

# Farming the Sun

With California's aggressive goal of 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045, the Central Valley is home to not only prime farmland providing food for the world, but also to prime solar energy potential that can help power the state.

## SOLAR ENERGY: A SECOND LIFE FOR NON-IRRIGABLE LAND

Solar development in Westlands is largely on lands that are no longer irrigated because of inadequate water supply, which gives land a second life and helps avoid the need to develop solar projects on previously undisturbed lands. Due to this land's previous agricultural use, there is significantly lower risk of negative impact to native species from solar development.

*"We're holding Westlands up as a model to utilities, regulators and solar developers on how to take pressure off undeveloped land and move projects forward."*

*-Helen O'Shea, Natural Resources Defense Council*

## SOLAR BY THE NUMBERS

- More than 700 MW of operational solar energy capacity in the Westlands footprint – enough electricity to power approximately 130,000 homes.
- To date, solar developers have purchased nearly 8,000 acres from the District, with an additional 18,000 acres optioned for solar development.

## SOLAR IN WESTLANDS

### Westlands Solar Park (2.7 GW – in development)

- Located in the San Joaquin Valley's only Competitive Renewable Energy Zone, designated through the California Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative.
- When fully built, would be the largest solar generating facility in the United States at more than 20,000 acres with 2.7 GW total capacity – enough to power more than 750,000 homes and offset more than 3.2 million tons of carbon dioxide.



# Farming the Sun: *Continued*

- Project has earned the support of NRDC, Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife and the CA Farm Bureau.

## **Tranquillity Project (400 MW)**

- Comprised of 8 projects located on more than 3,500 acres in Fresno County, near Road 33.
- Total of 400 MW capacity – enough clean electricity to power approximately 75,000 homes.
- Power from these projects is sold to buyers across the state, including MCE and Southern California Edison.

## **Little Bear (180 MW)**

- Comprised of 5 projects located on more than 1,200 acres in Fresno County, four miles south of the City of Mendota.
- Total of 180 MW capacity – enough clean electricity to power approximately 34,000 homes.

