



MONO COUNTY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and SPECIAL PROJECTS

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Mammoth Pacific I Replacement Project Second Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report Notice of Availability and Public Comment Period

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY is hereby given that a second revised Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared for the Mammoth Pacific I (“MP-I”) Replacement Project and is available for public review pursuant to State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guideline Section 21091(b). SCH # 2011022020

Project Title: Mammoth Pacific I Replacement Project

Applicant: Mammoth Pacific, L.P.

Project Location: The existing MP-I geothermal power plant is located in unincorporated Mono County approximately 1,200 feet northeast of the intersection of U.S. Highway 395 and State Route 203 on 90 acres of private (fee) land owned by Ormat Nevada, Inc. (Ormat), the parent company of Mammoth Pacific L.P. The project site is located on APN 037-050-002 with a Land Use Designation of Resource Extraction (RE). The project site is surrounded by lands under federal ownership and managed by the U.S. Forest Service as part of the Inyo National Forest and lands owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The project site is located within the existing Casa Diablo geothermal complex.

Project Description: The proposed project would replace the aging MP-I geothermal power plant with a new, more modern and efficient binary power plant (referred to as “M-1”) while maintaining the existing geothermal wellfield, pipeline system and ancillary facilities. No new offices or other structures are proposed, with the exception of a small substation to be placed on the north side of the project site. The M-1 plant would be located approximately 500 feet east of the existing MP-I plant. The M-1 replacement power plant is anticipated to increase the net electricity generation by 34% while utilizing the same geothermal resources for the existing MP-I facility. During M-1 plant startup operations, the existing MP-I plant would continue to operate until the new M-1 plant becomes commercial, after which time the applicant would close and dismantle the old MP-I plant and would utilize the former plant location for equipment storage. The transition period during which both the MP-I and M-1 operations would overlap would be a maximum of two years from the date the M-1 plant begins startup operations.

Rationale for Recirculation: The Draft EIR (DEIR) was originally circulated for public review from July 13, 2011 to August 26, 2011. Mono County received a total of six (6) comments on the DEIR. As a result of agency comments and new information provided by the applicant, Mono County elected to revise and recirculate the DEIR. The public review period for the Recirculated Draft EIR (RDEIR) began on February 24, 2012 and ended on March 26, 2012. Mono County received a total of ten (10) comment letters on the RDEIR.

In response to a concern raised by a commenter on the RDEIR, the County is proposing a General Plan Amendment to clarify the language of the Land Use and Conservation/Open Space Elements of the County General Plan. In order to evaluate these proposed clarifications, a new Land Use/Planning section is being added to the RDEIR to provide further assessment and clarification for public review and comment. This second RDEIR (RDEIR2) is being recirculated to provide the public and interested

agencies with the opportunity to review and comment on the supplemental information provided in the new Land Use/Planning section and the associated changes to the RDEIR. **Except as noted in the RDEIR2, all of the other assessment provided in the earlier circulated RDEIR remains unchanged and the County is only seeking comments on the Land Use/Planning related assessment provided in the RDEIR2.** Comments previously received on the RDEIR that pertain to other subjects will be responded to and addressed in the Final EIR, along with any agency/public comments on the RDEIR2.

The RDEIR2 includes the insertion of a new Land Use/Planning section, Section 4.10, to the RDEIR with supplemental analysis of both the proposed MP-I Replacement Project and the potential cumulative impacts associated with existing and proposed development. Only the new Land Use/Planning section and the related changes to the text of the RDEIR, are being circulated for public review at this time. All of the new or supplemental information is analyzed as appropriate in various sections of the RDEIR2. The new or revised information includes:

- Land Use/Planning Section 4.10;
- Cumulative Impact Land Use/Planning Section 5.3.10; and
- Assorted changes to earlier RDEIR text needed for document consistency with the added Land Use/Planning sections.

The Second Recirculated Draft EIR will be available for public review at the following locations, starting on July 6, 2012:

- Mono County Economic Development Department, 452 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes
- Mono County Community Development Department, Annex I, 74 N. School Street, Bridgeport
- Mammoth Lakes Branch Mono County Library, 400 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Lakes
- Crowley Lakes Branch Mono County Library, 3627 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake
- Bridgeport Branch Mono County Library, 94 North School Street, Bridgeport

The Second Recirculated Draft EIR and its Technical Appendices may also be viewed on the County website:

<http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/cdd%20site/Planning/Documents/MammothPacificDEIRFebruary.pdf>

<http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/cdd%20site/Planning/Documents/MammothPacificDEIRAppendicesFebruary.pdf>

The MP-I Replacement Project Draft EIR was prepared to analyze the potential environmental impacts from the project. With adoption of the identified required mitigation measures presented in the RDEIR and RDEIR2, the project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

A shortened **30-day** public review period for the Recirculated Draft EIR has been requested. If approved, the public review period would begin at 8:00 a.m. on **Friday, July 6, 2012** and end **at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 6, 2012**. If the State Clearinghouse denies the request for a shortened review period, the normal 45-day review period would extend to Monday, August 20, 2012. Economic Development Department representatives will respond to all comments received on the RDEIR2 received within the relevant public review period. Comments may be submitted by facsimile, letter, or electronic mail.

Comments should be submitted to:

Mono County Economic Development Department
ATTN: Dan Lyster
PO Box 2415
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Fax: (760) 924-1697
E-mail: dlyster@mono.ca.gov

For additional information, please contact Dan Lyster by telephoning (760) 924-1705.

Cc: Mammoth Times
Mono County Clerk