

IV.24 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LANDS AND OPERATIONS

IV.24.1 Approach to Impact Analysis

IV.24.1.1 General Methods

Department of Defense (DOD) installations are categorized as Other Lands under the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP or Plan), and no Covered Activities would occur on these lands. This chapter addresses the potential impacts on DOD lands and operations from implementing the Plan alternatives. The DRECP Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) is a programmatic analysis; its analysis is therefore primarily for typical impacts and does not evaluate site-specific impacts associated with specific projects. Project-specific impacts will be analyzed during the consultation and permitting process and in supplemental California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/National Environmental Policy Act documents.

For this programmatic-level analysis, existing conditions for DOD lands and operations are described in Volume III, Chapter III.24. The primary considerations in quantifying impacts are the extent to which military training routes (MTRs), military operations areas, and special use airspaces (SUAs) intersect with proposed Development Focus Areas (DFAs) and Reserve Design Lands. The analysis in this section focuses on potential future solar, wind, geothermal, and transmission developments within the DFAs and their respective potentials for conflicts with military testing and training operations.

IV.24.1.2 California Environmental Quality Act Standards of Significance

CEQA does not identify standards for significance for impacts on DOD lands and operations. Potential effects that a project may have on military activities do not, in and of themselves, constitute adverse effects on the environment for purposes of CEQA (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 15190.5). CEQA standards of significance and CEQA determinations are therefore not included in this chapter.

IV.24.2 Typical Impacts Common to All Action Alternatives

Development of utility-scale renewable energy facilities can potentially affect military aircraft operations, radar use, and other operations. Numerous military operations areas, MTRs, and SUAs are located within the Plan Area. The military airspace in the Plan Area is intensively used and important to maintaining overall training and readiness for all branches of the military.

Solar photovoltaic projects pose little to no impact on military operations, testing, and training (DOD 2012). Generally speaking, only wind turbines and solar power towers

present substantial incompatibility issues for DOD operations in this region. While wind turbines may be compatible under MTRs and SUAs, these projects may require additional review during the siting process. In some cases, geothermal plants may also present incompatibility issues for DOD operations.

Transmission towers and their associated high-voltage lines could pose potential obstruction hazards to aircraft navigation.

IV.24.2.1 Impacts of Renewable Energy and Transmission Development

IV.24.2.1.1 Impacts of Site Characterization

Site characterization, such as installation of permanent meteorological stations, could impact low-altitude military testing and training operations including helicopter low-altitude tactical navigation areas, military operations areas, and military training routes. Few meteorological stations would be required during site characterization activities; therefore, their impacts would be minimal.

IV.24.2.1.2 Impacts of Construction and Decommissioning

No construction or decommissioning of renewable energy developments would occur on DOD lands under any of the alternatives. Construction and decommissioning activities could occur near DOD lands and in military operations areas; however, impacts such as ground disturbance would not be expected to affect either DOD lands or military operations.

IV.24.2.1.3 Impacts of Operations and Maintenance

Glint, a momentary flash of a reflection, and glare, a more prolonged reflection of the sun (from reflective surfaces at solar facilities in proximity to military airfields or flight paths), could adversely affect pilot aircraft control and be potentially hazardous. Reflection of the sun and moon can cause glint and glare; the moon's reflection affects night-vision devices. Distance can lessen the effects of glint and glare. Military exercises should avoid over-flight within 3,000 feet of a concentrated solar facility (ICF 2012).

Solar facilities may use wireless-controlled aiming devices to focus reflected sunlight on collecting towers. The effects of airborne electronic jamming in nearby military operations areas are not fully understood. These devices could cause the mirrors to point in unintended directions, creating potential safety-of-flight or other concerns.

Solar power tower facilities with towers several hundred feet high could also pose a potential obstruction hazard to aircraft navigation. In addition, effects on military ranges at which infrared sensors and weapons are used must also be considered.

Wind energy projects could be in conflict with existing or proposed military testing and training operations. Much of this testing and training requires extensive areas of highly secured air space, such as the R-2508 Complex that is used by Edwards Air Force Base (AFB), China Lake Naval Weapons Center, and National Training Center, Fort Irwin. The presence of turbines could affect low-altitude military testing and training operations (e.g., helicopter low-altitude tactical navigation areas, military operations areas, and military training routes).

In addition to being a potential physical obstruction, wind turbines block radar wave transmission, essentially similar to the effects from tall buildings, which could compromise airborne radar testing. Testing facilities are impacted by wind turbines; those impacts include detection testing, track testing, ground-moving target testing, target breakout, false alarm testing, and air combat maneuvering.

Airborne radar testing requires a significant amount of open air space. Turbine blade rotation also creates false returns when attempting to detect and track targets at very low altitudes. This is because radar returns from wind turbines can resemble targets. Radar targets intercept the transmitted radar signals and reflect a portion of that signal back to the radar. Target movement also causes a change in frequency to the radar's transmitted waveform. Wind turbines cause similar types of returns, both because they are large, highly reflective objects and because the rotating blades cause a change in frequency similar to a target. This could compromise the ability of on-site or nearby security forces to detect a possible attack in a timely manner.

Utility-scale wind turbines, because of their large size, possess a significant radar cross-section at all common radar bands. In addition, the rotating blades of wind turbines create Doppler shifts equivalent to aircraft velocities. Since wind turbines are both stationary and near the surface of the earth, these two effects combine to appear as "clutter" to air defense radar. The amount of clutter produced will increase in direct proportion to the number of turbines within the line of sight of the air defense radar (DOD 2006). A large number of wind turbines spread over a wide sector of coverage for that radar will significantly degrade the ability of that radar to perform its mission.

IV.24.2.2 Impacts of the Reserve Design

None of the Covered Activities within the reserve design would impact DOD lands or operations.

IV.24.2.3 Impacts of BLM Land Use Plan Decisions

IV.24.2.3.1 Impacts of Renewable Energy Development and Transmission on BLM Lands

The typical impacts from the various renewable energy and transmission facilities on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands would be the same as those described in Section IV.24.2.1. However, the specific locations in which energy and transmission development would be built will be driven by BLM Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) decisions, which may either encourage or restrict development in some areas.

IV.24.2.3.2 Impacts of BLM Land Designations and Management Actions

The BLM manages various land designations to protect ecological, historic, cultural, scenic scientific, and recreation resources and values. While other land uses are allowed within these areas, other uses must be compatible with the resources and values that the land designation is intended to protect. Uses allowed within the various BLM land designations are not expected to impact DOD lands and operations and are therefore not discussed further in this chapter.

Details on allowable uses and their management within National Landscape Conservation System lands are presented in the proposed LUPA description in Volume II. Details on the goals, objectives, allowable uses, and management actions for each Area of Critical Environmental Concern and Special Recreation Management Area are presented in the LUPA worksheets in Appendix H.

IV.24.2.4 Impacts of Natural Community Conservation Plan and General Conservation Plan

The Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) would be administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and would apply to the entire Plan Area. The General Conservation Plan (GCP) would be administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and would apply to nonfederal lands, a subset of the entire Plan Area.

IV.24.2.4.1 Natural Community Conservation Plan

The impacts of renewable energy development permitted under the NCCP would be the same as those defined for the Plan-wide impacts, including the typical impacts described in Section IV.24.2, and for each alternative that follows.

IV.24.2.4.2 General Conservation Plan

The impacts from renewable energy development permitted under the GCP would be the same as those defined for Plan-wide impacts, including the typical impacts described in Section IV.24.2. However, the locations where these impacts would occur would vary by alternative. Any differences in these impacts from their locational differences are described for each alternative.

IV.24.3 Impact Analysis by Alternative

The following sections present impact analysis for the No Action Alternative, the Preferred Alternative, and Alternatives 1 through 4.

IV.24.3.1 No Action Alternative

IV.24.3.1.1 Impacts Within the Plan Area: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, analysis of impacts on DOD operations assumes that renewable energy and transmission development and mitigation for those projects in the Plan Area would occur on a project-by-project basis, in a pattern consistent with past and ongoing renewable energy and transmission projects.

IV.24.3.1.1.1 Impacts and Mitigation for Renewable Energy and Transmission Development in No Action Alternative

Impact Assessment

Under the No Action Alternative, available renewable energy and transmission development areas (with approximated distribution of technology types) that intersect with DOD lands and operations are shown in Table IV.24-1. Lands available for development under this alternative would be scattered throughout the Plan Area based on existing policy and land classifications. Available development areas that intersect with DOD operations under the No Action Alternative are shown in Figure IV.24-1.

**Table IV.24-1
Potential Acres of DOD Operations Impacted by Technology Type –
No Action Alternative**

DOD Operations	DOD Operations in Plan Area (acres)	Potential DOD Operations impacted by Technology Type (acres)			
		<i>Solar</i>	<i>Wind</i>	<i>GT</i>	<i>Transmission</i>
Military Training Routes	12,999,000	75,000	154,000	1,000	27,000
Military Operations Areas	8,438,000	35,000	143,000	1,000	10,000

**Table IV.24-1
Potential Acres of DOD Operations Impacted by Technology Type –
No Action Alternative**

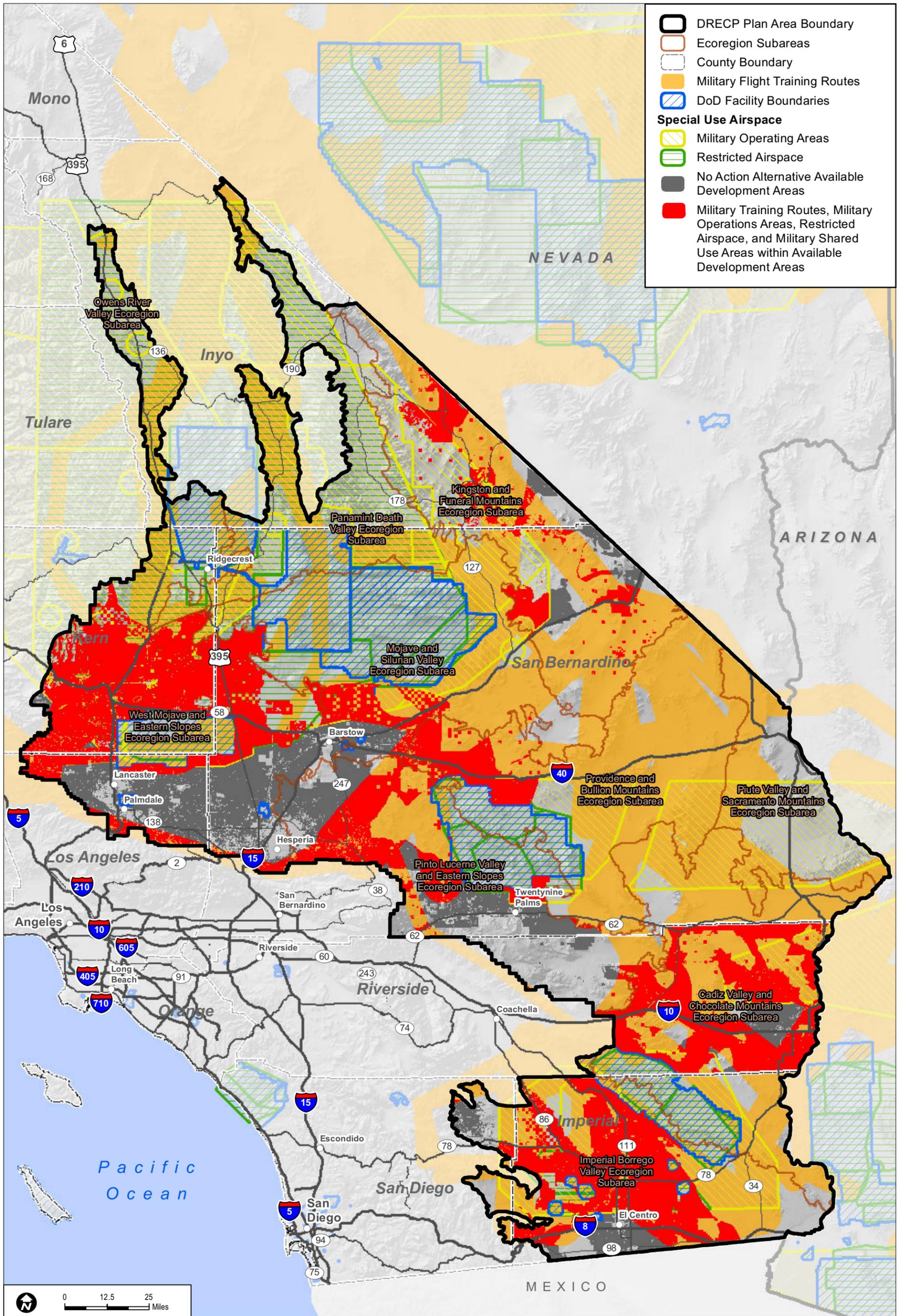
DOD Operations	DOD Operations in Plan Area (acres)	Potential DOD Operations impacted by Technology Type (acres)			
		<i>Solar</i>	<i>Wind</i>	<i>GT</i>	<i>Transmission</i>
Special Use Airspace-Restricted	6,919,000	13,000	153,000	200	2,000
Shared Use Area (BLM and DOD)	56,000	0	40	0	0

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

Impact DD-1: Renewable energy and transmission facilities would interfere with DOD lands and operations.

Under the No Action Alternative, wind energy is the primary renewable energy technology to intersect with DOD operations. Most wind development in this alternative would occur near Edwards Air Force Base (see Figure IV.24-1). While wind turbines may be compatible under MTRs and SUAs in this area, these projects may warrant additional review by DOD during the siting process.

Under the No Action Alternative, solar development and transmission infrastructure could cause similar impacts to those described in Section IV.24.2.1.3. The degree of impact would depend on the location, size, and specific configuration of a project. Most solar and transmission facilities would be located near the Naval Air Facility (NAF) El Centro and several ranges, including the Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range (CMAGR). Solar power tower projects could be obstruction hazards to aircraft navigation, and potential glint and glare from all solar projects could adversely affect pilot aircraft control.



- DRECP Plan Area Boundary
- Ecoregion Subareas
- County Boundary
- Military Flight Training Routes
- DoD Facility Boundaries
- Special Use Airspace**
- Military Operating Areas
- Restricted Airspace
- No Action Alternative Available Development Areas
- Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, Restricted Airspace, and Military Shared Use Areas within Available Development Areas

Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); NRDC (2011)

FIGURE IV.24-1
Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, Restricted Airspace,
and Military Shared Use Areas within Available Development Areas – No Action Alternative

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August 2014

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Laws and Regulations

Existing laws and regulations would reduce the impacts of renewable energy development projects in the absence of the DRECP. Relevant regulations are presented in the Regulatory Setting in Volume III. Note that because this EIR/EIS addresses amendments to BLM's land use plans, these plans are addressed separately and are not included in this section. The requirements of relevant regulations would reduce impacts through the following:

- Notice to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is required for any proposed construction or alteration of objects that meet a number of criteria, including those more than 200 feet above ground level (14 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 77.9).
- The 2008 Wind Energy Protocol has improved the communication and coordination process that DOD and BLM use in the review of proposed wind energy right-of-way applications on BLM-administered public lands.
- Solar energy development on BLM lands would include Solar Programmatic EIS Design Feature *A.4.1.7 Design Features for Military and Civilian Aviation*, which requires that BLM and DOD coordinate early in the project planning process to identify and minimize impacts (Appendix W).
- Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse and 32 CFR Part 211: The Clearinghouse coordinates the efforts of all DOD components (including the Joint Staff, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and other critical offices) in the assessment of project proposals and the development of official DOD positions on the impacts of those projects on military missions.

Mitigation

Mitigation already adopted to approve renewable energy projects is assumed to be the same as mitigation that would apply in the future under the No Action Alternative. An example of adopted mitigation includes the Desert Sunlight Solar Farm Project Final EIS (BLM 2011) requirement to coordinate with the DOD R-2508 Complex Sustainability Office and regional military installations regarding low-level flight operations to ensure that no special precautions are needed. For solar power towers, mitigation includes obstruction marking and lighting as required by the FAA, and positioning and monitoring for glint and glare reduction.

The DOD/Department of Homeland Security Long Range Radar Joint Program Office has additionally established an informal consultation service to work with wind energy developers to help them identify locations with radar line-of-sight concerns.

The DOD Preliminary Screening Tool (<https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/gisTools/gisAction.jsp?action=showLongRangeRadarToolForm>) enables developers to obtain preliminary SUA clearance before filing an official Obstruction Evaluation/Airport Airspace Analysis. Though the tool is optional, it provides early feedback and single points of contact within DOD and the Department of Homeland Security to discuss impacts and mitigation efforts on military operations.

As noted above, the DOD Clearinghouse coordinates the efforts of all DOD components in the assessment of project proposals and the development of official DOD positions on the impacts of those projects on military missions. The DOD Siting Clearinghouse is an organization within the DOD that was established in the summer of 2010 and formally authorized by Congress through Section 358 of Public Law 111-383 in January 2011. Its purpose is to coordinate the DOD review of applications for projects that are filed with the Secretary of Transportation pursuant to Section 44718 of Title 49, United States Code, and referred to the DOD by the Department of Transportation (specifically the Federal Aviation Administration).

IV.24.3.1.1.2 Impacts from Reserve Design in the No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative has no reserve design, but without approval of an action alternative there would continue to be protection of existing Legislatively and Legally Protected Areas such as wilderness. None of the allowed uses within the existing protected areas would impact DOD lands or operations.

IV.24.3.1.2 Impacts on BLM Lands of Existing BLM Land Use Plans: No Action Alternative

Impacts on BLM lands under the No Action Alternative would be the same as the impacts discussed in Section IV.24.3.1.1.1. Renewable energy development would continue under existing land use plans, polices and regulations, and potential conflicts with DOD lands and operations, and their mitigation, would be resolved on a case-by-case basis. Solar energy projects would continue as an approved land use within the Solar Energy Zones and Variance Lands approved in the Solar Programmatic EIS Record of Decision. Existing protected areas and BLM land use plan Conservation Designations provide ongoing conservation. Additional conservation efforts would result from renewable energy or transmission development based on the mitigation requirements imposed, on a project-by-project basis. Protection and conservation areas would have no effect to DOD lands and operations.

IV.24.3.1.3 Impacts of Natural Community Conservation Plan: No Action Alternative

The NCCP would apply to all lands within the Plan Area. In the absence of Plan implementation, the NCCP would not be approved and no incidental take permits would be issued under the NCCP. Projects would still be considered by the appropriate lead agency on an individual basis. Impacts occurring in the absence of the NCCP would be the same as those described in Section IV.24.3.1.1.1.

IV.24.3.1.4 Impacts of General Conservation Plan: No Action Alternative

As described in Appendix M, the GCP would apply to nonfederal lands in the Plan Area. In the absence of DRECP implementation, the GCP would not be approved and no incidental take permits would be issued under the GCP. Projects would continue to be considered by the appropriate lead agency on an individual basis. The impacts that would occur in the absence of the GCP would be the same as those described in Section IV.24.3.1.1.1 (Plan-wide analysis), but would be specific to nonfederal lands.

IV.24.3.1.5 Impacts Outside the Plan Area: No Action Alternative

IV.24.3.1.5.1 Impacts of Transmission Outside the Plan Area

Additional transmission infrastructure would be needed to deliver renewable energy to load centers (areas of high demand) outside the Plan Area. It is assumed that new transmission infrastructure outside the Plan Area would use existing transmission corridors between the Plan Area and existing substations in the more heavily populated areas of the state. The areas outside the Plan Area through which new transmission infrastructure might be constructed include the San Diego, Los Angeles, North Palm Springs–Riverside, and Central Valley areas. These areas are described in Chapter III.24 (Department of Defense Lands and Operations), Section III.24.4.

New transmission infrastructure in existing transmission corridors outside the Plan Areas would not interfere with any ground operations at DOD facilities. However, transmission infrastructure poses a potential hazard to aircraft, therefore their locations and heights are of concern to military pilots. Outside the Plan Area, three DOD facilities with flight operations are located near transmission corridors. Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar, in the San Diego Area, is at the western end of the corridor that ends at Sycamore Substation, which is situated at the eastern boundary of MCAS. March Air Reserve Base, in the North Palm Springs–Riverside Area, is approximately 9.5 miles northwest of the corridor that ends at Valley Substation. Lemoore Naval Air Station, in the Central Valley, is approximately 18 miles east of the corridor in this area. Each of these corridors has existing high-voltage transmission infrastructure.

Impact DD-1: Renewable energy and transmission facilities would interfere with DOD lands and operations.

Although aircraft operations would occur near corridors outside the Plan Area, these transmission corridors are known to pilots. Additional transmission infrastructure in or adjacent to these corridors would increase the number of lines in the vicinity but would not be expected to interfere with DOD lands and operations. Flight paths and operating protocols take into account the locations of existing lines, and new transmission in the same corridors would not change the risk factors substantially. The DOD would review all proposed transmission infrastructure that would be developed near its air facilities. The FAA would require lights and marker balls on towers and conductor spans that it deemed a potential hazard to aircraft.

IV.24.3.1.5.2 Impacts of Existing BLM Land Use Plans Outside the Plan Area

Under the No Action Alternative, existing BLM California Desert Conservation Area land use plans would continue to be implemented. Under the No Action Alternative, renewable energy projects would continue to be developed through BLM's existing policies. Impacts on DOD lands and operations would be of the same types described in Section IV.24.2.1, with similar mitigation measures included on a case-by-case basis.

IV.24.3.2 Preferred Alternative

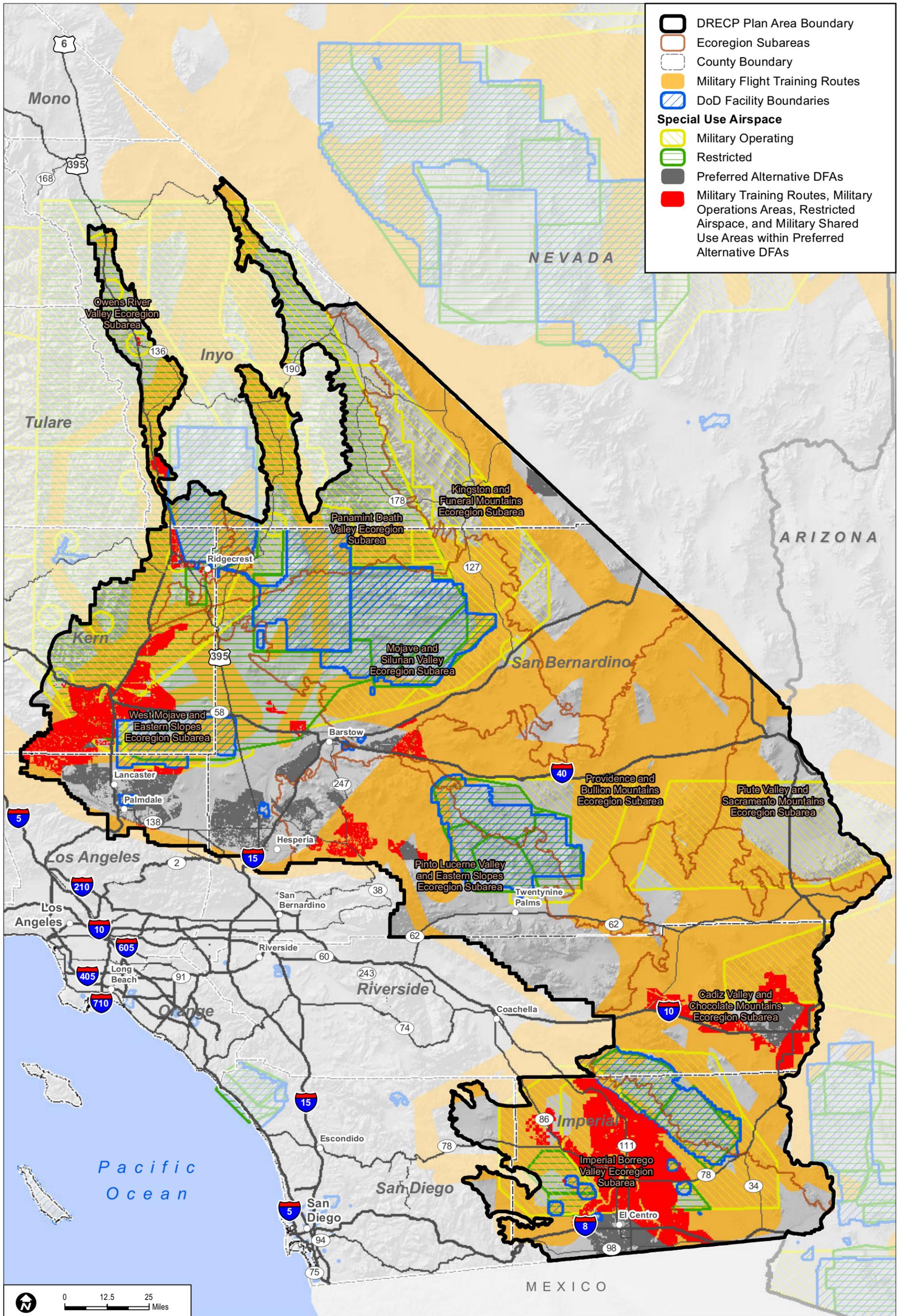
***IV.24.3.2.1 Plan-wide Impacts of Implementing the DRECP:
Preferred Alternative***

Under the Preferred Alternative, the analysis of impacts on DOD lands and operations is based on the description of Covered Activities within the Plan Area, as described in Section II.3.1.

IV.24.3.2.1.1 Plan-wide Impacts and Mitigation Measures from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development

Impact Assessment

Under the Preferred Alternative, renewable energy and transmission DFAs that intersect with DOD lands and operations are shown in Table IV.24-2. Lands available for development under this alternative would be focused in specific areas within the Plan Area. DFAs that intersect with DOD operations under the Preferred Alternative are shown in Figure IV.24-2.



Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); NRDC (2011)

FIGURE IV.24-2
Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, Restricted Airspace,
and Military Shared Use Areas within Development Focus Areas –Preferred Alternative

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August 2014

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**Table IV.24-2
Potential Acres of DOD Operations Impacted by
Technology Type – Preferred Alternative**

DOD Operations	DOD Operations in Plan Area (acres)	Potential DOD Operations impacted by Technology Type(acres)			
		Solar	Wind	GT	Transmission
Military Training Routes	12,999,000	72,000	94,000	14,000	24,000
Military Operations Areas	8,438,000	43,000	39,000	12,000	9,000
Special Use Airspace-Restricted	6,919,000	17,000	29,000	2,000	2,000
Shared Use Area (BLM and DOD)	56,000	0	0	0	0

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

Impact DD-1: Renewable energy and transmission facilities would interfere with DOD lands and operations.

Under the Preferred Alternative, impacts on DOD operations would come from a mix of solar, wind, and transmission. Wind energy development would be dispersed in the Plan Area, with most near the Edwards AFB and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) (see Figure IV.24-2). While wind turbines may be compatible under MTRs and SUAs in these areas, these projects may warrant additional review by DOD during the siting process.

Solar development and transmission infrastructure would also result in impacts, as described in Section IV.24.2.1.3. The degree of impact would depend on the location, size, and specific configuration of projects. Under the Preferred Alternative, solar energy development would occur primarily near Edwards AFB, near CMAGR. Solar photovoltaic development may be compatible with these operations; however, solar thermal energy may also require additional coordination and review by DOD during the siting process.

Study Area Lands

Study Area Lands refer to three categories of lands shown on alternative maps: Future Assessment Areas (FAAs), Special Analysis Areas (SAAs) and DRECP Variance Lands. Table IV.24-3 shows the acres of SAAs and DRECP Variance Lands that intersect with DOD operations.

**Table IV.24-3
DOD Lands That Intersect With Special Analysis Areas – Preferred Alternative**

DOD Lands that Intersect with Special Analysis Areas	Future Assessment Areas (acres)	Special Analysis Areas (acres)	DRECP Variance Lands (acres)
Military Training Routes	107,000	42,000	7,000
Military Operations Areas	97,000	16,000	4,000
Special Use Airspace - Restricted	72,000	26,000	2,000
Shared Use Area (BLM and DOD)	0	0	0

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

Future Assessment Areas. Lands within FAAs are neither reserve lands nor DFAs; they are simply areas that are deferred for future assessment. The future assessment will determine their suitability for renewable energy development or for ecological conservation. If renewable energy development occurs on FAA lands, a LUPA would not be required. FAAs for each alternative are shown in Table IV.1-2 and Figure II.3-1 in Volume II. The FAAs represent areas where renewable energy development or inclusion to the reserve design could be implemented through an amendment to the DRECP, but additional assessment would be needed.

Because most of the FAAs are presented as undesignated areas in the action alternatives, there would be no difference between the FAAs in the Preferred Alternative except that renewable development in an FAA would not require a BLM Land Use Plan Amendment so the environmental review process would be somewhat simpler than if the location were left undesignated. As shown in Table IV.24-3, Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, and Special Use Airspace (restricted) intersect FAAs. Development of the FAAs would have similar impacts on DOD operations as described, particularly east of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms.

Special Analysis Areas. There are two areas defined as SAAs, representing areas subject to ongoing analysis. These areas (located in the Silurian Valley and just west of Highway 395 in Kern County) have high value for renewable energy development, and also high value for ecological and cultural conservation, and recreation. SAA lands are expected to be designated in the DRECP as either DFAs or included in the reserve design. Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, and Special Use Airspace (restricted) intersect these SAAs (see Table IV.24-3).

DRECP Variance Lands. DRECP Variance Lands represent the BLM Solar PEIS Variance Lands screened for the DRECP and based on BLM screening criteria. Covered Activities could be permitted for NCCP purposes only through an NCCP plan amendment. However, development of renewable energy on Variance Lands would not require a BLM Land Use Plan Amendment so the environmental review process would be somewhat simpler than if the location were left undesignated. Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, and Special Use Airspace (restricted) intersect DRECP Variance Lands (see Table IV.24-3). Development of the DRECP Variance Lands would have similar impacts on DOD operations as described above under the Plan-wide analysis.

Impact Reduction Strategies and Mitigation

The implementation of the Plan would result in conservation of some desert lands as well as development of renewable energy generation and transmission on other lands. There are several ways that impacts of renewable energy development covered by the Plan would be lessened. The Plan incorporates Conservation and Management Actions (CMAs) for each alternative, including specific biological reserve design components and LUPA components. The implementation of existing laws, orders, regulations and standards would also reduce the impacts of project development. If significant impacts would still result after implementation of CMAs and compliance with applicable laws and regulations specific mitigation measures would be recommended in this section.

Conservation and Management Actions

The conservation strategy for the Preferred Alternative (see Section II.3.1.1) defines specific actions to reduce the impacts of this alternative. The conservation strategy includes the definition of the reserve design and specific CMAs for the Preferred Alternative. While the CMAs were developed for BLM lands only, this analysis assumes that all CMAs would also apply to nonfederal lands. The CMA pertinent to DOD lands includes specific guidance on DOD review and approval of streamlined projects, as follows.

All streamlined projects proposed within the three zones entail varying levels of risk to national security and military operations, testing, and training, and would require DOD review and approval. Risk and conflict areas are discussed in more detail in Volume II by alternative, including conflict area maps.

The risk zones and DOD review process are:

- **Red Areas: Significant Likelihood of Unacceptable Risk** – No streamlining of projects unless a written letter is provided by the Senate Bill (SB) 1462 points of contact stating military impacts have been mitigated.

- Orange and Yellow Areas: Likelihood of Unacceptable Risk – Streamlining of projects permitted following consultation with DOD at the regional level that subsequently results in a DOD assessment of no mission impact. DOD regional level shall have 30 days to determine a mission impact assessment. Within that 30-day DOD review period, if DOD determines that the project might pose an unacceptable risk to national security, that project shall not be streamlined, but rather referred to the SB 1462 points of contact (see Appendix J).

Notification to DOD at the regional level for a military impact assessment, and the determination to streamline a project within the Plan Area, shall follow DOD service level points of contact established by SB 1462.

Laws and Regulations

Similar to the No Action Alternative, existing laws and regulations would reduce certain impacts of Plan implementation. Relevant regulations are presented in Volume III and summarized for the No Action Alternative in Section IV.24.3.1.1.1.

Mitigation Measures

After implementation of the CMAs and existing laws and regulations, project-specific siting and design criteria would be developed during coordination with DOD, as described in the CMAs and other laws and regulations.

IV.24.3.2.1.2 Impacts of the Reserve Design

None of the allowed uses within the reserve design would impact DOD lands or operations.

IV.24.3.2.2 Impacts of DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment on BLM Land: Preferred Alternative

This section addresses two components of the effects of the BLM LUPA: the streamlined development of renewable energy and transmission on BLM land under LUPA, and the impacts of the amended land use plans themselves.

IV.24.3.2.2.1 Impacts from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development on BLM Land

The typical impacts from the various renewable energy and transmission facilities on BLM lands would be the same as those described in Section IV.24.2.1. However, the specific locations where energy and transmission development would be allowed would be driven by LUPA decisions, which would either encourage or restrict development in some areas.

Under the Preferred Alternative, most renewable energy development on BLM lands would be near NAF El Centro and several ranges, including CMAGR (see Figure IV.24-2).

IV.24.3.2.2 Impacts of Changes to BLM Land Designations

None of the allowed uses within the BLM LUPA designations would impact DOD lands or operations.

IV.24.3.2.3 Impacts of Natural Community Conservation Plan: Preferred Alternative

The analysis of Covered Activities under the NCCP is equivalent to the Plan-wide analysis of the interagency alternatives. Reserve design features and other conservation actions under the NCCP alternatives represent more detailed categories of the reserve design under the interagency Plan-wide alternatives. These NCCP differences in reserve design features would not affect nonbiological resources analyzed in this document, and the analysis of reserve design and CMAs under the NCCP is therefore equivalent to the Plan-wide analysis of the interagency alternatives, as described in Section IV.24.3.2.1.

IV.24.3.2.4 Impacts of General Conservation Plan: Preferred Alternative

The impacts of the GCP for the Preferred Alternative would be similar to those defined in Section IV.24.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis, but they would occur on nonfederal lands only.

Renewable energy development on GCP lands under the Preferred Alternative would be considerably less than the full Plan-wide analysis and would be near Edwards AFB, NAF El Centro, and several other ranges.

IV.24.3.2.5 Impacts Outside the Plan Area: Preferred Alternative

IV.24.3.2.5.1 Impacts of Transmission Outside the Plan Area

Additional transmission infrastructure would be needed to deliver renewable energy to load centers (areas of high electricity demand) outside the Plan Area. It is assumed that new transmission infrastructure outside the Plan Area would use existing transmission corridors between the Plan Area and existing substations in the more heavily populated areas of the state. The densely populated areas outside the Plan Area through which new transmission infrastructure might be constructed include the San Diego, Los Angeles, North Palm Springs–Riverside, and Central Valley areas. These areas are further described in Chapter III, Section III.24.4.

New transmission infrastructure in existing transmission corridors outside the Plan Areas would not interfere with any ground operations at DOD facilities. However, transmission infrastructure poses a potential hazard to aircraft, so their locations and heights concern military pilots. Outside the Plan Area, three DOD facilities with flight operations are near transmission corridors. MCAS Miramar, in the San Diego area, is at the western end of the corridor that ends at Sycamore Substation, which is at the eastern boundary of MCAS. March Air Reserve Base, in the North Palm Springs–Riverside area, is approximately 9.5 miles northwest of the corridor that ends at Valley Substation. Lemoore Naval Air Station, in the Central Valley, is approximately 18 miles east of the transmission corridor in this area. Each of these corridors has existing high-voltage transmission infrastructure.

Impact DD-1: Renewable energy and transmission facilities would interfere with DOD lands and operations.

Although aircraft operations would occur near corridors outside the Plan Area, these transmission corridors are known to pilots. Additional transmission infrastructure in or adjacent to these corridors would increase the number of lines in the vicinity but would not be expected to interfere with DOD lands and operations. Flight paths and operating protocols take into account the locations of existing infrastructure, and new transmission in the same corridors would not substantially change risk factors. The DOD would review all proposed transmission infrastructure near its air facilities. The FAA would require lights and marker balls on towers and conductor spans that it deems hazardous to aircraft.

IV.24.3.2.5.2 Impacts of BLM LUPA Decisions Outside the Plan Area

Under the Preferred Alternative, renewable energy projects outside the Plan Area would be developed through BLM's existing policies. Impacts on DOD lands and operations would be of the types described in Section IV.24.2.1, with similar mitigation measures included on a case-by-case basis.

Outside the Plan Area, the proposed BLM LUPA would not impact DOD lands or operations.

IV.24.3.2.6 Comparison of the Preferred Alternative With the No Action Alternative

This section summarizes the comparison of the Preferred Alternative with the No Action Alternative.

IV.24.3.2.6.1 Preferred Alternative Compared With No Action Alternative for Plan-wide DRECP

The mix of renewable energy facilities under the No Action and Preferred Alternative are similar, with more wind energy expected under the No Action Alternative, and slightly

more geothermal under the Preferred Alternative. Potential impacts would be spread over a larger area under the No Action Alternative, but confined to DFAs under the Preferred Alternative. Because of the large-scale use of the Plan Area by the DOD, impacts of the No Action and Preferred Alternative would be similar. The DOD CMA required under the Preferred Alternative is similar to existing DOD requirements for renewable energy projects and would ensure that specific proposed projects would not compromise the operational mission of the DOD.

Under the Preferred Alternative, additional CMAs would formalize coordination with the DOD and outline potential responses regarding project streamlining under the DRECP. Overall, adverse impacts to DOD lands and operations would be moderate and mitigation measures would reduce impacts.

IV.24.3.2.6.2 Preferred Alternative Compared With No Action Alternative for the BLM LUPA

Impacts on DOD lands for the BLM LUPA would be the same as for the Plan-wide DRECP except it would only be located on BLM lands. Because of the large-scale use of the Plan Area by the DOD regardless of land ownership, impacts of the No Action and Preferred Alternative would be similar. Reserve design features of the BLM LUPA would have no impacts on DOD lands under both the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Action.

IV.24.3.2.6.3 Preferred Alternative Compared With No Action Alternative for the Natural Community Conservation Plan

The impacts of the NCCP for the Preferred Alternative are the same as those defined in Section IV.24.3.2.1 for the Plan-wide analysis. As a result, the comparison of the Preferred Alternative with the No Action Alternative for the NCCP is the same as described for the Plan-wide DRECP.

IV.24.3.2.6.4 Preferred Alternative Compared With No Action Alternative for the General Conservation Plan

Impacts on DOD lands for the GCP would be the same as for the Plan-wide DRECP except on nonfederal lands. Because of the large-scale use of the Plan Area by the DOD regardless of land ownership, impacts of the No Action and Preferred Alternative would be similar.

IV.24.3.3 Alternative 1

IV.24.3.3.1 Plan-wide Impacts of Implementing the DRECP: Alternative 1

IV.24.3.3.1.1 Plan-wide Impacts and Mitigation Measures from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development

Impact Assessment

Under Alternative 1, renewable energy and transmission DFAs that intersect with DOD lands and operations are shown in Table IV.24-4. Lands available for development under this alternative would be focused to specific areas within the Plan Area. DFAs that intersect with DOD operations under Alternative 1 are shown in Figure IV.24-3.

**Table IV.24-4
Potential Acres of DOD Operations Impacted by Technology Type – Alternative 1**

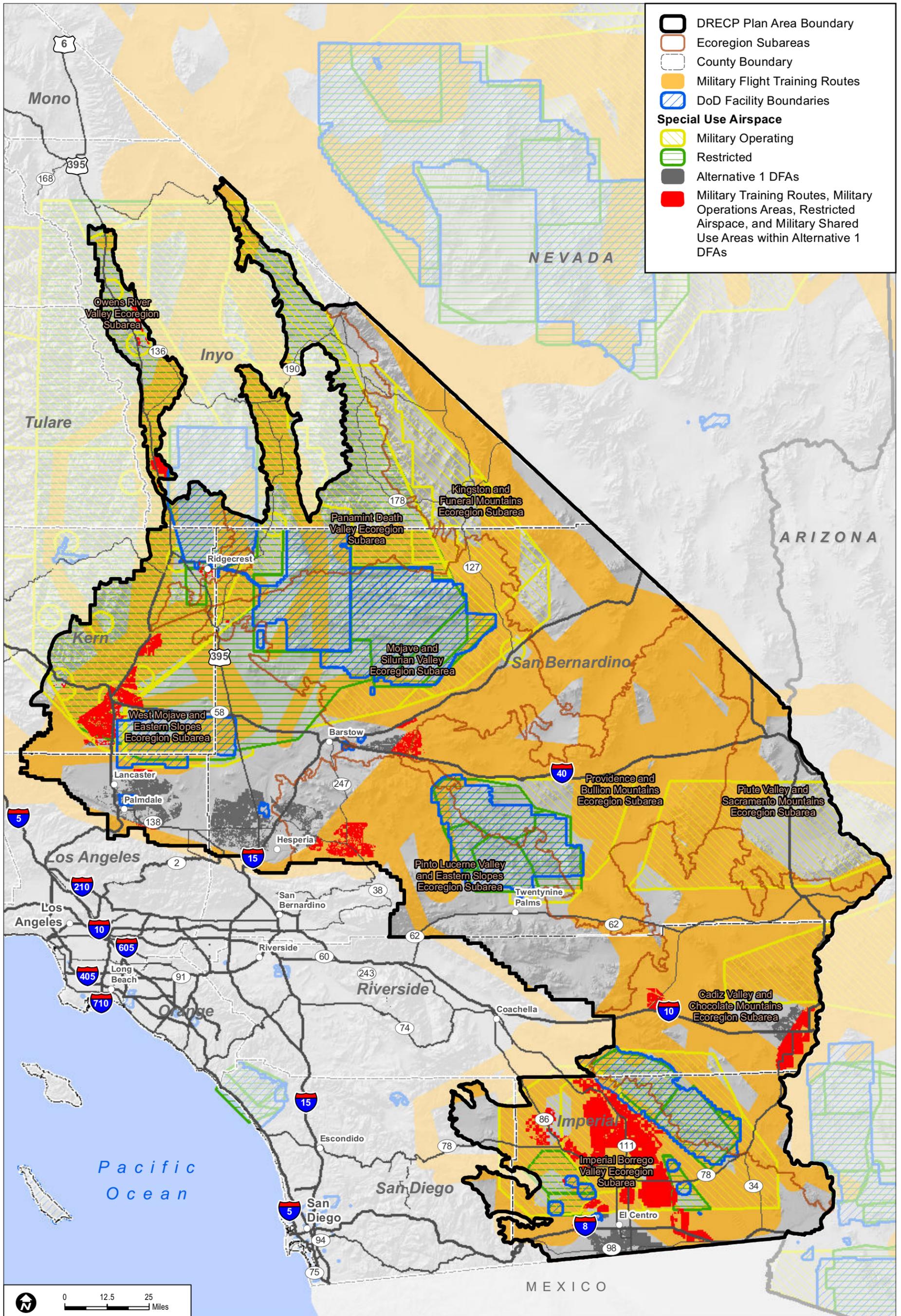
DOD Operations	DOD Operations in Plan Area (acres)	Potential DOD Operations impacted by Technology Type (acres)			
		Solar	Wind	GT	Transmission
Military Training Routes	12,999,000	75,000	17,000	12,000	25,000
Military Operations Areas	8,438,000	55,000	7,000	12,000	13,000
Special Use Airspace-Restricted	6,919,000	20,000	7,000	1,000	3,000
Shared Use Area	56,000	0	0	0	0

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

Impact DD-1: Renewable energy and transmission facilities would interfere with DOD lands and operations.

Under Alternative 1, impacts on DOD operations would be primarily from solar energy and transmission, with some impacts from wind and transmission (Table IV.24-4).

Solar and transmission infrastructure would also result in impacts, as described in Section IV.24.2.1.3. The degree of impact would depend on the location, size, and specific configuration of projects. Under Alternative 1, solar energy development would be located near Edwards AFB, the MCAGCC, NAF El Centro, and several ranges.



Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); NRDC (2011)

FIGURE IV.24-3
Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, Restricted Airspace,
and Military Shared Use Areas within Development Focus Areas –Alternative 1

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Wind energy development would occur mostly near Edwards AFB and MCAGCC. While wind turbines may be compatible under MTRs and SUAs in this area, these projects may warrant additional review by DOD during the siting process.

Study Area Lands

Table IV.24-5 shows the acres of SAAs and DRECP Variance Lands that intersect with DOD operations.

**Table IV.24-5
DOD Lands That Intersect With Special Analysis Areas – Preferred Alternative**

DOD Lands that Intersect with Special Analysis Areas	Future Assessment Areas (acres)	Special Analysis Areas (acres)	DRECP Variance Lands (acres)
Military Training Routes	n/a	24,000	24,000
Military Operations Areas	n/a	18,000	18,000
Special Use Airspace - Restricted	n/a	3,000	3,000
Shared Use Area (BLM and DOD)	n/a	0	0

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

Future Assessment Areas. Alternative 1 does not include FAAs.

Special Analysis Areas. Designating the SAAs as conservation would have no impact on DOD operations. Impacts would be the same as those explained for the Plan-wide reserve design in Impacts of the Reserve Design.

DRECP Variance Lands. DRECP Variance Lands represent the BLM Solar PEIS Variance Lands screened for the DRECP and based on BLM screening criteria. Covered Activities could be permitted for NCCP purposes only through an NCCP plan amendment. However, development of renewable energy on Variance Lands would not require a BLM Land Use Plan Amendment so the environmental review process would be somewhat simpler than if the location were left undesignated. Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, and Special Use Airspace (restricted) intersect DRECP Variance Lands (see Table IV.24-5). Development of the DRECP Variance Lands would have similar impacts on DOD operations as described under the Plan-wide analysis.

Impact Reduction Strategies and Mitigation

Implementation of the Plan would result in conservation of some desert lands as well as the development of renewable energy generation and transmission facilities on other lands. There are several ways in which the impacts of renewable energy development covered by the Plan would be lessened. The Plan incorporates CMAs for each alternative, including specific biological reserve design components and LUPA components. Also, the implementation of existing laws, orders, regulations and standards would reduce the impacts of project development. If significant impacts would still result after implementation of CMAs and compliance with applicable laws and regulations specific mitigation measures would be recommended in this section.

Conservation and Management Actions

The conservation strategy for Alternative 1 (see Volume II, Section II.4.1.1) defines specific actions that would reduce the impacts of this alternative. While the CMAs were developed for BLM lands only, this analysis assumes that all CMAs would also apply to nonfederal lands. The DOD CMA for Alternative 1 would be the same as for the Preferred Alternative (see Section IV.24.4.2.1.1).

Notification to DOD at the regional level for a military impact assessment and a determination to streamline a project within the Plan Area shall follow DOD service level points of contact established by SB 1462

Laws and Regulations

Similar to the No Action Alternative, existing laws and regulations would reduce certain impacts of Plan implementation. Relevant regulations are presented in Volume III. The requirements of relevant laws and regulations are summarized for the No Action Alternative in Section IV.24.3.1.1.1.

Mitigation Measures

After implementation of the CMAs and existing laws and regulations, project-specific siting and design criteria would be developed during coordination with DOD, as described in the CMAs, laws, and regulations.

IV.24.3.3.1.2 Impacts from Reserve Design

None of the allowed uses within the reserve design would impact DOD lands or operations.

IV.24.3.3.2 Impacts of DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment on BLM Land: Alternative 1

This section addresses two components of the effects of the BLM LUPA: the streamlined development of renewable energy and transmission on BLM land under the LUPA, and the impacts of the amended land use plans themselves.

IV.24.3.3.2.1 Impacts from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development on BLM Land

The typical impacts from the various renewable energy and transmission facilities on BLM lands would be the same as those described in Section IV.24.2.1. However, the specific locations in which energy and transmission development would be allowed would be driven by LUPA decisions, which would either encourage or restrict development in some areas.

Under Alternative 1, most renewable energy development on BLM lands would be solar and would occur primarily near Edwards AFB, NAF El Centro, and several ranges (see Figure IV.24-3).

IV.24.3.3.2.2 Impacts of Changes to BLM Land Designations

None of the allowed uses within the BLM LUPA designations would impact DOD lands or operations.

IV.24.3.3.3 Impacts of Natural Community Conservation Plan: Alternative 1

The analysis of Covered Activities under the NCCP is equivalent to the Plan-wide analysis of the interagency alternatives. Reserve design features and other conservation actions under the NCCP alternatives represent more detailed categories of the reserve design under the interagency Plan-wide alternatives. These NCCP differences in reserve design features would not affect nonbiological resources analyzed in this document, and the analysis of reserve design and CMAs under the NCCP is therefore equivalent to the Plan-wide analysis of the interagency alternatives, as described in Section IV.24.3.3.1.

IV.24.3.3.4 Impacts of General Conservation Plan: Alternative 1

The impacts of the GCP for Alternative 1 would be similar to those defined in Section IV.24.3.3.1 for the Plan-wide analysis, but they would be on nonfederal lands only.

Renewable energy development on GCP lands would be mostly near the MCAGCC, Edwards AFB, NAF El Centro, and several ranges.

IV.24.3.3.5 Impacts Outside the Plan Area: Alternative 1

IV.24.3.3.5.1 Impacts of Transmission Outside the Plan Area

The impacts of transmission infrastructure outside the Plan Area on DOD lands and operations would be the same under all alternatives. These impacts are described in the No Action Alternative in Section IV.24.3.1.5.1.

IV.24.3.3.5.2 Impacts of BLM LUPA Decisions Outside the Plan Area

Under Alternative 1, renewable energy projects would continue to be developed through BLM's existing policies. Impacts on DOD lands and operations would be of the types described in Section IV.24.2.1, with similar mitigation measures on a case-by-case basis.

Outside the Plan Area, the proposed BLM LUPA would not impact DOD lands or operations.

IV.24.3.3.6 Comparison of Alternative 1 With the Preferred Alternative

This section summarizes the comparison of Alternative 1 with the Preferred Alternative.

IV.24.3.3.6.1 Alternative 1 Compared With Preferred Alternative for Plan-wide DRECP

Alternative 1 would emphasize more solar and less wind energy development than the mix of facilities under the Preferred Alternative. Alternative 1 would also have more confined DFAs than the Preferred Alternative, but impacts on DOD operations would be similar in both their natures and locations. Under both alternatives, existing laws and regulations and the proposed CMAs that formalize coordination with the DOD would substantially reduce potential impacts on DOD operations. Overall, adverse impacts to DOD lands and operations would be moderate and mitigation measures would reduce impacts.

IV.24.3.3.6.2 Alternative 1 Compared With Preferred Alternative for the BLM Land Use Plan Amendment

The overall amount of DFAs on BLM lands under Alternative 1 would be less than under the Preferred Alternative. Alternative 1 would emphasize more solar and less wind energy development on BLM lands than the mix of technologies under the Preferred Alternative; but the locations of the developments would be similar. Under both alternatives, existing laws and regulations and proposed CMAs to formalize coordination with the DOD would ensure that specific proposed projects would not compromise the DOD's operational mission.

IV.24.3.3.6.3 Alternative 1 Compared With Preferred Alternative for NCCP

The impacts of the NCCP for Alternative 1 are the same as those defined in Section IV.24.3.3.1 for the Plan-wide analysis. As a result, the comparison of Alternative 1 with the Preferred Alternative for the NCCP is the same as described for the Plan-wide DRECP.

IV.24.3.3.6.4 Alternative 1 Compared With Preferred Alternative for the GCP

The overall amount of DFAs on GCP lands under Alternative 1 would be somewhat less than under the Preferred Alternative. Similar to the Plan-wide analysis, Alternative 1 emphasizes more solar and less wind energy development than the mix of technologies under the Preferred Alternative.

Under both alternatives, existing laws and regulations and proposed CMAs that formalize coordination with the DOD would substantially reduce potential impacts on DOD operations by requiring compliance with conditions stipulated by both DOD and the FAA. Under both alternatives, these measures would ensure that specific proposed projects would not compromise DOD's operational mission.

IV.24.3.4 Alternative 2

IV.24.3.4.1 Plan-wide Impacts of Implementing the DRECP: Alternative 2

IV.24.3.4.1.1 Plan-wide Impacts and Mitigation Measures from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development

Impact Assessment

Under Alternative 2, renewable energy and transmission DFAs that intersect with DOD lands and operations are shown in Table IV.24-6. Lands available for development under this alternative would be focused to specific areas within the Plan Area. DFAs that intersect with DOD operations under Alternative 2 are shown in Figure IV.24-4.

**Table IV.24-6
Potential Acres of DOD Operations Impacted by Technology Type – Alternative 2**

DOD Operations	DOD Operations in Plan Area (acres)	Potential DOD Operations impacted by Technology Type (acres)			
		Solar	Wind	GT	Transmission
Military Training Routes	12,999,000	66,000	166,000	14,000	24,000
Military Operations Areas	8,438,000	44,000	86,000	12,000	10,000
Special Use Airspace-Restricted	6,919,000	25,000	45,000	2,000	2,000
Shared Use Area	56,000	0	0	0	0

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

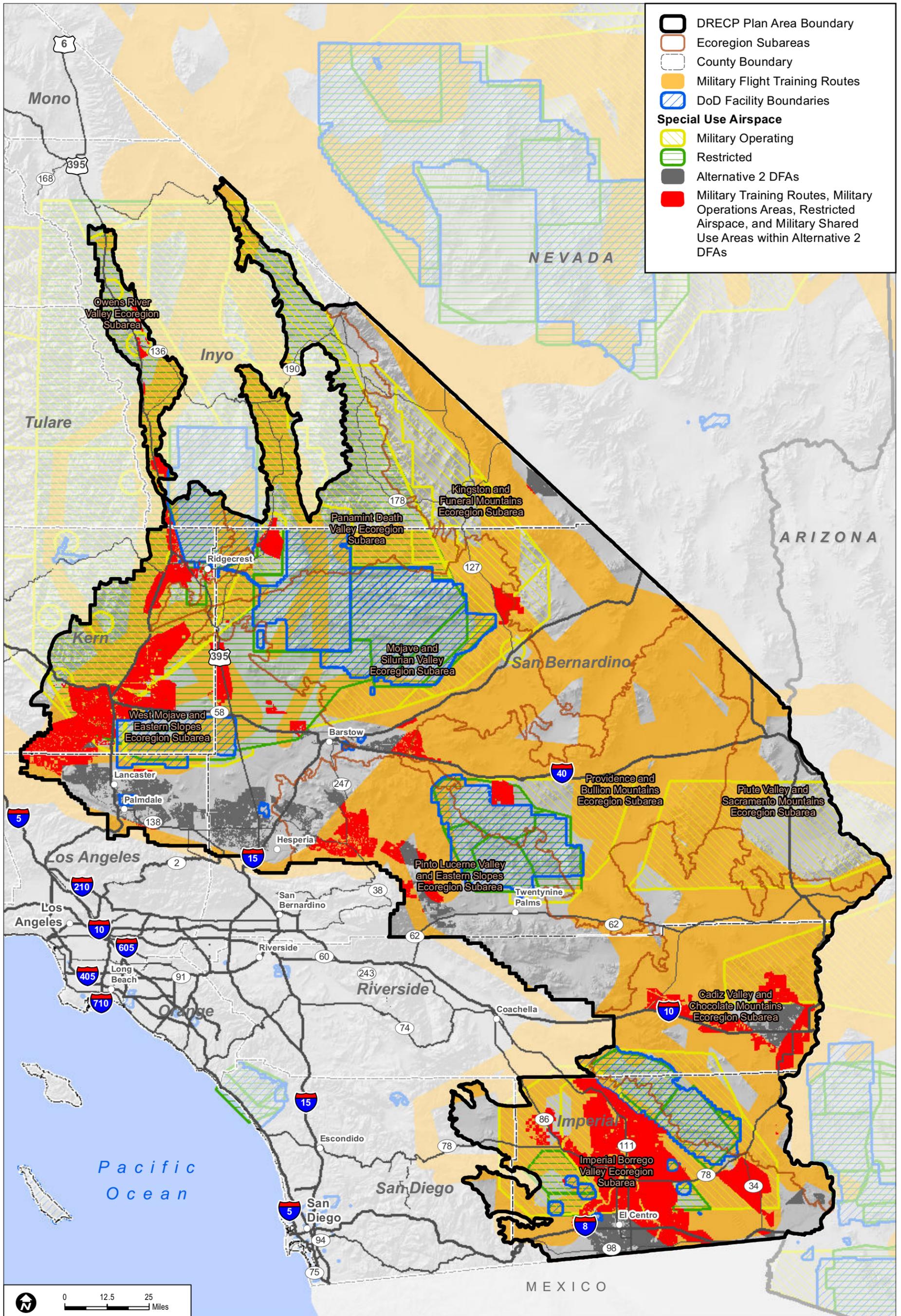
Impact DD-1: Renewable energy and transmission facilities would interfere with DOD lands and operations.

Under Alternative 2, impacts on DOD operations would come primarily from wind energy and a mix of solar and transmission (see Table IV.24-6). Wind energy development would be located near Edwards AFB and MCAGCC. While wind turbines may be compatible under MTRs and SUAs in this area, these projects may warrant additional review by DOD during the siting process.

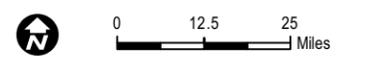
Solar and transmission would also result in the impacts described in Section IV.24.2.1.3. The degree of impact would depend on the location, size, and specific configuration of projects. Under Alternative 2, solar energy development would be near Edwards AFB, NAF El Centro, and several ranges.

Study Area Lands

Table IV.24-7 shows the acres of FAAs that intersect with DOD operations. SAAs and DRECP Variance Lands would not overlap with DOD operations under this alternative.



- DRECP Plan Area Boundary
- Ecoregion Subareas
- County Boundary
- Military Flight Training Routes
- DoD Facility Boundaries
- Special Use Airspace**
- Military Operating
- Restricted
- Alternative 2 DFAs
- Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, Restricted Airspace, and Military Shared Use Areas within Alternative 2 DFAs



Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); NRDC (2011)

FIGURE IV.24-4
Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, Restricted Airspace,
and Military Shared Use Areas within Development Focus Areas –Alternative 2

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**Table IV.24-7
DOD Lands That Intersect With Special Analysis Areas – Alternative 2**

DOD Lands that Intersect with Special Analysis Areas	Future Assessment Areas (acres)	Special Analysis Areas (acres)	DRECP Variance Lands (acres)
Military Training Routes	10,000	0	0
Military Operations Areas	9,000	0	0
Special Use Airspace - Restricted	9,000	0	0
Shared Use Area (BLM and DOD)	0	0	0

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

Future Assessment Areas (FAAs). Lands within FAAs are neither reserve lands nor DFAs; they are simply areas that are deferred for future assessment. The future assessment will determine their suitability for renewable energy development or for ecological conservation. If renewable energy development occurs on FAA lands, a Land Use Plan Amendment would not be required. FAAs for each alternative are shown in Table IV.1-2 and Figure II.5-1 in Volume II. The FAAs represent areas where renewable energy development or inclusion to the reserve design could be implemented through an amendment to the DRECP, but additional assessment would be needed.

Because most of the FAAs are presented as undesignated areas in the action alternatives, there would be no difference between the FAAs in the Preferred Alternative except that renewable development in an FAA would not require a BLM Land Use Plan Amendment so the environmental review process would be somewhat simpler than if the location were left undesignated. As shown in Table IV.24-7, Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, and Special Use Airspace (restricted) intersect FAAs. Development of the FAAs would have similar impacts on DOD operations as described under the Plan-wide analysis.

Special Analysis Areas. Designating the SAAs as development would not result in impacts to DOD lands or operations (see Table IV.24-7).

DRECP Variance Lands. DRECP Variance Lands represent the BLM Solar PEIS Variance Lands screened for the DRECP and based on BLM screening criteria. Covered Activities could be permitted for NCCP purposes only through an NCCP plan amendment. However, development of renewable energy on variance lands would not require a BLM Land Use Plan Amendment so the environmental review process would be somewhat simpler than if the location were left undesignated. Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, and Special Use Airspace (restricted) would not intersect DRECP

Variance Lands (see Table IV.24-7). Development of the DRECP Variance Lands would not impact DOD lands or operations.

Impact Reduction Strategies and Mitigation

Implementation of the Plan would result in conservation of some desert lands as well as development of renewable energy generation and transmission facilities on other lands. There are several ways in which the impacts of renewable energy development covered by the Plan would be lessened. The Plan incorporates CMAs for each alternative, including specific biological reserve design components and LUPA components. Also, the implementation of existing laws, orders, regulations and standards would reduce the impacts of project development. If significant impacts would still result after implementation of CMAs and compliance with applicable laws and regulations specific mitigation measures would be recommended in this section.

Conservation and Management Actions

The conservation strategy for Alternative 2 (see Section II.3.1.1) defines specific actions that would reduce the impacts of this alternative. While the CMAs were developed for BLM lands only, this analysis assumes that all CMAs would also apply to nonfederal lands. The DOD CMA for Alternative 2 would be the same as for the Preferred Alternative (see Section IV.24.4.2.1.1).

Notification to DOD at the regional level for a military impact assessment and determination to streamline a project within the Plan Area shall follow DOD service level points of contact established by SB 1462.

Laws and Regulations

Similar to the No Action Alternative, existing laws and regulations would reduce certain impacts of Plan implementation. Relevant regulations are presented in Volume III. The requirements of relevant laws and regulations are summarized for the No Action Alternative in Section IV.24.3.1.1.1.

Mitigation Measures

After implementation of the CMAs and existing laws and regulations, project-specific siting and design criteria would be developed during coordination with DOD, as described in the CMAs and laws and regulations.

IV.24.3.4.1.2 Impacts from Reserve Design

None of the allowed uses within the reserve design would impact DOD lands or operations.

IV.24.3.4.2 Impacts of DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment on BLM Land: Alternative 2

This section addresses two components of effects of the BLM LUPA: the streamlined development of renewable energy and transmission on BLM land under the LUPA, and the impacts of the amended land use plans themselves.

IV.24.3.4.2.1 Impacts from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development on BLM Land

The typical impacts from the various renewable energy and transmission facilities on BLM lands would be the same as those described in Section IV.24.2.1. However, the specific locations in which energy and transmission development would be allowed would be driven by LUPA decisions, which would either encourage or restrict development in some areas.

Under Alternative 2, renewable energy development on BLM lands would mostly be wind and solar facilities, located primarily near Edwards AFB, MCAGCC, NAF El Centro, and several ranges.

IV.24.3.4.2.2 Impacts of Changes to BLM Land Designations

None of the allowed uses within the BLM LUPA designations would impact DOD lands or operations (see Figure IV.24-4).

IV.24.3.4.3 Impacts of Natural Community Conservation Plan: Alternative 2

The analysis of Covered Activities under the NCCP is equivalent to the Plan-wide analysis of the interagency alternatives. Reserve design features and other conservation actions under the NCCP alternatives represent more detailed categories of the reserve design under the interagency Plan-wide alternatives. These NCCP differences in reserve design features would not affect nonbiological resources analyzed in this document, and the analysis of reserve design and CMAs under the NCCP is therefore equivalent to the Plan-wide analysis of the interagency alternatives, as described in Section IV.24.3.4.1.

IV.24.3.4.4 Impacts of General Conservation Plan: Alternative 2

The impacts of the GCP for Alternative 2 would be similar to those defined in Section IV.24.3.4.1 for the Plan-wide analysis, but they would occur on nonfederal lands only.

Renewable energy development on GCP lands would be broadly spread out, mostly near Edwards AFB, NAF El Centro, and several ranges.

IV.24.3.4.5 Impacts Outside the Plan Area: Alternative 2

IV.24.3.4.5.1 Impacts of Transmission Outside the Plan Area

The impacts of transmission infrastructure outside the Plan Area on DOD lands and operations would be the same under all alternatives. These impacts are as described for the No Action Alternative in Section IV.24.3.1.5.1.

IV.24.3.4.5.2 Impacts of BLM LUPA Decisions Outside the Plan Area

Under Alternative 2, renewable energy projects would continue to be developed through BLM's existing policies. Impacts on DOD lands and operations would be of the types described in Section IV.24.2.1, with similar mitigation measures on a case-by-case basis.

Outside the Plan Area, the proposed BLM LUPA would not impact DOD lands or operations.

IV.24.3.4.6 Comparison of Alternative 2 With Preferred Alternative

This section summarizes the comparison of Alternative 2 with the Preferred Alternative.

IV.24.3.4.6.1 Alternative 2 Compared With Preferred Alternative for Plan-wide DRECP

Alternative 2 would emphasize more wind energy and less solar energy development than the mix of technologies under the Preferred Alternative. Alternative 2 would also have more broadly dispersed DFAs than the Preferred Alternative, but impacts on DOD operations would occur in similar locations in both alternatives and would be similar in nature. Under both alternatives, existing laws and regulations and proposed CMAs to formalize coordination with the DOD would substantially reduce potential impacts on DOD operations. Overall, adverse impacts to DOD lands and operations would be moderate and mitigation measures would reduce impacts.

IV.24.3.4.6.2 Alternative 2 Compared With Preferred Alternative for the BLM LUPA

The overall amount of DFAs on BLM lands under Alternative 2 would be larger than under the Preferred Alternative. Alternative 2 would emphasize more wind energy and less solar energy development on BLM lands than the mix of technologies under the Preferred Alternative, but the locations of the development would be similar. Under both alternatives, existing laws and regulations and proposed CMAs to formalize coordination with the DOD would ensure that specific proposed projects would not compromise the operational mission of the DOD.

IV.24.3.4.6.3 Alternative 2 Compared with Preferred Alternative for NCCP

The impacts of the NCCP on Alternative 2 would be the same as those defined in Section IV.24.3.4.1 for the Plan-wide analysis. The comparison of Alternative 2 with the Preferred Alternative for the NCCP is therefore the same as described for the Plan-wide DRECP.

IV.24.3.4.6.4 Alternative 2 Compared with Preferred Alternative for the GCP

The overall amount of DFAs on GCP lands under Alternative 2 would be somewhat larger under the Preferred Alternative. Similar to the Plan-wide analysis, Alternative 2 emphasizes more wind energy and less solar energy development on GCP lands than the mix of technologies under the Preferred Alternative.

Under both alternatives, existing laws and regulations and the proposed CMAs to formalize coordination with the DOD would substantially reduce potential impacts on DOD operations by requiring compliance with conditions stipulated by both DOD and the FAA. Under both alternatives, these measures would ensure that specific proposed projects would not compromise DOD's operational mission.

IV.24.3.5 Alternative 3

IV.24.3.5.1 Plan-wide Impacts of Implementing the DRECP: Alternative 3

IV.24.3.5.1.1 Plan-wide Impacts and Mitigation Measures from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development

Impact Assessment

Under Alternative 3, renewable energy and transmission DFAs that intersect with DOD lands and operations are shown in Table IV.24-8. Lands available for development under this alternative would be focused on specific areas within the Plan Area. DFAs that intersect with DOD operations under Alternative 3 are shown in Figure IV.24-5.

**Table IV.24-8
Potential Acres of DOD Operations Impacted by Technology Type – Alternative 3**

DOD Operations	DOD Operations in Plan Area (acres)	Potential DOD Operations impacted by Technology Type (acres)			
		<i>Solar</i>	<i>Wind</i>	<i>GT</i>	<i>Transmission</i>
Military Training Routes	12,999,000	76,000	36,000	13,000	24,000
Military Operations Areas	8,438,000	50,000	11,000	12,000	11,000
Special Use Airspace-Restricted	6,919,000	24,000	12,000	2,000	3,000
Shared Use Area	56,000	0	0	0	0

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

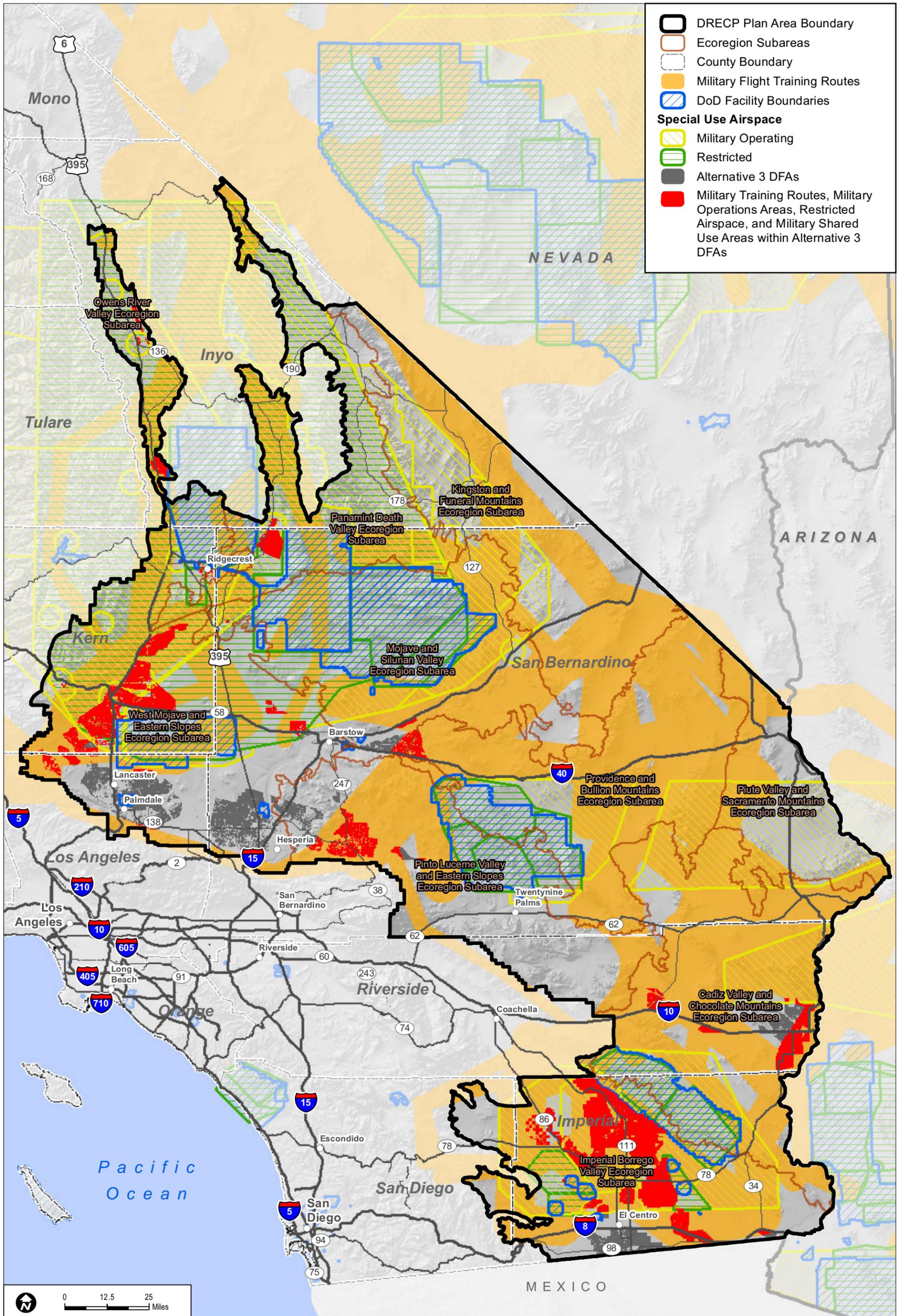
Impact DD-1: Renewable energy and transmission facilities would interfere with DOD lands and operations.

Under Alternative 3, impacts on DOD operations would be primarily from solar energy, with some impacts from wind energy and transmission (see Table IV.24-8). Solar energy development and transmission would result in the impacts described in Section IV.24.2.1.3. Under Alternative 3, solar energy and transmission would be located mostly near Edwards AFB, NAF El Centro, and several ranges.

Wind energy development would occur mostly near Edwards AFB and MCAGCC. While wind turbines may be compatible under MTRs and SUAs in this area, these projects may warrant additional review by DOD during the siting process.

Study Area Lands

Table IV.24-9 shows the acres of FAAs that intersect with DOD operations. SAAs and DRECP Variance Lands would not overlap with DOD operations under this alternative.



- DRECP Plan Area Boundary
- Ecoregion Subareas
- County Boundary
- Military Flight Training Routes
- DoD Facility Boundaries
- Special Use Airspace**
- Military Operating
- Restricted
- Alternative 3 DFAs
- Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, Restricted Airspace, and Military Shared Use Areas within Alternative 3 DFAs

Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); NRDC (2011)

FIGURE IV.24-5
Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, Restricted Airspace,
and Military Shared Use Areas within Development Focus Areas –Alternative 3

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August 2014

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**Table IV.24-9
DOD Lands That Intersect With Special Analysis Areas – Alternative 3**

DOD Lands that Intersect with Special Analysis Areas	Future Assessment Areas (acres)	Special Analysis Areas (acres)	DRECP Variance Lands (acres)
Military Training Routes	4,000	0	0
Military Operations Areas	0	0	0
Special Use Airspace - Restricted	0	0	0
Shared Use Area (BLM and DOD)	0	0	0

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

Future Assessment Areas (FAAs). Lands within FAAs are neither reserve lands nor DFAs; they are simply areas that are deferred for future assessment. The future assessment will determine their suitability for renewable energy development or for ecological conservation. If renewable energy development occurs on FAA lands, a Land Use Plan Amendment would not be required. FAAs for each alternative are shown in Table IV.1-2 and Figure II.6-1 in Volume II. The FAAs represent areas where renewable energy development or inclusion to the reserve design could be implemented through an amendment to the DRECP, but additional assessment would be needed.

Because most of the FAAs are presented as undesignated areas in the action alternatives, there would be no difference between the FAAs in the Preferred Alternative except that renewable development in an FAA would not require a BLM Land Use Plan Amendment so the environmental review process would be somewhat simpler than if the location were left undesignated. As shown in Table IV.24-9, only approximately 4,000 acres of Military Training Routes would intersect FAAs. Development of the FAAs would have similar impacts on DOD operations as described under the Plan-wide analysis.

Special Analysis Areas. Designating the SAAs as conservation would not result in impacts to DOD lands or operations (see Table IV.24-9).

DRECP Variance Lands. DRECP Variance Lands represent the BLM Solar PEIS Variance Lands screened for the DRECP and based on BLM screening criteria. Covered Activities could be permitted for NCCP purposes only through an NCCP plan amendment. However, development of renewable energy on Variance Lands would not require a BLM Land Use Plan Amendment so the environmental review process would be somewhat simpler than if the location were left undesignated. Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, and Special Use Airspace (restricted) would not intersect

DRECP Variance Lands (see Table IV.24-9). Development of the DRECP Variance Lands would not impact DOD lands or operations.

Impact Reduction Strategies and Mitigation

Implementation of the Plan would result in conservation of some desert lands as well as the development of renewable energy generation and transmission facilities on other lands. There are several ways in which the impacts of renewable energy development covered by the Plan would be lessened. The Plan incorporates CMAs for each alternative, including specific biological reserve design components and LUPA components. Also, the implementation of existing laws, orders, regulations and standards would reduce the impacts of project development. If significant impacts would still result after implementation of CMAs and compliance with applicable laws and regulations specific mitigation measures would be recommended in this section.

Conservation and Management Actions

The conservation strategy for Alternative 3 (see Section II.3.1.1) defines specific actions that would reduce the impacts of this alternative. While the CMAs were developed for BLM lands only, this analysis assumes that all CMAs would also apply to nonfederal lands. The DOD CMA for Alternative 2 would be the same as for the Preferred Alternative (see Section IV.24.4.2.1.1).

Notification to DOD at the regional level for a military impact assessment and determination to streamline a project within the Plan Area shall follow DOD service level points of contact established by SB 1462.

Laws and Regulations

Similar to the No Action Alternative, existing laws and regulations would reduce certain impacts of Plan implementation. Relevant regulations are presented in Volume III. The requirements of relevant laws and regulations are summarized for the No Action Alternative in Section IV.24.3.1.1.1.

Mitigation Measures

After implementation of the CMAs and existing laws and regulations, project-specific siting and design criteria would be developed during coordination with DOD, as described in the CMAs, laws, and regulations.

IV.24.3.5.1.2 Impacts from Reserve Design

None of the allowed uses within the reserve design would impact DOD lands or operations.

IV.24.3.5.2 Impacts of DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment on BLM Land: Alternative 3

This section addresses two components of effects of the BLM LUPA: the streamlined development of renewable energy and transmission on BLM land under the LUPA, and the impacts of the amended land use plans themselves.

IV.24.3.5.2.1 Impacts from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development on BLM Land

The typical impacts from various renewable energy and transmission facilities on BLM lands would be the same as described in Section IV.24.2.1. However, the specific locations in which energy and transmission development would be allowed would be driven by LUPA decisions, which would either encourage or restrict development in some areas.

Under Alternative 3, renewable energy development on BLM lands would mostly be solar, though some wind would occur primarily near Edwards AFB, NAF El Centro, and several ranges.

IV.24.3.5.2.2 Impacts of Changes to BLM Land Designations

None of the allowed uses within the BLM LUPA designations would impact DOD lands or operations (see Figure IV.24-5).

IV.24.3.5.3 Impacts of Natural Community Conservation Plan: Alternative 3

The analysis of Covered Activities under the NCCP is equivalent to the Plan-wide analysis of the interagency alternatives. Reserve design features and other conservation actions under the NCCP alternatives represent more detailed categories of the reserve design under the interagency Plan-wide alternatives. These NCCP differences in reserve design features would not affect nonbiological resources analyzed in this document, and the analysis of reserve design and CMAs under the NCCP is therefore equivalent to the Plan-wide analysis of the interagency alternatives, as described in Section IV.24.3.5.1.

IV.24.3.5.4 Impacts of General Conservation Plan: Alternative 3

The impacts of the GCP for Alternative 3 would be similar to those defined in Section IV.24.3.5.1 for the Plan-wide analysis, but they would occur on nonfederal lands only.

Renewable energy development on GCP lands would be broadly spread out, mostly near Edwards AFB, MCAGCC, NAF El Centro, and several ranges.

IV.24.3.5.5 Impacts Outside the Plan Area: Alternative 3

IV.24.3.5.5.1 Impacts of Transmission Outside the Plan Area

The impacts of transmission infrastructure outside the Plan Area on DOD lands and operations would be the same under all alternatives. These impacts are described in the No Action Alternative in Section IV.24.3.1.5.1.

IV.24.3.5.5.2 Impacts of BLM LUPA Decisions Outside the Plan Area

Under Alternative 3, renewable energy projects would continue to be developed through BLM's existing policies. Impacts on DOD lands and operations would be similar to those described in Section IV.24.2.1, with similar mitigation measures on a case-by-case basis.

Outside the Plan Area, the proposed BLM LUPA would not impact DOD lands or operations.

IV.24.3.5.6 Comparison of Alternative 3 With the Preferred Alternative

This section summarizes the comparison of Alternative 3 with the Preferred Alternative.

IV.24.3.5.6.1 Alternative 3 Compared with Preferred Alternative for Plan-wide DRECP

Alternative 3 would emphasize a similar amount of solar energy development but about half as much wind energy development than the mix of technologies under the Preferred Alternative. Alternative 3 would also have more broadly dispersed DFAs than the Preferred Alternative, but impacts on DOD operations would be similar in their natures and locations. Under both alternatives, the existing laws and regulations and proposed CMAs that formalize coordination with the DOD would substantially reduce potential impacts on DOD operations. Overall, adverse impacts to DOD lands and operations would be moderate and mitigation measures would reduce impacts.

IV.24.3.5.6.2 Alternative 3 Compared with Preferred Alternative for the BLM LUPA

The overall amount of DFAs on BLM lands under Alternative 3 would be smaller but more dispersed than under the Preferred Alternative. Similar to the Plan-wide analysis, Alternative 3 would emphasize more solar energy and less wind energy development on BLM lands than the mix of technologies under the Preferred Alternative; but locations of the developments would be similar.

Under both alternatives, existing laws and regulations and the proposed CMAs that formalize coordination with the DOD would ensure that specific proposed projects would not compromise the DOD's operational mission.

IV.24.3.5.6.3 Alternative 3 Compared with Preferred Alternative for the Natural Community Conservation Plan

The impacts of the NCCP for Alternative 3 would be the same as those defined in Section IV.24.3.5.1 for the Plan-wide analysis. The comparison of Alternative 3 with the Preferred Alternative for the NCCP is therefore the same as described for the Plan-wide DRECP.

IV.24.3.5.6.4 Alternative 3 Compared with Preferred Alternative for the General Conservation Plan

The overall amount of DFAs on GCP lands under Alternative 3 would be somewhat less than under the Preferred Alternative. Similar to the Plan-wide analysis, Alternative 3 emphasizes more solar energy and less wind energy development on GCP lands than the mix of technologies under the Preferred Alternative.

Under both alternatives, existing laws and regulations and the proposed CMAs that formalize coordination with the DOD would substantially reduce potential impacts on DOD operations by requiring compliance with conditions stipulated by both DOD and the FAA. Under both alternatives, these measures would ensure that specific proposed projects would not compromise the DOD's operational mission.

IV.24.3.6 Alternative 4

IV.24.3.6.1 Plan-wide Impacts of Implementing the DRECP: Alternative 4

IV.24.3.6.1.1 Plan-wide Impacts and Mitigation Measures from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development

Impact Assessment

Under Alternative 4, renewable energy and transmission DFAs that intersect with DOD lands and operations are shown in Table IV.24-10. Lands available for development under this alternative would be focused to specific areas within the Plan Area. DFAs that intersect with DOD operations under Alternative 4 are shown in Figure IV.24-6.

Table IV.24-10
Potential Acres of DOD Operations Impacted by Technology Type – Alternative 4

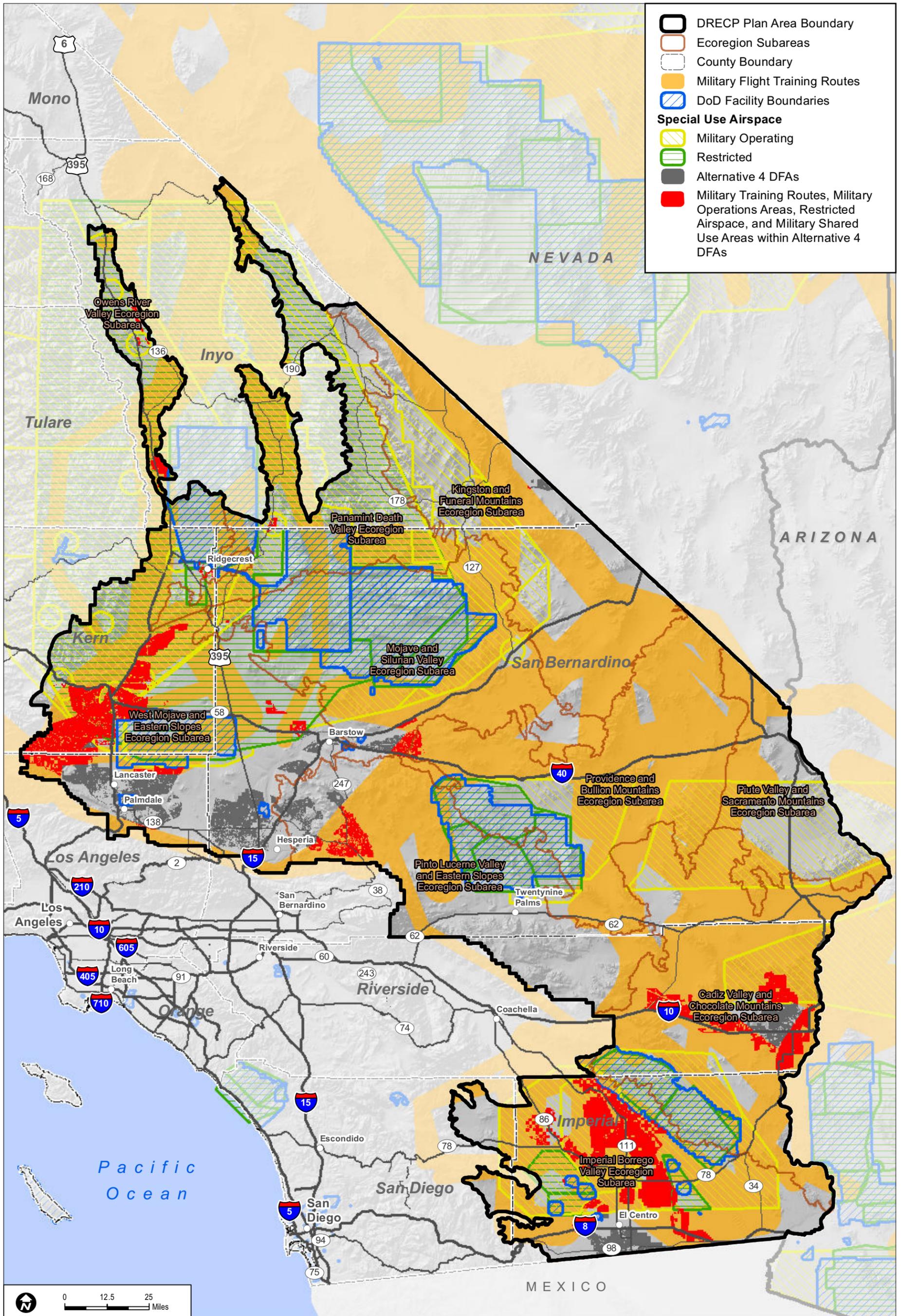
DOD Operations	DOD Operations in Plan Area (acres)	Potential DOD Operations impacted by Technology Type (acres)			
		Solar	Wind	GT	Transmission
Military Training Routes	12,999,000	72,000	73,000	13,000	22,000
Military Operations Areas	8,438,000	44,000	34,000	12,000	6,000
Special Use Airspace-Restricted	6,919,000	16,000	25,000	2,000	2,000
Shared Use Area	56,000	0	0	0	0

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

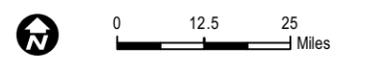
Impact DD-1: Renewable energy and transmission facilities would interfere with DOD lands and operations.

Under Alternative 4, impacts on DOD operations would come primarily from solar energy, with some impacts from wind and transmission (see Table IV.24-10). Solar energy and transmission facilities would result in impacts similar to those described in Section IV.24.2.1.3. Under Alternative 3, solar energy and transmission would be mostly near Edwards AFB, NAF El Centro, and several ranges.

Wind energy development would be near Edwards AFB, MCAGCC, and portions of CMAGR. While wind turbines may be compatible under MTRs and SUAs in this area, these projects may warrant additional review by DOD during the siting process.



- DRECP Plan Area Boundary
- Ecoregion Subareas
- County Boundary
- Military Flight Training Routes
- DoD Facility Boundaries
- Special Use Airspace**
 - Military Operating
 - Restricted
 - Alternative 4 DFAs
 - Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, Restricted Airspace, and Military Shared Use Areas within Alternative 4 DFAs



Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); NRDC (2011)

FIGURE IV.24-6
Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, Restricted Airspace,
and Military Shared Use Areas within Development Focus Areas –Alternative 4

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Study Area Lands

Table IV.24-9 shows the acres of DRECP Variance Lands that intersect with DOD operations. SAAs and FAAs would not be designated under this alternative.

**Table IV.24-11
DOD Lands That Intersect With Special Analysis Areas – Alternative 4**

DOD Lands that Intersect with Special Analysis Areas	Future Assessment Areas (acres)	Special Analysis Areas (acres)	DRECP Variance Lands (acres)
Military Training Routes	0	0	445,000
Military Operations Areas	0	0	234,000
Special Use Airspace - Restricted	0	0	65,000
Shared Use Area (BLM and DOD)	0	0	0

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

Future Assessment Areas. Alternative 4 does not include FAAs.

Special Analysis Areas. Designating the SAAs as conservation would not result in impacts to DOD lands or operations (see Table IV.24-11).

DRECP Variance Lands. DRECP Variance Lands represent the BLM Solar PEIS Variance Lands screened for the DRECP and based on BLM screening criteria. Covered Activities could be permitted for NCCP purposes only through an NCCP plan amendment. However, development of renewable energy on Variance Lands would not require a BLM Land Use Plan Amendment so the environmental review process would be somewhat simpler than if the location were left undesignated. Military Training Routes, Military Operations Areas, and Special Use Airspace (restricted) would intersect DRECP Variance Lands (see Table IV.24-11). Development of the DRECP Variance Lands would have similar impacts on DOD lands and operations as described for the Plan-wide analysis.

Impact Reduction Strategies and Mitigation

Implementation of the Plan would result in conservation of some desert lands as well as the development of renewable energy generation and transmission facilities on other lands. There are several ways in which the impacts of renewable energy development covered by the Plan would be lessened. The Plan incorporates CMAs for each alternative, including specific biological reserve design components and LUPA components. Also, the implemen-

tation of existing laws, orders, regulations and standards would reduce the impacts of project development. If significant impacts would still result after implementation of CMAs and compliance with applicable laws and regulations specific mitigation measures would be recommended in this section.

Conservation and Management Actions

The conservation strategy for Alternative 4 (see Section II.3.1.1) defines specific actions that would reduce the impacts of this alternative. While the CMAs were developed for BLM lands only, this analysis assumes that all CMAs would apply to nonfederal lands. The DOD CMA for Alternative 2 would be the same as for the Preferred Alternative (see Section IV.24.4.2.1.1).

Notification to DOD at the regional level for a military impact assessment and determination to streamline a project within the Plan Area shall follow DOD service level points of contact established by SB 1462.

Laws and Regulations

Similar to the No Action Alternative, existing laws and regulations would reduce certain impacts of Plan implementation. Relevant regulations are presented in Volume III. The requirements of relevant laws and regulations are summarized for the No Action Alternative in Section IV.24.3.1.1.1.

Mitigation Measures

After implementation of the CMAs and existing laws and regulations, project-specific siting and design criteria would be developed during coordination with DOD, as described in the CMAs, law, and regulations.

IV.24.3.6.1.2 Impacts from Reserve Design

None of the allowed uses within the reserve design would impact DOD lands or operations.

IV.24.3.6.2 Impacts of DRECP Land Use Plan Amendment on BLM Land: Alternative 4

This section addresses two components of effects of the BLM LUPA: the streamlined development of renewable energy and transmission on BLM land under the LUPA, and the impacts of the amended land use plans themselves.

IV.24.3.6.2.1 Impacts from Renewable Energy and Transmission Development on BLM Land

The typical impacts from the various renewable energy and transmission facilities on BLM lands would be the same as those described in Section IV.24.2.1. However, the specific locations in which energy and transmission development would be allowed would be driven by LUPA decisions, which would either encourage or restrict development in some areas.

Under Alternative 4, most of the renewable energy development on BLM lands would be solar though some wind development would occur, primarily near CMAGR.

IV.24.3.6.2.2 Impacts of Changes to BLM Land Designations

None of the allowed uses within the BLM LUPA designations would impact DOD lands or operations (see Figure IV.24-6).

IV.24.3.6.3 Impacts of Natural Community Conservation Plan: Alternative 4

The analysis of Covered Activities under the NCCP is equivalent to the Plan-wide analysis of the interagency alternatives. Reserve design features and other conservation actions under the NCCP alternatives represent more detailed categories of the reserve design under the interagency Plan-wide alternatives. These NCCP differences in reserve design features would not affect nonbiological resources analyzed in this document, and the analysis of reserve design and CMAs under the NCCP is therefore equivalent to the Plan-wide analysis of the interagency alternatives, as described in Section IV.24.3.6.1.

IV.24.3.6.4 Impacts of General Conservation Plan: Alternative 4

The impacts of the GCP for Alternative 4 would be similar to those defined in Section IV.24.3.6.1 for the Plan-wide analysis, but they would occur on nonfederal lands only.

Renewable energy development on GCP lands would be broadly dispersed but occur mostly near Edwards AFB, MCAGCC, NAF El Centro, and several ranges.

IV.24.3.6.5 Impacts Outside the Plan Area: Alternative 4

IV.24.3.6.5.1 Impacts of Transmission Outside the Plan Area

The impacts of transmission infrastructure outside the Plan Area on DOD lands and operations would be the same under all alternatives. These impacts are the same as described for the No Action Alternative (see Section IV.24.3.1.5.1).

IV.24.3.6.5.2 Impacts of BLM Land Use Plan Amendment Decisions Outside the Plan Area

Under Alternative 4, renewable energy projects would continue to be developed through BLM's existing policies. Impacts on DOD lands and operations would be as described in Section IV.24.2.1, with similar mitigation measures on a case-by-case basis.

Outside the Plan Area, the proposed BLM LUPA would not impact DOD lands or operations.

IV.24.3.6.6 Comparison of Alternative 4 With the Preferred Alternative

This section summarizes the comparison of Alternative 4 with the Preferred Alternative.

IV.24.3.6.6.1 Alternative 4 Compared with Preferred Alternative for the Plan-wide DRECP

Alternative 4 would emphasize a similar amount of solar energy development but somewhat less wind energy development than the mix of technologies under the Preferred Alternative. Alternative 4 would also have dispersed DFAs similar to the Preferred Alternative, and impacts on DOD operations would be similar in both their natures and locations. Under both alternatives, existing laws and regulations and proposed CMAs that formalize coordination with the DOD would substantially reduce potential impacts on DOD operations. Overall, adverse impacts to DOD lands and operations would be moderate and mitigation measures would reduce impacts.

IV.24.3.6.6.2 Alternative 4 Compared with Preferred Alternative for the BLM LUPA

The overall amount of DFAs on BLM lands under Alternative 3 would be smaller than under the Preferred Alternative. Similar to the Plan-wide analysis, Alternative 4 would emphasize more solar energy and less wind energy development on BLM lands than the mix of technologies under the Preferred Alternative; the locations of the developments would be similar.

Under both alternatives, the existing laws and regulations and proposed CMAs to formalize coordination with the DOD would ensure that specific proposed projects would not compromise the operational mission of the DOD.

IV.24.3.6.6.3 Alternative 4 Compared with Preferred Alternative for Natural Community Conservation Plan

The impacts of the NCCP for Alternative 4 would be the same as those in Section IV.24.3.6.1 for the Plan-wide analysis. The comparison of Alternative 4 with the Preferred Alternative for the NCCP is therefore the same as described for the Plan-wide DRECP.

IV.24.3.6.6.4 Alternative 4 Compared with Preferred Alternative for the General Conservation Plan

The overall amount of DFAs on GCP lands under Alternative 4 would be somewhat less than under the Preferred Alternative. Similar to the Plan-wide analysis, Alternative 4 emphasizes more solar energy and less wind energy development on GCP lands than the mix of technologies under the Preferred Alternative.

Under both alternatives, the existing laws and regulations and proposed CMAs to formalize coordination with the DOD would substantially reduce potential impacts on DOD operations by requiring compliance with conditions stipulated by both the DOD and the FAA. Under both alternatives, these measures would ensure that specific proposed projects would not compromise the operational mission of the DOD.

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