

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	25-OPT-02
Project Title:	Prairie Song Reliability Project
TN #:	268352
Document Title:	Tribal Consultation Letter and NAHC List of Tribes
Description:	Sample consultation letter and list of tribes the letters were mailed to.
Filer:	William Larson
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
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**CALIFORNIA
ENERGY COMMISSION**



**CALIFORNIA
NATURAL
RESOURCES
AGENCY**

November 18, 2025

XXXXXX XXXX, THPO
XXXXXXXX Tribe
1111 First Street
City, CA
11111

Dear XXXXXXXX:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact report and other findings for the Prairie Song Reliability Project and invites the XXXXXX Tribe to consult regarding this project. The CEC will conduct tribal consultation in accordance with the Public Resources Code, sections 21080.3.1 and 25545.7.4, as well as California Code of Regulations, Title 20, section 1878.5. This consultation would focus on environmental impact and mitigation issues and is an opportunity to have your input inform the staff analysis of the proposed project. The CEC staff received the results of a Sacred Lands File search from the California Native American Heritage Commission on August 11, 2025. The search yielded *positive* findings. The CEC staff would like to consult with you to better understand the concerns of California Native American tribes regarding this project.

Background

In a series of document filings from June 20 through June 27, 2025, Prairie Song Reliability Project, LLC (applicant) filed an application with the CEC seeking certification from the CEC through the Opt-in Certification process for the Prairie Song Reliability Project (Docket No. 25-OPT-02). The proposed project would be on mostly vacant undeveloped land in the community of Acton in unincorporated Los Angeles County, California.

Project Summary

The proposed Prairie Song Reliability Project would consist of a 1,150-megawatt (MW), approximately 9,200-megawatt hour (MWh), battery energy storage system that would be constructed on approximately 107 acres of privately owned land about four miles southwest of the City of Palmdale. Development includes the containerized battery energy storage system with individualized fire prevention systems, a project substation,

inverters, and related facilities, such as fencing, operations and maintenance buildings, stormwater retention and infiltration basins, and communication systems. The project would connect to the existing Southern California Edison (SCE) Vincent Substation via either a 1.1-mile or a 1.8-mile generation intertie (gen-tie) line route, installed overhead using monopoles and steel lattice towers.

The project would store electricity from the power grid, providing additional capacity to the electrical grid to assist with serving load during periods of peak demand by charging when demand is low and discharging when demand is high. The project would also serve as an additional local/regional capacity resource that would enhance grid reliability, particularly to the Los Angeles Basin local reliability area, and may allow for the deferral or avoidance of regional transmission facilities.

Additional information about the proposed project is available online at the locations provided in the following list.

1. Part 1 of the Application contains the Project Description and Cultural Resources Sections:
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=264413&DocumentContentId=101199>
2. Part 2 of the Application contains the remainder of the Environmental Analysis and Alternatives Sections:
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=264414&DocumentContentId=101200>
3. Archaeological Resources Management Report, Appendix 3-3A to the Application:
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=264406&DocumentContentId=101215>
4. The rest of the application is made up of the applicant's documents filed on the Prairie Song Reliability Project docket:
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=25-OPT-02>

CEC Opt-In Process

On June 30, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 205 (as amended through September 19, 2025), which authorized the CEC to establish a new certification program for eligible non-fossil-fueled power plants and related facilities to optionally seek certification ("Opt-in" Certification) from the CEC. Requirements for the Opt-in Certification program are in Chapter 6.2, Division 15, of the Public Resources Code, sections 25545–25545.13. Regulations to implement the program can be found in California Code of Regulations, Title 20, sections 1875–1882. The Opt-in Certification program is in effect through June 30, 2030.

Under this new Opt-in Certification process, the types of facilities that can be certified by the CEC now includes solar photovoltaic and terrestrial wind energy power plants of 50 MW or more, energy storage facilities of 200 megawatt-hours (MWh) or more, the electric transmission lines from these facilities to the first point of interconnection with the existing transmission grid, and facilities that manufacture or assemble clean energy or storage technologies or their components with a capital investment of at least \$250 million. In addition, thermal power plants of 50 MW or more that do not use fossil or nuclear fuels may choose the Opt-in Certification process rather than the CEC's Application for Certification process.

The CEC is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is required to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for any facility that elects to opt-in to the CEC's jurisdiction. With exceptions, the issuance of a certificate by the CEC for an eligible facility is in lieu of any permit, certificate, or similar document required by any state, local, or regional agency, or federal agency to the extent permitted by federal law, and supersedes any applicable statute, ordinance, or regulation of any state, local, or regional agency, or federal agency to the extent permitted by federal law. The CEC's authority under the Opt-in Certification program does not supersede the authorities of the California State Lands Commission, the California Coastal Commission, or the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, if applicable, the State Water Resources Control Board or applicable regional water quality control board, or, in the case of manufacturing facilities, the applicable local air quality management district or the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

The CEC is required to prepare an EIR and make its decision on the application within 270 days of receiving a complete application. The CEC will also conduct public meetings in the project area, including an informational and public scoping meeting during the development of the EIR, and a public workshop during the 60-day comment period on the Draft EIR, which will be included as part of the CEC's Staff Assessment of the application. After the conclusion of the public comment period, the CEC staff will publish an updated Staff Assessment (which will include a Final EIR), and the CEC's Executive Director's recommendation on whether the CEC should certify the EIR and issue a certificate for construction and operation of the proposed project. The updated Staff Assessment and Executive Director's recommendation will be published at least 30 days before the CEC's decision at a public meeting.

The other agencies that retain their permitting authorities must take final action on any additional permits within 90 days of the CEC issuing a certificate.

The timeline for the Opt-In Certification Program process and deadlines is depicted below. These deadlines are subject to any substantial changes made to the project or certain other events occurring after an application is deemed complete.

Day 0: File the Determination of Complete Application.

Day 3: File and circulate the Notice of Preparation of an EIR.

Day 5: Send invitation to request tribal consultations.

Day 30: Hold public informational and scoping meeting as close as practicable to the project site.

Day 150: File and circulate the Staff Assessment (which includes the draft EIR) and Notice of Availability and public comment period begins.

Day 180 – 210: Hold a public meeting on the Staff Assessment (including the draft EIR) at a location as close as possible to the proposed project site.

Day 210: Close the public comment period on the Staff Assessment (including draft EIR) (60 days from publication date).

Day 240: File Updated Staff Assessment (which includes the final EIR).

Day 240: File the CEC's executive director's recommendation.

Day 270: Present the updated Staff Assessment (including the final EIR) and staff recommendation at a publicly noticed CEC Business Meeting. The CEC Commissioners can approve or disapprove project or require additional information or analysis.

Day 360: State agencies retaining permit authority make permit decisions on application approved by the CEC.

Participation

In addition to the tribal consultation required under CEQA and the Warren-Alquist Act, the CEC welcomes your participation in the Opt-in review process. Pursuant to the Public Resources Code, section 25545.7.4, we are providing the link to the Prairie Song Reliability Project application, hosted on the CEC website at:
<https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/battery-storage-system/prairie-song-reliability-project>.

To stay informed about this project and receive notice of upcoming meetings and workshops, sign up for the project subscription, which can be accessed on the same project webpage. Once enrolled, automatic email notifications are sent when documents and notices are posted to the project webpage.

The CEC staff welcomes your comments and questions, which are important to staff's analysis of the proposed project. Please do not hesitate to contact:

Staff Archaeologist, Patrick Riordan, by email at Patrick.Riordan@energy.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 891-9072.

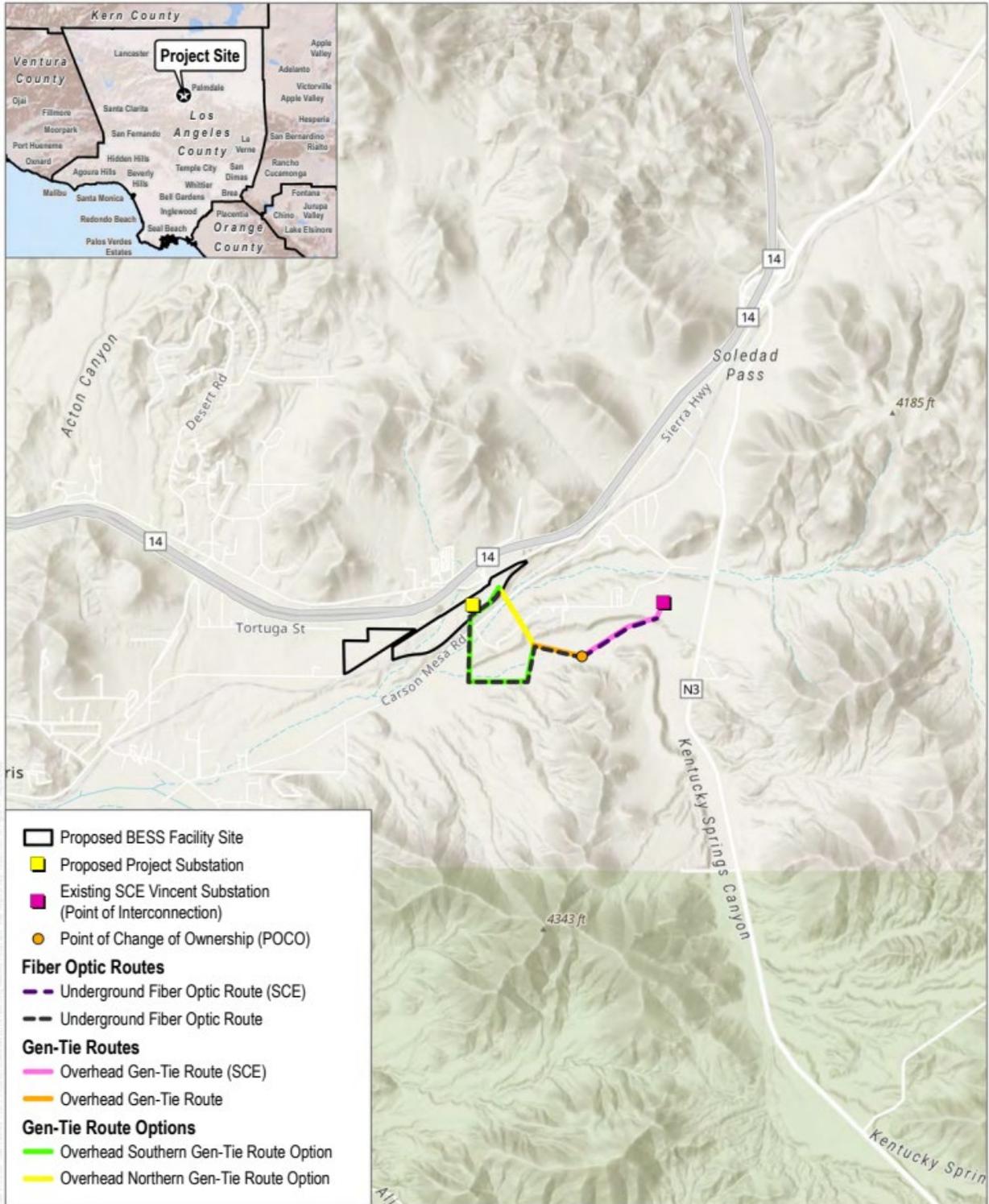
Sincerely,

Gabriel Roark

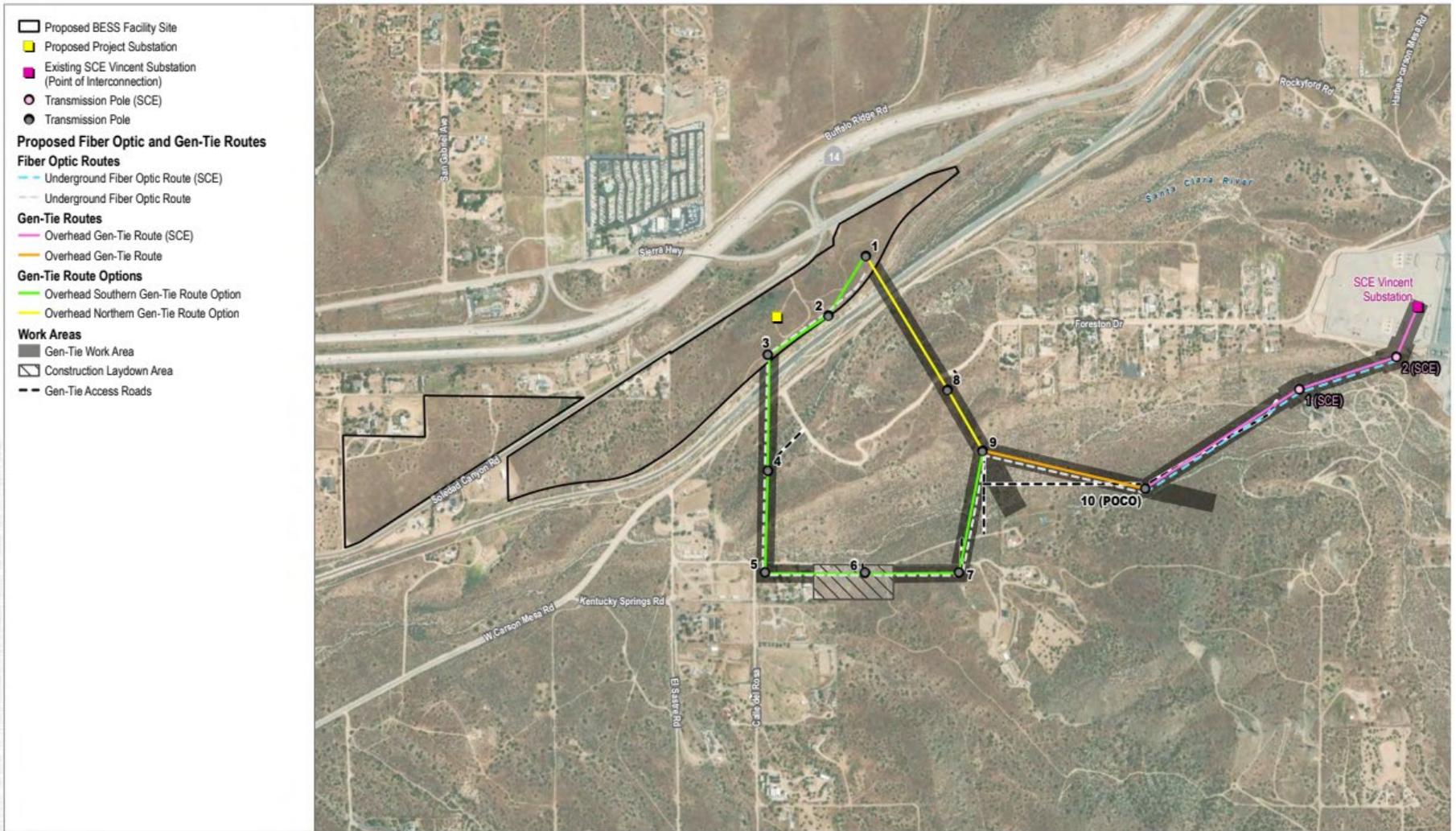
Gabriel Roark

Assistant Tribal Liaison and Cultural Resources Unit Supervisor

Attachment:
Project Location Maps



Source: Figure 1-1 in Dudek 2025 Dudek (TN 264413). *Prairie Song Reliability Project Opt-In Application Part 1*, dated June 20, 2025. Accessed online at: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=25-OPT-02>.



Source: Figure 1-2 in Dudek 2025 -- Dudek (TN 264413). *Prairie Song Reliability Project Opt-In Application Part 1*, dated June 20, 2025. Accessed online at: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=25-OPT-02>.

List of Tribes from NAHC

- Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Quechan Indian Tribe of Fort Yuma Reservation
- San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
- Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
- Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation