

## Tessera Solar's Imperial Valley Solar Project

**Toward a safe, clean energy future:** Tessera Solar's Imperial Valley Solar Project is the first solar energy project ever approved for construction on public lands. When completed, it will be one of the largest solar energy producers in the United States.

### VITALS

**Location:** Imperial County, CA

**Technology:** Solar Dish (SunCatcher)

**Electricity production capacity:** 709 megawatts

**Company:** Tessera Solar North America (Texas)

### BY THE NUMBERS - the project is expected to:

- ✓ Generate enough electricity to power approximately 212,700 - 531,750 homes
- ✓ Create over 900 new jobs
- ✓ Generate \$840,000 of tax revenue annually in property taxes paid to Imperial County
- ✓ Secure approximately \$638 million through the Recovery Act
- ✓ Be located on 6,360 acres. The BLM oversees more than 1.2 million acres in Imperial County, including nearly 600,000 managed for conservation.



**A SMART, COLLABORATIVE PROCESS:** In April of 2009 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) committed to helping the nation reach its clean energy future by guaranteeing coordinated processing, full environmental analysis and public review for specific renewable energy projects where the companies involved had demonstrated they were ready to advance to the formal environmental review and public participation process.

**A UNIQUE, INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP:** On October 12, 2009 Secretary Salazar and Governor Schwarzenegger signed an agreement directing Interior agencies and California State agencies to create a federal-state initiative to advance development of environmentally appropriate renewable energy on U.S. lands in California. The Imperial Valley Solar Project is one of the projects jointly processed through the BLM and the California Energy Commission cooperative model.

**STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND MITIGATION:** The BLM worked closely with federal, state and local partners, members of the environmental and conservation community and interested stakeholders to advance environmentally sound projects.

- ✓ Smaller footprint: the BLM selected an alternative design that reduced the project size from 6,500 acres to 6,360 acres, minimizing impacts to biological resources and surface drainages.
- ✓ Cultural Preservation: the BLM is requiring comprehensive plans to document and preserve the San Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.
- ✓ Plant Mitigation: Tessera Solar must compensate for lands containing special-status plant species that cannot be avoided during construction by a ratio of 2:1.
- ✓ Alternative Habitat: Tessera Solar is acquiring more than 6,600 acres of flat-tail horned lizard habitat to mitigate the project's impacts.
- ✓ A Net Benefit: the expected tax revenue from the project more than offsets the potential lost tax revenue associated with the acquisition of mitigation acres.

**ANOTHER RECOVERY ACT LEGACY:** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has served as an opportunity to transform the way we use energy, reducing our carbon emissions and create entire new industries based on America's resources, America's ingenuity, and America's workers. Through the Recovery Act's payments in lieu of tax credits for specified energy program, Tessera Solar can apply for payments of up to 30% of the eligible costs of the Imperial Valley Solar project—approximately \$638 million. These payments are authorized by Section 1603 of the ARRA tax title.

**THE BIG PICTURE:** Secretary Salazar has established a Department-wide goal to complete the environmental reviews for 9,000 MW of renewable energy by the end of 2011. The State of California is working to achieve a 33% Renewable Portfolio Standard, which will require 15,000 – 20,000 MW of renewable energy by 2020. The Tessera Solar Imperial Valley Solar project is one of the initiatives that will help bring California and this nation one step closer to a clean energy economy.