



## California Environmental Quality Act

### **NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE MESA WIND REPOWER PROJECT**

**LEAD AGENCY:** California Department Fish and Wildlife

**Contact:** Magdalena Rodriguez (909) 844-2520

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to Sections 21092 and 21092.3 of the Public Resources Code and CEQA Guidelines Section 15072

**Project Location:** The project encompasses 98.0 acres on a 401-acre site, located in Riverside County, 11 miles northwest of the City of Palm Springs in Southern California. The primary project facilities (wind turbine generators [WTGs] and substation) are located on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and a portion (approximately 1,160 feet) of the main access road, and the off-site construction access roads are located within Riverside County (refer to Figure 1).

**Project Description:** The project would include construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of eight new WTGs. In addition, a new free-standing permanent met tower, electrical collections system upgrades, and permanent access roads would be constructed, and remain for the life of the project. The new facilities would be decommissioned at the end of their estimated 30-year useful life (2053). The total overall potential ground disturbance would be 98.0 acres. The 98.0 acres include 18.2 acres of permanent and 79.8 acres of temporary disturbance.

Construction of the project is anticipated to begin in mid-2021 and would be completed in approximately 16 months. During construction, access roads would be temporarily widened to accommodate construction equipment, and temporary workspaces and staging areas would be established. Upon completion of construction, temporary disturbance areas would be restored.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has prepared the proposed MND under CEQA in response to Mesa Corp's submittal of an application for an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for the Mojave desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The ITP, if issued, would authorize project-related incidental take of Mojave desert tortoise subject to certain conditions under CESA. Mesa Wind also submitted an application to CDFW for a Lake and Streambed Agreement. The Agreement, if issued by CDFW subject to certain conditions, would remain in effect for 5 years.

**Location of Mitigated Negative Declaration Available for Public Review.** The Mitigated Negative Declaration may be viewed online at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Notices>. In accordance with Governor's Executive Order N-80-20, public notices are not required to be made physically publicly available, but are required to be posted on the lead or responsible agency's website for the same length of time that would be required for physical posting.

**Public Comment Period:** By this notice, CDFW is announcing the opening of the 30-day comment period (March 26, 2021, to April 25, 2021). All written comments must be received by April 25, 2021, by 5:00 p.m. (end of the 30-day public review period).

**Commenting on Mitigated Negative Declaration:** Written comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration must be addressed to:

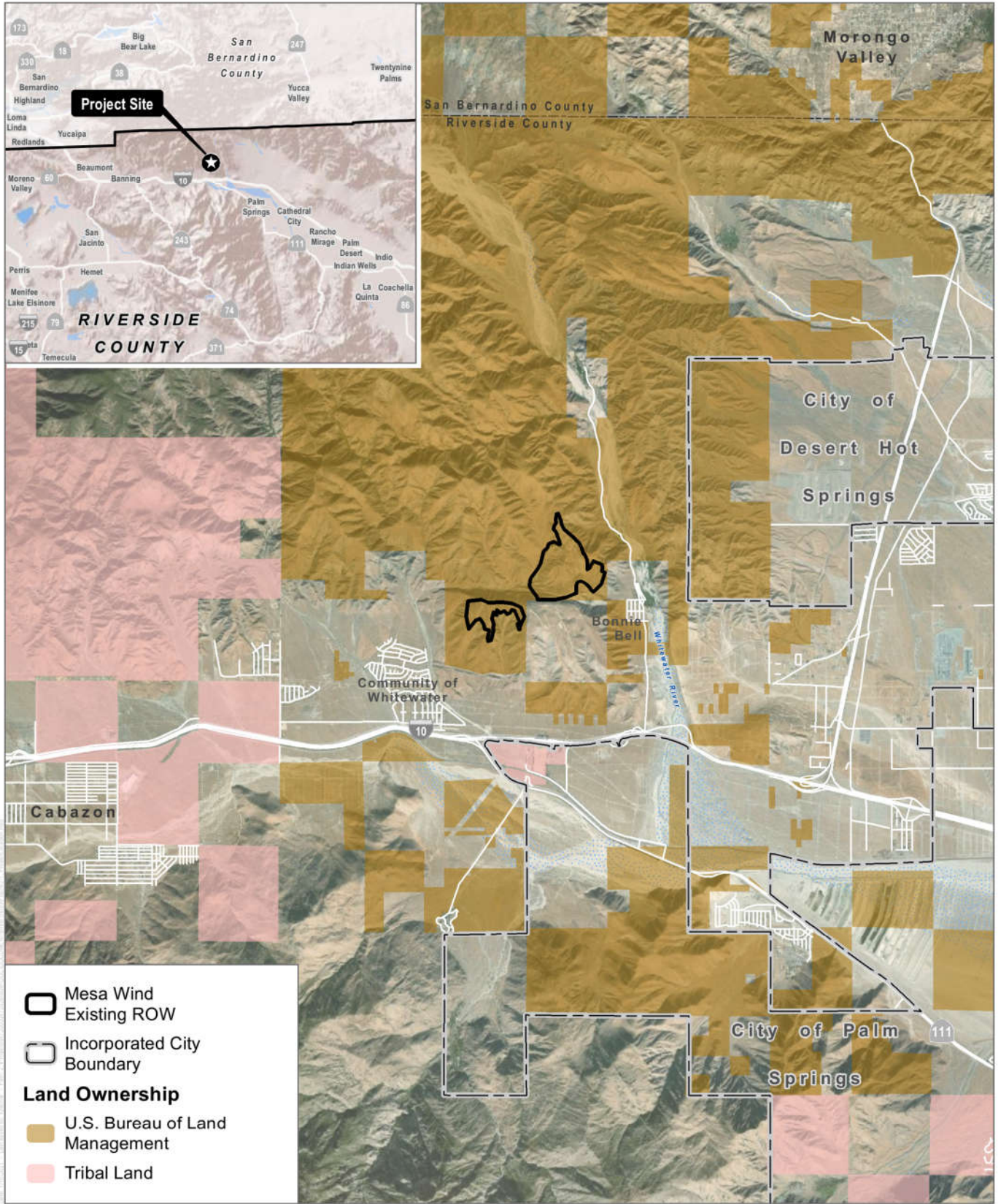
**California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Inland Deserts Region**

**Attention:** Magdalena Rodriguez, Project Manager

**Mailing Address:** 3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220, Ontario, California 91764

OR via email: [Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov) (subject line: "Mesa Wind Project MND Comments").

The project is not located on any list of places formally recorded as containing hazardous materials.



SOURCE: ESRI, Aspen 2020

**FIGURE 1**

**Project Location**

Mesa Wind Repower Project

