

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE BIG ROCK CLUSTER SOLAR FARM PROJECTS

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 Cluster Farm Solar Projects.

Project Title: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Big Rock Cluster Solar Farms Projects (State Clearinghouse [SCH] # 2017121078).

Project Location: The proposed Big Rock Cluster Solar Farms Project (Big Rock 1 Solar Farm, Laurel 1 Solar Farm, Laurel 2 Solar Farm, and Laurel 3 Solar Farm, and collectively, the “projects”) is located approximately 8 miles southwest of the City of El Centro and 3 miles south of Seeley, a census-designated place, in the unincorporated area of Imperial County. The project sites are located on private land, currently utilized for agricultural operations, and immediately adjacent to the Campo Verde Solar Project. The projects are generally located south of I-8, west of Drew Road and north and east of the Westside Main Canal.

Project Description: Project entitlement involves four (4) Conditional Use Permits (CUP 17-0027, CUP 17-0028, CUP 17-0029, & CPU 17-0030, General Plan Amendment, Zone Change, Water Supply Assessment (WSA), Variance and Lot Line Adjustment for the construction of a 325-megawatt photovoltaic solar energy facility with an integrated battery storage system on approx. 1,380 acres of land. The project would include a ground mounted PV solar power generating system, supporting structures, electronic/electrical equipment, on-site substation, retention basins, access roads, and fencing. The energy produced by the project would be conducted through a proposed 230 kV generator intertie line and delivered through a short interconnection with the proposed Fern/Liebert Substation. Alternatively, power generated by the projects may be delivered via a gen-tie line to the San Diego Gas & Electric Imperial Valley Substation.

Probable Environmental Effects: Aesthetics; Agricultural Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Cumulative Impacts; Geology and Soils; Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change; Growth-inducing Impacts; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology/Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Noise and Vibration; Public Services; Transportation/Traffic; and Utilities and Service Systems including water supply and energy.

Availability: The Draft EIR can be reviewed at the following location: Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243.

Comments: Written comments regarding the Draft EIR should be directed to David Black, Planner IV, Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 and must be received **no later than May 31, 2018** (public review period is from April 11, 2018 through May 31, 2018). A Final EIR incorporating public & agency 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 David Black at (442) 265-1736.

This notice was published in the Imperial Valley Press on April 8, 2018.