

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR THE STATELINE SOLAR FARM PROJECT
(SCH #2011081080)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), together with the County of San Bernardino (County), California, has prepared a Joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the proposed Stateline Solar Farm Project located in eastern San Bernardino County, Calif., entirely on BLM-administered lands in Ivanpah Valley. The BLM and the County of San Bernardino have prepared the EIS/EIR to evaluate potential impacts associated with the proposed Stateline Solar Farm Project and Alternatives. This project is proposed by Desert Stateline, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of First Solar Development, Inc. (First Solar).

The Final EIS/EIR for the Stateline Solar Project is available for public review and comment. The Stateline Solar Farm Project includes the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of an approximately 2,143-acre (ac), 300-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) solar photovoltaic (PV) energy generation facility. The proposed action would include the PV generating facility, the 220-kilovolt (kV) generation interconnection (gen-tie) transmission line, operations and maintenance facilities, and a site access road. The location of the proposed facility within its regional context is shown in Figure 1-1 (attached map). All of the proposed facilities would be located on Federal lands managed by the BLM Needles Field Office.

The document includes a BLM California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment (PA) also available for public comment. BLM, as the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the County of San Bernardino, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), jointly prepared the EIS/EIR to analyze the site-specific impacts of the proposed project on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, water resources, geological resources and hazards, hazardous materials handling, land use, noise, and visual resources. In addition, the PA and Final EIS/EIR analyze the effects of administrative actions that would be associated with the approving the proposed solar facility, including the ROW grant and the necessary amendments to the BLM 1980 California Desert Conservation Area Plan (CDCA Plan; BLM 1980), as amended.

This document has been prepared to meet the state requirements of CEQA and the federal requirements of NEPA. The Final EIS/EIR is being circulated to the public, and to interested agencies in accordance with CEQA and NEPA, to provide a meaningful opportunity for the public and affected agencies to review and comment on the document. Significant impacts from the proposed project include: 1) Wildlife (displacement of approximately 40 desert tortoises and removal of 2,143 acres of desert tortoise habitat); 2) Visual Resources (cumulative visible alteration to the immediate project area [Ivanpah Valley]); and 3) Water Resources (potential peak groundwater usage impacts during construction).

The public comment period will begin on November 15, 2013, and will end on December 16, 2013. Comments can be sent by mail to BLM California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553 (Attn: Jeffrey Childers), by email to jchilders@blm.gov, and by fax to (951) 697-5299. Paper copies and compact discs are available upon request.

Further details on the proposed Stateline Solar Farm project can be found at:

http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/needles/stateline_solar_farm.html.

For information contact the Bureau of Land Management Project Manager, Jeff Childers at (951) 697-5308, or e-mail at jchilders@blm.gov.

The Final EIS/EIR is available for review at the following County locations:

San Bernardino County
Land Use Services Department
Planning Division
385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

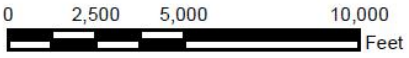
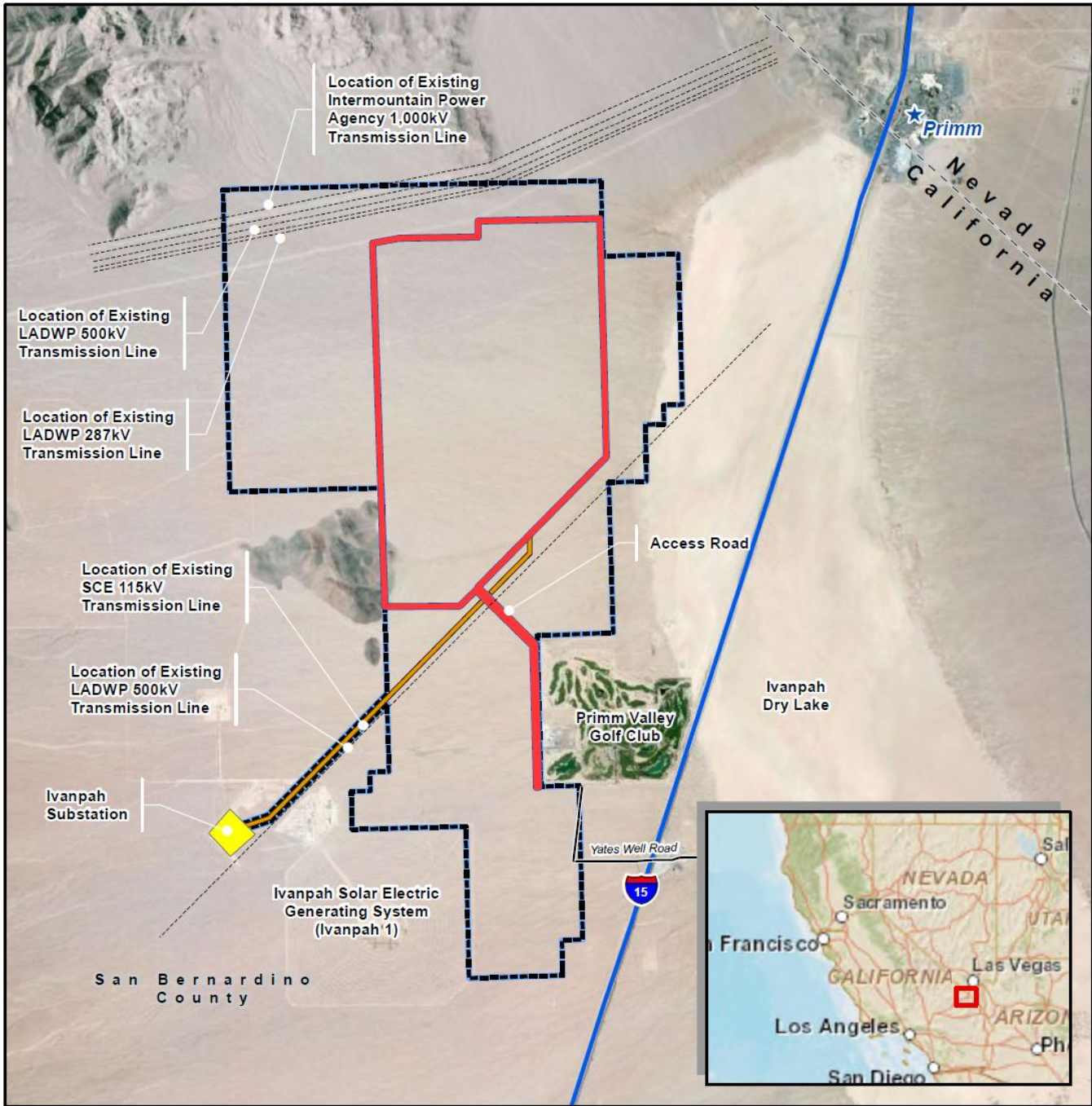
San Bernardino County
Land Use Services Department
Planning Division
15900 Smoke Tree Street
Hesperia, CA 92345

The Final EIS/EIR is also available for review at the following libraries and community locations:

Barstow Library
304 East Buena Vista
Barstow, CA 92311

Needles Library
1111 Bailey Ave.
Needles, CA 92363

Baker Community Services District
P.O. Box 590 Baker, CA 92309 [Mailing Address]
72730 Baker Blvd., Baker, CA 92309 [Physical Address]



Legend

- Other Large Transmission Lines
- Alternative 1 Footprint
- Project Study Area
- Gen-Tie Corridor
- Ivanpah Substation

Ref: Desert Stateline. 2011. Plan of Development Stateline Solar Farm. August 17.



Figure 1-1
Project Location Map
Alternative 1: Proposed Action

Stateline Solar Farm Project