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**PLANNING AND NATURAL
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Planning
Community Development
Administrative Operations

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

DATE: September 10, 2019

TO: See Attached Mailing List

FROM: Kern County Planning and
Natural Resources Department
Attn: Randall Cates
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 862-8612; catesr@kerncounty.com

RE: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department, as Lead Agency (pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Guidelines Section 15052) has determined that preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15161) is necessary for the project identified below. The Planning and Natural Resources Department solicits the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities about the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval of projects.

Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be received by **October 10, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.** In addition, comments can also be submitted at a **scoping meeting** that will be held at the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department on **October 4, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.** at the address shown above.

PROJECT TITLE: AVEP Solar Project by Chaparral Solar, LLC, Rabbitbrush Solar, LLC, and Tumbleweed Solar, LLC; SPA 1, Map 231-18; SPA 2, Map 231-18; SPA 25, Map 232; SPA 26, Map 232; SPA 27 Map 232; SPA 28, Map 232; SPA 29, Map 232; SPA 30, Map 232; ZCC 3, Map 231-18; ZCC 40, Map 232; ZCC 41, Map 232; ZCC 42, Map 232; CUP 1, Map 231-18; CUP 33, Map 232; CUP 34, Map 232; CUP 35, Map 232; CUP 36, Map 232; CUP 37, Map 232; CUP 38, Map 232; Vacations of Public Access Easements 03 098 232 (PP18141).

PROJECT LOCATION: The project is located approximately 5½ miles west of the unincorporated community of Rosamond on 75 parcels totaling approximately 2,117 acres. The site is located within portions of Section 18 of Township 9 North, Range 13 West, San Bernardino Base and Meridian (SBBM), and within portions of Sections 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 25, 26 and 36 of Township 9 North, Range 14 West, SBBM.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: AVEP Solar Project (proposed project), would develop three photovoltaic (PV) solar facilities and associated infrastructure necessary to generate a combined total of approximately 375 megawatts (MW) of renewable electrical energy including associated energy storage systems on approximately 2,117 acres of privately-owned land. The proposed project consists of three solar facilities: Chaparral Solar Facility, Rabbitbrush Solar Facility, and Tumbleweed Facility, which are 764 acres, 632 acres, and 721 acres in size, respectively.

Implementation of the project, as proposed, would include:

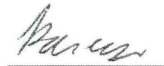
- (a) Four Specific Plan Amendments to the Willow Springs Specific Plan, from designations 5.3/2.85 (Maximum 10 units/net acre / Noise Management Area (65db)), 5.3/4.4 (Maximum 10 units/net acre/ Comprehensive Planning Area), 5.3/4.4/2.1 (Maximum 10 units/net acre/ Comprehensive Planning Area/ Seismic Hazard), 5.6 (Minimum 2.5 gross acres/unit), 5.6/2.8 (Minimum 2.5 gross acres/unit / Military Flight Operations (60db)), 5.6/2.85 (Minimum 2.5 gross acres/unit / Noise Management Area (65db)), 5.7 (Minimum 5 gross acres/unit), 5.75 (Minimum 10 gross acres/unit), 6.2 (General Commercial) and 8.5 (Resources Management (Minimum 20-acre

parcel size)) to designations 8.1 (Intensive Agriculture (Minimum 20-acre Parcel Size)), 8.1/2.1 (Intensive Agriculture (Minimum 20-acre Parcel Size) / Seismic Hazard), 8.1/2.8 (Intensive Agriculture (Minimum 20-acre Parcel Size) / Military Flight Operations (60db)) and 8.1/2.85 (Intensive Agriculture (Minimum 20-acre Parcel Size) / Noise Management Area (65db)), totaling approximately 10 acres in T9N/R13W SBB&M and approximately 1,727 acres in T9N/R14W SBB&M.

- (b) Four Specific Plan Amendments to amend the Circulation Plan of the Willow Springs Specific Plan, to eliminate future road reservations along Section lines in Sections 7 and 18 T9N/R13W SBB&M, and to eliminate future road reservations along Section and Mid-Section lines in Sections 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 36 T9N/R14W SBB&M.
- (c) Four Changes in zone classification from the existing zone districts of approximately 10 acres of E(2½) RS FPS in Zone Map 231-18, approximately 472 acres of E(2½) RS FPS in Zone Map 232, approximately 160.5 acres of E(5) RS FPS in Zone Map 232, and approximately 18 acres of E(10) RS FPS in Zone Map 232, to the A FPS (Exclusive Agriculture – Floodplain Secondary Combining) District.
- (d) Four Conditional Use Permits, one in Zone Map 231-18 and three in Zone Map 232, to allow for the construction and operation of three solar facilities with a total generating capacity of approximately 375 megawatts within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District, pursuant to Section 19.12.030.G of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance. Each of the three facilities would have a generating capacity of approximately 125 megawatts.
- (e) Three Conditional Use Permits, in Zone Map 232, to allow for the construction and operation of communication tower(s) in conjunction with the proposed solar facilities.
- (f) Three requests for nonsummary vacations of public access easements, one corresponding to each of the three solar facilities.
- (g) The project's permanent facilities would include service roads, communication towers, communication cables, overhead and underground transmission lines, energy storage systems, operations and maintenance facilities, and a gen-tie and/or collection lines to transmit electricity generated on the project site.

Document can be viewed online at: <https://kernplanning.com/planning/notices-of-preparation/>

Signature:
Name:



Randall Cates, Planner III

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

SEP 10 2019

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