

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	23-AFC-01
Project Title:	Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP)
TN #:	261495
Document Title:	Status Report #16
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Marichka Haws
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	1/31/2025 1:52:04 PM
Docketed Date:	1/31/2025

State of California

California Natural Resources Agency

Memorandum

To: Commissioner Noemi Gallardo, Presiding Member
Commissioner Andrew McAllister, Associate Member

Date: January 31, 2025

From: California Energy Commission
715 P Street
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Eric Veerkamp
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Subject: STATUS REPORT #16 FOR MORTON BAY GEOTHERMAL PROJECT (23-AFC-01)

The Presiding Member's Scheduling Order for the Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP) Proceeding filed on September 15, 2023, orders the parties to file a status report on "October 31st, and by the last business day of every month thereafter." The California Energy Commission (CEC) staff is further ordered to "include summaries of the progress of discovery in each monthly report, including descriptions of significant communications with other federal, state, and local agencies, and tribal governments, and identify any factors that may impact the schedule of the proceeding. Status reports shall also include a description of the outcome of any public workshop or other meeting held during that month."

Summary of Progress of Discovery and Known Issues

On January 3, 2025, the applicant filed Applicant's Joint Motion to Extend Deadline to Respond to Revised Joint Scheduling Order and Request for Information (TN 260891).

On January 6, 2025, the CEC filed Hearing Officer Memo RE Applicant's Joint Motion to Extend RFI Deadline (TN 260907).

On January 7, 2025, the applicant filed Applicant's Joint Response to January 6, 2025 Hearing Officer Memorandum (TN 260910).

On January 7, 2025, the CEC staff filed Joint Order Extending Reply Deadline to January 17, 2025 (TN 260914).

On January 8, 2025, the Sohagi Law Group filed County of Imperial-Response to CEC Staff RE Tribal Cultural Resources (TN 260926).

On January 17, 2025, Imperial Irrigation District filed Imperial Irrigation District Comments - Imperial Irrigation District's Comments on the Proposed Cultural District (TN 261125).

On January 17, 2025, the applicant filed Applicant's Joint Response to Revised Scheduling Order and RFI RE: Cultural and Tribal Resources (TN 261141).

On January 21, 2025, the CEC staff filed [on behalf of Courtney Coyle] Kwaaymii Laguna Response to CEC Joint Order, CEC Staff Responses, and other Responses (TN 261190).

On January 24, 2025, the CEC staff filed Letter RE MBGP, ENGP, and BRGP from Imperial County Planning and Development Services [RE: geothermal pipeline jurisdiction] (TN 261275).

On January 24, 2025, the CEC staff filed Morton Bay Geothermal Project Motion to Extend the Due Date for the Final Staff Assessments (TN 261286).

On January 28, 2025, the CEC staff filed ENGP, MBGP and BRGP ROC [Record of Conversation] Regarding Solid Waste, Disposal Capacity (TN 261333).

Schedule Impacts

As indicated in staff's motion to extend (TN 261286), and reflected in previous status reports, information requested by CEC staff remains outstanding. The missing information affects the schedule because the data, studies, and reports are critical to CEC staff's ability to develop a quantifiable baseline environmental setting against which to perform required analyses of project impacts and to respond to the detailed comments received on the PSA. Staff level tribal consultation continues to take place. The consultation process is anticipated to conclude sometime in the first quarter of 2025.

CEC staff will continue to follow the directives of the September 15, 2023, April 12, 2024, July 26, 2024, and December 9, 2024, Scheduling Orders and provide regular updates to the Committee.