

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	23-AFC-03
Project Title:	Black Rock Geothermal Project (BRGP)
TN #:	260340
Document Title:	Black Rock Geothermal Project Status Report No 14
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Amanda Cooley
Organization:	Ellison Schneider Harris & Donlan LLP
Submitter Role:	Applicant Representative
Submission Date:	11/27/2024 11:35:29 AM
Docketed Date:	11/27/2024

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. 14**

Samantha G. Neumyer
Jessica L. Melms
Ellison Schneider Harris & Donlan LLP
2600 Capitol Avenue, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95816
sgn@eslawfirm.com
jmelms@eslawfirm.com
(916) 447-2166

Attorneys for Applicant

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Energy Resources Conservation
and Development Commission

In the Matter of:)
)
Application for Certification for the) Docket No. 23-AFC-03
Black Rock Geothermal Project)
)
_____)

BLACK ROCK GEOTHERMAL PROJECT
STATUS REPORT NO. 14

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. 14* 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 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 13, 2024, CEC Staff docketed their fourth set of requests for additional information.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 December 13, 2024,

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.

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#: 259523.

³ TN#: 260016.

⁴ TN#: 260002.

- 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 BRGP 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 on December 9, 2024.

IV. SCHEDULE

The Applicant will be submitting general arrangement refinements in December 2024, rather than the end of November. The general arrangement refinements will include a shifting of project components south on the existing parcel and increasing the height of the brine pond and atmospheric flash tank to address comments from the Regional Water Quality Control Board.


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 
 Samantha G. Neumyer
 Jessica L. Melms
 Ellison Schneider Harris & Donlan LLP
 2600 Capitol Avenue, Suite 400
 Sacramento, CA 95816

sgn@eslawfirm.com
jmelms@eslawfirm.com
(916) 447-2166

Attorneys for Applicant