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THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**Energy Resources Conservation
and Development Commission**

In the Matter of:)
Application for Certification for the)
Black Rock Geothermal Project)
)
_____)

Docket No. 23-AFC-03

**BLACK ROCK GEOTHERMAL PROJECT
STATUS REPORT NO. 13**

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BLACK ROCK GEOTHERMAL PROJECT
STATUS REPORT NO. 13

Pursuant to the *Presiding Member’s Scheduling Order for the Black Rock Geothermal Project Proceeding*,¹ Black Rock Geothermal LLC (“the Applicant”) provides this *Status Report No. 13* to update the Committee regarding the status of the Application for Certification proceeding for the Black Rock Geothermal Project (“BRGP” or the “Project”).

I. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS OF PROCEEDING

On September 30, 2024, California Energy Commission (“CEC”) Staff provided the Applicant with requests for additional information to address comments that were raised during the Preliminary Staff Assessment Technical and Mitigation Workshops and the Tribal Mitigation Workshops for the BRGP, which were then docketed on October 10, 2024.² On October 30, 2024, the Applicant docketed responses to Staff’s follow-up questions.³

On October 10, 2024, CEC Staff provided the Applicant with a second set of requests for additional information to address comments raised during the workshops, which were then docketed on October 11, 2024.⁴ The Applicant is reviewing the request, and will provide responses in whole or in part to some or all of the requests for information by November 12, 2024, as November 9 is a Saturday, and November 11 is a State and Federal Holiday.

On October 15, 2024, the Applicant met with a local community-based organization that has expressed interest in the project. A subsequent meeting is tentatively set for November 2024.

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

Descriptions of the Applicant’s significant communications with other federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments are provided below.

¹ TN#: 252289.

² TN#: 259518.

³ TN#: 259791.

⁴ TN#: 259523.

- On October 7, 2024, the Applicant met with the Imperial County Public Works to review the road crossings related to brine production and injection piping and generation-tie lines.
- On October 7, 2024, the Applicant met with the Imperial County Chief Executive Officer to discuss the agriculture mitigation fees.
- On October 8, 2024, the Applicant met with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to review the status of the Letter of Map Revision.
- On October 22, 2024, the Applicant requested from the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (“ICAPCD”) to provide AERMOD input/output modeling files for use in the updated cumulative impacts analysis. On October 31, 2024, the ICAPCD responded to the request, and provided construction emission modeling files for a nearby facility.
- On October 31, 2024, the Applicant met with the Imperial County Planning Department to discuss the status of the Project and conditional use permit application.
- The Applicant has continued to consult with the Imperial Irrigation District (“IID”) to discuss the Project’s related facilities and IID infrastructure such as water supply canals, drain canals, transmission lines, and power distribution lines. On October 24, 2024, the Applicant attended a stakeholder meeting held by IID relating to IID’s Open Access Tariff reform and potential updates to the interconnection process.
- The Applicant engaged with the Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Indians and Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe regarding the BRGP.

III. OUTCOME OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS OR MEETINGS

No public workshops or meetings were held in the month of October. The Applicant understands that CEC Staff is planning a second Tribal and Cultural Mitigation Workshop for November 2024.

IV. SCHEDULE

Continued advancement of this proceeding is essential to achieving the State’s zero-carbon grid and climate change goals. The Applicant urges the Committee to adopt the Joint Schedule proposed by the Applicant and CEC Staff on September 27, 2024.⁵

V. CONCLUSION

The Applicant continues to work with CEC Staff and stakeholders to advance this important, baseload renewable energy project in a timely manner.

Dated: October 31, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

ELLISON SCHNEIDER HARRIS & DONLAN L.L.P.

By  _____

⁵ TN#: 259332.

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