

Public Notice – 401 Certification / Dredge or Fill Waste Discharge Requirements Application

Date:

December 16, 2024

Applicant:

Sapphire Solar, LLC
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San Diego, California 92128
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Duly Authorized Representative:

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Project Name:

Sapphire Solar Project
WDID No. 7A333291001, RM: 459077, Place ID: 897395

Receiving Water(s):

Washes (Ephemeral Streams) flowing from southwest to northeast towards Pinto Wash

Location:

City or Area:

3.5 miles north of Interstate 10, community of Desert Center, eastern Riverside County

Latitude/Longitude:

33.768489° N, 115.369974° W

Section, Township, Range:

Section 1 Township 5S, Range 15E

Project Description:

Sapphire Solar, LLC. will construct and operate the Sapphire Solar Project (Project), a utility-scale solar facility that will generate and store up to 117 megawatts (MW) of renewable electricity via arrays of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and appurtenant facilities on approximately 1,082 acres of private lands. The Project includes 2 linear facility routes on approximately 41 acres of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management that will include up to 2

miles of new poles, electrical lines, access roads and associated infrastructure. Existing infrastructure will provide a connection to Southern California Edison's Red Bluff Substation. Project components that will directly impact waters of the state (WOTS) include perimeter fences, access roads, ancillary facilities (BESS, operations and maintenance building, and substation) and solar arrays and interconnection infrastructure.

The Project will result in 34.7 acres (68,725 linear feet) of permanent impacts to WOTS within washes (ephemeral streams) due to surface grading, drive-and-roll methods, or discing for PV module installation and trenching for installation of below ground utility lines, and from construction of ancillary facilities and access roads. No temporary impacts to WOTS are anticipated. Permittee-responsible compensatory mitigation for permanent impacts is proposed at a 1:1 ratio through the preservation of at least 34.7 acres of WOTS on the Sapphire Preserve.

Anticipated Project Start and End Dates:

March 3, 2025 - September 1, 2026

US Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit Number(s):

N/A

Action:

Pending

Water Board Contact:

Logan Raub, Senior Environmental Scientist

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