



**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

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Equal Opportunity Employer

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP21-014 /
SITE PLAN AND DESIGN REVIEW No. SPR21-006
EAST CLEVELAND ROAD SOLAR PROJECT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of Merced, as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and supporting Initial Study for Conditional Use Permit No. CUP21-014 and the associated Site Plan and Design Review No. SPR21-006 ("East Cleveland Road Solar Project").

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would construct a 3-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) electric generating facility on approximately 18.3 acres of the 40-acre parcel, south of the existing on-site residences with access via South Arbor Way. There are two project areas bisected by the irrigation canal (which would be avoided with a 40-foot setback). The facilities would consist of a ground-mounted, single-axis tracking system featuring 8,316 PV panels and 24 string inverters. Additionally, the project would be equipped with energy storage technology (battery energy storage system [BESS]) that would allow on-site renewable energy generation to be stored and dispatched onto the grid when needed. The project site is located on the southwest corner of East Cleveland Road and South Arbor Way in the El Nido area, identified as Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 075-072-008. The property is designated Agricultural land use in the General Plan and is zoned A-1 (General Agriculture).

PUBLIC REVIEW: The Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is available for a 30-day public review period beginning November 14, 2022 and ending December 14, 2022. Copies of the MND are available to review at the County's website at www.countyofmerced.com/414/Environmental-Documents and at the Merced County Community and Economic Development Department located on the Second floor of the County Administration Building, 2222 "M" Street, Merced, CA 95340. Front Counter hours of operation are Mondays through Friday between 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS: Written comments on the MND for the proposed project must be received no later than 5:00 pm on December 14, 2022. Comments may be sent by mail to Merced County Community and Economic Development Department (2222 "M" Street, Merced, CA 95340) or by email to Tiffany.Ho@countyofmerced.com. If you require additional information, please contact Tiffany Ho at (209) 385-7654 ext. 4407.

PUBLIC HEARING: The Merced County Planning Commission will consider this item tentatively scheduled for December 21, 2022, at 9:00 am, or as soon thereafter as possible. The hearing will be held at the Board of Supervisors Chambers located on the Third floor of the County Administration Building, 2222 "M" Street, Merced, CA 95340.

Interested persons should contact the project planner, Tiffany Ho, at the Community and Economic Development Department, if there are any questions and to confirm the meeting date and whether or not there will be a public hearing.