

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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**W 16****ENERGY, OCEAN RESOURCES, AND FEDERAL CONSISTENCY DIVISION REPORT**

FOR THE

NOVEMBER 13, 2013 MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

TO: Commissioners and Interested Parties

FROM: Alison Dettmer, Deputy Director
Energy, Ocean Resources & Federal Consistency

IMMATERIAL AMENDMENT		
APPLICANT	PROJECT	LOCATION
A-4-OXN-07-096-A1 Southern California Edison	Install a backup air compressor and gas compressors (with associated cooling unit) within the footprint of McGrath Peaker Power Plant.	McGrath Peaker Power Plant City of Oxnard



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**NOTICE OF PROPOSED IMMATERIAL PERMIT AMENDMENT****A-4-OXN-07-096-A1**

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Charles Lester, Executive Director

DATE: October 24, 2013

SUBJECT: Application to amend Coastal Development Permit No. A-4-OXN-07-096 to construct and operate a 45-megawatt peaker power plant in the City of Oxnard, Ventura County.

The Executive Director has determined that the requested project change described herein may be approved as an immaterial amendment to the above-referenced coastal development permit (CDP). The amendment would allow several minor additions to the existing equipment on the project site, and minor changes to the facility's site plan.

Background

On April 9, 2009, the Commission approved CDP No. A-4-OXN-07-096 allowing Southern California Edison (SCE) to construct and operate a natural gas-fired, 45-megawatt capacity, peaker power plant at 251 North Harbor Boulevard in Oxnard, Ventura County, adjacent to McGrath and Mandalay State Beaches. Development on the power plant site also includes electrical transmission lines and poles, a natural gas pipeline along the eastern edge of Harbor Boulevard, transformers, an electrical substation, a natural gas metering station, storage tanks, access roads, security gates and fences. Construction of the power plant and ancillary infrastructure was completed in October of 2012 and commercial operations began shortly after.

Requested Amendment

SCE proposes to make several minor modifications to the existing facilities at the McGrath Peaker Power Plant. The proposed modifications include the installation of a backup air compressor and gas compressor (with associated cooling unit) within the footprint of the power plant and adjacent to the primary air and gas compressors to provide back-up for the existing compressors. The addition of this equipment would increase the reliability of the plant and reduce the risk of an equipment failure. The proposed modifications would not increase the plant's generating capacity or scope of operations.

Findings

The proposed amendment has been deemed "immaterial" for the following reasons:

- The additional air and gas compressors would be installed within the power block on the power plant site, on an existing concrete slab in close proximity to the existing compressors, and therefore would not involve an expansion of the developed footprint of

the project. The new compressors would provide redundant systems for existing plant operations, but would not allow for an increase in the plant's capacity or change the intensity of use at the site.

- The proposed modifications to the plant are minor, would occur within the previously-developed footprint of the site, and involve minimal construction activities. Marine and terrestrial resources adjacent to the site would therefore not be affected and coastal access and recreational use of the nearby beach would not be impeded. The new gas compressor would operate at a lower noise level than the existing compressor, and, to the extent it replaces the older compressor as the primary unit, has the potential to reduce ambient noise in the proximity of the power plant.
- The proposed modifications would result in only very minor changes to the facility's appearance, and would be minimally-visible from publicly-accessible areas due to the presence of existing infrastructure. Overall, the proposed modifications would not materially affect the industrial appearance of the site or the visual qualities of the surrounding area.
- The proposed modifications also would not affect the power plant's current exposure to natural hazards.

Immaterial Permit Amendment

Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations—Title 14, Division 5.5, Volume 19, section 13166(b)—the Executive Director has determined this amendment to be IMMATERIAL.

Pursuant to section 13166(b)(1), if no written objection to this notice of immaterial amendment is received at the Commission office within ten (10) working days of mailing said notice, the determination of immateriality shall be conclusive and the amendment shall be approved.

Pursuant to section 13166(b)(2), if a written objection to this notice of an immaterial amendment is received within ten (10) working days of mailing notice, and the executive director determines that the objection does not raise an issue of conformity with the Coastal Act or certified local coastal program, if applicable, the immaterial amendment shall not be effective until the amendment and objection are reported to the Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting. If any three (3) Commissioners object to the executive director's designation of immateriality, the amendment application shall be referred to the Commission for action as set forth in section 13166(c). Otherwise, the immaterial amendment shall become effective.

Pursuant to section 13166(b)(3), if a written objection to this notice of an immaterial amendment is received within ten (10) working days of mailing notice, and the executive director determines that the objection does raise an issue of conformity with the Coastal Act or a certified local coastal program if applicable, the immaterial amendment application shall be referred to the Commission for action as set forth in section 13166(c).

If you wish to register an objection to this notice, please send the objection in writing to Joseph Street at the above address. If you have any questions, you may contact him at (415) 904-5249 or via email at joseph.street@coastal.ca.gov.