

## **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

### **DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT Environmental Education and Sustainability Park Project**

NOTICE IS GIVEN that pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act the County of Yolo has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Environmental Education and Sustainability Park Project. The project that consists of two separate sites: the Grasslands site and the Beamer/Cottonwood site. The Grasslands site consists of approximately 41 acres of undeveloped land located at 30475 County Road 104, approximately 2.5 miles south of the City of Davis within Grasslands Regional Park. The Beamer/Cottonwood site consists of approximately 6.53 acres of undeveloped land located at the southeastern corner of Ashley Drive and Woodland Avenue in the City of Woodland.

The project consists of the development of a 5 megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) solar array and environmental education center at the Grasslands site and a 0.8 MW PV solar array at the Beamer/Cottonwood Site. The following discusses each site separately.

The Grasslands site improvements generally consist an environmental education center (EEC) building, a park host site, a wildlife viewing area, walking trails, a 5-MW solar facility on approximately 21 acres, and a potential conservation area. Together, these components comprise the Environmental Education and Sustainability Park, a subcomponent of the Grasslands Regional Park. The solar facility and EEC would allow for increased recreational and education opportunities within the Park while providing a buffer area for the adjacent burrowing owl conservation easement. The ECC would be operated by the Yolo County Office of Education and would be used for educational fieldtrips for K-12 students of Yolo County. A walking path and interpretive signs would provide information related to the solar facility, the surrounding natural habitat, and the burrowing owl preserve. The solar facility would serve as a laboratory for operations, maintenance, and data in conjuncture with the operation of the Environmental Education and Sustainability Park. The solar facility would also be used as a research laboratory for the feasibility of agricultural crop production and weed control beneath the solar panels. Electricity produced at the Grasslands site will be fed into the grid at two Pacific Gas and Electricity (PG&E) interconnection points. Site access would be provided from County Road 35. The site would be surrounded by ranch-style fencing designed to meet specific performance criteria, including National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) specifications.

The Beamer/Cottonwood solar facility would consist of a 0.8-MW PV solar array on a 2-acre portion of the 6.53 acre site. The 0.8-MW PV system would offset County facility electricity uses at the adjacent Beamer Cottonwood Campus by providing electricity directly to the adjacent Yolo County Health Department building, the Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services building, and the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) building. Site access would be provided via an existing internal drive isle off N. Cottonwood Street. The site would be surrounded by diamond mesh fencing.

Security lighting would be provided at the entry points for both locations and remotely access and controlled infrared security cameras would be installed to monitor each site. Lighting at the EEC and park host site would be minimal and used only as needed. Landscaping would be provided at both site's roadway frontages and consist of evergreen hedgerows intended to screen views of the solar facilities.

Implementation of the proposed project would offset existing non-renewable energy use, thereby contributing to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and assisting in compliance with the County of Yolo's Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan, adopted in March 2011, fulfills the requirements of state legislation, including Assembly Bill 32, Senate Bills 97 and 375, and Executive Order S-3-05. The goal of the Climate Action Plan is to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, along with associated interim goals for years 2030 and 2040. One of the several measures proposed to assist achievement this target include the increased use of renewable energy and renewable energy production such as the proposed solar facilities.

The Draft EIR identifies the following areas as being less than significant with mitigation: air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, land use and planning, and noise. All remaining areas are less than significant or have no impact.

The County of Yolo is notifying all interested parties that the Draft EIR is available for public review and the 45-day comment period for the Draft EIR closes on Monday, October 15, 2012. All comments on the Draft EIR must be received in writing no later than 5 p.m. Monday, October 15, 2012. Please send comments to: Terry Vernon, Deputy Director, Yolo County Department of General Services, 120 W. Main Street, Suite C, Woodland, CA 95695, Fax:

530.668.1801, Email: [terry.vernon@yolocounty.org](mailto:terry.vernon@yolocounty.org). Please provide the name, address and telephone number of a contact person with your comments.

The Draft EIR is also available for public review at the at the Yolo County Department of General Services, 120 W. Main Street, Suite C, Woodland, CA 95695; the Woodland Public Library, 250 First Street Woodland, CA 95695; and the Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library, 315 E. 14th Street, Davis, CA 95616. For additional inquiries, please contact Mr. Terry Vernon, Deputy Director, Yolo County Department of General Services, at 530.406.4870.

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