



Gavin Newsom
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



Kate Gordon
Director

Notice of Preparation

March 14, 2019

To: Reviewing Agencies

Re: Le Conte Battery Energy Storage Project
SCH# 2010111056

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Le Conte Battery Energy Storage Project draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Responsible agencies must transmit their comments on the scope and content of the NOP, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of the NOP from the Lead Agency. This is a courtesy notice provided by the State Clearinghouse with a reminder for you to comment in a timely manner. We encourage other agencies to also respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

**Jim Minnick
Imperial County
801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243**

with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research at state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov. Please refer to the SCH number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project on our website: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2010111056/6>.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse

cc: Lead Agency

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # 2010111056

Project Title: LE CONTE BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT

Lead Agency: IMPERIAL COUNTY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

Contact Person: JIM MINNICK

Mailing Address: 801 MAIN STREET

Phone: (442) 265-1746

City: EL CENTRO

Zip: 92243

County: IMPERIAL

Project Location: County: IMPERIAL City/Nearest Community: City of Calexico

Cross Streets: U.S. HWY 98 & BROCKMAN ROAD

Zip Code: 92259

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____ ° _____ ' _____ " N / _____ ° _____ ' _____ " W **Total Acres:** 574

Assessor's Parcel No.: 052-190-041, 052-190-010

Section: 16, 17

Twp.: 17 South

Range: 13 East

Base: SBM

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: I-8

Waterways:

Airports:

Railways:

Schools:

Document Type:

CEQA: ☒ NOP

☐ Draft EIR

NEPA: ☐ NOI

Other: ☐ Joint Document

☐ Early Cons

☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR

☐ EA

☐ Final Document

☐ Neg Dec

(Prior SCH No.) _____

☐ Draft EIS

☐ Other: _____

☐ Mit Neg Dec

Other: _____

☐ FONSI

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update

☐ Specific Plan

☐ Rezone

☐ Annexation

☐ General Plan Amendment

☐ Master Plan

☐ Prezone

☐ Redevelopment

☐ General Plan Element

☐ Planned Unit Development

☒ Use Permit

☐ Coastal Permit

☐ Community Plan

☐ Site Plan

☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)

☐ Other: _____

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____

Acres _____

☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____

Acres _____

Employees _____

☐ Transportation: Type _____

☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____

Acres _____

Employees _____

☐ Mining: Mineral _____

☒ Industrial: Sq.ft. 85,000

Acres _____

Employees _____

☐ Power: Type _____

MW _____

☐ Educational: _____

☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____

MGD _____

☐ Recreational: _____

☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____

☐ Water Facilities: Type _____

MGD _____

☐ Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☒ Aesthetic/Visual

☐ Fiscal

☐ Recreation/Parks

☐ Vegetation

☐ Agricultural Land

☒ Flood Plain/Flooding

☐ Schools/Universities

☐ Water Quality

☒ Air Quality

☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard

☐ Septic Systems

☐ Water Supply/Groundwater

☒ Archeological/Historical

☒ Geologic/Seismic

☐ Sewer Capacity

☐ Wetland/Riparian

☒ Biological Resources

☐ Minerals

☐ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading

☐ Growth Inducement

☐ Coastal Zone

☒ Noise

☒ Solid Waste

☒ Land Use

☐ Drainage/Absorption

☐ Population/Housing Balance

☒ Toxic/Hazardous

☐ Cumulative Effects

☐ Economic/Jobs

☒ Public Services/Facilities

☒ Traffic/Circulation

☐ Other: _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

No present land use, solar operation nearby/ A-2 /Agriculture Designation

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

The proposed Project is a Battery Energy Storage System with up to 125 MW of electrical interconnection and transmission capacity on land entirely within the boundary of the existing CSE site. This proposed BESS represents a complementary use to the existing CSE site. The existing CSE facility, was approved in December 2011 by the County of Imperial Board of Supervisors upon certification of a Final Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse Number 2010111056) for the Centinela Solar Energy Project (2011 FEIR); approval of a CUP (CUP 10-0007) to construct and operate a 275 MW project on parcels zoned for agriculture (i.e., A-2, A-2-R and A-3); approval of a Variance (V11-0003) to allow the transmission towers to exceed the 120-foot height limit within the A-2-R and A-3 zones; and approval of other associated discretionary actions.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

☒ Air Resources Board	☐ Office of Historic Preservation
☐ Boating & Waterways, Department of	☐ Office of Public School Construction
☐ California Emergency Management Agency	☐ Parks & Recreation, Department of
☒ California Highway Patrol	☐ Pesticide Regulation, Department of
☐ Caltrans District # 11	☒ Public Utilities Commission
☐ Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	☐ Regional WQCB # _____
☐ Caltrans Planning	☐ Resources Agency
☐ Central Valley Flood Protection Board	☐ Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
☐ Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	☐ S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
☐ Coastal Commission	☐ San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
☐ Colorado River Board	☐ San Joaquin River Conservancy
☐ Conservation, Department of	☐ Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
☐ Corrections, Department of	☐ State Lands Commission
☐ Delta Protection Commission	☐ SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
☐ Education, Department of	☐ SWRCB: Water Quality
☐ Energy Commission	☐ SWRCB: Water Rights
☐ Fish & Game Region # _____	☐ Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
☐ Food & Agriculture, Department of	☐ Toxic Substances Control, Department of
☐ Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	☐ Water Resources, Department of
☐ General Services, Department of	☐ Other: _____
☐ Health Services, Department of	☐ Other: _____
☐ Housing & Community Development	
☒ Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date March 14, 2019 Ending Date April 15, 2019

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: Burns & McDonald
Address: 4225 Executive Square, Suite 500
City/State/Zip: La Jolla / CA / 92037
Contact: Chris Knopp
Phone: (858) 260-5982

Applicant: Le Conte Energy Storage, LLC
Address: 5000 Hopyard Road, STE 480
City/State/Zip: Pleasanton / CA / 94588
Phone: (925) 201-5240

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____

Date: 3/13/2019

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

NOP Distribution List

County: Imperial

SCH#

2010111056

Resources Agency

☒ Resources Agency
Nadell Gayou

☐ Dept. of Boating & Waterways
Denise Peterson

☐ California Coastal Commission
Allyson Hitt

☐ Colorado River Board
Elsa Contreras

☒ Dept. of Conservation
Grina Chan

☐ Cal Fire
Dan Foster

☐ Central Valley Flood Protection Board
James Herola

☒ Office of Historic Preservation
Ron Parsons

☒ Dept of Parks & Recreation
Environmental Stewardship Section

☐ S.F. Bay Conservation & Dev't. Comm.
Steve Goldbeck

☐ Dept. of Water Resources Agency
Nadell Gayou

Fish and Game

☐ Depart. of Fish & Wildlife
Scott Flint
Environmental Services Division

☐ Fish & Wildlife Region 1
Curt Babcock

☐ Fish & Wildlife Region 1E
Laurie Harnsberger

☐ Fish & Wildlife Region 2
Jeff Drongesen

☐ Fish & Wildlife Region 3
Craig Weightman

☐ Fish & Wildlife Region 4
Julie Vance

☐ Fish & Wildlife Region 5
Leslie Newton-Reed
Habitat Conservation Program

☒ Fish & Wildlife Region 6
Tiffany Ellis
Habitat Conservation Program

☐ Fish & Wildlife Region 6 I/M
Heidi Calvert
Inyo/Mono, Habitat Conservation Program

☐ Dept. of Fish & Wildlife M
William Paznokas
Marine Region

Other Departments

☐ California Department of Education
Lesley Taylor

☒ OES (Office of Emergency Services)
Monique Wilber

☐ Food & Agriculture
Sandra Schubert
Dept. of Food and Agriculture

☐ Dept. of General Services
Cathy Buck
Environmental Services Section

☐ Housing & Comm. Dev.
CEQA Coordinator
Housing Policy Division

Independent

Commissions, Boards

☐ Delta Protection Commission
Erik Vink

☐ Delta Stewardship Council
Anthony Navasero

☒ California Energy Commission
Eric Knight

☒ Native American Heritage Comm.
Debbie Treadway

☒ Public Utilities Commission
Supervisor

☐ Santa Monica Bay Restoration
Guangyu Wang

☐ State Lands Commission
Jennifer Deleong

☐ Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)
Cherry Jacques

Cal State Transportation Agency CalSTA

☐ Caltrans - Division of Aeronautics
Philip Grimmins

☐ Caltrans - Planning HQ LD-IGR
Christian Bushong

☒ California Highway Patrol
Suzann Ikeuchi
Office of Special Projects

Dept. of Transportation

☐ Caltrans, District 1
Rex Jackman

☐ Caltrans, District 2
Marcelino Gonzalez

☐ Caltrans, District 3
Susan Zanchi

☐ Caltrans, District 4
Patricia Maurice

☐ Caltrans, District 5
Larry Newland

☐ Caltrans, District 6
Michael Navarro

☐ Caltrans, District 7
Dianna Watson

☐ Caltrans, District 8
Mark Roberts

☐ Caltrans, District 9
Gayle Rosander

☐ Caltrans, District 10
Tom Dumas

☒ Caltrans, District 11
Jacob Armstrong

☐ Caltrans, District 12
Maureen El Harake

Cal EPA

Air Resources Board

☐ Airport & Freight
Jack Wursten

☐ Transportation Projects
Nesamani Kalandyur

☒ Industrial/Energy Projects
Mike Tollstrup

☐ California Department of Resources, Recycling & Recovery
Kevin Taylor/Jeff Esquivel

☐ State Water Resources Control Board
Regional Programs Unit
Division of Financial Assistance

☒ State Water Resources Control Board
Cindy Forbes - Asst Deputy
Division of Drinking Water

☐ State Water Resources Control Board
Div. Drinking Water # _____

☐ State Water Resources Control Board
Student Intern, 401 Water Quality Certification Unit
Division of Water Quality

☐ State Water Resources Control Board
Phil Crader
Division of Water Rights

☒ Dept. of Toxic Substances Control Reg. # _____
CEQA Tracking Center

☐ Department of Pesticide Regulation
CEQA Coordinator

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

☐ RWQCB 1
Cathleen Hudson
North Coast Region (1)

☐ RWQCB 2
Environmental Document Coordinator
San Francisco Bay Region (2)

☐ RWQCB 3
Central Coast Region (3)

☐ RWQCB 4
Teresa Rodgers
Los Angeles Region (4)

☐ RWQCB 5S
Central Valley Region (5)

☐ RWQCB 5F
Central Valley Region (5)
Fresno Branch Office

☐ RWQCB 5R
Central Valley Region (5)
Redding Branch Office

☐ RWQCB 6
Lahontan Region (6)

☐ RWQCB 6V
Lahontan Region (6)
Victorville Branch Office

☒ RWQCB 7
Colorado River Basin Region (7)

☐ RWQCB 8
Santa Ana Region (8)

☐ RWQCB 9
San Diego Region (9)

☐ Other _____