To: Office of Planning & Research
(Agency)

P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
(Address)

Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Lead Agency:		**Consulting Firm** (If applicable):	
Agency Name	Imperial County, Planning & Dev Svcs.	Firm Name	HDR
Street Address	801 Main Street	Street Address	591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 300
City/State/Zip	El Centro, CA 92243	City/State/Zip	San Diego, CA 92108
Contact	Alan Molina	Contact	Tim Gnibus

The County of Imperial will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the Environmental Information, which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study is attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but ***not later than 35 days*** after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to Imperial County Planning & Development Services, Attn: Alan Molina at the address shown above. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

Project Title: Heber 1 Parasitic Solar Energy Project

Project Location: The proposed project would be located on one privately-owned parcel (Assessor Parcel Number [APN] 059-020-001) at 602 Dogwood Road in the southern portion of Imperial County, California. The project site is approximately 1.4 miles south of the community of Heber. The proposed solar energy facility would encompass approximately 106 acres in the southern portion of APN 059-020-001. The northern portion of APN 059-020-001 has been previously approved for the development and operation of the Heber 2 Parasitic Solar and Dogwood Parasitic Solar Projects. The proposed solar energy facility would be developed southwest of the existing Heber 1 Geothermal Plant located on APN 054-250-036 at 895 Pitzer Road in Heber, California.

Interstate 8 (I-8), located approximately 4.5 miles directly north, provides primary highway access to the project site. Dogwood Road stems off I-8 and provides immediate access to the project site. From the south, Willoughby Road runs west-east approximately 1,700 feet from the project site and connects to Dogwood Road, providing immediate site access.

Project Description (brief)**:** The project applicant proposes to develop a 20 megawatt (MW) solar energy facility and interconnecting cable line (gen-tie line) that would provide parasitic load to the existing Heber 1 Geothermal Plant. The solar energy facility would provide behind-the-meter power used to offset the auxiliary load of the existing Heber 1 Geothermal Plant. The solar energy facility would not connect to or generate power that will enter the transmission grid; rather, the solar energy facility would be entirely behind-the-meter and would serve as an integrated part of the operation of the existing Heber 1 Geothermal Plant. There are three route options proposed, of

which only one will be chosen, for the medium voltage cable that would connect the new 20 MW solar energy facility to the existing Heber 1 Geothermal Plant.

The County Land Use Ordinance, Division 17, includes the Renewable Energy Overlay Zone, which authorizes the development and operation of renewable energy projects, with an approved CUP. As shown in Figure 1, the project site is located within the Geothermal Overlay Zone, which is considered as part of the County's Renewable Energy Overlay Zone. Implementation of the project would require the approval of a CUP by the County to allow for the construction and operation of the proposed solar energy facility.

Project Applicant: Heber Field Company, LLC

Date 10-24-2025 Signature

Title ICPDS Assistant Director

Telephone (442) 265-1736

Reference: California Administrative Code, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Section 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

Figure 1. Project Location

