



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

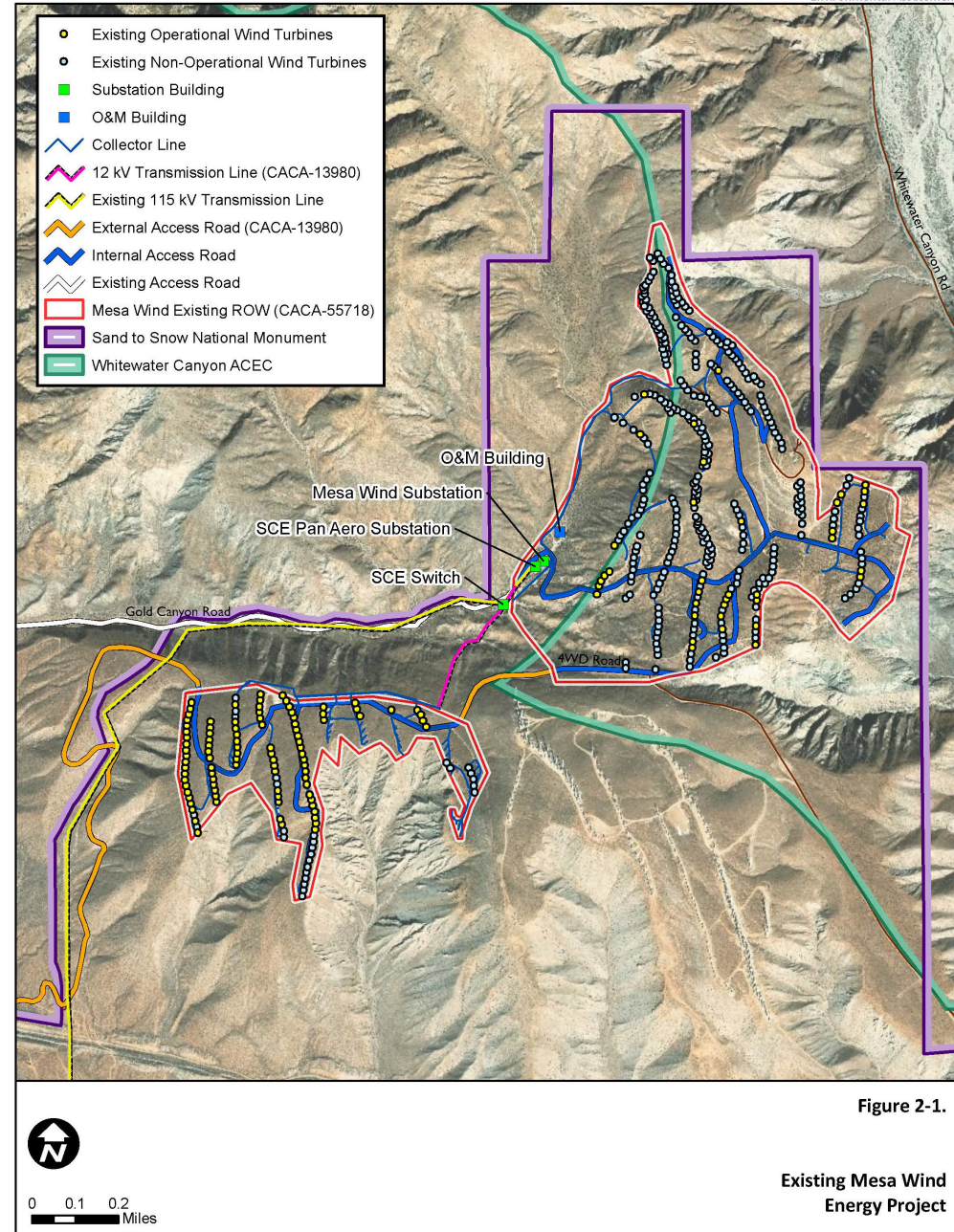
Mesa Wind Repower Project





Project Location

- Located 11 miles northwest of the City of Palm Springs in southern California
- Original BLM Right-of-Way (ROW) grant issued in 1984
- Located entirely on BLM-administered lands with a project access road that crosses private parcels
- Original project included 460 lattice-towered turbines with 30 MW capacity, majority are non-functioning.
- Local public land uses include:
 - Hiking trails
 - protected areas
- Populated areas include:
 - unincorporated community of Bonnie Bell (east)
 - unincorporated community of Whitewater (southwest)
 - unincorporated community of Snow Creek (south)





Environmental Assessment

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the BLM, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to review the effects of a proposed wind tower and turbine replacement project or “repower” project.

The EA assists the BLM in analyzing site-specific effects from the proposed project and a range of alternatives. If the BLM determines there could be significant impacts, the BLM would prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). If it is determined there are no significant impacts, the BLM would issue a decision along with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) documenting the reasons why implementation of the selected alternative would not result in significant environmental impacts.

Mesa Wind Power Corporation (Mesa Corp), a subsidiary of Brookfield Renewable Energy (Brookfield), as owner of the Mesa Wind Power Project is planning to repower the existing wind project and requests an amendment to the existing ROW grants for the wind project site and associated facilities.



Proposed Action

- Removal of 460 legacy turbines from current right-of-way
- Construct up to 11 new wind turbine generators with a maximum height (top of foundation to blade tip at apex) of up to 499 feet.
- The proposed action would reduce the number of existing disturbance acreage from 40 to 30 acres.

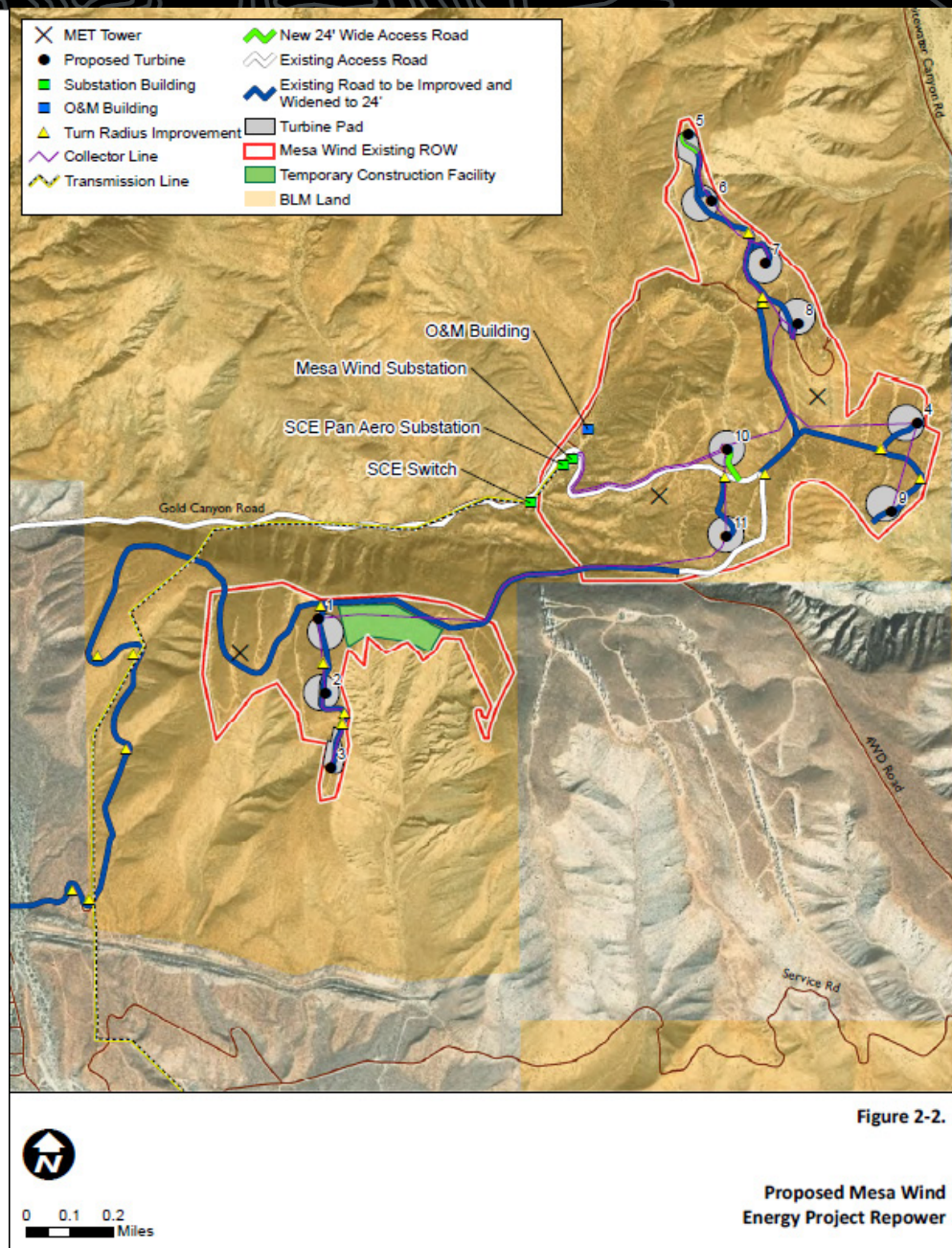


Figure 2-2.



Reduced Turbine Alternative

- Removal of 460 legacy turbines from current ROW
- Construct up to nine new wind turbine generators with a maximum height (top of foundation to blade tip at apex) of up to 499 feet.
- Would eliminate the possibility of turbines four and nine (see map) from the eleven-turbine proposal.
- Would reduce the number of existing disturbance acreage from 40 to 26 acres.

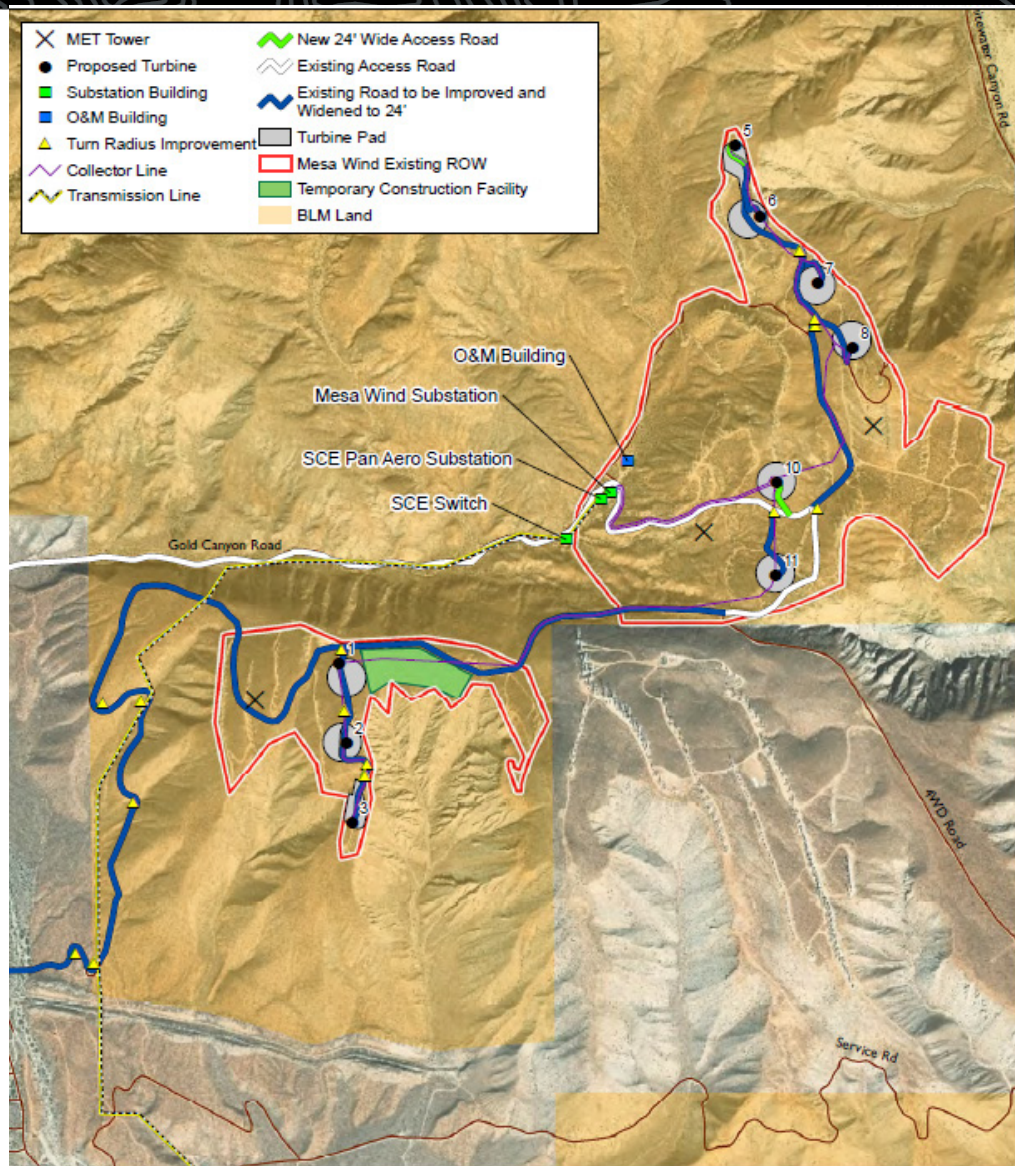


Figure 2-3.



Surveys Completed

Biological

- 2019 field biological surveys conducted include: desert tortoise, rare plants, golden eagles, and jurisdictional delineation
- Historical surveys include: 2008 biological resources assessment, 2013 jurisdictional delineation and reconnaissance surveys, 2013 and 2016 bird use surveys, and 2016-2017 bat activity surveys

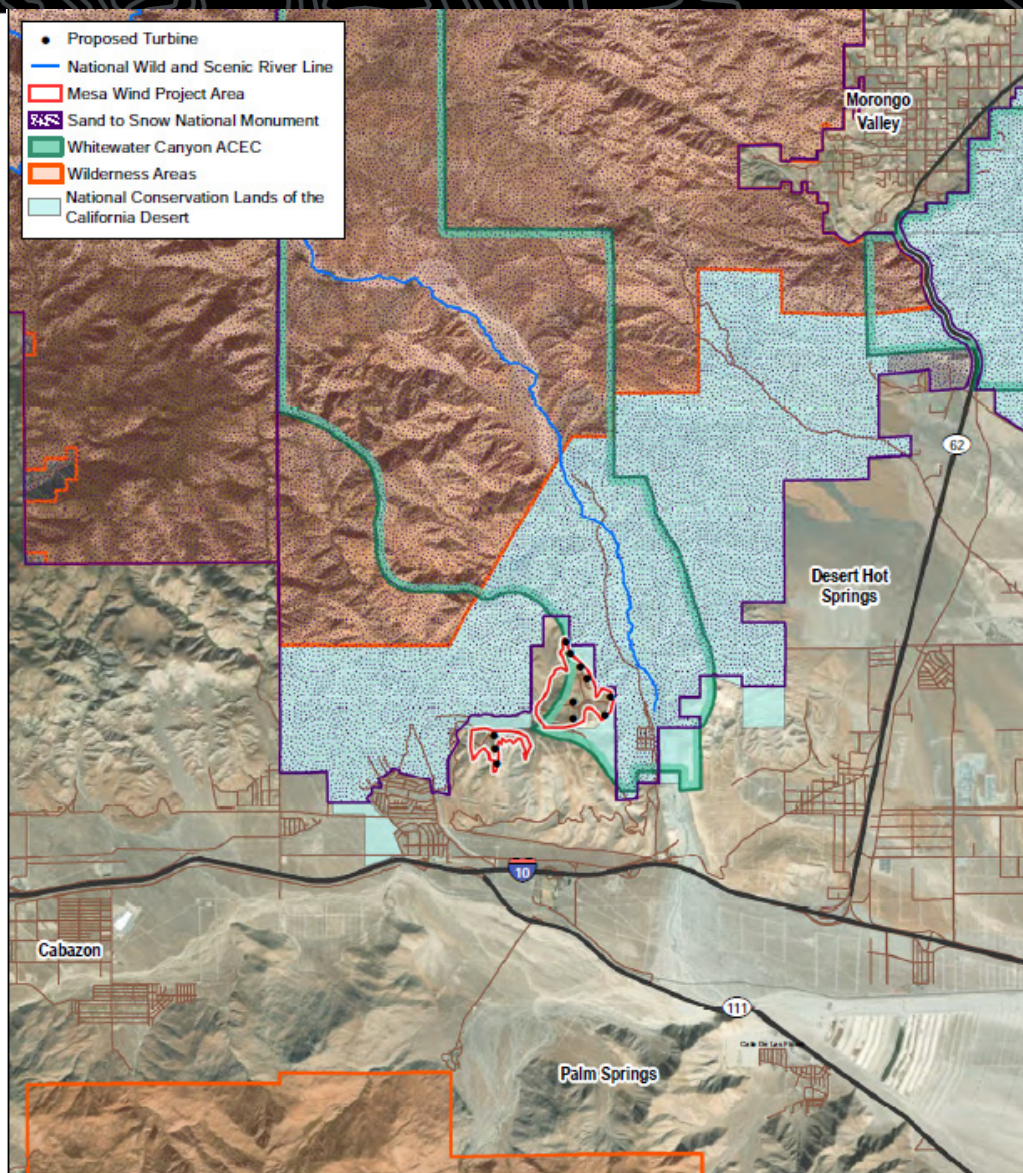
Cultural

- Cultural surveys of the site were completed in 2019 and 2020
- Historical Surveys conducted at the project site in 2007-2008



Resources Analyzed

- Cultural Resources
- Air Quality/Greenhouse Gases
- Fuels and Fire
- Socio-Economics
- Noise and Vibration
- Soils
- Special Designations
- Vegetation and Wildlife
- Visual Resources
- More noted in the EA



0 1 2 Miles

Figure 3.10-1.

Special Designations



Visual Resources

- A Visual Resources Report including numerous visual simulations was prepared. See Section 3.9 and Appendix H in the EA for details.





Project Design Features

- Project Design Features (PDFs) are measures incorporated into the site-specific design of the project to eliminate or minimize adverse impacts on the environment. These design features would be implemented as part of any action alternative. They are listed in Appendix D of the EA.
- Example PDFs include
 - Cultural Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) and monitoring
 - Paleontological WEAP and monitoring
 - Biological WEAP, monitoring, and habitat compensation
 - Fugitive Dust Control Plan
 - Construction and Operations Fire Prevention Plans



How to Comment

- 30-day Public Comment Period: May 20, 2020
- Ways to provide written comments:
 - BLM's ePlanning site: <https://bit.ly/3dtnt7C>
 - E-mail to: BLM_CA_PS_MesaWind@blm.gov
 - Mail to: Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Mesa Wind Repower Project
1201 Bird Center Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92262
- All substantive comments received in writing will be considered and evaluated prior to issuing a final decision.
- For further questions on the document or how to comment please contact: Dan Ryan at 530-249-8559 or dryan@blm.gov