



**Planning and Development  
Services Department**  
209 East Kern Street  
Taft, California 93268  
Telephone: (661) 763-1222

Date: June 18, 2020

To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies/Interested Organizations and Individuals

From: Mark Staples, Director  
City of Taft, Planning and Development Services Department  
209 East Kern Street  
Taft, California 93268  
(661) 763-1222 ext. 124

Subject: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

Project Title: Gas Company Road Solar Energy Storage Project

Location: The Project site is located on Airport Road between East Ash Street and East Cedar Street/Gas Company Road in the City of Taft, Kern County, California (APNs: 220-240-26 & 220-300-14)

Applicant/Owner: Apex Energy Solutions, LLC

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Project includes the development of an up to eight (8) megawatt alternating current (MWAC) crystalline solar photovoltaic (PV) energy generation facility, power conversion system (PCS), and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on 58.25 acres in the northeast portion of the City of Taft, California. The Project site consists of two irregular-shaped parcels. Parcel Number 220-240-26, which is 53.24 acres, is zoned for Industrial uses and would be developed with the MWAC solar PV energy generation system and BESS energy storage system. In addition to the solar PV modules that would be mounted on fixed-tilt ground-mounted racking or single-axis trackers, the site would be developed with battery storage system containers, electrical inverters, associated transformers, power poles, an access road, and perimeter fencing. Parcel Number 220-300-14, which is 5.01 acres, is zoned for General Commercial uses and is an accessory parcel that would be used as a staging and parking area during construction. However, no permanent structures would be developed on this parcel.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** The City of Taft has reviewed the above project and has prepared an Initial Study in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15070. The Mitigated Negative Declaration represents the City's independent judgment and analysis. The proposed Project will not have a significant effect on the environment with the implementation of mitigation measures.

**PUBLIC CIRCULATION:** The Draft IS/MND is being circulated for review and comment by interested agencies, organizations, and persons for 30 days in accordance with Section 21091 of the State CEQA Guidelines. A 30-day public review period to solicit comments on the Draft IS/MND starts June 18, 2020 and ends July 20, 2020.

**DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY:** Upon request, copies of the Draft IS/MND will be made available to the public for review at the Taft City Hall, located at 209 East Kern Street in the City of Taft, California. The Draft IS/MND is also available on the City's website at: <https://www.cityoftaft.org/pview.aspx?id=5355&catid=562>. To request a copy of the Draft IS/MND, or for any questions related to the Draft IS/MND, please contact Mark Staples, Director of Planning and Development Services, at (661) 763-1222 ext. 124 or [mstaples@cityoftaft.org](mailto:mstaples@cityoftaft.org).