DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	23-OPT-02
Project Title:	Darden Clean Energy Project
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Document Title:	CEC Response Letter Darden 9-12-24 Application for Confidential Designation Cultural
Description:	N/A
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Organization:	California Energy Commission
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October 09, 2024

Via Email

Breana Campbell-King Rincon Consultants 9450 SW Gemini Drive, PMB #68743 Beaverton, Oregon 97008-7105 bcampbell@rinconconsultants.com

Application for Confidential Designation for Response to Data Request REV 1 DR TSD-1

Docket No. 23-OPT-02

Dear Breana Campbell-King:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has received an application for confidentiality from IP Darden I, LLC c/o Intersect Power, LLC (applicant) (TN 259141), filed September 12, 2024, covering the following data:

- Darden Clean Energy Project Cultural Resources Inventory for the PG&E Downstream Network Upgrades, submitted in response to the CEC's Data Request REV 1 DR TSD 1, which includes:
- Department of Parks and Recreation Series 523 forms documenting cultural resources and associated site survey forms, labeled: P-10 000052, P-10 000257, P-10 005350, P-10 005498

The application states that the public interest served by not disclosing this information clearly outweighs the public interest served by disclosure. (Gov. Code, § 7922.000.) The information submitted contains descriptions and locations of cultural resources and according to the applicant, nondisclosure of this information will protect these resources from looting or other damage. The application states that the Response to Data Request REV 1 DR TSD-1 should be kept confidential indefinitely to protect cultural resources.

Confidentiality Claims

A properly filed application for confidentiality shall be granted under California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 2505(a)(3)(A), "if the applicant makes a reasonable claim that the Public Records Act or other provision of law authorizes the Commission to keep the record confidential."

The California Public Records Act provides for the nondisclosure of archaeological site information and records of Native American places, features, and objects and reports maintained by, or in the possession of, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the State Historical Resources Commission, the State Lands Commission, the Native American Heritage Commission, another state agency, or a local agency. (Gov. Code, §§ 7927.000, 7927.005.)

Breana Campbell-King Rincon Consultants October 09, 2024 Page 2

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act establishes a clear, national legal policy that all types of archaeological, paleontological, and cultural resource site locations on public lands must be protected to preserve them. (54 U.S.C. § 306131.)

The California Government Code section 7922.000 provides that an agency may withhold information from disclosure where the public interest served by nondisclosure clearly outweighs the public interest of disclosure.

Discussion

The Response to Data Request REV 1 DR TSD-1 contains information related to the location of cultural resources, archaeological resources, and Native American sites. Records of Native American and archaeological site information are protected from disclosure pursuant to Government Code sections 7927.000 and 7927.005. The public interest served by not disclosing this information also clearly outweighs the public interest served by disclosure. (Gov. Code, § 7922.000.) Finally, nondisclosure of this information will protect these resources from looting or other damage and will be consistent with the federal Archaeological Resources Protection Act. (54 U.S.C. § 306131.)

Executive Director's Determination

The applicant has made a reasonable claim that the documents identified above, which contain information on cultural, archaeological, and Native American resources, records, reports, and maps, can be maintained as confidential indefinitely. As such, the applicant's request for confidential designation of the documents listed above is granted.

Be advised that persons may petition to inspect or copy records that have been designated as confidential, the executive director may disclose, or release records previously designated as confidential in certain circumstances, and the CEC may hold a hearing to determine the confidentiality of its records on its own motion or on a motion by CEC staff. The procedures and criteria for disclosing or releasing, filing, reviewing, and acting upon such petitions or motions are set forth in the California Code of Regulations, title 20, sections 2506 through 2508.

If you have questions, please email <u>confidentialityapplication@energy.ca.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Drew Bohan Executive Director