

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT EIR FOR THE BIG ROCK 2 CLUSTER SOLAR & STORAGE 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 Big Rock 2 Cluster Solar & Storage Project as described below. A public scoping meeting for the proposed EIR will be held by the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department on **September 26, 2024 at 6:00PM**. The scoping meeting will be held at the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, located at 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. Comments regarding the scope of the EIR will be accepted at this meeting.

SUBJECT: Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Big Rock 2 Cluster Solar & Storage Project (General Plan Amendment 24-0002, Zone Change 24-0003, Conditional Use Permits 24-0006 thru -0009, and Variances 24-0002 thru -0005 & Water Supply Agreement (WSA).

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONSIDERATION: To Be Determined.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located on approximately 1,849 acres of privately-owned, vacant land in Imperial County, California. The project site is located in unincorporated Imperial County, south of Interstate 8, approximately one mile southwest of the town of Seeley, California, and approximately six miles north of the United States International Border with Mexico. The project site is west of Drew Road and east and north of Mandapa Road.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Project would include the construction and operation of a photovoltaic (PV) solar energy generation and battery energy storage system (BESS) facility comprised of up to 500 megawatts alternating current (MWac) PV solar and up to 500 MWac of BESS. Power generated by the Project would be collected using up to 66-kV collector lines which could run overhead and/or underground to a dedicated Project substation, with a 230-kV overhead generation transmission line or "gen-tie" line linking a Project substation to the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) Liebert Switchyard. The Liebert Switchyard would then be connected to the San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) Imperial Valley substation via an overhead 230-kV gen-tie line. Two gen-tie line alternatives are proposed. Implementation of the project requires the following:

- **General Plan Amendment:** To include/classify all project parcels into the RE Overlay Zone.
- **Zone Change:** The applicant is requesting a Zone Change to include/classify all project parcels into the Renewable Energy Overlay Zone.
- **Conditional Use Permit:** Implementation of the project would require the approval of four CUPs to allow for the construction and operation of the proposed solar energy facility with an integrated BESS on land zoned A-2, A-2-R, A-3, A-2-RE and A-3-RE.
- **Water Supply Assessment:** Implementation of the project would require the approval of the Water Supply Assessment.

Project Applicant: 90FI 8me, LLC

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT: District 2, Supervisor Luis A. Plancarte

ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS: The EIR will analyze potential impacts associated with the following: Aesthetics; Agricultural Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Cumulative Impacts; Geology/Soils; Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change; Growth-inducing Impacts; Hazards/Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Noise; Public Services; Transportation/Traffic; and Utilities and Service Systems including water supply and energy.

COMMENTS REQUESTED: The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department would like to know your ideas about the 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 significant environmental impacts. Your comments will guide the scope and content of environmental issues to be examined in the EIR. Your comments may be submitted in writing to Diana Robinson, 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: September 3rd 2024 thru October 7th 2024