

### **INTRODUCTION**

Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15123, this section summarizes the proposed project, significant impacts, and proposed mitigation measures. The summary is organized around the following topics:

- Purpose of the Environmental Impact Report
- Project Under Review
- Project Synopsis
- Summary of Significant Effects
- Scope of the EIR
- Issues to Be Resolved by the Decision-Making Body
- Summary of Project Alternatives

### **PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

This Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared for the County of San Bernardino (County), acting as the lead agency under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15050 and 15367, to analyze the potential environmental effects associated with implementation of the Ord Mountain Solar and Energy Storage Project and the Calcite Substation Project (collectively known as the project or the proposed project).

An EIR is a public informational document used in the planning and decision-making process. The purpose of the EIR is to demonstrate that the County has made a good faith effort at disclosing the potential for the project to result in significant impacts to the physical environment. As such, the EIR does not consider potential fiscal impacts, cost-benefit assessment, or social impacts. Nor does the EIR present recommendations to the decision-making bodies for approval or denial of the project based on the environmental findings. Rather, the EIR is intended to provide additional information about the project when, if, and at which time it is reviewed and considered by the County in its discretionary decision-making for the Ord Mountain Solar and Energy Storage Project, and by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for Calcite Substation.

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors will consider the information in the EIR, public and agency comments on the EIR, and testimony at public hearings in their decision-making process. The public review comments will be incorporated and addressed in the Final EIR. As a legislative action, the final decision to approve, conditionally approve, or deny the proposed

project is made by the County Board of Supervisors. As a CEQA responsible agency, the CPUC will utilize this EIR as part of their review for substation approvals pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15093 and CPUC General Order 131-D. The purpose of an EIR is to identify:

- Significant impacts of the proposed project on the environment and indicate the manner in which those significant impacts can be avoided or mitigated.
- Any unavoidable adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated.
- Reasonable and feasible alternatives to the proposed project that would eliminate any significant adverse environmental impacts or reduce the impacts to a less than significant level.

An EIR also discloses cumulative impacts, growth-inducing impacts, and impacts found not to be significant. CEQA requires that an EIR reflect the independent judgment of the lead agency regarding the impacts, disclose the level of significance of the impacts both without and with mitigation, and discuss the mitigation measures proposed to reduce the impacts.

The EIR is circulated to the public and other agencies that may have jurisdiction over affected lands or resources, such as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The purposes of public and agency review of a EIR include sharing expertise, disclosing agency analyses, checking for accuracy, detecting omissions, discovering public concerns, and soliciting counter proposals.

This EIR is being distributed to agencies, organizations, and interested groups and persons for a 45-day review period in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15087. The County will consider and respond to all written comments received during the review period prior to any action being taken on the project.

## PROJECT SYNOPSIS

The analysis within this EIR addresses two components:

- The first component, the Ord Mountain Solar and Energy Storage Project, would be located on approximately 484 acres and would produce approximately 160,000 megawatt-hours (MWhs) or 60 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy annually. It includes a photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility, which includes the solar energy generation system, on-site substation, energy storage system, generation tie line, and ancillary facilities.
- The second component, the Calcite Substation, would be on an approximately 75-acre parcel of land. It includes a new regional 220-kilovolt (kV) collector station needed to

support the PV solar energy facility, loop-in transmission line, telecommunications facilities, and ancillary facilities.

## PROJECT UNDER REVIEW

### *ORD MOUNTAIN SOLAR AND ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT*

The project comprises the following elements:

- a. **Conditional Use Permit (CUP)** approval for construction of a 60-megawatt (MW) photovoltaic solar energy facility with associated on-site energy storage component on 484 acres.
- b. A **Major Variance** to modify the maximum structure height to permit the construction of onsite transmission poles and related structures up to 100 ft in height.
- c. **Environmental Impact Report (EIR)** certification.

### *CALCITE SUBSTATION*

The Calcite Substation project is not subject to any discretionary County approvals and therefore, is not a part of the conditional use permit application for the proposed Ord Mountain Solar and Energy Storage project. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has sole authority for approvals of the Calcite Substation. CPUC will utilize this EIR as part of their review for discretionary substation approvals.

## SCOPE OF THE EIR

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, the County prepared and distributed a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of Environmental Impact Report for the proposed project that was circulated for public review on May 31, 2017. The NOP comment period is intended to notify responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and the public that the County, acting as the lead agency, would be preparing an EIR for the project. The County determined the scope of the analysis for this EIR as a result of initial project review and consideration of agency and public comments received in response to the NOP.

Section 1.0, Introduction, summarizes issues and areas of concern and/or controversy related to the proposed project, as presented to the County by agencies and the public during the NOP review period. For more information regarding the NOP process, refer to Section 1.0. The NOP and the NOP comments are included as **Appendix A** to this EIR. As demonstrated in the comments received from state and local agencies and members of the public, issues of concern and/or opposition include concerns regarding: dust impacts from ground disturbance, impacts

on photography, astronomy and outdoor recreation as a result of the project location, impacts to golden eagle nests/forage areas and desert tortoise, release of valley fever from ground disturbance; potential on-site earthquake faults, impacts to water supply, impacts to distant scenic views, visual character of the site and its surroundings, and adverse light and glare impacts.

### **SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS**

Based on the analysis within this EIR, cumulative aesthetic impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant levels. Therefore, aesthetic impacts are unavoidable and significant.

### **ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED BY THE DECISION-MAKING BODY**

An EIR is an informational document intended to inform decision-makers and the public of the significant effects of a project, identify possible ways to minimize the significant effects, and describe reasonable alternatives to the proposed project. As the lead agency, San Bernardino County must respond to each significant effect identified in this EIR by making “findings” for each significant effect. As part of the decision-making process, the County must determine whether or how to mitigate the associated significant effects of the project, including whether to implement a project alternative. Approval of the project despite identified significant and unavoidable environmental impacts would require a Statement of Overriding Considerations, explaining why the benefits of the project outweigh the environmental effects, as set forth in this document. Because significant and unavoidable impacts have been identified, to approve the project the County Board of Supervisors would need to adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations for significant impacts caused by the Ord Mountain Solar and Energy Storage Project, and the CPUC would issue its own Statement of Overriding Considerations for impacts associated with the Calcite Substation.

### **SUMMARY TABLE**

Table ES-1, *Environmental Impact Summary*, identifies the areas of environmental impact the project will generate, and when feasible, mitigation measures to reduce those potential impacts.

**Table ES-1:  
Environmental Impact Summary**

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<b><i>Aesthetics</i></b>			
3.1-1 Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.1-2 Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.1-3 Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	Potentially significant	<p><i>Ord Mountain Solar Energy and Storage project:</i></p> <p><b>VIS-1 Surface Treatment and Maintenance Plan.</b> Prior to construction, the Applicant shall prepare a Surface Treatment and Maintenance Plan to reduce color contrast between the project facilities and surrounding environment. Anti-reflective surfaces and non-specular electrical materials shall be used wherever possible. The surfaces of non-electrical facilities that would be visible from public and residential views surrounding the project site shall be color treated to blend into the surrounding desert environment. The plan shall be submitted to the County for review and approval no less than 90 days prior to construction. The plan shall identify color treatment procedures following the BLM Standard Environmental Color Chart CC-001 (BLM 2008) for the following facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perimeter fencing slats (Carlsbad Canyon or similar)</li> <li>• Visible electrical equipment (Shadow Grey or similar)</li> <li>• Battery storage building (Carlsbad Canyon or similar)</li> <li>• Gen-tie poles</li> </ul> <p>The Surface Treatment and Maintenance Plan shall identify appropriate inspection and maintenance procedures to ensure required color treatments are maintained for the life of the project.</p>	Less than significant with mitigation

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
		<p><i>Calcite Substation project:</i></p> <p><b>VIS-2 Color Treatment for the Calcite Substation.</b> New substation walls shall be treated with an appropriate color or material to reduce color contrast. The material shall be approved by the County of San Bernardino, and the intent shall be to reduce the visual contrast created by the proposed substation site perimeter wall/ fence with soil and vegetated surroundings. SCE shall consult with the County of San Bernardino and/or their authorized representative(s) on and obtain written approval prior to the use of any colorants.</p> <p>Southern California Edison shall also install landscaping on the slopes of the Calcite Substation site that are visible from SR 247. A Landscape Plan shall be prepared by a qualified landscape architect and submitted to the County for review and approval. The selected plant species shall be desert-tolerant varieties that blend into the surrounding environment. The Landscape Plan shall include procedures for inspecting and maintaining the landscaping.</p>	
<p>3.1-4 Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?</p>	<p>Less than significant</p>	<p>None required</p>	<p>Less than significant</p>
<p>3.1-5 Would the project result in cumulative aesthetic impacts?</p>	<p>Cumulatively significant</p>	<p><i>Ord Mountain Solar Energy and Storage project:</i></p> <p><b>VIS-1</b></p> <p><i>Calcite Substation project:</i></p> <p><b>VIS-2</b></p>	<p>Significant and unavoidable</p>

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<b>Air Quality</b>			
3.2-1 Would the project violate air quality standards or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation during project construction?	Potentially significant	<i>Ord Mountain Solar Energy and Storage project and Calcite Substation project:</i> <b>AQ-1 Unpaved Road Vehicle Speed Limit Restrictions.</b> The project would implement a speed limit of 25 miles per hour during the construction phase for vehicles traveling on unpaved roads.	Less than significant with mitigation
3.2-2 Would the project violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.2-3 Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.2-4 Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.2-5 Would the project create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.2-6 Would the project would result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<b>Biological Resources</b>			
<p>3.3-1 Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?</p>	<p>Potentially significant</p>	<p><i>Ord Mountain Solar Energy and Storage project:</i>  <b>BIO-1 Indirect Impacts to Special-Status Resources, BIO-2 Desert Tortoise, BIO-3 Burrowing Owl, BIO-4 Golden Eagle Nests, BIO-5 Nesting Birds, and BIO-7 Worker Response Reporting System.</b></p> <p><i>Calcite Substation project:</i>  <b>BIO-1 Indirect Impacts to Special Status Resources, BIO-2 Desert Tortoise, BIO-4 Golden Eagle Nests, BIO-5 Nesting Birds, and BIO-6 Mohave Ground Squirrel.</b></p> <p><b>BIO-1 Indirect Impacts to Special-Status Resources.</b> The following best management practices shall be implemented to minimize indirect impacts to special-status species:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Minimize construction impacts.</b> The construction limits shall be flagged prior to ground-disturbing activities. All construction activities, including equipment staging and maintenance, shall be conducted within the flagged disturbance limits.</li> <li>2. <b>Avoid toxic substances on road surfaces.</b> Soil binding and weighting agents used on unpaved surfaces shall be nontoxic to wildlife and plants.</li> <li>3. <b>Avoid wildlife entrapment</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Backfill trenches.</b> At the end of each workday, check that all potential wildlife pitfalls (trenches, bores, and other excavations) have been backfilled, covered, or sloped to allow wildlife egress. Should wildlife become trapped, a qualified biologist shall remove and relocate the individual(s). A qualified biologist is defined as a biologist who has minimally received a 4-year college degree in the biological sciences, is familiar with the potential suite of species, has a species-specific permit or authorization required to handle listed species, and is knowledgeable about proper handling techniques.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>Less than significant</p>

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
		<p>b. <b>Cover materials.</b> All pipes or other construction materials or supplies shall be covered or capped in storage or laydown areas at the end of each workday. No pipes or tubing of sizes or inside diameters ranging from 3 to 10 inches shall be left open either temporarily or permanently. Any construction pipe, culvert, or other hollow materials will be inspected for wildlife before it is moved, buried, or capped.</p> <p>4. <b>Minimize spills of hazardous materials.</b> All vehicles and equipment shall be maintained in proper condition to minimize the potential for fugitive emissions of motor oil, antifreeze, hydraulic fluid, grease, or other hazardous materials. Hazardous spills shall be immediately cleaned up and the contaminated soil shall be properly handled or disposed of at a licensed facility. Servicing of construction equipment shall take place only at a designated staging area.</p> <p>5. <b>Worker guidelines.</b> All trash and food-related waste shall be placed in self-closing containers and removed regularly from the site to prevent overflow. Workers shall not feed wildlife or bring pets to the project site.</p> <p>6. <b>Invasive weeds.</b> The spread of invasive weeds shall be minimized through the revegetation of temporarily disturbed areas. Temporarily disturbed areas shall be revegetated with a native seed mix and/or container plants. A qualified biologist/restoration ecologist shall review the revegetation plan prior to implementation. Revegetated areas shall be monitored and maintained for 3 years or until native vegetation has been established. Maintenance shall include removal of non-native weed species and remedial measures as determined during routine monitoring.</p> <p>7. <b>Best management practices/erosion/runoff.</b> The project shall incorporate methods to control runoff, including a stormwater pollution prevention plan to meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations. Implementation of</p>	

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		<p>stormwater regulations is expected to substantially control adverse edge effects (e.g., erosion, sedimentation, habitat conversion) during and following construction, both adjacent to and downstream from the project area. Typical construction best management practices specifically related to reducing impacts from dust, erosion, and runoff generated by construction activities shall be implemented. During construction, material stockpiles shall be placed such that they cause minimal interference with on-site drainage patterns, which will protect sensitive vegetation from being inundated with sediment-laden runoff. Dewatering shall be conducted in accordance with standard regulations of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). An NPDES permit, issued by the RWQCB to discharge water from dewatering activities, shall be required prior to the start of dewatering. This permit will minimize erosion, siltation, and pollution in sensitive vegetation communities.</p> <p><b>BIO-2 Desert Tortoise.</b> No desert tortoises were observed during the protocol-level surveys that were completed. However, suitable habitat is present, and the following avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental awareness training shall be provided for all construction personnel to educate them on desert tortoise, protective status, and avoidance measures to be implemented by all personnel, including looking under vehicles and equipment prior to moving.</li> <li>• Pre-activity Surveys: Immediately prior to ground-disturbing activities, a qualified biologist-with experience monitoring and surveying for desert tortoise-would conduct a pre-activity survey in all work areas within potential desert tortoise habitat to ensure tortoises are not present.</li> <li>• A biological monitor shall be present during initial grading activities, until tortoise fencing is installed around the perimeter of the site, and as needed thereafter. The biological</li> </ul>	

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
		<p>monitor shall have the authority to stop work as needed to avoid direct impact to desert tortoise. Periodic biological inspections and maintenance shall be conducted during the construction to ensure the integrity of the tortoise fencing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should a desert tortoise be found during construction activities, activities shall cease and consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) shall commence.</li> <li>• Prior to clearing and grubbing activities, a perimeter fence with mesh shall be installed around the project perimeter. Tortoise mesh shall be attached to the fence fabric and will extend from approximately 12 inches below grade to approximately 24 inches above grade to ensure no tortoises enter the project site. Preconstruction surveys and monitoring shall be conducted for any activity areas that lack tortoise fencing (e.g. temporary work areas; splicing locations).</li> <li>• Under Vehicle Checks. Project personnel are required to check under their equipment or vehicles before they are moved. If desert tortoises are encountered, the vehicle will not be moved until the tortoise has voluntarily moved away from the equipment or vehicle, or a qualified biologist has moved the tortoise out of harms way.</li> <li>• Disposal of Trash. Trash and food items shall be contained in closed containers and removed daily to reduce attractiveness to opportunistic predators (e.g. ravens, coyotes, feral dogs).</li> <li>• Pets Prohibited. Employees shall not bring pets to the proposed project area.</li> <li>• Vehicle speed within the project area shall not exceed 20 miles per hour.</li> </ul> <p><b>BIO-3 Burrowing Owl.</b> Burrowing owl sign and potential nest locations were observed during protocol-level surveys conducted at the project site; therefore, preconstruction surveys for burrowing owl shall be conducted in accordance with CDFW guidelines.</p>	

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		<p>Preconstruction surveys shall include the project footprint and the appropriate legally accessible buffer as required in the most recent guidelines. The surveys shall be conducted no more than 30 days prior to initiation of ground- disturbing or site-mobilization activities. If burrowing owls are not detected during the clearance survey, no additional mitigation is required.</p> <p>If an active burrowing owl burrow is located within 500 feet from any project work area or disturbance area, a Burrowing Owl Relocation and Mitigation Plan shall be prepared and implemented following approval from the CDFW. The plan shall include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Avoidance and minimization measures, including at a minimum:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Non-disturbance buffer.</b> Fencing or flagging shall be installed at a 250-foot radius from the occupied burrow to create a buffer area where no work activities may be conducted. The non-disturbance buffer and fence line may be reduced to 160 feet if all project-related activities that might disturb burrowing owls would be conducted during the nonbreeding season (i.e., conducted September 1 through January 31).</li> <li>b. <b>Monitoring.</b> If construction activities occur within 500 feet of the occupied burrow during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31), a qualified biologist shall monitor to determine whether these activities have the potential to adversely affect nesting efforts, and shall implement measures to minimize or avoid such disturbance.</li> <li>c. <b>Relocation Plan.</b> A relocation plan shall be implemented if construction activities occur during the non-breeding season (occupied burrows may not be disturbed during the nesting season [February 1 to August 31] to avoid take under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the California Fish and Game Code). The plan shall:</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Describe detailed methods and guidance for passive relocation of burrowing owls.</li> <li>ii. Describe monitoring and management of the replacement burrow site(s) and a reporting plan. The objective shall be to manage the sites for the benefit of burrowing owls, with the specific goals of maintaining the functionality of the burrows for a minimum of 2 years and minimizing weed cover.</li> <li>iii. Ensure that a minimum of two suitable, unoccupied burrows are available off-site for every burrowing owl or pair of burrowing owls to be passively relocated.</li> </ul> <p><b>BIO-4 Golden Eagle Nests.</b> Eagle nest surveys shall be performed when construction activities are scheduled to occur in or near golden eagle nesting habitat from January 1-July 31 to determine if any eagle nests are active within a 1-mile radius of the project site. Should active eagle nests be present, the nest shall initially receive a 1-mile line of sight, 0.5-mile no line of sight no construction activity buffer. Buffers and buffer modifications for golden eagles will be established by the qualified biologist, until the nest is vacated, and juveniles have fledged, as determined by the biologist.</p> <p><b>BIO-5 Nesting Birds.</b> Ground-disturbing activities shall be avoided during nesting bird season, from approximately February 1 through August 31. If such activities cannot be completed outside the nesting bird season, the following measures shall be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveys shall be conducted within 500 feet of disturbance areas no earlier than 3 days prior to the commencement of disturbance. If ground-disturbing activities are delayed, additional preconstruction surveys shall be conducted such that no more than 3 days will have elapsed between the survey and the ground-disturbing activities.</li> </ul>	

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If active nests are found, clearing and construction shall be postponed or halted within a buffer area, established by the qualified biologist, that is suitable to the particular bird species and location of the nest, until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged, as determined by the biologist. The construction avoidance area shall be clearly demarcated in the field with highly visible construction fencing or flagging, and construction personnel shall be instructed on the sensitivity of nest areas. A biologist shall serve as a construction monitor during those periods when construction activities will occur near active nest areas to ensure no inadvertent impacts on these nests occur. The results of the surveys, including graphics showing the locations of any active nests detected, and documentation of any avoidance measures taken, shall be submitted to the County of San Bernardino within 14 days of completion of the preconstruction surveys or construction monitoring to document compliance with applicable state and federal laws pertaining to the protection of native birds.</li> </ul> <p><b>BIO-6 Mohave Ground Squirrel.</b> Should a Mohave ground squirrel be found before or during construction activities, activities shall cease and consultation with the CDFW shall commence immediately. Observations should only be made or confirmed by a qualified Mohave ground squirrel biologist.</p> <p><b>BIO-7 Worker Response Reporting System.</b> Avian monitoring shall be conducted during construction and operations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement a Worker Response Reporting System (WRRS). A WRRS will provide a means of recording and collecting information on incidental bird and bat species found dead or injured within the proposed project area by site personnel. The WRRS will be used by site personnel who discover bird and bat carcasses during construction and routine maintenance activities. Site personnel will be provided a set of standardized instructions to follow in response to wildlife incidents in the proposed project.</li> </ol>	

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
		<p>2. In accordance with the WRRS, during construction, site personnel will notify the project Biologist to collect the following data on the incidentally detected avian wildlife: species, date, time, location (e.g., nearest project structure), and how the animal died, if known. Results shall be reported to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on a quarterly basis unless listed species are involved. During operations, site personnel will collect the same data, take photographs, and notify the project’s environmental manager, who will then notify CDFW on a quarterly basis unless listed species are involved. In the event of an injury, CDFW will be contacted for instruction on how to handle the situation. Workers will be trained on the WRRS during the Worker Environmental Awareness Program. The WRRS shall be used for the life of the project. To accommodate these requirements, a project Biologist shall be on retainer throughout the construction period, and one should be available during the life of the project to assist in avian identifications, data collection, identify cause of death or injury, and implement the WRRS.</p>	
<p>3.3-2 Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?</p>	<p>Potentially significant</p>	<p><i>Calcite Substation project:</i> Implement mitigation measure <b>BIO-1</b>.</p>	<p>Less than significant with mitigation</p>
<p>3.3-3 Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Clean Water Act Section 404 (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?</p>	<p>Potentially significant</p>	<p><i>Ord Mountain Solar Energy and Storage project:</i> <b>BIO-8 Regulatory Permits</b> <i>Calcite Substation project:</i> <b>BIO-1 Indirect Impacts to Special Status Resources</b> <b>BIO-8 Regulatory Permits.</b> The owner/permittee shall provide evidence that all required regulatory permits, such as those required under Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act, and the Porter–Cologne Water Quality Control Act, have been obtained for the</p>	<p>Less than significant with mitigation</p>

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		Calcite Substation site. In addition, mitigation for permanent impacts would occur at a minimum of a 1:1 ratio (subject to the approval of USACE and RWQCB) and restoration of all temporary impact areas.	
3.3-4 Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	Potentially significant	<p><i>Ord Mountain Solar Energy and Storage project:</i></p> <p><b>BIO-2 Desert Tortoise</b>  <b>BIO-3 Burrowing Owl</b>  <b>BIO-4 Golden Eagle Nests</b>  <b>BIO-5 Nesting Birds</b>  <b>BIO-7 Worker Response Reporting System</b></p> <p><i>Calcite Substation project:</i></p> <p><b>BIO-1 Indirect Impacts to Special Status Resources</b>  <b>BIO-2 Desert Tortoise</b>  <b>BIO-4 Golden Eagle Nests</b>  <b>BIO-5 Nesting Birds</b>  <b>BIO-6 Mohave Ground Squirrel</b></p>	Less than significant with mitigation
3.3-5 Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.3-6 Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
3.3-7 Would the project result in cumulative impacts related to biological resources?	Potentially significant	<p><i>Ord Mountain Solar Energy and Storage project:</i></p> <p><b>BIO-1 Indirect Impacts to Special Status Resources</b>  <b>BIO-2 Desert Tortoise</b>  <b>BIO-3 Burrowing Owl</b>  <b>BIO-4 Golden Eagle Nests</b>  <b>BIO-5 Nesting Birds</b>  <b>BIO-7 Worker Response Reporting System</b>  <b>BIO-8 Regulatory Permits.</b></p> <p><i>Calcite Substation project:</i></p> <p><b>BIO-1 Indirect Impacts to Special Status Resources</b>  <b>BIO-2 Desert Tortoise</b>  <b>BIO-4 Golden Eagle Nests</b>  <b>BIO-5 Nesting Birds</b>  <b>BIO-6 Mohave Ground Squirrel</b>  <b>BIO-8 Regulatory Permits</b></p>	Less than significant with mitigation
<b><i>Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources</i></b>			
3.4-1 Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>3.4-2 Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?</p>	<p>Potentially significant impact</p>	<p><i>Ord Mountain Solar Energy and Storage project and Calcite Substation project:</i></p> <p><b>CUL-1</b> In the event that previously unknown archaeological resources (sites, features, or artifacts) are exposed during grading and/or construction activities for the proposed project, all work occurring within 100 feet of the find shall immediately stop until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the significance of the find and determine whether or not additional study is warranted, in consultation with the County. Depending upon the significance of the find, the archaeologist may simply record the find and allow work to continue. If the discovery proves significant under CEQA, additional work such as preparation of an archaeological treatment plan, testing, or data recovery may be warranted.</p>	<p>Less than significant with mitigation</p>
<p>3.4-3 Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature, or contain rock formations indicating potential paleontological resources?</p>	<p>Less than significant</p>	<p>None required</p>	<p>Less than significant</p>
<p>3.4-4 Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?</p>	<p>Potentially significant impact</p>	<p><i>Ord Mountain Solar Energy and Storage project and Calcite Substation project:</i></p> <p><b>CUL-2</b> In accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are found, the County Coroner shall be notified within 24 hours of the discovery. No further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains shall occur until the County Coroner has determined, within two working days of notification of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento within 24 hours. In accordance with California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, the NAHC must immediately notify those persons it believes to be the most likely descendant (MLD) from the deceased Native American. The MLD shall complete their</p>	<p>Less than significant with mitigation</p>

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
		inspection within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative will then determine, in consultation with the property owner, the disposition of the human remains.	
<p>3.4-5 Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k)?</li> <li>• A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.</li> </ul>	Potentially significant impact	<p><i>Ord Mountain Solar Energy and Storage project and Calcite Substation project:</i></p> <p><b>CUL-3</b> A Tribal Cultural Resources Monitoring, Discovery, Treatment, and Disposition Plan (MDTDP) will be established, in consultation with all parties, prior to the commencement of any ground-disturbing activities. The MDTDP will allow for Native American monitoring of initial ground-disturbing activity, as well as the process for treatment and disposition of inadvertent discoveries of cultural material(s). Inadvertent discoveries of human remains and/or funerary object(s) are subject to California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5A.</p>	Less than significant impact with mitigation
3.4-6 Would the project result in cumulative impacts related to historical, archaeological, paleontological, or tribal cultural resources?	Potentially significant impact	<p><i>Ord Mountain Solar Energy and Storage project and Calcite Substation project:</i></p> <p><b>CUL-1, CUL-2 and CUL-3</b></p>	Less than significant

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<b><i>Geology and Soils</i></b>			
3.5-1 Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning map?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.5-2 Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.5-3 Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.5-4 Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.5-5 Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.5-6 Would the project site be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
3.5-7 Would the project be located on expansive soil, creating substantial risks to life or property?	Potentially Significant	<p><i>Ord Mountain Solar Energy and Storage project:</i></p> <p><b>GEO-1</b> Following demolition, stripping, and fill removal operations, the exposed subgrade in exterior flatwork and pavement areas shall be excavated/scarified to a depth of at least 12 inches, worked until uniform and free from large clods, moisture-conditioned to a minimum of 2 percent above optimum moisture content, and recompacted to a minimum of 90 percent of maximum density based on ASTM Test Method D1557. Limits of recompaction shall extend 5 feet beyond structural elements. This compaction effort should stabilize the surface soils and locate any unsuitable or pliant areas not found during field investigation. The upper 12 inches of soil within proposed slab-on-grade and exterior flatwork areas shall consist of non-expansive or lime-treated engineered fill. The non-expansive fill material shall be a well-graded silty sand or sandy silt soil meeting the requirements for non-expansive fill provided in the Engineered Fill section of the Krazan (2010) report. A clean sand or very sandy soil is not acceptable for this purpose. A sandy soil will allow the surface water to drain into the expansive clayey soil below, which may result in soil swelling. Imported fill shall be approved by the soils engineer prior to placement.</p>	Less than significant
3.5-8 Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	No impact	None required	No impact
3.5-9 Would the project would not result in cumulative impacts related to geology and soils?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<b><i>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</i></b>			
3.6-1 Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.6-2 Would the project conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.6-3 Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions that when combined with other related cumulative projects, could have a significant impact on global climate change?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
<b><i>Hazards and Hazardous Materials</i></b>			
3.7-1 Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, or would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.7-2 Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	No impact	None required	No impact

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
3.7-3 Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	No impact	None required	No impact
3.7-4 Would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area and located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, or would it result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area in the vicinity of a private airstrip?	No impact	None required	No impact
3.7-5 Would the project impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	No impact	None required	No impact
3.7-6 Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas and where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.7-7 Would the project result in cumulative impact related to hazards and hazardous materials?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<b><i>Hydrology and Water Quality</i></b>			
3.8-1 Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.8-2 Would the project substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a new deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.8-3 Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.8-4 Would the project create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.8-5 Would the project would otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.8-6 Would the project place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on the County's FEMA Flood Zone Map?	No impact	None required	No impact
3.8-7 Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	No impact	None required	No impact

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
3.8-8 Would the project result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	No impact	None required	No impact
3.8-9 Would the project create cumulative hydrology and water quality impacts?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
<b>Land Use and Planning</b>			
3.9-1 Would the project physically divide an established community?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.9-2 Would the project conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.9-3 Would the project conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	No impact	None required	No impact
3.9-4 Would the project result in cumulative impacts to land use and planning?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
<b>Noise</b>			
3.10-1 Would the project result in exposure of people to, or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	Potentially significant	<p><i>Ord Mountain Solar Energy and Storage project and Calcite Substation project:</i></p> <p><b>NOI-1</b> HVAC systems shall not exceed 45 dBA at the nearest sensitive receptor. The HVAC units, step-up transformers, and power inverters associated with the energy storage system shall be located, enclosed, or shielded, if necessary to meet this standard. A final noise study shall be submitted to the satisfaction of the County demonstrating that noise will not exceed 45 dBA at nearby sensitive receptors.</p>	Less than significant with mitigation

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
3.10-2 Would the project result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	Potentially significant	<i>Ord Mountain Solar Energy and Storage project and Calcite Substation project:</i> Implement Mitigation Measure <b>NOI-1</b>	Less than significant with mitigation
3.10-3 Would the project result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.10-4 Would the project result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.10-5 Would the project be located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	No impact	None required	No impact
3.10-6 Would the project be located in the vicinity of a private airstrip and expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.	No impact	None required	No impact
3.10-7 Would the project result in cumulative noise impacts?	Less than significant	<i>Ord Mountain Solar Energy and Storage project and Calcite Substation project:</i> Implement Mitigation Measure <b>NOI-1</b>	Less than significant with mitigation
<b>Transportation and Traffic</b>			
3.11-1 Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant

Impact	Level of Significance without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?			
3.11-2 Would the project conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.11-3 Would the project result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.11-4 Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.11-5 Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant
3.11-6 Would the project conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	No impact	None required	No impact
3.11-7 Would the project result in cumulative traffic impacts?	Less than significant	None required	Less than significant