

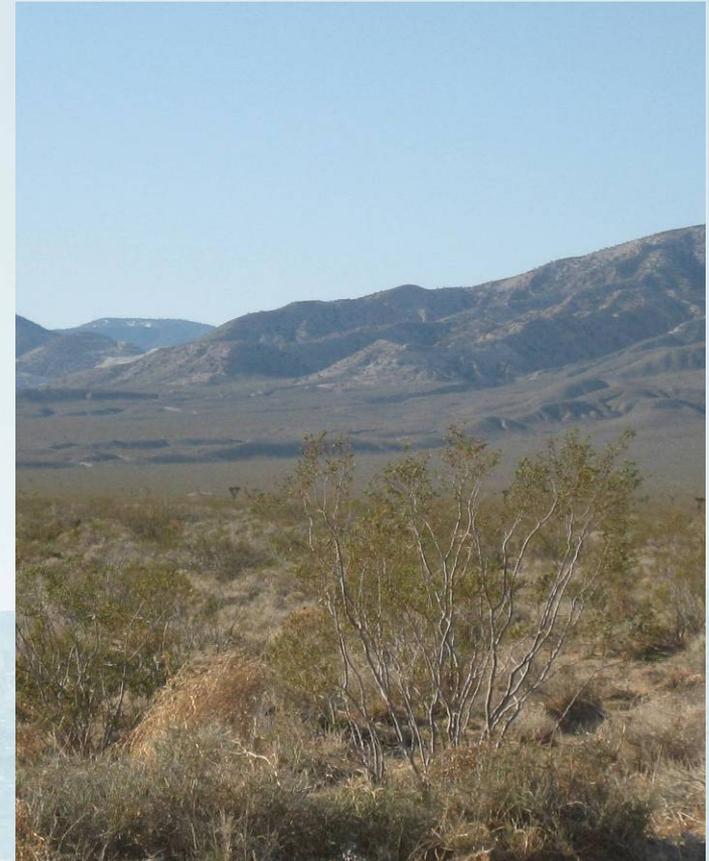
# **Lucerne Valley Solar Project Draft EIS/CDCA Plan Amendment**

**Public Comment Meeting  
March 9, 2010**



# Agenda

- 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. **Open House Presentation**
- 7:00 – 7:20 p.m.
  - Welcome
  - Introductions
  - Project Overview
  - Meeting Purpose
  - Draft EIS Findings
  - Next Steps
- 7:20 – 8:30 p.m. **Public Comment**
  - Closing Remarks



# Who Are We?

- **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**
  - **Roxie Trost**, Barstow Field Office Manager
  - **Greg Thomsen**, Program Manager, California Desert District Office
- **Chevron Energy Solutions**
  - **Ram Ambatipudi**, Sr. Business Development Manager
- **Ecology and Environment, Inc.**
  - **Christina Willis**, third party consultant on behalf of BLM



# Project Overview

## Purpose and Need

- Consider right-of-way (ROW) to construct project
- Consider California Desert Conservation Area Plan (CDCA Plan) Amendment
- Consider provisions of Energy Policy Act of 2005 and various departmental policies



# Chevron Energy Solutions: Efficiency, Reliability, Renewable Power



Lighting  
& HVAC



Energy  
Controls



Solar



Fuel Cells



Biomass



Cogeneration



# Chevron – Key Facts

## – Chevron in California

- Major economic contributor to California and headquartered in the state
- Employs 10,000 people directly and nearly 60,000 people indirectly; equates to 1 in 250 jobs in the state
- Spent \$1.8 billion with small businesses since 2007, including 40% women- and minority-owned

## – Chevron Energy Solutions (CES)

- Leading sustainable energy services company providing energy efficiency, renewable power and energy reliability projects
- Largest installer of solar PV systems for public institutions in California, with over 25 MW installed



# Location of the Lucerne Valley Solar Project



# Project Statistics

- Phased, 45 MW solar photovoltaic plant
  - 516 acres of BLM land
  - Interconnects with SCE 33 kV system
- 20 MW First Phase
  - Start construction Q4 2010
  - \$100 million project, \$20 million+ local content
  - Peak construction workforce of 40 workers
  - Permanent work force of 2 workers



# Why Are We Here?

- BLM has prepared a Draft EIS/Draft CDCA Plan Amendment
- Present Findings of Draft EIS/Draft CDCA Plan Amendment
- Allow the public to provide BLM comments and concerns about the project and the analysis
- We want your comments



# What's in the Draft EIS/ Draft CDCA Plan Amendment?

- **Describes BLM's Purpose and Need & CES' Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action**
- **Analyzes**
  - Project Alternatives
  - Short and Long term impacts;
  - Direct and Indirect, Cumulative and Residual impacts
- **Identifies potential environmental impacts and mitigation**
- **Describes how public concerns were treated in the analysis**
- **Identifies the Preferred Alternative**



# Scoping Comments

- **Scoping Comments Received**
  - 85 Attended Scoping Meetings
  - 15 Verbal Comments
  - 40 letters or emails
- **Use to form the Scope of the EIS Analysis**
- **Development of Alternatives**
- **Used to modify design of the project**
- **Majority of Comments Received**
  - Aesthetics/Visual
  - Air Quality
  - Biological Resources
  - Cultural Resources
  - Cumulative Impacts
  - Project Alternatives



# Summary of Alternatives

- **Alternative 1: No Action/No Plan Amendment**
- **Alternative 2: No Action w. Plan Amendment**
- **Alternative 3: CES Proposal**
- **Alternative 4: Modified Site Layout**
- **Alternative 5: Smaller Project Alternative**



# No Action Alternatives- Alternatives 1 and 2

- **Alternative 1 – No Action/No CDCA Plan Amendment**

- ROW application is denied;
- Solar Plant would not be constructed;
- CDCA Plan would not be amended;
- Current management of the site would be maintained

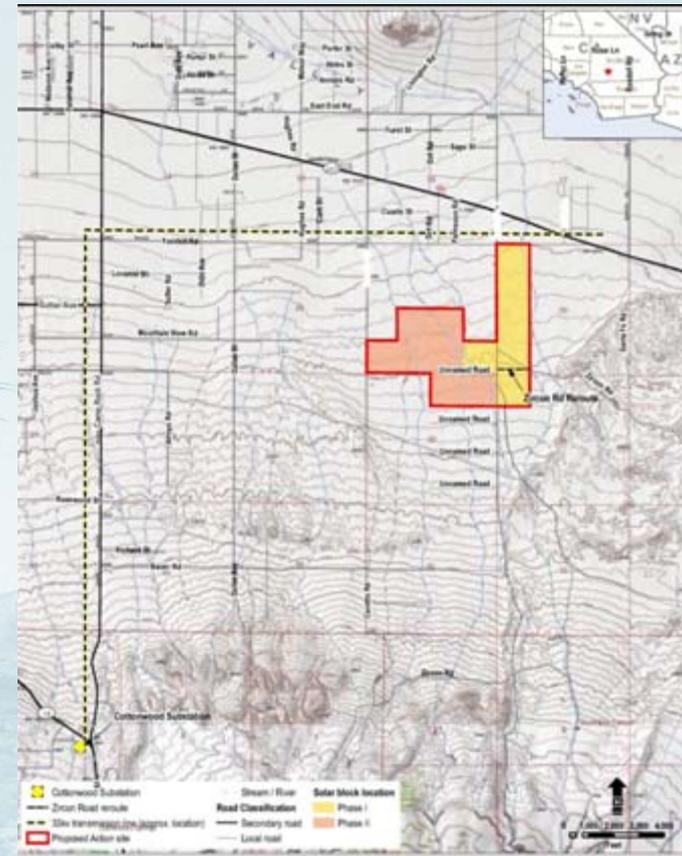
- **Alternative 2 – No Action w. CDCA Plan Amendment**

- ROW application is denied;
- Solar Plant would not be constructed;
- CDCA Plan would be amended to “Classify the ROW as either “suitable” or “unsuitable” for large-scale solar development”



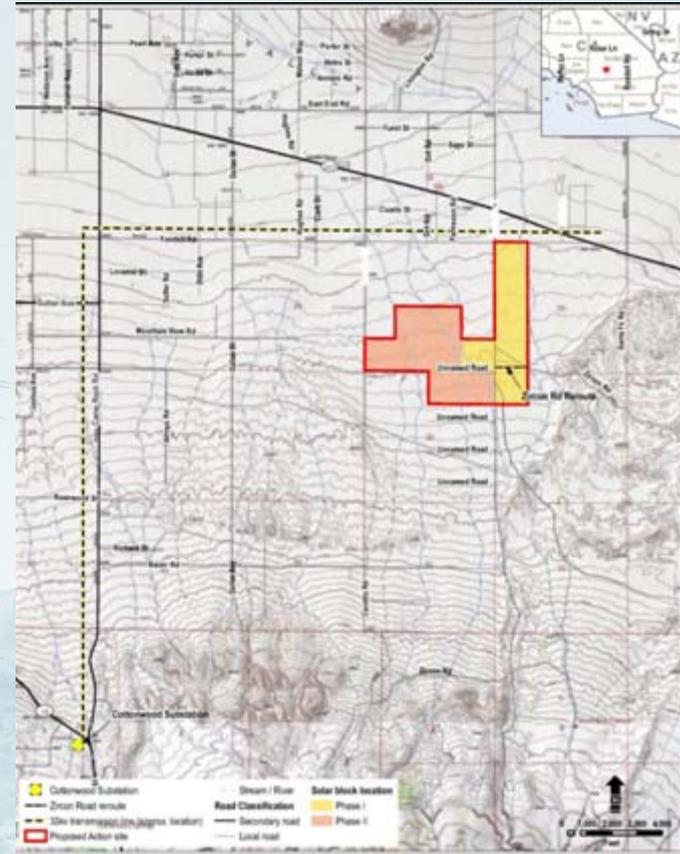
# Alternative 3 – CES Proposed Action

- **45-MW PV Solar Power Plant**
  - Phase I: 20 MW
  - Phase II: 25 MW
- **Road Improvements**
  - Reroutes portion of Zircon Road
  - Compaction; adding 4” - 6” of gravel; grading for realigned portion of Zircon Road.
- **CDCA Plan amendment - designate ROW (516 ac) as “suitable” for solar energy generation**



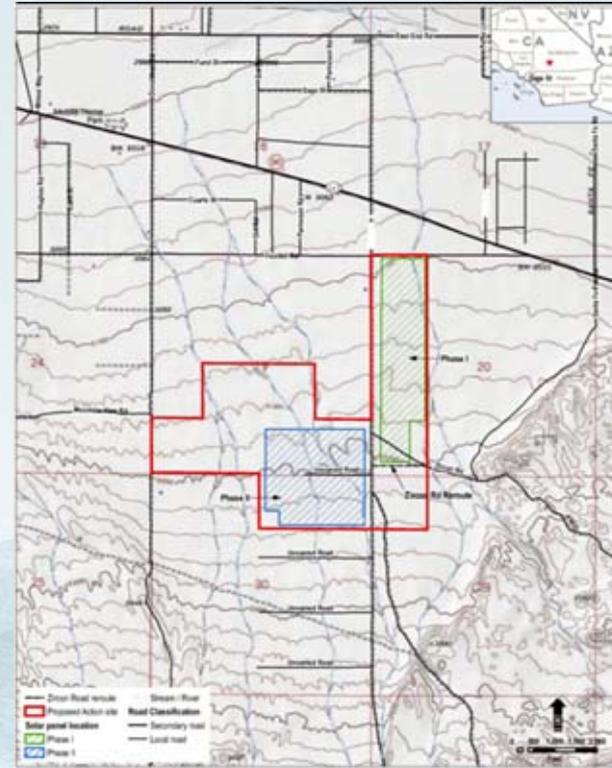
# Alternative 4 – Modified Site Layout

- **Same as Alternative 3**
  - 50-foot setback from Santa Fe Fire Road;
  - Use natural vegetation as a screen;
  - Design site drainage to provide a water source for vegetative screen
- **Road Improvements similar to Alternative 3 (CES Proposal)**
  - Reroutes portion of Zircon Road
  - Compaction; adding 4” to 6” of gravel; grading for the realigned portion of Zircon Road.
- **CDCA Plan amendment - designate ROW (422 ac.) as “suitable” for solar energy**



# Alternative 5 – Smaller Project Alternative

- **30 MW PV Solar Project**
  - Phase I: 20 MW
  - Phase II: 10 MW
- **Road Improvements similar to Alternative 3 (CES Proposal)**
  - Reroutes portion of Zircon Road
  - Compaction; adding 4” to 6” of gravel; grading for the realigned portion of Zircon Road.
- **CDCA Plan amendment - designate ROW (238 ac.) as “suitable” solar energy**



# Summary of Alternatives Considered But Eliminated

- **Alternative Sites  
Considered by CES**

- Private Land
- Alternate BLM Land
  - Palen Site
  - Cottonwood Site 1
  - Cottonwood Site 2

- **Alternatives  
Considered By BLM**

- Private Land
- Alternate BLM Land

- **Alternate Energy  
Technologies**

- Concentrating Solar  
Power Technologies
- Wind Energy
- Residential Roof Top  
Solar Panels



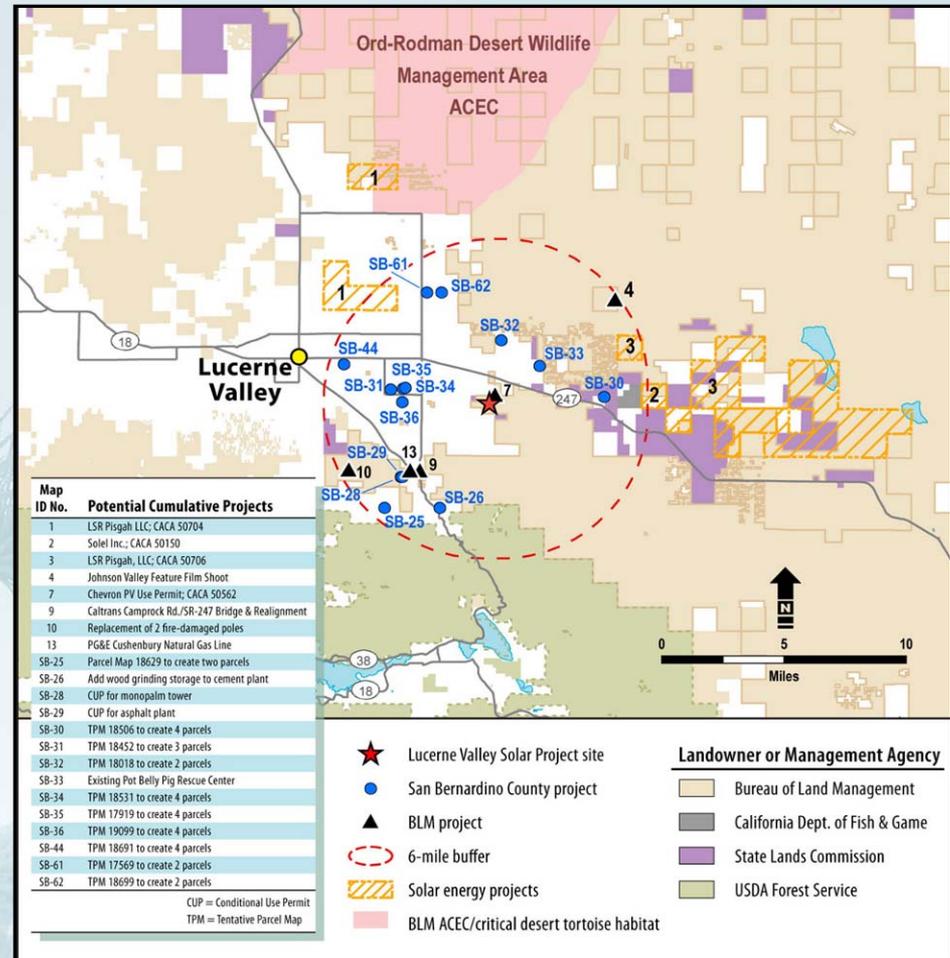
# Resources Evaluated

- **Air Quality and Climate**
- **Noise**
- **Geology, Topography, and Geologic Hazards**
- **Soils**
- **Water Resources/Hydrology**
- **Biological Resources**
  - Vegetation
  - Wildlife
  - Special Status Species
- **Cultural Resources**
- **Paleontological Resources**
- **Land Use and Realty**
- **Special Management Areas**
- **Recreation Resources**
- **Visual Resources**
- **Transportation/Motorized Vehicle Access**
- **Human Health & Safety/Hazardous Materials**
- **Social and Economic Conditions**
- **Environmental Justice**
- **Energy and Minerals**

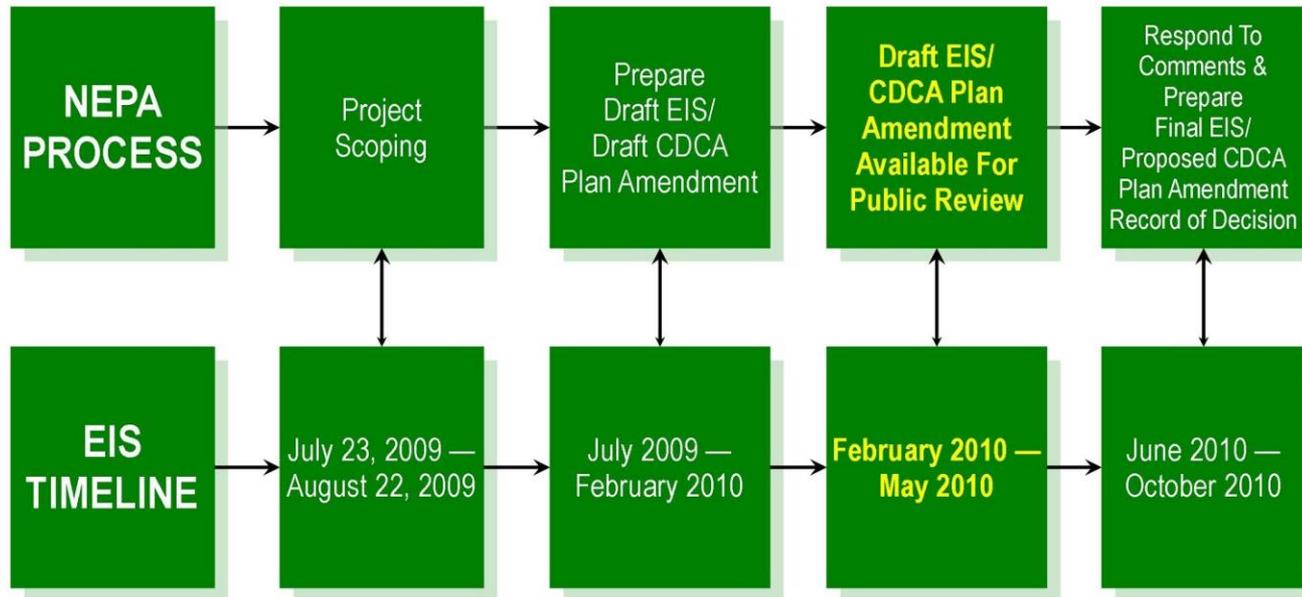


# Cumulative Impacts

- Identified major past, present and reasonably anticipated future actions
- Included energy generation, military uses, and roadway improvements



# Schedule and Next Steps



# General Guidelines for the Comment Session

*This session is to hear from you...*

- 1. Please put your name on a Speaker Card at the sign-in table**
- 2. When your name is called:**
  - Stand up
  - State your name clearly
  - Spell your name
- 3. State your comment**
- 4. Speak clearly so the court reporter can hear you**

*Thank you for your participation!!*



# Other Ways to Comment

- **Comment Forms**
- **By Mail or Other Delivery Service**

Greg Thomsen, BLM California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, California 92553

- **By Email:** [LucerneSolar@blm.gov](mailto:LucerneSolar@blm.gov)
- **Comments are due May 19, 2010**

*Thank you for your participation!!*



# Draft EIS Availability

- **On the Internet at**  
[\(http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow.html\)](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow.html).
- **Copies can be obtained**
  - Greg Thomsen at 951-697-5237, or
  - Via e-mail at [LucerneSolar@blm.gov](mailto:LucerneSolar@blm.gov)
- **Copies available for review**
  - California Desert District Office,  
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos,  
Moreno Valley, California 92553
  - BLM Barstow Field Office,  
2601 Barstow Road,  
Barstow, California 92311

## Apple Valley Public Library



14901 Dale Evans Parkway  
Apple Valley, CA 92307

## Lucerne Valley Public Library



33103 Old Woman Springs Rd.  
Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

***Comments must be received by May 19, 2010***



# For More Information

- **Web site:**  
<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow.html>
- **Greg Thomsen, BLM Project Manager,**  
**(951) 697-5237**
- **E-mail:** [LucerneSolar@blm.gov](mailto:LucerneSolar@blm.gov)

**Thank you for your participation!**

