

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 #: 2017091038

Project Title: Fifth Standard Solar Complex Environmental Impact Report No. 7257

Lead Agency: County of Fresno

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Project Location: Unincorporated Fresno County

City

County

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

The RWE Solar Development, LLC (Applicant) has applied to the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning for three Unclassified Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) (CUP Application Nos. 3562, 3563, and 3564) to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a 150-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) generation facility, an up to 20-MW solar PV generation facility, and an up to 100-MW energy storage facility. The Fifth Standard Solar Facility Project Complex (proposed project) includes PV electricity-generating facilities, a battery storage facility, and associated infrastructure. The proposed project is located on twelve contiguous parcels, totaling approximately 1,600 acres in unincorporated Fresno County. A new generation-tie line would be constructed to connect the solar and storage components of the proposed project to PG&E's adjacent Gates Substation. The anticipated lifetime of the proposed project would be 35 years and would be decommissioned once operations of the facility cease. The final lease agreement is anticipated to occur by 2022 with a lease term of 35 years. The CUP would tentatively have an end date of August 2057. The lease would include an option for renewal, subject to further discretionary approval by the County.

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

Based on the analysis provided in the Draft Environmental Impact Report, the County has determined that the proposed project would result in no impacts for the following resource areas: mineral resources, population and housing, recreation. The County has determined that the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts for the following resource areas: hydrology and water quality, public services, utilities and service systems, and energy.

The following issues were analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report and determined be less than significant with the implementation of mitigation: aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, transportation, tribal cultural resources, and wildfire (please see Table ES-1 for the full list of mitigation measures of the Draft Environmental Impact Report). Impacts to agricultural resources and land use and planning were determined to be significant and unavoidable even after implementation of mitigation. Mitigation measures that would reduce potential effects include: downward lighting, preparation of a reclamation plan, air quality best management practices, voluntary emission reduction agreement, biological avoidance measures, construction work windows, pre-construction surveys for nesting birds, collision reduction design methods, inadvertent discovery protocols, GHG reduction measures, worker health and safety protocol, fire protection plan, construction noise protocols, traffic management plan, etc.

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

The following are potential areas of controversy over the project:

- Conversion of agricultural lands;
- Conflicts with Williamson Act Contracts; and
- Conflicts with General Plan Land Use Goals and Policies and Fresno County Zoning Ordinance.

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

The following agencies may serve as responsible and trustee agencies:

- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
- California Public Utilities Commission; and
- Pacific Gas and Electric