

**DOCKETED**

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<b>Project Title:</b>	Power Source Disclosure Program - 2020
<b>TN #:</b>	238066
<b>Document Title:</b>	BVES 2020 PSDP Annual Report Repeated Confidentiality Application
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	Eric Janssen
<b>Organization:</b>	Ellison Schneider Harris & Donlan LLP
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Applicant
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Jedediah J. Gibson  
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June 1, 2021

Mr. Drew Bohan  
Executive Director  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-39  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5504

**RE: Repeated Application for Confidential Designation  
Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc. 2020 Power Source Disclosure Annual  
Report, Docket No. 21-PSDP-01.**

Dear Mr. Bohan:

Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc., (“BVES”) respectfully requests protection of certain information provided to the Commission in its accompanying 2020 Power Source Disclosure (“PSD”) Annual Report.

Information submitted to the Energy Commission can be deemed confidential without the need for a new application under California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Sections 2505(a)(1)(G) and 2505(a)(4) if BVES files a certification under penalty of perjury that the new information is substantially similar to the information previously granted confidentiality. By letter dated December 23, 2020 you approved BVES’ request for confidential designation for information submitted in BVES’ 2019 PSD Annual Report in docket 20-PSDP-01. (See Attachment A hereto.) In that letter, you encouraged BVES to take advantage of the repeated application process in the future where appropriate.

BVES’ 2020 PSD Annual Report contains information that is substantially similar to its previously submitted 2019 PSD Annual Report and all facts and circumstances relevant to the confidentiality of the information remain unchanged. BVES observes that the 2020 PSD Annual Report contains additional information related to Greenhouse Gas Emissions, but notes that this information is substantially similar to last year’s report within this context.

Specifically, BVES requests that the following information remain confidential through December 31, 2021, in order to align this request with confidentiality protections provided for the same information at the California Public Utilities Commission for its Renewables Portfolio Standard Program:

<b>Form</b>	<b>Information to be held confidential</b>
PSDP Schedule 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Retail Sales in cell N7</li><li>• Net Specified Procurement in cell N8;</li><li>• Unspecified Power in cell N9;</li><li>• Net Specified Natural Gas in cell N11</li><li>• Gross MWh Procured in cell H38;</li><li>• Net MWh Procured in cell J38;</li><li>• Adjusted Net MWh Procured in cell K38;</li><li>• GHG Emissions in cell M38</li><li>• End Uses Other Than Retail Sales in cell B54.</li></ul>
PSDP Schedule 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Total RECs in cell E9;</li><li>• Total Retired Unbundled RECs in cells E12:E22.</li></ul>
PSDP Schedule 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adjusted Net Procured (MWh) in cells B21, B24, B25;</li><li>• Total Retail Sales in cell C27.</li></ul>

*I certify under penalty of perjury that the information contained in this repeated application for confidential designation is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I also certify that I am authorized to make this repeated application and certification on behalf of Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc.*

Please feel free to contact me at (916) 447-2166 should you or Staff have any questions or require additional information regarding this Repeated Application. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Jedediah J. Gibson  
Ellison Schneider Harris & Donlan LLP  
Attorneys for Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc.

Submitted via Confidential e-filing.

## **ATTACHMENT A**

California Energy Commission December 23, 2020 Letter Granting  
Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc.'s Application For Confidentiality for the  
2019 Annual Report Under the Power Source Disclosure Program  
(Docket No. 20-PSDP-01)



December 23, 2020

Mr. Jedediah J. Gibson  
Ellison Schneider Harris & Donlan LLC  
Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc.  
2600 Capitol Avenue, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**Application for Confidential Designation for Power Source Disclosure  
Annual Report, Docket No. 20-PSDP-01**

Dear Mr. Gibson:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is in receipt of Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc.'s (applicant) Application for Confidentiality for specified data contained in the 2019 Annual Reports under the Power Source Disclosure program (PSDP). Specifically, the applicant seeks confidentiality for the following data:

- 1) PSD Schedule 1 – Retail Sales (MWh), Net Specified Procurement (MWh), Unspecified Power (MWh), Net Natural Gas in cells L7:L9 and L11; Specified Non-Renewable Procurement data in cells A52:K52; and
- 2) PSD Schedule 3 – Adjusted Net Procured (MWh) in cells B21, B24:B25; Total Retail Sales (MWh) in cell C27; Percentage of Retail Sales Covered by Retired Unbundled RECs in cell C29.

The application notes that the data contains trade secrets or otherwise commercially sensitive data, the disclosure of which would cause loss of a competitive advantage. As an entity operating in the competitive and dynamic retail energy markets, as well as a net purchaser in the competitive wholesale markets, the applicant states that it holds information on its retail and wholesale market positions in confidence. The applicant states information can be used to directly or indirectly determine market position to the detriment of the applicant and its customers.

The application states that confidential information contained in the annual reports may be disclosed if it is aggregated with the same type of data reported by other energy service providers.

A properly filed Application for Confidentiality shall be granted under the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, section 2505(a)(3)(A), “. . . if the

applicant makes a reasonable claim that the Public Records Act or other provision of law authorizes the Commission to keep the record confidential.” The California Public Records Act allows for the non-disclosure of trade secrets. (Gov. Code, section 6254(k); Evid. Code, section 1060.)

California courts have traditionally used the following definition of trade secret:

A trade secret may consist of any formula, pattern, device or compilation of information which is used in one’s business, and which gives him an opportunity to obtain an advantage over competitors who do not know or use it. . . .

(*Uribe v. Howe* (1971) 19 Cal.App.3d 194, 207, citing the Restatement of Torts, vol. 4, section 757, comment b, p.5.)

California Code of Regulations, Title 20, section 2505(a)(1)(D), states that if an applicant for confidential designation believes that the record should not be disclosed because it contains trade secrets, or its disclosure would otherwise cause loss of a competitive advantage, an application shall state: 1) the specific nature of the advantage; 2) how the advantage would be lost; 3) the value of the information to an applicant; and 4) the ease or difficulty with which the information could be legitimately acquired or duplicated by others.

The application addresses these elements as disclosure of the applicant’s retail sales or procurement data could disadvantage the applicant in negotiating for upcoming purchases of renewable energy. According to the application, this disadvantage could result in higher costs for customers and the potential loss of customers. Procurement data has been kept confidential and has not been publicly disclosed.

The applicant has made a reasonable claim that the law allows the California Energy Commission to keep the identified data contained in the annual reports from public disclosure except for total annual retails sales in megawatt hours.

Load serving entities like applicant, already provide quarterly annual retail sales under Title 20, section 1306(b). As set forth in Title 20, section 2507(e)(1)(A)(1), the quarterly data can be publicly disclosed for an individual load serving entity if aggregated at the statewide level by year. Therefore, data submitted consistent with this level of aggregation will not be confidential.

The applicant requests that the information be kept confidential until December 31, 2021. A confidentiality term this long is inconsistent with terms requested by and granted to other entities under the PSDP, which is until December 31, 2020.

Mr. Jedediah J. Gibson  
December 23, 2020  
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A term ending December 31, 2020, or one year from the end of the reporting period, represents the amount of time the same or substantially similar data is considered confidential by the California Public Utilities Commission under R05-06-040 Appendix B ESP Matrix section V and D06-06-066 Appendix 2 ESP Matrix, *Market Purchases of Energy and Capacity: public after one year*.

For these reasons, the request for confidential designation for the reported megawatt hours contained in the annual reports is granted until December 31, 2020. The information may be released before this date if applicant-specific information is aggregated with information from all other Energy Service Providers on a statewide level.

For future PSDP annual reports that are substantially similar, the applicant may follow the simplified process set forth in the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, section 2505(a)(4).

Be advised that persons may petition to inspect or copy records that have been designated as confidential, the executive director may disclose or release records previously designated as confidential in certain circumstances, and the CEC may hold a hearing to determine the confidentiality of its records on its own motion or on a motion by CEC staff. The procedures and criteria for disclosing or releasing, filing, reviewing, and acting upon such petitions or motions are set forth in the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, sections 2506-2508.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Jared Babula, senior attorney, at [jared.babula@energy.ca.gov](mailto:jared.babula@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 651-1462.

Sincerely,



Drew Bohan  
Executive Director