Final Solar PEIS - Highlights

Pending Applications – Reconfirmation of commitment to process pending application per existing policy.

SEZs – Refines the following based on comments: SEZ incentives, regional mitigation plan concept, process to identify new SEZs, and the potential role of the competitive process.

Exclusions – New exclusions identified. Flexibility provided with respect to slope & insolation. Highlights the possibility for land use plan amendments in the future for individual applications.

Variance Process – Refines the variance process based on comments. The responsibility for demonstrating to the BLM and other coordinating parties that a proposal in a variance area will avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate, as necessary, sensitive resources will rest with the applicant.

Design Features – Includes substantial revisions based on comments (programmatic and SEZ-specific design features). Design features are less prescriptive and allow for variations as necessary.

Mitigation and Monitoring – Presents frameworks for developing Regional Mitigation Plans and a Monitoring and Adaptive Management Strategy.

Processing Pending & New Applications

Application Location	Filing Date	Type	Processing Approach
Inside proposed SEZs	Before June 30, 2009	Pending	Continued processing under existing land use plans and policies
	After June 30, 2009	New	Subject to program elements in the Solar PEIS ROD, including competitive process
Outside proposed SEZs	Before publication of Supplement	Pending	Continued processing under existing land use plans and policies
	After publication of Supplement	New	Subject to program elements in the Solar PEIS ROD, including variance process

- In an effort to facilitate environmentally responsible solar energy development that is "smart from the start," the BLM will continue to process appropriately sited projects that have been put forward by qualified, diligent applicants.
- All new applications will be subject to program elements adopted by the Solar PEIS ROD, which may include a competitive process for projects in SEZs and a variance process for projects proposed in variance areas.

Solar Energy Zones (SEZs)

State	Proposed SEZs	Acres
AZ	2	5,966
CA	2	153,627
CO	4	16,308
NV	5	60,395
NM	1	29,964
UT	3	18,658
Total	17	284,918

- An SEZ is defined by the BLM as an area within which the BLM will prioritize and facilitate utility-scale production of solar energy and associated transmission infrastructure development.
- SEZs should be relatively large areas that provide highly suitable locations for utility-scale solar development: locations where solar development is economically and technically feasible, where there is good potential for connecting new electricity-generating plants to the transmission distribution system, and where there is generally low resource conflict.

SEZ Incentives

Facilitate Faster and Easier Permitting

- Streamlined authorization process for future projects in the following areas: Land Use Planning, NEPA, NHPA, ESA, Tribal Consultation, Public Involvement

Improve and Facilitate Mitigation

- Commitment to develop regional mitigation plans for SEZs and pilot the proposed framework (beginning in Dry Lake SEZ NV)

Facilitate the Permitting of Needed Transmission to SEZs

- Final PEIS includes a revised evaluation of the potential transmission needs and impacts for anticipated solar development within SEZs. This evaluation is intended to provide a upper-bound estimate of the potential environmental impacts of bringing transmission to the SEZs
- Incentives and commitments to bring transmission to SEZs; for example the BLM will engage in ongoing and comprehensive regional transmission planning efforts

Provide Economic Incentives for Development in SEZs

- Reduce overall cost (e.g., lower cost recovery, fixed or lower MW capacity fees, longer phase-in period for rental payments, restructured bonding requirements)
- Reduce uncertainty

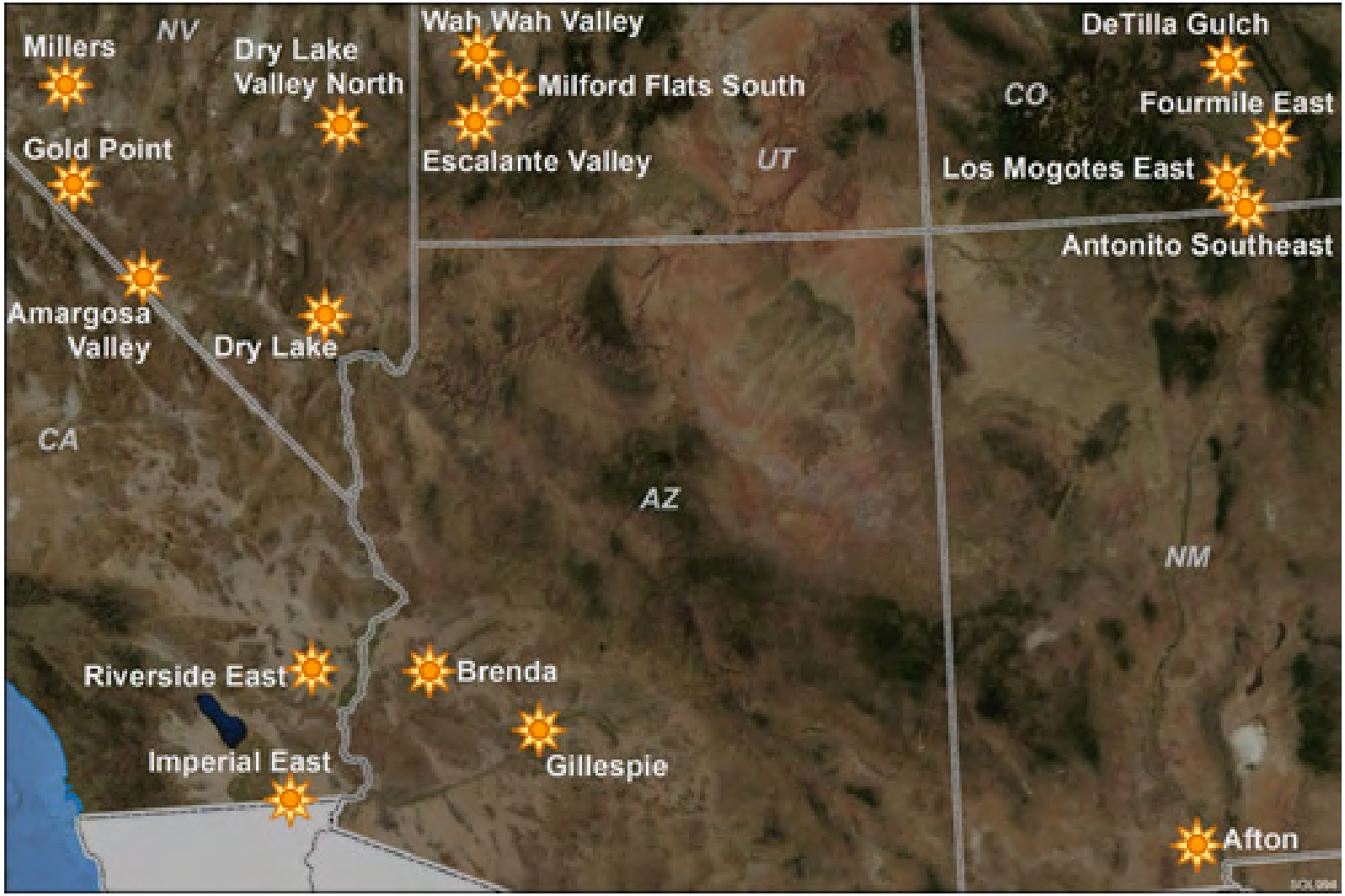
Identifying New SEZs

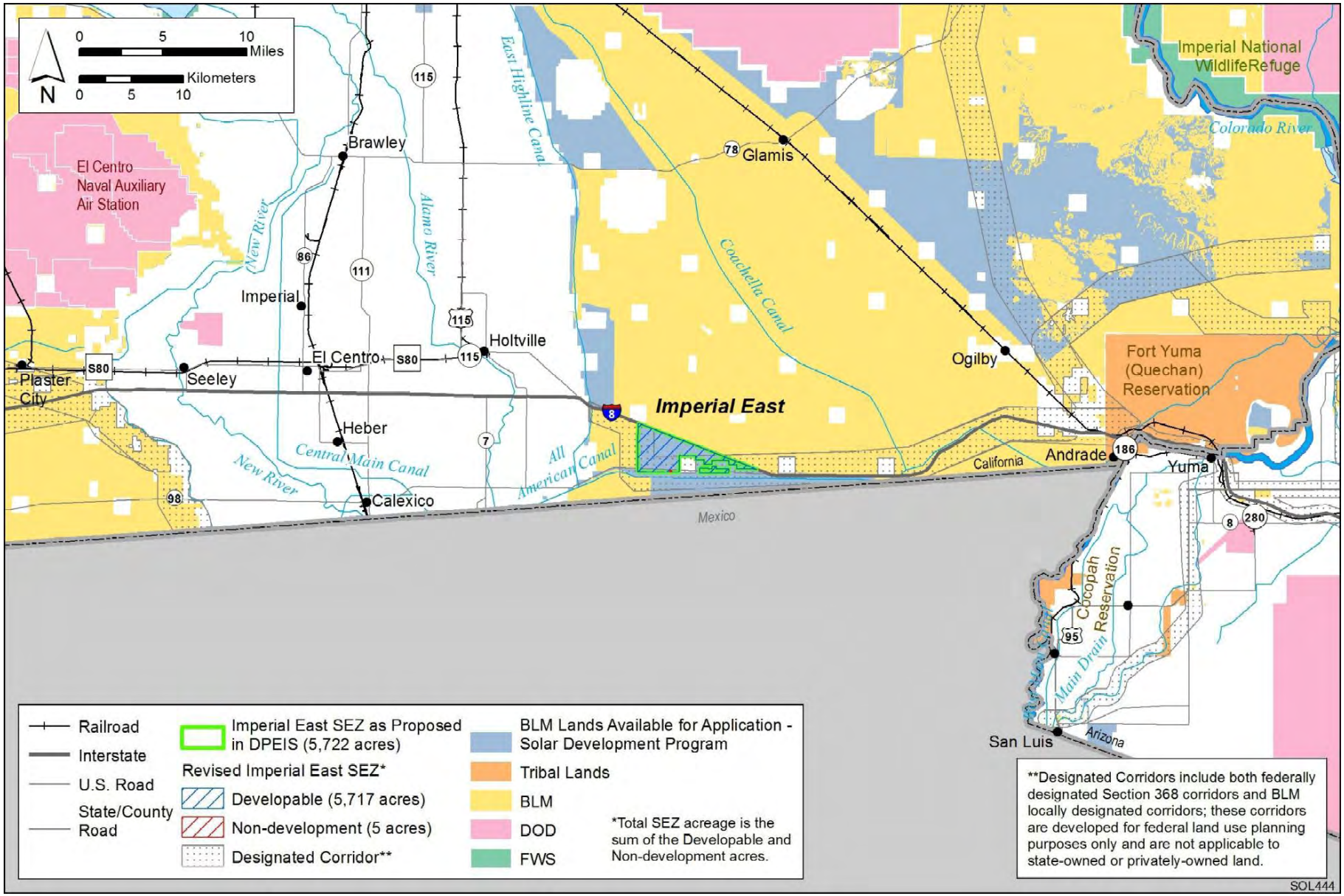
SEZ Identification Protocol

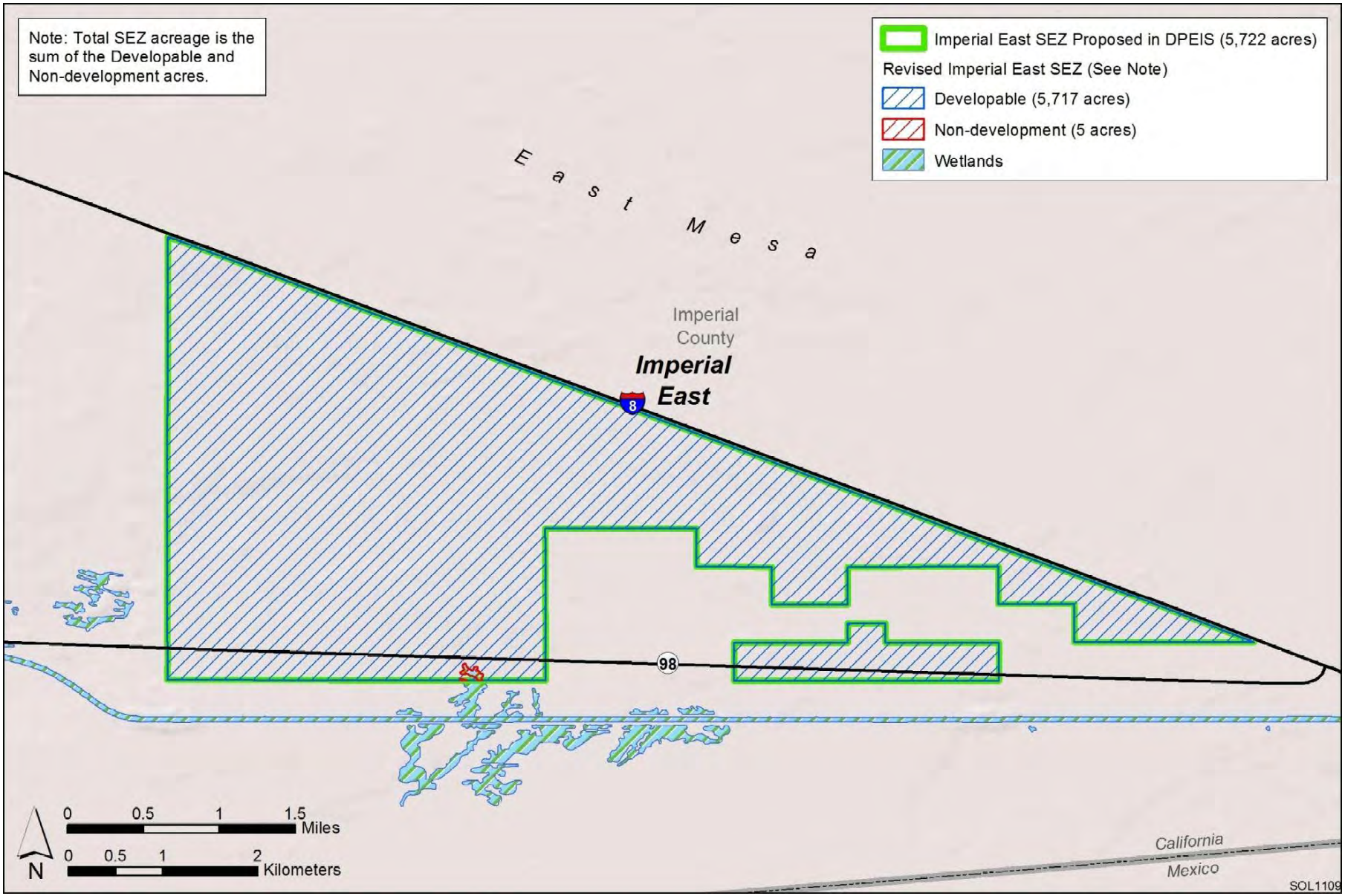
- Undertaken at the state or field office level
- Petitions for new SEZs can be submitted to BLM State Director with supporting documentation; new SEZs may also be proposed through the scoping process for RMP revisions
- Substantial stakeholder involvement
- Protocol first considers factors that support development; environmental constraints are subsequently applied
- Goal 12 -18 months from start to finish

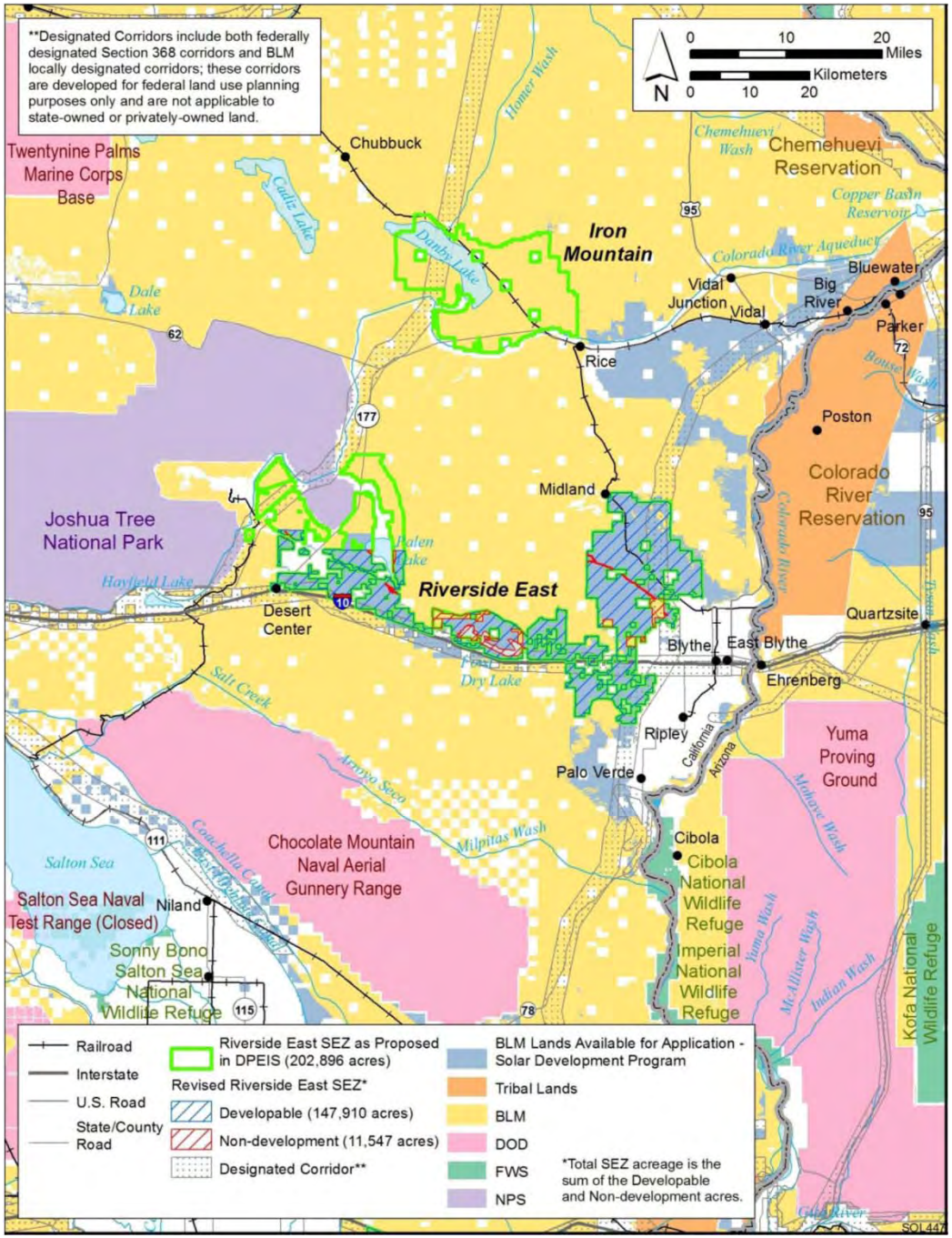
Ongoing state-based planning efforts to identify new SEZs

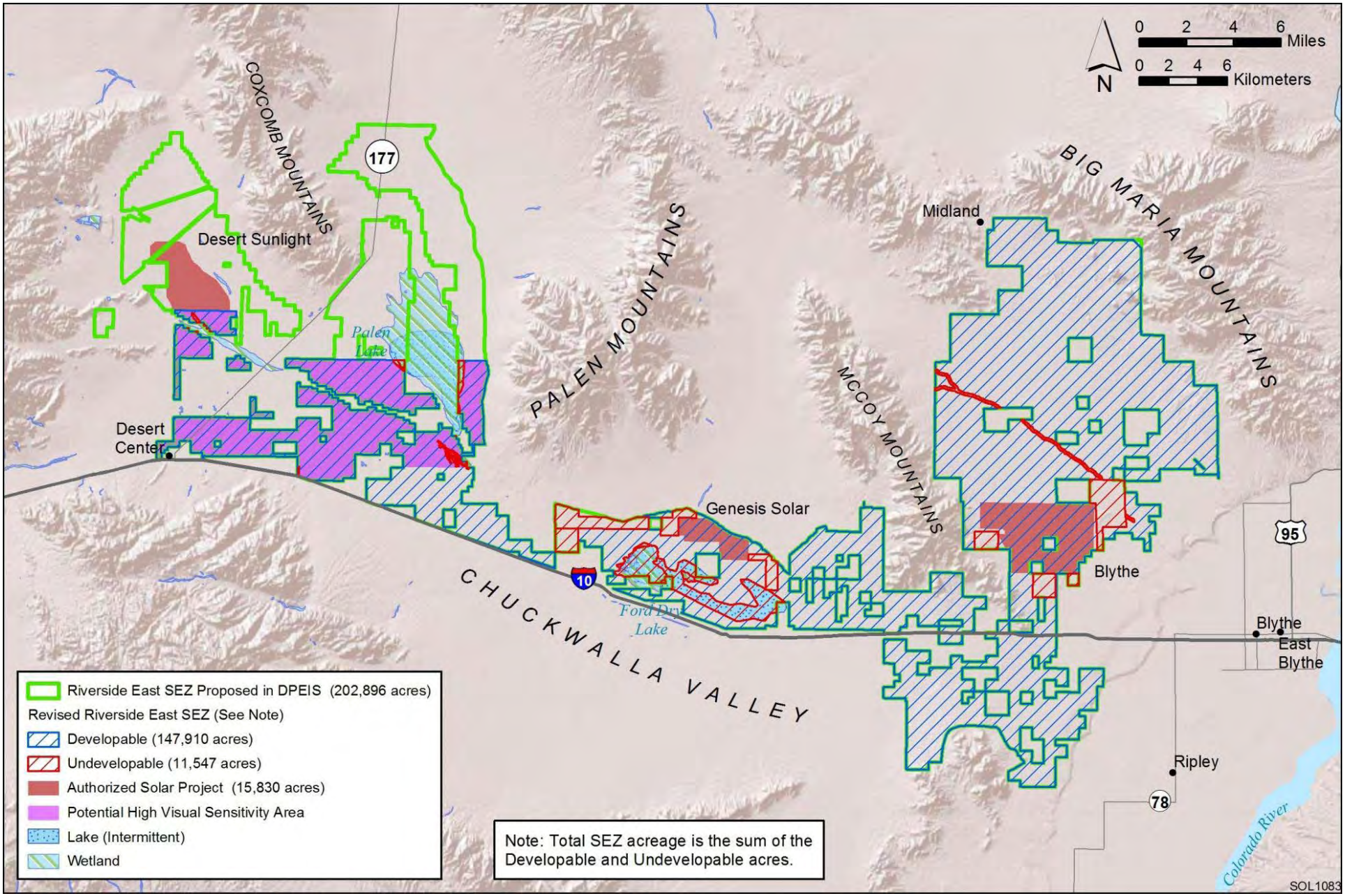
- AZ Restoration Energy Design Program (1 SEZ, up to 22,000 acres; Final Fall 2012)
- CA West Chocolate Mnts Renewable Energy Evaluation (SEZ TBD; Final Fall 2012)
- CA Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (SEZ TBD; Draft Winter 2012)
- NV Las Vegas-Pahrump RMP revision (SEZ TBD; Draft Summer 2013)
- CO Grand Junction RMP revision (SEZ TBD; Draft Fall 2012)

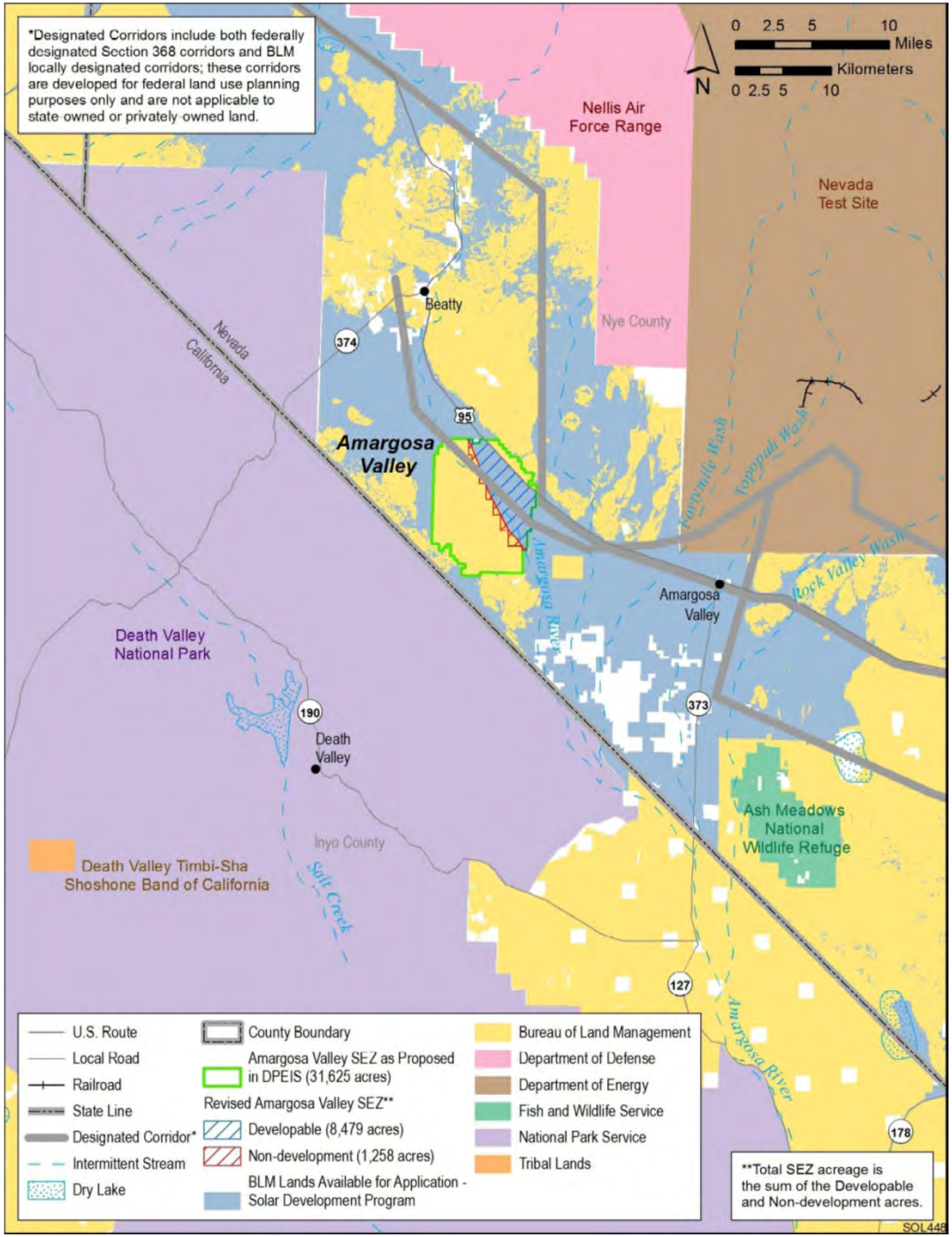

Millers
NV
Dry Lake
Valley North
Wah Wah Valley
Milford Flats South
Escalante Valley
UT
DeTilla Gulch
CO
Fourmile East
Los Mogotes East
Antonito Southeast
Gold Point
Amargosa
Valley
Dry Lake
CA
AZ
NM
Riverside East
Brenda
Imperial East
Gillespie
Afton

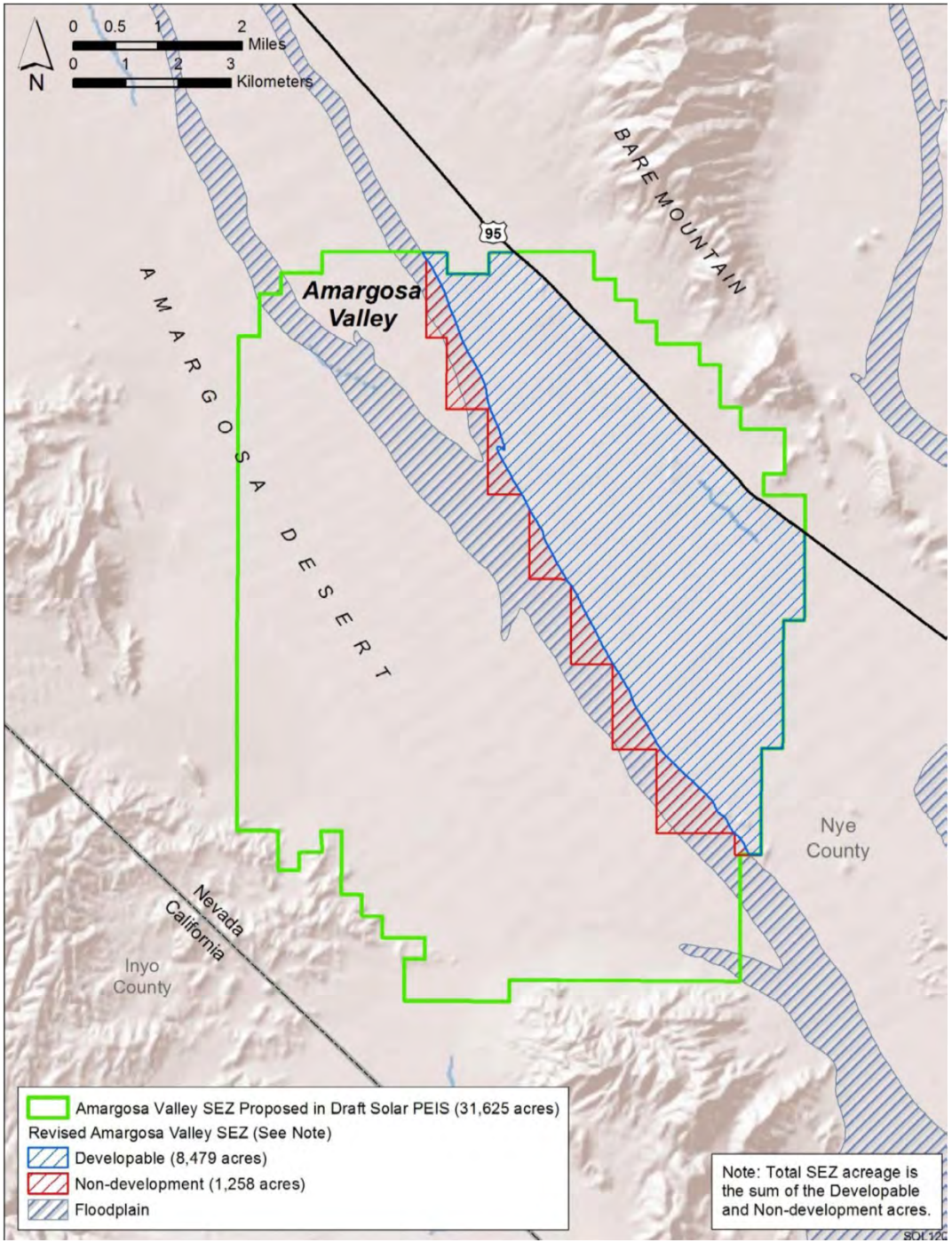

0 5 10 Miles
0 5 10 Kilometers
N
El Centro Naval Auxiliary Air Station
Brawley
Imperial
El Centro
Holtville
Seeley
Plaster City
Heber
Calexico
Glamis
Ogilby
Andrade
Yuma
San Luis
Imperial East
Imperial National WildlifeRefuge
Colorado River
Fort Yuma (Quechan) Reservation
Cocopah Reservation
East Highline Canal
Alamo River
New River
Coachella Canal
Central Main Canal
All American Canal
Main Drain
California
Arizona
Mexico
Railroad
Interstate
U.S. Road
State/County Road
Imperial East SEZ as Proposed in DPEIS (5,722 acres)
Revised Imperial East SEZ*
Developable (5,717 acres)
Non-development (5 acres)
Designated Corridor**
BLM Lands Available for Application - Solar Development Program
Tribal Lands
BLM
DOD
FWS
*Total SEZ acreage is the sum of the Developable and Non-development acres.
**Designated Corridors include both federally designated Section 368 corridors and BLM locally designated corridors; these corridors are developed for federal land use planning purposes only and are not applicable to state-owned or privately-owned land.
SOL444


Note: Total SEZ acreage is the sum of the Developable and Non-development acres.
Imperial East SEZ Proposed in DPEIS (5,722 acres)
Revised Imperial East SEZ (See Note)
Developable (5,717 acres)
Non-development (5 acres)
Wetlands
East Mesa
Imperial County
Imperial East
8
98
0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles
0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers
N
California
Mexico
SOL1109


**Designated Corridors include both federally designated Section 368 corridors and BLM locally designated corridors; these corridors are developed for federal land use planning purposes only and are not applicable to state-owned or privately-owned land.
0 10 20 Miles
0 10 20 Kilometers
N
Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base
Chubbuck
Homer Wash
Chemehuevi Wash
Chemehuevi Reservation
Copper Basin Reservoir
Cadiz Lake
Danby Lake
Iron Mountain
Colorado River Aqueduct
Bluewater
Vidal Junction
Vidal
Big River
Parker
Dale Lake
Rice
Bouse Wash
Poston
Colorado River Reservation
Midland
Joshua Tree National Park
Colorado River
Palen Lake
Hayfield Lake
Riverside East
Desert Center
Quartzsite
Blythe
East Blythe
Ehrenberg
Salt Creek
Dry Lake
Ripley
California
Arizona
Yuma Proving Ground
Palo Verde
Arroyo Seco
Mohave Wash
Milpitas Wash
Cibola
Cibola National Wildlife Refuge
Chocolate Mountain Naval Aerial Gunnery Range
Salton Sea
Salton Sea Naval Test Range (Closed)
Niland
Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge
Yuma Wash
Imperial National Wildlife Refuge
McAllister Wash
Indian Wash
Kofa National Wildlife Refuge
Gila River
Railroad
Interstate
U.S. Road
State/County Road
Riverside East SEZ as Proposed in DPEIS (202,896 acres)
Revised Riverside East SEZ*
Developable (147,910 acres)
Non-development (11,547 acres)
Designated Corridor**
BLM Lands Available for Application - Solar Development Program
Tribal Lands
BLM
DOD
FWS
NPS
*Total SEZ acreage is the sum of the Developable and Non-development acres.
SOL447


0 2 4 6 Miles
0 2 4 6 Kilometers
N
COXCOMB MOUNTAINS
177
Desert Sunlight
Palen Lake
PALEN MOUNTAINS
MCCOY MOUNTAINS
BIG MARIA MOUNTAINS
Midland
Desert Center
Genesis Solar
10
Ford Dry Lake
CHUCKWALLA VALLEY
Blythe
95
Blythe East Blythe
Ripley
78
Colorado River
Riverside East SEZ Proposed in DPEIS (202,896 acres)
Revised Riverside East SEZ (See Note)
Developable (147,910 acres)
Undevelopable (11,547 acres)
Authorized Solar Project (15,830 acres)
Potential High Visual Sensitivity Area
Lake (Intermittent)
Wetland
Note: Total SEZ acreage is the sum of the Developable and Undevelopable acres.
SOL1083

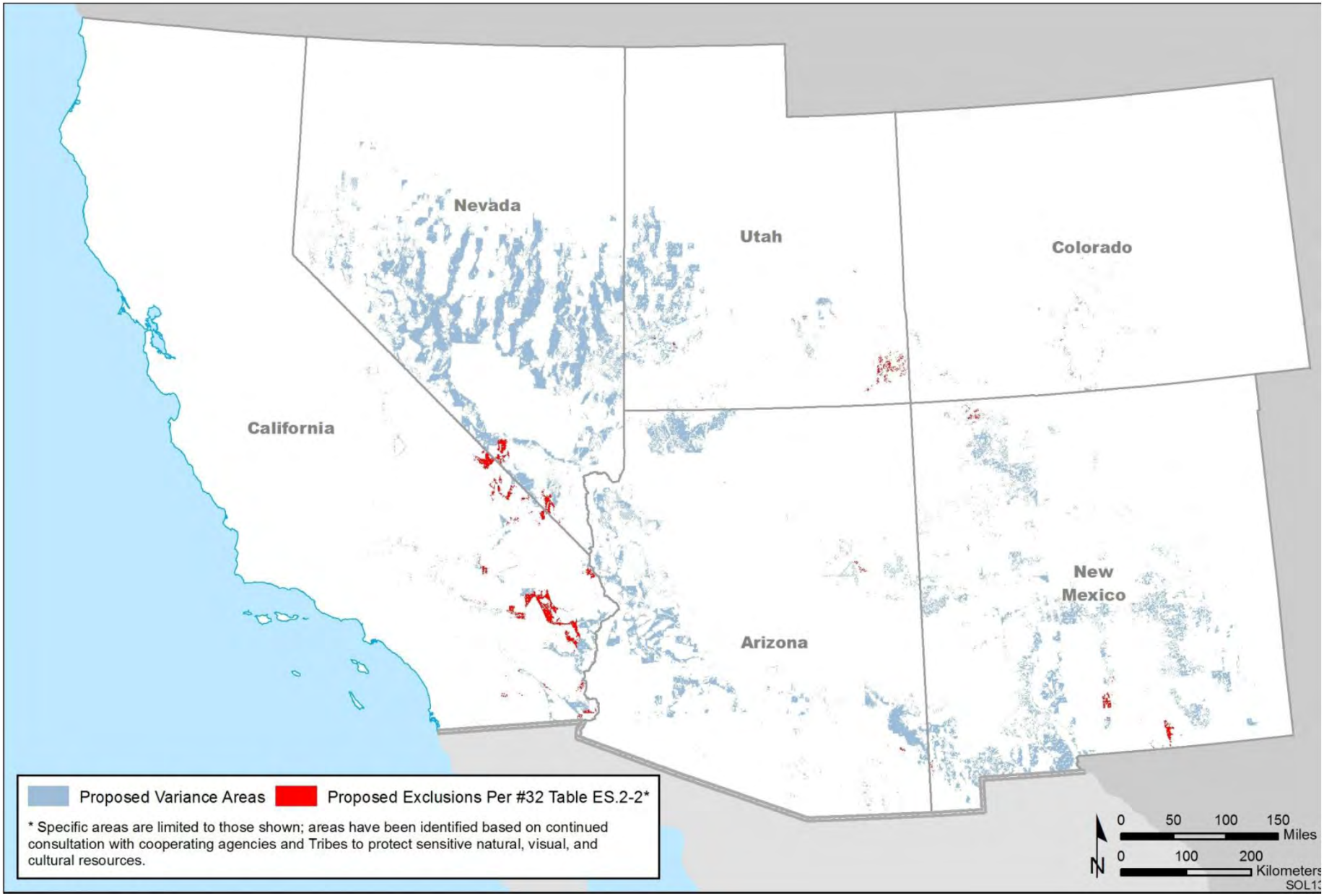

*Designated Corridors include both federally designated Section 368 corridors and BLM locally designated corridors; these corridors are developed for federal land use planning purposes only and are not applicable to state-owned or privately-owned land.
0 2.5 5 10 Miles
0 2.5 5 10 Kilometers
N
Nellis Air Force Range
Nevada Test Site
Nye County
Beatty
374
95
Nevada
California
Amargosa Valley
Fortymile Wash
Topopah Wash
Rock Valley Wash
Amargosa River
Amargosa Valley
Death Valley National Park
190
Death Valley
373
Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
Inyo County
Death Valley Timbi-Sha Shoshone Band of California
Salt Creek
127
178
U.S. Route
Local Road
Railroad
State Line
Designated Corridor*
Intermittent Stream
Dry Lake
County Boundary
Amargosa Valley SEZ as Proposed in DPEIS (31,625 acres)
Revised Amargosa Valley SEZ**
Developable (8,479 acres)
Non-development (1,258 acres)
BLM Lands Available for Application - Solar Development Program
Bureau of Land Management
Department of Defense
Department of Energy
Fish and Wildlife Service
National Park Service
Tribal Lands
**Total SEZ acreage is the sum of the Developable and Non-development acres.
SOL448


N
0 0.5 1 2 Miles
0 1 2 3 Kilometers
95
Amargosa Valley
AMARGOSA DESERT
BARE MOUNTAIN
Nye County
Nevada
California
Inyo County
Amargosa Valley SEZ Proposed in Draft Solar PEIS (31,625 acres)
Revised Amargosa Valley SEZ (See Note)
Developable (8,479 acres)
Non-development (1,258 acres)
Floodplain
Note: Total SEZ acreage is the sum of the Developable and Non-development acres.

Exclusion Areas

State	Proposed Exclusion Areas (acres)
AZ	5,800,301
CA	10,049,207
CO	7,187,130
NV	31,684,298
NM	7,599,145
UT	16,288,481
Total	78,608,562

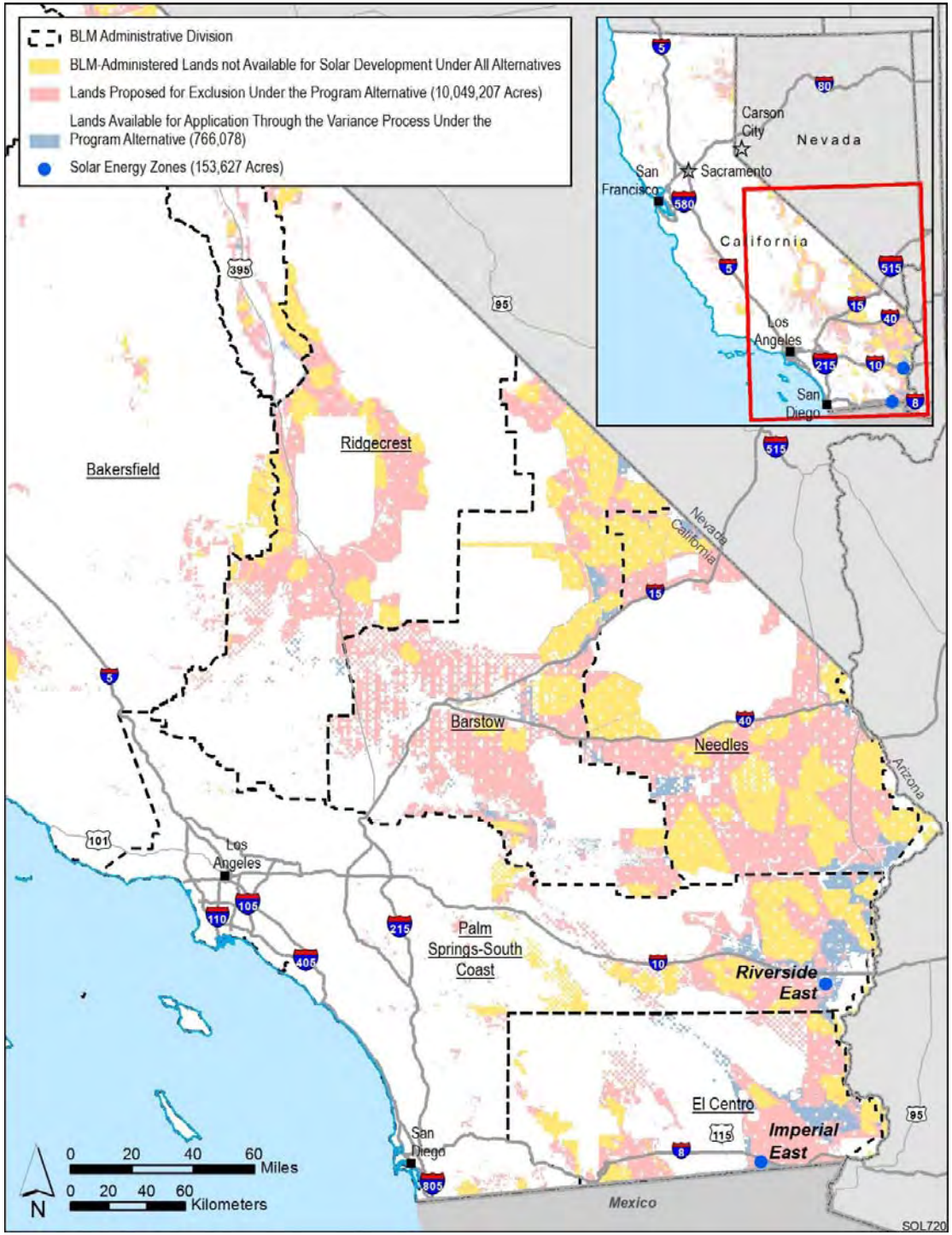
- The primary addition to the exclusion areas in the Final PEIS are specific areas identified by the BLM based on continued consultation with cooperating agencies and tribes to protect sensitive natural, visual, and cultural resources.
- Examples include land that coincides with priority desert tortoise connectivity habitat and National Park Service identified areas of high-potential conflict.
- Full list of exclusions included in Table 2.2-2 of the Final PEIS.

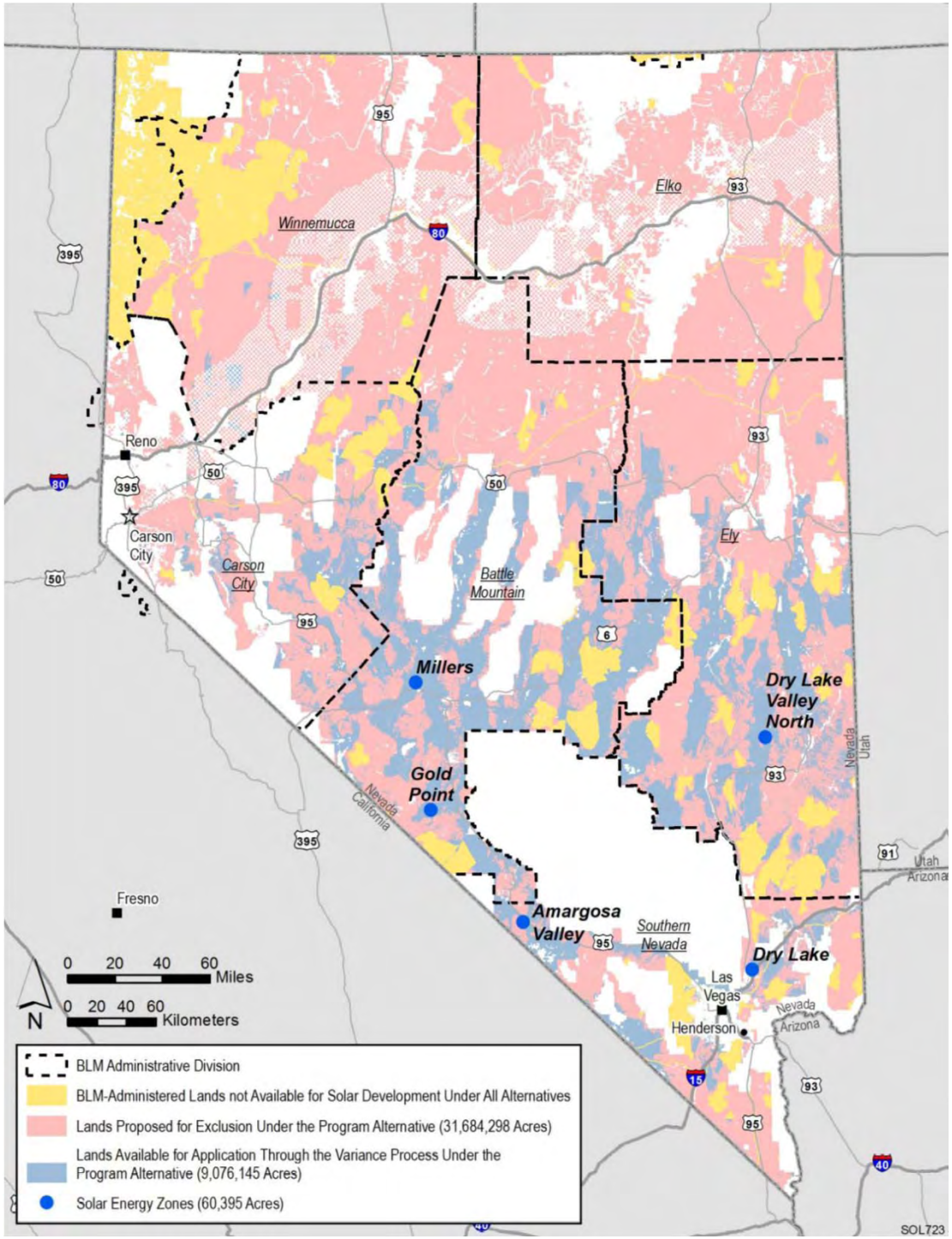

Nevada
Utah
Colorado
California
Arizona
New Mexico
Proposed Variance Areas
Proposed Exclusions Per #32 Table ES.2-2*
* Specific areas are limited to those shown; areas have been identified based on continued consultation with cooperating agencies and Tribes to protect sensitive natural, visual, and cultural resources.
0 50 100 150 Miles
0 100 200 Kilometers
N
SOL13

Variance Areas

State	Proposed Variance Areas (acres)
AZ	3,380,877
CA	766,078
CO	95,128
NV	9,076,145
NM	4,184,520
UT	1,809,759
Total	19,312,506

- The variance process provides an opportunity for developers to propose applications outside of identified SEZs.
- The BLM will consider ROW applications for utility-scale solar energy development in variance areas on a case-by-case basis based on environmental considerations; coordination with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies and tribes; and public outreach.


BLM Administrative Division
BLM-Administered Lands not Available for Solar Development Under All Alternatives
Lands Proposed for Exclusion Under the Program Alternative (10,049,207 Acres)
Lands Available for Application Through the Variance Process Under the Program Alternative (766,078)
Solar Energy Zones (153,627 Acres)
Carson City
Nevada
San Francisco
Sacramento
California
Los Angeles
San Diego
Bakersfield
Ridgecrest
Barstow
Needles
Palm Springs-South Coast
Riverside East
El Centro
Imperial East
Los Angeles
San Diego
Nevada
California
Arizona
Mexico
0 20 40 60 Miles
0 20 40 60 Kilometers
N
SOL720


Winnemucca
Elko
Reno
Carson City
Carson City
Battle Mountain
Ely
Millers
Gold Point
Dry Lake Valley North
Amargosa Valley
Southern Nevada
Dry Lake
Las Vegas
Henderson
Fresno
Nevada
California
Nevada
Utah
Utah
Arizona
Nevada
Arizona
0 20 40 60 Miles
0 20 40 60 Kilometers
N
BLM Administrative Division
BLM-Administered Lands not Available for Solar Development Under All Alternatives
Lands Proposed for Exclusion Under the Program Alternative (31,684,298 Acres)
Lands Available for Application Through the Variance Process Under the Program Alternative (9,076,145 Acres)
Solar Energy Zones (60,395 Acres)
SOL723

Variance Process

- Participate in two preliminary meetings with BLM
- Submit a ROW application, Form SF-299
- Sign cost recovery agreement, submit cost recovery fees
- BLM will consider:
  - Financial and technical capability of the applicant
  - Ability to use existing SEZ(s)
  - Use of disturbed or previously disturbed lands
  - Opportunity to combine federal and non-federal lands for optimum siting
  - Special circumstances such as expansion or repowering of an existing project
  - Presence of resource conflicts (e.g., tortoise density)
  - Consistency with priority conservation and/or restoration objectives
- BLM will coordinate as necessary with appropriate federal, state, tribal, and local governments
- BLM will require a pre-scoping public meeting to assist in the identification of potential issues
- Variance applications will be evaluated by BLM field and state offices and will require BLM Director concurrence for continued processing

Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario

Final PEIS Retains RFDS from the Draft (24,000 MWs / 214,000 BLM acres)

- RFDS based on simplifying assumptions: 50% of State Renewable Portfolio Standards from solar and 75% located on BLM lands
- RFDS and available lands presented in acres

State	RFDS (acres)	SEZs & Variance Areas (acres)	SEZs (acres)
AZ	21,816	3,380,877	5,966
CA	138,789	766,078	153,627
CO	19,746	95,128	16,308
NV	15,309	9,076,145	60,395
NM	7,497	4,184,520	29,964
UT	10,971	1,809,759	18,658
Total	214,128	19,312,506	284,918