

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
REPORT (PEIR) FOR *RENEWABLE ENERGY AND TRANSMISSION ELEMENT (RETE)*
UPDATE – JANUARY 6, 2015**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, as lead agency, is circulating for public review a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the update of the 2006 Geothermal/Alternative Energy & Transmission Element (re-entitled *Renewable Energy and Transmission Element*).

PROJECT TITLE: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (SCH #2014071062).

PROJECT LOCATION: The Draft PEIR and RETE includes the entire County of Imperial.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Draft Program EIR for the *Renewable Energy and Transmission Element* identifies the environmental impacts for new opportunities for future renewable energy development. The implementation of appropriate mitigation measures will assure that the Imperial County General Plan update can meet the needs for future development while remaining consistent with identified land use and environmental goals. The proposed project would support the development of expanded renewable energy power production and exportation to accommodate future growth in California and improve overall system reliability. The Draft PEIR discusses the expansion of the existing 2006 Geothermal/Alternative Energy & Transmission Element to take into account additional types of renewable energy and expanded transmission corridor/siting of transmission lines for wind, solar, deep solar ponds, biofuel, bio-mass, algae production, concentrated solar-thermal power, and concentrated photovoltaic, environmental impacts and mitigation measures.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT: The PEIR area is in each of the five District's and the eight County Urban and Community Area Plans.

PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Programmatic EIR has analyzed the potential impacts associated with the following: Aesthetics; Agricultural Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology/Soils; Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change; Hazards/Hazardous Materials; Hydrology/Water Quality; Land Use/Planning; Mineral Resources; Noise; Population and Housing; Public Services; Recreation; Transportation/Circulation; Utilities and Service Systems; Cumulative Impacts; and Growth-inducing Impacts.

LEAD AGENCY: The Draft PEIR can be reviewed at: Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. Available project information may be reviewed at this location or on the Department's website, icpds.com.

REVIEW PERIOD: The public review period on the Draft PEIR is from January 6, 2015, through February 25, 2015. Written comments on the Draft PEIR should be sent to Jim Minnick, Director, Planning and Development Services, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 and must be received **no later than 5:00 PM February 25, 2015.**

Si usted requiere esta informacion en espanol, por favor de llamar al (760) 482-4236.