

## 4.6 Energy

This section of the PEA describes the energy-consumption attributes of the Ivanpah-Control Project (IC Project), as well as an assessment of impacts that have the potential to occur during construction and operation of the IC Project and its Alternatives.

### 4.6.1 Environmental Setting

As described in *Chapter 3—Project Description*, construction, and operations and maintenance, of the IC Project would require the consumption of energy in the form of liquid fuels (gasoline, diesel).

### 4.6.2 Regulatory Setting

#### 4.6.2.1 Federal

There are no federal plans or regulations applicable to the IC Project.

#### 4.6.2.2 State

Senate Bill 100, signed into law in September 2018, amends the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program. The Program requires the CPUC to establish a renewables portfolio standard requiring all retail sellers to procure a minimum quantity of electricity products from eligible renewable energy resources so that the total kilowatt-hours of those products sold to their retail end-use customers achieve 25 percent of retail sales by December 31, 2016, 33 percent by December 31, 2020, 40 percent by December 31, 2024, 50 percent by December 31, 2026, and 60 percent by December 31, 2030. The program additionally requires each local publicly owned electric utility to procure a minimum quantity of electricity products from eligible renewable energy resources to achieve the procurement requirements established by the program.

#### 4.6.2.3 Local

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has sole and exclusive state jurisdiction over the siting and design of the IC Project. Pursuant to CPUC General Order 131-D (GO 131-D), Section XIV.B, “Local jurisdictions acting pursuant to local authority are preempted from regulating electric power line projects, distribution lines, substations, or electric facilities constructed by public utilities subject to the CPUC’s jurisdiction. However, in locating such projects, the public utilities shall consult with local agencies regarding land use matters.” Consequently, public utilities are directed to consider local regulations and consult with local agencies, but the counties’ and cities’ regulations are not applicable as the counties and cities do not have jurisdiction over the IC Project. Accordingly, the following discussion of local land use regulations is provided for informational purposes only.

##### 4.6.2.3.1 Inyo County, Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment

The Inyo County Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment consists of additions to the language in the General Plan. The updates to the General plan focus on identifying the appropriate means to develop renewable wind and solar energy resources, provided that social, economic, and environmental impacts are minimized; balancing costs to the County and lost economic development potential, and mitigation of economic effects; working to protect military readiness, and considering conversions of lands utilized for agriculture, mining, and recreation. There are no new policies or implementation measures pertinent to the IC Project.

#### **4.6.2.3.2 Kern County General Plan, Energy Element**

The Kern County General Plan’s Energy Element contains goals, policies, and implementation measures that address renewable energy development in the County; none are relevant or applicable to the IC Project. There are no goals, policies, or implementation measures related to energy efficiency that are applicable or relevant to the IC Project.

#### **4.6.2.3.3 San Bernardino County General Plan, Renewable Energy and Conservation Element**

The Renewable Energy and Conservation Element is intended to ensure efficient consumption of energy and water, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, pursue the benefits of renewable energy and responsibly manage its impacts on the environment, communities and economy. The Element contains goals, objectives, policies, and implementation strategies; none are applicable or relevant to the IC Project.

#### **4.6.2.3.4 City of Barstow General Plan, Resource Conservation and Open Space Element**

Goal: 6 of the Resource Conservation and Open Space Element calls for the City to “[p]rovide programs and incentives to encourage residents, businesses and developers to reduce consumption and efficiently use energy resources.” The Element contains policies and strategies intended to reduce consumption and efficiently use energy resources; none are applicable or relevant to the IC Project.

### **4.6.3 Significance Criteria**

The significance criteria for assessing the impacts to public services are derived from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Checklist. According to the CEQA Checklist, a project would cause a potentially significant impact if it would:

- Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation
- Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency

### **4.6.4 Impact Analysis**

#### **4.6.4.1 Would the project result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?**

##### **4.6.4.1.1 Construction**

**Less than Significant Impact.** The IC Project’s consumption of energy resources during construction is necessary to remediate discrepancies identified through SCE’s TLRR Program along the 115 kV circuits included in the IC Project, thus ensuring compliance with CPUC GO 95 and meeting the purpose of the IC Project.

The rebuilt and reconductored subtransmission lines would serve the same purpose in the regional transmission system as the existing lines and would not change the location or intensity of energy consumption during operations.

Construction of the project would require consumption of fuel to run construction vehicles, equipment, and helicopters. However, IC Project construction activities would be short-term and temporary. Further, implementation of APM NOI-1 (see Section 5.1), which minimizes unnecessary construction vehicle idling time, would further reduce energy consumption. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

#### 4.6.4.1.2 Operations

**No Impact.** As presented in Chapter 3, SCE is currently performing operation and maintenance (O&M) activities, including inspections, along the subtransmission lines that would be rebuilt or reconducted under the IC Project. No material changes in O&M activities or the locations of these activities are anticipated with implementation of the IC Project. No energy additional to that which is presently consumed would be consumed and therefore no impacts would be realized under this criterion during operations and maintenance.

#### 4.6.4.2 Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

##### 4.6.4.2.1 Construction

**No Impact.** The IC Project entails the reconstruction and reconducting of existing subtransmission lines in or immediately adjacent to these subtransmission lines' existing alignments. The IC Project is not designed to facilitate or encourage renewable energy project development, and because it would be constructed in or immediately adjacent to existing alignments, would not impede the development of renewable energy projects. As stated in Section 4.6.2 above, none of the local plans that address energy efficiency are applicable to the IC Project. Therefore, the IC Project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

##### 4.6.4.2.2 Operations

**No Impact.** As presented in Chapter 3, SCE is currently performing operation and maintenance (O&M) activities, including inspections, along the subtransmission lines that would be rebuilt or reconducted under the IC Project. No material changes in O&M activities or the locations of these activities are anticipated with implementation of the IC Project. Therefore, operation of the IC Project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

#### 4.6.5 Applicant Proposed Measures

Because no potentially significant impacts would occur as a result of the IC Project, no avoidance or minimization measures are proposed.

#### 4.6.6 Alternatives

Alternatives to the IC Project are addressed in Section 5.2, Description of Project Alternatives and Impact Analysis.

#### 4.6.7 References

California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program: emissions of greenhouse gases, California Senate Bill 100 (2017-2018), Chapter 312 (Cal Stat. 2018)

City of Barstow. 2015-2020 General Plan. Resource Conservation and Open Space Element. Available at <http://www.barstowca.org/home/showdocument?id=5367>

Inyo County. 2015. Inyo County Renewable Energy Amendment. Available at <http://www.inyoplanning.org/projects/REGPA.htm>

Kern County. 2009. Kern County General Plan – Energy Element. Available at <http://www.co.kern.ca.us/planning/pdfs/kcgp/KCGP.pdf>

San Bernardino County. 2014. County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan. Available at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/lus/GeneralPlan/FINALGP.pdf>