2.0 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 REGIONAL SETTING

Imperial County is located within the southeastern corner of California and covers an area of approximately 2,942,080 acres (ICPDS 2009). The County is surrounded by Riverside County to the north, the Colorado River and the State of Arizona to the east, the International Boundary with the Republic of Mexico to the south, and San Diego County to the west. The proposed Project area includes all of Imperial County; however, the proposed Project includes a Renewable Energy Overlay Zone Map, Goals and Policies, and Implementation Ordinance that prioritizes areas for renewable energy development and which would reduce the amount of land that may be developed.

2.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The proposed Project has been developed to identify new opportunities for renewable energy and assures that the Imperial County General Plan can meet the needs for future development while remaining consistent with identified land use and environmental goals. The proposed Project would support the development of expanded renewable energy power production and exportation to accommodate future growth in California and improve overall system reliability. The purpose of the proposed Project is to provide a comprehensive document that contains the latest knowledge about the resources, feasible development technology, legal requirements, policies (County, State, and federal), and implementation measures. Additionally, the proposed Project provides a framework for the review and approval of renewable energy projects in the County. Development projections for the proposed Project are based on forecasts obtained from the renewable energy industry, regional utilities, and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP).

Development of future renewable energy facilities associated with the proposed Project would provide the following benefits for Imperial County:

- Fiscal benefit of expanded property tax revenues
- Fiscal benefit of sales tax revenues from the purchase of equipment, goods, and services
- Royalty and lease benefits to local landowners and the County
- Social and fiscal benefits from increased economic activity and employment opportunities that do not threaten the economic viability of other industries
- Improvements in technology to reduce costs of electrical generation
- Reduction in potential greenhouse gases by displacing fossil-fuel-generated electricity with renewable energy power which does not add to the greenhouse effect
- Contributions toward meeting the State of California's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS)
- Minimization of impacts to local communities, agriculture, and sensitive environmental resources

Similarly, development of Electrical Transmission and Joint Use Corridors associated with the proposed Project would provide the following benefits for Imperial County:

- Increases regional transmission capacity to support regional energy demand while increasing regional reliability
- Provides infrastructure for additional capacity to transmit renewable energy generation to meet both local and regional demand for electric power
- Increases reliability of California's electrical system
- Reduces potential land conflicts between and among renewable energy developers, agriculture, environmental resources, and local landowners
- Provides increased certainty as to the future location and siting of electrical transmission facilities

2.3 RELATIONSHIP TO THE DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN

The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) provides a framework for the development of renewable energy and transmission projects and the conservation of sensitive species and ecosystems on desert lands within southeastern California (DRECP EIR/EIS, I.0-1). The DRECP covers approximately 22,585,000 acres of private, State, and federal lands in the counties of Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego, California. The DRECP was developed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Energy Commission (CEC), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), collectively known as the Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT). The REAT developed the DRECP with the following primary goals:

1. Contribute to the conservation (recovery) of Covered Species, habitats, and natural communities, as well as to the physical, visual, cultural, and social resources in the Plan Area
2. Streamline future permitting efforts for the development of renewable energy in the Plan Area to help meet California's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS), California's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, and other State and federal renewable energy and transmission goals

The DRECP identifies locations designated for future development of renewable energy, as well as areas that should be preserved in order to protect biological, cultural, and other valuable natural resources. Locations suitable for future development of renewable energy are identified in the DRECP as Development Focus Areas (DFAs). The DRECP identified DFAs within the plan through "…a collaborative process that considered and integrated state and federal renewable energy goals, natural resources conservation needs, culturally important areas, recreation, and visual resources in the Plan Area, and information from renewable energy, conservation, utility, military, tribes, recreationists, and affected local stakeholders…(DRECP EIR/EIS, I.3-36)." During this process, the REAT utilized the following five principles to guide the identification of DFAs:

1. "…Generation should be developed either on already-disturbed land or in areas of lower biological value, and conflict with both biological and non-biological resources should be minimized.

2. Areas identified for generation should have high-quality solar, wind, and/or geothermal renewable energy resources.

3. Generation should be sited close to existing transmission and in areas where transmission could be expected as a reasonable extension of the existing transmission system and planned system upgrades, as identified by the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative, or other transmission plans.

4. Generation should, to the maximum extent possible, be aggregated to avoid transmission sprawl, reduce cost, and reduce disturbance across the Plan Area. Again, this principle aims to minimize disturbance to biologically, culturally, recreation, and visual valuable areas.

5. The Plan should provide sufficient areas for development flexibility to ensure the Plan does not constrain competition within the market or unnecessarily result in distorted or environmentally incompatible incentives when implemented (i.e., where feasible, the Plan should remain market neutral between different technologies or different project configurations)…(DRECP EIR/EIS, I.3-37)."

Through this process, the REAT developed several project alternatives documenting the locations of DFAs as well as conservation areas that would not be suitable for development of renewable energy and transmission facilities.

Upon release of the Draft DRECP, the County staff and consultants began reviewing the DRECP to determine which areas within Imperial County had been designated as DFAs under the various project alternatives that were presented. This review of DRECP project alternatives provided the County team with valuable information regarding where future development of renewable energy facilities could be located within Imperial County; however, the County team then executed an additional constraints analysis to identify additional valuable resources within Imperial County. Although the DRECP does preserve numerous resources throughout the Plan Area, the conservation strategy developed for the plan does focus on biological resources. Consequently, the County team conducted additional research on the locations of valuable environmental resources, such as agriculture, and compared the DRECP alternatives to this expanded data set. Based on the results of this additional constraints analysis, the County team developed a new program alternative that reduced the DFA footprint of the DRECP Preferred Alternative in order to preserve valuable agricultural resources and ensure that the DFA was constrained by a 0.5-mile buffer around all urban areas. The results of this constraints analysis are presented in the Renewable Energy (RE) Overlay Zone Map presented below (Figure 2.4-1). The Renewable Energy Overlay Zone Map is discussed in greater detail in Section 2.4 below.

2.4 PROJECT COMPONENTS

The proposed Project provides a comprehensive update of the existing 2006 Geothermal/Alternative Energy and Transmission Element and would serve as the primary policy statement by the County Board of Supervisors for implementing development policies for geothermal and other renewable energy land uses in Imperial County. The proposed Project consists of three key elements that have been developed to guide future development of future renewable energy facilities in Imperial County: (1) The *Renewable*

Energy and Transmission Element Overlay Zone, (2) The *Renewable Energy and Transmission Element* Goals and Objectives, and (3) The *Renewable Energy and Transmission Element* Implementation Ordinance. Each of these project components is described in greater detail below.

2.4.1 Renewable Energy and Transmission Element Overlay Zone Map

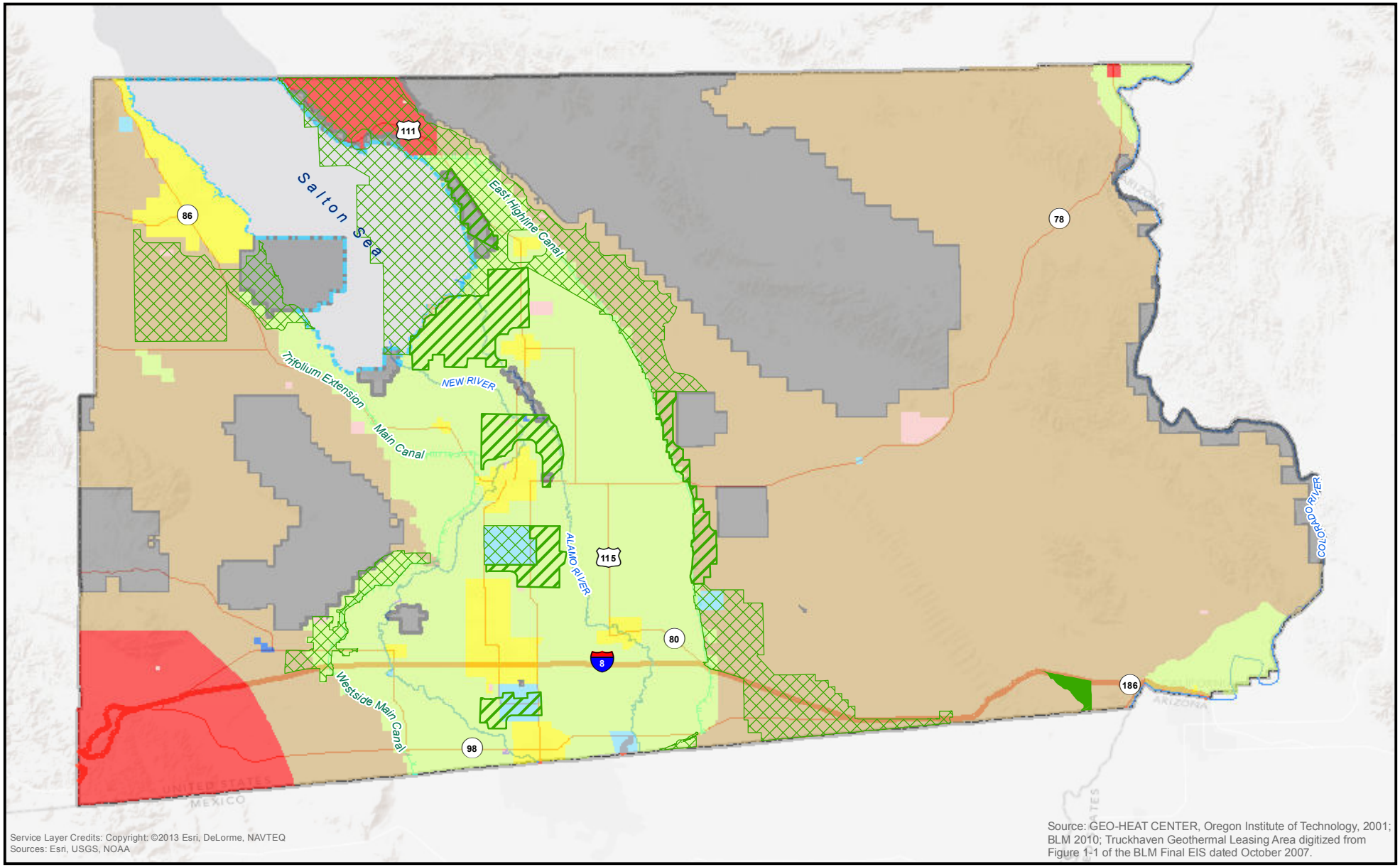
The County team developed a draft Renewable Energy (RE) Overlay Zone Map as described above in Section 2.3, which identifies locations within the County authorized for development and operation of renewable energy projects with an approved Renewable Energy Conditional Use Permit (RECUP) (Figure 2.4-1). The RE Overlay Zone is concentrated in areas that were determined to be the most suitable for the development of renewable energy facilities while minimizing the impact to other established uses. The RE Overlay Zone covers approximately 61,627.10 acres of land and surface water within the Salton Sea. Renewable Energy Conditional Use Permit application(s) proposed for specific renewable energy projects not located in the RE Overlay Zone would not be allowed without an amendment to the RE Overlay Zone. Upon completion of the constraints analysis described in Section 2.3 above, the County team developed three categories for the Overlay Zone Map, each of which are described in detail below.

- **Geothermal:** The Geothermal overlay zone category was developed to identify areas where existing and future development has been environmentally reviewed for geothermal renewable energy facilities. The areas subject to this overlay zone category consist of reduced footprints of the existing geothermal overlay zones. These footprints were reduced from their original size to either provide a 0.5-mile buffer around existing urban areas or Government/Special Public areas, or to allow additional types of renewable energy development on the remainder of the existing geothermal overlay zone. Additionally, the easternmost portion of the East Brawley Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA) is located east of the East Highline Canal. The remainder of the East Brawley KGRA is not included in any of the overlay zone categories developed for the proposed Project in order to preserve existing agricultural resources west of the East Highline Canal.

- **Renewable Energy:** The Renewable Energy overlay zone category was developed to identify areas that could be developed with any form of renewable energy technology other than geothermal production. This category is limited to a small portion of land in the southeast portion of Imperial County, south of Interstate 8 (I-8) based on mapping as identified within the DRECP's Preferred Alternative.

- **Renewable Energy/Geothermal:** The Renewable Energy/Geothermal overlay zone category was developed to identify areas that could be developed with any form of renewable energy technology, including geothermal production. This Renewable Energy overlay zone category provides the greatest range of opportunities for future development of renewable energy under the proposed Project. The areas subject to this overlay zone category consists of the following:

    - Segments of the Truckhaven Geothermal Leasing Area, West Chocolate Mountains Renewable Energy Evaluation Area, and North Salton Sea Geothermal Area that are not located within 0.5 mile of existing urban areas.



Service Layer Credits: Copyright: ©2013 Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ
Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Source: GEO-HEAT CENTER, Oregon Institute of Technology, 2001; BLM 2010; Truckhaven Geothermal Leasing Area digitized from Figure 1-1 of the BLM Final EIS dated October 2007.

Legend

Overlay Zones

- Geothermal (69,205 acres)
- Renewable Energy (2,848 acres)
- Renewable Energy/Geothermal (267,141 acres)

Land Use

- Agriculture
- Community Area
- Government/Special Public
- Industry
- Recreation/Open Space
- Salton Sea
- Special Purpose Facility
- Specific Plan Area
- Urban Area

N

0 5 10 20
Miles

Figure 2.4-1

Imperial County Renewable Energy and Transmission Element Update PEIR
Overlay Zone Map

Name: 20674 EIR Fig 2.4-1 Overlay Zones.Mxd
Date Saved: 12/4/2014, Author: msimmons

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- Segments of the Salton Sea and South Brawley geothermal overlay zones that are not included in the Geothermal overlay zone category and are not located within 0.5 mile of existing urban areas.

- Segments of the East Mesa KGRA located east of the East Highline Canal.

- A contiguous strip of land east of the Truckhaven Geothermal Leasing Area and west of the Salton Sea.

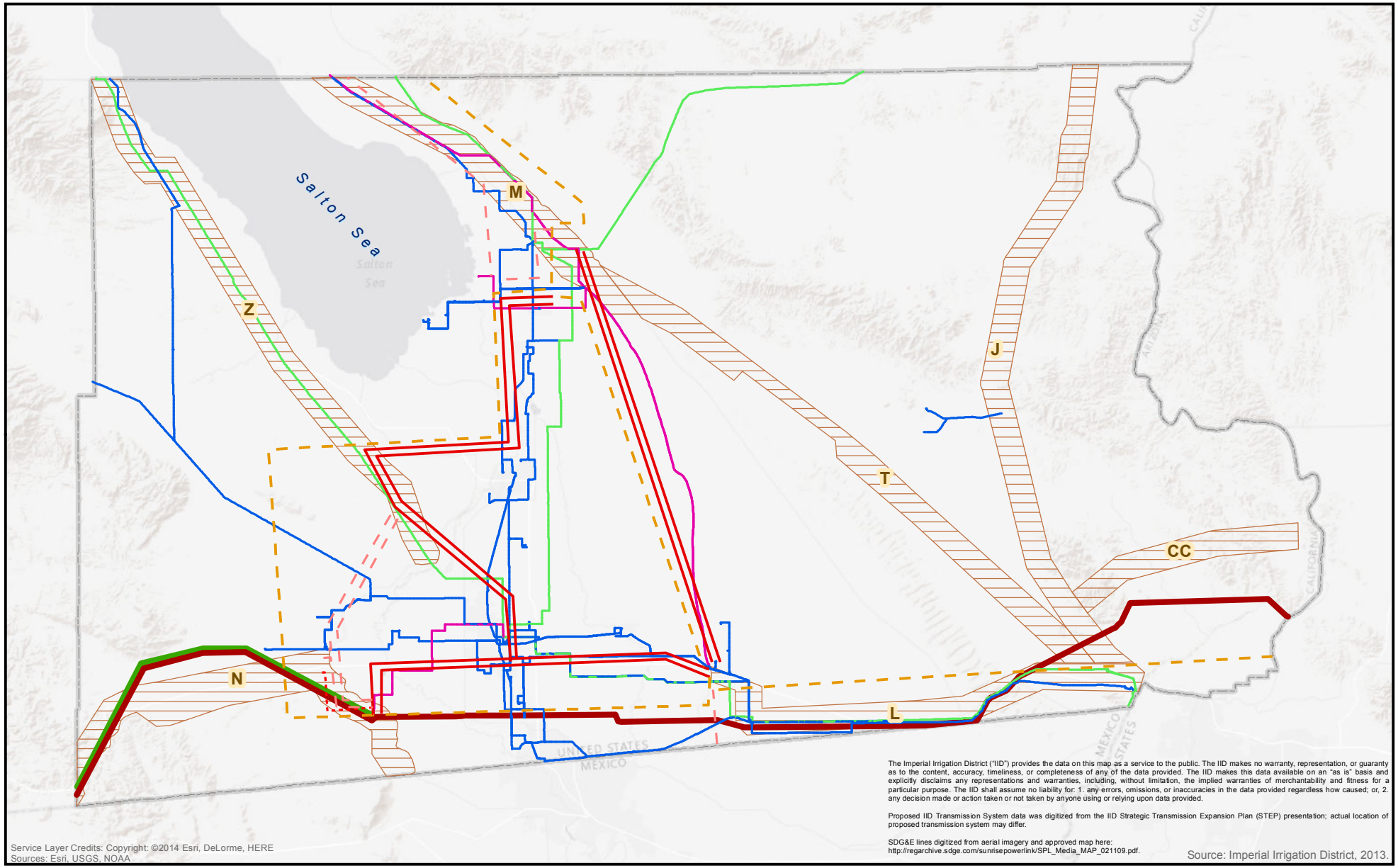
- Areas west of the Westside Main Canal as identified in the DRECP's Preferred Alternative.

Transmission System: The existing transmission system within Imperial County would need to be expanded in order to provide for the distribution of renewable energy generated by future facilities developed under the proposed Project. Existing and proposed transmission corridors and transmission lines are presented in Figure 2.4-2. The Imperial Irrigation District (IID), as a Balancing Authority, is the primary electrical Transmission Service Provider (TSP) in Imperial County and is the responsible entity for maintaining load-interchange-generation balance within their Balancing Authority Area and supports interconnection frequency in real time. As the Balancing Authority, the IID maintains load-resource balance (generation, transmission, and load) within its metered boundary. IID's board of directors has ratemaking authority. Retaining local ratemaking authority enables lower energy rates.

The IID is the primary owner of electrical transmission and the sole owner of the distribution network in Imperial County. IID also operates and maintains these systems. IID provides electrical service for residential, commercial, and industrial customers in Imperial and portions of Riverside and San Diego counties. Their transmission system consists of 500-kilovolt (kV), 230-kV, 161-kV, and 92 kV transmission lines and lower voltage distribution lines. The two existing 230-kV transmission lines provide for import/export of electrical power to their system in the County.

San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) and IID have two 500-kV lines that traverse the southern part of Imperial County and interconnect with the transmission system in Arizona. These two 500-kV lines currently serve as the primary import lines for electrical power to be brought into SDG&E's system to supply power to San Diego County and the City of San Diego. These two 500-kV lines also provide import/export capacity to the IID service area. The Sunrise Powerlink, completed in June 2012, provides additional transmission capacity between Imperial and San Diego counties and throughout Imperial County.

Several 92-kV transmission lines provide interties between the renewable power plants in the County and tie these electrical generation sources into the IID transmission and distribution system, I.V. Substation, and the California grid. New interties and substations may be constructed to link new generation facilities into transmission lines if the renewable power generation facilities that are now in the planning stages are built.



Legend

Existing IID Transmission System
- 230 kV Grounded Y
- 161 kV Grounded Y
- 92 kV Grounded Y

Proposed IID Transmission System
- 230kV Upgrade
- 230kV Proposed
- 230kV PPTO
- 500kV Proposed

Existing SDG&E Transmission System
- Sunrise Powerlink 500kV
- Southwest Powerlink

Federal Transmission System
- CDCA Corridors

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0 5 10 20

Miles

Figure 2.4-2
Imperial County Renewable Energy and Transmission Element Update PEIR Transmission System Map

Name: 20674 EIR Fig 2.4-2 Transmission System.Mxd
Date Saved: 1/3/2015, Author: msimmons

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An upgrade to the 230-kV IID line (Path 42) is currently being made, and a new 500-kV line is proposed to be located on the east side of the Salton Sea. This transmission upgrade would provide additional capacity to deliver energy generated in Imperial County from renewable resources to load centers in California. IID has also proposed a 500-kV Direct Current link between Imperial County and the San Onofre Nuclear Generation Station (SONGS) to facilitate the transmission of additional energy to compensate for the generation capacity lost when SONGS was shut down in 2013.

The remaining planned transmission lines are anticipated to be smaller and intended primarily to support power plant development. It is the intention of this Renewable Energy and Transmission Element to provide input and guidance to those developers and agencies that will plan and have regulatory siting authority over the proposed and potential transmission lines to be constructed in the County. Figure 2.4-2 shows the existing and proposed IID and SDG&E electrical transmission corridors described above.

The transmission portion of the *Renewable Energy and Transmission Element* update presents existing and proposed transmission corridors and transmission lines developed by other agencies who hold the principal responsibility for these facilities. The inclusion of this information is to assure that any proposed renewable energy facilities correspond with existing and proposed transmission corridors. Therefore, detailed analysis of potential impacts associated with future transmission lines is beyond the scope of this Programmatic EIR and will be environmentally reviewed on a "project-by-project" basis.

2.4.2 Renewable Energy and Transmission Element's Goals and Objectives

The *Renewable Energy and Transmission Element's* Goals and Objectives provide the framework for future renewable energy development within Imperial County. The Goals and Objectives were developed during the element update process based on community input, extensive collaboration with key regional stakeholders, identification of environmental issues, and balancing economic interests. The Goals and Objectives, together with the Implementation Programs and Policies described below, are the statements that shall provide direction for renewable energy development as well as future government actions and programs. Imperial County's Goals and Objectives are intended to serve as long-term principles and policy statements representing ideals which have been determined by the Board of Supervisors as being desirable and deserving of community time and resources to achieve. These Goals and Objectives are important guidelines for renewable energy projects and related land use decision-making. It is recognized that other social, economic, environmental, and legal considerations are involved in land use decisions and that these Goals and Objectives, and those of the other General Plan Elements, should be used as guidelines for reviewing individual projects overall conformance.

Goal 1 – Support the safe and orderly development of renewable energy while providing for the protection of environmental resources.

Objective 1.1: The County of Imperial supports the goals and objectives of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan to plan for, encourage, and facilitate the full development of all renewable energy resources within its jurisdiction.

Objective 1.2: Lessen impacts of site and design production facilities on agricultural, natural, and cultural resources.

Objective 1.3: Require the use of directional geothermal drilling and "islands" in irrigated agricultural soils and sensitive or unique biological areas.

Objective 1.4: Analyze potential impacts on agricultural, natural, and cultural resources, as appropriate.

Objective 1.5: Require appropriate mitigation and monitoring for environmental issues associated with developing renewable energy facilities.

Objective 1.6: Encourage the efficient use of water resources required in the operation of renewable energy generation facilities.

Objective 1.7: Assure that development of renewable energy facilities and transmission lines comply with Imperial County Air Pollution Control District's regulations and mitigation measures.

Goal 2 – Encourage development of electrical transmission lines along routes which minimize potential environmental effects.

Objective 2.1: To the extent practicable, maximize utilization of IID's transmission capacity in existing easements or rights-of-way. Encourage the location of all major transmission lines within designated corridors, easements, and rights-of-way.

Objective 2.2: Where practicable and cost-effective, design transmission lines to minimize impacts on agricultural, natural, and cultural resources, urban areas, military operation areas, and recreational activities.

Goal 3 – Support development of renewable energy resources that will contribute to and enhance the economic vitality of Imperial County.

Objective 3.1: Preserve IID's Balancing Authority and local rate-making authority which allows IID to continue to provide low-cost service. Lower energy rates enhance the economic vitality in Imperial County.

Objective 3.2: Encourage the continued development of the mineral extraction/production industry for job development using geothermal brines from the existing and future geothermal flash power plants.

Objective 3.3: Encourage the development of services and industries associated with renewable energy facilities.

Objective 3.4: Assure that revenues projected from proposed renewable energy facility developments are sufficient to offset operational costs to the County from that particular development.

Objective 3.5: Encourage employment of County residents by the renewable energy industries wherever and whenever possible.

Objective 3.6: Encourage the establishment of necessary and applicable renewable energy training programs in local school systems in association with the renewable energy industry.

Objective 3.7: Evaluate environmental justice issues associated with job creation and displacement when considering the approval of renewable energy projects.

Goal 4 – Support development of renewable energy resources that will contribute to the restoration efforts of the Salton Sea.

Objective 4.1: Prioritize the Salton Sea exposed seabed (playa) for renewable energy development.

Objective 4.2: Encourage the development of renewable energy facilities that will contribute to the reduction or elimination of airborne pollutants created by exposure of the seabed of the Salton Sea as it recedes.

Objective 4.3: Develop mitigation measures and monitoring programs to minimize impacts to avian species and other species that may be affected by renewable energy facilities constructed near the Salton Sea.

Goal 5 – Encourage development of innovative renewable energy technologies that will diversify Imperial County's energy portfolio.

Objective 5.1: Support the implementation of pilot projects intended to test or demonstrate new and innovative renewable energy production technologies.

Objective 5.2: Encourage development of utility-scale distributed generation projects in the County.

Goal 6 – Support development of renewable energy while providing for the protection of military aviation and operations.

Objective 6.1: Assure that renewable energy facilities proposed in areas adjacent to military installations and training areas would be compatible with these uses.

Objective 6.2: Facilitate the early exchange of project-related information with the military for proposed renewable energy facilities located within a military operations area (MOA) or within 1,000 feet of a military installation.

Objective 6.3: Assure that renewable energy facilities proposed within MOAs would not jeopardize the safety of existing residents or impact military operations.

Goal 7 – The County will actively minimize the potential for land subsidence to occur as a result of renewable energy operations.

Objective 7.1: Require that all renewable energy facilities include design features that would prevent subsidence and other surface conditions from impacting existing land uses.

Objective 7.2: For geothermal energy development facilities, establish injection standards consistent with the requirements of the California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (CDOGGR). Request a CDOGGR subsidence review, if necessary, for consideration prior to setting injection standards.

Objective 7.3: Require renewable energy facility permittees to establish and monitor subsidence detection networks in areas affected by permitted project activities.

Objective 7.4: Require monitoring programs for determining the possibility or extent of induced subsidence.

Objective 7.5: Require corrective measures, in proportion to each developer's activities, if evidence indicates that operation of geothermal energy facilities have caused, or will cause, surface impacts. In determining monitoring or mitigation requirements, the County shall consult with informed parties such as CDOGGR, County Department of Public Works, the IID, the permittee, other developers, and other experts as appropriate.

Objective 7.6: Where geothermal fields have been divided into units or developers have established a cooperative agreement for reservoir management, specific production and injection requirements of individually permitted projects may be modified in accordance with CDOGGR requirements.

Objective 7.7: Require that seismic monitoring be performed in conjunction with major geothermal projects.

Objective 7.8: Require that the operators of geothermal facilities analyze seismic data to determine effects of geothermal production and injection on seismic activities within the development area.

Objective 7.9: Consult with experts, such as CDOGGR, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), geothermal industry representatives, permittees, and other developers to determine appropriate monitoring and mitigation requirements.

Objective 7.10: Require operators of geothermal facilities to establish a notification system to warn or notify surrounding residents of the accidental release of potentially harmful emissions as part of an emergency response plan.

Objective 7.11: Require all geothermal energy facilities to include operating procedures that would prevent detrimental impacts to geothermal reservoirs.

Goal 8 – The County will develop overlay zones that would facilitate the development of renewable energy resources while preserving and protecting agricultural, natural, and cultural resources. Development of overlay zones shall include coordination with federal, State, County, Tribal governments, educational entities, the public, and local industries.

Objective 8.1: Allow for County review with appropriate development and performance standards for development of local resources within the overlay zones.

Objective 8.2: Promote the exchange of information concerning renewable energy development to be circulated between industry, County staff, and the public.

Objective 8.3: Provide the public adequate opportunity to obtain information on the current status of renewable energy development and to provide input on matters related to the development of renewable energy resources.

2.4.3 Renewable Energy and Transmission Element's Implementation Ordinance

The *Renewable Energy and Transmission Element's* Implementation Ordinance would facilitate the beneficial use of renewable energy resources for the general welfare of the people of Imperial County and the State of California. The Implementation Ordinance would also protect renewable energy resources from wasteful or detrimental uses and protect people, property, and the environment from detriments that might result from the improper use of renewable energy resources. The regulations presented in the Implementation Ordinance are intended to implement the Renewable Energy Overlay Zone established in the *Renewable Energy and Transmission Element* update and integrate, to the extent possible, Imperial County's regulations with those of other governmental agencies which regulate renewable energy development. It is further intended that the regulations presented in the Implementation Ordinance would ensure that no gap in the protection of the public health, safety and general welfare would occur as the result of changes in the regulations or enforcement policies of those other agencies. The Implementation Ordinance includes general and specific standards applicable to all future renewable energy facilities that would be developed under the proposed Project, as well as additional specific standards for future geothermal facilities.

2.5 RELATIONSHIP OF PROPOSED PROJECT TO OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE GENERAL PLAN

State law mandates seven "elements" for local government general plans. Although the *Renewable Energy and Transmission Element* is not mandatory, it must comply with requirements that are requisite to all parts within a general plan. Legislative intent must be fulfilled as set forth in Government Code, Section 65300.5: "...the General Plan and the parts thereof comprise an integrated, internally consistent and compatible statement of policies for the adopting agency…"

The *Renewable Energy and Transmission Element* Policy Matrix presented below in Table 2.5-1 identifies the relationship between the *Renewable Energy and Transmission Element* Goals and Objectives to other Elements of the Imperial County General Plan. The Issue Area identifies the broader goals of the Element and the "Xs" identify that related objectives are contained in the corresponding Elements.

Table 2.5-1: Renewable Energy and Transmission Element Policy Matrix

Issue Area	Land Use	Housing	Circulation	Noise	Seismic/ Public Safety	Agricultural	Open Space Conservation	Water
Land Use Planning	X		X				X	
Agriculture/ Biology	X					X	X	
Water Use							X	X
Land Subsidence					X		X	
Transmission Line Corridors	X		X				X	
Use of Renewable Energy	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Zoning	X							
Natural Seismicity					X			

2.6 REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

The County, through the Planning and Development Services Department, regulates the use of land for renewable energy purposes through zoning and Renewable Energy Conditional Use Permits. The County Land Use Ordinance, Division 17, includes the Renewable Energy Overlay Zone, which is approved by the Board of Supervisors, following a recommendation by the County Planning Commission. The County also acts as "lead agency" in the preparation of environmental documents for renewable energy projects within its jurisdiction. Additionally, the following agencies would have permitting authority over renewable energy generation and transmission facilities developed under the proposed Project:

- Federal Energy Commission (FEC) – Interstate electrical transmission lines where the primary intent of the line is to service interstate power interest and where no formal State environmental guidelines apply and where federal lands may also be impacted.

- Other federal agencies (Bureau of Land Management [BLM], U.S. Forest Service [USFS], U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS], U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE], Bureau of Indian Affairs [BIA], Department of Defense [DOD], etc.) – Lines that are within federal lands and are not being developed primarily for interstate transmission of electrical power.

- California Energy Commission (CEC) – Electrical transmission lines that are pertinent to a thermal power generation facility of equal to, or greater than, 50 megawatts (MW) in size from the facility to the first point of interconnection. It is important to note that the environmental review process implemented by CEC is a Certified Regulatory Program under CEQA (§21080.5) and results in a document that is the functional equivalent of an EIR.

- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) – Transmission lines that are being sited and developed by an electric corporation.

- California State Lands Commission – Lines that are primarily or exclusively within the boundaries of lands owned by the State of California.

- Municipal Utilities (which includes the Imperial Irrigation District) – Agencies that act as their own regulatory entities for the siting and permitting of electrical transmission lines. Municipal Utilities must follow CEQA Guidelines with respect to siting decision-making; however, they are not subject to other extra territorial review and oversight, assuming none of the conditions apply as outlined for the agencies listed above.

In Imperial County, all of the agencies and governmental entities listed above could potentially be involved in the siting and permitting of electrical transmission lines; however, the agencies with the greatest potential for transmission line regulatory oversight and siting would likely be federal land and resource management agencies (such as USACE, USFWS, BLM, BIA, DOD, and Bureau of Reclamation[BOR]), CEC, CPUC, the California State Lands Commission, or a local municipal utility (such as the Imperial Irrigation District). While the County would have some land use and zoning regulatory authority concerning the siting and construction of electrical transmission lines, environmental review would predominately be the responsibility of one or a combination of agencies listed above.