FEBRUARY 2022

# Project Permitting Review





## **Overview of RFO Project Review**

- EBCE's RPS and Storage RFOs for long-term PPAs include diligence and review of development status that includes environmental review
  - EBCE weights development status at 20% of the total score, this includes the below with equal weighting:
    - Environmental Studies
    - Permit status
    - Interconnection status
    - Site Control
    - Construction Status



# Permitting/Environmental Impacts Criteria

• Evaluation criteria for permitting and environmental impacts for project

scoring

1	Permitting	Please indicate zoning type of the project site.
2	Permitting	Define any more specific zoning designations relative to project county (if applicable).
3	Permitting	Has the project completed a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment?
4	Permitting	Has the primary local land use Permit (e.g. site plan, special use, etc.) been received?
5	Permitting	Has your project obtained all necessary permits, including land use entitlement permit (e.g., Conditional Use Permit (CUP), Application for Certification (AFC), Record of Decision (ROD)) from lead land use permitting agency and all discretionary permits from other lead, trustee and/or responsible agencies
		including wildlife agencies?
6	Permitting	If above answer is "No", please list permits not yet obtained. Further details on these permits to be provided in the Offer Supplement narrative.
7	Permitting	Does the project require a Right of Way permit from BLM, or other federal agency?
8	Permitting	If the answer to above is "Yes", have you received the Record of Decision?
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9	Environmental Impact	Is your project located in RETI Category 1 or 2 lands?
10	Environmental Impact	Is your project located in an area specifically designated as a preferred renewable energy development zone?
11	Environmental Impact	If above answer is "Yes," select landscape planning process for renewable energy in which your project is located:
12	Environmental Impact	If above answer is "Other," please specify:
13	Environmental Impact	Has the project completed the required screens for Threatened or Endangered Species?
14	Environmental Impact	Were any federal- or state-protected species identified during wildlife studies?
15	Environmental Impact	If Yes', please list these species
16	Environmental Impact	Has the Project discussed with any resource agency (USFWS, CDFW) about obtaining an incidental take permit?
17	Environmental Impact	If permit was recommended, for what species?
18	Environmental Impact	Will this project have any wildlife-related curtailment?
19	Environmental Impact	Please state whether the project may impact any federal, state, local or other conservation designations or planning effort, and if yes, what they are.
20	Environmental Impact	The intent is to prioritize "multi-benefit renewable energy" - renewable energy that provides additional societal, health, economic, water saving, or environmental benefits beyond the climate and GHG reduction benefits of renewable energy. Indicate whether your project has multiple benefits, and identify which benefit your project demonstrates:
21	Environmental Impact	If above answer is "Other", please specify:



# **Project Requirements**

- Project Review
  - EBCE received bids from projects with a range of development status
  - Projects that completed all applicable permitting or were advanced in the permitting process were scored more favorably than those in earlier stages of development
- All projects in CA must comply with CEQA guidelines
- Additionally, the Seller must obtain all necessary discretionary and ministerial permits and satisfy requirements from the respective Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to begin project development and construction. This is a requirement of the AHJ as well as a contractual obligation of all EBCE PPAs.
- The pertinent AHJ may be the county, city, or BLM, which all maintain the appropriate depth of knowledge and expertise related to land use and permitting to make the appropriate environmental/permitting determinations





Oberon Renewable Energy Project



#### **Oberon Renewable Energy Project - Introduction**



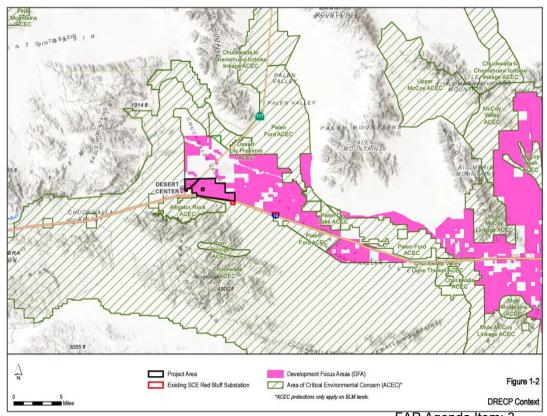
- Oberon is a 500 MWac solar photovoltaic project combined with 250
   MWac of 4-hour battery storage located on BLM land in eastern Riverside
   County, interconnecting to the SCE Red Bluff Substation
- The project is sited in a Development Focus Area identified through the DRECP, a collaborative effort between the CEC, BLM and NGOs to identify land ideal for solar development
- The project underwent exhaustive CEQA and NEPA reviews over a 15 month period, culminating in the approval of an Environmental Impact Report (CEQA) in Dec 2021 and Environmental Assessment (NEPA) in Jan 2022 by CA agencies and BLM, respectively
- The project will begin construction in summer of 2022 and be online by the end of 2023. Once operational, it will serve 130,000 residential customers annually and displace over 1 million metric tons of CO2, equivalent to taking 235,000 cars off the road each year

#### The DRECP



A multi-stakeholder landscape-level planning effort led by the California Energy Commission and the Bureau of Land Management to identify and protect sensitive lands for conservation values and to identify and streamline development for renewable energy development.

In a process that spanned 15 years, the unprecedented plan covers 22.5 million acres in seven California counties—Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego.



#### **Oberon Project Summary**



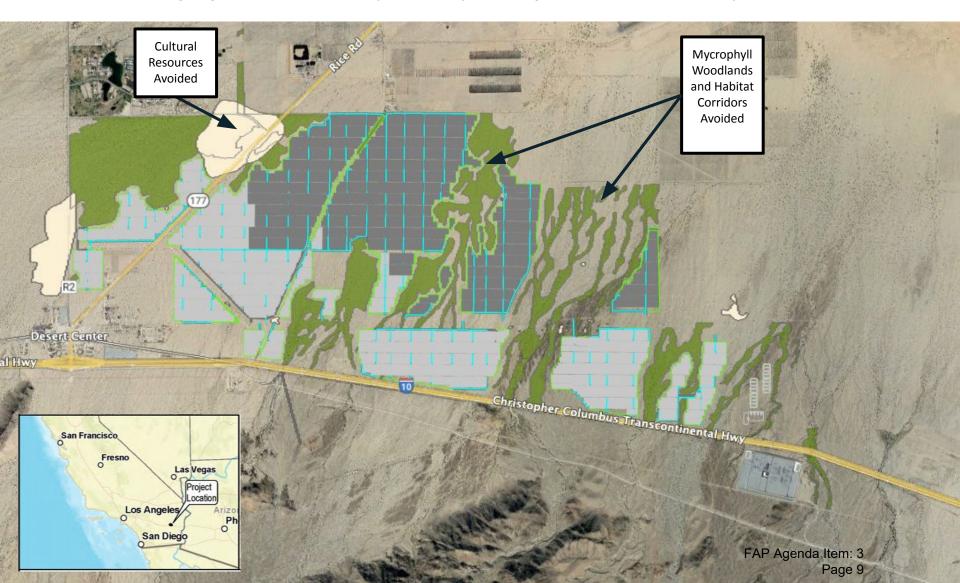
The Oberon project represents a long-earned payoff of the DRECP process, as it is one of the first projects to be approved under the DRECP, along with two other projects also just recently approved.

- Sited in a "Development Focus Area" which was designated in the DRECP for solar energy development
- Application area is 4,700 acres, but through an efficient layout, the final design is only
   2,600 acres to protect sensitive environmental resources and Native American values
- Modular design avoids sensitive resources that occur on site, including prehistoric cultural artifacts, wildlife movement corridors, and sensitive habitats for rare and threatened wildlife species
- A comprehensive CEQA process was conducted by the Colorado River Basin Water
   Quality Control Board, resulting in project approval in December 2021
- A comprehensive NEPA process was conducted by BLM, resulting in project approval in January 2022
- As part of project approval, the project will permanently protect nearly 6,000 acres of high-quality desert habitat, under a conservation easement and endowed management plan

### **Project Design Minimally Impacts Sensitive Resources**



- Project design intentionally avoids 1,100 acres of microphyll woodlands, with direct impact to only 80 acres
- IP Oberon is mitigating this impact at 5:1 ratio by permanently preserving 400 acres of offsite microsphyll woodlands



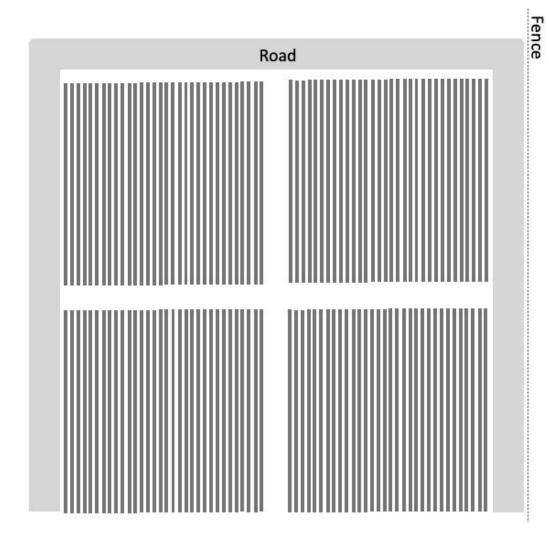
#### **Environmental Design Process**

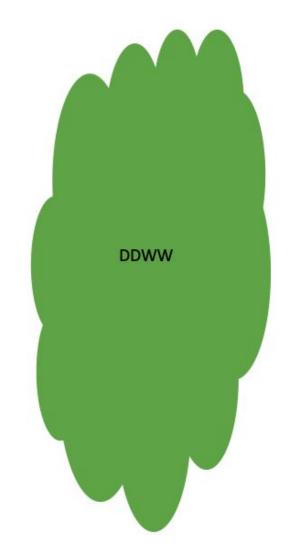


- Over the course of two years, engaged directly with a coalition of NGOs including Audubon Society, NRDC, Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, California Native Plant Society, The Wilderness Society, National Parks Conservation Association, Defenders of Wildlife, and others to address some project design concerns
- Used feedback from NGO coalition to inform project footprint and design to avoid impacts to biological resources, including a habitat type called "microphyll woodlands"
- Final project design avoids highest quality habitat for desert tortoise, nesting birds, rare plants, and avoids all but ~80 acres of microphyll woodlands
- No remaining controversy or opposition to project design remains

## **Road Design Prior to Consultation with NGOs**







## **Road Design After Consultation with NGOs**



