

ADDENDUM II
to the
Environmental Impact Report
for the Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Project

MARICOPA SUN SOLAR COMPLEX PROJECT
By Maricopa East Solar PV, LLC (PP15113)

Franchise Agreement and Route Modification



Kern County
Planning and Community Development Department
Bakersfield, California

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Chapter 1

Introduction and Overview

1.1 Introduction

As Lead Agency, the Kern County Planning and Community Development Department prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Project (referred to herein as the “approved project”), which evaluated, at a project level, 700 megawatts (MW) of industrial-scale solar development on 6,046-acre site and, at a program level, an additional 345 MW of future solar expansion on a 2,960-acre site. The Kern County Board of Supervisors certified the Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Project Final EIR (also referred to herein as the “certified EIR” or “EIR”) (State Clearinghouse No. 2010031034) and approved the Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Project on March 29, 2011, which consisted of General Plan Amendment (GPA) No. 5, Map 158; GPA No. 1, Map 159; Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 5, Map 158; CUP No. 7, Map 159; and CUP No. 16, Map 160, Tentative Parcel Maps 11967 and 11968; and the cancellation of Williamson Act land use contracts (Resolutions 2011-076, 2011-077, and 2011-078).

Prior to certification of the EIR and approval of the project, the project proponent informed the Lead Agency that it was withdrawing portions of the following three program-level parcels:

- Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN) 220-050-10: withdraw 431 acres of the 626 acre parcel; 188 acres to remain in program.
- APN 220-050-25: withdraw 129 acres of the 290 acre parcel; 170 acres to remain in program.
- APN 220-150-42: withdraw 191 acres of a 306 acre parcel; 125 acres to remain in program.

On February 20, 2014 an Addendum to the certified EIR was processed to consider Lot Line Adjustment 25-13. Modifications were proposed to the approved project’s boundaries, that required a lot Line Adjustment (LLA) to reconfigure two project parcels (APN 220-170-02 and 07).

A modification is now being proposed to the approved project’s generation tie-line (gen-tie) route along a portion of the south side of Copus Road and a portion of either the east or west side of Shallock Road, which will require a Franchise Agreement for the installation of the gen-tie. The project proponent will construct and own the easterly portion of the gen-tie. Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) will construct and own the westerly portion of the gen-tie, which will be subject to PG&E’s existing franchise agreement with the County. The certified EIR analyzed a gen-tie route similar in length and with similar necessary related facilities [e.g., number of poles, necessary PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades, etc.] to the route being analyzed in this Addendum, but the route analyzed in the approved EIR traversed the north side of Copus Road while the route being analyzed in this Addendum is proposed to be located on the south side of Copus Road and along the east or west side of Shallock Road.

The proposed change to the approved project, namely the alternate gen-tie route that requires approval of a Franchise Agreement for its easterly portion, is referred to herein as the “proposed modified project” or “proposed project modification.” The gen-tie analyzed in this Addendum would allow the transmission of energy generated from Site 15, as described in the certified EIR; this site is also referred to herein as Maricopa East. This Addendum has been prepared to determine whether the proposed modified project would result in new or substantially more severe significant environmental impacts compared with the impacts disclosed in the certified EIR. The inclusion of all of the relevant mitigation measures identified in the certified EIR to the proposed modified project will be implemented by the project proponent as project features where appropriate.

Lead Agency Contact Information

Kern County Planning and Community Development Department
 Janice Mayes, Planner 2, Advanced Planning Division
 2700 “M” Street, Suite 100
 Bakersfield, California 93301
 Phone: (661) 862-8600

Project Proponent

Mr. Dave Azzam
 Director of Solar Development
 Maricopa East Solar PV, LLC
 20 California Street
 San Francisco, California 94111
 Phone: (415) 347-2588

1.2 Proposed Modified Project Overview

The certified EIR for the approved project analyzed the construction of industrial-scale photovoltaic (PV) solar facilities on 6,046 acres worth of project parcels (up to 700 MW) and another 345 MW of future solar expansion on an additional 2,960 program-level acres. The approved project is located on the north and south sides of South Lake Road, and on the north side of Copus Road, in northwest Kern County (Figure 1-1).

The proposed modified project would include the following component:

1. Approval of a Franchise Agreement for the easterly portion of the 12 kilovolt (kV) gen-tie that the project proponent will own, which reads as follows:

Within the County Right-of-Way (ROW) along Copus Road, at a point beginning on the north side of Copus Road, approximately 300 feet east of the southeast corner of Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN) 295-130-82 in the southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33, T32S, R27E, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M); then crossing above Copus Road to the County ROW on the south side of Copus Road and running west approximately 5,600 feet along the south side of Copus Road, crossing the intersection of the east side of Shallock Road and Copus Road, and continuing 150 feet along the north side of the PG&E Lakeview Substation, all within Section 32, T32S, R27E, MDB&M. Also within the County ROW along the east side of Shallock Road, at a point beginning at the intersection of Shallock Road and Copus Road (portion in Section 32, T32S, R27E, MDB&M, portion along section line between northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ section 27 and northwest $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 26, T12N, R21W San Bernardino Base and Meridian (SBB&M)) and running south from Copus Road approximately 320 feet along the east side of Shallock Road. Also within the County ROW along the west side of Shallock Road, at a point beginning at the intersection of Shallock Road and Copus Road (portion in Section 32, T32S, R27E, MDB&M, portion along section line between northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ section 27 and northwest $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 26, T12N, R21W San Bernardino Base and Meridian (SBB&M)) and running south from Copus Road approximately 320 feet along the west side of Shallock Road, at which point the overhead line will cross Shallock Road, if needed, underground or overhead and connect to a dead-end structure adjacent

and to the east of the PG&E Lakeview Substation (which will be expanded in a southerly direction).

2. Modified route for construction of the 12-kV gen-tie line. The project proponent will construct the easterly portion of the gen-tie line.

While not components of the proposed modified project being considered for approval, PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades at the existing PG&E Lakeview Substation are necessary to connect Maricopa East (Site 15 as described in the certified EIR) to PG&E's power grid via the gen-tie being analyzed in this Addendum. Therefore, the PG&E interconnection facilities are part of the whole of the developer's action that will result in a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and are thus part of the analysis in this Addendum for purposes of CEQA review only. These components include:

1. Expansion of the existing PG&E Lakeview Substation property by approximately ½ acres and installation of additional substation equipment, including:
 - a. A new 12 (kilovolt) kV steel bus, approximately 30 feet in height.
 - b. Relocation of 70-kV transmission lines supported by poles up to approximately 100 feet in height.
 - c. 12-kV circuit breakers;
 - d. 12-kV lines to connect the 12-kV breakers to the gen-tie line
 - e. A 16-foot wide dirt access road within the substation; and
 - f. A new chain-link fence topped with barbed wire.
2. Construction of approximately ½ mile of the 12-kV gen-tie line connecting the solar-generation project to PG&E's Lakeview substation, including installation of associated equipment consisting of overhead or underground communication cables. PG&E plans to install all poles, overhead gen-tie and above or belowground communication cables within Kern County franchise, for which PG&E has an existing franchise agreement.
3. Upgrades to off-site PG&E substations within existing substation footprints (see Table 2-4, below).

The requested approval of the Franchise Agreement to allow the gen-tie to be placed within County ROW on the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road is necessary to support the construction and operation of the previously-approved solar facility. No physical changes are proposed to the Maricopa East solar facility as a result of the proposed project modification analyzed in this Addendum and therefore, no new onsite impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed project modification.

1.3 Addendum Organization

This document is organized as follows pursuant to the requirements of the CEQA Guidelines:

- *Chapter 1, Introduction and Overview*, describes the background of the proposed modified project; explains the rationale for preparing an Addendum to the certified EIR as the appropriate form of environmental review pursuant to CEQA; and explains the purpose, scope, and content of the Addendum.
- *Chapter 2, Modified Project Description*, describes the location and details of the proposed modified project.

- *Chapter 3, Environmental Analysis*, evaluates whether the proposed project modification to the approved project would result in new or substantially more severe significant environmental impacts compared with the impacts disclosed in the certified EIR.
- *Chapter 4, List of Preparers*, lists the individuals involved in preparing the Addendum.
- *Chapter 5, References*, lists the documents and individuals consulted during preparation of the Addendum.

1.4 Addendum Scope of Environmental Review

This Addendum evaluates whether the proposed project modification to the approved Maricopa Sun Solar Complex project would result in new or substantially more severe significant environmental impacts compared to the impacts disclosed in the certified EIR.

The certified EIR assessed the environmental impacts of the approved project, which consists of 700-MW industrial-scale PV solar facilities located on approximately 6,046 acres for imminent solar development, and an additional 2,960 acres for possible future solar expansion. Components of the PV solar facilities included:

- Series of PV panels, either fixed tilt or mounted on single-axis trackers;
- Inverters and associated pads, transformers and associated pads, circuit breakers, and metering equipment;
- Electrical conduits and electrical wiring buried 3 to 4 feet in designated areas throughout the approved project and within easements connecting the approved project site;
- Switchgear, protective relays, and larger transformers to step up the voltage to match the voltage of the transmission grid at the interconnection point;
- Transmission lines;
- Substations using an area of approximately 150 feet by 150 feet with a height of approximately 60 feet;
- Operations and maintenance (O&M) building adjacent to the PV solar facilities;
- One or more meteorological monitoring stations to track insolation temperature, wind direction, and speed;
- Security fencing; and
- Construction staging areas.

For complete descriptions of all onsite PV solar facilities to be placed on the approved project site, please refer to the certified EIR. The potential impacts of these onsite facilities were assessed in the certified EIR and approved in the CUP. The proposed modified project contains the same general gen-tie facilities located in the same geographic area as was identified in the certified EIR but, instead of the gen-tie route occurring along the north side of Copus Road, the route would now occur along the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road. The easterly portion of the gen-tie will be constructed and owned by the project proponent; the remainder of the gen-tie will be constructed and owned by PG&E.

As discussed in the certified EIR, the approved project was determined to have no impact with regard to the environmental impact areas listed below. Since the proposed modified project would have generally the same gen-tie facilities located along the same stretch of Copus Road and either the east or west side of Shallock Road, the impacts of the proposed modified project would also have no impact with regard to these environmental impact areas. Therefore, the following environmental impact areas are not analyzed in this Addendum:

- Noise;
- Population and Housing;
- Recreation; and
- Utilities and Service Systems.

The certified EIR established that, with mitigation incorporated, the approved project would result in less-than-significant impacts (with mitigation) related to the following environmental impact areas:

- Air Quality (project);
- Biological Resources (project);
- Cultural Resources (project and cumulative);
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions (project and cumulative);
- Hydrology and Water Quality (project and cumulative);
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials (project and cumulative);
- Geology and Soils (project and cumulative);
- Land Use and Planning (project and cumulative);
- Minerals (project and cumulative);
- Public Services (project and cumulative); and
- Transportation and Traffic (project and cumulative).

The certified EIR established that the approved project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts with regard to the following environmental impact areas:

- Aesthetics (project and cumulative) – Significant project-level and cumulative impacts as a result of changes to visual character of the site and its surroundings.
- Agriculture and Forest Resources (project and cumulative) – Significant project-level and cumulative impacts related to the cancellation of 6,046 acres of Williamson Act land use contracts.
- Air Quality (cumulative) – Significant cumulative impacts as a result of construction-period air emissions.
- Biological Resources (cumulative) – Significant cumulative impacts as a result of reduction or loss of habitat.

This Addendum will address changes resulting from implementation of the proposed modified project on each of the environmental resource areas previously analyzed in the certified EIR. The analysis found in Chapter 3 of this Addendum confirms that all impacts related to the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades are minor and will be less than significant. The Addendum further demonstrates that the relocated gen-tie will not create any new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified effects than those already addressed by the Statements of Overriding Consideration previously adopted by the Board of Supervisors in support of the certified EIR.

1.5 Basis for an EIR Addendum

An agency may prepare an addendum to a certified EIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 that states, in pertinent part that “if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred.” Section 15162 states that a subsequent EIR is required if any of the following conditions exist:

1. Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions to the previous EIR...due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified effects;
2. Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR...due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
3. New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified...shows any of the following:
 - a. The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR;
 - b. Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
 - c. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
 - d. Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

Mitigation measures imposed in the certified EIR relate directly to the PV solar facilities and gen-tie, do not extend to PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades, and as such do not grant Kern County jurisdiction over the PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades. Any requirements in the mitigation measures to obtain permits from, or submit plans for approval to, Kern County or any department thereof apply only to the modified project proponent and not to PG&E. Kern County, as the lead agency, does not have jurisdiction over any PG&E facilities, nor does it have authority to impose mitigation measures on the PG&E project. The County does, however, have authority under CEQA to evaluate the environmental impacts of the construction of PG&E's interconnection facilities, considering PG&E's standard Best Management Practices (BMPs), and Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) that are incorporated into PG&E project activities (see Appendix D of this Addendum).

Based on the evaluation provided in this Addendum, no new significant impacts would occur as a result of the proposed modified project or as a result of PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades needed to interconnect the project to PG&E's electrical system. Additionally, there would not be any substantial increase in the severity of any previously-identified significant environmental impact identified in the certified EIR. This evaluation revealed no new information of substantial importance showing that mitigation measures or alternatives that were previously deemed infeasible or considerably different from those analyzed in the certified EIR would now substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment already previously disclosed in the certified EIR. Therefore, none of the conditions described in Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines has occurred. For this reason, an addendum is the appropriate document to comply with CEQA requirements for the proposed modified project.

1.6 Evaluation of Alternatives

CEQA requires a comparative evaluation of a proposed project and alternatives to the project, including the "No Project" alternative. The certified EIR addressed a reasonable range of alternatives for the approved project. There is no new information indicating that an alternative that was previously rejected as infeasible is in fact now feasible, or that a considerably different alternative than those previously studied would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment already previously disclosed in the certified EIR.

1.7 Adoption and Availability of Addendum

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15164(c), an addendum to an EIR need not be circulated for public review but can be included in or attached to the certified EIR. The decision-making body must consider the Addendum with the certified EIR prior to making a decision on the project [CEQA Guidelines Section 15164(d)]. Although not required, this Addendum is available for public review at the Kern County Planning and Community Development Department, 2700 “M” Street, Bakersfield, California 93301 as well as on the Department’s webpage:

<http://pcd.kerndsa.com/planning/environmental-documents/eda/212-maricopa-sun-solar-complex-project>.

Chapter 2

Proposed Modified Project Description

2.1 Background

This chapter of the Addendum describes the modification to the approved project that has been proposed by the project proponent. The proposed modified project includes approval of a Franchise Agreement to grant a non-exclusive franchise to construct, install, maintain, operate, repair, renew, and remove a pole-line transmission system for the purpose of transmitting electric power together with appurtenances and equipment necessary or convenient for the operation thereof. Also addressed in this Addendum are utility upgrades of existing PG&E Transmission Lines and facilities within the vicinity of the project site.

Proposed Modified Project Location

The regional and local setting for the proposed modified project would be essentially unchanged. The proposed modified project site is located in an unincorporated portion of western Kern County (Figure 2-1), along the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road, east of Old River Road, west of Interstate 5 (I-5) in Section 33, Township (T) 32S, Range (R) 27E, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M) (Figure 2-2).

Proposed Modified Project Site and Surrounding Land Uses

The proposed modified project site would include the easterly portion of the 12-kV gen-tie owned by the project proponent, which would be located within the County ROW on the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road. Table 2-1, Figure 2-3 and Figure 2-4 below, describes the General Plan land use designations and zoning classifications surrounding the proposed modified project site.

**Table 2-1.
Proposed Modified Project Site and
Surrounding Land Uses, Designations, and Zoning**

Direction from Proposed Modified Project Site	Existing Land Use	Existing Land Use Designations	Existing Zone Classifications
Modified Site	County Right-of-Way	N/A	N/A
North and West	Cultivated farmland	8.1/2.3	A
South and East	Uncultivated farmland	8.1/2.3	A
N/A = not applicable <u>General Plan Map Code Designations:</u> 8.1 = Intensive Agriculture (Minimum 20 Acres) 2.3 = Shallow Water			
<u>Zoning Classifications:</u> A = Exclusive Agriculture			

2.2 Proposed Modified Project Characteristics

Construction activities required to build the gen-tie that is allowed with the approval of the Franchise Agreement on the south side of the County ROW are shown in Table 2-2 and Figure 2-5. The duration of the construction activities would be approximately 4-6 months.

**Table 2-2.
Gen-Tie Work by Project Proponent (Proposed Modified Project)**

Type of Work	Work Description	Approximate Type/ No. of Equipment/ No. of Workers
Wooden or steel poles installation	Installation of up to 40 wooden or steel poles up to 65 foot tall, within the Kern County ROW (up to 6,000 feet in length) between the modified project site and the Lakeview Substation.	Auger (1); boom truck (1); and pick-up truck (1) Workers (4)
Gen-tie line installation	Installation of double-circuit, 12 kV gen-tie line supported by the wooden or steel poles.	Boom truck (1) and cable puller (1) Workers (4)
Communication cable installation	Installation of overhead or underground communication cables along the same route as the overhead gen-tie installation.	Boom truck (1) and cable puller Workers (4)
Guy-wire installation	Pulling and tensioning guy-wires on up to ten wooden or steel poles	Boom truck (1) and cable puller (1) Workers (4)
Gang-operated switches installation	Installation of up to four gang-operated switches individually or in a cluster of two atop wooden or steel poles outside the Lakeview Substation.	Boom truck (1) and cable puller Workers (4)
Revenue meters and CT/PT clusters installation	Installation of up to four pole-top revenue meters and up to four CT/PT clusters; each meter and cluster would be supported by one wooden or steel pole.	Meter Truck Workers (2)
Pothead structures installation	Installation of up to four pothead structures to interface with incoming gen-tie lines and CT/PT clusters.	Gradeall (1) Boom truck (1) Man lifts (1) Workers (4)

Operation of the proposed modified project would be the same as described in the certified EIR. The operation and maintenance activities and decommissioning program described in the certified EIR would also not change.

The following provides a legal description of the proposed modified project, which is the requested approval of a Franchise Agreement to allow the development of a gen-tie to connect the previously-approved Maricopa East solar facility to PG&E’s power grid via the existing PG&E Lakeview substation (Figure 2-6). Additionally, the following describes the needed PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades at the Lakeview Substation that would be necessary to implement the Franchise Agreement.

Franchise Agreement

The Franchise Agreement (proposed modified project) along the modified route reads as follows:

Within the County Right-of-Way (ROW) along Copus Road, at a point beginning on the north side of Copus Road, approximately 300 feet east of the southeast corner of Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN) 295-130-82 in the southeast ¼ of Section 33, T32S. R27E, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M); then crossing above Copus Road to the County ROW on the south side of Copus Road and running west approximately 5,600 feet along the south side of Copus Road, crossing the intersection of the east side of Shallock Road and Copus Road, and continuing 150 feet along the north side of the PG&E Lakeview Substation, all within Section 32, T32S, R27E, MDB&M. Also within the County ROW along the east side of Shallock Road, at a point beginning at the intersection of Shallock Road and Copus Road (portion

in Section 32, T32S, R27E, MDB&M, portion along section line between northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ section 27 and northwest $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 26, T12N, R21W San Bernardino Base and Meridian (SBB&M)) and running south from Copus Road approximately 320 feet along the east side of Shallock Road. Also within the County ROW along the west side of Shallock Road, at a point beginning at the intersection of Shallock Road and Copus Road (portion in Section 32, T32S, R27E, MDB&M, portion along section line between northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ section 27 and northwest $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 26, T12N, R21W San Bernardino Base and Meridian (SBB&M)) and running south from Copus Road approximately 320 feet along the west side of Shallock Road, at which point the overhead line will cross Shallock Road, if needed, underground or overhead and connect to a dead-end structure adjacent and to the east of the PG&E Lakeview Substation (which will be expanded in a southerly direction)

PG&E Interconnection Facilities Upgrades

The PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades are not part of the proposed modified project, but are a part of the whole of the developer's action that would result in a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and are thus analyzed in this Addendum for purposes of CEQA review only. Components of the PG&E interconnection facilities include:

1. Expansion of the existing PG&E Lakeview Substation property by approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ acres and installation of additional substation equipment, including:
 - a. A new 12-kV steel bus, approximately 30 feet in height.
 - b. Relocation of 70-kV transmission lines supported by poles up to approximately 100 feet in height.
 - c. 12-kV circuit breakers;
 - d. 12-kV lines to connect the 12-kV breakers to the gen-tie line;
 - e. A 16-foot-wide dirt access road within the substation; and
 - f. A new chain-link fence topped with barbed wire.
2. Construction of approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the 12-kV gen-tie line connecting the solar-generation project to PG&E's Lakeview substation, including installation of associated equipment consisting of overhead or underground communication cables. PG&E plans to install all poles, overhead gen-tie and above or belowground communication cables within Kern County franchise, for which PG&E has an existing franchise agreement.
3. Upgrades to off-site PG&E substations within existing substation footprints (see Table 2-4, below).

Table 2-3 provides the type of work, description of work, and type and number of equipment and number of workers to construct the necessary PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades at the Lakeview Substation to service the proposed modified project. The following work would require an expansion of the Lakeview Substation by approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ acres. Table 2-4 lists the type of work, description of work, type of equipment and number of workers used to perform the necessary off-site PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades at the Copus, Old River, and Wheeler Ridge Substations.

**Table 2-3.
PG&E Interconnection Facilities Upgrades Work
(Lakeview Substation and PG&E Gen-Tie)**

Upgrade Description	Work Description	Approximate Type/ No. of Equipment/ No. of Workers
Steel bus work installation	Extension of approximately 80 feet of new 12 kV steel bus work measuring approximately 30 feet in height, transmission poles measuring 100 feet in height and development of one new transition bay. Installation of up to four new feeder bays housing approximately four new breakers (and associated equipment) within the bus work.	Gradeall (1) Boom truck (1) Man lifts (2) Workers (7)
Extension lines installation	Installation of approximately four new overhead extension lines to connect the breakers to the gen tie line.	Boom truck (1) and cable puller Workers (10)
Transmission lines	Relocation of 70-kV transmission lines supported by poles up to approximately 100 feet in height	Crane, truck, auger (5)
Concrete pads installation	Pouring of concrete pads for new substation equipment described above.	Concrete truck (1) & equipment Workers (4)
Road construction	Construction of a dirt access road into substation.	Road grading equipment Workers (2)
Fence removal and replacement	Removal of southern boundary portion of existing fence and installation of new fence with barbed wire to accommodate substation expansion.	Grading equipment and light duty truck (1) Workers (4)
PG&E portion of 12-kV gen-tie line	See Table 2-2	See Table 2-2

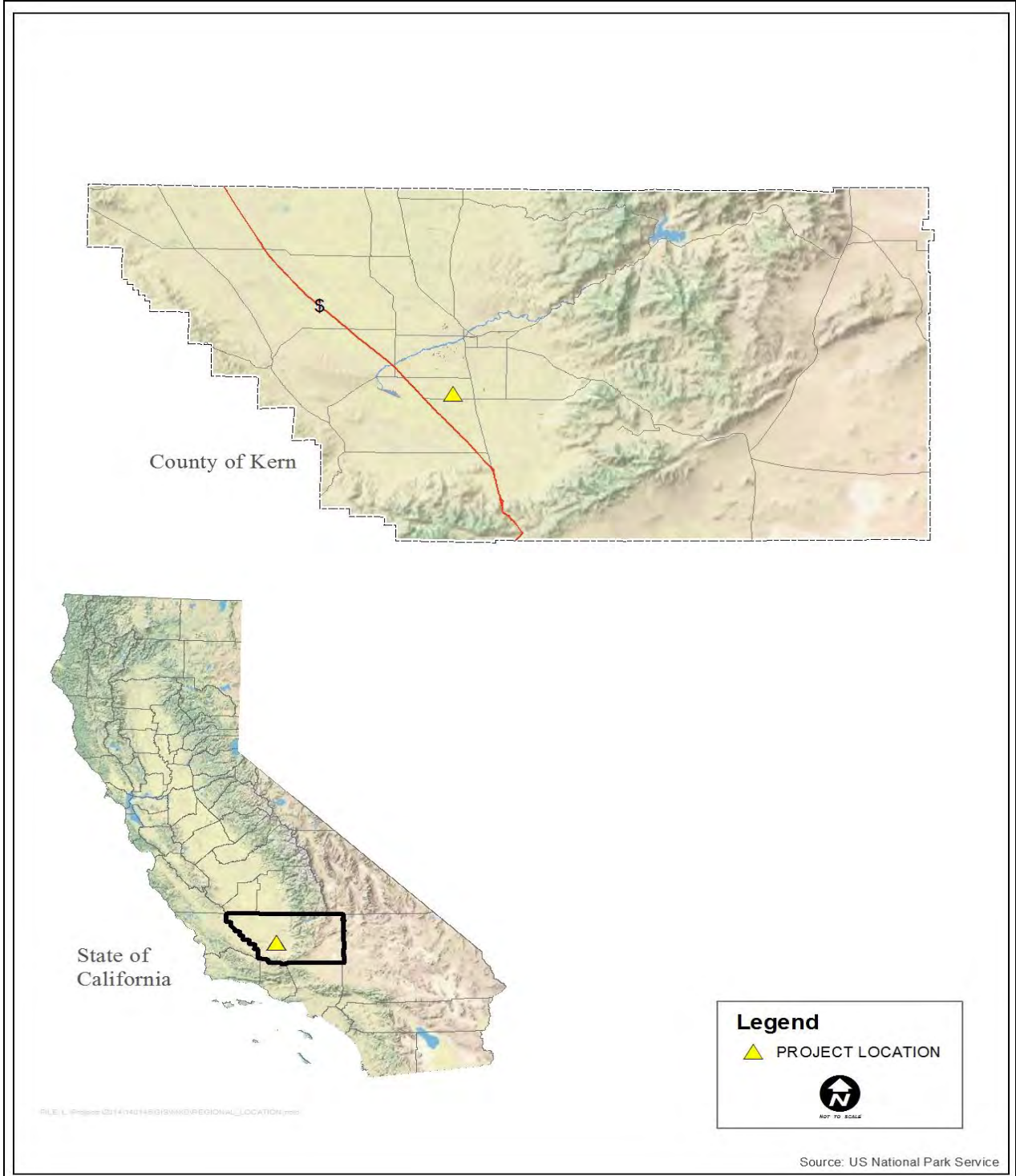
**Table 2-4.
PG&E Interconnection Facilities Work –
Existing Substations in the Vicinity of Maricopa East**

Existing PG&E Substation	Upgrade Description	Type and # of Equipment (Typical)	Expand Footprint (Y/N)?
Copus 70 kV Substation	Installation of telecommunications wires, cables, and related equipment	1 heavy duty pickup / SUV and 1 light pickup truck	N
Old River 70 kV Substation	Installation of telecommunications wires, cables, and related equipment	1 heavy duty pickup / SUV and 1 light pickup truck	N
Wheeler Ridge 230 kV Substation	Installation of telecommunications wires, cables, and related equipment	1 heavy duty pickup / SUV and 1 light pickup truck	N

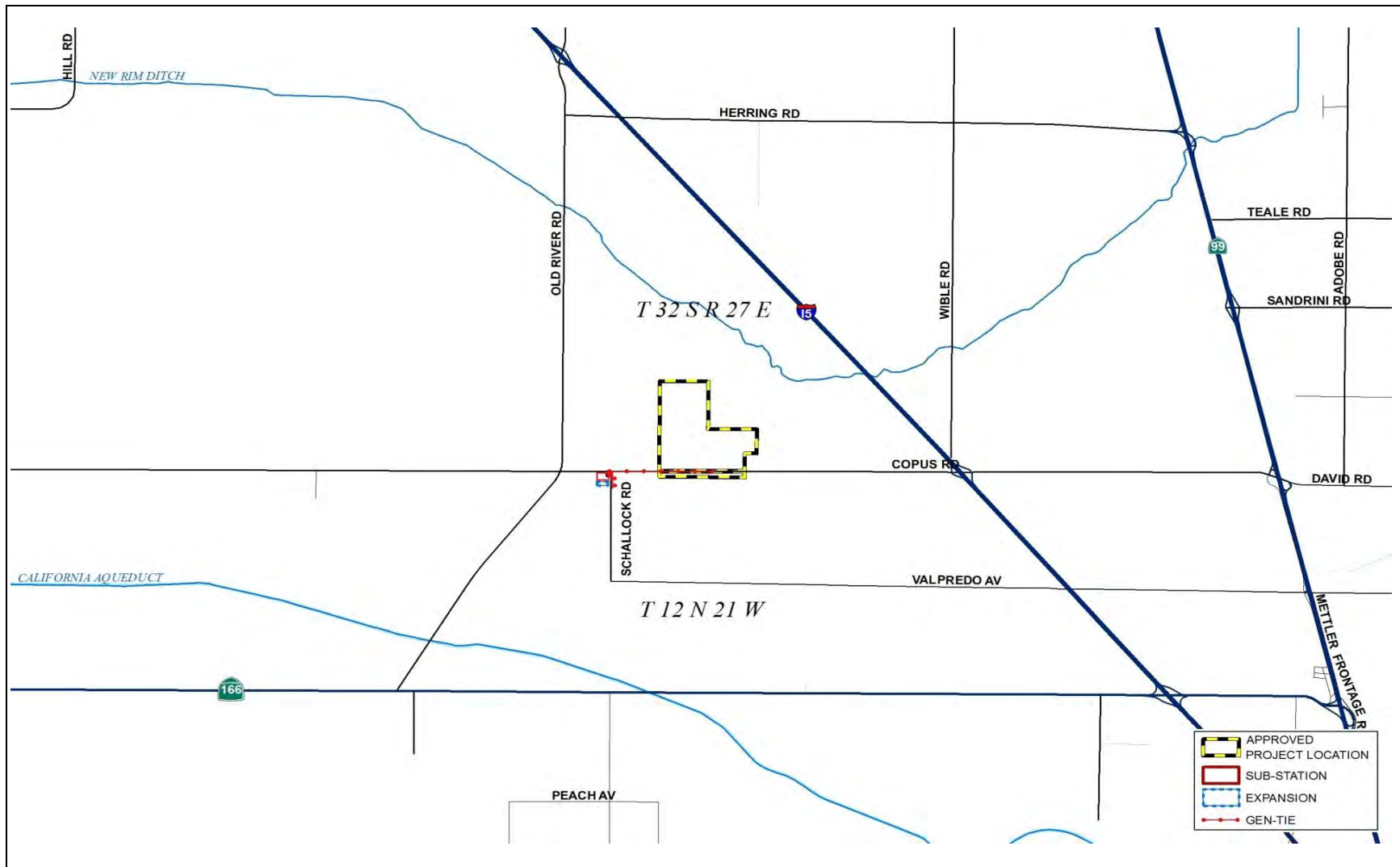
2.3 Entitlements Required

The required discretionary approval needed for the proposed project includes:

- Franchise Agreement (the easterly portion of a gen-tie route owned by the project proponent on the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road, all within County ROW) and the associated minor relocation of a gen-tie route.

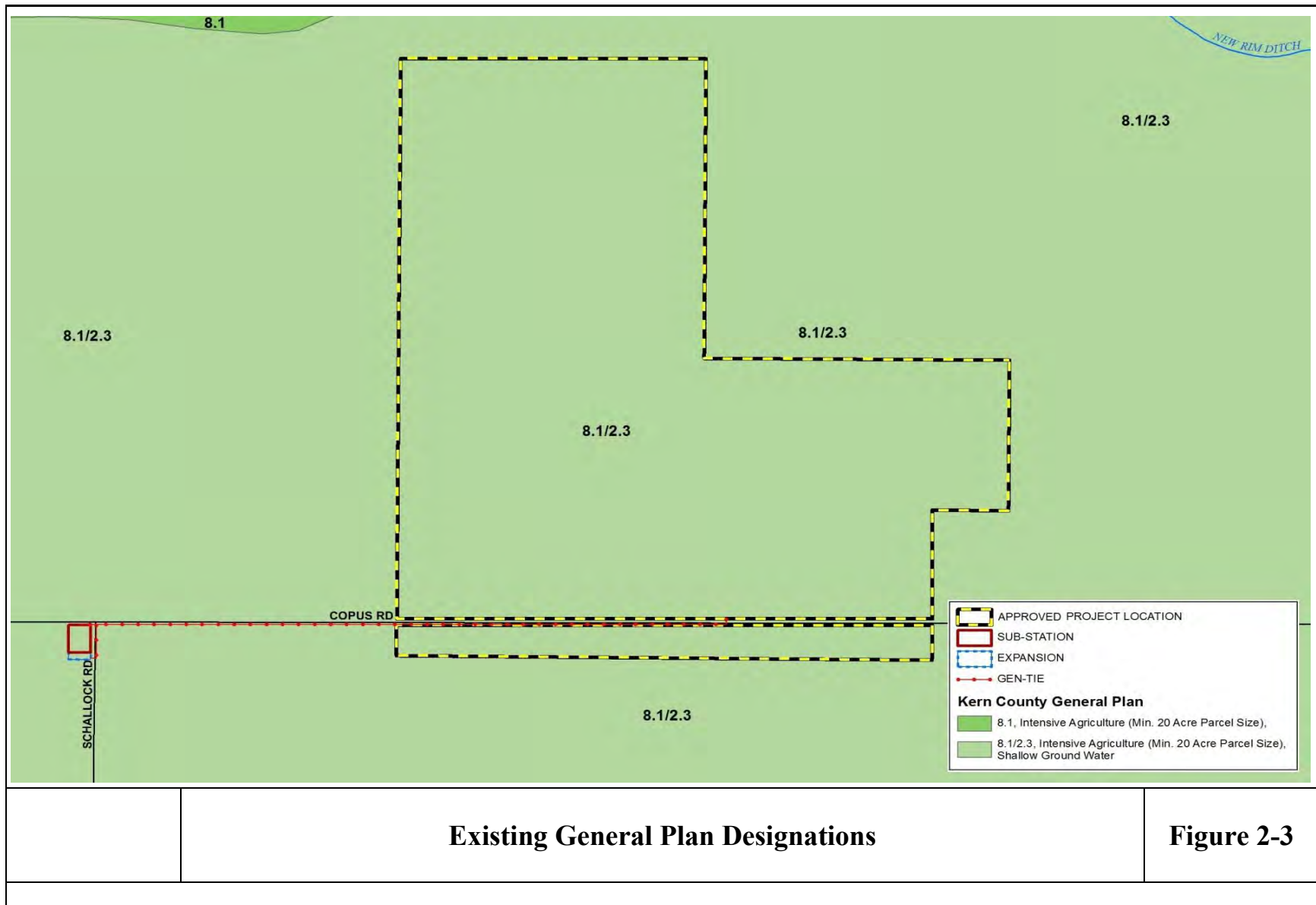


	<h3>Regional Location Map</h3>	<h3>Figure 2-1</h3>
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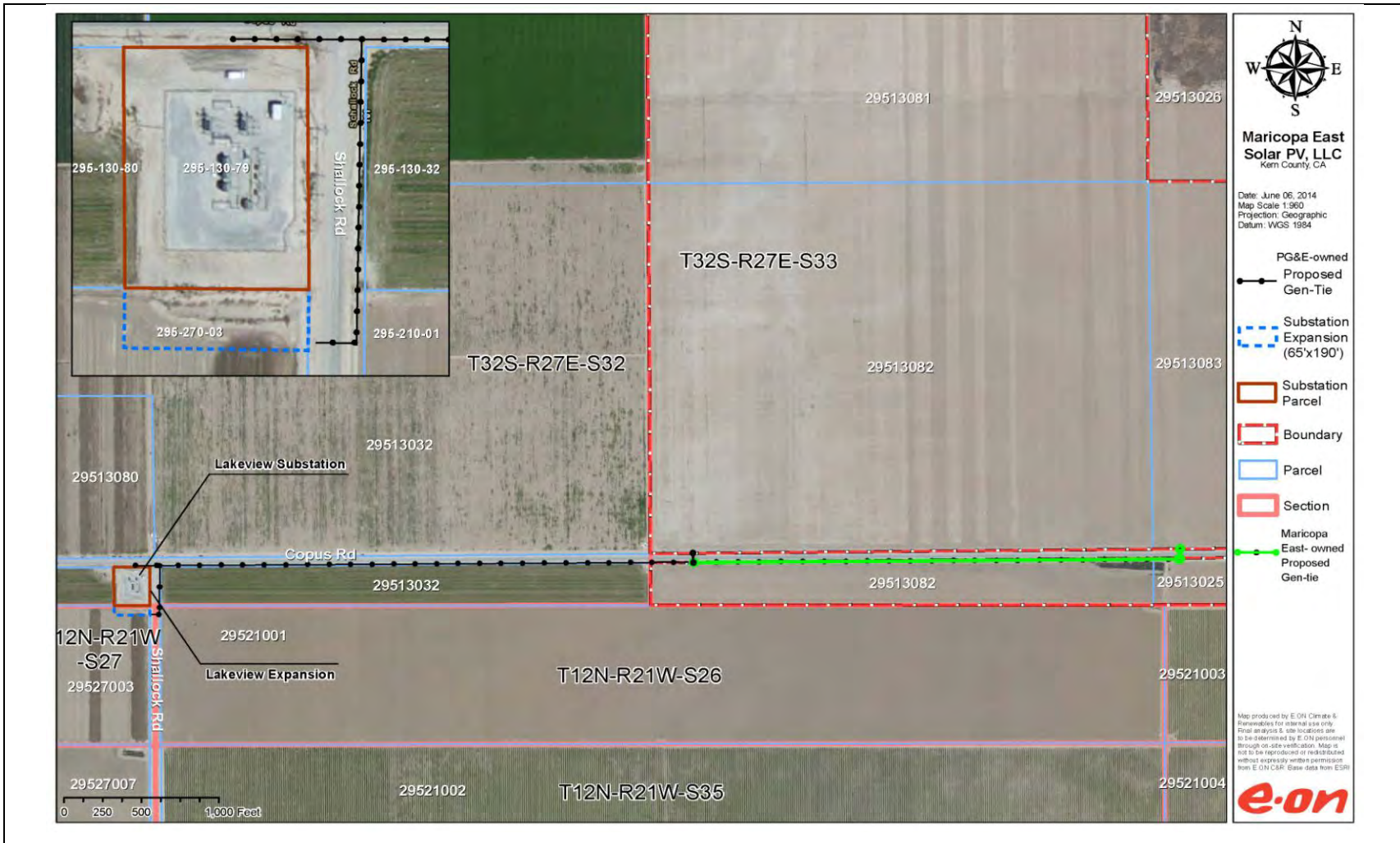


Vicinity Location Map

Figure 2-2







Proposed Gen-Tie (Franchise Agreement) Route and Substation Expansion

Figure 2-5



Existing PG&E Lakeview Substation

Figure 2-6

Chapter 3

Environmental Analysis

This Addendum evaluates the potential for the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades at the Lakeview Substation to result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the impacts disclosed in the certified Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Project EIR. The environmental analysis provided in this section describes the information that was considered in evaluating the questions contained in the Kern County California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Initial Study Checklist. The information used in this evaluation includes the certified EIR, the proposed modified project description, new technical studies, literature reviews, and field reconnaissance.

The proposed modified project would incorporate and implement all mitigation measures identified in the certified EIR for construction that will be undertaken by the project proponent, including construction of the easterly portion of the gen-tie line. Measures specific to PG&E's construction will be implemented as best management practices (BMPs) and avoidance measures AMMs, as identified below, since the County does not have jurisdiction over PG&E's construction. Specific mitigation measures relevant to a particular potential impact of the proposed modified project are cited in the same manner as in the certified EIR and the associated Mitigation Measure Monitoring Program adopted in conjunction with the approved project approvals.

3.1 Aesthetics

Setting

The visual setting of the proposed modified project and its surrounding area is the same as that of the approved project. As described in the certified EIR, the aesthetic features of the regional visual environment are relatively uniform, with expansive, flat landscapes leading to nearby mountains to the south and more distant mountains to the east and west. There is little topographic variation to the north and the large topographic features of the San Emigdio Mountains surround the approved project area to the south, and the regional visual environment extends approximately 40 miles around the approved project area. This landscape area is referred to herein as the Maricopa Flat Viewshed.

The viewshed of the approved project and surrounding land uses consists of active and inactive farmland, residential communities and scattered rural residences, small- and large-scale agricultural operations (mostly nut and citrus trees and row crops), utility easements, agricultural production facilities, and streets and roadways.

The certified EIR concluded that the approved project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. No further discussion is warranted.

Impact Analysis

Modified Project Impacts

As in the certified EIR analysis, this section evaluates the potential for the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities to result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to

aesthetics in relation to the following questions as stated in the Kern County CEQA Initial Study Checklist:

Would the project:

- (a) *Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.*

The certified EIR established that there are no designated State scenic highways in the vicinity of the approved project site. Since the approved project site is not in the vicinity of any roadway designated or eligible for designation as a State scenic highway, there would be no construction- or operational-period impacts to scenic resources along a State scenic highway.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades, as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum, do not change the finding in the certified EIR of no impact. Therefore, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades do not change the finding in the certified EIR of no impact.

- (b) *Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?*

The certified EIR established that the approved project would have potentially significant and unavoidable impacts resulting from substantial degradation of the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. The certified EIR considered construction of a new gen-tie as part of the approved project, although the location of the gen-tie was identified as on the north side of the County ROW of Copus Road rather than the south side, as is now being analyzed in this Addendum (Figure 2-5). Besides the location of the gen-tie, the intensity of development for the gen-tie in the certified EIR is the same as what is requested for the approval of the modified project. Upgrades to existing PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades and the installation of the gen-tie are identical in appearance and scale to those analyzed in the certified EIR (see Figure 2-6). The location of the most visually imposing elements of the proposed modified project, namely the wood or steel poles, substation and transmission lines would remain unchanged from the approved project.

The gen-tie would be installed along the south side of Copus Road within the County ROW. The County ROW on the north side of Copus Road is occupied by existing PG&E-owned transmission lines and poles. As such, the proposed modified project would have no additional visual impact. The PG&E transmission facilities upgrades in and of themselves are minor in nature, particularly in the context of the approved project, and many of the upgrades would be implemented within the facility of the existing PG&E substations. The gen-tie, as well as upgrades to the other PG&E substations as described in Table 2-4 and illustrated in Figures 2-5 and 2-6, would be located in areas with existing transmission/substation infrastructure resulting in a minor, incremental visual change. The approximate ½-acre expansion of the existing Lakeview Substation is located on the far south side of the facility, and will be obstructed from

view by the current infrastructure. The impacts of the upgrades to existing PG&E interconnection facilities would be of similar size and appearance to equipment currently at these facilities and therefore, would result in a less-than-significant impact.

Mitigation Measures MM 4.1-1 through MM 4.1-4 in the certified EIR were adopted to help reduce the visual-character impacts. MM 4.1-2 requires an additional setback for approved project facilities of 50 feet from Copus Road on approved Site 15 (Maricopa East), to help minimize the project's proximity to visual receptors. The remaining mitigation measures would reduce impacts by requiring drought-tolerant plants to be planted along the fence line to soften the visual impact, undergrounding electrical collection systems at Maricopa East to the extent feasible, clearing of debris from Maricopa East at least twice per year, and posting of signage. These measures will be implemented by the project proponent. The certified EIR found that impacts after implementation of this mitigation would remain significant and unavoidable.

For these reasons, the proposed project modification would not result in a new or substantial increase in the severity of the impacts to visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings than was previously disclosed in the certified EIR. The proposed project modification would not result in additional impacts greater than analyzed in the certified EIR, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR of significant and unavoidable.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades do not change the finding in the certified EIR of significant and unavoidable. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of significant and unavoidable.

(c) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

The gen-tie does not require additional lighting and therefore, there would be no new light or glare impacts as a result. Lighting on the nearby Maricopa East site would be limited to small-scale security lighting, and the solar panels, which were already analyzed in the certified EIR, were determined to result in less glare than typical residential or commercial glass. Installation of the proposed upgrades to existing PG&E interconnection facilities would be similar to the existing lighting at the PG&E substation. Therefore, the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities would not create any light or glare, and there would be no impact.

The certified EIR determined that, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures MM 4.1-5 through MM 4.1-9 and compliance with development standards, the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, as well as the goals, policies, and implementation measures of the Kern County General Plan, would reduce the potential for spillover lighting to adversely affect residents, motorists, recreationists, and workers as a result of the approved project to a less-than-significant level. These measures to be implemented by the project proponent require the approved project to use only the minimum illumination required, mandating

the use of non-reflective building materials where appropriate, and requiring the use of solar panels and hardware which minimize glare and spectral highlighting to the extent feasible. Privacy slats woven into the perimeter fencing and landscaping around the approved project perimeter would also help reduce potential glare from the approved project.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in additional aesthetic impacts to what was analyzed in the certified EIR, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR that the aesthetic impacts related to light and glare are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

The certified EIR concluded that the impacts of the approved project would combine with impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects to create a substantial adverse effect on the aesthetics of the approved project site and its surroundings and therefore, would contribute to significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts.

The certified EIR concluded that cumulative impacts would be significant and unavoidable after mitigation. The proposed modified project would not result in any new or substantially more adverse cumulative impacts to aesthetics and visual resources than those disclosed in the certified EIR, and would be mitigated to the maximum extent practicable by the incorporation of all feasible and applicable mitigation measures. Therefore, no new or revised mitigation measures are necessary. However, even with the implementation of Mitigation Measures MM 4.1-1 through MM 4.1-9, the impacts of the proposed modified project would be considered significant and unavoidable because it has been determined in the certified EIR that the approved project results in a significant and unavoidable cumulative aesthetic impact.

The PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades in and of themselves are minor in nature, particularly in the context of the approved project, and would be implemented within or adjacent to existing PG&E substations, as noted in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-3 and Table 2-4 of this Addendum. The pre-existing visual characteristics of the proposed modified project and substation vicinity already includes an industrial view, as Copus Road has existing transmission poles and wires, and the substation includes considerable electrical utility equipment and other infrastructure. Therefore, aesthetic impacts associated with the PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades would be minimal and not result in additional impacts beyond what was previously analyzed, and the cumulative aesthetic impacts associated with PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades would remain less than significant at the cumulative level.

The proposed project modification would not generate substantially more adverse cumulative impacts to aesthetics and visual resources than those disclosed in the certified EIR and would be mitigated to the

maximum extent practicable by the incorporation of all feasible and applicable mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of a cumulatively significant and unavoidable impact.

3.2 *Agriculture and Forest Resources*

Setting

The certified EIR analyzed the environmental and regulatory setting with respect to agriculture and forest resources. The section was based on information provided in a *Non-Contracted Available Parcels Analysis for the Maricopa Sun Solar Complex* (Appendix C of the certified EIR). The certified EIR include an analysis of approximately 6,046 acres of nearly flat land previously cultivated for agricultural production. All of the project-level parcels are included within Agricultural Preserve No. 12, including approved Site 15 (Maricopa East). The approved project included the tentative cancellation of Williamson Act contracts on 6,046 acres of farmland, including Maricopa East.

The certified EIR concluded that the approved project would not, 1) conflict with existing zoning or cause rezoning of forestland, timberland or timberland zoned Timberland and 2) result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to no-forest use. No further discussion is warranted on these topics.

Impact Analysis

Modified Project Impacts

As in the certified EIR analysis, this section evaluates the potential for the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection upgrades to result in new or substantially more adverse significant impacts to agriculture and forest resources in relation to the following questions as stated in the Kern County CEQA Initial Study Checklist:

Would the project:

- (a) *Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?*

As noted in the certified EIR, the project-level parcels have the following land use designations: 8.1 (Intensive Agriculture); 8.1/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture/Flood Hazard); 8.3/2.5 (Extensive Agriculture/Flood Hazard); 8.5/2.5 (Resource Management/Flood Hazard); and 8.1/2.3 (Intensive Agriculture/Shallow Groundwater). All project-level parcels are zoned A (Exclusive Agriculture) by the Kern County Zoning Ordinance. Most of the project-level parcels have not been farmed for at least 8 years and would not be farmed in the foreseeable future because they lack a developed, dependable

irrigation water supply. Consequently, the lack of water for crop irrigation limits the potential agricultural productivity of the land, and the cultivation of crops is infeasible for most parcels.

However, the proposed modified project will allow the installation of a relocated gen-tie within County ROW along the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road. Therefore, the proposed modified project would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to nonagricultural use. There would be no impact as a result of the proposed modified project.

The location of the PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades to the PG&E Lakeview Substation and other substations (see Table 2-4 and Figure 2-7), including the substation expansion, is adjacent to or within property already developed with electrical utility infrastructure and equipment and therefore, not currently in crop production. The proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of a less than significant.

(b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?

As detailed in the certified EIR, the approved project includes conditional use permits (CUP)s to allow for the future development of solar facilities on project-level parcels. The proponent selected the properties because of its high solar isolation and close proximity to the electrical grid. Additionally, the subject properties have given up their water rights via the property owner's reallocation of State water allotment contracts to other parcels, are predominantly non-productive, and are unlikely to be put into agricultural production in the foreseeable future. Therefore, the approved CUPs render the approved project consistent with the existing zoning of the project-level sites, and the impact of conversion of agricultural land to a permitted, consistent use would be considered less than significant. An analysis, in the certified EIR, of proximate parcels showed that there are no available non-contracted properties within the vicinity of the approved project parcels. This analysis provided the justification for supporting the cancellation based on making the public interest findings. The certified EIR concluded that the public concerns of energy supply, energy security, global climate change, creation of an estimated 1,500 engineering, administrative, construction, and maintenance jobs, and the economy substantially outweigh the objectives of the Williamson Act. As such, the finding set forth in Government Code Section 51282(c) (1) were satisfied.

The proposed modified project will allow the installation of a gen-tie along the south side of Copus Road and the east side of Shallock Road within County ROW. Therefore, the proposed modified project is not zoned for agricultural use or under a Williamson Act contract. There would be no impact as a result of the proposed modified project.

With regard to the proposed Lakeview Substation expansion, upgrades and installation of poles, etc, as noted in Table 2-4, the Williamson Act provides that the construction, alteration, or maintenance of

electric facilities are compatible uses within an agricultural preserve, and such uses are allowed on lands subject to a Williamson Act contract if they are consistent with certain principles of compatibility. Generally, the uses are considered compatible as long as they do not significantly compromise the land's long-term productive agricultural capability, significantly displace agricultural operations on the site, or result in the significant removal of adjacent contracted land from agricultural use (see Cal. Gov. Code §§ 51238-51238.1). Additionally, the Agricultural Preserve Standard Uniform Rules as adopted by the Kern County Board of Supervisors identifies "the erection, construction, alteration, operation, and maintenance of gas, electric, water, and communication utility facilities and similar public service facilities by corporations and companies under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California and by public agencies" as compatible uses within a Williamson Act contract area. Therefore, the existing PG&E facilities and distribution lines are determined to be compatible with property under a Williamson Act Land Use contract. As noted previously, the proposed Lakeview Substation expansion would impact less than an acre of non-cultivated farmland; the addition of new poles and other infrastructure would not impact neighboring agricultural activities. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant.

The proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

- (c) Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?*

The proposed modified project is the approval of a Franchise Agreement to allow the installation of a relocated gen-tie within County ROW along the south side of Copus Road and the east side of Shallock Road. Therefore, the proposed modified project does not directly result in the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use. There would be no direct impact as a result of the proposed modified project.

The location of the PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades to the PG&E Lakeview Substation and other substations (see Table 2-4), including the substation expansion, is adjacent to or within property, already developed with electrical utility infrastructure and therefore, does not directly result in the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades would allow the development of the approved Maricopa East site. Development of the Maricopa East would only occur within the confines of its approved boundaries. Since no other changes are expected to the existing environment, development of the approved site would not result in the conversion of farmland to non-farmland uses on adjacent properties, and it is not anticipated that Maricopa East would affect adjacent agricultural land during operations.

Additionally, the approved project (including Maricopa East) consists of stand-alone PV solar facilities that are unlikely to attract urban development and would not directly or indirectly result in a discontinuous pattern of urban development. The approved project would not include activities that would restrict or impair agricultural production or otherwise impact the uses that exist on adjacent land. Because no other changes to the existing environment resulting from activities as a result of the approved project are expected, the approved project would not result in the conversion of farmland to non-farmland uses on adjacent properties. With implementation of Mitigation Measures MM 4.2-2 and MM 4.8-1 it was concluded in the certified EIR that impacts would be less than significant.

Therefore, the proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades do not directly or indirectly result in the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use or change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

(d) Result in the cancellation of an open space contract made pursuant to the California Land Conservation Act 1965 or a Farmland Security Zone Contract for any parcel of 100 or more Acres (PRC Section 15206(b)(3)).?

The proposed modified project will allow the installation of a relocated gen-tie within County ROW along the south side of Copus Road and the east side of Shallock Road. Therefore, the proposed modified project does not result in the cancellation of an open space contract made pursuant to the California Land Conservation Act 1965 or a Farmland Security Zone Contract. There would be no impact as a result of the proposed project modification.

The location of the PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades to the PG&E Lakeview Substation and other substations (see Table 2-4), including the substation expansion, is adjacent to or within property already developed with electrical utility infrastructure and therefore, does not result in the cancellation of an open space contract made pursuant to the California Land Conservation Act 1965 or a Farmland Security Zone Contract. There would be no impact as a result of the PG&E interconnection facilities.

The certified EIR analyzed the impacts of the cancellation of 6,046 acre of contract farmland and concluded that although the land was agriculturally non-productive and without suitable water for crop irrigation, the affected parcel sizes were greater than the 100-acre threshold described above, and therefore the impact on Williamson Act land was considered significant and unavoidable for the approved project.

The proposed project modification does not generate substantially more adverse impacts to agricultural resources as a result of cancelling of an open space contract than those disclosed in the certified EIR and would be mitigated to the maximum extent practicable by the incorporation of all feasible and applicable mitigation measures.

The proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades do not change the finding in the certified EIR of significant and unavoidable. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of significant and unavoidable.

Cumulative Impacts

PV solar facilities are a permitted use within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) zone district with approval of a CUP. Therefore, implementation of the approved project would be consistent and would not conflict with the existing the zoning on all approved sites, including Maricopa East. As a result, this impact is not considered to be cumulatively considerable. The certified EIR found that cumulative impacts would be significant and unavoidable related to the cancellations of Williamson Act Land Use contracts. However, the proposed modified project would not result in any new cumulative impacts relating to agriculture and forest resources than what was considered in the certified EIR. Therefore, the proposed project modification to the approved project does not change the findings in the certified EIR of significant and unavoidable. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

The analysis presented above has determined that a significant and unavoidable impact has been identified for the proposed project modification only. The PG&E interconnection upgrades and expansion of the Lakeview Substation and other substations as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-3 and Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in additional impacts to what was analyzed in the certified EIR. The proposed Lakeview Substation expansion would impact a small area of non-cultivated farmland; the addition of new poles and other infrastructure would not impact neighboring agricultural activities. Therefore, cumulative impacts are considered less than significant.

PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades would be located on currently developed land that would not result in any other changes to the setting analyzed in the certified EIR. Given that the PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades would be developed on uncultivated lands already developed with or adjacent to electrical utility infrastructure, there would be no cumulative loss of agricultural land associated with these upgrades.

The proposed modified project would not result in any new cumulative impacts to agriculture and forest resources than what was already considered in the certified EIR. Therefore, the proposed project modification does not change the findings in the certified EIR of significant and unavoidable. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of cumulatively significant and unavoidable.

3.3 Air Quality

Setting

The environmental setting for air quality is the same as described in the certified EIR. Like the approved project site, the proposed modified project is located in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) and is governed by the regulations of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) The SJVAPCD has identified quantitative emission thresholds for oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM10), and reactive organic gases (ROG) to determine whether the potential air quality impacts of a project may produce a significant impact. The air quality threshold for NO_x and ROG is 10 tons per year. The threshold for PM10 is 15 tons per year. These thresholds establish the limit at which an impact on the SJVAB may occur. No regional emission thresholds have been established for carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter less than 2.5 microns (PM2.5), and oxides of sulfur (SO_x).

An addendum updating air quality/greenhouse gas impacts for the proposed modified project (Insight Environmental Consultants, November 4, 2014) is attached as Appendix A to this Addendum. PG&E recommended BMPs and AMMs for construction of the substation expansion and gen-tie are attached as Appendix D of this Addendum. The proposed modified project would not result in any changes to the setting analyzed in the certified EIR.

The certified EIR concluded that the approved project would not cause the creation of objectionable odors, affecting a substantial number of people. No further discussion is warranted.

Impact Analysis

Modified Project Impacts

As in the certified EIR analysis, this section evaluates the potential for the proposed modified project to result in new or substantially more adverse significant impacts to air quality in relation to the following questions as stated in the CEQA Initial Study Checklist:

Would the project:

- (a) *Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?*

The certified EIR concluded that the approved project would not exceed the significance thresholds for emissions established by the SJVAPCD. The primary source of emissions from the approved project would be traffic from vehicles that are licensed through the State of California and whose emissions are already incorporated into the CARB's San Joaquin Valley Emissions Inventory. The certified EIR concluded that the approved project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan with implementation of mitigation measures. Construction-period air pollutant emissions

were determined to not exceed SJVAPCD standards. Operational-period emissions were determined to be consistent with the Air Quality Attainment Plan implemented for the area by the SJVAPCD. The certified EIR applied Mitigation Measures MM 4.3-1, MM 4.3-2 and MM 4.3-3 to further reduce impacts to air quality in the area. These mitigation measures provide various means by which temporary construction dust generation from ground disturbance, as well as emissions from vehicular and other project construction activities would be reduced. Implementation of these mitigation measures would also be obligatory for the proposed modified project.

The proposed modified project will allow the installation of a relocated gen-tie within County ROW along the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road. The proposed project modifications and the PG&E interconnection upgrades and expansion of the Lakeview Substation and other substations as described in Section 2.2. *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics* and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum EIR would not change the conclusion that the project would not result change the conclusion that the project would not result in obstruct or conflict with an applicable air quality plan. The aforementioned upgrades would primarily occur within already-disturbed areas and would not lead to air quality effects beyond those identified in the certified EIR. As noted in the air quality/greenhouse gas impacts addendum (see Appendix A), the amount of construction activity associated with the project modifications will be inconsequential if added to the previously modeled activities from the AQIA. Therefore, it is concluded that the impacts evaluated in the certified EIR's AQIA will accurately reflect modified project's impacts. Therefore no new mitigation measures are necessary.

Emissions associated with operation of the proposed modified project would be similar to those associated with operation of the approved project. The proposed modifications to the approved project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

(b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality Standard?

The certified EIR analyzed the generated construction emissions for the multi-phased development of the approved project facilities. The EIR determined that long-term operational emissions would be negligible. As illustrated in Table 3.3-1 below, the unmitigated construction emissions over the life of construction of the approved project would not violate an applicable air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. Construction-period air pollutant emissions generated by the approved project were determined to not exceed SJVAPCD standards, and impacts were considered less than significant.

Table 3.3-1 Estimated Maximum Annual Unmitigated Construction Emissions (Approved Project)

Activity	Criteria Pollutants (tons/year)					
	PM10	PM2.5	CO	ROG	NO _x	SO _x
Construction Emissions – 2010	0.03	0.12	0.07	0.00	0.01	0.01
Construction Emissions – 2011	1.18	6.43	8.08	0.01	5.61	1.42
Construction Emissions – 2012	1.13	6.04	7.94	0.01	5.58	1.39
Construction Emissions – 2013	1.09	5.72	7.84	0.01	5.73	1.40
Construction Emissions – 2014	1.01	5.26	7.71	0.01	5.70	1.37
Construction Emissions – 2015	0.97	4.88	7.61	0.01	5.68	1.36
Construction Emissions – 2016	0.96	4.57	7.54	0.01	5.66	1.34
Construction Emissions – 2017	0.91	4.16	7.42	0.01	5.46	1.28
Construction Emissions – 2018	0.88	3.89	7.38	0.01	5.62	1.30
<i>SJVAPCD Significance Thresholds</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>--</i>
<i>Exceed Threshold?</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>

Source: EIR Appendix D, Table 8-1.

The short-term construction-related criteria pollutant emissions were modeled for the proposed modified project as well as the PG&E expansion and upgrades activities (Appendix XX).

Table 3.3-2 Unmitigated Construction Emissions (Proposed Modified Project)

	ROG	NO _x	CO	SO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
Project Emissions						
Gen-tie Construction Emissions	0.03	0.37	0.20	0.00	0.02	0.02
Substation Expansion Emissions	0.03	0.34	0.20	0.00	0.02	0.02
Total Construction Emissions	0.07	0.71	0.40	0.00	0.05	0.04
SJVAPCD / KCPD Annual Thresholds	10	10	NA	NA	15	NA
Is Threshold Exceeded Before Mitigation?	No	No	-	-	No	-
NOTES:						
^a The SJVAPCD has not established significance thresholds for CO, SO _x or PM _{2.5} .						

As noted in Table 3.3-2, the emissions anticipated to be generated by the proposed modified project and the PG&E expansion and upgrades would not result in substantially increased emissions compared with the approved project, and such emissions will continue to be below SJVAPCD's standards.

The modified project as such would have minimal air quality impacts to the area or region. The PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would occur at existing substations that have already been designed to conform to applicable federal, State and local building codes and regulations, and will implement PG&E BMPs and AMMs related to air quality impacts. Therefore, development of these facilities would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts relating to adverse air quality effects than was considered in the certified EIR.

The certified EIR concluded that with implementation of MM 4.3-2 and 4.3-3, the Approved Project would not violate an applicable air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. Construction-period air pollutant emissions were determined to not exceed SJVAPCD standards. Operational-period emissions were determined to be substantially below the SJVAPCD's significance thresholds. As explained above, the proposed modified project would not result in substantially increased emissions compared with the approved project, and such emissions will continue to be below SJVAPCD's standards.

For these reasons, the proposed modifications to the approved project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less-than-significant impacts. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

- (c) *Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? Specifically, would implementation of the project exceed any of the following adopted thresholds:*
- (ii) *San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)*

Operational and Area Sources

Reactive organic gases – 10 tons per year

Oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) – 10 tons per year

Particulate matter (PM₁₀) – 15 tons per year

Stationary Sources – as Determined by District Rules

Severe nonattainment: 25 tons per year; and

Extreme nonattainment: 10 tons per year

The certified EIR concluded that the approved project could result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in criteria pollutants for which the project air basin is in nonattainment under federal or State standards. The proposed project modifications would comply with SJVAPCD Rules 8021 and 9510 and Kern County General Plan Element Policy 20. Once operational, the facility would result in substantial net reductions in regional pollution by allowing for reduced use of polluting fossil-fuel-based facilities (such as coal-powered plants). However, because the SJVAB is in nonattainment status for the State 1-hour ozone, 8-hour ozone, PM10, and PM2.5 standards and nonattainment for federal 8-hour ozone and PM2.5 standards, increased emissions of these pollutants during construction would contribute to significant cumulative impacts. Therefore, the conservative conclusion in the certified EIR is that cumulative impacts during construction are significant and unavoidable and would therefore result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in pollutants for which the region is in nonattainment.

As noted in Table 3.3-2, the emissions anticipated to be generated by the proposed modified project and the PG&E expansion and upgrades would not result in substantially increased emissions compared with the approved project, and such emissions will continue to be below SJVAPCD's standards.

The proposed modified project as such would have minimal air quality impacts to the area or region. The PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would occur at existing substations that have already been designed to conform to applicable federal, State and local building codes and regulations, and will implement PG&E BMPs and AMMs related to air quality impacts. Therefore, development of these facilities would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts relating to adverse air quality effects than was considered in the certified EIR. However, the proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of significant and unavoidable impacts. As to impacts associated with PG&E's interconnection facilities and related upgrades, impacts are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of significant and unavoidable.

(d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

The EIR determined that there is a lack of any significant air pollutant emissions sensitive receptors within five miles of the approved project site's rural location. As shown above, approved project construction and operational emissions of criteria pollutants would be within SJVAPCD yearly thresholds and would not affect nearby sensitive receptors. Operation of the proposed project would have no air quality impacts on nearby sensitive receptors. Furthermore, the project subareas are not underlain by the type of sediments that are known to contain Valley Fever spores. Therefore, implementation of required mitigation measures would reduce the amount of fugitive dust and the risk of contracting Valley Fever. Implementation of MM 4.3-2 and MM 4.3-3 would result in less than significant impacts related to exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

Off-site upgrades of existing PG&E utility facilities will be located on currently developed land that will not result in any other changes to the setting analyzed in the certified EIR. No additional impacts to agricultural resources would occur, and impacts are considered less than significant for upgrades to existing PG&E facilities associated with the proposed modified project.

As noted in the Addendum letter (Appendix A), the amount of construction activity associated with the project modifications will be inconsequential if added to the previously modeled activities from the AQIA. Therefore, it is concluded that the proposed project modifications as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics* and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum EIR would not change the conclusion that the project would not result in substantial pollutant concentrations, and the aforementioned upgrades would primarily occur within already-disturbed areas and would not lead to air quality effects beyond those identified in the certified EIR. For these reasons, the proposed

modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant impacts. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

The certified EIR concluded that the impacts of the approved project when combined with impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects to create a substantial adverse effect on air quality during temporary construction activities and would, therefore, result in significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts. However, the temporary construction period for the proposed modified project would not create substantially more adverse cumulative impacts to air quality than those disclosed in the certified EIR and would be mitigated to the maximum extent practicable by the incorporation of Mitigation Measures MM 4.3-1, MM 4.3-2, and MM 4.3-3. This would be in addition to imposition of all the SJVAPCD's rules and regulations, including Regulation VIII, Rules 402, 8021 and 9510. As described above, construction and operation of the proposed modified project would result in minimal additional emissions relative to the approved project.

The development of solar power generation has positive air quality impacts by providing electricity that would otherwise come from other sources, a significant portion of which produce air pollution through the burning of fossil fuels. Overall, the projects in the certified EIR cumulative analysis would create a minimal operational -period emissions impact related to air quality. The proposed modified project will not result in any new or substantially more adverse cumulative air quality impacts not already considered in the certified EIR and therefore no new or revised mitigation measures are necessary. The proposed modifications to the project would be mitigated to the maximum extent practicable by the incorporation of all feasible and applicable mitigation measures by the incorporation of Mitigation Measures MM 4.3-1, MM 4.3-2, and MM 4.3-3.

The analysis presented above has determined that a significant and unavoidable impact has been identified for the approved solar facility and associated infrastructure only. Because of the limited nature of the proposed PG&E facility upgrades, the temporary air pollutant emissions associated with construction of the upgrades noted in Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 would not exceed significance thresholds for construction. The proposed PG&E facility upgrades' incremental contribution to construction emissions is an insubstantial fraction of the overall modeled construction emissions and is therefore not cumulatively considerable. Implementation of PG&E's BMPs and AMMs would further ensure that construction air quality impacts of PG&E facility upgrades would be minimized (see Appendix D). Temporary cumulative impacts from construction associated with the PG&E facility upgrades are therefore considered to be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of a cumulatively significant and unavoidable impact during construction.

3.4 Biological Resources

Setting

The EIR included a comprehensive analysis of special-status and sensitive species, local habitats and vegetation communities, and jurisdictional waters over the approved project site. The environmental setting for biological resources is the same as described in the certified EIR. Detailed information on survey methods and findings is presented in Appendix D of the certified EIR. Preparation of these studies required an evaluation of existing information available from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Native Plant Society (CNPS), and various environmental documents prepared for past projects in the region. A supplemental report was prepared for this addendum. The *Evaluation of Biological Resource Memo Associated with an Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report for the Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Project* (Quad Kopf, 2014, Appendix B), was conducted for special-status species along the proposed new right-of-way located on the south side of Copus Road, the east or west side of Shallock Road, and the area identified for the expansion of the existing PG&E Lakeview Substation.

Impact Analysis

Modified Project Impacts

As in the certified EIR analysis, this Addendum evaluates the potential for the proposed project modification to result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to biological resources in relation to the following questions as stated in the Kern County CEQA Initial Study Checklist:

Would the project:

- (a) *Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) [Now California Department of Fish and Wildlife] or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)?*

The approved project parcels are all zoned for agriculture uses and are characterized with cultivated and uncultivated farmlands south and southeast of the historic Buena Vista Lake shoreline. Although currently fallow, these sites have been disked periodically to prevent weed growth. Because the parcels have been frequently disked, there was little vegetation growing at these sites during the biological surveys. The approved project area was surveyed for evidence of wildlife presence or activity, and scanned with binoculars for potential avian nest sites. All wildlife species observed or detected by sign were recorded.

CONSTRUCTION

Based on the results of the reconnaissance surveys, species-specific surveys were conducted as part of the field investigations within potentially suitable habitats. Several special-status species are known to occur

at the approved project sites, and would be at risk of adverse impacts during temporary construction activities. The certified EIR concluded that development of the approved project-level parcels could have significant impacts on special-status species unless appropriate mitigation measures are included. Mitigation is required to reduce the impacts associated with take of the above species. Measures to reduce construction-related impacts include Mitigation Measures MM 4.4-3, MM 4.4-7, MM 4.4-10, and MM 4.4-11, which would help to avoid impacts on wildlife during construction by establishing setbacks, avoiding wildlife, and educating the construction crews on appropriate protocol. Species specific measures include Mitigation Measures MM 4.4-4, MM 4.4-5, MM 4.4-8, and MM 4.4-9, which would target the unique characteristics of certain onsite special-status species. Construction activities associated with the proposed PG&E substation upgrades would comply with PG&E Standard BMPs and AMMs (see Appendix D) to reduce impacts to biological resources to less than significant levels. Construction impacts on special-status species would be reduced to less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

OPERATION

In consideration of the known and expected use of the project area by special-status wildlife species, the EIR concluded that impacts on special-status wildlife species would be significant. Mitigation Measures MM 4.4-10 through MM 4.4-13 would reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels by implementing measures designed to reduce wildlife mortality and ensure long-term site suitability, and by educating onsite personnel. Operational impacts on special-status species would be reduced to less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measure MM 4.4-14 and MM 4.4-15 related to habitat enhancement improvements areas on identified approved sites and the development of a project-specific conservation plan (the Maricopa Sun Solar Habitat Conservation Plan [HCP]). However, the habitat enhancement improvements as outlined in HCP are not required for the approved Site 15 (Maricopa East).

The Addendum Biological Resources Report (Appendix B) prepared for the proposed modified project states that a reconnaissance level survey was conducted in order to determine if any changes to the existing biological resources identified in the EIR would be impacted. The reconnaissance survey focused on detecting the presence of special-status species or sensitive natural communities that are known to occur along the existing Copus Road and Shallock Road ROW, as well as in the vicinity of the proposed modified project area. The reconnaissance level survey identified no new biological resources that could potentially be impacted as a result of the modified project. The approved project site and adjacent land are either developed as an existing electrical substation or are intensely used for agriculture and are routinely disked resulting in very poor habitat for most wildlife species.

Implementing the proposed modified project will result in no adverse impacts to biological resources. The proposed modified project would allow the installation of a relocated gen-tie along the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road within County ROW. The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not change the conclusion that with implementation of MM 4.4-1 through MM 4.4-13 as well as PG&E Standard BMPs and AMMs (see Appendix D), the project would not result in significant impacts to sensitive or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, and the aforementioned upgrades and expansions would occur within already-disturbed areas and would not lead to impacts to biological resources beyond those identified in the certified EIR. The construction activity associated with the project modifications would be conducted on currently cultivated, or existing, disturbed or developed land without the appropriate habitat to support sensitive species. Therefore, it is concluded that the impacts evaluated in the certified EIR will accurately reflect the impacts associated with the proposed modified project activities. For these reasons, the proposed modifications to the project

do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant. Based on the forgoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

(b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the CDFG or USFWS?

As noted in the certified EIR, other than wetlands (discussed under Impact (c) below), there are no riparian or other sensitive vegetation communities occurring within the approved project area. However, there is a sensitive natural community (i.e., alkali sink along the margins) in the vicinity of the Maricopa East site. Encroachment by construction and maintenance vehicles could potentially occur within this community, resulting in crushing of plants, disruption to soil integrity, and degradation to the natural community. Avoidance measures would be developed and implemented to ensure that trespass into adjacent sensitive natural communities would not occur. The certified EIR concluded that implementation of Mitigation Measure MM 4.4-1 would reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels.

As noted above, the supplemental biological resources report (Appendix B), concludes that the proposed modified project will result in minimal ground disturbances along an existing road right of way, and therefore, will result in no adverse impacts to riparian or sensitive natural communities. PG&E interconnection facilities expansions and upgrades are described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum. The aforementioned upgrades would occur within already-disturbed areas and would not lead to impacts to biological resources beyond those identified in the certified EIR. The proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

(c) Would Have a Substantial Adverse Effect on Federally Protected Wetlands as Defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Including, but Not Limited to, Marsh, Vernal Pool, Coastal, etc.) through Direct Removal, Filling, Hydrological Interruption, or Other Means?

The certified EIR noted wetland features located on several of the approved project parcels including a freshwater emergent wetland on Site 2, a potential wetland on Site 3 and two non-wetland features: Canal

#1, which runs through Site 3, and Canal #2, which runs through Sites 3, 6, and 7. These features would not likely fall within the jurisdictional authority of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) because they would be considered isolated features, or would be exempt from the permitting process (e.g., Canal #1 drains only upland areas and is unconnected to jurisdictional features). The State Water Quality Control Board and CDFG may take jurisdictional authority over some of the features that are excluded from USACE jurisdiction. Therefore, the certified EIR concluded that with incorporation of Mitigation Measure MM 4.4-13, that would require restrictions of solar development in the areas supporting the wetland habitat, impacts on wetlands would be reduced to a level that is less than significant.

The modified project proposes the installation of a relocated gen-tie within the existing County ROW along the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road. The Addendum Biological Resources Report (Appendix B) determined that the proposed modified project would result in no adverse impacts to wetland resources. The report also concludes that the proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not change the conclusion that with implementation of MM 4.4-13 the project would not result in significant impacts to protected wetlands, and the aforementioned upgrades would primarily occur within already-disturbed areas and would not lead to impacts beyond those identified in the certified EIR. The construction activity associated with the project modifications will be conducted on disturbed or developed land, or previously disked agricultural land, without the appropriate habitat to support sensitive species. Therefore, it is concluded that the impacts evaluated in the certified EIR will accurately reflect the approved project's impacts with the proposed modified project activities. For these reasons, the proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

(d) Would Interfere Substantially with the Movement of Any Native Resident or Migratory Fish or Wildlife Species, or with Established Native Resident or Migratory Wildlife Corridors, or Impede the Use of Native Wildlife Nursery Sites?

As noted in the certified EIR, the approved project does not occur within a known migration route and the program area does not occur within a significant wildlife corridor or linkage area as identified in the *Recovery Plan for Upland Species in the San Joaquin Valley* (see certified EIR). There are no substantial connections between the project area and existing protected lands. The program sites are not situated in an area important for connectivity of native lands, except on a very local level. Sites that are disked regularly lack native vegetation and offer no cover for wildlife species. Therefore, the approved project would result in less-than-significant impacts on established wildlife corridors or wildlife nursery sites. No mitigation measures were required.

The proposed modified project will allow the installation of a relocated gen-tie within the existing County ROW along the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road. The addendum biological resources report (Appendix B), concluded that because of the developed Copus Road ROW and highly disturbed nature of the land adjacent to the Copus Road and the existing PG&E Lakeview

substation, the habitat quality in the area is quite poor, the proposed modified project would result in no adverse impacts to the movement of any migratory fish or wildlife species, or a wildlife corridor or nursery site. The report also determined that the PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not change the conclusion that the proposed modified project would not result in significant impacts to migration routes, wildlife migratory corridors or nurseries, and the aforementioned interconnection facilities upgrades would occur within already-disturbed areas and would not lead to impacts beyond those identified in the certified EIR. The construction activity associated with the project modifications will primarily be conducted on existing, disturbed or developed land without the appropriate habitat to support sensitive species.

Therefore, it is concluded that the impacts evaluated in the certified EIR will accurately reflect the project's impacts with the proposed modified project activities. For these reasons, the proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

(e) Conflict with provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

Local policies and ordinances protecting biological resources are provided in Section 1.10.10 of the Kern County General Plan, which provide for the conservation of oak trees, oak woodlands and the protection of sensitive vegetation and wildlife species. There are no oak trees, or oak woodlands on the proposed modified project site. The approved project did not fall within an area that is covered by an existing, adopted HCP or NCCP. The approved project does fall within the boundaries of the San Joaquin Valley Upland Species Recovery Plan. However, the proposed project would not conflict with any provisions of that plan and would not prohibit or decrease the potential for the recovery of species covered in that plan.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in additional impacts to biological resources beyond what was previously analyzed, and would remain less than significant.

Therefore, it is concluded that the impacts evaluated in the certified EIR will accurately reflect the project's impacts with the proposed modified project activities. For these reasons, the proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

The EIR concluded that the impacts of the approved project would combine with impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects to create a cumulatively significant loss of some biological habitat resources in the region. With the implementation of Mitigation Measures MM 4.4-1 through 4.4-16 as well as PG&E Standard BMPs and AMMs (see Appendix D), the approved project would contribute to significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts to loss of some species habitat. The addendum biological survey (Appendix B) prepared for this addendum EIR confirms that the and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not create new or substantially more severe cumulative impacts to biological resources than those disclosed in the certified EIR and would be mitigated with the implementation of Mitigation Measures MM 4.4-1 through 4.4-16, to the maximum extent practicable by the incorporation of all feasible and applicable mitigation measures.

The analysis presented above has determined that a significant and unavoidable impact has been identified for the approved solar facility and associated infrastructure only. No potential impacts to special-status biological resources are anticipated at the remote PG&E substations because PG&E will implement BMPs and AMMs to reduce biological impacts related to the proposed PG&E facility upgrades to a less-than-significant level at the project level. The proposed PG&E facility expansion of about a half acre, and the onsite upgrades' incremental contribution to the loss and/or fragmentation of a substantial fraction of the existing wildlife habitat in the county are not cumulatively considerable due to the limited nature of the proposed modifications. Therefore, the cumulative loss of biological resources associated with the PG&E facility expansion and upgrades identified in Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 are considered less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of cumulatively significant and unavoidable.

3.5 Cultural Resources

Setting

A Cultural Resource Survey Addendum (Pacific Legacy, Inc. 2014; see Appendix C) was prepared for the proposed project modification. The cultural resources addendum provides information from fieldwork conducted to determine the effects of the proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities on cultural resources. A pedestrian archaeological and historic architecture survey was undertaken as part of the fieldwork to identify cultural resources along the gen-tie route and at the PG&E

Lakeview Substation to determine potential effects to these resources. Cultural resources older than 45 years located in the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities footprints were identified and documented. Project setting information for the proposed project modification and PG&E substation, including information on the proposed modified project area's natural environment, history, ethnography, and regulatory environment, is the same as that for the approved project, and is provided in the certified EIR.

Impact Analysis

Modified Project Impacts

As in the certified EIR analysis, the cultural resources addendum evaluates the potential for the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities to result in new or substantially more adverse significant impacts to cultural resources in relation to the following questions as stated in the Kern County CEQA Initial Study Checklist:

Would the project:

- (a) *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource?*

As noted in the certified EIR, a Phase I intensive pedestrian survey for cultural resources was conducted between August 17 and August 22, 2010, and on May 23, 2011, at the approved project site (including Maricopa East) by a qualified archaeologist. Because no built environment resources are present on any of the approved project parcels, no historical architectural research or survey was conducted. No prehistoric or historical cultural resources were identified during these surveys of the approved project site. The approved project area is in an environmental setting that is not conducive to prehistoric habitation, and has not been occupied or used historically except as farmland. This suggests there is a low potential to expose and affect previously unknown significant cultural resources during ground-disturbing activities. However, implementation of Mitigation Measure MM 4.5-1 would reduce potential impacts on archaeological resources associated with the approved project to less-than-significant levels during the construction period.

Once constructed, operation of the approved project (including operation of a PV solar facility at the Maricopa East site) is not anticipated to result in impacts related to the disturbance of archaeological resources.

The gen-tie that requires approval of the Franchise Agreement (i.e., proposed modified project) would be installed on the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road in the County ROW, and would have no historical or archaeological resources impact. As noted in the cultural resources addendum (Appendix C), no new historical cultural resources were identified within or in the vicinity of the proposed new gen-tie line or PG&E interconnection facility expansion and upgrades. Therefore, development of the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities would not create new or substantially more adverse impacts to historical cultural resources. The proposed modified project would comply with all mitigation measures required in the certified EIR. Implementation of Mitigation Measure MM 4.5-1 would reduce impacts to historical or archaeological resources to a level of less than significant for the proposed modified project.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of

this Addendum would not result in additional historical or archaeological resources impacts than what was already analyzed in the certified EIR, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR that impacts related to historical or archaeological resource are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

(b) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

As noted in the certified EIR, the approved project is located on valley floor alluvial deposits. These surficial deposits of recent alluvium are estimated to be at least 5 feet thick. These recent sediments are generally devoid of vertebrate fossils. Underlying these sediments at varying depths is older alluvium, which may have the potential to yield vertebrate fossils. Surface grading or very shallow excavations in the younger Quaternary Alluvium occurring at the surface of the project sites are unlikely to encounter significant vertebrate fossils. Slightly deeper excavations may possibly encounter lacustrine deposits of an expanded prehistoric Kern Lake.

Because the approved project is not located near any known paleontological resources or a geological feature, and construction activities would involve relatively shallow excavations and trenching, significant impacts on paleontological resources are considered to be unlikely. However, deeper excavations in the approved project area that extend into older Quaternary deposits or the Kern River Formation may encounter significant fossil vertebrate remains. Disturbance of significant paleontological resources would result in a significant impact. Mitigation Measure MM 4.5-2 would reduce impacts associated with the approved project to a less-than-significant level.

Once constructed, operation of the approved project (including operation of a PV solar facility at the Maricopa East site) is not anticipated to result in impacts related to the disturbance of paleontological resources.

Similar to the approved project, the gen-tie that requires approval of the Franchise Agreement (i.e., proposed modified project) would result in a less-than-significant paleontological impact. The proposed modified project would comply with all mitigation measures required in the certified EIR. Implementation of Mitigation Measure MM 4.5-2 would reduce impacts to unknown paleontological resources to a level of less than significant for the proposed modified project.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in additional impacts on paleontological resources than what was already analyzed in the certified EIR, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR that impacts related to paleontological resources are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

(c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

The certified EIR determined that there is no indication, either from the archival research results or from the various cultural resources surveys, that any particular location in the approved project area has been used for human burial purposes in the recent or distant past. However, in the event that human remains are inadvertently discovered during approved project construction activities (including construction of Maricopa East), human remains could be inadvertently damaged, which would be a significant impact. The certified EIR included Mitigation Measure MM 4.5-3 to reduce this potential impact to a level of less than significant by requiring limited work stoppages and proper handling of sites in the event that human remains are discovered. Implementation of this mitigation measure would also be obligatory for the proposed modified project. Possible impacts associated the inadvertent disturbance of human remains as a result of development of the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades would not result in additional impacts beyond what was previously analyzed, and would remain less than significant. The proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities would not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant. Based on the foregoing analysis, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

The certified EIR concluded that the impacts of the approved project, when combined with the impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, would not create a substantial adverse effect on cultural resources and therefore, would not result in significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts. The proposed modified project footprint does not contain any identified historic, prehistoric, archaeological, or paleontological resources. Mitigation Measures MM 4.5-1 through MM 4.5-3, included in the certified EIR to reduce potential impacts to currently unidentified cultural and paleontological resources, would apply to the proposed modified project.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in additional impacts on cultural or paleontological resources than what was already analyzed in

the certified EIR. The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades do not create new or substantially more severe cumulative impacts to cultural resources than those previously disclosed in the certified EIR and would be mitigated to the maximum extent practicable by the incorporation of all feasible and applicable mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of cumulatively less than significant.

3.6 Geology and Soils

Setting

The certified EIR analyzed the geological and soils setting for the approved project, including the local and regional setting. It also analyzed the regulatory setting at the federal, State, and local levels with regards to geology and soils. With respect to geology and soils, the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities would not result in any changes to the setting considered in the certified EIR.

Impact Analysis

Modified Project Impacts

As in the certified EIR, this Addendum evaluates the potential for the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities to result in new or substantially more adverse significant impacts to geology and soils in relation to the following questions as stated in the Kern County CEQA Initial Study Checklist:

Would the project:

- (a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?*
- (b) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?*
- (c) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?*

The certified EIR analyzed whether the approved project (including Maricopa East) would expose people or structures to rupture of a known earthquake fault, strong seismic ground shaking, or seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction or landslides. As discussed in the certified EIR, no active or inactive faults traverse any of the proposed project-level sites, there are no designated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Special Study Zones, and the sites are not designated “2.1 Seismic Hazard” by the Kern County General Plan. Construction of the photovoltaic facilities at the approved project sites would be

subject to applicable ordinances of the Kern County Building Code (Chapter 17.08) and the California Building Standards Code (CCR Title 24). Mitigation Measure MM 4.6-1 requires that a qualified geotechnical engineer design the project facilities to withstand possible seismic-induced ground shaking on the site and comply with all federal, State and local building codes and regulations. It concluded that, after mitigation, impacts would be less than significant at the approved project sites.

Like the approved project, the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities are located in a seismically active region. Mitigation Measure MM 4.6-1 requires that a qualified geotechnical engineer design the approved project facilities to withstand possible seismic-induced ground shaking and comply with all federal, State and local building codes and regulations. The certified EIR concluded that, after mitigation, impacts would be less than significant at the approved project site. The proposed project modification would also have to comply with this mitigation. The proposed modified project would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts relating to adverse geologic effects related to seismic ground shaking than was considered in the certified EIR.

The PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades would occur at existing substations that have already been designed to conform to applicable federal, State and local building codes and regulations, and will implement PG&E BMPs and AMMs related to withstanding seismic-induced ground shaking. Therefore, development of these facilities would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts relating to adverse geologic effects related to seismic ground shaking than was considered in the certified EIR.

Like the approved project, the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities are located on relatively flat land with groundwater greater than 50 feet below ground surface. Therefore, proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities would not be exposed to liquefaction or landslides and there would be no impact.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in additional impacts on seismic-related hazards than what was already analyzed in the certified EIR, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR that impacts related to seismic-related hazards are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

(d) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

The certified EIR analyzed whether the approved project (including Maricopa East) would result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. As discussed in the certified EIR, the approved project is not located on steep slopes or within a zone prone to soil erosion. The certified EIR states that during construction of the approved project, construction vehicles could contribute to soil erosion due to wind, and impacts are considered to be potentially significant without mitigation. Mitigation Measures MM 4.6-

2 and MM 4.6-3 require limiting grading and using existing roads to the greatest extent feasible to reduce potential construction-related erosion impacts to a level of less than significant. Additionally, in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) as well as regulations of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), the proposed project modification would require implementation of site-specific best management practices (BMPs) for erosion and sediment control (see Section 3.9, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, below for more information). However, because the proposed modified project is anticipated to disturb less than one acre of ground, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would not be required. The proposed modified project would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts related to erosion than was considered in the certified EIR.

The PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades would occur at existing substations and are required to adhere to existing PG&E's BMP requirements regarding erosion control, including BMPs and AMMs as stringent as those required for the proposed modified project. The construction activities associated with the proposed PG&E upgrades identified in Table 2-1 and Table 2-2 are at or adjacent to existing facilities, and would be similar to regular maintenance upgrades conducted by PG&E. These activities would not result in loss of top soil or erosion. Implementation of PG&E BMPs would reduce construction-related soil erosion impacts to less than significant levels. Therefore, development of these facilities would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts relating to adverse geologic effects related to erosion than was considered in the certified EIR.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in additional impacts on erosion than what was already analyzed in the certified EIR, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR that impacts related to erosion are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

- (e) Located on a geologic unit or Soil that is Unstable, or that would become Unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?*

The certified EIR analyzed whether the approved project (including Maricopa East) would expose people or structures to ground failure, including liquefaction, subsidence, or landslides. Like the approved project, the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities are located in mapped as Quaternary Alluvium, and include sandy and silty soils. However, the approved sites are located in an area of relatively flat terrain, and the potential for impacts to occur from an on- or offsite landslide are considered to be less than significant. Also, as described above, there are no active or inactive faults traversing the program sites, and the potential for lateral spreading to occur also is less than significant.

As noted above, construction of the proposed photovoltaic facilities at the project sites would be subject to applicable ordinances of the Kern County Building Code (Chapter 17.08) and the California Building Standards Code (CCR Title 24). Mitigation Measure MM 4.6-1 would reduce impacts resulting from

seismically related ground failure to a level of less than significant. It concluded that, after mitigation, impacts would be less than significant at the approved project sites.

Land subsidence generally occurs in areas of fluid removal (petroleum and groundwater) and in arid areas due to hydrocompaction of loose near-surface soils. There are no active areas of fluid removal at approved Site 15 (Maricopa East) Therefore, impacts related to land subsidence, liquefaction, and collapse would be considered less than significance. Mitigation Measure MM 4.6-1 requires that a qualified geotechnical engineer design the approved project facilities to withstand possible seismic-induced ground shaking and comply with all federal, State and local building codes and regulations. The certified EIR concluded that, after mitigation, impacts would be less than significant at the approved project site. The gen-tie (i.e., proposed modified project) would be installed on the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road in the County ROW. The proposed project modification would also have to comply with all applicable mitigation. The proposed modified project would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts relating to adverse geologic effects related to seismic ground shaking than was considered in the certified EIR.

The PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades would occur at existing substations that have already been designed to conform to applicable federal, State and local building codes and regulations, and will implement PG&E BMPs (Appendix D), related to withstanding seismic-induced ground shaking. Therefore, development of these facilities would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts relating to adverse geologic effects related to on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse than was considered in the certified EIR.

See also Response 3.6(a), (b) and (c), above.

The proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant. Base of the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

(f) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18 1 B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

The certified EIR noted that the approved project-level parcels soils (i.e., Cerini loam, Calflax loam, Fages clay, and Posochanet silt loam), indicate that there may be potential for the existence of expansive soils. However, a few sites were exceptions, including Site 15, the easternmost parcel within the approved project-level sites, which is designated “2.3 Shallow Groundwater” by the Kern County General Plan, indicating the potential for liquefaction to occur. The presence of low groundwater near several of the proposed project-level parcels, combined with loose soils, poses a potential impact from seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, and implementation of Mitigation Measure MM 4.6-1 would reduce this potential impact to a level below significance.

The proposed modified project would install a gen-tie within the County ROW along the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road. As such, the proposed modified project will not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts relating to adverse ground failure than what was considered in the certified EIR. The PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades would occur at, or adjacent to, existing substations and are required to adhere to PG&E's geotechnical evaluation requirements, BMPs and AMMs, including requirements as stringent as those required for the proposed modified project. Additionally, most the PG&E interconnection facilities work would occur within existing substations footprints whose foundation soils have already been engineered to alleviate any known expansive soil issues. The Lakeview Substation would be expanded by approximately ½ acres to include the installation of equipment to accommodate the proposed project modification (i.e., gen-tie). Again, this expansion would be required to adhere to PG&E's geotechnical evaluation requirements, which are as stringent as those required for the proposed modified project. Therefore, development of these facilities would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts relating to adverse geologic effects related to erosion than was considered in the certified EIR.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in any new or additional impacts as a result of expansive soils than what was already analyzed in the certified EIR, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR that impacts related to expansive soils are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

(g) The project would have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems in areas where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

The certified EIR noted that the approved project might require development of a septic system and leach field to support the any proposed Operations and Maintenance (O&M) buildings. The septic systems and leach fields would be required to comply with applicable requirements of the Kern County Environmental Health Service Division. Impacts related to the disposal of wastewater would be reduced to less than significant levels with the implementation of Mitigation Measure MM 4.6-4, which requires approval and permits by the Kern County Environmental Health Service Division of any septic system on the approve project parcels.

The proposed modified project does not include the design or installation of an O&M building or a septic system. The gen-tie (i.e., proposed modified project) would be installed on the south side of Copus Road and the east side of Shallock Road in the County ROW, and would have no wastewater-related impact on the surrounding area. The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion

and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum will not result in any other changes to the setting analyzed in the certified EIR. The proposed modified project will not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts relating to the disposal of wastewater or wastewater disposal systems than what was considered in the EIR and therefore no new or revised mitigation measures are necessary. Impacts would be considered less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

The geographic scope for considering cumulative impacts related to geology and soils includes the extent of the approved project site because impacts on geology and soils are site specific. All planned projects in the vicinity of the proposed modified project would be subject to review in separate environmental documents and required to conform to the Kern County General Plan, mitigate seismic hazards, and provide appropriate engineering to ensure soil stability. As currently designed, and with the identified mitigation measures incorporated, the proposed project would not contribute to a cumulative impact related to geology and soils, including seismic hazards. The certified EIR found that cumulative impacts would be less than significant after implementation of Mitigation Measures MM 4.6-1 through MM 4.6-4.

The certified EIR concluded that the impacts of the approved project, when combined with the impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects would be less than cumulatively considerable. The geographic scope for considering cumulative impacts on geology and soils includes only the extent of the approved project site because impacts on geology and soils are site specific. As discussed above, the approved project is within a seismically active area; however, it is not close to a seismically active fault. The effects of the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects are not of a nature to cause cumulatively significant effects from geologic impacts or on the soils resource. Cumulative impacts could occur in a seismic event if a potential hazard, such as a power plant, were located near a populated area. However, no such facilities are planned within the development area where the approved project is located.

As currently designed, and with the identified mitigation measures, the approved project would not contribute to a cumulative impact related to geology and soils, including seismic hazards.

The proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades are minor in nature, particularly in the context of the approved project, and would not result in any new or substantially more adverse cumulative impacts relating to geology and soils than was considered in the certified EIR. Therefore, no new or revised mitigation measures are necessary. The proposed modified project would comply with all mitigation measures required in the certified EIR. The certified EIR found that cumulative impacts would be less than significant after implementation of mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of cumulatively less than significant.

3.7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Setting

Greenhouse gas emissions result in impacts, which are global in nature. As such, the environmental and regulatory settings related to greenhouse gas emissions provided in the EIR adequately describe the setting for the proposed modified project.

Insight Environmental, Inc. prepared an air quality/greenhouse gas impacts addendum for the proposed modified project (Insight Environmental Consultants, November 4, 2014), and attached as Appendix A to this Addendum. The proposed modified project will not result in any changes to the setting analyzed in the certified EIR.

Impact Analysis

Modified Project Impacts

As in the EIR analysis, this Addendum evaluates the potential for the modified project to result in new or substantially more adverse significant impacts to aesthetics in relation to the following questions as stated in the Kern County CEQA Initial Study Checklist:

Would the project:

- (a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions; either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment.*

The certified EIR established that the approved project would significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by providing an emissions-free source of electricity, offsetting greenhouse gases (GHG) that would be emitted from facilities producing electricity from nonrenewable resources (e.g., coal or natural gas). Total short-term construction GHG emissions from the proposed project would amount to 13,066 metric tons. The proposed project's operational emissions would amount to 6 metric tons. The total estimated operational offset of the approved project is -559,003 metric tons per year of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO²e). It is also anticipated that electricity generated from the proposed project will reduce demand on the electrical generating grid in the future. These in addition, the approved project is helpful in achieving the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard goal of 33 percent of electricity generated from renewable sources by 2020.

Table 3.7-1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Proposed Modified Project)

	CO₂	CH₄	N₂O	CO₂e
Project Emissions*				
Gen-tie Construction Emissions	29.43	0.008	0.00	29.60
Substation Expansion Emissions	30.93	0.008	0.00	31.09
Total Construction Emissions	60.36	0.02	0.00	60.69

*emissions in metric tons

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in increased greenhouse gas emissions compared to the approved project. The proposed modified project requires minimal additional construction activities and therefore would not generate any substantial additional greenhouse gas construction emissions on the site or surrounding area. The proposed PG&E facility upgrades in and of themselves are minor in nature, particularly in the context of the proposed solar project, and many of the upgrades would be implemented internally within existing PG&E facilities, as noted in Table 2-2 and Table 2-3. The proposed expansion of the Lakeview Substation includes a minor 1/2 acre increase in the facility footprint. While the proposed expansion and upgrades to existing PG&E equipment and facilities would require additional vehicle trips and GHG emitting equipment during temporary construction/installation activities, these do not exceed impacts analyzed by the certified EIR. Overall, the modified project components would not result in the generation of any additional greenhouse gas construction emissions than what was previously discussed in the certified EIR of a less than significant impact.

PG&E's operation of the expanded substation would include the use of new circuit breakers that could result in a very small increase in emissions of sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), a GHG. Any increase in GHG emissions is anticipated to be minimal with operation of the expanded substation. The new circuit breakers will comply with recently adopted standards for SF₆-insulated circuit breakers and will be designed with a maximum leakage rate allowed by the manufacturer of 0.5 percent. Using this maximum leakage rate, a maximum total of less than 16 CO₂e per year would be expected from operation of 4 new circuit breakers. (See Cressey-Gallo 115 kV Power Line Project Proponent's Environmental Assessment, p. 3.3-16 (filed with CPUC 11-30-2011); assumed that each circuit breaker will contain 72 pounds of SF₆ with a conservative leakage rate of 0.5 percent. A global warming potential (GWP) of 23,900 was used to convert SF₆ emissions to CO₂e emissions, based on the GWP in the USEPA Mandatory Reporting Regulation (40 CFR Part 98, Subpart A).) SF₆ emissions GHG emissions from the operation phase of the project will be minor and insignificant.

In addition, the proposed modified project would provide the necessary support facilities for the approved project in order to produce a greater amount of emissions-free electricity in the long term, and would thus contribute to the positive impact on reducing GHG emissions compared to the approved project.

The proposed modifications to the project would not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant. Based on the foregoing analysis, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

(b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Recommended Action E-3, *Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)*, of CARB's Climate Change Scoping Plan enforces the Governor's call for a statewide RPS of 33%. The proposed project would help the state meet this goal by adding a solar facility designed to generate up to a combined total of 20 MW of power to California's current renewable portfolio. Therefore, in this regard, the proposed project would help the state meet its goals under AB 32.

The EIR concluded that the approved project would also be consistent with the County's policy to encourage solar development to conserve fossil fuels and improve air quality; and that compliance with the goals, policies, and implementation measures of the Kern County General Plan would be required. Therefore, no additional mitigation measures are proposed. The proposed modifications to the project would not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant. No new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No changes to mitigation measures adopted in previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

The EIR concluded that the impacts of the approved project would not combine with impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects to create a substantial adverse effect on greenhouse gas emissions. The proposed modified project would similarly have a positive impact on reducing GHG emissions in the long term. Therefore, the proposed modifications to the project do not create new or substantially more adverse cumulative impacts to greenhouse gas than those disclosed in the certified EIR. Mitigation measures would not be required for cumulative impacts.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed modifications to the project do not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

3.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Setting

The certified EIR discussed the existing conditions related to hazards and hazardous materials in the study area and described the environmental setting for hazardous materials, oil extraction fields, and electromagnetic fields (EMFs) related to the approved project. It also assessed the regulatory setting at the federal, State, and local levels. With respect to hazards and hazardous materials, the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities would not result in any changes to the setting considered in the certified EIR.

The certified EIR concluded that the approved project would not 1) create a significant hazard to the public or environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials; 2) emit hazardous emissions materials or waste within ¼ mile of a school; 3) be located on a site that is included on the Cortese List of hazardous sites pursuant to GC §65962.5; 4) be located within an airport land use plan or be within 2 miles of a public airport; or 5) impair implementation of or interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. No further discussion is warranted.

Impact Analysis

Modified Project Impacts

As in the certified EIR analysis, this Addendum evaluates the potential for the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities to result in new or substantially more adverse significant impacts to hazards and hazardous materials in relation to the following questions as stated in the Kern County CEQA Initial Study Checklist:

- (a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?*

According to the certified EIR, portions of the program area, specifically the program-level-only parcels, are located within the Midway Sunset and San Emidio oil fields. The location of all wells would be clearly identified on all site plans, and standard conditions of approval would require that the proponent to contact California Department of Conservation – Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to obtain information on the requirements of, and approval to perform, remedial operations in the event that an abandoned or unrecorded oil well be damaged or uncovered during construction activities. Mitigation measure MM 4.8-1 is required to ensure appropriate handling of the closed wells. Therefore, implementation of Mitigation Measure MM 4.8-1 would reduce potential impacts from existing wells to less-than-significant levels.

The certified EIR analyzed whether the approved project (including Maricopa East) would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. As discussed in the certified EIR, the approved project site has historically been farmed and therefore, residual pesticides and herbicides may be present. Although the proposed modified project footprint is located within the County

ROW, nearby historic agricultural activities may have resulted in the presence of environmentally persistent pesticides and herbicides within the County ROW. The proposed project modification would comply with Mitigation Measure MM 4.8-2, which includes dust control measures to reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level. Additionally, construction and operation of the approved project would require the transport and use of hazardous materials. However, it is unlikely that the proposed project modification would require the uses and transport of such materials. However, should hazardous material be needed during construction of the gen-tie, the proposed project modification would comply with Mitigation Measure MM 4.8-3, which requires the submittal and adherence to a hazardous materials business plan. Adherence to Mitigation Measure MM 4.4-6 (see above) is also required for the approved project as well as the proposed modified project, which restricts the application of pesticides and rodenticides. The proposed modified project would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts related to accidental release of hazardous materials than was considered in the certified EIR.

The PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades would occur at or adjacent to existing substations and lines, and are required adhere to PG&E's BMPs for the handling and transport of hazardous materials, including BMPs as stringent as those required for the proposed modified project. Therefore, development of these facilities would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts related to the accidental release of hazardous materials than was considered in the certified EIR.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, Proposed Modified Project Characteristics, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in additional impacts as a result of the accidental release of hazardous materials than what was already analyzed in the certified EIR, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR that impacts related to the accidental release of hazardous materials are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

(b) Be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip and result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

The certified EIR analyzed whether the approved project (including Maricopa East) would be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip and result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. As discussed in the certified EIR, a private airstrip used for commercial skydiving operations is located adjacent to, and east of, Maricopa East. The certified EIR concluded that the solar facility would use non-glare technology with the solar panels to reduce any visual impact/impairment that may interfere with nearby skydiving operations and aircraft in the vicinity. Impacts on skydiving operations, and impacts are considered to be less than significant. The proposed modified project would include the development of wooden or steel poles. However, these poles would be of similar height to other existing power poles found in the vicinity of the proposed project modification and therefore, would not affect flight patterns or result in a new hazard at the nearby private airstrip. The proposed modified project would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts related to safety hazards at a private airstrip than was considered in the certified EIR.

The PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades at the Lakeview Substation would include the relocation of two transmission line poles up to approximately 100 feet tall, which are the tallest components to be developed as a result of the upgrades. These poles would replace two existing poles; however, these poles are used by PG&E in other areas, the increased height is would not affect flight patterns or result in a new hazard at the nearby private airstrip. Therefore, development of the PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts related to safety hazards at a private airstrip than was considered in the certified EIR.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, Proposed Modified Project Characteristics, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in additional impacts as a result of the accidental release of hazardous materials than what was already analyzed in the certified EIR, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR that impacts related to the accidental release of hazardous materials are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

- (c) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?*

The certified EIR analyzed whether the approved project (including Maricopa East) would expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. As discussed in the certified EIR, the approved project is currently vacant and void of vegetation and the risk of exposing people or structures to fire hazards within the immediate surrounding areas are considered low. The proposed modified project is located within the County ROW, which is also vacant and devoid of vegetation. The proposed modified project would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts related to exposing people or structures to wildland fires than was considered in the certified EIR.

The PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades work would occur within or adjacent to existing substations and lines that are routinely maintained, including making sure that the substations remain clear of excessive vegetation that could result in damage to the substations as a result of wildland fires. The expansion area is already graded with no vegetation (see Figure 2-7) Therefore, development of these facilities would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts related exposing people or structures to wildland fires than was considered in the certified EIR.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in exposing people or structures to wildland fires than what was already analyzed in the certified EIR, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR that impacts related to exposing people or structures to wildland fires are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

The certified EIR concluded that the impacts of the approved project, when combined with the impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects would be less than cumulatively considerable. Hazardous materials release could result from activities during construction and operations of the proposed modified project. However, conformance with existing State and County regulations, project safety design features, and implementation of Mitigation Measures MM 4.4-6, MM 4.8-1, MM 4.8-2, and MM 4.8-3 would render this impact less than significant. Hazardous materials impacts not have the potential to contribute to hazards associated with cumulative projects because these types of impacts would be localized to the immediate vicinity of the proposed modified project site.

For these reasons, the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades would not result in any new or substantially more adverse cumulative impacts relating to hazards or hazardous materials than was considered in the certified EIR and would be mitigated to the maximum extent practicable by the incorporation of all feasible and applicable mitigation measures. Implementation of Mitigation Measures MM 4.4-6, and MM 4.8-1 through MM 4.8-3, as well as PG&E's BMPs would reduce cumulative impacts of proposed modified project to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of cumulatively less than significant.

3.9 Hydrology and Water Quality

Setting

The certified EIR discussed the existing conditions related to hydrology and water quality in the study area and described the environmental setting for hydrology and water quality for the approved project. It also assessed the regulatory setting at the federal, State, and local levels. With respect to hydrology and water quality, the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities would not result in any changes to the setting considered in the certified EIR.

The certified EIR concluded that the project did not 1) violate any water quality standards; 2) substantially deplete groundwater, interfere substantially with groundwater recharge or a lower the local groundwater table level; 3) place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area; or 4) expose people or structures to a significant risk of flooding a result of the failure of a levee or dam, inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. No further discussion is warranted.

Impact Analysis

Modified Project Impacts

As in the certified EIR analysis, this Addendum evaluates the potential for the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities to result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to the following questions as stated in the Kern County CEQA Initial Study Checklist:

Would the project:

- (a) *Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on site or off site?*

The certified EIR analyzed whether the approved project (including Maricopa East) would substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite. As discussed in the certified EIR, the project proponent would have to develop a SWPPP, as required by Mitigation Measure MM 4.9-1, and comply with any regional requirements to meet State water quality objectives for the approved project. The proposed project modification must also comply with this mitigation. During operations, the approved project's engineering and design plans would be required to comply with the most recent requirements of the Kern County Code of Building Regulations, as well as with Kern County Development Standards and Floodplain Management Ordinance. Mitigation Measure MM 4.9-2 specifically requires preparing a drainage plan that is designed to minimize runoff and surface water pollution and will include engineering recommendations to minimize the potential for impeding or redirecting 100-year flood flows. The proposed project modification would also have to comply with this mitigation. The proposed modified project would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts resulting in substantial erosion or siltation onsite or offsite than was considered in the certified EIR.

The gen-tie would be installed on the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road in the County ROW. As such, the proposed modified project will not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts relating to drainage patterns or erosion than was considered in the certified EIR. The PG&E interconnection facilities upgrade work would predominantly occur within existing Substations that are already required to comply with regional requirements to meet State water quality objectives. Additionally, PG&E has developed BMPs for the protection of water quality as a result of erosion or siltation that are as stringent as those required for the proposed modified project. Therefore, development of these facilities would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts related to substantial erosion or siltation on or offsite than was considered in the certified EIR.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts related to erosion or siltation on site or off site than what was already analyzed in the certified EIR, and do not change the

finding in the certified EIR that impacts resulting in substantial erosion or siltation onsite or offsite are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

(b) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on site or off site?

The certified EIR analyzed whether the approved project (including Maricopa East) would substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area in a manner that would result in flooding onsite or offsite. As discussed in the certified EIR, the project proponent would have to develop a SWPPP, as required by Mitigation Measure MM 4.9-1, and comply with any regional requirements to meet State water quality objectives for the approved project. The proposed project modification must also comply with this mitigation. During operations, the approved project's engineering and design plans would be required to comply with the most recent requirements of the Kern County Code of Building Regulations, as well as with Kern County Development Standards and Floodplain Management Ordinance. Mitigation Measure MM 4.9-2 specifically requires preparing a drainage plan that is designed to minimize runoff and surface water pollution and will include engineering recommendations to minimize the potential for impeding or redirecting 100-year flood flows. The proposed project modification would also have to comply with this mitigation. The proposed modified project would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts resulting in substantial flooding onsite or offsite than was considered in the certified EIR.

The gen-tie (i.e., proposed modified project) would be installed on the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road in the County ROW. As such, the proposed modified project will not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts relating to adverse flooding or surface runoff than was considered in the certified EIR. The PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades would predominantly occur within existing substations that already comply with regional requirements to meet State water quality objectives. Additionally, PG&E has developed BMPs for the protection against flooding that are as stringent as those required for the proposed modified project. Therefore, development of these facilities would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts related to substantial flooding onsite or offsite than was considered in the certified EIR.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in any additional flooding onsite or offsite than what was already analyzed in the certified EIR, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR that impacts resulting in flooding onsite or offsite are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

(c) Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

The certified EIR analyzed whether the approved project (including Maricopa East) would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. As discussed in the certified EIR, development of the approved project creates a small amount of impervious surfaces, but these changes would not substantially increase the amount of stormwater runoff. The project proponent would have to develop a SWPPP, as required by Mitigation Measure MM 4.9-1, and comply with any regional requirements to meet State water quality objectives for the approved project. The proposed project modification must also comply with this mitigation. During operations, the approved project's engineering and design plans would be required to comply with the most recent requirements of the Kern County Code of Building Regulations, as well as with Kern County Development Standards and Floodplain Management Ordinance. Mitigation Measure MM 4.9-2 specifically requires preparing a drainage plan that is designed to minimize runoff and surface water pollution and will include engineering recommendations to minimize the potential for impeding or redirecting 100-year flood flows. The proposed project modification would also have to comply with this mitigation. The proposed modified project would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts resulting in exceeding the capacity of a stormwater drainage system or providing additional sources of polluted runoff than was considered in the certified EIR.

The gen-tie (i.e., proposed modified project) would be installed on the south side of Copus Road and the east or est side of Shallock Road in the County ROW. As such, the proposed modified project will not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts to drainage systems effects than was considered in the certified EIR. The PG&E interconnection facilities work would occur within existing substations that are also required to comply with regional requirements to meet State water quality objectives. Additionally, PG&E has developed BMPs for the protection against flooding that could exceed the capacity of a stormwater drainage system or provide additional sources of polluted runoff that are as stringent as those required for the proposed modified project. Therefore, development of these facilities would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts related to exceeding the capacity of a stormwater drainage system or providing additional sources of polluted runoff than was considered in the certified EIR.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in impacts related to exceeding the capacity of a stormwater drainage system or providing additional sources of polluted runoff than what was already analyzed in the certified EIR, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR that impacts resulting in exceeding the capacity of a stormwater drainage system or providing additional sources of polluted runoff are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

(d) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

The certified EIR analyzed whether the approved project (including Maricopa East) would otherwise substantially degrade water quality. As noted in Response 3.8(a) and (b) above, the approved project could degrade water quality through erosion and accidental release of harmful materials. Implementation of Mitigation Measure MM 4.9-1, would reduce impacts to less than significant levels. During operations, the approved project's engineering and design plans would be required to comply with the Kern County Code of Building Regulations, as well as with Kern County Development Standards and Floodplain Management Ordinance. Implementation of Mitigation Measure MM 4.9-2 would minimize runoff and surface water pollution and minimize the potential for impeding or redirecting 100-year flood flows. The proposed project modification would also have to comply with MM 4.9-1 and MM 4.9-2. The proposed modified project would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts resulting in otherwise substantially degrade water quality than was considered in the certified EIR.

The gen-tie would be installed on the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road in the County ROW. As such, the proposed modified project will not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts relating to water quality than was considered in the certified EIR. The PG&E interconnection facilities work would predominantly occur within existing substations that are also required to comply with regional requirements to meet State water quality objectives. Additionally, PG&E has developed BMPs for the protection against degrading water quality that are as stringent as those required for the proposed modified project. Therefore, development of these facilities would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts related to degrading water quality than was considered in the certified EIR.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not degrade water quality than what was already analyzed in the certified EIR, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR that impacts resulting in degrading water quality are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

(e) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?

The certified EIR analyzed whether the approved project (including Maricopa East) would place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area that would impede or redirect flood flows. As discussed in the certified EIR, portions of the approved project site are located within the 100-year flood zone and therefore, could result in structures being placed in the flood zone. The project proponent would have to comply with the requirements and construction design specifications of the Kern County Grading Code and Floodplain Management Ordinance. Furthermore, the Preliminary Drainage Study prepared for the approved project contains several engineering recommendations to minimize the potential for impeding or redirecting 100-year flood flows that would be incorporated into the future grading plans.

The gen-tie (i.e., proposed modified project) would be installed on the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road in the County ROW. Only a small portion of the proposed gen-tie route along Copus Road is within the 100-year flood zone (Zone A). The proposed project modification would comply with the County requirements and implement recommendations. The proposed modified project would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts resulting in placing structures within a 100-year flood hazard area than was considered in the certified EIR.

The PG&E Lakeview Substation is located outside of the 100-year flood zone. The expansion and upgrade work would predominantly occur within existing substations that have already been engineered and designed to meet all applicable federal, State and local building requirements related to flood hazards. Therefore, development of these facilities would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts related to placing structures within a 100-year flood hazard area than was considered in the certified EIR.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not further place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area than what was already analyzed in the certified EIR, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR that impacts resulting in place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

The certified EIR determined that impacts of the approved project, when combined with the impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, would not create a substantial adverse effect related to hydrology and water quality. The proposed modified project would not introduce different or substantially more equipment or facilities than what was analyzed in the certified EIR, and would implement MM 4.91- and MM 4.9-2, that includes the preparation of a SWPPP and adherence to the requirements of the Kern County Statewide NPDES requirements, Kern County Grading Code and Floodplain Management Ordinance, as well as PG&E standard BMPs.

For these reasons, the proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not create new or substantially more severe cumulative impacts to hydrology and water quality than those disclosed in the certified EIR and would be mitigated to the maximum extent practicable by the incorporation of all feasible and applicable mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of cumulatively less than significant.

3.10 Land Use and Planning

Setting

The proposed project modification is adjacent to approved Site 15 (Maricopa East), which was previously discussed and analyzed in the certified EIR. As such, the regional and local land use and planning environmental and regulatory setting for the approved project, provided in detail in the certified EIR, also applies to the proposed modified project.

The certified EIR concluded that the approved project would not 1) physically divide an established community; conflict with local plans, policies, or regulations; or 2) conflict with any applicable Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Planning program. No further discussion is warranted.

Impact Analysis

Modified Project Impacts

As in the certified EIR analysis, this Addendum evaluates the potential for the proposed modified project to result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to land use and planning in relation to the following questions as stated in the Kern County CEQA Initial Study Checklist:

Would the project:

- (a) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?*

The certified EIR analyzed whether the approved project (including Maricopa East) would conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The certified EIR concluded that the approved project would be largely consistent with applicable land use plans, policies, and regulations,

including, the Kern County General Plan and the Kern County Zoning Ordinance. The proposed modified project footprint is located on the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road within the County ROW. With approval of the Franchise Agreement, the gen-tie would be an allowable use within the County ROW, and consistent with the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Additionally, the approved project required consultation with the Department of Defense to coordinate the use of telemetry to avoid frequency conflicts with military operations (Mitigation Measure MM 4.10-1). The proposed project modification does not require the use of the radio frequency spectrum and therefore, would not conflict with military operations. The proposed modified project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the modified project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect than was considered in the certified EIR.

The PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrade work would predominantly occur within existing substations that are already designated and zoned as a public utility and therefore, the PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades do not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The PG&E interconnection facilities include existing substations that do not require the use of the radio frequency spectrum and therefore, would not conflict with military operations. The expansion and upgrades of these facilities would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts related to consistency with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation than was considered in the certified EIR.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the modified project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR that impacts resulting in land use conflicts are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

The certified EIR concluded that the approved project, when combined with impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable PV solar facilities, if abandoned, might be subject to vandalism and become a cumulatively dangerous public nuisance, which would require additional public services. Unlike other facilities that, once constructed, can be retrofitted and utilized for another specific use, PV solar facilities have little opportunity for other uses should the site not be in operation. The potential for the cumulative effects caused by the abandonment of multiple solar facilities in Kern County could result in impacts on surrounding land uses should it be determined that these facilities are no longer viable commercial operations.

Therefore, Mitigation Measure MM 4.10-2 related to the decommissioning of solar facilities has been included to establish safeguards to ensure the maintenance of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the County. Although it is the intent of Kern County to promote the use of an alternative to fossil-fuel-generated electrical power in areas of the County that are identified to have suitable characteristics for production of commercial quantities of solar PV-generated electrical power, it is necessary to protect surrounding landowners from potential impacts associated with the abandonment of such facilities.

For these reasons, the proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades do not create new or substantially more severe cumulative impacts than those disclosed in the certified EIR and would be mitigated to the maximum extent practicable by the incorporation of all feasible and applicable mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of cumulatively less than significant.

3.11 Mineral Resources

Setting

The certified EIR discussed the existing conditions related to mineral resources in the study area and described the environmental setting for mineral resources to the approved project. It also assessed the regulatory setting at the federal, State, and local levels. With respect to mineral resources, the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities would not result in any changes to the setting considered in the certified EIR.

Impact Analysis

Modified Project Impacts

As in the certified EIR analysis, this Addendum evaluates the potential for the proposed modified project to result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to mineral resources in relation to the following questions as stated in the Kern County CEQA Initial Study Checklist:

Would the project:

- (a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?*

The certified EIR analyzed whether the approved project (including Maricopa East) would result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State. The certified EIR stated that the approved project would provide surface access areas in facility design that would allow for surface rights of entry and use of the designated oil areas. The proposed modified project footprint is located on the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock

Road within the County ROW. Therefore, the proposed modified project footprint precludes the exploration of mineral resources and does not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource. The proposed modified project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource than was considered in the certified EIR.

The PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades work would predominantly occur within existing substations that already precludes the exploration of mineral resources and does not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource. Therefore, the PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades do not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource. Development of these facilities would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts related to loss of availability of a known mineral resource than was considered in the certified EIR.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR that impacts resulting in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

Would the project:

- (b) *Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?*

The certified EIR analyzed whether the approved project (including Maricopa East) would result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. The certified EIR stated, although mineral resources could not be mined within the approved project sites during project operations, the approved project would not preclude mineral resource recovery within surrounding areas.

In addition, the certified EIR found that none of the sites are within an Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) or on lands designated for mineral resources by a land use plan. Implementation of the proposed solar facilities would not conflict with any local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. With the provision of a drilling area for the sites, access to mineral resources would be maintained, and the project would not preclude mineral resource recovery within the sites or surrounding areas. In addition, because the life expectancy of the project is 30 to 35 years, access to mineral resources would not be permanently lost or impacted, and as such, the approved project would not result in a significant impact. No mitigation measures were recommended. Therefore, the certified EIR found that the approved project would have less than significant impacts.

The proposed modified project footprint (i.e., the gen-tie route) is located within the County ROW on the south side of Copus Road and the east or side of Shallock Road. According to County GIS, the closest area designated as 8.4 (Mineral and Petroleum Resources) is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ miles southwest of the intersection of Copus Road and Shallock Road. Therefore, the proposed modified project footprint does not result in loss of availability of a delineated locally important mineral resource recovery site. The proposed modified project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site than was considered in the certified EIR.

The PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades work would occur predominantly within existing substations that are not identified as being a mineral or petroleum resources area, and therefore does not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site. Consequently, the PG&E interconnection facilities upgrades do not result in the loss of availability of a delineated locally important mineral resource recovery site. Development of these facilities would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts related to loss of availability of a known mineral resource than was considered in the certified EIR.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR that impacts resulting in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

The certified EIR determined that impacts of the approved project, when combined with the impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, would not create a substantial adverse effect related to mineral resources. An approved project design feature includes an area for use as a potential drill site to allow for surface right-of-entry to mineral-rights holders. Combined impacts on mineral resources and would not result in the loss of availability of a known of designated mineral resource. Cumulative impacts to mineral resources would occur if the cumulative projects would result in the loss of oil or aggregate mineral resources. Some of the cumulative projects may occur within or near existing oil fields, as well as sand and gravel mining operations. However, where these resources have substantial remnant supplies, none of the cumulative projects would preclude continued extraction or production of these resources. Additionally, the nature of the solar development would not preclude access to a Resource Management area as delineated in the Kern County General Plan. As discussed above, the proposed project modification and PG&E facility expansion and upgrades are not on land designated 8.4 by the Kern County General Plan, and would not result in any impacts to mineral resources. As such, the proposed modified project and PG&E activities would not contribute to a cumulative mineral resources impact.

The geographic scope for considering cumulative impacts on mineral resources includes the extent of Kern County because mineral resources, especially petroleum, are a major economic component of the

County as a whole. As such, impacts on mineral resources anywhere in the County combined with the project could result in a cumulative impact on County-wide mineral resources. With implementation of Mitigation Measures MM 4.8-3, MM 4.10-2, and MM 4.11-1, MM 4.11-2, and MM 4.11-3, the proposed modified project would not significantly affect mineral resources. The less-than-significant impacts of the proposed project could be combined with other solar projects in the area. Therefore, the certified EIR found that the approved project would have less than significant cumulative impacts after mitigation.

For these reasons, the proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum do not create new or substantially more severe cumulative impacts than those disclosed in the certified EIR and would be mitigated to the maximum extent practicable by the incorporation of all feasible and applicable mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of cumulatively less than significant.

3.12 Public Services

Setting

The public services section of the certified EIR describes the affected environment and regulatory setting pertaining to fire and police protection, the impacts on fire and police protection that would result from implementation of the proposed project, and the mitigation measures to reduce these impacts. Like the approved project, the proposed modified project is served by the Kern County Sheriff's office and Kern County Fire Department. With respect to public services, the proposed modified project would not result in any changes to the setting considered in the certified EIR.

The certified EIR concluded that the approved project would have no impact on schools, parks or other public facilities. No further discussion of these services is warranted.

Impact Analysis

Modified Project Impacts

As in the EIR analysis, this Addendum evaluates the potential for the approved project to result in new or substantially more adverse significant impacts to fire and police protection in relation to the following questions as stated in the Kern County CEQA Initial Study Checklist:

Would the project:

- (a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities and/or*

result in the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

- (i) Fire protection?*
- (ii) Police protection?*

The certified EIR analyzed whether the approved project (including Maricopa East) would result in the impacts to fire and police protection. The approved project parcels are within the Western Kern and Mt. Pinos Communities Fire Plan Management Areas. The certified EIR states that impacts to fire protection would be reduced to less-than-significant levels with the implementation of a fire safety plan, which included use of spark arrestors, use of trucks on cleared roadways, posting of fire rules, flammable material clearance, fire safety training, and equipment restrictions (Mitigation Measure MM 4.12-1). The certified EIR states that impacts to fire and police protection would be reduced to less-than-significant levels with payment of an impact fee and additional taxes at a rate of \$29.59 per 1,000 square feet of solar covered ground for the facility operation and related on-site structures for the project (Mitigation Measure MM 4.12-2). The proposed modified project is also obliged to comply with these mitigation measures. The proposed modified project is also obliged to comply with these mitigation measures. The proposed modified project would not result in any new or substantially more adverse fire and police protection impact than was considered in the certified EIR.

The proposed modified project footprint (i.e., the gen-tie route) is located within the County ROW on the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road. The gen-tie route and Lakeview Substation, as well as the surrounding vicinity are within the Kern Fire Hazard Severity Zone Non-Wildland/Non-Urban classification, and within a low fire threat zone (CAL Fire, 2014). The PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades work would predominantly occur within existing substations that are already protected by local fire and police protection agencies. The expansion of the existing Lakeview Substation includes a minimal ½ acre of undeveloped, bare land that would not increase the potential for additional public safety services. Additionally, the existing substations have implemented all required fire prevention and protection equipment and protocols. Therefore, the PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades do not result in a fire and police protection impact. Development of these facilities would not result in any new or substantially more adverse impacts related to fire and police protection than was considered in the certified EIR.

The proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not result in increased fire, police or other public safety services, and does not change the finding in the certified EIR that impacts are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

Significant cumulative impacts on public services would occur if the public agencies were overburdened and unable to provide adequate services, thereby resulting in significant combined impacts related to the development of new facilities. Because the approved project would not induce population growth in the area, implementation would not result in the need to construct new, or physically alter or expand, existing sheriff's office and fire protection services. In addition, it would not impede the effective operation of these services. Incorporation of the Mitigation Measures MM 4.12-1 and MM 4.12-2 would reduce approved project impacts to a less-than-significant level. In addition, the application of similar mitigation at each of the proposed solar projects in Kern County would reduce cumulative impacts to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, approved project impacts on public services would not be cumulatively considerable.

The proposed project modification would, if applicable, also comply with mitigation in the certified EIR to reduce impacts to fire and police protection. PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades occur within existing substations that have implemented all the required fire prevention and protection equipment and protocols, and are already served by local fire and police protection agencies.

For these reasons, the proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum do not create new or substantially more severe cumulative impacts than those disclosed in the certified EIR and would be mitigated to the maximum extent practicable by the incorporation of all feasible and applicable mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of cumulatively less than significant.

3.13 Transportation and Traffic

Setting

The certified EIR discussed the existing conditions related to transportation and traffic in the study area and described the environmental setting for the approved project. The certified EIR analyzed public transit, roads and highways, and airports in the area. It also assessed the regulatory setting at the federal, State, and local levels. The modified project is located in an unincorporated, southwestern portion of Kern County, approximately 1½ miles west of Interstate 5 (I-5) and 5 miles east of the City of Taft. Transportation in the surrounding area is dominated by automobile traffic, and conditions are characterized by a sparse roadway system stemming from SR-166 and I-5. With respect to transportation and traffic, the proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities would not result in any changes to the setting considered in the certified EIR.

The certified EIR concluded that the approved project would not: 1) exceed, either individually or cumulatively, an level of service (LOS) standard established by the county congestion management agency or adopted county threshold for designated roads or highways; 2) degrade Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan roadways to a LOS C; 3) result in a change in air traffic patterns, including an

increase in traffic levels; 4) substantially increase hazards due to a design feature; 5) result in inadequate emergency access; or 6) conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. No further discussion of these impacts is warranted.

Impact Analysis

Modified Project Impacts

As in the certified EIR analysis, this Addendum section evaluates the potential for the proposed modified project to result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to traffic in relation to the following questions as stated in the Kern County CEQA Initial Study Checklist:

Would the project:

- (a) *Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?*

The traffic analysis prepared for the approved project (see Appendix H of the certified EIR), assumed that all the approved project lands would potentially be developed concurrently. Therefore, construction-related traffic conditions are assumed to include the development of 6,046 acres as a conservative estimate for the traffic analysis. The analysis determined whether the approved project (including Maricopa East) would cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections). The certified EIR concluded that construction-related traffic impacts would result in a less than significant increase in traffic in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system with implementation of Mitigation Measure MM 4.13-1. This mitigation requires submittal of engineering drawing for any proposed access road design, obtaining encroachment permits, securing agreement with Kern County for any necessary road repairs, and identifying and video logging roads used during construction to determine if repairs are needed. During operations, the certified EIR states that a negligible number of operational trips would be necessary for the approved project and impacts would be less than significant.

The proposed modified project footprint (i.e., the gen-tie route) is located within the County ROW on the south side of Copus Road and the east or west side of Shallock Road. As noted in Table 2.2, the proposed modified project would require a maximum of four workers for each task to complete the necessary work over a four to six month period. Once the transmission line is installed, a minimal number of maintenance trips would be generated. The proposed modified project would comply with Mitigation Measure 4.13-1, and construction-related traffic impacts would result in a less than significant increase in traffic in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system. Therefore would not result in construction and operational traffic impacts than was considered in the certified EIR.

The PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrade work would predominantly occur within existing substations and are required to adhere to PG&E's construction traffic requirements, including requirements as stringent as those required for the proposed modified project. Operations at the substation would not require any additional trips beyond what is currently necessary to maintain these facilities. Therefore, the PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades would not result in significant construction and operational traffic impacts. Development of these facilities would not result in any new

or substantially more adverse construction and operational traffic impacts than was considered in the certified EIR.

The proposed modified project and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum would not cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system, and do not change the finding in the certified EIR that impacts resulting in an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system are less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

The certified EIR concluded that the approved project when combined with the impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects would not create a substantial adverse effect related to changes in the transportation system, or traffic generation, during construction or operations. The proposed modified project does not result in an increase in traffic beyond what was analyzed in the certified EIR. Implementation of Mitigation Measure MM 4.13-1 would reduce the impact of heavy truck trips to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, the proposed modified project does not create new or substantially more severe cumulative impacts to transportation and traffic than those disclosed in the certified EIR and impacts would remain less than significant as stated in the certified EIR.

For these reasons, the proposed project modification and PG&E interconnection facilities expansion and upgrades as described in Section 2.2, *Proposed Modified Project Characteristics*, and Table 2-2 through Table 2-4 of this Addendum do not create new or substantially more severe cumulative impacts than those disclosed in the certified EIR and would be mitigated to the maximum extent practicable by the incorporation of all feasible and applicable mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measures

No new or revised mitigation measures are required beyond those included in the previously certified EIR.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

The proposed project modification does not change the finding in the certified EIR of cumulatively less than significant.

4.1 LEAD AGENCY

Kern County Planning and Community Development Department

- Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP – Planning Director
- Craig M. Murphy – Division Chief
- Janice Mayes – Planner II

4.2 PROJECT PROPONENT

Mr. Dave Azzam
Director of Solar Development
Maricopa East Solar PV, LLC
20 California Street
San Francisco, California 94111
(415) 347-2588

4.3 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Quad Knopf

- Jaymie L. Brauer – Project Manager
- Steve Esselman – Technical Writer
- Kimber Gutierrez – Technical Writer

Chapter 5 References

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APPENDIX A

Letter Addendum- Mariciopa East Solar PV Project (Air Quality & GHG)



5500 Ming Avenue
 Suite 140
 Bakersfield, CA 93309-4693

Tel (661) 282-2200
 Fax (661) 282-2204
insight@insenv.com

November 4, 2014

Ms. Jaymie Brauer
 Quad Knopf, Inc.
 5080 California Avenue, Suite 220
 Bakersfield, CA 93309

Subject: **LETTER ADDENDUM – MARICOPA EAST SOLAR PV PROJECT**

Dear Ms. Brauer:

Quad Knopf, Inc. (Quad) has requested Insight Environmental Consultants, Inc. to evaluate the air quality impacts posed by planned construction activities for the franchise agreement for a gen-tie and an expansion of the Pacific Gas & Electric Company's (PG&E) Lakeview substation to be modified in support of the subject project. Based on information provided by Quad regarding the planned construction activities including construction time, equipment and manpower, we have completed a modeled analysis of these planned activities. The expected impacts are deemed to be less than significant based on the evaluation standards established by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) and Kern County Planning Department (KCPD). The total expected impacts from these construction activities are provided below:

TOTAL PG&E CONSTRUCTION CRITERIA POLLUTANT UNMITIGATED EMISSIONS

	ROG	NO_x	CO	SO_x	PM₁₀	PM_{2.5}
Project Emissions						
Gen-tie Construction Emissions	0.03	0.37	0.20	0.00	0.02	0.02
Substation Expansion Emissions	0.03	0.34	0.20	0.00	0.02	0.02
Total Construction Emissions	0.07	0.71	0.40	0.00	0.05	0.04
SJVAPCD / KCPD Annual Thresholds	10	10	NA	NA	15	NA
Is Threshold Exceeded Before Mitigation?	No	No	-	-	No	-
NOTES:						
^a The SJVAPCD has not established significance thresholds for CO, SO _x or PM _{2.5} .						

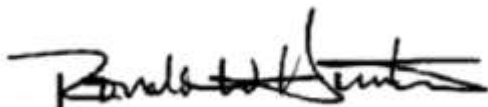
TOTAL PG&E CONSTRUCTION GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O	CO ₂ e
Project Emissions				
Gen-tie Construction Emissions	29.43	0.008	0.00	29.60
Substation Expansion Emissions	30.93	0.008	0.00	31.09
Total Construction Emissions	60.36	0.02	0.00	60.69

The above emissions were determined using the California Air Resources Board and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District approved California Emissions Estimating Model (CalEEMod). A copy of the CalEEMod output files are attached herewith in support of this Letter Addendum. With the inclusion of these criteria pollutant emissions in the construction emissions estimates provided in the subject air quality impact assessment, the proposed project remains a *“less than significant”* impact to the air basin. Additionally, since the project is expected to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions the inclusion of the above GHG emissions will not change the project’s finding of *“less than significant”* for impacts associated with GHG emissions.

Should you have any questions regarding this Letter Addendum or the results reported herein, please contact Matt Daniel or the undersigned at 661-282-2200 or by email at rhunter@insenv.com.

Sincerely,



Ronald W. Hunter
Managing Principal Consultant

RWH:s

Attachment

Type of Work	Work Description	Type/ No. of Equipment/ No. of Workers	Vehicles	Workers	Man Hours	Equip Hrs
Wooden or steel poles installation	Installation of up to 40 wooden or steel poles up to 65 foot tall, within the Kern County ROW (up to 6,000 feet in length) between the modified project site and the Lakeview Substation.	Auger (1); boom truck (1); and pick-up truck (1) Workers (4)	2	6	960	720
Gen-tie line installation	Installation of four-circuit, 12 kV gen-tie line supported by the wooden or steel poles.	Boom truck (1) and cable puller (1) Workers (4)	1	4	160	80
Communication cable installation	Installation of overhead or underground communication cables along the same route as the overhead gen-tie installation.	Boom truck (1) and cable puller Workers (4)	1	4	80	80
Guy-wire installation	Pulling and tensioning guy-wires on up to ten wooden or steel poles	Boom truck (1) and cable puller (1) Workers (4)	1	4	64	48
Gang-operated switches installation	Installation of up to four gang-operated switches individually or in a cluster of two atop wooden or steel poles outside the Lakeview substation.	Boom truck (1) and cable puller Workers (4)	1	4	64	48
Revenue meters and CT/PT clusters installation	Installation of up to four pole-top revenue meters and up to four CT/PT clusters; each meter and cluster would be supported by one wooden or steel pole.	Meter Truck Workers (2)	1	2	32	32
Pothead structures installation	Installation of up to four pothead structures to interface with incoming gen-tie lines and CT/PT clusters.	Gradeall (1) Boom truck (1) Man lifts (1) Workers (4)	2	4	32	16

Table 2-3

Steel bus work installation	Extension of up to 80 feet of new 12 kV steel bus work measuring 30 feet in height, transmission poles measuring 85 feet in height and development of one new transition bay measuring 10 feet in length within the bus work. Installation of up to four new feeder bays housing up to four new breakers (and associated equipment) within the	Gradeall (1) Boom truck (1) Man lifts (2) Workers (7)	3	10	960	720
Extension lines installation	Installation of up to four new overhead extension lines (each up to 500 feet in length) to connect the breakers to the gen tie.	Boom truck (1) and cable puller	2	4	64	48
Concrete pads installation	Pouring of concrete pads for new substation equipment described above.	Concrete truck & equipment	1	4	128	64
Road construction	Construction of 16-foot dirt access road into substation.	Road grading equipment	1	2	64	48
Fence removal and replacement	Removal of southern boundary portion of existing 6-foot-high fence and installation of new 6-foot-high fence with three-string barbed wire to accommodate substation expansion.	Grading equipment and light duty truck	2	4	96	48

APPENDIX B

Biological Resources Survey Addendum



Quad Knopf

September 22, 2014

Mr. Nick Benjamin
Development Manager
Maricopa East Solar PV, LLC
20 California Street
San Francisco, California 94111

RE: Evaluation of Biological Resource Memo Associated with an Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report for the Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Project

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

As lead agency, the Kern County Planning and Community Development Department prepared a project-level Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the construction of solar electrical generating facilities on 6,046 acres of land in southern Kern County. In addition to the 6,046 acres of project sites, the EIR included a programmatic-level analysis of 2,981 acres of program-level sites that would potentially be developed in the future. The Kern County Board of Supervisors certified the EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 201003124) and approved the project on March 29, 2011.

An addendum to the EIR is being prepared to include the following modifications to the project, which are evaluated in this report for their potential to impact sensitive biological resources:

1. Approval of a Franchise Agreement;
2. PG&E Utility upgrades and other ground disturbance activities associated with development of the solar facility.

These modifications are described in detail in Chapters 1 and 2 of the addendum, and are summarized below to establish project parameters used for the evaluation of potential biological impacts. Current land uses, habitat types, levels of disturbance, and the presence/absence of special-status species and other sensitive biological resources were also used to develop potential project impacts from these project modifications. Aerial photographs were reviewed. Familiarity with the project sites and with all lands associated with the described modifications to the project was acquired during extensive biological field work conducted in the area in 2009, 2010, and 2011, and with subsequent multiple site visits conducted in 2012 and 2013.

In September 2014, Quad Knopf, Inc. (Quad Knopf) completed an additional biological reconnaissance-level survey for a transmission line and expansion of the Lakeview substation associated with the construction of an approved solar electrical generating facility in southern Kern County (Project) for EC &R NA Solar PV, LLC near Maricopa, Kern County, California. The purpose of this memo is to provide an update to the certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Addendum.

The reconnaissance level survey was conducted in order to determine if any changes to the existing biological resources indentified in the EIR would be impacted. The reconnaissance survey focused on detecting the presence of special-status species or sensitive natural communities that are known to occur in the vicinity of the proposed modified project area. There were no new biological resources that could potentially be impacted as a result of the modified project. The evaluation of biological impacts associated with an Addendum does not require any changes. The approved project site and adjacent land are intensely used for agriculture and are routinely disked resulting in very poor habitat for most wildlife species.

Methodology

Prior to the field survey, a database query and literature search was conducted of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB 2014) to identify sensitive natural communities and special-status species that are of local, regional, and national concern. The database query included quadrangles in which the project site occurs, and the eight surrounding quadrangles. This list of sensitive natural communities and special-status species provided the focus for the field investigation.

On September 18, 2014, Quad Knopf biologists, Lani Garcia and Nicole Blackhawk, conducted a biological reconnaissance-level survey of the Project site. The survey was conducted along the proposed transmission line route and around the Lakeview substation. Meandering pedestrian transects were conducted as necessary to provide complete visual coverage of the project site. Focal species for the survey included those special-status species from the CNDDDB query and bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code (Sections 3503 and 3513).

Results and Discussion

The nine quad CNDDDB query identified 48 special-status species. No special-status species were observed during the field survey. Ten species in total were identified on the project site, including five plant species, two reptile species, and three bird species (Table 1). The project site provides potential nesting habitat for various raptors and other migratory birds; however, no nests were observed during the survey.

Table 1
Plant and Wildlife Species Observed on the Modified Project Site, September 18, 2014,
Maricopa West, Kern County, California

Scientific name	Common name
Animals	
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	red-tailed hawk
<i>Corvus corax</i>	common raven
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	northern mockingbird
<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	western fence lizard
<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	western side-blotched lizard
Plants	
<i>Bromus madritensis</i> ssp. <i>rubens</i>	red brome
<i>Datura wrightii</i>	sacred datura
<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i> var. <i>ciliaris</i>	crab grass
<i>Salsola australis</i>	Russian thistle
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	puncturevine

Biological impacts associated with the installation of a new transmission line

A new transmission line will be constructed starting at the southwest corner of the 400-acre approved solar site (Site 15) that will transmit power from the solar site to an existing transmission line along Copus Road County road right of way (ROW), on the north side of Copus Road, then crossing above Copus Road to the Count ROW of the south side of Copus Road and running west approximately 2,875 feet along the south side of Copus Road, crossing the intersection of Shallock Road and Copus Road, and continuing to the north side of the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Lakeview substation. The installation of the associated equipment, which consists of the installation of overhead or underground communication cables, and the installation of up to 40 new wooden or steel poles, to support the gen-tie line. The installation of guy-wires is also possible. All poles, overhead gen-tie and above or belowground communication cables will be installed within Kern County right-of-way, approved via a Franchise Agreement.

The road right of way, surrounding disked agricultural land and the existing orchards do not contain habitat that would support special-status species, except perhaps an occasional transient foraging San Joaquin kit fox or American badger. The potential exists for the San Joaquin kit fox or American badger to become trapped in holes left open overnight. The surrounding orchards could support nesting migratory birds and some raptors during the breeding season (February 15 to August 15). No other sensitive biological resources would be impacted by the installation of this transmission line.

The minor expansion of the existing PG&E Lakeview substation is disturbed land; however, it has the potential to reduce foraging and dispersal habitat for the San Joaquin kit fox and American Badger. This potential adverse effect would not reach a threshold of significance because of the extremely limited construction period and minimal amount of disturbed land that would be utilized. Also, the potential for these species to occur in the construction area is minimal. The certified EIR stipulates avoidance and minimization measures to ensure that any holes would be backfilled at the end of the day or covered to preclude the entrapment of animals

if left open overnight. The EIR also contains avoidance and minimization measures to ensure that impacts to nesting birds and raptors are addressed in a manner that results in less than significant impacts.

Biological impacts of utility upgrades and other ground disturbance activities associated with construction of a 400-acre solar development on Solar Site 15 (AKA Maricopa East)

Utility upgrades associated with the development of a 400-acre solar development on Solar Site 15 (Maricopa East) include: installation of CC TSPs along Copus Road between the project site and the Lakeview substation or the installation of lattice steel towers (LSTs) as an alternate to the TSPs, pulling and tensioning at each TSP or LST location, potential underground installation of communications cable along the gen-tie route between the project site and Lakeview substation, expansion of the Lakeview substation. These activities and the biological impacts of these activities are described in the following sections.

Biological impacts associated with the expansion of the Lakeview substation

The upgrades and expansion of the Lakeview substation may be required by the project. The footprint of the substation may need to be extended to the west by 300 feet and to the south by 200 feet, thus enlarging the substation by approximately 235,000 square feet, or approximately 5.4 acres. The removal and replacement of an existing control building, including concrete foundation, may be required. The installation of a six (6) circuit breaker ring-bus and upgrades of other equipment may be needed. Several entrances of existing lines into the substation will need to be reconfigured, resulting in the removal of up to five (5) existing wooden poles and the installation of up to four (4) new light duty steel poles and up to six (6) new TSPs. The expansion areas of the Lakeview substation are completely within cultivated croplands consisting of grapes (to the south) and alfalfa (to the west). All pole replacements and new poles would be located within existing agricultural fields (alfalfa or asparagus) or along previously cleared dirt roads. The areas where pole installations and substation expansion would occur do not provide habitat capable of supporting special-status species, other than potential transient foragers such as the San Joaquin kit fox and American badger. The potential exists for the San Joaquin kit fox or American badger to become trapped in holes left open overnight. No other sensitive biological resources would be impacted by the pole installations and substation expansion.

Activities associated with pole installations and substation expansion could reduce the potential for the San Joaquin kit fox and American badger to forage and disperse through the area for a very limited time period. This potential adverse effect would not reach a threshold of significance because of the extremely limited duration of activities and because of the low potential for these species to be present in these habitats during the construction period. The EIR stipulates avoidance and minimization measures to ensure that any holes would be backfilled at the end of the day or covered to preclude the entrapment of animals if left open overnight. An on-site biological monitor would be present during construction activities to ensure compliance with all mitigation measures.

CONCLUSION

Because of the developed Copus Road ROW and the highly disturbed nature of the land adjacent to the Copus Road and the existing PG&E Lakeview substation, the habitat quality in the area is quite poor. There is a minimal potential for the occurrence of San Joaquin kit fox, and American badger to occur. There is also a potential for birds and raptors protected by the MBTA to occur on the site. The activities associated with the described modifications to the Maricopa Sun Solar Project will not result in any previously unidentified significant impacts to special-status species or to other sensitive biological resources. The activities would not result in an increase in severity of previously identified impacts, and no new mitigation measures are needed to avoid or minimize significant impacts. Existing avoidance and mitigation measures are sufficient to reduce identified impacts from the modified project to below significant levels.

If you have any questions regarding this report or require additional information, please contact me at (661) 616-2600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole Blackhawk". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Nicole Blackhawk
Assistant Environmental Scientist
Quad Knopf, Inc.

Cc: file

130186.01

APPENDIX C

Cultural Resource Addendum to the Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Project

June 24, 2014

Ms. Jaymie L. Brauer
Senior Planner
Quad Knopf, Inc.
5080 California Avenue, Suite 220
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Re.: Cultural Resources Addendum to the Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Project, Kern County,
California Environmental Impact Report

This Addendum considers and evaluates the potential environmental impacts to cultural resources related to modifications of the approved Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Project. This Addendum describes the modifications to the approved project site that have been proposed by the project proponent, as well as new information concerning the utility facilities and upgrades that may be needed to interconnect the project to PG&E's electrical system. The modified project includes a Franchise Agreement of approximately 1 mile along the south side of the existing Copus Road right-of-way.

Proposed Project Modifications

While not components of the modified project being considered for approval, PG&E's interconnection facilities are necessary for the solar generation project to operate; therefore those facilities are part of the whole of the developer's action that will result in a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and are thus part of the project for purposes of CEQA review only. These components include:

1. Expansion of the existing PG&E Lakeview substation property by approximately 1.2 acres (130' x 190'), to include installation of associated equipment consisting of the following:
 - a. Extension of up to 80 feet of new 12kV steel bus work; the top of the steel bus will be up to 30 feet in height
 - b. Up to four new bays within bus work for housing one 12kV circuit breaker per bay, for a total of up to four 12kV breakers
 - c. Equipment associated with each of the four 12kV breakers, including, on a per bay basis, one 12kV line potential transformer, one 12kV current transformer, bus sectionalizing switches, and bi-directional relays
 - d. Up to four overhead extension lines (up to 500' per line) connecting the 12kV breakers to generation tie-lines located outside of the substation within the County right-of-way on either the east or west side of Schallock Road
 - e. Up to four (4) gang-operated Switches; one switch will be located on each gen-tie pole outside of the substation
 - f. Microwave communication between Lakeview substation and Pampa Peak
 - g. Poured concrete pad on which equipment will be located

**Inland Empire/Mojave
Desert**
44702 10th St. West
Lancaster, CA 93534
661.729.9395 Ph.
661.729.9417 Fax

Bay Area
900 Modoc St.
Berkeley, CA 94707
510.524.3991 Ph.
510.524.4419 Fax

Pacific Basin
30 Aulike St. #301
Kailua, HI 96734
808.263.4800 Ph.
808.263.4300 Fax

Sierra/Central Valley
4919 Windplay Dr. #4
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762
916.358.5156 Ph.
916.358.5161 Fax

- h. 16' dirt access road
- i. Removal of southern boundary portion of existing six-foot high chain-link fence and installation of new six-foot high chain-link fence topped with three-string barbed wire to enclose new additional substation area
2. Construction of a four-circuit 12 kV gen-tie line up to 6,700 feet in length connecting the approved project to the up to four new 12kV breakers in PG&E's Lakeview substation, including installation of associated equipment consisting of overhead or underground communication cables and up to thirty (30) new wooden or steel poles to support the gen-tie line. Installation of guy-wires is possible on up to six wooden or steel poles. All poles, overhead gen-tie and above or belowground communication cables will be installed within Kern County right-of-way, approved via a Franchise Agreement.
3. Upgrades to off-site PG&E substations within existing substation footprints.

Cultural Resources Inventory Methods and Results

Previous archival and field studies for the approved project have been described in the Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Project environmental impact report and supporting technical reports. This supplemental report addresses specifically the cultural resources inventory relating to the PG&E Lakeview Substation expansion (130' x 400'), and the proposed installation of gen-tie lines extending for approximately 6,700 feet along the south side of Copus Road from the intersection with Shallock Road; and extending along the east side of Shallock Road for a distance of approximately 275' then crossing the road to terminate at the substation (*see* Attachment).

A records search conducted in 2010 at the South San Joaquin Valley Information Center and a search of Sacred Lands Files of the Native American Heritage Commission included the area of this Addendum. No previously reported resources are located in the area along Copus Road or at the PG&E substation.

The gen-tie route and substation expansion areas were surveyed by Jack Sprague of Pacific Legacy on June 20, 2014. Mr. Sprague has more than 10 years of archaeological experience in the southern San Joaquin Valley and Tehachapi Mountains. Mr. Sprague's efforts have been reviewed and approved by Thomas L. Jackson, Ph.D. Mr. Jackson has more than 40 years of experience in cultural resources management in California, with more than 17 years experience in the southern San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Sprague surveyed the area within a 100-foot radius of the existing substation and proposed expansion area by walking parallel 15-foot wide transects. He surveyed an area extending 100 feet out from edge of pavement on Copus and Shallock roads along the proposed extent of the gen-tie lines using the same method. The area along the roads is active agricultural fields which provided nearly 100% visibility of the soils. The area within the fenced substation yard was not examined directly but appears to have been thoroughly disturbed by construction of the existing yard.

**Inland Empire/Mojave
Desert**
44702 10th St. West
Lancaster, CA 93534
661.729.9395 Ph.
661.729.9417 Fax

Bay Area
900 Modoc St.
Berkeley, CA 94707
510.524.3991 Ph.
510.524.4419 Fax

Pacific Basin
30 Aulike St. #301
Kailua, HI 96734
808.263.4800 Ph.
808.263.4300 Fax

Sierra/Central Valley
4919 Windplay Dr. #4
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762
916.358.5156 Ph.
916.358.5161 Fax

No cultural resources were found during the cultural resources inventory. While the area is considered to be of relatively low sensitivity for encountering prehistoric cultural materials, there is always a potential to encounter undetected subsurface archaeological deposits during the course of project development. The proposed modified project will comply with all mitigation measures required in the certified EIR. In the event of such an unanticipated discovery, construction must be halted and a qualified archaeologist consulted to evaluate the potential resource. The archaeologist will recommend appropriate mitigation measures. If human remains are encountered during construction or any other phase of development, work in the area of the discovery must be halted, the Kern County coroner notified, and the provisions of Public Resources Code 5097.98-99, Health and Safety Code 7050.5 carried out. If the remains are determined to be Native American, then the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) will be notified within 24 hours as required by Public Resources Code 5097. The NAHC will notify a designated Most Likely Descendant who will provide recommendations for the treatment of the remains within 48 hours of being granted access to the property. The NAHC will mediate any disputes regarding treatment of remains.

The proposed modification to the project, as well as the upgrades and expansion of the existing PG&E facility, do not change the findings in the certified EIR related to impacts to cultural resources of less than significant. Based on the foregoing, no new or revised mitigation measures are required.

Should you have any questions please contact Thomas L. Jackson, Ph.D., Senior Archaeologist, at 831.595.9713, or via e-mail at jacksontom@pacificlegacy.com.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Jackson, Ph.D.
Senior Archaeologist/Principal

Attachment: vicinity map

APPENDIX D

PG&E Recommended Standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) Species and
Resource Specific Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) for
Construction of the Substation Expansion and Gen-Tie

PG&E Recommended Standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) for Construction of a Substation Expansion and Gen-Tie.

BMP 1: When accessing work sites, limit travel and parking of vehicles and equipment to pavement and existing dirt or gravel roads.

BMP 2: To avoid hitting or crushing wildlife that may be in, or suddenly enter, the roadway, vehicles should generally not exceed 15 mph when traveling in the rights-of-way or along unpaved roads in natural areas. Drive at slower speeds when necessary to avoid generation nuisance levels of dust, such as when travelling along agricultural roads with powdery soil surfaces during dry conditions.

BMP 3: Disturbance to, or removal of, vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete the work, subject to other public and health and safety directives governing the safe operations and maintenance of electric and gas facilities.

BMP4: Trash dumping, firearms, open fires (such as barbecues) not required by the operations and maintenance (O&M) activity, hunting, and pets (except for safety in remote locations) will be prohibited in O&M work activity sites.

BMP 5: : If nesting birds are discovered near the work site, avoid disturbing the nest and follow the Bird Nest Process specified in Work Procedure 2321-01.

BMP 6: If you discover a plant or animal at the work site which you believe may be a protected species, and which is in danger of harm from construction, stop work and call the PG&E project biologist.

PG&E Species and Resource Specific Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) for Construction of a Substation Expansion and Gen-Tie.

AMM 1: San Joaquin Kit Fox. To avoid effects to San Joaquin kit fox a preconstruction survey for kit fox dens should be conducted prior to the beginning of construction activities. These surveys should be conducted by a biologist familiar with identifying known and potential kit fox dens, including natal/pupping dens. The biologist will identify on a map and flag any known or potential dens within or adjacent to the access route and work area so that they may be avoided while accessing and working in the construction area. Potential dens should have 50-foot and known dens 100-foot exclusion zones clearly established around them prior to accessing and working in the project site. If a natal/pupping dens is identified in the construction area or within 200-feet of the construction area, the USFWS should be notified and no disturbances to or near the den should occur without authorization from the USFWS.

AMM 2. Western Burrowing Owl. If work is to occur during the nesting season for burrowing owl (February 1-August 31), a preconstruction survey should be conducted prior to construction activities by a biologist familiar with surveying for western burrowing owls and identifying burrowing owl sign. The survey area should include the access route and construction area as well as areas within 500 feet.

If an occupied burrow is identified within the access and/or construction areas and work is to commence during the nesting season (February 1 – August 31), a 250-foot buffer should be established around the burrow to avoid affects to nesting burrowing owls. If work is to be completed during the non-nesting season (September 1-January 31), a buffer of 160-feet shall be established around occupied burrows.