

Imperial County
Planning & Development Services Department
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT EIR FOR THE
VEGA SES 4 SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT
NOVEMBER 22, 2022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, as lead agency, is circulating for public review a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed VEGA SES 4 Solar Energy Project EIR.

PROJECT TITLE: Conditional Use Permit #20-0020 Draft; Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the VEGA SES 4 Solar Energy Project EIR (State Clearinghouse# 2021050018).

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located on approximately 450 acres of privately-owned land in the southernmost portion of Imperial County, California. The project site is between the U.S./Mexico international border and the All-American Canal, on the California side. The project site will be located on two parcels (Assessor Parcel Numbers 059-300-015 and 059-300-017) that are contiguous with each other. It is approximately 10 miles east of the City of Calexico in Sections 10, 11, 14, 15, and 16 within Township 17 South, and Range 16 East of the San Bernardino Base and Meridian of the Bonds Corner topographic 7.5 minute quadrangle. The project site is located entirely within the County's Renewable Energy Overlay Zone.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project consists of three primary components: 1) solar energy generation equipment and associated facilities including a substation and access roads (herein referred to as "solar energy facility"). 2) Battery storage system; and, 3) gen-tie line that would connect the proposed on-site substation to the point of interconnection at the existing Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) 92-kV "P" line. The proposed project involves the construction of a 100-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility with an integrated 100 MW battery storage system (not to exceed 200 MW) on approximately 450 acres of land. The project proposes to utilize either thin film or crystalline solar PV technology modules mounted on fixed frames or horizontal single-axis tracker systems. The project would include electronic/electrical equipment, an on-site substation, access road(s) and fencing. The electrical energy generated by the project would be conducted through the project's interconnection facilities to the proposed 92 kV generator intertie (gen-tie) line, and delivered to the existing IID approved point of interconnection on the 92-kV "P" Line.

The County Land Use Ordinance, Division 17, includes the Renewable Energy (RE) Overlay Zone, which authorizes the development and operation of renewable energy projects with an approved conditional use permit (CUP). CUP applications proposed for specific renewable energy projects not located in the RE Overlay Zone would not be allowed without an amendment to the RE Overlay Zone. However, the entire project site (APNs 059-300-015 and 059-300-017) is located within the RE Overlay Zone.

Implementation of the project requires the following approvals:

- **Conditional Use Permit:** The project site parcels are designated as Agriculture and implementation of the project would require the approval of a Conditional Use Permit by the County to allow for the construction and operation of the proposed solar energy facility with an integrated Battery Energy Storage System on land zoned Heavy Agriculture with a Renewable Energy Overlay Zone (A-3-RE).

- **Water Supply Assessment:** Implementation of the project requires the approval of a Water Supply Assessment (WSA).

ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS: The EIR will analyze potential impacts associated with the following: Aesthetics; Agricultural Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology/Soils; Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology/Water Quality; Land Use/Planning; Noise; Public Services; Transportation; Tribal Cultural Resources; Utilities and Service Systems including water supply; Cumulative Impacts; and, Growth-Inducing Impacts.

AVAILABILITY: The Draft EIR can be reviewed at the following location: Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. The document can be reviewed on-line at: <http://www.icpds.com>.

COMMENTS REQUESTED: Written comments regarding the Draft EIR should be directed to David Black, Planner IV, Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 and must be received **no later than January 10, 2023** (public review period starts on November 22, 2022).

The Final EIR will address and incorporate public input and comments for the consideration by the Imperial County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors at future public meetings.

For environmental review information for this project, please contact David Black at (442) 265-1736.

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