



GREAT BASIN UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

157 Short Street, Bishop, California 93514-3537 www.gbuapcd.org

Tel: 760-872-8211 Fax: 760-872-6109 info@gbuapcd.org

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Date: April 1, 2011

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, and Interested Individuals and Organizations

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Development Project

Project Title: Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Development Project

The Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD) will be the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Casa Diablo IV (CD-4) Geothermal Development Project. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bishop Office will be the Lead Agency and the U.S. Forest Service will be a Cooperating Agency pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended. The EIS/EIR is being prepared to evaluate potentially significant environmental effects related to approval of this project.

GBUAPCD is requesting the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is pertinent to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. To the extent that your agency has authority to issue permits or take other actions related to the project, your agency will be able to use the EIS/EIR when considering your permit or other approval for the project. GBUAPCD is also requesting comments regarding environmental issues associated with the proposed project from interested individuals and organizations.

As required by NEPA, the BLM published on March 25, 2011 in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a joint EIR/EIS for the Project. Similar to this NOP, the intent of the NOI will be to initiate the public scoping for the EIR/EIS, provide information about the proposed Project, and also serve as an invitation for other cooperating agencies to provide comments on the scope and content of the EIR/EIS.

PROJECT LOCATION

The CD-4 power plant would be located on public land (BLM Geothermal Lease # CA-11667 and CA-11667A) in Sections 29 and 32, Township 3 South, and Range 28 East MD B&M. This location is east of U.S. Highway 395 at Casa Diablo (SR 203), 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 NOP as **Figure 1**. The Project would include construction, operation and maintenance of up to 18 geothermal resource wells (some new and some existing) and associated pipelines west of U.S. Highway 395 on portions of BLM Geothermal Leases CA-11667, CA-14408 and CA-11672 located within the Inyo National Forest in Section 25 of T3S, R27E and Sections 30, 31 and 32 of T3S, R28E, MD B&M. The Project would be located entirely within the Mono-Long Valley Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA) in Mono County, California.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Mammoth Pacific, L.P. (MPLP) proposes to build, and following the expected 30-year useful life, decommission the Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Development Project (CD-4) (“Project” or “Proposed Action”) in the vicinity of the existing MPLP geothermal project. The Project would consist of the following facilities:

- A geothermal power plant consisting of two (2) Ormat Energy Converters (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 CD-4 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.
- A motive fluid system consisting of motive fluid (isopentane) storage vessels (either one or two vessels in the range of 9,000 to 12,000 gallons) and a motive fluid vapor recovery system (VRU). The VRU would consist of a diaphragm pump, a vacuum pump, and activated carbon canisters.
- An air cooling system for the power plant. The predominant method of cooling would be dry cooling which would be employed during most months and during cooler times of the day during warmer months. During the warmer months, the power plant may also employ an evaporative assist system to increase cooling efficiency. Evaporative assist involves spraying air-cooled condensers with water in order to decrease the temperature of air flowing through the air bays. The evaporative assist system would use either recycled water from the Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD) wastewater treatment plant, or treated brine (geothermal fluid). The use of recycled water would require installing a water supply pipeline from the MCWD treatment plant to the CD-4 plant. The use of treated brine would require installing an onsite reverse osmosis (RO) system to treat geothermal fluid.
- An RO water treatment facility and equalization storage tank. The RO water treatment facility would be intended to treat and desalinate a portion of the spent geothermal brine after it has passed through the OEC units. The RO process consists of a heat exchanger to cool the water, pretreatment train with chemical dosing and microfiltration, RO membranes, and a 350,000 gallon storage tank for storing the treated water. The RO capacity would be 225 gallons per minute (gpm) of product water.
- Up to 18 geothermal wells (some new and some existing) are proposed. Sixteen 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 Hwy 395. The specific locations for these wells would be selected out of the possible locations shown in Figure 2. The actual number of wells may be less depending upon the productivity of the wells. 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 new 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.
- Piping from production wells to the power plant and from the power plant to the individual injection wells. Two main pipelines would parallel MPLP’s existing Basalt Canyon pipeline through Basalt Canyon, and would cross beneath U.S. Highway 395 between the well field and the CD-4 power plant site.
- A new substation that would be connected to the Southern California Edison Casa Diablo Substation at Substation Road with a half-mile-long buried 33 kilovolt (kV) transmission line.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Based on the preliminary analysis, the potential environmental effects of the proposed project that will be addressed in the EIS/EIR will include, but may not be limited to, the following: air quality, social and economic impacts, groundwater and surface water quantity and quality impacts; geology and soils; plant and animal species; cultural resources; transportation; noise and vibration; and recreation.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The public comment period for this NOP will commence on April 1, 2011 and conclude on May 9, 2011. Copies of the NOP will be available for review at the following locations:

- BLM Bishop Field Office, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 100, Bishop CA 93514;
- Mono County Library, 400 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
- GPUAPCD, 157 Short Street, Bishop, CA 93514

A copy of the NOP will be posted online at <http://www.gbuapcd.org>. Please submit comments in writing to the address below. Comment letters must be received by 5pm on May 9, 2011.

Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District
157 Short Street
Bishop, CA 93514-3537
Contact: Ms. Jan Sudomier
Fax: 760-872-6109

If there are any questions regarding this NOP, please contact Ms. Jan Sudomier at (760) 872-8211.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Two public scoping meetings will be held to solicit input from interested parties on the proposed content of the EIS/EIR. The scoping meetings will be held at the following:

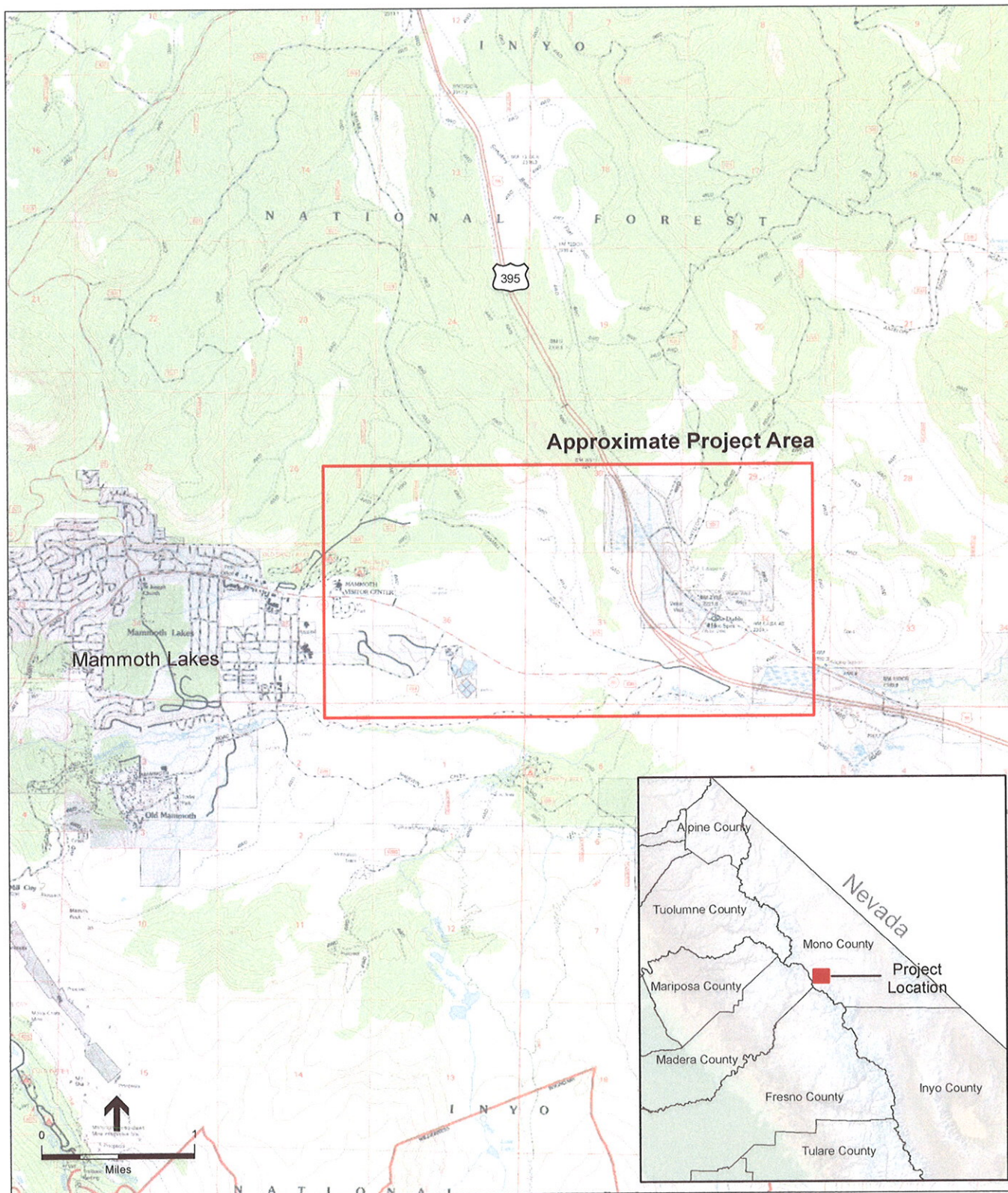
Crowley Lake: Monday April 18, 2011 at 6 p.m.
Crowley Lake Community Center
458 South Landing Road
Crowley Lake, California

Mammoth Lakes: Tuesday April 19, 2011 at 6 pm
Mammoth Lakes Community Center
1000 Forest Trail (adjacent to the Mono County Library)
Town of Mammoth Lakes, California

For more information, please contact Ms. Jan Sudomier at the phone number listed above.

Date: 30 Mar 11

Signature: 



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

Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Project

Figure 1
Project Vicinity Map
Mono County, California