

DOCKETED

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| Docket Number: | 19-SPPE-04 |
| Project Title: | SJ2 |
| TN #: | 232157 |
| Document Title: | Notice of Committee Conference and Orders on Hearings |
| Description: | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020 12:00 p.m. California Energy Commission Charles Imbrecht Hearing Room (Hearing Room B) 1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, California 95814 |
| Filer: | Cody Goldthrite |
| Organization: | California Energy Commission |
| Submitter Role: | Committee |
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**State of California
State Energy Resources Conservation and
Development Commission**
1516 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – www.energy.ca.gov

**APPLICATION FOR SMALL POWER PLANT
EXEMPTION FOR THE:**

***SAN JOSE CITY BACKUP
GENERATING FACILITY***

Docket No. 19-SPPE-04

**NOTICE OF COMMITTEE CONFERENCE
AND ORDERS ON HEARINGS**

On November 15, 2019, Microsoft Corporation (Applicant) submitted an application for a small power plant exemption (SPPE) for the San Jose City Backup Generating Facility to the California Energy Commission (CEC).¹

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Committee² has scheduled a Committee Conference:

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020
12:00 p.m.**

**California Energy Commission
Charles Imbrecht Hearing Room (Hearing Room B)
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814
(*Wheelchair accessible*)**

REMOTE ACCESS AVAILABLE BY COMPUTER OR PHONE VIA WEBEX™
(For instructions, please see the **Remote Attendance** section below.)

¹ Information about this proceeding, including a link to the electronic docket, may be found on the CEC's web page at <https://ww2.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/sj/>. Documents related to this proceeding may be found in the online docket at: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=19-SPPE-04>. The application is TN 230741.

² On December 11, 2019, the CEC appointed a Committee consisting of Karen Douglas, Commissioner and Presiding Member, and Patty Monahan, Commissioner and Associate Member, to preside over this SPPE application (TN 231265).

PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

The purpose of this conference is to review the schedule and current status in the proceeding and address any outstanding issues. In addition to the formal parties, the Committee invites the attendance of interested public agencies and the public. We direct the parties' attention to the "Order Regarding Status Reports and Presentations by Applicant, Staff, and the Public Advisor," below, regarding their expected participation in and responsibilities for the conference.

BACKGROUND AND PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Small Power Plant Exemptions

The CEC has the exclusive authority to consider, and ultimately approve or deny, applications for the construction and operation of thermal power plants that will generate 50 megawatts (MW) or more of electricity.³ The CEC may grant an exemption to its certification jurisdiction, the SPPE, for thermal powerplants generating between 50 and 100 MW.

To grant an SPPE, the CEC must make three distinct determinations:

- the proposed powerplant has a generating capacity up to 100 MW;
- no substantial adverse impact on the environment will result from the construction or operation of the powerplant; and
- no substantial adverse impact on energy resources will result from the construction or operation of the powerplant.⁴

The SPPE process provides a public forum allowing the applicant requesting the exemption, CEC Staff (Staff), intervenors, governmental agencies, and members of the public to participate in the decision-making process.

In addition to the findings above, the CEC is the "lead agency"⁵ under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).⁶

If an SPPE is granted, responsible local land use authorities and other agencies, most notably any local air management or air pollution control district, conduct further review of the project, including any necessary environmental review under CEQA.

³ Pub. Resources Code, §§ 25120, 25500. All further references are to the California Public Resources Code unless otherwise noted.

⁴ § 25541.

⁵ § 25519, subd. (c).

⁶ The CEQA statutes, California Public Resources Code section 21000 *et seq.*, and CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15000 *et seq.* (Guidelines), detail the protocol by which state and local agencies comply with CEQA requirements. We refer to the statute and the Guidelines collectively as "CEQA."

Proposed Project⁷

The proposed project site is located at 1657 Alviso-Milpitas Road, in San Jose, California (Project Site). The Project Site has been used historically for farming, but is not currently in agricultural use. There are two vacant residences, a mobile home, and a storage shed/warehouse currently on site, which would be demolished as part of the Proposed Project.

Applicant proposes to construct and operate the San Jose City Backup Generating Facility, and San Jose City Data Center. The Data Center consists of two single-story buildings with approximately 479,000 gross square feet of space, including administrative and data center areas, and loading docks. Two administrative generators, rated at 1.25 MW and 0.5 MW, will provide backup electricity to the administrative buildings.

The Backup Generating Facility, consists of 40 3.0-MW diesel-fired emergency generators, and will help provide an uninterruptable power supply to the Data Center. The generators would be distributed in redundant configurations to provide up to a maximum of 99 MW.

Applicant also intends to construct an onsite 230-kilovolt (kV) substation with two 230-kV electrical supply lines that would connect to Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Los Esteros Substation, located adjacent to and west of the site. The substation, located in the northwestern corner of the Project Site, will allow delivery of power from PG&E but will not allow any electricity generated from the backup generators to be distributed off the Project Site. Additional project features include offsite connections to potable and recycled water pipelines and to sanitary sewer and stormwater pipelines, and an access road.

Even though the application describes the San Jose City Data Center as separate from the San Jose Backup Generating Facility, CEQA requires the CEC to consider the "whole of an action."⁸ Therefore, the CEC will include the entire proposed project in its environmental analysis.

ORDERS REGARDING ISSUES IDENTIFICATION, STATUS REPORTS, PROPOSED SCHEDULE, AND PRESENTATIONS BY APPLICANT, STAFF, AND THE PUBLIC ADVISOR

To assist the Committee, parties, participating agencies, and members of the public in understanding the Proposed Project, Staff shall file an Issues Identification Report, Status Report, and Proposed Schedule, summarizing the major issues identified to date, status on activities conducted to date and issues that require resolution before hearings can be conducted, and proposing a schedule for the conduct of this proceeding. This report will also indicate what additional information is necessary to resolve issues of concern. Staff shall file its Issues Identification Report, Status Report,

⁷ The information in this section is taken from the application (TN 230741).

⁸ Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15378, subd. (a) (under CEQA "project" means the whole of the action).

and Proposed Schedule **no later than February 26, 2020**. Applicant shall file a response to the Issues Identification Report, Status Report, and Proposed Schedule, including a report on activities conducted to date and issues that require resolution before hearings can be conducted, **no later than noon on March 3, 2020**.

Copies of these documents will be posted to the online docket for this proceeding.

Applicant shall be prepared to offer an overview of the Proposed Project at the Committee Conference. Staff shall also be prepared to offer an overview of the SPPE process and their Issues Identification Report, Status Report, and Proposed Schedule. Overviews may include presentations and should not be longer than 15 minutes.

The Public Advisor's Office is invited, but not required, to provide a brief overview of the function of the Public Advisor's Office regarding this proceeding.

Pursuant to sections 1203, subdivision (f), and 1944, subdivision (b), of Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations, the Committee hereby extends the date for evidentiary hearings to be conducted until a schedule can be established based on the information provided by the parties pursuant to this Order. After the Committee Conference, the Committee will establish a schedule for this proceeding.

NOTICE OF CLOSED SESSION DELIBERATIONS

At any time during the Committee Conference, the Committee may adjourn to a closed session in accordance with California Government Code section 11126, subdivision (c)(3), which allows a state body, including a delegated committee, to hold a closed session to deliberate on a decision to be reached in a proceeding the state body was required by law to conduct.

PUBLIC ADVISOR AND OTHER CEC CONTACTS

The CEC's Public Advisor's Office provides the public assistance in participating in CEC proceedings. For information on how to participate in this forum, or to request language services or other reasonable accommodations, please contact the Public Advisor, Noemí O. Gallardo, at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov, by phone at (916) 654-4489, or toll free at (800) 822-6228, or by fax at (916) 654-4493. Requests for language services and reasonable accommodations should be made at least five days in advance. The CEC will work diligently to accommodate late requests.

Questions of a procedural nature should be directed to Deborah Dyer, Hearing Officer, by e-mail at deborah.dyer@energy.ca.gov or by telephone at (916) 654-3951, or to Caryn Holmes, Hearing Officer, by e-mail at caryn.holmes@energy.ca.gov or by telephone at (916) 653-1643.

Technical questions concerning the application should be directed to Lisa Worrall, Staff Project Manager, at lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4545.

Media inquiries should be directed to the Media and Public Communications Office at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov, or (916) 654-4989.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE

You may participate in this meeting through WebEx, the CEC's on-line meeting service. Any presentations will appear on your computer screen and you may listen to audio via your computer or telephone. Please be aware that the meeting may be recorded.

Via Computer: Go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the meeting number **924 446 605**. When prompted, enter your name and email address. The meeting password is **SJDCSPPE@3420**.

The "Join Conference" menu will offer you a choice of audio connections:

1. To call into the meeting: Select "I will call in" and follow the on-screen directions.
2. To have WebEx call you: Enter your direct dial phone number (no extensions are permitted) and click "Call Me."
3. To listen over the computer: If you have a broadband connection, and a headset or a computer microphone and speakers, you may use VoIP (Internet audio) by going to the Audio menu, clicking on "Use Computer Headset," then "Call Using Computer."

Via Telephone Only (No Visual Presentation): Call (866) 469-3239 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada). When prompted, enter the meeting number **924 446 605**.

Via Mobile Access: Access to WebEx meetings is now available from your mobile device. To download an app, go to:

www.webex.com/products/web-conferencing/mobile.html.

Please be aware that WebEx audio and on-screen activity may be recorded. WebEx Technical Support is available at (866) 229-3239.

Muting

We greatly appreciate your cooperation in reducing noise on the audio connection by muting your line when you are not speaking. Mute your line rather than placing your phone on hold. Using WebEx, you may mute yourself by right clicking on your name in the panelists or attendees list and selecting "Mute." If you are only using a telephone connection, press "*6" once to mute and again to unmute.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

Information regarding the status of the Proposed Project, as well as notices and other relevant documents, are available on the CEC's web page at <http://ww2.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/sj2/>.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: February 20, 2020

Original Signed by:

Karen Douglas
Commissioner and Presiding Member
San Jose City Backup Generating Facility SPPE Committee

Dated: February 20, 2020

Original Signed by:

Patty Monahan
Commissioner and Associate Member
San Jose City Backup Generating Facility SPPE Committee

Mailed to list number(s): 7532

AGENDA
Committee Conference
March 4, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.

San Jose City Backup Generating Facility Application (19-SPPE-04)

California Energy Commission
Charles Imbrecht Room (Hearing Room B)
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

1. Call to order and introductions
2. Committee Conference
 - a. Overview of the Small Power Plant Exemption process, and the rules applicable to this proceeding (Hearing Officers, 5 mins.)
 - b. Opportunities for public participation (CEC Public Advisor's Office, 5 mins.)
 - c. Presentation on the San Jose City Backup Generating Facility and Data Center Project (Applicant, 5 mins.)
 - d. Overview of CEC Staff's role and its review of the SPPE application (Staff, 5 mins.)
 - e. Discussion of schedule, status, issues, and next steps (Committee and Parties)
3. Public comment
4. Committee closed session⁹ considering the following items:
Deliberation on the Small Power Plant Exemption Application for the San Jose City Backup Generating Facility
5. Adjourn

⁹ The Committee may adjourn to closed session in accordance with Government Code section 11126, subdivision (c)(3), which allows a state body, including a delegated committee, to hold a closed session to deliberate on a decision to be reached in a proceeding the state body was required by law to conduct.