

February 18, 2009

Eric Solorio
Project Manager
California Energy Commission

DOCKET	
08-AFC-2	
DATE	FEB 18 2009
RECD.	FEB 19 2009

Subject: **08-AFC-2** Beacon Solar Energy Project Alternative Sites Analysis

Dear Eric,

Please find below supplemental information on the alternative sites considered for the Beacon Solar Energy Project (BSEP). Also included with this memo are figures which correspond to the three alternative site areas from the AFC that passed through the initial site screening criteria: Manix, South Edwards (two figures included), and Antelope. Expanding on the details previously provided in Table 4-2 of the AFC, Beacon Solar considered the following information when evaluating alternative sites.

Manix

1. The nearest acceptable transmission system connection point is the Pisgah Substation (lower right in the figure), more than 10 miles from the potential project site through mostly native desert ecosystem. This would lead to greater environmental impacts than the much shorter Beacon transmission line connection. On the Manix map there are a couple of closer transmission lines to the northwest of the area, but these do not have the capacity to accommodate 250 MWs.
2. The area consists of many small parcels and separate land owners, which would make it difficult to cobble together a site of sufficient size to develop a 250 MW project.
3. Many of the larger, disturbed areas are considered Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance.

South Edwards

1. As with Manix, the South Edwards area consists of many small parcels and separate land owners, which would make it difficult to cobble together a site of sufficient size to develop a 250 MW project.
2. Many of the larger, disturbed sites are considered Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance.
3. As is shown on the “zoomed-out” South Edwards site map, the closest reasonable point of interconnection is farther from any site in the area than the Barren Ridge

Substation is from Beacon. While there are transmission lines and substations in the immediate area, they are too small to accommodate a 250 MW project.

Antelope

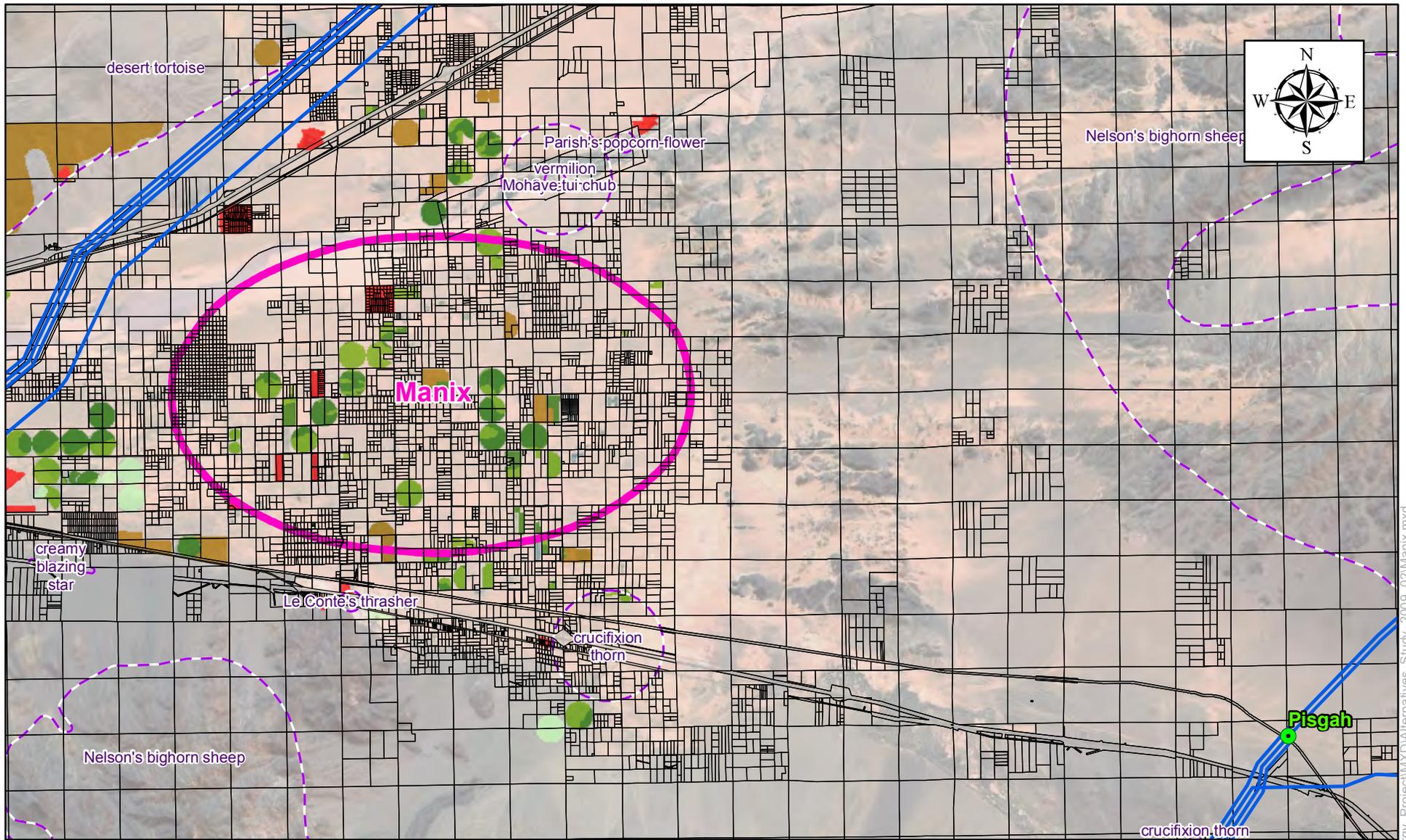
1. As with Manix and South Edwards, the Antelope site also consists of many small parcels and separate land owners, which would make it difficult to cobble together a site of sufficient size to develop a 250 MW project.
2. Many of the larger, disturbed sites are considered Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance.
3. The cost of land in this area, which is much closer to Palmdale/Lancaster and the LA metro area, is significantly more (twice as much) than the land in the Beacon area.

None of this is not to say that a large solar power project could not be developed in these three areas. However, we did not find that any of these sites present a real environmental advantage over the Beacon site and therefore, per CEQA requirements, were not analyzed further in the AFC.

Hopefully this helps you in completing your alternatives analysis. Let me know if you need anything more.

Regards,

Kenny Stein
Environmental Manager
NextEra Energy Resources



Legend

- Substation
- Transmission Line
- Parcel
- CNDDB Area
- Alternative Siting Study Area

CA FMMP Categories

- Urban and Built-Up Land
- Grazing Land
- Farmland of Local Importance
- Prime Farmland
- Farmland of Statewide Importance
- Unique Farmland
- Water

1 in = 2.5 miles

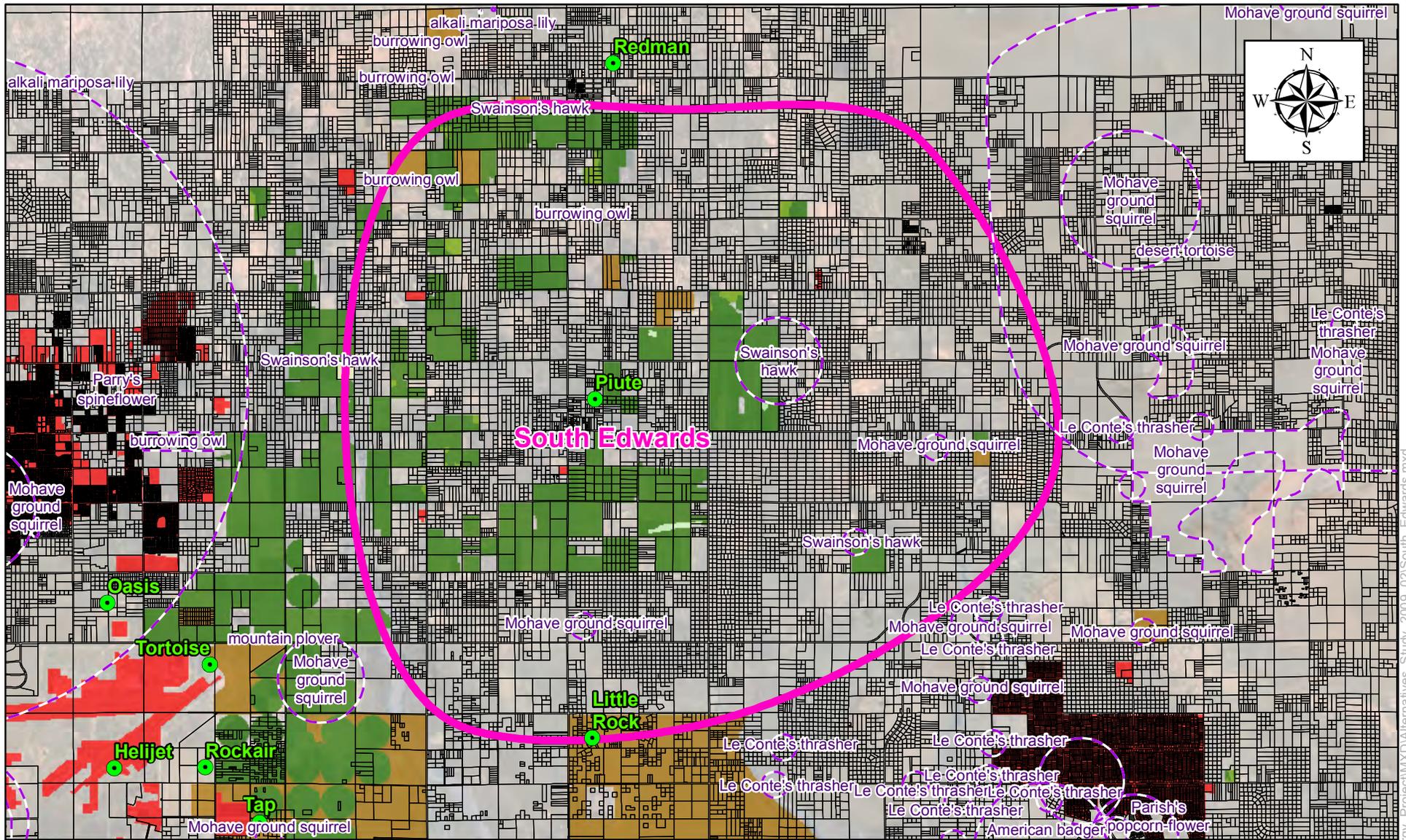
0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

**Beacon Solar Energy Project
Alternatives Study
Exclusion Criteria
Manix Site**

Data Sources:
 Substations and Transmission Lines - NextEra 2009;
 Parcel Data - Kern County 2008;
 CNDDB 2007;
 CA Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program 2006;
 Aerial Imagery: ESRI

**Project: 10056-014
Date: February 2009**

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Legend

- Substation
- Transmission Line
- Parcel
- CNDBB Area
- Alternative Siting Study Area

CA FMMP Categories

- Urban and Built-Up Land
- Grazing Land
- Farmland of Local Importance
- Prime Farmland
- Farmland of Statewide Importance
- Unique Farmland
- Water

1 in = 2 miles

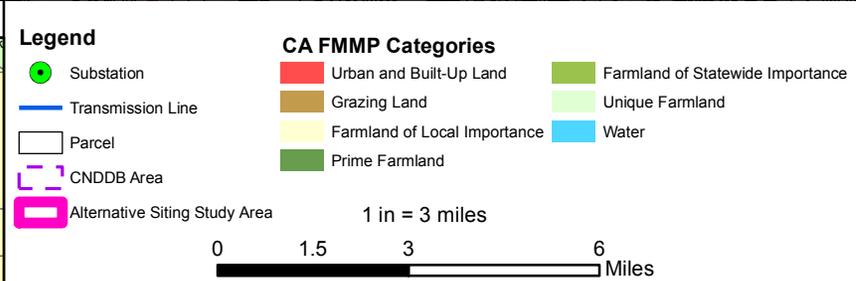
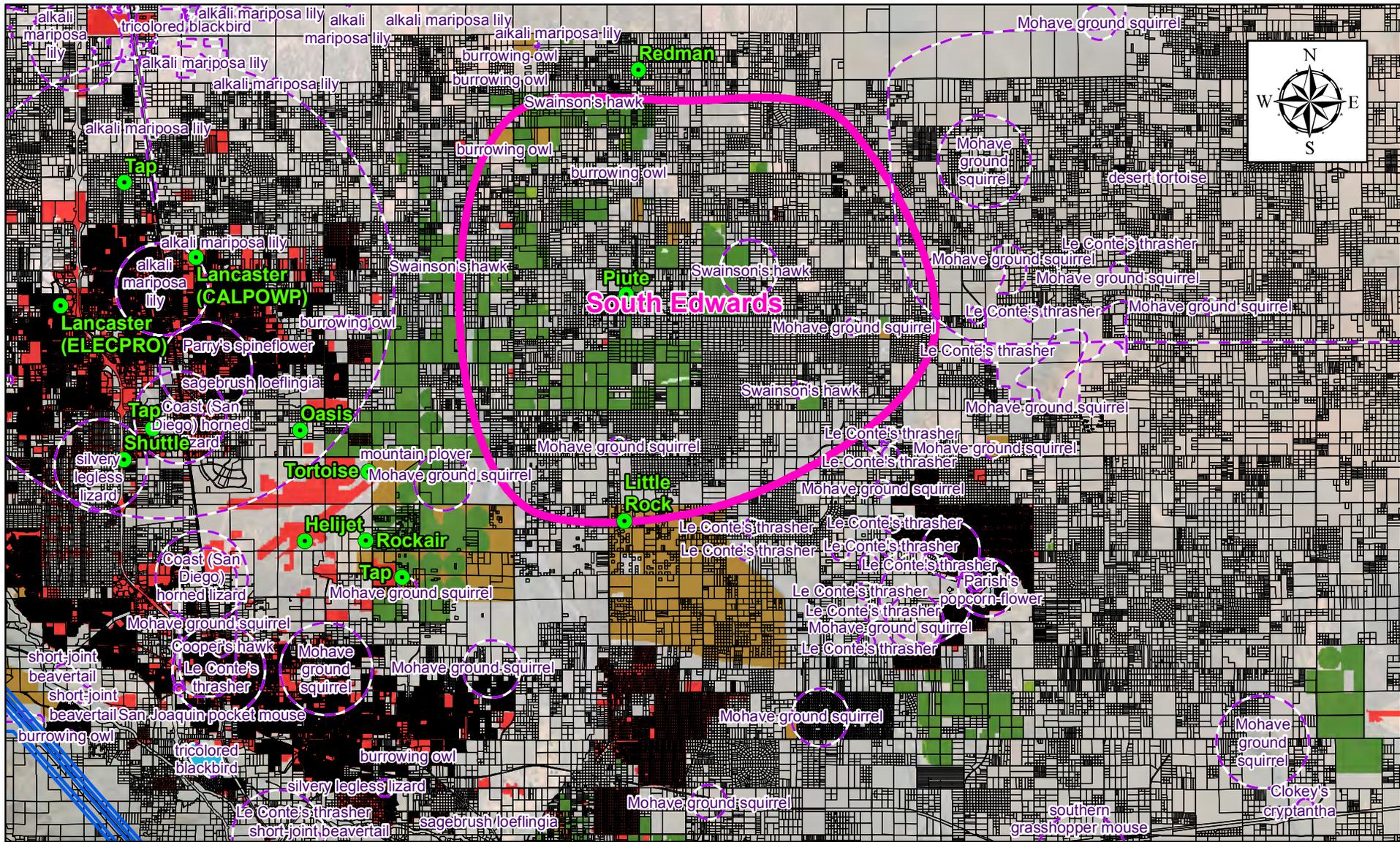
0 1 2 4 Miles

**Beacon Solar Energy Project
Alternatives Study
Exclusion Criteria
South Edwards Site**

Data Sources:
 Substations and Transmission Lines - NextEra 2009;
 Parcel Data - Kern County 2008;
 CNDBB 2007;
 CA Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program 2006;
 Aerial Imagery: ESRI

**Project: 10056-014
Date: February 2009**

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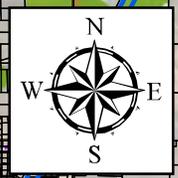
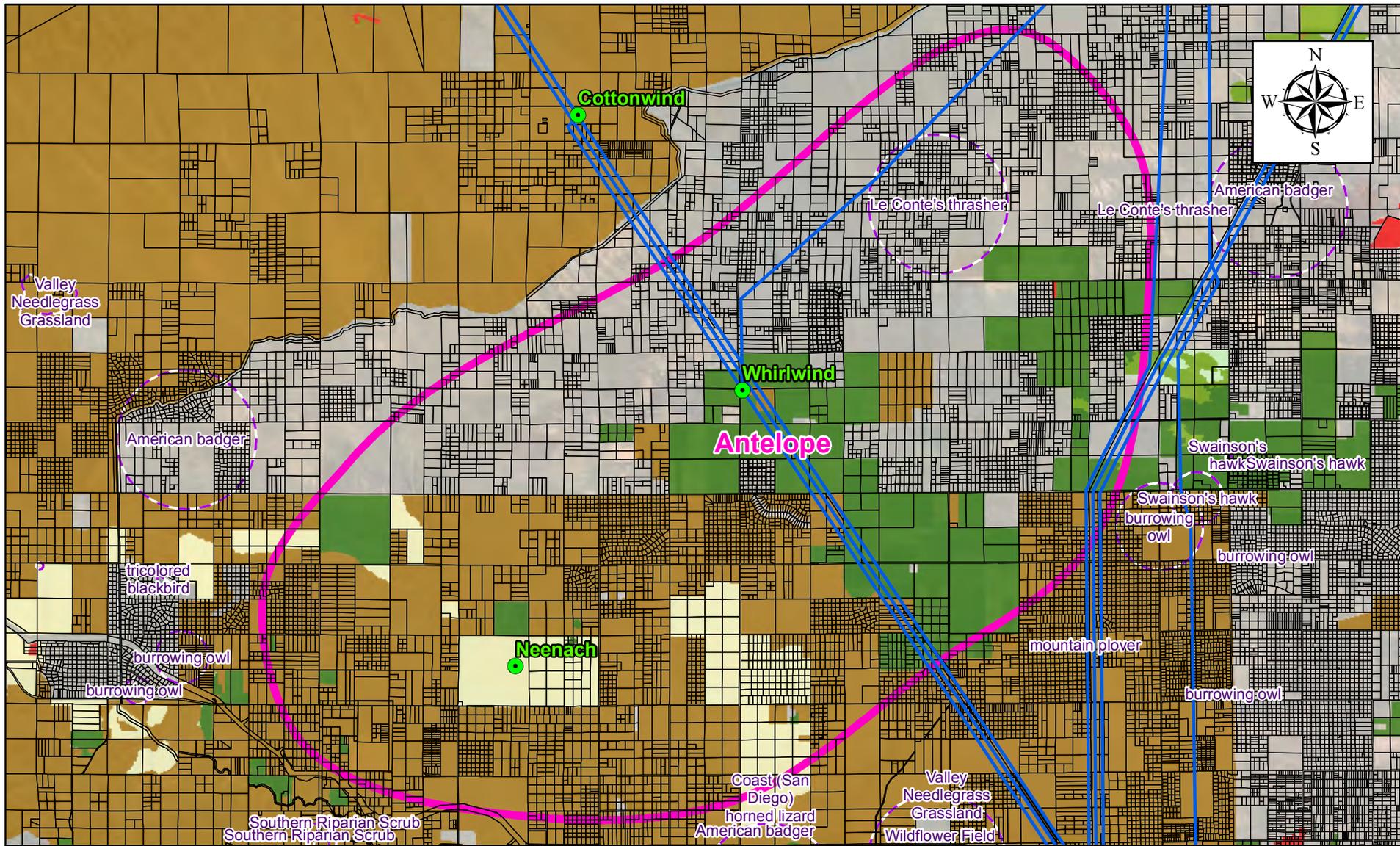
**Beacon Solar Energy Project
Alternatives Study
Exclusion Criteria
South Edwards Site**

Data Sources:
 Substations and Transmission Lines - NextEra 2009;
 Parcel Data - Kern County 2008;
 CNDDB 2007;
 CA Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program 2006;
 Aerial Imagery: ESRI

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 Date: February 2009



Legend

- Substation
- Transmission Line
- Parcel
- CNDDB Area
- Alternative Siting Study Area

CA FMMP Categories

- Urban and Built-Up Land
- Grazing Land
- Farmland of Local Importance
- Prime Farmland
- Farmland of Statewide Importance
- Unique Farmland
- Water

1 in = 2 miles

Beacon Solar Energy Project Alternatives Study Exclusion Criteria Antelope Site

Data Sources:
 Substations and Transmission Lines - NextEra 2009;
 Parcel Data - Kern County 2008;
 CNDDB 2007;
 CA Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program 2006;
 Aerial Imagery: ESRI

Project: 10056-014
 Date: February 2009

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**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR
THE BEACON SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT**

DOCKET NO. 08-AFC-2

PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 2/9/09)

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Declaration of Service

I, Lorraine Ballew, declare that on February 19, 2009, I served and filed copies of the attached **Beacon Solar Energy Project Alternative Sites Analysis**. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/beacon. The document has been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service List) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

(check all that apply)

For Service to All Other Parties

 X sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;

 X by personal delivery or by depositing in the United States mail at Sacramento, California with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed as provided on the Proof of Service List above to those addresses **NOT** marked "email preferred."

AND

For Filing with the Energy Commission

 X sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and e-mailed respectively, to the address below (**preferred method**);

OR

 depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies as follow:

California Energy Commission
Attn: Docket No. 08-AFC-2
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

docket@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

/s/ Lorraine Ballew
Lorraine Ballew