



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

DATE: May 31, 2017

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 Ord Mountain Solar Energy Storage 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: Ord Mountain Solar Energy Project

PROJECT APPLICANT: Ord Mountain Solar, LLC

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBERS: 0453-091-11, 12, 24, 29, 31, 48, 51, 72, & 0453-041-07

PROJECT LOCATION

The Project site is located in unincorporated San Bernardino County; east of State Route 247, north of Haynes Road, and west of Meridian Road, approximately 8 miles north of Lucerne Valle. The project's overhead power line would extend southwest from the solar and energy storage site to the proposed Calcite Substation, west of SR-247. See exhibits in the Initial Study for project location maps and preliminary site design.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Ord Mountain Solar, LLC proposes a Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate a solar energy generation and storage project on approximately 484 acres to produce approximately 160,000 megawatt-hours of renewable energy annually. The project would be a 60-Megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) photovoltaic solar energy facility with associated on-site substation, inverters, fencing, roads, and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system. The project would include a 60 MW AC maximum capacity, 4-hour energy storage battery system, and a 220-kilovolt overhead power line, referred to as a generation tie line (gen-tie line), which would extend approximately 0.6 mile southwest to SCE's proposed Calcite Substation (also part of the project), in close proximity to the existing high-voltage transmission corridor. The project includes a Major Variance to modify the maximum structure height to permit the construction of onsite transmission poles and related structures up to 94 ft. in height. See the Initial Study for a

detailed description of the project components, construction program, and other information.

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
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Noise
- Traffic/Circulation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

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:
<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 questions should be directed as follows,
before 4:30 p.m. on June 30, 2017:

County of San Bernardino
Land Use Services Department
John Oquendo, AICP
Senior Planner
15900 Smoke Tree Street, Suite 131
Hesperia, CA 92345
Phone: (760) 995-8153
Email: John.Oquendo@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: June 13, 2017, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm

Place: Lucerne Valley Community Center at 33187 Highway 247 East, Lucerne Valley, CA 92356.