

5. Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement

5.1 Interrelationships

The BLM's authority over the Alta East Wind Project (AEWP) includes the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) [43 United States Code (U.S.C.) 1701 et seq.], Section 211 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPA 05) (119 Stat. 594, 600), and BLM's Wind Energy Development Policy of December 19, 2008. The FLPMA authorizes BLM to issue right-of-way (ROW) grants for renewable energy projects. Section 211 of EPA 05 states that the Secretary of the Interior should seek to have approved a minimum of 10,000 megawatts of renewable energy generating capacity on public lands by 2015.

5.1.1 Department of Defense

The BLM coordinates with the Department of Defense (DoD) prior to approval of ROWs for renewable energy, utility, and communication facilities to ensure that these facilities would not interfere with military training routes around Edward Air Force Base, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake and restricted area R-2508. On August 4, 2011, the BLM received correspondence from the DoD Siting Clearinghouse stating that it confirmed that the entire Project would fall within the Kern County "yellow" area, and that turbines below 500 feet in height would create little to no additional mission impact beyond that from the existing turbines in the Tehachapi area.

5.1.2 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) has jurisdiction to protect the aquatic ecosystem, including water quality and wetland resources under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Under that authority, the ACOE regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, by reviewing proposed projects to determine whether they may impact such resources and, thereby, are subject to Section 404's permit requirement. Throughout the Draft Plan Amendment (PA) & Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) process, the BLM has provided information to the ACOE to assist the agency in making a determination regarding its jurisdiction and need for a Section 404 permit.

5.1.3 California Department of Fish and Game

The CDFG protects fish and aquatic habitats within the State through regulation of modifications to streambeds, under Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code. The BLM and the Project Proponent have provided information to CDFG to assist the agency in its determination of the impacts to streambeds, and identification of permit and mitigation requirements. The Project Proponent will file a Streambed Alteration Agreement with CDFG. CDFG also has the authority to regulate potential impacts to species that are protected under the CESA (Fish and Game Code Section 2050, et seq.). The Project Proponent has indicated that it will file the appropriate notice, incidental take permit application, or request for memorandum of understanding, as appropriate based on potential impacts associated with the proposed AEWP.

5.1.4 California Department of Transportation

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has jurisdiction over encroachments to Caltrans facilities and related easements and ROWs. The Project could access SR 58 via the West-end Business Route 58 ramps and SR 14 via Oak Creek Road Bridge/Mono Street intersection, and Caltrans requested the preparation of a Construction Traffic Plan analyzing adequacy of the locations to be used. Also, an encroachment permit would be required for the service line under SR 58 and the railroad. In general, the

Project Proponent will be responsible for obtaining oversized vehicles permits, ensuring that any damage done to public roadways is repaired to pre-construction phase conditions, and for complying with all relevant Caltrans requirements.

Caltrans was also concerned about operational phase traffic safety on SR 58 and requested that the Draft PA Draft EIS/EIR address possible turbine malfunction, which could cause components to fall into State highway ROW, and consider a turbine offset distance from the highway, incident prevention via turbine inspection/maintenance and liability. Mitigation measures addressing the traffic safety issues are described in the Public Health and Safety (Section 4.11) and Transportation and Public Access (Section 4.16) of this document.

5.1.5 California Public Utilities Commission

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has jurisdiction over the safety of highway-rail crossings in California and requires CPUC approval for the construction or alteration of crossings and grants the CPUC exclusive power on the design, alteration, and closure of crossings. The AEWP would have an access road crossing the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) mainline tracks. Additionally, the CPUC is concerned about vehicle trips generated by construction workers traveling to the site and road trips generated from the delivery of construction equipment and materials with oversized vehicles traveling at slower speeds across UPRR's crossing.

The AEWP would comply with all requirements of the CPUC. Mitigation measures addressing the relevant safety issues of the Project's crossing impacts are described in the Public Health and Safety (Section 4.11) and Transportation and Public Access (Section 4.16) of this document.

5.1.6 California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region

California law assigns responsibility for protection of water quality in the Lahontan Region to the Lahontan Water Board. All groundwater and surface waters are considered waters of the State. Additional protection is provided for waters of the U.S. under the Federal Clean Water Act. Project components may involve alteration, dredging, filling and/or excavating activities in waters of the State. Such activities constitute a discharge of waste, as defined in California Water Code, section 13050 and could affect the quality of waters of the State. The Project Proponent will comply with all applicable water quality standards and prohibitions, including provisions in the Basin Plan, for implementation of the Project. Required permits may include a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm-water permit and CWA section 401 water quality certification.

5.1.7 Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District

The Project is located within the jurisdiction of the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District (APCD), which reviews the plans and specifications for construction in the Project area. The Eastern Kern APCD would assess emissions and possible air contamination resulting from construction and operational activities (e.g., road dust, windblown contaminants, and emissions from construction activities).

5.1.8 Kern County

The County of Kern would need to issue discretionary approvals for the construction of certain components of the Project located within the County's jurisdiction. The Project Proponent is requesting: (a) a change in zone classification from the E (20) (Estate 20 acres) District and the A-1 (Limited Agriculture) District to the A (Exclusive Agriculture) District, to the A WE (Exclusive Agriculture, Wind Energy Combining) District and to the A FP (Exclusive Agriculture, Floodplain Combining) District in Zone Map 168; (b) a change in zone classification from A-1 to A in Zone Map 197; (c) amendment to the Kern County General Plan to eliminate section and mid-section line road reservations within Maps 168, 168-27,

179, and 180; and (d) a conditional use permit to allow for the use of a temporary concrete batch plant in Zone Map 168 during construction of the wind energy facility.

The County also has authority to issue building permits for those components of AEWP located on non-federal land. Building permits issued by the County are ministerial in nature and will be issued by the County, as required, if the Project complies with all applicable building code regulations. The County also has jurisdiction to issue approvals for any easements, ROWs, and or encroachment permits where County facilities are concerned.

5.2 Consultation Processes for ESA Section 7, NHPA Section 106, Indian Tribes, and for SB 18

5.2.1 ESA Section 7 Compliance

The USFWS has jurisdiction to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) [16 U.S.C. Section 1531 et seq.]. Formal consultation with the USFWS under Section 7 of the ESA is required for any federal action that may adversely affect a federally-listed species. This consultation has been initiated through a request by the BLM to initiate formal consultation and the submittal of a Biological Assessment (BA). Following review of the BA, the USFWS would be expected to issue a Biological Opinion (BO) that specifies mitigation measures, which must be implemented for any protected species.

5.2.2 NHPA Section 106 Compliance

Federal agencies must demonstrate compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470, et seq.). Section 106 of the NHPA requires a federal agency with jurisdiction over a project to evaluate the effect of the proposed project on properties included on, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Federal agencies must also provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment on the effects of the proposed project to eligible properties. Recent amendments to the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA strengthened tribal involvement in the process (see Section 5.2.3).

Any adverse effects that the proposed AEWP or alternatives may have on historic properties would be resolved through compliance with the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) under Section 106 of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. Section 470). Implementation of AEWP also would require local and state agencies to demonstrate compliance with CEQA, for which specific guidance regarding cultural resources is presented in Appendix K of the CEQA Guidelines. Local agencies may use the NHPA process to demonstrate compliance with those CEQA requirements.

As described in Sections 3.4 and 4.4, the assessment of impacts on cultural resources assumes the implementation of those measures incorporated into the Project design or required by regulation which avoid or reduce adverse effects. A proposed action would normally have an adverse effect on cultural resources if it would disrupt or adversely affect a historic property, including a property with traditional cultural significance (as determined by the NRHP and the NHPA's implementing regulations).

The basic steps in the Section 106 process are described below along with a corresponding summary paragraph presenting BLM's compliance with the process to date:

Step 1: Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties (Cultural Resources). Properties within a project's area of potential effect (APE) are identified with input from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Indian tribes and other consulting parties, and evaluated for eligibility to the NRHP in consultation with the SHPO. See 36 C.F.R. § 800.4. BLM applies NRHP criteria for eligibility for listing

found at 36 CFR part 60.4, in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Evaluation (48 Federal Register 44723-44726). In general, NRHP eligibility criteria include:

“The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics or a type, period, method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded, or may likely yield, information important in prehistory or history.”

A literature review, record search, built environment survey and archaeological inventory has been commissioned to identify historic properties within the AEW P APE. A Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File search was also acquired which included a list of tribal individuals with whom to consult regarding the project and potential effects to sacred sites. The BLM utilized and expanded that list and initiated Section 106 consultation with Indian Tribes (see below) to ensure that ethnographic resources and places of traditional cultural or religious concern are also taken into account (see Section 5.2.3 below). After receipt of the final Cultural Resources Report, only one prehistoric resource was identified as being eligible for the historic register. Since that site was outside the disturbance area of AEW P, a no effect determination will be made. The BLM will continue working with SHPO on subsequent measures that may be required to ensure no adverse impacts to eligible resources.

Step 2: Assessment of Effects. BLM determines whether or not the undertaking will affect historic properties listed in or eligible for the NRHP (36 C.F.R. § 800.4(d)). BLM must seek concurrence from the SHPO, or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) when appropriate, if it determines that no historic properties will be affected. When BLM determines that historic properties will be affected, BLM must assess whether such effects will be adverse through by applying the criteria outline at 36 C.F.R. § 800.5(a)(1). “Effect” is defined in the regulations as an “alternative to the characteristics of a historic property qualifying it for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register” (36 C.F.R. § 800.16(i)). An effect is deemed to be adverse if when the effect may “alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property’s location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling or association” (36 C.F.R. § 800.5(a)(1)).

In the case of the proposed AEW P and alternatives, all efforts have been made to avoid direct effects to cultural resources. The BLM has determined that since the project will avoid all eligible resources as identified and will take the necessary actions to ensure that other resources will be protected, there will be no effects to eligible resources.

Step 3: Resolution of Adverse Effects. Through consultation with the SHPO, Indian tribes, other consulting parties, and the ACHP, if they elect to participate in Section 106 consultation, BLM will seek to resolve potential adverse effects of the proposed undertaking through a MOA or Programmatic Agreement (36 C.F.R. § 800.6). The purpose of consultation is to develop treatment measures to avoid, resolve, or minimize potential adverse effects to historic properties, which will be implemented through the MOA or Programmatic Agreement. The MOA often includes a treatment plan that takes into account the effects on NRHP-eligible resources, depicts the APE, discusses reporting requirements, addresses discoveries and unanticipated effects, specifies curation requirements, and provides several administrative provisions. Consulting parties, including Indian Tribes (as appropriate), would be invited to participate in

this consultation and the development of the MOA, and could be invited to sign the MOA as concurring parties. BLM must notify the ACHP of its adverse effect determination and intention to resolve such adverse effects through an MOA or Programmatic Agreement. ACHP may elect to participate in consultation for the MOA or PA. BLM, SHPO, and the ACHP, if it has elected to participate, must sign the MOA or Programmatic Agreement.

5.2.3 Tribal Consultation

The BLM consults with Indian Tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with several authorities including NEPA, the NHPA, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and Executive Order 13007. Under Section 106 of the NHPA, the BLM consults with Indian Tribes as part of its responsibilities to identify, evaluate, and resolve adverse effects on historic properties affected by BLM undertakings.

The BLM invited Indian Tribes to consult on the AEWP on a government-to-government basis at the earliest stages of project planning by letter on February 1, 2011. Since that time, the BLM has had no requests for formal or informal meetings with Tribal governments, tribal staff, and tribal members and has followed up with Tribal governments through additional correspondence, communication, and provision of other project information. The BLM has also had individual face-to-face meetings with various Tribal Governments in tribal chambers about this project along with tribal cultural staff and conducted a field visit to the project area.

Additional communications will be mailed to the local tribes prior to the release of this document, again requesting information on resources that may be known in the area and extending the opportunity to consult.

5.2.4 Senate Bill 18 Compliance

In accordance with Senate Bill 18 and the California Tribal Consultation Guidelines, the appropriate Indian tribes were also consulted with respect to the project's potential impacts on Native American places, features, and objects. At the time of this writing, no comments have been received from the applicable Indian tribes.

5.3 Implementation, Monitoring, and Enforcement

5.3.1 Implementation

The BLM will continue to involve and collaborate with the public during implementation of AEWP. Opportunities to become involved during implementation and monitoring could include development of partnerships and community-based citizen working groups. The BLM invites citizens and user groups within the vicinity of AEWP to become actively involved in implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of decisions. The BLM and citizens could collaboratively develop site-specific goals and objectives that mutually benefit public land resources, local communities, and the people who live, work, or play on the public lands.

5.3.2 Monitoring

The BLM would monitor activities throughout the life of AEWP to ensure that decisions are implemented in accordance with the approved ROD and ROW grant. Monitoring would be conducted to determine whether decisions, BMPs and approved mitigation are achieving the desired effects. Effectiveness monitoring would provide an empirical data base on impacts of decisions and effectiveness of mitigation. Effectiveness monitoring also would be useful for improving analytical procedures for future impact analyses and for designing or improving mitigation and enhancement measures. The County of Kern also

has an obligation under the CEQA to monitor the implementation of adopted mitigation measures within the area of its jurisdiction.

5.3.3 Enforcement and Adaptive Management

The BLM would incorporate adaptive management into mitigation for the proposed AEWP. Adaptive management is a system of management practices based on clearly identified outcomes, monitoring to determine if management actions are meeting outcomes, and, if not, facilitating management changes that will best ensure that outcomes are met or to re-evaluate the outcomes. This system is in effect developing an adaptive NEPA process as an implementation tool that goes beyond the traditional “predict-mitigate-implement” model and incorporates the “predict-mitigate-implement-monitor-adapt” adaptive management model.

Procedures include:

- Determining environmental effects of a project and identifying mitigation needs along with other permitting and regulatory requirements. Analysis should indicate where data are lacking and uncertainty exists with respect to the intended outcomes and the significance of this lack (see 40 CFR 1502.22);
- Monitoring designed for adaptive management must be able to result in appropriate adjustments in project activities as the project is constructed and planned mitigation is installed;
- Striving to ensure public input into and understanding of the principles of adaptive management;
- Maintaining open channels of information to the public and affected regulatory and permitting agencies during the application of adaptive management, including transparency of the monitoring process that precedes adaptive management and the decision-making process that implements it. This involves: (a) identifying indicators of change, (b) assessing monitoring activities for accuracy and usefulness, and (c) making changes in tactics, activities and/or strategies; and
- Providing post-activity opportunity for public and affected outside agency review of adaptive management practices, including practices that were exceptions to any resource management plans or that had permitting and other regulatory requirements not satisfied by prior coordination.

Adaptive management allows agencies, in their NEPA reviews, to establish and analyze mitigation measures that are projected to result in the desired environmental outcomes, and identify those mitigation principles or measures that it would apply in the event the initial mitigation commitments are not implemented or effective.

5.4 Public Involvement

5.4.1 Introduction

Public participation is a dynamic process that continues throughout the preparation of the Plan Amendment EIS/EIR. Scoping meetings were conducted after the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) and Notice of Preparation (NOP) to formally solicit public and agency input on issues to be addressed in the Plan Amendment EIS/EIR. In addition, BLM and Kern County have coordinated with affected local, state, and federal agencies on issues of concern, as described in Sections 5.1 and 5.2 above. Public and agency comments are also being sought on the information, analysis, and conclusions presented in this Draft PA Draft EIS/EIR. The BLM will use and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470(f)) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3).

The results of the scoping process are summarized below.

5.4.2 Scoping

The NOI was published in the Federal Register (Volume 76, No. 136) on July 15, 2011. On August 4, 2011, the BLM and Kern County held publicly noticed Scoping Meetings at the Mojave Veterans Building, Room 1 in Mojave, California. A Public Scoping Report was released for public review in October 2011 and is included as Appendix C.

Scoping Requirements

The BLM authorization of a ROW grant for the Project would require a resource management land use PA to the CDCA Plan. Scoping is required by NEPA pursuant to CEQ (40 CFR 1501.7) regulations. The process ensures that significant issues, alternatives, and impacts are addressed in environmental documents and determines the degree to which these issues and impacts will be analyzed in an EIS.

Scoping Process

The scoping process for the Alta East Wind Project Plan Amendment EIS/EIR included the following:

- Publishing the Notice of Intent (NOI)/Notice of Preparation (NOP) to prepare a Plan Amendment EIS/EIR.
- Conducting public scoping meeting and agency consultation meetings.
- Documenting all public and agency comments received for the proposed project in a Public Scoping Report and NOP Public Comments Received (Appendix C).

Each of these components is discussed below.

Notice of Intent

In compliance with NEPA (40 CFR 1501.7), the BLM published a NOI in the Federal Register to prepare an EIS for the Alta East Wind Project (FR Vol. 76, No. 136, pages 41817-41819, July 15, 2011). The scoping period ended on August 15, 2011. The BLM established a website with Project information describing the various methods for providing public comment on the Project, including an e-mail address where comments could be sent electronically. In addition, BLM issued a press release regarding the NOI on July 15, 2011.

Notice of Preparation

As required by CEQA Guidelines §15082 (14 CCR 15000 et seq.), the County of Kern issued an NOP on July 15, 2011, that summarized the Alta East Wind Project and stated its intention to prepare a joint Plan Amendment EIS/EIR, and requested comments from interested or affected parties.

Public Scoping Meeting

Notification for public scoping meetings held on August 4, 2011 at Mojave was made available to the public on BLM's website for the AEWP in July 2011. In addition, notices were sent to stakeholders, including the State Clearinghouse; federal, State, and local agencies and organizations; local property owners, local libraries; and Native American groups.

One public scoping meeting was held on August 4, 2011, in Mojave, California. Presentations describing the environmental review process were delivered by representatives of the BLM and County of Kern. Approximately 35 persons attended the meeting, including representatives from local and state agencies, organizations, and private citizens. Eight (8) letters were received during the scoping comment period that ended on August 15, 2011: six (6) from federal, state, and local agencies and organizations; and two (2) from individuals. Comments were received on the following categories: Alternatives; Cultural Resources;

Cumulative Impacts; Lands and Realty; Multiple-Use Classes; Noise; Proposed Action; Public Health and Safety; Social and Economic Setting; Transportation and Public Access; Visual Resources; Water Resources; and Wildlife Resources. A summary of these comments is provided in the Public Scoping Report and NOP Comments Received (Appendix C). Comments received during scoping are addressed in the analysis of impacts in this EIS/EIR, and were also considered in the formulation of alternatives.

Scoping Report

The BLM produced a scoping report in October 2011, which contained information received during the public scoping comment period. Comments received during the scoping period were grouped into the following three categories:

- Issues or concerns that could be addressed by effects analysis;
- Issues or concerns that could develop an alternative and/or a better description or qualification of the alternatives; and
- Issues or concerns outside the scope of the Plan Amendment EIS/EIR.

5.5 Administrative Remedies

The BLM and the EPA's Office of Federal Activities will publish separate Notice of Availability's (NOAs) for the PA & Final EIS/EIR in the Federal Register when the document is ready to be released to the public. The NOA (to be published by the EPA in the Federal Register) will initiate a 30-day protest period on the Proposed PA to the Director of the BLM in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.5-2. Additionally, the BLM will be accepting additional public comment during this period. All substantive comments will be reviewed and responded to in the ROD.

Following resolution of any protests, the BLM may publish an Approved PA and a ROD on the Project Application. Publication and release of the ROD would serve as public notice of BLM's decision on the Project Application which is appealable in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4.

5.6 List of Preparers

Though individuals have primary responsibility for preparing sections of the Proposed PA & EIS/EIR, the document is an interdisciplinary team effort. In addition, internal review of the document occurs throughout preparation. Specialists at the BLM's Field Office, State Office, and Washington Office review the analysis and supply information, as well as provide document preparation oversight. Contributions by individual preparers may be subject to revision by other BLM specialists and by management during internal review.

Table 5-1. List of Preparers

Name	Job Title	Primary Responsibility
BLM – Ridgecrest Field Office		
Jeffery Childers	Project Manager	Project manager, NEPA Compliance
Paul Rodriguez	Realty Specialist	Lands, Land Use
Glenn Harris	Natural Resources	Air, Water , Hydrology, Grazing
Donald Storm	Archeologist	Cultural Resources
BLM – California Desert District Office		
Kim Marsden	Biologist	Vegetation and Wildlife
Tiffany Thomas	Archeologist	Cultural Resources

Table 5-1. List of Preparers

Name	Job Title	Primary Responsibility
BLM – California State Office		
Sandra McGinnis	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	NEPA and Land Use
County of Kern – Planning and Community Development Department		
Kitchen, Jacquelyn	Planner III	Project Manager, CEQA Compliance and Land Use
Murphy, Craig	Planning Division Chief	CEQA Compliance and Land Use
Aspen Environmental Group		
Capello, Emily	Environmental Scientist	Cumulative Scenario, Growth Inducing Impacts, Irreversible & Irrecoverable Impacts, Unavoidable Adverse Impacts and Comparison of Alternatives
Davidson, Jon	Vice President	Editing and Review
Debauche, Scott	Environmental Scientist	Project and Alternatives, Environmental Justice, Noise, Public Health & Safety, Social and Economic Issues, Transportation, Wildland Fire Ecology
Hawkins, Jacob	Environmental Scientist	Wildland Fire Ecology, Policy Consistency
Huerta, Susanne	Environmental Planner	Lands and Realty, Livestock Grazing, Multiple Use Classes, Recreation, Special Designations, Wild Horses and Burros, Policy Consistency
Hwang, Insun	Engineer	Air Resources, Climate Change
Koczwara, Hedy	Environmental Scientist	Deputy Project Manager, Introduction
Lancaster, Jennifer	Biologist	Vegetation Resources, Wildlife Resources
Mescher, Aubrey	Environmental Planner	Soil Resources, Water Resources
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Spicer, Judy	Document Coordinator	Production Manager
Tangard, Mark	Document Coordinator	Document Production
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Walters, Will	Senior Engineer	Air Resources, Climate Change
Applied Earthworks, Inc.		
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Mirro, Michael	GIS Specialist	Cultural and Paleontological Resources
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Kanemoto, William	Visual Resource Specialist	Visual Resources

6. Acronyms and Abbreviations

µg/L	micrograms per liter
µg/m ³	micrograms per cubic meter
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
AB 32	California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006
ac	acres
ac-ft	acre-feet
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ACOE	Army Corps of Engineers
ADT	Average Daily Trips
AEWP	Alta East Wind Project
af	acre-feet
AFB	Air Force Base
afy	acre-feet per year
AIChE	American Institute of Chemical Engineers
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act
ALUCP	Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan
AMP	Allotment Management Plan
amsl	above mean sea level
AOCM	Alta–Oak Creek Mojave
APCD	Air Pollution Control District
APE	Area of Potential Effect
APWRA	Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area
AQMD	Air Quality Management District
ARB	Air Resources Board
ARRA	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
AWEA	American Wind Energy Association
BA	Biological Assessment
BAU	business-as-usual
bgs	below ground surface
bhp	brake-horsepower
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMPs	best management practices
BO	Biological Opinion
BOE	California Board of Equalization
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendments
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards

CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Cal/EPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CalARP	California Accidental Release Program
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
Cal-IPC	California Invasive Plant Council
Cal-OSHA	California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
CalPIF	California Partners in Flight
Caltrans	California State Department of Transportation
CAPCOA	California Air Pollution Control Officers Association
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CASQA	California Stormwater Quality Association
CATEF II	California Air Toxics Emission Factors
CBC	California Building Code
CCD	Census County Division
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDC	Disease Control and Prevention
CDCA	California Desert Conservation Area
CDCA Plan	California Desert Conservation Area Plan
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDNPA	California Desert Native Plants Act
CDPH	California Department of Public Health
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQ	on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liability Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
CH ₄	methane
CHP	California Highway Patrol
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
CHWMP	County Hazardous Waste Management Plan
CIWMB	California Integrated Waste Management Board
CMLUCA	California Military Land Use Compatibility Analysis
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbone monoxide
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
COG	(Kern) Council of Governments
col	colonies

CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CRMP	cultural resources management plan
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CSD	Community Services District
CUP	Conditional Use Permit
CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agency
CVC	California Vehicle Code
CWA	Clean Water Act
cy	cubic yards
dB	Decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibels
DBE	Design Basis Earthquake
DHS	Department of Health Services
DOC	California Department of Conservation
DOD	United States Department of Defense
DOSH	Division of Occupational Safety and Health
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
DPM	diesel particulate matter
DPR	Department of Pesticide Regulation
DPR 523	Department of Parks and Recreation cultural resources inventory form
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
DWMA	Desert Wildlife Management Area
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EA	environmental assessment
EHS	extremely hazardous substance
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EKAPCD	Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District
EMF	electromagnetic field
EMI	electromagnetic interference
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPAct 05	Energy Policy Act of 2005
EPC	engineering, procurement, and construction
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986
EPS	Emissions Performance Standard
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FAR	Federal Aviation Regulations
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency

FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FHA	Federal Highway Administration
FHSZ	Fire Hazard Severity Zone
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRMs	Flood Insurance Rate Maps
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
FP	Floodplain
fps	feet per second
FRA	federal responsibility area
FS	Forest Service
ft	feet
ft ² /d	square feet per day
FY	fiscal year
g	gravity
gal	gallon
GANDA	Garcia and Associates
gen-tie	power transmission line
GHG	greenhouse gas
GIS	geographic information system
GO	General Order
GPA	General Plan Amendment
gpd	gallons per day
gpd/ft	gallons per day per foot
gpd/ft ²	gallons per day per square foot
gpm	gallons per minute
GPS	global positioning system
GSP	gross state product
GWh	gigawatt-hour
H ₂ S	hydrogen sulfide
HA	Herd Area
HCP	habitat conservation plan
HEC-RAS	Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System
HFCs	hydrofluorocarbons
HMA	Herd Management Areas
HMBP	Hazardous Materials Business Plan
hp	horsepower
HSWA	Hazardous and Solid Waste Act
HT1L	Horned Toad Formation - Lower Member 1
HT1U	Horned Toad Formation - Upper Member 1
HT2	Horned Toad Formation - Member 2

HT3	Horned Toad Formation - Member 3
HT4	Horned Toad Formation - Member 4
HT5	Horned Toad Formation - Member 5
HU	Hydrologic Unit
HWCA	Hazardous Waste Control Act
Hz	Hertz
IBC	International Building Code
ICC	International Code Council
in	inches
in/sec	inches per second
IWMB	Integrated Waste Management Board
kA	kilo-amps
KCEHS	Kern County Emergency Health and Safety Division
KCFD	Kern County Fire Department
KCGP	Kern County General Plan
KCSD	Kern County Sheriff Department
KCSS	Kern County Superintendent of Schools
KOP	Key Observation Point
kV	kilovolt
kVA	kilovolt-amperes
kVAR	kilovolt-ampere reactive
kW	kilowatt
kWe	kilowatt-electric
L90	The A-weighted noise level that is exceeded 90 percent of the time during the measurement period.
LADWP	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
lbs	pounds
Ldn	day-night average noise level
LEPC	local emergency planning committee
Leq	equivalent continuous sound level
LOS	Level of Service
LRA	local responsibility area
LSAA	Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement
LUP	Land Use Plan
M6.0	earthquake of magnitude 6.0 or greater
Ma	million years ago
MAZ	Motorized Access Zone
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCD	minor civil divisions
MCE	maximum credible earthquake
MCLs	maximum contaminant levels

MCV	Manual of California Vegetation
MDA	Master Power Purchase and Wind Project Development Agreement
MDAB	Mojave Desert Air Basin
mg/L	milligrams per liter
mg/m ³	milligrams per cubic meter
MgCl	magnesium chloride
mi	miles
ml	milliliters
mm	millimeters
MMBtu	1 million british thermal units
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
mph	miles per hour
MRDS	Mineral Resources Data System
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
MSDS	material safety data sheets
msl	mean sea level
MSP	Mojave Specific Plan
MTCO _{2e}	metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent
MTPs	Master Title Plats
MUC C	Multiple-Use Class Controlled
MUC I	Multiple-Use Class Intensive
MUC L	Multiple-Use Class Limited
MUC M	Multiple-Use Class Moderate
MUC U	Multiple-Use Class Unclassified
MUCs	multiple use classes
Mw	Maximum Earthquake Magnitude
MW	megawatt
MWh	megawatt-hour
N/A	Not Applicable
N ₂ O	nitrous oxide
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHD	National Hydrography Dataset
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NLCS	National Landscape Conservation System
NNL	National Natural Landmarks

NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NO ₃	nitrates
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's
NOI	Notice of Intent
NOP	Notice of Preparation
NPA	National Programmatic Agreement
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPPA	Native Plant Protection Act
NPS	National Park Service
NR	Natural Resource
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSR	New Source Review
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
NWP	Nationwide Permit
O&M	operations and maintenance
O ₂	oxygen
O ₃	ozone
OA	Older Pleistocene alluvium
OEHHA	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
OES	Office of Emergency Services
OHV	off-highway vehicle
OHW	Ordinary High Water
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970
PA	Plan Amendment
PCT	Pacific Crest Trail
PEIS	programmatic environmental impact statement
PFCs	perfluorocarbons
PFYC	Potential Fossil Yield Classification
PM	particulate matter
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter; respirable particulate matter
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter
POD	Plan of Development
ppm	parts per million
ppmv	parts per million by volume
ppmvd	parts per million by volume, dry
PPV	peak particle velocity
PRC	Public Resources Code
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
psi	pounds per square inch

PTWF	Pine Tree Wind Farm
PV	photovoltaic
Qa	Late Pleistocene alluvium
QA	Quaternary alluvium
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
REC I	Water Contact Recreation
REC II	Non-contact Water Recreation
RF	Recreation-Forestry
RHNA	Regional Housing Needs Assessment
RMP	Risk Management Plan
RMS	root mean square
ROD	Record of Decision
ROW	right-of-way
RPF	Registered Professional Forester
RPS	Renewable Portfolio Standard
RQ	reportable quantity
RSH	rotor-swept height
RSPF	resource selection probability function
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RUSLE2	Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SB	Senate Bill
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SCE	Southern California Edison Company
scf	standard cubic feet
scfh	standard cubic feet of hydrogen per hour
SERC	state emergency response commission
sf	square feet
SF ₆	sulfur hexafluoride
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SJVAB	San Joaquin Valley Air Basin
SLE	St. Louis Encephalitis
SMA	Special Management Area
SMARA	State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
SMGB	State Mining and Geology Board
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SO ₄	sulfates
SO ₄	sulfate
SP	Southern Pacific Railroad

SPCC	Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures
SPL	sound pressure level
sq mi	square miles
SR	State Route
SRA	State responsibility area
SSJVIC	Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center
SVP	Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
T-BACT	Best Available Control Technology for Toxics
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
TMDL	total maximum daily load
TOB	tops of banks
TPQ	threshold planning quantity
Tpy	tons per year
TQ	Threshold Quantity
TR	Tertiary rhyolitic felsite
TRTP	Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project
TWRA	Tehachapi Wind Resource Area
UCMP	of California's Museum of Paleontology
UCR	University of California, Riverside
UPA	Unusual Plant Assemblages
UPRR	Union Pacific Railroad
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UST	Underground Storage Tank
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
V/C	Volume to capacity
VdB	velocity decibel
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
VRI	visual resource inventory
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WA	wilderness area
WATCH	Work Area Traffic Control Handbook
WDID	Waste Discharge Identification Number

WDRs	Waste Discharge Requirements
WE	Wind Energy
WEE	Western Equine Encephalomyelitis
WEMO	West Mojave Plan
WEST	Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc.
WFMP	Wildland Fire Management Plan
WHO	World Health Organization
WMP	West Mojave Plan
WNV	West Nile virus
WRA	wind resource area
WSA	Water Supply Assessment
WSA	wilderness study area
WTG	wind turbine generators
WTGAC	Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee
WTS	Wind Turbine Syndrome
WUS	Waters of the United States
ybp	years before present
YPS	sodium ferrocyanide (yellow prussiate of soda)
yr	year

7. Responses to Comments

This Chapter is being reserved for, and will be included with, the Final EIS/EIR.

8. Glossary

— A —

Adjacent: Defined by ASTM E1527-00 as any real property the border of which is contiguous or partially contiguous with that of the Site or would be contiguous or partially contiguous with that of the Site but for a street, road, or other public thoroughfare separating them.

Air Basin: A regional area defined for state air quality management purposes based on considerations that include topographic features that influence meteorology and pollutant transport patterns, and political jurisdiction boundaries that influence the design and implementation of air quality management programs.

Air Quality Control Region: A regional area defined for federal air quality management purposes based on considerations that include topographic features that influence meteorology and pollutant transport patterns, and political jurisdiction boundaries that influence the design and implementation of air quality management programs.

Alluvium: a fine-grained fertile soil consisting of mud, silt, and sand deposited by flowing water on flood plains, in river beds, and in estuaries.

Alluvial Fan: Fan shaped material of water deposited sediments.

Ambient Air Quality Standards: A combination of air pollutant concentrations, exposure durations, and exposure frequencies that are established as thresholds above which adverse impacts to public health and welfare may be expected. Ambient air quality standards are set on a national level by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Ambient air quality standards are set on a state level by public health or environmental protection agencies as authorized by state law.

Ambient Air: Outdoor air in locations accessible to the general public.

American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009: Abbreviated ARRA (Pub.L. 111-5) and commonly referred to as the Stimulus or The Recovery Act. An economic stimulus package signed into law on February 17, 2009 by President Barack Obama to respond to the late-2000s recession. The primary objective for ARRA was to save and create jobs almost immediately. Secondary objectives were to provide temporary relief programs for those most impacted by the recession and invest in infrastructure, education, health, and ‘green’ energy, including wind generation projects.

Applicant: Alta Windpower Development LLC

Archaeological district: A significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, or features important in history or prehistory. There can be discontinuous districts composed of resources that are not in close proximity to one another

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): A designated area on public lands where special management attention is required: (1) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to fish and wildlife; (2) to protect important historic, cultural, or scenic values, or other natural systems or processes; or (3) to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Attainment Area: An area that has air quality as good as or better than a national or state ambient air quality standard. A single geographic area may be an attainment area for one pollutant and a non-attainment area for others.

— B —

Basic Elements: The four design elements (form, line, color, and texture), which determine how the character of a landscape is perceived.

Bioremediation: The use of biological agents, such as bacteria or plants, to remove or neutralize contaminants, as in polluted soil or water.

— C —

Calcareous Substrates: Substances, often cemented and of a chalky appearance, containing calcium carbonate.

Cancer: A class of diseases characterized by uncontrolled growth of somatic cells. Cancers are typically caused by one of three mechanisms: chemically induced mutations or other changes to cellular DNA; radiation induced damage to cellular chromosomes; or viral infections that introduce new DNA into cells.

Carbon Monoxide (CO): A colorless, odorless gas that is toxic because it reduces the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood.

Characteristic: A distinguishing trait, feature, or quality.

Characteristic Landscape: The established landscape within an area being viewed. This does not necessarily mean a naturalistic character. It could refer to an agricultural setting, an urban landscape, a primarily natural environment, or a combination of these types.

Climate: A statistical description of daily, seasonal, or annual weather conditions based on recent or long-term weather data. Climate descriptions typically emphasize average, maximum, and minimum conditions for temperature, precipitation, humidity, wind, cloud cover, and sunlight intensity patterns; statistics on the frequency and intensity of tornado, hurricane, or other severe storm events may also be included.

Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL): A 24-hour average noise level rating with a 5 dB penalty factor applied to evening noise levels and a 10 dB penalty factor applied to nighttime noise levels. The CNEL value is very similar to the Day-Night Average Sound Level (Ldn) value, but includes an additional weighting factor for noise during evening hours.

Contrast: Opposition or unlikeness of different forms, lines, colors, or textures in a landscape.

Contrast Rating: A method of analyzing the potential visual impacts of proposed management activities.

Cretaceous: In geologic history the third and final period of the Mesozoic era, from 144 million to 65 million years ago, during which extensive marine chalk beds formed.

Criteria Pollutant: An air pollutant for which there is a national ambient air quality standard (carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, inhalable particulate matter, fine particulate matter, or airborne lead particles).

Critical Habitat: Habitat designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act and under the following criteria: (1) specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed, on which are found those physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and that may require special management of protection; or (2) specific areas outside the geographical area by the species at the time it is listed but that are considered essential to the conservation of the species.

Cryptocrystalline silicate: Cryptocrystalline silicates are rocks such as flint, chert, chalcedony, or jasper that contain a high percentage of silica (SiO₂), the primary compound that composes quartz.

Cultural Modification: Any man-caused change in the land form, water form, vegetation, or the addition of a structure which creates a visual contrast in the basic elements (form, line, color, texture) of the naturalistic character of a landscape.

Cultural Resource: A location of human activity, occupation, or use identifiable through field inventory, historical documentation, or oral evidence. Cultural resources include archaeological and historical sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, works of art, architecture, and natural features that were important

in past human events. They may consist of physical remains or areas where significant human events occurred, even though evidence of the events no longer remains. And they may include definite locations of traditional, cultural, or religious importance to specified social or cultural groups.

Cultural Resource Data: Cultural resource information embodied in material remains such as artifacts, features, organic materials, and other remnants of past activities. An important aspect of data is context, a concept that refers to the relationships among these types of materials and the situations in which they are found.

Cultural Resource Data Recovery: The professional application of scientific techniques of controlled observation, collection, excavation, and/or removal of physical remains, including analysis, interpretation, explanation, and preservation of recovered remains and associated records in an appropriate curatorial facility used as a means of protection. Data recovery may sometimes employ professional collection of such data as oral histories, genealogies, folklore, and related information to portray the social significance of the affected resources. Such data recovery is sometimes used as a measure to mitigate the adverse impacts of a ground-disturbing project or activity.

Cultural Resource Integrity: The condition of a cultural property, its capacity to yield scientific data, and its ability to convey its historical significance. Integrity may reflect the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival or physical characteristics that existed during its historic or prehistoric period, or its expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.

Cultural Resource Inventory (Survey): A descriptive listing and documentation, including photographs and maps of cultural resources. Included in an inventory are the processes of locating, identifying, and recording sites, structures, buildings, objects, and districts through library and archival research, information from persons knowledgeable about cultural resources, and on-the-ground surveys of varying intensity.

Cultural Resource Values: The irreplaceable qualities that are embodied in cultural resources, such as scientific information about prehistory and history, cultural significance to Native Americans and other groups, and the potential to enhance public education and enjoyment of the Nation's rich cultural heritage.

Cultural Site: A physical location of past human activities or events, more commonly referred to as an archaeological site or a historic property. Such sites vary greatly in size and range from the location of a single cultural resource object to a cluster of cultural resource structures with associated objects and features.

Cumulative Impacts: Two or more individual impacts that, when considered together, are considerable or that compound or increase other environmental impacts. The following statements also apply when considering cumulative impacts: (1) the individual impacts may be changes resulting from a single project or separate projects; (2) the cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment that results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over time.

— D —

Day/Night Average Sound Level (Ldn): A 24-hour average noise level rating with a 10 dB penalty factor applied to nighttime noise levels. The Ldn value is very similar to the CNEL value, but does not include any weighting factor for noise during evening hours.

Decibel (dB): A generic term for measurement units based on the logarithm of the ratio between a measured value and a reference value. Decibel scales are most commonly associated with acoustics (using air pressure fluctuation data); but decibel scales sometimes are used for ground-borne vibrations or various electronic signal measurements.

Desert Pavement: A surface covering developed over time, of closely packed rock fragments of pebble or cobble size found on desert soils.

Distance Zones: A subdivision of the landscape as viewed from an observer position. The subdivision (zones) includes foreground-middleground, background, and seldom seen.

Drought condition: A hydrologic condition during a defined period when rainfall and runoff are much less than average.

— E —

Enhancement: A management action designed to improve visual quality.

Environment: The physical conditions that exist in the area and that would be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historical or aesthetic significance. The area involved is where significant direct or indirect impacts would occur as a result of the project. The environment includes both natural and artificial conditions.

Equivalent Average Sound Pressure Level (Leq): The decibel level of a constant noise source that would have the same total acoustical energy over the same time interval as the actual time-varying noise condition being measured or estimated. Leq values must be associated with an explicit or implicit averaging time in order to have practical meaning.

Excavation: The scientific examination of an archaeological site through layer-by-layer removal and study of the contents within prescribed surface units, e.g. square meters.

— F —

Fluvial: Of, relating to, or occurring in a river.

Form: The mass or shape of an object or objects which appear unified, such as a vegetative opening in a forest, a cliff formation, or a water tank.

— G —

Geomorphic Province: Naturally defined geologic regions that display a distinct landscape or landform.

Greenhouse Gas: A gaseous compound that absorbs infrared radiation and re-radiates a portion of heat back toward the earth's surface, thus trapping heat and warming the earth's atmosphere.

Groundwater Overdraft: The condition of a groundwater basin in which the amount of water withdrawn by pumping exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin over a period of years during which water supply conditions approximate average conditions.

— H —

Habitat: A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

Hazardous Air Pollutant (HAP): Air pollutants which have been specifically designated by relevant federal or state authorities as being hazardous to human health. Most HAP compounds are designated due to concerns related to: carcinogenic, mutagenic, or teratogenic properties; severe acute toxic effects; or ionizing radiation released during radioactive decay processes.

Hertz (Hz): A standard unit for describing acoustical frequencies measured as the number of air pressure fluctuation cycles per second. For most people, the audible range of acoustical frequencies is from 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz.

Historical Site: A location that was used or occupied after the arrival of Europeans in North America (ca. A.D. 1492). Such sites may consist of physical remains at archaeological sites or areas where significant

human events occurred, even though evidence of the events no longer remains. They may have been used by people of either European or Native American descent.

Historical Resource: A cultural resource, for the purpose of CEQA, listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (PRC § 21084.1). Subsumed in present analysis under “important historic and cultural aspects of our national heritage.”

Historical Property: A cultural resource, for the purpose of Section 106, included in, or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR § 800.16(1)(1)). Subsumed in present analysis under “important historic and cultural aspects of our national heritage.”

Holocene: Of, denoting, or formed in the second and most recent epoch of the Quaternary period, which began 10,000 years ago at the end of the Pleistocene.

Hydrocarbons: Any organic compound containing primarily carbon and hydrogen, such as the alkanes, alkenes, alkynes, terpenes, and arenes.

— I —

Igneous: Rock, such as granite and basalt that has solidified from a molten or partially molten state.

Impacts: Impacts analyzed under CEQA must be related to a physical change. Impacts are: (1) Direct or primary impacts that would be caused by the proposed project and would occur at the same time and place; or (2) Indirect or secondary impacts that would be caused by the proposed project and would be later in time or farther removed in distance but would still be reasonably foreseeable. Indirect or secondary impacts may include growth-inducing impacts and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use; population density or growth rate; and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems.

Indian Tribe: Any American Indian group in the United States that the Secretary of the Interior recognizes as possessing tribal status (listed periodically in the Federal Register).

Indigenous: Being of native origin (such as indigenous peoples or indigenous cultural features).

Interdisciplinary Team: A group of individuals with different training, representing the physical sciences, social sciences, and environmental design arts, assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The members of the team proceed to a solution with frequent interaction so that each discipline may provide insights to any stage of the problem and disciplines may combine to provide new solutions.

Invasive Species: An exotic species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health (Executive Order 13122, 2/3/99).

Isolate: Non-linear, isolated archaeological features without associated artifacts.

— K —

Key Observation Point (KOP): One or a series of points on a travel route or at a use area or a potential use area, where the view of a management activity would be most revealing.

— L —

Landscape Character: The arrangement of a particular landscape as formed by the variety and intensity of the landscape features and the four basic elements of form, line, color, and texture. These factors give the area a distinctive quality which distinguishes it from its immediate surroundings.

Landscape Features: The land and water form, vegetation, and structures which compose the characteristic landscape.

Leasable Minerals: Minerals whose extraction from federally managed land requires a lease and the payment of royalties. Leasable minerals include coal, oil and gas, oil shale and tar sands potash, phosphate, sodium, and geothermal steam.

Less than Significant Impact. An impact that is adverse but that does not exceed the defined thresholds of significance. Less-than-significant impacts do not require mitigation.

Line: The path, real or imagined, that the eye follows when perceiving abrupt differences in form, color, or texture. Within landscapes, lines may be found as ridges, skylines, structures, changes in vegetative types, or individual trees and branches.

Locatable Minerals: Minerals subject to exploration, development, and disposal by staking mining claims as authorized by the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. This includes deposits of gold, silver, and other uncommon minerals not subject to lease or sale.

— M —

Maintenance Area: An area that currently meets federal ambient air quality standards but which was previously designated as a nonattainment area. Federal agency actions occurring in a maintenance area are still subject to Clean Air Act conformity review requirements.

Management Activity: A surface disturbing activity undertaken on the landscape for the purpose of harvesting, traversing, transporting, protecting, changing, replenishing, or otherwise using resources.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): A written but noncontractual agreement between two or more agencies or other parties to take a certain course of action.

Meteorological Tower (MET). Instrument located at the proposed Project site, designed to measure temperature, humidity, relative humidity, solar radiation, and wind speed and direction.

Mineral Material Disposal: The sale of sand, gravel, decorative rock, or other materials defined in 43 CFR 3600.

Mining Claim: A mining claim is a selected parcel of Federal Land, valuable for a specific mineral deposit or deposits, for which a right of possession has been asserted under the General Mining Law. This right is restricted to the development and extraction of a mineral deposit. The rights granted by a mining claim protect against a challenge by the United States and other claimants only after the discovery of a valuable mineral deposit. The two types of mining claims are lode and placer. In addition, mill sites and tunnel sites may be located to provide support facilities for lode and placer mining.

Mitigation: Mitigation consists of measures that avoid or substantially reduce the project's significant environmental impacts by: (a) Avoiding the impacts altogether by not taking an action or parts of an action, (b) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation, (c) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment, (d) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action, (e) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments (40 CFR 1508.20).

— N —

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): The NPDES permit program has been delegated in California to the State Water Resources Control Board. These sections of the Clean Water Act require that an applicant for a federal license or permit that allows activities resulting in a discharge to waters of the United States must obtain a State certification that the discharge complies with other provisions of the Clean Water Act.

National Register District: A group of significant archaeological, historical, or architectural sites, within a defined geographic area, that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. See National Register of Historic Places.

National Register of Historic Places: The official list, established by the National Historic Preservation Act, of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. The National Register lists archeological, historic, and architectural properties (i.e. districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects) nominated for their local, state, or national significance by state and federal agencies and approved by the National Register Staff. The National Park Service maintains the National Register. Also see National Historic Preservation Act.

National Scenic Trail: One of the three categories of national trails defined in the National Trails System Act of 1968 that can only be established by act of Congress and are administered by federal agencies, although part or all of their land base may be owned and managed by others. National Scenic Trails are existing regional and local trails recognized by either the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior upon application.

Native American: Indigenous peoples of the western hemisphere.

Nitric Oxide (NO): A colorless toxic gas formed primarily by combustion processes that oxidize atmospheric nitrogen gas or nitrogen compounds found in the fuel. NO is a precursor of ozone, nitrogen dioxide, numerous types of photochemically-generated nitrate particles (including PAN), and atmospheric nitrous and nitric acids. Most nitric oxide formed by combustion processes is converted into nitrogen dioxide by subsequent oxidation in the atmosphere over a period that may range from several hours to a few days.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂): A toxic reddish gas formed by oxidation of nitric oxide. Nitrogen dioxide is a strong respiratory and eye irritant. Most nitric oxide formed by combustion processes is converted into nitrogen dioxide by subsequent oxidation in the atmosphere. Nitrogen dioxide is a criteria pollutant in its own right, and is a precursor of ozone, numerous types of photochemically generated nitrate particles (including PAN), and atmospheric nitrous and nitric acids.

Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x): A group term meaning the combination of nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide; other trace oxides of nitrogen may also be included in instrument-based NO_x measurements. NO_x is a precursor of ozone, photochemically-generated nitrate particles (including PAN), and atmospheric nitrous and nitric acids.

Non-native Species: See Invasive Species and Noxious Weed.

Noxious Weed: According to the Federal Noxious Weed Act (PL 93-629), a weed that causes disease or has other adverse effects on man or his environment and therefore is detrimental to the agricultural and commerce of the United States and to the public health.

Nonattainment Area: An area that does not meet a federal or state ambient air quality standard. Federal agency actions occurring in a federal nonattainment area are subject to Clean Air Act conformity review requirements.

— O —

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV): Any vehicle capable of or designed for travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, deriving motive power from any source other than muscle. OHVs exclude: (1) any non-amphibious registered motorboat; (2), any fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for official or emergency purposes; (3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by a permit, lease, license, agreement, or contract issued by an authorized officer or otherwise approved; (4) vehicles in official use; and (5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.

Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Facility. Building and yard constructed to store critical spare parts and provide a building for maintenance services.

Organic Compounds: Compounds of carbon containing hydrogen and possibly other elements (such as oxygen, sulfur, or nitrogen). Major subgroups of organic compounds include hydrocarbons, alcohols, aldehydes, carboxylic acids, esters, ethers, and ketones. Organic compounds do not include crystalline or amorphous forms of elemental carbon (graphite, diamond, carbon black, etc.), the simple oxides of carbon (carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide), metallic carbides, or metallic carbonates.

Overdraft condition: A condition in which the total volume of water being extracted from the groundwater basin would be greater than the total recharge provided to the basin.

Ozone (O₃): A compound consisting of three oxygen atoms. Ozone is a major constituent of photochemical smog that is formed primarily through chemical reactions in the atmosphere involving reactive organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, and ultraviolet light. Ozone is a toxic chemical that damages various types of plant and animal tissues and which causes chemical oxidation damage to various materials. Ozone is a respiratory irritant, and appears to increase susceptibility to respiratory infections. A natural layer of ozone in the upper atmosphere absorbs high energy ultraviolet radiation, reducing the intensity and spectrum of ultraviolet light that reaches the earth's surface.

— P —

Paleontological Resources (Fossils): The physical remains of plants and animals preserved in soils and sedimentary rock formations. Paleontological resources are for understanding past environments, environmental change, and the evolution of life.

Paleontology: A science dealing with the life forms of past geological periods as known from fossil remains.

Paleozoic Era: An era of geologic time (600 million to 280 million years ago) between the Late Precambrian and the Mesozoic eras and comprising the Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, Mississippian, Pennsylvanian, and Permian periods.

Particulate Matter: Solid or liquid material having size, shape, and density characteristics that allow the material to remain suspended in the atmosphere for more than a few minutes. Particulate matter can be characterized by chemical characteristics, physical form, or aerodynamic properties. Categories based on aerodynamic properties are commonly described as being size categories, although physical size is not used to define the categories. Many components of suspended particulate matter are respiratory irritants. Some components (such as crystalline or fibrous minerals) are primarily physical irritants. Other components are chemical irritants (such as sulfates, nitrates, and various organic chemicals). Suspended particulate matter also can contain compounds (such as heavy metals and various organic compounds) that are systemic toxins or necrotic agents. Suspended particulate matter or compounds adsorbed on the surface of particles can also be carcinogenic or mutagenic chemicals.

Peak Particle Velocity: A measure of ground-borne vibrations. Physical movement distances are typically measured in thousandths of an inch, and occur over a tiny fraction of a second. But the normal convention for presenting that data is to convert it into units of inches per second.

Perennial Yield: The maximum quantity of water that can be annually withdrawn from a groundwater basin over a long period of time [during which water supply conditions approximate average conditions] without developing an overdraft condition.

Petroglyph: Pictures, symbols, or other art work pecked, carved, or incised on natural rock surfaces.

pH (parts hydrogen): The logarithm of the reciprocal of hydrogen-ion concentration in gram atoms per liter.

Physiographic Province: An extensive portion of the landscape normally encompassing many hundreds of square miles, which portrays similar qualities of soil, rock, slope, and vegetation of the same geomorphic origin.

Pleistocene (Ice Age): An epoch in the Quaternary period of geologic history lasting from 1.8 million to 10,000 years ago. The Pleistocene was an epoch of multiple glaciations, during which continental glaciers covered nearly one fifth of the earth's land.

Pliocene: The Pliocene Epoch is the period in the geologic timescale that extends from 5.332 million to 2.588 million years before present.

PM10 (inhalable particulate matter): A fractional sampling of suspended particulate matter that approximates the extent to which suspended particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters smaller than 50 microns penetrate to the lower respiratory tract (tracheo-bronchial airways and alveoli in the lungs). In a regulatory context, PM₁₀ is any suspended particulate matter collected by a certified sampling device having a 50 percent collection efficiency for particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters of 9.5-10.5 microns and an maximum aerodynamic diameter collection limit less than 50 microns. Collection efficiencies are greater than 50 percent for particles with aerodynamic diameters smaller than 10 microns and less than 50 percent for particles with aerodynamic diameters larger than 10 microns.

PM2.5 (fine particulate matter): A fractional sampling of suspended particulate matter that approximates the extent to which suspended particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters smaller than 6 microns penetrate into the alveoli in the lungs. In a regulatory context, PM_{2.5} is any suspended particulate matter collected by a certified sampling device having a 50 percent collection efficiency for particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters of 2.0-2.5 microns and an maximum aerodynamic diameter collection limit less than 6 microns. Collection efficiencies are greater than 50 percent for particles with aerodynamic diameters smaller than 2.5 microns and less than 50 percent for particles with aerodynamic diameters larger than 2.5 microns.

Precursor: A compound or category of pollutant that undergoes chemical reactions in the atmosphere to produce or catalyze the production of another type of air pollutant.

Prehistoric: Refers to the period wherein American Indian cultural activities took place before written records and not yet influenced by contact with nonnative culture(s).

Programmatic Agreement (PA): A document that details the terms of a formal, legally binding agreement between one party and other state and/or federal agencies. A PA establishes a process for consultation, review, and compliance with one or more federal laws, most often with those federal laws concerning historic preservation.

Project: The whole of an action that has the potential for resulting in a physical change in the environment, directly or ultimately.

Proponent: Alta Windpower Development LLC

Proposed Action: Alta East Wind Project.

Protocol Agreement (Protocol): A modified version of the NPA, adapted to the unique requirements of managing cultural resources on public lands in California, and is used as the primary management guidance for BLM offices in the state.

— Q —

Quaternary Age: The most recent of the three periods of the Cenozoic Era in the geologic time scale of the ICS. It follows the Tertiary Period, spanning 2.588 ± 0.005 million years ago to the present. The Quaternary includes two geologic epochs: the Pleistocene and the Holocene Epochs.

— R —

Recovery Act: See American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009.

Rehabilitation: A management alternative and/or practice which restores landscapes to a desired scenic quality.

Restoration (Cultural Resource): The process of accurately reestablishing the form and details of a property or portion of a property together with its setting, as it appeared in a particular period of time. Restoration may involve removing later work that is not in itself significant and replacing missing original work. Also see Stabilization (Cultural Resource).

Riparian: Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Normally describes plants of all types that grow rooted in the water table or sub-irrigation zone of streams, ponds, and springs.

Road: A linear route declared a road by the owner, managed for use by low-clearance vehicles having four or more wheels, and maintained for regular and continuous use.

Route: “Routes” represents a group or set of roads, trails, and primitive roads that represents less than 100 percent of the BLM transportation system. Generically, components of the transportation system are described as routes.

— S —

Saleable Minerals: Common variety minerals on the public lands, such as sand and gravel, which are used mainly for construction and are disposed by sales or special permits to local governments. See also Mineral Materials.

Scale: The proportionate size relationship between an object and the surroundings in which the object is placed.

Scenery: The aggregate of features that give character to a landscape.

Scenic Area: An area whose landscape character exhibits a high degree of variety and harmony among the basic elements which results in a pleasant landscape to view.

Scenic Quality: The relative worth of a landscape from a visual perception point of view.

Scenic Quality Evaluation Key Factors: The seven factors (land form, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications) used to evaluate the scenic quality of a landscape.

Scenic Quality Ratings: The relative scenic quality (A, B, or C) assigned a landscape by applying the scenic quality evaluation key factors; scenic quality A being the highest rating, B a moderate rating, and C the lowest rating.

Scenic Values: See Scenic Quality and Scenic Quality Ratings.

Secretary of the Interior: The U.S. Department of the Interior is in charge of the nation’s internal affairs. The Secretary serves on the President’s cabinet and appoints citizens to the National Park Foundation board.

Sedimentary Rocks: Rocks, such as sandstone, limestone, and shale, that are formed from sediments or transported fragments.

Sensitivity Levels: Measures (e.g., high, medium, and low) of public concern for scenic quality.

Shaft: See Mine Shaft.

Significant and Unavoidable Impact. An impact that exceeds the defined thresholds of significance and cannot be eliminated or reduced to a less-than-significant level through the implementation of mitigation measures.

Significant Impact on the Environment: A substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions in the area affected by the proposed project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historical or aesthetic significance. An economic or social change by itself is not considered a significant impact on the environment. A social or economic change related to a physical change may be considered in determining whether the physical change is significant.

Special Status Species: Federal- or state-listed species, candidate or proposed species for listing, or species otherwise considered sensitive or threatened by state and federal agencies.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO): The official within and authorized by each state at the request of the Secretary of the Interior to act as liaison for the National Historic Preservation Act. Also see National Historic Preservation Act.

State Implementation Plan (SIP): Legally enforceable plans adopted by states and submitted to EPA for approval, which identify the actions and programs to be undertaken by the State and its subdivisions to achieve and maintain national ambient air quality standards in a time frame mandated by the Clean Air Act.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB): Created in 1967, joint authority of water allocation and water quality protection enables the State Water Board to provide comprehensive protection for California's waters. The mission of the nine Regional Boards is to develop and enforce water quality objectives and implementation plans that will best protect the State's waters, recognizing local differences in climate, topography, geology and hydrology.

Subsurface: Of or pertaining to rock or mineral deposits which generally are found below the ground surface.

Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂): A pungent, colorless, and toxic oxide of sulfur formed primarily by the combustion of fossil fuels. It is a respiratory irritant, especially for asthmatics. A criteria pollutant in its own right, and a precursor of sulfate particles and atmospheric sulfuric acid.

Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA). A system that allows for controlling and monitoring individual turbines and the wind plant as a whole from a central host computer or a remote personal computer.

— T —

Tertiary: The Tertiary Period marks the beginning of the Cenozoic Era. It began 65 million years ago and lasted more than 63 million years, until 1.8 million years ago. The Tertiary is made up of 5 epochs: the Paleocene Epoch, the Eocene Epoch, the Oligocene Epoch, the Miocene Epoch, and the Pliocene Epoch.

Texture: The visual manifestations of the interplay of light and shadow created by the variations in the surface of an object or landscape.

Toxic: Poisonous. Exerting an adverse physiological effect on the normal functioning of an organism's tissues or organs through chemical or biochemical mechanisms following physical contact or absorption.

Traditional Cultural Properties: Areas associated with the cultural practices or beliefs of a living community. These sites are rooted in the community's history and are important in maintaining cultural identity.

Trail: A linear route managed for human-powered, stock, or off-highway vehicle forms of transportation or for historical or heritage values. Trails are not generally managed for use by four-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicles.

— U —

Undertaking: Equivalent in present analysis to “proposed action” and “proposed project.” An undertaking, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.16(y), “means a project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal agency, including those carried out by or on behalf of a Federal agency; those carried out with Federal financial assistance; and those requiring a Federal permit, license or approval.”

— V —

Vandalism (Cultural Resource): Malicious damage or the unauthorized collecting, excavating, or defacing of cultural resources. Section 6 of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act states that “no person may excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any archaeological resource located on public lands or Indian lands...unless such activity is pursuant to a permit issued under section 4 of this Act.”

Variables: Factors influencing visual perception including distance, angle of observation, time, size or scale, season of the year, light, and atmospheric conditions.

Variety: The state or quality of being varied and having the absence of monotony or sameness.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT): The cumulative amount of vehicle travel within a specified or implied geographical area over a given period of time.

Viewshed: The landscape that can be directly seen under favorable atmospheric conditions, from a viewpoint or along a transportation corridor. Protection, rehabilitation, or enhancement is desirable and possible.

Visual Contrast: See Contrast.

Visual Quality: See Scenic Quality.

Visual Resources: The visible physical features on a landscape (e.g., land, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features).

Visual Resource Management Classes: Categories assigned to public lands based on scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones. There are four classes. Each class has an objective which prescribes the amount of change allowed in the characteristic landscape.

Visual Resource Management (VRM): The inventory and planning actions taken to identify visual values and to establish objectives for managing those values; and the management actions taken to achieve the visual management objectives.

Visual Values: See Scenic Quality.

— W —

Wetlands: Permanently wet or intermittently water-covered areas, such as swamps, marshes, bogs, potholes, swales, and glades.

Wilderness Area: An area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System as defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891), Section 2(c).

Wilderness Study Area: A roadless area or island that has been inventoried and found to have wilderness characteristics as described in section 603 of FLPMA and section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891). Source for both of these is BLM’s IMP and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (December 1979).

Wind Turbine Generator (WTG). A rotary device that extracts energy from the wind.

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