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Docket Number:	23-AFC-01
Project Title:	Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP)
TN #:	264524
Document Title:	MBGP June 2025 Status Report_FIN
Description:	MBGP June 2025 Status Report_FIN
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Organization:	Climate Edge Law Group
Submitter Role:	Applicant Representative
Submission Date:	6/30/2025 3:20:42 PM
Docketed Date:	6/30/2025

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**Energy Resources Conservation
and Development Commission**

In the Matter of:

Application for Certification for the
Morton Bay Geothermal Project

Docket No. 23-AFC-01

**MORTON BAY GEOTHERMAL PROJECT
STATUS REPORT NO. 18**

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Pursuant to the *Joint Order Partially Granting Applicants' Motion to Suspend and Further Orders* issued on March 20, 2025 ("March 20th Joint Order"),¹ Morton Bay Geothermal LLC ("the Applicant"), provides this *Status Report No. 18* describing any new project-related developments during the pendency of the suspension period for the Application for Certification ("AFC") proceeding of the Morton Bay Geothermal Project ("MBGP" or the "Project").

The Applicant continues to actively engage with the community regarding geothermal development in Imperial County, including:

- Supporting Imperial Valley College (IVC) and San Diego State University's efforts to develop and refine relevant curriculum for geothermal workforce development. BHE Renewables is the first entity to receive IVC Foundation's "Platinum Partner" designation for ongoing collaboration and investments.
- Engaged with stakeholders at the Imperial Valley Salton Sea Conference organized by Los Amigos de la Comunidad on May 9, 2025.
- Engaged with neighbors and stakeholders at a meeting organized by Los Amigos de la Comunidad, on May 7, 2025. The meeting gathered residents and community partners to discuss air quality concerns, review new monitoring plans, and collaborate on solutions for a healthier future. The meeting is part of the California Statewide Mobile Monitoring Initiative.
- Participated in the California Energy Commission's workshop on June 13, 2025, for the Lithium Valley Vision Informational Proceeding. The workshop explored key transportation planning and implementation challenges and opportunities to support the development of Lithium Valley, including geothermal development. The Applicant provided its perspective on transportation challenges and opportunities related to geothermal development in the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area.

¹ TN#: 262254.

- Provided comments to the County of Imperial on May 5, 2025, on the draft Lithium Valley Specific Plan, and engaged in the associated community outreach meetings. The draft Specific Plan is anticipated to affect geothermal development in the defined area of Lithium Valley, which overlaps with the Applicant's Project site.

Following the issuance of the March 20th Joint Order, the Applicant worked with various federal, state, and local agencies to suspend work on the Project, including the County of Imperial, Imperial Irrigation District ("IID"), Imperial County Air Pollution Control District and Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board.

On April 24, 2025, the County of Imperial suspended the processing of the conditional use permit application (CPU23-0016) for the Project. On April 24, 2025, the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District received a request to suspend processing of the Project's Authority to Construction Application No. 4709. On June 4, 2025, Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board received a request to suspend processing of the Project's Report of Waste Discharge application. On June 23, 2025, the IID withdrew the Project's interconnection request.

The Applicant continues to evaluate solicitations and engage with creditworthy, potential offtake customers while the Applicant evaluates the viability of geothermal development opportunities in the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area.

Status of Outstanding Information Items

On March 5, 2025, California Energy Commission Staff identified in its *Status Report # 17* the information items necessary to complete the Final Staff Assessment for the Project. The Applicant continues to progress on these items and provides the following updates:

- Salton Sea Impact Assessment:
 - The Applicant worked with IID and the California Department of Water Resources to obtain information to complete the draft Salton Sea Impact Assessment. The information is being used to estimate potential emissions from playa exposure related to water use and to analyze potential biological, aquatic, air quality, public health, and water resources impacts.
 - Once the draft Salton Sea Impact Assessment is completed, the Applicant will provide IID with a copy of the assessment for review.
- Revised General Arrangements:
 - The Applicant completed revisions to the Project's general arrangements, which include further information on access roads to well pads.
- Revised air modeling and nitrogen deposition analysis:
 - The Applicant revised the Project's air model, including nitrogen deposition analysis.

- Impact assessment for MBGP’s well pads, gen-tie segments, and pull site work on wetlands subject to Imperial Irrigation District’s “O-N Drain Connector Project Consent Order”, Docket No. CWA-309(a)-22-002.
 - IID is performing offsite mitigation following approval issued on March 2, 2023, from the U.S. EPA Region 9 for an Alternative Mitigation Plan.

The Applicant continues to work diligently to pursue advancement of the MBGP.

Dated: June 30, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

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