

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
NEPA DETERMINATION



RECIPIENT: Medford Irrigation District

STATE: OR

PROJECT TITLE: Medford Irrigation District Community Solar

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number FY23 CDS Award	Procurement Instrument Number DE-EE0010753	NEPA Control Number GFO-0010753-001	CID Number
--	--	---	-------------------

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

- | | |
|---|---|
| B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems | The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, and mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences), or if located on land, generally comprising less than 10 acres within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices. |
| B1.15 Support buildings | Siting, construction or modification, and operation of support buildings and support structures (including, but not limited to, trailers and prefabricated and modular buildings) within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Covered support buildings and structures include, but are not limited to, those for office purposes; parking; cafeteria services; education and training; visitor reception; computer and data processing services; health services or recreation activities; routine maintenance activities; storage of supplies and equipment for administrative services and routine maintenance activities; security (such as security posts); fire protection; small-scale fabrication (such as machine shop activities), assembly, and testing of non-nuclear equipment or components; and similar support purposes, but exclude facilities for nuclear weapons activities and waste storage activities, such as activities covered in B1.10, B1.29, B1.35, B2.6, B6.2, B6.4, B6.5, B6.6, and B6.10 of this appendix. |
| B1.7 Electronic equipment | Acquisition, installation, operation, modification, and removal of electricity transmission control and monitoring devices for grid demand and response, communication systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment. |

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to administer Congressionally Directed Spending to Medford Irrigation District (MID) to install a floating photovoltaic (PV) array on an existing irrigation reservoir adjacent to their offices to generate low-cost energy for irrigators and low-income residents.

Award activities would include the installation of a 0.9 mW project on the 8-acre reservoir located at MID (Central Point, Oregon) facilities. The single connected PV array would cover approximately 1.8 acres of the reservoir. The platform to support the array would be made of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and the HDPE platform would be anchored to the bottom of the reservoir or to the banks of the reservoir. The anchors would allow for the floating platform to adjust to various water levels, and would measure approximately 10 inches (in) by 24 in. The anchoring system may consist of steel cables, chains, ropes, and ballasted floors.

Ground disturbing activities would include the addition of a small 10 foot (ft) by 10 ft shed to house the electrical components which would be constructed at the edge of the reservoir. The electrical components would be tied into a utility pole that runs adjacent to the reservoir. No trenching would be required. All ground disturbing activities would be carried out on pre-disturbed areas that contain no remaining natural habitat. A conditional use permit would be obtained from Jackson County.

Award activities would involve typical hazards associated with working with electrical equipment near water. All of Oregon's permitting requirements would be followed for electrical equipment installation.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program website (IPaC) identified six threatened or endangered species, the Gray Wolf, Northern Spotted Owl, Northwestern Pond Turtle, Franklin's Bumble Bee, Monarch Butterfly, and Gentner's Fritillary believed to occur in the project area. Migratory bird species of conservation concern may be present seasonally within the project areas. There are no critical habitats found in this area. Because equipment installations would take place in a pre-disturbed area composed primarily of an agricultural reservoir, an

access road, office facilities, and actively managed land, DOE has determined that there would be no effect to species of concern as a result of the proposed activities at this location.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of proposed activities to determine potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate impacts on these resources which would be considered significant or require DOE to consult with other agencies or stakeholders.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO)
NEPA review completed by Alex Colling on 2/29/2024.

FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



Electronically Signed By: Andrew Montano

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 3/4/2024

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- Field Office Manager review not required
 Field Office Manager review required

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____