

# Silurian Valley Solar Project

San Bernardino County, California



**IBERDROLA  
RENEWABLES**

# U.S. Power Assets



## WIND PROJECTS

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- 1 - Klondike IIIa  
76.5 MW owned
- 2 - Hay Canyon  
100.8 MW owned
- 3 - Klondike  
24 MW owned
- 4 - Klondike III  
223.6 MW owned
- 5 - Star Point  
99 MW owned
- 6 - Klondike II  
75 MW owned
- 7 - Big Horn  
199.5 MW owned
- 8 - Big Horn II  
50 MW owned
- 9 - Juniper Canyon  
151.2 MW owned
- 10 - Pebble Springs  
98.7 MW owned
- 11 - Leaning Juniper II  
201.3 MW owned

- 1 - Buffalo Ridge  
50.4 MW owned
- 2 - Buffalo Ridge II  
210 MW owned
- 3 - MinnDakota  
150 MW owned
- 4 - Moraine  
51 MW owned
- 5 - Moraine II  
49.5 MW owned
- 6 - Elm Creek  
99 MW owned
- 7 - Elm Creek II  
148.8 MW owned
- 8 - Trimont  
101 MW owned
- 9 - Flying Cloud  
43.5 MW owned
- 10 - Winnebago  
20 MW owned
- 11 - Top of Iowa II  
80 MW owned
- 12 - Barton  
160 MW owned
- 13 - New Harvest  
100 MW owned

- Maple Ridge II  
45.4 MW owned  
(91 MW project)
- Groton  
48 MW owned
- Lempster  
24 MW owned
- Hoosac  
28.5 MW owned
- Locust Ridge  
26 MW owned
- Locust Ridge II  
102 MW owned
- Casselman  
34.5 MW owned
- South Chestnut  
48 MW owned
- Blue Creek  
304 MW owned



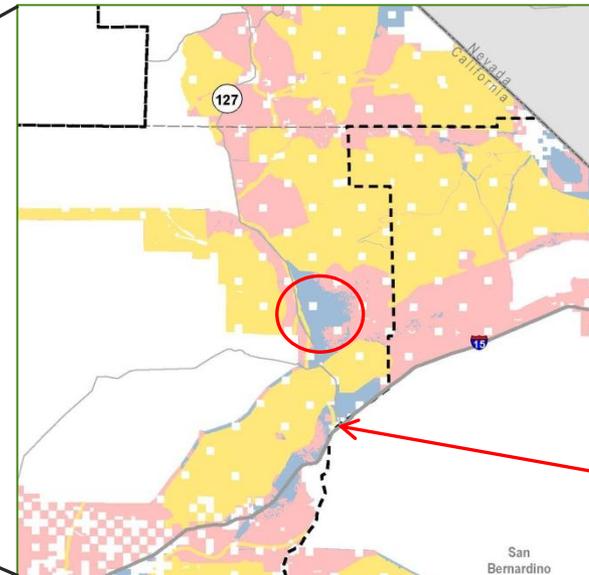
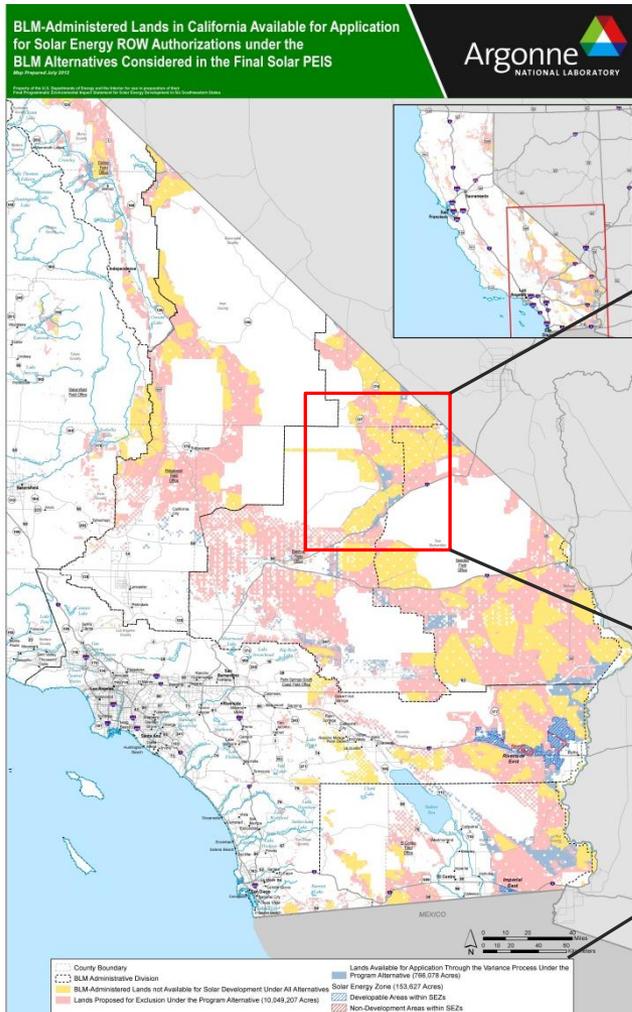
- Wind generation
- Gas-fired thermal generation
- Biomass generation
- Solar generation

Assets owned by Iberdrola Renewables, LLC, except where noted as a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)

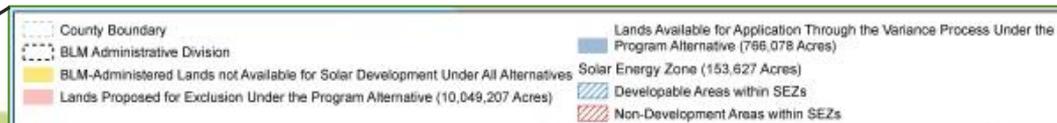
## Community Benefits

- Up to 300 jobs during construction
- Hundreds of supply chain jobs (manufacturing)
- 10-12 permanent employees during operations
- Approximately 60,000 homes will be powered with clean energy from the project

# BLM Solar Energy Zones and Variance Areas

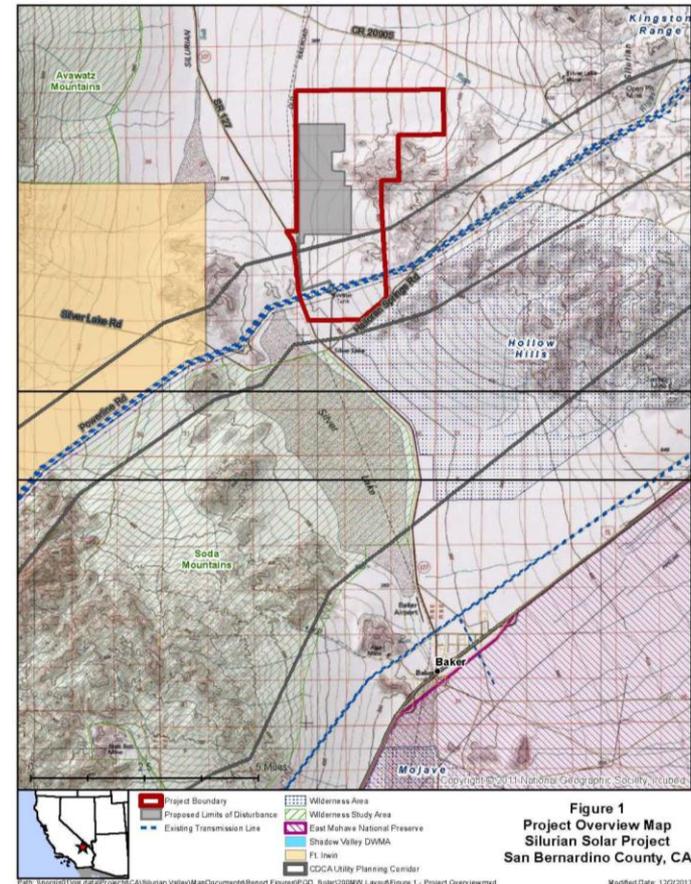


Approximate location of Silurian Valley

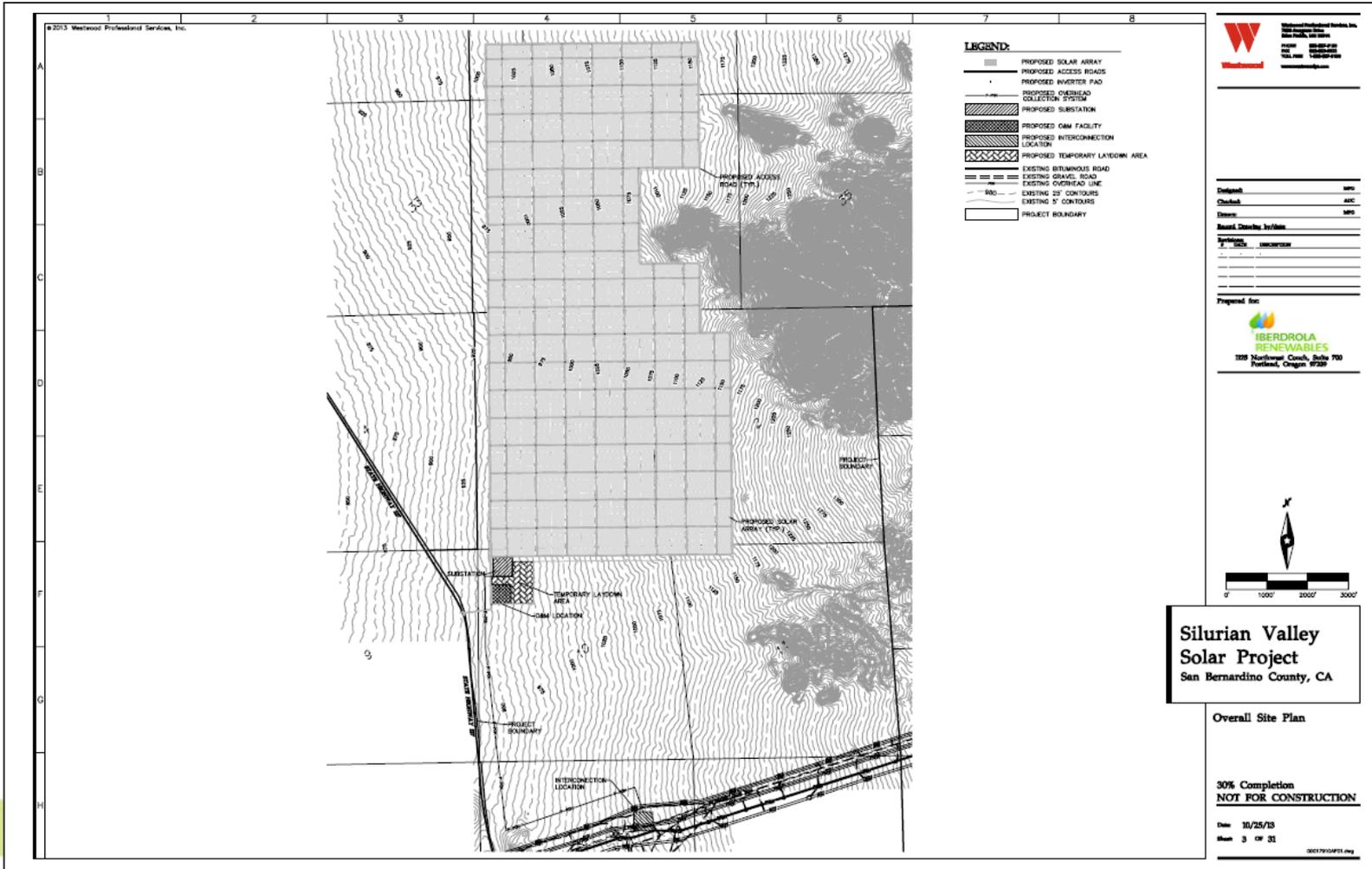


# Solar Project Location and Layout

- Up to 200 MW of energy using PV technology
- Located 100% on Bureau of Land Management property on approximately 7,200 acres of land
- Project boundary will be reduced after project completion
- POI is LADWP's 287kV transmission line, located approximately 1 mile south of the project; Feasibility Study with LADWP is in process
- Almost two years of environmental studies have been completed



# Preliminary Project Layout



## Variance Process Factors

- BLM designated Solar Energy Zones (SEZ)
  - Variance Areas are designed to evaluate projects that cannot fit into an existing SEZ
  - Reviewed several other locations in designated SEZ's; all were rejected based on a variety of reasons, such as:
    - The lands already encumbered by existing applications.
    - Access to transmission, and lines with capacity are unknown and have a long lead time.
    - The BLM Solar PEIS assessment found that Silurian Valley contains both conservation and renewable energy development value such that it was categorized under the variance process, to be evaluated in a more focused, case-by-case basis; hence, the reason for today's meeting.
- Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)
  - DRECP states that projects with pending applications will continue to be processed through the existing permitting processes of the permitting agencies.
  - While certain offices/agencies would like projects to conform to the DRECP, the DRECP is still in draft form and has not been issued.

## Variance Process Factors

- The Project is consistent with priority conservation, restoration, and/or adaptation objectives
  - In 1990, the BLM included Silurian Valley in a Statewide Wilderness Study Report. This report evaluated Silurian Valley as a potential Wilderness Area. The report concluded that:

*“The general lack of wilderness values was the primary reason for the non-suitable recommendation. If designated, this area would come nowhere close to meeting the caliber of other wilderness areas already within the National Wilderness Preservation System.”*
  - The CA Department of Fish and Wildlife ACE-II depict the project area as “low” for Statewide Biological Richness Overview, and not in an Essential Habitat Connectivity Area, nor a Rare Natural Community.
  - Western Governor’s Association (WGA) Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT) shows an overlay of areas ranked from 1-6 (1 being the highest and 6 the lowest) based on their likelihood to provide natural resources. The online tool shows this area is a level 4.
  - The project is adjacent to Wilderness Areas, but the project’s footprint is located on land that are neither designated, donated, or acquired for conservation or mitigation purposes.

## Variance Process Factors

- The Project can meet programmatic design features, as defined by the BLM
  - The Silurian Valley Plan of Development (POD), dated October 2013, outlines the proposed project, design features, 30% preliminary engineering designs, and outlines the necessary plans that will be created and implemented, as required by the BLM (i.e. the Revegetation Plan, Fire Protection Plan, Waste Management Plan, etc.).
- The proposed Project is in an area with low or comparatively low resource conflicts
  - At the direction of the BLM, Aurora Solar has performed several years of environmental studies (due diligence) to ascertain whether there are any potential environmental conflicts that cannot be mitigated. At this time, preliminary studies show evidence that there will be low resource conflicts.
  - Additional studies may be necessary after the scoping process during NEPA.

## Studies Completed to Date

- Sensitive Plants
- Desert Tortoise
- General Avian
- Golden Eagle
- Burrowing Owl
- Bats (Acoustic and Visual)
- Desert Big Horn Sheep
- Cultural Resources (Class III)



To date, the study results do not indicate any fatal flaws that cannot be mitigated through the NEPA process

## Variance Process Factors

- Project is located near previously contaminated or disturbed lands
  - Area is currently used by off road vehicles and hikers, and evidence of shooting has been found.
  - The project will utilize existing BLM designated ‘open roads’ as much as possible to reduce impacts.
  - The Film Industry uses lands nearby for music videos and commercials, which include extensive pyrotechnics.
  - Two mile wide, Congressionally Designated Boulder Transmission Line Corridor.
  - However, there are no known disturbed lands within the project’s footprint.

# Variance Process Factors

- Coordination with state and local governments, agencies, key stakeholders
  - County of San Bernardino: Land Use Services Department, County Supervisors, San Bernardino County Fire
  - Department of Defense, Military Installations (Fort Irwin)
  - US Fish & Wildlife
  - National Park Service: Mojave National Preserve, Death Valley
  - Caltrans
  - CA State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
  - Mojave Desert Land Trust
  - Mojave River Valley Museum
  - Mojave Desert Historical and Cultural Association
  - Defenders of Wildlife, Sierra Club, Audubon California, Natural Resources Defense Council, The Wilderness Society, California Native Plant Society, Center for Biological Diversity

**And now, today's public meeting, designed to answer your questions and listen to your comments and concerns.**

## Additional Information

Experts here to answer questions:

- Dr. Pauline Roberts, Sapphos Environmental, Biology
- Diane Winslow, ASM Affiliates, Cultural Resources
- Mark Mullen, Iberdrola Renewables, Engineering and Technical Services
- Kristen Goland, Iberdrola Renewables, Permitting
- Amy Parsons, Iberdrola Renewables, Permitting

# Thank you

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