

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

(from Solar PEIS ROD, Section A.4.2)

- *Specially Designated Areas and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics*: Once construction of solar energy facilities begins, the BLM would monitor whether there are increases in human traffic to the seven ACECs in and near the SEZ and determine whether additional design features are required to protect the resources in these areas.
- *Recreation*: A buffer area should be established between the Midland Long Term Visitor Area (LTVA) and solar development to preserve the setting of the LTVA. The size of the buffer should be determined based on the site and visitor-specific criteria.
- *Water Resources*: Groundwater analyses suggest that full build-out of wet-cooled or dry-cooled technologies is not feasible; for mixed-technology development scenarios, any proposed wet- or dry-cooled projects should utilize water conservation practices.
- *Water Resources*: During site characterization, coordination and permitting with CDFG regarding California's Lake and Streambed Alteration Program would be required for any proposed alterations to surface water features.
- *Water Resources*: The use of groundwater in the Chuckwalla Valley and Palo Verde Mesa should be planned for and monitored in cooperation with the BOR and the USGS in reference to the Colorado River Accounting Surface and the rules set forth in the Law of the River.
- *Wildlife (Mammals)*: The fencing around the solar energy development should not block the free passage of mule deer between the Colorado River and mountains or foothills.
- *Wildlife and Special Status Species*: Within the SEZ, two north-south wildlife corridors of sufficient width (a minimum width of 1.3 mi ([2 km], but wider if determined to be necessary through future site-specific studies) should be identified by the BLM in coordination with the FWS and the California Department of Game and Fish. These corridors should be identified as non-development areas within the SEZ on the basis of modeling data and subsequent field verification of permeability for wildlife.
- *Visual Resources*: Special visual impact mitigation shall be considered for solar development on lands in the SEZ within areas west of Township 005S and Range 017E and north of Township 006S and Range 016E, as well as north of Sections 26, 27, 28, and 29 of Township 005S and Range 017E.
- *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, such as the Salt Song, Cocomaricopa, and *Xam Kwatchan* Trails, which connect spiritual landscapes and sacred sites in the area. The possibility of discovering human burials in the vicinity of the proposed Riverside East SEZ should also be discussed.
- *Cultural Resources*: Significant resources clustered in specific areas, such as those surrounding Ford Dry Lake or within the DTC/C-AMA area, which retain sufficient integrity, should be avoided.
- *Cultural Resources*: Monitoring is recommended in sand sheet and colluvium environments similar to those in which buried sites were recently discovered during construction of the Genesis Solar development.

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- *Cultural Resources:* Because the proposed Riverside East SEZ is located adjacent to or near six ACECs, it is possible that the ACECs could be subject to an increase in human and vehicle traffic. Potential construction vehicle corridors should be discussed prior to development of the proposed SEZ in order to avoid possible impacts on historic resources within these ACECs and to determine alternative roads or paths to the development area.