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to Change the World*

June 1, 2020

Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft CEQA Supplement to the FERC Final EIS for the Bucks Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 619).

Dear Relicensing Participant and Other Interested Parties,

The City of Santa Clara (City) hereby provides notice to the Bucks Creek Hydroelectric Project (Bucks Creek Project or Project) relicensing participants and other interested parties that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Supplement for the Bucks Creek Project is available for public review and comment. This notice is provided pursuant to requirements identified in the CEQA Guidelines, Sec. 15087. The City is acting as the CEQA lead agency for the Project.

The CEQA Supplement supplements the analysis of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the Bucks Creek Project. The City provided public notice of its intention to rely on FERC's EIS, in combination with a supplemental analysis, to meet the requirements of CEQA on June 26, 2019. The City held two public meetings to solicit and collect input from stakeholders and other members of the public to inform preparation of the CEQA analysis. The first meeting was held in conjunction with FERC's public meeting on the Draft EIS in Oroville, California on August 1, 2019. The second public meeting was held at Silicon Valley Power (SVP) headquarters in Santa Clara, California on August 7, 2019. FERC issued its Draft EIS for the Project on June 14, 2019 and released the Final EIS for the Project on January 28, 2020. Compliance with CEQA is necessary for the City's future discretionary action regarding acceptance of the new license order anticipated to be issued by FERC in early 2021 for the continued operation and maintenance of the Project.

Project Description and Location

The Bucks Creek Hydroelectric Project is located on Bucks, Grizzly, and Milk Ranch Creeks, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Plumas County, California. The 84.8-megawatt project consists of Bucks Creek and Grizzly Powerhouses owned by Pacific Gas & Electric Company and the City of Santa Clara, respectively, including a 4.2-mile-long, 115- kilovolt Grizzly Tap Transmission Line; water storage, diversion and conveyance facilities associated with the two powerhouses, including Bucks Lake, Lower Bucks Lake, Three Lakes, and Grizzly Forebay; and other associated facilities. The project is a peaking system normally operated remotely from PG&E's Rock Creek powerhouse switching center. Operations of the project developments are coordinated to

optimize the use of water, including the operations of PG&E's other three FERC-licensed hydroelectric projects in the North Fork Feather River watershed (Project Nos. 2107, 2105, and 1962). The Project affects approximately 1,539.5 acres in the Plumas National Forest administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. The licensees are not proposing to add capacity or make any major modifications to the Project or its operations under the new license. There are no Government-listed hazardous waste or materials sites within the Project boundary.

Significant Effects

As disclosed and discussed in the CEQA Supplement, all potential impacts associated with implementation of the new license conditions for the Bucks Creek Project are considered less than significant under CEQA.

Document Availability

A copy of the Draft CEQA Supplement as well as FERC's Final EIS for the Project are available for review on the City's website at: <http://www.siliconvalleypower.com/svp-and-community/projects>.

A copy of this Notice of Availability has also been made available to the Plumas County Clerk and Santa Clara County Clerk, and to the California State Clearinghouse.

How to Comment

Publication of the Notice of Availability marks the beginning of a minimum 45-day public review period. The comment period on the Draft CEQA Supplement begins on Wednesday, June 3, 2020. All comments on the Draft CEQA Supplement must be filed by 5pm Monday, July 20, 2020. Because FERC is the NEPA lead agency and the DEIS comment period has closed, the City requests that reviewers limit their comments to the new information and analysis presented in the Draft CEQA Supplement.

Email comments should be sent to John Davidson, Principal Planner at JDavidson@santaclaraca.gov. Please include Bucks Creek Project in the subject line and attach comments in MS Word or Adobe PDF format, and include the commenter's U.S. Postal Service mailing address. Paper comments regarding CEQA may be submitted to City of Santa Clara, Bucks Creek Project, 1500 Warburton Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95050. Attention: John Davidson, Principal Planner.

Next Steps

After the close of the comment period on the Draft CEQA Supplement, the City will make any necessary revisions to the document and will issue a Final CEQA Supplement. This Final CEQA Supplement will be presented to Santa Clara City Council for certification. In parallel with this process the California State Water Board is anticipated to issue a Draft and then Final 401 Water Quality Certification for the Bucks Creek Project. Once the CEQA process is complete the City of Santa Clara will consider adoption of the new license issued by FERC for the Project.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this anticipated process, the City's role as CEQA lead agency, or this Notice of Availability, please contact John Davidson, Principal Planner by email, JDavidson@santaclaraca.gov, or by phone 408-615-2450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Davidson
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cc:
Plumas County Clerk
Santa Clara County Clerk
State Clearinghouse