



August 11, 2014

Mr. Eric Cherniss  
Panoche Valley Solar, LLC  
845 Oak Grove Ave., Suite 202  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

**Re: 2014 Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard Abbreviated Survey Results  
Panoche Valley Solar Project, San Benito County, California**

Dear Mr. Cherniss:

Energy Renewal Partners, LLC (Energy Renewal) is pleased to present Panoche Valley Solar (PVS) with the results of the 2014 adult blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia sila*; BNLL) abbreviated survey for the proposed Panoche Valley Solar Project (Proposed Project) in San Benito County, California (Figure 1).

The BNLL abbreviated survey was conducted in accordance with the methodology presented in a letter to the California Department of Wildlife (CDFW) on April 29, 2014. The survey was completed within the central portion of the Project site and included portions of the Valley Floor Conservation Lands (VFCL) (Survey Area 1) (Figure 1). The total acreage covered during the 2014 abbreviated BNLL survey was approximately 600 acres. Survey methodology generally followed the CDFW *Approved Survey Methodology for the Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard* (CDFW 2004).

Abbreviated adult BNLL surveys were conducted between May 21 and May 29, 2014, which is within the CDFW approved survey window of April 15 to July 15. The 2014 abbreviated adult BNLL surveys were accomplished by completing five iterations of set 30 meter transects within Survey Area 1 of the Proposed Project area (Figure 1). The adult BNLL surveys consisted of 7 days of fieldwork.

Abbreviated juvenile BNLL surveys were conducted between August 4 and August 10, 2014, which is within the CDFW approved survey window of August 1 to September 15. The 2014 abbreviated juvenile BNLL surveys were accomplished by completing 4 iterations of the set 30-meter transects (shifted by 15 meters on the second and fourth iterations) within Survey Area 1 of the Proposed Project area (Figure 1). The juvenile BNLL surveys consisted of 7 days of fieldwork using all Level II surveyors.

During the adult and juvenile surveys, the surveys were not conducted when weather conditions onsite were out of protocol limits (i.e. >90% cloud cover, sustained >10 miles-per-hour). Surveys were also conducted within the protocol's temperature window of between 77.0 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) to 95°F or 25° - 35° Celsius. In addition, surveys began after sunrise, as soon as the minimum air temperature criterion was met, and ended by 1400 hours or when the maximum temperature was reached, whichever occurred first.

Survey crews consisted of 8-9 surveyors per day throughout the survey period. As per the protocol, the surveyors walked preset parallel transects at a width of approximately 30 meters. The abbreviated surveys resulted in 100% coverage of Survey Area 1.

All BNLL observations were recorded using handheld global positioning system (GPS) devices and observations were categorized by sex (male or female) and age class (adult, juvenile, or hatchling). Additional information such as temperature, wind speed, and surrounding habitat descriptions were noted, if available (Table 1).

No BNLL were found within Survey Area 1 of the Project footprint and VFCL during the 2014 abbreviated survey. However, there were a total of seven reference observations of BNLL, including two in the VFCL (Figure 2) and five in the Silver Creek Ranch Conservation Lands (SCRCL) to the east of the Project site (Table 1) during the abbreviated surveys. These reference observations were made subsequent to the daily surveys to verify the activity of BNLL in the San Joaquin Valley. Included on Figure 2 are 145 observations of BNLL from previous surveys. None of the previous observations are located in the Project footprint, but are fully within the VFCL.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our professional services for the Panoche Valley Solar Project. Should you have questions or comments please contact me at (512) 222-1125 ext. 101.

Sincerely,



Trisha Elizondo  
Senior Project Manager



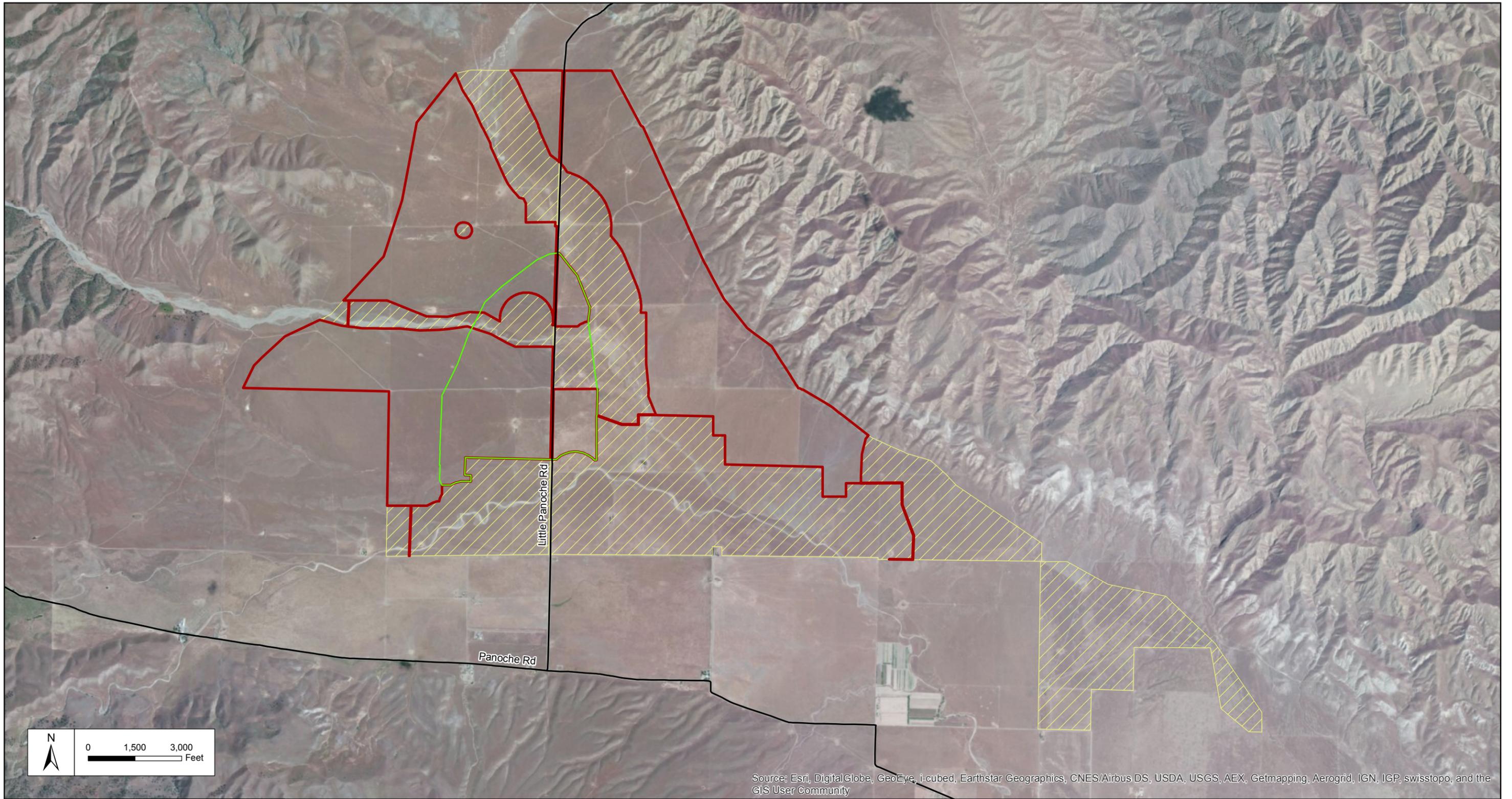
James McRacken Jr.  
Senior Biologist

#### **Attachments**

Table 1	BNLL Observed During Protocol Conditions
Figure 1	Project and Survey Area 1 Location Map
Figure 2	Project Area and BNLL Observations Map

**Table 1. Incidental BNLL Observed**

<b>BNLL Point</b>	<b>UTM</b>	<b>Detection Date</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Age Class</b>	<b>Temperature</b>	<b>Wind</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>BNLL1</i>	10 S 689005 4054747	5/20/2014	Female	Adult	85.0°F	6.0 mph	Small adult, breeding colors apparent. Sunning on log in Valley Floor Conservation Lands.
<i>BNLL2</i>	10 S 688985 4054796	5/23/2013	Female	Adult	96.8°F	3.0 mph	Adult in breeding colors, possibly gravid, sunning before running under log in Valley Floor Conservation Lands.
<i>BNLL3</i>	10 S 702227 4052034	5/26/2013	Female	Adult	91.2°F	5.2 mph	Adult in breeding colors, seen with male, near Silver Creek Ranch wash.
<i>BNLL4</i>	10 S 702244 4052061	5/26/2013	Male	Adult	91.4°F	5.2 mph	Adult in breeding colors, seen with female, near Silver Creek Ranch wash.
<i>BNLL5</i>	10 S 702255 4052063	5/26/2013	Male	Adult	91.4°F	5.2 mph	Adult in breeding colors, sunning outside burrow, near Silver Creek Ranch wash.
<i>BNLL6</i>	10 S 701828 4051522	5/26/2013	Female	Adult	92.3°F	5.4 mph	Adult female in breeding colors, appeared gravid, near burrow with fresh scat present, on Silver Creek Ranch property
<i>BNLL7</i>	10 S 702574 4051791	8/8/2014	Unknown	Juvenile	98.6°F	5.6 mph	Small hatchling on a hill, ran into burrow, on Silver Creek Ranch property



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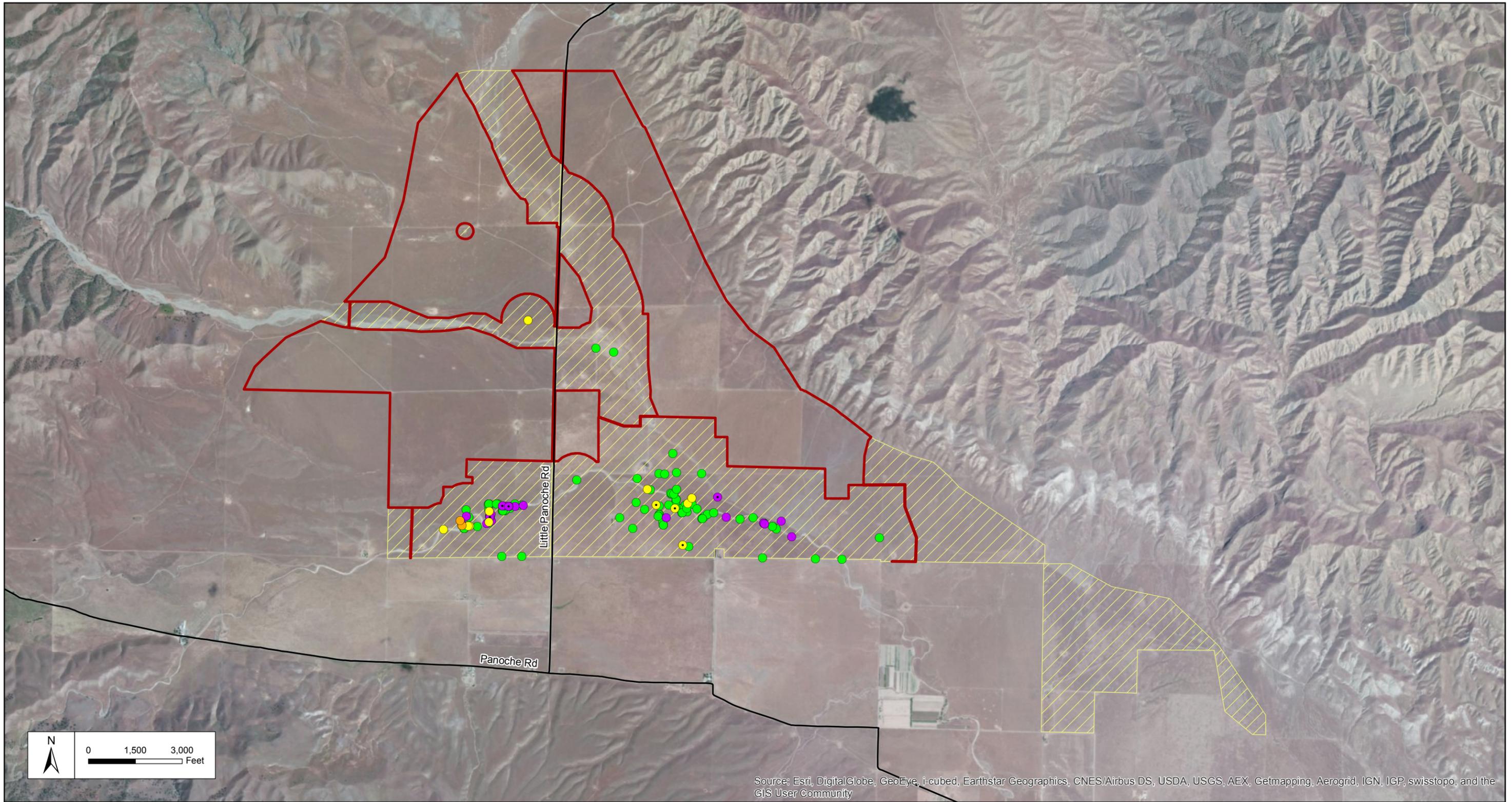
**Energy Renewal**  
 PARTNERS, LLC

**Legend**

- Project Area
- Survey Area 1
- Valley Floor Conservation Lands

**Panoche Valley Solar Project**  
 Project and Survey Area 1 Location Map

**FIGURE**  
**1**



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**Legend**

- Project Area
- Valley Floor Conservation Lands
- 2009/2010 BNLL Observation
- 2013 Adult BNLL Observation (In Protocol)
- 2013 Adult BNLL Observation (Incidental)
- 2013 Hatchling/Sub-Adult Observation (In Protocol)
- 2013 Hatchling/Sub-Adult Observation (Incidental)
- 2014 Adult BNLL Observation

**Panoche Valley Solar Project**  
 Project Area and BNLL Observations Map

**FIGURE**  
**2**