

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT 1325 J STREET SACRAMENTO CA 95814-2922

CESPK-RD 10 April 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Approved Jurisdictional Determination in accordance with the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States"; (88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) as amended by the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" (8 September 2023), 1 [SPK-2024-00676]²

BACKGROUND. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) is a Corps document stating the presence or absence of waters of the United States on a parcel or a written statement and map identifying the limits of waters of the United States on a parcel. AJDs are clearly designated appealable actions and will include a basis of JD with the document.³ AJDs are case-specific and are typically made in response to a request. AJDs are valid for a period of five years unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date or a District Engineer has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.⁴

On January 18, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army ("the agencies") published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States," 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) ("2023 Rule"). On September 8, 2023, the agencies published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming", which amended the 2023 Rule to conform to the 2023 Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S., 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023) ("*Sackett*").

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁵ the 2023 Rule as amended,

¹ While the Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States"; Conforming had no effect on some categories of waters covered under the CWA, and no effect on any waters covered under RHA, all categories are included in this Memorandum for Record for efficiency.

² When documenting aquatic resources within the review area that are jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act (CWA), use an additional MFR and group the aquatic resources on each MFR based on the TNW, the territorial seas, or interstate water that they are connected to. Be sure to provide an identifier to indicate when there are multiple MFRs associated with a single AJD request (i.e., number them 1, 2, 3, etc.).

^{3 33} CFR 331.2.

⁴ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

⁵ USACE has authority under both Section 9 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 but for convenience, in this MFR, jurisdiction under RHA will be referred to as Section 10.

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as well as other applicable guidance, relevant case law, and longstanding practice in evaluating jurisdiction.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

- a. Provide a list of each individual feature within the review area and the jurisdictional status of each one (i.e., identify whether each feature is/is not a water of the United States and/or a navigable water of the United States).
 - (1) Ephemeral Washes, non-jurisdictional

2. REFERENCES.

- a. "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States," 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) ("2023 Rule")
- b. "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" 88 FR 61964 (September 8, 2023))
 - c. Sackett v. EPA, 598 U.S. _, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)
- 3. REVIEW AREA. The review area consists of 3,460 acres of contiguous land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (see attached figures). The undeveloped property is located in unincorporated Nye and Clark Counties, Nevada near the Nevada-California state line with a center point coordinate of latitude 36.057282°, longitude -115.844737. The review area is located in the Mojave Desert in the Ivanpah-Pahrump Valleys watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code 16060015). The arid desert landscape in this area is drained by ephemeral streams originating in alluvial fans near the base of from mountains to the northeast, conveying storm runoff that eventually collects in a closed basin called the California Basin on the California side of the state line.

Annual precipitation for 2024 at the closest rain gage in Pahrump was measured at 4.33 inches. No standing water or active or recent stream flows were observed during a field review by the applicant's consultant or during a desktop review of aerial photography for this area. Soils are consistent with alluvial formations, and no hydric soils are present.

Creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) and white bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*) are the dominant species within the review area. Honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) and other xeroriparian species inhabit some of the larger washes, but no extensive xeroriparian areas are present. No wetlands were encountered during field investigations.

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Aquatic resources within the review are limited to ephemeral streams that have formed within the dynamic alluvial fan. Based on available data and field observations, these streams flow only in direct response to precipitation and tend to form and re-form with successive storm events depending on the storm intensity, but generally retaining their direction and magnitude of runoff within the alluvial fan.

- 4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED.]⁶ The closest downstream a(1) waters are reaches of ephemeral streams that cross the Nevada-California state line. A number of the ephemeral streams mapped within the review area connect, and eventually flow to, these reaches, which are considered a(1)iii interstate waters under current rules.
- 5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER. Ephemeral washes within the review area flow to and connect with one of 10 reaches of interstate waters via tributary connections of varying distances ranging from about one mile to five miles downstream from the review area. Each of the interstate relevant reaches (interstate reaches with the same stream order) were analyzed to confirm connections with ephemeral streams within the review area. None of the interstate reaches extend into the review area.
- 6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁷: Describe aquatic resources or other features within the review area determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Include the size of each aquatic resource or other feature within the review area and how it was determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10.8 N/A.
- 7. SECTION 404 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS: Describe the aquatic resources within the review area that were found to meet the definition of waters of the United States in accordance with the 2023 Rule as amended, consistent with the Supreme Court's

⁶ This MFR should not be used to complete a new stand-alone TNW determination. A stand-alone TNW determination for a water that is not subject to Section 9 or 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA) is completed independently of a request for an AJD. A stand-alone TNW determination is conducted for a specific segment of river or stream or other type of waterbody, such as a lake, where upstream or downstream limits or lake borders are established.

⁷ 33 CFR 329.9(a) A waterbody which was navigable in its natural or improved state, or which was susceptible of reasonable improvement (as discussed in § 329.8(b) of this part) retains its character as "navigable in law" even though it is not presently used for commerce, or is presently incapable of such use because of changed conditions or the presence of obstructions.

⁸ This MFR is not to be used to make a report of findings to support a determination that the water is a navigable water of the United States. The district must follow the procedures outlined in 33 CFR part 329.14 to make a determination that water is a navigable water of the United States subject to Section 10 of the RHA.

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decision in *Sackett*. List each aquatic resource separately, by name, consistent with the naming convention used in section 1, above. Include a rationale for each aquatic resource, supporting that the aquatic resource meets the relevant category of "waters of the United States" in the 2023 Rule as amended. The rationale should also include a written description of, or reference to a map in the administrative record that shows, the lateral limits of jurisdiction for each aquatic resource, including how that limit was determined, and incorporate relevant references used. Include the size of each aquatic resource in acres or linear feet and attach and reference related figures as needed.

- a. Traditional Navigable Waters (TNWs) (a)(1)(i): N/A.
- b. The Territorial Seas (a)(1)(ii): N/A.
- c. Interstate Waters (a)(1)(iii): N/A.
- d. Impoundments (a)(2): N/A.
- e. Tributaries (a)(3): N/A.
- f. Adjacent Wetlands (a)(4): N/A.
- g. Additional Waters (a)(5): N/A.

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

- a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the review area identified in the 2023 Rule as amended as not "waters of the United States" even where they otherwise meet the terms of paragraphs (a)(2) through (5). Include the type of excluded aquatic resource or feature, the size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to meet one of the exclusions listed in 33 CFR 328.3(b).⁹ N/A.
- b. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area that were determined to be non-jurisdictional because they do not meet one or more categories of waters of the United States under the 2023 Rule as amended (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water). Each of the streams within the review area mapped by the applicant's consultant are ephemeral desert washes that flow only in direct response to precipitation. An evaluation of the stream orders for the mapped streams indicated that none of the streams are interstate waters. Because the streams

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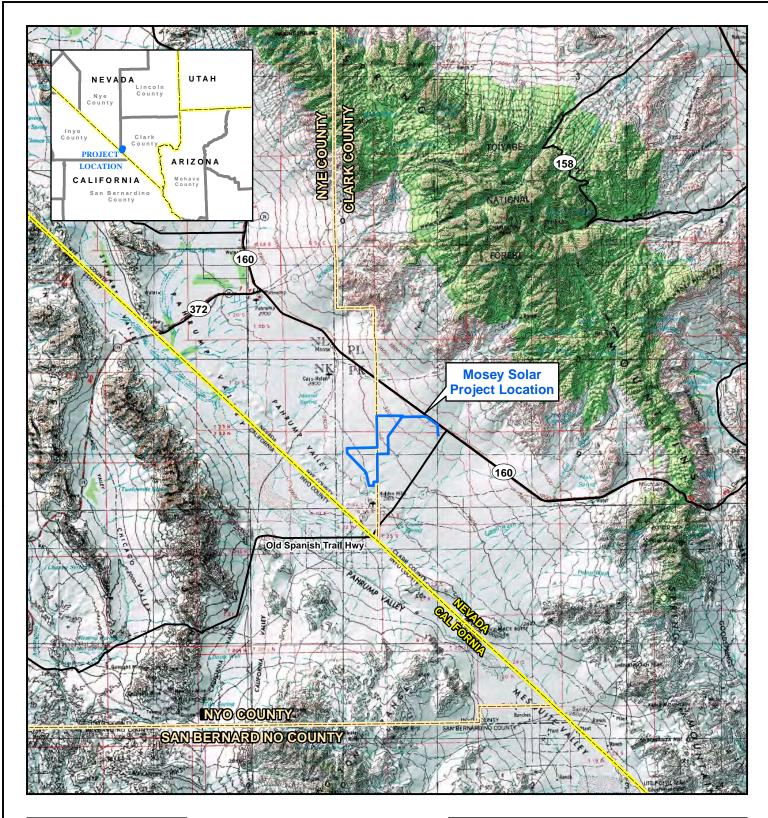
⁹ 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

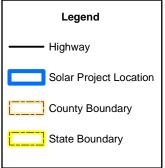
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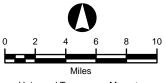
all have ephemeral flow regimes, they are all considered non-RPWs and not jurisdictional a(3) tributaries.

- 9. DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination. Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.
- a. *Mosey Solar Project Aquatic Resources Survey Report*. Dated October 2024. Prepared by Heritage Environmental Consultants.
- b. Google Earth Pro version 7.3.3.7786. Accessed April 7-10, 2025. Aerial photography dated October 2019 and 2024.
- c. US. Geological Survey. National Hydrography Database Plus. Accessed April 7-10, 2025. Available: https://hydro.nationalmap.gov/arcgis/rest/services/NHDPlus HR/MapServer.
- d. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Memorandum for Record: Relevant Reach Analysis for the Mosey Solar Project (Regulatory Division SPK-2024-00676). April 10, 2025.
- 10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. N/A
- 11. NOTE: The structure and format of this MFR were developed in coordination with the EPA and Department of the Army. The MFR's structure and format may be subject to future modification or may be rescinded as needed to implement additional guidance from the agencies; however, the approved jurisdictional determination described herein is a final agency action.

Encls Regional Map AJD Maps







Universal Transverse Mercator North American Datum 1983 Zone 11 North, Meters

Mosey Solar Project

FIGURE 1
PROJECT LOCATION - REGIONAL MAP

Map Extent: Nye & Clark Counties, Nevada

Date: 09-17-24 Author: rcq

G:\Mosey Solar Project/MXD's/Project Location 8.5x11 091724.mxd

