

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT EIR FOR VEGA SES 4 SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC EIR SCOPING MEETING**

The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed VEGA SES 4 Solar Energy Project as described below. A public scoping meeting for the proposed EIR will be held by the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department on **May 13 at 6:00 P.M.** The scoping meeting will be held at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2nd Floor, County Administration Center located at 940 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. Comments regarding the scope of the EIR will be accepted at this meeting.

SUBJECT: VEGA SES 4 Solar Energy Project EIR

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONSIDERATION: To Be Determined.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located on approximately 531 acres of privately-owned land in the southernmost portion of Imperial County, California. The project site is between the U.S./Mexico international border and the All-American Canal, on the California side. The project site is proposed on three parcels (Assessor Parcel Numbers 059-290-010, 059-300-015, and 059-300-017) that are contiguous with each other. It is approximately 10 miles east of the City of Calexico in Sections 10, 11, 14, 15, and 16 within Township 17 South, and Range 16 East of the San Bernardino Base and Meridian of the Bonds Corner topographic 7.5 minute quadrangle. The project site is located entirely within the County's Renewable Energy Overlay Zone.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project consists of three primary components: 1) solar energy generation equipment and associated facilities including a substation and access roads (herein referred to as "solar energy facility"); 2) battery storage system; and, 3) gen-tie line that would connect the proposed on-site substation to the point of interconnection at the existing Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) 92-kV "P" line.

The proposed project involves the construction of a 100-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility with an integrated 100 MW battery storage system (not to exceed 200 MW) on approximately 531 acres of land. The project proposes to utilize either thin film or crystalline solar PV technology modules mounted either on fixed frames or horizontal single-axis tracker systems. The project would include electronic/electrical equipment, an on-site substation, access road(s) and fencing. The electrical energy produced by the project would be conducted through the project's interconnection facilities to the proposed 92 kV generator intertie (gen-tie) line and delivered to the existing IID approved point of interconnection on the 92-kV "P" Line.

Project Applicant: Apex Energy Solutions, LLC

URBAN AREA PLAN: None, located in unincorporated area of County of Imperial

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT: District 1, Supervisor Jesus E. Escobar

ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS: The EIR will analyze potential impacts associated with the following: Aesthetics; Agricultural Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology/Soils; Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology/Water Quality; Land Use/Planning; Noise; Public Services; Transportation; Tribal Cultural Resources; Utilities and Service Systems including water supply; Cumulative Impacts; and, Growth-Inducing Impacts.

COMMENTS REQUESTED: The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department would like to know your ideas about the potential effects this project might have on the environment and your suggestions as to mitigation or ways the project may be revised to reduce or avoid any potentially significant environmental impacts. Your comments will guide the scope and content of potential environmental issues to be examined in the EIR. Your comments may be submitted in writing to Diana Robinson, 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: May 4, 2021 through June 7, 2021