

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: County Clerk
County of Lake
Lakeport, CA 95453

Office of Planning & Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-3044

FROM: Lake County Community Development Dept.
255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

PROJECT TITLE: **Minor Modification (MMU 19-07) to Use Permit (UP 87-15) and Use Permit Extension (UPX 17-02) for the Bear Canyon Battery Energy Storage System; Categorical Exemption (CE 19-35).**

PROJECT LOCATION: **Bear Canyon - 20055 Foard Road, Middletown, CA 95461**

APNs: 013-011-35 013-011-36 013-058-23 013-058-24

COUNTY: Lake

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The Minor Modification of Use Permit (MMU 20-07) applies to the existing Major Use Permit (UP 87-15) and Use Permit Extension (UPX 17-02) and modifies the existing use permit to allow the installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) within the existing Bear Canyon facility.

The Geysers Power Company (GPC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Calpine Corporation, has been optimizing operations to adapt to the changes in the wholesale power market and needs of the California electric grid. In an attempt to address grid volatility, the State is promoting the development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) as they can accept and store power when the grid is oversupplied and later provide power back to the grid in times of higher demand.

There will be no expansion of the power plant site as the battery storage unit will be installed within the existing facility fence line. The output generation from the batteries would not exceed the current permit capacity. Additionally, there will be no expansion of the authorized use under the existing permits, nor any change to any of the terms and conditions of the existing permits.

The West Ford Flat Energy Storage would be approximately a 25MW, 4-hour system using lithium-ion battery technology and will have the ability to provide energy shifting and other services, such as regulating voltage for protection of the grid. Direct current (DC) Li-Ion batteries and an associated battery management system will be "containerized" in various modules along with an HVAC system to maintain ideal operating temperatures.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: Lake County Community Development

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: Geysers Power Company (GPC)

EXEMPT STATUS: Categorical Exemption 15301, Class 1 - (15301 (b)) Existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or both public utility services.

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Class 1 – Existing Facilities. The Bear Canyon Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project is exempt because it is an existing facility with no or negligible expansion of use. The BESS will simply store excess energy to have available when there is high demand on the grid.

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Date: July 21, 2021

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