

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-02
Project Title:	Compass Energy Storage Project
TN #:	256762
Document Title:	Courtesy Tribal Notification of Receipt for Compass Energy Project Opt-in Application
Description:	Courtesy Tribal Notification of Receipt for Compass Energy Project Opt-in Application
Filer:	Renee Longman
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	6/7/2024 5:00:38 PM
Docketed Date:	6/10/2024



Subject: Opt-In Certification for Compass Energy Storage Project (24-OPT-02)

On April 11, 2024, California Energy Commission (CEC) staff confirmed receipt of an application from Compass Energy Storage LLC ("Applicant"), for certification from the CEC through the Opt-In process for the Compass Energy Storage project (24-OPT-02). The project is proposed on an approximately 13-acre site located within the northern portion of the city of San Juan Capistrano, adjacent to Camino Capistrano and Interstate-5 to the east.

Project Description

The proposed project is a battery energy storage system (BESS) that would be capable of storing up to 250 megawatts (MW) of electricity for four hours (up to 1,000 MW hours). The proposed Compass Energy Storage Project (project) would be composed of lithium-iron phosphate batteries, or similar technology batteries, inverters, medium-voltage transformers, a switchyard, a collector substation, and other associated equipment to interconnect into the existing San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) Trabuco to Capistrano 138-kilovolt transmission line located approximately 500 feet from the project site and approximately 90 feet from the project property. The project would connect to the SDG&E electric transmission system via a proposed "loop-in" transmission line that would be constructed to transfer power to and from the proposed project. The loop-in transmission line would be supported by the replacement of two existing transmission poles and construction of one new transmission pole.

Electric energy would be transferred from the existing power grid to the project batteries for storage and from the project batteries to the power grid when additional electricity is needed. No off-site transmission upgrades are required for the full capacity of this project, and an interconnection agreement with SDG&E and the California Independent System Operator has been implemented. Following construction of the switchyard by Compass Energy Storage LLC, ownership and operations would transfer to SDG&E. The Project Description (TN 255535-2) section of the application can be accessed directly at the following link: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=255535-2&DocumentContentId=91278>.

CEC Jurisdiction and Opt-In Certification Program

The CEC is authorized to establish a certification program for eligible non-fossil fueled power plants and related facilities to optionally seek certification from the CEC. (Pub. Resources Code, §§ 25545-25545.13.) Under this new Opt-In Certification Program, among the types of facilities that CEC can certify are: (a) solar PV and terrestrial wind energy power plants of 50 MW or more, (b) energy storage facilities of 200 megawatt-hours (MWh) or more, and (c) electric

transmission lines from these facilities to the first point of interconnection with the existing transmission grid.

The CEC is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is required to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for any facility that elects to opt-in to the CEC's jurisdiction. With exceptions, the issuance of a certificate by the CEC for an eligible facility is in lieu of any permit, certificate, or similar document required by any state, local, or regional agency. The CEC is required to make its decision on whether to certify the project within 270 days of receiving a *complete* application. The CEC is required to consult with all responsible and trustee agencies on the scope and content of the EIR. The CEC staff has begun its review of the application and transmitted the application to responsible and trustee agencies, which has not been deemed complete at this time. Once the application is deemed complete, the CEC staff will evaluate the proposed project, consult with California Native American tribes, and host public meetings in the project area. No later than five days of deeming the application complete, the CEC staff will send formal letters to California Native American tribes inviting tribes to consult with the CEC about the project. Consultation between California Native American tribes and the CEC will proceed according to the requirements of Public Resources Code, sections 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, and 25545.7.4 (CEQA and the Warren-Alquist Act).

The CEC will also host an informational and public scoping meeting during the development of the EIR, and a public meeting during the 60-day comment period on the Draft EIR, which will be included as part of the CEC's Staff Assessment of the application. After the conclusion of the public comment period, the CEC staff will publish an updated Staff Assessment (which will include a Final EIR), and the CEC's Executive Director's recommendation on whether the CEC should certify the EIR and issue a certificate for construction and operation of the proposed project. The updated Staff Assessment and Executive Director's recommendation will be published at least 30 days before the CEC's consideration at a public meeting.

At the final public meeting the CEC will formally decide whether to certify the EIR and grant a certification for construction and operation of the proposed project. Should the certification be granted, other agencies that retain their permitting authorities must take final action on any additional permits within 90 days of the CEC issuing a certificate.

Participation

The CEC welcomes public participation in the Opt-In review process. A copy of the Opt-In application as well as other project information, can be found on the CEC website at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/battery-storage->

[system/compass-energy-storage-project](https://www.energy.ca.gov/system/compass-energy-storage-project). To stay informed about this project and receive notice of upcoming meetings and workshops, sign up to the project's email subscription, which can be accessed on the same project webpage. Once enrolled, automatic email notifications are sent when documents and notices are posted to the project webpage.

The CEC staff welcomes your comments and questions. Please do not hesitate to contact Assistant Tribal Liaison, Gabriel Roark, at (916) 237-2544 or by email at gabriel.roark@energy.ca.gov

List of Tribes Received Courtesy Notification

Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation	Juaneno Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation 84A
Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians	La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council	Pala Band of Mission Indians
Gabrielino/Tongva Nation	Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians
Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe	Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians
Juaneno Band of Mission Indians	Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
Juaneno Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation - Belardes	