

California State Lands Commission

October 28, 2020 Virtual Scoping Meeting

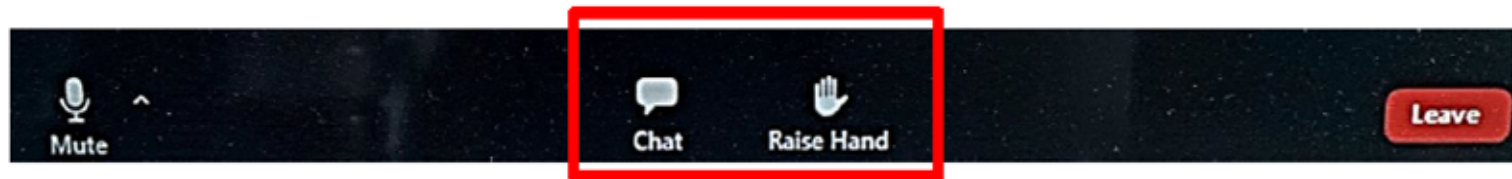
Aurora Solar LLC's Proposed Stagecoach Solar Project

**Presented by California State Lands Commission Staff, with assistance from
Aspen Environmental Group (under contract to the Commission)**



Meeting Participation via Zoom

- All attendees will be muted during the presentation
- **Oral Scoping Comments:** At end of presentation, use the **RAISE HAND** feature and we will call on you to speak.
- **Note:** This meeting is being recorded.



Meeting Agenda

- Introduction and Meeting Purpose
- Description of Proposed Project
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Process
- Public Comments
- Close of Meeting

Afternoon and evening meetings will have the same agenda and presentation.



CEQA Lead Agency

California State Lands Commission (CSLC)

Responsible Agency (for Substation)

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

Applicant

Aurora Solar LLC

a wholly-owned subsidiary of Avangrid Renewables

Calcite Substation Project Proponent

Southern California Edison Company (SCE)

CEQA Contractor

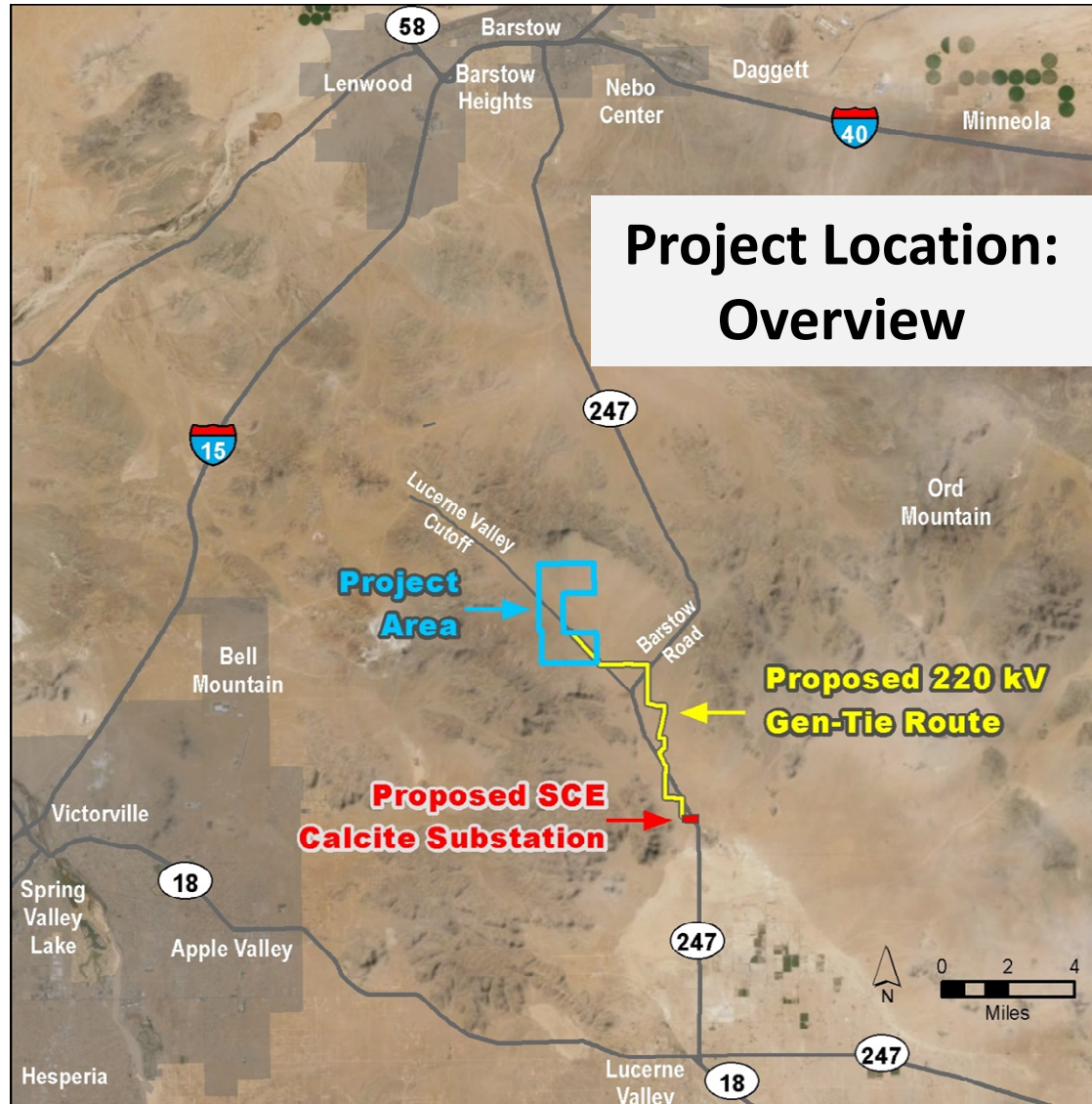
Aspen Environmental Group



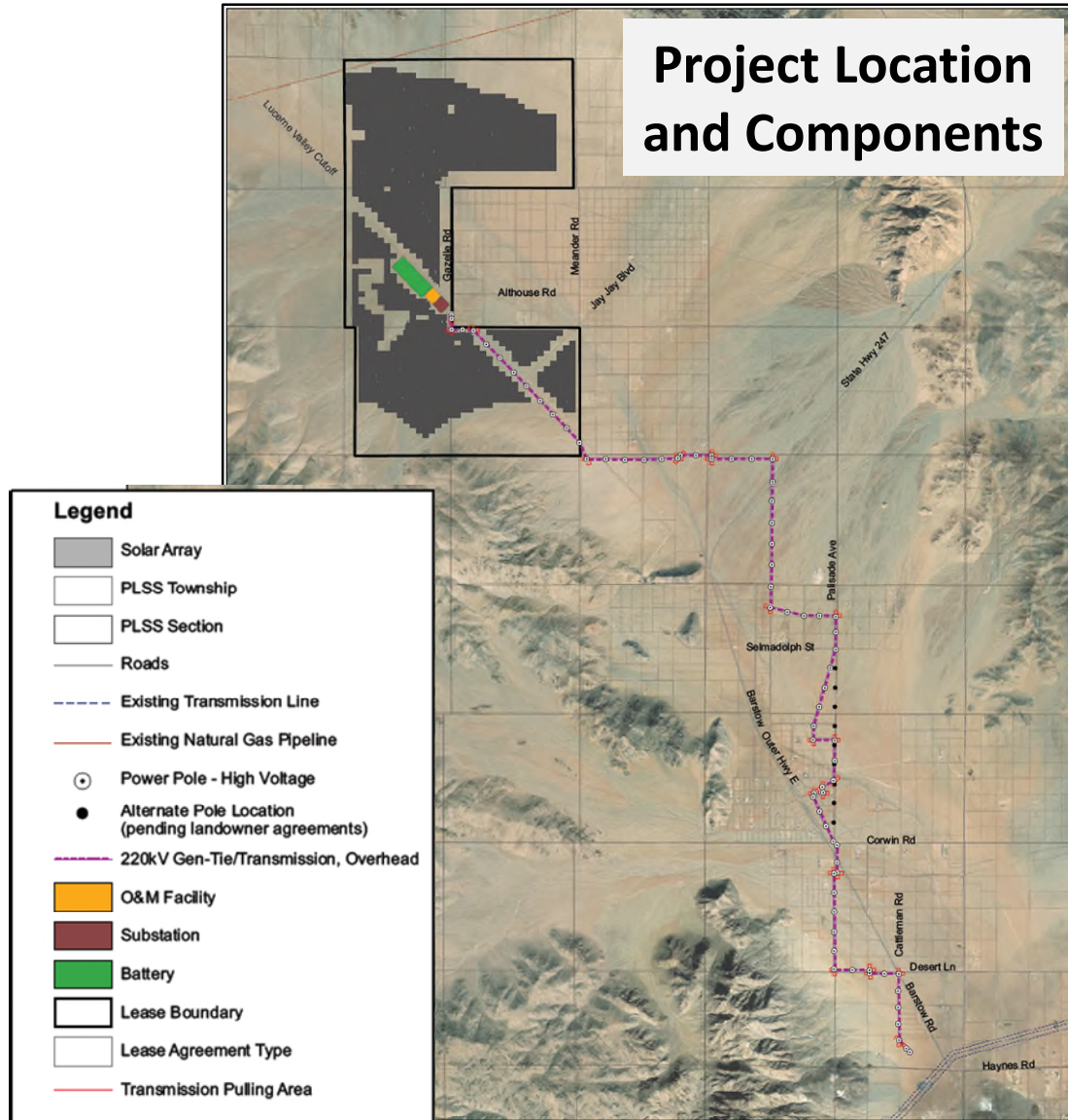
Meeting Purpose

- To obtain agency and public input and comment on the scope of the issues and analysis that the State Lands Commission should consider in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- To ensure that all oral comments presented today are recorded





Project Location and Components



Proposed Stagecoach Project – Purpose and Need

- Establish reliable solar PV power-generating facilities.
- Generate revenue for the State Teachers' Retirement Fund.
- Assist in achieving the State's Renewables Portfolio Standard; GHG reduction.
- Assist CA in transitioning the transportation sector to zero-emission vehicles.
- Reliably store electricity in an economically feasible and commercially financeable manner.
- Locate project as close as possible to facilities with transmission capacity.
- Site the project in an area with high solar energy resource (insolation).
- Use proven and available solar photovoltaic and energy storage technologies.
- Create local employment opportunities and boost business activity.



Proposed Stagecoach Project

- Produce up to 200 megawatts (MW) of solar energy - photovoltaic (PV) technology.
- Construct solar facility and associated infrastructure on 1,950 acres, including:
 - 5-acre 34.5/220 kilovolt (kV) onsite electric substation
 - 5-acre area for ~5,000 square feet O&M building, including a septic tank system
 - DC underground collection system linking the PV modules to the onsite substation
 - 50-acre battery storage facility up to 200 MW for four hours
 - New access roads, perimeter fencing, and security systems
 - Permanent groundwater wells or an onsite water tank.
- ~9.1-mile 220 kV gen-tie transmission line to interconnect solar field to SCE's proposed Calcite Substation.
- Approximate 18-month construction period.



Proposed Stagecoach Project – Calcite Substation

- SCE would design, construct, own, operate, and maintain substation; under California Public Utilities Commission's permitting jurisdiction.
- **Substation:** 220 kV switchyard on ~7 acres; ~4 acres for drainage, grading, and road.
- **Transmission Lines:** ~5,000 feet of new transmission line creating the Calcite-Lugo and Calcite-Pisgah 220 kV transmission lines.
- **Distribution Line.** ~700 feet of 12 kV overhead distribution line and ~2,100 feet of underground distribution line to provide temporary power.
- **Telecommunications Facilities.** Fiber optic communication cables, equipment, and associated structures for diverse path routing of communications.



Proposed Stagecoach Project - Construction Activities

- Surveying, staking, and installation of erosion control measures
- Constructing access roads on the site
- Site grading
- Trenching and installation of underground electrical system in solar generation facility
- Assembling array foundation/install solar array
- Constructing gen-tie line between the Solar Generation Facilities and the Calcite Substation
- Testing and commissioning
- Restoring temporarily disturbed areas

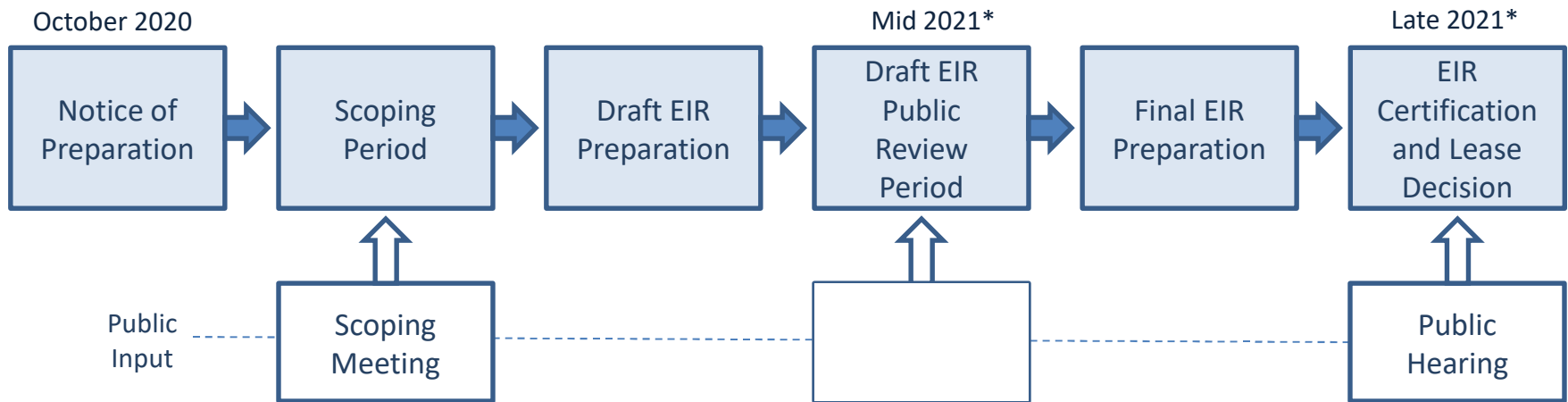


California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- CEQA applies to projects that require a discretionary approval from a State or local agency (except for certain types of projects exempt from CEQA's requirements)
- Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required when evidence indicates that the proposed project would have a significant impact(s) on the environment



EIR Process



*Tentative schedule



Contents and Purpose of an EIR

Contents:

- Describe the environmental setting of the project area
- Disclose the potential environmental impacts of the project and alternatives
- Propose measures to reduce or avoid significant environmental impacts (mitigation measures)

Purpose:

- Provide technically sound information for decision-makers to consider in evaluating the proposed project



Major Elements of an EIR

- Detailed Project Description
- Description of Alternatives Screening Process and Alternatives Carried Forward
- Impacts of Proposed Project
- Impacts of Alternatives
- Mitigation Measures
- Cumulative Impacts, Indirect Impacts, Growth Inducing Effects
- Mitigation Monitoring



Impact Analysis

- Impacts are based on changes to the environment compared to existing conditions
- CEQA requires the analysis to focus on “significant” impacts
- Measures are required to reduce or avoid significant impacts
- Social and economic impacts are not considered significant
- Alternatives are generally evaluated in less detail than the proposed project



Potential Impacts

The Project could result in impacts to the following resources:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture / Forestry
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils, Paleontology
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazardous / Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology / Water Quality
- Land Use / Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population / Housing
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities / Service Systems
- Wildfire

Other Commission Considerations not required by CEQA – Environmental Justice



Alternatives

- Alternatives for the EIR will be determined by CEQA requirements:
 - Consistency with most project objectives
 - Ability to reduce or avoid impacts of proposed project
 - Feasibility
- Alternatives may include changes to structure design or location within the project right-of-way
- The No Project Alternative will also be considered
- Scoping comments suggesting alternatives are welcome



Schedule (tentative)

We
are
here

- Notice of Preparation (*30-day public review*) October 12, 2020
- Scoping Meeting..... October 28, 2020
- Scoping Comments Due Nov. 13, 2020
- Release of Draft EIR (*minimum 45-day public review*) & Public Meeting 2nd or 3rd Quarter 2021
- CSLC Action on Final EIR & Project Application (at Public Hearing) 3rd or 4th Quarter 2021



Helpful Scoping Comments Include

(State CEQA Guidelines, § 15083, subd. (a)):

- Identify the location and extent of environmental impacts.
- Recommend issues to be addressed in the EIR.
- Recommend alternatives that would avoid or reduce impacts of the proposed project.

*Please limit comments to 3 minutes or less
(you may also submit written comments)*

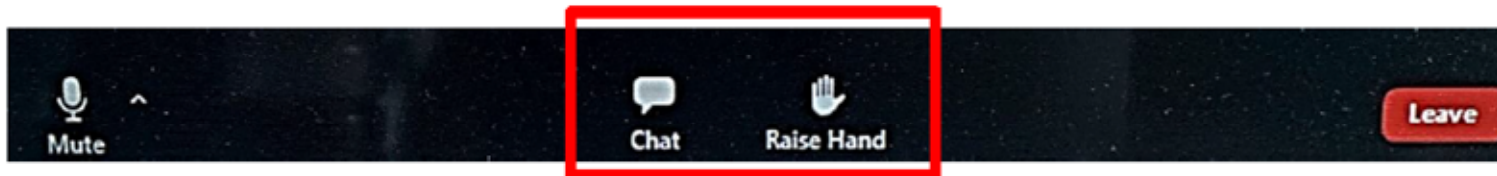


Scoping Comments via Zoom

- Attendees will be muted until we unmute you.
- **Oral Scoping Comments:** If you would like to make a scoping comment, please use the **RAISE HAND** feature and we will unmute you and call on you to speak.
- **Written Comments:** Use the **CHAT** feature if you want to type a comment. Click on Chat and type your comment in the Chat bar.
 - You can also **email** or **mail** comments.
 - **COMMENTS ARE DUE:** November 13, 2020.

If joining via telephone ONLY:

- Press *9 to raise your hand
- When called on:
Press *6 to unmute



Written comments must be received or postmarked by **Friday November 13, 2020**

Email comments to:

CEQA.comments@slc.ca.gov
(preferred option)

Or send via mail to:

California State Lands Commission
Attn: **Sarah Mongano**
Senior Environmental Scientist
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825

- Please write “*Stagecoach Solar Project NOP Comments*” in the email subject line.
- Please be sure to include your name and contact information on all comments, to be added to the Project notification list.



Thank You for Your Participation!

For more information:

- **Project Website:** Detailed documents, updates on the project schedule, and comment deadlines.

<https://www.slc.ca.gov/ceqa/stagecoach-solar-project/>

- **E-mail:** Sarah.Mongano@slc.ca.gov
- **Call:** Sarah Mongano, CSLC Project Manager, at: 916.574.1889

www.slc.ca.gov

