

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	24-OPT-03
Project Title:	Soda Mountain Solar
TN #:	268294
Document Title:	Notice of Soda Mountain Solar Project CEC Staff Assessment Public Meeting February 5, 2026
Description:	Notice of Soda Mountain Solar Project CEC Staff Assessment Public Meeting February 5, 2026 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Filer:	Marichka Haws
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

energy.ca.gov

CEC-70 (Revised 7/22)



IN THE MATTER OF:

Soda Mountain Solar Project

Opt-In Application for Certification

DOCKET NO. 24-OPT-03

NOTICE OF STAFF ASSESSMENT PUBLIC
MEETING

RE: Soda Mountain Solar Project

**Notice of Soda Mountain Solar Project
CEC Staff Assessment Public Meeting
February 5, 2026**

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Hybrid: In-Person and Remote

Includes In-Person and Remote Spanish Interpretation

See Attendance Instructions

In-person at:

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

The California Energy Commission (CEC) will host a public meeting on the Staff Assessment for the proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project, pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 25545.7.2(b)(2) and 25545.7.6. The purpose of the meeting is for CEC staff to present the Staff Assessment, which includes a draft environmental impact report (Draft EIR), and receive comments on the assessment from government agencies, California Native American Tribes, the public, and the project applicant. This is a hybrid meeting consistent with Senate Bill 189 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 48, Statutes of 2022), with both a publicly accessible physical location and public access online or by phone through Zoom™.

The Staff Assessment contains the CEC staff's independent, objective evaluation of the proposed project. The Staff Assessment was docketed for public review and comment on December 29, 2025 (TN 268059):¹

¹ The Staff Assessment (including a Draft EIR) was submitted to the CEQA State Clearinghouse website on December 29, 2025, SCH# 2025080161.

- Link to Staff Assessment:
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=268059&DocumentContentId=105072>
- Link to entire docket for this project proceeding:
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-OPT-03>.

The public can participate in the meeting consistent with the attendance instructions below. The CEC aims to begin promptly at the start time posted. 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.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. CEC Staff Presentations of the Staff Assessment
 - a. Application Overview
 - b. Engineering Evaluation, Environmental Impact Analysis, Alternatives Analysis, Consistency with Plans, Policies, and Regulations*
 - c. Opt-In Requirements
 - d. Staff Recommendation
 - e. Summary of Public Comments Received
 - f. Next Steps in the CEC Process
3. Applicant Remarks
4. CEC Office of the Public Advisor, Energy Equity, and Tribal Affairs Presentation on Public and Tribal Participation Opportunities
5. Government Comment: California Native American tribes, Government Agencies, and Elected Officials
6. Public Comment
7. Closing Remarks and Adjourn

* Note: Staff will provide summaries of staff's analyses on the proposed project's consistency with plans, policies, and regulations, and engineering, alternatives, and environmental impacts. Staff presentations will highlight the following topic areas with significant and unavoidable impacts or inconsistencies with plans, policies, and regulations (order may change):

- Biological Resources
- Visual Resources
- Alternatives

Background

Public Resources Code sections 25545–25545.13 allows specified clean energy projects to seek consolidated permitting at the CEC until June 30, 2030. 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, and electric transmission lines associated with these generating and storage facilities to a point of junction with any interconnected electrical system.

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 (Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, LCI), and mailed the NOP on August 1, 2025, to the trustee agency, San Bernardino County Clerk, local, regional, and federal agencies, including those who commented on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife NOP for a previous environmental document. These and other documents are available on the CEC docket for this proceeding at: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=24-OPT-03>

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, 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 short segment of the gen-tie line, approximately 450 feet, would cross I-15.

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>.

Attendance Instructions.

In-person participants may join the meeting at:

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

If participants bring a device to join the meeting via Zoom at the physical location, the system audio must be muted, or the audio should not be joined. This is to avoid disruptive feedback during the meeting. Audio will be provided through an onsite sound system.

Remote participants may join via Zoom by internet or phone.

- **To join via Zoom.** Click on <https://energy.zoom.us/j/82770156561?pwd=h3hnpjNVbku8wXtUSkq9g7ojc7QvaQa.1> or login in at <https://zoom.us/> and enter the Webinar ID **827 7015 6561** and passcode **350361** and follow all prompts.
- **To join by telephone.** Call (669) 219-2599. When prompted, enter the Webinar ID **827 7015 656** and passcode **350361**.

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 workshop will be docketed and posted as soon as possible after the meeting concludes.

Zoom Spanish Interpreting Services.

Open the Zoom meeting. In the "Navigation" panel, click "Settings," then click the "Meeting" tab. Under "In Meeting (Advanced)," click "Language Interpretation" toggle to enable/ disable. If a verification dialog displays, click "Enable" or "Disable" to verify the change. If the option is grayed out, it has been locked and you will need to contact your Zoom admin. Click "Mute Original Audio" to reduce background noise.

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.

The CEC encourages the use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the [e-commenting page for this docket](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.

Oral comments will be accepted at the end of the workshop. Comments may be limited to three minutes or less per speaker and one person per organization. To comment via Zoom, use the "raise hand" feature so the administrator can announce your name and unmute you. To comment via telephone, press *9 to "raise your hand" and *6 to mute/unmute.

Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Unit by 5:00 p.m. on February 27, 2026. 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 of the workshop. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on availability.

Media Inquiries.

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

General and Technical Subject 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 the docket for the Soda Mountain Solar Project (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 subscription topic. 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: January 23, 2026, at Sacramento, California.

Dian Vorters

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

Subscriptions:

Soda Mountain Solar Project