



County of Yolo

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES PLANNING DIVISION

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY for the FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT for the YOLO COUNTY GIBSON SOLAR FARM PROJECT

DATE: May 24, 2023
TO: Responsible Agencies and Individuals
FROM: Yolo County Department of Community Services

The Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) (SCH # 2021-10-0191) for the Yolo County Gibson Solar Farm Project (ZF2020-0043) is now available for review. A public hearing in front of the Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, June 8, 2023, in the Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chambers, Room 205, located at 625 Court Street, Woodland, California at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter, to take action on the Project in the form of a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. More information is provided herein.

Yolo County (County) is the Lead Agency for the preparation and review of a Final EIR for the Gibson Solar Farm Project (Project). The Project consists of the construction and operation of an up to 20 megawatt alternating current (MWac, or MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility with a 6.5 MWac/26 megawatt hour (MWh) to 13 MWac/52 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on a 147.42-acre parcel of land zoned for agricultural uses. The proposed Project is a request for a Use Permit to construct and operate the Solar Farm. The Project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because the Project requires discretionary action by a public body.

The proposed Project would be located approximately 1.2 miles east of Esparto in an unincorporated area of Yolo County and would be constructed on a 147.42-acre parcel of land. Within that parcel, the PV modules would cover up to approximately 34.4 acres, and the area used for access roads, equipment, and other fixtures would require another 5.5 acres. The proposed Project would be located on a parcel that is currently in agricultural production and is surrounded by orchards and field crops. The parcel is currently enrolled in the Williamson Act under Agreement #71-206.

The electricity generated by the PV field will be used in part for charging the batteries, and the remaining energy generated by the PV farm will be delivered to the grid. Electricity generated by the proposed Project will be sold to the local Community Choice Aggregator, Valley Clean Energy, and be interconnected to the Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) electrical distribution system at the existing 21-kilovolt (kV) Madison Substation.

The Project alternatives that were considered during alternatives screening include:

- Alternative Sites for the solar facility
- Intensive Agrivoltaics Alternative
- Distributed Energy Alternative: Rooftop/parking lot locations
- Reduced Footprint Alternative

Adoption of the Project will require the following actions by the County:

- Certification of the Final EIR for the Project;
- Adoption of a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP), Findings, and Statement of Overriding Considerations;
- Approval of the Use Permit, along with Conditions of Approval;
- Other County permits such as Building and Grading Permits related to individual Project elements; and
- Cancellation or non-renewal of the Williamson Act Contract.

The County and its consultant, Aspen Environmental Group, have prepared a Final EIR (which includes the Draft EIR) pursuant to CEQA. The County will consider this information when deliberating adoption of the Project. Following certification of the Final EIR and adoption of the Project, other government agencies may rely on the EIR for CEQA compliance and/or tiering for Project elements.

The Gibson Solar Farm Final EIR and all documents incorporated by reference and other key references are now available to the public at the following website: <https://www.yolocounty.org/government/general-government-departments/community-services/planning-division/current-projects>

Electronic copies of the document may be requested free of charge. Printed copies of the document may be requested for a fee to cover the cost of copying. Printed copies of the document are also available for public review at the public counter at the address provided below. Printed or electronic copies of the document are also provided at the Woodland Public Library at 250 First Street, Woodland, CA 95695, and at the Esparto Regional Library at 17065 Yolo Ave, Esparto, CA 95627. Please contact Tracy Gonzalez (using the contact information provided below) for more information.

Meeting agendas, staff reports, and related information will be available at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at the following link:

<https://www.yolocounty.org/government/general-government-departments/communityservices/planningdivision/planning-commission-information/planning-commission-meeting-materials>

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in these hearings, please contact the Yolo County Department of Community Services at (530) 666-8078. Please make your request as early as possible and at least one-full business day before the start of the meeting.

The Project site is not listed on State databases compiled pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b)(2) and other provisions of law, any lawsuit challenging the approval of the Project described in this notice shall be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing or described in written correspondence delivered for consideration before the hearing is closed.

For more specific questions about the Project, please contact Tracy Gonzalez at:

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