



## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

**Date:** March 17, 2025

**To:** Agencies and Interested Parties

**Lead Agency:** Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
6201 S Street, MS B203  
Sacramento, CA 95817-1899  
Contact: Kim Crawford at [kim.crawford@smud.org](mailto:kim.crawford@smud.org)

**Subject:** Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report: Oveja Ranch Solar Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2024090310)

**Review period:** March 17 to May 2, 2025

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Oveja Ranch Solar Project (Project). The Project would involve the construction and operation of solar panels with a battery energy storage system and associated infrastructure, located in southeastern Sacramento County. This is an important contribution to achieve our 2030 Zero Carbon Plan and provide clean, renewable energy to customers.

**Project location:** The Project would be located south of the City of Rancho Cordova and north of Wilton, bound to the north by Florin Road and to the east by Eagles Nest Road. The Project site is approximately 534 acres (Exhibit 1) and would be constructed on approximately 400 acres of leased land within the project site. New and reconducted overhead distribution lines may be constructed on Eagles Nest Road, Florin Road, Excelsior Road and unimproved Gerber Road to interconnect the Project to our distribution system.

**Project description:** The Oveja Ranch Solar Project includes construction and operation of a photovoltaic (PV) solar power and battery storage facility, including a generation substation and interconnection lines. These lines will provide new power production capacity of up to 75 megawatts (MW) delivered at the point of interconnection with the electrical grid we manage. As part of the Project, the Williamson Act contracts for the Project site would be amended to include PV solar development as a compatible use to the property owner's ongoing agricultural production.

Construction of the Project would take approximately eighteen months to two years and is proposed to begin as early as the third quarter of 2026 and conclude in 2028. After construction is complete, the Project would continue to use the land for agricultural activities through continued irrigation of the pastures within the Project site for grazing and possible crop production and the potential installation of pollinator friendly vegetation. Vegetation would grow under and between the solar panels to prevent erosion and provide forage for sheep to graze. The grazing lands would be irrigated using the existing flood irrigation

system, which would be preserved to ensure that it remains functional during Project operations. At the end of the Project's useful life (anticipated to be 34 years and 11 months), the solar panels and associated infrastructure would be decommissioned.

We anticipate that SMUD's Board of Directors would consider the Project at a hearing in fall 2025. Please visit [smud.org/OvejaRanch](https://smud.org/OvejaRanch) for updates.

**Significant environmental effects anticipated:** With implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, no project impacts were determined to be significant and unavoidable. The potentially significant impacts of the project are agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology, soils and paleontological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, transportation, and Tribal cultural resources. After recommended mitigation measures are implemented, all impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels.

**Cortese-listed sites:** Section 15087 (c)(6) of the State CEQA Guidelines requires that this notice disclose whether the project site is listed on any of the lists enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5 (Cortese List). There are no records for the project site in the Department of Toxic Substance Control's EnviroStor database or the California State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker database; therefore, the project site is not listed on hazardous waste and substances sites lists.

**Document availability:** The Draft EIR is available at [smud.org/OvejaRanch](https://smud.org/OvejaRanch)

Printed copies may be reviewed during normal business hours at the following locations:

SMUD  
Customer Service Center  
6301 S Street  
Sacramento, CA 95817

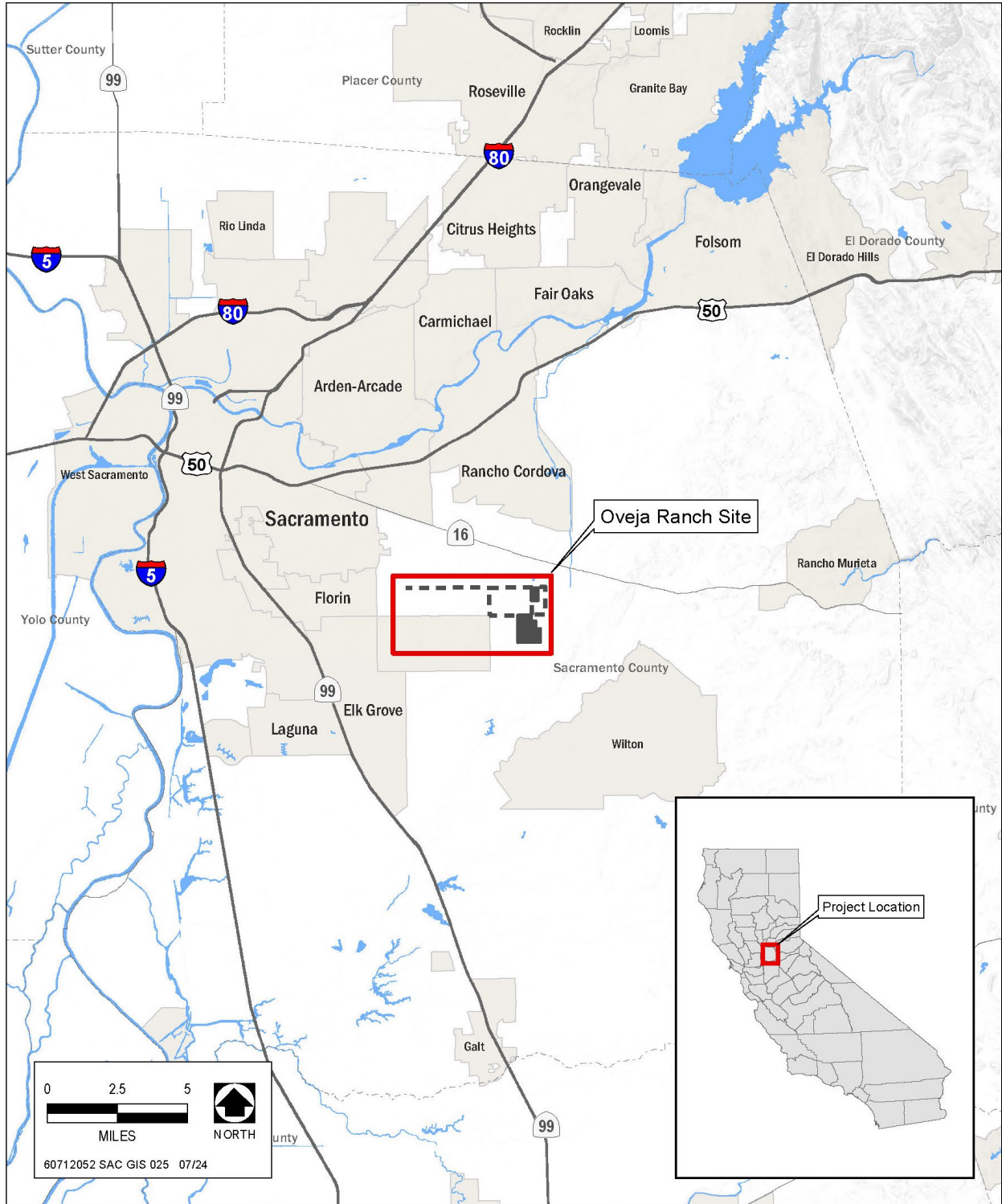
SMUD  
East Campus Operations Center  
4401 Bradshaw Road  
Sacramento, CA 95827

**Public meeting:** Project representatives will be available to discuss the environmental impacts identified in the DEIR, proposed mitigation measures and the public comment process:

**April 10, 5:30 – 7 p.m.**  
**Sheldon High School library**  
**8333 Kingsbridge Drive, Sacramento, CA 95829**

**Comment period:** Submit written comments by 5 p.m. on May 2, 2025 to [OvejaRanch@smud.org](mailto:OvejaRanch@smud.org)

For more information visit [smud.org/OvejaRanch](https://smud.org/OvejaRanch).



**Exhibit 1 Regional Location Map**