

# Corridor 27-266

## Daggett-Victorville

### Introduction

Corridor 27-266 (Figures 1 and 2) extends northeast to southwest in southern California from the junction of Corridors 27-41 and 27-225 near Daggett to Victorville. Continuing projects would connect to Corridor 108-267 through an area lacking federally administered land. Federally designated portions of this corridor are entirely on BLM-administered land, with a 10,560-ft width throughout, consistent with existing plans. Corridor 27-266 is designated as multimodal and can therefore accommodate both electrical transmission and pipeline projects. The corridor spans 33.3 miles, with 19.9 miles designated on BLM-administered lands. The designated area is 25,899 acres or 40.47 square miles. This corridor is entirely in San Bernardino County, California and under the jurisdiction of the BLM Barstow Field Office. The corridor is entirely in Region 1.

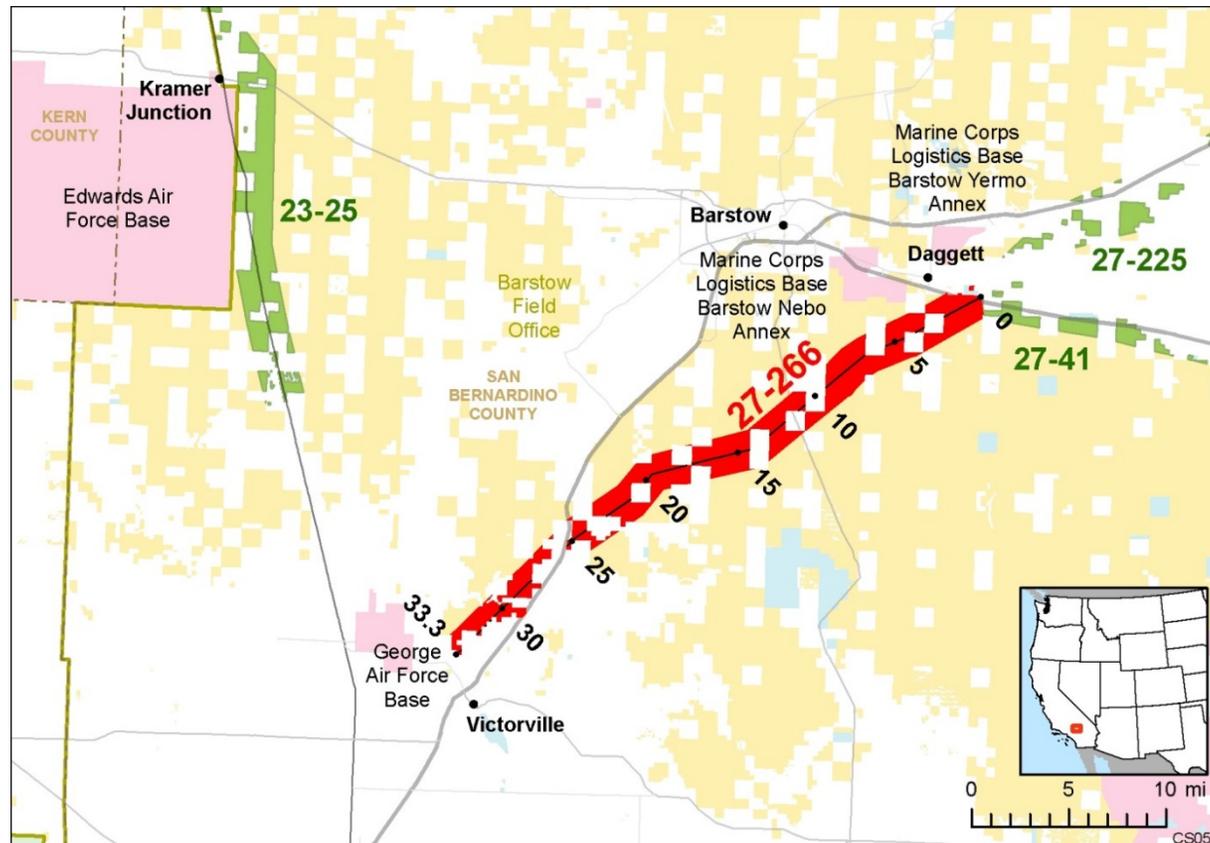
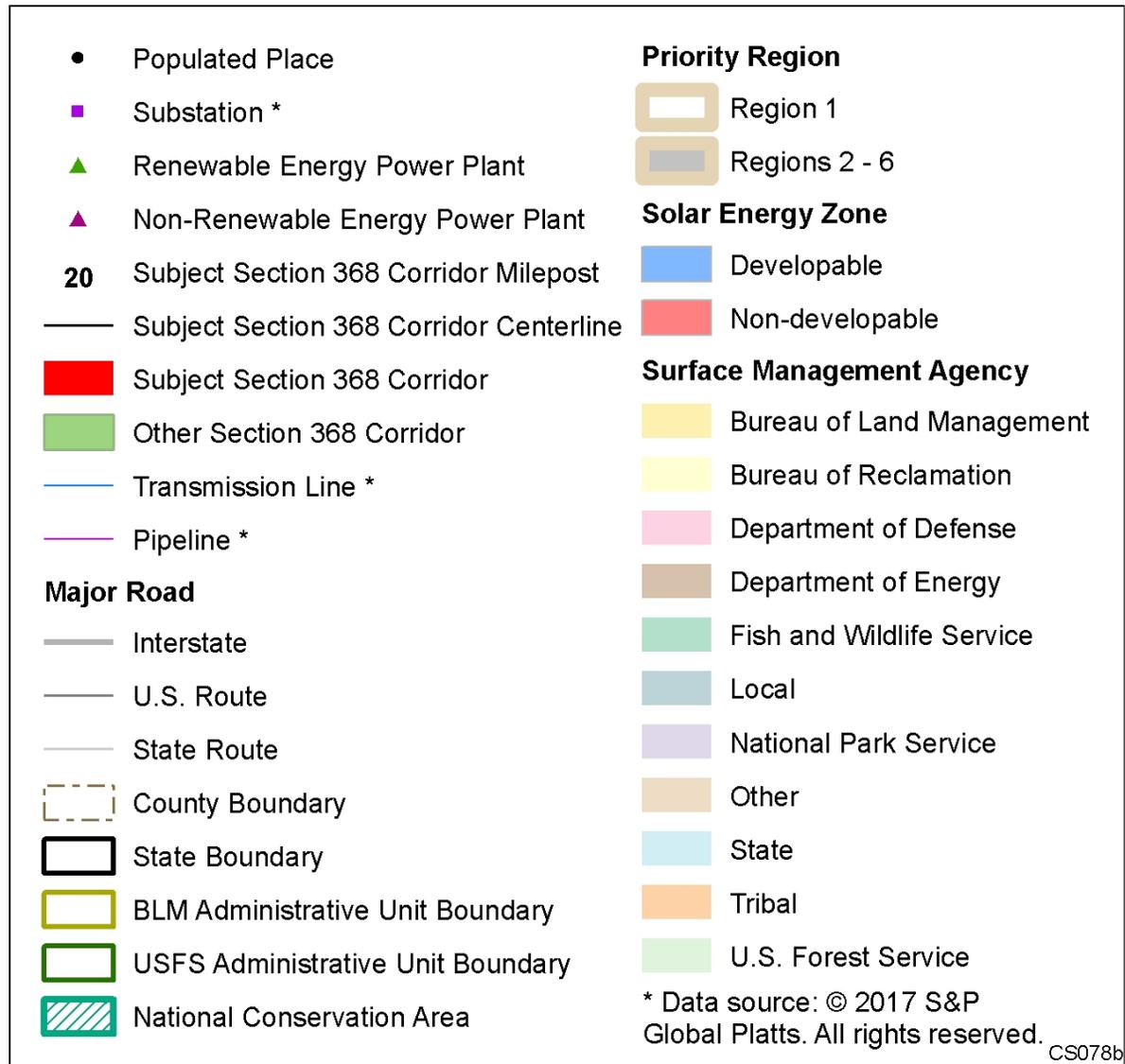


Figure 1. Corridor 27-266



Key

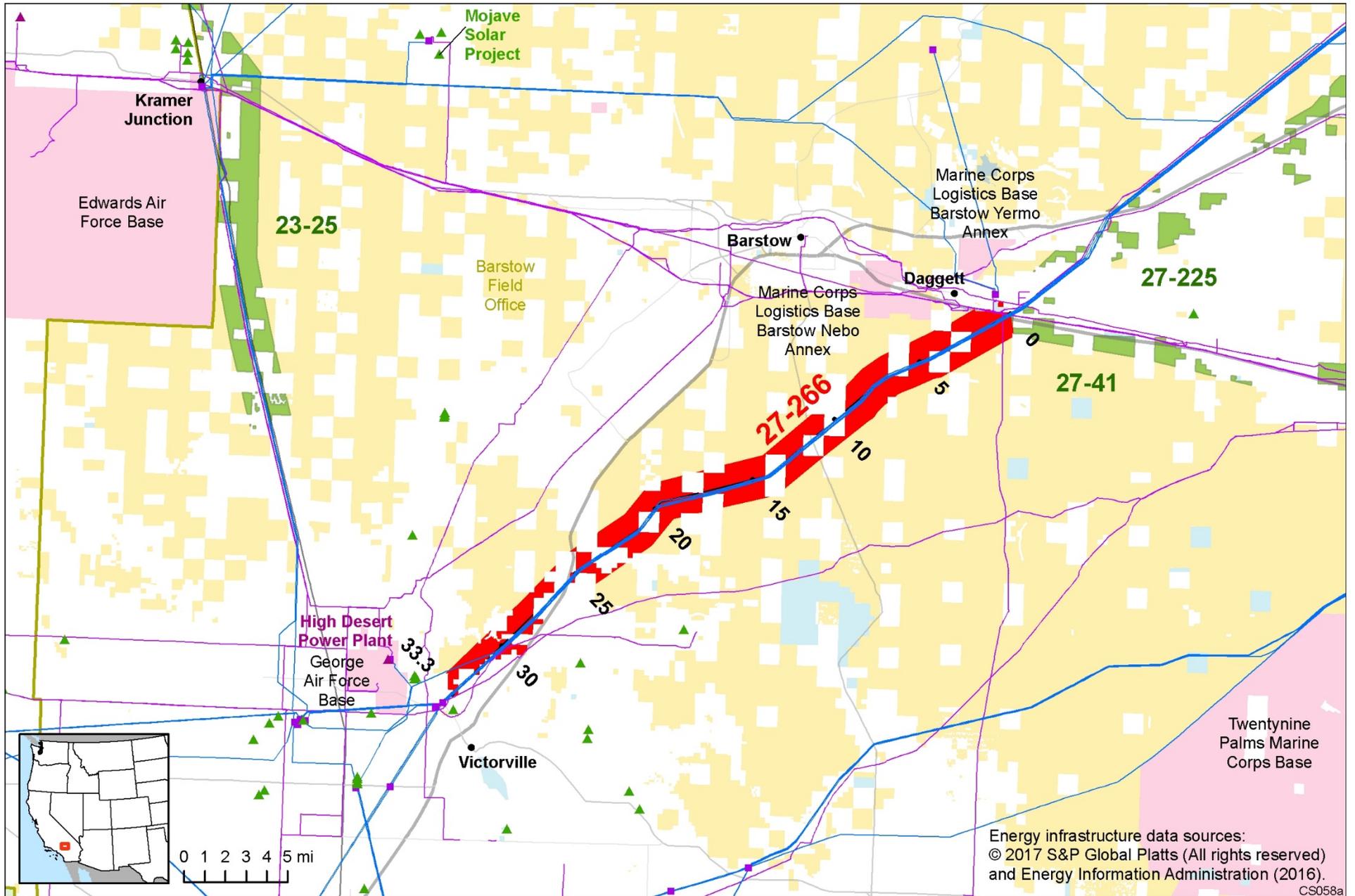


Figure 2. Corridor 27-266, Including Existing Energy Infrastructure

## Corridor Rationale

During scoping for the WWEC PEIS, routes generally following this corridor were suggested by the Frontier Line, Maximus USA, National Grid, the Rocky Mountain Area Transmission Study, Western Interconnect Transmission Paths, and the WUG. The corridor was designated as a Section 368 energy corridor consistent with the previously designated California Desert District energy corridor to support existing and future infrastructure.

*Existing Infrastructure:* Four transmission lines are in the corridor for its full length: Intermountain Power Agency (1,000-kV DC) and three LADWP (2 500 kV and 287 kV). Two SCE 115-kV transmission lines are in the corridor from MP 4.4 to MP 7.6 and cross it from MP 17.1 to MP 22.0. Two pipelines partially overlap the corridor from MP 29.5 to MP 33.2, one owned by Pacific Gas and Electric Company and one by Southern California Gas Company.

*Potential Future Development:* During interviews for the Corridor Study, the Barstow FO indicated that three proposed projects may be interested in this corridor. The Platts data indicate two planned projects with conceptual routes within the corridor, including a Frontier Line – LA and a Coolwater line. Around the southwest end of the corridor are 29 power plants, including High Desert (natural gas), Foundation Cenex River and Foundation Cenex BMQ (wind), and 26 solar energy plants. Around the northeast end of the corridor are three solar energy plants, including SEGS I and II and Newberry Solar 1 LLC. SCE indicated that there is 1,095 MW of CAISO-queued generation near or which could use the corridor. The corridor is likely to be used if a previously proposed upgrade to a 220-kV transmission line is retriggered. Environmental groups have opposed a new (and since canceled) transmission line proposed by SCE through this corridor to connect existing facilities between Kramer Junction and Adelanto, called the Coolwater-to-Lugo alignment. The corridor is also located within the Victorville/Barstow RETI 2.0 TAFE. The TAFE provides opportunity for the corridor to accommodate transmission tied to renewable energy development.

## Corridor of Concern Status

This corridor was not identified in the Settlement Agreement as a corridor of concern.

## Corridor Abstract Update

New data have been added to the Section 368 Energy Corridor Mapping Tool since the release of the draft abstracts in September 2016, including updated information made available in the ROD for the DRECP released later in September. A GIS view identifying high-, medium-, and low-conflict areas consistent with the screening criteria in 43 CFR 2804.35(a)-(c) has also been added to the mapping tool. A complete description of the mapping tool, a description of the high-, medium-, and low-conflict area, and a list of the GIS data sources are included in the report for the Region 1 Regional Review.

Additions to the corridor analysis table, based on input from stakeholders and additional Agency analysis, include WWEC purpose, special status species, specially designated areas (Old Spanish National Historic Trail and Northern Lucerne wildlife linkage), and visual resources.

Revisions, deletions, and additions to Section 368 energy corridors would be made only during the land-use planning process through a plan amendment for an individual project or a plan revision or new plan start. However, the Settlement Agreement sets forth a systematic process for the Agencies to review Section 368 energy corridors and provide recommendations for revisions, deletions, or additions to the Section 368 energy corridors. There were stakeholder recommendations in the 2014 RFI to reroute this corridor to avoid Mohave Ground Squirrel priority habitat. Suggestions for corridor revisions, deletions, or additions in response to the release of the draft abstracts included reducing the corridor width to avoid impacts to the Mojave Monkeyflower and desert tortoise critical habitat, deleting the corridor, and prohibiting future development in the corridor if there is insufficient space to accommodate another transmission. While habitat for special status species and specially designated areas exist along portions of the corridor, mapping of potential conflict areas

indicates there is no nearby previously disturbed alternative route that would avoid these areas. Based on Agency analysis, as well as input provided by stakeholders, corridor revisions, deletions, or additions are not recommended for Corridor 27-266.

### Corridor Analysis

The corridor analysis table below identifies concerns affecting Corridor 27-266, the location of the concerns within the corridor, and the results of the analysis of the concerns by the Agencies. Concerns are checked if they are known to apply to the corridor.

**Energy Planning Opportunities**

- Appropriate and acceptable uses
- WVEC purpose (e.g., renewable energy)
- Transmission and pipeline capacity opportunity

**Energy Planning Concerns**

- Physical barrier
- Jurisdictional concern
- Corridor alignment and spacing
- Transmission and pipeline capacity concern

**Land Management Responsibilities and Environmental Concerns**

- Acoustics
- Air quality
- Climate change
- Cultural resources
- Ecological resources
- Environmental justice
- Hydrological resources
- Lands and realty
- Lands with wilderness characteristics

- Livestock grazing
- Paleontology
- Public access and recreation
- Socioeconomics
- Soils/erosion
- Specially designated areas
- Tribal concerns
- Visual resources
- Wild horses and burros

**Interagency Operating Procedures**

REGION 1 – CORRIDOR 27-266 – ANALYSIS TABLE							
ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source: Context	Agency Review and Analysis
<b>ENERGY PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES</b>							
<i>WVEC Purpose</i>							
27-266 .new1	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	DLA (DRECP DFA: all technologies)	MP 0 to MP 1.3, MP 1.4 to MP 1.6, MP 26.2 to MP 26.5, MP 27.5 to MP 32.7	GIS Analysis.	The DFA provides an opportunity for the corridor to accommodate transmission tied to renewable energy development.
27-266 .new2	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	RETI 2.0 Victorville/Barstow TAFE		Comment on corridor abstract: the corridor is located within the Victorville/Barstow TAFE.	The TAFE provides an opportunity for the corridor to accommodate transmission tied to renewable energy development.
<b>ENERGY PLANNING CONCERNS</b>							
<i>Corridor Alignment and Spacing</i>							
27-266 .001	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Multiple transmission lines	MP 18.1 to MP 21.5	GIS Analysis: multiple transmission lines occupy and cross the corridor.	Corridor is 2 miles wide and has capacity for future projects. Proposed project siting and collocation alternatives to address impacts would be analyzed as

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source: Context	Agency Review and Analysis
							part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
<b>LAND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS</b>							
<b>Cultural Resources</b>							
27-266 .new3	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Serrano Ancestral Territory	Entire length of corridor.	Comment on corridor abstract: San Manuel Band of Mission Indians identified the corridor as being located within Serrano Ancestral Territory.	The Agencies would consult with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, as well as other California tribes, as required for any proposed project in the corridor.
<b>Ecology: Special Status Animal Species</b>							
27-266 .002	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Desert Tortoise critical habitat; Tortoise Conservation Areas (TCAs); Priority 1 and 2 habitat; and connectivity habitat (least-cost corridor for tortoise connectivity [USFWS 2012])	Critical habitat: MP 0.1 to MP 11.8 TCAs: MP 0.1 to MP 11.7 Priority 1 and 2 habitat: MP 0.1 to MP 1.7 Connectivity habitat: MP 0 to MP 20.5.	GIS Analysis: corridor crosses Desert Tortoise critical habitat. RFI: if additional transmission is permitted, site as close together as possible and with as little ground disturbance and vegetation clearing as possible. Reduce corridor width from the existing 10,560 ft to 3,500 ft.	There is no nearby alternative route that would avoid these habitats in an area with existing infrastructure and without gaps in jurisdiction. The DRECP has CMAs that allow for conservation of Desert Tortoise, Mohave Ground Squirrel, and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and habitat while also allowing for development including transmission specifically. Impacts on habitat and habitat connectivity can be avoided, minimized, or mitigated through activities identified and implemented in consultation with the USFWS under ESA Section 7. Analysis would be completed through the NEPA process (i.e., for RMP revision) on a case-by-case basis with a full range of alternatives. The BLM's mitigation hierarchy would be applied.
27-266 .003	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Priority habitat for Mohave Ground Squirrel	Not specified in comment and does not intersect corridor according to Mohave Ground Squirrel GIS data.	RFI: Stakeholders recommend consulting the Desert Manager's Group regarding parcels that are priority habitat for Mohave Ground Squirrel due their designation as "core" or "linkage" areas, and reroute	The corridor is not located in priority habitat for Mohave Ground Squirrel. Impacts on habitat would be analyzed and mitigated as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.

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						to avoid impacts to these parcels.	
27-266 .004	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher designated critical habitat	MP 33.8	RFI: consult with USFWS to avoid adverse modification of Desert Tortoise and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (within 2 km) designated critical habitat.	Impacts would be analyzed and mitigated as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws. The Regional Reviews do not result in decisions that require NEPA reviews or consultation. USFWS is participating in the Regional Reviews.
<b>Ecology: Terrestrial Wildlife, Big Game, Non-Migratory Birds, and Aquatic Biota</b>							
27-266 .005	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Southern California Wildlands Linkage	Not specified.	RFI: corridor intersects a Southern California Wildlands Linkage.	Impacts would be analyzed and mitigated as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
<b>Hydrology: Surface Water</b>							
27-266 .006	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Mojave River	MP 33.3	GIS Analysis: Mojave River comes within 0.5 mile of corridor end.	Impacts would be analyzed and mitigated as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
<b>Lands and Realty: Military and Civilian Aviation</b>							
27-266 .007	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Airstrip	MP 30.8	GIS Analysis: airstrip is within 1 mile southeast of corridor.	Impacts would be analyzed and mitigated as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
<b>Lands and Realty: Transportation</b>							
27-266 .008	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Interstate 40 (I-40)	MP 0 to MP 1.6	GIS Analysis: I-40 crosses corridor.	Consistent with BLM ROW regulations, notification to adjacent ROW holders would be provided.
27-266 .009	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Interstate 15 (I-15)	MP 24.7	GIS Analysis: I-15 crosses corridor and undesignated gap between corridor segments.	Consistent with BLM ROW regulations, notification to adjacent ROW holders would be provided.
27-266 .010	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Two PVTX rail lines	MP 28.9 to MP 30.5	GIS Analysis: two PVTX rail lines cross corridor.	Consistent with BLM ROW regulations, notification to adjacent ROW holders would be provided.

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source: Context	Agency Review and Analysis
<b><i>Specialty Designated Areas</i></b>							
27-266 .011	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes DRECP National Conservation Lands <sup>1</sup>	MP 5.2 to MP 11.7	GIS Analysis.	Impacts would be analyzed and mitigated as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
27-266 .new4	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	West Desert and Eastern Slopes DRECP National Conservation Lands <sup>1</sup>	MP 10.3 to MP 11.5	GIS Analysis.	Impacts would be analyzed and mitigated as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
27-266 .new5	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Mojave and Silurian Valley DRECP National Conservation Lands	MP 0.1 to MP 7.1	GIS Analysis.	Impacts would be analyzed and mitigated as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
27-266 .012	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Ord-Rodman ACEC	MP 5.8 to MP 11.7	GIS Analysis.	Impacts would be analyzed and mitigated as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
27-266 .013	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Daggett Ridge Monkey Flower ACEC	MP 0.1 to MP 7.8	GIS Analysis. Comment on corridor abstract: Mojave Monkeyflower ACEC is adjacent to, and touching, corridor. Designated as a unit of the CDNCL and established a surface disturbance limit of 0.5 percent. BLM also placed additional conservation measures regarding use of the existing commercial utility corridor. New utilities locating within the existing CDCA commercial utility corridor will be required to avoid Mojave Monkeyflower occurrences to the maximum extent practicable and provide compensation where avoidance is infeasible. No new	The Mojave monkeyflower ACEC was absorbed into the Daggett Ridge ACEC in the DRECP. Impacts would be analyzed and mitigated as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws. The current 10,560-ft corridor width provides greater flexibility for avoiding and minimizing impacts on sensitive areas than a reduced corridor width when siting additional infrastructure within the corridor. Disturbance caps are in place in this area to limit, offset, and address ground disturbance to acceptable levels (or with acceptable mitigation) to meet conservation goals in ACECs and other conservation allocations in the DRECP area. Disturbance cap thresholds (and

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ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern	Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])	Source: Context	Agency Review and Analysis
						vehicle routes are allowed in the ACEC, and all vehicle traffic is currently limited to routes designated in 2006 as open to such use. Reduced corridor width from the existing 10,560 ft to 3,500 ft.	whether the cap will be reached by the proposed action) are determined at the time of new project consideration and analysis (DRECP LUPA, Section II.2 p. 31, BLM 2016a).
27-266 .new6	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Old Spanish National Historic Trail	MP 33	Comment on corridor abstract: unlikely to be a constraint given the nature of the existing infrastructure.	The DRECP has CMAs for NHTs.
27-266 .new7	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Northern Lucerne Wildlife Linkage ACEC	MP 16.5 to MP 18.8, MP 22.0 to MP 28	GIS Analysis. Comment on corridor abstract: established in the BLM's 2016 DRECP LUPA for the protection of wildlife habitat within the linkage. ROW applications for new facilities within the ACEC on a case-by-case basis. Any authorizations must be compatible with the management goals and objectives. The ACEC is subject to a maximum surface disturbance limit of 0.5 percent.	Impacts would be analyzed and mitigated as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws. Disturbance caps are in place in this area to limit, offset, and address ground disturbance to acceptable levels (or with acceptable mitigation) to meet conservation goals in ACECs and other conservation allocations in the DRECP area. Disturbance cap thresholds (and whether the cap will be reached by the proposed action) are determined at the time of new project consideration and analysis (DRECP LUPA, Section II.2 p. 31, BLM 2016a).
27-266 .new8	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	Brisbane Valley Monkey Flower ACEC	MP 28.3 to MP 30	GIS Analysis.	Impacts would be analyzed and mitigated as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
27-266 .new9	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	DRECP Stoddard Valley Open OHV Area	MP 11.1 to MP 23.4	GIS Analysis.	While renewable energy developments are not allowed in open OHV areas, transmission is allowed in these areas.
27-266 .new10	BLM	Barstow FOt	San Bernardino, CA	DRECP Stoddard/Johnson SRMA	MP 1.3 to MP 25.5	GIS Analysis.	Impacts would be analyzed and mitigated as part of the project-specific

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							environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
<b>Visual Resources</b>							
27-266 .new11	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	VRM Class II	MP 28.0, MP 28.5 and MP 29.9	GIS Analysis. VRM Class II areas are adjacent to corridor.	The corridor does not intersect VRM Class II areas. Impacts would be analyzed and mitigated as part of the project-specific environmental review required under NEPA and other Federal laws.
27-266 .new12	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	VRM Class II	MP 32.8 to MP 33.3	GIS Analysis.	VRM class objectives are binding land use plan decisions. Transmission facilities must demonstrate that they will conform to the VRM decisions in the land use plan through a hard-look visual impacts analysis outlined in BLM VRM Contrast Rating Handbook H 8431-1 (VRM Manual Section (MS) 8400, BLM 1986). Minimizing visual contrast remains a requirement of applicable VRM class objectives even when the proposed action is in conformance with these VRM class objectives (VRM MS-8400).
27-266 .014	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	VRM Class III	MP 0.1 to MP 11.7, MP 28.1 to MP 28.5, MP 29.8 to MP 30.0	GIS Analysis.	
27-266 .new13	BLM	Barstow FO	San Bernardino, CA	VRM Class IV	MP 0 to MP 1.7, MP 11.2 to MP 33.3	GIS Analysis.	While VRM Class IV objectives allow for major modification to occur and management activities may dominate the view, minimizing visual contrast remains a requirement of these VRM class objectives. Ratings are required in areas of high sensitivity or high impact (VRM MS-8400).
<b>Other Issues</b>							
27-266 .new14						Stakeholder suggestions included removing the corridor because of its proximity to various environmental impacts and prohibiting future development in the corridor if there is insufficient space to	While there are special status species and specially designated areas in and around the corridor, there is no nearby alternative route that would avoid these areas in an area with existing infrastructure and without gaps in jurisdiction. Installation and operation of

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						accommodate another transmission. Last, input was provided clarifying existing capacity and potential for new capacity.	high-voltage electric transmission lines and pipelines in the same corridor must adhere to established colocation protocol. The input provided by stakeholders regarding existing capacity and potential for future capacity has been added to the corridor abstracts and has been considered in the Agencies' analysis.

Abbreviations: ACEC = Area of Critical Environmental Concern; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CDCA = California Desert Conservation Area; CDNCL = California Desert National Conservation Lands; CFR = Code of Federal Regulations; DFA = Development Focus Area; DLA = Designated Leasing Area; DoD = Department of Defense; DRECP = Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan; ESA = Endangered Species Act; FO = Field Office; GIS = geographic information system; LADWP = Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; LLC = Limited Liability Company; LUPA = Land Use Plan Amendment; MP = milepost; NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act; OHV = off-highway vehicle; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; RFI = Request for Information; SEGS = Solar Energy Generating Systems; TCA = Tortoise Conservation Area; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; VRM = Visual Resource Management; WECC = Western Energy Coordinating Council; WUG = Western Utility Group; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.

<sup>1</sup> California Desert Conservation Area replaced by DRECP National Conservation Lands.