3.2 Proposed Project

The proposed project is to construct and operate up to two independent wind energy generation facilities on 13,535 acres. Major components of the proposed project include: up to 116 WTGs, internal roadways, a power collection system, communication cables, a generation interconnection line (gen-tie line) to the existing Sky River Substation and/or existing Pine Tree Substation (a project substation), use of existing temporary meteorological towers, and operations and maintenance (O&M) facilities. Construction of the proposed project would also require the following temporary project facilities: construction access roads and turnaround areas, water storage areas for dust control and other limited construction related needs, laydown/staging areas, construction office trailers, and concrete batch plants.

For the purposes of this EIR, the conceptual site plan uses a combination of the WTGs listed in Tables 3-3 and 3-4 as the basis for analysis, although the final selection and layout of WTGs will be completed in conjunction with final engineering. Proposed project facilities are described in more detail in Section 3.5. Access to the site from the regional transportation network is gained from State Route (SR) 58 located 12 miles to the south of the proposed project boundary and SR 14 located 12 miles to the east. Access to the proposed project from SR 14 is via Jawbone Canyon Road to private roads. Similarly, access from SR 58 is via unnamed dirt roads. Figure 3-2 shows the proposed project site plan. Table 3-1 below provides data on acreage, MW and number of turbines for the proposed project.

The project proponents are requesting a change in zone classification to incorporate the Wind Energy (WE) Combining District to the base district for 1,292 acres of the 13,535–acre project site (shown in Figure 3-3). This rezoning would allow for construction of the WTGs, ancillary facilities and supporting infrastructure. In addition, the applicants are also requesting incorporation of a small portion of FP (Floodplain) Combining District where necessary to address the existing Zone A flood hazard areas as delineated on the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM).

The purpose of the WE Combining District is to promote the use of an alternative to fossil fuel-generated electrical power in areas of the County that are identified to have suitable wind resources for production of commercial quantities of wind-generated electrical power. The WE Combining District contains specific development standards that apply to the associated construction and siting of WTGs and accessory facilities in the WE Combining District without further discretionary review.

Construction of the proposed project would also require approval of a CUP (CUP 3, Map 13) to allow the use of one temporary mobile concrete batch plant to provide concrete and materials for WTG, substation, and operation and maintenance building foundations. The batch plants would be located onsite during construction only.

In addition, due to military air traffic restrictions, the WTGs would need to conform to the height requirements for the proposed project area as defined by Section 19.64 and Figure 19.08.160 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance unless the military authority responsible for operations in that flight area first provides the planning director with written concurrence that the height of the proposed structure or building would create no significant military mission impacts. The project site is located across several of the military review zones in Figure 19.08.106, including green (no review requirement), yellow (all structures over 500 feet), and red (wind turbines and communications...
Figure 3-1
Regional Location Map
Figure 3-3
Project Site and Areas Proposed for Zoning Change

County of Kern

North Sky River Wind Energy Project and Jawbone Wind Energy Project
Draft Environmental Impact Report

December 2008

Area Proposed For Rezoning Within the Project Site Boundary
Jawbone Wind Energy Project Site
North Sky River Project Boundary

May 2011

3-5
towers over 80 feet and all other structures over 100 feet). Without military review, those structures falling within the yellow zone would be limited to 500 feet above ground elevation. Those structures falling within the red zone, which includes 1,337 acres (10.1%) located on the eastern portion of the site, would be limited to 80 feet above ground elevation for wind turbines and communications towers and 100 feet for all other structures. Figure 3-4 shows military review requirements for the proposed project site.

### 3.3 Project Objectives

North Sky River Energy, LLC has defined seven objectives for the proposed project:

- Make a significant contribution toward achieving the California RPS goal that 33 percent of electricity be generated by renewable energy by 2020;
- Maximize energy production and economic viability by locating the project in an area with optimal wind and solar resources and terrain characteristics;
- Optimize the use of underused and undeveloped land within the Tehachapi Wind Resources Area;
- Increase local short-term and long-term employment opportunities;
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by providing a long-term alternative means of energy to conventional fossil fuels;
- Use state-of-the-art WTG technology to achieve increased performance, lower cost, higher reliability, and longer service life; and
- Produce electricity without the need for large amounts of water in relation to conventional means (1/600 as much water per unit of electricity produced compared with nuclear and 1/500 as much as coal).

Jawbone Wind Energy, LLC has identified nine objectives that are important to achieving the proposed project goal:

- Provide a 39-MW project generating 100,000 MWh per year of electricity, in California, through optimization of renewable energy sources;
- Supply renewable energy that will help the State of California meet its goals by reducing reliance on energy generated from fossil fuels;
- Provide property tax revenues to Kern County;
- Assist Kern County in promoting its role as the State’s leading renewable energy producer;
- Provide green jobs to Kern County and the State of California;
- Realize the full potential of the wind resource;
- Result in an economically feasible renewable energy project that would be developed through commercially available financing;
- Supply clean, safe, renewable energy for 9,000 homes; and
- Support California’s goal of 33 percent renewable energy generation by 2020.