

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT EIR FOR VEGA SES 2,3 & 5 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 2, 3 & 5 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2, 3 & 5 Solar Energy Project EIR

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONSIDERATION:** To Be Determined.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The project area is located on approximately 1,963 acres of privately-owned land in the unincorporated area of Imperial County, CA. The project area is located approximately 5.67 miles southeast of the unincorporated community of Niland between the unincorporated communities of Iris and Slab City. The project area is transected by the Coachella and East Highline Canals and the Union Pacific Railway. The project area is located entirely within the County's Renewable Energy Overlay Zone.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project applicant, Apex Energy Solutions, LLC, proposes to construct and operate an expansive photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility and associated infrastructure on approximately 1,963 acres of privately-owned land in the unincorporated area of Imperial County, CA.

Three separate Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) have been filed with the County, which together define the project sites. The three CUP applications or individual site locations consist of the following:

- CUP 20-0021: VEGA SES 2 (APNs 025-010-006, 025-260-011, and 025-270-023)
- CUP 20-0022: VEGA SES 3 (APN 025-010-006)
- CUP 20-0023: VEGA SES 5 (APNs 025-260-019 and 025-260-022)

Collectively, the proposed projects involve the construction of up to 350 megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility with an integrated 350 MW battery storage system (not to exceed 700 MW). The projects propose to utilize either thin film or crystalline solar PV technology modules mounted either on fixed frames or horizontal single-axis tracker (HSAT) systems. The projects would include electronic/electrical equipment, on-site substations, interconnection facilities, access roads and fencing. The electrical energy produced by the projects would be conducted through the projects' interconnection facilities to the following:

- VEGA SES 2 - IID KN/KS Line
- VEGA SES 3 - IID 161 kV "F" Transmission Line
- VEGA SES 5 - IID 92 kV Midway Substation

**Project Applicant:** Apex Energy Solutions, LLC

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

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT:** District 4, Supervisor Ryan E. Kelley

**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 Patricia Valenzuela, 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**