

# Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department

## NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT EIR FOR MOUNT SIGNAL SOLAR FARM, AND CALEXICO I AND II SOLAR FARMS 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 Mount Signal Solar Farm (the "Mount Signal Solar Farm Project"), Calexico I and II (the "Calexico Solar Farm Projects") as described below. A public scoping meeting for the proposed EIR will be held by the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department on July 28, 2011 at 6:00PM. 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:** Mount Signal Solar Farm, and Calexico I and II EIR

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

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The proposed Mount Signal Solar Farm Project and the Calexico Solar Farm Projects are located on privately owned, undeveloped agricultural land encompassing approximately 4,228-acres of land, six miles west of the City of Calexico, California in southern Imperial County. The two projects are generally located between Kubler Road to the north and the US-Mexico border to the south, and between Pulliam Road to the west and Hammers Road to the east.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The proposed Mount Signal Solar Farm Project and the Calexico Solar Farm Project involves the construction of a three component Photo Voltaic (PV) solar facilities, composed of three contiguous but independent sites, which would include solar PV panels, inverter modules, a pad mounted transformer, and an on-site substation. Each Project site will have its own O&M building and onsite substation(s).

**Mount Signal Solar Farm I:** The solar array field will encompass a total of 1,431 acres on ten parcels of land, as shown on Figure 1. This particular project site is anticipated to generate up to 200 megawatts (MW) of energy. The project site includes the following Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs): 052-210-013; 052-210-016; 052-210-034; 052-210-035; 052-210-036; 059-130-001; 059-130-002; 059-130-004; 059-130-005; and 052-190-012. The project site would connect to a shared 230 kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line which may be shared with one or more neighboring solar project(s).

**Calexico Solar Farm I:** The solar array field will encompass a total of 1,332 acres within the nine parcels of land identified on Figure 1. This particular project site will be developed in two phases: Phase A and Phase B, each applying for its own Conditional Use Permit (CUP), and each intended to generate up to 100 MW; however, each phase may produce up to 200 MW (total for both phases combined will not exceed 200 MW). Each phase is intended have its own operations and maintenance (O&M) building and onsite substation. The project site includes the following APNs: 052-210-001; 052-210-002; 052-210-015 (Phase A); 052-190-011; 052-210-014; 052-210-037; 052-210-038; 052-210-039; 052-210-018 (Phase B). The project site would connect to a shared 230 kV overhead transmission line with one or more neighboring solar project(s).

**Calexico Solar Farm II:** The solar array field will encompass a total of 1,465 acres within the ten parcels of land identified on Figure 1. This particular project site will be developed in two phases: Phase A and Phase B, each applying for its own Conditional Use Permit (CUP), and each intended to generate up to 100 MW; however, each phase may produce up to 200 MW (total for both phases combined will not exceed 200 MW). Each phase is intended have its own O&M building and onsite substation. The project site includes the following APNs: 059-110-006; 059-110-008; 059-130-003; 059-110-003; 059-110-007; (Phase A); 052-180-043; 052-180-044; 052-180-022; 052-180-050; and 052-180-051 (Phase B). The project site would connect to a shared 230 kV overhead transmission line with one or more neighboring solar project(s).

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

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT:** District 2, Supervisor Jack Terrazas

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

**COMMENTS REQUESTED:** The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department would like to know your ideas about the 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 significant environmental impacts. Your comments will guide the scope and content of environmental issues to be examined in the EIR. Your comments may be submitted in writing to: Angelina Havens, 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:** July 25, 2011 through August 26, 2011