

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Perkins Renewable Energy Project
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Document Title:	Courtesy Tribal Notification of Receipt for Perkins Renewable Energy Project Opt-in Application
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Subject: Opt-In Certification for Perkins Renewable Energy Project (24-OPT-01)

On February 27, 2024, California Energy Commission (CEC) staff confirmed receipt of an application for the Perkins Renewable Energy Project (project) (24-OPT-01) by IP Perkins, LLC, IP Perkins BAAH, LLC, and related affiliates (collectively, "Applicant"), subsidiaries of Intersect Power, LLC seeking certification from the CEC through the Opt-In Program.

The applicant proposes to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission an approximately 1,150-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery energy storage system (BESS) on United States Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation administered public lands (approximately 5,611 acres), and private lands (approximately 515 acres) in Imperial County east of El Centro, California.

Project Description

The project would generate and store renewable electricity via arrays of solar PV panels, a BESS, and appurtenant facilities. The final project capacity would be based on optimization of buildable acreage and solar PV technology at the time of procurement. The project would construct a new generation interconnection line (gen-tie) that would connect the project substation to a new high-voltage breaker and a half switchyard. The gen-tie would be approximately 200 feet or 1.3 miles in length depending on the two optional locations of the substation. From the switchyard, two new 500 kilovolt (kV) loop-in transmission lines would be constructed to interconnect to the existing San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) 500 kV Southwest Power Link Transmission Line that travels east-west just south of the project site.

CEC Jurisdiction and Opt-In Certification Program

The CEC is authorized to establish a certification program for eligible non-fossil fueled power plants and related facilities to optionally seek certification from the CEC. (Pub. Resources Code, §§ 25545-25545.13.) Under this new Opt-In Certification Program, among the types of facilities that CEC can certify are: (a) solar PV and terrestrial wind energy power plants of 50 MW or more, (b) energy storage facilities of 200 megawatt-hours (MWh) or more, and (c) electric transmission lines from these facilities to the first point of interconnection with the existing transmission grid.

The CEC is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is required to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for any facility that elects to opt-in to the CEC's jurisdiction. With exceptions, the issuance of a certificate by the CEC for an eligible facility is in lieu of any permit,

certificate, or similar document required by any state, local, or regional agency. The CEC is required to make its decision on whether to certify the project within 270 days of receiving a *complete* application. The CEC is required to consult with all responsible and trustee agencies on the scope and content of the EIR. The CEC staff has begun its review of the application and transmitted the application to responsible and trustee agencies, which has not been deemed complete at this time. Once the application is deemed complete, the CEC staff will evaluate the proposed project, consult with California Native American tribes, and host public meetings in the project area. No later than five days of deeming the application complete, the CEC staff will send formal letters to California Native American tribes inviting tribes to consult with the CEC about the project. Consultation between California Native American tribes and the CEC will proceed according to the requirements of Public Resources Code, sections 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, and 25545.7.4 (CEQA and the Warren-Alquist Act).

The CEC will also host an informational and public scoping meeting during the development of the EIR, and a public meeting during the 60-day comment period on the Draft EIR, which will be included as part of the CEC's Staff Assessment of the application. After the conclusion of the public comment period, the CEC staff will publish an updated Staff Assessment (which will include a Final EIR), and the CEC's Executive Director's recommendation on whether the CEC should certify the EIR and issue a certificate for construction and operation of the proposed project. The updated Staff Assessment and Executive Director's recommendation will be published at least 30 days before the CEC's consideration at a public meeting.

At the final public meeting the CEC will formally decide whether to certify the EIR and grant a certification for construction and operation of the proposed project. Should the certification be granted, other agencies that retain their permitting authorities must take final action on any additional permits within 90 days of the CEC issuing a certificate.

Participation

The CEC welcomes public participation in the Opt-In review process. A copy of the Perkins Renewable Energy Project Opt-In application as well as other project materials, can be found on the project's CEC website at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/solar-photovoltaic-pv/perkins-renewable-energy-project>. To stay informed about this project and receive notice of upcoming meetings and workshops, sign up to the project's govDelivery subscription, which can be accessed on the same project webpage. Once enrolled, automatic email notifications are sent when documents and notices are posted to the project webpage.

The CEC staff welcomes your comments and questions. Please do not hesitate to contact Assistant Tribal Liaison, Gabriel Roark, at (916) 237-2544 or by email at gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov.

List of Tribes Received Courtesy Notification

Barona Group of the Capitan Grande
Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians
Inaja-Cosmit Band of Indians
Jamul Indian Village
Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians
La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians
Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Nation
Mesa Grande Band of Diegueno Mission Indians
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation
San Pasqual Band of Diegueno Mission Indians
Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians