

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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General Manager

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION for James Irrigation District Solar Project #2

DATE: May 16, 2022

TO: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties

LEAD AGENCY: James Irrigation District

PROJECT TITLE: James Irrigation District Solar Project #2

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that James Irrigation District (JID) has prepared a Draft Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) for the project listed above pursuant to the *State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines* Section 15000 et seq. Anyone desiring to comment on the IS-MND may do so in writing within the 30-day public review period from Monday, May 16, 2022, through 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2022.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The project site is an approximately 8.8-acre portion of an approximately 24.2-acre L-shaped parcel (Assessor's Parcel Number 030-170-33T) located immediately north of West Adams Avenue and between South Placer Avenue and the James Bypass Canal in unincorporated Fresno County (Figure 1). No hazardous waste sites identified on lists compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 are present on the project site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed project involves the installation of a one-megawatt (MW) solar array with single-axis tracking system, including 1.1 MW of direct current photovoltaic (PV) modules, steel support structures, a one-MW alternating current electrical inverter, cabling, and other system components. The project also includes a main service board and a step-up transformer as well as metering facilities, conductors, and safety equipment for interconnection to Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E) distribution system via a new primary meter installed within the project site. The electricity generated by the proposed project would offset JID's aggregated electricity usage for the canal and well pumps across JID-owned parcels. The solar power generated on the project site would be used to generate bill credits for JID's meters in the Renewable Energy Self-Generation Bill Credit Transfer Program (RES-BCT) arrangement to offset their PG&E energy generation charges. The project's interconnection with PG&E would require minor off-site construction to connect the proposed solar array to an existing PG&E generation tie line located immediately south of the project site.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

Pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, an Initial Study was prepared for the project. The Initial Study describes the environmental impacts of the proposed project and suggests mitigation measures where necessary to reduce impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, and tribal cultural resources to less-than-significant levels. The proposed mitigation measures will be implemented as part of the project to ensure that the project will not generate a significant adverse impact on the environment during construction and operation. Based on this assessment, a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/REVIEW:

In accordance with Section 15073 of the *State CEQA Guidelines*, the Draft IS-MND is available for public review for 30 days from May 16, 2022, through June 15, 2022, at:

- James Irrigation District Website (www.jamesid.org)
- James Irrigation District Office during normal business hours (8749 9th Street, San Joaquin, CA 93660)

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- San Joaquin Branch Library during normal business hours (8781 South Main Street, San Joaquin, CA 93660)

Written comments must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 15, 2022. Please address comments to:

Manny Amorelli, General Manager
P.O. Box 757
San Joaquin, CA 93660

or by email to: mamorelli@jamesid.org

In addition, written and oral comments on the Draft IS-MND will be taken at the JID Board Meeting on June 14, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be conducted at the JID Office located at 8749 9th Street, San Joaquin, CA 93660. The meeting is also accessible via teleconference. The meeting agenda, including information on how to access the meeting, can be found on the JID website: <http://www.jamesid.org/>. Please check the agenda prior to the meeting to confirm the hearing date and attendance details.

Dated: 5-11-22



Manny Amorelli
General Manager

Figure 1 Project Site Location



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Fig. 2 Study Area