

**TULARE COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, SCH # 2013021039**

Project Title:

Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Tulare Solar Center, LLC: The Tulare Solar Center Project (State Clearinghouse #2013021039)

Project Location:

The proposed 1,144.33 acre Project site is currently undeveloped farmland situated in south central Tulare County. Approximately 572 acres (or approximately 50%) of the proposed Project site is located east of State Route (SR) 65 and south of Avenue 24, with the remainder located west of SR 65 and north of Avenue 12. SR 65 bisects the site approximately at the site's east-west mid-point, a paved County road (Avenue 24) runs adjacent to the northern portion of the Project site, and an unpaved road (Avenue 12) runs adjacent to the majority of the Project site's southern boundary. The smaller portion of the proposed Project lies to the west of SR 65, primarily north of Avenue 12, east of Road 224, and northward approximately 1,200 feet to an unpaved road parallel to Avenue 12. The west side of the Project site is primarily bounded by unpaved roads.

Project Description:

The Tulare Solar Center (the "Project") includes the construction of an 80 MW solar photovoltaic facility on up to 800 acres of an approximately 1,144 acre property historically used as agricultural farmland in Tulare County, California. The proposed Project site consists of seven parcels in south-central Tulare County. All seven parcels are identified in the Exclusive Agricultural (AE-40) zone district and designated as Rural Valley Lands under the Tulare County General Plan Land Use Map. These General Plan and zoning designations expressly allow the installation of renewable solar power with a Special Use Permit.

Project Objectives & Benefits:

The proposed Project is intended to provide low-emission, solar powered renewable energy to the California Grid to assist with meeting local energy demands, State Renewable Portfolio Standard, and Assembly Bill (AB) 32 mandates. The Project would be electrically connected to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) controlled grid, and would provide approximately 80 MW of renewable power to be sold to one of the State's Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs), a municipality, or a CAISO market participant.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts

It is anticipated that potential environmental impacts which may occur include: Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Land Use/Planning, Transportation/Traffic, Agriculture Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Utilities/Service Systems, Air and Noise Quality, and Mandatory Findings of significance.

EIR Availability:

A copy of the DEIR may be obtained and/or reviewed at the following locations:

Tulare County Resource Management Agency
5961 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93277
(559)624-7000

Tulare Public Library
475 North "M" Street
Tulare, CA 93274

Contact for More Information: Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner (559) 624-7121.

The DEIR has a review period of **45** days, starting on **October 2, 2013** and ending **November 18, 2013**. Any written comments on the DEIR 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 DEIR 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.

MICHAEL C. SPATA

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICER