

ES. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ES.1. INTRODUCTION

Purpose of This EIR

This Environmental Impact Report (EIR) assesses the potential environmental effects of the adoption and long-term implementation of the Westlands Solar Park (WSP) Master Plan and WSP Gen-Tie Corridors Plan. This EIR has been prepared by a consultant on behalf of the Westlands Water District (WWD) as Lead Agency in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended, to inform public decision-makers and the public of the significant environmental impacts of the projects and plans that they propose to consider.

The following sections from the CEQA Guidelines define the role and purpose of an EIR:

§15121(a) Informational Document. An EIR is an informational document which will inform public agency decision-makers and the public generally of the significant environmental effect of a project, identify possible ways to minimize the significant effects, and describe reasonable alternatives to the project. The public agency shall consider the information in the EIR along with other information which may be presented to the agency.

§15151 Standards of Adequacy of an EIR. An EIR should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision-makers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences. An evaluation of the environmental effects of a proposed project need not be exhaustive, but the sufficiency of an EIR is reviewed in light of what is reasonably feasible. Disagreement among experts does not make an EIR inadequate, but the EIR should summarize the main points of disagreement among experts. The courts have not looked for perfection but for adequacy, completeness, and a good faith effort at full disclosure.

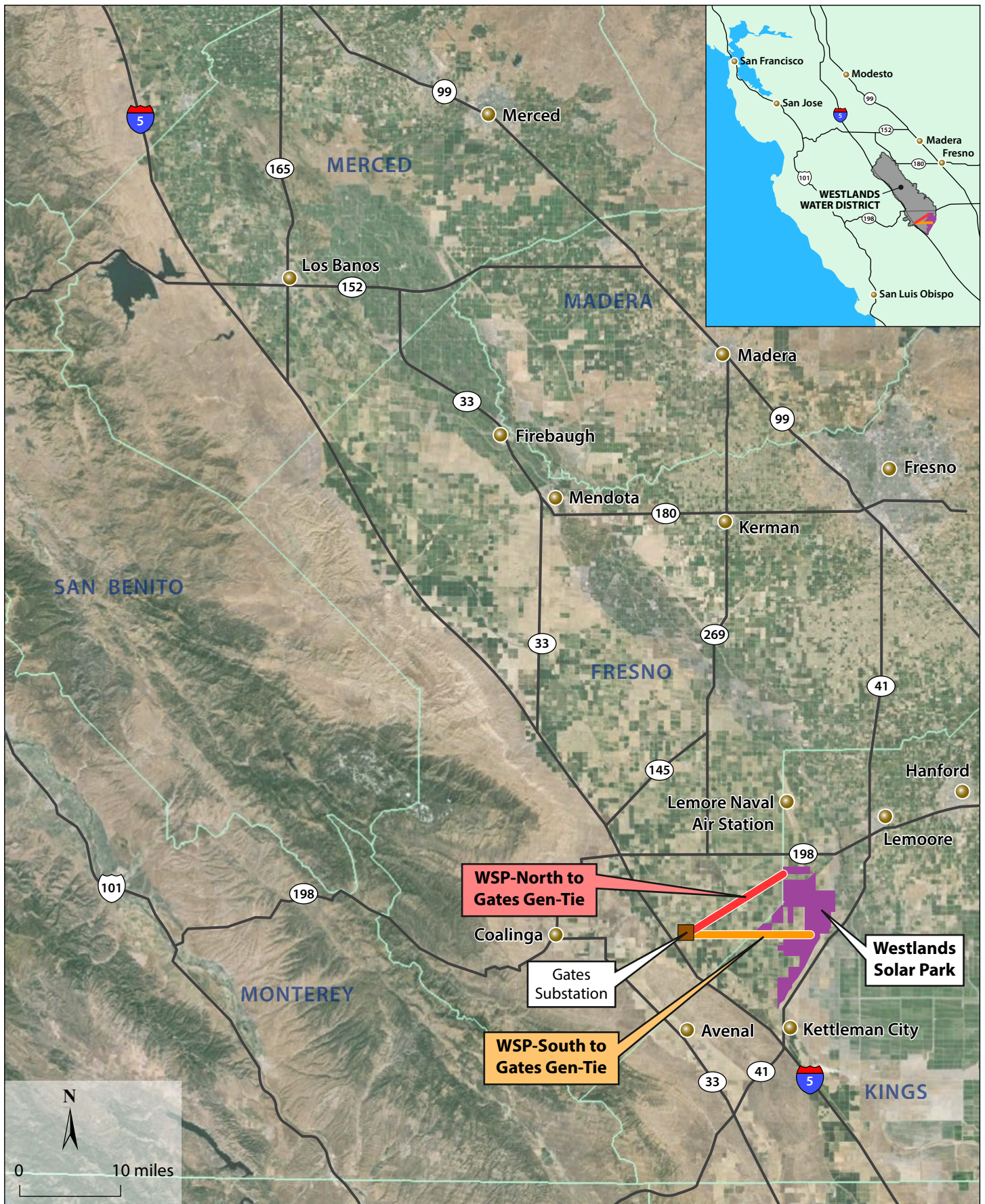
Type of Environmental Document – Program EIR

This EIR is a “Program EIR” as provided for in Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines. Program EIRs are intended to provide plan-level or programmatic environmental review, as distinguished from project-level environmental review conducted for discretionary approvals of projects proposed for construction. According to the Guidelines, a Program EIR may be prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project, are related geographically, and as logical parts in a chain of contemplated actions. The Program EIR (or PEIR) allows for a more exhaustive consideration of effects and alternatives than would be practical an EIR on separate individual actions, and ensures consideration of cumulative impacts that might be missed on a case-by-case basis.

ES.2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The overall project covered by this EIR includes two main elements, consisting of: 1) the Westlands Solar Park (“WSP”) Master Plan, which is an overall plan of development for solar generating facilities within WSP; and 2) the Westlands Solar Park Generation-Interconnection Tie-Line Corridors Plan (“WSP Gen-Tie Corridors Plan”), which is the route plan for high-voltage generation-transmission corridors to provide interconnection and capacity for delivery of WSP-generated power to the State electrical grid at the Gates Substation (see Figures ES-1 and ES-2). The main elements of the plan are briefly described below.

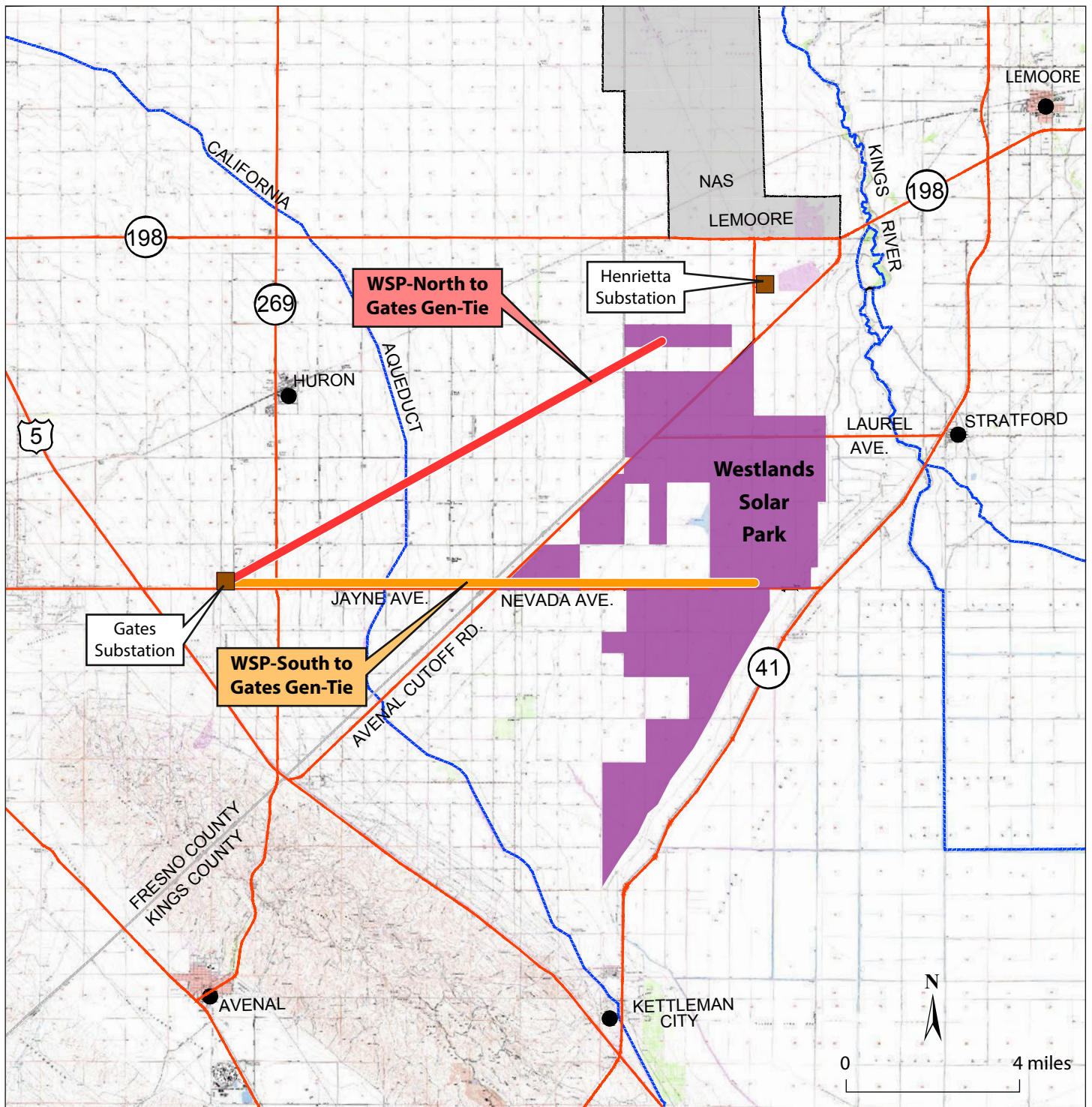
- 1) Westlands Solar Park (WSP) Master Plan – The WSP Master Plan is intended to serve as the planning framework for a series of utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) energy generating facilities on about 21,000 acres in west-central Kings County, generally located south of SR-198, west of SR-41 and the Kings River, and east of the Fresno County Line (see Figure ES-3). The combined generating capacity of WSP solar projects is estimated to be 2,000 MW, although the final power output could increase with improved solar PV module efficiency over the course of the WSP buildout period. The solar PV projects developed within WSP would have varying generating capacities, with the power output from individual solar facilities ranging up to about 250 MW. The installation of solar generating facilities is planned to occur incrementally over an approximately 12-year buildout period extending to about 2030. For planning purposes, the Master Plan area is divided into 12 subareas (or solar generating facilities – SGFs), and includes several substations to step up the generated power to a transmission voltage of 230-kV.
- 2) Westlands Solar Park to Gates Substation Gen-Tie Corridors – Two gen-tie lines are planned to deliver WSP solar-generated power to the electrical grid, as described here (see Figure ES-4):
 - a. WSP-South to Gates Gen-Tie Corridor – This planned 230-kV transmission corridor would run parallel and adjacent to the Nevada-Jayne Avenue roadway right-of-way, commencing at a planned substation on Nevada Avenue in the southern portion of WSP and running westward along the north side of the roadway for 11.5 miles to the Gates Substation. This gen-tie corridor would serve as the first of two WSP gen-ties providing delivery of solar power generated in the central and southern portions of the WSP to the Gates Substation where it would be transferred to the State electrical grid. [An optional configuration under consideration would consist of two parallel 230-kV gen-ties in this alignment, as an alternative to the second gen-tie corridor described below.]
 - b. WSP-North to Gates Gen-Tie Corridor – This planned 230-kV transmission corridor would run parallel and adjacent to the existing 230-kV Henrietta-Gates transmission line, commencing at a planned substation in the northern portion of WSP, and running southwestward for 11.5 miles to the Gates Substation. This transmission corridor would serve as the second WSP gen-tie line providing delivery of solar power generated in the northern and central portions of the WSP to the Gates Substation where it would be transferred to the State electrical grid. [As mentioned above, this gen-tie alignment may not be pursued if it is ultimately decided to add a second parallel gen-tie line along the Nevada-Jayne Avenue alignment described above. Alternatively, it is possible that this corridor may include two parallel 230-kV gen-tie lines, in which case the southern gen-tie described above may not be constructed.]



Base map: Google Earth, 2016

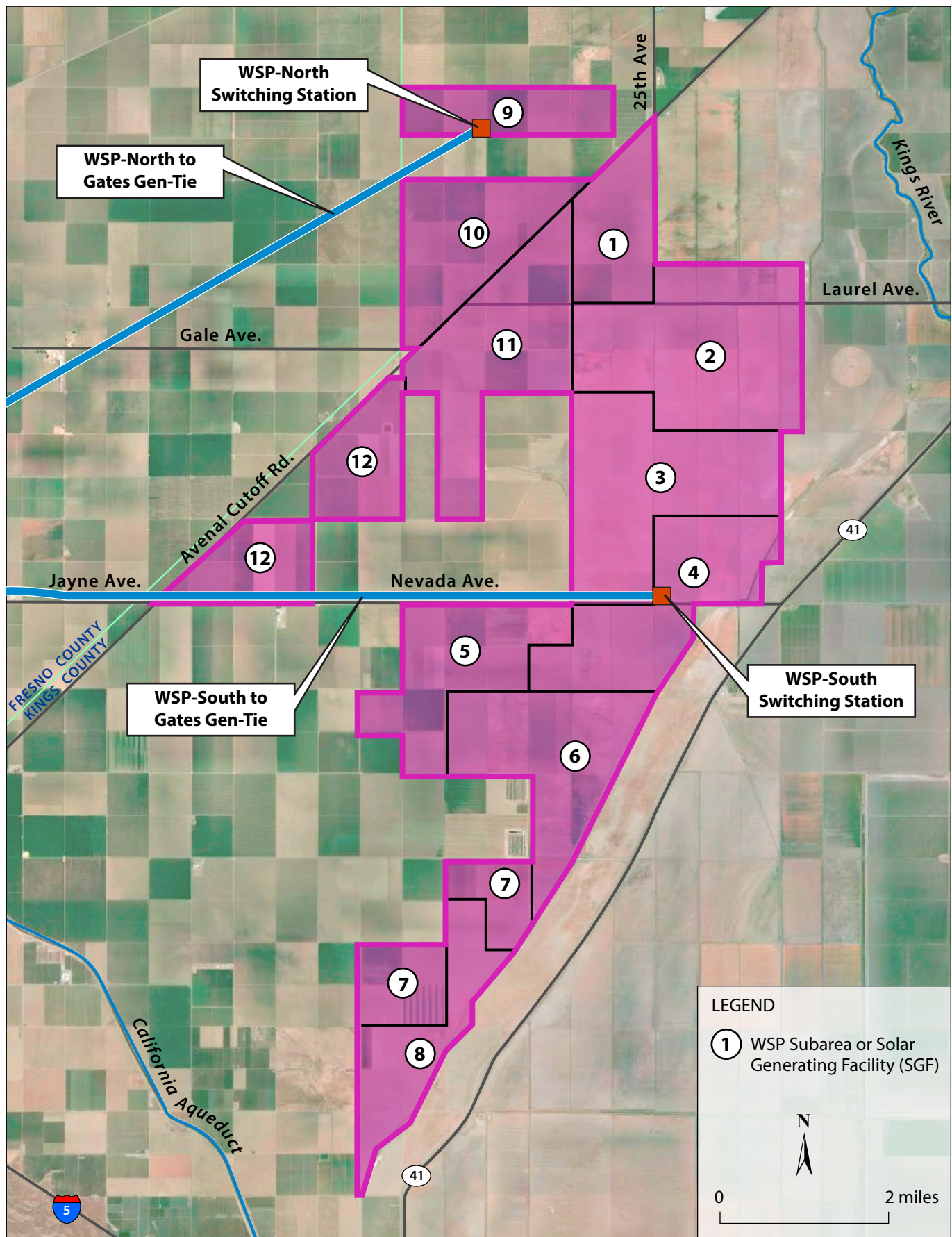
Regional Location
Figure ES-1

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WSP Vicinity
Figure ES-2

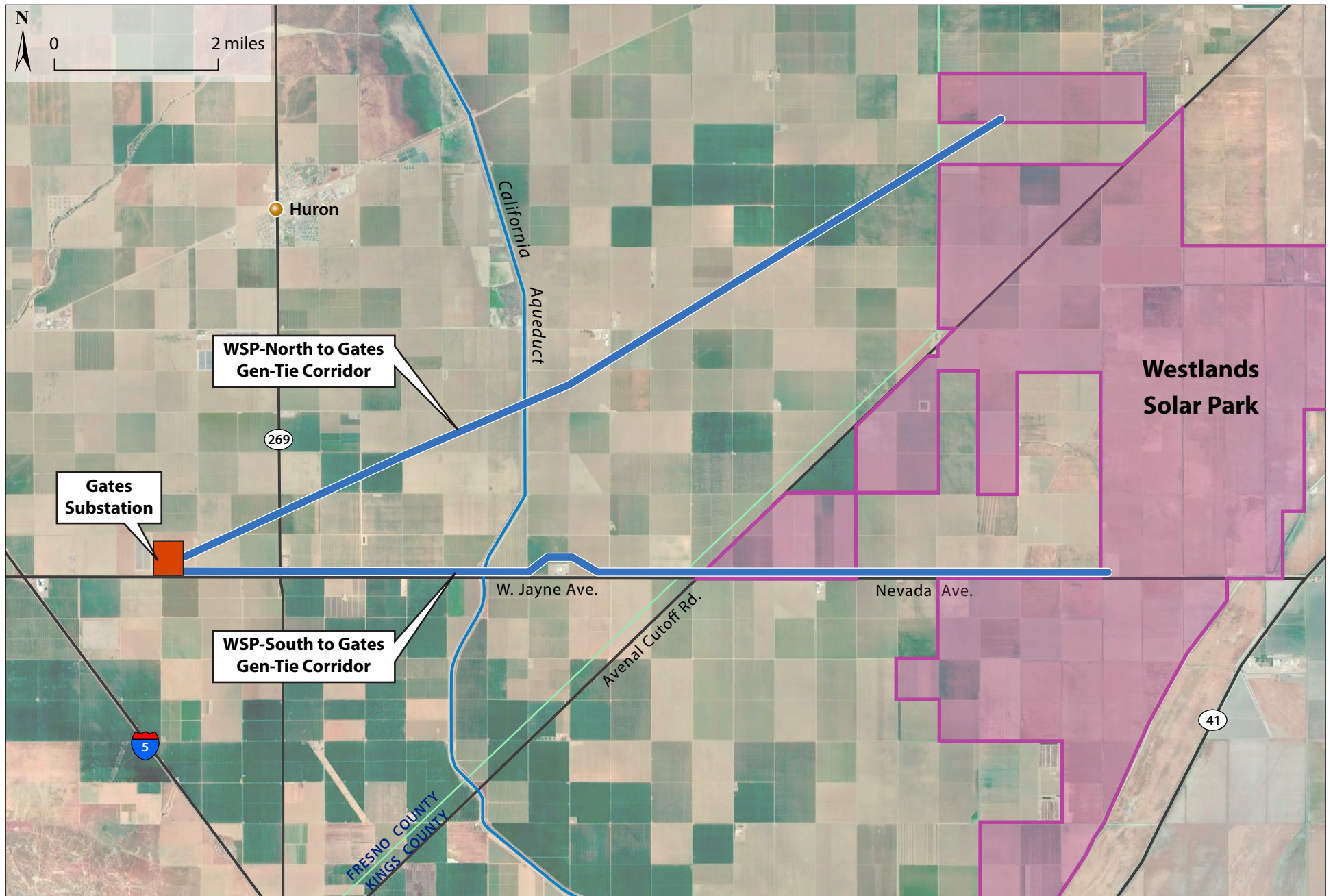
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Base map: Google Earth, 2016

Westlands Solar Park Master Plan
Figure ES-3

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Base Map: Google Earth, 2017

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors Plan
Figure ES-4

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ES.3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Introduction

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15124(b) indicates that an EIR should include:

“A statement of objectives sought by the proposed project. A clearly written statement of objectives will help the lead agency develop a reasonable range of alternatives to evaluate in the EIR and will aid the decision makers in preparing findings or a statement of overriding considerations, if necessary. The statement of objectives should include the underlying purpose of the project.”

Overall Project Goals

The Westlands Solar Park Master Plan and WSP Gen-Tie Corridors Plan are intended to fulfill the following goals:

- 1) To provide an overall plan to guide and facilitate the beneficial reuse of drainage-impaired lands through development of renewable energy generation in the Westlands Competitive Renewable Energy Zone (CREZ).
- 2) To establish the preferred transmission gen-tie corridors to convey WSP-generated renewable energy to the statewide electricity market. Establishment of these routes would facilitate deliveries of renewable energy generation from drainage-impaired lands of Westlands Solar Park to the state electrical grid.

Project Objectives of the WSP Master Plan

The major goal articulated above encompasses the following specific objectives of the WSP Master Plan:

- Generate approximately 2,000 megawatts of clean, renewable electrical power utilizing solar photovoltaic (PV) technology and to deliver the electrical output to the State’s electrical grid. (The estimated overall generating capacity for WSP could increase with improvements to solar PV module efficiency during the course of the buildout period for WSP.)
- Contribute to the solution of area-wide agricultural drainage problems by retiring all of the lands within the WSP plan area and providing productive reuse of those lands for renewable energy production as an alternative to irrigated agriculture.
- Provide for the economically viable and environmentally beneficial reuse of the WSP plan area’s physically impaired agricultural soils.
- Contribute to the reduction in dependence on the aquifer for supplemental irrigation.
- Reduce cumulative salt loading to the groundwater resource.

- Constructively address the chronic shortage of surface water deliveries by removing the least productive farmland from irrigation by imported water, and by facilitating the redirection of scarce surface water allocations from the WSP plan area to more productive agricultural land within Westlands Water District that is not physically impaired by saline soils, high groundwater, or high selenium or other mineral concentrations. (This applies only to the privately-owned western half of the WSP plan area. The WWD-owned lands in the eastern half of the WSP plan area have already been retired from irrigated agriculture.)
- Provide utility-scale power generation on physically-impaired farmland in order to reduce pressure for renewable energy development on prime agricultural soils elsewhere.
- Provide for development of utility-scale solar generation facilities on highly disturbed lands which provide minimal habitat value for wildlife.
- Provide a low-impact alternative location for the siting of utility-scale renewable energy development that might otherwise occur on lands with high habitat value for protected wildlife species (such as the Mojave Desert).
- Provide utility-scale solar generation in a location that is already served by high-voltage transmission lines.
- Help implement the State's goal of increased electrical generation to 50 percent with renewable resources by 2030 under California's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS).
- Help implement the California Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) by providing for the maximum development of up to 5,000 MW of the solar resource within the Westlands CREZ. (It is noted that the Westlands CREZ received the highest state-wide environmental ranking among all CREZs designated through the RETI process.)
- Contribute to overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by generating electricity that is not based on the combustion of fossil fuel, pursuant to The California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), as extended and supplemented with SB 32 in 2016.
- Create new employment opportunities for local residents.
- Positively contribute to the local economy through stimulation of economic activity such as creation of secondary multiplier employment and the purchase of materials and services.
- Provide community benefits through increased property tax and sales tax revenues.

Project Objectives of the WSP Gen-Tie Corridors Plan

The objective of the WSP Gen-Tie Corridors Plan is as follows:

- Provide delivery of renewable solar power from the Westlands Solar Park to the State's electrical grid while minimizing impacts to the environment.

ES.4. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Table ES-1 summarizes the impacts and mitigation measures as identified in this EIR for the Westlands Solar Park Master Plan and the WSP Gen-Tie Corridors Plan.

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TABLE ES-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACTS	MITIGATION MEASURES (MMs)
3.1. AESTHETICS	
AES-1. Substantial Adverse Effect on a Scenic Vista	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP plan area is not part of a recognized scenic vista, nor are scenic vistas visible from the WSP plan area; therefore, the WSP solar development would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie corridors are not part of a recognized scenic vista, nor are scenic vistas visible from the gen-tie corridors vicinity; therefore, the WSP gen-tie lines would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
AES-2. Substantially Damage Scenic Resources	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP plan area does not include scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings, or other scenic features, and is not near a State scenic highway; therefore, the WSP solar development would not substantially damage scenic resources. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie corridors vicinity does not include scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings, or other scenic features, and is not near a State scenic highway; therefore, the WSP gen-tie lines would not substantially damage scenic resources. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
AES-3. Substantially Degrade Existing Visual Character and Quality	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development would result in changes to the visual character of the plan area; however, these changes would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The WSP gen-tie corridors would result in changes to the visual character of the plan area; however, these changes would not substantially degrade the existing visual character and quality of the lands in their vicinity. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.1. AESTHETICS (CONT'D)	
AES-4. Light and Glare	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development would introduce new sources of light and low level glare to the plan area; however, this would not represent a substantial new source of light and glare and would not adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The WSP gen-tie projects would not introduce new permanent sources of light or glare to their settings; and the night lighting that may be employed at work sites and staging areas would temporary and designed to be non-obtrusive. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
AES-5. Cumulative Aesthetic Impacts	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar projects and the other cumulative projects would result in visual changes to their settings; however, these visual changes would not represent cumulatively significant visual impacts. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The WSP gen-tie projects and the other cumulative projects would result in visual changes to their settings; however, these visual changes would not represent cumulatively significant visual impacts. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact)	No mitigation is required.
3.2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES	
AG-1. Agricultural Land Conversion	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP plan area includes "Farmland" which would be subject to solar development. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	In order to reduce the impacts of WSP solar projects to "Farmland" within the WSP plan area to less-than-significant levels, MMs AG-1, AG-2, and AG-3 shall be implemented in conjunction with each WSP solar project that is mapped as "Prime Farmland," "Unique Farmland," or "Farmland of Statewide Importance" under the version of DOC's "Important Farmland Kings County" map that is current at the time of approval of the CUP application of that WSP solar project. In addition, all WSP solar projects shall implement MM AG-2 and AG-3 pursuant to the Kings County Development Code. [Continued on next page.]

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
AG-1. Agricultural Land Conversion (Cont'd)	
<u>Westlands Solar Park</u> (Cont'd)	<p>[Continued from preceding page.]</p> <p>MM AG-1. Agricultural Management Plan</p> <p>Prior to the issuance of a building permit for each WSP solar project proposed on "Farmland," the applicant shall submit, for review and approval by the Kings County Community Development Agency, an Agricultural Management Plan (AMP) that provides for the ongoing agricultural productivity of the site for the life of the project. The AMP shall specify that at least 90 percent of the site shall be vegetated with grasses and forbs and shall be managed for dry farm seasonal sheep grazing. The AMP shall include specific provisions for soil preparation and revegetation including specifications for a seed mix which is appropriate to the soil and climatic conditions in the absence of irrigation, methods of avoiding invasive species, and a list of acceptable vegetation that meets the dietary needs of sheep. The AMP shall include detailed provisions to ensure the successful establishment of the planned vegetative cover, and shall identify appropriate maintenance activities, including conditions under which herbicides may be used, and particularly the identification and selection of herbicides that are non-toxic to livestock and wildlife. The AMP shall also prescribe the management practices for sheep grazing. The AMP shall include provisions for ongoing monitoring and annual reporting of agricultural activity on the site to the Kings County Community Development Agency. The AMP shall also comply with the requirements of the <i>Kings County Development Code</i> related to weed abatement and pest control.</p> <p>MM AG-2. Soil Reclamation Plan</p> <p>Prior to the issuance of a building permit for each WSP solar project proposed anywhere within the WSP Plan Area, the applicant shall submit, for review and approval by the Kings County Community Development Agency, a Soil Reclamation Plan (Plan) for the restoration of the project site at the end of the project's useful life. The Plan shall contain an analysis of general pre-construction conditions of the solar facility site, and the site shall be photographically documented by the project proponent prior to the start of construction. [Continued on next page.]</p>

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
AG-1. Agricultural Land Conversion (Cont'd)	
<u>Westlands Solar Park (Cont'd)</u>	<p>[Continued from preceding page.]</p> <p>The plan shall contain specific measures to restore the soil to approximate its pre-project condition, including: (1) removal of all above-ground and below-ground fixtures, equipment, and non-agricultural driveways; (2) tilling to restore the sub-grade material to a density and depth consistent with its pre-project condition; (3) revegetation using a Kings County-approved grasses and forbs seed mixture designed to maximize revegetation with noninvasive species broadcast or drilled across the project site; and (4) application of a weed-free mulch spread, as needed, to stabilize the soil until germination occurs and young plants are established to facilitate moisture retention in the soil. Whether the project area has been restored to pre-construction conditions would be assessed by Kings County staff. All waste shall be disposed of or recycled in accordance with applicable laws. The applicant shall verify the completion of reclamation within 18 months after expiration of the project use permit with Kings County Planning Division staff. [Note: This mitigation measure would be a requirement for all WSP solar development under the Kings County Development Code which requires reclamation of all solar facility sites upon decommissioning.]</p> <p><u>MM AG-3. Financial Assurance</u></p> <p>Prior to the issuance of a building permit for each WSP solar project anywhere within the WSP Plan Area, the applicant shall post a performance or cash bond, submit a Certificate of Deposit, or provide such other financial assurances acceptable to the County, in an amount provided in an Engineer's Cost Estimate, approved by the Kings County Community Development Agency, to ensure completion of the activities under the Soil Reclamation Plan. Every 5 years from the date of completion of construction of the project, the applicant shall submit an updated Engineer's Cost Estimate for financial assurances for the Soil Reclamation Plan, which will be reviewed every 5 years by the Kings County Community Development Agency to determine if the amount of the assurances is sufficient to implement the Plan. [Note: This mitigation measure would be a requirement for all WSP solar development under the Kings County Development Code which requires financial assurance for reclamation of all solar facility sites upon decommissioning.]</p>

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
AG-1. Agricultural Land Conversion (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The WSP gen-tie lines would result in the permanent loss of "Farmland" at tower locations. However, the losses would consist of a number of very small pieces of farmland displaced by the tower footings, which would be dispersed over the length of the corridors and would involve a total of approximately 2 acres of "Farmland" removal throughout the entire 23-mile length of the gen-tie corridors. This small acreage of farmland conversion is not considered a significant loss of "Farmland." (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>)	No mitigation is required.
AG-2. Conflict with Agricultural Zoning and Williamson Act	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The proposed solar land use is consistent with the existing Kings County agricultural zoning for the plan area, under which utility-scale solar development is a conditionally permitted use. Substantial portions of the WSP plan area are under Williamson Act or Farmland Security Zone Contracts; therefore, WSP solar projects would represent a potentially significant impact to contracted lands unless the solar projects meet the County's compatibility criteria for development on properties subject to Williamson Act programs. (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation</i>)	Implement MMs AG-1, AG-2, and AG-3. No additional mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Transmission lines are considered compatible uses under the Williamson Act, and are permitted uses in the applicable agricultural zoning districts in Kings and Fresno Counties, where the gen-tie corridors are located. (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>)	No mitigation is required.
AG-3. Agricultural Land Use Conflicts	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar facilities would result in potential land use conflicts with nearby agricultural operations resulting from dust generation and potential introduction of invasive weed species. (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Construction of the gen-tie projects could result in lost or damaged crops, and could temporarily impede agricultural operations or access to agricultural lands and facilities. (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation</i>)	In order to reduce the temporary and permanent impacts of the gen-tie projects on agricultural operations to less-than-significant levels, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented in conjunction with the gen-tie projects: [Continued on next page.]

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
AG-3. Agricultural Land Use Conflicts (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors (Cont'd)</u>	<p>[Continued from preceding page.]</p> <p><u>MM AG-4. Mitigation for Permanent Impacts to Agricultural Operations.</u></p> <p>The following measures shall be implemented to minimize permanent impacts to agricultural operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the engineering design stage, transmission monopoles shall be planned to be placed at the edges of farm fields and adjacent to existing roadways and farm lanes, to the extent feasible. During the engineering design stage, taller than typical transmission monopoles shall be planned where gen-tie lines pass through areas of permanent tree crops, in order to provide required clearances with tree crops and thus avoid permanent removal of tree crops within the transmission easements. <p><u>MM AG-5. Mitigation for Temporary Impacts to Agricultural Operations</u></p> <p>The following measures shall be implemented to minimize and mitigate temporary impacts to agricultural operations during construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the engineering design stage, temporary work areas, such as construction staging and materials storage areas, and stringing and pulling sites, shall be planned to be located on lands that are not under agricultural cultivation, to the extent feasible. Prior to the commencement of construction/ground disturbing activities in a given area, the project proponent shall coordinate with the affected property owners in order to schedule construction activities so as to minimize disruption to agricultural operations. During construction, activity by vehicles, equipment, and personnel shall be limited to designated work and staging areas, and designated temporary access roads, to the extent feasible. Fences, gates, and other agricultural fixtures that are damaged during construction shall be repaired or replaced to restore them to their pre-construction condition, as soon as practicable after the damage occurs. Damage to crops as a result of construction shall be compensated. Upon completion of construction in a given area, all temporary disturbance areas shall be restored to pre-construction condition. Within cultivated fields, the disturbed areas will be tilled and restored to a condition suitable for farming.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
AG-4. Conversion of Adjacent Farmland to Non-Agricultural Uses	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The presence of WSP solar facilities adjacent to ongoing agricultural operations would not directly or indirectly result in the conversion of these adjacent farmlands to non-agricultural uses. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The presence of the gen-tie lines would not directly or indirectly result in the conversion of adjacent farmlands to non-agricultural uses. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
AG-5. Cumulative Impacts to Agricultural Resources	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development would not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to agricultural resource impacts, with mitigation; therefore, WSP solar development would not have a significant cumulative impact on agricultural resources, with mitigation. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i>	Implement MMs AG-1, AG-2, and AG-3. No additional mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to agricultural resource impacts, with mitigation; therefore, the gen-tie projects would not have a significant cumulative impact on agricultural resources, with mitigation. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	Implement MMs AG-4, and AG-5. No additional mitigation is required.
3.3. AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE	
AQ-1. Construction Dust	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Construction of the WSP solar projects would result in potentially high fugitive particulate matter emissions that would exceed Air District thresholds. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i>	Implement the dust control requirements of SJVAPCD Regulation VIII, as set forth in MM AQ-1 below. MM AQ-1: Dust Control Measures The following dust control measures of SJVAPCD Regulation VIII and its constituent rules shall be implemented during construction and decommissioning of all WSP solar facilities to reduce construction PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5} emissions to less than 15 tons per year for each project: [Continued on next page.]

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.3. AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE	
AQ-1. Construction Dust	
<u>Westlands Solar Park</u> (Cont'd)	<p>[Continued from preceding page.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effective dust suppression (e.g., watering) for land clearing, grubbing, scraping, excavation, land leveling, grading, cut and fill and demolition activities. ▪ Effective stabilization of all disturbed areas of a construction site, including storage piles, not used for seven or more days. ▪ Control of fugitive dust from on-site unpaved roads and off-site unpaved access roads. ▪ Removal of accumulations of mud or dirt at the end of the workday or once every 24 hours from public paved roads, shoulders and access ways adjacent to the site. ▪ Cease outdoor construction activities that disturb soils during periods with high winds. ▪ Record keeping for each day dust control measures are implemented. ▪ Limit traffic speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph. ▪ Install sandbags or other erosion control measures to prevent silt runoff to public roadways. ▪ Landscape or replant vegetation in disturbed areas as quickly as possible. ▪ Prevent the tracking of mud or dirt on public roadways by limiting access to the construction sites. If necessary, use wheel washers for all exiting trucks, or wash off the tires or tracks of all trucks and equipment leaving the site. ▪ Suspend grading activity when winds (instantaneous gusts) exceed 25 mph or dust clouds cannot be prevented from extending beyond the site.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors</u> . Construction of the gen-tie lines would result in emissions of fugitive particulate matter but the emissions levels would not exceed Air District thresholds. (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>)	No mitigation is required under CEQA. (However, the SJVAPCD will require implementation of the dust control requirements of SJVAPCD Regulation VIII.)

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.3. AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE (CONT'D)	
AQ-2. Construction Exhaust Emissions	
<p><u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Exhaust emissions from equipment and vehicles used in construction of WSP solar projects would exceed the applicable threshold for ozone precursor NO_x on a temporary basis, but would not exceed the applicable thresholds for other criteria pollutants. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i></p>	<p>Implement MM AQ-2.</p> <p><u>MM AQ-2: NO_x Reduction Measures during Construction</u></p> <p>The following measures shall be implemented during construction of SGFs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 to reduce construction NO_x emissions to less than 10 tons per year for each project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Utilize Low-Emission Construction Equipment.</u> Develop a plan to use construction equipment with low NO_x emissions. This may include the use of equipment that meets US EPA Tier 3 standards (and equipment that meets Tier 4 standards, if available). b. <u>Minimize Idling Time.</u> Set idling time limit of 5 minutes or less for construction equipment. c. <u>Worker Trip Reduction.</u> Evaluate the feasibility of a work shuttle or carpool program to reduce emissions from worker travel. d. <u>Delivery Truck Trip Reduction.</u> Evaluate the feasibility of methods to reduce truck travel for delivery of equipment, by reducing the number of necessary truck trips. e. <u>Execute Voluntary Emissions Reduction Agreements.</u> Any solar projects for which the project-specific air quality analysis shows that the above mitigations will not be sufficient to reduce a project's construction emissions of NO_x below 10 tons per year, the project proponent shall execute a Voluntary Emissions Reduction Agreement (VERA) with SJVAPCD which provides for further reduction of construction NO_x to reduce the project's NO_x emissions to less than 10 tons per year.
<p><u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Exhaust emissions from equipment and vehicles used in construction of the WSP gen-tie lines would not exceed the applicable threshold for ozone precursor NO_x or other criteria pollutants. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i></p>	<p>No mitigation is required.</p>

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.3. AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE (CONT'D)	
AQ-3. Operational Emissions	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The emissions from the low-intensity operation and maintenance activities associated with the WSP solar facilities would not exceed applicable thresholds. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The emissions from the low-intensity inspection and maintenance activities associated with WSP gen-tie lines would not exceed applicable thresholds. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
AQ-4. Carbon Monoxide Concentrations from Operational Traffic	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Mobile emissions generated by WSP operational traffic would increase slightly at intersections in the vicinity; however, resulting CO concentrations would be below ambient air quality standards. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Mobile emissions generated by operational traffic associated with the gen-tie lines would result in a negligible increase in carbon monoxide concentrations at intersections in the vicinity, which would remain well within ambient air quality standards. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
AQ-5. Exposure of Sensitive Receptors to Toxic Air Contaminants	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Diesel exhaust emissions from construction and operational vehicles and equipment would expose nearby receptors to toxic air contaminants; however, given the relatively minor use of heavy equipment for solar project construction, the very small number of nearby sensitive receptors, the relatively short period of construction emissions that would occur in the vicinity of the sensitive receptors, and the very low intensity of solar operations, the overall health risks from toxic air contaminants would not be significant. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Diesel exhaust emissions from construction vehicles and equipment would expose nearby receptors to toxic air contaminants; however, given the dispersed nature of gen-tie line construction, the very small number of nearby sensitive receptors in the vicinity, the very short period of construction emissions that would occur in the vicinity of the nearest sensitive receptors, and the negligible level of operational emissions, the overall health risks from toxic air contaminants would not be significant. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.3. AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE (CONT'D)	
AQ-6. Odors	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar projects would temporarily generate odors during construction. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The construction of the WSP gen-tie lines would temporarily generate odors during construction. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
AQ-7. Consistency with Clean Air Planning Efforts	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development would not conflict with the current clean air plan or obstruct its implementation. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i>	Implement MM AQ-2. No additional mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The construction of the WSP gen-tie lines would not conflict with the current clean air plan or obstruct its implementation. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
AQ-8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar projects would generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, during construction and operation. However, the GHG emissions resulting from WSP solar development would be very small compared to the substantial net benefit to global climate change resulting from the clean power generation provided. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The WSP gen-tie projects would generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, during construction and operation. However, the GHG emissions resulting from the transmission projects would be very small compared to the substantial net benefit to global climate change that would occur due to the delivery of renewable power that would be enabled by the gen-tie lines. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.3. AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE (CONT'D)	
AQ-9. Consistency with GHG Reduction Plans and Policies	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar projects would help achieve the state's GHG reduction plans and policies, and would not conflict with their implementation. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie lines would help achieve the state's GHG reduction plans and policies, and would not conflict with their implementation. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
AQ-10. Cumulative Air Quality and Climate Change Impacts	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Upon mitigation for air quality impacts associated with WSP solar development and other cumulative projects in the vicinity, the cumulative air quality impacts would be less than significant, and the contribution from WSP solar development would be not cumulatively considerable. <i>(Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact with Mitigation)</i>	Implement MM AQ-1 and MM AQ-2. No additional mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Upon mitigation for air quality impacts associated with WSP gen-tie projects and other cumulative projects in the vicinity, the cumulative air quality impacts would be less than significant, and the contribution from WSP gen-ties would be not cumulatively considerable. <i>(Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
3.4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	
BIO-1. Impacts to Special Status Plants	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development would not adversely affect special-status plants or their habitat since no special-status plant species or their habitat are present within the WSP plan area. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The WSP gen-tie projects would not adversely affect special-status plants or their habitat since no special-status plant species or their habitat are present within the gen-tie corridors. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
BIO-2. Impacts to Special Status Animals Habitat	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development would have a potentially adverse impact on 14 special-status animal species which may utilize the plan area as breeding and/or foraging habitat. <i>(Less-than-Significant with Mitigation)</i>	Implement MMs BIO-1 (pre-project design measures), BIO-2 (raptors and migratory birds), BIO-3 (Swainson's hawk), BIO-4 (burrowing owl), BIO-5 (San Joaquin kit fox), and BIO-6 (American badger).
<u>Westlands Transmission Corridors.</u> The WSP gen-tie lines would have a potentially adverse impact on 13 special-status animal species which may utilize the gen-tie corridors as breeding and/or foraging habitat. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i>	<p>Implement MMs BIO-1 (pre-project design measures), BIO-2 (raptors and migratory birds), BIO-3 (Swainson's hawk), BIO-4 (burrowing owl), BIO-5 (San Joaquin kit fox), and BIO-6 (American badger).</p> <p>MM BIO-1: Pre-Project Design and Construction-Level Mitigation Measures</p> <p>Prior to the final planning and design for all Westlands solar and transmission projects, the following measures shall be implemented to minimize impacts to special-status animal species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Conduct Seasonal Surveys for Potentially Affected Species.</u> Prior to final planning and design of any transmission project, full coverage ground biological surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within the potential disturbance areas of the transmission project to identify the presence or absence of individuals or habitat of special-status animal species. Surveys for each potentially affected species shall be conducted during seasons that are optimal for identification of individuals and habitat of the species. ▪ <u>Identify Project Design Measures.</u> The results of the biological surveys shall be utilized in the final planning and design of the transmission projects for the purpose of avoiding and minimizing the potential impacts to special-status animal species and their habitat to the extent feasible. ▪ <u>Identify Construction Level Mitigation Measures.</u> The results of the biological surveys shall be utilized in the project review and approval process to provide the basis for identifying construction-level mitigation measures to be implemented during project construction, operation, and decommissioning. Examples of mitigation measures that can be implemented at the project-specific level include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict outdoor lighting except as needed for safety. • Require that all lights be shielded, pointed downward, and directed away from adjacent habitat. • Require motion sensor-type nighttime lighting so that the lights do not stay on constantly and interfere with nocturnal wildlife activities. • Install perimeter fencing so that the bottom of the fence is 5 to 7 inches above the ground surface and knuckled under to create a smooth edge to allow for unimpeded movement of wildlife through the project sites. • Require that all vertical pipes associated with solar mounts or chain-link fencing be capped at the time of installation to prevent entrapment and death of birds. • Restrict the use of rodenticides in accordance with the Pest Management and Weed Abatement Plans required by Kings County for each solar project.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
BIO-3. Disturbance to Active Raptor and Migratory Bird Nests	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development could result in disturbance to active nests of raptors and migratory birds. (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation</i>)	Implement MM BIO-2 (a-d) (raptors and migratory birds).
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The construction of the WSP gen-tie projects could result in disturbance to active nests of raptors and migratory birds. (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation</i>)	<p>Implement MM BIO-2 (a-c) (raptors and migratory birds).</p> <p>MM BIO-2. Avoidance Measures for Raptor and Migratory Bird Nests</p> <p>The following measures shall be implemented to minimize disturbance to any active raptor and other bird nests, as necessary, prior to the construction and decommissioning of any WSP solar project or gen-tie project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Pre-Construction Surveys for Active Nests.</u> If tree removal, site preparation, grading, construction, or decommissioning is planned to occur within the breeding period (i.e., between February 1 and August 31), a qualified biologist shall be retained to conduct pre-construction surveys for active nests of migratory birds within 14 days of the onset of these activities. If construction or decommissioning activity is planned to commence outside the breeding period, no pre-construction surveys are required for nesting birds and raptors. b. <u>Exclusion Zones for Active Nests.</u> If any active nests are discovered in or near the planned construction zones on or adjacent to a project site, the biologist shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to identify a suitable construction-free buffer around the nest. This exclusion zone shall be identified on the ground with flagging or fencing, and shall be maintained until the biologist has determined that the young have fledged. c. <u>Tailgate Training for Workers.</u> All construction and operations workers on shall be trained by a qualified biologist. The tailgate training shall include a description of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, instructions on what to do if an active nest is located, and the importance of capping pipes and pipe-like structures standing upright in order to avoid birds falling into the pipes and getting stuck. d. <u>Capping of Hollow Poles and Posts.</u> Should any vertical tubes, such as solar mount poles, chain link fencing poles, or any other hollow tubes or poles be utilized on a project site, the poles shall be capped immediately after installation to prevent entrapment of birds.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
BIO-4. Impacts to Swainson's Hawks	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development could result in: 1) disturbance to Swainson's hawk breeding if active Swainson's hawk nests are found on or adjacent to the WSP plan area prior to solar development (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation</i>) and; 2) the loss of Swainson's hawk foraging habitat. (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>)	Implement MM BIO-3 (Swainson's hawk).
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The construction of the WSP gen-tie projects could result in disturbance to Swainson's hawk breeding if active Swainson's hawk nests are found on or adjacent to the gen-tie corridors prior to construction. (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation</i>). The gen-tie projects would not have an adverse effect on Swainson's hawk foraging habitat. (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>)	Implement MM BIO-3 (Swainson's hawk). <u>MM BIO-3. Swainson's Hawk Mitigation</u> In order to reduce the impacts of WSP solar and gen-tie projects to Swainson's hawk breeding habitat to less-than-significant levels, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented in conjunction with each project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Preconstruction Surveys for Swainson's Hawk.</u> During the nesting season prior to construction or decommissioning within 0.5 miles of a potential nest tree, preconstruction surveys shall be conducted within the project site and lands within a 0.5-mile radius of the site to identify any nesting pairs of Swainson's hawks. These surveys shall conform to the requirements of CDFW as presented in <i>Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley</i>, Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee, May 31, 2000. Preconstruction surveys are not required for portions of projects that are more than 0.5 miles from a potential nest tree. b. <u>Nest Avoidance Measures.</u> If any active Swainson's hawk nests are discovered in within 0.5 miles of any planned construction or decommissioning activity, appropriate avoidance/protective measures shall be implemented as identified by a qualified biologist in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The avoidance/protective measures shall remain in place until the biologist has determined that the young have fledged. c. <u>Tailgate Training for Workers.</u> All workers shall attend a tailgate training session conducted by a qualified biologist. The training is to include a description of the species, a brief summary of their biology, and minimization measures and instructions on what to do if a Swainson's hawk is observed on a solar project site.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
BIO-5. Impacts to Burrowing Owls	
<p><u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development could result in the following impacts to burrowing owls: 1) disturbance to active nests of burrowing owls; 2) mortality of individual burrowing owls, and; 3) reduction of foraging habitat for burrowing owls. (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation</i>)</p>	Implement MM BIO-4 (a-e) (borrowing owls and habitat).
<p><u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The WSP gen-tie projects could result in the following impacts to burrowing owls: 1) disturbance to active nests of burrowing owls, and; 2) mortality of individual burrowing owls (<i>Less-than-Significant Impacts with Mitigation</i>). The WSP gen-tie projects would not adversely affect foraging habitat for burrowing owls. (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>).</p>	<p>Implement MM BIO-4 (a-d) (burrowing owls).</p> <p><u>MM BIO-4. Burrowing Owl Mitigation</u></p> <p>The following measures shall be implemented to minimize impacts to the individual burrowing owls and burrowing owl breeding and foraging habitat, as necessary, prior to construction or decommissioning of any WSP solar or gen-tie project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Pre-Construction Surveys for Burrowing Owl.</u> Pre-construction surveys for burrowing owls shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 14 days in advance of the on-set of ground-disturbing activity at each project site. These surveys shall be conducted according to methods described in the <i>Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation</i> (CDFG 2012). The surveys shall cover all areas of suitable burrowing owl habitat within project site. <u>Avoidance of Active Burrowing Owl Nests During Breeding Season.</u> If pre-construction surveys are undertaken during the breeding season (February through August) and active nest burrows are located within or near construction or decommissioning zones, a construction-free buffer of 250 feet shall be established around all active owl nests. These exclusion zones shall be enclosed with temporary fencing, and construction equipment and workers shall not be allowed to enter the enclosed setback areas. Exclusion zones shall remain in place for the duration of the breeding season. After the breeding season (i.e., once all young have left the nest), passive relocation of any remaining owls may take place, but only under the conditions described below. <u>Avoidance of Occupied Burrows During Non-Breeding Season, and Passive Relocation of Burrowing Owls.</u> During the non-breeding season (September through January), any burrows occupied by resident owls in areas planned for construction or decommissioning disturbance shall be protected by a construction-free buffer with a radius of 250 feet around each burrow. Passive relocation of resident owls is not recommended by CDFW where it can be avoided. If passive relocation is not avoidable, resident owls may be relocated to alternative habitat nearby. The relocation of resident owls shall be conducted according to a relocation plan prepared by a qualified biologist.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
BIO-5. Impacts to Burrowing Owls (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> (Cont'd)	<p>[Continued from preceding page.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. <u>Tailgate Training for Workers.</u> All workers shall attend a tailgate training session conducted by a qualified biologist. The training is to include a description of the species, a brief summary of their biology, and minimization measures and instructions on what to do if a burrowing owl is observed on a solar project site. e. <u>Mitigation for Loss of Burrowing Owl Habitat.</u> If it is determined that burrowing owl nest(s) are located on or near the solar project site, the biologist shall coordinate with the project applicant and resource agency to determine whether relocation of these nest(s) is unavoidable. If so, measure #1 below (restrictive covenants) would apply. If the on-site or nearby nest(s) are to remain in place, the biologist shall determine whether sufficient foraging habitat is available on adjacent or nearby lands, and if so, no further mitigation is required. (Approximately 200 acres of year-round foraging habitat within about 2 miles of the burrowing owl burrow is required to support a burrowing owl pair.) If it is determined that there is insufficient nearby foraging habitat, the biologist shall determine the amount of onsite foraging habitat that is required to sustain the burrowing owl nest. In this case, the potential impact to foraging habitat shall be either avoided through implementation of measure #2 below (onsite buffer zone), or compensated through implementation of measure #1 (restrictive covenants) or measure #3 (long-term agreement on adjacent lands) below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Establishment of restrictive covenants with a 1:1 ratio for foraging/breeding habitat preservation. These restrictive covenants would include habitats determined to be suitable for foraging and/or breeding year-round and seasonal use. 2) Establishment of permanent buffer zones of adequate size around current burrowing owl locations. These buffer zones would require adequate management for the life of the project and buffer zones to ensure the buffer area remains suitable for burrowing owls. Annual monitoring of the suitability of management activities may be required by CDFW. 3) Short or long-term compensation for foraging habitat by providing farmers in adjacent lands incentives to plant particular crops known to be suitable forage habitat for burrowing owls (i.e. winter wheat, alfalfa, etc.) and to enact a farmer burrowing owl safety program where farmers are trained how to reduce burrowing owl mortalities on their lands and farm driveways. A 1:1 ratio would be required to be in the program as long as the project is active.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
BIO-6. Impacts to San Joaquin Kit Fox	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development could result in potential impacts to individual kit foxes, and could result in impacts to kit fox habitat, if present. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i>	Implement MM BIO-5 (kit fox).
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects could result in potential impacts to individual kit foxes, and could result in impacts to kit fox habitat, if present. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i>	<p>Implement MM BIO-5 (kit fox).</p> <p>MM BIO-5 San Joaquin Kit Fox Mitigation</p> <p>In order to minimize the potential for impacts to San Joaquin kit fox, the following measures shall be implemented in conjunction with the construction and decommissioning of each WSP solar and gen-tie project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Pre-Construction Surveys for Kit Fox.</u> Pre-construction surveys for San Joaquin kit fox shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no less than 14 days and no more than 30 days prior to the beginning of ground disturbance, construction or decommissioning activities, or any other activities likely to impact the San Joaquin kit fox. These surveys shall be conducted in accordance with the USFWS Standard Recommendations. The primary objective is to identify kit fox habitat features (e.g., potential dens and refugia) on the solar project and gen-tie sites and evaluate their use by kit foxes. If an active kit fox den is detected within or immediately adjacent to the area of work, the USFWS shall be contacted immediately to determine the best course of action. <u>Kit Fox Avoidance Measures.</u> Should kit fox be found to be using a project site during preconstruction surveys, the project shall avoid the habitat occupied by kit fox and the Sacramento Field Office of the USFWS and the Fresno Field Office of CDFW shall be notified. <u>Tailgate Training for Worker.</u> All workers on solar and gen-tie projects shall attend a tailgate training session conducted by a qualified biologist. The training is to include a description of the species, a brief summary of their biology, and minimization measures and instructions on what to do if a San Joaquin Kit Fox is observed on a project site. <u>Minimization of Potential Disturbance to Kit Fox.</u> Whether or not kit foxes are found to be present, all permanent and temporary construction activities, decommissioning activities, and other types of project-related activities shall be carried out in a manner that minimizes potential disturbance to kit foxes. This shall be accomplished through implementation of the protection measures set forth in "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior To or During Ground Disturbance" (USFWS 2011) which are set forth in full in Table BIO-1.

Table BIO-1

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE STANDARDIZED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROTECTION OF THE ENDANGERED SAN JOAQUIN KIT FOX PRIOR TO OR DURING GROUND DISTURBANCE

CONSTRUCTION AND ON-GOING OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Project-related vehicles should observe a daytime speed limit of 20-mph throughout the site in all project areas, except on county roads and State and Federal highways; this is particularly important at night when kit foxes are most active. Night-time construction should be minimized to the extent possible. However if it does occur, then the speed limit should be reduced to 10-mph. Off-road traffic outside of designated project areas should be prohibited.
2. To prevent inadvertent entrapment of kit foxes or other animals during the construction phase of a project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2-feet deep should be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen-fill or wooden planks shall be installed. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured kit fox is discovered, the Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) shall be contacted as noted under measure 13 referenced below.
3. Kit foxes are attracted to den-like structures such as pipes and may enter stored pipes and become trapped or injured. All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4-inches or greater that are stored at a construction site for one or more overnight periods should be thoroughly inspected for kit foxes before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a kit fox is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe should not be moved until the USFWS has been consulted. If necessary, and under the direct supervision of the biologist, the pipe may be moved only once to remove it from the path of construction activity, until the fox has escaped.
4. All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps should be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or project site.
5. No firearms shall be allowed on the project site. (This prohibition does not apply to law enforcement personnel such as Sheriff's Deputies or the Fire Marshal.)
6. No pets, such as dogs or cats, should be permitted on the project site to prevent harassment, mortality of kit foxes, or destruction of dens.
7. Use of rodenticides and herbicides in project areas should be restricted. This is necessary to prevent primary or secondary poisoning of kit foxes and the depletion of prey populations on which they depend. All uses of such compounds should observe label and other restrictions mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other State and Federal legislation, as well as additional project-related restrictions deemed necessary by the USFWS. If rodent control must be conducted, zinc phosphide should be used because of a proven lower risk to kit fox. A representative shall be appointed by the project proponent who will be the contact source for any employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a kit fox or who finds a dead, injured or entrapped kit fox. The representative will be identified during the employee education program and their name and telephone number shall be provided to the USFWS.
8. A representative shall be appointed by the project proponent who will be the contact source for any employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a kit fox or who finds a dead, injured or entrapped kit fox. The representative will be identified during the employee education program and their name and telephone number shall be provided to the USFWS. (*Continued on next page.*)

Table BIO-1 (Cont'd)

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE STANDARDIZED RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR PROTECTION OF THE ENDANGERED SAN JOAQUIN KIT FOX PRIOR TO OR DURING GROUND DISTURBANCE
CONSTRUCTION AND ON-GOING OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

9. An employee education program should be conducted for any project that has anticipated impacts to kit fox or other endangered species. The program should consist of a brief presentation by persons knowledgeable in kit fox biology and legislative protection to explain endangered species concerns to contractors, their employees, and military and/or agency personnel involved in the project. The program should include the following: A description of the San Joaquin kit fox and its habitat needs; a report of the occurrence of kit fox in the project area; an explanation of the status of the species and its protection under the Endangered Species Act; and a list of measures being taken to reduce impacts to the species during project construction and implementation. A fact sheet conveying this information should be prepared for distribution to the previously referenced people and anyone else who may enter the project site.
10. Upon completion of the project, all areas subject to temporary ground disturbances, including storage and staging areas, temporary roads, pipeline corridors, etc., should be re-contoured if necessary, and revegetated to promote restoration of the area to pre-project conditions. An area subject to "temporary" disturbance means any area that is disturbed during the project, but after project completion will not be subject to further disturbance and has the potential to be revegetated. Appropriate methods and plant species used to revegetate such areas should be determined on a site-specific basis in consultation with the USFWS, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and revegetation experts.
11. In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structures should be installed immediately to allow the animal(s) to escape, or the USFWS should be contacted for guidance.
12. Any contractor, employee, or military or agency personnel who are responsible for inadvertently killing or injuring a San Joaquin kit fox shall immediately report the incident to their representative. This representative shall contact the CDFW immediately in the case of a dead, injured or entrapped kit fox. The CDFW contact for immediate assistance is State Dispatch at (916) 445-0045. They will contact the local warden or Mr. Paul Hoffman, the wildlife biologist, at (530) 934-9309. The USFWS should be contacted at the numbers below.
13. The Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office and CDFW shall be notified in writing within three working days of the accidental death or injury to a San Joaquin kit fox during project related activities. Notification must include the date, time, and location of the incident or of the finding of a dead or injured animal and any other pertinent information. The USFWS contact is the Chief of the Division of Endangered Species, at the addresses and telephone numbers below. The CDFW contact is Mr. Paul Hoffman at 1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A, Rancho Cordova, California 95670, (530) 934-9309.
14. New sightings of kit fox shall be reported to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). A copy of the reporting form and a topographic map clearly marked with the location of where the kit fox was observed should also be provided to the Service at the address below.

Any project-related information required by the Service or questions concerning the above conditions or their implementation may be directed in writing to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at:

Endangered Species Division
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W2605
Sacramento, California 95825-1846
(916) 414-6620 or (916) 414-6600

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
BIO-7. Impacts to American Badgers	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development could result in the following impacts to American badgers: 1) mortality of individual American badgers, and; 2) reduction of foraging, breeding, and denning habitat for American badgers. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impacts with Mitigation)</i>	Implement MM BIO-6 (American badger).
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects could result in the following impacts to American badgers: 1) mortality of individual American badgers, and; 2) reduction of foraging, breeding, and denning habitat for American badgers. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impacts with Mitigation)</i>	<p>Implement BIO-6 (American badger).</p> <p><u>MM BIO-6. American Badger Mitigation</u></p> <p>The following measures shall be implemented to minimize impacts to the American badger, as necessary prior to the construction and decommissioning of the WSP solar and gen-tie projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Preconstruction Surveys for American Badger.</u> During the course of pre-construction surveys prescribed for other species, a qualified biologist shall also determine the presence or absence of badgers prior to the start of each individual project. If badgers are found to be absent, a report shall be written to the applicant so stating and no other mitigations for the protection of badgers would be warranted. <u>Avoidance of Active Badger Dens and Monitoring.</u> If an active badger den is identified during pre-construction surveys within or immediately adjacent to an area subject to construction or decommissioning, a construction-free buffer of up to 300 feet (or distance specified by CDFW) shall be established around the den. Once the biologist has determined that badgers have vacated the burrow, the burrow can be collapsed or excavated, and ground disturbance can proceed. Should the burrow be determined to be a natal or reproductive den, and because badgers are known to use multiple burrows in a breeding burrow complex, a biological monitor shall be present onsite during construction activities in the vicinity of the burrows to ensure the buffer is adequate to avoid direct impact to individuals or natal/reproductive den abandonment. The monitor shall be required onsite until it is determined that young are of an independent age and construction or decommissioning activities would not harm individual badgers. <u>Tailgate Training for Workers.</u> All workers on the solar and gen-tie projects shall attend a tailgate training session conducted by a qualified biologist. The training is to include a description of the species, a brief summary of their biology, and minimization measures and instructions on what to do if an American Badger is observed on a project site.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
BIO-8. Impacts to Wildlife Movement Corridors	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> WSP solar development would not interfere with the home range and dispersal movements of native wildlife. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM BIO-7. MM BIO-7. Wildlife Movement Mitigation The following measure shall be implemented to ensure continued wildlife movement through the WSP plan area for the life of the WSP solar facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. <u>Wildlife Friendly Fencing.</u> To allow for ground movement of wildlife through the plan area, all fencing around and within the WSP solar facilities shall to consist of “wildlife friendly” fencing with a continuous 5-inch separation from the top of the ground to the lowest point of the bottom of the fence along all fencing. Such fencing shall not be electrified.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would not interfere with the home range and dispersal movements of native wildlife. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
BIO-9. Impacts to Jurisdictional Waters and Riparian Habitats	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Although WSP solar development is intended to avoid the permanent canals, tailwater pond, and associated riparian zones and wetlands within the plan area, the WSP solar projects could potentially result in disturbance to Waters of the U.S., waters of California, and/or associated riparian habitat. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM BIO-8 (wetlands and riparian).
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Although the WSP gen-tie corridors are intended to avoid permanent canals, ditches, and the California Aqueduct, and associated riparian zones and wetlands, the gen-tie projects could potentially result in disturbance to Waters of the U.S., waters of California, and/or associated riparian habitat. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM BIO-8 (wetlands and riparian). MM BIO-8. Avoid Wetlands, Jurisdictional Waters, and Riparian Communities In order to avoid the potential for impacts to wetlands, jurisdictional waters, and riparian communities, the following measures shall be implemented in conjunction with the construction and decommissioning of each solar and gen-tie project: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. <u>Survey All Defined Drainage Channels Subject to Encroachment.</u> Prior to the preparation of final project plans that establish the locations of solar facilities and gen-tie facilities, any channels that would likely be considered waters of the United States and/or waters of the state of California and are subject to encroachment shall be field surveyed. The surveys shall be conducted by a wetland biologist capable of identifying ordinary high water (the limit of USACE and RWQCB jurisdiction) and top of bank (the limit of CDFW jurisdiction). [Continued on next page.]

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
BIO-9. Impacts to Waters of the U.S. and Riparian Habitats (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> (Cont'd)	<p>[Continued from preceding page.]</p> <p>All defined channels observed within the area of potential encroachment during this survey shall be mapped in detail and be suitable for purposes of planning the final locations of solar and gen-tie facilities.</p> <p>b. <u>Avoidance of Drainage Channels.</u> Using the detailed mapping of drainage channels, each solar and gen-tie project shall be planned such that the placement of fill and structures shall avoid disturbance to the bed and bank of all defined canal or drainage channels to the extent feasible. Avoidance of defined channels may require the use of clear-span bridges, or adjusting tower locations within the gen-tie corridors.</p> <p>c. <u>Mitigate Unavoidable Impacts to Wetlands.</u> In the event that a canal or drainage channel cannot be feasibly avoided by project construction, i.e., where a solar project site would be inaccessible without constructing a new bridge over a canal or ditch, a wetland delineation shall be required to determine the extent of USACE and/or State jurisdiction over such features. If waters to be filled are determined to be Waters of the U.S. or the State, the following permits may be required: 1) a Clean Water Act permit from the USACE, 2) a Water Quality Certification from the RWQCB, and/or 3) a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the CDFW. These permits are usually issued on the condition that a mitigation plan be prepared and approved by the applicable state and federal regulatory agencies noted above.</p>
BIO-10. Local Policies or Ordinances Protecting Biological Resources	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development would not conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would not conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
BIO-11. Habitat Conservation Plans	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development would not conflict with an adopted habitat conservation plan, a natural community conservation plan, or any other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The WSP gen-tie projects would not conflict with an adopted habitat conservation plan, a natural community conservation plan, or any other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
BIO-12. Cumulative Impacts to Biological Resources	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Upon mitigation for biological impacts associated with WSP solar development and other cumulative projects in the vicinity, the cumulative biological impacts would be less than significant, and the contribution from WSP solar development would be not cumulatively considerable. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MMs BIO-1 through BIO-8. No additional mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Upon mitigation for biological impacts associated with WSP gen-tie projects and other cumulative projects in the vicinity, the cumulative biological impacts would be less than significant, and the contribution from the gen-tie projects would be not cumulatively considerable. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MMs BIO-1 through BIO-8. No additional mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.5. CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES	
CUL-1. Disturbance to Cultural Resources	
<p><u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> There are no known historical or archaeological resources within the WSP plan area or its immediate vicinity, and the probability that any are present is low. However, it is possible that previously unknown cultural resources may be present within the WSP plan area which could be adversely affected by grading, excavation, and construction for the solar facilities. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</p>	Implement MM CUL-1.
<p><u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> There is a low to moderate potential for buried archaeological resources to be present within the gen-tie corridors. There is a potential that ground disturbing activities associated with the gen-tie projects could adversely affect previously unknown cultural resources. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation) There are two previously recorded historic-era built environment features within or adjacent to the WSP gen-tie corridors; however, these features would be adversely affected by the gen-tie projects. (Less-than-Significant Impact)</p>	<p>Implement MM CUL-1.</p> <p><u>MM CUL-1: Protection of Cultural Resources</u></p> <p>In order to avoid the potential for impacts to historic and prehistoric archaeological resources, the following measures shall be implemented in conjunction with the construction of each WSP solar generating facility and gen-tie project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Conduct Surveys for Cultural Resources.</u> Prior to any ground disturbance for each WSP solar facility and gen-tie project, the project proponent for each respective project shall undertake the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the services of a qualified archaeological consultant meeting the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology, and having expertise in California prehistoric and historical archaeology. Authorize the archaeological consultant to conduct a site-specific field investigation for cultural resources, and prepare a report containing determinations of significance of any identified cultural resources and recommendations for mitigation, as appropriate. Prior to any ground disturbance, the applicant shall offer interested Tribes the opportunity to provide a Native American Monitor during ground disturbing activities during both construction and decommissioning. Tribal participation would be dependent upon the availability and interest of the Tribe. <p>[Continued on next page.]</p>

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.5. CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
CUL-1. Disturbance to Cultural Resources (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors</u> (Cont'd)	<p>[Continued from preceding page.]</p> <p>b. <u>Conduct Pre-Construction Worker Training and Tribal Coordination.</u> Prior to the issuance of building permits for each WSP solar facility and gen-tie project, the project proponent for each respective project shall undertake the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorize the archaeological consultant to provide a pre-construction briefing to supervisory personnel of any excavation contractor to alert them to the possibility of exposing significant historic or prehistoric archaeological resources within the project area. The briefing shall discuss any archaeological objects that could be exposed, the need to stop excavation at the discovery site, and the procedures to follow regarding discovery protection and notification of the project proponent and archaeological team. • The applicant shall note on any plans that require ground disturbing excavation that there is a potential for exposing buried cultural resources. • Prior to initiation of construction, the applicant shall conduct a site visit in concert with the appropriate Native American Tribe(s) in order to provide an opportunity for the Tribe(s) to assess the site and discuss their recommendations. During the site visit a cultural sensitivity class will be taught by the appropriate Native American Tribe(s) for the construction crew. <p>c. <u>Implement Procedures for Inadvertent Discoveries.</u> The following procedures shall be implemented to address inadvertent discovery of cultural resources during construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the professional archaeologist basis during all ground disturbing activity during construction and decommissioning for the project to review, identify and evaluate cultural resources that may be inadvertently exposed during construction. Should previously unidentified cultural resources be discovered during ground disturbing activities of the project, the project proponent shall cease work within 100 feet of the resources, and Kings County Community Development Agency (CDA) (or the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning for discoveries in Fresno County) shall be notified immediately. The archaeologist shall review and evaluate any discoveries to determine if they are historical resource(s) and/or unique archaeological resources under CEQA. [Continued on next page.]

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.5. CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
CUL-1. Disturbance to Cultural Resources (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors</u> (Cont'd)	<p>[Continued from preceding page.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the professional archaeologist determines that any cultural resources exposed during the initial ground survey or during construction constitute a historical resource and/or unique archaeological resource, he/she shall notify the project proponent and other appropriate parties of the evaluation and recommended mitigation measures to mitigate the impact to a less-than-significant level. Mitigation measures may include avoidance, preservation in-place, recordation, additional archaeological testing and data recovery, among other options. Treatment of any significant cultural resources shall be undertaken with the approval of the Kings County CDA (or the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning for discoveries in Fresno County). The archaeologist shall document the resources using DPR 523 forms and file said forms with the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center. The resources shall be photo-documented and collected by the archaeologist for submittal to the appropriate Native American Tribe(s). The archaeologist shall be required to submit to the applicable County for review and approval a report of the findings, including determinations as to the eligibility of any identified sources for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, and method of curation or protection of the resources. Further grading or site work within the area of discovery shall not be allowed until the preceding steps have been taken.
CUL-2. Disturbance to Human Remains	
<u>Westlands Solar Park</u> . Ground disturbing activities associated with the development of the WSP solar facilities could disturb previously undiscovered human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM CUL-2.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors</u> . Ground disturbing activities associated with the construction of the gen-tie projects could disturb previously undiscovered human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	<p>Implement MM CUL-2.</p> <p>[Continued on next page.]</p>

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.5. CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
CUL-2. Disturbance to Human Remains (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors</u> (Cont'd)	<p>[Continued from preceding page.]</p> <p>MM CUL-2: Protection of Buried Human Remains</p> <p>In order to avoid the potential for impacts to any buried human remains which may be present, the following measures shall be implemented, as necessary, in conjunction with the construction of each WSP solar facility and gen-tie project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursuant to State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5(e) and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, if human bone or bone of unknown origin is found at any time during on- or off-site construction, all work shall stop in the vicinity of the find and the Coroner of Kings or Fresno County, as applicable, shall be notified immediately. <p>If the remains are determined to be Native American, the Coroner shall notify the California State Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), who shall identify the person believed to be the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The project proponent and MLD, with the assistance of the professional archaeologist, shall make all reasonable efforts to develop an agreement for the treatment of human remains and associated or unassociated funerary objects with appropriate dignity (CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15064.5(d)). The agreed upon treatment shall address the appropriate excavation, removal, recordation, analysis, custodianship, curation, and final disposition of the human remains and associated or unassociated funerary objects. California Public Resources Code allows 48 hours for the MLD to make their wishes known to the landowner after being granted access to the site. If the MLD and the other parties do not agree on the reburial method, the project will follow Public Resources Code Section 5097.98(e) which states that "... the landowner or his or her authorized representative shall reinter the human remains and items associated with Native American burials with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance."</p>
CUL-3. Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources	
<p><u>Westlands Solar Park</u>. There are no known tribal cultural resources within the WSP plan area or its immediate vicinity, and the probability that any are present is low. However, it is possible that previously unknown tribal cultural resources may be present within the WSP plan area which could be adversely affected by grading, excavation, and construction for the solar facilities. .</p> <p>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</p>	Implement MM CUL-3 below, and MMs CUL-1 and CUL-2 above.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.5. CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
CUL-3. Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources (Cont'd)	
<p><u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> There are no known tribal cultural resources within the WSP gen-tie corridors or their immediate vicinity, and the probability that any are present is low. However, it is possible that previously unknown tribal cultural resources may be present within the WSP plan area which could be adversely affected by grading, excavation, and construction for the solar facilities. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i></p>	<p>Implement MM CUL-3 below, and MMs CUL-1 and CUL-2 above.</p> <p><u>MM CUL-3. Protection of Tribal Cultural Resources</u></p> <p>In order to avoid the potential for impacts to tribal cultural resources which may be present, the following measures shall be implemented, as necessary, in conjunction with the construction of each WSP solar facility and gen-tie project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Consult with Native American Tribe(s).</u> Prior to public release of the CEQA document for each project, the lead agency shall initiate consultation with Native American Tribe(s) which have a traditional and cultural affiliation to the project site, in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1. • <u>Mitigation for Tribal Cultural Resources.</u> If any tribal cultural resources are identified through consultation with the Native American Tribe(s), the lead agency shall consult and work with the tribe(s) to develop feasible mitigation measures or alternatives that would avoid impacts, or develop and implement treatment plans that would substantially lessen impacts on identified tribal cultural resources, in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21083(b)(2).
CUL-4. Cumulative Impacts to Cultural Resources	
<p><u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development would not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to cultural resource impacts with mitigation; therefore, the WSP solar projects would not have a significant cumulative impact on cultural resources with mitigation. <i>(Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact with Mitigation)</i></p>	<p>Implement MM CUL-1, MM CUL-2, and MM CUL-3. No additional mitigation is required.</p>
<p><u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The WSP gen-tie projects would not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to cultural resource impacts with mitigation; therefore, the gen-tie projects would not have a significant cumulative impact on cultural resources with mitigation. <i>(Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact with Mitigation)</i></p>	<p>Implement MM CUL-1, MM CUL-2, and MM CUL-3. No additional mitigation is required.</p>

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS	
GEO-1. Rupture of Known Earthquake Fault	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> There are no known active or potentially active earthquake faults in proximity to the WSP plan area; therefore, the potential for impact from fault rupture is extremely low. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> There are no known active or potentially active earthquake faults in proximity to the Westlands Gen-Tie corridors. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required
GEO-2. Seismic Ground Shaking	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Moderate ground shaking expected within the WSP plan area during a moderate to severe earthquake could potentially result in damage to solar generating facilities and other structures. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i>	Implement MM GEO-1a. <u>MM GEO-1a. Minimization of Seismic Ground Shaking Hazard within WSP</u> Prior to the issuance of building permits for solar projects within the WSP plan area, the project applicants for each solar project shall provide documentation to Kings County demonstrating that all project structures are designed in accordance with the seismic design criteria of the California Building Code. The project applicants shall also implement all recommendations contained in the project-specific geotechnical engineering reports with respect to grading, soil preparation, building and equipment foundation design, solar array support specifications, pavement design, excavations, and other construction considerations.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Strong ground shaking expected within the WSP gen-tie corridors during a moderate to severe earthquake could potentially result in damage to transmission towers and lines. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i>	Implement MM GEO-1b. <u>MM GEO-1b. Minimization of Seismic Ground Shaking Hazard for WSP Gen-Tie Corridors</u> Prior to final project design for the gen-tie lines, geotechnical investigations shall be performed to evaluate ground accelerations for design of all planned transmission structures to ensure conformance with applicable design standards for the anticipated seismic forces.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

3.6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS (CONT'D)	
GEO-3. Liquefaction, Lateral Spreading, and Seismic Settlement	
<p><u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> There is a potential for seismically-induced, liquefaction, lateral spreading, and settlement within the WSP plan area which could result in damage to foundations and structures. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i></p>	<p>Implement MM GEO-2a.</p> <p><u>MM GEO-2a. Minimization of Ground Failure Hazard within WSP</u></p> <p>Prior to the issuance of the first building permit for each solar project within WSP, the applicant shall retain a qualified geotechnical engineer to undertake a soils investigation to determine the potential for liquefaction, lateral spreading, and seismic settlement within the project area and to prepare recommendations and foundation design specifications to mitigate potential damage to project structures due to these soil hazards. Any mitigation identified in the geotechnical reports shall be subject to review and approval by the Kings County Building Official and made conditions of building permit approval.</p>
<p><u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> There is a potential for seismically-induced, liquefaction, lateral spreading, and settlement within portions of the WSP Gen-Tie Corridors which could result in damage to foundations and structures. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i></p>	<p>Implement MM GEO-2b.</p> <p><u>MM GEO-2b. Minimization of Ground Failure Hazards for WSP Gen-Tie Corridors</u></p> <p>Prior to final project design for the gen-tie lines, the project proponent shall retain a qualified geotechnical engineer to undertake a soils investigation to determine the potential for liquefaction, lateral spreading, and seismic settlement within the transmission corridors and to prepare recommendations and foundation design specifications to mitigate potential damage to project structures due to these soil hazards.</p>
GEO-4. Landslides and Slope Failures	
<p><u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The level terrain of the WSP plan area has a very low potential for landslides, although there is a moderate potential for localized slope failures along the channels and levees of streams and irrigation canals, ditches, and ponds. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i></p>	<p>Implement MM GEO-3a.</p> <p><u>MM GEO-3a. Minimization of Landslide and Slope Failure Hazard within WSP</u></p> <p>Prior to the issuance of the first building permit for each solar project within WSP, the applicant shall retain a qualified geotechnical engineer to undertake a soils investigation to determine the potential for slope failures and to prepare recommendations to mitigate or avoid potential damage to project structures due to potential slope failures. Any mitigation identified in the geotechnical report shall be subject to review and approval by the County Building Official and made conditions of building permit approval.</p>

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS (CONT'D)	
GEO-4. Landslides and Slope Failures (Cont'd)	
<p><u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The relatively level terrain of the valley areas traversed by the WSP gen-tie corridors has a very low potential for landslides, although there is a moderate potential for localized slope failures along the channels and levees of streams and irrigation canals, ditches, and ponds. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i></p>	<p>Implement MM GEO-3b.</p> <p><u>MM GEO-3b. Minimization of Landslide and Slope Failure Hazards for Westlands Transmission Projects</u></p> <p>Prior to final project design for the transmission lines and related facilities, the project proponent shall retain a qualified geotechnical engineer to undertake a soils investigation to determine the potential for landslides and/or slope failures within the gen-tie corridors and to prepare recommendations to mitigate or avoid potential damage to project structures due to potential slope failures.</p>
GEO-5. Expansive Soils	
<p><u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Most soil units within the WSP plan area have moderate to high potential for soils expansion which could result in potential damage to foundations and equipment pads. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i></p>	<p>Implement MM GEO-4a.</p> <p><u>MM GEO-4a. Minimization of Soils Expansion Hazard within WSP</u></p> <p>Prior to the issuance of the first building permit for each solar project within WSP, the applicant shall retain a qualified geotechnical engineer to undertake a soils investigation to determine the potential for soils expansion and to prepare recommendations and foundation design specifications to mitigate potential damage to project structures due to potential soils expansion. Any mitigations identified the geotechnical report shall be subject to review and approval by the County Building Official and made conditions of building permit approval.</p>
<p><u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Most soil units within the WSP Gen-Tie Corridors consist of alluvial soils which have moderate to high potential for soils expansion which could result in potential damage to tower foundations and pads. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i></p>	<p>Implement MM GEO-4b.</p> <p><u>MM GEO-4b. Minimization of Soils Expansion Hazard for Westlands Transmission Projects</u></p> <p>Prior to final project design for the gen-tie lines and related facilities, the project proponent shall retain a qualified geotechnical engineer to undertake a soils investigation to determine the potential for soils expansion within the gen-tie corridors and to prepare recommendations and foundation design specifications to mitigate potential damage to project structures due to soils expansion.</p>

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS (CONT'D)	
GEO-6. Erosion Potential	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The development of the WSP plan area would create the potential for water- and wind-related soil erosion during construction and decommissioning of the WSP solar generating facilities. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i>	Implement MM HYD-1 (prepare and implement SWPPPs). No additional mitigation is required
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The construction of the gen-tie lines would create the potential for water- and wind-related soil erosion during construction of the gen-tie facilities. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i>	Implement MM HYD-1 (prepare and implement SWPPPs). No additional mitigation is required
GEO-7. Shallow Groundwater	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Shallow groundwater conditions within the WSP plan area could adversely affect below-ground electrical conduits. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i>	Implement MM GEO-6. <u>MM GEO-5. Shallow Groundwater Protection within WSP</u> Prior to the issuance of the first building permit for each solar development within WSP, the applicant shall retain a qualified geotechnical engineer to undertake a soils investigation to determine the potential for adverse groundwater impacts to buried electrical conduit and to prepare recommendations and design specifications to avoid potential damage from groundwater. Any mitigation identified the geotechnical report shall be subject to review and approval by the County Building Official and made conditions of building permit approval.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Localized shallow groundwater conditions may occur within the WSP gen-tie corridors; however, since the gen-tie facilities would not include below-ground elements apart from concrete tower footings, there would be no adverse effect upon the gen-tie facilities. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS (CONT'D)	
GEO-8. Soil Corrosivity	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Corrosive soils within the WSP plan area could potentially cause damage to on-site structures, foundations, and utilities. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM GEO-6a. <u>MM GEO-6a. Corrosion Protection for Buried Structures within WSP</u> Prior to the issuance of the first building permit for each solar development within WSP, the applicant shall retain a qualified geotechnical engineer to undertake a soils investigation to determine the potential for soil corrosivity and to prepare recommendations and design specifications to mitigate potential damage to underground project elements due to potentially corrosive soils. Any mitigation identified in the geotechnical report shall be subject to review and approval by the County Building Official and included as conditions of building permit approval.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Corrosive soils within the WSP Gen-Tie Corridors could potentially cause damage to on-site structures and foundations. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM GEO-6b. <u>MM GEO-6b. Corrosion Protection for Buried Structures within WSP Gen-Tie Corridors</u> Prior to final project design for the gen-tie lines and related facilities, the project proponent shall retain a qualified geotechnical engineer to undertake a soils investigation to determine the potential for soil corrosivity and to prepare recommendations and design specifications to mitigate potential damage to underground project elements due to potentially corrosive soils.
GEO-9. Soil Suitability for Wastewater Disposal	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The operational domestic wastewater disposal requirements for each WSP solar facility would be provided either by septic tanks with no leachfields (wastewater would be disposed off-site), or portable chemical toilets, depending on the size of the solar facility, and by portable chemical toilets during construction. Therefore, on-site soils would not be utilized for wastewater disposal. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> During construction, wastewater disposal requirements would be provided by portable chemical toilets. There would be no need for wastewater disposal during gen-tie line operation. Therefore, on-site soils would not be utilized for wastewater disposal. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS (CONT'D)	
GEO-10. Mineral Resources	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The construction of the WSP solar facilities would increase the demand for local sand and gravel resources. This increased demand would represent a small portion of the aggregate resources in the area and would not result in a loss of availability of a known mineral resource. While an abandoned oil field is located near the WSP plan area, WSP solar development would not interfere with access to known mineral or oil and gas resources. Therefore, WSP solar development would not result in the loss of availability of an important mineral resource recovery site. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The construction of the gen-tie projects would increase the demand for local sand and gravel resources. This increased demand would represent a small portion of the aggregate resources in the area and would not result in a loss of availability of a known mineral resource. While an abandoned oil field and several abandoned oil wells are located near the WSP gen-tie corridors, the construction of the gen-tie projects would not interfere with access to known mineral or oil and gas resources. No portion of the WSP gen-tie corridors is located in proximity to locally-important recovery sites for mineral resources, or oil and gas resources, and therefore would not result in the loss of availability of an important mineral resource recovery site. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required
GEO-11. Cumulative Geology and Soils Impacts	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The potential cumulative geology and soils impacts resulting from WSP solar development, combined with impacts from related cumulative projects, would be less than cumulatively significant under near-term and far-term conditions, with mitigation. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MMs GEO-1a, GEO-2a, GEO-3a, GEO-4a, GEO-5, GEO-6a, and HYD-1. No additional mitigation is required
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The potential cumulative geology and soils impacts resulting from the WSP Gen-Tie projects, combined with impacts from related cumulative projects, would be less than cumulatively significant under near-term and far-term conditions, with mitigation. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MMs GEO-1a, GEO-2a, GEO-3a, GEO-4a, GEO-6a, and HYD-1. No additional mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.7. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	
HAZ-1. Potential Hazard from Routine Transport, Use, or Disposal of Hazardous Materials	
<p><u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> There is a potential for release of hazardous materials during construction, operation, and decommissioning of WSP solar facilities. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</p>	<p>Implement MM HAZ-1 (below), and MM HYD-1 (in Section 3.8. <i>Hydrology and Water Quality</i>).</p> <p><u>MM HAZ-1. Protection from Hazardous Materials</u></p> <p>In order to protect the public from potential release of hazardous materials, the project applicant shall prepare and implement a Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) in accordance with the requirements of the Kings County Public Health Department Environmental Services Division and the Hazardous Materials Release Response Plan and Inventory Act of 1985. Under this state law, the applicant is required to prepare an HMBP to be submitted to the Kings County Public Health Department, Environmental Health Services Division, which is the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for Kings County. The HMBP shall include a hazardous material inventory, emergency response procedures, training program information, and basic information on the location, type, quantity, and health risks of hazardous materials stored, used, or disposed of at the proposed project site, and procedures for handling and disposing of unanticipated hazardous materials encountered during construction. The HMBP shall include an inventory of the hazardous waste generated on site, and shall specify procedures for proper disposal. As required, hazardous waste would be transported by a licensed hauler and disposed of at a licensed facility. According to the HMBP reporting requirements, workers must be trained to respond to releases of hazardous materials in accordance with State and federal laws and regulations governing hazardous materials and hazardous waste (e.g., HAZWOPER training required by OSHA). Any accidental release of small quantities of hazardous materials shall be promptly contained and abated in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements and reported to the Environmental Health Services Division. As the CUPA for Kings County, the Environmental Health Services Division of the County Public Health Department is responsible for implementation and enforcement of HMBPs. Implementation of the HMBPs for WSP solar projects would ensure that minor spills or releases of hazardous materials would not pose a significant risk to the public or the environment.</p>
<p><u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> There is a potential for release of hazardous materials during construction and operation of the WSP gen-tie lines. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</p>	<p>Implement MM HAZ-1 (below), and MM HYD-1 (in Section 3.8. <i>Hydrology and Water Quality</i>).</p>

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.7. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (CONT'D)	
HAZ-2. Hazards Related to Past and Recent Agricultural Operations	
<p><u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The ground disturbing activities associated with installation of WSP solar facilities could pose environmental health hazards by: 1) mobilizing petroleum products and agricultural chemicals that may be present in the soil near sites of agricultural chemical mixing and storage of lubricants; and 2) mobilizing environmentally persistent “legacy” pesticides that may still be present in hazardous concentrations. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i></p>	<p>Implement MM HAZ-2a.</p> <p><u>MM HAZ-2a. Conduct Soil Sampling and Remediation as Applicable</u></p> <p>Prior to initiation of ground disturbing activities at each SGF site, soil samples shall be taken from areas of potential contamination and tested for hazard levels of constituents of concern, in accordance with work plans prepared by qualified professionals. Any soils that exceed regulatory limits for hazardous materials shall be removed or otherwise remediated prior to any ground disturbing activity, to the satisfaction of the responsible regulatory agencies in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The specific areas within the WSP plan area that are to be sampled and tested for contamination shall include soils beneath and surrounding the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and known former locations of fertilizer storage tanks and mixing areas. • Locations of 55-gallon oil drums at fertilizer storage/mixing sites and agricultural production wells. • Random locations within fields subject to potential past application of environmentally persistent pesticides.
<p><u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The ground disturbing activities associated with gen-tie line construction could pose an environmental health hazard by mobilizing pesticides that may be present in hazardous concentrations in the soil due to past agricultural operations. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i></p>	<p>Implement MM HAZ-2b.</p> <p><u>MM HAZ-2b. Conduct Soil Sampling and Remediation as Applicable</u></p> <p>Prior to initiation of ground disturbing activities for each WSP gen-tie project, soil samples shall be taken from areas of potential contamination and tested for hazard levels of constituents of concern, in accordance with work plans prepared by qualified professionals. Any soils that exceed regulatory limits for hazardous materials shall be removed or otherwise remediated prior to any ground disturbing activity, to the satisfaction of the responsible regulatory agencies in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.</p>
HAZ-3. Worker Exposure to Valley Fever Fungal Spores	
<p><u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The soils of the WSP plan area may contain Valley Fever fungal spores, which can be released to the atmosphere during soil disturbing activity and expose construction workers to risk of Valley Fever. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i></p>	<p>Implement MM HAZ-3.</p>

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.7. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (CONT'D)	
HAZ-3. Worker Exposure to Valley Fever Fungal Spores (Cont'd)	
<p><u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The soils within the gen-tie corridors may contain Valley Fever fungal spores, which can be released to the atmosphere during soil disturbing activity and expose construction workers to risk of Valley Fever. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i></p>	<p>Implement MM HAZ-3.</p> <p><u>MM HAZ-3. Protection of Construction Workers from Valley Fever</u></p> <p>In order to protect construction workers from Valley Fever, the following measures shall be implemented prior to and during ground disturbing activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement the Dust Control Plan to be approved for each project by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution District under District Rule 8021 prior to ground disturbing activity. ▪ Prepare and implement a respiratory protection program for construction workers, as required under California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5144.
HAZ-4. Hazards from Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells	
<p><u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The abandoned oil and gas wells within the WSP plan area may release gases that pose a potential health and safety hazard to workers and the public. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i></p>	<p>Implement MM HAZ-4a.</p> <p><u>MM HAZ-4a. Safety and Remedial Measures for Abandoned Oil Wells within WSP</u></p> <p>Prior to initiation of ground disturbing activities for each WSP solar project, the following measures shall be implemented to minimize potential hazards associated with abandoned oil wells:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The site planning for each WSP solar project shall include mapping of all known oil wells on the plans. ▪ The site plans shall show a minimum setback of 25 feet from all oil wells. The site plans shall show these setback zones to be free of all structural, mechanical, and electrical elements. Solar facilities may be planned within the 25-foot setback zone only upon the written authorization of the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR), and subject to the conditions and requirements of DOGGR for such encroachments. ▪ Prior to the issuance of the building permit for each solar project, all known oil wells within the solar project site shall be relocated in the field. The plugged/abandoned wells shall be inspected and tested for leakage prior to construction activities. Any required remedial operations shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of DOGGR. If the well was not abandoned or abandoned properly, as determined by DOGGR, the well shall be abandoned or re-abandoned to the satisfaction of DOGGR.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.7. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (CONT'D)	
HAZ-4. Hazards from Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells (Cont'd)	
<u>Westlands Solar Park</u> (Cont'd)	<p>[Continued from preceding page.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event that an abandoned or unrecorded oil well is damaged or uncovered during construction activities, the contractor shall contact DOGGR to obtain information on the required remedial operations, and shall obtain prior written approval from DOGGR to perform the remedial operations. <p>Copies of all correspondence to and from DOGGR concerning oil wells within the WSP plan area shall be submitted to the Kings County Community Development Agency.</p>
<p><u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The abandoned oil and gas wells in the vicinity of the gen-tie corridors may release gases that pose a potential health and safety hazard to workers and the public. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</i></p>	<p>Implement MM HAZ-4b.</p> <p><u>MM HAZ-4b. Safety and Remedial Measures for Abandoned Oil Wells Near WSP Gen-Tie Projects</u></p> <p>Prior to initiation of ground disturbing activities for each WSP gen-tie project, the following measures shall be implemented to minimize potential hazards associated with abandoned oil wells:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The detailed route planning for gen-tie line alignment shall include mapping of all known oil wells on the plans. The gen-tie project plans shall show a minimum setback of 25 feet from all oil wells. The plans shall show these setback zones to be free of all structural, mechanical, and electrical elements. Gen-tie facilities may be planned within the 25-foot setback zone only upon the written authorization of the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR), and subject to the conditions and requirements of DOGGR for such encroachments. Prior to the initiation of ground disturbing activities, all known oil wells in the immediate vicinity of the gen-tie project alignment shall be relocated in the field. The plugged/abandoned wells shall be inspected and tested for leakage prior to construction activities. Any required remedial operations shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of DOGGR. If the well was not abandoned or abandoned properly, as determined by DOGGR, the well shall be abandoned or re-abandoned to the satisfaction of DOGGR. <p>[Continued on next page.]</p>

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.7. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (CONT'D)	
HAZ-4. Hazards from Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors</u> (Cont'd)	<p>[Continued from preceding page.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event that an abandoned or unrecorded oil well is damaged or uncovered during construction activities, the contractor shall contact DOGGR to obtain information on the required remedial operations, and shall obtain prior written approval from DOGGR to perform the remedial operations. Copies of all correspondence to and from DOGGR concerning oil wells within the WSP gen-tie corridors area shall be submitted to the Community Development Agency/Department of the affected county.
HAZ-5. Safety Hazards Associated with Existing Natural Gas Pipelines and Power Transmission Lines	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Construction activity in the vicinity of the existing natural gas pipelines and electrical transmission lines crossing the WSP plan area are subject to safety hazards associated with those facilities. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	<p>Implement MM HAZ-5.</p> <p><u>MM HAZ-5. Safety and Remedial Measures for Existing Natural Gas Pipelines and Power Transmission Lines</u></p> <p>Prior to any construction-related activity planned to occur within the existing easements for gas pipelines or power transmission lines, the project proponent or contractor shall coordinate with the easement holder to obtain authorization for such activity by the easement holder, and shall follow all applicable safety procedures and protocols required by the easement holder for such activity. The construction contract specifications for the WSP solar projects and gen-tie projects shall include the specified safety protocols to ensure safety of workers and integrity of the pipelines and transmission lines during work within the easements.</p>
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Construction activity in the vicinity of the existing natural gas pipelines and electrical transmission lines crossing the WSP gen-tie corridors are subject to safety hazards associated with those facilities. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	<p>Implement MM HAZ-5.</p>

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.7. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (CONT'D)	
HAZ-6. Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs) from Electrical Facilities	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> There is a potential that workers in the vicinity of the existing PG&E transmission lines and the planned internal gen-tie lines and substations within the WSP plan area would be exposed to Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs) emitted by those facilities. However, the work in the vicinity of the existing transmission lines would be relatively short in duration, and the planned WSP gen-tie lines and substation facilities are planned to be routed and located where the nearest residents and workers would be exposed to long-term EMF levels that are at or near ambient or background levels. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> There is a potential that residents and workers in the vicinity of WSP gen-tie lines would be exposed to EMFs emitted by those facilities. However, the gen-tie lines are planned to be routed where the nearest residents would be exposed to long-term EMF levels that are equivalent to or less than ambient or background levels. Worker exposure would be relatively short in duration and would be reduced by implementation of CPUC requirements for EMF reduction on transmission lines. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
HAZ-7. Hazards or Hazardous Materials within ¼ Mile of Schools	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> There are no existing or proposed schools within ¼ mile of the WSP plan area. Therefore, WSP solar development would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> There are no existing schools within ¼ mile of the gen-tie corridors. Therefore, gen-tie lines would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.7. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (CONT'D)	
HAZ-8. Any Listed Hazardous Materials Sites on or Near Project Site	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> There are no hazardous materials sites within the WSP plan area or adjacent properties listed on the Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC's) Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List (Cortese List) compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> There are no hazardous materials sites within the WSP gen-tie corridors or adjacent properties listed on the Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC's) Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List (Cortese List) compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
HAZ-9. Hazards to Aviation due to Physical Features and Reflective Surfaces	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> There is a potential for tall physical features to pose a hazard to aircraft operation due to physical obstruction; however, no structures within the WSP solar projects would be high enough to present a physical obstruction to aviation. The glare from reflective surfaces can be a hazard to aviation; however, the solar PV modules are dark in color and have low reflectivity. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> There is a potential for tall physical features to pose a hazard to aircraft operation due to physical obstruction; however, no gen-tie structures would be high enough to present a physical obstruction to aviation. Hazards to crop dusters would be minimized by routing the gen-tie lines adjacent to existing transmission lines and County roads. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
HAZ-10. Impair or Interfere with Emergency Response or Evacuation Plan	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development would not alter the local roadway network or generate substantial traffic; therefore, the WSP solar development would not impair or interfere with an emergency response plan or an evacuation plan. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.7. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (CONT'D)	
HAZ-10. Impair or Interfere with Emergency Response or Evacuation Plan (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would not alter the local roadway network or generate substantial traffic; therefore, the gen-tie projects would not impair or interfere with an emergency response plan or an evacuation plan. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
HAZ-11. Wildfire Risk	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP plan area is not located within or near a wildland fire hazard area. Therefore, WSP solar facilities would not be subject to risk from wildland fires. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The northern WSP gen-tie project would be subject to moderate wildland fire risk in a small area where it crosses the California Aqueduct. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM HAZ-6. No mitigation is required. MM HAZ-6. Fire Protection and Safety Plan The gen-tie project proponent shall prepare a fire protection and safety plan to be implemented during all construction activities associated with the north gen-tie project. The plan shall be prepared in coordination with CalFire and the affected county(s), as applicable.
HAZ-12. Cumulative Hazards and Hazardous Materials Impacts	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The potential hazards and hazardous materials impacts associated with WSP solar development would be avoided or mitigated, or would be less than significant without mitigation, depending on the specific hazard. It is expected that any potential hazards and hazardous materials associated with other cumulative project sites would be similarly avoided or mitigated, or would be less than significant without mitigation. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM HAZ-1 through HAZ-5. No additional mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The potential hazards and hazardous materials impacts associated with the gen-tie projects would be avoided or mitigated, or would be less than significant without mitigation, depending on the specific hazard. It is expected that any potential hazards and hazardous materials associated with other cumulative project sites would be similarly avoided or mitigated, or would be less than significant without mitigation. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM HAZ-1 through HAZ-6. No additional mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.8. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY	
HYD-1. Violate Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge Permits	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The development of solar generating facilities within WSP would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Construction of the gen-tie projects would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required.
HYD-2. Effects on Groundwater Use and Recharge	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> WSP solar development would result in a substantial reduction in net groundwater use compared to the existing agricultural uses, and would not interfere with groundwater recharge. WSP solar development would reduce the overall volume of groundwater pumped in the plan area which would help offset the decline of groundwater levels in the basin. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Construction and operation of the gen-tie projects would require the use of small volumes of water, which would have little or no effect on groundwater supplies. The very small amount of impervious surfaces resulting from the gen-tie projects would not interfere with groundwater recharge. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
HYD-3. Alteration of Drainage Patterns, Erosion or Sedimentation	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar projects would result in potential water quality impacts from erosion and sedimentation during the construction and decommissioning phases. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM HYD-1. <u>MM HYD-1. Stormwater Quality Protection</u> Prior to construction grading and prior to the decommissioning, the applicant shall be required to file a "Notice of Intent" (NOI) with the SWRCB to comply with the General Permit and prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP for each project phase shall be prepared by a licensed engineer and shall detail the treatment measures and best management practices (BMPs) to control pollutants that shall be implemented and complied with during the construction and post-construction phases of solar development. The SWPPP(s) required for decommissioning shall specify BMPs to be implemented during that final project phase. The construction contracts for each project phase, and for the decommissioning phase, shall include the requirement to implement the BMPs in accordance with the SWPPPs.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.8. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY (CONT'D)	
HYD-3. Alteration of Drainage Patterns, Erosion or Sedimentations (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The construction of the gen-tie projects would result in potential water quality impacts from erosion and sedimentation during the construction. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM HYD-1.
HYD-4. Drainage and Flooding	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar projects would result in a slight increase stormwater runoff compared to existing conditions; however, stormwater runoff would be controlled and retained within each solar project site, and flooding would be avoided. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would result in a slight increase stormwater runoff compared to existing conditions; however, stormwater runoff would be controlled within each disturbance area, and flooding would be avoided. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
HYD-5. Operations-Related Impacts to Water Quality	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar facilities would generate minimal stormwater pollutants, and would result in little or no stormwater runoff; therefore, the operation of WSP solar facilities would not adversely affect water quality. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would generate minimal stormwater pollutants, and would result in little or no stormwater runoff; therefore, the operation of the gen-tie lines would not adversely affect water quality. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
HYD-6. Other Impacts to Water Quality	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar projects would result in potential water quality impacts related to discharges of hazardous materials during construction and decommissioning. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM HYD-1. No additional mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would result in potential water quality impacts related to discharges of hazardous materials during construction. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM HYD-1. No additional mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.8. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY (CONT'D)	
HYD-7. Impacts to Development with 100-year Floodplain	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> During the 100-year storm event, small portions of the WSP plan area may be subject to minor flooding; however, any building and equipment pads in these areas would be raised above surrounding ground elevations to prevent flooding damage to such structures. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> In areas where the gen-tie corridors cross mapped flood zones, transmission towers would be placed to avoid flood zones, or where avoidance is not possible, tower structures would be designed to withstand flood flows. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
HYD-8. Impede or Redirect Flood Flows	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> No lands within the WSP plan area are mapped within the 100-year flood zone or the 500-year flood zone, per FEMA's regulatory flood zone mapping. In the small areas of the WSP plan area that are mapped as flood-prone by DWR, the solar facilities would be raised above flood-elevations and thus not impede or redirect flood flows. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The placement of some transmission towers within 100-year flood zones is unavoidable; however, the relatively small concrete footings of the intermittently spaced tower structures would not impede or redirect flood flows. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
HYD-9. Inundation Potential Due to Dam Failure	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> In the event of failure of large dams in the Sierra Nevada, the potential inundation areas would extend into the eastern areas of Kings County, but would not extend to the WSP plan area. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> In the event of failure of large dams in the Sierra Nevada, the potential inundation areas would extend into the eastern areas of Kings County, but would not extend to the gen-tie corridors area. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
HYD-10. Inundation by Seiche, Tsunami, or Mudflow	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP plan area is located substantial distances from areas subject to potential flood hazards from catastrophic events such as seiches, tsunamis, or mudflows; therefore, WSP solar development would not be subject to flooding risks from these sources. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.8. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY (CONT'D)	
HYD-10. Inundation by Seiche, Tsunami, or Mudflow (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie corridors are located substantial distances from areas subject to potential flood hazards from catastrophic events such as seiches, tsunamis, or mudflows; therefore, the gen-tie facilities would not be subject to flooding risks from these sources. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
HYD-11. Cumulative Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The potential cumulative drainage, flooding, water quality, and groundwater impacts resulting from WSP solar development, combined with impacts from related cumulative projects, would be less than cumulatively significant under near-term and far-term conditions, with mitigation. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM HYD-1. No additional mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The potential cumulative drainage, flooding, water quality, and groundwater impacts resulting from the gen-tie projects, combined with impacts from related cumulative projects, would be less than cumulatively significant under near-term and far-term conditions, with mitigation. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM HYD-1. No additional mitigation is required.
3.9. LAND USE AND PLANNING	
LU-1. Physically Divide an Established Community	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP plan area is not located within or near any established community; therefore, WSP solar development would not physically divide an established community. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The lands traversed by the gen-tie corridors consist entirely of rural lands and include no established communities; therefore, the gen-tie projects would not physically divide an established community. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required.
LU-2. Conflict with Applicable Land Use Plan, Policy, or Regulation	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development is consistent with applicable Kings County General Plan designations and policies, and zoning regulations; therefore, the WSP solar development would not conflict with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.9. LAND USE AND PLANNING (CONT'D)	
LU-2. Conflict with Applicable Land Use Plan, Policy, or Regulation (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects are consistent with applicable General Plan designations and policies, and zoning regulations of Kings and Fresno Counties; therefore, the gen-tie projects would not conflict with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required.
LU-3. Results in Conflicts or Incompatibility with Existing Land Uses	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development would occur within the flight operations area of NAS Lemoore, and would occur in proximity to existing residences; however, WSP solar development would not result in significant conflicts or incompatibility with these activities and land uses. The WSP solar development may adversely affect nearby agricultural operations through increased dust generation during construction, and through potential introduction of weedy species during operation. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM AQ-1 (Dust Control) and MM AG-1 (Agricultural Management Plan).
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would occur in proximity to existing agricultural operations and existing residences; however, WSP solar development would not result in significant conflicts or incompatibility with existing residences. However, the construction of the gen-tie lines would result in the permanent loss of farmland, possible destruction of existing crops and damage to farming infrastructure, as well as restricted access to farmlands during construction. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM AG-4 (Mitigation for Permanent Impacts to Agricultural Operations) and MM AG-5 (Mitigation for Temporary Impacts to Agricultural Operations).
LU-4. Conflict with a Habitat Conservation Plan or a Natural Communities Conservation Plan	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development would not conflict with an adopted habitat conservation plan, a natural community conservation plan, or any other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would not conflict with an adopted habitat conservation plan, a natural community conservation plan, or any other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required.
LU-5. Cumulative Land Use and Planning Impacts	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The potential land use impacts associated with the WSP solar development, combined with the land use impacts of other cumulative development, would be less than significant with mitigation. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MMs AQ-1 (Dust Control), AG-1 (Agricultural Management Plan), AG-2 (Soil Reclamation Plan), and AG-3 (Financial Assurance). No additional mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.9. LAND USE AND PLANNING (CONT'D)	
LU-5. Cumulative Land Use and Planning Impacts (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The potential land use and planning impacts associated with the gen-tie projects, combined with the land use impacts of other cumulative development, would be less than significant with mitigation. (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation</i>)	Implement MMs AQ-1 (Dust Control), AG-4 (Mitigation for Permanent Impacts to Agricultural Operations), and AG-5 (Mitigation for Temporary Impacts to Agricultural Operations). No additional mitigation is required.
3.10. NOISE	
NOI-1. Noise from Conventional Construction Activities	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Noise levels would be temporarily elevated during construction activities associated with WSP solar development. (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Noise levels would be temporarily elevated during construction activities associated with the gen-tie projects. (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>)	No mitigation is required.
NOI-2. Noise from Helicopter Construction	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> No helicopter construction is anticipated within the WSP plan area; therefore, no noise impacts would occur as a result of helicopter use. (<i>No Impact</i>)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> If helicopter construction is employed for gen-tie line construction at road crossings or creek crossings, temporary increases in noise levels at sensitive receiver locations may result. (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>)	No mitigation is required.
NOI-3. Construction Traffic Noise	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Construction of the WSP solar projects would result in temporary increases in traffic noise, generated by delivery trucks and construction worker trips, along roadways providing access to the WSP plan area. (<i>No Impact</i>)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Construction of the gen-tie projects would result in temporary increases in traffic noise, generated by delivery trucks and construction worker trips, along roadways providing access to the gen-tie work sites. (<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>)	No mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.10. NOISE (CONT'D)	
NOI-4. Vibration from Conventional Construction Activities	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Construction of the WSP solar facilities would involve the use of heavy equipment and vehicles that would produce vibration; however, the vibration levels would be too low to result in potential damage to buildings or potential annoyance to sensitive receivers. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Construction of the gen-tie projects would involve the use of heavy equipment and vehicles that would produce vibration; however, the vibration levels would be too low to result in potential damage to buildings or potential annoyance to sensitive receivers. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
NOI-5. Noise from Project Operations	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Noise generated by operation of WSP solar facilities would result in a small increase noise levels in the vicinity. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Noise generated by operation of gen-tie lines would result in a small increase noise levels in the vicinity. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
NOI-6. Off-Site Traffic Noise from Project Operations	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Traffic generated by the operation of the WSP solar facilities would result in a small increase in traffic along roadways in the vicinity. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Traffic generated by the operation of the WSP gen-tie facilities would result in a small increase in traffic along roadways in the vicinity. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
NOI-7. Audible Noise from Corona Discharge on Transmission Lines	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> During wet conditions, corona discharge from transmission conductors within the WSP plan area would generate noise. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> During wet conditions, corona discharge from conductors in the gen-tie facilities would generate noise. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.10. NOISE (CONT'D)	
NOI-8. Substation and Switching Station Noise	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Equipment noise from operation of new substations and switching stations within the WSP plan area would result in small increases in noise levels in the vicinity. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Equipment noise from operation of substation upgrades associated with the gen-tie lines would result in small increases in noise levels in the vicinity. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
NOI-9. Noise from Decommissioning of Solar Facilities	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> Noise levels would be temporarily elevated during deconstruction activities associated with solar facility decommissioning within the WSP plan area. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> Decommissioning of gen-tie facilities is not anticipated; therefore, no noise impacts would occur. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required.
NOI-10. Noise from Flight Operations Associated with Nearby Airports	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The workers within the WSP plan area would not be exposed to excessive noise levels from flight operations associated with public or public use airports, NAS Lemoore, or private airstrips in the vicinity. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The workers on the gen-tie projects would not be exposed to excessive noise levels from flight operations associated with public or public use airports, NAS Lemoore, or private airstrips in the vicinity. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
NOI-11. Cumulative Noise Impacts	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The noise generated by WSP solar projects, along with noise from other cumulative projects, would combine to result in a small increase in noise levels in the area. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The noise generated by gen-tie projects, along with noise from other cumulative projects, would combine to result in a small increase in noise levels in the area. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact)	No mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.11. PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES	
PALEO-1. Loss of Paleontological Resources	
<p><u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP plan area includes approximately 2,100 acres that are underlain at depth by geologic units that have a high potential for paleontological resources. The construction of solar generating facilities on these lands could potentially result in the destruction of paleontological resources. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</p>	<p>Implement MM Paleo-1.</p> <p>(Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant)</p>
<p><u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The planned transmission corridors are underlain at depth by geologic units that have a high potential for paleontological resources. The construction of transmission towers and related gen-tie facilities could potentially result in the destruction of paleontological resources. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</p>	<p>Implement MM Paleo-1.</p> <p><u>MM PALEO-1: Protection of Paleontological Resources</u></p> <p>In order to reduce the potential impacts to paleontological resources to less-than-significant levels, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented in conjunction with all ground disturbance and construction work.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Workers Environmental Awareness Training.</u> Prior to any ground-disturbing activities, all field personnel shall receive a worker's environmental awareness training module on paleontological resources. The training shall provide a description of the fossil resources that may be encountered in the project area, outline steps to follow in the event that a fossil discovery is made, and provide contact information for the Project Paleontologist and on-site monitor(s). The training shall be developed by the Project Paleontologist and may be conducted concurrent with other environmental training (e.g., cultural and natural resources awareness training, safety training, etc.). <u>Prepare Paleontological Resource Management Plan (RPMP).</u> Prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, a qualified and professional paleontologist shall be retained to prepare and implement a PRMP for the project. The PRMP shall describe mitigation recommendations in detail, including field reconnaissance methodology; paleontological monitoring procedures; communication protocols to be followed in the event that an unanticipated fossil discovery is made during project development; and preparation, curation, and reporting requirements. The PRMP shall include the mitigation procedures described below. <p>[Continued on next page.]</p>

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.11. PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
PALEO-1. Loss of Paleontological Resources (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors</u> (Cont'd)	<p>[Continued from preceding page.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Paleontological Reconnaissance Survey.</u> A qualified paleontologist shall be retained to conduct a field reconnaissance survey of the project area prior to any ground-disturbing activities. The purpose of the field survey will be to inspect the ground surface visually for exposed fossils or traces thereof and to further evaluate geologic exposures for their potential to contain preserved fossil material at the subsurface. The field survey shall be limited to project areas underlain by geologic units with a high paleontological sensitivity (e.g., Quaternary older alluvium [Qc] and lacustrine deposits [Ql]). At the discretion of the Project Paleontologist, the survey may extend to those areas where highly sensitive units are likely to be shallowly buried by younger deposits (e.g., Quaternary alluvium [Qa]). However, in general, project areas underlain by geologic units with low sensitivity shall not be subject to the survey. Particular attention shall be paid to rock outcrops, both inside and in the vicinity of the project area, and any areas where geologic sediments are well exposed. Areas determined to be heavily disturbed or otherwise obscured by heavy vegetation, agriculture, or buildings, etc., will not require a ground reconnaissance survey and may be subject to a windshield survey. d. <u>Document All Finds.</u> All fossil occurrences observed during the course of fieldwork, significant or not, shall be adequately documented and recorded at the time of discovery. The data collected for each fossil occurrence shall include, at minimum, the following information: Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates, approximate elevation, description of taxa, lithologic description, and stratigraphic context (if known). In addition, each locality shall be photographically documented with a digital camera. If feasible, with prior consent of the landowner(s), all significant or potentially significant fossils shall be collected at the time they are observed in the field. If left exposed to the elements, fossil materials are subject to erosion and weathering. If the fossil discovery is too large to collect during the survey (e.g., a mammoth skeleton or bone bed) and requires a large-scale salvage effort, then it will be documented and a recovery strategy will be devised pursuant to Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (2010) guidelines. <p>[Continued on next page.]</p>

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.11. PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
PALEO-1. Loss of Paleontological Resources (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors (Cont'd)</u>	<p>[Continued from preceding page.]</p> <p>a. <u>Conduct Paleontological Monitoring.</u> Monitoring entails the visual inspection of excavated or graded areas and trench sidewalls for evidence of fossils. Full-time monitoring shall be required during ground-disturbing activities in the portions of any project that are underlain by geologic units with high sensitivity for paleontological resources (e.g., Quaternary older alluvium [Qc] and lacustrine deposits [Ql]). At the discretion of the Project Paleontologist, the survey may extend to those areas where highly sensitive units are likely to be shallowly buried by younger Quaternary alluvium deposits (e.g., Qf, Qa, Qb), in order to determine if underlying sensitive geologic units are being impacted by construction, and at what depth. In the event that a paleontological resource is discovered, the monitor shall have the authority to divert the construction equipment around the find temporarily until it is assessed for scientific significance and collected. Monitoring efforts can be reduced or eliminated at the discretion of the Project Paleontologist if no fossil resources are encountered after 50 percent of the excavations are completed.</p> <p>Monitoring is largely a visual inspection of sediments; therefore, the most likely fossils to be observed will be macrofossils of vertebrates (bones, teeth, tusk) or invertebrates (shells). At the discretion of the Project Paleontologist, the monitor shall periodically screen sediments to check for the presence of microfossils that can be seen with the aid of a hand lens (i.e., microvertebrates). Should microvertebrate fossils be encountered during the screening process, then bulk matrix samples will be taken for processing off site. For each fossiliferous horizon or paleosol, a standard sample (4.0 cubic yards or 6,000 pounds) shall be collected for subsequent wet screening per Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (2010) guidelines.</p> <p>b. <u>Procedures for Fossil Preparation, Curation, and Reporting.</u> Upon completion of fieldwork, all significant fossils collected shall be prepared in a properly equipped paleontology laboratory to a point ready for curation. Preparation shall include the careful removal of excess matrix from fossil materials and stabilizing and repairing specimens, as necessary. Following laboratory work, all fossil specimens shall be identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible, cataloged, analyzed, and delivered to an accredited museum repository for permanent curation and storage. The cost of curation is assessed by the repository and is the responsibility of the project proponent.</p> <p>[Continued on next page.]</p>

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.11. PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES (CONT'D)	
PALEO-1. Loss of Paleontological Resources (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors</u> (Cont'd)	<p>[Continued from preceding page.]</p> <p>At the conclusion of laboratory work and museum curation, a Paleontological Mitigation Report shall be prepared describing the results of the paleontological mitigation monitoring efforts associated with the project. The report shall include a summary of the field and laboratory methods, an overview of the project area geology and paleontology, a list of taxa recovered (if any), an analysis of fossils recovered (if any) and their scientific significance, the signed receipt of confirmation of museum deposition, and recommendations. The report shall be submitted to the designated museum repository, the project proponent, and other interested state and/or federal agencies involved within 45 days following completion of the monitoring and laboratory work.</p>
PALEO-2. Cumulative Impacts to Paleontological Resources	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development would not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to paleontological resource impacts with mitigation; therefore, the WSP solar projects would not have a significant cumulative impact on paleontological resources with mitigation. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM Paleo-1. No additional mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to paleontological resource impacts with mitigation; therefore, the transmission projects would not have a significant cumulative impact on paleontological resources with mitigation. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM Paleo-1. No additional mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.12. PUBLIC SERVICES	
PS-1. Fire Protection Services	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar projects would result in an incremental increase in demand for fire protection services; however, these increases are expected to be small and thus would not result in degradation of service levels or in the need for new or expanded facilities. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would result in an incremental increase in demand for fire protection services; however, these increases are expected to be small and thus would not result in degradation of service levels or in the need for new or expanded facilities. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required.
PS-2. Law Enforcement and Security	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar projects would result in a small increase the demand for law enforcement services, and therefore would not degrade service levels or result in the need for new or altered law enforcement facilities. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would result in a small increase the demand for law enforcement services, and therefore would not degrade service levels or result in the need for new or altered law enforcement facilities. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required.
PS-3. Schools, Parks, and Other Public Facilities	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar projects would result in no demand for schools, parks, or other public facilities; therefore, WSP solar development would have no impact on such public facilities. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would result in no demand for schools, parks, or other public facilities; therefore, the WSP gen-tie projects would have no impact on such public facilities. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.12. PUBLIC SERVICES (CONT'D)	
PS-4. Cumulative Public Services Impacts	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar projects, combined with other related cumulative projects, would generate small increases in demands for fire protection, law enforcement, and other public services; however, these small increases in service demand are not expected to require additional staff and equipment, or the construction of new or expanded facilities. (No Cumulative Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The WSP gen-tie projects, combined with other related cumulative projects, would generate small increases in demands for fire protection, law enforcement, and other public services; however, these small increases in service demand are not expected to require additional staff and equipment, or the construction of new or expanded facilities. (No Cumulative Impact)	No mitigation is required.
3.13. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC	
TR-1. Conflict with Transportation Plan or Level of Service Policy	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar facilities would increase traffic during construction and operation; however, the traffic volumes would not result in exceedance of applicable policies establishing acceptable levels of service or measures of effectiveness. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would increase traffic during construction and operation; however, the traffic volumes would not result in exceedance of applicable levels of service standards or measures of effectiveness. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
TR-2. Conflict with Congestion Management Program	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar projects would not conflict with any standards established by an applicable congestion management agency. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would not conflict with any standards established by an applicable congestion management agency. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.13. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC (CONT'D)	
TR-3. Change in Air Traffic Patterns or Levels, or Increase Safety Risks	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar projects are not expected to involve any helicopter use during construction and operation, and would not change air traffic patterns, increase air traffic levels, or otherwise result in substantial safety risks related to aviation. (No Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The WSP gen-tie projects may make intermittent use of helicopters during construction and operation, and would not change air traffic patterns, increase air traffic levels, or otherwise result in substantial safety risks related to aviation. Hazards to crop dusters would be minimized by routing the gen-tie lines adjacent to existing transmission and roadway corridors. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
TR-4. Increased Traffic Hazards	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> During construction of WSP solar projects, slow moving trucks and slow turning movements by large equipment and material delivery trucks could pose a traffic safety hazard along the affected roadways. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)	<p>Implement MM TR 1a.</p> <p><u>MM TR-1a: Traffic Safety Measures for WSP Solar Projects</u></p> <p>As a condition of project approval, and prior to the issuance of encroachment permits, the project sponsor shall consult with the Kings County Public Works Department prior to initiation of construction and decommissioning activities that may affect area traffic (such as equipment and supply delivery necessitating lane closures, trenching, etc.) and shall implement appropriate traffic controls in accordance with the California Vehicle Code and other state and local requirements to avoid or minimize impacts on traffic. Traffic measures that shall be implemented during construction and decommissioning activities include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Construction traffic shall not block emergency equipment routes. b. Construction activities shall be designed to minimize work on, and use of, local streets. As examples, this might include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Identify designated off-street parking areas for construction-related vehicles throughout the construction and decommissioning periods. ii. Identify approved truck routes for the delivery of all construction-related equipment and materials. <p>[Continued on next page.]</p>

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.13. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC (CONT'D)	
TR-4. Increased Traffic Hazards	
<u>Westlands Solar Park</u> (Cont'd)	<p>[Continued from preceding page.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Limit the employee arrivals and departures, and the delivery of equipment and materials, to non-peak traffic periods (e.g., avoid unnecessary travel from 7 to 9 AM and 4 to 6 PM). iv. Provide for farm worker vehicle access and safe pedestrian and vehicle access. v. Provide advance warning and appropriate signage whenever road closures or detours are necessary. <p>c. Construction shall comply with San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District standards for unpaved roads, which include a requirement to keep vehicle speeds below 15 miles per hour and to have fewer than 150 trips per day per unpaved road.</p> <p>The details of the traffic safety mitigations will be determined by the County Public Works Department at such time as the activities for which they are required are scheduled and the applicant's construction contractor requests consultation regarding such activities.</p>
<p><u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors</u>. During construction of the gen-tie projects, slow moving trucks and slow turning movements by large equipment and material delivery trucks could pose a traffic safety hazard along the affected roadways. (Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation)</p>	<p>Implement MM TR-1b.</p> <p>MM TR-1b: Traffic Safety Measures for WSP Gen-Tie Projects</p> <p>Prior to the start of construction activity on a gen-tie project, the project proponent shall prepare and implement a Traffic Management Plan (TMP). The TMP is to include, but not be limited to, the following provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A description of work hours, designated haul routes, and any timing restrictions on hauling during peak traffic periods. ▪ A description of traffic control measures such as flagging, warning signs, barricades, cones, and detours, including locations and timing of the measures. <p>[Continued on next page.]</p>

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.13. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC (CONT'D)	
TR-4. Increased Traffic Hazards (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors</u> (Cont'd)	<p>[Continued from preceding page.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A description of the process for providing advance notification to property owners who would be affected by private road closures, temporary installation of guard structures, planned nighttime construction, and other construction activities. The notification would specify the timing and nature of the activity affecting each landowner, and would include contact information for designated construction personnel responsible for public coordination. A description of emergency services providers in the affected areas, along with provisions for notification of such service providers on the timing, location, and duration of construction activities, especially road closures and detours. <p>The Traffic Management Plans would be subject to review and approval of the various transportation agencies, including Caltrans and Counties of Kings and Fresno, as applicable. These reviews would occur during the course of encroachment permit application processes for their respective roadway facilities. The California Highway Patrol and County Sheriff's Departments would also review the TMPs prior to construction.</p>
TR-5. Emergency Access	
<u>Westlands Solar Park</u> . The WSP solar projects would include traffic controls during construction, and would be designed to allow full emergency access within each completed SGF, such that WSP solar development would not result in inadequate emergency access. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors</u> . The gen-tie projects would include traffic controls during construction, and would be designed to allow full emergency access to the completed gen-tie facilities, such that the gen-tie projects would minimize the potential for inadequate emergency access. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.13. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC (CONT'D)	
TR-6. Conflict with Plans or Policies for Public Transit, Bicycle, or Pedestrian Facilities	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
TR-7. Cumulative Transportation/Traffic Impacts	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The traffic generated by WSP solar projects, along with traffic from other cumulative projects, would combine to result in increased traffic volumes on roadways in the area. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact) During construction and decommissioning, traffic safety hazards may be created by construction vehicles on roadways. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM TR-1a. No additional mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The traffic generated by the gen-tie projects, along with traffic from other cumulative projects, would combine to result in increased traffic volumes on roadways in the area. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact) During construction and decommissioning, traffic safety hazards may be created by construction vehicles on roadways. (Less-than-Significant Cumulative Impact with Mitigation)	Implement MM TR-1b. No additional mitigation is required.
3.14. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS	
UTS-1. Water Supply	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar facilities would require water supplies during the construction and operational phases; however, existing water supply sources and infrastructure would be adequate to serve the water demands of the WSP solar facilities without resulting in impacts to surface and groundwater resources, or requiring expansion of water supply facilities or additional water entitlements. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.14. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS (CONT'D)	
UTS-1. Water Supply (Cont'd)	
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would require relatively small amounts of water for dust suppression during construction. Existing water supply sources and infrastructure would be adequate to serve the water demands of the gen-tie projects without resulting in impacts to surface and groundwater resources, or requiring expansion of water supply facilities or additional water entitlements. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
UTS-2. Wastewater Treatment and Disposal	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar facilities would each have septic tanks that would be pumped periodically for off-site disposal at an approved wastewater facility. It is not expected that any WSP solar facility would utilize septic tank and leachfield systems for on-site wastewater treatment and disposal. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The wastewater treatment and disposal needs of the gen-tie projects during construction would be provided by portable chemical toilets, and there would be no sanitary facilities required during operation of the gen-tie facilities. Therefore, the impacts of the gen-tie projects in terms of wastewater treatment and disposal would be negligible. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
UTS-3. Solid Waste Service and Landfill Capacity	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The WSP solar development would increase the demand for solid waste collection and disposal service; however, the relatively small increase in solid waste generation from the WSP solar projects would not have an adverse effect on the capacity of existing landfill facilities. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The gen-tie projects would generate small amounts of solid waste, which would be accommodated by landfills in the vicinity with minimal effects on overall landfill capacity. (Less-than-Significant Impact)	No mitigation is required.

TABLE ES-1 (CONT'D)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE (MM)
3.14. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS (CONT'D)	
UTS-4. Cumulative Utilities and Service Systems	
<u>Westlands Solar Park.</u> The development of the WSP solar facilities combined with other planned and proposed development in the area would require water supplies, wastewater disposal, and solid waste disposal. However, the cumulative impact of these planned and proposed projects upon these utilities and service systems would be less than significant. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.
<u>WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.</u> The construction of the WSP gen-tie projects would generate minimal demand for water supplies, wastewater disposal, and solid waste disposal. Thus, while cumulative impacts to these services from other approved and pending projects may be cumulatively significant, the contribution of the gen-tie projects to any such cumulative impact would be not cumulatively considerable. Therefore, the cumulative impact to utilities and service systems associated with the WSP gen-tie projects would be less than significant. <i>(Less-than-Significant Impact)</i>	No mitigation is required.

ES.5. SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

As discussed throughout Chapter 3 of this EIR, all of the potentially significant impacts associated with the Westlands Solar Park and the WSP Gen-Tie Corridors, at both the project and cumulative levels, would be avoided or reduced to less-than-significant levels through mitigation measures to be implemented in conjunction with these project elements. There are no significant and unavoidable impacts associated with the solar development of the Westlands Solar Park or the construction of the WSP gen-tie lines.

ES.6. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The CEQA Guidelines stipulate that a reasonable range of project alternatives be considered which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project. The following alternatives were evaluated for the Westlands Solar Park and WSP Gen-Tie Corridors, respectively

Alternatives to the Westlands Solar Park

1. No Project Alternative
2. Reduced Project Size Alternative
3. Alternative Project Location

Alternatives to the WSP Gen-Tie Corridors

1. No Project Alternative

The evaluation of the project alternatives is summarized below. In each case, this is followed by the identification of the environmentally superior alternative, as required under CEQA. The detail descriptions and evaluations of these alternatives is found in Chapter 5 of this EIR, along with descriptions of alternatives that were considered but not carried forward for detailed analysis.

ES.6.1. ALTERNATIVES TO THE WESTLANDS SOLAR PARK

No Project Alternative

The No Project Alternative consists of not constructing the WSP solar facilities and continuing the farming operations on the WSP plan area without modifications to the site. The No Project Alternative would result in lower levels of impact than WSP solar development in some categories, but would result in greater levels of impact in others. The No Project Alternative would result in relatively lower levels of impact in the categories of aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, public services, traffic, wastewater disposal, solid waste disposal, although all of these impacts would be less than significant or fully mitigable with WSP solar development. The No Project Alternative would result in substantially greater levels of impact than WSP solar development in the categories of agricultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions/climate change, and water supply, and similar levels of impact to WSP solar development in terms of air quality and hazards and hazardous materials. On balance, while the No Project Alternative would result in somewhat lower impacts in several categories, it would result in substantially greater impacts in others such as agricultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, and water supply. Therefore, the No Project Alternative would not represent an environmentally superior alternative to the planned WSP solar development. Moreover, the No Project Alternative would not fulfill any of the project objectives, as restated at the beginning of this chapter, particularly the objectives of helping to meet the state's renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction targets, retiring all of the physically-impaired lands of the WSP plan area from irrigated agriculture, and maximizing reallocation of scarce imported water resources to more productive agricultural operations.

Reduced Project Size Alternative

This alternative assumes a 30 percent reduction in the size of the WSP plan area, resulting in solar PV development over approximately 14,600 acres with a total generating capacity of about 1,220 MW. The Reduced Project Size Alternative would comprise the eastern and southern areas of the WSP plan area (i.e., Master Plan Subareas 1 through 8 on Figure PD-3). This would include Subareas 1 through 4 located generally north of Nevada Avenue and east of 25th Avenue, and Subareas 5 through 8 located south of Nevada Avenue.

The Reduced Project Size Alternative would result in lower levels of impact than the planned WSP solar development in some categories, but would result in greater levels of impact in others. The Reduced Project Size Alternative would result in relatively lower levels of impact in the categories of aesthetics, biological resources, cultural and paleontological resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, public services, traffic, wastewater disposal, and solid waste disposal, although all of these impacts would be less than significant or fully mitigable under the planned WSP solar development. The Reduced Project Size Alternative would result in greater levels of impact than the planned WSP solar development in the categories of agricultural resources, hazardous materials, greenhouse gas emissions/climate change, and water supply, and similar levels of impact to WSP solar development in terms of air quality, and hazards and hazardous materials. On balance, while the Reduced Project Size Alternative would result in somewhat lower impacts in several categories, it would result in substantially greater impacts in others such as agricultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions/climate, and water supply. In addition, since the planned WSP solar development results in no significant and unavoidable impacts, the Reduced Project Size Alternative would not eliminate or substantially reduce such impacts. Therefore, the Reduced Project Size Alternative would not represent an environmentally superior alternative to the planned WSP solar development. Moreover, the Reduced Project Size Alternative would be significantly less effective in fulfilling the project objectives, as restated at the beginning of this chapter, particularly the objectives of helping to meet the state's renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction targets, retiring all of the physically-impaired lands of the WSP plan area from irrigated agriculture, and maximizing reallocation of scarce imported water resources to more productive agricultural

operations.

Alternative Project Location

The Alternative Project Site consists of approximately 21,000 contiguous acres of WWD-owned retired farmland situated south of the City of Mendota along both sides of SR-33, between California Avenue on the north and Manning Avenue on the south (see Figure ES-5), approximately 30 miles northwest of the WSP plan area. The Alternative Project Site (hereinafter also referred to as the “Mendota Site”) is located just north of a 230-kV transmission line which runs in an east-west direction through the area.

The impacts associated with the solar development of the Mendota alternative site would be similar to those associated with the planned WSP site in most categories including: agricultural resources, air quality, cultural resources and paleontology, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and drainage, public services, traffic, and utilities and service systems. However, impacts at the Mendota site would be greater than the WSP site for the following impact categories: aesthetics, biological resources, land use and planning, and noise. There are no impact categories for which the Mendota site would result in a lower level of impact than the planned WSP site, and there are no categories for which the Mendota site would substantially lessen or avoid a significant impact associated with the proposed WSP project site. More importantly, the Mendota alternative site would not reduce or eliminate a significant and unavoidable impact, since there are no significant unmitigable impacts associated with the development of a solar generating facility at the proposed WSP project site.

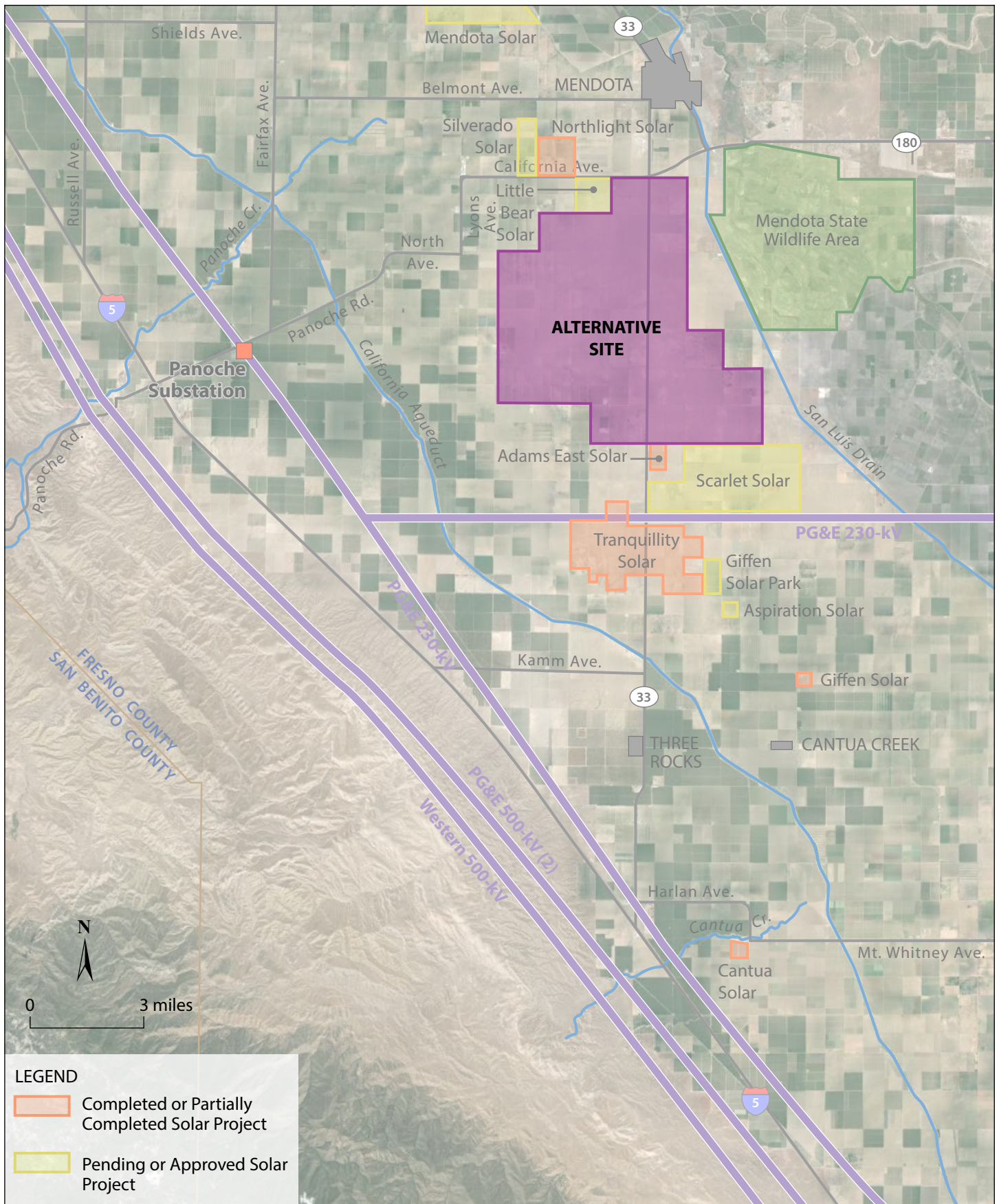
Summary – Environmentally Superior Alternative

The Reduced Project Size Alternative would result in somewhat lower levels of impact under most categories relative to the planned WSP solar development. However, all of the potential impacts associated with WSP solar development would be reduced to less-than-significant levels through mitigation measures to be incorporated into the planned WSP solar projects. Although the Reduced Project Size Alternative would not avoid or eliminate any significant project impacts which would not already be reduced to less-than-significant levels in the planned WSP solar development, this alternative would be the environmentally superior alternative because it would result in generally lower levels of impact in most categories compared to the planned WSP solar development.

ES.6.2. ALTERNATIVES TO THE WSP GEN-TIE CORRIDORS

No Project Alternative

The No Project Alternative assumes that the planned WSP gen-tie projects would not be constructed. This alternative consists largely of continuing the current farming and grazing operations within the corridor areas. The potential impacts associated with the No Project Alternative would be lower than those associated with the planned WSP gen-tie projects in all impact categories except greenhouse gas emissions/climate change. However, since the planned gen-tie projects result in no significant and unavoidable impacts, the No Project Alternative would not eliminate or substantially reduce such impacts. On balance, the No Project Alternative would represent an environmentally superior alternative to the planned WSP gen-tie projects. However, the No Project Alternative would not fulfill any of the project objectives, as restated at the beginning of this chapter, particularly the main objective of providing delivery of renewal solar power to the electrical grid. Without a means of delivering the solar power generated at the Westlands Solar Park, the development of the WSP plan area with solar PV facilities would not be technically feasible and thus would not occur. Thus, the No Project Alternative would also result in failure to meet the main WSP project objectives of



Base map: Google Earth, 2016

Westlands Solar Park - Alternative Site
Figure ES-5

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helping to meet the state's renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction targets, retiring all of the physically-impaired lands of the WSP site from irrigated agriculture, and maximizing reallocation of scarce imported water resources to more productive agricultural operations.

Gen-Tie Route Alternatives

As described in Section 2.0. *Project Description*, the proposed project includes two planned WSP Gen-Tie Corridors to serve the Westlands Solar Park. These include the WSP-South to Gates Gen-Tie Corridor, which would consist of a single row of 230-kV monopoles, and the WSP-North to Gates Gen-Tie Corridor, which could also consist of a single row of 230-kV monopoles. An optional configuration would consist of two parallel 230-kV gen-ties lines in the southern corridor, in which case the northern gen-tie line would not be needed and would not be constructed. Since both gen-tie corridors are fully evaluated in this EIR, including full evaluation of a widened southern corridor to allow for the double gen-tie line, the optional configurations are evaluated a part of the proposed project. No other feasible gen-tie routes connecting the Westlands Solar Park with the Gates Substation have been identified. As such, no alternative gen-tie routes are evaluated in this EIR.

Summary – Environmentally Superior Alternative

The potential impacts associated with the No Project Alternative would be lower than those associated with the planned WSP Gen-Tie Corridors in all impact categories except greenhouse gas emissions/global climate change. However, since the planned gen-tie projects result in no significant and unavoidable impacts, the No Project Alternative would not eliminate or substantially reduce such impacts. On balance, the No Project Alternative would represent an environmentally superior alternative to the planned WSP Gen-Tie Corridors. However, the No Project Alternative would not fulfill any of the project objectives, as discussed above.

The CEQA Guidelines, at Section 15126.6(e)(2), provide that if the environmentally superior alternative is the No Project Alternative, the EIR shall also identify an environmentally superior alternative from among the other alternatives. As discussed above, there are no feasible alternative routes to the planned WSP Gen-Tie Corridor. Therefore, apart from the No Project Alternative, which would not achieve the project objectives, there is no environmentally superior alternative to the planned WSP Gen-Tie Corridors.

ES.7. AREAS OF POTENTIAL CONTROVERSY

Changes to Project Description since Issuance of the Original Notice of Preparation of 2013

It is important to note that the proposed project has been substantially reduced from the project described in the original Notice of Preparation issued in March 2013. In particular, the project no longer includes the Westlands Transmission Corridor (i.e., a planned transmission corridor extending from the Gates Substation northward to the Los Banos Substation in Merced County), since an interconnection request to the federal Western Area Power Administration has been filed which would involve a similar transmission facility along the west side of the valley, and for which a project-specific EIS/EIR will be prepared. However, the project under review in this EIR still includes the planned gen-tie lines connecting the Westlands Solar Park (WSP) to the Gates Substation located approximately 12 miles to the west of the WSP. (A Revised NOP describing the plan modifications was issued on August 30, 2017.) Since the Westlands Solar Park does not require the construction of the Westlands Transmission Corridor to deliver power to the State electrical grid, it has “independent utility.” Likewise, the Westlands Transmission Corridor does not require the completion of the Westlands Solar Park to fulfill its purpose of providing bulk transmission service along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley.

Comment Letters in Response to Original NOP of 2013

Due to the removal of the Westlands Transmission Corridor from consideration in this EIR, the comments received on the original NOP on the transmission corridor are no longer relevant to this environmental review, with the exception of comments directed specifically to the Westlands Solar Park and WSP Gen-Tie Corridors. Therefore, comments that were solely focused on the Westlands Transmission Corridor are not summarized here. Nevertheless, all comments received on the NOP are contained in Appendix B.

Comment letters on the original NOP were received from Caltrans District 6, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California State Lands Commission, Native American Heritage Commission, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Kings County Department of Health, Kings County Community Development Agency, Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning, Fresno County Public Library, Stanislaus County Environmental Review Committee, Defenders of Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, California Consumers Alliance, Sempra Energy, Southern California Gas Company, Lozeau Drury LLP, Solo Mio Farms, and Ron Dickerson. The letters from the state, regional, and local agencies are focused on technical issues within their areas of responsibility and include recommendations with respect to the EIR’s content in areas within their purview. These NOP comments are addressed under the environmental topics corresponding to the respective agencies’ concerns (i.e., Transportation/Traffic, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Air Quality, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, and Land Use and Planning). These comments do not raise potentially controversial issues.

The letters from the Southern California Gas Company and its parent company Sempra Energy request that the company’s high pressure natural gas transmission pipeline that runs through the WSP plan area be duly considered in project planning and that safety protocols be followed in the vicinity of the gas pipeline. The EIR addresses the hazard and safety issues related to the pipeline. This is not a potentially controversial issue.

The comment letters from Defenders of Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy included concerns with biological resources and expressed general support for the Westlands Solar Park. The concerns regarding biological resources are fully addressed in Section 3.4. *Biological Resources*. There are no potentially controversial issues remaining with respect to biological resources.

The California Consumers Alliance comment letter expresses concerns with potential impacts to biological and cultural resources, which are fully addressed in the EIR. The CCA comment letter also suggests consideration of a reduced project size alternative for the Westlands Solar Park; the EIR identifies and evaluates a reduced project size alternative. The CCA letter is supportive of the planned Westlands solar and associated transmission facilities, provided its social and environmental concerns are addressed. The potential areas of controversy raised in this comment letter have been fully addressed in the EIR.

The letter from Lozeau Drury LLP (on behalf of the Laborers International Union of North America, Local Union 294), requests to receive notices of all actions related to the EIR. No potentially controversial issues are raised in this letter.

Public Scoping Meeting

On April 9, 2013, the Westlands Water District held a duly noticed Public Scoping Meeting at the District Headquarters in Fresno. The meeting was well attended by agency and NGO representatives, and members of the public.

The comments presented at the scoping meeting included many of the concerns raised in the NOP comment letters, summarized above, in addition to newly presented concerns. The following is summary of the issues of concern related to the Westlands Solar Park raised in the NOP comment letters and in oral comments received at the public scoping meeting:

Aesthetics

- Glint and glare impacts to aircraft especially near NAS Lemoore

Agricultural Resources

- Agricultural impacts of transmission corridors on permanent tree and vine crops
- Williamson Act conversions need to be completed prior to construction of solar park

Air Quality

- Air Quality impacts from construction dust and toxic air contaminants

Biological Resources

- Biological impacts of solar park to protected species and habitats
 - implement wildlife friendly project design and construction practices
 - prohibit use of rodenticides
 - evaluate cumulative impacts to wildlife habitat
 - evaluate potential kit fox migration routes

Cultural Resources

- Cultural resource impacts in areas of archaeological sensitivity

Traffic/Transportation

- Traffic impacts from construction traffic upon state highways
 - encroachment permits
 - setbacks of solar panels from state ROW

Utilities and Urban Services

- Utility impacts to existing natural gas pipelines

Comment Letters on the Revised NOP of August 2017

As mentioned, a Revised NOP describing the plan modifications was issued on August 30, 2017. Comment letters on the Revised NOP were received from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD), SoCalGas, Defenders of Wildlife, and California Consumers Alliance (CCA). The letters from the state and regional agencies are focused on technical issues within their areas of responsibility and include recommendations with respect to the EIR's content in areas within their purview. The matters raised in the NOP comments are addressed under the environmental topics corresponding to the respective agencies' concerns (i.e., Air Quality, Biological Resources, and Land Use and Planning). These comments do not raise potentially controversial issues.

The letter from SoCalGas requests that the company's high pressure natural gas transmission pipeline and branch lines that run through the WSP plan area be duly considered in project planning and that safety protocols be followed in the vicinity of the gas pipelines. The EIR addresses the hazard and safety issues related to the pipelines. This is not a potentially controversial issue.

The comment letter from Defenders of Wildlife addresses biological resources and expressed general support for the Westlands Solar Park. The concerns regarding biological resources are fully addressed in Section 3.4. *Biological Resources*. There are no potentially controversial issues with respect to biological resources.

The California Consumers Alliance comment letter requests clarifications regarding several aspects of the project description, most of which are addressed in this EIR. It is noted that since this is a Program EIR which evaluates plan-level impacts, some of the project-level details requested by CCA have not been defined at this stage, and will be appropriately defined at the project level and addressed in subsequent project-specific environmental review. The CCA letter also suggests consideration of the Distributed Generation Alternative, which is addressed in the alternatives section of this EIR.