



County of Yolo

Department of General Services

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Preparation of the Environmental Impact Report

on the

Environmental Education and Sustainability Park

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Yolo County Department of General Services

DATE: July 20, 2012

SUBJECT: Public Notice of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Environmental Education and Sustainability Park

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The County of Yolo (County) is the Lead Agency in charge of environmental review of the **Environmental Education and Sustainability Park Project** (project). The County has determined that a project level Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared for the Project. The project consists of two separate sites: the Grasslands site, and the Beamer/Cottonwood site. The Grasslands site is located at 30475 County Road 104, approximately 2.5 miles south of the City of Davis. The Grasslands site consists of approximately 30 acres of undeveloped land within Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 033-130-03. The Beamer/Cottonwood site is located at southeastern corner of Ashley Drive and Woodland Avenue in the City of Woodland. The Beamer/Cottonwood site consists an approximate 2-acre portion of undeveloped APN 064-010-32.

The project consists of the development of a 5 megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) solar array at the Grasslands site and a 0.8 MW PV solar array at the Beamer/Cottonwood Site. The Grasslands site will also include an environmental education center to be used for educational fieldtrips for K-12 students of Yolo County.

Electricity produced at the Grasslands site will be feed into the grid at two PG&E interconnection points. Electricity produced at the Beamer/Cottonwood site will be used at the adjacent Yolo County Health Department building, Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services building and JPA building. Power generated at both sites would further the goals of the California Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard and the Yolo County Climate Action Plan.

Grasslands Site Educational Center and Park: The educational center, located at the Grasslands, site would consist of a environmentally sensitive modular building, and park host building. The park host building would be less than 500 square feet, and provide for typical park host administrative activities such as greeting guests and providing information about the park. The environmental education center would be no more than 2000 square feet and would host field trips from Yolo County elementary schools, and would be operated by the Yolo County Office of Education. The center would provide educational information regarding the solar array, energy conservation, sustainability, and habitat protection. The educational center would also operate in conjunction with a system of environmental educational placards educating the public about alternative energy and regional protected habitats and species. The park components will include walking trails and park benches connecting to the adjacent grasslands park. In connection with the environmental education center, the grasslands solar array would be used as a research laboratory for the feasibility of agricultural crop production and weed control beneath the solar panels.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS: The NOP is available for public review at the following location during normal business hours: Yolo County Department of General Services, 125 W. Main Street, Woodland, CA 95695. **The NOP has been posted to the Yolo County web site and may be downloaded and printed at www.yolocounty.org under “Government/Parks/Public Notice Page” (direct link: <http://www.yolocounty.org/Index.aspx?page=1584>.)** A PDF digital file of the NOP, or a hard (paper) copy of the NOP, are available upon request from the Department of General Services at the address or e-mail depicted below.

COMMENTS ON THE PROJECT: Comments may be sent anytime during the NOP review period. The NOP review and comment period begins **July 20, 2012**, and ends **August 20, 2012**, at **4:00 p.m.** All comments must be received within the comment period. Please include the name of a contact person for your agency, if applicable. All comments should be directed to:

Yolo County Department of General Services
Attention: Terry Vernon, Deputy Director
125 W. Main Street
Woodland, CA 95695

Comments may also be emailed to terry.vernon@yolocounty.org.

SCOPING MEETING: Oral comments may be provided at the Scoping Meeting to be held on Monday, July 30, 2012 at 4:30 pm in the County Administration Building’s Atrium Training Room, 625 Court Street, Woodland, CA 95695.