

## Desert Sunlight Solar Farm (DRAFT as of 7/28)

**Toward a safe, clean energy future:** The Desert Sunlight Solar Project will provide up to 550 megawatts of power through photovoltaic solar technology, and is the first of the Department of Interior's 2011 solar projects to be approved on public lands in 2011.

### VITALS

**Location:** Riverside County, CA

**Technology:** Photovoltaic

**Electricity production capacity:** 550 megawatts

**Company:** Desert Sunlight Holdings, LLC



### THE BLM ACTION – the BLM authorizes:

- ✓ 4,144 acres for the Desert Sunlight Solar Farm and associated facilities. The BLM oversees more than 1.5 million acres in Riverside County, including nearly a million managed for conservation.
- ✓ Amendments to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan identifying the Desert Sunlight Solar Farm site as available for solar energy development and identifying 14,500 acres in the Project Study Area as unavailable for solar energy development.

### BY THE NUMBERS –

- ✓ Expected to generate enough electricity to power 165,000 – 412,500 homes
- ✓ Expected to create up to 630 construction jobs and 15 permanent jobs
- ✓ Expected to generate \$12 million of tax revenue annually in property taxes paid to Riverside County
- ✓ Expected to cost approximately \$1.5 billion, conservatively. Desert Sunlight has secured a \$1.88 billion through DOE's Recovery Act loan guarantee program.
- ✓ Expected to infuse \$193 million into the local economy during construction and \$2 million annually in overall economic output once the project is up and running.

**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.

**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.

- ✓ Alternative Habitat: Funding for acquisition and enhancement of desert tortoise and other sensitive wildlife species.
- ✓ A Good Neighbor: Funding of a Signage and Guidance Plan to minimize potential impacts to Joshua Tree National Park and Wilderness Areas.
- ✓ Groundwater Monitoring: Pre-construction, construction, and post-construction groundwater monitoring to avoid impacts to existing wells and sensitive vegetation communities within three miles of the project.

**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 an extension of the Recovery Act's payments in lieu of tax credits for specified energy projects, Desert Sunlight can apply for payments of up to 30% of the eligible costs of the project. These payments are authorized by Section 1603 of the ARRA tax title.

**THE BIG PICTURE:** The Desert Sunlight Solar Project is one of the projects that will help achieve the Administration and Interior's 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.