

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
of a Draft Environmental Impact Report
for the Aramis Solar Energy Generation and Storage Project
Alameda County Planning Application PLN2018-00117

TO: State Clearinghouse, State Responsible Agencies, State Trustee Agencies, Other Public Agencies, and Interested Organizations and Parties.

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Aramis Solar Energy Generation and Storage Project in compliance with California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15087.

SUMMARY: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Alameda County Planning Department (County), as lead agency for the Project, has completed a Draft EIR in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project that is the subject of the DEIR is the construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) facility that would generate 100 megawatts (MWs) of solar energy on 410 acres in the unincorporated North Livermore area, primarily located on the west side of North Livermore Avenue and south of Manning Road at its terminus/intersection with North Livermore Avenue, with additional parcels north of said intersection.

The purpose of this notice is to (1) serve the public Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Draft EIR pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15087, and (2) advise and solicit comments regarding the content of the Draft EIR for a 45-day period, commencing on September 18, 2020 and ending at 5:00 PM on November 2, 2020, after which a final EIR will be prepared containing comments and responses to comments that, together with the Draft EIR, will form the final EIR. The final EIR will be used by the Alameda East County Board of Zoning Adjustments in its consideration of approval of the proposed Aramis Solar Energy Generation and Storage Project.

PROJECT TITLE: Aramis Solar Energy Generation and Storage Project

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located in the unincorporated North Livermore area of Alameda County, approximately 2.25 miles north of the Livermore city limits and I-580. The 410-acre project site is comprised of portions of four privately-owned parcels – APNs 903-0006-001-02, 903-0007-002-01, 903-0006-003-07, and 902-0001-005-00. Land uses north, south, east of the northern section, and west of the project site include row crop cultivation, cattle grazing, rural residential housing, agricultural outbuildings, small-scale ground-mounted solar systems, and open space. The existing PG&E Cayetano substation is located west of the terminus of May School Road at North Livermore Avenue. The project site surrounds the existing substation to the north, west, and south.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would generate 100 megawatts (MW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) renewable energy on approximately 410 acres of privately-owned land. The proposed project includes the construction and operation of a utility-scale solar energy facility and battery energy storage system and a parcel subdivision. The solar facility would be comprised of the PV modules and associated energy collection system; project substation; battery energy storage system; and a generation intertie (gen-tie) line to connect to the existing PG&E Cayetano substation. An onsite operations and maintenance (O&M) building would be located adjacent to the north side of the proposed project substation and would accommodate up to four permanent operation and maintenance staff. Access to the project site would be provided via all-weather, rocked driveway aprons at four access points along

Manning Road, two access points along North Livermore Avenue, and one access point along Hartman Road. The project components would be enclosed by security fencing. Water for project construction, operation, and decommissioning would be obtained via on-site groundwater wells in the Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin and/or water purchased from an off-site water purveyor and trucked to the project site. Construction of the proposed project is expected to occur in four phases over a nine-month period.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Project would have significant impacts in the following environmental areas:

- Aesthetics (landscaping proposed along North Livermore Avenue and Manning Road to screen the solar PV arrays)
- Land Use and Planning (proposed development in areas designated for Resource Management in the East County Area Plan)

No feasible mitigation measures were identified to reduce the impacts to Aesthetics and Land Use and Planning to a less-than-significant level.

In further compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15087, this notice reports that a database search of the proposed project site and 1-mile search radius incorporated into the Draft EIR did not identify any hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code, also known as the Cortese list.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR is from September 18, 2020 to November 2, 2020. The Draft EIR will be available on September 18, 2020 for review at following location and/or electronically:

Alameda County Planning Department
224 W. Winton Avenue, Room 111
Hayward, CA 94544

Livermore Public Library – Civic Center
1188 S. Livermore Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

And on the County's website:

<http://www.acgov.org/cda/planning/landuseprojects/currentprojects.htm> – see “Environmental Impact Reports and Negative Declarations” – and “Aramis Solar Energy Generation and Storage Project, PLN2018-00117”

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Written comments on the Draft EIR must be received no later than November 2, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

Written comments on this Draft EIR should be submitted to:

County of Alameda Planning Department
224 W. Winton Avenue, Room 111
Hayward, CA 94544
ATTN: Andrew Young, Senior Planner

Please include a return address and contact name with your written comments. You are also encouraged to email your comments to andrew.young@acgov.org with “Aramis Solar Energy Generation and Storage Project EIR” as the subject.

PUBLIC HEARING: Although CEQA does not require formal hearings at any stage of the environmental review process (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15202[a]), it does encourage “wide public involvement, formal and informal...in order to receive and evaluate public reactions to environmental issues” (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15201) and requires the lead agency to provide the public with the opportunity to provide comments. The County, as lead agency, circulated a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR (SCH# 2020059008) for the proposed project on May 8, 2020. The NOP was distributed for a 30-day comment period that ended on June 8, 2020. In addition, the County held a public scoping meeting on May 28, 2020 at a meeting of the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments, to solicit input on the scope and focus of the EIR. Comments received during the NOP period and public scoping meeting were considered in the preparation of the Draft EIR.

The Draft EIR is being circulated for review and comment by public agencies, as well as organizations and individuals who have requested notification. In accordance with Section 15205(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the County has scheduled a 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR, ending on November 2, 2020 at 5:00 PM. Within that 45-day period, the County will hold one public hearing via teleconference and video conference to request comments on the Draft EIR, at the following time and link.

Thursday, October 22, 2020, at 1:30 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92158285462>

Call-in Number: (669) 900-9128 or (346) 248-7799

WEBINAR ID# 921 5828 5462

The meeting will be held in conformance with the County’s [Teleconferencing Guidelines for Planning Public Hearings](#) (PDF), at the link provided or at the Planning Department webpage below:

<http://www.acgov.org/cda/planning>

Following the close of the public review period for the Draft EIR, the County will prepare a final EIR, incorporating all comments received during the public comment period, for consideration by the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments, at a date for which notice shall be provided. As required by CEQA (Section 21092.5), the final EIR, including written responses to the comments submitted by public agencies, will be available at least 10 days prior to certification.