

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2022-11-0240

Project Title: Easley Renewable Energy Project (CUP210022/PUP230002/DA2200016)

Lead Agency: County of Riverside

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Project Location: 2 miles north of Desert Center, Riverside County, CA
City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

IP Easley, LLC, a subsidiary of Intersect Power, LLC, proposed to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a 650 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating station, battery energy storage facility, electrical substation, gen-tie lines and associated access roads on 990 acres of private land and 2,745 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Riverside County, California. A 6.7-mile 500 kilovolt (kV) generation-tie (gen-tie) line would mainly traverse across the Oberon Renewable Energy Project site and connect into an existing substation on the Oberon Project site, an adjacent solar and energy storage facility owned by Intersect Power. From the Oberon onsite substation, the power generated by the Easley Project would be transmitted to the electrical grid at the SCE Red Bluff Substation via the Oberon 500 kV gen-tie line. Project construction is anticipated to take 20 months. Public lands within the Project solar application area include lands designated as Development Focus Area by the BLM Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) and associated Record of Decision, and thus, have been targeted for renewable energy development.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The Project would result in significant/unmitigable impacts in aesthetics, as well as a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact under aesthetics and cultural and tribal cultural resources.

--Aesthetics: Implementation of Mitigation Measures (MM) AES-1 to AES-3, AQ-1, BIO-5, and APM VIS-1, would reduce potential degradation of the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. Regardless, the resulting visual change would be adverse and unavoidable when viewed from all Key Observation Points.

Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce all other potential impacts to less than significant: Air Quality (MM AQ-1 & AQ-2), Biological Resources (MM BIO-1 to BIO-14), Cultural & Tribal Cultural Resources (MM AES-1, AES-2, CUL-1 to CUL-6, TCR-1, & TCR-2), Geology/Soils (MM AQ-1, BIO-1, BIO-3, BIO-5, HWQ-1, HWQ-5), Hazards (MM AQ-1, FIRE-1, HAZ-1 to HAZ-3), Hydrology (MM BIO-3, BIO-5, BIO-12, HWQ-1 to HWQ-6), Noise (MM N-1 to N-3, APM NOISE-1), Paleontological Resources (MM PR-1 to PR-4), Transportation (MM TRA-1 & TRA-2), and Wildfire (MM TRA-1 & FIRE-1).

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Riverside County and BLM are discussing the Project with California Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as the State Historic Preservation Officer and Native American tribes under Assembly Bill 52 tribal consultation and NHPA Section 106 government-to-government consultation. The EIR will address input and concerns received during consultations, the public scoping period, at the CEQA scoping meeting, and during the original Draft EIR comment period.

Residents of the Lake Tamarisk Desert Resort have expressed construction nuisance and operational concerns due to the proximity of the project to the community. Concerns raised by the public, agencies, and organizations on the potential impacts of the proposed project during the scoping period included the following resource areas: aesthetics/visual resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural/tribal cultural resources, energy, geology/soils, GHG emissions, hazards, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise and vibration, public services and utilities, recreation, transportation, wildfire, project alternatives, mitigation measures, agency permits and consultation, and indirect and cumulative impacts.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife will be a CEQA trustee agency for the Easley Renewable Energy Project. BLM will be the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. section 4321 et seq.