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RIO MESA SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT

May 24, 2012

Rio Mesa Solar – Project Enhancement Overview

- **Project Description**
  - Configuration — Original: *3 250 MW (net) Units; 1 Unit on BLM land, 2 Units mostly on Private Land*
    New: *2 250MW Units (net) solely on Private Land*
  - Project Site — Original: *~5900 developed acres including Gen-tie and access roads*
    New: *~4070 developed acres including Gen-tie and access roads*
  - Common Area — *Move all permanent facilities to west of WAPA T-line. Only temporary construction facilities will be located to the west of the WAPA lines.*
  - Gen Tie Line — R*outing to be on west of WAPA lines, conductors will be sized for 500 MW generation*
  - Land Use (New) — MWD (Private) Land: Solar Generation, Switchyard, Access Road
    BLM (Public) Land: *Gen-tie, Backup/Construction Power line, and Access Roads*
  - Zoning: — MWD Land: Compatible per Board Policy B-29
    BLM Land: In compliance though will still require Plan Use Amendment

Rio Mesa Solar – Specifics of Proposal

Why we are proposing this:

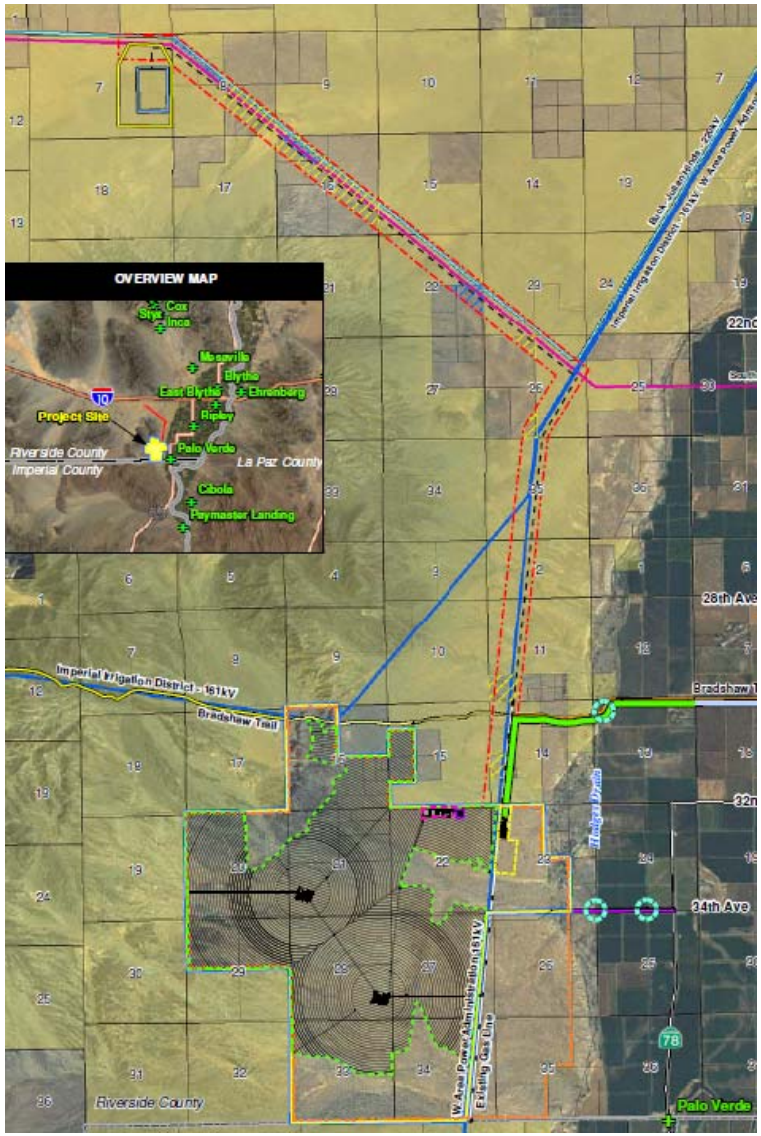
- Following a recommendation from the BLM
- Allows project to be completed in a consistent time frame with PPA obligations.
- Significantly reduces environmental impacts
  - Biological
  - Cultural
  - Air Quality and GHG
  - Waters of the US and State of CA.

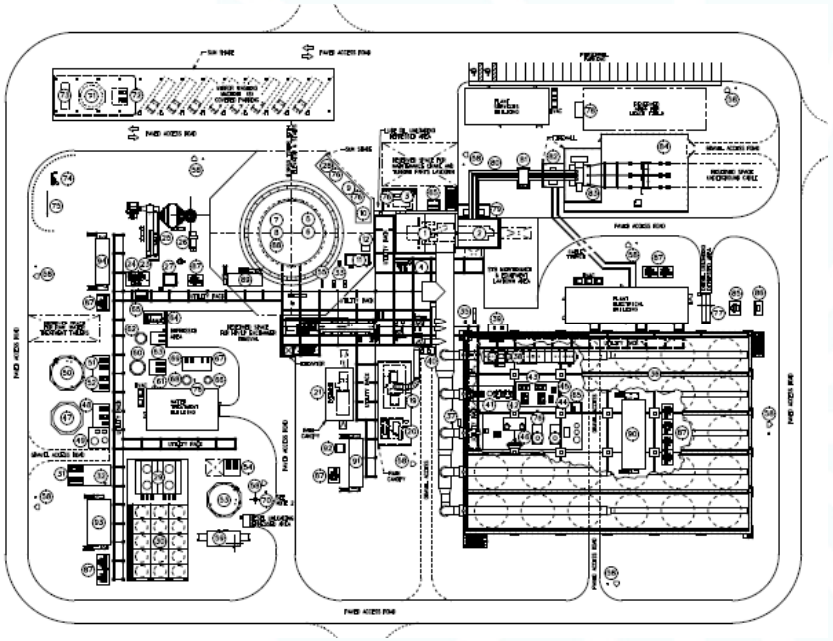
Consequences

- Environmental Benefits are reduced by 1/3

NO NEW LAND IMPACTS ARE PLANNED

Rio Mesa Solar – Project Location and Layout





Power Block Layout for RMS 1 and 2

Note: exact location and layout of common facilities to be determined.

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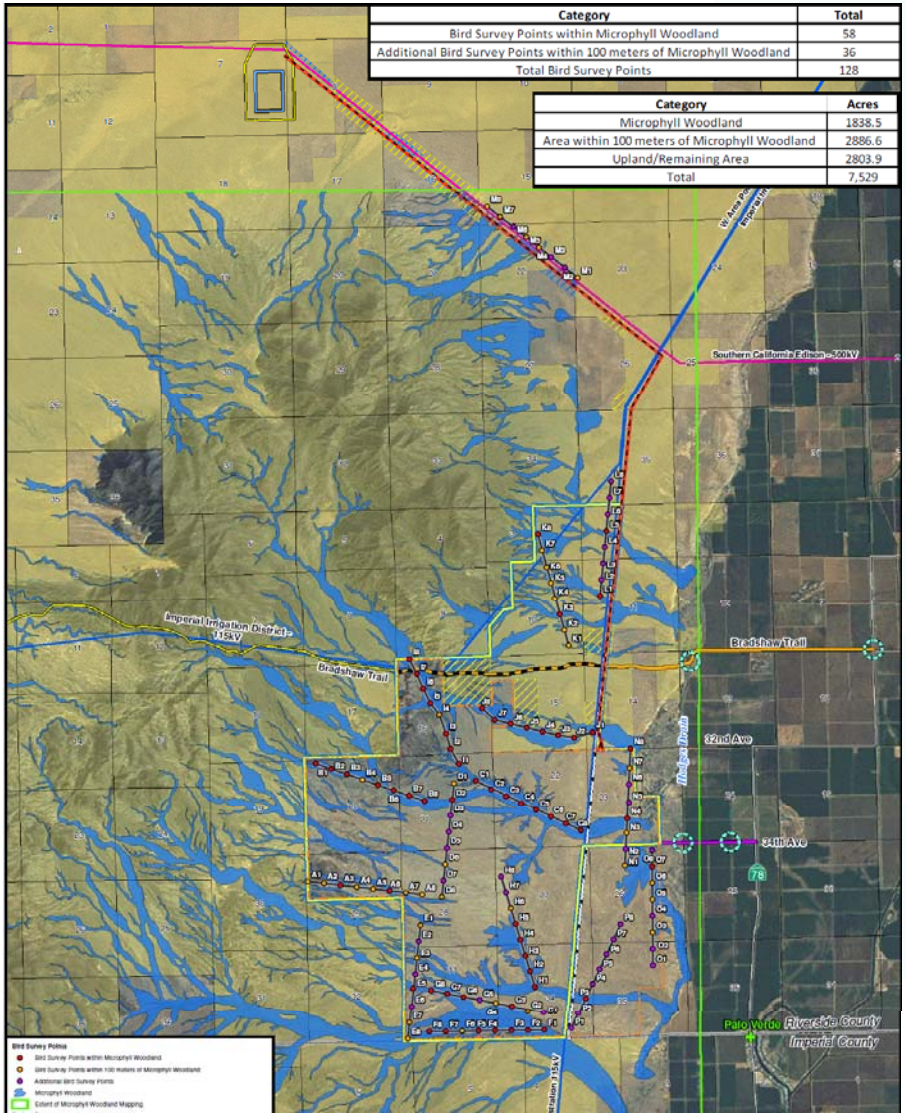
Rio Mesa Solar – Environmental Enhancements

- **Environmental Enhancements by reducing project scope to 2 Units:**
  - Reduction in footprint area of approximately 1800 acres
  - Bird collision risks reduced by 1/3
  - Bird heat/flux impacts reduced by 1/3
  - Reduce impact on Desert Tortoise by 1/3
  - Distance from known bat roosting site is increased and impact on foraging area is reduced by 52 percent.
  - Impact on Microphyll woodlands is lessened by 37 percent.
  - Impact on Waters of the US and State of California are lessened significantly
  - Visual impacts reduced, and closest tower to I-10, Blythe, and Bradshaw Trail eliminated.
  - Reduction in Cultural and Paleontological Resources impacts by 1/3.
  - Bradshaw Trail no longer requires rerouting
  - Imperial Irrigation District T-Line no longer requires rerouting
  - Air Quality impacts reduced, remodeling underway
  - Reduction in duration of construction traffic impacts
  - Reduction in operational water usage needs by 1/3

Rio Mesa Solar – Microphyll Woodlands

Category	Total
Bird Survey Points within Microphyll Woodland	58
Additional Bird Survey Points within 100 meters of Microphyll Woodland	36
Total Bird Survey Points	128

Category	Acres
Microphyll Woodland	1838.5
Area within 100 meters of Microphyll Woodland	2886.6
Upland/Remaining Area	2803.9
Total	7,529



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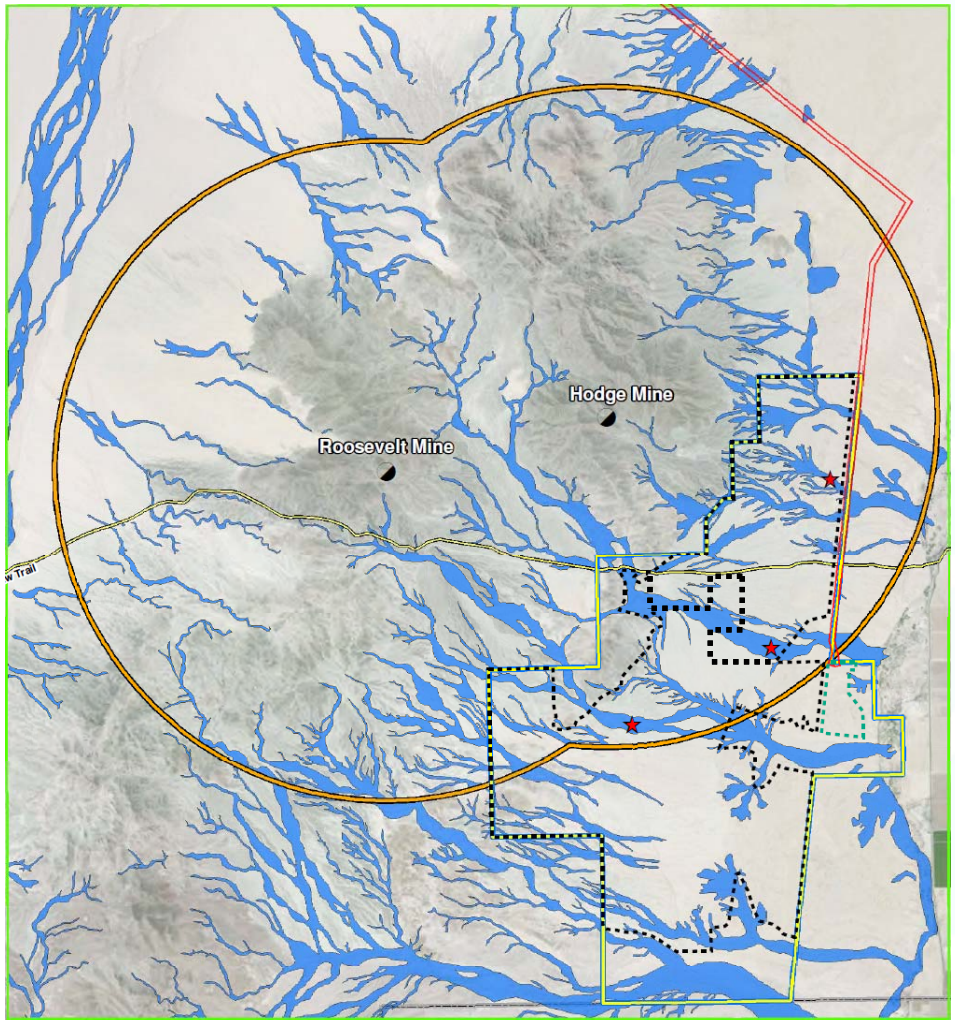
Rio Mesa Solar – Bat Foraging Area



Rio Mesa Solar – Permitting Plan Forward

- Updated key project and environmental information through supplemental responses to Data Requests are being prepared.
  - Impacts are reduced in nearly all areas.
  - Will provide an updated project map and Project Description as soon as possible.
  - Most updated project information can be provided quickly.
  - Air Quality remodeling is longest lead item.

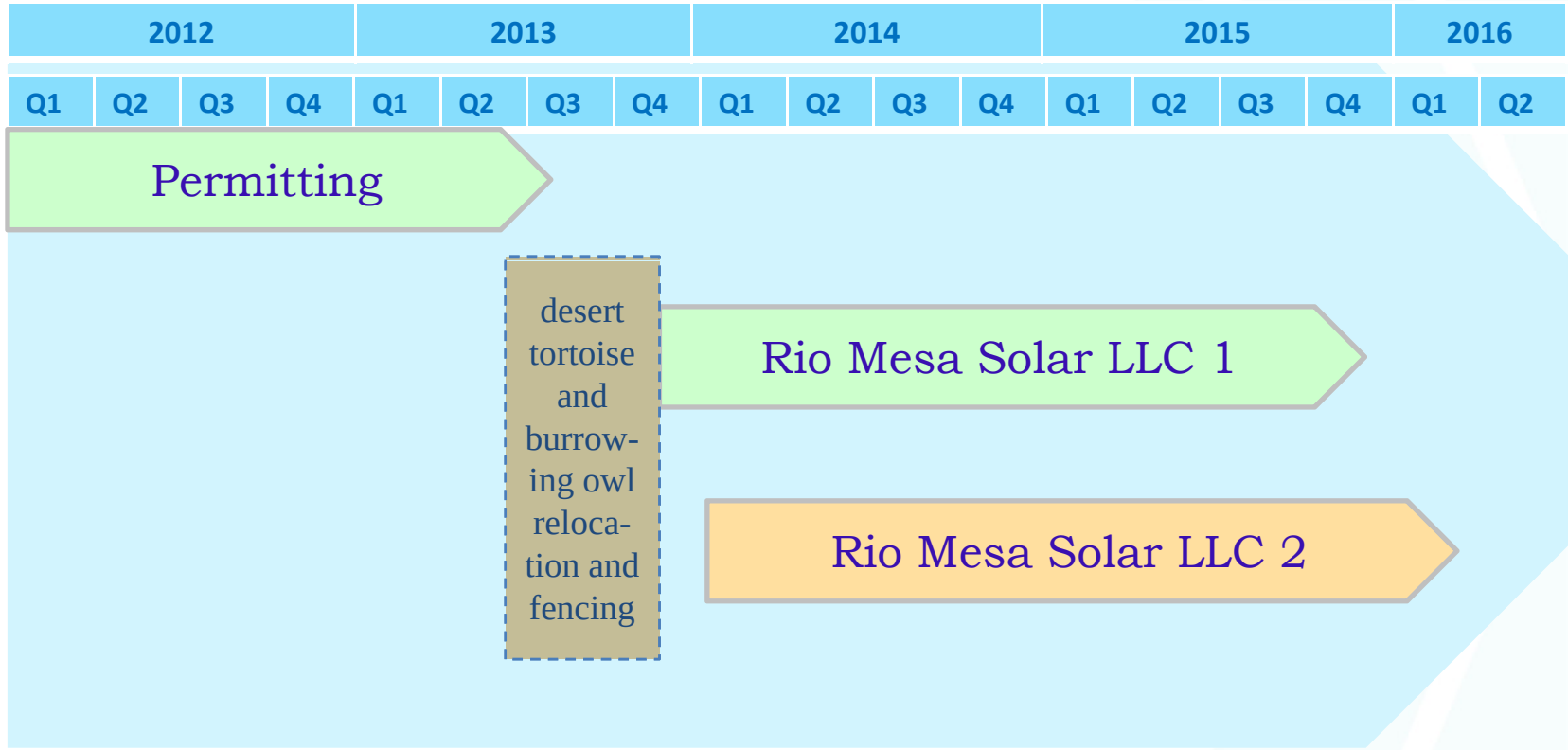
Rio Mesa Solar – Permitting Timeline

- California Energy Commission (CEC)
  - Generation Site and Gen-Tie line included in CEQA review
    - PSA 8/2012
    - FSA 1/2013
    - CEC Decision Q2 2013 (Per scheduling order issued 4/2012)

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
  - Gen-Tie Line with Units 1 and 2 as a connected action
  - Moreno Valley District Office Lead
  - File NOI in Q2 2012
  - DEIS Q4 2012
  - ROD and ROW Grants Q2 2013

Rio Mesa Solar – Overall Construction Schedule

Preliminary Construction Schedule



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Questions and Answers