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## 5.1 Environmental Information

Section 5 of this Application for Certification (AFC) address the various resource areas identified in the California Energy Commission (CEC) Energy Facilities Siting Regulations (Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 1704, Appendix B).

Each discipline area is presented in the following Sections (Sections 5.2 through 5.18) and include a review of relevant LORS (laws, ordinances, regulations and standards), compliance (including involved agencies and agency contacts; permit requirements and permit schedules), affected environment, environmental impacts (including construction, operations, and cumulative impacts) and mitigation measures.

### 5.1.1 Projects Considered in Cumulative Impact Analysis

The following paragraphs identify and briefly summarize the projects that were considered in the cumulative impacts analysis for each of the resource areas. As required under CEQA, the impacts of the Project must be considered with reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area that may produce related or cumulative impacts. In addition to cumulative projects, existing conditions (baseline) were considered and discussed in each resource Section as relevant to the resource area. The area of interest for potential cumulative projects included other parts of unincorporated San Bernardino County, and the City of Barstow. Barstow was included in part for cumulative impacts related to traffic and transportation due to the Project's plan to bus construction employees from a park-and-ride location in Barstow. Additionally, a broader area was included when analyzing socioeconomic impacts since the project will draw from a larger labor pool geographically and influences areas beyond the areas near the Project. A detailed discussion in each resource area Section describes the relevant cumulative projects as they relate to potential cumulative impacts.

A review of the San Bernardino County Planning Department (SBCPD) website and discussions with staff showed that there are no open applications for development projects within a six-mile radius of the Project site. However, two projects were identified just outside that radius (Nursery Products Sludge Plant – seven miles; Walmart Distribution Center – 18 miles) that are relevant to traffic and transportation studies.

According to the City of Barstow staff, five projects are currently being considered or are expected to file information to be considered that could be relevant to the Project. However, only three had enough data to be considered reasonably foreseeable. These are all within the City of Barstow and largely only relevant to traffic and transportation as it relates to studies around the park-and-ride facility. These include two housing developments and one industrial development.

A review of the California Energy Commission's (CEC) siting website was conducted to identify potential cumulative projects. Several projects were identified, the nearest being 43 miles away from the MSP. These projects are not considered cumulative for most resource areas but some were included in socioeconomic analyses as discussed in Section 5.11. In addition, several other projects were identified that are expected to file in late 2009. From the data available, these projects are also too distant (greater than 70 miles) to be considered for cumulative impacts.

In addition to the above agencies, review of the U. S. Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Solar Energy Study areas indicate that it includes areas east of Barstow which are too distant to be considered cumulative. Furthermore, the preponderance of solar projects currently considered will likely not come to fruition, rendering a cumulative analysis useless or overly excessive. Including projects based on a large degree of speculation is not consistent with including reasonably foreseeable projects. Reasonably foreseeable projects have already been included from the review of the CEC's siting website.

### 5.1.2 References

Bureau of Land Management website, Maps of Solar Study Areas,  
[http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/solar\\_energy/Solar\\_Energy\\_Study\\_Areas.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/solar_energy/Solar_Energy_Study_Areas.html)

California Energy Commission website, Siting Division, Status of All Projects,  
[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/all\\_projects.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/all_projects.html)