

Environmental Checklist Form (Initial Study)

County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning



Overall Development title: Silverado Power West Los Angeles County ENV No 201100109; Project 1: North Lancaster Ranch, Project No. R2011-00833, CUP No. 201100079; Project 2: Western Antelope Blue Sky Ranch, Project No. R2011-00798, CUP No. 201100070; Project 3: American Solar, Project No. R2011-00799, CUP No. 201100071; Project 4: Antelope Solar Greenworks, Project No. R2011-00807, CUP No. 201100076; Project 5: Silver Sun Greenworks, Project No. R2011-00801, CUP No. 201100072; Project 6: Lancaster WAD, Project No. R2011-00805, CUP No. 201100074.

Lead agency name and address: Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
320 W Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Contact Person and phone number: Carolina Blengini, 213-974-1522

Overall Development's sponsor's name and address: Silverado Power, LLC – 44 Montgomery Street,
Ste. 3065, San Francisco, CA 94104

Overall Development locations: Project 1: 105th Street West & West Avenue B, Lancaster, CA, APN 3262-001-006; Project 2: 110th Street West & West Avenue K, Lancaster, CA, APN 3267-015-001; Project 3: 70th Street West & West Avenue G, Lancaster, CA, APN 3268-018-035, 3268-018-002, 3268-018-036; Project 4: 97th Street West & West Avenue I, Lancaster, CA, APNs 3218-002-018, 3218-002-023, 3203-002-015, 3203-002-017, 3218-001-002, 3218-001-003, 3218-001-004, 3203-002-011, 3203-002-012, 3203-002-013, 3203-002-014, 3219-019-011; Project 5: 120th Street West & West Avenue I, Lancaster, CA, APN 3267-003-001; Project 6: 35th Street West & West Avenue D, Lancaster, CA, APN 3115-010-004.
USGS Quads: Little Buttes, Del Sur and Rosamond

Gross Acreage: Project 1: 80 acres, Project 2: 157 acres, Project 3: 135.61 acres, Project 4: 256 acres, Project 5: 80 acres, Project 6: 38.49 acres.

General plan designation: The Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan designates the locations of Projects 1 – 6 as “N1 – Non-Urban 1” uses.

Community/Area Wide Plan Designation: The Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan designates the locations of Projects 1 – 6 N1 (Non-Urban 1 – 0.5 du/acre)

Zoning: Project 1: A-1-2 (Light Agriculture – two acres minimum lot size); Project 2: A-2-5 (Heavy Agriculture – five acres minimum lot size); Project 3: A-2-2 (Heavy Agriculture – two acres minimum lot size); Project 4: A-2-2 (Heavy Agriculture – two acres minimum lot size); Project 5: A-2-5 (Heavy Agricultural – 5 acre minimum lot size); Project 6: D-2-2 (Desert-Mountain – two acres minimum lot size)

Description of Overall Development: Silverado Power, LLC (the “Applicant”) proposes to develop six solar photovoltaic generating facilities (SGFs) in the northern portion of unincorporated Los Angeles County. These six facilities will collectively cover 747.1 acres of fallowed and mostly disturbed agricultural land, and will generate 172 megawatts (MW) of electricity. For the purpose of this Initial Study, the terms “Projects 1 – 6” and “Overall Development” will refer to Projects 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 and their associated

generation tie lines. A list of corresponding project names and project numbers are located in the Project Description.

The Overall Development will consist of construction and operation of the six SGFs. The SGFs will be constructed in phases and each project will be operated for an estimated 35 years. The six SGFs will be designed and built in the same or similar method and will have similar project characteristics. The SGFs will utilize PV technology on fixed-tilt or tracker mounting supports. The SGF design includes a dedicated 10,000-gallon fire water storage tank to be installed and maintained at Projects 1 – 6 in compliance with LA County Fire Department Regulation 19 and other applicable Fire Department water tank specifications. A regional Operations and Maintenance (O&M) facility will serve all six SGFs and will be located in an existing permitted space within Los Angeles County.

The purpose of the Overall Development is to generate 172 MW of clean, renewable, electric energy, using solar PV technology, and to deliver the electric output, on a wholesale basis, to utility providers. The SGFs will meet the increasing demand for electricity generated from renewable technology in support of recent legislation enacted in California recognizing the multiple benefits associated with the development of renewable energy resources. These SGFs will lead to reduced reliance on fossil fuel sources, diversification of energy portfolios, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and the creation of “green” jobs within the state of California.

The Applicant is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for each of the six projects to allow for the construction and operation of the SGFs. Additionally, the Applicant is requesting a zone change from Zone A-1 to A-2 on Project 1 to allow for the construction and operation of the SGF, pursuant to the issuance of a CUP.

Surrounding land uses and setting: Projects 1 – 6 are located in an area of the Antelope Valley that had primarily been used for farming in previous years. However, diminished water supplies from extended ground water pumping have caused many farms to cease operation. The majority of the land for the six projects was utilized for farming although all of the lands are now considered disturbed or unproductive agricultural land.

Other public agencies whose approval may be required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

<i>Public Agency</i>	<i>Approval Required</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Major projects in the area:

<i>Project/Case No.</i>	<i>Description and Status</i>
R2010-00808	Antelope Valley Solar/Renewable Resources Group – 650 MW/5175 acres – Approved October 19, 2011
R2008-00878	Antelope Solar 2/Recurrent Energy – 10 MW/80 acres – early environmental review
R2010-00256	Wildflower Green Energy Farm/Element Power – 300 MW/3708 acres – Notice of Preparation
R2010-00911	Antelope Solar 1/Recurrent Energy – 10 MW/111 acres – early environmental review
R2011-00408	Blue Sky Wind Energy Project/Next Era – 225 MW/7500 acres – Notice of Preparation
R2011-00377	Antelope Solar Farm/Sun Edison – 20 MW/320 acres – early

R2005-02587

environmental review
All Nations International – Retreat center/single-family
residence/residential facilities – 12.6 acres - Approved

Reviewing Agencies:

Responsible Agencies

- None
- Regional Water Quality Control Board:
 - Los Angeles Region
 - Lahontan Region
- Coastal Commission
- Army Corps of Engineers
- CA Public Utilities Commission
- California Energy Commission
- Caltrans Aeronautics
- Caltrans

Special Reviewing Agencies

- None
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- National Parks
- National Forest
- Edwards Air Force Base
- Resource Conservation District of Santa Monica Mountains Area
- Southern California Edison
- City of Lancaster and Palmdale
- Antelope Valley AQMD
- Antelope Valley Conservancy
- Antelope Acres Town Council
- Quartz Hill Town Council
- Fairmont Town Council
- Nature Conservancy
- SCAG; CHP
- Federal Aviation Administration
- General William J. Fox Airfield

Regional Significance

- None
- SCAG Criteria
- Air Quality
- Water Resources
- Santa Monica Mtns. Area

Trustee Agencies

- None
- State Dept. of Fish and Game
- State Dept. of Parks and Recreation
- State Lands Commission
- University of California (Natural Land and Water Reserves System)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife

County Reviewing Agencies

- DPW:
 - Land Development Division (Grading & Drainage)
 - Geotechnical & Materials Engineering Division
 - Watershed Management Division (NPDES)
 - Traffic and Lighting Division
 - Environmental Programs Division
 - Waterworks Division

- Fire Department
 - Forestry, Environmental Division
 - Planning Division
 - Land Development Unit
 - Health Hazmat
- Sanitation District
- Public Health/Environmental Health Division: Land Use Program (OWTS), Toxics Epidemiology Program (Noise)
- Sheriff Department
- Parks and Recreation
- Subdivision Committee

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

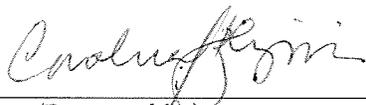
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture/Forest | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards/Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils | | |

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Department.)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

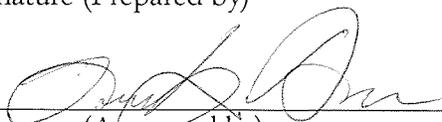
- I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 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.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



Signature (Prepared by)

6/13/12

Date



Signature (Approved by)

10/13/12

Date

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 the Lead Department 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 Department 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 Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced.)
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA processes, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. (State CEQA Guidelines § 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 measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 7) The explanation of each issue should identify: the significance threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question, and; mitigation measures identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance. Sources of thresholds include the County General Plan, other County planning documents, and County ordinances. Some thresholds are unique to geographical locations.
- 8) Climate Change Impacts: When determining whether a project's impacts are significant, the analysis should consider, when relevant, the effects of future climate change on : 1) worsening hazardous conditions that pose risks to the project's inhabitants and structures (e.g., floods and wildfires), and 2) worsening the project's impacts on the environment (e.g., impacts on special status species and public health).

1. AESTHETICS

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) **Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?**

The areas of development will be located in the Antelope Valley which is an area characterized by an expansive arid landscape and long-distance views. Projects 1 – 6 and surrounding lands have relatively flat terrain with varying degrees of disturbances due to previous land use activities, including agricultural use. The most prominent visual feature of Projects 1 – 6 will be the solar module arrays. The module heights are expected to be six and a half feet with a maximum of twelve feet above grade. Projects 1 – 6 will also include security fencing, onsite substations, generation tie lines, utility poles, and other telecommunications equipment.

Projects 1 – 6 are not located within scenic hillside or ridgeline areas or located in the direct vicinity of any designated scenic highways or designated scenic corridors; however, the proposed solar module arrays may be visible from second priority scenic routes. Development of the solar generating facilities may also affect viewsheds from and of public recreation areas in the vicinity of the SGFs. Further analysis of this issue will be included in the EIR.

b) **Be visible from or obstruct views from a regional riding or hiking trail?**

Projects 1 – 6 and surrounding lands have been disrupted by past agricultural activities and do not have natural terrain or other features with high scenic quality. Projects 1 – 6 do not infringe on any riding or hiking trails; however, several trails are located in the vicinity of the SGFs. Further analysis of potential impacts to recreational trails will be included in the EIR.

c) **Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?**

The solar generating facilities and underground transmission line corridors consist of primarily disturbed lands. Projects 1 – 6 will not impact any important historically significant building. Projects 1 – 6 do not contain any rock outcrops, trees or other prominent visual features; however, some proposed SGFs are potentially located within the viewshed of scenic resources and are located in the vicinity of primarily undisturbed areas. Further analysis of potential impacts to scenic resources will be included in the EIR.

d) **Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings because of height, bulk, pattern, scale, character, or other features?**

The SGFs' height, bulk, pattern, and scale will not substantially conflict with the visual character of existing agricultural use. The height of the most prominent structures within Projects 1 – 6, the solar module arrays, will be no more than twelve feet above grade, and will be similar in height to existing features such as rural houses and farm support structures. Other prominent features of the SGFs include substations, utility poles

approximately 30 to 60 feet in height, and other telecommunications equipment. Further analysis of potential degradation of the existing visual character of the development areas and surrounding areas will be included in the EIR.

e) Create a new source of substantial shadows, light, or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Significant shadow impacts are not anticipated to occur due to Projects 1 – 6. The photovoltaic technology proposed for use at Projects 1 – 6 includes surfaces designed to absorb as much light as possible, and therefore do not create a significant source of glare. The SGFs will include the use of night lighting for both safety and security purposes, which may adversely affect nighttime views in the area adjacent to Projects 1 – 6. Further analysis of the potential to adversely affect nighttime views will be included in the EIR.

2. AGRICULTURE / FOREST

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<p>Would the project:</p> <p>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?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Project 4 contains land designated as Prime Farmland, although recent agricultural activity has ceased. Development of a solar generation facility will preclude farming in this area. Further analysis of the effects of converting farmland to non-agricultural uses will be included in the EIR.

<p>b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, with a designated Agricultural Opportunity Area, or with a Williamson Act contract?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 contain lands that have been used for a variety of agricultural purposes. Project 1 is designated A-1, which does not contain provisions for renewable energy development; therefore a zone change application has been submitted. Projects 2, 3, 4, and 5 are designated A-2, and Project 6 is designated D-2. Both A-2 and D-2 zoning classifications identify renewable energy development as a conditionally permitted use. Projects 1 – 6 are not under a Williamson Act Contract, nor are they designated in an Agricultural Opportunity Area. Further analysis of the effects of converting farmland to non-agricultural uses will be included in the EIR.

<p>c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code § 12220 (g)), timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code § 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined in Government Code § 51104(g))?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 do not include forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. Therefore, there will be no impact.

<p>d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 do not include forest land. Therefore, there will be no impact.

<p>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?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 will not preclude the future use of land for agricultural use. Projects 1 – 6 will also not affect any land use outside of the development sites' limits. Conversion of Prime Farmland at the location of Project 4 to non-agricultural use will be evaluated in the EIR, as discussed previously in item (a), above.

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.

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans of either the South Coast AQMD (SCAQMD) or the Antelope Valley AQMD (AVAQMD)?

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 are located within the jurisdiction of the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD), therefore the air quality analysis shall follow the AVAQMD’s guidelines. Projects 1 – 6 air quality analyses and greenhouse gas analyses will be prepared to quantify Projects 1 – 6 emissions during short term construction and long term operation activities, as they relate to significance thresholds established by the AVAQMD. Further analysis of emissions will be included in the EIR.

b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 air quality analyses and greenhouse gas analyses will be prepared to quantify emissions during short term construction and long term operation activities, as they relate to significance thresholds established by the AVAQMD. These analyses will include Projects 1 – 6 impacts on existing and projected air quality violations. Further analysis of emissions will be included in the EIR.

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)?

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The above mentioned air quality and greenhouse gas emissions studies will include Projects 1 – 6 impacts on non-attainment status for the Mojave Desert Air Basin as defined by applicable federal and state ambient air quality standards. Further analysis of emissions, including cumulative impacts, will be included in the EIR.

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sensitive receptors are defined as populations that are more susceptible to the effects of pollution than the population at large. Sensitive receptors include long-term health care facilities, convalescent centers, hospitals, residences, playgrounds, rehabilitation centers, retirement homes, schools, child care centers, and athletic facilities. Projects 1 – 6 may contain areas of development in the vicinity of sensitive receptors. Considering the character of the SGFs and the short term temporary construction activities, it is not likely that the proposed SGFs will result in potentially significant impacts. However, in order to analyze the

impacts of Projects 1 – 6 to potential sensitive receptors, additional air quality and greenhouse gas analyses will be conducted to quantify the impacts on sensitive receptors during short term construction and during long-term operation of the SGFs. Further analysis of emissions with respect to sensitive receptors will be included in the EIR.

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?



Long term operation of the SGFs will not generate objectionable odors. Projects 1 – 6 have the potential to generate objectionable odors during short term construction activities. Potential sources of objectionable odors may include diesel exhaust from construction equipment, and dust. Further analysis of impacts with regard to the creation of objectionable odors will be included in the EIR.

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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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 (CDFG) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The location of Project 1 contains vegetative communities consisting of the following classifications: Disturbed, Disturbed Saltbrush Scrub, and developed. The location of Project 2 contains vegetative communities consisting of the following classifications: Ruderal vegetation, Valley Needlegrass Grassland, Non-native Annual Grasslands, Desert Saltbrush Scrub, and Rubber Rabbitbrush Scrub. The location of Project 3 contains vegetative communities consisting of the following classifications: non-native annual grassland and Disturbed Rubber Rabbitbrush Scrub. The location of Project 4 contains vegetative communities consisting of the following classifications: non-native annual grassland, Rubber Rabbitbrush Scrub, Tamarisk Scrub, Valley Needlegrass Grassland, and Ruderal. The location of Project 5 contains vegetative communities consisting of the following classifications: non-native annual grassland, Rubber Rabbitbrush Scrub, and Valley Needlegrass Grassland, and Developed. The location of Project 6 contains vegetative communities consisting of the following classifications: Desert Saltbrush Scrub, Disturbed Desert Saltbrush Scrub, and Saltgrass Grassland.

According to previously completed Biological Technical Reports, the location of Project 1 has the potential to provide suitable habitat, or foraging area, for the following species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status: American badger, ferruginous hawk, merlin, Le Conte’s thrasher, mountain plover, burrowing owl, loggerhead shrike, and Swainson’s hawk. The location of Project 2 has the potential to provide suitable habitat, or foraging area, for the following species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status: ferruginous hawk, coast horned lizard, and burrowing owl. The location of Project 3 has the potential to provide suitable habitat, or foraging area, for the following species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status: merlin, silvery legless lizard, burrowing owl, and ferruginous hawk. The location of Project 4 has the potential to provide suitable habitat, or foraging area, for the following species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status: silvery legless lizard, burrowing owl, coast horned lizard, and ferruginous hawk. The location of Project 5 has the potential to provide suitable habitat, or foraging area, for the following species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status: American badger, ferruginous hawk, coast horned lizard, and burrowing owl. The location of Project 6 has the potential to provide suitable habitat, or foraging area, for the following species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status: Bell’s sage sparrow, coast horned lizard, Cooper’s hawk, ferruginous hawk, least Bell’s vireo, Le Conte’s thrasher, Mohave ground squirrel, mountain plover, Swainson’s hawk, burrowing owl, and loggerhead shrike.

Projects 1 – 6 have the potential to significantly impact, either directly or indirectly through habitat modifications, several candidate, sensitive, or special status species as identified by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Further analysis of potential impacts to these species will be included in the EIR.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any sensitive natural communities (e.g., riparian habitat, coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, non-jurisdictional wetlands) identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by CDFG or USFWS?

The location of Project 1 contains vegetative communities consisting of the following classifications: Disturbed, Disturbed Saltbrush Scrub, and developed. The location of Project 2 contains vegetative communities consisting of the following classifications: Ruderal vegetation, Valley Needlegrass Grassland, Non-native Annual Grasslands, Desert Saltbrush Scrub, and Rubber Rabbitbrush Scrub. The location of Project 3 contains vegetative communities consisting of the following classifications: non-native annual grassland and Disturbed Rubber Rabbitbrush Scrub. The location of Project 4 contains vegetative communities consisting of the following classifications: non-native annual grassland, Rubber Rabbitbrush Scrub, Tamarisk Scrub, Valley Needlegrass Grassland, and Ruderal. The location of Project 5 contains vegetative communities consisting of the following classifications: non-native annual grassland, Rubber Rabbitbrush Scrub, and Valley Needlegrass Grassland, and Developed. The location of Project 6 contains vegetative communities consisting of the following classifications: Desert Saltbrush Scrub, Disturbed Desert Saltbrush Scrub, and Saltgrass Grassland.

Projects 1 – 6 have the potential to significantly impact sensitive natural communities. Further analysis of potential impacts to these sensitive natural communities will be included in the EIR.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally or state protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marshes, vernal pools, coastal wetlands, and drainages) or waters of the United States, as defined by § 404 of the federal Clean Water Act or California Fish & Game code § 1600, et seq. through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Preliminary assessments for jurisdictional features have been conducted at the locations of Projects 1 – 6. The preliminary assessment at the location of Project 1 did not indicate the presence of jurisdictional features. The preliminary assessment at the location of Project 2 indicated the presence of man-made drainages. These features may be subject to state jurisdiction. The preliminary assessment at the location of Project 3 indicated the presence of man-made irrigation ditches, and natural depressions and swales. These features may be subject to state jurisdiction. The preliminary assessment at the location of Project 4 indicated the presence of an agricultural drainage, natural depressions and swales. These features may be subject to state jurisdiction. The preliminary assessment at the location of Project 5 indicated the presence of man-made agricultural irrigation basins and canals. These features may be subject to state jurisdiction. The preliminary assessment at the location of Project 6 indicated the presence of a man-made irrigation ditch and cracked clay soils indicative of pooling water. These features may be subject to state jurisdiction. The potential to have a significant adverse effect on a jurisdictional feature exists at the locations of Projects 1 – 6. Further analysis of potential impacts to these features will be included in the EIR.

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?

Projects 1 – 6 are located within an area of topographically homogeneous open space, and there are no local constraints to movement that development will impair.

Wildlife nursery sites may comprise nesting sites of native bird species, which are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703-712; Ch. 128; July 13, 1918; 40 Stat. 755) and the California Fish and Game Code Section 3503.

Suitable habitat for ground-nesting birds and burrowing owl is present at the locations of Projects 1 – 6. Development related activities have the potential to disturb suitable bird nesting habitat. Further analysis of potential impacts to these species will be included in the EIR.

e) Convert oak woodlands (as defined by the state, oak woodlands are oak stands with greater than 10% canopy cover with oaks at least 5 inch in diameter measured at 4.5 feet above mean natural grade) or otherwise contain oak or other unique native trees (junipers, Joshuas, southern California black walnut, etc.)?

Projects 1 – 6 do not contain oak, juniper, Joshua trees, or other unique native trees.

f) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, including Wildflower Reserve Areas (L.A. County Code, Title 12, Ch. 12.36), the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.56, Part 16), the Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) (L.A. County Code, Title 22, § 22.56.215), and Sensitive Environmental Resource Areas (SERAs) (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.44, Part 6)?

Projects 1 – 6 do not contain or conflict with any SEAs, Wildflower Reserve Areas, or SERAs. Project 5 is the most proximate site to a SEA. The Portal Ridge-Liebre Mountain SEA is located approximately 2.6 miles to the southwest of Project 5, and the Fairmont & Antelope Buttes SEA is located approximately 2.5 miles northwest of Project 5. The Angeles National Forest is located approximately six miles south of Project 5 and the Antelope Valley California Poppy Preserve is located approximately three miles northwest of Project 5. Projects 1 – 4 and Project 6 are located between 3 to over 15 miles outside of the nearest SEA, SERA and other biological resource areas. Therefore, the SGFs will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

g) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted state, regional, or local habitat conservation plan?

There are no adopted state, regional, or local habitat conservation plans in effect within Projects 1 – 6 boundaries.

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<p>Would the project:</p> <p>a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historical records review included a cultural resource literature search of Projects 1 – 6 and vicinity at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), at California State University, Fullerton; a review of geological maps and Los Angeles County Museum Records; and sacred lands records search with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). In addition, archaeological block-transect surveys were undertaken by the environmental consultant to identify new and previously recorded cultural resources (if any) therein. Review of historical records and pedestrian surveys revealed no historic structures within the boundaries of Projects 1 – 6. Research indicated that there is a potential for historical resources to be encountered Project 4. Further research and potential impacts will be evaluated and discussed in the EIR.

<p>b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 do not contain features that may indicate potential archaeological sensitivity, such as rock outcroppings, knolls, oak trees, or springs. However, since Projects 1 – 6 will require excavation and grading during the construction phase, the potential cannot be ruled out for the discovery of buried cultural resources not detected through surface inventory or through shovel testing. Since the proposed development may result in impacts related to the disturbance of archeological resources, the potential impacts will be discussed further in the EIR.

<p>c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature, or contain rock formations indicating potential paleontological resources?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Surface grading or shallow excavations in certain Quaternary alluvial deposits, either within the older Quaternary fan deposits or the younger Quaternary basin deposits typically found at the surface throughout the Antelope Valley, are unlikely to uncover significant vertebrate fossils. However, if deep project related excavations (10 feet or more below current grade) reveal that older Quaternary deposits and/or the later Miocene deposits are exposed, there will be a higher potential for encountering significant vertebrate fossil remains. Since the proposed Projects 1 – 6 may result in impacts related to the disturbance of paleontological resources; the potential impacts will be discussed further in the EIR.

<p>d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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A cultural resource records search was conducted through the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center and indicated that the potential to disturb human remains was generally low at the locations of Projects 1 – 6. However, one historic cemetery was identified on one site. The extent of the cemetery has not been defined. Projects 1 – 6 will require minor excavation and grading which creates the potential for disturbance. Projects 1 – 6 will be evaluated for the potential of disturbance in the EIR

Source:

Cultural Resource Survey of Silverado Power's Proposed Solar Panel Stations CUP #6-22, #7-29, #8-5, #9, #10A, #10B, #12-13, #12-25, #13-14 and #15-21. Prepared by Tetra Tech EC, Inc., September 2011

6. ENERGY

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) Conflict with Los Angeles County Green Building Ordinance (L.A. County Code Title 22, Ch. 22.52, Part 20 and Title 21, § 21.24.440) or Drought Tolerant Landscaping Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 21, § 21.24.430 and Title 22, Ch. 22.52, Part 21)?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Los Angeles County Code Title 21 Section 21.24.440 requires compliance with applicable requirements of Title 22, Chapter 22.52 Part 20 for green building. These standards are applicable to construction of buildings and are designed to reduce energy consumption, save water and other natural resources, and divert waste from landfills when new buildings are constructed. Projects 1 – 6 are renewable energy electricity generation projects and do not include the construction of buildings. Therefore, the Green Building standards of Title 22 are not applicable.

Vegetation is anticipated to be used at Projects 1 – 6 and is expected to comply with the Drought Tolerant Landscaping Ordinance, although design specifications have not been completed. Therefore, the landscaping plan will be further examined in the EIR to evaluate compliance with the Drought Tolerant Landscaping Ordinance.

b) Involve the inefficient use of energy resources (see Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Projects 1 – 6 are renewable energy projects that will decrease California’s reliance on fossil fuel energy and increase its reliance on renewable energy. Both of these are identified in Attachment F of the CEQA Guidelines as ways to accomplish the goal of the CEQA Guidelines for energy conservation. In addition, construction of these types of facilities is not energy-intensive since minimal grading is required for construction, the facilities will be unmanned and will not generate significant vehicle trips, and minimal use and movement of water is required for operations. Therefore, the SGFs will not involve the inefficient use of energy resources according to CEQA Guidelines.

7. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) 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 active fault trace? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

Projects 1 – 6 are located in the western wedge-shaped corner of the Mojave Desert, which is bounded to the north by the Garlock Fault and Tehachapi Mountains (southern boundary of the Sierra Nevada), and to the south by the San Andreas Fault and San Gabriel Mountains (part of the Transverse Ranges northern boundary). The California Geological Survey (CGS) Seismic Hazard Zone Maps (1997-2005) does not identify Projects 1 – 6 as being located in an active or potentially active fault zone. The closest fault zone is the San Andreas Fault Zone, which is located approximately 2 miles to the southwest of Project 5. Therefore, no impact will occur.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Seismicity near Projects 1 – 6 is primarily generated from the Garlock Fault Zone and the San Andreas Fault Zone. Seismicity in the region is not limited to the San Andreas Fault or Garlock Fault zones; however, and could also occur at any number of active faults in the regional vicinity. Seismicity may affect the site and proper mitigation and structural design of facilities may be required. Further analysis of potential strong seismic ground shaking impacts to Projects 1 – 6 will be included in the EIR.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction and lateral spreading?

Liquefaction is the process where cohesionless soil or loosely packed sediment, typically saturated, undergoes loading or seismic shaking that causes a mass to fail and transform from a solid into liquid state. This typically occurs near the surface with poorly consolidated, highly saturated, well sorted, and finer grained materials. Projects 1 – 6 have relatively coarse grained material, and with groundwater typically greater than 100 feet below ground surface (USGS 2008), Projects 1 – 6 have very low susceptibility to liquefaction. Additionally, the California Geological Survey (CGS) Seismic Hazard Zone Maps (1997-2005) do not identify Projects 1 – 6 as being located in zones of required investigation for liquefaction hazards. Therefore, no impact will occur.

iv) Landslides?

Slope stability is a function of many factors including slope gradient, water content, rock and soil type, slope aspect, vegetation, seismic conditions, and human activities. Based on the above characteristics, and specifically the generally low slope of less than one percent at Project 1 and Projects 3 - 6, the risk for landslides or slope failure is considered low. Additionally, the California Geological Survey (CGS) Seismic Hazard Zone Maps (1997-2005) do not identify Projects 1 – 6 as being located in zones of required investigation for earthquake induced landslides. However, Project 2 is located in an area with the potential for slope stability hazards. Further analysis of potential landslide impacts will be included in the EIR.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?



Geotechnical analyses have been performed at Projects 1 – 6. The report for Project 1 indicated the presence of the following soil map unit type: Rosamond fine sandy loam. The report for Project 2 indicated the presence of the following soil map unit types: Greenfield sandy loam, Hanford coarse sandy loam, Hesperia fine sandy loam, Ramona coarse sandy loam, and terrace escarpments. The report for Project 3 indicated the presence of the following soil map unit type: Hesperia fine sandy loam. The report for Project 4 indicated the presence of the following soil map unit types: Greenfield sandy loam, Sunrise sandy loam, Ramona coarse sandy loam, and Hesperia sandy loam. The report for Project 5 indicated the presence of the following soil map unit types: Greenfield sandy loam and Ramona coarse sandy loam. The report for Project 6 indicated the presence of the following soil map unit type: Pond-Oban complex soils.

Erosion is the chemical or physical breakdown and transportation of rock or soil from one place to another. The soil types identified at Projects 1 – 6 are susceptible, in varying degrees, to the two primary types of erosion: water erosion and wind erosion.

Without the implementation of appropriate erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs), there is a potential for the SGFs to result in potentially significant impacts related to soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Further analysis of potential impacts related to soil erosion or the loss of topsoil will be included in the EIR.

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?



Slopes on and adjacent to Projects 1 and 3 - 6 are relatively flat, with grades at most locations ranging from five percent to less than one percent. As described in item (a) (iv) above, there is a potential for unstable slopes on Project 2. If structures are installed on this portion of the slope, there is a potential to decrease the stability of the soil resulting in a potential landslide. Therefore, the SGFs have a minimal potential to result in landslides and further evaluation will be discussed in the EIR.

Lateral spreading is a phenomenon that can occur from seismic shaking or other lateral loading when the ground surface is not laterally supported on one or more sides, for example, on ridge tops or near edges of terraces or slopes. It can also occur near the edges of areas that liquefy during seismic shaking because the liquefied soil does not provide lateral support. As described in item (a)(iii) above, Projects 1 – 6 have a very low susceptibility to liquefaction. Due to the low susceptibility to liquefaction, generally flat terrain, and general lateral support, there is low potential for lateral spreading.

Subsidence is the sudden sinking or the gradual downward settling of the land surface that is often related to groundwater drawdown, compaction, tectonic movements, mining, or explosive activity. Subsidence can

cause significant damage to properties in the form of differential settling, sinkholes, or ground fissures. Potential sources of subsidence at the locations of Projects 1 – 6 include groundwater withdrawal and seismic shaking. The region has historically undergone a significant amount of subsidence ranging from greater than 6 feet near the City of Lancaster (Sneed and Galloway 2000). Although historical and continued depletion of water could result in future land subsidence throughout the Antelope Valley, Projects 1 – 6 will not increase groundwater extraction or other withdrawal of fluids from unconsolidated geologic deposits. Therefore, subsidence is expected to be minimal.

Alluvial soils in arid and semi-arid environments have a tendency to possess characteristics that make them prone to collapse with increase in moisture content even without increase in external loads. Projects 1 – 6 are located in a geologic environment where the potential exists for collapsible soils. Prolonged wetting of the on-site soils is not expected due to the nature of the proposed development, and surface drainage at Projects 1 – 6 will continue to follow most natural drainage patterns or drainage channels where roads or permanent grading exist. Site-specific geotechnical investigations will identify site-specific soil characteristics necessary to confirm the presence of such soils. Projects 1 – 6 may result in potentially significant impacts related to landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse of soils. Further analysis of potential impacts will be included in the EIR.

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

Expansive soil consists of fine-grained clay which occurs naturally. It is found in areas that were historically a floodplain or lake area, but can also occur in hillside areas. Expansive soil is subject to swelling and shrinkage, varying in proportion to the amount of moisture present in the soil. Excessive drying and wetting of the soil can progressively deteriorate structures over the years and lead to differential settlement beneath foundations. Soil series at Projects 1 – 6 are rated for a low shrink/swell potential. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of onsite wastewater treatment systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

Projects 1 – 6 do not propose the use of any sanitary facilities that will require septic tanks for sanitary wastewater disposal during operation. Therefore, no impact will occur.

f) Conflict with the Hillside Management Area Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 22, § 22.56.215) or hillside design standards in the County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element?

Projects 1 – 6 are generally located on the floor of the Antelope Valley where the terrain is nearly flat. Project 1 and Projects 3 - 6 are not in or near any hillside area and are not affected by Hillside Management Areas. Project 2 is located near the foothills and has slightly greater slopes. Conflict with the Hillside Management Area Ordinance or hillside design standards will be discussed further in the EIR.

8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) **Generate greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?**

The SGFs will operate year-round, producing electric power during daytime hours. An air quality analysis shall include direct and indirect impacts of construction and operation activities of Projects 1 – 6. Short-term air quality impacts may occur during the construction of Projects 1 – 6. Additional air quality and greenhouse gas analysis needs to be prepared to study the emissions during short term construction and during long-term operation of Projects 1 – 6 in relation to the significance thresholds established by the AVAQMD. Emissions from Projects 1 – 6 are potentially significant; therefore, impacts to greenhouse gas emissions will be discussed further in the EIR.

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

Projects 1 – 6 consist of six solar photovoltaic generating facilities that will convert solar energy into electric energy without GHG emissions. Once constructed, the electric energy produced by the SGFs will reduce the dependency on fossil fuel-produced electric energy thereby providing a long-term GHG benefit. In addition, the generation of power from solar energy is a substantial reduction in GHG emissions over conventional power generation from the combustion of fossil fuels.

Projects 1 – 6 will not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Projects 1 – 6 will be in accordance with the state’s need for the construction of renewable energy power plants to meet the state’s GHG reduction objectives including:

- California’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) that requires California's investor-owned electric utilities to obtain, from renewable sources, 20 percent of the electricity that they supply by 2010;
- Executive Order S-14-08 that established RPS targets for California that "all retail sellers of electricity shall serve 33 percent of their load with renewable energy by 2020."
- Executive Order S-03-05 on climate change to advance renewable energy and other solutions to lower California's GHG emissions.
- The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 32) that established a comprehensive program of regulatory and market mechanisms to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020.

9. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <p>a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, storage, production, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?</p> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

Wastes generated during construction may include the following: cardboard, wood pallets, copper wire, scrap steel, common trash, and wood wire spools. Silverado Power does not expect to generate hazardous waste during construction. However, field equipment used during construction will contain various hazardous materials such as hydraulic oil, diesel fuel, grease, lubricants, solvents, adhesives, paints, and other petroleum-based products contained in construction vehicles. Transport, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous substances during the construction phases will be carefully managed to prevent a significant impact through the implementation of best management practices.

Projects 1 – 6 will produce a small amount of waste associated with maintenance activities. Solar facility wastes may include broken and rusted metal, defective or malfunctioning modules, electrical materials, empty containers, and other miscellaneous solid wastes, including the typical refuse generated by workers. Since Projects 1 – 6 may result in the production, use or disposal of hazardous material, further analysis of potential impacts will be included in the EIR.

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <p>b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials or waste into the environment?</p> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

The construction of Projects 1 – 6 will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment from upset or accident conditions. Construction will require the short-term use of hazardous materials such as fuels, lubricants, adhesives, solvents and paints.

The operation of Projects 1 – 6 will use a limited number of hazardous materials and only in relatively small quantities. Projects 1 – 6 do not require the storage of bulk fuels, lubricants, or other hazardous materials. Projects 1 – 6 will not utilize pressure vessels or chemical reagents. Hazardous waste is not routinely generated or managed onsite. Since Projects 1 – 6 may result in the production, use or disposal of hazardous material, further analysis of potential impacts will be included in the EIR.

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|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <p>c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of sensitive land uses?</p> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

The SGFs will convert solar energy into electrical energy without hazardous emissions. The primary hazardous emissions generated by Projects 1 – 6 will be air emissions from vehicle and equipment exhaust generated during construction and maintenance activities. Further analysis of emissions impacts will be included in the EIR.

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <p>d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of</p> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

An environmental data review (EDR) was conducted for Projects 1 – 6. Projects 1 – 6 are not located on known sites that are included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5; however, multiple Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs) were identified on, or in the vicinity, of three of the projects. RECs indicated to be in the vicinity of Project 1 include an underground storage tank (UST). RECs indicated to be in the vicinity of Project 3 include an underground storage tank (UST). RECs indicated to be in the vicinity of Project 4 include an underground storage tank (UST) and a clandestine drug lab (CDL). No RECs were indicated to be located in the vicinity of Projects 2, 5, or 6. No known releases have occurred at Projects 1 – 6, or adjacent to Projects 1 – 6. Further analysis of hazardous materials sites will be included in the EIR.

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?

Project 3 is located approximately two miles from the General William J. Fox Airfield and is located in General William J. Fox Airfield’s Zone C: Extended Approach/Departure Zone. Projects 1 – 6 are generally not anticipated to require an airspace review. However, due to the location of Project 3 and the potential to have a structure in excess of 50 feet in height, further analysis will be conducted in the EIR

Projects 1 – 6 are not identified on the “Cortese” list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. However, further analysis of impacts on public airport or public use airports will be included in the EIR.

(Source: California Environmental Protection Agency
<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteseliEIAst/SectionA.htm>)

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?

Project 4 is located in the vicinity of Bohunk’s Airpark private airstrip. Project 1 is located approximately two miles northwest of the Little Buttes Antique Airfield Airport, another privately owned dirt airstrip. Safety hazard impacts to people residing or working in the project areas of Projects 1 and 4 will be discussed in the EIR.

g) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Activities associated with the construction and operation of Projects 1 – 6 will not impede existing emergency response plans for Projects 1 – 6 and/or for other land uses in the vicinity of Projects 1 – 6. All vehicles and stationary equipment will be staged off public roads and will not block emergency access routes. Further analysis of impacts on emergency response plans and emergency evacuation plans will be

included in the EIR.

h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving fires, because the project is located:

i) within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (Zone 4)?

Projects 1 – 6 are not located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The closest Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone is located approximately 0.5 miles south of Project 2. Therefore, no impact will occur.

ii) within a high fire hazard area with inadequate access?

Projects 1 – 6 are not located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Therefore, no impact will occur.

iii) within an area with inadequate water and pressure to meet fire flow standards?

A public water system for fire control does not exist near Projects 1 – 6. The SGF design includes a dedicated 10,000-gallon fire water storage tank to be installed and maintained at Projects 1 – 6 in compliance with LA County Fire Department Regulation 19 and other applicable Fire Department water tank specifications. Because the SGF design includes a dedicated fire water tank meeting Fire Department requirements, the water and pressure will meet fire flow needs. Therefore, no impacts are expected. Further analysis of the fire control plan will be included in the EIR.

iv) within proximity to land uses that have the potential for dangerous fire hazard?

Projects 1 – 6 are surrounded by rural agricultural lands with no industrial uses, manufacturing uses or other particularly high fire hazard uses in the vicinity. Therefore, no impact will occur.

i) Does the proposed use constitute a potentially dangerous fire hazard?

A Fire Protection and Prevention Plan shall address construction and operation activities for Projects 1 – 6 and shall establish standards and practices that will minimize the risk of fire danger. Further discussion of the Fire Protection and Prevention Plan will be included in the EIR.

10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

Projects 1 – 6 have the potential to discharge waste or pollutants that could impact water quality. The primary concern with impacts to surface water or groundwater quality related to construction activities is hazardous material infiltration, sedimentation, and soil erosion. Hazardous materials, such as fuels, solvents, coatings, etc., associated with construction activities will be stored and used in accordance with manufacturer’s specifications and applicable hazardous material regulations, reducing potential impacts to groundwater to less than significant levels. Sedimentation and soil erosion due to wind or storm water is also possible due to ground surface alteration activities during construction. Further discussion of impacts on water quality standards and waste discharge requirements will be included in the EIR.

b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere 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)?

Water demands for Projects 1 – 6 will occur primarily during the construction phase, along with semi-annual washing of the solar modules and water storage for emergency fire suppression. Total water demand is expected to be lower than historic demand associated with farming activities that have occurred during the last several decades. The ground water will be extracted from four wells located on Projects 1, 3 and 4. Significant impacts to the groundwater table are not anticipated; however, further discussion of impacts on water supplies and the local groundwater table will be included in the EIR.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or 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?

Drainages and existing surface flow patterns have the potential to be altered on Projects 1 – 6. However, no development will be located within the area of significant drainages at Projects 1 – 6. The PV modules will be placed on pole mounted racking systems and elevated at least two feet above ground. SGF development is not expected to significantly change the overall permeability of the locations of Projects 1 -6. Although runoff will be created by the impervious solar modules, this runoff will fall from the leading edge of each solar module and infiltrate into the ground or maintain existing sheetflow conditions. The features of Projects 1 – 6 will be designed to minimize erosion and siltation on and off-site. Due to the soil under each solar module being left as a permeable, vegetated surface, and the limited amount of paved and/or compacted surfaces being added, the existing peak run-off is not expected to increase significantly for the

developed condition. Further discussion of the impacts on drainage, erosion, and siltation will be included in the EIR.

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?

Projects 1 – 6 experience both flow onto and off-site and therefore have the potential to affect or alter drainage patterns. Review of the FEMA flood map 06037C0400F shows that Projects 1 – 6 are mapped as Zone A and Zone X. Zone A is defined as an area subject to inundation by the one percent annual chance flood (100-year flood). Zone X is defined as an area of minimal flood hazard, usually depicted on FIRMs as above the 500-year flood level. Impacts to the existing drainage pattern and flooding are expected to be less than significant. Due to the potential for flooding at Projects 1 – 6, and drainage patterns at Projects 1 – 6, further discussion of the potential impacts will be included in the EIR.

e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

Projects 1 – 6 have the potential to increase runoff potential which could impact drainage systems. Best management practices will have to be implemented for storm water pollution prevention consistent with requirements of the State General NPDES Permit for discharges of storm water from construction sites and the storm water and runoff pollution control ordinance of the County of Los Angeles (LA County Municipal Code Title 12 Chapter 12.80). The Applicant will have to prepare a construction Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) prior to ground-breaking identifying construction-phase BMPs to be implemented. Without the BMPs, Projects 1 – 6 have the potential to generate additional sources of runoff. It is expected that no significant wastewater or polluted runoff will be generated from construction and operation of the solar facilities. However, due to the potential impacts to storm water drainage systems, further analysis will be included in the EIR.

f) Generate construction or post-construction runoff that would violate applicable stormwater NPDES permits or otherwise significantly affect surface water or groundwater quality?

Projects 1 – 6 do not propose to discharge waste or pollutants that could impact surface or groundwater quality. Therefore, neither impact to surface or groundwater quality nor any violation of a surface or groundwater quality standard is expected. The primary concern with impacts to surface water or groundwater quality related to construction activities is hazardous material infiltration, sedimentation, and soil erosion. Hazardous materials, such as fuels, solvents, coatings, etc., associated with construction activities will be stored and used in accordance with manufacturer’s specifications and applicable hazardous material regulations, reducing potential impacts to surface and groundwater to less than significant levels. Without appropriate measures, Projects 1 – 6 have the potential to generate post-construction runoff that may violate applicable storm water NPDES permits or otherwise significantly affect surface water or groundwater quality. Further discussion of the impacts on construction and post-construction runoff will be included in the EIR.

g) Conflict with the Los Angeles County Low Impact Development Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 12, Ch. 12.84 and Title 22, Ch. 22.52)?

The design of Projects 1 – 6 is consistent with the Low Impact Development Ordinance (LID). The final grading and drainage plans will be subject to review and approval by the Department of Public Works in conjunction with grading permit issuance providing assurance that LID standard are adhered to. Therefore, there is no conflict with the LID development ordinance.

h) Result in point or nonpoint source pollutant discharges into State Water Resources Control Board-designated Areas of Special Biological Significance?

Projects 1 – 6 are not located in a SWRCB-designated Area of Special Biological Significance. Therefore, no impact will occur.

i) Use onsite wastewater treatment systems in areas with known geological limitations (e.g. high groundwater) or in close proximity to surface water (including, but not limited to, streams, lakes, and drainage course)?

No domestic wastewater will be generated as part of Projects 1 – 6 and as such, no onsite wastewater treatment is required.

j) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

The potential of Projects 1 – 6 to degrade water quality is addressed in items (a) and (f), above. Projects 1 – 6 do not have reasonably foreseeable potential to substantially degrade water quality other than impacts and mitigation measures addressed in items (a) and (f), above. Further discussion of the potential to substantially degrade water quality will be included in the EIR.

k) 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 delineation map, or within a floodway or floodplain?

Projects 1 – 6 do not involve placement of housing or inhabitable structures. Therefore, no impact will occur.

l) Place structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows, within a 100-year flood hazard area, floodway, or floodplain?

As discussed in item (d) above, a review of the FEMA flood map 06037C0400F shows that Projects 1 – 6 are mapped as Zone A and Zone X. Zone A is defined as an area subject to inundation by the 1% annual chance flood (100-year flood). Projects 1 – 6 have the potential to impede or redirect flood flows, within a 100-year flood hazard area. Further discussion of the potential impact to flood flows will be included in the EIR.

m) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

Operations will typically be unmanned and facilities will not increase the flood hazard. Projects 1 – 6 are also located in an area of minimal flood hazard (see item l, above) and do not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding. Projects 1 – 6 are not located in an area with levees or dams. Therefore, no impact will occur.

n) Place structures in areas subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

There are no water bodies in the vicinity of Projects 1 – 6; therefore, there is no seiche hazard at Projects 1 – 6. Projects 1 – 6 are located approximately 45 miles from the ocean, and separated by mountain ranges; therefore, there is no potential tsunami risk. The topography at Projects 1 – 6 is generally flat; however, there may be potential for slow-moving mud flows in the vicinity of Projects 1 – 6 when very large storms occur (e.g., 100-year and greater recurrence interval storms). However, where such flows occur they are shallow sheet flows with low velocity due to the nearly flat surface grades. Electric equipment will be elevated in pads two feet above ground where applicable so they will not be subject to inundation by mud flows. Further discussion of mudflow impacts will be included in the EIR.

11. LAND USE AND PLANNING

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Projects 1 – 6 are not located within any established communities. Projects 1 – 6 will not physically divide any community nor will they change any public access routes to it. Therefore, there will be no impact.

b) Be inconsistent with the applicable County plans for the subject property including, but not limited to, the General Plan, specific plans, local coastal plans, area plans, and community/neighborhood plans?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 will be required to comply with the plan designations and applicable provisions of the Countywide General Plan and the Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan. Projects 1 – 6 are not located within the boundaries of a Community Standards District; therefore, no District development standards apply to Projects 1 – 6.

The Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan designates Projects 1 – 6 for “N1 – Non-Urban” uses. This designation states that development of “non-residential uses requiring, or appropriate for, remote locations may be allowed in Non-urban areas” if the proposed use follows general guidelines and development standards outlined in the Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan for non-residential uses within the N1 – Non-Urban land use classification. “Utility and communication installations” are uses allowed in the N1 – Non-Urban land classification. Therefore, Projects 1 – 6 are consistent with the Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan.

Development of Projects 1 – 6 will be consistent with permissible uses associated with the land use designations and the policies, goals, and objectives outlined in the Los Angeles County General Plan and the Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan (see Table below for policy consistency).

<u>Policy</u>	<u>Relationship of Project to Policy</u>
Los Angeles Countywide General Plan	
<i>Conservation, Open Space and Recreation</i>	
2. Support the conservation of energy and encourage the development and utilization of new energy sources including geothermal, thermal waste, solar, wind and ocean-related sources.	<u>Consistent</u> – The SGFs will collectively produce 172 MW of solar power. Therefore, Projects 1 – 6 utilize new energy sources.
3. Promote the use of solar energy to the extent possible.	<u>Consistent</u> – Projects 1 – 6 consist of photovoltaic solar facilities totaling 172 MW.
Antelope Valley Area Wide Plan	
<i>Resource Conservation</i>	

40. Encourage efficient utilization of resources in the allocation of land to various uses, and incorporate energy conservation measures into the design and implementation of public and private projects.

Consistent – Projects 1 – 6 propose use of photovoltaic solar modules, which absorb renewable solar energy resources in order to generate power, will thereby conserve fossil fuel use. Projects 1 – 6 are located on previously disturbed agricultural lands, and facilities will require modest quantities of water compared with other traditional power generation technologies.

Energy Consumption

217. Promote use of alternative energy sources (including solar and wind) for heating and cooling.

Consistent – The SGFs will collectively produce 172 MW of solar power. Therefore, the Projects 1 – 6 utilize new energy sources.

c) Be inconsistent with the County zoning ordinance as applicable to the subject property?

Development of Projects 1 – 6 is regulated by the County of Los Angeles Zoning Ordinance (Title 22). Title 22 contains the regulatory framework that specifies: allowable uses for real property and development intensities; technical standards such as site layout, building setbacks, heights, lot coverage, parking, etc.; aesthetics related to physical appearance, landscaping, and lighting; and the procedural standards for amending or establishing new zoning regulations, including Conditional Use Permits. Projects 2, 3, 4 and 5 are designated A-2 Heavy Agriculture on the Zoning Map. Pursuant to Section 22.24.150 of the Los Angeles County Code, “Electric distribution substations, electric transmission substations and generating plants” are permissible uses within the A-2 Heavy Agriculture zone pursuant to the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Project 6 is zoned D-2 Desert-Mountain. Pursuant to Section 22.32.080 of the Los Angeles County Code, properties in Zone D-2 Desert-Mountain may be used for any use permitted in Zone A-2 Heavy Agriculture; as described above, generating plants are permissible uses within the A-2 Heavy Agriculture zone, pursuant to the issuance of a CUP. Projects 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will follow all applicable requirements of Sections 22.24.150, 22.32.080 and 22.24.170 of the Los Angeles County Code, therefore, they will be consistent with the County zoning ordinance. Project 1 is zoned A-1 Light Agriculture, which does not permit electric generating plants within its zoning district. Since Project 1 is located within Zone A-1, a zone change from Zone A-1 to A-2 will be required to construct and operate the SGF. The impacts of the zone change will be further analyzed in the EIR.

d) Conflict with Hillside Management criteria, Significant Ecological Areas conformance criteria, or other applicable land use criteria?

Projects 1 – 6 are not located within a designated SEA, therefore, SEA conformance criteria do not apply to Projects 1 – 6. No local community conservation plans that could contain applicable land use criteria apply to Projects 1 – 6, therefore, no impact will occur. Projects 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are not in or near any hillside area and therefore will not conflict with Hillside Management criteria. However, Project 2 is located near the foothills and has slightly greater slopes. Conflict with Hillside Management criteria will be discussed further in the EIR.

Sources:

Los Angeles Countywide General Plan. County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning, 1980.

Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan. County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning, 1986.

12. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The State of California’s Geological Survey (California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology) identifies deposits of regionally significant aggregate resources. According to state geological survey, Projects 1 – 6 are not located within a Mineral Resources Zone. Additionally, according to Map 3-1 of the Antelope Valley General Plan Update-Background Report, Projects 1 – 6 are not designated as mineral resource areas by the County. Therefore, Projects 1 – 6 will result in no impact to a known mineral source that will be of value to the region and residents of the state.

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Map 3-1 of the Antelope Valley General Plan Update-Background Report indicates that Projects 1 – 6 are not designated as mineral resource areas by the County. Therefore, Projects 1 – 6 will result in no impact to a known locally-important mineral resource.

13. NOISE

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project result in:

a) Exposure of persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of standards established in the County General Plan or noise ordinance (Los Angeles County Code, Title 12, Chapter 12.08), or applicable standards of other agencies?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 may create short- and long-term noise impacts. Short term noise may result from the increase in traffic flow on local streets associated with the transportation of workers, equipment and materials; and from construction equipment operating on Projects 1 – 6. Long term noise may be generated from electricity generating equipment on Projects 1 – 6. A noise study needs to be prepared to analyze the potential impacts of noise generation by Projects 1 – 6. Since Projects 1 – 6 may result in noise impact, this issue will be discussed further in the EIR.

b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Due to construction related impacts and proposed pile driving, Projects 1 – 6 have the potential to generate groundborne vibration and noise. As discussed in item (a), above, a noise study needs to be prepared to analyze the potential impacts of noise generation by Projects 1 – 6. Since Projects 1 – 6 may result in noise impact, this issue will be discussed further in the EIR.

c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project, including noise from parking areas?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Equipment onsite has the potential to generate ambient noise in the vicinity of Projects 1 – 6. As discussed in item (a) above, a noise study needs to be prepared to analyze the potential impacts of noise generation by Projects 1 – 6. Since Projects 1 – 6 may result in noise impact, this issue will be discussed further in the EIR.

d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project, including noise from amplified sound systems?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 have the potential to increase ambient noise levels above levels existing without Projects 1 – 6 during the construction and operation phases. As discussed in item (a) above, a noise study needs to be prepared to analyze the potential impacts of noise generation by Projects 1 – 6. Since Projects 1 – 6 may result in noise impact, this issue will be discussed further in the EIR.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted,

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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?

Projects 1 – 6 are not located in an airport land use plan. Additionally, Projects 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 are not within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Project 3 is approximately two miles west of General William J. Fox Airfield and is located in General William J. Fox Airfield's Zone C: Extended Approach/Departure Zone. Projects 1 – 6 will typically be unmanned during the operation phase. However, workers will be onsite during construction and periodically onsite throughout operations for security, maintenance, and system monitoring. Since workers at Project 3 could potentially be exposed to excessive noise from General William J. Fox Airfield, the issue will be evaluated in the EIR.

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

Project 4 is located next to the Bohunk's Airpark Airport, a privately owned dirt airstrip. Although there is minimal traffic associated with this airstrip, there is a potential for significant aircraft noise from this facility. Project 1 is located approximately two miles northwest of the Little Buttes Antique Airfield Airport, another privately owned dirt airstrip. Workers at Projects 1 and 4 are not expected to be exposed to excessive noise levels from these private airstrips, however, this issue will be discussed further in the EIR.

14. POPULATION AND HOUSING

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<p>Would the project:</p> <p>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)?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Projects 1 – 6 are not expected to generate significant population growth. Projects 1 – 6 do not propose any housing or commercial development, or any significant extension of roads or infrastructure. Construction jobs will be short term and are expected to be filled mostly by the existing workforce and sourced from existing available residences and lodging. During operations, Projects 1 – 6 will typically be unmanned besides periodic onsite personnel visitations for security, maintenance, and system monitoring. Therefore, impacts to population growth will be less than significant.

<p>b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, especially affordable housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 will not physically displace existing housing units because no housing exists at Projects 1 – 6. Surroundings of Projects 1 – 6 consist of scattered rural residences, none of which will have to be relocated as a result of the development of the SGFs. Therefore, no replacement housing will need to be constructed and no impact will occur.

<p>c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 are proposed in a rural area of the Antelope Valley mostly on vacant land. Only one residence is located on Project 4, but residents have plans to vacate. Construction and operation of Projects 1 – 6 will not displace substantial people or housing, therefore, there will be no impact to population or housing.

<p>d) Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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As described in item (a) above, Projects 1 – 6 will have no residential uses and will mostly utilize the existing workforce. Therefore, Projects 1 – 6 will not materially affect local or regional population projections.

15. PUBLIC SERVICES

	<i>Less Than Significant</i>			
	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>

a) Would the project create capacity or service level problems, or result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 are within Los Angeles County Fire Department’s (LACFD) North Region. Division 5, Battalion 11. During construction, there will workers, machinery, construction supplies, and hazardous materials such as hydraulic oil, diesel fuel, grease, lubricants, solvents, adhesives, paints, and other petroleum-based products contained in construction vehicles onsite. There is a possibility that construction activities could accidentally ignite a fire that could require assistance from the Fire Department. However, a fire prevention plan will be created to minimize fire risks onsite. Operation of the unmanned facilities is generally passive and will require limited fire protection services. The need for fire protection services will be discussed further in the EIR.

Sheriff protection?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 are located in Field Operations Region 1 of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LACSD), which provides police protection and public safety to unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. Facility, materials and equipment security during construction of Projects 1 – 6 will be provided by the Applicant. Operation of the unmanned facilities is generally passive and will require limited Sheriff protection services. Construction and operations of Projects 1 – 6 will therefore have a less than significant impact on Sheriff protection services and their staffing or response times.

Schools?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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As described in Section 14(a), Projects 1 – 6 are not expected to generate population growth. Consequently, no new demands on school facilities are expected, no impact on school capacities, service levels or performance objectives would be present, and therefore, there will be no impact to schools.

Parks?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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As described in Section 14(a), Projects 1 – 6 are not expected to generate population growth and no new demands on park facilities are expected, therefore, there will be no impact on park capacities, service levels or performance objectives.

Libraries?

As described in Section 14(a), Projects 1 – 6 are not expected to generate population growth and no new demands on library facilities are expected, therefore, there will be no impact on library capacities, service levels or performance objectives.

Other public facilities?

As described in Section 14(a), Projects 1 – 6 are not expected to generate population growth, extend roads or other public infrastructure. Therefore, it will not create new demands on other public facilities.

16. RECREATION

<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

As previously discussed in Section 14. Population and Housing, construction and operation of Projects 1 – 6 will not cause significant population changes in the communities near Projects 1 – 6, nor will it create a demand for additional housing. Sufficient local labor is available to work on Projects 1 – 6 and therefore it is unlikely that a substantial number of workers will come from outside the area and establish new residences for short-term construction jobs related to Projects 1 – 6. During operations, the facilities will typically be unmanned. The Antelope Valley Poppy Preserve, Angeles National Forest, and existing regional and neighborhood parks are sufficient for the minor growth associated with Projects 1 – 6. Existing facilities will provide adequate recreational opportunities, if needed, for the construction and operations work force, and Projects 1 – 6 are not expected to result in substantial physical deterioration of these recreational facilities. Therefore, impacts to recreation facilities will be less than significant.

b) Does the project include neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of such facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 do not involve, nor require the construction or expansion of regional parks or other recreational facilities, therefore, no impacts will occur.

c) Would the project interfere with regional open space connectivity?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 are not located in an undeveloped or undisturbed area that contains unique open space features or open space. Surroundings are typical of the western Antelope Valley. Projects 1 – 6 are located in an area that has been primarily used for agriculture. Land use at Projects 1 – 6 includes disturbed, undeveloped land with varying degrees of disturbance due to previous agricultural activities. Land adjacent to Projects 1 – 6 is primarily former farmland that is currently undeveloped. There are no recreational (trail) easements that will be impacted by the construction of Projects 1 – 6. Projects 1 – 6 will not interfere with regional open space connectivity given the surrounding land uses and disturbance at Projects 1 – 6. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

17. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

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?

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Traffic generated during the construction phase will include construction worker commuter trips, water truck trips, and delivery truck trips. A transportation impact study needs to be prepared to analyze the potential impacts of traffic generated by Projects 1 – 6. Since Projects 1 – 6 may result in traffic impact, this issue will be discussed further in the EIR.

b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program (CMP), including, but not limited to, level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the CMP for designated roads or highways?

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 are located within the boundary of the 2010 Los Angeles County Congestion Management Plan (CMP). As mentioned in item (a), above, a transportation impact study needs to be prepared to analyze the potential impacts of traffic generated by Projects 1 – 6. Since Projects 1 – 6 may result in traffic impact, this issue will be discussed further in the EIR.

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?

	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 are not within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Project 3 is approximately two miles west of General William J. Fox Airfield and is located in General William J. Fox Airfield's Zone C: Extended Approach/Departure Zone. Additionally, Project 1 and Project 4 are within two miles of private airstrips. However, Projects 1 – 6 will not include any buildings or operations that would change air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that could result in substantial safety risks. PV modules that will be used at Projects 1 – 6 are non-reflective and will not pose a hazard to general aviation pilots. No impact on air traffic patterns will occur.

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

	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 do not include any significant construction or realignment of any existing road facilities. The terrain in the vicinity of Projects 1 – 6 is generally flat and roads are straight with long sight distances. During operations, the facilities will typically be unmanned. Considering this low traffic level, the long sight distances characteristic of the existing environment and the safe design of the proposed driveways to the satisfaction of the Department of Public Works, Projects 1 – 6 will not substantially increase hazards due to design features or incompatible uses.

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

Projects 1 – 6 will not result in inadequate emergency access. Projects 1 – 6 will not obstruct any existing access route, and onsite access roads will be provided in accordance with Fire Department requirements. The design for Projects 1 – 6 includes perimeter and interior access roads in accordance with Fire Department requirements. Roads will be installed according to Los Angeles County code prior to operating the facilities and will be maintained in a drivable condition throughout the operation of Projects 1 – 6.

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?

Projects 1 – 6 are located in a rural area of Los Angeles County where alternative transportation facilities are not available. Development of Projects 1 – 6 will utilize the existing road network and will not impact or conflict with bike trails, pedestrian access, transit services, or other modes of alternative transportation. Additional programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities would occur in the LA County right-of-way and are not within the boundaries of Projects 1 – 6.

18. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<p>Would the project:</p> <p>a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of either the Los Angeles or Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Boards?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Projects 1 – 6 will generate a minimal amount of wastewater during operation. The PV module wash water will be demineralized water and will only contain dust washed off of the modules. This wash water will be allowed to infiltrate into the ground and evaporate as it drips off the PV modules. No domestic wastewater will be generated as part of Projects 1 – 6. Therefore, less than significant impacts will occur.

<p>b) Create water or wastewater system capacity problems, 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?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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As stated previously, no significant wastewater will be generated from Projects 1 – 6. Projects 1 – 6 will not require construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities. Construction and operation will use ground water extracted from wells located on Projects 1, 3 and 4. The potential impacts to groundwater recharge and supply will be discussed further in the EIR.

<p>c) Create drainage system capacity problems, 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?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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A storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) addressing construction and operations of Projects 1 – 6 will be prepared. Without BMPs, Projects 1 – 6 have the potential to generate additional sources of polluted runoff. The potential impacts to drainage will be discussed further in the EIR.

<p>d) Have sufficient reliable water supplies available to serve the project demands from existing entitlements and resources, considering existing and projected water demands from other land uses?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 will use groundwater extracted from water wells located on Projects 1, 3 and 4. Historical and recent yields indicate that the aquifer is capable of meeting demands for proposed and existing entitlements and resources. However, the basin is undergoing an adjudication process and the potential impacts to future groundwater recharge and supply will be discussed further in the EIR.

<p>e) Create energy utility (electricity, natural gas,</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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propane) system capacity problems, or result in the construction of new energy facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Projects 1 – 6 do not require natural gas or propane. Projects 1 – 6 require the use of local Southern California Edison facilities to deliver electricity for construction and ongoing maintenance operations. The power generated by Projects 1 – 6 will be connected to Southern California Edison’s existing transmission network with the voltage transformation equipment and system safety equipment constructed onsite. Therefore, negative impacts to energy utility system capacity will be less than significant.

f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project’s solid waste disposal needs?

Construction and operation of Projects 1 – 6 will produce a small amount of solid waste associated with construction and maintenance activities. Solid waste generated from construction activities may include paper, wood, glass, plastics from packing material, waste lumber, insulation, scrap metal and concrete, empty non-hazardous containers, and vegetation wastes. These materials will be collected, hauled by truck, separated for recycling where available, and disposed of at a regional disposal facility. Any defective or broken solar modules will be returned to the manufacturer for recycling.

The level of hazardous materials used or waste generated on Projects 1 – 6 is estimated to be negligible. Used biodegradable dielectric fluid and mineral oil from the transformers and miscellaneous electrical equipment are potentially hazardous materials. The spent oil will be collected and delivered to a recycling company when it is removed from the equipment. This material will not be stored onsite.

Class I, II, and III landfills with the potential to serve Projects 1 – 6 have sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate each Project solid waste disposal needs. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Construction and operation non-hazardous waste will be transferred from Projects 1 – 6 by licensed waste hauling contractors and recycled or disposed of at facilities licensed for this use. Hazardous wastes will be shipped offsite and treated or disposed in accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 22 Division 4.5 regulations for hazardous waste management. Projects 1 – 6 will have no impact relative to compliance with existing federal or state regulations pertaining to solid waste because Projects 1 – 6 will be required to comply with all relevant regulations during both construction and operations.

19. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

As discussed in previous sections, additional studies and analysis are required to further assess the environmental impacts to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, noise, transportation/traffic and utilities/service. These potential impacts will be discussed further in the EIR.

b) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Projects 1 – 6 meet short term and long term environmental goals of generating clean renewable energy through photovoltaic solar electricity generation. Conditions for Projects 1 – 6, including decommissioning provisions at the end of each SGF’s life, insure that Projects 1 – 6 will be restored to near their original condition. However, the EIR will address potential impacts on long term environmental goals such as the preservation of cultural and biological resources.

c) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, 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)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Additional studies and analysis are required to further assess the environmental impacts to aesthetics, agriculture/forest, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, noise, public services, transportation/traffic and utilities/services. These potential individually limited impacts will be discussed further in the EIR, as well as the cumulative impacts to these areas.

As described in preceding sections of this Initial Study, Projects 1 – 6 will have a less than significant impact or no impact on mineral resources, population/housing and recreation.

A list of past, current and probable future projects considered for the Overall Development’s cumulative impact analysis are identified at the beginning of this Initial Study.

d) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Additional studies and analysis are required to further assess the impacts of Projects 1 – 6 on the environment and on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Additional studies and analysis are required to further assess the effects on human beings in regards to aesthetics, agriculture/forest, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, noise, public services, transportation/traffic and utilities/services. The EIR will further analyze all the potential environmental impacts of Projects 1 – 6.