

Fresno County

Little Bear Solar Project EIR 7225

Draft EIR Comment Meeting

October 2, 2018
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm



Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Purpose of the Meeting**
- **Project Overview**
- **CEQA Process**
- **Permitting Process**
- **Environmental Impacts**
- **Comparison of Alternatives**
- **The Public Comment Process**

Introductions

Participants and Roles

- **Fresno County**
 - **Chrissy Monfette, Marianne Mollring, and Chris Motta (Department of Public Works and Planning)**
 - **CEQA Lead Agency**
 - **Decision-maker for EIR and the requested CUPs**

- **Environmental Science Associates**
 - **Janna Scott, Project Manager and Jill Feyk-Miney, Deputy Project Manager**
 - **Environmental Consultant to the County**

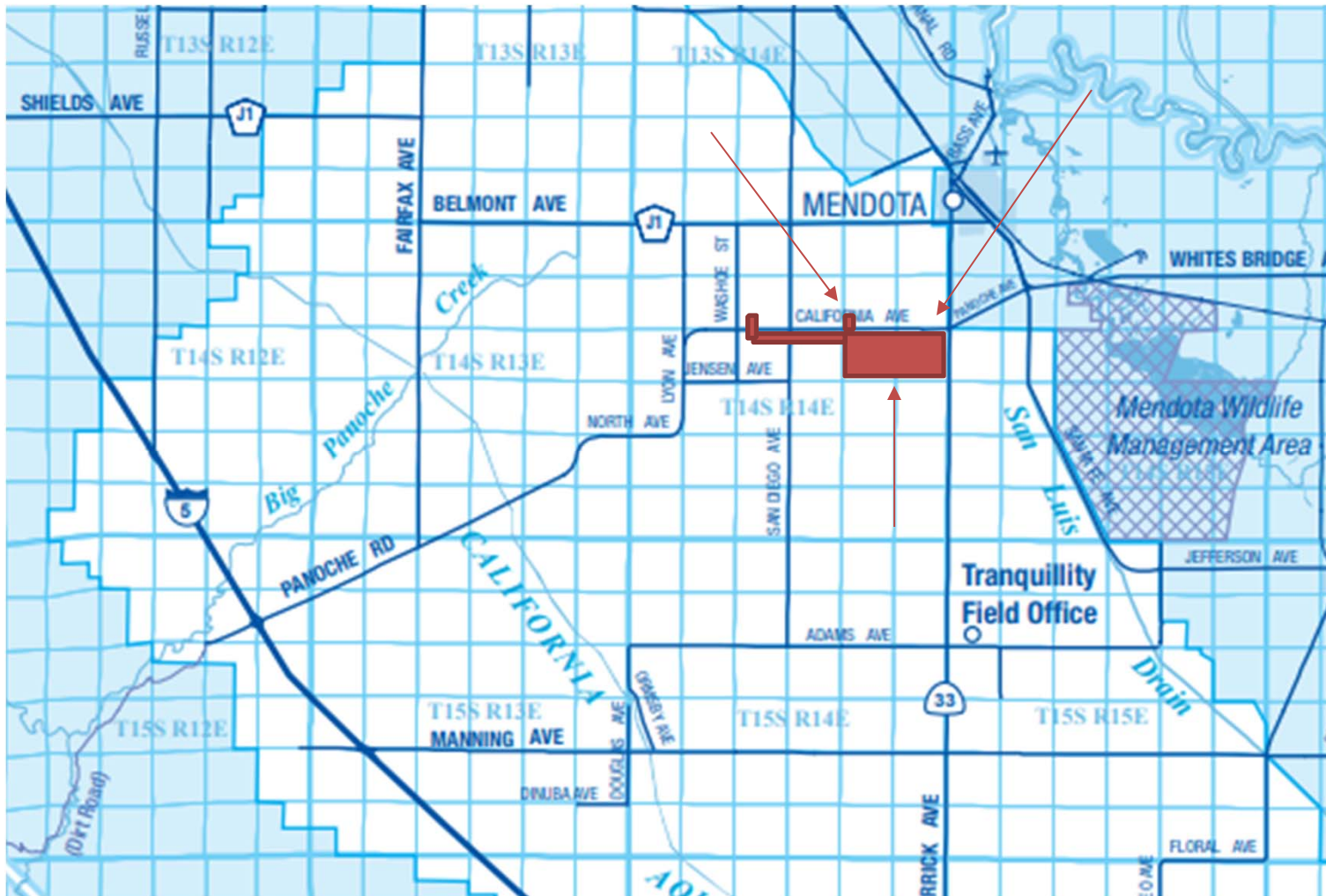
- **Applicants: 5 Little Bear Solar entities (one for each CUP)**
 - **Dave Sterner, First Solar**
 - **James White, Irish Hills Environmental (consultant to First Solar)**

- **Other Participants**

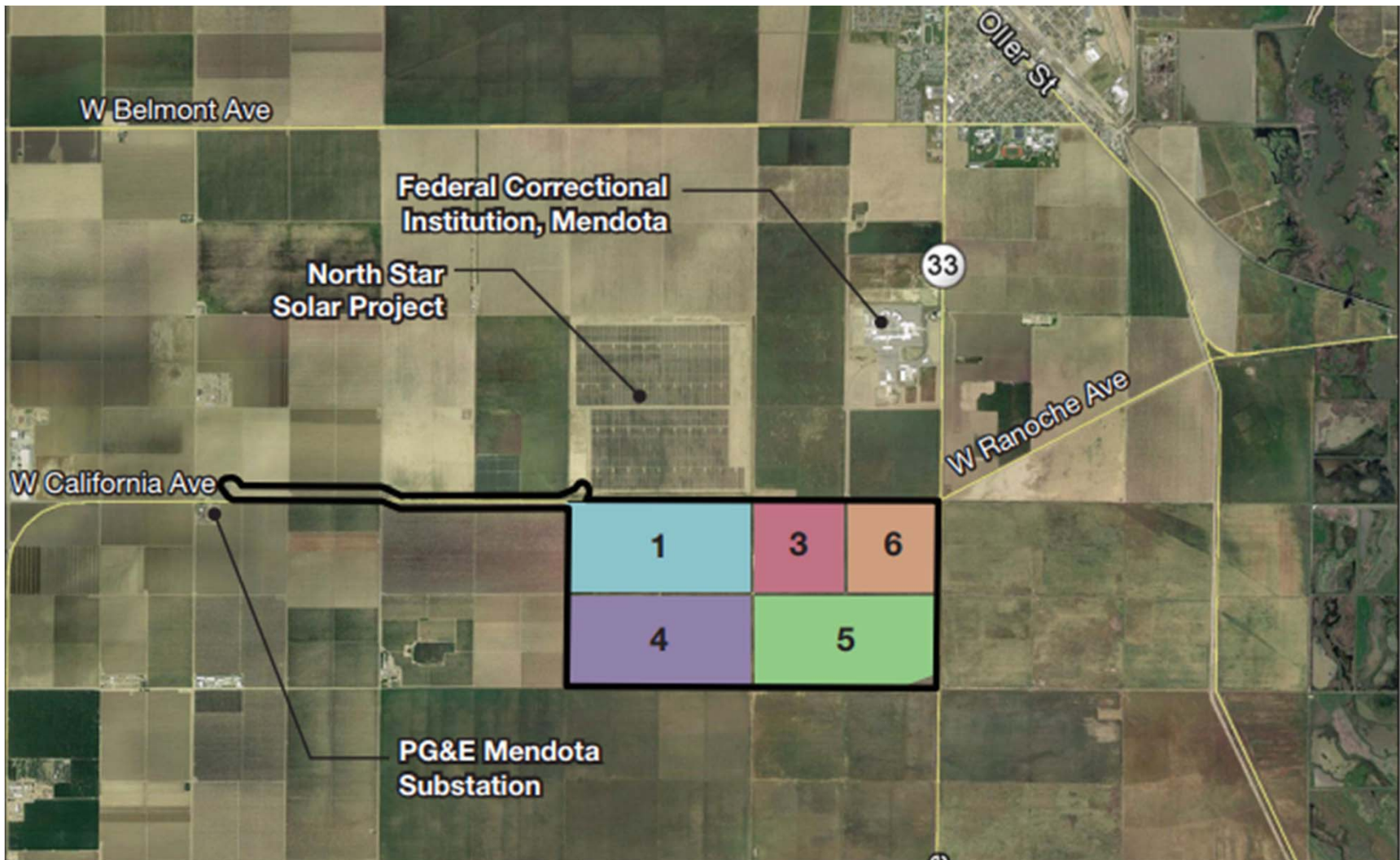
Purpose of the Meeting



Project Overview



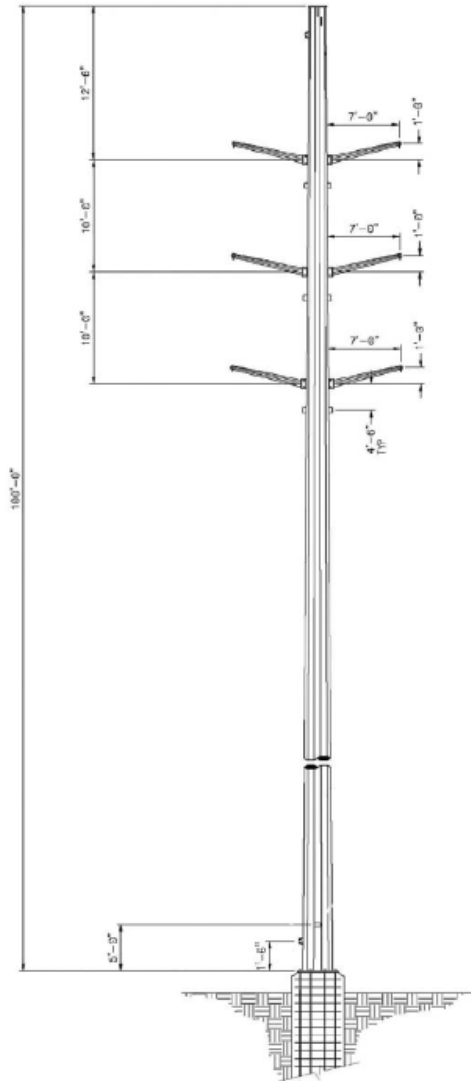
Project Overview



Project Overview



Project Overview



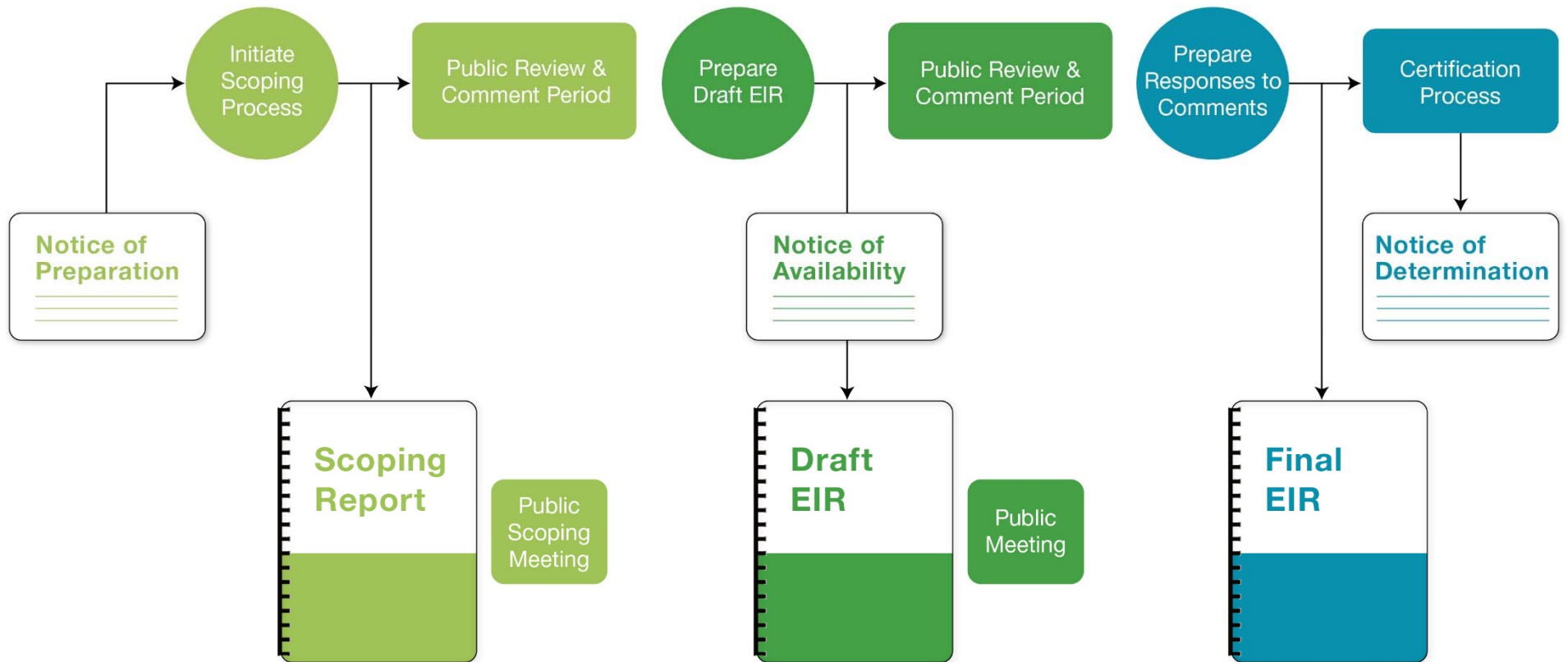
Typical transmission structure

- Either 75-feet tall or 100-feet, depending on location

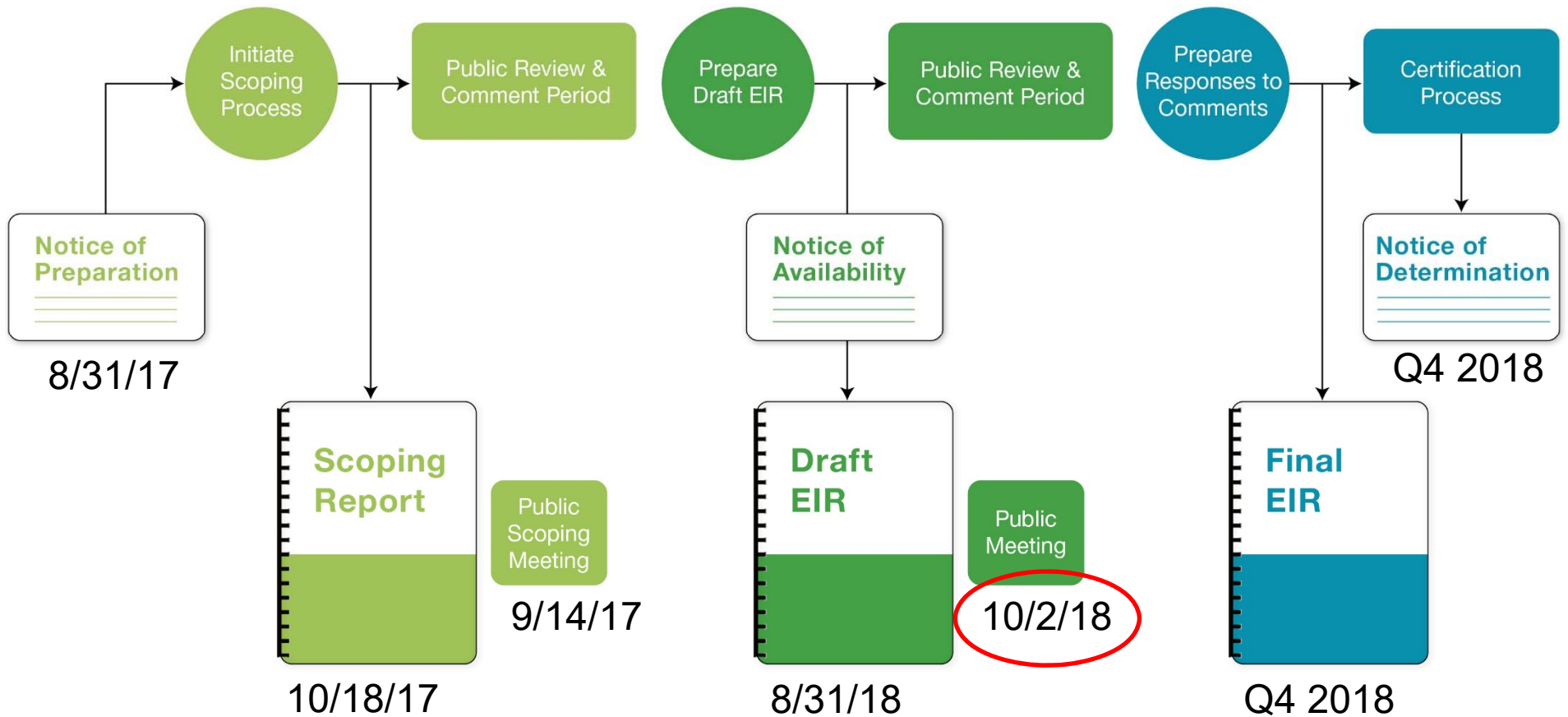
Project Overview



CEQA Process



Schedule



Permitting Process

Project Impacts

No Impact:

- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Public Services
- Recreation

Less than Significant Impacts:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- GHG Emissions
- Hazards
- Population and Housing
- Transportation
- Utilities and Service Systems

Project Impacts

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated:

- 1. Air Quality**
- 2. Biological Resources**
- 3. Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources**
- 4. Paleontological Resources**
- 5. Hazardous Materials**
- 6. Noise**
- 7. Traffic**

Project Impacts

No Significant Unavoidable Impacts

Project Impacts

Air Quality

- Potential exceedance of Air District thresholds for NO_x during decommissioning
- To be addressed by implementation of a Voluntary Emission Reduction Agreement for NO_x during decommissioning

Biological Resources

- Potential substantial adverse impact on San Joaquin kit fox, burrowing owl, nesting birds, bats, other species
- To be addressed by pre-construction surveys and the avoidance of potential dens or the implementation of measures to minimize adverse effects and protect biological resources

Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources

- Ground disturbing activities could cause a substantial adverse change to previously unknown archaeological resources or human remains (“accidental discoveries”)
- To be addressed by standard stop-work within a specified number of feet of the find, evaluation with the appropriate entities (County coroner, Native American Tribal Representative), and implementation of appropriate next steps.

Project Impacts

Paleontological Resources

- Ground disturbing activities could destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature
- To be addressed by monitoring of ground disturbance, evaluation of the significance of a find, documentation and possibly curation at an accredited institution.

Hazardous Materials

- Potential significant hazard to the public through reasonably foreseeable conditions (asbestos-containing materials could be disturbed by demolition activities)
- To be addressed by sampling to confirm suspected materials, removal in accordance with applicable air quality and worker safety laws.

Project Impacts

Noise

- The HVAC system for the energy storage system (ESS) could cause a substantial increase in ambient noise levels near the Project.
- To be addressed by evidence of compliance with County noise standards through equipment selection and incorporation of design measures (if applicable).

Traffic

- Project construction and decommissioning could generate a temporary increase in traffic volumes on area roadways, but would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system.
- To be addressed by a temporary traffic signal at the SR-33/West California Avenue/ West Panoche Road intersection prior to the commencement of construction activities and implementation of a Construction and Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan that may govern the timing of deliveries, temporary signage, flaggers, specified haul routes, etc.

Alternatives

Proposed Project

- Five CUPs
- Little Bears 1, 3, 4, 5, 6
- Up to 180 megawatts on 1,288 acres
- Greater benefits from renewable energy generation compared to Increased Habitat Alt
- Greater benefits from GHG reduction compared to Increased Habitat Alt
- Increased impacts to groundwater supplies compared to Increased Habitat Alt

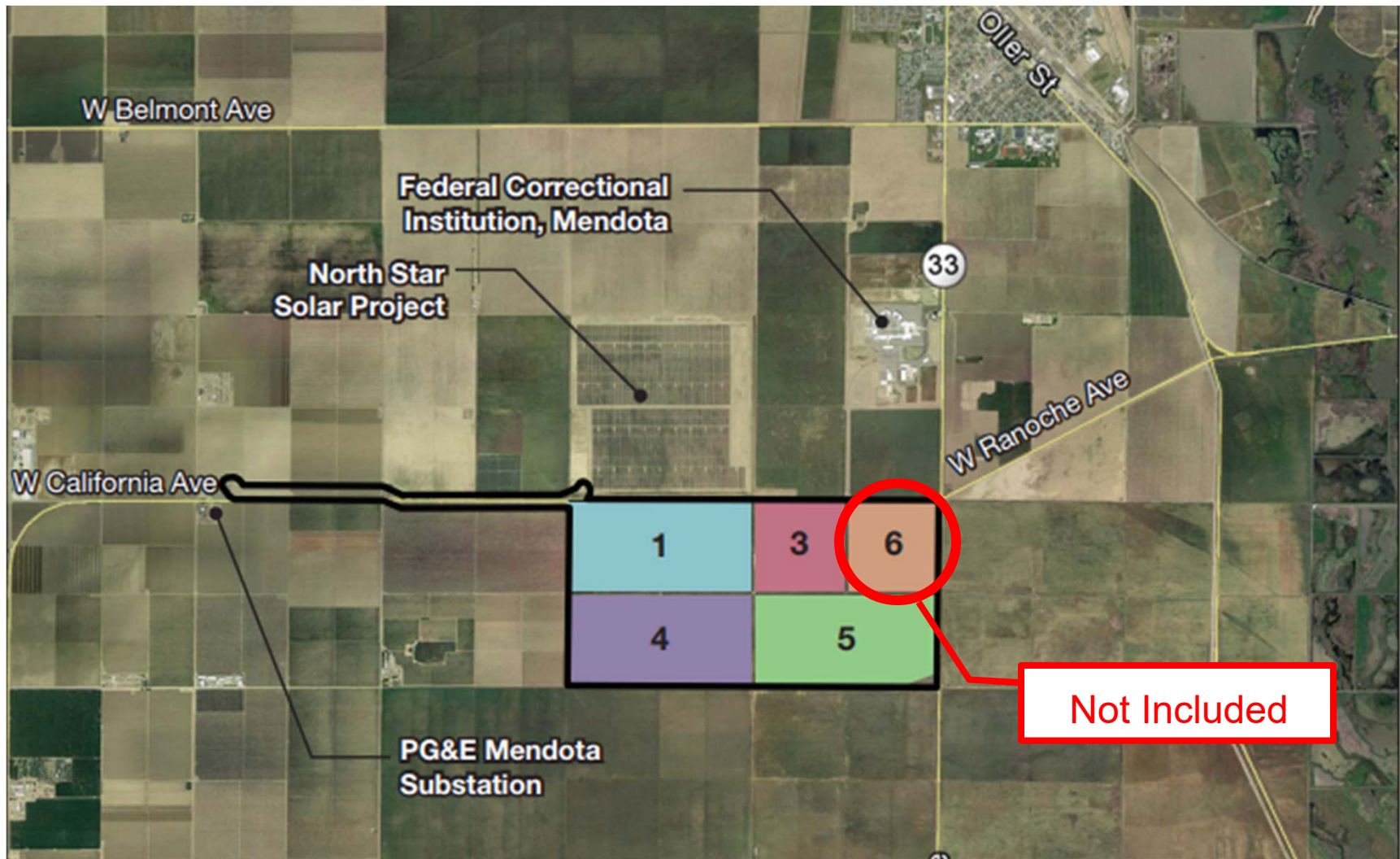
No Project Alternative

- Zero CUPs
- No renewable energy generated on site
- Continued agricultural/dry farming use with occasional fallow periods
- No Project impacts would occur
- No Project benefits would accrue

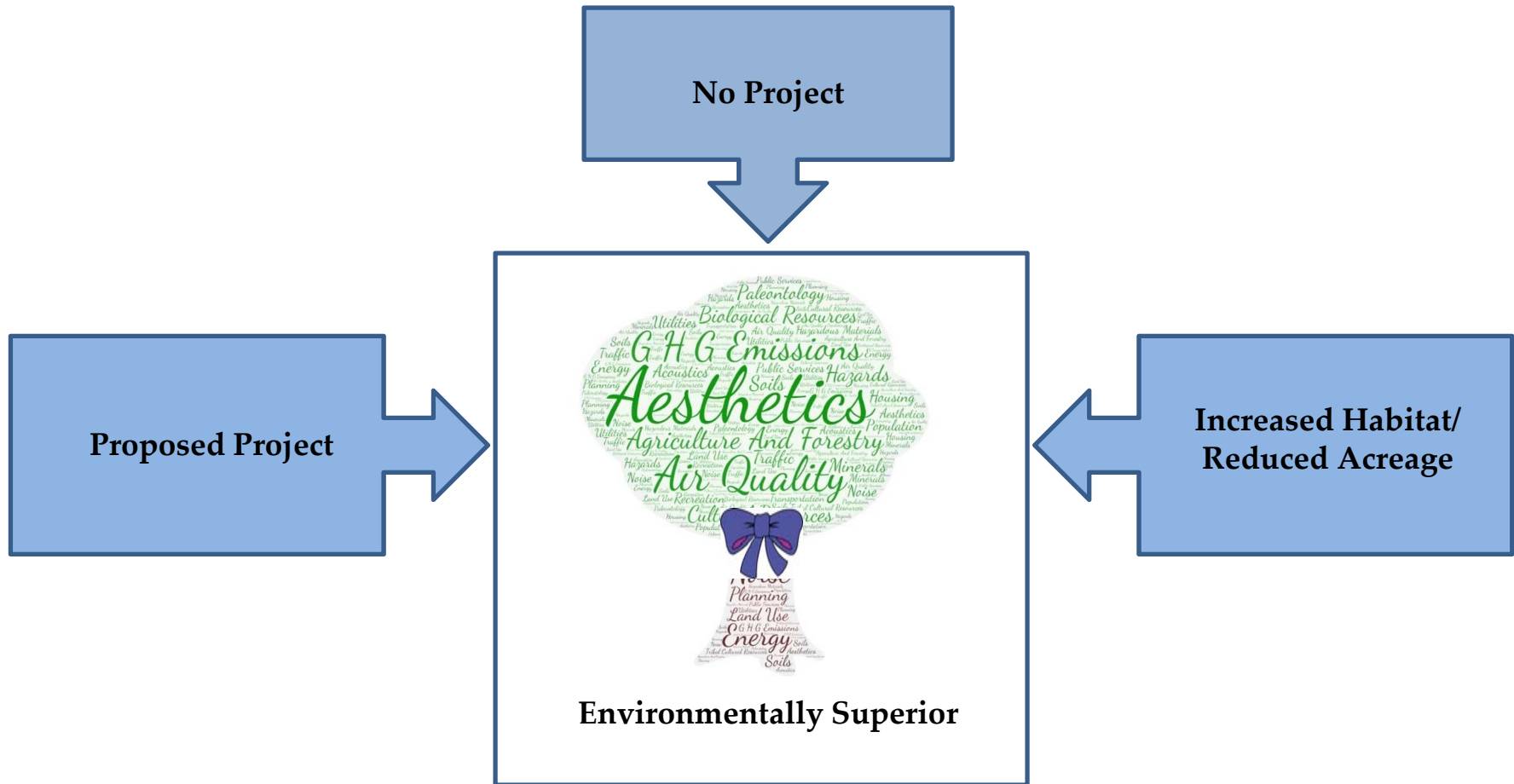
Increased Habitat/ Reduced Acreage

- Four CUPs
- No Little Bear 6
- Up to 160 megawatts on 1,127 acres
- Existing foraging, denning, and other habitat value maintained on 161 acres
- Potential impact to particular nest avoided
- Reduced impacts to groundwater supplies compared to Project.

Increased Habitat/ Reduced Acreage Alternative



Environmentally Superior Alternative



Public Participation

- **Speak at this evening's meeting**
- **Hand one of us a note using the comment cards provided**
- **Email or mail comments on or before October 15, 2018**

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Public Comments

- **Speaker Cards and Comment Sheets**
- **Requests**
 - State (and spell) your name clearly
 - One person to speak at a time
 - Support everyone's participation
 - Respect others' opinions
 - Written comments are encouraged
- **Suggestion: the most effective CEQA comments will focus on the adequacy and accuracy of the environmental analysis. Comments about other things can be considered as part of the decision-making process.**