

Holland, Don

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director.paulsen@gmail.com  
cc 'NewberryCSD@gmail.com'; Rahhal, Terri

## Solar project overview

Good afternoon,

Below are County Land Use Services' notes regarding the Mineola Solar project. I referenced these notes during Tuesday night's meeting.

Best regards,  
Don

**Don Holland**  
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**Board of Supervisors Chairman Robert A. Lovingood**  
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1. The project application has not been accepted as a complete application yet. There are several phases of development, and all of the individual development plans have not been submitted yet. The overall project description noted on the web site (3,500 acres and 650 MW, with 450 MW of battery storage) is correct. (The additional plans will not add to the project scale).
2. Once the application is deemed complete, project notices will be mailed to surrounding property owners, responsible agencies and others who request notification. The CSD will be on the mailing list, as well as surrounding property owners within ¼ mile of the project boundary. Individuals have already asked to be added to the notification list. (The District office will receive a project notice also). Anyone who asks to be added to the project mailing list will receive notice of any public hearing or public meeting, and will also receive notice of availability of the Draft EIR when it is made available for public comment.
3. This project will require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which is the most thorough and comprehensive environmental analysis used to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The EIR will be prepared by a consulting firm who will work for the County (not for the applicant). The first step in preparing the EIR will be to mail a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to everyone on the mailing list and to responsible state agencies. The NOP will also announce the date, place and time for a public scoping meeting. At this meeting, the public will be invited to see a presentation about the project. They will also hear from the EIR consultant what analysis will be included in the EIR. The main purpose of the scoping meeting will be for the public to express their concerns about potential impacts of the project, and to have input on what the EIR should address, especially anything the members of the public expect to be significant environmental impacts.

4. The next milestone for involvement of the public will be when the Draft EIR is completed. At that point, everyone on the mailing list, plus commenting agencies, plus anyone who responded to the NOP will receive notice of a 45-day public review and comment period.
5. After the comment period closes, response letters will be prepared for every comment letter. The comments and responses will be published in a Final EIR, which will go forward to the Planning Commission with a staff report and recommendation on the project. Everyone on the mailing list and everyone who commented on the Draft EIR will receive the public hearing notice for the PC hearing.

This whole process will take at least 8 months, possibly a year.

I estimate that if the application is deemed complete by mid-February, we will probably issue the NOP in Mid-late-March and have a scoping meeting in early April.