

DOCKETED	
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

energy.ca.gov

CEC-70 (Revised 7/22)



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IN THE MATTER OF:

*Soda Mountain Solar Project Opt-In
Application for Certification*

DOCKET NO. 24-OPT-03

NOTICE OF INFORMATION and
ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING

RE: Soda Mountain Solar Project (SCH
2025080161)

**Notice of Information
and Environmental Scoping Meeting
for the Proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project**

**Hybrid Meeting In-Person and via Zoom
August 29, 2025
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

In-person at:

**Holiday Inn Express – Conference Room
2700 Lenwood Road
Barstow, CA 92311**

Remote Access via Zoom:
See attendance instructions below.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) will host an information and environmental scoping meeting pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25545.7.2 to present and solicit information on the proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project. Members of the public can participate in the meeting consistent with the attendance instructions below. This will be a hybrid meeting with a publicly accessible physical location and access online or by phone through Zoom™. The meeting will include informational presentations and time for public comment.

Please see the CEC project webpage for more information on the project:

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/solar-photovoltaic-pv-battery-energy-storage/soda-mountain-solar-project>.

The CEC aims to begin promptly at the start time posted and the end time is an estimate based on the proposed agenda. The meeting may end sooner or later than the posted end time. Breaks will be announced during the meeting.

An event recording will be posted on the event webpage (linked above).

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. CEC staff presentation on the Opt-In Certification Program
3. Applicant presentation on the proposed project
4. CEC staff presentation on the scope and content of the Staff Assessment and environmental analysis
5. CEC Office of the Public Advisor, Energy Equity, and Tribal Affairs presentation on public participation and California Native American tribal consultation opportunities
6. Government Comments: California Native American tribes and federal, state and local government entities
7. Public Comments
8. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Background

Public Resources Code sections 25545 - 25545.13 allows specified clean energy projects to seek consolidated permitting at the CEC until June 30, 2029. These projects include solar photovoltaic (PV) electrical generating power plants generating 50 megawatts (MW) or more, energy storage systems capable of storing 200 megawatt-hours (MWh) or more, electric transmission lines associated with these generating and storage facilities to the first point of interconnection, specified facilities that manufacture or assemble clean energy or storage technologies or related components, and certain hydrogen production facilities not derived from fossil fuel feedstock and associated onsite storage and processing.

Under this program, the CEC permit is in lieu of any permit that would normally be required by the local land use authority and most, but not all, state permits. More information about the Opt-In Certification Program can be found at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-andtopics/topics/power-plants/opt-certification-program>.

The law also requires the CEC to be the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and, after an application is deemed complete, to do the following:

1. Prepare a Staff Assessment, which includes an environmental impact report (EIR).
2. Hold public meetings as close as practicable to the proposed project site.

3. Invite consultation with California Native American tribes that are culturally and traditionally associated with the geographic area of the proposed site.
4. Certify compliance with requirements for community benefits, labor standards, and economic benefits.
5. Approve or deny the proposed project at a publicly noticed business meeting.

Soda Mountain Solar, LLC (applicant) filed an Opt-In application on August 1, 2024, for the Soda Mountain Solar Project proposed in unincorporated San Bernardino County, California. On September 3, 2024, and June 18, 2025, the CEC deemed the application incomplete and docketed letters detailing the information deficiencies. On July 31, 2025, after receiving additional data, the CEC determined that the application was complete and on July 31, 2025, the CEC sent applicable California Native American tribes a letter inviting tribal consultation on the Soda Mountain Solar Project. The CEC sent a Notice of Preparation of a Draft EIR (NOP) to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the project to the State Clearinghouse (Land Use and Climate Innovation, LCI), and mailed the NOP on August 1, 2025 to trustee agency, San Bernardino County Clerk, local, regional, and federal agencies, including those who commented on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife NOP from previous environmental document. These and other documents are available on the CEC docket for this proceeding at: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/solar-photovoltaic-pv-battery-energy-storage/soda-mountain-solar-project>.

Project Summary

The applicant proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a utility-scale solar PV electrical generating and storage facility and associated infrastructure (operations and maintenance buildings, stormwater infrastructure, and related infrastructure improvements) to generate and deliver renewable electricity to the statewide electricity transmission grid. The proposed project would generate up to 300 MW of renewable energy and include up to 300 MW/1,200 MWh of battery storage. The batteries would be lithium ion or similar. The project would include a switchyard and substation.

The power produced by the proposed project would be conveyed to the regional electrical grid through an interconnection with the existing Mead-Adelanto 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). The approximately 200 foot wide, 1-mile long 500 kV gen-tie line would run from the project substation, just southeast of Interstate-15 (I-15), to the switchyard and then to the point of interconnection with the existing LADWP Mead-Adelanto transmission line. A small segment of the gen-tie line, approximately 450 feet, would cross I-15.

For more details about the project, see Chapter 2 Project Description in TN 264913, at the following link:

Updated Project Description and Responses to REV 1 DR BIO-2 and REV 1 DR ES-1, (<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=264913&DocumentContentId=101687>).

The CEC maintains a website for this project with proposed project information, a link to the docket, email subscription sign-up, and more at: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/solar-photovoltaic-pv-battery-energy-storage/soda-mountain-solar-project>.

Purpose of the Informational and Environmental Scoping Meeting

The Informational and Environmental Scoping Meeting will provide an opportunity for interested members of the public, including surrounding communities, to learn about the proposed project and the CEC's Opt-In Certification process. The public will be able to obtain information, identify areas of environmental concern to be addressed during the CEC's environmental review of the project, and provide comments.

During the public meeting, the applicant will explain its proposed plans for constructing and operating the project and related facilities. CEC staff will describe the CEC and staff's role and responsibilities in reviewing the Opt-In application and engaging with government agencies, the public, and California Native American Tribes to inform this review. The CEC's Public Advisor will describe how interested members of the public can participate in the process, including during the environmental review and CEC decision-making.

The CEC will prepare a Staff Assessment (SA). The SA will include a Draft EIR following the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, div. 6, ch. 3). The Notice of Preparation of the Draft EIR is available at: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=265234&DocumentContentId=102167>. The CEC is conducting public outreach to solicit input on the Soda Mountain Solar Project application to identify the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant effects to be analyzed in depth in the Draft EIR. This meeting also assists CEC staff in obtaining additional information to prepare the Draft EIR and determining whether the project meets all program requirements.

Attendance Instructions

Hybrid Meeting with in-person and remote attendance options

In-person participants may join the meeting at:

Holiday Inn Express – Conference Room
2700 Lenwood Road
Barstow, CA 92311

Remote participants may join via Zoom by internet or phone.

- **To join via Zoom.** Click on <https://energy.zoom.us/j/81021544506?pwd=16pHGtOBbimK7AICobIHb1wtGWfQJW.1> or login in at <https://zoom.us/> and enter the Webinar ID 810 2154 4506 and passcode 817771 and follow all prompts.

- **To join by telephone.** Call at (669) 219-2599. When prompted, enter the Webinar ID 810 2154 4506 and passcode 817771.

Zoom Closed Captioning Service. At the bottom of the screen, click the Live Transcript CC icon and choose "Show Subtitle" or "View Full Transcript" from the pop-up menu. To stop closed captioning, close the "Live Transcript" or select "Hide Subtitle" from the pop-up menu. If joining by phone, closed captioning is automatic and cannot be turned off. While closed captioning is available in real-time, it can include errors. A more accurate transcript of the meeting will be docketed and posted as soon as possible after the meeting concludes.

Zoom Difficulty. Contact Zoom at (888) 799-9666 ext. 2, or the CEC Public Advisor at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov, or by phone at (916) 957-7910.

Public Comment

A public comment period will be provided at the meeting. Comments may be limited to two minutes or less depending on the number of comments. Comments can be made whether attending in-person or via Zoom (online or by phone).

Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine.

If participating via Zoom's online platform, use the "raise hand" feature to indicate you would like to make a comment. The CEC will open your line to speak. Please restate and spell your name for the record, indicate if you have an affiliation, and begin your comments.

If participating by telephone, press *9 to "raise your hand" and *6 to mute/unmute. The CEC will announce the last three digits of the phone number listed and open your line. Make sure to unmute your phone before speaking then restate and spell your name for the record, indicate if you have an affiliation, state your position on the proposed project, if any, and begin your comments.

The CEC encourages the use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the e-commenting page for this docket [California Energy Commission : e-comment : Submit Comment](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=24-OPT-03) at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=24-OPT-03>. Enter your contact information and a subject title that describes your comment. Comments may be included in the "Comment Text" box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in Microsoft® Word or Adobe® Acrobat®. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Unit by 5:00 p.m. on September 3, 2025. Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine. Written comments may also be submitted by

email. Include docket number 24-OPT-03 and Soda Mountain Solar Project in the subject line and email to docket@energy.ca.gov.

A paper copy may be mailed to:
California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 24-OPT-03
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Public Advisor. The CEC's Public Advisor assists the public with participation in CEC proceedings. To request assistance, interpreting services, or reasonable modifications and accommodations, call (916) 957-7910 or email publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov as soon as possible but at least five days in advance. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on availability.

Media Inquiries. Email mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 654-4989.

Technical Subject and General Inquiries. Email Lisa Worrall at STEPsiting@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 661-8367.

Availability of Documents: Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available at [California Energy Commission : Docket Log](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-OPT-03) at:
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-OPT-03>.

When new information is posted, an email will be sent to those subscribed to the Soda Mountain Solar Project. To receive these notices or notices of other email subscription topics, visit [Subscriptions](https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions), at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions>.

Dated: August 19, 2025, at Sacramento, California.

Dian Vorters

Dian Vorters, Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

Subscriptions:
Soda Mountain Solar Project