



**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

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**NOTICE OF PREPARATION FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT REPORT FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP22-015  
"ZETA SOLAR AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM PROJECT"**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the County of Merced, as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for Conditional Use Permit No. CUP22-15 ("Zeta Solar and Battery Energy Storage System Project").

The County solicits your views as an agency, organization, and interested parties as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be provided in the EIR. Input provided by agencies should be germane to the agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the Project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by Merced County when considering your permit or other approval of the Project.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The proposed Zeta Solar and Battery Energy Storage System Project (Project) consists of a photovoltaic (PV) solar power generation facility with a battery energy storage system (BESS) that would generate up to approximately 75 megawatts (MW) of renewable electrical energy and include an energy storage capacity of up to 8 hours of 75 MW of alternative current (AC). The 650-acre Project also includes the construction of a 1,700-foot-long generation-tie (gen-tie) line to deliver power from the Project to Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E's) existing Mercy Springs Substation (point of interconnection).

The Project site is in unincorporated Merced County, approximately 9 miles south of Los Banos. Poleline Road abuts the southwestern Project site boundary. The California Aqueduct and U.S. Interstate 5 run parallel to the southwest Project site boundary about 300 feet and 800 feet west of the Project site, respectively.

The full project description, location, and probable environmental effects of the Project are contained in Attachment A. All project related documents can be obtained at the Community and Economic Development Department, 2222 'M' Street, Merced, CA 95340. This information is also available for download from the Merced County Planning Department website at <https://www.countyofmerced.com/414/Environmental-Documents>.

**AGENCY/PUBLIC REVIEW & COMMENTS:** You are invited to view the Notice of Preparation and submit written comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental information in connection with the Project should you wish to do so. Due to time limits mandated by state law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 30 days from receipt of this notice (**FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2023 THROUGH MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023**).

Written comments on the Draft EIR for the proposed project must be received **no later than 5:00 pm, August 14, 2023**. Comments may be sent by mail to Merced County Community and Economic Development Department (2222 "M" Street, Merced, CA 95340) or by email to Valerie Dalley at [Valerie.Dalley@countyofmerced.com](mailto:Valerie.Dalley@countyofmerced.com).

**PROJECT APPLICANT:** Longroad Development Company, LLC (330 Congress Street, 6th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02210)