

# ADDENDUM

## MONTEREY REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

5 Harris Court, Bldg. D, Monterey, California 93940-5756  
(831) 372-3367 or (831) 422-1001 - FAX: (831) 372-6178

### REGULAR MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

for

**Monday, November 30, 2009, 6:00 p.m.**

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#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*[Note: MRWPCA Board Members are appointed from their respective Joint Powers Authority (JPA) jurisdictions.]*

Lou Calcagno, Chair	Monterey County
Gloria De La Rosa, Vice Chair	Salinas
Ramiro Cortez	Boronda County Sanitation District
Ron Stefani	Castroville Community Services District
Dennis Allion	Del Rey Oaks
Kenneth K. Nishi	Marina Coast Water District
Libby Downey	Monterey
Chris Orman	Moss Landing County Sanitation District
Carmelita Garcia	Pacific Grove
Dave Pendergrass	Sand City
Ralph Rubio	Seaside
Vacant	United States Army - Ex-Officio

You are invited to visit our Website @ [www.mrwPCA.org](http://www.mrwPCA.org) to access a description of MRWPCA and its Mission Statement.

**NOTE:** All enclosures and staff materials regarding the following agenda items are available for public review on Wednesday, November 25, 2009, through Monday, November 30, 2009, at the MRWPCA's Administrative Office in Monterey at Ryan Ranch, and at the public libraries located in Castroville, Marina, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Salinas, and Seaside.

**7. PUBLIC HEARING AND ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEM(S)**

*Public Hearing Items consist of business which the underlying statute or ordinance specifically requires input from the public prior to a vote by the Board. These items are acted upon in the following sequence: (1) Staff Reports; (2) Board Questions to Staff; (3) Public Comments; and, (4) Board Discussion and Action.*

**ACTION**

- B. Adopt MRWPCA Resolution No. 2009-14, Approving Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for Solar Power System for MRWPCA Recycled Water Facility [add addendum for revised/additional pages related to Public Comments received.]

\* \* \* \* \*

This Meeting Notice Addendum was posted at the Administrative Offices of the MRWPCA, 5 Harris Court, Building D, Monterey, California, action may be taken on any of the items agendized above.

POSTED: Wednesday, November 25, 2009

BY: /s/Betty Nebb

Executive Assistant

## **ADDENDUM**

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The following revisions are made to Attachment 1 (RESOLUTION 2009-14) to Agenda Item 7:

### **ABOVE THE FINAL "WHEREAS" ADD:**

**WHEREAS**, comments were received during the public review period of the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and these comments were addressed in the Final Initial Study; and,

**WHEREAS**, the comments received during the public review period of the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration did not constitute new information of substantial importance, did not introduce new significant impacts and did not worsen the severity of any identified significant impacts in the Draft Initial Study nor did modification of the text of the Draft Initial Study in response to said comments constitute substantial changes to the impact analysis included in the Draft Initial Study; and,

The following revisions are made to Attachment 2 (FINAL INITIAL STUDY / MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION) to Agenda Item 7 in response to public comments received:

### **REPLACE THE FIRST 6 PAGES WITH THE FOLLOWING 9 PAGES:**

**Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration**

**for the**

**Clean Energy Solar Power System for Monterey Water  
Pollution Control Agency's Recycled Water Facility**

**November 2009**

**Prepared by:**

**Denise Duffy & Associates, Inc. for Lead Agency  
947 Cass St. Suite 5  
Monterey, CA 93940**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Background.....1
- 1.2 Public Participation.....2

2.0 RESPONSE TO COMMENTS.....3

- 2.1 Introduction.....3
- 2.2 List of Comment Letters.....3
- 2.3 Response to Comments.....3

3.0 REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT IS/MND .....4

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 Background

This document, together with the Draft IS/MND, constitutes the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Clean Energy Solar Power System for Monterey Water Pollution Control Agency Project. The FIS/MND consists of an introduction, comment letters received during the 20-day public review period, responses to comments, and revisions to the Draft IS/MND. The Monterey Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) is lead agency for the project. The system's photovoltaic panel array field would be located on 5.9- acres of the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) within the MRWPCA's property, located at 14811 Del Monte Boulevard in Marina, California.

SolarCity Corporation (SolarCity), in partnership with First Solar Incorporated, proposes to install a 1.116 MW (DC) solar power system for MRWPCA. The system is expected to generate approximately 1.7 GWh of electricity. MRWPCA would utilize the electricity for operation of the recycled water facility (Salinas Valley Reclamation Project - SVRP). The solar array field would transmit electricity to MRWPCA's existing facilities through an estimated 700 foot long transmission line encased in concrete in a conduit bank from the field's solar inverters to an interconnection point to be located primarily within existing paved-areas of the project site. Any excess electricity generated by the solar power system would be transferred and effectively sold to Pacific Gas & Electric's electrical grid. MRWPCA and SolarCity are presently in the process of negotiating a 20-year Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA) for the purchase of electricity generated from the solar power array field to MRWPCA. The solar energy provided by the array field would offset SVRP's usage of PGE generated energy by 66% in the first year of its operation. The solar power system is located entirely on the WWTP property. No transfer or lease of property from MRWPCA to Solar City is proposed.

Construction of the solar array field is proposed on a ruderal, disturbed site (which has previously been graded and where a portion has been used as a borrow pit) totaling 5.9 acres and would involve the removal of eucalyptus trees from the project site. The proposed photovoltaic array would be a ground-mounted array fixed at a 25 degree tilt with a 196 degree azimuth. The solar panels themselves would be frameless thin-film solar modules manufactured by First Solar. The array mounting racks would be constructed of aluminum rails attached to galvanized steel brackets mounted on steel on foundations. The total number of photovoltaic panels to be located on the project site would be 14,880 panels, each 2 feet wide and 4 feet long, and the individual panels would not be more than 6 feet in height above grade.

The Draft IS/MND was prepared to inform the public of the potential environmental effects of the project and identify possible ways to minimize project related impacts.

## **1.2 Public Participation**

Pursuant to Section 15073(a), the proposed IS/MND was circulated for a 20-day review period during which comments were received. In accordance with CEQA, this document is included in the official public record for the Initial Study. On November 4, 2009, the Draft IS/MND was distributed for a 20-day public review period to responsible and trustee agencies, interested groups, and individuals. The public review period for the Draft IS/MND ended on November 24, 2009 and one comment letter was received, specifically from the City of Marina.

## 2.0 RESPONSE TO COMMENT

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### 2.1 Introduction

This section provides responses to comments on the Draft IS/MND. This section contains all information available in the public record related to the Draft IS/MND as of November 24, 2009, and responds to comments received during the review period.

### 2.2 List of Comment Letters

#### Local Agencies

#### Date

City of Marina

November 24, 2009

### 2.3 Response to Comments

The letter received on the Draft IS/MND is presented in this chapter, as identified in Section 2.2 above. Individual comments in the letter are numbered. Correspondingly numbered responses to each comment are provided in the discussion following the comment letter.

Comments raised environmental issues that required minor additions or deletions to the text, tables, or figures in the Draft IS/MND, a brief description of the change is provided and the reader is directed to Section 3.0, Revisions to the Draft IS/MND.

**LETTER A:** Found on following page.

*City of Marina*



*City of Marina*  
211 HILLCREST AVENUE  
MARINA, CA 93933  
831- 884-1278; FAX 831- 384-9148  
[www. ci.marina.ca.us](http://www.ci.marina.ca.us)

November 24, 2009

Tom Kouretas  
Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency  
5 Harris Court, Building D  
Monterey, CA 93940

**SUBJECT: Proposed Solar Power System at MRWPCA Recycled Water Facility**

Dear Mr. Kouretas,

Thank you for providing an electronic copy of the Draft Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration of the MRWPCD solar power project to the City of Marina for review and comment. The Initial Study Checklist items #1.c and #1.d (Aesthetics) should clearly cite the informational source for the light absorbing design of the proposed solar panels. Otherwise, these sections of the Initial Study will contain conclusionary statements without supporting evidence. It is important that the Initial Study clearly demonstrate the 5.9 acres of solar panels and supporting hardware will not create light glare problems to aircraft departing from or landing at the City of Marina Airport. The citation for the source of this information should be included in the listing of informational sources in the Section VIII (References) of the Final Initial Study.

Similarly, Initial Study Checklist item #7.d (Hazards) should clearly cite the informational source for the conclusion that the project site is located beyond the City of Marina Airport's Safety Zones as noted in the 2006 Draft Municipal Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This citation should be listed in the References Section of the Draft Initial Study.

Sincerely,

Christine di Iorio, AICP,  
Community Development Department Director  
City of Marina

**LETTER A: City of Marina**

**A1:** Additions to the text addressing the light absorbing design of the proposed solar panels has been amended within the text of the Draft Initial Study in response to this comment and is included within this Final Initial Study in Section 3.0 Revisions to the Draft IS/MND. This modification of the text of the Draft Initial Study constitutes a minor change to the impact analysis included in the Draft Initial Study. In addition, it does not constitute new information of substantial importance, does not introduce a new significant impact and does not worsen the severity of any identified significant impacts. The details of the design of the solar panels for the proposed project that support the conclusions of the Draft Initial Study regarding aesthetic impacts were included within Reference 1, *SolarCity and First Solar Proposal to MRWPCA for Solar Power at the Agency's Regional Treatment Plant, Recycled Water Facility, and Pump Stations in Marina, California*, of the Draft Initial Study that was available for public review.

**A2:** Refer to response to comment A1.

**A3:** The text of the Draft Initial Study has been amended, as included here in this Final Initial Study within Section 3.0 Revisions to the Draft IS/MND to confirm the statement that the project site is located outside of the City of Marina's Airport Safety Zones as they have been defined in the 2006 Draft Municipal Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The 2006 Draft Municipal Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan was a reference used in the Draft Initial Study conclusions (based upon knowledge of MRWPCA site from previous environmental reviews) and included in this Final Initial Study within Section 3.0 Revisions to the Draft IS/MND. This modification of the text of the Draft Initial Study constitutes a minor change to the impact analysis included in the Draft Initial Study. In addition, it does not constitute new information of substantial importance, does not introduce a new significant impact and does not worsen the severity of any identified significant impacts.

### 3.0 REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT IS/MND

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This following section includes revisions to the text of the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, in amendment form. The revisions are listed numerically by page number. All additions to the text are shown underlined and all deletions from the text are shown ~~stricken~~.

#### AESTHETICS

**Page 12.** The first paragraph on page 12 has been amended to include:

The solar array field is proposed to be built on an area of MRWPCA’s property that is a disturbed area with ruderal and scrub vegetation and non-native Eucalyptus trees. Although implementing the proposed project would involve the removal of 145 Eucalyptus trees and would ostensibly alter the visual character of the project site, the array field would not be visible from any off-site locations aside from the aforementioned Landfill. The array field would only be visible from the air; however, the panels are non-reflective and would not distract airplanes passing overhead in the vicinity. Similar solar array projects have been implemented in the vicinity of airports in Arizona (Davis-Monthan Air Force Base), Nevada (Nellis Air Force Base), and Ohio (Ohio Air National Guard, Swanton, OH). The reflection of a glass surface is highly dependent on the angle of incidence and surface conditions. As the angle of incidence decreases, the amount of reflected light also decreases. Typical soiling of the module surface would further reduce the observed reflection. Glare and dazzle effects due to reflection from First Solar Series modules are expected to be minimal and comparable to glass facades. Therefore, installation of the modules on MRWPCA’s property would not represent significant glare to airplanes passing overhead in the vicinity.

**Page 12.** The second paragraph on page 12 has been amended to include:

Daytime glare from the project site would be very minimal because the panels are designed to absorb light to the high concentration photovoltaic material. The panels are also black/dark grey color, and are non-reflective. The array field would not create glare that would adversely affect the area. Also see response to 1(c) above.

#### HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

**Page 27.** The Initial Study checklist on page 27 has been amended as follows in order to include reference to the 2006 Draft Municipal Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan:

- e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? (Source: 1,3,12)

- f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? (Source: 1,4,12)

**Page 28.** The first paragraph on page 28 has been amended as follows:

The project site is located about 1.5 miles north of the Marina Municipal Airport. MRWPCA's property is not included within any of the designated traffic approach or departure zones, or traffic pattern zones of the airport compatibility land use plan according to the City of Marina's 2006 Draft Municipal Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area, as the solar panels are not constructed of hazardous materials. The panels are designed to be non-reflective, gray/black surfaces that would not create light or glare that would impact air flights or traffic patterns. Moreover, the proposed project site is located outside of the land use compatibility areas of Marina's airport. The project would result in less-than-significant impacts associated with airport hazards.

## REFERENCES

**Page 45.** The following reference has been included in the Draft Initial Study listing of references on page 45:

12. Draft Marina Municipal Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Wadell Engineering Corporation, April 2006.