



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

CITY COUNCIL NPUA Regular Special

Meeting Date: October 8, 2024

Title: Adopt the Needles Solar Energy Sites Evaluation dated August 12, 2024

Background: The Board of Public Utilities established an Alternative Energy Ad Hoc Committee in 2022. The Committee's purpose and mission is to review different potential energy generation sources and meet the State of California's committee energy goals.

The Committee has reviewed solar PPA proposals/developments and wind and pump hydro alternatives. It has requested a solar feasibility study be issued to seek professional consulting services to evaluate and determine the suitability of facility rooftops and site developments of City-owned sites. On April 2, 2024, Unisol was selected and awarded the contract to develop a solar feasibility plan.

This solar engineering feasibility study aims to analyze possible solar energy sites that could supply power to the city's utility via a power purchase agreement or a city-owned design-build solar field. The primary focus is photovoltaic (PV) system installations as a ground-mount array on one or more of ten (10) possible sites on or near the 69KV transmission service line for the Needles Public Utility Authority utility provider.

The audit field team focused on these 10 Sites, with the audit concentrating on deriving feasibility ratings for potential solar projects that can be employed to reduce costs, improve reliability, and achieve CARB standards most economically. The Board of Public Utilities approved the recommended action on October 1, 2024.

Fiscal Impact: \$37,513 was funded by the adopted FY23/24 electric budget.

Environmental Impact: Reduction of Renewable Energy Credits and Greenhouse Gas Allowances required by the NPUA.

Recommended Action: Adopt the Needles Solar Energy Sites Evaluation dated August 12, 2024, and Authorize Staff to Look for Grants and Evaluate Alternatives to supply power to the City's Utility via a power purchase agreement or a city-owned design-build solar field

Submitted By: Alternative Energy Ad Hoc Committee

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez Date: 10/3/2024

Other Department Approval (when required): _____ Date: _____

Approved: Not Approved: Tabled: Other:

Agenda Item: _____