

DOCKETED	
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Project Title:	Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP)
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Document Title:	Follow Up from Workshop Discussion, 3rd Request
Description:	CEC, Geothermal AFCs, follow up e-Mail(s) from workshop discussion regarding additional information needed, 3rd Request
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Subject: CEC, Geothermal AFCs, follow up from workshop discussion regarding additional information needs, 3rd Request
Date: Monday, November 4, 2024 8:41:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Jerry and Jon,

The CEC received written comments on the PSAs, as well as comments during workshops held in July and September 2024. CEC has determined that additional information is necessary to include in the Final Staff Assessment (FSA) to properly address the comments and concerns raised by Native American representatives, interveners, local and other agency representatives, and interested groups. Please provide responses to the following requests within 30 days so that staff can timely incorporate the information into the FSA. If you have any questions about these items, let us know. If we need to, we can meet with appropriate technical staff for clarification.

Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources/Alternatives:

Background:

A tribal consultation conducted on October 29 highlighted informational needs related to Alternatives that overlap with Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources due to the need to identify potentially feasible ways to reduce impacts on tribal cultural resources. Of concern to consulting tribes are impacts to the Southeast Lake Cahuilla Active Volcanic Cultural District (District) which include visual and other impacts to major contributing elements of the cultural district. Tribal representatives have indicated that the proposed location of the Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP) is too close to the District and that its proximity to the Old Mud Pots and Mud Volcanoes could alter their functioning and damage them by drawing more non-Indian visitors and traffic to this contributor. Visual continuity between Red Hill and the Old Mud Pots and Mud Volcanoes, the view of the sunset from the Old Mud Pots and Mud Volcanoes, and views of the Chocolate Mountains have also been identified as culturally important values of the District that need to be preserved to allow for its continued cultural use.

Staff will evaluate the potential feasibility of an offsite alternative for MBGP to include in the final staff assessment. The offsite alternative is on the approximately 160-acre portion of APN 020-010-035 that is directly northeast of the proposed MBGP property. (Please see the attached graphic.) The property was removed from initial consideration because the applicant does not own the mineral rights. The applicant does own the mineral rights for the properties bordering the west and south sides of the alternative site property, according to Figure 2-3 in the MBGP AFC (TN 249723).

Request:

- MBGP

Please provide a site plan map and description for a technically feasible relocation of the MBGP to the property with APN 020-010-035. Identify if the planned production and injection wells would be close enough to feasibly serve this alternative site or would the production wells also require relocation.

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