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## PROJECT INFORMATION

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**Project Title:** Schoup Solar Project  
**Project Type:** ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, SOLAR  
**Latitude/Longitude (DMS):** 32.441796 / -104.178268  
**County(s):** EDDY  
**Project Description:** Bap Power Corporation DBA Cenergy Power ("Cenergy") is proposing to construct the Schoup Solar Project (Project), a solar facility which would occupy approximately 22.5 acres of privately-owned land in the County of San Miguel, New Mexico (see attached Site Location Figure). The design includes 13,200 solar modules attached to a single axis tracking system. The nameplate capacity of the facility will be 7.128 MWdc with an anticipated grid supply of 4.950 MWac. Thirty-Three (33) inverters within the project footprint will convert DC power to AC and the electricity will be transmitted to existing utility poles on George Shoup Relief Rte. The remaining components on-site include a gravel access road and a 6-foot tall chain link fence & 1 inch of 3 strands barbed wire, which will surround the solar facility.

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## REQUESTOR INFORMATION

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**Project Organization:**  
**Contact Name:** Kevin Osborne  
**Email Address:** kosborne@cenergypower.com  
**Organization:** Cenergy Power  
**Address:** 3176 Lionshead Avenue, Carlsbad CA 92010  
**Phone:** 2065199449

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## OVERALL STATUS

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The information contained within this report comprises the recommendations of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) for management and mitigation of proposed project impacts to wildlife and habitat resources; see the Project Recommendations section below for further details. No further consultation with the Department is required based on the project's location and, with implementation of mitigation measures described in the Project Recommendations section below, no adverse effects to wildlife or important habitats are anticipated. However, a Department biologist may be in touch within 30 days if they determine that further review is required.



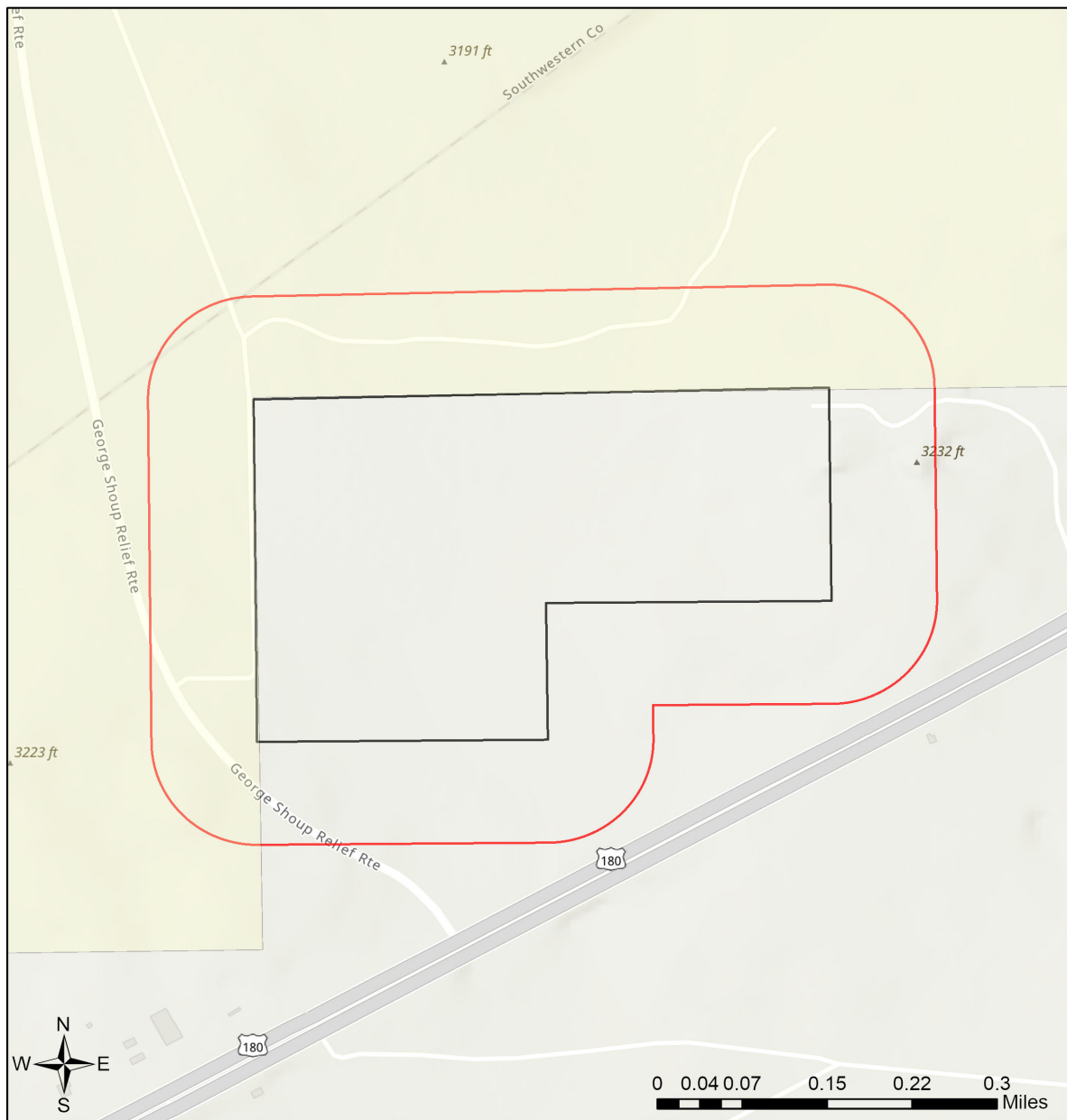
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**About this report:**

- This environmental review is based on the project description and location that was entered. The report must be updated if the project type, area, or operational components are modified.
- This is a preliminary environmental screening assessment and report. It is not a substitute for the potential wildlife knowledge gained by having a biologist conduct a field survey of the project area. Federal status and plant data are provided as a courtesy to users. The review is also not intended to replace consultation required under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), including impact analyses for federal resources from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) using their [Information for Planning and Consultation tool](#).
- The New Mexico Environmental Review Tool (ERT) utilizes species observation locations and species distribution models, both of which are subject to ongoing change and refinement. Inclusion or omission of a species within a report can not guarantee species presence or absence at a precise point location, as might be indicated through comprehensive biological surveys. Specific questions regarding the potential for adverse impacts to vulnerable wildlife populations or habitats, especially in areas with a limited history of biological surveys, may require further on-site assessments.
- The Department encourages use of the ERT to modify proposed projects for avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of wildlife impacts. However, the ERT is not intended to be used in a repeatedly iterative fashion to adjust project attributes until a previously determined recommendation is generated. The ERT serves to assess impacts once project details are developed. The [New Mexico Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool](#) is the appropriate system for advising early-stage project planning and design to avoid areas of anticipated wildlife concerns and associated regulatory requirements.



## Schoup Solar Project



- |                           |                              |                              |   |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Buffered Project Boundary | Department of Energy         | State Land Office            | U.S. Department of Agriculture              |
| Project Boundary          | NM Department of Game & Fish | State of New Mexico          | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service              |
| Bureau of Land Management | NM State Forestry Division   | Tribal Land                  | U.S. Forest Service                         |
| City Land                 | NM State Parks               | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers | U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| County Land               | National Park Service        | U.S. Bureau of Reclamation   |   |
| Department of Defense     | Private                      |                              |   |

USGS, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), Natural Heritage New Mexico (NHNM), and USDA Forest Service,

Compiled by Richard Norwood of NHNM over the period 2020 to 2021.

Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatasyreisen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community



**Special Status Animal Species within 150 Meters of Project Area**

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDGF (WCA)	NMDGF SGCN/SERI
<a href="#">Eared Grebe</a>	<a href="#">Podiceps nigricollis</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">American Bittern</a>	<a href="#">Botaurus lentiginosus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Bald Eagle</a>	<a href="#">Haliaeetus leucocephalus</a>		T	SGCN
<a href="#">Aplomado Falcon</a>	<a href="#">Falco femoralis</a>		E	SGCN
<a href="#">Peregrine Falcon</a>	<a href="#">Falco peregrinus</a>		T	SGCN
Least Tern	<a href="#">Sternula antillarum</a>	LE	E	SGCN
<a href="#">Lewis's Woodpecker</a>	<a href="#">Melanerpes lewis</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Bank Swallow</a>	<a href="#">Riparia riparia</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Pygmy Nuthatch</a>	<a href="#">Sitta pygmaea</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Sprague's Pipit</a>	<a href="#">Anthus spragueii</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Loggerhead Shrike</a>	<a href="#">Lanius ludovicianus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Bell's Vireo</a>	<a href="#">Vireo bellii</a>		T	SGCN
<a href="#">Gray Vireo</a>	<a href="#">Vireo vicinior</a>		T	SGCN
<a href="#">Varied Bunting</a>	<a href="#">Passerina versicolor</a>		T	SGCN
<a href="#">Black-Tailed Prairie Dog</a>	<a href="#">Cynomys ludovicianus</a>			SGCN
<a href="#">Gray-Banded Kingsnake</a>	<a href="#">Lampropeltis alterna</a>		E	SGCN
<a href="#">Plainbelly Water Snake</a>	<a href="#">Nerodia erythrogaster</a>		E	SGCN
<a href="#">Pronghorn</a>	<a href="#">Antilocapra americana americana</a>			SERI

ESA = Endangered Species Act, WCA = Wildlife Conservation Act, SGCN = Species of Greatest Conservation Need, SERI = Species of Economic and Recreational Importance

**Project Recommendations**

Your proposed project activities may require a custom review for assessment of potential effects to wildlife. See the "OVERALL STATUS" section above to determine the likelihood that your project will be reviewed further based on its location. A Department biologist will confirm whether any additional conservation measures are needed. You should expect to receive any additional project recommendations within 30 days of your project submission. If the "OVERALL STATUS" section indicates that no further consultation with the Department is required based on its location, then you will only receive additional project feedback from the Department if a biologist deems it necessary.



Due to potential impacts on burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) if they occur within your project area, the Department recommends that a preliminary burrowing owl survey be conducted by a qualified biologist, using the Department's [burrowing owl survey protocol](#), before any ground disturbing activities occur. Should burrowing owls be documented in the project area, please contact the Department or USFWS for further recommendations regarding relocation or avoidance of impacts.

Your project could negatively impact prairie dog colonies if they occur within your project area. Both black-tailed prairie dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) and Gunnison's prairie dogs (*Cynomys gunnisoni*) are designated as New Mexico Species of Greatest Conservation Need, and their colonies provide important habitat for other grassland wildlife. Wherever possible, occupied prairie dog colonies should be left undisturbed, and all project activities should be directed off the colony. Any burrows that are located on the project site should be surveyed by a qualified biologist to determine whether burrows are active or inactive and whether burrowing owls may be utilizing the site. Colonies within the range of the black-tailed prairie dog can be surveyed by a qualified biologist diurnally, year-round using binoculars. Colonies within the range of the Gunnison's prairie dog can be surveyed by a qualified biologist diurnally, using binoculars during the warmer months from April through October and by searching for fairly fresh scat and lack of cobwebs or debris at the mouths of burrows during the cold months (November through March). If ground-disturbing activities cannot be relocated off the prairie dog colony, or if project activities involve control of prairie dogs, the Department recommends live-trapping and relocation of prairie dogs. The Department can provide recommendations regarding suitability of potential translocation areas and procedures.

For post-construction reclamation of the solar project area, the Department recommends that the project proponent use only native plant species and that the reclamation seed mix is designed to enhance local pollinator habitat. The Department also recommends that only certified weed-free seed be used to avoid inadvertently introducing non-native species to the reclamation site. Any alternate seeds used to substitute for primary plant species that are unavailable at the time of reclamation should also be native. When possible, the Department recommends using seeds that are sourced from the same region and habitat type as the reclamation site.

#### **Disclaimers regarding recommendations:**

- The Department provides technical guidance to support the persistence of all protected species of native fish and wildlife, including game and nongame wildlife species. Species listed within this report include those that have been documented to occur within the project area, and others that may not have been documented but are projected to occur within the project vicinity.
- Recommendations are provided by the Department under the authority of § 17-1-5.1 New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978, to provide "communication and consultation with federal and other state agencies, local governments and communities, private organizations and affected interests responsible for habitat, wilderness, recreation, water quality and environmental protection to ensure comprehensive conservation services for hunters, anglers and nonconsumptive wildlife users".
- The Department has no authority for management of plants or Important Plant Areas. The [New Mexico Endangered Plant Program](#), under the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department's Forestry Division, identifies and develops conservation measures necessary to ensure the survival of plant species within New Mexico. Plant status information is provided within this report as a courtesy to users. Recommendations provided within the ERT may not be sufficient to preclude impacts to rare or sensitive plants, unless conservation measures are identified in coordination with the Endangered Plant Program.
- Additional coordination may also be necessary under the federal ESA or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Further site-specific recommendations may be proposed during ESA and/or NEPA analyses, or through coordination with affected federal agencies.