

DOCKETED

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Question Report

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Topic

IEPR Commissioner Workshop on Land Use Screens

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Question Details

#	Question	Asker Name	Answer
1	Has the CEC looked at cropland screens and land use opportunities for agrivoltaic installations - an area of active implementation and research supported by the DOE with a funding program managed by NREL.	Zoe Harrold	Currently our screens are for solar, onshore wind and geothermal resource potential.
2	What degree of slope was used for solar exclusion areas?	Shannon Eddy	live answered
2	What degree of slope was used for solar exclusion areas?	Shannon Eddy	Slopes greater than or equal to ten degrees were excluded from consideration for solar.
3	Over one half of California solar MW over the past 5 years have been on the distribution grid-- including residential, commercial, and industrial rooftops. While this land screen model is designed to address low population density areas, how will the upcoming IEPR appropriately consider/balance distribution grid solar resources with the considerations from the land use screen approach? DG sites have lower "land conflict" issues, and have ratepayer savings for avoided transmission costs.	Claire Broome	We appreciate your comment and will look into our screening methodologies regarding population density considering rooftop solar.
4	How about analyzing drought/ Climate change constraints on imported water on cropland suitability, in addition to analyzing groundwater availability?	Joan Taylor	live answered
5	Please talk more about the input you received from solar project developers on project feasibility in some of the locations that differed between the DRECP/SJV and Screen 1 for solar. That was a brief comment in Erica's presentation.	Kathleen Ave - SMUD (she/her)	Staff primarily relied on public comments to workshops and past documents to inform the draft land-use screens staff report, released on October 5, 2022.
6	Are the GIS layers available to parties?	Shannon Eddy	yes, they can be seen on the web application. Also, a list of all datasets is in Appendix D of the staff report.

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7	<p>By excluding high population areas, it would seem as though the model excludes potential associated with roof top solar, community solar, parking lot solar, and solar on brownfield sites. Why? Do you have an estimate of how much potential has thus been excluded from the models?</p> <p>Other potential on irrigation canals, highway rights of way, etc. also appears to be excluded. Why? Do you have an estimate of the potential excluded in these areas?</p>	Richard Rollins# he/his	live answered
8	Can you provide a link to the public web map?	Erika Sagrafena	https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=246396&DocumentContentId=80595
9	From the draft report, it looks like you are still using extremely outdated wind resource maps at 80 meters hub height, using very coarse granularity, even though more granular data at 100 meters is readily available. Also, the power curves in the NREL WIND Toolkit are now at least 7 years old. If you are still using these, you are missing a lot of potentially developable areas using current wind technologies. Why has this data not been updated ?	Nancy Rader	live answered
10	Did you consider the very small footprint of wind energy projects in your analysis, e.g., compatibility with agriculture and limited impacts on terrestrial species, and, if so, how?	Nancy Rader	live answered
10	Did you consider the very small footprint of wind energy projects in your analysis, e.g., compatibility with agriculture and limited impacts on terrestrial species, and, if so, how?	Nancy Rader	Thank you for your question. Unfortunately, we did not have time to ask it. Please consider using the public comment period of this workshop session to phrase your question as a comment. Please also note that we do not have time for real-time response to public comment.
11	Are the Land Use Screens available in DataBasin?	Neil Nadler	not currently
12	Can we see where the Solar Screens have been increased in the West Mojave?	Neil Nadler	Please see draft maps and preliminary data available in the draft staff report released October 5, 2022.

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13	I'd like to amplify Kathleen Ave's query. Can you talk about what kind of outreach to the solar industry was conducted for this effort?	Shannon Eddy	Staff primarily relied on public comments from workshops and past documents to inform the draft report released last week. We look forward to further feedback and input.
14	Can we see the modeling for San Bernardino County	Neil Nadler	Discussion of county-specific analysis of renewable resource technical potential can be found in Appendix C of the draft staff report. The web mapping application will show resource potential preliminary data from the draft land-use screens.
15	Equity Screens are very important..... Also the Groundwater Screening as well.	Neil Nadler	Thank you for your comment. If you would like it to be a part of the public record, please use the public comment period of this workshop session. Please note that we do not have time for panelist response to public comment.
16	How would private land owners be able to submit their parcels for collaboration or consideration for solar farming that meets solar farming criteria? would llc only have those opportunities?	Eduardo Camacho	live answered
17	Given the ENORMOUS projected solar resource need in 30 MMT and high electrification, how will IEPR/IRP optimize for Distribution Grid solar, as an alternative to utility scale solar using transmission with siting using land use screens?	Claire Broome	live answered
18	The new land use screens will be used in current IRP modeling update going on now, but not for busbar mapping until the 2024-25 TPP? And can you repeat which layers will be used for busbar mapping? Levels 2-3 or just L1?	Shannon Eddy	live answered

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19	<p>Has the CEC looked at cropland screens and land use opportunities for agrivoltaic installations - an area of active implementation and research supported by the DOE with a funding program managed by NREL.</p> <p>Travis David 2:22 PM Currently our screens are for solar, onshore wind and geothermal resource potential.</p> <p>Agrioltaics are solar installations in croplands - are these types of solar facilities considered?</p>	Zoe Harrold	<p>Thank you for your question. Unfortunately, we did not have time to ask it. Please consider using the public comment period of this workshop session to phrase your question as a comment. Please also note that we do not have time for real-time response to public comment.</p>
20	<p>Re busbar mapping: Generally, a 20-mile distance from transmission lines (rather than substations) is reasonable to constrain the resulting wind resource. However, a large project (300-500+ MW) can support a gen-tie that is 30-40 miles long. Wind resources should not be constrained by substations, but by transmission lines, as projects can tap lines with new switching stations. These options obviously have economic implications, such as network upgrade costs, however this level of analysis should assume it is possible.</p>	Nancy Rader	<p>Thank you for your comment. If you would like it to be a part of the public record, please use the public comment period of this workshop session. Please note that we do not have time for panelist response to public comment.</p>
21	<p>The solar layers appear to show not-insignificant solar resource potential in northern California forest areas and also on beaches throughout the state (and on the Channel Islands). We assume that's because staff has yet to scrub the data. Can you talk about the process that will be used to scrub these kinds areas from being considered as viable for solar?</p>	Shannon Eddy	live answered
22	Thank you, Erica, for responding to my question.	Richard Rollins# he/his	

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23	thanks Travis. For IEPR and IRP, and especially for transmission planning, it seems critical to be able to differentiate between DG solar potential and utility scale solar.	Claire Broome	Thank you for your comment. If you would like it to be a part of the public record, please use the public comment period of this workshop session. Please note that we do not have time for panelist response to public comment.
24	Following up on Erika's response to the question about wind resource data: If NREL has not updated its dataset, that is unfortunate. However, meteorological data generated from private companies is generated from models in the same way, jsut with more computational power to get a higher resolution. (The data is not drawn from private met tower data, except perhaps for validation purposes.) The Commission's wind resource maps will be badly out of date unless it acquires this data on the public's behalf. Any concerns about transparency are outweighed by the far greater accuracy that would be obtained, which benefits all stakeholders.	Nancy Rader	Thank you for your comment. If you would like it to be a part of the public record, please use the public comment period of this workshop session. Please note that we do not have time for panelist response to public comment.
25	Do the land use screens affect bus bar mapping for imports. For example, if there are in-state upgrades needed to deliver higher amounts of out-of-state resources, will the land use screens affect those in-state upgrades?	Brian Biering	Thank you for your question. Unfortunately, we did not have time to ask it. Please consider using the public comment period of this workshop session to phrase your question as a comment. Please also note that we do not have time for real-time response to public comment.
26	Helpful - thank you. Can you comment on forest areas/non slivers?	Shannon Eddy	Thank you for your question. Unfortunately, we did not have time to ask it. Please consider using the public comment period of this workshop session to phrase your question as a comment. Please also note that we do not have time for real-time response to public comment.

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27	Thanks Heather - is there a way to download the shape files from the arcgis site, or are the layers available elsewhere for download?	Shannon Eddy	Currently the data is not available for download due to it being preliminary with the intention to update and change based on public comment. After the data is finalized we intend to allow it to be downloadable.
28	thanks Heather--yes, I would like to be on the list for the public comment section of the meeting. Can you put me on the list? (I had used the raise hand function some time ago for that purpose	Claire Broome	great, i see your hand up -- will call on you during public comment after the panel
29	Thanks Travis. I would like to request the CEC make the files downloadable prior to finalizing/now, so parties can use them for their own analyses. We will need the files to be able to prepare appropriately-informed and analyzed input by Nov 1. Thank you.	Shannon Eddy	We appreciate your comment. We will be considering releasing our preliminary results to be available for download.
30	Have any of the agencies considered efforts to integrate habitat restoration (beyond current permit compliance) with large scale renewables? For example, EPRI collaboration with Xerces on a "Bee Better" certification process with third party review. SMUD, EPRI, UCD and Xerces have a multi-year research project at Rancho Seco underway. Did staff consider possible pathways/new guidance for this kind of integration that can improve the ecological value of future renewable projects?	Kathleen Ave - SMUD (she/her)	live answered
31	Hi, I didn't see my mic get unmuted by you. Can we try again? Thanks	Kate Kelly - Defenders of Wildlife	sorry about that, glad we got you on the second try