

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Western Region
2600 N. Central Avenue, Fourth Floor Mailroom
Phoenix, AZ 85004-3050

16 MAY '16 AM 10:44

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Fort Mojave Solar Project,
Mohave County, AZ and Clark County, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), as Lead Agency, in cooperation with the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe (Tribe), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and other agencies, intends to gather information necessary for preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Fort Mojave Solar Project located on the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, Mohave County, Arizona. This notice also announces public scoping meetings - one on the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation and one in Laughlin, Nevada - to identify potential issues and content for inclusion in the EIS.

DATES: In order to be fully considered at this stage of the environmental review process, written comments on the scope and implementation of this proposal must be delivered to the address(es) provided below by June 10, 2016. The public scoping meeting on the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation will be held on May 25, 2016 and the public scoping meeting in Laughlin, Nevada will be held on May 26, 2016.

ADDRESSES: You may mail, e-mail, hand carry, telephone, or telefax written comments to Mr. Chip Lewis, Acting Regional Environmental Compliance Officer, BIA Western Regional Office Branch of Environmental Quality Services, 2600 North Center Avenue, 4th Floor Mail Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004-3050; telephone: (602) 379-6782; fax (602) 379-3833; email chip.lewis@bia.gov. Please include your name, return address and the caption "EIS Scoping Comments, Fort Mojave Solar Project," on the first page of your written comments. Individual respondents may request confidentiality; however, anonymous comments will not be considered. Comments can also be submitted via the EIS website at www.FortMojaveSolarProjectEIS.com.

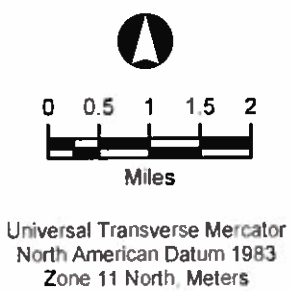
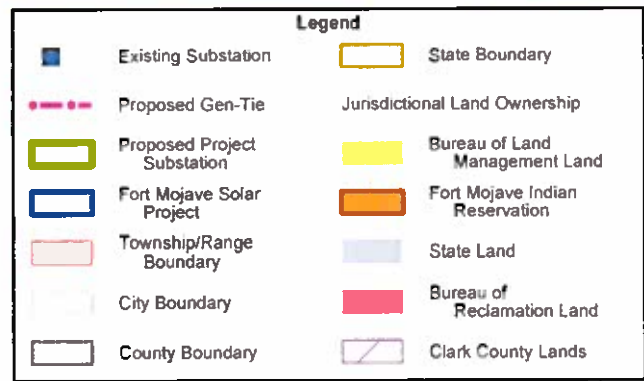
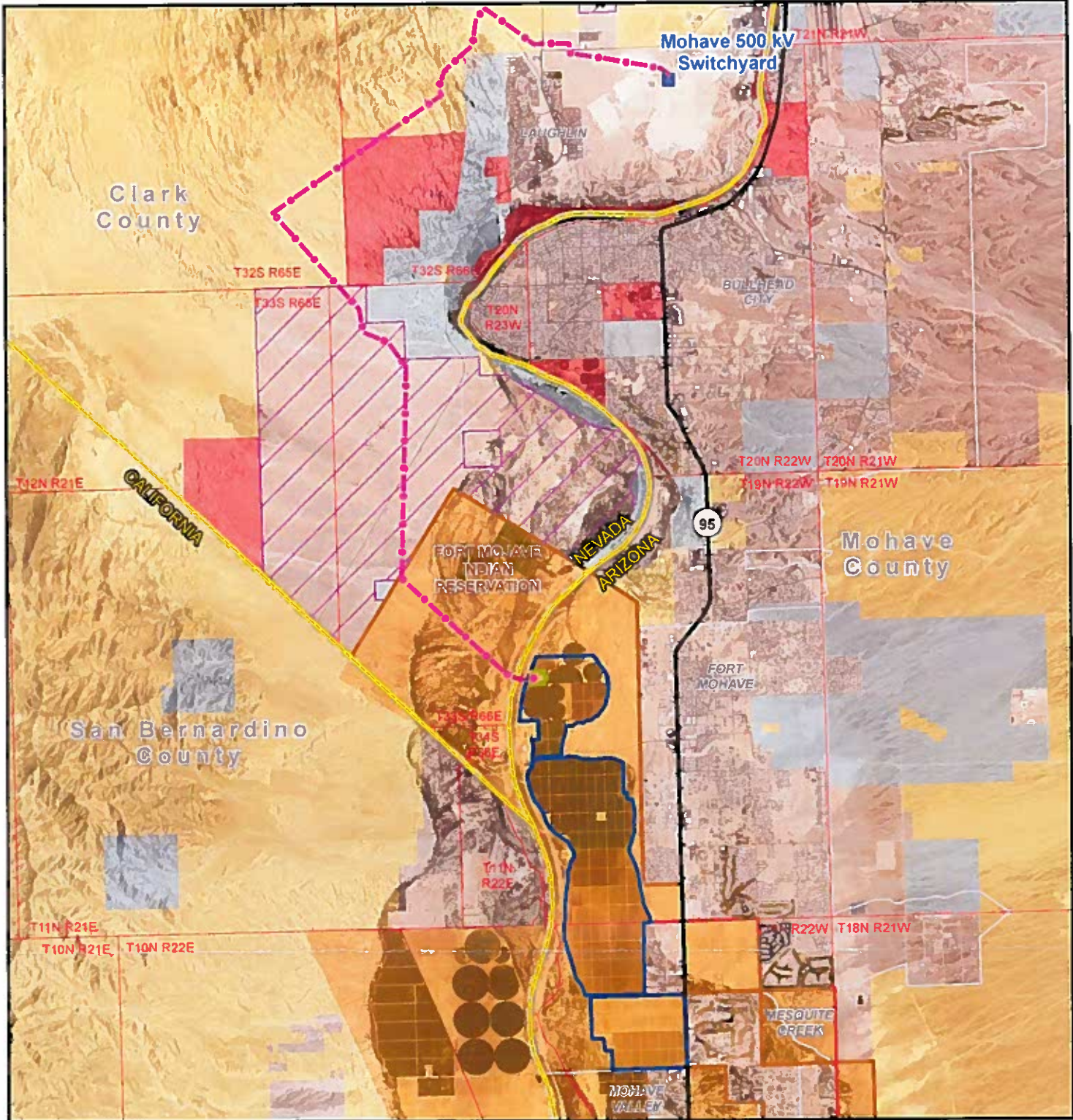
Both public meetings will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The May 25th public scoping meeting will be held at the Tribe's Business Center on the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation at 8490 S. Highway 95, Mohave Valley, Arizona. The May 26th public scoping meeting will be held at the Laughlin Town Manager's Office in Laughlin, Nevada at 101 Civic Way. Each meeting is anticipated to last approximately two hours with light refreshments provided.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed Federal action, taken under 25 U.S.C. 415, is the BIA approval of a solar energy ground lease for approximately 2,800 acres and associated agreements entered into by the Tribe with Tribal Solar, LLC for the construction and operation of a 328 megawatt (MW) solar project using photovoltaic (PV) technology. The solar project would be located entirely on Fort Mojave tribal lands in Mohave County, AZ. Substations and transmission lines associated with the Project will be located on Tribal, Federal, state, county and private lands in Clark County, NV. The EIS will provide a framework for the BIA and the BLM and other involved agencies to make determinations and to decide whether to take their respective federal actions. The federal action for the BIA would be to approve or deny a lease and any associated rights-of-way (ROW) on tribal lands for the proposed solar facility, and for the BLM to approve or deny grants of ROW for the proposed transmission line and other supporting facilities. Other federal agencies may rely on the EIS to make decisions under their authority and the Tribe may also use the EIS to support any of their decisions. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will review the document for consistency with the Endangered Species Act, as amended and other implementing acts, and may rely on the EIS to support its decisions and opinions regarding the project.

AUTHORITY: This notice is published in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 1501.7 of the Council of Environmental Quality regulations and 43 C.F.R. § 46 235 of the Department of the Interior Regulations implementing the procedural requirements of the NEPA (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 *et seq.*), and in accordance with the exercise of authority delegated to the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs by part 209 of the Department Manual.

Mr. Bryan Bowker
Director, Western Region
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date: 5/9/16



FORT MOJAVE SOLAR PROJECT

Figure 1-1
Project Location

Map Extent: Clark County NV, San Bernardino CA, and Mohave County AZ

Date: 12-11-15	Author: mc
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