

4.13 Socioeconomics, Population and Housing, and Environmental Justice

This section describes socioeconomics, population and housing, and environmental justice in the area of the Proposed Project. The potential impacts of the Proposed Project and Alternative Project are also discussed. The Project Study Area is defined as the jurisdictions where work described in Chapter 3.0, Project Description, would be performed. The analysis describes the existing and forecast conditions of population and housing in the Project Study Area, evaluates the regional employment and labor force characteristics, and assesses the potential adverse social or economic effects resulting from Proposed Project-related activities.

4.13.1 Environmental Setting

This section describes the existing demographics, housing, employment, and income conditions in the census tracts and jurisdictions where the Proposed Project is located. The Project Study Area includes the cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Colton, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, Palm Springs, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, San Bernardino, and Yucaipa, and unincorporated areas of Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The Proposed Project component in the City of Rancho Cucamonga is limited to improvements within the MEER at Etiwanda Substation. The extent of this work within an existing facility would not have the potential to result in impacts to socioeconomics, population, housing, or environmental justice; therefore, it is not included for further discussion.

Because the components of the Proposed Project are within multiple jurisdictions, the discussion in this section is divided by jurisdiction rather than by segment.

Past and current population and housing data in this section were obtained from the United States Census Bureau (Census Bureau) decadal censuses. Population projections for cities and counties were obtained from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

4.13.1.1 Population

The Inland Empire is a metropolitan area and region of southern California. The Inland Empire sits directly east of the Los Angeles metropolitan area. The term “Inland Empire” is most commonly used in reference to Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Riverside County covers 7,208 square miles in the southern part of the State, and stretches from Orange County to the Colorado River, which forms the border between southern California and Arizona. According to the Census Bureau, the population of Riverside County was 2,189,641 in 2010. With an area of 20,105 square miles, San Bernardino County is the largest county in the contiguous United States by area. According to the Census Bureau, the population of San Bernardino County was 2,035,210 in 2010. Table 4.13-1, Regional Population Density, provides the regional population densities for the two counties.

Table 4.13-1: Regional Population Density

Community	Persons Per Square Mile
Riverside County	303.8
San Bernardino County	101.5

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

Current projections from SCAG indicate that population growth in the Inland Empire is expected to continue at a rapid pace, increasing by approximately 16 percent, to over 2,367,202 by 2020 in San Bernardino County; and by almost 23 percent, to 2,682,710 by 2020 in Riverside County.

Historical data on population totals and trends for the communities in the Project Study Area are presented in Table 4.13-2, Historic and Forecast Population, and show the forecast population growth in the relevant counties and communities between 2000 and 2010. As stated above, growth is expected to continue through 2020.

Table 4.13-2: Historic and Forecast Population

Community	2000 Census	2010 Census	Percent Change (2000–2010)	2020 Projection	2035 Projection	Percent Change (2010–2035)
City of Banning	23,562	29,603	25.6	42,200	61,900	109.1
City of Beaumont	11,384	36,877	223.9	56,500	79,400	115.3
City of Calimesa	7,139	7,879	10.4	14,800	25,800	227.5
City of Colton	47,662	52,154	9.4	60,700	71,700	37.5
City of Grand Terrace	11,626	12,040	3.6	11,600	13,000	8.0
City of Loma Linda	18,681	23,261	24.5	26,700	31,700	36.3
City of Palm Springs	42,807	44,552	4.1	48,900	56,100	25.9
City of Redlands	63,591	68,747	8.1	75,500	87,900	27.9
City of San Bernardino	185,401	209,924	13.2	231,200	261,400	26.0
City of Yucaipa	41,207	51,367	24.7	55,800	61,900	20.5
Riverside County	1,545,387	2,189,641	41.7	2,592,000	3,324,000	51.8
San Bernardino County	1,709,434	2,035,210	19.1	2,268,000	2,750,000	35.1

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2010 Census; Southern California Association of Governments, Integrated Growth Forecast, Regional Transportation Plan 2012.

4.13.1.2 Race and Ethnicity

According to the Census Bureau, the ethnic composition of the entire population of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties is shown in Table 4.13-3, Regional Race and Ethnicity, which shows that both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties have a slight majority of non-Hispanic persons as well a majority of people who self-identify as white. Table 4.13-4, Race and Ethnicity of Census Tracts Located in the Project Study Area, provides the ethnic composition of the Census Tracts located in the Project Study Area. Refer to Figure 4.13-1, Census Tracts, for a map of Census Tracts located in the Project Study Area.

Table 4.13-3: Regional Race and Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Riverside County (percentage of total population)	San Bernardino County (percentage of total population)
White	61	56.7
Black	6.4	8.9
Asian	6	6.3
Native American, Hawaiian, Alaskan or other Pacific Islander	1.4	1.4
Other	20.5	21.6
Two or More Races	4.8	5
Hispanic	45.5	49.2
Non-Hispanic	54.5	50.8

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

Table 4.13-4: Race and Ethnicity of Census Tracts Located in the Project Study Area

Census Tract	Population	Non-White	Hispanic
Census Tract 71.04	7,689	54.2%	18.5%
Census Tract 71.05	6,725	57.8%	19.7%
Census Tract 71.07	3,372	51.0%	13.2%
Census Tract 71.08	2,202	68.9%	45.7%
Census Tract 71.09	6,064	51.0%	38.6%
Census Tract 72	5,493	7.5%	7.5%
Census Tract 73.02	2,060	6.3%	6.8%
Census Tract 73.05	4,060	61.4%	33.8%
Census Tract 73.06	5,859	55.5%	24.1%
Census Tract 78	5,724	26.8%	25.9%
Census Tract 83.01	3,094	10.1%	7.6%
Census Tract 83.02	3,106	15.6%	15.0%
Census Tract 85	8,316	17.3%	12.4%
Census Tract 438.07	5,743	31.7%	38.1%
Census Tract 438.09	3,015	9.8%	15.0%
Census Tract 438.10	4,933	26.7%	25.7%
Census Tract 438.11	3,877	16.8%	21.2%
Census Tract 438.12	5,409	6.4%	6.3%
Census Tract 438.13	4,340	40.0%	36.1%
Census Tract 438.14	905	7.1%	6.9%
Census Tract 438.18	3,832	39.5%	36.0%
Census Tract 438.20	3,895	41.8%	37.3%
Census Tract 438.21	2,707	46.4%	47.4%
Census Tract 438.22	2,689	29.2%	37.0%
Census Tract 438.23	7,023	38.0%	33.7%
Census Tract 439	6,405	35.3%	51.1%

Table 4.13-4: Race and Ethnicity of Census Tracts Located in the Project Study Area

Census Tract	Population	Non-White	Hispanic
Census Tract 440	2,109	43.3%	64.2%
Census Tract 441.03	5,669	28.1%	33.9%
Census Tract 441.04	2,647	32.6%	40.0%
Census Tract 442	5,701	59.9%	56.3%
Census Tract 443	4,774	40.7%	48.5%
Census Tract 445.21	1,196	25.9%	30.4%
Census Tract 445.22	4,876	32.2%	48.9%

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

4.13.1.3 Housing

This section addresses the housing availability within the Project Study Area. Information is provided on the total number of housing units, vacancy rates, and the number of vacant housing units in the communities located in the Project Study Area. In addition, temporary housing within both Riverside and San Bernardino counties is discussed.

Housing Units and Vacancy Rates

Based on the 2010 Census, Table 4.13-5, Housing Vacancy Rates, shows the total number of housing units, vacancy rates, and number of vacant housing units in the relevant counties and communities. The following subsections provide additional information on housing availability for Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Table 4.13-5: Housing Vacancy Rates

Community	Total Number of Housing Units	Number of Vacant Units	Percent Vacant
City of Banning	12,144	1,306	10.8
City of Beaumont	12,908	1,107	8.6
City of Calimesa	3,687	373	10.1
City of Colton	16,350	1,379	8.4
City of Grand Terrace	4,649	246	5.3
City of Loma Linda	9,649	885	9.2
City of Palm Springs	34,794	12,048	34.6*
City of Redlands	26,634	1,870	7.0
City of San Bernardino	65,401	6,118	9.4
City of Yucaipa	19,642	1,411	7.2
Riverside County (Unincorporated)	800,707	114,447	14.3
San Bernardino County (Unincorporated)	699,637	88,019	12.6

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

*The U.S. Census Bureau subdivides "vacant units" into seven housing market classifications: for rent; rented, not occupied; for sale only; sold, not occupied; for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use; for migrant workers; and other vacant. The largest portion of the vacant units in the City of Palm Springs in 2010 (8,151 units; 23.4 percent) were "seasonal, recreational, or occasional use" units. This class of units is more commonly referred to as "vacation" homes, but this category also includes units occupied on an occasional basis, such as corporate apartments and other temporary residences where all household members reported their residence was elsewhere.

Riverside County. In 2010, the countywide vacancy rate, at 14.3 percent, was considerably higher than California’s 8.1 percent vacancy rate and the United States’ 11.4 percent vacancy rate. None of the cities in Riverside County within the Project Study Area has as low a vacancy rate as the State of California’s rate.

San Bernardino County. In 2010, the countywide vacancy rate, at 12.6 percent, was higher than California’s 8.1 percent vacancy rate and the United States’ 11.4 percent vacancy rate. However, of the cities in San Bernardino County that are within the Project Study Area, all but the City of Loma Linda have vacancy rates that are lower than the vacancy rate of the State of California.

Temporary Housing. The vacancy rates for temporary housing (hotels) vary seasonally for both counties.

Riverside County had a 58 percent occupancy rate on average through July 2011 compared to a 54.5 percent occupancy rate in the same time in 2010 and 53.5 percent occupancy rate in 2009. The County’s hotels earned \$63.63 per available room on average (*Press-Enterprise* 2011).

San Bernardino County had a 58.8 percent occupancy rate on average as of July 2011, with \$41.73 in revenue earned per available room, compared to 56.5 percent occupancy rate in the first half of 2010 and 53.8 percent rate in 2009 (*Ibid.*).

4.13.1.4 Employment and Income

Employment

Table 4.13-6, Employment and Unemployment Rates, provides the 2010 Census civilian unemployment rates for the communities located in the Project Study Area. The rate of unemployment is the same in both Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Among the cities, the City of Yucaipa has the highest rate of unemployment at 7.7 percent, and the City of Calimesa has the lowest rate of unemployment at 3.9 percent.

Table 4.13-6: Employment and Unemployment Rates

Community	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Percent Unemployed
City of Banning	10,553	9,290	1,263	5.3
City of Beaumont	15,156	14,093	1,063	4.1
City of Calimesa	3,207	2,956	251	3.9
City of Colton	24,223	21,578	2,645	7.2
City of Grand Terrace	6,677	6,132	545	5.6
City of Loma Linda	11,268	10,267	1,001	5.2
City of Palm Springs	22,233	19,980	2,253	5.7
City of Redlands	34,939	32,073	2,866	5.3
City of San Bernardino	86,764	70,930	15,834	10.4
City of Yucaipa	24,519	21,529	2,990	7.7
Riverside County	1,001,964	865,369	136,595	8.5

Table 4.13-6: Employment and Unemployment Rates

Community	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Percent Unemployed
San Bernardino County	938,584	811,363	127,221	8.5

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2008–2010 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Table 4.13-7, Employment by Industry, provides the 2010 Census civilian employment data for Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The construction industry represents less than 10 percent of the total employment in both counties. Between December 2010 and December 2011, total nonfarm employment increased by 22,900 jobs, or 2.1 percent, in the Riverside–San Bernardino–Ontario metropolitan statistical area¹ (MSA) while agricultural employment decreased by 200 jobs, or 1.3 percent (California Employment Development Department 2012).

Table 4.13-7: Employment by Industry

Industry	Riverside County		San Bernardino County	
	Employment	Percentage of Total	Employment	Percentage of Total
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Mining	13,089	1.5	6,577	0.8
Construction	78,424	9.1	65,361	8.1
Manufacturing	82,066	9.5	84,455	10.4
Wholesale Trade	29,990	3.5	31,324	3.9
Retail Trade	111,478	12.9	103,746	12.8
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	46,796	5.4	61,224	7.5
Information	14,732	1.7	14,385	1.8
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	48,287	5.6	42,711	5.3
Professional, Scientific, Management	85,841	9.9	66,897	8.2
Educational Services, Health Care, and Social Services	176,118	20.4	180,267	22.2
Arts, entertainment, recreation, and hospitality industry	91,987	10.6	69,161	8.5
Public Administration	41,782	4.8	46,303	5.7
Other	44,779	5.2	38,952	4.8
Total	865,369	100	811,363	100

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2008–2010 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates.

Income

The 2010 Census determined the median household income and average per capita income for communities within the Project Study Area, as shown in Table 4.13-8,

¹ In the United States a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) is a geographical region with a relatively high population density at its core and close economic ties throughout the area. MSAs are defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget only and used by the U.S. Census Bureau and other U.S. government agencies for statistical purposes only.

Median Household and Per Capita Income. Poverty levels are addressed in the low-income population’s subsection of this discussion.

The 2010 Census median household income levels varied for the communities within the Project Study Area, as evidenced in Table 4.13-8, Median Household and Per Capita Income.

Table 4.13-8: Median Household and Per Capita Income

Community	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income
City of Banning	36,268	19,898
City of Beaumont	67,948	25,381
City of Calimesa	48,945	22,951
City of Colton	41,620	16,089
City of Grand Terrace	62,335	29,193
City of Loma Linda	56,441	29,920
City of Palm Springs	44,731	38,031
City of Redlands	68,851	32,134
City of San Bernardino	37,214	14,798
City of Yucaipa	59,596	35,019
Riverside County	56,156	23,408
San Bernardino County	53,969	21,356

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008–2010 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

4.13.1.5 Environmental Justice

Environmental justice has been defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Concern that minority and low-income populations might be bearing a disproportionate share of adverse health and environmental impacts led President Clinton to issue an Executive Order (EO) in 1994 to address these issues. EO 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, directs Federal agencies to make environmental justice part of their mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. Impacts on minority or low-income populations that could result from the Proposed Project are analyzed for the geographic areas in which the Proposed Project would be located to determine whether there would be a disproportionately high and adverse impact to minority populations.

Minority Populations

For the purpose of this Proposed Project, minority refers to people who classified themselves in the 2010 Census as Black or African American, Asian or Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Hispanic of any race or origin, or other nonwhite races (Council of Environmental Quality [CEQ] Regulations 1997). Because the Hispanic

population can be either white or nonwhite, it is not possible to calculate minority population by adding racial minorities to the Hispanic population (an ethnic classification).

Demographic information from the 2010 Census was used to identify minority populations in the areas located in the Project Study Area (refer to Table 4.13-4, Race and Ethnicity of Census Tracts Located in the Project Study Area). Census data are reported on the level of census tracts, a geographical area that varies with size depending largely on population density (low-population density census tracts generally cover larger geographical areas). Information on locations and numbers of minority populations was obtained for the census tracts located in the Project Study Area.

Low Income Populations

Environmental justice guidance defines low-income population using statistical poverty thresholds as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty levels indicate what percentage of the population has income below what is necessary for basic necessities, such as adequate housing, food, transportation, energy, and health care. Information on low-income populations was developed from 2010 incomes and reported in the 2010 Census. In 2010, the poverty-weighted average threshold for an individual was \$11,139 (United States Census Bureau 2011).

To determine the number of families below the poverty threshold, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family’s total income is less than the family’s threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty. For example, for a household with four persons (two adults and two children), the threshold is \$22,113, whereas for a family of six (two adults and four children), the threshold is \$29,137. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or non-cash benefits, such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps (United States Census Bureau 2011).

Table 4.13-9, 2010 Estimated Poverty Level, shows the poverty levels for the communities in the Project Study Area from the 2010 Census. In Riverside County, approximately 11 percent of families and 15 percent of individuals were classified as living in poverty based on the Census Bureau’s poverty threshold. In San Bernardino County, approximately 13 percent of families and 17 percent of individuals were classified as living in poverty.

Table 4.13-9: 2010 Estimated Poverty Level

Community	Percentage of Families Below the Poverty Line	Percentage of Individuals Below the Poverty Line
City of Banning	16.4	18.8
City of Beaumont	7.0	11.0
City of Calimesa	10.0	13.7
City of Colton	10.5	14.4

Table 4.13-9: 2010 Estimated Poverty Level

Community	Percentage of Families Below the Poverty Line	Percentage of Individuals Below the Poverty Line
City of Grand Terrace	2.1	3.9
City of Loma Linda	8.3	14.0
City of Palm Springs	8.4	12.4
City of Redlands	8.1	11.1
City of San Bernardino	27.0	32.3
City of Yucaipa	8.0	10.3
Riverside County	10.9	14.5
San Bernardino County	13.1	16.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008–2010 American Community Survey.

4.13.2 Regulatory Setting

This section identifies Federal, State, and local environmental justice regulations, plans, and standards that pertain to the Proposed Project. Environmental justice would relate directly to the physical impacts to housing, as well as the health and safety of affected populations.

4.13.2.1 Federal Regulatory Setting

Socioeconomics

National Environmental Policy Act

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that potential socioeconomic impacts be identified for projects that have a federal component (i.e., either a Federal Agency action or funding). Implementation of the Proposed Project includes a new 220 kV transmission line location and ROW of approximately 3 miles within the reservation trust land (the “Reservation”) of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. In addition, the Proposed Project is located on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Population and Housing

There are no Federal regulations, plans, or standards that relate directly to population and housing in the Project Study Area.

Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice)

Environmental justice issues associated with the Proposed Project were evaluated in accordance with EO 12898, *Federal Action to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, published in the Federal Register (59 FR 7629) and CEQ (1997). Although not required by the California Environmental Quality

Act (CEQA), environmental justice is assessed for purposes of the analysis of the Proposed Project under NEPA.

Environmental justice refers to the fair treatment of people of all races, income, and cultures with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment implies that no person or group of people should shoulder a disproportionate share of negative impacts resulting from the execution of Federal programs.

EO 12989, signed by President Clinton in 1994, requires Federal governmental agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. This EO establishes the framework for Federal agencies to enforce health and environmental statutes in areas with low-income and minority populations, ensure greater public participation, improve research and data collection, and identify differential patterns of consumption of natural resources among low-income and minority populations.

4.13.2.2 State Regulatory Setting

Socioeconomics

There are no State regulations, plans, or standards that relate directly to socioeconomics in the Project Study Area.

Population and Housing

California Environmental Policy Act

California Environmental Policy Act (CEQA) requires that potential population and housing impacts be identified for projects that are located within California. See Section 4.13.3.1, CEQA Significance Criteria for additional detail.

Environmental Justice

There are no State regulations or standards that relate directly to environmental justice in the Project Study Area.

4.13.2.3 Local Regulatory Setting

Socioeconomics

There are no regulations or standards that relate directly to socioeconomics in the Project Study Area.

Population and Housing

There are no local regulations or standards that relate directly to population and housing in the Project Study Area.

Environmental Justice

There are no local regulations or standards that relate directly to environmental justice in the Project Study Area.

Morongo Reservation

The Proposed Project will traverse approximately 8 miles of the tribal trust lands of the Morongo Indian Reservation east of Banning, California. Except for approximately two miles of new corridor between Malki Road and the western boundary of the Reservation, the Proposed Project will utilize the transmission corridor that has been used by existing SCE 220 kV transmission lines starting in 1945, and as subsequently expanded. Matters concerning the use of the Reservation's trust lands are subject to approval by the Morongo Band's General Membership, which consists of all enrolled adult voting members. With limited exceptions, the Morongo Band does not release its internal ordinances and other laws to the public.

The Morongo Band's General Membership has voted to approve the Bureau of Indian Affairs' grants to SCE of the rights of way and easements necessary for SCE to continue operating its existing 220 kV facilities on the Morongo Reservation and to replace and upgrade those facilities with the WOD Project. The Morongo Band's approval of these grants of rights of way and easements includes relocating approximately two miles of the corridor west of Malki Road into a new corridor depicted on Figure 2-3, Proposed and Alternative Transmission Line Routes, as either the Proposed Project (Alternative 1) or the Alternative Project (1X). The existing corridor, plus either Alternative 1 or 1X, thus would be consistent with all applicable tribal laws, and are the only corridors approved by the Morongo Band for the continued operation and eventual replacement of SCE's 220 kV facilities on and across the trust lands of the Morongo Indian Reservation.

4.13.3 Significance Criteria

4.13.3.1 CEQA Significance Criteria

The significance criteria for assessing the impacts to population and housing come from the CEQA Environmental Checklist. According to the CEQA Checklist, a project causes a potentially significant impact if it would:

- Induce substantial population growth in the area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through the extension of new 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.

4.13.3.2 NEPA Analysis

Unlike CEQA, NEPA does not have specific significance criteria. However, the NEPA regulations contain guidance regarding significance analysis. Specifically, consideration of “significance” involves an analysis of both context and intensity (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.2).

4.13.4 Impact Analysis

4.13.4.1 CEQA Impact Assessment

Would the project induce substantial population growth in the area, either directly (by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (through the extension of new roads or other infrastructure)?

The following discussion addresses all project components, including substation modifications, 220 kV transmission lines, 66 kV subtransmission lines, 12 kV distribution lines, telecommunication facilities, and the establishment of staging yards.

Construction Impacts

The number of workers that would be employed to construct the Proposed Project would not directly or indirectly induce any population growth in the area. Construction activities are anticipated to occur for approximately 36 to 48 months, and during peak construction periods, it is anticipated that there would be up to approximately 334 construction-related workers per day. The labor demands of the Proposed Project would be met by existing SCE employees and by hiring construction workers from the local or regional labor pool. Taking into consideration the large employment base to draw from in southern California, the estimated number of positions required during the construction phase would not directly or indirectly induce new population growth in the area.

Construction of the Proposed Project would not be expected to indirectly induce an increase in population because construction activity would not include the extension or expansion of new infrastructure that would support growth, such as publicly accessible roads, or expand electrical services to an area currently not serviced. The Proposed Project would improve the energy transmission infrastructure to support the transmission of electricity generated by renewable energy projects (such as solar and wind) that are being developed in the Riverside East area (Blythe and Desert Center areas).

Therefore, no impacts related to population growth would occur as a result of construction of the Proposed Project.

Operation Impacts

As explained in Section 3.12, Project Operation and Maintenance, operation of the transmission, subtransmission, distribution, and telecommunications lines would be controlled remotely through SCE control systems and manually in the field as required. Such operation and maintenance activities would be conducted by current SCE personnel, and the Proposed Project would not require the hiring of any additional operations personnel. Therefore, operation of the Proposed Project would not directly or indirectly induce new population growth in the area.

The Proposed Project would improve the energy transmission infrastructure to support the transmission of electricity generated by renewable energy projects (such as solar and wind) that are being developed in the Riverside East area (Blythe and Desert Center areas). The electrical transmission infrastructure that would be constructed as part of the Proposed Project is not designed to facilitate or induce additional electrical consumption or population growth, but rather is being proposed in response to development of new generation projects.

Therefore, no impacts related to population growth would occur as a result of operation of the Proposed Project.

Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The following discussion addresses all project components, including substation modifications, 220 kV transmission lines, 66 kV subtransmission lines, 12 kV distribution lines, telecommunication facilities, and the establishment of staging yards.

Construction Impacts

The Proposed Project would not displace any existing housing. The Proposed Project's transmission infrastructure would be installed on existing SCE-owned property, in existing or new ROW, or on lands where SCE holds easement rights or on lands where SCE would acquire ROW through fee title, lease, or easement. There are no residences within the existing SCE ROW and none within the proposed ROW on the Reservation.

The construction phase of the Proposed Project would not affect the local housing market. There may be a need for temporary accommodations during the construction phase for non-local laborers while they work on particular components of the Proposed Project's construction. It is anticipated that these individuals would be accommodated in local existing hotels and motels located in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. As discussed in Section 4.13.1, Environmental Setting, Riverside County had a 58 percent occupancy rate on average through July 2011. San Bernardino County had a 58.8 percent occupancy rate on average as of July 2011. Therefore, these individuals could be accommodated in existing hotels and motels and would not trigger any additional demand for housing during their short stays. Therefore, no impacts related to housing displacement would occur as a result of construction of the Proposed Project.

Operation Impacts

There are no residences within the existing SCE ROW and none within the proposed ROW on the Reservation. Therefore, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project would not displace any existing housing. As explained in Section 3.12, Project Operation and Maintenance, operation of the 220 kV transmission, 66 kV subtransmission, 12 kV distribution, and telecommunications lines would be controlled remotely through SCE control systems and manually in the field as required. Such operation and maintenance activities would be conducted by current SCE personnel, and the Proposed Project would not require the hiring of any additional operations personnel. As such, there would be no additional demand for housing and no impact to the local housing market. Therefore, no impacts related to housing displacement would occur as the result of operation of the Proposed Project.

Would the project displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The following discussion addresses all project components, including substation modifications, 220 kV transmission lines, 66 kV subtransmission lines, 12 kV distribution lines, telecommunication facilities, and the establishment of staging yards.

Construction Impacts

Existing residences are located near portions of the existing and proposed ROW; however, no occupied housing units exist within the SCE ROW or on any of the access roads that would be used during construction. Therefore, no people would be displaced during construction of the Proposed Project, and no replacement housing would need to be constructed elsewhere. No impacts related to the displacement of people would occur as a result of construction of the Proposed Project.

Operation Impacts

Operation activities associated with the Proposed Project would occur within the existing and proposed ROW. For the same reasons noted above, no people would be displaced during operation of the Proposed Project and no replacement housing would be constructed elsewhere. Therefore, no impacts related to the displacement of people would occur as the result of operation of the Proposed Project.

4.13.4.2 NEPA Impact Assessment

Unlike CEQA, NEPA does not have specific significance criteria. However, the NEPA regulations contain guidance regarding significance analysis. Specifically, consideration of “significance” involves an analysis of both context and intensity (40 C.F.R. 1508.27).

As explained in Section 4.13.2, Regulatory Setting, NEPA requires that potential socioeconomic impacts be identified for projects that have a Federal component. The analysis presented below focuses on impacts related to socioeconomics and environmental justice as those discussions are unique to NEPA.

The following discussion addresses all project components, including substation modifications, 220 kV transmission lines, 66 kV subtransmission lines, 12 kV distribution lines, telecommunication facilities, and the establishment of staging yards.

Construction Impacts

The census tracts potentially affected by the Proposed Project are discussed in Section 4.13.1, Environmental Setting. The ethnic composition of the entire population of Riverside and San Bernardino counties is shown in Table 4.13-3, Regional Race and Ethnicity, which shows that both Riverside and San Bernardino counties have a slight majority of non-Hispanic persons as well a majority of people who self-identify as White. Based on the Census Bureau's poverty threshold, approximately 11 percent of families and 15 percent of individuals in Riverside County and approximately 13 percent of families and 17 percent of individuals in San Bernardino County are living in poverty.

Most of the potentially significant environmental impacts from construction of the Proposed Project would be less than significant or be mitigated to less than significant levels with implementation of Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs), and thus, would not have a significant adverse impact on any area population. However, construction of the Proposed Project would have a temporary significant and unavoidable construction air quality impact because construction-related emissions would exceed the thresholds of significance for various pollutants. The significant air quality construction impacts would be short-term in nature and would affect regional air quality based on emissions from construction activities occurring at various times across the linear project route. The Proposed Project would not result in significant localized air quality impacts that would impact low-income or minority populations. Given the short-term and regional nature of the Proposed Project's significant air quality construction impacts, low-income or minority populations would not be disproportionately affected.

Therefore, construction of the Proposed Project would not result in disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minority or low-income populations.

Operation Impacts

Operations and maintenance of the Proposed Project would occur on an annual and as-needed basis in the immediate vicinity of the proposed facilities (similar to what currently occurs for the existing transmission lines). All service and maintenance actions would occur within existing and proposed SCE ROW and would have negligible short-term impacts to adjacent residences. Any potential environmental impacts from Proposed Project operation would be less than significant. No population would experience a significant adverse operation impact, and thus, minority and low-income populations would not be disproportionately impacted affected by operation of the Proposed Project.

4.13.5 Applicant Proposed Measures

The Proposed Project would not result in impacts related to socioeconomics, population, housing, or environmental justice. Therefore, no Applicant Proposed Measures are proposed.

4.13.6 Alternative Project

The 220 kV Line Route Alternative 2 (Alternative Project) would include relocation of an approximately 3-mile section of Segment 5 of the existing WOD corridor pursuant to an agreement between SCE and Morongo (see Figure 3.1-3, Transmission Line Route Description). Both the Proposed Project and Alternative Project include the same common elements outside of Segment 5.

The Alternative Project transects the same census tracts as the Proposed Project; therefore, the socioeconomic effects of the alternative are the same as those of the Proposed Project. As with the Proposed Project, there would be no displacement of existing housing, and thus it would not be necessary to construct replacement housing elsewhere. The Alternative Project would not require any additional workers beyond those required by the Proposed Project, and this alternative would not disproportionately and negatively affect a minority or low income population. The Alternative Project would have the same socioeconomic, population and housing, and environmental justice impacts as the Proposed Project.

4.13.7 No Project Alternative

Under the No Project Alternative, existing conditions would remain in place. The existing transmission corridor and associated facilities would continue to operate in the existing socioeconomic, population and housing, and environmental justice environment. The No Project Alternative would not result in construction or operation of the Proposed Project. No new impacts to the socioeconomic, population and housing, or environmental justice environment of the Project Study Area would result.

4.13.8 References Cited

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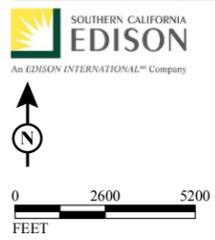
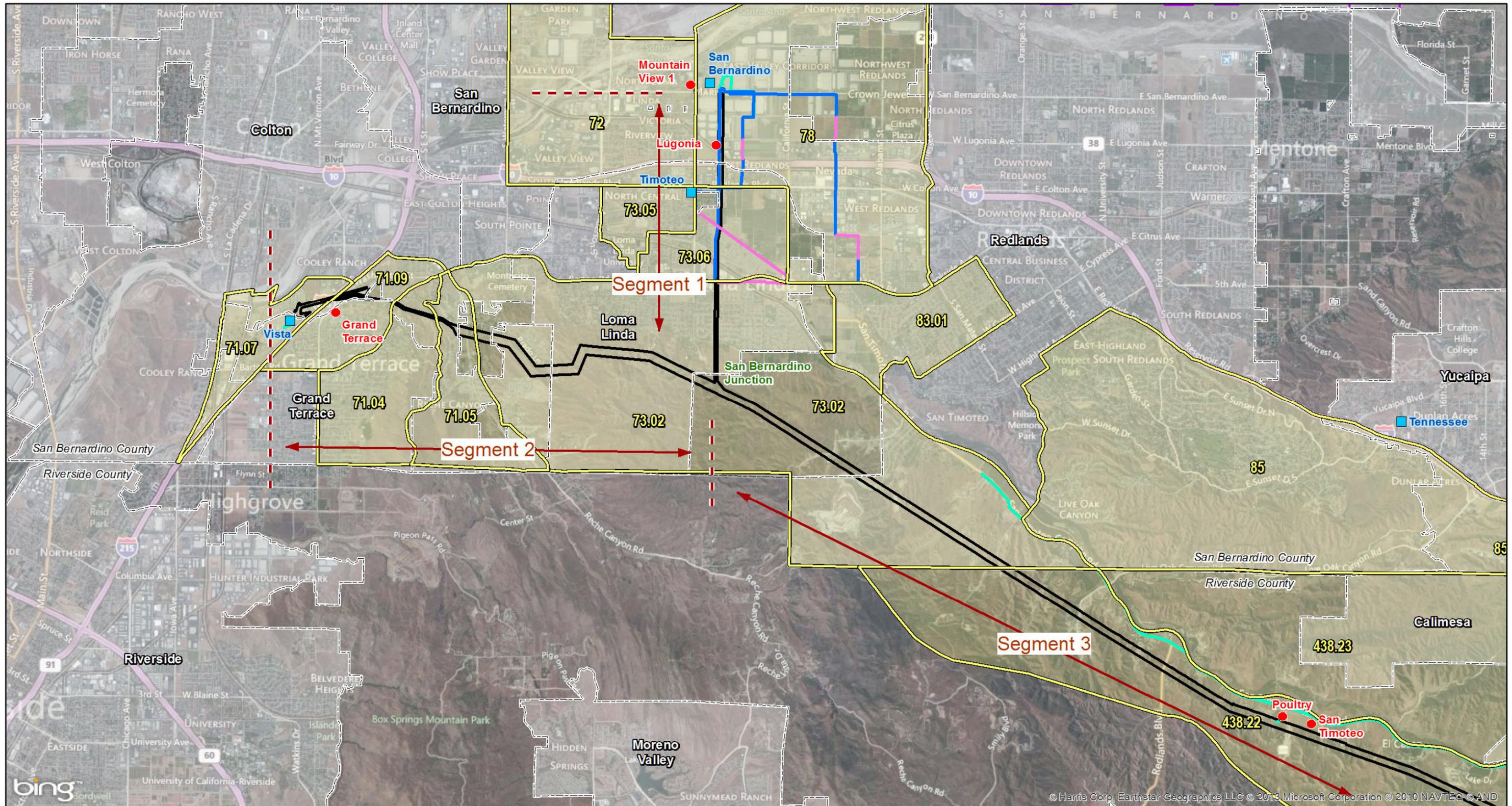
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LEGEND

- Transmission Line Right of Way
- Transmission Line Right of Way to be Removed
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Alternative Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way Common to Both
- Staging Yards
- Substations
- Relocated Subtransmission Line Routes
- Relocated Distribution Line Routes
- Telecommunication Line Routes
- Census Tracts (2010)
- Morongo Reservation
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management Lands
- County Boundary
- Segment Breaks

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2010); SCE (5/2013)

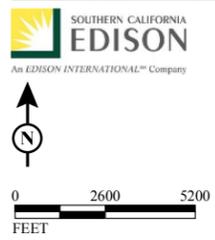
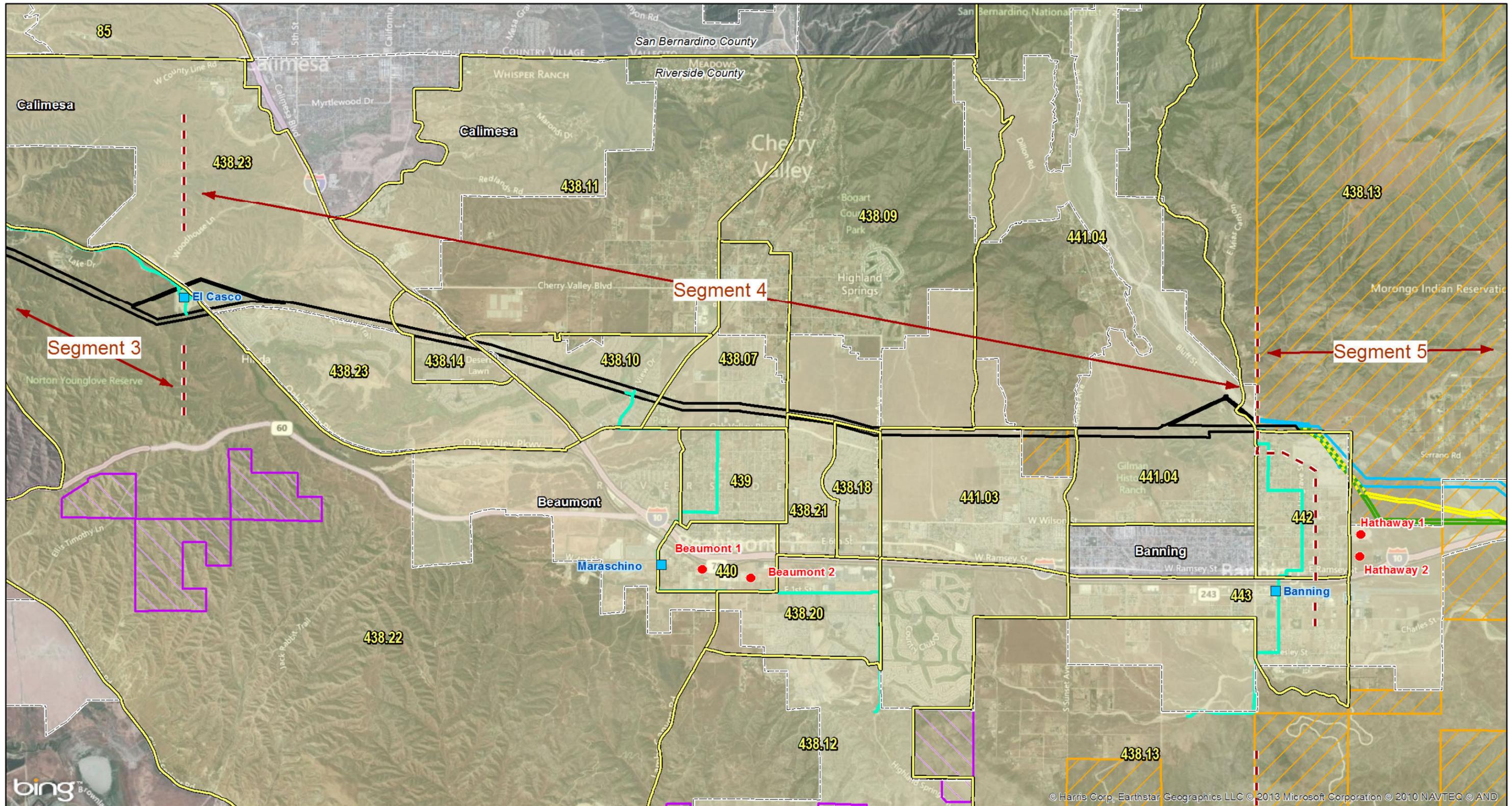
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FIGURE 4.13-1
Sheet 1 of 3

Southern California Edison
West of Devers Upgrade Project
Census Tracts

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LEGEND

- Transmission Line Right of Way
- Transmission Line Right of Way to be Removed
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Alternative Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way Common to Both
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- Relocated Subtransmission Line Routes
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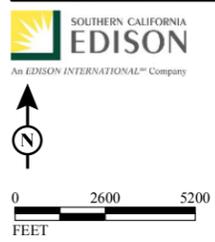
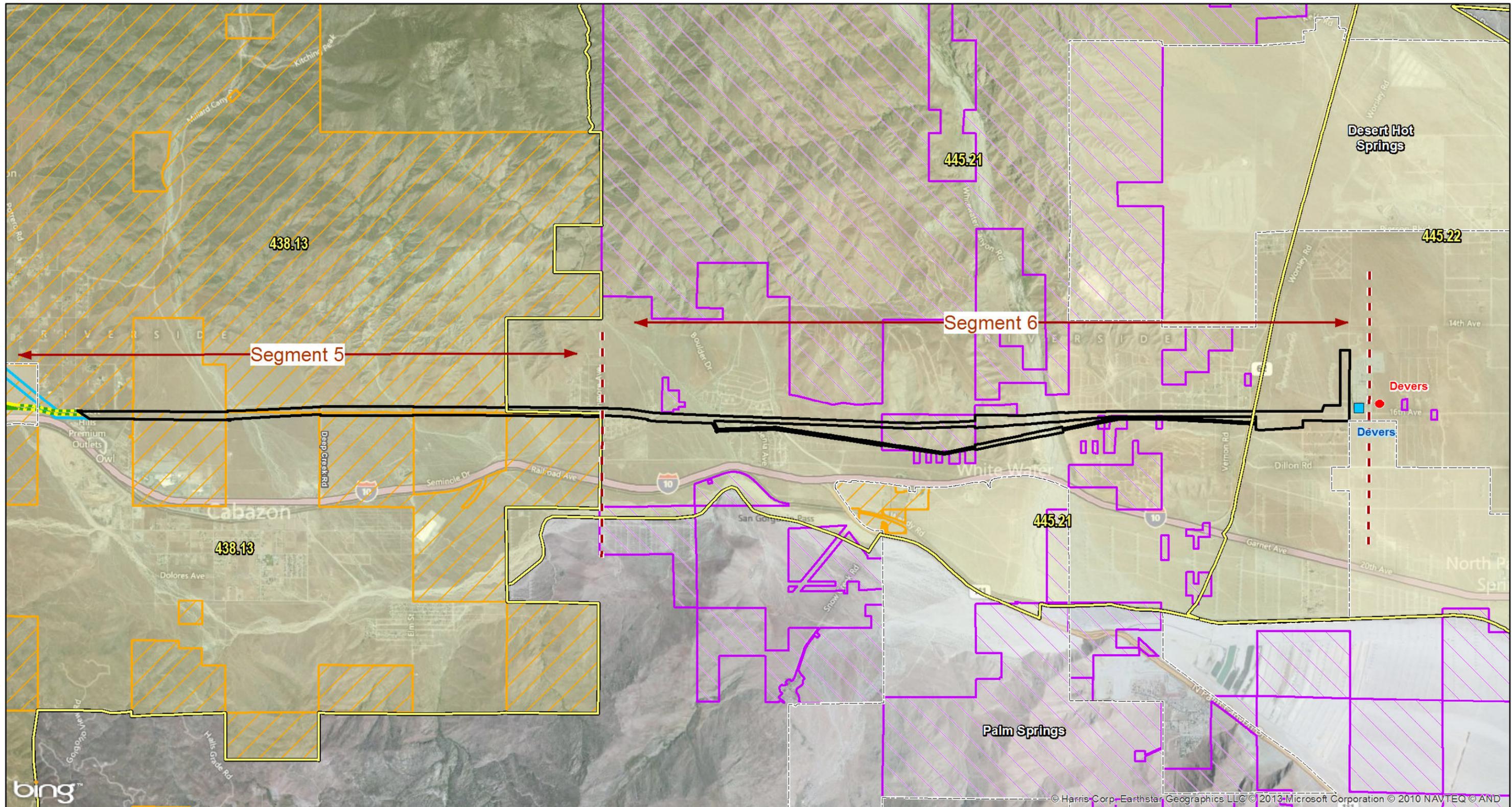
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FIGURE 4.13-1
 Sheet 2 of 3

Southern California Edison
 West of Devers Upgrade Project
 Census Tracts

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LEGEND

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Transmission Line Right of Way | Staging Yards | Census Tracts (2010) |
| Transmission Line Right of Way to be Removed | Substations | Morongo Reservation |
| Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way | Relocated Subtransmission Line Routes | U.S. Bureau of Land Management Lands |
| Proposed Alternative Transmission Line Right of Way | Relocated Distribution Line Routes | County Boundary |
| Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way Common to Both | Telecommunication Line Routes | Segment Breaks |



FIGURE 4.13-1
Sheet 3 of 3

*Southern California Edison
West of Devers Upgrade Project
Census Tracts*

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