



California Public Utilities Commission **S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project Master Environmental Assessment**

July 2026

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California Public Utilities Commission

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Master Environmental Assessment

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

°C	Celsius
°F	Fahrenheit
AADT	annual average daily traffic
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
APE	area of potential effect
AT&SF	Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe
BCE	before current era
BFPD	Barstow Fire Protection District
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BUSD	Barstow Unified School District
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CalGEM	California Geologic Energy Management
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CCRD	Confidential Cultural Resources Database
CDFW	California Department of Wildlife
CDOC	California Department of Conservation
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CGS	California Geological Survey
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California National Plant Society
CPCN	Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
DPM	diesel particulate matter
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EFZ	Earthquake Fault Zones
EIA	Energy Information Administration
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQ Zapp	California Earthquake Hazards Zones Application
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHSZ	Fire Hazard Severity Zone

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
FRA	Federal Responsibility Areas
GHG	greenhouse gas
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HFTD	High Fire Threat District
HI	hazard index
HRI	Historical Resources Inventory
IPaC	Information on Planning and Consultation
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LRA	Local Responsibility Area
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCC	motor control center
MDAB	Mojave Desert Air Basin
MEA	Master Environmental Assessment
MLC	Mineral Land Classification
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MRZ	mineral resource zones
MT	metric tons
MYA	million years ago
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
OHV	off-road highway vehicle
Panorama	Panorama Environmental, Inc.
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric
PRC	California Public Resources Code
Project	S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project
RMA	Recreation Management Area
RMS	root mean square
ROS	Resource Conservation Open Space
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SBCFPD	San Bernardino County Fire Protection District

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

SBCRPD	San Bernardino County Regional Parks District
SBSD	San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department
SCE	Southern California Edison
SRA	State Responsibility Area
SWMD	Solid Waste Management Division
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	Toxic air contaminants
UCMP	University of California Museum of Paleontology
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VegCAMP	Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program
WRCC	Western Regional Climate Center
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface

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1 Introduction

This Master Environmental Assessment (MEA) presents information on existing environmental conditions that was compiled for the proposed S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project (Project) in San Bernardino County, California. The Project would replace the compressor station's electrical distribution equipment, which has reached the end of its useful life and requires upgrades for safety, reliability, and maintainability. As part of the Project, the station's existing electrical power switchgear, motor control center (MCC), and load center would be replaced or modified, and connecting conduit and new or replacement cable would be installed between the switchgear and MCC locations. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) gas transmission system, including pipes, valves, and other gas measurement assets, would not be modified beyond upgrading the station's electrical distribution equipment. PG&E filed an application with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on April 29, 2025, for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN). The CPUC determined that an Initial Study (IS)/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was required to address the impacts of Project. Following initiation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process, PG&E requested an emergency exemption due to the need to complete the work on an expedited schedule due to deterioration of the equipment. As a result, no discretionary approval decision or adoption of the IS/MND would occur. Consistent with this change in status, the environmental analysis prepared for the Project is being presented in this Master Environmental Assessment (MEA).

1.1 About Master Environmental Assessments

A MEA is a document described in CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Title 14, §15169) that a lead agency may elect to prepare to provide information that may be used or referenced in Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) or MNDs. A MEA typically contains an inventory of the physical and biological characteristics of a study area, as well as other information that describes the environmental setting of the area. Its purpose is to provide information on existing environmental conditions in the study area that may be useful to others in planning future projects or in analyzing the environmental effects of planned projects. There are no mandatory requirements for the content or organization of a MEA—these are left to judgment and discretion of the CEQA lead agency preparing the MEA. A MEA is not a CEQA review document for any project and does not provide environmental clearance under CEQA or any other laws. It is prepared for information purposes only.

2 Physical Environment

This section discusses the existing environmental conditions related to the following physical environment topics:

- Air Quality
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Mineral Resources
- Noise and Vibrations

2.1 Air Quality

2.1.1 Regional Topography Meteorology, and Climate

The Project site is located in the northwestern portion of unincorporated San Bernardino County, in the western Mojave Desert and within the Mojave River watershed and Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB), which features mountain ranges that are separated by long, broad valleys, many of which contain dry lakebeds. Prevailing winds in the MDAB are out of the west and southwest. These prevailing winds are caused by the proximity of the MDAB to coastal and central regions and the blocking nature of the Sierra Nevada to the north.

The conditions in the MDAB in the summer are dominated by a Pacific subtropical high cell that sits off the coast, inhibiting cloud formation and encouraging daytime solar heating. The MDAB rarely is influenced by cold air masses moving south from Canada and Alaska, as these frontal systems are weak and diffuse by the time they reach the desert. Most desert moisture arrives from infrequent warm, moist, and unstable air masses from the south. The MDAB averages between 3 and 7 inches of precipitation per year (from 16 to 30 days with at least 0.01 inch of precipitation). The MDAB is classified as a dry-hot desert climate, with portions classified as dry-very hot desert, to indicate that at least three months have maximum average temperatures exceeding 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) (MDAQMD 2020).

2.1.2 Criteria Air Pollutants

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) focus on the following air pollutants as regional indicators of ambient air quality:

- ozone
- coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀)
- fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5})

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- nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)
- carbon monoxide (CO)
- sulfur dioxide (SO₂)
- lead

These commonly found air pollutants are referred to as “criteria air pollutants.” They can harm both human health and the environment and cause property damage (EPA 2025b).

Ambient Air Quality Standards

An ambient air quality standard defines the maximum amount of a pollutant, averaged over a specified period, that it can be present in outdoor air without harming public health, and thus, it defines clean air. The federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requires EPA to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), based on the latest science, to protect public health and public welfare. EPA has set primary NAAQS for criteria air pollutants to protect public health, and secondary NAAQS to protect plants, forests, crops, and property from damage from exposure to criteria air pollutants.

In 1959, California enacted legislation requiring the California Department of Public Health to establish air quality standards and necessary controls for motor vehicle emissions. California law continues to mandate California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS), which often are more stringent than the NAAQS. California also has ambient air quality standards for sulfates, visibility-reducing particles, hydrogen sulfide, and vinyl chloride.

Attainment Status

In accordance with the federal CAA and California Clean Air Act, areas in California are classified as either in attainment, maintenance (i.e., former nonattainment), or nonattainment of the NAAQS and CAAQS for each criteria air pollutant. The attainment status for the Project site is summarized in Table 2.1-1.

Table 2.1-1 Attainment Status for the Project Site

Pollutant	National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)	California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS)
Ozone (O ₃)	Nonattainment (Severe)	Nonattainment
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	Nonattainment (Moderate)	Nonattainment
Fine Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5})	Attainment/Unclassified	Nonattainment
Carbon monoxide (CO)	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment
Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂)	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment
Sulfur dioxide (SO ₂)	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment
Lead (Pb)	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide (H ₂ S)	No Standard	Unclassified
Sulfates	No Standard	Attainment

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Pollutant	National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)	California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS)
Visibility-Reducing Particles	No Standard	Unclassified
Vinyl Chloride	No Standard	No Information Available

Sources: (EPA 2025a; CARB 2024)

2.1.3 Toxic Air Contaminates

Toxic air contaminants (TACs) include a diverse group of air pollutants that can adversely affect human health, such as diesel particulate matter (DPM). TACs are not subject to ambient air quality standards but are regulated through state and local risk management programs. TAC emissions are evaluated based on estimations of local concentrations and risk assessments. For risk assessment, both cancer and non-cancer health effects from exposure to TACs are evaluated. Cancer health effects (i.e., cancer risk) are expressed as excess cancer cases per one million exposed individuals over a lifetime of exposure. Non-cancer health effects are expressed as a hazard index (HI) relative to acute and/or chronic exposure.

Emissions of DPM generated from the exhaust of diesel-powered engines are a complex mixture of soot, ash particulates, metallic abrasion particles, volatile organic compounds, and other components that can penetrate deeply into the lungs and contribute to a range of health problems. In 1998, the CARB identified DPM from diesel-powered engines as a TAC, based on its potential to cause cancer and other adverse health effects (CARB, 1998). Although diesel exhaust is a complex mixture that includes hundreds of individual constituents, DPM is used as a surrogate measure of exposure under California regulatory guidelines for the mixture of chemicals that make up diesel exhaust. More than 90 percent of DPM is less than 1 micron in diameter, and thus is a subset of PM₁₀ (CARB, 2016). The estimated cancer risk from exposure to diesel exhaust is much higher than the risk associated with any other TAC that is measured routinely in the region.

2.1.4 Sensitive Receptors

Sensitive receptors are areas where individuals are more susceptible to the adverse effects of poor air quality. Sensitive receptors include residences, schools, daycare facilities, playgrounds, and medical facilities. Land uses surrounding the Project site are primarily industrial and agricultural (open space). No sensitive receptors are within 1,000 feet of the Project site. Sensitive receptors are described in Section 2.6: Noise and Vibrations. The nearest sensitive receptor is a residence approximately 1,455 feet northwest of the Project site.

2.2 Geology and Soils

2.2.1 Regional Geology

The Project is within the Mojave Desert geomorphic province, which is characterized by isolated mountain ranges separated by expansive areas of alluvial deposits that terminate at dry

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lakebeds (playas). The Mojave Desert province is wedged between the Garlock and San Andreas fault zones (CGS 2002).

Hinkley Valley is within the central/western portions of the Mojave Desert. The bedrock of the area represents continental-margin marine sediments that were intruded and deformed during the Mesozoic Era (252 million years ago [mya] to 66 mya). The Mesozoic-age igneous rocks are variable in composition, ranging from diorite to granite. The Mesozoic-age bedrock is overlain by sedimentary deposits dating from the Miocene Epoch to the Holocene Epoch (11,700 years ago to recent) (Miller et al. 2020a).

2.2.2 Local Geology

Geologic mapping indicates that the Project site is underlain by Holocene- to late Pleistocene-age young mixed alluvial and eolian deposits (Qyae) and Middle- to late Pleistocene-age intermediate Mojave River deposits (Qimr) (Miller et al. 2020a).

The Holocene- to late Pleistocene-age young mixed alluvial and eolian deposits are characterized by alluvial and eolian sediments that are moderately- to well-sorted sand and gravel. These sediments are typically loose and are found in areas where there is significant eolian contribution from Harper Lake and local playas (Miller et al. 2020b).

The Middle- to late Pleistocene-age intermediate Mojave River deposits are characterized as arkosic gravel, sand, and silt with reddish quartzite pebbles. These deposits are well bedded with typical fluvial stream deposit characteristics (i.e., normal grading, cross-beds, and floodplain sediment) (Miller et al. 2020b).

Soil

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey database identifies the soil on the Project site as Cajon Loamy Sand with minor components of Norob-Halloran series soil (NRCS 2024a). This soil is typically described as excessively drained to well-drained sandy loams.

Expansive Soil

Expansive soils are soils that possess a “shrink-swell” characteristic. Shrink-swell is the cyclic change in volume (expansion and contraction) that occurs in the fine-grained clay sediments from the process of wetting and drying; the volume change is reported as a percent change for the whole soil. This property is measured using the coefficient of linear extensibility (COLE) (NRCS 2024b). The NRCS relies on linear extensibility measurements to determine the shrink-swell potential of soils. If the linear extensibility percentage is more than 3 percent (COLE=0.03), shrink and swelling may cause damage to buildings, roads, and other structures (NRCS 2024b).

According to the NRCS Web Soil Survey, the linear extensibility rating for Cajon Loamy Sand at the Project site is 1.5 percent, which correlates to a low linear extensibility rating and is not considered expansive (NRCS 2024a).

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2.2.3 Geologic Hazards

The California Earthquake Hazards Zones Application (EQ Zapp) is an interactive map available on the California Geological Survey (CGS) website. As required by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (A-P Act) and Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, the EQ Zapp allows users to view all available earthquake hazard zone data, including delineated Earthquake Fault Zones (EFZs), liquefaction zones, and earthquake-induced landslide zones.

Faults and Seismicity

Under the A-P Act, EFZs are boundaries delineated around the traces of Holocene-active¹ faults; all other faults are considered pre-Holocene² faults. It should be noted that pre-Holocene faults are not necessarily “inactive”; historic earthquakes have occurred on some pre-Holocene faults, but the earthquakes did not result in displacement at the surface.

Surface Fault Rupture

Surface fault rupture occurs when fault movement causes displacement of surface deposits; not all earthquakes result in surface displacement. The displacement may result from a large-magnitude earthquake or from *creep*—measurable surface displacement in the absence of an earthquake) along a fault without an associated earthquake.

According to EQ Zapp, there are no known Holocene-active faults (i.e., EFZs) within the Project site (CGS 2025). The nearest EFZs are the Mount General fault zone (approximately 3.5 miles northeast of the Project site) and the Lenwood Section of the Lenwood-Lockhart fault zone (approximately 4.8 miles southeast of the Project site).

The Lockhart Section of the Lenwood-Lockhart fault zone transects the southwestern corner of the Project site; however, this section of the Lenwood-Lockhart fault zone is considered a pre-Holocene fault and is not an established EFZ.

Ground Shaking

Ground shaking occurring as a result of a seismic event can endanger human life, cause extensive property damage, and potentially affect areas of hundreds of miles from the earthquake epicenter. The extent of damage varies by event and is determined by factors such as earthquake magnitude and depth, distance from epicenter, duration and intensity of shaking, the underlying soil and rock composition, and the degree of structural integrity. Ground shaking can occur as a result of an earthquake on both Holocene-active and pre-Holocene faults. The faults and fault systems in the Project region have the potential to produce high-magnitude earthquakes, including at the Project site.

The Lockhart Section of the Lenwood-Lockhart fault zone transects the southwestern corner of the Project site but is not an established EFZ. In addition to the Mount General fault zone and the Lenwood Section of the Lenwood-Lockhart fault zone discussed previously, there are

¹ Holocene-active faults show evidence of surface displacement within the Holocene Epoch, or the last 11,700 years, are considered active.

² Pre-Holocene faults have not shown evidence of surface displacement in the last 11,700 years.

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multiple additional faults in the vicinity of the Project site: the Harper (approximately 7 miles northeast of the Project site), Blackwater (approximately 11.3 miles northeast of the Project site), Helendale-South Lockhart (approximately 12 miles southwest), Calico-Hidalgo (approximately 14.2 miles northeast of the Project site), Camp Rock-Emerson-Copper Mountain (approximately 19.4 miles southeast of the Project site), and Kramer Hills (approximately 20 miles west of the Project site) fault zones (USGS 2025b). ShakeMap, a product of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Earthquake Hazards Program, provides earthquake scenarios which describe the expected ground motions and effects of specific hypothetical large earthquakes. The earthquake scenarios on ShakeMap represent one realization of a potential future earthquake by assuming a particular magnitude and location (USGS 2025a).

According to the ShakeMap scenario that corresponds with a hypothetical magnitude 7.5 earthquake within the Lenwood-Lockhart fault zone, the Project site could experience violent ground shaking in the event of an earthquake within this fault zone (USGS 2017).

Liquefaction and Lateral Spreading

Liquefaction occurs when loosely packed, water-saturated sediments at or near the ground surface become unstable in response to strong seismic ground shaking which can cause severe damage to buildings and structures. Lateral spreading is a variety of minor landslides that occur when unconsolidated liquefiable material breaks and spreads as a result of gravity, usually down gentle slopes. Liquefaction-induced lateral spreading is the finite, lateral displacement of gently sloping ground as a result of liquefaction in a shallow underlying deposit during an earthquake. The occurrence of this phenomenon is dependent on many complex factors, including the intensity and duration of ground shaking, particle-size distribution, and the density of the soil. In general, a relatively high potential for liquefaction exists in loose, sandy soil that lies within 50 feet of the ground surface and is saturated (below the groundwater table). The potential damaging effects of liquefaction include differential settlement, loss of ground support for foundations, ground cracking, heaving and cracking of structure slabs. Lateral spreading can move blocks of soil, placing strain on buried pipelines that can lead to leaks or pipe failure (CGS 2008). According to EQ Zapp, the Project site is not within an established liquefaction hazard zone (CGS 2025).

Landslides

A landslide is the movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope that can be caused by rainfall, snowmelt, changes in water level, stream erosion, changes in groundwater, earthquakes, volcanic activity, disturbance by human activities, or any combination of these factors (CGS 2008).

According to EQ Zapp, the Project site is not within an established landslide hazard zone (CGS 2025). Additionally, regional geologic mapping does not indicate any historical landslides on or near the Project site (Miller, et al. 2020a). The Project site is located on soil that has a 0 to 5 percent slope. No areas prone to seismic induced landslides were identified in the Project site (PG&E 2025).

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Subsidence

Land subsidence is the sinking or collapsing of the earth's surface which may occur naturally or result from excessive groundwater pumping, drainage of organic soils, or underground mining (USGS 2000). Seismic activity increases the potential for land subsidence to occur.

Increased demand for water supplies in the southwestern Mojave Desert has caused a decline in groundwater levels by more than 100 feet between 1950 and 1990. This decline in the groundwater level has caused the aquifer system to compact, resulting in land subsidence. The area surrounding Harper Lake (a dry lake near Lockhart, approximately 8.4 miles northwest of the Project site) has experienced approximately 6 inches of land subsidence between 1992 and 2009 (Brandt and Sneed 2017).

2.2.4 Paleontological Resources

Paleontological resources are the fossilized remains of plants and animals, including vertebrates (animals with backbones; fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, etc.), invertebrates (animals without backbones; starfish, clams, coral, etc.), microscopic plants and animals (microfossils), and trace fossils/ichnofossils (i.e., footprints, burrows, etc.). They are valuable, non-renewable, scientific resources used to document the existence of extinct life forms and to reconstruct the environments in which they lived. Fossils can be used to determine the relative ages of the depositional layers in which they occur and of the geologic events that created those deposits. The age, abundance, and distribution of fossils depend on the geologic formation in which they occur and the topography of the area in which they are exposed.

A Paleontological Evaluation Report was prepared by Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Applied EarthWorks) in 2014 (Applied EarthWorks, Inc. 2014) and covers the Project site. The report includes a comprehensive review of published and unpublished literature and museum collection records maintained by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and the San Bernardino County Museum to determine whether previously recorded paleontological localities occur within the Project site and Project area of potential effect (APE), which was defined as Operable Unit 3 (Applied EarthWorks, Inc. 2014). The museum records search was supplemented by a review of the University of California Museum of Paleontology (UCMP) online locality database. Approximately 79 significant fossils localities have been recorded in San Bernardino County from similar alluvial and lacustrine deposits. It has been determined the geologic units underlying the Project site have a high potential to contain significant paleontological resources. Applied EarthWorks conducted a field survey of the Project site to visually inspect the ground surface for exposed fossils and to evaluate the exposed geologic units for their potential to contain preserved fossil material in the subsurface. No previously recorded fossil localities were identified in the report.

2.3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

2.3.1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Increases in heat trapping greenhouse gases (GHG) create changes in earth's weather patterns including the rise in average global temperatures. Existing GHGs allow about two-thirds of the visible and ultraviolet light from the sun to pass through the atmosphere and be absorbed by the earth's surface. To balance the absorbed incoming energy, the surface radiates thermal energy back to space at longer wavelengths, primarily in the infrared part of the spectrum. Much of the thermal radiation emitted from the surface is absorbed by the GHGs in the atmosphere and is re-radiated in all directions. Because part of the re-radiation returns to the surface and warms the lower atmosphere, global surface temperatures are elevated above what they would be in the absence of the GHGs. This process of trapping heat in the lower atmosphere is known as the *greenhouse effect*.

An increase of GHGs in the atmosphere affects the energy balance of the earth and results in a global warming trend. Increases in global average temperatures have been observed since the mid-twentieth century and have been linked to observed increases in GHG emissions from anthropogenic sources. The primary GHG emissions of concern are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Other GHGs of concern include hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), but their contributions to meteorological trends are less than 1 percent of the total GHGs that are well-mixed (i.e., that have atmospheric lifetimes long enough to be homogeneously mixed in the troposphere) (IPCC 2013). Each GHG has a different global warming potential. For instance, CH₄ traps about 25 times more heat per molecule than CO₂ (CARB 2022). Therefore, GHG emissions are reported in metric tons (MT) of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e), wherein each GHG is weighted by its global warming potential relative to CO₂.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), because of anthropogenic sources, the atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ have increased to unprecedented levels over the past few hundred years as compared to previous fluctuations in CO₂ concentrations observed over the past 800,000 years. According to a 2025 report prepared by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), all of the 10 warmest years in the 175-year record have occurred in the last decade (2015–2024), based on measurements of the earth's global average surface temperature (NOAA 2025a). The global increases in CO₂ concentrations primarily are related to fossil fuel combustion and land use change (e.g., deforestation). The dominant anthropogenic sources of CH₄ are from ruminant livestock, fossil fuel extraction and use, rice paddy agriculture, and landfills, while the dominant anthropogenic sources of N₂O are from ammonia for fertilizer and industrial activity. Fossil fuels combustion and industrial processes account for the largest share and growth in gross GHG emissions (IPCC 2023).

2.3.2 Effects of GHG Emissions

In March 2023, the IPCC published the final installment of the Six Assessments Report (AR6), summarizing the current understanding of global warming, including the widespread impacts

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and risks and mitigation and adaptation. The IPCC report found that the consequences of global warming already are being seen because of a 1.1 degree Celsius (°C) increase since pre-industrial levels, including extreme weather conditions, rising sea levels, and melting glaciers and ice sheets. Atmospheric impacts on ecosystems and humans are widespread across the globe, and vulnerable communities that historically have contributed the least to current increasing global temperatures are being affected disproportionately.

Global warming will continue to increase in the near term (2021–2040), mainly because of increased cumulative CO₂ emissions, and temperatures are likely to reach 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels between 2021 and 2040. Risks and projected adverse impacts and related losses and damages from increasing global temperatures will escalate with every increment of global warming. The IPCC states that deep, rapid, and sustained reductions in GHG emissions would lead to a discernible slowdown in global warming in approximately two decades, and to discernible changes in atmospheric composition within a few years (IPCC 2023).

2.4 Hydrology and Water Quality

2.4.1 Regional Setting

The Project site is situated in the South Lahontan Hydrologic Region, within the Centro Subarea of the Mojave River Groundwater Basin. The Project site is in the Mojave River Valley, which has an estimated average ground slope of 0.3 percent from the southeast to the northwest. The area surrounding the site is relatively flat.

According to the Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC) at Barstow–Daggett Airport (GHCN USW00023161)—the nearest station with recent, continuous records—the Project site receives approximately 4 inches of precipitation per year and experiences precipitation approximately 20 days per year (WRCC 2025a, 2025b, 2025c; NOAA 2025b).

2.4.2 Surface Water Bodies

No water bodies, streams, creeks, lakes, rivers, wetlands, or other jurisdictional surface waters are mapped within or adjacent to the Project site. The nearest surface water features are Harper Lake (a dry lakebed approximately 7 miles northwest of the Project site) and the Mojave River (approximately 11.2 miles south of the Project site). Both features are ephemeral and typically dry, holding water only temporarily after significant storm events (Izbicki et al. 2023).

2.4.3 Groundwater

The Project site is within the Harper Valley Subbasin of the Mojave River Groundwater Basin, in the Centro subarea. The basin is composed of unconsolidated alluvial deposits forming two primary aquifers, a floodplain aquifer and a deeper regional aquifer. The depth-to-groundwater beneath the Project site ranges from approximately 75 to 95 feet below ground surface, and groundwater flow generally is to the north (LRWQCB 2024).

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The groundwater beneath the Project site was affected by historical discharges of chromium-contaminated water to unlined ponds between 1952 and 1964. These discharges resulted in contamination of shallow groundwater at, and surrounding, the Project site. PG&E has been implementing remediation activities since 1992, in accordance with a Cleanup and Abatement Order issued by the LRWQCB (LRWQCB 2024). Remediation systems include extraction wells, injection wells, and in situ treatment methods, with infrastructure extending from approximately 0.5 mile south to more than 3 miles north of the Project site (PG&E 2025). Section 3.9: Hazards and Hazardous Materials, presents additional discussion on contamination at the Project site. Four groundwater monitoring wells for the remediation activities and one municipal well are within 150 feet of the Project site.

2.4.4 Flooding and Potential and Dam Failure Inundation Areas

No mapped floodways, rivers, or streams would be affected by the Project. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) that shows the Project site, it is not mapped within a 100-year flood hazard area. The nearest mapped FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area (Zone A) is approximately 0.25 miles east of the Project site and is associated with an unnamed drainage feature. The Project site is within FEMA Zone X (areas determined to be outside the 0.2 percent annual chance floodplain), indicating minimal flood risk (FEMA 2008; PG&E 2025). Furthermore, the Project site is not within a dam inundation zone and no dams are upstream that would create a flooding hazard at the Project site.

2.4.5 Water Quality

As described previously, the groundwater beneath the Project site has been affected by historical chromium discharges at the Hinkley Compressor Station between 1952 and 1964 (LRWQCB 2013).

The receiving water for runoff from the Project site is an ephemeral desert wash network tributary to Harper Lake within the Coyote-Cuddeback Lakes watershed. Runoff generally infiltrates on-site, and during rare large storm events, any off-site flow migrates northwest toward Harper Lake (PG&E 2025). Harper Lake currently is not listed on California's Clean Water Act 303(d) list of impaired waters (SWRCB 2024).

2.4.6 Tsunamis and Seiches

The Project site is outside any established tsunami hazard zone; the site is approximately 95 miles northeast of the Pacific Ocean. Furthermore, no large water bodies are near the Project site that could generate seiche waves that would affect the site.

2.4.7 Water Supplies

The Project site is outside any municipal water service areas, and water is supplied by four PG&E-owned wells in the vicinity of the facility. These wells are operated by a private system operator and provide water for domestic use (e.g., sinks, toilets), industrial operations (primarily for cooling processes), and fire suppression needs at the facility. The wells also

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support ongoing groundwater remediation activities that are associated with historical site operations, as well as provide a limited supply of water to nearby properties. The four wells have capacities ranging from approximately 40 to 400 gallons per minute, which was sufficient to meet the facility's 2023 total demand of about 88 million gallons (approximately 270 acre-feet) (PG&E 2025).

2.5 Mineral Resources

2.5.1 Mineral Resource Classification and Designation

The California Geological Survey (CGS) is required by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) to conduct Mineral Land Classification (MLC) studies, to identify and map *mineral resource zones* (MRZs). MRZs are intended to prevent development of incompatible land uses in areas determined to have substantial mineral resource deposits. The California mineral land classification system's category descriptions are shown in Table 2.5-1.

Table 2.5-1 California Mineral Land Classification System Category Descriptions

Mineral Resource Zone Category	Category Description	Definition
MRZ-1	NA	Area of no mineral resource significance
MRZ-2a	Reserves, marginal reserves	Area of identified mineral resource significance
MRZ-2b	Inferred resources	Area of identified mineral resource significance
MRZ-3a	Known mineral occurrence	Area of undetermined mineral resource significance
MRZ-3b	Inferred mineral occurrence	Area of undetermined mineral resource significance
MRZ-4	No known mineral occurrence	Area of unknown mineral significance

Source: (CDOC n.d.)

The Project site is in an area designated MRZ-3a, which is a designation assigned to areas that may contain significant aggregate deposits (County of San Bernardino 2023).

2.5.2 Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources

The California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM)³ provides oversight of California oil, natural gas, and geothermal industries, and regulates the drilling, operation, and permanent closure of energy resource wells. CalGEM's online mapping application, Well Finder, was reviewed to determine the presence of any oil, gas, or geothermal resources at or near the Project site. The Well Finder data indicated that no significant resources are at or near the Project site (CalGEM 2025).

³ Formerly, the California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR).

2.6 Noise and Vibrations

This section describes the existing noise environment in the Project vicinity. Table 2.6-1 defines technical terms used in this section, and Table 2.6-2 presents typical noise levels in the environment.

Table 2.6-1 Summary of Acoustical Terms

Term	Definition
Noise	Unwanted sound. Airborne sound becomes unwanted when it interferes with normal activities such as sleep, speech, or concentration, or has harmful effects on human or environmental health.
Vibration	Oscillatory motion transmitted through a solid medium, described in terms of displacement, velocity, or acceleration. Continuous or frequent vibration is more likely to cause human annoyance than infrequent, short duration vibration.
Decibel (dB)	The unit used to measure sound level, where 0 dB corresponds roughly to the threshold of human perception.
A weighted Sound Level (dBA)	A sound level measured with a filter that reflects the reduced sensitivity of human hearing at low and very high frequencies. Environmental sound levels in this section are reported in dBA.
Equivalent Sound Level (L_{eq})	The average A-weighted sound level during a stated period of time (Federal Transit Administration 2018).
Maximum Sound Level (L_{max})	The maximum sound level measured during a measurement period.
Minimum Sound Level (L_{min})	The minimum sound level measured during a measurement period.
Day/Night Sound Level (Ldn)	The 24 hour average sound level, measured for day time between (7 a.m. to 10 p.m.) and for nighttime between (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.) to account for greater human sensitivity to noise at night (Federal Transit Administration 2018).
Peak Particle Velocity (PPV)	A measure of groundborne vibration related to the potential damage to structures, expressed in inches per second (in/sec) (Caltrans 2020).
Vibration Decibel (VdB)	A measure of human response to groundborne vibration, expressed as the root mean square (RMS) velocity level. 75 VdB is the approximate dividing line between barely perceptible and distinctly perceptible (Federal Transit Administration 2018).

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Table 2.6-2 Typical Noise Level in the Environment

Common outdoor noise source	Noise level (dBA)	Common indoor noise source
	110 dBA	Rock band
Jet fly-over at 1,000 feet		
	100 dBA	
Gas lawn mower at 3 feet		
	90 dBA	
Diesel truck at 50 feet at 50 mph		Food blender at 3 feet
	80 dBA	Garbage disposal at 3 feet
Noisy urban area, daytime		
Gas lawn mower, 100 feet	70 dBA	Vacuum cleaner at 10 feet
Commercial area		Normal speech at 3 feet
Heavy traffic at 300 feet	60 dBA	
		Large business office
Quiet urban daytime	50 dBA	Dishwasher in next room
Quiet urban nighttime	40 dBA	Theater, large conference room
Quiet suburban nighttime		
	30 dBA	Library
Quiet rural nighttime		Bedroom at night, concert hall (background)
	20 dBA	
		Broadcast/recording studio
	10 dBA	
	0 dBA	

Source: (Caltrans 2013)

2.6.1 Existing Noise Environment

The ambient noise environment surrounding the Hinkley Compressor Station is characterized by the low background noise typical of rural desert areas. The dominant source of noise in the Project vicinity is the compressor station itself, a large industrial facility that operates continuously. The compressor station includes unenclosed generators located within standard metal buildings that are not acoustically treated and often have large roll-up doors or other open penetrations.

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On June 11, 2024, PG&E conducted an on-site sound level assessment at the Hinkley Compressor Station to document noise levels associated with active equipment. During the survey, two gas compressors and three generators were operating. Measurements were taken using a Type 2 Casella 24X Series sound level monitor, which was field-calibrated before and after use and operated per Cal/OSHA-approved procedures. Results are summarized in Table 2.6-3 (PG&E 2025).

Table 2.6-3 2024 Sound Levels at Hinkley Compressor Station

Measurement Location	Sound Level (dBA)
Exterior of Generator Building	76 to 96
Exterior of gas compressor building	77 to 100

Source: (PG&E 2025)

Additional noise sources in the area include intermittent traffic along State Route (SR) 58, located approximately 1 mile north of the Project, and freight activity along the BNSF Railway, located approximately 1.6 miles north of the Project. The Barstow Gun Club, located south of the Hinkley Compressor Station, contributes sporadic recreational firearm noise. Agricultural operations east of the compressor station generate localized noise, though these activities are infrequent and seasonal.

In support of the 2019 San Bernardino Countywide Plan Update, short-term noise monitoring was conducted at a rural residential location in Lenwood, approximately 3 miles southeast of the Hinkley Compressor Station. On June 13, 2018, monitoring results ranged from 37.2 dBA (L_{min}) to 71.1 dBA (L_{max}), with an average L_{eq} of 51.1 dBA, providing a representative baseline for the rural communities in the area (County of San Bernardino 2022b).

2.6.2 Airports and Airstrips

The Project is not located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport or private airstrip. The nearest public-use airport is Barstow–Daggett Airport, located approximately 20 miles southeast of the Project site. The closest known private airstrip is located approximately 6 miles west of the Project site.

2.6.3 Sensitive Receptors

The Project site is located in a remote, rural area of unincorporated San Bernardino County, surrounded by open desert and low-density development. No sensitive land uses were identified within 1,000 feet of the Project site. The nearest residence is located approximately 1,455 feet northwest of the nearest Project work area, and another is located 1,140 feet east of a Project staging area. The Hinkley Community and Senior Center is located approximately 2,700 feet west of the nearest Project work area. Agricultural uses are present to the north and east of the Project, while land to the south and west consists primarily of open desert and low-density rural residential development. No schools, hospitals, or places of worship are located within the immediate vicinity of the Project site (San Bernadino County 2025).

3 Human Environment

3.1 Aesthetics

The study area for aesthetics is a 5-mile radius around the Project site.

3.1.1 Existing Visual Quality of the Project Site and Region

The Project site is located in the northwestern portion of unincorporated San Bernardino County, in the western Mojave Desert and the Mojave River watershed. The Mojave River is approximately 1.2 miles south of the Project site. The City of Barstow is approximately 1 mile east of the Project site and the unincorporated community of Hinkley is approximately 2.5 miles northwest. The topography of the Project site and the surrounding area generally is flat, with a slope of zero to 10 percent (USGS 2025e). The areas surrounding the Project site are shrub/scrub land and consist of agricultural fields to the north and east, as well as developed open space to the north and west (County of San Bernardino 2024) (PG&E 2025). Land uses surrounding the Project site are primarily undeveloped open space and rural residential, with some agricultural activity and crop production. More intensive uses of land in the Project area include the Hinkley Compressor Station, where the Project would be constructed, and the Desert View Dairy, approximately 2 miles north of the Project site, near the intersection of Mountain View Road and Alcludia Road (PG&E 2025).

Scenic Vistas

Scenic vistas within the Project viewshed include high points of elevation and mountain ranges in Hinkley Valley. Mount General is the closest mountain to the Project site, approximately 3 miles to the northeast, and looking west, offers a scenic vista of the station. The Project viewshed includes distant views of hills and mountains and their related ridgelines, rare occasional views of mature Joshua and yucca trees, and foreground views of old tree rows, agricultural fields, and undeveloped land with undisturbed native vegetation. The closest park to the Project site is Jasper Park, approximately 3 miles from the Project site (City of Barstow Parks & Recreation, n.d.). U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered lands near the community of Hinkley can be used for hiking, but no federally designated recreational areas are within 5 miles of the Project site. The Stoddard/Johnson Special Recreation Management Area (RMA) is approximately 5.5 miles southeast of the Project site and provides opportunities for off-road highway vehicle (OHV) use and recreation (BLM 2025c, BLM 2025d, BLM 2025b). The Superior–Cronese Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) is less than 5 miles west, north, and northeast of the Project site. Although the Superior–Cronese ACEC provides recreational opportunities such as camping and hiking, it primarily is managed for desert tortoise habitat (BLM 2025b, BLM 2025a, BLM 2015). Recreational facilities within 0.5 mile of the Project site include the Barstow Gun Club, approximately 800 feet to the south, and the Hinkley

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Community Center, approximately 0.5 mile to the northwest. The nearest public roadways to the Project site that provide public views of the Project are Community Boulevard, approximately 0.3 mile to the north and perpendicular to Fairway Road, which is east and directly adjacent to the Project site.

Scenic Highways

The nearest state-designated scenic highway, SR-2, is approximately 48 miles southwest of the Project site. A portion of it is officially designated as a State Scenic Highway, and the remaining portion is eligible for state designation (Caltrans, n.d.).

SR-58 runs east to west approximately 0.79 mile north of the Project site and has been designated as eligible for the State Scenic Highway system between U.S. Highway (US) 395 and Interstate (I) 15 by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) (Caltrans, n.d.). SR-58 also is a San Bernardino County scenic route (PlaceWorks 2020). The Project site would be visible from SR-58 for approximately 5 miles (Caltrans 2025a; USGS 2025f, 2025d, 2025c).

Historic Route 66 is a San Bernardino County-designated scenic route, with the designated portion approximately 4.96 miles southeast of the Project site at its closest stretch of roadway, where it runs southwest to northeast (County of San Bernardino 2025a). Historic Route 66 is also a federally designated National Scenic Byway in portions of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Illinois.

Federal Byways

Route 15, approximately 2.93 miles southeast of the Project site, is designated as a federal byway (Caltrans, n.d.).

3.1.2 Viewer Types and Exposures

Workers would access the Project site via SR-58 and Fairview Road. Fairview Road and Community Boulevard are immediately adjacent to the Project site. Fairview Road is east of the site and Community Boulevard is to the north. Both would offer close-up public views of the Project. Public viewers would include motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists.

The Project would be visible along Route 15, approximately 2.93 miles south of the Project site, and more closely on SR-58, approximately 0.79 mile north of the Project site. The Project would be visible along SR-58 for approximately 5 miles. Assuming that drivers are driving at the posted speed limit of 65 miles per hour (mph) (Caltrans 2025a; USGS 2025f, 2025d, 2025c), the Project would be visible for approximately 4.59 minutes. The County-designated portion of Route 66 would not be within the Project viewshed, and therefore travelers on designated portions of Route 66 would not be able to view the Project site.

3.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

3.2.1 Agriculture Resources

The agricultural types in the valley vary but consist primarily of dairy farming and fodder crops (LRWQCB 2012). Crop cultivation has declined for the past two decades; land south and west of the Project site no longer is used for agriculture and is now undeveloped open space and rural residential. Crop production and other agriculture uses, including a dairy, are north and east of the Project site.

The Project site is identified as Urban and Built-Up Land by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP)(California Department of Conservation 2020). No Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance occurs within the Project site. No California Land Conservation Act (commonly referred to as Williamson Act) contracts are related to the Project site (California Department of Conservation 2024). Agricultural areas north and east of the Project site are designated as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland by the FMMP, with designated Farmland areas as close as 550 feet north of the Project site. The nearest Williamson Act parcels are approximately 0.8 mile northeast of the Project site.

The Project site and surrounding parcels are zoned by San Bernardino County as RL-5 (Rural Living – 5 acres minimum) (County of San Bernardino 2025c).

3.2.2 Forestry Resources

No tree cover, forest land, timberland, or timberland-zoned production is on or near the Project site, as defined under Section 12220(g) or Section 4526 of the California Public Resources Code, or under Section 51104(g) of the California Government Code (Los Angeles City Planning 2019).

3.3 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources include historical architectural resources, archaeological resources, and human remains. The cultural resources study area is defined as the Project site and a 0.5-mile buffer.

3.3.1 California Historical Resources Inventory

The California Historical Resources Inventory (HRI) is maintained by the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). The HRI is a database of cultural resources information, including sites listed or eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). The HRI includes only information on historical resources that have been identified and evaluated through one of the programs that the OHP administers under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) or the California Public Resources Code (PRC). The HRI includes data on the following:

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- Resources evaluated in local government historical resource surveys that are partially funded through Certified Local Government grants or in surveys that local governments have submitted for inclusion in the statewide inventory
- Resources evaluated and determinations of eligibility made in compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA
- Resources evaluated for federal tax credit certifications
- Resources considered for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), CRHR, or as California State Landmarks or Points of Historical Interest

3.3.2 Regional Setting

Prehistoric Period

Paleoindian Period (10,000 to 8,000 BCE)

The Paleoindian Period covers the interval from the first accepted presence of humans in Southern California in the Late Pleistocene until approximately 8,000 calibrated years (cal) before current era (BCE). Artifacts and cultural activities from this period represent a predominantly big game hunting culture. Diagnostic artifacts include extremely large, often fluted bifaces associated with use of the spear and the atlatl. Populations appear to have been relatively small and highly mobile, living in temporary camps near readily available water. Evidence for Clovis occupation in the Mojave Desert currently is limited to scattered isolated points and a single site at Lake China, presumed to be an occupation site (Sutton et al. 2007:234). In addition, a single Clovis-like point fragment was found in the Tehachapi Mountains, and other points resembling Clovis have been found in the Tiefert Basin, Searles Lake, and other locations in the region (Jacobs 2024).

Lake Mojave Complex (8,000 to 6,000 BCE)

In the deserts of Southern California, the earliest substantive remains of human occupation are found along the shoreline of ancient Lake Mojave in San Bernardino County, for which this period is termed, and at ancient Lake Cahuilla in Riverside and Imperial counties. The Lake Mojave Period is associated with now-dry pluvial (also called paleo) lakes found throughout the Mojave Desert. Artifacts observed at Lake Mojave Period sites include stylized dart points of the Lake Mojave and Silver Lake series, well-made bifacial knives and other cutting tools, large domed scrapers or scraping planes, crescents, occasional cobble core tools, and ground stone implements (Jacobs 2024). Flaked stone artifacts, which make up the largest part of the toolkit, are often formal tools made of nonlocal materials, while ground stone tools, present in far smaller numbers, generally show ephemeral wear, suggesting long-term curation of more easily ported items and less reliance on floral resources. Site types include extensive habitation sites, small camps, and workshops (Jacobs 2024).

Pinto Complex (7,000 to 3,000 BCE)

The Pinto Complex is the most widely distributed of the early complexes in the Mojave Desert and occurs in a wide variety of topographic and environmental zones, including near remnant pluvial lake basins, near fossil stream channels, near springs or seeps, and in upland areas.

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Large Pinto Complex sites with deep middens and a wide range of artifact types appear to correlate with stable water sources. Pinto sites are found in a wide range of environments and the flourishing of new economies, including greater plant resource exploitation, are seen both in the desert and along the Pacific coast. Olivella shell beads have been found at Pinto sites, potentially indicating the beginnings of trade on the coast. Diagnostic artifacts recovered from Pinto Complex archaeological sites have included heavy-keeled scrapers, flat millingstones, manos, and Pinto series projectile points, which are large, coarsely made points, indicating the continued use of darts and atlatls (Jacobs 2024). By the end of the Middle Holocene, conditions in the Mojave Desert became much warmer and much drier than in earlier periods. Currently, few sites are known to date to the period between 3,000 and 2,000 cal BCE, and it appears that parts of the Mojave may have been abandoned (Jacobs 2024).

Gypsum Complex (2,000 BCE to 200 current era [CE])

The start of the Gypsum Complex coincides with the beginning of the Little Pluvial wetter climatic episode at approximately 2,000 BCE and continues into the drier period following the Little Pluvial. Artifacts that offer strong evidence for the beginning of trade between the desert and the coast include Olivella shell beads and Haliotis rings from the coast and split twig figures from the southwest, which are found at Gypsum sites. Gypsum Complex toolkits include the diagnostic Elko and Elko-eared points, leaf-shaped points, rectangular-based knives, flake scrapers, T-shaped drills, the occasional large scraper plane, and hammerstones. Elko series points are associated by the researcher Michael J. Moratto with the spread of Uto-Aztecan speakers throughout the Mojave during this period (Jacobs 2024). A shift in food procurement strategies also marks this period, when grinding implements including manos and millingstones became common and mortars and pestles were introduced (Jacobs 2024).

Rose Spring Complex (200 to 1,100 CE)

During the Rose Spring Complex, a strong coastal influence extended into the western Mojave Desert (Warren 1984) and the eastern Mojave experienced an influx from Colorado River groups. Generally, the Rose Spring Complex appears to have been in strong continuity with the Gypsum Complex. Similar artifacts, including millingstones, manos, mortars, pestles, and incised stones, were still used. Desert populations continued a successful hunting and gathering adaptation to the desert environment through increasingly complex subsistence strategies, including development of the bow and arrow. The sites from this period contain a variety of trade items, including Southern California shell beads, steatite items, and other coastal artifacts. Eastgate and Rose Spring projectile points are the diagnostic artifacts (Jacobs 2024).

Rose Spring sites are found near springs, washes, and occasionally, lakeshores. Architectural evidence of pit houses, wickiups, and other types of structures indicate an increase in sedentism during this period. The Medieval Climatic Anomaly began during the Rose Springs Complex, and the resulting desiccation of existing lakes and other water sources in the Mojave Desert appears to have changed settlement patterns significantly, resulting in a shift in dependence on permanent water sources to more ephemeral ones. The Rose Spring Complex ended by approximately 1,100 CE.

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Late Prehistoric Complexes (1,100 CE to Historic Times)

The Late Prehistoric Complex is noted for a strong reliance on plant food gathering and hunting of small game and a decreased reliance on large game (Jacobs 2024). Separate complexes emerged that appear to represent historically known Native American linguistic and cultural ethnic groups. Anasazi turquoise mining, Hakatayan influence from the Colorado River, and the spread of the Numic Paiute and Shoshone cultures east from the western Mojave Desert occurred during this period (Jacobs 2024). Seasonal movement was common and resulted in a diverse array of site types. For the populations in the Project region within the Mojave Desert, large village sites remain marked by a paucity of pottery. Characteristic artifacts include Desert series and Cottonwood projectile points, buffware and brownware ceramics, shell and steatite beads, and milling tools. Trade continued to develop and expand with groups on the coast (Jacobs 2024). At the end of the Late Prehistoric Complex, an abandonment of village sites appears in the desert region (Jacobs 2024).

Ethnographic Period

The Project site is within the traditional territories of the Kawaiisu branch of the Chemehuevi—and the Vanyume desert branch of the Serrano.

Chemehuevi

The Chemehuevi belong to the Shoshonean language group, a Southern Numic branch of the Uto-Aztecan language family. Although the Kawaiisu lived primarily in the foothills and mountains, they would travel to lower elevations during the cooler seasons. The Kawaiisu lived in chieftainships, which generally were based on familial ties. Kawaiisu chiefs did not inherit the role of chief; rather, any wealthy Kawaiisu man might become a village chief. Because a man's property was destroyed at his funeral, a son could only succeed his father as chief if he gained enough property on his own. Jimson weed was employed as a hallucinogenic for religious and shamanistic purposes as well as for puberty rites among the Kawaiisu, much as it was throughout southern California. The Kawaiisu shamans practiced rain magic and rain doctors would minister to the sick as well as summon the rain.

Kawaiisu subsistence was based on hunting, fishing, and gathering. Acorns were one of their staple crops. Piñon nuts could be gathered at higher elevations of Kawaiisu territory. Seeds, shoots, leaves, bulbs, tubers, and berries were collected as well. Large game, including deer, bear, mountain sheep, and antelope, were hunted, as was smaller game, such as squirrels, mice, and rabbits. The Kawaiisu would join the nearby Tubatulabal and Yokuts in communal antelope drives in the San Joaquin Valley (Jacobs 2024).

Chemehuevi beliefs were closer to those of groups found east of Chemehuevi territory, rather than those of the geographically closer Southern or Central California groups. Many Chemehuevi songs are similar, if not the same, as Mojave songs, including their Shaman and Doctoring songs (Jacobs 2024). The Chemehuevi had external relationships with the Mojave, Navajo, and Utes, who were sometimes friendly and sometimes hostile. The Southern Paiutes often accused the Ute and Navajo of kidnapping raids. Relations with the Western Shoshone to the north and northwest generally were friendly and often involved intermarriage. The

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Chemehuevi also had generally amicable relations with other Mojave Desert groups, including the Serrano and Vanyume, Cahuilla, and Diegueño. Although the Chemehuevi borrowed heavily from Mojave culture, they generally tried to avoid the frequent warfare that involved many of their more powerful and populous regional neighbors to the east (Jacobs 2024).

Serrano

The Vanyume, a desert subdivision of the Serrano, are classified as belonging to the Takic linguistic branch, a subdivision of the Uto-Aztecan language family, and are considered to be a part of the Shoshonean or Takic migration into California (Jacobs 2024). In addition to its occupation of the upper Mojave River drainage, the Vanyume appear to have occupied a substantial area in the western Mojave region. Vanyume territory extended from the eastern Mojave Desert through modern day Victorville and as far west as the city of Palmdale in the Antelope Valley (Jacobs 2024). The subsistence practices of the Serrano were primarily hunting and gathering within diverse ecological zones. Food included acorns, piñon nuts, and seeds from the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains; yucca, mesquite, and cactus from desert environs; and game, such as deer, rabbit, antelope, and other small mammals; and fish. The primarily desert-dwelling Vanyume had resources available to them from outside their territories, through trade and networking with other Serrano groups who occupied areas in both the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains (Jacobs 2024).

Settlement locations were dictated by water resources, and villages tended to be based near streams, springs, and rivers, with village sizes ranging from 50 to 100 people (Jacobs 2024). Family dwellings were of the style that was encountered for many groups in Southern California—constructed with willow and tule in a circular, domed fashion. Each dwelling had a central fire for heat and minor cooking, although most domestic activities occurred outdoors. Other structures in a Vanyume village were armadas, an unenclosed structure roofed with brush, and a ceremonial house occupied by a village leader (Jacobs 2024).

The annual cycle of social, ceremonial, and economic activities of all Serranos was dictated by the seasonal availability of important subsistence resources (Jacobs 2024). They engaged in hunting, craft activities, and visiting primarily in the winter months, after the fall piñon and acorn harvests. Early spring was the greatest food scarcity season of the year.

Historic Period

In California, the Historic Period generally is divided into the Spanish or Mission Period (1769 to 1821), the Mexican or Rancho Period (1821 to 1848), and the American Period (1848 to present).

Spanish Period (1769 to 1821)

In 1542, Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo reached California by ship, entered San Diego Bay, and claimed Alta California for Spain. The Historic Period in California began with establishment of Spanish colonial military outposts. The first outpost was Mission San Diego de Alcalá, founded in 1769 by Junípero Serra. During this period, 21 missions were built in California, lined up from south to north along the El Camino Real. Missionization, a period of forced religious

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conversion of the Native Americans who occupied the region, began during this era. Many perished from ill treatment but many more died because of the introduction of European diseases, ultimately devastating the Native American populations. The Old Spanish Trail connected Villa Real de Santa Fé de San Francisco, now Santa Fe, New Mexico, and El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora La Reina de Los Ángeles, now Los Angeles, and traversed the Barstow area. The last mission to be founded was San Francisco Solano in 1823. Later, as Spain lost its rule over New Spain and secularization was sought by the new government, the Mission system was disbanded (Jacobs 2024).

Mexican or Rancho Period (1821 1848)

Mexico became independent of Spain in 1821, and the Decree of Secularization, passed in 1834, effectively ending the Spanish Period in California. In 1842, Alta California Governor Juan B. Alvarado (governor from 1837 to 1842) granted Rancho San Bernardino to colonial settlers José del Carmen, José María Lugo, Vicente Lugo, and Diego Sepúlveda. The families ranched cattle on the 35,509-acre ranch, which spanned approximately 55 percent of contemporary San Bernardino County (Jacobs 2024).

American Period (1848 to Present)

Following the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, the U.S. took possession of California. The treaty bound the U.S. to honor the legitimate land claims of Mexican citizens who were residing in captured territories. The Land Act of 1851 established a Board of Land Commissioners to review these records and adjudicate claims, and it charged the Surveyor General with surveying the confirmed land grants (Jacobs 2024). From 1852 to 1856, the Board of Land Commissioners determined the validity of grant claims. The commissioners rejected many of the original rancho claims, which then became public domain and open for claim by squatters.

Because of the harsh climate and limited water access, the Project region continued to be unsettled and was used primarily as a travel corridor, leading from the coast into the territories of Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and other parts of the Southwestern U.S. The gold rush triggered a huge interest in mining operations and drew many prospectors into the Mojave Desert, in search of mineral resources (Jacobs 2024). In 1876, the Southern Pacific Railroad reached the Antelope Valley and established stops in Randsburg, Rosamond, Barstow, and Mojave. The railroad connected the desert towns, rural ranching communities, and mining camps to large consumer markets (Jacobs 2024).

In 1882, a group of agrarian immigrants disembarked the Barstow-to-Mojave Branch of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe (AT&SF) Railway and established the rural community of Hinckley (now Hinkley). The AT&SF opened the western Mojave Desert to permanent settlements and broad-scale agricultural production by providing farmers and ranchers with a direct connection to the commercial markets in Barstow (12 miles east) and Mojave (61 miles west) (Jacobs 2024). Although equipped for passenger service, Hinkley Station primarily functioned as a water stop and pumping station for the AT&SF's steam engines. In

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approximately 1908, Hinkley experienced a small population boom, when AT&SF constructed a section house for its railroad operations (Jacobs 2024).

The Hinkley Compressor Station was established in 1952, at a cost of \$3.5 million. The station was part of the company's "Super Inch" pipeline project and originally was equipped with seven of the largest compressors made for pipeline booster service, as well as with operational buildings and offices, cooling towers, water treatment equipment, and storage facilities (Jacobs 2024). After the initial construction, PG&E expanded the plant to accommodate California's growing utility demands (Jacobs 2024).

3.3.3 Local Setting

Records Search and Historical Research

Background and archival searches were completed using PG&E's Confidential Cultural Resources Database (CCRD), part of the California Historical Resources Information System. A review was completed to identify resources listed in the NRHP and the CRHR; listed as California Historical Landmarks or California Points of Historical Interest; or listed in local registers of significant resources. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and interested Native American individuals were contacted. The information then was used to evaluate the Project against the significance criteria in the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Environmental Checklist (as amended in December 2019), to determine potential impacts. The records search did not identify any previously recorded resources within the study area. A total of 29 previously recorded cultural resources were identified within the 0.5-mile buffer of the Project site, including three isolated finds, three Precontact era lithic scatters, 16 historic era archaeological sites, and seven historic era features (roads and water conveyance features) (Jacobs 2024).

Archaeological and Archaeological and Architectural Survey

The literature search revealed that the Project site has been subject to intensive archaeological pedestrian surveys and has low archaeological sensitivity. Therefore, no archaeological pedestrian survey was conducted for the Project. An architectural field survey of the Project area was completed, and one built resource, the Hinkley Compressor Station, was recorded. Based on a lack of historical and architectural significance, the Hinkley Compressor Station is not recommended as eligible for listing in the CRHR, and it is not considered a historical resource under CEQA in Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) or under the PRC in Section 5024.1. No historical resources were identified within the Project site.

Buried Site Sensitivity

Soils in the Project site are dominated by Cajon Loamy Sand, with minor components of Norob-Holloran series soils (Jacobs 2024). These soils typically are described as excessively drained into well-drained sandy loams and are not identified as typical expansive soils, which are composed of a high clay content. Beneath the Project area, the soils are made up of interbedded sands, gravels, silts, and clays (Jacobs 2024).

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The potential of an area to contain buried resources can often be assessed by an examination of an area's topography, soil types, and proximity to water. Buried sites are found in many contexts, especially alluvial fans and stream terraces. Buried sites are more likely in certain locations near water courses, where deposition is deep, or where previous studies have shown a higher density of sites exists or that deposition is ongoing. All these conditions were reviewed to assess the sensitivity for subsurface archaeological deposits in the Project area. In addition, previous studies were reviewed, particularly those including excavations or archaeological monitoring, and depositional information. The review of previous disturbances to the project area indicate the potential for buried resources to be low (Jacobs 2024).

One previous study in a location that intersects the Project site included the results of archaeological monitoring (Jacobs 2024). PG&E completed hydrostatic testing of critical sections of a 34-inch-diameter gas pipeline along Line 300B near Hinkley in 2021. Ground disturbance occurred at several locations along this line and in the southern portion of the Project site. Archaeological monitoring locations included areas within and east of the study area, but no monitoring of ground disturbance occurred in the Project site. One ground stone artifact was found on the surface near a previously recorded site outside the study area, and no deposits were found subsurface during the work. A buried soil (but no artifacts) was noted approximately 10 feet below the ground; however, this find was made east of the study area where the Mojave River passes close to the foothills.

The Project site generally is developed. Areas outside the buildings have been disturbed due to installation of the below-ground gas pipelines and subsequent maintenance work, described previously. The Project site, like many areas of the Mojave Desert, has been subject to continuous aeolian and alluvial activity, but other factors that would indicate a potential for intact buried archaeological deposits are absent, such as the presence of water nearby. The Project site is more than one mile from the Mojave River, and there is no evidence of other fresh water sources between the Mojave River and the Project site. Because only ephemeral surface lithic scatters are recorded nearby, no evidence exists of more complex occupation. Thus, the potential for buried archaeological deposits in the Project site is considered low.

Resource Summary

The records search did not identify any previously recorded resources in the Project area. An architectural field survey of the Project site was completed (Jacobs 2024). No historical resources were identified in the Project site.

3.4 Energy

3.4.1 State of California

Energy use for the state is monitored by the California Energy Commission (CEC). The most recent estimated energy use in California is shown in Table 3.4-1.

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Table 3.4-1 Recent Estimated Energy Use in California

Energy Use	Consumption
Electricity	281,140 GWh
In-state generation	215,623 GWh
Northwest Imports	15,925 GWh
Southwest Imports	49,593 GWh
Natural Gas	2,087,461 cubic feet
Petroleum	628,086 barrels
Gasoline	13.6 billion gallons
Diesel	3.5 billion gallons

Source: (CEC 2025a; 2025b; EIA 2025a; 2025b)

3.4.2 Local and Regional Energy Use

The Project site is in San Bernardino County, which is served by Southern California Edison (SCE), including the communities of Barstow and Hinkley (SCE 2025). San Bernardino County has 19 power plants, with natural gas providing the primary fuel for electricity generation. Solar, hydroelectric, and coal also are used for electricity generation, but to a lesser degree than natural gas (approximately 48.94 percent in total as compared to approximately 51.48 percent for natural gas) (Find Energy 2025). Although the Hinkley Compressor Station produces electricity for most of its operations, the fire pump and the technical shop building in the compressor station, as well as areas around the station, use electricity supplied by SCE.

Energy consumption in the Project vicinity is associated with land uses (rural residential and agricultural energy use). The Hinkley Compressor Station is powered by permanent generators, fueled by natural gas from PG&E's supplies.

Project Site Energy Use

The Hinkley Compressor Station is not within PG&E service territory. Rather, it is a major compressor station on PG&E's "backbone" gas transmission system, which transports natural gas to millions of customers in California (PG&E 2025). The station uses four natural gas engine-driven permanent generators to supply electric power for most of the station's operation, including natural gas compression.

Utility agreements prevent PG&E from using the power that is generated at the station outside the immediate station area (PG&E 2025). The Hinkley Compressor Station used approximately 7,900 megawatt-hours of electricity in 2023 (PG&E 2025).

3.5 Land Use and Planning

The Project site is on San Bernardino County Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 048-81-1252, which is owned, in fee, by PG&E. The site is approximately 2.5 miles southeast of the unincorporated community of Hinkley and approximately 1 mile west of the City of Barstow.

The Project site is within the Desert Region regional planning area under the San Bernardino Countywide Plan. The Project site is not within a Community Plan area or Specific Plan area. An interactive map from the San Bernardino Countywide Plan indicates that the Project site and surrounding area have a land use designation of Rural Living (a maximum of one dwelling unit per 2.5 acres) and a zoning designation of RL-1 (Rural Living – 2.5-acre minimum) (San Bernardino County 2020).

According to the Land Use Element of the Barstow General Plan (City of Barstow 2020), the Project site is within the City of Barstow’s “sphere of influence,” which refers to the probable ultimate boundaries of full buildout of Barstow and represents its point of maximum population capacity.

The Project site is designated as Resource Conservation Open Space (ROS) because it is unsuitable for urban development. ROS designations are assigned either to address the need for habitat preservation or environmental mitigation. The area surrounding the Project site is designated primarily as ROS, with an area designated as Estate Residential (RE) (City of Barstow 2020).

3.6 Population and Housing

3.6.1 Population

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of San Bernardino County in 2020 was 2,181,654 (U.S. Census Bureau 2020b). Barstow, the nearest incorporated city, had a population of 25,415 in 2020 (U.S. Census Bureau 2020a). San Bernardino County projects an 8 percent growth in population between 2020 and 2045 (County of San Bernardino 2025b).

3.6.2 Housing

San Bernardino County had 666,362 housing units in 2020, with 98,783 households in the unincorporated area (County of San Bernardino 2022a). The County’s Housing Element, adopted in September 2022, projects the number of households in the County as a whole to increase by 12 percent, to 749,286, by 2030. Growth in the unincorporated area of the County is expected to increase during the same time period by 6 percent, to 104,540 (County of San Bernardino 2022a). Barstow had 9,170 households in 2023 (U.S. Census Bureau 2023).

Existing Housing

Approximately 373 housing units are in Hinkley (Point2Homes 2023). Of them, 257 are occupied by residents (Point2Homes 2023).

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Approved Housing Developments

No proposed housing developments have been identified within 1 mile of the Project site.

3.7 Public Services

3.7.1 Fire Protection

The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (SBCFPD) is an all-hazard emergency services provider serving people in approximately 19,200 square miles in the county, including all unincorporated areas (San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, n.d.). The SBCFPD employs 308 firefighters and 18 paid-call firefighters and has a fleet of 100 fire engine vehicles (SBCFPD 2023). The SBCFPD is divided into regional service zones. The Project site is in the North Desert Regional Service Zone (County of San Bernardino 2020). Station 56 is the nearest County fire station, at 37284 Flower Road in Hinkley, approximately 3 miles from the Project site.

The Barstow Fire Protection District (BFPD) provides emergency medical, fire, hazardous materials, rescue, and disaster response services in Barstow (City of Barstow, n.d.-b). The BFPD currently employs 18 staff and has two fire engines (Barstow Fire Protection District, n.d.). Barstow Fire District Station 363 is the nearest BFPD fire station to the Project site, approximately 4.5 miles to the southeast at 2600 Main Street in Barstow.

3.7.2 Police Services

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (SBSD) provides law enforcement services to all unincorporated areas of the county, including the Project site. Currently, the SBSB has 2,094 sworn personnel (San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, n.d.). The nearest Sheriff's Office to the Project site is at 225 East Mountain View Street in Barstow, approximately 7.3 miles east of the Project site.

The City of Barstow Police Department has a sworn force of 40 officers that serve approximately 60,000 people over 40 square miles (City of Barstow, n.d.-a). The closest station to the Project site is at 220 East Mountain View Street in Barstow, approximately 7.4 miles east of the Project site.

3.7.3 Schools

The school district nearest the Project site is the Barstow Unified School District (BUSD), which has seven elementary schools, two middle schools, three high schools, and one adult school (BUSD 2025). In addition, several daycare facilities and several charter and private schools, including the Mojave River Academy and Concordia Christian School, are in Barstow. The nearest school to the Project site is Lenwood Elementary School, approximately 3 miles to the southeast.

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3.7.4 Libraries

No libraries are within 1 mile of the Project site. The closest is the Barstow Library, approximately 7.5 miles east of the Project site.

3.7.5 Parks

As discussed in Section 3.16, Recreation, there are no parks within 1 mile of the Project site. Several state park facilities are in San Bernardino County, but none of the parks are within the Project area. The San Bernardino County Regional Parks District (SBCRPD) operates nine regional parks, one regional trail, and one preserve (County of San Bernardino, n.d.). No SBCRPD facilities are located within the Project area. The City of Barstow owns and operates several parks and recreational facilities within city limits. The nearest of these is Jasper Park, approximately 3 miles from the Project site (City of Barstow Parks & Recreation, n.d.).

3.7.6 Emergency Medical Services

The Barstow Community Hospital is approximately 7.8 miles east of the Project site and has a 24-hour emergency room (Anderson 2021).

3.8 Recreation

The Project site is in an unincorporated area of northwestern San Bernardino County, approximately 1 mile west of the City of Barstow and approximately 2.5 miles southeast of the unincorporated community of Hinkley. The land immediately surrounding the Project site consists of privately owned rural residential and agricultural land with minimal recreation opportunities. No designated recreational resources are within the Project site (PG&E 2025).

3.8.1 Federal Recreation Resources

No federal recreational facilities or resources overlap the Project site. Federal recreational resources within 5 miles of the Project site are primarily on land administered by the BLM Barstow Field Office. The Stoddard/Johnson Special RMA is approximately 5.5 miles southeast of the Project site and consists of the Stoddard OHV and Johnson OHV areas. These OHV areas provide users with opportunities for OHV recreation and motorized use (BLM 2025b, BLM 2025d, BLM 2025c).

The Superior–Cronese ACEC is approximately 5 miles west, north, and northeast of the Project site. ACECs areas are specially managed areas to protect important values, such as important resources and unique scenic landscapes, or to protect people and property from hazards. Although the Superior–Cronese ACEC is primarily managed for desert tortoise habitat, it also provides recreational opportunities, such as camping and hiking (BLM 2025b, BLM 2025a, BLM 2015).

Several small, checkerboarded parcels of BLM administered land are within 5 miles of the Project site, including one parcel along the Mojave River. These smaller parcels are not designated formally as recreational facilities or management areas but are public lands which

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may be used for informal recreational opportunities. None of these lands are directly adjacent to the Project site (BLM 2025b).

3.8.2 State Recreation Resources

No state parks or recreational areas within 5 miles of the Project site (California State Parks 2025).

3.8.3 Local Recreation Resources

Several local recreational opportunities, including community parks, are near the Project area. The closest local recreational facility is the Barstow Gun Club, approximately 800 feet south of the Project area and owned by PG&E (PG&E 2025). Other recreational facilities include:

- The Hinkley Community and Senior Center, owned by San Bernardino County, approximately 0.5 mile west of the Project area
- Elks Community Playground, approximately 1.5 miles north of the Project site

Additional formal recreation resources are located in Barstow.

3.9 Transportation

3.9.1 Roadway Network

The Project site is in a rural area of unincorporated San Bernardino County, approximately 1 mile south of State Route (SR) 58 and 1 mile west of the City of Barstow. The Project site is accessed from Fairview Road, a paved, two-lane local roadway with no striping, shoulders, or pedestrian infrastructure. Regional access is provided by SR 58, a major east to west arterial that connects the Barstow area with Bakersfield and the Central Valley to the west and I-15 to the east.

Key local roads in the vicinity include Community Boulevard, Hinkley Road, and Lenwood Road. These roads connect to SR 58 and provide access to the Project site via Fairview Road. These roads are primarily rural in character, serving residential properties, agricultural land, and infrastructure facilities in the surrounding area. The intersection of SR 58 and Lenwood Road, northeast of the Project area, experiences an annual average daily traffic (AADT) volume of approximately 15,200 vehicles (Caltrans 2023). The intersection of SR 58 and Main Street southeast of the Project area experiences an AADT volume of approximately 17,000 vehicles (Caltrans 2023).

3.9.2 Transit and Rail Services

There are no pedestrian sidewalks, bike lanes, or designated bicycle routes within or adjacent to the Project site. The area lacks curb and gutter infrastructure, street lighting, and urban design elements that typically support active transportation modes. Bus Route 27 (Barstow-Hinkley-Helendale) provides transit service to the area surrounding the Project site (VVTA 2025). The closest bus stop to the Project site is located approximately 0.6 miles northwest of the Project site.

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at the intersection of Community Boulevard and Mountain View Road (Caltrans 2025b). No passenger or freight rail lines cross are adjacent to the Project site and the nearest rail infrastructure is located approximately 1.6 miles north of the Project site (Caltrans 2024).

3.10 Tribal Cultural Resources

A detailed summary of the prehistoric and ethnographic context of the Project site and the cultural resources studies that were completed for the Project are presented in Section 3.3: Cultural Resources.

Panorama Environmental, Inc. (Panorama) submitted a Sacred Lands File request to the NAHC on April 18, 2025. The NAHC responded the same day with a list of 13 representatives from five tribes who are culturally affiliated with the Project area. Panorama sent notification letters in compliance with AB 52 to the tribal representatives on June 10, 2025 (refer to Appendix A for the NAHC list of tribes and the AB 52 letters). The Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation and the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians responded to the notification letter. Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation requested additional information about the Project before determining whether it would request consultation. The CPUC provided the requested information, and the tribe did not request consultation with the CPUC under AB 52. Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians indicated that the Project site is within the Chemehuevi Traditional Use Area. Although no known cultural resources are within the Project APE, the possibility of finding surface and/or buried archaeological materials may occur. The tribe requests to be notified if any findings are discovered. Panorama sent an email to the representative of Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians on July 9, 2025, to verify whether the tribe was requesting AB 52 consultation. No response was received. Panorama called the representative of Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians on August 26, 2025, and the tribe requested additional information about the Project. The CPUC provided the requested information, and the tribe did not request AB 52 consultation.

3.11 Utilities and Service Systems

3.11.1 Water Services

The Hinkley Compressor Station is outside the Golden State Water Company service area. Water at the Hinkley Compressor Station is obtained from off-site wells that supply water for domestic use, such as sinks and toilets, and industrial use—primarily operation of cooling towers to cool compressed natural gas heated by friction.

3.11.2 Wastewater Services

The Project site manages wastewater with a private septic system.

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3.11.3 Stormwater

No existing stormwater facilities were identified on or near the Project site. The Project site is located on a flat area; therefore, most of the stormwater drainage would likely evaporate or infiltrate into surface soils rather than being transported as sheet flow (LRWQCB 2013).

3.11.4 Solid Waste and Recycling Services

Burrtec Waste Industries provides waste collection and recycling in the area around the Project site, including Barstow, the community of Hinkley, and surrounding unincorporated San Bernardino County (San Bernardino County 2019).

San Bernardino County Public Works includes the Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD), which is responsible for the management and operation of the county's solid waste disposal system. This system consists of five regional landfills and nine transfer stations (San Bernardino County, n.d.). These five landfills can accept waste from the Project and are listed with their capacities and estimated closure dates in Table 3.11-1. San Bernardino County Public Works publishes the *Construction & Demolition Waste Recycling Guide* (2024), which includes a list of recycling facilities in the county that accept construction and demolition waste for recycling, as listed in Table 3.11-2 (San Bernardino County 2023). The nearest landfill for management of contaminated soil or hazardous materials is the Kettleman Hills facility, as listed in Table 3.11-2.

Table 3.11-1 Landfills in Proximity to the Project Site

Landfill Name	Remaining Total Landfill Capacity (cubic yards)	Landfill Average Daily Volume or Capacity	Estimated Closure Date	Takes Construction Waste?
Barstow Landfill	71,481,660	1,500	2071	Yes
Landers Landfill	11,148,100	1,200	2072	Yes
Victorville Landfill	79,400,000	3,000	2047	Yes
Mid-Valley Landfill	54,219,377	7,500	2045	Yes
San Timoteo Landfill	12,360,396	2,000	2039	Yes

Table 3.11-2 Recycling and Construction Waste Facilities in Proximity to the Project Site

Recycling Facility Name	Remaining Total Landfill Capacity (cubic yards)	Landfill Average Daily Volume or Capacity	Estimated Closure Date	Takes Construction Waste?
Emery Materials (recycling)	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Yes (asphalt and concrete)
Vulcan Materials Company (recycling)	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Yes (asphalt and concrete)
SA Recycling	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Yes (metals)

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Recycling Facility Name	Remaining Total Landfill Capacity (cubic yards)	Landfill Average Daily Volume or Capacity	Estimated Closure Date	Takes Construction Waste?
Kettleman Hills Industrial Waste Codisposal Facility	15,600,000	9,000	2040	Yes (Class I hazardous and Class II designated waste)

Source: (California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, n.d.)

3.11.5 Gas and Electric

Hinkley Compressor Station is connected to the Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Baja Path gas transmission system, which transports natural gas to millions of California customers, with interconnections to other utilities. The station receives natural gas from Topock Compressor Station, located approximately 152 miles east at the state border between California and Arizona. Hinkley Compressor Station compresses gas from Topock Compressor Station to transport it through the Tehachapi Mountains to Kettleman Compressor Station (approximately 200 miles northwest).

Hinkley Compressor Station uses four natural gas engine-driven generators using gas from the PG&E gas transmission system to supply electric power for most of the station operation including the natural gas compression at the station. Utility agreements prevent PG&E from using the power generated at the station outside the immediate area of the station.

Southern California Edison (SCE) provides electricity to the Project site and vicinity. SCE has a service territory of approximately 50,000 square miles and serves approximately 15 million people in central, coastal and southern California (Southern California Edison, n.d.).

3.11.6 Telecommunications

Cell phone infrastructure and service are provided in the Barstow area by Verizon, T-Mobile, and AT&T Wireless; other companies that use their networks to provide services include Mint Mobile, Cricket, Boost, and Visible. Internet providers (both cable and satellite) include Spectrum, Verizon, T-Mobile 5G Home Internet, ISP.net, Dish, DirecTV, and Viasat (BestNeighborhood.org, n.d.).

4 Biological Resources

4.1 Data Collection

4.1.1 Desktop Analysis

To determine potential sensitive biological resources that may be present within or adjacent to the Project site, available literature and databases consulted include the following:

- California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) listings identify documented occurrences of special status plant and wildlife species within 5-miles of the Project site
- California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California database determines potentially occurring special status plant species
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information on Planning and Consultation (IPaC) species list tool identifies potentially occurring federally listed species and critical habitats
- Natural Resource Conservation Service National Wetlands Inventory database determines the presence of waters and wetlands and identifies potentially occurring suitable habitat for special status amphibians
- California Department of Wildlife (CDFW) Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program (VegCAMP) program determines mapped sensitive habitats
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) West Coast Region Protected Resource App mapping tool and Fishers Essential Fish Habitat mapper determines aquatic habitats and species
- Aerial imagery reviews to determine habitats
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey provides soils information
- Hinkley Groundwater Remediation Project Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), provides information about covered species, covered activities, and conservation measures implemented during groundwater remediation activities at the site
- Observations made during biological surveys and monitoring conducted while implementing groundwater remediation activities at the site
- BLM database determines whether ACEC are present
- Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Land Use Plan Amendment for information regarding unique landscape features, rare vegetation types, and special status species and habitats

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4.1.2 Field Surveys

Field surveys were conducted for the Project site to verify vegetation communities, botanical species present, and wildlife. Study areas and field surveys for each survey are discussed below.

Study Areas

The vegetation study area identifies vegetation communities within the Project site plus a 1,000-foot radius. The botanical study area identifies flora within a 100-foot radius from the Project site. The biological study area identifies wildlife within the Hinkley Compressor Station fence line plus a 600-foot radius.

Vegetation Community Surveys

Vegetation communities within the vegetation study area were assessed through desktop analysis and information on species documented during floristic surveys. Prior to field surveys, the CDFW VegCAMP database for the California Deserts and Biographic Information and Observation System as part of the CNDDDB was reviewed to determine potential habitat in the vegetation study area. These data were refined during field surveys to better characterize vegetation communities and evaluate available habitat for special status species (Jacobs 2025).

Botanical Surveys

Meandering transect floristic surveys were conducted on April 15 and 16, 2024, to map any special status plant species present within or adjacent to the proposed work or staging areas. The objective of the surveys was to generate a comprehensive list of all plant species that occur in the botanical study area and to map, photograph, and record data for any special status plant species found. Prior to surveys, pre-survey research and literature review were conducted to determine special status plants that may occur within the botanical study area.

Wildlife Surveys

Wildlife surveys conducted for the Project site included focused surveys for Agassiz's desert tortoise conducted on April 12, 2024, habitat and breeding season surveys for burrowing owl between April 12 and July 15, 2024, and protocol-level surveys and trapping for Mohave ground squirrels. Observations of common plant and animal species were recorded concurrently with these surveys.

4.2 Vegetation

4.2.1 Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

The landscape within the vegetation study area consists of a mix of agricultural areas, developed residential areas, and small private property holdings. The surrounding area primarily consists of hardscaped or developed/landscaped agricultural land and ruderal or non-native species with some undeveloped desert scrub (Jacobs 2025; PG&E 2025). Much of the Project site has been developed and is unvegetated due to the existing Hinkley Compressor Station facilities. Vegetation in the Project site primarily consists of ornamental landscape

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plantings, trees, and shrubs. There is a 2-acre area of native vegetation along the western fence line within the Project site (PG&E 2025). None of the vegetation communities in the Project site are considered sensitive natural communities identified by CDFW (CDFW 2025). Table 4.2-1 provides a summary of vegetation communities and land cover types within the vegetation study area. Representative vegetation alliances from the *Manual of California Vegetation* second edition (Sawyer et al. 2009) are referenced and described below.

Table 4.2-1 Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types in the Vegetation Study Area

Vegetation Community/Land Cover Type	Acres in Vegetation Study Area	Percent of Vegetation Study Area
Allscale scrub	140	46
Developed	72	24
Agriculture	37	12
Creosote bush scrub	34	11
Disturbed	15	5
Desert dunes	7	2
Total	305	100

Source: (PG&E 2025)

Allscale Scrub

Allscale scrub is common in low-lying alluvial fans, edges of playas, and along washes in sandy soil areas of the Mojave Desert. Allscale (*Atriplex polycarpa*) is the dominant species and composes at least 2 percent of the absolute cover. Other shrub species may be present, and annual plants may be growing in the spaces between shrubs.

In the allscale scrub communities within the vegetation study area, allscale was the dominant species with almost no other shrub species present. Some annual species, including gilias (*Gilia* spp.), buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp.), comb seed (*Pectocarya* spp.), fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* spp.), annual bursage (*Ambrosia acanthicarpa*), and snakehead (*Atriplex coulteri*) were documented. Weeds including London rocket (*Sisymbrium irio*), brome grasses (*Bromus* spp.), and prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*) were common to the north and northeast portions of the vegetation study area where disturbance was more recent. The 2-acre area of native vegetation within the Hinkley Compressor Station is associated with the allscale scrub vegetation community (Jacobs 2025).

Developed

Developed land cover types are physically altered due to construction or other activities and no longer support native vegetation. In general, developed areas contain semi-permanent structures, homes, parking lots, pavement or hardscape, or landscaped areas which may require maintenance or irrigation and contain ornamental plants. In addition to facilities within the

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Hinkley Compressor Station, developed areas within the vegetation study area include portions of two residential properties (Jacobs 2025).

Agriculture

Agriculture land cover types consist of agricultural fields and orchards currently or recently in operation. Within the vegetation study area agricultural lands support alfalfa, Bermuda grass, and Sudan grass (Jacobs 2025).

Creosote Bush Scrub

The creosote bush scrub vegetation community is most accurately keyed to the creosote bush-white bursage-allscale scrub association of the creosote bush-white bursage alliance. Creosote bush-white bursage alliance is common throughout a variety of upland habitats but also may be common in minor washes and rills. It contains at least 1 percent absolute cover of creosote bush and 1 percent absolute cover of white bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*). These two species typically exceed twice the cover of other shrub species.

In the creosote bush scrub communities within the vegetation study area, allscale was a common species. Other common native species found included evening primrose (*Eremothera/Oenothera* spp.), blue dick (*Dichelostemma capitatum* ssp. *pauciflorus*), tickseed (*Coreopsis* spp.), rigid spiny herb (*Chorizanthe rigida*), and desert plantain (*Plantago ovata*). Adjacent to the Project area, this scrub association is disturbed with non-native species including red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*) and Mediterranean schismus (*Schimus barbatus*), although native species are also present in high quantities and diversity (Jacobs 2025).

Disturbed

Disturbed land cover types include mostly bare, disturbed soils dominated by low-growing ruderal (weedy) vegetation and few native species. In the vegetation study area, disturbed areas were associated with anthropogenic disturbances, including agricultural practices, residential clearing and grubbing, refuse dumping, dirt roads, and powerline easements (Jacobs 2025).

Desert Dunes

Desert dunes vegetation communities occur where aeolian (wind-blown) sands have accumulated. Dominant plant species typically include four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), allscale, white bursage, California jointfir (*Ephedra californica*), Mormon tea (*Ephedra viridis*), and desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*). Vegetative cover within the desert dunes community varies substantially from year to year and generally reflects disturbances from major flood and wind events (PG&E 2025). Soils are variable, but generally include sands, loamy sands, and loams. In the vegetation study area, aeolian sand formations range from sparsely to moderately vegetated (Jacobs 2025).

4.2.2 Other Communities and Habitats

Wetland Communities and Aquatic Habitats

There are no wetlands, aquatic resources, or riparian habitats within the biological study area; however, there are lined, man-made evaporation ponds associated with the Hinkley

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Compressor Station. There are no perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral streams within the Project site and there are no USGS designated blue line streams on-site (USGS 2023).

4.2.3 Special Status Plant Species

The initial desktop review of CNDDDB, California National Plant Society (CNPS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) databases identified 22 special status plant species with potential to occur within approximately 5 miles of the Project site (Jacobs 2025), summarized in Table 4.2-2.

Table 4.2-2 Special Status Plant Species with Potential to Occur within the Botanical Study Area

Common/Scientific Name	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in Study Area
Plants			
Chaparral sand verbena <i>Abronia villosavar. aurita</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.1 BLM: S	Annual herb. Coastal scrub and mostly broad alluvial fans and benches. Sandy soils. Elevations from 260 to 5,250 feet. Blooms January to August.	Absent. No suitable habitat within the biological survey area or botanical survey areas due to lack of coastal plains or low desert areas. One likely misidentified CNDDDB occurrence recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.
Lane Mountain milk-vetch <i>Astragalus jaegerianus</i>	Federal: Endangered State: None CRPR: 1B.1 BLM: None	Perennial herb. Joshua tree woodland and Mojave Desert scrub. Shallow sandy soils within areas of exposed or partially exposed granitic bedrock. Elevations from 2,952 to 3,936 feet. Blooms April to June.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is present within the botanical study area, outside the proposed work area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study areas. None encountered during field surveys.
Desert cymopterus <i>Cymopterus deserticola</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.2 BLM: S	Perennial herb. Joshua tree woodland and Mojave Desert scrub with sandy substrates. Elevations from 2,066 to 4,920 feet. Blooms March to May.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is present within the botanical study area, outside the proposed work area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.

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Common/Scientific Name	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in Study Area
Mojave monkeyflower <i>Diplacus mohavensis</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.2 BLM: S	Annual herb. Joshua tree woodland, Mojave Desert scrub and sandy or gravelly places such as washes. Elevations from 1,968 to 3,936 feet. Blooms April to June.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is present within the botanical study area, outside the proposed work area. One CNDDDB occurrence recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area reported in 1941. None encountered during field surveys.
Barstow woolly sunflower <i>Eriophyllum mohavense</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.2 BLM: S	Annual herb. Saltbush scrub, Mojave Desert scrub and playas. Elevations from 1,650 to 3,148 feet. Blooms March to May.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is present within the botanical study area west of Fairview Road, outside the proposed work area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area; however, there are several CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 6 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.
Mojave menodora <i>Menodora spinescens</i> var. <i>mohavensis</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.2 BLM: S	Perennial deciduous shrub. Mojave Desert scrub, and in areas with Andesite gravel on rocky hillsides and in canyons. Elevations from 2,263 to 6,560 feet. Blooms April to May.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is present within the botanical study area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.
Spiny-hair blazing star <i>Mentzelia tricuspis</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 2B.1 BLM: None	Annual herb. Sandy and or gravelly Mojave Desert scrub and desert washes. Elevations from 490 to 4,200 feet. Blooms March to May.	Unlikely. Minimal marginal to low quality suitable habitat is present in the botanical study area, outside the proposed work area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.

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Common/Scientific Name	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in Study Area
Creamy blazing star <i>Mentzelia tridentata</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.3 BLM: None	Annual herb. Mojave Desert scrub in association with gravelly, rocky or sandy substrates. Elevations from 2,296 to 3,805 feet. Blooms March to May.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is present within the botanical study area, outside the proposed work area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.
Beaver dam breadroot <i>Pediomelum castoreum</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.2 BLM: S	Perennial herb. Joshua tree woodland and Mojave Desert scrub within sandy washes and road cuts. Elevations from 2,000 to 5,002 feet. Blooms April to May.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is present in the botanical study area outside the proposed work area. Two CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the botanical study area recorded prior to 1937. None encountered during field surveys.
Parish's phacelia <i>Phacelia parishii</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.1 BLM: S	Annual herb. Mojave Desert scrub and clay or alkaline playas. Elevations from 1,771 to 3,936 feet. Blooms April to May.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is present within the botanical study area, outside the proposed work area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.
California alkali grass <i>Puccinellia simplex</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.2 BLM: S	Chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, Valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Elevations from 5 to 3050 feet. Blooms March to May.	Absent. No suitable habitat is present in the botanical study area, outside the proposed work area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.
Western Joshua tree <i>Yucca brevifolia</i>	Federal: None State: SC CRPR: None BLM: None	Perennial tree. Native to the southwestern United States (Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah) and northwestern Mexico, confined mostly to the Mojave Desert between 1,300 and 5,900 ft elevation. Blooms March to June.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is present within the botanical study area, outside the proposed work area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.

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Common/Scientific Name	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in Study Area
Colorado Desert larkspur <i>Delphinium parishii</i> <i>ssp. subglobosum</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 4.3	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland, Sonoran Desert scrub. Blooms March to June.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is present within the botanical study area, outside the proposed work area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.
Crowned muilla <i>Muilla coronata</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 4.2	Chenopod scrub, Joshua tree "woodland", Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland. Blooms March to April.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is present within the botanical study area, outside the proposed work area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.
Joshua Tree poppy <i>Eschscholzia</i> <i>androuxii</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 4.3	Washes in Joshua tree "woodland" and Mojavean desert scrub. Blooms February to May.	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present within the botanical study area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.
White pygmy-poppy <i>Canbya candida</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 4.2	Joshua tree "woodland", Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland. Sandy/granitic/gravelly soils. Blooms March to June.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is present within the botanical study area, outside the proposed work area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.
Mojave spineflower <i>Chorizanthe spinosa</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 4.2	Chenopod scrub, Joshua tree "woodland", Mojavean desert scrub, playas. Often alkaline soils. Blooms March to July.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is present within the botanical study area, outside the proposed work area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.

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Common/Scientific Name	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in Study Area
Slender cottonheads <i>Nemacaulis</i> <i>denudata</i> var. <i>gracilis</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 2B.2	Creosote bush scrub; sandy soils on stabilized dunes and sand ramps. Blooms March to May.	Absent. No suitable habitat is present within the botanical study area due to the lack of stabilized dunes or ramps. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.
Mojave fishhook cactus <i>Sclerocactus</i> <i>poluyancistrus</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 4.3	Great Basin scrub, Joshua tree "woodland"; Mojavean desert scrub, usually carbonate soils. Blooms April to July.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is present within the botanical study area, outside the proposed work area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.
Mojave indigo-bush <i>Psoralea</i> <i>arborescens</i> var. <i>arborescens</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 4.3	Mojavean desert scrub, riparian scrub. Blooms April to May.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is present within the botanical study area, outside the proposed work area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.
Mojave menodora <i>Menodora</i> <i>spinescens</i> var. <i>mohavensis</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.2	Mojavean desert scrub. Slopes, canyons, gravelly, rocky soils. Andesite gravel. Blooms April to May.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is present within the botanical study area, outside the proposed work area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.
Torrey's box-thorn <i>Lycium torreyi</i>	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 4.2	Sandy, rocky, washes, streambanks, desert valleys in Mojavean and Sonoran Desert scrub. January to November.	Unlikely. Suitable habitat is present within the botanical study area, outside the proposed work area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the botanical study area. None encountered during field surveys.

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Notes:

BLM S (plants) = BLM sensitive plants

CNDDDB = California Natural Diversity Database

CRPR = California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR)

E= Endangered

FC= Federal Candidate

FP= Fully Protected

NA = not applicable

PT = proposed Threatened

SC = State Candidate

SSC= State Species of Special Concern

T= Threatened

WL = Watch List

List 1A Presumed extinct in California

List 1B Rare, threatened or endangered in California and elsewhere

List 1B.1 Seriously endangered in California

List 1B.2 Fairly endangered in California

List 1B.3 Not very endangered in California

List 2 Presumed extinct in California, but more common elsewhere

3 Plants for which more information is needed

4 Plants of limited distribution

.1 Seriously threatened in California.

.2 Fairly threatened in California.

.3 Not very threatened in California

Source: (Jacobs 2025; PG&E 2025)

No special status plant species, including federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), California Endangered Species Act (CESA), BLM special status, CRPR, or CDFW Species of Special Concern were encountered during field surveys, which were conducted during the typical blooming period for the 22 special status plant species targeted during surveys (see Table 4.2-2). While some habitat for special status plant species may occur within the botanical study area, habitat quality is generally low due to existing development, agricultural uses, and fragmentation of native vegetation communities (Jacobs 2025). The locations of the CNDDDB recorded occurrences of Barstow woolly sunflower, desert cymopteris, and beaver dam breadroot were also surveyed as reference sites but none were encountered (Jacobs 2025).

4.2.4 Noxious Weeds

Weeds including London rocket (*Sisymbrium irio*), brome grasses (*Bromus* spp.), and prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*) were common to the north and northeast portions of the vegetation study area where disturbance was more recent. The 2-acre area of native vegetation within the Hinkley Compressor Station is associated with the allscale scrub vegetation community (Jacobs 2025).

4.3 General Wildlife

The biological study area supports habitat for several common plant and wildlife species. Most species are common desert species or species typically associated with developed areas. During field surveys, several waterbird species were documented within the biological study area near the evaporation ponds in the Project site (Jacobs 2025). Table 4.3-1 summarizes wildlife species documented within the biological study area during field surveys. Bird species and raptors documented within the biological study area are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

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(MBTA) and Fish and Game Code (FGC § 3800-3806). Desert kit fox are protected fur-bearing mammals (FGC § 4000-4030).

Table 4.3-1 Wildlife Species Documented in the Biological Study Area During Field Surveys

Common Name	Scientific Name
Common side-blotched lizard	<i>Uta stansburiana</i>
Western whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus tigris</i>
Desert iguana	<i>Dipsosaurus dorsalis</i>
Long-nosed leopard lizard	<i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>
Desert spiny lizard	<i>Sceloporus magister uniformis</i>
Snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Cinnamon teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Black-necked stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>
American avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>
Eurasian collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Mourning dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
Black phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>
Common raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Northern mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
American pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>
European starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Brewer's sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>
White-crowned sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>
Western meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Cooper's hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>
Red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
Black-tailed hare	<i>Lepus californicus</i>
California ground squirrel	<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>
Antelope ground squirrel	<i>Amerspermophilus leucurus</i>
Kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys sp.</i>

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Common Name	Scientific Name
Desert wood rat	<i>Neotoma lepida</i>
Desert kit fox	<i>Vulpes macrotis</i>

Source: (Jacobs 2025)

4.3.1 Special Status Wildlife Species

The initial desktop review of CNDDDB, California National Plant Society (CNPS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, and USFWS databases identified 22 special status wildlife species with potential to occur within approximately 5 miles of the Project site (Jacobs 2025). Habitat requirements for each special status species were evaluated to determine whether they may occur within the botanical and biological study areas and are summarized in Table 4.3-2. Species with the possibility of occurring in the biological study area are discussed below.

Table 4.3-2 Special Status Wildlife Species with Potential to Occur within the Biological Study Area

Common/Scientific Name	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in Study Area
Invertebrates			
Monarch butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Federal: Proposed T State: None CDFW: None BLM: None	In spring and summer, habitats are open fields and meadows with milkweed. In winter, found on the coast of southern California and at high altitudes in central Mexico. Whether it is a field, roadside area, open areas, wet area, or urban garden, milkweed and flowering plants are needed for monarch habitat. Adult monarchs feed on the nectar of many flowers, but they breed only where milkweeds are found.	Unlikely. The biological study area is within range of the monarch butterfly. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the biological study area. One milkweed species, climbing milkweed (<i>Funastrum cynanchoides</i> var. <i>hartwegii</i>), was observed in the biological study area. Monarch butterflies could migrate through the biological study area but are unlikely to remain for foraging and breeding. None observed during field surveys.
Amphibians			
Arroyo toad <i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>	Federal: E State: None CDFW: SSC BLM: None	Headwaters of large streams with persistent water from March to mid-June. Shallow, gravely pools less than 18 inches deep adjacent to sandy terraces.	Absent. No suitable habitat is present in the biological study area; the man-made evaporation ponds in the Project site do not support viable habitat. Although the Mojave River could provide suitable habitat, no CNDDDB

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Common/Scientific Name	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in Study Area
			occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the biological or botanical study areas. None observed during field surveys.
Reptiles			
Southwestern pond turtle <i>Actinemys pallida</i>	Federal: PT State: None CDFW: SSC BLM: S	Ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, marshes, and irrigation ditches, with abundant vegetation, and either rocky or muddy bottoms, in woodland, forest, and grassland. In streams, pond turtle prefer pools to shallower areas. Logs, rocks, cattail mats, and exposed banks are required for basking. May enter brackish water and even seawater.	Absent. No suitable habitat is present within the biological study area. While the agricultural fields may provide marginally suitable upland habitat, there are no irrigation canals present within biological study area. Man-made evaporation ponds within the Project site do not support viable habitat. No CNDDDB occurrences reported within 5-miles of the biological study area. None observed during field surveys.
Desert tortoise <i>Gopherus agassizii</i>	Federal: T State: T CDFW: T BLM: None	Mojave and Sonoran deserts in southwestern Utah, southern Nevada, southeastern California, and western Arizona in the United States. Habitat includes creosote/cactus/shadscale scrub from sandy flats to rocky foothills, including alluvial fans, washes, and canyons where suitable soils for den construction might be found. Found from near sea level to around 3,500 feet in elevation.	Possible. Undeveloped portions of the biological study area may provide low quality suitable habitat. Eight CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the biological study area. The proposed work area is developed/disturbed. Fencing likely precludes desert tortoise from entering the site. None observed during field surveys.
Mojave fringe-toed lizard <i>Uma scoparia</i>	Federal: None State: None CDFW: SSC BLM: S	Restricted to areas with fine, loose, wind-blown areas including dunes, dry lakebeds, desert washes, riverbanks, sparse desert scrub habitats, and isolated pockets against hillsides.	Absent. No suitable habitat in the biological study area due to lack of aeolian sand deposits. Suitable habitat is present in the Mojave River, approximately 1.3 miles southeast of the biological study area. Two reported CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the biological

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Common/Scientific Name	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in Study Area
			study area. None observed during field surveys.
Fish			
Mohave tui chub <i>Siphateles bicolor mohavensis</i>	Federal: E State: E CDFW: FP BLM: None	Endemic to the Mojave River basin. Prefers lake habitats, always associated with deep pools and slough-like areas, and does poorly in fast-flowing streams. Adapted for harsh water qualities including alkaline waters and extreme temperatures.	Absent. No suitable aquatic habitat is present within the biological study area. The CNDDDB indicates the species have been extirpated from the area since 1992. None observed during field surveys.
Birds			
Golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Federal: None State: None CDFW: FP BLM: S	Golden eagle can be found from the tundra, through grasslands, intermittent forested habitat, woodland-brushlands, and south to arid deserts and canyonlands. Typically found in open country in the vicinity of hills, cliffs and bluffs. Known to be sensitive to human activity and are known to avoid developed areas.	Unlikely. Marginal to low quality foraging habitat is present in the undeveloped scrub of the outer portions of the biological study area. No suitable nesting habitat is present in the biological study area. May migrate through the biological study area but unlikely to remain for foraging or breeding. None observed during field surveys.
Burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Federal: None State: SC CDFW: SSC BLM: S	Inhabits open, dry, nearly or quite level, grassland; prairie; desert floor; shrubland should be considered potential habitat if shrub cover is below 30 percent. In coastal Southern California, some are found in microhabitats highly altered by humans, including flood control and irrigation basins, dikes, and banks, abandoned fields surrounded by agriculture, and road cuts and margins. In the western United States burrowing owls are	Possible. Suitable breeding habitat may occur in the biological study area, outside of the proposed work area where ground squirrel burrows are found. Suitable foraging habitat is available in agricultural areas. Six CNDDDB occurrences reported within 5 miles of the biological study area. No burrows or burrowing owls encountered during field surveys.

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Common/Scientific Name	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in Study Area
		only rarely known to construct their own burrows; there is a strong association between burrowing owls and burrowing mammals, especially ground squirrels (<i>Spermophilus</i> spp.); however burrowing owls will also occupy human-made niches such as banks and ditches, piles of broken concrete, and even abandoned structures.	
Mountain plover <i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Federal: None State: None CDFW: SSC BLM: S	Nest in shortgrass prairie, especially where blue grama, buffalo grass, and western wheat grass are dominant; and in grassy semidesert with scattered saltbush, sage, prickly pear, and yucca, at elevations ranging from 2,100 to 10,663 feet. They also nest in fallow or recently plowed agricultural fields and in overgrazed landscapes that mimic their natural shortgrass habitat. Mountain Plover often nests around prairie-dog towns. During migration they may appear in almost any shortgrass habitat, including sod farms, playas, or tilled fields.	Absent. No suitable habitat is present within the biological study area; the lined man-made evaporation ponds in the Hinkley Compressor Station fence line do not support viable habitat. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the biological study area. Individuals may migrate through the area but are unlikely to remain for foraging or breeding. None encountered during field surveys.
Western snowy plover <i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i>	Federal: T State: None CDFW: SSC BLM: None	Found on sandy beaches, salt pond levees, and shores of large alkali lakes. Needs sandy, gravelly, or friable soils for nesting. Breeds primarily on coastal beaches above the high tide line on coastal beaches, sand spits, dune-backed beaches, sparsely	Absent. No suitable habitat is present within the biological study area; the lined man-made evaporation ponds in the Hinkley Compressor Station fence line do not support viable habitat. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the biological study area. Individuals may migrate

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Common/Scientific Name	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in Study Area
		vegetated dunes, beaches at creek and river mouths, and salt pans at lagoons and estuaries. Wintering snowy plovers are found on many of the beaches used for nesting as well as in human-made salt ponds, and on estuarine sand and mudflats.	through the area but are unlikely to remain for foraging or breeding. None encountered during field surveys.
Western yellow-billed cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	Federal: T State: E CDFW: None BLM: S	Inhabitant of extensive, mature, riparian forests; has declined from a fairly common, local breeder in much of California 60 years ago, to virtual extirpation with only a handful of tiny populations remaining in all of California today. Losses are tied to obvious loss of nearly all suitable habitat, but other factors may also be involved. Relatively broad, well-shaded riparian forests are utilized, although it tolerates some disturbance. A specialist to some degree feeding on tent caterpillars, with remarkably fast development of young covering only 18–21 days from incubation to fledging.	Absent. No suitable habitat is present within the biological study area; the man-made evaporation ponds in the Project site do not support viable habitat. No CNDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the biological study area. May migrate through the biological study area but it is unlikely to remain for foraging or breeding. None encountered during field surveys.
Loggerhead shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Federal: None State: None CDFW: SSC BLM: None	Forages in open country of many types (including non-intensive agricultural areas) and nests in small trees and large shrubs, often at the edges of open areas. Like most birds of prey, generally occurs at low densities. The species is widely distributed in Southern California with	Possible. Marginal, low quality foraging habitat is present within the creosote bush scrub/allscale scrub habitat in the biological study area. No CNDDB nests recorded within 5 miles of the biological study area. May migrate through the biological study area but it is unlikely to remain for foraging or

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Common/Scientific Name	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in Study Area
		some seasonal movements evident.	breeding. None encountered during field surveys.
Yuma Ridgway's rail <i>Rallus obsoletus yumanensis</i>	Federal: E State: T CDFW: FP BLM: None	Found in freshwater and alkali marshes dominated by stands of emergent vegetation interspersed with areas of open water and drier, upland benches. Prefers mature marsh stands along margins of shallow ponds with stable water levels. Nest sites selected by near upland areas in shallow sites dominated by mature vegetation, often in the base of a shrub.	Absent. No suitable habitat is present within the biological study area; the man-made evaporation ponds in the Project site do not support viable habitat. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the biological study area. May migrate through the biological study area but it is unlikely to remain for foraging or breeding. None encountered during field surveys.
Le Conte's thrasher <i>Toxostoma lecontei</i>	Federal: None State: None CDFW: SSC BLM: S	Found in low, sandy, open deserts that are home to few other bird species. Over most of their range, saltbush, shadscale, cholla cactus, creosote, yucca, mesquite, and ocotillo are common plants, but they are usually sparsely distributed in these mostly flat or rolling landscapes. Generally do not inhabit steep-sided canyons, preferring small arroyos, open flats, or dunes.	Possible. Marginal, low quality foraging habitat is present within the creosote bush scrub/allscale scrub habitat in the biological study area. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the biological study area. May migrate through the biological study area but it is unlikely to remain for foraging or breeding. None encountered during field surveys.
Mohave river vole <i>Microtus californicus mohavensis</i>	Federal: None State: None CDFW: SSC BLM: None	Occurs in moist habitats including meadows, freshwater marshes, and irrigated pastures in the vicinity of the Mojave River. Suitable habitat is associated with ponds and irrigation canals along with the Mojave River. Burrows into soft soils. Elevations of known localities range between 2,325–2,700 feet.	Absent. No suitable habitat is present within the biological study area. Adjacent agricultural fields could provide marginally suitable habitat; however, there are no irrigation canals present within the biological study area. The man-made evaporation ponds in the Project site do not support viable habitat. No CNDDDB occurrences recorded within 5 miles of the biological study

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Common/Scientific Name	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in Study Area
			area. May migrate through the biological study area but it is unlikely to remain for foraging or breeding. None encountered during field surveys.
American badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	Federal: None State: None CDFW: SSC BLM: None	Found in open, drier stages of many shrub, herbaceous, and woodland communities where soils are dry and suitable for burrowing. Sensitive to fragmentation of open spaces. Generally requires good diversity and abundance of rodent prey.	Absent. No suitable habitat is present within the biological study area due to developed/disturbed and fragmented habitat. The Project site is surrounded by a chain link fence, discouraging entry. One CNDDDB occurrence reported within 5 miles of the biological study area. None encountered during field surveys.
Mohave ground squirrel <i>Xerospermophilus mohavensis</i>	Federal: None State: T CDFW: None BLM: S	Restricted to the Mojave Desert in San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Kern, and Inyo Counties. Optimal habitats are open desert scrub, alkali desert scrub, and Joshua tree woodland. Feeds in annual grasslands. Prefers sandy to gravelly soils, avoids rocky areas. Uses burrows at base of shrubs for cover.	Possible. Potential suitable habitat is present within the biological study area. Three CNDDDB occurrences reported within 5 miles of the biological study area. None encountered during field surveys.
Pallid Bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Federal: None State: None CDFW: SSC BLM: S	Roosts in caves, crevices, mines, and occasionally hollow trees and buildings in a wide variety of habitats, including grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests from sea level up through mixed conifer forest. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting.	Absent. Suitable roosting habitat may occur in buildings within the biological study area. None encountered during field surveys and no evidence of building use was found within the biological study area.
Townsend's big-eared bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Federal: None State: None	Roosts in caves, tunnels, mines, & buildings in all habitats found in	Absent. Suitable roosting habitat may occur in buildings within the biological study

4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Common/Scientific Name	Status	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in Study Area
	CDFW: SSC BLM: S	California except subalpine and alpine.	area. None encountered during field surveys and no evidence of building use was found within the biological study area.
Spotted bat <i>Euderma maculatum</i>	Federal: None State: None CDFW: SSC BLM: S	Roosts mostly in rock crevices, occasionally in caves and buildings in arid deserts, grasslands and mixed conifer forests at elevations up to and sometimes higher than 10,000 feet.	Absent. Suitable roosting habitat may occur in buildings within the biological study area. None encountered during field surveys and no evidence of building use was found within the biological study area.
Western mastiff bat <i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	Federal: None State: None CDFW: SSC BLM: S	Roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees, and tunnels in open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, annual and perennial grasslands, palm oases, chaparral, desert scrub, and urban areas.	Absent. Suitable roosting habitat may occur in buildings within the biological study area. None encountered during field surveys and no evidence of building use was found within the biological study area.
Silver-haired bat <i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Federal: None State: None CDFW: SSC BLM: S	Roosts in hollow trees, snags, buildings, rock crevices, caves, and under exfoliating bark. Maternity roosts are typically in dense foliage or hollow trees. Habitat types include coastal and montane coniferous forests, valley foothill woodlands, pinyon-juniper woodlands, and valley foothill and montane riparian habitats, generally below 9,000 feet.	Absent. Suitable roosting habitat may occur in buildings within the biological study area. None encountered during field surveys and no evidence of building use was found within the biological study area.

Notes:

BLM S (plants) = BLM sensitive plants

BLMS (animals) = BLM sensitive animals

CNDDDB = California Natural Diversity Database

CRPR = California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR)

E= Endangered

FC= Federal Candidate

FP= Fully Protected

NA = not applicable

PT = proposed Threatened

SC = State Candidate

SSC= State Species of Special Concern

T= Threatened

4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

WL = Watch List

List 1A Presumed extinct in California

List 1B Rare, threatened or endangered in California and elsewhere

List 1B.1 Seriously endangered in California

List 1B.2 Fairly endangered in California

List 1B.3 Not very endangered in California

List 2 Presumed extinct in California, but more common elsewhere

3 Plants for which more information is needed

4 Plants of limited distribution

.1 Seriously threatened in California.

.2 Fairly threatened in California.

.3 Not very threatened in California

Source: (Jacobs 2025; PG&E 2025)

4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Desert Tortoise

The Mojave population of desert tortoise was listed as threatened under the ESA on April 2, 1990, and listed as threatened under the CESA in 1989. Throughout most of the Mojave Desert, desert tortoises tend to occur on gently sloping terrain with sandy-gravel soils and sparse, low-growing shrubs which allow for establishment of herbaceous plants. Soil must be loose enough for digging burrows, but firm enough that burrows do not collapse. There are eight CNDDDB recorded occurrences of desert tortoises within five miles of the Hinkley Compressor Station. The CNDDDB indicates the largest of four historic populations of desert tortoise were mapped within approximately one mile of the Hinkley Compressor Station. Historically, estimated densities were 20 to over 250 tortoises per square mile, but as of 1977 evidence suggests major declines in the estimated density in most areas. During field surveys, two small, decomposed fragments of a desert tortoise carcass estimated to be greater than four years old were found along the southern fence line of the Hinkley Compressor Station. No recent evidence (e.g., burrows) of desert tortoises was found in the biological study area during field surveys (Jacobs 2025).

Mohave Ground Squirrel

Mohave ground squirrel was listed as threatened under the CESA in 1993. Most Mohave ground squirrel occurrences are associated with Mojave creosote brush scrub, desert saltbush scrub, and Mojave mixed woody scrub vegetation communities. Mohave ground squirrels construct burrows to regulate temperature, escape predators, and give birth. There are three CNDDDB recorded occurrences of Mohave ground squirrel within 5 miles of the Hinkley Compressor Station. The most recent occurrence was reported northwest of the Project site in 2012 and oldest occurrence was reported in 1949, southeast of the Project area. No Mohave ground squirrels were captured during field surveys; however potential habitat does occur within the western portion of Hinkley Compressor Station fence line (Jacobs 2025).

Monarch Butterfly

Monarch butterfly was proposed for listing as threatened under the ESA in December 2024 (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) 2024). Monarch butterfly relies on milkweed (primarily *Asclepias* spp.) for breeding and reproduction. There are no CNDDDB recorded occurrences of monarch butterfly within 5 miles of the Hinkley Compressor Station. One species of milkweed, climbing milkweed (*Funastrum cynanchoides* var. *hartwegii*), was observed in the biological study area during biological surveys. Climbing milkweed is not an important host for monarch butterflies (Nature Collective 2019).

Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owls are a CESA candidate species, a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) species of special concern, and a BLM sensitive species. Habitat includes open, well-drained terrain; short, sparse vegetation; and underground burrows or burrow-like openings for nesting. Most burrows have been excavated by ground squirrels, badgers, foxes, desert tortoise, and coyotes. Nesting may occur in or immediately adjacent to the agricultural areas. Burrowing owl can be found year-round in old piping at long-abandoned agricultural units. There are six CNDDDB recorded occurrences within 5 miles of the Hinkley Compressor Station.

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Most observations have been reported west and southeast of the Hinkley Compressor Station in 2007 and 2010. No burrowing owl signs, burrows, or owls were observed in the biological study area during surveys. A total of 17 California ground squirrel burrows were observed in the area adjacent to the Project area which could potentially provide nesting habitat for burrowing owls. No burrows that could be used by burrowing owls were found within the Project site (Jacobs 2025).

Golden Eagle

Golden eagles are protected by CDFW under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. They inhabit diverse terrains, including deserts, but typically prefer open areas near cliffs. Because they are sensitive to human disturbance, they tend to avoid developed regions. No nesting habitat is present within the biological study area. Marginal foraging habitat may be present in undeveloped scrub in the outer portions of the biological study area. While golden eagles may migrate through the biological study area, it does not provide habitat for nesting or breeding, thus golden eagles are unlikely to occur in the biological study area or Project site and would not nest in proximity to the Project site (Jacobs 2025; PG&E 2025).

Loggerhead Shrike

When nesting, Loggerhead shrikes are a CDFW species of concern. Loggerhead shrikes breed mainly in shrublands or open woodlands with a fair amount of grass cover and areas of bare ground. They typically require open areas of short grasses, forbs, or bare ground for hunting and large shrubs or trees for nest placement. They may also use fences or power lines for hunting perches, territorial advertisement, and pair maintenance. They also need impaling sites for prey manipulation or storage which include sharp, thorny, or multi-stemmed plants and barbed-wire fences. Nests are generally well hidden in taller shrubs or low in trees and are often located in areas where there is a break in the landscape, such as at the base of slopes or edge of a woodland or clump of trees. Undeveloped portions of the biological study area may provide foraging habitat for loggerhead shrike. There is no suitable nesting habitat present within the biological study area. No nests have been recorded by the CNDDDB within 5 miles of the Project site. While loggerhead shrike may migrate through the biological study area it is unlikely to provide suitable nesting habitat (Jacobs 2025; PG&E 2025).

Le Conte's Thrasher

Le Conte's thrashers are a CDFW Species of Special Concern and BLM sensitive species. They are usually sparsely distributed and inhabit low, open deserts with minimal vegetation, preferring flat or gently rolling terrain. Vegetation typically consists of saltbush, shadscale, cholla cactus, creosote, yucca, mesquite, and ocotillo. Generally, individuals prefer small arroyos, open flats, or dunes. No occurrences have been recorded by the CNDDDB within five miles of the Project site. Undeveloped portions of the biological study area may provide foraging habitat for Le Conte's thrasher, but suitable breeding habitat is not present within the Project site. There are no CNDDDB recorded occurrences within five miles of the station. While Le Conte's thrasher may migrate through the biological study area, they are unlikely to remain for breeding and are unlikely to occur within the biological study area or Project site (Jacobs 2025; PG&E 2025).

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4.3.2 Wildlife Movement and Corridors and Biological Resource Management Areas

Critical habitat for desert tortoise is mapped approximately 2.6 miles northeast of the Project site. A portion of the Project site overlaps with the *Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan* Fremont-Kramer to Ord-Rodman Linkage for desert tortoise; however, the habitat value is described as “non-habitat” and “lost or severely disturbed habitat” (Conservation Biology Institute 2014). The Project site does not overlap with any designated BLM ACECs or Desert Wildlife Management Areas. The Superior–Cronese ACEC is less than 5 miles west, north, and northeast of the Project, outside of the biological study area (Bureau of Land Management (BLM) 2025b). The biological study area does not overlap with any other native wildlife corridors or nursery sites (Jacobs 2025).

5 Public Health and Safety

5.1 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

5.1.1 Records Search of Hazardous Materials Databases

A search of the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) GeoTracker database and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) EnviroStor database identified the Project site as being listed on the Cortese List⁴ of hazardous materials sites, compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (RWQCB 1987; SWRCB 1995). The Project site appears in GeoTracker under the following two separate records:

- Cleanup and Abatement Order (Global ID: SL0607111288) – This case addresses historic releases of hexavalent chromium (Cr[VI]) from compressor station operations between 1952 and 1964, which resulted in groundwater contamination extending beyond the facility boundary. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) oversees remediation under the Cleanup and Abatement Order and associated Waste Discharge Requirements. Cleanup measures include in situ treatment, agricultural treatment units, groundwater extraction, and injection systems, with the remedial goal of achieving 10 ppb total chromium across the plume area by 2032. Monitoring and corrective action are ongoing, under an amended Monitoring and Reporting Program (RWQCB 1987).
- Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Case (Global ID: T0607100781) – This case involves petroleum hydrocarbon impacts on soil associated with past operations at the Hinkley Compressor Station; this site is within the Project site. Corrective action and site management also are under the jurisdiction of the Lahontan RWQCB (SWRCB 1995).

The EnviroStor database does not list any additional active cleanup sites within the Project site. No other hazardous materials cleanup sites were identified within 0.25 miles of the site in either database.

5.1.2 Schools and Daycare Centers

No schools or daycare centers are within 0.25 mile of the Project site. The surrounding area consists primarily of open desert, rural residential properties, and community facilities.

⁴ The Cortese List is a planning document used by the state, local agencies, and developers to comply with CEQA requirements in providing information about the location of hazardous materials release sites.

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5.1.3 Airports

The Project site is more than 20 miles from the nearest public airport, Barstow–Daggett Airport, and approximately 8 miles from the Barstow Community Hospital Heliport. The site is not within an airport land use plan area and is outside any designated airport safety zones (San Bernardino County 1992).

5.1.4 Emergency Response

The Project site is accessed primarily via Fairview Road, which connects Community Boulevard to the north and Riverview Road to the south. These roads link Hinkley Road, SR-58, Lenwood Road, and I-15, which serve as regional evacuation routes (San Bernardino County 2022). A secondary access point is available from the northeast corner of the facility via a dirt road connecting Community Boulevard and Sommerset Road.

5.1.5 Wildfire Hazards

According to California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) mapping, the Project site is within a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) and is not designated as a Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) (CALFIRE 2024). The CPUC High Fire Threat District Map shows that the Project site is outside Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 fire threat areas (CPUC 2025). Wildfire hazards are discussed further in Section 5.2, Wildfire.

5.2 Wildfire

5.2.1 Fire Hazard Severity Zone Designations

CALFIRE has published FHSZ maps for lands in LRAs, State Responsibility Areas (SRAs), and Federal Responsibility Areas (FRAs). The Project site is entirely within an LRA. No SRAs are within 5 miles of the Project site. Several FRAs are less than 5 miles from the Project site, on lands administered by the BLM (CALFIRE, n.d.). The Project site and surrounding area is considered a moderate FHSZ (CALFIRE 2025).

5.2.2 California Public Utilities Commission Delegated Wildfire Hazard Zones

The CPUC High Fire Threat Map designates fire threat areas in three classifications: Tier 1 (High Hazard Zones) from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS)/CALFIRE tree-mortality map, Tier 2 (Elevated Risk), and Tier 3 (Extreme Risk) areas, identified by the CPUC based on utility-related wildfire ignition potential. The Project site is outside the CPUC high fire hazard threat district and does not overlap any Tier 1, 2, or 3 threat areas (CPUC 2025).

5.2.3 Wildland Urban Interface

The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is the zone of transition between unoccupied land and human development that overlaps undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. The Project site is not within a designated WUI (USFS 2020). The nearest designated WUI intermix is

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approximately 0.25 mile west of the Project site, with housing interspersed in an area dominated by wildland vegetation, subject to wildfire (USFS 2020).

5.2.4 Fire Environment

CALFIRE's incident reports were reviewed for the most recent 10-year period (2015–2025) to assess the Project's wildfire risk. No wildfire incidents reported within 5 miles of the Project site have been larger than 300 acres.

The Project site is surrounded by agricultural fields and areas of sparse desert vegetation and is designated as a non-WUI vegetated area with very low housing density in the surrounding area (PG&E 2025). The BLM National Fire Risk Assessment web map indicates that the Project site is in an area of low fire risk (BLM 2019).

Annual temperatures for the area surrounding the Project site vary greatly, with maximum temperatures equaling or exceeding 90 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) an average of 131 times per year, and minimum temperatures equaling or dropping below 32°F an average of 38 times per year. The annual average January temperatures are 35°F (low) and 61°F (high), and the average July temperatures are 69°F (low) and 102°F (high). The annual average precipitation is 5.1 inches. The predominant wind direction at the Barstow–Daggett Airport, approximately 21 miles east–southeast of the Project site, is from the west at approximately 11.3 mph (LRWQCB 2013).

Fire typically travels uphill more quickly than downhill or across flat terrain (Bennett et al. 2010). The Project site sits at an elevation of approximately 2,100 feet above sea level, and the topography is relatively flat (PG&E 2025). The Mojave River is approximately 1 mile south of the Project site and sits at a similar elevation to the Project site.

The area surrounding the Project site is primarily farmland and sparsely vegetated open space, with scattered rural residences. The nearest residences are approximately 1,455 and 1,600 feet from the Project site (PG&E 2025).

The San Bernardino Countywide Plan Draft Safety Background Report summarizes values at risk from fire hazards. The communities of Barstow and Hinkley are not included in the list of communities at risk from wildfire (San Bernardino County 2018).

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APPENDIX A: CULTURAL RESOURCES SUPPORTING INFORMATION



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

April 18, 2025

John Forsythe
California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

Via Email to: John.Forsythe@cpuc.ca.gov

CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Buffy McQuillen
Yokayo Pomo, Yuki,
Nomlaki

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
Miwok

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Wayne Nelson
Luiseño

COMMISSIONER
Isaac Bojorquez
Ohlone-Costanoan

COMMISSIONER
Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER
Reid Milanovich
Cahuilla

COMMISSIONER
Bennae Calac
Pauma-Yuima Band of
Luiseño Indians

COMMISSIONER
Vacant

ACTING EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY
STEVEN QUINN

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov

Re: Native American Tribal Consultation, Pursuant to the Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), Amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014), Public Resources Code Sections 5097.94 (m), 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2 and 21084.3, PG&E S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project, San Bernardino County

To Whom it May Concern:

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (c), attached is a consultation list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the above-listed project. Please note that the intent of the AB 52 amendments to CEQA is to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, (Pub. Resources Code §21084.3 (a)) ("Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource.")

Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21084.3(c) require CEQA lead agencies to consult with California Native American tribes that have requested notice from such agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribes on projects for which a Notice of Preparation or Notice of Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration has been filed on or after July 1, 2015. Specifically, Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) provides:

Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section.

The AB 52 amendments to CEQA law does not preclude initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated within your jurisdiction prior to receiving requests for notification of projects in the tribe's areas of traditional and cultural affiliation. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) recommends, but does not require, early consultation as a best practice to ensure that lead agencies receive sufficient information about cultural resources in a project area to avoid damaging effects to tribal cultural resources.

The NAHC also recommends, but does not require that agencies should also include with their notification letters, information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the area of potential effect (APE), such as:

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:

- A listing of any and all known cultural resources that have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE, such as known archaeological sites;
- Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
- Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate, or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the APE; and
- If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:

- Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.

All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code section 6254.10.

3. The result of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was negative.

4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the APE; and

5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS are not exhaustive and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a tribal cultural resource. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the event that they do, having the information beforehand will help to facilitate the consultation process.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we can assure that our consultation list remains current.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address: melina.carlos@nahc.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Melina Carlos

Melina Carlos
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
San Bernardino County
4/18/2025

County	Tribe Name	Fed (F) Non-Fed (N)	Contact Person	Contact Address	Phone #	Fax #	Email Address	Cultural Affiliation	Counties	Last Updated
San Bernardino	Kern Valley Indian Community	N	Brandy Kendricks, Tribal Member Monitor	30741 Foxridge Court Tehachapi, CA, 93561	(661) 821-1733		krazykendricks@hotmail.com	Kawaiisu Tubatulabal	Inyo,Kern,Los Angeles,San Bernardino,Tulare	1/29/2024
	Kern Valley Indian Community	N	Robert Robinson, Chairperson	P.O. Box 1010 Lake Isabella, CA, 93240	(760) 378-2915		bbutterbredt@gmail.com	Kawaiisu Tubatulabal	Inyo,Kern,Los Angeles,San Bernardino,Tulare	1/29/2024
	Morongo Band of Mission Indians	F	Ann Brierty, THPO	12700 Pumarra Road Banning, CA, 92220	(951) 755-5259	(951) 572-6004	abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov	Cahuilla Serrano	Imperial,Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	
	Morongo Band of Mission Indians	F	Robert Martin, Chairperson	12700 Pumarra Road Banning, CA, 92220	(951) 755-5110	(951) 755-5177	abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov	Cahuilla Serrano	Imperial,Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	
	Quechan Indian Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	F	Jordan Joaquin, President, Quechan Tribal Council	P.O.Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366-1899	(760) 919-3600		executivesecretary@quechantribe.com	Quechan	Imperial,Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	1/31/2025
	Quechan Indian Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation	F	Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer	P.O. Box 1899 Yuma, AZ, 85366-1899	(928) 261-0254		historicpreservation@quechantribe.com	Quechan	Imperial,Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino,San Diego	1/31/2025
	San Fernando Band of Mission Indians	N	Donna Yocum, Chairperson	P.O. Box 221838 Newhall, CA, 91322	(503) 539-0933	(503) 574-3308	dyocum@sfbmi.org	Kitanemuk Vanyume Tataviam	Kern,Los Angeles,San Bernardino,Ventura	5/8/2023
	San Manuel Band of Mission Indians	F	Alexandra McCleary, Senior Manager of Cultural Resources Management	26569 Community Center Drive Highland, CA, 92346	(909) 633-0054		alexandra.mccleary@sanmanuel-nsn.gov	Serrano	Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino	1/16/2024
	Serrano Nation of Mission Indians	N	Wayne Walker, Co-Chairperson	P. O. Box 343 Patton, CA, 92369	(253) 370-0167		serranonation1@gmail.com	Serrano	Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino	10/10/2023
	Serrano Nation of Mission Indians	N	Mark Cochrane, Co-Chairperson	P. O. Box 343 Patton, CA, 92369	(909) 578-2598		serranonation1@gmail.com	Serrano	Kern,Los Angeles,Riverside,San Bernardino	10/10/2023
	Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians	F	Sarah O'Brien, Tribal Archivist	46-200 Harrison Place Coachella, CA, 92236	(760) 863-2460		sobrien@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov	Chemehuevi	Imperial,Inyo,Riverside,San Bernardino	11/15/2023
	Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians	F	Nicolas Garza, Cultural Resources Specialist	46-200 Harrison Place Coachella, CA, 92236	(760) 863-2486		nicolas.garza@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov	Chemehuevi	Imperial,Inyo,Riverside,San Bernardino	11/15/2023
	Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians	F	Christopher Nicosia, Cultural Resources Manager/THPO Manager	46-200 Harrison Place Coachella, CA, 92236	(760) 863-3972		christopher.nicosia@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov	Chemehuevi	Imperial,Inyo,Riverside,San Bernardino	11/15/2023

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for consultation with Native American tribes under Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1 for the proposed PG&E S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project, San Bernardino County.

Record: PROJ-2025-002153
Report Type: AB52 GIS
Counties: San Bernardino
NAHC Group: All

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 14, 2025

Robert Robinson, Chairperson
Kern Valley Indian Community
P.O. Box 1010
Lake Isabella, CA, 93240

**Re: California Environmental Quality Act Public Resources Code section
21080.3.1(b) pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52, Formal Notification
of the Proposed Pacific Gas and Electric S-238 Hinkley Compressor
Station Electrical Upgrades Project**

Dear Mr. Robert Robinson,

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the PG&E S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project (Project) on April 9, 2025 (Application No. A2504004). The project is located within Hinkley, an unincorporated community in San Bernadino County as shown on Figure 1. The CPUC deemed PG&E's application complete on May 7, 2025.

The project is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As the lead agency under CEQA, the CPUC will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze potential impacts of the project pursuant to CEQA, including potential impacts on tribal cultural resources that may be present or discovered.

The CPUC is providing you with this notification pursuant to California Assembly Bill (AB) 52. This notice includes:

- A description of the project and location;
- A clear and definitive statement that the tribe has 30 days to request consultation; and
- The lead agency's contact information.

Project Description and Location

The project includes the following elements as shown on Figure 2:

- Upgrading and replacing aging electrical distribution equipment at PG&E's S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station (located at 35863 Fairview Road in Hinkley) to improve safety, reliability, and maintainability.

Robert Robinson

May 14, 2025

Page 2 of 5

- Replacing or modifying existing equipment, including:
 - Electrical power switchgear
 - Motor control centers (MCCs)
 - Load center
 - Connecting conduit and new or replacement cable between the switchgear and MCC locations within the existing substation
- Maintain the existing gas transmission system, including pipe, valves, and gas measurement assets, which will not be modified aside from internal electrical distribution upgrades.
- Installing temporary natural gas-fueled generators to power the station during specific construction phases when permanent electrical systems are deenergized. All temporary generator equipment will be removed after the project is complete.

Construction is proposed to begin in October 2026 with a target completion date of May 2028. Additional information about the project including PG&E's application and supporting materials are provided on the CPUC's website at:

<https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/panoramaenv/Hinkley/>

Requests for AB 52 Consultation

If you would like to participate in the AB 52 consultation process for this project, please send an official request within 30 days of receipt of this notice. This formal request can be sent to John.Forsythe@cpuc.ca.gov and/or hinkleyelectrical@panoramaenv.com, or can be mailed to the CPUC using the following address:

Attn: John Forsythe / Senior Environmental Planner
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA, 94102-3298

If you have any comments or concerns regarding the project, please contact me by email at John.Forsythe@cpuc.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 217-5073. You may also mail correspondence to me at the address above.

Sincerely,



John Forsythe, CPUC Project Manager

cc: Susanne Heim, Panorama Environmental, Inc.

Robert Robinson

May 14, 2025

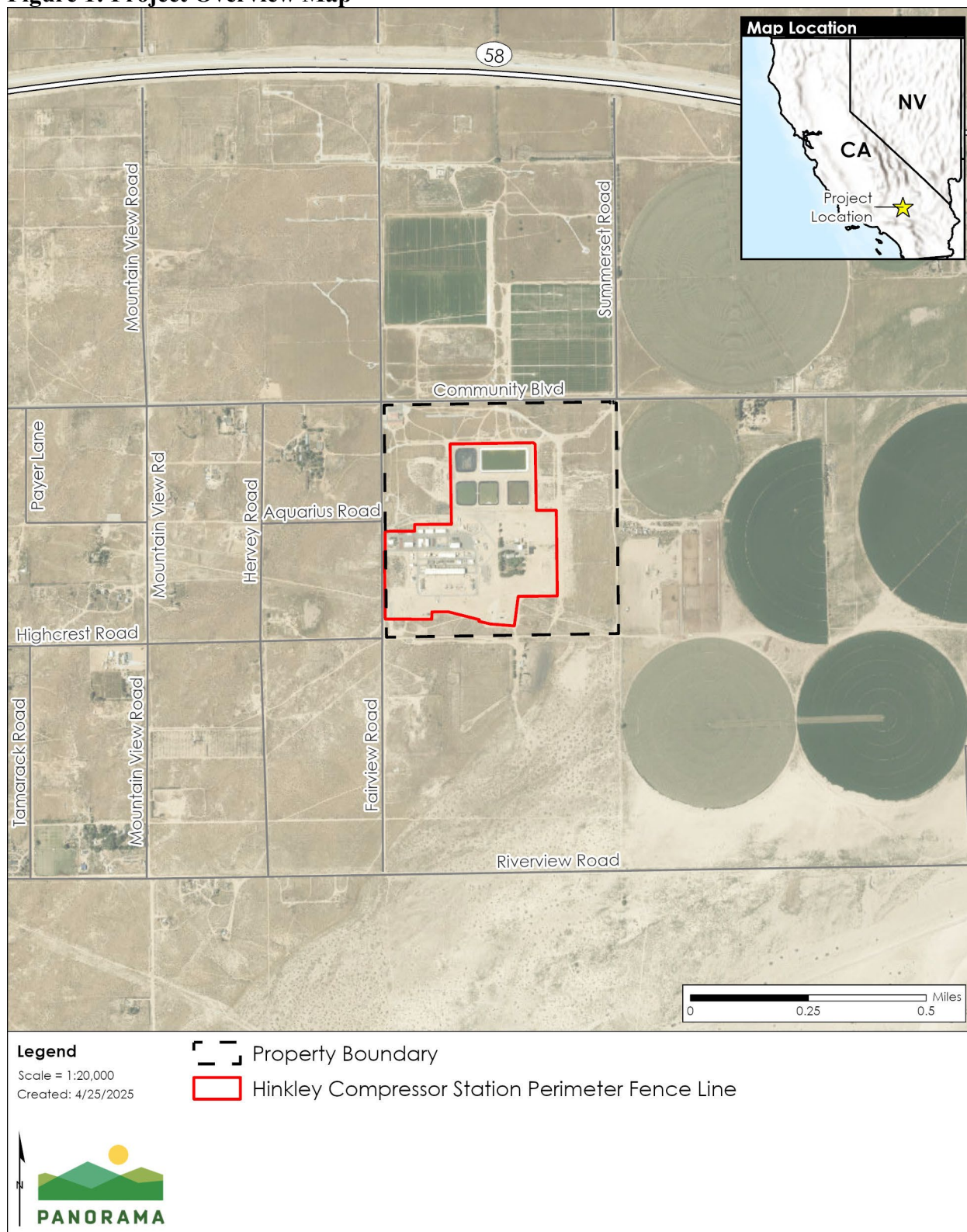
Page 3 of 5

Attachments:

- Attachment A
 - Figure 1: Project Overview Map
 - Figure 2: Project Layout Map

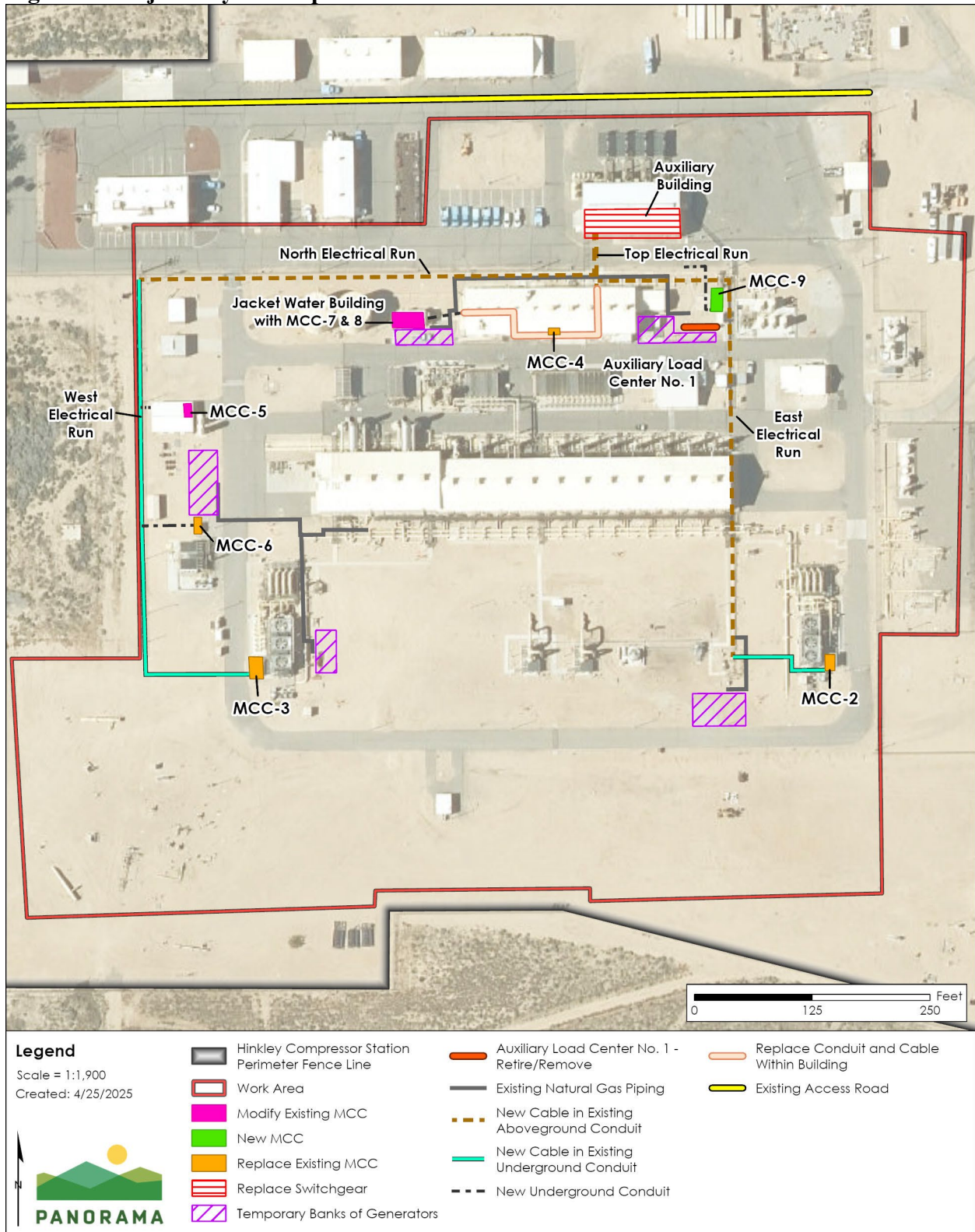
Attachment A

Figure 1: Project Overview Map



Attachment A

Figure 2: Project Layout Map



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 14, 2025

Brandy Kendricks, Tribal Member Monitor
Kern Valley Indian Community
30741 Foxridge Court
Tehachapi, CA, 93561

Re: California Environmental Quality Act Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b) pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52, Formal Notification of the Proposed Pacific Gas and Electric S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project

Dear Ms, Brandy Kendricks,

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the PG&E S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project (Project) on April 9, 2025 (Application No. A2504004). The project is located within Hinkley, an unincorporated community in San Bernadino County as shown on Figure 1. The CPUC deemed PG&E's application complete on May 7, 2025.

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Brandy Kendricks

May 14, 2025

Page 2 of 5

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Attn: John Forsythe / Senior Environmental Planner
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA, 94102-3298

If you have any comments or concerns regarding the project, please contact me by email at John.Forsythe@cpuc.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 217-5073. You may also mail correspondence to me at the address above.

Sincerely,



John Forsythe, CPUC Project Manager

cc: Susanne Heim, Panorama Environmental, Inc.

Brandy Kendricks

May 14, 2025

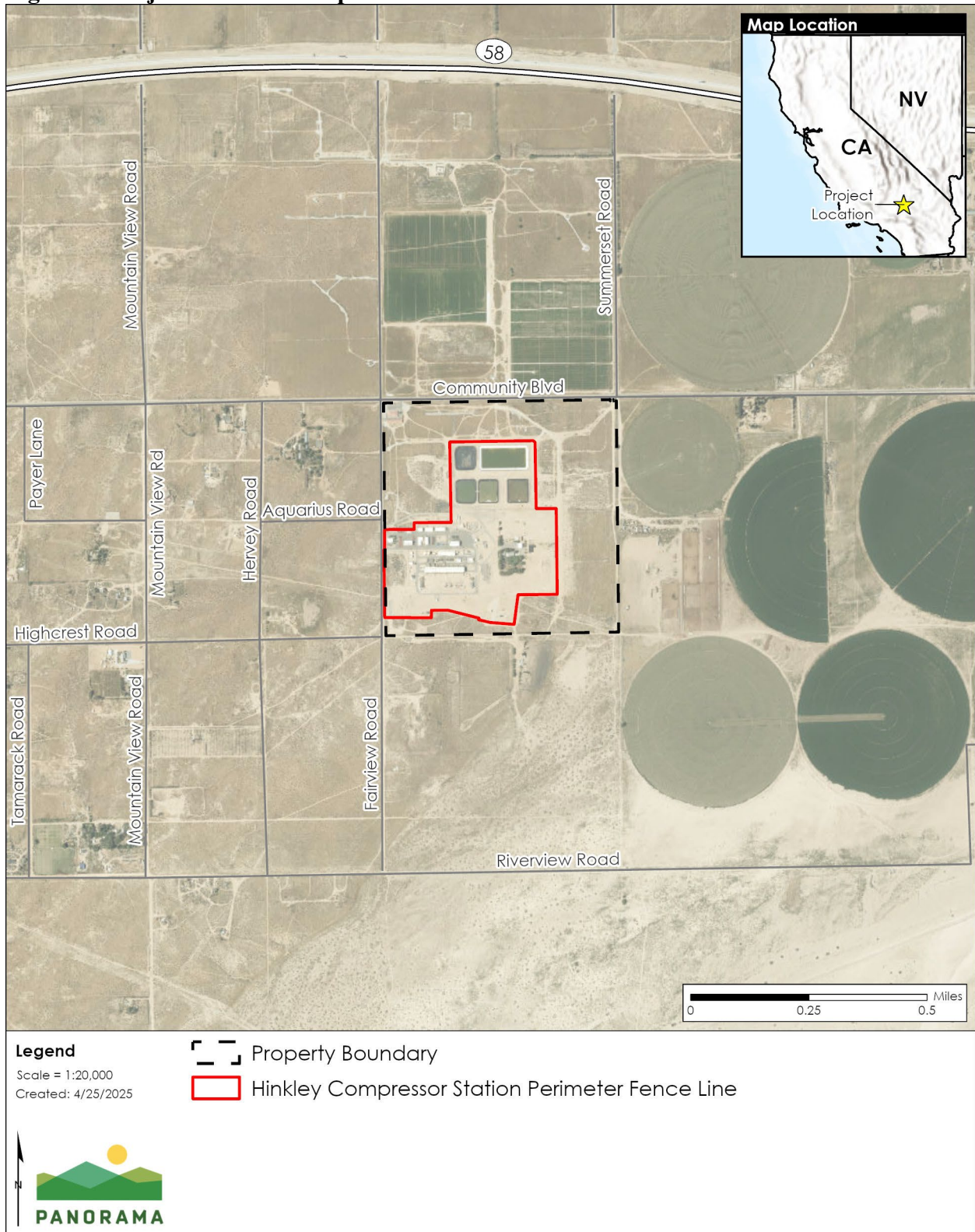
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- Attachment A
 - Figure 1: Project Overview Map
 - Figure 2: Project Layout Map

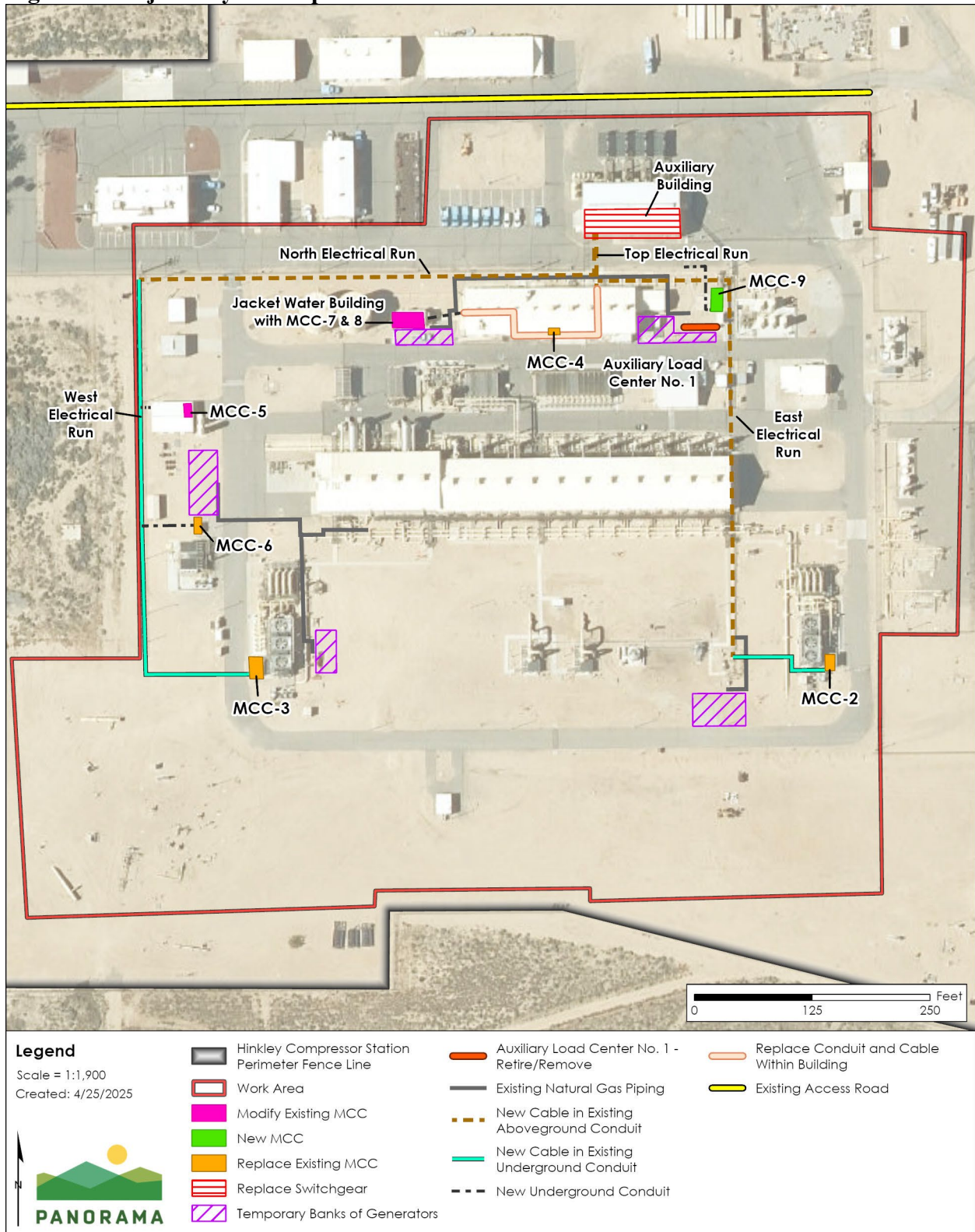
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Figure 2: Project Layout Map



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 14, 2025

Robert Martin, Chairperson
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
12700 Pumarra Road
Banning, CA, 92220

Re: California Environmental Quality Act Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b) pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52, Formal Notification of the Proposed Pacific Gas and Electric S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project

Dear Mr. Robert Martin,

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the PG&E S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project (Project) on April 9, 2025 (Application No. A2504004). The project is located within Hinkley, an unincorporated community in San Bernardino County as shown on Figure 1. The CPUC deemed PG&E's application complete on May 7, 2025.

The project is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As the lead agency under CEQA, the CPUC will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze potential impacts of the project pursuant to CEQA, including potential impacts on tribal cultural resources that may be present or discovered.

The CPUC is providing you with this notification pursuant to California Assembly Bill (AB) 52. This notice includes:

- A description of the project and location;
- A clear and definitive statement that the tribe has 30 days to request consultation; and
- The lead agency's contact information.

Project Description and Location

The project includes the following elements as shown on Figure 2:

- Upgrading and replacing aging electrical distribution equipment at PG&E's S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station (located at 35863 Fairview Road in Hinkley) to improve safety, reliability, and maintainability.

Robert Martin
May 14, 2025
Page 2 of 5

- Replacing or modifying existing equipment, including:
 - Electrical power switchgear
 - Motor control centers (MCCs)
 - Load center
 - Connecting conduit and new or replacement cable between the switchgear and MCC locations within the existing substation
- Maintain the existing gas transmission system, including pipe, valves, and gas measurement assets, which will not be modified aside from internal electrical distribution upgrades.
- Installing temporary natural gas-fueled generators to power the station during specific construction phases when permanent electrical systems are deenergized. All temporary generator equipment will be removed after the project is complete.

Construction is proposed to begin in October 2026 with a target completion date of May 2028. Additional information about the project including PG&E's application and supporting materials are provided on the CPUC's website at:

<https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/panoramaenv/Hinkley/>

Requests for AB 52 Consultation

If you would like to participate in the AB 52 consultation process for this project, please send an official request within 30 days of receipt of this notice. This formal request can be sent to John.Forsythe@cpuc.ca.gov and/or hinkleyelectrical@panoramaenv.com, or can be mailed to the CPUC using the following address:

Attn: John Forsythe / Senior Environmental Planner
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA, 94102-3298

If you have any comments or concerns regarding the project, please contact me by email at John.Forsythe@cpuc.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 217-5073. You may also mail correspondence to me at the address above.

Sincerely,



John Forsythe, CPUC Project Manager

cc: Susanne Heim, Panorama Environmental, Inc.

Robert Martin

May 14, 2025

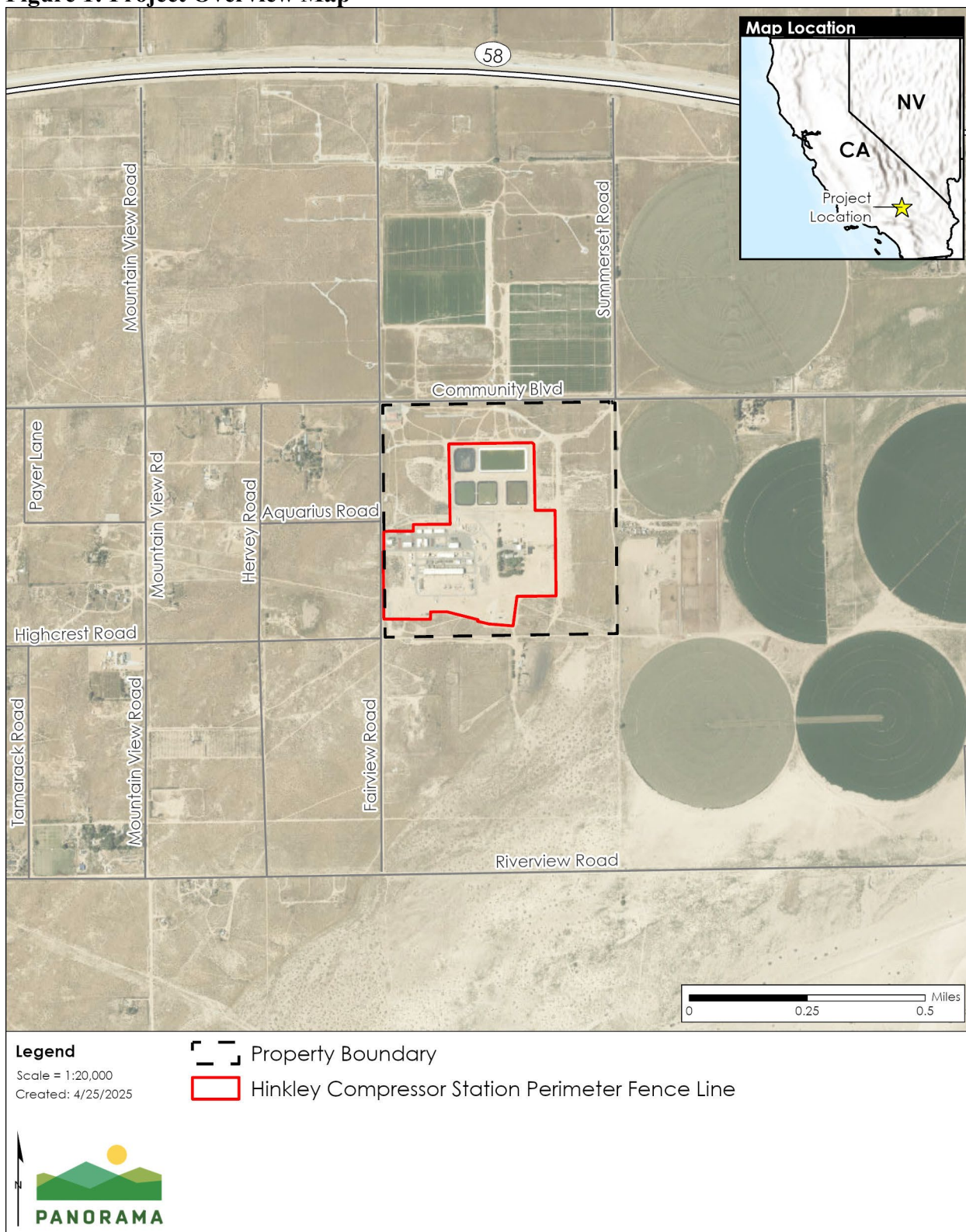
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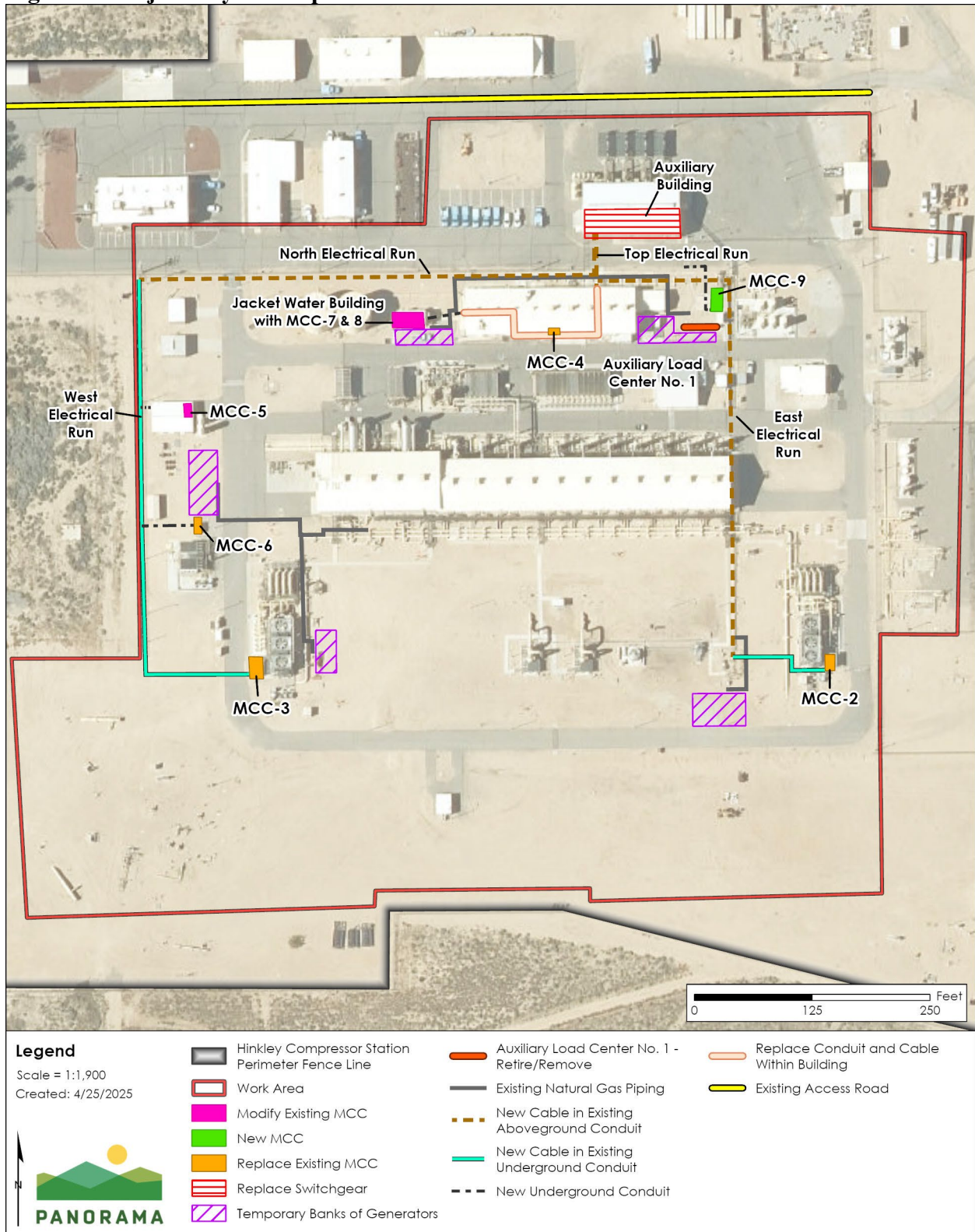
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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 14, 2025

Ann Brierty, THPO
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
12700 Pumarra Road
Banning, CA, 92220

Re: California Environmental Quality Act Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b) pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52, Formal Notification of the Proposed Pacific Gas and Electric S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project

Dear Ms. Ann Brierty,

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the PG&E S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project (Project) on April 9, 2025 (Application No. A2504004). The project is located within Hinkley, an unincorporated community in San Bernardino County as shown on Figure 1. The CPUC deemed PG&E's application complete on May 7, 2025.

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The CPUC is providing you with this notification pursuant to California Assembly Bill (AB) 52. This notice includes:

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- A clear and definitive statement that the tribe has 30 days to request consultation; and
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Project Description and Location

The project includes the following elements as shown on Figure 2:

- Upgrading and replacing aging electrical distribution equipment at PG&E's S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station (located at 35863 Fairview Road in Hinkley) to improve safety, reliability, and maintainability.

- Replacing or modifying existing equipment, including:
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Attn: John Forsythe / Senior Environmental Planner
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA, 94102-3298

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Sincerely,



John Forsythe, CPUC Project Manager

cc: Susanne Heim, Panorama Environmental, Inc.

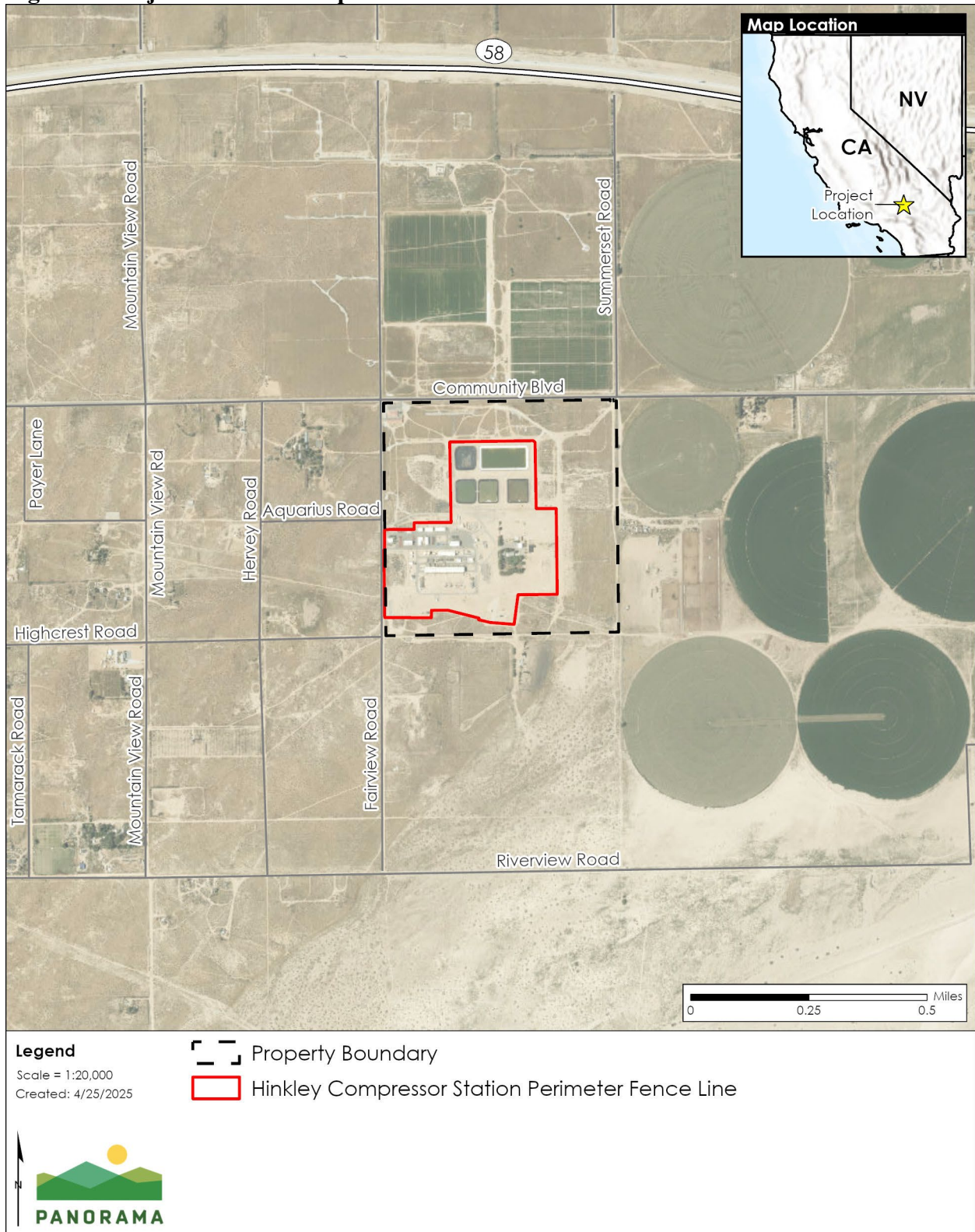
Ann Brierty
May 14, 2025
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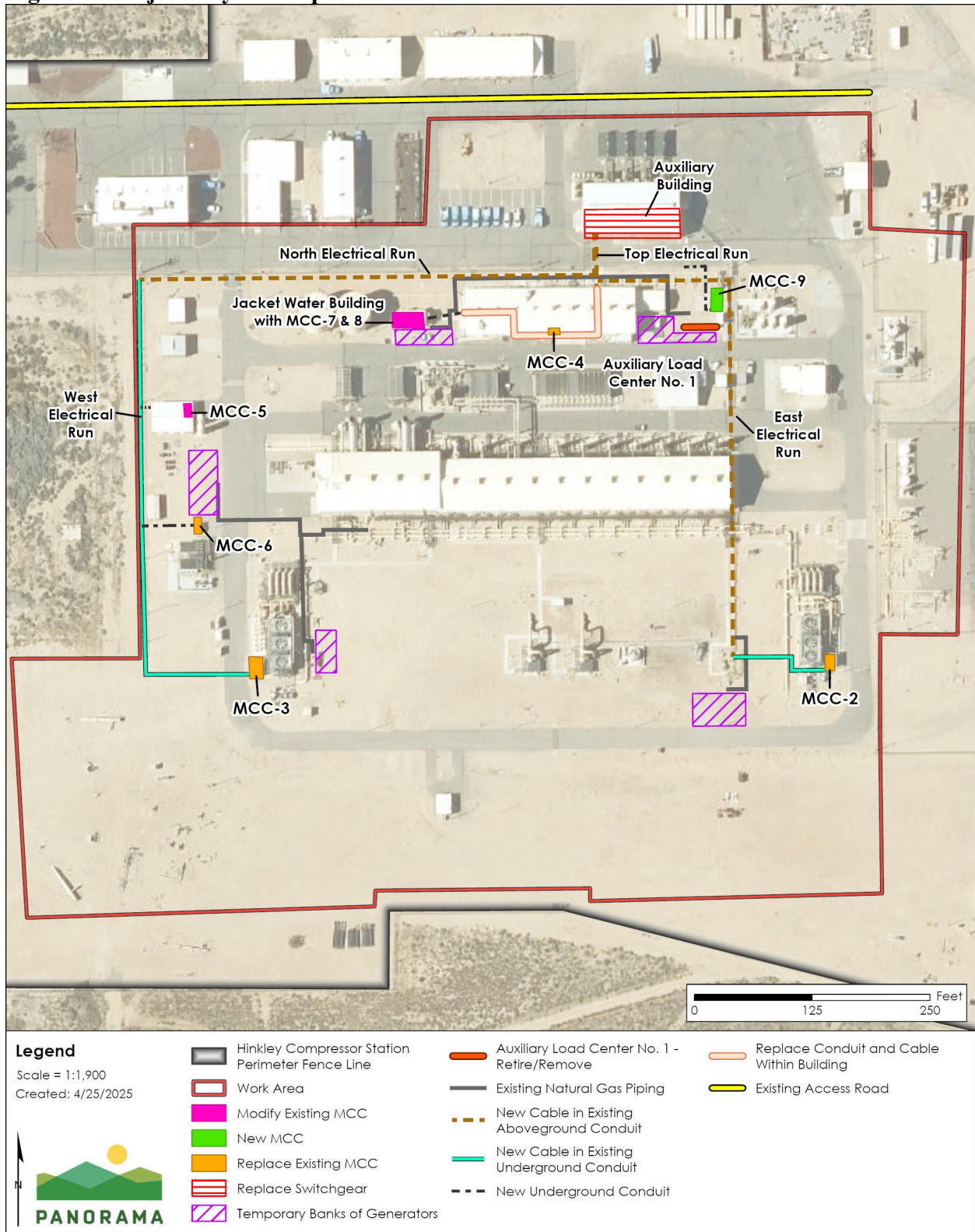
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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 14, 2025

Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer
Quechan Indian Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation
P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ, 85366-1899

**Re: California Environmental Quality Act Public Resources Code section
21080.3.1(b) pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52, Formal Notification
of the Proposed Pacific Gas and Electric S-238 Hinkley Compressor
Station Electrical Upgrades Project**

Dear Ms. Jill McCormick,

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the PG&E S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project (Project) on April 9, 2025 (Application No. A2504004). The project is located within Hinkley, an unincorporated community in San Bernadino County as shown on Figure 1. The CPUC deemed PG&E's application complete on May 7, 2025.

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Project Description and Location

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Jill McCormick
May 14, 2025
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Attn: John Forsythe / Senior Environmental Planner
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA, 94102-3298

If you have any comments or concerns regarding the project, please contact me by email at John.Forsythe@cpuc.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 217-5073. You may also mail correspondence to me at the address above.

Sincerely,



John Forsythe, CPUC Project Manager

cc: Susanne Heim, Panorama Environmental, Inc.

Jill McCormick

May 14, 2025

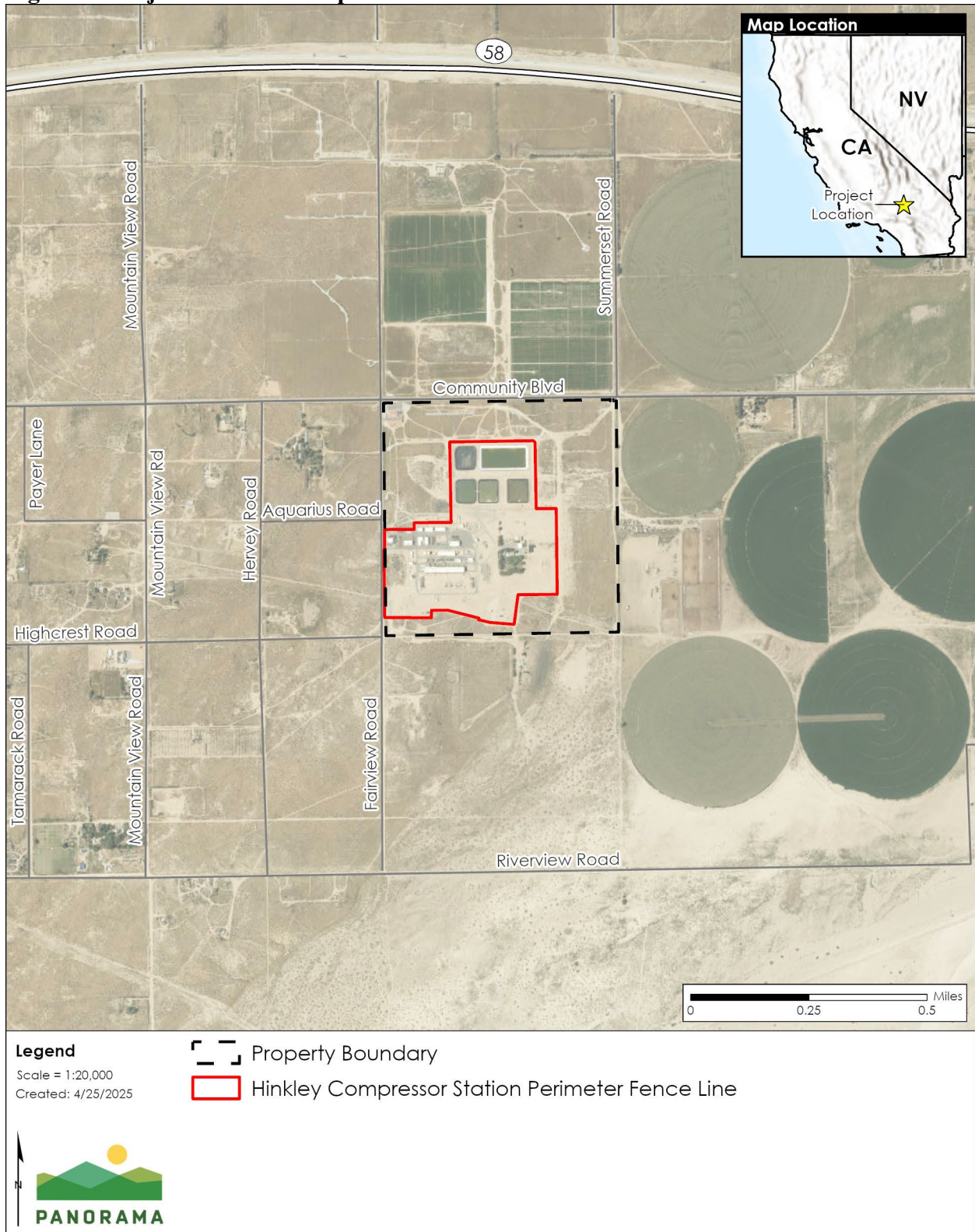
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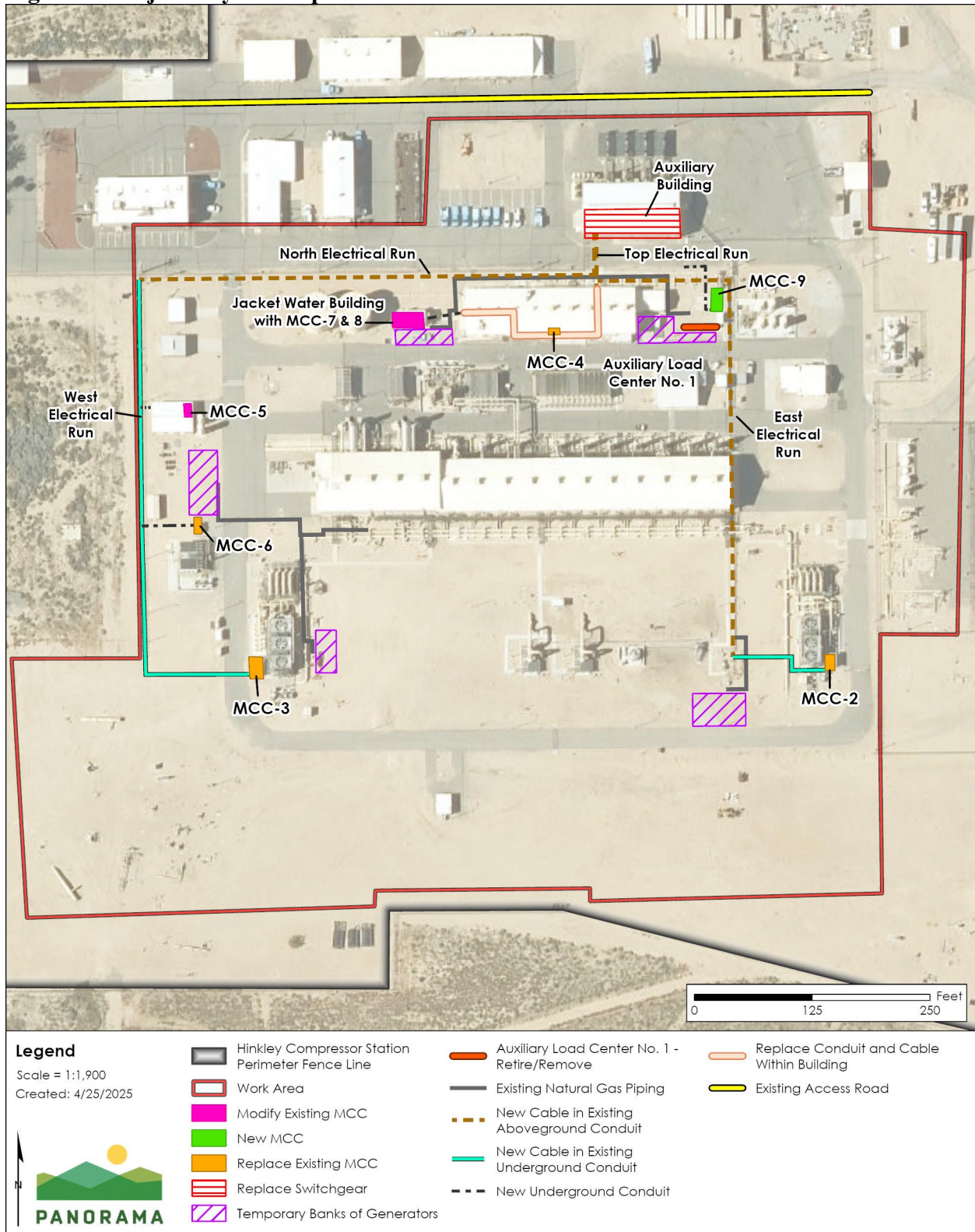
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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 14, 2025

Jordan Joaquin, President
Quechan Indian Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation
P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ, 85366-1899

Re: California Environmental Quality Act Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b) pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52, Formal Notification of the Proposed Pacific Gas and Electric S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project

Dear Mr. Jordan Joaquin,

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the PG&E S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project (Project) on April 9, 2025 (Application No. A2504004). The project is located within Hinkley, an unincorporated community in San Bernadino County as shown on Figure 1. The CPUC deemed PG&E's application complete on May 7, 2025.

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Jordan Joaquin
May 14, 2025
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California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA, 94102-3298

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Sincerely,



John Forsythe, CPUC Project Manager

cc: Susanne Heim, Panorama Environmental, Inc.

Jordan Joaquin

May 14, 2025

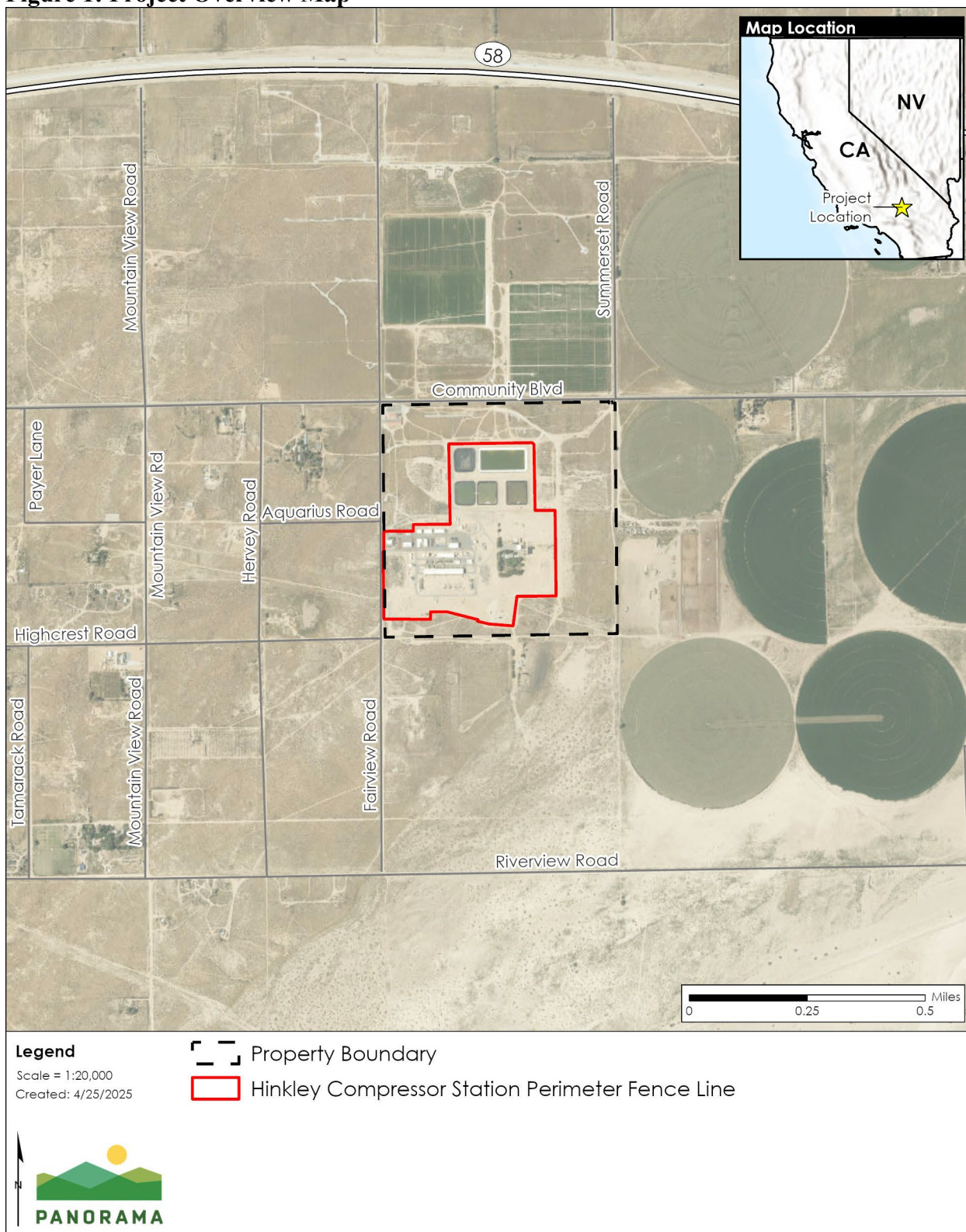
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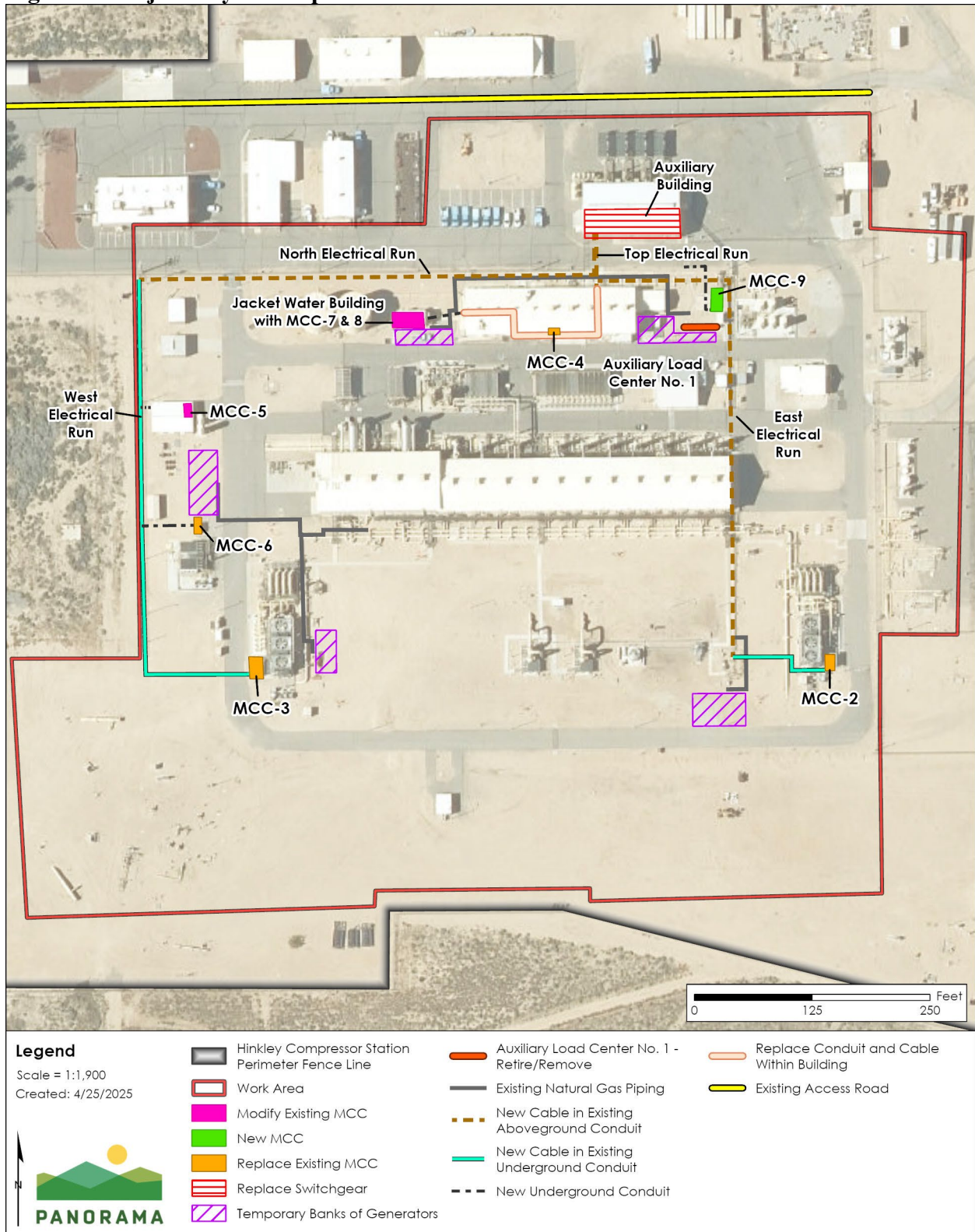
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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 14, 2025

Donna Yocum, Chairperson
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 221838
Newhall, CA, 91322

Re: California Environmental Quality Act Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b) pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52, Formal Notification of the Proposed Pacific Gas and Electric S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project

Dear Ms. Donna Yocum,

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the PG&E S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project (Project) on April 9, 2025 (Application No. A2504004). The project is located within Hinkley, an unincorporated community in San Bernadino County as shown on Figure 1. The CPUC deemed PG&E's application complete on May 7, 2025.

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Donna Yocum
May 14, 2025
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California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA, 94102-3298

If you have any comments or concerns regarding the project, please contact me by email at John.Forsythe@cpuc.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 217-5073. You may also mail correspondence to me at the address above.

Sincerely,



John Forsythe, CPUC Project Manager

cc: Susanne Heim, Panorama Environmental, Inc.

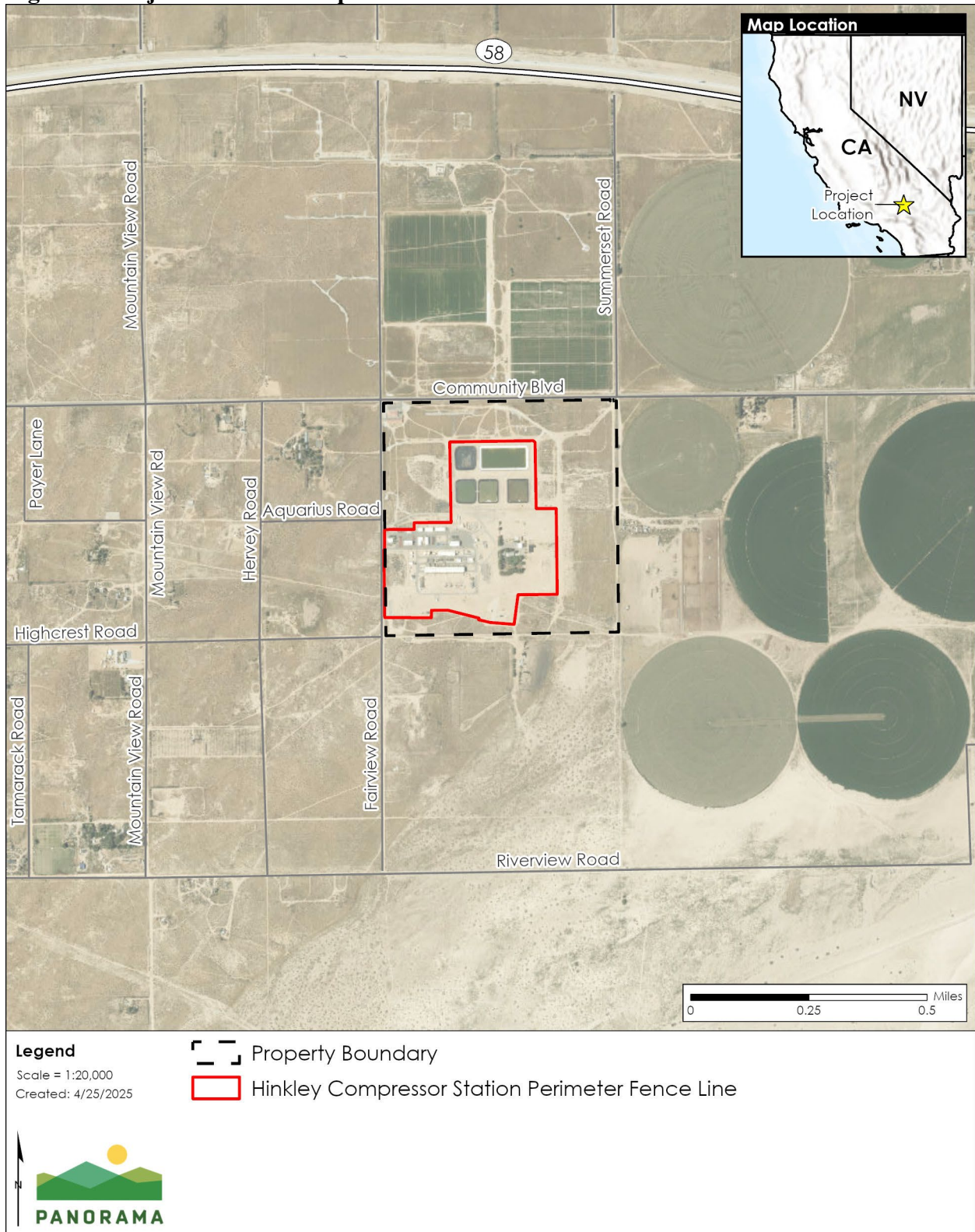
Donna Yocum
May 14, 2025
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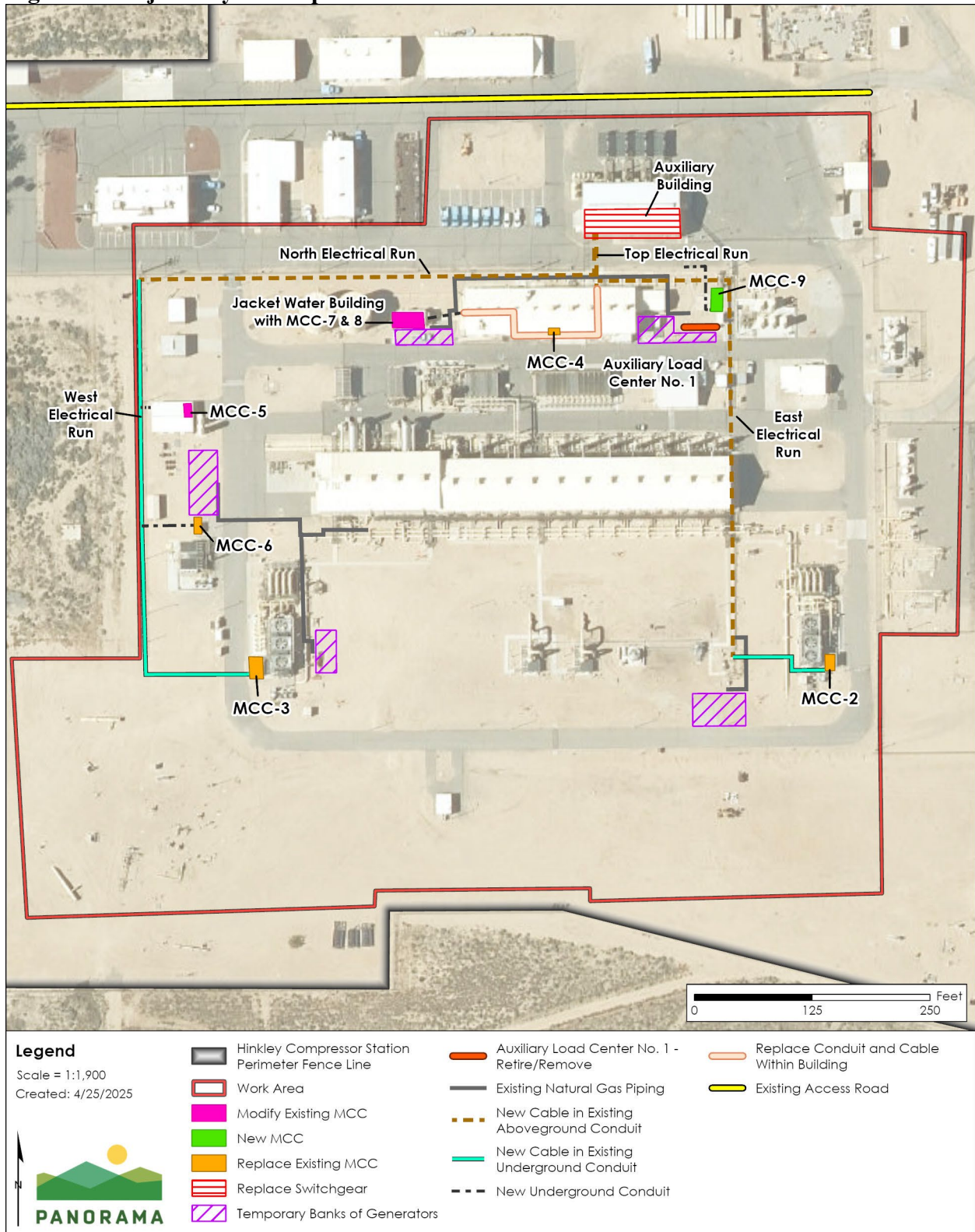
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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 14, 2025

Alexandra McCleary, Senior Manager of Cultural Resources Management
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, CA, 92346

**Re: California Environmental Quality Act Public Resources Code section
21080.3.1(b) pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52, Formal Notification
of the Proposed Pacific Gas and Electric S-238 Hinkley Compressor
Station Electrical Upgrades Project**

Dear Ms. Alexandra McCleary,

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the PG&E S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project (Project) on April 9, 2025 (Application No. A2504004). The project is located within Hinkley, an unincorporated community in San Bernadino County as shown on Figure 1. The CPUC deemed PG&E's application complete on May 7, 2025.

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Alexandra McCleary

May 14, 2025

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505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA, 94102-3298

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Sincerely,



John Forsythe, CPUC Project Manager

cc: Susanne Heim, Panorama Environmental, Inc.

Alexandra McCleary

May 14, 2025

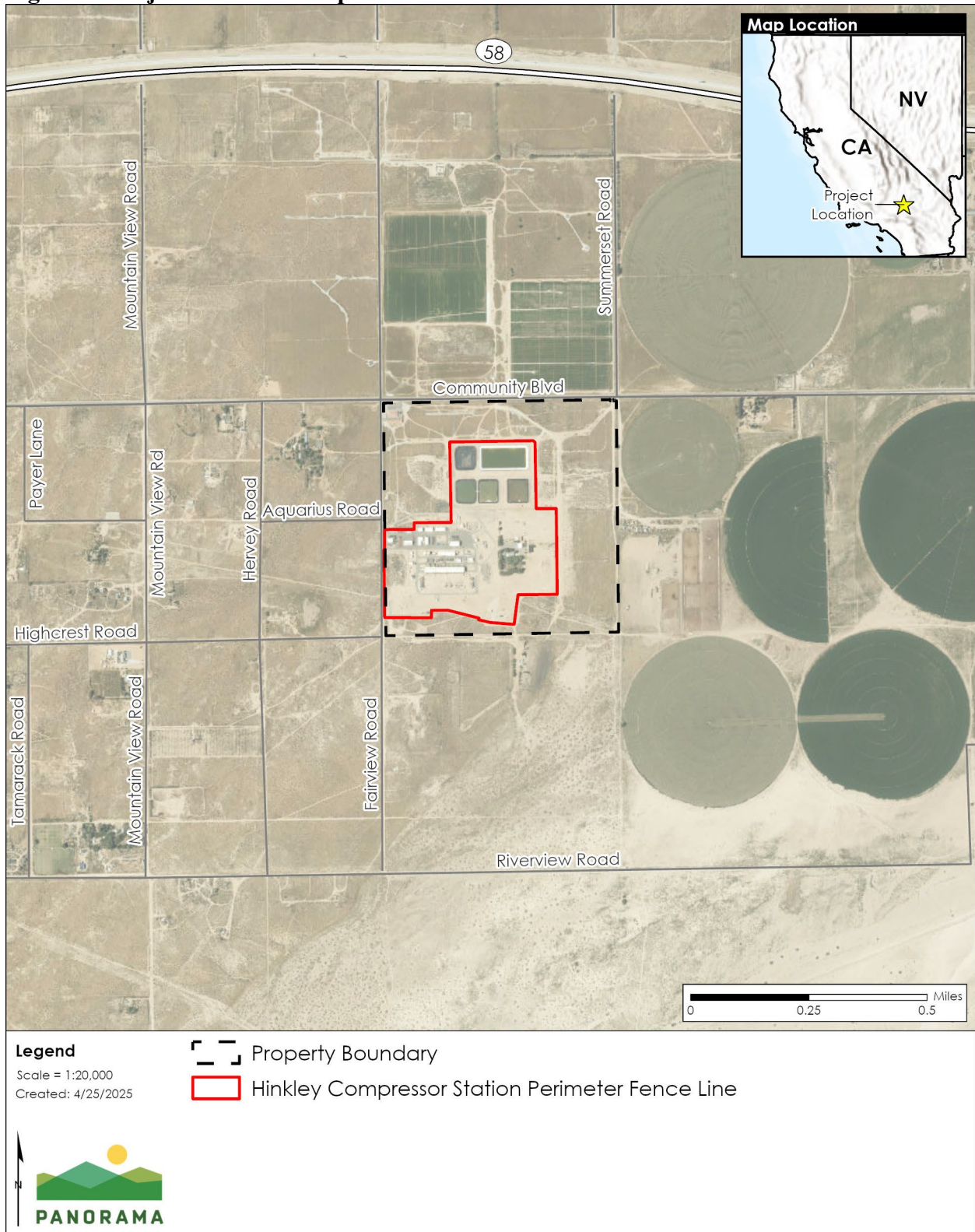
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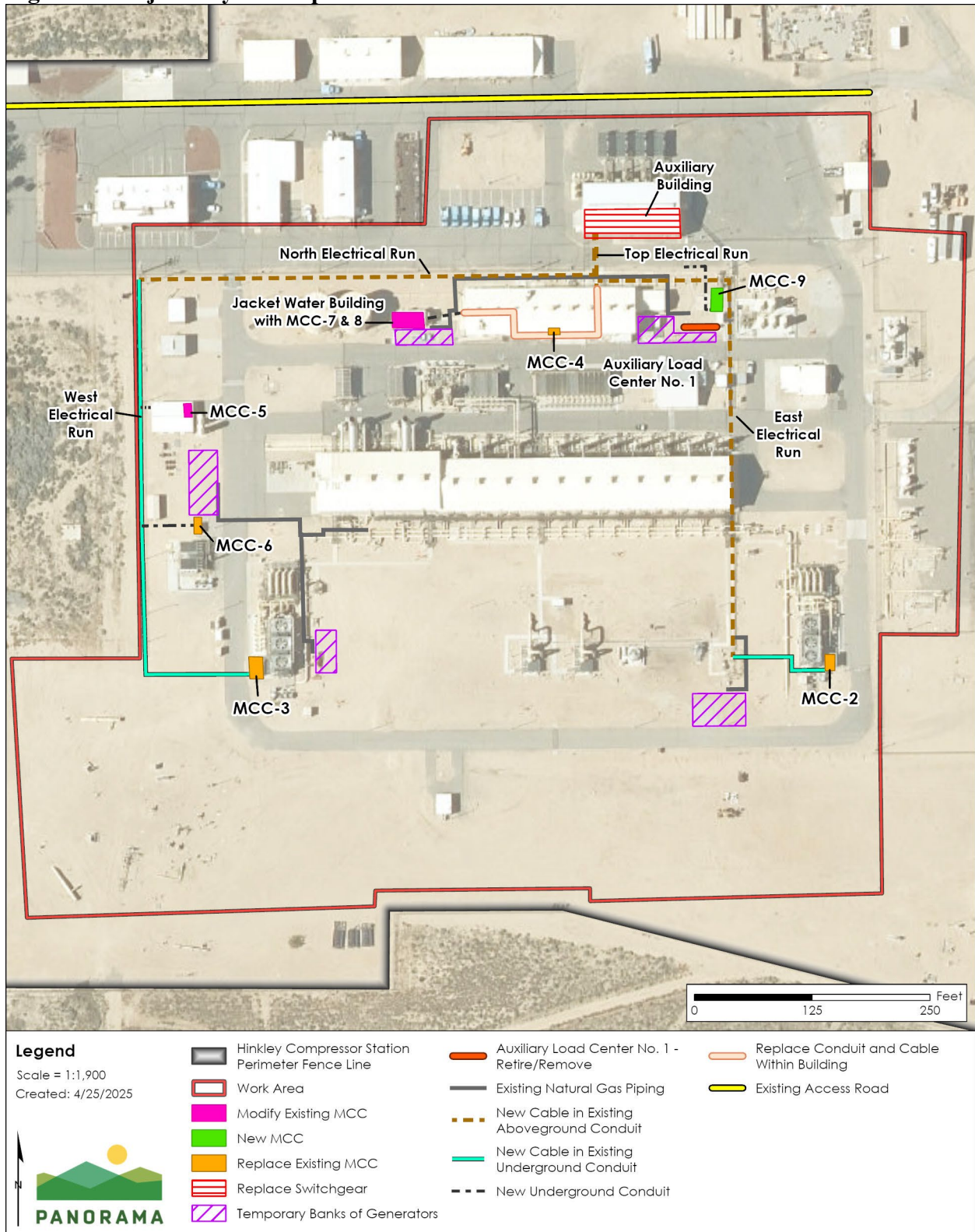
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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 14, 2025

Wayne Walker, Co-Chairperson
Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 343
Patton, CA, 92369

Re: California Environmental Quality Act Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b) pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52, Formal Notification of the Proposed Pacific Gas and Electric S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project

Dear Mr. Wayne Walker,

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the PG&E S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project (Project) on April 9, 2025 (Application No. A2504004). The project is located within Hinkley, an unincorporated community in San Bernadino County as shown on Figure 1. The CPUC deemed PG&E's application complete on May 7, 2025.

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Wayne Walker
May 14, 2025
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Requests for AB 52 Consultation

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California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA, 94102-3298

If you have any comments or concerns regarding the project, please contact me by email at John.Forsythe@cpuc.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 217-5073. You may also mail correspondence to me at the address above.

Sincerely,



John Forsythe, CPUC Project Manager

cc: Susanne Heim, Panorama Environmental, Inc.

Wayne Walker

May 14, 2025

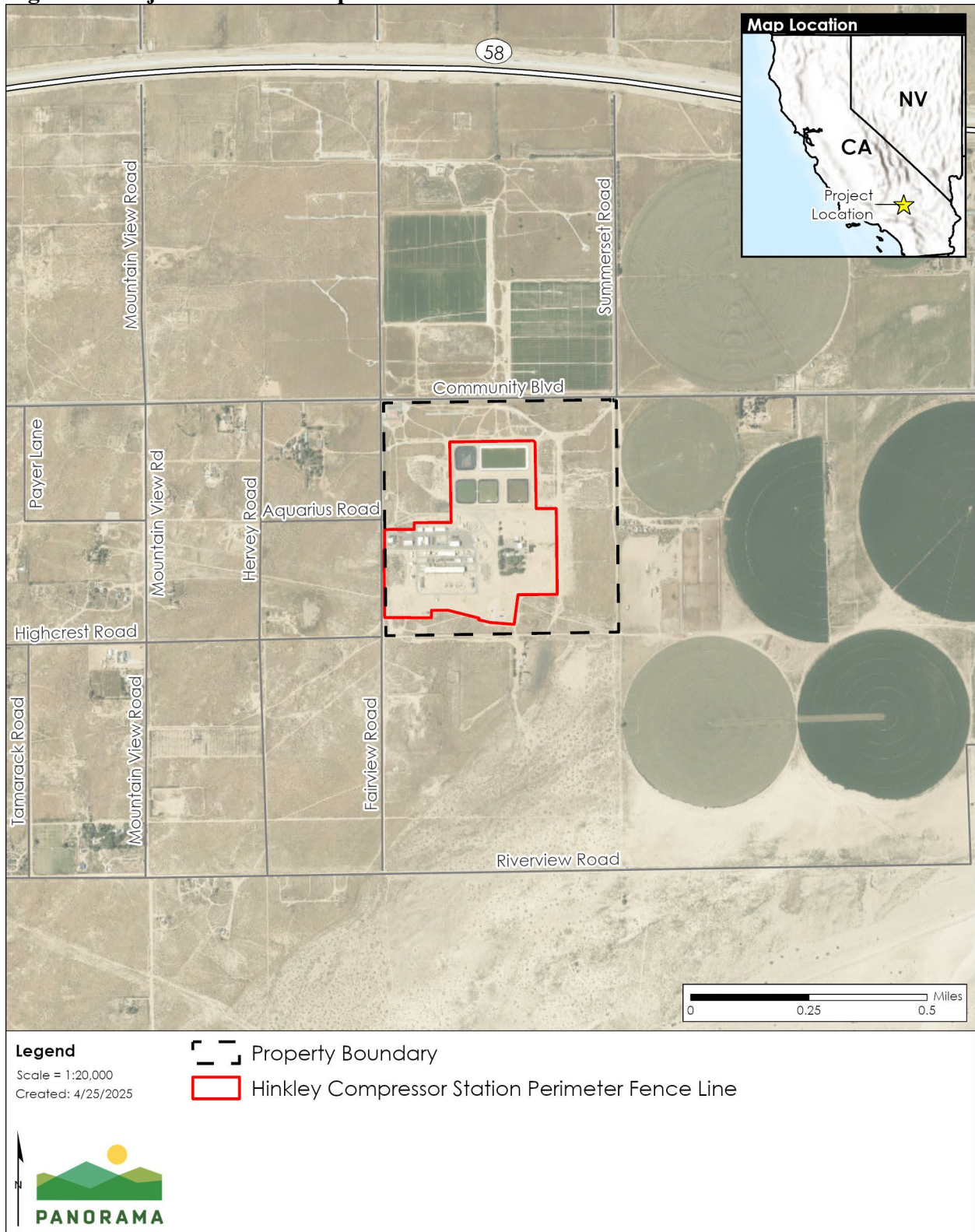
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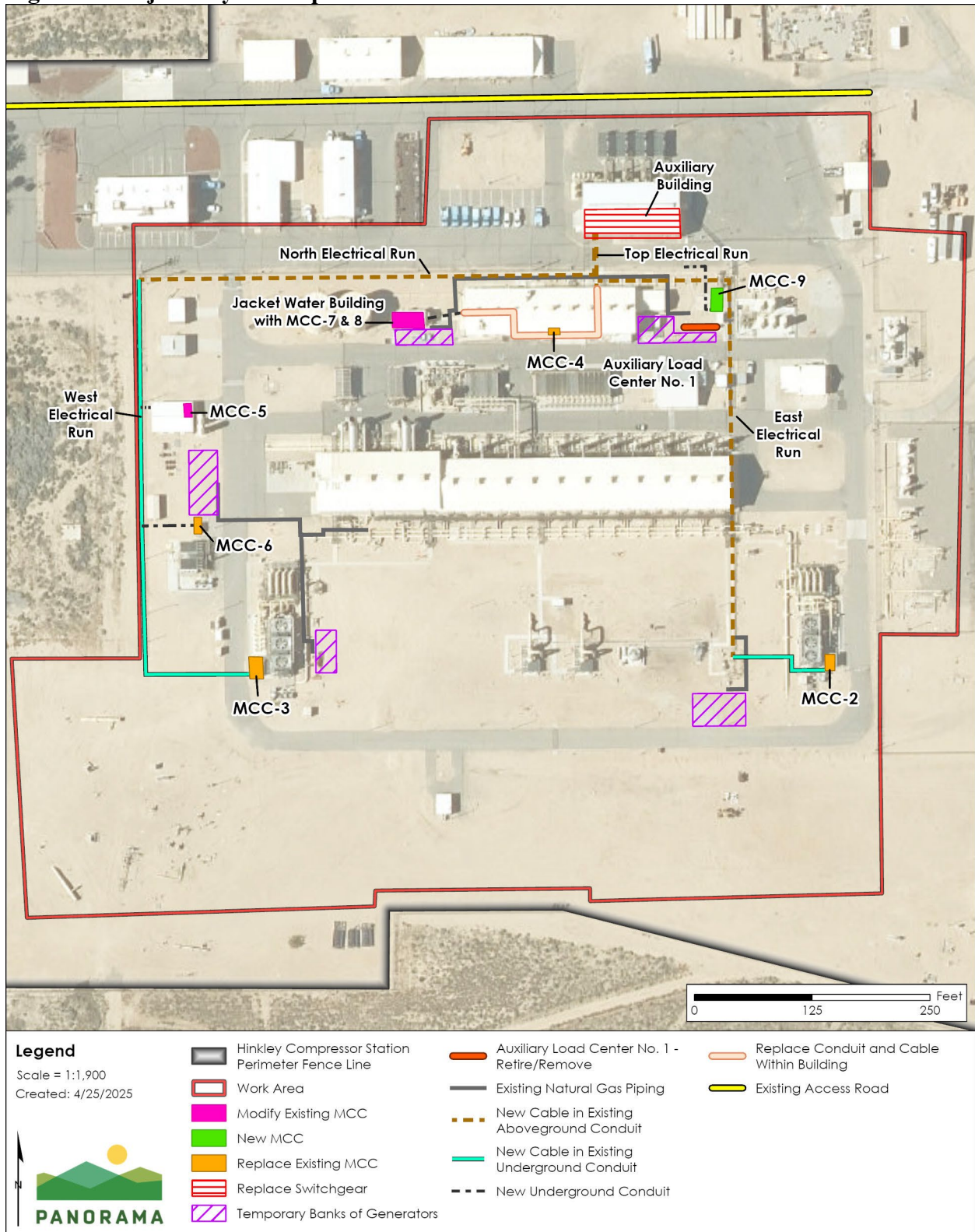
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Figure 1: Project Overview Map



Attachment A

Figure 2: Project Layout Map



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 14, 2025

Mark Cochrane, Co-Chairperson
Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 343
Patton, CA, 92369

**Re: California Environmental Quality Act Public Resources Code section
21080.3.1(b) pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52, Formal Notification
of the Proposed Pacific Gas and Electric S-238 Hinkley Compressor
Station Electrical Upgrades Project**

Dear Mr. Mark Cochrane,

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the PG&E S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project (Project) on April 9, 2025 (Application No. A2504004). The project is located within Hinkley, an unincorporated community in San Bernadino County as shown on Figure 1. The CPUC deemed PG&E's application complete on May 7, 2025.

The project is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As the lead agency under CEQA, the CPUC will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze potential impacts of the project pursuant to CEQA, including potential impacts on tribal cultural resources that may be present or discovered.

The CPUC is providing you with this notification pursuant to California Assembly Bill (AB) 52. This notice includes:

- A description of the project and location;
- A clear and definitive statement that the tribe has 30 days to request consultation; and
- The lead agency's contact information.

Project Description and Location

The project includes the following elements as shown on Figure 2:

- Upgrading and replacing aging electrical distribution equipment at PG&E's S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station (located at 35863 Fairview Road in Hinkley) to improve safety, reliability, and maintainability.

Mark Cochrane

May 14, 2025

Page 2 of 5

- Replacing or modifying existing equipment, including:
 - Electrical power switchgear
 - Motor control centers (MCCs)
 - Load center
 - Connecting conduit and new or replacement cable between the switchgear and MCC locations within the existing substation
- Maintain the existing gas transmission system, including pipe, valves, and gas measurement assets, which will not be modified aside from internal electrical distribution upgrades.
- Installing temporary natural gas-fueled generators to power the station during specific construction phases when permanent electrical systems are deenergized. All temporary generator equipment will be removed after the project is complete.

Construction is proposed to begin in October 2026 with a target completion date of May 2028. Additional information about the project including PG&E's application and supporting materials are provided on the CPUC's website at:

<https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/panoramaenv/Hinkley/>

Requests for AB 52 Consultation

If you would like to participate in the AB 52 consultation process for this project, please send an official request within 30 days of receipt of this notice. This formal request can be sent to John.Forsythe@cpuc.ca.gov and/or hinkleyelectrical@panoramaenv.com, or can be mailed to the CPUC using the following address:

Attn: John Forsythe / Senior Environmental Planner
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA, 94102-3298

If you have any comments or concerns regarding the project, please contact me by email at John.Forsythe@cpuc.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 217-5073. You may also mail correspondence to me at the address above.

Sincerely,



John Forsythe, CPUC Project Manager

cc: Susanne Heim, Panorama Environmental, Inc.

Mark Cochrane

May 14, 2025

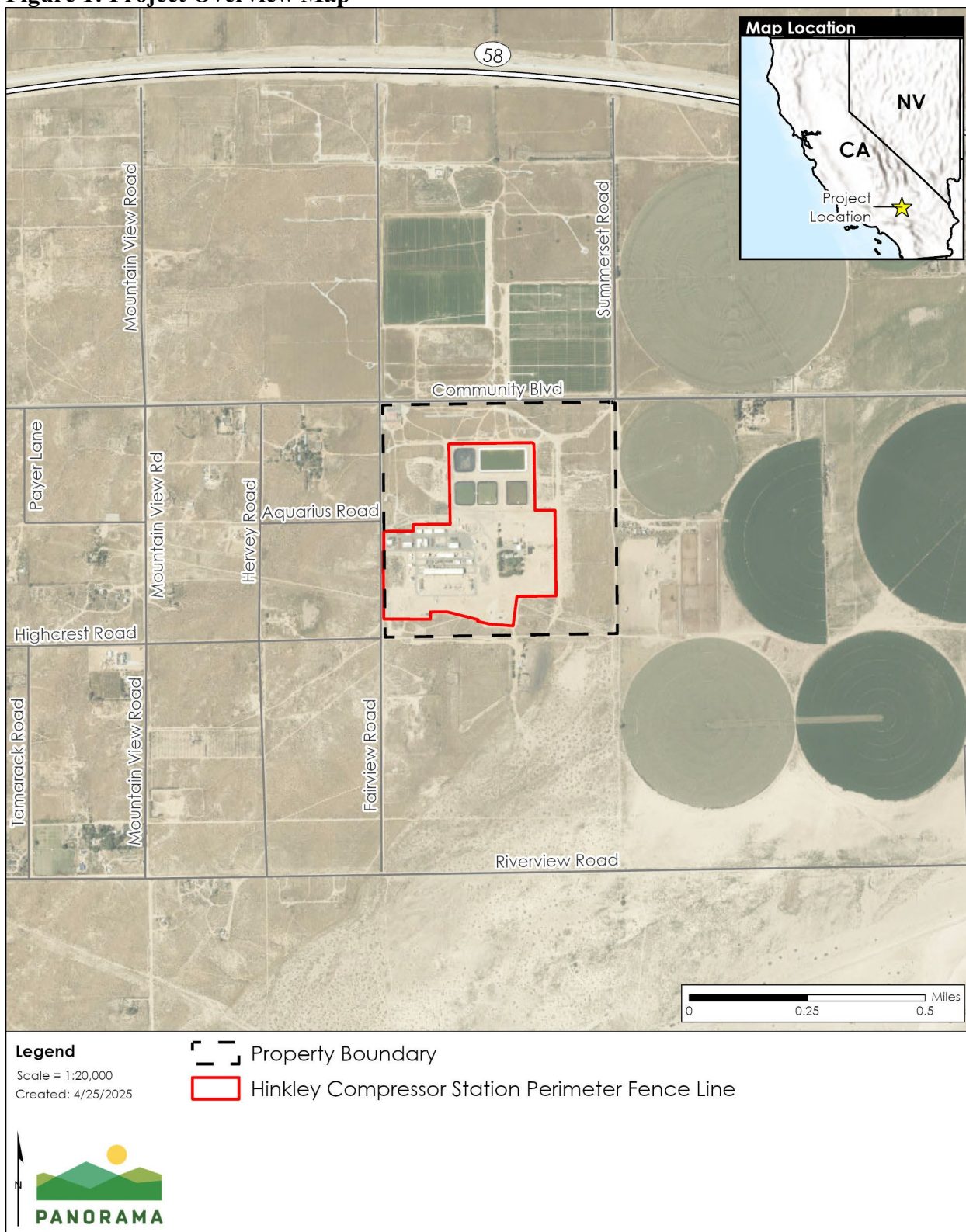
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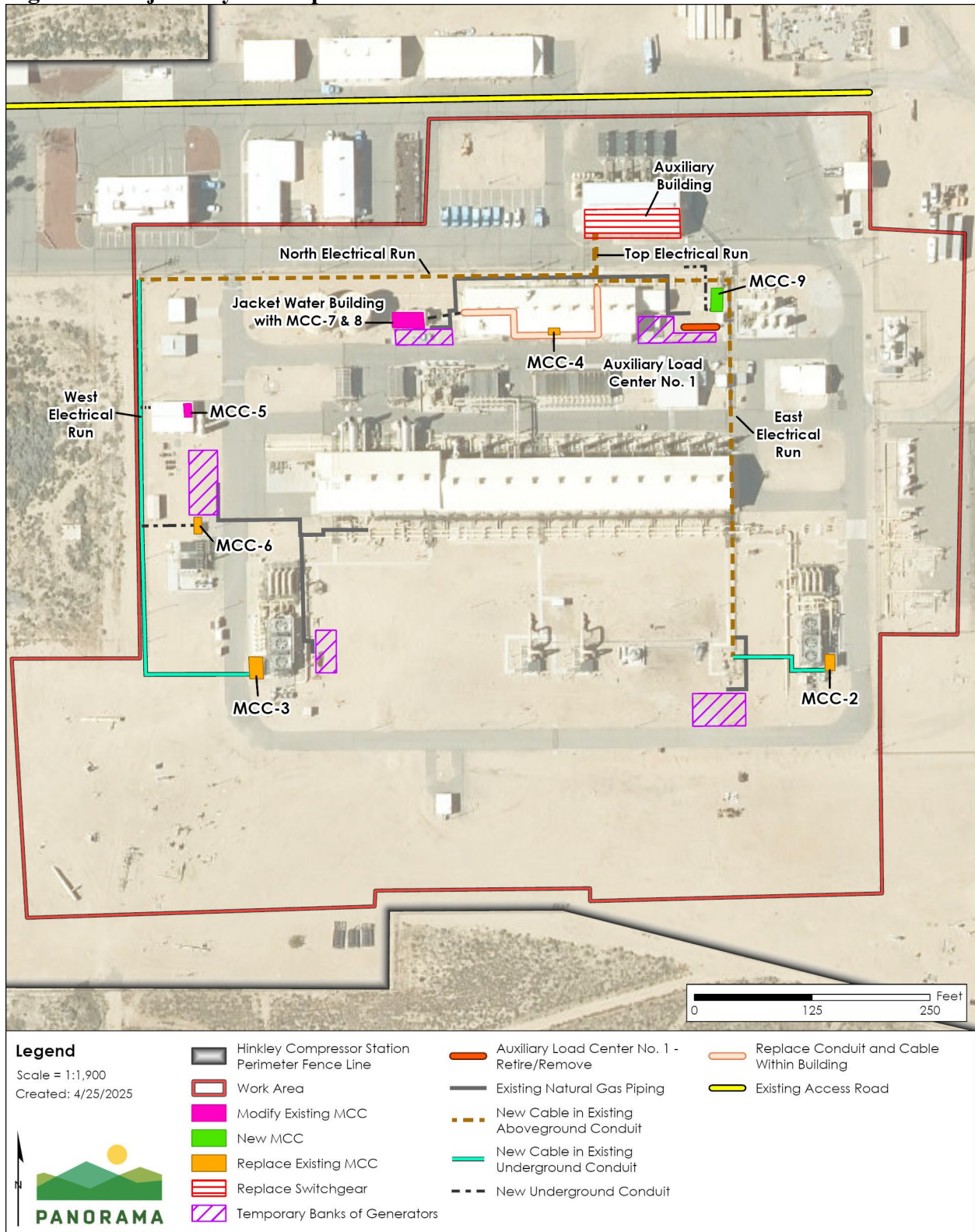
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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 14, 2025

Sarah O'Brien, Tribal Archivist
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
46-200 Harrison Place
Coachella, CA, 92236

Re: California Environmental Quality Act Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b) pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52, Formal Notification of the Proposed Pacific Gas and Electric S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project

Dear Ms. Sarah O'Brien,

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the PG&E S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project (Project) on April 9, 2025 (Application No. A2504004). The project is located within Hinkley, an unincorporated community in San Bernadino County as shown on Figure 1. The CPUC deemed PG&E's application complete on May 7, 2025.

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Sarah O'Brien
May 14, 2025
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John Forsythe, CPUC Project Manager

cc: Susanne Heim, Panorama Environmental, Inc.

Sarah O'Brien

May 14, 2025

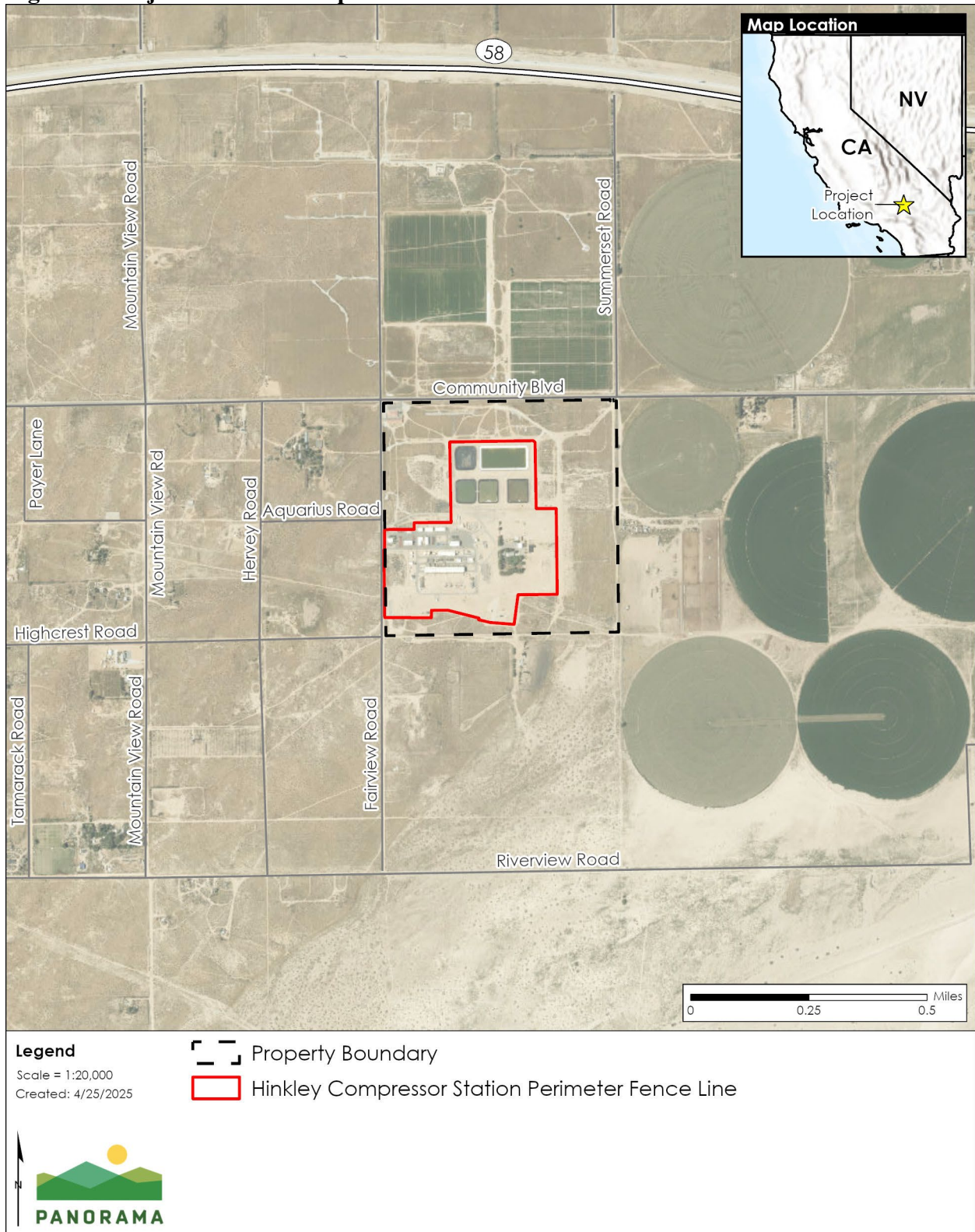
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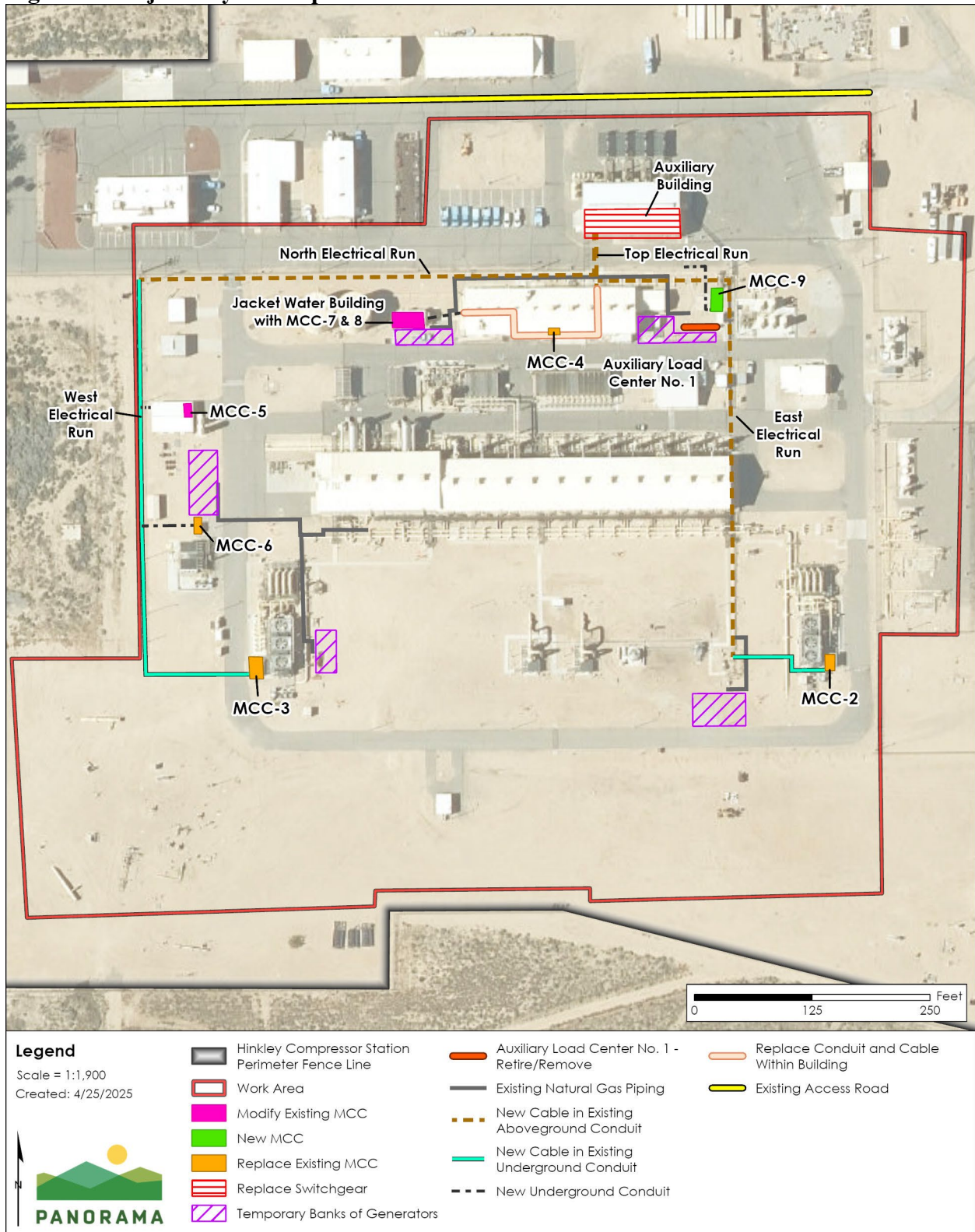
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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 14, 2025

Christopher Nicosia, Cultural Resources Manager/THPO Manager
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
46-200 Harrison Place
Coachella, CA, 92236

**Re: California Environmental Quality Act Public Resources Code section
21080.3.1(b) pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52, Formal Notification
of the Proposed Pacific Gas and Electric S-238 Hinkley Compressor
Station Electrical Upgrades Project**

Dear Mr. Christopher Nicosia,

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Christopher Nicosia
May 14, 2025
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Christopher Nicosia

May 14, 2025

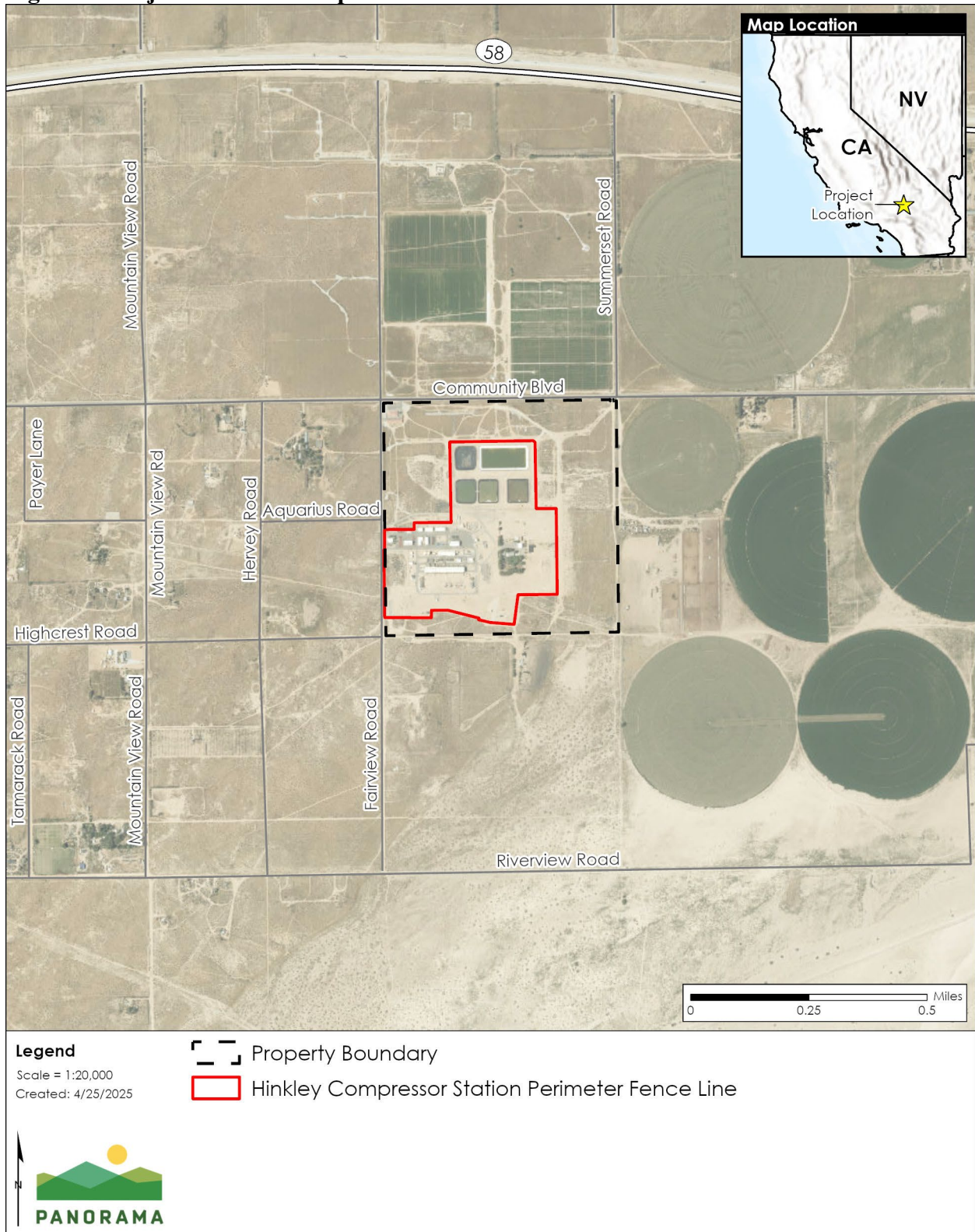
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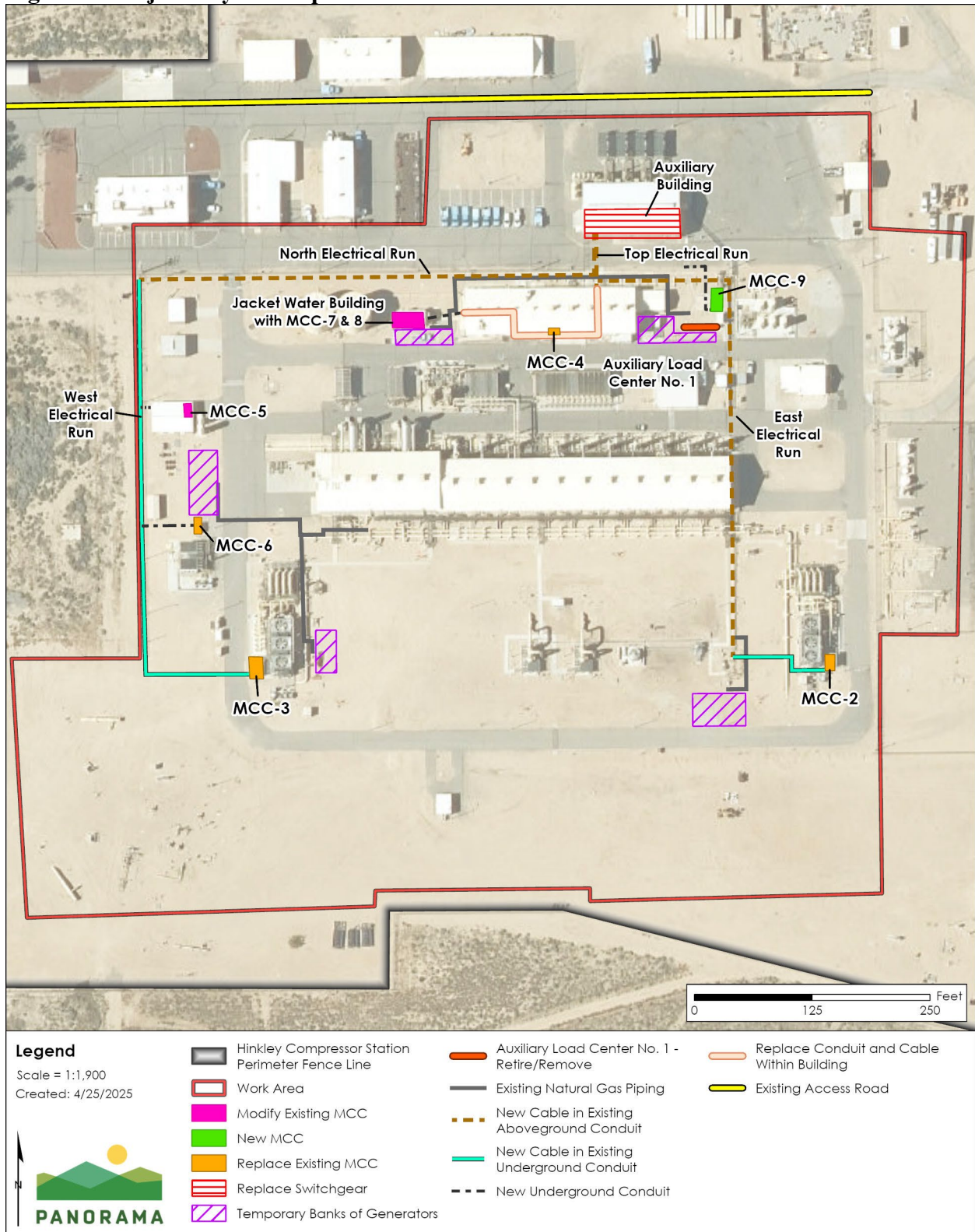
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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 14, 2025

Nicolas Garza, Cultural Resources Specialist
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
46-200 Harrison Place
Coachella, CA, 92236

Re: California Environmental Quality Act Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b) pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52, Formal Notification of the Proposed Pacific Gas and Electric S-238 Hinkley Compressor Station Electrical Upgrades Project

Dear Mr. Nicolas Garza,

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John Forsythe, CPUC Project Manager

cc: Susanne Heim, Panorama Environmental, Inc.

Nicolas Garza

May 14, 2025

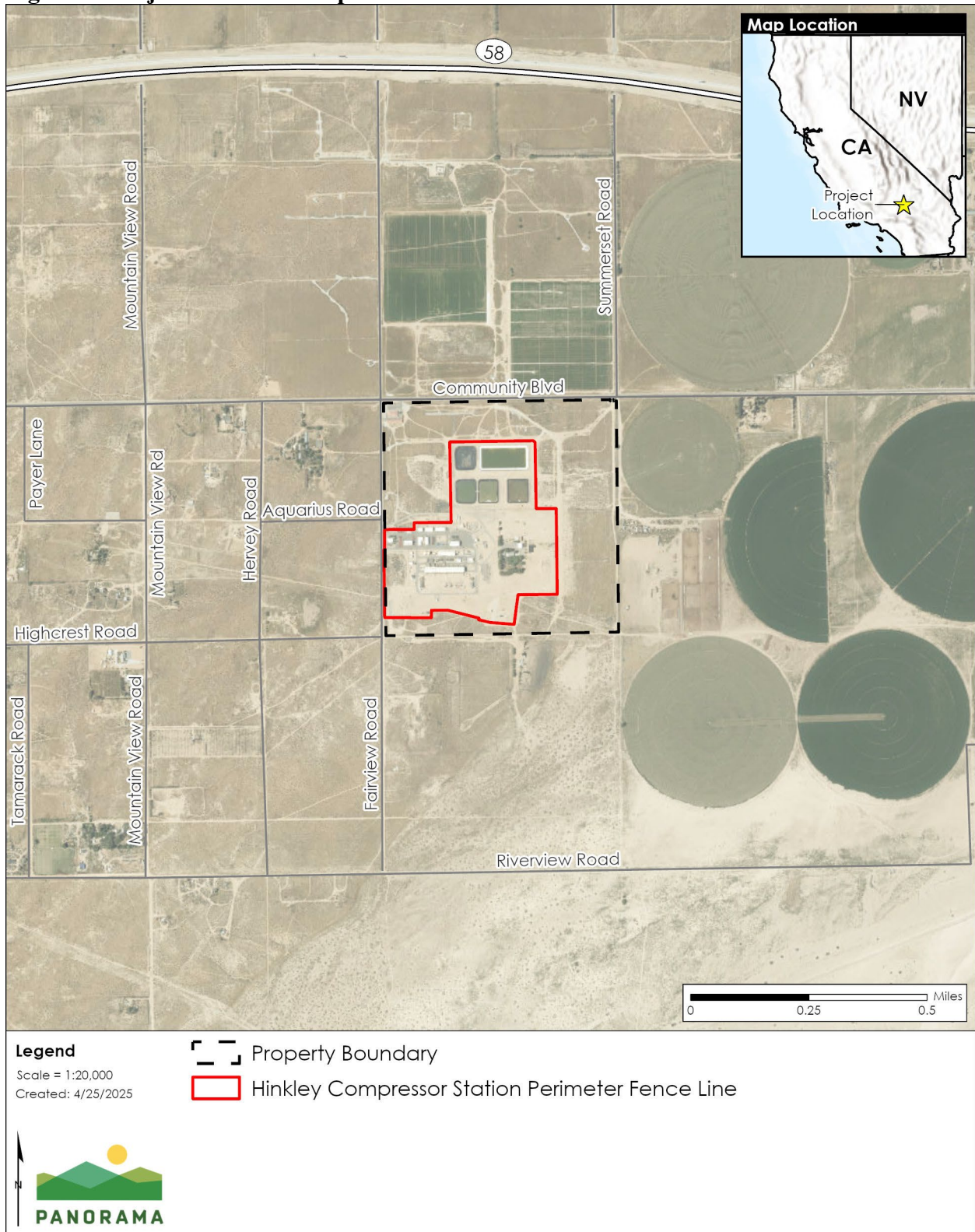
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