MERCED COUNTY

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Equal Opportunity Employer

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

TO: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Persons

FROM: Merced County
Community and Economic Development Department
2222 M Street
Merced, CA 95340

CONTACT: Tiffany Ho, Planner III, Community and Economic Development Department

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Las Camas Solar Project (Conditional Use Permit No. CUP 20-011; General Plan Amendment No. 20-001; and Zone Change Amendment No. ZC 21-002)

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2021 – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Merced County is the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Las Camas Solar Project (proposed project). Merced County will prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for the proposed project. We need to know the views of agencies, organizations, and interested persons as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. Agencies should comment only on the environmental resources that are within the agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Agencies issuing a permit or other approval for the proposed project will need to use the EIR prepared by Merced County.

A public scoping meeting will be held on August 25, 2021, from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM, via online Zoom Meeting at https://zoom.us/j/92399154225 .

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attachment (Attachment 1).

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but **not later than 30 days** after receipt of this notice.

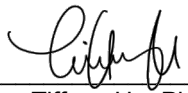
To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues are identified, written comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning the proposed EIR should be directed to Merced County by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 13, 2021. Please send your comments to the attention of Tiffany Ho, at the address shown above. If an organization or agency, please include the name of a contact person so that we have the ability to contact you further during the EIR preparation process.

Project Title: Las Camas Solar Project

Project Location: Merced County Nearest City: Los Banos

Project Applicant: EDP Renewables North America LLC
7900 Conser Street, Suite 10
Overland Park, KS 66204
Contact: David Neely, Project Manager
Contact: Will Talbott, Development Director

Date: 08/13/2021

Signature: 

Tiffany Ho, Planner III

Notice of Preparation
Las Camas Solar Project

Attachment 1

Background

Merced County will prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) that addresses the potential impacts of the proposed Las Camas Solar Project west of Los Banos in Merced County (proposed project).

EDPR CA Solar Park III LLC (project applicant) proposes to develop, own, and operate a 200-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant located on vacant lands in unincorporated Merced County. The goal of the proposed project is to provide renewable solar energy to be sold to a load serving entity through a power contract, generating electrical power from a clean source that would supplement the energy capacity of the existing power grid, thereby increasing the stability and operability of the transmission system, as well as offsetting supplies from fossil fuel generating sources.

The applicant has filed applications for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) (CUP Application No. CUP 20-011), General Plan Amendment (General Plan Amendment Application No. 20-001), and Zone Change (Zone Change Application No. ZC 21-002) with Merced County to allow for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project, which entails the long-term generation of clean renewable energy from solar power. The EIR will provide a project-level analysis of the potential effects on the environment that could occur as a result of the County's approval of the proposed general plan amendment, zone change, and conditional use permit authorizing constructing, operating, and decommissioning the proposed project.

Project Location

The project would be located on roughly 1,745 acres of undeveloped, privately owned land located approximately 3 miles southeast of the community of Santa Nella, California, 6 miles west of the City of Los Banos, and approximately 30 miles southwest of the City of Merced. The project site is at the southwest corner of the intersection of State Route (SR) 33/152 and Interstate 5 and can be accessed via Billy Wright Road off SR 33/152. The project site includes the following Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs): 078-160-012, 078-160-013, 078-160-047, 078-160-056, 078-160-060, 078-172-001, 078-190-004, and 078-190-005 (excepting a portion of 078-172-001). A project location map is provided in **Figure 1**. The project site does not include any sites that are included on the lists compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

Existing Environment

The project site is undeveloped and consists predominantly of non-native annual grassland. Elevation on the site ranges from approximately 220 feet above sea level at the lowest point to 558 feet at the highest point. The topography is mostly flat or gently rolling, with an average slope of 4.9 percent. Steeper slopes are clustered near the southwest corner of the site and along a riverine feature in the southern portion of the project site. Three 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines and a 69-kV transmission line run north-south through the project site and intersect at the western corner of the project site. Otherwise, the project site has no distinguishing constructed or human-made features. Two underground gas pipelines and corresponding easements cross the eastern portion of the project site.

Approximately 1,713 acres of the project site are classified as Farmland of Local Importance as designated by the State Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP). None of the parcels in the project site are under Williamson Act contract. Portions of the project site are used for grazing and dry-land farming.

The project site includes land designated as Urban Communities (approximately 1,184 acres) and Agricultural (approximately 561 acres) under the Merced County General Plan. The Urban Communities designation is associated with the Villages of Laguna San Luis Community Plan and includes the following land use designations within the project site: Very Low-Density Residential (VLD), Low-Density Residential (LD), Medium-Density Residential (MD), High-Density Residential (HD), Neighborhood Commercial (NC), Business Park (BP), Institutional (I), Village Center (VC), Community Park (CP), Village Center Parks (VCP), Open Space (OS), Urban Reserve (UR), and Agricultural (A). The project site is predominantly zoned for Single-Family Residential (R-1-5000) and Multi-Family Residential (R-3) use. Other zoning designations on the project site include higher-density Multi-Family Residential (R-4), Neighborhood Commercial (C-1), General Commercial (C-2), Light Manufacturing (M-1), General Agriculture (A-1), Exclusive Agricultural (A-2), Highway Interchange Center (H-I-C), and Rural Residential (R-R).

The surrounding area is rural in character. There is a residential subdivision, recreational vehicle (RV) park, commercial area, and power substation at the junction of SR 152 and SR 33 north of the project site. The San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area is located further west. The lands immediately east of I-5 support orchards, grazing, and dry farming, as well as the aqueducts of the Central Valley Project (CVP). Farther east, irrigated agriculture is the primary land use. The community of Santa Nella, to the north, and the City of Los Banos, to the east, are several miles from the proposed project site.

Proposed Project Description

The proposed project includes the construction, long-term operation, and eventual decommissioning of the Las Camas Solar Project west of Los Banos in Merced County. The project is a solar photovoltaic (PV) facility that will generate electricity from ground-mounted, single axis tracking arrays and intermittently store electricity by charging and discharging lithium-ion batteries. The project will have a solar PV capacity of approximately 200 megawatts

(MW) alternating current (AC) and a battery storage capacity of approximately 100 MW direct current (DC) or AC (both options are under consideration and will be evaluated in the EIR). The project will also include a 230 kV transmission line running from a new substation within the project site to Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E's) Los Banos Substation located west of the project site. The generation tie (gen-tie) line will convey electricity between the project site and the larger grid. The length of the gen-tie line would range from 0.25-mile to 2 miles, depending on the location of the project substation, which will either be located along the western boundary of the project site or in the interior of the project site. The project also proposes transmission system upgrades around the Los Banos substation, including connecting the substation to the project's gen-tie line, installing a new bay with new circuit breakers, and constructing a new control building. The proposed project is anticipated to be operational in October 2024 and is expected to operate for 35 years.

Project Components

A proposed site plan is included in **Figure 2**. As shown, the project will consist of the following components:

- Solar PV panels: The project proposes to construct 440-watt and 550-watt bi-facial solar PV modules.
- Single-axis trackers: Single-axis trackers on steel supports are proposed to mount the solar PV panels approximately 5 feet off the ground.
- Collection wires and electrical inverters: DC electricity generated from the PV panels would run along DC collection lines attached to the single-axis tracker arrays to electrical inverters. The inverters would convert the DC electricity to AC and discharge the electricity to underground AC collection lines for conveyance to the project substation.
- Lithium-ion batteries: Two battery system configurations are under consideration: a DC-coupled system and an AC-coupled system.
    - DC-coupled system – Under this system, lithium-ion batteries that store DC electricity would be distributed throughout the solar arrays and would share the solar collection wires and electrical converters.
    - AC-coupled system – Under this system, lithium-ion batteries that store AC electricity would be constructed at the project substation and would share the project substation and project transmission line.
- Battery enclosures: The lithium-ion batteries (in either a DC-coupled or AC-coupled system) would be housed on racks in 8-foot by 50-foot enclosures that are temperature-controlled and equipped with fire suppression and electrical control systems.
- Project substation: All AC electrical output would be aggregated at the project substation, where high-voltage interconnection equipment would step the energy up to a higher voltage level and connect it to the project transmission line. Two locations for the project substation are under consideration; one along the western boundary of the project site (as shown in **Figure 2**) and one centrally located within the interior of the project site.
- 230kV project transmission (gen-tie) line: The gen-tie line would convey all electricity from the project site to the larger grid at the Los Banos substation, located west of the project site. The length of the gen-tie line would range from 0.25-mile to two miles, depending on the location of the project substation described above.

- Internal access roads: Aggregate-surfaced access roads would be installed around and between the solar arrays to allow for maintenance and facilitate the movement of emergency vehicles, if necessary, as shown in **Figure 2**.
- Security gates, fencing, and lighting: The project site would be secured with a perimeter fence, and a second perimeter fence with lighting would secure the project substation. Low-level security and wayfinding lighting would also be installed at the control building within the project substation, and at the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building. Gated, secured entry points would be provided. Low-level security and wayfinding lights would also be installed at the project gates; these would be shielded and directed downwards to minimize light impacts to nearby properties. Where applicable, fencing will be designed to adhere to Merced County screening and landscaping requirements and standards.
- Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building: The proposed project would include construction of an approximately 1,200-square foot O&M building with an attached 1,400 square foot storage warehouse in the western portion of the project site. This facility is expected to be staffed with up to 8 full-time employees responsible for maintenance and other activities related to ongoing operations. These employees would generally be on-site during normal business hours, unless otherwise required. The O&M building would include an aggregate parking lot with approximately seven spaces. Parking and access would be provided in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 18.38.040 (Off-Street Parking Regulations and Design Standards) of the Merced County Code. Sewage from the building would be pumped into a buried septic tank near the building. Water needs for the O&M building would be served either by connecting to the adjacent San Luis Water District potable water system that serves the residential subdivision, requiring the construction of off-site water infrastructure, or by constructing a new on-site water well.
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system: This system would be installed to provide plant visibility and control of the solar field and all components of the electrical system to the plant and grid operators. Physically, the system would be installed with a series of fiber communication lines connecting points (i.e., an item to be monitored) of the electrical system to the control room of the substation, where the fiber would be terminated at servers of the operating system. Fiber is also run from all the high and medium voltage components that require monitoring, such as the breakers within the substation.
- Wildlife movement corridors: The project design includes 23 acres of movement corridors for the San Joaquin kit fox within existing gas pipeline setbacks (two 1.25-mile corridors, each 150-feet wide), as shown in **Figure 2**. The movement corridors are designed to facilitate wildlife passage through the project site. The project also includes a no-build corridor with an area of approximately 8 acres (70-feet-wide and 1-mile-long) along a riverine feature in the southeastern corner of the project site to facilitate wildlife passage through the project site.

The project's operational water demand would include water used for solar panel washing, the O&M building, and limited irrigation. The project would provide an on-site water supply (e.g., storage tank) for fire flow and fire suppression in accordance with Section 507.1 of the California Fire Code.

Off-Site Mitigation Lands

The project applicant is preparing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to support an application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and an ITP Application to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for an ITP under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), for San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*). The HCP will be subject to separate environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The HCP being prepared for the project will include a conservation strategy to mitigate for impacts to the San Joaquin kit fox. The conservation strategy will include the establishment of an off-site mitigation site. The 1,498-acre mitigation site, shown in **Figure 1**, is situated close to the eastern and southern edges of the Los Banos Reservoir. The mitigation site would be placed into a conservation easement in perpetuity and the land managed to provide habitat for the San Joaquin kit fox. Because creation of the mitigation site is required to implement the project, the potential environmental effects of this action will be evaluated in the EIR.

Vehicular Access

Vehicular access to the project site during construction and operation would be provided via a new access point at Billy Wright Road where it abuts the eastern portion of the project site. This access point would be reached by taking Highway 152 west out of Los Banos and turning left onto Billy Wright Road, or by exiting I-5 onto Highway 152 and turning right onto Billy Wright Road.

Construction

Construction of the proposed project is expected to take approximately 12 to 14 months. Most construction activities would occur between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM, in accordance with Section 10.60.040 (Specific Prohibited Acts) of the Merced County Code, although low noise-generating activities could occur after 6:00 PM if permitted noise levels are not exceeded. Construction would include the following phases and activities, some of which would overlap:

- Project Site Preparation (approximately 6 months): During this phase, the project site would be cleared and graded where necessary to prepare for construction. An on-site staging area would be cleared, graded, and compacted to be used for construction parking, delivery, and storage. Internal access roads would be cleared, graded, moisture conditioned, compacted, and surfaced with crushed aggregate where necessary to allow construction crews to move across the site. Additional grading and compaction would take place as necessary for the installation of solar PV systems, battery storage systems, the O&M building, and the project substation. The chain-link perimeter fences would also be installed to secure the project site and minimize the visual impacts of construction. Fence posts would be drilled or driven into the ground.
- Underground Work (approximately 10 months): During this phase, excavators and chain trenchers would be used to dig trenches for underground collection cables. The cables would be laid deep enough to adhere to any Federal, State, and local requirements. The

trenches would likely be 18-24 inches wide and will be backfilled using the excavated soil.

- PV System Installation (approximately 10 months): During this phase, pile drivers would be used to pneumatically drive the steel piles that would serve as the supports for the solar PV racking system. The racking system would be assembled and installed as specified by the manufacturer, and trucks, forklifts, and small crane would be used to transport and install solar PV trackers, panels, and inverters. The solar PV inverters would be installed on either concrete or metal skid foundations, depending on manufacturer specifications.
- Battery Storage System Installation (approximately 7 months): During this phase, forklifts, a backhoe, and a small crane would be used to construct the battery system enclosures and install the battery racks, cabling, and inverters.
- Substation and Gen-Tie Line Installation and Los Banos Substation Improvements (approximately 7 months): During this phase, a lowboy trailer may be used to deliver the main substation transformer. The project substation and gen-tie line to the Los Banos substation would be constructed using forklifts, pickup trucks, a line truck, and a boom truck with bucket. The proposed improvements at PG&E's Los Banos Substation would also be constructed at this time.
- O&M Building Construction (approximately 7 months): During this phase, the O&M building would be constructed using standard building construction equipment. New water pipelines would be installed to connect the O&M building to either a new on-site well or the adjacent San Luis Water District potable water system. A septic tank would also be installed on-site to serve the O&M building.
- Testing and Commissioning (approximately 1 month): During this phase, the project applicant would work with the County, PG&E, the construction contractors, and other involved agencies or entities to test and commission the solar PV system, battery storage system, electricity transmission systems, and other installations on the project site.
- Site Restoration (approximately 1 month): During this phase, excess equipment and materials would be removed from the project site. A grader and drill seeder would be used to re-vegetate the site outside of the fire breaks and access roads.

Water would be used during construction for road maintenance, dust suppression, soil conditioning, and other uses as needed. Daily requirements would vary based on construction activity and weather conditions. Daily usage is expected to be highest near the beginning of construction as access roads are built and grading occurs, then decrease as soil compaction occurs and site vegetation returns to provide natural dust suppression. Water for construction would be purchased under contract and transported to the project site by water trucks. Portable toilets and sinks would provide sanitation needs for construction workers.

Decommissioning/Reclamation

Decommissioning and site reclamation would begin immediately after the 35-year lifespan of the proposed project. The process is expected to require 12 months and would include the following phases and activities:

- Removal of Above-Grade Equipment: During this phase, above-grade equipment installed on concrete pads, solar PV modules, solar racking systems, lithium-ion batteries, battery enclosures, and other equipment would be removed from the project site. All electrical equipment would be fully deenergized prior to removal, and all external electrical lines running into or out of the project site would be decommissioned using industry best practices and procedures.
- Removal of Below-Grade Foundations and Infrastructure: During this phase, piles and solar racking equipment would be vertically extracted and removed from the project site.
- Site Grading: During this phase, all project roads, access roads, and parking areas would be removed unless retained for other purposes following decommissioning. If the underlying soil exhibits significant compaction, it would be disked to aerate the soil and allow it to return to its prior condition. If necessary, fresh topsoil would be spread over the area before being leveled to match the existing grade.
- Revegetation: During the reclamation process, the project site would be returned to its condition prior to the construction of the proposed project. As necessary, fresh topsoil would be spread over the project site to ensure suitable conditions for revegetation to follow. Once this has been completed, an appropriate mix of rangeland seeds would be spread or sown into the soil as specified by local authorities.

Proposed General Plan Amendment (GPA) and Rezoning

Construction and operation of utility-scale solar facilities or high-voltage electrical infrastructure is not allowed in some of the zoning designations applied to portions of the project site. Additionally, the project site falls within the General Plan's "Urban Communities" land use designation as part of the Villages of Laguna San Luis Community Plan (Community Plan), and the Community Plan designates the project site for various residential, commercial, and parkland uses. The project proposes to amend the Merced County General Plan and Community Plan to create a "Utility-Scale Solar Overlay Zone" and associated zone change covering the project site that allows the following as conditional uses:

- "Energy Generation Facilities (off-site energy use)" as currently allowed by Conditional Use Permit in all Agricultural Zones;
- "Communication Equipment, Electrical Distribution/Transmission, Substation" as currently allowed by Conditional Use Permit in all Agricultural Zones;
- "Public Utility Facilities," as currently allowed by Conditional Use Permit in Rural Residential Zones; and
- Additional ancillary buildings, fencing, roads, and equipment.

The project also proposes to amend the General Plan to re-designate roughly 242 acres off-site and immediately south of the project site from single-family residential to high-density/medium-density residential. These 242 acres are referred to as the "off-site residential redesignation area." This change would preserve the supply of medium-density and/or high-density units that could be developed in the County during the life of the project. The off-site residential redesignation area is shown in **Figure 1** and **Figure 3**.

The proposed General Plan Amendment will include a sunset date of 40 years after the approval date of the amendment and overlay zone. This will allow the project to be constructed, operated for its full 35-year lifespan, and responsibly decommissioned before the project site is returned to a physical state and zoning designation appropriate for real estate development. Any potential repower of the project would have to be sought via extension of the overlay zone and other applicable permits from Merced County, discretionary actions that would require CEQA compliance. Similarly, the change in the allowed density for the off-site residential redesignation area would also sunset at the same time, and the land use designations and zoning for that area would revert to those that currently exist.

The EIR will evaluate the potential environmental impacts that could result from the proposed General Plan and Community Plan amendments, the proposed Zoning Ordinance text amendment, and the proposed rezoning.

CEQA Actions and Project Approvals

Prior to approving the proposed project, the County is required to undertake CEQA review including:

- Certification of the EIR – Certification that the EIR adequately identifies any significant environmental effects of the proposed project, pursuant to CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines; and

- Mitigation Monitoring Plan – Adoption of a Mitigation Monitoring Plan to reflect the measures required to mitigate significant impacts, if any, of the project.

The EIR is intended to provide the CEQA documentation for approval of the project and related General Plan amendments.

The following discretionary actions and approvals of regulatory agencies may be necessary for the proposed project.

- Merced County General Plan and Community Plan Amendments and associated zone change to create an overlay zone on the project site and redesignate the approximately 242-acre off-site residential redesignation area from single-family residential to high-density/medium-density residential for the life of the project
- Merced County Conditional Use Permit
- Merced County Solar Benefits Agreement
- California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take Permit
- Federal Endangered Special Act (ESA) Incidental Take Permit
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction General Permit (Notice of Intent)
- California Department of Transportation Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit, and Permit for Transportation of Oversized Loads
- Section 851 Permit or Notice of Construction from the California Public Utilities Commission

- San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District Authority to Construct/Permit to operate
- Rights-of-way crossing consent forms from Merced County
- Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) of Merced County approval to annex a portion of the project site into the San Luis Water District service territory if the project connects to the District's off-site water system

Scope of the EIR

As provided in the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15021), public agencies are charged with the duty to avoid or minimize environmental damage where feasible. In discharging this duty, the public agency has an obligation to balance a variety of public objectives, including economic, environmental, and social. In reviewing the preliminary information provided for the proposed project, the County has analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project described in this NOP and has determined that preparation of an EIR is required.

The Las Camas Solar Project EIR will address the short- and long-term environmental impacts of the proposed project. The public agency is required to consider the information in the EIR, along with any other relevant information included in the public record, in making its decision on the project (Section 15121 of the CEQA Guidelines).

The full range of environmental issues will be addressed in the EIR, including:

- **Aesthetics**, including adverse effect on a scenic vista, degradation of scenic resources, degradation of the existing visual quality of the area, and/or light or glare that could affect day and nighttime views;
- **Agriculture and Forestry Resources**, including loss or conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses;
- **Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions,** including emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases during construction and operation, and odors;
- **Biological Resources,** including adverse effects on special status species, riparian habitat, other sensitive habitats, and/or federally-protected wetlands, interference with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife, and/or conflicts with local policies and/or conservation plans;
- **Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources,** including adverse changes in the significance of historical or archaeological resources, and/or disturbance of human remains;
- **Energy,** including project's energy usage from all applicable sources;
- **Geology and Soils, and Paleontological Resources**, including exposure of people or structures to the risk of loss, injury or death from seismic-related effects, soils constraints and/or landslides, soil erosion or the loss of topsoil, and/or issues related to septic tanks; and disturbance of paleontological resources;
- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials**, including hazards to the public or environment due to the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials, or release of hazardous materials, emission or handling of hazardous materials within one-quarter mile of a school, development on a site included on a list of hazardous materials sites (e.g., Cortese List), interference with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan, and/or exposure to

risk of injury or loss from wildfire;

- **Hydrology and Water Quality**, including violation of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, interference with groundwater recharge, alteration of existing drainage patterns, generation of runoff that exceeds the capacity of existing or planned drainage facilities, placement of housing in the 100-year floodplain, impediments to flood flows, loss, injury or death due to flooding and/or inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow;
- **Land Use and Planning,** including physical division of established communities and consistency with adopted plans;
- **Mineral Resources,** including the loss of availability of known mineral resources and/or locally-important mineral resources;
- **Noise,** including noise from construction, traffic, and other operational noise sources;
- **Population and Housing**, including direct and indirect unplanned population growth;
- **Public Services and Recreation,** including on the need to construct new public service and recreation facilities to maintain acceptable service rations, and physical deterioration of existing parks and recreational facilities;
- **Transportation and Traffic**, including conflicts with plans or policies related to circulation, transit, roadways, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, conflict with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b), increased hazards due to design features or incompatible uses, and/or inadequate emergency access;
- **Utilities and Service Systems,** including construction or relocation of public utility facilities, water supply, wastewater treatment capacity, and conflict with solid waste reduction goals and regulations;
- **Wildfire,** including evaluation of whether the project would impair implementation of any emergency response or emergency evacuation plan; expose future residents to pollutant concentrations from wildfires; result in new infrastructure that will exacerbate fire risk; and expose people to risk of flooding and landslides as a result of post-fire run off.

The issues to be addressed in the EIR will be finalized after comments on the NOP are received.

Comments Requested

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues are identified, written comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning the proposed EIR should be directed to the name and address below by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 13, 2021.

Tiffany Ho, Planner III
Merced County
Community and Economic Development Department
2222 M Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-7654 ext. 4407

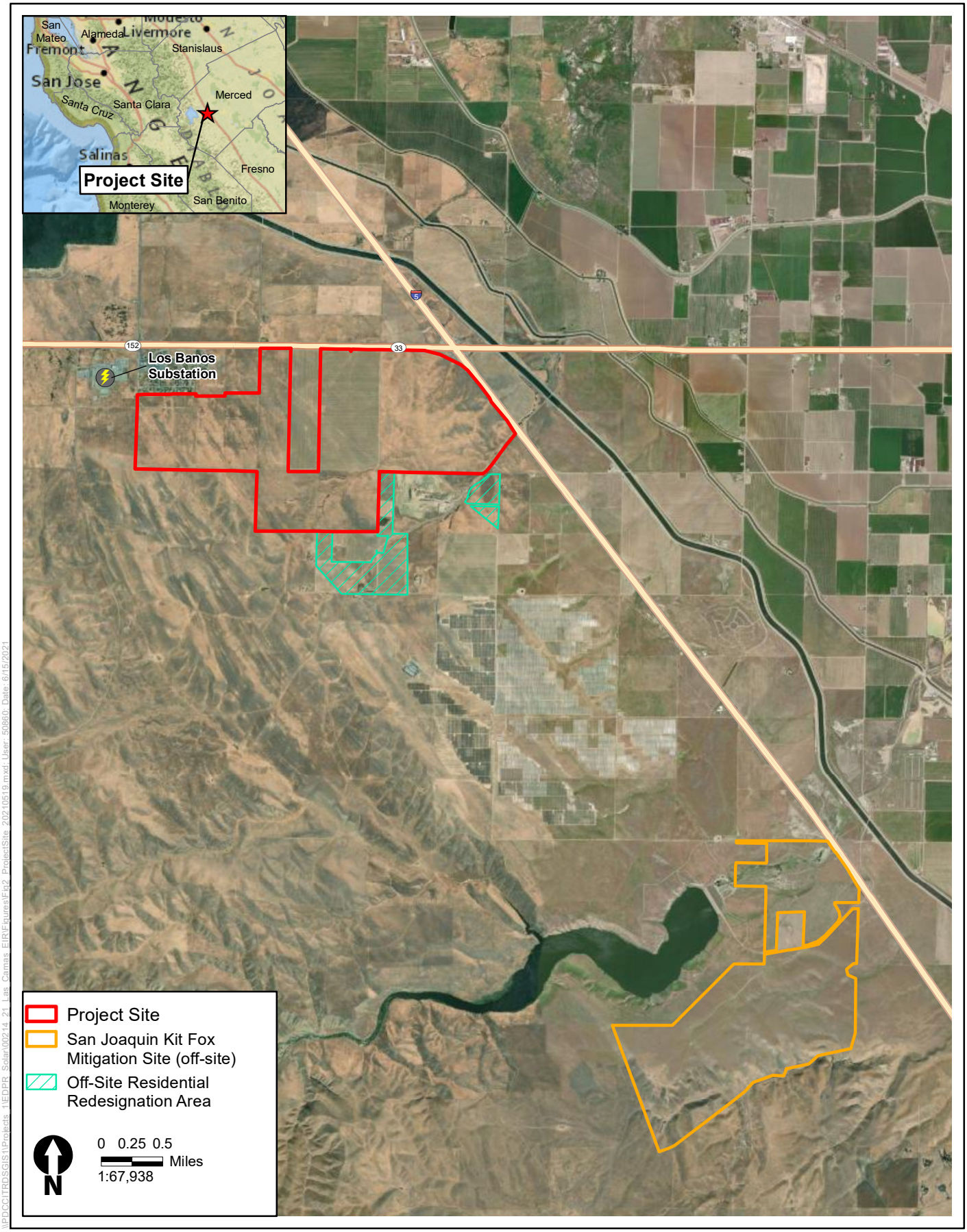
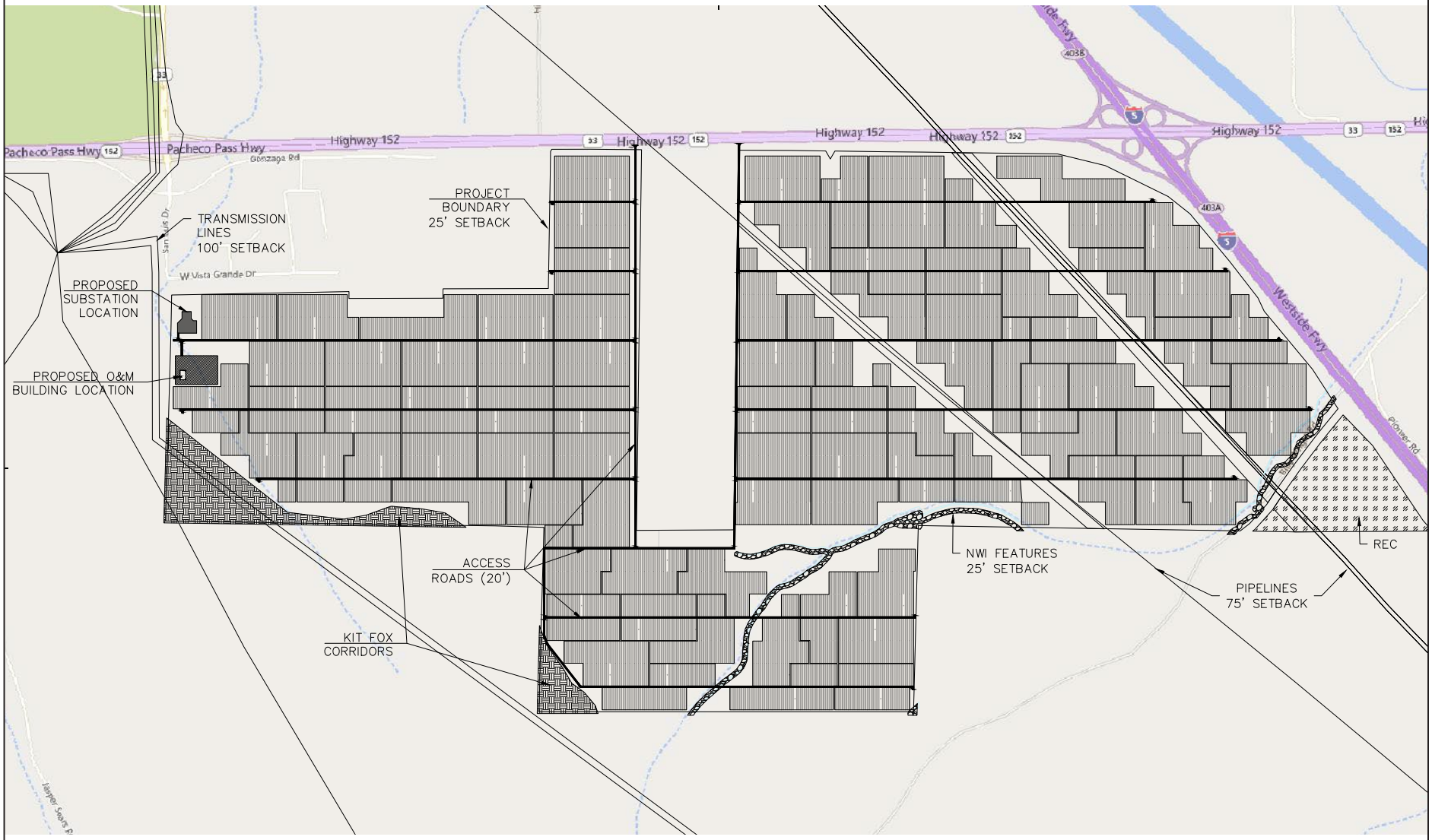


Figure 1
Project Location Map
Las Camas Solar Project - Merced County, California



Source: EDP Renewables, 2021.

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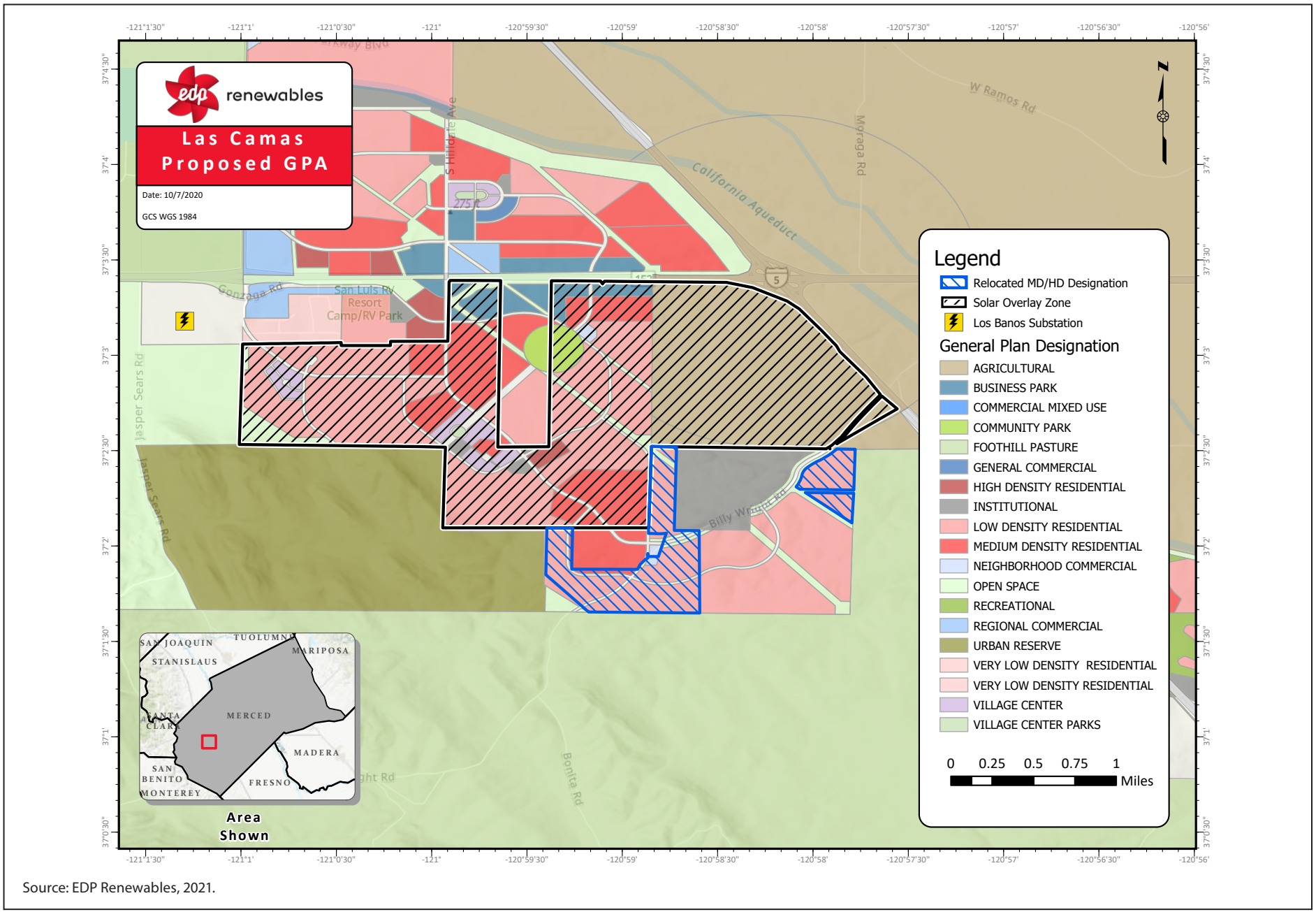
Figure 2
Proposed Site Plan
Las Camas Solar Project - Merced County, California



Source: EDP Renewables, 2021.

ICF Graphics ... 00214.21 (8/5/21) AB

Figure 3
Proposed General Plan Amendment
Las Camas Solar Project - Merced County, California