

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	19-SPPE-01
Project Title:	Laurelwood Data Center (MECP I Santa Clara I, LLC)
TN #:	227871
Document Title:	Notice of Committee Conference and Related Orders
Description:	Committee Conference set for May 8, 2019, at 10:30 a.m., in Sacramento
Filer:	Susan Cochran
Organization:	Energy Commission Hearing Office
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Before the Energy Resources Conservation and Development
Commission of the State of California
1516 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – www.energy.ca.gov

APPLICATION FOR SMALL POWER PLANT
EXEMPTION FOR THE:

LAURELWOOD DATA CENTER

Docket No. 19-SPPE-01

NOTICE OF COMMITTEE CONFERENCE AND RELATED ORDERS

On March 5, 2019, MECP1 Santa Clara 1, LLC (Applicant) submitted an application for a small power plant exemption (SPPE)¹ for the Laurelwood Data Center to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission).

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Energy Commission has designated a committee (Committee) of two commissioners to conduct proceedings on the SPPE.² The Committee has scheduled a Committee Conference:

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019
10:30 a.m.**

**California Energy Commission
Art Rosenfeld Hearing Room (Hearing Room A)
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(*Wheelchair accessible*)**

REMOTE ACCESS AVAILABLE BY COMPUTER OR PHONE VIA WEBEX™
(For instructions, please see the **Remote Attendance** section on page 4 below.)

BACKGROUND AND PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Small Power Plant Exemptions

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing, and ultimately approving or denying, all thermal electric power plants 50 MW and greater proposed for construction and operation in California. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25541, the Energy Commission may grant an exemption to this authority and allow applicants to

¹ All of the documents comprising the SPPE application can be found at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=19-SPPE-01>

² The Energy Commission appointed a Committee consisting of Karen Douglas, Commissioner and Presiding Member, and Janea A. Scott, Commissioner and Associate Member, at an Energy Commission Business Meeting on April 10, 2019 (TN 227638).

obtain a license through the local review and approval process if a project is less than 100 MW. Known as the small power plant exemption, it is an expedited process designed to exempt small, efficient, and relatively benign power plants from the Energy Commission's Application for Certification jurisdiction. If an SPPE is granted, the Energy Commission relinquishes jurisdiction over the power plant to responsible local land use authority and other agencies, most notably any local air management or air pollution control district, including any necessary environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).³

To grant a request for an SPPE, the Energy Commission must determine the proposed project's generating capacity. If the Energy Commission determines that the project's generating capacity is less than 100 MW, then, the Energy Commission must determine whether the construction or operation of the proposed project would result in substantial adverse impacts on the environment or energy resources.⁴ In making these determinations, the Energy Commission is the "lead agency" under CEQA and follows the substantive and procedural requirements of that law.⁵

The SPPE process provides a public forum allowing the Applicant, Energy Commission staff (Staff), intervenors, governmental agencies, and members of the public to participate in the decision-making process.

The Laurelwood SPPE

Applicant proposes to build the Laurelwood Data Center (Laurelwood or Proposed Project) at 2201 Laurelwood Road, in Santa Clara, California. Laurelwood would consist of two four-story buildings to be operated as a "server farm." Both buildings would include loading docks and storm-water bioswales.

Silicon Valley Power (SVP) would be the primary power provider to the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would include the construction and operation of an on-site, 60-kilovolt (kV) substation with a 600-foot long electrical supply line, connecting to an existing SVP 60-kv distribution line located 0.1 miles west of the Proposed Project site. The approximately 29,000-square-foot substation would be located in the southwest corner of the Proposed Project site. Additional project features include electrical switchgear and distribution lines between the substation and buildings as well as from the backup generator yards and each respective building.

To ensure an uninterruptible power source, Laurelwood proposes to install 56 3-MW diesel-fired, back-up generators, and a maximum 99-MW load of information technology, cooling, and ancillary equipment. The generators would be distributed in redundant

³ The CEQA statute, California Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. codifies a statewide policy of environmental protection. The California Resources Agency promulgates the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15000 et seq. (Guidelines), which details the protocol by which state and local agencies comply with CEQA requirements. We refer to the statute and the Guidelines collectively as "CEQA."

⁴ Pub. Resources Code, §25541.

⁵ Pub. Resources Code, §25519, subd. (c).

configurations where five units would be available, but only four would actually run to provide up to 99 MW, the maximum building load of Laurelwood. Each generator would have an approximately 10,300-gallon diesel fuel tank located underneath to provide sufficient fuel storage to operate the generator at steady state continuous load for at least 48 hours. Each building's back-up generators would be supported by an uninterruptible power supply system consisting of batteries, an inverter, and switches to facilitate the uninterrupted transfer of electrical power from the SVP substation to the on-site standby generators in the event of a utility or equipment failure.

CEQA requires the lead agency to consider the whole of the action. Therefore, the Energy Commission will include the entire data center project in its analysis, which includes the construction of two new four-story data center buildings, the switchyard, and the installation and operation of the generators.

ORDER REGARDING PROPOSED SCHEDULE AND ISSUES IDENTIFICATION REPORT

To assist participants in understanding the Laurelwood SPPE, Staff shall file a proposed schedule for the Proposed Project review and an Issues Identification Report summarizing the major issues identified to date. This report will also indicate what additional information is necessary to resolve issues of concern. The proposed schedule and Staff's Issues Identification Report shall be filed **no later than May 1, 2019**. The Applicant shall file its response, if any, **no later than May 6, 2019**.

Applicant shall be prepared to offer an overview of the Laurelwood SPPE at the Committee Conference. Staff shall also be prepared to offer an overview of the SPPE process and Issues Identification Report. Overviews may include presentations and should not be longer than 15 minutes. If presentations are used, they must be filed to the docket by 4 p.m., **May 6, 2019**.

Copies of these documents will be posted on the Energy Commission's web page at www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/laurelwood/.

PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

The purpose of this Committee Conference is to allow the Committee, the parties, and the public to have a dialogue on the process and proceeding, including scheduling future dates to resolve the Application and to receive additional input on the Issues Identification Reports discussed above.

PUBLIC ADVISER AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Energy Commission invites members of the public and other interested parties to participate either on an informal basis or by intervening in the proceeding. Both types of participation allow written and oral comments. At the informal participation level, written and oral comments are considered by the Committee and are part of the record, but are not part of the evidence upon which the Energy Commission can base its decision. The Energy Commission must base its decision on the formal evidentiary record. Intervenor

have the right to introduce evidence into the evidentiary record and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses.

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office is available to assist the public in participating in the SPPE review process. For information on how to participate, contact Jennifer Martin-Gallardo, Acting Public Adviser, at publicadviser@energy.ca.gov, (916) 654-4489, or (800) 822-6228.

OTHER ENERGY COMMISSION CONTACTS

Questions of a procedural nature should be directed to Susan Cochran, Hearing Officer, by e-mail at susan.cochran@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-3965.

Technical questions concerning the Proposed Project should be addressed to Leonidas Payne, Staff Project Manager, by e-mail at leonidas.payne@energy.ca.gov or (916) 651-0966.

Media inquiries should be sent to the Media and Public Communications Office at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4989.

If you have a disability and require assistance to participate in this event, please contact Yolanda Rushin at Yolanda.Rushin@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4310 at least five days in advance.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE

You may participate in this meeting through WebEx, the Energy Commission's on-line meeting service. Any presentations will appear on your computer screen and you may listen to audio via your computer or telephone. Please be aware that the meeting may be recorded.

Via Computer: Go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the meeting number **929 381 598**. When prompted, enter your name and email address. No meeting password is needed.

The "Join Conference" menu will offer you a choice of audio connections:

1. To call into the meeting: Select "I will call in" and follow the on-screen directions.
2. International attendees: Click on the "Global call-in number" link.
3. To have WebEx call you: Enter your direct dial phone number (no extensions are permitted) and click "Call Me."
4. To listen over the computer: If you have a broadband connection, and a headset or a computer microphone and speakers, you may use VoIP (Internet audio) by going to the Audio menu, clicking on "Use Computer Headset," then "Call Using Computer."

Via Telephone Only (No Visual Presentation): Call (866) 469-3239 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada). When prompted, enter the meeting number **929 381 598**. International callers may select their number from:

<https://energy.webex.com/energy/globalcallin.php>

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www.webex.com/products/web-conferencing/mobile.html

Please be aware that WebEx audio and on-screen activity may be recorded. WebEx Technical Support is available at (866) 229-3239.

Muting

We greatly appreciate your cooperation in reducing noise on the audio connection by muting your line when you are not speaking. Mute your line rather than placing your phone on hold. Using WebEx, you may mute yourself by right clicking on your name in the panelists or attendees list and selecting "Mute." If you are only using a telephone connection, press "*6" once to mute and again to unmute.

Availability of Documents

Information regarding the status of the Proposed Project, as well as notices and other relevant documents pertaining to this proceeding, may be viewed on the Energy Commission's web page at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/laurelwood/>.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 25th date of April 2019, at Sacramento, California

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Karen Douglas
Commissioner and Presiding Member
Laurelwood Data Center SPPE Committee

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Janea A. Scott
Commissioner and Associate Member
Laurelwood Data Center SPPE
Committee

Mailed to list number(s): 7529

AGENDA
Laurelwood Data Center Project (19-SPPE-01)
Committee Conference

May 8, 2019, at 10:30 a.m.

California Energy Commission
Art Rosenfeld Room (Hearing Room A)
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

1. Call to Order
2. Status Conference
 - a. Applicant's overview of the proposed Laurelwood project
 - b. Staff's overview of SPPE process and Issues Identification Report for the proposed Laurelwood project
 - c. Presentation by the Public Adviser
 - d. Discussion of proposed schedules

3. Public Comment

Members of the public and other interested persons and entities may speak up to three minutes on a matter related to this proceeding.

4. Closed Session⁶

Committee closed session consideration of the following items:

DELIBERATION ON THE SMALL POWER PLANT EXEMPTION FOR THE LAURELWOOD DATA CENTER

5. Adjourn

6. Agency Contact: Susan Cochran, Hearing Officer, phone: (916) 654-3965, or e-mail at susan.cochran@energy.ca.gov.

⁶ The Committee may adjourn to closed session in accordance with Government Code section 11126, subdivision (c)(3), which allows a state body, including a delegated committee, to hold a closed session to deliberate on a decision to be reached in a proceeding the state body was required by law to conduct.