



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Planning and
Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: January 19, 2016
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Glenn Russell, Ph.D. Director, (805) 568-2085
Director(s)
Contact Info: Alice McCurdy, Deputy Director, (805) 568-2518
SUBJECT: Southern California Edison - Gaviota Substation Emergency Permit;
Case No. 15EMP-00000-00011, Third Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file this report on Emergency Permit 15EMP-00000-00011, which authorized the temporary installation of emergency backup power generation equipment and related facilities at Southern California Edison's Gaviota substation. A copy of the Emergency Permit is included herein as Attachment A;
- b) Determine that issuance of the emergency permit is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant CEQA Guidelines section 15269(c), as this action was necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency as specified in Attachment B of this Board Letter; and
- c) Determine that receiving and filing this report is not a project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), as it is an administrative government activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Background:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has observed atmospheric and oceanic anomalies indicating a strong El Niño through winter 2015-2016 in the Northern Hemisphere. With above average precipitation possible, Southern California Edison (SCE) anticipates that frequent and severe storm events as predicted may result in prolonged outages to the communities served by SCE's

Goleta area electric system. Furthermore, El Niño storm events may begin in the Santa Barbara area by the end of December 2015. Accordingly, the normal permit processing path does not allow sufficient time for SCE to install the necessary equipment and facilities for emergency back-up power generation to the Goleta area electric system prior to the potential onset of El Niño.

The newly installed equipment related to emergency back-up power generation will remain at the Gaviota Substation until the end of the El Niño season, approximately May 2016, unless the units are in operation for a more extended period due to the need to support emergency repairs of the electric system. Unless there is an emergency, units will only be run to conduct testing and only during daylight hours to minimize ambient noise.

Summary Text:

Section 35-171.2 of the Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance authorizes the Director of the Planning and Development Department (P&D) to temporarily defer standard permit requirements of the Coastal Zoning Ordinance and issue an Emergency Permit when emergency action is warranted. Section 35-171.6 of the Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance requires the Director to submit a written report describing the nature of the emergency and the work involved to the Board of Supervisors after issuing an Emergency Permit. This notification fulfills the ordinance requirements.

SCE has determined that El Niño storm events in Santa Barbara County may result in prolonged outages to the communities served by SCE's Goleta area electric system. Accordingly, on December 11, 2015, SCE applied for an Emergency Permit to allow for the temporary installation of emergency backup power generation equipment and related facilities at SCE's Gaviota substation.

P&D issued the subject Emergency Permit on December 11, 2015. On December 15, 2015, pursuant to Article II, Section 35-171.6.1, the California Coastal Commission staff was notified, in writing, of the issuance of the Emergency Permit. Pursuant to Article II, Section 35-171.5.1, a notice was mailed to surrounding property owners and residents, and three (3) notices were posted at the Gaviota substation site.

Pursuant to Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance Section 35-171.5.3, an Emergency Permit does not constitute an entitlement to the erection of permanent structures. Section 35-171.5.3 requires an application for a Coastal Development Permit and any discretionary permit no later than 30 days following the granting of an Emergency Permit.

Issuance of the Emergency Permit is consistent with the Coastal Land Use Plan and the Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance, as the action provides an immediate response to an emergency situation in the interest of health, safety, and public welfare. P&D granted the Emergency Permit based on a statutory exemption (CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c)) due to the need to prevent or mitigate the potential emergency of prolonged electrical outages to SCE's Goleta area electrical system due to El Niño storm events. A copy of the CEQA Exemption is included herein as Attachment B.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

County costs for preparing the Emergency Permit are reimbursed by the applicant in conformance with the current Board-approved fee resolution. Permit revenues are budgeted in the Permitting budget program on page D-280 of the adopted 2015-2016 fiscal year budget. The fixed fee for an Emergency Permit is \$2,623.31. Future permitting costs will be paid by the applicants.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Emergency Permit 15EMP-00000-00011 (with Site Plans)

Attachment B: CEQA Exemption

Authored by:

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