Appendix D

Key Observation Point Worksheets

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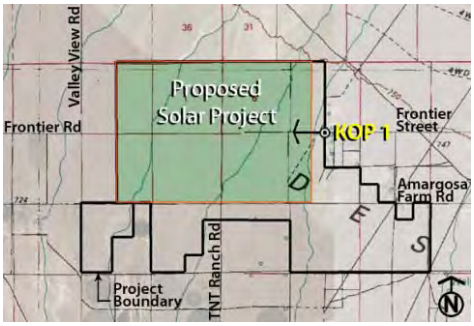
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

DRAFT

Project Name:	**Location**	Location Sketch
Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project		
Key Observation Point : 1	Township 16S	
Sandy Lane	Range 49E	
VRM Class: IV	Section 8	



Characteristic Landscape Description

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat, horizontal (foreground) Triangular (background)	Low to tall (foreground) Low (mid to background)	Geometric, rectilinear (foreground) linear, Vertical (mid-ground)
Line	Horizontal (foreground) Jagged and diagonal (background)	Regular, vertical (foreground) Regular, horizontal (mid ground)	Vertical (mid-ground)
Color	Tan (foreground) Brown and dark brown (background)	Dark greens and browns	Brown
Texture	Fine (foreground) Coarse (background)	Coarse (foreground) Fine (mid and background)	Fine (background)

Proposed Activity Description (Facility)

Facilities – Transmission Lines (tl), Solar Fields (sf), and Power Block (pb)

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat (sf) (foreground)	Geometric from clearing (sf) (foreground)	Linear (tl), linear, rectangular (sf), tall, cylindrical (pb) (foreground)
Line	Horizontal, linear (sf), foreground)	Regular, linear (sf) (foreground)	Linear (sf, tl, fence) vertical (pb) (foreground)
Color	Tan (sf) (foreground)	Green (foreground)	Silver-blue, shiny (sf) tan/brown (pb) (foreground)
Texture	Fine (foreground)	Coarse (foreground)	Fine to medium (foreground/background)

Degree of Contrast

Degree of Contrast		Features											
		Landform/ Water Body				Vegetation				Structures			
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Elements	Form			X			X			X			
	Line			X			X			X			
	Color			X				X		X			
	Texture			X			X				X		

Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
Yes

Additional mitigating measures recommended?
See Chapter 4 - Mitigation

Evaluators Names:
Conrad Langley, Marc Schwartz

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP / Simulation 1 – View facing west from Sandy Lane residence

Strong contrast would result from construction and operation of the proposed project with naturalistic project setting designated as VRM Class IV. The construction of the project would result in substantial grading and the clearing of vegetation with a moderate contrast resulting from vegetation removal. The proposed project structures would be seen from KOP 1 at a distance of approximately 700 feet and would be seen from a level viewing position with the dominant view being of the proposed semi-transparent wind-fence, the first row of solar collectors and potentially the tops of power block components (at a distance of .75 mile). As viewed from KOP 1, the site topography descends towards the southwest helping minimize the impacts of the taller power-block elements such as the cooling tower and the salt storage tanks. Overall impacts are anticipated to be high / moderate.

Date: December 2009
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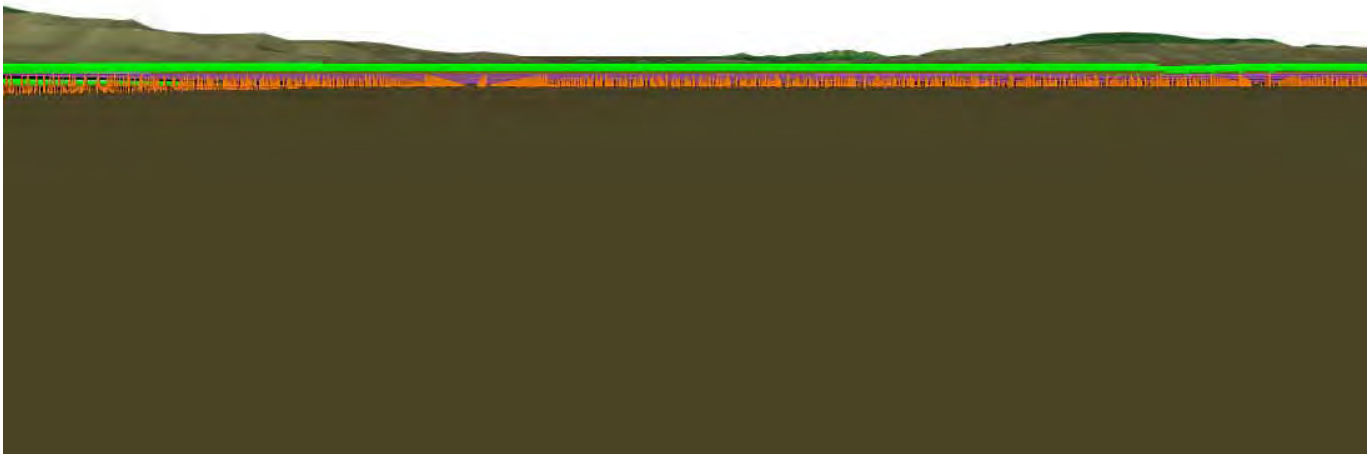
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities



KOP / Simulation 1 – Wire Frame model of solar fields and project elements (does not account for vegetation screening or wind fence screening)

Note: wire frame models are diagrammatic and for orientation purposes only

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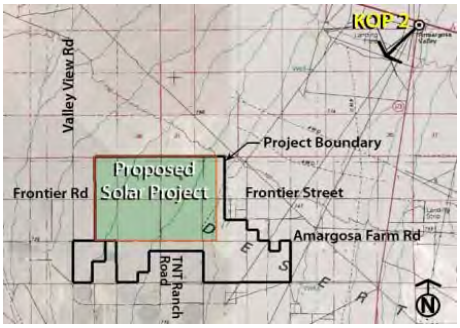
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: December 2009	
District: Southern Nevada District	
Resource Area: Pahrump	
Activity (program): Solar Facilities	

DRAFT

Project Name:	**Location**	Location Sketch
Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project		
Key Observation Point : 2	Township 15S	
Lathrop Wells Rest Area	Range 50E	
VRM Class: IV	Section 18	



Characteristic Landscape Description

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Horizontal (foreground) Triangular, Irregular (background)	Low, horizontal (foreground and mid-ground)	Linear, geometric (foreground to mid-ground)
Line	Horizontal (foreground) Undulating (background)	Regular (foreground to background)	Vertical, diagonal (foreground) Horizontal (mid-ground)
Color	Tan (foreground and mid-ground) Dark Brown/brown (background)	Browns, Dark green (foreground to mid-ground)	Grey, brown (foreground)
Texture	Fine (foreground) Coarse (background)	Fine to (foreground) Fine (mid and background)	Regular, fine (foreground to mid-ground)

Proposed Activity Description (Facility)

Facilities – Transmission Lines (tl), Solar Fields (sf), and Power Block (pb)

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Not Visible	Not Visible	Linear (tl), linear, rectangular (sf), tall, cylindrical (pb) (Mid-ground)
Line	Not Visible)	Not Visible	Linear (sf, tl) vertical (pb) (mid-ground)
Color	Not Visible	Not Visible	Silver-blue, shiny (sf) tan/brown (pb) (mid-ground)
Texture	Not Visible	Not Visible	Fine (sf, tl) medium (pb) (mid-ground/background)

Degree of Contrast

Degree of Contrast		Features											
		Landform/ Water Body				Vegetation				Structures			
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Elements	Form			X					X		X		
	Line				X			X				X	
	Color				X				X			X	
	Texture				X				X			X	

Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
Yes

Additional mitigating measures recommended?
See Chapter 4 - Mitigation

Evaluators Names:
Conrad Langley, Marc Schwartz

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP /Simulation 2 - View facing southwest from Lathrop Wells rest area

Weak contrast would result from construction and operation of the proposed project with modified project setting designated as VRM Class IV. The construction of the project would result in substantial grading and the clearing of vegetation, but is unlikely that the contrast of modifications to landform and vegetation would be seen from KOP 2. The proposed project powerblock structures (i.e. air-cooling unit and salt-storage tanks) would be seen from KOP 2 at a distance of approximately 6 miles and would be seen from a level viewing position with backdropped views, further reducing the overall perceived impacts. Overall Impacts are anticipated to be weak.

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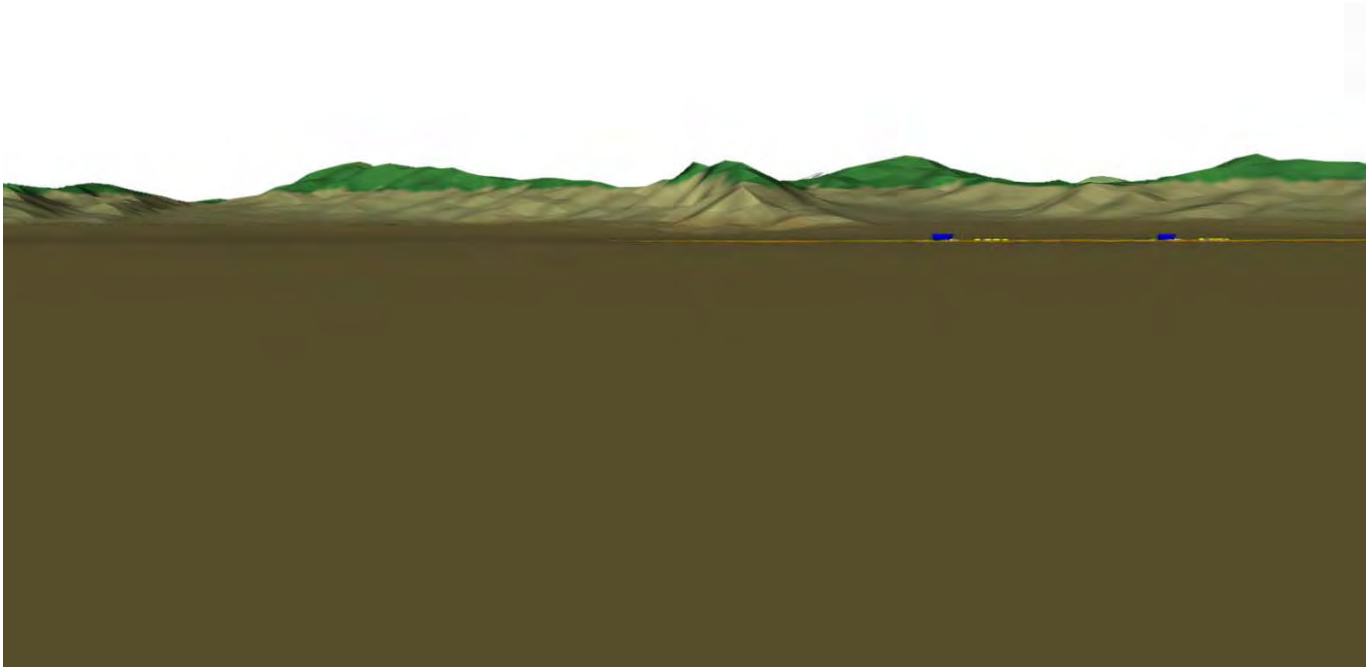
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities



KOP / Simulation 2 – Wire Frame model of solar fields and project elements (does not account for vegetation screening or wind fence screening)

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VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: December 2009	
District: Southern Nevada District	
Resource Area: Pahrump	
Activity (program): Solar Facilities	

DRAFT

Project Name:	**Location**	Location Sketch
Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project		
Key Observation Point : 3	Township 15S	
East Bound US 95	Range 48E	
VRM Class: IV	Section 2	

Characteristic Landscape Description

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Horizontal (foreground) Triangular, Irregular (background)	Low, horizontal (foreground and mid-ground)	Linear, geometric (foreground to mid-ground)
Line	Horizontal (foreground) Undulating (background)	Regular (foreground to background)	Vertical, diagonal (foreground) Horizontal (mid-ground)
Color	Tan (foreground and mid-ground) Dark Brown/brown (background)	Browns, green (foreground to background)	Grey, brown (foreground)
Texture	Fine (foreground) Mid to Coarse (background)	Fine (foreground to background)	Regular, fine (foreground to mid-ground)

Proposed Activity Description (Facility)

Facilities – Transmission Lines (tl), Solar Fields (sf), and Power Block (pb)

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat, Horizontal (sf) (mid-ground)	Geometric from clearing (sf) (mid-ground)	Linear (tl), linear, rectangular (sf), tall, cylindrical (pb) (mid-ground)
Line	Horizontal, linear (sf), (mid-ground)	Regular, linear (sf) (mid-ground)	Linear (sf, tl) vertical and rectangular (pb) (mid-ground)
Color	Not Visible	Green/brown (mid-ground)	Silver-blue, shiny (sf) tan/brown (pb) (mid-ground)
Texture	Not Visible	Fine (mid-ground)	Fine (sf, tl) medium (pb) (mid-ground/background)

Degree of Contrast

Degree of Contrast		Features											
		Landform/ Water Body				Vegetation				Structures			
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Elements	Form			X			X				X		
	Line			X				X			X		
	Color			X				X			X		
	Texture			X				X				X	

Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
Yes

Additional mitigating measures recommended?
Refer to Chapter 4 – Mitigation Measures

Evaluators Names:
Conrad Langley, Marc Schwartz

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP / Simulation 3 – View facing south from US95

Weak/Moderate contrast would result from construction and operation of the proposed project with a naturalistic project setting designated as VRM Class IV. The construction of the project would result in substantial grading and the clearing of vegetation, but is unlikely that the contrast of modifications to landform and vegetation will result in increased project contrast from this KOP. The proposed project structures would be seen from KOP 3 at a distance of approximately 5 ½ miles and would be seen from a level viewing position. Project components expected to be seen are the powerblock (i.e. Air cooling unit, salt storage tanks) that are rectangular and geometric in form and hard-edged lines. Transmission poles would be evident in areas where there is no backdropping. The solar troughs would be seen as a thin low, continuous line that sits on the horizon line. Due to the atmospheric conditions and reflectivity of the solar troughs, the linear nature of the solar troughs blends with the partially backdropped views, further reducing the overall perceived impacts. Overall impacts are anticipated to be moderate/low.

For the duration of construction, a temporary construction access road would be built from US 95 to the northern project boundary. During this construction phase, overall contrast would raise to a moderate impact due to the low partially blocked nature of the construction road. Post-construction restoration efforts are anticipated to revert the site conditions to a more natural state.

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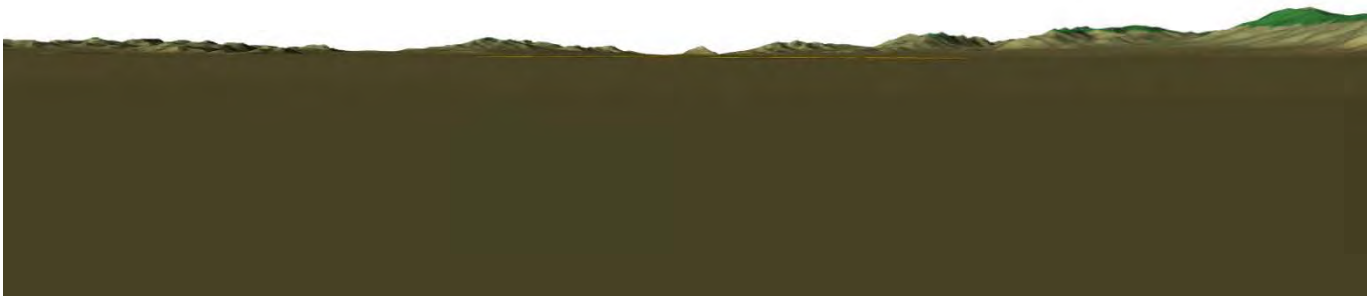
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities



KOP / Simulation 3 – Wire Frame model of solar fields and project elements (does not account for vegetation screening or wind fence screening)

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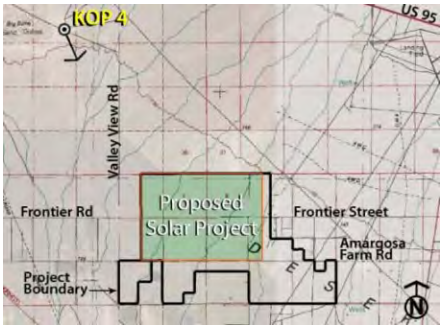
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

DRAFT

Project Name:	**Location**	Location Sketch
Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project		
Key Observation Point : 4	Township 15S	
Big Dune	Range 48E	
VRM Class: IV	Section 16	



Characteristic Landscape Description

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Horizontal (foreground) Irregular (background)	Low, horizontal (foreground and mid-ground)	N/A
Line	Horizontal (foreground) Undulating (background)	Regular (foreground to background)	N/A
Color	Tan (foreground and mid-ground) Dark Brown/brown (background)	Brown/Dark green (mid-ground)	N/A
Texture	Fine (foreground) Coarse (background)	Patchy, Coarse (foreground) Fine (mid and background)	N/A

Proposed Activity Description (Facility)

Facilities – Transmission Lines (tl), Solar Fields (sf), and Power Block (pb)

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat, Horizontal (sf) (mid-ground)	Geometric from clearing (sf) (mid-ground)	Linear (tl), linear, rectangular (sf), tall, cylindrical (pb) (mid-ground)
Line	Horizontal, linear (sf), (mid-ground)	Regular, linear (sf) (mid-ground)	Linear (sf, tl) vertical (pb) (mid-ground)
Color	Not Visible	Green/brown (mid-ground)	Silver-blue, shiny (sf) tan/brown (pb) (mid-ground)
Texture	Not Visible	Fine (mid-ground)	Fine (sf, tl) medium (pb) (mid-ground/background)

Degree of Contrast

Degree of Contrast		Features											
		Landform/ Water Body				Vegetation				Structures			
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Elements	Form				X			X			X		
	Line				X			X			X		
	Color				X				X			X	
	Texture				X				X			X	

Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
Yes

Additional mitigating measures recommended?
See Chapter 4 - Mitigation

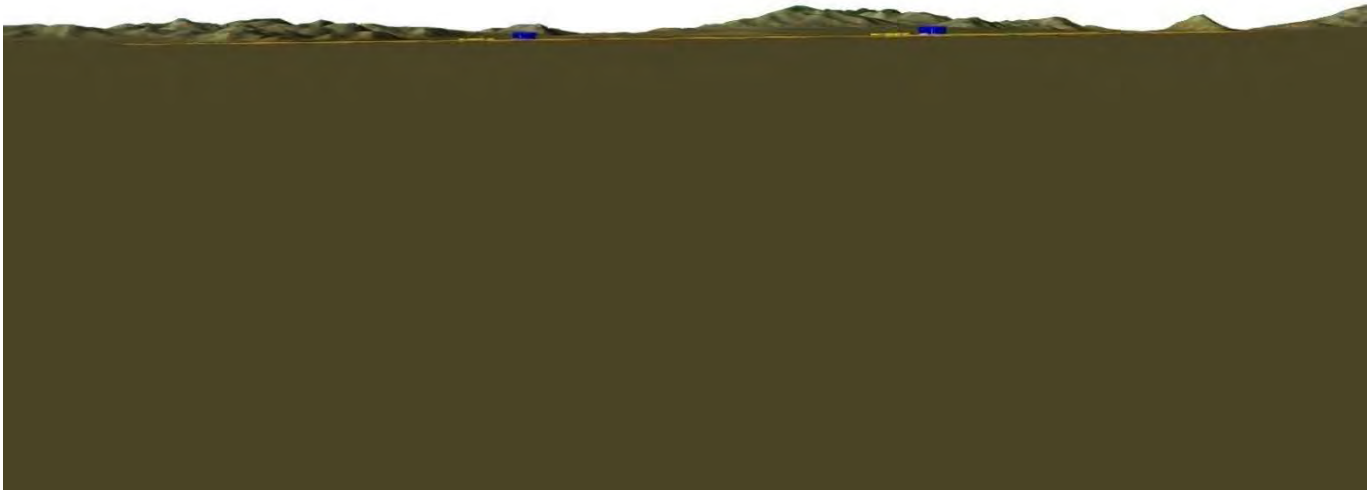
Evaluators Names:
Conrad Langley, Marc Schwartz

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP / Simulation 4 – view facing southeast from Big Dune Recreation Area

Weak / Moderate contrast would result from the construction and operation of the proposed project within a naturalistic setting. The construction of the project would result in substantial grading and the clearing of vegetation, but is unlikely that the contrast of modifications to landform and vegetation would be seen from KOP 4. The proposed project structures will be seen from KOP 4 at a distance of approximately 3.75 miles and would be seen from a level viewing position, further reducing the overall perceived impacts. Project components expected to be seen are the powerblock (i.e. Air cooling unit, salt storage tanks) that are rectangular and geometric in form and hard-edged lines. Transmission poles would be seen as regular, repeating vertical elements between the powerblocks and proposed switchyard, which is unlikely to be seen. The solar troughs would be seen as a thin low, continuous line that sits on the horizon line. Due to the atmospheric conditions and reflectivity of the solar troughs, the linear nature of the solar troughs blends with the partially backdropped views, further reducing the overall perceived impacts. Overall impacts are anticipated to be moderate/low.

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities



KOP / Simulation 4 – Wire-frame model of solar fields and project-block elements (does not account for vegetative screening)

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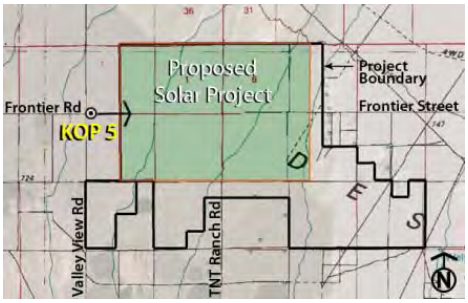
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

DRAFT

Project Name:	**Location**	Location Sketch
Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project		
Key Observation Point : 5	Township 16S	
Valley View Road	Range 49E	
VRM Class: IV	Section 11	



Characteristic Landscape Description

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat, Horizontal (foreground) Irregular (background)	Low, horizontal (foreground and mid-ground)	Linear, Vertical (poles)
Line	Horizontal (foreground) Undulating (background)	Regular (foreground to background)	vertical
Color	Tan (foreground and mid-ground) Dark Brown/brown (background)	Brown/Dark green (mid-ground)	brown
Texture	Fine (foreground and mid-ground) Coarse (background)	Patchy, Coarse (foreground) Fine (mid and background)	Fine, regular

Proposed Activity Description (Facility)

Facilities – Transmission Lines (tl), Solar Fields (sf), and Power Block (pb)

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat, Horizontal (sf)	Geometric from clearing (sf) (foreground)	Linear (tl), linear, rectangular (sf), tall, geometric, rectangular, (pb) (foreground)
Line	Horizontal, linear (sf)	Regular, linear (sf)	Linear (sf, tl, fence) vertical (pb) (foreground)
Color	Light brown	Green/brown	Silver-blue, shiny (sf) tan/brown (pb) (foreground)
Texture	Fine	Fine	Fine (sf, tl) medium (pb) (foreground to background)

Degree of Contrast

Degree of Contrast		Features											
		Landform/ Water Body				Vegetation				Structures			
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Elements	Form	X				X				X			
	Line	X					X			X			
	Color		X				X			X			
	Texture		X				X				X		

Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
Yes

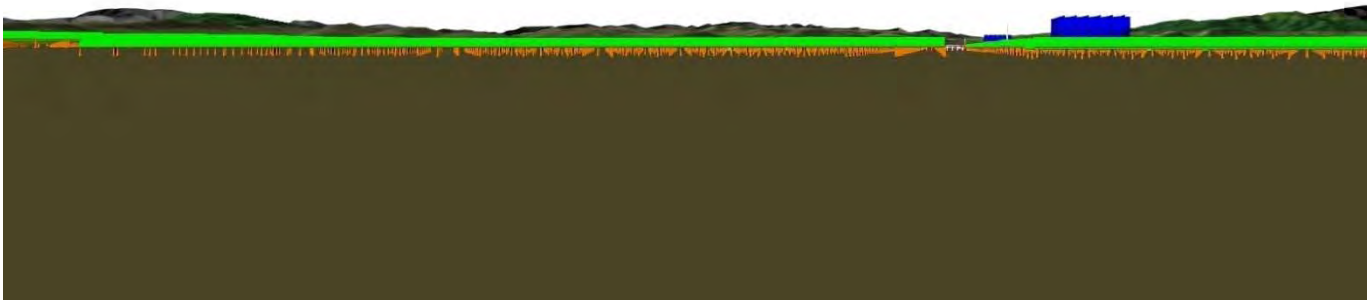
Additional mitigating measures recommended?
See Chapter 4 - Mitigation

Evaluators Names:
Conrad Langley, Marc Schwartz

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP / Simulation 5 – View facing west from Valley View Estates

Strong contrast would result from construction and operation of the proposed project with naturalistic project setting designated as VRM Class IV. The construction of the project would result in substantial grading and the clearing of vegetation with moderate contrast resulting from vegetation removal. The proposed project structures would be seen from KOP 5 at a distance of a 1/4 mile and would be seen from a level viewing position with the dominant view being of the proposed semi-transparent wind-fence, the first row of solar collectors and the upper parts of the power block components (at a distance of .75 miles). Overall impacts are anticipated to be high / moderate.

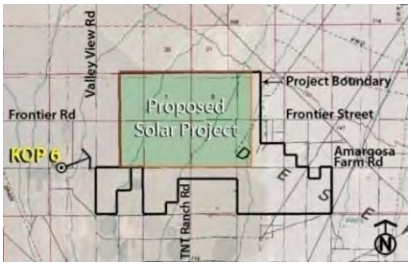


KOP / Simulation 5 – Wire Frame model of solar fields and project elements (does not account for vegetation screening or wind fence screening)

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

DRAFT

Project Name:	**Location**	Location Sketch
Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project		
Key Observation Point : 6	Township 16S	
Amargosa Farm Road	Range 48E	
VRM Class: IV	Section 15	

Characteristic Landscape Description

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat, horizontal (foreground) Irregular (background)	Low, horizontal (foreground and mid-ground)	Linear, narrow, vertical (poles)
Line	Horizontal (foreground) Undulating, jagged (background)	Regular (foreground to background)	vertical
Color	Tan (foreground and mid-ground) Dark Brown/brown, tan (background)	Green, Pale yellow (foreground) Brown/Dark green (mid-ground)	brown
Texture	Fine (foreground and mid-ground) Coarse (background)	Patchy, Coarse (foreground) Fine (mid and background)	Fine, regular

Proposed Activity Description (Facility)

Facilities – Transmission Lines (tl), Solar Fields (sf), and Power Block (pb)

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat, Horizontal (sf) (mid-ground)	Geometric from clearing (sf) (mid-ground)	Linear, rectangular (sf) (foreground), Linear (tl), tall, geometric, cylindrical (pb) (mid-ground)
Line	Horizontal, linear (sf), (mid-ground)	Regular, linear (sf) (mid-ground)	Linear, horizontal (sf, tl, fence), rectangular, vertical (pb) (foreground)
Color	Light brown	Green/brown (mid-ground)	Silver-blue, shiny (sf) tan/brown (pb) (foreground)
Texture	Fine	Fine (mid-ground)	Fine (sf, tl) medium (pb) (foreground to background)

Degree of Contrast

Degree of Contrast		Features											
		Landform/ Water Body				Vegetation				Structures			
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Elements	Form				X		X			X			
	Line				X		X			X			
	Color			X				X		X			
	Texture			X				X			X		

Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
Yes

Additional mitigating measures recommended?
See Chapter 4 - Mitigation

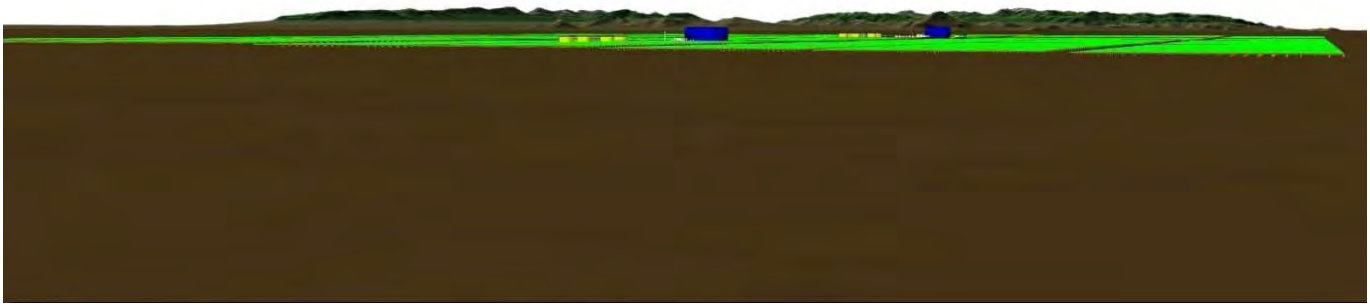
Evaluators Names:
Conrad Langley, Marc Schwartz

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP 6 – view facing east-northeast from Amargosa Farm Road

Strong contrast would result from construction and operation of the proposed project with naturalistic/pastoral project setting designated as VRM Class IV. The construction of the project will result in substantial grading and the clearing of vegetation with a moderate contrast evident from this KOP. The proposed project structures would be seen from KOP 6 at a distance of approximately 1.25 miles and would be seen from a level viewing position with the dominant view being of the proposed project fence, the first row of solar collectors, and tops of power block components.

The 250 foot Amargosa Farm Road realignment would be most evident from this KOP with project components (assembly hall, switchyard, administrative building, and drainage/detention structures) being situated on the south side of the re-aligned road. Dense vegetative screening from the residential areas would reduce perceived impacts to proposed facilities located on the south side of Amargosa Farm Road. These project components would increase the project contrast, thus increasing the overall impacts for travelers as they move west to east towards the project. Overall impacts are anticipated to be moderate/high.



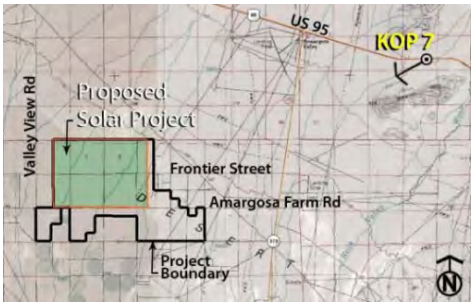
KOP 6 – Wire-frame model of solar fields and powerblock project elements (does not account for any vegetative screening or wind fence screening)

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

DRAFT

Project Name:	**Location**	Location Sketch
Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project		
Key Observation Point : 7	Township 15S	
West Bound 95	Range 50E	
VRM Class: IV	Section 22	



Characteristic Landscape Description

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Horizontal (foreground) Triangular, Irregular (background)	Low, horizontal (foreground and mid-ground)	Linear, geometric (foreground to mid-ground)
Line	Horizontal (foreground) Undulating, irregular (background)	Regular (foreground to background)	Diagonal (foreground to Mid-ground)
Color	Tan (foreground and mid-ground) Dark Brown/brown (background)	Browns, green, reddish-browns (foreground to background)	Grey (foreground)
Texture	Fine (foreground) Mid to Coarse (background)	Fine (foreground to background)	Regular, fine (foreground to mid-ground)

Proposed Activity Description (Facility)

Facilities – Transmission Lines (tl), Solar Fields (sf), and Power Block (pb)

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat, Horizontal (sf) (Mid-ground)	Geometric from clearing (sf) (background)	Linear (tl), linear, rectangular (sf), geometric (pb) (background)
Line	Horizontal, linear (sf), (Mid-ground)	Regular, linear (sf) (background)	Linear (sf, tl) vertical (pb) (background)
Color	Not Visible	Green/brown, reddish brown (background)	Silver-blue, shiny (sf) tan/brown (pb) (background)
Texture	Not Visible	Fine (background)	Fine (sf, tl) medium (pb) (Mid-ground/background)

Degree of Contrast

Degree of Contrast		Features											
		Landform/ Water Body				Vegetation				Structures			
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Elements	Form				X				X			X	
	Line				X				X			X	
	Color				X				X			X	
	Texture				X				X			X	

Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
Yes

Additional mitigating measures recommended?
See Chapter 4 - Mitigation

Evaluators Names:
Conrad Langley, Marc Schwartz

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP 7 – View facing west-southwest from US95

Weak contrast would result from construction and operation of the proposed project with a naturalistic project setting designated as VRM Class IV. The construction of the project would result in substantial grading and the clearing of vegetation, but is unlikely that the contrast of modifications to landform and vegetation would be seen from this KOP. The proposed project structures would be seen from KOP 7 at a distance of approximately 8 ½ miles and would be seen from a level viewing position with backdropped views, further reducing the overall perceived impacts. Overall impacts are anticipated to be low.

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP 7 – Wire Frame model of solar fields and project elements (does not account for vegetation screening or wind fence screening)

Note: wire frame models are diagrammatic and for orientation purposes only

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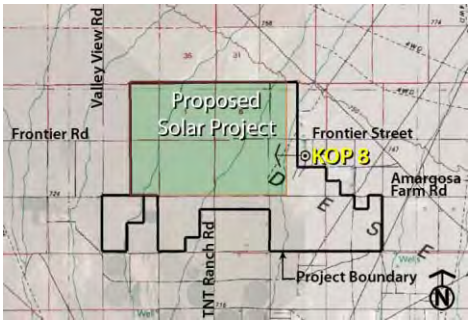
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

DRAFT

Project Name:	**Location**	Location Sketch
Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project		
Key Observation Point : 8	Township 16S	
Atomic Road / Frontier Road	Range 49E	
VRM Class: IV	Section 8	



Characteristic Landscape Description

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat, horizontal (foreground) Triangular (background)	Low to tall (foreground) Low (mid to background)	Geometric, rectilinear (foreground) linear, Vertical(mid-ground)
Line	Horizontal (foreground) Undulating (background)	Regular, vertical (foreground) Regular, horizontal (mid ground)	Vertical (mid-ground)
Color	Tan (foreground) Brown and dark brown (background)	Dark greens and browns	Brown
Texture	Fine (foreground) Coarse (background)	Coarse (foreground) Fine (mid and background)	Fine (background)

Proposed Activity Description (Facility)

Facilities – Transmission Lines (tl), Solar Fields (sf), and Power Block (pb)

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat (sf) (foreground)	Geometric from clearing (sf) (foreground)	Linear (tl), linear, rectangular (sf), tall, geometric, cylindrical (pb) (foreground)
Line	Horizontal, linear (sf), foreground)	Regular, linear (sf) (foreground)	Linear (sf, tl, fence) vertical (pb) (foreground)
Color	Tan (sf) (foreground)	Green (foreground)	Silver-blue, shiny (sf) tan/brown (pb) (foreground)
Texture	Fine (foreground)	Coarse (foreground)	Fine to medium (foreground/background)

Degree of Contrast

Degree of Contrast		Features											
		Landform/ Water Body				Vegetation				Structures			
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Elements	Form				X		X			X			
	Line				X		X			X			
	Color			X				X		X			
	Texture			X			X				X		

Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
Yes

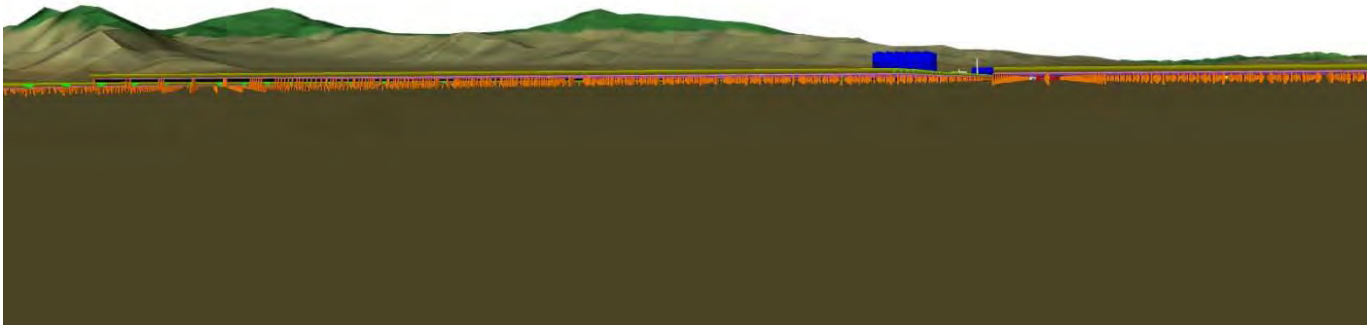
Additional mitigating measures recommended?
See Chapter 4 - Mitigation

Evaluators Names:
Conrad Langley, Marc Schwartz

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP 8 – View facing west from Atomic Road

Moderate / strong contrast would result from construction and operation of the proposed project with naturalistic project setting designated as VRM Class IV. The construction of the project would result in substantial grading and the clearing of vegetation, with a moderate/weak contrast of the vegetation removal and grading from this vantage point. The proposed project structures would be seen from KOP 8 at a distance of approximately ¼ mile and would be seen from a level viewing position with the dominant view being of the proposed project fence and potentially the first row of solar collectors and tops of power block components. Dense vegetative screening from the nearby residential areas mute or obscure some direct views and would further reduce the overall perceived impacts. Overall impacts are anticipated to range from low to moderate, to high.

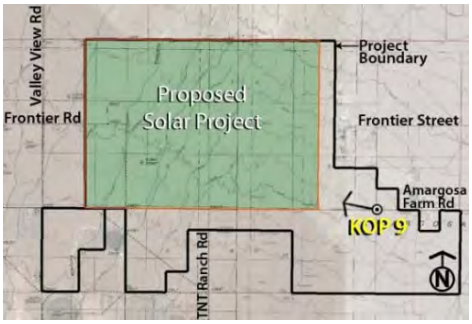


KOP 8 – Wire Frame model of solar fields and project elements (does not account for vegetation screening or wind fence screening)

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

DRAFT

Project Name:	**Location**	Location Sketch
Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project	Township 16S	
Key Observation Point : 9 Amargosa Farm Road	Range 49E	
VRM Class: IV	Section 9	

Characteristic Landscape Description

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat, horizontal (foreground and mid-ground) Irregular (background)	Low, horizontal (foreground and mid-ground) Vertical, pyramidal (mid-ground)	Linear, vertical (poles) Linear, narrow (road)
Line	Horizontal (foreground and mid-ground) Undulating, diagonal (background)	Regular (foreground to background) Vertical (mid-ground)	Vertical (poles) Straight, horizontal (road)
Color	Tan (foreground and mid-ground) Dark Brown/brown (background)	Brown/green (foreground) Brown, green, dark green (mid-ground)	Brown (poles) Dark grey (road)
Texture	Fine (foreground and mid-ground) Coarse (background)	Patchy, coarse (foreground) Fine (mid and background)	Fine, regular (poles) Fine, continuous (road)

Proposed Activity Description (Facility)

Facilities – Transmission Lines (tl), Solar Fields (sf), and Power Block (pb)

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat, Horizontal (sf) (foreground)	Geometric from clearing (sf, pb road alignment) (foreground)	Linear (tl), linear, rectangular (sf), tall, geometric, cylindrical (pb) (foreground)
Line	Horizontal, linear (sf), (foreground)	Regular, linear (sf) (foreground)	Linear (sf, tl, fence) vertical, geometric (pb) (foreground)
Color	Tan	Brown/green (foreground)	Silver-blue, shiny (sf) tan/brown (pb) (foreground)
Texture	Fine	Patchy, course (foreground)	Fine (sf, tl) medium (pb) (foreground to background)

Degree of Contrast

Degree of Contrast		Features											
		Landform/ Water Body				Vegetation				Structures			
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Elements	Form			X			X			X			
	Line			X			X			X			
	Color		X				X			X			
	Texture			X			X			X			

Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
Yes

Additional mitigating measures recommended?
See Chapter 4 - Mitigation

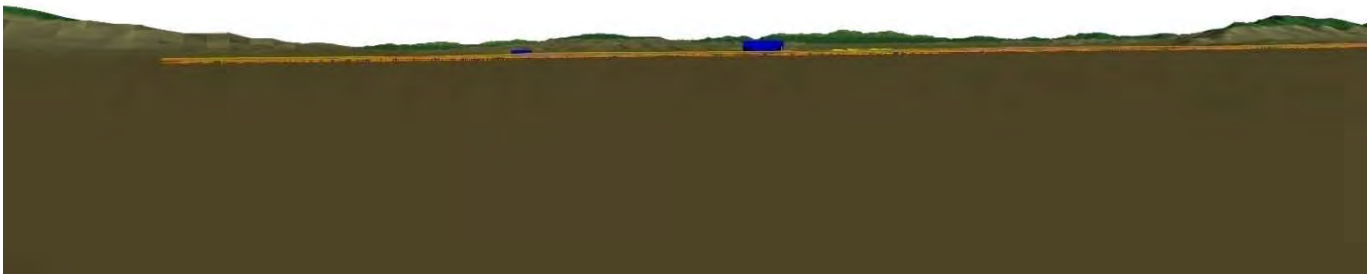
Evaluators Names:
Conrad Langley, Marc Schwartz

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP 9 – View facing northwest from Amargosa Farm Road

Moderate / strong contrast would result from construction and operation of the proposed project with slightly modified project setting designated as VRM Class IV. The construction of the project would result in substantial grading and the clearing of vegetation with a high/moderate contrast of these elements from this KOP. The proposed project structures would be seen from KOP 9 at a distance of approximately ¾ of a mile and would be seen from a level viewing position with the dominant view being of the proposed project fence, solar collectors and tops of power block components.

The 250 foot Amargosa Farm Road realignment would be most evident from this KOP with project components (assembly hall, switchyard, administrative building, and drainage/detention structures) being situated on the south side of the re-aligned road. These project components would increase the project contrast, thus increasing the overall impacts for travelers as they move west to east towards the project. Overall impacts are anticipated to be moderate / high.

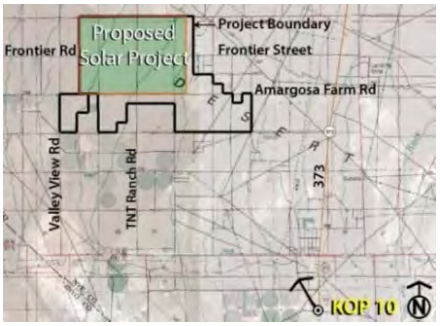


KOP 9 – Wire Frame model of solar fields and project elements (does not account for vegetation screening or wind fence screening)

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

DRAFT

Project Name:	**Location**	Location Sketch
Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project		
Key Observation Point : 10 Northbound NV 373	Township 17S Range 49E Section 11	
VRM Class: IV		

Characteristic Landscape Description

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat, horizontal (foreground and mid-ground) Undulating (background)	Low, horizontal (foreground) Low, horizontal; vertical, rounded (mid-ground)	Linear, narrow (foreground to mid-ground) Geometric (mid-ground)
Line	Horizontal (foreground and mid-ground) Undulating (background)	Regular (foreground) Regular; low, vertical (mid-ground)	Straight, horizontal (foreground to mid ground) Simple, geometric (mid-ground)
Color	Tan (foreground and mid-ground) Dark Brown/brown (background)	Browns, green (foreground and mid-ground)	Grey (foreground to mid-ground) White (mid-ground)
Texture	Fine (foreground) Medium to coarse (background)	Fine (foreground) Medium to coarse (background)	Fine, continuous (foreground to mid-ground) Medium (mid-ground)

Proposed Activity Description (Facility)

Facilities – Transmission Lines (tl), Solar Fields (sf), and Power Block (pb)

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Not Visible	Geometric from clearing (sf, pb) (background)	Linear (tl), linear, rectangular (sf), tall, cylindrical (pb) (background)
Line	Not Visible	Regular, linear (sf, pb) (background)	Linear (sf, tl) vertical (pb) (background)
Color	Not Visible	Browns, green (background)	Silver-blue, shiny (sf) tan/brown (pb) (background)
Texture	Not Visible	Fine (background)	Fine (sf, tl, pb) (background)

Degree of Contrast

Degree of Contrast		Features											
		Landform/ Water Body				Vegetation				Structures			
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Elements	Form				X				X			X	
	Line				X				X			X	
	Color				X				X			X	
	Texture				X				X			X	

Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
Yes

Additional mitigating measures recommended?
See Chapter 4 - Mitigation

Evaluators Names:
Conrad Langley, Marc Schwartz

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP 10 – view facing north-northwest from NV 373

Weak contrast would result from construction and operation of the proposed project with modified project setting designated as VRM Class IV. The construction of the project would result in substantial grading and the clearing of vegetation, but is unlikely that the contrast of modifications to landform and vegetation will be seen from this KOP. The proposed project structures would be seen from KOP 10 at a distance of approximately 5 ½ miles and would be seen from a level viewing position with backdropped views. Existing natural vegetation and vegetative screening from residential areas further reduce the overall perceived impacts. Overall impacts are anticipated to be low.

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP 10 – Wire-frame model of solar fields and powerblock project elements (does not account for any vegetative screening or wind fence screening)

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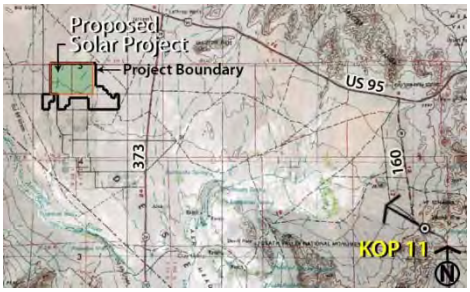
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

DRAFT

Project Name:	**Location**	Location Sketch
Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project		
Key Observation Point : 11	Township 27N	
NV 160	Range 52E	
VRM Class: IV	Section 26	

Characteristic Landscape Description

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat, horizontal (foreground) Irregular (background)	Low, horizontal (foreground and mid-ground)	Linear, vertical (poles) Linear, narrow (road)
Line	Horizontal (foreground) Undulating (background)	Regular (foreground to background)	Vertical (poles) Straight, horizontal (road)
Color	Tan, light tan (foreground and mid-ground) Dark Brown/brown (background)	Browns, green (foreground to background)	Light brown (poles) Dark grey (road)
Texture	Fine (foreground and mid-ground) Coarse (background)	Fine (foreground to background)	Fine, regular (poles) Fine, continuous (road)

Proposed Activity Description (Facility)

Facilities – Transmission Lines (tl), Solar Fields (sf), and Power Block (pb)

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Not Visible	Not Visible	Linear, geometric
Line	Not Visible	Not Visible	Linear
Color	Not Visible	Not Visible	Blue/Silver
Texture	Not Visible	Not Visible	Fine

Degree of Contrast

Degree of Contrast		Features											
		Landform/ Water Body				Vegetation				Structures			
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Elements	Form				X				X				X
	Line				X				X			X	
	Color				X				X			X	
	Texture				X				X				X

Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
Yes

Additional mitigating measures recommended?
See Chapter 4 - Mitigation

Evaluators Names:
Conrad Langley, Marc Schwartz

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP 11 – view facing west from SR 160

Weak contrast would result from construction and operation of the proposed project with a naturalistic setting designated as VRM Class IV. The construction of the project would result in substantial grading and the clearing of vegetation, but is unlikely that the contrast of modifications to landform and vegetation would be seen from this KOP. The proposed project structures will be seen from KOP 11 at a distance of 21 ½ miles and would be seen from a superior viewing position as travelers along NV 160 head down into the valley. Structures would be visible to travelers from this viewing position; however, the distance from the proposed project coupled with backdropped views, would reduce the overall perceived impacts. Overall impacts are anticipated to be low.

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP 11 – Wire-frame model of solar fields and powerblock project elements (does not account for any vegetative screening or wind fence screening)

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VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

DRAFT

Project Name:	**Location**	Location Sketch
Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project		
Key Observation Point : 12	Township 18S	
Ash Meadows – Crystal Springs boardwalk	Range 50E	
VRM Class: IV	Section 3	

Characteristic Landscape Description

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	horizontal (foreground to background)	Low to tall (foreground) Low (mid to background)	Geometric (foreground)
Line	Linear, Horizontal (foreground) Undulating (background)	Irregular (foreground) Regular, horizontal (mid-ground to background)	Diagonals (mid-ground)
Color	White, Tans (foreground) Brown and dark brown (background)	Dark greens and browns	Brown
Texture	Fine (foreground to background)	fine (foreground), coarse and patchy (mid-ground) Fine (background)	Coarse (foreground) Fine (background)

Proposed Activity Description (Facility)

Facilities – Transmission Lines (tl), Solar Fields (sf), and Power Block (pb)

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Not Visible	Not Visible	Geometric, linear
Line	Not Visible	Not Visible	Low, Linear
Color	Not Visible	Not Visible	Blue/Silver
Texture	Not Visible	Not Visible	Fine

Degree of Contrast

Degree of Contrast		Features											
		Landform/ Water Body				Vegetation				Structures			
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Elements	Form				X				X				X
	Line				X				X				X
	Color				X				X				X
	Texture				X				X				X

Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
Yes

Additional mitigating measures recommended?
See Chapter 4 - Mitigation

Evaluators Names:
Conrad Langley, Marc Schwartz

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP 12 – view facing northwest from Crystal Springs boardwalk, Ash Meadows

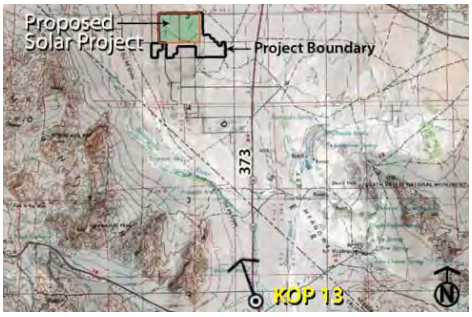
Weak contrast would result from construction and operation of the proposed project with a naturalistic setting designated as VRM Class IV. The construction of the project would result in substantial grading and the clearing of vegetation, but is unlikely that the contrast of modifications to landform and vegetation would be seen from this KOP. The proposed project structures would likely be not seen from KOP 12 given that the proposed project will be at a distance of 12 ½ miles and would be seen from a level viewing position, further reducing the overall perceived impacts. Overall impacts are anticipated to be low.

KOP 12 – Wire-frame model of solar fields and powerblock project elements (does not account for any vegetative screening or wind fence screening)

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

DRAFT

Project Name:	**Location**	Location Sketch
Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project		
Key Observation Point : 13	Township 25N	
Northbound CA127 – Death Valley Junction	Range 5E	
VRM Class: IV	Section 11	

Characteristic Landscape Description

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat, horizontal (foreground) Triangular, irregular (background)	Low, horizontal (foreground and mid-ground)	Linear, vertical (poles) Linear, narrow (road)
Line	Horizontal (foreground) Undulating, diagonal, irregular (background)	Regular (foreground to background)	Vertical (poles) Straight, horizontal (road)
Color	Tan (foreground and mid-ground) Dark Brown/brown (background)	Browns, green, pale yellow (foreground to background)	Brown (poles) Dark grey (road)
Texture	Fine (foreground) Fine to Coarse (background)	Fine (foreground to background)	Fine, regular (poles) Fine, continuous (road)

Proposed Activity Description (Facility)

Facilities – Transmission Lines (tl), Solar Fields (sf), and Power Block (pb)

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Not Visible	Not Visible	Linear, rectangular (sf), tall, cylindrical (pb) (background)
Line	Not Visible	Not Visible	Linear (sf) vertical (pb) (background)
Color	Not Visible	Not Visible	Silver-blue, shiny (sf) tan/brown (pb) (background)
Texture	Not Visible	Not Visible	Fine (sf, pb) (background)

Degree of Contrast

Degree of Contrast		Features											
		Landform/ Water Body				Vegetation				Structures			
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Elements	Form				X				X				X
	Line				X				X				X
	Color				X				X				X
	Texture				X				X				X

Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
Yes

Additional mitigating measures recommended?
See Chapter 4 - Mitigation

Evaluators Names:
Conrad Langley, Marc Schwartz

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP 13 – view facing north-northwest from NV373/CA127, north of Death Valley Junction

Weak contrast would result from construction and operation of the proposed project within a naturalistic project setting designated as VRM Class IV. The construction of the project will result in substantial grading and the clearing of vegetation, but is unlikely that the modifications to landform and vegetation would be seen from this KOP. The proposed project powerblocks would likely be seen from KOP 13 at a distance of approximately 17 miles and would be seen from a level viewing position, but atmospheric conditions would further reduce the overall perceived impacts with changes in topography further decreasing the possibility of overall perceived impacts. Overall impacts are anticipated to be low.

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP 13 – Wire-frame model of solar fields and powerblock project elements (does not account for any vegetative screening or wind fence screening)

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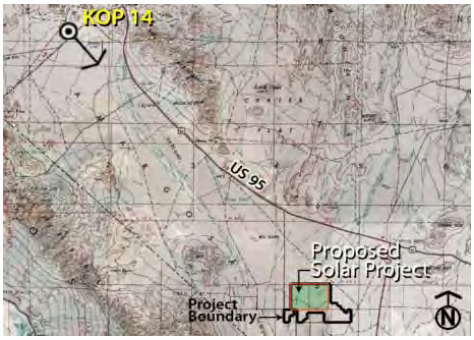
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: December 2009	
District: Southern Nevada District	
Resource Area: Pahrump	
Activity (program): Solar Facilities	

DRAFT

Project Name:	**Location**	Location Sketch
Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project		
Key Observation Point : 14	Township 12S	
Rhyolite cemetery	Range 46E	
VRM Class: IV	Section 21	

Characteristic Landscape Description

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Horizontal, flat (foreground) Triangular, Irregular (background)	Low, horizontal (foreground and mid-ground)	Low, geometric (foreground)
Line	Horizontal (foreground) Undulating, jagged (background)	Regular (foreground to background)	Straight, horizontal and vertical (foreground)
Color	Tan (foreground and mid-ground) Dark Brown/brown (background)	Browns, green (foreground to background)	Brown (foreground)
Texture	Fine (foreground) Medium to Coarse (background)	Patchy, course (foreground) Fine (mid-ground to background)	Fine (foreground)

Proposed Activity Description (Facility)

Facilities – Transmission Lines (tl), Solar Fields (sf), and Power Block (pb)

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Not Visible	Not Visible	Linear, geometric
Line	Not Visible	Not Visible	Low, linear
Color	Not Visible	Not Visible	Blue, Silver
Texture	Not Visible	Not Visible	Fine

Degree of Contrast

Degree of Contrast		Features											
		Landform/ Water Body				Vegetation				Structures			
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Elements	Form				X				X			X	
	Line				X				X			X	
	Color				X				X			X	
	Texture				X				X			X	

Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
Yes

Additional mitigating measures recommended?
See Chapter 4 - Mitigation

Evaluators Names:
Conrad Langley, Marc Schwartz

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP 14 – View facing east-southeast from Rhyolite Cemetery

Weak contrast would result from construction and operation of the proposed project with semi-modified (due to landfill) project setting designated as VRM Class IV. The construction of the project would result in substantial grading and the clearing of vegetation, but is unlikely that the modifications to landform and vegetation would be seen from this KOP. The proposed project structures would be seen from KOP 14 at a distance of 25 ½ miles and would be seen from a slightly-superior viewing position with partial obstructions from topography, further reducing the overall perceived impacts. Possible views of mirrors in the later afternoon may raise contrast level to low-moderate. Overall impacts are anticipated to be low.

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP 14 – Wire Frame model of solar fields and project elements (does not account for vegetation screening or wind fence screening)

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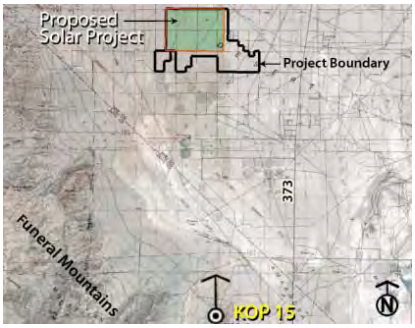
VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

DRAFT

Project Name:	**Location**	Location Sketch
Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project		
Key Observation Point : 15	Township 26N	
Funeral Mountains Wilderness	Range 4E	
VRM Class: IV	Section 7	

Characteristic Landscape Description

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat, horizontal (foreground) Triangular, Irregular (background)	Low, horizontal (foreground and mid-ground)	None visible
Line	Horizontal (foreground) Undulating, irregular (background)	Regular (foreground to background)	None visible
Color	Tan (foreground and mid-ground) Dark Brown/brown, tan (background)	Browns, green, reddish-browns (foreground to background)	None visible
Texture	Fine (foreground) Medium to Coarse (background)	Fine (foreground to background)	None visible

Proposed Activity Description (Facility)

Facilities – Transmission Lines (tl), Solar Fields (sf), and Power Block (pb)

	Landform/Water	Vegetation	Structures
Form	Flat, Horizontal (sf, pb) (background)	Geometric from clearing (sf, pb) (background)	Linear, rectangular (sf), tall, cylindrical (pb) (background)
Line	Horizontal, linear (sf, pb), (background)	Regular, linear (sf, pb) (background)	Linear (sf) vertical (pb) (background)
Color	Light brown	Green/brown, reddish brown (background)	Silver-blue, shiny (sf) tan/brown (pb) (background)
Texture	Fine	Fine (background)	Fine (sf) medium (pb) (background)

Degree of Contrast

Degree of Contrast		Features											
		Landform/ Water Body				Vegetation				Structures			
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Elements	Form				X				X			X	
	Line				X			X				X	
	Color				X			X			X		
	Texture				X				X			X	

Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
Yes

Additional mitigating measures recommended?
See Chapter 4 - Mitigation

Evaluators Names:
Conrad Langley, Marc Schwartz

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP 15 – View facing south from Funeral Mountain Wilderness

Moderate contrast would result from construction and operation of the proposed project with moderately modified project setting designated as VRM Class IV. The construction of the project would result in substantial grading and the clearing of vegetation, but is unlikely that the contrast of modifications to landform and vegetation would result in increased project contrast from this vantage point. The proposed project structures would be seen from KOP 15 at a distance of 11 ½ miles and would be seen from a superior viewing position. From this KOP, the likelihood of mirrors reflecting the sky would be increased from mid-morning to mid-afternoon increasing the increased contrast in color. Solar collectors, power block components, and ancillary facilities would be seen increasing the contrast in the structure's form and line; however, the distance from the proposed project coupled with backdropped views, will reduce the overall perceived impacts. Overall impacts will be moderate.

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

KOP 15 – Wire Frame model of solar fields and project elements (does not account for vegetation screening or wind fence screening)

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SCENIC QUALITY CONTRAST WORKSHEET

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

Project Name: Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project	**Property:**	
Photograph Location: Township 16S Range 49E Section 8	**Scenic Quality Classification:** A = 19 or more B = 12-18 C = 11 or less	

Existing Landscape:
Scenic Quality Classification Rating – C/7

Landform	5	4	3	2	**1**
Vegetation	5	4	3	2	**1**
Water	5	4	3	2	**0**
Color	5	4	3	**2**	1
Adj. Scenery	5	4	**3**	2	1
Scarcity	5	4	3	2	**1**
Cultural Modifications	2	1	0	**-1**	-2

Proposed Project:
Scenic Quality Classification Rating – C/4

Landform	5	4	3	2	**1**
Vegetation	5	4	3	2	**1**
Water	5	4	3	2	**0**
Color	5	4	3	2	**1**
Adj. Scenery	5	4	3	**2**	1
Scarcity	5	4	3	2	**1**
Cultural Modifications	2	1	0	-1	**-2**

Narrative Landscape Description:

Creosote flats – This flat landscape is common in the Mojave Desert, Basin and Range plains and consists of desertscrub plants – predominately creosote and burrobush. Due to the harsh growing conditions, vegetation is monotonous in form, texture, and scale and appears as a uniform plain. Alluvial fans coalesce in the Amargosa Valley, forcing the brief rain events into a sheetflow pattern with little evidence of water. The minor variety in color comes from the light soil contrasting with the year-round color of the creosote as it changes from green in the spring/summer to brown/green in the fall/winter and blooming yellow with white nodules in the spring. Adjacent scenery is of the irregular, organic Funeral Mountains ranging from the south to the west, the Yucca mountain range to the north, and the Spring Mountains to the east. Cultural modifications of the Amargosa Valley consists of disbursed pockets of residences and farm complexes spread throughout the valley.

Date: December 2009
District: Southern Nevada District
Resource Area: Pahrump
Activity (program): Solar Facilities

Photograph: View west from Sandy Lane