

# California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

## NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

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**TO: Santa Clara County  
Clerk-Recorder's Office  
110 West Tasman Drive, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
San Jose, CA 95134**

**FROM: Bay Area Air Quality  
Management District  
375 Beale Street, Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94105**

**SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF DETERMINATION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES  
CODE SECTION 21152(A) AND CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15094.**

**Project Title:** Vantage Data Services - CA3 Backup Generating Facility Small Power Plant Exemption - Issuance of Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate for Emergency Standby Diesel Engines (Application 31994). California Energy Commission Docket No. 21-SPPE-01, State Clearinghouse ID 2021080438.

**Public Agency Approving Project (Lead Agency):** California Energy Commission (CEC), 715 P Street, MS-40, Sacramento, CA 95814. Contact: Eric Veerkamp, Telephone: (916) 661-8458, Email: eric.veerkamp@energy.ca.gov .

**Public Agency Approving Project (Issuance of Authority to Construct):** Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District), Contact: Cameron Fee, Air Quality Engineer, 375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105, Telephone: (415) 749-4709, Email: cfee@baaqmd.gov

**Project Applicant and Entity Carrying Out Project:** Vantage Data Services.

**Project Applicant Contact Person:** Simon Casey, Vantage Data Services, 2820 Northwestern Pkwy, Santa Clara, CA 95051, Telephone: (415) 299-1151, Email: scasey@vantage-dc.com

**Project Location:** Street Address: 2590 Walsh Avenue, Santa Clara, Santa Clara County, CA 95051, Nearest Cross Street: Northwestern Parkway.

### **Project Description:**

Vantage Data Services (Vantage) has applied for an Authority to Construct for forty-four (44) identical emergency standby diesel engines (Sources 68 to 111), each providing power to backup generators at the facility.

**Sources 68 - 111      Stationary Emergency Standby Diesel Engines-Generator Sets, 4,043 hp  
Abated by Diesel Particulate Filters/Diesel Oxidation Catalysts (DPF/DOC),  
and Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR)**

Vantage is constructing the CA3 Data Center (CA3DC) and the supporting CA3 Backup Generating Facility (CA3BGF). This project will be constructed on a 6.69-acre site located at 2590 Walsh Avenue in Santa Clara, CA 95051. When fully built out, the CA3DC will consist of a four-story, approximately 468,000 square foot data center building that will house electronic data storage equipment. Additionally, the proposed project consists of a 100 Megavolt amperes (MVA) electric utility substation, a switching station, generator equipment yard, and surface parking. Under normal operating scenarios, the new substation and switching station will support the regular power requirements of the CA3DC. However, the CA3BGF will include forty-four (44) new emergency standby generators, each with a nameplate capacity of 2.75 MW, to provide

backup power to the CA3DC in the event of a power outage. In emergency situations, 40 of the generators would be dedicated to replacing the data center's electricity requirements. The remaining 4 generators will be used to support critical cooling equipment and other general building and life safety services. The 44 generators will be operated only for emergency purposes, plus up to 22 hours per year each for testing, maintenance, and reliability-related purposes. Although the collective nameplate capacity of the 44 generators exceeds the 100 MW limit for a Small Power Plant Exemption (SPPE) eligibility, the CEC determined that the maximum electrical load of the data center is 96 MW in their approval of the SPPE for the CA3BGF.

Vantage submitted a single application to the Air District for all 44 diesel engines that will power the 44 backup generators. All 44 engines are of identical make, model, model year, and rated power output (4,043 bhp). Furthermore, each of them will be equipped with identical post-combustion control packages comprised of Diesel Particulate Filters/Diesel Oxidation Catalysts (DPF/DOC) and Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR).

**Notice of Determination:**

This is to advise that the Air District, acting as a Responsible Agency under CEQA, has issued Authorities to Construct on February 21, 2024 for the 44 engines/generator sets, pursuant to Air District Regulation 2-1-301. In issuing the Authorities to Construct, the Air District has reviewed and considered the environmental effects of the entire project as discussed in the CEC Final Commission Decision on the SPPE and supporting analyses. The CEC is the CEQA lead agency for the project ("CA3 Backup Generating Facility Small Power Plant Exemption"). The CEC's consideration of the project included an evaluation of the facility's SPPE application and of the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) that was prepared for the project. The CEC approved the SPPE on August 10, 2022, and subsequently filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) on August 12, 2022, finding that, with mitigation measures, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Based on this review, the Air District has determined that with the Conditions of Exemption imposed by the CEC, as well as the permit conditions imposed by the Air District, there will be no significant environmental impacts. As the project will not have any significant impacts, the Air District has not imposed any mitigation measures (beyond the conditions the Air District has imposed to ensure compliance with air quality regulations) and has not adopted a mitigation monitoring plan or program. Furthermore, no Statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted.

The CEC's Final Decision on the SPPE is available for public review on the CEC's website at the following link: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/backup-generating-system/ca3-backup-generating-facility>.

The Air District record of project approval is available for review at the Air District office at 375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA, 94105 (Air District Permit Application Number 31994).



Pamela J. Leong  
Director of Engineering  
Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Feb. 27, 2024  
Date