DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	19-SPPE-02
Project Title:	Walsh Data Center
TN #:	233386
Document Title:	Orders after Evidentiary Hearing and Second Revised Scheduling Order
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Muoi-Lynn Tran
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Committee
Submission Date:	6/9/2020 5:50:39 PM
Docketed Date:	6/10/2020



State of California State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission

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APPLICATION FOR SMALL POWER PLANT EXEMPTION FOR THE:

WALSH BACKUP GENERATING FACILITY

Docket No. 19-SPPE-02

ORDERS AFTER EVIDENTIARY HEARING AND SECOND REVISED SCHEDULING ORDER

On June 28, 2019, 651 Walsh Partners, LLC (Applicant) submitted an application (Application) to the California Energy Commission (CEC)¹ for a small powerplant exemption for the Walsh Backup Generating Facility in Santa Clara, California.²

The Applicant proposes to construct the Walsh Backup Generating Facility (Backup Generators)³ to be located at 651 Walsh Avenue in Santa Clara, California. The Backup Generators would be used to ensure an uninterruptible power supply for the Walsh Data Center (Data Center).

On May 27, 2020, the CEC Committee⁴ appointed to conduct proceedings on the Application held an evidentiary hearing.

ORDER ON BRIEFS

The Committee welcomes legal briefs from the parties. Each party may submit only one brief; there will be no reply briefs allowed. Any party wishing to file a brief shall do so **no later than seven (7) business days** after the Reporter's Transcript from the May 27, 2020, Evidentiary Hearing is filed. All briefs shall be limited to 15 pages; shall be in a font size no less than 12 points; and shall not include any attachments. Briefs shall

¹ The CEC is formally known as the "State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission." (Pub. Resources Code, § 25200. All subsequent citations are to the Public Resources Code unless otherwise specified.)

² All of the documents related to the Application can be found at: https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=19-SPPE-02.

³ The Backup Generators: 33 diesel-fired generators distributed in two different redundant configurations³ to provide up to 80 MW, the maximum building load of the Data Center.

⁴ The CEC designated a Committee consisting of Karen Douglas, Commissioner and Presiding Member, and Patty Monahan, Commissioner and Associate Member, to preside over the Application on July 15, 2019 (TN 228984).

apply the law to the evidence in the hearing record, citing the evidence by exhibit and page numbers.

While the parties may include other topics in their briefs, the parties are invited, but not required, to respond to the following questions:

- 1. Page 5.8-15 of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration⁵ states in pertinent part: "[T]he Cap-and-Trade Program, through the regulation of upstream electricity producers, would account for GHG emissions from the project and require emissions from covered sectors to be reduced by the amount needed to achieve AB 32's 2030 goal." How does the Cap-and-Trade Program apply, if at all, to the analysis under CEQA Guideline 15064.4, of the greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity consumption of the proposed project?
- 2. Explain whether the incremental contribution of the project's greenhouse gas emissions indirectly caused by the electricity consumption of the proposed project are significant.

SCHEDULING ORDER

The schedule attached to this Notice **<u>supersedes</u>** all other schedules issued by the Committee.

PUBLIC ADVISOR AND OTHER CEC CONTACTS

The CEC's Public Advisor's Office provides the public assistance in participating in CEC proceedings. For information on how to participate in this proceeding, please contact the Public Advisor, Noemí O. Gallardo, at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov, or by phone at (916) 654-4489, or toll free at (800) 822-6228.

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

Technical questions concerning the SPPE should be addressed to <u>Leonidas (Lon)</u> <u>Payne, Project Manager</u>, at leonidas.payne@energy.ca.gov or at (916) 651-0966.

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

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⁵ TN 232078.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

Information about the Application, as well as notices and other relevant documents pertaining to this proceeding, may be viewed on the <u>CEC's web page</u> at:

https://ww2.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/walsh/

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated June 9, 2020	Dated June 9, 2020	
APPROVED BY:	APPROVED BY:	
Karen Douglas Commissioner and Presiding Member Walsh Backup Generating Facility SPPE Committee	Patty Monahan Commissioner and Associate Member Walsh Backup Generating Facility SPPE Committee	

WALSH BACKUP GENERATING FACILITY SPPE (19-SPPE-02) JUNE 2020 REVISED SCHEDULE

EVENT	DATE
Staff Published the Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/PMND)	February 18, 2020
Public Comment Period on the IS/PMND closed	March 23, 2020
Last Day to File Petition to Intervene	March 30, 2020
Evidentiary Hearing	May 27, 2020
Transcript from May 27, 2020 Evidentiary Hearing filed	June 3, 2020
Parties File Legal Briefs	June 12, 2020
Committee files Committee Proposed Decision	July 2020
Final Decision Adoption Hearing at CEC Business Meeting	August 12, 2020