Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Richard J. Bruckner
Director

NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
NOTICE OF HEARING EXAMINER PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE
SILVERADO POWER WEST, LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROJECT
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2012061068
COUNTY PROJECT NOs. R2011-00833, 00798, 00799, 00807, 00801, 00805
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NOs. 201100079, 70, 71, 76, 72, 74
ZONE CHANGE NO. 201100005
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW NO. 201100109

The County of Los Angeles, acting in the capacity of Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and the County Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Chapter III, Section 304, has filed a "Notice of Completion and Availability" of a Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR") for the **Silverado Power West, Los Angeles County Project ("Projects")**. This DEIR has been prepared in accordance with, and pursuant to CEQA, Public Resources Code Sections 21000-21177, and the "Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act" (State CEQA Guidelines), California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Sections 15000-15387.

PROPOSED PROJECTS AND SITE LOCATIONS

The Projects are located in the Antelope Valley in unincorporated Los Angeles County and are west of the Antelope Valley Freeway (State Route 14). All six Project sites are between 30th Street West and 120th Street West. On the north-south axis, the sites are between Avenue K to the south and Avenue A to the north. The Projects range from 38.49 acres to 256 acres in size and from 5 MW to 52 MW in solar generation capacity.

Silverado Power is a utility scale solar photovoltaic ("PV") developer proposing the development of six solar PV Projects in the western portion of Antelope Valley, located in the northern portion of unincorporated Los Angeles County. Each of the six solar PV Projects is planned for separate properties, is being developed separately, and would be analyzed individually and cumulatively in this DEIR for all phases of each project including planning, construction, and operation according to the requirements of CEQA in Section 15161.

The Projects to be developed are given below by Project name, Project number, assessor's parcel number ("APN"), acres, and megawatts ("MW"):

Project 1 North Lancaster Ranch – Project No. R2011-00833; APNs 3262-001-006 and 3262-001-006; 240 acres; 20 MW

Project 2 Western Antelope Blue Sky Ranch – Project No. R2011-00798; APN 3267-015-001; 157 acres; 40 MW

Project 3 American Solar Greenworks – Project No. R2011-00799; APNs 3268-018-035, 3268-018-002, and 3268-018-036; 135.61 acres; 35 MW

Project 4 Antelope Solar Greenworks – Project No. R2011-00807; APNs 3218-002-018, 3218-002-023, 3203-002-015, 3203-002-017, 3218-001-002, 3218-001-003, 3218-001-004, 3203-002-011, 3203-002-012, 3203-002-013, 3203-002-014, and 3219-019-011; 256 acres; 52 MW

Project 5 Silver Sun Greenworks – Project No. R2011-00801; APNs 3267-003-001, 3267-003-002, and 3267-003-003; 160 acres; 20 MW

Project 6 Lancaster WAD – Project No. R2011-00805; APN 3115-010-004; 38.49 acres; 5 MW

The Projects are not dependent upon each other for success. Each Project can succeed as a stand-alone project if other projects are not approved by Los Angeles County or if technical or financial problems delay or block the completion of a Project. CEQA allows for a group of projects to be analyzed as a single EIR; each project must also receive approval of its Conditional Use Permit application and other entitlements on the merits of the individual project and individual site.

These six Project sites together would cover approximately 987 acres and would produce 172 MW of solar power in total. The Projects are located on primarily unproductive farmland that is no longer used for farming. Detailed descriptions of the existing conditions for all of the issue areas such as land use, natural resources, and physical characteristics are provided in Chapter 4 of the DEIR along with the detailed analyses of the impacts of each Project on each resource area.

The Projects' locations include a variety of land uses, although a majority of the surrounding lands are unoccupied agricultural and grazing lands. The nearest residential communities are Antelope Acres, the Fairmont community, the City of Lancaster, and the City of Palmdale. Land uses surrounding the Projects consist of mainly open space areas, light agricultural land, low density single family housing, open space areas, and undeveloped grazing lands. Historically, agriculture has been a primary land use in the Antelope Valley. Some properties in the area are still utilized for agriculture; however, because of the declining groundwater levels in the Antelope Valley region and the water adjudication process, the majority of properties have limited supply of water to irrigate crops. Many of these properties have ceased farming activity over the last two decades and remain as unproductive fallow land. South of the Antelope Valley in the San Gabriel Mountains is the Angeles National Forest.

The lead agency for this document is Los Angeles County ("County"). The County held an environmental scoping meeting on July 14, 2012, and the Applicant has held other meetings in the Antelope Valley area to inform the public about aspects of these Projects. The Projects propose to deliver power to the Southern California Edison electrical grid in 2014 and 2015 if approved.

Each of the six PV Projects would be designed and built in a very similar manner. Each of the six sites would employ a series of PV module arrays to convert sunlight into electrical energy without the use of heat transfer fluid or cooling water. The facilities would deliver the electrical output to the existing regional transmission system. Proposed Projects 1 – 6 would meet the existing and future demand for electricity generated from clean, renewable technology by generating 172 MW of electrical energy from the sun. The Projects would assist California in meeting the newly established Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards ("RPS"). Senate Bill 14 established RPS targets for California, stating, "All retail sellers of electricity shall serve 33 percent of their load with renewable energy by 2020." State government agencies have been directed to take all appropriate actions to implement this target in all regulatory proceedings, including siting, permitting, and procurement for renewable energy power plants and transmission lines. The six proposed PV Project sites qualify as eligible renewable energy resources as defined by the California Public Resources Code and would help the state meet the objective of increasing renewable energy generation. In addition, the Projects would contribute much-needed energy during peak power periods to the electrical grid in California.

The Projects have been sited to minimize impacts to the environment and the local community by using disturbed land or land that has been previously degraded from prior use; using existing electrical distribution facilities, rights-of-way, roads, and other existing infrastructure where feasible to minimize the need for new electrical support facilities; and minimizing impacts to threatened or endangered species or their habitats, wetlands and waters of the United States, cultural resources, and sensitive land uses.

All six of the Projects would be designed and built using the same or similar methods and would have similar Project characteristics utilizing PV technology on fixed-tilt or tracker mounting supports. The proposed PV Projects would be constructed in phases and then operated for an estimated 35 years. Construction would generally take place during normal daylight hours and would conform to County construction requirements.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

There were no impacts associated with the Project determined in the DEIR to be significant and unavoidable.

REVIEWING LOCATIONS

The formal public review period for the DEIR will be from **January 6th to February 19, 2014 (45 days).** A public hearing only for taking public testimony on the DEIR and the Project has been scheduled before the Los Angeles County Hearing Examiner starting at 1:00 p.m. and ending after the last testifier or 4:00 p.m., whichever comes first, on **February 1, 2014** at the Lancaster Library, located at 601 West Lancaster Blvd., Lancaster, CA 93534 (see map). Interested persons will be given an opportunity to testify. A public hearing on the Projects before the Regional Planning Commission will take place at a future date.

All comments received by the closing of the public review period for the DEIR will be considered in the Final EIR. To ensure public access to the DEIR, copies of the document are available for review online at http://planning.lacounty.gov/case/view/silverado/ and at the libraries listed below:

Lancaster Library
601 West Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, CA 93534

Lake Los Angeles Library
16921 East Avenue O, #A
Palmdale, CA 93591

Quartz Hill Library
42018 North 50th St. West
Quartz Hill, CA 93536

Antelope Valley Bookmobile
601 West Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, CA 93534

Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library
18601 Soledad Canyon Rd.
Santa Clarita, CA 91351

Copies of the DEIR and documents referenced in the DEIR also will be available for public review Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at:

Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning
Special Projects Section, Room 1362
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1522

Please submit written comments on the DEIR to **Ms. Carolina Blengini** of the Department of Regional Planning at the address above, or via email at specialprojects@planning.lacounty.gov.

Este es un aviso de acuerdo al decreto de la protección del medio ambiente de California (CEQA). El proyecto que se considera por el Condado de Los Angeles es el desarrollo de 6 facilidades de energía fotovoltaica. El informe sobre los impactos ambientales está disponible desde enero 6 hasta febrero 19, 2014 (45 días). Una audiencia pública para recibir testimonio publico de impactos ambientales tendrá lugar el día febrero 1, 2014 entre las 1 pm y 4 pm, en la biblioteca de Lancaster. Si necesita más información, o si quiere este aviso en español, favor llamar al Departamento de Planificación al (213) 974-6466.

ADA ACCOMMODATIONS: If you require reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids and services such as material in alternate format or a sign language interpreter, please contact the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Coordinator at (213) 974-6488 (Voice) or (213) 617-2292 (TDD), with at least three business day's notice.

Silverado Power West Los Angeles County Projects 1-6

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SILVERADO POWER WEST LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PROJECT 1 - NORTH LANCASTER RANCH

FIGURE 3-5
VICINITY AERIAL MAP

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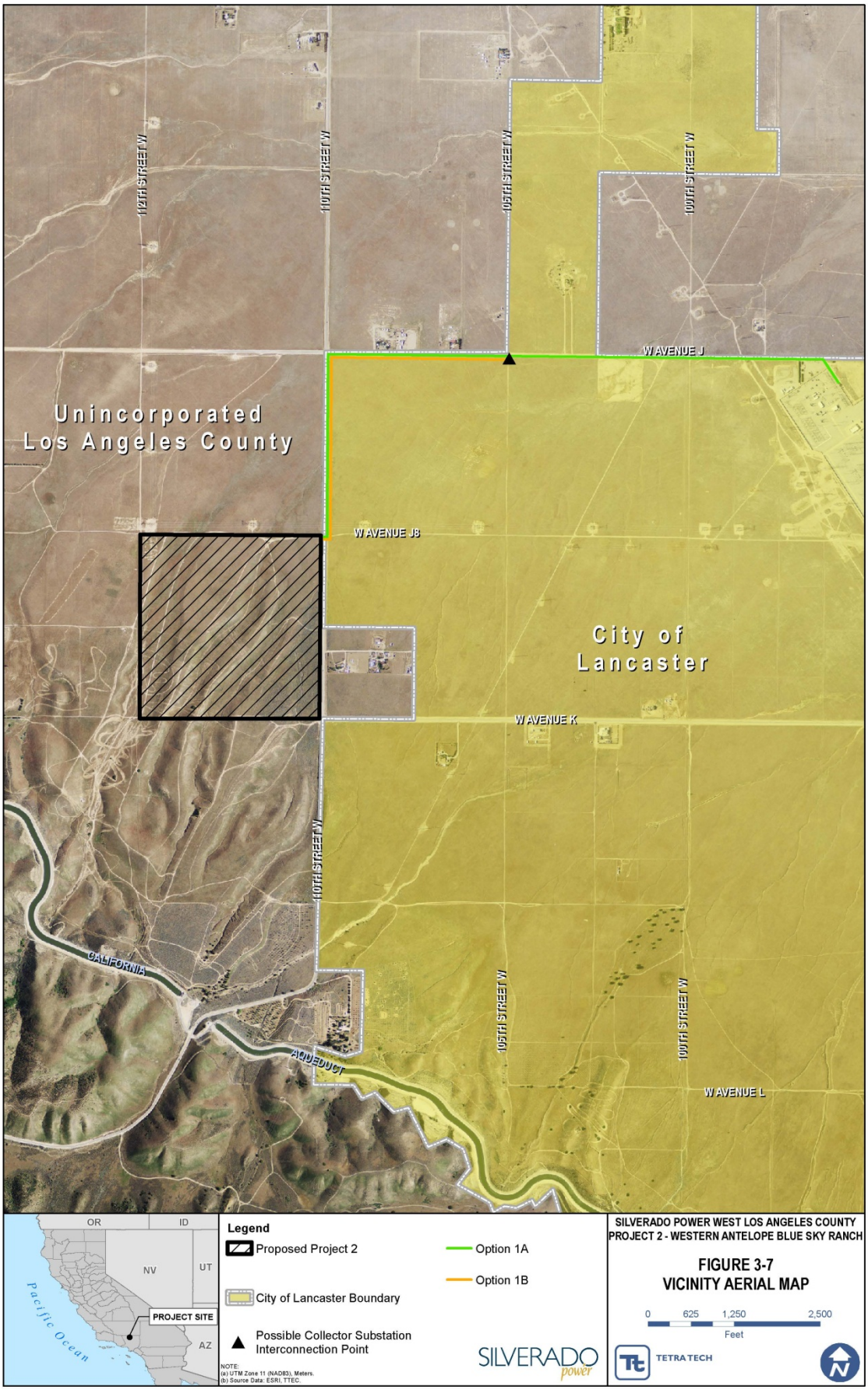

SILVERADO POWER WEST LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PROJECT 2 - WESTERN ANTELOPE BLUE SKY RANCH

FIGURE 3-7
VICINITY AERIAL MAP

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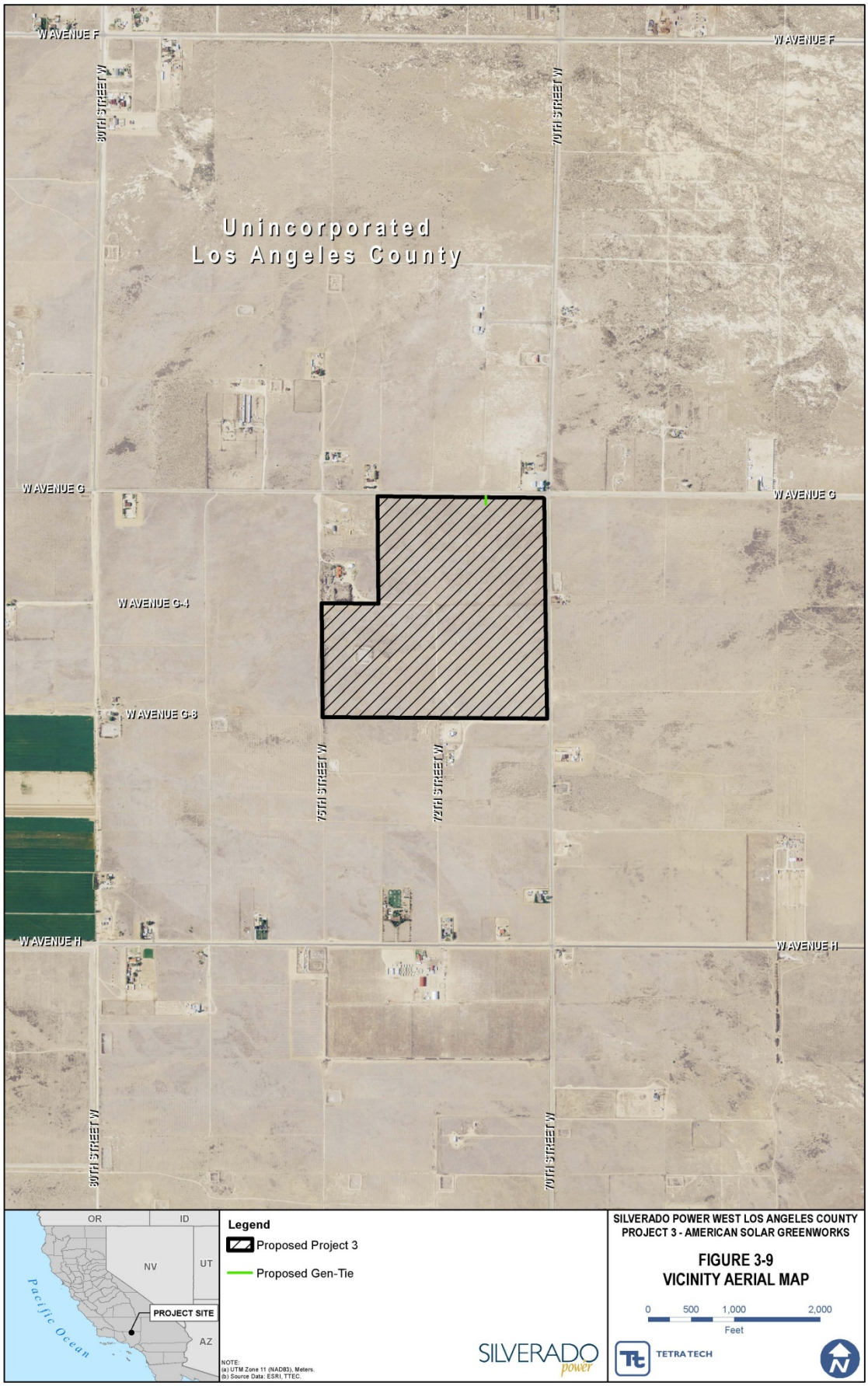

SILVERADO POWER WEST LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PROJECT 3 - AMERICAN SOLAR GREENWORKS

FIGURE 3-9
VICINITY AERIAL MAP

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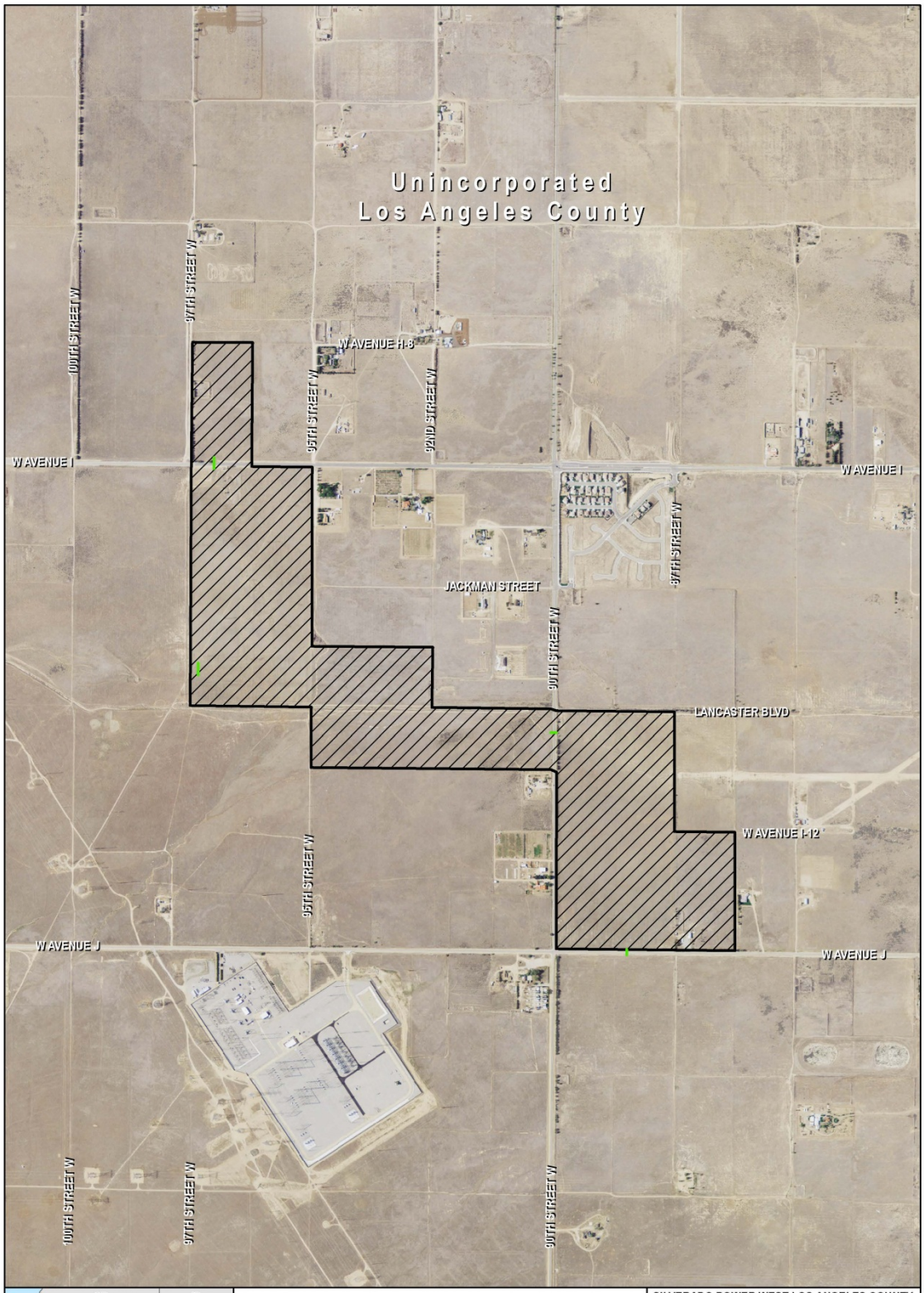

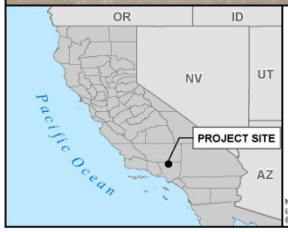

Legend

Proposed Project 4

Proposed Gen-Tie

NOTE:
(a) UTM Zone 11 (NAD83), Meters.
(b) Source Data: ESRI, TTEC.

SILVERADO power

SILVERADO POWER WEST LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PROJECT 4 - ANTELOPE SOLAR GREENWORKS

FIGURE 3-11
VICINITY AERIAL MAP

0 500 1,000 2,000
Feet

TETRA TECH

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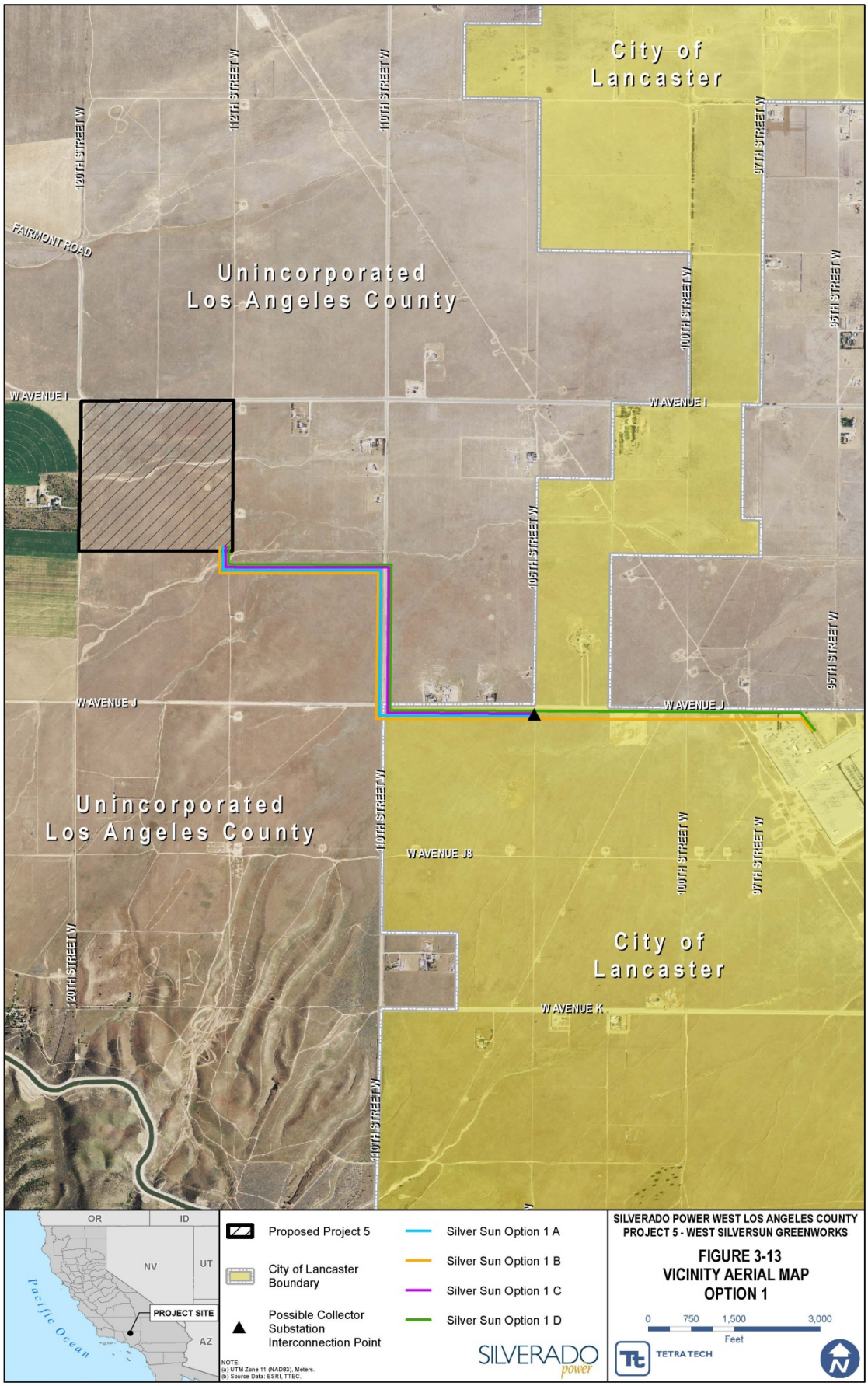

SILVERADO POWER WEST LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PROJECT 5 - WEST SILVERSUN GREENWORKS

FIGURE 3-13
VICINITY AERIAL MAP
OPTION 1

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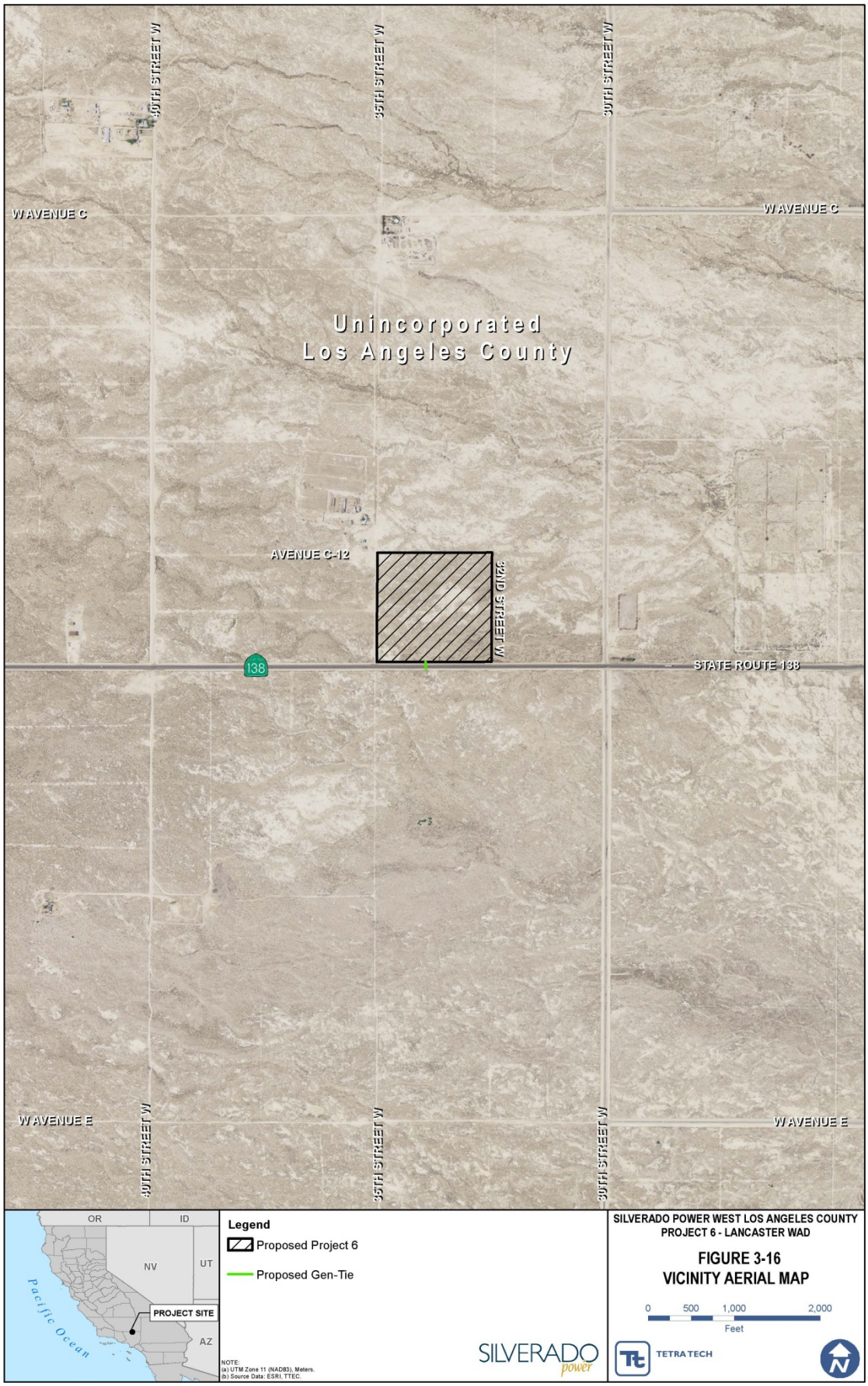

SILVERADO POWER WEST LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PROJECT 6 - LANCASTER WAD

FIGURE 3-16
VICINITY AERIAL MAP