

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	21-SPPE-01
Project Title:	CA3 Backup Generating Facility-Vantage
TN #:	238898
Document Title:	Notice of Receipt - Written in English
Description:	CA3 NOR for Application for SPPE-English version plus exhibits
Filer:	susan fleming
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	7/15/2021 2:09:10 PM
Docketed Date:	7/15/2021

**NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION FOR
A SMALL POWER PLANT EXEMPTION FOR
CA3 BACKUP GENERATING FACILITY**

On April 12, 2021, Vantage Data Services 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 CA3 Backup Generating Facility (CA3BGF) (21-SPPE-01). The CA3BGF would be part of the CA3 Data Center (CA3DC) located in the City of Santa Clara. Both the CA3BGF and the CA3DC components are collectively referred to as the project.

Project Description

The project would be located at 2590 Walsh Avenue in Santa Clara, California. The parcel (APN 216-28-112) is zoned for Light Industrial uses (ML) and encompasses a total square footage of 6.69 acres. The irregularly shaped site is bound to the northwest by an existing microelectronics testing facility, to the northeast by a software research and development facility, to the south by an existing railroad line operated by CalTrain, to the east by Walsh Avenue, and the west by an existing Silicon Valley Power (SVP) substation (Uranium Substation).

The site is currently developed with an approximately 115,000 square foot single-story concrete, wood, and stucco office building and warehouse combined, with associated ground level parking lot and loading dock. The existing structures would be demolished along with the ancillary improvements, including landscaping, except for existing trees not in conflict with improvement plans. Adjacent land uses are predominantly commercial and industrial to the north and east, and residential to the south and west. The Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport is approximately 1.75 miles southeast of the site.

The applicant proposes to construct a four-story 469,482 square foot data center building, a utility substation, a switching station, generator equipment yard (the CA3BGF), surface parking and landscaping, and a recycled water pipeline. Recycled water would be used for cooling when it is available, although potable water would also be available on site.

The data center building would consist of two main components: the data center suites that house client servers, and the administrative facilities including support facilities such as the building lobby, restrooms, conference rooms, landlord office space, customer office space, loading dock, and storage. The data center suite

components would have four levels, each containing four data center suites and corresponding electrical/uninterruptable power supply rooms.

The proposed 100 megavolt amperes (MVA) electrical substation would be located adjacent to the existing SVP Uranium Substation along the western boundary of the site. It would have a two-bay design, which would allow one of the two transformers to be taken out of service, effectively providing 100 MVA of total power. The electrical substation would be made up of two halves; Vantage would own the new on-site substation and SVP would own the switching station directly to the south of and adjacent to the substation, providing 60 kilovolt (kV) service to the site. The new substation would be capable of delivering electricity to the CA3DC from SVP via the switching station; however, no electricity generated by the CA3BGF would be capable of being delivered to the transmission grid. A recycled water pipeline at the intersection of Walsh Avenue and Northwestern Parkway, would be extended approximately 500 feet northwest (in Walsh Avenue) to the project as a secondary source of water.

The CA3BGF would have a generating capacity of up to 96 megawatts (MW) to support the need for the CA3DC to provide uninterruptible power supply for its servers. The CA3BGF would only be operated for maintenance, testing, and during emergency utility power outages. The CA3BGF would consist of 44, 2.75 MW diesel-fired emergency backup generators, arranged in a single generation yard designed to serve the data center building that makes up the CA3DC.

Project elements would also include switchgear and distribution cabling to interconnect the two generation yards to their respective portion of the building. Eight of the 40 data center generators would be redundant, yielding the applicant's goal of 99.999 percent reliability factor. The remaining four emergency generators are house generators (two of which are redundant) that would support portions of the administration building and features necessary for emergency response.

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 the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), for all facilities seeking an SPPE.

As lead agency, CEC is required by Public Resources Code section 21080.3 and CEQA Guidelines section 15063(g) to consult with responsible and trustee agencies to ascertain whether a negative declaration or environmental impact report is required. CEC staff has begun its review of the application. Over the coming months, staff will evaluate the project and prepare the appropriate environmental analysis document for public review.

The assigned Committee of two Energy Commissioners will then conduct a hearing to determine whether to propose that the full Commission adopt (or certify) the CEQA document and to determine whether to recommend to the full Commission that the facility should be exempt from the CEC's power plant certification process. In addition to other opportunities to comment in the proceeding, such as the public comment period following release of the environmental document, 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 the CEC at a Business Meeting. Should the exemption be granted, the applicant would still need to secure the appropriate permits and entitlements from relevant local, regional, state, and federal agencies to construct and operate the proposed project. The CEC's regulations setting forth the SPPE process are primarily located in Title 20, California Code of Regulations, sections 1934-1947.

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/ca3/>. 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 email notifications when documents and notices are posted to the project webpage.

For questions about the project please contact Eric Veerkamp, Project Manager, at (916) 661-8458 or by email at eric.veerkamp@energy.ca.gov.

The CEC 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 by email at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov.

Media questions should be directed to the CEC's Media Office at (916) 654-4989 or by email at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

Attachments (from the SPPE application):

Regional Location Map (Exhibit 1)

Local Vicinity Map (Aerial Photograph) (Exhibit 2)

Architectural Site Plan (Figure A-0.0)



Source: Census 2000 Data, The California Spatial Information Library (CaSIL).

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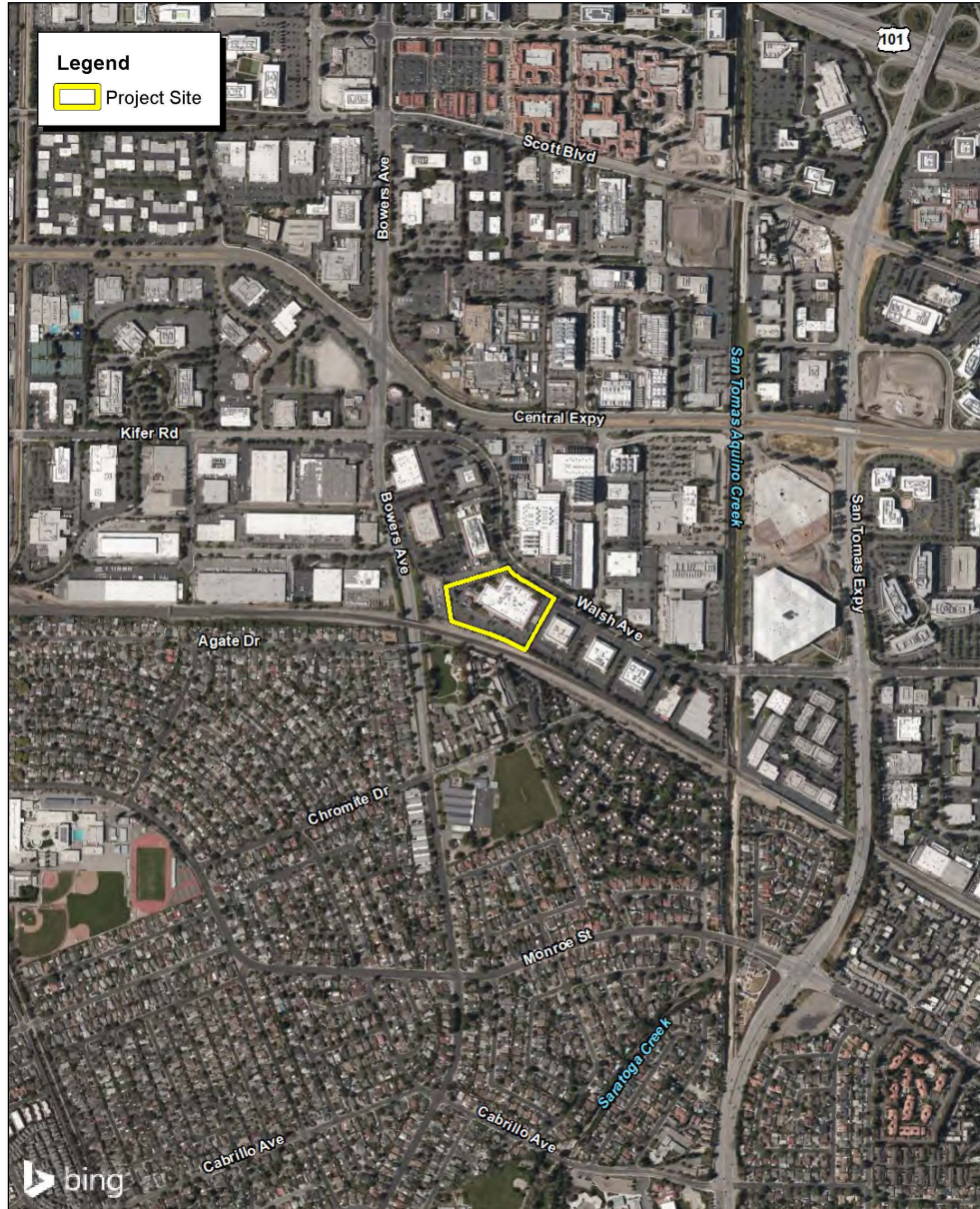


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Exhibit 1 Regional Location Map

VANTAGE DATA CENTERS
CA31 - 2590 WALSH AVENUE
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

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Source: Bing Aerial Imagery.

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Exhibit 2 Local Vicinity Map

VANTAGE DATA CENTERS
CA31 - 2590 WALSH AVENUE
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

