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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 #: 2025071048

Project Title: Discovery Solar PV and Storage Project by Discovery Solar PV and Storage, LLC

Lead Agency: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department

Contact Name: Mark Tolentino

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Project Location: Unincorporated areas near Mojave and Rosamond (*City*) Kern County (*County*)

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

The proposed Discovery Solar PV and Storage Project is a photovoltaic (PV) solar facility with associated infrastructure necessary to generate up to to 1,400 megawatts (MW) of renewable electrical energy with up to 8 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of energy storage capacity (approximately 1,000 MW) on an approximate 7,700 acre project site, across 473 privately owned parcels, in an unincorporated area of southeastern Kern County. Associated project infrastructure includes an operations and maintenance (O&M) facility, telecommunication facilities, energy storage system(s), a 230 kilovolt switchyard, up to three onsite collector substations, and temporary laydown yards. The proposed project also includes a generation-tie (gen-tie) line to connect the project to the existing Windhub Substation.
The proposed project site is located at the western edge of the Antelope Valley, approximately 6 miles southwest of the community of Mojave, approximately 9 miles southeast of the City of Tehachapi, approximately 8 miles northwest of the unincorporated community of Rosamond, and approximately 20 miles west of Edwards Air Force Base. Portions of the proposed project are adjacent to and on both sides of the Tehachapi Willow Springs Road, and the LADWP aqueduct.

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

Potentially significant adverse environmental impacts that would result from the proposed project are evaluated in Chapter 4, Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures. The mitigation measures and impact conclusions are summarized in Chapter 1, Executive Summary, which includes a summary table of impact conclusions for all topic areas. This Draft EIR concludes that, even with the implementation of mitigation measures, the proposed project has the potential to cause significant and unavoidable impacts in the following impact categories:

- Aesthetics and Visual Resources (project and cumulative – visual character and public views)
- Biological Resources (project (Western Joshua Trees) and cumulative)
- Wildfire (cumulative only)

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 controversy were identified through written agency and public comments received during the scoping period. Public comments received during the scoping period are summarized in Chapter 2, Introduction, and provided in Appendix A.2. In summary, the following issues were identified during scoping and are addressed in the appropriate sections of Chapter 4, Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures:

- Conversion of undeveloped desert land and impacts to desert biological resources.
- Special status species and high-value biological resources that provide important habitat are present.
- Impacts related to tribal cultural resources
- Labor agreements and implementation of training to prevent spread of COVID-19
- Impacts related to groundwater pumping and monitoring
- Health and Safety concerns involving battery energy storage
- Impacts to property values adjacent to proposed solar arrays
- Changes to non-project property access resulting from proposed Vesting Tentative Parcel Maps and subsequent easement vacations

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

Federal Agencies
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

State Agencies
California Air Resources Board; California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division; California Department of Fish and Wildlife; California Department of Public Health; California Department of Toxic Substances Control; California Department of Transportation (District 9); Caltrans Division of Aeronautics; Caltrans Planning; California Energy Commission; California Highway Patrol; California Native American Heritage Commission; California Office of Historic Preservation; California State Lands Commission; Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation; Office of the State Fire Marshall; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley District; State Water Resources Control Board; California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; California Department of Parks & Recreation; California Resources Agency; Department of Water Resources

Local Agencies
Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District; Kern Council of Governments; Kern County Public Works Department; Kern County Fire Department; Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department; Kern County Public Health Services Department, Environmental Health Division