

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

TO: State Clearinghouse
State Responsible Agencies

State Trustee Agencies
Other Public Agencies
Interested Organizations

FROM: County of Shasta
Shasta County Dept. of Resource Management,
Planning Division

CONTACT: Lio Salazar
1855 Placer Street, Suite 103
Redding, CA 96001
(530) 225-5532

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Sierra Pacific Industries Cogeneration Power Project; Use Permit 07-021

EIR CONSULTANT

Ben Ritchie, De Novo Planning Group
4630 Brand Way, Sacramento, CA 95819
(916) 949-3231

Shasta County is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified as the Sierra Pacific Industries Cogeneration Power Project.

An Initial Study has been prepared for the project and is attached to this Notice of Preparation (NOP). The project location and project site are shown in Figures 1 and 2, respectively, which are attached to this NOP. The project title, project description, project location and project applicant are noted in the Initial Study (IS). The IS lists anticipated environmental impacts, those issues that will require detailed analysis, and technical studies that will need to be evaluated and/or prepared as part of the EIR. The EIR will consider all potential environmental effects of the proposed project to determine the level of significance of the environmental effect, and will analyze these potential effects to the detail necessary to make a determination on the level of significance.

Those environmental issues that have been determined to be less-than-significant will have a discussion that is limited to a brief explanation of why those effects are not considered potentially significant. In addition, the EIR may also consider those environmental issues which are raised by responsible agencies, trustee agencies, other interested agencies, and members of the public or related groups during the NOP process.

We need to know the views of your agency or organization as to the scope and content of the environmental information germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities or of interest to your organization in connection with the proposed project. Specifically, we are requesting the following:

1. If you are a public agency, state if your agency will be a responsible or trustee agency for the project and list the permits or approvals from your agency that will be required for the project and its future actions;
2. Identify significant environmental effects and mitigation measures that you believe need to be explored in the EIR with supporting discussion of why you believe these effects may be significant;
3. Describe special studies and other information that you believe are necessary for the County to analyze the significant environmental effects, alternatives, and mitigation measures you have identified;
4. Provide the name, title, and telephone number of the contact person from your agency or organization that we can contact regarding your comments;

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent and received by the County of Shasta by the following deadlines:

- **For responsible and trustee agencies, not later than 30 days after you receive this notice,**
- **For all other agencies and organizations, not later than 30 days following the publication of this Notice of Preparation. The 30-day review period ends on August 3, 2009.**

If we do not receive a response from your agency or organization within the applicable time frame, we will presume that your agency or organization has no response to make.

A responsible agency, trustee agency, or other public agency may request a meeting with Shasta County or its representatives in accordance with Section 15082(c) of the CEQA Guidelines. A public scoping meeting will be held during the NOP public review period. Electronic copies of the attached document and background reports are available by clicking on the Sierra Pacific Industries Cogeneration Project link on the Shasta County Department of Resource Management homepage at www.co.shasta.ca.us/Departments/Resourcengmt/drm.

Scoping Meeting Notice: Shasta County will hold a public scoping meeting for individuals and agencies to learn more about the project and to receive comments regarding the appropriate scope and content of the EIR. The meeting will be held Tuesday, July 21, 2009, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Community Center, Anderson City Hall, 1887 Howard Street, Anderson, California.

Please send your responses and any direct questions to the attention of Lio Salazar, Associate Planner at the Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Planning Division, 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103, Redding, CA 96001. Phone (530) 225-5532.

Date: July 3, 2009  Richard W. Simon, Assistant Director

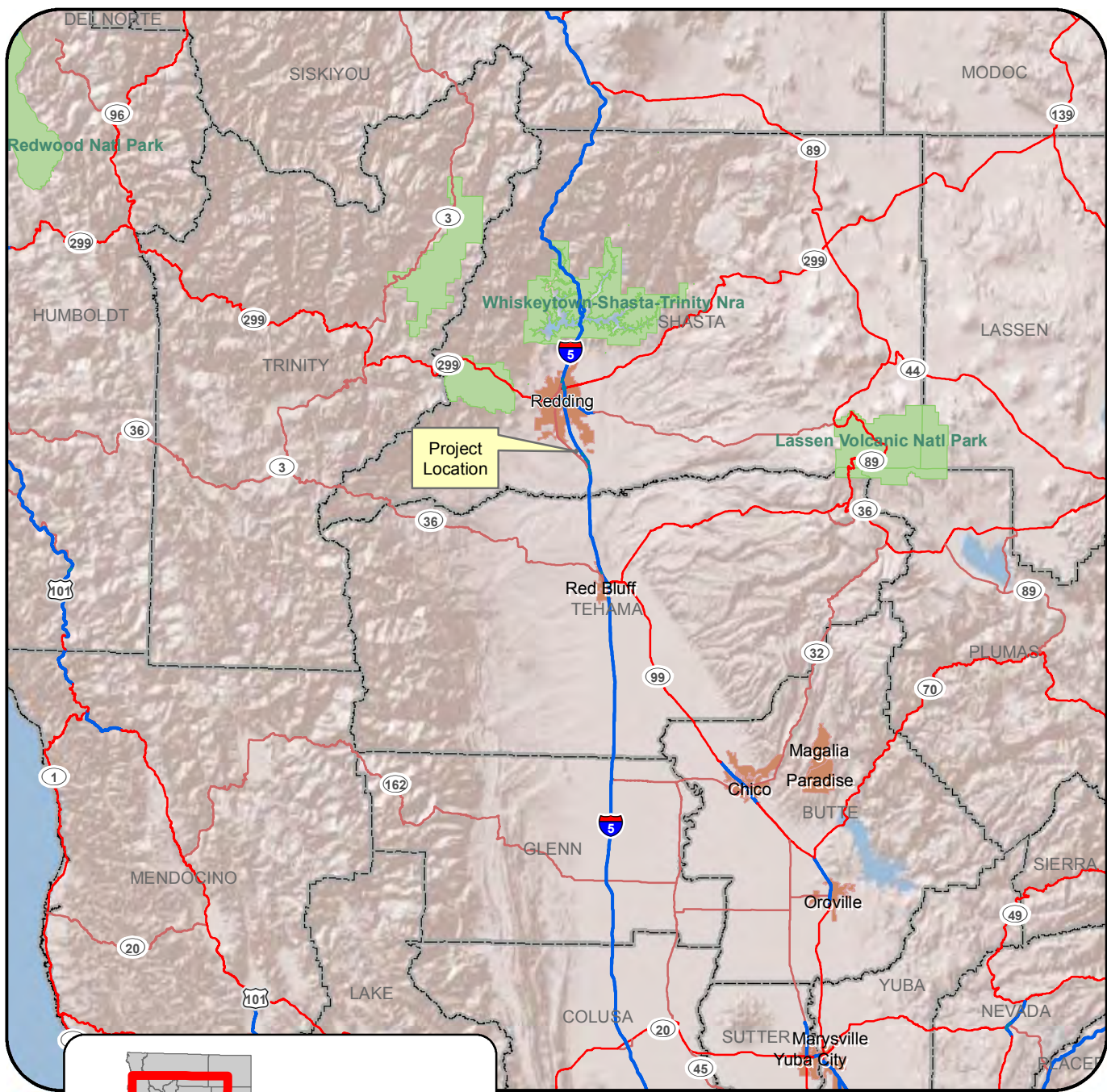
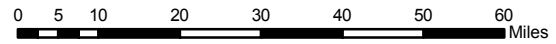


Figure 1. Regional Location Map



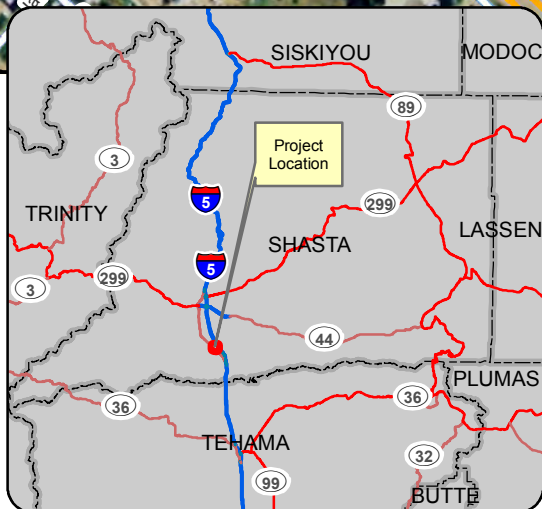
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De Novo Planning Group

A Land Use Planning, Design, and Environmental Firm

June 16, 2009

Reference Data Source: ESRI StreetMap North America
 Shaded Relief: ArcGIS Online Resource Center



Road Data Source: ESRI StreetMap North America
 Aerial Photo Source: ArcGIS Online Resource Center

Figure 2. Project Site Map



0 250 500 1,000 1,500 Feet

1:7,500

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June 16, 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIAL STUDY

USE PERMIT 07-021
SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES

March 26, 2008

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST
References and Documentation

Prepared by
SHASTA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
PLANNING DIVISION
1855 Placer Street, Suite 103
Redding, California 96001

**SHASTA COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM
INITIAL STUDY**

1. **Project Title:**
Use Permit 07-021 (Sierra Pacific Industries)
2. **Lead agency name and address:**

Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Planning Division
1855 Placer Street, Suite 103
Redding, CA 96001-1759
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:**
Lio Salazar, Associate Planner (530) 225-5532
4. **Project Location:**
The project is located in the Anderson area on a 121.39-acre parcel at the end of Riverside Avenue, five-tenths of a mile west of the Interstate 5 Interchange.
5. **Applicant Name and Address:**
Sierra Pacific Industries
P.O. Box 496014
Redding, CA 96049-6014
6. **General Plan Designation:**
Industrial (I)
7. **Zoning:**
General Industrial (M)
8. **Description of Project:** Sierra Pacific Industries is requesting approval of a Use Permit for the construction and operation of a cogeneration power plant at an existing lumber manufacturing facility located near Anderson, California. The proposed cogeneration plant will involve construction of a new fuel handling building, boiler building, turbine building, cooling tower, electrostatic precipitator, ash silo, and electric substation. The boiler would burn biomass fuel (i.e., non-treated wood and agricultural residues, as well as urban wood waste) generated by the on-site lumber manufacturing facility, regional lumber manufacturing facilities and other biomass fuel sources. At completion the boiler would produce approximately 200,000 pounds of steam per hour. The steam will be used for drying lumber in existing kilns and for the proposed steam turbine, with excess steam being available for sale to nearby businesses. The steam turbine would drive a generator that would have the capacity to produce 21 megawatts of electricity. The electricity would be used to power the lumber manufacturing facility, with excess electricity available for sale to the public utility grid. It is estimated that the cogeneration facility would utilize 605 acre-feet of ground water per year. An existing on-site cogeneration plant would be maintained as a back-up facility in order that the sawmill operation could be normalized during maintenance operations on the proposed cogeneration plant. The 21 megawatt generation capacity of the proposed plant would represent a 4 megawatt increase over the capacity of the existing on-site cogeneration plant.
9. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:**
Typical uses on the surrounding properties are commercial and industrial. The site is adjacent to Highway 273 on the southwest, the Sacramento River on the northeast, and Spring Gulch Creek on the southeastern eastern boundary. Properties located across the Sacramento River currently consist of residential and commercial recreational uses. The property to the northwest of the site is currently undeveloped.

10. **Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.):**

Shasta County Air Quality Management District
Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Environmental Health Division
Regional Water Quality Control Board

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance	

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of the initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

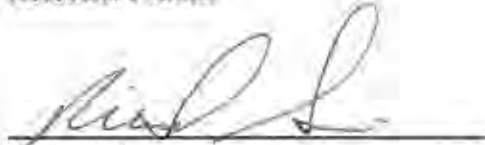
Copies of the Initial Study and related materials and documentation may be obtained at the Planning Division of the

Copies of the Initial Study and related materials and documentation may be obtained at the Planning Division of the Department of Resource Management, 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103, Redding, CA 96001. Contact Lio Salazar at (530) 225-5532.



Lio Salazar
Associate Planner

March 26, 2008
Date



Richard W. Simon
Assistant Director of Resource Management

March 26, 2008
Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parenthesis following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if all the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less-than-significant with mitigation, or less-than-significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more, "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less-than-significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less-than-significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVIII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures: For effects that are "Less-than-significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g. General Plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify the following:
 - a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less-than-significant.

I. AESTHETICS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	✓			
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?	✓			
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	✓			
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	✓			

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a-c) The proposed project involves the construction and operation of a 105-foot-tall boiler. The height of this structure, along with smoke and/or steam plumes from the facility, may be highly visible to people living in the surrounding community and people fishing and/or boating along the Sacramento River.
- d) Lighting associated with development of the new cogeneration plant buildings may potentially create a new source of substantial light or glare which could result in night sky illumination and/or other adverse effects on day and nighttime views in and around the area.

Mitigation/Monitoring: To be developed and analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report.

II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural, Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Mode (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				✓
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?				✓
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) The subject property is not identified as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Statewide Importance on the map titled Shasta County Important Farmland 2004.
- b) Neither this property nor the surrounding properties are zoned for agricultural use nor are they in a Williamson Act Contract
- c) The project would not result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

III. AIR QUALITY: Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	✓			
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	✓			
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emission which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	✓			
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	✓			
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	✓			

Discussion: Based on related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a-c) According to the Authority to Permit Application prepared by Geomatrix in May 2007, the proposed boiler will emit Nox, carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter smaller than ten microns (PM 10), PM, sulfur dioxide (SO2), volatile organic compounds, and Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs). Other potential sources of on-site pollutants include particulate emissions from fuel handling and storage, ash handling and storage, and dust generated from the movement of equipment, trucks, and vehicles on the project site. Also, on-site vehicle and dust emissions will occur during construction of the cogeneration facility from heavy-duty vehicles and from construction worker vehicles. These pollutants as well as any potential odors associated with boiler emissions and fuel storage piles could potentially have a significant impact on people living in the vicinity or recreating near the project site.

Mitigation/Monitoring: To be developed and analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	✓			
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	✓			
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on Federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	✓			

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	✓			
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	✓			
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community, Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan?	✓			

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a-f) Both the Sacramento River and Spring Gulch are located adjacent to the project site. According to the Biological Report prepared by ENPLAN, Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead are known to spawn in the Sacramento River. In addition, this report states that 20 special-status wildlife species are known to occur in the project vicinity. Degradation of spawning areas and riparian habitat, and negative impacts to wildlife species along the Sacramento River and Spring Gulch could occur due to additional noise and air pollutants from the facility, and possible stormwater run-off from the project site entering the Sacramento River and/or Spring Gulch.

Mitigation/Monitoring: To be developed and analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	✓			
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	✓			
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	✓			
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	✓			

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a-d) According to Cultural Resources Inventory Report prepared by ENPLAN, many prehistoric village sites were located close to permanent water sources and on raised benches and terraces adjacent to the Sacramento River. Due to the proximity to both the river and to known prehistoric villages in the vicinity, the project site is considered to be highly sensitive for prehistoric cultural resources. Potential impacts to possible cultural resources located on property could occur due to the construction of the proposed facility buildings which would involve stripping the existing overburden fill to the level of the native soils on-site.

Mitigation/Monitoring: To be developed and analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Rupture of a known earthquake, fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publications 42. ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? iv) Landslides? 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				✓
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	✓			
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				✓
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

a) The project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault;

According to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Maps for Shasta County, there is no known earthquake fault on the project site.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking;

According to the Shasta County General Plan Section 5.1, Shasta County has a low level of historic seismic activity. The project site is located in Uniform Building Code Zone 3, described as an area of "moderate seismicity." According to the Seismic Hazards Assessment for the City of Redding, California, prepared by Woodward Clyde, dated July 6, 1995, the most significant earthquake at the project site may be a background (random) North American crustal event up to 6.5 on the Richter scale at distances of 10 to 20 km.

All structures shall be constructed according to the seismic requirements of the currently adopted Uniform Building Code.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction;

According to the South Central Region Liquefaction Map, the project site is located within an area considered to have a moderate potential for liquefaction. The proposed buildings for the cogeneration facility could be subject to seismic-related ground failure.

iv) Landslides.

Since the topography of the site is fairly level, the threat of landslides would likely be less than significant.

b) The project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

The Soil Survey of Shasta County, completed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service in August, 1974, identified the soils in the project site with a hazard of erosion ranging from none to slight.

A grading permit is required prior to any grading activities. The grading permit includes requirements for erosion and sediment control, including retention of topsoil.

c) According to the South Central Region Liquefaction Map, the project site is located within an area considered to have a moderate potential for liquefaction. The proposed buildings for the cogeneration facility could be subject to seismic-related ground failure.

d) The site soils are not described as expansive soils in the "Soil Survey of Shasta County."

e) The project would not have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater.

Mitigation/Monitoring: To be developed and analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	✓			
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	✓			
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	✓			
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				✓
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				✓
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				✓
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	✓			
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas, or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				✓

Discussion: Based on these comments, the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a-c) Potential hazards from the proposed cogeneration facility include the following: 1) possible release of hazardous materials (e.g. ammonia) into the environment due to improper handling and storage, and/or release of hazardous materials due to a boiler explosion. 2) Creation of a breeding ground for mosquitos if standing water on-site is allowed to become stagnant. In addition, fuel storage piles on-site could become a breeding ground for rodents. 3) Fire hazards from fuel storage piles on-site due to accidental ignition and/or spontaneous combustion, and fire hazards from improper cooling and storage of boiler ash waste.
- d) The project is not located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites and would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.
- e) The project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.
- f) The project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.
- g) See above comments under (a-c).
- h) The project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas, or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.

Mitigation/Monitoring: To be developed and analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	✓			
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a new deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	✓			
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	✓			
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite?	✓			
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	✓			
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	✓			
g) Place housing within 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				✓
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				✓

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	✓			
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a,c-f) The construction of the proposed cogeneration facility would create impermeable surfaces resulting in an increase in the amount of surface run-off and possible changes in drainage patterns on-site. Storm water run-off carrying waste material from the proposed cogeneration facility could potentially enter the Sacramento River and/or Spring Gulch.
- b) According to the Hydrogeologic Analysis prepared by Lawrence & Associates in December 2007, the proposed cogeneration facility would use approximately 605 acre feet of groundwater per year which may substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge in the area.
- g) The project would not place housing within the 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map.
- h) The project would not place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows.
- i) According to the Shasta Dam Breach Simulation Map, people, buildings, and structures on-site would be exposed to significant flooding in the event of a dam failure.
- j) The project would not result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

Mitigation/Monitoring: To be developed and analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?				✓
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				✓
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) The project would not physically divide an established community.
- b) The project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The project is consistent with the Industrial (I) General Plan land use designation and the General Industrial (M) zone district of the project site.

- c) The project would not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

There are no adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community, Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plans for the project site or project area.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?				✓
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local General Plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) The project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State. There are no known mineral resources of regional value located on or near the project site.
- b) The project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan. The project site is not identified in the General Plan Minerals Element as containing a locally-important mineral resource. There is no other land use plan which addresses minerals.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

XI. NOISE – Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	✓			
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels	✓			
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	✓			
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	✓			
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				✓
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a-d) Noise generated during construction and operation of the proposed cogeneration facility would increase noise levels in the area and potentially impact nearby residents, and people fishing and/or boating along the Sacramento River.
- e) The project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.
- f) The project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

Mitigation/Monitoring: To be developed and analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?			✓	
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) The proposed project is projected to employ 6 additional people on a full and part-time basis, which is not expected to induce substantial growth in the area.
- b) The project would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.
- c) The project would not displace substantial numbers of people.

Mitigation/Monitoring: None proposed.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES: Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
Fire Protection?	✓			
Police Protection?			✓	
Schools?			✓	
Parks?				✓
Other public facilities?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

The project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for:

Fire Protection:

The proposed project has the potential to increase fire hazards in the area and subsequently increase the need for fire protection services provided by the Shasta County Fire Department. Also, see comments under VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, (a-c).

Police Protection:

The County has a total of 147 sworn and 119 non-sworn County peace officers (Sheriff's deputies) for the County population of 71,091 (Calif. Dept. of Finance, Official State Estimates as of May 2009) persons in the unincorporated area of the County. That is a ratio of one officer per 256 persons. Although the construction and operation of the cogeneration facility may increase the demand for the services of the Shasta County Sheriff's Office, it is not expected to be significant.

Schools:

The resultant development from the project will be required to pay the amount allowable per square foot of construction to mitigate school impacts.

Parks:

The County does not have a neighborhood parks system.

Mitigation/Monitoring: To be developed and analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report.

XIV. RECREATION:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	✓			
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a) See comments under Aesthetics, Air Quality, Noise, and Biological Resources.
- b) The project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Mitigation/Monitoring: To be developed and analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?			✓	

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County congestion management agency for designated roads or highway?	✓			
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				✓
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				✓
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?				✓
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?				✓
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g. bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				✓

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- The project would probably not cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system. The project is expected to result in an additional 18 truck trips per day for the delivery of additional fuel to the facility and 21 trips per week for hauling the ash waste from the project site. In addition, the new cogeneration facility would require 6 additional employees (3 on each shift).
- The traffic impact study prepared by Omni-Means in February 2008, indicates there are three locations that would be cumulatively impacted as of result of this project. These locations are identified as the Ox Yoke Road/Riverside Avenue intersection, and the Riverside Avenue/I-5 SB Ramp and the Riverside Avenue/I-5NB Ramp interchanges. In this traffic study, it was noted that the level-of-service (LOS) for each of these intersections will be considered to be unacceptable by the year 2030.
- The project would not result in a change in air traffic patterns.
- The project would not substantially increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses.
- The project would not result in inadequate emergency access. Access to the project site is provided by Riverside Avenue.
- The project would not result in inadequate parking capacity. There is more than adequate parking available for on-site parking.
- The project would not conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation.

Mitigation/Monitoring: To be developed and analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				✓
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				✓

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	✓			
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project which serves or may serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	✓			
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				✓
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?			✓	
g) Comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	✓			

Discussion: Based on the related documents listed in the Sources of Documentation for Initial Study Checklist, staff review of the project, observations on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

- a,b) There are no indications at this time that the project would require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.
- c) See comments under VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY (a-c,f)
- d) See comments under VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY (b)
- e) The project would not result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that it has adequate capacity to serve the project.
- f) If boiler ash waste is permitted and transported to a local landfill for disposal, the landfill would likely have sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's need to dispose of this waste.
- g) According to the applicant, the cogeneration facility will generate approximately 10,400 tons of boiler ash per year. Currently, insufficient information has been provided regarding how the testing and final deposition of this waste is currently handled and regulated.

Mitigation/Monitoring: To be developed and analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below the self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	✓			

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	✓			
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	✓			

Discussion:

- a) Based on the discussion and findings in Section IV. Biological Resources, there is evidence to support a finding that the project would have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below the self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal.

Based on the discussion and findings in Section V. Cultural Resources, there is no evidence to support a finding that the project would have the potential to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

- b) Based on the discussion and findings in all Sections above, there is evidence to suggest that the project would have impacts that are cumulatively considerable.
- c) Based on the discussion and findings in all Sections above, there is evidence to support a finding that the project would have environmental effects which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

Mitigation/Monitoring: To be developed and analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report.

INITIAL STUDY COMMENTS

PROJECT NUMBER Use Permit 07-021 - Sierra Pacific Industries

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Special Studies: The following project-specific studies have been completed for the proposal and will be considered as part of the record of decision for the Negative Declaration. These studies are available for review through the Shasta County Planning Division.

1. Authority to Construct Permit Application, prepared by Geomatrix, (May, 2007).
2. Hydrogeologic Report, prepared by Lawrence & Associates, (December, 2007).
3. Traffic Impact Study, prepared by OMNI-MEANS, (February, 2008)
4. Biological Wetland Screening, prepared by ENPLAN, (November 6, 2007)
5. Cultural Resources Inventory, prepared by ENPLAN, (October, 2007)

Agency Referrals: Prior to an environmental recommendation, referrals for this project were sent to agencies thought to have responsible agency or reviewing agency authority. The responses to those referrals (attached), where appropriate, have been incorporated into this document and will be considered as part of the record of decision for the Negative Declaration. Copies of all referral comments may be reviewed through the Shasta County Planning Division. To date, referral comments have been received from the following State agencies or any other agencies which have identified CEQA concerns:

1. Caltrans

Conclusion/Summary: Based on a field review by the Planning Division and other agency staff, early consultation review comments from other agencies, information provided by the applicant, and existing information available to the Planning Division, the project, (*as revised and mitigated), is not anticipated to result in any significant environmental impacts.

SOURCES OF DOCUMENTATION FOR INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

All headings of this source document correspond to the headings of the initial study checklist. In addition to the resources listed below, initial study analysis may also be based on field observations by the staff person responsible for completing the initial study. Most resource materials are on file in the office of the Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Planning Division, 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103, Redding, CA 96001, Phone: (530) 225-5532.

GENERAL PLAN AND ZONING

1. Shasta County General Plan and land use designation maps.
2. Applicable community plans, airport plans and specific plans.
3. Shasta County Zoning Ordinance (Shasta County Code Title 17) and zone district maps.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

I. AESTHETICS

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 6.8 Scenic Highways, and Section 7.6 Design Review.
2. Zoning Standards per Shasta County Code, Title 17.

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 6.1 Agricultural Lands.
2. Soil Survey of Shasta County Area, California, published by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service, August 1974.

III. AIR QUALITY

1. Shasta County General Plan Section, 6.5 Air Quality.
2. Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin, 2003 Air Quality Attainment Plan.
3. Records of, or consultation with, the Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Air Quality Management District.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 6.2 Timberlands, and Section 6.7 Fish and Wildlife Habitat.
2. Designated Endangered, Threatened, or Rare Plants and Candidates with Official Listing Dates, published by the California Department of Fish and Game.
3. Natural Diversity Data Base Records of the California Department of Fish and Game.
4. Federal Listing of Rare and Endangered Species.
5. Shasta County General Plan, Section 6.7 Fish and Wildlife Habitat.
6. State and Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Animals of California, published by the California Department of Fish and Game.
7. Natural Diversity Data Base Records of the California Department of Fish and Game.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 6.10 Heritage Resources.
2. Records of, or consultation with, the following:
 - a. The Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System, Department of Anthropology, California State University, Chico.
 - b. State Office of Historic Preservation.
 - c. Local Native American representatives.
 - d. Shasta Historical Society.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 5.1 Seismic and Geologic Hazards, Section 6.1 Agricultural Lands, and Section 6.3 Minerals.
2. County of Shasta, Erosion and Sediment Control Standards, Design Manual
3. Soil Survey of Shasta County Area, California, published by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service, August 1974.
4. Alquist - Priolo, Earthquake Fault Zoning Maps.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 5.4 Fire Safety and Sheriff Protection, and Section 5.6 Hazardous Materials.
2. County of Shasta Multi-Hazard Functional Plan
3. Records of, or consultation with, the following:
 - a. Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Environmental Health Division.
 - b. Shasta County Fire Prevention Officer.
 - c. Shasta County Sheriff's Department, Office of Emergency Services.
 - d. Shasta County Department of Public Works.
 - e. California Environmental Protection Agency, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 5.2 Flood Protection, Section 5.3 Dam Failure Inundation, and Section 6.6 Water Resources and Water Quality.
2. Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps and Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Shasta County prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as revised to date.
3. Records of, or consultation with, the Shasta County Department of Public Works acting as the Flood Control Agency and Community Water Systems manager.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING

1. Shasta County General Plan land use designation maps and zone district maps.
2. Shasta County Assessor's Office land use data.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES

1. Shasta County General Plan Section 6.3 Minerals.

XI. NOISE

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 5.5 Noise and Technical Appendix B.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 7.1 Community Organization and Development Patterns.
2. Census data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.
3. Census data from the California Department of Finance.
4. Shasta County General Plan, Section 7.3 Housing Element.
5. Shasta County Department of Housing and Community Action Programs.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 7.5 Public Facilities.
2. Records of, or consultation with, the following:
 - a. Shasta County Fire Prevention Officer.
 - b. Shasta County Sheriff's Department.
 - c. Shasta County Office of Education.
 - d. Shasta County Department of Public Works.

XIV. RECREATION

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 6.9 Open Space and Recreation.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

1. Shasta County General Plan, Section 7.4 Circulation.
2. Records of, or consultation with, the following:
 - a. Shasta County Department of Public Works.
 - b. Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency.
 - c. Shasta County Congestion Management Plan/Transit Development Plan.
3. Institute of Transportation Engineers, Trip Generation Rates.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

1. Records of, or consultation with, the following:
 - a. Pacific Gas and Electric Company.
 - b. Pacific Power and Light Company.
 - c. Pacific Bell Telephone Company.
 - d. Citizens Utilities Company.
 - e. T.C.I.
 - f. Marks Cablevision.
 - g. Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Environmental Health Division.
 - h. Shasta County Department of Public Works.

County of Shasta Dept. of Planning
Planning Division
Leo Salazar
1855 Placer Street Suite 103
Redding, CA. 96001
(530) 225-5532

RECEIVED

AUG 03 2009

**COUNTY OF SHASTA
PERMIT COUNTER**

Kirk Sanders
6612 Riverland Drive
Redding, Ca. 96002
Mailing: PO Box 17
Anderson, CA. 96007
(530) 515-7388

July 31, 2009

RE: Comments on the proposed SP Co-Generation Plant being currently examined by your offices.

Firstly, I am disappointed by Shasta County Planning to give such short notice (Thirteen Calendar days) to affected residents in a radius of more than 300 feet on a project of this scope and magnitude. Especially when they have known about it for years.

I have been a resident of Shasta County about 25 years. I Purchased 10 acres of land about 24 years ago. The location was approximately half a mile South East from the present company Wheelabrator. When I purchased the property, no mention was made by anyone about the simultaneous permitting and building of Wheelabrator.

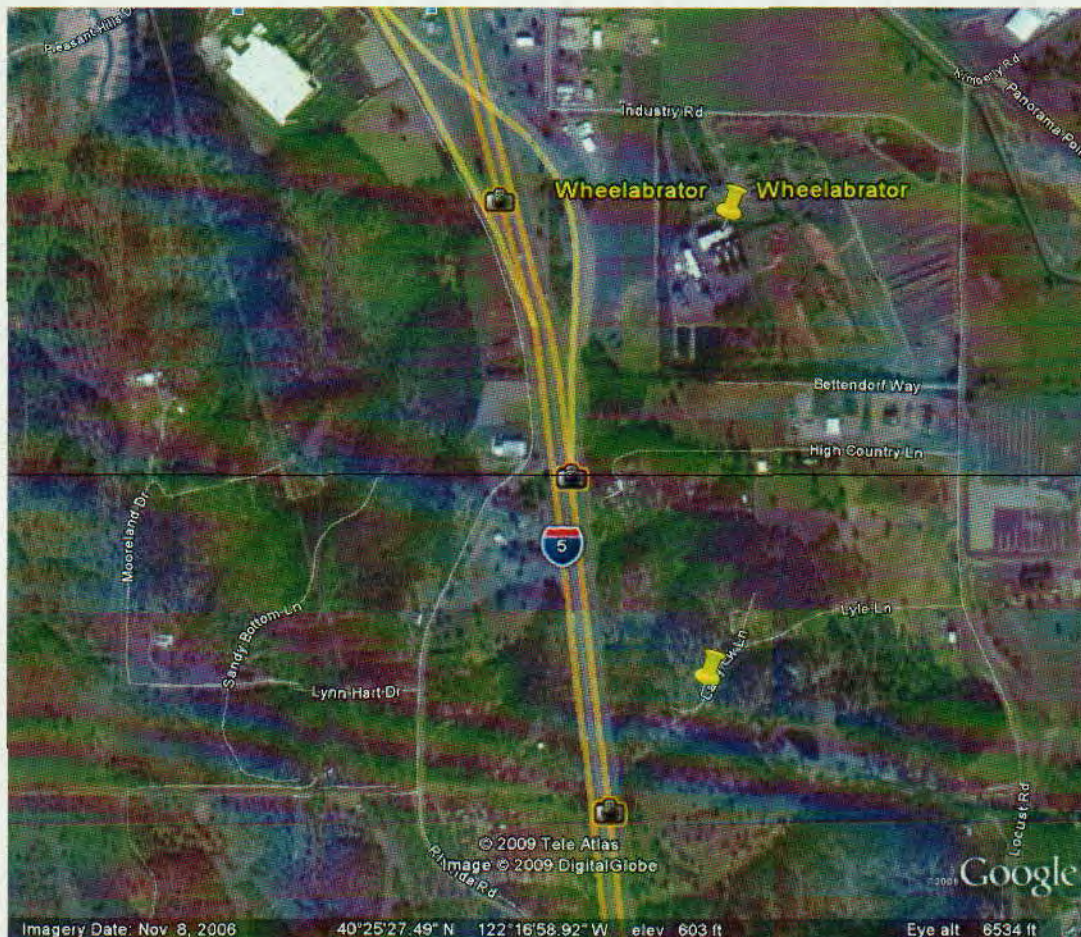


FIG 1

HISTORY

For Twenty four years I have had the opportunity to suffer the smell of Wheelabrator boilers and fuel supplies whenever there is either a light North wind or an inversion layer. I have no idea what materials or chemicals make up the smell, but it is a putrid sweet stink.

About 11 years ago, I decided to divide my time between my parcel in Anderson and a delightful trailer site along the Sacramento River in the JGW RV Park. I was aware that there was a lumber mill across the river, but never knew there was a Co-Generation Plant operating there hidden by a curtain of logs.



JGW RV Owner Residence- see SP LOG PILES across river

As one can see in the following picture, there are a number of homes close to the SP Property. Look at this picture in its entirety. How could anyone want to inject **ANY** cancer into the air, ground or water?



JGW Client Residence

The proposed plant site is only half a mile from the JGW RV PARK shown by the straight white line in **FIG 2** below. The prevailing winds are Northerly low altitude breezes up the river just about every day. I would hope the EIR examines if JGW location will receive the same stench that I still receive from Wheelabrator at my Anderson property.

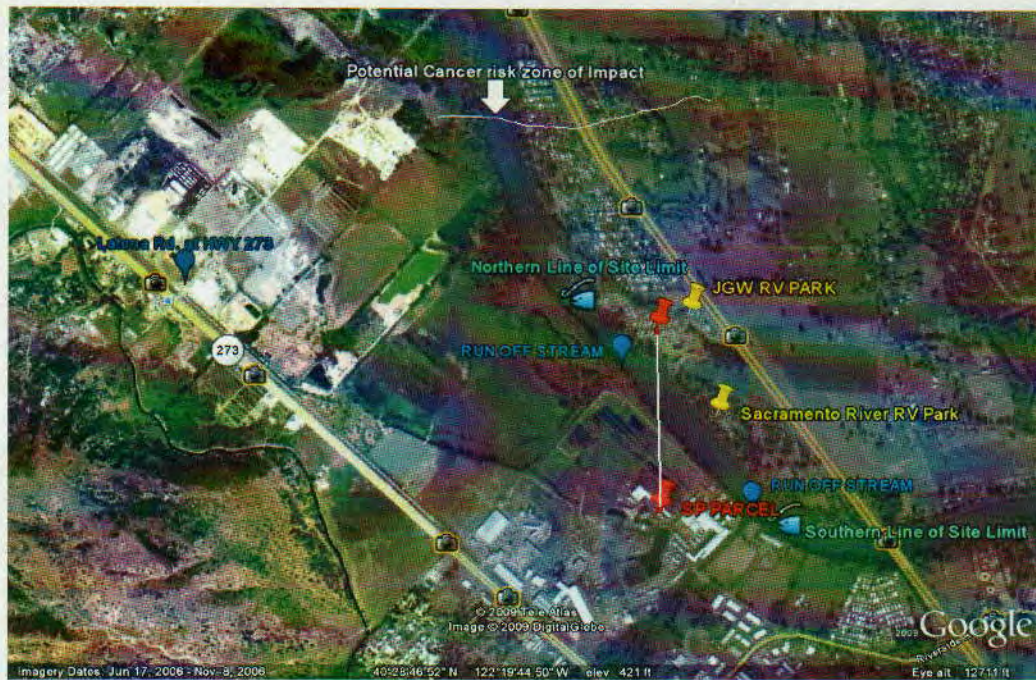


FIG 2

Additionally, I call your attention to **FIG 3** on the Environmental Initial Study (see below) showing how many residences could be exposed to **ANY CANCER RISK**. By the way, the aerial photo used for this figure was taken in 1998, and significant residential development has occurred since. See: <http://www.co.shasta.ca.us/Departments/Resourcegmt/>.

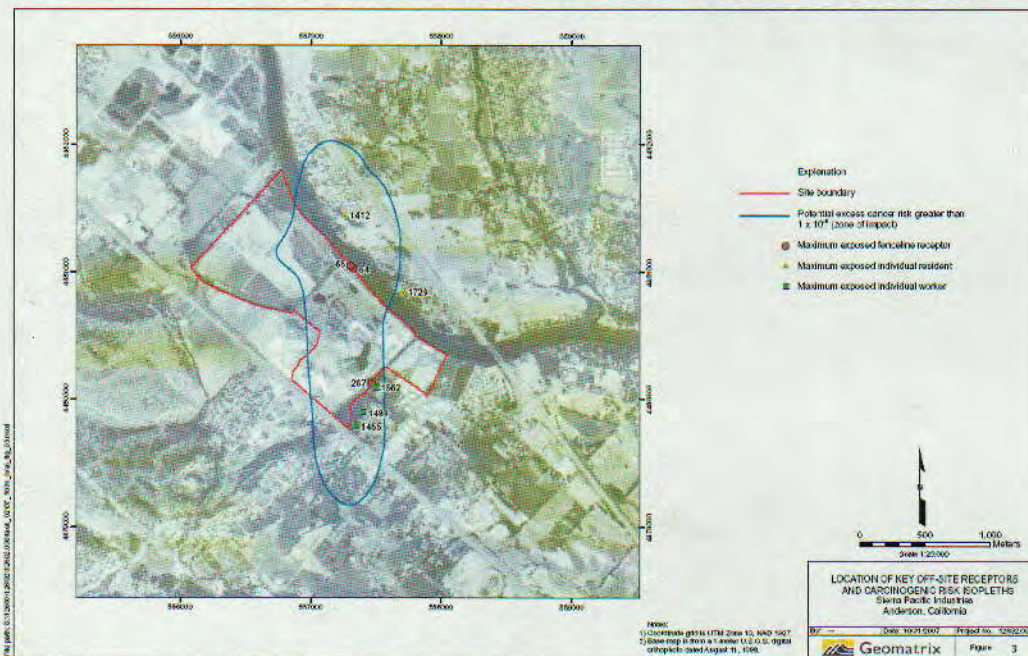


FIG 3 from Environmental Initial Study (Blue bubble shows potential cancer risk) covering most of the trailer and mobile home parks on Riverland Drive.

There are two streams entering the Sacramento River from the site (designated 'Run Off Stream' in **FIG 2**) and occasionally there is foam entering the river. It has been reported to the authorities and seems to cease immediately following complaint. Obviously, some type of contaminant causes the foam. The following picture was taken during one of the occasions when there was discharge into these streams assumedly from SP. The second picture demonstrates that the stream is used by wildlife and fowl almost every day.



Run Off Stream with foam showing



Deer Entering Run Off Stream

HYDROLOGICAL CONCERNS

Please notice Two Pins (**FIG 2** above) show the line of site - field of view from the JGW Park. Over ten years I have noticed that most fishing guides lift their lines thru this expanse. In ten years, I have only seen as many as a dozen fish caught in this area by anglers. I suggest the area, the stream, or the ground is polluted or unattractive to fish for some reason.

I question and hope the EIR tests the stream, the river, the ground in depth and questions, what inspections of the water tightness of the log ponds was done in the hydrological report.

HYDROLOGICAL REPORT

The Hydrological report in the Initial Environmental study says run-off is contained on the property. If that is so, what is the source of these two streams? Additionally, if all run-offs are contained, wouldn't the property be a lake? That same report says they were informed the log ponds are not linked to the Sacramento River.

Hydro logically. I maintain that a pond will leach into the ground water and easily into a river only 150 feet away from it. Especially when river is lower in elevation and especially during storm floods.



FLOODED RIVER LOOKING TOWARDS SP

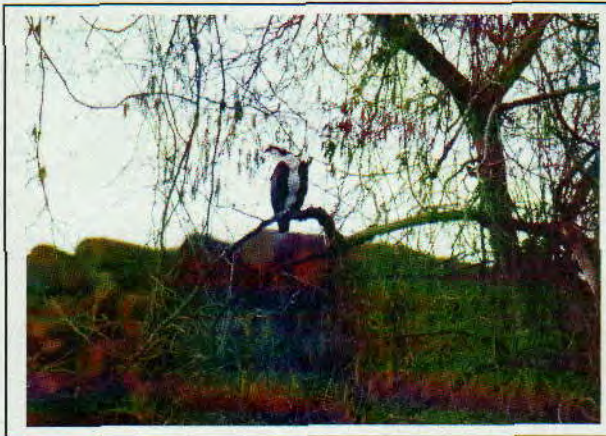
WILDLIFE AT RISK

With this comment letter I am submitting a CD entitled "Wildlife near Sierra Pacific Industries", showing many of the forms of life that could be adversely affected by this co-generation plant. The Environmental Initial Study stated few if any of this wildlife were present when they did their study in November 2007. November??? **All of the pictures on this CD were taken within a half mile of the SP Parcel by Ms. Sharon Aquila** contact info upon request. They include Woodpeckers, Wood ducks, Orioles, Western Tanager, Grosbeak, Towhee, Osprey, Kingfisher, Geese, Herons, Egrets, Cranes, Hawks, Eagles, Cormorants, Turkeys, Cedar Waxwings, Buzzards, Butterflies, Raccoons, Otters, Deer, Beaver, Misc varieties of Duck, Misc varieties of small birds. THERE ARE NO PICTURES OF THE PEOPLE THAT MAY BE AFFECTED, BUT MANY COULD BE.



Wood Duck on River

Snapshots taken of Osprey activity 2008/2009 from JGW Park showing SP property in background



NOISE

There are many noises coming from the Wheelabrator plant daily as there are from the SP site. The very most annoying (aside from equipment repair banging), is the alarm sound of vehicles backing up. The annoying sound I hear from Wheelabrator is against the wind, but with SP the prevailing winds will focus the noise in on the mobile parks to its north.

EYESORE

The sight of the existing log piles is half hidden by the trees along the river. The same trees that had Hawk nests in them this year. The Gantry moves back and forth when it isn't being repaired with banging it into shape. The addition of a 105 foot exhaust tower and the emission of venting steam will be a hardship for those of us who enjoy the views and environment.

Most all Shasta residents have driven by Wheelabrator and either seen dark smoke from the exhaust towers or been practically blinded by the steam from the water ponds flowing over I-5. The Lighting of SP is already annoying. I tried to watch the Anderson fireworks this year on July 3. I walked to the river's edge and had a gantry spotlight and building lights obscure most of the show for me. The Anderson July 3 show was doable when I moved here. The steam emissions will complete that obscurity providing pastel fireworks if I am lucky.

CONCLUSIONS

Why does Anderson always get relegated to the position of "Leach Field" in Shasta County's "Septic Plans"??? Forget splitting California in half, how about splitting Shasta County?

I am very concerned that The "Initial Environmental Study" will be accepted as Gospel fact. Even I, as a non scientist and Non-Planner, can punch holes in it. Many conclusions in it are flawed as they are based upon limited or poor investigation, assumptions or hearsay. Its map and aerial photo work was done in 1998.

Speaking with the planning department on 7/31/2009, I gathered that they are un-concerned about any potential current environmental or contamination problems with the mill operation, the current co-generation plant, or the current environmental condition of the property. Instead, I gather they are limiting their scope, evaluations and recommendations to only the immediate area of the property requesting the new co-generation plant.

This would explain the limited scope of the Environmental Initial Study and its lack of obvious findings. The ONLY trees in the study area are already cut down or sawdust. The study area would hardly be attractive to migratory birds. Apparently, NO wetlands study included the river, the river banks, the streams, the residential areas surrounding the overall parcel. See aerial map of "Study Area" at the end of these comments.

The amount of powerful money behind this project is tremendous. The project will probably be allowed. I hope the EIR recommends suspension of activity and uses mandatory facility furloughs as well as meaningful fines for even the slightest infractions from acceptable standards.



RECEIVED

AUG 03 2009

COUNTY OF SHASTA
PERMIT COUNTER

TO:

Lio Salazar
Associate Planner
Shasta County Department of Resource Management
Planning Division

RE: Written comments regarding the potential environmental impacts that should be addressed in depth in the EIR.

We are a group of citizens who live in close approximation to the proposed cogeneration plant's site. The next couple of pages contain a list of our concerns in regards to this project. The references to an EIS are based on the Environmental Initial Study – UP07-021-Sierra Pacific Industries, released March 26, 2008. This study was prepared by the Shasta County Planning Division. The references to the animal and plant statistics come from a report prepared by ENPLAN, 278-08, dated November 6, 2007. Links to these studies can be found through the following URL:
co.shasta.ca.us/departments/resourcemgmt/drm/index.htm. Our concerns are presented in bullet form. Thank you for your considerations.

*Verde Vale Elementary and an established older neighborhood lie directly west of the site at approximately .38 miles away. Our neighborhood known as the River Ranch neighborhood located off of Eastside Road by the Jolly Green Giant, is approximately 1.89 miles due north of the site and has an established older neighborhood of 100+ homes with houses located on the river. Adjacent and accessed through our neighborhood are "the gravel pits", as marked on your map, which were actually given to the City of Redding by a man named Kapusta. The gravel pits have become large ponds that interconnect through trails. A large hidden jewel with few visitors, it is a hidden ecological habitat that supports the animals and flora discussed in your reports, as well as more animals within the food chain. Home to beavers, deer, egrets, otters, lynx and more. This park now owned by the City of Redding would face severe ecological consequences along with the River Ranch and Verde Vale neighborhoods, the Verde Vale Elementary school, and surrounding riverfront that does not pass the mill but could be greatly affected in adverse ways with the proposed plant and the issues raised in the EIR. WE WOULD LIKE A LARGER AREA STUDIED WITHIN THE FORTHCOMING EIR. We are all connected. This site does not exist in a vacuum and weather patterns have the ability to carry pollutants around the world.

*Shasta County has high unemployment, underemployment and really no local business sector leading the way as once was the way with logging in our community. Given this we were surprised by the fact the new plant in its enormity will result in the hire of 6 employees according to the EIS. Economically it would not provide enough jobs to offset the ecological impacts this project would create. Why is this being considered when our workforce will not benefit and the negatives are detrimental to our environment and irreversible?

*The considerable impact on the value of our homes due the serious impacts identified in the EIR and how would we be compensated?

*With studies produced to support data in the EIS dating back to 2007 we want all studies updated to show what is happening in 2009. In 2007 we weren't in a drought yet.

* The new EIR needs to include the impacts addressed in the current EIS and apply it to larger vicinity around the proposed site. This expanded vicinity needs to be studied with all 17 environmental factors potentially effected reconsidered so that it includes the residential areas and the school surrounding the site including the Verde Vale and River Ranch areas. We believe that population and housing is not adequately addressed in the EIS. In fact it is not even listed as a checked factor. Please study the residents who call this vicinity home. It's not only a few mobile home parks that will be effected as the report states if you look out 2 miles in all directions. There is residential housing as well as populations of inhabitants completely circling this site if you look. We understand there are industrial zones along HW 273, but they are mixed among cattle ranches, family orchards, and residential neighborhoods. The surrounding area needs to be studied to a greater extent. How far out will the population be at increased risk for the different health risks stated in your reports?

*What exactly will be used to fuel this plant? What does urban wood waste consist of? What are other cogeneration plants currently burning under the guise of Urban Wood Waste and what were the effects? How many trucks will be hauling fuel, urban wood waste, into the site and can they change what they use as fuel down the road? How far will trucks travel to get to your site from the point of collection?

*Why are you producing 21 megawatts when it is stated you will only be using 4 megawatts for the mill when so many environmental factors are at play? If the company proposing the site is getting into the power business, a legitimate venture, why aren't they using one of their other wood mills located in the hinterlands of Northern California, instead of smack dab in the middle of Redding and Anderson?

* What is the ash used for that is trucked out of the site, how hazardous is it, how many trips a day will be required and where is it traveling to? What is in this ash as far as hazardous material is concerned?

*The River Ranch neighborhood and existing homes within the area of the site rely on wells for all our water needs and have so for generations. Our water is amazing and a huge value to our neighborhood. The amount of water proposed to be used by the site is enormous and it is stated it could have a significant affect depleting groundwater supplies and the capability of lowering the water table in our area. We are concerned about this new amount of water being used and how it will affect our wells and ground water less than 2 miles away. Currently in our third year of drought, how sustainable and reliable is the availability of the water Sierra Pacific requires to serve the plants water needs now

and in the future while maintaining existing groundwater and water tables for those homes and businesses surrounding you that use wells at the same time? How will those affected by the water loss and the drying of wells be compensated as the value in their property continues to decrease in our neighborhood due to this site's proposed operations?

*The boiler standing at 105 feet is alarming. The tower at this height does not include the plumes of smoke. The light and glare ramifications also need to be addressed. The residential areas surrounding the site will be forever changed by the tower which will be visible from a far distance upsetting the horizon and skyline. A beautiful natural area with a giant tower seen from our neighborhood once again decreasing our property value which will require compensation. How far will this exhaust travel?

*There are some family cattle ranches, orchards, family farms and a plant nursery located around the proposed plant. ACID canal goes through our neighborhood at River Ranch supporting cattle, walnuts and livestock. These may not be significant farms but the dairy across I-5 in the path of the emissions should be considered a significant agricultural resource. We don't need these chemicals in our food chain.

*OF UTMOST CONCERN IS AIR QUALITY. Due to the fact that we live less than 2 miles away the chemicals being released and the amounts are cause for great concern. We would like exact studies on what is going to be put into our air, where it will flow, how many particulates will fall to the soil and into our watershed and what effect it will have on the environment and human beings. How do we know the company proposing the cogeneration plant will not continually violate air standards? The EIS mentions that it is a significant impact, that emissions from this site exceed thresholds and that odor will be a problem. How are you going to ensure the air we breathe 2 miles north from the site won't leave us with one or some of the listed 87 chemicals? Are all these chemicals listed going to be produced and released continually? What do you do about odor? Is the odor due to dangerous chemicals within the air? Item III of the EIS released in 2008 pertains to our neighborhood completely-**we are** the people living in the vicinity where according to the Authority to Permit Application prepared by Geomatrix (2007), determined the horrible health consequences tied to the air quality will be.

*We are fortunate to still have uninhabited riverfront within this sites vicinity. The environmental consequences of this proposed project will affect more of the river and the surrounding riparian forests than are addressed in previous studies. We ask you to visit surrounding riverfront areas and include the surrounding areas in your report to determine the affect it will have to the fish, wildlife and plants living all around this delicate ecosystem. We want a more thorough review into the biological resources at risk. All salmon are struggling to exist. Is there a focus in the upcoming EIR relating to runoff and air pollutants into our water?

*Are there considerations to the cultural resources on site and the surrounding areas before work begins? We are home to many fossilized dinosaurs and Native American

sites. We are asking consideration is given to the cultural and historical sites within the proposed project site.

*Part VII of the EIS released in March of 2008 and its supporting documents allow us to come to the conclusion it would not be safe to live where we currently do because of hazardous materials created, emitted and transported from the proposed site. The fact that there is a *potentially significant* impact in this area needs to be studied further. Are there other cogeneration plants that exist like this we can learn from? We do not want to worry about the possible release of hazardous materials.

*Noise. We do not want to hear any increased noise from our residences. Noise is pollution and it needs to be determined exactly how far away from the site the noise levels will carry to and what the noise level will be.

*Shasta County's main industry is recreation. This project will be a loud eyesore omitting hazardous material on the Sacramento River. How will the offset in lost revenue for recreation be made up?

*Why doesn't the whole county know of this project?

* "XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

This bullet is in reference to the EIS, released in 2008, specifically the Discussion, "based on the discussion and findings in Section IV Biological Resources there is evidence to support a finding that the project would have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below the self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community or reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant.

There is evidence to suggest the project would have impacts that are cumulatively considerable.

There is evidence to support a finding that the project would have environmental effects which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly." These are the quoted final statements of that EIS. We hope that mitigation and monitoring for this proposed cogeneration plant will be developed and analyzed with great scrutiny and vigilance in the Environmental Impact Report.

Thank you in advance for your hard work on this matter.

awayman
aw

ASHLEY WAYMAN @ 229-9152
7145 ALDO WAY
ANDERSON CA 96007

SAME AS ABOVE

Barbara Awedan

Tim & Barbara Wedan 241-0597
7147 The Terrace
Anderson CA 96007

T.Wedan@charter.net



LINDA S. ADAMS
SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

1001 I STREET, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 • P.O. BOX 4025, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812-4025
(916) 341-6000 • WWW.CIWMB.CA.GOV

DEPARTMENT OF
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
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AUG 03 2009

PLANNING/BUILDING
DIVISIONS

MARGO REID BROWN
CHAIR
MBROWN@CIWMB.CA.GOV
(916) 341-6051

July 31, 2009

SHEILA JAMES KUEHL
SKUEHL@CIWMB.CA.GOV
(916) 341-6039

Mr. Lio Salazar, Associate Planner
Shasta County Planning Department
1855 Placer Street, Suite 103
Redding, California 96001

JOHN LAIRD
JLAIRD@CIWMB.CA.GOV
(916) 341-6010

Subject: **State Clearinghouse (SCH) No. 2009072011** – Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Sierra Pacific Industries Cogeneration Power Project (SPICPP), Shasta County.

CAROLE MIGDEN
CMIGDEN@CIWMB.CA.GOV
(916) 341-6024

Dear Mr. Salazar:

The following *Project Description* is intended for use by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB or Board) staff's use in evaluating the project for permitting purposes and is followed by CIWMB staff *Comments* intended to aid the lead agency and project proponent (Sierra Pacific Industries) in the permitting of the proposed project.

ROSALIE MULÉ
RMULE@CIWMB.CA.GOV
(916) 341-6016

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is the “[c]onstruction and operation of a cogeneration power plant at an existing lumber manufacturing facility. [The p]roject includes construction of a new fuel handling building, boiler building, turbine building, cooling tower, electrostatic precipitator, ash silo and electric substation. The boiler would burn biomass fuel generated by [the] on-site lumber facility, regional facilities and other biomass fuel sources. At completion, the boiler would produce 200,000 lbs of steam per hour, which would be used for drying at the on-site lumber facility and for the proposed steam turbine. The steam turbine would drive a generator that would have the capacity to produce 21 MW of electricity. The electricity would be used to power the on-site lumber facility, with excess electricity available for sale to the public utility grid.



INTEGRATED
WASTE
MANAGEMENT
BOARD



Board Staff Comments

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB or Board) takes this opportunity to provide comments and information regarding the project proponent's potential need to obtain a Compostable Materials Handling Facility Permit (CMHFP) for wood-chipping and/or composting taking place on-site (e.g. biomass temperature of 122 degrees Fahrenheit or greater during storage) only. The biomass feedstocks (wood and wood chips) have a Carbon:Nitrogen ratio of 300:1; it is unlikely that the biomass would obtain the 122° F temperature in the absence of materials containing a larger amount of nitrogen content. However, in a telephone conversation with Shasta County on July 30, 2009, revealing this information, it was requested that this information be provided in order for it to be addressed in the draft EIR.

The CIWMB is the permitting agency for composting and wood chipping operations and facilities and works together with Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Division of Environmental Health, the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), for the permitting and inspection of composting facilities in Shasta County. Composting has a tiered permitting structure that addresses operations/facilities based on the amount of compostable materials that are stored and processed at the site. Below, for the lead agencies and project proponent's use, is the State's regulatory definition for active compost which would require a CMHFP:

Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 17852

(a) For the purposes of this Chapter:

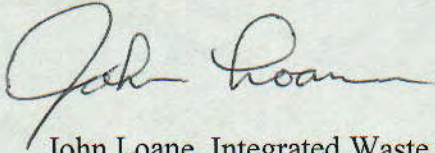
(1) "Active Compost" means compost feedstock that is in the process of being rapidly decomposed and is unstable. Active compost is generating temperatures of at least 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit) during decomposition; or is releasing carbon dioxide at a rate of at least 15 milligrams per gram of compost per day, or the equivalent of oxygen uptake.

The previous information provided may not apply to the proposed operation of the Cogeneration plant. However, if the proposed facility meets the definition cited in 14 CCR 17852(a)(1), information and resources for obtaining approval to operate a compostable material handling operation or facility can be found on the Board's website at <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/PermitToolbox/FacilityType/Compost/>. Composting regulatory requirements may be found in Title 14, Division 7, Chapter 3.1, Articles 1 through 9, beginning with Section 17850, and ending with Section 17870. The permitting tiers are located under Article 2, beginning with Section 17854.

At this time, the project proposal does not appear to qualify for a CMHFP; therefore Board staff have no further comments.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the NOP in the early planning stages. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 341-6327 or e-mail at jloane@ciwmb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



John Loane, Integrated Waste Management Specialist (IWMS)
Permitting and LEA Support Division
Waste Compliance and Mitigation Program
California Integrated Waste Management Board

cc: Sue O'Leary, Supervisor, Permitting and Inspection Branch, North Region
Scott Beckner, IWMS, Permitting and Inspection Branch, North Region
Permitting and LEA Support Division (PLEAS)
Waste Compliance and Mitigation Program
California Integrated Waste Management Board

Ms. Carla Serio
Shasta County LEA
Department of Resource Management
Division of Environmental Health
1855 Placer Street
Redding, CA 96001
Phone: 530-225-5787

State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING
1657 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
P. O. BOX 496073
REDDING, CA 96049-6073
PHONE (530) 229-0517
FAX (530) 225-3020
TTY (530) 225-2019



*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

IGR/CEQA Review
Sha-273-7.54
Use Permit 07-021
Sierra Pacific Industries
Cogeneration Power Project
NOP EIR
SCH# 2009072011

July 31, 2009

Mr. Lio Salazar
Shasta County
Dept. of Resource Management
Planning Division
1855 Placer Street
Redding, CA 96001

Dear Mr. Salazar:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the use permit to add the construction and operation of a cogeneration plant to the existing lumber mill facilities submitted on behalf of Sierra Pacific Industries. The project is located adjacent to the east side of State Route (SR) 273 approximately one-half mile north of the intersection of SR 273 and Ox Yoke Road.

The project information identifies that the increase in traffic is not significant. Approval of this project will not adversely impact facilities under our jurisdiction. If you have any questions, or if the scope of this project changes, please call me at 225-3369.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcelino Gonzalez".

MARCELINO GONZALEZ
Local Development Review
Office of Community Planning
District 2

c: State Clearinghouse



July 30, 2009

SENT VIA EMAIL

Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Planning Division
1855 Placer Street, Suite 103
Redding, CA 96001-1759
khector@co.shasta.ca.us

Re: Comments on Use Permit 7-021

Dear Shasta County Department of Resource Management:

The Center for Biological Diversity ("Center") submits the following comments for Use Permit 7-021. The Center is a non-profit, public interest, conservation organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through applying sound science, policy and environmental law. The Center has over 40,000 members, many of whom reside in California.

This proposed project seeks to construct and operate a cogeneration power plant which would result in the burning of biomass fuel such as non-treated wood. In analyzing the environmental impacts of the proposed project, please ensure that the following direct and indirect impacts are considered:

- Source of the wood to be burned
 - This project could result in additional logging, including clear-cutting, which harms sensitive wildlife species, impacts water and soil quality, and increases carbon emissions. All of these direct and indirect impacts must be analyzed.
- Amount of wood likely to be burned
 - This project will have direct impacts on air quality as well as indirect impacts to sensitive wildlife species, water quality, soil quality, and carbon emissions (e.g., more wood being burned means more wood is being logged thus causing harm to the area being logged and contributing to carbon emissions).
- *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*
 - The checklist does not include an analysis of the project's greenhouse gas impacts. In evaluating the project's emissions, please discuss assumptions on the timing for recovery of CO₂ emissions through potential future sequestration. For example, biomass burning may only be carbon neutral on a

very long time scale (hundreds of years). Greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the project will be felt most significantly in the short term and may not be recovered for hundreds of years, if ever.

- Please discuss the extent to which additional efficiencies and mitigation would reduce the electricity needs of the facility as well as renewable energy from wind or solar, therefore reducing the need for additional energy from biomass.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to reviewing further environment documentation of this project. Please put me on the notification list for future information on this project.

Sincerely,

Justin Augustine

Justin Augustine
Center for Biological Diversity
351 California Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94104
phone: 415-436-9682 ext. 302
fax: 415-436-9683
jaugustine@biologicaldiversity.org



SHASTA COUNTY

Office of the Sheriff



DEPARTMENT OF
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
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JUL 23 2009

July 22, 2009

PLANNING/BUILDING
DIVISIONS

Tom Bosenko
SHERIFF - CORONER

Lio Salazar, Associate Planner
Shasta County Department of Resource Management
Planning Division
1855 Placer Street, Suite 103
Redding, CA 96001

RE: Sierra Pacific Industries Cogeneration Power Project; Use Permit 07-021

Dear Lio:

I am in receipt of your correspondence dated July 3, 2009 regarding the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for Sierra Pacific Industries Cogeneration Power Project; Use Permit 07-021.

Please see the attached memo from Captain Mike Ashmun that indicated the project will cause less than significant impact to the Shasta County Sheriff's Office.

Sincerely,

TOM BOSENKO
Sheriff-Coroner

TMB/bw

cc: Capt. Mike Ashmun

RECEIVED

JUL 16 2009

**SHASTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM**

SHASTA COUNTY SHERIFF



**Tom Bosenko
Sheriff-Coroner**

TO: Tom Bosenko, Sheriff-Coroner
FROM: Mike Ashmun, Captain
DATE: 07-14-09
RE: EIR SPI Cogeneration Plant

Sheriff

I read and reviewed the EIR on the Sierra Pacific Inc. Cogeneration plant. The proposal is to add to the existing Cogeneration plant located at the SPI Mill on Riverside Ave. The existing Cogeneration plant causes less than significant impact to the Sheriff's Office. This proposal has limited potential to increase impact to the Sheriff's Office. The only impact I can foresee would occur if there is public demonstration regarding the project, which would fall out of the scope of the EIR. Per the EIR, if there are no mitigation requests, no comments are needed. My recommendation is to not submit any comments.



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

Karl E. Longley, ScD, P.E., Chair



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

415 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 100, Redding, California 96002
(530) 224-4845 • Fax (530) 224-4857
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

21 July 2009

DEPARTMENT OF
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
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JUL 22 2009

Lio Salazar
Shasta County Planning Division
1855 Placer Street, Suite 103
Redding, CA 96001

PLANNING/BUILDING
DIVISIONS

PROJECT REVIEW FOR SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES POWER PROJECT, SCH# 2009072011, ANDERSON, SHASTA COUNTY

We have reviewed the project description for the Sierra Pacific Industries Power Project. The project is located near the City of Anderson on Riverside Avenue (APN:050-110-023 and 050-110-025). To protect water quality from potential project impacts, the owner must comply with appropriate Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) permits and regulations. These permits and regulations are described below.

Construction Storm Water Permit

If construction activities result in a land disturbance of one or more acres, the property owner must obtain coverage under the state's Construction Storm Water Permit (Order No. 99-08-DWQ). The Storm Water Permit is required for construction activities where clearing, grading, filling, and excavation result in a **land disturbance of one or more acres**. Construction activities that result in a land disturbance of less than one acre, but are part of a larger common plan of development, also require a Storm Water Permit. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) must be prepared and implemented prior to construction activities. The SWPPP is used to identify potential pollutants (such as sediment and earthen materials, chemicals, construction materials, etc.) and describes best management practices that will be employed at the site to eliminate or reduce those pollutants from entering surface waters. Information regarding the construction Storm Water Permit can be obtained from the Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region (Regional Water Board) office or website: www.waterboards.ca.gov/stromwtr/construction.html.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit and State Water Quality Certification

The owner may be required to obtain a 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a 401 Water Quality Certification from the Central Valley Water Board. The Federal 404 permit is required for activities involving a discharge (such as fill or dredged materials) to waters of the United States. "Waters" include wetlands, riparian zones, streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans. Typical activities include any modifications, storm drain outfalls, filling of wetlands, etc. The project may require a Water Quality Certification (per Section 401 of the Clean Water Act) verifying that the project does not violate state water quality standards. The water quality certification may specify conditions that must be satisfied during construction.



The Army Corps of Engineers contact for Shasta County is Matt Kelly (530) 223-9537. The application for the Water Quality Certification can be obtained from the Regional Water Board's Redding office or website:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvally/programs/index.html#WaterQualityCert.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (530) 224-4848 or at the letterhead address above.



Daniel L. Warner
Water Resource Control Engineer

DLW: knr

cc: State Clearing House and Planning Unit, Sacramento

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

DEPARTMENT OF ARNOLD Schwarzenegger, Governor
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
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JUL 13 2009

PLANNING/BUILDING
DIVISIONS



July 10 2009

Lio Salazar
Shasta County
1855 Placer St., Suite 103
Redding, CA 96001

Re: Notice of Preparation, Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)
Sierra Pacific Industries Cogeneration Power Project
SCH# 2009072011

Dear Mr. Salazar:

As the state agency responsible for rail safety within California, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or Commission) recommends that development projects proposed near rail corridors be planned with the safety of these corridors in mind. New developments and improvements to existing facilities may increase vehicular traffic volumes, not only on streets and at intersections, but also at at-grade highway-rail crossings. In addition, projects may increase pedestrian movement at crossings, and elsewhere along rail corridor rights-of-way. Working with CPUC staff early in project planning will help project proponents, agency staff, and other reviewers to identify potential project impacts and appropriate mitigation measures, and thereby improve the safety of motorists, pedestrians, railroad personnel, and railroad passengers.

There is a railroad crossing on Ox Yoke Road, close to the location of the proposed project. As identified in the attached initial study (IS), the intersection of Ox Yoke Road and Riverside Avenue would be cumulatively impacted as a result of the project, and is among the intersections where the level of service will be unacceptable by 2030. The DEIR should evaluate whether project-related and cumulative traffic increases could impact safety at the rail crossing, e.g., by creating traffic queues extending across the tracks.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions in this matter, please call me at (415) 703-1306.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Kevin".

Daniel Kevin
Regulatory Analyst
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

De Novo Planning Group

A Land Use Planning, Design, and Environmental Firm

JULY 21, 2009, 6:30PM

SUBJECT: SCOPING MEETING NOTES SIERRA PACIFIC COGENERATION POWER PLANT EIR

ATTENDEES:

See Attached Sign-In Sheet (Exhibit A)

HANDOUTS:

See Attached Scoping Meeting Handout (Exhibit B)

PRESENTATION:

Ben Ritchie from De Novo Planning Group provided a power point presentation that described the project, the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, the Initial Study/NOP, the address/website where the Initial Study/NOP can be reviewed, the issues that were determined to need further review in an EIR, issues determined to not need further review in an EIR, the project schedule, and opportunities for public input throughout the CEQA process. The power point presentation is attached (Exhibit C).

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comment #1: *What will be the significant impacts to the environment as a result of the power plant?*

Consultant response #1: We are going to be analyzing numerous environmental topics in the EIR. There was an initial study prepared that determined that a closer review of specific environmental topics was necessary. These include: Aesthetics and Visual Resources, Air Quality and Climate Change, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Public Services and Utilities, Recreation, and Traffic. The Initial Study determined that there were four environmental topics that did not warrant a closer review in order to determine the impact level. These include: Agricultural Resources, Land Use, Mineral Resources, and Population and Housing.

Public Comment #2: How could it be determined that Population and Housing would not be impacted? The population that lives in the vicinity of the power plant will be impacted.

Consultant response #2: The California Environmental Quality Act has very specific questions related to population that are addressed in the Initial Study. The questions are aimed at determining whether the proposed project would have the ability to induce population by adding new homes, require the removal of existing homes, or require the displacement of people. The proposed project is located immediately adjacent to the existing SPI cogeneration power plant. This area does not house any people, and it does not result in homes or the displacement of people so the impact determination in the Initial Study was negative.

Public Comment #3: How will the project impact us [the citizens] based on the existing conditions? We are interested in new technology that will reduce the air quality impacts.

Consultant response #3: The EIR will include an air quality analysis and mitigation measures will be presented that includes Best Available Control Technologies (BACTs).

De Novo Planning Group

A Land Use Planning, Design, and Environmental Firm

Public Comment #4: Will this project have significant and unavoidable impacts? We would like to see Mitigation Measures that reduce impacts to a less than significant level, or the project should be changed. Clean Air credits are not okay because they do not clean our air. Significant and unavoidable impacts are not acceptable.

Consultant response #4: We are mandated by law to analyze all environmental topics that are identified in the California Environmental Quality Act. The analysis will review the proposed project in light of the existing conditions and determine the impact level. Mitigation Measures will be presented where it is determined that there is a potentially significant impact. If there is no feasible Mitigation Measures then the impact determination may be Significant and Unavoidable. Additionally, there may be cases where Mitigation Measures are presented to reduce the impact, but the final impact determination may remain Significant and Unavoidable. The analysis has not yet been performed so we do not currently know what the impact determinations will be.

Public Comment #5: How old is the existing plant? How many megawatts is the existing plant and how many megawatts is the proposed plant?

Consultant response #5: The proposed project would create 23 megawatts of power. We will need to verify the age and the amount of megawatts that the existing plant currently produces. This will be addressed in the Draft EIR.

Public Comment #6: There is an existing plant and the proposed project would add an entirely new plant. What is going to stop SPI from operating both plants after the new one is built? Will there be mitigation?

Consultant response #6: The existing plant will remain available as a backup. The EIR will address impacts that may occur if both plants are operated simultaneously.

Public Comment #7: There was not enough notice for this scoping meeting. We just heard about it in the newspaper today. There would have been more people present at the meeting if it were noticed more widely. We should have received a letter directly from the County. If I wouldn't have been searching through the foreclosure advertisements I wouldn't have known about the meeting.

Consultant response #7: The County made a good faith effort to publicly notice this scoping meeting. They filed a Notice of Preparation and Notice of Public Scoping meeting with the County Clerk. A Notice was also posted in the newspaper and on the County's website. All residents within 300 feet of the project site received a letter directly from the County.

Public Comment #8: What will this plant burn?

Consultant response #8: The proposed project is a cogeneration power plant that will burn Non-treated wood, Agricultural residue, and Urban wood waste.

Public Comment #9: What is Agricultural residue and Urban wood waste?

Consultant response #9: Agricultural residue would include materials such as cornstalks, orchard trees/branches, etc. Urban wood waste would include tree trimmings, left over construction lumber, etc.

Public Comment #10: There is another plant that was approved for biomass burning and the proposal was similar, but the plant now burns tires, railroad ties, and other carcinogenic materials. This should not be allowed. Can we require a condition on the use permit that does not allow burning of carcinogenic materials?

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Consultant response #10: Conditions of project approval are something that the County decision makers will determine. The environmental document will analyze the proposed project based on the application that is provided and provide mitigation measure where an impact is determined.

Public Comment #11: Will construction impacts be analyzed. For instance, when pipes are welded there are light flashes that may impact neighbors.

Consultant response #11: The project will address temporary construction related impacts. There is an environmental topic that requires us to address light and glare.

Public Comment #12: Is groundwater pumping proposed as part of the project or will water be pumped from the River? Will this project impact the River?

Consultant response #12: The project does not include pumping water from the River. There are currently several water ponds onsite that the applicant currently uses in their operation and we will need to clarify whether or not the water from the ponds is sufficient for the proposed project or whether the project includes ground water pumping. The environmental document will address this issue, in addition to a water quality analysis.

Public Comment #13: Will we be notified when the Draft EIR is available?

Consultant response #13: You can ask the County in writing that you be included on a distribution list. Once the Draft EIR is completed everyone on the distribution list will receive a Notice of Availability. All residents within 300 feet will automatically receive a Notice of Availability. The County will also post a Notice of Availability with the County Clerk, in the newspaper, on their website, and with the State Clearinghouse.

Public Comment #14: Will the environmental document address what happens if the applicant exceeds their air emission requirement, including fines for exceeding them?

Consultant response #14: Yes, the Draft EIR will have an Air Quality section that will discuss the existing setting, regulatory setting, and will provide an impact analysis with mitigation measures. Within this section of the EIR we will provide the regulatory framework including emission allowance and fines for excess emissions.

Public Comment #15: Can the Mitigation Measures that are presented in the environmental document be changed after the project is approved? The County has changed Mitigation Measure on other projects after they have been approved.

Consultant response #15: Revisions to Mitigation Measures would require an action by the County's approving body. They cannot be changed without the approving body's knowledge and direct action and changes would require additional environmental review.

Public Comment #16: Is there an engineer of record? Are there engineering plans that have been drawn up?

Consultant response #16: There is not an engineer of record at this time. Neither improvement plans nor building plans have been developed at this point. The only planning that has been done is the site plan that is presented in the power point presentation, which shows a plan view with the location of each facility within the project site.

Public Comment #17: How tall is the tallest building?

Consultant response #17: The tallest proposed building will be 105 feet.

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Public Comment #18: Will digital service on the TV be disturbed?

Consultant response #18: No.

Public Comment #19: Will climate change be analyzed?

Consultant response #19: Yes. There will be a standalone chapter that discusses climate change.

Public Comment #20: Is this the only public forum, or will there be another public forum?

Consultant response #20: Yes there will be additional public forums for comment. When the Draft EIR is completed the public will have 45 days to review and provide comment. A Notice of Availability will be provided to anyone that provides a written request to the County to be added to the distribution list. The County will make a good faith effort to notify the citizenry through the newspaper, County Clerk, and on their website. There will be another opportunity for public comment after the Final EIR is prepared. The public will have the opportunity to review the staff report and Final EIR and present their concerns at the Planning Commission hearing.

Public Comment #21: Will we get a hard copy of these documents if we request them?

Consultant response #21: A hard copy of these documents will be available at the County offices for anyone to review. There will also be electronic copies made available on the County website and CDs can be provided. If you would like a personal hard copy you can purchase one for the cost of printing them. Because they are substantial documents they may run as much as \$75 so it may be in your best interest to print a hard copy directly off of the County website or to review a hard copy at the County offices.