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**PROOF OF PUBLICATION
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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
County of San Bernardino**

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of The Sun (San Bernardino), a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of San Bernardino*, County of San Bernardino, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of County of San Bernardino, State of California, under the date of 06/20/1952, Case No. 73084. The notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

01/17/2025

I certify (or declare) under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at San Bernardino, California

On this 17th day of January, 2025.

Peggy Harmon

Signature

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**NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF AN OPT-IN CERTIFICATION APPLICATION
FOR
SODA MOUNTAIN SOLAR PROJECT**

On August 1, 2024, California Energy Commission (CEC) staff confirmed receipt of an application from Soda Mountain Solar, LLC (Applicant) for certification from the CEC through the Opt-In process for the Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03). The project is located on approximately 2,670 acres of land administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in San Bernardino County. This notice of receipt of the application is published pursuant to Public Resources Code, sections 25519, subdivision (g) and 25545.8.

Project Description

The Soda Mountain Solar Project would generate up to 300 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy and include up to 300 MW of battery storage. The project also includes decommissioning, which is anticipated to occur after 30 years of operation.

The project components are as follows:

- A solar photovoltaic (PV) plant site including all facilities that create a footprint in and around the field of solar panels, including the solar field consisting of solar power arrays, operation and maintenance buildings and structures, stormwater infrastructure, and related infrastructure.
- A substation, switchyard, and 500-kilovolt (kV) generation tie line (gen-tie) for interconnection to the existing Marketplace-Adelanto 500-kV transmission line operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The 500-kV gen-tie would be located within an existing Caltrans culvert and require boring under Interstate 15.
- A lithium-ion battery energy storage system of up to 300 MW storage capacity across 18 acres.

The Project Description (TN 257912) section of the application can be accessed directly at the following link: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=257912&DocumentContentId=93845>.

CEC Jurisdiction and Opt-In Certification Program

Pursuant to state law, the CEC has established a certification program for eligible non-fossil fueled power plants, energy storage facilities, and related facilities to optionally seek certification from the CEC. (See Pub. Resources Code, §§ 25545-25545.13; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, §§ 1875-1882.) Under this new Opt-In Certification Program, among the types of facilities that CEC can certify are solar PV power plants of 50 MW or more, energy storage facilities of 200 megawatt-hours (MWh) or more, and electric transmission lines from these facilities to the first point of interconnection with any electrical transmission system. The CEC is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act and is required to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for any facility that elects to opt-in to the CEC's jurisdiction.

With exceptions, the issuance of a certificate by the CEC for an eligible facility is in lieu of any permit, certificate, or similar document required by any state, local, or regional agency, or federal agency to the extent permitted by federal law, for the use of the site and related facilities, and supersedes any applicable statute, ordinance, or regulation of any state, local, or regional agency, or federal agency to the extent permitted by federal law. The CEC is required to make its decision on whether to certify the project within 270 days of receiving a complete application except as provided in Public Resources Code section 25545.4. The CEC is required to consult with all responsible and trustee agencies on the scope and content of the EIR. The CEC staff has begun its review of the application and transmitted the application to responsible and trustee agencies.

The application has not been deemed complete at this time. Once the application is deemed complete, the CEC staff will evaluate the proposed project, consult with California Native American tribes, and host public meetings in the project area. This will include an informational and public scoping meeting during the development of the EIR, as well as a public meeting during the 60-day comment period on the Draft EIR, which will be included as part of the CEC's Staff Assessment of the application. After the conclusion of the public comment period, the CEC staff will publish an updated Staff Assessment (which will include a Final EIR), and the CEC Executive Director's recommendation on whether the CEC should certify the EIR and issue a certificate for construction and operation of the proposed project. The updated Staff Assessment and Executive Director's recommendation will be published at least 30 days before the CEC's consideration at a public meeting.

At the final public meeting, the CEC will formally decide whether to certify the EIR and grant a certification for construction and operation of the proposed project. Should the certification be granted, other agencies that retain their permitting authorities must take final action on any additional permits within 90 days of the CEC issuing a certificate. General information about the Opt-In Certification Program can be found on the CEC website at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/topics/power-plants/opt-certification-program>.

Public Participation

The CEC welcomes public participation in the Opt-In review process. A copy of the Opt-In application as well as other project information can be found on the CEC website at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/>

powerplant/solar-photovoltaic-pv/soda-mountain-solar-project. To stay informed about this project and receive notice of upcoming meetings and workshops, sign up to the project's email subscription, which can be accessed on the same project webpage. Once enrolled, automatic email notifications are sent when documents and notices are posted to the project webpage. This notice will be the only general public notification of this project that will appear in this publication. If you want to participate in the project review and decision-making process, please visit the web page linked above to subscribe for free email notifications from the CEC or contact the Public Advisor's Office (see contact info below).

For questions about the project, please contact Lisa Worrall, project manager, by email at lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov.

The CEC's Office of the Public Advisor, Energy Equity, and Tribal Affairs is available to provide information on, and assistance with, public participation in CEC proceedings. The Public Advisor's Office can be reached by phone at (916) 957-7910 and by email at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov.

Media questions should be directed to the CEC's Media Office by phone at (916) 654-4989 or by email at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

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