

Public Notice - 401 Certification/Dredge or Fill Waste Discharge Requirements Application

Date:

September 21, 2021

Applicant:

IP Oberon, LLC and IP Oberon II, LLC
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Duly Authorized Representative:

Intersect Power, LLC
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Project Name:

Oberon Renewable Energy Project, Located in Unincorporated Riverside County, Near the Town of Desert Center, California

WDID No. 7B333034001, RM 444896, Place ID 876258

Receiving Water:

Chuckwalla Valley Groundwater Basin, Palen Dry Lake, Unnamed impacted unvegetated ephemeral dry washes on alluvial fans draining to Ford Dry Lake

Location:

City or area: Unincorporated Riverside County, California; to the immediate East and North of the unincorporated community of Desert Center

Latitude/Longitude: 33.714613°, -115.349125°

Section, Township, Range:

The land description for the Oberon Renewable Energy Project fenced development footprint is:

San Bernardino Meridian, California

T. 5 S., R. 15 E.,
sec. 13, SE1/4, E1/2SW1/4, and SW1/4SW1/4;
sec. 14, S1/2SE1/4;
sec. 22, SE1/4NE1/4 and NE1/4SE1/4
sec. 23, N1/2 and SE1/4;
sec 24, N1/2, SW1/4, E1/2SE1/4;
sec 25, NE1/4 and N1/2NW1/4;

T. 5 S., R. 16 E.,
sec. 18, SW1/4, S1/2SE1/4, and NW1/4SE1/4;

- sec. 19;
- sec. 20, SE1/4, SE1/4NE1/4, W1/2NW1/4, and W1/2SW1/4;
- sec. 28, N1/2, SE1/4, and N1/2SW1/4;
- sec. 29, N1/2, N1/2SW1/4, N1/2SE1/4, and SE1/4SE1/4;
- sec. 30, N1/2.500 kV Generation-Tie Line to Red Bluff Substation

The land description for the Oberon gen-tie line is a 175-foot-wide ROW from the central project substation site to the SCE Red Bluff Substation through:

San Bernardino Meridian, California

- T. 5 S., R. 15 E.,
 - sec. 24, SE1/4 of SE1/4
 - sec. 25, NE1/4 of NE1/4

- T. 5 S., R. 16 E.,
 - sec. 27, SW1/4SW1/4;
 - sec. 28, S1/2SE1/4, NW1/4SE1/4, W1/2NE1/4, and N1/2NW1/4;
 - sec. 29, N1/2NW1/4 and N1/2NE1/4;
 - sec. 30, N1/2NW1/4 and N1/2NE1/4;
 - sec. 33, NE1/4NE1/4;
 - sec. 34, NW1/4NW1/4.

Project Description:

IP Oberon, LLC (Applicant), a subsidiary of Intersect Power, LLC, is proposing development of the Oberon Renewable Energy Project (proposed project) in Eastern Riverside County, California. The Applicant would construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a solar facility consisting of a 500-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating station with battery energy storage system (BESS), electrical substation, generation intertie (gen-tie) lines and associated access roads on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The Project would interconnect to Southern California Edison's (SCE) 500 kilovolt (kV) Red Bluff Substation via one new 500 kV gen-tie line. IP Oberon, LLC, plans to collocate the Oberon gen-tie line with the proposed Easley Solar and Green Hydrogen Project gen-tie line. The Project would be capable of producing energy for a period of 35 years to 50 or more years. At the end of its useful life the project would be decommissioned, and the land returned to its pre-project condition to the extent feasible. Revegetation would be attempted, although revegetation success would be subject to the microclimatic conditions in the area at the time of decommissioning.

The Project objectives are to deliver 500 MW of affordable wholesale renewable energy to California ratepayers under long-term contracts with electricity service providers; assist with achieving California's renewable energy generation goals under the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015 (Senate Bill 350) and the 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2018 (Senate Bill 100), as well as greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32), as amended by Senate Bill 32 in 2016; bring living-wage renewable energy construction jobs to eastern Riverside County including Native American construction and monitoring jobs; minimize environmental impacts and land disturbance associated with solar development by siting the facility on relatively flat, contiguous lands receiving high solar insolation, that are in close proximity to established utility corridors, existing

transmission lines with available capacity to facilitate interconnection, and road access; further the purpose of Secretarial Order 3285A1, establishing the development of environmentally responsible renewable energy as a priority for the Department of the Interior; assist the nation to meet its Nationally Determined Contribution commitments under Article 4 of the Paris Climate Agreement to achieve a 50 to 52 percent reduction in U.S. greenhouse gas pollution from 2005 levels by 2030, and to achieve 100 percent carbon pollution-free electricity by 2035 in the electricity sector; enhance California's fossil-free resource adequacy capabilities and help to solve California's "duck curve" power production problem by installing up to 500 MW of 2 hour and/or 4 hour battery energy storage capacity; conform with the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan's Conservation and Management Actions to the maximum extent practicable, while also optimizing the balance between renewable energy generation and protection and conservation of sensitive habitat; and support before-after/control-impact (BACI) scientific research at the project site to further the public's understanding of the interactions between wildlife and solar energy facilities.

Anticipated Project Start and End Dates:

January 15, 2022 – December 31, 2023

US Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit Number(s):

n/a

Action:

Pending

Water Board Contact:

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