

**DOCKETED**

<b>Docket Number:</b>	20-SPPE-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	Great Oaks South Backup Generating Facility Small Power Plant Exemption
<b>TN #:</b>	232772
<b>Document Title:</b>	Request for Agency Participation in the Review of the Great Oaks South Backup Generating Facility
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<b>Filer:</b>	Lisa Worrall
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TO: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST

## **REQUEST FOR AGENCY PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW OF THE GREAT OAKS SOUTH BACKUP GENERATING FACILITY**

On March 19, 2020, SV1, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Equinix, LLC (SV1 or applicant) filed an application with the California Energy Commission (CEC) seeking an exemption from the CEC's jurisdiction (Small Power Plant Exemption, or SPPE) for the Great Oaks South Backup Generating Facility (GOSBGF) (20-SPPE-01) and proceed with local permitting rather than requiring certification by the CEC. In reviewing an SPPE application, the CEC is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will perform the required environmental analysis.

### **Project Description**

The GOSBGF would be part of the Great Oaks South Data Center (GOSDC or project) to be located in the City of San Jose. The GOSDC would also include three data center buildings and a connection to a new Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) substation. The three, two-story GOSDC buildings would each be 182,350 square feet. The approximately 18-acre project site is associated with three addresses (123, 127, and 131 Great Oaks Boulevard), with each address designated to one building assigned by the City of San Jose.

GOSBGF would have a generating capacity of up to 99.0 megawatts (MW) supporting the three data center buildings. GOSBGF would consist of 36, 3.25-MW diesel fired generators in six generation yards that would each be separately electrically interconnected to the three data center buildings and used exclusively to provide backup generation and uninterruptible power supply for its tenant's servers, only operating when the PG&E electrical service to the data centers has failed. In addition, the GOSBGF would include three life safety diesel fired generators, each capable of generating 0.50 MW.

The project would include a new PG&E substation (Santa Teresa Substation), a 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line extension to the substation from the existing Metcalf-Edenvale 115 kV transmission line, and five new 21 kilovolt (kV) distribution feeders that would extend along Via Del Oro to the data center site. PG&E would be constructing the new substation; currently anticipated to begin in July 2020. Project elements would also include switchgear and distribution cabling to interconnect the six generation yards to their respective buildings.

## **CEC Jurisdiction and SPPE Process**

The 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 proposing to construct thermal power plants between 50 and 100 MW to obtain an exemption from the CEC's jurisdiction and proceed with local permitting rather than requiring CEC certification. The 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. Public Resources Code section 25519(c) designates the CEC as lead agency, in accordance with CEQA, for all facilities seeking an SPPE. CEQA requires the lead agency to consider the whole of the action; therefore, CEC will include the entire project (GOSDC) in its analysis, which includes the construction and operation of the data center buildings, backup generators, and associated utility connection facilities. CEC staff has begun its review of the application. 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 and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration. The environmental analysis document would then be published and made available for a 30-day public comment period. An assigned Committee of two Energy Commissioners would then conduct a hearing to determine whether to recommend to the full Commission that the proposed facility should be exempt from the CEC's power plant certification process. This hearing provides 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 the CEC at a Business Meeting or hearing. Should the exemption be granted, the applicant would still need to secure the appropriate licenses and permits from relevant local, regional, state, and federal agencies to construct and operate the proposed project.

## **Public Participation**

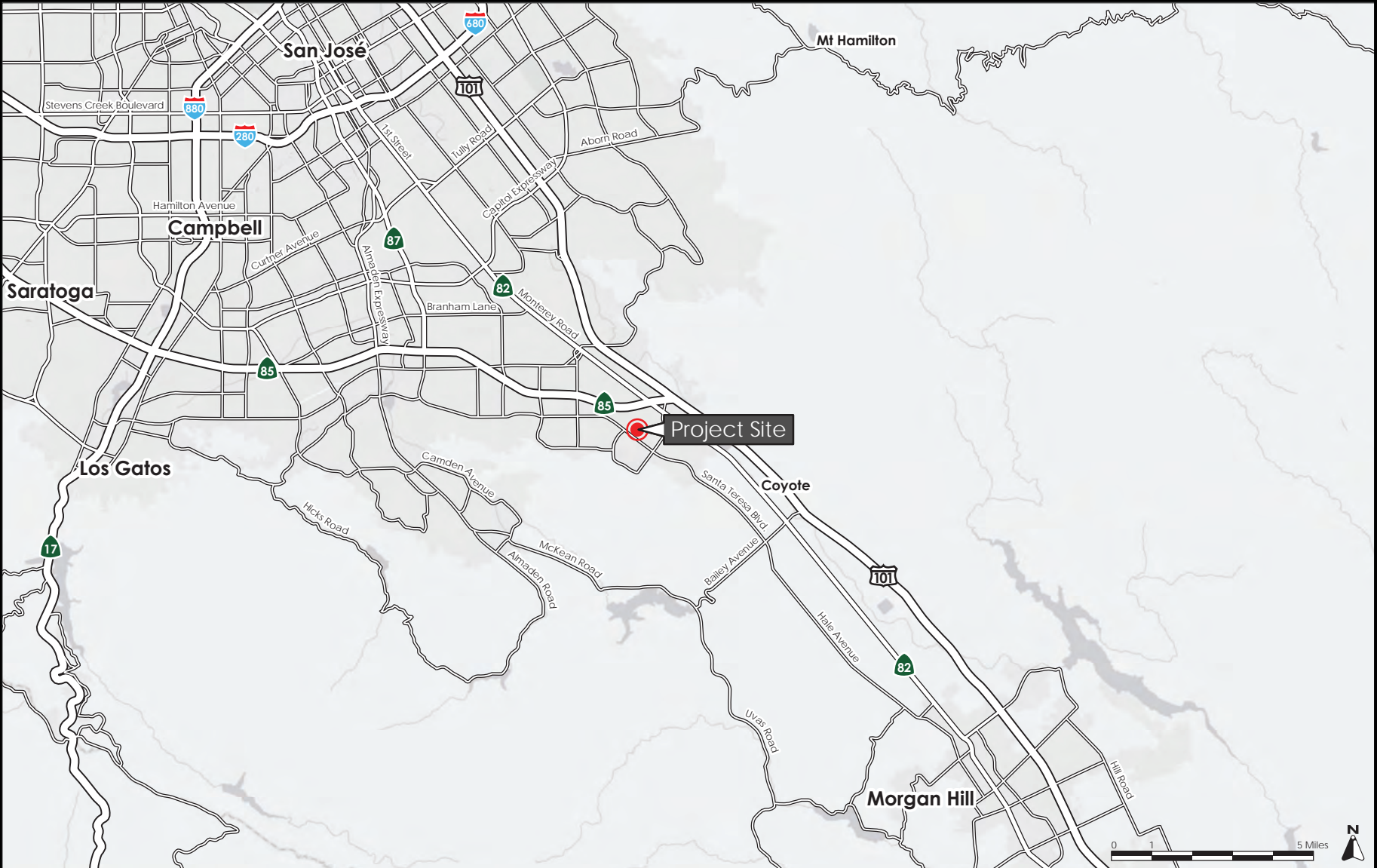
The CEC welcomes public participation in the SPPE review process. A copy of the SPPE application as well as other project information, can be found on the CEC website at: <https://ww2.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/greatoakssouth/>. To stay informed about this project and receive notice of upcoming meetings and workshops, please subscribe to the project list serve, which can be accessed on the same project webpage. The list serve sends out e-mail notifications when documents and notices are posted to the project webpage.

For questions about the project, please contact: Lisa Worrall, Senior  
Environmental Planner  
Phone: (916) 654-4545  
E-mail: [lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov](mailto:lisa.worrall@energy.ca.gov)

For questions about public participation, please contact the CEC Public Advisor.  
Phone: (916) 654-4489  
Toll Free in California: 1-800-822-6228  
E-mail: [publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov)


Media questions should be directed to the CEC Media Office.  
Phone: (916) 654-4989  
E-mail: [mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov)

Attachments (from the SPPE application):  
Regional Map (Figure 1.1-1)  
Aerial Photograph and Surrounding Land Uses (Figure 1.1-3)  
Site Plan (Figure 2.2-1)



**Figure 1.1-1**  
**Regional Map**

**Project Boundary**



0' 100' 500' 1000'

Aerial Source: Google Earth Pro, Nov. 15, 2019 | Photo Date: May 2018



**Figure 1.1-3**  
**Aerial Photograph and**  
**Surrounding Land Uses**

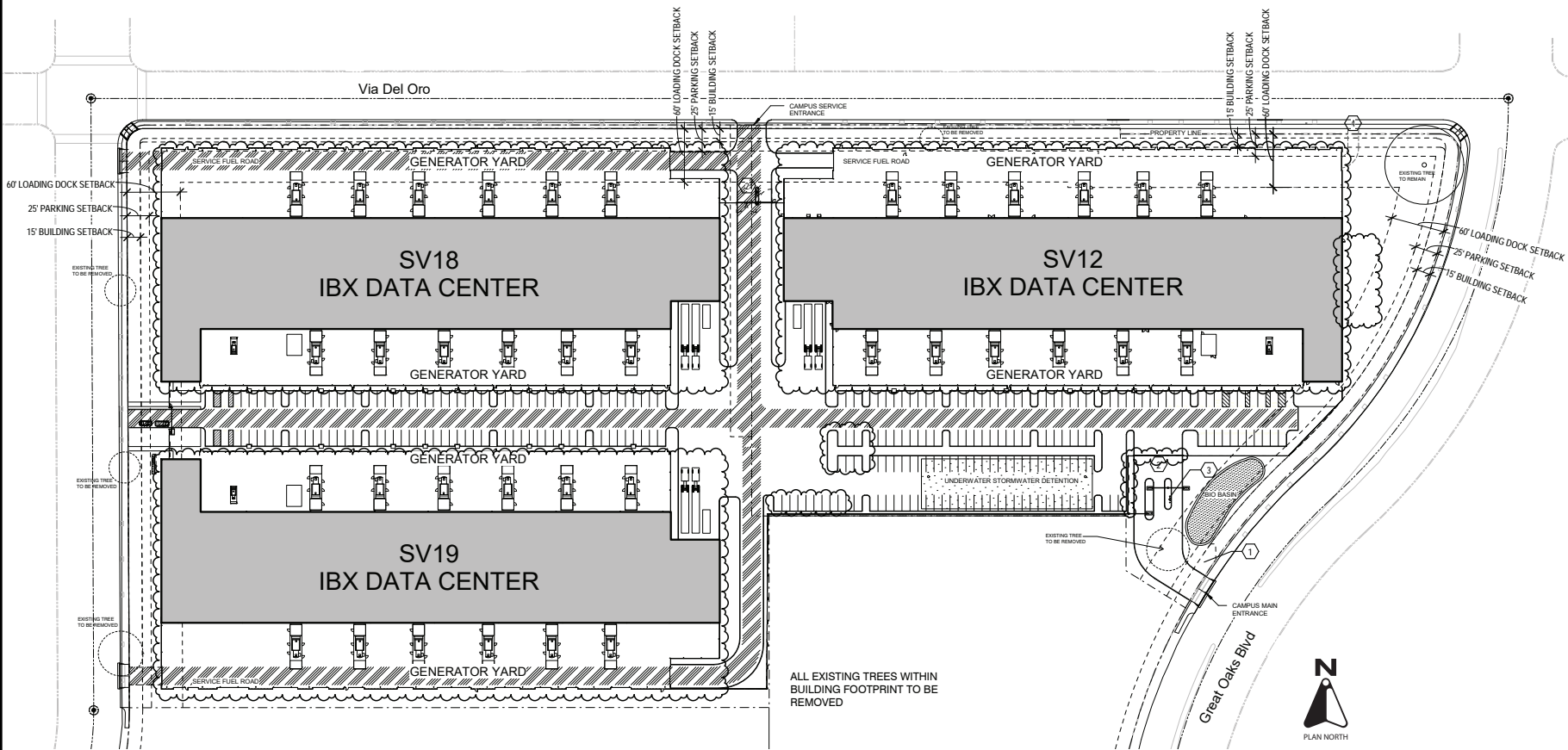


Figure 2.2-1  
Site Plan