

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2023030603

Project Title: Starlight Solar

Lead Agency: County of San Diego

Contact Name: Nick Koutoufidis

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Project Location: N/A (unincorporated area) San Diego
City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Starlight Solar Project (Project) is a proposed utility-scale solar and battery storage facility located on approximately 588 acres in southeastern San Diego County, south of Boulevard. The Project would generate up to 100 megawatts (MW) of alternating current (AC) solar energy and include a 217.4 MW battery energy storage system (BESS), constructed in two phases. The project requires a Major Use Permit and a Fire Services Agreement. The project includes photovoltaic panels with a maximum height of 12 feet, along with inverters, transformers, a collector substation, and a generation-tie line connecting to the SDG&E Boulevard substation. The Project also includes an approximately 448-acre off-site biological open space easement dedicated for conservation. The site's zoning is General Rural (S92), and the General Plan designates the land use as Rural Lands (RL-80). The facility would be unoccupied, secured, and remotely monitored.

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/ceqa/PDS2022-MUP-22-010.html>

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report identifies significant environmental impacts to Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazards, Hydrology and Water Quality, Wildfire, and Tribal Cultural Resources. Impacts to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazards, Hydrology and Water Quality, Wildfire, and Tribal Cultural Resources would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures. Impacts to Aesthetics would remain significant and unavoidable.

Aesthetics: non-reflective colors; setback;

Air Quality: Fugitive Dust Control Plan

Biological Resources: biological monitoring; temporary construction fencing; habitat preservation; Resource Management Plan; nesting bird surveys; burrowing owl take avoidance surveys; bat surveys and roosting avoidance/or exclusion; SWPPP monitoring; chemical pollutant avoidance; signage; noise reduction

Cultural Resources: temporary fencing; monitoring; treatment agreement and preservation plan; long term preservation

Geology: Geotech investigation/ Hydrology: perimeter fencing design

Noise: equipment selection/layout; PV panel washing protocol; construction noise management plan

Paleontological Resources: monitoring

Tribal Cultural Resources: temporary construction fencing; monitoring; long-term preservation

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Areas of known controversy include:

Aesthetics: impacts to scenic vistas and community character; light pollution; glint or glare impacts to motorists on I-8

Air Quality: air quality impacts, including diesel fuel combustion emissions and dust

Biological Resources: Compliance with applicable resource regulations, impacts to biological and natural resources, including impacts from human intrusion, drainage, soil, air flow, dust, lighting, and temperature changes

Cultural Resources: disclosure of any historical resources; impacts to archaeological resources; completion of tribal consultations and potential for significant tribal cultural resources: need for tribal cultural resource monitoring during ground disturbance

Hazards: hazards from battery storage systems

Hydrology and Water Quality: water impacts to Mexico; water quality impacts

Land Use and Planning: consistency with the Mountain Empire Subregional Plan and Jacumba's vision statement

Noise: noise and vibration impacts to residents

Other Areas of Controversy: environmental justice and socio-economic issues; including impacts to a low-income community; impacts to property values; lack of benefits to the community

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Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

San Diego County Fire Authority

Regional Water Quality Control Board

State of California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Department of Transportation

California Public Utilities Commission

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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