

Imperial County
Planning & Development Services Department

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT EIR FOR HEBER 1 PARASITIC 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 Heber 1 Parasitic 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 **November 13, 2025 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: Heber 1 Parasitic Solar Energy Project

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONSIDERATION: To Be Determined.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project would be located on one privately-owned parcel (Assessor Parcel Number [APN] 059-020-001) at 602 Dogwood Road in the southern portion of Imperial County, California. The project site is approximately 1.4 miles south of the community of Heber. The proposed solar energy facility would encompass approximately 106 acres in the southern portion of APN 059-020-001. The northern portion of APN 059-020-001 has been previously approved for the development and operation of the Heber 2 Parasitic Solar and Dogwood Parasitic Solar Projects. The proposed solar energy facility would be developed southwest of the existing Heber 1 Geothermal Plant located on APN 054-250-036 at 895 Pitzer Road in Heber, California.

Interstate 8 (I-8), located approximately 4.5 miles directly north, provides primary highway access to the project site. Dogwood Road stems off I-8 and provides immediate access to the project site. From the south, Willoughby Road runs west-east approximately 1,700 feet from the project site and connects to Dogwood Road, providing immediate site access.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project applicant proposes to develop a 20 megawatt (MW) solar energy facility and interconnecting cable line (gen-tie line) that would provide parasitic load to the existing Heber 1 Geothermal Plant. The solar energy facility would provide behind-the-meter power used to offset the auxiliary load of the existing Heber 1 Geothermal Plant. The solar energy facility would not connect to or generate power that will enter the transmission grid; rather, the solar energy facility would be entirely behind-the-meter and would serve as an integrated part of the operation of the existing Heber 1 Geothermal Plant. There are three route options proposed, of which only one will be chosen, for the medium voltage cable that would connect the new 20 MW solar energy facility to the existing Heber 1 Geothermal Plant.

The County Land Use Ordinance, Division 17, includes the Renewable Energy Overlay Zone, which authorizes the development and operation of renewable energy projects, with an approved CUP. The project site is located within the Geothermal Overlay Zone, which is considered as part of the County's Renewable Energy Overlay Zone. Implementation of the project would require the approval of a CUP by the County to allow for the construction and operation of the proposed solar energy facility.

Project Applicant: Heber Field Company, LLC

URBAN AREA PLAN: None

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT: District 2, Supervisor Martha Cardenas-Singh

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; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology/Water Quality; Transportation; Tribal Cultural Resources; Utilities and Service Systems; and Mandatory Findings of Significance.

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 Alan Molina, 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: October 29, 2025 – December 2, 2025