

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Westside Canal Battery Energy Storage Project

Stantec Consulting Services Inc. has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Westside Canal Battery Energy Storage Project (Project) on behalf of the Imperial County Planning and Development Services described below. The Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department held a public scoping meeting for the Project was held on May 28, 2020 at 1:30PM at the Imperial County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2nd Floor of the County Administration Center located at 940 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243.

REFERENCE: Westside Canal Battery Energy Storage Project

PROJECT LOCATION: Consolidated Edison Development Inc. (CED) is proposing to develop the Westside Canal Battery Energy Storage Project, a utility-scale energy storage complex with the capacity of up 2,000 megawatts (MW) at full build out in Imperial County, California. The Project would be located on approximately 163 acres of land in the unincorporated Mount Signal area of the County, approximately eight miles southwest of the City of El Centro and approximately 5 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Project would be comprised of lithium-ion and/or flow battery energy storage system facilities, a behind-the-meter solar energy facility, a new on-site 230 kilovolt (kV) loop-in switching station, a 34.5 kV to 230 kV Project substation, underground electrical cables, and permanent vehicular access to and from the Project Site over a proposed clear-span bridge spanning IID's Westside Main Canal. The proposed loop-in switching station would connect the Project to the existing IID Campo Verde-Imperial Valley 230 kV radial gen-tie line, which connects to the Imperial Valley (IV) Substation and the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), approximately one-third mile south of the Project Site. CED has submitted the necessary Interconnection Request Applications to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) and Imperial Irrigation District (IID). The Project compliments both the existing operational renewable energy facilities, and those planned for future development in the County, and supports the broader Southern California's bulk electric transmission system by serving as a firm, dispatchable resource.

DESIGNATED AREA PLAN: The Project area is designated as Agriculture by the Imperial County General Plan. The Project site and immediate adjacent parcels are zoned as A-3.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT: District 2, Supervisor Luis A. Plancarte

ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS: The Draft EIR analyzed potential impacts associated with the following: Aesthetics; Agriculture; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Geology and Soils; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Tribal Cultural Resources; Utilities and Service Systems; and Cumulative Impacts.

COMMENTS REQUESTED: Your comments may be submitted in writing to David Black, Senior Planner, located at 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. A hard copy of the Draft EIR is available for review at the Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department located at 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 from 7:00 am thru 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday.

DRAFT EIR REVIEW PERIOD: April 7, 2021 to May 27, 2021. Copies of the Draft EIR will be available for review at the local libraries and the Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department will post the Draft EIR on the Imperial County Website (www.icpds.com).