

II.6 ALTERNATIVE 3

Alternative 3 is one of five action alternatives considered and analyzed in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP or Plan) and Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). The description of Alternative 3 is first provided at an interagency level (Section II.6.1), which describes all Plan elements of the alternative. After the interagency description, the individual elements of the alternative are described, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) elements of the DRECP (Section II.6.2), the Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) elements of the DRECP (Section II.6.3), and the General Conservation Plan (GCP) elements of the DRECP (Section II.6.4).

II.6.1 Interagency Description of Alternative 3

The interagency description of Alternative 3 includes the following main sections: Overview of Alternative 3, Conservation Strategy, Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program, Description of the Covered Activities, and Plan Implementation. The description of Alternative 3 for the DRECP and EIR/EIS encompasses the overall conservation strategy and description of Covered Activities on federal and nonfederal lands (i.e., state, county, city, and privately owned lands) within the Plan Area.

II.6.1.1 Overview of Alternative 3

The following provides a Plan-wide overview of Alternative 3. Alternative 3 integrates the renewable energy and resource conservation with other existing uses in the Plan Area and includes BLM LUPA elements, NCCP elements, and GCP elements.

Under Alternative 3 for the DRECP, an interagency conservation strategy for the Plan Area would be established that includes a streamlined process for the permitting of renewable energy and transmission development on both federal and nonfederal lands and a BLM LUPA providing Conservation and Management Actions (CMAs) for resources throughout the Plan Area on BLM-administered lands. Like the Preferred Alternative, Alternative 3 would consist of Development Focus Areas (DFAs), Study Area Lands, and the DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope (including existing conservation areas, BLM LUPA conservation designations, and Conservation Planning Areas), Impervious and Urban Built-up Lands, Other Lands (including Military, Open Off-Highway Vehicle [OHV] Areas, Tribal Lands), and Undesignated Areas. These areas are defined in Section II.3.1, Interagency Description of the Preferred Alternative.

The BLM LUPA (Section II.6.2) provides the land use plan amendment description related to these Plan components on BLM-administered lands, and it also describes the Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) designations and other CMAs for resources on

BLM-administered lands. The NCCP (Section II.6.3) and GCP for nonfederal lands (Section II.6.4) describe how these Plan components would provide for incidental take authorization of Covered Species under Section 2835 of the state Natural Community Conservation Planning Act and Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act.

Alternatives under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), including Alternative 3, must consider potential impacts on all aspects of the human environment, both the natural environment and the built environment, including biological and nonbiological resources. Additionally, Appendix M contains all the required components of a GCP.

Figure II.6-1 provides the Plan-wide map for Alternative 3.

Table II.6-1 provides an overview summary for Alternative 3. In summary, Alternative 3 would include approximately 1,405,000 acres of DFA. Study Area Lands include 11,000 acres of Future Assessment Areas. The DRECP Plan-wide Reserve Design Envelope would include 7,662,000 acres of existing conservation areas, 6261,000 acres of BLM LUPA conservation designations, and 1,238,000 acres of Conservation Planning Areas. Of the over 19 million acres of the Plan Area outside of Military Lands, BLM Open OHV Areas, and Tribal Lands, there are approximately 13,565,000 acres of federally owned or administered lands and 5,420,000 of nonfederal lands. The BLM LUPA elements of Alternative 3 are described in Section II.6.2; the NCCP elements of Alternative 3 are described in Section II.6.3; and the GCP elements of Alternative 3 addressing nonfederal lands are described in Section II.6.4. Exhibit II.6-1 graphically displays the components of Alternative 3.

**Table II.6-1
Interagency DRECP Plan-Wide Alternative 3**

Alternative Components	Acreage
DFA	1,405,000
Study Area Lands	11,000
Future Assessment Areas	11,000
DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope	15,161,000
Existing conservation areas	7,662,000
BLM LUPA conservation designations	6,261,000
Conservation Planning Areas	1,238,000
Urban Areas, Other Lands, and Undesignated Areas	6,008,000
Impervious and Urban Built-up Land	514,000
Military Lands	3,019,000
Open OHV Areas	264,000
Imperial Sand Dunes, including the BLM Open OHV Area	132,000

**Table II.6-1
Interagency DRECP Plan-Wide Alternative 3**

Alternative Components	Acreage
Johnson Valley OHV Shared Use Area	56,000
Tribal Lands	129,000
Undesignated Areas	1,895,000
Total	22,585,000

Notes: This Plan-wide alternative summary includes both federal lands and nonfederal lands. The summary specific to BLM-administered lands is provided in Section II.6.2 and the summary specific to nonfederal lands is provided in Section II.6.4. Overlaps of BLM LUPA conservation designations with existing conservation areas are reported in the existing conservation area acreages. The BLM LUPA conservation designation acreage reported includes both BLM-administered lands and non-BLM lands inholdings within the designation. The BLM LUPA would also designate approximately 2,531,000 acres of Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) in addition to the 193,000 acres of existing SRMAs, which are BLM designation overlays that overlap portions of the components provided in this table and described in Section II.6.2. Impervious and urban built-up lands occur within BLM LUPA conservation designations and DFAs were not explicitly included in the urban category reported here. The following general rounding rules were applied to acreage 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.

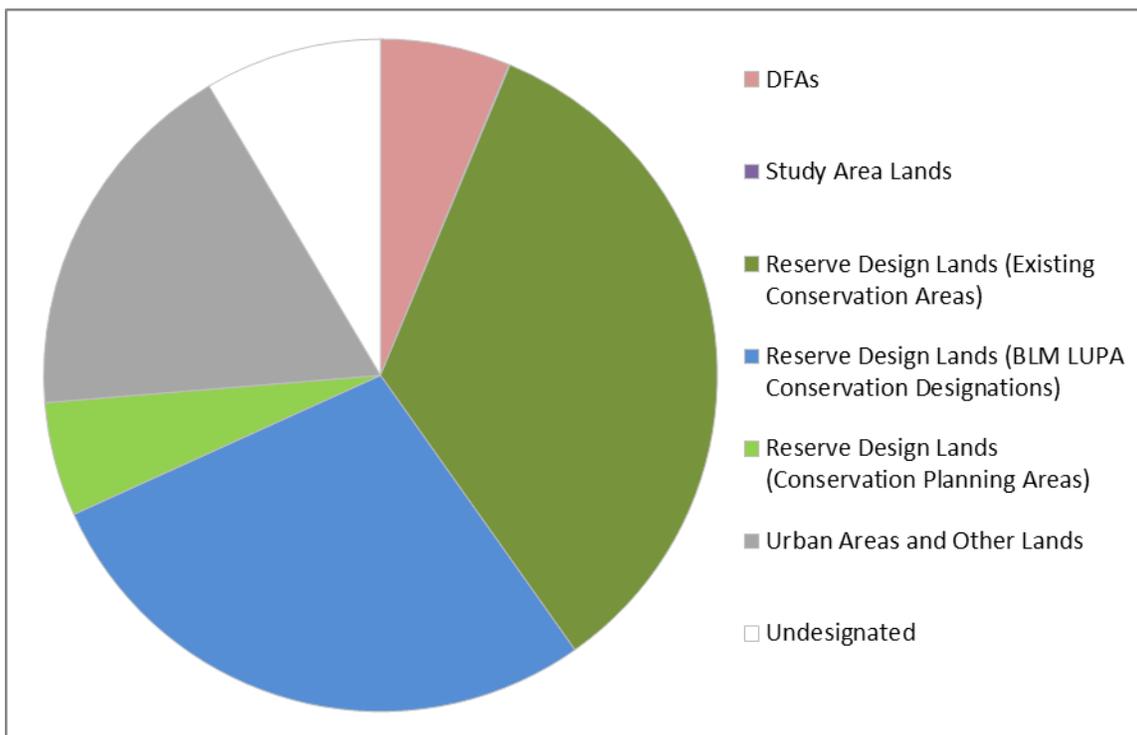


Exhibit II.6-1 Components of Alternative 3

II.6.1.2 Conservation Strategy

The Plan-wide conservation strategy for the DRECP was developed through the planning process described in Volume I, Chapter I.3. The process included: (1) establishing the conservation focus on biological, cultural, recreation, and visual resources; (2) gathering baseline information; (3) identifying Biological Goals and Objectives (BGOs) and goals and objectives for nonbiological resources on BLM-administered land; (4) developing a comprehensive reserve design; (4) developing biological CMAs and CMAs for nonbiological resources on BLM land; and (6) developing a Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program. The approach and structure of the conservation strategy for Alternative 3 is the same as the conservation strategy for the Preferred Alternative.

II.6.1.2.1 Overview of the Structure and Content of the Biological Conservation Strategy for Alternative 3

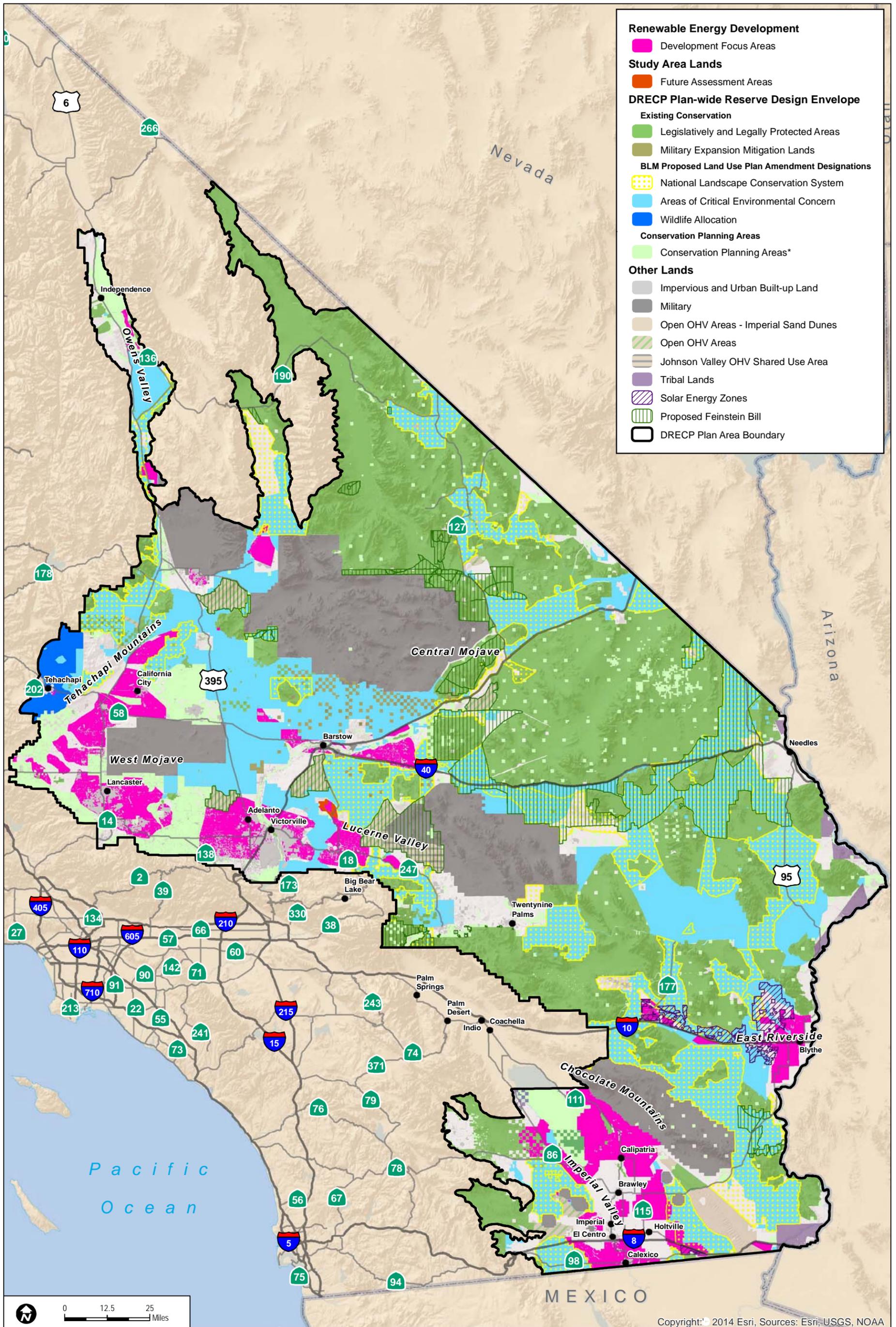
The approach and structure of the conservation strategy under Alternative 3 are the same as that for the Preferred Alternative as described in Section II.3.1.2.

II.6.1.2.2 DRECP Proposed Covered Species List

The proposed Covered Species list would be the same under Alternative 3 as it is under the Preferred Alternative. See Section II.3.1.2.2 for the proposed Covered Species list.

II.6.1.2.3 Plan-Wide Biological Goals and Objectives

The Plan-wide BGOs provide the broad guiding principles and define the desired outcome of the DRECP conservation strategy. The Plan-wide BGOs are described in Section I.3.4.3 and are provided in Appendix C at the landscape, natural community, and species levels. The Plan-wide BGOs are common to and apply to each of the DRECP alternatives. The Step-Down Biological Objectives describe the contribution of DRECP implementation towards achieving the Plan-wide BGOs.



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

*The portion of the reserve design outside Existing Conservation Areas and BLM LUPA Conservation Designations on private and non-BLM public lands from which reserve areas will be assembled from willing sellers as compensation for Covered Activities.

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II.6.1.2.4 DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope

The DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope for Alternative 3 was developed based on the biological reserve design process described in Section I.3.4.4. The reserve design is the mapped expression of Plan-wide BGOs. Additionally, an interagency Plan-Wide Conservation Priority Area has been identified. This area represents the highest priority area for the creation and long-term management of habitat reserves for the conservation of the 37 proposed Covered Species and representative examples of the natural communities and processes that support them in the Plan Area. The interagency Plan-Wide Conservation Priority Area was the basis for the NCCP Conceptual Plan-wide Reserve Design of each alternative.

Overall, the DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope for Alternative 3 would cover 80% of the Plan Area (excluding Military Lands, Tribal Lands, and BLM Open OHV Areas), which includes 7,662,000 acres of existing conservation areas, 6,261,000 acres of BLM LUPA conservation designations, and 1,238,000 acres of Conservation Planning Areas. Over half of the DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope under Alternative 3 is made up of existing conservation areas (Legislatively and Legally Protected Areas [LLPAs] and Military Expansion Mitigation Lands [MEMLs]). Approximately 41% of the DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope for Alternative 3 is made up of existing and proposed BLM LUPA conservation designations including combinations of ACECs, National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS), and Wildlife Allocations, and approximately 8% of the DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope for Alternative 3 is comprised of Conservation Planning Areas.

The interagency Plan-Wide Conservation Priority Area within the reserve design envelope covers approximately 1,878,000 acres. This includes 1,688,000 acres of BLM LUPA conservation designations (1,293,000 acres on BLM-administered lands and 394,000 acres of non-BLM inholdings) and 190,000 acres of Conservation Planning Areas.

The DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope for Alternative 3 is comprised of an interconnected network of federal and nonfederal (both public and private) lands that spans seven counties, multiple ownerships, and ten ecoregion subareas of the Mojave and Colorado/Sonoran deserts of California. Figure II.6-2 shows the DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope for Alternative 3, and Appendix G provides figures of the reserve design envelope for each ecoregion subarea in the Plan Area. Table II.6-2 shows the DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope for Alternative 3 by County. Table II.6-3 shows the DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope for under Alternative 3 by ownership. Table II.6-4 shows the DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope for Alternative 3 by ecoregion subarea.

**Table II.6-2
DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope for Alternative 3 by County**

County	Existing Conservation Areas (acres)	BLM LUPA Conservation Designations (acres)	Conservation Planning Areas (acres)	Total Acreage
Imperial County	274,000	740,000	141,000	1,155,000
Inyo County	1,921,000	609,000	137,000	2,668,000
Kern County	135,000	549,000	232,000	916,000
Los Angeles County	6,000	37,000	276,000	319,000
Riverside County	982,000	724,000	37,000	1,743,000
San Bernardino County	4,145,000	3,602,000	408,000	8,155,000
San Diego County	199,000	0	6,000	205,000
Total	7,662,000	6,261,000	1,238,000	15,161,000

Notes: Overlaps of BLM LUPA conservation designations with existing conservation areas are reported in the existing conservation area acreages. The BLM LUPA conservation designation acreage reported includes both BLM-administered lands and non-BLM lands inholdings within the designation. These include both existing and proposed conservation designations. The reserve design envelope also includes an interagency Plan-wide Conservation Priority Area that covered 1,878,000 acres of BLM LUPA conservation designations and Conservation Planning Areas. The following general rounding rules were applied to acreage 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.

**Table II.6-3
DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope for Alternative 3 by Ownership Class**

Ownership Class	Existing Conservation Areas (acres)	BLM LUPA Conservation Designations (acres)	Conservation Planning Areas (acres)	Total Acreage
<i>Federal Lands</i>				
BLM-administered land	3,279,000	5,030,000	—	8,309,000
Other federal land	3,949,000	9,000	63,000	4,022,000
<i>Nonfederal Lands</i>				
Private land	31,000	985,000	903,000	1,920,000
State and local public land	403,000	237,000	271,000	910,000
Total	7,662,000	6,261,000	1,238,000	15,161,000

Notes: Overlaps of BLM LUPA conservation designations with existing conservation areas are reported in the existing conservation area acreages. The BLM LUPA conservation designation acreage reported includes both BLM-administered lands and non-BLM lands inholdings within the designation. These include both existing and proposed conservation designations. The reserve design envelope also includes an interagency Plan-wide Conservation Priority Area that covered 1,878,000 acres of BLM LUPA conservation designations and Conservation Planning Areas. The following general rounding rules were applied to acreage 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.

**Table II.6-4
DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope for Alternative 3 by Ecoregion Subarea**

Ecoregion Subarea	Existing Conservation Areas (acres)	BLM LUPA Conservation Designations (acres)	Conservation Planning Areas (acres)	Total Acreage
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	842,000	1,448,000	51,000	2,342,000
Imperial Borrego Valley	355,000	486,000	137,000	978,000
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	1,767,000	528,000	84,000	2,379,000
Mojave and Silurian Valley	786,000	513,000	49,000	1,348,000
Owens River Valley	32,000	158,000	89,000	278,000
Panamint Death Valley	1,253,000	307,000	15,000	1,574,000
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes	739,000	518,000	74,000	1,332,000
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	423,000	443,000	29,000	895,000
Providence and Bullion Mountains	1,305,000	810,000	117,000	2,232,000
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	162,000	1,049,000	593,000	1,804,000
Total	7,662,000	6,261,000	1,238,000	15,161,000

Notes: Overlaps of BLM LUPA conservation designations with existing conservation areas are reported in the existing conservation area acreages. The BLM LUPA conservation designation acreage reported includes both BLM-administered lands and non-BLM lands inholdings within the designation. These include both existing and proposed conservation designations. The reserve design envelope also includes an interagency Plan-wide Conservation Priority Area that covered 1,878,000 acres of BLM LUPA conservation designations and Conservation Planning Areas. The following general rounding rules were applied to acreage 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.

Existing Conservation

The Plan Area encompasses existing conservation areas that include LLPAs and MEMLs, which include among other designations Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, National Parks, National Preserve, and California State Parks. LLPAs serve as the building blocks of the reserve design with existing boundaries and management regimes around which the BLM LUPA conservation designations and Conservation Planning Areas were designed. Existing conservation areas are the same for all alternatives. A full description of the existing conservation areas is provided in Section I.3.4.4 under the reserve design

process. The existing conservation areas of the reserve design are shown on Figure II.6-2 and the ecoregion subarea maps of the reserve design in Appendix G.

BLM LUPA Conservation Designations

The BLM LUPA conservation designations are a critical component of the reserve design for the DRECP. These include existing and newly proposed NLCS designations, ACEC designations, and Wildlife Allocations. The land unit names included in BLM LUPA conservation designations in the reserve design by ecoregion subarea are provided in Section II.6.2 and Appendix L. The BLM LUPA conservation designations component of the reserve design is shown on Figure II.6-2 and the ecoregion subarea maps of the reserve design in Appendix G.

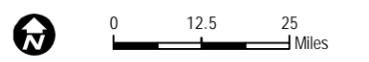
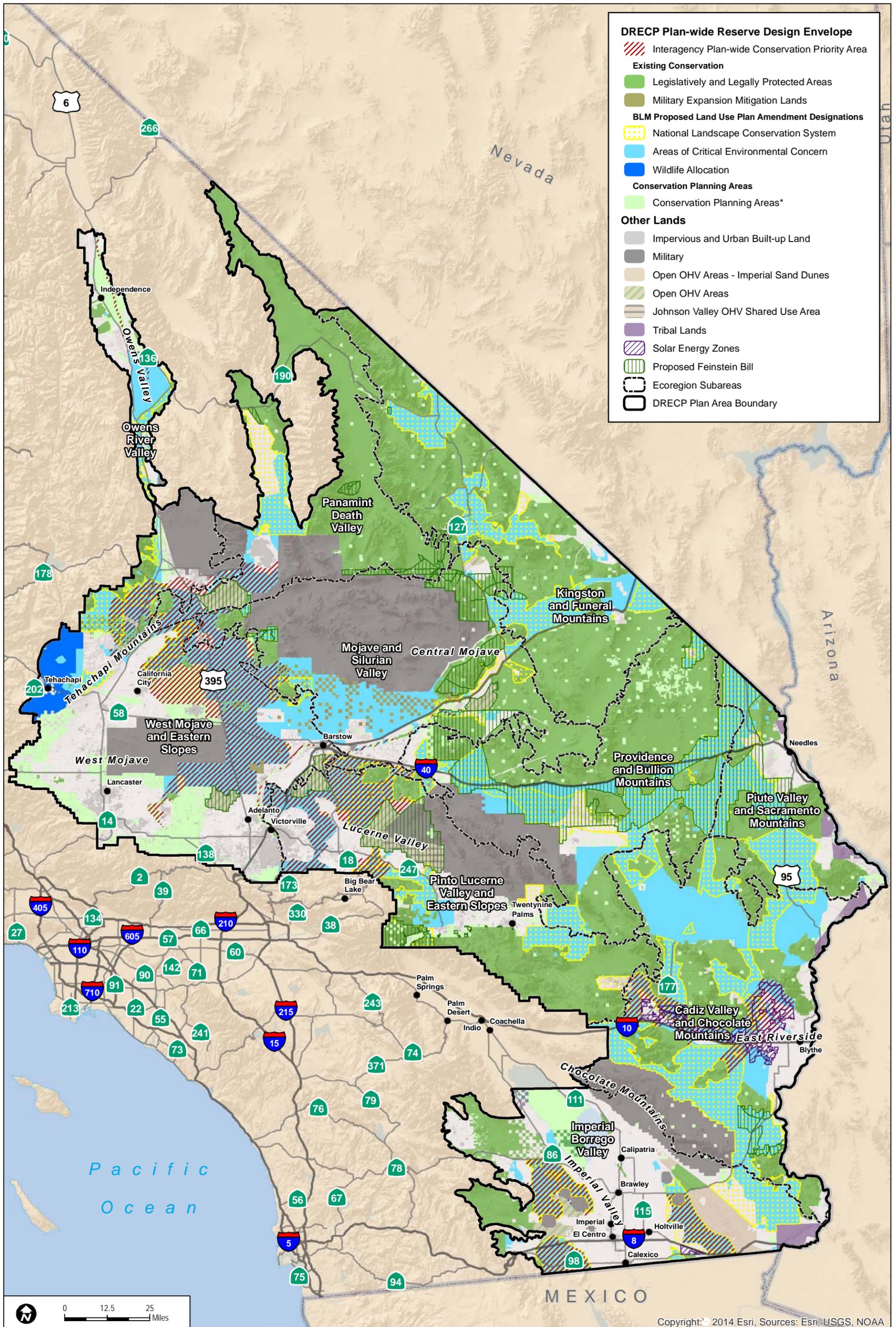
Conservation Planning Areas

Conservation Planning Areas are the portions of the reserve design located on private and non-BLM public lands that occur outside of existing conservation areas and BLM LUPA conservation designations. Reserve areas would be assembled by acquiring land or conservation easements from willing sellers within the Conservation Planning Areas to provide compensatory mitigation for Covered Activities. The Conservation Planning Areas component of the reserve design is shown on Figure II.6-2 and the ecoregion subarea maps of the reserve design in Appendix G.

II.6.1.2.5 Biological Conservation and Management Actions

The biological CMAs under Alternative 3 would be the same as those for the Preferred Alternative described in Section II.3.1.2.5, except as described in the following discussion. The CMAs related to BLM LUPA conservation designations under Alternative 3 are described in Section II.6.2 and in the BLM unit-specific worksheets in Appendix L.

- **Exceptions to the Preferred Alternative CMAs.** The Plan-wide CMAs, landscape-level CMAs, Natural Communities and Covered Species CMAs in the DFAs, Natural Communities and Covered Species CMAs in the Reserve, and the Transmission-specific CMAs under the heading “Exceptions to the Preferred Alternative CMAs” will specify the CMA code (e.g., RIP-WET-1) that corresponds to the specific CMA listed in the biological CMAs for the Preferred Alternative that will not be implemented for Alternative 3.
- **Additional CMAs to the Preferred Alternative.** The Plan-wide CMAs, landscape-level CMAs, Natural Communities and Covered Species CMAs in the DFAs, Natural Communities and Covered Species CMAs in the Reserve, and the Transmission-specific CMAs will list the additional biological CMAs under the heading “Additional CMAs to the Preferred Alternative” that will be implemented specifically for Alternative 3 in addition to the CMAs described for the Preferred Alternative.



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

*The portion of the reserve design outside Existing Conservation Areas and BLM LUPA Conservation Designations on private and non-BLM public lands from which reserve areas will be assembled from willing sellers as compensation for Covered Activities.

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FIGURE II.6-2
Alternative 3 - Plan-wide Reserve Design Envelope

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The following provides the biological CMAs for Alternative 3, including the CMAs listed in the Preferred Alternative that will not be implemented and any additional CMAs that will specifically be implemented for Alternative 3 in addition to the biological CMAs in the Preferred Alternative.

II.6.1.2.5.1 Avoidance and Minimization CMAs

Alternative 3 would implement avoidance and minimization CMAs including the Avoidance and Minimization CMAs in the Preferred Alternative with the exceptions and additions as described in Section II.6.1.2.5.2 through Section II.6.1.2.5.6.

II.6.1.2.5.2 Plan-Wide Avoidance and Minimization CMAs

Under Alternative 3, the Plan-Wide Avoidance and Minimization CMAs listed in the Preferred Alternative (Section II.3.1.2.5.2) will be implemented with no exceptions or additions.

II.6.1.2.5.3 Landscape-Level Avoidance and Minimization CMAs

Under Alternative 3, the Landscape-Level Avoidance and Minimization CMAs listed in the Preferred Alternative (Section II.3.1.2.5.3) will be implemented with no exceptions or additions.

II.6.1.2.5.4 Natural Communities and Covered Species Avoidance and Minimization CMAs in DFAs

Under Alternative 3 the Natural Communities and Covered Species Avoidance and Minimization CMAs listed in the Preferred Alternative (Section II.3.1.2.5.4) will be implemented with no exceptions or additions.

II.6.1.2.5.5 Natural Communities and Covered Species Avoidance and Minimization CMAs in the Reserve

Under Alternative 3 the Natural Communities and Covered Species Avoidance and Minimization CMAs in the Reserve listed in the Preferred Alternative (Section II.3.1.2.5.5) will be implemented with no exceptions or additions.

II.6.1.2.5.6 Transmission Avoidance and Minimization CMAs

Under Alternative 3, the Transmission Avoidance and Minimization CMAs listed in the Preferred Alternative (Section II.3.1.2.5.6) will be implemented with no exceptions or additions.

II.6.1.2.5.7 Compensation CMAs

Under Alternative 3 the Compensation CMAs listed in the Preferred Alternative (Section II.3.1.2.5.7) will be implemented with no exceptions or additions.

II.6.1.3 Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program

The Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program for Alternative 3 would be the same as is described under the Preferred Alternative (see Section II.3.1.3).

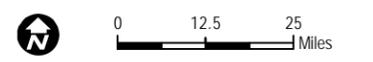
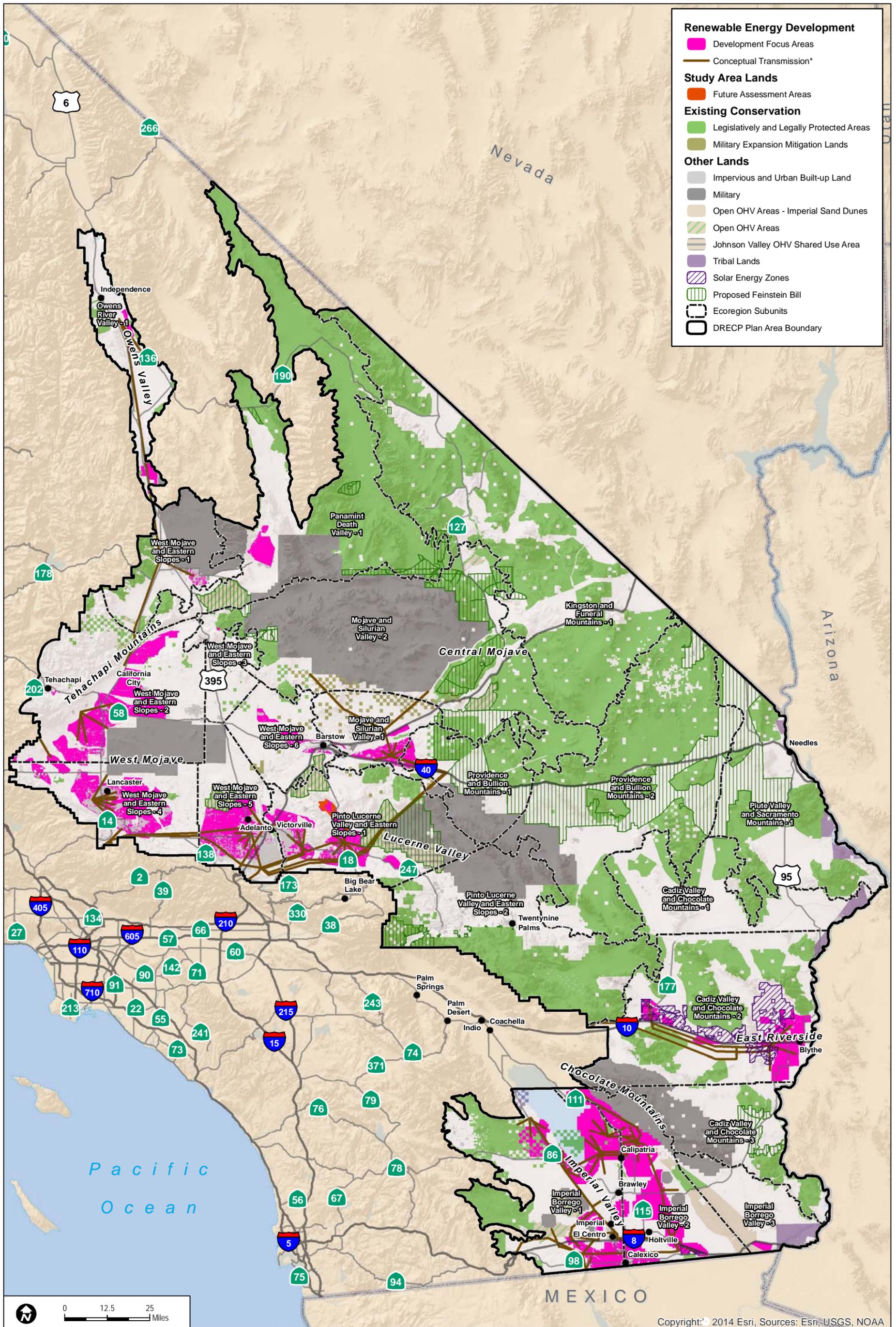
II.6.1.4 Overview Description of Covered Activities

This section provides a description of the distribution, magnitude, and scope of activities under the DRECP for Alternative 3. This describes how Alternative 3 would meet the renewable energy goals outlined in Section I.3.5. Renewable energy development technologies addressed under the DRECP include solar thermal, photovoltaic (PV) solar, wind, geothermal, and transmission.

On nonfederal lands, renewable energy and transmission siting, construction, operation, and decommissioning activities and conservation activities would be considered Covered Activities for incidental take permits under Section 2835 of the state Natural Community Conservation Planning Act and Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act. On BLM-administered lands, the BLM LUPA addresses renewable energy and transmission siting, construction, operation, and decommissioning activities, conservation activities, and other land use management decisions. The following describes the renewable energy generation-, transmission-, and conservation-related activities that would occur on both federal and nonfederal lands. The specific land use management decisions addressed by the BLM LUPA are described in Section II.6.2.

The section includes a summary of DFA distribution, and an estimated acreage associated with each technology. The description is subdivided by technology: solar, wind, geothermal, and transmission. For brevity, the description of the activities associated with siting, constructing, operating, and decommissioning are not repeated in this section as the information is identical to that which is provided in Section II.3.1.4.

In Alternative 3, renewable energy-related activities covered by the Plan would be confined to the DFAs. Generation development would be focused on disturbed lands in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes, and Imperial Borrego Valley ecoregion subareas, East Riverside, and around Barstow, with smaller areas in the Owens River Valley ecoregion subarea. Figure II.6-3 shows the DFAs for Alternative 3 and Appendix G provides figures of the DFAs for each ecoregion subarea in the Plan Area.



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

*Transmission lines shown are based on the DRECP Transmission Technical Group (TTG) Report, which provides a conceptual transmission plan for the DRECP alternatives and is not intended for siting or alignment purposes.

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FIGURE II.6-3
Alternative 3 - Plan-wide DFAs

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Table II.6-5a provides a DFA acreage summary by ecoregion subarea and by ecoregion subunit (i.e., finer-grained geographic subdivisions within each ecoregion subarea). Figure II.6-3 shows the corresponding ecoregion subunits.

Table II.6-5a
Alternative 3 Development Focus Areas by Ecoregion Subarea and Subunit

Ecoregion Subarea	Ecoregion Subunit	DFA Acreage
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	Cadiz - 1	—
	Cadiz - 2	133,000
	Cadiz - 3	500
Imperial Borrego Valley	Imperial - 1	230,000
	Imperial - 2	261,000
	Imperial - 3	7,000
Mojave and Silurian Valley	Mojave - 1	42,000
	Mojave - 2	500
Owens River Valley	Owens -1	22,000
Panamint Death Valley	Panamint - 1	32,000
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes	Pinto - 1	126,000
	Pinto - 2	—
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	Piute - 1	—
Providence and Bullion Mountains	Providence - 1	16,000
	Providence - 2	—
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	West Mojave - 1	4,000
	West Mojave - 2	221,000
	West Mojave - 3	30
	West Mojave - 4	159,000
	West Mojave - 5	128,000
	West Mojave - 6	24,000
	Total DFA Acreage	1,405,000

Notes: The following general rounding rules were applied to acreage 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

The distribution of different generation technologies varies depending on underlying factors that affect each technology. The method used to estimate the distribution of generation impacts across the Plan Area simultaneously accounts for the area available to each technology, potential interactions between technologies, and variation in the relative development potential of different DFAs. A more detailed description of the methodology is

discussed in Chapter I.3 with additional detail provided in Appendix F. In the following section, each technology is discussed separately.

Table II.6-5b includes a summary of the DFAs by technology type by county. The technology type listed indicates what technologies are assumed feasible in the DFA. If multiple technologies are listed that indicates that more than one renewable energy technology could be feasible in that DFA. DFAs suitable for solar only are the most common in most counties. DFAs suitable for solar and geothermal together make up the largest technology type in Imperial County and solar and wind together make up the largest technology type category in San Bernardino County. Geothermal is only proposed in Imperial, Inyo, and San Bernardino counties under Alternative 3. Table II.6-5c includes a summary of the DFAs by ownership. For Alternative 3, over 83% of the DFAs are on nonfederal lands and nearly 17% of the DFAs are on federal lands.

Table II.6-5b
Alternative 3 Development Focus Areas by Technology Type by County

Technology Type Category by County	DFA Acreage
Imperial County	498,000
Geothermal	114,000
Solar	145,000
Solar and geothermal	226,000
Solar and wind	7,000
Solar, wind, and geothermal	5,000
Wind	90
Wind and geothermal	40
Inyo County	24,000
Geothermal	8,000
Solar	10,000
Solar and geothermal	6,000
Kern County	225,000
Solar	144,000
Solar and wind	75,000
Wind	6,000
Los Angeles County	159,000
Solar	91,000
Solar and wind	57,000
Wind	12,000
Riverside County	133,000
Solar	88,000

Table II.6-5b
Alternative 3 Development Focus Areas by Technology Type by County

Technology Type Category by County	DFA Acreage
Solar and wind	45,000
Wind	400
San Bernardino County	366,000
Geothermal	500
Solar	144,000
Solar and wind	187,000
Wind	35,000
San Diego County	—
Total	1,405,000

Notes: See Chapter I.3 and Appendix F for detailed descriptions of the methodology used to identify the acreage amounts listed in this table. The following general rounding rules were applied to acreage 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.

Table II.6-5c
Alternative 3 Development Focus Areas by Ownership Class

Ownership Class	DFA Acreage
<i>Federal Lands</i>	
BLM-administered land	211,000
Other federal land	20,000
<i>Nonfederal Lands</i>	
Private land	1,113,000
State and local public land	62,000
Total	1,405,000

Note: See Chapter I.3 and Appendix F for detailed descriptions of the methodology used to identify the acreage amounts listed in this table. The following general rounding rules were applied to acreage 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.

The following sections contain a description of the distribution of the DFAs with an estimate of the total project area required for each technology and the associated area of permanent disturbance, a summary of which is provided in Table II.6-6. The estimated distribution of Covered Activities in the following sections aims to ensure that the DRECP evaluates a plausible magnitude of effects for each covered biological resource, such that the Plan would offer adequate minimization and mitigation for each covered technology.

**Table II.6-6
Summary of Permanent Disturbance and Project Area
for All Renewable Generation Technologies Under Alternative 3**

	Estimated Permanent Disturbance (Acres)	Total Project Area (Acres)
Solar	113,000	113,000
Wind	5,000	79,000
Geothermal	17,000	17,000
Distributed generation	16,000	16,000
Total	150,000	224,000

Notes: See Chapter I.3 and Appendix F for detailed descriptions of the methodology used to identify the acreage amounts listed in this table. The following general rounding rules were applied to acreage 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.

II.6.1.4.1 Solar Energy Generation (Including Utility-Scale Distributed Generation)¹

This section provides an estimate of the size of impacts for Covered Activities associated with solar and utility-scale distributed generation projects that would be covered by the Plan under Alternative 3. Construction and operational activities are identical to those described in Section II.3.1.4.1 and listed in Table II.3-21 (Preferred Alternative). Although the area available to solar generation would be more extensive in the DFAs than for other technologies, not all DFAs were considered suitable for solar development. Consequently, it was assumed that solar development would occur within the subset of DFAs identified in Appendix G.

Solar projects can range from small-scale developments of a few megawatts (MWs) that occupy tens of acres up to 1,000 MW projects that occupy thousands of acres. Given the programmatic nature of the DRECP, extensive detailed analysis of effects that are project specific (i.e., geographically site-specific) is infeasible. Consequently, the magnitudes of impacts are described in terms of the acreage that would be affected by Covered Activities within different ecoregion subareas of the Plan Area. For the purpose of assessing the magnitude of impacts from ancillary facilities, construction impacts and infrastructure, solar projects were assumed to be a mixture of 100 MW projects and 400 MW projects to represent the diversity of projects currently under review and construction. Similarly all ground-mounted distributed generation projects were assumed to be 20 MW projects.

¹ For the purpose of analysis, all distributed generation was considered to be located in the same areas as utility-scale solar, therefore requiring the same ancillary facilities (i.e., Covered Activities) as utility-scale solar projects.

When estimating the impacts of solar projects it was assumed that the construction of projects would result in the loss of all habitat within the boundary of the project footprint. Two reasons are given for this: (1) Unlike other technologies, solar projects are generally fenced to exclude wildlife and result in modification to natural processes for the life of the project; and (2) although some vegetation may be preserved at some project locations, this is not universal and conditions of service often lead to the removal of vegetation to reduce fire risk. Further, the extensive removal, modification, and grading within the project boundary, even if vegetation is not completely removed, may lead to edge effects that effectively modify the remaining vegetation communities. Therefore, the acreage requirements for roads, operation and maintenance facilities, and switchyards required for each facility are included in the overall estimated boundary of the solar project. Similarly, short-term impacts, such as construction and laydown yards, were assumed to be within the final boundary of the project and therefore subsumed within the boundary estimate. Table II.6-7 summarizes the long-term impacts for solar technologies, and provides the following information by ecoregion subarea:

- Total Long-Term Ground Disturbance Impacts – Estimated total acreage affected by Covered Activities such as vegetation clearance, grading, and construction. This is effectively a summation of all potential solar generation facility footprints, including operations and maintenance building, switchyards, and road construction impacts. All ancillary facilities were assumed to be within the boundary of the Plan Area and result in total permanent disturbance to the entire project site. Due to the difficulty of restoration in a desert environment, all activities that result in vegetation removal or disturbance were considered permanent for the purpose of analysis.
- Total Project Area – An estimate of the total area occupied by a given project. For area-intensive technologies like solar generation, the total project area is identical to the total permanent ground-conversion impacts.

**Table II.6-7
 Long-Term Disturbance and Project Area Acreages Associated with Solar and
 Ground-Mounted Distributed Generation by Ecoregion Subarea – Alternative 3**

Ecoregion Subarea	Long-Term Disturbance and Project Area (acres)		
	<i>Plan-Wide</i>	<i>LUPA</i>	<i>GCP</i>
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	21,000	8,000	12,000
Imperial Borrego Valley	45,000	11,000	33,000
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	—	—	—
Mojave and Silurian Valley	4,000	600	3,000
Owens River Valley	2,000	1,000	1,000
Panamint Death Valley	2,000	1,000	400

**Table II.6-7
Long-Term Disturbance and Project Area Acreages Associated with Solar and
Ground-Mounted Distributed Generation by Ecoregion Subarea – Alternative 3**

Ecoregion Subarea	Long-Term Disturbance and Project Area (acres)		
	<i>Plan-Wide</i>	<i>LUPA</i>	<i>GCP</i>
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes	12,000	3,000	9,000
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	—	—	—
Providence and Bullion Mountains	2,000	1,000	1,000
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	41,000	4,000	37,000
Total	129,000	29,000	98,000

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to acreage 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

II.6.1.4.2 Wind Energy Generation

This section provides an estimate of the size of impacts for activities associated with wind projects that would be covered by the DRECP. Construction and operational activities are identical to those described in Section II.3.1.4.2 and listed in Table II.3-23 of the Preferred Alternative.

The area available to wind development was constrained by several factors, including areas where construction was considered infeasible and areas where turbine construction has been precluded by ordinance or general policy. Consequently, it was assumed that wind development would occur within the subset of DFAs identified in Appendix G.

Wind projects can range from small-scale developments of a few MWs that occupy tens of acres up to several hundred MW projects that occupy thousands of acres. Given the programmatic nature of the DRECP, extensive detailed analysis of effects that are project specific (i.e., geographically site-specific) is infeasible. Consequently, the magnitudes of impacts are described in terms of the acreage that would be affected by Covered Activities within different ecoregion subareas of the Plan.

Wind projects result in a relatively diffuse impacts spread across a wide area. Turbines are widely spaced and connected by permanent access roads and transmission infrastructure, with a centralized maintenance facilities and switchyards. Unlike solar, not all the land within the boundary of a wind project was assumed to be permanently disturbed by project activities. For the purpose of analysis, estimates of disturbed acreage were the sum of the estimated acreage required for turbine pads, roads, ancillary facilities, and supporting infrastructure. Short-term construction activities, such as

laydown yards, were assumed to result in permanent disturbance within the project boundary, and were also included in the estimate of permanently disturbed acreage. In addition to estimates of ground disturbance, the area likely to be impacted by the operation of the turbine rotors (airspace) was also estimated. For analysis purposes turbines were grouped into conceptual projects of up to 200 MWs to enable an estimation of impacts from ancillary facilities, roads, turbines, etc. Table II.6-8 summarizes the long-term impacts for wind technologies, and provides the following information by ecoregion subarea:

- Total Project Area – An estimate of the total area occupied by a given project. For technologies where the impacts may be spread across a greater area (e.g., wind energy generation), the permanent impacts are distributed over a larger area.
- Estimated Long-Term Ground Disturbance – Estimated total acreage affected by Covered Activities. This is effectively a summation of all potential wind generation facility footprints, including individual turbine pad, operations and maintenance building, switchyard, and road construction impacts. This estimate also includes the additional impacts that would occur as a consequence of construction activities, including construction areas, laydown yards, and storage facilities. Due to the difficulty of restoration in a desert environment, all activities that result in vegetation removal or disturbance were considered permanent for the purpose of analysis.
- Turbine Rotor Swept Area – An estimate of the total aerial acreage affected by the rotation of turbine blades while a wind facility is operating.

**Table II.6-8
Project Area, Long-Term Disturbance, and Rotor Swept Area Acreages Associated
with Wind Generation by Ecoregion Subarea – Alternative 3**

Ecoregion Subarea	Project Area (acres)			Long-Term Disturbance (acres)			Rotor Swept Area (acres)		
	Plan-Wide	LUPA	GCP	Plan-Wide	LUPA	GCP	Plan-Wide	LUPA	GCP
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	11,000	6,000	5,000	600	300	300	300	200	200
Imperial Borrego Valley	1,000	400	1,000	200	100	100	—	—	—
Kingston and Funeral	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

**Table II.6-8
Project Area, Long-Term Disturbance, and Rotor Swept Area Acreages Associated
with Wind Generation by Ecoregion Subarea – Alternative 3**

Ecoregion Subarea	Project Area (acres)			Long-Term Disturbance (acres)			Rotor Swept Area (acres)		
	<i>Plan-Wide</i>	<i>LUPA</i>	<i>GCP</i>	<i>Plan-Wide</i>	<i>LUPA</i>	<i>GCP</i>	<i>Plan-Wide</i>	<i>LUPA</i>	<i>GCP</i>
Mountains									
Mojave and Silurian Valley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Owens River Valley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Panamint Death Valley	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	—
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes	26,000	6,000	20,000	1,000	300	1,000	800	200	600
Piute Valley, Sacramento Mountains	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Providence and Bullion Mountains	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	40,000	1,000	39,000	2,000	100	2,000	1,000	—	1,000
Grand Total	78,000	13,000	65,000	5,000	900	4,000	2,000	400	2,000

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to acreage 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.

II.6.1.4.3 Geothermal Energy Generation

This section provides an estimate of the size of impacts for Covered Activities associated with geothermal projects that would be covered by the DRECP. Construction and operational activities are identical to those described in Section II.3.1.4.3 and listed in Table II.3-25 of the Preferred Alternative.

The area available to geothermal development was limited to area in the Imperial Borrego Valley and part of the Owens River Valley ecoregion subareas, where geothermal resources are concentrated. Consequently, it was assumed that geothermal development would occur within the subset of DFAs identified in Appendix G.

Geothermal projects would be more limited in size (in the Plan Area) than other renewable energy projects. Recent projects vary from about 50 MW to 160 MW in size. For analysis within the DRECP, geothermal projects were assumed to be typically 50 MW in size. Given the programmatic nature of the DRECP, extensive detailed analysis of effects that are project specific (i.e., geographically site-specific) is infeasible. Consequently, the magnitudes of impacts are described in terms of the estimated acreage that would be affected by Covered Activities within different ecoregion subareas of the Plan.

Geothermal projects result in extensive impacts associated with the power block and ancillary facilities, with more dispersed impacts resulting from the well-fields. Well heads that inject and collect heat transfer fluids, are widely spaced and connected by permanent access roads and pipelines to the centrally located power block and steam turbine facilities. All the land within the boundary of a geothermal project was assumed to be permanently disturbed by project activities. Estimates of disturbed acreage include the acreage required for well head pads, roads, ancillary facilities, and supporting infrastructure, and also includes the land fragmented by the roads, pipelines, and well pads in the well-field, which was assumed to retain no conservation value. Short-term construction activities, such as laydown yards, were assumed to result in permanent disturbance within the project boundary, and are also included in the estimate of permanently disturbed acreage. Table II.6-9 summarizes the long-term impacts for geothermal technologies, and provides the following information by ecoregion subarea:

- **Estimated Long-Term Disturbance** – Estimated total acreage affected by Covered Activities such as vegetation clearance, grading, and construction. This is effectively a summation of all potential geothermal energy generation facility footprints, including operations and maintenance building, switchyard, and road construction impacts. This estimate also includes the additional impacts that occur as consequence of construction activities, and the fragmented land within the well-field. Due to the difficulty of restoration in an arid environment, all activities that result in vegetation removal or disturbance were considered permanent for the purpose of analysis.
- **Total Project Area** – An estimate of the total area occupied by a given project. For technologies where the impacts may be spread across a greater area (e.g., geothermal energy generation), the permanent impacts are distributed over a larger area.

**Table II.6-9
Long-Term Disturbance and Project Area Acreages Associated
with Geothermal Generation by Ecoregion Subarea – Alternative 3**

Ecoregion Subarea	Long-Term Disturbance and Project Area (acres)		
	<i>Plan-Wide</i>	<i>LUPA</i>	<i>GCP</i>
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	—	—	—
Imperial Borrego Valley	16,000	6,000	10,000
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	—	—	—
Mojave and Silurian Valley	—	—	—
Owens River Valley	1,000	1,000	—
Panamint Death Valley	—	—	—
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes	—	—	—
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	—	—	—
Providence and Bullion Mountains	—	—	—
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	—	—	—
Total	17,000	7,000	10,000

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to acreage 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.

II.6.1.4.4 Transmission

The transmission Covered Activities components for Alternative 3 would be the same as those described for the Preferred Alternative in Section II.3.1.4.4.

The ecoregion subarea distribution of major transmission, substation, and gen-tie impacts described in Table II.6-10 provides an estimate of right-of-way (ROW) requirements in acres from which it was possible to estimate the relative impacts of transmission-related Covered Activities described in Section II.3.1.4.4.

- Estimated Permanent Ground Disturbance – Estimated total acreage affected by Covered Activities such as vegetation clearance, grading, and construction. This is effectively a summation of transmission impacts. This estimate also includes impacts that occur as a consequence of construction activities, including construction areas, laydown yards, and storage facilities. Due to the difficulty of restoration in a desert environment, all activities that result in vegetation removal or disturbance were considered permanent for the purpose of analysis.
- Total Project Area – An estimate of the total area occupied by a given project. For technologies where the impacts may be spread across a greater area, the permanent impacts are distributed over a larger area.

Table II.6-10
Right-of-Way Requirements for Transmission Associated with Renewable Energy
Development by Ecoregion Subarea – Alternative 3

	Long-Term Disturbance and Project Area (acres)		
	<i>Plan-Wide</i>	<i>LUPA</i>	<i>GCP</i>
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	8,000	5,000	3,000
Imperial Borrego Valley	14,000	3,000	10,000
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	—	—	—
Mojave and Silurian Valley	1,000	500	400
Owens River Valley	800	500	400
Panamint Death Valley	500	500	—
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes	5,000	2,000	3,000
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	—	—	—
Providence and Bullion Mountains	700	400	300
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	2,000	400	2,000
Total	32,000	12,000	19,000

Notes: All transmission disturbance data reflect intermediate disturbance values used for comparative purposes in the analysis. Disturbance area estimates reflecting the most recent Transmission Technical Group Report are provided in Appendix K. The following general rounding rules were applied to acreage 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

II.6.1.4.4.1 Transmission Outside the Plan Area

Transmission outside the Plan Area is not a Covered Activity under the DRECP. The potential direct effects of potential future transmission outside the Plan Area associated with development of covered renewable energy projects and transmission facilities inside the Plan Area are, however, programmatically described and analyzed in Volume IV of the DRECP for each environmental resource category. This section presents a description of the transmission facilities outside the Plan Area that are programmatically analyzed in Volume IV.

The assumptions used to calculate acreages of effects for transmission and substation facilities inside the Plan Area are the same as those used to calculate effects of transmission and substations outside the Plan Area, and are described in Section II.3.1.4.4. However, approval of the DRECP would not result in any approval of the potential future transmission lines outside the Plan Area that are discussed here. All future transmission lines outside the Plan Area would require new applications by the developer or utility, compliance with CEQA and NEPA as appropriate, and approvals from the developer (if municipal utilities or

irrigation districts) or from California Public Utilities Commission (if investor-owned utilities) prior to construction.

Table II.6-11 provides the acreage of effects for transmission and substations outside of the DRECP boundary. For ease of analysis, the transmission lines and substations have been clustered into general geographic boundaries.

Table II.6-11
Right-of-Way Requirements for Transmission Outside the Plan Area Associated with Renewable Energy Development – Alternative 3

Geographic Area	Transmission	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Miles</i>
San Diego area	2,000	94
Los Angeles area	2,000	83
Central Valley	16,000	274
Rialto/Moreno Valley/Devers area	12,000	484
Total Outside Plan Area	32,000	935

Source: Transmission Technical Group Report, provided as Appendix K.

The new transmission lines outside the Plan Area are presented in the following list.

- **San Diego Area:** Two 500-kilovolt (kV) lines from the Imperial Valley Substation to the existing Sycamore Substation (San Diego).
- **Los Angeles Area:**
 - One 500 kV line from the existing Vincent Substation (just inside the DRECP boundary) to the existing Lighthipe Substation.
 - One 500 kV from the existing Vincent Substation (just inside the DRECP boundary) to the existing Mesa Substation
- **Central Valley:** Two 500 kV lines from the PG&E Midway Substation to the Tesla/Tracy Substation.
- **Rialto/Moreno Valley/Devers Area:**
 - One 500 kV line from the Devers Substation to Vincent Substation
 - One 500 kV line from the Devers Substation to Rancho Vista Substation
 - One 500 kV line from Colorado River Substation to existing Valley Substation. About 103 miles of this line would be outside the DRECP boundary.
 - Three 500 kV lines from Midway X (Imperial Valley) to Devers Substation. About 200 miles of this corridor would be outside the DRECP boundary.

II.6.1.5 Plan Implementation

Plan implementation for Alternative 3 would be the same as that for the Preferred Alternative as described in Section II.3.1.5.

II.6.2 BLM LUPA Elements of Alternative 3

The BLM LUPA elements of Alternative 3 are the same elements as the Preferred Alternative (see Figure II.6-4).

As shown in Table II.6-12, approximately 9,834,000 acres within the Plan Area occur within the BLM LUPA on BLM-administered lands. Under Alternative 3, approximately 211,000 acres of DFAs occur on BLM-administered lands.

In this area, existing conservation on BLM lands totals 3,264,000 acres including 3,260,000 acres of LLPAs. All of the BLM LLPAs are Wilderness or Wilderness Study Area and are managed to meet the statute of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and to ensure these congressionally designated areas meet DRECP conservation goals.

As shown in Table II.6-13, of the 5,023,000 acres of BLM LUPA conservation designations, 1,630,000 acres (32%) would be designated as Existing or Proposed ACEC, 3,108,000 acres (62%) would be Existing or Proposed ACEC and National Conservation Lands, 272,000 acres (5%) would be National Conservation Lands only, and 13,000 acres (less than 1%) would be Wildlife Allocation.

Table II.6-12
Interagency Alternative 3 Within the BLM LUPA

Alternative Components	Acreage ¹
DFAs	211,000
Study Area Lands	2,000
Future Assessment Areas	2,000
DRECP Plan-wide Reserve Design Envelope	8,287,000
Existing conservation areas	3,264,000
BLM LUPA conservation designations	5,023,000
Urban Areas, Other Lands, and Undesignated Areas	1,334,000
Impervious and Urban Built-up Land	58,000
BLM Open OHV Areas	235,000
Imperial Sand Dunes, including the BLM Open OHV Area	127,000
Undesignated Areas	860,000
Total	9,834,000

Notes: BLM LUPA conservation designations include NLCS lands, ACECs, and Wildlife Allocations. Overlaps of BLM LUPA conservation designations with existing conservation areas are reported in the Existing Conservation Area acreages. The

BLM LUPA would also designate approximately 2,531,000 acres of Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) on BLM-administered lands in addition to the 193,000 acres of existing SRMAs on BLM-administered lands, which are BLM designation overlays that overlap portions of the components provided in this table. Impervious and urban built-up lands occur within BLM LUPA conservation designations and DFAs where not explicitly included in the urban category reported here. The following general rounding rules were applied to acreage 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.

¹ Acreages reported are on BLM-administered lands only within the BLM LUPA area..

Table II.6-13
Alternative 3 BLM LUPA Conservation Designations Within the BLM LUPA

BLM LUPA Conservation Designation	Acreage ^{1,2}
NLCS	272,000
NLCS (and Existing ACEC)	1,620,000
NLCS (and Proposed ACEC)	1,488,000
Existing ACEC	397,000
Proposed ACEC	1,233,000
Wildlife Allocation	13,000
Total	5,023,000

Notes:

¹ Acreages reported are on BLM-administered lands only within the DRECP LUPA area.

² Approximately 824,000 acres of BLM LUPA conservation designations on BLM-administered lands occur within existing conservation areas. These overlapping acres are not reported in this table.

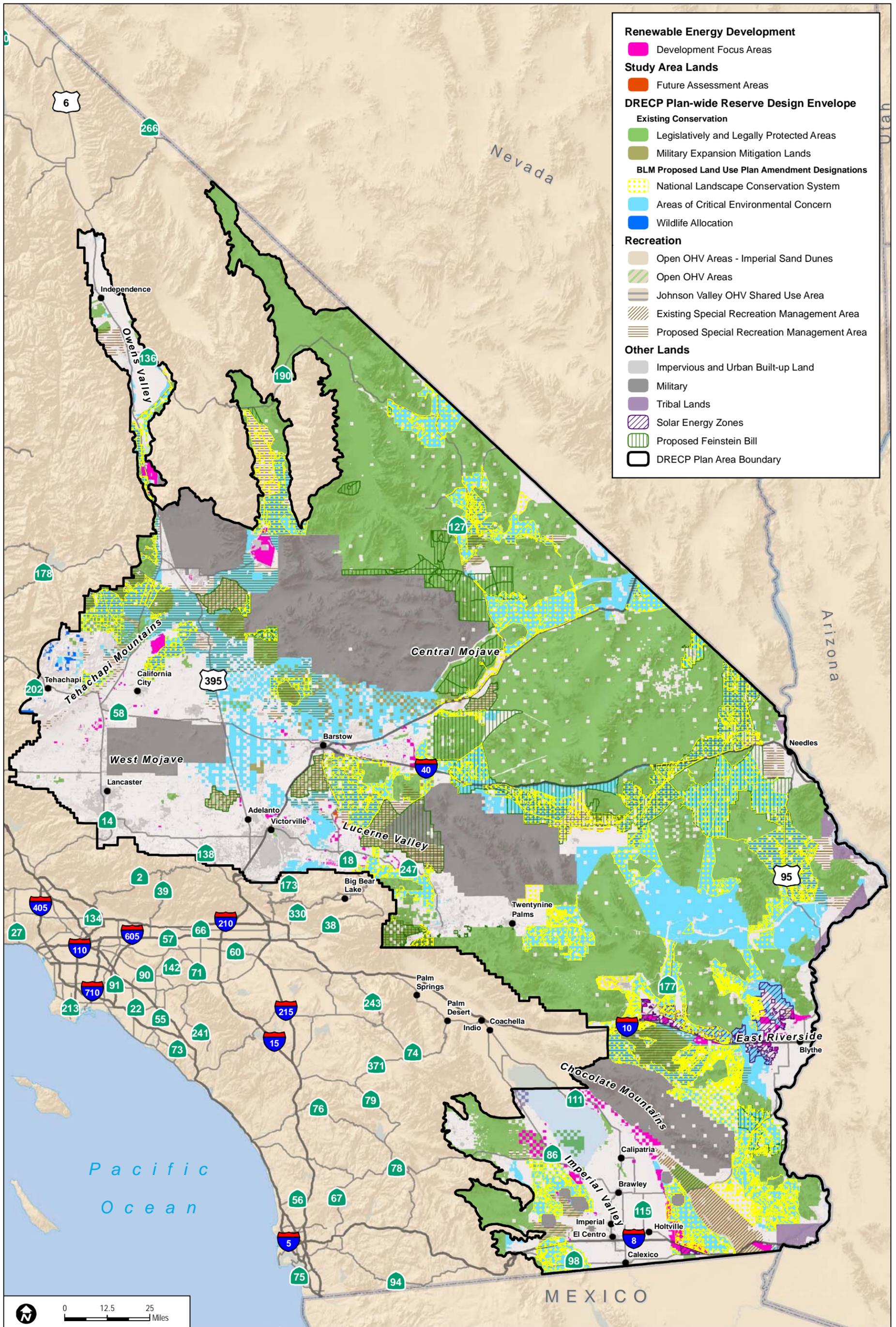
In addition to the proposed BLM LUPA conservation designations, Alternative 3 includes proposed BLM LUPA Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) as shown in Table II.6-14. Unlike the Preferred Alternative, Alternative 3 would not designate any Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMA).

Table II.6-14
Alternative 3 Special Recreation Management Areas and Extensive Recreation Management Areas Within the BLM LUPA

SRMA/ERMA	Total Acreage ¹
Existing SRMA	193,000
Proposed SRMA	2,531,000
Proposed ERMA	-
Total	2,724,000

Notes: The following general rounding rules were applied to acreage 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.

¹ Acreages reported are on BLM-administered lands only within the BLM LUPA area.



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

*The portion of the reserve design outside Existing Conservation Areas and BLM LUPA Conservation Designations on private and non-BLM public lands from which reserve areas will be assembled from willing sellers as compensation for Covered Activities.

FIGURE II.6-4
Alternative 3 - BLM LUPA

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The proposed BLM LUPA would not modify existing energy corridors, including “corridors of concern” defined in the Section 368 Energy Corridors settlement agreement described in Section I.2.1.7.7.

II.6.2.1 BLM Renewable Energy Policies

The BLM Renewable Energy Policies would be the same as in the Preferred Alternative.

II.6.2.2 BLM Conservation Areas

II.6.2.2.1 National Conservation Lands

This alternative emphasizes only the larger landscape connecting corridors. It does not include smaller cultural and botanic areas that are not components of a larger landscape. The use allocations reflect the scientific uncertainty of the overall alternative and so are more limiting on the allowable uses than all of the alternatives except Alternative 2. This alternative would include existing transmission corridors.

This alternative would designate 3,418,000 acres as components of the National Conservation Lands on BLM-administered lands, which includes 824,000 acres within existing conservation areas (LLPAs and MEMLs) and 2,594,000 acres as part of the BLM LUPA conservation designations.

II.6.2.2.1.1 Management of National Conservation Lands

1. Planning Area-Wide National Conservation Land Management Direction

Like the Preferred Alternative, the use allocations for the National Conservation Lands in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) are the allowable uses that would apply to all National Conservation Lands within the CDCA. The use allocations for the Preferred Alternative are listed below. For resources where there are no specific use allocations for National Conservation Lands, Plan-wide rules would apply unless otherwise specified in the Special Unit Management Plans (Appendix L).

- **Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management.** National Conservation Lands would be designated in accordance to the appropriate Trails and Travel Management Plan (TTMP)/Resource Management Plan (RMP) future travel management planning will put the emphasis of travel allowed on designated routes that provide for enjoyment of values, or necessary administrative access to conserve, protect, and restore area values.
- **Cultural Resources.** Any adverse effects to historic properties resulting from allowable uses will be addressed through the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act and the implementing regulations at 36 Code of

Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800. Resolution of adverse effects will in part be addressed via alternative mitigation that includes regional synthesis and interpretation of existing archaeological data in addition to mitigation measures determined through the Section 106 consultation process.

- **Lands and Realty**
 - **Rights-of-Way**
 - **Sites Authorizations.** National Conservation Lands would be considered exclusion areas. Exceptions would only be considered where they clearly do not impact National Conservation Lands values. Site authorizations that protect or enhance conservation values, such as those granted as compensatory mitigation for Covered Activities within DFAs or for habitat restoration, would be allowed.
 - **Renewable Energy Generation.** National Conservation Lands would be exclusion areas for renewable energy ROWs.
 - **Linear ROWs.** Transmission would only be permitted in existing transmission corridors. National Conservation Lands would be avoidance areas for all other linear ROWs.
 - **Land Tenure**
 - Exchange, purchase, or donation would be permitted to acquire non-BLM lands within the National Conservation Lands unit. Disposal of National Conservation Lands would not be permitted.
 - National Conservation Lands inholdings would be a priority for acquisition from willing sellers. All inholdings would become part of the National Conservation Lands unit upon acquisition and be subject to associated management requirements.
- **Minerals**
 - **Locatable Minerals**
 - For the purposes of locatable minerals, National Conservation Lands would be treated as “controlled” or “limited” use areas in the CDCA, requiring a Plan of Operations for greater than casual use under 43 CFR 3809.11.
 - The BLM would develop priority list of National Conservation Land units for potential withdrawal.
 - Initiate segregation of one subregion annually and complete mineral withdrawal review process (within 2-year time frame for each subregion).

- **Saleable Minerals.** Saleable mineral development would be limited to approval on BLM parcels under 2,000 acres. Mitigation/compensation must result in net benefit to National Conservation Lands values.
- **Leasable Minerals**
 - National Conservation Lands would be unsuitable for all leasing.
 - The BLM would review National Conservation Land values and undertake additional planning to determine if no surface occupancy leasing can be permitted in specific instances
- **Recreation and Visitor Services.** The BLM would not permit Competitive Special Recreation Permits. Commercial Special Recreation Permits would be limited to those uses that allow for enjoyment of National Conservation Lands values.
- **Water Resources.** Applications for water rights would be decided on a case-by-case basis to protect water dependent National Conservation Lands values.
- **Disturbance Caps.**² Development in National Conservation Lands would be limited to 0.25% percent of total authorized disturbance.

2. National Conservation Land Subareas — Description of Values to be Protected

The values protected in the National Conservation Lands are described below. Alternative 3 emphasizes habitat connectivity and ecological and scientific values for areas included as National Conservation Lands.

3. Area-Specific National Conservation Land and Area of Critical Environmental Concern Management Prescriptions

Similar to the Preferred Alternative, there is overlap with the ACEC designations, and management for individual units is described in the Special Unit Management Plans (National Conservation Lands and ACEC) in Appendix L.

² Disturbance caps only apply to lands not already included under ACECs or Wildlife Allocation disturbance caps, as described in the Special Unit Management Plans in Appendix L.

II.6.2.2.1.2 Subarea Descriptions

Basin and Range

Ecological Values

Ecological values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would include nearly all of the ecological values described for the Preferred Alternative.
- The flora and fauna of Eureka and Fish Lake valleys, including the Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) of Fish Lake Valley at the northernmost extent of their range, and the black toad (*Bufo exsul*) habitat in Deep Springs Valley would not be included.

Cultural Values

Cultural values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would include nearly all of the cultural values described for the Preferred Alternative.
- The archaeological resources of Fish Lake, Deep Springs, and Eureka valleys, including previously-identified prehistoric village complexes, lithic scatters, and rock art sites, would not be included.

Scientific Values

Scientific values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would include nearly all of the scientific values described for the Preferred Alternative.
- Research opportunities and other scientific values in Fish Lake, Deep Springs, and Eureka valleys, and at the Trona Pinnacles, would not be included.

Acreage

This alternative would include approximately 335,000 acres of National Conservation Lands in the Basin and Range subarea.

Coachella Valley

Ecological Values

Ecological values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would encompass nearly all of the ecological values described for the Preferred Alternative.
- Inclusion of the noncontiguous public lands parcels of the Willow Hole-Edom Hill Preserve adds mesquite hummocks, a fan palm oasis, Coachella Valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*), Little San Bernardino Mountains linanthus (*Linanthus maculatus*), Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel (*Spermophilus tereticaudus chlorus*), Palm Springs pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris bangsi*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), Coachella giant sand treader cricket (*Macrobaenetes valgum*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo belli pusillus*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechial*), and additional critical habitat for the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*).
- The Dos Palmas Preserve, with its riparian values, endangered desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*) and Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*), would not be included in National Conservation Lands.

Cultural Values

Cultural values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands in this alternative would encompass most of the cultural values described for the Preferred Alternative, including numerous significant prehistoric sites, sacred sites and landscape features of importance to Cahuilla culture, and historic structures and other features from early European American settlement.
- The cultural resources of Dos Palmas Preserve, including ancient habitation sites on the shoreline of ancient Lake Cahuilla, are not included in National Conservation Lands under this alternative.

Scientific Values

Scientific values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative in a manner corresponding with the differences in ecological and cultural values described above.

Acreage

This alternative would include approximately 66,000 acres of National Conservation Lands in the Coachella Valley subarea.

Colorado Desert

Ecological Values

Ecological values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 would compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would encompass most of the ecological values described for the Preferred Alternative.
- BLM lands in the Eagle Mountains would be added as National Conservation Lands, encompassing areas of habitat connectivity between parts of Joshua Tree National Park on its east side.
- National Conservation Lands would be added north of Interstate 10, encompassing areas of habitat connectivity between Joshua Tree National Park and Palen McCoy Wilderness, and between dune habitats at Palen Lake and Ford Lake for Mojave fringe-toed lizard (*Uma scoparia*); and including populations of additional rare plant species dependent on dunes and sandy soils: Harwood's milk-vetch (*Astragalus insularis* var. *harwoodii*) and Palmer's jackass clover (*Wislizenia refracta* ssp. *palmeri*).
- Desert riparian habitat at McCoy Wash for sensitive bird species would be added to National Conservation Lands.
- National Conservation Lands National Conservation Lands would encompass most of the areas of wildlife habitat connectivity identified in the Preferred Alternative, including segments of the BLM public lands in Cadiz Valley, Chuckwalla to Chemehuevi tortoise linkage, McCoy Valley, McCoy Wash, Mule-McCoy, and Upper McCoy. Areas in the northeast of the subarea representing habitat connectivity between Turtle Mountains, Rice Valley, Riverside Mountains, and Big Maria Mountains Wilderness are less extensive than in the Preferred Alternative.

- The habitat connectivity corridors between the Mule Mountains ACEC and the Palo Verde Mountains Wilderness, and connecting the Riverside Mountains, Big Maria Mountains, and Rice Valley Wildernesses, would not be included as National Conservation Lands.
- Underground habitat for rare bat species would be included in the southeast part of the subarea and not in the northeast.

Cultural Values

Cultural values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 would compare to the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would encompass most of the cultural values of the Preferred Alternative.
- Iron Mountain World War II Desert Training Center would be partially included.
- Mule Mountains would not be included.

Scientific Values

Scientific values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative in a manner corresponding with the differences in ecological and cultural values described above.

Acreage

This alternative would include approximately 717,000 acres of National Conservation Lands in the Colorado Desert subarea.

Kingston–Amargosa

Ecological Values

Ecological values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would encompass nearly all of the ecological values described for the Preferred Alternative, including all values associated with the Amargosa River.
- Some corridors important for maintaining genetic connectivity for desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) and desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) are included as National Conservation Lands. These would be less extensive in the Shadow Valley Expansion area.

Cultural Values

Cultural values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands in this alternative would encompass most of the cultural values described for the Preferred Alternative.
- More cultural values associated with historic mining areas in the Silurian Valley would be included.
- Areas of cultural values would be less extensive in Shadow Valley.

Scientific Values

Scientific values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 relating to ecological and cultural values correspond with those values included under this alternative, as described above.

Acreage

This alternative would include approximately 398,000 acres of National Conservation Lands in the Kingston–Amargosa subarea.

Lake Cahuilla

Ecological Values

Ecological values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 would compare to those identified for the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would include nearly all of the ecological values identified for the Preferred Alternative.
- Additional Lake Cahuilla shoreline lands, flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*) habitat and wildlife linkages near the Algodones Dunes at the east side of the valley would be included, while some of the habitat and linkages at the west side of the valley (Ocotillo ACEC and Lake Cahuilla ACEC Expansion) would not be included. Lake Cahuilla shoreline lands at the west side of the valley would be less extensive than in the Preferred Alternative.

Cultural Values

Cultural values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would encompass most of the cultural values described for the Preferred Alternative.
- National Conservation Lands would cover different portions of the Lake Cahuilla shoreline and its collection of important archaeological sites. Segments of shoreline are added at the east side of the valley, near the East Mesa and Algodones Dunes areas, while another segment at the west side of the valley (Lake Cahuilla ACEC Expansion) is not included.
- National Conservation Lands would not include archaeological sites or culturally significant features at Pilot Knob or Ocotillo.

Scientific Values

Scientific values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative in a manner corresponding with the differences in ecological and cultural values described above.

Acreage

This alternative would include approximately 431,000 acres of National Conservation Lands in the Lake Cahuilla subarea.

Mojave and Silurian Valley

Ecological Values

Ecological values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would include ecological values described for the Preferred Alternative at the Ord–Rodman ACEC and Afton Canyon.
- National Conservation Lands in this alternative would include some key habitat for Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*) and burrowing owl in the vicinity of Black Mountain Wilderness. It would not include other key habitats such as Coolgardie Mesa.
- Areas of habitat connectivity encompassed by National Conservation Lands are between Grass Valley and Golden Valley Wildernesses, between Rodman Mountains

Wilderness and Cady Mountains Wilderness Study Area, and between Kingston Range Wilderness and Death Valley National Park, along with some of the habitat connectivity for desert bighorn sheep, desert tortoises, and bats associated with the Silurian Valley. The Mojave National Preserve and Death Valley National Park would not be connected by BLM wildernesses and National Conservation Lands.

- National Conservation Lands would not encompass Mojave fringe-toed lizard habitat; the riparian habitat of the Salt Creek Hills; the critical habitat for desert tortoise, and other special status plant and animal habitats, of the Superior–Cronese ACEC; Lane Mountain milk-vetch (*Astragalus jaegerianus*), Barstow woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum mohavense*) populations and other ecological values at Coolgardie Mesa; or populations of Parish’s phacelia (*Phacelia parishii*) in the vicinity of Coyote Lake.

Cultural Values

Cultural values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would include most of the cultural values described for the Preferred Alternative.
- Less lands around Black Mountain Wilderness and the Silurian Valley are included in National Conservation Lands. The same cultural values described for these locations in the Preferred Alternative are included.
- National Conservation Lands would not include the Manix segments of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail,³ the historic trail and railroad segments of the Silurian Valley Corridor, or the Calico Early Man Site.

Scientific Values

Scientific values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- Scientific values associated with ecological and cultural values would differ in a manner corresponding with the differences in values described above.
- National Conservation Lands would not include the paleontological values of Rainbow Basin or the Manix area.

³ Although not included in the National Conservation Lands designated under Public Law 111-11, the Old Spanish Historic Trail remains a part of the NLCS as a National Historic Trail. Section II.6.2.2.2 discusses the National Historic Trail Management Corridor for this alternative.

Acreage

This alternative would include approximately 177,000 acres of National Conservation Lands in the Mojave and Silurian Valley subarea.

Pinto, Lucerne Valley, and Eastern Slopes

Ecological Values

Ecological values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would encompass most of the ecological values described for the Preferred Alternative.
- Juniper Flats, with its coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum*) and gray vireo (*Vireo vicinior*) habitats, is not included.

Cultural Values

Cultural values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would encompass most of the cultural values described for the Preferred Alternative.
- Large cultural landscapes important to Native American tribes, particularly Juniper Flats, would not be included as National Conservation Lands. These scenic resources are also considered important to the general public.

Scientific Values

Scientific values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative in a manner corresponding with the differences in ecological and cultural values described above.

Acreage

This alternative would include approximately 305,000 acres of National Conservation Lands in the Pinto, Lucerne Valley, and Eastern Slopes subarea.

Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains

Ecological Values

Ecological values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would encompass most of the ecological values described for the Preferred Alternative.
- National Conservation Lands would include less extensive acreage in the Sacramento Mountains, and slightly less acreage of rare plant populations.

Cultural Values

Cultural values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would encompass most of the cultural values described for the Preferred Alternative.
- Cultural resources in the Sacramento Mountains would be included in National Conservation Lands. These would be less extensive than in the Preferred Alternative.

Scientific Values

Scientific values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative in a manner corresponding with the differences in ecological and cultural values described above.

Acreage

This alternative would include approximately 391,000 acres of National Conservation Lands in the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains subarea.

South Mojave–Amboy

Ecological Values

Ecological values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would encompass most of the ecological values described for the Preferred Alternative.

- The Dale Lake habitat for Mojave fringe-toed lizard, and the area around Dale Lake connecting Cleghorn Lakes Wilderness, Sheephole Valley Wilderness, and the Pinto Mountain ACEC, would be added to National Conservation Lands in this alternative.
- National Conservation Lands would also encompass nearly all of the areas of wildlife habitat connectivity that are included in the Preferred Alternative. Areas included would be less extensive between the Marble Mountains and Tribolite Wilderness to the south and the Mojave National Preserve on the north.

Cultural Values

Cultural values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would encompass most of the cultural values described for the Preferred Alternative.
- Slightly less area of the proposed Mojave Trails National Monument and of the historic Tonopah and Tidewater, and Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe railroads would be included in National Conservation Lands.

Scientific Values

Scientific values would compare to those in the Preferred Alternative in a manner corresponding with the differences in ecological values described above. As an example, there would be more opportunities on National Conservation Lands to study habitat improvements for Mojave fringe-toed lizards in the Dale Lake area.

Acreage

This alternative would include 584,000 acres of National Conservation Lands in the South Mojave-Amboy subarea.

Western Desert and Eastern Slope

Ecological Values

Ecological values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would include most of the ecological values described for the Preferred Alternative.

- National Conservation Lands would include the following, with less extensive areas than in the Preferred Alternative: habitat linkages between El Paso Mountains Wilderness and Kiavah Wilderness; the migratory bird flyway at the north end of the subarea along the eastern flank of the Sierra Nevada; and the eastern El Paso region, with its important habitat for the Golden Eagle and other raptors.

Cultural Values

Cultural values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative as follows:

- National Conservation Lands would encompass most of the cultural values described for the Preferred Alternative.
- National Conservation Lands would include the following, with less extensive areas than in the Preferred Alternative: the Last Chance Canyon National Register Archaeological District (a small portion would not be included) and lands on the southwest side of the Black Mountain Wilderness.

Scientific Values

Scientific values of National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3 compare to those in the Preferred Alternative in a manner corresponding with the differences in ecological and cultural values described above.

Acreage

This alternative would include approximately 193,000 acres of National Conservation Lands in the Western Desert and Eastern Slopes subarea.

II.6.2.2.2 National Trails

II.6.2.2.2.1 National Scenic and Historic Trails

Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives for National Scenic and Historic Trails (NSHT) would be the same as the Preferred Alternative.

Conservation and Management Actions for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, and the Juan Bautista de Anza and Old Spanish National Historic Trails Management Corridors

- **Management Corridor Width.** Establish a National Trail Management Corridor, width generally 5 miles from centerline for the Pacific Crest Trail, and for high potential route segments and other known historically significant segments on the National Historic trails. Additional segments of the NSHTs may be added to the management corridor as information becomes available on their qualifications as high potential route segments.
- **Management of Trail Corridors.** Manage National Trails as components of the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System. Where National Trails overlap other National Conservation Lands, the more protective CMAs or land use allocations will apply. Within these areas, the BLM will support the nature and purposes of the designated National Trails.
- **Lands and Realty**
 - Rights-of-Way
 - **Site Authorizations.** NSHT Management Corridors would be exclusion areas.
 - **Linear ROWs.** NSHT Management Corridors would be exclusion areas, except in designated transmission corridors. Exclude cultural landscapes, high potential historic sites, and high potential route segments identified along national historic trails corridors from transmission except in approved transmission corridors. Where development affects national trail management corridors, an analysis must be performed to ensure that the development does not substantially interfere with the nature and purposes of the trail, and that mitigation/compensation results in a net benefit to the trail.
 - **Renewable Energy ROWs.** Exclude cultural landscapes, high potential historic sites, and high potential route segments identified along national historic trails corridors from transmission except in approved DFAs. Where development affects national scenic and historic trail management corridors, an analysis must be performed to ensure that the development does not substantially interfere with the nature and purposes of the trail, and that mitigation/compensation results in a net benefit to the trail.
 - **Land Tenure.** Exchange, purchase, or donation of lands in NSHT Management Corridors would be allowed. Disposal of lands in NSHT Management Corridors would not be permitted.

- **Minerals**
 - **Locatable Minerals.** The BLM would propose NSHT Management Corridors for withdrawal from mineral entry. Withdrawals would be subject to valid existing rights.
 - **Saleable Minerals.** Saleable mineral development in NSHT Management Corridors would be limited to use on local public works projects. Mitigation/compensation must result in net benefit to NSHT values.
 - **Leasable Minerals.** NSHT Management Corridors would be unsuitable for all leasing.
- **Recreation.** Competitive Special Recreation Permits would not be permitted. Commercial Special Recreation Permits would be limited to those uses that provide for enjoyment/appreciation of NSHT resources, qualities, values, and associated settings and the primary use or uses.
- **Cultural Resources:** Any adverse effects to historic properties resulting from allowable uses will be addressed through the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act and the implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.

II.6.2.2.2 National Recreation Trails

Management for National Recreation Trails would be the same as under the Preferred Alternative.

II.6.2.2.3 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Alternative 3 would include 124 ACECs totaling approximately 5,550,000 acres (nonoverlapping ACEC acres) on BLM-administered lands (includes ACECs within Existing Protected Areas). Specific management and maps for ACECs under this alternative are included in the Special Unit Management Plans (National Conservation Lands and ACEC) in Appendix L.

II.6.2.2.4 Wildlife Allocations

This alternative would include 13,000 acres of Wildlife Allocations on BLM-administered lands. Descriptions and maps are included in the Special Unit Management Plans (National Conservation Lands and ACEC) in Appendix L.

II.6.2.2.5 Special Recreation Management Areas

This alternative would include 28 SRMAs (2,724,000 acres on BLM-administered lands). Descriptions, maps, and management actions for each SRMA under this alternative are included in SRMA Management Plans in Appendix L.

II.6.2.2.6 *Lands Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics*

Under Alternative 3, all acreage that was inventoried and found to have wilderness characteristics, except those lands located within DFAs and transmission corridors, would be managed to protect these characteristics (see Figure II.6-5). In summary, of the 633,000 acres found to have wilderness characteristics, 374,000 acres would be managed to protect those wilderness characteristics.

II.6.2.3 BLM-Specific CMAs

The following CMAs are different than the Preferred Alternative. For all other resources, see the Preferred Alternative, Section II.3.2.3.

II.6.2.3.1 *Lands and Realty*

Conservation and Management Actions for Lands and Realty would be the same as in the Preferred Alternative, except for Land Exchanges and Land Sales, as described below.

II.6.2.3.1.1 CMAs for the Entire Planning Area

- In nondesignated lands (i.e., lands not covered by the specific CMAs below), make lands available for disposal through exchange or land sale.

II.6.2.3.1.2 Conservation and Management Actions in Development Focus Areas and DRECP Study Areas

- Make lands within DFAs available for disposal by sale or exchange under Section 203(a)(1), 203(a)(3), 206, and 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.
- In DRECP Study Areas, acquire lands through exchange, purchase, or donation.
- In DRECP Study Areas, make lands unavailable for disposal.

II.6.2.3.1.3 CMAs in National Conservation Lands

- Make available for exchange, purchase, or donation in accordance with the CMAs outlined for National Conservation Lands in Section II.3.2.2.1.1.
- Make lands in National Conservation Lands unavailable for disposal.

II.6.2.3.1.4 CMAs in Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

- Acquire lands in ACECs through exchange, purchase, or donation.
- Make lands in ACECs unavailable for disposal.

Conservation and Management Actions in Wildlife Allocations

- Acquire lands in Wildlife Allocations through exchange, purchase, or donation.
- Make lands in Wildlife Allocations unavailable for disposal.

Conservation and Management Actions in Special Recreation Management Areas

- Acquire lands in SRMAs through exchange, purchase, or donation.
- Make lands in SRMAs unavailable for disposal.

Conservation and Management Actions in Lands Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

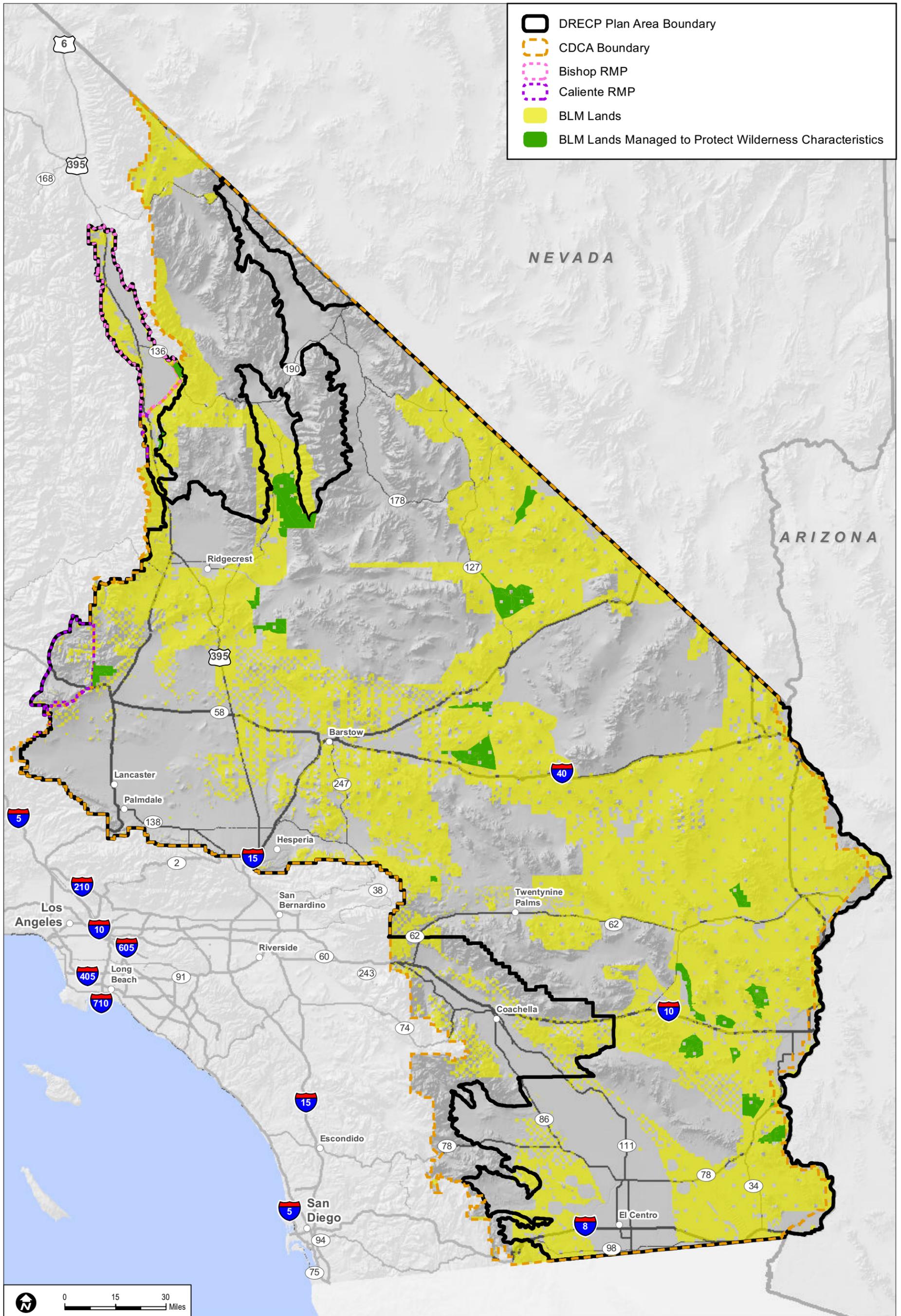
- Acquire lands in lands managed to protect wilderness characteristics through exchange, purchase, or donation.
- Make lands in lands managed to protect wilderness characteristics unavailable for disposal.

II.6.2.3.2 Soil, Water, and Water-Dependent Resources

CMAs for soil, water, and water-dependent resources would be the same as in the preferred, except within DFAs, as described below.

II.6.2.3.2.1 CMAs in Development Focus Areas

- Limit disturbance of sensitive soil areas, so that no more than 1% of the sensitive soil areas within a proposed project footprint shall be disturbed for construction.
- Exclude renewable energy development in sand dunes areas.
- Limit disturbance of sand flow corridors, so that no more than 1% of the sand flow corridors within a proposed project footprint shall be disturbed for construction.
- Limit disturbance of desert pavement, so that no more than 5% of the desert pavement within a proposed project footprint shall be disturbed for construction.
- Avoid development in flood plain, unless such development can be mitigated.
- Apply a 0.25-mile protective offset around playas.



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

FIGURE II.6-5

Alternative 3 - BLM Lands Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

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II.6.2.3.3 Visual Resources Management

Figure II.6-6 shows Visual Resources Management (VRM) Classes under this alternative. CMAs under this alternative would be the same as under the Preferred Alternative.

II.6.2.3.4 Wilderness Characteristics

In addition to the CMAs listed in the Preferred Alternative, all lands identified for management to protect wilderness characteristics in Figure II.6-5 are closed to all mechanized and motorized transport.

II.6.2.4 CDCA Plan Amendments

II.6.2.4.1 Multiple-Use Classes

The amendments to the multiple-use classes would be the same as the Preferred Alternative.

II.6.2.4.2 Visual Resource Management Classes and National Conservation Lands Outside of the DRECP

VRM Classes and National Conservation Land designations in the CDCA outside of the Planning Area are described in Section II.6.2.2.1 and Section II.6.2.3.3.

II.6.3 NCCP Elements of Alternative 3

The following provides an overview of the NCCP elements of Alternative 3. At the broadest level, the NCCP includes elements related to Covered Activities and conservation elements.

As described for the Preferred Alternative, each of the NCCP alternatives includes the full range of Covered Activities anticipated under the DRECP for each of the interagency Plan-wide alternatives. The Plan-wide description of Covered Activities serves as the description of Covered Activities for the NCCP alternatives.

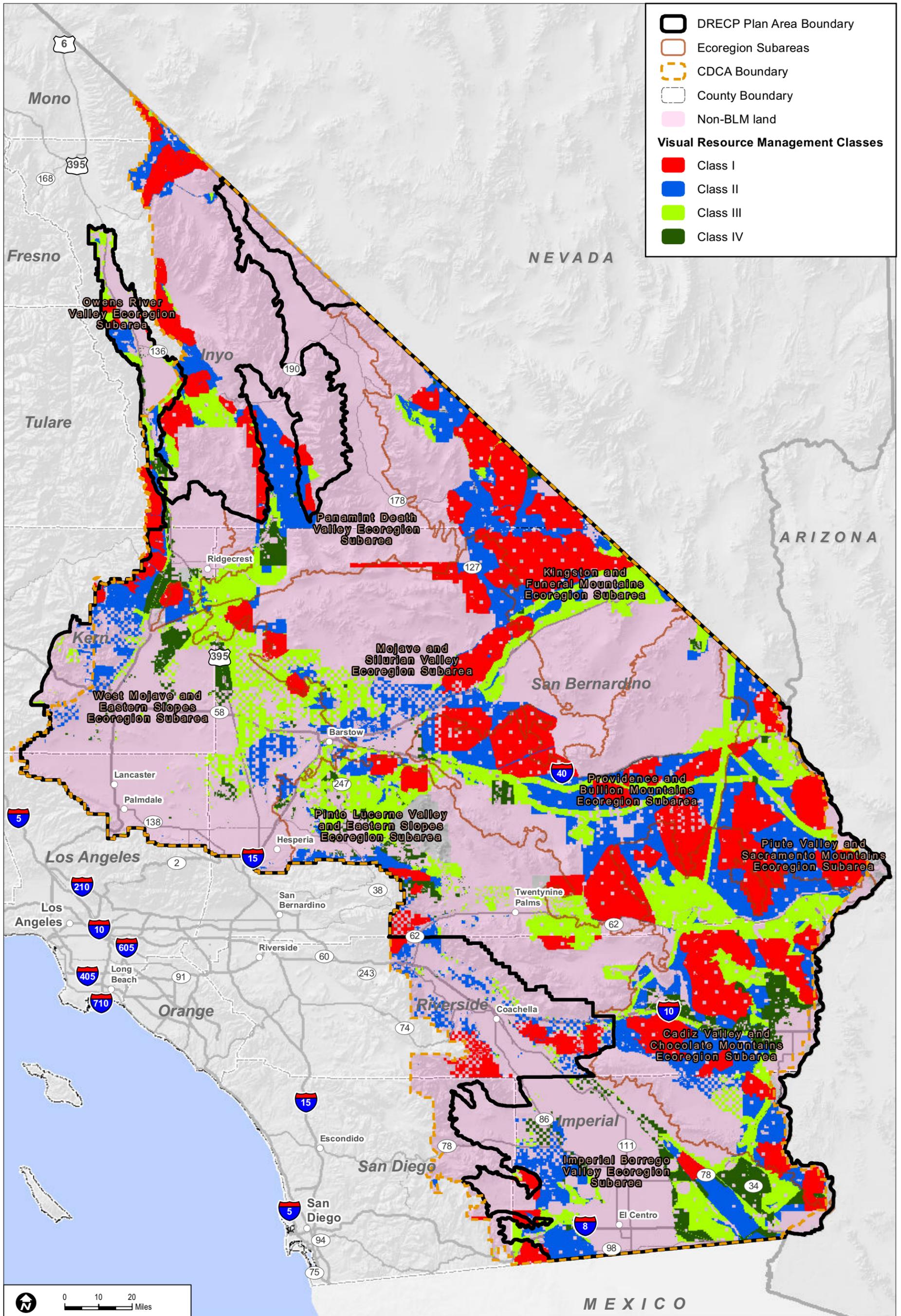
The Natural Community Conservation Planning Act requires that NCCPs provide for the conservation and management of Covered Species and natural communities on a landscape or ecosystem level through the creation and long-term management of habitat reserves and the application of other equivalent conservation measures. To reflect the conservation that would occur under the NCCP, the NCCP elements of each alternative define the following means of providing conservation within the DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope: an NCCP Conceptual Plan-Wide Reserve Design, a DRECP NCCP Reserve Design, and other conservation actions.

Reserve design features and other conservation actions within the NCCP alternatives are consistent with and nested within the DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope in the interagency Plan-wide alternatives, but differ in terms of how reserve design features are grouped within the NCCP Conceptual Plan-Wide Reserve Design and the DRECP NCCP Reserve Design. Table II.6-15 summarizes the NCCP elements of Alternative 3. As shown in Table II.6-15, the DRECP NCCP Reserve Design covers approximately 429,000 acres of BLM and non-BLM lands. Figure II.6-7 depicts the NCCP for Alternative 3. Refer to Appendix N for a description of how the Plan-wide description of the alternative serves as the description of the NCCP for the DRECP.

**Table II.6-15
NCCP for Alternative 3**

NCCP Components	Acreage
DFAs	1,405,000
Study Area Lands	11,000
Future Assessment Areas	11,000
DRECP Plan-Wide Reserve Design Envelope	15,161,000
Existing conservation areas	7,662,000
NCCP Conceptual Plan-Wide Reserve Design	1,878,000
Inside the DRECP NCCP Reserve Design	429,000
BLM LUPA conservation designations	320,000
Biological Conservation Priority Areas on non-BLM lands	109,000
Outside the DRECP NCCP Reserve Design	1,449,000
BLM LUPA conservation designations	973,000
Biological Conservation Priority Areas on non-BLM lands	476,000
BLM LUPA conservation designations outside the NCCP Conceptual Plan-Wide Reserve Design	3,737,000
Biological Conservation Planning Areas on non-BLM lands	1,884,000
Urban Areas, Other Lands, and Undesignated Areas	6,008,000
Plan Area Total	22,585,000

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to acreage 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.

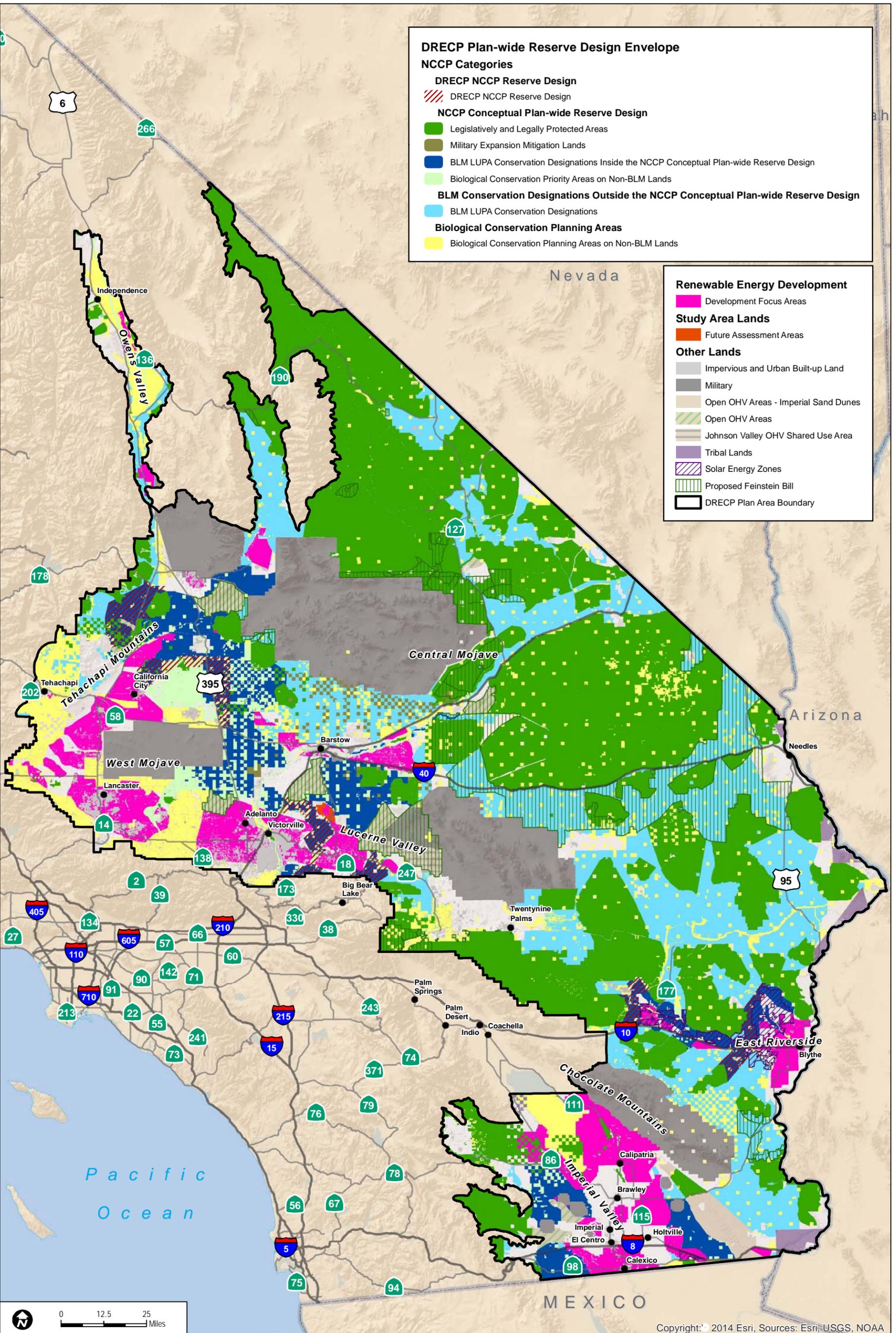


Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013)

FIGURE II.6-6

Alternative 3 - BLM Visual Resource Management Classes

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

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FIGURE II.6-7
Alternative 3 - Natural Community Conservation Plan

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II.6.4 GCP Elements of Alternative 3

As described in Section II.3.4 for the Preferred Alternative, the DRECP’s GCP elements include a streamlined permitting process for renewable energy development by nonfederal project proponents in the Plan Area. This section is intended to provide the description of the GCP elements of the DRECP for Alternative 3.

II.6.4.1 Overview of the Nonfederal GCP Lands of Alternative 3

The GCP component of Alternative 3 includes all nonfederal lands within the DRECP DFAs and Conservation Planning Areas, as well as nonfederal inholdings within Existing Conservation Lands and BLM-administered lands in the Plan Area; these lands comprise the GCP Permit Area in the Plan Area. The larger GCP Plan Area encompasses the GCP Permit Area as well as Priority Conservation Areas outside the GCP Permit Area where permittee non-acquisition mitigation measures may be implemented (i.e., BLM-administered lands corresponding to the DRECP NCCP Reserve Design). Nonfederal lands include privately owned lands and lands owned by state and local jurisdictions. The conservation strategy and Covered Activities under the GCP would be consistent with the DRECP. Table II.6-16 provides a summary of Alternative 3 within the GCP component of the DRECP; Figure II.6-8 depicts Alternative 3 within the GCP area.

As shown in Table II.6-16, the GCP portion of the Plan Area covers a total of 1,175,000 acres of DFAs on nonfederal lands (83% of the total DFAs in Alternative 3). The biological resources environmental setting/affected environment for the GCP portion of the Plan Area is described in Volume III, Section III.7.11. The impact analysis for Alternative 3 on nonfederal lands within the GCP area is provided in Volume IV, Section IV.7.3.5.4.

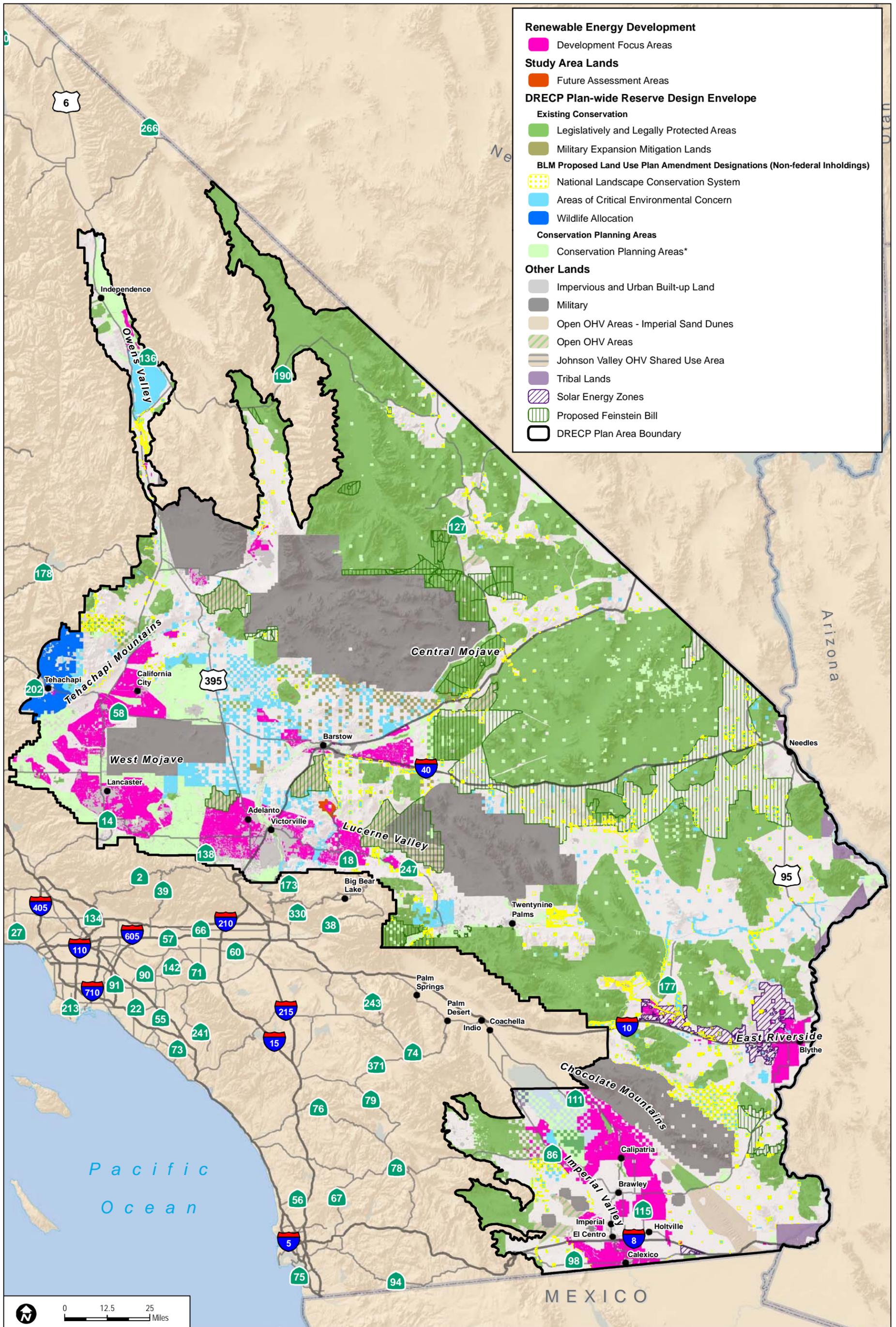
Table II.6-16
Alternative 3 within the GCP

Alternative Components	Acreage
DFAs (Nonfederal Lands Only)	1,175,000
Study Area Lands (Nonfederal Lands Only)	8,000
Future Assessment Areas	8,000
DRECP Plan-wide Reserve Design Envelope (Nonfederal Lands Only)	2,830,000
Existing conservation areas	434,000
BLM LUPA conservation designations	1,222,000
Conservation Planning Areas	1,174,000

Notes: Urban areas, Other Lands, and Undesignated Areas also occur on nonfederal lands but are not reported here. The following general rounding rules were applied to acreage 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.

II.6.4.2 Overview of the GCP Permitting Process

The GCP permitting process under Alternative 3 would be the same as is described for the Preferred Alternative in Section II.3.4.2 and in Appendix M.



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

*The portion of the reserve design outside Existing Conservation Areas and BLM LUPA Conservation Designations on private and non-BLM public lands from which reserve areas will be assembled from willing sellers as compensation for Covered Activities.

FIGURE II.6-8

Alternative 3 - General Conservation Plan

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