

DOCKETED	
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August 7, 2024

Notice of Receipt of Opt-In Application for Soda Mountain Solar Project (24-OPT-03)

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 certain subsections of Public Resources Code, section 25519 are applicable. Section 25519(g) of the Public Resources Code states, in part: "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.*" (emphasis added)

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>.

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
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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.

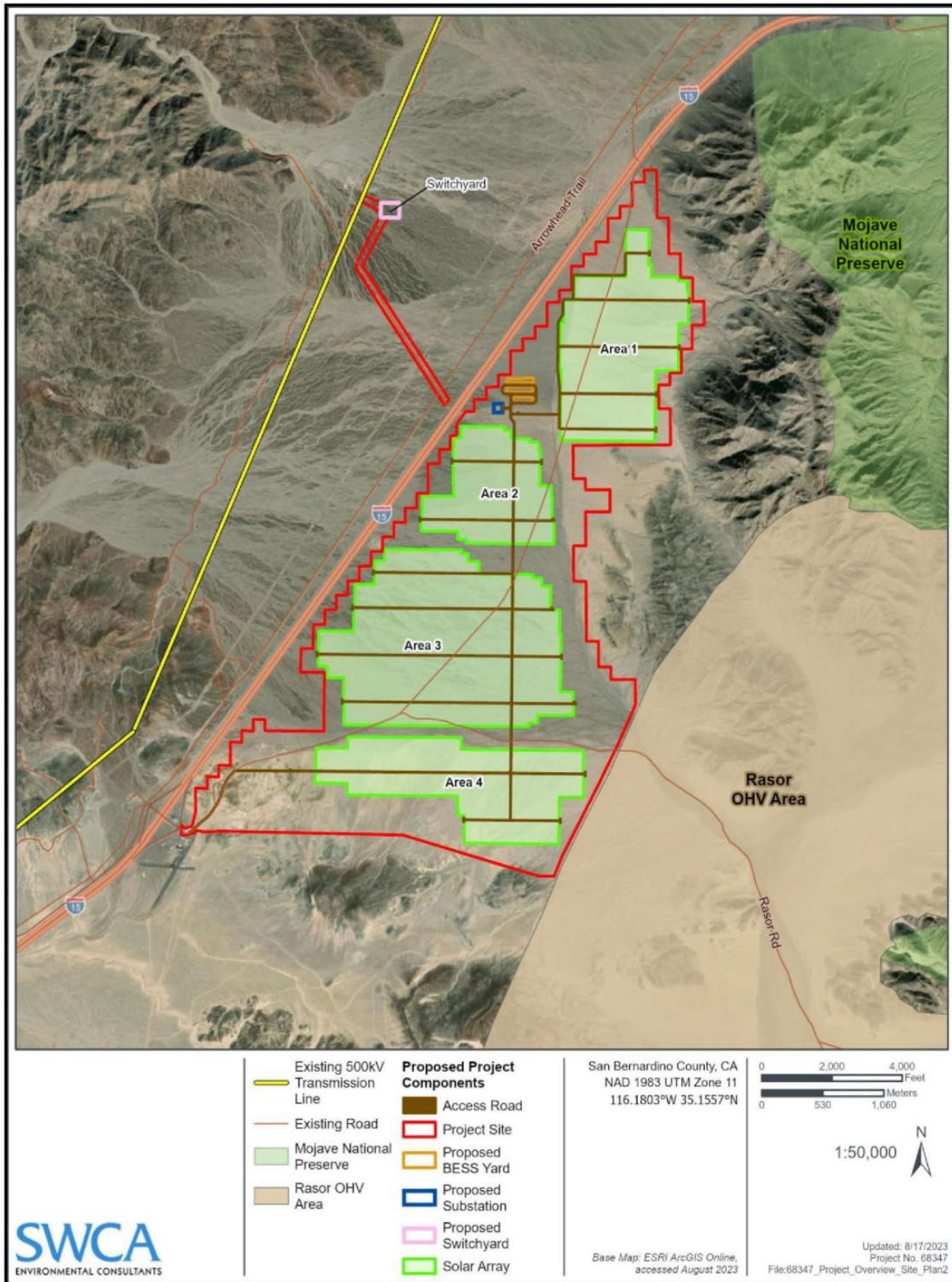


Figure 2-6. Project overview site plan.

Distributed via email to the following contact:

Attorney General