

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-03
Project Title:	Soda Mountain Solar
TN #:	258374
Document Title:	Federal, State, Other Agency Notification of Application Receipt for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) & distribution list
Description:	Distributed via email on August 7, 2024
Filer:	Lisa Worrall
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	8/7/2024 2:39:21 PM
Docketed Date:	8/7/2024



August 7, 2024

Notice of Receipt of Opt-In Application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03) /
Request for Comments and Information

This letter serves as notification that the California Energy Commission (CEC) has received an opt-in application for the Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03). Soda Mountain Solar, LLC ("Applicant"), proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) electrical generating and storage facility and associated infrastructure to generate and deliver renewable electricity to the statewide electricity transmission grid. The Soda Mountain Solar Project (project) would generate up to 300 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy and include up to 300 MW of battery storage. The project also includes future decommissioning, which is anticipated to occur after 30 years of operation. The project is located on approximately 2,670 acres of land administered by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District, within the jurisdiction of the Barstow Field Office in San Bernardino County.

The project components are as follows: 1) The solar plant site (i.e., 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 and improvements. 2) A substation and switchyard for interconnection to the existing transmission system. 3) Approximately 300 MW of lithium-ion battery energy storage system across 18 acres.

The project would operate year-round and would generate electricity during daylight hours. The project would generate and deliver solar-generated power to the regional electrical grid through an interconnection with the existing Marketplace-Adelanto 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

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>.

In 2022, Assembly Bill 205 established a new Opt-In Certification Program for eligible non-fossil-fueled power plants, energy storage, and manufacturing and assembly facilities to optionally seek certification through the CEC. Upon receipt of an application, the CEC has the exclusive authority to certify the site and related facility. With certain exceptions, the issuance of a certificate by the CEC 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, 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 the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act and is required to prepare an environmental impact report for any facility that elects to opt into the CEC's jurisdiction.

The CEC provides the following notice pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25545.8, which states that subsections (g) and (k) of Public Resources Code section 25519 apply to an opt-in application. The relevant language from Public Resources Code section 25519 is as follows:

(g) The commission shall transmit a copy of the application to each federal and state agency having jurisdiction or special interest in matters pertinent to the proposed site and related facilities and to the Attorney General.

(k) The commission shall transmit a copy of the application to any governmental agency not specifically mentioned in this act, but which it finds has any information or interest in the proposed site and related facilities, and shall invite the comments and recommendations of each agency. The commission shall request any relevant laws, ordinances, or regulations that an agency has promulgated or administered.

The CEC has set up a web page for the project at the following link:
<https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/solar-photovoltaic-pv/soda-mountain-solar-project>.

The documents which comprise the opt-in application can be found in the project docket, which is accessible via the project webpage or directly at the following link:
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-OPT-03>.

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25519(k), the CEC invites the comments and recommendations of your agency, and requests that you send us any relevant laws, ordinances, or regulations that your agency has promulgated or administered that are applicable to the proposed project.

To stay informed about this project and receive notice of upcoming public meetings, sign up to the project subscription, which can be accessed on the project webpage. Once enrolled, automatic email notifications are sent via govDelivery when documents and notices are posted to the project docket.

Feel free to reach out to me directly via email if you have any questions about this notice. Thank you.

Lisa Worrall
Project Manager
California Energy Commission
lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov

Enclosures: Figure 2-1 Project Site Vicinity (from application, TN 257912)
Figure 2-6 Project Overview Site Plan (from application TN 257912)



Figure 2-1. Project site vicinity.

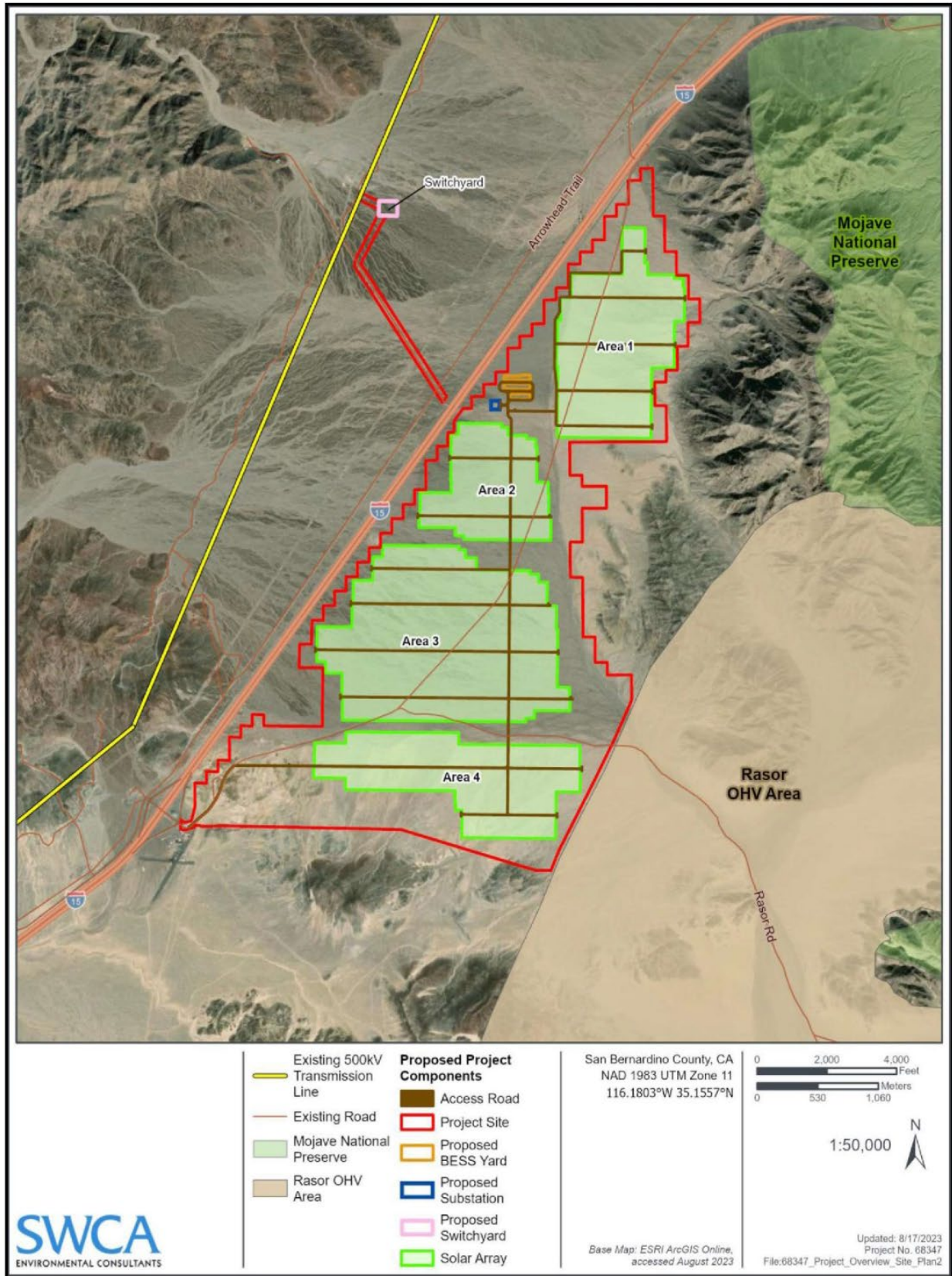


Figure 2-6. Project overview site plan.

Distributed via email to the following contacts:

First	Last	Title	Agency
Reginald	Pagaling	Chairperson	Native American Heritage Commission
Matt	Lakin	Acting Director	United States EPA Region 9
Martha	Sandy, Ph.D	Branch Chief	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Reproductive and Cancer Hazard Assessment Branch
Courtney	Graham	Manager - Permit Evaluation and Support Section	California Air Resources Board
Rebecca	Fancher	Staff Air Pollution Specialist - Legal Office	California Air Resources Board
James	Camarillo	Associate Transportation Planner	Caltrans District 8 – Planning Division, Office of Local Development Review San Bernardino Coordinator
Elizabeth	Brega	Senior Environmental Scientist	California Department of Environmental Protection
Brad	Poiriez	Executive Director	Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District
Eric	Meeke	Captain, Commander	California Highway Patrol, Barstow Office
Ayman	Shiblak	Regional Manager	Cal/OSHA, Region 6 - High Hazard Unit and Labor Enforcement Task Force Unit
Dave	Fulcher	Southern Region Chief	CalFire
Thomas	Plenys		U.S. EPA, Region IX, Environmental Review Branch
Karla	Nemeth	Director	Department of Water Resources
Katherine	Kennedy	Airport Planner	Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Wade	Crowfoot	Secretary	California Natural Resources Agency
James	Booth	District Conservationist	Natural Resources Conservation Services
Peter	Sanzenbacher	Supervisor, Desert Division	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Portia	Samples	Realty Specialist	Bureau of Land Management
Isabeau	Cordes	Realty Specialist	Bureau of Land Management
Julie	Donnell	Assistant Field Manager	Bureau of Land Management
Brandon	Anderson	Assistant District Manager	Bureau of Land Management
Jeffrey D.	Ruesch	Watermaster Services Manager	Mojave Water Agency
Dennis	Lei	Electrical Engineering Associate	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Faranak	Sarbaz	Power Engineer Manager	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Sunaja	Lakshman	Electrical Engineer	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Tin	Ha	Electrical Engineering Associate	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power