

**NOTICE OF INTENT  
TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) has completed the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the proposed Gold Tree Solar Project. The IS/MND found the following environmental factors to be less than significant with mitigation incorporated: Aesthetics, Agriculture, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, and Transportation/Traffic.

**APPLICANT & LEAD AGENCY:** California State University Board of Trustees

**PROJECT SPONSOR:** Cal Poly Facilities Planning and Capital Projects

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The project site is located in the northern extent of the University campus, southeast of the California Men's Colony, on the east side of Highway 1, approximately 0.5 mile north of Stenner Creek Road, north of the City of San Luis Obispo. The site would be accessed via an existing ranch road extending from Highway 1, and internal 24-foot wide unpaved, decomposed granite access roads.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Cal Poly proposes to retain a third-party developer to construct, operate, and decommission an approximately 18.5-acre, two to five megawatt, unmanned photovoltaic solar energy facility. Each tracker module would be tilted to the south, and installed at an approximate 20 degree angle in relationship to the horizontal plane, with the higher end at approximately 12 feet and the lower end at approximately 4 feet. The project includes a new transformer, 200-square foot maintenance and storage building (approximately 10 feet in height), six-foot tall perimeter security fencing and gates, and associated internal access, utilities, and stormwater management. Motion-sensor security lighting is proposed at the maintenance and storage structures, consisting of six 24-foot tall poles and shielded light fixtures. The proposed project would include a generation interconnection to the existing Pacific Gas & Electric Gold Tree substation, located approximately 200 feet north of the project site. There are existing power lines traversing the project site leading to the substation. The following options are currently identified for connection to the substation: 1) the project may tie into the existing 12 kilovolt (kV) or 70 kV lines with "T-tap" cut-outs; 2) the project may include the construction of a new overhead line and new cross arms; or 3) the project may include the construction of new poles, lines, and three conductors. The project includes the planting, establishment, and maintenance of landscaping and screening vegetation that will reach a height of six to 8 feet. While the development footprint of the final project would be approximately 20 acres, construction of the proposed project is anticipated to require up to approximately 40 acres of disturbance. At this time, no mass grading, substantial alterations to the existing topography, or hauling of excess fill or import of clean fill are proposed. The facility would require monthly maintenance, and panel washing would occur approximately twice a year. The project includes de-commissioning the facility and reclamation of the site.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE/SUBSTANCES:** The project site is not included on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** The 30-day public review period for the IS/MND begins on July 5, 2016 and ends on August 4, 2016. Written comments should be sent to Joel Neel, Director, Facilities Planning and Capital Projects, Building 70, Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407 or to [jneel@calpoly.edu](mailto:jneel@calpoly.edu) by 5:00 p.m., August 4, 2016.

**AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:** Copies of the IS/MND and all appended and referenced documents are available for review from the Facilities Planning and Capital Projects Building 70, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407 and on the university's website at the following link: [https://afd.calpoly.edu/facilities/facp\\_index.asp](https://afd.calpoly.edu/facilities/facp_index.asp)