

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Los Esteros Phase II Compliance
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Document Title:	CEC Response to Los Esteros Critical Energy Facilities' Application for Confidential Designation
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March 11, 2026

Via Email

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Application for Confidential Designation Docket No. 03-AFC-02C

Dear Jeffery D. Harris:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has received Los Esteros Critical Energy Facility, LLC's (applicant) Application for Confidentiality docketed February 13, 2026 (TN 268635). The application covers the following documents:

- Attachment DR-A42, California Independent System Operator Interconnection Documents; and
- Attachment DR-A46, One-Line Diagram of Los Esteros Substation

The applicant states that the above documents should be kept confidential in their entirety and are exempt from disclosure because the information to be protected contains proprietary business information and trade secrets and would otherwise cause a loss of competitive advantage.

Confidentiality Claims

A properly filed application for confidentiality shall be granted under 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 [California Energy] Commission to keep the record confidential."

Balancing Test

Government Code section 7922.000 provides that an agency may withhold information from disclosure where the public interest served by nondisclosure clearly outweighs the public interest of disclosure.

Trade Secrets

The California Public Records Act allows for the non-disclosure of trade secrets including, among others, those records exempt from disclosure under the Uniform Trade Secrets Act. (Gov. Code, §§ 7927.705(k), 7930.005, 7930.205; Civ. Code, § 3426.1; Evid. Code, § 1060.)

Civil Code section 3426.1(d) defines "trade secret" as:

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[I]nformation, including a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or process, that: (1) Derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to the public or to other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and (2) Is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

(Civ. Code, § 3426.1(d); See also Gov. Code, §§ 7927.705, 7930.005, 7930.205; Evid. Code, § 1061(a); *Uribe v. Howie* (1971) 19 Cal.App.3d 194, 207.)

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, the application shall state: (1) the specific nature of the advantage, (2) how the advantage would be lost, (3) the value of the information to the applicant, and (4) the ease or difficulty with which the information could be legitimately acquired or duplicated by others.

Executive Director's Determination

The CEC has reviewed and determined the application contains the required information under section 2505(a)(1)(D) to support the applicant's assertion that Attachments DR-A42 and DR-A46 should be exempt from disclosure as a trade secret. Additionally, the public interest served by not disclosing this information clearly outweighs the public interest served by disclosure. (Gov. Code, § 7922.000). The applicant makes a reasonable claim that the law authorizes CEC to keep the records confidential as required in section 2505(a)(3)(A). As such, confidentiality is granted for Attachments DR-A42 and DR-A46 for the operating life of the Tanager BESS Project.

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 the 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 through 2508.

If you have questions, please email confidentialityapplication@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Drew Bohan
Executive Director