
Attachment C
CEQA Findings of Fact

A. Environmental Review

On September 12, 2012, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, as lead agency, certified a Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) (State Clearinghouse No. 2008041038) for the Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Project. LADWP filed a Notice of Determination at the State Clearinghouse on September 26, 2012. In October 2018, LADWP, as lead agency, certified an Addendum to the Final EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2008041038) for the proposed modifications to the BAR-HSK L1 and the BRSS expansion. The Addendum to the Final EIR determined that the modifications to the BAR-HSK L1 and the BRSS expansion proposed by the Project would not result in any new substantial environmental impacts or increase the severity of previously identified environmental impacts.

The Water Board is a responsible agency under CEQA (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069) and in making its determinations and findings, must presume that LAWDP's certified environmental document comports with the requirements of CEQA and is valid. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21167.2.) The Water Board has reviewed and considered the environmental document and finds that the environmental document prepared by the LADWP addresses the Project's water resource impacts. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 14, § 15096, subd. (f).) The environmental document includes the mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) developed by LADWP for all mitigation measures that have been adopted for the Project to reduce potential significant impacts. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21081.6, subd. (a)(1); Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 14, § 15091, subd. (d).)

B. Incorporation by Reference

Pursuant to CEQA, these Findings of Facts (Findings) support the issuance of this Order based on the previously certified Final EIR, Final EIR Addendum, the application for this Order, and other supplemental documentation.

All CEQA project impacts, including those discussed in subsection C below, are analyzed in detail in the previously certified Final EIR and Addendum, which is incorporated herein by reference. The Project Final EIR is available at: https://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/faces/wcnav_externalId/au-p-p-brntp-FinalEISEIR?_af.ctrl-state=u68tcvfqm_29&_afLoop=1187548602198532. The Addendum is available at: https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2019/19-0419_misc_09-26-2019.0001.pdf.

Requirements under the purview of the Water Board in the MMRP are incorporated herein by reference. The Permittee's application for this Order, including all supplemental information provided, is incorporated herein by reference.

C. Findings

The Addendum to the Final EIR concluded that this Project would not result in any new substantial environmental impacts or increase the severity of previously identified environmental impacts from the FEIR for the Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Project certified in 2012. Specifically, as discussed in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 of the Addendum, the increased magnitude of impacts to biological and water resources would not be significant, as the measures adopted in the MMRP (Final EIS/EIR Appendix S) and LADWP's GPs (Chapter 2, Table 2-8 of the Final EIS/EIR) would sufficiently avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts from the proposed modifications. Impacts would be similar or identical to those analyzed within the Final EIS/EIR for the previously approved Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Project. Further, impacts from the proposed modifications are comparable to those identified for the new tower construction components of the Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Project, as well as the eastern expansion of the Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Project, as analyzed in the Final EIS/EIR. This modification to the Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Project would not result in any new substantial environmental impacts or increase the severity of previously identified environmental impacts.

D. Approval of Environmental Document / Determination

The Water Board will file a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse within five (5) working days from the issuance of this Order. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 14, § 15096, subd. (i).)