



**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT EIR
AND SCOPING MEETING**

DATE: January 23, 2019

To: Responsible Agencies and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Scoping Meeting

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County of San Bernardino (County) must conduct a review of the environmental impacts of the Calcite Solar Project (project). Implementation of the project will require discretionary approvals from state and local agencies, and therefore, the project is subject to the environmental review requirements of CEQA. As the lead agency under CEQA, and due to the involvement of potentially significant impacts to the environment, the County is therefore issuing this Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project.

PROJECT TITLE: Calcite Solar Project

PROJECT APPLICANT: Lendlease Energy Development, LLC

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBERS: 0453-041-05, -04, -20; 0453-051-07; 0453-063-01, -02; 0452-081-78, -79; 0452-081-30

PROJECT LOCATION

The project area is situated roughly in the northern portion of Section 2, Township 5 North, Range 1 West; the northern portion of Section 11, Township 5 North, Range 1 West; the northern portion of Section 7, Township 5 North, Range 1 East; and the northern portion of Section 13, Township 5 North, Range 1 West, S.B.B. & M. of the White Horse Mountain, California U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 topographic quadrangle at approximately 34°55'38.67"N/116°95' 26.96"W. See exhibits in the Initial Study for project location maps and preliminary site design.

The project site is located along either side of State Route 247; south of Waalew Road/Desert Lane; north of Watking Road; east of White Horse Mountain; and west of Huff Road, approximately 5.5 miles north of Lucerne Valley, in unincorporated San Bernardino County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Lendlease Energy Development LLC (Applicant) proposes the Calcite Solar Project which would result in construction and operation of a 100 megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility on approximately 664 acres. The project would produce approximately 266,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) of renewable energy annually. The project would include an approximately 100 MWAC maximum capacity and energy storage (battery) system and a 220 kilovolt overhead generation tie line (gen-tie line) that would extend approximately 0.2 mile north to Southern California Edison's proposed Calcite Substation. An on-site substation, inverters, fencing, roads, and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system would also be constructed as part of the proposed improvements.

EIR SCOPE

An Initial Study addressing the potential environmental impacts associated with the project has been prepared. This Initial Study was prepared in compliance with CEQA of 1970 (as amended), codified in California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq., and the CEQA Guidelines, codified in the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et seq. The purpose of an Initial Study is to provide a preliminary analysis of a project to determine whether a negative declaration, a mitigated negative declaration, or an environmental impact report should be prepared. Since the County Land Use Services Department, as the CEQA lead agency, identified the need for an EIR, an Initial Study was prepared to refine the scope of the EIR, identify resource areas that will be eliminated from further analysis, and to solicit public input on the scope of the EIR.

The Initial Study is available to view or download at:

<http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/Environmental/Desert.aspx>.

The lead agency has initially identified the following environmental considerations as potentially significant effects of the project:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biology
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Transportation and Traffic
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems

The EIR will assess the effects of the project on the environment, identify potentially significant impacts, identify feasible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate potentially significant environmental impacts, and discuss potentially feasible alternatives to the project that may accomplish basic project objectives while lessening or eliminating any potentially significant project impacts.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

A responsible agency means a public agency other than the lead agency, which has permitting authority or approval power over some aspect of the overall project. This Notice provides a description of the project and solicits comments from responsible agencies, trustee agencies, federal, state and local agencies, and other interested parties on the scope and content of the environmental document to be prepared to analyze the environmental impacts of the project. Comments received in response to this Notice will be reviewed and considered by the lead agency in determining the scope of the EIR. Due to time limits, as defined by CEQA, your response should be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than thirty (30) days after publication of this notice. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to you or to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the project. Your agency may need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

The NOP and Initial Study are available for public review on the County's website at: <http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/Environmental/Desert.aspx>.

Additionally, copies of the NOP and Initial Study are available for public review at the following locations:

San Bernardino County High Desert
Government Center
15900 Smoke Tree Street, Suite 1331
Hesperia, CA 92345

Lucerne Valley Janice Horst Branch Library
33103 Old Woman Springs Rd.
Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

San Bernardino County Government Center
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, Second Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415

We would like to hear what you think. Comments and/or questions should be directed to Chris Warrick, Senior Planner, via U.S. mail or email **by no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 22, 2019.**

County of San Bernardino, Land Use Services Department
Attn.: Chris Warrick, Senior Planner
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415
Email: Chris.Warrick@lus.sbcounty.gov

Please include the name, phone number, and address of your agency's contact person in your response.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

The CEQA process encourages comments and questions from the public throughout the planning process. Consistent with Section 21083.9 of the CEQA statute, a Public Scoping Meeting will be held to solicit public comments on the scope and content of the EIR. The Public Scoping Meeting will be held on:

Date and Time: February 13, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 pm

Place: Lucerne Valley Community Center
33187 Highway 247 East/Old Woman Springs Road
Lucerne Valley, CA 92356
(760) 248-7048