-site switchgear sources would be enclosed, eliminating the spread of noise. Tracking motors that tilt an array of panels typically generate 38 dBA Leq at 50 feet. Given the distance to the nearest sensitive receptors from interior portions of the project site where such equipment would be situated, any noise would attenuate to below these performance standards. Furthermore, noise generated from periodic maintenance activities would be short term and limited in duration and subject to the construction regulations discussed above. Therefore, the project is compliant with this requirement. **Therefore, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant with no mitigation required.** 

b.	Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive		$\boxtimes$	
	groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			

#### 12b. Response:

Heavy equipment use (primarily during any site grading activities and erection of solar module foundations) and loaded heavy trucks have the potential to generate localized groundborne vibration. Per Section 83.01.090(c) of the San Bernardino County Development Code, vibration from temporary construction, maintenance, repair or demolition activities are allowed activities if occurring between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., except Sundays and federal holidays. Once constructed, typical maintenance activities would not utilize heavy equipment and would not generate localized vibration. **Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant with no mitigation required.** 

the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	c. A th	substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in a project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			$\square$	
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#### 12c. Response:

As discussed in Response 12a, given the design of the facility and distance to the nearest sensitive receptors from interior portions of the project site where noise-generating equipment would be situated, any noise would attenuate to below applicable performance standards (and below ambient conditions) and would not be perceptible. Furthermore, noise generated from periodic maintenance activities would be short term and limited in duration. **Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant and no mitigation is required.** 

	substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient oise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing		$\boxtimes$	
W	ithout the project?			

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**12d. Response:** (Source: County of San Bernardino– Development Code, Sections 83.01.080 and 83.01.090)

The primary source of temporary or periodic noise associated with the proposed project is from construction activity and maintenance work. Construction noise typically involves the loudest common urban noise events associated with grading, construction, large diesel engines, truck deliveries and hauling.

The nearest sensitive receptors, residences to the northwest and south are about 200 feet from the respective boundaries of the proposed PV system. Existing fencing and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street are located between the proposed Project and northwest and southern residences, respectively. The 200 foot distance, fencing, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street vehicle noise are sufficient to attenuate any minor noise generation resulting from the solar panel and construction activities. Installation of the new aboveground and below ground electrical facilities will result in a temporary or periodic increase in the vicinity in which these facilities are being installed. This noise will not be situated in a single location for an extended period of time as construction proceeds. Because existing County noise regulations exempt construction noise and that construction contractors implement best management practices to abate noise, and that periodic maintenance activities would be short term and limited in duration, potential impacts related to substantial temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels. **Impacts are anticipated to be will be less than significant with no mitigation required.** 

e.	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of			
	a public airport or public use airport, would the project			
	expose people residing or working in the project area to			
	excessive noise levels?			

#### 12e. Response:

The proposed project site is located approximately 2.1 miles northwest of San Bernardino International Airport. The project does not include the construction of any housing or habitable structures. During the operational phase, the proposed project would be operated on an unstaffed basis and monitored remotely, with regular on-site personnel visits for security, maintenance, and system monitoring. No personnel would be on-site during the majority of the hours of operation. Due to the distance of the proposed project site to this aviation facility, neither construction nor operation of the project would subject workers to excessive aviation-generated noise levels. **No impacts are anticipated.** 

f.	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project		$\boxtimes$
	area to excessive noise levels?		

#### 12f. Response:

There are no private airstrips located within five miles from the proposed project site. Therefore, neither construction nor operation of the project would subject workers to excessive aviation-generated noise levels. **No impacts are anticipated**.

13. POPULATION AND HOUSING.		
Would the project:		
a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?		$\boxtimes$

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No Impact
<b>INFORMATION SOURCES):</b>	Impact	With Mitigation Incorporated	Impact	-
13a. Response:				
The proposed project would employ a maximum of 20 construction e on-site workforce would consist of laborers, various skilled trades, sup management personnel. The construction workforce would likely be Empire. Once operational, no personnel would be on-site during the m be limited. Therefore, due to the temporary nature of the construction period, the proposed project would not directly induce any population	pervisory pers a mix of wo ajority of ope period, and no	onnel, support orkers from wi ration as maint o full-time emp	personnel, and thin and arou tenance require bloyees during	l constructio nd the Inlan ements woul the operatio
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				$\boxtimes$
13b. Response:				
unmanned structures house water production wells.				
There are no housing or residential structures located within the sit temporary displacement of housing, nor would the project require the <b>anticipated.</b> c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the				
There are no housing or residential structures located within the sit temporary displacement of housing, nor would the project require the anticipated.				) impacts ar
<ul> <li>There are no housing or residential structures located within the sit temporary displacement of housing, nor would the project require the anticipated.</li> <li>c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?</li> <li>13c. Response:</li> <li>The proposed project site does not contain residences located within t would not result in the temporary displacement of people. No impact</li> </ul>	removal of ar	by existing hou	sing units. No	) impacts an
<ul> <li>There are no housing or residential structures located within the sit temporary displacement of housing, nor would the project require the <b>anticipated</b>.</li> <li>c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?</li> <li>13c. Response:</li> <li>The proposed project site does not contain residences located within the site of the structure of the</li></ul>	removal of ar	by existing hou	sing units. No	) impacts ar

Construction, operation, and decommissioning activities associated with the proposed project would not significantly increase the demand for fire protection services. Construction would be completed in approximately ten weeks and would require a maximum of 20 construction employees. The construction workforce would come from within the general project area, so the project would not increase the need for fire protection services. During the operation period, the project would be operated on an unstaffed basis. Therefore, no full-time staff would relocate to the project area and there would be no increase in the demand for fire protection services in population to the project area.

The proposed PV modules and ancillary equipment represent a negligible fire risk. Decommissioning of the solar facility would be similar to construction in that the short duration of activities would not result in an increased population in the project area, and would not increase the demand for fire protection services. **Impacts are anticipated to be would be less than significant with no mitigation required.** 

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No Impact
INFORMATION SOURCES):	Impact	With Mitigation Incorporated	Impact	Inpact
b. Police protection?				$\square$
14b. Response:	I	1	L	
Identical to the discussion provided in Response 14a, the proposed p could increase the demand for police services. A security fence wo security gate to deter unauthorized access. These project design feature Decommissioning activities would be similar to construction in the population in the project area, and would not increase the demand for c. Schools?	uld enclose the res would ensue the short d	ne project site, ure the safety of luration would	with access p of the public ar not result in	provided by a ad the facility. an increased
14c. Response:				
Identical to the discussion provided in Response 14a, the proposed provided increase the demand for school services. <b>No impacts are antic</b>		not result in a	my population	·
d. Parks?				$\boxtimes$
<b>14d. Response:</b> Identical to the discussion provided in Response 14a, the proposed provided increase the demand for park facilities. <b>No impacts are anticip</b>		not result in a	ny population	increase that
e. Other public facilities?				$\boxtimes$
Identical to the discussion provided in Response 14a, the proposed p could increase the demand for police services, such as libraries. <b>No in</b> <b>15. RECREATION.</b> a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that exhert reliable the project increase of the facilities such that	npacts are an		ny population	increase that
substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				
15a. Response:				
Construction, operation, and decommissioning activities associated w for parks or recreational facilities. Project construction would be comp frame, it is unlikely that a construction workforce would relocate to t resources. The project would be operated on an unstaffed basis, and demand for parks or recreational facilities. Decommissioning activi duration would not likely result in the relocation of workers' families	bleted in appro he project area l therefore ope ties would be	eximately ten w a and increase erational activity similar to cor	veeks. Given the use of loca ities would no astruction in the	his short time- al recreational t increase the hat their short
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				$\boxtimes$
15b. Response:				
The proposed project is a solar power facility that would include the c would not include the construction or expansion of recreational facilit increase the demand for parks or recreational facilities. <b>No impacts a</b>	ies. As discuss	sed in Respons		

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact		
<b>16. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC.</b> Would the project result in:						
a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?						
<b>16a. Response:</b> (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan Chapt of Traffic Impact Studies; Caltrans – Traffic Volumes on California S			– Guide for th	e Preparation		
When operational, the project would be unmanned and only require operational trips is negligible (assumed less than 20 per year). This a of Service (LOS) or other performance standard for the local and regionly only on trips generated during project construction.	mount of oper	ational traffic	would not red	uce any Level		
As described in Section 8 (Description of Project) within this docume the site at any one time is forecast to be about 20 persons and the r material would be 10 trucks per day to the site. This would result in a been increased using a Passenger Car Equivalent [PCE] of 1.5). Howe during the ten-week construction period. The temporary addition of access to the site would not reduce any LOS identified within the Ci for performance of the local circulation network.	naximum nun a worst-case o ever, worst-cas these trips to t	nber of truck of f 35 vehicle tri se daily trips w the local transp	leliveries of e ips per day (tr ould only occuportation netw	quipment and uck trips have ar temporarily ork providing		
The temporary addition of 35 total daily trips during construction wo providing access to the project site:	uld result in tl	he following ir	crease to regi	onal freeways		
Interstate 10: The addition of 35 daily trips during construction we over 2014 average daily traffic volume of 205,000 near the project				orary increase		
<ul> <li>Interstate 215: The addition of 35 daily trips during construction w over 2014 average daily traffic volume of 136,000 near the project</li> </ul>			percent temp	orary increase		
The negligible increase in traffic volumes during project construct performance standards identified for I-10 by Caltrans, nor require a <b>Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant and no mitigat</b>	Traffic Impa	ect Study to be				
b. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?						
<b>16b. Response:</b> (Source: San Bernardino Association of Government	ts (SANBAG) -	– Congestion N	Management F	Program)		
Both Interstate 10 and 215 are part of the San Bernardino County Congestion Management Program. As discussed in Response 16a, the maximum addition of 35 daily trips temporarily to these freeways would not reduce the LOS or other performance standards identified within the Congestion Management Program. <b>Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant and no mitigation is required.</b>						
c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?						

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**16c. Response:** (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan Figure LU-4 – San Bernardino International Airport Planning Boundaries)

The proposed project site is located approximately 2.1 miles northwest of San Bernardino International Airport and is designated within the "Airport Influence Area" by the City of San Bernardino General Plan. However, the proposed project does not include any structures of height requiring Federal Aviation Administration airspace obstruction review. While solar PV facilities can generate minimal glare, given the distance of the site to the airfield and the orientation of runways not directing air traffic directly over the site, any glare from project arrays is not anticipated to have any impact on air navigation. Therefore, construction and operation of the proposed project would have no impact to existing air traffic patterns or result in a change in air traffic levels that could create a substantial safety risk. **Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant and no mitigation is required.** 

d.	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible		$\boxtimes$
	uses (e.g., farm equipment)?		

#### 16d. Response:

Construction, operation, and decommissioning of the project would not require any temporary roadway or lane closures/disruptions that could affect traffic flow. The project would not introduce any new public roadways or incompatible uses. All construction access and egress would occur from a secured controlled main gate located at the site entrance on East 4th Street. This roadway and the proposed location of the site access point have excellent line-of-sight to ensure construction related traffic ingress and egress would not pose any safety hazard. **No impacts are anticipated**.

	e. Result in ir	adequate emergency access?				$\boxtimes$
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#### 16e. Response:

Construction, operation, and decommissioning of the project would not require any temporary roadway or lane closures/disruptions that could affect emergency response. **No impacts are anticipated**.

f.	Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities)?				$\boxtimes$
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#### 16f. Response:

Construction, operation, and decommissioning of the project would not require any temporary roadway or lane closures/disruptions that could affect the movement of public transit, bicycles, or pedestrians and would not affect any program pertaining to these modes of transportation. **No impacts are anticipated**.

<b>17. UTILITIES AND SYSTEM SERVICES.</b> Would the project:			
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?		$\boxtimes$	

#### 17a. Response:

Currently the proposed project site is vacant. The proposed project would not create any new habitable structures. During construction, the only wastewater generated would be from the on-site workforce (a maximum of 20 construction employees throughout the ten-week construction period). Portable toilets would be provided on-site during construction. All wastewater generated by these facilities during the temporary construction period would be disposed of by the portable toilet provider under their allowable discharge permits. Once operational, no personnel would be on-site during the majority of operation as maintenance requirements would be limited. No other water would require treatment by a wastewater treatment plant. Given the brief timeframe for construction and small overall workforce, negligible new wastewater would be generated by the proposed project. **Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant and no mitigation is required.** 

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
17b. Response:				
As discussed in Response 17a, negligible new wastewater would be Response 17d (below), potable water needs of the proposed project at No new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansions are req <b>be less than significant and no mitigation is required.</b>	re expected to	be within the	provider's exis	sting capacity.
c. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
17c. Response:	I	I		
use of water for dust suppression is completed in a manner to avoid ru would be designed to maintain or reduce discharge of stormwater rund by the State Water Resources Control Board. Preparation of the SWI and monitoring and reporting procedures. The SWPPP would be b components, which include support beams, module rail assemblies, P cables. During operation, the proposed solar PV facility would requ modules and dust control measures, none of which is expected to en- stormwater drainage features into the project design, as well as co <b>Implementation of MM WQ-1 would reduce impacts to less than</b>	off in complia PPP would inc ased on final V modules, in the minimal v nter the storm ompliance wi significant le	nce with the project in engineering d verters, transfe water use for p water system. th the SWPPI	roject's SWPP nformation, de lesign for all priodic washi To ensure inc P, MM WQ-1	PP, as required esign features, of the project ried electrical ing of the PV corporation of
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				
<b>17d. Response:</b> (Source: City of San Bernardino General Plan Chap Investigation of the Bunker Hill Basin 2013-2014)	pter 13; SBV	Water Conserv	ation District	- Engineering
The entire source of water to the project area is from the Bunker Hil the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District's 2014 Engine from Bunker Hill Basin during the July 2014 to June 2015 water yea agriculture and non-agriculture uses).	ering Investig	ation, the amo	unt of water to	be withdrawn
During construction of the proposed project, water would be required short-term (10 weeks) and is assumed to not exceed 1 acre-feet. During washed, with half a pint of water needed to clean each panel resulting that water use during the decommissioning period would be similar or overall water use for construction, operation and decommissioning w water that is extracted annually from Bunker Hill Basin. <b>Impacts</b> <b>mitigation required.</b>	project opera in a water usa less than wate would be a ne	tion, the solar j age of 0.0005 a er used during gligible percer	panels would b acre-feet per ye the construction tage of the to	e periodically ear. It is likely on period. The otal amount of
e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>17e. Response:</b> The proposed project would generate minimal wastewater during cons in Responses 17a and 17b, existing wastewater treatment facilities wo by the project while serving existing commitments. <b>Impacts are anti</b> <b>required.</b>	ould adequate	ly accommoda	te the minor de	emand caused
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?			$\boxtimes$	
Construction would generate waste that may include cardboard, woo wood wire spools. Maintenance activities would also produce a small defective or malfunctioning modules, electrical hardware, empty cont When decommissioned, the site would generate waste in the form o applicant would recycle all materials as appropriate, and materials accordance with federal, State, and local regulations. For solid waste disposal, there are two possible landfills that would see approximately 10 miles southeast of the project site and the Mid-Val project site. According to CalRecycle, the average annual throughpu Therefore, either landfill would have sufficient capacity to accommod	amount of so ainers, and an f retired PV a that could r rve the projec ley Landfill is t at both land ate the projec	lid waste such by refuse communays and supp not be recycled t area. The San s approximatel lfills does not t s solid and no	as broken and nonly generate port equipmen d would be d Timoteo Land y 11 miles non exceed the ani on-hazardous v	rusted metal, d by workers. t. The project isposed of in dfill is located rthwest of the nual capacity.
needs. <b>Impacts are anticipated to be would be less than significant</b> g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	t with no mit	igation requir	ed.	$\boxtimes$
<b>17g. Response:</b> (Source: San Bernardino County of Public Works) Solid waste disposal is governed by California State Assembly Bill through reduction, recycling, and reuse of solid waste. AB939 required Plan and a Source Reduction Recycling Element to achieve landfill of Waste Advisory Task-Force of San Bernardino County carries out through AB 939. The proposed project would operate in accordance operation, and decommissioning, all materials and debris would be co- identified in Response 17f, the landfill serving the site would have suff disposal needs. Therefore, the proposed project would comply with fe solid waste disposal limits and landfill capacities. <b>No impacts are an</b>	es counties to liversion goal he responsibi with the appl ollected and s icient capacit deral, State, a	prepare an Int is and stimulat lities mandated licable requires eparated for re y to accommod	egrated Waste e local recycli d by the State ments. During cycling where late the project	Management ng. The Solid of California construction available. As 2's solid waste
<ul> <li>18. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.</li> <li>a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or an endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?</li> </ul>				

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
		Incorporated		

#### 18a. Response:

Section 4 (Biological Resources) of this Initial Study describes the type and severity of impacts to biological resources that could occur from construction and operation of the proposed project. As discussed throughout this document, the proposed site is a vacant parcel within an urban environment that lack native habitat capable of supporting any locally known listed and/or sensitive species. Construction and operation activities would not create temporary or permanent impacts to sensitive or protected habitat or species, nor would the project affect the movement of any fish or wildlife species.

There are no known historical resources, archaeological resources, tribal cultural resources, human remains, or unique paleontological resources or geologic features located at the Cooley project site. Therefore, no major periods of California history or prehistory are represented within the project site. Section 5 (Cultural Resources) of this Initial Study describes the potential of encountering undiscovered (e.g., buried) historical resources, archaeological resources, tribal cultural resources, and human remains within the project site. **Implementation of MM CR-1 through MM CR-45** would reduce impacts to less than significant. The ultimate treatment of any resource would be developed individually after it has been discovered and in consultation with the appropriate resource specialists.

b.	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited,	$\square$	
	but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively		
	considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project		
	are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects		
	of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the		
	effects of probable future projects)?		

#### 18b. Response:

CEQA defines a cumulative impact as an effect that is created as a result of the combination of the proposed project together with other projects (past, present, or future) causing related impacts. Cumulative impacts of a project need to be evaluated when the project's incremental effect is cumulatively considerable and, therefore, potentially significant.

The project does not have significant impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. The Project is the construction, operation, maintenance and demolish of a PV solar system sized at approximately 0.50 MW, which will provide RPU with a source of renewable energy.

As discussed in Item 7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions, the Project will result in emissions of the GHG CO2 as a byproduct of combustion of gasoline and diesel fuel in construction equipment, construction worker commute trips, in addition to an increase of CO2 emissions associated with the production of electricity to serve the Project. However, the Project's operational emissions of criteria pollutants are less than the SCAQMD regional operational thresholds, and the Project is consistent with the measures identified by the CARB's Scoping Plan. <u>The mitigation measures as listed in this document and as explained herein would reduce impacts to less than significant.</u> Therefore, the Project's contribution to global climate change is not considered cumulatively considerable.

The proposed project would not result in any significant long-term impacts that would substantially combine with impacts of other current and probable future impacts. Consequently, the proposed project would create less than significant impacts with no mitigation required that are cumulatively considerable from an operational standpoint. Further, The Project is not considered growth-inducing as defined by State CEQA Guidelines.

c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		$\boxtimes$		
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#### 18c. Response:

The preceding sections of this Initial Study discuss various types of impacts that could have adverse effects on human beings, including:

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
-------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------

Dust and air pollutant emissions during project construction activities (see Section 3, Air Quality), and

Potential release of gasoline, diesel fuel, oil, and lubricants associated with construction equipment and other vehicles (see Section 8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials).

These are temporary impacts associated with project construction activities. Each type of impact with the potential to cause substantial adverse effects on human beings has been evaluated, and this Initial Study concludes that all of these potential impacts are either less than significant or can be mitigated to a less than significant level with implementation of standard mitigation measures. The mitigation measures as listed in this document and as explained herein would reduce impacts to less than significant. Therefore, the proposed project would not involve any activities, either during construction or operation, which would cause significant unavoidable effects on human beings, and project impacts will be readily mitigated to less than significant levels.

Impact Category	Mitigation Measures	Implementation Timing	Responsible Monitoring Party <sup>1</sup>	Monitoring/Reporting Method
Biological Resources	<b>MM BIO-1:</b> Employees shall be trained to ensure that all workers on-site (including contractors) are aware of all applicable mitigation measures for biological resources. Specifically, workers shall be required to: (1) limit all activities to approved work areas; (2) pick up and properly dispose of any food, trash or construction refuse; and (3) report any spilled materials (oil, fuel, solvent, engine coolant, raw concrete, or other material potentially hazardous to wildlife) to the site supervisor.	Prior to and during construction	Public Utilities Department	Documentation to be submitted to Public Utilities Department by Site Supervisor.
Biological Resources	<b>MM BIO-2:</b> All trash and food materials shall be properly contained within vehicles or closed refuse bins while on any site, and shall be regularly removed from the site (at least on a weekly basis) for proper disposal. All refuse from construction activities shall be removed from the work site upon completion of work. No raw cement, concrete or washings thereof, asphalt, paint, oil, solvents, or other petroleum products, or any other substances that could be hazardous to vegetation or wildlife resources, shall be disposed of on-site or allowed to spill onto soil. Cleanup of any spilled material shall begin immediately.	During construction	Public Utilities Department	Construction Inspection.
Cultural Resources	<b>MM CR-1:</b> In the event that unanticipated resources are encountered during ground-disturbing or other construction activities, work must cease within 50 feet of the discovery and a County Cultural Resources Specialist and tribal representatives from San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians and Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians notified by phone and email. Work may continue only after the resources are recorded and evaluated by a cultural resources specialist who meets or exceeds the Secretary of the Interior Professional Qualification	During construction	Public Utilities Department	Departmental Notification to Representative Native American Party

### Staff Recommended Mitigation Measures

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All agencies are City of Riverside Departments/Divisions unless otherwise noted.

Impact Category	Mitigation Measures	Implementation Timing	Responsible Monitoring Party <sup>1</sup>	Monitoring/Reporting Method
	Standards in archaeology and examined tribal representatives qualified to identify tribal cultural resources as defined in AB 52 (PRC § 21080.3.1(a)).			
Cultural Resources	<b>MM CR-2:</b> In accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code and PRC Section 5097.98, if human remains are found, the San Bernardino County Coroner shall be notified within 24 hours of the discovery. No further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie potential remains shall occur until the County Coroner has determined, within two working days of notification of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains. If the County Coroner determines that the remains do not require an assessment of cause of death and that the remains are or are believed to be Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours. In accordance with Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code, the NAHC must immediately notify those persons it believes to be the Most Likely Descendent (MLD) of the deceased Native American. The descendants shall complete their inspection within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative would then determine, in consultation with the County, the disposition of the human remains.	During construction	Public Utilities Department	Departmental Notification to Representative Native American Party
Cultural Resources	<b>MM CR-3:</b> Ground-disturbing activities related to construction, which extend 1 foot below the modern ground surface, shall be monitored by a cultural resources monitor. Monitoring shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist familiar with the types of historical and prehistoric resources that could be encountered within the approved project area, and	During construction	Public Utilities Department	Departmental Notification to Representative Native American Party

Impact Category	Mitigation Measures	Implementation Timing	Responsible Monitoring Party <sup>1</sup>	Monitoring/Reporting Method
	<ul> <li>Interior Professional Qualification Standards in archaeology.</li> <li>Part-time monitoring at all locations where disturbance extends below 1 foot.</li> <li>In the event cultural resources are identified by the qualified archaeological monitor at the site, the three Native American tribes who have expressed an interest in the site shall be notified. One Native American monitor shall be arranged to monitor further activities. In the event the City and the interested Tribes cannot agree upon the monitor, then the City shall select a monitor and arrange for that monitor. The intensity of Native American monitoring (full or part time) will be determined by both tribal and archaeological specialists, based on the nature of the find and the possibility of finding additional resources. One Native American monitoring (full or part time) will be determined by both tribal and archaeological specialists, based on the nature of the find and the possibility of finding additional resources. One Native American monitoring (full or part time) will be determined by both tribal and archaeological specialists, based on the nature of the find and the possibility of finding additional resources.</li> </ul>			
Cultural Resources	<ul> <li>MM CR-4: The cultural resources monitor shall document interim results of the construction monitoring program with daily monitoring logs and photographs. At the conclusion of monitoring a summary of the results shall be prepared.</li> <li>If no resources were identified, copies of the daily logs and a brief letter report summarizing the monitoring activities will be submitted to the project owner and the CEQA lead agency.</li> <li>If resources were identified during monitoring, a cultural resources report shall be prepared and all work must be halted within 50 feet of the discovery. The report shall be written by or under the direction</li> </ul>	During construction	Public Utilities Department	Departmental Notification to Representative Native American Party

Impact Category	Mitigation Measures	Implementation Timing	Responsible Monitoring Party <sup>1</sup>	Monitoring/Reporting Method
Cultural	<ul> <li>of a cultural resources specialist who meets or exceeds the Secretary of the Interior Professional Qualification Standards in archaeology and shall be provided in the State of California Archaeological Resource Management Report format. The final document shall report on all field activities including dates, times and locations, results, samplings, and analyses. All Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms, data recovery reports, and any additional research reports shall be submitted to the project owner, the CEQA lead agency and the California Historical Resource Information System (CHRIS).</li> <li>Any information gathered during tribal AB 52 consultation may not be shared with the public without prior written tribal consent. The report will conform with these confidentiality requirements (PRC § 21080.3.2).</li> </ul>	During construction	Public Utilities Department	Departmental Notification to
<u>Resources</u>	Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation ("Gabrieleno") to the project kickoff/pre- construction meeting where the project schedule will be outlined in detail. The project owner will notify the Gabrieleno 5 business days prior to pre-construction meeting and commencement of ground disturbing work in order to provide them an opportunity to assign a tribal monitor to visit the site. Ground-disturbing activities related to construction – including but not limited to pavement removal, pot holing or auguring, boring, grading, excavation and trenching - may be monitored full-time by one tribal monitor per project site. Gabrieleno to provide at their cost, the tribal monitor. Gabrieleno to provide at their cost, the tribal monitor. Prior to entering the			Representative Native American Party

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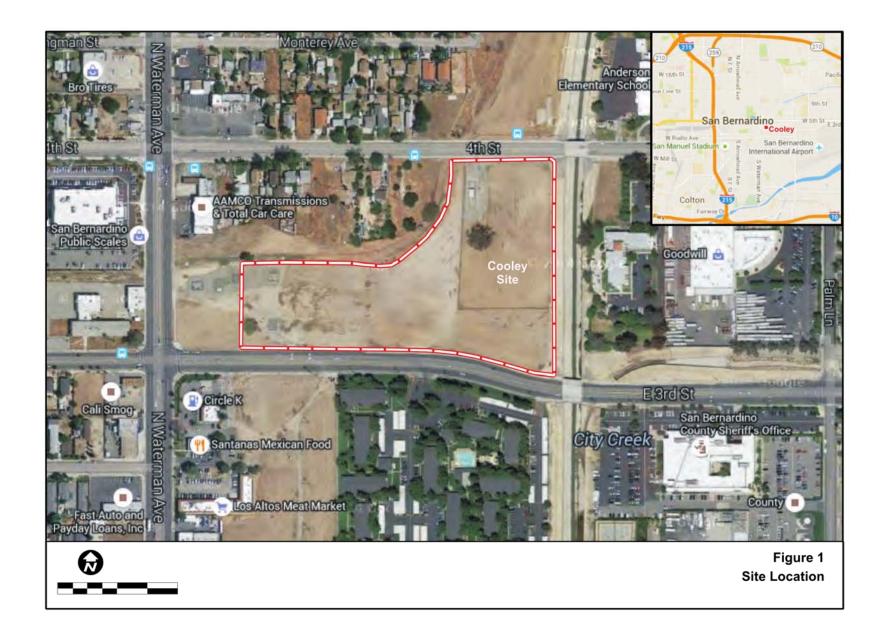
Impact Category	Mitigation Measures	Implementation Timing	Responsible Monitoring Party <sup>1</sup>	Monitoring/Reporting Method
	project site, the tribal monitor shall receive proper safety training and execute an Agreement to Release All Liability.			
Hazards& Hazardous Materials	<b>MM HAZ-1:</b> The applicant shall prepare a hazardous materials business plan to ensure proper storage, transport, and disposal of hazardous waste generated at the proposed project site during construction. An alternate or amended business plan shall be prepared for waste generated at the site during operation. At a minimum, the hazardous materials business plan shall be in compliance with California Health and Safety Code Chapter 6.5. The plan shall comply with all future revisions and updates to the regulations. Such a plan would enable workers to respond to any potential release of hazardous materials and ensure quick and safe cleanup. The plan shall include measures to implement emergency response procedures to reduce the potential for contamination and exposure of workers or the public to hazardous materials in the event of an accidental spill, by providing various measures to ensure that any spilled material is contained and any resulting surficial contaminated soil was quickly cleaned up and disposed of properly.	Prior to construction	Public Utilities Department	Hazardous Materials Business Plan completion
Hydrology and Water Quality	<ul> <li>MM WQ-1: The applicant shall prepare and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP shall:</li> <li>Identify water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize erosion and to guide the clean-up of any accident, per the California Stormwater BMP Handbook;</li> <li>Identify potential pollutant sources that may affect water quality; and</li> <li>Identify monitoring and reporting procedures to ensure all BMPs are adhered to during construction and operations.</li> </ul>	Prior to construction.	Public Utilities Department	Construction Inspection

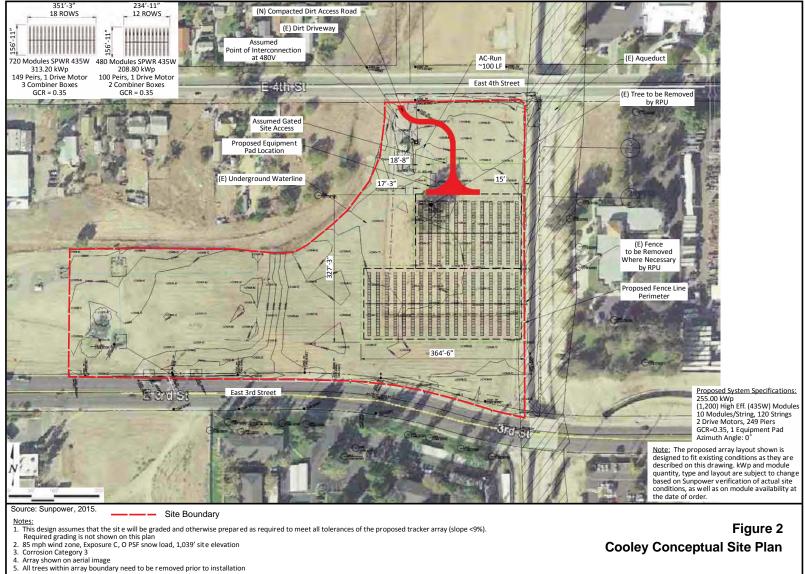
Impact Category	Mitigation Measures	Implementation Timing	Responsible Monitoring Party <sup>1</sup>	Monitoring/Reporting Method
Hydrology	<b>MM WQ-2:</b> The applicant shall review the final site	Prior to construction	Public Utilities Department	Documentation by Public
and Water	plan prior to construction to verify that all staging			Utilities Department
Quality	areas, PV arrays, and other associated equipment are			
	to be located outside of the 100-year flood plain as			
	mapped by the Federal Emergency Management			
	Agency. If any structures are proposed within the			
	flood plain, the applicant will revise the site plan prior			
	to construction to relocate those structures outside of			
	the flood plain.			

# ATTACHMENTS

### ATTACHMENT A

## **PROJECT FIGURES**





Environmental Initial Study

Cooley Solar Power Facility