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THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**Energy Resources Conservation
and Development Commission**

In the Matter of:)
Application for Certification for the)
Morton Bay Geothermal Project)
)
)
_____)

Docket No. 23-AFC-01

**MORTON BAY GEOTHERMAL PROJECT
STATUS REPORT NO. 9**

Samantha G. Neumyer
Jessica L. Melms
Ellison Schneider Harris & Donlan LLP
2600 Capitol Avenue, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95816
sgn@eslawfirm.com
jmelms@eslawfirm.com
(916) 447-2166

Attorneys for Applicant

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**MORTON BAY GEOTHERMAL PROJECT
STATUS REPORT NO. 9**

Pursuant to the *Presiding Member’s Scheduling Order for the Morton Bay Geothermal Project Proceeding*,¹ Morton Bay Geothermal LLC (“the Applicant”) provides this *Status Report No. 9* to update the Committee regarding the status of the Application for Certification (“AFC”) proceeding for the Morton Bay Geothermal Project (“MBGP”).

I. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS OF PROCEEDING

On June 27, 2024, California Energy Commission Staff docketed the Preliminary Staff Assessment (“PSA”) for the MBGP.² The Applicant is in the process of reviewing and preparing comments on the PSA.

As of the date of this filing, the Applicant has submitted all remaining responses to outstanding data requests, whether formal or informal. The Applicant also docketed the following:

- On June 5, 2024, the Applicant docketed responses to the United Auto Workers’ comments on the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District’s (“ICAPCD”) Preliminary Determination of Compliance (“PDOC”).³
- On June 7, 2024, the Applicant docketed responses to the California Unions for Reliable Energy’s comments on the ICAPCD PDOC.⁴
- On June 17, 2024, the Applicant docketed a revised Water Supply Assessment (“WSA”) which was prepared for the Imperial County Planning & Development Services under Senate Bill 610 (Costa, Chapter 643, Stats. 2001).⁵
- On June 21, 2024, the Applicant docketed responses to the Lithium Valley Equity Technical Advisory Group comments on the ICAPCD PDOC.⁶

¹ TN#: 252284.
² TN#: 257470.
³ TN#: 256701.
⁴ TN#: 256747.
⁵ TN#: 256893.
⁶ TN#: 257274.

II. DESCRIPTION OF SIGNIFICANT COMMUNICATIONS WITH OTHER FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AGENCIES, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

A brief description of the Applicant's significant communications with other federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments is provided below.

- The Applicant consulted with the Imperial Irrigation District ("IID") regarding the revised WSA. The Applicant is also in the process of reviewing draft waste discharge requirement permit conditions received from the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- On June 14, 2024, IID informed the Applicant that, due to the withdrawal of a higher queued project, IID will be reanalyzing the MBGP for purposes of evaluating potential system impacts in accordance with Section 7.6.1 of IID's Open Access Transmission Tariff. IID estimates it will deliver a revised Interconnection System Impact Study by August 13, 2024 (60 days after notice). The Applicant anticipates that the required upgrades will likely be reduced and expects that the Point of Interconnection will remain unchanged. Based on a recent discussion with IID, the Applicant understands that this date is likely to change given the number of projects requiring restudy.
- On June 17, 2024, the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") issued its Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation for the MBGP. As part of this process, the Applicant understands that the FAA consults with the Department of Defense prior to rendering its determination.
- The Applicant continues to engage with local Native American tribes. On June 19, 2024, the President and CEO of BHE Renewables met with an elder of the Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Indians to discuss tribal concerns and provided a tour of BHE Renewables' operating geothermal plants.

III. OUTCOME OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS OR MEETINGS

There were no public workshops or meetings relating to the MBGP AFC proceeding in June 2024.

IV. SCHEDULE

The Applicant is diligently working with all parties and stakeholders to advance this important, much needed baseload renewable energy project.

Dated: June 28, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

ELLISON SCHNEIDER HARRIS & DONLAN L.L.P.

By 

Samantha G. Neumyer
Jessica L. Melms

Ellison Schneider Harris & Donlan LLP
2600 Capitol Avenue, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95816
sgn@eslawfirm.com
jmelms@eslawfirm.com
(916) 447-2166

Attorneys for Applicant