

Appendix B-1

Public Notice (December 21, 2010)

Imperial County
Planning & Development Services Department

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT EIS/EIR FOR OCOTILLO EXPRESS WIND ENERGY
PROJECT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC EIS/EIR SCOPING MEETINGS**

The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project, as described below. Public scoping meetings for the proposed EIR will be held by the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2nd Floor, County Administration Center located at 940 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 and Thursday, January 6, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ocotillo Community Park located at 266 West Imperial Highway, Ocotillo, CA 92259. Comments regarding the scope of the EIR will be accepted at this meeting. Also, a National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared to address the Applicant's request for grant of right of way through BLM lands.

SUBJECT: Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project EIS/EIR

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVAL: To Be Determined.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed wind energy facility site is located on BLM-administered lands and private land within the unincorporated area of the County of Imperial, in the vicinity of the unincorporated community of Ocotillo. A portion of the Imperial Highway runs through the proposed project site in a northwest to east direction, as well as the Interstate 8, which crosses a portion of the southern area of the proposed project site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project is the development of a wind energy facility on approximately 15,000 acres of open space and undeveloped range land. The proposed project would include wind turbine generators, operations and maintenance building, project substation, meteorological stations, underground electrical collector system, access roads, and fencing. The electric generating facility would connect to the new SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink 500-kV transmission line scheduled for completion in June 2012.

URBAN AREA PLAN: Ocotillo-Nomirage Community Area Plan

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT: District 2, Supervisor Jack Terrazas

ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS: The EIS/EIR will analyze potential impacts associated with the following: Air Resources; Climate Change; Cultural Resources; Cumulative Impacts; Environmental Justice; Lands and Realty; Mineral Resources; Multiple Use Classes; Noise; Paleontological Resources; Public Health and Safety; Recreation; Social and Economic Issues; Soil Resources; Special Designations; Transportation and Public Access; Vegetation Resources; Visual Resources; Water Resources; Wildland Fire Ecology; and Wildlife Resources.

COMMENTS REQUESTED: The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department would like to know your ideas about the effects the proposed project might have on the environment and your suggestions as to mitigation or ways the proposed project may be revised to reduce or avoid any significant environmental impacts. Your comments will guide the scope and content of environmental issues to be examined in the EIS/EIR. Your comments may be submitted in writing to: Angelina Havens, Planner III, Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. Available project information may be reviewed at this location.

NOTICE OF PREPARATION REVIEW PERIOD: December 21, 2010, through January 25, 2011.

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