

Appendix K

General Plan Policy Consistency Analysis

Appendix K

General Plan Policy Consistency Analysis for the Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(d), the EIS/EIR must discuss any inconsistencies between a proposed project and applicable general plans and regional plans. Each environmental resource section identifies and analyzes applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment) of the EIS/EIR. The following discussion specifically addresses proposed Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility's (OWEF) consistency with the Imperial County General Plan (Section 1) and the Imperial County Ocotillo/Nomirage Community Area Plan (Section 2). Discussions of consistency with applicable regional plans are discussed in each resource section in Chapter 3 (Environmental Consequences).

Goals, objectives, and policies not considered relevant to the proposed OWEF are not discussed here, as CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(d) only requires discussion of applicable aspects of general plans.

Please note that the Imperial County General Plan is not applicable to lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The provisions of the General Plan are only enforceable to those portions of the proposed OWEF located in unincorporated territory outside of BLM jurisdiction.

1. IMPERIAL COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

Agricultural Element – Not Applicable. There is no designated Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance within the OWEF area. The OWEF area is comprised mainly of land classified as “other land,” according to the California Division of Land Resource Protection Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (California Department of Conservation, 2007). This category consists of land not included in any other mapping category. The land immediately adjacent to the OWEF site is also classified as “other land”.

2008-2014 Housing Element – Not Applicable. This element provides Imperial County's goals, policies and programs relative to the development, improvement, and maintenance of housing within the unincorporated areas of the County, during the planning period of 2008-2014. The proposed OWEF does not involve the construction or removal of housing and does not hinder development, improvement, or maintenance of any housing.

Circulation and Scenic Highways Element	Consistent	Explanation
Safe, Convenient, and Efficient Transportation System		
<i>Goal 1: The County will provide and require an integrated transportation system for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods within and through the County of Imperial with minimum disruption to the environment.</i>		
Objective 1.2: Require a traffic analysis for any new development which may have a significant impact on County roads.	Yes	The <i>Traffic Impact Analysis for the Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Facility, County of Imperial, California</i> , March 17, 2011, prepared by Linscott, Law, & Greenspan, Engineers (LL&G Engineers) is included as Appendix J of the EIS/EIR.
Objective 1.11: Improve County circulation system roadways in concert with land development to ensure sufficient levels of service.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.16, Transportation and Public Access (Impacts Trans-1 and Trans-2), OWEF construction and operation traffic would not result in any insufficient LOS on County intersections or roadways.
Objective 1.12: Review new development proposals to ensure that the proposed development provides adequate parking and would not increase traffic on existing roadways and intersection to a level of service (LOS) worse than "C" without providing appropriate mitigations to existing infrastructure. This can include fair share contributions on the part of developers to mitigate traffic impacts caused by such proposed developments.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.16, Transportation and Public Access (Impact Trans-6), adequate on-site parking would be provided for construction equipment and employees. As discussed in Section 4.16, Transportation and Public Access (Impacts Trans-1 and Trans-2), OWEF construction and operational-related traffic would not result in any County intersections or roadways to operate at LOS C or worse.
Objective 1.17: Assure that road systems are adequate to accommodate emergency situations and evacuation plans.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.16, Transportation and Public Access (Impact Trans-5), with implementation of Mitigation Measure Trans-1, adequate emergency access would be maintained.
Multiple Modes of Transportation		
<i>Goal 2: Consider all modes of transportation including motor vehicle, rail, transit, air transportation, and non-motorized transportation.</i>		
Objective 2.4: Reduce aviation-related hazards, including hazards to aircraft and hazards posed by aircraft.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety (Impact PHS-1), Mitigation Measure PHS-1 would ensure compliance with FAA regulations and DOD guidance on aviation-related hazards.
Alternate Modes of Transport		
<i>Goal 3: Develop alternative transportation strategies designed to reduce traffic volumes and improve traffic flow. This includes providing alternatives to residents such as pedestrian, bicycle and public transit options.</i>		
Objective 3.5: Support ridesharing services and other similar alternative modes of transportation.	Yes	While the OWEF does not include any features to encourage or assume any ridesharing activities would occur (per the analysis provided in Section 4.16), the OWEF would not hinder or deter these activities from occurring.
Objective 3.7: Ensure the safety of the traveling public, including pedestrians and bicyclists.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.16, Transportation and Public Access (Impact Trans-4), Mitigation Measure Trans-1 would ensure public safety on public roadways.
Objective 3.8: Attempt to reduce motor vehicle air pollution. Require all major projects to perform an air quality analysis to determine the	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.2, Air Resources (Impact AR-2), the implementation of Mitigation Measure Air-2 would ensure emissions control from con-

Circulation and Scenic Highways Element	Consistent	Explanation
amount of pollution, as well as the alternative reduction options.		struction equipment.
Objective 3.10: Encourage the incorporation of bicycle facilities, such as bike lockers and showers at workplaces, and bicycle racks on buses, to better facilitate bicycle travel.	Yes	While the OWEF does not include any bicycle storage features or encourage bicycle/bus commuting (per the analysis provided in Section 4.16), the OWEF would not hinder or deter these activities from occurring.
Scenic Highways <i>Goal 4: The County shall make every effort to develop a circulation system that highlights and preserves the environmental and scenic amenities of the area.</i>		
Objective 4.3: Protect areas of outstanding scenic beauty along any scenic highways and protect the aesthetics of those areas.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.18, Visual Resources (Impact Vis-2), the OWEF would not substantially damage scenic resources along the portion of I-8 west of the eastbound-westbound split listed as an eligible State Scenic Highway.
<u>g. Street Access Guidelines</u> The County shall institute street access guidelines consistent with the street classifications. These shall be applied where feasible to all new developments. The following guidelines shall be used to define appropriate access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County shall prohibit driveway access to Prime Arterials, unless there is no other reasonable means of access. • Access to Minor Arterials shall not be permitted unless there is no other reasonable means of access to the public street system. Where access to Minor Arterial or Collectors must be allowed, it shall be limited through the use of medians and/or access controls in order to maintain street capacity. • Along Minor Arterials, access spacing shall be a standard distance of 1,200 feet or more. Under special circumstances, this distance may be reduced to a minimum of 600 feet. Along Collectors the corresponding access spacing shall be 600 feet for the standard distance and 300 feet for the minimum distance. The above measurements shall be from the ends of the curb returns. • All access spacing requirements shall consider the above guidelines. Should more stringent requirements be imposed by the County Road Commissioner, his decision shall be final. • No driveway access will be allowed to some roads such as Expressways and Major Collectors. 	Yes	If approved, issuance of a building permit for the OWEF would ensure County review and approval of site access road designs, including connections to public roadways. These requirements are not applicable on the portions of the project located on BLM-administered lands.

Conservation and Open Space Element	Consistent	Explanation
Conservation of Environmental Resources for Future Generations		
<i>Goal 1: Environmental resources shall be conserved for future generations by minimizing environmental impacts in all land use decisions.</i>		
Objective 1.2: Encourage only those uses and activities that are compatible with the fragile desert, aquatic, and marshland environment.	Yes	When considering approval of the OWEF, decision makers from Imperial County and BLM will consider impacts identified in the EIS/EIR and the public record. This process will weigh the significant and unavoidable impacts of the project against the project benefits.
Objective 1.3: Coordinate the acquisition, designation, and management of important natural resource areas in Imperial County with other appropriate governmental agencies as necessary.	Yes	The EIS/EIR included coordination with and consideration of a number of appropriate governmental agencies plans and policies regarding resource management.
Objective 1.5: Provide for the most beneficial use of land based upon recognition of natural constraints.	Yes	When considering approval of the OWEF, decision makers from Imperial County and BLM will consider impacts identified in the EIS/EIR and the public record. This process will weigh the significant and unavoidable impacts of the project against the project benefits.
Objective 1.6: Ensure the conservation, development and utilization of the County's natural resources.	Yes	When considering approval of the OWEF, decision makers from Imperial County and BLM will consider impacts identified in the EIS/EIR and the public record. This process will weigh the significant and unavoidable impacts of the project against the project benefits.
Objective 1.7: Provide the opportunity for enjoyment of a quality natural experience to present and future generations.	Yes	When considering approval of the OWEF, decision makers from Imperial County and BLM will consider impacts identified in the EIS/EIR and the public record. This process will weigh the significant and unavoidable impacts of the project against the project benefits.
Objective 1.8: Encourage the acquisition of scientific knowledge by encouraging the preservation of important ecological, archaeological, and other scientific sites.	Yes	As discussed in Sections 4.4, Cultural Resources, and 4.10, Paleontological Resources, the incorporation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-7 would ensure the OWEF protects and preserves any encountered historical or cultural resources.
Preservation of Biological Resources		
<i>Goal 2: The County will preserve the integrity, function, productivity, and long-term viability of environmentally sensitive habitats, and plant and animal species.</i>		
Objective 2.1: Conserve wetlands, fresh water marshes, and riparian vegetation.	Yes	The project site plan has been designed to minimize effects on Waters of the U.S., including not placing any permanent improvements in these jurisdictional areas. No wetland or freshwater marshes would be affected by the project.
Objective 2.2: Protect significant fish, wildlife, plant species, and their habitats.	Yes	As discussed in Sections 4.17, Vegetation Resources, and 4.20, Wildlife Resources, the OWEF would result in impacts to wildlife and vegetation species and habitat. However, the project has

Conservation and Open Space Element	Consistent	Explanation
		been designed to avoid areas inhabited by sensitive species and thereby minimize these effects.
Objective 2.3: Protect unique, rare, and endangered plants and animals and their habitats.	Yes	As discussed in Sections 4.17, Vegetation Resources, and 4.20, Wildlife Resources, the OWEF would result in impacts to candidate, sensitive, or special status wildlife and vegetation species and habitat. However, the project has been designed to avoid areas inhabited by sensitive species and feasible mitigation is proposed to minimize these impacts.
Objective 2.4: Use the environmental impact report process to identify, conserve and enhance unique vegetation and wildlife resources.	Yes	Vegetation and wildlife resources are discussed in Sections 3.18 and 4.17 (Vegetation Resources) and Sections 3.23 and 4.20 (Wildlife Resources) of the EIS/EIR.
Objective 2.6: Attempt to identify, reduce, and eliminate all forms of pollution which adversely impact vegetation and wildlife.	Yes	Section 4.2, Air Resources, discusses the air quality emissions of the OWEF and all measures to reduce such.
Preservation of Cultural Resources		
<i>Goal 3: Important prehistoric and historic resources shall be preserved to advance scientific knowledge and maintain the traditional historic element of the Imperial Valley landscape.</i>		
Objective 3.1: Protect and preserve sites of archaeological, ecological, historical, and scientific value, and/or cultural significance.	Yes	As discussed in Sections 4.4, Cultural Resources, and 4.10, Paleontological Resources, the incorporation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-7 would ensure the OWEF protects and preserves any encountered historical or cultural resources.
Preservation of Mineral Resources		
<i>Goal 5: The County will identify and protect mineral resources for extraction and minimize the effect of mining on surrounding land uses and other environmental resources.</i>		
Objective 5.4: Safeguard the use and full development of all mineral deposits.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.7, Mineral Resources (Impact MR-1), the OWEF would not result in impacts associated with the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State.
Objective 5.5: Regulate the development adjacent to or near all mineral deposits and geothermal operations due to the potential for land subsidence.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.7, Mineral Resources, no mineral deposits or geothermal operations are located in proximity to any OWEF component.
Preservation of Visual Resources		
<i>Goal 7: The aesthetic character of the region shall be protected and enhanced to provide a pleasing environment for residential, commercial, recreational, and tourist activity.</i>		
Objective 7.1: Encourage the preservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the desert and mountain landscape.	No	As discussed in Section 4.18, Visual Resources, the OWEF would introduce prominent man-made structures into the desert landscape. Please note that only one wind turbine would be located in the area under the jurisdiction of Imperial County.

Conservation and Open Space Element	Consistent	Explanation
Preservation of Water Resources		
<i>Goals 8: The County will conserve, protect, and enhance the water resources in the planning area.</i>		
Objective 8.1: Protect all bodies of water, e.g. Salton Sea, and water courses for their continued use and development.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.19, Water Resources, the OWEF would have no impact to bodies of water.
Objective 8.4: Ensure the use and protection of the rivers and other waterways in the County. Ensure proper drainage and provide accommodation for storm runoff from urban and other developed areas in manners compatible with requirements to provide necessary agricultural drainage.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.19, Water Resources, the OWEF does not include installation of new stormwater drainage systems, and would not affect existing stormwater drainage systems.
Objective 8.5: Protect and improve water quality and quantity for all water bodies in Imperial County.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.19, Water Resources, the OWEF would have no impact to bodies of water.
Objective 8.10: Discourage the use of hazardous materials in areas of the County where significant water pollution could pose hazards to humans or biological resources.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety, the incorporation of Mitigation Measures PHS-4, PHS-5, PHS-7 and PHS-8 would ensure the OWEF would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
Objective 8.12: Protect aquifer recharge areas including specifying minimum parcel size.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.19, Water Resources, the implementation of BMPs and Mitigation Measures Water-1 through Water-10 as part of the OWEF ensures groundwater supply and recharge would not be adversely affected.
Objective 8.13: Encourage water conservation and efficient water use among municipal and industrial water users, as well as reclamation and reuse of wastewater.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.19, Water Resources (Impact WR-2), the incorporation of Mitigation Measure Water-7 would ensure the OWEF addresses potential drought conditions that could affect water availability, and ensure water supply reliability during construction.
Objective 8.14: Coordinate with the appropriate agencies for the availability of water to meet future domestic, industrial/ commercial and agricultural needs.	Yes	The Applicant has coordinated with water agencies regarding water use. Relatively little water is needed for long-term project operations. See EIS/EIR Section 4.19, Water Resources.
Protection of Air Quality		
<i>Goal 9: The County shall actively seek to improve and maintain the quality of air in the region.</i>		
Objective 9.1: Ensure that all facilities shall comply with current federal and state requirements for attainment of air quality objectives.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.2, Air Resources, the OWEF would conform to all applicable air quality attainment plans.
Objective 9.2: Cooperate with all federal and state agencies in the effort to attain air quality objectives.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.2, Air Resources, the OWEF would conform to all applicable air quality attainment plans.

Conservation and Open Space Element	Consistent	Explanation
<p>Preservation of Open Space <i>Goal 10: Open space shall be maintained to protect the aesthetic character of the region, protect natural resources, provide recreational opportunities, and minimize hazards to human activity.</i></p>		
Objective 10.2: Recognize the regional significance of the development and conservation of recreational opportunities in Imperial County.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.12, Recreation, the OWEF would have no adverse affect to recreational opportunities.
Objective 10.9: Conserve desert lands within the county's jurisdiction for wildlife protection, recreation, and aesthetic purposes.	No	As discussed in Sections 4.17, Vegetation Resources, and 4.23, Wildlife Resources, the OWEF would result in impacts to wildlife and vegetation species and habitat. As discussed in Section 4.18, Visual Resources, the OWEF would introduce prominent man-made structures into the desert landscape. Feasible mitigation is proposed to minimize these impacts. Please note that only one wind turbine would be located in the area under the jurisdiction of Imperial County.
<p>Programs and Policies 1. Biological Resource Conservation <u>Policy</u> Landscaping should be required in all developments to prevent erosion on graded sites and, if the area is contiguous with undisturbed wildlife habitat, the plan should include revegetation with native plant species. <u>Programs</u> ·Revegetation plans shall be submitted and approved by the Imperial County Planning Department and relevant resource agencies for the mitigation of sensitive habitat lost, and for disturbed areas created by roads or installation of facilities adjacent to native habitat. Such plans shall mitigate for the loss of sensitive habitat and habitat value based on a ratio consistent with accepted policy, as recommended by the State and federal resource agencies. These specifications shall include, at a minimum, the following: · Locations of ecologically appropriate planting areas. · Site preparation/remedial grading. · Amounts, sizes, and locations of appropriate overstory tree species to be planted. · Hydroseed/container stock planting mixes and locations for appropriate understory shrub species and groundcovers. · Timing of planting (for example, most plantings should be conducted during the rainy season). · Protective measures during and after plant installation, such as temporary chainlink fencing</p>	Yes	If approved, issuance of a building permit for the OWEF would ensure County review and approval of landscape design.

Conservation and Open Space Element	Consistent	Explanation
<p>to keep out construction equipment/personnel; caging to avoid potential herbivory (animal browsing); and permanent wood-rail fencing or signage to deter human intrusions. This would also reduce potential impacts caused by future active uses, or “edge effects”, from adjacent residential areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Irrigation schedule which specifies timing, frequency, length, and method of watering to ensure successful plant establishment. For example, temporary irrigation through the use of drip emitters should be installed around each tree to encourage deep tap rooting. Irrigation may only be necessary for the first one or two years, but could be extended throughout the monitoring period as determined necessary by the consulting biologist. · The proposed habitat restoration sites shall be monitored for an appropriate period of time to ensure long-term plant survivorship. Monitoring shall be conducted by a qualified biologist proficient at horticultural and botanical sampling methods. The biological monitor shall be present at the time of plant installation to ensure correct implementation. The monitoring program shall clearly specify success criteria (e.g., percent vegetative cover for shrub species, percent canopy cover for tree species, etc.) to be evaluated by the biological monitor on a quarterly basis. Annual reports detailing the progress of the revegetation effort in attaining these goals shall be submitted to the Imperial County Planning Department and relevant resource agencies. · A maintenance program shall be implemented for the length of the monitoring period. Primary goals of the maintenance program shall include staking, weed control and replacement of planted material that is diseased or has died. If the proposed restoration sites are not meeting stated goals of the Plan, supplemental remedial measures, such as additional weed control or replacement plantings, shall be recommended during the monitoring and maintenance period. · When appropriate, a bond or other security shall be provided for all required revegetation plans, which would be released by the County only after: 1) the consulting biologist has concluded that all specified success criteria have been met; and, 2) the County and other relevant 		

Conservation and Open Space Element	Consistent	Explanation
<p>permitting agencies have approved the successful completion of the plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Clearing of shrubs, vines, and other native vegetation for purposes of fire control shall be coordinated with the local fire district, particularly in fire-prone areas. Where clearing is necessary, high-fuel plants shall be replaced with native, low-fuel plants. Where feasible or necessary for habitat protection, fire buffer clearing shall be done by hand so as to minimize disturbance to understory species. A list of important understory groundcover, shrubs, vines, ferns, and other vegetation shall be compiled by a qualified biologist, and included in all required landscape plans prior to final approval of individual projects. 		
<p>2. Cultural Resources Conservation</p> <p><u>Policy</u></p> <p>Identify and document significant historic and prehistoric resources, and provide for the preservation of representative and worthy examples; and recognize the value of historic and prehistoric resources, and assess current and proposed land uses for impacts upon these resources.</p> <p><u>Programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The County will use the environmental impact report process to conserve cultural resources. Public awareness of cultural heritage will be stressed. All information and artifactual resources recovered in this process will be stored in an appropriate institution and made available for public exhibit and scientific review. · Encourage the use of open space easements in the conservation of high value cultural resources. · Consider measures which would provide incentives to report archeological discoveries immediately to the Imperial Valley College - Baker Museum. · Coordinate with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies to provide adequate maps identifying cultural resource locations for use during development review. Newly discovered archeological resources shall be added to the "Sensitivity Map for Cultural Resources". · Discourage vandalism of cultural resources and excavation by persons other than qualified archaeologists. The County shall study the 	Yes	As discussed in Sections 4.4, Cultural Resources, and 4.10, Paleontological Resources, the incorporation of Mitigation Measures Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-7 would ensure the OWEF protects and preserves any encountered historical or cultural resources.

Conservation and Open Space Element	Consistent	Explanation
feasibility of implementing policies and enacting ordinances toward the protection of cultural resources such as can be found in California Penal Code, Title 14, Point 1, Section 622-1/2.		

Geothermal/Alternative Energy and Transmission Element	Consistent	Explanation
<i>Agricultural Lands and Biological Resources</i>		
<i>Goal 2: The County will minimize all impacts to agricultural lands and biological resources that could potentially result from the development of geothermal/alternative resources.</i>		
Objective 2.1: Site and design production facilities to lessen impacts on agricultural land and biological resources.	Yes	As discussed in Sections 4.17, Vegetation Resources, and 4.23, Wildlife Resources, the implementation of Mitigation Measures Veg-1 through Veg-3 and Wild-1 ensures the OWEF would lessen and avoid impacts to agricultural and biological resources to the extent feasible.
Objective 2.5: Require the relocation or creation of new habitat as might be appropriate.	Yes	As discussed in Sections 4.17, Vegetation Resources, and 4.23, Wildlife Resources, the implementation of Mitigation Measures Veg-1 through Veg-3 and Wild-1 ensures the OWEF would lessen and avoid impacts to agricultural and biological resources to the extent feasible.
<i>Efficient Water Use</i>		
<i>Goal 3: Geothermal/alternative energy operations will be required to efficiently utilize water.</i>		
Objective 3.3: Encourage the efficient utilization of water in geothermal/alternative energy operations, and foster the use of non-irrigation water by these industries.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.19, Water Resources, the OWEF would have minimal impact to potable water supply.
Objective 3.4: Encourage recognition of the importance of water to fish and wildlife resources and the recreational uses of Imperial County.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.19, Water Resources, the OWEF would have no impact to bodies of water.
<i>Land Subsidence Prevention</i>		
<i>Goal 4: The County will actively minimize the potential for land subsidence to occur as a result of geothermal/alternative energy operations.</i>		
Objective 4.1: Require that all such operations be conducted so that subsidence or other surface impacts detrimental to existing land uses will not occur.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety (Impact PHS-3), the implementation of Mitigation Measure PSH-3 ensures the OWEF would not result in adverse geotechnical impacts.

Noise Element	Consistent	Explanation
<p>Noise Environment <i>Goal 1: Provide an acceptable noise environment for existing and future residents in Imperial County.</i></p>		
<p>Objective 1.3: Control noise levels at the source where feasible.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As discussed in Section 4.9, Noise, the implementation of Mitigation Measures Noise-1 through Noise-5 ensures the OWEF would lessen and avoid noise impacts to the extent feasible.</p>
<p>Objective 1.5: Identify sensitive receptors with noise environments which are less than acceptable, and evaluate measures to improve the noise environment.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As discussed in Sections 3.9 and 4.9, Noise, sensitive receptors were identified within the study area and the implementation of Mitigation Measures Noise-1 through Noise-5 ensures the OWEF would lessen and avoid noise impacts to the extent feasible.</p>
<p>Programs and Policies <u>1. Acoustical Analysis of Proposed Projects</u> The County shall require the analysis of proposed discretionary projects which may generate excessive noise or which may be impacted by existing excessive noise levels, including but not limited to the following: · An analysis shall be required for any project which would be located, all or in part, in a Noise Impact Zone as specified above. · An analysis shall be required for any project which has the potential to generate noise in excess of the Property Line Noise Limits stated in Table 9. · An analysis shall be required for any project which, although not located in a Noise Impact Zone, has the potential to result in a significant increase in noise levels to sensitive receptors in the community. An acoustical analysis and report shall be prepared by a person deemed qualified by the Director of Planning. The report shall describe the existing noise environment, the proposed project, the projected noise impact and, if required, the proposed mitigation to ensure conformance with applicable standards.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As discussed in Section 4.9, Noise, Appendix G provides an acoustical analysis of the OWEF.</p>
<p><u>2. Noise/Land Use Compatibility</u> Where acoustical analysis of a proposed project is required, the County shall identify and evaluate potential noise/land use conflicts that could result from the implementation of the project. Projects which result in noise levels that exceed the “Normally Acceptable” criteria of the Noise/Land Use Compatibility Guidelines, Table 7, shall include mitigation measures to eliminate or reduce to an acceptable level the adverse noise impacts.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As discussed in Section 4.9, Noise, noise generated by OWEF construction, operation, and decommissioning activities would not exceed County land use compatibility performance standards.</p>

Noise Element	Consistent	Explanation
<p><u>5. New Noise Generating Projects</u> The County shall identify and evaluate projects which have the potential to generate noise in excess of the Property Line Noise Limits specified in Table 9. An acoustical analysis must be submitted which demonstrates the project’s compliance with the Property Line Noise Limits, and/or required mitigation measures to reduce noise to acceptable levels. Mitigation may include a greater property line setback than required by the Zoning Ordinance, use of solid building walls without openings, noise attenuation walls and/or landscaped earth berms, alternative construction materials or design, alternative traffic patterns, or other noise reduction techniques.</p>	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.9, Noise, noise generated by OWEF construction, operation, and decommissioning activities would not exceed County land use compatibility performance standards. The implementation of Mitigation Measures Noise-1 through Noise-5 ensures the OWEF would lessen and avoid noise impacts to the extent feasible.
<p><u>6. Projects Which Generate Off-Site Traffic Noise</u> The acoustical analysis shall identify and evaluate projects which will generate traffic and increase noise levels on off-site roadways. If the project has the potential to cause a significant noise impact to sensitive receptors along those roadways, the acoustical analysis report shall consider noise reduction measures to reduce the impact to a level less than significant, including reduction of the intensity of the proposed project, construction of noise attenuation walls and/or landscaped earth berms, or other changes in project design or its proposed access. For non-residential projects, reduced hours of operation may also be required.</p>	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.9, Noise, noise generated by OWEF construction, operation, and decommissioning traffic would not exceed County land use compatibility performance standards.
<p><u>8. Mitigation of Noise Impacts</u> Where acoustical analysis indicates the potential for conflict with County noise standards or for significant noise impact, mitigation measures should be considered and incorporated into the project. Noise reduction measures may be applied at the source of the noise, along the path of the noise or at the receptor.</p>	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.9, Noise, noise generated by OWEF construction, operation, and decommissioning activities would not exceed County land use compatibility performance standards. The implementation of Mitigation Measures Noise-1 through Noise-5 ensures the OWEF would lessen and avoid noise impacts to the extent feasible.

Seismic and Public Safety Element	Consistent	Explanation
Land Use Planning and Public Safety		
<i>Goal 1: Include public health and safety considerations in land use planning.</i>		
Objective 1.1: Ensure that data on geological hazards is incorporated into the land use review process, and future development process.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety (Impact PHS-3), the implementation of Mitigation Measure PSH-3 ensures the OWEF would not result in adverse geotechnical impacts.
Objective 1.2: Regulate development within flood-way areas in accordance with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety (Impact PHS-3), the implementation of Mitigation Measure PSH-3 ensures the OWEF would not result in adverse geotechnical impacts.
Objective 1.4: Require, where possessing the authority, that avoidable seismic risks be avoided; and that measures, commensurate with risks, be taken to reduce injury, loss of life, destruction of property, and disruption of service.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety (Impact PHS-3), the implementation of Mitigation Measure PSH-3 ensures the OWEF would not result in adverse geotechnical impacts.
Objective 1.8: Reduce fire hazards by the design of new developments.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.20, Wildland Fire Ecology (Impact Fire-1), the implementation of Mitigation Measures Fire-1, Fire-2, and Veg-1d, in addition to best management practices, would minimize the OWEF risk of wildfire ignition and minimize the introduction and spread of non-native plants such that the baseline level of wildfire frequency and severity is maintained.
Emergency Preparedness		
<i>Goal 2: Minimize potential hazards to public health, safety, and welfare and prevent the loss of life and damage to health and property resulting from both natural and human-related phenomena.</i>		
Objective 2.1: Ensure the adequacy of existing emergency preparedness and evacuation plans to deal with identified hazards and potential emergencies.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety, the implementation of Mitigation Measure PSH-11 ensures the OWEF would not interfere with evacuation plans or emergency preparedness.
Objective 2.3: Identify potential risk and damage due to inundation from dam failure and/or water releases.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety (Impact PHS-3), the implementation of Mitigation Measure PSH-3 ensures the OWEF would not result in adverse geotechnical impacts.
Objective 2.4: Support and assist in informing the public and other agencies of the hazards and risks of earthquakes and of techniques to employ to reduce those hazards.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety (Impact PHS-3), the implementation of Mitigation Measure PSH-3 ensures the OWEF would not result in adverse geotechnical impacts.
Objective 2.8: Prevent and reduce death, injuries, property damage, and economic and social dislocation resulting from natural hazards including flooding, land subsidence, earthquakes, other geologic phenomena, levee or dam failure, urban and wildland fires and building collapse by appropriate planning and emergency measures.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety (Impact PHS-3), the implementation of Mitigation Measure PSH-3 ensures the OWEF would not result in adverse geotechnical impacts.
Objective 2.9: Reduce vehicle accidents through appropriate standards.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.16, Transportation and Public Access, the implementation of Mitigation Measure Trans-1 ensures vehicle safety associated with the OWEF.

Seismic and Public Safety Element	Consistent	Explanation
Objective 2.10: Reduce the risk of damage due to subsidence resulting from extraction of groundwater and geothermal resources by appropriate regulation.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety (Impact PHS-3), the implementation of Mitigation Measure PSH-3 ensures the OWEF would not result in adverse geotechnical impacts.
Control Hazardous Materials		
<i>Goal 3: Protect the public from exposure to hazardous materials and wastes.</i>		
Objective 3.1: Discourage the transporting of hazardous materials/waste near or through residential areas and critical facilities.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety, the implementation of Mitigation Measure PSH-5 ensures proper handling of hazardous materials shall occur with the OWEF.
Objective 3.2: Minimize the possibility of hazardous materials/waste spills.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety, the implementation of Mitigation Measure PSH-5 ensures proper handling of hazardous materials shall occur with the OWEF.
Objective 3.3: Discourage incompatible development adjacent to sites and facilities for the production, storage, disposal, and transport of hazardous materials/waste as identified in the County General Plan and other regulations.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety, the implementation of Mitigation Measure PSH-5 ensures proper consideration of hazardous material storage areas shall occur with the OWEF.
Programs and Policies Flood Hazards 5. Establish technical design criteria which minimizes or mitigates impacts associated with crossing of floodplains by development. Unless such engineering alternatives are implemented, development in floodplains is to be restricted or prohibited.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety (Impact PHS-3), the implementation of Mitigation Measure PSH-3 ensures the OWEF would not result in adverse impacts related to flooding.

Water Element	Consistent	Explanation
Coordinated Water Management		
<i>Goal 5: Water Resources shall be managed effectively and efficiently through interagency and inter-jurisdictional coordination and cooperation.</i>		
Objective 5.2: Aid in the protection and enhancement of limited water resources so as to provide for the indefinite use and maximum enjoyment.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.19, Water Resources, the OWEF would have minimal impact to potable water supply and groundwater resources, and no impacts to bodies of water.
Programs and Policies 4. Protection of Water Resources from Hazardous Materials · All development proposals brought before the County of Imperial shall be reviewed for potential adverse effects on water quality and quantity, and shall be required to implement appropriate mitigation measures for any significant impacts.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.19, Water Resources, the OWEF would have minimal impact to potable water supply and no impacts to bodies of water.

Land Use Element	Consistent	Explanation
<i>Goal 3: Achieve balanced economic and residential growth while preserving the unique natural, scenic, and agricultural resources of Imperial County.</i>		
Objective 3.2 Preserve agriculture and natural resources while promoting diverse economic growth through sound land use planning.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.6, Lands and Realty, the OWEF would contribute to economic growth in the County and preservation efforts would be implemented through the mitigation measures set forth in this EIS/EIR and with required BMPs.
Objective 3.6 Recognize and coordinate planning activities as applicable with the BLM, and the California Desert Conservation Plan.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.6, Lands and Realty, the OWEF includes a ROW grant and CDCA Plan Amendment, and with approval of both actions, the project would be consistent with the CDCA Plan. Therefore, the County and the BLM have coordinated for the applicable planning activities.
Objective 3.8 Utilize non-agricultural land as a resource to diversify employment opportunities and facilitate regional economic growth. Uses must be consistent with each site's resource constraints, the natural environment, and the County Conservation and Open Space Element.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.6, Lands and Realty, the OWEF would contribute to economic growth in the County and preservation efforts would be implemented through the mitigation measures set forth in this EIS/EIR and with required proposed BMPs.
<i>Goal 4: Preserve and enhance distinctive historic desert towns and newer communities.</i>		
Objective 4.3 Maintain and require compatible land uses within the existing communities.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.6, Lands and Realty, the OWEF would not physically divide an established community and the wind turbines have been sited to maintain buffers from the communities of Ocotillo and Nomirage. The closest property boundary of a sensitive receptor, Ocotillo Community Park, is located approximately 9,000 feet (1.7 miles) away from the project site. In addition, the OWEF would not result in long-term conflicts with existing land uses since recreation activities would be allowed on the project site during the operation period.
Objective 4.4 Limit the establishment of non-residential uses in predominantly residential neighborhoods and require effective buffers when appropriate non-residential uses are proposed.		
<i>Goal 6: Promote orderly industrial development with suitable and adequately distributed industrial land</i>	Yes, if requested General Plan amendment and zone change are approved.	As discussed in Section 4.6, Lands and Realty, the 26 acres of private land is within the Desert Residential designation, which does not allow industrial development. One of the approvals sought for the OWEF is a change to the General Plan land use designation for the property and a corresponding zoning change. With these approvals, the project would be consistent with applicable land use policies for industrial development.
<i>Goal 8: Coordinate local land use planning activities among all local jurisdictions and state and federal agencies.</i>		
Objective 8.8 Ensure that the siting of future facilities for the transmission of electricity, gas, and telecommunications is compatible with the environment and County regulation.	Yes, if the requested plan amendments	As discussed in Section 4.6, Lands and Realty, the OWEF includes a ROW grant and CDCA Plan Amendment, and with approval of both actions, the project would be consistent with the CDCA

Land Use Element	Consistent	Explanation
	and zone change are approved.	Plan. In addition, County approval has been requested to change the General Plan land use designation and zoning for the private parcel where installation of a single wind turbine is proposed. With these approvals, the project would be consistent with County land use policies and regulations.

2. OCOTILLO/NOMIRAGE COMMUNITY AREA PLAN

Ocotillo/Nomirage Community Area Plan	Consistent	Explanation
Towns and Communities		
<i>Goal 1: Preserve and enhance the distinct character of the Ocotillo/Nomirage Community Area.</i>		
Objective 1.3: Maintain and require compatible land uses with the Ocotillo/Nomirage Community Area.	Yes, if the requested General Plan amendment and zone change are approved.	County approval has been requested to change the General Plan land use designation and zoning for the private parcel where installation of a single wind turbine is proposed. With these approvals, the project would be consistent with County land use policies and regulations.
Objective 1.4: Prohibit the establishment of non-residential uses in predominantly residential neighborhoods and require effective buffers when appropriate non-residential uses are proposed.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.9, Noise, the OWEF would not result in adverse noise impacts to adjacent receptors.
Protection of Environmental Resources		
<i>Goal 5: Preserve significant natural, cultural, and community character resources, air quality and water quality.</i>		
Objective 5.1: Preserve as open space those lands containing watersheds, aquifer recharge areas, floodplains, important natural resources, sensitive vegetation, wildlife habitats, historic and prehistoric sites, or lands which are subject to seismic hazards.	Yes	When considering approval of the OWEF, decision makers from Imperial County and BLM will consider the entirety of the EIS/EIR and public record. This process will weigh the significant and unavoidable impacts of the project against the project benefits.
Objective 5.3: Protect the groundwater in the Ocotillo/Nomirage Community Area from overdraft and saline conditions.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.19, Water Resources, the implementation of BMPs and Mitigation Measures Water-1 through Water-10 as part of the OWEF ensures groundwater supply and recharge would not be adversely affected.
Objective 5.4: Ensure that new development proposals do not contribute to overdraft or increase salinity of groundwater.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.19, Water Resources, the implementation of BMPs and Mitigation Measures Water-1 through Water-10 as part of the OWEF ensures groundwater supply and recharge would not be adversely affected.
Objective 5.7: Stringently enforce the rules for new development, expansion or reconstruction in floodways to ensure that structures will not	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety (Impact PHS-3), the implementation of Mitigation Measure PSH-3 ensures the OWEF

Ocotillo/Nomirage Community Area Plan	Consistent	Explanation
adversely affect, hinder, restrict, or alter the water capacity of the floodway and will not result in increased flood levels during the occurrence of a 100-year flood.		would not result in adverse impacts related to flooding.
Community Vision		
<i>Goal 7: Achieve balanced economic and residential growth while preserving the community's character and natural resources.</i>		
Objective 7.1: Maintain and improve the quality of life, the protection of property and the public health, safety, and welfare of the Ocotillo/ Nomirage Community Area.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety, the implementation of Mitigation Measures PSH-1 through PSH-12 ensures the OWEF would not result in adverse public and health and safety impacts.
Objective 7.2: Ensure that future growth and development is orderly, safe and does not cause an overdraft, contamination or increased salinity of the ground water aquifer.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.19, Water Resources, the implementation of BMPs and Mitigation Measures Water-1 through Water-10 as part of the OWEF ensures groundwater supply and recharge would not be adversely affected.
Objective 7.3: Ensure safe and coordinated traffic patterns, contiguous growth within the townsite of Ocotillo and community of Nomirage.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.16, Transportation and Public Access (Impact Trans-1), the implementation of Mitigation Measure Trans-1 would ensure safety of OWEF related vehicle trips.
Objective 7.4: Coordinate planning activities with the Bureau of Land Management.	Yes	BLM is the federal lead agency and coordination has occurred throughout the application review process.
Seismic and Public Safety		
<i>Goal 8: Include public health and safety considerations in land use planning.</i>		
Objective 8.1: Ensure that data on geological hazards is incorporated into the land use review process, and future development process.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety (Impact PHS-3), the implementation of Mitigation Measure PSH-3 ensures the OWEF would not result in adverse geotechnical impacts.
Objective 8.2: Regulate development within flood-way areas in accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety (Impact PHS-3), the implementation of Mitigation Measure PSH-3 ensures the OWEF would not result in adverse impacts related to flooding.
Objective 8.3: Regulate development adjacent to or near all mineral deposits.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.7, Mineral Resources, no mineral deposits or geothermal operations are located in proximity to any OWEF component.
Objective 8.4: Require, where possessing the authority, that avoidable risks be avoided; and, that measures, commensurate with risks, be taken to reduce injury, loss of life, destruction of property, and disruption of service.	Yes	As discussed in Section 4.11, Public Health and Safety, the implementation of Mitigation Measures PSH-1 through PSH-12 ensures the OWEF would not result in adverse public and health and safety impacts.
B. Land Use Designations and Standards 1. Desert Residential Commercial Development Standards: Commercial zoning and land uses are not permitted in this category. Industrial Development Standards:	Yes, if the requested approvals are granted by the County.	As discussed in Section 4.6, Lands and Realty, an Imperial County Conditional Use Permit is required under the land use ordinance. In order for the project to be consistent with the development standards identified, the private parcel located within Imperial County jurisdiction would require a

Ocotillo/Nomirage Community Area Plan	Consistent	Explanation
Manufacturing/industrial zoning and land uses are not permitted in this category.		general plan amendment and zone change.
<p>2. Industry Policy The Ocotillo/Nomirage Community Area does not have the infrastructure or other necessary facilities to support heavy manufacturing land uses. There is a major concern that industrial land uses may lead to contamination of ground-water resources. The County supports limiting light industrial land uses to those presently existing, including the current proposal in the Inkopah area on a conditional basis.</p> <p>Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The M-1 Zone is generally not compatible with the Ocotillo/Nomirage Community Area Plan, but could be found to be compatible under unique and unusual circumstances. Such circumstances would include zoning needed to accommodate an existing legal or legal non-conforming use; when additional density or use restrictions can be included by use of an “overlay” or “combining zoning”; or where a Specific Plan, conditional use permit (CUP) or other discretionary permit can be required for a proposed use and mitigating measures can be imposed to reduce or eliminated potential land use conflicts. · Heavy manufacturing uses are prohibited. 	Yes, if the requested approvals are granted by the County.	As discussed in Section 4.6, Lands and Realty, an Imperial County Conditional Use Permit is required under the land use ordinance. In order for the project to be consistent with the development standards identified, the private parcel located within Imperial County jurisdiction would require a general plan amendment and zone change.