

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512**DOCKET****09-AFC-3**

DATE DEC 17 2010

RECD DEC 17 2010

December 17, 2010

TO: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST

**SUPPLEMENTAL STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED
MARIPOSA ENERGY PROJECT
(09-AFC-3)**

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the Supplemental Staff Assessment (SSA) for the Mariposa Energy Project Application for Certification (09-AFC-3). The SSA was published on **December 16, 2010**, and a CD copy is enclosed for your review. The SSA contains the California Energy Commission staff's engineering and environmental evaluation of the proposed Mariposa Energy Project.

Energy Commission Staff Documents and Hearings

Energy Commission staff published a Staff Assessment (SA) for the MEP project on November 8, 2010. This document included staff's analysis, conclusions, and recommendations for the project. Staff publically noticed the SA for a 30-day comment period that lasted from Tuesday November 9, 2010 to Thursday, December 9, 2010.

During this comment period, a public workshop was held on Monday, November 29, 2010 at the Byron Bethany Irrigation District office to discuss staff's findings, proposed mitigation, and proposed compliance-monitoring requirements. Based on the workshops and written comments, staff has prepared a Supplemental Staff Assessment.

The Supplemental Staff Assessment (SSA) has been prepared based upon discussions at the SA workshops and written comments provided by the applicant, agencies and public. This SSA is a limited document representing revisions and additions to various technical sections that were commented upon. This document does not include each technical section. For a complete project description and all the technical sections please see the original SA document with the complete engineering, environmental, public health and safety analysis of the MEP project. The SSA only includes sections that were revised or had public comments.

The MEP SSA contains the Energy Commission staff's final environmental and engineering evaluation of the project in the following technical sections: Air Quality/Green House Gases, Alternatives, Biological Resources, Hazardous Materials, Land Use, Noise and Vibration, Project Description, Public Health, Socioeconomics, Soil and Water Resources, Traffic and Transportation, Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance, Transmission System Engineering, Visual Resources and Worker Safety and Fire Protection and will serve as staff's testimony during evidentiary hearings.

Staff's testimony that will be provided at the Energy Commission's Evidentiary Hearings on the MEP project will encompass the technical sections not modified in the SA and revisions to sections included in the SSA.

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 10/20/10) FILED WITH
ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 12/17/10

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Summary of the California Energy Commission Staff's Conclusions

Based upon the information provided to date and the analysis completed to date for each technical section, staff has concluded that with implementation of staff's recommended mitigation measures described in the conditions of certification, all potential environmental impacts will be mitigated to a less than significant level. The project analysis complies with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). For a detailed review of potentially significant impacts and the related mitigation measures, please refer to the analysis in the SA and SSA.

The Staff Assessment and Supplemental Staff Assessment will serve as staff's formal written testimony in evidentiary hearings to be held by the Energy Commission Committee assigned to hear this case. The Committee will hold evidentiary hearings and will consider the testimonies presented by staff, applicant, interveners and comments from government agencies and the public prior to preparing the Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD), which will also have a 30-day comment period. The revised PMPD will then be considered by the full Energy Commission which will issue the final decision.

Summary of the Proposed Mariposa Energy Project

Project Location

The proposed project site is in northeastern Alameda County, in an unincorporated area designated for Large Parcel Agriculture by the East County Area Plan. The site is located approximately 7 miles northwest of Tracy, 7 miles east of Livermore, 6 miles south of Byron, and approximately 2.5 miles west of the community of Mountain House in San Joaquin County.

The facility would be located southeast of the intersection of Bruns Road and Kelso Road on a 10-acre portion of a 158-acre parcel (known as the Lee Property) immediately south of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) Bethany Compressor Station and 230-kilovolt (kV) PG&E Kelso Substation. The proposed power plant site is located in the southern portion of the Lee Property. The existing, unrelated 6.5 MW Byron Power Cogeneration Plant occupies 2 acres of the 158-acre parcel northeast of the MEP site. The remainder of the parcel is non-irrigated grazing land.

Project Description

The MEP would be a natural gas-fired, simple cycle peaking facility with a generating capacity of 200-megawatts (MW). The project proposes to operate on average, 600 hours per year, but if licensed can run up to 4,000 hours per year. Primary equipment for the generating facility would include four General Electric (GE) LM6000 PC-Sprint natural gas-fired combustion turbine generators (CTG) and associated equipment. Power would be transmitted to the grid at 230-kV through a new 0.7-mile transmission line that would connect to the existing Kelso Substation. A new 580-foot natural gas pipeline would connect the project site to PG&E's Line 2, which is an existing high-pressure natural gas pipeline located northeast of the project site. Service and process water would be fresh irrigation water provided from a new connection to the Byron Bethany Irrigation District (BBID) via a new pump station and 1.8-mile pipeline. The MEP is proposing to utilize on average 35 acre feet of water per year. In the event of

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continuous and maximum permitted operation, the MEP would utilize 187 acre feet of water for 4,000 hours of operation. The applicant has volunteered to fund an annual water conservation program designed to conserve a volume of raw water equal to the volume of water consumed by the Mariposa Energy Project annually. All domestic wastewater would be routed to an onsite septic system and either discharged to an onsite leach field or removed via truck for offsite disposal. Stormwater runoff would be detained onsite in an extended detention basin and released according to regulatory standards for stormwater quality control. Air emissions control systems would include a selective catalytic reduction (SCR) system for nitrogen oxides (NOx) control using 19 percent aqueous ammonia and an oxidation catalyst for carbon monoxide (CO) control.

Temporary construction facilities would include a 9.2-acre worker parking and laydown area immediately east of the project site, a 1-acre water supply pipeline parking and laydown area located at the BBID headquarters facility, to serve water pipeline construction needs, and a 0.6-acre laydown area along the transmission line route.

Construction of the generating facility, from site preparation and grading to commercial operation, is expected to take place from mid 2011 to July 2012.

The applicant has a power purchase agreement with PG&E.

Energy Commission Licensing Authority

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications for construction and operation of thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater proposed for construction in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines and natural gas and water pipelines. The Energy Commission is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

The status of the project, an electronic copy of the AFC, SA, SSA, copies of notices, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's web site at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/mariposa>.

Sincerely,

Date: _____

ROGER JOHNSON, Siting Office Manger
Siting, Transmission and Environmental
Protection Division

Enclosure
Mailed to list:
7287 – Agency



BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR THE *MARIPOSA ENERGY PROJECT*
(MEP)

Docket No. 09-AFC-3

PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 10/20/2010)

APPLICANT

Bo Buchynsky
Diamond Generating Corporation
333 South Grand Avenue, #1570
Los Angeles, California 90071
b.buchynsky@dgc-us.com

APPLICANT'S CONSULTANTS

Doug Urry
2485 Natomas Park Dr #600
Sacramento, CA 95833-2975
Doug.Urry@CH2M.com

COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT

Gregg Wheatland
Ellison, Schneider & Harris L.L.P.
2600 Capitol Avenue, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95816-5905
glw@eslawfirm.com

INTERESTED AGENCIES

California ISO
E-mail Service Preferred
e-recipient@caiso.com

INTERVENORS

Mr. Robert Sarvey
501 W. Grantline Road
Tracy, California 95376
Sarveybob@aol.com

*California Pilots Association
c/o Andy Wilson
31438 Greenbrier Lane
Hayward, CA 94544
andy_psi@sbcglobal.net

Rajesh Dighe
395 W. Conejo Avenue
Mountain House, California 95391
dighe.rajesh@gmail.com

Morgan K. Groover
Development Director
Mountain House Community
Services District
230 S. Sterling Drive, Suite 100
Mountain House, CA 95391
mgroover@sjgov.org

ENERGY COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. BYRON
Commissioner and Presiding Member
jbyron@energy.state.ca.us

ROBERT B. WEISENMILLER
Commissioner and Associate Member
rweisenm@energy.state.ca.us

Kenneth Celli
Hearing Officer
kcelli@energy.state.ca.us

Kristy Chew
Advisor to Commissioner Byron
E-Mail Service preferred
kchew@energy.state.ca.us

Craig Hoffman
Siting Project Manager
choffman@energy.state.ca.us

Kerry Willis
Staff Counsel
kwillis@energy.state.ca.us

Jennifer Jennings
Public Adviser
publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Hilarie Anderson, declare that on December 17, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached Library Letter, Agency Letter and Notice of Availability. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at:

[\[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/mariposa/index.html\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/mariposa/index.html).

The document has been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

FOR SERVICE TO ALL OTHER PARTIES:

sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;

by personal delivery;

by delivering on this date, for mailing with the United States Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date to those addresses **NOT** marked "email preferred."

AND

FOR FILING WITH THE ENERGY COMMISSION:

sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below (*preferred method*);

OR

depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Attn: Docket No. 09-AFC-3

1516 Ninth Street, MS-4

Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

docket@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.

Original Signed _____

Hilarie Anderson