

**DOCKETED**

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## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

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86204	212949	Pecho Energy Storage Ctr.		\$425.00	3	20.50 in

Attention:

Joseph Bubbico  
 CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION  
 715 P Street  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

In The Superior Court of The State of California  
 In and for the County of San Luis Obispo

No. of Insertions: 1  
 Beginning Issue of: 02/09/2022  
 Ending Issue of: 02/09/2022

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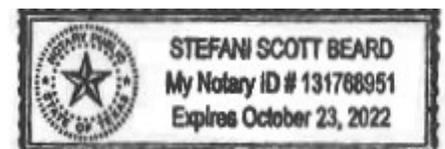
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I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen and not interested in the above entitled matter; I am now, and at all times embraced in the publication herein mentioned was, the principal clerk of the printers and publishers of The Tribune, a newspaper of general Circulation, printed and published daily at the City of San Luis Obispo in the above named county and state; that notice at which the annexed clippings is a true copy, was published in the above-named newspaper and not in any supplement thereof - on the following dates to wit; From 02/09/2022 To 02/09/2022 that said newspaper was duly and regularly ascertained and established a newspaper of general circulation by Decree entered in the Superior Court of San Luis Obispo County, State of California, on June 9, 1952, Case #19139 under the Government Code of the State of California.

I certify (or declare) under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

*Stefani Beard*

Notary Public in and for the state of Texas, residing in Dallas County



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**NOTICE OF RECEIPT**  
**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION**  
**PECHO ENERGY STORAGE CENTER (21-AFC-01)**

On November 23, 2021, Pecho LD Energy Storage, LLC, (applicant), a joint venture of Hydrostor, Inc. and Meridian Infrastructure Partners, filed an Application for Certification (AFC) with the California Energy Commission (CEC) to construct and operate an advanced compressed air energy storage facility at 2284 Adobe Road in unincorporated San Luis Obispo County, just over one mile east of the City of Morro Bay. The energy storage facility would provide electricity via a new 3.4-mile transmission line (Preferred Route) to an existing substation located at the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) Morro Bay Power Plant. The approximately 80-acre energy storage facility would be located on a 303-acre parcel zoned as Agriculture (AG) and currently planted in row crops, and the Preferred Route for the new electric transmission line would be located on land zoned as AG. Land uses surrounding the proposed facility include agricultural with allowances for supporting single family residences, and land uses around the substation include a residential subdivision, light industrial, and a mix of commercial uses. The area of the energy storage facility and transmission line is within the coastal zone designated by the California Coastal Act.

**Project Description**

The Pecho Energy Storage Center (PESC or project) would be a nominal 400-megawatt (MW), 3,200 MW-hour (MWh), advanced compressed air energy storage (A-CAES) facility capable of flexibly charging and discharging daily. PESC would compress air into a purpose-built underground cavern, using electricity from the grid, most likely off-peak, excess, or surplus electricity. The heat from the air compression process would be captured and stored in an aboveground thermal storage system. The compressed air would then be stored in the cavern under the pressure of a hydrostatic head created by an onsite, aboveground water reservoir. When electricity is needed by the grid, the compressed air would be released using the assistance of the hydrostatic head pressure, heated using the stored thermal energy, and directed through aboveground turbinegenerators to produce electricity. PESC would provide fossil fuel-free and greenhouse gas emissions-free electricity.

PESC's major equipment includes: four all-electric air compressor trains, four 100-MW air-driven power turbine generators, heat exchangers, thermal heat storage, an underground compressed air storage cavern, an aboveground water reservoir, auxiliary facilities, and a 3.4-mile electrical interconnection to the existing Morro Bay Switching Station.

If approved, the applicant anticipates it would begin the 54-month construction of PESC in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2023, startup and testing in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2027, and commercial operation in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2027.

A copy of the AFC as well as other project information, can be found on the CEC's webpage for this project at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/caes/pecho-energy-storage-center>

**CEC Jurisdiction and AFC Process**

The CEC has exclusive authority to certify, or license, all thermal power plants of 50 MW and greater and related facilities (e.g., electric transmission line) proposed for construction and operation in California. The issuance of a certificate by the CEC is in lieu of any local or state permit and federal permit to the extent permitted by federal law. The CEC's facility licensing process carefully examines the public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities. The CEC's licensing process has been certified by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency as a "certified program" under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, sec. 21000 et. seq; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15251(j)). As a certified program, the CEC produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

The first step in the AFC process is for the CEC to determine whether the application contains all the information required by California Code of Regulations, title 20, division 2, chapter 5, article 6, Appendix B. The CEC staff has completed its initial review of the AFC and recommended at the CEC's January 26, 2022, Business Meeting, that the AFC is incomplete, the CEC should adopt the list of deficiencies identified in the executive director's recommendation, and the CEC should not accept the AFC as complete until the additional information specified in the recommendation is provided (TN 241075, <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=241075&DocumentContentId=74906>).

The CEC adopted staff's recommendation and deemed the AFC incomplete. The CEC also directed the applicant to file information supporting an exemption from the CEC's Notice of Intention (NOI) process by February 9, 2022; directed staff to file a response to this information filing in the form of an executive director's recommendation by February 23, 2022; and assigned a committee to oversee the PESC filing and any other proceedings arising from it. The Pecho Energy Storage Center Committee is Commissioner Karen Douglas (Presiding) and Commissioner Andrew McAllister (Associate). Public Resources Code section 25540.6(a) identifies which types of thermal power plants are exempted from the otherwise required 12-month NOI process and, thus, may proceed directly to the AFC process. After a review of the executive director's recommendation regarding an exemption from the NOI process, and prior to any action on the matter by the CEC, the committee may hold a hearing on the matter or issue its own recommendation.

If the CEC determines the facility qualifies for an exemption from the NOI process and once the CEC finds the AFC complete, the 12-month clock to reach a decision on the AFC as required under Public Resources Code section 25540.6 will begin. At that time, CEC staff will begin the discovery phase of the proceeding, and a detailed examination of the application will commence.

The CEC staff will prepare and publish both a Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) and a Final Staff Assessment (FSA). After allowing for a public comment period of at least 30 days on the PSA and holding public workshop(s), the CEC staff will prepare and publish the FSA, which will serve as the CEC staff's formal testimony in evidentiary hearings to be held by the committee. The committee will consider the testimony presented by the CEC staff, applicant, and any formal intervenors, as well as comments from interested agencies and the public, prior to publishing its proposed decision. The CEC will consider the committee's proposed decision and issue the final decision at a business meeting. The CEC will issue notices for workshops and hearings at least 10 days prior to each workshop and hearing.

As part of the review process, the CEC staff works closely with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that all laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards applicable to the proposed project are considered in the CEC's final decision.

**Public Participation**

The CEC welcomes public participation in the AFC review process. To stay informed about this project and receive notice of upcoming meetings and workshops, please subscribe to the project list serve. The list serve is an automated CEC system that sends out email notifications when documents and notices are posted to the project's docket. To subscribe, go to the CEC's webpage for this project, at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/caes/pechoenergy-storage-center>, scroll down the right side of the webpage to the box labeled "Subscribe," and provide the requested contact information.

Any person may comment on the AFC application. The CEC encourages the use of its electronic commenting system. To use the CEC's electronic commenting feature, go to the CEC's webpage for this project, as cited above; click on the "Submit e-Comment" link on the right side of the webpage; and follow the instructions in the online form. Be sure to include the project name in your comments.

Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (for example, address, phone number, email address) become part of the viewable public record. This information may also become available via any internet search engine.

Written comments may also be mailed to:

California Energy Commission  
Docket Unit, MS-4  
Docket No. **21-AFC-01**  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

For questions about this notice or the project, please contact Lisa Worrall, Project Manager, at (916) 661-8367, or by email at [Lisa.Worrall@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Lisa.Worrall@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](mailto:publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov).

News media inquiries should be directed to the CEC Media Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at [mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov).