

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Great Oaks South Backup Generating Facility Small Power Plant Exemption
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Document Title:	Additional Staff Declarations and Resumes
Description:	For Great Oaks South Backup Generating Facility (20-SPPE-01)
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**DECLARATION OF
Eric Knight**

I, Eric Knight, declare as follows:

1. I am employed by the California Energy Commission as an Energy Resources Specialist III (Managerial).
2. A copy of my professional qualifications and experience is attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.
3. I am sponsoring CEC Staff Response to Committee Questions for the **GREAT OAKS SOUTH BACKUP GENERATING FACILITY** based on my independent analysis of the Application for Small Power Plant Exemption and supplements hereto, data from reliable documents and sources, and my professional experience and knowledge.
4. It is my professional opinion that the prepared testimony is valid and accurate with respect to the issues addressed therein.
5. I am personally familiar with the facts and conclusions related in the testimony and if called as a witness could testify competently thereto.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated: 9/3/2021

Signed: 

At: Sacramento, California

Eric Knight

Energy Resources Specialist III (Managerial)

Professional Experience

Over twenty years of experience in permitting of energy facilities and preparing environmental documentation in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Siting & Environmental Office Manager (Energy Resources Specialist III (Managerial))

Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division (STEP), California Energy Commission (CEC)

August 2009-present

Responsible for planning, organizing and directing the activities of the staff of the Siting & Environmental Office. Office staff are primarily responsible for managing the staff's review of energy facility applications and preparing environmental impact analyses in the areas of land use, transportation, aesthetics/visual resources, socioeconomics (recreation, population/housing, public services), alternatives, biological resources, and tribal/cultural resources as required by CEQA, for thermal electric generating facilities (50 MWs and greater) and related facilities (including electric transmission lines and natural gas and water supply pipelines); identifying feasible measures to mitigate significant impacts; and providing expert witness testimony at evidentiary hearings. Responsible for quality control of all Office work products, including ensuring staff's analyses are complete, accurate, and defensible, and ensuring regulatory procedures are met. Advise the STEP Division Deputy Director, CEC Executive Director, and Commissioners on a broad range of issues related to energy facility siting and the Office's responsibilities. Represent the Office/STEP Division in meetings, workshops, and hearings with energy facility applicants, project owners, intervenors, federal, state, and local agency representatives, Native American tribes, interest groups, Commissioners, and the public. Review and analyze proposed legislation related to the division's programs.

Siting & Dockets Office Manager (Office Manager I)

Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division, CEC

June 2008-August 2009

Was responsible for planning, organizing and directing the activities of the staff of the Siting & Dockets Office, which included project managers and project assistants assigned to power plant licensing cases and the staff responsible for maintaining the CEC's regulatory and non-regulatory official records (Dockets). The Siting Office was responsible for coordinating the environmental and engineering assessments of proposed energy facilities conducted by the STEP Division technical offices (Environmental, Engineering, and Transmission). Advised the Deputy Director, Executive Director, and Commissioners on a broad range of issues related to energy facility siting and the Office's responsibilities.

Represented the Office/Division in meetings, workshops, and hearings with energy facility applicants, intervenors, federal, state, and local agency representatives, interest groups, and the public.

Siting Program Manager (Planner III)

Energy Facilities Siting Division, Siting & Compliance Office, CEC

February 2008-June 2008

Was responsible for managing the Energy Facilities Siting Program and supervising and directing the work of project managers overseeing division staff's review and analysis of power plant siting cases. Represented the division in meetings, workshops, and hearings with project applicants, intervenors, federal, state, and local agency representatives, interest groups, and the public. Advised the Siting & Compliance Office Manager and Deputy Director on technical, procedural, and legislative issues.

Community Resources Unit Supervisor (Planner III)

Energy Facilities Siting Division, Environmental Office, CEC

January 2007-February 2008

Was responsible for supervising and directing the work of technical staff in the Community Resources Unit and consultants performing environmental impact assessments of power plants and related facilities as required by CEQA and the Warren-Alquist Act. The unit was responsible for preparing environmental impact assessments in the areas of land use/agricultural resources, traffic and transportation, visual resources, and socioeconomics; identifying feasible measures to mitigate significant impacts and ensure compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations and standards; and presenting expert witness testimony at evidentiary hearings. Was responsible for quality control of products originating from the unit, including ensuring staff's analyses were complete, accurate and defensible, and completed on schedule. As Unit Senior, was responsible for completing the most complex analyses and addressing the most difficult technical issues related to the unit's responsibilities. Advised the Environmental Office Manager and Deputy Director on technical, procedural, and legislative issues.

Energy Commission Specialist II

Special Projects Office, Fuels & Transportation Division, CEC

July 2006-January 2007

Provided recommendations on complex, sensitive, and technical problems related to energy infrastructure assessments, particularly liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects. Was responsible for leading the Special Projects Office's LNG assessment activities. Was responsible for briefings for management, Commissioners (Natural Gas Committee), and the LNG Interagency Working Group on LNG assessment activities and projects. Was responsible for preparing reports, correspondence, and presentations related to LNG

proposals. Represented the Energy Commission at the "LNG: When East Meets West - The Unfolding of the LNG Trade in the Pacific" conference.

Project Manager (Planner II)

Energy Facility Siting Division, Siting Office, CEC

November 2004-July 2006

Was responsible for managing division staff's review and analysis of applications for certification to construct and operate thermal electric power plants and related facilities. Was responsible for briefings for the Executive Director, Deputy Director, office managers, supervisors, and technical staff on the schedule, strategy, progress, and issues throughout the siting case. Provided direction to project team members and was responsible for ensuring quality control on all published staff products, including the staff's assessment covering 22 environmental and engineering technical disciplines. Was responsible for organizing, scheduling, and conducting public workshops and preparing correspondence.

Environmental Planner (Planner I/II)

Energy Facility Siting Division, Environmental Office, CEC

October 1998-November 2004

Was primarily responsible for preparing independent analyses of the visual, land use, and transportation impacts of power plant projects and related facilities. Evaluated project compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations and standards, and identified feasible measures to mitigate significant adverse impacts as required by CEQA. Other duties included preparing data requests, conducting field visits, participating in public workshops, preparing written testimony, presenting expert witness testimony at hearings before the Commissioners, and monitoring compliance with conditions of certification in the Final Commission Decision.

Assistant Project Manager (Energy Analyst)

Energy Facility Siting Division, Siting & Permit Assistance Unit, CEC

June 1995-October 1998

Worked with project manager to promote local government use of an urban planning tool emphasizing energy efficiency. Authored a chapter to the National Wind Coordinating Committee's handbook *Permitting of Wind Energy Facilities*. Assisted in the preparation of several Energy Commission publications, including the *Energy Aware Planning Guide II: Energy Facilities* and *The Energy Yardstick: Using PLACE³S to Create More Sustainable Communities*.

Program Technician

Department of Toxic Substances Control, Cal/EPA

June 1994-June 1995 (Student Assistant, March 1993-January 1994)

Provided regulatory assistance to hazardous waste generators, transporters and storage facility operators. Compiled an instructions manual for telephone hotline staff to refer to while assisting hazardous waste handlers and the general public. Issued identification numbers to hazardous waste generators. Entered facility information into the department's database of hazardous waste handlers.

Student Intern

*Sacramento Valley Toxics Campaign
January 1992-June 1992*

Filed public record requests with state and federal agencies. Conducted research and authored an article for the campaign newsletter. Helped to organize community meetings, press conferences and public outreach events.

Education

Bachelor of Arts – Environmental Studies, California State University, Sacramento, 1993
Minor – Government, CSUS, 1993

Professional Education (Partial List)

Introduction to Legislature and Bill Analysis, CEC Office of Governmental Affairs, 2019
Advanced CEQA Workshop, Association of Environmental Professionals, 2016
Expert Witness and CEQA Training, CEC Chief Counsel's Office, 2014 and 2011
EIR/EIS Preparation and Review, UC Davis Extension, October 2009
Defensible CEQA Documents, Lorman Education Services, August 2007
Airports and Land Use Compatibility Planning, UC Davis Extension, April 2007
Managing LNG Risks, ioMosaic Corporation, November 2006
Applied Project Management, DTS Training Center, May 2006
CEQA Workshop, Association of Environmental Professionals, Feb. 2004 and 1999
CEQA Overview and Update, UC Davis Extension, June 1998
Land Use Planning for Environmental Professionals, UC Davis Extension, May 1996
Introduction to ArcView and Avenue (GIS), ESRI, August 1995 and May 1998

DECLARATION OF
Geoffrey Lesh

I, **Geoffrey Lesh**, declare as follows:

1. I am employed by the California Energy Commission as a Supervising Mechanical Engineer.
2. A copy of my professional qualifications and experience is attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.
3. I am sponsoring the CEC Staff Response to Committee Questions and CEC Staff Response to Intervenor Sarvey's Reply Testimony for the **GREAT OAKS SOUTH BACKUP GENERATING FACILITY** based on my independent analysis of the Application for Small Power Plant Exemption and supplements hereto, data from reliable documents and sources, and my professional experience and knowledge.
4. It is my professional opinion that the prepared testimony is valid and accurate with respect to the issues addressed therein.
5. I am personally familiar with the facts and conclusions related in the testimony and if called as a witness could testify competently thereto.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated: 9/3/2021 Signed: *Geoff Lesh*

At: Sacramento, California

Geoffrey Lesh, PE

WORK HISTORY

California Energy Commission Supervising Mechanical Engineer 2002 - Current

- Manage the Engineering Office for the Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division
- Analyze siting permit applications for gas-fired and solar-thermal power plants, battery energy storage systems
- Provide written and oral expert witness testimony at commission hearings related to power plant siting
- Inspect power plants during construction and operational phases
- Investigate accident, fire, and hazardous materials incidents at power plants

Self-Employed Independent Investor 2000 - 2002

- Wrote market analysis computer software

Read-Rite Corp Wafer Engineering Manager 1994 - 2000

- Designed and developed wafer manufacturing processes for computer data storage systems. Managed team of engineers and technicians responsible for developing wet and dry chemical processes for manufacturing, including process and safety documentation
- Managed process and equipment selection for manufacturing processes
- Processes included vacuum processed metals and ceramics, grinding-polishing, plating, etching, encapsulation, process troubleshooting, and SPC reporting

Dastek Corp (Komag Joint Venture Start-up) Wafer Engineering Manager 1992 - 1994

- Developed wafer processes for new-technology recording head for hard disk drives
- Managed team of engineers and technicians
- This position included start-up of wafer fab, including line layout, purchase, installation, and startup of new process equipment, etc.

Komag, Inc Alloy Development Manager 1989 - 1992

- Developed new vacuum-deposited recording alloys
- Responsible for planning and carrying-out tests, designing experiments, analyzing results, managing test lab conducting materials characterizations
- Extensive process modeling, experiment design and data analysis

Verbatim Corp (Kodak) Process Development Manager 1983 - 1989

- Mechanical/materials engineering for computer disk manufacturing, including product, process, and equipment including metal-ceramic-plastic processes for optical disk development
- Production processes included metal plating, metal evaporation, reactive sputtering, laser-based photolithography, injection molding
- Steering Committee Member, Center for Magnetic Recording Research, UC San Diego
- Steering Committee Member, Institute for Information Storage Technology, Santa Clara University

IBM Corp Mechanical/Process Engineer 1977 - 1983

- Product development for photocopiers, semiconductors, and computer data tape-storage systems

EDUCATION

Stanford University, Master of Science Degree	Materials Science and Engineering
UC-Berkeley, Bachelor of Science Degree (Double Major)	Mechanical Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering
University of Santa Clara, Graduate Certificate	Magnetic Recording Engineering

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES and CERTIFICATIONS

Registered Professional Engineer, California (PE)	Mechanical #M32576
	Fire Protection #FP1827
	Metallurgical #MT1940
Certified Safety Professional (CSP)	Board of Certified Safety Professionals

PUBLICATIONS

All-Solid Lithium Electrodes with Mixed-Conductor Matrix, J. Electrochem. Soc. 128, 725 (1981).
Proc. Symp. on Lithium Batteries, H.V. Venkatesetty, Ed., Electrochem Soc (1981), p. 467.

PATENTS

Method of Preparing Thermo-Magneto-Optic Recording Elements, US Patent# 4,892,634, (assigned to Eastman Kodak Co.)