

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2018051021

Project Title: IP Athos Renewable Energy Project

Lead Agency: Riverside County Planning Department

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Project Location: Desert Center, unincorporated Riverside County

City

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

IP Athos LLC is proposing to construct, operate and decommission a 500 MW solar photovoltaic electrical generation and storage facility, and associated infrastructure to generate and deliver renewable electricity to the statewide electricity transmission grid at SCE's Red Bluff Substation. The Project is located on ~3,440 acres across 7 groups of non-contiguous parcels in the Desert Center area. Approximately 7 miles of the Project's 11-mile gen-tie transmission line would traverse federal lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and would require a Right-of-Way Grant. The BLM will prepare and rely on its own environmental review document in accordance with NEPA. The Applicant's project objectives are: (1) Assist with achieving renewable energy generation goals under Senate Bill 350 and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), as amended by Senate Bill 32 in 2016; (2) Bring living-wage jobs to eastern Riverside County; (3) Minimize environmental impacts and land disturbance associated with solar development by siting the facility on relatively flat, contiguous lands with high solar insolation, in close proximity to established utility corridors, existing transmission lines with available capacity to facilitate interconnection, and road access; (4) Further the purpose of Secretarial Order 3285A1, establishing the development of environmentally responsible renewable energy as a priority for the Department of the Interior; and (5) Make the highest and best use of primarily disturbed, retired agricultural land in and around a federal "Solar Energy Zone" and "Development Focus Area" to generate, store, and transmit affordable, wholesale solar electricity.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The Project would result in significant and unmitigable impacts in aesthetics, as well as a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact under aesthetics and cultural resources.

- Aesthetics - Potential degradation of the existing visual character would be reduced to less than significant (except in the immediate vicinity of the gen-tie span of SR-177 and immediately adjacent to Parcel Group C) with implementation of Mitigation Measures (MM) AES-1 through AES-4, BIO-5, and AQ-1.
- Air Quality - Potential emissions impacts would be less than significant with implementation of MM AQ-1 through AQ-4.
- Biological Resources - Potential impacts would be less than significant with MM BIO-1 through BIO-15.
- Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources - Potential impacts would be less than significant with implementation of MM CUL-1 through CUL-13, and MM AES-1 through AES-4. Cumulatively Considerable (Significant) impacts would remain to the Prehistoric Trails Network Cultural Landscape/Historic District.
- Geology/Soils- Erosion and drainage impacts would be reduced to less than significant with AQ-1, HWQ-1, & HWQ-4.
- Hazards/Hazardous Materials - Potential water and soil contamination impacts from an accidental spill would be less than significant with implementation of MM HAZ-1 through MM HAZ-3.
- Hydrology/Water Quality - Potential water quantity and quality impacts would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of MM HWQ-1 through HWQ-5.
- Noise - Potential noise impacts would be less than significant with implementation of MM N-1 through N-4.
- Paleontology - Potential impacts would be less than significant with implementation of MM PAL-1 through PAL-5.
- Transportation - Potential impacts would be less than significant with implementation of MM TRA-1 through TRA-3.
- Energy - Potential energy consumption impacts would be less than significant with MM AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-4, N-1, TRA-1.