

Imperial East Solar Energy Zone (SEZ)
SEZ-Specific Design Features

(final Solar PEIS ROD, Section A.4.2)

- *Specially Designated Areas and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics*: Because of the potential increase in human use of the two adjacent ACECs, once solar energy facility construction begins, monitoring of the resources of the ACECs will be used to determine whether additional protection measures are needed to protect existing prehistoric resources.
- *Military and Civilian Aviation*: If power tower facilities are proposed for the SEZ, coordination across the international border should be required to ensure that there is no airspace management concern associated with the Mexicali Airport.
- *Minerals*: To protect the potential for geothermal leasing under solar energy facilities, ROW authorizations for solar energy facilities should be made subject to future geothermal leasing with no surface occupancy stipulations.
- *Water Resources*: Groundwater analyses suggest that full build-out of wet-cooled technologies is not feasible; for mixed-technology development scenarios, any proposed wet-cooled projects should utilize water conservation practices.
- *Wildlife (Amphibians and Reptiles)*: The potential for indirect impacts on several amphibian species could be reduced by maximizing the distance between solar energy development and the All American Canal.
- *Wildlife (Amphibians and Birds)*: Wetland habitats along the southern boundary of the SEZ boundary shall be avoided to the extent practicable. The wetlands along the southern boundary of the SEZ have been designated as undevelopable, but other wetland areas may exist within the SEZ.
- *Wildlife (Mammals)*: Solar project development shall not prevent mule deer free access to the unlined section of the All American Canal.
- *Special Status Species*: Occupied habitats for species that are designated as California fully protected species should be completely avoided. Under California Fish and Game Code Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515, take or possession of these species is prohibited at any time. Minimization and mitigation measures cannot be developed for California fully protected species. This policy applies to the following California fully protected species that may occur in the affected area of the Imperial East SEZ: California black rail and Yuma clapper rail.
- *Acoustic Environment*: Because of the proximity of the proposed Imperial East SEZ to nearby residences and the East Mesa ACEC, and relatively high noise levels around the SEZ due to I-8 and State Route 98, refined modeling, along with background noise measurements, should be conducted in conjunction with project-specific analyses.
- *Cultural Resources*: Consultation efforts should include discussions on significant archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties and on sacred sites and trails with views of the proposed SEZ. The possibility for discovering human burials in the vicinity of the proposed Imperial East SEZ, and its location along the Yuma-San Diego Trail interconnecting a sacred landscape and its associated sites should be discussed. Tribal participation in the Section 106 process will take place according to the Solar Programmatic Agreement (PA), including opportunities for tribal input

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regarding inventory design and treatment decisions and procedures for inadvertent discoveries during construction and operations.