

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # 2020100076**Project Title:** Arica and Victory Pass Solar ProjectsLead Agency: California Department of Fish and WildlifeContact Person: Magdalena RodriguezMailing Address: 3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220Phone: (909) 844-2520City: OntarioZip: 91764County: San Bernardino**Project Location:** County: RiversideCity/Nearest Community: Desert CenterCross Streets: North of Interstate 10

Zip Code: _____

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 33.7 ° 43 ' 7 " N / -115 ° 16 ' 46 " W Total Acres: 2,724 of a 3,800 site

Assessor's Parcel No.: _____

Section: Multi Twp.: 5S Range: 16E and 17E Base: _____Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: State Route 177, Interstate 10Waterways: Palen Dry Lake (~2 miles east)Airports: NoneRailways: NoneSchools: None**Document Type:**

CEQA: NOP Draft EIR NEPA: NOI Other: Joint Document
 Early Cons Supplement/Subsequent EIR EA Final Document
 Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____ Draft EIS Other: _____
 Mit Neg Dec Other: _____ FONSI _____

Local Action Type:

General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation
 General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment
 General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit
 Community Plan Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other: Incidental Take Permit
 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement

Development Type:

Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Educational: _____
 Recreational: _____
 Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____

Transportation: Type _____
 Mining: Mineral _____
 Power: Type Solar MW 465
 Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
 Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

Aesthetic/Visual Fiscal Recreation/Parks Vegetation
 Agricultural Land Flood Plain/Flooding Schools/Universities Water Quality
 Air Quality Forest Land/Fire Hazard Septic Systems Water Supply/Groundwater
 Archeological/Historical Geologic/Seismic Sewer Capacity Wetland/Riparian
 Biological Resources Minerals Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading Growth Inducement
 Coastal Zone Noise Solid Waste Land Use
 Drainage/Absorption Population/Housing Balance Toxic/Hazardous Cumulative Effects
 Economic/Jobs Public Services/Facilities Traffic/Circulation Other: _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Open Space-Rural (County); Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Multi-modal use, Development Focus Area, Solar Energy Zones (BLM)

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

See attached project description.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

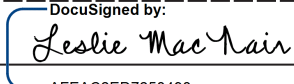
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # <u>8</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>7</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>6</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Coachella Valley Conservation Commission</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date August 6, 2021 Ending Date September 20, 2021

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>Dudek</u>	Applicant: _____
Address: <u>605 Third Street</u>	Address: _____
City/State/Zip: <u>Encinitas, CA 92024</u>	City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: <u>Wendy Worthey</u>	Phone: _____
Phone: <u>619.890.2762</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  **Date:** 8/3/2021
DocuSigned by: Leslie MacNair
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Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

NOC Project Description

Arica Solar LLC and Victory Pass I LLC (Applicants) have applied for Incidental Take Permits for the Mojave desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) under the California Endangered Species Act and submitted Lake and Streambed Agreement notifications to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as part of a broader proposal to construct the Projects. The Projects propose utility-scale solar photovoltaic electrical generating and storage facilities and associated infrastructure to generate and deliver renewable electricity to the statewide electricity transmission grid. The Arica Project would generate 265 megawatts (MW) and the Victory Pass Project would generate 200 MW of energy using alternating current solar photovoltaic technology. Each Project would include up to 200 MW of battery storage. The total potential ground disturbance would be 2,724 acres overall (1,355 acres for the Arica site, 1,310 acres for the Victory Pass site, approximately 52 additional acres along the shared gen-tie corridor, and less than 7 acres for access roads).

CDFW, consistent with their obligation as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency, has analyzed and disclosed the environmental effects of the Projects, in combination, as the “whole of the action” in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Notwithstanding the proposed exercise of CDFW’s regulatory authority under the California Fish and Game Code, construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Projects over 35 to 50 years will cause other environmental impacts across the resource spectrum that are relevant under CEQA. The Draft EIR addresses the environmental effects of both Projects because they are immediately adjacent to one another, would share the same switchyard and single operations and maintenance facility, and would share a 3.2-mile gen-tie line to the existing Southern California Edison Red Bluff Substation, located south of Interstate 10. The Incidental Take Permits and Lake and Streambed Agreements, if issued by CDFW subject to certain conditions, would remain in effect for 5 years.

Construction of the proposed Projects would begin once all applicable approvals and permits have been obtained. It would take approximately 18 months for Arica and 16 months for Victory Pass from the start of construction to completion of the Projects. The Projects are anticipated to start construction at the same time, so the bulk of the construction for each Project would overlap.

During construction, minimal grading would occur, and temporary workspaces and staging areas would be developed. Access roads may be graded and widened and an access road, if not existing, would be developed to access the gen-tie line facilities. Upon completion of construction, temporary disturbance areas would be restored.