

This EIR analyzes those environmental issue areas as stated in the Notice of Preparation and the Initial Study (**Appendix A**) where potentially significant impacts have the potential to occur.

## **SECTION CONTENT AND DEFINITION OF TERMS**

The EIR examines the following environmental factors outlined in the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Environmental Checklist Form, as follows:

- 3.1 Aesthetics
- 3.2 Air Quality
- 3.3 Biological Resources
- 3.4 Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources
- 3.5 Geology and Soils
- 3.6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- 3.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- 3.8 Hydrology and Water Quality
- 3.9 Land Use and Planning
- 3.10 Noise
- 3.11 Transportation and Traffic

The following environmental issue areas are addressed in Section 4.0, *Effects Not Found to Be Significant*:

- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Mineral Resources
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Utilities and Service Systems

Each potentially significant environmental issue is addressed in a separate section of the EIR (Sections 3.1 through 3.11) and is organized into the following general subsections:

- **Environmental Setting** describes the physical conditions that exist at this time and that may influence or affect the issue under investigation.
- **Regulatory Framework** describes the pertinent policy, standards, and codes that exist at this time and which may influence or affect the regulatory environment of the proposed project.
- **Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures** describes the thresholds that are the basis of conclusions of significance, which are primarily the criteria in the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Environmental Checklist.

## IMPACT ANALYSIS

The level of significance identifies the degree or severity of an impact with implementation of the proposed project. Impacts are classified as potentially significant impact, less than significant impact, or no impact. Project impacts are the potential environmental changes to the existing physical conditions that may occur if the proposed project is implemented.

Major sources used in crafting significance criteria include the CEQA Guidelines; local, state, federal, or other standards applicable to an impact category; and officially established significance thresholds. “An ironclad definition of significant effect is not possible because the significance of any activity may vary with the setting” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064[b]). Principally, “a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within an area affected by the project, including land, air, water, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic and aesthetic significance” constitutes a significant impact (CEQA Guidelines Section 15382).

Evidence, based on factual and scientific data, is presented to show the cause-and-effect relationship between the proposed project and the potential changes in the environment. The exact magnitude, duration, extent, frequency, range, or other parameters of a potential impact are ascertained, to the extent possible, to determine whether impacts may be significant when compared to the presented criteria. All of the potential direct and reasonably foreseeable indirect, construction-related (short-term), and operational and maintenance (long-term) effects are considered. Each section also addresses cumulative impacts (described further below) and identifies any significant and unavoidable impacts.

## MITIGATION MEASURES

Mitigation measures are those project-specific measures that would be required of the proposed project to avoid a significant adverse impact, to minimize a significant adverse impact, to rectify a significant adverse impact by restoration, to reduce or eliminate a significant adverse impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations, or to compensate for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environment. Mitigation measures are included throughout Sections 3.1 through 3.11, where necessary, to address an identified potentially significant impact.

Where significant impacts cannot be feasibly mitigated to less-than-significant levels, they would be considered significant and unavoidable impacts. To approve a project with unavoidable significant impacts, the lead agency must adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations. In adopting such a statement, the lead agency is required to balance the benefits of a project against its unavoidable environmental impacts in determining whether to approve the project. If the benefits of a project are found to outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse effects may be considered “acceptable” and the project approved (CEQA Guidelines Section 15093[a]).

## CUMULATIVE IMPACT EVALUATION

Cumulative impacts are defined in the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15355) as “two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.” A cumulative impact occurs from a “change in the environment which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, projects taking place over a period of time.” Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(a), the discussion in this EIR focuses on the identification of any significant cumulative impacts and, where present, the extent to which the proposed project would constitute a considerable contribution to the cumulative impact. CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b) states the following:

The discussion of cumulative impacts shall reflect the severity of the impacts and their likelihood of occurrence, but the discussion need not provide as great of detail as is provided for the effects attributable to the project alone. The discussion should be guided by the standards of practicality and reasonableness and should focus on the cumulative impact to which the identified other projects contribute rather than the attributes of other projects which do not contribute to the cumulative impact.

## METHODOLOGY

To identify the projects to be analyzed in the evaluation of cumulative impacts, CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b) requires that an EIR employ either:

- **The List Approach** – entails listing past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts, including, if necessary, those projects outside of the control of the agency; or
- **The Projection Approach** – uses a summary of projections contained in an adopted general plan or related planning document, or in a prior environmental document that has been adopted or certified, which described or evaluated regional or area-wide conditions contributing to the cumulative impact.

The approach and geographic scope of the cumulative impact evaluation vary depending on the environmental topic area being analyzed. The individual Cumulative Impacts subsection in the section addressing each environmental topic presents impacts and mitigation measures for the proposed project. Each impact begins with a summary of the approach and the geographic area relevant to that environmental topic area. For most environmental topic areas, the list approach is used. The list of potentially relevant projects, a detailed methodology, and relevant planning documents are considered in each Cumulative Impacts subsection.

Past projects include those land uses that have been previously developed and comprise the existing environment. Present projects include those projects recently approved or under construction. Probable future projects are those that are reasonably foreseeable, such as those for which an application is on file and in process with a local planning department. The cumulative projects listed in Table 3-1, *Cumulative Projects*, have been determined to be reasonably foreseeable and have been developed in consultation with the County Planning Department and SCE. These projects are considered in the cumulative impact analysis as appropriate. Refer to **Exhibit 3-1, Cumulative Projects**, for the location of each project relative to the proposed project site.

**Table 3-1:  
Cumulative Projects**

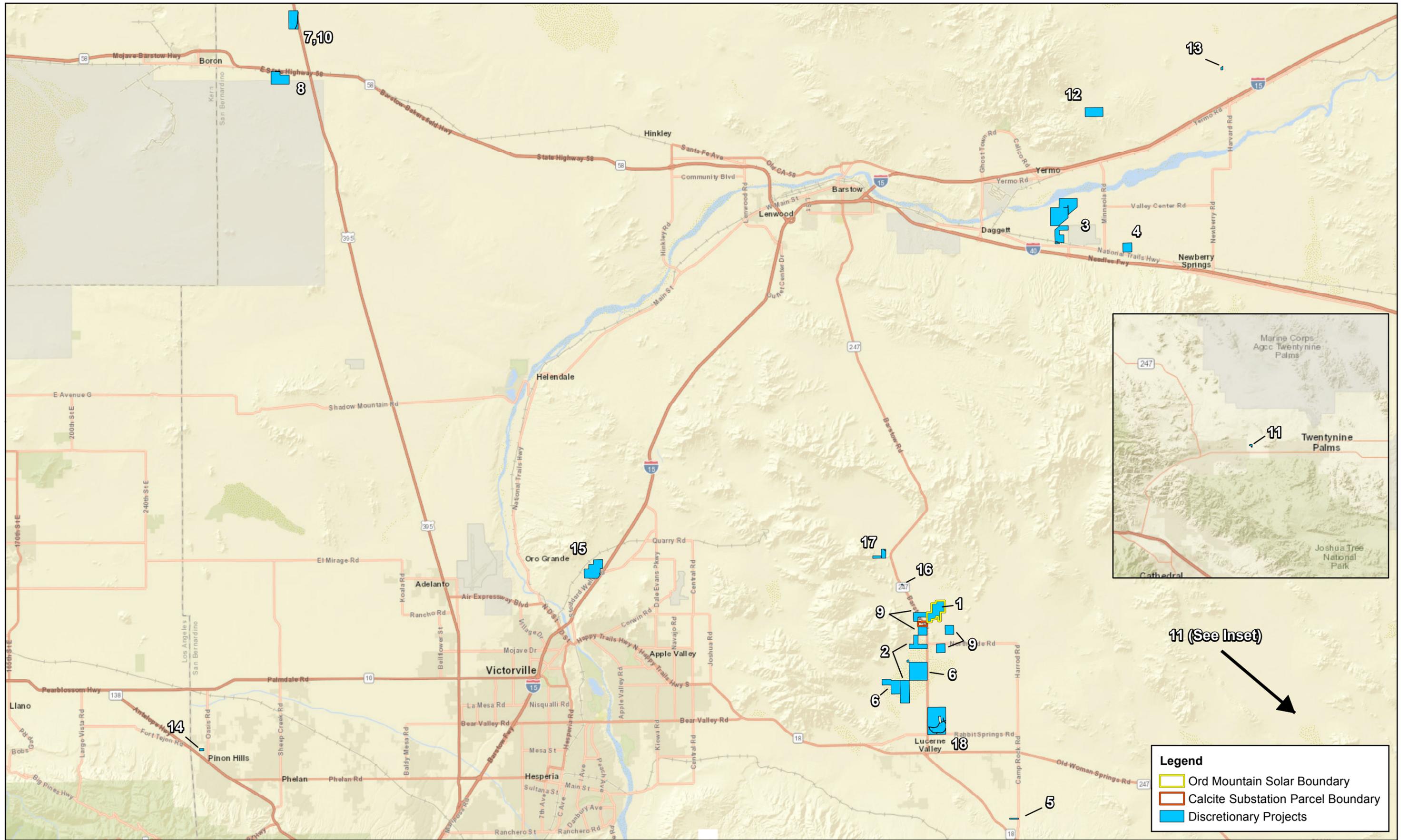
Map No.	Project Number	Project Name	Community	Description
<b>Active Projects</b>				
1	P201600510	Ord Mountain Solar, LLC (Proposed Project)	Lucerne Valley	60-MW photovoltaic solar and energy storage facility on approximately 484 acres. The project includes an on-site 60-MW maximum capacity, 4-hour energy storage (battery) system and a 220-kV overhead gen-tie line which would extend approximately 0.6 mile southwest to Southern California Edison’s (SCE) proposed Calcite Substation, in close proximity to the existing high-voltage transmission corridor. An active Interconnection Agreement (IA) is in place; the project would ultimately connect to the (proposed) Calcite Substation.
2	P201700750	Sienna Solar (North and South)	Lucerne Valley	Concurrent filing of multiple Conditional Use Permits to construct and operate a 150-MW photovoltaic solar energy facility on approximately 400 acres. An active IA is in place; the project would ultimately connect to the (proposed) Calcite Substation.
3	P201700679	Daggett Solar Power	Daggett	650-MW photovoltaic solar energy facility on approximately 3,500 acres
4	P20180004	Sunpower Solar	Daggett	2,000-MW photovoltaic solar energy facility on approximately 1,200 acres
5	P201600176	Camp Rock Solar Farm, LLC	Lucerne Valley	4-MW photovoltaic solar energy facility on approximately 20 acres. An active IA is in place; the project would not interconnect at the (proposed) Calcite Substation.

Map No.	Project Number	Project Name	Community	Description
6	P201600569	Siena Solar East and West (formerly Yucca Solar Farm) – 99MT 8ME, LLC	Lucerne Valley	Concurrent filing of two Conditional Use Permits to construct and operate a 300-MW photovoltaic solar energy facility with associated on-site energy storage component, and a 3,200-square foot (sf) operations and maintenance building and 500 sf substation control building on two non-contiguous locations comprising 990 acres in Lucerne Valley. Site A (Siena East) is located on 650 acres, and Site B (Siena West) is located on 340 acres. Project coincides with SCE’s proposal for the construction of the Calcite Substation at an off-site location, north of the project site, along SR 247. An active IA is in place; the project would ultimately connect to the (proposed) Calcite Substation.
7	P201700392 (revises P200900523)	Kramer North Solar Farm – 12AT 8ME, LLC	Kramer Junction	70-MW photovoltaic solar energy facility on approximately 191 acres. An active IA is in place; the project would not interconnect at the (proposed) Calcite Substation.
8	P201700466	Kramer South Solar Farm – 37BF 8ME, LLC	Kramer Junction	130-MW photovoltaic solar energy facility on approximately 386 acres. An active IA is in place; the project would not interconnect at the (proposed) Calcite Substation.
9	P201700480	Calcite Solar I – Lendlease Energy Development, LLC	Lucerne Valley	Concurrent filing of multiple Conditional Use Permits to construct and operate a 100-MW photovoltaic solar energy facility on four separate sites located on a total of 630 acres in Lucerne Valley [Calcite Solar I]. Property 1 (25.6 MW) is located on 162 acres, Property 2 (23.1MW) is located on 166 acres, Property 3 (25.6MW) is located on 154 acres, and Property 4 (25.6) is located on 148 acres. Project coincides with SCE proposal for the construction of the Calcite Substation at an off-site location, north of the project site, along SR 247.

Map No.	Project Number	Project Name	Community	Description
10	-	Sorrel I Solar Farm Project	Lucerne Valley	201 MW photovoltaic solar energy facility. An active IA is in place; the project would ultimately connect to the (proposed) Calcite Substation.
11	-	Eldorado-Lugo-Mojave	Southern California and Nevada	<p>The project increases capacity on existing transmission lines by installing capacitors. This will allow additional renewable energy to flow from Nevada to Southern California. The project will include the following major components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modifying SCE’s existing Eldorado, Lugo, and Mohave electrical substations to accommodate the increased current flow from Nevada to Southern California.</li> <li>• Constructing capacitors along SCE’s existing transmission lines; capacitors increase power flow through existing lines.</li> <li>• Raising some transmission tower heights to meet ground clearance requirements.</li> <li>• Installing communication wire on transmission lines to allow for communication between SCE substations.</li> </ul>
<b>Conditionally Approved Projects</b>				
12	P200900523	Boulevard Associates	Kramer Junction	20-MW photovoltaic solar energy facility on approximately 191 acres
13	P201400482	NextEra Energy Resources/Joshua Tree Solar Farm	Joshua Tree	20-MW photovoltaic solar energy facility on approximately 115 acres
14	P201000223	Silver Valley	Newberry Springs	20-MW photovoltaic solar energy facility on approximately 105 acres
15	P201000018	Ned Araujo (formerly Soltech Solar, Inc./ Newberry Springs)	Newberry Springs	2-MW photovoltaic solar energy facility on approximately 14 acres
16	P201300251	SunEdison – Pinon Hills	Phelan	1.3-MW photovoltaic solar energy facility on approximately 20 acres

Map No.	Project Number	Project Name	Community	Description
17	P201400141	Victorville Landfill Solar, LLC	Victorville	10-MW photovoltaic solar energy facility on approximately 90 acres
<b>Other Discretionary Projects</b>				
18	P201500128	Meander Wireless	Lucerne Valley	Conditional Use Permit to construct a 60-foot-high wireless communications facility designed as a faux water tank and a 784-sf equipment shelter on a 4.9-acre site in the Rural Living (RL) land use zoning district
19	P201700152	Monastery	Lucerne Valley	Revision to an approved action for a phased project to build a 14,000-sf hall (Phase I) and a 14,165-sf residence to house monastery residents (Phase II) on approximately 117 acres
20	P201700218	Rancho Lucerne	Lucerne Valley	Extension of time for Preliminary Development Plan (PDP)/4,257 residential dwelling units on approximately 1,367 acres. Located northwest of the intersection of Rabbit Springs Road and SR 247 (Barstow Road).

Source: San Bernardino County 2018; Southern California Edison 2018



**Legend**

- Ord Mountain Solar Boundary
- Calcite Substation Parcel Boundary
- Discretionary Projects

ORD MOUNTAIN SOLAR PROJECT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

# Cumulative Projects Map



Source: Esri World Street Map, County of San Bernardino

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