

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE ENERGY SOURCE MINERAL ATLiS PROJECT

June 28, 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, as lead agency, is circulating for public review a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Energy Source Mineral ATLiS Project.

Project Title: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Energy Source Mineral ATLiS Project.

Project Location: The project site is located at 477 West McDonald Road, Calipatria, California approximately 3.8 miles southwest of the community of Niland. Project facilities would be built on three parcels privately owned by Hudson Ranch Power I LLC in the County of Imperial: APNs 020-100-025, 020-100-044, 020-100-046. Two primary entry driveways that serve as the access to the project site would be constructed from McDonald Road.

Project Description: Energy-Source Minerals LLC (Applicant) is proposing to construct and operate a commercial lithium hydroxide, manganese, and zinc production plant within the Salton Sea geothermal field. The facility will process geothermal brine from the neighboring Hudson Ranch Power I Plant to produce mineral products to be sold commercially. In order to support future mineral extraction activities, the project would also consist of the following:

- Construction and operation of brine supply and return pipelines and other associated interconnection facilities with the Hudson Ranch 1 power plant;
- Construction of a primary access road from McDonald Road (approximately 500 feet west of the HR 1 entrance), a second primary access about 800 feet west, and an emergency access entrance only from Davis Road;
- Paving of McDonald Road from State Route 111 (Highway 111) to English Road (approximately 2 miles);
- Construction of a power interconnection line from the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and Hudson Ranch 1 switchyard located at the northeast corner of the Hudson Ranch 1 site;
- Construction of associated facilities between Hudson Ranch 1 and the Project site to facilitate the movement of brine and other services;
- Construction of a laydown yard that will also support temporary offices during construction as well as serve as a truck management yard during operations; and
- Construction of offices, repair facilities, shipping and receiving facilities, and other infrastructure including the relocation of the IID structures and road improvements at Highway 111.

Probable Environmental Effects: The Draft EIR analyzed the following environmental topics in detail: Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Energy; Geology and Soils; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Noise; Transportation; Tribal Cultural Resources; and Utilities and Service Systems. With incorporation of mitigation measures, the Draft EIR determined that all potentially significant effects would be reduced to a less than significant level.

Availability: The Draft EIR can be reviewed by appointment at the following location: Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. To make an appointment please contact David Black at (442) 265-1746. The document can be reviewed on-line at: www.icpds.com.

Comments: Written comments regarding the Draft EIR should be directed to David Black, Planner IV, Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 and must be received **no later than close of business on August 17, 2021** (public review period is from June 28, 2021 through August 17, 2021). A Final EIR incorporating public input will be prepared for consideration by the Imperial County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors at a future public meeting. For environmental review information for this project, please contact David Black at (442) 265-1746.

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