

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

DATE: July 10, 2019

TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION SOLAR PROJECT**

The State of California Department of General Services (DGS) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency for the proposed California Correctional Institution Solar Project (project). DGS has directed the preparation of an Initial Study (IS) in compliance with CEQA. The purpose of the IS is to provide decision makers, public agencies, and the general public with an objective and informative document that facilitates a basic understanding of the Proposed Project and fully discloses the potential environmental effects associated with the Proposed Project, including direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects. Based on the studies performed and information contained in the IS, DGS is proposing to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). DGS will use the IS/MND to obtain permits, agreements, and approvals from necessary agencies to implement the project.

Project Location: The project site is located within State land adjacent to the California Correctional Institution within the city of Tehachapi in Kern County. CCI is located at 24900 Highway 202. Local and regional access to the project area is from SR-202. The project is located on the Cummings Mountain USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle, within Section 29 of Township 32 South, Range 32 East.

Project Description: The project would install and operate an approximately 4 MWac photovoltaic solar power generation facility on 28 acres. The project site is adjacent to an existing solar field. Project features include installation of single-axis trackers, arrays providing approximately 13,440 solar panels, inverters, underground and above-ground conduits, and associated electrical equipment. The ground-mounted solar array would convert sunlight to direct current (DC) electrical power which would then be converted to alternating current (AC) by string inverters before being delivered to the distribution system. The total system size is subject to final design and site optimization. The project has been designed to avoid and/or minimize potential significant environmental impacts.

The project site is not located on any list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts: Potentially significant impacts to biological resources and cultural resources were identified in the Draft IS. All impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the incorporation of mitigation measures.

Public Review Period July 10, 2019 through August 9, 2019: In compliance with CEQA, DGS has established a 30-day public review period beginning July 10, 2019 to solicit comments and input on the Draft IS/MND. To ensure that all environmental issues are fully identified and adequately addressed, written comments are invited from all interested parties. Written comments regarding the scope and content of information in the Draft IS/MND may be submitted electronically to Terry.Ash@dgs.ca.gov or to:

California Department of General Services
Terry Ash, Senior Environmental Planner, Real Estate Services Division
Project Management & Development Branch
707 3rd Street MS#509
West Sacramento, CA 95605-2811

Comments should be submitted no later than **Friday, August 9, 2019**.

A copy of the IS/MND is available for public review at the following location:

Tehachapi Branch Library
212 South Green Street
Tehachapi, CA 93561

The IS/MND is available for public review at the following web address:
<http://epdsolutionsinc.com/ceqa-documents/>