

Maricopa Solar Park



Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Maricopa Solar Park Project

Arizona State Office

Phoenix District Office

Lower Sonoran Field Office



Bureau of Land Management

- Washington Office – Joe Incardine, National Project Manager
- Arizona State Office – Eddie Arreola, Supervisory Project Manager, RECO
- Arizona State Office – Lane Cowger, Project Manager, RECO
- Phoenix District Office – Mary D’Aversa, District Manager
- Lower Sonoran Field Office - Ed Kender, Field Manager

Agency Contractors

- SWCA – Greg Larson and Elisha Hornung
- Galileo Project – Meredith Griffin and Ellen Carr

Marisol Team - Proponent



Marisol Energy 2, LLC

- Clara Stabiumi – General Manager
- Izel van Rooy – Project Manager
- Daniele Ventura – Project Engineer



Proponent Contractors

- Copperstate Consulting – Ian Calkins

Purpose of Meeting



The purpose of this public scoping meeting is to:

- Describe the proposed project;
- Describe BLM's role;
- Describe the NEPA process for the environmental impact statement (EIS); and
- Receive your input on issues and concerns to be considered in the EIS.



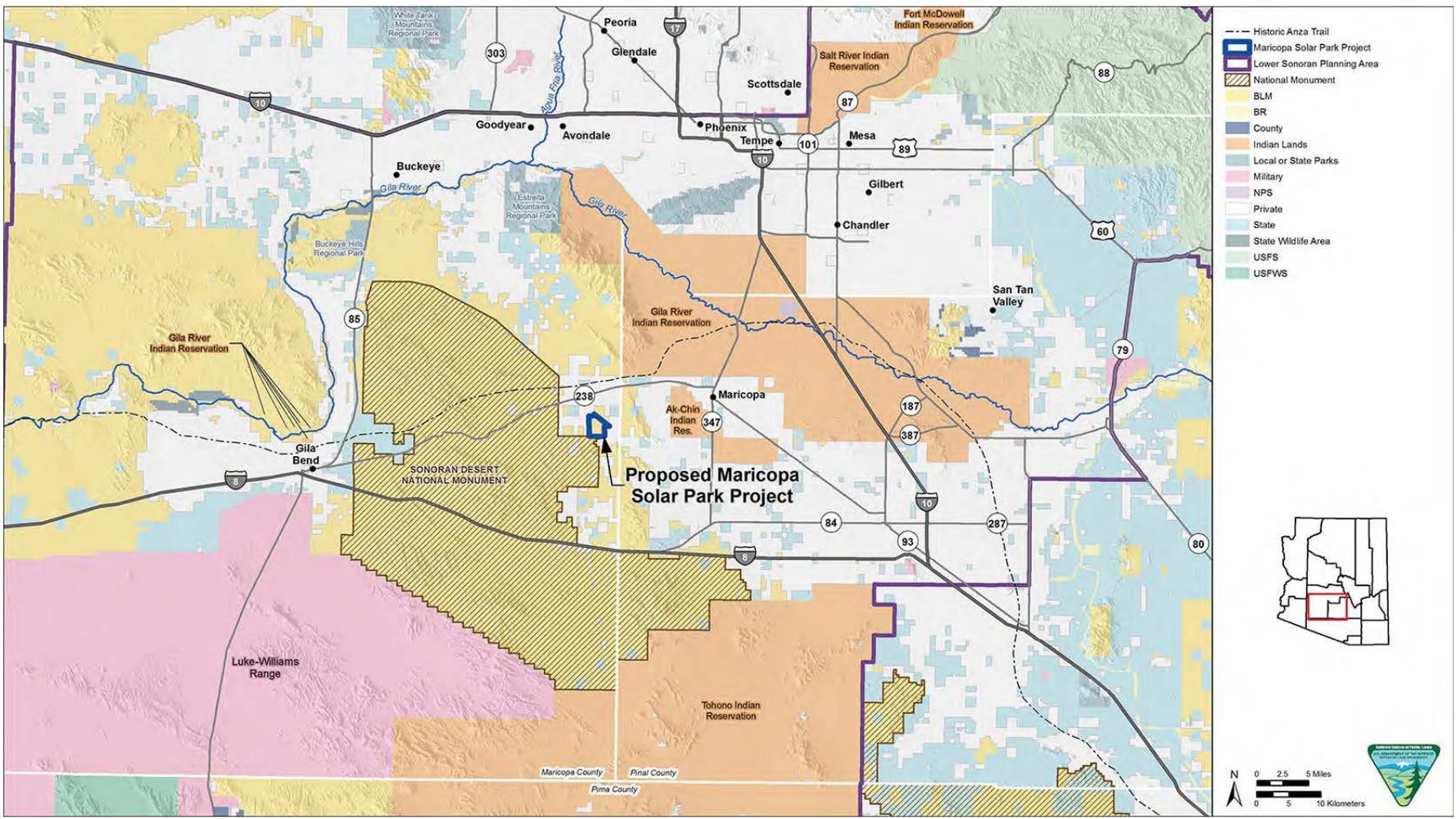
Proposed Project

Marisol submitted a right-of-way (ROW) application and initial Plan of Development (POD) to construct, operate, and maintain a photovoltaic solar power plant with a generating capacity of up to 300 megawatts, based on the best available technology at the time of construction.

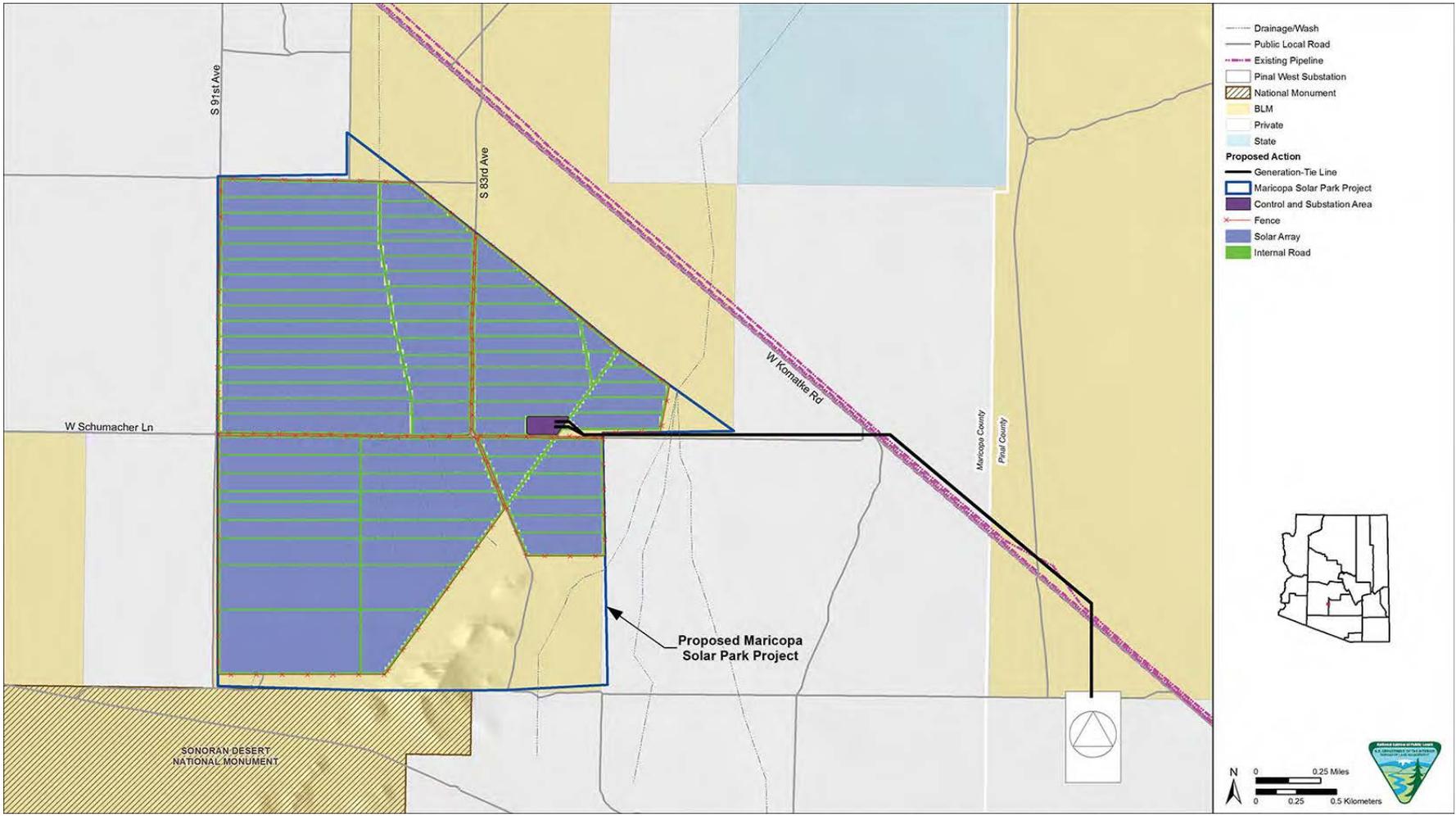


The proposed project would also include construction of one or two 2.3-mile, high voltage transmission line(s) connecting the project to the existing Pinal West Substation. The project would use approximately 5.4 acre-feet of water per year for facility operation. *(One acre foot of water is approximately equivalent to the water used by a family of 5 in one year.)*

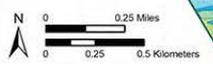
Regional Map



Proposed Action Map



- Drainage/Wash
- Public Local Road
- - - Existing Pipeline
- Pinal West Substation
- ▨ National Monument
- BLM
- Private
- State
- Proposed Action**
- Generation-Tie Line
- ▭ Maricopa Solar Park Project
- ▭ Control and Substation Area
- × Fence
- Solar Array
- Internal Road



NEPA (EIS Process)



➤ **National Environmental Policy Act (1969):**

- Requires Federal agencies to analyze and disclose impacts for major federal actions like commercial solar facilities and other utility scale renewable energy projects.

➤ **EIS analysis:**

- Describe existing environmental conditions.
- Identify key issues to focus analysis.
- Identify reasonable alternatives to consider and analyze.
- Identify environmental consequences/impacts of proposed projects and ways to avoid or reduce impacts (mitigations).
- Findings from EIS help decision-maker make informed decisions.

EIS Process



Right-of-Way Application NEPA Process



Potentially Affected Resources



The EIS will analyze the project area and identify impacts to the human environment and natural resources including:

➤ **Human Environment:**

- Human Health and Safety
- Socioeconomic Conditions and Environmental Justice
- Visual Resources
- Transportation
- Farmlands and Range Lands
- Land Use
- Cultural Resources

➤ **Natural Resources:**

- Air Quality and Climate Change
- Geological and Mineral Resources
- Paleontological
- Soils
- Special Designations
- Vegetation
- Water Resources
- Wildlife

Tiering



Existing Decisions for Tiering

- **Lower Sonoran RMP (2012)** – identified the project area as possibly suitable for solar development.
- **Arizona RDEP - *Restoration Design Energy Project* (2013)** – identified lands suitable for development of renewable energy; REDAs: few known resource conflicts.
 - Portion of project in the Mobile Proposed Disposal (site number 38)
 - Near substation , utility corridor and high solar resource value
- **Solar PEIS (2012)** – Established 17 priority areas for commercial-scale solar development in the West (Solar Energy Zones or “SEZs”); 2 SEZs identified in Arizona.
 - Proposal is outside of SEZs; but PEIS allows for Variance areas
 - Agency and Public meetings for Variance: May 2012 and February 2013
 - Variance for this proposal was approved June 2013

**Maricopa Solar Park Project EIS (starting) –
Site specific environmental analysis for subject proposed project.**

Scoping



➤ Scoping

- The process Federal agencies use in early stages of preparing an EIS to solicit input on issues and concerns.
- Public participation and input on the potential impacts and alternatives are encouraged.
- Informing the BLM on issues and concerns helps drive the agency's alternative formulation process.
- Public feedback and comments during scoping will be included in a summarized scoping report which will be used to develop the Draft EIS.

EIS Process



Right-of-Way Application NEPA Process



Project Milestones



Project Milestone Dates

NOI Publication

September 20, 2013

Scoping meetings

November 2013

Scoping comment period ends

December 4, 2013

Draft EIS

Winter 2014

Draft EIS Public Comment Period

45-days

Final EIS

Fall 2015

Record of Decision (ROD)

Winter 2015

How to be Involved



Tips for staying informed and providing comments:

- Sign up to be on the mailing list to receive notifications of project progress and upcoming meetings.
- Focus on the proposed project being analyzed.
- Provide potential 1) impacts and 2) alternatives to the Proposed Action.
- Submit your comments by the comment deadline – December 4, 2013.

How to Comment



- Oral or written comments for scoping
- Email: [BLM AZ Maricopasolar@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_AZ_Maricopasolar@blm.gov)
- Regular mail:
 - Proposed Maricopa Solar Park Project
 - ATTN: Lane Cowger
 - BLM Arizona State Office
 - One North Central Avenue, Suite 800
 - Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Next Steps



- Continued open house – opportunity to visit posters and ask questions
- Public Comment Period – ends **December 4, 2013**
- Draft EIS – Winter 2014 - additional public meetings following



For more information:

➤ Joe Incardine, BLM National Project Manager
(801)-539-4118

➤ Email: [BLM AZ Maricopasolar@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_AZ_Maricopasolar@blm.gov)

➤ Or visit the BLM project website:

<http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/solar/maricopa-solar.html>



Thanks for your participation!

Open House continues...