

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisor Hearing

September 9, 2014

Cuyama Solar Project

13GPA-00000-00002

13GPA-00000-00001

10ORD-00000-00001

10RZN-00000-00001

10AGP-00000-00002

10LLA-00000-00004

13AGP-00000-00024

10CUP-00000-00008

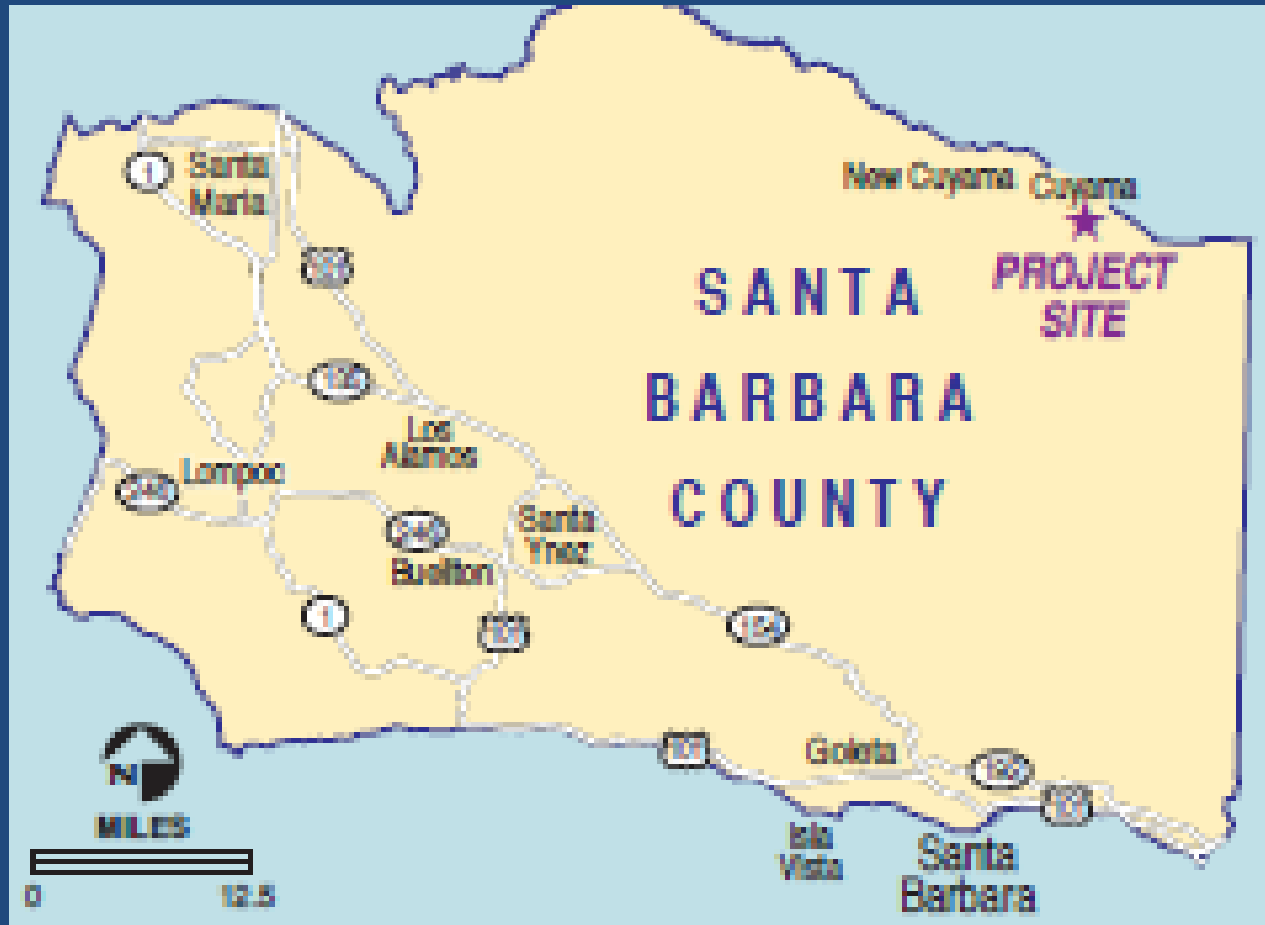
Two Major Project Components

Proposed
Project

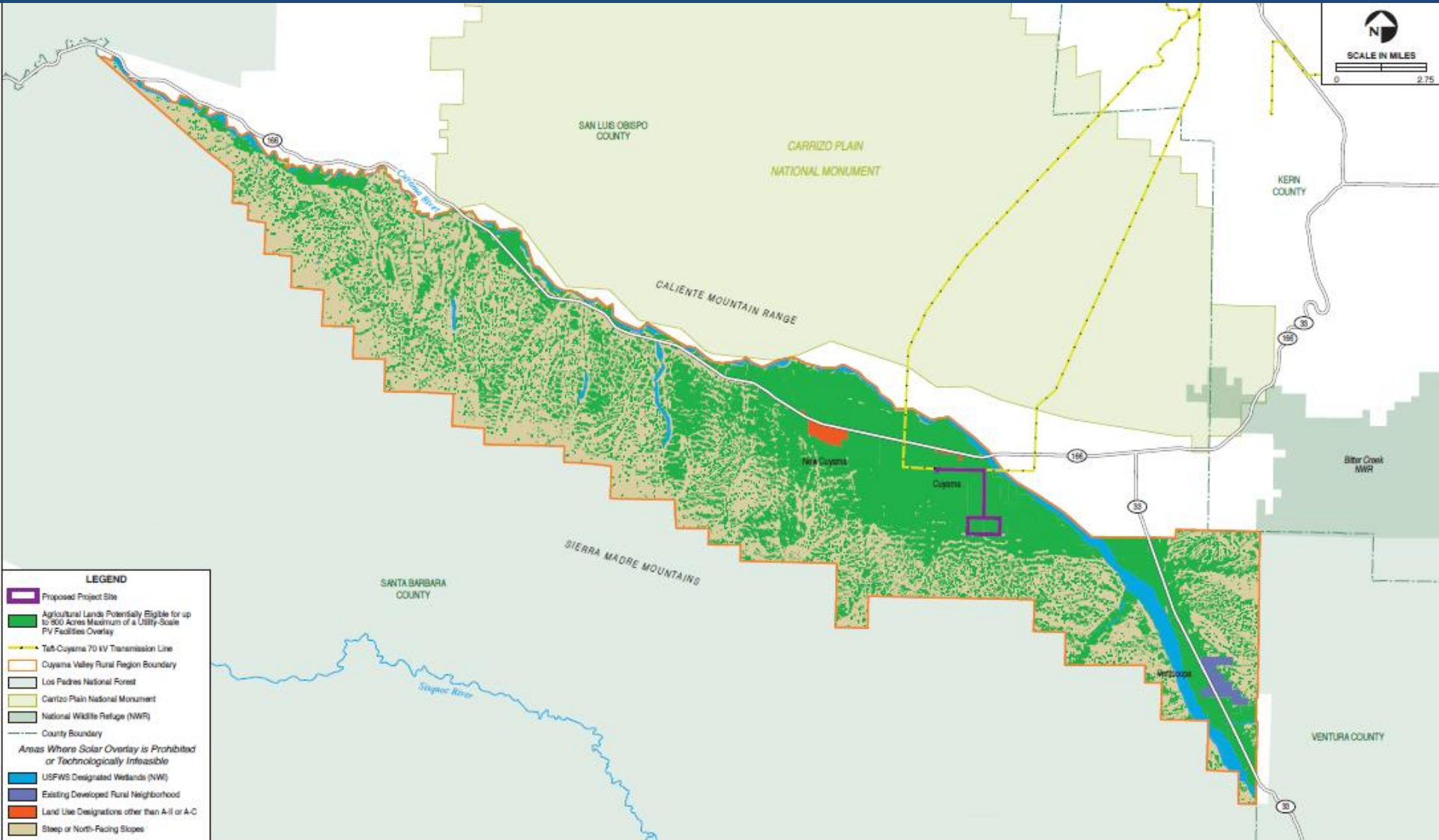
Physical Development
of Cuyama Solar Facility

Regulatory
Amendments to Allow
for Utility-Scale Solar
Photovoltaic
Development

Regional Location



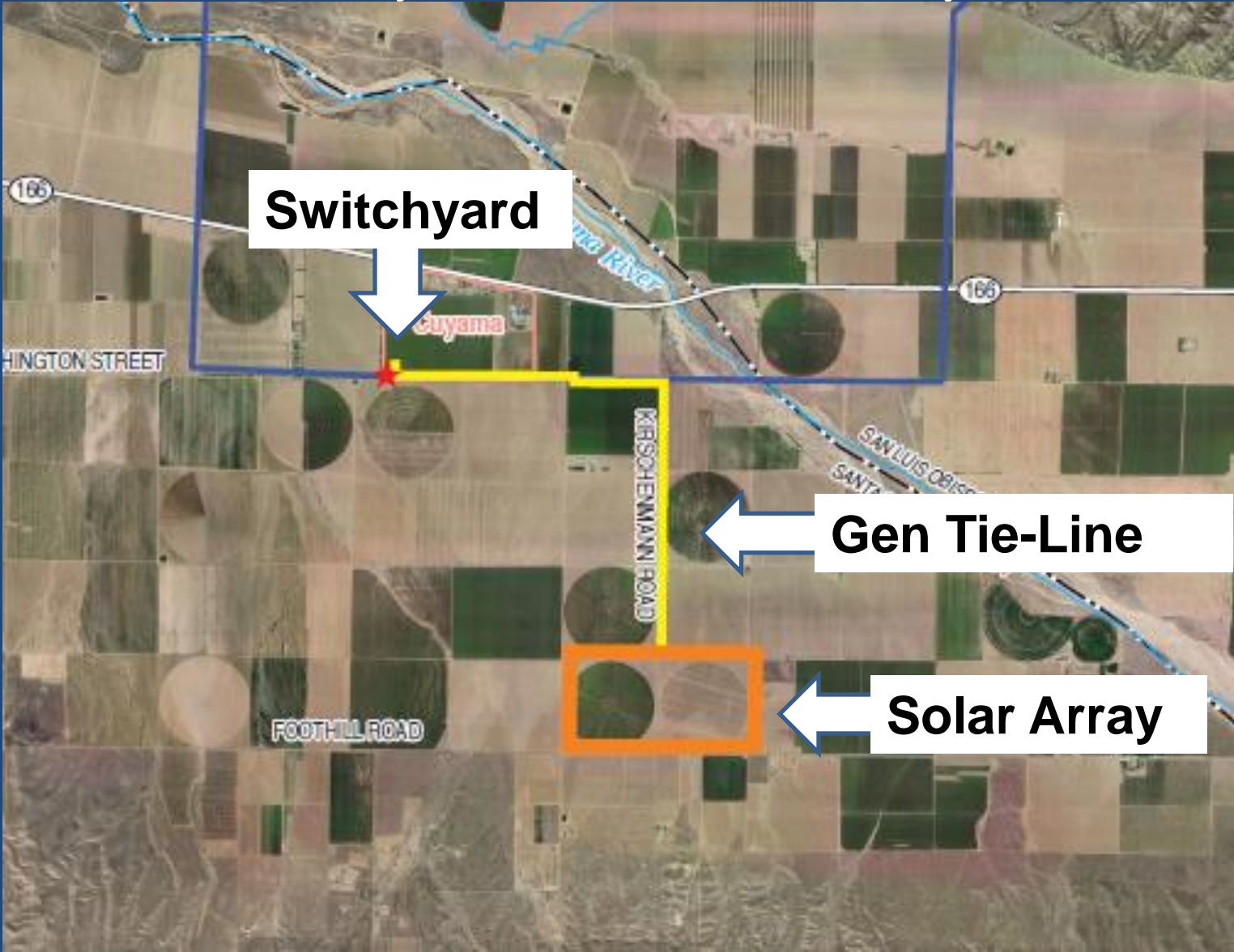
Regional Location Cuyama Solar Facility



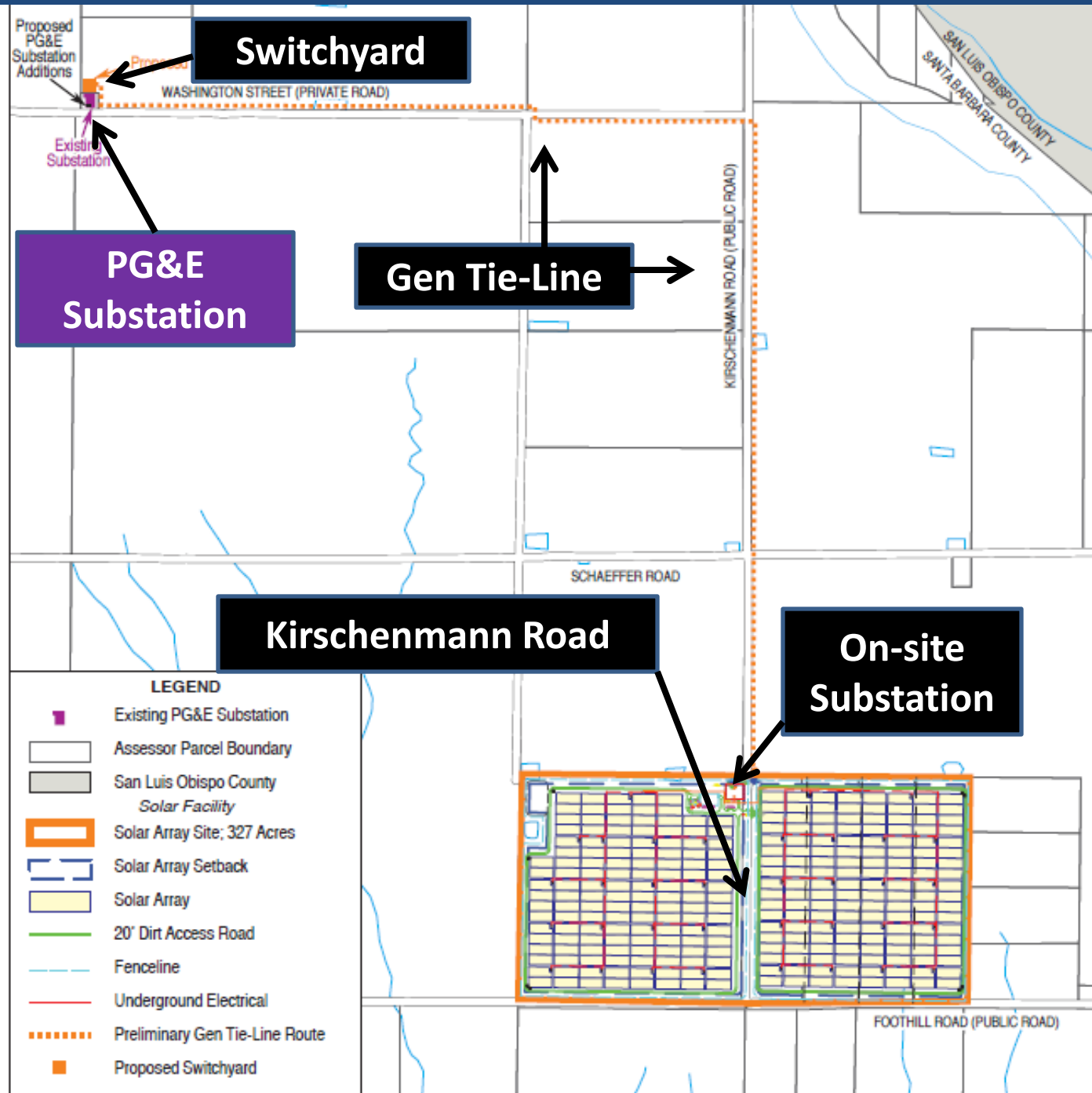
LEGEND

- Proposed Project Site
- Agricultural Lands Potentially Eligible for up to 800 Acres Maximum of a Utility-Scale PV Facilities Overlay
- Tolt-Cuyama 70 kV Transmission Line
- Cuyama Valley Rural Region Boundary
- Los Padres National Forest
- Carrizo Plain National Monument
- National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)
- County Boundary
- Areas Where Solar Overlay is Prohibited or Technologically Infeasible
- USFWS Designated Wetlands (NWI)
- Existing Developed Rural Neighborhood
- Land Use Designations other than A-II or A-C
- Steep or North-Facing Slopes

Vicinity Map Cuyama Solar Facility



Cuyama Solar Facility



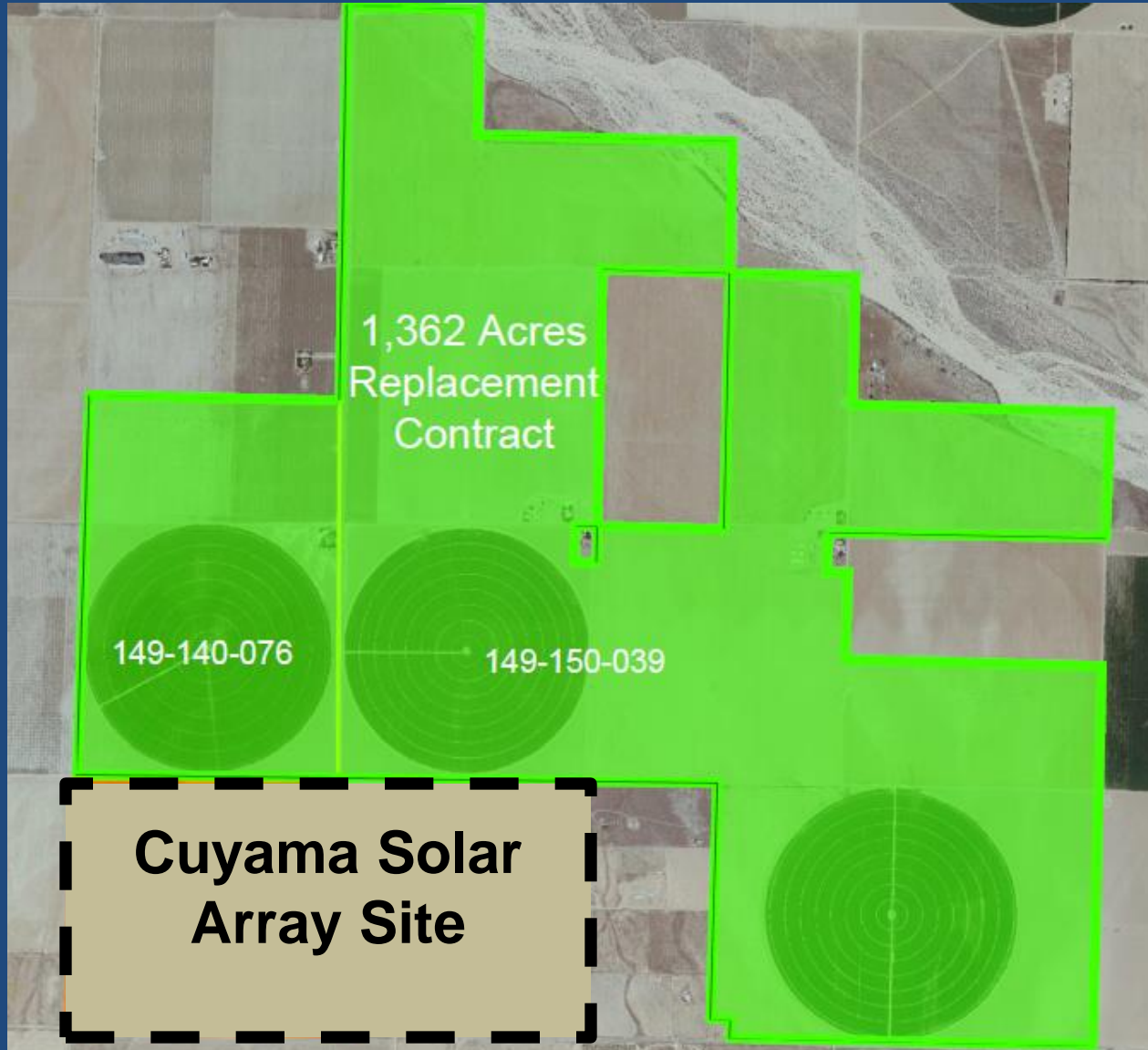
Solar Array



Cuyama Solar Facility Operations

- Operated and monitored remotely
- Regular onsite personnel visits (up to 5 workers)
- Routine maintenance
 - 75% during daylight hours
 - 25% during evening hours (2-6 hours after sunset)
- Lighting
 - Controlled, shielded, down-directed, area-specific and reduced lumen intensity
- No water use

Williamson Act Cancellation/Replacement



1,362 Acres
Replacement
Contract

149-140-076

149-150-039

**Cuyama Solar
Array Site**

Two Major Project Components

Proposed
Project

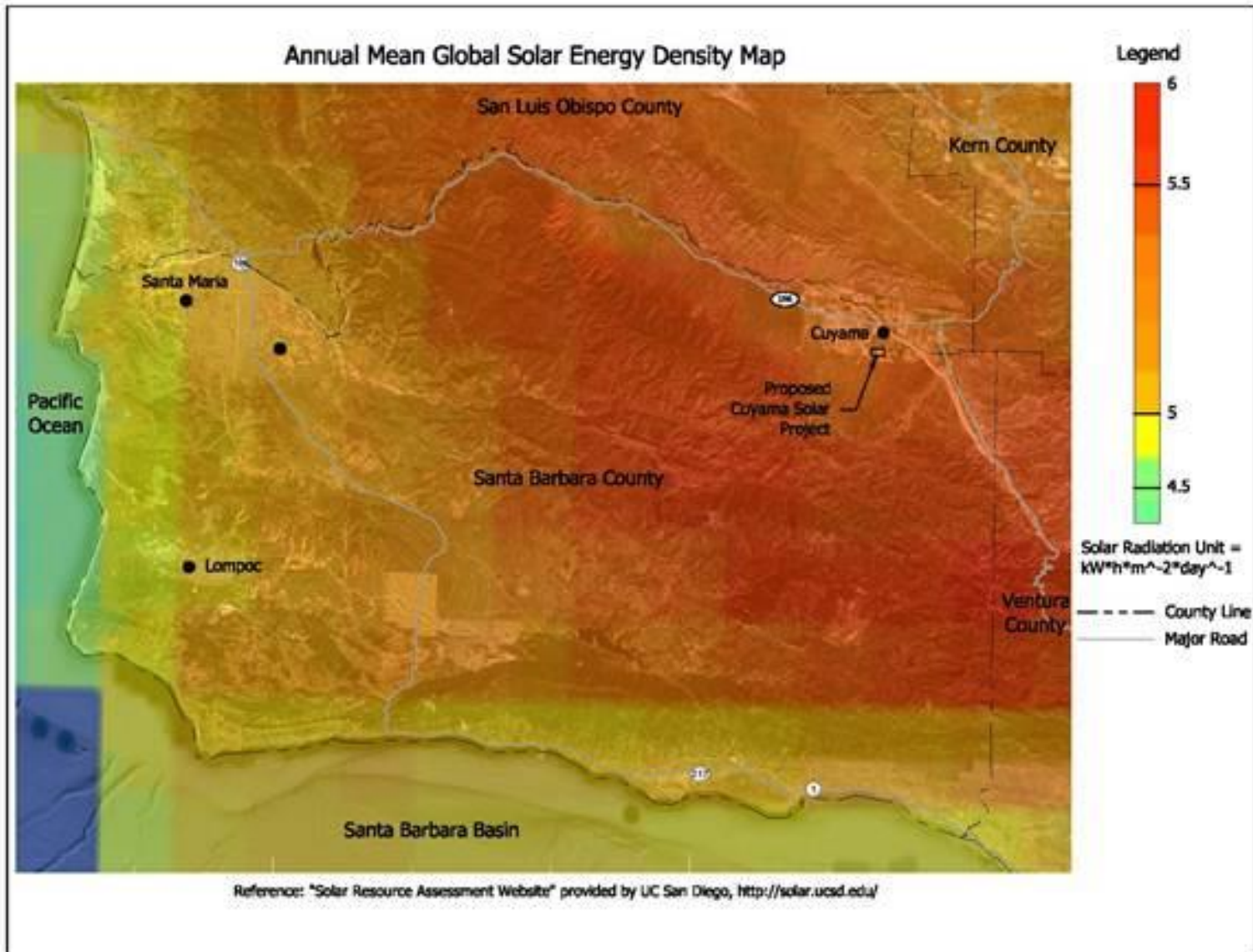
Physical Development
of Cuyama Solar Facility

Regulatory
Amendments to Allow
for Utility-Scale Solar
Photovoltaic
Development

Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Development Code

- Currently, no provisions for Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facilities
- Proposed Amendments would limit Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facilities to:
 - maximum of 600 acres of agricultural land
 - Cuyama Valley Rural Region

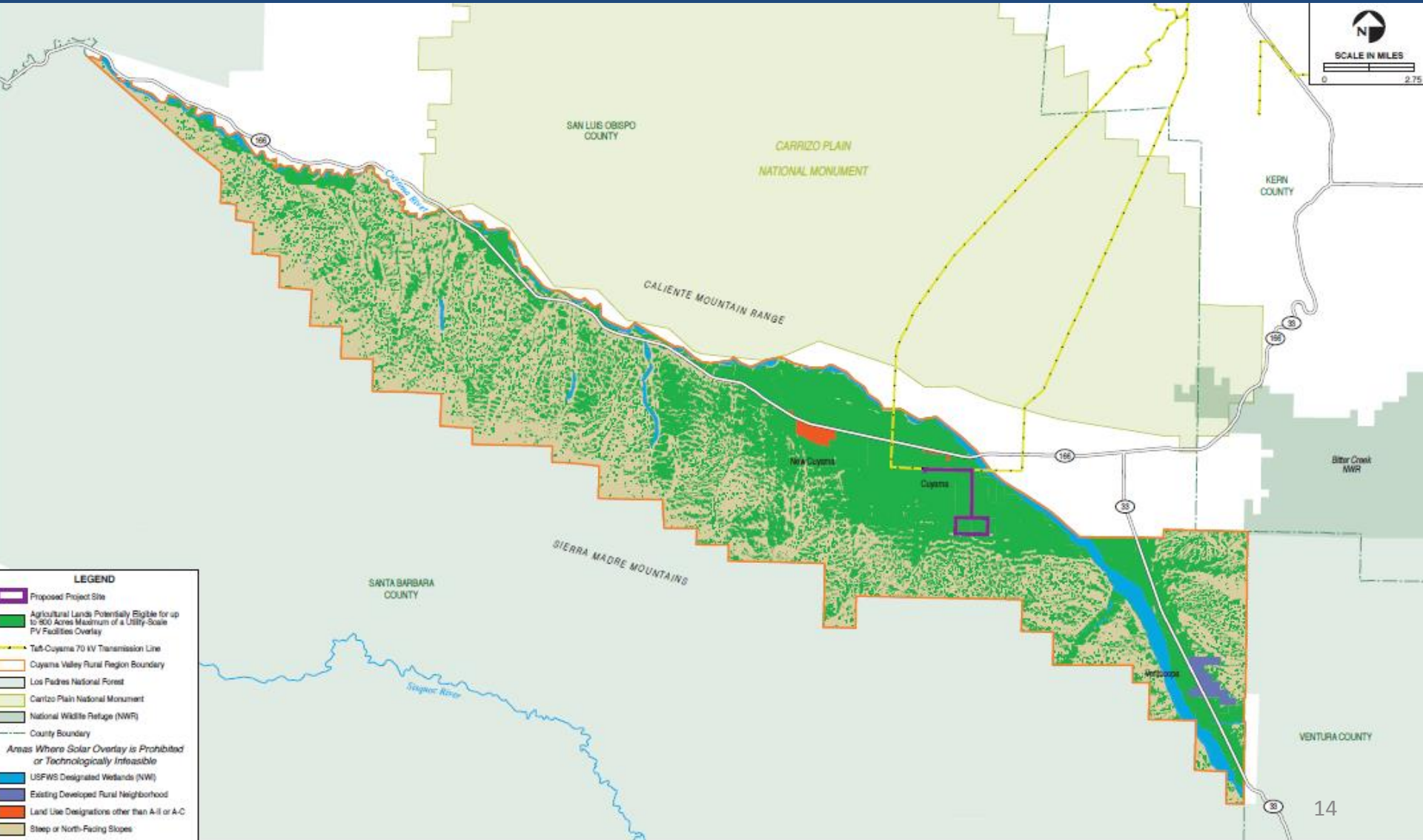
Why Cuyama Valley?



Why Limit to 600 acres?

- Existing Grid Capacity is approx. 75 MW
 - 75 MW currently needs approx. 600 acres (8 ac/1 MW)
- Preservation of Agricultural land

Proposed CP/LUDC Amendments



Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Development Code

- Comprehensive Plan – New Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facility Overlay
- Land Use Development Code – New Chapter for Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facilities

Environmental Review

- 45-Day Public Review for Draft EIR
- Proposed Final EIR Updated with responses to comments

Environmental Review

- **Cuyama Solar Facility**
- **CP/LUDC Amendments**
- **Mitigation**
 - Project-Specific Mitigation Measures for Cuyama Solar Facility
 - Development Standards for Amendments

Significant Unavoidable Impacts

- Aesthetics/Visual Resources
- Agricultural Resources
- Land Use

Mitigation of Significant Unavoidable Aesthetic Impacts

- **Development Standards/Project Specific Mitigation:**
 - Avoidance of Scenic Highways
 - Implementation of Design Treatments
 - Incorporation of Low-Intensity Lighting
 - Minimization of Glare

Mitigation of Significant Unavoidable Agricultural Impacts

- **Development Standards/Project Specific Mitigation:**
 - Preservation of Off-Site Agricultural land
 - Submittal of Demolition & Reclamation Plan
 - Submittal of Financial Assurances

Beneficial Impacts

- Produce clean, renewable energy
 - 15,600 homes
- Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
 - 30,000 metric tons of CO₂ emissions reduced
- Reduce Groundwater Use
 - Over-drafted groundwater basin

Alternatives

- 18 Alternatives for the Proposed Project
- 5 Alternatives for the CP/LUDC Amendments
- 13 Alternatives for the Cuyama Solar Facility,
 - Including 7 alternative sites
- Proposed Project = Environmentally Superior Project

Planning Commission

- Hearing Date was July 22, 2014
- Voted 4-0 (Commissioner Ferini absent) to recommend that the Board:
 - Amend the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Development Code
 - Issue development permits and other necessary approvals as outlined in staff's Recommended Actions

Recommended Actions for September 9, 2014

That the Board of Supervisors:

- Certify the Environmental Impact Report (11EIR-00000-00005), including revisions specified in the July 21, 2014 Planning Commission memorandum (Attachment 12); and
- Adopt a Resolution (Attachment 9) and execute the Certificate of Tentative Cancellation of Land Conservation Contract 76-AP-072; and
- Continue the hearing to October 7, 2014 for final action

End of Staff Presentation

Thank you