



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR THE FIFTH STANDARD SOLAR COMPLEX PROJECT
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2017091038
FEBRUARY 7, 2020**

LEAD AGENCY: Fresno County

PROJECT TITLE: Environmental Impact Report for the Fifth Standard Solar Complex Project

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is in unincorporated Fresno County, approximately 2 miles east of Interstate 5 (I-5) and approximately 13 miles east of Coalinga. Lassen Avenue (California State Route [SR] 269) borders the eastern side of the property and is the only paved road adjacent to the project site. Trinity Avenue, Tractor Avenue, and Phelps Avenue intersect the project site, but are not improved roads. Nearby communities include Huron (1.5 miles north), Avenal (9 miles south), Kettleman City (12 miles southeast), and Coalinga (13 miles west). The project site is approximately 1,600 acres and comprises the following 12 Fresno County Assessor Parcel Numbers:

075-060-15S	075-070-34S	075-130-59S
075-060-52S	075-130-10S	075-130-60S
075-070-01S	075-130-12S	075-070-35S
075-070-32S	075-130-54S	075-070-33S

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The RWE Solar Development, LLC (formerly known as EC&R 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 (project site), totaling approximately 1,600 acres in unincorporated Fresno County. A new generation-tie (gen-tie) line would be constructed to connect the solar and storage components of the proposed project to Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E's) adjacent Gates Substation (point of interconnect). 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 agreement would include an option for renewal, in which case a new land use permit subject to the County's review and approval would need to be obtained.

The proposed project includes three separate components:

- Unclassified CUP Application No. 3562 Fifth Standard Solar Facility: a 150-MW PV solar energy generation facility that is anticipated to require up to 1,400 acres of the site. A 230-kilovolt (kV) project gen-tie line would be constructed from the southwest portion of this site to the point of interconnect. The gen-tie line would consist of a 0.3-mile aboveground power line.
- Unclassified CUP Application No. 3563 Stonecrop Solar Facility: a 20-MW PV solar energy generation facility that would be located adjacent to the Fifth Standard Solar Facility and would require less than 200 acres of the site.
- Unclassified CUP Application No. 3564 Blackbriar Battery Storage Facility: an up to 100-MW battery storage facility that would be located adjacent to the Fifth Standard Solar Facility and the Stonecrop Solar Facility and would require less than 5 acres of the site.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The County of Fresno has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to address the specific environmental effects of implementing the proposed project. The Draft EIR consists of analysis of the following environmental issue areas that may be impacted by the project:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Minerals
- Noise
- Public Services
- Transportation
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gases
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Energy
- Wildfire

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD/STATUS: A **45-day public review period** will be provided to receive written comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIR. The comment period will start on **February 7, 2020**, and end on **March 23, 2020**. Written comments should be sent to the following address:

Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning
ATTN: Christina Monfette
2220 Tulare Street, 6th Floor
Fresno, California 93721
Email: CMonfette@FresnoCountyCA.gov

PUBLIC MEETING: A public meeting to receive comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIR will be held at the following location:

Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2020
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Place: Keenan Community Center, located at 17094 Myrtle St, Huron, CA 93234.

AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT EIR: Copies of the Draft EIR are available for review at the following locations:

Fresno County Public Works and Planning Department:

2220 Tulare Street, Suite A
Fresno, California 93721

Fresno County Library Huron Branch Library:

36050 O Street
Huron, California 93234

Fresno County Main Library:

Reference Department
2420 Mariposa Street
Fresno, California 93721

The Draft EIR may also be reviewed on the County's project website (<http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/EIR>). Referenced material used in the preparation of the Draft EIR may be reviewed upon request to the Public Works and Planning Department.