

McCoy Solar Energy Project

Toward a safe, clean energy future: The McCoy Solar Energy Project is proposed on 4,383 acres of mostly public land in Riverside County, California, and could produce up to 750 megawatts of clean energy, enough to power up to 225,000 homes.

VITALS

Location: Riverside County, CA

Technology: Photovoltaic

Electricity production capacity: up to 750 megawatts

Company: McCoy Solar, LLC (NextEra)



BY THE NUMBERS - The project is expected to:

- ✓ Produce enough electricity to power up to 225,000 homes
- ✓ Create up to 600 jobs during peak construction and 13-20 permanent jobs
- ✓ Be built on 4,383 acres of mostly public lands near Blythe, including 477 acres of private lands.
- ✓ Connect to Southern California Edison's Colorado River Substation.

STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND MITIGATION: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is working closely with federal, state and local partners, members of the environmental and conservation community, tribes and interested stakeholders to advance environmentally sound projects. In the Final EIS for the project, the preferred alternative includes the following:

- ✓ **Avoiding Important Habitat:** Since the Draft EIS, the proposed project boundary has been shifted to avoid Desert Tortoise habitat and washes.
- ✓ **Mitigating Impacts:** The applicant, McCoy Solar, LLC, would be required to offset the remaining Desert Tortoise habitat the project disturbs by protecting habitat off the project site at a 1:1 ratio along with mitigation for impacts to lands with wilderness characteristics.
- ✓ **Smart Siting:** The BLM's preferred alternative would also shorten the project's gen-tie line, limiting ground disturbance and allow for joint use by the McCoy project and the Blythe Solar Power Project.

A SMART, COLLABORATIVE PROCESS: In April of 2009 the 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. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has approved 34 large-scale renewable energy projects since 2009 with a potential output of more than 10,000 megawatts.

A UNIQUE, INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP: On October 12, 2009 Secretary Salazar and then-Governor Schwarzenegger signed an agreement directing Interior agencies and California State agencies to create a federal-state initiative to advance development of environmentally appropriate renewable energy on U.S. lands in California. The BLM worked with Riverside County to analyze the regional effects of the McCoy Solar Energy Project. This cooperative model allowed for a more comprehensive analysis of the project with review by both parties within their respective environmental laws. The County has been fully involved in the development of the project.

THE BIG PICTURE: The McCoy Solar Energy 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.