Imperial County
Planning & Development Services Department

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (SEIR) FOR THE LE CONTE BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT, NOTICE OF PUBLIC SEIR SCOPING MEETING

The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department intends to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the proposed Le Conte Battery Energy Storage Project (Project), as described below. The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department will be the Lead Agency. A public scoping meeting for the proposed SEIR will be held by the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department at 6:00 p.m. on March 28, 2019. The scoping meeting will be held at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2nd Floor, County Administration Center located at 940 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. Comments regarding the scope of the SEIR will be accepted at this meeting.

SUBJECT: Le Conte Battery Energy Storage Project

PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVAL: Fall 2019

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed stand-alone Project will be located within the fence line of the existing Centinela Solar Energy (CSE) project site on land wholly owned by CSE (APN 052-190-041). **Figure 1** provides an overview of the immediate surrounding area. The Project is proposed to be located adjacent to the east side of the existing SDG&E Drew Switchyard just south of SR 98, west of the existing solar panels, and east of Mandrapa Road, within the western portion of the overall existing CSE project site (**Figure 2**). Two alternative locations (APN 052-190-010) (**Figure 3 and Figure 4**) are also being proposed immediately west and east of the existing CSE Control Building. The existing CSE site is bounded by Fisher Road to the north, Mandrapa Road and Westside Main Canal on the west, Rockwood Road to the east, and the Woodbine Lateral Four sits just south of the CSE southern limits. California State Route (SR 98) bisects the overall CSE site from east to west and Brockman Road bisects the site from north to south. It is legally described as located within Township 17 South, Range 13 East, in sections 16 and 17 as shown on the Mount Signal 7.5' USGS Quadrangle.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed Project is a battery energy storage system with up to 125 megawatts (MW) of electric storage capacity, located within the fence line of the CSE Site. The Project is designed to operate and will be monitored 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and would not require any on site regular employees. The Project will be located entirely within the fence line of the existing CSE site. The batteries, battery racks and related control systems will be housed internally within the 85,000 square foot battery energy storage system (BESS) building(s). Inverters, an on-site substation and a 230-kilovolt (kV) overhead electric tie line will be located outdoors.

Routine maintenance activities, including equipment testing, monitoring, and repair will occur as needed. Only authorized personnel will be permitted on-site and generally will be limited to the personnel monitoring and maintaining the facility. During operation the Project will not require the use of water.

Construction of the proposed Project will involve minimal grading to prepare the site since it is located on a previously prepared and graded area within CSE fence line. Excavation will be used in activities such as trenching for underground wiring and cables, for placing electric poles, preparing equipment pads and for common services facilities. Dust generation would be controlled by watering and, as necessary, the use of other dust suppression methods and materials accepted by the ICAPCD or the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Construction activities would be completed within approximately 12 months. The number of on-site construction workers would is expected to peak at approximately 50 workers. Project characteristics are described below:

The proposed Project is a BESS with up to 125 MW of electric storage and interconnection capacity on land entirely within the boundary of the CSE site. This proposed Project represents a complementary use to the existing CSE site. The Project will allow for efficient storage of renewable energy generated in Imperial County so that it is available when needed most. The Project will use battery energy storage technology to absorb and discharge electrical energy onto the SDG&E power grid, which is controlled by the California Independent System Operator (CAISO). The Project's energy storage system will be similar in layout and appearance to a data center or "server farm" with rows of rack- mounted batteries housed inside one or more enclosures and consist of the following general components:

- *Batteries and Enclosures:* Banks of electrochemical batteries connected in series and parallel to provide the total energy storage capacity including associated electronics for monitoring and managing the batteries to ensure safety and the design life of the system.

- *Power Conversion Systems (PCS):* Each PCS will consist of bi-directional inverters with 480V AC output, and a medium voltage (MV) transformer which steps the voltage up to 34.SkV.

- *Substation:* AC energy from the MV transformers are aggregated at the Project substation and stepped up to 230-kV by high-voltage transformer(s) and then delivered to the Drew Switchyard.

- *Ancillary Systems:* The plant ancillary systems control, protect and support the Project and its operation. They include fencing; security; lighting; fire protection; and heating, venting, and air conditioning (HVAC).

Centinela Solar Energy, LLC, the owner of the Project site and the existing CSE facility, will lease the Project site to the Applicant. The Applicant will construct, own, and operate the Project. The Project will be dependent on rights owned by CSE and leased to the Applicant, including but not limited to: use of a portion of the CSE Project site, rights of access, site improvements including drainage, grounding and site maintenance, physical security, as well as obtaining from CSE the right to use a portion of the facilities owned by CSE to connect to the SDG&E Drew Switchyard. The Project will interconnect to SDG&E's Drew Switchyard via a shared gen-tie line currently delivering energy from the adjacent CSE project. For a more detailed description and Applicant-prepared support documents please refer to the CUP application package on file with Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department.

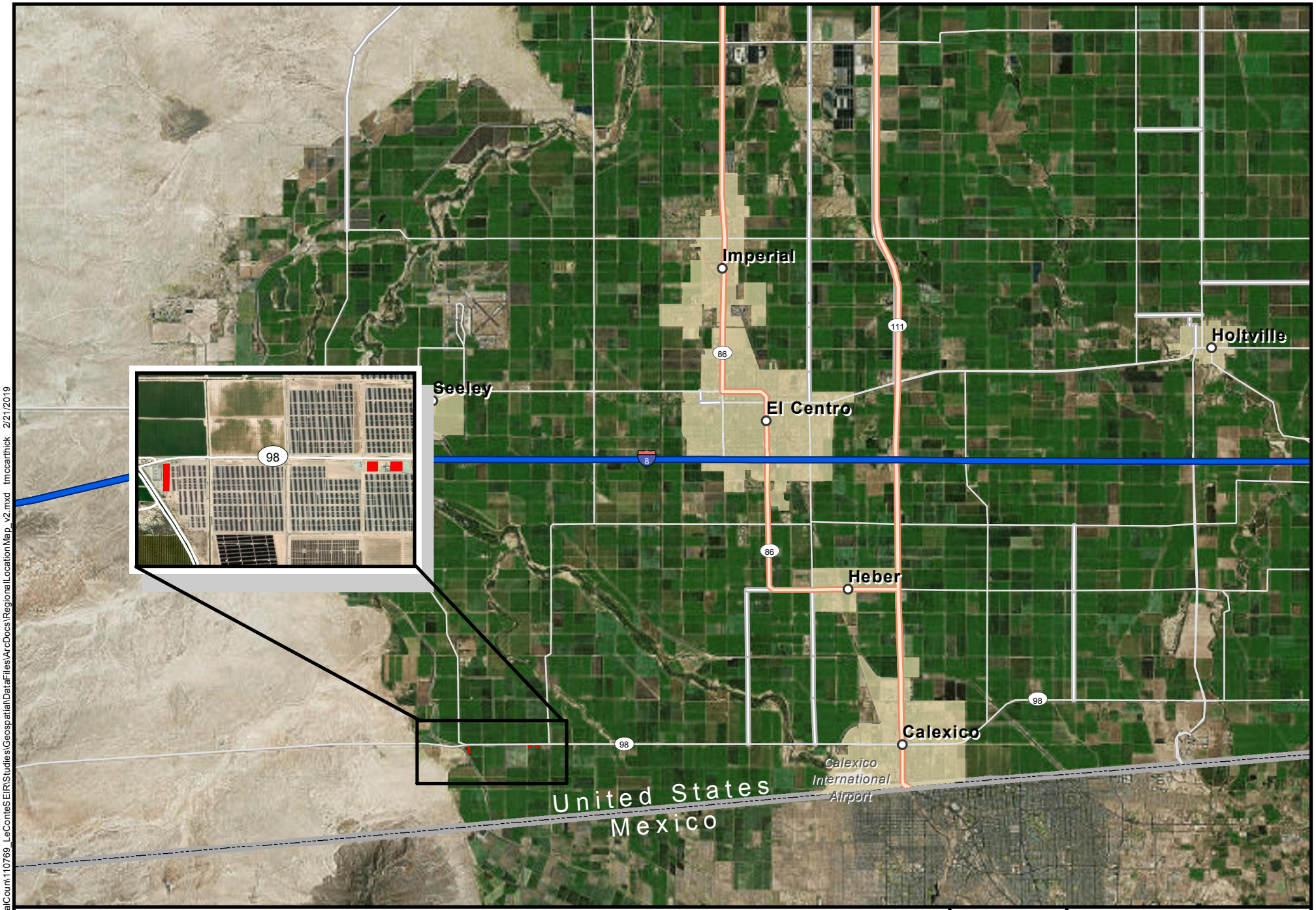
AGRICULTURAL DESIGNATED AREA PLAN: The Project area is located on the western and southern fringe of developed agricultural lands in Imperial County immediately west of the City of Calexico, CA on parcels zoned for agriculture A-2, A-2-R and A-3.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT: District 2, Supervisor Luis A. Plancarte.

ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS: The SEIR will analyze potential impacts associated with the following: Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology/Soils; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Noise; Transportation/Circulation; and Cumulative Impacts.

COMMENTS REQUESTED: The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department would like to know your ideas about the effects this Project might have on the environment and your suggestions as to mitigation or ways the Project may be revised to reduce or avoid any significant environmental impacts. Your comments will guide the scope and content of environmental issues to be examined in the SEIR. Your comments may be submitted in writing to: Jim Minnick, Director, Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. Available project information may be reviewed at this location. Due to the limits mandated by Sate law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but no later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

NOTICE OF PREPARATION REVIEW PERIOD: March 14, 2019 through April 15, 2019



Proposed Battery Energy Storage System
Interstate
Major Highway
Major Road
Airport
National Boundary

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Miles

BURNS McDONNELL

Figure 1
Regional Location Map
Imperial County, California

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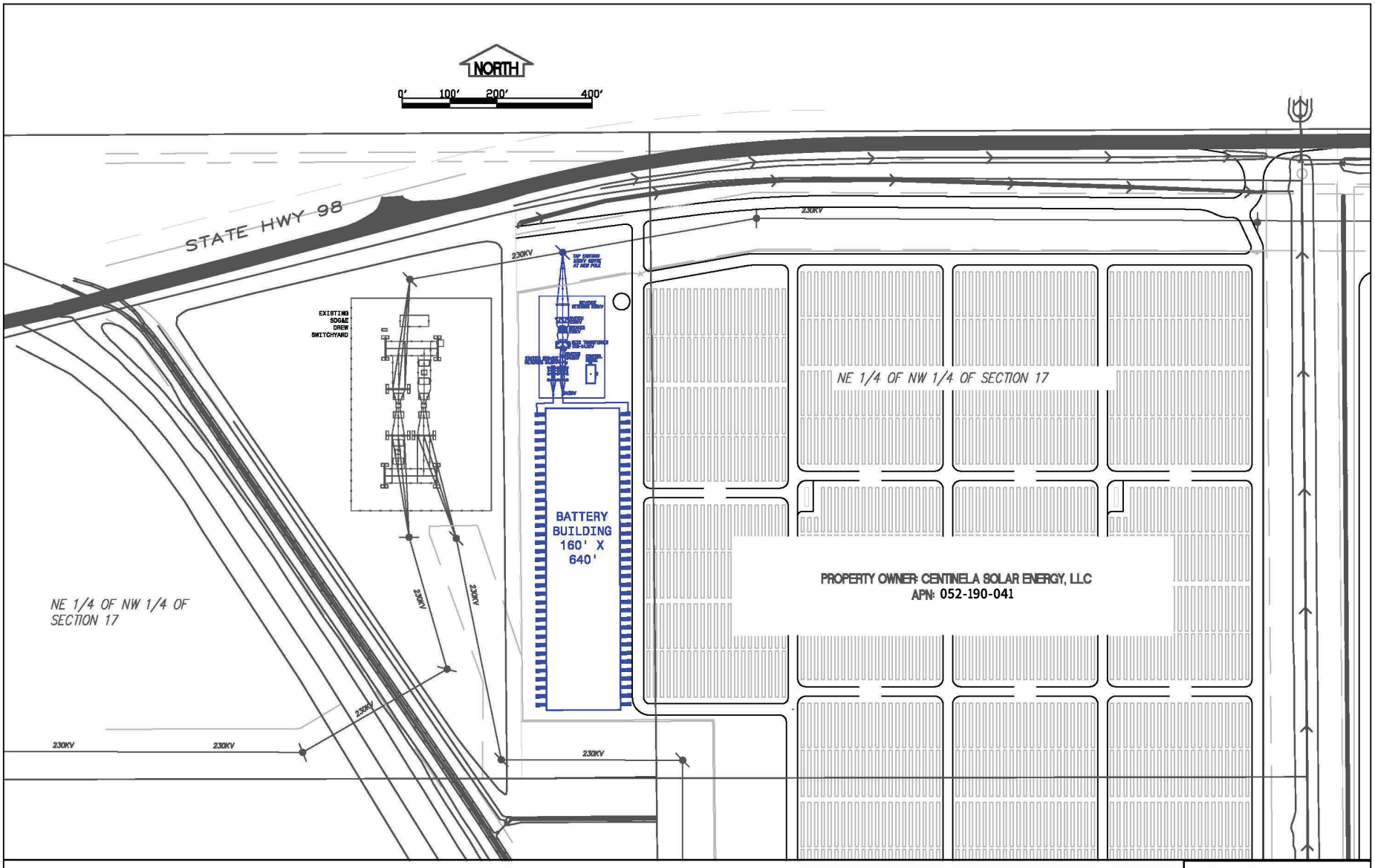
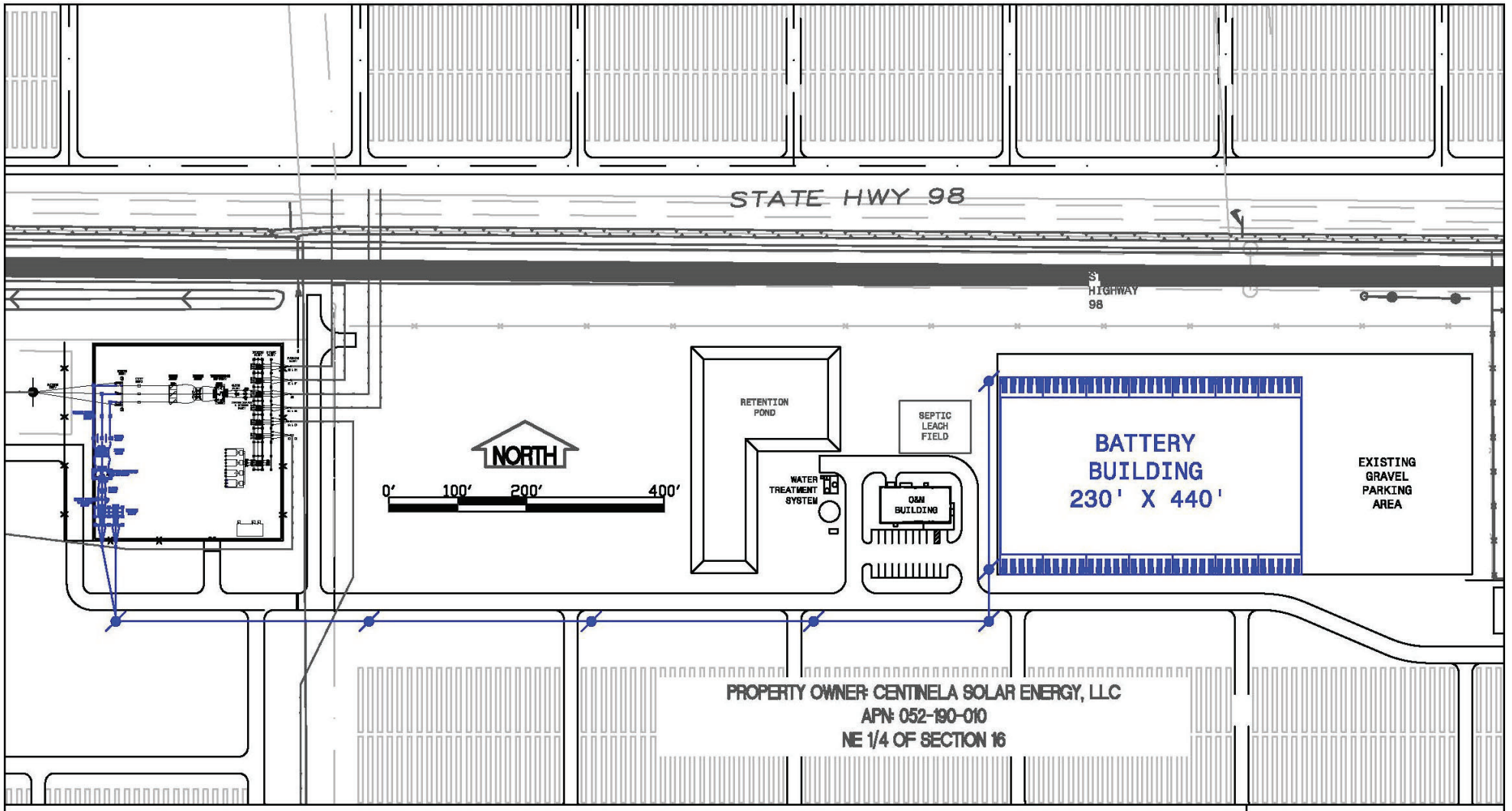
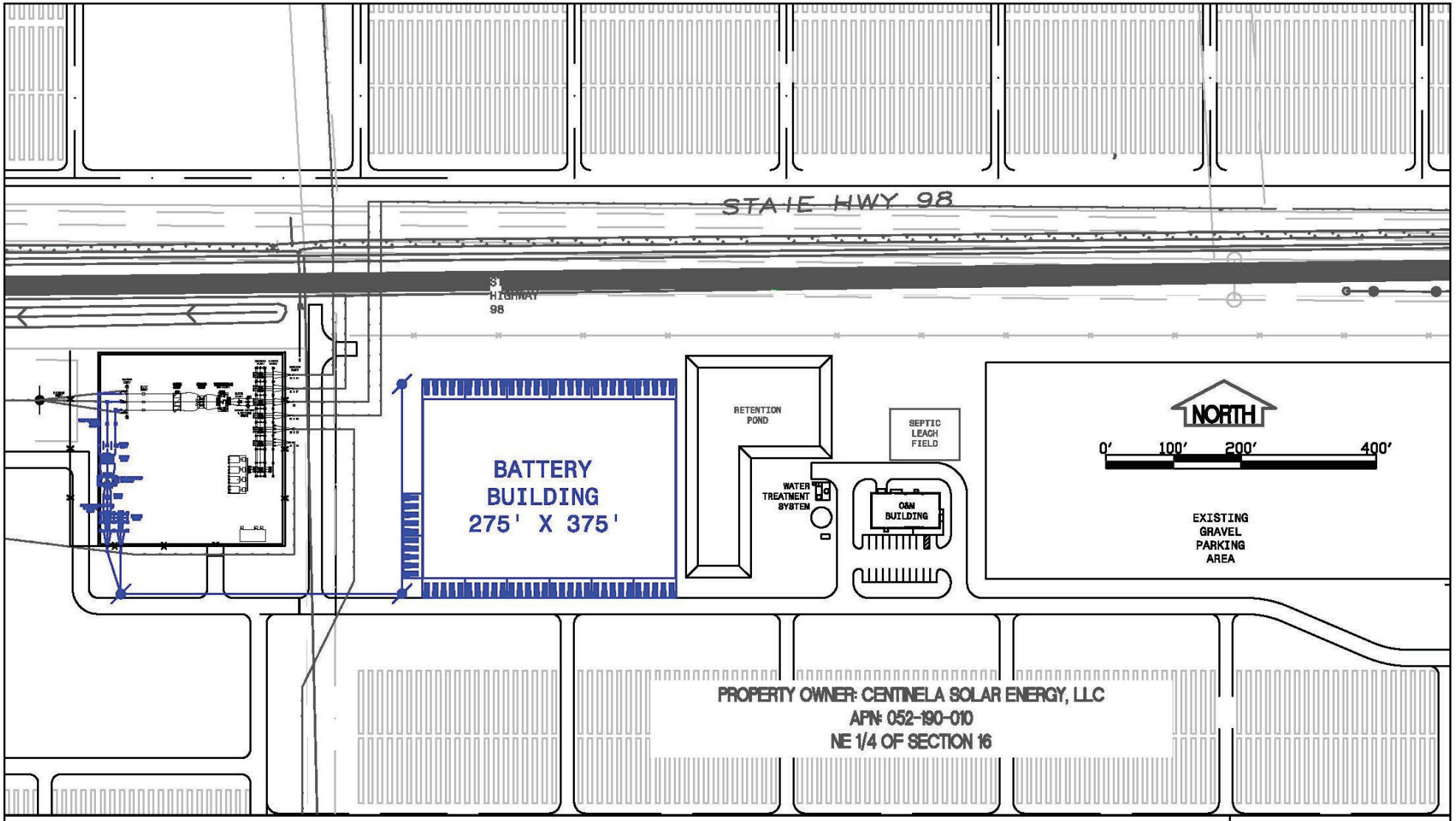


Figure 2
Proposed Le Conte
Battery Energy Storage
System Site



Proposed Battery Energy Storage System Facility

Figure 3
East Alternative



Proposed Battery Energy Storage System Facility

Figure 4
West Alternative