



## Department of Toxic Substances Control



**Jared Blumenfeld**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director  
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**Gavin Newsom**  
Governor

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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**FEB 26 2020**

Ms. Christina Monfette  
County of Fresno  
2220 Tulare Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Fresno, California 93721

### STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR FIFTH STANDARD SOLAR  
COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT NO. 7257 – DATED FEBRUARY  
2020 (STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2017091038)

Dear Ms. Monfette:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Fifth Standard Solar Complex. The proposed project would include the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of a 150 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) generation facility, a 20-MW solar PV generation facility, and an up to 100-MW energy storage facility. The proposed project includes PV electricity-generating facilities, a battery storage facility, and associated infrastructure. The proposed project would be located on 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 Pacific Gas & Electric's adjacent Gates Substation (point of interconnect). The anticipated lifetime of the proposed project would be 35 years and it would be decommissioned once operations of the facility cease.

DTSC recommends that the following issues be evaluated in the EIR Hazards and Hazardous Materials section:

1. The EIR should acknowledge the potential for historic or future activities on or near the project site to result in the release of hazardous wastes/substances on the project site. In instances in which releases have or occurred or may occur, further studies should be carried out to delineate the nature and extent of the contamination, and the potential threat to public health and/or the environment should be evaluated. The EIR should also identify the mechanism(s) to initiate any required investigation and/or remediation and the government agency who will be responsible for providing appropriate regulatory oversight.

2. If buildings or other structures are to be demolished on any project sites included in the proposed project, surveys should be conducted for the presence of lead-based paints or products, mercury, asbestos containing materials, and polychlorinated biphenyl caulk. Removal, demolition and disposal of any of the above-mentioned chemicals should be conducted in compliance with California environmental regulations and policies. In addition, sampling near current and/or former buildings should be conducted in accordance with DTSC's 2006 *Interim Guidance Evaluation of School Sites with Potential Contamination from Lead Based Paint, Termiticides, and Electrical Transformers* ([https://dtsc.ca.gov/wpcontent/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/Guidance\\_Lead Contamination\\_050118.pdf](https://dtsc.ca.gov/wpcontent/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/Guidance_Lead Contamination_050118.pdf)).
3. If any projects initiated as part of the proposed project require the importation of soil to backfill any excavated areas, proper sampling should be conducted to ensure that the imported soil is free of contamination. DTSC recommends the imported materials be characterized according to *DTSC's 2001 Information Advisory Clean Imported Fill Material* ([https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/SMP\\_FS\\_Cleanfill-Schools.pdf](https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/SMP_FS_Cleanfill-Schools.pdf)).
4. If any sites included as part of the proposed project have been used for agricultural, weed abatement or related activities, proper investigation for organochlorinated pesticides should be discussed in the EIR. DTSC recommends the current and former agricultural lands be evaluated in accordance with DTSC's 2008 *Interim Guidance for Sampling Agricultural Properties (Third Revision)* (<https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/Ag-Guidance-Rev-3-August-7-2008-2.pdf>).

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to review the EIR. Should you need any assistance with an environmental investigation, please submit a request for Lead Agency Oversight Application, which can be found at: [https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/VCP\\_App-1460.doc](https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/VCP_App-1460.doc). Additional information regarding voluntary agreements with DTSC can be found at: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/brownfields/>.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 255-3710 or via email at [Gavin.McCreary@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Gavin.McCreary@dtsc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Gavin McCreary  
Project Manager  
Site Evaluation and Remediation Unit  
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program  
Department of Toxic Substances Control

cc: (via email)

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