



# Utility Scale Solar Development in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties



# We Have a Lot to be Proud of!

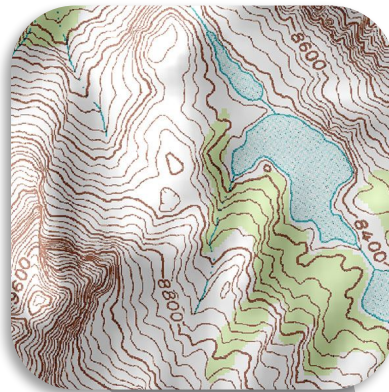
Brand New Utility-Scale Solar in Riverside County		
Project	Solar and Storage Capacity	Status
EDFR Palen Solar	500 MW	Energized 2020
Intersect Power Athos I + II	450 MW	Energized 2021
Intersect Power Blythe Mesa Solar + Storage	224 MW + 112 MW, 4-hour	In Construction
Intersect Power Oberon Solar + Storage	500 MW + 250 MW, 4-hour	In Construction
Recurrent Energy Crimson Storage	350 MW, 4-hour	In Construction
Clearway Arica + Victory Pass	400 MW	Fully Permitted
EDFR Desert Quartzite	300 MW + 150 MW, 4-hour	Fully Permitted

- ✓ Thousands of local union jobs + jobs for tribes
- ✓ Millions of dollars in revenue in taxes and fees to Riverside County
- ✓ Millions of dollars in annual rents and fees to U.S. treasury
- ✓ Thousands of acres of additional habitat conserved



# A Perfect Site is a Needle in a Haystack

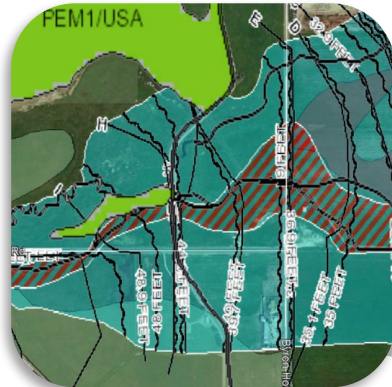
## TOPOGRAPHY



## TRANSMISSION CAPACITY AND INTERCONNECTION COST



IMPORTANT  
AGRICULTURAL LAND



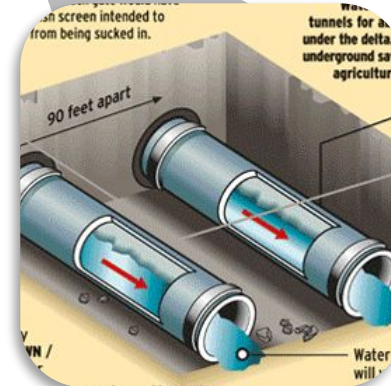
HYDROLOGY &amp; GEOTECH



## PROTECTED SPECIES



SUBSURFACE MINERALS



## PUBLIC PROJECTS

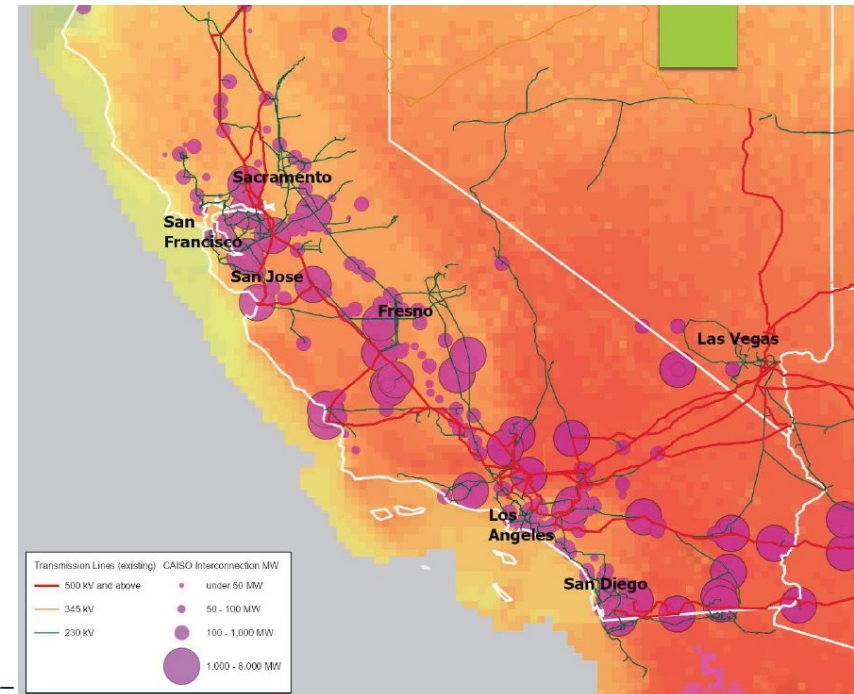


## LAND PRICE & OWNERSHIP



# Land Requirements to Meet SB 100 Mandates

- The DRECP designated 388,000 acres of public (BLM) lands for renewable energy development...
- But roughly **80% of that is unusable** due to overlapping conservation designations, geophysical impediments, and lack of transmission
- **Private lands are increasingly difficult to site solar** projects due to punishing local zoning restrictions, community objections, conflicting land uses, and lack of transmission capacity
- **At least 500,000 more acres are needed** for utility-scale solar in California alone to meet SB 100 mandates
- That is only 0.05% of the land surface in the State
- **But** these lands MUST
  - Have access to transmission with adequate capacity
  - Have geophysical conditions adequate to meet construction and operational requirements
  - Gain approval of government authorities and local communities
  - Not get tied up in litigation for years

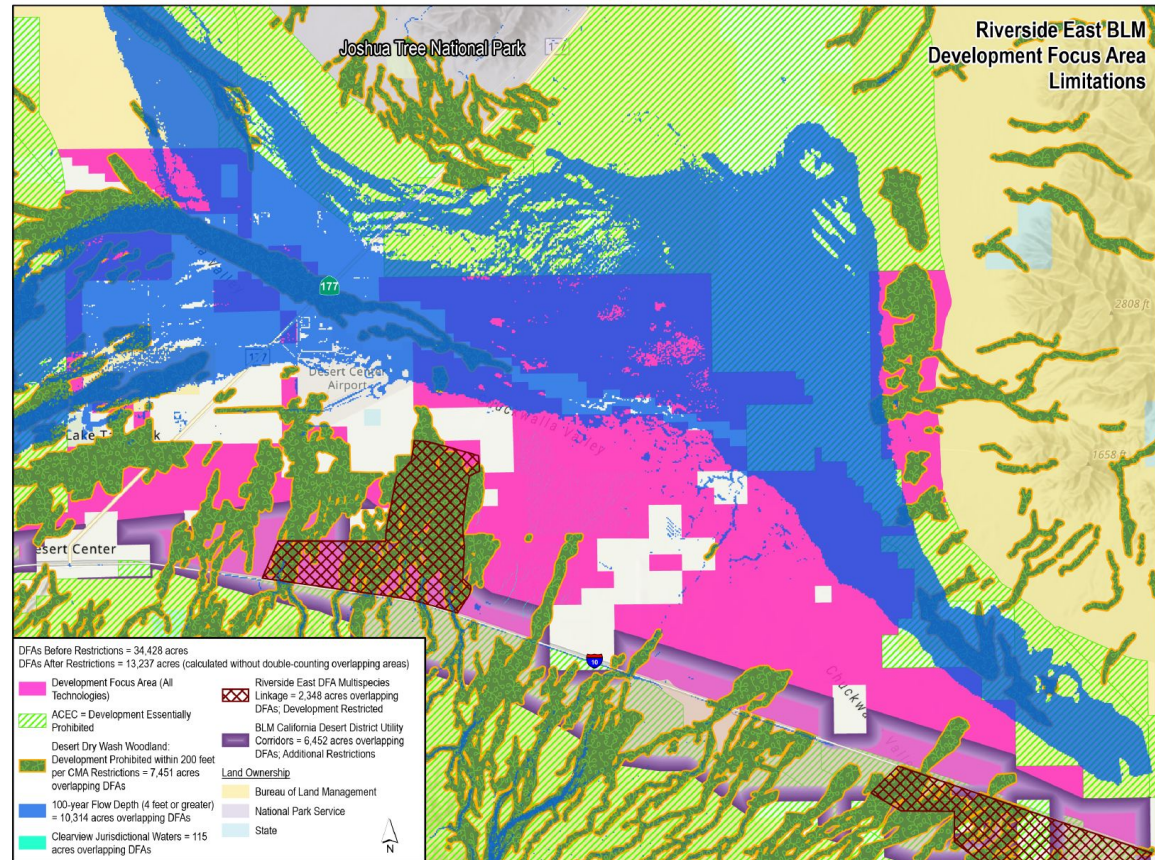


# DRECP Designated 34,000 acres for Renewable Energy in the Desert Center Area of Riverside County



## But...

- Conservation Management Actions restrict development in “microphyll woodland”, within 0.25 miles of a single occurrence of a rare plant, etc.
- Hydrology prevents development across tens of thousands of acres designated for solar development
- Designated utility corridors further constrain development focus areas
- Only 18,000 acres remain for solar development, most is already developed, in construction, or pending





# Solar on Private Lands

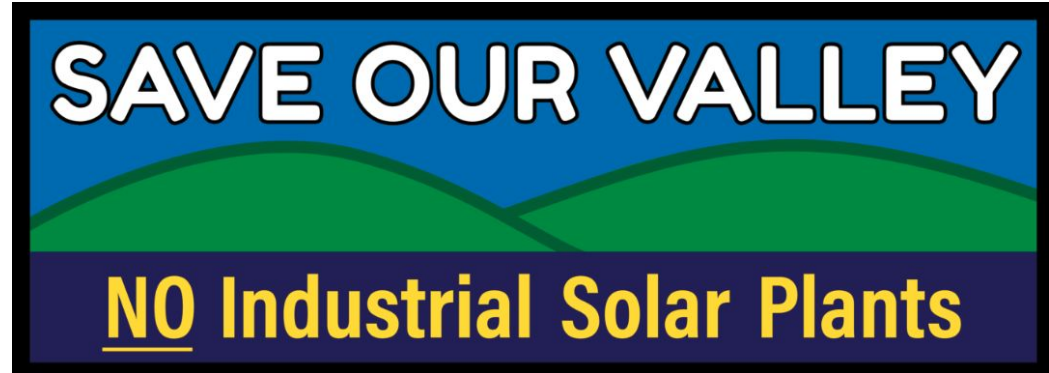
## Community Engagement and Acceptance

Despite increasingly robust community benefits plans being proposed by solar developers, e.g.:

- Union labor contracts
- Permanent, local jobs
- Direct cash payments for public works projects
- Compensatory habitat plans
- Use of local subcontractors
- Sponsorship of and donations to community groups
- Aesthetic management plans like vegetation screening, fencing, and setbacks

...there is increasing community opposition to high-value, low-impact projects across the state.

This is a loss for communities.



# The Reality...





# The Reality...





# The Reality...



# How Can Riverside and San Bernardino Counties Benefit from the Next Solar Boom?



- ✓ **Create Smart Land Use Policy:** Land use policies that create overwhelming economic constraints on utility-scale solar development are de facto bans on solar (e.g., you can only site on contaminated lands or industrial zoned lands). Ensure solar developers have a seat at the table. Ensure transmission planners keep Riverside and San Bernardino Counties on the map. Create policies that employ “Development Standards” rather than “Zoning Standards”.
- ✓ **Reduce Ministerial Red Tape:** Grading and building permit programs designed for residential and commercial development are not appropriate for utility scale solar which are governed by higher-level health and safety standards. Projects are often caught in years-long permitting processes AFTER they are approved.
- ✓ **Education about the Low Risks and High Rewards of Local Solar Projects:** Too much misinformation exists online about the “risks” of large-scale solar, which is truly a benign, quiet, low-profile, safe, friendly neighbor.
- ✓ **Outreach to Youth Climate and Environmental Groups:** Community members active in anti-solar campaigns trend older in age, but the future climate belongs to younger generations. Land use policy may sound boring to young people who care deeply about the future of the planet and the risks of climate change, but there is a disconnect between how critical one is to achieve the other.