



# India: AJ Solar Power Project

Project Name	AJ Solar Power Project				
Project Number	55182-001				
Borrower / Company	AEW India West One Private Limited				
Country / Economy	India				
Location	Nation-wide				
Type or Modality of Assistance	4179	Loan	Ordinary capital resources	INR 4,063.40 million	Approved
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth				
Drivers of Change	Partnerships Private sector development				
Sector / Subsector	Energy / Renewable energy generation - solar				
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements				
Responsible ADB Department					
Responsible ADB Division					
Responsible ADB Officer	Agrawal, Keshari Nandan				
Project Sponsor(s)	Al Jomaih Energy and Water Company				
Description	The proposed loan will enable the borrower to construct a 80-megawatt solar photovoltaic based power plant in the state of Gujarat in India.				
Objectives and Scope	The project will further diversify the energy mix of India in favor of renewable energy and is aligned with the target of Government of India to reach 500 gigawatts of nonfossil energy capacity and meet 50% of electricity requirement from renewable energy sources, thereby reducing the carbon intensity of the economy by 45% by 2030.				
Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	The project is fully aligned with ADB's Energy Policy, which prioritizes support for renewable energy development. The project is consistent with the following operational priorities of ADB's Strategy 2030: (i) accelerating progress in gender equality; and (ii) tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability. It contributes to ADB's goal to provide cumulative climate finance of \$100 billion from 2019 to 2030, since the loan of \$53.8 million is financing 100% of the climate finance. No adaptation finance has been estimated for this project. It will also contribute to ADB's operational goal of scaling up private sector development and private sector operations, including supporting private sector operations' long-term cofinancing target, whereby every \$1 in financing is to be matched by \$2.50 of long-term cofinancing as per ADB's Strategy 2030. By promoting stable power supply and increasing the proportion of renewable energy generation, the project is aligned with pillar 2 (inclusive provision of infrastructure networks and services) and pillar 3 (addressing climate change and increasing climate resilience) of ADB's country partnership strategy, 2018-2022 with India.				
<b>Safeguard Categories</b>					
Environment					B
Involuntary Resettlement					B
Indigenous Peoples					C
<b>Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects</b>					
Environmental Aspects	<p>An initial environmental and social impact examination was prepared by an independent consultant. The anticipated environmental impacts (ecology, noise, dust, waste generation and soil erosion) likely to result from construction activities are site specific, short term and can be effectively managed through good project management measures as per environmental management plans. Occupational health and safety risks will be mitigated through the development of a health and safety plan that will include routine training, monitoring, and provision of personal protective equipment. Consistent with ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement requirements, environmental and occupational health and safety provisions will be incorporated into the construction agreements.</p> <p>The bird surveys confirmed the presence of the lesser floricans utilizing grassland to the south of the project for lekking. The layout of the solar panels and the route of the transmission line has been altered to avoid impacts to their breeding ground. The transmission line will be partially constructed underground to avoid the lekking area. Collision and electrocution risks to other avifauna, including the white-rumped vulture, will be mitigated through installation of bird flight diverters and increased separation between energized and grounded components. A biodiversity action plan with enhanced mitigation and monitoring measures will be implemented.</p>				
Involuntary Resettlement	<p>The project will lease about 300 acres of land (against 332 acres of surveyed land belonging to 116 landowners) which is flat to slightly undulating private agricultural land. No physical displacement will occur from project's development.</p> <p>A land acquisition audit was conducted to validate the land leasing process. Based on the audit, all interviewed landowners willingly entered into the lease and are satisfied with the annual lease amount. The study also identified farm workers who will be economically displaced because of conversion of agricultural land for the solar power plant. A livelihood restoration plan has been developed.</p> <p>A resettlement framework was prepared to cover right of way for transmission line. Once the route for the transmission line is finalized, a resettlement plan will be developed.</p>				
Indigenous Peoples	<p>No land owned by indigenous peoples or scheduled tribes or castes has been leased, and no adverse effect on distinct and vulnerable indigenous people is expected.</p>				
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation	<p>The project will develop stakeholder engagement plan and community development plan. A detailed grievance redress mechanism will be developed before commencement of civil works.</p>				

Timetable for assistance design, processing and implementation	
Concept Clearance	16 Jun 2021
Credit Committee Meeting	02 Mar 2022
Approval	11 Apr 2022
Last PDS Update	20 Apr 2022

Project Page	<a href="https://www.adb.org/projects/55182-001/main">https://www.adb.org/projects/55182-001/main</a>
Request for Information	<a href="http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=55182-001">http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=55182-001</a>
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