

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	22-RENEW-01
Project Title:	Reliability Reserve Incentive Programs
TN #:	262265
Document Title:	Notice of Decision and Notice of Determination for Lodi Energy Center FX Turbine Upgrade
Description:	CEQA Notice of Determination filed with CEQANet on 3/18/2025 for DBA-24-005 award to Northern California Power Agency
Filer:	Renee Webster-Hawkins
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
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Docketed Date:	3/20/2025



**Notice of Decision and Notice of Determination
by the California Energy Commission**

**To: California Natural Resources
Agency
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95414**

**From: California Energy
Commission
715 P Street, 3rd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95814**

Subject: Filing of **Notice of Decision** in compliance with Public Resources Code section 21080.5 and California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1749, and Filing of **Notice of Determination** in compliance with Public Resources Code section 21108.

Project Name: Lodi Energy Center Petition to Amend & Distributed Energy Backup Assets Award

Applicant Name: Northern California Power Agency
Docket Number: 08-AFC-10C
Award Number: DBA-24-005
Contact Person: Ashley Gutierrez
Phone #: (916) 839-0400
Project Location: 12745 Thorton Road, Lodi, County of San Joaquin, California

A. Project Description

The Lodi Energy Center (LEC) is a 296-megawatt, combined-cycle natural gas facility. The project was certified by the California Energy Commission (CEC) in April 2010 and began commercial operation in November 2013.

On March 17, 2025, the CEC made two discretionary decisions to 1) approve the Applicant’s Petition to Amend the 2010 Commission Final Decision and 2) provide Distributed Energy Backup Assets (DEBA) grant funding under agreement number DBA-24-005. The pair of decisions will enable the Applicant to install efficiency upgrades and operate the facility to improve the turbine’s thermal energy conversion process allowing



LEC to generate an additional 15 MWs during hot-weather ambient conditions, and to make the incremental capacity available for dispatch to the grid on a day-ahead and real-time basis during extreme events (project).

B. Notice of Decision on Petition to Amend

The approved Petition to Amend updates the Commission's 2010 Final Decision, adds to and modifies the conditions of certification (COCs) for the Lodi Energy Center, and permits the Applicant to install and operate efficiency upgrades to the existing turbine with new Siemens FX hot gas path components, including newly advanced design blades, seals, vanes, and vane carriers from Turbine Stages 1 through 4. The efficiency upgrades will improve the turbine's thermal energy conversion process allowing LEC to generate an additional 15 MWs during hot-weather ambient conditions.

On March 17, 2025, the CEC approved the above-described project change and Petition to Amend to add and modify the COCs for the LEC pursuant to the CEC's regulatory program certified by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency under section Public Resources Code section 21080.5 and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15251(j). The CEC implements its certified regulatory program through California Code of Regulations, title 20, sections 1701 et seq. The CEC's approval of the Petition to Amend was based on a staff assessment and the CEC's findings that:

- The petition meets all the filing criteria of California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1769(a) concerning post-certification project changes;
- The new and modified COCs will not change the findings in the CEC's Final Decision, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1748;
- The findings required under California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1748(b), are not applicable to this petition;
- The project will remain in compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards, subject to the provisions of Public Resources Code, section 25525;
- Any environmental impacts will be less than significant with the addition of new or amended conditions of certification: (AQ-25, AQ-29, AQ-30, AQ-32, AQ-33, AQ-46, AQ-47, AQ-104, AQ-105, AQ-106, AQ-107, AQ-108 and AQ-109);
- The proposed project change does not meet the criteria requiring the production of subsequent or supplemental review as specified in California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15162(a);
- Notice of the staff assessment was mailed to the CEC's list of interested parties and property owners of all parcels within 500 feet of any affected project linears and 1,000 feet of the project site as well as emailed to the LEC subscription list; and



- The staff assessment was posted to the docket on February 12, 2025, and was subject to a 30-day comment period. No comments were received during the comment period.

C. Notice of Determination on Approval of DEBA Grant Funding

The \$7.0 million DEBA award to NCPA under agreement DBA-24-005 (DEBA award) is through the CEC's funding opportunity GFO-23-401, specifically to support the purchase, installation and performance of upgrades to improve aerodynamic performance of the LEC, to increase the hot-weather power plant rating by 15 MW and turbine efficiency by 1.5 percent, and to make the incremental capacity available for dispatch to the grid on a day-ahead and real-time basis during extreme events.

The staff assessment prepared for the CEC's consideration of the Petition to Amend was prepared under the CEC's certified regulatory program, and fully considered the potential environmental impacts of all of the installation and operational requirements of DEBA award. In approving the Petition to Amend, the CEC adopted staff's recommended findings based on the staff assessment that there were no significant impacts associated with the Petition to Amend. In approving the Petition to Amend, the CEC made a further finding that the project change does not meet the criteria for requiring the production of subsequent or supplemental review as specified in California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15162(a).

For the same reasons and based on the staff assessment for the Petition to Amend, the CEC made a determination that approving the DEBA award does not meet the criteria requiring the production of subsequent or supplemental review as specified in California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15162(a).

This is to advise that the CEC has approved the Lodi Energy Center Petition to Amend and Distributed Energy Backup Assets Award on March 17, 2025, and has made the following determination on the DEBA award:

1. The DEBA award will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. The DEBA award does not meet the criteria for requiring the production of subsequent or supplemental environmental review as specified in California code of Regulations, title 14, section 15162(a).
3. Mitigation measures were not made a condition of the approval of the DEBA award.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring program was not adopted for the DEBA award.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for the DEBA award.
6. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.



D. Availability of Documents

The Commission docket files containing the Final Commission Decision, the staff assessment, and other information regarding the record of the CEC approvals of the Petition to Amend and DEBA award are available online at Docket Number 08-AFC-10C, <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=08-AFC-10C>, or available for public viewing at: California Energy Commission, 715 P Street, Sacramento, California, 95814. This information is also available on the Energy Commission's project webpage <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/combined-cycle/lodi-energy-center>.

Ashley Gutierrez

Signature

3/17/2025

Date

Project Manager

Title

CNRA:

OPR: