Public Notice – 401 Certification Application

Date:
March 16, 2020

Applicant:
Ocotillo Wells Solar, LLC
2925 Richmond Avenue, 11th Floor
Houston, Texas 77098
Contact: R. Andrew dePass
Click here to contact via email – adp@vitol.com

Project Name:

Ocotillo Solar, WDID No. 7B133044001

Receiving Water:

Unnamed ephemeral non-wetland waters and unnamed ephemeral "isolated" non-wetland waters of the Anza-Borrego Rivershed; San Diego County, California

Location:

The project area is south of the town of Ocotillo Wells, San Diego County, California. The project site is located directly south of the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area and State Route 78, east of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, west of State Route 86, and north of the town of Ocotillo. The project site is located within privately held lands within unincorporated desert open space and is approximately five miles south of the Seville First Solar Farm.

City or area: Ocotillo Wells, San Diego County, California

Longitude/ Latitude: 33.08031/ -116.08771

Township/Range: T12S/ R8E

Project Description:

The proposed Ocotillo Solar Project will construct and operate a commercial-scale photovoltaic solar farm to provide 50 megawatts of power to the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) transmission grid, decreasing demand on the capacity of the existing power distribution system and reducing the potential for power shortages to occur. Energy generated by the proposed project would be transmitted to a private substation proposed in the northeast corner of the site, adjacent to an existing 92 kilovolt (kV) "R-Line" transmission line. The substation would be dedicated to the IID for operation. The solar farm is proposed to be connected to the R-Line with an interconnection agreement with the IID. The R-Line runs aboveground and connects to the existing San Felipe Substation, located approximately 2.1 miles northwest of the proposed point of interconnection. Long-term access to the solar farm would be provided from Split Mountain Road via an existing 24-foot-wide all-weather road (graded to 28 feet in width) over a 40-foot-wide private access utility easement. A series of all-weather fire access roads of a minimum 24-foot width (unsurfaced yet covered with a binding agent) would be provided within the project footprint to meet design requirements of the San Diego County Fire Authority for emergency access to the site. Additionally, a series of unsurfaced roads would be provided within the solar array field to support routine maintenance. A breakaway fence would surround the entire solar racking system to limit human access while still allowing flood flows.

The proposed project would be constructed beginning January 4, 2021 and is anticipated for

completion within 15 months of the start of development, approximately on March 31, 2022. All work will be performed within the desert open space.

Action:

Pending

Water Board Contact:

Mr. Kai Dunn, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer
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Click here to contact via email - kai.dunn@waterboards.ca.gov