



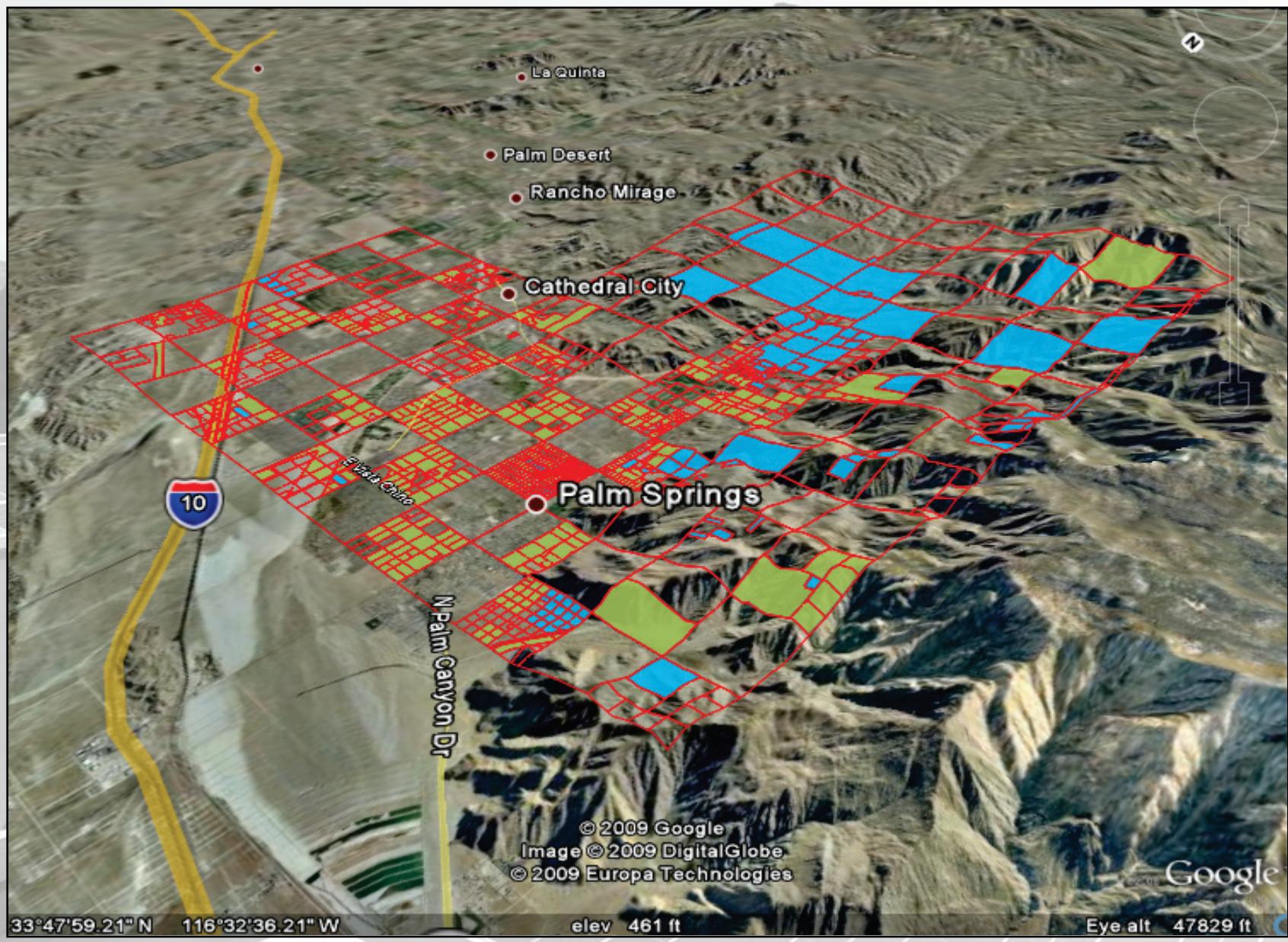
Department of Energy TRIBAL ENERGY REVIEW

Solar Feasibility and Pre-Development Study

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

- Tribal ancestors resided in the area surrounding the San Jacinto Mountains in the Southern California region for centuries
- The Agua Caliente Reservation (approximately 32,000 acres) was deeded in trust by Federal Order in 1876 to the Agua Caliente Tribe.
- The Tribe was deeded the even numbered sections as the odd numbered sections were deeded to Southern Pacific Railroad in 1860; Creating a checkerboard reservation configuration.
- Portions of the cities of Palm Springs, Cathedral City and Rancho Mirage lie within the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation.

Aqua Caliente Indian Reservation



Project Overview

- With prior DOE support the Tribe developed a Strategic Energy Plan in 2006. This plan encompasses the vision for the energy future of the Tribe
- Several of the near-term objectives from the Strategic Energy Plan have now been established and the Tribe now seeks to assess the feasibility of larger scale renewable projects on the reservation.
- The feasibility analysis will allow the Tribe to evaluate and select best energy development options on Tribal lands.

Project Location

- Three primary sites are being assessed through the DOE feasibility study
- Whitewater Ranch – A 217 acre ~~Tribal Administration Plaza~~ edge of the Coachella Valley



Project Participants

- Tribal staff have worked closely with Red Mountain Energy Partners throughout the development of the Tribal Strategic Energy Plan and have selected Red Mountain to continue their quality work as part of this feasibility study.



Project Objectives

- Thoroughly assess the solar renewable energy potential of each of the Tribal sites identified.
- Based upon the initial assessment of the various sites identified; determine the pertinent technology options.
- Select the optimal technology for the sites identified and create viable project options.
- Develop detailed economic models for the projects identified with a goal of creating project-ready plans for solar renewable financing and implementation.

Ongoing Renewable Projects

- In May of 2009 the Tribe completed installation of a 8.25KW solar PV system at its off-grid, Indian Canyon Trading Post facility.
- The installation replaced a noisy propane generator system. Energy efficient appliances were purchased prior to the PV installation to make the operation system as efficient as possible.



Ongoing Renewable Projects

- The Tribe is also assessing wind energy options and waste to energy production options at some of its facilities.



Tribal Energy Activities

- As part of the Tribal Strategic Energy Plan, the Tribe recently formed its Water and Energy Resource Authority (WERA). The goal of this entity is to manage ongoing water and energy resources in a more efficient manner.

Energy Activities Continued

- The Tribe is playing an active role locally as stewards of the land and have become a member of the Desert Cities Energy Partnership; Taking a role in energy related policy throughout the Coachella Valley with other municipalities.
- As part of the Desert Cities Energy Partnership the Tribe was able to take advantage of full energy audits for its large energy usage facilities. Results of these audits have provided energy management staff options for further energy savings at Tribal facilities.

Future Plans

