

**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 #: 2023050303

Project Title: Sapphire Solar Project

Lead Agency: County of Riverside

Contact Name: Tim Wheeler

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Project Location: Approximately 3.5 miles north of Interstate 10 in the County of Riverside  
*City*
*County*

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

The Project would include a utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) electrical generating and storage facility and associated infrastructure to generate and deliver renewable electricity to the statewide electricity transmission grid. The Project's solar site (solar site) would include up to 117 megawatts (MW) of PV solar generation and up to 117 MW of battery storage. The Project would also include two Linear Facility Routes that would include one 230-kilovolt (kV) generation tie (gen-tie) line, two access roads (one would be constructed for primary access and one for County required secondary access for emergency services), and one collector line route, all of which would be located on lands administered by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Project would interconnect with the Southern California Edison 230-kV Red Bluff substation via a line tap on the existing Desert Harvest Solar Project gen-tie line located on lands administered by the BLM. The Project would also include a secondary (redundant) communications path that would be installed as a new under hung fiber optic cable (i.e., a second cable hung under the transmission lines on the same poles) as the gen-tie line and existing Desert Harvest Solar Project gen-tie line.

The project includes a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) (CUP 220035), Public Use Permit (PUP) (PUP 220002) and cancellation of Williamson Act contracts which will be considered as part of the Project's permitting process.

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

Potentially significant impacts were identified for the following environmental topic areas: Aesthetics, Air Quality (construction), Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Paleontological Resources, Public Services, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Wildfire.

Mitigation was incorporated and reduced potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level for the following environmental topic areas: Aesthetics, Air Quality (construction), Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Paleontological Resources, Public Services, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Wildfire.

Although potential significant effects were not identified for noise, MM N-1 through MM N-3 were incorporated to further reduce potential non-significant impacts associated with noise that could result from the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the Project.

Even with mitigation incorporated, the following environmental topic areas remained significant and unavoidable:  
 Aesthetics (operations)

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

Discussion at the June 5, 2023, Scoping Meeting and during the public scoping period (May 12, 2023 - June 26, 2023) included concerns regarding project description, purpose and need, biological resources visual resources, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, cultural and tribal cultural resources, existing and planned land uses, energy, public health and safety, hydrology and water quality, water supply, soils, wildfire, mitigation measures, indirect and cumulative impacts, and alternatives.

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

- Bureau of Land Management - Right-of-Way Grants; National Environmental Policy Act
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Biological Opinion or Concurrence
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Clean Water Act, Section 404 Jurisdictional Determination
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Hazardous Waste ID Number
  
- State Historic Preservation Office - National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Review (36 CFR 800)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife- Incidental Take Permit; 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement
- California Department of Transportation, District 8 - Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit; Oversize/Overweight Vehicle Transportation Permit
  
- State Water Resources Control Board, Region 8 – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction General Permit; Waste Discharge Requirement; 401 Water Quality Certification