

DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND)

Lead Agency: Mission Springs Water District
66575 Second Street
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240

Contact: Danny Friend
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Project Title: RES-BCT and Regional Water Reclamation Facility Solar Development Project

State Clearinghouse Number: Not yet assigned

Project Location: The Mission Springs Water District (MSWD or District) service area is located in southern California within the northwestern portion of the Coachella Valley. The project will occur within several parcels owned by the District along Little Morongo Road, at and just north of the Nancy Wright Regional Water Reclamation Facility (RWRF). The project is generally located at 19011 Little Morongo Road, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240, and surrounds the existing photovoltaic system owned by the District. The project is located within the USGS Topo 7.5-minute map for Desert Hot Springs, CA, and is located in Section 14, Township 3 South and Range 4 East. The approximate GPS coordinates of the project area are 33.911291°, -116.528833°. Refer to Figures 1 and 2 for the regional and site location maps.

Project Description: As part of the District's continued development of the Nancy Wright Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility [Nancy Wright RWRF], the District has determined that its operations would be best served with expanded solar generation to the north of the Nancy Wright RWRF site. Thus, the District will serve as the CEQA lead agency for the proposed project, which would involve installation of ground mounted solar to the north and west of the existing solar plant located at the northwest intersection of 19th Avenue and Little Morongo Road. The first photovoltaic system would be installed in support of the existing RES-BCT site (north of the existing photovoltaic system along Little Morongo Road) and would be sized at 3,585 kilowatts (kW) (the system's Direct Current [DC] system rating). The second photovoltaic system would be installed in support of the Nancy Wright RWRF site (west of the existing photovoltaic system along 19th Avenue), and would be sized at 392.04 kW (the system's DC system rating). Each of the proposed solar facilities will require installation of associated transmission lines and electrical appurtenances. Construction of this project is anticipated to begin in Quarter 4 of 2025, and conclude in (approximately) the second quarter of 2026. The photovoltaic systems at the Nancy Wright RWRF and RES-BCT would generate a combined 3.97 megawatt of electricity per day.

Finding:

The District's decision to implement this proposed project is a discretionary decision or "project" that requires evaluation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Based on the information in the project Initial Study, the District has made a *preliminary* determination that a Mitigated Negative Declaration will be the appropriate environmental determination for this project to comply with CEQA.

Initial Study:

A copy of the Initial Study and all other material which constitutes the record of proceedings upon which the District based its decision to adopt this MND may be obtained at District office at 66575 Second Street Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240 and is available at the District's website: <https://www.mswd.org/solarceqa>. The CEQA-required public review period of the Initial Study/MND September 16, 2025 and ends on October 16, 2025 (30-days). Written comments on the Initial Study should be submitted to Mr. Danny Friend at the mailing address listed below no later than October 16, 2025 by 5:00 PM. Mr. Friend may be contacted at dfriend@mswd.org or (760) 329-6448.

Mitigation Measures:

All mitigation measures identified in the Initial Study are summarized on pages 110-114 and are proposed for adoption as conditions of the project. These measures will be implemented through a mitigation monitoring and reporting program if the MND is adopted.

DRAFT
Signature

Title

Date