

## **CHAPTER 4.0**

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# **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

This chapter provides a brief overview of the twelve environmental factors covered in the environmental analysis. This chapter also orients the reader to the order of each environmental factor and the format of each individual section.

### ORDER OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR SECTIONS

Following preparation of the Initial Study, twelve environmental factors from the CEQA Appendix G Environmental Checklist emerged as requiring further analysis in the EIR. The sections representative of each environmental factor are presented in the same order that they are listed in CEQA Appendix G.

Section 4.1 - Aesthetics

Section 4.2 - Land Use

Section 4.3 - Transportation and Circulation

Section 4.4 - Air Quality

Section 4.5 - Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases

Section 4.6 - Geology and Soils

Section 4.7 - Cultural Resources

Section 4.8 – Noise

Section 4.9 - Agricultural Resources

Section 4.10 - Hazardous and Hazardous Materials

Section 4.11 - Hydrology and Water Quality

Section 4.12 - Biological Resources

### SECTION FORMAT

As a general rule, each section has been formatted in the following order. In the case of Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases, GHG emissions generated by an individual project are evaluated on a cumulative basis due to the global nature of climate change and GHGs and their potential effects.

### REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This subsection orients the reader to the three levels of regulation that may be applicable to the proposed project for each environmental factor.

**Federal** – Identifies relevant federal laws and regulations applicable to the proposed project.

**State** – Identifies relevant state laws (Assembly Bills, Senate Bills) and regulations applicable to the proposed project.

**Local** – Identifies local plans, policies and standards applicable to the proposed project.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

This subsection describes the existing conditions on the project site and surrounding area as applicable. The setting is divided between the solar generation facility site and the segment of the gen-tie located on BLM land.

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**solar generation facility** – The description of the environmental setting pertains to the 1,990 acre solar generation facility and surrounding area, as applicable.

**gen-tie** – The description of the environmental setting pertaining to the 0.8 mile long segment of the gen-tie located on BLM land.

The majority of details are provided for the solar generation facility site as the segment of the gen-tie located on BLM land is undergoing a separate environmental review under NEPA.

### IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

This subsection identifies the project-specific impacts and mitigation measures, as applicable for each environmental factor.

#### STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The standards of significance identify criteria from CEQA Appendix G Environmental Checklist applicable to each environmental factor.

#### ISSUES SCOPED OUT AS PART OF THE INITIAL STUDY

This subsection notes any issues which were scoped out as a result of the Initial Study and briefly explains why they are not included in the discussion.

#### METHODOLOGY

This subsection describes how the impact analysis was performed. Specific studies, techniques and research performed relevant to the environmental factor are identified.

#### PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

This subsection includes a concise impact statement that pertains to a specific standard of significance. The impact statement includes a title, a number, and a conclusion summarizing the level of significance.

Following the impact statement, a discussion is provided explaining the analysis conducted and further substantiates the conclusion of the impact statement.

#### Mitigation Measures

If necessary, mitigation measures are provided to reduce, minimize or alleviate the impact identified. The mitigation measures are numbered to correspond with the impact number.

#### Significance After Mitigation

A brief concluding assessment is provided explaining the effectiveness of the mitigation and any remaining significance.

### CUMULATIVE SETTING, IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

**Cumulative Setting** – Provides a brief explanation of the cumulative setting specific to each environmental factor.

**Cumulative Impacts and Mitigation Measures** - This subsection includes a concise impact statement that pertains to a specific standard of significance. The impact statement includes a title, a number and a conclusion summarizing the level of significance.