

**Imperial County
Planning & Development Services Department
NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT EIR FOR THE
VIKINGS SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION & STORAGE PROJECT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Vikings Solar Energy Generation & Storage (Project), as described below. A public scoping meeting for the proposed EIR will be held by the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department at 6:00 PM on May 12th, 2021. The scoping meeting will be held at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2nd Floor, County Administration Center located at 940 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. Comments regarding the scope of the EIR will be accepted at this meeting. Additionally, comments may be sent to the Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, California 92243, attention Jim Minnick, Director.

SUBJECT: Vikings Solar Energy Generation & Storage Project

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONSIDERATION: Spring 2022.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project would be located on approximately 604 acres of private and Imperial County-owned land located at the intersection of Nelson Pit Road and Graeser Road in the western part of unincorporated Imperial County. It is approximately 5.5 miles east of the City of Holtville in Section 36 within Township 15 S, and Range 16 E of the San Bernardino Base and Meridian (SBB&M) of the "Holtville East" topographic quadrangles 7.5-minute (Assessor's Parcel Numbers [APNs]) 050-070-018, 050-070-019 and 050-070-021.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Project proposes to develop a 150-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) energy generation project with an integrated, not to exceed 300MW battery storage component. The electrical energy produced would be conducted through the proposed 230 kilovolt (kV) switching station and delivered to the Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) 230 kV KN/KS transmission line via a gen-tie line. The solar energy generation facility, battery storage system, substation switching station and gen-tie are collectively referred to as the "Proposed Project" or "Project."

The Project proposes to utilize either thin film or crystalline PV technology modules mounted either on fixed frames or horizontal single-axis tracker (HSAT) systems. The Project also includes a battery storage system that would consist of either lithium ion (Li-ion) or flow batteries. Depending on the selection of the battery technology, the batteries would either be housed in storage containers or storage buildings. The electrical energy produced by the project would be conducted through a new project substation which would take the delivery of the 34.5 kV power and increase the voltage to 230 kV, where it would feed into the interconnection switching station for metering and delivery to the IID.

DESIGNATED AREA PLAN: Two of the Project parcels are designated as "Agriculture" in the Imperial County General Plan and are zoned A-2-RE (General Agriculture with a Renewable Energy Overlay). The third Project area parcel is designated as "Recreation/Open Space " and is zoned GS-RE (Government/Special Public Zone).

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT: District 5, Supervisor, Raymond Castillo.

ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS: The EIR will analyze potential impacts associated with the following: Aesthetics, Agriculture, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural / Tribal Resources, Energy, Geology/Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards/Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, Public Services, Transportation/Traffic, and Utilities and Service Systems.

COMMENTS REQUESTED: The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department would like to know your ideas about the effects this project might have on the environment and your suggestions as to alternatives, mitigation or ways the project may be revised to reduce or avoid any significant environmental impacts. Your comments will guide the scope and content of environmental issues to be examined in the EIR. Your comments may be submitted in writing to: Jim Minnick, Director, Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. Available project information may be reviewed at ICPDS.com. Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but no later than 35 days after receipt of this notice.

NOTICE OF PREPARATION REVIEW PERIOD: May 6, 2021 through June 9, 2021.