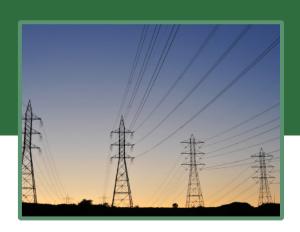


# **GENERATING RESULTS**

Planning & Environmental Services for Renewable Energy Generation, Storage, and Transmission in Imperial County



BRG Consulting, Inc. 304 Ivy Street San Diego, CA 92101 619-298-7127 ext. 102 www.brgconsulting.com



# Our Firm

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For over 40 years, BRG Consulting, Inc. (BRG) has assisted public agencies, utilities, infrastructure developers, engineering

firms and private clients to comply with local, state, and federal environmental laws and land use entitlement requirements throughout California. We are large enough to get the job done, yet small enough to provide efficient, responsive, personalized service.



#### **Services Provided**

- Environmental Planning & Impact Assessment
- Land Use Planning & Entitlements
- CEQA/NEPA Compliance Documents
- Regulatory Permitting and Agency Coordination
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
  - Imperial County Planning & Development Services Depart.
  - Imperial Irrigation District
  - Local Cities
  - Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 7)
  - US Army Corps of Engineers
  - US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Public Outreach and Public Hearing Support
- Construction & Mitigation Monitoring
- GIS Analysis/Mapping Services
- Visual Simulations

Since 1990, BRG has been successfully preparing environmental documents for renewable energy and transmission line projects in Imperial County in compliance with both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Our staff has extensive experience evaluating impacts associated with **geothermal and lithium extraction projects**; solar energy generation facilities, substations, transmission lines, pipelines and waste-to-energy (WTE) recovery systems.

Our entire staff is well-versed in the intricacies of Federal, State, and local codes and regulations, including CEQA, NEPA, the Clean Water and Clean Air Acts, Endangered Species Act, and Natural Community Conservation Plans and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Put that together with our experience on **21** projects in Imperial County over **32** years and you get the best value team to provide environmental services for your project. Our proposed Project Manager, Christina (Tina) Willis, has experience in Imperial County dating back to 1992.

# **Our Certifications**







We are proud to be a California corporation, a certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE <sup>1</sup>), a certified Women Business Enterprise (WBE<sup>2</sup>), a certified Small Business (SB) on SANDAG's CM Bench for Environmental Compliance<sup>3</sup>, and a SANDAG Prime Contractor for A&E On-Call Services.

SBE	CA DGS	# 1674880
WBE	CPUC	#14060013
SB	SANDAG	No. 1674880



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> SB Certification No. 1674880



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> California Dept. of General Services SB(Micro) # 1674880

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Supplier Clearinghouse Utility Supplier Diversity Program

# Our Team

As a multidisciplinary, small, woman-owned business, we provide professional environmental planning, impact assessment and regulatory permitting services from our office located in San Diego, California. Our team is comprised of a permanent staff of project managers, environmental analysts, land use planners, GIS specialists, and administrative personnel. We are committed to direct project involvement of our principals in every job.

The following staff represents BRG's management team.

### Patricia A. Butler, Executive President

With over 40 years of professional experience, Patricia (Trish) Butler provides principal oversight of BRG's environmental compliance, permitting and entitlement practices. She provides strategic advice and direction for major public infrastructure projects, including solar energy facilities, electrical transmission lines, geothermal projects, wastewater treatment and solid waste facilities, ports, and recreational facilities. She has worked with key regulatory agencies and has extensive experience in managing large multidisciplinary project teams. She also works with BRG's project managers and technical specialists to build quality control (QC) and quality assurance (QA) into every project.



Ms. Butler's professional planning history includes serving as a City of San Diego Planning Commissioner for six years. She was Co-Chair of the Urban Form and Environment Subcommittee for the City's Strategic Framework Plan and was also a member of the Mayor's Naval Training Center Reuse Planning Committee.

### Christina J. Willis, President and Senior Project Manager

Christina (Tina) Willis has 34 years of environmental, land use entitlement and project management experience in both the public and private sectors ensuring compliance with CEQA and NEPA. She has successfully prepared or managed the preparation of utility scale renewable energy generation, storage and transmission projects for more than 15 years.

Ms. Willis possess significant experience preparing environmental documents for geothermal and lithium extraction projects in the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area. She was the EIR Project Manager for the Hudson Ranch II Geothermal Project and Simbol Calipatria II Mineral



Extraction Project<sup>(4)</sup>, which sought to construct and operate both a geothermal and mineral extraction plant on a 245-acre parcel in the unincorporated area of Imperial County. She served

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Prepared while employed at Ecology & Environment, Inc.



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as the Project Manager for the Simbol Calipatria Plant I EIR, for the construction and operation a commercial lithium carbonate production plant using spent geothermal brine from the existing Hudson Ranch Power I (aka John Featherstone) Geothermal Plant<sup>(4)</sup>. She prepared the EIR for Ormat's Orni 21, LLC Geothermal (Binary) Project<sup>(4)</sup>. In 2016, she prepared the Addendum EIR for Control Thermal Resources' Hell's Kitchen Exploratory Well Geothermal Project, and in 2022 completed an EIR for the expansion of the Desert Valley Company's Monofill Expansion to increase the disposal capacity for non-hazardous geothermal wastes.

In 2009 she managed preparation of the third-party EIS for Chevron Energy Solutions' Lucerne Valley Solar Project (49 MW) - the first solar project approved on public land in the history of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the first project approved under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 "fast track" process. In 2011, Ms. Willis managed preparation of a NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) for SunPower Corporation's California Valley Ranch Solar Project. Prepared in record time, the EA received high praise from the U.S. Department of Energy and enabled SunPower to secure a \$1.4M loan guarantee. Now in operation in San Luis Obispo, at 250 MW on 4,700 acres, it is one of the largest operating photovoltaic solar plants in the Nation.

Ms. Willis recently provided strategic consulting services to SCE on the Eldorado-Lugo-Mohave Series Capacitor Project. In addition to weekly meetings with SCE staff, Ms. Willis facilitated agency coordination to ensure the timely issuance of a Permit to Construct from the CPUC, a Utility Environmental Protection Act permit from the Nevada Public Utility Commission, a Right-of-Way Grant from BLM, and a Special Use Permit from the National Park Service.

### Erich R. Lathers, Principal Planner



Mr. Lathers has 35 years of professional experience preparing documentation in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Mr. Lathers has prepared environmental documents for renewable energy projects ranging from preliminary environmental constraints analyses to environmental impact reports (EIR) and environmental impact statements (EIS).

In addition to being a CEQA/NEPA compliance expert, Mr. Lathers supervises BRG's extensive regulatory permitting service. His significant experience coordinating with regulatory agencies has proven invaluable in helping our clients formulate comprehensive permitting strategies. His excellent working

relationship and high level of credibility with key regulatory agencies such as Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Coastal Commission, and California Regional Water Quality Control Boards has saved significant time and costs in developing feasible mitigation solutions and securing federal, state and local permits.



# Our Approach

For 40 years, the BRG team has fostered enduring relationships focused on meeting and exceeding the needs of each individual client. Our staff understands the financial and business impacts of environmental compliance and communicates these issues in standard business metrics. We continually strive to provide value by helping to integrate environmental issues into the business decision-making process to avoid project delays. Our approach to environmental consulting involves several key aspects:

- Early and frequent public and agency outreach;
- Flexible and responsive project managers;
- Team members selected to meet needs of each project;
- Integration of CEQA/NEPA and regulatory permitting schedules to expedite processing;
- Clearly written environmental compliance documents;
- On-going communication with clients, lead agencies and regulators; and
- Creative problem solving.





# Our Services

We recognize that each project's development needs are varied and complex, and we believe the best solution is to have outstanding talent working to meet your goals. We understand the issues associated with various types of renewable energy and transmission projects and how to incorporate those issues into the regulatory strategy and corresponding environmental analyses. Combining experience, expertise, and local understanding of the regulatory and natural resource environment means we can "Generate the Results" you need.

# **Renewable Energy Services**



# Environmental Planning



# Environmental Compliance



# Regulatory Support

- Due Diligence Reviews
- Opportunity & Constraints Analyses
- Critical Issues Analysis
- Site Screening
- Land Use Entitlements
- Stakeholder Involvement
- Public Outreach
- Public Meeting/ Hearing Support

- CEQA Compliance
  Documentation
- NEPA Compliance
  Documentation
- Project Alternatives Analyses
- Agency Consultations
- Native American Tribal Consultations
- Visual Simulations
- Land Evaluation and Site Assessments

- Federal, State and Local
  Permitting
- Permitting Matrix/Permitting Work Plans
- Permit Applications and Coordination
- Construction/Mitigation
  Monitoring

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# **Our Projects**

Safeguarding Imperial County's Energy, Environmental and Economic Future... Now.

# **Desert Valley Company Monofill Expansion Project EIR**

In January 2022, BRG Consulting, Inc. completed an Environmental Impact Report for the Desert Valley Company Monofill Expansion Cell 4 Project. The existing Desert Valley Company Monofill Facility, located in Brawley, California, is an active Class II Solid Waste II Management Facility (SWMF) used for the disposal of non-hazards "filter cake"



solids from geothermal brine used for power generation at geothermal facilities in Imperial that are operated by CalEnergy. The geothermal plants are owned by other Berkshire Hathaway Renewables affiliates. The Monofill is permitted under Solid Waste Facility (SWF) Permit No. 13-AA-0022(1); Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 05-0020(2); and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) R7-2016-0016.(3)

The Monofill, which began operations in May 1991, has three (3) storage/disposal cells (Cell 1, Cell 2 and Cell 3). The total site occupies 181.5 acres, of which approximately 68 acres (the total permitted area) is enclosed by fencing which surrounds the landfill operating area. A total of 28.9 acres of the site is permitted for disposal operations. Cells 1 were closed in 2008. Cell 3, with a design capacity of approximately 1.3 million cubic yards (CY), began receiving waste in 2005. Based on current projections Cell 3 will reach capacity in 2027. The proposed expansion would expand the existing Monofill by approximately 80 acres; increase the disposal capacity of the Monofill by 2.6 million CY; and, extend its operational life to approximately 2080.

The project required an amendment to CUP No. 05-0020, a General Plan Amendment, a Zone Change, and a water well permit (CUP#21-0001) to facilitate expansion of the existing Desert Valley Company Monofill for construction, operation, closure and post-closure of a new waste storage cell (Cell 4). Cell 4 is proposed to be constructed and operated in two phases to transition operations from Cell 3. Phase 1 (Cell 4A) would be constructed and operable by 2024 to allow for the transition of disposal activities to occur prior to the estimated closure of Cell 3 in January 2025. Phase 2 (Cell 4B) would be constructed as additional capacity is needed.

The EIR evaluated impacts to air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, biological resources, cultural and tribal resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous material, land use, noise, transportation, and public utilities (including water supply). It evaluated granting a General Plan Amendment; a Zone Change; an amended Conditional Use Permit; and new water well CUP to support the construction, operation, closure and post-closure of a new waste storage cell.

The Board of Supervisors certified the Final EIR; adopted the Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program; Approved the General Plan Amendment and Zone Change, and Approved the Conditional Use permit for the facility.

(1) Issued by the Imperial County Public Health Department, Division of Environmental Health (DEH) in 2020 (as modified). DEH is the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for the California Dept. of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle); (2) Issued by the Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department in December 2005 (as modified).; (3) Issued the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region 7 (as modified).



#### **GEOTHERMAL**

**Location** Brawley, CA

#### **Services**

- CEQA Environmental Document preparation
- Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program
- Peer Review of Applicant
  Prepared Air Quality, Biological
  Resources, Jurisdictional
  Delineation, Rare Plant
  Survey, Cultural Resources,
  Geotechnical, Hydrology and
  Water Quality, Noise Report
  Phase I ESA, Traffic Report
  and Water Supply Assessment
  Technical Studies
- AB-52 Native American Tribal Consultation Support
- CEQA Notices, Findings
- Public Scoping/Public Hearing Support

#### Client

Imperial County Planning and Development Services Diana Robinson, Planning Division Manager (442-265-1751) DianaRobinson@co.imperial.ca.us



# Hell's Kitchen Exploratory Geothermal Wells Project



In 2015, the Imperial County Board of Supervisors (Board) certified a Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) for the Renewable Energy and Transmission Element. The Final EIR analyzed impacts from development of geothermal, solar, wind and transmission projects in the County and identified site-specific mitigation measures to reduce environmental impacts. BRG "tiered off" the previously-certified Final EIR and prepared an Addendum EIR for Control Thermal Resources' Hell's Kitchen Exploratory Wells Project.

The purpose of the Hell's Kitchen Exploratory Wells Project was to locate, sample, drill, complete, test and monitor potential geothermal resource development target zones to confirm the presence and characteristics of geothermal resources east of the Salton Sea near Mullet Island to determine whether the resource was commercially viable. The project included four (4) well pads, three (3) move-on areas and six (6) exploratory wells. While the Addendum EIR was being prepared, the project was revised to include a new location for Well Pad 4 and Move-On Area 3; new access routes for Well Pads 2 and 4 (substantially longer than the previous design); and alternate/optional access routes for Well Pads 1, 3 and 4. Despite these project changes, the Addendum EIR was completed within its original schedule.

Based on "site-specific" technical analyses, along with information from the Final EIR, the Addendum EIR made the following findings, which were presented to the Imperial County Environmental Evaluation Committee and adopted by the Imperial County Planning Commission:

- No substantial changes are proposed that would require major revisions of the previously-certified Final EIR due to new or substantially worse significant environmental effects;
- No substantial changes have occurred in the circumstances under which the project would be undertaken that would require major revisions of the previously-certified Final EIR.
- No new information has been provided that indicate the project would result in one or more significant effects not discussed in the previously-certified Final FIR.

The Imperial County Planning Commission adopted the Addendum EIR, along with the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, which ensured that all significant impacts would be reduced to below a level of significance.



#### **GEOTHERMAL**

Location Imperial County

#### **Services**

- CEQA Environmental Document preparation
- Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program
- Peer Review of Applicant prepared Air Quality, Biological Resources and Noise Studies
- Formal Jurisdictional Wetland Delineation
- Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment
- · Paleontological Resources Report
- CEQA Notices
- Public Hearing Support

#### Client

Imperial County Planning and Development Services (ICPDS) Richard Cabanilla, Planner IV (retired)/ Jim Minnick, Planning Director 442-265-1736

jimminnick@co.imperial.ca.us



# Vikings Energy Solar Farm Project EIR



For the Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department, McIntyre Environmental and BRG are preparing an Environmental Impact Report for the Vikings Energy Solar Farm Project. Vikings Energy Farm, LLC (the applicant) requires a Conditional Use Permit to develop a 150-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) energy generation project with an integrated 300-MW battery energy storage system (BESS). The energy produced by the Project would be conducted through the proposed 230 kilovolt (kV) switching station and delivered to the Imperial Irrigation District's (IID).

The EIR evaluates the impacts of construction, operation, and closure and postclosure of a solar energy generation and battery storage project. This includes impacts to aesthetics, agriculture, air quality, biological resources, cultural/tribal resources, energy, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, public services, transportation, and utilities and service systems.

The facility layout was arranged to avoid on-site wetland waters of the United States, non-wetland wasters of the State, and CDFW jurisdictional streambeds. To reduce the risk of fire from the BESS, the project includes a fire suppression system with smoke detectors, control panel, alarm, piping and nozzles. Additionally, 40,000 gallons of fire water will be maintained across the site and portable fire extinguishers will be provided at various locations throughout the solar energy facility site and at the BESS.

BRG assisted McIntyre Environmental with Native American Tribal Consolation support efforts in compliance with Assembly Bill 52. In additional we assisted with preparation of the CEQA Findings, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and with Responses to Comments on the Draft EIR.

The Draft EIR was circulated for Public Review in February 2022 and the Final EIR was completed in May 2022.



#### Location

Imperial County

#### **Services**

- CEQA Environmental
  Document preparation
- Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program
- Peer Review of Applicant Prepared Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geotechnical, LESA, Phase I ESA, Transportation, Visual Resource and Water Supply Assessment Technical Studies
- AB-52 Native American Tribal Consultation Support
- · CEQA Notices, Findings
- Public Scoping/Public Hearing Support

#### Client

Imperial County Planning and Development Services Diana Robinson, Planning Division Manager (442-265-1751)

DianaRobinson@co.imperial.ca.us



# Imperial Solar Energy Center West



BRG prepared a joint EIR/EA for the Imperial Solar Energy Center West project. The County of Imperial was the CEQA Lead Agency and BLM was the NEPA Lead Agency. The project, now in operation, consisted of a 250 MW solar energy facility on 1,130 acres of land in the unincorporated Seeley area of Imperial County. The solar generating facilities included two optional technologies: "concentrating photovoltaic" (CPV) solar and "photovoltaic" (PV) solar. The primary difference between the two being the height and orientation of the solar panels. The solar generating facilities interconnected to the utility grid at the Imperial Valley Substation via a five-mile 230kV transmission line within BLM's Utility Corridor "N". Key resource impacts included conversion of agricultural lands; biological impacts from habitat loss; and visual impacts from solar/transmission facilities.

The majority of the project area consisted of disturbed agricultural lands that had been fallow for over 10 years. For this reason, the EIR/EA included a Land Evaluation and Site Assessment to determine potential impacts from the temporary conversion of agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses. The EIR/EA also identified several options for mitigating significant agricultural impacts to below a level of significance.

In addition to disturbed/ agricultural lands, 7 vegetation communities were identified within the project area, including desert washes that flowed through the transmission corridor. Additionally, the transmission corridor alternatives were within the Yuha Desert Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Management Area. Biological surveys included rare plant surveys; protocol nesting season surveys for burrowing owl and southwestern willow flycatcher; and, a preliminary delineation for jurisdictional resources. In addition, a protocol survey for wintering mountain plover was conducted which included the entire agricultural complex surrounding El Centro, from the U.S.—Mexico Border north to the Salton Sea. Through mitigation measures incorporated into the project design, along with Section 7 consultations with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, impacts to biological resources were avoided, or reduced to below a level of significance.

Using the BLM's Visual Resource Management System, BRG prepared visual simulations of the proposed solar generating facilities (both CPV and PV technologies) and the 230 kV transmission line. Five Key Observation Points (KOPs) were used to identify viewsheds, visual resources, and to prepare the simulations.

The visibility analysis was used to support the EIR/EA's finding that while the project would be visible from vehicles traveling along I-8, it would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the area.

Visual simulations from Imperial Solar Energy Center West EIR/EA are shown on the following page.



#### Location Imperial County

#### **Services**

- CEQA Environmental Document Preparation
- CEQA Findings
- NEPA Environmental Document Preparation
- FONSI/Decision Record
- Peer Review of Applicant Prepared Cultural Resources Report; Phase I ESA; Hydrology and Water Quality Report; Geotechnical Report; and Biological Resources Reports
- Traffic Report
- Visual Simulations
- Land Evaluation and Site Assessment
- Public Meeting/Hearing Support

#### Client

Imperial County Planning and Development Services (ICPDS) Richard Cabanilla (retired)/ Jim Minnick, Planning Director 442-265-1736 jimminnick@co.imperial.ca.us



## Imperial Solar Energy Center West Visual Simulations



Existing setting from I-8 looking west towards the project site



Visual Panoramic Simulation - View of Solar Energy Facility Site CPV panels and on-site transmission line towers



Existing setting from I-8 looking west towards the project site



Visual Panoramic Simulation - View of Solar Energy Facility Site PV panels and on-site transmission line towers



### Imperial Solar Energy Center South



BRG prepared a joint EIR/EA for the County of Imperial (CEQA Lead Agency) and for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (NEPA Lead Agency) for the Imperial Solar Energy Center South project. The project consisted of construction, operations/maintenance and decommissioning of a 200 MW solar energy facility on 950 acres of private undeveloped and agricultural lands in in the unincorporated Mt. Signal area of Imperial County. The project also required construction of a new 230-kV transmission line, five miles in length, extending to connect to the Imperial Valley substation. The steel lattice transmission towers ranged in size from 100 to 140 feet and were the dominate visual component of the project. The electrical interconnection facility and a portion of the access road is located within BLM's Utility Corridor "N".

Similar to the Imperial Solar Energy Center West project, the EIR/EA evaluated potential impacts to 19 resource categories and identified potentially significant impacts to air quality; agricultural resources; biological resources; cultural resources; fire and fuels management; geology/soils & mineral resources; health, safety & hazardous materials, hydrology & water quality; paleontological resources; and, transportation/circulation. Mitigation measures identified in the EIR/EA were incorporated into the project to avoid or reduce impacts to below a level of significance.

BRG prepared a visibility analysis of the project using the BLM's Visual Resource Management System. The visibility analysis included preparing visual simulations of the

solar generating facilities and 230-kV transmission line from nine key observation points within the surrounding area. The visibility analysis was used to support the EIR/EA's finding that the project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the area.





#### Location Imperial County

#### **Services**

- CEQA Environmental Document Preparation
- CEQA Findings
- NEPA Environmental Document Preparation
- FONSI/Decision Record
- Peer Review of Applicant Prepared Cultural Resources Report; Phase I ESA; Hydrology and Water Quality Report; Geotechnical Report; and Biological Resources Reports
- Traffic Report
- Visual Simulations
- Land Evaluation and Site Assessment
- Public Meeting/Hearing Support

#### Client

Imperial County Planning and Development Services (ICPDS) Richard Cabanilla (retired)/ Jim Minnick, 442-265-1736 jimminnick@co.imperial.ca.us



### Mt. Signal Solar Power Station



As a third-party contractor, BRG helped the Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department (ICPDS) meet their CEQA compliance requirements by preparing an EIR for the Mt. Signal Hybrid Solar Power Station. The 49.9 MW power station on 975 acres of agricultural land in Imperial County, planned to generate renewable energy using solar radiation during the day and biomass (wood waste, agricultural waste, and manure) at night.

The BRG team evaluated the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts associated with construction, operation/maintenance and commissioning, as well as the beneficial impacts resulting from the re-use of "ash" produced by the biomass facilities in construction base material, wallboard manufacturing of wallboard, and as landfill daily cover to control vectors, odors, dust emissions, and fires.

**Plant Schematic** 



#### Location

Imperial County

#### **Services**

- CEQA Environmental Document Preparation
- Visual Simulations
- Land Evaluation and Site Assessment
- Alternatives Analysis
- Public Meeting/Hearing Support

#### Client

Imperial County Planning and Development Services (ICPDS) Richard Cabanilla (retired)/ Jim Minnick, Planning Director 442-265-1736 jimminnick@co.imperial.ca.us

# **Bethel Solar Hybrid Power Plant**

BRG staff prepared an Initial Study for the Bethel Solar Hybrid Power Plant, which included the construction, operation and maintenance of a 49.9 MW solar hybrid power plant on 400 acres of agricultural land in Imperial County. The project was comprised of the following:

- A solar field electric generating
- b. A power block which included a steam turbine, generator and cooling towers;
- Biomass-fired heaters to generate steam at night during off-peak solar production; and d. a two-mile gen-tie transmission line to connect to Imperial Irrigation District's existing transmission system.

The Initial Study found that an EIR would be required because the project could result in significant effects on the environment. BRG prepared the Notice of Preparation for the EIR; conducted public scoping meetings; and presented the results of the Initial Study to the County's Environmental Evaluation Committee.



#### Location

Imperial County

#### **Services**

- CEQA Environmental Document Preparation
- Public Notices
- Public Scoping/ Public Meeting/Hearing Support

#### Client

Imperial County Planning and **Development Services (ICPDS)** Richard Cabanilla, Planner IV (retired)/ Jim Minnick, Planning Director 442-265-1736 jimminnick@co.imperial.ca.us



# San Diego Gas & Electric Projects



**Existing Conditions** 



Visual Simulation

**Carmel Valley Substation**. BRG prepared a Visual Impact Analysis (VIA) for the new Carmel Valley Substation located on 3.9 acres of land owned by SDG&E's in the City of San Diego. The new substation was enclosed by a 12-foot-high earth-toned masonry wall with anti-graffiti coating. The VIA evaluated the proposed substation's consistency with the Torrey Highlands Subarea Plan as well as potential to result in substantial degradation of the visual character of the area or damage to scenic resources.

Visual simulations were prepared to support the VIA's findings that design measures had been incorporated into the project to reduce visual impacts to below a level of significance.

**Uptown Substation**. BRG prepared the Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) for SDG&E's Uptown Substation, (also known as the Grant Hill Substation) in accordance with CEQA, the State Guidelines for Implementation of CEQA, Rule 17.1 of the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC)\_Rules of Practice and Procedures, and General Order 131-D. The proposed substation had a capacity of 120 megavolt amperes (MVA) and was needed to meet existing and anticipated load growth and to improve distribution reliability in downtown San Diego.

The PEA was included as an exhibit to SDG&E's application to CPUC for a PTC and BRG provided additional information requested by CPUC staff to enable to the application to be deemed complete. The PEA formed the basis of CPUC's Mitigated Negative Declaration, which concluded that the Grant Hill Substation Project would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment, because incorporation of mitigation measures identified in the PEA will ensure any potentially significant effects remain at less-than-significant levels.



#### **SUBSTATIONS**

**Location**San Diego, CA

#### **Services**

- Proponent's Environmental Assessment
- Responses to CPUC's data requests.
- Visual Impact Assessment Report
- Visual Simulations

#### Client

SDG&E/Sempra Energy Utilities 8315 Century Park Court (CP-21E) San Diego, CA 92123-1548





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