

DOCKETED

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June 10, 2026

Notice of Receipt of Opt-In Application for the Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System project (26-OPT-02)

This notice is provided under Public Resources Code sections 25519 and 25545.8, that the California Energy Commission (CEC) has received an Opt-In application for the Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (project). Sequoia Energy Storage 1, LLC (applicant), a subsidiary of New Leaf Energy, Inc. proposes to construct, operate, and decommission a 200-megawatt (MW) battery energy storage system (BESS) in an unincorporated area in Santa Cruz County. The approximately 16-acre project site is within a portion of Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 051-101-77 and 051-101-78, which is approximately one mile north of the city of Watsonville and east of the intersection of Minto Road and Green Valley Road (90 Minto Road).

The primary components of the proposed project include an up to 800-megawatt-hour BESS facility, an operations and maintenance (O&M) building, a project substation, a 115-kilovolt (kV) interconnection transmission (gen-tie) line, and interconnection facilities. The project would be composed of lithium-iron phosphate, or similar technology batteries, with proven safety and performance records, available at the time of procurement. The proposed project would provide a service to the regional electric grid by receiving and storing electrical energy (charging) from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) electric transmission system, and then later delivering energy (discharging) back to the PG&E Green Valley Substation when the stored energy is needed. The Part 1 of the Opt-In Application containing the Project Description (TN 270250) can be accessed directly at the following link: [Link to document with project description information.](#)

In 2022, Assembly Bill 205 (later amended by Senate Bills 254 and 283 in 2025) established the Opt-In Certification Program for eligible non-fossil-fueled power plants, energy storage, and manufacturing and assembly facilities to optionally seek certification through the CEC via an alternative permitting pathway. Upon receipt of an application, the CEC has the exclusive authority to certify the site and related facility. With certain exceptions, the issuance of a certificate by the CEC 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 is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act and is required to prepare an environmental impact report, mitigated negative declaration, or negative declaration for any facility that elects to opt into the CEC's jurisdiction.

The CEC has organized the application documents via the links below.

The CEC hosts a webpage for the project at the following link:

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/battery-storage-system/seahawk-battery-energy-storage-system-bess>

The documents comprising the Opt-In application can be found in the project docket, which is accessible via the project webpage or directly at the following link: [Link to CEC project docket](#).

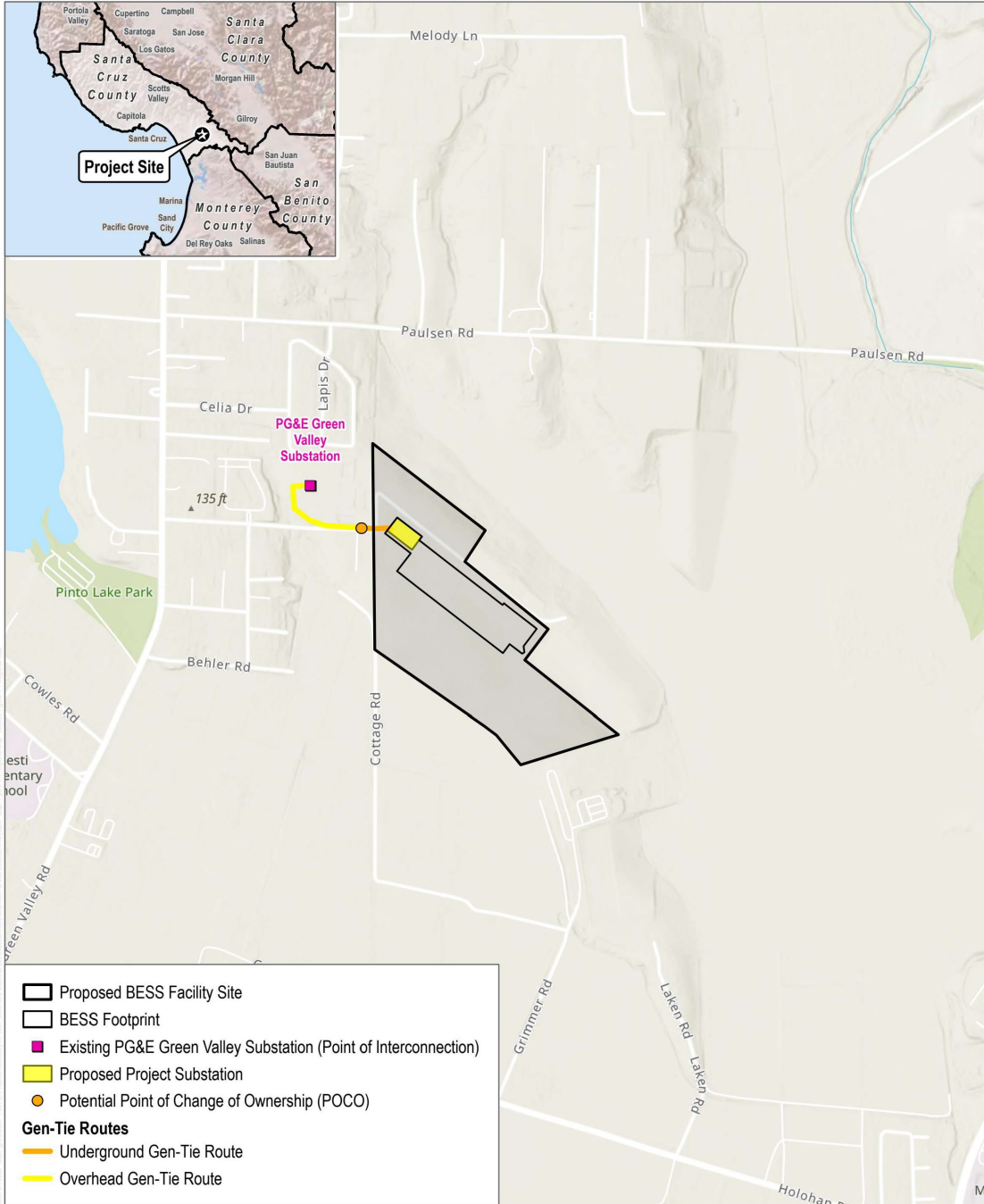
Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25519(k), the CEC invites the comments and recommendations of your agency, and requests that you send us any relevant laws, ordinances, policies, or regulations that your agency has promulgated or administered that are applicable to the proposed project.

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

Feel free to reach out to me directly via email if you have any questions about this notice. Thank you.

Eric Veerkamp
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Enclosures: Figure 1-1 Regional Map (from application, TN 270250)



SOURCE: Esri 2025; World Topographic Map



FIGURE 1-1
Regional Map

Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System Project