

**Imperial County
Planning & Development Services Department**

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT EIR FOR THE SAAVI IMPERIAL POWER BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM PROJECT

The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Saavi Imperial Battery Storage System Project as described below. A public scoping meeting for the proposed EIR will be held by the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department on **March 13, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.** The scoping meeting will be held at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2nd Floor, County Administration Center located at 940 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. Comments regarding the scope of the EIR will be accepted at this meeting.

SUBJECT: Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Saavi Imperial Battery Storage System (General Plan Amendment 24-0001, Zone Change 24-0002, Conditional Use Permit 24-0011).

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONSIDERATION: To Be Determined.

PROJECT LOCATION AND PRIMARY COMPONENTS:

The project site is located on one privately-owned parcel (Assessor Parcel Number 051-320-012-001), which is approximately 39.25 acres. The project site is located in the unincorporated Mount Signal area of Imperial County, California. The project site 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: The proposed project consists of two primary components: 1) 400-megawatt (MW) battery energy storage system (BESS); and 2) off-site transmission line to connect to San Diego Gas and Electric's (SDG&E) existing Imperial Valley (IV) substation. In addition, the proposed project would include construction of an on-site substation, office warehouse, and a new bridge across Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) Westside Main Canal for vehicular access to the project site. These facilities are collectively referred to as the "proposed project" or "project."

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

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT: District 2, Supervisor Martha Cardenas-Singh

POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS: The EIR will analyze potential impacts associated with the following: Aesthetics; Agriculture Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cumulative Impacts; Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology/Soils; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Hazards/Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Noise; Transportation; Tribal Cultural Resources; and Utilities and Service Systems including water supply.

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 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: February 28, 2025 thru April 2nd, 2025.