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2.1 PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.) requires that all state and local governmental agencies consider the environmental consequences of projects over which they have discretionary authority before approving those projects. This draft program environmental impact report (PEIR) has been prepared to satisfy CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations § 15000 et seq.). The environmental impact report (EIR) is the public document designed to provide decision makers and the public with an analysis of the environmental effects of a proposed project, to indicate possible ways to reduce or avoid environmental damage and to identify alternatives to the project. The EIR must also disclose significant environmental impacts that cannot be avoided; growth inducing impacts; effects not found to be significant; and significant cumulative impacts of all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects.

The lead agency means “the public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project which may have a significant effect upon the environment” (CEQA Guidelines § 21067). The County of San Bernardino (County) has the principal responsibility for approval of the proposed San Bernardino Countywide Plan (CWP or proposed Project). For this reason, the County is the CEQA lead agency for the Project.

The intent of the PEIR is to provide sufficient information on the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project to allow the County to make an informed decision regarding approval of the Project. Specific discretionary actions to be reviewed by the County are described in Section 3.4, *Intended Uses of the EIR*.

This PEIR has been prepared in accordance with requirements of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, and its overall purpose is to inform the lead agency, responsible agencies, decision makers, and the general public about the environmental effects of the development and operation of the proposed Project. This PEIR addresses effects that may be significant and adverse; evaluates alternatives to the Project; and identifies mitigation measures to reduce or avoid adverse effects.

2.2 PUBLIC SCOPING

2.2.1 Notice of Preparation

The Notice of Preparation (NOP) process helps determine the scope of the environmental issues to be addressed in the PEIR. The County determined that a full scope EIR would be required for this Project and issued an NOP on October 13, 2017 (see Appendix A). The public was provided with a 30-day public review period to comment on the NOP from October 17, 2017, through November 20, 2017. Table 2-1 compiles the

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comments received from commenting agencies/persons and identifies the section(s) of this PEIR where the issues are addressed. All NOP comments received during the public review period are in Appendix A.

Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
Agencies			
Native America Heritage Commission (NAHC) Gayle Totton, MA, PhD, Associate Governmental Program Analyst	10/19/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides details on Senate Bill 18 (SB 18) and Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) requirements Recommends lead agencies consult with all California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project area per AB 52 and SB 18 requirements States that lead agencies should contact appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System Centers for an archaeological records search of the Project area; prepare a professional cultural resources assessment report; contact the NAHC for a Sacred Lands File search and Native American Tribal Consultation List Lead agencies should include mitigation to reduce impacts to potentially inadvertently discovered archaeological resources during project construction, including plans for the disposition of recovered cultural items and human remains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.5, <i>Cultural Resources</i> Section 5.17, <i>Tribal Cultural Resources</i>
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 8 Mark Roberts, Office Chief, Intergovernmental Review, Community and Regional Planning	10/30/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Transportation and Mobility topic in the Built Environment Element of the CWP should include language requiring the County to develop policies that a) stress coordination between the County and Caltrans early in the land use and transportation planning process and b) require new development to defray all or a portion of the cost of transportation facilities related to the development project through the Development Impact Fee (Gov. Code § 66000(b)). Encourages the County to plan for a sustainable, integrated, safe, and efficient transportation system with complete streets States that a pedestrian/bike-friendly environment served by multimodal transportation would reduce traffic congestion prevalent in surrounding areas Requests the County coordinate with transit operators to reconfigure existing transit routes, stops, and schedules to connect the County to regions with other modes of transportation, especially with passenger rail system. Coordinated transit services can lead to increases in transit/rail ridership and a reduction of vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions Suggests promoting the use of alternative transportation systems by upgrading and implementing the proposed Class II and Class III Bikeways to Class IV Protected Bikeways, particularly on truck routes and in high density 	<p>These comments provide content recommendations for the Transportation & Mobility Element of the proposed Countywide Plan (CWP) and are not specifically related to the scope of the PEIR.</p> <p>Project impacts on existing traffic and transportation conditions are analyzed in Section 5.16, <i>Transportation and Traffic</i>, and Appendix L, <i>Transportation Impact Analysis</i> of this PEIR.</p>

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Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
		employment/commercial areas. Consider providing bicycle parking, shower facilities, bicycle storage, and designing facilities with easy and safe bicycle access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages designing local streets to serve vehicular and pedestrian circulation equally; stresses importance of pedestrian and bicyclist mobility • Promotes a continuous multimodal circulation system throughout the County and creating a pedestrian friendly environment. Recommends urban street frontages, high visibility crosswalks, open space/pocket parks, no-car zones in downtown areas, traffic calming devices, etc. to improve safety and enhance walkability with a community 	
South Coast Air Quality Management District Lijin Sun, J.D. Program Supervisor, CEQA IGR Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources	11/17/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States that the lead agency should use SCAQMD's CEQA Air Quality Handbook and CalEEMod land use emissions software when preparing its air quality analysis. • The EIR should identify any potential adverse air quality impacts (construction and operation) that could occur from all phases of the project and all air pollutant sources related to the project. • The EIR should quantify criteria pollutant emissions and localized significance thresholds and compare the results to the regional and localized significant thresholds, respectively. • Air quality impacts from all phases (construction and operations) should be calculated. • A mobile health risk assessment is recommended if a proposed project generates or attracts substantial vehicular trips, especially heavy-duty diesel-fueled vehicles. • All feasible mitigation measures should be utilized for significant adverse air quality impacts. If impacts remain significant, project alternatives shall be considered and discussed to avoid or substantially lessen the air quality and health risk impacts. • If a proposed project requires a permit from SCAQMD, SCAQMD should be identified as a responsible agency for the proposed project. • In the event that a proposed project generates significant adverse air quality impacts, CEQA requires that all feasible mitigation measures that go beyond what is required by law be utilized during project construction and operation to minimize or eliminate these impacts • In the event that a proposed project generates significant adverse air quality impacts, CEQA requires the consideration and discussion of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.3, <i>Air Quality</i> • Section 5.7, <i>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</i> • Chapter 7, <i>Alternatives</i> • A detailed mobile health risk assessment was not prepared because it is beyond the scope of this program EIR. Section 5.3, <i>Air Quality</i>, qualitatively discusses potential impacts of diesel particulate matter (air toxics?) due to planned development. Also, individual projects would be required to undergo individual CEQA review, potentially including a detailed health risk assessment for air toxics.

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Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
		alternatives to the project or its location which are capable of avoiding or substantially lessening any of the significant effects of the project	
San Bernardino County Department of Defense (DoD) Working Group	11/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The working group represents the County’s five military installations: Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Edwards Air Force Base, National Training Center/Fort Irwin, and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center/Marine Corps Task Force Training Command • Requests inclusion of a Military Element in the CWP that provides a framework of guidelines to protect military operations and training at the five San Bernardino County military installations. This would include the protection and designation of Military Influence Areas, Risk of Adverse Impact on Military Operations and Readiness Areas, Military Training Routes, and Special Use Airspace. In addition, the Military Element would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Policies for long-term economic development b. Guidance for developing collaborative partnerships among military and community stakeholders c. Strategies that protect residents’ health, safety, and welfare from military operations, noise, and other impacts • Requests establishment of processes and policies for military input on proposed projects in sensitive areas identified in the Military Element, including timely project notification • Requests consideration and analysis of updates to code, zoning, and ordinances in the subsequent Countywide Implementation Plan that would protect military training through encroachment prevention, including the protection of habitat, wildlife corridors, water sustainment and security, and dark skies, as well as the development of local military base real estate disclosure, noise attenuation standards, and additional policies related to unmanned aircraft systems • Requests analysis of encroachment factors of San Bernardino County’s military installations that include land under the County’s jurisdiction, and also considers trends and policy related to the development of federal land. The analysis would include projections of population, development, and economic growth. It would also include an evaluation of current and foreseeable local, state, and federal policy related to land use, air quality, special use air space and military influence areas, water resources, threatened and endangered species, unmanned aircraft systems, and potential increases in renewable energy development 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.

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Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests an economic analysis that evaluates the value and impact of San Bernardino County's five military installations to the County. The analysis shall include activity that takes place on or in association with the DoD installations in San Bernardino County, and the contracts between both the DoD and private contractors, as well as DoD related employment, earnings, and expenditures 	
<p>Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)</p> <p>Glenn S. Robertson Engineering Geologist, M.S., PG Basin Planning Coastal Waters Section, CEQA Coordinator</p>	<p>11/20/17</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main concerns include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The need for sewers to replace septic systems in Bloomington and otherwise, the County's area of the Jurupa Hills, and as needed, related pump stations to boost sewage to treatment plants – Implementation of preserves of alluvial fan area, including sites vegetated with alluvial fan scrub, to target protection of the endangered San Bernardino kangaroo rat. Regional Board staff has recognized this species to be dependent on sheet flow across the coalescing fans emanating from the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains, and therefore warranting the concept of protection through the Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species (RARE) and Wildlife Habitat (WILD) beneficial uses of the Santa Ana Region Basin Plan. The Stephens kangaroo rat and related species, as well as listed species dependent on arroyo and streambed habitats, are considered to be covered by RARE as well. – A review of the likely necessary flow volume for sustainability, and for connectivity between reaches of the Santa Ana River, for the endangered Santa Ana sucker fish. – Watershed preservation possibilities for remaining wildlands within San Bernardino County, from the Chino Hills to Yucaipa to the Big Bear area, in harmony with urban, foothill, and mountain communities. The San Bernardino County portion of San Timoteo Canyon may be combined with the Riverside County portion for a sediment loss study and the means to prevent erosion into the San Timoteo Creek watershed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.4, <i>Biological Resources</i> • Section 5.6, <i>Geology and Soils</i> • Section 5.9, <i>Hydrology and Water Quality</i> • Section 5.18, <i>Utilities and Service Systems</i>
<p>Lahontan RWQCB</p> <p>Shelby Barker, PG, CHG Engineering Geologist</p>	<p>11/20/17</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage low impact development strategies for storm water management • The following comments on the CWP are outlined below and are germane only to those activities that have the potential to occur within the Lahontan Region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The County is urged to develop policies and procedures, incorporating LID strategies, to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.9, <i>Hydrology and Water Quality</i> • Section 5.18, <i>Utilities and Service Systems</i> • Chapter 7, <i>Alternatives</i> • Section 9.2, <i>Growth-Inducing Impacts of the Proposed Project</i>

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		<p>provide for floodplain protection and establish buffer zones around surface water resources within land use areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Countywide Plan should consider LID strategies including: maintaining natural drainage paths and landscape features to slow and filter runoff and maximize groundwater recharge; managing runoff as close to the source as possible; and maintaining vegetated areas for stormwater management and onsite infiltration. - Post-construction storm water management must be considered a significant component of the Countywide Plan. Of particular concern are collection of storm water runoff and the concentrated discharge of that storm water to natural drainage channels. Where feasible, policy and design alternatives should be considered that redirect these flows to areas where they will dissipate by percolation into the landscape rather than directly discharge to surface water. - The County should incorporate adaptive management strategies into the CWP that will allow for: (1) periodic updates to Best Management Practices (BMP) lists based on the working knowledge of what is effective and where, and (2) periodic updates to document changes in habitat and environmental resources associated with land uses over time. - The cumulative impacts on water quality and hydrology over time must be fully evaluated in the environmental document. The analysis should consider the potential impacts from development and infrastructure within the watershed and evaluate, at minimum, the potential impacts to groundwater recharge due to increased impervious surface and compacted soils, changes in the hydrology of the respective watershed(s) and potential flooding implications, and habitat connectivity. The cumulative impacts analysis should identify both regional and project-specific mitigation measures that, when implemented, will reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides permitting requirements and general information to be included in the EIR specific to the Lahontan Region. 	<p>Cumulative impacts and mitigation measures for each environmental topical area are analyzed throughout Chapter 5 of this PEIR.</p>

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Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Ping Chang, Acting Manager, Compliance and Performance Monitoring	11/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCAG reviews environmental documents for regionally significant projects for their consistency with SCAG’s adopted Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) Provides list of SCAG 2016 RTP/SCS goals; link to listing of RTP/SCS strategies; adopted SCAG forecasts of 2020, 2035, and 2040 population, household, and employment forecasts for the County; and recommended mitigation measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.10, <i>Land Use and Planning</i>
Organizations			
Endangered Habitats League (EHL) Dan Silver, Executive Director	10/18/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) should be referenced in the CWP’s land use, transportation, conservation, and open space elements and incorporated as a program to help direct mitigation for infrastructure and development and conserve biological resources 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR. Additionally, Project impacts on biological resources are analyzed in Section 5.4, <i>Biological Resources</i> , of this PEIR.
Sierra Club San Bernardino Mountains Group Robert Sherman, Co-Chair Conservation Committee	10/24/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that the EIR is required to identify alternatives, mitigation, cumulative impacts, and growth-inducing impacts of the CWP Provides the following list of potential impacts that should be analyzed in the EIR: Aesthetics; Biological Resources (including wildlife habitat, areas of critical environmental concern, and ecological protection criteria/standards); GHG emissions; Land Use/Planning (zoning ordinances and policies); Population; Circulation/Transportation; Agriculture and Forestry Resources; Cultural Resources; Hazards/Hazardous Materials; Mineral Resources; Utilities/Service Systems; Air Quality; Geology/Soils; Hydrology/Water Quality; Noise; Recreation; and Environmental Justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7, <i>Alternatives</i> Section 9.2, <i>Growth-Inducing Impacts of the Proposed Project</i> Cumulative impacts and mitigation measures for each environmental topical area are analyzed throughout Chapter 5 of this PEIR. These impacts are addressed in sections 5.1 through 5.18 of the PEIR, except for environmental justice, which is not a CEQA topic. See the expanded discussion on this topic in Section 2.2.3.

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Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians Anthony Madrigal, Jr., Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	11/17/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about some of the community plan areas having an adverse impact on cultural resources related to the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians Requests to review the CWP and PEIR once they are made available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.5, <i>Cultural Resources</i> Section 5.17, <i>Tribal Cultural Resources</i>
Inland Empire Biking Alliance Marven E. Norman, Policy Director	11/19/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that traffic impacts must be analyzed using the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) metric per SB 743 Any traffic analysis completed based on the level of service (LOS) standard shall include an analysis of LOS impacts to all users, including bicyclists and pedestrians The County should make full use of Fehr & Peer's StreetScore+ tool to analyze bicyclist and pedestrian impacts Encourages use of roundabouts at intersections instead of traffic signals to reduce potential for serious bicyclist and pedestrian injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.16, <i>Transportation and Traffic</i> Appendix L, <i>Transportation Impact Analysis</i> See the expanded discussion on this topic in Section 2.2.3 provided.>
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ) Michele Hasson, Policy Director	11/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States the CWP should have an environmental justice (EJ) element Recommends specific analysis of Project impacts on all EJ communities and inclusion of appropriate mitigation measures 	Environmental justice is not a CEQA topic. See the expanded discussion on this topic in Section 2.2.3.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents living in EJ communities (i.e., Bloomington) should be adequately notified to ensure participation in the outreach process for the PEIR Requests the NOP public review period be extended 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR. See the expanded discussion on this topic in Section 2.2.3.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommends analysis of air quality impacts based on the South Coast Air Quality Management District's Air Quality Management Plan. In particular, analysis of impacts related to ozone and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) Air quality impacts should include analysis based on both Indirect Source Rule (ISR) and non-ISR scenarios Recommends a health impact assessment be prepared as part of the PEIR, analyzing impacts on sensitive land uses within a 0.5-, 1-, 1.5-, and 2-mile radius of industrial zoned land Requests an analysis of potential increases in health care costs for residents in EJ communities due to exposure to elevated toxins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.3, <i>Air Quality</i> Section 5.7, <i>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</i> Appendix B, <i>Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Data</i> <p>Environmental justice is not a CEQA topic. See the expanded discussion on this topic in Section 2.2.3.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned the use of SCAG's RTP/SCS population and employment information does not take into account recent development, especially new industrial development (i.e., logistic centers) in Bloomington 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.13, <i>Population and Housing</i> <p>According to CEQA, a PEIR must compare existing conditions to the development potential that would be allowed through</p>

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Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends the PEIR analyze current zoning and create new metrics for projected growth, particularly for EJ communities 	<p>implementation of a proposed project. In this case, data on existing conditions, provided by SCAG and supplemented by County of San Bernardino Assessor Parcel GIS data, would be compared to Countywide Plan projections.</p> <p>Existing and future zoning designations are not part of this PEIR analysis. Current zoning went through a previous CEQA analysis. The State of California has not adopted CEQA metrics for comparing existing and proposed conditions specific to population and housing in or outside of SB 1000 environmental justice areas.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends that all public information available on amendments proposed by developers or other entities to change land use designations in unincorporated be included in the PEIR as part of the analysis 	<p>Land use amendments proposed by developers or other entities are required to undergo a separate CEQA review process and are not incorporated into this PEIR.</p>
<p>Defenders of Wildlife Kim Delfino, California Program Director</p>	<p>11/20/17</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends the County engage in consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for guidance on impact assessment and mitigation • Encourages the County to undertake a comprehensive review of the California Natural Diversity Database and RAREFIND Program • Recommends the PEIR utilize the extensive biological information outlined in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Desert Biological Conservation Framework • Data from the County's RCIS planning effort also provides information on focal species to be analyzed by the PEIR • Long-term resource conservation and open space planning/management should be addressed and incorporated into the PEIR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.4, <i>Biological Resources</i> Appendix D, <i>San Bernardino County Plan Biological Resources Existing Conditions Report</i> • Section 5.10, Land Use and Planning (DRECP summary) <p>Analysis of resource conservation and open space opportunities in individual community plan areas is beyond the scope of this PEIR, which analyzes the impacts of proposed land</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PEIR should include a section that analyzes resource conservation and open space opportunities in individual community plan areas • Analysis of the proposed Project's impacts on the County's biological and ecological resources shall be included (e.g., focal species, water resources, California desert) • Recommends analyzing the Project's consistency with the DRECP policies • There is opportunity for the County to integrate the CWP and RCIS planning efforts to craft future growth in a manner that minimizes further loss of habitat for threatened and endangered species • Analysis of military installations areas and their impacts on conservation (i.e., military encroachment issues) should be included in the PEIR • Future renewable energy developments have the potential to convert thousands of acres of open lands to industrial use • The PEIR's cumulative analysis should take into account renewable energy development in the region 	<p>uses and policies of the CWP.</p> <hr/> <p>The DRECP policies addresses BLM properties. The CWP has no jurisdiction over these lands</p> <hr/> <p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p> <hr/> <p>The military installation areas are not proposed for change under the proposed Project. Thus, no impacts related to military installation areas and nearby open space/conservation areas are anticipated.</p> <hr/> <p>Cumulative impacts and mitigation measures for each environmental topical area are analyzed throughout Chapter 5 of this PEIR. Section 4.4 of Chapter 4 also details the assumptions for cumulative impact analysis. Please also see discussion on Renewable Energy in Section 2.2.3.</p>
<p>Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association (LVEDA)</p> <p>Chuck Bell, President</p>	<p>11/20/17</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends maintaining the natural viewsheds of the desert communities along roads designated scenic (especially Highway 247) and utilizing zoning and development standards to reduce the potential for aesthetic impacts • Recommends increasing County Code Enforcement's budget and staff to address issues related to abandoned structures, illegal dumps, etc. • Suggests continuing the County's current policy of 'no permit required' for general agricultural practices – except large-scale chicken/egg ranches, marijuana farms, etc. • County EHS should notify well drillers when they pull permits for locations in the adjudicated portion of the desert of the need to inform their clients to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.1, <i>Aesthetics</i>, addresses viewsheds along designated scenic highways. Zoning and development standards are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR. <hr/> <p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p>

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		<p>contact the Mojave Basin Watermaster (Mojave Water Agency) regarding the requirement to obtain water rights if pumping over 10 acres per year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends the County adopt a 'soil amendment' ordinance requiring the sources and haulers of bio-solids/compost/green waste mulch to register with the County Department of Agriculture the locations and owners where said commodities are being deposited • Suggests the County Department of Agriculture work with the Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District and USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service regarding BMPs for starting a new farm to avoid blowing dirt • Recommends County and Cal Fire to actively remove dead trees and biomass and to thin trees in overgrown forests both on private and public lands to reduce fire potential and to maintain a healthier forest • Suggests the County work with the Mojave Desert AQMD to regulate and control stationary source emissions – but oppose any further State GHG onerous requirements – especially for mineral production • States that the County should enforce current Development Code requirements related to illegal and legal land scraping/brush removal to avoid blowing dirt/dust onto adjacent parcels • Suggests the County implement a County-wide habitat conservation plan to simplify and expedite permitting where a project could result in a 'taking' of a listed species; maintain the integrity of biological/wildlife corridors by not allowing intrusive projects within them; and not allow removal or disturbance of native vegetation for renewable energy projects • Each community plan needs to include lists provided by the residents of the cultural resource features and elements they want preserved • County should avoid requiring cultural surveys where it is known no such resources exist • The County needs to help organize and support household hazardous waste collection programs in desert communities to help keep these materials out of the landfills and reduce illegal dumping • The CWP needs to limit population growth and certain land uses (via zoning, etc.) to levels which can be sustained by the long-term availability of water supplies based on projected averages • Opposes 'big box' stores in rural communities; any franchise store should be locally owned and 	

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		<p>operated to better conform to rural-based customs and cultures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County should work with USFS and BLM to expedite mining projects on public lands • Housing that is relatively affordable and rent control ordinances can help our current and future residents – but what is too affordable (i.e., in some rural communities) allows the influx of undesirable demographics • The County should create a housing program for the homeless (i.e., partnerships with Salvation Army or churches) • Need more budget for law and code enforcement in the desert communities • The County needs to fund County regional and community parks and work with the USFS and BLM to provide better public access to trails • SANBAG should compensate communities like Lucerne Valley for road repairs resulting from tremendous amounts of truck traffic that hauls cement, limestone, and aggregate to within and outside the County • Tribal consultations are state mandated, but the County should adopt time limits for tribal responses; most projects have little or no effects on these resources • The County needs to become a Community Choice Aggregate/Advocate to facilitate local communities in obtaining a 'community solar project' – strictly for its own use tied to its local transmission/substation systems • County lobbyists need to engage more with the California Public Utilities Commission and California Energy Commission in their actions and decisions affecting our County • The County needs to work with Southern California Edison to lower the costs of power extensions 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise analysis should include construction and operational noise impacts • Highway/road traffic noise needs to be better reflected in approvals of residential subdivisions (i.e., with buffering land uses in between) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.12, <i>Noise</i>
<p>Newberry Springs Community Alliance</p> <p>Ted Stimpfel, President</p>	<p>11/20/17</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States that the streamlining attempt by the Countywide Plan is creating a discriminating injustice to the less populated desert regions. Urban and rural areas are vastly different in their needs and one streamlined general plan cannot justly serve two masters • Desert residents do not want solar development and request the inclusion of Policy 4.10 in the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggests rooftop solar (Distribution Solar) instead of large scale solar farms to reduce environmental impacts while still utilizing this renewable energy • Newberry Springs residents want their existing environment and current zoning respected. Any changes to zoning in Newberry Springs are strongly opposed • Solar development in the Desert Region will result in impacts to open spaces, viewsheds, aesthetics, wildlife, population and housing, desert vegetation, and general biological resources • Requests a ban on all future utility-scale alternative energy developments in the CWP 	
Morongo Basin Conservation Association (MBCA) Pat Flanagan, Director	11/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States that aesthetic impacts of the CWP should be addressed in the PEIR • Provides an example of substantial aesthetic impacts of the Joshua Tree Solar Farm project • For the Morongo Basin, the PEIR must evaluate the findings and maps of the Morongo Basin Conservation Priorities Report – a strategy for preserving conservation values – 20128 and the web based conservation priorities mapping tool searchable by parcel APN number or address • Notes that County Scenic Highway 247 is eligible as a scenic highway and should be protected as such 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.1, <i>Aesthetics</i> <p>This report is not part of the CWP and therefore is not within the scope of this PEIR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.1, <i>Aesthetics</i> <p>This comment is not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.3, <i>Air Quality</i> • Section 5.4, <i>Biological Resources</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County must develop guidelines for project visualizations that provide images that are truthful and useful. Visualization must reflect what the human eye would see from a travelers or residents viewpoint relative to the project 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sand transport path (STP) extends east from the Joshua Tree Basin for approximately 134 miles towards Blythe; there are also multiple STPs in the County east of Victorville • STPs must be acknowledged for its soil and hazard of blowing dust • The Mojave Desert’s PM₁₀ levels are currently above the standard threshold; there are also no PM₁₀ monitors west of Victorville to give accurate baseline information • The AQMD Fugitive Dust Rule 403.2 is out of date and dust control techniques are shown not to be effective on large solar projects with 30+ year lifetimes • According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, sand sheets are stabilized by the roots of Galleta Grass–Creosote Bush Plant Community. The function of plant communities should be addressed as a biological resource • The PEIR should include analysis on how the Project-generated population increase, growth and 		

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Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
		<p>development will impact natural resources on both public and private lands under the County's jurisdiction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County does not, at this time, require a detailed soil analysis for project applications. Analysis should be required and shall address the hazards of blowing dust • The County should analyze current and foreseeable land use, projects and policy on both County lands and federal lands in order to craft strong goals and policies for the conservation element • The County should make sure the conservation element goals and policies support and complement policies on federal land in order to best protect air quality, water resources, wildlife corridors, critical habitat, dark skies, sensitive species, and landscape level ecosystems • County staff should conduct research examining the current best practices of other counties for protecting wildlife corridors across the nation • The County must update their Open Space and Biotic Overlay Maps to include wildlife corridors • County staff should analyze the mitigation measures related to Biological Resources in the 2007 General Plan to see if they have been successful at protecting species, habitats and wildlife corridors over a ten-year period • Concern about future solar farm transmission towers potentially causing fires in the desert 	<p></p> <p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR which specifically addresses the potential impacts of the proposed CWP.</p> <p>The enforcement of noise limits for off highway vehicles is outside the scope of this PEIR.</p> <p>This comment is not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EIR should research the disconnect between the residential noise limits and enforced noise limits for Off Highway Vehicles riding in residential areas; this disconnect should be clarified and codified • Concern about firearm target shooting in the desert area and related safety issues 	

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
Individuals			
Esther Portillo*	10/26/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative for the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ) • Recommends the County include an Environmental Justice element in the CWP per Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000) • Requests to see any developer proposals requesting to amend the County's general plan (e.g., rezoning applications to change residential to industrial use) • States that the CCA EJ is tracking industrial warehousing projects and would like the public to be aware of these development proposals/projects • Requests future project meetings also be held in the evening for people who cannot attend in the mornings 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p> <p>The CWP includes state-mandated environmental justice policies whose impacts are analyzed throughout this PEIR.</p> <p>See the expanded discussion on this topic in Section 2.2.3.</p>
Ericka Flores*	10/26/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative for the CCA EJ • Concerned about Project impacts on sensitive receptors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.3, <i>Air Quality</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about current projects rezoning residential to industrial use in the Bloomington area • States that the CWP should include an Environmental Justice element per SB 1000 • Recommends future project meetings be held in the evening and provide Spanish translation 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p>
Tom Egan	10/26/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions how open space will be addressed in the CWP; encourages open space opportunities and management • Asks whether the CWP will discuss how community plans are modified by the recently adopted Renewable Energy and Conservation Element • Concerned about current illegal off-road vehicle use in his community, asks whether it will be addressed in individual community plans and how • Asks how the CWP addresses the San Bernardino Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) currently underway; how will community plans be amended later to incorporate RCIS plan objectives? • Questions how often the CWP can be amended • Climate change adaptation should be addressed in the CWP, preferably relative to the RCIS and open space 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p>
Karla Kellens*	10/26/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative for the Sierra Club San Bernardino Mountains Group • References an attached letter from the Sierra Club San Bernardino Mountains Group dated 10/24/17 (same letter summarized above under 'Organizations') • Concerned about potential environmental impacts related to aesthetics, agriculture and forestry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.1, <i>Aesthetics</i> • Section 5.2, <i>Agriculture and Forestry Resources</i> • Section 5.3, <i>Air Quality</i> • Section 5.7, <i>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</i> • Section 5.9, <i>Hydrology and Water Quality</i>

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
		<p>resources, air quality, GHG emissions, hydrology and water quality, and climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests Project alternatives, cumulative impacts, and growth-inducing impacts be analyzed in the EIR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7, <i>Alternatives</i> Section 9.2, <i>Growth-Inducing Impacts of the Proposed Project</i> <p>Cumulative impacts for each environmental topical area are analyzed throughout Chapter 5 of this PEIR.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that the Mountain Region's population is always in flux due to seasons and tourism 	<p>This comment is not directly related to the scope of the PEIR; however, Project impacts on population are analyzed in Section 5.13, <i>Population and Housing</i>.</p>
Jose Najjar	10/26/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and Environmental Coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) States that two monuments were created on lands within Riverside and San Bernardino counties in February 2012 The BLM and US Forest Service (USFS) are assessing the management direction not covered or addressed by the San Bernardino National Forest Land Management Plan and the BLM California Desert Conservation Area Plan. Two management plans are proposed and the BLM requests aligning their planning efforts with that of the CWP 	<p>These comments relate to the content of the CWP. They are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p>
Angie Grisafe-De La Rosa/ Gabe De La Rosa	10/26/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that the City of Redlands has annexed parcels in the community of Mentone into Redlands' jurisdiction; concerned about annexation of the former Lockheed parcel and its current use States that many trucks travel back and forth through Mentone streets to get to the Lockheed parcel and generate substantial toxic contaminants in the community Requests a resolution, plan, or impact report to address this issue to ensure the community of Mentone is not adversely impacted by the City of Redland's use of the Lockheed parcel 	<p>Given the programmatic scale of the CWP, this PEIR does not analyze site-specific impacts (e.g., truck traffic to and from the Lockheed parcel). Also, the County does not have jurisdiction over the City of Redlands.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that the City of Redlands provides water services to Mentone, but Mentone has many wells it can use on its own 	<p>This comment is not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p>

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
Rebecca Unger*	10/26/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States that Joshua Tree does not have much commerce, but is home to many County facilities (e.g., courthouse, jail, government building, library, hospital and health services, schools, community college, water district, and Joshua Tree National Park) • Since Joshua Tree's business is tourism and hospitality, the County needs to support this aspect of Joshua Tree • States that the community itself is too small to sustain itself financially and will continue needing County funding • States that community of Joshua Tree should benefit from the transient occupancy tax being collected from visitors by the County • Requests no future solar farm developments in Joshua Tree • States that Joshua Tree needs to grow slowly because the community does not have enough water to support high density development • Concerned about current and future roadway maintenance, need County funding • Climate change is a big issue and should be addressed in the CWP 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p> <p>See the expanded discussion on renewable energy projects in Section 2.2.3.</p> <p>The CWP addresses climate change in the Hazards Element and Personal & Property Protection Element. See also Section 5.7, <i>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</i>, of this PEIR.</p>
Gayle Austin*	10/26/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about transportation and traffic impacts in the East Desert • States that the East Desert is a big tourist destination on the weekends; recommends the traffic study analyze both weekday and weekend traffic conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.16, <i>Transportation and Traffic</i>
Victoria Paulsen*	10/26/17, (supplemental letter received 11/18/17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newberry Springs encompasses a large amount of land but has a small population • Opposes the County Board of Supervisors voting on August 8, 2017 to eliminate a policy from the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element related to prohibiting utility-oriented renewable energy projects in community plan areas and in the Rural Living land use district • Concerned that taking out the Rural Living section of the REC Element opens up Newberry Springs, which is mostly Rural Living 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p> <p>See the expanded discussion on renewable</p>

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expresses objection to the existing Mountain View solar project and its impacts on air quality (from blow sand), animal habitat, and aesthetics States that Newberry Springs is not completely opposed to solar development, but would like each project to undergo an EIR review process to ensure impacts are analyzed thoroughly 	energy projects in Section 2.2.3.
Robert Bowman	10/29/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned that community plan for the Phelan/Pinon Hills area is being changed to allow high density residential uses, which is against the community's desires States that the proposed land use plan designates single family residential in the Palmdale Road/Highway 18 and Sheep Creek area, which the community does not want 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about water supply availability in Phelan/Pinon Hills area if more residential development is allowed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.18, <i>Utilities and Service Systems (Water Services)</i>
I.M. Chelette	10/24/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides previous letters to the County (dated 2014 and 2016) with comments on the Stormwater Maintenance Program Initial Study (2014) mainly concerned about environmental impacts on the Quail Wash/Joshua Tree area (not related to environmental impacts of the proposed Project) Concerned about truck traffic transporting dirt in and out of Quail Wash on almost a weekly basis as the Town of Yucca Valley and the Hi-Desert Water District construct a sewer network for the town 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.
William L. Tuck Jr.	10/27/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about road quality /safety in Phelan Pinon Hills 	Section 5.16, <i>Transportation and Traffic</i> addresses the potential impact of the proposed CWP on transportation, including traffic generation and vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Road quality and maintenance are not CEQA issues and are not addressed in this PEIR.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests a plan for affordable water and sewer to support whatever new development is projected in the future. 	CEQA does not address fiscal issues (e.g., the affordability of infrastructure), but potential impacts to water and sewer facilities are addressed in Section 5.18, <i>Utilities and Service Systems (Water Services)</i> of this PEIR.

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
Virginia Paleno	11/9/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident of Crestline community • Requests the County consider purchasing an old library building property (or any underutilized property) in the community to redevelop into a community swimming pool and pool house; past swimming pools were filled when the properties were transferred to new owners 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.
Jim Miller	11/9/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about the County's 'grandfathering' policy that allows existing non-conforming uses and/or changes of occupancy to occur without discretionary review • States that the 'grandfathering' policy violates the Civil Rights Act in regard to building accessibility and also violates the State Building Codes which requires change of occupancy to comply with current codes • Due to this, property owners are not investing in their buildings and vacant commercial land is not being developed (e.g., no business owner/ developer would invest in constructing a new commercial building if a competing business can operate out of a single-family home at a lower cost) 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about Big Bear Valley Airport expansion projects and lack of coordination with the County's Planning Department • The airport expanded its runway about 20 years ago without proper public review and also attempted to acquire property from Caltrans to reroute Highway 18; this project negated the construction of a planned public park on land owned by the County's Parks and Recreation District • The airport runway expansion project was processed through the County's Special Districts, and thus, did not need approval from the County's Planning Department • The airport is now acquiring land on the north side of the airport to create a development buffer that would remove valuable industrially zoned land • Requests more coordination between the Big Bear Valley Airport and the County's Planning Department in regard to land use decisions and environmental review 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States that current development requirements along Big Bear Boulevard are over restrictive and unreasonable, making it impossible to construct a commercial building that is reasonably sized and economically viable • Most of the lots along Big Bear Boulevard are small and narrow and current development requirements make it difficult to build on vacant lots or upgrade existing buildings 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggests revising parking requirements, rear yard setbacks, and right-of-way dedications for commercial properties that are served by two streets and/or front Big Bear Boulevard 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about the lack of policies related to aesthetics and preserving existing community character (i.e., new developments should be designed with architectural elements that reflect the existing character of the mountain community) States that the County's Planning Department currently does not review residential projects or exterior commercial remodels for architectural compliance; provides example of a County-approved two-story, straight walled, stucco building at 208 East Big Bear Boulevard with no architectural features 	<p>These comments are related to the content of the CWP and not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p> <p>Project impacts on aesthetics, including impacts to existing visual character and scenic quality, are analyzed in Section 5.1, <i>Aesthetics</i>.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that the County has no long-term plan to pave existing dirt roads that are fully built out with commercial and residential buildings; County is also approving new businesses with dirt parking lots and not requiring paved driveways or drainage control at street edges Concerned about lack of compliance with AQMD dust control requirements and implementation of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems-related best management practices for stormwater runoff Recommends County require all businesses, new and old, to pave their parking lots 	<p>These comments concern regulatory compliance outside the scope of CEQA and this PEIR.</p> <p>Project impacts on air quality and dust control, and stormwater and drainage are analyzed in Sections 5.3, <i>Air Quality</i>, and 5.9, <i>Hydrology and Water Quality</i>, respectively.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that numerous County roads dead end into National Forest lands and result in uncontrolled access into areas with sensitive habitats, animals, and plants Concerned about off-road vehicles disturbing critical habitat areas with illegal dumping and increased soil erosion 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p> <p>Project impacts on biological resources and soil erosion are analyzed in Sections 5.4, <i>Biological Resources</i>, and 5.9, <i>Hydrology and Water Quality</i>, respectively.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that the Bear Valley Community Plan calls for a four lane major arterial connecting Baldwin Lane to Fox Farm Road in the City of Big Bear Lake, which is impossible due to the road going through land under the jurisdiction of the US Forest Service and opposition from the Big Bear Lake residents Recommends removing this road from the plan 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that the current level of service (LOS) for almost all interchanges along Big Bear Boulevard is LOS F or worse 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR for the Countywide Plan.</p>

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The previous traffic study prepared for the Bear Valley Community Plan assumed Baldwin Lane would eventually be constructed through to Fox Farm Road and carry about one-third of Bear Valley's cross traffic, and that Big Bear Boulevard would have an LOS C at full buildout in 2030 Recommends a new traffic study be prepared for the entire unincorporated area of Bear Valley 	<p>Traffic impacts of the Countywide Plan, including the proposed circulation plan, are analyzed in Section 5.16, <i>Transportation and Traffic</i>, and the traffic study is provided in Appendix L.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that the Big Bear Valley Pedestrian, Bicycle and Equestrian Master Plan should be an appendix to the Bear Valley Community Plan to ensure it is implemented Currently, the County's Public Works Transportation Planning Division is under no obligation to implement the master plan when processing street improvement projects and has made no attempts to apply for grants to implement it 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR for the Countywide Plan.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that the County does not enforce the Clean Water Act (CWA) for the entire east valley unincorporated area (e.g., no TMDL testing and no mechanism for monitoring new businesses that relocate into existing buildings subject to the CWA) Examples of this include automobile and heavy equipment being repaired in parking lots along Big Bear Boulevard that drain directly into the street and ultimately into a blue line stream that leads to Big Bear Lake States that the watershed map used for determining TMDL testing locations incorrectly shows all surface water east of Division Drive flowing into Baldwin Lake; the true watershed area includes everything west of Sawmill Canyon Given the incorrect watershed map, the County does not monitor any pollutants flowing from the entire commercial area, including the airport area, into Stanfield Marsh Recommends the County correct the error and the Bear Valley Community Plan include meaningful policies to ensure Baldwin Lake and Big Bear Lake are not adversely impacted by pollutants\ 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR for the Countywide Plan.</p> <p>Water quality impacts of the Countywide Plan are analyzed in Section 5.9, <i>Hydrology and Water Quality</i>.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the resort/recreation based economy of Big Bear Valley and the median incomes of most residents, Big Bear Valley's housing needs cannot be deferred to the generic policies in the County's Housing Element Recommends the Housing Element include a discussion as to how the County will implement housing policies in Big Bear Valley, including affordable housing programs 	<p>The Housing Element was updated and adopted in 2014. The proposed CWP is not making changes to the Housing Element and would only integrate the element into the Policy Plan at completion.</p>

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that existing property owners and rental property owners are not investing to improve their older homes because of the lack of County code enforcement programs, leading to slums and unlivable homes Recommends policies that address improving housing stock and availability 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that the Big Bear Valley Airport expanded its runway in 1992 without environmental review by the County's Planning Commission, which, according to County staff, has jurisdictional authority over any land use decision made by the Airport. The noise study prepared for the runway expansion did not go through a public review process, and thus, new noise studies should be prepared to reflect the expanded airport influence area Recommends that the Airport actively engage in community outreach to address these noise impacts 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that the Bear Valley Community Plan is vague on how it will be implemented and that it puts the implementation responsibilities on the local residents States that the County is not accountable and under no obligation to enforce the proposed policies Recommends having the County CEO and all County department heads responsible for implementing the plan (e.g., Public Works, Building, Code Enforcement, and Planning) to sign a statement that acknowledges that they have read the policies and agree to implement them Recommends forming a Municipal Advisory Council for the unincorporated areas of Big Bear Valley so local residents can hold County officials responsible for implementing the plan 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p>
Mary Davidson	11/9/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that Crestline and the Crest Forest area are beautiful places that should be preserved as a National Wildlife Refuge with no future development allowed Opposes new development and overpopulation, which may contribute to global warming/high temperatures and adverse air quality impact 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p>

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
Kim Rocha	11/9/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States that the draft land use plan referenced in the NOP shows different land use changes than the plan that was shown to Bloomington residents on the MAC board; concerned about land use changes in Fontana area near Foothill Boulevard Concerned County does not have a way to stop developers from trying to amend the land use plan 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.
Angela Jones	11/9/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident of Phelan/Pinon Hills concerned about future development, particularly solar farms, that may adversely impact the aesthetics of the rural desert community Opposes any new development or growth in the community 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p> <p>Project impacts on aesthetics are analyzed in Section 5.1, <i>Aesthetics</i>.</p>
Constance Walsh	11/9/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident of Joshua Tree Does not want any more solar fields and corporate developments Requested information about proposed land use designations and plans for specific properties in the Joshua Tree area 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p> <p>Land use impacts are analyzed in Section 5.10, <i>Land Use and Planning</i>, of this PEIR</p>
Claudia and Danny Sall	11/9/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests that the NOP comment period be extended Provides specific information and requests related to the Pioneertown Community Plan 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.
Michael Diaz	11/15/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommends the County continue working closely with local cities when considering development projects or land use entitlements within SOI areas States that coordination with cities in regard to proposed land uses, development/design, and utility improvements is critical to ensure that development projects and/or entitlements are compatible with the appropriate city standards so as to minimize or avoid any significant adverse issues when these areas are eventually annexed 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.
Cat Celebrezze	11/15/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development in Joshua Tree should be compatible with the community and landscape Requests that analysis includes Joshua Tree's role as a gateway to Joshua Tree National Park (rural desert character, scenic vistas, encroachment, etc.) 	<p>This PEIR does not analyze site-specific impacts. However, aesthetic impacts of the CWP are programmatically analyzed in Section 5.1, <i>Aesthetics</i>.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests that the EIR holds developers to the 2007 Joshua Tree Community Plan Requests any land use changes are presented in project-specific format to the Morongo Advisory Council prior to implementation 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests Renewable Energy and Conservation Element language in line with recommendations from the Morongo Basin Conservation Association 	The Countywide Plan PEIR does not address the Renewable Energy & Conservation Element.

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
Jean McLaughlin	11/18/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to find a hard copy of the draft CWP at the County office, requests hard copies be available for those without computer access Questioned how individual community plans would relate to the CWP and how the CWP will provide a vision for the entire County that has very unique and different communities States that although parts of the Joshua Tree Community Plan (2007) need updating, the residents still support the existing document Provides comments on the draft Joshua Tree Community Plan 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p> <p>The relationship between Community Plans and the CWP update is described in PEIR Section 3.3.3. The 2007 Joshua Tree Community Plan policies have been updated in the Draft Policy Plan, and additional content has been updated and incorporated to the Community Action Guide or Implementation Plan.</p>
Paula Deel	11/19/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident of Newberry Springs concerned about existing water overdraft issues and the fragile desert ecology in the Newberry Springs community Concerned about high water-use developments and land uses, such as alfalfa and marijuana farming, higher density population, man-made lakes, etc. States that clearing large pieces of land (e.g., for solar farm development) causes adverse blow sand impacts on surrounding properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.4, <i>Biological Resources</i> Section 5.18, <i>Utilities and Service Systems (Water Services)</i> See the expanded discussion of blow sand in Section 2.2.3.
Shauna Tucker	11/19/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident of Joshua Tree Requests to expand the Countywide Plan public outreach process 	<p>Eight Countywide Plan Regional Open Houses took place in October 2017, and nine additional Regional Open Houses took place in September 2018 to expand outreach on and review of the Draft Policy Plan and Community Action Guides..</p> <p>This PEIR is released for public review and comment in accordance with CEQA.</p>
Glen Thompson	11/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident of Lake Arrowhead States that there is a misconception that the Lake Arrowhead community is no longer in a drought; the climate is still getting more hot and dry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.18, <i>Utilities and Service Systems (Water Services)</i>, addresses water supply. Section 5.7, <i>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</i>, addresses climate change.

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States that it is incorrect to assume that a population increase in other areas of San Bernardino County would not impact the mountain communities • Visitors and tourists to the mountain communities from the Valley region would impact the Mountain region's facilities, roadways, stores, and parks • Requests the EIR analyze these population increase impacts on the mountain communities 	<p>Traffic forecasts were derived from the San Bernardino Transportation Analysis Model, which generates traffic volumes based on socio-economic data and projections for the SCAG region and takes into account travel between several portions of the region, including to and from the County's mountain region. The traffic model estimates travel based on the land use types, household characteristics, transportation infrastructure and travel costs in the SCAG region. The use of a travel demand model is consistent with methodologies required to evaluate transportation impacts at a regional level and is also used for long range planning for agencies such as SCAG and SBCTA.</p>
Demi Espinoza	11/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests a meaningful community engagement process around the development of the Environmental Justice Element <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests the EIR analyze truck route patterns to better understand updates to the Circulation Element and how its related to environmental justice • Recommends regulations that keep truck routes away from residential areas and schools 	<p>This comment is not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p> <p>See the expanded discussion on environmental justice in Section 2.2.3.</p> <p>The CWP identifies truck routes and includes transportation policies to minimize truck impacts on residents in addition to efficiently distributing truck traffic. See the following PEIR sections for related environmental analysis of traffic generated air quality, GHG, and noise impacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.2, <i>Air Quality</i> • Section 5.7, <i>Greenhouse Gases</i> • Section 5.12, <i>Noise</i>

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.16, <i>Transportation and Traffic</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggests the County coordinate with the San Bernardino Countywide Safe Routes to School Plan to ensure traffic flow safety standards are addressed in the Circulation Element Recommends the Circulation Element address safety hazards for active transportation (e.g., planning for bicyclist and pedestrian pathways to be away from high volume traffic and truck routes) States that the Circulation Element should include vision zero policy elements as best practices for traffic safety 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the EIR.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggests the County planning department have a clearinghouse of environmental documents for development projects so the public can easily see what projects are coming into their neighborhood Recommends the CWP include policies that encourage local planning agencies to record and document development projects with EIRs in a more streamlined fashion 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the EIR.
Christine A. Del Ross-Risher, AICP	11/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiet Skies Lake Arrowhead (QSLA) recommends identification and analysis of several potential impacts. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Quality Biological Resources (protection criteria/standards) Greenhouse Gas Emissions Noise Hazards and hazardous materials Hydrology/water quality Questions how the SoCal Metroplex will be considered in the baseline of environmental analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.3, <i>Air Quality</i> Section, 5.4, <i>Biological Resources</i> Section 5.7, <i>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</i> Section 5.8, <i>Hazards and Hazardous Materials</i> Section 5.9, <i>Hydrology and Water Quality</i> Section 5.12, <i>Noise</i> <p>Impacts related to area airports (FAA Southern California Metroplex) are addressed in the following topical PEIR sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.8, <i>Hazards and Hazardous Materials</i> Section 5.12, <i>Noise</i> Section 5.16, <i>Transportation and Traffic</i>
Robert L. Berkman	11/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests the County restore Policy 410 (Solar Development) for protection of residential locations 	<p>This comment is not directly related to the scope of the PEIR but has been forwarded to County staff for consideration.</p> <p>See the expanded discussion on renewable</p>

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
			energy projects in Section 2.2.3.
Ericka Flores	11/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reproduced comment letter from CCAEJ (dated 11/20/17) summarized above 	Environmental justice is not a CEQA topic; however, the CWP addresses EJ requirements for general plans. See the expanded discussion on this topic in Section 2.2.3.
Sherri Fairbanks	11/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highway 138 from Crestline to Lake Silverwood is listed as a major corridor and needs a major upgrade Crestline Sanitation District outfall is having problems due to soil composition and traffic issues along Highway 138 before Lake Silverwood 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.
Thomas Fjallstam	11/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the following comments related to the Joshua Tree community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and pave Division Street between Sunset Road and Park Boulevard Work with empty lot owners to develop downtown parking in this area. This allows for business development in downtown currently restricted due to limited parking Require traffic coming out of Joshua Tree Health Foods parking area to have "Right Turn Only" restriction onto Sunset Road heading south Restrict east bound traffic on Highway 62 (i.e., no turning south on Sunset Road) Provide crosswalks outside Park Visitor Center across Park Boulevard; currently people are crossing at various locations Reduce the Park Boulevard into one lane; currently, it is two lanes wide without any lane dividers in the Park Visitor area Put in diagonal street parking on both sides of Park Boulevard at Visitor Center Provides comments on the Joshua Tree Community Plan and concerns about it being more of an action plan than a community plan 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.
Jane Hunt Ruble	11/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned that the CWP only addresses issues like land use in the unincorporated areas of the County and not the incorporated areas 	The County does not have jurisdiction over incorporated areas of San Bernardino County and therefore cannot propose land use changes or policies in these areas.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questioned why the technical Project-related studies being prepared for the EIR are supporting other planning documents within the County (e.g., Countywide Vision, 2011 GHG Reduction Plan, 	Technical studies already prepared in support of other planning documents (e.g., Countywide Vision, 2011

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
		2016 DRECP, and 2016-2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan)	GHG Reduction Plan, 2016 DRECP, and 2016-2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan) are referenced in the EIR as applicable. Studies specifically prepared for this PEIR are subsequent to the studies and plans listed in this comment, and therefore, were not available to support those plans/studies.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about how the PEIR will analyze projects that have already had EIRs prepared 	This PEIR will analyze impacts solely from the proposed CWP. Projects that have already undergone CEQA review and approval would not need to be reanalyzed under this PEIR. The approved projects would be taken into account as part of existing conditions or cumulative development.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questioned whether the PEIR will identify the environmentally superior alternative or if the County would choose an alternative on its own 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7, <i>Alternatives</i> <p>The PEIR will identify the environmentally superior alternative. However, the County Board of Supervisors is not required to choose that particular alternative.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would like the County to implement the community plans according to the residents input 	This comment is not directly related to the scope of the EIR.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommends the Noise Element include more sources than currently exist Noise pollution is a big problem and should be addressed in the PEIR Major sources of noise include off-road vehicles and speakers/sound systems in homes and cars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.12, <i>Noise</i>

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
Sarah Kennington and Steve Bardwell	11/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents of the Gamma Gulch area that is now being considered as part of the Pioneertown Communities Plan Suggests analyzing population increase in the Desert region due to tourists visiting Joshua Tree National Park and people moving into the desert from surrounding urban areas Recommends the CWP and PEIR ensure scenic resources are preserved and protected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.1, <i>Aesthetics</i> Section 5.13, <i>Population and Housing</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The comment letter generally provides critiques on sections and mitigation measures from the 2007 General Plan EIR, and suggests revisions for this 'revised' 2018 PEIR 	<p>Note that this PEIR is <i>not</i> an update to the 2007 EIR. This PEIR will analyze impacts of the proposed Countywide Plan, which is different from what was analyzed in the 2007 EIR. Mitigation measures in this PEIR will mitigate impacts associated with the proposed CWP and will not be reproduced from the 2007 EIR.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and connect landscapes by identifying all wildlife corridors and establishing strong policies and mitigation measures to protect them Recommends the CWP and EIR clearly identify wildlife linkages and high priority conservation areas to fully analyze potential project impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.4, <i>Biological Resources</i> Appendix D, San Bernardino County Plan Biological Resources Existing Conditions Report
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports completion of the Pioneertown Community Plan and the other community plans, but rejects the current strategy of 'Suggested Action Plans' 	<p>This comment is not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the preservation of Pioneertown's rural character, natural environment, and scenic routes 	<p>This comment is not directly related to the scope of the PEIR but Project impacts related to aesthetics are included in Section 5.1, <i>Aesthetics</i>.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewable energy projects should not be located in rural residential communities (RL or RC zoning) All renewable energy projects should undergo EIR-level CEQA analysis Roof-top, distributed renewable energy is the best way to preserve and protect the pristine desert 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR. See the expanded discussion on renewable energy projects in Section 2.2.3.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommends the EIR analyze air quality impacts through local monitoring by the Mojave Desert AQMD Analysis of sand transport paths are required to accurately assess the Basin's air quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.3, <i>Air Quality</i> Nicole to address.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommends analysis of climate change impacts in the PEIR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.7, <i>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</i>

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
Janet Johnston	11/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident of the Joshua Tree area • Alta Loma Road should be considered as a scenic highway, as it is now becoming one of the main routes to the national park, and connects scenic Highway 62 to scenic Park Boulevard/Quail Springs Road 	This comment is not directly related to the scope of the PEIR but has been forwarded to County staff for consideration. Project impacts to scenic highways are analyzed in Section 5.1, <i>Aesthetics</i> .
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding from the mountains is a major concern in Joshua Tree; recommends an analysis of existing stream beds, washes, blue-line streams, flood plains, and alluvial fan "action" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.9, <i>Hydrology and Water Quality</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife corridors, native plant habitat, and linkages between the national park, national monuments, and other natural preserves and open space areas should be mapped and analyzed • Native plants need to be mapped more clearly and protected; native plants protect the soil which is essential for dust control and carbon sequestration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.4, <i>Biological Resources</i> Note that although each of these topics is addressed in the PEIR biological resources section, due to the broad scale of the County (approximately 20,000 square miles), detailed mapping is not feasible for this programmatic EIR.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full buildout of the proposed Project should be limited to available and affordable waters sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.18, <i>Utilities and Service Systems (Water Services)</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to analyze impacts related to the growth in employment and demand for school services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.13, <i>Population and Housing</i> • Section 5.14, <i>Public Services</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends the PEIR analyze an alternative access to the Morongo Basin and/or from Yucca Valley to the Marine Base • Traffic patterns change between weekdays and weekends since Joshua Tree is a tourist town • Recommends analyzing bicycle and pedestrian access, especially between towns, and to the national park, and to/from schools, parks, and shops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.16, <i>Transportation and Traffic</i> The traffic analysis was conducted for weekday commuter peak hours and weekday daily traffic, which is consistent with methodologies required to evaluate transportation impacts at a regional level and is also used for long range planning for agencies such as SCAG and SBCTA. Traffic, bicycle and pedestrian travel for the entire County was addressed in Section 5.16 of the DEIR.

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address why the 2007 community plans are being abandoned in favor of rolling everything into a theoretically comprehensive Policy Plan • Suggests renaming the proposed community plans as ‘Suggested Action Plans’” • Suggests clearly specifying how unique unincorporated communities will be represented in the proposed Policy Plan 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p>
Stephen Rogers	11/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that due to budgetary shortfalls, both the Habitat Conservation Element and the Energy Element would not be included in the scope of the CWP and EIR documents 	<p>This is incorrect; the Renewable Energy & Conservation Element and Housing Element will not be evaluated in the PEIR because they were recently adopted and no changes are proposed to these elements under the proposed Project. However, a Natural Resources Element will be included in the CWP and analyzed in the PEIR.</p>
Ron Diamond	11/20/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends that the Public Utilities section of the CWP be expanded to include an energy element and that the scope of the CWP and PEIR be similarly expanded to include this additional level of review and analysis under CEQA/ NEPA 	<p>Public utilities (i.e., infrastructure and utilities) will be included in the CWP under the Infrastructure & Utilities Element and will be analyzed in the PEIR. However, an energy element will not be included because the County’s Renewable Energy & Conservation Element was recently adopted independently of the CWP and no changes are proposed to this element.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposes rapid large-scale development that does not complement the existing rural character • Suggests the following to reduce development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Limit the rate of building within a given area (i.e., a maximum percentage of subdivided lots or a maximum number of new houses that can be developed per year) – Proactively working with local water boards to limit the rate of approval (and capacity) of new water meters; this is also an environmental issue relating to the finite supply of quality water available in the area itself 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR but have been forwarded to County staff for consideration. Water supply impacts related to the proposed Project are analyzed in Section 5.18, <i>Utilities and Service Systems (Water Services)</i>.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about concert event noise in the desert (e.g., Coachella, Desert Daze, JT Music Festival) 	<p>These comments relate to regulatory compliance and</p>

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Table 2-1 NOP Written Comments Summary

Commenting Agency/Person	Letter Dated	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggests better noise enforcement 	enforcement. They are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR. Noise impacts related to the proposed Project are analyzed in Section 5.12, <i>Noise</i> .
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests that short-term rentals (e.g., Airbnb) be licensed and taxed, and held accountable for noise disruptions created by guests 	This comment is not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposed to recent commercial development in the Joshua Tree/Yucca Valley area Requests limits and development standards for commercial use related to building height, square footage, signage types, lighting, parking areas, and color scheme Would like to see large commercial developments be developed only in areas currently zoned for commercial 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.

All comments are organized based on date received.

* Commenter also provided verbal comments at the scoping meeting.

2.2.2 Public Scoping Meeting

A scoping meeting was held on October 26, 2017, at the San Bernardino Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92415, to elicit comments on the scope of the PEIR. Remote videoconferencing of the scoping meeting was also made available at the Jerry Lewis High Desert Government Center, 15900 Smoke Tree Street, Suite 131, Hesperia, CA 92345, and the Bob Burke Joshua Tree Government Center, 63665 Twentynine Palms Highway, Joshua Tree, CA 92252. County staff was present to answer questions and receive comments. Table 2-2 summarizes the comments received during the scoping meeting and identifies the section(s) of this PEIR where the issues are addressed.

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Table 2-2 Scoping Meeting Verbal Comments Summary

Commenter	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
Bob Burke Joshua Tree Government Center		
Gale Swaret	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lives in Morongo Valley and is concerned about their water supply coming only from Big Bear's catchment basins (not part of the Morongo Valley Agency). Morongo Valley needs to recharge its water basin and receive imported water to sustain future growth Requested maintaining the 2007 General Plan zoning for Morongo Valley Requested the CWP include specifics regarding water availability in Morongo Valley 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p> <p>Project impacts on water services are analyzed in Section 5.18, <i>Utilities and Service Systems (Water Services)</i>.</p>
Pat Flanagan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was unable to find technical background reports related to open space and biological resources for the 2007 General Plan Stated that current Open Space Overlay maps overlook much in the Desert Region; requests maps specific to the Desert Region Requested viewsheds/scenic overlays that limit solar and housing developments in certain areas Concerned about blow sand causing air quality impacts (i.e., fine particulate matter) and requests maps showing sand transport paths 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p> <p>Project impacts on aesthetics and air quality are analyzed in Sections 5.1, <i>Aesthetics</i>, and 5.3, <i>Air Quality</i>.</p> <p>See section 2.3.3 regarding solar developments and sand transport paths.</p>
Gayle Austin*	Comment summarized above in Table 2-1.	
Sarah Kennington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about aesthetic impacts along scenic byways/highways and requested continued mitigation to reduce aesthetic impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.1, <i>Aesthetics</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would like Highway 247 designated as a scenic byway Requested more mapping in the Desert Region to view impacts locally, regionally, and countywide 	<p>These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stated that not much growth is anticipated in the draft land use plan in the East Desert Region, but knows there is community interest, particularly in Pipes Canyon, and potential for future subdivision developments in the area. Concerned about how the County will mitigate these residential development impacts 	<p>Future residential developments in the Pipes Canyon area would undergo separate project applications and evaluation to determine whether CEQA review would be required, at which point the project would be analyzed for potential impacts and mitigation would be provided as needed. Given the programmatic scale of the CWP, this PEIR does not analyze individual project-level impacts.</p>
Steve Bardwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requested that climate change be addressed in the EIR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.3, <i>Air Quality</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stated that geology/soils should also be studied in a technical report 	<p>Given the site-specific nature of geologic and soil conditions, it is beyond the scope of this programmatic EIR to analyze geologic and soil conditions across the entire County in a technical study. Project-level geotechnical studies would be prepared for future projects in accordance with the CWP as required by the County.</p>

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Table 2-2 Scoping Meeting Verbal Comments Summary

Commenter	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported other commenters regarding air quality issues related to existing renewable energy development in the desert (e.g., blow sand) 	This comment is not directly related to the scope of the PEIR. See the expanded discussion on renewable energy projects in Section 2.2.3.
Rebecca Unger*	Comment summarized above in Table 2-1.	
Marge Doyel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended the EIR analyze Project impacts on parks and monument areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.15, <i>Recreation</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The economy of Joshua Tree is based largely on tourism and its night sky 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.1, <i>Aesthetics (light pollution)</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stated that there is an unstable electric grid in Joshua Tree that needs to be addressed if renewable energy projects are to be developed Recommended the County provide countywide Wi-Fi 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.
Jerry Lewis High Desert Government Center		
Victoria Paulsen*	Comment summarized above in Table 2-1.	
Greg Rice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative for the Crestline Community Development Alliance in the Crest Forest area Concerned about transportation/mobility in the Mountain Region, particularly that some roadways like Highway 173 and 183, are designated as major routes but the roads are actually unable to support heavy automobile traffic and truck traffic Some roadway designations in the County's circulation plan do not match the physical condition of the actual roadway (e.g., roads designated as major routes but only unpaved dirt roads) Stated that maps zoomed into the community level would be more helpful 	These comments are not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stated that traffic in the Mountain Region is also impacted by growth in other areas of the County, especially since it is a major recreation area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.16, <i>Transportation and Traffic</i>
Karla Kellens*	Comment summarized above in Table 2-1.	
Esther Portillo*	Comment summarized above in Table 2-1.	
Ericka Flores*	Comment summarized above in Table 2-1.	
Steven Rogers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned that the Renewable Energy and Conservation (REC) Element is being taken out of the CWP 	This comment is not directly related to the scope of the PEIR. However, the Renewable Energy & Conservation Element is not being taken out of the CWP. It was recently updated and adopted by the Board of Supervisors on August 8, 2017, and amended on February 29, 2019. No changes are proposed to the Renewable Energy & Conservation Element. It will be integrated into the CWP document when the CWP is finalized and adopted to unify the elements into a single document (the Policy Plan).

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Table 2-2 Scoping Meeting Verbal Comments Summary

Commenter	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated that the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) should be an element of the CWP and needs to be analyzed under CEQA 	<p>This comment is not directly related to the scope of the PEIR.</p> <p>Also, the DRECP is not solely the County's document and would not be appropriate to include as an element of the CWP. It has also already been adopted and undergone an environmental review process.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about regional traffic issues related to Caltrans, SCAG, and SBCTA • Stated that the County needs to consider traffic flow in the Redland, Mentone, and Lytle Creek areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.16, <i>Transportation and Traffic</i>
Marvin Norman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated that Fehr & Peers was a good traffic consultant selection by the County • Recommended the CWP circulation plan and traffic analysis address pedestrian and bicycle networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.16, <i>Transportation and Traffic</i> <p>The General Plan includes several policies to support bicycle and pedestrian travel and identified future bicycle facilities and system upgrades that are consistent with SBCTA's Active Transportation Plan. The transportation analysis provided an evaluation of the policies and the proposed bicycle network.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated that solar projects do not need to be developed in pristine desert land and can be integrated in developed areas (e.g., on top of parking lot roofs) 	<p>This comment is not directly related to the scope of the PEIR but has been forwarded to County staff for consideration.</p> <p>See the expanded discussion on renewable energy projects in Section 2.2.3.</p>
Glen Thompson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated that California is still in a drought and there is high fire hazard, especially the Mountain Region • Stated that the roads between the proposed high and low growth areas would be heavily impacted (i.e., Valley Region people traveling to the Mountain Region for recreational opportunities); thus, low growth areas should receive similar level of analysis as high growth areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.8, <i>Hazards and Hazardous Materials (fire hazard)</i> • Section 5.18, <i>Utilities and Service Systems (water services)</i> • Section 5.16, <i>Transportation and Traffic</i>. <p>Traffic forecasts were derived from the San Bernardino Transportation Analysis Model, which generates traffic volumes based on socio-economic data and projections for the SCAG region and takes into account travel between several portions of the region, including to and from the County's mountain region. The traffic model estimates travel based on the land use types, household characteristics, transportation infrastructure and travel costs in the SCAG region. The use of a travel demand model is consistent with methodologies required to evaluate transportation impacts at a regional level and is also used for long range</p>

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Table 2-2 Scoping Meeting Verbal Comments Summary

Commenter	Summary of Comments	Issue Addressed In:
		planning for agencies such as SCAG and SBCTA.
Laurie Siminyuk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about general increase in warehousing development and e-commerce in the County (e.g., increases in warehousing projects and FedEx/UPS flight traffic over Lake Arrowhead) 	This comment is not directly related to the scope of the PEIR. Environmental impacts associated with projected industrial growth in accordance with the CWP is addressed in related topical EIR sections (air quality, GHG, transportation, public services, noise, etc.). A potential increase in flight traffic is not a CEQA issue and not addressed in this PEIR.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stated concern about water availability in the Lake Arrowhead area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.18, <i>Utilities and Service Systems</i> (water services)

* Commenter also submitted a written comment card. Full comments are summarized above in Table 2-1.

2.2.3 Expanded Discussion of Scoping Comments

Many of the comments and requests received during the PEIR scoping process (scoping meeting and written responses to the NOP) were related to the CWP and not the PEIR. Although the County welcomes the input for preparation of the CWP, the PEIR scoping process and the PEIR documentation is limited to potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of the proposed Project (the CWP). Responses in the tables above, therefore, note that such comments have been forwarded to County staff and decision-makers but are not addressed in this PEIR.

Clarification is also required for multiple comments received on a few topical areas. This section provides support information for some of those topics. It identifies where issues are addressed in Chapter 5, *Environmental Analysis*, of this PEIR. It also identifies topics that are not addressed in this PEIR and explains why.

Air Quality: Blow Sand

Blowsand is a type of coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀) air pollutant; construction emissions of particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) are addressed in Section 5.3, *Air Quality*. At this programmatic phase of analysis it is not possible to determine the pounds per day or tons per year of construction fugitive dust, including blows and, associated with construction of new development projects. Discretionary projects would require future environmental review to evaluate potential air quality impacts associated with site-specific development. For the Countywide Plan, the evaluation provides a qualitative discussion of potential construction impacts associated with long-term buildout of the proposed Plan and identifies existing Air District regulations and General Plan policies that reduce potential impacts.

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Renewable Energy

Several commenters expressed concern about renewable energy developments. The Renewable Energy and Conservation Element (RECE) was adopted in 2017 and is not being updated through the Countywide Plan. On February 28, 2019, the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors amended the RECE to include Policy 4.10 to prohibit the development of utility-oriented renewable energy generation facilities in adopted Community Plan areas and in Rural Living land use districts, primarily to avoid conflicts with rural communities. The Board of Supervisors also added Policy 5.2 to add “existing energy generation sites” to the list of site-types appropriate for renewable energy development. Finally, the Board of Supervisors added Policy 5.9 to direct the County to collaborate with utilities, the CEC and the Bureau of Land Management to encourage development of utility-oriented renewable energy generation facilities on public lands, apart from unincorporated communities.

The RECE will be incorporated in its entirety into the Countywide Plan after the Countywide Plan is adopted. Therefore, renewable energy developments are not part of this Project and are not addressed in this PEIR. Individual, future renewable energy development projects, however, would be subject to environmental review under CEQA.

Renewable energy is reviewed in Section 5.18, *Utility and Service Systems*, and the impact analysis summarized in Chapter 9, *Other CEQA Considerations*, of this PEIR.

Transportation Analysis – SB 743 and Bicycle/Pedestrian Impacts

Traffic impacts in this Draft PEIR are evaluated per the County’s new VMT metric and adopted significance threshold (see Section 5.16, *Transportation and Traffic*). The CWP includes several policies to support bicycle and pedestrian travel and identifies future bicycle facilities and system upgrades that are consistent with SBCTA’s Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. The transportation analysis provided an evaluation of the policies and the proposed bicycle network. The methodologies utilized to evaluate transportation impacts to all modes are consistent with County, CMP and SBCTA guidelines and consistent with methodologies utilized to evaluate transportation impacts at a General Plan level of review. Impacts and potential mitigation measures were identified at intersections in the County. Roundabouts may be considered as a feasible mitigation during the design and construction to implement the mitigation at each intersection impacted.

StreetScore+, and pedestrian and bicycle LOS are tools normally used for roadway and corridor projects at the design level. These tools were not used, as the CWP reviews transportation for an expansive area at a conceptual/plan-level.

Environmental Justice

Several comments expressed concern about environmental justice areas or requested analysis of environmental justice impacts. Under Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000), California law requires cities and counties to incorporate environmental justice policies into their general plans, either in a separate element or by integrating goals, policies, and objectives in other elements. The content must address topics such as improving public facilities, reducing pollution burden, expanding access to food and recreational opportunities, and promoting safe and

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sanitary housing. The Countywide Plan uses the term “environmental justice focus area” (EJFA) for an area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. The term “environmental justice focus area” is to be interpreted the same as the term “disadvantaged community” and is understood in the context of Senate Bill 1000 (2016).

The County used CalEnviroScreen to screen areas for environmental justice issues. Census tracts were designated EJFAs if they were within the County’s land use authority, were in a community planning area or unincorporated sphere of influence, and had CalEnviroScreen composite scores above the 75th percentile. Based on this criteria, EJFAs are in the Valley and North Desert regions and are shown on Map HZ-10 of the Countywide Plan Hazards Element.

The Countywide Plan addresses the state requirements for environmental justice, primarily in the Hazards Element but also in the Health & Wellness Element in select policies. Environmental justice is not a topic under CEQA, and addressing the topic of environmental justice is beyond the scope of this PEIR. However, the PEIR addresses the environmental impacts of the Countywide Plan on unincorporated areas under the County’s jurisdiction, which includes the EJFAs. Two of the three potential growth areas in the Valley region, the Bloomington CPA and Fontana SOI, are also EJFAs. The potential impacts of CWP policies and land uses changes in these areas are analyzed throughout the PEIR.

2.2.4 Scope of this PEIR

The scope of the PEIR was determined based on the NOP, comments received in response to the NOP, and verbal comments received at the scoping meeting conducted by the County. Pursuant to Sections 15126.2 and 15126.4 of the CEQA Guidelines, the PEIR should identify any potentially significant adverse impacts and recommend mitigation that would reduce or eliminate these impacts to levels of insignificance.

The information in Chapter 3, *Project Description*, establishes the basis for analyzing future, Project-related environmental impacts. However, further environmental review by the County may be required as more detailed information and plans are submitted on a project-by-project basis.

2.2.5 Impacts Considered Less Than Significant

During preparation of the NOP, the County of San Bernardino determined that a full scope PEIR would be required to address all 18 environmental impact categories. Thus, no categories are excluded from this PEIR.

2.2.6 Potentially Significant Adverse Impacts

The County determined that all 18 environmental factors have potentially significant impacts if the proposed Project is implemented. Those factors are:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality

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- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems

2.2.7 Unavoidable Significant Adverse Impacts

This PEIR identifies 13 significant and unavoidable adverse impacts, as defined by CEQA, that would result from implementation of the proposed Project. Unavoidable adverse impacts may be considered significant on a project-specific basis, cumulatively significant, and/or potentially significant. The County must prepare a “statement of overriding considerations” before it can approve the Project, attesting that the decision-making body has balanced the benefits of the proposed Project against its unavoidable significant environmental effects and has determined that the benefits outweigh the adverse effects, and therefore the adverse effects are considered acceptable. The impacts that were found in the PEIR to be significant and unavoidable are:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Transportation/Traffic

2.3 INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

All documents cited or referenced are incorporated into the PEIR in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15148 and 15150, including but not limited to:

- County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan
- County of San Bernardino Development Code

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In each instance where a document is incorporated by reference for purposes of this report, the PEIR will briefly summarize the incorporated document or briefly summarize the incorporated data if the document cannot be summarized. In addition, the PEIR will explain the relationship between the incorporated part of the referenced document and the PEIR.

This PEIR also relies on previously adopted regional and statewide plans and programs, agency standards, and background studies in its analyses, such as the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) air quality management plans, and the Mojave Desert AQMD's Rule Book. Chapter 13, *Bibliography*, provides a complete list of references utilized in preparing this PEIR. All of the documents that are incorporated by reference are available for review at the County of San Bernardino Land Use Services Planning Division, 385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92415.

2.4 FINAL EIR CERTIFICATION

CEQA requires that draft EIRs be circulated for a minimum of 45 days for public review. Due to the scale and complexity of the Countywide Plan, the County has extended the public review for the PEIR to 60 days. Interested agencies and members of the public are invited to provide written comments on the PEIR to the County address shown on the title page of this document. Upon completion of the 60-day review period, the County of San Bernardino will review all written comments received and prepare written responses for each. A Final EIR (FEIR) will incorporate the received comments, responses to the comments, and any changes to the PEIR that result from comments. The FEIR will be presented to the County's Board of Supervisors for potential certification as the environmental document for the Project. Public agencies and persons who comment on the PEIR will be notified of the availability of the FEIR and the date of the public hearing before the County.

The PEIR is available to the general public for review at various locations:

- County of San Bernardino Land Use Services Planning Division, 385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92415
- Jerry Lewis High Desert Government Center, 15900 Smoke Tree Street, Suite 131, Hesperia, CA 92345
- Bob Burke Joshua Tree Government Center, 63665 Twentynine Palms Highway, Joshua Tree, CA 92252
- San Bernardino Countywide Plan website – <http://countywideplan.com/EIR>

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2.5 MITIGATION MONITORING

Public Resources Code, Section 21081.6, requires that agencies adopt a monitoring or reporting program for any project for which it has made findings pursuant to Public Resources Code 21081 or adopted a Negative Declaration pursuant to 21080(c). Such a program is intended to ensure the implementation of all mitigation measures adopted through the preparation of an EIR or Negative Declaration.

The Mitigation Monitoring Program for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan will be completed in conjunction with the Final EIR, prior to consideration of the Project by the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors.

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