



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

NOTICE OF INTENT TO
ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of Humboldt, as Lead Agency, in accordance with the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (finding of no significant adverse environmental effect) on the project described below. **This notification is to advise you that the Humboldt County Planning and Building Department will receive public comments on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration from August 1, 2024 through August 31, 2024.**

PROJECT TITLE: North Coast Highway Solar: PLN-2020-16341.

APPLICANT: North Coast Highway Solar 1, LLC

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: A Conditional Use Permit is being requested to authorize construction and operation of a 2.8-megawatt solar photovoltaic power generation facility (solar facility) to produce renewable energy for the power grid. The automated facility would occupy an approximately 11-acre fenced area with arrays of solar panels, single-axis trackers, string inverters, transformers, and associated electrical equipment. The approximately 87-acre property is planned and zoned Agriculture Exclusive (AE) and managed as pasture. An existing private driveway provides access to the project site from State Highway 36. Approximately 300 feet of new road is proposed to be developed to connect with a new driveway encroachment along Highway 36, approximately 70 feet west of the existing driveway encroachment. A power line and poles will be run to the site along the driveway route, to allow interconnection to the nearby 12 kilovolt power distribution line located within the highway right-of-way near the driveway encroachment. Approximately 7 acres of the site will be occupied by the solar array. New impervious surfaces totaling approximately 1,500 square feet will be limited to the piles supporting the panel arrays and concrete pads below electrical equipment (approx. 1,060 ft.) Areas beneath the panel will remain vegetated and the project sponsor will maintain continual operation of agricultural uses on the property, including but not limited to sheep grazing, the keeping of honeybees, or planting of row crops, on a rotational basis. Site construction is expected to take approximately 4 months and operation will run for a minimum of 20 years under a power purchase agreement with Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA). Maintenance staff are expected to visit the site on a weekly basis following the start of operation.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in an unincorporated area of Humboldt County, 1 mile south of the City of Fortuna, on land situated on the south side of State Route 36 between the communities of Alton and Hydesville, just west of the intersection of Highway 36 and River Bar Road on the property known as 2020 State Highway 36, and further described as APNs 204-171-045, 204-171-047, 204-081-002, 204-081-006, 204-081-007, 204-171-001

Comments may be submitted to the Humboldt County Planning and Building Department, 3015 H Street, Eureka, CA 95501 by August 31, 2022.

The draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study are available for review at the same location as well as online via the Department's website, located at <https://humboldt.gov.org/2347/Major-Projects>.

ADDRESS WHERE COPIES OF THE PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY ARE AVAILBLE FOR REVIEW AND WHERE COMMENTS MAY BE MAILED:

Humboldt County Planning and Building Department
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

The project and the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will be considered by the Humboldt County Planning Commission at a future public hearing. A separate notice for this hearing will be provided pursuant to Humboldt County Code 312-8 et seq.

Specific questions regarding the proposed project and the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration may be directed to Steven Lazar, Senior Planner at (707) 268-3741 or slazar@co.humboldt.ca.us