NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE HEBER 1 PARASITIC SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT

January 28, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, as lead agency, is circulating for public review a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Heber 1 Parasitic Solar Energy Project.

Project Title: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Heber 1 Parasitic Solar Energy Project. (CUP25-0010) (State Clearinghouse [SCH] #2025101397).

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 an up to 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. 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, as an accessory facility to the existing Heber 1 Geothermal Plant.

Probable Environmental Effects: Aesthetics; Agricultural Resources; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Energy; Geology and Soils; Hydrology/Water Quality; and Tribal Cultural Resources.

Availability: The Draft EIR can be reviewed by appointment at the following location: Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. To make an appointment please contact Alan Molina at (442) 265-1736. The document can be reviewed on-line at: www.icpds.com.

Comments: Written comments regarding the Draft EIR should be directed to Alan Molina, Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 and must be received **no later than March 18, 2026** (public review period is from January 28, 2026, through

March 18, 2026). A Final EIR incorporating public input will be prepared for consideration by the Imperial County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors at a future public meeting. For environmental review information for this project, please contact Alan Molina at (442) 265-1736.

This notice was published in the Imperial Valley Press on January 28, 2026