

3.2.3 Population and Housing

3.2.3.1 Analysis of Project Effects

The County's Guidelines for Determining Significance do not include sections on Population and Housing. Therefore, for the purpose of this EIR, Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines) applies to the direct and indirect impact analysis, as well as the cumulative impact analysis.

A significant impact would result if the project would:

- induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)
- displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere
- displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

3.2.3.1.1 Regional Overview

The Proposed Project would be located in the Mountain Empire Subregion of southeastern San Diego County, an approximately 285,000-acre, largely rural, low-density population area that generally lacks substantial utility infrastructure, such as water and wastewater distribution and collection systems.

3.2.3.1.2 Tierra del Sol

The Tierra del Sol solar farm does not include a residential or recreational component that would cause permanent or temporary population increases. Therefore, the Tierra del Sol solar farm would **not result in a direct impact** to population and housing. Construction of the Tierra del Sol solar farm would require up to approximately 120 construction workers, the majority of which are not expected to relocate to the area with their families. Once the solar farm is operational, it would employ up to ~~five~~seven workers. The additional ~~five~~seven workers and their families do not represent a substantial population increase across the Mountain Empire Subregion that would result in people in the area being displaced or requiring additional housing. Indirect impacts would be **less than significant**.

3.2.3.1.3 *Rugged*

The Rugged solar farm does not include a residential or recreational component that would cause permanent or temporary population increases. Therefore, the Rugged solar farm would **not result in a direct impact** to population and housing. Construction of the Tierra Del Sol solar farm would require up to approximately 146 construction workers, the majority of which are not expected to relocate to the area with their families. Once the solar farm is operational, it would employ up to 20 workers. The additional 20 workers and their families do not represent a substantial population increase across the Mountain Empire Subregion that would result in people in the area being displaced or requiring additional housing. Indirect impacts would be **less than significant**.

3.2.3.1.4 *LanEast*

The LanEast solar farm does not include a residential or recreational component that would cause permanent or temporary population increases. Therefore, the LanEast solar farm would **not result in a direct impact** to population and housing. Construction of the LanEast solar farm would require up to approximately 30 construction workers, the majority of which are not expected to relocate to the area with their families. Once the solar farm is operational, it would employ up to three workers. The additional three workers and their families do not represent a substantial population increase across the Mountain Empire Subregion that would result in people in the area being displaced or requiring additional housing. Indirect impacts would be **less than significant**.

3.2.3.1.5 *LanWest*

The LanWest solar farm does not include a residential or recreational component that would cause permanent or temporary population increases. Therefore, the LanWest solar farm would **not result in a direct impact** to population and housing. Construction of the LanWest solar farm would require up to approximately 30 construction workers, the majority of which are not expected to relocate to the area with their families. Once the solar farm is operational it would employ up to three workers. The additional three workers and their families do not represent a substantial population increase across the Mountain Empire Subregion that would result in people in the area being displaced or require additional housing. Indirect impacts would be **less than significant**.

3.2.3.1.6 *Proposed Project*

The Proposed Project does not propose any residential use, included but not limited to a residential subdivision, mobile home park, or construction for a single-family residence that would cause an increase in population. The Proposed Project also does not include a recreational component, such as a hotel, resort, campground, or other facility that would attract or accommodate an increase in visitors to the area that would indirectly cause temporary increases

in population. No homes are located within the Proposed Project area. No homes would be displaced by proposed off-site transmission lines. Therefore, the Proposed Project would **not result in direct impacts** to population and housing.

During construction, the Proposed Project would temporarily add up to approximately ~~146~~326 workers to the region. Few of these workers, if any, ~~would not~~ relocate to the area with their families and are not expected to induce substantial population growth in the Mountain Empire and Boulevard area. Once construction is complete, the Proposed Project would add a combined total of up to ~~331~~ workers and their families to the local area. The workers and their families would likely reside across the large rural area between Campo and Jacumba. The additional workers and their families are not anticipated to result in a substantial increase in population in the area that would displace existing people or in the need for expanded public infrastructure in the area. Overall, indirect impacts to population and housing in the area would be **less than significant**.

3.2.3.2 Cumulative Impact Analysis

As discussed above, the Proposed Project does not propose any residential use, including but not limited to a residential subdivision, mobile home park, or construction for a single-family residence that would cause an increase in population. The Proposed Project also does not include a recreational component, such as a hotel, resort, campground, or other facility. Therefore, the project would **not contribute to any direct cumulative impact** to population and housing.

Construction of the Proposed Project would require up to approximately ~~146~~326 construction workers, the majority of which are not expected to relocate to the area with their families. Once operational, the solar farms would employ up to ~~331~~ workers. The additional ~~331~~ workers and their families do not represent a substantial population increase across the Mountain Empire region that would result in people in the area being displaced. When considered cumulatively with other projects listed on Table 1-12, several of which are residential housing projects, cumulative impacts would be less than significant, since the cumulative need for additional housing for employees at the non-residential development projects would be considered with the additional housing being proposed. Therefore, the combined projects are not expected to cause people or housing to be displaced in the area, and indirect impacts are considered **less than significant**.

3.2.3.3 Mitigation Measures

The Proposed Project would not result in any significant impacts to population and housing. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

3.2.3.4 Conclusion

The Proposed Project would not result in any significant impacts to population and housing.

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