

**BEACON SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT
EMERGENCY ACCESS ROUTE
CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY RESULTS**

Docket 08-AFC-2

Prepared for:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDAW, Inc (EDAW) conducted cultural resources surveys in support of an emergency access route for Beacon Solar Energy Project (BSEP). The results of the survey are summarized below.

The BSEP is located along the State Route 14 (SR-14) corridor, approximately 10 miles north-northwest of California City, and approximately 15 miles north-northeast of the Town of Mojave, in Kern County, California. The BSEP includes an approximately 2,012-acre Plant Site that would contain the solar array field and supporting facilities. The Plant Site is located south of Jawbone Canyon and to the east of SR-14 in the Fremont Valley. The California Energy Commission has requested that an emergency access route to the Plant Site be incorporated into the BSEP. In response to this request, Beacon Solar, LLC identified a potential emergency access route along an existing easement from the northeast corner of the BSEP property and directed east along the north line of Section 3, connecting to Neuralia Road. The emergency access route is approximately 0.5 mile long (12 feet wide). The access road corridor measures 55 feet wide. This emergency access route corridor and 50-foot buffer zone (located 50 feet from each edge) were surveyed for cultural resources.

The emergency access road, corridor, and 50-foot buffer were surveyed by EDAW on June 16, 2009. No cultural resources were identified.

INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Introduction

The Beacon Solar Energy Project (BSEP) is located along the State Route 14 (SR-14) corridor, approximately 10 miles north-northwest of California City, and approximately 15 miles north-northeast of the Town of Mojave, in Kern County, California. The BSEP includes an approximately 2,012-acre Plant Site that would contain the solar array field and supporting facilities. The Plant Site is located south of Jawbone Canyon and to the east of SR-14 in the Fremont Valley. The California Energy Commission (CEC) has requested that an emergency access route to the Plant Site be incorporated into the BSEP (Figure 1). In response to this request, Beacon Solar, LLC identified a potential emergency access route along an existing easement from the northeast corner of the BSEP property and directed east along the north line of Section 3, connecting to Neuralia Road. The emergency access route is approximately 0.5 mile long (12 feet wide). The access road corridor measures 55 feet wide. This emergency access route, corridor, and 50-foot buffer zone (located 50 feet from each edge) were surveyed for cultural resources (Figure 2).

For more detailed discussions of the broader context, regulatory setting, and results of the archaeological survey, please refer to *The Beacon Solar Energy Project Archaeological Resources Report, Kern County, California* (Apple and Glennly 2008).

Project Description

The BSEP is a concentrated solar electric generating facility proposed on approximately 2,012 acres in Fremont Valley, Kern County, California. The BSEP plant site and its general environs are essentially undeveloped and have been significantly disturbed from past agricultural activities that occurred up to the early 1980s.

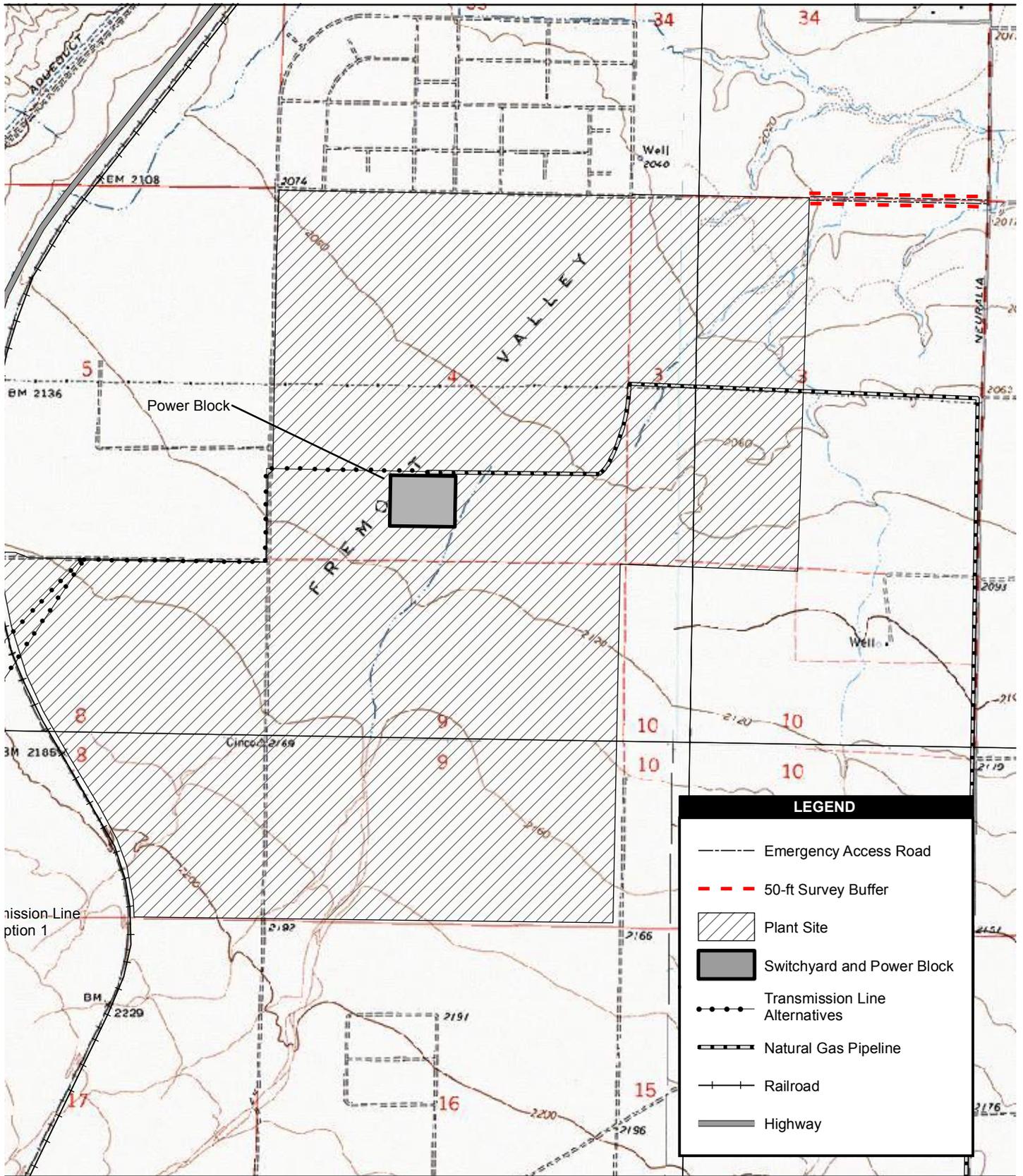
The BSEP will use parabolic trough solar thermal technology to concentrate the sun's energy on a linear receiver located at the center point of each parabolic solar subarray.

Project Personnel

EDAW Senior Archaeologist Rebecca McCorkle Apple, M.A., R.P.A., is project manager for the cultural resources studies and provided senior technical review for this report. Matthew Tennyson, M.A., R.P.A., served as crew chief and authored the report. Brian Spelts, B.A., served as field personnel for the survey.

CONTEXT

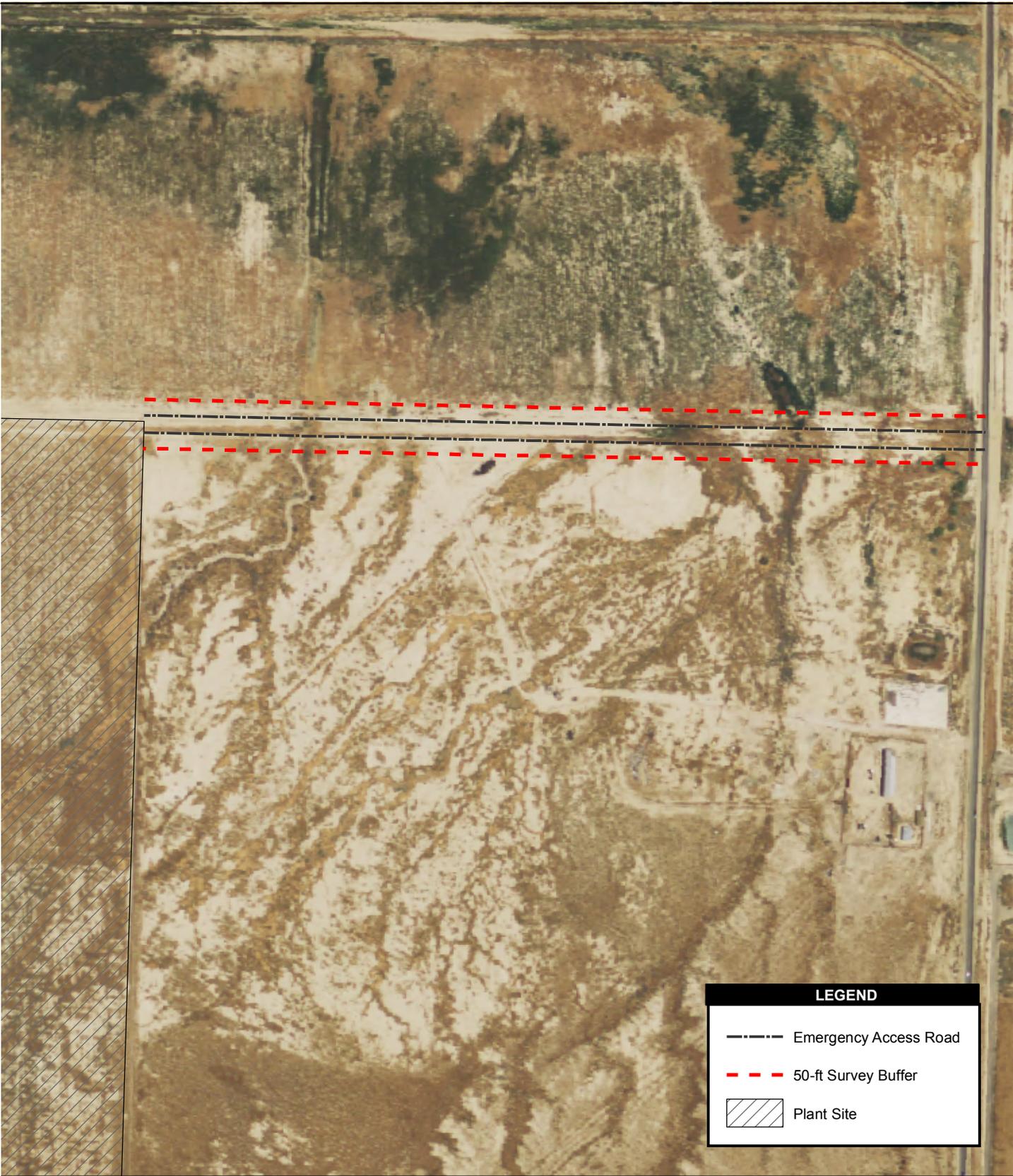
The natural setting (including physiography, hydrology, climate, flora, and fauna) and cultural setting (including prehistory, history, and ethnography) were addressed in the archaeology report for the BSEP. For an in-depth discussion of the natural and cultural settings for the BSEP, please refer to Apple and Glennly (2008).



Source: USGS 2007 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle Cantil 1973, Cinco 1994



Figure 1
Project Location



Source: USGS 2007 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle Cantil 1973

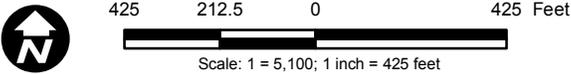


Figure 2
Survey Area

METHODS AND RESULTS

Records Search

A records search was completed for the original survey of the BSEP in December 2007. The records search included a 1-mile buffer around the BESP plant facility, which includes the current survey area. The results of the records search were compiled in the cultural resources technical report for the BESP (Apple and Glenny 2008). No previously recorded cultural resources were identified along the emergency access route or 50-foot buffer. One survey has been completed within 1 mile of the emergency access route (Schiffmann 1985).

Field Methods and Results

The emergency access route was surveyed by EDAW archaeologists on June 16, 2009. Linear transects of no greater than 20 m were walked. Transects included the 55-foot access road corridor and 50-foot buffer zones on either side of the corridor. Archaeologists used a sub-meter global positioning system (GPS) to map their location along the emergency access road. Ground visibility was good, ranging between 90 and 100 percent. No cultural resources were encountered along the access road corridor or the 50-foot buffer zones.

SUMMARY

EDAW archaeologists did not identify any cultural materials along the emergency access road corridor or the 50-foot buffer.

REFERENCES

Apple, Rebecca, and Wayne Glenny

2008 *The Beacon Solar Energy Project Archaeological Resources Report, Kern County, California*. Report submitted to Beacon Solar, LLC. On file at EDAW San Diego.

Schiffmann, Robert A.

1985 *Archaeological Investigation of Solar World's Proposed Wind Farm Near Cantil, Kern County, California*. Report on file at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center, California State University, Bakersfield.