

Imperial Solar Energy Center – South Project

Toward a safe, clean energy future: The 200-megawatt Imperial Solar Energy Center South will be located on private land in Imperial County, with a transmission line and access road that cross public lands.

VITALS

Location: Imperial County, CA

Technology: Photovoltaic

Electricity production capacity: 200 megawatts

Company: CSOLAR Development, LLC (Omaha, NE) (affiliate of Tenaska, Inc.)



THE BLM ACTION – the BLM authorizes

- ✓ A right-of-way for the 5,400 feet of the 8,500 east-west connector line that crosses BLM land and connects the private-land solar energy facility to the existing, north-south SDG&E infrastructure.
- ✓ A right-of-way for the segment of the existing dirt access road to access the transmission line for construction and maintenance.

BY THE NUMBERS - the project is expected to:

- ✓ Generate enough electricity to power between 60,000 and 150,000 homes
- ✓ Create up to 250 construction jobs and 4-5 permanent jobs
- ✓ Generate \$38,000 to \$80,000 in annual property taxes to Imperial County and an estimated \$3 million in local sales tax revenue from the private land parts of the project
- ✓ The applicant has applied for a loan through DOE's Recovery Act loan guarantee program that could provide up to 80% of project costs (\$400,000,000)
- ✓ Be located on 946 acres of private land, with a 19 acre right-of-way on BLM land

A SMART, COLLABORATIVE PROCESS: In April of 2009 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) committed to helping the nation reach its clean energy future by guaranteeing coordinated, focused processing, full environmental analysis and public review for specific renewable energy projects where the companies involved had demonstrated they were ready to advance to the formal environmental review and public participation process. In 2010, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar approved nine large-scale solar projects in California and Nevada with a potential output of more than 3,600 megawatts.

ANOTHER RECOVERY ACT LEGACY: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has served as an opportunity to transform the way we use energy, reducing our carbon emissions and create entire new industries based on American resources, ingenuity, and workers. Through the Recovery Act's extension of a Department of Energy program, CSOLAR Development, LLC has applied for a loan guarantee that would provide up to 80 percent of the project costs in loan guarantees, up to \$400,000,000.

STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND MITIGATION: The BLM is working closely with federal, state and local partners, members of the environmental and conservation community and interested stakeholders to advance environmentally sound projects.

- ✓ Alternative Habitat: Funding for acquisition and enhancement of flat-tailed horned lizard and burrowing owl habitat to compensate for project impacts.
- ✓ Avoiding Impacts: The project will be constructed on previously disturbed agricultural land, thus avoiding impacts to pristine desert lands.
- ✓ A Smaller Footprint: Rather than constructing new transmission facilities, CSOLAR Development, LLC will co-locate its transmission line on existing poles across much of the public land being crossed. This will minimize impacts to less than 20 acres of permanent disturbance on public land.

THE BIG PICTURE: The Imperial Solar Energy Center South Project is one of the projects that will help achieve the Administration and Interior initiative to make a rapid and responsible move to large-scale production of renewable energy on public lands. The State of California is working to achieve a 33% Renewable Portfolio Standard, which will require 15,000 – 20,000 MW of renewable energy by 2020. Connecting these projects to the grid to bring it to homes and businesses is key to this goal.