

Rice Solar Energy Project

Toward a safe, clean energy future: The 150-megawatt Rice Solar Energy Project will be located on previously disturbed private land in Riverside County, with transmission lines that cross public lands.

VITALS

Location: Riverside County, CA

Technology: Solar Thermal Power Tower with molten salt storage—a system that can capture solar energy and deliver power to the grid even after the sun has set.

Electricity production capacity: 150 megawatts

Company: Rice Solar, LLC, a subsidiary of SolarReserve, LLC (Santa Monica, California)



BY THE NUMBERS - the project is expected to:

- ✓ Produce enough electricity to power 45,000-112,500 homes
- ✓ Create 450 jobs during peak construction and 50 permanent jobs
- ✓ Generate more than \$48 million in state and local tax revenue over the first 10 years of operation.
- ✓ Be built on 1,410 acres of previously disturbed private land.
- ✓ Includes a substation with 8 miles of transmission line on public lands (154 acres).

STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND MITIGATION: The Bureau of Land Management (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:** SolarReserve will be required to provide funding for acquisition and enhancement of 1,522 acres to compensate for impacts to desert tortoise habitat on private and public land.
- ✓ **Smart Siting:** The solar project will be constructed on previously disturbed land - an abandoned airfield on private land - avoiding impacts to higher quality habitat.

A SMART, COLLABORATIVE PROCESS: In April of 2009 the 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.

A UNIQUE, INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP: On October 12, 2009 Secretary Salazar and then 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 Rice Solar Energy Project is one of the projects jointly processed through the BLM and the California Energy Commission cooperative model. It was licensed by the California Energy Commission on December 15, 2010.

THE BIG PICTURE: The Rice Solar Energy 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.