

Imperial County  
Planning & Development Services Department

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT EIR FOR HELL'S KITCHEN POWERCO 1 AND LITHIUMCO 1  
PROJECT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC EIR SCOPING MEETING**

The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Hell's Kitchen PowerCo 1 and LithiumCo 1 Project as described below. A public scoping meeting for the proposed EIR will be held by the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department on April 28, 2022 at 6:00 PM. The scoping meeting will be held in person in the County's Conference Room at 801 Main Street, El Centro, California 92243 and virtually via the Zoom platform. Comments regarding the scope of the EIR will be accepted at this meeting.

**SUBJECT:** Hell's Kitchen PowerCo 1 and LithiumCo 1 Project EIR

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONSIDERATION:** To Be Determined.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Project's plant and facilities will be located on undeveloped land owned by Imperial Irrigation District (IID), and Niland, California which is approximately 3.6 miles southwest of the community of Niland on sixteen parcels owned by IID in the County: APNs 020-010-012, -013, 020-070-060, 020-010-031, -032, -035, -042, -044, 020-060-001, -002, -039, -040, 020-070-025, -026, -029, -055 (Figure 1). The Project's plant facilities would be built on an approximately 65-acre area including a gen-tie line that would connect to the existing HR1 facility. The layout of the Project is shown in the Project Site Plan.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Controlled Thermal Resources (Applicant) is proposing to construct and operate a geothermal power facility (HKP1) and commercial lithium hydroxide production plant (HKL1) within the Salton Sea geothermal field in Imperial County (County), California (Project). HKP1 involves the development of a geothermal power plant that will produce up to 49.9 megawatts (MW) net of geothermal power. HKL1 proposes to develop mineral extraction and processing facilities capable of producing lithium hydroxide, silica, bulk sulfide, and polymetallic products for commercial sale.

The Project would consist of the following activities:

- Construction and operation of a 49.9-MW geothermal power plant;
- Construction of well pads with geothermal production and injection wells;
- Construction of pipelines between HKP1 and HKL1 to facilitate the movement of brine between the facilities;
- Construction and operation of a mineral-extraction facility to extract lithium hydroxide, silica, bulk sulfide, and polymetallic products from the geothermal brine;
- Construction and operation of minerals handling and packaging facilities;
- Construction of ingress and egress to the Project site from Davis Road;
- Paving of Davis Road from McDonald Road to Noffsinger Road (approximately 2 miles);
- Construction and operation of a 230-kv gen-tie line and collocated power line (approximately 2 miles south and 0.3 miles east); and
- Construction of shared administrative facilities, offices, repair facilities, shipping and receiving facilities, and other infrastructure components.

Implementation of these project(s) requires an approval of Conditional Use Permit(s) and Variance(s) to allow for the construction and operation of the proposed 49.9MW geothermal power plant and mineral extraction and processing facility.

**Project Applicant:** Hell's Kitchen PowerCo 1 LLC and Hell's Kitchen LithiumCo 1 LLC, both subsidiaries of Controlled Thermal Resources (US), Inc. (CTR)

**URBAN AREA PLAN:** None, located in unincorporated area of County of Imperial

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT:** District 4, Supervisor Ryan E. Kelley

**ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS:** The EIR will analyze potential impacts associated with the following: Aesthetics; 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; Utilities and Service Systems; and Wildfire.

**COMMENTS REQUESTED:** The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department would like to know your ideas about the potential effects this project might have on the environment and your suggestions as to mitigation or ways the project may be revised to reduce or avoid any potentially significant environmental impacts. Your comments will guide the scope and content of potential environmental issues to be examined in the EIR. Your comments may be submitted in writing to David Black, Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. Available project information may be reviewed at this location.

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION REVIEW PERIOD:** March 31, 2022 through May 13, 2022.