

Notice of Decision by California Energy Commission



To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 98512-3044

Clearinghouse No: _____

 X California Resources Agency
1416 9th Street, Room 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Filing of Notice of Decision in compliance with Public Resources Code Section 21080.5 and Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 1768

Project Title: IMPERIAL VALLEY SOLAR PROJECT

Energy Commission Docket Number: 08-AFC-5

Energy Commission Contact Person: Christopher Meyer Telephone: (916) 653-1639

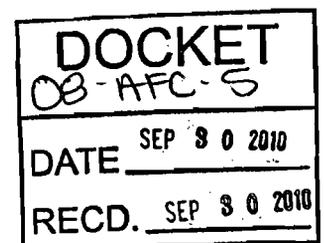
Project Location: The Imperial Valley Solar (IVS) Project would be located on approximately 360 acres of private land and 6,140 acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Imperial County, California. The project site is approximately 100 miles east of San Diego, 14 miles west of El Centro, and 4 miles east of Ocotillo, between Interstate 8 and Evan Hewes Highway.

County: Imperial County

Project Description: The proposed IVS Project would be a nominal 709-megawatt (MW) solar Stirling engine project, with construction planned to begin in late 2010. Construction would take approximately 40 months to complete. The primary equipment for the generating facility would include approximately 28,837, 25-kilowatt solar dish Stirling systems (referred to as SunCatchers), their associated equipment and systems, and their support infrastructure. Each SunCatcher consists of a solar receiver heat exchanger and a closed-cycle, high-efficiency Solar Stirling Engine specifically designed to convert solar power to rotary power then driving an electrical generator to produce electricity. Power would be available to the grid as each of the 1.5-MW, 60-unit groups of SunCatchers is completed.

On September 29, 2010, the California Energy Commission approved the above-described project pursuant to a regulatory program certified by the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency under Section 21080.5 of the California Public Resources Code and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the project.
3. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was adopted for this project.
4. A statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for this project.
5. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.



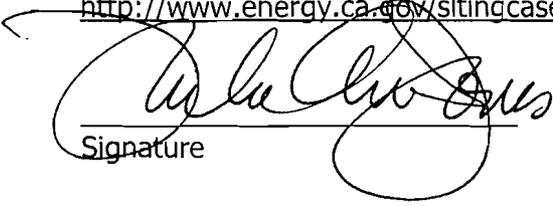
Based on the evidence and the conclusions drawn in this Decision, the Energy Commission has made the following findings and conclusions:

1. Climate change poses a serious threat to the economic well-being, public health, natural resources, and the environment of California.
2. The project would have a significant effect on the environment. The proposed project would have the following significant impacts which cannot be mitigated to insignificant levels:
 - a. The IVS project will cause significant direct and cumulative impacts to Flat-tailed Horned Lizard which, while reduced through mitigation, will nonetheless remain significant.
 - b. Although mitigation measures adopted will reduce impacts to archeological resources to below a level of significance, our findings are that the project's impacts to the associative values of archaeological and ethnographic resources may be unmitigable. The project also may permanently change and/or result in the destruction of cultural resources, both known and as yet unknown, contributing to a cumulatively considerable impact which will be mitigated to the extent possible, but may not be fully mitigated.
 - c. The contribution of the IVS project in combination with the other renewable energy projects proposed in the region, to the loss of desert lands, is cumulatively significant. Lands currently available for habitat, open space, grazing, mining, and recreation will no longer be available for those uses once a power plant is constructed. In addition, construction of the project may be inconsistent with Imperial County Land Use Ordinance, Title 9, Division 2 pertaining to applications for determination of similar use. A 360-acre portion of the project site is within Imperial County jurisdiction, zoned S-2 Open Space/Preservation and the Land Use Ordinance does not specifically allow electrical generation in the S-2 zone. is complete.
 - d. The IVS project will result in the installation of a large, industrial facility on presently undeveloped (although partially disturbed) landscape and will, in combination with the other renewable energy projects proposed in the Imperial County Desert Region, make a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant cumulative visual impacts.e. Degradation of scenic vistas for motorists, recreationists, hikers, and others from various points in the Ivanpah Valley, Clark Mountains, Mojave Preserve, and Stateline Wilderness Area.
3. This Decision will result in mitigation of all direct project impacts for the IVS Project, except as described immediately above, and imposes all feasible mitigation measures as conditions of approval to reduce the significant impacts of the project to the lowest possible, though still significant, levels.
4. The project will provide the following benefits:
 - a. 709 MW of renewable energy power will contribute in meeting California's Renewable Portfolio Standard;
 - b. Results in a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions over existing fossil fuel-burning generating facilities;
 - c. Reduces California's dependence on fossil fuels;
 - d. Creation of construction jobs for an average and peak workforce of 360 and 731, respectively, and approximately 164 jobs during operations, most requiring highly trained workers; and
 - e. Construction and operation of IVS will add to the economy a \$42.1 million annual construction payroll, a local annual operation payroll of \$9 million, sales and use taxes during construction of \$623,100 and during operation of \$387,500 annually. An estimated \$2.41 million would be spent locally for materials and equipment during construction, and an additional \$7.4 million would be spent annually for local operations and maintenance.

5. Of the identified Alternatives, several would reduce the impacts of the proposed project but would also reduce its benefits and potentially impact the project's financial viability.

A statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for the project concluding that the benefits outweigh the significant impacts.

The Commission docket files containing the final Commission Decision and other information regarding the project are available to the public at: California Energy Commission, 1516 9th Street, Sacramento, California, 95814. The final Decision and other information regarding the project is also available on the Commission's web site located at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solartwo/index.html>.



Signature

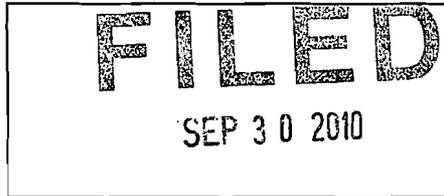
9/29/2010
Date

Executive Director
Title

Dates received for filing

OPR:

Resources:



Resources Agency of California



State of California—The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

2010 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

RECEIPT#	394739
STATE CLEARING HOUSE # (if applicable)	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

LEAD AGENCY	Ca. Energy Commission			DATE	9/30/10
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	Imperial Co.			DOCUMENT NUMBER	Deposit #0087
PROJECT TITLE	Imperial Valley Solon 08-AFC-5				
PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	Tusseron			PHONE NUMBER	()
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE		
1516 9th St	Sanamento	CA	95814		

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box):

Local Public Agency
 School District
 Other Special District
 State Agency
 Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$2,792.25	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (ND)(MND)	\$2,010.25	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Fee Water Diversion (State Water Resources Control Board Only)	\$850.00	\$ _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Projects Subject to Certified Regulatory Programs (CRP)	\$949.50	\$ 949.50
<input type="checkbox"/> County Administrative Fee	\$50.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Project that is exempt from fees		
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption		
<input type="checkbox"/> DFG No Effect Determination (Form Attached)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		\$ 949.50

PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash
 Credit
 Check
 Other _____

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 949.50

NATURE	TITLE
Wryder	AAI