

# NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

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## Casa Diablo IV

**Date:** August 27, 2020

**To:** State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies

**Subject:** Notice of Availability of a Draft 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) is the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is seeking public and agency comments on a 2020 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Power Plant Project (Project) during a 45-day public review period between August 27, 2020 and October 12, 2020.

**Background:** The District prepared the Draft 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 addressed a CEQA challenge to the 2013 Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for this Project.

In response to the decision made by the Court of Appeals, the Draft SEIR contains supplemental information and analysis to the 2013 Final EIS/EIR to adequately inform the public and local officials in the planning and decision-making process regarding two potential and additional mitigation measures to address reactive organic gas (ROG) emissions from the plant: (1) a stronger leak detection and repair (LDAR) program, and (2) the additional use of leakless or low-leak technology.

**Comments:** Written comments will be accepted at any time during the 45-day public review 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 # CACA-11667 and CACA-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 initially approved by the District and the BLM. It includes construction,

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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 CACA-11667, CACA-14407, CACA-14408 and CACA-11672 located within the Inyo National Forest in Section 25, 26, and 36 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. (ORNI 50, LLC, or the Applicant) 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 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 fewer 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 potential well locations in the Project area were analyzed and approved for exploratory well development during previous environmental reviews. 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.
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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.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The public review period for the Draft SEIR will commence on Thursday, August 27, 2020 and conclude on Monday, October 12, 2020. An electronic version of the Draft SEIR, as well as the 2013 Final EIS/EIR, will be posted online at <http://www.gbuapcd.org/cd4>.

Copies of the Draft SEIR will be available for review by appointment only at the District office located at 157 Short Street, Bishop, CA 93514. Please call 760-872-8211 to schedule an appointment. Copies of the Draft SEIR are also available for review at the Mammoth Lakes Branch Library at 400 Sierra Park Rd, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

Comments concerning this action will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on October 12, 2020. Written comments may be submitted by any of the following methods: 1) via mail to the District's office at 157 Short Street, Bishop, CA 93514; or 2) via email to [permits@gbuapcd.org](mailto:permits@gbuapcd.org). Names and addresses of commenters will become part of the public record.

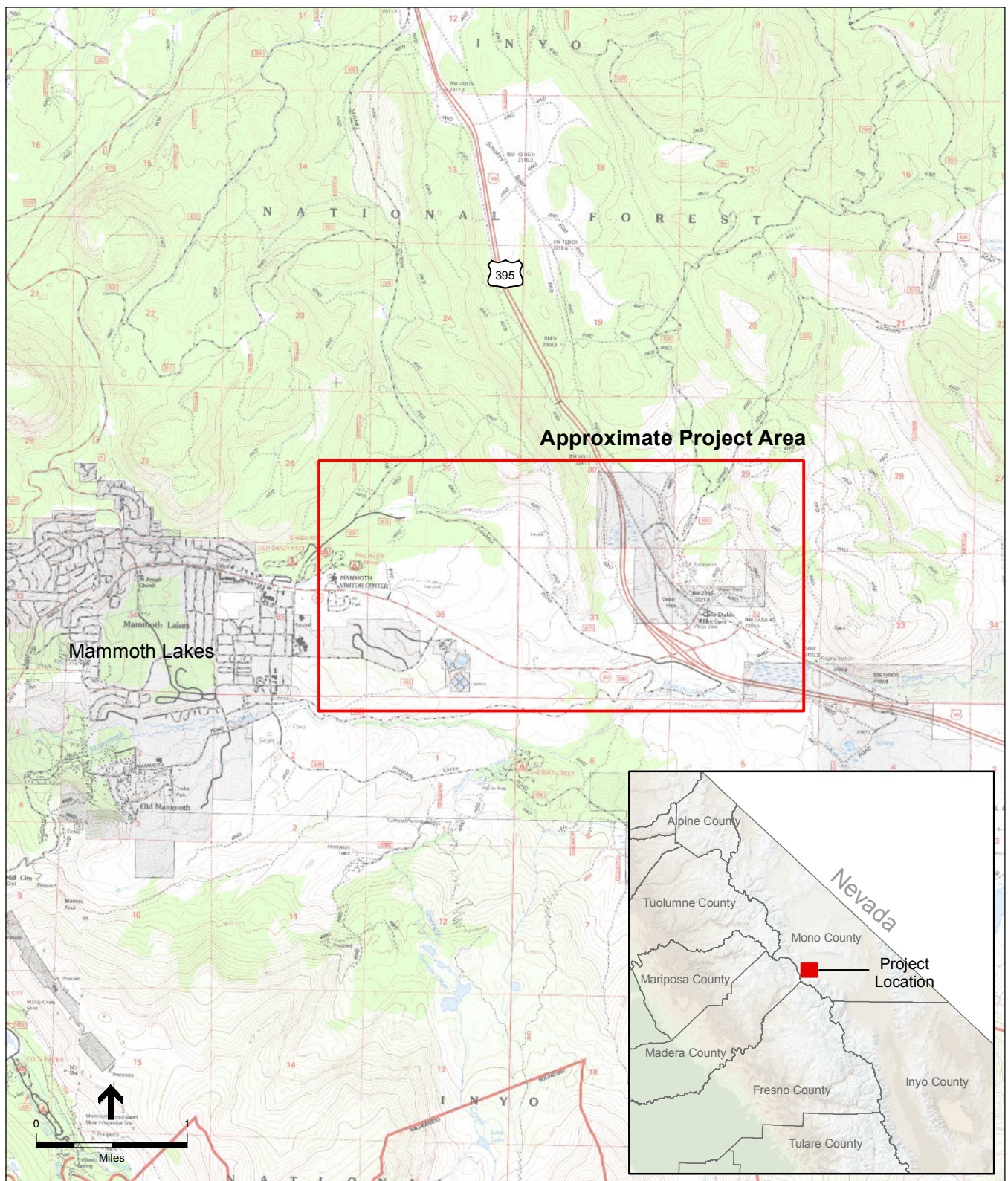
Primary Agency Contact: Ann Logan  
Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District  
157 Short Street  
Bishop, CA 93514-3537  
Phone: (760) 872-8211  
[permits@gbuapcd.org](mailto:permits@gbuapcd.org)

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

Date: August 27, 2020

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

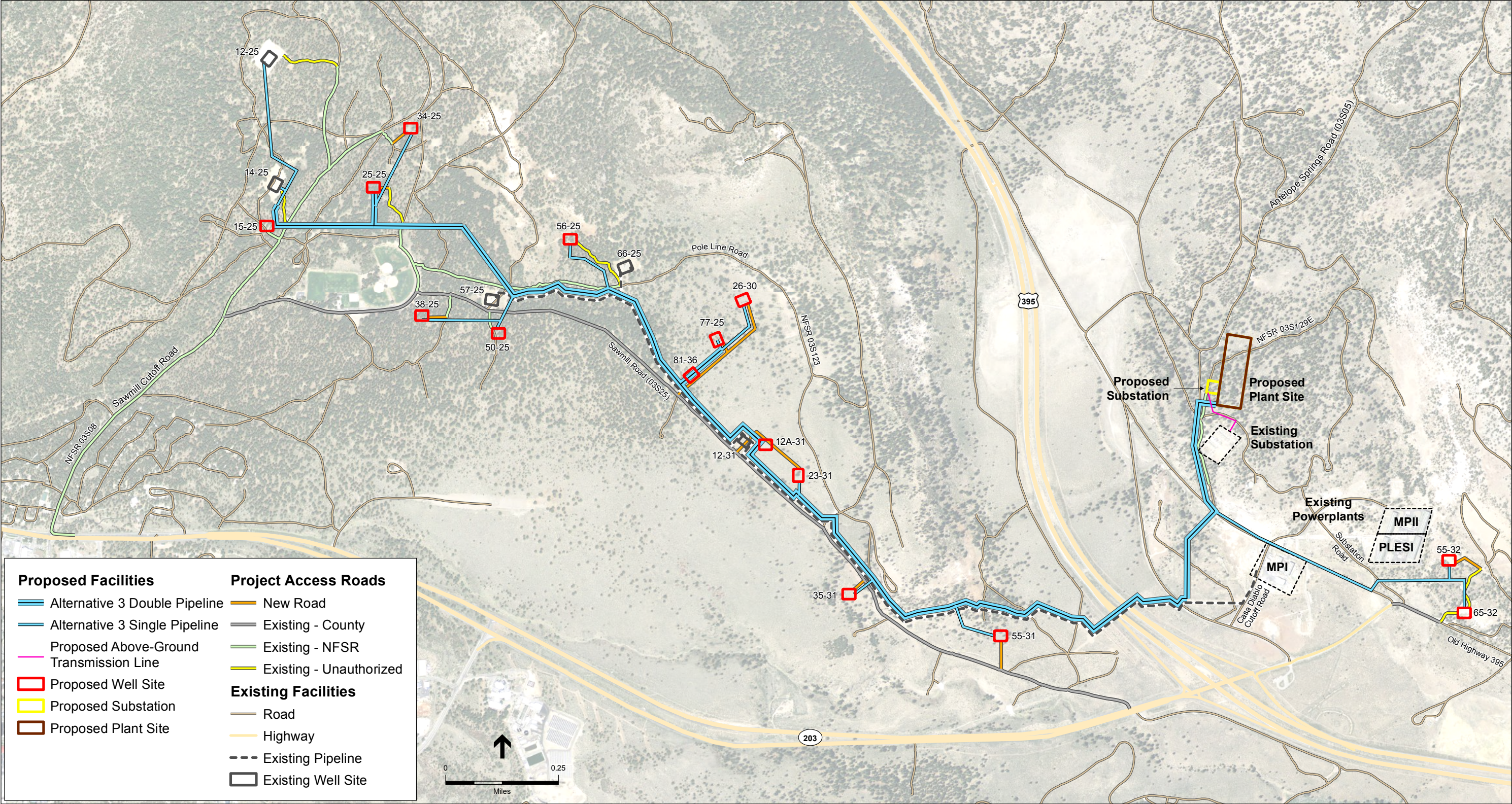




SOURCE: USGS 7.5- minute Old Mammoth topographic quadrangle, 1984

Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Project  
**Figure 1**  
 Project Vicinity Map  
 Mono County, California





SOURCE: 2013 FEIS-EIR Figure 2-14