

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT EIR FOR THE CANERGY PROJECT

The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Canergy Rockwood Project as Described below.

SUBJECT: Canergy Rockwood Project

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project site is located at 206 East Rutherford Road, Brawley, CA 92227 (APN 037-070-004) approximately 3.5 miles north of Brawley, 4 miles south of Calipatria, approximately 0.5 miles east of State Route (SR) 111, and directly west of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) rail line. The property address is 206 East Rutherford Road, Brawley, CA 92227 (APN 037-070-004). The project area includes four parcels (APNs 037-070-002, 037-070-003, 037-070-016, and 037-070-004) totaling 83.17 acres.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION The proposed Canergy Rockwood Project (proposed project) includes two components: 1) a cellulosic bio-fuel ethanol/chemical manufacturing facility; and, 2) 12,500 acres of energy cane crops to be grown in the Imperial Valley. The proposed project involves a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) that will allow for the construction and operation of a cellulosic bio-fuel ethanol/chemical manufacturing facility on an 83.17-acre site in an unincorporated area of Imperial County. The operation will generate up to 36 million gallons per year (MGY) of fuel-grade ethanol, up to 120,000 tons of lignin per year, and up to 120,000 tons of liquid carbon dioxide. Canergy LLC (i.e. the Applicant) has submitted a Minor Subdivision (Parcel Map) Application to combine the four M-2-N parcels, as well as create a parcel for an electrical substation, which will likely be owned by IID. A Variance Application (to allow the structural heights in excess of currently allowable limits) has also been submitted to the County.

DESIGNATED AREA PLAN: The project site lies at an elevation of approximately 155 feet below mean sea level (MSL) in the Imperial Valley Region of the California low desert. The project site is a vacant, flat-lying area previously occupied by a cattle feedlot that has been abandoned for approximately 30 years. The Rockwood Canal and Best Drain are adjacent to the southern boundary of the site. A six-inch diameter liquefied gas pipeline parallels the west side of the railroad tracks. A railroad spur extends into the northeast corner of the project site, and a small retention basin (or soil borrow area) is located immediately west of the southern end of the rail spur. Adjacent properties are also flat-lying and are approximately the same elevation as the project site. Agricultural fields are located to the north and west. A newly constructed Dimethyl Ether (DME) plant is located on the east side of the railroad tracks, and east of the project site. The bio-fuel site is located on existing zoned M-2 Medium Industrial parcels that will allow for this type of development with an approved conditional use permit.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT NO 4.

ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS: The EIR will analyze potential impacts associated with the following: Aesthetics; Agriculture and Forest Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology/Soils; Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use/Planning; Noise; Public Services; Transportation/Circulation; Utilities and Service Systems and Cumulative Impacts.

COMMENTS REQUESTED: The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department would like to know your ideas about the effects this proposed 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 EIR. Your comments may be submitted in writing to: Jim Minnick, Interim Director, Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. Available project information may be reviewed at this location.

NOTICE OF PREPARATION REVIEW PERIOD: January 24th 2014 through February 24, 2014