



Land Use Services Department Planning

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DATE: October 23, 2025

FROM: David Mack, AICP, Planner
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TO: Honorable Planning Commission Members

SUBJECT: Planning Commission Hearing – 10/23/25
Agenda Item No. 6 – Sienna Solar (Avantus)
PROJ-2022-00013

Since the publication of the Staff Report and associated Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (Exhibit D of the Planning Commission Staff Report), the applicant has requested minor language revisions to two Mitigation Measures pertaining to Desert Tortoise.

The requested language alterations do not change the intent of each mitigation measure, nor are they considered replacement measures or new measures, but rather are “*amplification and clarification*” of existing mitigation measures.

Pursuance to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15088.5(b), “*Recirculation is not required where the new information added to the EIR merely clarifies or amplifies or makes insignificant modifications to an adequate EIR.*”

For your consideration, the requested alternative language is shown below in strikethrough/underline format:

Mitigation Measure S-BIO-3: Desert Tortoise (Sienna):

To avoid construction-level impacts to desert tortoise, (1) not more than one year prior to ground-disturbing activities for the construction phase, qualified personnel shall perform a 100% presence/absence survey for desert tortoise in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey methodology; and (2) not more than 45 days prior to ground-disturbing activities for the construction and/or decommissioning phase(s), qualified

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personnel shall perform a 100% coverage pre-construction clearance presence/absence protocol survey for desert tortoise to ensure tortoises have not moved into the project area in accordance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey methodology. If desert tortoise are not documented during appropriate conditions and seasonally time protocol desert tortoise surveys, no additional measures related to desert tortoise avoidance and minimization are recommended. If desert tortoise are documented inhabiting any portion of the Sienna Project area during presence/absence surveys, the following avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures shall be implemented:

- An authorized biologist shall remain on-site until all vegetation is cleared and, at a minimum, conduct site and fence inspections daily throughout construction and the subsequent desert tortoise active season, in order to ensure Project compliance with mitigation measures. Should the biologist identify deteriorate fencing or fencing that needs to be improved in order to meet the intended purpose of the exclusionary fencing, the Project proponent SCE shall be responsible for fixing or maintaining the fence in accordance with the biologist's recommendations.

[Remainder of Measure omitted here]

Mitigation Measure CS-BIO-3: Desert Tortoise (Calsite Substation):

To avoid construction-level impacts to desert tortoise, (1) not more than one year prior to ground-disturbing activities for the construction phase, qualified personnel shall perform a 100% presence/absence survey for desert tortoise in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service methodology; and (2) not more than 45 days prior to ground-disturbing activities for the construction and/or decommissioning phase(s), qualified personnel shall perform a 100% coverage pre-construction clearance presence/absence protocol survey for desert tortoise to ensure tortoises have not moved into the project area in accordance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey methodology. If desert tortoise are not documented during appropriate conditions and seasonally time protocol desert tortoise surveys, no additional measures related to desert tortoise avoidance and minimization are recommended. If desert tortoise are documented inhabiting any portion of the Sienna Project area during presence/absence surveys, the following avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures shall be implemented:

[Remainder of measure omitted here].

No other alternations or changes are requested.