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**PLANNING AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Planning  
Community Development  
Administrative Operations

**DATE:** September 15, 2020

**TO:** See Attached Mailing List

**FROM:** Kern County Planning and Natural  
Resources Department  
Attn: Ronelle Candia  
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
(661)862-8997; [CandiaR@kerncounty.com](mailto:CandiaR@kerncounty.com)

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department as Lead Agency (per CEQA Guidelines Section 15062) has determined that preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (per CEQA Guidelines 15161) is necessary for the proposed project identified below. The Planning and Natural Resources Department solicits the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval of projects.

You are invited to view the NOP and submit written comments regarding this proposed project should you wish to do so. Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be received by **October 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.** Comments can be submitted to the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department at the address shown above. A Scoping meeting that will be held on **Friday, October 2, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.** In compliance with the Governor's Executive Order, the California Department of Public Health's guidelines on gatherings regarding COVID-19, and Kern County Local Emergency Declaration, the scoping meeting required by the CEQA Guidelines will be conducted online. Closed captioning in Spanish will be available to attendees. Instructions for accessing the virtual scoping meeting will be available three (3) days before the virtual scoping meeting on the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources website at <https://kernplanning.com>.

Comments on the scope and content of the NOP should be sent to [CandiaR@kerncounty.com](mailto:CandiaR@kerncounty.com).

**PROJECT TITLE:** Kudu Solar Farm by 69SV 8ME LLC (PP20405); ZCC 14, Map # 152; CUP 28, Map #152; and GPA 10, Map #152 (Circulation).

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The proposed project site is located in portions of unincorporated Kern County and the City of California City, north of the California City Municipal Airport. The majority of the project site is bisected to the east-west by Washburn Boulevard (which is also the Kern County/California City limit line) and to the north-south by Neuralia Road. State Route 14, a four-lane divided highway located approximately one mile to the west, provides regional access to the project site. Access to the site would be from Phillips Road, Gantt Road, Neuralia Road, Pioneer Road, Sage Street, or through the Eland 1 project site. The site is located within Township 31S, Range 37E – portions of Sections 14, 15, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and Township 32S, Range 37E – portions of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Kudu Solar Farm Project by 69SV 8ME LLC (project proponent), is a proposed photovoltaic solar facility and energy storage system capable of producing up to 500 MW of alternating current power and 600 MW hours of storage capacity on approximately 1,955.13 acres of privately-owned land. The proposed project would be supported by a 230-kV gen-tie overhead and/or underground generation tie-line (gen-tie) from originating from the Eland substation and terminating at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Barren Ridge Substation located approximately two miles to the northwest of the project site, or through an upgraded connection through Eland 1. The proposed project intends to share the Eland 1 Solar Project's gen-tie line and right of way, which will be accomplished by constructing the line conductor capable of supporting both projects. Construction of the gen-tie and substation will be done as part of the Eland 1 Solar Project, consistent with the conditions of approval outlined in that project's CUP(s). If the proposed project cannot share these facilities, a new gen-tie line would be developed within one of the routes previously analyzed in the Eland 1 Solar Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No. 2012011029). The proposed project's permanent facilities would include solar arrays and inverters, service roads, a power collection system, communication cables, overhead and underground electrical switchyards, project substations, energy storage system(s), and operations and maintenance (O&M) facilities.

Implementation of the project as proposed includes the following requests:

The proposed project consists of the following requests:

- Kern County
  - Zone Change Case No. 14, Map No. 152 as follows:
    - From A-1 (Limited Agriculture) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) for approximately 164.76 acres;
    - From A-1 MH (Limited Agriculture, Mobile Home Combining) to A for approximately 2.39 acres;
    - From PL RS (Platted Lands, Residential Suburban Combining) to A for approximately 10.29 acres; and
    - From PL RS MH (Platted Lands, Residential Suburban Combining, Mobile Home Combining) to A for approximately 7.73 acres.
  - Issuance of Conditional Use Permit No. 28, Map No. 152 to allow for the construction and operation, within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) pursuant to Section 19.12.030G of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, of a 673.60-acre PV solar facility with a total project generating capacity, in both Kern County and California City, of up to 500 MW of alternating current power and 600 MW hours of storage capacity
  - General Plan Amendment No. 10, Map No. 152 to the Circulation Element of the Kern County General Plan to remove road reservations on section and mid-section lines within the Kern County project boundaries.

- City of California City (Responsible Agency)

The City of California City is a Responsible Agency under CEQA. For the parcels within California City city limits, the City will require that the project proponent complete a CUP from the City to allow for the construction and operation of a solar facility, in the O/RA (Openspace/Residential Agriculture) zone, of a 1,281.53-acre PV solar facility with a total project generating capacity, in both Kern County and California City, of up to 500 MW of alternating current power and 600 MW hours of storage capacity (CUP 19-04). If deemed




necessary by the City of California City, the project proponent may request a zone change from O/RA to M-1 (Light Industrial) for the portion of the facility located in California City. The project proponent has requested to remove the future section and mid-section lines for the portion of the project within the City of California City's jurisdiction. The City will determine during the CUP process (Sec. 9-2-2501 of the California City Municipal Code) what section lines will be required to be preserved and what ones will be removed.

Documents can be viewed online at: <https://kernplanning.com/planning/notices-of-preparation/>

Signature:

Name:



Ronelle Candia, Supervising Planner