

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
PETITION TO AMEND
THE EL SEGUNDO ENERGY CENTER PROJECT
(00-AFC-14C)**

On January 7, 2016, California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) staff docketed the El Segundo Energy Center LLC's petition requesting to replace thermal insulation on steam turbine casings and to install weatherization enclosures over the El Segundo Energy Center (ESEC) steam turbines. The ESEC is located on the Pacific coast near the ocean shore, at 301 Vista Del Mar, El Segundo, between Dockweiler State Beach and the city of Manhattan Beach and approximately two miles south of the Los Angeles International Airport. The Energy Commission first certified the original 630-megawatt El Segundo Redevelopment Project facility on February 2, 2005. Subsequent amendments approved on June 30, 2010 and August 9, 2012 respectively, began its conversion to a nominal 560-megawatt rapid response combined-cycle facility using dry cooling and zero liquid discharge technology.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

ESEC's two power blocks each consist of two 1x1 combined-cycle units containing one gas turbine generator, one heat recovery steam generator and a steam turbine generator (STG). The proposed modifications consist of the replacement of thermal insulation on steam turbine (ST) casings and installation of ST weatherization enclosures on Units 6 and 8 at the ESEC site. The weatherization enclosures are necessary due to operation and maintenance issues associated with the lengthy removal and replacement requirements of spray-on thermal insulation on the ST casings. The originally installed spray-on thermal insulation was designed to help maintain consistent temperature across the ST rotor and prevent exposure of ancillary operational equipment and sensor systems to rain and the corrosive marine environment.

The proposed ST enclosures are steel framed, canopy type structures that will be bolt mounted to the turbine platform. No excavation is required, and installation is estimated to require one day per enclosure.

The Energy Commission webpage for this facility is <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/elsegundo/> and has a link to the amendment petition on the right side of the webpage in the box labeled "Compliance Proceeding." Click on the "Documents for this Proceeding (Docket Log)" option.

ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF REVIEW AND DETERMINATION

Energy Commission staff reviewed the petition for potential environmental effects and consistency with the Energy Commission Decision and applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS). Energy Commission staff has determined that the proposed modification would have no significant adverse impacts and the project would

remain in compliance with applicable LORS. Staff's conclusions in each technical area are summarized in **Table 1**, below.

**TABLE 1
 SUMMARY OF STAFF RESPONSES TO PETITION**

TECHNICAL/ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS REVIEWED	STAFF RESPONSE			Revised Conditions of Certification Recommended
	Technical Area Not Affected	No Significant Environmental Impact or LORS Inconsistency*	Process As Amendment	
Air Quality		X	N/A	N/A
Biological Resources		X	N/A	N/A
Cultural Resources	X		N/A	N/A
Facility Design		X	N/A	N/A
Geological and Paleontological Resources	X		N/A	N/A
Hazardous Materials Management	X		N/A	N/A
Land Use	X		N/A	N/A
Noise and Vibration		X	N/A	N/A
Public Health	X		N/A	N/A
Socioeconomics	X		N/A	N/A
Soil and Water Resources	X		N/A	N/A
Traffic and Transportation		X	N/A	N/A
Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance	X		N/A	N/A
Transmission System Engineering	X		N/A	N/A
Visual Resources		X	N/A	N/A
Waste Management		X	N/A	N/A
Worker Safety and Fire Protection		X	N/A	N/A

*No Commission approval is necessary where staff determines there is no possibility that the proposed modifications would have a significant effect on the environment, and the modifications would not result in a change in or deletion of a condition adopted by the Commission in the Final Decision, or make changes that would cause project noncompliance with any applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1769 (a)(2)).

Staff has determined that the technical or environmental areas of Cultural Resources, Geological and Paleontological Resources, Hazardous Materials Management, Land Use, Public Health, Socioeconomics, Soil and Water Resources, Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance, and Transmission System Engineering are not affected by the proposed changes.

For the technical or environmental areas of Air Quality, Biological Resources, Facility Design, Noise and Vibration, Traffic and Transportation, Visual Resources, Waste Management, and Worker Safety and Fire Protection, staff has determined the modified project would continue to comply with applicable LORS and no changes are needed to any conditions of certification to ensure impacts would be less than significant. Staff notes the following for these technical or environmental areas:

AIR QUALITY

Staff concludes that the proposed modifications would not affect air quality emissions or impacts. The proposed modifications would not result in a change or deletion of any air quality conditions of certification. The modified project would continue to comply with applicable federal, state and South Coast Air Quality Management District air quality LORS.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

There would be no direct impacts to biological resources from construction, as it would take place within an existing paved area within the existing ESEC site. However, potential indirect impacts to wildlife could occur if nesting opportunities are provided by leaving construction equipment such as the proposed boom on site for an extended period of time, which could provide a nesting substrate. Birds may initiate nesting within 24 hours of a new nesting substrate being provided. However, the existing Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training would cover and convey the importance of reporting any nesting bird activity in or near the construction area to the Designated Biologist or Biological Monitor. Implementation of existing Conditions of Certification **BIO-6** (Designated Biologist Selection), **BIO-7** (Designated Biologist Duties), **BIO-8** (Designated Biologist Authority), and **BIO-10** (WEAP) would ensure impacts to any nesting birds would be less than significant.

FACILITY DESIGN

Installation connections associated with these enclosures must comply with the 2013 California Building Code (CBC) and related engineering LORS. Implementation of the existing **Facility Design** conditions of certification adopted in the Energy Commission Decision would ensure this.

NOISE AND VIBRATION

Construction work associated with installation of these enclosures would occur during the daytime hours and would be short-term. Any noise generated during this activity would result in a less-than-significant impact with implementation of the existing **Noise** conditions of certification adopted in the Energy Commission Decision. These enclosures could potentially reduce the facility's operational noise profile in and around the STG units.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

The proposed installation of a canopy cover to weatherize the steam turbines would have no significant traffic impacts and, to comply with LORS, the project owner must adhere to Condition of Certification **TRANS-1** (Overweight and Oversize Vehicles).

VISUAL RESOURCES

The proposed amendment would have no significant adverse visual impacts. Conditions of Certification **VIS-1**, **VIS-4**, and **VIS-5** would not apply to this proposed modification because the installation of the weather protection enclosures would not be visible to the public.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

The proposed modifications would generate waste. All waste generated and disposed of would be covered by Condition of Certification **WASTE-3**.

WORKER SAFETY AND FIRE PROTECTION

With ongoing compliance with existing conditions of certification, the proposed installation of 2 weather enclosures for steam turbines 6 and 8 would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS. The short duration for the installation of the weather enclosures shall comply with worker safety and fire safety measures contained in health and safety plans utilized for construction of the main facility already in place per Condition of Certification **WORKER SAFETY-1**.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The **Environmental Justice Population Figure** shows 2010 census blocks in the six-mile radius of the ESEC with a minority population greater than or equal to 50 percent. The population in these census blocks represents an Environmental Justice (EJ) population based on race and ethnicity as defined in the Council on Environmental Quality's *Environmental Justice: Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act*.

Due to the reliability of some of the data, staff used a combination of poverty data from the US Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) and California Department of Education data to identify populations living in a six-mile radius of the ESEC project site. Based on the combined data in the **Environmental Justice Population Table**, staff concluded that when compared with the below-poverty-level population in Los Angeles County, the cities of Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, and the census designated place, Lennox, have a higher percent of people living below the poverty level, and thus are considered an EJ population based on poverty as defined in *Environmental Justice: Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act*. Also, staff concluded that the percentage of those living in the Centinela Valley Union High School District and Hawthorne Elementary School District and enrolled in the free or reduced price meal program are comparatively greater than those in the reference geographies, and thus are also considered an EJ population based on poverty.

**Environmental Justice Population Table-
 Poverty Data within the Project Area**

GEOGRAPHIES IN A SIX-MILE RADIUS	Total Population	Population Below Poverty Level	Percent Below Poverty Level (%)
	Estimate*	Estimate	Estimate
Hawthorne	85,236 ±279	16,852 ±1,423	19.8 ±1.7
Inglewood	110,147 ±301	24,742 ±1,723	22.5 ±1.6
Lawndale	33,079 ±72	5,899 ±1,082	17.8 ±3.3
Lennox	21,868 ±1,077	7,329 ±1,065	33.5 ±4.7
Manhattan Beach	35,463 ±62	1,194 ±260	3.4 ±0.7
Redondo Beach	67,361 ±113	3,522 ±598	5.2 ±0.9
REFERENCE GEOGRAPHY			
Los Angeles County	9,819,397 ±3,827	1,805,868 ±15,906	18.4 ±0.2
SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN SIX-MILE RADIUS			
	Enrollment Used for Meals	Free or Reduced Price Meals	
El Segundo Unified School District	3,477	376	10.8%
Centinela Valley Union High School District	7,878	5,431	68.9%
Hawthorne Elementary School District	8,809	7,0636	86.7%
REFERENCE GEOGRAPHY			
Los Angeles County	1,539,675	1,023,956	66.5%

Notes: * Population for whom poverty is determined. Staff's analysis of the 2010 – 2014 estimates returned coefficient of variation values less than 15, indicating the data is reliable.

Sources: US Census Bureau. S1701 Poverty Status in the past 12 months, 2010-2014 ACS 5 year estimates, <<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>>. CDE 2015. California Department of Education, DataQuest, Free or Reduced Price Meals, Last Modified: March 20, 2015, <<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>>.

The project modification would not significantly affect any population including the Environmental Justice population as shown in the **Environmental Justice Population Figure and Table**.

Section 1769(a)(2) of Title 20, California Code of Regulations, states, “(w)here staff determines that there is no possibility that the modifications may have a significant effect on the environment, and if the modifications will not result in a change or deletion of a condition adopted by the commission in the final decision or make changes that would cause the project not to comply with any applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards, no commission approval is required....”

Pursuant to that section, Energy Commission staff has determined for this petition that approval by the full Commission is not required and the proposed modifications meet the criteria for approval at the staff level because:

- The modifications will not have any significant effect on the environment;
- Existing conditions of certification are sufficient to cover the proposed modifications without changes to, or deletions of, any conditions of certification; and
- The project as modified will maintain full compliance with applicable LORS.

This Notice of Determination has been mailed to the Energy Commission's facility mail list of interested parties and property owners adjacent to the facility site. It has also been e-mailed to the facility listserv. The listserv is an automated Energy Commission e-mail system by which information about this facility is e-mailed to parties who have subscribed. To subscribe, go to the Energy Commission's webpage for this facility, cited above, scroll down the right side of the project's webpage to the box labeled "Subscribe," and provide the requested contact information.

Any person may file an objection to staff's determination within 14 days of the date of this Notice on the grounds that the project modification does not meet the criteria set forth in section 1769(a)(2). Absent any relevant objections, the amendment petition will be approved 14 days after this Notice is docketed. To use the Energy Commission's electronic commenting feature to object to staff's determination, go to the Energy Commission's webpage for this facility, cited above, click on the "Submit e-Comment" link, and follow the instructions in the on-line form. Be sure to include the facility name in your comments. Once submitted, the Energy Commission Dockets Unit reviews and approves your comments, and you will receive an e-mail with a link to them.

Written comments may also be mailed or hand-delivered to:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 00-AFC-14C
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

All comments and materials filed with and approved by the Dockets Unit will be added to the facility Docket Log and be publicly accessible on the Energy Commission's webpage for the facility.

If you have questions about this Notice, please contact Dale Rundquist, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 651-2072, or by fax to (916) 654-3882, or via e-mail at Dale.Rundquist@energy.ca.gov.

For information on participating in the Energy Commission's review of the petition, call Alana Mathews, Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or (800) 822-6228 (toll-free in California) or send your e-mail to publicadviser@energy.ca.gov.

News media inquiries should be directed to the Energy Commission Media Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail to mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

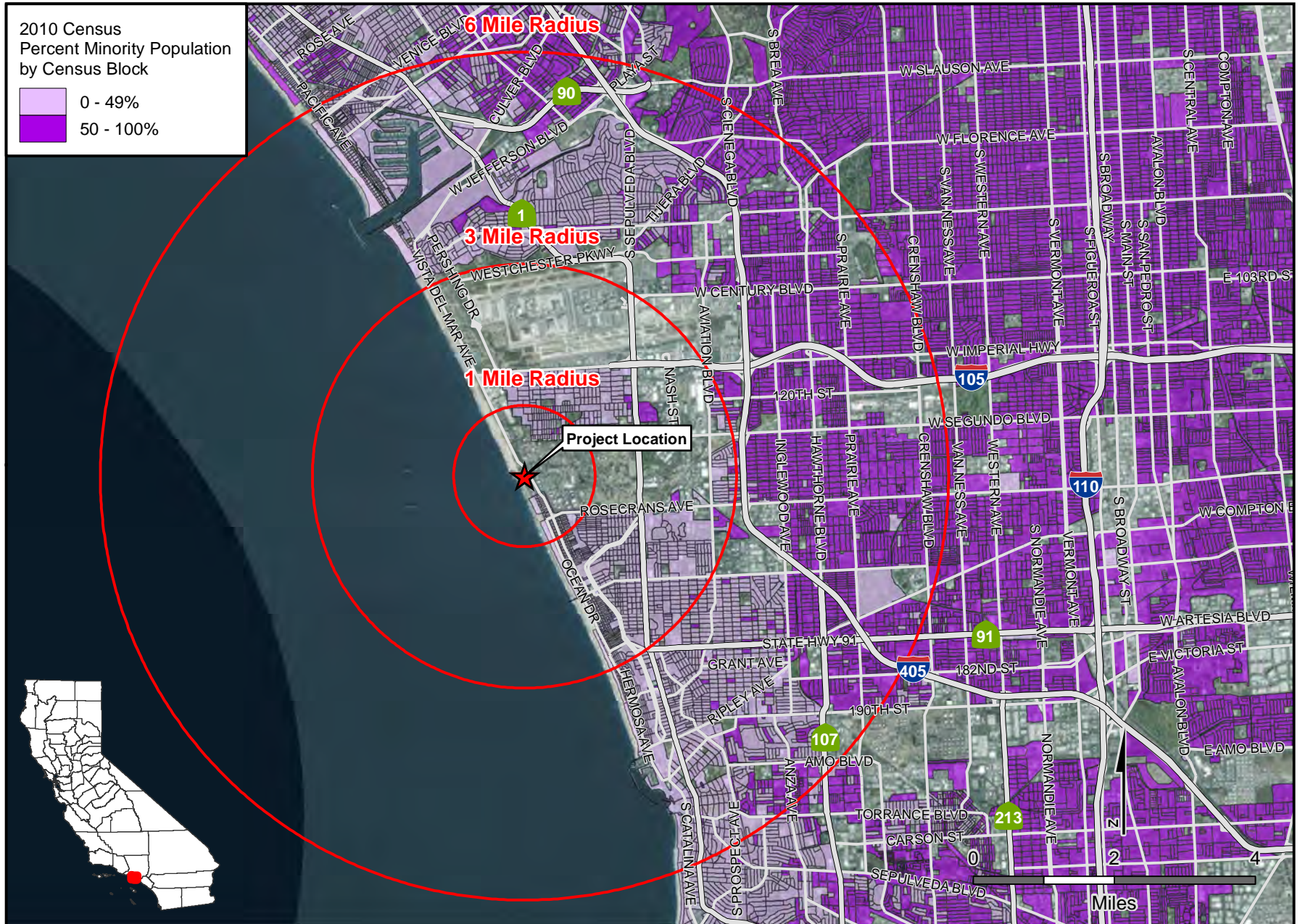
Date: October 28, 2016

Originally Signed By

Christine Root, Compliance Office Manager
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cc: Mail List 7046
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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POPULATION FIGURE
 El Segundo Power Plant Project - Census 2010 Minority Population by Census Block



2010 Census
 Percent Minority Population
 by Census Block

- 0 - 49%
- 50 - 100%