

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 #: 2023070088

Project Title: Zeta Solar and Battery Energy Storage System Project

Lead Agency: Merced County

Contact Name: Tiffany Ho

Email: Tiffany.Ho@countyofmerced.com Phone Number: (209) 385-7654 x. 4407

Project Location: n/a Merced
City *County*

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

Longroad Development Company, LLC (Applicant), has applied to the Merced County Department of Community and Economic Development (County) for a Conditional Use Permit (Application No. CUP22-015) to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission the Zeta Solar and Battery Energy Storage System Project (Project), a photovoltaic (PV) solar power generation facility with a battery energy storage system (BESS) and onsite Project substation. The Project would generate up to approximately 75 megawatts (MW) alternating current (AC) renewable electrical energy and include an energy storage capacity of up to 8 hours of 75 MW of AC. The Project is located on all or portions of several contiguous parcels, totaling approximately 650 acres (Project site), plus an additional 1,700-foot-long generation-tie (gen-tie) line to deliver power from the Project to Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E's) existing Mercy Springs Substation (point of interconnection) in unincorporated Merced County, located approximately 0.25 mile north of the Project site.

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

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) analysis determined that with implementation of applicable mitigation measures, no significant impacts would occur. The following mitigation measures are proposed for the project to reduce potential impacts: AQ-1 requires implementing a Valley Fever Management Plan; BIO-1 requires that a qualified lead biologist is retained during construction and decommissioning; BIO-2 through BIO-8 include measures to minimize impacts on biological resources and protected species in the Project area; CUL-1 requires that a qualified archaeologist is retained and that Cultural Resources Awareness Training is provided to construction personnel; CUL-2 addresses inadvertent discovery of historic or archaeological resources; CUL-3 addresses inadvertent discovery of unmarked burials; GEO-1 requires the submittal of a geotechnical analysis and report to Merced County; GEO-2 requires that a qualified paleontologist is retained; GEO-3 requires that Paleontological Resources Awareness Training is provided to construction personnel; GEO-4 addresses inadvertent discovery of paleontological resources; GEO-5 requires paleontological monitoring during project activities occurring at a ground depth of 5 feet or greater; GHG-1 requires circuit breakers comply with leakage rate requirements; HAZ-1 requires implementing a Fire Protection Plan.

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

Areas of controversy were identified through written agency and public comments received during the scoping period. The following issues were identified during the scoping period and are addressed in the appropriate sections of Chapter 4, Environmental Impact Analysis, of the DEIR: impacts related to agriculture; impacts related to biological resources; impacts related to air quality, and impacts related to water supply.

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

n.a.