

Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Date: May 11, 2018

To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Interested Organizations, and Individuals.

Project Title/Case No.: Athos Renewable Energy Project – Draft Environmental Impact Report Conditional Use Permit No. 180001/Public Use Permit No. 180001

Project Location: The Athos Renewable Energy Project is located in Riverside County, north of Interstate 10 (I-10) and approximately 4 miles east and northeast of the Desert Center Community. The Project consists of 65 parcels on private land, the APNs of which are listed on the attached sheet titled “Assessor’s Parcels for the Athos Renewable Energy Project.” A 220 kilovolt (kV) generation tie (gen-tie) transmission line would be located both north and south of the I-10 freeway to connect the facility into the existing Southern California Edison (SCE) Red Bluff 500/220 kV Substation. The solar facility site is located within the County of Riverside’s jurisdiction. The 220 kV gen-tie line would traverse mainly BLM-administered public lands.

Project Description: IP Athos, LLC (“Applicant”), a subsidiary of Intersect Power, proposes to construct, operate, and decommission the Athos Renewable Energy Project, which includes a large scale solar photovoltaic (PV) electrical generating and storage facility and associated infrastructure to generate and deliver renewable electricity to the statewide electricity transmission grid. The proposed Project, a PV solar power plant and 11-mile-long 220 kV gen-tie transmission line, would be located on approximately 3,400 acres across 7 non-contiguous groups of parcels northeast of the community of Desert Center. The Project would consist of a solar fields, inverters, powerlines, 4 substations, an O&M Building, access roads, telecommunications facilities, and related equipment. The facility would generate and provide storage for 500 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy using PV technology. The power produced by the Project would be conveyed to the statewide power grid via interconnection to the SCE Red Bluff Substation, an existing substation located south of I-10 and approximately 1.1 miles south of the Project area. As part of the Project, the applicant is also seeking to vacate interior roadways and merge contiguous project parcels. Roads along the project perimeter on the solar facility lands would remain dedicated public access.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, notice is given to responsible and interested agencies that the Riverside County Planning Department plans to oversee the preparation on an Environmental Impact Report for the above-described project. The purpose of this notice is to solicit guidance from your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. Information in that regard should be submitted to this office as soon as possible, but not later than thirty (30) days after receiving this notice.

Probable Environmental effects of the project: *The County of Riverside has determined that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) shall be prepared to address the potential significant impacts of the proposed Athos Renewable Energy Project. As a result, the probable environmental impacts that will be analyzed as part of the EIR include:*

Aesthetics/Visual Resources/Reflection

Air Quality

Cultural Resources and Paleontological Resources

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Hydrology and Water Quality

Noise

Traffic and Transportation

Agricultural Resources

Biological Resources

Geology and Soils

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Land Use and Planning

Population and Housing / Socioeconomics

The EIR will include all topical areas of content required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), including cumulative impacts, alternatives to the proposed Project, and growth-inducing impacts. For each resource topic, environmental impacts relating to construction, operations, and decommissioning phases of the

Project will be identified. However, the level of analysis to be included may vary based on the complexity of the issues, public and agency input to this Notice of Preparation (NOP), and/or refinements to the Project description that may occur subsequent to the publication of this NOP. For impacts that are significant, mitigation measures will be proposed to alleviate or avoid the significant impact(s).

LEAD AGENCY:

Riverside County Planning Department
 Attn: Kevin White, Project Planner
 4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor/P.O. Box 1409
 Riverside, CA 92502-1409

PROJECT SPONSOR:

Applicant: IP Athos, LLC
 548 Market Street # 68743
 San Francisco, CA 94104-5401

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Because the Project meets the CEQA Guidelines §15206 definition of a project having statewide, regional, or area-wide significance, the County of Riverside will hold a scoping meeting as specified in CEQA Guidelines §15082. The scoping meeting will be held at:

County of Riverside - Desert Office
 77-588 El Duna Ct., Suite H
 Palm Desert, CA 92211
June 4, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin White at **(951) 955-1417** or by email at **KEWhite@rivco.org**.

Assessor's Parcels for the Athos Renewable Energy Project.

Assessor's Parcels for Project Site (CUP 180001 & PUP 180001)			
807-191-004	807-690-004	807-690-027	811-170-009
807-680-001	807-690-011	807-690-028	811-170-013
807-680-002	807-690-012	810-110-001	811-180-001
807-680-003	807-690-013	810-110-006	811-180-002
807-680-004	807-690-014	811-122-001	811-180-003
807-680-005	807-690-015	811-122-002	811-180-004
807-680-006	807-690-016	811-122-009	811-180-005
807-680-007	807-690-017	811-130-010	811-180-013
807-680-008	807-690-018	811-142-005	811-180-014
807-680-009	807-690-019	811-142-006	811-180-024
807-680-010	807-690-020	811-142-007	811-190-001
807-680-011	807-690-021	811-142-015	811-260-013
807-680-012	807-690-022	811-150-001	807-191-031 (gen-tie only)
807-680-013	807-690-023	811-150-002	811-121-003 (gen-tie only)
807-690-001	807-690-024	811-170-002	
807-690-002	807-690-025	811-170-007	
807-690-003	807-690-026	811-170-008	

RIVERSIDE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
 Charissa Leach, P.E., Assistant Director of TLMA