

Geology and Soils

Grading and construction of new facilities, such as the solar facility and gen-tie line, would still occur under this alternative. Similar to the proposed project, this alternative would result in potentially significant impacts related to strong ground shaking, soil erosion, and paleontological resources and would require the incorporation of mitigation measures to minimize these impacts to a less than significant level. This alternative would result in similar geology and soil and paleontological resources impacts as the proposed project.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

This alternative would result in the same power production capacity as the proposed project; hence, the overall benefits of the project to global climate change through the creation of renewable energy would be the same. This alternative would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. This alternative would contribute similar and desirable benefits to reductions in global climate change through the production of renewable energy.

Hydrology/Water Quality

With implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, potential hydrology/water quality impacts under this alternative would be similar to those associated with the proposed project. Similar to the proposed project, no impacts would result from flooding and facilities will not be placed within floodplains.

Land Use Planning

Similar to the proposed project, Alternative 2 will require approval of a CUP to allow for the construction and operation of a solar project. However, the Alternative 2 project site is located within the RE Overlay Zone and would not require a General Plan Amendment or Zone Change to include/classify the project site into the RE Overlay Zone. No Variance would be required under this alternative because the proposed height of the transmission towers (70 feet) would not exceed the 120 feet height limit of non-residential structures in the A-3 Zone. Because this alternative would not require a General Plan Amendment, Zone Change, or Variance, Land Use Planning impacts are anticipated to be less than the proposed project.

Transportation/Traffic

This alternative would result in a similar level of construction and operation-related vehicle and truck trips as compared to the proposed project. However, the increase in vehicular traffic was identified as a less than significant impact for the proposed project. In this context, Alternative 2 would not reduce or avoid an impact related to transportation/traffic, and would result in less than significant impacts similar to the proposed project. As with the proposed project, this alternative would not impact any applicable plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the performance of the circulation system, conflict with an applicable congestion management program, substantially increase hazards because of a design feature, result in inadequate emergency access, or conflict with public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities. This alternative would result in a similar impact related to transportation/traffic as the proposed project.

Utilities and Service Systems

During construction of this alternative, impacts would be similar to the proposed project in terms of water demand (for dust control) and solid waste generation. Similar to the proposed project, Alternative 2 would require similar levels of water demand and energy for the operation of the solar facility. As with the proposed project, panel washing and other maintenance would be required. This alternative would have similar water demands and associated impacts related to utilities and service systems.

Conclusion

As shown on Table 7-1, this alternative would result in reduced land use impacts compared to the proposed project. This alternative would result in greater impacts for the following environmental issue areas as compared to the proposed project: aesthetics and visual resources, biological resources, cultural resources, and tribal cultural resources.

Comparison of Alternative 2: Development within Renewable Energy Overlay Zone – Agricultural Lands to Project Objectives

Alternative 2 would meet most of the basic objectives of the proposed project and should remain under consideration. However, this alternative would result in greater impacts for the following environmental issue areas as compared to the proposed project: aesthetics and visual resources, biological resources, cultural resources and tribal cultural resources. Because the Alternative 2 site is located on agricultural lands, this alternative would result in the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. Compared to the proposed project, this alternative would result in additional impacts (conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses) that are currently not identified for the project at the currently proposed location. Further, the project applicant does not own, or otherwise control this property.

7.6 Alternative 3: Development within Renewable Energy Overlay Zone – Desert Lands

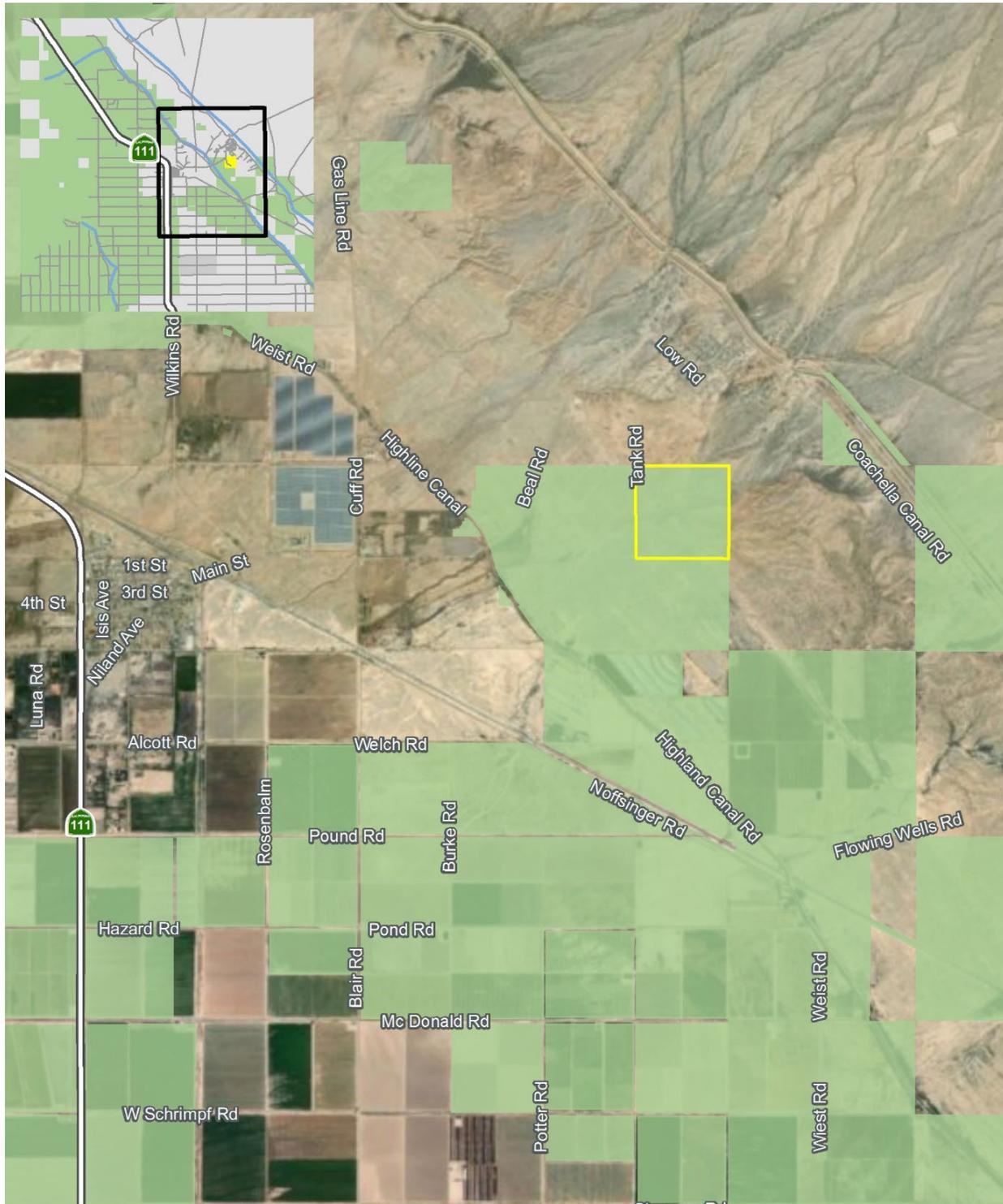
The purpose of this alternative is to develop the proposed project within the existing boundary of the County's RE Overlay Zone. As shown on Figure 7-4, the Alternative 3 project site is located entirely within the RE Overlay Zone. Alternative 3 would involve the construction and operation of a 20 MW solar energy facility and associated infrastructure on approximately 100 acres within a 161-acre parcel (APN 021-190-003) located approximately 0.5 mile south of Slab City. The Alternative 3 project site is located on undeveloped desert land. Existing transmission lines traverse the southwest corner of the project site.

The Alternative 3 project site is located within the RE Overlay Zone and would not require a General Plan Amendment or Zone Change to include/classify the project site into the RE Overlay Zone. The Alternative 3 project site is designated as Recreation under the County's General Plan and zoned General Agricultural with a renewable energy overlay (A-2-RE).



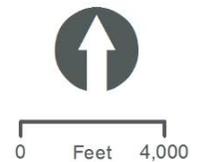
Similar to the proposed project, Alternative 3 will require approval of a CUP to allow for the construction and operation of a solar project. Compared to the proposed project, the Alternative 3 project site is located within the RE Overlay Zone and would not require a General Plan Amendment or Zone Change to include/classify the project site into the RE Overlay Zone. The A-2-RE zone allows a maximum height limit of 120 feet for non-residential structures. No Variance would be required under this alternative because the proposed height of the transmission towers (70 feet) would not exceed 120 feet.

Figure 7-4. Alternative 3: Development within Renewable Energy Overlay Zone – Desert Lands



LEGEND

-  Alternative 3 (Assessor Parcel No. 021-190-003)
-  Renewable Energy Overlay Zone



7.6.1 Environmental Impact of Alternative 3: Development within Renewable Energy Overlay Zone – Desert Lands

Aesthetics and Visual Resources

Similar to the proposed project site, the Alternative 3 project site is located on undeveloped desert land. However, the Alternative 3 project site is located in closer proximity (approximately 0.5 mile) to Slab City and Salvation Mountain. Slab City is a former military facility that now serves as the site of an informal community for artists, travelers, and winter-time RV campers. Salvation Mountain is an outdoor art project at the western entrance to Slab City. Both attract tourists and sight-seers. Therefore, the project components would be more readily visible to more people compared to the proposed project. Compared to the proposed project, this alternative could result in greater aesthetics impacts.

Air Quality

Similar to the proposed project, a 20 MW solar energy facility would be constructed on approximately 100 acres of land. Based on this consideration, this alternative would generate air emissions similar to the proposed project. As discussed in Section 3.3, Air Quality, the proposed project would not exceed the ICAPCD's significance thresholds for ROG, CO, NO_x, and PM₁₀ during construction and operation. Although no significant air quality impacts would occur, all construction projects within Imperial County must comply with the requirements of ICAPCD Regulation VIII for the control of fugitive dust. In addition, the ICAPCD's Air Quality Handbook lists additional feasible mitigation measures that may be warranted to control emissions of fugitive dust and combustion exhaust. This alternative would result in similar air quality emissions as the proposed project. Similar to the proposed project, this alternative would result in temporary odor emissions from construction equipment.

Biological Resources

As discussed in Section 3.4, Biological Resources, burrowing owls were not present on the project site during the biological surveys. As the proposed project site is not within the IID Service District, no IID canals or drains (which are very attractive to burrowing owls) were present on site. Compared to the proposed project site, the Alternative 3 site is located on the fringe of agricultural land. Agricultural fields provide habitat for burrowing owl. Irrigation canals and drains are commonly used as burrowing nesting sites in the Imperial Valley. Mitigation would still be required for impacts to burrowing owl; however, the overall number of burrowing owl locations potentially impacted would be greater because their potential to occur on the Alternative 3 site is higher than the proposed project site. Compared to the proposed project, development of this site would have greater impacts on burrowing owl. Further, this alternative has the potential to impact other sensitive plant and animals species associated with a relatively undisturbed desert setting.

The Alternative 3 site also contains desert washes and multiple braided channels. These features could be considered potentially jurisdictional waters. Similar to the proposed project, consultation would be required with USACE and CDFW to avoid or minimize impacts upon federally and state jurisdictional drainage features. This alternative would result in similar impacts related to potentially jurisdictional waters as the proposed project.

Cultural Resources

This alternative would require the construction of supporting infrastructure (i.e., transmission towers, substation) that would require ground disturbance and therefore, has the potential to result in cultural and tribal cultural resources impacts. While this alternative may avoid the specific impacts on the proposed project site, this alternative would also require the construction of supporting infrastructure that has the potential to result in cultural resources impacts. Compared to the proposed project, although this alternative would attempt to avoid cultural resources to the extent feasible, depending on the route of the proposed gen-tie line, this alternative could result in greater impacts on cultural and tribal cultural resources.

Geology and Soils

Grading and construction of new facilities, such as the solar facility and gen-tie line, would still occur under this alternative. Similar to the proposed project, this alternative would result in potentially significant impacts related to strong ground shaking, soil erosion, and paleontological resources and would require the incorporation of mitigation measures to minimize these impacts to a less than significant level. This alternative would result in similar geology and soil and paleontological resources impacts as the proposed project.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

This alternative would result in the same power production capacity as the proposed project; hence, the overall benefits of the project to global climate change through the creation of renewable energy would be the same. This alternative would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. This alternative would contribute similar and desirable benefits to reductions in global climate change through the production of renewable energy.

Hydrology/Water Quality

As discussed in Section 3.8, Hydrology/Water Quality, the proposed eastern access road that would connect to Gas Line Road is located in a 100-year flood zone (0.01 percent annual chance) (Zone A). The proposed eastern access road would not involve the addition of structures which could impede or redirect flood flows. In addition, the proposed access road would be constructed with an all-weather surface allowing runoff to continue to percolate into the ground. Therefore, the proposed project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would impede or redirect flood flows, and impacts would be less than significant.

According to the FEMA FIRM (06025C0450C), a portion of the Alternative 3 project site contains an area mapped as Zone A. Alternative 3 could place structures (i.e., PV arrays, substation, or transmission towers) within a 100-year flood zone and result in the redirection of flood flows on the project site. The Alternative 3 site also contains desert washes and multiple braided channels. Implementation of this alternative could potentially result in the modification of the existing drainage patterns and the volume of storm water runoff on the project site. Compared to the proposed project, this alternative would result in greater impacts related to hydrology/water quality.

Land Use Planning

Similar to the proposed project, Alternative 3 will require approval of a CUP to allow for the construction and operation of a solar project. Compared to the proposed project, the Alternative 3 project site is located within the RE Overlay Zone and would not require a General Plan Amendment or Zone Change to include/classify the project site into the RE Overlay Zone. No Variance would be required under this alternative because the proposed height of the transmission towers (70 feet) would not exceed the 120 feet height limit of non-residential structures in the A-2-RE Zone. Because this alternative would not require a General Plan Amendment, Zone Change, or Variance, Land Use Planning impacts are anticipated to be less than the proposed project.

Transportation/Traffic

This alternative would result in a similar level of construction and operation-related vehicle and truck trips as compared to the proposed project. However, the increase in vehicular traffic was identified as a less than significant impact for the proposed project. In this context, Alternative 3 would not reduce or avoid an impact related to transportation/traffic, and would result in less than significant impacts similar to the proposed project. As with the proposed project, this alternative would not impact any applicable plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the performance of the circulation system, conflict with an applicable congestion management program, substantially increase hazards because of a design feature, result in inadequate emergency access, or conflict with public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities. This alternative would result in a similar impact related to transportation/traffic as the proposed project.

Utilities and Service Systems

During construction of this alternative, impacts would be similar to the proposed project in terms of water demand (for dust control) and solid waste generation. Similar to the proposed project, Alternative 3 would require similar levels of water service and energy for the operation of the solar facility. As with the proposed project, panel washing and other maintenance would be required. This alternative would have similar water demands and associated impacts related to utilities and service systems.

Conclusion

As shown on Table 7-1, this alternative would result in reduced land use impacts compared to the proposed project. This alternative would result in greater impacts for the following environmental issue areas as compared to the proposed project: aesthetics and visual resources, cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, and hydrology/water quality.

Comparison of Alternative 3: Development within Renewable Energy Overlay Zone – Desert Land to Project Objectives

Alternative 3 would meet most of the basic objectives of the proposed project and should remain under consideration. However, this alternative would result in greater impacts for the following environmental issue areas as compared to the proposed project: aesthetics and visual resources, cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, and hydrology/water quality. Further, the project applicant does not own, or otherwise control this property.

7.7 Alternative 4: Distributed Commercial and Industrial Rooftop Solar Only Alternative

This alternative would involve the development of a number of geographically distributed small to medium solar PV systems (100 kilowatts to 1 MW) within existing developed areas, typically on the rooftops of commercial and industrial facilities throughout Imperial County. Under this alternative, no new land would be developed or altered. Depending on the type of solar modules installed and the type of tracking equipment used, a similar or greater amount of acreage (i.e., greater than 100 acres of total rooftop area) may be required to attain the proposed project's capacity of 20 MW of solar PV generating capacity. This alternative would involve placement of PV structures, transmission lines, and development of additional supporting facilities, such as switching stations and substations at various locations throughout the County. This alternative assumes that rooftop development would occur primarily on commercial and industrial structures due to the greater availability of large, relatively flat roof areas necessary for efficient solar installations.

This alternative would require hundreds of installation locations across Imperial County, many of which would require approval of discretionary actions, such as design review, CUPs, or zone variances depending on local jurisdictional requirements. Similar to the proposed project, this alternative would be designed to operate year-round using PV panels to convert solar energy directly to electrical power. This alternative would involve the construction of transmission lines and development of additional supporting facilities, such as switching stations and substations at various locations throughout the County to distribute the energy.

Rooftop PV systems exist in small areas throughout California. Larger distributed solar PV installations are becoming more common. An example of a distributed PV system is 1 MW of distributed solar energy installed by Southern California Edison on a 458,000 square-foot industrial building in Chino, California.¹

Similar to utility-scale PV systems, the acreage of rooftops or other infrastructure required per MW of electricity produced is wide ranging, which is largely due to site-specific conditions (e.g., solar insolation levels, intervening landscape or topography, PV panel technology, etc.). Based on SCE's use of 458,000-square feet for 1 MW of energy, approximately 9,160,000 square feet (approximately 210 acres) would be required to produce 20 MW.

7.7.1 Environmental Impact of Alternative 4: Distributed Commercial and Industrial Rooftop Solar Only Alternative

Aesthetics and Visual Resources

This alternative would reduce the overall size of the solar energy field located in one place. However, this alternative would involve placement of PV structures, transmission lines, and development of additional supporting facilities, such as switching stations and substations at various locations throughout the County. There could be significant aesthetic impacts in certain areas depending on the locations of these facilities. Transmission lines would need to be constructed to serve the PV generation sites, all of which would be placed in closer proximity to urban areas, and all of which would

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<http://new.sroom.edison.com/releases/california-regulators-approve-southern-california-edison-proposal-to-create-nations-largest-solar-panel-installation-program>

be more readily visible to more people as compared to the proposed project. Compared to the proposed project, this alternative could result in greater aesthetics impacts.

Air Quality

Under this alternative, air emissions due to project construction could be less than the proposed project on a localized level; however, PV facilities and supporting infrastructure would still need to be constructed to support this alternative, which, like the proposed project, would involve short-term construction emissions. These emissions would likely be spread-out geographically throughout the basin, and would occur over a longer period of time, as this alternative would involve a longer overall timeframe for implementation. Furthermore, the construction efficiencies that can be obtained by mobilizing equipment and crews in one general location over a shorter timeframe would not be realized. By the nature of the alternative, in that solar panels would be constructed on habitable structures throughout the County, this alternative has the potential to expose more people to more localized construction-related emissions. Compared to the proposed project, this alternative would develop less renewable energy megawatt generation in the near-future, thereby reducing its ability to provide a long-term source of renewable energy and meeting renewable energy goals, and air quality impacts could be greater than those of the project under this alternative.

Biological Resources

Under this alternative, potential direct and indirect impacts to burrowing owl and jurisdictional waters would be avoided as compared to the proposed project. However, this alternative would also require the construction of supporting infrastructure that has the potential to result in biological impacts. While this alternative may avoid the specific impacts associated with the proposed project, it could also result in greater biological impacts in other areas of the County where supporting infrastructure is required to support Distributed Energy facilities.

Cultural Resources

This alternative would require the construction of infrastructure that has the potential to result in cultural and tribal cultural resources impacts. If rooftop solar panels were proposed on historic buildings, this alternative could affect the historic character and integrity of the buildings. Implementation of this alternative would require historic surveys and investigations to evaluate the eligibility of potentially historic structures that are over 50 years old, and either avoidance of such buildings, or incorporation of design measures to minimize impacts on historic integrity of historically-significant structures. Compared to the proposed project, this alternative could result in greater impacts related to cultural and tribal cultural resources.

Geology and Soils

This alternative would involve placement of PV structures, transmission lines, and development of additional supporting facilities, such as switching stations and substations at various locations throughout the County. This alternative assumes that rooftop development would occur primarily on commercial and industrial structures due to the greater availability of large, relatively flat roof areas necessary for efficient solar installations. However, this alternative would still require grading and construction of new facilities such as transmission lines, PV structures, and supporting facilities (i.e., switching stations and substations) at various locations throughout the County. This alternative would likely result in similar impacts related to strong ground shaking, soil erosion, and paleontological resources as the proposed project. This alternative would also be subject to similar mitigation

measures as the proposed project to minimize impacts to a less than significant level. This alternative would result in similar geological and soil impacts.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Under this alternative, the project footprint would be reduced; however, in order to achieve the same megawatt capacity as the proposed project, this alternative would also involve a surface area similar in size to the project site. Therefore, while this alternative could reduce or eliminate GHG emissions during project construction at the project site, an equivalent level of GHG emissions is likely to occur, as a result of constructing solar panels and supporting infrastructure throughout the County. Furthermore, as a consequence of the reduced PV footprint associated with the utility-scale solar farm, this alternative would result in a reduced power production capacity as compared to the proposed project; hence, the overall benefits of the project to global climate change through the creation of renewable energy would also be reduced. As with the proposed project, this alternative would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Compared to the proposed project, although this alternative would result in reduced construction emissions at the project site, overall, a similar level of emissions would be expected.

Hydrology/Water Quality

This alternative would likely avoid any impacts associated with modifications to the existing drainage patterns and the volume of storm water runoff, as this alternative would introduce less impervious surface areas (this alternative would involve construction of PV facilities on existing structures and within existing developed areas). Also, this alternative would likely avoid any impacts to jurisdictional waters. Compared to the proposed project, this alternative would result in fewer impacts related to hydrology/water quality.

Land Use Planning

Similar to the proposed project, this alternative would not divide an established community and would involve multiple planning approvals (e.g., variances, CUPs, rezones) in order to accommodate the solar generating uses within other zones of the County that currently do not allow such uses. Compared to the proposed project, land use and planning impacts resulting from this alternative would be similar than those identified for the proposed project.

Transportation/Traffic

This alternative would not reduce or avoid an impact to transportation/traffic and would result in less than significant impacts similar to the proposed project. As with the proposed project, this alternative would not impact any applicable plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the performance of the circulation system, conflict with an applicable congestion management program, substantially increase hazards due to a design feature, result in inadequate emergency access, or conflict with public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities. This alternative would result in a similar impact related to transportation/traffic as the proposed project.

Utilities and Service Systems

As with the proposed project, this alternative would require water service and energy for the operation of the projects. This alternative would involve the construction of transmission lines and development

of additional supporting facilities, such as switching stations and substations at various locations throughout the County to distribute the energy. Compared to the proposed project, this alternative could require the relocation or construction of new or expanded supporting energy infrastructure throughout the County. Compared to the proposed project, impacts associated with utilities and service systems resulting from this alternative could be potentially greater than those identified for the proposed project.

Conclusion

As shown on Table 7-1, implementation of Alternative 4: Distributed Commercial and Industrial Rooftop Solar Only Alternative would result in reduced impacts for the following environmental issue areas as compared to the proposed project: hydrology/water quality. Overall, this alternative would result in greater impacts related to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, and utilities and service systems.

Comparison of Alternative 4: Distributed Commercial and Industrial Rooftop Solar Only Alternative

Alternative 4: Distributed Commercial and Industrial Rooftop Solar Only Alternative would meet most of the basic objectives of the proposed project. However, this alternative would result in greater impacts for the following environmental issue areas as compared to the proposed project: aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, and utilities and service systems. Furthermore, this alternative would have a number of drawbacks, including, but not limited to the following:

- Difficulties with respect to buildout of the system within a timeframe that would be similar to that of the proposed project;
- Given the distributed nature of such a network of facilities, management and maintenance would not be as efficient, and total capital costs would likely be higher;
- The requirement to negotiate with a large number of individual property owners to permit placement of solar panels on rooftops;
- The difficulty of ensuring proper maintenance of a large number of smaller solar installations; and
- The lack of an effective electricity distribution system for large numbers of small electricity producers.

7.8 Environmentally Superior Alternative

Table 7-1 provides a qualitative comparison of the impacts for each alternative compared to the proposed project. As noted on Table 7-1, the No Project/No Development Alternative would be considered the environmentally superior alternative, since it would eliminate all of the significant impacts identified for the project. However, CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(e)(2) states that “if the environmentally superior alternative is the No Project Alternative, the EIR shall also identify an environmentally superior alternative among the other alternatives.” As shown on Table 7-1, Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 would both result in less impacts on Land Use and Planning because they are located within the RE Overlay Zone and would not require a General Plan Amendment or Zone Change to include/classify the project site into the RE Overlay Zone. No Variance would be required under either of these alternatives because the proposed height of the transmission towers (70 feet)

would not exceed the 120 feet height limit of non-residential structures in the A-2-RE Zone or A-3 Zone. However, compared to the proposed project, the Alternative 2 site is located on agricultural lands and would result in the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. Compared to the proposed project, this alternative would result in additional impacts (conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses) that are currently not identified for the project at the currently proposed location. Based on these considerations, Alternative 3 is considered the Environmentally Superior Alternative.



Table 7-1. Comparison of Alternative Impacts to Proposed Project

Environmental Issue Area	Proposed Project	Alternative 1: No Project/No Development	Alternative 2: Development within Renewable Energy Overlay Zone – Agricultural Lands	Alternative 3: Development within Renewable Energy Overlay Zone – Desert Lands	Alternative 4: Distributed Commercial and Industrial Rooftop Solar Only Alternative
Aesthetics and Visual Resources	Less than Significant	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> No Impact <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Less Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Potentially Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Greater Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Potentially Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Greater Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Potentially Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Greater Impact
Air Quality	Less than Significant	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> No Impact <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Less Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Similar	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Similar	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Potentially Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Greater Impact
Biological Resources	Less than Significant w ith Mitigation	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> No Impact <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Less Impact (Avoid)	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant w ith Mitigation <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Greater Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant w ith Mitigation <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Greater Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Potentially Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Greater Impact
Cultural Resources	Less than Significant w ith Mitigation	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> No Impact <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Less Impact (Avoid)	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Potentially Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Greater Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Potentially Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Greater Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Potentially Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Greater Impact

Table 7-1. Comparison of Alternative Impacts to Proposed Project

Environmental Issue Area	Proposed Project	Alternative 1: No Project/No Development	Alternative 2: Development within Renewable Energy Overlay Zone – Agricultural Lands	Alternative 3: Development within Renewable Energy Overlay Zone – Desert Lands	Alternative 4: Distributed Commercial and Industrial Rooftop Solar Only Alternative
Geology and Soils	Less than Significant with Mitigation	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> No Impact <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Less Impact (Avoid)	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant with Mitigation <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Similar Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant with Mitigation <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Similar Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant with Mitigation <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Similar Impact
GHG Emissions	Less than Significant	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> No Impact <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Less Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Similar Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Similar Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Similar Impact
Hydrology/ Water Quality	Less than Significant with Mitigation	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> No Impact <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Less Impact (Avoid)	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant with Mitigation <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Similar Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Potentially Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Greater Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant with Mitigation <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Less Impact
Land Use/Planning	Less than Significant	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> No Impact <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Similar Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Less Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Less Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Similar Impact



Table 7-1. Comparison of Alternative Impacts to Proposed Project

Environmental Issue Area	Proposed Project	Alternative 1: No Project/No Development	Alternative 2: Development within Renewable Energy Overlay Zone – Agricultural Lands	Alternative 3: Development within Renewable Energy Overlay Zone – Desert Lands	Alternative 4: Distributed Commercial and Industrial Rooftop Solar Only Alternative
Transportation/ Traffic	Less than Significant	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> No Impact <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Less Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Similar Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Similar Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Similar Impact
Utilities/Service Systems	Less than Significant	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> No Impact <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Less Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Similar Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Similar Impact	<i>CEQA Significance:</i> Less than Significant <i>Comparison to Proposed Project:</i> Greater Impact

Notes:
CEQA=California Environmental Quality Act; GHG=greenhouse gas

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9 EIR Preparers and Persons and Organizations Contacted

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