

## **Grazing Yak Solar Project Wildland Fire and Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The intent of this Plan is to analyze the Grazing Yak Solar Project's (Project) adherence to the El Paso County Land Development Code Section 6.3.3 Fire Protection and Wildfire Mitigation Standards. Project design and access was reviewed in consideration of the wildfire risks and need to provide adequate fire protection in order to:

- Regulate development, buildings and structures so as to minimize the hazard to public health, safety, and welfare;
- Ensure that adequate fire protection is available for new development;
- Implement wildfire hazard reduction in new development;
- Encourage voluntary efforts to reduce wildfire hazards; and
- Reduce the demands from the public for relief and protection of structures and facilities.

The Project was analyzed for the risk of wildfire based on the *Wildfire Hazards Based on Colorado Vegetation Classification Project – El Paso County, Colorado* as referenced in Section 6.3.3(A)(6). The Project is located in a low hazard – non-forested area of the county (see attached map). As such, wildfire hazard mitigation would not be required since wildfire hazard is minimal on the Project. Nonetheless, the Project will conform to the additional fire-related standards under Section 6.3.3 as requested by El Paso County.

The Project will receive services from the Calhan Fire Protection District (CFPD) which provides fire and emergency services from a station located at 725 4th Street in Calhan, Colorado. The CFPD requests that all non-911 emergencies be dispatched through the El Paso County Sheriff Department. The Sheriff department's contact information for non-911 emergencies is provided in the Grazing Yak Solar Emergency Response Plan. Services will be provided during construction and operation of the Project. Services provided during construction will address the potential hazards of grassland fire and explosion resulting from flammable liquids being stored on-site, and spark production during welding of solar facility equipment. Those services may include wildland, structure, and vehicle fires; medical emergencies; rescues; and hazardous materials responses.

CFPD requested that specific protocols be utilized prior to and during construction. These requested protocols include:

- CFPD will meet with Project proponents at Grazing Yak Solar to review the site layout and location of fuel storage relative to the unnamed drainage that traverses the solar array. CFPD will provide feedback on fuel storage location as necessary.
- Fuel storage tanks will be double-walled tanks to prevent leakage to the greatest extent possible.
- A dirt berm will surround the fuel storage area.
- Fuel tanks will be stored an appropriate distance apart; distances between tanks will be identified during the Project site visit with CFPD and Project proponents.
- Grounds will be maintained vegetation-free a minimum of 25-feet from the berms surrounding the fuel storage area on Laydown Yard 2.
- Contractors should monitor the daily El Paso County Sheriff Fire Restriction Rating for the Calhan area. When the Fire Restriction Rating reaches Stage II, construction activities that can be

considered potential sources of fire ignition (e.g., welding, cutting, or hot work) will be curtailed until the Fire Restriction Rating drops back to Stage I where it can continue in areas cleared of grasses. In the event that Stage II Fire Restrictions are implemented by the Sheriff's department, a representative of the Project would have to apply for an exemption from the El Paso County Sheriff and the CFPD during the restriction period. The exemption would be subject to approval of both agencies.

- Contractors should monitor the National Weather Service for the occurrence of Red Flag Days. During Red Flag Days there should be no construction activities that can be considered potential sources of fire ignition (cutting, welding, or hot work).
- Construction activities that can be considered potential sources of fire ignition (e.g., welding) may be curtailed during high-wind days. Specific wind-speed thresholds that would initiate curtailment will be decided during the Project site visit between CFPD and Project proponents.

The CFPD equipment will be utilized as available from the CFPD. The El Paso County Sheriff's Department will dispatch non-911 emergencies to the appropriate agency depending on emergency and equipment available at each agency. Equipment may include engine pump trucks, a tender pump truck, brush trucks, ladder trucks, and ambulances to respond to emergencies. Water may be pulled from a local source including the water source procured for project construction.

CFPD has provided a Fire Commitment Letter identifying it has available resources to respond to any emergency including wildland fires. Project access is adequate for emergency services from Washington Road up to the entrance gate of the solar array during operations. During construction, signage will indicate the entrance location to the Laydown Yard 2 and the solar array. The signage will be visible from both directions to aid first responders to identify the correct entrance, and letters on signs will be six-inches or greater. Construction personnel will be aware of entrance locations to direct responders to the appropriate entrance during construction.

Heavy rescue would be provided by Ft. Carson Fire Department or Colorado Springs Fire Department on a mutual aid agreement. As there are no staff on site during operations other than periodic maintenance, emergency services provided by CFPD during operation of the Project will likely be limited to grassland fire suppression. Fire suppression will occur from outside of the solar array fence and will ensure that fire does not escape from the solar array.

