



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Date: September 13, 2022

To: Agencies and Interested Parties

Lead Agency: Sacramento Municipal Utility District
6201 S Street, MS H201
Sacramento, CA 95817
Contact: Amy Spitzer at (916) 732-5384

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report: Country Acres Solar Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2021110307)

Review Period: September 13, 2022 to October 28, 2022

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Country Acres Solar Project (Project), located in southwestern Placer County. The Project would involve the construction and operation of a photovoltaic (PV) solar power and battery storage renewable energy generation facility interconnected to SMUD's transmission grid.

Project Location: The project would be located on approximately 1,170 acres of land in southwestern Placer County, west of the City of Roseville, north of Baseline Road and east of South Brewer Road (Exhibit 1). Primary access to the project site would be provided by entry roads from Baseline Road to the south, South Brewer Road to the west, and Phillip Road to the north. The project area encompasses several parcels and includes a northern portion and a southern portion connected by an easement for electrical collection lines and roads.

Project Description: The Country Acres Solar Project includes construction and operation of a PV solar power and battery storage facility and interconnection facilities, including a generation substation, switch station, and interconnection lines, that would provide new power production capacity of up to 344 MW delivered at the point of interconnection with the electrical grid managed by SMUD. The project site would generally be comprised of PV solar modules, foundation piles, racking, direct current (DC) collection, alternative current (AC) collection, fencing, roads, inverters, medium voltage transformers, an interconnection line between the generation substation and switch station, battery storage equipment, and interconnection lines to the existing SMUD transmission system. At the end of the project's life (anticipated to be 30 to 35 years), the project and its assets would be decommissioned; however, SMUD may retain the substation, switching station, and battery storage facilities.

Primary access to the project site during construction and operation would be provided by existing, or newly constructed, paved, graveled, or dirt roads and/or driveways extending to the project site from Baseline Road, South Brewer Road, and Phillip Road. Within the solar field and

interconnection facility areas, limited grading may be used to prepare the site for post and PV modules installation. Grading would be minimized to the extent feasible within the solar array and would be consistent with the setback requirements. Grading will likely be required for the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) yard, generation substation, and switching station.

The duration of construction is anticipated to last between 18 months and 2 years. The construction workforce (with an expected average of 177 and a peak of 650 construction workers) is expected to arrive at the project site between approximately 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. and leave the site between approximately 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday for most of the project construction period. Materials would generally be delivered outside of the peak morning and afternoon traffic hours to the extent feasible and would be delivered to the designated receiving area.

SMUD anticipates that the Board of Directors would consider the project at a hearing in February 2023 and that permit applications would be submitted to regulatory agencies to prepare for project construction in 2023. SMUD anticipates the project would become operational in 2024 or 2025.

Significant Environmental Effects Anticipated: The Draft EIR identified significant or potentially significant effects associated with agriculture; air quality; biological resources; cultural resources, tribal cultural resources; geology, soils, and paleontological resources; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; noise; and transportation. After implementation of recommended mitigation measures, all impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels with the exception of air quality for construction emissions of criteria air pollutants and ozone precursors (significant and unavoidable), and agriculture for conversion of important farmland (significant and unavoidable).

Cortese-Listed Sites: Section 15087 (c)(6) of the State CEQA Guidelines requires that this notice disclose whether the project site is listed on any of the lists enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5 (Cortese List). As noted in the Draft EIR, no sites in the project area are shown in DTSC's EnviroStor database (DTSC 2022a) and no underground storage tank sites in the project area are identified on the Cortese List (CalEPA 2019). Therefore, the regulatory database (Cortese) search did not identify any known hazardous wastes sites.

Document Availability: The Draft EIR is available on SMUD's website at <https://www.smud.org/CEQA>

Printed copies may be reviewed during normal business hours at the following locations:

Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Customer Service Center
6301 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95817

Sacramento Municipal Utility District
East Campus Operations Center
4401 Bradshaw Road
Sacramento, CA 95827

Placer County Community Development Resource Agency
3091 County Center Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

Roseville Public Library
225 Taylor Street
Roseville, CA 95678

Public Meeting: A public meeting will be held on October 13, 2022, to receive input from agencies and the public on the Draft EIR. The meeting will occur as part of the Placer County Planning Commission Meeting beginning at 10 a.m. at the Placer County Planning Commission Chambers, 3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA 95603. The meeting can be attended in person or virtually. Please visit <https://www.smud.org/CountryAcres> for information on how to join the virtual meeting.

Comment Period: Written comments should be submitted to SMUD–Environmental Services, P.O. Box 15830 MS H201, Sacramento, CA 95852-0830, Attn: Amy Spitzer; or Amy.Spitzer@smud.org by 5:00 p.m. on October 28, 2022. For more information on the project, please contact Amy Spitzer at (916) 732-5384 or visit <https://www.smud.org/CountryAcres>.

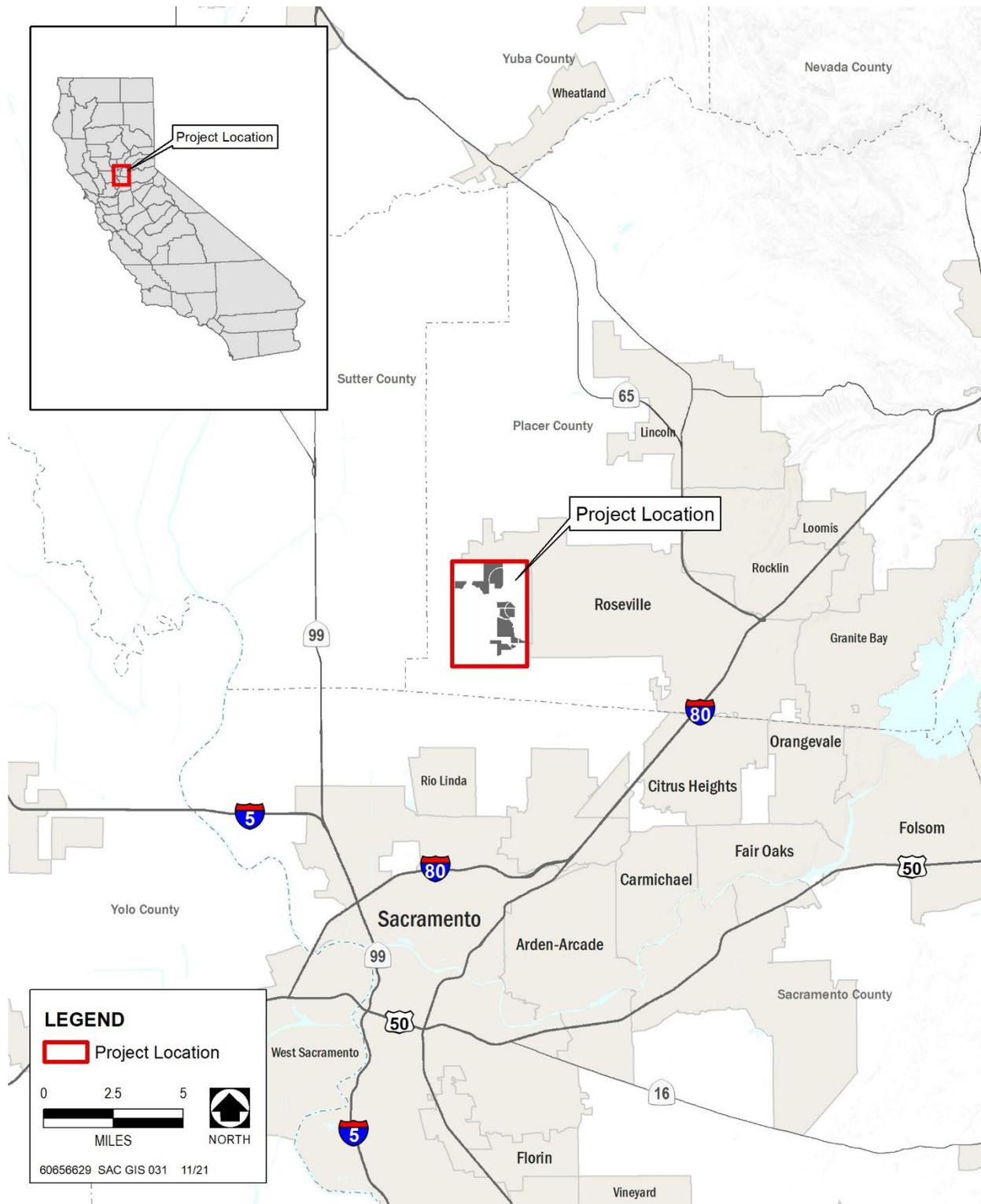


Exhibit 1 Regional Location Map