

Frequently Asked Questions



What is the Palen Solar Project?

The Palen Solar Project is a 500 megawatt solar photovoltaic (PV) facility located on 3,478 acres of vacant land in Riverside County. The project will use a clean, unlimited fuel source – the Sun – to generate enough energy to power approximately 100,000 California homes while supporting the state’s renewable energy goals.

Where is the Palen Solar Project located?

The project is proposed to be located on unincorporated land administered by the Federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Riverside County, California. This is approximately 10 miles east of the unincorporated community of Desert Center, north of Interstate 10. It is located within a BLM Solar Energy Zone and Development Focus Area specifically marked for utility-scale renewable energy development.

What impact will the Palen Solar Project have on the environment?

After more than ten years of environmental studies, the project will use solar PV technology which will reduce the project’s environmental footprint compared to the previously proposed “solar trough” and “power tower” projects.

How does the Palen Solar Project support the state’s renewable energy goals?

California has some of the most ambitious renewable energy standards in the country, requiring utilities and electric service providers to increase their procurement of renewable energy to 50 percent of their total procurement by 2030.

Projects utilizing the latest technology like the Palen Solar Project will boost the supply of renewable energy available to ensure the state’s goals are met.

What makes this project different from previous versions?

This project replaces the previously proposed 750-foot “power tower” with panels that are low to the ground and follow the contour of the natural terrain, that uses 20 percent less land while generating more clean energy. The project will also use 86 to 95 percent less water than the previously proposed “trough” project.

EDF is a proven company. What are its qualifications?

San Diego-based EDF Renewable Energy will oversee the construction and operation the Palen Solar Project. EDF has constructed more than 200 projects since 1985, generating a total of 7.7 gigawatts of clean energy in the U.S. – enough to power 1.26 million homes for year.

When will the Palen Solar Project be completed?

Construction of the project is expected to be approximately 30 months. The projected ground-breaking is anticipated sometime in 2018, pending approvals.

Who supports the Palen Solar Project?

Due to the project’s economic and environmental benefits for the region, there is strong community support for this project including LIUNA Local 1184, IBEW Local 440, Iron Workers Local 433 and Local 416, Operating Engineers Local 12, Laborers Local 1184, and the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters.

What are the next steps in the approval process?

As a supplement to over ten years of environmental assessment, the BLM and Riverside County are now finalizing their supplemental environmental assessment report.



www.edf-re.com

Are there any economic benefits to Riverside residents and the County?

The project will generate significant direct benefits and economic benefits within Riverside County and create construction and service industry jobs.



\$5.3 million

Estimated to yield in local sales tax revenues



\$289 million

Employee wages and benefits from construction-related activities



\$24 million

Operations-related employee compensation

What is the history of the project?

The current Palen Solar Project proposal has worked diligently with the local community, the County, and BLM through the environmental approval process and is poised to break ground sometime this year pending final approvals. The history of this property includes ten years of environmental permitting and review:

2007	Chevron Energy Solutions submitted an application for a ROW grant to BLM.
2008	Solar Millennium, a subsidiary of Chevron, submits a POD for a solar parabolic trough technology project.
2010	Solar Millennium wins approval from the CA Energy Commission before going bankrupt.
2012	Brightsource Energy submitted documents to replace the parabolic trough proposal with a new solar tower proposal consisting of two 750-foot "power towers" and their associated heliostat arrays.
2013	BrightSource formed a new joint venture with Abengoa Solar, Inc.
2014	BrightSource sold its share of the project to Abengoa Solar, Inc.
2015	EDF RE acquires the Palen project from Abengoa.
2015	EDF RE submits a Plan of Development to BLM for a solar PV facility.
2017	The BLM and Riverside County publish a joint Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report assessing the environmental impacts of the project in October 2017.
2018	Final environmental permitting complete. Construction starts.

Will the Palen Solar Project create local, good paying jobs?

Yes. The project will work with local trades and others offering good paying jobs, with the majority of the workforce residing in and around Riverside County.



556 workers

Average number of employees over the 2.5 years of construction



1,145 workers

Number of employees at the peak of construction

