

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	The Walnut Creek Energy Park
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE ENERGY RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

WALNUT CREEK ENERGY PARK

Docket No. 05-AFC-02C

**ORDER APPROVING POST
CERTIFICATION APPLICATION FOR
MODIFICATION**

On March 16, 2021, Walnut Creek Energy, LLC filed *Application for Modification: Increase Turbine Heat Input Rating* (petition) with the California Energy Commission (CEC), requesting modification of the Walnut Creek Energy Park (WCEP) hourly fuel input and ammonia flow rates resulting in higher turbine output, for a net increase of approximately 17.4 megawatts (MW).

BACKGROUND

The WCEP is a 500.5 MW gas-fired simple-cycle facility located in the City of Industry, Los Angeles County. The project was certified by the CEC in February 2008 and began commercial operation in May 2013.

The primary purpose and need for this petition is to accommodate substantial changes in circumstances since CEC certification. Improved technology has become available allowing a more efficient combustion process, while accompanied by discreet changes to air quality impacts. The modifications would also address the state's urgent need for additional capacity. The changes would be accomplished by increasing the efficiency of the combustion process to maximize the capability of the plant.

In addition to the proposed changes in the petition to Air Quality Conditions of Certification AQ-3, AQ-4, AQ-6, and AQ-12, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) also made additional administrative revisions to permit conditions. CEC staff proposes to incorporate the revisions in the SCAQMD permit into the conditions of certification AQ-1, AQ-3, AQ-4, AQ-6, AQ-7, AQ-7a, AQ-9a, AQ-11, AQ-12, AQ-13, and AQ-14, along with the addition of two new Air Quality Conditions of Certification AQ-24 and AQ-25, and the deletion of two existing Air Quality Conditions of Certification AQ-8 and AQ-10.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

CEC staff has reviewed the petition pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1769 (Post Certification Amendments and Changes) and has concluded that the modifications to the Air Quality Conditions of Certification would not result in a significant impact on the environment or on the surrounding environmental justice population, and the project would remain in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS). Staff recommends approval of the petition.

ENERGY COMMISSION FINDINGS

Based on the entire record, the CEC approves the petition for post certification modification to the Air Quality Conditions of Certification listed above, and in the *Staff Analysis of Application for Modification: Increase Turbine Heat Input Rating*.

CEC finds that:

- The proposed modification(s) would not change the findings in the final Commission Decision pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1748;
- There would be no new or additional unmitigated, significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed modification; and
- The facility would remain in compliance with all LORS.

CONCLUSION AND ORDER

The CEC hereby approves the post certification application for modification and the changes to the Conditions of Certification as set forth in the staff assessment.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretariat to the Commission does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the CEC held on June 25, 2021.

AYE: Hochschild, Douglas, McAllister, Monahan, Gunda

NAY: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE



Patricia Carlos
Secretariat