

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	23-AFC-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP)
<b>TN #:</b>	260914
<b>Document Title:</b>	JOINT ORDER EXTENDING REPLY DEADLINE TO JANUARY 17, 2025
<b>Description:</b>	Presiding Member's order extending deadline to January 17, 2025, to reply to CEC Staff's responses to the Committee requests for information on cultural and tribal cultural resources
<b>Filer:</b>	Renee Webster-Hawkins
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Hearing Office
<b>Submission Date:</b>	1/7/2025 2:34:36 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	1/7/2025

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

715 P Street  
Sacramento, California 95814  
[energy.ca.gov](http://energy.ca.gov)

CEC-70 (Revised 7/2022)



*APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION  
FOR THE:*

*Morton Bay Geothermal Project*

Docket No. 23-AFC-01

*APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION  
FOR THE:*

*Elmore North Geothermal Project*

Docket No. 23-AFC-02

*APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION  
FOR THE:*

*Black Rock Geothermal Project*

Docket No. 23-AFC-03

**JOINT ORDER EXTENDING DEADLINE TO JANUARY 17, 2025, TO REPLY TO  
STAFF'S RESPONSES TO THE COMMITTEE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION  
ON CULTURAL AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Presiding Member for the Committees<sup>1</sup> appointed by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to conduct proceedings on the applications for certification

<sup>1</sup> For documents, see the "Availability of Documents" section, below. On May 31, 2023, the CEC adopted orders appointing the following committees:

- For Morton Bay, Commissioner Noemí Gallardo as Presiding Member and Commissioner Andrew McAllister as Associate Member. (TN 250451.)
- For Elmore North, Commissioner Gallardo as Presiding Member and Commissioner McAllister as Associate Member. (TN 250452.)
- For Black Rock, Commissioner Gallardo as Presiding Member and Chair David Hochschild as Associate Member. (TN 250454.)

(AFC) of the Morton Bay Geothermal Project,<sup>2</sup> Elmore North Geothermal Project,<sup>3</sup> and Black Rock Geothermal Project,<sup>4</sup> (collectively, Proposed Projects), **grants** the motion filed jointly by the project applicants<sup>5</sup> (Applicants) on January 3, 2025 (Motion).<sup>6</sup> Thus, the time is extended **from January 8, 2025 to January 17, 2025** for Applicants, Intervenor, local and tribal governments, and other interested persons to reply to the CEC staff (Staff) responses, filed December 18, 2024,<sup>7</sup> to the Committees' requests for information about Staff's cultural and tribal cultural resources analyses.<sup>8</sup>

## Background

On December 5, 2024, the Committees issued a revised joint scheduling order and request for information about Staff's cultural and tribal cultural resources analyses (Order).<sup>9</sup> The Order directed Staff to file responses to the Committee questions by December 18, 2024, and directed Applicants to file a reply to Staff's responses by January 8, 2025. The Order also invited Intervenor, local and tribal governments, and other interested persons to address the Committees' requests for information about Staff's cultural and tribal cultural resources analysis and reply to Staff's responses by January 8, 2025.

On December 18, 2024, Staff timely filed responses to the Committees' request for information.<sup>10</sup>

On January 3, 2025, Applicants filed a joint motion requesting an extension of time to file a reply to

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<sup>2</sup> The AFC and all filed documents related to the Morton Bay proceeding are available via the "Docket Log (23-AFC-01)" link on the [Morton Bay proceeding's web page](https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/morton-bay-geothermal-project-mbgp) at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/morton-bay-geothermal-project-mbgp>. The AFC comprises many separate documents filed in the docket beginning April 18, 2023, e.g., Volume 1 is TN 249723.

<sup>3</sup> The AFC and all filed documents related to the Elmore North proceeding are available via the "Docket Log (23-AFC-02)" link on the [Elmore North proceeding's web page](https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/elmore-north-geothermal-project-engp) at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/elmore-north-geothermal-project-engp>. The AFC comprises many separate documents filed in the docket beginning April 18, 2023, e.g., Volume 1 is TN 249737.

<sup>4</sup> The AFC and all filed documents related to the BRGP proceeding are available via the "Docket Log (23-AFC-03)" link on the [Black Rock proceeding web page](https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/black-rock-geothermal-project-brgp) at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/black-rock-geothermal-project-brgp>. The AFC comprises many separate documents filed in the docket beginning April 18, 2023, e.g., Volume 1 is TN 249752.

<sup>5</sup> The entities that submitted the individual AFCs, Morton Bay Geothermal LLC, Elmore North Geothermal LLC, and Black Rock Geothermal LLC, are referred to collectively as Applicants.

<sup>6</sup> The motion was filed in the dockets for each proceeding: Morton Bay (TN 260891); Elmore North (TN 260892); Black Rock (TN 260893).

<sup>7</sup> An amended version of Staff's response was filed in the dockets for each proceeding on December 19, 2024: Morton Bay (TN 260729); Elmore North (TN 260730); Black Rock (TN 260731).

<sup>8</sup> The Committee's revised joint scheduling order and request for information was filed in the dockets for each proceeding: Morton Bay (TN 260569); Elmore North (TN 260570); Black Rock (TN 260571).

<sup>9</sup> As noted above, the Committee's revised joint scheduling order and request for information was filed in the dockets for each proceeding: Morton Bay (TN 260569); Elmore North (TN 260570); Black Rock (TN 260571).

<sup>10</sup> As noted above, an amended version of Staff's response was filed in the dockets for each proceeding on December 19, 2024: Morton Bay (TN 260729); Elmore North (TN 260730); Black Rock (TN 260731).

Staff's December 18, 2024, responses to the Committee questions.<sup>11</sup> The motion states the extension will allow Applicants to file a more complete response, including potentially incorporating feedback from discussions with tribal representatives into its reply. The motion also asserts that no other parties would be prejudiced by the extension. The motion states that Applicants contacted the other parties about their extension request. Applicants represent that in response: Staff and intervenor Supporters Alliance for Environmental Responsibility stated they do not object to the extension; California Unions for Reliable Energy took no position on the motion and reserved the right to file a response; and the other parties didn't respond. As supported in Applicants' supplemental filing,<sup>12</sup> Staff stated it does not oppose the extension requested in the Motion.

## Discussion and Order

The Presiding Member reminds Applicants to file any future scheduling motions in a timely manner that will allow the other parties at least 7 days to respond and to attach documentary evidence to support any representations made in points and authorities in the motion.

Nevertheless, based on Staff's non-opposition, the Presiding Member of the Committees finds that the extension will not prejudice the other parties and hereby **GRANTS** the Motion. Thus, the time is hereby **extended from January 8, 2025, to January 17, 2025**, for Applicants and Intervenors to address the Committees' requests for information about Staff's cultural and tribal cultural resources analysis and respond to Staff's reply filed December 18, 2024. Further, should any local or tribal governments, or other interested persons, choose to submit a response to Committees' requests for information or Staff's reply, the Presiding Member requests that they do so by January 17, 2025.

## Availability of Documents

All documents filed in these proceedings will be posted in the respective dockets for each proceeding by selecting the following:

- The "Docket Log (23-AFC-01)" link on the [Morton Bay proceeding's web page](https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/morton-bay-geothermal-project-mbgp) at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/morton-bay-geothermal-project-mbgp>, or scan (use the camera on your mobile device and hold it over the QR code) the following QR code:

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<sup>11</sup> As noted above, the motion was filed in the dockets for each proceeding: Morton Bay (TN 260891); Elmore North (TN 260892); Black Rock (TN 260893).

<sup>12</sup> In response to a request by the Hearing Officers on January 6, 2025, Applicants filed Staff's statement on January 7, 2025: Morton Bay (TN 260907 & TN 260910); Elmore North (TN 260908 & TN 260911); Black Rock (TN 260909 & TN 260912).



- The “Docket Log (23-AFC-02)” link on the [Elmore North proceeding's web page](https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/elmore-north-geothermal-project-engp) at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/elmore-north-geothermal-project-engp>, or scan the following QR code:



- The “Docket Log (23-AFC-03)” link on the [Black Rock proceeding web page](https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/black-rock-geothermal-project-brgp) at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/black-rock-geothermal-project-brgp>, or scan the following QR code:



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## Questions

Parties and members of the public may contact the assigned Hearing Officers for each AFC for clarifications about this order or general procedural questions:

Morton Bay: Ralph Lee, (916) 776-3408, [ralph.lee@energy.ca.gov](mailto:ralph.lee@energy.ca.gov).  
Chad Oliver, (916) 891-8569, [chad.oliver@energy.ca.gov](mailto:chad.oliver@energy.ca.gov).

Elmore North: Deborah Dyer, (916) 931-5041, [deborah.dyer@energy.ca.gov](mailto:deborah.dyer@energy.ca.gov).  
Reneé Webster-Hawkins, (916) 237-2507, [renee.webster-hawkins@energy.ca.gov](mailto:renee.webster-hawkins@energy.ca.gov).

Black Rock: Chad Oliver, (916) 891-8569, [chad.oliver@energy.ca.gov](mailto:chad.oliver@energy.ca.gov).  
Deborah Dyer, (916) 931-5041, [deborah.dyer@energy.ca.gov](mailto:deborah.dyer@energy.ca.gov).

The CEC's Public Advisor provides assistance to members of the public participating in CEC proceedings. For information on how to participate in this proceeding, please contact the [Public Advisor](#) at [PublicAdvisor@energy.ca.gov](mailto:PublicAdvisor@energy.ca.gov), or (916) 957-7910.

**Direct media inquiries** to (916) 654-4989 or [mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov).

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: January 7, 2025

***APPROVED BY:***

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Noemí Otilia Osuna Gallardo  
Commissioner and Presiding Member of the Morton Bay,  
Elmore North, and Black Rock AFC Committees