



Maricopa Solar Park Project



Public Scoping

Welcome

**Proposed Maricopa Solar Park Project
Public Scoping Meeting**

Maricopa Solar Park Project



Scoping Meeting Agenda

Public Scoping Meeting / Open House Agenda

5:30 - 6:30 Sign In & Open House

6:30 - 7:00 BLM Presentation

7:00 - 8:00 Continue Open House



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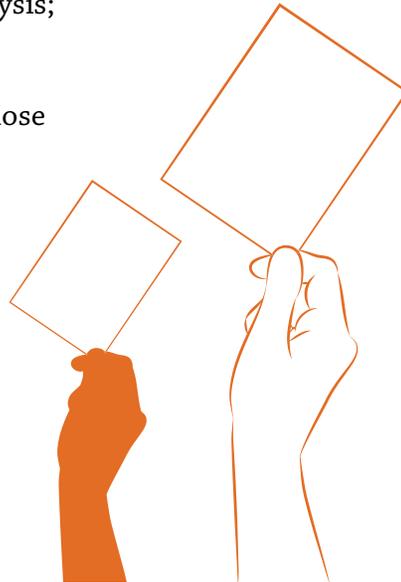


Submit Your Comments

Tips for Providing an Effective Comment:

Effective comments address one or more of the following:

- the accuracy of information in the EIS;
- the adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used for the environmental analysis;
- new information relevant to the analysis;
- reasonable alternatives other than those analyzed in the EIS; and/or
- changes or revisions in one or more of the proposed alternatives.



Ways to Provide a Comment

At the meeting:

- Fill out a comment form and submit it in the comment box.

After the meeting:

E-mail: BLM_AZ_Maricopasolar@blm.gov

Mail: Maricopa Solar Park Project

Attn: Lane Cowger
BLM Arizona State Office
One North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

For more information or if you have further questions contact:

Joe Incardine

BLM_AZ_Maricopasolar@blm.gov

801-539-4118 For Project Updates:

Project Website:

www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/solar/maricopa-solar.html

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BLM Involvement

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Mission

Working with its partners at the local, state, and national levels, the BLM will meet its mission of sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



BLM Arizona administers 12.2 million surface acres of public lands, and another 17.5 million subsurface acres within the state.

BLM Arizona has 9 field offices throughout the state providing on-the-ground field management. BLM balances recreational, commercial, scientific and cultural interests. BLM strives for long-term protection of renewable and nonrenewable resources, including range, timber, minerals, recreation, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, wild horses and burros, and areas of natural, scenic, scientific and cultural values.

Arizona State Office

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Phoenix District Office

Mary D'Aversa
District Manager

Lower Sonoran Field Office

Brian Achziger
Acting Field Manager
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Maricopa Solar Park Project



What is NEPA?

What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

An EIS is a document prepared to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An EIS is prepared to analyze and disclose the effects of proposed activities on the environment.

Bureau of Land Management

Lead Agency responsible for managing the NEPA process and drafting the EIS.

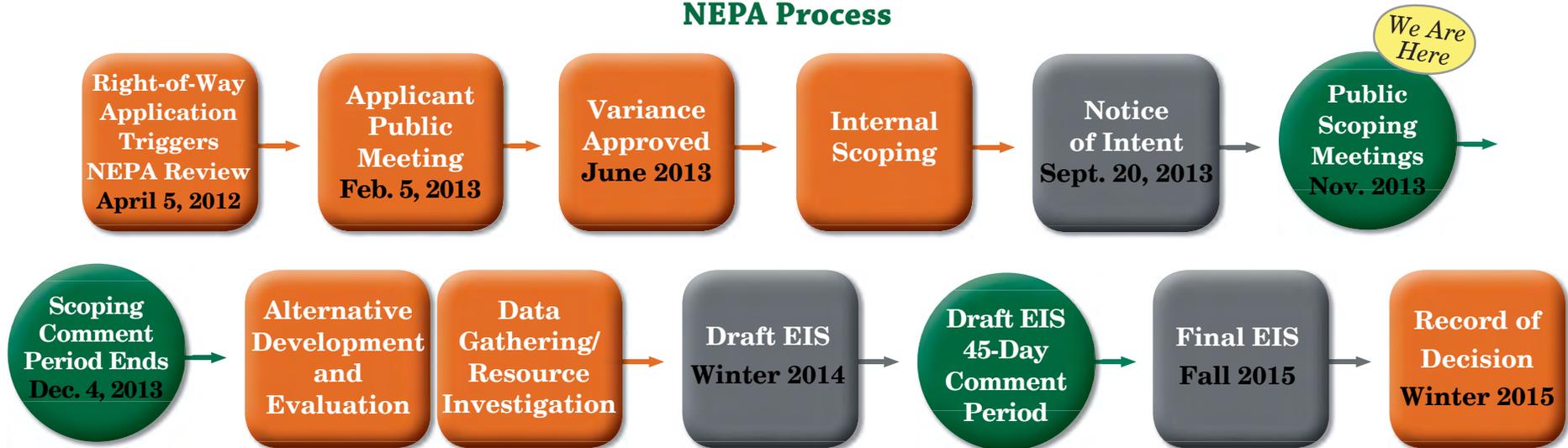
Cooperating Agencies

Any Federal, state, or local agency, other than a lead agency, that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative.

BLM's Decision To Be Made

Determine whether or not to grant a right-of-way (ROW) application for construction of a photovoltaic solar facility.

Right-of-Way Application NEPA Process



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BLM Purpose and Need

BLM Purpose

BLM provides for uses of public land in the public interest in accordance with its multiple use mission and statutory mandates including:

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)
- Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct)
- Executive Order 13212 (Actions to Expedite Energy-Related Projects)
- Secretary of the Interior Order No. 3285A1 (Renewable Energy Development by the DOI)
- Lower Sonoran Resource Management Plan (BLM 2012)

BLM Need

- Respond to the proponent's right-of-way application (Standard Form 299, Application for Transportation and Utility Systems and Facilities on Federal Lands) for access to, construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of the photovoltaic (PV) solar power plant which would supply up to 300 megawatts of renewable electric energy to electric consumers.
- Support the President's New Energy for America Plan, which sets a target of ensuring 25 percent of US electricity is generated from renewable sources by 2025.



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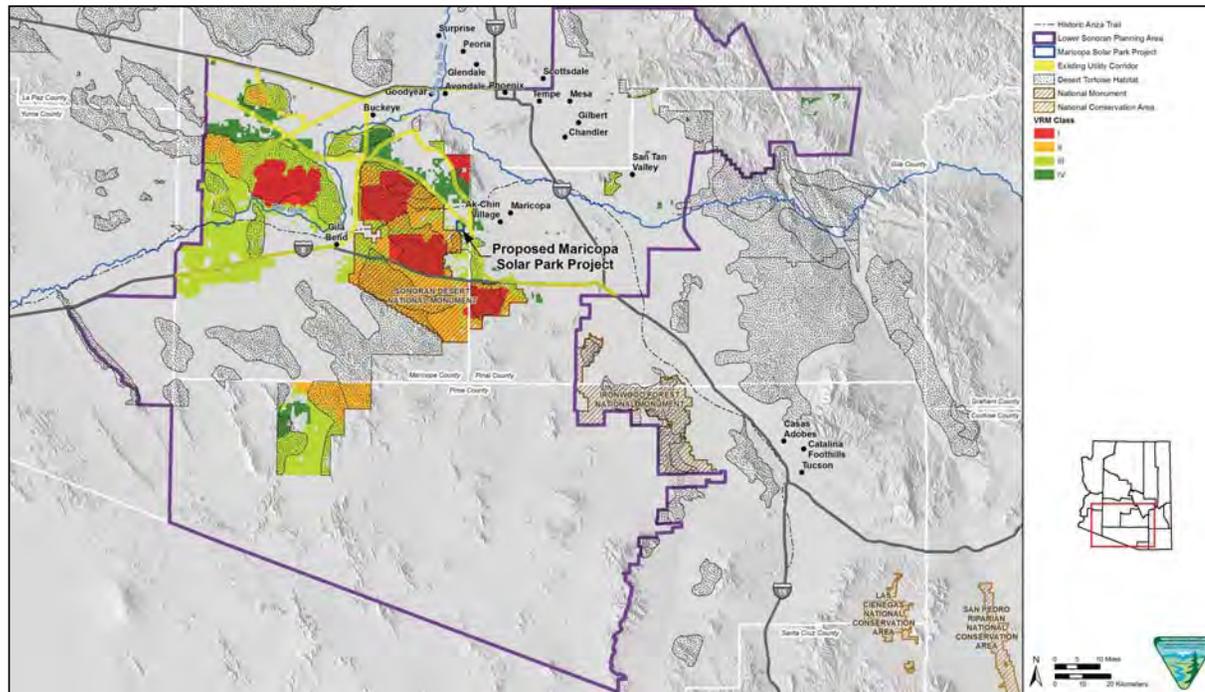


Lower Sonoran RMP

Lower Sonoran Resource Management Plan

The BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office prepared the Lower Sonoran Resource Management Plan (RMP) to provide comprehensive current and future management of the public lands administered by the Lower Sonoran Field Office. The RMP was approved in September 2012.

The RMP provides guidance for the management of nearly 1.4 million acres of public lands southwest of Phoenix, and allows for multiple-use of these lands, including utility-scale renewable energy production. The RMP has identified the area as possibly suitable for solar development due to low resource conflicts.



The full ROD/ARMP can be found at: www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/planning/son_des/docs.html

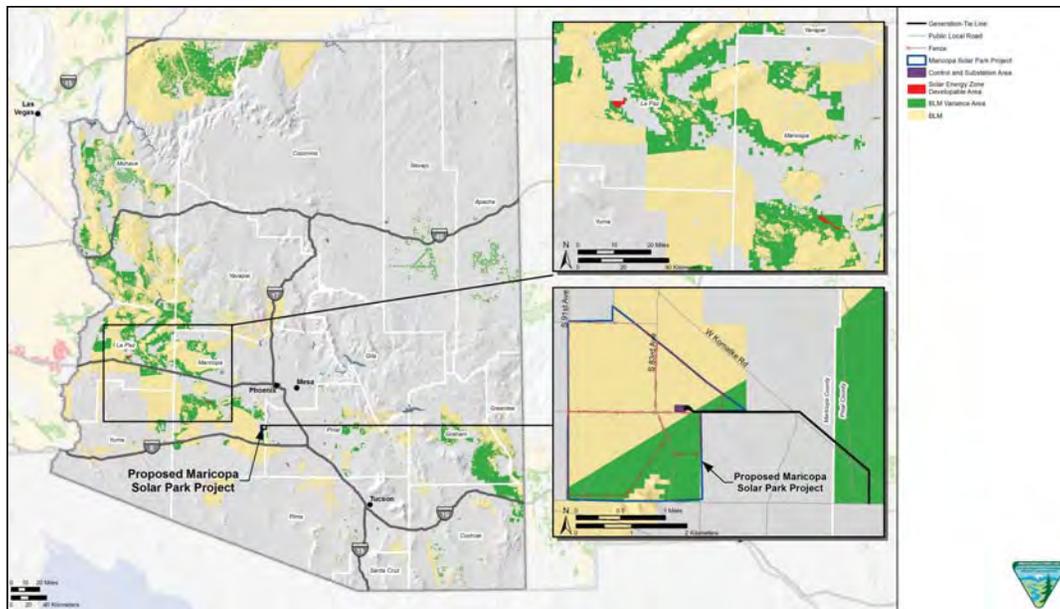
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In October 2012, the BLM signed its *Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/Record of Decision (ROD) for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States*, which implements a comprehensive Solar Energy Program to administer the development of utility-scale solar energy resources on BLM-administered public lands in six southwestern states.

The decision includes:

- Incorporation of land use allocations, and programmatic and Solar Energy Zone (SEZ)-specific design features into 89 BLM land use plans in the six-state study area.
- Identification of exclusion areas for utility-scale solar energy ROWs, priority areas for utility-scale solar energy ROWs (i.e., SEZs), and areas potentially available for utility-scale solar energy development outside of exclusion areas and SEZs (i.e., variance areas).



The Solar Programmatic EIS



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Variance Process

Lands outside of a Solar Energy Zone (SEZ), as designated in the Solar PEIS ROD, are considered variance lands. Developers proposing utility-scale solar energy development on variance lands must demonstrate to the BLM that the project would avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate effects on sensitive resources.

Marisol Energy 2, LLC has successfully completed the variance application process outlined in the Solar PEIS ROD:

- Marisol held pre-application meetings with the BLM and other Federal and local government agencies;
- Marisol held a public meeting in Maricopa, AZ in February 2013;
- Marisol submitted its variance application for consideration to the BLM Arizona State Office. The State Office then submitted the variance application to the BLM Washington Office for concurrence in May 2013. BLM Washington Office concurred with the Arizona State Office recommendation in June 2013.



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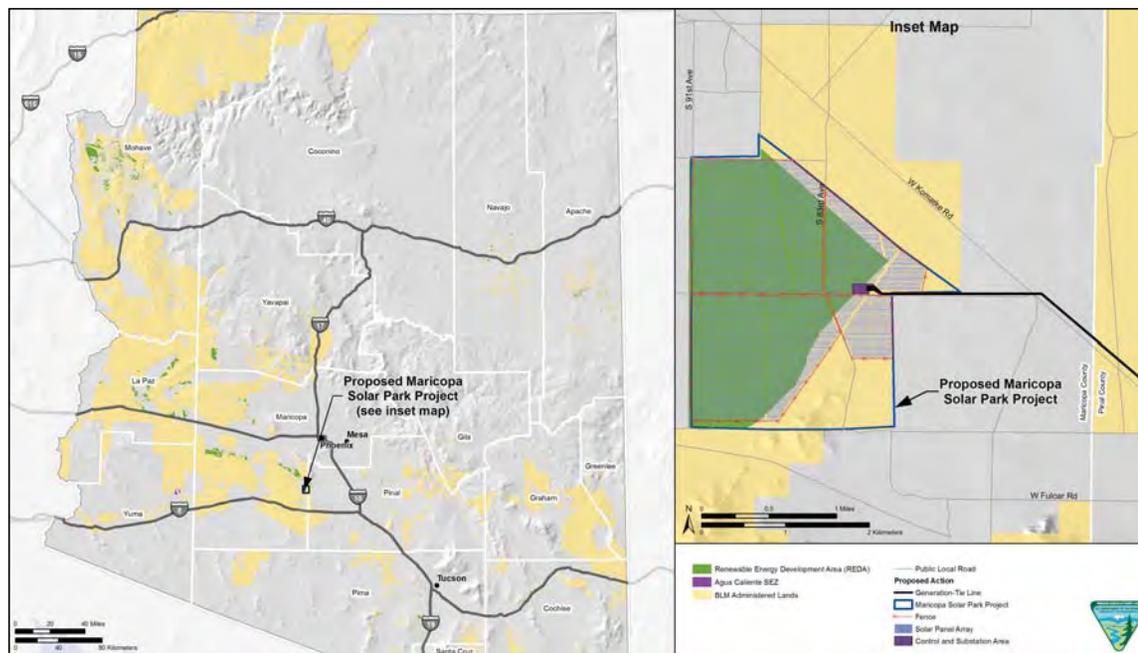


RDEP/ REDA

RDEP and REDA identification

The BLM Arizona published its *Restoration Design Energy Project (RDEP) Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments* in January 2013. The RDEP identifies and designates those lands with few known resource conflicts as Renewable Energy Development Areas (REDAs). The RDEP also tiers to the BLM's Solar Programmatic EIS and ROD (BLM 2012) by providing a more local level of analysis.

The Maricopa Solar Park Project falls within the "Mobile Proposed Disposal" REDA (site number 38) identified in the Arizona RDEP. The proposed project location is characterized by the presence of few natural resource and management conflicts, proximity to transmission lines, and proximity to known electrical load centers.



www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/arra_solar.html

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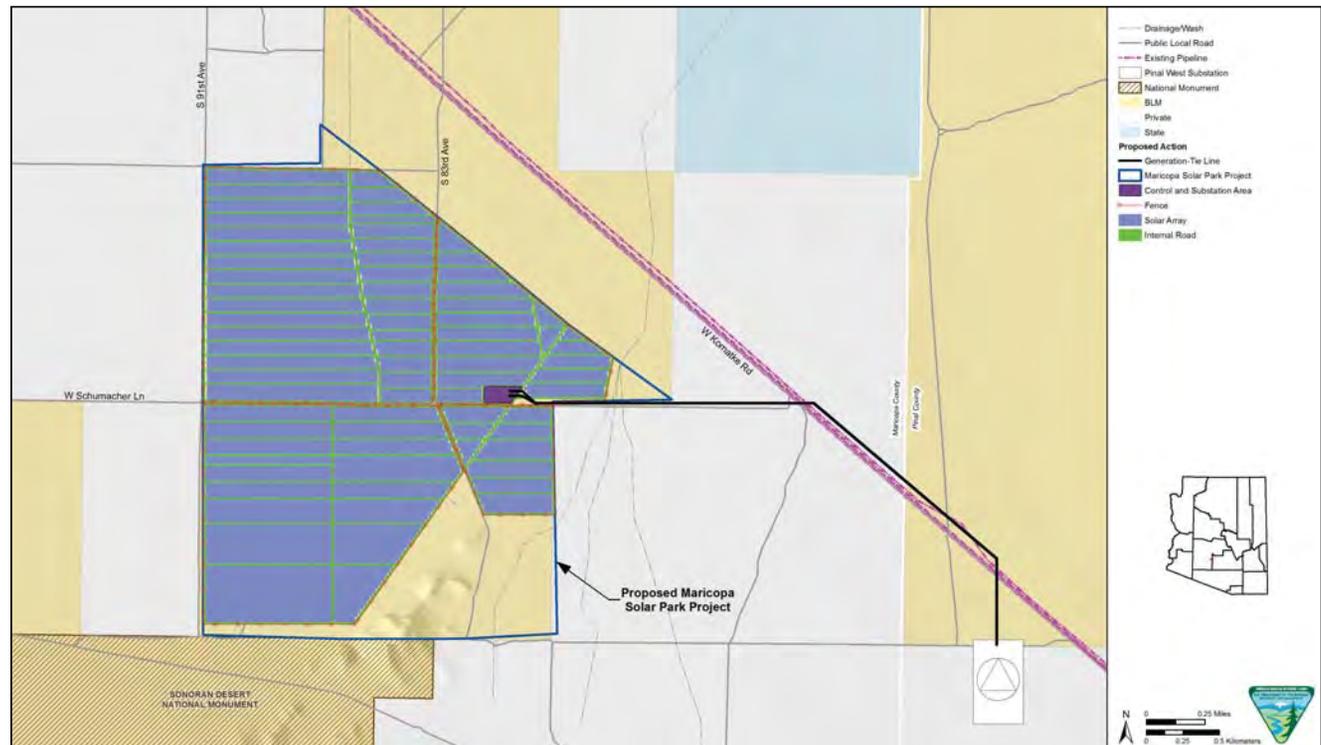


Maricopa Solar Park Proposed Action Project Description

- Approximately 1,730 acres of BLM managed public land
- Electrical generating facility with a nominal capacity of up to 300 megawatts (MW), based on the best available technology at the time of construction
- Photo-voltaic technology (PV)
- The projected water usage for operations is 5.4 acre/feet per year
- Up to two high-voltage overhead transmission lines, each approximately 2.3 miles in length
- Connects to the Pinal West substation
- ROW grant for 30 years



Proposed Action



www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/solar/maricopa-solar.html

Maricopa Solar Park Project



Preliminary Environmental Considerations

What will be Analyzed?

The agency must analyze the full range of direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed project and any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action will be considered.



Cultural Resources- Any object or specific location of past human activity, occupation, or use, identifiable through historical documentation.



Biological Resources- Plant and animal species in the project area with special emphasis on sensitive or protected species.



Recreation- Designated recreational uses (campgrounds, picnic areas, off-highway vehicle use) and nondesignated recreational uses (hunting, rock hounding).



Visual Resources and Noise- Refers to the scenic or visual quality and character of the landscape.

What is an Impact?

- An “impact” is a change or consequence that results from an activity.
- Impacts can be positive or negative, or both.
- An EIS describes effects, as well as ways to “mitigate” effects. To “mitigate” means to lessen or remove negative effects.



Land Use- Compatibility of project with designated land uses on BLM land and surrounding lands.



Socioeconomics- Evaluation of economic and social impacts of the project on local communities or populations.



Grazing- Impacts to lands designated as available or permitted for grazing of livestock.

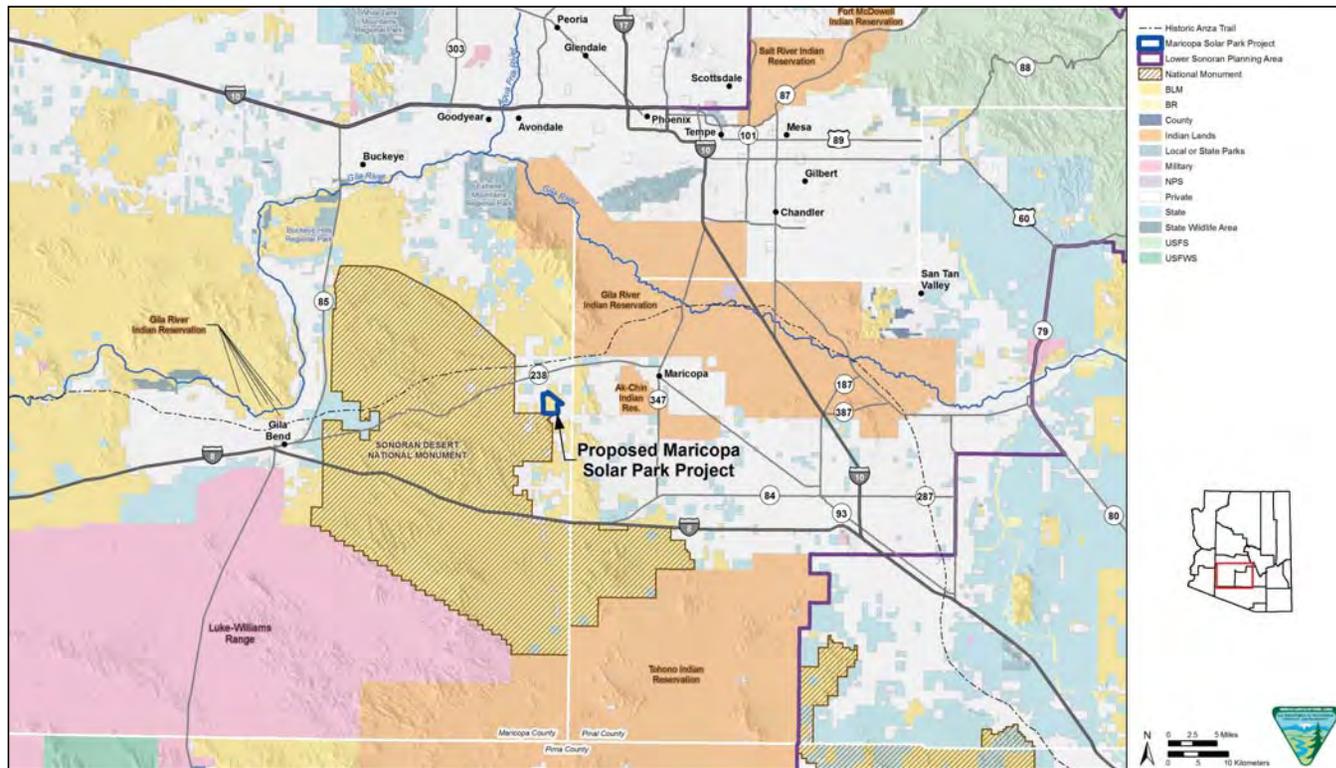


Water Resources- Surface and groundwater resources in the project area or regional area.

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Existing Features/ Land Ownership/ Communities Overview



Surrounding Project Area

The proposed Maricopa Solar Park Project is located in Mobile Valley, north of Interstate 8, east of the Sonoran Desert National Monument, and west of the Town of Maricopa in Maricopa County, Arizona, on lands within the BLM's Lower Sonoran Field Office.