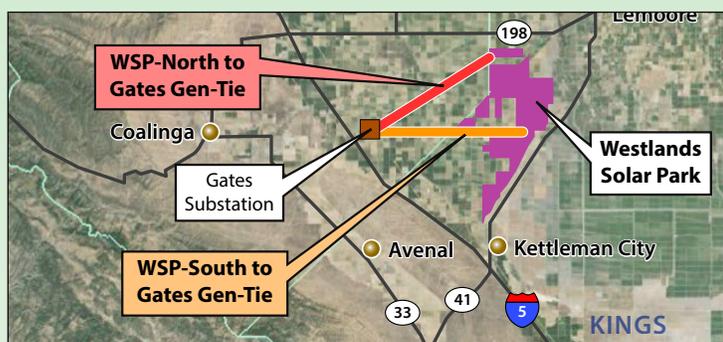


DRAFT

PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

WESTLANDS SOLAR PARK MASTER PLAN
AND GEN-TIE CORRIDORS PLAN

State Clearinghouse No. 2013031043



WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

OCTOBER 2017

VOLUME I OF II
EIR TEXT AND APPENDICES A AND B

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

OF THE

WESTLANDS SOLAR PARK MASTER PLAN AND WSP GEN-TIE CORRIDORS PLAN DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

State Clearinghouse #2013031043

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Westlands Water District (WWD), as Lead Agency, has completed a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Draft PEIR) for the Westlands Solar Park (WSP) Master Plan and WSP Gen-Tie Corridors Plan (proposed project).

PROJECT LOCATION and SITE DESCRIPTION: The overall project covered by this PEIR includes two main elements, consisting of: 1) the Westlands Solar Park (“WSP”) Master Plan, which is an overall plan of development for solar generating facilities within the WSP plan area; and 2) the WSP Gen-Tie Corridors Plan. The project location and site description are provided below.

Westlands Solar Park Master Plan. The approximately 21,000-acre Westlands Solar Park is located in west-central Kings County and is generally bounded by State Route 198 on the north, State Route 41 on the southeast, and the Fresno County line on the west. The WSP plan area consists almost entirely of agricultural land. There are no dwellings or agricultural buildings within the plan area. County roads that traverse the plan area include Avenal Cutoff Road, Laurel Avenue, and Nevada Avenue.

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors Plan. This plan includes two gen-tie corridors, as described below.

WSP-South to Gates Gen-Tie Corridor – This 350-foot wide corridor runs parallel and adjacent to the north side of Nevada Avenue (Kings County) and Jayne Avenue (Fresno County), for a distance of approximately 11.5 miles from the WSP plan area to the Gates Substation. The corridor consists almost entirely of agricultural land.

WSP-North to Gates Gen-Tie Corridor – This 350-foot wide corridor runs parallel and adjacent to the existing 230-kV Henrietta-Gates transmission line, for a distance of approximately 11.5 miles from the northern portion of the WSP plan area to the Gates Substation. The corridor consists almost entirely of agricultural land.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The two main project elements are described as follows:

Westlands Solar Park Master Plan. The WSP Master Plan is intended to serve as the planning framework for a series of utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) energy generating facilities, consisting of individual solar projects of up to 250 MW, with a total combined generating capacity of approximately 2,000 MW, although the final power output could

increase with improved solar PV module efficiency over the course of the WSP buildout period. The installation of solar generating facilities is planned to occur incrementally over an approximately 12-year buildout period extending to about 2030.

WSP Gen-Tie Corridors Plan. The two planned gen-tie corridors are described below.

WSP-South to Gates Gen-Tie Corridor – This planned 230-kV gen-tie corridor would serve as the first of two WSP gen-ties providing delivery of solar power from the WSP to the Gates Substation. The corridor would commence near the intersection of Nevada Avenue and the 25th Avenue alignment and run westward for 11.5 miles to the Gates Substation.

WSP-North to Gates Gen-Tie Corridor – This second planned 230-kV gen-tie corridor would commence at a planned substation in the northern portion of WSP, and run southwestward for 11.5 miles to the Gates Substation.

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES: The proposed project is not located on any hazardous waste sites lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

SIGNIFICANT ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Draft PEIR identifies significant impacts under the following California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental issue areas: agricultural resources; air quality; biological resources; cultural resources and tribal cultural resources; geology and soils; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; land use and planning; paleontological resources; and transportation/traffic. All of the aforementioned impacts could be mitigated to less-than-significant levels through implementation of mitigation measures identified in the Draft PEIR.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The Draft PEIR is available for review at the following locations:

- Westlands Water District Main Office, 3130 N. Fresno Street, Fresno, CA.
- Westlands Water District Field Office, 23050 W. Mt. Whitney Avenue, Five Points, CA.
- Hanford Branch of the Kings County Library, 401 N. Douty Street, Hanford, CA.
- Lemoore Branch of the Kings County Library, 457 C Street, Lemoore, CA.

An electronic version can be downloaded from the WWD website: <http://wwd.ca.gov/news-and-reports/environmental-docs/>

PUBLIC REVIEW TIMELINE: The 45-day public review period for the Draft PEIR begins **October 17, 2017** and ends **November 30, 2017**. Comments on the Draft PEIR must be received by WWD no later than **5:00 PM on November 30, 2017** in order to be addressed in the Final PEIR. Written comments may be submitted by mail or email to the attention of Kiti Buelna-Campbell, Senior Resources Engineer, at the following:

Westlands Water District
3130 N. Fresno Street, P.O. Box 6056
Fresno, CA 93703-6056

Email: kcampbell@westlandswater.org

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DRAFT
PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

**WESTLANDS SOLAR PARK MASTER PLAN
AND WSP GEN-TIE CORRIDORS PLAN**

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2013031043

Prepared for

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT
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