

# 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 #: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: North Coast Highway Solar Project

Lead Agency: Humboldt County Planning & Building Department

Contact Name: Steven Lazar

Email: slazar@co.humboldt.ca.us

Phone Number: (707)268-3741

Project Location: Alton area - near intscn of River Bar Road and State Highway 36

Humboldt County

*City*

*County*

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

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.

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

The project will utilize approximately 7 acres of existing agricultural pastureland to site the proposed array(s). The project includes mitigation to prevent the loss of agricultural productivity during the lifetime of the projects operation. This will require preparation and implementation of an agricultural management plan where the proposed solar field are will be paired with paired with intensive agricultural uses such as sheep grazing, the keeping of honeybees, or planting of row crops. The project also includes several mitigation measures to avoid impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources should they be encountered during ground disturbing activities.

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

there are currently no known areas of controversy

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

Caltrans District 1

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Department of Fish & Wildlife - District 1