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Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Grapefruit 92-kV Switching Station Project

Notice is hereby given by the Imperial Irrigation District of the availability for public review of a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Grapefruit 92-kV Switching Station Project

The project involves demolition of the 6,269 square foot J26 Date Growers Building and the construction of a new 92-kV switching station. The project consists of the installation of four (4) 92-kV bays, one (1) control building including relay panels and a battery room; auxiliary equipment, and related grading, grounding, concrete foundations, structures, conduit, and perimeter block wall. Transmission power lines CI, R, K, CL, CN and CM will be relocated from the Coachella Switching Station to the new Grapefruit Switching Station. The project also includes four off-site poles for an overhead transmission line extending east across State Route 111/Grapefruit Boulevard, crossings over a roadside ditch and rail line, through an agricultural field to connect to an existing transmission tower. The existing circuit between Coachella Switching Station and Coachella Gas Turbines (GTs) will be intercepted with a 92-kV double circuit transmission line to Grapefruit Switching Station.

The project is being constructed in response to the findings of an IID reliability study that identified the need to upgrade the existing Coachella Switching Station. The current configuration has no redundancy and makes the electrical system vulnerable as an outage could potentially shut down the Coachella Switching Station. This outage is considered a credible under the North American Electric Reliability Corporation standard TPL-001 that all bulk electric system elements are required to comply with. The outcome of such an outage is a potential brownout in the Coachella Valley area.

The project will be located at 1280 Grapefruit Boulevard, Coachella, California in Riverside County at the northwest corner of Grapefruit Blvd. and Bagdad Ave.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration will be available for public review and comment for 30 days (from August 13, 2024 through September 11, 2024) Discussion of potential impacts and mitigation measures are included in the IS. No significant impacts were identified for the project and a Draft MND has been prepared and is recommended for adoption. Copies of the IS and Draft MND are on file at the Environmental Regulatory Compliance Unit offices of the IID located at 321 South Waterman Avenue, Suite 201, Valley Plaza, El Centro, California (hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday thru Thursday [and alternating Fridays]), and on the IID's website <https://www.iid.com/about-iid/environmental-documents-available-for-public-review>. All comments concerning this environmental document must be submitted in writing to:

Imperial Irrigation District
Attn: Donald Vargas, Compliance Administrator
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All comments must be received prior to the close of the business day on September 11, 2024. The Imperial Irrigation District is required to consider all written comments received during the noticed public review period prior to approving the project.