
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

DATE: January 11, 2024

TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

SUBJECT: **LOS BANOS WILDLIFE AREA SOLAR PROJECT — CITY OF LOS BANOS, MERCED COUNTY, CA**

The California Department of General Services (DGS) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency for the proposed Los Banos Wildlife Area Solar Project (Proposed Project). DGS has directed the preparation of an Initial Study (IS) Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) in compliance with CEQA.

Project Location: The Proposed Project is located at 18110 Henry Miller Avenue, Los Banos, Merced County, California within Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 070-202-012. The Proposed Project is within the Los Banos Wildlife Area, which is owned and operated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Project Description: The Department of General Services (DGS) Los Banos Wildlife Area Solar Project (Proposed Project) is a solar Photovoltaic (PV) power generation system that will include 486 ground-mounted solar arrays that would occupy 27,000-square-feet. The Proposed Project will convert sunlight to Direct Current (DC) electrical power which would then be converted to Alternating Current (AC) by string inverters before being delivered to the PG&E distribution system. The total system is expected to be approximately 211 kilowatts. The Proposed Project would support energy reduction goals, the Global Warming Solutions Act, and Governor's Green Building Order S-20-04.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts: Potentially significant impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, paleontological resources, and tribal cultural resources were identified in the Initial Study. All impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level with the implementation of identified mitigation measures.

Hazardous Waste Sites: Pursuant to Section 15087(c)(6) of the Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act, CCC acknowledges the non-existence of hazardous waste sites within the Project area reviewed by this Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

IS/MND Document Review and Availability: The public review and comment period for the Draft IS/MND will extend for 30 days **starting January 11, 2024 and ending February 12, 2024**. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, printed hard copies will not be available to the public. However, the Draft IS/MND can be viewed and/or downloaded at the following website:

<http://www.ecorpconsulting.com/docs/DGS-Los-Banos-Wildlife-Area-Solar-Project-Draft-ISMND-WITH-APPENDICES.pdf>

Comments/Questions: Comments and/or questions regarding the IS/MND may be directed to:

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