

Dry Lake Valley North SEZ

Cultural Resources Class II Survey Results

Archaeological field work was undertaken at the Dry Lake Valley North Solar Energy Zone (SEZ) in Lincoln County, NV from May 16-23 and August 9, 2012. The Class II sample survey was completed by SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) under contract with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). A total of 1,282 acres, approximately 5% of the SEZ, was surveyed in 37 discrete quadrats of approximately 40 acres each, selected on the basis of a stratified random sample across three strata defined by soil types from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey data (playa soils, recent alluvium and lacustrine sediments, and dissected terrace surfaces). The sample units were inventoried following the Nevada BLM cultural resource inventory guidelines and State Protocol Agreement between the Nevada BLM and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office using pedestrian transects to visually inspect a maximum distance of 15 m on either side of the surveyor (30 m in total). Sites, features, unusual artifacts, disturbances and topographic features were recorded using a handheld Trimble GeoXT GPS unit.

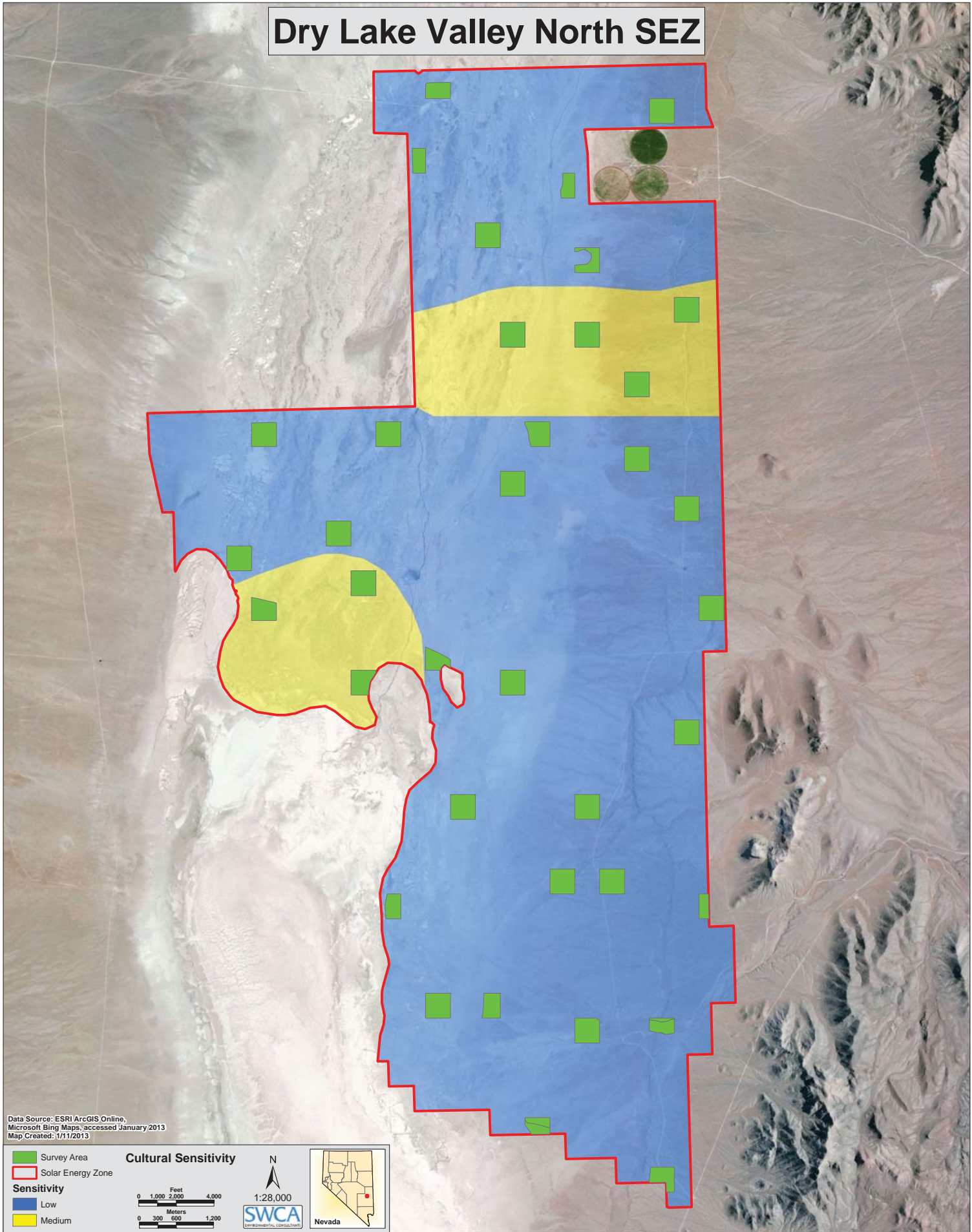
The survey resulted in the recording of 10 new archaeological sites and 10 isolated finds. No previously recorded sites were located within the surveyed areas. SWCA recommended that all 10 sites, consisting of 7 prehistoric lithic scatters and 3 historic debris scatters, and 10 isolated finds (4 flakes and 6 hole-in-top cans) were not eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places* (NRHP). BLM is responsible for determining the NRHP eligibility of all properties on BLM-administered lands consistent with 36CFR800.4.

A cultural resource sensitivity map (Figure 1) of the Dry Lake Valley North SEZ was developed by SWCA in conjunction with the completion of the Class II sample survey. Most of the SEZ is classified as low cultural resource sensitivity due to the low number of sites recorded. Two areas of medium sensitivity were identified where there were higher concentrations of sites and isolated finds in association with more available soil moisture and the potential for increased surface water, either from runoff from the mountains or drainage into the dry lake bed.

A Class III inventory of the area of potential effect (APE) for a solar energy project will be required¹ prior to approving development within the SEZ.

¹ Alternative inventory strategies may be approved by the BLM according to the terms of the Solar Programmatic Agreement provided they are discussed during consultations with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribes, and any other consulting parties.

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Data Source: ESRI/ArcGIS Online,
Microsoft Bing Maps, accessed January 2013
Map Created: 1/11/2013

Cultural Sensitivity

Sensitivity

- Survey Area
- Solar Energy Zone
- Low
- Medium

0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet
0 300 600 1,200 Meters

1:28,000

SWCA
SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Nevada