



Notice of Availability

Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report

Panoche Valley Solar Project

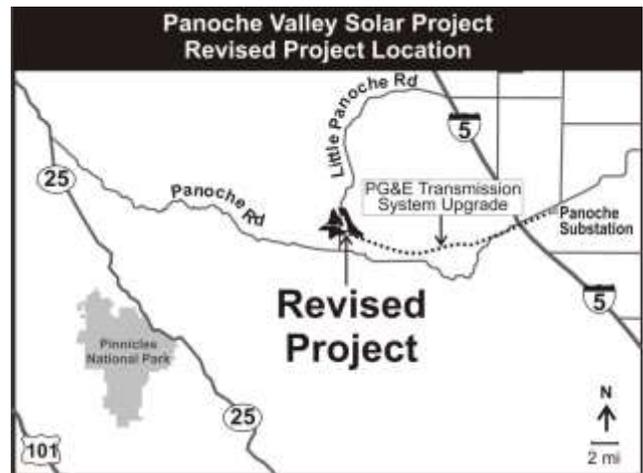
CUP No. UP 1023-09-Amended
State Clearinghouse No. 2010031008

December 23, 2014

The County of San Benito (County) has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Panoche Valley Solar Project. In 2010, the County certified a Final Environmental Impact Report and approved the conditional cancellation of Williamson Act contracts, Use Permit 1023-09, and Development Agreement for the project ("Approved Project"). The purpose of the Supplemental EIR is to analyze proposed changes to the Approved Project and whether these changes result in any new significant environmental effects that were not previously analyzed and disclosed in the 2010 Final Environmental Impact Report or substantially increase the severity of significant environmental impact previously analyzed and disclosed.

Description of the Proposed Project

The applicant, Panoche Valley Solar LLC, proposes modifications to the Panoche Valley Solar Project Use Permit 1023-09 approved in 2010. In general, the project has been reduced in size from a 399 MW project to a 247 MW project and will be constructed over a shorter 18-month timeframe as opposed to the previously approved 5-year construction period. The applicant is also proposing revisions to various project components based on the reduced project size and revisions to previously approved Applicant Proposed Measures and Mitigation Measures based on more refined engineering and construction techniques. In addition, PG&E has identified specific telecommunication upgrades that are required to serve the project and are under the jurisdiction of California Public Utilities Commission that will be located partially in San Benito County and partially in Fresno County. The SEIR assesses the environmental impacts that may result from the incremental changes to the 2010 Approved Project and from the PG&E upgrades, and where appropriate updates the analysis in the previously certified Final EIR. The SEIR does not and is not required to reanalyze the environmental impacts of the approved project as a whole.



The Draft SEIR is available for public review online at the County's website: <http://www.cosb.us/>

The Draft SEIR is being circulated for review and comment to the public, agencies, individuals, and interest groups who have requested to be notified. Per Section 15105 of the State CEQA Guidelines, San Benito County will provide for at least a 45-day public review period on the Draft Supplemental EIR. The public comment period for the Draft Supplemental EIR ends on **Tuesday, February 10, 2015**. **Comments should be limited to the incremental changes in the project and the environmental impacts of these incremental changes that are analyzed in the SEIR as opposed to the previously certified Final EIR.**

During the public review period, the County Planning and Building Department will hold a public meeting to explain the contents of the Draft SEIR and to receive oral and written comments on the Draft SEIR. The public meeting will be held at the time and location shown on the following page.

Panoche Valley Solar Project: Notice of Availability of Supplemental Draft EIR

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL EIR	
Tuesday, January 27, 2015 6:00 PM	San Benito County Board of Supervisors Chambers 481 Fourth Street, Hollister, CA 95023

Impacts of the Revised Solar Project and PG&E Upgrades

Overall, the Revised Project would result in less severe impacts than the 2010 Approved Project. Impacts remain significant and unmitigable in the issue areas of aesthetics and noise. Impacts related to traffic and groundwater would be more intense due to the shorter construction timeframe. However, these more intense impacts and the other environmental impacts resulting from the incremental changes in the project would be reduced to a level that is less than significant with implementation of the previously recommended and adopted mitigation measures, modifications to these measures, or would be adverse but not require mitigation. Impacts related to the PG&E Upgrades are less than significant due to PG&E’s avoidance and minimization measures.

How to Comment on the Draft SEIR

Please submit comments on the Draft SEIR in person at the public meeting, by email, or postmarked by **Tuesday, February 10, 2015**, as follows:

EIR TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION		
<u>Via email to:</u> panochesolar@aspeneg.com	<u>Via mail to:</u> Michael Krausie, Associate Planner c/o Aspen Environmental Group 235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935 San Francisco, CA 94104	<u>Via fax to:</u> (888) 467-1863

Project Application Materials

Hard copies of the Executive Summary of the SEIR, compact disc of the entire contents of the SEIR, and hard copies of the entire contents of the SEIR may be ordered and purchased from:

Design Line & Granger Printing 435 San Benito Street Hollister, CA 95023	Phone: 831-637-3347 Fax: 831-637-6332 Hours of Operation: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday
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Hard copies of the entire contents of the SEIR are available for persons with special needs upon request. Hard copies of the entire contents of the SEIR are available for review at the repository sites listed below.

REPOSITORY SITES	
Panoche Inn	29960 Panoche Road, Paicines, CA 95043 (831) 628-3538
Planning, Building Inspection Services and Code Enforcement Department	2301 Technology Parkway, 1st Floor Hollister, CA 95023-9174 (831) 637-5313
San Benito County Free Library	470 5th Street, Hollister, CA 95023..... (831) 626-4107
San Benito County Administration Building	481 4th Street, 1st Floor, Hollister, CA 95023..... (831) 636-4000