



PLANNING DIRECTOR'S HEARING

Carolyn Syms Luna, Director

6:00 P.M.

December 12, 2011

AGENDA

RIVERSIDE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

DIRECTOR'S HEARING

Blythe City Council Chambers
235 N. Broadway
Blythe, CA 92225

If you wish to speak, please complete a "SPEAKER IDENTIFICATION FORM" and give it to the Planning Director. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow interested parties to express their concerns. Please do not repeat information already given. If you have no additional information, but wish to be on record, simply give your name and address and state that you agree with the previous speaker(s).

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if any accommodations are needed, please contact Mary Stark at (951) 955-7436 or E-mail at mcstark@rctlma.org. Request should be made at least 48 hours or as soon as possible prior to the scheduled meeting.

1.0 **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

1.1 **NONE**

2.0 **SCOPING SESSION: 6:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter.**

- 2.1 **CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 3670 / PUBLIC USE PERMIT NO. 913 / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT NO. 529.** The Blythe Mesa I Solar Project is located approximately 5 miles west of central Blythe and 40 miles east of Desert Center; more specifically, the project is located north and south of Interstate 10, west of Neighbors Boulevard and Arrowhead Boulevard, south and east of the Blythe Airport. The site consists primarily of agricultural land located south and east of the community of Nicholls Warm Springs/Mesa Verde. The proposed project consists of the construction and operation of a 485 megawatt solar photovoltaic (PV) electric generating facility and associated infrastructure on a total of approximately 3,660 acres. The proposed project would consist of a solar array field utilizing single-axis solar PV trackers and panels with a combined maximum height of 8 feet. Supporting facilities on-site would include three electrical substations, two operation and maintenance buildings, inverters, transformers, and associated switchgear. Since most of the site has nearly level to gently sloping topography, no mass grading would be required and the natural drainage patterns of the site would not be significantly altered. The Project site would be secured 24 hours per day by onsite private security personnel or remote services with motion-detection cameras. An equestrian-wire, wildlife-friendly and drainage-compatible security fence that meets National Electric Safety Code would be placed around the perimeter of the site. The proposed lighting for the site would be consistent with County building code. A new 8.4 mile long, 230 kilovolt (kV) double-circuit generation-tie transmission line would connect the proposed project with the approved Colorado River Substation located west of the project site subject to Public Use Permit (3.6 miles of the gen-tie line are located within the project site, and 4.8 miles are located off-site between the project site and the Colorado River Substation). A majority of the project is within the County of Riverside jurisdiction. An approximate 330-acre portion of the 3,660-acre project site is located within the City of Blythe jurisdiction. A Development Agreement

between the County of Riverside and the applicant will be established setting forth the rights and responsibilities of each party with respect to project development and operation. APN's 821-110-004, 821-120-025, 821-120-026, 821-120-027, etc. The scoping session is to allow the Planning Director and the public an opportunity to identify issues that should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report. The scoping session is not a public hearing on the merits of the project, nor will the Planning Director be taking an action on the project. Project Planner, Jay Olivas at (951) 955-1195 or Email jolivas@rctlma.org (Legislative)

Staff Report 2.1

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS: