

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR
THE VEGA SES SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT

September 29, 2018

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 VEGA SES Solar Energy Project.

Project Title: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the VEGA SES Solar Energy Project (State Clearinghouse [SCH] #2017081019).

Project Location: The proposed VEGA SES Solar Energy Project is located approximately 9 miles southwest of the City of El Centro, California on privately owned, undeveloped agricultural land encompassing approximately 574 acres in southwestern Imperial County. The project is generally located east of the Westside Main Canal, south of West Wixom Road, west of Drew Road and north of Lyons Road.

Project Description: The VEGA SES Solar Energy Project consists of three primary components: 1) solar generation equipment and associated facilities (herein referred to as “solar energy facility”); 2) battery storage system; and, 3) 230 kilovolt (kV) generator intertie (herein referred to as “gentie”) that will deliver the electrical energy produced by the project to the proposed Imperial Irrigation District (IID) 230 kilovolt (kV) Fern Substation. The solar energy facility, battery storage system, and gentie are collectively referred to as the “proposed project” or “project.”

The proposed project involves the construction of a 100-megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility with an integrated 100 MW battery storage system on approximately 574 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 to the IID through a short interconnection with the proposed IID 230 kV Fern Substation.

Probable Environmental Effects: Agricultural Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology and Soils; Hydrology/Water Quality, and Cumulative Impacts.

Availability: The Draft EIR can be reviewed at the following location: Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. Copies are also available for review at the City of El Centro Public Library, 539 State 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 **November 19, 2018** (public review period is from October 1, 2018 through **November 19, 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) 265-1746.

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