

DOCKETED	
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Memorandum

To: Chair David Hochschild
Commissioner Karen Douglas
Commissioner Andrew McAllister
Commissioner Patty Monahan
Commissioner Janea A. Scott

Date: April 21, 2020

From: Drew Bohan
Executive Director

Subject: APPROVAL OF A SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POWER AUTHORITY EMISSION PERFORMANCE STANDARD COMPLIANCE FILING

On April 3, 2020, the Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA) submitted a compliance filing requesting the California Energy Commission (CEC) find that SCPPA's covered procurement for geothermal energy from the Star Peak Geothermal Energy Project be determined to be compliant with the CEC Greenhouse Gases Emission Performance Standard (EPS), pursuant to Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations, §2900, et seq.

Senate Bill 1368 (Perata, Chapter 598, Statutes of 2006) limits long-term investments in baseload generation by the state's utilities to power plants that meet an EPS jointly established by the CEC and the California Public Utilities Commission. The CO₂ emission rate limit is 1,100 pounds per megawatt-hour. The EPS establishes a public process for determining the compliance of proposed utility investments. Utilities are required to submit a compliance filing upon committing to an investment that is required to meet the EPS.

On February 20, 2020, SCPPA's Board of Directors approved a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Star Peak Geothermal LLC for a term of 25 years. The PPA has a total capacity of 12.5 megawatts (MW) and is purchased on behalf of one of SCPPA's participating members, the City of Glendale. The Star Peak Geothermal Energy Project, located in Pershing County, Nevada, is expected to begin commercial operation on April 1, 2021 and has been certified under the Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) with an RPS identification number of 64292.

Staff has evaluated SCPPA's compliance filing and concludes that the PPA is compliant with the EPS pursuant to §2903(b)(1); specifically, that the geothermal facility listed in the PPA meets the criteria of a renewable electricity generation facility as defined in Chapter 8.6 of Division 15 of the Public Resources Code and as such is determined to be compliant with the EPS. Staff recommends the CEC find that the covered procurement as described in SCPPA's filing complies with the CEC's EPS, Title 20, §2900 et seq., of the California Code of Regulations.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

STATE ENERGY RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

*Southern California Public Power Authority
Emission Performance Standard
Compliance Filing*

Docket No. 20-EPS-01

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 8341(e)(1), the California Energy Commission (CEC) established a greenhouse gases emission performance standard (EPS) of 1,100 pounds carbon dioxide per megawatt hour, as codified in Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations, section 2900 et seq. The CEC is responsible for reviewing all long-term financial commitments entered into by local publicly owned electric utilities for compliance with the EPS.

II. FINDINGS

- a. On April 3, 2020, the Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA) submitted a compliance filing requesting that the CEC find that SCPPA's Power Purchase Agreement with Star Peak Geothermal LLC. for electricity from the Star Peak Geothermal Energy Project be determined to be compliant with the EPS;
- b. CEC staff reviewed SCPPA's filing and found it complete. Based on its review, staff recommended that the procurement be found to be in compliance with the EPS; specifically, staff concluded that the facility listed in the PPA is determined to be compliant with the EPS under section 2903(b)(1) of the Public Resources Code; and
- c. The CEC concurs with staff's recommendation that SCPPA's compliance filing is complete and that the contract with Star Peak Geothermal LLC, as described in the compliance filing, complies with the EPS.

III. CONCLUSION AND ORDER

The CEC hereby adopts staff's recommendation and orders that the long-term financial commitment described in SCPPA's compliance filing complies with the CEC's Greenhouse Gases Emission Performance Standard, as codified in Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations, section 2900 et seq.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretariat to the CEC does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the CEC held on May 13, 2020.

AYE:

NAY:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Cody Goldthrite
Secretariat