

# **Technical Environmental Study Chapter 5**

## **Ten West Link 500kV Transmission Line Project**

*Prepared for:*

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Bureau of Land Management  
Yuma Field Office**

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**August 2018**

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# CHAPTER 5, REFERENCES, ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, GLOSSARY, AND INDEX

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## 5.2 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>Acronym/Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
A.A.C	Arizona Administrative Code
AADT	annual average daily traffic
AB	Assembly Bill
AC	alternating current
ACC	Arizona Corporation Commission
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ACS	American Community Survey
ACSR	Aluminum conductor steel-reinforced
AD	<i>anno Domini</i> , or in the year of our Lord
ADA	Arizona Department of Agriculture
ADEQ	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
ADOT	Arizona Department of Transportation
ADWR	Arizona Department of Water Resources
AGFD	Arizona Game and Fish Department
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act
Alt.	Alternative
ANPL	Arizona Native Plant Law
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
APE	Area of Potential Effect
APLIC	Avian Power Line Interaction Committee
APM	Applicant proposed measure
APS	Arizona Public Service
AQRVs	Air Quality Related Values
ARHP	Arizona Register of Historic Places
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
ARS	Arizona Revised Statutes
ASLD	Arizona State Land Department
ASM	Arizona State Museum
ASU	Arizona State University

<b>Acronym/Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ATCM	Airborne toxic control measure
ATV	all-terrain vehicle
AT&SF	Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad
AUM	animal unit month
AZ	Arizona
AZGS	Arizona Geological Survey
AZMNH	Arizona Museum of Natural History
AZSITE	Arizona Archaeological Site and Survey Database
BC	before Christ
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis
BGEPA	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
bgs	below ground surface
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practice
CA	California
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CAISO	California Independent System Operator
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CAP	Central Arizona Project
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CASTNet	Clean Air Status and Trends Networks
CAWCD	Central Arizona Water Conservancy District
CB	Copper Bottom
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDCA	California Desert Conservation Area
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEA	Cumulative Effects Area
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act

<b>Acronym/Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CFGC	California Fish and Game Commission
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CH <sub>4</sub>	methane
CHRIS	California Historical Resource Information System
CIC	Compliance Inspection Contractor
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Protection Act
CO	carbon monoxide
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide
CO <sub>2e</sub>	carbon dioxide equivalent
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CRHR	California Register of Historic Resources
CRIT	Colorado River Indian Tribes
CRPR	California Rare Plant Ranking
CWA	Clean Water Act
CY	Cubic yard
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DCRT	DCR Transmission, LLC
DEIS	draft EIS
DFA	development focus area
DMMR	Department of Mines and Mineral Resources
DOD	Department of Defense
DOE	Department of Energy
DOI	Department of the Interior
DPV1	Devers to Palo Verde 500kV No. 1
DPV2	Devers to Palo Verde 500kV No.2
DRECP	Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan
DTC-CAMA	Desert Training Center, California-Arizona Maneuver Area
dv	deciview

<b>Acronym/Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
E	Endangered
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EJ	Environmental Justice
ELF	Extremely low frequency
EMF	Electric and magnetic field
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPMs	Environmental Protection Measures
ERMA	Extensive Recreation Management Area
ESA	Endangered Species Act
f	frequency
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FO	Field Office
ft	feet
GHG	greenhouse gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLO	General Land Office
GPS	Global Positioning System
GRIC	Gila River Indian Community
GWP	global warming potential
HAPs	hazardous air pollutants
HFCs	hydrofluorocarbons
HPTP	Historic Properties Treatment Plan
HR	Harvest restricted

<b>Acronym/Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
HS	Highly safeguarded
Hz	hertz
I	Interstate
IBC	International Building Code
IM	Instruction Memorandum
IMPROVE	Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KOP	Key Observation Point
kV	kilovolt
LCRMSCP	Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program
Ldn	day-night sound level
Leq	equivalent sound level
Lmax	maximum Leq
Lmin	minimum Leq
LR2000	Legacy Rehost 2000 System
LT	long term
LTVA	Long term visitor area
LUPA	Land Use Plan Amendment
LUST	leaking underground storage tank
LWC	Lands with wilderness characteristics
m	meter
MAG	Maricopa Association of Governments
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MDAPMD	Mojave District Air Pollution Management District
Mo	month
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
mph	miles per hour
MSL	mean sea level
Mtns	Mountains
MVAR	Megavolt-ampere reactive

<b>Acronym/Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
MW	megawatt
N <sub>2</sub> O	nitrous oxide
N/A	Not Applicable
n.d.	No Date
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NADP	National Atmospheric Deposition Program
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
NESC	National Electrical Safety Code
NHL	National Historic Landmark
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NO <sub>2</sub>	Nitrogen Dioxide
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOI	Notice of Intent
NO <sub>x</sub>	Nitrogen Oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSE	Nonessential experimental population
NWP	Nationwide Permit
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
O&M	operations and maintenance
O <sub>3</sub>	Ozone
OHV	Off-highway vehicle
OPGW	Optical ground wire
OS	Open Space
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Act
PA	Programmatic Agreement
Pb	Lead

<b>Acronym/Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
PDEIS	Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement
PFCs	Perfluorocarbons
PFYC	Potential Fossil Yield Classification
PILT	Payments in Lieu of Taxes
PM	particulate matter
PM <sub>10</sub>	particulate matter smaller than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter
POD	Plan of Development
PPA	Power purchase agreement
ppm	parts per million
Project	Ten West Link 500kV Transmission Line Project
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
PSSCFO	Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office
PUP	Pesticide use proposal
PVNGS	Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station
PWA	Philip Williams & Associates
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
Reclamation	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
ReGAP	Regional Gap Analysis
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RMZ	Resource Management Zone
ROD	Record of Decision
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
ROW	right-of-way
S	Sensitive
SA	Salvage assessed
SB	Senate Bill
SCE	Southern California Edison Company
SDG&E	San Diego Gas & Electric
SEIR	Supplemental Environmental Impact Report

<b>Acronym/Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
SF <sub>6</sub>	sulfur hexafluoride
SGCN	Species of Greatest Conservation Need
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SIL	Significant Impact Level
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
SO <sub>2</sub>	Sulfur Dioxide
SPCC	Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures
SQRU	Scenic Quality Rating Unit
SR #	State Route #
SR	Salvage restricted
SRI	Statistical Research, Inc.
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
SRP	Special Recreation Permit
SRPMIC	Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
ST	short term
SU	Special Use
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
T	Threatened
TCP	Traditional Cultural Property
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
TMDL	total maximum daily load
tpy	tons per year
US	United States
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey



<b>Acronym/Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
UST	underground storage tank
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds
VRI	Visual Resource Inventory
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WA	Wilderness Area
WECC	Western Electricity Coordinating Council
WHMA	Wildlife Habitat Management Area
WRCC	Western Regional Climate Center
WSA	Wilderness Study Area
WVEC	West-wide Energy Corridor
WWII	World War II
YFO	Yuma Field Office
YPG	Yuma Proving Ground
yr	year

## 5.3 GLOSSARY

**Activity Footprint.** The area of long- and short-term ground disturbance associated with the pre-construction, construction, operation, implementation, maintenance, and decommissioning of an activity, including associated linear and non-linear components, such as staging areas, access routes and roads, gen-ties, other utility lines, borrow pits, disposal areas, etc. May also be considered synonymous with project/activity site.

**Administrative Route.** A designated road, primitive road, or trail on BLM-managed public lands that is limited to BLM-authorized official use. Official use is defined in 43 CFR 8340 as, “Use by an employee, agent, or designated representative of the Federal Government or one of its contractors, in the course of his employment, agency, or representation.”

**Adverse visual impact.** Any modification of landforms, water bodies, or vegetation, or any introduction of structures, which negatively interrupts the visual character of the landscape and disrupts the harmony of the basic elements (that is, form, line, color, and texture).

**Air Quality.** A measure of the health-related and visual characteristics of the air, often derived from quantitative measurements of the concentrations of specific injurious or contaminating substances.

**Alluvial.** Pertaining to material or processes associated with transportation or deposition of soil and rock by flowing water (e.g., streams and rivers).

**Alluvium.** Soil and rock deposited by flowing water (e.g., streams and rivers); consists of unconsolidated deposits of sediment, such as silt, sand, and gravel.

**Alternative.** Any one of a number of options for a project.

**Ambient.** Surrounding, existing, background conditions.

**Animal unit month (AUM).** The amount of forage necessary to sustain one cow and one calf (e.g., a 1,000-pound cow and calf) for a period of one month.

**Annual (ecology).** A plant that completes its development in one year or one season and then dies.

**Anthropogenic (climate change/global warming).** Resulting from or produced by human beings.

**Aquatic.** Growing or living in or near the water.

**Aquifer.** A water-bearing rock unit (unconsolidated or bedrock) that will yield water in a usable quantity to a well or spring.

**Archaeological site.** A discrete location that provides physical evidence of past human use.

**Archaeology.** The scientific study of the life and culture of past, especially ancient, peoples, as by excavation of ancient cities, relics, artifacts, etc.

**Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).** A BLM designation pertaining to areas where specific management attention is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historical, cultural, and scenic values, fish or wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards.

**Arroyo.** A dry gully, or a stream in a dry region.

**Artifact.** Any object showing human workmanship or modification, especially from a prehistoric or historic culture.

**Avoid to the Maximum Extent Practicable.** A standard identified in the DRECP LUPA CMAs and applied to implementation of activities. Under this standard, impacts to identified resources are not allowed unless there is no reasonable or practicable means of avoidance that is consistent with the basic objectives of the activity. Compensation for unavoidable impacts would be required as specified in the CMAs. The term “maximum extent practicable” as used here in the DRECP LUPA is applicable only to its use in the CMAs; it does not apply to the term as it is used in the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

**Backfill.** The excavated material (soil and/or rock) used to refill a hole/trench created during construction activities (i.e., drilling foundation holes). The excavated material used to fill a hole/trench in the groundbed (i.e., structure foundations). The composition of the backfill varies based on the soil type at the excavation site and the component being covered.

**Background (visual).** That portion of the visual landscape lying from the outer limit of the middleground to infinity. Color and texture are subdued in this area, and visual sensitivity analysis here is primarily concerned with the two-dimensional shape of landforms against the sky.

**Background distance zone.** The visible area of a landscape that lies beyond the foreground-middleground. Visibility from 5 miles to a maximum distance of approximately 15 miles from a travel route, use area, or other observer platform. Atmospheric conditions in some areas may limit the maximum distance to approximately 8 miles or less.

**Basic Elements (visual).** The four major elements (form, line, color, and texture) that determine how the character of a landscape is perceived.

**Baseline.** The existing conditions against which impacts of the proposed action and its alternatives can be compared.

**Basin.** A depressed area having no surface outlet (topographic basin); a physiographic feature or subsurface structure that is capable of collecting, storing, or discharging water by reason of its shape and the characteristics of its confining material (water); a depression in the earth’s surface, the lowest part often filled by a lake or pond (lake basin); a part of a river or canal widened (drainage, river, stream basin).

**Best Management Practices (BMPs).** Vegetative and structural methods to control erosion and sedimentation.

**Big Game.** Large species of wildlife that are hunted (such as elk, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope).

**Biological monitoring.** Visual survey of an area conducted by a designated biologist to determine if a biological resource is present. Biological monitoring is commonly conducted on the sites of proposed projects. Biological monitoring conducted during the implementation of activities is used to implement DRECP BLM LUPA CMAs that require construction setbacks or that require the designated biologist to move a biological resource out of harm's way.

**Butte.** A steep hill standing alone in a plain.

**California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS).** The allowable concentrations of air pollutants in the air specified by the State of California and established by the California Clean Air Act. The standards include the same pollutants regulated under the NAAQS and some additional pollutants, including hydrogen sulfide, sulfates, and vinyl chloride. Air quality standard setting in California commences with a critical review of all relevant peer reviewed scientific literature. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) uses the review of health literature to develop a recommendation for the standard. The recommendation can be for no change, or can recommend a new standard. The review, including the OEHHA recommendation, is summarized in a document called the draft Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR), which is released for comment by the public, and also for public peer review by the Air Quality Advisory Committee (AQAC). AQAC members are appointed by the President of the University of California for their expertise in the range of subjects covered in the ISOR, including health, exposure, air quality monitoring, atmospheric chemistry and physics, and effects on plants, trees, materials, and ecosystems.

**Candidate Species.** A plant or animal species not yet officially listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, but which is undergoing status review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Characteristic landscape.** The established landscape in an area being viewed. This does not necessarily mean a naturalistic character. It could refer to an agricultural setting, an urban landscape, a primarily natural environment, or a combination of these types.

**Clean Air Act of 1990.** Federal legislation governing air pollution. The Clean Air Act established National Ambient Air Quality Standards for carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, ozone, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and lead. Prevention of Significant Deterioration classifications define the allowable increased levels of air quality deterioration above legally established levels and include the following:

Class I – minimal additional deterioration in air quality (certain national parks and wilderness areas)

Class II – moderate additional deterioration in air quality (most lands)

Class III – greater deterioration for planned maximum growth (industrial areas)

**Clean Water Act of 1987.** National environmental law enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that regulates water pollution.

**Clearance Survey.** Survey for Focus and BLM Special-Status Species conducted immediately prior to vegetation and/or ground disturbance from activities, as per the CMAs. Clearance surveys must be conducted throughout the DRECP BLM LUPA Decision Area and in accordance with applicable species-specific CMAs and protocols, as approved by BLM and the applicable Wildlife Agencies, to detect and clear (i.e., remove, translocate) out of harm's way individuals of a species prior to disturbance.

**Contrast (visual).** Opposition or unlikeness of different forms, lines, colors, or textures in a landscape.

**Contrast rating.** A method of analyzing the potential visual impacts of proposed management activities.

**Consulting Party under NHPA Section 106.** A consulting party under Section 106 of NHPA assists the federal agency in identifying historic properties potentially affected by an undertaking, assessment of the undertaking's effects, and identifying ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties. Consultation is the process of seeking, discussing, and considering the views of other participants, and, where feasible, seeking agreement with them regarding matters arising in the Section 106 process. The following parties are entitled to participate as consulting parties during Section 106 review: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; State Historic Preservation Officers; Federally recognized Indian tribes/THPOs; Native Hawaiian organizations; local governments; and applicants for Federal assistance, permits, licenses, and other approvals.

**Cooperating Agency.** Assists the lead Federal agency in developing an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA define a cooperating agency as any agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise for proposals covered by NEPA (40 CFR 1501.6). Any Federal, state, or local government jurisdiction with such qualification may become a cooperating agency by agreement with the lead agency.

**Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).** An advisory council to the President established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It reviews Federal programs for their effort on environmental studies and advises the President on environmental matters.

**Creosote Bush Rings.** Rings of creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) that form over long periods of time. As a single creosote bush produces new branches at the periphery of its crown, the branches in the center of the crown begin to die. Eventually a sterile area of bare ground occupies the center of the original shrub, and as the ring becomes larger the original shrub segments into several shrubs (satellites), forming a ring around the point where the original shrub originated. As more time goes by these rings become elliptical rather than circular. The satellite shrubs in a ring are the same genetically, attesting to the fact that they form a single clone originating from one original shrub. Vasek (1980) showed that some of these clones are several thousand years old. The largest known creosote ring is 20.5 feet in diameter and may be 11,700 years old.

**Cubic feet per second (CFS).** Unit of discharge, or volume rate of flow, equal to 0.0283 cubic meters per second. As a rate of streamflow, a cubic foot of water passing a referenced section in one second. A measure of a moving volume of water.

**Cultural Resources.** Remains of human activity, occupation, or endeavor as reflected in districts, sites, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture, and natural features important in human events.

**Cumulative effect (or impact).** As defined in the CEQ Regulations at §1508.7, the cumulative impact is the impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. These impacts may result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

**dBA.** The sound pressure levels in decibels measured with a frequency weighing network corresponding to the A-scale on a standard sound level meter. The A-scale tends to suppress lower frequencies (e.g., below 1,000 Hz).

**Decibel (dB).** One-tenth of a Bel is a measure on a logarithmic scale that indicates the ratio between two sound powers. A ratio of 2 in power corresponds to a difference of 3 decibels between two sounds. The decibel is the basic unit of sound measure.

**Designated Biologist.** A biologist who is approved as qualified by BLM, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and CDFW, as appropriate. A designated biologist is the person responsible for overseeing compliance with specific applicable DRECP BLM LUPA biological CMAs.

**Developed land.** For purposes of this analysis, the term “developed land” is defined to mean property that has been developed for residential, commercial, recreation, or other uses and contains the required infrastructures for those uses. This definition also includes all the required infrastructure needed for lots to be home sites and are marketed as such, including things such as roads and utilities.

**Direct effect.** See effect.

**Discharge.** Outflow of surface water in a stream or canal (water). Discharge from an industrial facility that may contain pollutants harmful to fish or animals if it is released into nearby water bodies usually requires a permit issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is monitored.

**Displacement.** When one or more wildlife individual abandons a habitat because the habitat is no longer suitable, and must seek out alternative habitat, which may or may not be adjacent. If the abandonment of habitat is caused by a disturbance, wildlife individuals may or may not return to the habitat after the disturbance is no longer present.

**Distance zones.** A subdivision of the landscape as viewed from an observer position. The subdivision (zones) includes foreground, middleground, and background, and is seldom seen.

**Drainage.** The natural or artificial removal of surface water and groundwater from a given area. Many agricultural soils need drainage to improve production or to manage water supplies.

**Easement.** A right afforded to a person, agency, or organization to make limited use of another's real property for access or other purposes.

**Effect (impact).** A modification of the existing environment as it presently exists, caused by an action (such as construction or operation of facilities). An effect may be direct, indirect, or cumulative. The terms effect and impact are synonymous under the NEPA.

A direct effect is caused by an action and occurs at the same time and same place (40 CFR 1508.8(a)).

An indirect effect is caused by the action later in time or farther removed in distance, but is still reasonably foreseeable (40 CFR 1508.8(b)). Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air and water or other natural systems including ecosystems.

Electromagnetic field (EMF). Also called electric and magnetic fields. An electric field is the region around a conductor where a force will be experienced by an electric current or charge. A magnetic field is the region around a current where a moving charge will experience a force.

**Emission.** Effluent discharged into the atmosphere, usually specified by mass per unit time, and considered when analyzing air quality.

**Endangered Species.** Species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Endangered species are rarely identified by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

**Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973.** Provides a means whereby the ecosystems upon which threatened and endangered species depend may be conserved and to provide a program for the conservation of such threatened and endangered species. The ESA requires all Federal agencies to seek to conserve threatened and endangered species, use applicable authorities in furtherance of the purposes of the ESA, and avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of any species that is listed or proposed for listing as threatened and endangered or destroying or adversely modifying its designated or proposed critical habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for administration of this act.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** A document prepared to analyze the impacts on the environment of a proposed action and released to the public for review and comment. An EIS must meet the requirements of NEPA, CEQ, and the directives of the agency responsible for the proposed action.

**Environmental Justice.** The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial

operations or the execution of Federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies (see Executive Order 12898).

**Ephemeral stream (wash, creek, waterbody).** A stream or portion of a stream which flows briefly in direct response to precipitation in the immediate vicinity, and whose channel is at all times above the water table.

**Erosion.** The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, or other geological agents and by such processes as “gravitation creep.”

**Extremely low frequency (ELF).** Invisible lines of force that you cannot feel that surround electrical equipment, power cords, wires that carry electricity, and outdoor power lines.

**Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).** Public Law 94-579 signed by the President on October 21, 1976. Established public land policy for management of lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). FLPMA specifies several key directions for the BLM, notably: (1) management on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield; (2) land use plans prepared to guide management actions; (3) public lands for the protection, development, and enhancement of resources; (4) public lands retained in Federal ownership; and (5) public participation used in reaching management decisions.

**Federal Register.** Published by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives, and Records Administration, the *Federal Register* is the official daily publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices of Federal agencies and organizations, as well as executive orders and other presidential documents.

**Floodplain.** The low and relatively flat areas adjacent to rivers and streams. A 100-year floodplain is that area subject to a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

**Forage.** Vegetation used for food by wildlife, particularly big game wildlife and domestic livestock.

**Foreground (visual).** The visible area from a viewpoint or use area out to a distance of 0.5 mile. The ability to perceive detail in a landscape is greatest in this zone.

**Foreground-middleground distance zone.** The area visible from a travel route, use area, or other observation platform to a minimum distance of 0 to 5 miles. The outer boundary of this zone is defined as the point where the texture and form of individual plants are no longer apparent in the landscape. Vegetation is apparent only in patterns or outline.

**Forbs.** Any herbaceous plant other than a grass.

**Form.** The mass or shape of an object or objects that appears unified, such as a vegetative opening in a forest, a cliff or mountain formation, a water tank, or a highway overpass.

**Fossil.** Any remains, trace, or imprint of a plant or animal that has been preserved by natural process in the earth’s crust since some past geologic time.



**Game Species.** Animals commonly hunted for food or sport.

**Gauss (G).** A unit used for measuring magnetic flux density fields. Since gauss is a large measure, milligauss (mG) is more commonly used for environmental measurements. One gauss equals 1,000 milligauss, 10,000 gauss equal 1 tesla.

**Geographic Information System (GIS).** A system of computer hardware, software, data, people, and applications that capture, store, edit, analyze, and graphically display a potentially wide array of geospatial information.

**Geology.** The science that relates to the earth, the rocks of which it is composed, and the changes that the earth has undergone or is undergoing.

**Geothermal Resource.** Heat found in rocks and fluids at various depths within the earth's crust that can be extracted by drilling or pumping for use as an energy source. This heat may be residual heat, friction heat, or a result of radioactive decay.

**Global Warming.** An increase in the average temperature of the earth's atmosphere and oceans. The term is also used to describe the theory that increasing temperatures are the result of a strengthening greenhouse effect caused primarily by manmade increases in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

**Greenhouse Gases (GHGs).** The warming of the earth and its atmosphere through the trapping of heat from the sun by gases, known as greenhouse gases, in the earth's atmosphere.

**Groundwater.** Subsurface water that fills available openings in rock or soil materials to the extent that they are considered water saturated.

**Habitat.** A specific set of physical conditions in a geographic area(s) that surrounds a single species, group of species, or large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are food, water, cover, and living space.

**Habitat assessment.** As required in LUPA-BIO CMAs. Use of the DRECP land cover mapping and/or species model(s), as well as reconnaissance-level site visits and available aerial photography for confirmation of site conditions and mapping of vegetation types and species' suitable habitat. For all activities, a habitat assessment will be required to assess site-specific vegetation types and Focus and BLM Special-Status Species.

**Historic Property.** Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria.

**Hydrology.** The study of the movement, distribution, and quality of water throughout the earth, addresses both the hydrologic cycle and water resources.

**Hydrographic basin (area, region, unit).** A geographic area drained by a single major stream or an area consisting of a drainage system comprised of streams and often natural or man-made lakes. See also basin.

**Impact.** See effect.

**Indian Tribe.** An Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including a native village, regional corporation, or village corporation, as those terms are defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

**Indirect effect.** See effect.

**Infrastructure.** The facilities, services, and equipment needed for a community or facility to function, such as and including roads, sewers, water lines, and electric lines.

**Intermittent.** A river or stream that flows for a period of time, usually seasonally during rainy periods, and stops during dry periods. In arid regions, dry periods may be interrupted by occasional flash floods from brief but intense rain storms.

**Invasive Species.** Describes a large number of non-native plant species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

**Joshua Tree Woodlands.** Evenly distributed with Joshua trees at  $\geq 1\%$  and *Juniperus* and/or *Pinus* spp  $< 1\%$  absolute cover in the tree canopy (Thomas et al. 2004).

**Key Observation Point (KOP).** One or a series of points on a travel route or at a use area or potential use area, where the view of a management activity would be most revealing.

**Kilovolt (kV).** A unit of power equivalent to 1,000 volts. A volt is a measure of electrical potential difference that would cause a current of 1 ampere to flow through a conductor whose resistance is 1 ohm.

**Labor Force.** All persons 16 years of age or over who are either employed or unemployed and actively looking for a job.

**Landform.** A term used to describe the many land surfaces that exist as a result of geologic activity and weathering (e.g., plateaus, mountains, plains, and valleys).

**Land Use Plan.** The organized direction or management of the use of lands and their resources to best meet human needs over time, according to the land's capabilities.

**Laydown Area.** An area where construction material and equipment are staged during a construction operation.

**Lease.** An authorization or contract by which one party (lessor) conveys the use of property to another (lessee) in return for rental payments. In cases of resource production, lessees pay royalties to the lessor in addition to rental payments.

**Long-term Impacts.** Ground and/or vegetation disturbance that results in impacts lasting greater than 2 years.

### **Long-term visitor area (LTVA)**

LTVAs are specially designated areas on BLM lands in California and Arizona. LTVAs provide places for visitors to stay for up to 180 days between September and April.

**Megawatt (MW).** A unit for measuring power equal to one million watts. The productive capacity of electrical generators is measured in megawatts.

**Mesa.** An isolated, nearly level land mass, formed on nearly horizontal rocks, standing above the surrounding country, and bounded with steep sides.

**Microphyll Woodlands.** Consist of drought-deciduous, small-leaved (*microphyllus*), mostly leguminous trees. Occurs in bajadas and washes where water availability is somewhat higher than the plains occupied by creosote bush and has been called the “riparian phase” of desert scrub (Webster and Bahre 2001). Composed of the following alliances: desert willow, mesquite, smoke tree, and the blue palo verde-ironwood.

**Minor Incursion.** Small-scale allowable impacts to sensitive resources, as per specific CMAs, that do not individually or cumulatively compromise the conservation objectives of that resource or rise to a level of significance that warrants development and application of more rigorous CMAs or a LUPA amendment. Minor incursions may be allowed to prevent or minimize greater resource impacts from an alternative approach to the activity. Not all minor incursions are considered unavoidable impacts.

**Mitigation.** Actions to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, replace, or rectify the impact of a management practice.

**National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).** The allowable concentrations of air pollutants in the air specified by the Federal government and established by the Clean Air Act. The air quality standards are divided into primary standards (based on the air quality criteria and allowing an adequate margin of safety and requisite to protect the public health) and secondary standards (based on the air quality criteria and allowing an adequate margin of safety and requisite to protect the public welfare) from any unknown or expected adverse effects of air pollutants.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.** Our nation’s basic charter for protection of the environment. It establishes policy, sets goals, and provides means for carrying out the policy. In accordance with NEPA, all Federal agencies must prepare a written statement on the environmental impacts of a proposed action. The provisions to ensure that Federal agencies act according to the letter and spirit of NEPA are the CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA 943 CFR 1500-1508).

**National Register of Historic Places.** A listing, maintained by the Secretary of the Interior, of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects worthy of preservation. To be eligible a property must normally be at least 50 years old, unless it has exceptional significance, and have national, state, or local significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture; and possess integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association; and (a) be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of history, (b) be associated with the lives of persons significant to our past, (c) embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic values; or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or (d) have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history.

**National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).** NWR is a designation for certain protected areas managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. NWRs are public.

**Negligible (impact).** Unless otherwise specified, “negligible” indicates impacts of such a small scale such as to be non-measurable.

**Non-attainment Area.** An air quality control region (or portion thereof) in which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that ambient air concentrations exceed national ambient air quality standards for one or more criteria pollutants.

**Noxious Weed.** Nonnative plant species that negatively impact crops, native plant communities, and/or management of natural or agricultural systems. Noxious weeds are officially designated by a number of states and Federal agencies.

**Off-highway vehicle.** A vehicle specifically designed for off-highway use.

**Perennial (vegetation).** A plant whose root remains alive more than two years.

**Perennial Stream.** A stream that flows throughout the year and from source to mouth.

**Physiographic province.** An extensive portion of the landscape normally encompassing many hundreds of square miles, which portrays similar qualities of soil, rock, slope, and vegetation of the same geomorphic origin such as the Basin and Range province where this Project is situated.

**PM<sub>2.5</sub>.** Particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter.

**PM<sub>10</sub>.** Particulate matter less than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter.

**Prime Farmland.** A special category of highly productive cropland that is recognized and described by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Soil Conservation Service and receives special protection under the Surface Mining Law of 1977.

**Programmatic Agreement.** A document that records the terms and conditions agreed upon to resolve the potential adverse effects of a Federal agency program, complex undertaking, or other situations in accordance with § 800.14(b) of the NHPA.

**Project Area.** The area of land which the project would encompass.

**Protocol survey.** Species-specific surveys that are conducted under a protocol that has been adopted by the Wildlife Agency(ies) or is otherwise scientifically accepted for determining the occupancy or presence and absence of Covered Species. These surveys would be required as specified in the species-specific CMAs in the DRECP BLM LUPA.

**Public Land.** Land or interest in land owned by the United States and administered through agencies such as the BLM and USBR without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except lands on the Outer Continental Shelf, and land held in trust for the benefit of American Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos.

**Radio frequency.** Electromagnetic energy in the approximate frequency range of 3,000 Hz (3 kHz) to 1 billion Hz (1 GHz).

**Range.** A large, open area of land over which livestock can wander and graze.

**Raptor.** A bird of prey (e.g., eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls).

**Reclamation.** Restoration of land disturbed by natural or human activity (e.g., mining, pipeline construction) to original contour, use, or condition. Also describes the return of land to alternative uses that may, under certain circumstance, be different from those prior to disturbance.

**Recontouring.** Return a land surface to or near to its original form through earth-moving equipment such as front-end loaders, backhoes, hand rakes, hoes, shovels, etc.

**Record of Decision.** A document separate from, but associated with an EIS that publicly and officially discloses the responsible official's decision on a proposed action.

**Revegetation.** The reestablishment and development of self-sustaining plant cover. On disturbed sites, this normally requires human assistance such as reseeding.

**Right-of-way.** Land authorized to be used or occupied for the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a project, such as a road or utility.

**Riparian.** Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Riparian is normally used to refer to plants of all types that grow along streams, rivers, or at spring and seep sites.

**Resource Management Plan.** Document that establishes direction for the use of resources to best meet the needs of humans over time, according to the resource potential or capability.

**Scoping.** Procedures by which agencies determine the extent of analysis necessary for a proposed action (i.e., the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be addressed; identification of significant issues related to a proposed action; and the depth of environmental analysis, data, and task assignments needed).

**Sediment.** Solid fragmental material, either mineral or organic, that is transported or deposited by air, water, gravity, or ice.

**Sedimentation.** The result when soil or mineral is transported by moving water, wind, gravity, or glaciers and deposited in streams or other bodies of water, or on land. Also, letting solids settle out of wastewater by gravity during treatment.

**Sensitive Species.** Those plant or animal species that are susceptible or vulnerable to activity impacts or habitat alterations.

**Setback.** A defined distance, usually expressed in feet or miles, from a resource feature (such as the edge of a vegetation type or an occupied nest) within which an activity would not occur; otherwise often referred to as a buffer. The purpose of the setback is to maintain the function and value of the biological resource features identified in the DRECP BLM LUPA CMAs. See Section II.3.4.2.1 for a summary of setbacks incorporated in the CMAs.

**Scenic quality.** Scenic quality is a measure of the visual appeal of a tract of land. In the visual resource inventory process, public lands are given an A, B, or C rating based on the apparent scenic quality that is determined using seven key factors: landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications.

**Sensitivity level.** Sensitivity levels are a measure of public concern for scenic quality. Public lands are assigned high, medium, or low sensitivity levels by analyzing the various indicators of public concern including type of use, amount of use, public interest, adjacent land uses, special areas, and other factors.

**Short-term Impacts.** Ground and/or vegetation impacts that result in effects lasting 2 years or less.

**Significant Impact Level (SIL).** The SIL is a de minimis threshold applied to individual facilities that apply for a permit to emit a regulated pollutant in an area that meets the NAAQS. The state and EPA must determine if emissions from that facility will cause the air quality to worsen. The SIL is a measure of whether a source may cause or contribute to a violation of PSD increment or the NAAQS, i.e. a significant deterioration of air quality.

**Simulation.** A realistic visual portrayal that demonstrates the perceivable changes in landscape features caused by a proposed management activity. This is done using photography, artwork, computer graphics, and other such techniques.

**Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA).** SRMAs are areas officially designated by statute or Secretarial order, including components of the National Trails System, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the National Wilderness System, National Conservation Areas, National Monuments or National Recreation Areas, an area covered by joint agreement between the BLM and a state government, or any area where the authorized officer determines that the resources require special management and control measures for their protection, and where a permit system for individual use would achieve management objectives.

**Special Status Species.** Wildlife and plant species either Federally listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened; state-listed; or priority species of concern to Federal agencies or tribes.

**Substation.** A facility where electrical voltage is either increased or decreased through the use of transformers; electric lines are interconnected at one or more voltage; and electric power is metered and regulated to provide safe and stable voltage for end-use customers.

**Suitable habitat.** In general, Focus and BLM Special-Status Species habitat consisting of land within a species range that has—in the case of wildlife, breeding and foraging habitat characteristics required by the species, or in the case of plants, vegetation and microhabitat characteristics—consistent with known or likely occurrences, as determined by the habitat assessment. In the California Desert Conservation Framework modeled habitat as determined by species distribution models and confirmed or refined (i.e., expanded or reduced) by activity-level habitat assessment and that require site-specific protocol or presence/absence surveys as specified in the species-specific DRECP BLM LUPA CMAs.

**Texture.** The visual manifestations of the interplay of light and shadow created by the variations in the surface of an object or landscape.

**Threatened Species.** Any species of plant or animal which is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

**Traditional Cultural Property.** A Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), as defined in the NHPA, is a property that is eligible for inclusion on the NRHP because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community's history, and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community. Stated another way, a significant TCP is defined as a property with significance derived from the role the property plays in a community's historically rooted beliefs, customs, and practices.

**Transportation Corridor.** A BLM- designated corridor that would reduce resource impacts while allowing for linear ROWs for development of new transportation routes or expansion of existing roads within the designated corridor. However, corridor designation does not automatically result in authorization of requested ROWs within the corridor. Each requested ROW would require environmental analysis and evaluation of compatibility of the proposed ROW with any existing ROWs within the corridor.

**Tribal Land.** All lands within the exterior boundaries of any Indian reservation and all dependent Indian communities.

**Unavoidable impacts to resources.** Small-scale impacts to sensitive resources, as allowed per specific CMAs, that may occur even after such impacts have been avoided to the maximum extent practicable (see definition). Unavoidable impacts are limited to minor incursions (see definition), such as a necessary road or pipeline extension across a sensitive resource required to serve an activity.

**Undertaking.** A project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal agency, including those carried out by or on behalf of a Federal agency; those carried out with Federal financial assistance; those requiring a Federal permit, license, or

approval; and those subject to state or local regulation administered pursuant to a delegation or approval of a Federal agency.

**Undeveloped Land.** For purposes of this analysis, the term “undeveloped land” is defined to mean land that does not have existing residential or commercial buildings, facilities, or uses. Undeveloped land may be private lands that are part of a master planned community that is not yet fully developed to include residential or commercial facilities or uses, and may be in varying stages of planning or preparation for development.

**Utility Corridor.** Designated through land use planning to promote compatible, systematic, and predictable development on Federal lands to expedite permitting and reduce impacts to natural, economic and cultural resources from linear ROWs. However, corridor designation does not automatically result in authorization of requested ROWs within the corridor. Each requested ROW would require environmental analysis and evaluation of compatibility of the proposed ROW with any existing ROWs within the corridor.

**Vegetation communities.** Species of plants that commonly live together in the same region or ecotone.

**Viewing platform.** A point such as a scenic overlook, or route such as a highway or trail where observers would be viewing the surrounding landscape.

**Viewshed.** Visible portion of the specific landscape seen from a specific viewpoint, normally limited by landform, vegetation, distance, and existing cultural modifications.

**Visibility.** The distance to which an observer can distinguish objects from their background. The determinants of visibility include the characteristics of the target object (shape, size, color, pattern), the angle and intensity of sunlight, the observer’s eyesight, and any screening present between the viewer and the object (i.e., vegetation, landform, even pollution such as regional haze).

**Visual quality.** The relative worth of a landscape from a visual perception point of view.

**Visual resource.** The visible physical features on a landscape (for example, land, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features).

**Visual resource inventory.** A BLM inventory tool that portrays the relative value of the existing visual resources of an area.

**Visual resource management classes.** Four management categories assigned to public lands based on scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones. Each class has an objective that prescribes the amount of change allowed in the characteristic landscape.

VRM Class I Objective - The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.



VRM Class II Objective - The objective to this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

VRM Class III Objective - The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention, but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

VRM Class IV Objective - The objective of this class is to provide for management activities that require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

**Waters of the United States (WOUS).** All waters that are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce including adjacent wetlands and tributaries to water of the United States; and all waters by which the use, degradation, or destruction of which would affect or could affect interstate or foreign commerce.

**Watershed.** Drainage basin for which surface water flows to a single point.

**Wetlands.** Areas inundated by surface water or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support vegetation or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.

**Wilderness.** An area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

**Wilderness Area (WA).** WAs are designated under the Wilderness Act. They generally do not allow motorized equipment, motor vehicles, mechanical transport, temporary roads, or permanent structures or installations (with exceptions in Alaska). WAs are to be primarily affected by the forces of nature, although the Act does acknowledge the need to provide for human health and safety, protect private property, control insect infestations, and fight fires in the area.