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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov



**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
PETITION TO AMEND
COLUSA GENERATING STATION
(06-AFC-09C)**

On March 2, 2017 Day Zen, LLC, on behalf of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), filed a petition with the California Energy Commission requesting modifications to the Colusa Generating Station (CGS). CGS is a 660-megawatt, combined-cycle facility located in an unincorporated area of Colusa County, six miles north of the community of Maxwell. The project was certified by the Energy Commission on April 23, 2008, and began producing power on December 22, 2010.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

The amendment is seeking approval to modify the CGS to add a permanent stairway to access two condensate return pumps for the air-cooled condenser (ACC).

For additional information, the Energy Commission's webpage for this facility, <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/colusa/index.html>, has a link to the petition to amend (TN# 216756) accessible through the webpage in the box labeled "Compliance Proceeding." Click on the "Documents for this Proceeding (Docket Log)" option.

ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF REVIEW AND DETERMINATION

Pursuant to section 1769(a)(2) of Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Energy Commission approval of a petition to amend at a noticed Business Meeting is not required "(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 [LORS]...."

Staff has determined for this petition that formal approval by the Energy 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.

Staff's conclusions for each technical or environmental area are summarized in the following table:

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 |
| Biological Resources | X | | | N/A |
| Cultural Resources | X | | | N/A |
| Efficiency | X | | | N/A |
| Facility Design | | X | | N/A |
| Geological and Paleontological Resources | | X | | N/A |
| Hazardous Materials Management | | X | | N/A |
| Land Use | X | | | N/A |
| Noise and Vibration | | X | | N/A |
| Public Health | X | | | N/A |
| Reliability | X | | | N/A |
| Socioeconomics | | X | | N/A |
| Soil and Water Resources | X | | | N/A |
| Traffic and Transportation | | X | | N/A |
| Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance | X | | | N/A |
| Transmission System Engineering | X | | | N/A |
| Visual Resources | X | | | N/A |
| Waste Management | X | | | N/A |
| Worker Safety and Fire Protection | | X | | N/A |

*No formal Energy 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)).

Energy Commission technical staff reviewed the petition for potential environmental effects and consistency with applicable LORS. Staff has determined that the technical or environmental areas of Biology, Cultural Resources, Efficiency, Land Use, Public Health, Reliability, Soil and Water Resources, Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance, Transmission System Engineering, Visual Resources, and Waste Management are not affected by the proposed changes.

For the technical areas of Air Quality, Facility Design, Geological and Paleontological Resources, Hazardous Materials Management, Traffic and Transportation, and Worker Safety and Fire Protection, staff has determined the project would continue to comply with applicable LORS and no changes to any conditions of certification are necessary to ensure that no significant impacts occur. Therefore, staff is processing the request as a Staff-Approved Project Modification. Staff notes the following for these technical areas:

Air Quality. The modification requests approval to add a permanent stairway to access two condensate return pumps for the Air Cooled Condenser. This request is not expected to cause a significant impact to air quality.

Facility Design. Installation of the staircase must comply with the 2016 California Building Code. Implementation of the existing Facility Design conditions of certification adopted in the Final Commission Decision (TN# 46033) would ensure this.

Geological and Paleontological Resources. Construction of the stairway would take place within the existing ACC condensate pit. All work would occur on site within existing facilities. No ground disturbance would occur, therefore there is no potential for impact to geologic or paleontologic resources.

Hazardous Materials Management. The construction and installation of the ACC pump pit stairway would not have a significant effect on the environment.

Noise and Vibration. Construction work associated with this petition would be temporary and would occur during the daytime hours. Any noise generated during these activities would result in a less-than-significant impact with implementation of the existing Noise conditions of certification in the Decision

Socioeconomics. The installation of a permanent stairway to access two condensate return pumps for the ACC would take approximately three days and require three to four workers. From a socioeconomics standpoint, the proposed amendment would have less than significant workforce-related impacts on housing and community services.

Traffic and Transportation. Installation of the permanent stairway would have less than significant traffic impacts. Construction activities are anticipated to be completed within 3 days. The construction workforce would not exceed more than four workers onsite on a regular basis and construction equipment would be transported to the site in one truck trip.

Worker Safety and Fire Protection. The construction and installation of the pump pit stairway would enhance power plant worker safety while continuing to comply with the existing conditions of certification.

Environmental Justice (EJ)

The **Environmental Justice Population Figure** (attached) shows 2010 census blocks in the six-mile radius of the CGS with a minority population greater than or equal to 50 percent. The population in these census blocks represents an EJ population based on race and ethnicity as defined in the United States Environmental Protection Agency's *Guidance on Considering Environmental Justice During the Development of Regulatory Actions*.

Based on California Department of Education data in the **Environmental Justice Population Table** below, staff concludes that the percentage of those living in the two school districts in a six-mile radius of the project site and enrolled in the free or reduced price meal program are comparatively fewer than those in the reference geographies, and thus are not considered an EJ population based on low income as defined in the United States Environmental Protection Agency's *Guidance on Considering Environmental Justice During the Development of Regulatory Actions*.

**Environmental Justice Population Table-
Low Income Data within the Project Area**

| SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN SIX-MILE RADIUS | Enrollment Used for Meals | Free or Reduced Price Meals | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| Maxwell Unified School District | 329 | 55 | 16.7% |
| REFERENCE GEOGRAPHY | | | |
| Colusa County | 4,630 | 3,153 | 68.1% |
| Willows Unified School District | 1,435 | 930 | 64.8% |
| REFERENCE GEOGRAPHY | | | |
| Glenn County | 5,629 | 3,771 | 67.0% |

Source: CDE 2016. California Department of Education, DataQuest, Free or Reduced Price Meals, Selected District level data for the year 2014-2015, <<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>>.

Staff has determined that the impacts of the proposed modifications would be less than significant or less than significant with implementation of existing conditions of certification. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant for any population in the project's six-mile radius, including the EJ population represented in the **Environmental Justice Population Figure**.

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 emailed to the facility listserv. The listserv is an automated Energy Commission email system by which information about this facility is emailed 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, this petition to amend 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 they are posted, you will receive an email with a link to them.

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

California Energy Commission
Dockets Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 06-AFC-09C
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

COLUSA GENERATING STATION
06-AFC-09C

All comments and materials filed 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 Keith Winstead, Project Manager, at (916) 654-5191, or by fax to (916) 654-3882, or via e-mail at keith.winstead@energy.ca.gov.

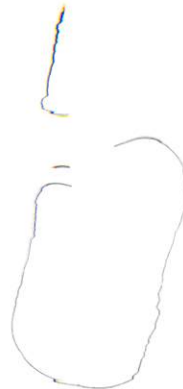
For information on participating in the Energy Commission's review of the petition, please call the Public Adviser at (800) 822-6228 (toll-free in California) or send your email to publicadviser@energy.ca.gov. News media inquiries should be directed to the Energy Commission Media Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail to mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

Date _____

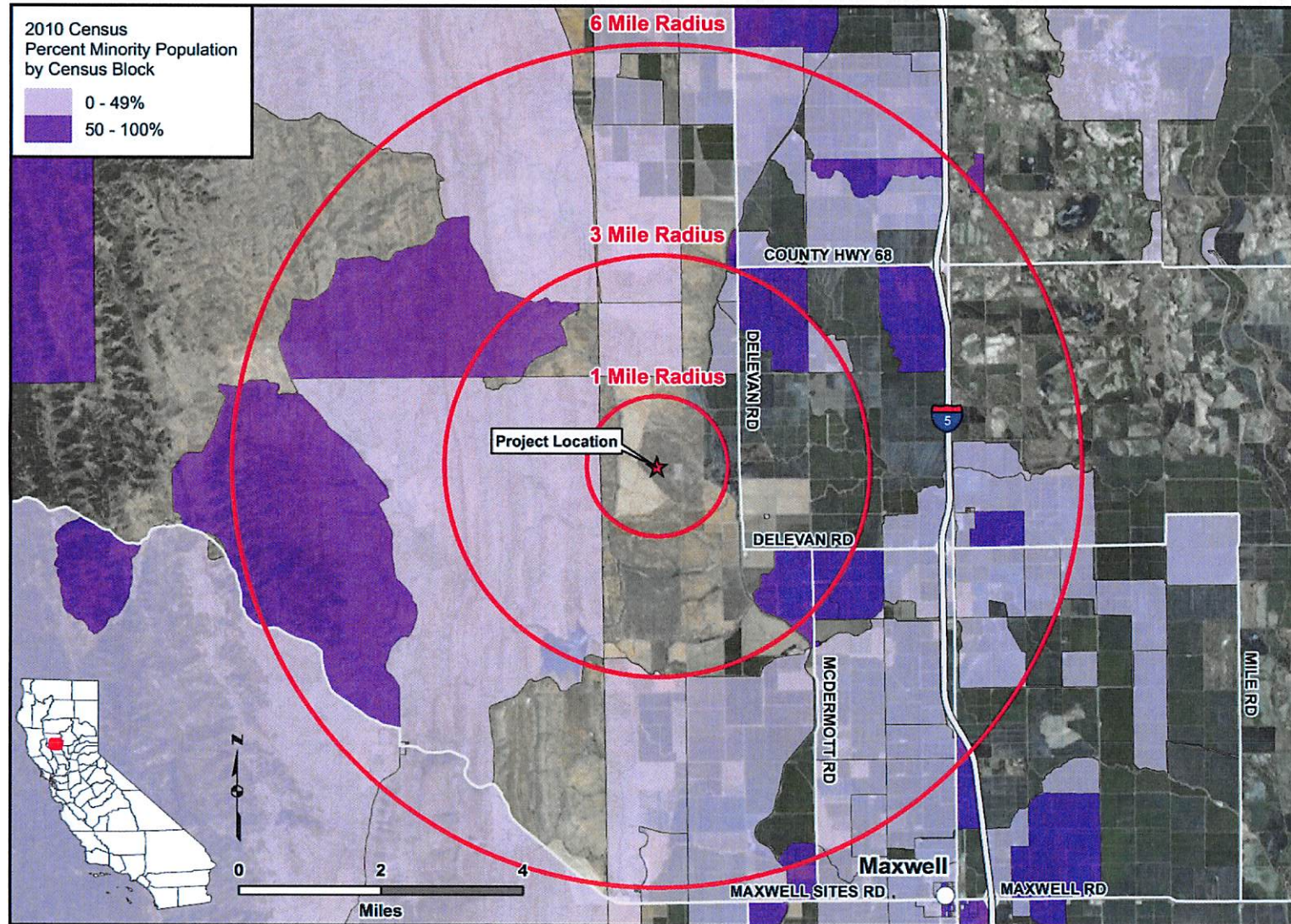
Chris Davis

Siting Office Manager
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection
Division

CC: Colusa Mail list 7182
Colusa listserv



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POPULATION FIGURE
Colusa Generating Station - Environmental Justice Population Figure



CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION - SITING, TRANSMISSION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
SOURCE: Census 2010 PL 94-171 Data