CHAPTER 4.0
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This chapter provides a brief overview of the thirteen 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 ENVIRONMENAL FACTOR SECTIONS

Following preparation of the Initial Study, thirteen of the seventeen environmental factors from the CEQA Appendix G Environmental Checklist emerged as requiring further analysis in the EIR. The sections are presented in the following order:

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 4.13 – Public Services and Utilities

SECTION FORMAT

As a general rule, each section has been formatted in the order shown below. The one exception is with regard to Section 4.5. In the case of Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases, the proposed project's greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions would be small relative to total global or even statewide GHG emissions. Thus, the significance of potential impacts from GHG emissions related to the proposed Project have been analyzed for long-term operations on a cumulative basis.

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.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

This subsection describes the existing conditions of the Project area and surrounding area as applicable. The setting is divided between the solar farm complex and the transmission line.

Solar farm complex/solar farm complex site - the 1,235 acre solar farm complex exclusive of the 92 kV transmission line and Anza Substation modifications.

Transmission line – the 3.0 mile IID 92 kV transmission line extending from the IID switching station on Lot C of the solar farm complex site to the Anza Substation. Approximately 0.75 miles of new 92 kV transmission line would be constructed on the Allegretti Farms property. An additional 2.25 miles of new 92 kV transmission line would constructed from the Property to the existing IID Anza Substation which would undergo minor modifications to accommodate the proposed Project. Approximately 2.0 miles of the transmission line extend through lands under the jurisdiction of the BLM.

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 (or adapted from) the CEQA Appendix G Environmental Checklist applicable to each environmental factor or resource area. In addition, local standards may be applied when appropriate (i.e. Noise Element Standards).

ISSUES SCOPED OUT AS PART OF THE INITIAL STUDY

This discussion identifies 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

The Methodology discussion describes how the impact analysis was performed. Specific studies, surveys and research performed relevant to the environmental factor are identified. In addition, any modeling or assumptions used in support of the analysis are put forth as part of the methodology.

PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

This discussion of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures 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 in bold letters (e.g. **less than significant impact**).

Following the impact statement, a discussion is provided explaining the analysis conducted with rationale substantiating 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 after mitigation is implemented.

CUMULATIVE SETTING, IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Cumulative Setting – The cumulative setting provides a brief explanation of the cumulative setting specific to each environmental factor, including the geographic scope, as appropriate.

Cumulative Impacts and Mitigation Measures – The discussion of cumulative impacts and mitigation measures includes a concise impact statement addressing cumulative impacts. The cumulative impact statement includes a title, a number, and a conclusion summarizing the level of significance in bold letters (e.g. **less than cumulatively considerable**).

Following the impact statement, a discussion is provided explaining the analysis conducted with rationale substantiating the conclusion of the cumulative impact statement. The analysis also identifies whether the proposed Project's contribution to the impact is considered cumulatively considerable or less than cumulatively considerable.

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 after mitigation is implemented.

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