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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. 10**

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THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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**MORTON BAY GEOTHERMAL PROJECT
STATUS REPORT NO. 10**

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. 10* to update the Committee regarding the status of the Application for Certification (“AFC”) proceeding for the Morton Bay Geothermal Project (“MBGP” or the “Project”).

I. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS OF PROCEEDING

On June 27, 2024, California Energy Commission (“CEC”) 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. The Applicant will be attending the Preliminary Staff Assessment Technical and Mitigation Workshop to be held on July 31 – August 1, 2024 (“Workshop”). The Applicant anticipates submitting comments on the MBGP PSA that will incorporate discussions from the Workshop on or before September 2, 2024, per the Committee order issued on July 26, 2024.³

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.

- Since *Status Report No. 9*, the Applicant has continued to consult with the Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Indians regarding the MBGP.
- The Applicant provided representatives of the Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Indians, Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe, and Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians with a study examining the potential for impacts to mud pots from geothermal operations.
- On July 18, 2024, the Applicant met with the Imperial Irrigation District (“IID”) to discuss encroachment and crossings by MBGP features such as cross-country pipelines and gen-tie lines on existing IID features such as water supply canals, drain canals, transmission lines, and power distribution lines.

¹ TN#: 252284.
² TN#: 257470.
³ TN#: 258079.

- On July 23, 2024, the Applicant met with the United States Marine Corps (“USMC”) to discuss the proposed Project. The USMC preliminarily determined that the Project will not impact USMC operations as they occur well east of Highway 111 in the Chocolate Mountains.
- On July 29, 2024, the Applicant met with IID to discuss items raised in the comment letter filed by IID in the docket for the Elmore North Geothermal Project proceeding (23-AFC-02) on July 23, 2024.⁴

III. OUTCOME OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS OR MEETINGS

The Applicant will attend the Preliminary Staff Assessment Technical and Mitigation Workshop to be held on July 31– August 1, 2024.

IV. SCHEDULE

The Applicant continues to work with CEC Staff and stakeholders to advance this important, baseload renewable energy project. The Applicant thanks the Committee and CEC Staff for moving forward with the Workshop, as it will allow parties and stakeholders to engage in a dialogue with CEC Staff regarding substantive issues and proposed conditions of certification. Continued advancement of this proceeding is essential to the project and necessary to ensure that the statutory deadline for the CEC to make a decision in this proceeding is respected.

Dated: July 30, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

ELLISON SCHNEIDER HARRIS & DONLAN L.L.P.

By  _____

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