

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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**NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF AN
APPLICATION FOR A SMALL POWER PLANT EXEMPTION
FOR SEQUOIA DATA CENTER
(19-SPPE-03)**

On August 14, 2019, C1-Santa Clara, LLC (applicant) filed an application with the California Energy Commission (CEC) for a Small Power Plant Exemption (SPPE) for the Sequoia Backup Generating Facility (SBGF), which would provide backup generation support to the Sequoia Data Center (SDC) (collectively, "the project") (19-SPPE-03).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project would include a data center building, backup generators, and an electrical substation. The 15-acre project site is located at 2600 De La Cruz Boulevard in the City of Santa Clara. The SDC building would be four stories and would encompass approximately 702,114 square feet of gross area, of which approximately 70,000 square feet would be dedicated for administrative and office uses. The SBGF would consist of 54 diesel-fired generators arranged in a generation yard located on the west and south sides of the SDC. The SBGF would be used exclusively to provide backup generation to support the SDC during emergency loss of utility power. Total maximum building load would be 96.5 megawatts (MW). A 100-megavolt amps electrical substation would be located in the western portion of the site.

SMALL POWER PLANT EXEMPTION PROCESS

CEC has the exclusive authority to certify all thermal power plants (50 MW and greater) and related facilities proposed for construction in California. The SPPE process allows applicants with facilities between 50 and 100 MW to obtain an exemption from CEC's jurisdiction and proceed with local approval rather than requiring CEC certification. CEC can grant an exemption if it finds that the proposed facility would not create a substantial adverse impact on the environment or energy resources. In this case, the SBGF is subject to CEC's licensing authority unless the exemption is granted. Should the exemption be granted, the applicant would still need to secure the appropriate licenses and permits from relevant local, state, and federal agencies.

STAFF EVALUATION OF THE SPPE APPLICATION AND FURTHER STEPS

Public Resources Code section 25519(c) designates CEC as the lead agency, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), for all projects seeking an SPPE. CEQA requires the lead agency to consider the whole of the action; therefore, CEC will include the entire data center project in its analysis, which includes the construction and operation of the data center building, backup generators, and any associated utility connection facilities.

As lead agency, CEC is required by Public Resources Code section 21080.3 and CEQA Guidelines section 15063(g) to consult with responsible agencies regarding significant environmental effects that could result from the project. CEC staff (staff) has begun its review of the application and will request the appointment of a Committee of two Commissioners at CEC's September 11, 2019 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. The Initial Study will be published and made available for a 30-day public comment period. The assigned Committee will then conduct a hearing to determine whether the proposed project should be exempt from CEC's power plant certification process. This hearing will provide the public as well as local, state and federal agencies and California Native American tribes the opportunity to provide input on the exemption request. Subsequent steps include issuance of a proposed decision by the Committee, and possible adoption of that decision by CEC at a Business Meeting

or hearing. CEC's regulations setting forth the SPPE process are primarily located in Title 20, California Code of Regulations sections 1934-1947.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

CEC maintains a website for this project at: <https://ww2.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/sequoia/>. 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-03>.

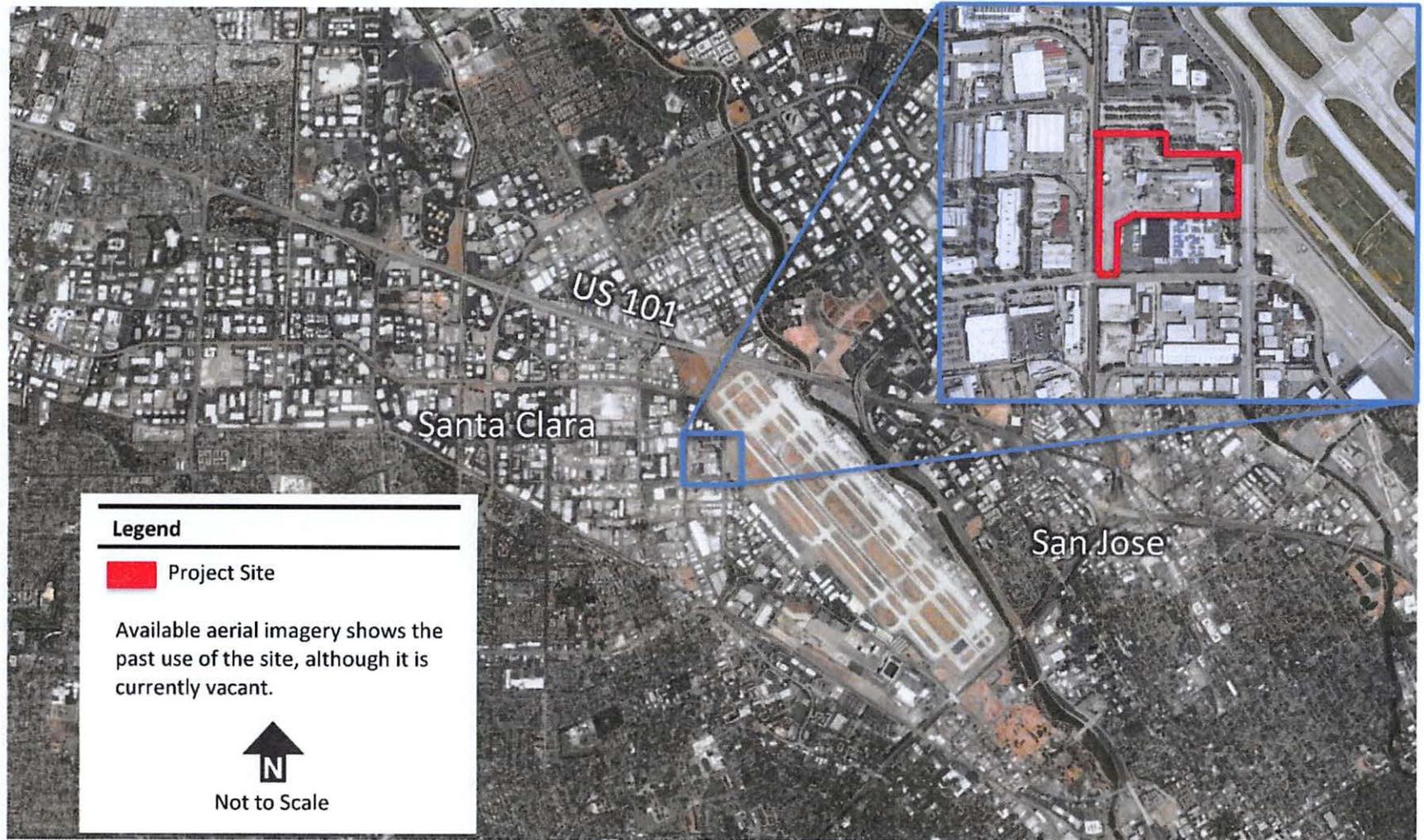
You can subscribe to receive e-mail notification of all notices and announcements at: https://ww2.energy.ca.gov/listservers/index_cms.html. The listserve for this project is called "sequoia" and the relevant check-box can be found under the "PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW" heading. By being on this email list, you will receive notice of all project-related events and documents pertaining to the project's review. Most notably, CEC will issue a public notice for workshops and hearings at least 10 days prior to their occurrence.

CEC's Public Advisor's Office is available to provide information on, and assistance with, public participation in CEC proceedings. The Public Advisor'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 publicadvisor@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.

Attachments:

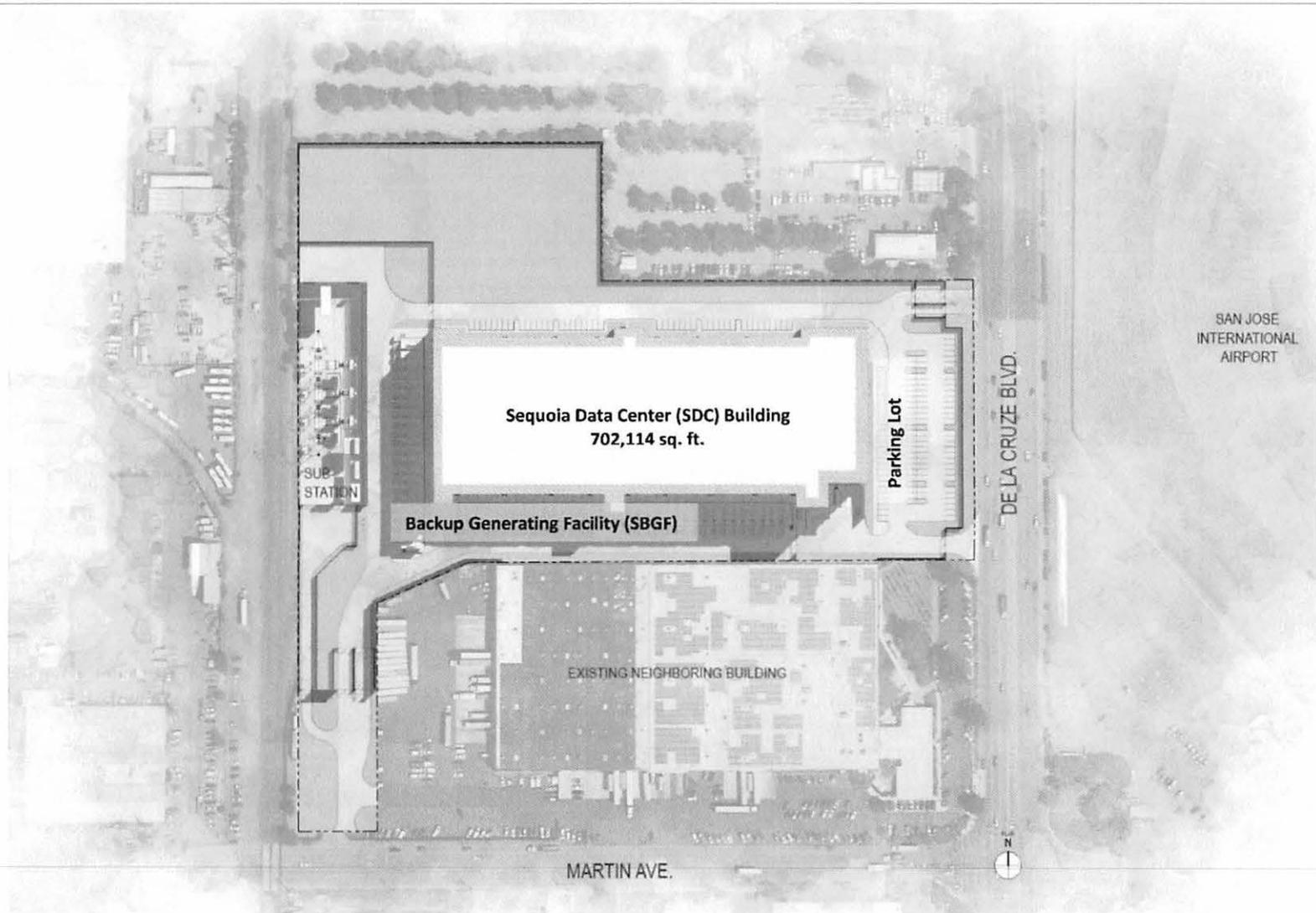
Project Location Figure from SPPE Application
Site Plan Figure from SPPE Application
Project Renderings from SPPE Application



Regional Location

Figure

Source: Google Earth, 2019



Not to Scale

Source: Corgan, 2019



PERSPECTIVE - FROM EAST



ELEVATED PERSPECTIVE - FROM SOUTH-EAST

Exterior Renderings

Figure

5b

Source: Corgan, 2019