

6.5 VISUAL RESOURCES

As described below impacts of the Modified Project to visual resources are expected to be less than or equal to those of the Approved Project.

6.5.1 Summary of Project Changes Related to Visual Resources

Changes proposed in the Modified Project that are relevant to visual resources include:

- Elimination of the Power Blocks for all four units including the 120 foot cooling towers;
- Elimination of the solar trough mirrors which are 24 feet tall; and
- Installation of PV modules on either a fixed mounting system or a single axis tracking system that would enable the module to track the sun.

6.5.1 Changes in Environmental Impacts

The Commission Final Decision ultimately found that the Approved Project, even with mitigation, would still result in significant direct, indirect and cumulative impacts. The Modified Project will lessen those impacts because it will result in less glint and glare, will eliminate taller structures and the PV modules will be significantly less visible since they will be about a third of the height of the original solar trough mirrors.

The visual simulations for the Modified Project were not complete at the time of filing of this Petition. When complete they will be submitted under separate cover. However, for every KOP we anticipate that the visual impact will be less than the Approved Project, although not likely to be considered less than significant from all KOPs.

6.5.2 Compliance With LORS

There are no specific visual related LORS applicable to the Modified Project.

6.5.3 Conditions of Certification

No modifications to the Conditions of Certification are necessary for the Modified Project.