SECTION 6: OTHER CEQA CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 - Growth-Inducing Impacts

There are two types of growth-inducing impacts that a project may have: direct and indirect. To assess the potential for growth-inducing impacts, the project's characteristics that may encourage and facilitate activities that individually or cumulatively may affect the environment must be evaluated (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(d)).

Direct growth-inducing impacts occur when the development of a project imposes new burdens on a community by directly inducing population growth, or by leading to the construction of additional developments in the same area. Also included in this category are projects that remove physical obstacles to population growth (such as a new road into an undeveloped area or a wastewater treatment plant with excess capacity that could allow additional development in the service area). Construction of these types of infrastructure projects cannot be considered isolated from the development they facilitate and serve. Projects that physically remove obstacles to growth, or projects that indirectly induce growth may provide a catalyst for future unrelated development in an area such as a new residential community that requires additional commercial uses to support residents.

The County of Yolo General Plan recognizes that certain forms of growth are beneficial, both economically and socially. Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines provides the following guidance on growth inducing impacts: a project is identified as growth inducing if it "could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment."

Potential growth inducing components of the project addressed in this section relate to employment and population growth, increased power generation and regional population growth, and increased transmission capacity that serves renewable power development.

6.1.1 - Employment and Population Growth

Construction Workforce

An average construction workforce of five to 15 workers per day would be required, and this work would occur during the 4-month construction period. Workers are expected to be hired from the areas of Yolo and Sacramento County as well as locally in the Davis and Woodland area. Given the limited size and construction duration of the project, it is anticipated that no more than five workers would temporarily relocate to Yolo County for the duration of construction activities from outside the study area. However, unlike larger construction projects and given the limited construction schedule, it is not anticipated that workers from outside Yolo and Sacramento Counties will require temporary housing closer to the proposed project sites. Under the construction scenario described in Section 2, Project Description, both the Grasslands and Beamer/Cottonwood sites would be constructed

simultaneously. Construction of the proposed project would occur over 4 consecutive months, expected to begin in March 2013, with an expected completion by end of July 2013. Construction phases are expected to overlap, with the total number of construction workers expected to range between five and 15. Construction worker traffic would vary according to the needed workforce.

An increase of 15 individuals to Yolo County's and the City of Woodland's population would have a minimal effect on employment, public services and facilities, and growth in the overall region.

Operational Workforce

Both solar arrays would operate 24 hours per day, 365 days a year. Operation of the proposed project would result in the hiring of SunPower Operations and Maintenance Service team. However, the majority of operations and maintenance work will be completed remotely and, therefore, will not require onsite staff. Panel-washing crews would conduct panel washing two times per year and would be on a contract basis. Given Yolo County's housing vacancy rates combined with the limited permanent workforce needed to support the project, it is anticipated that adequate housing would be available without exceeding the demands of Yolo County's and the City of Woodland's existing housing supply. Therefore, the operation of the proposed project would not result in new growth in the area relating to the potential population increase.

6.1.2 - Increased Power Generation

While the proposed project would contribute to energy supply, which indirectly supports population growth, the development of the proposed project is responding to the State's need for renewable energy to meet its Renewable Portfolio Standards while at the same time increase environmental education and park resources in Yolo County. Unlike a gas-fired power plant, the proposed project is not being developed as a source of base load power in response to growth in demand for electricity. The power generated would be added to the State's electricity grid, with the intent that it would allow an overall reduction in power use by Yolo County and the ultimate use of fossil-fueled power plants and their greenhouse gas emissions.

Yolo County planning documents permit and anticipate a certain level of use and park growth and energy use growth at the Grasslands and Beamer/Cottonwood sites, respectively. As a result, the purpose of the County General Plan and Land Use Ordinance is to address this growth. It is this anticipated growth that drives energy production projects, not vice versa. The project would supply energy to accommodate and support existing Yolo County's energy demand and projected growth, but it would not foster any new growth, because (1) the additional energy would be used to ease the burdens of meeting existing energy demands of County buildings; (2) the energy would be used to support already constructed County buildings; and (3) the factors affecting growth are so diverse that any potential connection between additional energy production and growth would necessarily be too speculative and tenuous to merit extensive analysis.

6.1.3 - Increased Transmission Capacity

The development of the proposed project would require Yolo County to connect to PG&E transmission lines in order to carry the power to the electricity grid. This connection is described in detail in Section 2, Project Description. The connection will require that PG&E to allow Yolo County install additional transmission lines thereby adding a limited amount of additional transmission capacity.

PG&E is an investor-owned utility, regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The utility's transmission system is operated by the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) under regulations established by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. When an electricity generator requests use of PG&E's transmission facilities, PG&E is required to provide access after completion of power flow and cost studies. The CPUC evaluates each PG&E project to ensure that its need and costs are justified and appropriate, and that financial effects on California electricity ratepayers are appropriate.

Long-term planning accommodates projected growth in demand within the relative service areas. Therefore, while some excess transmission capacity may result from the transmission upgrades connecting the proposed project to the "grid," this capacity is very limited and not expected to be large enough to induce the development of other large solar projects in the region.

6.2 - Mandatory Findings of Significance

Public Resources Code Section 21083 requires lead agencies to make a finding of a "significant effect on the environment" if one or more of the following conditions exist:

1) A proposed project has the potential to degrade the quality of environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife species to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare, or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.
2) The possible effects of a project are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.
3) The environmental effects of a project will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

6.2.1 - Significant Irreversible Commitment of Resources

Section 15126.2(c) of the CEQA Guidelines states that irreversible commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such consumption is justified. Uses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project may be irreversible, because a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter unlikely, and certain types of impacts may commit future generations to similar uses.

Irreversible impacts can also result from permanent loss of habitat, damage caused by environmental accidents associated with project construction, or operational resource use. Construction of the proposed project would necessitate some use and long-term conversion of agricultural land and vegetation and habitat removal. As discussed in Section 3.4, Biological Resources, implementation of the proposed project would result in long-term impacts to vegetative communities and landforms. Assuming implementation of the mitigation measures recommended in this EIR, long-term loss of habitat would be confined to the project sites, and impacts from loss of habitat would be reduced to a less than significant level. Additionally, the proposed project does not create any severe conflicts with the Species Recovery Plan actions, and there are no conflicts that are considered to be significant and unavoidable. Restoration and revegetation will be allowed for on the undeveloped portions of the site that would potentially allow recolonization of the site by the displaced species; however, the success of recolonization cannot be known, and development of the proposed project would therefore be considered a significant irretrievable commitment of habitat for threatened and endangered species.

Given the compromised agricultural condition of the Grasslands project site and the deed restrictions encumbered by the National Park Service, agricultural function of the site is drastically limited. However, with the implementation of the proposed project, Yolo County is expected to implement an Operation and Maintenance plan on the property, which would allow for additional agricultural research activities that are currently not allowed; therefore, no impacts are associated with the conversion of agricultural lands.

Construction of the proposed project would commit nonrenewable resources during project construction and ongoing utility services during project operations. This includes use of fossil fuels, construction materials, new equipment that cannot be fully recycled at the end of the project's useful lifetime, and energy required for the production of raw materials. During project operation, oil, gas, and other nonrenewable resources would be consumed. An irreversible commitment of relatively small amounts of nonrenewable resources would occur as a result of long-term project operation. The anticipated equipment, vehicles, and materials required for construction of the proposed project are detailed in Section 2, Project Description.

Construction and operation of the proposed project would require the use of a limited amount of hazardous materials such as fuel, lubricants, and cleaning solvents. All hazardous materials would be stored, handled, and used in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. Appropriate implementation of existing regulations and best management practices, as well as mitigation measures recommended in Section 3.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials and county policies and permits, would reduce the potential for environmental accidents associated with the proposed project to less than significant levels. The proposed project is not expected to result in environmental accidents that would cause irreversible damage. The primary purpose of the proposed project is to help California meet its renewable energy goals, which have been developed to reduce the effects of global climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, the project would

develop a renewable source of power, helping to offset the use of nonrenewable resources and contribute to an overall reduction of nonrenewable resources currently used to generate electricity. As discussed above, resources that would be consumed as a result of project implementation include water, electricity, and fossil fuels during construction and operations; however, the amount and rate of consumption of these resources would not result in significant environmental impacts or the unnecessary, inefficient, or wasteful use of resources. Compliance with all applicable building codes as well as County policies and the mitigation measures identified in this EIR would ensure that all natural resources are conserved to the extent feasible.

6.2.2 - Significant Direct Effects of the Proposed Project

Section 15126.2(b) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that the EIR describe any significant impacts, including those that can be mitigated but not reduced to less than significant levels. Potential environmental effects of the proposed project and proposed mitigation measures are discussed in detail in Section 3 of this EIR. The proposed project would not result in any significant unavoidable impacts.

6.2.3 - Significant Cumulative Effects

According to Section 15355 of the CEQA Guidelines, the term cumulative impacts "refers to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts." Individual effects that may contribute to a cumulative impact may be from a single project or a number of separate projects. Individually, the impacts of a project may be relatively minor, but when considered along with impacts of other closely related or nearby projects, including newly proposed projects, the effects could be cumulatively considerable.

The cumulative scenario and analysis methodology is included in Section 4, Cumulative Effects of this EIR. This EIR has considered the potential cumulative effects of the proposed project for each issue area in Section 4. Impacts of the proposed project are cumulatively considered when they are combined with impacts from past, present, and reasonable future projects. As discussed in Section 4, no impacts would be considered cumulatively significant.

6.3 - Energy Conservation

Public Resources Code Section 21100(b)(3) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4 require EIRs to describe, where relevant, the wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary consumption of energy caused by a project. In 1975, largely in response to the oil crisis of the 1970s, the State Legislature adopted Assembly Bill (AB) 1575, which created the California Energy Commission (CEC). The statutory mission of the CEC is to forecast future energy needs, license thermal power plants of 50 megawatts or larger, develop energy technologies and renewable energy resources, plan for and direct state responses to energy emergencies, and—perhaps most importantly—promote energy efficiency through the adoption and enforcement of appliance and building energy efficiency standards. AB 1575 also amended Public Resources Code Section 21100(b)(3) to require EIRs to consider the

wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary consumption of energy caused by a project. Thereafter, the State Resources Agency created Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines. Appendix F is an advisory document that assists EIR preparers in determining whether a project will result in the inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy. For the reasons set forth below, this EIR concludes that the proposed project will not result in the wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary consumption of energy, will not cause the need for additional natural gas or electrical energy-producing facilities, and, therefore, will not create a significant impact on energy resources.

6.3.1 - Regulatory Setting

Federal and state agencies regulate energy use and consumption through various means and programs. At the federal level, the United States Department of Transportation, the United States Department of Energy, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency are three federal agencies with substantial influence over energy policies and programs. Generally, federal agencies influence and regulate transportation energy consumption through establishment and enforcement of fuel economy standards for automobiles and light trucks, through funding of energy-related research and development projects, and through funding for transportation infrastructure improvements. At the State level, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the CEC are two agencies with authority over different aspects of energy. The CPUC regulates privately owned utilities in the energy, rail, telecommunications, and water fields. The CEC collects and analyzes energy-related data, prepares statewide energy policy recommendations and plans, promotes and funds energy efficiency programs, and adopts and enforces appliance and building energy efficiency standards. California is exempt under federal law from setting State fuel economy standards for new on-road motor vehicles. Some of the more relevant federal and State energy-related laws and plans are discussed below.

Federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act

The Federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 sought to ensure that all vehicles sold in the U.S. would meet certain fuel economy goals. Through this Act, Congress established the first fuel economy standards for on-road motor vehicles in the U.S. Pursuant to the Act, the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, which is part of the United States Department of Transportation, is responsible for establishing additional vehicle standards and for revising existing standards. Since 1990, the fuel economy standard for new passenger cars has been 27.5 miles per gallon. Since 1996, the fuel economy standard for new light trucks (gross vehicle weight of 8,500 pounds or less) has been 20.7 miles per gallon. Heavy-duty vehicles (i.e., vehicles and trucks over 8,500 pounds gross vehicle weight) are not currently subject to fuel economy standards. Compliance with federal fuel economy standards is not determined for each individual vehicle model; rather, compliance is determined on the basis of each manufacturer's average fuel economy for the portion of their vehicles produced for sale in the United States. The Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) program, which is administered by United States Environmental Protection Agency, was created to determine vehicle manufacturers' compliance with the fuel economy standards. The United States

Environmental Protection Agency calculates a CAFE value for each manufacturer, based on city and highway fuel economy test results and vehicle sales. On the basis of the information generated under the CAFE program, the United States Department of Transportation is authorized to assess penalties for noncompliance. In the course of its over 30-year history, this regulatory program has resulted in vastly improved fuel economy throughout the nation's vehicle fleet.

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA)

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) promoted the development of inter-modal transportation systems to maximize mobility as well as address national and local interests in air quality and energy. ISTEA contained factors that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) such as ABAG were required to address in developing transportation plans and programs, including some energy-related factors. To meet the new ISTEA requirements, MPOs adopted explicit policies defining the social, economic, energy, and environmental values that were to guide transportation decisions in that metropolitan area. The planning process for specific projects would then address these policies. Another requirement was to consider the consistency of transportation planning with federal, State, and local energy goals. Through this requirement, energy consumption was expected to become a decision criterion, along with cost and other values that determine the best transportation solution.

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) was signed into law in 1998 and builds upon the initiatives established in the ISTEA legislation discussed above. TEA-21 authorizes highway, highway safety, transit, and other efficient surface transportation programs. TEA-21 continues the program structure established for highways and transit under ISTEA, such as flexibility in the use of funds, emphasis on measures to improve the environment, and focus on a strong planning process as the foundation of good transportation decisions. TEA-21 also provides for investment in research and its application to maximize the performance of the transportation system through, for example, deployment of Intelligent Transportation Systems, to help improve operations and management of transportation systems and vehicle safety.

State of California Energy Plan

The CEC is responsible for preparing the State Energy Plan, which identifies emerging trends related to energy supply, demand, conservation, public health and safety, and the maintenance of a healthy economy. The plan calls for the State to assist in the transformation of the transportation system to improve air quality, reduce congestion, and increase the efficient use of fuel supplies with the least environmental and energy costs. To further this policy, the plan identifies a number of strategies, including providing assistance to public agencies and fleet operators, encouraging urban designs that reduce vehicle miles traveled, and accommodating pedestrian and bicycle access.

Title 24, Energy Efficiency Standards

Title 24, which was promulgated by the CEC in 1978 in response to a legislative mandate to create uniform building codes to reduce California's energy consumption, provides energy efficiency standards for residential and nonresidential buildings. According to the CEC, since the energy efficiency standards went into effect in 1978, it is estimated that California residential and nonresidential consumers have reduced their utility bills by at least $15.8 billion. The CEC further estimates that by 2011, residential and nonresidential consumers will save an additional $43 billon in energy costs.

In 2005, the CEC adopted new energy efficiency standards. All projects that apply for a building permit on or after October 2005 must adhere to the new 2005 standards. A copy of the 2005 Energy Efficiency Standards may be reviewed online at www.energy.ca.gov/title24/2005standards/index/html. The 2005 Energy Efficiency Standards may also be reviewed at the Energy Efficiency Division, California Energy Commission, 1516 Ninth Street, MS-29, Sacramento, California 95814-5512.

Because the adoption of Title 24 post-dates the adoption of AB 1575, it has generally been the presumption throughout the State that compliance with Title 24 (as well as compliance with the federal and State regulations discussed above) ensures that projects will not result in the inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy. As is the case with other uniform building codes, Title 24 is designed to provide certainty and uniformity throughout the State while ensuring that the efficient and non-wasteful consumption of energy is carried out through design features. Large infrastructure transportation projects that cannot adhere to Title 24 design-build performance standards may, depending on the circumstances, undertake a more involved assessment of energy conservation measures in accordance with some of the factors set forth in Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines. As an example, pursuant to the California Department of Transportation CEQA implementation procedures and FHWA Technical Advisory 6640.8A, a detailed energy study is generally only required for large-scale infrastructure projects. However, for the vast majority of residential and nonresidential projects, adherence to Title 24 is deemed necessary to ensure that no significant impacts occur from the inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy. As a further example, the adoption of federal vehicle fuel standards, which have been continually improved since their original adoption in 1975, have also protected against the inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary use of energy.

According to the CEC, reducing energy use has been a benefit to all. Building owners save money, Californians have a more secure and healthy economy, the environment is less negatively impacted, and our electrical system can operate in a more stable state. The 2005 Standards (for residential and nonresidential buildings) are expected to reduce the growth in electricity use by 479 gigawatt-hours per year (GWh/y) and reduce the growth in natural gas use by 8.9 million therms per year (therms/y). The savings attributable to new nonresidential buildings are 143 GWh/y of electricity savings and 0.5

million therms. Additional savings result from the application of the Standards on building alterations. In particular, requirements for cool roofs, lighting, and air distribution ducts are expected to save about 175 GWh/y of electricity. These savings are cumulative—doubling in two years, tripling in three, etc. Table 6-1 provides a summary of the electricity savings envisioned by the 2005 standards.

Table 6-1: Electricity Savings Projected From the 2005 Standards

Category	2001 Standard (GWh)	2005 Standard (GWh)	Savings (GWh)	Percent Reduction
Lighting	861.6	777.5	84.1	9.8
Heating	38.8	36.9	1.9	4.9
Cooling	537.5	501.5	35.9	6.7
Fans	424.7	403.6	21.1	5.0
Total	**1,862.6**	**1,719.5**	**143.0**	**7.7**

Note:
GWh = Gigawatt hours
Source: California Energy Commission, 2005.

Since the California 2000–2001 electricity crisis, the CEC has placed greater emphasis on demand reductions. Changes in 2001 (following the electricity crisis) reduced electricity demand for newly constructed residential and nonresidential buildings by about 110.3 megawatts (MW) each year. Newly constructed nonresidential buildings account for 44 MW of these savings. Like energy savings, demand savings accumulate each year. The 2005 Standards are expected to reduce electric demand by another 180 MW each year. Table 6-2 provides a summary of the demand savings envisioned by the 2005 standards.

Table 6-2: Demand Savings Projected From the 2005 Standards

Category	2001 Standard (MW)	2005 Standard (MW)	Savings (MW)	Percent Reduction
Lighting	157.9	142.6	15.3	9.7
Heating	3.6	3.5	0.1	2.2
Cooling	276.7	253.1	23.6	8.5
Fans	79.7	74.6	5.0	6.3
Total	**517.9**	**473.9**	**44.0**	**8.5**

Note:
MW = Megawatts
Source: California Energy Commission, 2005.

In many parts of the world, the wasteful and poorly managed use of energy has led to oil spills, acid rain, smog, and other forms of environmental pollution that have ruined the natural beauty people

seek to enjoy. California is not immune to these problems, but the CEC-adopted appliance standards, building standards, and utility programs that promote efficiency and conservation have gone a long way toward maintaining and improving environmental quality. Other benefits include reduced destruction of natural habitats, which, in turn, helps protect wildlife, plants, and natural systems.

Many experts believe that burning fossil fuel is a major contributor to global warming; carbon dioxide is being added to an atmosphere already containing 25 percent more than it did two centuries ago. Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases create an insulating layer around the Earth that leads to global climate change. CEC research shows that most of the sectors of the State economy face significant risk from climate change, including agriculture, forests, and the natural habitats of a number of indigenous plants and animals.

Scientists recommend that actions be taken to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. While adding scrubbers to power plants and catalytic converters to cars are steps in the right direction (both of which are currently enforced as part of existing regulatory schemes), the use of energy-efficient standards can be effective actions to limit the carbon dioxide that is emitted into the atmosphere. According to the CEC, using energy efficiently, in accordance with Title 24 Energy Efficiency standards, is a proven, far-reaching strategy that can and does present an important contribution to the significant reduction of greenhouse gases.

In fact, the National Academy of Sciences has urged the country to follow California's lead on such efforts, and it has recommended that energy efficiency building codes modeled after Title 24 be adopted nationwide. The CEC's Title 24 program has played a vital, if not the most important, role in maximizing energy efficiency and preventing the wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary use of energy throughout the State.

The CEC's 2005 Energy Efficiency Standards include the following:

- Time Dependent Valuation (TDV). Source energy was replaced with TDV energy. TDV energy values energy savings greater during periods of likely peak demand, such as hot summer weekday afternoons, and values energy savings less during off-peak periods. TDV gives more credit to measures such as daylighting and thermal energy storage that are more effective during peak periods.
- New Federal Standards. Coincident with the 2005 Standards, new standards for water heaters and air conditioners took effect. These changes affect all residential buildings, but they also affect many nonresidential buildings that use water heaters and/or residential-size air conditioners.
- New Lighting in Historic Buildings. The exception to the Standards requirements for historic buildings has changed for lighting requirements so that only specific historic or historic replica components are exempt.

- Cool Roofs. The nonresidential prescriptive standards require cool roofs—high-reflectance, high-emittance roof surfaces or exceptionally high-reflectance and low-emittance surfaces—in all low-slope applications. The cool-roof requirements also apply to roof replacements for existing buildings.
- Acceptance Requirements. Basic "building commissioning," at least on a component basis, is required for electrical and mechanical equipment that is prone to improper installation.
- Demand Control Ventilation. Controls that measure CO_2 concentrations and vary outside air ventilation are required for spaces such as conference rooms, dining rooms, lounges, and gyms.
- T-bar Ceilings. Placing insulation directly over suspended ceilings is not permitted as a means of compliance, except for limited applications.
- Relocatable Public School Buildings. Special compliance approaches are added for relocatables so they can be moved anywhere statewide.
- Duct Efficiency. R-8 duct insulation and duct sealing with field verification is required for ducts in unconditioned spaces in new buildings. Duct sealing is also required in existing buildings when the air conditioner is replaced. Performance methods may be used to substitute a high-efficiency air conditioner in lieu of duct sealing.
- Indoor Lighting. The lighting power limits for indoor lighting are reduced in response to advances in lighting technology.
- Skylights for Daylighting in Buildings. The prescriptive standards require that skylights with controls to shut off the electric lights are required for the top story of large, open spaces (spaces larger than 25,000 feet with ceilings higher than 15 feet).
- Thermal Breaks for Metal Building Roofs. Continuous insulation or thermal blocks at the supports are required for metal building roofs.
- Efficient Space Conditioning Systems. A number of measures are required that improve the efficiency of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, including variable-speed drives for fan and pump motors greater than 10 horsepower, electronically commutated motors for series fan boxes, improved controls, efficient cooling towers, and water-cooled chillers for large systems.
- Unconditioned Buildings. New lighting standards—lighting controls and power limits—apply to unconditioned buildings, including warehouses and parking garages. Lighting power tradeoffs are not permitted between conditioned and unconditioned spaces.
- Compliance Credits. Procedures are added for gas cooling, underfloor ventilation.
- Lighting Power Limits. The Standards set limits on the power that can be used for outdoor lighting applications such as parking lots, driveways, pedestrian areas, sales canopies, and car

lots. The limits vary by lighting zones or ambient lighting levels. Lighting power tradeoffs are not permitted between outdoor lighting and indoor lighting.

- Shielding. Luminaires in hardscape areas larger than 175 watts are required to be cutoff luminaires, which will save energy by reducing glare.
- Bi-level Controls. In some areas, outdoor lighting controls are required, including the capability to reduce lighting levels to 50 percent.
- Lighting Power Limits. Lighting power limits (or alternative equipment efficiency requirements) apply to externally and internally illuminated signs used either indoors or outdoors.

Pursuant to the California Building Standards Code and the Title 24 Energy Efficiency Standards, the City will review the design and construction components of the project's Title 24 compliance when specific building plans are submitted.

6.3.2 - Energy Requirements of the Proposed Project

In order to assure that energy implications are considered in project decisions, CEQA requires that EIRs include a discussion of the potential energy impacts of proposed projects, with particular emphasis on avoiding or reducing inefficient, wasteful and unnecessary consumption of energy (see Public Resources Code section 21100(b)(3)). According to Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines, the goal of conserving energy implies the wise and efficient use of energy, including (1) decreasing overall per capita energy consumption, (2) decreasing reliance on natural gas and oil, and (3) increasing reliance on renewable energy sources.

The proposed project itself would help achieve this goal because it would develop a renewable source of power, helping to offset the use of nonrenewable resources and contribute to an overall reduction of nonrenewable resources currently used to generate electricity. In addition, Section 3.7, Greenhouse Gas Emissions describes effects on climate change and greenhouse gas emissions that would be caused by implementation of the proposed project, including a discussion on the effects of the projects on energy resources.

Specific measures and design features included by the proposed project in the project description that would conserve energy include:

- Using energy from the solar arrays to power the Environmental Education Center and operations and maintenance buildings;
- Using only those shrubs, trees, and other plants indigenous to the region and tolerant of the arid climate in the landscape design;
- Incorporating energy conservation features into building design.

In addition, the County's Conservation and Open Space Element is divided into nine subsections, including Energy Conservation, and incorporates new material to address timely and relevant conservation issues, including energy resources. As an adopted Element of the County's General Plan, under state law, the County's decision makers must consider the project's consistency with the Conservation and Open Space Element. Applicable goals and policies of the Conservation and Open Space Element and other applicable plans, ordinances, regulations, and standards are addressed in this EIR. Compliance with all applicable building codes, as well as with County policies and the applicant proposed measures and mitigation measures identified in this EIR, would ensure that energy is conserved to the maximum extent possible.