A PATH FORWARD

Identifying Least-Conflict Solar PV Development In California’s San Joaquin Valley

Dustin Pearce
Carrizo Colloquium
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RELEVANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT

➤ Accessibility of the platform and spatial data for all users
  ➤ Public, Stakeholder Groups, Local Government

➤ Functionality and ability to overlay data layers in real time, and to move from a regional to a local perspective

➤ Current data that can be easily updated

➤ Inclusive process and platform that can be expanded for other groups, other geographies, and other questions
THE SINGLE QUESTION THIS PROCESS SOUGHT TO ANSWER:

WHERE ARE LEAST-CONFLICT LANDS IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY FOR SOLAR PV DEVELOPMENT?
THE PROCESS

➤ A **non-binding and non-regulatory planning** effort developed through an open and transparent platform

➤ San Joaquin Valley Gateway

➤ High level resource planning (Planning 101) made to **identify opportunities** within the region

➤ **Stakeholder driven** mapping and criteria development

➤ Creating a snapshot of resource value using best available data and information
Individual stakeholder groups identified least conflict areas through their respective resource lenses. These outputs were then combined, with areas of agreement representing places where there will likely be fewer obstacles to solar development.
STAKEHOLDER GROUPS, PARTICIPANT GROUPS AND ADVISORY GROUPS

➤ Solar Industry Stakeholders
➤ Agricultural Rangeland Stakeholders
➤ Environmental Conservation Stakeholders
➤ Agricultural Farmland Stakeholders
➤ Solar Transmission Stakeholders
➤ Tribal Governments
➤ Military Stakeholders
➤ County, State, and Federal Agency Staff Advisors
Transparent and public mapping platform

Durable and permanent repository for all data related to the planning process

Provides a resource for future planning in the region with data that has been vetted by stakeholders and agencies

Allows for private and public groups, data/content sharing, and user controlled access

https://sjvp.databasin.org/
STUDY AREA - SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

- 8 San Joaquin Valley Counties
- Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin
- DRECP Planning Area Removed
- 17,500,000 Acres
Solar “Opportunity Area” encompassing the majority of the SJV floor

- Elevation cutoff (220m)
- 5km buffer around cutoff
- Removed protected areas (Gap 1 & 2), conservation easements, and designated critical habitat from opportunity area
- Clipped to the SJV county boundaries
AGRICULTURAL FARMLAND STAKEHOLDERS – MAPPING

➤ Created a model to identify:

➤ Long term productive agricultural areas

➤ Areas containing microclimates and groundwater recharge areas

➤ Statewide and local agricultural priorities

➤ Areas of impaired soils or impaired drainage
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STAKEHOLDERS – MAPPING

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➤ Rare species and communities – occurrences and potential habitat

➤ Conservation priorities

➤ Conservation lands that restrict development (critical habitat, recovery units)
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COMPOSITE – LEAST CONFLICT

➤ Intersection of the mapping exercises least conflict lands

➤ Total Least Conflict Acreage: 471,495 Acres

➤ Potential Least Conflict: 117,263 Acres

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➤ Priority Least Conflict: 202,330 Acres
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WHAT CAN BE LEARNED FROM THE SJV EFFORT?

➤ Decision making lead by **collaboration, sharing, and ease of access**

➤ Lower the barriers to participation

➤ Engaged stakeholders that promote the process

➤ Durable outcomes
“We set out to show that multiple and disparate parties could identify least conflict areas for siting of solar projects in the San Joaquin Valley in a matter of months rather than years, for a reasonable cost, and that the maps could help streamline siting of projects. This approach works. It is now incumbent upon us to take advantage of it.”

- Ken Alex

*Director, Governor’s Office of Planning and Research*
QUESTIONS?

Contact Information:
Dustin Pearce
dustin.pearce@consbio.org
databasin.org
climateconsole.org
sjvp.databasin.org
The Data Basin SJV Gateway and Report can be found at this url:

https://sjvp.databasin.org/