



Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

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Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)

Purpose: to assess environmental impacts associated with the development and implementation of utility-scale solar energy development on public lands

Goals:

- identify reasonably foreseeable regional and national development scenarios for solar energy
- amend up to 58 BLM land use plans in 6 states
- identify best management practices
- adopt mitigation measures

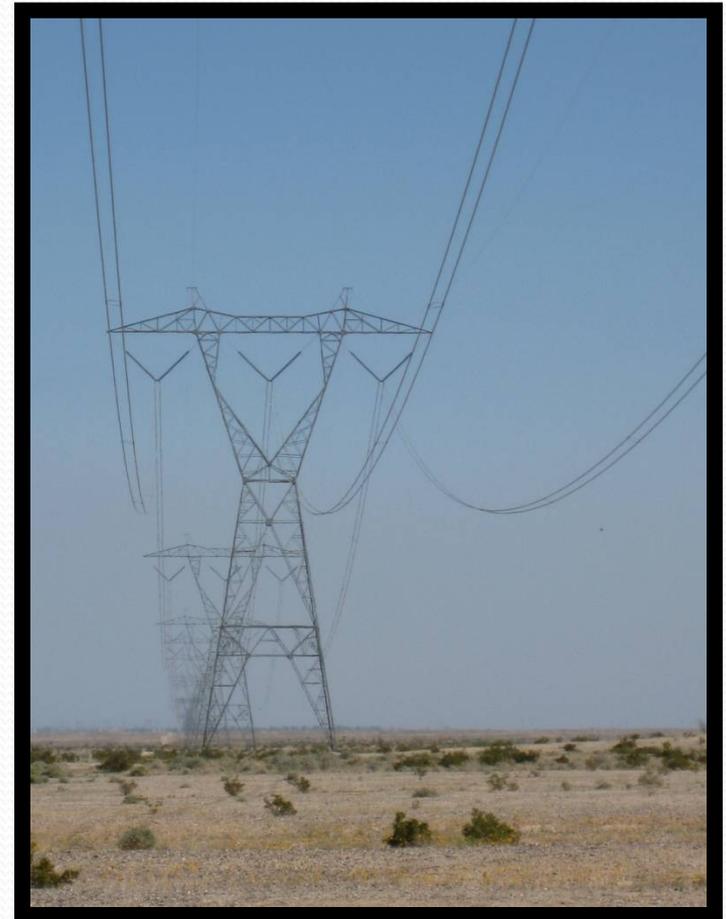
Solar PEIS: Partners

- Joint project: Department of Energy and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
 - Contractor: Argonne National Laboratory
- Multiple cooperating agencies
 - California state agencies (CEC, CPUC, CDF&G et al)
 - Department of Defense
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Arizona Department of Game and Fish
 - Nevada Division of Wildlife
 - Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office

Solar PEIS:

Study Areas to Zones

- Move from Western States-wide plan to solar “study areas” to “zones”
- Establishing study areas
 - ▣ Data from RETI, Western Governors Association REZ, federal, state and non-profit partners
- Study area EIS
 - ▣ Possible designation of “zones”

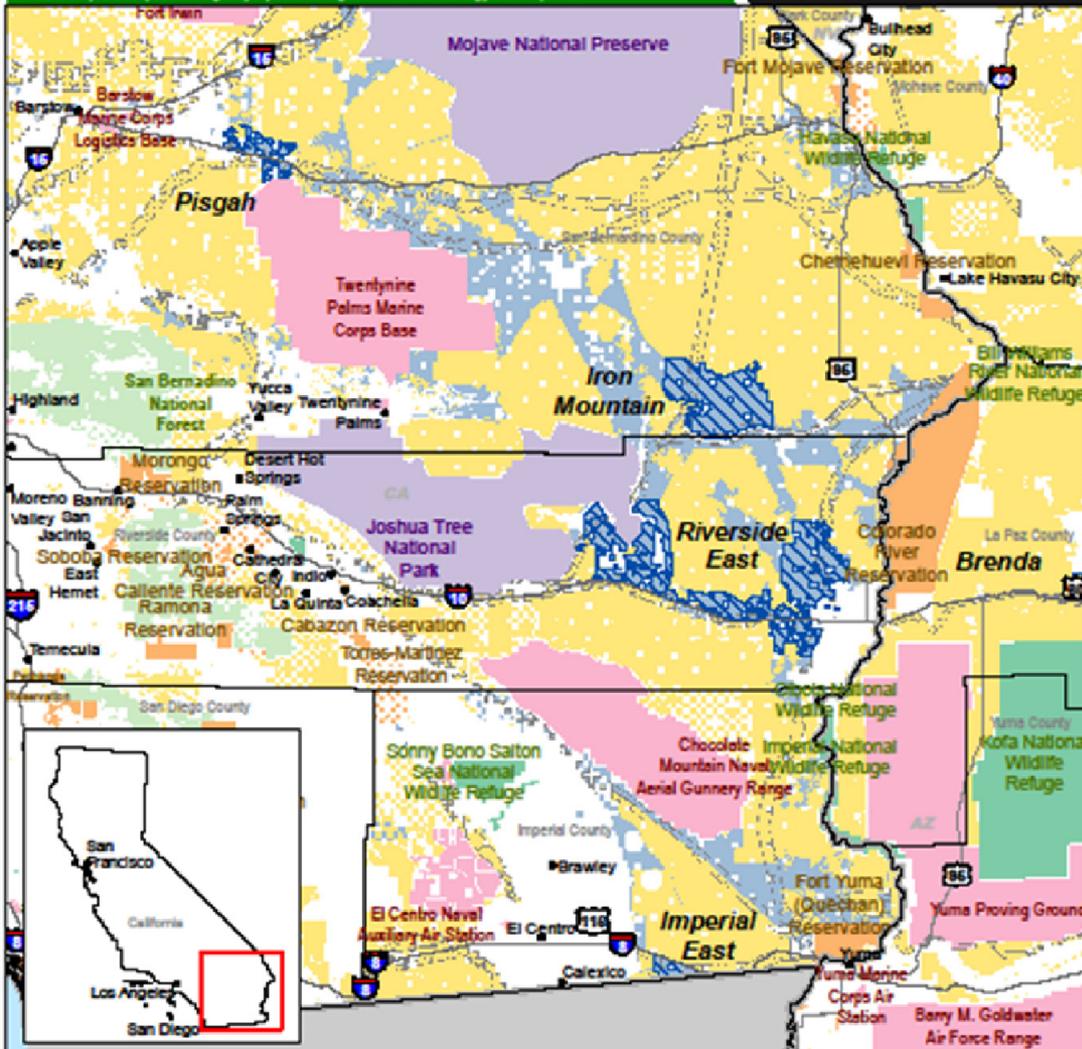


Solar Energy Study Areas in California

Map Prepared June 5, 2009

Property of the U.S. Departments of Energy and the Interior
for Use in Preparation of their Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
to Develop and Implement Agency-Specific Programs for Solar Energy Development

Argonne
NATIONAL LABORATORY



Surface Management Agency
As of 3/26/2009

- Tribal Lands
- BLM
- BOR
- DOD
- DOE
- FWS
- NPS
- OTHER
- USFS

— State Line
 □ County Boundary
 ■ Solar Energy Study Area (As of 6/5/2009)
 ▨ Existing Designated Corridor (See Note 2) (As of 6/5/2009)
 ■ BLM Lands Being Analyzed for Solar Development in PEIS (As of 6/5/2009)

0 5 10 15 20 Miles
 0 10 20 30 Kilometers

NOTE 1: Revisions to the National Landscape Conservation System included in Public Law 111-11 are not yet reflected in this map.
 NOTE 2: Designated Corridors are developed for federal land use planning purposes only and are not applicable to state-owned or privately-owned land. SOL136

| STUDY AREAS | Acres | MW Capacity if Fully Developed |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 Arizona | 16,492 | 1,832 - 3,298 |
| 4 California | 351,048 | 39,005 - 70,210 |
| 4 Colorado | 20,910 | 2,323 - 4,182 |
| 7 Nevada | 149,375 | 16,597 - 29,875 |
| 3 New Mexico | 121,459 | 13,495 - 24,292 |
| 3 Utah | 16,763 | 1,863 - 3,353 |
| All Study Areas | 676,048 | 75,116 - 135,210 |

Public Scoping Comments and Concerns Regarding Study Areas

- Cultural areas, sacred landscapes
- Threatened and Endangered species (desert tortoise, flat-tailed horn lizard)
- Height restrictions (DoD)
- Visual impacts
- Remote from transmission (Iron Mtn. and Riverside E)
- Migratory birds and bats
- Recreation Areas

Further Concerns

- Water usage
- Habitat mitigation (3:1)
- Cumulative impacts
- Adjacent lands (NPS lands)
- Suggestions: use previously disturbed or contaminated sites, distributed generation



Draft EIS: Evaluation of Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts to

- Land Use
- Soil and Geological Resources
- Water Resources
- Air Quality and Climate
- Acoustic Environment
- Ecological Resources (T&E species)
- Visual Resources
- Paleontological and Cultural Resources
- Socioeconomic Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Transportation
- Hazardous Materials and Waste Management
- Health and Safety

Integration of Mitigation Requirements into the Solar PEIS

- Record of Decision (ROD) will provide standard requirements for mitigation
- Argonne will review the Best Management Practices manual to develop mitigation requirements that will be integrated into the PEIS



Solar PEIS: Next Steps

- Processing and responding to scoping comments
- Draft PEIS – produced summer 2010
- New applications in study areas will be subject to the Solar PEIS Record of Decision (ROD) - Spring 2011
- All existing applications will continue to be processed
- New applications in study areas will be serialized, but cost recovery and a detailed plan of development will not be required until the ROD is finalized

More Information:

- Solar PEIS: <http://solareis.anl.gov/>
 - Sign up for email notifications
- BLM Solar Energy information:
http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/solar_energy.html
- California Solar Energy information:
<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/prog/energy/solar.html>