



Land Use Services Department  
Planning Division

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

Land Use Services Department

Applicant: Resurgence Solar I & II PV, LLC

Appellant: Citizens for Responsible Solar

Heidi Duron

Planning Director

November 16, 2021



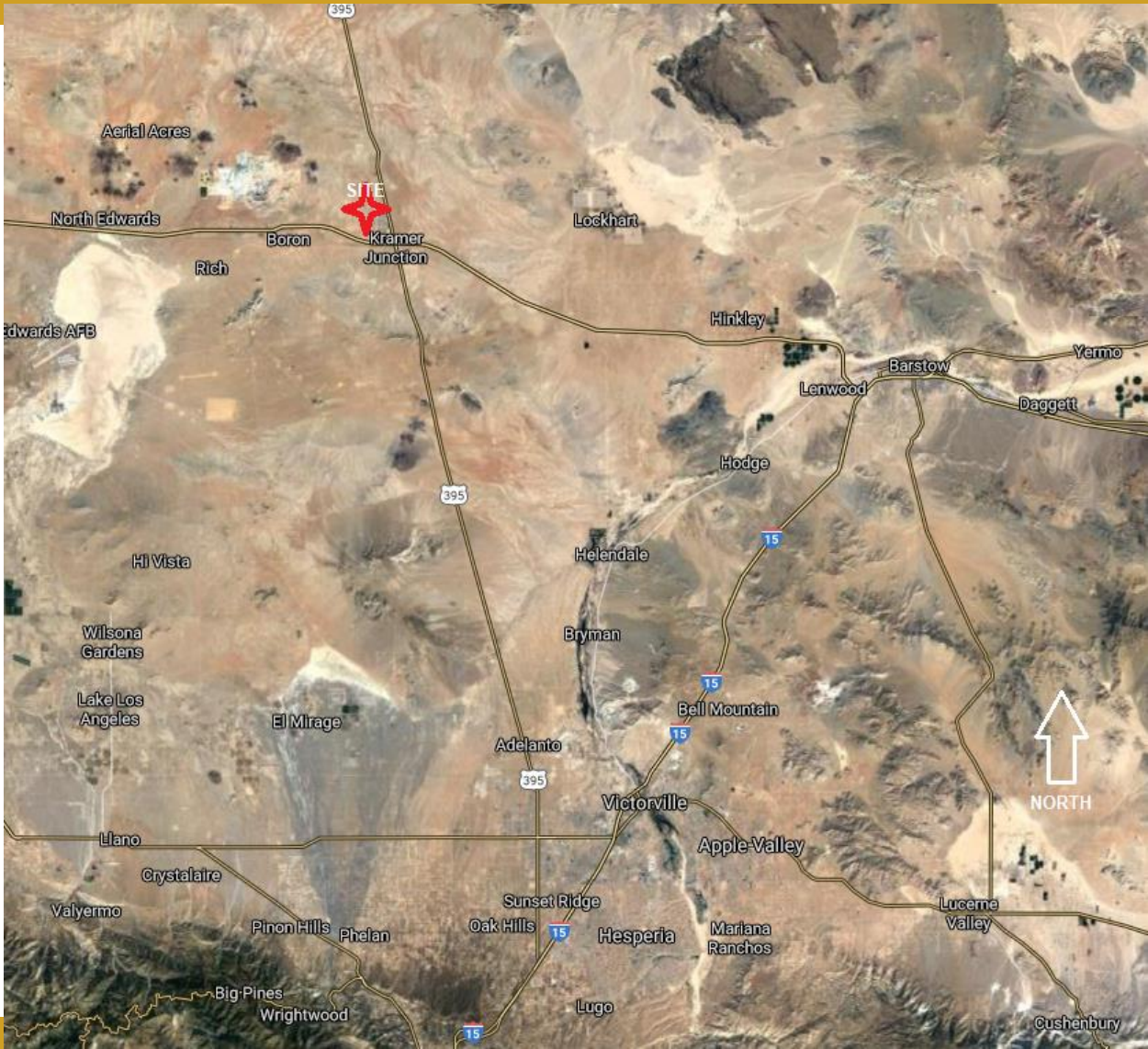
## Project: Resurgence Solar I & II Conditional Use Permits (CUPs)

A proposal for decommissioning of the 150-megawatt (MW) SEGS III through VII concentrated solar thermal power facilities and replacement with photovoltaic (PV) solar facilities (Resurgence I and II) with battery storage to generate up to 150 MW of renewable electrical energy and storage capacity in the community of Hinkley.

## Appeal:

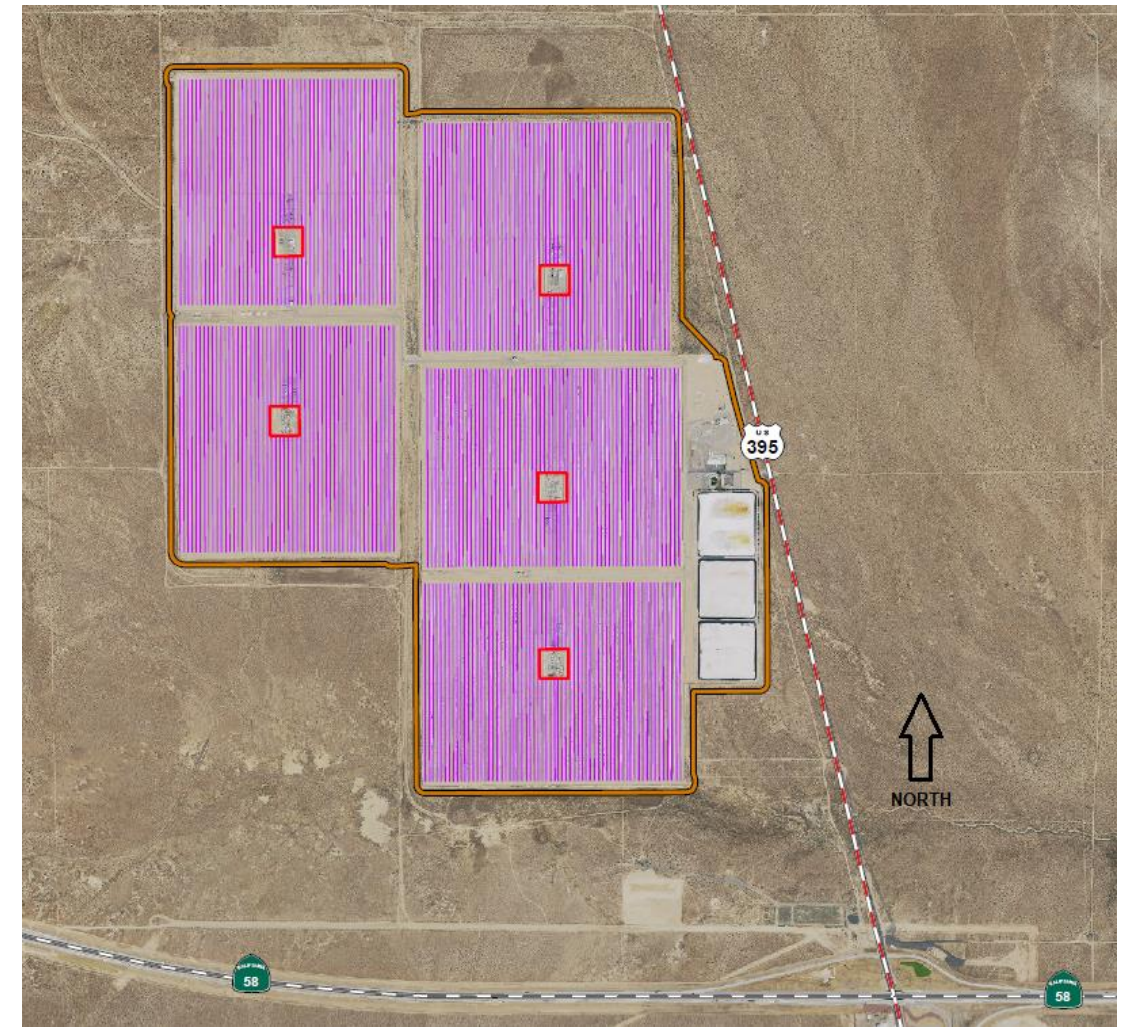
Project approval by the County Planning Commission appealed by Citizens for Responsible Solar, represented by Adams, Broadwell, Joseph & Cardozo

# Regional Vicinity Map



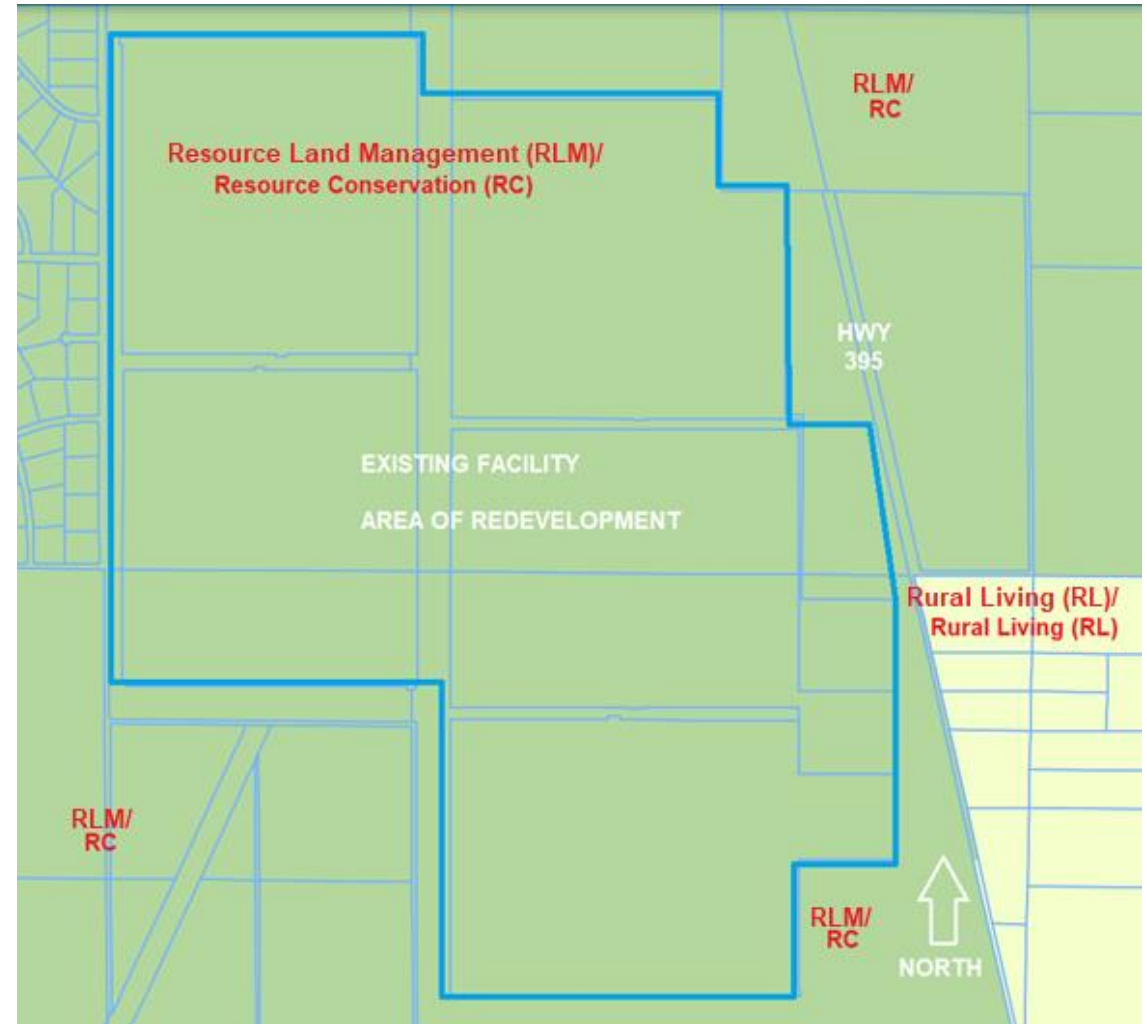
## PROJECT SITE INFORMATION

- Area: 1,172 acres
- Location: West side of Highway 395, 1.2 miles north of Kramer Junction in the Community of Hinkley
- Surrounding land uses: vacant land



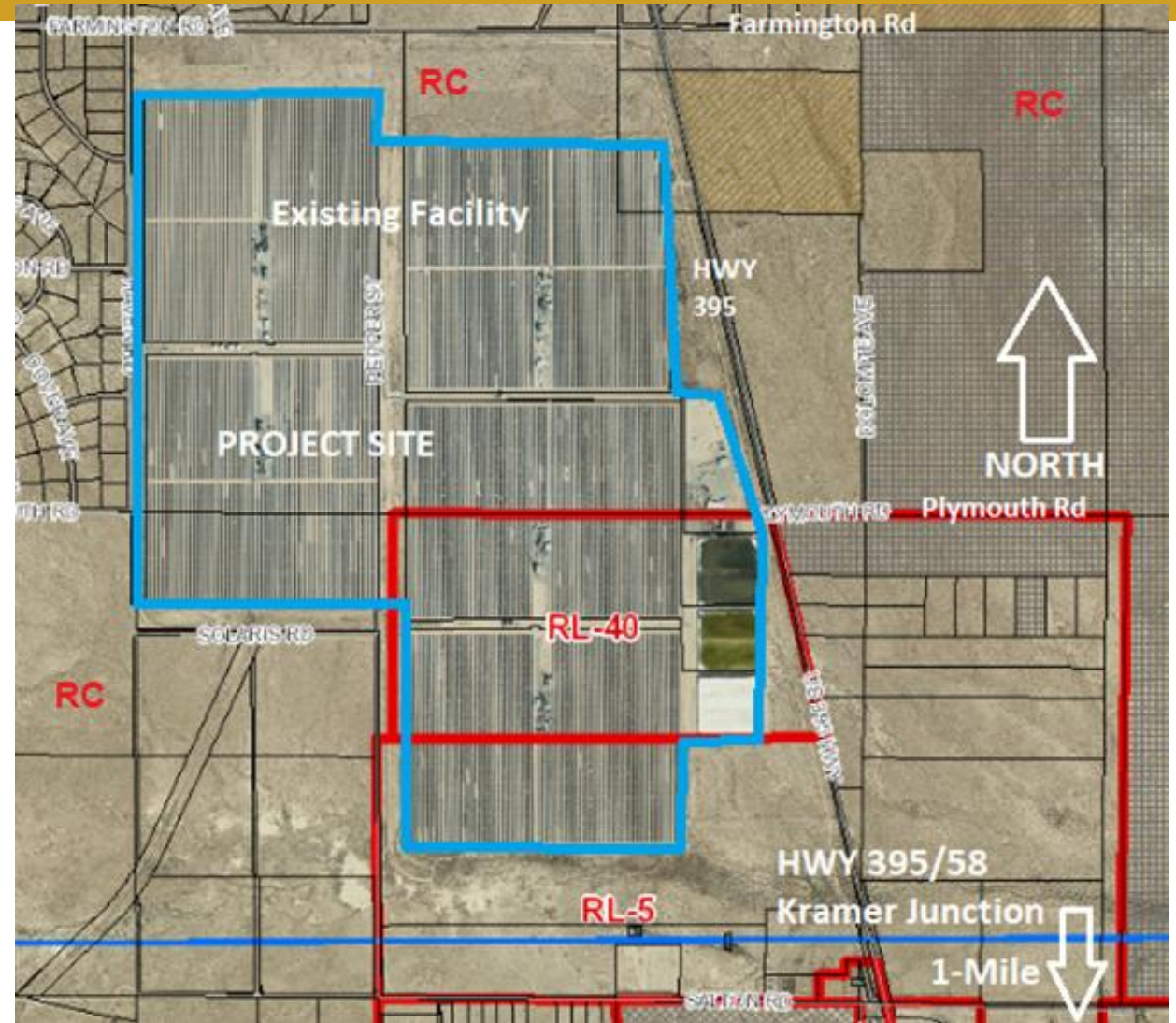
# Current Land Use Category

<b>SITE</b>	Resource Land Management (RLM)
<b>NORTH</b>	Resource Land Management (RLM)
<b>SOUTH</b>	Resource Land Management (RLM)
<b>EAST</b>	Resource Land Management (RLM) / Rural Living (RL)
<b>WEST</b>	Resource Land Management (RLM)



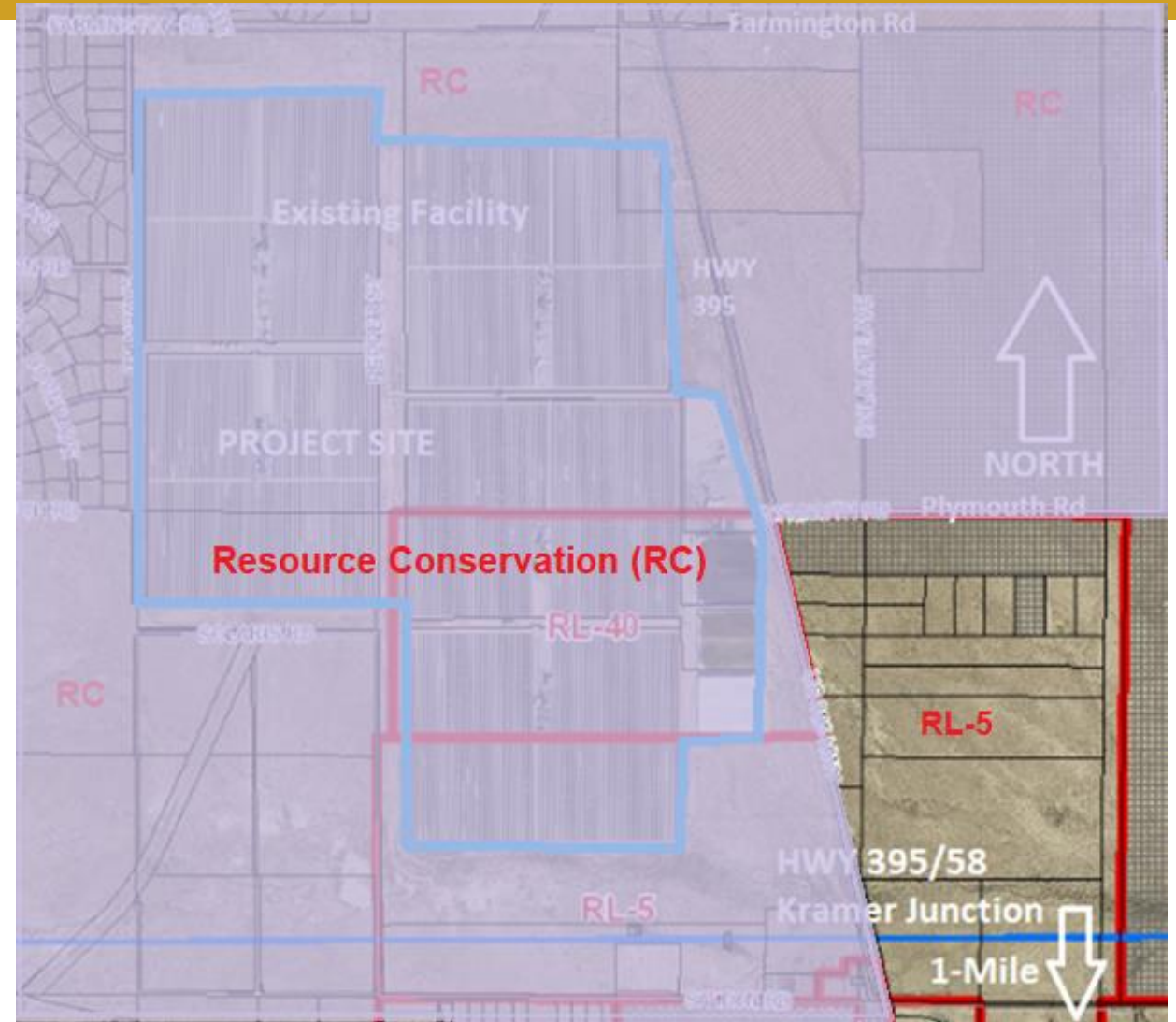
# Current Zoning

<b>SITE</b>	Resource Conservation (RC) / Rural Living-5-acre minimum lot size (RL-5) / Rural Living (RL)-40,000 sf minimum lot size
<b>NORTH</b>	Resource Conservation (RC)
<b>SOUTH</b>	Resource Conservation (RC) / Rural Living-5-acre minimum lot size (RL-5)
<b>EAST</b>	Resource Conservation (RC) / Rural Living-5-acre minimum lot size (RL-5)
<b>WEST</b>	Resource Conservation (RC)



# Future Zoning

<b>SITE</b>	Resource Conservation (RC)
<b>NORTH</b>	Resource Conservation (RC)
<b>SOUTH</b>	Resource Conservation (RC)
<b>EAST</b>	Resource Conservation (RC) / Rural Living-5-acre minimum lot size (RL-5)
<b>WEST</b>	Resource Conservation (RC)



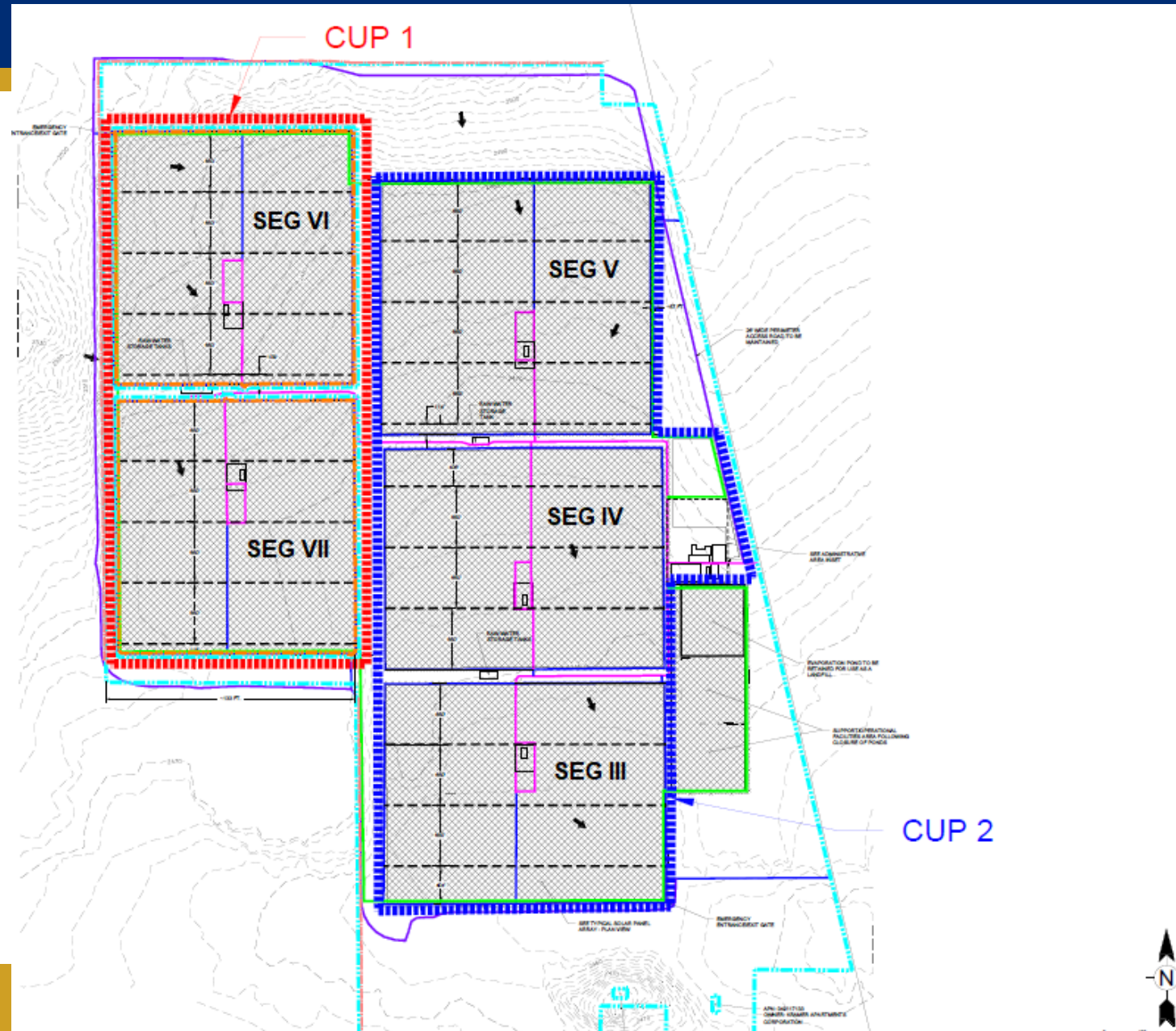
- Part of California Solar Energy Generating Systems (SEGS) sites III through VII
- Decommissioning of existing solar thermal plant
- Replacement with new photovoltaic (PV) solar panels
- 150 megawatts (MW), same as existing facility
- Utilizing the same footprint as existing facility
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- Two CUPs –
  - Resurgence Solar I – 90 MW on 706 acres
  - Resurgence Solar II – 60 MW on 466 acres



Existing Facility



# Proposed Site Plan



# Project Site Photos

South  
HWY  
395



East  
from  
HWY  
395



Entrance to the site / Existing Structures

## Planning Commission Public Hearing on September 9, 2021

- PC approved the Project by a vote of 5-0, directing staff to file the Notice of Exemption

## Appeal filed September 17, 2021

- by Adams Broadwell Joseph, & Cardozo on behalf of Citizens for Responsible Solar.

- The Class 2 categorical exemption from CEQA is unsupported; the County did not consider cumulative impacts of the project.
- Impacts related to decommissioning the existing facility were not analyzed.
- Battery systems for energy storage may result in significant environmental impacts.
- There are inaccuracies in the Air Quality Report, and evidence of potentially significant Greenhouse Gas impacts.
- The risk of avian mortality is substantial; there are incorrect statements in the Biological Report regarding Joshua Trees.
- The Project will not meet the required findings for approval of a Commercial Solar Energy Facility regarding impacts to biological resources.

- A Class 2 Categorical Exemption is appropriate under CEQA Guidelines Section 15302 (c) which states: **Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.**

- Installation of battery systems (BESS) will not change the purpose or capacity of the replacement Project compared to the existing facility.
- The BESS technology that will enable the Project to deliver the same amount of energy as the existing facility, in a more efficient manner.
- Energy storage structure(s) will meet state and County safety standards with specialized fire suppression systems approved by County Fire.

- SEGS III through VII reaching the end of life/time to upgrade to more efficient technology
- Project will utilize existing 115Kv interconnection to the Kramer Junction Substation
- Visual improvement: Lower profile PV panels
- Hazardous Waste elimination: No heat transfer fluid used in PV technology
- Decommissioning plan will provide for soil stabilization, with financial guarantees.

- Consistent with the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element (RECE) Policy RE 5.2(x), which encourages re-use of existing energy generation sites for new utility-oriented renewable energy generation projects
- All aspects of the project comply with the County Code and RECE, including:
  - Disturbed site – existing thermal solar facility
  - Existing transmission infrastructure
  - Siting near other power generation facilities
  - Battery storage component allows energy delivery day and night



That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Conduct a public hearing to consider an appeal of the Planning Commission approval of the Resurgence Solar I & II project on 1,172 acres in the Community of Hinkley.
2. Deny the appeal and take the following actions for project approval:
  - A. Adopt findings for Project approval as adopted by the Planning Commission, including the finding that the Project is exempt from CEQA.
  - B. Approve two CUPs for decommissioning of SEGS III through VII concentrated solar thermal power plants and replacement with a new photovoltaic (PV) solar facility with battery energy storage to generate up to a combined 150 megawatts (MW) of renewable electrical energy, subject to the Conditions of Approval.
  - C. Direct the Clerk of the Board to file a Notice of Exemption.