

# IMPERIAL COUNTY RENEWABLE ENERGY AND TRANSMISSION ELEMENT UPDATE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

May 1, 2014



# MEETING PURPOSE & AGENDA OVERVIEW

- ✘ History of Renewable Energy in Imperial County
- ✘ Goals and Objectives
- ✘ Environmental Baseline Studies
- ✘ Methodology
- ✘ Project Process and Milestones
- ✘ Group Discussion

# IMPERIAL COUNTY PROJECTS

- 36 CUPs submitted for Solar, Geothermal, Wind and Ethanol Projects (25 CUPs approved)
- 26 EIRs; 7 MNDs; 2 NDs and 1 TBD (to be determined)
- Major issues include land use, agriculture, biology and cultural resources
- 2,271.70 MWs Approved
- Solar on 21,933.65 acres of agricultural land

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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- Update the Geothermal/Alternative Energy and Transmission Element
- Develop Implementing Ordinances
- Assure General Plan Internal Consistency
- Provide CEQA Documentation
- Implement Stakeholder Public Outreach Program

# KEY TASKS – RENEWABLE ENERGY ELEMENT

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- Develop Baseline Studies
- Review Renewable Energy Strategies
- Review Renewable Energy Legislation and Policies
- Develop Revised General Plan Element and Implementing Ordinances
- Prepare Adequate CEQA Document

# BASELINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

- Aesthetics and Glare
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural/Archeological Resources
- Geology/Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Health Risk Assessment
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/ Circulation
- Utilities and Services
- Potential Renewable Energy Generation Suitability Areas

# IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

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- Land Use
  - Community & Urban Areas + ½ -mile
- Military Facilities and Operations
  - Military Influence Areas
- Agricultural Resources
  - Prime & Statewide Important Farmland
- Biological Resources
  - Agency Designated Sensitive Habitats
- Aesthetic & Visual Resources
  - Maintenance of Visual Quality as High Value
- Recreation
  - Local, State and Federal Parks & Recreation Areas

# TYPES OF ENERGY PRODUCTION

- Geothermal
- Wind
- Solar
- Concentrated Solar
- Deep Solar Pond
- Hyper-Saline Brine Pond
- Biofuels





# NEXT STEPS

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- Public Outreach Program
- Finalize Baseline Environmental Study
- Confirm Renewable Energy Generation Strategies
- Prepare Draft Geothermal/Alternative Energy and Transmission Element with Implementing Ordinances
- Complete CEQA Environmental Document