Corridor 30-52

Palo Verde – Palm Springs Corridor

Corridor Rationale

The corridor provides a pathway for energy transport, particularly electricity transmission from Palo Verde Generating Station into California. Input regarding alignment from the Arizona Public Service Electric Company and the American Wind Energy Association during the WWEC PEIS suggested following this route. The corridor is being considered for the Ten West Link project. Currently, there are no major pending or authorized ROWs for transmission line or pipeline projects within the corridor at this time.

Corridor location (Region 2 portion):
Arizona (Maricopa Co.)
BLM: Hassayampa and Lower Sonoran Field Offices
Regional Review Region(s): Region 1 and Region 2

Corridor width, length (Region 2 portion):
Width 3,500 ft
3.4 miles of designated corridor
24.9 mile-posted route, including gaps

Sec 368 energy corridor restrictions: (N)
- corridor is multi-modal

Corridor of concern (N)

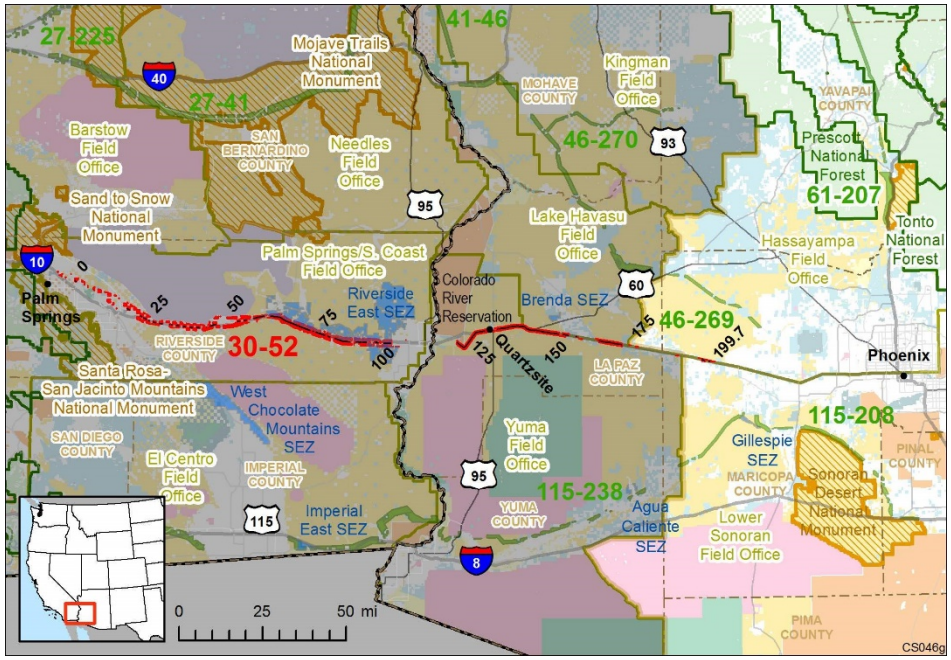
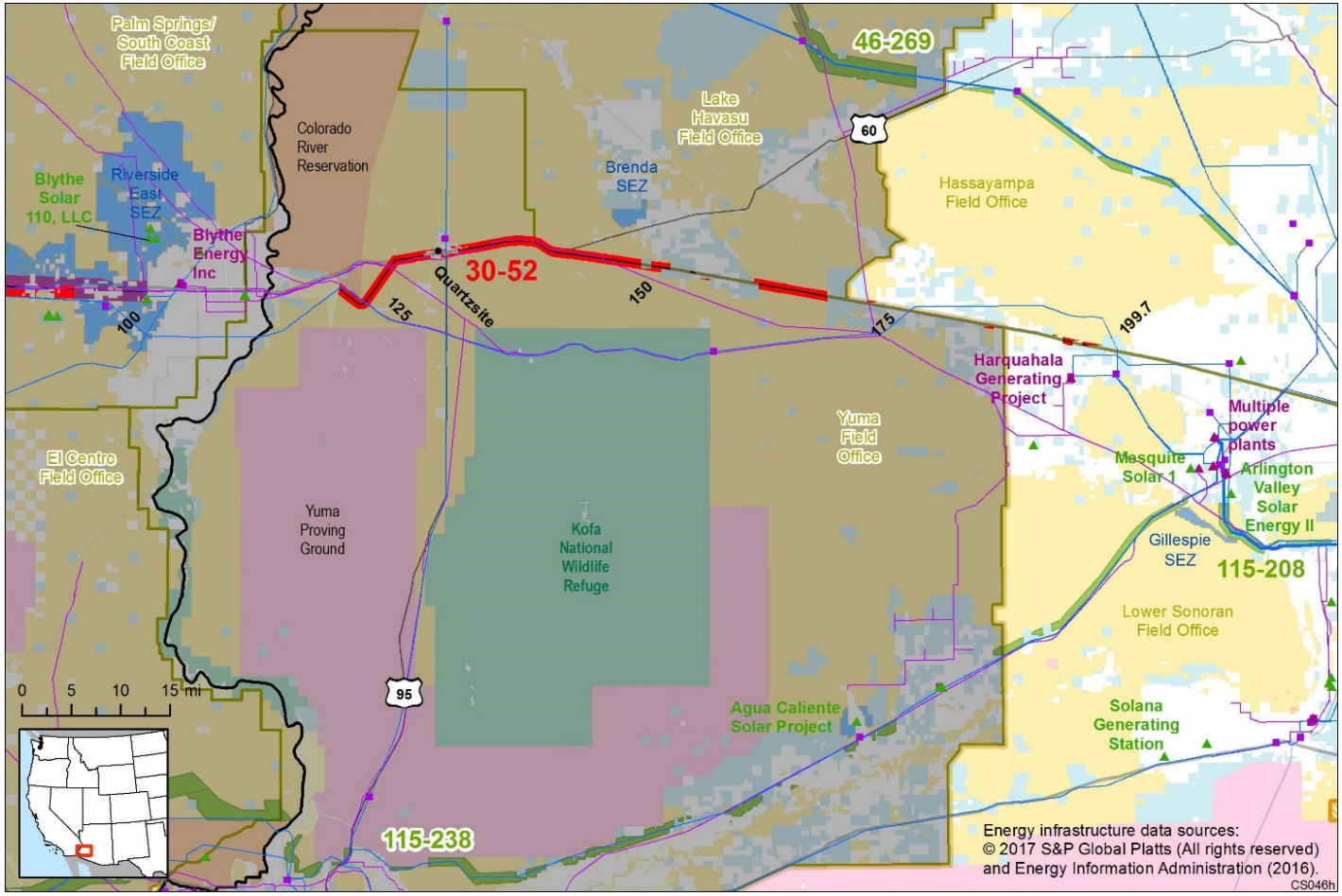
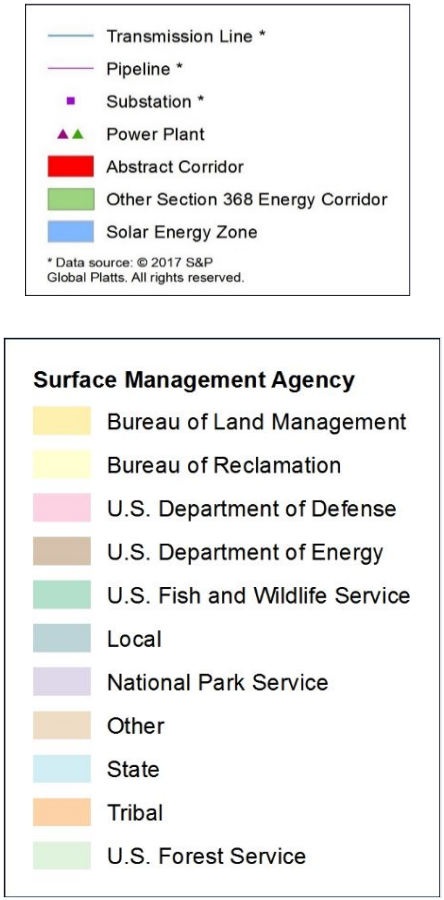


Figure 1. Corridor 30-52

Corridor history:
- Locally designated corridor prior to 2009 (N)
- Existing infrastructure (Y)
  - one power plant within 3 miles.
  - I-10 centered on corridor for most of its length.
- Energy potential near the corridor (Y)
  - REDA areas as close as 1,100 ft from MP 175 to MP 181
- Corridor changes since 2009 (N)





Keys for Figures 1 and 2

Figure 2. Corridor 30-52 and nearby electric transmission lines and pipelines (grayed out area outside of Region 2 and 3 Review)

Conflict Map Analysis

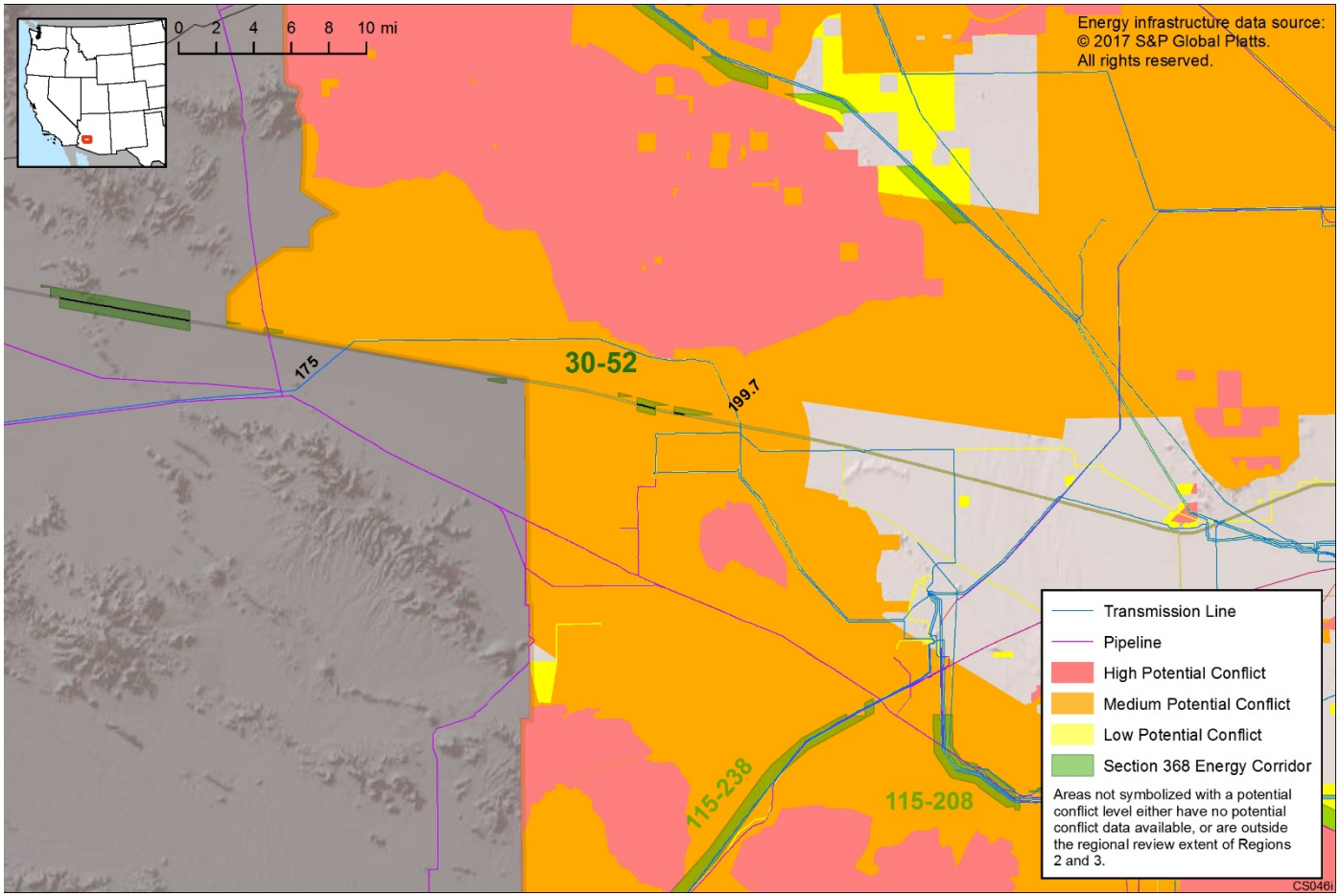


Figure 3. Map of Conflict Areas in Vicinity of Corridor 30-52

Figure 3 reflects a comprehensive resource conflict assessment developed to enable the Agencies and stakeholders to visualize a corridor's proximity to environmentally sensitive areas and to evaluate options for routes with lower potential conflict. The potential conflict assessment (low, medium, high) shown in the figure is based on criteria found on the WWEC Information Center at www.corridoreis.anl.gov. To meet the intent of the Energy Policy Act and the Settlement Agreement siting principles, corridors may be located in areas where there is potentially high resource conflict; however, where feasible, opportunity for corridor revisions should be identified in areas with potentially lower conflict.

Visit the 368 Mapper for a full view of the Potential conflict map (https://bogi.evs.anl.gov/section368/portal/)

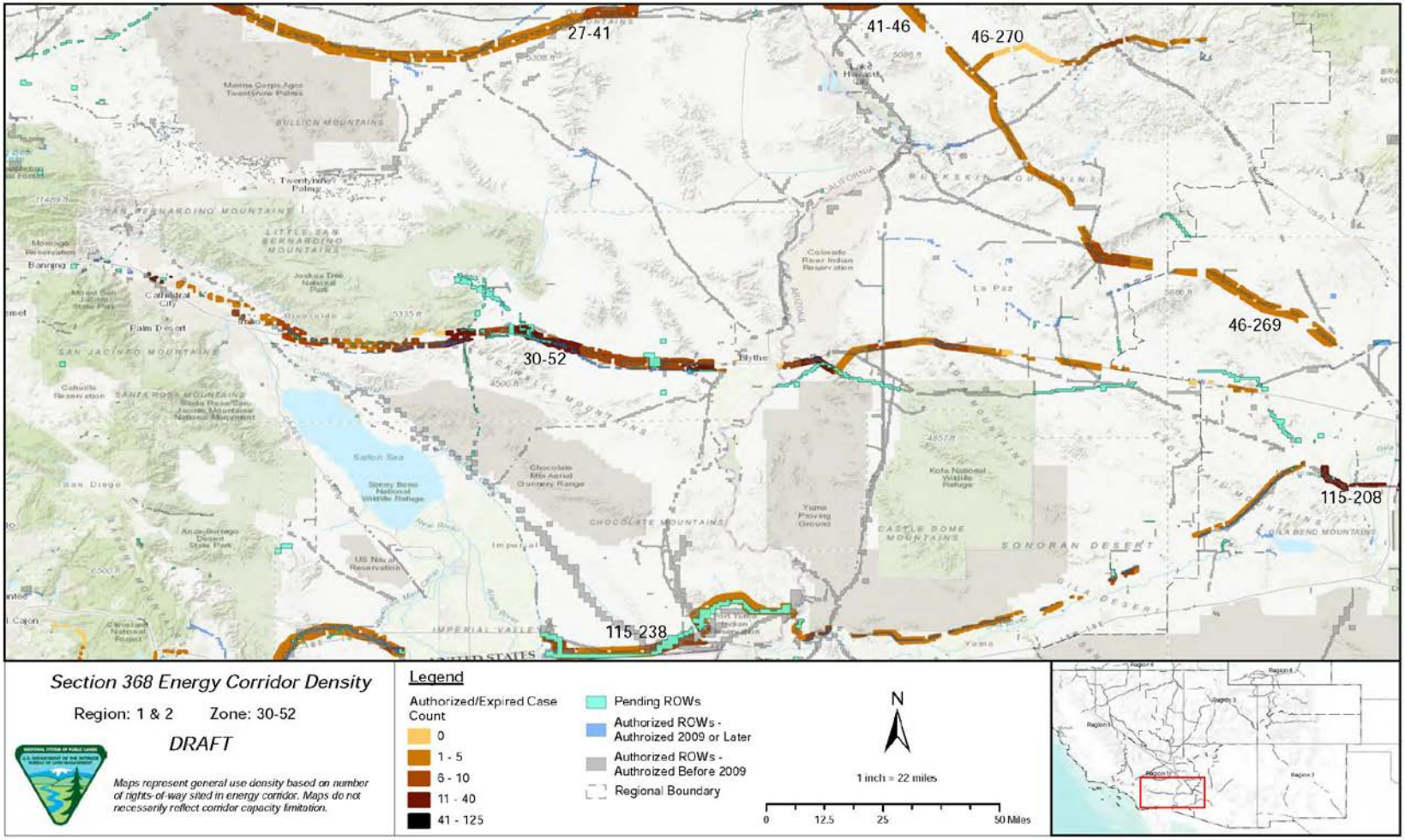


Figure 4. Corridor 30-52, Corridor Density Map

Figure 4 shows the density of energy use to assist in evaluating corridor utility. ROWs granted prior to the corridor designation (2009) are shown in grey; ROWs granted after corridor designation are shown in blue; and pending ROWs under current review for approval are shown in turquoise. Note the ROW density shown for the corridor is only a snapshot that does not fully illustrate remaining corridor capacity. Not all ROWs have GIS data at the time this abstract was developed. BLM and USFS are currently improving their ROW GIS databases and anticipate more complete data in the near future.

General Stakeholder Feedback on Corridor Utility

One stakeholder recommended deleting the corridor because development in the corridor (specifically the Ten West Link Transmission project) would threaten wildlife, impact cultural resources and landscapes, impact visual resources, damage small communities, create health hazards for nearby residents, and create a need for eminent domain on adjacent property owners, but would not benefit the local communities.

Corridor Review Table

The table below captures details of the Agencies' review of the energy corridor. Consideration of the general corridor siting principles of the 2012 Settlement Agreement framed each corridor review, to identify potential improvements to maximize corridor utility and minimize impacts on the environment. Initial Agency analysis is provided to facilitate further discussion during stakeholder workshops.

CORRIDOR 30-52 REVIEW TABLE							
ID	**Agency**	**Agency Jurisdiction**	**County**	**Primary Issue**	**Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])**	**Source**	**Agency Review and Analysis[1, 2]**
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE ISSUES							
Specially Designated Areas							
30-52 .001	BLM	Lower Sonoran FO	Maricopa and La Paz, AZ	Proposed Harquahala NCA	Not specified.	RFI: proposed Harquahala NCA	The proposed NCA has not been designated and is therefore not a consideration for corridor-level planning at the time of this review. (1)
Ecology							
30-52 .002	BLM	Hassayampa FO, Lower Sonoran FO	Maricopa, AZ	Sonoran Desert Tortoise habitat (BLM sensitive species, not listed under ESA)	MP 196 to MP 200	RFI/Comment on abstract: this corridor intersects Sonoran Desert Tortoise Category I and II management habitat and TCAs. Minimize impacts from new energy infrastructure development to the maximum extent practicable, and where impacts are unavoidable, utilize compensatory mitigation pursuant to BLM policy. Use full mitigation hierarchy to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts within 4 mi of Sonoran Desert Tortoise Category I & II habitat and TCAs. Consult with USFWS to avoid adverse	Desert Tortoise habitat does not intersect corridor in the Region 2 portion of this corridor and therefore best meets the siting principles. (1)

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ID	**Agency**	**Agency Jurisdiction**	**County**	**Primary Issue**	**Corridor Location (by Milepost [MP])**	**Source**	**Agency Review and Analysis[1, 2]**
						modification to Desert Tortoise designated critical habitat. GIS Analysis: tortoise habitat less than 2 mi north of corridor, but does not intersect corridor in the Region 2 portion of this corridor. Comment on abstract: reroute to avoid Sonoran Desert Tortoise Category I and II management habitat and Mojave TCAs.	
30-52 .003				Special status species	Not specified.	Comment on abstract: how many Desert Tortoise, Burrowing Owls, Kit Fox and American Badgers would be relocated or hazed out of burrows? (Ten West Link)	The project specific analysis of impacts of the Ten West Link project cannot fully be carried into this energy corridor review as this review is not a NEPA process. Further analysis to determine the presence of all species occurring within the area will be considered outside of corridor-level planning. (3)
30-52 .004	USFWS			Sonoran Pronghorn	Not specified.	Comment on abstract: USFWS recently introduced a population of Sonoran Pronghorn to the northern part of the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. They oppose running this line through the refuge and prefer it follow the highway along an existing line. Expanding it will have biological and visual impacts to the refuge and the wildlife. (Ten West Link)	The corridor has an extremely small overlap with Sonoran pronghorn and it is not located within the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. The Kofa National Wildlife Refuge was analyzed in the Region 1 Review. (1)
30-52 .005				Avian mortality	Not specified	Comment on abstract: BLM should estimate how many birds (raptors, passerines, etc.) would be killed or impacted by the	The project specific analysis of impacts of the Ten West Link project cannot fully be carried into this energy corridor review as this review is not a

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						collision or electrocution from this corridor over its lifespan. (Ten West Link)	NEPA process. Further analysis to determine the presence of all species occurring within the area will be considered outside of corridor-level planning. (3)
30-52 .006				Wildlife migration	Not specified.	Comment on abstract: BLM should evaluate what wildlife migration corridors would be impacted by this project. Would the line disrupt movement of Burro Deer, Javelina, and Bighorn Sheep? (Ten West Link)	The project specific analysis of impacts of the Ten West Link project cannot fully be carried into this energy corridor review as this review is not a NEPA process. However, the Agencies are exploring an opportunity for adding an IOP related to wildlife migration corridors and habitat to ensure appropriate consideration occurs with proposed development within the energy corridor. (2)
30-52 .007				Vegetation	Not specified.	Comment on abstract: construction within the corridor would stir up fugitive dust. The removal of established vegetation, biological soil crusts and centuries old desert pavement creates opportunities for dust to be airborne every time the wind blows.	The Agencies acknowledge the concern regarding fugitive dust; however, this issue is not easily resolved during corridor-level planning. (3)
Visual Resources							
30-52 .008	BLM	Hassayampa FO, Yuma FO	La Paz and Maricopa, AZ	VRM Class III	MP 93 to MP 193 and MP 196 to MP 200	GIS Analysis: VRM Class III areas and corridor intersect.	VRM Class III allows for moderate change to the characteristic landscape, although minimizing visual contrast remains a requirement. Management activities may attract the attention of the casual observer, but shall not dominate the view. (1)
30-52 .009	BLM	Hassayampa FO, Lower Sonoran FO	La Paz and Maricopa, AZ	VRM Class IV	MP 175 to MP 178 MP 197 to MP 198, MP 199 to MP 200	GIS Analysis: VRM Class IV areas and corridor intersect.	The existing corridor location best meets the siting principles. (1)
30-52 .010				Ten West Link visual impacts	Not specified.	Comment on abstract: the line (Ten West Link) would traverse	The project specific analysis of the Ten West Link project cannot fully be

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						113 miles with 86 miles on BLM land and roughly 25 miles through the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. The line would be visible from adjacent public lands and wilderness areas as well as from private properties. A structure this large would cumulatively impact the view from all BLM and other lands. Request that visual resources be evaluated from VRM Class I standards.	carried into this energy corridor review. The corridor is not located within the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. The Kofa National Wildlife Refuge was analyzed in the Region 1 Review. (1)
Land Use Concerns							
Corridor pinched by BLM or USFS authorized use							
30-52 .011	USFWS			Kofa NWR	Not specified.	Comment on abstract: the BLM has a responsibility to protect all of these resources and recognize the cumulative effects of their actions. Please do not avoid this impact because it is on USFWS land. Please eliminate this energy corridor from consideration.	The project specific analysis of the Ten West Link project cannot fully be carried into this energy corridor review. The corridor is not located within the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. The Kofa National wildlife Refuge was analyzed in the Region 1 Review. (1)
Military and Civilian Aviation							
30-52 .012	BLM	Lower Sonoran FO	Maricopa, AZ	MTR – VR	MP 175 to MP 193	GIS Analysis: VR and corridor intersect.	The concern related to MTRs is noted and the adherence to existing IOP regarding coordination with DoD would be required to ensure this potential conflict is considered at the appropriate time. In addition, there is an opportunity to consider a revision to the existing IOP to include height restrictions for corridors in the vicinity of DoD training routes. (2)
30-52 .013	BLM	Lower Sonoran FO	Maricopa, AZ	MTR – IR	MP 175 to MP 200	GIS Analysis: IR and corridor intersect.	The concern related to MTRs is noted and the adherence to existing IOP regarding coordination with DoD would be required to ensure this potential

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						Comment on abstract: MTR (IR-218) with floor of 500-ft AGL. Potential for an obstruction in airspace used for high speed, low altitude military aircraft operations, which presents a potential safety risk.	conflict is considered at the appropriate time. In addition, there is an opportunity to consider a revision to the existing IOP to include height restrictions for corridors in the vicinity of DoD training routes. (2) DoD recommends structures remain below 500-ft AGL. Taller structure will require further analysis for operational and safety impacts.
Other noted land use concerns							
30-52 .014				Environmental Justice	Not specified.	Comment on abstract: Valley Electric, a utility that serves Southern Nevada, will be running this transmission line (Ten West Link) from all the way in Pahrump, Nevada. As a result, ratepayers in Nevada will see a ten percent rate hike over this. However, none of that power will go to the local people in Nevada. This would be an environmental justice issue for rate payers in Nevada.	The designation of energy corridor preferred pathways do not preclude project specific alternatives for projects such as the Ten West Link. (1)

[1] Projects proposed in the corridor would be reviewed during their ROW application review process and would adhere to Federal laws, regulations, and policy.

[2] (1) = confirm existing corridor best meets siting principles; (2) = identify opportunities to improve corridor placement or IOPs; (3) = acknowledge concern not easily resolved or avoided by corridor-level planning.

Abstract Acronyms and Abbreviations

AGL = above ground level; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; DoD = Department of Defense; ESA = Endangered Species Act; FO = Field Office; GIS = geographic information system; IOP = interagency operating procedure; IR = Instrument Route; MP = milepost; MTR = Military Training Route; NCA = National Conservation Area; NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; REDA = Renewable Energy Development Area; RFI = request for information; RMP = Resource Management Plan; ROW = right-of-way; TCA = Tortoise Conservation Area; USFS = U.S. Forest Service; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; VR = Visual Route; VRM = Visual Resource Management; WWEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.