

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR
THE WISTER SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY PROJECT

June 30, 2020

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 Wister Solar Energy Facility Project.

Project Title: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Wister Solar Energy Facility Project (State Clearinghouse [SCH] # 2019110140).

Project Location: The project site is located approximately three miles north of Niland, a census-designated place, in the unincorporated area of Imperial County. The project site is located on one parcel of land identified as Assessor's Parcel Number 003-240-001-000. The parcel is comprised of approximately 640 acres of land and is currently zoned Open Space/Preservation with a Geothermal Overlay (S-2-G). The proposed solar energy facility component of the project would be located on approximately 100 acres within the northwest portion of the larger 640-acre project site parcel.

The project site is located east of the intersection of Wilkins Road and an unnamed county road. The project footprint (physical area where proposed project components are to be located) is generally located east of Wilkins Road, north of the East Highline Canal, and west of Gas Line Road.

Project Description: The proposed Wister Solar Energy Facility Project involves the construction and operation of a 20 Megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility on approximately 100 acres within APN No. 003-240-001-000 (privately-owned land) north of Niland. The proposed solar energy project would be comprised of solar PV panels on single-axis horizontal trackers, an on-site substation and inverters, transformers, and underground electrical cables. The power produced by the proposed project would be conveyed to the local power grid via an on-site 92-kV substation, which will be tied directly to the Imperial Irrigation District's 92-kV transmission line. A gen-tie line would connect the Wister substation to the POI at the existing IID 92-kV "K" line. A proposed fiberoptic line from the proposed Wister Substation would be connected with the existing Niland Substation approximately two miles to the south, which would then be added to connect the proposed Wister Substation to the region's telecommunications system.

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

Availability: The Draft EIR can be reviewed by appointment at the following location: Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. To make an appointment please contact Patricia Valenzuela at (442) 265-1736. The document can be reviewed online at: www.icpds.com.

Comments: Written comments regarding the Draft EIR should be directed to Patricia Valenzuela, Planner IV, Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 and must be received **no later than August 18, 2020** (public review period is from June 30, 2020 through August 18, 2020). A Final EIR incorporating public 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 Patricia Valenzuela at (442) 265-1736.

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