KERN COUNTY
Planning & Natural Resources

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DATE: April 22, 2026

TO: See Attached Mailing List

FROM: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Andrea Calderon, Planner II
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SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Winston Solar Project by Winston Solar, LLC. (PP26402)

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department as Lead Agency (per CEQA Guidelines Section 15062) has determined that preparation of an EIR (per CEQA Guidelines 15161) is necessary for the proposed project identified below. Agencies on the attached mailing list may need to use the EIR prepared by the Department when considering their permit or other approvals for the proposed project.

PROJECT TITLE: Winston Solar Project by Winston Solar, LLC. (PLN20-01432); ZCC No. 37, Map 77; CUP No. 21, Map 77; CUP No. 20, Map 98; CUP No. 29, Map 99; GPA No. 14, Map 77; GPA No. 11, Map 99; FSZ Cancellation; WALUC Cancellations.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The NOP for the above referenced project is available for public review at the Planning and Natural Resources Department, which is located at the address listed above or it can be accessed on the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department website at: **https://kernplanning.com/planning/notices-of-preparation**

AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENT: The Planning and Natural Resources Department solicits the comments of agencies, interested parties, and surrounding property owners as to the scope and content of the environmental information for the proposed project and the upcoming EIR. Any comments should be submitted to the planner whose contact information is identified above prior to the close of the NOP public review period. As mandated by State law, the NOP public review period for the proposed project is 30 days.

April 22, 2026 – May 22, 2026

SCOPING MEETING: A scoping meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.** at the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department, which is located at the address listed above for an overview of the CEQA process as well as the proposed project, and to receive comments for the preparation of the EIR.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project site is in western Kern County, northeast of Interstate 5 (I-5), south of Burbank Street, and west of Tracy Avenue, approximately two miles northeast of the community of Buttonwillow in unincorporated Kern County. It is located on the east side of I-5 along 7th Standard Road. Access to the proposed project site is from 7th Standard Road, Wildwood Road, Burbank Street, and Wasco Way.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed Winston Solar Project is a photovoltaic (PV) solar facility with associated infrastructure necessary to generate up to 200-megawatt (MW) of renewable electrical energy and up to 200 MW or 1,600

megawatt-hours (MWh) of battery energy storage, on approximately 1,357 acres across privately-owned parcels, in an unincorporated area of western Kern County, California.

The proposed project includes the following land-use entitlements:

(a) Zone Classification Change (ZCC No. 27, Map 77) from A-1 (Limited Agriculture) to A (Exclusive Agriculture), or a more restrictive zone district on approximately 464 acres.

(b) Conditional Use Permit (CUP No. 21, Map 77) to allow for the construction and operation of a PV solar facility with the associated infrastructure necessary to generate up to 200 MW of renewable energy and up to 200 MW or 1,600 MWh of BESS on approximately 1,047 acres in the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District pursuant to Section 19.12.030.G of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance.

(c) Conditional Use Permit (CUP No. 20, Map 98) to allow for the construction and operation of a PV solar facility with the associated infrastructure necessary to generate up to 200 MW of renewable energy and up to 200 MW or 1,600 MWh of BESS on approximately 75 acres in the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District pursuant to Section 19.12.030.G of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance.

(d) Conditional Use Permit (CUP No. 29, Map 99) to allow for the construction and operation of a PV solar facility with the associated infrastructure necessary to generate up 200 MW or renewable energy and up to 200 MW or 1,600 MWh of BESS on approximately 235 acres in the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District pursuant to Section 19.12.030.G of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance.

(e) General Plan Amendment (GPA No. 14, Map 77) to the Circulation Element of the Kern County General Plan to remove future road reservations on the section and midsection lines within the project boundaries of Sections 25 and 36 of Township 28 South, Range 23 East of M.D.B.&M.

(f) General Plan Amendment (GPA No. 11, Map 99) to the Circulation Element of the Kern County General Plan to remove future road reservations on the section and midsection lines within the project boundaries of Section 6, Township 29 South, Range 24 East of M.D.B.&M.

(g) Cancellation of approximately 240 acres of active Williamson Act Land Use Contracts.

(h) Cancellation of approximately 235 acres of active Farmland Security Zone Contract

Signature: Andrea Calderon Date: 04/22/26

Printed Name: Andrea Calderon Title: Planner II