

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND HEARING ON
THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE PROPOSED ARATINA SOLAR PROJECT**

This is to advise that the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department has prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified below. As mandated by State law, the minimum public review period for this document is 45 days.

PROJECT TITLE: EIR07-19: Sandrini Solar Project by EDPR CA Solar Park, LLC (EDP Renewables); Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 159; Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 160; Conditional Use Permit No. 28, Map No. 160; Conditional Use Permit No. 29, Map No. 160; Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map No. 161; General Plan Amendment No. 2, Map No. 159 (Circulation); General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 160 (Circulation); General Plan Amendment No. 4, Map No. 161 (Circulation); and Williamson Act Land Use Contract Cancellations (SCH #2021040761)

PROJECT LOCATION: The project is located northwest of the community of Mettler, southeast of the community of Kern Lake, and adjacent to Interstate I-5, State Route SR-99, and State Route SR-166, within Township 32S, Range 26E, Section 25; Township 32S, Range 27E, Section 30; Township 32S, Range 27E, Section 29; Township 32S, Range 27E, Section 28; Township 32S, Range 27E, Section 32; Township 32S, Range 27E, Section 33; Township 32S, Range 28E, Section 31; and Township 32S, Range 27E, Section 34, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, County of Kern, State of California.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The document and documents referenced in the Draft EIR are available for review at the Planning Natural Resources Department, 2700 "M" Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93301 or on the Departmental website (<https://kernplanning.com/planning/environmental-documents/>).

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT: Kern County is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of the analysis and proposed mitigation measures described in the Draft EIR. You may comment by providing testimony at the public hearing on:

DATE: December 9, 2021
TIME: 7:00 P.M. or soon thereafter
LOCATION: Chambers of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center, First Floor
1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301

And/or submitting written comments to the project planner identified below prior to the close of the public comment period on November 1, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Testimony at future public hearings may be limited to those issues raised during the public review period either orally or submitted in writing.

HOW TO COMMENT: You may provide testimony at the public hearing on the date and time specified above or provide written comments prior to the close of public comment period on November 1, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. to:

**Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
ATTN: Johnathan Jensen, Planner II
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Phone: (661) 862-8638
E-mail: jensenj@kerncounty.com**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project includes a request for land use entitlements necessary to facilitate the construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic power generating facility and associated facilities that would produce up to 300 megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) utility-scale solar power with an up to 100 MW of energy storage capacity in the Valley Region of unincorporated Kern County. The proposed project consists of five separate sites (Sites 1 through 5), located on 33 parcels of privately-owned land, totaling approximately 3,469.87 acres; however, it is anticipated that approximately 2,472.89 acres would be utilized (developed) for the construction of the solar panels and permanent facilities and the remaining 996.98 acres would be restricted to use for conservation of habitat (on-site conservation land) and could not be developed.

Implementation of the project as proposed includes the following requests:

- a) Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) to allow for the construction and operation of four solar facilities with a total generating capacity of approximately 300 MW AC of renewable energy (broken down by site, below) including up to 100 MW of combined energy storage (for all sites), within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District (in Zone Maps 159, 160, and 161) pursuant to Section 19.12.030.G of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance.

Site 1 (up to 20 MWac)

- CUP No. 9, Map No. 159 for approximately 160 acres

Site 2 (up to 235 MWac)

- CUP No. 27, Map No. 160 for approximately 1,229.37 acres

Site 3 (up to 125 MWac)

- CUP No. 28, Map No. 160 for approximately 789.21 acres

Site 4 (up to 30 MWac)

- CUP No. 27, Map No. 161 for approximately 289.11 acres

Site 5 – Onsite conservation lands for benefit of solar project

- CUP No. 29, Map 160 for approximately 996.98 acres

- b) General Plan Amendment 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. 2, Map No. 159
- General Plan Amendment No. 3, Map No. 160
- General Plan Amendment No. 4, Map No. 161

- c) Williamson Act Land Use Contract Cancellations:

- No. 21-01
 - Cancellation of approximately 289.11 acres from Document No. 28397, Book 4273, page 13
- No. 21-03
 - Cancellation of approximately 427.65 acres from Document No. 10965, Book 4373, page 24

- No. 21-04
 - Cancellation of approximately 338.35 acres from Document No. 28386, Book 4272, page 933

The project would be supported by both a 70 kV and a 230 kV overhead and/or underground electrical transmission line(s) originating from two on-site project collector substations and terminating at the PG&E Wheeler Ridge Substation. Both lines would convey electricity back and forth between various phases of the Sandrini Solar project and the larger electrical grid. Any overhead electrical transmission lines may be additionally supported by guy-wires. Additionally, 34.5 kV collector lines would connect the various project components to transmit energy to the larger transmission line system. The project's permanent facilities would include, but are not limited to, service roads, a power collection system, inverter stations, transformer systems, transmission lines, electrical switchyards, project substations, energy (battery) storage system, and operations and maintenance facilities.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: Anticipated significant and unavoidable impacts on Aesthetics (Project and Cumulative); Agriculture and Forestry Resources (Project and Cumulative); Air Quality (Project and Cumulative); Biological Resources (Cumulative); and Wildfire (Cumulative).

LORELEI H. OVIATT, AICP, Director
Planning and Natural Resources Department

To be published once only on next available date and as soon as possible

THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN

JJ:CC (09/17/21)

cc: County Clerk (2) (with fee)
Environmental Status Board
LiUNA
Supervisory District No. 2
Supervisory District No. 4