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**PLANNING AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Planning  
Community Development  
Administrative Operations

**DATE:** August 14, 2020

**TO:** See Attached Mailing List

**FROM:** Kern County Planning and Natural  
Resources Department  
Attn: Ronelle Candia  
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
(661)862-8997; [CandiaR@kerncounty.com](mailto:CandiaR@kerncounty.com)

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department as Lead Agency (per CEQA Guidelines Section 15062) has determined that preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (per CEQA Guidelines 15161) is necessary for the proposed 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 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 of projects.

You are invited to view the NOP and submit written comments regarding this proposed project should you wish to do so. Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be received by **September 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.** Comments can be submitted to the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department at the address shown above. A Scoping meeting that will be held on **Friday, September 4, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.** In compliance with the Governor's Executive Order, the California Department of Public Health's guidelines on gatherings regarding COVID-19, and Kern County Local Emergency Declaration, the scoping meeting required by the CEQA Guidelines will be conducted online. Closed captioning in Spanish will be available to attendees. Instructions for accessing the virtual scoping meeting will be available three (3) days before the virtual scoping meeting on the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources website at <https://kernplanning.com>.

Comments on the scope and content of the NOP should be sent to [CandiaR@kerncounty.com](mailto:CandiaR@kerncounty.com).

**PROJECT TITLE:** Aratina Solar Farm by 64NB 8ME LLC (PP20401); ZCC 6, Map #192; ZCC 5, Map #192-35; ZCC 3, Map #208-5; ZCC 6, Map #208-6; ZCC 1, Map #209-1; ZCC 1, Map #209-2; CUP 16, Map #192; CUP 17, Map #192; CUP 7, Map #192-35; CUP 3, Map #208-5; CUP 7, Map #208-6; CUP 8, Map #208-6; CUP 1, Map #209-1; CUP 1, Map #209-2; GPA 6, Map #192; GPA 2, Map #192-35; GPA 3, Map #208-5; GPA 3, Map #208-6; GPA 1, Map #209-1; and GPA 1, Map #209-2.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The proposed project site is located in unincorporated Kern County, straddling State Route 58 between Gephart Road on the west and the San Bernardino County line on the east. The proposed project site is in the vicinity of the unincorporated communities of Boron and Desert Lake and north of the Edwards Air Force Base boundary. The existing U.S. Borax open pit mine and refinery are located approximately two miles north of the project site. The site is located within Sections 5 and 6, Township 10N, Range 7W; Sections 1 and 2, Township 10N, 8W; and Sections 33 and 34, Township 11N, Range 8W, San Bernardino Base Meridian.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**AUG 14 2020**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Aratina Solar Farm Project as proposed by 64NB 8ME LLC (project proponent) would develop a photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure necessary to generate up to 600 megawatt-alternating current (MW-AC) of renewable energy, including up to 600 megawatts of energy storage, on approximately 2,672.53 acres of privately-owned land. The project site consists of five sites (Sites 1 through 5) located on 27 parcels. The project would be supported by a 230-kilovolt (kV) gen-tie overhead and/or underground electrical transmission line(s) originating from one or more on-site substations and terminating at the Southern California Edison's Holgate Substation to the north. Alternatively, the project may interconnect at Southern California Edison's Kramer Substation to the east, located in San Bernardino County via an up to 230kV transmission line located within an Edwards Air Force Base utility corridor. The project's permanent facilities would include service roads, a power collection system, communication cables, overhead and underground transmission lines, electrical switchyards, project substations, inverter stations, energy (battery) storage system(s), and operations and maintenance facilities.

Implementation of the project as proposed would require:

a) Changes in zone classification as follows:

- Zone Change Case No. 6, Map No. 192 – from A-1 to A for 696.69 acres
- Zone Change Case No. 5, Map No. 192-35 – From A-1 to A for 14.68 acres and from M-1 to A for 11.18 acres
- Zone Change Case No. 3, Map No. 208-5 – From A-1 to A for 299.94 acres
- Zone Change Case No. 6, Map No. 208-6 – From A-1 to A for 242.91 acres and from R-1 to A for 151.67 acres
- Zone Change Case No. 1, Map No. 209-1 from A-1 to A for 635.20 acres
- Zone Change Case No. 1, Map No. 209-2 – From M-1 to A for 620.26 acres

b) Conditional Use Permits to allow for the construction and operation of five solar facilities with a total generating capacity of approximately 600 megawatts-alternating current (MW-AC) of renewable energy (broken down by site, below), including up to 600 megawatts of energy storage (for all sites), within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone Districts (in Zone Maps 192, 192-35, 208-5, 208-6, 209-1, 209-2) pursuant to Section 19.12.030.G of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance:

- Site 1 (Up to 85 MW)
  - Conditional Use Permit No. 3, Map No. 208-5 for 299.94 acres
  - Conditional Use Permit No. 8, Map No. 208-6 for 72.49 acres
- Site 2 (Up to 210 MW)
  - Conditional Use Permit No. 7, Map No. 208-6 for 322.09 acres
  - Conditional Use Permit No. 1, Map No. 209-1 for 635.20 acres
- Site 3 (Up to 145 MW)
  - Conditional Use Permit No. 7, Map No. 192-35 for 25.86 acres
  - Conditional Use Permit No. 1, Map No. 209-2 for 620.26 acres
- Site 4 (Up to 100 MW)
  - Conditional Use Permit No. 16, Map No. 192 for 444.38 acres
- Site 5 (Up to 60 MW)
  - Conditional Use Permit No. 17, Map No. 192 for 252.31 acres

c) General Plan Amendments to the Circulation Element of the Kern County General Plan to remove future road reservations on the section and mid-section lines within the project boundaries:

- General Plan Amendment No. 6, Map No. 192
- General Plan Amendment No. 2, Map No. 192-35
- General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 208-5
- General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 208-6
- General Plan Amendment No. 1, Map No. 209-1
- General Plan Amendment No. 1, Map No. 209-2

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

Signature:



Name:

Ronelle Candia, Supervising Planner