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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. 14**

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**MORTON BAY GEOTHERMAL PROJECT
STATUS REPORT NO. 14**

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

I. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS OF PROCEEDING

On October 11, 2024, California Energy Commission (“CEC”) Staff docketed a second set of requests for additional information to address comments raised during the Preliminary Staff Assessment Technical and Mitigation Workshops and the Tribal Mitigation Workshops.² On November 13, 2024, the Applicant docketed responses to Staff’s follow-up questions.³

On October 15, 2024, the Applicant met with a local community-based organization that has expressed interest in the project. A subsequent meeting was held on November 20, 2024.

On November 6, 2024, CEC Staff docketed their third set of requests for additional information, and on November 13, 2024, Staff docketed a fourth set.⁴ The Applicant is reviewing these requests and will provide responses in whole or in part to some or all of the requests for information by December 6, 2024, and December 13, 2024, respectively.

On November 20, 2024, the Applicant received an additional request for information from CEC Staff relating to air quality. The Applicant and CEC Staff are working to schedule an information exchange to discuss the information request.

¹ TN#: 252284.

² TN#: 259522.

³ TN#: 260018.

⁴ TN#: 259921, 260000, respectively.

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.

- On November 19, 2024, the Applicant met with and updated the United States Army Corps of Engineers on the Morton Bay Geothermal Project.
- On November 21, 2024, the Applicant met with the Imperial County Planning Department to discuss the status of the Project and conditional use permit application.
- The Applicant continues 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.
- The Applicant continues to engage with California Native American tribes regarding the MBGP, including the Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Indians, Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe, and Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians.
- The Applicant is discussing with the Imperial County Planning & Development Services and Public Works departments an alternative flood protection measure. The alternative flood protection measure would allow the Letter of Map Revision to continue forward with the Federal Emergency Management Agency while providing a means for the MBGP to conform with the Imperial County's flood protection ordinance. The Applicant is discussing the alternative flood protection measure with IID and the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge to seek their feedback on the measure. Further discussions are anticipated in December 2024.

III. OUTCOME OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS OR MEETINGS

No public workshops or meetings were held in the month of November 2024. The Applicant will participate in the upcoming Tribal Mitigation Workshop to be held on December 9, 2024.

IV. SCHEDULE

The Applicant will be submitting general arrangement refinements in December 2024, rather than the end of November 2024. The general arrangement refinements will reflect realignment of the cooling tower to address issues raised with respect to tribal cultural resources and expansion of the freshwater storage pond to address comments made by IID.

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: November 27, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

ELLISON SCHNEIDER HARRIS & DONLAN L.L.P.

By  _____

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