DOCKETED	
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Project Title:	Potentia-Viridi Battery Energy Storage System
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

May 6, 2025

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M5V 3H1

Request for Information Following Second Determination of Incompleteness for the Potentia-Viridi Battery Energy Storage System (Docket No. 24-OPT-04)

Dear Kelene Strain:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) staff confirmed receipt on August 7, 2024, of an Opt-In Application for the Potentia-Viridi Battery Energy Storage System (project) (24-OPT-04). Levy Alameda, LLC ("Applicant"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Obra Maestra Renewables, LLC, proposes to construct and operate a 400-megawatt battery energy storage system (BESS) on approximately 85 acres in eastern Alameda County.

CEC staff issued a Second Determination of Incompleteness and Request for Information letter for the project on April 7, 2025 (TN 262605) for outstanding data needs in the areas of Air Quality (includes Greenhouse Gases), Biological Resources, Cultural/Tribal Cultural Resources, Public Health, and Visual Resources. Additional data is still needed in the areas of Hazardous Materials Handling and Worker Safety and Fire Protection (WSFP) (related to the issue of battery technology options). Subsequent to the issuance of the April 7 letter, staff determined there are no additional information requests for Wildfire.

Pursuant to Public Resources Code, section 25545.4(b), CEC staff requires the information described in the attachments to this letter to be submitted. Attachment A consists of specific requests for Hazardous Materials Handling and WSFP needed for staff to complete its environmental analysis of the proposed project, which includes input from partner agencies who have a memorandum of understanding with the CEC to perform a related review for Opt-In applications.

All requested information is reasonably necessary to prepare an Environmental Impact Report as part of a CEC Staff Assessment and to support a decision on the application, including all the findings required in Chapter 6.2 of Division 15 of the Public Resources Code sections 25545 et seq.

CEC staff asks the applicant to file complete responses by technical area to the requested data in as few submittals as possible and provide an estimated timeline of when the remaining data will be submitted.

Consistent with Public Resources Code, section 25545.4(c)(2) and California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1878, upon receipt of all information responsive to this request, accompanied by a statement from the applicant that its response to the requests for information are now complete and address all identified deficiencies, CEC staff will finalize review of the information provided and document its application completeness determination in a subsequent letter.

If you have any questions about the information identified as necessary to complete the application, please email the CEQA project manager, Eric Veerkamp at eric.veerkamp@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Drew Bohan
Executive Director

Attachment

Attachment A Revision 1 Data Requests

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS HANDLING

The Data Request Response 2 (TN 261454), Subsection 7.1.5 Response to DR HAZ-5 references Attachment 11 – Section 14 (TN 261454) which references a contingency plan for emergency situations during the transportation of Energy Storage System (ESS) enclosures to the job site. However, the description lacks details regarding the specific contents of the contingency plan, including procedures for vehicle breakdowns, accidents, diesel spills, fires, and explosions. Without this information, it is unclear whether the plan meets applicable safety requirements.

> **REV 1 DR HAZ-1.** Please provide a detailed description of the required Attachment 11 – Section 14 (TN 261454) contingency plan, including its specific provisions for emergency response scenarios, compliance with regulatory requirements, and how it will be made available and implemented on-site.

The Data Request Response 2 (TN 261398), Subsection 7.1.7 Response to DR HAZ-7 provides the required contact information for officials and agencies regarding hazardous material and hazards as outlined in California Code of Regulations, title 20, Appendix B (i)(2). However, it does not include a Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPA) contact.

> **REV 1 DR HAZ-2.** Please provide the name and associated contact information for a CUPA official who will serve as the contact person for CEC staff regarding hazardous materials and hazards.

WORKER SAFETY

The Data Request Response Set #2 (TN 261454), Subsection 16.1.2 Response to DR WS-2 references Attachment 11 (TN 261454) which states that no fire suppression system would be provided unless required by the manufacturer's thermal runaway management system. However, it is unclear whether a fire suppression system is entirely absent or if provisions exist for cases where the manufacturer's system does not require one. Attachment 25, Revised Section 3-16, Worker Health and Safety (TN 261413) notes fire suppression inside each container as proposed (page 3.16-19).

> **REV 1 DR WS-1.** Please clarify whether a fire suppression system would be provided in the absence of a requirement by the manufacturer for the thermal runaway management system. If no fire suppression system is planned, explain the passive fire protection measures and other operational techniques that would be implemented at the onset of and during a fire event.

The Data Request Response Set #2 (TN 261454), Subsection 16.1.3 Response to DR WS-3 references Attachment 11 (TN 261454) discusses explosion control

requirements; however, it does not specify whether either a passive explosion control system (like deflagration panels) or an active explosion control system (like ventilation fans and dampers) would be provided. The updated Project Description, Section 2.1.3.1 (TN 261401), does not mention the specific battery proposed for the ESS. Due to the lack of a selected battery manufacturer, explosion control details are missing and are needed to evaluate potential worker safety and fire protection impacts.

> **REV 1 DR WS-2.** Provide more details related to explosion control and if both passive and active explosion control systems would be provided. Provide the number of hours of backup power available for the ventilation system to ensure continuous operation when flammable gas levels require ventilation.

The updated Project Description, Section 2.1.3.1 (TN 261401), does not mention the specific battery proposed for the ESS.

> **REV 1 DR WS-3.** Please provide the battery manufacturer if one has been selected. Furthermore, please provide documentation of UL 9540A testing for the selected battery manufacturer.