

DOCKETED	
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THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Energy Resources Conservation
and Development Commission

In the Matter of:

Application for Certification for the
Black Rock Geothermal Project

Docket No. 23-AFC-03

BLACK ROCK GEOTHERMAL PROJECT
STATUS REPORT NO. 23

Pursuant to the *Joint Order Partially Granting Applicants' Motion to Suspend and Further Orders* issued on March 20, 2025 ("March 20th Joint Order"),¹ Black Rock Geothermal LLC ("the Applicant"), provides this *Status Report No. 23* describing any new project-related developments² during the pendency of the suspension period for the Application for Certification ("AFC") proceeding of the Black Rock Geothermal Project ("BRGP" or the "Project").

The Applicant continues to actively engage with the community regarding geothermal development in Imperial County, including:

- Facilitated a meeting with the Torres-Martinez Band of Cahuilla Indians and Imperial Valley College to discuss the college's Lithium Industry Force Training program opportunities for tribal students. The training program provides skillsets that are applicable to geothermal operations.
- Participated in the quarterly Community Partner Alliance meeting, coordinated by the Imperial County Workforce Development Board. The alliance is a venue for the community and local business to collaborate on workforce needs and initiatives.
- Attended the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group meeting. The group advises the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Energy Commission on clean energy and pollution reduction programs.
- Sponsored the Brawley Chamber Branding Iron Award, which honors individuals who exemplify outstanding leadership qualities and a deep commitment to the betterment of Brawley. The awardees go above and beyond in their service to the community.
- Attended Imperial Valley College's Presidents' Circle Luncheon, which was hosted by the Imperial Valley College Foundation. The foundation is dedicated to developing business resources and educational opportunities for Imperial Valley College students.
- Contributed to Imperial Valley College Foundation through the Applicant's Platinum Partnership with the college and associated foundation.

¹ TN: 262256.

² Including activities and developments through BHE Renewables, LLC.

- Sponsored and attended the Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce’s Awards Dinner.

The Applicant continues to evaluate solicitations and engage with creditworthy, potential offtake customers while the Applicant evaluates the viability of geothermal development opportunities in the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area.

The Applicant awaits the establishment of California’s central procurement entity at the Department of Water Resources and solicitations for procurement of one gigawatt of geothermal energy, as requested by the California Public Utilities Commission, to evaluate additional procurement opportunities for the Project. The Applicant is also monitoring California Public Utilities Commission proceedings affecting long lead time resources, procurement, and transmission planning. Additionally, the Applicant is participating in the California Energy Commission’s workshops for the 2026 Integrated Energy Policy Report Update, especially those focused on geothermal energy, energy equity, and environmental justice.

The Applicant continues to monitor Imperial County’s progress on developing a Lithium Valley Specific Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Report, which takes into account geothermal energy projects.

As described in Status Report No. 20, a nomination package for the proposed Southeast Lake Cahuilla Active Volcanic District to the National Register of Historic Places was submitted. The nomination is scheduled for the November 12-13, 2026 State Historical Resources Commission quarterly meeting.

Status of Outstanding Information Items

On March 5, 2025, California Energy Commission Staff identified in its *Status Report # 17* the information items necessary to complete the Final Staff Assessment for the Project. The Applicant continues to progress on these items and provides the following updates:

- Salton Sea Impact Assessment – As described in *Status Report No. 22*, the Applicant provided the Imperial Irrigation District (“IID”) with a revised version of the Salton Sea Impact Assessment on June 19, 2026, which addresses the potential impacts to the Salton Sea and associated biological, aquatic, air/public health (via increased playa exposure), climate change, and water resources from the Project’s use of IID’s water supply and changes in downstream agricultural drain flow volumes. The Applicant further revised the Salton Sea Impact Assessment in response to comments and provided an updated version to IID on September 15, 2026. The Applicant believes that the analysis confirms its original assumption that the BRGP will not result in a significant direct or cumulative impact to the Salton Sea.

Dated: September 30, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

CLIMATE EDGE LAW GROUP

By: /s/_____

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