

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE BIG ROCK 2 CLUSTER SOLAR AND STORAGE PROJECT

May 1, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, as lead agency, is circulating for public review a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Big Rock 2 Cluster Solar and Storage Project.

Project Title: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Big Rock 2 Cluster Solar and Storage Project. (GPA24-0002 / ZC24-0003 /CUP24-0006 through CUP24-0009 / V24-0002 through V24-0005 / IS24-0009) (State Clearinghouse [SCH] #2024090063).

Project Location: The project site is located on approximately 1,849 acres of privately-owned land in the unincorporated area of Imperial County, California. The proposed project is located south of Interstate 8, approximately one mile southwest of the townsite of Seeley, and approximately six miles north of the United States International Border with Mexico. The project site is west of Drew Road and east and north of Mandapa Road. The entire project site comprises 1,849 acres of privately-owned land, comprising 24 assessor parcels (051-300-036 et al).

Project Description (brief): The proposed project involves the construction of a utility-scale photovoltaic (PV) solar and battery energy storage (BESS) facility on approximately 1,849 acres of privately-owned land. The project would generate up to a combined 500 megawatt (MW) of alternating current (AC) on a daily basis and up to 500 MW of battery storage. Energy generated by the project would be collected using up to 66 kilovolt (kV) collector lines which could run overhead and/or underground to a dedicated project substation. A 230-kV overhead generation intertie (gen-tie) transmission line is anticipated to link the project substation to the existing Liebert Switchyard, which will then be connected via an overhead 230-kV gen-tie line to the existing Mandrapa Switchyard and the San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) Imperial Valley Substation.

Probable Environmental Effects: Agricultural Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology and Soils; Hydrology/Water Quality; and Tribal Cultural Resources.

Availability: The Draft EIR can be reviewed by appointment at the following location: Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. To make an appointment please contact Rocio Yee at (442) 265-1736. The document can be reviewed on-line at: www.icpds.com.

Comments: Written comments regarding the Draft EIR should be directed to Rocio Yee, Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 and must be received **no later than June 20, 2025** (public review period is from May 1, 2025, through June 20, 2025). A Final EIR incorporating public input will be prepared for consideration by the Imperial County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors at a future public meeting. For environmental review information for this project, please contact Rocio Yee at (442) 265-1736.

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