

Appendix M - Section 106 Concurrence Letter





**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Armando Quintero, Director

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Telephone: (916) 445-7000 FAX: (916) 445-7053

calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

August 5, 2024

VIA EMAIL

In reply refer to: WAPA_2021_0916_001

Natalie N. Ortega, Environmental Manager
Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Desert Southwest Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457

Subject: Section 106 Consultation for the Proposed Vidal Solar Energy Project, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Ms. Ortega:

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) is in receipt of a consultation letter received on July 8, 2024, from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) for the above referenced undertaking. WAPA is continuing consultation with the SHPO to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and its implementing regulation at 36 CFR 800.

WAPA reinitiated consultation with the SHPO on April 8, 2024, requesting SHPO concurrence on a revised Area of Potential Effects (APE) and concurrence on determinations of eligibility for 53 archaeological sites and 11 isolated archaeological resources for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The SHPO responded on May 7, 2024, with no objection to the revised APE as defined and requested additional information regarding the determinations of eligibility made for the sites identified within the revised APE.

In response, WAPA has provided an updated *Cultural Resources Survey Report for The Vidal Energy Project, San Bernardino County, California*, prepared by the Chambers Group, Inc., dated June 2024. The revised Cultural Resources Survey Report includes a discussion of the historical contexts used to evaluate properties within the APE and updated determinations of eligibility.

As a result of WAPA's identification efforts, a total of 65 cultural resources were identified within the APE: 53 archaeological sites, 11 isolated archaeological resources, and 1 built environment resource.

WAPA previously requested a search of the Sacred Lands File at the Native American Heritage Commission, which yielded positive results and identified the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe for additional information, as well as a list of five tribes that may have an interest in the proposed project. WAPA invited the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, the Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT), Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Quechan Tribe, and Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians to consult on the project. To date, only the CRIT responded with interest in the Project. The Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation responded with no comments on the project and deferred to more local Tribes. WAPA consulted with the CRIT on July 8, 2024, on the determinations of eligibility made for this undertaking. To date, WAPA has not received any responses.

WAPA has determined that the 53 archaeological sites (Table 1) and 11 isolated resources (Table 2) are not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. The one built environment resource, the Parker- Blythe #1 161-kV Transmission Line, was previously evaluated and determined not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

WAPA has requested SHPO concurrence on the determinations of eligibility made for the 53 archaeological sites and 11 archaeological isolated resources identified within the APE. Following review of the submittal, **I concur** with the determinations of eligibility made pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(c)(2).

If you require further information, please contact Robert Fitzgerald, Associate State Archaeologist, at Robert.Fitzgerald@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

Attachment(s):

- Table 1. Archaeological Sites Identified for the Vidal Solar Energy Project
- Table 2. Isolated Resources Identified for the Vidal Solar Energy Project

Table 1. Archaeological Sites Identified for the Vidal Solar Energy Project

Temp #	Period	Resource Type	NRHP Determination
PF-004	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
PF-005	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
PF-008	Historic	Encampment	Not Eligible
PF-009	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
PF-011	Precontact	Ceramic scatter	Not Eligible
PF-012	Historic	Mining trash scatter	Not Eligible
PF-013	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
PF-015	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
PF-016	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
PF-017	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-001	Historic	Ranching	Not Eligible
VS-002	Historic	Homestead trash scatter	Not Eligible
VS-004	Historic	Homestead trash scatter	Not Eligible
VS-006	Historic	Homestead	Not Eligible
VS-008	Historic	Encampment	Not Eligible
VS-010	Historic	Encampment	Not Eligible
VS-011	Precontact	Desert pavement quarry	Not Eligible
VS-012	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-013	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-014	Historic	Survey monument	Not Eligible
VS-015	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-016	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-017	Precontact	Ceramic scatter	Not Eligible
VS-019	Historic	Trash scatter	Not Eligible
VS-020	Historic	Encampment	Not Eligible
VS-021	Historic	Encampment	Not Eligible
VS-023	Historic	Encampment	Not Eligible
VS-025	Historic	Encampment	Not Eligible
VS-026	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-027	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-028	Historic	Encampment	Not Eligible
VS-029	Historic	Encampment	Not Eligible
VS-030	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-031	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-032	Historic	Survey monument	Not Eligible

Temp #	Period	Resource Type	NRHP Determination
VS-033	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-034	Historic	WWII Desert Training Center/Cold War Exercise Desert Strike	Not Eligible
VS-035	Precontact	Artifact scatter	Not Eligible
VS-036	Precontact	Artifact scatter	Not Eligible
VS-037	Precontact	Temporary camp	Not Eligible
VS-038	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-039	Historic	WWII Desert Training Center/Cold War Exercise Desert Strike	Not Eligible
VS-040	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-041	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-042	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-043	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-044	Historic	Encampment	Not Eligible
VS-047	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-048	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-049	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-050	Precontact	Lithic reduction station	Not Eligible
VS-051	Historic	WWII Desert Training Center/Cold War Exercise Desert Strike	Not Eligible
VS-052	Precontact	Ceramic scatter	Not Eligible

Table 2. Isolated Resources Identified for the Vidal Solar Energy Project

Temp #	Period	Site Type	NRHP Determination
ISO-100620-01	Precontact	Red-on-buff ceramic	Not Eligible
ISO-100720-02	Precontact	White MCQ (chert) core	Not Eligible
ISO-100720-04	Precontact	White MCQ (chalcedony) Elko point	Not Eligible
ISO-100720-06	Precontact	Rhyolite flake	Not Eligible
ISO-100820-01	Precontact	Retouched rhyolite flake	Not Eligible
ISO-100820-02	Precontact	Buffware ceramic	Not Eligible
ISO-100820-03	Precontact	Basalt bifacial core	Not Eligible
ISO-100920-01	Precontact	2 unidentified ceramics	Not Eligible
ISO-100920-02	Precontact	Rhyolite core	Not Eligible
ISO-101320-01	Precontact	MCQ (chert) flake	Not Eligible
ISO-101320-02	Precontact	MCQ (chert) edge modified flake	Not Eligible