

Imperial Solar Energy Center – West Project

Toward a safe, clean energy future: The Imperial Solar Energy Center West will generate up to 250 megawatts of power and be located on private, fallowed farm lands in Imperial County, with a transmission line and access road that cross public lands.

VITALS

Location: Imperial County, CA

Technology: Concentrated Photovoltaic or Photovoltaic

Electricity production capacity: Up to 250 megawatts (MW)

Company: CSOLAR Development, LLC (Omaha, NE)
(affiliate of Tenaska, Inc.)



THE BLM ACTION – the BLM authorizes:

- ✓ A right-of-way across five miles of BLM land for a 230 kilovolt transmission line and access road connecting the private land solar energy facility to the existing Imperial Valley Substation.

BY THE NUMBERS - the project is expected to:

- ✓ Generate enough electricity to power between 75,000 and 187,500 homes.
- ✓ Create up to 285 construction jobs and four to five direct permanent jobs.
- ✓ Generate \$38,000 to \$73,000 in annual property taxes to Imperial County and up to \$5 million in local sales tax revenue from the private land parts of the project.
- ✓ Be located on 1,130 acres of private land, with a 65 acre right-of-way on BLM land.

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, focused 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. In 2010, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar approved nine large-scale solar projects in California and Nevada with a potential output of more than 3,600 megawatts.

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 American resources, ingenuity, and workers. Through the Recovery Act's payments in lieu of tax credits for specified energy program, Imperial Solar Energy Center West

can apply for payments of up to 30% of the eligible costs of the solar project. These Treasury Department payments are authorized by Section 1603 of the ARRA tax title and the program was extended by one year under Section 707 of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010.

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

- ✓ **Alternative Habitat:** The BLM is requiring funding for acquisition of about 82 acres of flat-tailed horned lizard habitat to compensate for project impacts. Other agencies will require more than 40 additional mitigation acres for potential impacts to burrowing owl and other habitat.
- ✓ **Avoiding Impacts:** The project will be constructed on previously disturbed agricultural land, thus avoiding impacts to pristine desert lands. The project has been configured to avoid impacts to significant cultural resources, including prehistoric sites characterized by foot trails and trail markers and rock rings.
- ✓ **Reducing Public Land Impacts:** The chosen alternative re-routes a portion of the transmission line through a private land parcel. One fewer transmission tower will be built on BLM land than under the originally proposed action, thus reducing impacts on public lands.

THE BIG PICTURE: The Imperial Solar Energy Center West Project is one of the projects that will help achieve the Administration and Interior initiative to make a rapid and responsible move to large-scale production of renewable energy on public lands. 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. Connecting these projects to the grid to bring it to homes and businesses is key to this goal.