

**DOCKETED**

<b>Docket Number:</b>	26-OPT-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System
<b>TN #:</b>	270506
<b>Document Title:</b>	Seahawk_BESS_ Question to CPUC
<b>Description:</b>	Seahawk_BESS_ Question_to_CPUC_Regarding Necessity of CPCN20260610
<b>Filer:</b>	susan fleming
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
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<b>Docketed Date:</b>	6/10/2026



June 10, 2026

Notice of Receipt of Opt-In Application for Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System project (26-OPT-02)/ Question regarding necessity of certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN)

Dear Paula Gruending,

The purpose of this notice is to document the California Energy Commission's (CEC) receipt of an Opt-In application for the proposed Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (project), which is being processed under the CEC's Opt-in licensing authority established by Assembly Bill (AB) 205 (later amended by Senate Bills 254 and 283 in 2025) and the associated emergency regulations. AB 205 added sections 25545-25545.13 to the Public Resources Code, which expanded the CEC's existing power plant licensing authority by allowing specified clean energy projects to optionally seek via an alternative consolidated permitting pathway through the CEC, by June 30, 2030.

Public Resources Code, section 25545.8, states that subdivision (j) of section 25519 is applicable to Opt-In applications. Accordingly, for any facility requiring a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN), the CEC shall transmit a copy of the application to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and request the comments and recommendations of the CPUC. The CEC is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act for the project.

Sequoia Energy Storage 1, LLC (applicant) proposes to construct, operate, and decommission a 200-megawatt (MW) BESS in an unincorporated area in Santa Cruz County. The approximately 16-acre project site would be within a portion of Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 051-101-77 and 051-101-78 at 90 Minto Road. The primary components of the proposed project include an up to 800-MW-hour BESS facility, an operations and maintenance (O&M) building, a project substation, a 115-kilovolt (kV) underground and overhead intertie transmission (gen-tie) line, and interconnection facilities within the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) Green Valley Substation. 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. Electric energy would be transferred from the existing power grid to charge project batteries and store electrical energy and discharge back to the power grid when the stored energy is needed. The project would be interconnected to the regional electrical transmission grid via an approximately 0.21-mile-long new single-circuit 115kV gen-tie line within an expected 2.5-foot wide trench between the project substation and the existing Green Valley Substation. The gen-tie line would extend west (underground), crossing Minto Road, and then continue parallel to the existing Minto Road right-of-way, then route northwest and continue parallel to the boundary of the Green Valley Substation until turning east to reach the point of interconnect (POI) at

Green Valley Substation. The applicant would construct and own the portion of the gen-tie line between the project substation and the point of change of ownership (POCO), an overhead riser pole, and PG&E would construct and own the remaining portion (overhead) of the gen-tie from the POCO to the POI within the Green Valley Substation. The applicant entered into a Large Generator Interconnection Agreement with the California Independent System Operator and PG&E on November 25, 2024. The Part 1 of the Opt-In Application containing the Project Description (TN 270250) can be accessed directly at the following link: [Link to project description information](#).

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>

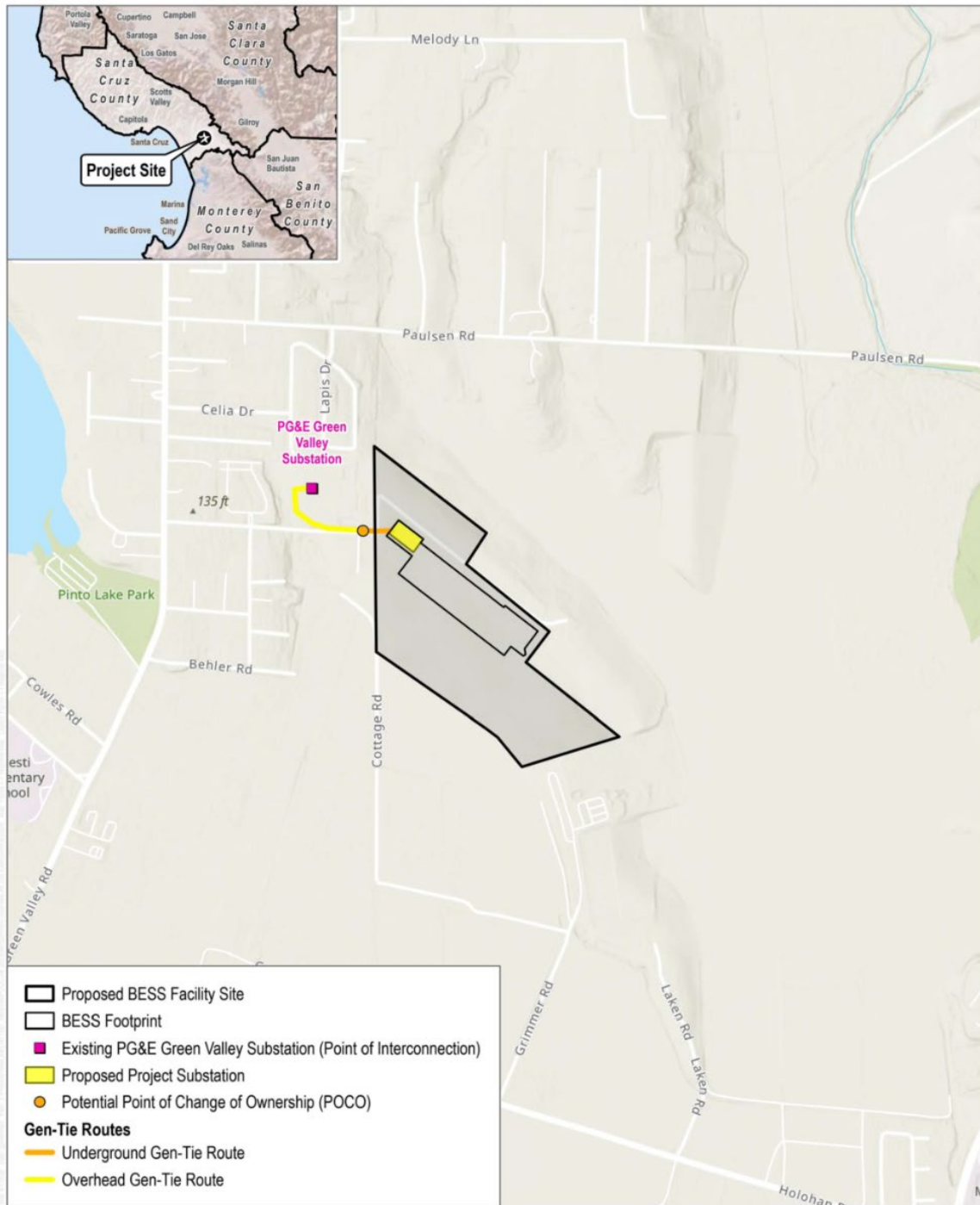
The documents comprising the Opt-In application can be found in the project docket, which is accessible via the project webpage or directly at the following link: [Link to CEC project web page](#).

We would appreciate knowing as soon as possible whether a CPCN will be required for the proposed loop-in transmission line that would connect the project to the PG&E electric transmission system since these components will be included in the environmental impact report, mitigated negative declaration, or negative declaration to be prepared by the CEC for the project. Please reach out if you have any questions. Thank you.

Eric Veerkamp  
Project Manager  
California Energy Commission

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Enclosures: Figure 2-1 Regional Map (from application, TN 270250)



SOURCE: Esri 2025; World Topographic Map

FIGURE 1-1

Regional Map



