

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	23-OPT-02C
Project Title:	Darden Clean Energy - Compliance
TN #:	267754
Document Title:	Darden Clean Energy Project (23-OPT-02C) Limited Notice to Proceed with Construction Activities
Description:	Letter to Marisa Mitchell, Intersect Power
Filer:	susan fleming
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	11/26/2025 8:47:33 AM
Docketed Date:	11/26/2025



November 26, 2025

Marisa Mitchell
Intersect Power
548 Market Street
San Francisco, California 94104

**DARDEN CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT (23-OPT-02C) LIMITED NOTICE TO
PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

Dear Marisa Mitchell,

On June 11, 2025, the California Energy Commission (CEC) approved a certification for the Darden Clean Energy Project (23-OPT-02) under the CEC Opt-In Certification Program. On October 29, 2025, CEC staff received a request for a Limited Notice to Proceed (LNTP) to be issued for limited activities at the Darden Clean Energy Project – “Pre-Seeding and Related Actions.”

The proposed activities include:

- construction of driveway access points, access roads, and staging area preparation;
- planting of ground cover seedmix (pre-seeding) throughout the entire site; and
- removal of existing trees and crops in the gen-tie route.

CEC staff has reviewed the relevant Conditions of Certification (COC) associated with the Pre-Seeding request and determined that the proposed Pre-Seeding and Related Actions may commence as described below as of December 1, 2025. These activities are only being approved in accordance with applicable COCs related to the Pre-Seeding activities pursuant to the Darden Clean Energy Project Final Decision (Final Decision).

Only the following activities are authorized to occur with this LNTP:

- Construction of driveway access points, access roads (consisting of compacted native subgrade, installation of geogrid reinforcement, and placement of Class II Caltrans Aggregate Base);
- Staging area preparation (a 25-acre laydown yard for material storage, parking, and field offices. Work includes stripping topsoil, rough grading, compacting subgrade, installing needed temporary SWPPP BMPs, and importing Class II aggregate base);
- Planting of ground cover seedmix in the PV fields (discing to prevent unwanted weeds, rolling to stabilize the soil before seeding); and
- Removal of existing trees and crops within the project's gen-tie-route (removal and proper disposal of existing orchard trees within the project boundary to clear the area for grading and construction activities).

No other ground disturbing or construction activities are authorized at this time other than those previously approved in the Harlan BAAH switchyard LNTP (TN 266837). Darden Clean Energy Project will be given a full notice to proceed for all construction activities after all pre-construction COC submittals are received and approved as required by the Final Decision. CEC staff will continue to work closely with Intersect Power to ensure conformance with all COCs as written in the Final Decision.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Compliance Project Manager Joseph Douglas, Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Unit, Safety and Reliability Branch, at (916) 956-9527 or e-mail at joseph.douglas@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Brett Fooks

Brett Fooks, Manager
Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Unit
Safety and Reliability Branch
Siting, Transmission and Environmental
Protection Division

Intersect
November 26, 2025
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cc: Dian Voters
Deputy Director
Siting Transmission and Environmental
Protection Division