

TULARE COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT
A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tulare County intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Deer Creek Solar I Project. The MND has been approved for public review by the Tulare County Environmental Assessment Officer. Copies are available for review and comment at the Resource Management Agency, Permit Center, 5961 South Mooney Blvd, Visalia, California 93277-9394. Comments and recommendations on the adequacy of the environmental document may be filed at the aforementioned address during the public review period established for the project.

1. **PROJECT:** Deer Creek Solar I Project.
2. **APPLICANT/AGENT:** Deer Creek Solar I, LLC / Peter Zullo
3. **LOCATION:** The project site is located on 378 acres of private land near the unincorporated community of Terra Bella in unincorporated southwestern Tulare County. Road 224 borders the west side of the property, Avenue 96 to the south, and SR 65/CR35 to the east. Neighboring communities include: Terra Bella (0.5 miles east), Porterville (6 miles northeast), and Ducor (5 miles south).
4. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The proposed Project consists of the construction and operation of a 378-acre, approximately 70 mega-watt (MW) ac photovoltaic (PV) energy generation facility, battery energy storage system and associated infrastructure (e.g., access roads, perimeter fencing, weather station, etc.) on the site described above. The proposed Project would transmit the power generated directly to Southern California Edison's (SCE) 66kV Poplar-Terra Bella line. The power would then be sold to California investor-owned utilities, municipalities, or other purchasers. The Project proponent may eventually choose to decommission and remove all or none of the systems from the site. If the site is decommissioned, it would be properly reclaimed as an agricultural use or converted to another use consistent with the applicable land use regulations in effect at that time. If the site is not decommissioned, it is assumed that it will continue in use as a solar facility which will likely require processing for approval under subsequent CEQA review and SUP document.
5. **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:** The MND can be viewed at the Resource Management Agency office located at the address above at the Visalia (Main Branch) Library located at 200 W. Oak Ave., Visalia, CA 93291; Terra Bella Branch Library located at 23825 Avenue 92, Terra Bella, CA 93270; or on the County web site at:

<https://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/planning-building/environmental-planning/mitigated-negative-declarations/deer-creek-solar-project/>
6. **REVIEW PERIOD:** Friday August 2, 2019 – Monday, September 2, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.
7. **CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner (559) 624-7121, (para Espanol llame) Jose Saenz (559) 624-7000.

The MND has a review period of 30 days, starting on **August 2, 2019**, and ending on **September 2, 2019**, which has been approved by the State of California, Office of Planning and Research. Any written comments on the MND should be sent to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency at the address noted above, to the attention of: Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner.

After the close of the public comment review period on the MND established by this notice, this matter will be set for public hearing before the Tulare County Planning Commission. Notice of the date, time and place for such public hearing will be published and/or mailed as provided by law.

Please take notice that - pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 21177, Government Code Section 65009, and other applicable law - if you challenge the proposed action described above in court, then you may be limited to raising only those issues or objections you or someone else raised during the public comment period or the public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency within the review period, or to the Planning Commission during the public hearing.

REED SCHENKE, P.E., ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICER

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