Appendix A

Appendix A-1

Form 8400-1
(September 1985)
(Format Modified 2008)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Field Office: Southern Nevada DO NVS0000 Date: 8/7/2010

Scenic Quality Rating Unit: Ivanpah Valley Time (24hr format): 7:53

Unit Number: 22 Weather Conditions: Warm, sunny, windy (90˚ F)

1. Evaluators: ACarlson CLaPierre LWood

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (Features)			
	A. Landform/Water	**B. Vegetation**	**C. Structures**
Form	Flat, slightly rolling terrain	Low, rounded shrubs, grasses; mostly no vegetation in dry lakes	Flat road; tall power lines
Line	Uniformly horizontal with few deviations	Horizontal, low	Curvilinear road; vertical power poles
Color	Buff/gray	Muted greens/silvers/gold; gold, green and red grasses in places	Gray, brown
Texture	Smooth	Fine, stippled	Smooth road; power poles rough in landscape

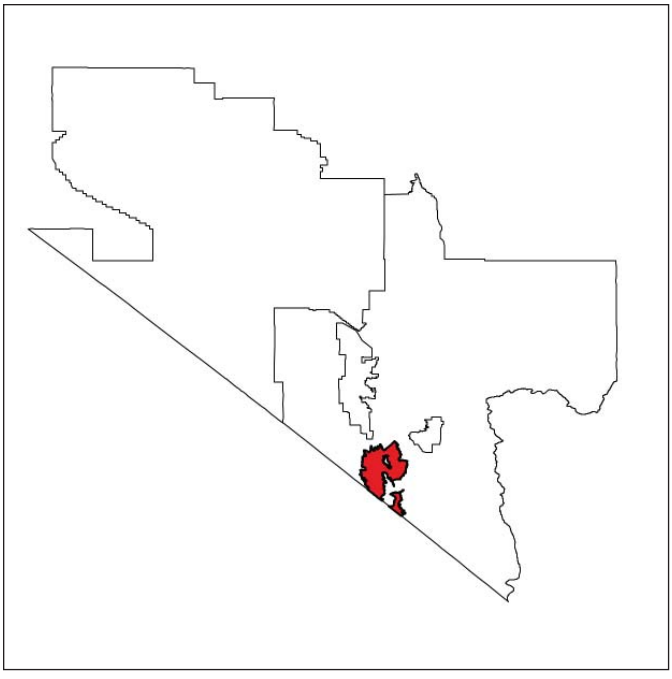
3. Narrative:

Ivanpah is a broad, flat valley with three dry lake features, surrounded by mountain ranges.

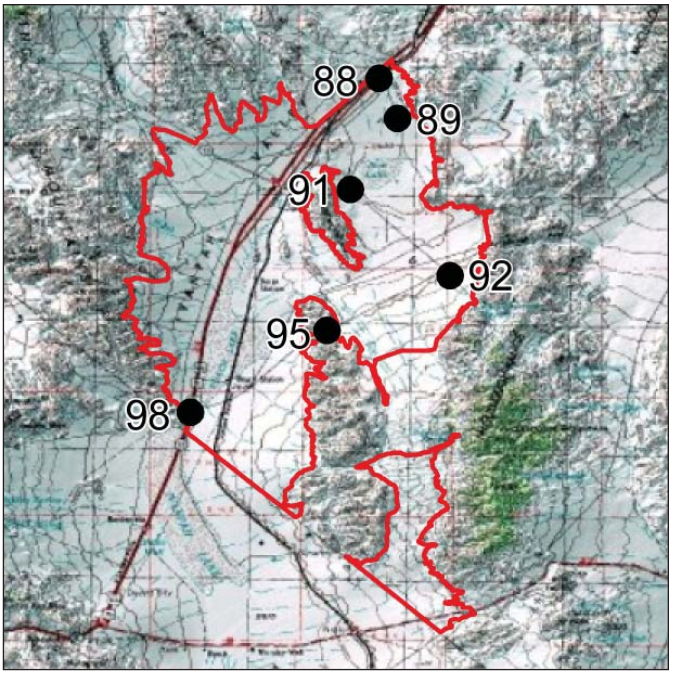
Scenic Quality Rating Unit: 22 Ivanpah Valley			
4. SCORE			
	Rating	**EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE**	**SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION (check one)**
a. Landform	1	Flat with little variation	☐ **A – 19 or more**
b. Vegetation	1	Little variety in types	☐ **B – 12 – 18**
c. Water	1	Dry lake at lowest point in valley	☑ **C – 11 or less**
d. Color	1	Muted tones	
e. Adjacent Scenery	3	Surrounded by mountain ranges	
f. Scarcity	1.5	Common in region	☐ **Rehab**
g. Cultural Modification	-1	Roads, power lines	☐ **Special Area**
TOTAL	7.5		

Comments:

Ivanpah Valley is a common and typical landscape in the SNDO.



SQRU Locator



• IOP Location

IOP 89. Looking south (IOPNVNVS00000251)

89_S_IvanpahValley_0251.jpg

IOP 91. Looking east (IOPNVNVS00000267)

91_E_IvanpahValley_0267.jpg

Form 8400-6
(September 1985)
(Format Modified 2008)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SENSITIVITY LEVEL RATING SHEET

Field Office: Southern Nevada DO **Date:** 8/12/2010

Evaluators: ACarlson CLaPierre LWood

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit: I-15 - Las Vegas to Primm

Unit Number: 24

Type of Area: Interstate highway

Predominant Types of Users: General transportation: commerce, local travel, tourism

	H/M/L	Explanation of Rating (Mandatory)
Type of Users	**M**	A major route for tourists traveling between Las Vegas and California
Amount of Use	**H**	High - frequent use
Public Interest	**M**	Majority traveling to other destinations
Adjacent Land Uses	**M**	BLM lands, private/residential, industrial
Special Area Sensitivity	**H**	McCullough Mountain Wilderness, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area
Other Factors	**H**	Old Spanish Trail adjacent to interstate
Overall Rating	**M**	Primarily used as a transportation corridor between Las Vegas and California; also a major power transmission corridor

Narrative:

Form 8400-6
(September 1985)
(Format Modified 2008)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SENSITIVITY LEVEL RATING SHEET

Field Office: Southern Nevada DO **Date:** 8/12/2010

Evaluators: ACarlson CLaPierre LWood

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit: Not Delineated Areas

Unit Number: 61

Type of Area: Areas not rated high or moderate occurring by default

Predominant Types of Users: Typically none or very few

	H/M/L	Explanation of Rating (Mandatory)
Type of Users	**L**	Typically none or very few users
Amount of Use	**L**	None to very little use
Public Interest	**L**	None to very little public interest is apparent
Adjacent Land Uses	**L**	Varies; multiple locations that may be adjacent to non-rated areas but not adjacent to areas with special designations
Special Area Sensitivity	**NA**	N/A
Other Factors	**L**	Typically remote and infrequently visited areas
Overall Rating	**L**	Infrequently used areas outside of high and moderate rated area offsets and viewsheds

Narrative:

Not Delineated Areas are created by default when moderately and highly sensitive routes and places are mapped with offsets and viewsheds.

Appendix A-2

Table A-2.1. VRI – Scenic Quality Rating Units (SQRU) Affected by Alternative					
Alternative	**Area (acres)***	**Acreage/Percentage of Project**	**Class A**	**Class B**	**Class C**
A	0	Project Acres in SQRUs	0.0	0.0	0.0
		Percent of Vicinity SQRUs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
B	3,855	Project Acres in SQRUs	0.0	0.0	3,855
		Percent of Vicinity SQRUs	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%
C	2,515	Project Acres in SQRUs	0.0	0.0	2,515
		Percent of Vicinity SQRUs	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%
D	3,091	Project Acres in SQRUs	0.0	0.0	3,091
		Percent of Vicinity SQRUs	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%

Table A-2.2. VRI – Sensitivity Level Rating Units (SLRU) Affected by Alternative					
Alternative	**Area (acres)***	**Acreage/Percentage of Project**	**High**	**Moderate**	**Low**
A	0	Project Acres in SLRUs	0.0	0.0	0.0
		Percent of Vicinity SLRUs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
B	3,855	Project Acres in SLRUs	0.0	487	3,368
		Percent of Vicinity SLRUs	0.0%	0.9%	9.7%
C	2,515	Project Acres in SLRUs	0.0	555	1,960
		Percent of Vicinity SLRUs	0.0%	1.0%	5.6%
D	3,091	Project Acres in SLRUs	0.0	719	2,372
		Percent of Vicinity SLRUs	0.0%	1.3%	6.8%

Table X-2.3. VRI – Distance Zones (DZ) Affected by Alternative					
Alternative	**Area (acres)***	**Acreage/Percentage of Project**	**Foreground-Middleground**	**Background**	**Seldom Seen**
A	0	Project Acres in DZs	0.0	0.0	0.0
		Percent of Vicinity DZs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

B	3,855	Project Acres in DZs	3,851	0.0	0.0
		Percent of Vicinity DZs	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%
C	2,515	Project Acres in DZs	2,346	0.0	167
		Percent of Vicinity DZs	2.3%	0.0%	2.8%
D	3,091	Project Acres in DZs	3,091	0.0	0.0
		Percent of Vicinity DZs	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Table A-2.4. VRI – Visual Resource Inventory Classifications (VRIC) Affected by Alternative

Alternative	Area (acres)*	Acreage/Percentage of Project	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV
A	0	Project Acres in VRICs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
		Percent of Vicinity VRICs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
B	3,855	Project of Vicinity VRICs	0.0	0.0	0.0	3851
		Percent of Vicinity VRICs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.4%
C	2,515	Project Acres in VRICs	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,515
		Percent of Vicinity VRICs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%
D	3,091	Project Acres in VRICs	0.0	0.0	0.0	3,091
		Percent of Vicinity VRICs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%

**Acres of project area based on Project Components, including Solar Field and Ancillary Facilities and Facilities outside Perimeter Fence as specified in Table 2-1.*

Appendix A-3

SECTION A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

District/Field Office: Las Vegas Field Office **Date:** July 2012
Key Observation Point: 1 – Goodsprings Road
Location: 26635083.46 x 710146.79

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Flat valley plains and dry lake bed (foreground/middleground), surrounded by undulating foothills and gently sloping bajadas (background)	Low, uniform creosote shrubs with some cacti (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Geometric, conical, regular (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)
LINE	Horizontal, irregular, curvilinear lake bed (foreground/middleground) Diagonal, jagged (background)	Horizontal, irregular, vertical (foreground) Indistinct (background)	Linear, horizontal (roads), vertical (transmission lines)
COLOR	Light tan/cream, grayish-brown	Brownish-green	Light to dark gray, brown
TEXTURE	Smooth to fine (valley plains), medium (mountains)	Medium, continuous (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Medium

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Same	Same	Regular, rectangular, simple
LINE	Horizontal, regular, linear	Regular, linear from clearing (foreground/middleground)	Linear, horizontal
COLOR	Same	Same	Dark gray
TEXTURE	Same	Same	Fine

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING

☐ **Short Term** ☒ **Long Term**

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST

ELEMENTS	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY				VEGETATION				STRUCTURES			
	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
FORM				X				X			X	
LINE			X				X			X		
COLOR				X				X		X		
TEXTURE				X				X			X	

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

Evaluator's Names
Chelsa Johnson, Marc Schwartz

Comment from item 2.

The project would be viewed from this travel route KOP for a short duration and would result in weak/moderate visual contrast. The project would not dominate the view of the casual observer and would be viewed in context with existing modifications, including transmission lines and PV solar facilities; therefore, compliance with VRM Class III designations is anticipated.

Additional Measures (see item 3)

The project would be consistent with the VRM Class III objectives that the BLM has established for the lands included within the project area. In addition, the project location was well sited in a valley focused on industrial development, including an existing power generation station, existing solar facilities, EHV transmission lines, and future wind facilities. Because the BLM has requested that the visual changes associated with the project be minimized, the following selective mitigation measures have been recommended by the BLM, which the project Proponent will implement:

- Solar field access ways will be offset at appropriate intervals to minimize the appearance of straight lines within the solar field.
- The exterior of the inverter boxes and the exterior of the O&M building will be factory treated with a dull finish and, where feasible, a BLM standard environmental color, such as Yuma Green or Covert Green, will be applied to minimize contrast with the existing landscape.
- A plan will be prepared to revegetate areas disturbed by construction of flood control berms and channel improvements. Revegetation efforts will focus on softening harsh lines associated with clearing. The concepts of feathering and selective vegetation removal will be applied along the project area perimeter to result in an organic or irregular line but shall not result in more disturbance than the original engineered design. Landform modifications associated with necessary berms and channel improvements will be blended into the natural landscape to the extent practical.
- Reduce soil color contrast by using slightly darker decomposed aggregate (gravel) within the project area or apply a soil darkener.

SECTION A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

District/Field Office: Las Vegas Field Office **Date:** July 2012
Key Observation Point: 2 – Jean at I-15
Location: 26615081.10 x 727656.38

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Flat valley plains (foreground/middleground), surrounded by undulating foothills and gently sloping bajadas (background)	Low, uniform creosote shrubs (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Geometric, conical, regular (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)
LINE	Horizontal (foreground/middleground) Diagonal, jagged (background)	Horizontal, irregular (foreground) Indistinct (background)	Linear, horizontal (roads), vertical (transmission lines)
COLOR	Grayish-brown	Brownish-green	Light to dark gray, brown
TEXTURE	Smooth to fine (valley plains), medium (mountains)	Medium, continuous (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Medium

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Same	Same	Regular, rectangular, simple
LINE	Horizontal, regular, linear	Regular, linear from clearing (foreground/middleground)	Linear, horizontal
COLOR	Same	Same	Dark gray
TEXTURE	Same	Same	Fine

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING

☐ **Short Term** ☒ **Long Term**

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST

ELEMENTS	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY				VEGETATION				STRUCTURES			
	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
FORM				X				X			X	
LINE			X				X			X		
COLOR				X				X		X		
TEXTURE				X				X			X	

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

Evaluator's Names
Chelsa Johnson, Marc Schwartz

Comment from item 2.

The project would be viewed from this travel route KOP for a short duration and would result in weak/moderate visual contrast. The project would not dominate the view of the casual observer and would be viewed in context with existing modifications, including transmission lines and PV solar facilities; therefore, compliance with VRM Class III designations is anticipated.

Additional Measures (see item 3)

The project would be consistent with the VRM Class III objectives that the BLM has established for the lands included within the project area. In addition, the project location was well sited in a valley focused on industrial development, including an existing power generation station, existing solar facilities, EHV transmission lines, and future wind facilities. Because the BLM has requested that the visual changes associated with the project be minimized, the following selective mitigation measures have been recommended by the BLM, which the project Proponent will implement:

- Solar field access ways will be offset at appropriate intervals to minimize the appearance of straight lines within the solar field.
- The exterior of the inverter boxes and the exterior of the O&M building will be factory treated with a dull finish and, where feasible, a BLM standard environmental color, such as Yuma Green or Covert Green, will be applied to minimize contrast with the existing landscape.
- A plan will be prepared to revegetate areas disturbed by construction of flood control berms and channel improvements. Revegetation efforts will focus on softening harsh lines associated with clearing. The concepts of feathering and selective vegetation removal will be applied along the project area perimeter to result in an organic or irregular line but shall not result in more disturbance than the original engineered design. Landform modifications associated with necessary berms and channel improvements will be blended into the natural landscape to the extent practical.
- Reduce soil color contrast by using slightly darker decomposed aggregate (gravel) within the project area or apply a soil darkener.

SECTION A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

District/Field Office: Las Vegas Field Office **Date:** July 2012
Key Observation Point: 3 – Roach Lake
Location: 26565652.79 x 717779.39

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Flat valley plains (foreground/middleground), surrounded by foothills and mountains, gently sloping bajada (background)	Low, uniform creosote shrubs (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Geometric, regular, complex
LINE	Horizontal, diagonal, regular (foreground/middleground) Diagonal, jagged (background)	Horizontal (foreground) Indistinct (background)	Vertical, diagonal, rectangular, linear
COLOR	Brown-gray	Brownish-green (shrubs)	Light to dark gray (transmission) Dark gray to black (power plant)
TEXTURE	Smooth to fine (valley plains), medium (mountains)	Medium, continuous (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Medium

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Same	Same	Regular, rectangular, simple
LINE	Horizontal, regular, linear	Regular, linear from clearing (foreground/middleground)	Linear, horizontal
COLOR	Same	Same	Dark gray
TEXTURE	Same	Same	Fine

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING

☐ **Short Term** ☒ **Long Term**

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES: LAND/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	

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

Evaluator's Names
Chelsa Johnson, Marc Schwartz

Comment from item 2.

The project would be compliant with VRM Class III lands, because the project would result in moderate contrast when viewed in the foreground/middleground distance zone. Due to existing modifications in the immediate foreground, the project would be viewed in context with these developments and would not dominate the view.

Additional Measures (see item 3)

The project would be consistent with the VRM Class III objectives that the BLM has established for the lands included within the project area. In addition, the project location was well sited in a valley focused on industrial development, including an existing power generation station, existing solar facilities, EHV transmission lines, and future wind facilities. Because the BLM has requested that the visual changes associated with the project be minimized, the following selective mitigation measures have been recommended by the BLM, which the project Proponent will implement:

- Solar field access ways will be offset at appropriate intervals to minimize the appearance of straight lines within the solar field.
- The exterior of the inverter boxes and the exterior of the O&M building will be factory treated with a dull finish and, where feasible, a BLM standard environmental color, such as Yuma Green or Covert Green, will be applied to minimize contrast with the existing landscape.
- A plan will be prepared to revegetate areas disturbed by construction of flood control berms and channel improvements. Revegetation efforts will focus on softening harsh lines associated with clearing. The concepts of feathering and selective vegetation removal will be applied along the project area perimeter to result in an organic or irregular line but shall not result in more disturbance than the original engineered design. Landform modifications associated with necessary berms and channel improvements will be blended into the natural landscape to the extent practical.
- Reduce soil color contrast by using slightly darker decomposed aggregate (gravel) within the project area or apply a soil darkener.

SECTION A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

District/Field Office: Las Vegas Field Office **Date:** July 2012
Key Observation Point: 4 – Desert Oasis Apartments
Location: 26561078.80 x 716655.95

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Flat valley plains (foreground/middleground), surrounded by foothills and mountains, gently sloping bajada (background)	Low, uniform creosote shrubs (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Geometric, regular, complex
LINE	Horizontal, diagonal, regular (foreground/middleground) Diagonal, jagged (background)	Horizontal, patchy (foreground) Indistinct (background)	Vertical, diagonal, rectangular, linear
COLOR	Brown-gray	Brownish-green (shrubs)	Light to dark gray (transmission) Dark gray to black (power plant)
TEXTURE	Smooth to fine (valley plains), medium (mountains)	Medium, continuous (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Medium

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Same	Same	Regular, rectangular, simple
LINE	Horizontal, regular, linear	Regular, linear from clearing (foreground/middleground)	Linear, horizontal
COLOR	Same	Same	Dark gray
TEXTURE	Same	Same	Fine

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING

☐ **Short Term** ☒ **Long Term**

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES: LAND/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	

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

Evaluator's Names
Chelsa Johnson, Marc Schwartz

Comment from item 2.

The project would be compliant with VRM Class III lands, because the project would result in moderate contrast when viewed in the foreground/middleground distance zone. Due to existing modifications in the immediate foreground, the project would be viewed in context with these developments and would not dominate the view.

Additional Measures (see item 3)

The project would be consistent with the VRM Class III objectives that the BLM has established for the lands included within the project area. In addition, the project location was well sited in a valley focused on industrial development, including an existing power generation station, existing solar facilities, EHV transmission lines, and future wind facilities. Because the BLM has requested that the visual changes associated with the project be minimized, the following selective mitigation measures have been recommended by the BLM, which the project Proponent will implement:

- Solar field access ways will be offset at appropriate intervals to minimize the appearance of straight lines within the solar field.
- The exterior of the inverter boxes and the exterior of the O&M building will be factory treated with a dull finish and, where feasible, a BLM standard environmental color, such as Yuma Green or Covert Green, will be applied to minimize contrast with the existing landscape.
- A plan will be prepared to revegetate areas disturbed by construction of flood control berms and channel improvements. Revegetation efforts will focus on softening harsh lines associated with clearing. The concepts of feathering and selective vegetation removal will be applied along the project area perimeter to result in an organic or irregular line but shall not result in more disturbance than the original engineered design. Landform modifications associated with necessary berms and channel improvements will be blended into the natural landscape to the extent practical.
- Reduce soil color contrast by using slightly darker decomposed aggregate (gravel) within the project area or apply a soil darkener.

SECTION A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

District/Field Office: Las Vegas Field Office **Date:** July 2012
Key Observation Point: 5 – Primm Valley Resort and Casino
Location: 2236999.35527 x 737147.562771

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Flat valley plains (foreground/middleground), surrounded by foothills and mountains, gently sloping bajada (background)	Low, uniform creosote shrubs (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Geometric, regular, complex
LINE	Horizontal, diagonal, regular (foreground/middleground) Diagonal, jagged (background)	Horizontal, irregular, patchy (foreground) Indistinct (background)	Conical, diagonal, horizontal, and vertical
COLOR	Light tan/cream	Brownish-green	Light to dark gray
TEXTURE	Smooth to fine (valley plains), medium (mountains)	Medium, continuous (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Medium

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Same	Same	Regular, rectangular, simple
LINE	Same	Regular, linear from clearing (foreground/middleground)	Linear, horizontal
COLOR	Same	Same	Dark gray
TEXTURE	Same	Same	Fine

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING

☐ **Short Term** ☒ **Long Term**

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST

ELEMENTS	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY				VEGETATION				STRUCTURES			
	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
FORM				X				X		X		
LINE				X			X			X		
COLOR				X				X		X		
TEXTURE				X				X			X	

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

Evaluator's Names
Chelsa Johnson, Marc Schwartz

Comment from item 2.

The project would be compliant with VRM Class III lands, because the project would result in moderate contrast when viewed in the foreground/middleground distance zone. Although slightly superior views of the project may occur for guests at the resort, the project would be viewed in context with these developments and would not dominate the view.

Additional Measures (see item 3)

The project would be consistent with the VRM Class III objectives that the BLM has established for the lands included within the project area. In addition, the project location was well sited in a valley focused on industrial development, including an existing power generation station, existing solar facilities, EHV transmission lines, and future wind facilities. Because the BLM has requested that the visual changes associated with the project be minimized, the following selective mitigation measures have been recommended by the BLM, which the project Proponent will implement:

- Solar field access ways will be offset at appropriate intervals to minimize the appearance of straight lines within the solar field.
- The exterior of the inverter boxes and the exterior of the O&M building will be factory treated with a dull finish and, where feasible, a BLM standard environmental color, such as Yuma Green or Covert Green, will be applied to minimize contrast with the existing landscape.
- A plan will be prepared to revegetate areas disturbed by construction of flood control berms and channel improvements. Revegetation efforts will focus on softening harsh lines associated with clearing. The concepts of feathering and selective vegetation removal will be applied along the project area perimeter to result in an organic or irregular line but shall not result in more disturbance than the original engineered design. Landform modifications associated with necessary berms and channel improvements will be blended into the natural landscape to the extent practical.
- Reduce soil color contrast by using slightly darker decomposed aggregate (gravel) within the project area or apply a soil darkener.

SECTION A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

District/Field Office: Las Vegas Field Office **Date:** July 2012
Key Observation Point: 6 – Lucy Gray OHV
Location: 26550207.64 x 740417.97

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Flat valley plains (foreground/middleground), undulating foothills and gently sloping bajadas (background)	Low, patchy creosote shrubs with some cacti (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Rectangular, complex, regular
LINE	Horizontal, irregular, curvilinear lake bed (foreground/middleground) Diagonal, horizontal bands (background)	Complex, vertical, rugged (foreground) Indistinct (background)	Linear, horizontal (roads), vertical, geometric (transmission lines, solar fields, other developments)
COLOR	Light tan/cream and grayish-brown	Brownish-green to soft gray-green	Light to dark gray (buildings), light tan to brown (roads)
TEXTURE	Smooth to fine (valley plains), medium to coarse (mountains)	Foreground/middleground vegetation is coarse. Background vegetation creates a finely textured surface.	Clumped, fine to medium texture for developed areas (foreground/middleground)

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Same	Same	Regular, rectangular, simple
LINE	Horizontal, regular, linear	Regular, linear from clearing (foreground/middleground)	Linear, geometric, horizontal
COLOR	Same	Same	Dark gray
TEXTURE	Same	Same	Fine

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING

☐ **Short Term** ☒ **Long Term**

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST

ELEMENTS	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY				VEGETATION				STRUCTURES			
	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
FORM				X			X			X		
LINE			X			X				X		
COLOR				X			X		X			
TEXTURE				X			X				X	

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
☐ Yes ☒ No
(Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

Evaluator's Names
Chelsa Johnson, Marc Schwartz

Comment from item 2.

OHV recreation users may have a shorter viewing duration and the landscape would not be the primary focus while recreating off-road. Vegetation and topography may partially screen portions of the project area from this KOP. The foreground/middleground distance zone would be co-dominated by the proposed project (generally for all alternatives, although the footprint layout varies slightly). Although the scale of the proposed project is greater than the existing PV facility, the introduction of additional PV facilities would replicate the existing form, line, color, and texture, resulting in a moderate/strong level of contrast. The proposed project would not comply with the existing VRM Class III objectives because the project would result in a moderate/strong level of contrast, and management activities on BLM land within the Ivanpah Valley area are primarily focused on development. The project includes a proposed RMP amendment to designate the development site from BLM VRM Class III to Class IV. The project would meet the intent and objectives of the proposed Class IV designation.

Additional Measures (see item 3)

Although the project location is sited in a valley focused on industrial development, including an existing power generation station, existing solar facilities, EHV transmission lines, and future wind facilities the level of visual change would be moderate/strong. Because the BLM requests that the visual changes associated with the project be minimized, the following selective mitigation measures have been required by the BLM, which the project Proponent shall implement:

- Solar field access ways will be offset at appropriate intervals to minimize the appearance of straight lines within the solar field.
- The exterior of the inverter boxes and the exterior of the O&M building will be factory treated with a dull finish and, where feasible, a BLM standard environmental color, such as Yuma Green or Covert Green, will be applied to minimize contrast with the existing landscape.
- A plan will be prepared and implemented to revegetate areas disturbed by construction of flood control berms and channel improvements. Revegetation efforts should focus on softening harsh lines associated with clearing. The concepts of feathering and selective vegetation removal will be applied along the project area perimeter to result in an organic or irregular line but shall not result in more disturbance than the original engineered design. Landform modifications associated with necessary berms and channel improvements will be blended into the natural landscape to the extent practical.
- Soil color contrast shall be reduced by using a surface treatment within the project area.

SECTION A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

District/Field Office: Las Vegas Field Office **Date:** July 2012
Key Observation Point: 7 — Ivanpah Lake
Location: 2236491.28094 x 732565.887423

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Flat lake bed, valley plains (foreground/middleground), surrounded by foothills and mountains, gently sloping bajada (background)	Absent (lake bed) Low, uniform creosote shrubs (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Geometric, regular, complex
LINE	Horizontal, organic, curvilinear lake bed (foreground/middleground) Diagonal, jagged (background)	Horizontal, irregular, patchy (foreground) Indistinct (background)	Simple, diagonal, horizontal, vertical
COLOR	Light tan/cream	Brownish-green	Light to dark gray
TEXTURE	Smooth to fine (valley plains), medium (mountains)	Medium, continuous (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Fine

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Same	Same	Regular, rectangular, simple
LINE	Horizontal, regular, linear	Regular, linear from clearing (foreground/middleground)	Linear, horizontal
COLOR	Same	Same	Dark gray
TEXTURE	Same	Same	Fine

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING

☐ **Short Term** ☒ **Long Term**

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST

ELEMENTS	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY				VEGETATION				STRUCTURES			
	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
FORM				X				X		X		
LINE			X				X			X		
COLOR				X				X		X		
TEXTURE				X				X			X	

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

Evaluator's Names
Chelsa Johnson, Marc Schwartz

Comment from item 2.

Compliance is anticipated for VRM Class III lands, because the project would not dominate the view and would result in moderate visual contrast.

Additional Measures (see item 3)

The project would be consistent with the VRM Class III objectives that the BLM has established for the lands included within the project area. In addition, the project location was well sited in a valley focused on industrial development, including an existing power generation station, existing solar facilities, EHV transmission lines, and future wind facilities. Because the BLM has requested that the visual changes associated with the project be minimized, the following selective mitigation measures have been recommended by the BLM, which the project Proponent will implement:

- Solar field access ways will be offset at appropriate intervals to minimize the appearance of straight lines within the solar field.
- The exterior of the inverter boxes and the exterior of the O&M building will be factory treated with a dull finish and, where feasible, a BLM standard environmental color, such as Yuma Green or Covert Green, will be applied to minimize contrast with the existing landscape.
- A plan will be prepared to revegetate areas disturbed by construction of flood control berms and channel improvements. Revegetation efforts will focus on softening harsh lines associated with clearing. The concepts of feathering and selective vegetation removal will be applied along the project area perimeter to result in an organic or irregular line but shall not result in more disturbance than the original engineered design. Landform modifications associated with necessary berms and channel improvements will be blended into the natural landscape to the extent practical.
- Reduce soil color contrast by using slightly darker decomposed aggregate (gravel) within the project area or apply a soil darkener.

SECTION A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

District/Field Office: Las Vegas Field Office **Date:** July 2012
Key Observation Point: 8 – I-15 at Nipton Road
Location: 26509838.50 x 696356.99

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Flat valley plains (foreground/middleground), surrounded by undulating foothills and gently sloping bajadas (background)	Low, uniform creosote shrubs with some cacti (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Geometric, conical, regular (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)
LINE	Horizontal, irregular, curvilinear lake bed (foreground/middleground) Diagonal, horizontal bands (background)	Horizontal, irregular (foreground) Indistinct (background)	Linear, horizontal (roads), vertical (transmission lines)
COLOR	Light tan/cream and grayish-brown	Brownish-green	Light to dark gray, brown
TEXTURE	Smooth to fine (valley plains), medium (mountains)	Medium, continuous (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Medium

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Same	Same	Regular, rectangular, simple
LINE	Horizontal, regular, linear	Regular, linear from clearing (foreground/middleground)	Linear, horizontal
COLOR	Same	Same	Dark gray
TEXTURE	Same	Same	Fine

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING

☐ **Short Term** ☒ **Long Term**

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES: LAND/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	

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

Evaluator's Names
Chelsa Johnson, Marc Schwartz

Comment from item 2.

The project would be viewed from this travel route KOP for a short duration and would result in weak/moderate visual contrast. The project would not dominate the view of the casual observer and would be viewed in context with existing modifications, including the travel corridor, existing transmission lines, development near Primm, PV solar facilities, and power plant; therefore, compliance with VRM Class III designations is anticipated.

Additional Measures (see item 3)

The project would be consistent with the VRM Class III objectives that the BLM has established for the lands included within the project area. In addition, the project location was well sited in a valley focused on industrial development, including an existing power generation station, existing solar facilities, EHV transmission lines, and future wind facilities. Because the BLM has requested that the visual changes associated with the project be minimized, the following selective mitigation measures have been recommended by the BLM, which the project Proponent will implement:

- Solar field access ways will be offset at appropriate intervals to minimize the appearance of straight lines within the solar field.
- The exterior of the inverter boxes and the exterior of the O&M building will be factory treated with a dull finish and, where feasible, a BLM standard environmental color, such as Yuma Green or Covert Green, will be applied to minimize contrast with the existing landscape.
- A plan will be prepared to revegetate areas disturbed by construction of flood control berms and channel improvements. Revegetation efforts will focus on softening harsh lines associated with clearing. The concepts of feathering and selective vegetation removal will be applied along the project area perimeter to result in an organic or irregular line but shall not result in more disturbance than the original engineered design. Landform modifications associated with necessary berms and channel improvements will be blended into the natural landscape to the extent practical.
- Reduce soil color contrast by using slightly darker decomposed aggregate (gravel) within the project area or apply a soil darkener.

SECTION A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

District/Field Office: Las Vegas Field Office **Date:** July 2012
Key Observation Point: 9 – Mojave National Preserve Entrance
Location: 2236937.68048 x 720272.198522

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Flat valley plains (foreground/middleground), surrounded by undulating foothills and gently sloping bajadas (background)	Low, uniform creosote shrubs (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Geometric, regular
LINE	Horizontal, irregular, curvilinear lake bed (foreground/middleground) Diagonal, horizontal bands (background)	Horizontal, irregular (foreground) Indistinct (background)	Linear, horizontal (roads), vertical (signage)
COLOR	Light tan/cream and grayish-brown	Brownish-green	Grey, yellow, red, green
TEXTURE	Smooth to fine (valley plains), medium (mountains)	Medium, continuous (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Medium

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Same	Same	Regular, rectangular, simple
LINE	Same	Same	Linear, horizontal
COLOR	Same	Same	Dark gray
TEXTURE	Same	Same	Fine

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING

☐ **Short Term** ☒ **Long Term**

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES: LAND/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	

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

Evaluator's Names
Chelsa Johnson, Marc Schwartz

Comment from item 2.

The project would be viewed from this travel route/recreation destination KOP for a short duration and would result in weak/moderate visual contrast that may be partially screened by vegetation and landform. Because the project has a relatively low profile and would be viewed in the background distance zone, the project would be compliant with VRM Class III lands.

Additional Measures (see item 3)

The project would be consistent with the VRM Class III objectives that the BLM has established for the lands included within the project area. In addition, the project location was well sited in a valley focused on industrial development, including an existing power generation station, existing solar facilities, EHV transmission lines, and future wind facilities. Because the BLM has requested that the visual changes associated with the project be minimized, the following selective mitigation measures have been recommended by the BLM, which the project Proponent will implement:

- Solar field access ways will be offset at appropriate intervals to minimize the appearance of straight lines within the solar field.
- The exterior of the inverter boxes and the exterior of the O&M building will be factory treated with a dull finish and, where feasible, a BLM standard environmental color, such as Yuma Green or Covert Green, will be applied to minimize contrast with the existing landscape.
- A plan will be prepared to revegetate areas disturbed by construction of flood control berms and channel improvements. Revegetation efforts will focus on softening harsh lines associated with clearing. The concepts of feathering and selective vegetation removal will be applied along the project area perimeter to result in an organic or irregular line but shall not result in more disturbance than the original engineered design. Landform modifications associated with necessary berms and channel improvements will be blended into the natural landscape to the extent practical.
- Reduce soil color contrast by using slightly darker decomposed aggregate (gravel) within the project area or apply a soil darkener.

SECTION A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

District/Field Office: Las Vegas Field Office **Date:** July 2012
Key Observation Point: 10—Lookout by Communications Tower
Location: 26566398.38 x 747933.43

SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Flat valley plains (foreground/middleground), undulating foothills and gently sloping bajadas (background)	Low, patchy creosote shrubs with some cacti (foreground/middleground) Indistinct (background)	Rectangular, complex, regular
LINE	Horizontal, irregular, curvilinear lake bed (foreground/middleground) Diagonal, horizontal bands (background)	Complex, vertical, rugged (foreground) Indistinct (background)	Linear, horizontal (roads), vertical, geometric (transmission lines, solar fields, other developments)
COLOR	Light tan/cream and grayish-brown	Brownish-green to soft gray-green	Light to dark gray (buildings), light tan to brown (roads)
TEXTURE	Smooth to fine (valley plains), medium to coarse (mountains)	Foreground/middleground vegetation is coarse. Background vegetation creates a finely textured surface.	Clumped, fine to medium texture for developed areas (foreground/middleground)

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	LAND/WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
FORM	Same	Same	Regular, rectangular, simple
LINE	Horizontal, regular, linear	Regular, linear from clearing (foreground/middleground)	Linear, geometric, horizontal
COLOR	Same	Same	Dark gray
TEXTURE	Same	Same	Fine

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING

☐ **Short Term** ☒ **Long Term**

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST

ELEMENTS	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY				VEGETATION				STRUCTURES			
	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE	STRONG	MODERATE	WEAK	NONE
FORM				X			X			X		
LINE			X			X			X			
COLOR				X			X		X			
TEXTURE				X			X				X	

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives?
☐ Yes ☒ No
(Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended?
☒ Yes ☐ No
(Explain on reverse side)

Evaluator's Names
Chelsa Johnson, Marc Schwartz

Comment from item 2.

This KOP location is situated at a communications tower overlook site. The unpaved road provides access to the tower site for operation and maintenance activities. OHV recreation viewers have access to this overlook point as part of a local tour operation; however, viewer expectation and sensitivity may be moderate due to the existing communications facilities at the overlook. The existing setting is primarily developed and I-15, the town of Primm, several transmission lines, the power generation station, and the Silver State North solar facility would be visible from this superior viewpoint. The existing Silver State North PV facility is primarily characterized by regular geometric forms, and vertical lines with dark-gray colors that are smooth in texture (PV panels). Landform and vegetation modifications are visible along the edges and in between the rows of panels along access roads within the facility.

The foreground/middleground distance zone would be dominated by the proposed project (generally for all alternatives, although the footprint layout varies slightly). Although the scale of the proposed project is greater than the existing PV facility, the introduction of additional PV facilities would replicate the existing form, line, color, and texture, resulting in a moderate/strong level of contrast. The proposed project would not comply with the existing VRM Class III objectives because the project would result in a strong level of contrast, and management activities on BLM land within the Ivanpah Valley area are primarily focused on development. The project includes a proposed RMP amendment to designate the development site from BLM VRM Class III to Class IV. The project would meet the intent and objectives of the proposed Class IV designation.

Additional Measures (see item 3)

Although the project location is sited in a valley focused on industrial development, including an existing power generation station, existing solar facilities, EHV transmission lines, and future wind facilities the level of visual change would be moderate/strong. Because the BLM requests that visual changes associated with the project be minimized, the following selective mitigation measures have been required, which the project Proponent shall implement:

- Solar field access ways will be offset at appropriate intervals to minimize the appearance of straight lines within the solar field.
- The exterior of the inverter boxes and the exterior of the O&M building will be factory treated with a dull finish and, where feasible, a BLM standard environmental color, such as Yuma Green or Covert Green, will be applied to minimize contrast with the existing landscape.
- A plan will be prepared and implemented to revegetate areas disturbed by construction of flood control berms and channel improvements. Revegetation efforts will focus on softening harsh lines associated with clearing. The concepts of feathering and selective vegetation removal will be applied along the project area perimeter to result in an organic or irregular line but shall not result in more disturbance than the original engineered design. Landform modifications associated with necessary berms and channel improvements will be blended into the natural landscape to the extent practical.
- Soil color contrast shall be reduced by using a surface treatment within the project area.