

Notice of Preparation

To: Office of Planning & Research

P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212

Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Lead Agency:		Consulting Firm:	
Agency Name	Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department	Firm Name	Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
Street Address	801 Main Street	Street Address	290 Conejo Ridge Avenue
City/State/Zip	El Centro, CA 92243	City/State/Zip	Thousand Oaks, CA 91361
Contact	David Black	Contact	Kevin Kohan

The County of Imperial will be the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information, which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the proposed project.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study is attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but ***not later than 35 days*** after the start of the noticing period on **April 13, 2020. The 35-day noticing period ends on May 18, 2020.**

Please send your response to Imperial County Planning & Development Services, Attention: David Black at the address shown above. Please provide a name, title, phone number, and email of the contact person in your agency.

Project Title: Westside Canal Battery Storage Project

Project Applicant: Consolidated Edison Development Inc. (CED)

Project Location and Primary Components: The Westside Canal Battery Storage Project is proposed for development by Consolidated Edison Development Inc. (CED) and consists of the following primary components:

1) construction of a lithium ion battery and/or flow battery storage facility (herein referred to as "battery energy storage facility") and associated buildings and facilities; 2) permanent vehicular access on both the north and south side of the Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) Westside Main Canal and a bridge over the canal; 3) a loop-in substation with connection to the Campo Verde Imperial Valley 230 kV radial transmission line; and, 4) photovoltaic solar generation facility (herein referred to as "solar facility"). These components are collectively referred to as the "proposed project" or "project."

- **Battery Energy Storage Facility, Solar Facility, and Related Facilities.** The project site is located in Mount Signal in unincorporated Imperial County, approximately 8-miles southwest of the City of El Centro and 5.3-miles north of the United States and Mexico border. The proposed project footprint encompasses two Assessor's Parcel Numbers 051-350-010 and 051-350-011, totaling approximately 148 acres. This area is zoned as Agriculture (A-3). The project site is bounded by the Westside Main Canal to the north,

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Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands to the south and west, and vacant private land to the east (Figure 1).

- **Campo Verde Imperial Valley 230 kV Substation loop-in.** The proposed project includes a new loop-in substation on the site and connects to the existing IID Campo Verde Imperial Valley 230 kV Radial gen-tie line which ultimately connects a one-third mile long gen-tie line into the Imperial Valley substation south of the project site. The proposed project would also access a small portion of Assessor's Parcel Number 051-350-009 for this connection (Figure 2).
- **Permanent Vehicle Access.** The proposed project will utilize two additional parcels on the north side of the Westside Main Canal: Assessor Parcel Number 051-350-019 owned by IID, and Assessor Parcel Number 051-350-018 owned by a private landowner, totally approximately 15.32 acres. This site includes approximately 60 feet of frontage along the north project fence line and south of the IID maintenance road to be used for site and public access. The proposed project includes a Caltrans/County specified bridge to span the Westside Main Canal to connect the project site to Liebert Road to the west.

Project Description: The proposed Westside Canal Battery Storage Project involves the construction and operation of a utility-scale energy storage complex with a capacity of approximately 2,000 MW on approximately 163.32-acres of land owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Imperial Irrigation District (IID), and private landowners. The proposed project will be constructed in 3 – 5 phases over a 10-year period with each phase ranging from approximately 25 MW to 400 MW per phase. Assuming a 10-year development period and 30-year operating life of each phase, the expected end date of the project would be 30 years from the construction of the final phase. The proposed project would be comprised of a lithium ion battery and/or flow battery energy storage facility, solar energy facility, a new 230 kV loop-in substation, underground electrical cables, and permanent vehicular access over a proposed bridge to and from the site. The proposed project includes the connection of the proposed on-site substation to the existing Campo Verde Imperial Valley radial transmission line.

The power produced and stored by the proposed project would be conveyed to the local grid via a proposed loop-in substation on-site, which will be connected into the existing IID Campo Verde 230-kV Radial gen-tie line that ultimately connects to the Imperial Valley Substation. The project applicant has submitted the necessary Interconnection Request Applications to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) grid and IID.

The proposed project would allow for excess, intermittent renewable energy to be stored and later dispatched back into the electrical grid as firm, reliable generation. The proposed project supports the Southern California bulk electric system by serving as a transmission asset.

Date: April 9, 2020
Title: David Black, Planner IV, Imperial County Planning & Development Services
Telephone: 442-265-1749
Signature: 

Reference: California Administrative Code, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Section 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

Figure 1. Project Location



