



**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Planning Division**

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Notice of Intent to Adopt an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Date: March 23, 2023
To: Public Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties
From: County of Merced, Community and Economic Development Department

Subject: Notice of Intent to Adopt an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of Merced has, Pursuant to Section 15072 – Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration - of the CEQA Guidelines, prepared and Initial Study to evaluate the environmental effects of the project identified below:

Project Title: Conditional Use Permit Application No. CUP22-011 – Dos Palos Clean Power Project

Project Location: The Dos Palos Clean Power Project (project) would be constructed within an 11.3-acre portion of a 39-acre parcel located on the west side of South Highway 33, approximately 2,000 feet north of West Carmella Avenue in the Dos Palos area of unincorporated Merced County, identified as Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 089-020-049. The Property is designated Agricultural land use in the Merced County 2030 General Plan and is zoned A-1 (General Agricultural).

Project Description: The project is a request to construct a 3-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility, a 600-square-foot concrete equipment pad with an estimated 4.4-MW direct current (DC) and its associated inverters, fencing, and site improvements, including fencing and improvements to the existing access road and driveway approaches. The project would also include demolition of the existing on-site vacant residential structure built in 1935, the associated groundwater well, and the septic system. The project would deliver power to the existing Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) power distribution network via an existing aboveground primary service interconnection utility pole located on the east side of Elgin Avenue. The project is anticipated to operate for approximately 35 years, after which the project would be decommissioned and the site would be restored to pre-project conditions.

CEQA Project Status: An Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. The IS/MND determined that the proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts when mitigation measures are incorporated. The Public Review Draft IS/MND is available at the Community & Economic Development Department's public counter and on the County's website at:
<https://www.countyofmerced.com/414/Environmental-Documents>

Public Hearing: The Planning Commission will consider the Conditional Use Permit and the proposed project IS/MND at a public hearing after CEQA review has been completed.

Planning Commission meetings, begin at 9:00 a.m., and are held in the Board Chambers of the County Administration Building; located at 2222 M Street, Merced, CA 95340.

Public Review Period: A 30-day public review period for the IS/MND will begin on March 24, 2023. Written comments may be mailed, submitted in person, or emailed to the contact person identified below no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 2023.

Lead Agency Contact Cameron Christie, Planner I
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