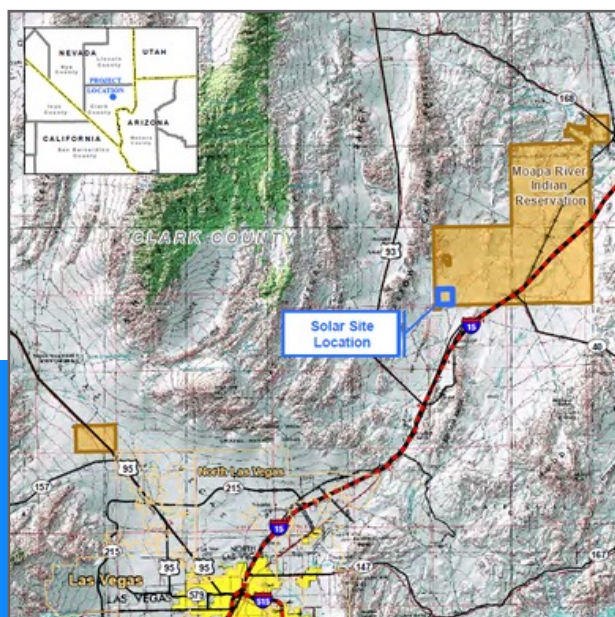




**BUILDING
A SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY FUTURE
IN THE MOAPA VALLEY**

Welcoming new neighbors

The [Moapa Band of Paiutes](#) is a federally recognized tribe of Southern Paiute, who are Native Americans indigenous to the Colorado River basin of southern Nevada, northern Arizona, and southern Utah. The Moapa Indian Reservation, which is located in Clark County, Nevada, is home to approximately 300 Tribe members, and in recent years they have welcomed some new neighbors: solar farms.



EDF Renewables' Arrow Canyon Solar + Storage project combines 274 megawatts (MW) of high-efficiency bifacial solar photovoltaic modules with 91 MW of battery storage and is scheduled to achieve operation in 2022. In addition to creating hundreds of construction jobs, Arrow Canyon will benefit the Moapa Tribe and local community through land lease, tax, and other payments over its operating life.

Tribal members have been actively engaged in the project's development from the beginning. The [Tribal Council](#) delegates most day-to-day business to their business manager, who works closely with EDF Renewables (EDFR) and the project contractor, McCarthy Building Companies. Tribal members were directly involved in pre-construction environmental and cultural surveys of the project area, and more than 40 tribal members are employed by the project during the construction phase - 35% of whom are women. Many tribal members have already gained experience working on solar projects in the area, and EDFR is working in conjunction with McCarthy to provide on-the-job training opportunities for individuals of all experience levels, including entry-level, to aid in the development of skills and expertise for long-term career opportunities in Nevada's rapidly expanding solar industry.

"EDF Renewables' Arrow Canyon Solar + Storage has been very beneficial to our community," said Kami Miller, head of the Moapa Band of Paiutes Tribal Employment Rights Office. "Many of our members are working on the project and earning good wages but also contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and helping to protect the global climate."

Tribal Liaisons

Phillip Burgard and Kage Thompson are members of the Moapa Tribe who work as Tribal Liaisons for the Arrow Canyon project. Both men have prior experience working on solar projects on the Tribe's land - Phillip has worked as a foreman supervising tracker installation and Kage has conducted cultural and biological monitoring.

Based out of the EDFR site management trailer, the role of Liaison enables Phillip and Kage to leverage their experience while developing new competencies.

In addition to attending management meetings, they help ensure tribal members employed by the contractors building Arrow Canyon are fully integrated into the team and have the resources necessary to succeed. This gives Phillip and Kage the opportunity to learn about project administration and people management, thereby expanding their skillsets and potentially advancing their careers in the renewable energy industry. The two men also monitor construction activities on behalf of the Tribe.



“I like working with EDFR as a Tribal Liaison. I’ve learned a lot from participating in the management of the project and gained firsthand experience that will be useful on future projects we may host on our land.”

~ Phillip Burgard

“I appreciate the opportunity to sit in on meetings and see how everything works behind the scenes. It’s a good way to increase my understanding about how to handle different situations, both good and bad.”

~ Kage Thompson

The Desert Tortoise: A Unique Species Adapted to a Harsh Environment

Arrow Canyon Solar + Storage is located in the Moapa Valley, which is in the Mojave Desert - an area that receives only a few inches of rain a year and can experience extreme temperatures that go below freezing in winter, and then soar well over 100 degrees in the summer. The harsh climate supports limited flora and fauna, and the Arrow Canyon project area is characterized by sparse shrubland with relatively little animal life. However, one hardy resident of this region is the desert tortoise, which is a federally protected species.

Prior to starting construction, the Arrow Canyon project team fenced off approximately 1,800 acres of land (the project itself is expected to have a footprint of approximately 1,400 acres). In the spring and fall months, when the desert tortoise is active, biologists searched the fenced area and located twelve animals, which were then removed and placed in a separate fenced location nearby that is managed by tribal members. Once construction is complete, it is anticipated that the tortoises may be returned to the project site and their activity monitored using small transmitters attached to their shells.



The Mojave desert tortoise has been protected under the Endangered Species Act since 1989 and listed as threatened since 1990. Desert tortoises can live very long lives ranging from 50-80 years, but they spend an estimated 95% of their lives in burrows and hibernate in the summer and winter.

A tortoise's range is typically 10-100 acres. They have very low reproductive rates and their young are vulnerable to predation by a variety of other animals.

Low-Impact Design and Construction

Arrow Canyon Solar + Storage is designed to have minimal impacts on the environment during both construction and operations. Installation of the project's more than 621,000 panels requires temporarily flattening vegetation on the site. This was done in a way that preserved the plants' root structures and disturbed the ground as little as possible to facilitate faster regrowth of the desert tortoises' habitat.

In addition, although the project's water use is expected to be minimal once operational, water is being used during the construction process to mitigate dust and preserve air quality within the Moapa Valley. The water is sourced from a nearby reservoir, and a 5-mile-long pipe was installed to minimize the impact of transporting it to the site.

Arrow Canyon is also designed to be highly efficient. It uses bifacial solar panels, an innovative technology that captures direct sunlight as well as light reflected



from the ground. The project is expected to produce enough clean, renewable energy to power about 76,000 average Nevada homes and avoid more than 632,000 metric tons of CO₂ emissions annually—that's like taking 137,000 cars off the road!



Continuing a Tradition of Respecting the Land

The Moapa Band of Paiute Indians has always had a close connection to their land, and solar energy offers a way to continue to honor this legacy of protecting the environment.

“The Tribe views the land as our Mother, and she must be treated with respect,” says Tribal Council Chairwoman Laura Parry. “We have a deep connection to the land and work closely with EDFR to ensure that the construction of Arrow Canyon is occurring in ways that respect our culture and traditions. We are embracing solar development not only because of the benefits it brings to our community, but also because of the positive future it represents.”

“We are embracing solar development not only because of the benefits it brings to our community, but also because of the positive future it represents.”

Laura Parry
Tribal Council Chairwoman





Energy Innovation for the **Next Generation**



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