



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife

2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER:

E202610000233

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
COUNTY OF FRESNO		08/03/2026
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING		DOCUMENT NUMBER
FRESNO COUNTY		E202610000233
PROJECT TITLE		

ORLEANS SOLAR-STORAGE PROJECT, UNCLASSIFIED CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APP NO. 3833; EIR NO. 8798

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
COUNTY OF FRESNO		(559) 600-4245
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	CITY	STATE
2220 TULARE STREET	FRESNO	CA
		ZIP CODE
		93721

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,227.50	\$	0.00
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$3,043.75	\$	0.00
☒ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,437.25	\$	0.00

☐ Exempt from fee☐ Notice of Exemption (attach)☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	0.00
☐ County documentary handling fee	\$50.00	\$	0.00
☒ Other NOP		\$	0.00

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 0.00

SIGNATURE

X

Cyan Edmisten

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

Cyan Edmisten Deputy Clerk

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND PUBLIC
SCOPING MEETING FOR THE ORLEANS SOLAR-STORAGE PROJECT**

TO: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, other interested agencies, and members of the public

FROM: County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning,
Development Services and Capital Projects Division
2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor
Fresno, CA 93721

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Orleans Solar-Storage Project

Date: August 3, 2026

Action: The County of Fresno (County) will be the Lead Agency for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will be responsible for preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines for the Orleans Solar-Storage Project.

Project Title: Orleans Solar-Storage Project, Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3833;
EIR No. 8798

Project Applicant: Adapture Renewables, Inc. (Orleans Energy Center, LLC)

Project Summary: Adapture Renewables, Inc. (Applicant) proposes to construct, operate, maintain, and eventually decommission a utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) energy generating facility with battery energy storage on approximately 160 acres of private land in western Fresno County (Figure 1). The Applicant has filed an application for an unclassified conditional use permit (CUP) to authorize the Project. The Project would include a ground-mounted PV solar facility with a generating capacity of approximately 25 megawatts alternating current (MWac), consisting of PV modules mounted on steel racking systems supported by driven or drilled steel piles; a battery energy storage system (BESS) with a capacity of approximately 25 MWac and a storage duration of up to approximately 8 hours (approximately 200 megawatt-hours [MWh]), using commercially available battery technology (which could include lithium-ion, sodium-ion, zinc, lead acid, vanadium, sodium sulfur, or sodium or nickel hydride technologies) in prefabricated containers with integrated thermal management and fire suppression systems; an onsite electrical substation to step up voltage from the 34.5-kilovolt (kV) internal collection system to 70 kV for grid interconnection; an approximately 1-mile, 70-kV overhead generation-tie (gen-tie) line connecting the onsite substation to the existing Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) Giffen 70-kV Substation, routed along South Stanislaus Avenue; internal electrical collection infrastructure, including underground 34.5-kV cables connecting inverter and transformer stations to the onsite substation; and gravel-surfaced access roads, perimeter security fencing, security lighting, a stormwater management system, and an operations and maintenance (O&M) building.

FILED

AUG 03 2026 **TIME** _____

FRESNO COUNTY CLERK
Cyan Edmisten
DEPUTY
Cyan Edmisten

Required upgrades to the existing PG&E Giffen Substation would be completed as part of PG&E's interconnection scope, as needed to allow the gen-tie line to cross an existing distribution line. These upgrades would include the addition of a half breaker within the existing fenceline and raising the height of two existing transmission poles on the west side of South Stanislaus Avenue to allow the gen-tie line to exit the Project substation and cross under to the east. Modifications or upgrades required within the existing fenceline of the PG&E Griffen Substation would be performed by PG&E under its own authority and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) oversight, as the CPUC is identified as a responsible agency for the PG&E substation interconnection.

Construction would occur over approximately 12 months and would include site clearing, grading, foundation installation, PV module and BESS installation, electrical infrastructure construction, gen-tie line construction, and testing and commissioning. Grading would be limited to minor cuts and fills to establish level pad areas for the substation, BESS, and O&M facility and to create internal access roads. The Project would operate for approximately 35 years, generating electricity during daylight hours and storing and discharging energy from the BESS. The facility would be monitored remotely and visited periodically for maintenance, panel washing, and vegetation management. Operational water demand would be approximately 2.5 acre-feet per year. At the end of the Project's operational life, Project components would be removed over a period of approximately 4 months, and the site would be restored to pre-project conditions or returned to agricultural use in accordance with a Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan approved by the County.

Location: The Project site is located in unincorporated western Fresno County, California, in the western San Joaquin Valley near the community of Cantua Creek. The site is situated north of West Nebraska Avenue and west of South Stanislaus Avenue. The Project site is identified as Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 038-080-09, located in Section 4, Township 16 South, Range 15 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, within the Cantua Creek, California, 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle. Regional access is available via Interstate 5 and State Route 33 to the west and State Route 41 and connecting county roads to the east.

Land Use Designation and Physical Setting: The Fresno County General Plan designates the Project site for Agriculture. The Project site has been fallow for approximately the last two years and consists primarily of bare agricultural fields. A small area of alfalfa was recently planted; however, the crop was not successfully established due to limited water availability. The terrain is flat, with elevations ranging from approximately 205 to 216 feet above mean sea level. No native vegetation communities, wetlands, or structures are present on the site. Surrounding land uses are predominantly agricultural. The Project site is located within Westlands Water District and overlies the Westside Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin. Water would be supplied from an onsite groundwater well or other approved source. A Water Supply Assessment has been prepared in accordance with California Water Code Section 10910 et seq. A project description, maps, and figures are available for review at the following locations:

- County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning, 2220 Tulare Street, Suite B Annex, Fresno, CA 93721
- County of Fresno website: <https://www.fresnocountyca.gov/projectreview#CUP3833>

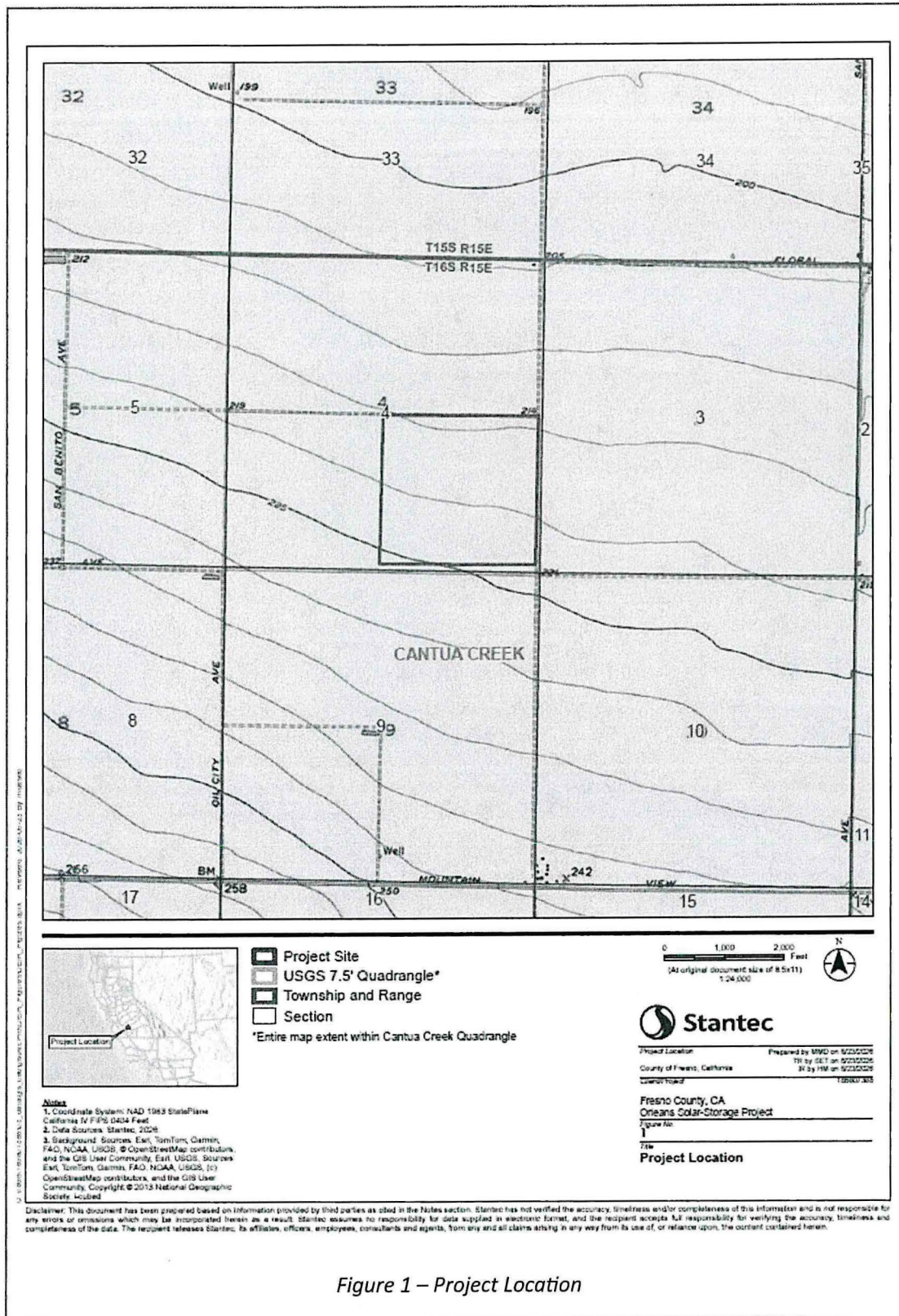


Figure 1 – Project Location

Alternatives to be Analyzed in the EIR: In accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15126.6, the Draft EIR will assess a reasonable range of alternatives to the Project that could feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the Project while reducing or avoiding any of its significant environmental effects. The alternatives analysis will include, at a minimum, a No Project Alternative. Additional alternatives will be developed based on the results of the environmental analysis and input received during the scoping process. Input is requested in identifying potential alternatives for consideration in the EIR.

Potential Environmental Impacts: Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15060(d), the County has determined that this Project could result in one or more significant impacts on the physical environment, thereby necessitating the preparation of an EIR, and so has not prepared an Initial Study. The EIR will analyze all topics identified in the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Environmental Checklist after establishing the environmental setting (or baseline) for the analysis. The EIR will identify potential significant direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the Project and alternatives related to:

- Aesthetic quality, including visual character, scenic vistas, and light and glare associated with the solar facility, BESS, gen-tie line, and substation within the agricultural landscape;
- Agriculture and forestry resources, including the conversion of approximately 160 acres of agricultural land to solar energy use, farmland classifications, Williamson Act status, and consistency with the Fresno County Solar Facility Guidelines;
- Air quality and noise affecting potential sensitive receptors, particularly during construction, including consistency with San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District rules and thresholds, and Valley Fever risk;
- The interrelated topics of air quality, energy use, transportation, and greenhouse gas emissions;
- Biological resources, including special-status plant and wildlife species, nesting birds, burrowing owl, Swainson's hawk, San Joaquin kit fox, wildlife movement, wetlands, and consistency with applicable habitat conservation plans;
- Cultural and tribal cultural resources, including historical and archaeological resources, treatment of previously unidentified human remains, and consultation with California Native American tribes under Assembly Bill 52;
- Geology, soils, and paleontological resources, hazards and hazardous materials (including BESS-related fire and thermal runaway risks), hydrology and water quality, utilities, water supply, and related considerations and constraints;
- The Project's relationship to land use and planning, including consistency with the Fresno County General Plan, zoning ordinance, and Solar Facility Guidelines, as well as mineral resources and recreation;
- Population and housing, public services, and utilities and service systems;
- Wildfire, including the potential to exacerbate wildfire risks, BESS-related fire hazards, and emergency access and evacuation; and

Growth inducement, in relation to existing, adopted development plans for Fresno County.

Written Comments: This Notice of Preparation (NOP) solicits input from Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Tribes, and other interested parties so that Project-related concerns relevant to each agency's statutory responsibilities can be addressed in the EIR. The County requests that any potential Responsible or Trustee Agencies respond to this NOP in a manner consistent with CEQA Guidelines §15082(b), which allows for submittal of any comments in response to this notice no later than 30 days after receipt of the NOP. Comments in response to this NOP will be accepted from August 3, 2026 through September 2, 2026.

Please send written scoping input to:

Attn: Arianna Brown, Planner
Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning
Development Services and Capital Projects Division
2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor
Fresno, CA 93721

Email: arbrown@fresnocountyca.gov

Phone: 1 (559) 600-4245

When submitting written comments, please reference EIR No. 8798 Orleans Solar-Storage Project. Please include your name, address, and phone number and/or email address so that we may contact you for clarification, if necessary.

Public Scoping Meeting: CEQA encourages public input throughout the planning process. Consistent with CEQA and CEQA Guidelines §15083, oral and written comments may be presented at a meeting where the County will solicit input on the scope and content of the EIR, including environmental impacts of concern and mitigation measures or alternatives that should be considered. Scoping meeting details are as follows:

Date: August 12, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM (PST)

MS Teams Link (if joining from a computer):

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/240232586757321?p=Mtmd3luOkI7VUZCT9T>

- **Meeting ID:** 240 232 586 757 321
- **Passcode:** RZ2fN34Y

Dial in by phone:

- +1 213-336-0347
- Phone conference ID: 740 659 463#