

Summary of the Community Advisory Work Group Meeting

January 23, 5 pm – 7 pm

Reynolds Desalination Facility

Topics: Floating Solar Project at Sweetwater Reservoir

Presentation: General Information on Community Advisory Work Group (CAWG), Meeting Agenda (Principal Public Affairs Representative Gwyneth Shoecraft)

Presentation: Floating Solar Project at Sweetwater Reservoir (Kaitlyn Qin, Noria Energy)

- [Noria Energy PowerPoint](#) (PDF)

Informational Update: Environmental Process Update (Israel Marquez, Land and Environmental Manager)

- Summary:
 - The proposed FPV project would include a rectangular floating photovoltaic (FPV) array, an anchoring system, and supporting facilities on land. The proposed FPV system would be approximately 10 acres of floating solar panels on the surface of the Sweetwater Reservoir. A second alternative based on Noria's Aquaphi technology will also be analyzed as part of the environmental assessment.
 - Sweetwater Authority is currently starting the preparation of technical assessments, to inform a CEQA-compliant Initial Study. Technical studies include biological and aquatic resources assessment, cultural resources assessment, water quality assessment, and aesthetics assessment. Depending on the project effects, as described in the supporting technical studies and Initial Study, a Mitigated Negative Declaration or an Environmental Impact Report may be prepared for the proposed FPV project.
 - Technical studies for the proposed FPV project are expected to take 3-5 months to be prepared. The CEQA process for a Mitigated Negative Declaration typically takes 9-12 months; an Environmental Impact Report could take 12-18 months.

Discussion & Q&A (CAWG attendees, Noria Energy representative, Sweetwater Authority representatives)

- Areas of discussion; recommendations and feedback provided:
 - Concerns over aesthetics of panels
 - Request for rendering of project
 - Consider alternative locations for panels
 - Questions regarding benefit of floating solar vs. solar on land
 - Concern over panel/float materials
 - Questions regarding HDPE (vs. PVC) including years of service, off-gassing
 - Concern over cleaning of panels
 - Questions on how to clean panels without losing efficiency
 - Will be integrated in the O&M plan/permitting process
 - Concern over impacts to water quality
 - Question as to whether the project is large enough to mitigate algae blooms
 - Concern with project longevity given evolving water quality standards
 - Discussion on environmental impacts
 - Confusion regarding CEQA process
 - Requests for project cost information