

CHAPTER 5 – CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes the consultation, coordination and public participation activities that are ongoing for the proposed Desert Sunlight Solar Farm (DSSF) Project.

5.2 INTERRELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN AGENCIES (OTHER FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, NATIVE AMERICAN)

There are a number of formal and informal agreements in place that provide guidance on the relationship between BLM, as Lead Agency on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and other agencies. These agreements are summarized here.

5.2.1 BLM – DOE Memorandum of Understanding

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is a cooperating agency on the EIS pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DOE and BLM. DOE will consider Sunlight's application for a loan guarantee under Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EP Act 05), as amended by Section 406 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law (PL) 111-5 (the "Recovery Act").

5.2.2 BLM – CPUC Memorandum of Understanding

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has discretionary authority to issue a Permit to Construct (PTC) for SCE's proposed Red Bluff Substation, evaluated herein as a portion of the Project. As allowed by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15221, the CPUC intends to use this EIS to provide the environmental review required for its approval of SCE's PTC application under CEQA once that application is filed. The CPUC and BLM have signed an MOU that defines the relationship of the two agencies, and identifies CPUC as a cooperating agency with the BLM. Following preparation of the EIS by BLM, the CPUC will determine whether the EIS complies with the requirements of CEQA and can, therefore, be used to support its decision on the substation.

5.2.3 BLM – SHPO Programmatic Agreement

The BLM complies with NHPA through a Nationwide Programmatic Agreement (NPA) and, in the state of California, a 2007 State Protocol Agreement. The Protocol Agreement (Protocol) is a modified version of the NPA, adapted to the unique requirements of managing cultural resources on public lands in California, and is used as the primary management guidance for BLM offices in the state. This Protocol allows BLM's cultural resource staff to act on the SHPO's behalf under limited circumstances. BLM may define areas of potential effect (APEs) and the required level of inventory efforts, and make determinations of eligibility and the effects of undertakings without consulting with SHPO.

However, these are general agreements, and in order to provide more specific guidance regarding evaluations, mitigations and Native American consultations under the NHPA Section 106 process, BLM, SHPO and the Consulting Parties are developing a Programmatic Agreement for NHPA

compliance. The Programmatic Agreement will detail methods to evaluate identified cultural resources for NRHP eligibility and impacts. In addition, appropriate mitigation measures for specific site types will be identified. These measures would be carried out prior to project initiation. Once the Programmatic Agreement is signed, compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA will be considered complete. A draft of the Programmatic Agreement is expected prior to the Final Plan Amendment (PA)/EIS.

5.2.4 Native American Consultation

The BLM is responsible for consultation with Native American tribes for the purpose of identifying sacred sites and other places of traditional religious and cultural importance, and to incorporate appropriate mitigation measures in the event such sites are located during construction. Consultation with tribes has been initiated and will continue throughout the NEPA and Section 106 compliance processes.

5.2.5 Coordination with USFWS and CDFG

The BLM will engage the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation process concurrently with the NEPA review process and will obtain incidental take statement authority, as necessary. Biological surveys for federally-listed species have been conducted for the proposed Project site, including the proposed transmission corridors, and substation locations.

California Endangered Species Act (CESA) review and approval will be required for impacts to State-listed species. Focused biological surveys for sensitive species have been conducted for all potential project areas. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is expected to complete a Consistency Determination based upon USFWS's Biological Opinion.

5.2.6 Other Agency Coordination

The Applicant is coordinating with other federal agencies, including the US Army Corps of Engineers, regarding potential project approvals and any associated NEPA compliance requirements. The Applicant is also coordinating with state and local agencies, including the California Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, South Coast Air Quality Management District, and Riverside County, regarding potential project approvals and any associated CEQA compliance requirements.

5.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

This section describes the opportunities for public review and comment on the EIS. The BLM, DOE, and CPUC rely on the input of the public to help identify key issues, suggest a range of alternatives, comment on the environmental analysis, and suggest appropriate mitigation.

5.3.1 Scoping Process

Scoping Requirements

The BLM authorization of a Right-of-Way (ROW) grant for the Project would require a resource management land use plan amendment (PA) to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan (BLM 1980), as amended. The BLM prepared this Draft PA/Draft EIS to inform the public

about the proposed Project and to meet the needs of federal, state and local permitting agencies considering the Project. Scoping is required by NEPA pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) (40 CFR 1501.7) regulations. The process ensures that significant issues, alternatives and impacts are addressed in environmental documents and determines the degree to which these issues and impacts will be analyzed in the EIS.

The scoping process for the DSSF PA/EIS includes the following:

- Publishing the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS.
- Conducting public scoping meetings and agency consultation meetings.
- Documenting all public and agency comments received for the Proposed Project in a Scoping Summary Report (Appendix A).

Each of these components is discussed below.

Notice of Intent

In compliance with NEPA, the BLM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a PA/EIS on January 13, 2010 in the Federal Register, Volume 75, Number 8. Publication of the NOI began a 30-day scoping period that ended February 12, 2010. The BLM established a website with Project information describing the various methods for providing public comment on the Project including an e-mail address where comments could be sent electronically.

Public Scoping Meeting

Notification for a public Scoping Meeting, to be held on January 28, 2010, was posted on BLM's website and sent via email to the local newspaper, the Desert Sun, on January 13, 2010. In addition, notices were sent via certified mail to Responsible and Trustee Agencies under CEQA, all landowners within 300 feet of the project boundary, and other interested parties.

The public Scoping Meeting was held on January 28, 2010 at the University of California, Riverside's Palm Desert Graduate Center located at 75-080 Frank Sinatra Drive in Palm Desert, California. First Solar Development, Inc. delivered a presentation describing the project. Presentations describing the environmental review process were delivered by members of the BLM. Twenty-two attendees were documented by signing in on a voluntary sign-in sheet.

Fourteen comment letters were received during the scoping comment period that ended on February 12, 2010. Comments were received on the following categories: purpose and need, alternatives development, air resources (air sheds), water resources (surface and groundwater), biological resources (vegetation and wildlife), cultural resources, visual resources, land use and special designations, public health and safety, noise and vibration, recreation, socioeconomics, environmental justice, and cumulative impacts. A summary of these comments is provided in the Scoping Summary Report (Appendix A). Comments received during scoping are addressed in the analysis of impacts in this Draft PA/Draft EIS.

Additional Public Outreach Activities

First Solar has engaged in additional public outreach activities for the Desert Sunlight Project in order to further promote active public participation in the development plans for the project. These

activities include meetings held with individuals and groups commenting on the project, additional workshops held in the local community providing direct access for the community to ask questions and comment on the project, and discussions with to local, state and federal government officials and meetings to individual groups. Based on the discussions during these activities, First Solar conducted additional environmental studies to help further assess potential environmental effects of the project, considered additional alternatives to provide a greater range of reasonable alternatives for the project, and adjusted the project alternative boundaries to lessen the potential environmental impacts of the project. Information collected or developed as a result of these meetings was provided to the BLM and has been incorporated into this document.

Scoping Summary Report

The BLM produced a scoping report in February 2010, which contained information received during the public scoping comment period. Comments received during the scoping period were grouped into the following three categories:

- Issues or concerns that could be addressed by effects analysis;
- Issues or concerns that could develop an alternative and/or a better description or qualification of the alternatives; and
- Issues or concerns outside the scope of the EIS.

5.3.2 Future Public Participation Opportunities

In accordance with NEPA and BLM Guidelines, once the Draft PA/Draft EIS has been completed, it will be circulated to the public for a 90-day review and comment period. The requirements of the public review process are described below.

Notice of Availability

NEPA requires that a Notice of Availability (NOA) be published once the EIS is complete and available for public review (40 CFR 1506.10). The NOA must be published in the Federal Register.

Draft EIS Public Hearings

A 90-day public review period for the Draft PA/Draft EIS will include at least one public meeting/workshop. Review period and meeting information is provided in the NOA, and is published in local newspapers and on the BLM website.

Availability of Documents for Review

In accordance with planning and NEPA procedures, publication of this Draft PA/Draft EIS will initiate a 90-day public review and comment period. During this period, a public meeting will be held to receive public comments on the document. Comments on the Draft PA/Draft EIS will be considered and addressed in the Proposed PA/Final EIS, and may be submitted at the public meeting, through BLM's website, by mail, e-mail, or facsimile (fax).

Website: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings.html>

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Correspondence related to review of the Draft PA/Draft EIS and public meetings will be included as an appendix to the Proposed PA/Final EIS. Substantive comments received on this Draft PA/Draft EIS will be considered in finalizing the document and responses to comments will also be provided in an appendix to the Proposed PA/Final EIS.

5.4 CRITERIA AND METHODS BY WHICH PUBLIC INPUT IS EVALUATED

Letters and oral comments received on the Draft EIS will be reviewed and evaluated. BLM will prepare responses to the substantive comments that are received, and modifications will be made to the EIS as necessary in order to respond to these comments. Copies of the comments and the responses will be included in the Final EIS.

5.5 PERSONS, GROUPS, OR AGENCIES CONSULTED

Billie Blanchard, California Public Utilities Commission

P. Brown, Principal, Brown-Berry Biological Consulting

Evelyn Chandler, Archaeologist, ECORP Consulting, Inc.

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Kathryn Enright, Southern California Edison

Wayne Hoffman, Director, Business Development/Environmental Affairs, First Solar

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Joseph Montgomery, Department of Energy

Kim Oster, First Solar

Connie Ottinger, Eagle Mountain Elementary School

Kathy Simon, Ironwood Consulting

5.6 LIST OF PREPARERS

Bureau of Land Management

BLM personnel from the Palm Springs South Coast Field Office and California Desert District Office involved in the preparation and review of the EIS are listed here.

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Mark Massar, Biologist, Palm Springs South Coast Field Office

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Tetra Tech

The EIS was prepared by Tetra Tech. Team members are listed below, along with their role in the project and education, as appropriate.

Name	Years of Experience	Role/Responsibility	Education
Mary McKinnon	22	Project Manager	BS, Environmental Earth Science
John Bock	16	Deputy Project Manager	BS, Environmental Toxicology
Emmy Andrews	7	Traffic, Transportation, Public Access, Land Use	MS, Environmental Management BA, Art and Art History

Name	Years of Experience	Role/Responsibility	Education
Darrell Cyphers	10	Word Processing	MHA, Master of Health Administration BA, History
Yashekia Evans	13	GIS Analyst	GIS Certificate (in progress)
Michelle Gibbs	18	Biological Resources	BA, Environmental Science
Steve Hoerber	22	GIS Manager/Analyst	AA, General Education
Derek Holmgren	10	Visual Resources	BA, MS, Environmental Science
Cliff Jarman	20	Paleontological Resources, Energy and Minerals	MS, Geophysics BS, Geology
Genevieve Kaiser	18	Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice	MS, Energy Management BS, Economics
Erin King, RPA	9	Cultural Resources, Indian Trust Assets, Document Production	MA, Cultural Anthropology/Archaeology BA, Cultural Anthropology/Archaeology
Adam Klein, PG, CHG	23	Water Resources and Water Quality	MS, Hydrology and Water Resources BS, Environmental Science
Julia Mates	10	Recreation	MA, History BA, History
Stephanie Pacheco	22	Geology and Soils, Public Health and Safety/ Hazardous Materials	MS, Soil Science BS, Agricultural Resources
Cindy Schad	20	Word Processing	BFA, Creative Writing
Bob Sculley	38	Air Resources, Climate Change, and Noise	MS, Ecology BS, Zoology
Shelley Simpson	20	CADD/GIS Specialist	AA, Environmental Land Use and Planning
Randolph Varney	18	Technical Editor	MFA, Writing BA, Technical and Professional Writing
Tom Whitehead, PG, CHG	23	Water Resources and Water Quality	MS, Hydrology BS, Geology
Meredith Zaccherio	5	Biological Resources, Special Designation Areas	MA, Biology BS, Biology BS, Environmental Science
Nancy Cooper, P.E., CPESC, Hernandez Kroone & Associates	23	Traffic Study	MBA, Business Administration BS, Agricultural Engineering

5.7 DISTRIBUTION LIST

Federal Agencies:

United States Army Corps of Engineers
United States Fish and Wildlife Service

State and Local Agencies:

Blythe Chamber of Commerce
California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Parks and Recreation
California Office of Historic Preservation-California Historic Resources Information System
California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
Caltrans District 8
City of Blythe Planning Department
County of Riverside Planning Department
Palo Verde Irrigation District
South Coast Air Quality Management District
State School Lands
State Water Resources Control Board
Water Quality Control Board Colorado River Basin District

Native American Tribes

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Augustine Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
Colorado River Indian Tribes
Cocopah Tribe
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians
Ramona Band of Mission Indians
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

Other Organizations:

Apostolic Gates of Praise
Combined Resources, Inc.
Fraternal Order of the Eagles
Golden Monkey, Inc.
Loma Linda University, Office of the Provost
Union Steel Company

Individuals:

70 individual property owners

CHAPTER 6—REFERENCES

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CHAPTER 7 – GLOSSARY AND LIST OF ACRONYMS

7.1 GLOSSARY

Air Basin. A regional area defined for state air quality management purposes based on considerations that include topographic features that influence meteorology and pollutant transport patterns, and political jurisdiction boundaries that influence the design and implementation of air quality management programs.

Air Quality Control Region. A regional area defined for federal air quality management purposes based on considerations that include topographic features that influence meteorology and pollutant transport patterns, and political jurisdiction boundaries that influence the design and implementation of air quality management programs.

Alluvial Fan. Fan shaped material of water deposited material.

Ambient Air Quality Standards. A combination of air pollutant concentrations, exposure durations, and exposure frequencies that are established as thresholds above which adverse impacts to public health and welfare may be expected. Ambient air quality standards are set on a national level by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Ambient air quality standards are set on a state level by public health or environmental protection agencies as authorized by state law.

Ambient Air. Outdoor air in locations accessible to the general public.

Area of Critical Concern (ACEC). An area within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Attainment Area. An area that has air quality as good as or better than a national or state ambient air quality standard. A single geographic area may be an attainment area for one pollutant and a non-attainment area for others.

A-Weighted Decibel (dBA). A frequency-weighted decibel scale that approximates the relative sensitivity of human hearing to different frequency bands of audible sound.

Cancer. A class of diseases characterized by uncontrolled growth of somatic cells. Cancers are typically caused by one of three mechanisms: chemically induced mutations or other changes to cellular DNA; radiation induced damage to cellular chromosomes; or viral infections that introduce new DNA into cells.

Carbon Monoxide (CO). A colorless, odorless gas that is toxic because it reduces the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood.

Carcinogen. A chemical substance or type of radiation that can cause cancer in living organisms.

Clean Water Act (CWA). Provides guidance for the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters.

Climate. A statistical description of daily, seasonal, or annual weather conditions based on recent or long-term weather data. Climate descriptions typically emphasize average, maximum, and minimum conditions for temperature, precipitation, humidity, wind, cloud cover, and sunlight intensity patterns; statistics on the frequency and intensity of tornado, hurricane, or other severe storm events may also be included.

Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL). A 24-hour average noise level rating with a 5 dB penalty factor applied to evening noise levels and a 10 dB penalty factor applied to nighttime noise levels. The CNEL value is very similar to the Day-Night Average Sound Level (Ldn) value, but includes an additional weighting factor for noise during evening hours.

Criteria Pollutant. An air pollutant for which there is a national ambient air quality standard (carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, inhalable particulate matter, fine particulate matter, or airborne lead particles).

Critical Habitat. Habitat designated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act and under the following criteria: 1) specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed, on which are found those physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and that may require special management of protection; or 2) specific areas outside the geographical area by the species at the time it is listed but that are considered essential to the conservation of the species.

Cultural Resources. Locations of human activity, occupation, use, or those of importance to a group. They include expressions of human culture and history in the physical environment, such as archaeological sites, buildings, structures, objects, districts, or other places.

C-Weighted Decibel (dBC). A frequency-weighted decibel scale that correlates well with the physical vibration response of buildings and other structures to airborne sound.

Day-Night Average Sound Level (Ldn). A 24-hour average noise level rating with a 10 dB penalty factor applied to nighttime noise levels. The Ldn value is very similar to the CNEL value, but does not include any weighting factor for noise during evening hours.

De Minimis Level. A threshold for determining whether various regulatory requirements apply to a particular action or facility. In an air quality context, de minimis thresholds typically are based on emissions, facility size, facility activity levels, or other indicators.

Decibel (dB). A generic term for measurement units based on the logarithm of the ratio between a measured value and a reference value. Decibel scales are most commonly associated with acoustics (using air pressure fluctuation data); but decibel scales sometimes are used for ground-borne vibrations or various electronic signal measurements.

Desert Pavement. A surface covering of closely packed rock fragments of pebble or cobble size found on desert soils.

Desert Wildlife Management Area (DWMA): areas established in the NECO Plan to address the recovery of the desert tortoise. They are intended to be areas where viable desert tortoise populations can be maintained (Category I habitat).

Equivalent Average Sound Pressure Level (Leq). The decibel level of a constant noise source that would have the same total acoustical energy over the same time interval as the actual time-varying noise condition being measured or estimated. Leq values must be associated with an explicit or implicit averaging time in order to have practical meaning.

Ethnohistoric Resources. Areas used by Native Americans following exploration and settlement by non-Native Americans. Sites or artifacts of particular significance to modern Native Americans are often kept secret by those groups to protect the sites from disturbance, looting, overuse, or other defamations.

Fossorial. Adapted to digging and life underground.

Geomorphic Setting. Resembling the earth or its shape or configuration of the earth's surface.

Greenhouse Gas. A gaseous compound that absorbs infrared radiation and re-radiates a portion of that back toward the earth's surface, thus trapping heat and warming the earth's atmosphere.

Groundwater Protection Areas and Wellhead Protection. The overall concept behind wellhead protection is to develop a reasonable distance between point sources of pollution and public drinking water wells so that releases from point sources are unlikely to impact groundwater from the well. The California Department of Public Health established the Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection Program, which guides local agencies in protecting surface water and groundwater that are sources of drinking water.

Habitat. A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

Hazardous Air Pollutant (HAP). Air pollutants which have been specifically designated by relevant federal or state authorities as being hazardous to human health. Most HAP compounds are designated due to concerns related to: carcinogenic, mutagenic, or teratogenic properties; severe acute toxic effects; or ionizing radiation released during radioactive decay processes.

Hertz (Hz). A standard unit for describing acoustical frequencies measured as the number of air pressure fluctuation cycles per second. For most people, the audible range of acoustical frequencies is from 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz.

Invasive Species. An exotic species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health (Executive Order 13122, 2/3/99).

Isolate. Non-linear, isolated archaeological features without associated artifacts.

Maintenance Area. An area that currently meets federal ambient air quality standards but which was previously designated as a nonattainment area. Federal agency actions occurring in a maintenance area are still subject to Clean Air Act conformity review requirements.

Maximum Sound Pressure Level (L_{max}). The highest decibel level measured during a stated or implied monitoring period or noise event. The L_{max} value recorded by a sound level meter depends on the time factor used for integration of instantaneous sound pressure level measurements. For most modern sound meters, this is 1 second when the instrument is set for the slow sampling rate and 1/8 second when the instrument is set for the fast sampling rate.

Memorandum of Understanding. A formal document describing an agreement between parties.

Mutagen. A chemical substance or physical agent that causes a permanent change to the genes of a cell.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP is a federal program enabling property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance protection against losses from flooding. In support of the NFIP, FEMA identifies flood hazard areas throughout the U.S. and its territories by producing flood hazard boundary maps, flood insurance rate maps, and flood boundary and floodway maps.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES permit program has been delegated in California to the State Water Resources Control Board. These sections of the CWA require that an applicant for a federal license or permit that allows activities resulting in a discharge to waters of the United States must obtain a State certification that the discharge complies with other provisions of the Clean Water Act.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Administered by the U.S. National Parks Department, the NRHP is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

Nationwide Programmatic Agreement (PA). A document that details the terms of a formal, legally binding agreement between one party and other state and/or federal agencies. A PA establishes a process for consultation, review, and compliance with one or more federal laws, most often with those federal laws concerning historic preservation.

Native Americans. Indigenous peoples of the western hemisphere.

Nitric Oxide (NO). A colorless toxic gas formed primarily by combustion processes that oxidize atmospheric nitrogen gas or nitrogen compounds found in the fuel. A precursor of ozone, nitrogen dioxide, numerous types of photochemically generated nitrate particles (including PAN), and atmospheric nitrous and nitric acids. Most nitric oxide formed by combustion processes is converted into nitrogen dioxide by subsequent oxidation in the atmosphere over a period that may range from several hours to a few days.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂). A toxic reddish gas formed by oxidation of nitric oxide. Nitrogen dioxide is a strong respiratory and eye irritant. Most nitric oxide formed by combustion processes is converted into nitrogen dioxide by subsequent oxidation in the atmosphere. Nitrogen dioxide is a criteria pollutant in its own right, and is a precursor of ozone, numerous types of photochemically generated nitrate particles (including PAN), and atmospheric nitrous and nitric acids.

Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x). A group term meaning the combination of nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide; other trace oxides of nitrogen may also be included in instrument-based NO_x measurements. A precursor of ozone, photochemically generated nitrate particles (including PAN), and atmospheric nitrous and nitric acids.

Nonattainment Area. An area that does not meet a federal or state ambient air quality standard. Federal agency actions occurring in a federal nonattainment area are subject to Clean Air Act conformity review requirements.

Organic Compounds. Compounds of carbon containing hydrogen and possibly other elements (such as oxygen, sulfur, or nitrogen). Major subgroups of organic compounds include hydrocarbons, alcohols, aldehydes, carboxylic acids, esters, ethers, and ketones. Organic compounds do not include crystalline or amorphous forms of elemental carbon (graphite, diamond, carbon black, etc.), the simple oxides of carbon (carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide), metallic carbides, or metallic carbonates.

Ozone (O₃). A compound consisting of three oxygen atoms. Ozone is a major constituent of photochemical smog that is formed primarily through chemical reactions in the atmosphere involving reactive organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, and ultraviolet light. Ozone is a toxic chemical that damages various types of plant and animal tissues and which causes chemical oxidation damage to various materials. Ozone is a respiratory irritant, and appears to increase susceptibility to respiratory infections. A natural layer of ozone in the upper atmosphere absorbs high energy ultraviolet radiation, reducing the intensity and spectrum of ultraviolet light that reaches the earth's surface.

Particulate Matter. Solid or liquid material having size, shape, and density characteristics that allow the material to remain suspended in the atmosphere for more than a few minutes. Particulate matter can be characterized by chemical characteristics, physical form, or aerodynamic properties. Categories based on aerodynamic properties are commonly described as being size categories, although physical size is not used to define the categories. Many components of suspended particulate matter are respiratory irritants. Some components (such as crystalline or fibrous minerals) are primarily physical irritants. Other components are chemical irritants (such as sulfates, nitrates, and various organic chemicals). Suspended particulate matter also can contain compounds (such as heavy metals and various organic compounds) that are systemic toxins or necrotic agents. Suspended particulate matter or compounds adsorbed on the surface of particles can also be carcinogenic or mutagenic chemicals.

Peak particle velocity. A measure of ground-borne vibrations. Physical movement distances are typically measured in thousandths of an inch, and occur over a tiny fraction of a second. But the normal convention for presenting that data is to convert it into units of inches per second.

Percentile Sound Pressure Level (L_x). The decibel level exceeded x percent of the time during a monitoring episode.

Peroxyacetyl Nitrate (PAN). A toxic organic nitrate compound formed by photochemical reactions in the atmosphere. PAN is a strong respiratory and eye irritant, and a strong necrotic agent affecting plant tissues. Also called peroxyacetic nitric anhydride. A number of similar organic nitrate compounds are formed along with PAN during photochemical smog reactions. In relatively remote rural areas PAN and related organic nitrates, together with nitric acid, are often the dominant atmospheric nitrogen compounds generated by photochemical smog reactions.

pH (parts hydrogen). The logarithm of the reciprocal of hydrogen-ion concentration in gram atoms per liter.

PM₁₀ (inhalable particulate matter). A fractional sampling of suspended particulate matter that approximates the extent to which suspended particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters smaller than 50 microns penetrate to the lower respiratory tract (tracheo-bronchial airways and alveoli in the lungs). In a regulatory context, PM₁₀ is any suspended particulate matter collected by a certified sampling device having a 50 percent collection efficiency for particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters of 9.5-10.5 microns and an maximum aerodynamic diameter collection limit less than 50 microns. Collection efficiencies are greater than 50 percent for particles with aerodynamic diameters smaller than 10 microns and less than 50 percent for particles with aerodynamic diameters larger than 10 microns.

PM_{2.5} (fine particulate matter). A fractional sampling of suspended particulate matter that approximates the extent to which suspended particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters smaller than 6 microns penetrate into the alveoli in the lungs. In a regulatory context, PM_{2.5} is any suspended particulate matter collected by a certified sampling device having a 50 percent collection efficiency for particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters of 2.0-2.5 microns and an maximum aerodynamic diameter collection limit less than 6 microns. Collection efficiencies are greater than 50 percent for particles with aerodynamic diameters smaller than 2.5 microns and less than 50 percent for particles with aerodynamic diameters larger than 2.5 microns.

Precursor. A compound or category of pollutant that undergoes chemical reactions in the atmosphere to produce or catalyze the production of another type of air pollutant.

Prehistoric Resources. Those attributed to Native American groups who occupied the region before contact with Europeans; historic resources are those associated primarily with Europeans and Americans but also include resources of Native Americans following contact.

Protocol Agreement (Protocol). A modified version of the NPA, adapted to the unique requirements of managing cultural resources on public lands in California, and is used as the primary management guidance for BLM offices in the state.

Reactive Organic Compounds (ROC). The most technically accurate term for the organic precursors of ozone and other photochemically generated pollutants. The more commonly used term is “reactive organic gases (ROG)”.

Reactive Organic Gases (ROG). Organic compounds emitted into the air which have photochemical reaction rates sufficient to be considered precursors of ozone. Organic compounds which are not considered reactive in the lower atmosphere include methane, ethane, acetone, methyl acetate, carbonic acid, ammonium carbonate, methylene chloride, methyl chloroform, and numerous fully-saturated chloro-fluorocarbon compounds. The term “reactive organic compounds” (ROC) would be technically more accurate, since many of the compounds of concern may be present in both gaseous and aerosol states (e.g., as atmospheric aerosols or as liquid films condensed on atmospheric particles in dynamic equilibrium with gas phase vapors). But the acronym ROC is not in common use, and there are far too many acronyms already in use for organic compound emissions.

Riparian. Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Normally describes plants of all types that grow rooted in the water table or sub-irrigation zone of streams, ponds, and springs.

Scenic Vista. A distant view of a broad area that is visually or aesthetically pleasing.

Special Status Species. Federal- or state-listed species, candidate or proposed species for listing, or species otherwise considered sensitive or threatened by state and federal agencies.

State Implementation Plan (SIP). Legally enforceable plans adopted by states and submitted to EPA for approval, which identify the actions and programs to be undertaken by the State and its subdivisions to achieve and maintain national ambient air quality standards in a time frame mandated by the Clean Air Act.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Created in 1967, joint authority of water allocation and water quality protection enables the State Water Board to provide comprehensive protection for California's waters. The mission of the nine Regional Boards is to develop and enforce water quality objectives and

implementation plans that will best protect the State's waters, recognizing local differences in climate, topography, geology and hydrology.

Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂). A pungent, colorless, and toxic oxide of sulfur formed primarily by the combustion of fossil fuels. It is a respiratory irritant, especially for asthmatics. A criteria pollutant in its own right, and a precursor of sulfate particles and atmospheric sulfuric acid.

Sulfur Oxides (SO_x). A group term meaning the combination of sulfur dioxide and sulfur trioxide; treated as a precursor of sulfur dioxide, sulfate particles, and atmospheric sulfuric acid.

Teratogen. A chemical substance or physical agent that causes birth defects through abnormal development or malformation of a fetus.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still safely meet water quality standards.

Toxic. Poisonous. Exerting an adverse physiological effect on the normal functioning of an organism's tissues or organs through chemical or biochemical mechanisms following physical contact or absorption.

Traditional Cultural Properties. Areas associated with the cultural practices or beliefs of a living community. These sites are rooted in the community's history and are important in maintaining cultural identity.

US Secretary of the Interior. The U.S. Department of the Interior is in charge of the nation's internal affairs. The Secretary serves on the President's cabinet and appoints citizens to the National Park Foundation board.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). The cumulative amount of vehicle travel within a specified or implied geographical area over a given period of time.

Visual character and quality of a site and its surroundings. The combination of visual resources in a specific area that contribute to the overall local setting.

Wetlands. Permanently wet or intermittently water-covered areas, such as swamps, marshes, bogs, potholes, swales, and glades.

Wildlife corridor: a strip of land that aids in the movement of species between disconnected areas of their natural habitat.

7.2 LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concerns
AD	After Present or Anno Domini
AF	acre-feet
AFC	Application for Certification
AFY	acre-feet per year
APCD	Air Pollution Control District
APE	area of potential effect
APSA	Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act
AQMD	Air Quality Management District
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
BA	Biological Assessment
BEA	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
BLM	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practices
BO	Biological Opinion
BOE	California Board of Equalization
BP	Before Present

BTU	British thermal units
C-AMA	California-Arizona Maneuver Area
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Cal/EMA	California Emergency Management Agency
CalARP	California Accidental Release Program
CADOF	California Department of Finance
CALEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CASTNET	Clean Air Status and Trends Network
CASTNet	Clean Air Status and Trends Network
CBC	California Building Code
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDCA	California Desert Conservation Area
CDD	California Desert District
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEC	California Energy Commission
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CHUs	critical habitat units
CIWMB	California Integrated Waste Management Board
CIWMC	California Interagency Watershed Mapping Committee
CNEL	community noise equivalent level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO ₂ e	Carbon Dioxide Equivalents
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CRBRWQCB	Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agency
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	decibels
dBA	"A-weighted" decibel scale
dB _C	"C-weighted" decibel scale
DCAP	Desert Center Area Plan
DEH	County of Riverside Department of Environmental Health
DOE	Department of Energy
DPR	Department of Pesticide Regulation
DTC	Desert Training Center
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
DWMA _s	Desert Wildlife Management Areas
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMF	electromagnetic field
ESA	Endangered Species Act
EO	Executive Orders
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPS	emission performance standard
ERNS	Emergency Response Notification Systems
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration

FICUN	Federal Interagency Committee on Urban Noise
FLMP	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FLPMA	Federal Land Management and Policy Act
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
G	gravity
GHG	greenhouse gas
gpd/ft	gallons per day per foot
Gpm	gallons per minute
HAP	Hazardous Air Pollutant
HKA	Hernandez, Kroone, and Associates
HMP	Habitat Management Plans
HSWA	Hazardous and Solid Waste Act
HTMA	Hazardous Materials Transportation Act
Hz	hertz
I-10	Interstate 10
IBC	International Building Code
ICC	International Code Council
IMPROVE	Inter-agency Monitoring of Protected Environments
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ITA	Indian Trust Asset
IWMB	Integrated Waste Management Board
kV	Kilovolt
kV/m	kilovolts per meter
L10	Noise Level Exceeded 10 Percent of the Time
L50	Noise Level Exceeded 50 Percent of the Time
Ldn	day-night average sound level
Leq	equivalent average sound pressure level
Lmax	maximum noise level
LOS	level of service
LTVA	Midland Long Term Visitor Area
LU	land use
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MDAQMD	Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District
MDN	Mercury Deposition Network
mG	milliGauss
μ S/cm	MicroSiemens per Centimeter
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheets
MWD	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Mybp	million years before present
NADP	National Atmospheric Deposition Monitoring Program
NECO	Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NESHAP	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NIPTS	Noise-Induced Permanent Threshold Shift
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPA	Nationwide Programmatic Agreement
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRFAP	No Further Remedial Action Planned
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places

NSPS	new source performance standards
NSR	new source review
NTN	National Trends Network
OEHHA	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
OES	Office of Emergency Services
OHS	Office of Homeland Security
OHV	off-highway vehicle
OHWM	ordinary high water mark
OPLA	Omnibus Public Lands Management Act
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OS-RUR	General Plan for Open Space-Rural
OWTS	on-site water treatment system
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PFYC	Potential Fossil Yield Classification
PGA	peak ground acceleration
pH	acidity/alkalinity measure scale
PM ₁₀	Inhalable particulate matter
PM _{2.5}	fine particulate matter
ppm	parts per million by volume
PPV	peak particle velocity (inches per second)
PRC	Public Resources Code
PRPA	Paleontological Resources Preservation Act
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
PSHA	Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Assessment
Qal	Young Alluvial Deposits or Holocene alluvium
Qaly	Young Alluvial Sheet Wash Deposits
Qfm	Intermediate Alluvial Fan Deposits
Qfo and Qfvo	Older Alluvial Fan Deposits
Qfy	Young Alluvial Fan Deposits
Qoa	Older alluvium
Qs	Holocene sand dunes
Qya	Young Alluvial Stream Deposits
r	distance
RCRA	Resources Conservation and Recovery Act
RECs	Recognizable Environmental Concerns
ROI	region of influence
ROW	right-of-way
RPS	renewable portfolio standards (for power source mixes of electrical power retailers and generators)
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SB610	Senate Bill 610
SBCM	San Bernardino County Museum
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCE	Southern California Edison
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SMA	special management areas
SPCC	Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures
SR	State Route
SSC	species of special concern
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
SWRR	California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act
TCP	traditional cultural property
TMDL	total maximum daily load
TNT	trinitrotoluene
US	United States
USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation
USFS	U. S. Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGLO	U.S. General Land Office
USGS	US Geological Survey
UST	underground storage tank
V/m	volts per meter
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
VRI	Visual Resource Inventory
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WA	Wilderness Areas
WHMA	Wildlife Habitat Management Area
WSA	Water Supply Assessment

CHAPTER 8 – INDEX

Alligator Rock, ES-16, ES-35, 3.6-29, 3.14-3, 3.16-6, 4.9-2, 4.9-13, 4.9-26, 4.14-1, 4.14-2, 4.14-3, 4.14-8

Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, 3.8-1, 3.8-2

Ambient Air Quality Standards, 1-14, 3.2-2, 3.2-3, 3.2-4, 7-1

Archaeological resource, 4.6-1

Area of Special Environmental Concern (ACEC), ES-16, ES-35, ES-39, 2-126, 3.6-29, 3.12-4, 3.14-1, 3.14-3, 3.16-6, 4.9-2, 4.9-13, 4.9-26, 4.14-1, 4.14-2, 4.14-3, 4.14-8, 7-1, 7-6

Attainment Status Designations, 3.2-18

Best Management Practices (BMPs), ES-23, ES-31, ES-39, 2-7, 2-91, 2-117, 2-118, 3.17-4, 3.17-5, 4.4-26, 4.11-16, 4.11-20, 4.12-5, 4.12-7, 4.12-9, 4.16-1, 4.16-25, 4.17-7, 4.17-8, 4.17-10, 4.17-11, 4.17-12, 4.17-14, 4.17-17, 4.17-19, 4.17-20, 4.17-22, 4.17-23, 4.17-28, 4.17-30

Biological Resources, 3.3-1, 3.3-10, 3.4-1, 4.3-1, 4.3-76, 4.4-1, 4.4-41

Blue Cut, 3.8-4, 3.8-7, 4.8-2

California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA), ES-1, ES-2, ES-4, ES-7, ES-8, ES-14, 1-1, 1-7, 1-12, 1-13, 1-17, 1-22, 2-2, 2-4, 2-6, 2-35, 2-45, 2-52, 2-59, 2-61, 3.3-3, 3.3-4, 3.4-3, 3.4-4, 3.8-1, 3.9-1, 3.9-2, 3.12-1, 3.12-2, 3.14-2, 3.14-3, 3.14-5, 3.15-1, 3.16-1, 3.16-5, 3.16-8, 3.18-4, 3.18-6, 4.2-83, 4.2-84, 4.3-74, 4.3-75, 4.4-39, 4.4-40, 4.5-35, 4.5-36, 4.6-18, 4.6-19, 4.7-11, 4.7-12, 4.8-16, 4.8-17, 4.9-2, 4.9-3, 4.9-4, 4.9-5, 4.9-6, 4.9-8, 4.9-9, 4.9-11, 4.9-13, 4.9-16, 4.9-17, 4.9-18, 4.9-19, 4.9-20, 4.9-22, 4.9-23, 4.9-24, 4.9-25, 4.9-26, 4.10-73, 4.10-74, 4.11-32, 4.11-33, 4.12-10, 4.12-11, 4.13-17, 4.13-18, 4.14-7, 4.15-19, 4.15-20, 4.15-21, 4.16-38, 4.16-39, 4.17-30, 4.17-31, 4.18-5, 5-2, 7-7

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), 3.1-2, 3.3-3, 3.13-1, 3.18-1, 3.18-2, 3.18-4, 4.1-1, 4.1-2, 4.18-1, 4.18-3

California Public Utilities Commission, ES-1, ES-10, ES-11, 1-1, 1-11, 2-60, 3.1-2, 3.11-3, 3.11-7, 4.1-1, 5-1, 5-5, 5-8, 7-7

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), ES-1, ES-25, ES-26, 1-1, 1-2, 1-11, 1-12, 1-19, 1-20, 2-26, 2-34, 2-62, 2-116, 2-128, 3.1-2, 3.5-6, 3.6-4, 3.6-22, 3.11-3, 3.11-7, 3.11-8, 3.11-12, 3.18-1, 3.18-11, 3.18-12, 3.18-16, 4.1-1, 4.1-2, 4.1-4, 4.6-8, 4.6-10, 4.10-39, 4.10-48, 4.10-49, 4.10-67, 5-1, 5-2, 5-8, 7-7

Carbon Storage, 3.5-3, 3.5-10

Chuckwalla CHU, ES-12, ES-20, 3.4-19, 3.4-26, 4.3-18, 4.4-2, 4.4-3, 4.4-9, 4.4-11, 4.4-13, 4.4-17, 4.4-18, 4.4-20, 4.4-21, 4.4-22, 4.4-23, 4.4-31, 4.4-33, 4.4-34, 4.4-35, 4.4-36, 4.4-37, 4.4-39, 4.4-43

Chuckwalla DWMA, ES-12, ES-14, ES-20, 2-124, 2-127, 3.4-19, 3.4-24, 3.4-25, 3.4-26, 4.3-18, 4.4-2, 4.4-3, 4.4-9, 4.4-11, 4.4-13, 4.4-16, 4.4-17, 4.4-18, 4.4-20, 4.4-21, 4.4-22, 4.4-23, 4.4-31, 4.4-33, 4.4-34, 4.4-35, 4.4-36, 4.4-37, 4.4-39, 4.4-41, 4.4-43, 4.9-2, 4.9-4, 4.9-5, 4.9-6, 4.9-7, 4.9-8, 4.9-9, 4.9-10, 4.9-12, 4.9-13, 4.9-14, 4.9-15, 4.9-16, 4.9-17, 4.9-19, 4.9-20, 4.9-21, 4.9-22, 4.9-23, 4.9-24, 4.9-26

Chuckwalla Wilderness Area, 3.16-10, 4.14-8

Clean Air Act Conformity, 3.2-15

Clean Water Act, 1-14, 1-17, 3.3-1, 3.3-17, 3.11-2, 3.17-1, 4.3-3, 7-1, 7-3, 7-7

Climate Change, ES-2, ES-12, ES-24, 1-8, 1-21, 3.5-1, 3.5-2, 3.5-3, 3.5-11, 4.5-1, 4.5-2, 4.5-37, 5-7, 7-8

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 3.6-3

Critical Habitat Unit, ES-18, 3.4-2

Cultural resource, 3.6-1, 3.6-3, 3.6-4, 4.6-1, 4.6-3, 7-2

Decibel scales, 3.10-3, 7-2

Desert Center Area Plan, 3.3-4, 3.4-4, 3.4-5, 3.8-2, 3.8-3, 3.9-1, 3.12-2, 3.13-3, 3.14-2, 3.14-3, 3.15-2, 3.16-4, 3.17-6, 4.3-6, 4.3-52, 4.4-9, 4.13-11, 4.13-19, 7-7

Desert dry wash woodland, 3.3-12, 3.3-17, 3.4-14, 4.3-2, 4.3-10, 4.3-38, 4.3-57, 4.4-8, 4.4-16, 4.4-31, 4.4-43

Desert pavement, 3.2-19, 3.8-11, 4.2-29

Desert tortoise, ES-23, 3.4-15, 3.4-19, 4.4-2, 4.4-5, 4.4-6, 4.4-24, 4.4-35, 4.4-38

Desert Wildlife Management Areas, 1-5, 1-10, 2-3, 3.4-2, 3.14-2, 7-7

Effect, 4.6-1
 Electromagnetic fields (EMF), 3.11-4, 3.11-7, 3.11-8, 3.11-9, 3.11-10, 3.11-12, 4.11-3, 7-7
 Electromagnetic Fields (EMF), 3.11-7, 3.11-8, 3.11-9, 3.11-10, 3.11-12
 Endangered Species Act (ESA), ES-32, ES-39, 1-14, 1-15, 1-17, 1-19, 3.3-1, 3.3-2, 3.3-3, 3.3-4, 3.3-5, 3.3-9, 3.3-10, 3.4-1, 3.4-2, 3.4-3, 3.4-11, 3.4-19, 3.4-22, 3.11-4, 3.11-5, 4.11-18, 5-2, 7-2, 7-7
 Environmental Consequences, ES-11, 1, 4-1, 4.3-1, 4.4-1, 4.5-1, 4.7-1, 4.10-1, 4.12-1, 4.13-1, 4.14-1, 4.15-1
 Environmental Justice, ES-16, ES-35, 1-21, 3.13-1, 3.13-9, 3.13-10, 4.1-5, 4.13-1, 4.13-7, 4.13-12, 4.13-15, 4.13-16, 4.13-20, 5-7
 Erosion, 4.6-1, 4.6-3
 Executive Order, 4.6-1
 Flooding, 4.17-6, 4.17-8, 4.17-10, 4.17-11, 4.17-13, 4.17-14, 4.17-15, 4.17-16, 4.17-17, 4.17-18, 4.17-20, 4.17-28, 4.17-33, 4.17-37
 Fugitive dust, 3.2-9
 Fugitive Dust, ES-37, 1-19, 2-7, 2-84, 4.2-17, 4.2-21, 4.2-27, 4.2-36, 4.2-49, 4.2-54, 4.2-59, 4.2-70, 4.2-74, 4.2-79, 4.16-24
 Glare, 4.16-26, 4.16-28
 Greenhouse Gases (GHG), ES-3, ES-12, ES-13, ES-18, 1-10, 1-11, 3.5-1, 3.5-2, 3.5-3, 3.5-4, 3.5-5, 3.5-6, 3.5-10, 3.5-11, 4.18-5, 7-8
 Groundwater, 1-21, 2-83, 3.8-3, 3.17-6, 3.17-11, 3.17-12, 3.17-13, 3.17-14, 4.8-3, 4.8-4, 4.8-9, 4.13-4, 4.17-1, 4.17-3, 4.17-4, 4.17-5, 4.17-9, 4.17-10, 4.17-12, 4.17-13, 4.17-15, 4.17-16, 4.17-17, 4.17-18, 4.17-19, 4.17-27, 4.17-28, 4.17-32, 4.17-33, 4.17-34, 4.17-35, 4.17-36, 4.17-37, 7-2
 Habitat, ES-18, ES-20, 1-13, 2-119, 2-123, 2-125, 2-127, 3.4-2, 3.4-4, 3.4-5, 3.4-20, 3.4-22, 3.14-2, 3.14-3, 4.3-3, 4.3-11, 4.3-17, 4.3-23, 4.3-25, 4.3-26, 4.3-28, 4.3-29, 4.3-30, 4.3-32, 4.3-38, 4.3-42, 4.3-44, 4.3-45, 4.3-46, 4.3-48, 4.3-49, 4.3-57, 4.3-63, 4.3-65, 4.3-66, 4.3-67, 4.3-68, 4.3-69, 4.3-70, 4.3-72, 4.3-73, 4.3-77, 4.3-79, 4.3-80, 4.4-4, 4.4-6, 4.4-7, 4.4-8, 4.4-9, 4.4-10, 4.4-11, 4.4-12, 4.4-13, 4.4-14, 4.4-15, 4.4-16, 4.4-17, 4.4-18, 4.4-19, 4.4-20, 4.4-21, 4.4-22, 4.4-29, 4.4-30, 4.4-31, 4.4-32, 4.4-33, 4.4-34, 4.4-42, 4.4-43, 4.4-44, 4.9-2, 4.9-4, 4.9-6, 4.9-7, 4.9-12, 4.9-13, 4.9-15, 4.9-19, 4.9-21, 7-2, 7-3, 7-8, 7-10
 Hydrologic Areas, 3.17-7
 Hydrologic Regions, 3.17-7
 Hydrologic Units, 3.17-7
 Impact Criteria, 4.13-19
 Indicators, 4.6-1
 Joshua Tree National Park, ES-3, 1-2, 1-13, 3.2-6, 3.2-7, 3.2-16, 3.2-18, 3.3-1, 3.3-14, 3.3-15, 3.4-2, 3.4-21, 3.4-23, 3.4-24, 3.9-1, 3.12-4, 3.13-4, 3.13-8, 3.14-4, 3.14-5, 3.16-10, 3.18-21, 4.9-26, 4.12-11, 4.16-4
 Level of service (LOS), 3.15-11
 Magnetic Field, 3.11-10, 3.11-11
 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), ES-6, ES-11, ES-14, 1-2, 1-20, 2-32, 2-40, 2-48, 2-57, 2-127, 3.6-13, 3.6-21, 3.9-2, 3.9-8, 3.9-13, 3.9-14, 3.11-6, 3.12-3, 3.13-9, 3.15-5, 3.18-10, 3.18-20, 4.2-5, 4.9-2, 4.9-3, 4.9-5, 4.9-6, 4.9-7, 4.9-8, 4.9-11, 4.9-13, 4.9-14, 4.9-15, 4.9-16, 4.9-18, 4.9-19, 4.9-20, 4.9-22, 4.9-26, 4.10-5, 4.16-1, 4.16-25, 4.16-26, 4.16-27, 5-2, 7-8
 Mineral Resources, 1-22, 3.10-8
 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 3.1-2, 3.3-2, 3.3-10, 3.4-2, 3.11-7, 3.13-1, 3.13-9, 3.18-1, 3.18-2, 3.18-4, 4.1-1, 4.1-2, 4.18-1, 4.18-2
 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), 3.3-1, 3.4-1, 3.4-11
 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, ES-29, ES-30, ES-39, 3.17-1, 3.17-4, 4.8-8, 4.8-9, 7-3, 7-8
 NEPA, 4.6-19
 NHPA, 4.6-19

No Action Alternative, ES-4, ES-7, ES-8, 1-20, 2-1, 2-4, 2-59, 2-60, 2-61, 4.2-83, 4.2-84, 4.2-86, 4.2-87, 4.3-74, 4.3-75, 4.4-39, 4.4-40, 4.5-36, 4.5-39, 4.5-40, 4.6-19, 4.6-21, 4.7-12, 4.8-16, 4.9-25, 4.10-73, 4.10-74, 4.10-76, 4.10-77, 4.11-33, 4.12-11, 4.13-19, 4.14-7, 4.14-8, 4.15-2, 4.15-20, 4.16-38, 4.16-39, 4.16-41
Noise Ordinance, 3.10-8
Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan (NECO Plan), ES-20, ES-39, 1-13, 1-22, 2-119, 3.3-4, 3.3-5, 3.3-9, 3.3-10, 3.3-13, 3.3-14, 3.3-17, 3.4-4, 3.4-5, 3.4-11, 3.4-15, 3.4-16, 3.4-17, 3.4-18, 3.4-19, 3.4-20, 3.4-21, 3.4-22, 3.4-23, 3.4-24, 3.4-25, 3.9-1, 3.9-2, 3.12-2, 3.14-2, 3.15-1, 4.3-18, 4.3-75, 4.3-78, 4.3-79, 4.4-40, 4.9-2, 4.9-7, 4.9-9, 4.9-10, 4.9-12, 4.9-15, 4.9-16, 4.9-19, 4.9-21, 4.9-23, 7-2, 7-8
Pinto Mountain, 3.8-4, 3.8-6, 4.8-2
Poverty Line, 3.13-12
Public Services, 3.13-8
Region of Influence (ROI), 3.1-2, 3.3-10, 3.3-11, 3.3-12, 3.3-14, 3.3-15, 3.3-16, 3.3-17, 3.4-15, 3.4-19, 3.6-1, 3.6-19, 3.13-3, 3.13-4, 3.16-1, 3.16-3, 3.16-4, 3.16-6, 3.16-8, 3.16-9, 3.16-10, 4.13-6, 4.16-39, 4.18-4, 7-9
Reptiles, 3.4-14, 3.4-15, 3.4-19, 4.4-2, 4.4-5, 4.4-6, 4.4-14, 4.4-35, 4.4-38
Riparian, 4.3-3, 4.3-11, 4.3-38, 4.3-57, 7-5
Road, 4.16-1
ROW, 4.6-20
San Andreas Fault, 3.8-4, 3.8-6, 3.8-8
Scenic Vistas, 4.16-25, 4.16-27
Seismic Hazards, 3.8-2, 3.8-6, 3.8-9
Significant, 3.2-6
South Coast Air Basin, 3.2-9
South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), 3.2-9, 3.2-12, 3.2-14
Special Management Areas, 3.14-1, 4.14-1, 4.14-7, 4.14-8
Special Status, ES-21, 3.3-9, 3.3-10, 3.3-12, 3.3-13, 3.3-14, 3.4-11, 3.4-12, 3.4-15, 3.4-16, 3.4-17, 3.4-18, 4.3-2, 4.3-4, 4.3-7, 4.3-8, 4.3-9, 4.3-10, 4.3-12, 4.3-14, 4.3-15, 4.3-16, 4.3-20, 4.3-24, 4.3-27, 4.3-31, 4.3-34, 4.3-35, 4.3-37, 4.3-40, 4.3-41, 4.3-43, 4.3-47, 4.3-50, 4.3-53, 4.3-54, 4.3-55, 4.3-56, 4.3-58, 4.3-60, 4.3-61, 4.3-62, 4.3-64, 4.3-68, 4.3-71, 4.3-78, 4.4-2, 4.4-4, 4.4-5, 4.4-8, 4.4-10, 4.4-12, 4.4-13, 4.4-16, 4.4-18, 4.4-19, 4.4-20, 4.4-21, 4.4-22, 4.4-30, 4.4-31, 4.4-32, 4.4-33, 4.4-35, 4.4-36, 4.4-38, 4.4-42, 7-5
State Implementation Plan (SIP), 3.2-1, 3.2-5, 3.2-7, 3.2-15, 7-5, 7-9
Storm Water Discharges, ES-29, ES-30, 4.8-8, 4.8-9
Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), ES-34, ES-39, 2-87, 2-118, 2-122, 3.17-4, 4.3-4, 4.3-5, 4.3-6, 4.3-15, 4.3-16, 4.3-23, 4.3-25, 4.3-26, 4.3-27, 4.3-28, 4.3-29, 4.3-30, 4.3-32, 4.3-33, 4.3-41, 4.3-43, 4.3-44, 4.3-45, 4.3-46, 4.3-48, 4.3-49, 4.3-50, 4.3-51, 4.3-52, 4.3-60, 4.3-62, 4.3-64, 4.3-65, 4.3-66, 4.3-67, 4.3-69, 4.3-70, 4.3-71, 4.3-72, 4.3-73, 4.8-8, 4.8-9, 4.8-10, 4.8-11, 4.11-20, 4.17-8, 4.17-11, 4.17-12, 4.17-14, 4.17-17, 4.17-19, 4.17-22, 7-9
Surface Water, 3.17-7, 3.17-10, 3.17-11, 4.17-6, 4.17-9, 4.17-10, 4.17-13, 4.17-15, 4.17-16, 4.17-17, 4.17-18, 4.17-19, 4.17-33, 4.17-37
Total Dissolved Solids, 3.17-5
Total Maximum Daily Load, 3.17-11, 7-6
United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 3.6-4
US Census Bureau, 3.6-11, 3.6-15, 3.13-4, 3.13-11, 3.13-12
Vegetation, ES-12, ES-20, ES-21, ES-22, ES-24, 1-21, 2-86, 2-120, 3.1-1, 3.2-19, 3.3-1, 3.3-4, 3.3-6, 3.3-7, 3.3-11, 3.4-13, 3.4-19, 3.14-2, 3.14-5, 3.16-8, 4.2-8, 4.2-30, 4.2-32, 4.2-55, 4.2-74, 4.2-76, 4.3-1, 4.3-2, 4.3-3, 4.3-4, 4.3-5, 4.3-6, 4.3-8, 4.3-9, 4.3-12, 4.3-13, 4.3-14, 4.3-15, 4.3-16, 4.3-18, 4.3-19, 4.3-21, 4.3-23, 4.3-26, 4.3-30, 4.3-34, 4.3-35, 4.3-36, 4.3-39, 4.3-40, 4.3-41, 4.3-42, 4.3-46, 4.3-50, 4.3-51, 4.3-52, 4.3-53, 4.3-54, 4.3-55, 4.3-58, 4.3-59, 4.3-60, 4.3-61, 4.3-62, 4.3-63, 4.3-67, 4.3-70, 4.3-76, 4.3-77, 4.3-78, 4.3-79, 4.4-1, 4.4-4, 4.4-6, 4.4-7, 4.4-8, 4.4-9, 4.4-10, 4.4-11, 4.4-12, 4.4-13, 4.4-14, 4.4-15, 4.4-16, 4.4-17, 4.4-18, 4.4-19, 4.4-

20, 4.4-21, 4.4-22, 4.4-23, 4.4-25, 4.4-28, 4.4-29, 4.4-30, 4.4-31, 4.4-32, 4.4-33, 4.4-34, 4.4-42, 4.10-4, 4.10-5, 4.10-6, 4.16-23, 4.16-24

Visibility, 3.2-6, 3.2-7, 4.2-17, 4.2-21, 4.2-27, 4.2-36, 4.2-49, 4.2-54, 4.2-59, 4.2-70, 4.2-74, 4.2-79

Visual Resource Management (VRM), 3.16-2

Weeds, 4.11-4

Wells, 3.6-10, 3.17-6

Wetlands, 3.3-2, 3.3-10, 3.3-17, 3.17-2, 3.17-11, 7-6

Wilderness Areas (WAs), 1-5, 2-3, 3.14-1, 3.14-2, 3.14-4, 3.14-5, 3.16-6, 3.16-10, 4.14-1, 4.14-8, 7-10

Wildlife, ES-11, ES-12, ES-18, ES-22, 1-2, 1-21, 2-3, 2-119, 3.1-1, 3.3-1, 3.3-11, 3.4-1, 3.4-2, 3.4-3, 3.4-4, 3.4-9, 3.4-11, 3.4-12, 3.4-13, 3.4-14, 3.4-15, 3.4-16, 3.4-17, 3.4-18, 3.4-19, 3.4-24, 3.4-25, 3.14-1, 3.14-2, 3.16-8, 4.1-2, 4.3-3, 4.3-18, 4.4-1, 4.4-2, 4.4-3, 4.4-4, 4.4-5, 4.4-8, 4.4-9, 4.4-10, 4.4-11, 4.4-12, 4.4-13, 4.4-16, 4.4-17, 4.4-18, 4.4-19, 4.4-20, 4.4-21, 4.4-22, 4.4-23, 4.4-29, 4.4-30, 4.4-31, 4.4-32, 4.4-33, 4.4-34, 4.4-35, 4.4-36, 4.4-38, 4.4-39, 4.4-41, 4.4-42, 4.4-43, 4.9-4, 4.9-12, 4.9-19, 4.10-20, 4.10-21, 4.10-30, 4.10-35, 4.10-38, 4.10-39, 4.10-40, 4.10-41, 4.10-42, 4.10-48, 4.10-49, 4.10-50, 4.10-64, 4.10-65, 4.10-66, 4.10-67, 4.10-68, 5-2, 5-8, 7-2, 7-6, 7-10

Wind Erosion, 3.2-18, 3.8-10, 4.2-28, 4.2-30, 4.2-31, 4.2-32, 4.2-33, 4.2-38, 4.2-55, 4.2-56, 4.2-61, 4.2-74, 4.2-75, 4.2-76, 4.2-81, 4.8-3, 4.8-4, 4.8-5, 4.8-6, 4.8-7