



Northern California Power Agency
651 Commerce Drive
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Executive Summary

Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration

NCPA Solar Project 1

Healdsburg Water Reclamation Facility Site



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Executive Summary

Overview of the Proposed Project

The objective of the NCPA Solar Project 1 is to develop a fleet of Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Power Plants throughout participating member service territories to be under construction by the end of 2019. The plants will be managed by the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) as a single project to be owned and operated by a third-party provider through a power purchase agreement (PPA). After the initial 5 – 7 years of operation, NCPA plans to purchase the plants.

The project will be executed in three phases:

- ❖ Phase 1 – Determine member interest and requirements and identify potential sites.
- ❖ Phase 2 – Site selection and screening, plan development and selection of a third-party provider to fulfill design, construction and operation through a PPA.
- ❖ Phase 3 – Construction and operation per the PPA.

NCPA has now completed Phase 1 and the site selection and screening portion of Phase 2. The City of Healdsburg selected a potential site at the Healdsburg Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) for further analysis as shown below:

Site	Location		Developable Area (acres)	Estimated Capacity (MW _{dc})
	Latitude, Longitude	Section, Township, Range		
Healdsburg WRF	38°35'00.03" N, 122°51'45.37" W	Sec 5, T 9 N, R 9 W, MDB&M	8.13	3.62

The Project site is located within a 36-acre water reclamation facility site that is situated between Foreman Lane to the north and Cohn Road to the south (Figure ES-1). The proposed technology type for the solar project is floating arrays, whereby the panels would be mounted to pontoons that are anchored to ballasts located outside the ponds. As shown on Figure ES-2, the site would accommodate three arrays totaling 8.13 acres. The total installed capacity would be approximately 3.62 MW_{dc}.

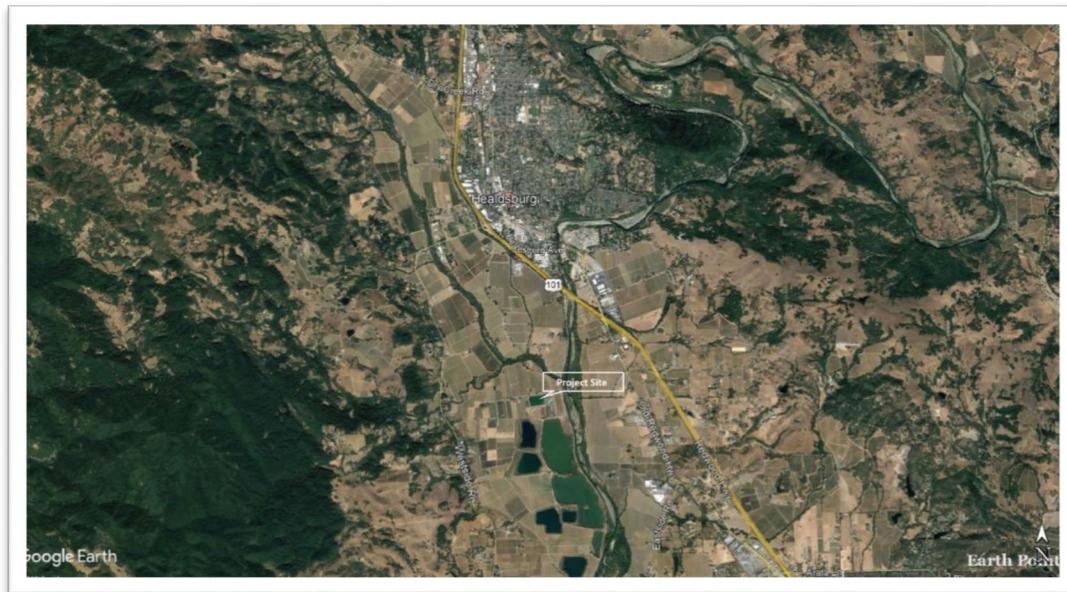


Figure ES-1 Healdsburg Water Reclamation Facility Site Location

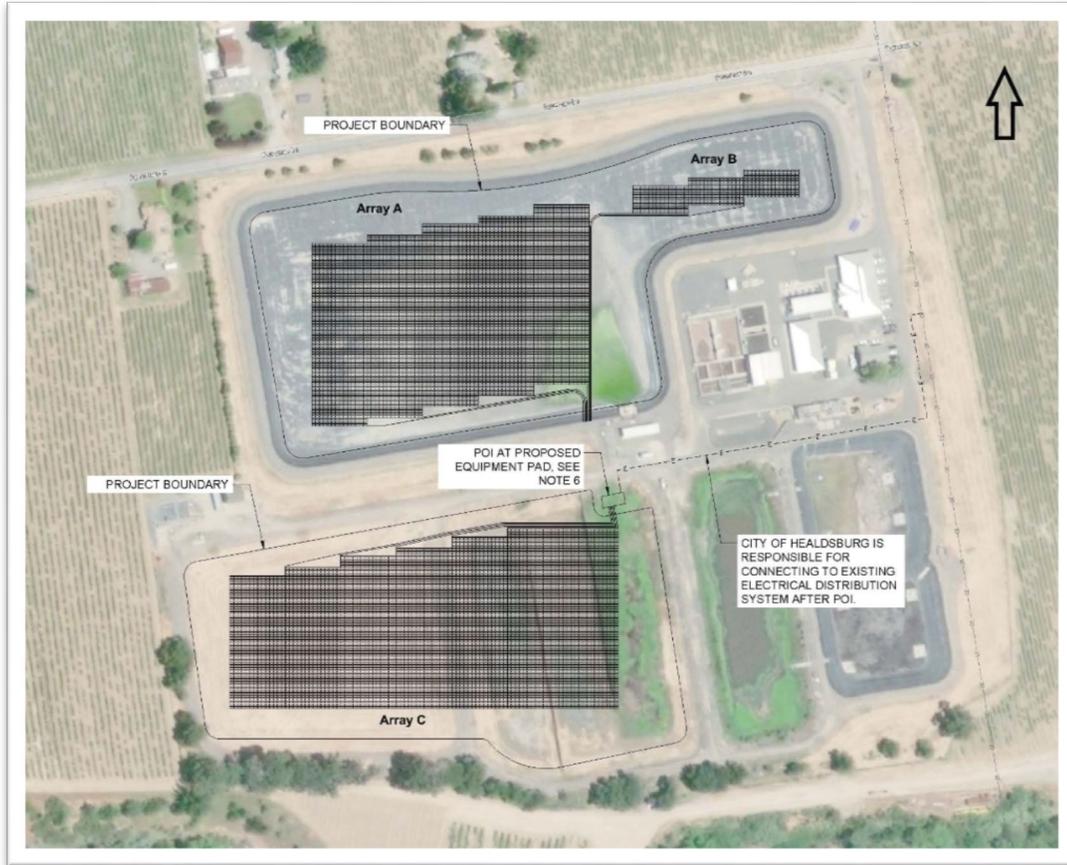


Figure ES-1 Proposed Solar Array Locations

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table ES-1 identifies each potential significant effect, Standard Construction Practices/Design Features, and proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect. Proposed mitigation measures are NCPA Staff's and its consultant's recommendations to reduce potential impacts associated with implementation of the proposed Project. Should NCPA's Commission adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (Appendix F in the IS&MND) these mitigation measures would become mandatory and part of the Project.

Table ES-1
Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Environmental Factor:	Biological Resources
Impact:	Potential impacts to nesting birds.
Standard Construction Practices/Design Features	NCPA will include the following mitigation measures in its contract documents for this project.
Mitigation Measures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ If construction occurs between February 1st and August 31st, a pre-construction clearance survey for nesting birds shall be conducted within three (3) days of the start of any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities to ensure that no nesting birds will be disturbed during construction. The biologist conducting the clearance survey should document a negative survey with a brief letter report indicating that no impacts to active avian nests will occur. If an active avian nest is discovered during the pre-construction clearance survey, construction activities should stay outside of a no-disturbance buffer. The size of the no-disturbance buffer will be determined by the wildlife biologist and will depend on the level of noise and/or surrounding anthropogenic disturbances, line of sight between the nest and the construction activity, type and duration of construction activity, ambient noise, species habituation, and topographical barriers. These factors will be

	<p>evaluated on a case-by-case basis when developing buffer distances. Limits of construction to avoid an active nest will be established in the field with flagging, fencing, or other appropriate barriers; and construction personnel will be instructed on the sensitivity of nest areas. A biological monitor should be present to delineate the boundaries of the buffer area and to monitor the active nest to ensure that nesting behavior is not adversely affected by the construction activity. Once the young have fledged and left the nest, or the nest otherwise becomes inactive under natural conditions, construction activities within the buffer area can occur.</p> <p>It should be noted that the City of Healdsburg will be performing work within the proposed Project footprint prior to the implementation of the solar project. If disturbances within the Project footprint continue to occur after the City completes its work and before the solar project starts, a pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey will not be required due to the decreased potential for nesting to occur. However, if there is a gap between projects, especially during the breeding season, a pre-construction survey will be required prior to the initiation of the proposed solar project.</p>
Impact After Mitigation:	Less than significant impact
Environmental Factor:	Cultural Resources
Potential Impact:	Possible inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources or human remains during excavation activities.
Standard Construction Practices/Design Features	NCPA will include the following mitigation measures in its contract documents for this project.
Mitigation Measures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ In the unlikely event that potentially significant archaeological materials are encountered during construction activities, all work shall be halted in the vicinity of the archaeological discovery until a qualified archaeologist can visit the site of discovery, assess the significance of the archaeological resource, and provide proper management recommendations. If the discovery proves to be significant, additional work, such as data recovery excavation, may be warranted. The treatment and disposition of cultural material that might be discovered during excavation shall be in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. ❖ All sacred items, should they be encountered within the Project sites, shall be avoided and preserved as the preferred mitigation, if feasible. All cultural materials that are collected during excavation and other earth disturbing activities on the Project sites, with the exception of sacred items, burial goods and human remains which will be addressed in any required Treatment Agreement, shall be tribally curated according to the current repository standards. The collections and associated records shall be transferred, including title, to the closest tribe to the Project site. ❖ In the event of an accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains, the County Coroner shall be notified and construction activities at the affected work site shall be halted. If the coroner determines the remains to be Native American: (1) the coroner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24-hours, and (2) the NAHC shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the most likely descended from the deceased Native American. The treatment and disposition of human remains that might be discovered during excavation shall be in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
Impact After Mitigation:	Less than significant impact
Environmental Factor	Geology and Soils
Potential Impact	Possible inadvertent discoveries of paleontological resources during excavation activities.
Standard Construction Practices/Design Features	NCPA will include the following mitigation measures in its contract documents for this project.
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ In the unlikely event that potentially significant paleontological materials (e.g., fossils) are encountered during construction of the project, all work shall be halted in the vicinity of the paleontological discovery until a qualified paleontologist can visit the site of discovery, assess the significance of the paleontological resource, and provide proper management recommendations. If the discovery proves to be significant, additional work, such as data recovery excavation, may be warranted. The treatment and disposition of paleontological material that might be discovered during excavation shall be in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
Environmental Factor	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
Potential Impact	During construction, the contractor would utilize equipment that uses petroleum-based fuels and lubricants, which are subject to both leakage from engine blocks and containers, or spillage during refueling and lubrication operations
Standard Construction Practices/Design Features	<p>NCPA's contract documents for this project will include the following:</p> <p>During project construction, the construction contractor shall implement the following measures to address the potential environmental constraints associated with the presence of hazardous materials at the project site to the satisfaction of NCPA:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The contractor shall prepare a Health and Safety Plan in compliance with the requirements of Chapter 6.95, Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code (§25500 – 25532). The plan shall include measures to be taken in the event of an accidental spill. ❖ The contractor shall enforce strict on-site handling rules to keep construction and maintenance materials out of receiving waters and storm drains. In addition, the contractor shall store all reserve fuel supplies only within the confines of designated construction staging areas; refuel equipment only with the designated construction staging areas; and regularly inspect all construction equipment for leaks. ❖ The construction staging area shall be designed to contain contaminants such as oil, grease, and fuel products to ensure that they do not drain towards receiving waters or storm drain inlets.
Mitigation Measures	No additional mitigation is required.
Impact After Mitigation	Less than significant impact.

Areas of Controversy

There are no areas of controversy associated with the NCPA Solar Project 1 – Healdsburg Water Reclamation Facility site.

Issues to be Resolved

There are no issues to be resolved associated with the NCPA Solar Project 1 – Healdsburg Water Reclamation Facility site.

Document Availability and Contact Personnel

The Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for review at the following locations:

Northern California Power Agency
 651 Commerce Drive
 Roseville, California 95678

City of Healdsburg Electric, Water and Wastewater Department
 401 Grove Street
 Healdsburg, California 95448

and can be downloaded at:

<http://www.ncpa.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Healdsburg-ISMND.pdf>.

All comments regarding the Project or environmental documents should be mailed or emailed to:

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