



County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (19NGD-00000-00017) FOR THE PROPOSED

Orni 34 LLC Local Grid Resiliency Project Battery Energy Storage System

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Orni 34 LLC, an Ormat company, proposes to install and operate a 10-megawatt Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in the Carpinteria area.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located on approximately one acre in the southern portion of a 13.03-acre agricultural parcel, commonly known as 5134 Foothill Road, APN 004-004-037, in an unincorporated area near the City of Carpinteria, First Supervisorial District.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Santa Barbara County P&D is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of 19NGD-00000-00017. You may comment by submitting written or oral comments to the project planner identified below prior to the close of public comment on **January 17, 2020 at 5 p.m.** Due to the non-complex nature of the project, a separate environmental hearing will not be held.

PROJECT DETAILS: The proposed BESS would be installed on a 15,120 sq. ft. concrete pad and consist of 15 self-contained energy storage and management cabinets called Megapacks, four transformers, and controls and switchgear. Each Megapack unit would be approximately 8.75 feet in height and would hold 17 battery modules. A liquid thermal cooling system would be integrated into the Megapacks to cool the batteries and power electronics and the Megapacks are designed to limit or eliminate the spread of fire from one cabinet to another. Access to the BESS pad would be provided from Foothill Road, an existing paved private road, and a proposed new 16-foot wide driveway with a chain link gate. Total grading, including the new access driveway would be about 2,100 cubic yards of cut and 150 cubic yards of fill. The BESS would connect to the existing SCE grid via an underground power line to one new 45-foot-tall composite or wood power pole to be installed approximately 15 feet north of an existing power pole on the southeastern parcel boundary.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: P&D has prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND; 19NGD-00000-00017) pursuant to Section 15073 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County of Santa Barbara Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA. P&D's issuance of a Negative Declaration affirms our opinion that any significant adverse impacts associated with the proposed project may be reduced to a less than significant level with the adoption of mitigation measures and that the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and monitoring requirements for identified subject areas. Potentially significant but mitigable effects on the environment are anticipated in the following areas: **Visual Resources** (night lighting); **Air Quality** (temporary construction emissions); **Geologic Processes** (liquefaction potential); **Risk of Upset** (risk reduction measures, safety plan); **Noise** (temporary construction noise); **Water Resources** (stormwater runoff control). If the project description changes, P&D will require a reevaluation to consider the changes. This reevaluation will be subject to all regular fees and conditions. If you challenge this environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or others in written correspondence or in hearings on the proposed Project.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: If a copy of the Mitigated Negative Declaration is not attached, the Draft MND may be obtained and all documents referenced in the MND may be reviewed at Planning & Development offices located at 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93103. The MND also is available on our website at: www.sbcountyplanning.org/environmental/active.cfm and at the Carpinteria Library, 5141 Carpinteria Ave.

HOW TO COMMENT: Please provide comments to the project planner, Nancy Minick, at (805) 884-8050, nminick@countyofsb.org or Planning and Development Dept., 123 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101, prior to the close of public comment on **January 17, 2020 at 5 p.m.** Please limit comments to environmental issues such as those addressed in the MND (traffic, biology, noise, etc.). You will receive notice of the dates of future public hearings to consider project approval or denial. The County Planning Commission hearing is expected to be held in Santa Barbara in February 2020.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this hearing, please contact Hearing Support Staff at (805) 568-2000. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the hearing will enable Hearing Support Staff to make reasonable arrangements.