NOTICE OF PREPARATION
Casa Diablo IV

Date: February 26, 2020

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Casa Diablo IV Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2011041008)

Project Title: Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Power Plant Project Supplemental EIR

The Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) will be the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Power Plant Project (proposed Project). The District is preparing the SEIR in response to the 2019 Appellate Court's decision in *Covington v. Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District* (2019) 43 Cal.App.5th 867, which resolved a CEQA challenge to the 2013 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/EIR for the proposed Project.

In response to the decision made by the Court of Appeals, the SEIR will focus exclusively on the feasibility of additional mitigation measures proposed in comments provided on the 2013 Draft EIS/EIR to limit the fugitive emissions of reactive organic gas (ROG). If it is determined that the additional mitigation measures are feasible, then the SEIR will evaluate the potential measures under the CEQA Guidelines, including Section 15126.4, and the environmental impacts that would result from implementing them.

Scoping Comments: Written scoping comments will be accepted at any time during the 30-day scoping period. Instructions for submission of comments and contact information are listed below.

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed Project would be located on public land (BLM Geothermal Lease # CA-11667 and CA-11667A) in Sections 29 and 32, Township 3 South, and Range 28 East Mount Diablo (MD) Base and Meridian (B&M). This location is approximately two miles east of the town of Mammoth Lakes in Mono County, California. A location map of the proposed Project area is attached to this Notice as **Figure 1**. The proposed Project has not changed since the prior analysis and would include construction, operation and maintenance of a geothermal power plant and up to 18 geothermal resource wells (some new and some existing) and associated pipelines on portions of BLM Geothermal Leases CA-11667, CA-14408 and CA-11672 located within the Inyo National Forest in Section 25 of T3S, R27E and Sections 30, 31

and 32 of T3S, R28E, MD B&M. The proposed Project would be located entirely within the Mono-Long Valley Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA) in Mono County, California.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Ormat Nevada Inc., proposes to build, and following the expected 30-year useful life, decommission the Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Development Project (CD-IV) in the vicinity of the existing Mammoth Pacific L.P. (MPLP) geothermal complex. The power plant would consist of the following facilities:

- A geothermal power plant consisting of two (2) Ormat Energy Converters (OEC) binary generating units (21.2 megawatts [MW] gross each) with vaporizers, turbines, generators, air-cooled condensers, preheaters, pumps and piping, and ancillary equipment. The gross power generation of the CD-IV plant would be 42.4 MW. The estimated auxiliary and parasitic loads (power used within the proposed Project site for circulation pumps, fans, well pumps, loss in transformers and cables) is about 9.4 MW, thus providing a net power output of about 33 MW.

- A motive fluid system consisting of motive fluid (isopentane) storage vessels (either one or two vessels in the range of 9,000 to 12,000 gallons) and a motive fluid vapor recovery system, which would consist of a diaphragm pump, a vacuum pump, and activated carbon canisters.

- An air cooling system for the power plant. The predominant method of cooling would be dry cooling which would be employed during most months and during cooler times of the day during warmer months. During the warmer months, the power plant may also employ an evaporative assist system to increase cooling efficiency. Evaporative assist involves spraying air-cooled condensers with water in order to decrease the temperature of air flowing through the air bays. The evaporative assist system would use either recycled water from the Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD) wastewater treatment plant, or treated brine (geothermal fluid). The use of recycled water would require installing a water supply pipeline from the MCWD treatment plant to the CD-IV plant. The use of treated brine would require installing an onsite reverse osmosis system to treat geothermal fluid.

- A reverse osmosis water treatment facility and equalization storage tank. The reverse osmosis water treatment facility would be intended to treat and desalinate a portion of the spent geothermal brine after it has passed through the OEC units. The reverse osmosis process consists of a heat exchanger to cool the water, pretreatment train with chemical dosing and microfiltration, reverse osmosis membranes, and a 350,000-gallon storage tank for storing the treated water. The reverse osmosis capacity would be 225 gallons per minute (gpm) of product water.

- Up to 18 geothermal wells (some new and some existing) are proposed. Sixteen of the wells would be located in the Basalt Canyon Area, west of U.S. Highway 395, and two wells would be located southeast of the proposed power plant east of U.S. Highway 395. The specific locations for these wells would be selected out of the possible locations shown in Figure 2. The actual number of wells may be less depending upon the productivity of the wells. Approximately half of the wells would be production wells and the other half would be injection wells. Each production well would range in depth from 1,600 to 2,000 feet below ground surface (bgs), and each new injection well would be drilled to approximately 2,500 feet bgs. Production wells would be equipped with a down-hole pump powered by a surface electric motor.

- Piping would be installed from production wells to the power plant and from the power plant to the individual injection wells. Two main pipelines would parallel MPLP's existing Basalt Canyon

pipeline through Basalt Canyon, and would cross beneath U.S. Highway 395 between the well field and the CD-IV power plant site.

- A new substation would be connected to the Southern California Edison Casa Diablo Substation at Substation Road with a half-mile-long buried 33 kilovolt (kV) transmission line.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The environmental effects of the proposed Project were evaluated and identified in the 2013 EIS/EIR. Based on that analysis, the proposed Project could result in impacts to Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, Geothermal and Groundwater Resources, Geology and Soil Resources, Noise, Public Health and Safety, Hazardous Materials and Fire, Recreation, Traffic and Transportation, Utilities and Public Services, Surface Water Resources, and Visual Resources.

Under CEQA Guidelines Section 15234(d), which defines the scope of what a Lead Agency must consider in the event of a remand, the analysis of all potential environmental effects of the proposed Project will not be revisited in the SEIR. Instead, the SEIR will narrowly focus on the feasibility and potential environmental effects of the mitigation measures identified in comments on the 2013 EIS/EIR to reduce the proposed Project's fugitive ROG emissions.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

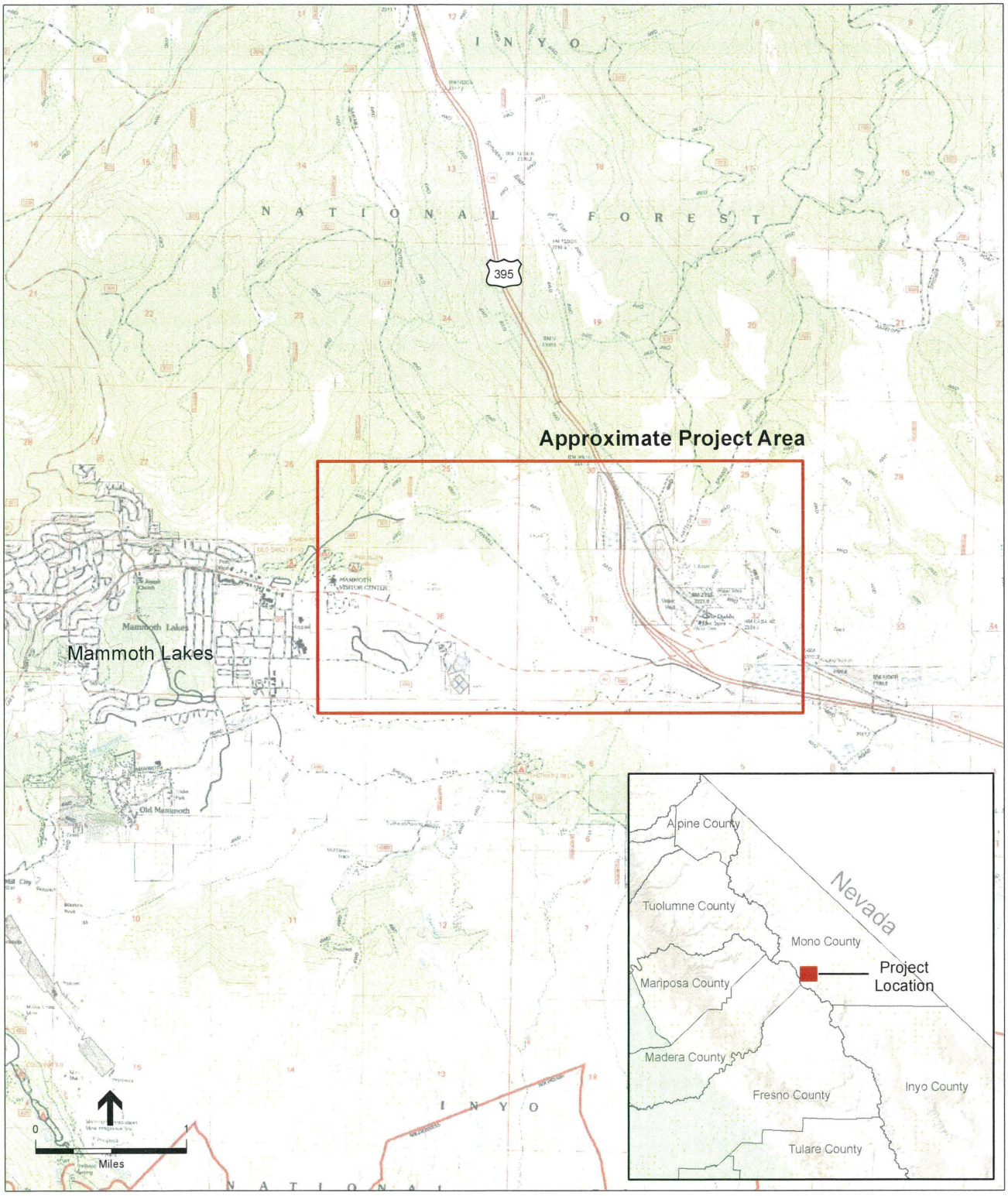
The public scoping period for the SEIR will commence on February 26, 2020, and conclude on March 27, 2020. Copies of this NOP will be available for review during business hours at the District office located at 157 Short Street, Bishop, CA 93514.

A copy of this NOP also will be posted online at http://www.gbuapcd.org under What's New. Comments concerning this action will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on March 27, 2020. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods: 1) via mail or hand delivery to the District's office at 157 Short Street, Bishop, CA 93514; or 2) via email to permits@gbuapcd.org. Names and addresses of commenters will become part of the public record.

Primary Agency Contact: Ann Logan
Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District
157 Short Street
Bishop, CA 93514-3537
Phone: (760) 872-8211

If there are any questions regarding this NOP, please contact Ms. Ann Logan at (760) 872-8211.

Date: February 26, 2020 Signature: 



SOURCE: USGS 7.5- minute Old Mammoth topographic quadrangle, 1984

Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Project

Figure 1

Project Vicinity Map

Mono County, California

SOURCE: Ormat, 2010

Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Project

Figure 2

Project Layout

Preliminary - Subject to Revision