

DOCKETED

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| Document Title: | Response Letter to Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority Application for Confidential Designation |
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September 29, 2021

Via Email

Poonum Agrawal
Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority
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Application for Confidential Designation for Data in Integrated Energy Policy Report, Docket 21-IEPR-03

Dear Poonum Agrawal:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) received the confidentiality application submitted by Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority (SVCE or applicant) on June 30, 2021, for specified data contained in the 2021 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR). Specifically, confidentiality is sought for:

Form 8.1a (CCA)

Budget Appropriations or Actual Costs and Cost Projections by Major Expense Category, in dollars, for 2020-2032, to wit: Rows 34-62

Form 8.1b (CCA)

Revenue Requirements Allocation, in dollars, for 2020-2032

Confidential designation of this data is requested pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 2505, on the grounds that the information is not otherwise publicly available or readily discoverable in the form or detail provided at this time, that the information is market sensitive and constitutes trade secrets in terms of disclosing applicant's very recent wholesale and retail activities, that the data is proprietary (belonging to another company, from which the applicant purchased it), and that the release of this information will result in loss of competitive advantage in the wholesale and retail marketplaces relative to applicant's ability to negotiate future contracts for the purchase or resale of energy and/or capacity at wholesale, or negotiation of contracts with retail customers. The application also states that confidentiality is appropriate under Government Code section 6255(a) because the public interest in nondisclosure outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

A properly filed Application for Confidentiality shall be granted under Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 2505(a)(3)(A), "if the applicant makes a reasonable claim that the Public Records Act or other provision of law authorizes the [CEC] to keep the record confidential." The California Public Records Act allows for the non-disclosure of corporate proprietary information including trade secrets. Government Code section 6255 also permits the CEC to withhold a public record where "the public interest served by not disclosing the record clearly outweighs the public interest served by disclosure of the record."

California courts have traditionally used the following definition of trade secret:

A trade secret may consist of any formula, pattern, device, or compilation of information which is used in one's business, and which gives him an opportunity to obtain an advantage over competitors who do not know or use it.

(Uribe v. Howe (1971) 19 Cal.App.3d 194, 207-208, from the Restatement of Torts, vol. 4, section 757, comment b, p. 5.)

Here, the application states that 1) the confidential records contain commercially sensitive data which could provide insight into the applicant's business strategies; 2) if publicly disclosed, the data could be used to determine historical and forecasted power and capacity needs, which could be used by competitors to cause competitive harm to the applicant, or could be used by suppliers to the applicant's disadvantage in negotiating price and terms or procurement transactions, or could be used by customers to extract better terms in contract negotiations with the applicant; 3) the data has commercial value to the applicant which provides a competitive advantage; and 4) the confidential records are not available to the public.

The application also states that confidential information contained in Forms 8.1a (CCA) and 8.1b (CCA) may be disclosed if it is aggregated on a statewide basis with the same type of data reported by other energy service providers or load serving entities, and steps are taken to ensure that the applicant's specific data cannot be ascertained. The application further requests that the data in both forms be kept confidential and not publicly disclosed for three years.

Based on this information, the confidentiality application is hereby approved with respect to the specified data in Forms 8.1a (CCA) and 8.1b (CCA), which will remain confidential through December 31, 2024, or until it is publicly released, whichever is earlier.

Please file the public version of all other forms (1.1b, 1.3, 3, and 4) to the docket. For Form 8.1a (CCA), this grant of confidentiality is only for those specified

portions listed above, which are marked by yellow highlighting on Form 8.1a (CCA). Please file a public version of Form 8.1a (CCA) to the docket. This public document should be redacted only to the point necessary to protect confidentiality.

Be advised that persons may petition to inspect or copy records that the CEC has designated as confidential, the executive director may disclose or release records previously designated as confidential in certain circumstances, and the CEC may hold a hearing to determine the confidentiality of its records on its own motion or on a motion by CEC staff. The procedures and criteria for disclosing or releasing, filing, reviewing, and acting upon such petitions or motions are set forth in the Title 20, California Code of Regulations, sections 2506-2508.

You may request confidentiality for similar data in a future annual report without submitting an application by following the procedures set forth in Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 2505(a)(4).

If you have any questions, please contact Raj K. Dixit, attorney, at raj.dixit@energy.ca.gov or (916) 776-3055.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Drew Bohan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Drew Bohan
Executive Director