

## 5.0 Consultation and Coordination

### 5.1 Public Participation Summary

#### 5.1.1 Public Scoping Period

The Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Lucerne Valley Solar Project EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on Thursday, July 23, 2009 (Vol. 74, No. 140, page 36,504). A copy of this NOI is included in Appendix A of the this *Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Public Scoping Summary Report, October 9, 2009* (BLM 2009). On July 14, 2009 BLM issued a press release to announce the beginning of the public scoping process and provide information about the time and location of the scoping meetings. The public was provided a 30-day scoping period at the beginning of the EIS process to identify potential issues and concerns associated with the proposed project.

#### 5.1.2 Scoping Meetings

The BLM held two public scoping meetings near the proposed project location, as follows:

- Lucerne Valley, California, on July 29, 2009, and
- San Bernardino, California, on July 30, 2009.

On July 24, 2009, a press release announced a change in the public meeting location for the July 29 public scoping meeting, from Lucerne Valley Community Center, 33187 Highway 247, to the Lucerne Valley Elementary School, 10788 Barstow Road, Lucerne Valley. The original press release announcing the meetings and the press release announcing a change in the public meeting location were attached to the Scoping Summary Report as appendices (BLM 2009). Outreach meetings were conducted by CES and the BLM with local residents, businesses, and San Bernardino County First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt to discuss the project.

An open house was held for half an hour prior to each meeting so that participants could review displays, maps, and literature, as well as to meet members of the EIS team, BLM staff, and CES personnel. This also allowed the participants to discuss issues directly and to ask questions. To encourage public comment, repositories were provided for the public to deposit written comments. Each scoping meeting began with a presentation by the BLM describing its role as lead agency to administer the NEPA process. Then CES provided an overview of the technical aspects of the project, including a detailed presentation of the project. Lastly, the environmental consulting firm preparing the EIS described its role as third-party consultant, described opportunities for public involvement, and provided an overview of the environmental issues already identified to be addressed.

Each meeting concluded with a public comment period, where the BLM invited the public to provide verbal comments on the project. A court reporter recorded the two public scoping meetings and prepared transcripts of presentations and public comments and a list of persons commenting. Copies of the meeting transcripts were included as Appendices C and D of the Scoping Summary Report (BLM 2009). In addition to having the opportunity to provide verbal comments at the scoping meeting, participants were given the opportunity at the meetings to provide written comments or to take a comment form to fill out and mail in at a later date. All

meeting materials also contained a project-specific e-mail address to facilitate collection of electronic comments.

Attendees at the scoping meetings were provided with handouts describing the proposed project as well as the NEPA process. Comment forms were also provided to all attendees to facilitate submission of written scoping comments. The public was given the option to provide comments during the meeting, using regular mail or e-mail. Attendees of the meetings were encouraged to take additional comment forms with them.

The BLM also used the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the NHPA (16 USC, Section 470f), as provided for in 36 CFR, Part 800.2(d)(3).

### **5.1.3 Scoping Response**

Seventy-eight people attended the Lucerne Valley scoping meeting, and 13 people provided verbal comments. Seven people attended the San Bernardino scoping meeting, and two people provided verbal comments. In addition to verbal comments received during these scoping meetings, the BLM received a total of 40 comment letters or e-mails, including five from government agencies, two from nongovernmental organizations, one from CES, and 32 from private citizens by the August 22, 2009, deadline; these comments were contained in Appendix G of the Scoping Summary Report (BLM 2009).

### **5.1.4 EIS Mailing List**

An EIS mailing list of interested persons was initially assembled from agencies, organizations, and other persons who expressed interest in being added to the mailing list during and after scoping. The mailing list for the proposed project was revised to add those persons who provided comments in response to scoping, who requested to be on the mailing list, or who signed a scoping meeting attendance list. Respondents who provided more than one comment letter were listed only once in the mailing list. Additional parties that commented on the Draft EIS were also added to the mailing list.

### **5.1.5 Distribution of the Draft EIS**

The Draft EIS review period was initiated by publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIS in the Federal Register. Interested parties identified in the updated EIS mailing list were notified of the publication of the Draft EIS. Hard copies or electronic copies on CD were provided to those who requested them. Electronic copies were available for downloading from the BLM's Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow.html>. Additional copies of the Draft EIS were made available for public inspection at the BLM California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, California, the Apple Valley Public Library (Newton T. Bass Branch, 14901 Dale Evans Parkway, Apple Valley, CA 92307), and at the Lucerne Valley Public Library (Janice Horst Branch, 33103 Old Woman Springs Road, Lucerne Valley, CA 92356).

The Draft EIS was distributed as follows:

- A NOA was published in the *Federal Register* on February 5, 2010 (Vol. 75, No. 24 pp. 6057-6058) specifying dates for the comment period. A news release (No. CA-CDD-10-32) announcing the availability of the Lucerne Valley Solar Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Plan Amendment for public review was provided

by the BLM on February 5, 2010, at the beginning of the comment period on the Draft EIS. The press release identified that a public comment meeting would be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the Lucerne Valley Elementary School, 10788 Barstow Road, Lucerne Valley, California. It also noted that the 90-day public comment period would end on May 13, 2010. The news release was submitted to the same news organizations as for the initial public scoping announcement;

- The Draft EIS was distributed to interested parties identified in the updated EIS mailing list, as described above, and also made available via the Internet; and
- The BLM provided an additional news release (No. CA-CDD-10-37) on February 19, 2010, announcing that the comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Plan Amendment for the proposed Chevron Energy Solution's Lucerne Valley Solar Project in San Bernardino County had been extended to May 19, 2010. EPA's Notice of Availability was published in the *Federal Register* on February 19, 2010.

### **5.1.6 Final EIS Preparation and Distribution**

Letters and oral comments received on the Draft EIS were reviewed and evaluated. Responses were prepared for substantive comments, and modifications or corrections were made to the EIS as determined necessary in response to these comments. Copies of these comments, along with responses to them, are included in Appendices M and N in this Final EIS. A 30-day Final EIS availability period will be initiated by publication of the NOA for the Final EIS in the *Federal Register*. The Final EIS will be sent to those who request copies and will be made available via the Internet. A news release will be issued to the same newspapers used for previous project announcements.

### **5.1.7 Record of Decision**

Subsequent to the 30-day availability period for the Final EIS, the BLM will prepare a ROD. The BLM ROD will be distributed to individuals and organizations as requested and posted on the Internet. A news release will be made to the same newspapers used for previous project announcements.

## **5.2 Consultation with Others**

During the planning process for this Lucerne Valley Solar Project Final EIS, the BLM made formal and informal efforts to consult and coordinate with other federal agencies, state and local governments, Indian tribes, and the interested public, in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, FLPMA, and all applicable CEQ and DOI regulations, policies, and procedures. NEPA, FLPMA, and applicable regulations and policy require that all federal agencies involve the interested general public in their decision making, consider reasonable alternatives to the preferred alternative/proposed action, and prepare environmental documents that disclose the potential impacts of the preferred alternative/proposed action and any action alternatives. The following sections of this chapter describe the public involvement, consultation, and coordination process undertaken to prepare this Final EIS.

### **5.2.1 Federal, State, and Local Agencies**

The following state, federal, and local agencies were consulted during preparation of the EIS:

- Department of Defense;
- Department of Energy;
- USFWS;
- California State Historic Preservation Office;
- CDFG;
- County of San Bernardino;
- Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association;
- Town of Apple Valley; and
- US EPA.

### **5.2.2 Non-Governmental Organizations**

The following non-governmental organizations also provided comments during the public scoping period:

- California Desert Coalition;
- California Wilderness Coalition;
- Defenders of Wildlife;
- Desert Protective Council;
- Mojave Desert Land Trust;
- Natural Resources Defense Council;
- Partnership for Johnson Valley;
- Sierra Club;
- Sierra Club Desert Committee Energy Committee;
- The Audubon Society;
- The Nature Conservancy;
- The Wilderness Society; and
- The Wildlands Conservancy.

### 5.2.3 Native American Tribes

The following Native American tribes were given notice of preparation of the EIS:

- Morongo Band of Mission Indians;
- San Fernando Band of Mission Indians;
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians;
- Serrano Nation of Indians;
- Chemehuevi Reservation; and
- Twentynine Palms Band of Mission Indians

The BLM initially invited Indian Tribes to consult on this project by letter in May of 2009. Letters were sent to Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Chemehuevi, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Serrano Band of Indians, Soboba Band of Mission Indians, and Twenty-nine Palms Band of Mission Indians. Additionally, consultation efforts also included follow-up letters and copies of the accepted cultural report in September 2009. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians requested face to face consultation on all fast tracked energy projects within Barstow Field Office Jurisdiction. A face to face meeting was held on December 4, 2009, at the San Manuel Reservation with Ann Brierty, Cultural Resources Field Manager, Policy and Cultural Resources Management, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. After discussion it was determined that there were no concerns with this project.

The goals of tribal contact and consultation for the proposed project were to notify tribal authorities of the BLM's intent to prepare an EIS for the ROW application, to identify tribal organizations that may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties within the proposed project area, and to document traditional values associated with these types of properties, in accordance with various federal environmental laws.

## 6.0 List of Contributors

The following individuals participated in the preparation of this EIS:

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## 7.0 Acronyms

AB	Assembly Bill
AC	alternating current
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ADT	average daily traffic
AHPA	Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978
amsl	above mean sea level
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979
ATVs	all-terrain vehicles
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BLM S	BLM Sensitive Species
BM	biological monitor
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BO	Biological Opinion
BP	Before Present
BWh	dry-hot desert
°C	degrees Celsius
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
Cal/OSHA	California Occupational Safety and Health Agency
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CALFIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CAT	California Climate Action Team
CBC	California Building Code
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDCA	California Desert Conservation Area
CDD	California Desert District
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CES	Chevron Energy Solution
CESA	Cumulative Effects Study Area
CFP	California Fully Protected
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CGS	California Geological Survey
CH <sub>4</sub>	methane
cm	centimeter
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide
CO <sub>2</sub> e	CO <sub>2</sub> equivalence
CSC	California Species of Special Concern
CSP	concentrating solar power

CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agency
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	decibel
dBA	A-Weighted Sound Level
DC	direct current
DCP	dust control plan
DEIS	Draft EIS
DOE	Department of Energy
DOI	Department of the Interior
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
DWMA	Desert Wildlife Management Area
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
ECSZ	Eastern California Shear Zone
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPAct	Energy Policy Act
ESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
FEIS	Final EIS
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FP	Federally Protected
FT	Federally Threatened
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GHG	greenhouse gas
GWP	global warming potential
H <sub>2</sub> S	hydrogen sulfide
HEC-RAS	Hydrologic Engineering Centers River Analysis System
HFCs	hydrofluorocarbons
HWCL	California Hazardous Waste Control Law
Hz	hertz
I	Interstate
IM	Instruction Memorandum
IMPLAN	Impact Analysis for Planning, Inc., model
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPD-GDP	Implicit Price Deflator-Gross Domestic Product
KOPs	key observation points
kV	kilovolt
kVA	kilovolt ampere
L <sub>dn</sub>	Day-Night Level
L <sub>eq</sub>	sound level equivalent
L <sub>max</sub>	maximum sound exposure level
LOS	level of service
LVCP	Lucerne Valley Community Plan
LVEDA	Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association
LVUSD	Lucerne Valley Unified School District
M	magnitude
MDAB	Mojave Desert Air Basin
MDAQMD	Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District
MDPA	Mojave Desert Planning Area

MMT	million metric tons
MMTCO <sub>2</sub> e	million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents
MSA	metropolitan statistical area
MUC	multiple use class
MW	megawatt
N <sub>2</sub> O	nitrous oxide
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAAs	Non-attainment Areas
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NAICS	North American Industry Classification System
NEC	National Electrical Code
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NGO	Nongovernment Organization
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NLCS	National Landscape Conservation System
NO <sub>2</sub>	nitrogen dioxide
NO <sub>x</sub>	oxides of nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWSRS	National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
O&M	operations and maintenance
O <sub>3</sub>	ozone
OES	California Office of Emergency Services
OHV	off-highway vehicle
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Pb	lead
PFCs	perfluorocarbons
PGA	peak ground acceleration
PILT	payments in lieu of taxes
ppm	parts per million
PM <sub>10</sub>	particulate matter of 10 microns in diameter or less
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	particulate matter 2.5 microns in diameter
POD	Plan of Development
PV	photovoltaic
RACM	Reasonably Available Control Measures
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
ROD	Record of Decision
ROW	right-of-way
RPLI	Regional Paleontologic Locality Inventory
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SBCSD	San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCE	Southern California Edison
SF <sub>6</sub>	sulfur hexafluoride
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SLF	Sacred Lands File

SLRU	Sensitivity Level Rating Units
SMA	Special Management Area
SO <sub>2</sub>	sulfur dioxide
SQRU	Scenic Quality Rating Units
SR	State Route
ST	State Threatened
STATSGO	State Soil Geographic database
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VdB	vibration velocity level in decibels
VOCs	volatile organic compounds
VRI	Visual Resource Inventory
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WEMO	West Mojave
WIU	wilderness inventory unit
WRCC	Western Regional Climate Center
ZCTA	zip code tabulation area

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