

protective equipment (which includes ballistic vests, helmets, and eyewear); and greater first responder interoperability and incident management—will help to save lives by mitigating first responder risk and improving the emergent and immediate medical management of casualties encountered during IED and/or active shooter incidents.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William Seifarth, DHS Office of Health Affairs, telephone: 202-254-6077 or email: [william.seifarth@dhs.gov](mailto:william.seifarth@dhs.gov).

Dated: June 3, 2015.

**William Seifarth,**

*Deputy Director (Acting), Workforce Health and Medical Support Division, DHS Office of Health Affairs.*

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**BILLING CODE 9110-9K-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-5879-N-01]

### The Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Solicitation of Expressions of Interest From Technical Experts and Organizations to Co-Lead Policy Units

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, HUD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (referred to as Habitat III) will be held in Quito, Ecuador, from October 17 through 20, 2016. HUD, in coordination with the U.S. Department of State and other Federal agencies, is leading the United States' preparatory efforts for Habitat III. As part of the preparatory process, the Secretary-General of Habitat III is seeking technical experts to serve as members of 10 policy units to co-lead those policy units. This notice seeks expressions of interest from technical experts who meet the criteria described in this notice, and from organizations wishing to co-lead policy units. Expressions of interest should be submitted to [Leopold.E.Wetula@hud.gov](mailto:Leopold.E.Wetula@hud.gov).

**DATES:** Expressions of interest will be solicited through June 11, 2015.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Leo Wetula, Office of International and Philanthropic Innovation, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban

Development, 4517th Street SW., Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 402-6970 (this is not a toll-free number). Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

The United Nations General Assembly decided to convene the Habitat III Conference to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization, to focus on the implementation of a "New Urban Agenda", building on the Habitat Agenda of Istanbul in 1996. Member States of the General Assembly decided that the objectives of the Conference are to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty, and identify and address new and emerging challenges. The expectation is that the conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document. Habitat III will be one of the first United Nations global summits after the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and offers a unique opportunity to discuss the important challenge of how cities, towns, and villages are planned and managed, in order to fulfill their role as drivers of sustainable development.<sup>1</sup>

As noted in the Summary of this notice, HUD, in coordination with the U.S. Department of State and other Federal agencies, is leading the United States' preparatory efforts for Habitat III. Part of this preparatory effort is to help identify technical experts to serve as members of 10 policy units to co-lead those policy units. Policy units refer to groups of individual experts from a variety of fields, including academia, government, civil society and other regional and international bodies, and are charged with identifying challenges, policy priorities, and critical issues as well as develop action-oriented recommendations for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The issues to be addressed by each policy unit will serve as technical inputs for Member States' consideration in the preparation of the outcome document of the Conference.

For Habitat III, the Conference plans to establish 10 policy units that will be composed of 20 technical experts, including participants from academia, government, civil society and other regional and international bodies,

ensuring diversity and geographical representation. Each policy unit will be co-led by two organizations. A list and descriptions of the policy units can be found on the Habitat III Web site.<sup>2</sup>

##### II. Solicitation of Interests

###### A. Solicitation of Interests From Technical Experts

On behalf of Habitat III, HUD is soliciting expressions of interest from qualified technical experts, whose names will be forward to Habitat III for consideration for appointment to one of the policy units. The general selection criteria, as established by Habitat III, cover the following three broad categories:

- Demonstrable Competence;
- Geographical Balance; and
- Gender Balance.

More information on the selection process can be found in Habitat III's Annex I (Selection Process and Criteria). Other information on serving as a technical expert, including duties and responsibilities, can be found in Habitat III's Annex II (Terms of Reference for Experts). Requests for copies of these annexes should be sent to [Leopold.E.Wetula@hud.gov](mailto:Leopold.E.Wetula@hud.gov).

###### B. Solicitation of Organizations Seeking To Co-Lead Policy Units

On behalf of Habitat III, HUD is also soliciting expressions of interest from organizations wishing to co-lead the 10 policy units. Each policy unit will be co-led by two organizations appointed by the Secretary General of the Conference. Information on selection criteria for co-leading organizations can be found in Habitat III's Annex I and Annex III (Terms of Reference for Co-leading Organizations). Again, requests for copies of these annexes should be sent to [Leopold.E.Wetula@hud.gov](mailto:Leopold.E.Wetula@hud.gov).

All expressions of interest to serve as co-leading organizations should provide basic contact information, and should identify the policy unit or units of which the organization is interested in co-leading.

##### C. Selection of Technical Experts and Co-Leading Organizations

The Secretary General of Habitat III will make all decisions regarding the appointment of technical experts to policy units and the selection of co-leading organizations.

<sup>1</sup> See <http://unhabitat.org/habitat-iii/>.

<sup>2</sup> See [http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Habitat-III-Issue-Papers-and-Policy-Units\\_11-April.pdf](http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Habitat-III-Issue-Papers-and-Policy-Units_11-April.pdf).

Dated: June 3, 2015.

**Salin G. Geervarghese,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for International and Philanthropic Innovation.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CACA 049584, LLCAD015000.L51010000.ER0000.15X.LVRWB09B3130]

#### **Notice of Availability of a Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement and Final Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project, San Bernardino County, CA**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Barstow Field Office, Barstow, California, has prepared a Proposed California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan Amendment and Joint Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in cooperation with San Bernardino County for the Soda Mountain Solar Project (Project), and by this notice is announcing their availability. The Proposed Project is a 358 megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) solar energy generation facility, along with supporting infrastructure, in rural San Bernardino County. After review, the BLM's Preferred Alternative identified in the Final EIS excludes the proposed northern solar array, includes the Applicant Proposed alignment for Razor Road, and excludes the proposed brine ponds associated with reverse osmosis treatment of groundwater. The BLM's Preferred Alternative would reduce the Project size from 2,557 to 1,923 acres, and decrease the Project's output from 358 to 264 MW.

**DATES:** BLM planning regulations state that any person who meets the conditions as described in the regulations may protest the BLM's proposed plan amendment/final EIS. A person who meets the conditions and files a protest must file the protest within 30 days of the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its notice of availability of the proposed plan amendment/final EIS in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the proposed plan amendment/final EIS and EIR have been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies and to other stakeholders. Copies of the proposed plan amendment/final EIS and EIR are available for public inspection at the Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311; and the California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553-9046. Interested persons may also review the proposed plan amendment/final EIS and EIR on the Internet at <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/cdd.html>. All protests must be in writing and mailed. For regular mail, please send protests to: BLM Director (210), Attention: Protest Coordinator, P.O. Box 71383, Washington, DC 20024-1383. For overnight mail or other delivery, please send protests to: BLM Director (210), Attention: Protest Coordinator, 20 M St. SE., Room 2134LM, Washington, DC 20003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeffery Childers; telephone, 760-252-6020; mail, BLM Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311; email, [jchilders@blm.gov](mailto:jchilders@blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The BLM has received a right-of-way (ROW) application from Soda Mountain Solar, LLC to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a PV power plant facility along with the necessary ancillary facilities. The Project as proposed by the Applicant would occupy approximately 2,557 acres, within a 4,170 right-of-way application area. The Project is located along Interstate 15 (I-15), south of Blue Bell Mine Road, about 6 miles southwest of Baker, California, and 52 miles northeast of Barstow, California. As initially proposed, the Project would include solar array fields, access roads, collector lines, a substation with switchyard and interconnection, ancillary buildings, groundwater production, test, and observation water wells, water tanks, a water treatment and storage facility, brine ponds, warehouses, fencing, berms, other infrastructure, and laydown areas. The Project will be accessed by the existing Razor and Blue Bell Mine roads. New internal roads would be constructed among collector lines, substation, solar

arrays and sub arrays, and other ancillary facilities. The interconnection to the proposed substation and collector lines from the arrays would be via underground trench, including underground trenching beneath I-15. The Project as proposed by the Applicant would have up to 358 megawatts of generating capacity which would interconnect with existing power lines. The BLM Preferred Alternative would eliminate the array north of Interstate 15 which would reduce the permitted project to 264 megawatts of solar energy.

In connection with its decision on the proposed Project, the BLM is considering an amendment to the CDCA Plan, as analyzed in the final EIS and EIR alternatives. The CDCA Plan, while recognizing the potential compatibility of solar energy facilities on public lands, requires that all sites associated with power generation or transmission not identified in the CDCA Plan be considered through the land use plan amendment process. The BLM is deciding whether to amend the CDCA Plan to identify the Project site as suitable or unsuitable for solar development.

The proposed plan amendment/final EIS and EIR describes the following seven alternatives: Alternative A: The Applicant Proposed Action—358 MW on 2,557 acres; Alternative B (Preferred Alternative)—264 MW project on 1,923 acres; Alternative C—298 MW project on 2,354 acres; Alternative D—250 MW project on 2,134 acres; Alternative E—No action alternative/no project approval, no issuance of a ROW Grant, no county approval of a groundwater well permit, no Land Use Plan amendment; Alternative F—BLM approves project with no county approval of a groundwater well permit; and Alternative G—Planning decision identifying the area as unsuitable for solar through a Land Use Plan Amendment, with no issuance of a ROW Grant, and no county approval of a groundwater well permit. All of the alternatives, except Alternative E, would include an amendment to the CDCA Plan. The Agency Preferred Alternative identified as Alternative B, removes the northern array and associated facilities, includes the Applicant Proposed alignment for Razor Road, and excludes the proposed brine ponds associated with reverse osmosis treatment of groundwater, as contemplated under Alternative F. The BLM's Preferred Alternative would reduce the Project size from 2,557 to 1,923 acres, and decrease the Project's output from 358 to 264 MW.