



FAQs

Community Frequently Asked Questions on Aratina Solar Project

Q The Aratina project area was scaled back. Where is the new proposed project area exactly?

A Below is the new Aratina Project area, with solar panel locations outlined in light blue. The revised site design increased project setbacks from residential areas by up to a half-mile by removing approximately 365 acres from the proposed project footprint.





Q Will there be an increase in dust caused by these solar panels?

A The Aratina project will take several steps to mitigate any impacts to air quality during construction including wetting down dry and dusty areas. After construction, it is in our best interests to reduce dust and keep panels clean, thereby producing the greatest amount of solar energy possible. Furthermore, research has demonstrated that solar panels actually decrease dust downwind of a project in the years following construction.¹

• Will the solar panels increase temperature in the community?

A According to an environmental analysis of the Aratina Solar Center, there is nothing to indicate the project would increase air temperature in nearby residential areas.² While the project could increase air temperature by a few degrees immediately above or adjacent to panels during the day, increased temperatures are shown to quickly dissipate with distance from solar panels. Solar arrays consist of PV panels mounted on aluminum and steel support structures, capturing the sunlight that would normally fall to the ground surface.





Q Will the solar panels reflect light?

A Solar panels are designed to absorb light for energy. As a result, modern solar panels reflect as little as 2% of incoming sunlight. Furthermore, the Aratina Solar project will utilize anti-reflective coating on all our solar panels to reduce light reflection.

Q Can solar panels be recycled?

A Yes. Glass, aluminum, and high purity silicon, which make up the majority of solar panel materials, can be recovered during the recycling process and repurposed for new solar panels.

Will the project displace local animals?

A Aratina, like all Avantus projects, is designed to avoid or minimize potential impacts to local wildlife. In the past, our projects have garnered support from groups such as Audubon California, Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Natural Resources Defense Council. Aratina uses a novel mitigation approach through the Onyx Conservation project, a public-private partnership that protects 215,000 acres of critical California habitat home to 20 sensitive wildlife species, including the Mohave ground squirrel and Mojave desert tortoise.

O Do solar facilities decrease property values?

A wide body of existing research has demonstrated no significant impact on property values for residences located nearby solar facilities. Most assessors believe that large solar facilities would have minimal impact on property values, particularly when located over a half mile away from a solar site. For residences both nearby and adjacent to solar projects across California, there has been no observed significant impact on property values.

Will the project impact Joshua Trees in our area?

A Avantus is working to protect native Mojave plants like Joshua Trees while also preserving California's ability to achieve its clean energy goals — and the economic and climate benefits that come with them. While trees will be impacted during project construction, vastly more Joshua Trees are being threatened by climate change caused by rising greenhouse gas emissions, which the Aratina solar project directly addresses.

Where will the generated electricity go?

A The electricity generated by the Aratina Solar Center will be transmitted to utilities and community energy providers throughout California, helping the Golden State to achieve its renewable energy goals.

• Are solar panels toxic? Will they leach harmful chemicals and heavy metals into the soil and water?

A No. Today's solar panels are designed to operate safely for decades. Researchers from a number of national laboratories and universities have studied the soil and water near solar plants and found no levels of toxicity that present risks to nearby ecosystems.

¹ https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10962247.2017.1343210

https://psbweb.co.kern.ca.us/UtilityPages/Planning/EIRS/aratina_solar/ DEIR/Aratina%20Solar%20DEIR%20Vol%201%20Chapters%201-10.pdf