

4. EFFECTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT

During the initial scoping process for this EIR, it was determined that several checklist items contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines either were not applicable to the project or were items under which the project would result in no impact or a less-than-significant impact. These items are listed below, along with a brief discussion supporting the impact determination in each case. [Note: The numbering of the impact categories below corresponds to the numbering system in CEQA Guidelines Appendix G.]

2. FORESTRY RESOURCES

Would the project:

- (c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zone Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?**

Westlands Solar Park

No Impact: The entire WSP plan area is zoned either “AG-40 General Agriculture-40” or “AX Exclusive Agriculture”. There are no areas in Kings County that are zoned for forestland or timberland, according to the Kings County Zoning Plan (Kings County 1964). As such the WSP solar development would result in no conflicts with existing zoning for forest land or timberland.

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors

No Impact: The portions of the transmission corridors located in Kings County are on lands zoned either “AG-40 General Agriculture-40” or “AX Exclusive Agriculture” (Kings County 1964). The transmission segments crossing Fresno County are all zoned as either “AE 20 Exclusive Agricultural” or “AE 40 Exclusive Agricultural.” There are no lands in eastern Fresno County that are zoned for timberland or forest land (Fresno County 2017c). As such the WSP gen-tie projects would result in no conflicts with existing zoning for forest land or timberland.

- (d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?**

Westlands Solar Park

No Impact: The WSP plan area consists predominantly of cultivated fields and does not include forest land. As such, the WSP solar development would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors

No Impact: All segments of the WSP gen-tie corridors pass through cultivated farmland or rangeland. There is no forest land in the vicinity of the gen-tie corridors. As such, the WSP gen-tie projects would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

(e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

Westlands Solar Park

No Impact: There is no forest land within the WSP plan area or in the vicinity. As such, the WSP solar development would not result in the conversion of forestland to non-forest use.

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors

No Impact: There is no forest land within the WSP gen-tie corridors or in the vicinity. As such, the WSP gen-tie projects would not result in the conversion of forestland to non-forest use.

13. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area either directly (for example, by new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

Westlands Solar Park

Less-than-Significant Impact: The WSP solar facilities would not include residential components so they would not directly induce population growth in the area. The construction workforce would vary substantially throughout the WSP buildout period, with the peak workforce estimated to be about 470 workers. The construction workers are expected to be drawn from the existing labor pool in the region, and would not directly result in population growth. Operations staffing would also vary greatly from day to day, and workers would be stationed elsewhere travel to the site as needed to perform maintenance, repairs, panel cleaning, and other duties. It is estimated that, on average, about 80 workers would be working at WSP solar facilities on any given day at full buildout. It is expected that all operations staff will be drawn from the surrounding region, and that in cases where workers have relocated to the region from elsewhere, it is anticipated they would find ample housing choice from the existing inventory of homes in the region. Thus WSP solar development would not induce substantial population growth in the area.

WSP solar development would not result in the extension or roads or urban utilities (e.g., water and sewer) to lands not currently served by urban infrastructure, and thus would not induce urban development into the rural area of the County. Therefore, WSP solar development would not induce indirect growth through extension of urban infrastructure. [The potential for WSP solar development to result in growth inducement is addressed in detail in Section 6.1. *Growth-Inducing Effects of the Proposed Project.*]

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors

Less-than-Significant Impact: The WSP gen-tie projects would not include residential components so they would not directly induce population growth in the area. During

construction, the gen-tie projects are expected to require a total workforce of about 100 construction workers over a period of less than one year for each gen-tie projects. It is expected that most of construction personnel would be drawn from the communities in the region, although some specialized workers may need to be brought in from outside the area and be temporarily lodged in local hotels. Upon completion, the operation of the gen-tie lines would have no permanent staff, and would receive intermittent inspections and maintenance activities by workers employed in the utility's larger operations. Thus WSP gen-tie projects would not induce substantial population growth in the area.

The WSP gen-tie projects would not result in the extension of roads or urban utilities (e.g., water and sewer) to lands not currently served by urban infrastructure, and thus would not induce urban development into the rural areas that the gen-tie lines would cross. Therefore, WSP gen-tie projects would not induce indirect growth through extension of urban infrastructure. [The potential for the WSP gen-tie projects to result in growth inducement is addressed in detail in Section 6.1. *Growth-Inducing Effects of the Proposed Project.*]

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

Westlands Solar Park

No Impact: There are no dwellings within the WSP plan area, and none of the residential properties in the vicinity of the plan area would be removed or encroached upon as a result of WSP solar development. Therefore, WSP solar development would not displace existing housing. [The potential for WSP solar development to result in land use compatibility impacts is addressed in Section 3.10. *Land Use and Planning* (under Impact LU-3).]

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors

No Impact: There are no dwellings within the WSP gen-tie corridors, and none of the residential properties in the vicinity of the transmission projects would be removed or encroached upon as a result of the gen-tie projects. Therefore, the WSP gen-tie projects would not displace existing housing. [The potential for the WSP gen-tie projects to result in land use compatibility impacts is addressed in Section 3.10. *Land Use and Planning* (under Impact LU-3).]

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

Westlands Solar Park

No Impact: There are no people currently living within the WSP plan area. Therefore, the WSP solar facilities would not displace any people.

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors

No Impact: There are no people currently living within the WSP gen-tie corridors. Therefore, the WSP gen-tie projects would not displace any people.

15. RECREATION

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

Westlands Solar Park

No Impact: The WSP solar facilities would not include residential components and thus would not result in substantially increased use of or demand for neighborhood or regional parks, or other recreational facilities.

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors

No Impact: The WSP gen-tie projects would not include residential components and thus would not result in substantially increased use of or demand for neighborhood or regional parks, or other recreational facilities.

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Westlands Solar Park

No Impact: The WSP solar facilities would not include the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, nor would they require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors

No Impact: The WSP gen-tie projects would not include the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, nor would they require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

EFFECTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT – REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Fresno County 2017c	County of Fresno. 2017. <i>Fresno County GIS – Web Mapping – Zoning</i> . http://gis.co.fresno.ca.us/zoning/
Kings County 1964	County of Kings. 1964. <i>Zoning Plan – County of Kings California</i> . Adopted April 7, 1964. http://www.kingscountygis.com/maps/

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Kings County. 2016. *Kings County Development Code. Kings County Code of Ordinances, Appendix A - Ordinance No. 668.12*. Dated January 26, 2016; Effective February 26, 2016.

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