

**DOCKETED**

<b>Docket Number:</b>	19-SPPE-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	Laurelwood Data Center (MECP I Santa Clara I, LLC)
<b>TN #:</b>	227338
<b>Document Title:</b>	Notice of Receipt of an Application for a Small Power Plant Exemption for the Laurelwood Data Center
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	Patty Paul
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
<b>Submission Date:</b>	3/14/2019 3:11:37 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	3/14/2019

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

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**NOTICE OF RECEIPT  
OF AN APPLICATION FOR A SMALL POWER PLANT EXEMPTION  
FOR THE LAURELWOOD DATA CENTER  
(19-SPPE-01)**

On March 5, 2019, MECP1 Santa Clara 1, LLC (applicant) filed an application with the California Energy Commission for a Small Power Plant Exemption (SPPE) for its Laurelwood Data Center (LDC) (19-SPPE-01). The applicant proposes to deploy backup diesel-fueled generators to serve the total data center load of up to 99 megawatts (MW) with an uninterruptible power supply for its tenants' servers. The data center is planned for construction at 2201 Laurelwood Road in Santa Clara, California.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Laurelwood Data Center (LDC) would consist of two four-story buildings, with 56 3-MW diesel-fired backup generators, and a maximum 99-MW load of information technology, cooling, and ancillary equipment. Both buildings would include loading docks, backup generator yards, and stormwater bio-swales. The LDC would also include an onsite 60-kilovolt (kV) substation with an electrical supply line that will connect to a Silicon Valley Power (SVP) distribution line located 0.1 miles west of the project site. The generators would be distributed in redundant configurations (5 to make 4) to ensure uninterrupted power up to 99 MW, which is the maximum building load of the LDC. Each generator would have an approximately 10,300-gallon diesel fuel tank located underneath, to provide sufficient fuel storage to operate the generator at steady state continuous load for at least 48 hours. Each building's standby generators would be supported by an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) system consisting of batteries, an inverter, and switches to facilitate the uninterrupted transfer of electrical power from the SVP substation to the onsite standby generators in the event of a utility or equipment failure. The approximately 29,000-square-foot substation would be located in the southwest corner of the project site, and an approximately 600-foot-long electrical supply line would head west from the LDC to tie into SVP's existing 60-kV distribution line. Additional project features include electrical switchgear and distribution lines between the substation and buildings as well as from the backup generator yards and each respective building.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the lead agency to consider the whole of the action. Therefore, the Energy Commission will include the entire data center project in its analysis, which includes the construction of two new four-story data center buildings, the switchyard, and the installation and operation of the generators.

**ENERGY COMMISSION'S SMALL POWER PLANT EXEMPTION PROCESS**

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing, and ultimately approving or denying, all thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, proposed for construction in California. The SPPE process allows applicants with projects between 50 and 100 MW to obtain an exemption from the Energy Commission's jurisdiction and proceed with local approval rather than requiring an Energy Commission license. The Energy Commission can grant an exemption if it finds that the proposed project would not create a substantial adverse impact on the environment or energy resources. In reviewing an SPPE application the Energy Commission acts as the lead agency under section 25519(c) of the Public Resources Code and, in accordance with CEQA, will perform any required environmental analysis.

Energy Commission staff (staff) has begun its review of the application and will request the appointment of a Committee of two Commissioners at an upcoming Business Meeting to oversee the SPPE proceeding. Over the coming months, staff will evaluate the project and prepare an environmental analysis document—for SPPE projects this typically takes the form of an Initial Study. Following publication of that document and consideration of public comments, the assigned Committee will conduct a hearing to determine whether the proposed project should be exempted from the Energy Commission's power plant licensing requirements. This hearing will provide the public as well as local, state, and federal agencies the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the exemption request. If the exemption is granted, the applicant would still need to secure the appropriate licenses and permits from relevant local, state, and federal agencies.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Energy Commission maintains a website for this project at:

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/laurelwood/>. The SPPE application and related project documents are viewable by clicking the "Documents for this Proceeding (Docket Log)" link located near the upper right corner of the project webpage. The direct link to the project docket is:  
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=19-SPPE-01>.

You can subscribe to receive email notification of all notices and announcements at:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers>. The list serve for this project is called "laurelwood" and the relevant checkbox can be found under the "PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW" heading. By being on this email list, you will receive notice of all project-related events and documents pertaining to the project's review. Most notably, the Energy Commission will issue a public notice for the hearing at least 10 days prior to its occurrence.

Paper copies of this notice of receipt are being mailed to a list of nearby property owners. If you want your name added or removed from the hard-copy mailing list being used by the Energy Commission in connection with this SPPE proceeding, please contact Marichka Haws, Project Assistant, at (916) 651-9106, or by e-mail at [Marichka.Haws@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Marichka.Haws@energy.ca.gov).

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office is available to provide information on, and assistance with, public participation in the Energy Commission proceedings. The Public Adviser's Office can be reached at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California, at (800) 822-6228, and can also be contacted via email at [publicadviser@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadviser@energy.ca.gov).

Please direct any technical questions related to the project to Leonidas Payne, Project Manager, at (916) 651-0966, or by e-mail at [Leonidas.Payne@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Leonidas.Payne@energy.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

3/14/19  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Chris Davis  
Siting Office Manager