EXHIBIT A PROJECT LOCATION AND LAND USE

The following addresses the requirements of Arizona Administrative Code R14-3-219, which states:

Where commercially available, a topographic map, 1:250,000 scale, showing any proposed transmission line route of more than 50 miles in length and the adjacent area. For routes of less than 50 miles in length, use a scale of 1:62,500. If application is made for alternative transmission line routes, all routes may be shown on the same map, if practicable, designated by applicant's order of preference.

Where commercially available, a topographic map, 1:62,500 scale, of each proposed transmission line route of more than 50 miles in length showing that portion of the route within two miles of any subdivided area. The general land use plan within the area shall be shown on a 1:62,500 map, which shall also show the areas of jurisdiction affected and any boundaries between such areas of jurisdiction. If the general land use plan is uniform throughout the area depicted, it may be described in the legend in lieu of an overlay.

Project Location

Figure A-1 depicts the Southeast Power Link (SPL) Project (Project) components, jurisdictional land ownership, and the adjacent area within a 20-mile area on a topographic map (1:62,500 scale).

Figure A-2 depicts the Project components including a 2-mile buffer of the Proposed Alignment, jurisdictional land ownership, and the adjacent area on a topographic map (1:62,500 scale).

Figure A-3 depicts the City of Mesa existing land use within a 2-mile radius of the Project on a topographic map (1:62,500 scale). The City of Mesa's planning area boundary and land use designations extend over a few out parcels or islands of Maricopa County jurisdictional land and state land. The City of Mesa's planning area includes these lands and therefore the city land uses are described in this section.

Figure A-4 depicts the Town of Queen Creek existing land use within a 2-mile radius of the Project on a topographic map (1:62,500 scale).

Figure A-5 depicts existing Maricopa County, Arizona, Pinal County, Arizona, and State of Arizona land use within a 2-mile radius of the Project on a topographic map (1:62,500 scale). While there are some out parcels or islands of Maricopa County and state jurisdictional land in the City of Mesa limits, the City of Mesa includes these areas in their planning area boundary and as such they are included in **Figure A-3**.

Figure A-6 is a more detailed map of the zoning within the City of Mesa.

Figure A-7 is a more detailed map of the planned land uses within the Town of Queen Creek.

The Project Study Area (PSA) consists of private parcels along with county and state-owned lands with predominate land uses that include Agriculture, Commercial, Employment, Industrial, Open Spaces, Public/Quasi-Public, Residential, Transportation and Vacant. Private land parcels within the PSA are administered primarily by the City of Mesa and the Town of Queen Creek with some unincorporated areas of Maricopa County. State lands within the PSA are administered by the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD).

The following summarizes the land uses by Project component for each affected jurisdiction and includes land use designations as reflected in the land use plans of each jurisdiction.

Land Ownership

The land ownership within the PSA consists of private parcels in the City of Mesa, the Town of Queen Creek, as well as some lands owned by Maricopa and Pinal Counties, Arizona and ASLD. The PSA includes many existing linear features including roadways, electric utility infrastructure lines, and highway corridors, and canals. Where feasible, the Project components were routed and sited to follow portions of these existing disturbed corridors and to be consistent with city or county existing and future land use plans or private land expansion plans.

General Land Use Plans

City of Mesa

The City of Mesa is a suburb of the Phoenix Metropolitan area and includes a planning area boundary of approximately 172 square miles and is bordered by the Salt River Indian Community and Maricopa County to the north; the towns of Gilbert, Chandler and Tempe to the west; the Town of Queen Creek to the south; and Apache Junction and Pinal County to the east. Land use controls for lands within the incorporated and planning area boundary are regulated by the Mesa 2040 General Plan (City of Mesa, 2014). The primary existing land uses within the City of Mesa are designated as Agriculture, Employment, Industrial, Open Space, Public/Semi-Public, Residential, Transportation/Communication/Utilities, and Vacant land. The majority of the PSA is located within the southeast portion of the City of Mesa. This area of Mesa is currently experiencing substantial growth, partly due to the establishment of technology companies and manufacturing plants, which is developing it into a more urbanized area. This growth is expected to continue and increase in the future.

Existing land use data was acquired for the PSA through the Mesa 2040 General Plan (City of Mesa, 2014) and field verified for accuracy. As depicted on **Figure A-3**, land ownership within the PSA consists of private parcels in the City of Mesa located within Maricopa County. The existing land uses in the PSA administered by the City of Mesa include Agriculture, Commercial, Employment, Industrial, Open Space, Public/Semi-Public, Residential, Transportation, and Vacant land (City of Mesa, 2014), which are described below.

• Agriculture – includes crop farming and animal raising.

- Commercial this classification includes:
 - Automobile/Vehicle Sales and Services Automobile Repair, Automobile/Vehicle Service, Large Vehicle Service, and Service Station
 - o Banking and Financial Institutions
 - Commercial Recreation Commercial Farm, Paint Ball, And Swim School
 - o Offices Business, Professional, and Medical
 - o Plant Nurseries and Garden Centers
- Employment and Industrial this classification includes:
 - Airport and Aircraft Facilities
 - o Industrial Metal Refining, Casting, or Extrusion
 - General Manufacturing
 - o Recycling Facilities
 - o Warehousing and Storage Outdoor Storage and Contractor's Yards
- Open Space Passive Open Space
- Public/Semi-Public this classification includes:
 - o Hospital
 - o School
 - Places of Worship Church
- Residential this classification includes:
 - o Single Residence Detached
- Transportation, Communications, and Utility Use this classification includes:
 - o Communication Facilities Antenna/Transmission Tower
 - o Major Utilities Solid Waste Transfer Station, Wellsite, Substation
- Vacant land

Town of Queen Creek

The Town of Queen Creek includes a planning area boundary of approximately 32 square miles and is bordered by the Town of Gilbert to the west; the City of Mesa and Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport to the north; the Apache Junction Planning Area to the northeast; the San Tan Valley to the southeast; and the San Tan Mountain Regional Park and Gila River Indian Community to the south. Land use controls for lands within the planning area boundary are regulated by the 2018 Town of Queen Creek General Plan (Town of Queen Creek, 2018). The primary existing land uses within the Town of Queen Creek are designated as Agriculture and Open Space, Commercial, Education and Cultural, Employment and Industrial, Residential, Transportation, and Vacant land.

Existing land use data was acquired for the PSA via the 2018 Town of Queen Creek General Plan (Town of Queen Creek, 2018) and field verified for accuracy. As depicted on **Figure A-4**, land ownership within the PSA consists of a few private parcels in the Town of Queen Creek. The existing land use in the PSA administered by the Town of Queen Creek includes Agriculture and Commercial (Town of Queen Creek, 2018), which is described below.

- Agriculture includes general agriculture
- Commercial includes plant nursery and garden center

Arizona State Land Department (ASLD)

As depicted on **Figure A-5**, land ownership within the PSA consists of a few large tracts of land administered by the ASLD. These lands are included within the City of Mesa planning boundary and existing land use data was acquired through the Mesa 2040 General Plan (City of Mesa, 2014) and field verified for accuracy. The existing land uses in the PSA on lands administered by the ASLD include Industrial, Residential, and Vacant land (City of Mesa, 2014), which are described below.

- Agricultural includes crop farming and animal raising
- Residential includes Single Family Detached
- Vacant land

Maricopa County

As depicted on **Figure A-5**, there are unincorporated lands interspersed which are administered by Maricopa County. These lands are also included within the City of Mesa planning boundary.

Land use controls for private lands within unincorporated portions of Maricopa County are regulated by the Maricopa County Comprehensive Plan, Vision 2030 (2016). Land use data was acquired for the PSA from the Maricopa County interactive Geographical Information Systems (GIS) using Maricopa County's PlanNet. Land ownership within the PSA consists of private parcels in unincorporated Maricopa County. The existing land uses in the PSA on lands administered by Maricopa County include Agriculture, Commercial, Employment and Industrial, Open Space, Residential, and Vacant land (Maricopa County, 2018), which are described below.

- Agriculture includes animal raising
- Commercial includes Automobile/Vehicle Sales and Services
- Employment and Industrial this classification includes:
 - o Industrial Cement Plant
 - Warehousing and Storage Outdoor Storage and Contractor's Yards
 - Wholesale
- Public/Semi-Public this classification includes:
 - Day Care Centers
 - o Parks and Recreation Facilities Soccer Fields
- Residential this classification includes:
 - Single Residence Detached
 - Single Residence RV Park
- Vacant land

Pinal County

As depicted on **Figure A-5**, there are a few private parcels of land along the eastern edge of the PSA administered by Pinal County. Land use controls for private lands within Pinal County are regulated by the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan (2015). Existing land use data was acquired from the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan and field verified for accuracy. The existing land uses

in the PSA on lands administered by Pinal County include Employment, Residential, and Vacant land (Pinal County, 2015), which are described below.

- Employment Agriculture
- Residential Moderate Low Density Residential (1-3.5 du/ac)
- Vacant land

Although Pinal County does administer lands within the PSA, none of the routes are within 1,000 feet of these lands. For this reason, the existing and planned land uses for Pinal County are not further discussed in this document.

Planned Land Uses

City of Mesa

The Mesa 2040 General Plan is the current planning guide for developments within the incorporated and planning area boundaries regulated by the City of Mesa. The City of Mesa's General Plan serves as the city's guide for future community development and as a tool to guide and shape physical development of the city (City of Mesa, 2014). As the City of Mesa has no publicly available planned land use data, zoning is depicted in **Figure A-6**.

The City of Mesa anticipates significant growth in the area surrounding the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, expecting it to grow by approximately 70,000 residents and 40,000 employees over the next 30 years. The Mesa Gateway Strategic Development Plan (MGSDP) provides specific information about the goals and plans for this "Mesa Gateway Area" (City of Mesa, 2014). The MGSDP places an emphasis on continuing to preserve and grow aviation-related employment in the area, as well as flight safety and protecting compatible surrounding land uses (City of Mesa, 2014). The MGSDP divides the area into four distinct districts: the Inner Loop District, the Mixed-Use Community District, the Airport Campus District, and the Logistics and Commerce District (City of Mesa, 2008).

The Inner Loop District, located northwest of the Loop 202/State Route (SR)-24 interchange, is planned to contain a wide variety of land uses, but will have to be compatible with increasing flight activity from airport operations. Therefore, land uses in the area may need to be generally non-residential, with an emphasis on business park development, and the possibility of higher-density residential uses to be included in the future (City of Mesa, 2008). The City of Mesa has engaged in a planning process to begin redeveloping the Inner Loop District. Although this process is not complete and will require rezoning of portions of the area, the City of Mesa has developed plans to characterize the majority of the Inner Loop District with industrial and business park employment areas, a transit corridor along Elliot Road, and smaller neighborhood areas throughout. These plans have been developed through a series of educational sessions, landowner meetings, focus groups, and public meetings (City of Mesa, 2018).

The Mixed-Use Community District is generally located east of the existing Loop 202 and north of the future SR-24. This district is expected to contain the widest variety of land uses including low-to-high density residential, commercial, employment, civic and recreational uses. The

residential portion of this area is critical to provide balance to the employment, education, commercial, and industrial uses that will characterize the other districts (City of Mesa, 2008).

The Airport/Campus District is generally located southwest of the Loop 202/SR-24 interchange and includes the existing Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, Arizona State University (ASU) Polytechnic campus, and the Chandler-Gilbert Community College campus. This district is planned to be focused on educational opportunities, research and development functions and airport-related uses, with high-density residential integrated where appropriate (City of Mesa, 2008).

The Logistics and Commerce District is located southwest of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport and south of the future SR-24. The predominant land uses in the district are planned to be heavy and light industrial, business park, and commercial uses. Land uses for this area will need to be compatible with an increase in flight activities associated with the airport (City of Mesa, 2008).

Although Project components are located within all four of the districts of the Mesa Gateway Area, they would largely follow existing and planned infrastructure, which delineate the boundaries of the planned districts. These boundaries are expected to be transitional areas characterized primarily by Commercial, Employment, and Industrial uses (City of Mesa, 2008).

Town of Queen Creek

The 2018 Town of Queen Creek General Plan is the current planning guide for developments within the incorporated and planning area boundaries regulated by the Town of Queen Creek. The Queen Creek General Plan serves as a decision-making road map for future growth and development (Town of Queen Creek, 2018). The planned uses within the Town of Queen Creek are depicted in **Figure A-7**.

The Town of Queen Creek is one of the fastest growing communities in Maricopa County, having increased in population approximately 80% in the past decade and expected to follow a similar pattern for the next ten years (Town of Queen Creek, 2018). The PSA is within the North Specific Area Plan which has been designed to include several future residential neighborhoods and industrial areas. Although the existing land use for the few Town of Queen Creek parcels within the PSA is Agriculture, the planned land uses for those parcels are predominantly Industrial and Residential, along with small portions of Commercial use and an Open Space designated for a sports complex.

Proposed Alignment

The section below describes the land use designations that occur within 1,000 feet of the Proposed Alignments and the RS-31 Substation Siting Area. The existing and planned land uses described below are reflected in **Figures A-3**, **A-4**, **A-5**, **A-6**, **A-7** and **A-8**.

Northern Alignment

Loop 202 Proposed Alignment

The Proposed Alignment (P1 – P3) would parallel existing roads/highways for its entire length, approximately 1.55 miles along the east side of Loop 202, or 1.67 miles along the west side of Loop 202. Within the PSA and 1,000 feet of the centerline of the Proposed Alignment, existing land uses administered by the City of Mesa, Maricopa County, and ASLD include Agriculture (animal raising), Employment and Industrial (warehousing and storage-contractor's yard and outdoor storage), Open Space (passive open space), Public/Semi-Public (daycare), Residential (single residence-detached), Transportation/Communications/Utilities (major utilities-switching station), and Vacant land. In addition, the Proposed Alignment is within the planned Mesa Gateway Area Mixed-Use Community and Inner Loop Districts.

RS-31 Substation Siting Area

Within the PSA and 1,000 feet of the RS-31 Substation Siting Area (226 acres), existing land uses administered by the City of Mesa, Maricopa County, and ASLD include Agriculture (animal raising), Public/Semi-Public (daycare), and Vacant land. In addition, the RS-31 Substation Siting Area is within the planned Mesa Gateway Area Mixed-Use Community District.

Central Alignment

SR-24 Proposed Alignment

The Proposed Alignment (P5 – P6) would parallel future SR-24 for its entire length, approximately 2.08 miles on the north side of SR-24, or 2.55 miles along the south side of SR-24. Within the PSA and 1,000 feet of the centerline of the Proposed Alignment, existing land uses administered by the City of Mesa and Maricopa County include Employment and Industrial (airport and aircraft facilities), Open Space (passive open space), and Vacant land. In addition, the Proposed Alignment is within the planned Mesa Gateway Area Mixed-Use Community, Mesa Gateway Area Airport/Campus, and Logistics and Commerce Districts.

Southern Alignment

Crismon Road Proposed Alignment

The Proposed Alignment (P6 – P14) would parallel an existing transmission line and existing roads/highways for its entire length, approximately 2.11 miles. Within the PSA and 1,000 feet of the centerline of the Proposed Alignment, existing land uses administered by the City of Mesa, Town of Queen Creek, and Maricopa County include Agriculture (crop raising), Commercial (plant nurseries and garden centers), Open Space (passive open space), Transportation, Communications, and Utilities (solar farm), and Vacant land. In addition, the Proposed Alignment is within the planned Mesa Gateway Area Mixed-Use Community and Logistics and Commerce Districts as well as the Town of Queen Creek North Specific Area Plan.

Potential Effects

The sections below describe the potential land use impacts that could occur from implementation of the specific components of the Project.

Alignments

Northern Alignment

Loop 202 Proposed Alignment

Along the Proposed Alignment (P1 – P3), there are Agriculture (animal raising), Employment and Industrial (warehousing and storage-contractor's yard and outdoor storage), Open Space (passive open space), Public/Semi-Public (daycare), Residential (single residence-detached), Transportation/Communications/Utilities (major utilities-switching station), and Vacant land use designations. In addition, the Proposed Alignment is within the planned Mesa Gateway Area Mixed-Use Community and Inner Loop Districts.

The Proposed Alignment was sited to parallel either the east or west side of the existing Loop 202 right-of-way (ROW). The Loop 202 represents the largest disturbed infrastructure corridor in the region and lands adjacent to the ROW are largely undeveloped, Vacant land. Although the Proposed Alignment would not be located within the existing Loop 202 ROW, its proximity to existing infrastructure would result in minimal infringement on private lands and planned land uses.

RS-31 Substation Siting Area

The RS-31 Substation Siting Area is located on or near Agriculture (animal raising), Public/Semi-Public (daycare), and Vacant land use designations. In addition, the RS-31 Substation Siting Area is within the planned Mesa Gateway Area Mixed-Use Community District.

The Substation Siting Area is located in an area planned for Mixed-Use development however, it is located in close proximity to existing infrastructure (Loop 202 and SR-24). The MGSDP indicates that this area would generally serve as a transition zone to the other districts and could include business park, light industrial, and commercial land uses. Therefore, the new RS-31 Substation Siting Area would comply with the goals and policies of the city's General Plan.

Central Alignment

SR-24 Proposed Alignment

Along the Proposed Alignment (P5-P6), there are Employment and Industrial (airport and aircraft facilities), Open Space (passive open space), and Vacant land use designations. In addition, the Proposed Alignment is within the planned Mesa Gateway Area Mixed-Use Community, Mesa Gateway Area Airport/Campus, and Logistics and Commerce Districts.

The Proposed Alignment was sited to parallel either the north or south side of the future SR-24 ROW. Although not yet constructed, this freeway will be a significant disturbed infrastructure corridor and the strongest linear feature in this part of the PSA. Due to the Proposed Alignment's proximity to SR-24, it would likely result in minimal infringement on private lands and planned land uses.

In addition, residential development is planned and currently under construction along the north side of future SR-24. Outreach with jurisdictional agencies, government entities, and private stakeholders have indicated a general preference for the transmission line to be placed on the south side of the highway. However, challenges related to airport flight procedures and associated height restrictions have made the feasibility of an alignment along the south side of SR-24 uncertain. If it is found to be reasonably feasible, the Project will be constructed along the south side of SR-24.

Southern Alignment

Crismon Road Proposed Alignment

Along the Proposed Alignment (P6 – P14), there are Agriculture (crop raising), Commercial (plant nurseries and garden centers), Open Space (passive open space), Transportation, Communications, and Utilities (solar farm), and Vacant land use designations. In addition, the Proposed Alignment is within the planned Mesa Gateway Area Mixed-Use Community and Logistics and Commerce Districts as well as the Town of Queen Creek North Specific Area Plan.

The centerline of the Proposed Alignment was sited to parallel existing disturbed corridors (existing roadways and transmission lines) to the extent feasible. A portion of this route includes an existing 69kV transmission line that would be rebuilt as an underbuild of this Project. Therefore, this route would likely result in minimal infringement on private lands and planned land uses.

Conclusion

A large portion of the PSA consists of Vacant and Agricultural lands, mixed with smaller portions of existing Commercial, Industrial, and Residential land uses. Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District has reached out to many of the landowners along the Proposed Alignment and in the PSA to further investigate future plans. Although there are plans to significantly develop the lands in the PSA, the Proposed Alignment has generally been sited to parallel existing and/or future infrastructure and disturbed corridors. Therefore, the Proposed Alignment would likely result in minimal impacts to existing and future land use plans.

References

City of Mesa, 2014. The Mesa 2040 General Plan accessed 2/13/2018. [Online] Located at: http://www.mesaaz.gov/home/showdocument?id=12298

City of Mesa, 2018. Zoning Ordinances accessed 5/3/2018. [Online] Located at: http://www.mesaaz.gov/business/development-services/planning/zoning-ordinance

City of Mesa, 2008. The Mesa Gateway Strategic Development Plan accessed 5/5/2018. [Online] Located at: http://www.mesaaz.gov/home/showdocument?id=3680

City of Mesa, 2018. Mesa Gateway Strategic Plan Inner Loop District Plan Update. Mesa, Arizona

Maricopa County, 2016. Maricopa County Comprehensive Plan, Vision 2030 accessed 5/12/17. [Online] Located at: http://www.onlineatanthem.com/sites/default/files/page-attachments/MC-vision2030-plan.pdf

Maricopa County, 2016. Maricopa County Zoning Ordinance. June 2016 [Online] Located at: https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/272

Maricopa County, 2017. Maricopa County Planning and Development Department GIS Home Page, titled PlanNet. [Online] Located at: http://planning.maricopa.gov

Maricopa County, 2018. Maricopa County Interactive GIS, titled PlanNet. [Online] Located at: https://gis.maricopa.gov/PND/PlanNet/index.html

Pinal County, 2015. Pinal County Comprehensive Plan, accessed 6/26/2018. [Online] Located at:

http://www.pinalcountyaz.gov/CommunityDevelopment/Planning/Documents/00%20Comprehensive%20Plan%202015.pdf

Town of Queen Creek, 2018. 2018 Town of Queen Creek General Plan accessed 5/3/2018. [Online] Located at:

http://www.plangc.com/assets/documents/Updated2018GeneralPlan.pdf

Town of Gilbert, 2012. 2012 Town of Gilbert General Plan accessed 6/25/2018. [Online] Located at:

https://www.gilbertaz.gov/departments/development-services/planning-development/general-plan-661













