

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	23-OPT-02C
Project Title:	Darden Clean Energy - Compliance
TN #:	270443
Document Title:	REQUEST FOR BUFFER REDUCTION - Great Horned Owl (BIO-(5))
Description:	REQUEST FOR BUFFER REDUCTION - Great Horned Owl (BIO-(5))
Filer:	Anwar Ali
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
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June 9, 2026

Sarah Sperling
IPX Power
9450 SW Gemini Drive
Beaverton, Oregon 97008

DARDEN CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT (23-OPT-02C) - REQUEST FOR BUFFER REDUCTION (BIO-8 Great Horned Owl)

Dear Sarah Sperling:

CEC staff has reviewed the request below from Darden IPX (via DB Sarah Sperling) to increase the level of effort for construction of solar arrays within the reduced great horned owl buffer area (250–500 feet). The work would be consistent with the conditions approved in the previously approved Buffer Reduction Request, dated March 20, 2026. The requested increase would allow continued construction of project access roads, solar arrays, the associated laydown yard, and the use of W. Clarkson Avenue and South Colusa Avenue within the reduced buffer area. The original 500-foot buffer was reduced to 250 feet with CPM approval.

Activities include construction of a water truck filling station, inverter pile survey and distribution, inverter pile install, subgrade, medium voltage home run, medium voltage skid to skid, array pile offload, torque tube install, tracker install, module offload, module install, harness install, module wire, inverter install and term, load break disconnect install and term, module support, fencing, direction boring, as well as general meeting and coordination between contractors and sub-contractors.

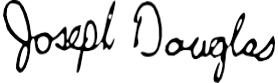
The work activities are scheduled for Monday through Saturday from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM, would last until the buffer is removed, and would entail the use of 10 water trucks a day (10 fills each daily), one backhoe, one blade, 10 buggies, four concrete trucks, two drill rigs, four excavators, three forklifts, two hydrovac trucks, two loaders, one pile driver, one rough terrain crane, 10 semi-trucks, 10 skid steers, five trucks, and one water truck. There would be up to 100 ground personnel.

This request is approved. All monitoring, reporting, and implementation of other required measures shall remain consistent with the conditions outlined in the CPM approval letter.

With the implementation of the above measures and applicable COCs, the CPM has determined that the requested buffer modifications would not result in any new or substantially more severe environmental impacts, within the meaning of California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15162.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at (916) 956-9527 or e-mail at joseph.douglas@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Douglas". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Joseph Douglas, Compliance Project Manager
Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Unit
Safety and Reliability Branch
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection
Division

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