DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	23-AFC-03
Project Title:	Black Rock Geothermal Project (BRGP)
TN #:	258299
Document Title:	Preliminary Staff Assessment Workshop, Imperial, Imperial County July 31 and August 1, 2024
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Marichka Haws
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	8/5/2024 12:09:00 PM
Docketed Date:	8/5/2024



Applications for Certification: Morton Bay (23-AFC-01), Elmore North (23-AFC-02), and Black Rock (23-AFC-03) Geothermal Projects

Preliminary Staff Assessment Workshop, Imperial, Imperial County July 31 and August 1, 2024

Eric Veerkamp, Project Manager Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division Siting and Environmental Branch



Welcome to Parties of the Proceeding, and others:

- Project Applicant: Berkshire Hathaway Renewables
- Intervenor: California Unions for Reliable Energy (CURE)
- Intervenor: United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW), Region 6
- Intervenor: Supporters Alliance for Environmental Responsibility (SAFER)
- CEQA Lead Agency: California Energy Commission staff



Housekeeping Notices

- Workshop is a recorded hybrid meeting,
- Zoom closed captioning service
 - Activate: click on the "live transcript" icon and then choose either "show subtitle" or "view full transcript".
 - Stop: by exiting out of the "live transcript" or selecting the "hide subtitle" icon.
- Agenda includes time for public comment and input.
- Workshop focus: the preliminary staff assessment (PSA).
 - Discussion by topic area.
 - Comments by interested members of the public available at the time each topic is discussed.
- Please be mindful of the audio for those participating online.



California Energy Commission

Office of the Public Advisor, Energy Equity, and Tribal Affairs



Office of the Public Advisor, Energy Equity and Tribal Affairs

Advise and support the CEC, stakeholders, California Tribes, and interested members of the public in meaningful engagement and participation in CEC programs, policies, and energy equity efforts.









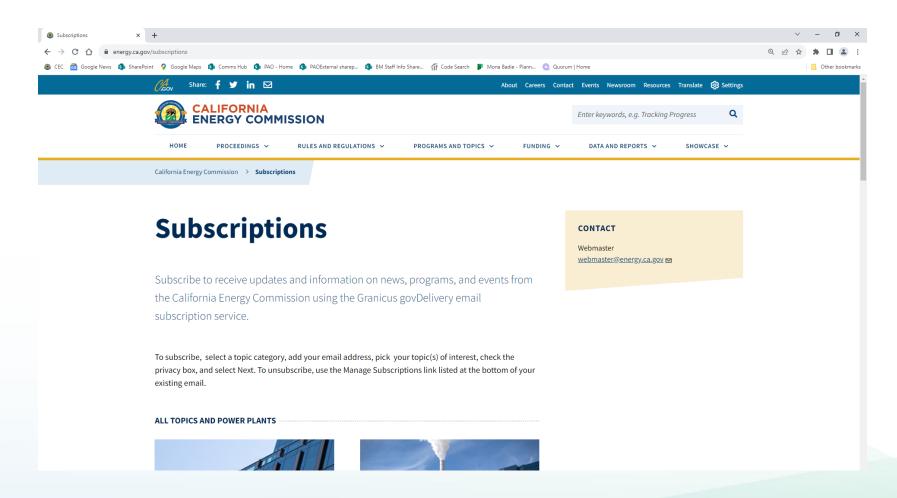
Multiple Ways to Participate

- 1. Follow
- 2. Comment
- 3. Intervene
- 4. Tribal Consultations





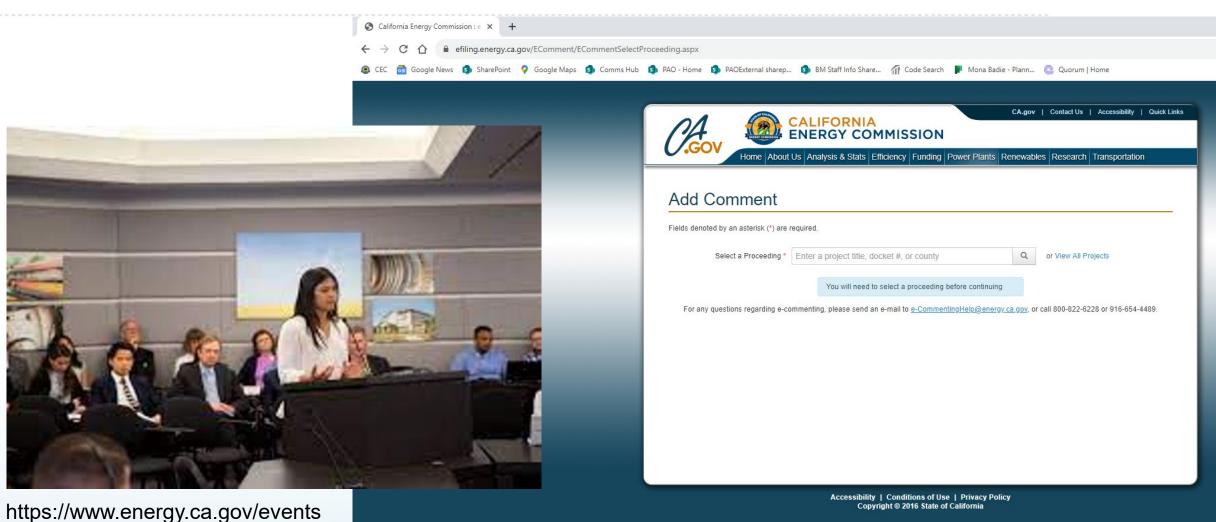
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Verbal and Written Comments

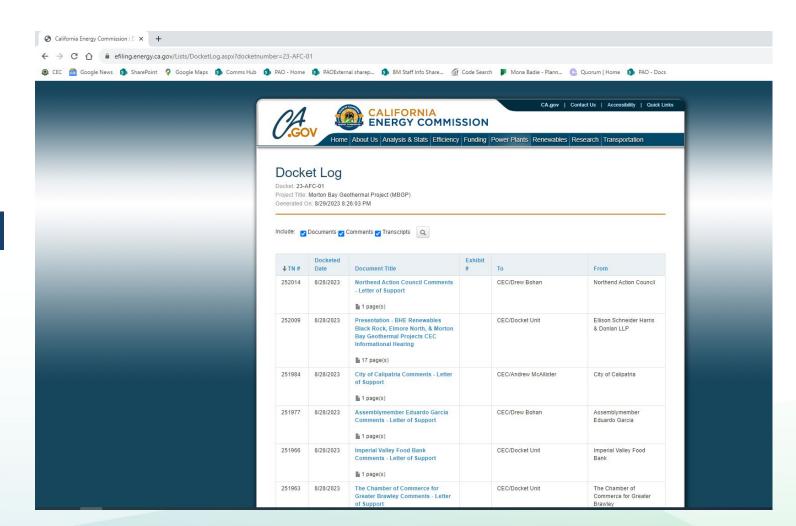


https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/ECommentSelectProceeding.aspx



Become an Intervenor

1.Petition2.Approval/Denial3.Participate





Project Webpage



The Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP) is proposed to be developed by Morton Bay Geothermal, LLC, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of BHE Renewables, LLC (BHER). MBGP would have a maximum continuous rating of approximately 157 megawatts (MW) gross, with an expected net output of roughly 140 MW.

PROJECT OWNER

Morton Bay Geothermal, LLC, a subsidiary of BHE Renewables, LLC (BHER)

DOCKET NUMBER

23-AFC-01

CAPACITY 140 MW (Net) LOCATION

Imperial County

TECHNOLOGY

Steam Turbine

PROJECT STATUS

Under Review

PROJECT TYPE

Application for Certification

Project Description

The Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP) is proposed to be developed by Morton Bay Geothermal, LLC, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of BHE Renewables, LLC (BHER). The project is on 63 acres of a 160-acre parcel in unincorporated Imperial County, bounded by McDonald Road to the north, Davis Road to the east, Schrimpf Road to the south, and the Salton Sea to the immediate west.

MBGP would have a maximum continuous rating of approximately 157 megawatts (MW) gross, with an expected net output of roughly 140 MW. The project includes geothermal production wells, pipelines, fluid and steam handling facilities, a solids handling system, a Class II surface impoundment, a service water pond, a stormwater retention basin, process fluid injection pumps, three power distribution center, borrow pits, and injection wells.

ORIGINAL PROCEEDING

Submit e-Comment of

Submit e-Filing of

Docket Log (23-AFC-01)

Exhibit List of

Proof of Service List

Search All Power Plant Documents of

CONTACTS

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SUBSCRIBE BERKSHIRE'S MORTON BAY GEOTHERMAL PROJECT

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https://www.energy.ca.gov/proceedings/power-plant-listing



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Public Comment

Instruction

- 3 minutes or less per person
- 1 representative per organization

Zoom App/Online

Click "raise hand"

Telephone

- Press *9 to raise hand
- Press *6 to mute and unmute

When called upon

- CEC staff will open your line
- Unmute, spell name and state affiliation, if any

3-MINUTE TIMER





California Energy Commission

Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division



Applications For Certification (AFC) Status

- ✓ Applicant Filing: AFC
- ✓ CEC data adequacy review: conducted by CEC staff
- ✓ CEC determination: AFC deemed complete on 7/26/23
- ✓ CEC committees assigned: oversee AFC proceedings
- ✓ CEC data discovery: conducted by CEC staff
- ✓ CEC Preliminary Staff Assessments (PSA): prepared by CEC staff



Remaining Steps:

- Staff holds public workshop (7/31-8/1)
- Staff conducts additional workshops [date TBA]
- Staff prepares Final Staff Assessment
 - (FSA includes responses to comments)
- Committees conduct evidentiary hearing
- Committees issue proposed decisions
- CEC decides on proposed decisions



1. Biological Resources

- a) Pre-construction surveys and timing of surveys
- b) General conservation measures
- c) Discussion of Conditions Of Certification
- d) Appropriate avian noise limit
- e) Fresh water pond mitigation
- f) Wetland Impacts

2. Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources

- a) Announcement of tribal-focused PSA workshop
- b) Overview of tribally identified environmental impacts
- 3. **Transmission System Engineering** Potential revisions to conditions, such as Redundancy
- 4. Air Quality Potential revisions to condition.
 *clarify which COCs are applicable to the County and CEC jurisdiction. 18



- 5. Paleontological Resources Minor changes to conditions
- 6. Hazardous Materials Management Minor changes to conditions
- 7. Land Use, Agriculture, and Forestry
 - Laydown/parking/construction camp jurisdiction
 - Agricultural land mitigation
- 8. Noise
 - Construction noise requirements
 - Nearest operational noise receptor



9. Transmission

[The following energy/transmission comments were provided by IID]

- o Is the T-line between the proposed IID switching station and the Coachella Valley substation considered part of the project.
- What is the ETA for performing a new system impact study.



10. Water Resources

- Waste discharge requirements
- Underground injection well requirements
- Construction water use

[The following Water comments were provided by IID]

- oThe WSA should be incorporated into the PSA
- o An alternatives feasibility study is required.
- Assessment of impacts to Salton Sea
- A comprehensive IID hydraulic drainage system analysis

11. Project Description

- Laydown/parking/construction camp/brine pipeline jurisdiction
- Compliance Conditions changes



Tribal-focused Aug/Sept Workshop

- California Native American tribes identified several potential environmental impacts
- Potential environmental impacts by topic area:
 - Biological Resources
 - Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources
 - ○Noise
 - Visual Resources
 - Cumulative Impacts
 - Refinement of Proposed Mitigation
- These impacts are numerous and interconnected



Thank You

PSA Comment periods close:

- Elmore North: September 2
- Morton Bay: September 2
- Black Rock: September 2

Project Contact:

Eric Veerkamp, Project Manager Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

STEPsiting@energy.ca.gov



Public Comment

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