

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	23-AFC-03
<b>Project Title:</b>	Black Rock Geothermal Project (BRGP)
<b>TN #:</b>	260633
<b>Document Title:</b>	Presentation for 2nd Tribal PSA Workshop (Continuation)
<b>Description:</b>	Presentation for 2nd Tribal PSA Workshop (Continuation) Applications for Certification: Morton Bay Geothermal LLC (23-AFC-01), Elmore North Geothermal LLC (23-AFC-02), and Black Rock Geothermal LLC (23-AFC-03) Geothermal Projects City of Imperial, Imperial County December 9, 2024
<b>Filer:</b>	susan fleming
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
<b>Submission Date:</b>	12/13/2024 12:30:52 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	12/13/2024



# **Applications for Certification: Morton Bay Geothermal LLC (23-AFC-01), Elmore North Geothermal LLC (23-AFC-02), and Black Rock Geothermal LLC (23-AFC-03) Geothermal Projects**

**2nd Tribal PSA Workshop (Continuation)**

**City of Imperial, Imperial County**

**December 9, 2024**

**Eric Veerkamp, Project Manager**  
**Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division**  
**Siting and Environmental Branch**



# Welcome and Introductions

Welcome to Parties of the Proceeding, and others:

- **Native American Tribal Representatives**
- **Project Applicant:** Berkshire Hathaway Renewables
- **Intervenor:** California Unions for Reliable Energy (CURE)
- **Intervenor:** United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW), Region 6
- **Intervenor:** Supporters Alliance for Environmental Responsibility (SAFER)
- **Intervenor:** Jobs to Move America
- **CEQA Lead Agency:** California Energy Commission staff
- **Public Agencies, Others**



# Housekeeping Items

- Workshop is a recorded hybrid meeting,
- Zoom closed captioning service
  - Activate: click on the “live transcript” icon and then choose either “show subtitle” or “view full transcript”.
  - Stop: by exiting out of the “live transcript” or selecting the “hide subtitle” icon.
- Agenda includes time for public comment and input.
- We will be using the Blue Cards for speakers in the room (Public Adviser)
- Workshop focus: the preliminary staff assessment (PSA).
  - Discussion by topic area.
  - Comments by tribal representatives, interveners and agency representatives during the discussion.
- Please be mindful of the audio for those participating online.





# California Energy Commission

Office of the Public Advisor, Energy Equity, and Tribal Affairs



# Office of the Public Advisor, Energy Equity and Tribal Affairs

Advise and support the CEC, stakeholders, California Native American tribes, and interested members of the public in meaningful engagement and participation in CEC programs, policies, and energy equity efforts.







# Multiple Ways to Participate

1. Follow
2. Comment
3. Intervene
4. Tribal Consultation





# Follow Via Web, Email, and Events

Black Rock Geothermal Project (BRGP)

The Black Rock Geothermal Project (BRGP) is proposed to be developed by Black Rock Geothermal, LLC, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of BHE Renewables, LLC (BHER). BRGP would have a maximum continuous rating of approximately 87 megawatts (MW) gross, with an expected net output of roughly 77 MW.

**PROJECT OWNER**  
Black Rock Geothermal, LLC, a subsidiary of BHE Renewables, LLC (BHER)

**LOCATION**  
Imperial County

**TECHNOLOGY**  
Steam Turbine

**DOCKET NUMBER**  
23-AFC-03

**PROJECT STATUS**  
Under Review

**CAPACITY**  
77 MW (Net)

**PROJECT TYPE**  
Application for Certification

**Project Description**

The Black Rock Geothermal Project (BRGP) is proposed to be developed by Black Rock Geothermal, LLC, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of BHE Renewables, LLC (BHER). The project is on 55 acres of a 160-acre parcel in unincorporated Imperial County, bounded by McKendry Road to the north, Severe Road to the west, and Boyle Road to the east. The town of Niland is approximately eight miles to the northeast, and the town of Calipatria is approximately six miles southeast of the plant site.

BRGP would have a maximum continuous rating of approximately 87 megawatts (MW) gross, with an expected net output of roughly 77 MW. The project includes geothermal production wells, pipelines, fluid and steam handling facilities, a solids handling system, a Class II surface impoundment, a service water pond, a retention basin, process fluid injection pumps, and injection wells.

Main components of BRGP include a steam turbine generator system, geothermal fluid processing system, one seven-cell cooling tower, 12 wells (including production and injection wells) and 7 well pads, and a 2.2-mile long aboveground interconnection to the Imperial Irrigation District switching station.

**ORIGINAL PROCEEDING**

[Submit a Comment](#) or [Submit a File](#) or [Docket Log \(23-AFC-03\)](#) or [Submit List](#) or [Proof of Service List](#) or [Search All Power Plant Documents](#) or

**CONTACTS**

**PROJECT MANAGER**  
Eric Workamp  
[EWWorkamp@bher.com](mailto:EWWorkamp@bher.com)  
(Please enter project name in the email subject line)  
956-662-6458

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION QUESTIONS**  
Public Advisor  
[publicadvisor@bher.com](mailto:publicadvisor@bher.com)  
956-269-9555

**MEDIA INQUIRIES**  
Media & Public Communications Office  
[mediaoffice@bher.com](mailto:mediaoffice@bher.com)  
956-654-4569

**SUBSCRIBE BLACK ROCK GEOTHERMAL PROJECT**

Automatic Email Notifications

Email \*

[Expand All](#)

California Energy Commission

[efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-AFC-03](#)

**Docket Log**

Docket: 23-AFC-03  
Project Title: Black Rock Geothermal Project (BRGP)  
Generated On: 12/6/2024 11:35:26 AM

Include: ☒ Documents ☒ Comments ☐ Transcripts

#	TN #	Docketed Date	Document Title	Exhibit #	To	From
26952	12/9/2024	Imperial Irrigation District Comments - Imperial Irrigation District's Comment on the Proposed Division Butte Conservation Easement	2	CEC Docket Unit	Imperial Irrigation District	
26957	12/5/2024	Black Rock Geothermal Project Hydraulic Modeling Report	25	CEC Docket Unit	Jacobs	
26954	12/5/2024	Imperial County Alternate Flood Protection Plan Letter	1	CEC Docket Unit	Jacobs	
26943	12/5/2024	Revised Joint Scheduling Order and Request for Information Regarding Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources	12	CEC Docket Unit	California Energy Commission	
26949	12/4/2024	Black Rock Geothermal Project Revised General Arrangement Refinement 2 - Preliminary Figures	7	CEC Docket Unit	Jacobs	
26944	12/4/2024	Notice of Public Workshop on Tribal Mitigation (Continued) December 5, 2024 - in Spanish	8	CEC Docket Unit	California Energy Commission	
26936	12/3/2024	BRGP follow up from workshop discussion regarding additional information needs, BR request	2	CEC Docket Unit	California Energy Commission	

Visit CEC project webpage for links to comment, sign up for email updates, access project docket, project information, and more (see today's event notice for links for all 3 proposed projects)

Visit each project docket for free 24/7 access to project documents (see today's event notice for links for all 3 proposed projects)





# Verbal and Written Comments



<https://www.energy.ca.gov/events>

California Energy Commission : e x +

efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/ECommentSelectProceeding.aspx

CEC Google News SharePoint Google Maps Comms Hub PAO - Home PAOExternal sharep... BM Staff Info Share... Code Search Mona Badie - Plann... Quorum | Home

CA.GOV CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Home About Us Analysis & Stats Efficiency Funding Power Plants Renewables Research Transportation

## Add Comment

Fields denoted by an asterisk (\*) are required.

Select a Proceeding \*  or [View All Projects](#)

You will need to select a proceeding before continuing

For any questions regarding e-commenting, please send an e-mail to [e-CommentingHelp@energy.ca.gov](mailto:e-CommentingHelp@energy.ca.gov), or call 800-822-6228 or 916-654-4489.

Accessibility | Conditions of Use | Privacy Policy  
Copyright © 2016 State of California

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/ECommentSelectProceeding.aspx>



# Become an Intervenor

1. Petition
2. Approval/Denial
3. Participate

California Energy Commission : x +

efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-AFC-01

CEC Google News SharePoint Google Maps Comms Hub PAO - Home PAOExternal share... BM Staff Info Share... Code Search Mona Badie - Plann... Quorum | Home PAO - Docs

CA.gov | Contact Us | Accessibility | Quick Links

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

Home | About Us | Analysis & Stats | Efficiency | Funding | Power Plants | Renewables | Research | Transportation

### Docket Log

Docket: 23-AFC-01  
Project Title: Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP)  
Generated On: 8/29/2023 8:26:03 PM

Include: ☒ Documents ☒ Comments ☒ Transcripts

↓ TN #	Docketed Date	Document Title	Exhibit #	To	From
252014	8/28/2023	Northend Action Council Comments - Letter of Support 1 page(s)		CEC/Drew Bohan	Northend Action Council
252009	8/28/2023	Presentation - BHE Renewables Black Rock, Elmore North, & Morton Bay Geothermal Projects CEC Informational Hearing 17 page(s)		CEC/Docket Unit	Ellison Schneider Harris & Donlan LLP
251984	8/28/2023	City of Calipatria Comments - Letter of Support 1 page(s)		CEC/Andrew McAllister	City of Calipatria
251977	8/28/2023	Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia Comments - Letter of Support 1 page(s)		CEC/Drew Bohan	Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
251966	8/28/2023	Imperial Valley Food Bank Comments - Letter of Support 1 page(s)		CEC/Docket Unit	Imperial Valley Food Bank
251963	8/28/2023	The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Brawley Comments - Letter of Support		CEC/Docket Unit	The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Brawley



# Tribal Consultation

---

- Tribal consultation letters mailed in August 2023.
- CEC staff is consulting with four tribes.
- Contact: Gabriel Roark, Assistant Tribal Liaison  
[Gabriel.Roark@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Gabriel.Roark@energy.ca.gov) (916) 237-2544.



# Public Adviser Contact

---

## Email

[publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov)

## Phone

(916) 957-7910

## Online

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/about/divisions-and-offices/office-public-advisor>





# Initial Comment Period

---

- California Native American tribes
- Responsible and trustee agencies
- Elected officials
- Other government agencies



# California Energy Commission

Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

Eric Veerkamp, Project Manager



# **Applications For Certification (AFC) Steps Completed to Date**

- ✓ **Applicant Filing: AFC**
- ✓ **CEC data adequacy review:** conducted by CEC staff
- ✓ **CEC determination:** AFC deemed complete on July 26, 2023
- ✓ **CEC committees assigned:** oversee AFC proceedings
- ✓ **CEC data discovery:** conducted by CEC staff
- ✓ **CEC Preliminary Staff Assessments (PSA):** prepared by STEP CEQA technical and engineering staff



# **Applications For Certification (AFC) Steps Completed to Date**

---

- ✓ **PSAs filed to dockets: Elmore North, June 13, 2024; Morton Bay, June 27, 2024; and Black Rock, July 11, 2024**
- ✓ **PSA comment period closed by the Committee on September 4**





# Applications For Certification (AFC) Steps Completed to Date

---

- ✓ **PSA workshop conducted:** held on July 31, 2024, and August 1, 2024.
- ✓ **Tribal focused workshop:** held on September 6, 2024.
- ✓ **Second PSA workshop** conducted on September 19, 2024.
- ✓ **Conduct Today's Workshop** (December 9, 2024)



# AFC Next Steps

<b>Final Staff Assessment Filed:</b>	February 5, 2025	February 19, 2025	March 5, 2025
<b>Last Day to file petition to intervene:</b>	February 18, 2025	March 3, 2025	March 17, 2025
<b>Opening Testimony filed:</b>	April 4, 2025	April 4, 2025	April 4, 2025
<b>Reply Testimony filed:</b>	April 28, 2025	May 5, 2025	May 5, 2025



# AFC Next Steps

---

<b>Meet and Confer:</b>	May 8, 2025	May 19, 2025	May 19, 2025
<b>Prehearing Conference (PHC) Statement filed:</b>	May 29, 2025	May 29, 2025	May 29, 2025
<b>Prehearing Conference:</b>	June 9, 2025	June 9, 2025	June 9, 2025
<b>Evidentiary Hearings (EH):</b>	Week of June 23, 2025	Week of June 23, 2025	Week of June 23



# Discussion

---

## A. Visual Resources and Project Descriptions: Site Plan Rearrangements

- Visual Resources
  - Visual Resource Values





# Discussion

---

## A. Visual Resources and Project Descriptions: Site Plan Rearrangements (Con't.)

- Siting of Morton Bay
  - Applicant site plan revisions to Morton Bay
  - Discussion of visual impacts associated with revisions and how to mitigate



# Discussion

---

## **A. Visual Resources and Project Descriptions: Site Plan Rearrangements (Con't.)**

- Siting of Elmore North
  - Applicant site plan revisions to Elmore North
  - Discussion of visual impacts associated with revisions and how to mitigate



# Discussion

---

## **A. Visual Resources and Project Descriptions (Site Plan Rearrangements) (Con't.)**

- Siting of Black Rock
  - Applicant site plan revisions to Black Rock
  - Discussion of visual impacts associated with revisions and how to mitigate



# Discussion

---

## B. Water Resources and Water Availability

## C. Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources





# Discussion

---

## D. Cumulative Impacts

## E. Conditions of Certification (Mitigation)



# Discussion

---

## F. Air Quality

- Applicant request to better understand staff request for meteorological station data from the relocated cooling towers.



# Thank You

---

**Project Contact:**  
**Eric Veerkamp, Project Manager**  
**Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division**

**[STEPsiting@energy.ca.gov](mailto:STEPsiting@energy.ca.gov)**



# Comment Period

---

- California Native American tribes
- Responsible and trustee agencies
- Elected officials
- Other government agencies
- General Public Comment



# Public Comment

## Instruction

- 3 minutes or less per person
- 1 representative per organization

## Zoom App/Online

- Click “raise hand”

## Telephone

- Press \*9 to raise hand
- Press \*6 to mute and unmute

## When called upon

- CEC staff will open your line
- Unmute, spell name and state affiliation, if any

## 3-MINUTE TIMER

