



Gavin Newsom
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



Kate Gordon
Director

Memorandum

Date: March 9, 2020
To: All Reviewing Agencies
From: Scott Morgan, Director
Re: SCH # 2011041008
Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Power Plant Project

The Lead Agency has corrected some information regarding the above-mentioned project. Please see the attached materials for more specific information. All other project information remains the same.

cc: Ann Logan
Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District
157 Short Street
Bishop, CA 94123

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613

For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # 2011041008**Project Title:** Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Power Plant Project

Lead Agency: Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District

Contact Person: Ann Logan

Mailing Address: 157 Short Street

Phone: (760) 872-8211

City: Bishop, CA

Zip: 94123

County: Inyo

Project Location: County: Mono

City/Nearest Community: Town of Mammoth Lakes

Cross Streets: Near Highway 395 and S.R. 203

Zip Code: 93546

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 37 ° 39 ' 4.64 " N / 118 ° 54 ' 57.78 " W Total Acres: _____

Assessor's Parcel No.: Various

Section: 25,29,30,31,32

Twp.: 3S

Range: 28E, 27E

Base: MD B&M

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 395

Waterways: Mammoth Creek

Airports: _____

Railways: _____

Schools: _____

Document Type:CEQA: ☒ NOP☐ Draft EIRNEPA: ☐ NOI

Other: _____

☐ Joint Document☐ Early Cons☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR☐ EA☐ Final Document☐ Neg Dec

(Prior SCH No.) _____

☐ Draft EIS☐ Other: _____☐ Mit Neg Dec

Other: _____

☐ FONSI**Local Action Type:**☐ General Plan Update☐ Specific Plan☐ Rezone☐ Annexation☐ General Plan Amendment☐ Master Plan☐ Prezone☐ Redevelopment☐ General Plan Element☐ Planned Unit Development☐ Use Permit☐ Coastal Permit☐ Community Plan☐ Site Plan☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)☐ Other: _____**Development Type:**☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____☐ Educational: _____☐ Recreational: _____☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____☐ Transportation: Type _____☐ Mining: Mineral _____☒ Power: Type Geothermal MW 33☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____☐ Other: _____**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**☐ Aesthetic/Visual☐ Fiscal☐ Recreation/Parks☐ Vegetation☐ Agricultural Land☐ Flood Plain/Flooding☐ Schools/Universities☐ Water Quality☒ Air Quality☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard☐ Septic Systems☐ Water Supply/Groundwater☐ Archeological/Historical☐ Geologic/Seismic☐ Sewer Capacity☐ Wetland/Riparian☐ Biological Resources☐ Minerals☐ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading☐ Growth Inducement☐ Coastal Zone☐ Noise☐ Solid Waste☐ Land Use☐ Drainage/Absorption☐ Population/Housing Balance☐ Toxic/Hazardous☐ Cumulative Effects☐ Economic/Jobs☐ Public Services/Facilities☐ Traffic/Circulation☐ Other: _____**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**

Various

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

The CD-IV Project would construct a new 33 net MW binary power plant, develop an expanded geothermal well field of up to 16 geothermal resource wells (some new and some existing), construct pipelines to bring the geothermal brine to the power plant and pipelines to take the cooled brine to injection wells, and install an electric transmission line to interconnect to the Southern California Edison (SCE) Substation at Substation Road.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 2/26/2020 Ending Date 3/27/2020

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>Environmental Science Associates</u>	Applicant: <u>ORMAT</u>
Address: <u>550 Kearny Street, Suite 800</u>	Address: <u>6140 Plumas Street</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>San Francisco, CA 94108</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Reno, NV 89519</u>
Contact: <u>Mike Manka</u>	Phone: _____
Phone: <u>(415) 896-5900</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: *Janice O'Dell for GBUAPCO* Date: 3/6/20

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

CORRECTED NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Casa Diablo IV

Date: March 6, 2020

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies

Subject: Corrected 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

Correction: The Notice of Preparation (NOP) circulated on February 26, 2020, for the Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Power Plant Project mistakenly described and showed an incorrect version of the project. The project approved by the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) and the Bureau of Land Management (the "Project") does not include a water cooling system or a reverse osmosis water treatment facility, and uses the Alternative 3 geothermal pipeline alignments. This NOP has been revised to correct these details. This corrected NOP is issued to avoid potential confusion about the overall Project, but does not restart the scoping period defined in the original NOP because the corrections do not affect the limited scope of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) described below. The scoping period concludes at 5:00 p.m. on March 27, 2020.

The District will be the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will prepare an SEIR for the 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 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 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 Project area is attached to this Notice as **Figure 1**. The Project has not changed since it was approved by the District and the BLM. It includes construction, operation and maintenance of a geothermal power plant and up to 16 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 Project is proposed 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 in the vicinity of the existing Mammoth Pacific L.P. (MPLP) geothermal complex (**Figure 2**). The Project would consist of the following facilities:

1. A geothermal power plant consisting of two Ormat Energy Converter (OEC) binary generating units (21.2 MW gross each) with vaporizers, turbines, generators, air-cooled condensers, preheaters, pumps and piping, and related ancillary equipment. The gross power generation of the plant would be 42.4 MW. The estimated auxiliary and parasitic loads (power used within the Project 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. Additional components of the power plant would include:
 - b) A motive fluid system consisting of motive fluid (n-pentane) storage vessels (either one or two vessels in the range of 9,000 to 12,000 gallons) and motive fluid vapor recovery systems (VRUs). Each VRU would consist of a diaphragm pump and a vacuum pump.
 - c) A new substation that would be constructed on the power plant site and would be connected to the existing Southern California Edison (SCE) Casa Diablo Substation at Substation Road.
 - d) An overhead 33 kV transmission line approximately 650 feet (198 meters) long that would connect the power plant substation with the SCE Casa Diablo Substation.
2. Up to 16 geothermal wells are proposed. Fourteen (14) of the wells would be located in the Basalt Canyon area 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 18 possible locations (Figure 2). The actual number of wells required may be less depending on the productivity of the wells. The final number and location of wells would be determined by modeling and actual drilling results. 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 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. Thirteen (13) of the 18 proposed well locations in the Project area were analyzed and approved for exploratory well development during previous environmental reviews (BLM 2001 and BLM 2005). Two of these previously approved exploratory wells were drilled in 2011.
3. Piping would extend from the production wells to the power plant and from the power plant to the individual injection wells. Two main pipelines would parallel the existing Basalt Canyon pipeline

and would cross beneath U.S. Highway 395 between the well field and the power plant site (Figure 2). Where pipelines must cross another pipeline or a road, the crossings would be underground.

4. Power and control cables for the wells would be installed in above-ground cable trays placed on the pipeline supports. Ancillary facilities would include pumps, tanks, valves, controls, and flow monitoring equipment.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The environmental effects of the Project were evaluated and identified in the 2013 EIS/EIR as Alternative 3 (Agency Preferred Alternative). Alternative 3 ultimately was carried forward and approved by the BLM and the District, and is the Project for purposes of the SEIR. Based on the analysis in the 2013 EIS/EIR, the 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 is to consider in the event of a remand, the analysis of all potential environmental effects of the 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 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.

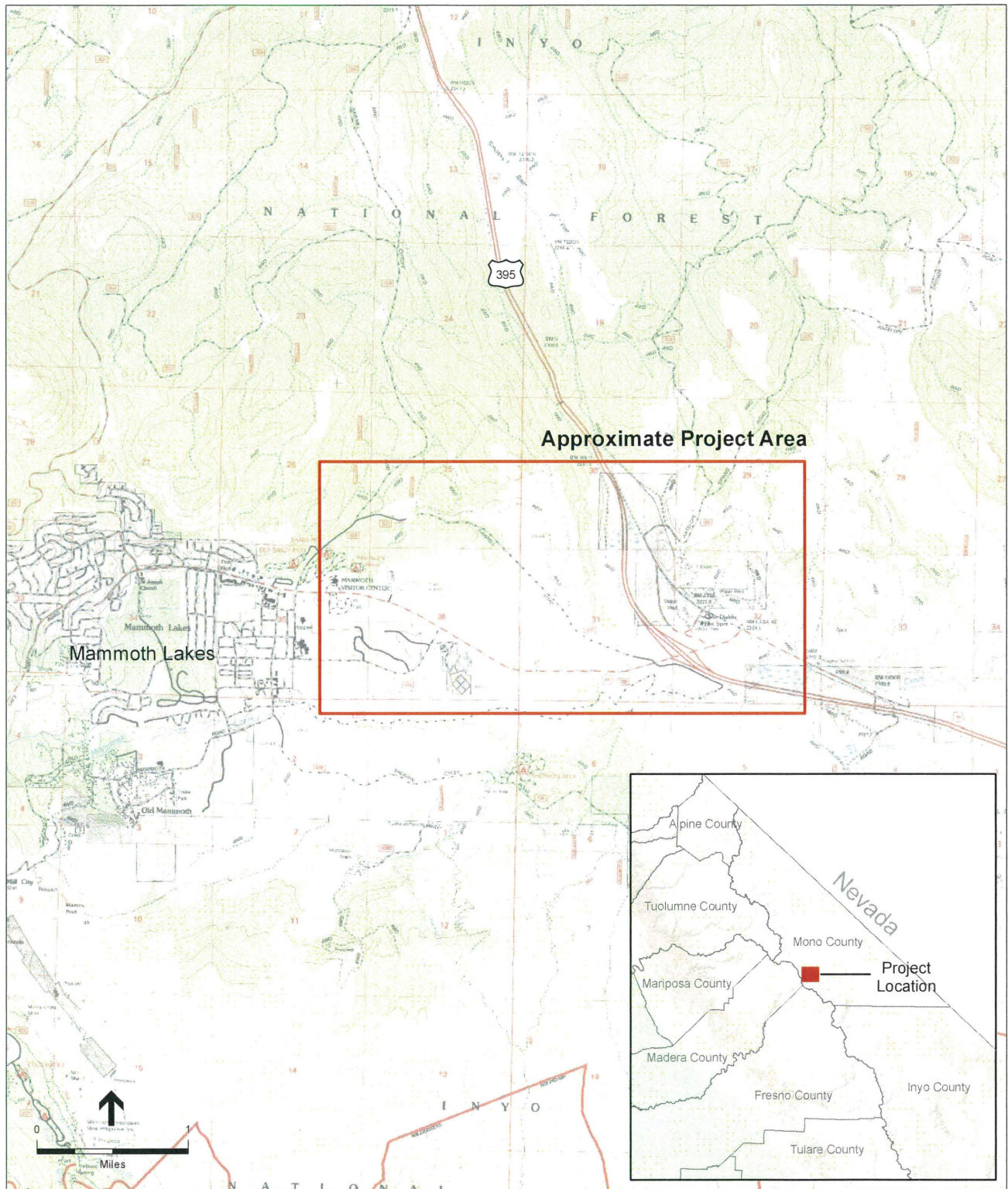
A copy of this NOP also will be posted online at <http://www.gbupcd.org> under What's New. Comments concerning this action will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on March 27, 2020. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods: 1) via mail or hand delivery to the District's office at 157 Short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

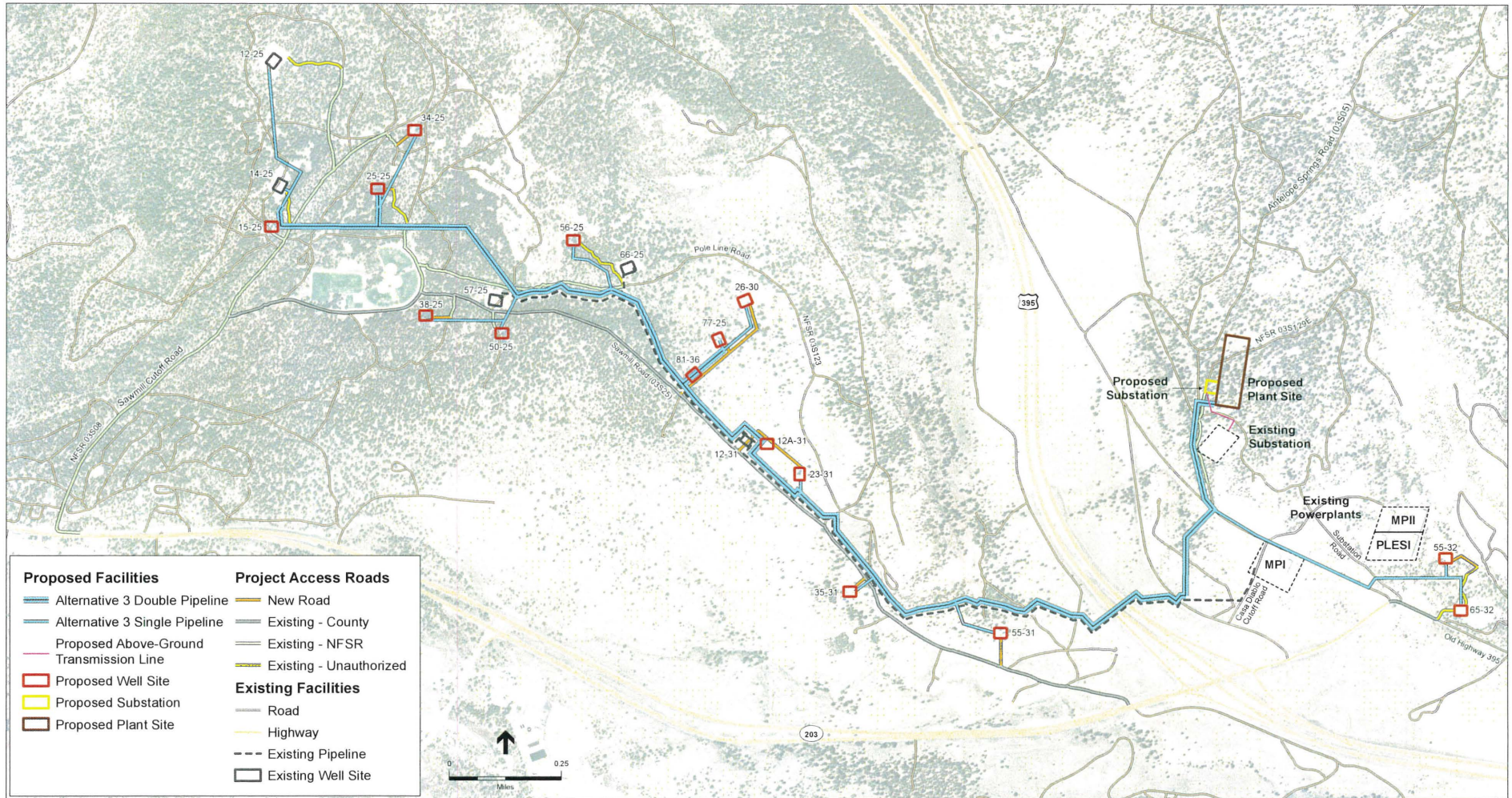
Date: March 6, 2020

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: 2013 FEIS-EIR Figure 2-14

Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Development Project . 209487
Figure 2