



## NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

**Date:** August 13, 2025

**To:** Agencies and Interested Parties

**Lead Agency:** Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
Environmental Services Department  
6201 S Street, MS B209  
Sacramento, CA 95817  
Contact: Amy Spitzer

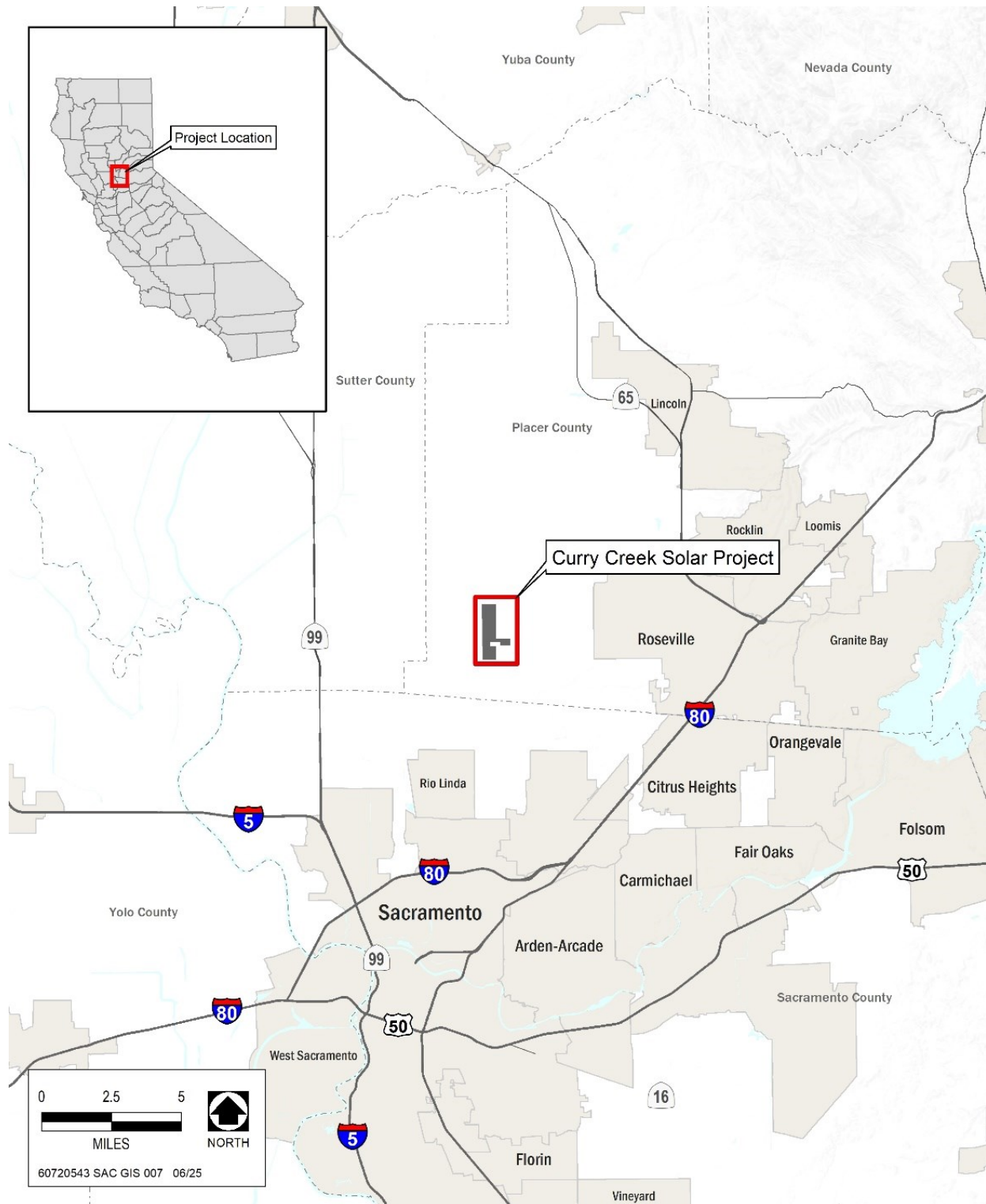
**Subject:** Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Curry Creek Solar Project

**Review Period:** August 13, 2025, to September 15, 2025

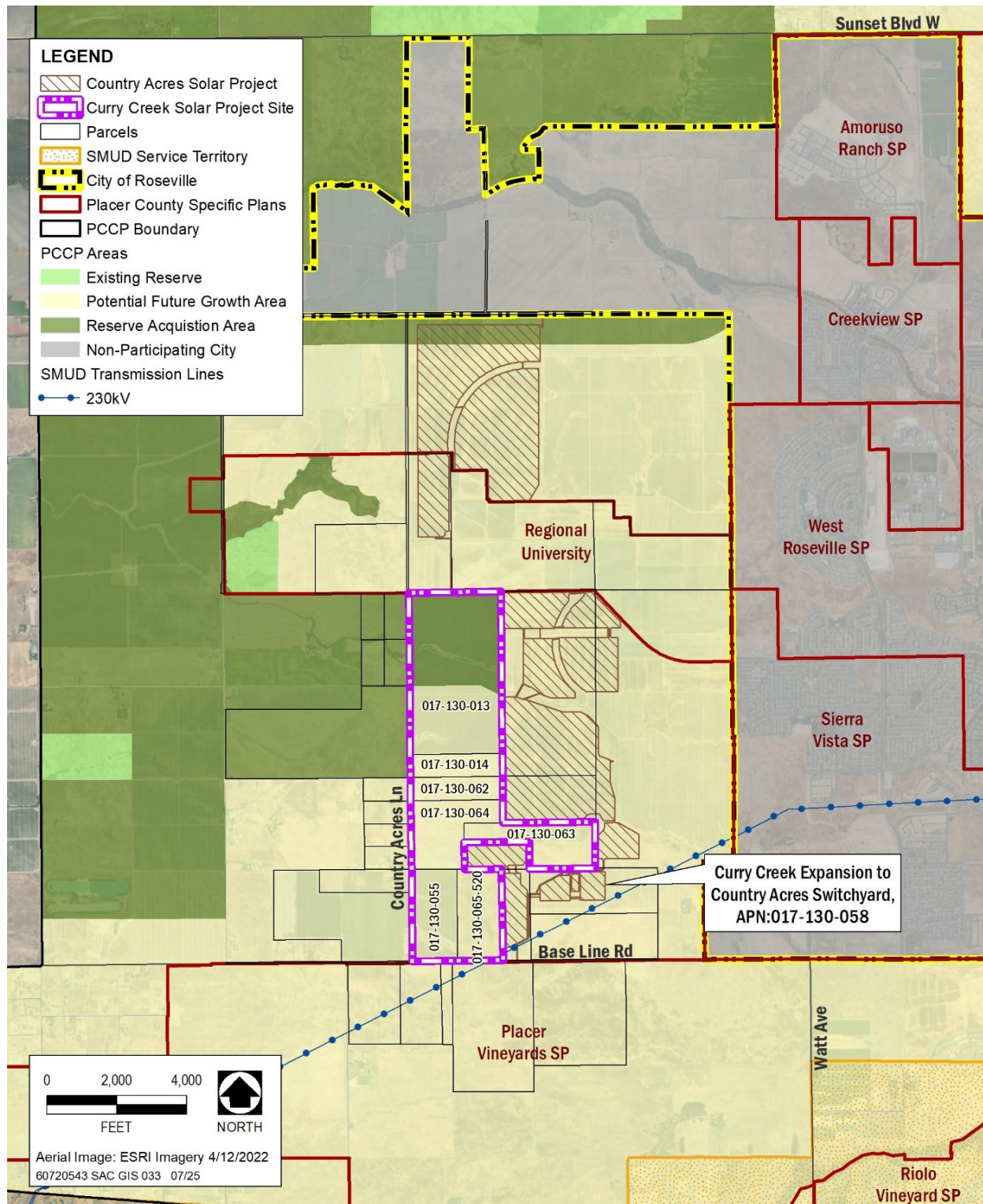
Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is proposing the Curry Creek Solar Project (Project), which would include installation, operation, and maintenance of a photovoltaic (PV) solar power and battery storage renewable energy generation facility in southwestern Placer County. The Curry Creek Solar Project would be adjacent to SMUD's Country Acres Solar Project. SMUD plans to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for the Project to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000 et seq.) and will serve as the lead agency for CEQA compliance. Throughout the CEQA process, SMUD will work closely with Placer County because the County will play a substantial Responsible Agency role in the Project as the issuer of Project entitlements including a conditional use permit.

**Purpose of Notice:** In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 15082), SMUD has prepared this notice of preparation (NOP) to inform agencies and interested parties that an EIR will be prepared for the above-referenced Project. The purpose of an NOP is to provide sufficient information about the Project and its potential environmental impacts to allow agencies and interested parties the opportunity to provide a meaningful response related to the scope and content of the EIR, including mitigation measures that should be incorporated and alternatives that should be considered (State CEQA Guidelines 14 CCR Section 15082[b]).

**Project Location:** The Project would be located on up to 696 total acres of land comprising the overall site in southwestern Placer County just west of the City of Roseville, north of Baseline Road and east of Country Acres Lane. The Project is adjacent to SMUD's Country Acres Solar project. Figure 1 is a regional vicinity map of the Project and Figure 2 shows Project parcels, and the surrounding developments including the Country Acres Solar Project and Specific Planned Communities. Primary access to the Project site would be provided by entry roads going from Country Acres Lane and Baseline Road.



**Figure 1. Regional Vicinity Map**



**Figure 2. Site Location Map with Project Parcels**



The Project site is relatively flat and includes almond orchards and grasslands with scattered seasonal wetlands, including vernal pools. Several drainages, including Curry Creek, traverse the site. Agricultural uses, grassland, and the SMUD Country Acres Solar generation site surround the Project site with some rural residential development along the west side of Country Acres Lane. Residential development is also present approximately 2 miles to the east in the City of Roseville.

The Project Area includes seven contiguous parcels in western Placer County, CA. These seven parcels are Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 017-130-013-000, APN 017-130-014-000, APN 017-130-055-000, APN 017-130-062-000, APN 017-130-063-000, APN 017-130-064-000, and APN 017-130-065-052-000. In addition, further improvements will take place on APN 017-130-058-000 within the Country Acres Switching Station. These parcels are located north of Baseline Road and east of Country Acres Lane in Sections 28 and 33 of Township 11N and Range 5E (USGS 2021<sup>1</sup>) (Figure 2).

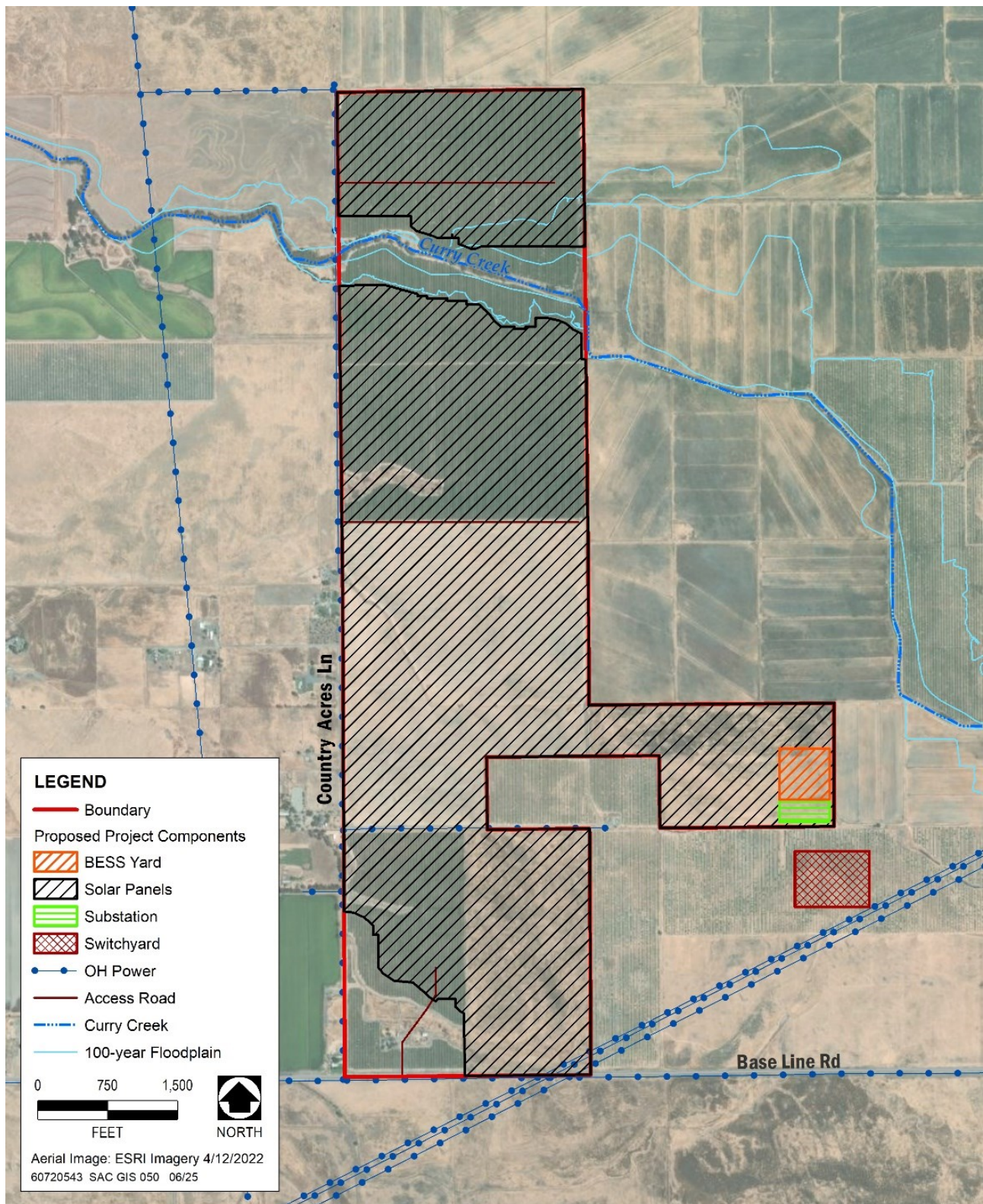
**Project Objectives:** SMUD's objectives for the Project include the following:

- Contribute to a diversified energy portfolio that will aid in the continued improvement of air quality in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin by decreasing reliance on fossil fuel combustion for the generation of electricity and reduce SMUD's exposure to price volatility associated with procurement of electricity and natural gas.
- Provide a renewable power resource to support SMUD's 2030 Zero Carbon Plan, a plan approved by the SMUD Board of Directors in 2021, which establishes a flexible pathway for SMUD to eliminate carbon emissions from its power supply by 2030 by developing and procuring dependable renewable resources.
- Develop a Project that will deliver a reliable, long-term supply of economically feasible solar and battery storage for up to 156 megawatts (MW) of electrical capacity at the point of interconnection with the existing grid managed by SMUD.
- Site the Project to avoid wetlands and other sensitive habitat areas as feasible within the available property.
- Integrate compatible agricultural activities such as grazing and/or pollinator habitat into operations.
- Optimize the delivery of solar-produced and stored energy and minimize the geographic extent of impacts by locating the facility near existing electrical infrastructure with available capacity.
- Design a flexible PV solar energy and battery storage facility that is capable of utilizing the best available, efficient, cost-effective, and proven PV solar and storage technology.
- Construct the facility in a location that is readily accessible from existing roads and that would not require the construction of major new roadway improvements.

**Project Description:** For the Curry Creek Solar Project SMUD proposes to develop up to 680 acres of land with PV energy generation, a 4-hour Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), and a Generation Substation (Figure 3).

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<sup>1</sup> United States Geological Survey (USGS), 2021. Pleasant Grove, CA 7.5' Quadrangle, 1:24,000 series.



Source: SMUD 2025

**Figure 3. Site Plan with Project Elements**



In addition to the solar facility, the Project will include an interconnection line between the generation substation and the adjacent Country Acres Switching Station to interconnect to the existing SMUD transmission system (Figure 3).

The Project is expected to deliver up to 156 MW of PV energy and up to 156 MW x 4-hour BESS at the Country Acres Switching Station point of interconnection (POI) with the grid managed by SMUD.

The total Project site would generally comprise PV solar modules, foundation piles, racking, direct current (DC) collection, alternative current (AC) collection, fencing, roads, inverters, medium voltage transformers, a generation substation with possible restroom facility, an interconnection line between the generation substation and the adjacent Country Acres Switching Station, and battery storage equipment. The new interconnection facilities, other than the generation substation, and the interconnection line, will be located within the footprint of the Country Acres Switching Station. During construction, a temporary construction trailer/office complex and staging areas would be established. During operation, the proposed Project would likely include an operations facility near the proposed substation that would likely consist of a building and/or Conex box type storage containers, as determined by the Operations and Management contractor in the later phases of Project design. At the end of the Project's life (anticipated to be 30 to 35 years), the site would be decommissioned. Decommissioning will be addressed in this EIR, as described below.

Most of the proposed Project site, approximately 532 acres, is within the Valley Potential Future Growth Area (PFG) of the Placer County Conservation Program (PCCP). The Valley PFG has been identified as the area where most of the future urban and suburban growth will occur in the Plan Area (Figure 3). However, municipal power generation is specifically excluded from coverage by the PCCP and thus excludes SMUD activities for power generation and transmission, including municipal wind and large-scale solar. The remaining acreage, approximately 164 acres, at the north end of the proposed Project and immediately north of Curry Creek are in the Reserve Acquisition Area (RAA). The RAA is designated in the PCCP as the area where a connected Reserve System could eventually be assembled; however, the development of the ultimate Reserve System depends upon property owners' willingness to sell property or conservation easements into the PCCP, and the ability of such properties to meet PCCP mitigation and conservation requirements<sup>2</sup>. The Project may consider developing solar panels in the RAA north of Curry Creek which is currently planted in almond orchard. SMUD is coordinating with the Placer Conservation Authority (PCA), the entity in charge of implementing the PCCP and Placer County, on opportunities to enhance PCCP goals on portions of the Project site not currently identified for potential inclusion in the Reserve Acquisition Area, including but not limited to undertaking restoration activities along the portion of Curry Creek that crosses the Project.

## **Solar Modules, Collection Systems, and Inverters**

The Project would involve the installation of solar PV module arrays that would convert solar energy directly to electrical power to supply the electrical grid. The solar PV modules would convert the sunlight striking the modules directly into DC power, which would be transformed to AC power via inverters. The Project would include PV modules mounted on a single-axis

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<sup>2</sup> Placer County Conservation Program, Western Placer County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan, 2020, Section 5.3.1 and Section 8.4,  
<https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/44657/Placer-County-Conservation-Program---Volume-I-PDF>

horizontal tracking system or a fixed tilt system, or a combination of both. The infrastructure, and corresponding environmental impact, would be similar for either a single-axis tracking system or a fixed-tilt system.

The Project would have an underground network of AC power cables that would connect the array transformers to medium voltage switchgear. This switchgear would connect, via an overhead or underground collection system, to the proposed generation substation. Where an overhead line is used it would be supported by wooden or steel poles approximately 30 to 40 feet tall. These lines would follow existing infrastructure easements or access roads when feasible. The onsite substation would then transform the final voltage to connect the Project power to the existing SMUD transmission system via the Country Acres Switching Station.

## **Battery Energy Storage System**

A 4-hour battery energy storage system (BESS) is proposed to be constructed within the Project footprint. Two main types of BESSs are being considered for the Project: a DC-coupled or an AC-coupled system. A DC-coupled system would consist of multiple small battery units located on concrete skids or metal posts adjacent to the solar arrays. An AC-coupled system would consist of one or more metal containers similar in size to a shipping container located on a concrete pad in the battery storage area. The BESS would be connected to the proposed generation substation via an overhead or underground collection system similar to the solar component of the Project. The BESS storage system would comply with the latest national fire protection safety codes. The codes include fire prevention, mitigation, and suppression system requirements.

## **Substation**

The proposed onsite substation would be approximately 250 feet by 550 feet and include one or more generation step-up transformers, breakers, buswork, protective relaying, meters, a site control center building, backup power, associated substation equipment, and a dedicated perimeter fence. The substation would be constructed and operated to step up the voltage of the electricity generated from the PV arrays or stored in the BESS. The substation site would be improved with compacted materials and foundations to support electrical equipment and supporting infrastructure. The substation structures would range in height from approximately 20 to 85 feet. Station service would likely be provided via one of the adjacent electrical distribution lines or emergency generators may be installed for operations and backup. An employee restroom may be constructed within the control center building that would require installing a nearby underground septic system and connection to an onsite groundwater well for water.

## **Interconnection Lines**

The interconnection of the Project to SMUD's grid would be accomplished through the Country Acres Switching Station constructing a new overhead double circuit to connect to SMUD's transmission lines. To establish the connection, SMUD proposes to install new overhead generation interconnection lines on galvanized steel mono structure poles from the proposed onsite substation to the adjacent Switching Station. The new poles would be up to approximately 100 feet tall.

The new overhead lines would be designed to reduce raptor and other bird collisions and electrocutions in compliance with SMUD's current Avian Protection Plan (APP) standards (SMUD 2024). Avian protection design standards and mortality reduction measures in the

SMUD APP include installing flight diverters to increase overhead wire visibility in high-risk collision areas and using 60-inch clearance (minimum vertical separation of 36 inches from phase to ground on single-phase structures or 43 inches between energized conductors and ground on three-phase structures) pole design in eagle/raptor use areas. In addition, the APP requires that avian injuries and mortalities be reported to the SMUD APP Coordinator and that corrective actions be implemented if high mortality rates or avian caused power outages are recorded. Observations of injured or deceased birds during routine inspections are reported to SMUD's APP Coordinator.

## **Access and Internal Road Improvements**

Primary access to the Project site during construction and operation would be provided by existing roads and a Curry Creek culvert crossing that would require minor improvements, or by newly constructed, paved, graveled, or dirt roads extending into the Project site from Baseline Road and Country Acres Lane. These new private interior roads would be approximately 12 to 20 feet wide and be constructed throughout the site and between arrays to provide access to the solar and BESS equipment and accommodate ongoing maintenance of the solar and battery facilities and emergency vehicles. Existing dirt farm roads would be used for construction and maintenance and would either be improved by compacting native soil or a gravel overlay to minimize impacts on air quality during construction and reduce dust accumulation on nearby trees and existing and future solar panels. An existing crossing of Country Acres Lane over Curry Creek would require roadway and streambank improvements, such as upgraded culverts or steel plates, to accommodate construction and operations traffic. These minor improvements could require in-channel work to replace or upgrade the existing corrugated metal culverts.

## **Utilities**

Existing overhead distribution lines adjacent to and within the Project site may provide energy to Project infrastructure and personnel during construction and operation of the Project. Additional poles and lines may be required to extend service to proposed Project components such as the Project generation substation. Some existing distribution lines may need to be removed and/or relocated underground. Water for construction and operations (panel washing) would be sourced from onsite groundwater wells currently used for irrigation of orchards.

## **Fencing and Lighting**

The entire Project site would be fenced to restrict access to authorized personnel only, improve safety, isolate electrical equipment, protect onsite improvements from theft and vandalism, and minimize potential conflicts with surrounding land uses. An eight-foot-high chain-link security fencing topped with 1 foot of barbed wire and razor ribbon supported on inclined steel post extensions would be installed around the perimeter of the new substation and BESS facility. A six-foot-high chain-link fence topped with an anti-climb topper would be placed around the PV area. A small gap at the bottom would allow small wildlife species (e.g., small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians) passage under the fence surrounding the PV area. No gap will be left around the substation and BESS facility. The final location and design of the fencing would depend on the final design of the Project.

The Project would include external safety lighting and permanent lighting on the substation, entrances to the arrays, and certain array- or BESS-related equipment such as medium voltage combining switchgear. All lighting would be light-emitting diode (LED) and comply with dark sky standards. Temporary construction lighting also may be necessary. Construction lighting would



be shielded and angled downward. Mobile lighting would be used for nighttime construction activities and would also be shielded and angled downward. Bright white light, such as metal halide, halogen, fluorescent, mercury vapor, and incandescent lighting would not be used during construction or operations. Lighting at the inverters medium voltage combining switchgear, and substation, would generally be switched off and only switched on if maintenance is required outside of daylight hours. Lighting at entrances would be on motion sensors or on from dusk until dawn and some motion sensor lights would be installed along perimeters for security. These lights would be similar to flood lighting on the front of a home.

## **Meteorological Station and Telecommunications**

Meteorological stations, approximately 10 to 15 feet in height, would be installed within the solar field. Telecommunications would be provided by a local provider or a microwave/satellite communications tower. Underground and/or overhead fiberoptic cables would be installed onsite and along the interconnection and collection lines between the solar field, BESS yard, the generation substation, and the Country Acres Switching Station.

## **Setbacks**

Setbacks would be established from the Project boundary (footprint) and around any wetlands, creeks, or other sensitive resources consistent with regulatory guidance or local requirements. A 20-foot fire break would run along the inside of the fences surrounding the solar field, consistent with local requirements.

## **Construction Activities**

Construction of the Project would take approximately eighteen months to two years and is proposed to begin in early 2028 and conclude in 2030. Preconstruction activities would include permitting, demolition of a storage garage and removal of construction and farming debris on the southern end of the Project site, if necessary, any required biological and cultural resources clearance surveys, geotechnical and other surveying, and installation of fencing.

Additionally, during the preconstruction phase of the Project, the contractor would begin to mobilize for construction. Construction mobilization would include preparing and constructing site access road improvements, including improvements along Baseline Road and Country Acres Lane for safe access for construction equipment and improvement of existing agricultural roads. Future trails development and easements will be included in the EIR and shown on Project plans. It would also include removal of existing agricultural operations including almond orchards, establishing temporary construction trailers and sanitary facilities, preparing initial construction staging areas, and preparing water access areas near existing onsite wells. All water used for construction is expected to be sourced from onsite wells currently supporting agriculture.

The primary construction staging area and the temporary construction office would be located in the southern portion of the Project site, near the proposed construction access road originating at Baseline Road. Temporary lighting may be installed to facilitate deliveries and construction management. Construction staging areas would be used to store construction materials, worker parking, and provide a designated area for receiving construction deliveries, including temporary parking for delivery trucks waiting to unload. Other temporary staging/laydown areas would also be established within the Project site during construction. After establishment of the staging area(s), Project construction would begin with the initial site preparation work. Within the solar field and interconnection facility areas and observing environmental clearances, limited grading

may be used to prepare the site for post and PV modules installation. Grading would be minimized to the extent feasible within the area to support the solar array. Grading would likely be required for the proposed BESS yard and generation substation.

Following site preparation, vertical support posts would be driven into the ground. These posts would hold the support structures, or tables, on which PV modules would be mounted. Trenches for the underground AC and DC cabling and collection, and the foundations for the inverter enclosures and transformers, would be prepared. Trenching would occur within each array to place the AC and DC electrical cables underground. Upon placing the cables in the trenches, the trenches would be backfilled. Concrete foundations would be placed for the BESS and generation substation components as well as for the interconnection poles.

Once the foundations are complete, BESS and generation substation equipment would be delivered, placed, and mounted on foundations. The BESS, and generation substation components would be connected and prepared for commissioning and energization. Interconnection poles would be set at their foundation sites and conductor would be strung between the different facilities prior to commissioning and energization.

Typical construction equipment such as scrapers, dozers, dump trucks, watering trucks, motor graders, vibratory compactors, sheepsfoot, trenching and cable installation equipment, and backhoes would be used during construction. Other construction equipment that may be used would include generators, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), pickup trucks, loaders, excavators, skid loaders, directional and other drilling equipment, road reclaimers, post drivers, forklifts, a mobile crane, and a boom lift.

Fuel may be stored onsite during peak construction activities and would be stored consistent with standard construction best management practices.

## **Construction Workforce**

Construction crews are expected to arrive at the Project site between approximately 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. and leave the site between approximately 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday for most of Project construction. During hotter weather, construction crews may arrive earlier and leave later in the evening. Some earlier or later hours and weekend work may also be required to maintain the Project construction schedule, complete critical activities, and accommodate deliveries. The number of personnel onsite during nighttime construction would depend upon the nature of the construction activity or materials being delivered to the site. As needed, mobile lighting units would be used to accommodate temporary construction activities.

## **Access and Traffic**

Most of the traffic generated during Project construction would be for employees commuting and the delivery of components and equipment. Primary access to the Project site during construction and operation would be provided by an existing access point from Baseline Road, and by access roads from Country Acres Lane, as shown in Figure 3. Improvements to the intersection of Baseline Road and Country Acres Lane would likely be required to provide safe access during construction and operation.

In addition to construction workforce trips, Project construction would require the following types of vehicle trips (all heavy vehicles):

- Equipment and materials deliveries.
- Excavation, debris, and material hauling.
- Visitors, inspectors, management.

Most of the construction traffic would likely originate from Baseline Road via Highway 99. Materials would generally be delivered outside of the peak morning and afternoon traffic hours to the extent feasible and would be delivered to the designated receiving area. The materials would then be distributed within the site as needed.

## **Grading and Vegetation Removal/Management**

Limited grading and vegetation removal is proposed along the access roads, at the location of the inverters and transformers, at the BESS yard, and the generation substation. Aside from these areas, vegetation removal would occur across the site including removal of all almond trees in orchards. Once construction is complete, the area under the solar panels would be seeded with grasses and pollinator-friendly vegetation and would be used for sheep grazing.

## **Other Site Improvements**

To help prepare the Project site for development, a few other activities would need to be completed:

- Temporary 12 kV line to provide power at staging yards.
- Removal of current agricultural operations such as irrigation for orchards.
- Removal or relocation to underground the existing 12 kV lines providing power to wells.

## **Construction Waste Management and Recycling**

Construction activities would generate waste that in some cases may require off-site disposal. The California Green Building Code requires that at least 65 percent of construction and demolition waste be diverted from landfills.

Construction and demolition waste generated from this Project would consist of the following:

- Scrap metal – copper wire, transformers, iron, steel, and aluminum.
- Solid waste – trash, cardboard, wood products, inert organics, non-hazardous solar panels, and concrete.
- Universal waste – inverters, DC disconnect, battery pack, and power meters.
- Hazardous waste – lubricants and oils, spill clean-up debris, and solar panels that meet the characterization of a hazardous waste.
- Organic agriculture biomass, such as any removed orchard trees, would be chipped on site and used as mulch.

All waste shipped offsite would be transported in accordance with the Department of Transportation, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 49, Subtitle B, Chapter I and CCR, Title 13, Division 2.

Hazardous waste generated would be properly stored and disposed of in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations. No hazardous waste is expected to be generated during



construction; however, construction equipment uses various hazardous materials (diesel fuel, oil, solvents, etc.). If disposal of these materials were needed, it would be done off site in accordance with all applicable laws pertaining to the handling and disposal of hazardous waste.

## **Operation and Maintenance Activities**

The Project would operate seven days per week. One regular onsite employee may be required, and some personnel may visit the site to monitor, maintain, and repair the system as needed. PV panels will be periodically washed during Project operation as needed, typically once a year. To conservatively estimate potential panel washing operational water use, it is estimated that solar panels would be washed once per year in case of excessive soiling. Wash water would be sourced from onsite groundwater wells. The Project may also require occasional repair or replacement of Project components. Inverters may require replacement every 10 years, while PV panels generally last 30 to 40 years. Thus, infrastructure replacement is expected to be rare. Other operational activities include BESS equipment maintenance, interconnection equipment maintenance, production reporting, equipment inspecting and testing, and similar activities. General site maintenance would include vegetation management, including onsite grazing, road maintenance, and general upkeep of the facility.

Pickup trucks and flatbeds, forklifts, and loaders may be used for normal maintenance. Large, heavy-haul, transport equipment would be occasionally used to repair or replace equipment. Non-hazardous waste would be collected in designated locations and picked up/disposed of by a local waste disposal or recycling company. Oil, electronic equipment, and other potentially hazardous waste would be collected, stored, and disposed of in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. A restroom facility may be built near the substation. Otherwise, sanitary facilities would consist of a regularly maintained portable toilet.

Preventive maintenance kits and certain critical spare equipment would be stored onsite, most likely in a weatherproof container, such as Conex or similar, while all other components would be readily available from a remote warehouse facility.

## **Safety Controls**

Health and safety plans would be developed for both the construction and operational phases of the Project. While Project-specific plans have not yet been prepared, the plans would call for implementation of various measures including safety signage in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements.

## **Decommissioning and Site Restoration**

At the end of the Project's useful life (anticipated to be 30 to 35 years or more), it would be decommissioned.

Currently, standard decommissioning practices include dismantling and repurposing, salvaging/recycling, or disposing of solar energy improvements, and site stabilization. Actual decommissioning and site restoration activities for the Project would be conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements in effect at the time of Project termination, and a final decommissioning plan, based on then-current technology, site conditions, and regulations, would be prepared prior to actual decommissioning.

Under current standard decommissioning practices, solar modules are removed, collected, and recycled or disposed of at a properly licensed landfill. Some or all components (i.e., aluminum

and steel components) are salvaged and/or recycled, as feasible. Components that cannot be salvaged are removed and disposed of in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Generally, only those portions of the underground collection system that would conflict with future land uses would be removed. Components of an underground system that would not conflict with other land uses typically would be kept in place to minimize disturbances to existing vegetation. Similarly, access roads that would conflict with other land uses would be removed and the aggregate recycled, and roads that are compatible with other land uses would be left in place. Overhead electrical collection lines, poles, and associated components would be disassembled and removed, and reprocessed, sold, salvaged, or otherwise disposed of in an appropriate manner.

Substation components including steel, conductors, switches, transformers, fencing, control houses, and other materials, typically would be removed from a site and would be repurposed, salvaged, or recycled, or disposed of in an appropriate manner.

Some grading may be required to re-contour access road areas or address erosion. Future site restoration activities are assumed to be similar to the procedures used during construction to restore temporarily disturbed areas. Because decommissioning details are uncertain at this time, the EIR will include a mitigation measure that a separate decommissioning and reclamation plan be prepared at the time of decommissioning.

**Potential Environmental Effects:** The EIR will describe the significant direct and indirect environmental impacts of the Project. The EIR also will evaluate the cumulative impacts of the Project, defined as impacts that could be exacerbated when considered in conjunction with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future Projects. SMUD anticipates that the Project could result in potentially significant environmental impacts in the following resource areas, which will be further evaluated in the EIR:

- **Aesthetics:** Temporary and long-term changes in scenic views or visual character of the Project site as viewed by motorists on Baseline Road and Country Acres Lane and recreationalists, along with the potential for glare.
- **Agriculture:** Temporary or long-term changes to existing environment and conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use and termination of a Williamson Act contract on parcel 017-130-058 (substation).
- **Air Quality:** Temporary increases in air pollutant emissions associated with construction and operation associated with mobile-source emissions from maintenance worker trips and operation of the emergency backup generator.
- **Biological Resources:** Temporary disturbances or permanent losses of habitats; temporary disturbances or permanent losses of state or federally protected wetlands; temporary disturbances or permanent losses of special-status plant species; and construction disturbances or take of special-status terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species.
- **Cultural Resources:** Temporary or permanent disturbances of known or unknown historical or archaeological resources.

- **Geology and Soils:** Potential soil erosion or loss of topsoil during construction; and potential impacts related to unstable soils, earthquakes, unique geological features, and expansive soils at the Project site.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Temporary increases in greenhouse gas emissions associated with mobile-source exhaust from construction worker commute trips, truck haul trips, and equipment (e.g., excavators, graders), with much greater long-term decreases in greenhouse gas emissions due to replacement of electrical generation by fossil fuel power plants.
- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** Potential spills of hazardous materials during construction; potential exposure of workers to hazardous materials during construction; and increased exposure to wildland fire risk during construction.
- **Hydrology and Water Quality:** Potential temporary and permanent alterations of local drainage patterns and increases in stormwater peak flow and volumes and potential downstream runoff effects; temporary effects on water quality during construction, including spills of fuel or other hazardous materials; and potential impacts to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and local 100-year floodplains and floodways and drainage facilities throughout the site. A water supply Assessment (WSA) will be prepared for the Project, analyzing the availability of groundwater to support construction and operation and will support the analysis in the EIR.
- **Land Use and Planning:** Compliance with local and regional adopted plans including the PCCP and adjacent specific plans that may have access or trails easements on or near the Project site.
- **Noise:** Temporary increases in noise (including off-site, truck traffic noise) and vibration levels during construction.
- **Public Services:** Potential impacts to fire and emergency services and maintenance of public roads.
- **Transportation and Traffic:** Temporary increases in traffic and traffic hazards on local roadways (including Country Acres Lane and Baseline Road) during construction.
- **Tribal Cultural Resources:** Potential substantial adverse changes to tribal cultural resources.
- **Wildfire:** Potential increased exposure to wildland fire risk during construction.

These potential impacts will be assessed and discussed in detail in the EIR, and feasible and practicable mitigation measures will be recommended to reduce any identified significant or potentially significant impacts. The EIR will also include an analysis of alternatives that may avoid or reduce potentially significant impacts and an analysis of cumulative impacts.

SMUD anticipates that the Project will not result in significant environmental impacts in the following resource areas, which will not be further evaluated in the EIR: energy, mineral resources, population and housing, recreation, and utilities.

**Potential Approvals and Permits Required:** Elements of the Project could be subject to permitting and/or approval authority of other agencies. As the lead agency pursuant to CEQA, SMUD is responsible for considering the adequacy of the EIR and to obtain or have the Project



implement any regulatory permits. Permits potentially required from other agencies could include:

## **Federal**

- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:** Compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) for discharge of fill to Waters of the U.S.
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:** Consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Letter of Concurrence for a Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA) determination or incidental Take Permit (ITP) for federally listed species, if applicable.
- **State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO):** Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (required in support of CWA Section 404 permit, if needed).
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** Conditional Letter/Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR/LOMR) for floodplain boundary.

## **State**

- **State Water Resources Control Board:** Clean Water Act Section 402 construction general permit.
- **Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board:** Clean Water Act Section 401, water quality certification; and/or waste discharge permit for waters of the state, if applicable.
- **California Department of Fish and Wildlife:** Compliance with California Endangered Species Act (CESA), potential permits under Section 2081 of the Fish and Game Code if take of listed species is likely to occur; Section 1602 streambed alteration agreement for construction activities that occur within the bed, bank or channel of waterways.
- **California Department of Transportation:** Encroachment permit and/or transportation management plan for any oversized equipment, such as transformers.

## **Local**

- **Placer County:** Conditional Use Permit (CUP), Improvement Plans/Grading Permit, Encroachment Permits, Notification of termination of Williamson Act contracts, Finding of consistency with General Plan policies 1.I.2.1 and 1.I.2.2 pertaining to inclusion of a portion of the Project area within the PCCP RAA or amendments to these General Plan policies.
- **Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD):** Submittal of a Dust Control Plan, pursuant to PCAPCD Rule 228, for ground disturbance of an area greater than one acre.

**Document Availability:** the NOP is available for public review on SMUD's website: [www.smud.org/ceqa](http://www.smud.org/ceqa). Printed copies of the NOP are also available for public review at the following locations:

Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
Customer Service Center  
6301 S Street  
Sacramento, CA 95817

Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
East Campus Operations Center  
4401 Bradshaw Road  
Sacramento, CA 95827

**Public Scoping Meeting:** A public scoping meeting will be conducted by SMUD to inform interested parties about the Project, and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to provide comments on the scope and content of the EIR. The meeting time and location are as follows:

August 28, 2025  
Time: 5:30 – 6:30 pm  
Location: Garden Room @theGrounds, Roseville

**Comment Period:** Agencies and interested parties may provide SMUD with written comments on topics to be addressed in the EIR. Comments can be provided anytime during the NOP review period but must be received by 5:00 p.m. on September 15, 2025. Please send all comments, with appropriate contact information, to the following address via hard copy or email:

Amy Spitzer  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
Environmental Services Department  
6201 S Street, MS B209  
Sacramento, CA 95817  
[CurryCreekSolar@smud.org](mailto:CurryCreekSolar@smud.org)

All comments on environmental issues received during the public comment period will be considered and addressed in the Draft EIR, which is anticipated to be available for public review in spring 2026.