

DOCKETED

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Document Title:	Order Approving a Petition to Amend to Allow the Use of Alternative Water Supplies
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION
 AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

**GWF TRACY COMBINED CYCLE
 POWER PLANT**

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Docket No. 08-AFC-7C

Order No. 15-0730-3

STAR WEST GENERATION, LLC

**ORDER APPROVING a Petition to Amend
 to allow the use of alternative water
 supplies**

On June 26, 2015, Star West Generation, LLC (Star West) filed a petition with the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) requesting to modify the Final Decision for the GWF Tracy Combined Cycle Power Plant (GWF Tracy) to provide a range of water supply alternatives to ensure continued operation of their project during the ongoing drought.

The modifications proposed in the petition would allow GWF Tracy to use alternative water supplies (four alternatives are proposed) to avoid being forced to reduce or suspend operations. The proposed modifications will not increase the amount of water used by GWF Tracy to levels above that analyzed in the Final Decision. All alternative water source options could use temporary onsite infrastructure. The temporary equipment includes approximately 110 portable storage tanks with a combined capacity of 7 acre-feet which is approximately a 45-day supply. Collapsible piping to connect the storage tanks to the facility's water treatment system is used with a portable diesel-fueled pump to convey the water through the system. The project owner has filled the tanks with water currently provided to GWF Tracy by the Byron Bethany Irrigation District (BBID) and proposes using the tanks and piping to store and convey water from one or more of the proposed alternative supplies if their BBID water is curtailed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Energy Commission staff reviewed the petition, finds that it complies with the requirements of Title 20, section 1769 (a) of the California Code of Regulations, and recommends approval of Star West's petition to amend the GWF Tracy Project and amend related Condition of Certification **SOIL&WATER-4**.

ENERGY COMMISSION FINDINGS

Based on staff's analysis, the Energy Commission concludes that the proposed modification(s) will not result in any significant impacts to public health and safety, or to the environment. The Energy Commission finds that:

- The petition meets all the filing criteria of Title 20, section 1769 (a), of the California Code of Regulations, concerning post-certification project modifications;
- The modification will not change the findings in the Energy Commission's Final Decision, pursuant to Title 20, section 1755, of the California Code of Regulations;
- The project will remain in compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards, subject to the provisions of Public Resources Code, section 25525;
- The modification will be beneficial to the public and the project owner because it would allow the project flexibility in water use to maintain operations during drought conditions; and
- There has been a substantial change in circumstances since the Energy Commission certification, justifying the modifications, and the modifications are based on information that was not available to the parties prior to Energy Commission certification in that the statewide drought has caused a reduction of available water sources.

CONCLUSION AND ORDER

The Energy Commission hereby adopts staff's recommendations and approves the changes to the Commission Decision for the GWF Tracy Power Plant (see attached conditions of certification). New language is shown as **bold and underlined**, and deleted language is shown in ~~strikethrough~~.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

CERTIFICATION

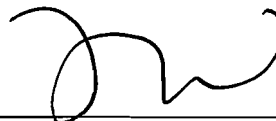
The undersigned Secretariat to the Commission does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the California Energy Commission held on July 30, 2015.

AYE: Weisenmiller, Douglas, Hochschild, Scott

NAY: None

ABSENT: McAllister

ABSTAIN: None



Tiffani Winter,
Secretariat

AMENDED AND DELETED CONDITIONS OF CERTIFICATION

GWF Tracy has also included a request to permanently revise Condition of Certification **SOIL & WATER-4** to allow use of groundwater for project operation. Staff agrees that modification of **SOIL & WATER-4** is necessary to permit the owner to use the proposed alternative options. Staff believes the purpose of the petition is to grant temporary short term use of groundwater as an alternative among four options. Staff concludes the following changes to the condition are needed to ensure there are no impacts from the proposed groundwater use and alternative water use is consistent with Energy Commission water policy. ~~Strikethrough~~ is used to indicate deleted language and **underline and bold** is used for new language.

SOIL & WATER-4: Water used for project operation for process, sanitary and landscape irrigation purposes shall exclusively be raw surface water from Byron-Bethany Irrigation District (BBID)-, **unless recycled water infrastructure from the City of Tracy is within one mile of the project site boundary. Then, the project owner shall file a Petition to Amend, seeking to convert to recycled water use for project operation and permanently define an emergency backup supply(s).** ~~Pumping or purchasing groundwater is prohibited.~~ **In the event that BBID water supply becomes unavailable, the use of alternative water supplies shall be prioritized as follows:**

- **City of Tracy Recycled Water (Alternative 4): The project owner shall use tertiary treated recycled water trucked from the City of Tracy wastewater treatment plant distribution system as the primary back up supply. The owner shall also obtain approval for the use of recycled water at the power plant from the City of Tracy. In the event recycled water is not available or the timing for conversion to recycled water use at GWF Tracy temporarily prevents its use, the project owner shall utilize the water supply identified in Alternative 1 or Alternative 3 below. The project owner must use recycled water whenever a back-up supply is needed and it is available as a backup supply.**
- **GE Water (Alternative 1): Raw water supply from the General Electric- industrial water supply facility in San Jose, California, may be used when recycled water from the City of Tracy is unavailable.**
- **Bogetti Well Water (Alternative 3): Groundwater from the neighboring Bogetti family well may be used when water supply from the City of Tracy is unavailable. The project owner must offset the groundwater use through water conservation measures implemented for the benefit of the Tracy Groundwater Subbasin. The project Owner must submit an Offset Plan for CPM review and approval.**

- **GWF Henrietta Water (Alternative 2): In the event backup water supplies in Alternatives 4, 1, and 3 are not available, the project owner may truck the necessary GWF Henrietta facility water supply for use at GWF Tracy.**
- **All trucks used to transport water to the project are required to comply with ARB's on-road, heavy-duty vehicle program requirements and be scheduled to minimize traffic impacts.**

Water use shall not exceed the annual water-use limit of 54.4 acre-feet per year. The project owner shall monitor and record the total water used on a monthly basis. For calculating the annual water use, the term "year" will correspond to the date established for the annual compliance report submittal.

Prior to using raw surface water **from BBID or any of the alternative supplies identified above** for process needs, the project owner shall install and maintain metering devices as part of the water supply and distribution systems to monitor and record, in gallons per day, the total volume(s) of water supplied to GWF Tracy, ~~from BBID~~. Those metering devices shall be operational for the life of the project.

For the first year of operation, the project owner shall prepare an annual Water Use Summary, which will include the monthly range and monthly average of daily raw surface water usage in gallons per day, and total water used by the project on a monthly and annual basis in acre-feet. For subsequent years, the annual Water Use Summary shall also include the yearly range and yearly average water use by the project. The annual Water Use Summary shall be submitted to the CPM as part of the annual compliance report.

Verification: At least sixty (60) days prior to commercial operation of GWF Tracy, the project owner shall submit to the CPM evidence that metering devices have been installed and are operational on the water supply and distribution systems. When the metering devices are serviced, tested and calibrated, the project owner shall provide a report summarizing these activities in the next annual compliance report. The project owner, in the annual compliance report, shall provide a Water Use Summary that states the source and quantity of ~~raw surface~~ water used on a monthly basis and on an annual basis in units of acre-feet. Prior annual water use including yearly range and yearly average shall be reported in subsequent annual compliance reports.

At least 48 hours prior to use of back up water supplies from Alternative 4, 1, or 3, the project owner shall notify the CPM. If Alternative 1 or 3 is used, the notification shall include a discussion of why Alternative 4 could not be used and an estimate of when it can be used. The notification will also provide evidence that all trucks used to transport water comply with ARB's on-road, heavy-duty vehicle program requirements and will be scheduled to minimize traffic impacts.

Within 120 days of use of groundwater from the Bogetti Well in Alternative 3, the project owner shall provide a plan showing how the groundwater use will be offset. The offset plan shall include information on the measures to be used to achieve groundwater offset, when the offset will be implemented, how the offset will be verified, costs for implementation of the offset measures, and discussion of whether any other agency review and approvals are needed for implementation.

At least 48 hours prior to use of the backup water supply from Alternative 2, the project owner shall notify the CPM. The notification shall include a discussion of why Alternative 4, 1, and 3 could not be used and an estimate of when Alternative 4 can be used. The notification will also provide evidence that all trucks used to transport water comply with ARB's on-road, heavy-duty vehicle program requirements and will be scheduled to minimize traffic impacts.

The project owner shall return to use of Alternative 4 at the time described in the notification and as agreed to with the CPM. The project owner shall provide a monthly notification describing what progress is being made for use of Alternative 4, while other alternative backup water supplies are in use.