



IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT RESOLUTION NO. 46-2022

WHEREAS, the Vikings Solar Energy Generation & Storage Project, developed by Vikings Energy Farm, LLC proposes to construct a 150-megawatt photovoltaic solar energy facility with an integrated not to exceed 300 MW battery storage system on approximately 604 acres of land located at the intersection of East Nelson Pit Road and Graeser Road in the western part of unincorporated Imperial County, approximately 5.5 miles east of the City of Holtville, California; and

WHEREAS, the project was approved and permitted by the County of Imperial under Conditional Use Permit no. 20-0025; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the Vikings Solar Energy Generation & Storage Project requires upgrades and additions to IID infrastructure as described in the CEQA Compliance Summary Staff Report Vikings Solar Energy Generation & Storage Project, dated August 17, 2022 attached herewith, and are considered an integral part of the project; and

WHEREAS, the environmental effects of the Vikings Solar Energy Generation & Storage Project were assessed in the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Vikings Solar Energy Generation & Storage Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2021050036) dated July 2022, prepared by McIntyre Environmental, LLC for the County of Imperial, the lead agency under California Environmental Quality Act, and adopted and certified by the County of Imperial Board of Supervisors, including a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, on August 16, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the FEIR has evaluated and analyzed the environmental effects of the project involving and affecting IID as described herein and in consideration of IID's policy that calls for IID facilities or facility upgrades required for and by the project be included in the project's environmental effects analysis and any resulting impacts be mitigated by the project developer; and

WHEREAS, the FEIR did not identify any potentially significant environmental impacts to IID facilities or related to the project-driven IID improvements or propose mitigation measures that are the responsibility of the IID; and

WHEREAS, it was determined that impacts to IID facilities and project-driven IID improvements are subject to CEQA (Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, sections 15000, et seq); and

WHEREAS, since a portion of the project involves IID facilities and requires a major work authorization approved by the IID Board of Directors, IID, as a responsible agency under CEQA (California Code of Public Resources sections 21000 et seq.), must comply with CEQA requirements (14 CCR § 15096) including making certain findings regarding that portion of the project involving and affecting the district and not the entirety of the project; and

WHEREAS, the FEIR has evaluated and analyzed the environmental effects of the project involving and affecting IID, per IID policy, as described in the IID staff report attached herewith; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. **Recitals.** The Board of Directors hereby finds and determines the foregoing recitals, which are incorporated herein by reference, are true and correct.
2. **CEQA Findings.** Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15096(f), the Board of Directors hereby certifies that it has reviewed and considered the information contained in the FEIR and has considered the environmental effects of the IID portion of the project as analyzed in the FEIR. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15096(a), the Board of Directors has complied with CEQA by considering the FEIR prepared by McIntyre Environmental, LLC for the County of Imperial, the CEQA lead agency for the project, and has and will reach its own conclusions on whether and how to approve the IID portion of the project.

Based on its review and consideration of the FEIR and pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15091, the Board of Directors hereby finds the following:

- a. The FEIR provides adequate environmental analysis to support all necessary approvals by IID for the IID portion of the project.
- b. IID is not identified in the FEIR as having responsibility over any of the mitigation measures regarding the IID portion of the project, therefore, no findings under CEQA Guidelines section 15091(a)(1) are made by IID. The mitigation measures will be implemented and monitored as provided in the FEIR and no additional mitigation measures are being proposed or adopted by IID. Therefore, IID shall not adopt a mitigation monitoring and reporting program for the IID portion of the project.
- c. The significant impacts identified in the FEIR have been mitigated or avoided; that measures necessary for mitigation are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the IID.

3. **Notice of Determination.** The Board of Directors hereby authorizes and directs that a Notice of Determination be filed with the clerk of the county of Imperial.
4. **Documents.** The documents and other materials which constitute the record of proceedings upon which this decision is based are in the custody of Raquel Najera, Secretary to the Board of Directors, Imperial Irrigation District, 333 East Barioni Boulevard, Imperial, California, 92251.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th day of September 2022.

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT



James C. Hanks

President

Raquel Najera

Secretary

**CEQA COMPLIANCE SUMMARY STAFF REPORT
VIKINGS SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION & STORAGE PROJECT
August 17, 2022**

I. Background

The Vikings Solar Energy Generation & Storage Project, developed by Vikings Energy Farm, LLC; proposes to construct a 150 megawatt solar photovoltaic energy generation project with an integrated, not to exceed 300 MW battery storage component. The electrical energy produced by the project would be conducted through the project's switching station which would take the delivery of the 34.5 kilovolt power and increase the voltage to 230 kV. The solar energy generation facility, battery storage system, switching station and gen-tie constitute the project.

The Vikings Solar Energy Generation & Storage Project is located on approximately 604 acres of private and Imperial County-owned land at the intersection of East Nelson Pit Road and Graeser Road in the western part of unincorporated Imperial County. The project site is approximately 5.5 miles east of the City of Holtville, California. The Holtville Airport is located 1.6 miles north of the site, which is traversed by the existing East Highline Canal and IID's 230 kV "KN&KS" transmission lines (See Figure 1).

IID Energy transmission infrastructure upgrade required by the project:

The electrical energy produced by the project would be conducted through the proposed 230 kV switching station ("Nelson Switching Station") and delivered to the Imperial Irrigation District's 230 kV "KN&KS" transmission lines via a gen-tie line.

Implementation of the project's interconnection to the IID electrical system will necessitate the upgrade of district electrical system in the following manner:

- **New IID 230kV Nelson Switching Station***
IID requires a new 230kV switching station (adjacent to the project's substation) for metering and delivery of the electrical energy produced by the project to the 230 kV "KN&KS" transmission lines. The interconnection switching station would include circuit breakers, switches, overhead bus work, protective relay equipment, electrical control facilities, etc.
- **230kV Bays at Midway and Highline Substations***
By using the existing 230kV "KN&KS" transmission lines terminal equipment at Midway and Highline Substations, IID requires upgrades/updates to the relay protection, control, SCADA and telecommunication equipment at these substations. This work is required due to the "In-and-Out" of the 230kV "KN&KS" transmission lines into the new switching station.
- **Ramon Substation Capacitor Bank***

- Due to the interconnection of this project, the net reactive power within IID's system is negative, meaning IID is pulling reactive power from our neighboring entities, IID requires a 30MVAR capacitor bank to be installed on the 230kV bus at Ramon Substation.
- **230kV "KN&KS" Transmission Lines In-and-Out***
Transmission In-and-Out lines will be required to enable looping in and out of the "KN&KS" transmission lines at the new switching station.
- **Interconnecting the Customer Gen-Tie***
A 230kV Gen-Tie (customer-owned) is required to be constructed from the developer's generation substation to the new IID 230kV new switching station. The point of interconnection will be the location where the project's gen-tie terminates at the dead-end structure inside the new switching station (See Figure 2).

** Design, procurement and construction at the customer/developer's expense.*

IID Energy distribution infrastructure upgrade required by the project:

Currently there is existing IID electrical distribution infrastructure within the project site which will be modified (some sections of the line will be removed to allow for the grading of the project site) and a hookup would be installed at the project site** to accommodate temporary electrical service for construction activities (mostly for security lighting) and to provide electrical service for the operation of the solar facility (2 separate AC backup distribution-rated services: one for the project substation and another for the switching station; mostly for lighting and control room air-conditioning). These modifications entail less than significant (minimal) impacts.

*** At the customer/developer's expense.*

IID Water infrastructure (potentially) impacted by the project:

Sections of the East Highline Canal, Holtville Main Drain, East Highline Lateral 11 and East Highline Lateral 12, are contained within the project site (See Figure 3), could be potentially impacted by the project; however, the project as proposed and mitigated, would result in no significant impacts to IID water facilities.

II. CEQA Compliance for the Project

The environmental effects of the Vikings Solar Energy Generation & Storage Project were assessed in the *Final Environmental Impact Report for the Vikings Solar Energy Generation & Storage Project* (State Clearinghouse No. 2021050036), dated July 2022, prepared by McIntyre Environmental, LLC for the County of Imperial, the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, under Conditional Use Permit No.

20-0025, and adopted and certified by the County of Imperial Board of Supervisors, including a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, on August 16, 2022.

The FEIR, supporting documents and record of project approvals are available at the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main St, El Centro, CA 92243 or online at the ICPDSD websites:

Draft EIR:

<https://www.icpds.com/assets/Vikings-Solar-Energy-Draft-EIR-Complete.pdf>

Final EIR:

<https://www.icpds.com/planning/environmental-impact-reports/final-eirs>

EIR Technical Appendices:

https://files.ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/269679-2/attachment/el8_KP7PA-JK0A7ihzj3EuFKVxPuO4XHyu0LJeeB68PCWNtUGaYYVCUuKcPa5gEubrdpytYo0T7Zdx40

County of Imperial Board of Supervisors August 16, 2022 approval hearing:

http://imperial.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view_id=2&event_id=2369

Notice of Determination

<https://www.icpds.com/assets/CUP20-0025-Viking-Solar-NOD-08-17-22.pdf>

Related Documents

<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/Project/2021050036>

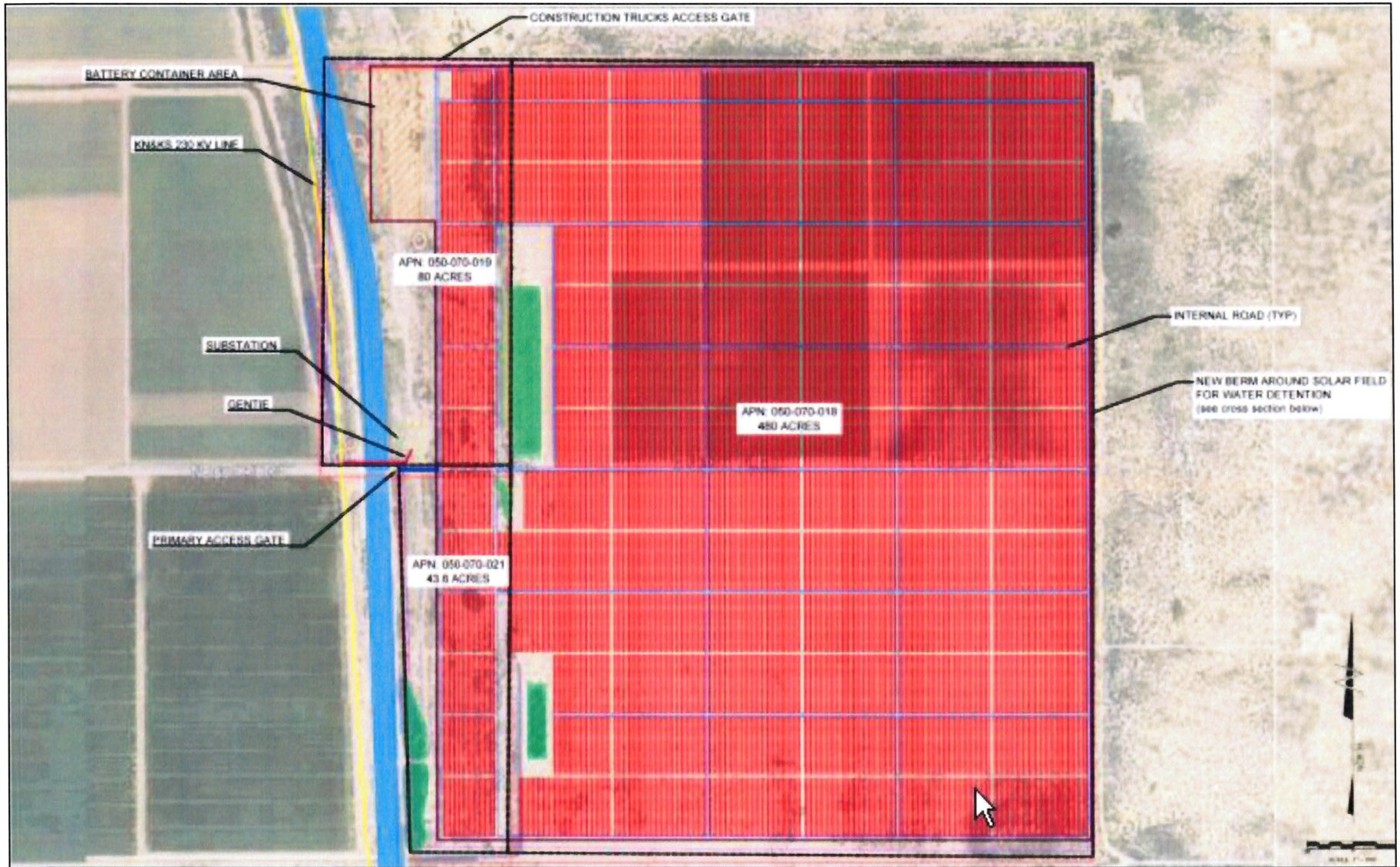
III. The IID Role as a CEQA Responsible Agency

Because a portion of the the Vikings Solar Energy Generation & Storage Project involves IID facilities and requires a major work authorization approved by the IID Board of Directors, IID, as a responsible agency under CEQA (California Code of Public Resources sections 21000 et seq.), must comply with CEQA requirements (14 CCR § 15096) including making certain findings regarding that portion of the project involving and affecting the district and not the entirety of the project. Thus, the IID Board of Directors is required to make such findings as are referenced in the resolution adopting these findings. Environmental Compliance Unit staff determined that the FEIR evaluated and analyzed the environmental effects of the impacts and upgrades of IID electrical infrastructure and water facilities, as described herein, to accommodate the interconnection of the Vikings Solar Energy Generation & Storage Project to the IID's transmission system in an appropriate manner, that the significant impacts identified in the FEIR have been mitigated or avoided; that measures necessary for mitigation are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the IID and no further environmental analysis is required under CEQA.

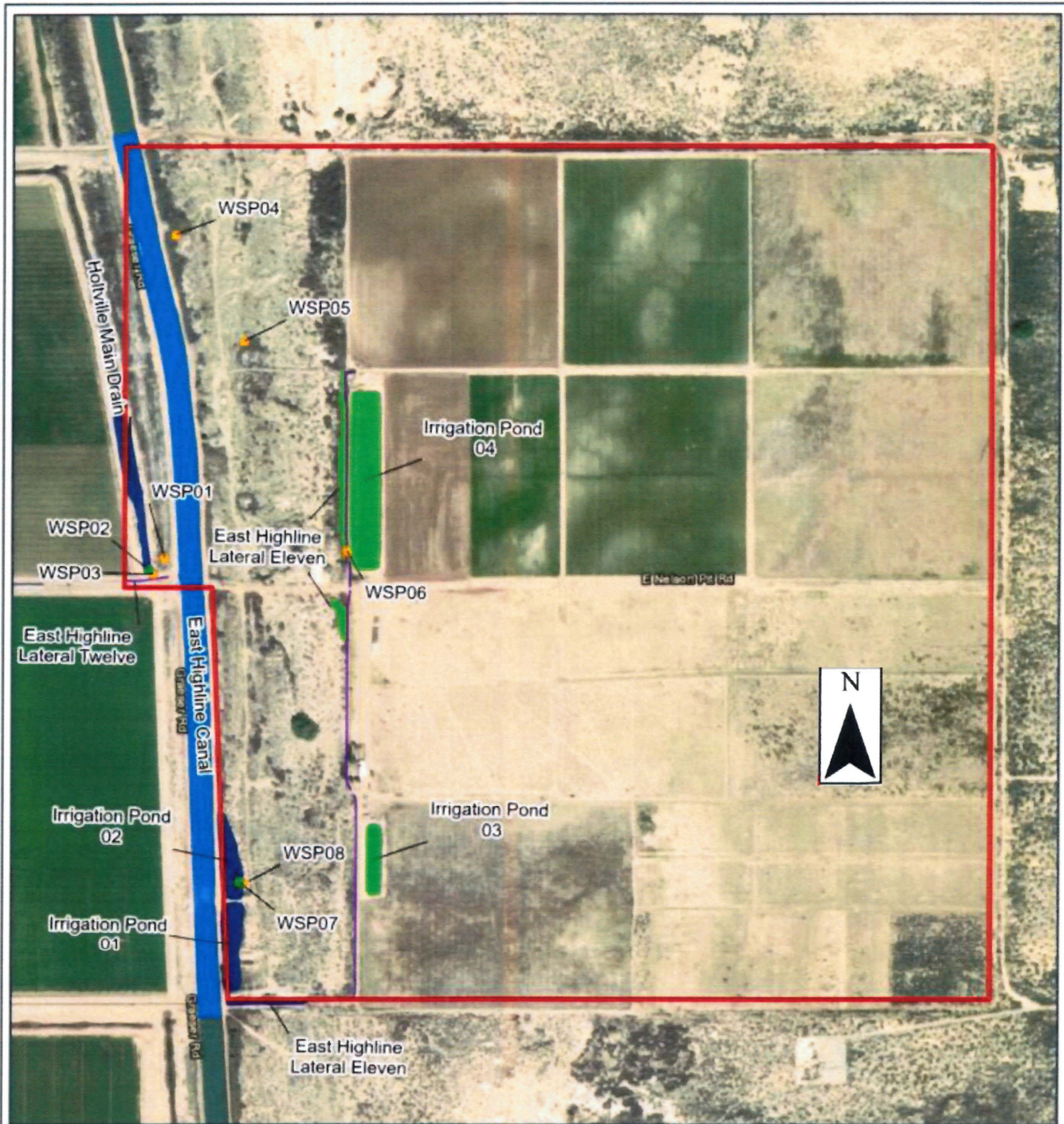
Copies of the FEIR and related documentation are available at the Regulatory & Environmental Compliance Section offices located at 321 South Waterman Avenue, Ste. 200, El Centro, California, 92243.



Vikings Solar Energy Generation & Storage Project Location Map (Figure 1)



Vikings Solar Energy Generation & Storage Project Substation Gen-Tie Location (Figure 2)



Vikings Solar Energy Generation & Storage Project IID Water Facilities Location Map (Figure 3)