



Imperial County Planning & Development Services Planning / Building

Jim Minnick
DIRECTOR

NOTICE OF INTENT

NOTICE OF INTENT IS HERBY GIVEN for the preparation of a ☐ Negative Declaration ☒ Mitigated Negative Declaration for Initial Study #19-0033 for Conditional Use Permit #19-0028 (Heber 1 Geothermal Repower Project) pursuant to the *California Environmental Quality Act* and the County of Imperial's *Rules and Regulations to Implement California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as amended*.

LEAD AGENCY: Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department (ICPDS)

APPLICANT: Heber Field Company / Ormat Nevada, Inc.

PROJECT LOCATION: 895 Pitzer Rd., Heber CA

The project site ☐ is ☒ is not listed on any list under Government Code Section 65962.5.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Applicant proposes to upgrade the existing Heber 1 geothermal facility, which is owned by the subsidiary Heber Field Company, by shutting down the dual-flash steam turbine generator, and installing two new OECs (OEC 1 and OEC 2), reconfiguring two of the existing OECs (OEC 11 and OEC 13), including the installation of ancillary equipment and two new 10,000 gallon isopentane tanks. OEC 1 and 2 combined would function as an Ormat Integrated Three-Level Unit (I3LU) and will use air cooling rather than water cooling for the motive fluid. OEC 11 and OEC 13 combined would function as an Integrated Two-Level Unit (ITLU) and will use the existing cooling tower.

Applicant is also proposing to modify the permitted water intake from 1,800 acre feet of irrigation water to the existing water intake of 2,300 acre feet of irrigation water. The purpose of the repower project is to improve efficiency of the operations and increase the net and gross generation to 52MW (net), 78.2 (gross) as initially requested under Conditional Use Permit #15-0013. This proposed project also proposes to extend the permitted life of Heber 1 to 30 years (2021-2051).

PUBLIC HEARING: An Imperial County Planning Commission public hearing will be conducted on Wednesday **March 24, 2021**, at 9:00 a.m. in the County Administration Center (Board Room) located at 940 Main Street, El Centro, CA, 92243 to consider the adoption of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, in conjunction with the proposed project.

COMMENT PERIOD: 02/12/2021 to 03/15/2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Comments will be accepted for the proposed project during this period. You may submit comments by mail, fax or email at marielamoran@co.imperial.ca.us. Only comments submitted during the specified period will be considered unless otherwise allowed under CEQA.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: All required documents for the project are available at the ICPDS office located at 801 Main St. El Centro, CA 92243 during normal working hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,

Jim Minnick, Director
Planning & Development Services

**Cover Sheet
Assessment Form
(County of Imperial)**

Initial Study # 19-0033 Date: 02/12/2021

Project type/name: Conditional Use Permit #19-0028 Heber 1 Geothermal Repower Project

Applicant's name: Heber Geothermal Company / Ormat Nevada Inc.

Applicant's address: 6140 Plumas St., Reno, NV 89519

Name of person preparing Initial Study: Mariela Moran, Planner II

Signature of person preparing Initial Study: 

I. Project Information

- a. Assessor's Parcel Number: 054-250-035 & 054-250-036-000
- b. Street address: 895 Pitzer Rd., Heber CA
- c. Cross street: Jasper Rd
- d. Township/Section/Range: T16S, R14E
- e. Project area (acres) ☐: +/- 8 & 20 Acres respectively

II. General Plan Consistency

- a. General Plan Designation. Heber Specific Plan Area
- b. Is Project in an Urban area? No
- c. Name of Urban area. N/A
- d. Is Project within an adopted Specific Plan area? Yes
- e. Name of Specific Plan area. Heber Specific Plan Area
- f. Existing zoning. A-2-G-SPA (General Agriculture)
- g. Proposed zoning, if any. N/A
- h. Adjacent zoning. A-2 G-SPA /A-3-G-SPA

- i. Is proposal consistent with the site's existing or proposed zoning? Yes
- j. Is proposal compatible with existing or surrounding zoning or can it be made compatible? Yes
- k. Is the proposal consistent with a Specific Plan for the area? Yes
- l. Is the proposal compatible with existing plans and planned surrounding land uses or can it be made compatible? Yes
- m. Is the proposal consistent with the land use designation and policies of the 1993 General Plan? Yes

Comments: (if any)

Submitted to State Clearing House.
