

To: Office of Planning & Research  
(Agency)  
  
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  
(Address)  
  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**

**Lead Agency:**

**Consulting Firm (If applicable):**

Agency Name	<u>Imperial County, Planning &amp; Dev Svs.</u>	Firm Name	<u>HDR</u>
Street Address	<u>801 Main Street</u>	Street Address	<u>591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 300</u>
City/State/Zip	<u>El Centro, CA 92243</u>	City/State/Zip	<u>San Diego, CA 92108</u>
Contact	<u>David Black</u>	Contact	<u>Tim Gnibus</u>

The County of Imperial will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified below. We need to know 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 for the project.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study is attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but ***not later than 35 days*** after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to Imperial County Planning & Development Services, Attn: David Black at the address shown above. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

**Project Title:** Saavi Imperial Power Battery Storage System Project

**Project Location:** The project site is located on one privately-owned parcel (Assessor Parcel Number 051-320-012), which is approximately 39.25 acres. The project site is located in the unincorporated Mount Signal area of Imperial County, California. The project site is located approximately 12 miles southwest of the City of El Centro and approximately 6.6 miles north of the United States/Mexico international border.

**Project Description (brief):** The project applicant, Saavi Imperial Power, LLC, proposes to construct and operate an 400-megawatt (MW) battery energy storage system (BESS) facility on approximately 39.25 acres of privately-owned land. The project also includes an off-site transmission line to connect to San Diego Gas and Electric's existing Imperial Valley (IV) substation, on-site substation, office warehouse, and a new bridge across Imperial Irrigation District's Westside Main Canal for vehicular access to the project site.

Implementation of the project requires an amendment to the County's General Plan, a Zone Change, and the approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP), as described below:

- **General Plan Amendment:** The applicant is requesting a General Plan Amendment to change the existing General Plan land use designation of "Agriculture" to "Industrial."

- **Zone Change:** The project site is currently zoned as Heavy Agriculture (A-3). The applicant is requesting a Zone Change to classify the project parcel as Medium Industrial (M-2).
- **Conditional Use Permit:** Implementation of the project would require the approval of a CUP by the County to allow for the construction and operation of a commercial BESS facility within the M-2 zone.

If the proposed off-site gen-tie connection to the IV substation is necessary for project implementation, the subject off-site gen-tie connection would traverse Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. The project applicant would be required to complete a right-of-way request by processing a 299 Application and corresponding Plan of Development with the BLM. Therefore, the proposed off-site gen-tie connection would be subject to NEPA clearance.

**Project Applicant:** Saavi Imperial Power, LLC

Date 02/26/2025

Signature



Title

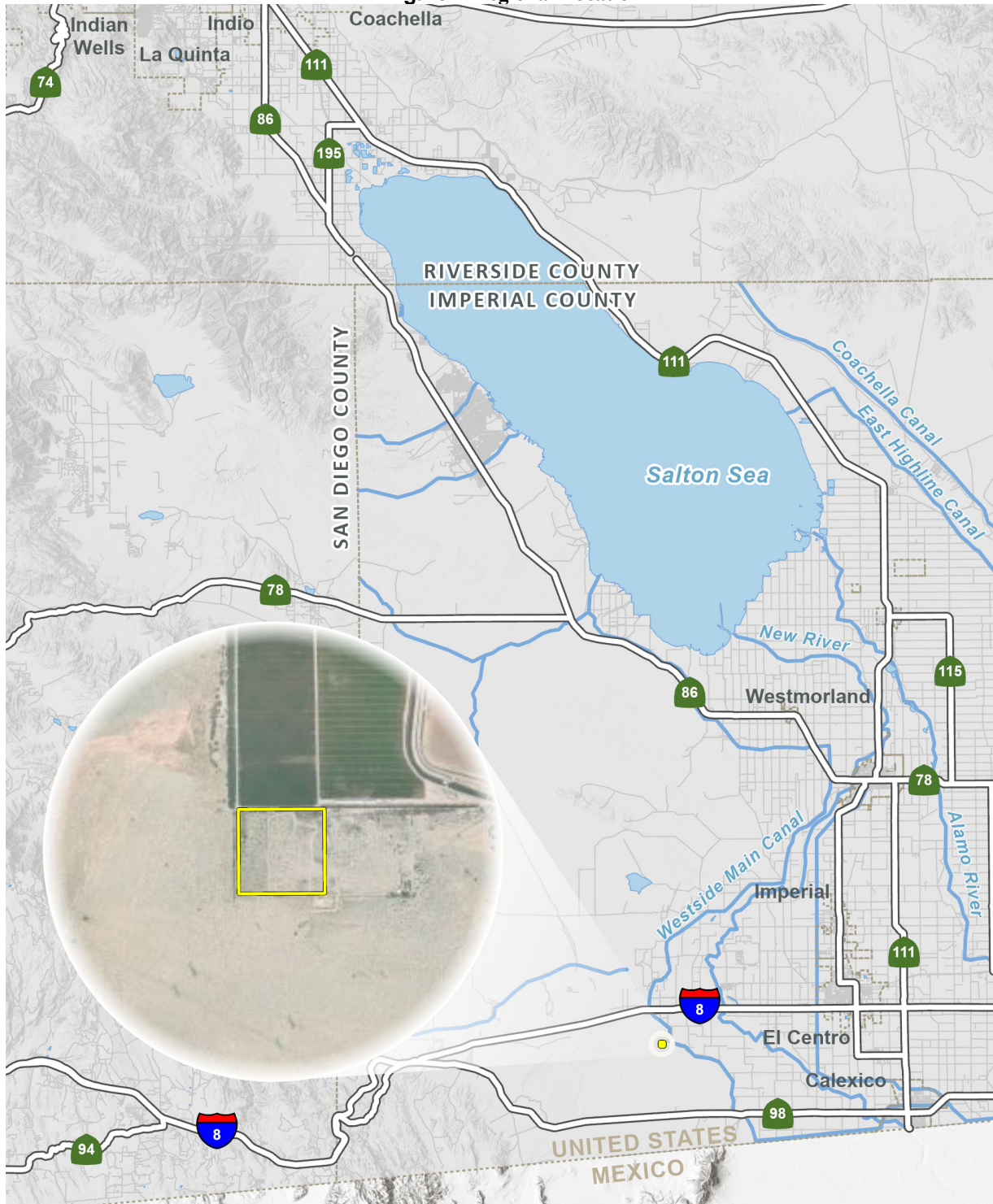
AICP, Assistant Director

Telephone

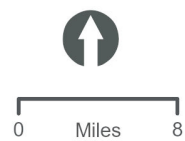
(442)265-1736

*Reference: California Administrative Code, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Section 15082(a), 15103, 15375.*

Figure 1. Regional Location

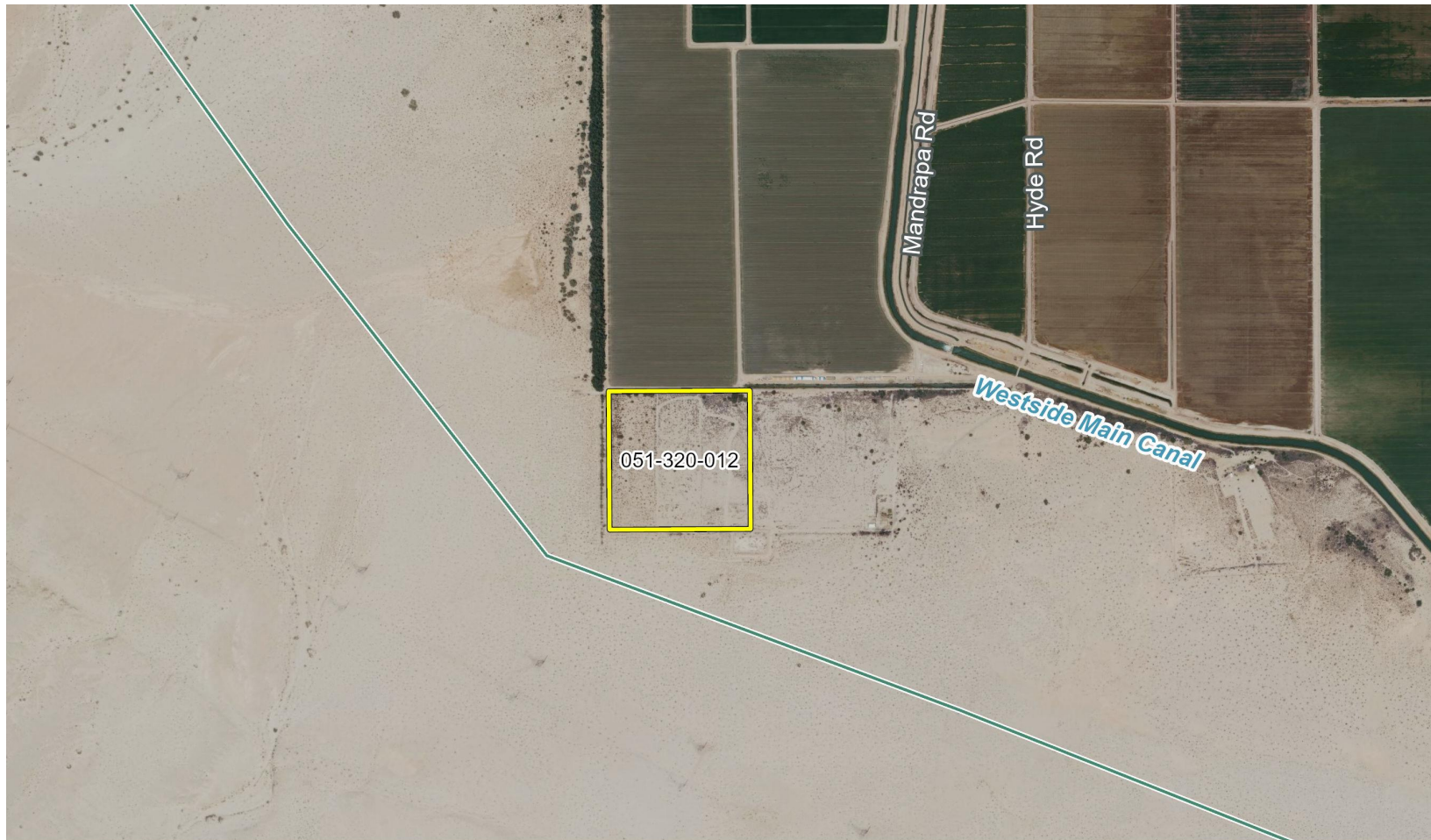


 Saavi Imperial BESS Project Area



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Figure 2. Project Site



- Saavi Imperial BESS Project Area
- Existing Tenaska's 230 kV T-Line

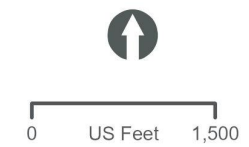




Figure 3. Project Components

