

DOCKETED

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PoVI Information Request, conceptual site plan for reduced capacity alternative (24-OPT-04)

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Date Fri 5/2/2025 1:58 PM

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Hello Kelly,

I am sending this email on behalf of Eric Veerkamp, the project manager.

As we discussed earlier this week of April 28, please see below a supplemental request for information for Alternatives. This request, authored by Jeanine Hinde, has been vetted with other participating staff to make sure it contains all necessary information, including concerns related to biological resources. Staff will use this information to inform our analysis of Alternatives. Staff requests that responses be filed as succinctly as possible and that an estimated timeline be provided of when the response(s) will be submitted.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

ALTERNATIVES

Section 4 Alternatives (TN 258035) of the application includes a discussion of a Reduced Project Alternative (subsection 4.7.1 Reduced Project Alternative Description and Setting, p. 4-11). It describes the alternative as a 400-MW/1,600-MWh BESS facility within the same area as the project site. Under this alternative, the development footprint for the BESS would cover 40 acres, which would be a reduction of approximately 30 acres, or approximately 43 percent of the BESS area for the project. All other project components would be the same as for the project.

CEQA requires a discussion of a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives that would avoid or substantially lessen any of the project's significant effects (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15126.6, subd. (a)). Staff has identified potential habitat on the site for special-status wildlife species, including species listed or candidates for listing under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and/or the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). These species may use the site for foraging and utilizing burrows or subterranean habitat and would likely be impacted by the project. At least one listed plant species is known to be present on the site.

Accordingly, staff plans to include a Reduced Capacity Alternative with characteristics like those described in the application. Consistent with CEQA requirements, the analysis will be focused on resource impacts that could be substantially lessened under the alternative compared to the project.

REQUESTS

REV 1 DR ALT-1. Please provide a figure that displays a conceptual site plan for the Reduced Project Alternative (i.e., staff's Reduced Capacity Alternative). This figure should be a large-scale, zoomed-in site map, that clearly

shows estimated changes to the site plan for this alternative and revisions to the project site boundaries.

REV 1 DR ALT-2. Please provide a comparative impact table, similar in format to Table 4-1 of the application, that quantifies biological resource impacts for both the proposed project and the Reduced Project Alternative. This should include acreage and type of habitat impacted to facilitate evaluation of whether the alternative would substantially lessen biological impacts.

REV 1 DR ALT-3. Please identify whether access to the transmission line corridor could be achieved through an existing driveway to avoid the proposed low water crossing, and clarify any associated changes to impacts on aquatic resources.

Thank you,
Kaycee

Kaycee Chang (she, her, hers)

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