SECTION 1.0

Executive Summary

1.1 Project Overview

AES Southland Development, LLC (AES-SLD), the Project Owner, proposes to construct, own, and operate a new electrical generating plant in the City of Redondo Beach, Los Angeles County, California. The Redondo Beach Energy Project (RBEP) is a natural-gas-fired, combined-cycle, air-cooled electrical generating facility with a net generating capacity of 496 megawatts (MW)[1] and gross generating capacity of 511 MW, which will replace, and be constructed on the site of the AES Redondo Beach Generating Station, an existing and operating power plant in Redondo Beach, California. The development of RBEP includes the demolition and removal of the existing Redondo Beach Generating Station, which will result in 38 acres of open space along the Redondo Beach waterfront.

RBEP will be developed on previously disturbed industrial land currently zoned for power generation. As a combined-cycle, air-cooled generating plant it will use less than 18 percent of the fresh water used by the units it is replacing, and will eliminate the use of ocean water for once-through cooling (OTC) at the site. RBEP will connect to the existing onsite high-voltage electric transmission, water pipelines and natural gas pipeline systems, avoiding the need to construct any new offsite linear facilities. By replacing the existing Redondo Beach Generating Station, RBEP will be providing fast response, modern, clean and efficient electrical power that fully supports and will enable California to achieve a much greater use of, and reliance on, intermittent renewable electricity sources, such as wind and solar while also serving local electrical reliability needs. RBEP will be smaller in physical size and generating capacity than the existing Redondo Beach Generating Station.

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) have recognized the importance of the Redondo Beach Generating Station location as part of the coastal OTC fleet that provides both energy and capacity to satisfy the western Los Angeles Basin Local Reliability Area requirements (CAISO, 2011; CEC, 2012).

RBEP will consist of one power block composed of three natural gas combustion turbine generators (CTG), three supplemental-fired heat recovery steam generators (HRSG), a steam turbine generator (STG), an air-cooled condenser, and ancillary facilities. The project will have the ability change its power output quickly, as much as 30 percent of its capacity per minute, which will allow it to rapidly respond and balance the fluctuations in generation and demand in the western Los Angeles Basin. It will also have rapid start capability. RBEP will be able to start up and come on line in less than 10 minutes as compared to the existing Redondo Beach Generating Station, which has start times of up to 36 hours. This design will provide considerable flexibility in maintaining the reliability of the regional electrical transmission and distribution grid, and will enable integration of the highly variable nature of renewable energy generation. RBEP will be an important component of the electrical system as California strives to meet the statewide Renewable Portfolio Standard.

The existing Redondo Beach Generating Station currently has four operating steam generating units (Units 5, 6, 7, and 8), an auxiliary boiler no. 17, and four retired units (Units 1, 2, 3 and 4). Dismantling of this equipment will begin in first quarter 2016 through the fourth quarter of 2016, leaving the administration building and the building housing Units 1–4 intact to screen Harbor Drive from the new power block construction site. Demolition of Units 5–8 will begin in 2019 during the final stages of construction of the new power block. The existing industrial facilities, which will not be reused in the proposed project, remaining on the balance of the approximately 50-acre site will be removed.

[1] The net generating capacity including auxiliary load is 496 MW, gross output as measured at the generator terminals is 511 MW, referenced to site ambient average temperature (SAAT) conditions of 63.3°F dry bulb and 58.5°F wet bulb temperature..

A power plant was first built on the Redondo Beach Generating Station site in 1906–1907, and was operated for several years by the Pacific Light and Power Company. In 1917, the company and the power plant were purchased by Southern California Edison (SCE) who later built Units 1–4, which came on line in 1948 and 1949. Units 5 and 6 were added later, coming on line in 1956, and Units 7 and 8 came on line in 1968. The AES Corporation (AES) purchased the power plants from SCE in 1998.

Based on an alternatives assessment, RBEP is the most efficient and effective design with the least environmental effects to meet the project objectives. The assessment considered alternative technologies that could have reduced environmental impacts, while satisfying the project objectives. Alternative generating technologies, including wind, solar, nuclear, energy storage, and biomass power, were considered but rejected due to the inability of these technologies to provide generating capacity for local reliability needs, meet peak energy demands, and provide controllable and flexible generation with minimum environmental effects. Alternative equipment technologies were also considered but were rejected because of their environmental effects or their inability to meet the project objectives.

The existing Redondo Beach Generating Station has various ancillary facilities that will support RBEP, such as the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) natural gas pipeline serving the site, the existing onsite SCE 230-kV switchyard, and the existing connections to the California Water Service Company's onsite pipeline and the City of Redondo Beach sanitary sewer system. Other existing infrastructure at the existing Redondo Beach Generating Station, such as the portions of the fire water distribution system, and process water distribution and storage systems, wastewater discharge systems and access roads will be used as needed to support RBEP. The ability to reuse these facilities, coupled with the fact that the existing Redondo Beach Generating Station site has a long history of power generation and is a previously disturbed brownfield site already zoned for power generation, makes the existing Redondo Beach Generating Station site a highly valued location for power plant re-development in the western Los Angeles Basin Local Reliability Area, where very few, if any, potential development sites offering similar attributes, even exist.

The project site is bounded to the north by residential areas, to the east by a storage facility and office buildings, to the south by mixed use residential and commercial areas, and to the west by King Harbor marina and the Pacific Ocean. The site is located on a gently sloping coastal plain with suitable geology for construction of new industrial facilities.

RBEP will use potable water provided by the California Water Service Company for construction and operational process and sanitary uses. The annual water requirements for RBEP will be substantially less than the actual historical water consumption of the existing Redondo Beach Generating Station.

During RBEP operation, stormwater and process wastewater will continue to be discharged to a retention basin and then ultimately to the Pacific Ocean via an existing outfall. Sanitary wastewater will be conveyed to the Los Angeles County Sanitation District via the existing City of Redondo Beach sewer connection.

A 230-kV transmission interconnection will connect the RBEP power block to the existing onsite SCE 230-kV switchyard. No new offsite facilities are needed for RBEP operation.

The RBEP construction, dismantling, and demolition activities are anticipated to last 60 months, from January 2016 until December 2020. Existing Units 1–4 will be dismantled starting in the first quarter of 2016 through the fourth quarter of 2016 leaving the administration building and the building housing Units 1–4 intact to screen Harbor Drive from the new power block construction. Power block construction will begin in the first quarter of 2017 and continue through the fourth quarter of 2019. Dismantling of Units 5–8 will begin in 2019 during the final stages of construction of the new power block. All project-related construction/demolition activities will be complete by December 2020.

Temporary construction facilities will include approximately 17 acres of land within the 50-acre project site, which have been allocated for laydown, storage and parking (see Figure 2.1-1)

1.2 Project Objectives

The key design objective of RBEP is to provide up to 496 MW of environmentally responsible, cost-effective, operationally flexible, and efficient generating capacity to the Los Angeles Basin Local Reliability Area in general, and specifically to the western Los Angeles Basin sub-area.[2] The project would provide local capacity for reliability needs, serve peak southern California energy demands, and provide controllable generation to allow the integration of the ever-increasing contribution of intermittent renewable energy into the electrical grid. The project will displace older and less efficient generation in southern California, and has been designed to start and stop very quickly and frequently and be able to quickly ramp up and down through a wide range of electrical output. As more renewable electrical resources are brought on line as a result of electric utilities meeting California's RPS, projects strategically located within load centers and designed for fast starts and ramp-up and down capability, such as RBEP, will be critical in supporting local electrical reliability and grid stability.

Consistent with the Energy Action Plan, as drafted by the CEC and the California Public Utilities Commission, RBEP will assist in meeting the state's goal of ensuring that electric energy in the state is "adequate, affordable, technologically advanced, and environmentally-sound." It will also assist in meeting greenhouse gas reduction targets under the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB-32), and will help utilities integrate renewable energy into their systems as required under the state's RPS. RBEP will also provide needed electric generation capacity with improved efficiency and operational flexibility to help meet southern California's long-term electricity needs. The CAISO has identified a need for new power generation facilities in the western sub-area of the Los Angeles Basin Local Reliability Area to replace the ocean water OTC plants that are expected to retire as a result of the California State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) *Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling*. The base case study results from CAISO's year 2021 long-term Local Capacity Requirement proceeding estimates that between 2,370 and 3,741 MW of new generation is required to replace the OTC generating plants in the Los Angeles Basin to meet the future needs of the area. The requirement for new generation in light of OTC retirements in the Los Angeles Basin is also confirmed in CAISO's Once-Through Cooling and AB-1318 Study Results presented on December 8, 2011.

The project objectives are consistent with the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) Air Quality-Related Energy Policy and Rule 1304(a)(2), which encourages and facilitates the replacement of older, less-efficient electric utility steam boilers with gas turbine-based generation technologies equipped with best available control technology.

RBEP was designed to address the local capacity requirements within the Los Angeles Basin with the following objectives:

- Provide the most efficient, reliable, and predictable generating capacity available by using combined-cycle, natural-gas-fired combustion turbine technology to replace the OTC generation, support the local capacity requirements of southern California's western Los Angeles Basin Local Reliability Area and be consistent with SCAQMD Rule 1304(a)(2).
- Develop a 496 MW project that provides efficient operational flexibility with rapid-start and steep ramping capability to allow for the efficient integration of renewable energy sources into the California electrical grid.
- Serve southern California energy demand with efficient and competitively priced electrical generation.
- Develop on a brownfield site of sufficient size and reuse existing offsite electrical, water, wastewater, natural gas infrastructure and land to minimize terrestrial resource impacts.
- Site the project to serve the western Los Angeles Basin load center without constructing new transmission facilities.
- Assist in developing increased local generation projects, thus reducing dependence on imported power and associated transmission infrastructure.

[2] As defined by the CAISO's "Local Capacity Technical Study Overview and Results" report dated April 17, 2012.

- Ensure potential environmental impacts can be avoided, eliminated, or mitigated to less-than-significant levels.

As discussed above, locating the project on the existing Redondo Beach Generating Station site avoids the need to construct new linear offsite facilities, including gas and water supply lines, discharge lines, and transmission interconnections. This reduces potential offsite environmental impacts, the cost of construction, and ensures no new site is converted to industrial use. The RBEP site meets all project siting objectives. Additionally, as demonstrated by the analyses provided in this Application for Certification (AFC), the project will not result in any significant environmental impacts.

The Assessor's Parcel Numbers for the Redondo Beach Generating Station site are 7503-013-014, 7503-013-015, 7503-013-819, and 7503-013-820.[3] The RBEP facilities will occupy approximately 10.5 acres[4] of the existing 50-acre site, using only a portion of the four parcels. Following project approval, the Project Owner will obtain a lot line adjustment to establish a single parcel for the approximately 50-acre site. Appendix 1A provides the legal description and title report for the site. The site is located in Township 4 south, Range 14 west, section 7; Township 4 south, Range 14 west, section 6; and Township 4 south, Range 15 west, section 1, San Bernardino base and meridian. Appendix 1B provides a list of the property owners located within 1,000 feet of the project site.

Figure 1.1-1 is an artistic rendering of the project, Figure 1.1-2 shows the location of the project within the Los Angeles County region, Figure 1.1-3 shows the site location, Figure 1.1-4 is a photograph of the existing site.

The primary project features include the following components:

- Three Mitsubishi Power Systems Americas (MPSA) 501DA CTGs with a nominal rating of 119 MW each.[5] The CTGs will be equipped with evaporative coolers on the inlet air system and dry low NO_x (oxides of nitrogen) combustors.
- One single-cylinder, single-flow, impulse, axial-exhaust-condensing STGs for outdoor installation.
- Three single-pressure, natural-circulation HRSGs, each with a natural-gas-fired duct burner in the HRSG inlet ductwork and an emission reduction system consisting of a selective catalytic reduction unit to control NO_x stack emissions, and an oxidation catalyst to control carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds emissions in the outlet ductwork.
- One air-cooled condenser.
- A 230-kV transmission interconnection to the existing onsite SCE 230-kV switchyard.
- Direct connection with the existing onsite 20-inch-diameter SoCalGas natural gas pipeline.
- Connection to an existing onsite California Water Service Company potable water line.
- Connection to an existing onsite City of Redondo Beach combined sanitary and process forced main sewer line.

[3] The parcel map for the RBEP site identifies a collection of underlying lots per a subdivision map that was recorded in 1902. The lots were later acquired, all public rights of way abandoned, streets vacated, and the lots are now under one ownership and two APNs: 7503-013-819 and 7503-013-820.

[4] The SCE high-voltage switchyard located on RBEP property occupies approximately 2.2 acres of additional land, making the total industrial footprint approximately 12.7 acres.

[5] Nominal CTG only output at site average ambient temperature conditions.

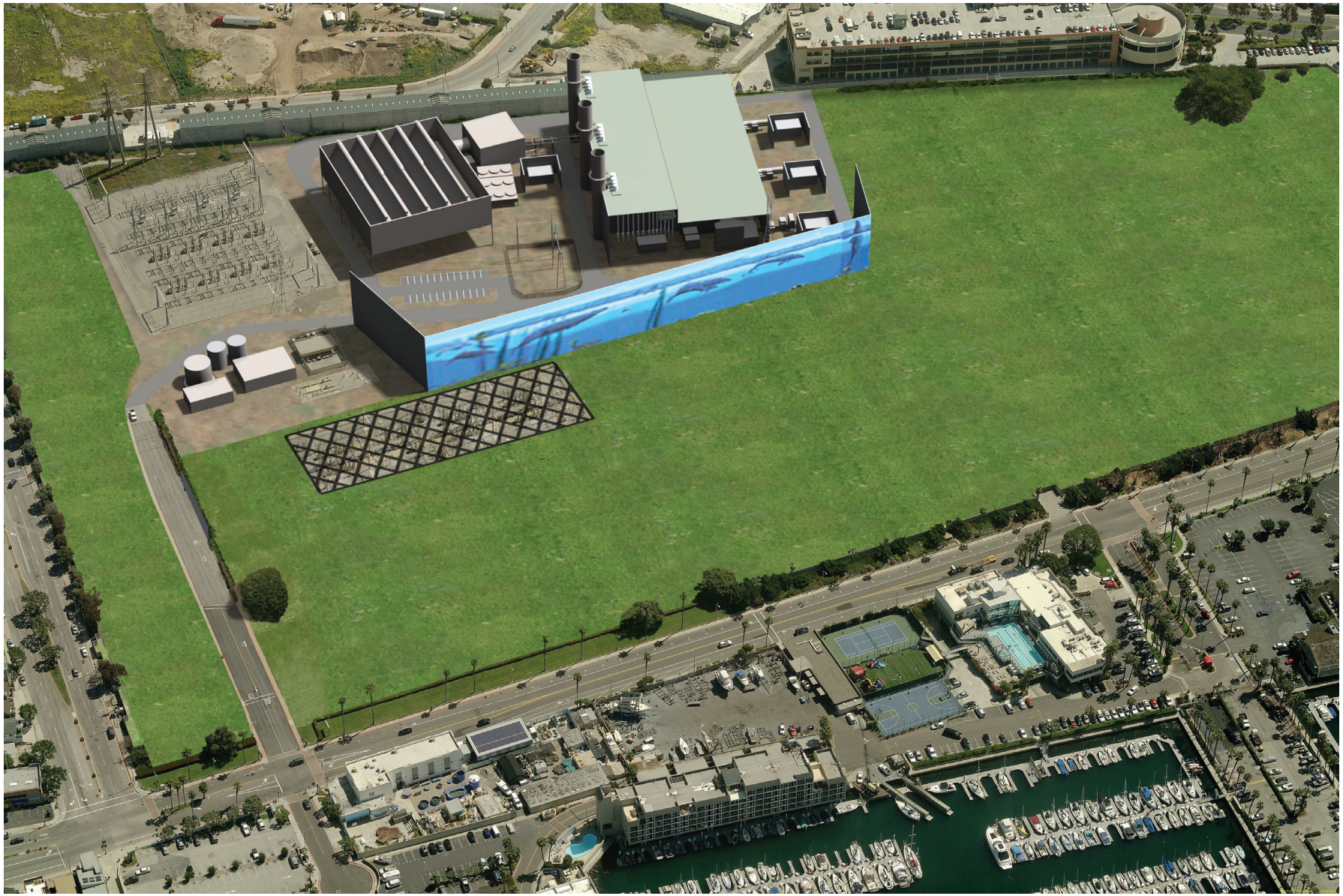
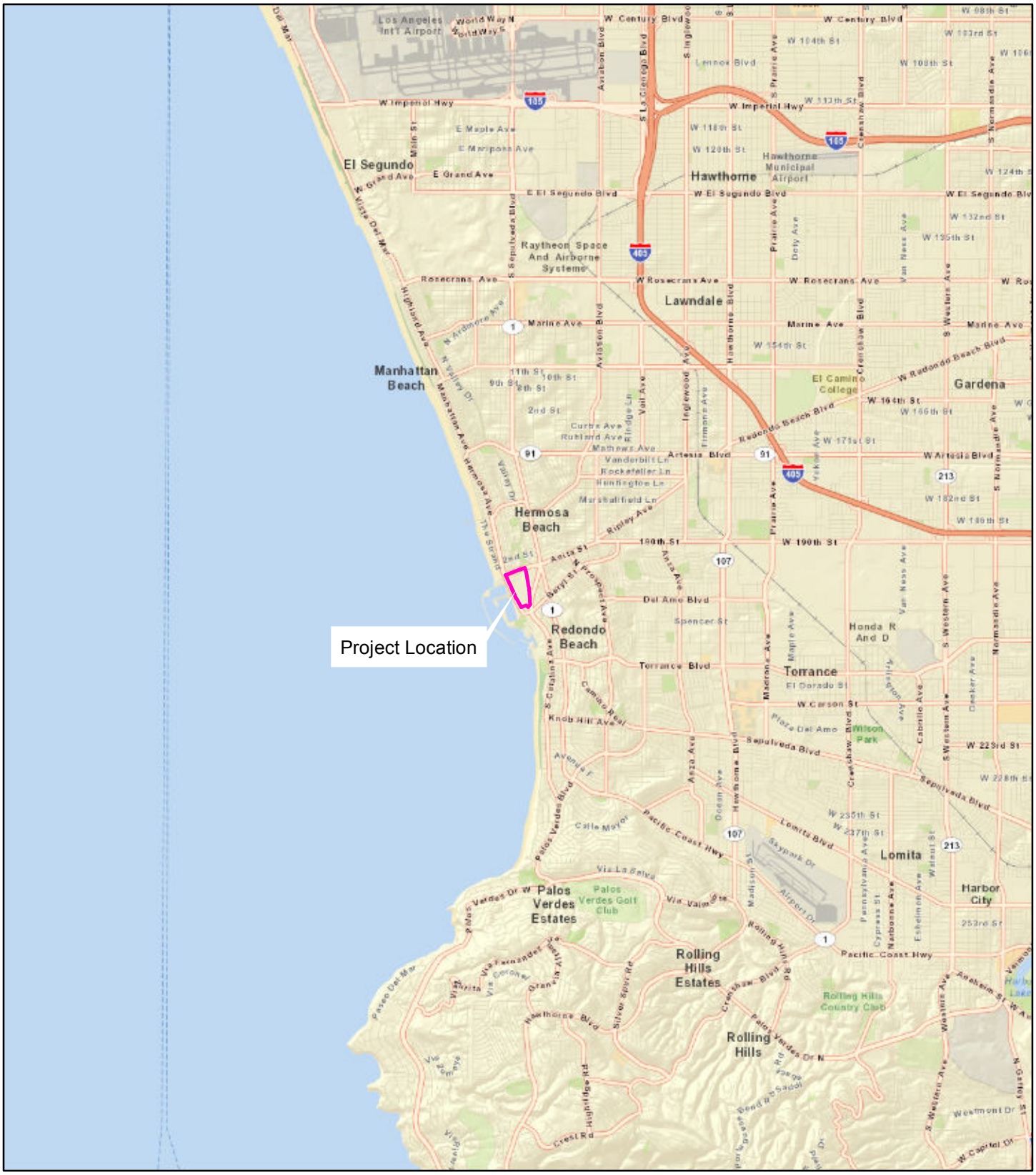


FIGURE 1.1-1
Architectural Rendering
AES Redondo Beach Energy Project
Redondo Beach, California



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Redondo Beach Energy Project

FIGURE 1.1-2
Regional Location Map
AES Redondo Beach Energy Project
Redondo Beach, CA

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Parking and Laydown Area

Redondo Beach Energy Project

FIGURE 1.1-3
Site Location Map
AES Redondo Beach Energy Project
Redondo Beach, CA

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FIGURE 1.1-4
Photograph of Existing Site
AES Redondo Beach Energy Project

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1.3 Project Owner

The Project Owner of RBEP is AES-SLD, a wholly owned subsidiary of The AES Corporation The AES Corporation is a global power company with generation and distribution businesses across five continents. Founded in 1981, The AES Corporation built its first power plant in 1985 followed shortly thereafter by the AES Placerita plant in Newhall, California. Since 1989, AES has owned and operated both renewable energy and natural gas generating plants in California. Today, through its portfolio of thermal and renewable fuel sources, The AES Corporation safely provides affordable and sustainable energy in 27 countries. In California, The AES Corporation generates enough electricity from both thermal and renewable sources to power millions of homes and businesses. The AES Corporation brings the combined expertise of a global force of approximately 27,000 people.

1.4 Project Schedule

RBEP construction and demolition at the project site is anticipated to last 60 months, from the first quarter of 2016 until the end of the fourth quarter of 2020. Existing Units 1–4 will be dismantled starting in the first quarter of 2016 through the fourth quarter of 2016 leaving the administration building and the building housing Units 1–4 intact to screen Harbor Drive from the new power block construction. Power block construction will begin in the first quarter of 2017 and continue through the fourth quarter of 2019. Demolition of Units 5–8 will begin in fourth quarter of 2019 during the final stages of construction of the new power block. All project-related construction/demolition activities will be complete by the end of the fourth quarter of 2020. Major project milestones are listed in Table 1.4-1.

TABLE 1.4-1
RBEP Schedule Major Milestones

Activity	Date
Begin dismantling and removal of retired Units 1–4	First quarter 2016
Removal of equipment from retired Units 1–4 complete	Fourth quarter 2016
Begin construction	First quarter 2017
Begin demolition of existing Units 5–8 and auxiliary boiler no. 17	First quarter 2019
Startup and test	First and second quarter 2019
Construction complete/Commercial operations	Third quarter 2019
Demolition complete	Fourth quarter 2020

1.5 Project Alternatives

A review of project alternatives was conducted to identify potential or alternative technologies that could meet RBEP's design objectives with lower environmental, social, or economic impacts, but no feasible alternative was identified. The project alternative analysis included the review of the "no project" alternative, where no new generation would be constructed.

Under the no project alternative, the existing Redondo Beach Generating Station would remain but still need to comply with the SWRCB's OTC policy through one of the following options: replacing the OTC cooling system at the Redondo Beach Generating Station with a closed-loop cooling system, retro-fitting the cooling water intakes with an engineered solution that could reduce the impacts to marine life, or cease operations. Each of these alternative compliance paths were rejected in favor of the proposed project due to engineering constraints, or environmental and economic impacts. Potential alternative means of complying with the SWRCB's OTC policy are discussed in Section 6.7.2. Based on CAISO's 2021 projection of the need for OTC replacement generation, decommissioning existing OTC facilities such as Redondo Beach Generating Station units without adequate

replacement generation would create local and system reliability concerns due to a projected shortage in energy and power production, and therefore is not feasible.

In summary, the no project alternative would not satisfactorily meet the specified project objectives and, thus, was rejected in favor of the proposed RBEP.

RBEP will be located entirely within the boundaries of the existing Redondo Beach Generating Station site and will have a strong relationship to the existing industrial site. RBEP will provide enhanced electrical service from the same location as the existing Redondo Beach Generating Station, using the existing infrastructure to the extent possible, including the SCE 230-kV switchyard, the SoCalGas natural gas pipeline, and City of Redondo Beach water and sanitary sewage connections. Relocating or duplicating the electrical interconnection and associated transmission system to support an alternative location in this densely populated and highly urbanized area would not be feasible. The transmission system that serves the western Los Angeles Basin was designed, built, and subsequently expanded around the existing power plant locations as the area become further urbanized and more densely populated. The proposed project has been designed to fit within the existing electrical system and serve the urban area which now constrains further expansion, replacement or relocation of the existing electrical transmission and distribution system. For these reasons, it is unlikely that a suitable brownfield site could be identified with the combination of existing infrastructure and lesser environmental impacts than those identified for RBEP.

Several alternative generating technologies were also reviewed in a process that resulted in the selection of a uniquely designed application of commercially proven technology in a combined-cycle gas turbine power plant for RBEP. The alternative technologies included conventional oil and natural-gas-fired plants, simple-cycle combustion turbines, reciprocating internal combustion, natural-gas-fired turbines, biomass-fired plants, waste-to-energy plants, solar plants, energy storage, wind generation plants, and others. None of these technologies were considered even equal let alone superior to the combined-cycle turbine technology selected for RBEP in meeting the project goals and objectives.

A comprehensive review of alternatives to the RBEP technology, the RBEP location, and the no project alternative are presented in Section 6.0 of this AFC.

1.6 Environmental Considerations

Pursuant to the requirements set forth in existing environmental laws and the CEC's regulations, 16 environmental disciplines with possible associated environmental impacts that could result from the proposed RBEP were investigated. Detailed descriptions and analyses of these areas are presented in Sections 5.1 through 5.16 of this AFC. As discussed in detail in this AFC, with the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures and the anticipated CEC's Conditions of Certification, there will be no significant unmitigated environmental impacts associated with RBEP construction and operation. This executive summary highlights findings related to five subject areas that have historically been of interest in CEC proceedings: air quality, biological resources, noise, visual resources, and water resources.

1.6.1 Air Quality

The RBEP site is located in an area designated as non-attainment for state and federal ozone, particulate matter (PM_{10}) and fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) air quality standards, and for the state nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) standard. An assessment of project impacts on air quality was conducted using a comprehensive, numerical air dispersion modeling system. No significant air quality impacts would result from the Project because emissions will be controlled through the use of inherently low-emission natural gas combustion turbine technology and best available emission control technology. Maximum possible ground level ambient concentrations of NO_2, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, $PM_{2.5}$, and PM_{10}, resulting from the project would be a small fraction of the relevant ambient air quality standard which have been established to protect the health of even the most vulnerable individuals (the very old, the very young and the infirm). In addition, the potential public health impacts from the operation of RBEP would be negligible as demonstrated by the Human Health Risk Assessment included in Section 5.9, Public Health. Furthermore, operational emission increases from RBEP will be offset consistent with

federal, state, and local requirements for the project and the project would be consistent with the SCAQMD's plan to eliminate older, less efficient power generating plants. RBEP will help California and Southern California obtain their Clean Energy and Clean Air objectives by lowering the total emissions associated with electrical power generation and enabling a greater percentage of renewable generation to serve southern California demand.

See Section 5.1, Air Quality, for a detailed analysis of the air quality impacts from the project.

1.6.2 Biological Resources

The project site does not contain any wetlands or suitable habitat for sensitive plant or wildlife species and would not cause an adverse impact on sensitive biological resources. Although no threatened or endangered plants or wildlife were observed at the project site, and the project site does not provide suitable habitat for any special-status wildlife species, threatened or endangered plant or wildlife species may still be present.

Because RBEP will draw process water from an existing water supply system, there will be no mechanism for entrainment of aquatic species. The discharge of process and stormwater to the ocean via the existing outfall will not result in a significant effect on aquatic resources and species during RBEP operations.

RBEP will also result in the cessation of the use of ocean water at the power plant site and will eliminate potential impacts to marine life through impingement and entrainment in the existing power plant's OTC system.

Section 5.2 provides details on biological resources.

1.6.3 Noise

Ambient noise monitoring was conducted at the project site, and an acoustical model was prepared for the project. The final design of the RBEP facility will ensure the applicable City of Redondo Beach and Hermosa Beach noise standards are met and no significant impact will result from the project. Section 5.7, Noise, provides a detailed analysis of the noise assessment. The technology and the engineering methods to be employed will eliminate the most significant noise associated with steam releases at the existing Redondo Beach Generating Station. In addition, the generating equipment will be enclosed and perimeter walls erected to provide superior noise abatement.

1.6.4 Visual Resources

RBEP will result in an improvement to the aesthetic quality of the project area because it will result in the removal of the existing Redondo Beach Generating Station facilities, which are significantly larger in size, height, and footprint than RBEP. The tallest structures in the proposed plant will be the three 140-foot exhaust stacks, which are more than 70 feet lower than the five 219-foot-tall stacks of the existing plant. RBEP has been designed considering the urban site and will include walls and enclosures more consistent with the setting of the surrounding area. This determination was based on an analysis of simulated views of the project from five key observation points. Section 5.13 provides a detailed discussion of the visual resources assessment.

1.6.5 Water Resources

RBEP will result in the elimination of the use of ocean water at the project site. Ocean water intake and discharge as a result of the elimination of OTC will be reduced to zero upon implementation of RBEP, and all water quality (and aquatic) impacts associated with OTC use will be eliminated. Discharges to the ocean outfall from stormwater runoff and process wastewater will continue and will meet ocean water discharge standards. Discharge flows will substantially decrease compared to existing conditions because of decreased plant water use. The maximum possible fresh water use in RBEB will be less than 18 percent of the fresh water used by the existing power plant operating at only a 5 percent annual capacity factor, making all operational impacts to surface water quality less-than-significant. Section 5.15 provides a detailed analysis of water resources.

1.7 Key Benefits

1.7.1 Environmental

As noted previously, RBEP will reuse an existing industrial brownfield site, and will reuse existing infrastructure to minimize land use impacts. The RBEP design uses a dry cooling technology, which uses 93 percent less water relative to a similarly sized wet-cooled facility. The annual water requirements for RBEP if it were to operate continuously for the maximum permitted hours per year (6,835 hours per year) will be approximately 52.5 acre-feet per year, substantially less than the actual historical water consumption of the existing Redondo Beach Generating Station. Based on water volumes from 2008 through 2011, the Redondo Beach Generating Station has historically used approximately 190 gallons per minute and 306 acre-feet per year while operating at only 5 percent of its maximum capacity.

RBEP will also have superior thermal efficiency, resulting in fewer air emissions on a pound-per-megawatt basis than the existing Redondo Beach Generating Station. The configuration of three gas turbines allows the plant to operate at a relatively constant thermal efficiency across a wide range of electrical output, making it the most efficient design for the intended operational profile.

Additionally, RBEP, with its more compact combined-cycle design and shorter exhaust stacks, will result in a reduced visual impact compared to the existing Redondo Beach Generating Station.

1.7.2 Employment and Economic Benefits

The capital cost for RBEP plant equipment is approximately $250 to $275 million, and the total project cost represents an even larger investment in southern California. There will be approximately $31.375 million in local purchases of materials and supplies during construction and approximately $2.5 million per year of operational expenditures in the community. In addition, RBEP will result in continued (and likely increased) property tax revenues.

RBEP will result in a peak of approximately 338 construction and demolition workers in the first quarter of 2019, and the average workforce during construction and demolition will be 149 workers. The operating facility will permanently employ 21 staff, including plant operators, supervisors, administrative staff, mechanics, engineers, chemists, and electricians in three rotating shifts over a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week basis.

RBEP will use the services of local or regional firms for major maintenance and overhauls, plant supplies, and other support services throughout the life of the facility, resulting in additional direct employment and economic benefits.

1.8 Persons Who Prepared the AFC

Persons with primary responsibility for the preparation of each section of this AFC are listed in Appendix 1C.