

## DRAFT OUTLINE:

### BLM Technical Note on Procedural Guidance and Framework for Solar Regional Mitigation Planning

*Guidance for BLM management and implementing staff, coordinating agencies, and stakeholders that will be involved in the development of Solar Regional Mitigation Plans (SRMPs) for individual Solar Energy Zones (SEZs)*

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    - ii. Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA): requirement to “prevent unnecessary or undue degradation” of lands
    - iii. BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1 : Section 6.8.4, Mitigation and Residual Effects
  - c. Integration with Other Elements of BLM Solar Energy Program
    - i. Solar Energy Zone incentives
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    - ii. Offset of unavoidable impacts
  - b. Seven Framework Elements
    - i. Engage stakeholders transparently and consult Tribes
    - ii. Define a regional baseline for assessing unavoidable impacts
    - iii. Assess unavoidable impacts and identify which warrant off-site mitigation
    - iv. Establish mitigation fees for SEZs and individual solar energy projects within SEZs
    - v. Prioritize regional mitigation objectives and corresponding mitigation investment locations and/or actions. Provide a process to reevaluate priorities as conditions change

- vi. Identify and establish a structure to hold and apply mitigation investment funds
  - vii. Integrate solar long-term monitoring, understand mitigation effectiveness and employ adaptive management
- c. Options for Developing Solar Regional Mitigation Plans
- i. Pre-Competitive Lease/Pre-Project Planning – developing a regional mitigation plan using the process described in this Technical Note (i.e., Dry Lake SEZ pilot project)
  - ii. NEPA/Right-of-Way Application Processing – developing a regional mitigation plan concurrent with the processing of a solar ROW application in an SEZ and implementing the plan via a NEPA Decision Record
  - iii. Land Use Planning/NEPA – developing a regional mitigation plan concurrent with the revision of the local Resource Management Plan and implementing the plan via a NEPA Decision Record
- d. SRMP Team Composition, Roles, and Responsibilities
- i. BLM Washington Office
  - ii. BLM State, District, and Field Office and the Interdisciplinary Team
  - iii. BLM AIM and REA technical staff
  - iv. Technical support contractor
  - v. Coordinating Federal, state, and local agencies
  - vi. Stakeholders

### 3. References

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Stakeholder Engagement Examples
- B. Example Map of SEZ Developable Area Revisions
- C. Specialist Report Template
- D. Example Conceptual Models
- E. Unavoidable Impacts Summary Table Template
- F. Example Evaluation of SEZ Landscape Condition and Resource Value
- G. Candidate Site Evaluation Matrix
- H. Mitigation Fee Calculation Formula and Detailed Examples
- I. Other attachments as needed to present detailed supporting information