

Renewable Energy

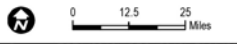
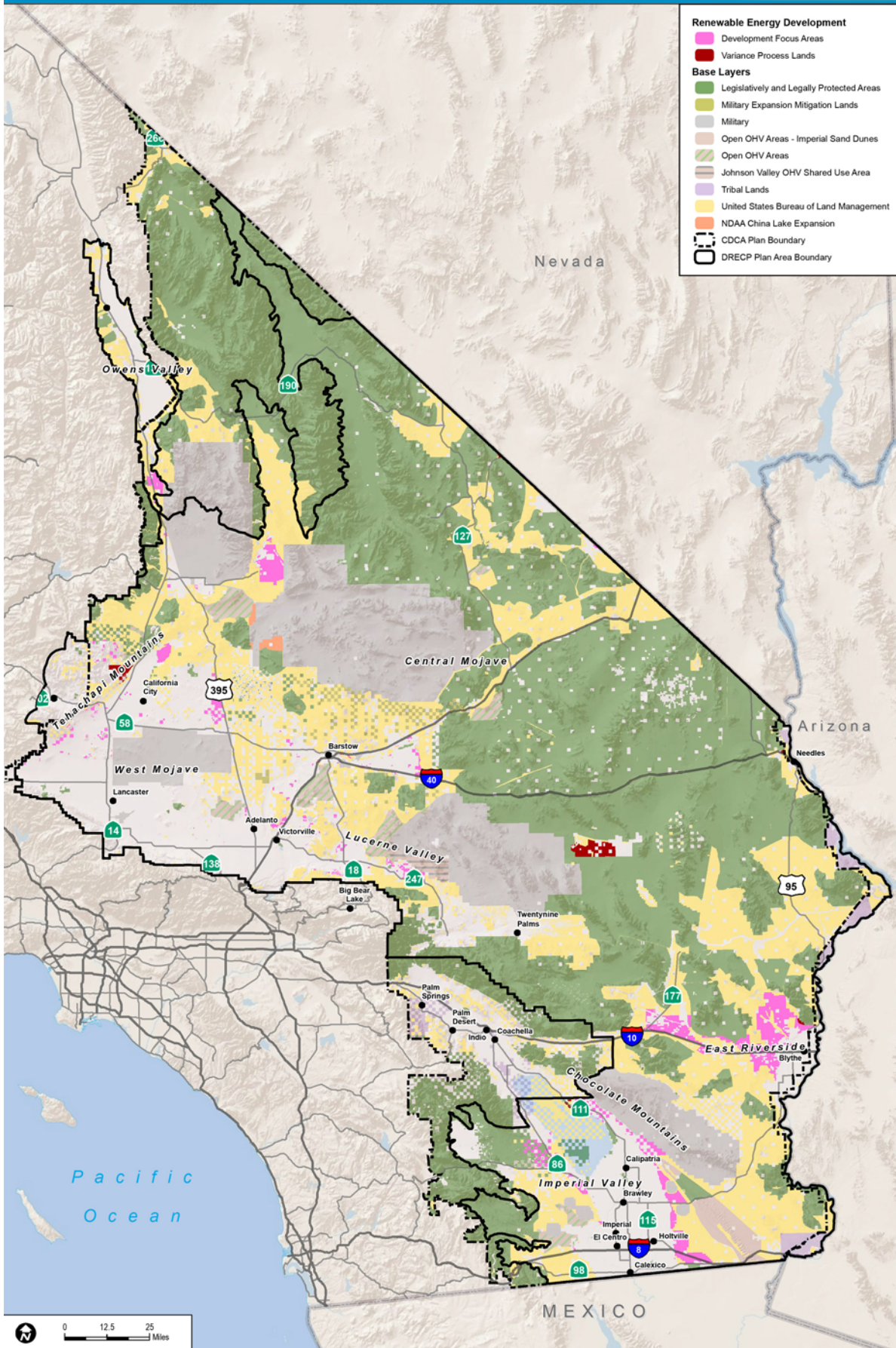
The State of California and the U.S. Department of the Interior have established significant renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals. California is leading the way globally in addressing climate change and is on track to meet its goal of obtaining 50 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2030.

Renewable energy technologies recognized in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) include solar, wind and geothermal. The plan identifies Development Focus Areas (DFAs), which are areas with high renewable energy potential and transmission access where sensitive ecological and cultural resources impacts can be avoided, minimized, or mitigated. The DFAs are larger than necessary to accommodate the expected renewable energy development in the desert. The DFAs are designed to provide more permitting certainty and make survey and mitigation requirements more predictable and efficient. DFAs do not typically specify the type of renewable energy technology (i.e., solar, wind and geothermal) that can be developed. The plan makes assumptions about the mix of technologies for the purposes of analysis based on existing restrictions, presence of renewable energy resources and other factors. The DFAs will make a significant contribution to the state's renewable energy goals, alongside development on private land in the desert and elsewhere in the state.

Energy highlights of the DRECP include:

- 388,000 acres of DFAs on BLM-managed public lands for solar, wind and geothermal development.
- More than 400,000 acres of additional lands that could be considered for renewable energy development, including Variance Process Lands (40,000 acres), General Public Lands (400,000 acres) and certain Extensive Recreation Management Areas (35,000 acres).
- Support demand of 8,000 megawatts on public lands through 2040, and have the potential for up to 27,000 megawatts if fully built out.
- By design, the DFAs:
 - Have predictable survey requirements and simplified mitigation measures designed to streamline the siting and permitting process;
 - Provide clear, specific and standardized project siting and design criteria;
 - Are subject to predictable conservation and management actions designed to help projects avoid, minimize and compensate for the effects of project construction, operation and decommissioning.





Sources: ESRI (2016); CEC (2013); BLM (2016); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013)

FIGURE 8
DRECP LUPA Renewable Energy Designations