

## DOCKETED

<b>Docket Number:</b>	02-AFC-01C
<b>Project Title:</b>	Sonoran Energy Project (formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) - Compliance
<b>TN #:</b>	209998
<b>Document Title:</b>	Letters to Native American Tribes Regarding Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	Matthew Braun
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
<b>Submission Date:</b>	1/27/2016 12:16:40 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	1/27/2016

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Joseph Ontiveros, Director Cultural Resources  
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians  
P.O. Box 487  
San Jacinto, CA 92581

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Director Ontiveros:

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII)).

The Sonoran project site is located in the city of Blythe, approximately five miles west of the city center, in eastern Riverside County. The approximately 76-acre site is located immediately adjacent to the operational Blythe Energy Project (BEPI). The site is bounded to the north by Riverside Avenue, to the east by the existing BEPI, and to the south by Hobsonway. The site is fenced, sparsely vegetated, and relatively flat, sloping from an elevation of 350 feet in the northern portion of the parcel to 340 feet in the southern portion.

**SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (02-AFC-01C) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION**

In December 2005, the Energy Commission granted a license to Caithness Blythe II, LLC, to construct a nominal 520 megawatt (MW) combined-cycle power plant. The BEPII facility originally consisted of:

- an electrical interconnection to the Buck Boulevard substation, located in the northeastern corner of the BEPI site;
- two Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a 170 MW combustion turbine generators;
- one 180 MW steam turbine generator and;
- supporting equipment.

In April 2012, an amendment to the 2005 BEPII license was approved. The modified BEPII would have been a nominal 569 MW combined-cycle facility. The changes included the following:

- a new point of electrical interconnection via a 2,100 foot-long 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line into the proposed Keim substation;
- replacement of the Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a turbines with fast-start Siemens SGT6-5000F turbines;

- modification of the combustion turbine and steam turbine enclosure;
- incorporation of an auxiliary boiler to allow fast start technology;
- increase in size of cooling tower by 1,020 square feet; and
- optimization of the General Arrangement.

Concurrently, in April 2012, a five-year extension of the Deadline for the Start of Construction, from December 14, 2011 to December 14, 2016, was approved.

Ownership of the BEPII changed in 2014, from Caithness Blythe II, LLC to AltaGas Sonoran Energy Inc. (AltaGas).

On August 7, 2015, AltaGas filed another Petition to Amend (PTA) with the Energy Commission requesting to again modify the BEPII

#### **SUMMARY OF CURRENT PROPOSED PROJECT MODIFICATIONS**

AltaGas proposes to make substantial changes to the BEPII. The first modification proposed in the Sonoran Energy Project PTA is to change the name of the project from Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII) to the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran). The proposed name change is to reduce potential confusion associated with the number of generating projects in the area using the name "Blythe." Sonoran would be a natural gas-fired, water-cooled, combined-cycle, 553 MW net electrical generating facility.

Other modifications proposed in this PTA include the following:

- define a new point of electrical interconnection via a new 1,320-foot, 161-kV transmission line that will go from the Sonoran project to Southern California Edison's 161-kV Buck Boulevard substation on the BEPII site. From there, the new 161-kV Gen-Tie will deliver energy to the Western Area Power Administration's 161-kV Blythe substation, via an existing 161-kV Buck-Blythe transmission line.
- replace the two Siemens SGT6-5000F combustion turbines with a single, more efficient General Electric (GE) Frame 7HA.02 combustion turbine;
- replace the Siemens steam turbine generator (STG) with a more efficient single-shaft GE D652 STG;
- increase the size of the auxiliary boiler to support GE's rapid response fast start capability;
- decrease the size of cooling tower from an 11-cell to a 10-cell tower in response to the reduced heat rejection requirements;
- decrease the size of the emergency diesel fire pump engine; and

- optimize the general arrangement.

### AMENDMENT PROCESS

The purpose of the Energy Commission's review process is to assess any impacts the proposed modifications to the previously approved project would have on environmental quality and on public health and safety. The process includes an evaluation of the consistency of the proposed changes with the Energy Commission's Final Decision and an assessment of whether the project, as modified, would remain in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1769). The Energy Commission staff will prepare an assessment of the proposed amendment and hold a workshop after it is published. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Sonoran Energy Project webpage, or if the Tribe prefers, notices can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

For access to all project information, including the current amendment and past project certification, go to: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/sonoran/>

Please consider reviewing the above referenced project information so that staff can promptly proceed to meaningful dialogue that matches the pace of the project amendment process. Staff anticipates publishing its Preliminary Staff Assessment on the petition by November 20, 2015. Staff will be following up this letter with phone calls to ascertain your Tribe's level of interest.

The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that the Sonoran project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or by e-mail at [thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov](mailto:thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
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September 30, 2015

Ann Brierty, Cultural Resources  
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians  
26569 Community Center Drive  
Highland, CA 92346

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Ann Brierty:

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII)).

The Sonoran project site is located in the city of Blythe, approximately five miles west of the city center, in eastern Riverside County. The approximately 76-acre site is located immediately adjacent to the operational Blythe Energy Project (BEPI). The site is bounded to the north by Riverside Avenue, to the east by the existing BEPI, and to the south by Hobsonway. The site is fenced, sparsely vegetated, and relatively flat, sloping from an elevation of 350 feet in the northern portion of the parcel to 340 feet in the southern portion.

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- an electrical interconnection to the Buck Boulevard substation, located in the northeastern corner of the BEPI site;
- two Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a 170 MW combustion turbine generators;
- one 180 MW steam turbine generator and;
- supporting equipment.

In April 2012, an amendment to the 2005 BEPII license was approved. The modified BEPII would have been a nominal 569 MW combined-cycle facility. The changes included the following:

- a new point of electrical interconnection via a 2,100 foot-long 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line into the proposed Keim substation;
- replacement of the Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a turbines with fast-start Siemens SGT6-5000F turbines;

- modification of the combustion turbine and steam turbine enclosure;
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- increase in size of cooling tower by 1,020 square feet; and
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The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that the Sonoran project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or by e-mail at [thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov](mailto:thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Amanda Barrera, Tribal Secretary  
Colorado River Indian Tribe  
26600 Mohave Road  
Parker, AZ 85344

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Amanda Barrera:

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEP II)).

The Sonoran project site is located in the city of Blythe, approximately five miles west of the city center, in eastern Riverside County. The approximately 76-acre site is located immediately adjacent to the operational Blythe Energy Project (BEP I). The site is bounded to the north by Riverside Avenue, to the east by the existing BEP I, and to the south by Hobsonway. The site is fenced, sparsely vegetated, and relatively flat, sloping from an elevation of 350 feet in the northern portion of the parcel to 340 feet in the southern portion.

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Sincerely,



ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Jill McCormick, THPO  
Cocopah Indian Tribe  
14515 S. Veterans Drive  
Somerton, AZ 85350

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Jill McCormick:

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII)).

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ROGER E. JOHNSON  
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Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
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1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
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September 30, 2015

Patricia Garcia, THPO  
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
5401 Dinah Shore Drive  
Palm Springs, CA 92264

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Patricia Garcia:

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The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that the Sonoran project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or by e-mail at [thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov](mailto:thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Dr. Jay Cravath  
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe  
P.O. Box 1976  
Havasu Lake, CA 92363

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Dr. Jay Cravath:

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEP II)).

The Sonoran project site is located in the city of Blythe, approximately five miles west of the city center, in eastern Riverside County. The approximately 76-acre site is located immediately adjacent to the operational Blythe Energy Project (BEP I). The site is bounded to the north by Riverside Avenue, to the east by the existing BEP I, and to the south by Hobsonway. The site is fenced, sparsely vegetated, and relatively flat, sloping from an elevation of 350 feet in the northern portion of the parcel to 340 feet in the southern portion.

**SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (02-AFC-01C) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION**

In December 2005, the Energy Commission granted a license to Caithness Blythe II, LLC, to construct a nominal 520 megawatt (MW) combined-cycle power plant. The BEP II facility originally consisted of:

- an electrical interconnection to the Buck Boulevard substation, located in the northeastern corner of the BEP I site;
- two Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a 170 MW combustion turbine generators;
- one 180 MW steam turbine generator and;
- supporting equipment.

In April 2012, an amendment to the 2005 BEP II license was approved. The modified BEP II would have been a nominal 569 MW combined-cycle facility. The changes included the following:

- a new point of electrical interconnection via a 2,100 foot-long 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line into the proposed Keim substation;
- replacement of the Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a turbines with fast-start Siemens SGT6-5000F turbines;

- modification of the combustion turbine and steam turbine enclosure;
- incorporation of an auxiliary boiler to allow fast start technology;
- increase in size of cooling tower by 1,020 square feet; and
- optimization of the General Arrangement.

Concurrently, in April 2012, a five-year extension of the Deadline for the Start of Construction, from December 14, 2011 to December 14, 2016, was approved.

Ownership of the BEPII changed in 2014, from Caithness Blythe II, LLC to AltaGas Sonoran Energy Inc. (AltaGas).

On August 7, 2015, AltaGas filed another Petition to Amend (PTA) with the Energy Commission requesting to again modify the BEPII

#### **SUMMARY OF CURRENT PROPOSED PROJECT MODIFICATIONS**

AltaGas proposes to make substantial changes to the BEPII. The first modification proposed in the Sonoran Energy Project PTA is to change the name of the project from Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII) to the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran). The proposed name change is to reduce potential confusion associated with the number of generating projects in the area using the name "Blythe." Sonoran would be a natural gas-fired, water-cooled, combined-cycle, 553 MW net electrical generating facility.

Other modifications proposed in this PTA include the following:

- define a new point of electrical interconnection via a new 1,320-foot, 161-kV transmission line that will go from the Sonoran project to Southern California Edison's 161-kV Buck Boulevard substation on the BEPII site. From there, the new 161-kV Gen-Tie will deliver energy to the Western Area Power Administration's 161-kV Blythe substation, via an existing 161-kV Buck-Blythe transmission line.
- replace the two Siemens SGT6-5000F combustion turbines with a single, more efficient General Electric (GE) Frame 7HA.02 combustion turbine;
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### **AMENDMENT PROCESS**

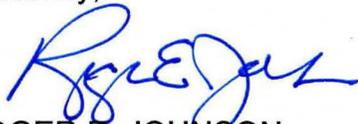
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ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
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**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

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www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Anthony Madrigal, Jr., THPO  
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians  
46-200 Harrison Place  
Coachella, CA 92236

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Anthony Madrigal, Jr.:

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#### **AMENDMENT PROCESS**

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ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
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Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

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SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
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September 30, 2015

Honorable Darrell Mike, Chairperson  
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians  
46-200 Harrison Place  
Coachella, CA 92236

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Darrell Mike, Chairperson,

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ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
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**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Honorable Rosemary Morillo, Chairperson; ATTN: Carrie Garcia  
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians  
P.O. Box 487  
San Jacinto, CA 92581

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Rosemary Morillo, Chairperson; ATTN: Carrie Garcia,

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ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
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Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Honorable John Marcus, Chairperson  
Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians  
P.O. Box 391820  
Anza, CA 92539

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
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### **AMENDMENT PROCESS**

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Sincerely,



ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Honorable Lynn Valbuena, Chairperson  
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians  
26569 Community Center Drive  
Highland, CA 92346

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Lynn Valbuena, Chairperson,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII)).

The Sonoran project site is located in the city of Blythe, approximately five miles west of the city center, in eastern Riverside County. The approximately 76-acre site is located immediately adjacent to the operational Blythe Energy Project (BEPI). The site is bounded to the north by Riverside Avenue, to the east by the existing BEPI, and to the south by Hobsonway. The site is fenced, sparsely vegetated, and relatively flat, sloping from an elevation of 350 feet in the northern portion of the parcel to 340 feet in the southern portion.

**SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (02-AFC-01C) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION**

In December 2005, the Energy Commission granted a license to Caithness Blythe II, LLC, to construct a nominal 520 megawatt (MW) combined-cycle power plant. The BEPII facility originally consisted of:

- an electrical interconnection to the Buck Boulevard substation, located in the northeastern corner of the BEPI site;
- two Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a 170 MW combustion turbine generators;
- one 180 MW steam turbine generator and;
- supporting equipment.

In April 2012, an amendment to the 2005 BEPII license was approved. The modified BEPII would have been a nominal 569 MW combined-cycle facility. The changes included the following:

- a new point of electrical interconnection via a 2,100 foot-long 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line into the proposed Keim substation;
- replacement of the Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a turbines with fast-start Siemens SGT6-5000F turbines;

- modification of the combustion turbine and steam turbine enclosure;
- incorporation of an auxiliary boiler to allow fast start technology;
- increase in size of cooling tower by 1,020 square feet; and
- optimization of the General Arrangement.

Concurrently, in April 2012, a five-year extension of the Deadline for the Start of Construction, from December 14, 2011 to December 14, 2016, was approved.

Ownership of the BEPII changed in 2014, from Caithness Blythe II, LLC to AltaGas Sonoran Energy Inc. (AltaGas).

On August 7, 2015, AltaGas filed another Petition to Amend (PTA) with the Energy Commission requesting to again modify the BEPII

#### **SUMMARY OF CURRENT PROPOSED PROJECT MODIFICATIONS**

AltaGas proposes to make substantial changes to the BEPII. The first modification proposed in the Sonoran Energy Project PTA is to change the name of the project from Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII) to the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran). The proposed name change is to reduce potential confusion associated with the number of generating projects in the area using the name "Blythe." Sonoran would be a natural gas-fired, water-cooled, combined-cycle, 553 MW net electrical generating facility.

Other modifications proposed in this PTA include the following:

- define a new point of electrical interconnection via a new 1,320-foot, 161-kV transmission line that will go from the Sonoran project to Southern California Edison's 161-kV Buck Boulevard substation on the BEPII site. From there, the new 161-kV Gen-Tie will deliver energy to the Western Area Power Administration's 161-kV Blythe substation, via an existing 161-kV Buck-Blythe transmission line.
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### **AMENDMENT PROCESS**

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ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
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Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

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Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Honorable Joseph Hamilton, Chairman  
Ramona Band of Cahuilla  
P.O. Box 391372  
Anza, CA 92539

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Joseph Hamilton, Chairman,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII)).

The Sonoran project site is located in the city of Blythe, approximately five miles west of the city center, in eastern Riverside County. The approximately 76-acre site is located immediately adjacent to the operational Blythe Energy Project (BEPI). The site is bounded to the north by Riverside Avenue, to the east by the existing BEPI, and to the south by Hobsonway. The site is fenced, sparsely vegetated, and relatively flat, sloping from an elevation of 350 feet in the northern portion of the parcel to 340 feet in the southern portion.

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### **AMENDMENT PROCESS**

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Sincerely,



ROGER E. JOHNSON  
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Siting, Transmission  
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Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Honorable Mike Jackson Sr., President  
Quechan Indian Tribe, Fort Yuma Indian Reservation  
P.O. Box 1899  
Yuma, AZ 85366

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Mike Jackson Sr., President,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII)).

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Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Honorable Robert Martin, Chairperson  
Morongo Band of Mission Indians  
12700 Pumarra Road  
Banning, CA 92220

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
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Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Honorable Timothy Williams, Chairperson  
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe  
500 Merriman Ave  
Needles, CA 92363

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

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### **AMENDMENT PROCESS**

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The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that the Sonoran project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or by e-mail at [thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov](mailto:thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Honorable Sherry Cordova, Chairwoman  
Cocopah Indian Tribe  
14515 S. Veterans Drive  
Somerton, AZ 85350

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Sherry Cordova, Chairwoman,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII)).

The Sonoran project site is located in the city of Blythe, approximately five miles west of the city center, in eastern Riverside County. The approximately 76-acre site is located immediately adjacent to the operational Blythe Energy Project (BEPI). The site is bounded to the north by Riverside Avenue, to the east by the existing BEPI, and to the south by Hobsonway. The site is fenced, sparsely vegetated, and relatively flat, sloping from an elevation of 350 feet in the northern portion of the parcel to 340 feet in the southern portion.

**SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (02-AFC-01C) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION**

In December 2005, the Energy Commission granted a license to Caithness Blythe II, LLC, to construct a nominal 520 megawatt (MW) combined-cycle power plant. The BEPII facility originally consisted of:

- an electrical interconnection to the Buck Boulevard substation, located in the northeastern corner of the BEPI site;
- two Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a 170 MW combustion turbine generators;
- one 180 MW steam turbine generator and;
- supporting equipment.

In April 2012, an amendment to the 2005 BEPII license was approved. The modified BEPII would have been a nominal 569 MW combined-cycle facility. The changes included the following:

- a new point of electrical interconnection via a 2,100 foot-long 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line into the proposed Keim substation;
- replacement of the Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a turbines with fast-start Siemens SGT6-5000F turbines;

- modification of the combustion turbine and steam turbine enclosure;
- incorporation of an auxiliary boiler to allow fast start technology;
- increase in size of cooling tower by 1,020 square feet; and
- optimization of the General Arrangement.

Concurrently, in April 2012, a five-year extension of the Deadline for the Start of Construction, from December 14, 2011 to December 14, 2016, was approved.

Ownership of the BEPII changed in 2014, from Caithness Blythe II, LLC to AltaGas Sonoran Energy Inc. (AltaGas).

On August 7, 2015, AltaGas filed another Petition to Amend (PTA) with the Energy Commission requesting to again modify the BEPII

#### **SUMMARY OF CURRENT PROPOSED PROJECT MODIFICATIONS**

AltaGas proposes to make substantial changes to the BEPII. The first modification proposed in the Sonoran Energy Project PTA is to change the name of the project from Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII) to the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran). The proposed name change is to reduce potential confusion associated with the number of generating projects in the area using the name "Blythe." Sonoran would be a natural gas-fired, water-cooled, combined-cycle, 553 MW net electrical generating facility.

Other modifications proposed in this PTA include the following:

- define a new point of electrical interconnection via a new 1,320-foot, 161-kV transmission line that will go from the Sonoran project to Southern California Edison's 161-kV Buck Boulevard substation on the BEPII site. From there, the new 161-kV Gen-Tie will deliver energy to the Western Area Power Administration's 161-kV Blythe substation, via an existing 161-kV Buck-Blythe transmission line.
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- replace the Siemens steam turbine generator (STG) with a more efficient single-shaft GE D652 STG;
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### **AMENDMENT PROCESS**

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ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
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Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Honorable Dennis Patch, Chairman  
Colorado River Indian Tribe  
26600 Mohave Road  
Parker, AZ 85344

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Dennis Patch, Chairman,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII)).

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ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
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Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Honorable Edward Smith, Chairman  
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe  
P.O. Box 1976  
Havasu Lake, CA 92363

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Edward Smith, Chairman,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII)).

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ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
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Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Honorable Luther Salgado Jr., Chairperson  
Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians  
52701 Highway 371 c/o Tribal Hall  
Anza, CA 92539

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Luther Salgado Jr., Chairperson,

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ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
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Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Honorable Douglas Welmas, Chairperson  
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians  
84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy  
Indio, CA 92203

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Douglas Welmas, Chairperson,

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Sonoran Tribal Invitation to Consult  
Sept 30, 2015  
Page 3

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- define a new point of electrical interconnection via a new 1,320-foot, 161-kV transmission line that will go from the Sonoran project to Southern California Edison's 161-kV Buck Boulevard substation on the BEPII site. From there, the new 161-kV Gen-Tie will deliver energy to the Western Area Power Administration's 161-kV Blythe substation, via an existing 161-kV Buck-Blythe transmission line.
- replace the two Siemens SGT6-5000F combustion turbines with a single, more efficient General Electric (GE) Frame 7HA.02 combustion turbine;
- replace the Siemens steam turbine generator (STG) with a more efficient single-shaft GE D652 STG;
- increase the size of the auxiliary boiler to support GE's rapid response fast start capability;
- decrease the size of cooling tower from an 11-cell to a 10-cell tower in response to the reduced heat rejection requirements;
- decrease the size of the emergency diesel fire pump engine; and

- optimize the general arrangement.

### **AMENDMENT PROCESS**

The purpose of the Energy Commission's review process is to assess any impacts the proposed modifications to the previously approved project would have on environmental quality and on public health and safety. The process includes an evaluation of the consistency of the proposed changes with the Energy Commission's Final Decision and an assessment of whether the project, as modified, would remain in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1769). The Energy Commission staff will prepare an assessment of the proposed amendment and hold a workshop after it is published. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Sonoran Energy Project webpage, or if the Tribe prefers, notices can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

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Please consider reviewing the above referenced project information so that staff can promptly proceed to meaningful dialogue that matches the pace of the project amendment process. Staff anticipates publishing its Preliminary Staff Assessment on the petition by November 20, 2015. Staff will be following up this letter with phone calls to ascertain your Tribe's level of interest.

The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that the Sonoran project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or by e-mail at [thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov](mailto:thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Honorable Jeff Grubbe, Chairman  
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
5401 Dinah Shore Drive  
Palm Springs, CA 92264

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Jeff Grubbe, Chairman,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII)).

The Sonoran project site is located in the city of Blythe, approximately five miles west of the city center, in eastern Riverside County. The approximately 76-acre site is located immediately adjacent to the operational Blythe Energy Project (BEPI). The site is bounded to the north by Riverside Avenue, to the east by the existing BEPI, and to the south by Hobsonway. The site is fenced, sparsely vegetated, and relatively flat, sloping from an elevation of 350 feet in the northern portion of the parcel to 340 feet in the southern portion.

**SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (02-AFC-01C) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION**

In December 2005, the Energy Commission granted a license to Caithness Blythe II, LLC, to construct a nominal 520 megawatt (MW) combined-cycle power plant. The BEPII facility originally consisted of:

- an electrical interconnection to the Buck Boulevard substation, located in the northeastern corner of the BEPI site;
- two Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a 170 MW combustion turbine generators;
- one 180 MW steam turbine generator and;
- supporting equipment.

In April 2012, an amendment to the 2005 BEPII license was approved. The modified BEPII would have been a nominal 569 MW combined-cycle facility. The changes included the following:

- a new point of electrical interconnection via a 2,100 foot-long 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line into the proposed Keim substation;
- replacement of the Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a turbines with fast-start Siemens SGT6-5000F turbines;

- modification of the combustion turbine and steam turbine enclosure;
- incorporation of an auxiliary boiler to allow fast start technology;
- increase in size of cooling tower by 1,020 square feet; and
- optimization of the General Arrangement.

Concurrently, in April 2012, a five-year extension of the Deadline for the Start of Construction, from December 14, 2011 to December 14, 2016, was approved.

Ownership of the BEPII changed in 2014, from Caithness Blythe II, LLC to AltaGas Sonoran Energy Inc. (AltaGas).

On August 7, 2015, AltaGas filed another Petition to Amend (PTA) with the Energy Commission requesting to again modify the BEPII

#### **SUMMARY OF CURRENT PROPOSED PROJECT MODIFICATIONS**

AltaGas proposes to make substantial changes to the BEPII. The first modification proposed in the Sonoran Energy Project PTA is to change the name of the project from Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII) to the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran). The proposed name change is to reduce potential confusion associated with the number of generating projects in the area using the name "Blythe." Sonoran would be a natural gas-fired, water-cooled, combined-cycle, 553 MW net electrical generating facility.

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### **AMENDMENT PROCESS**

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The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that the Sonoran project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or by e-mail at [thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov](mailto:thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Honorable Maryann Green, Chairperson  
Augustine Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians  
P.O. Box 846  
Coachella, CA 92236

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Maryann Green, Chairperson,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII)).

The Sonoran project site is located in the city of Blythe, approximately five miles west of the city center, in eastern Riverside County. The approximately 76-acre site is located immediately adjacent to the operational Blythe Energy Project (BEPI). The site is bounded to the north by Riverside Avenue, to the east by the existing BEPI, and to the south by Hobsonway. The site is fenced, sparsely vegetated, and relatively flat, sloping from an elevation of 350 feet in the northern portion of the parcel to 340 feet in the southern portion.

**SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (02-AFC-01C) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION**

In December 2005, the Energy Commission granted a license to Caithness Blythe II, LLC, to construct a nominal 520 megawatt (MW) combined-cycle power plant. The BEPII facility originally consisted of:

- an electrical interconnection to the Buck Boulevard substation, located in the northeastern corner of the BEPI site;
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- one 180 MW steam turbine generator and;
- supporting equipment.

In April 2012, an amendment to the 2005 BEPII license was approved. The modified BEPII would have been a nominal 569 MW combined-cycle facility. The changes included the following:

- a new point of electrical interconnection via a 2,100 foot-long 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line into the proposed Keim substation;
- replacement of the Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a turbines with fast-start Siemens SGT6-5000F turbines;

- modification of the combustion turbine and steam turbine enclosure;
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Concurrently, in April 2012, a five-year extension of the Deadline for the Start of Construction, from December 14, 2011 to December 14, 2016, was approved.

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#### **SUMMARY OF CURRENT PROPOSED PROJECT MODIFICATIONS**

AltaGas proposes to make substantial changes to the BEPII. The first modification proposed in the Sonoran Energy Project PTA is to change the name of the project from Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII) to the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran). The proposed name change is to reduce potential confusion associated with the number of generating projects in the area using the name "Blythe." Sonoran would be a natural gas-fired, water-cooled, combined-cycle, 553 MW net electrical generating facility.

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### **AMENDMENT PROCESS**

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Sincerely,



ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Daniel McCarthy, Cultural Resources  
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians  
26569 Community Center Drive  
Highland, CA 92346

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Daniel McCarthy:

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEP II)).

The Sonoran project site is located in the city of Blythe, approximately five miles west of the city center, in eastern Riverside County. The approximately 76-acre site is located immediately adjacent to the operational Blythe Energy Project (BEP I). The site is bounded to the north by Riverside Avenue, to the east by the existing BEP I, and to the south by Hobsonway. The site is fenced, sparsely vegetated, and relatively flat, sloping from an elevation of 350 feet in the northern portion of the parcel to 340 feet in the southern portion.

**SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (02-AFC-01C) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION**

In December 2005, the Energy Commission granted a license to Caithness Blythe II, LLC, to construct a nominal 520 megawatt (MW) combined-cycle power plant. The BEP II facility originally consisted of:

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In April 2012, an amendment to the 2005 BEP II license was approved. The modified BEP II would have been a nominal 569 MW combined-cycle facility. The changes included the following:

- a new point of electrical interconnection via a 2,100 foot-long 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line into the proposed Keim substation;
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#### **AMENDMENT PROCESS**

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Sincerely,



ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Gabriella Rubalcava  
Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians  
P.O. Box 391820  
Anza, CA 92539

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Gabriella Rubalcava:

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEP II)).

The Sonoran project site is located in the city of Blythe, approximately five miles west of the city center, in eastern Riverside County. The approximately 76-acre site is located immediately adjacent to the operational Blythe Energy Project (BEP I). The site is bounded to the north by Riverside Avenue, to the east by the existing BEP I, and to the south by Hobsonway. The site is fenced, sparsely vegetated, and relatively flat, sloping from an elevation of 350 feet in the northern portion of the parcel to 340 feet in the southern portion.

**SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (02-AFC-01C) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION**

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Sincerely,



ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

John Gomez, Jr., Cultural Resources  
Ramona Band of Cahuilla  
P.O. Box 391372  
Anza, CA 92539

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear John Gomez Jr.:

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEP II)).

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- replacement of the Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a turbines with fast-start Siemens SGT6-5000F turbines;

- modification of the combustion turbine and steam turbine enclosure;
- incorporation of an auxiliary boiler to allow fast start technology;
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#### **SUMMARY OF CURRENT PROPOSED PROJECT MODIFICATIONS**

AltaGas proposes to make substantial changes to the BEPII. The first modification proposed in the Sonoran Energy Project PTA is to change the name of the project from Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII) to the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran). The proposed name change is to reduce potential confusion associated with the number of generating projects in the area using the name "Blythe." Sonoran would be a natural gas-fired, water-cooled, combined-cycle, 553 MW net electrical generating facility.

Other modifications proposed in this PTA include the following:

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- replace the Siemens steam turbine generator (STG) with a more efficient single-shaft GE D652 STG;
- increase the size of the auxiliary boiler to support GE's rapid response fast start capability;
- decrease the size of cooling tower from an 11-cell to a 10-cell tower in response to the reduced heat rejection requirements;
- decrease the size of the emergency diesel fire pump engine; and

- optimize the general arrangement.

### **AMENDMENT PROCESS**

The purpose of the Energy Commission's review process is to assess any impacts the proposed modifications to the previously approved project would have on environmental quality and on public health and safety. The process includes an evaluation of the consistency of the proposed changes with the Energy Commission's Final Decision and an assessment of whether the project, as modified, would remain in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1769). The Energy Commission staff will prepare an assessment of the proposed amendment and hold a workshop after it is published. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Sonoran Energy Project webpage, or if the Tribe prefers, notices can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

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Please consider reviewing the above referenced project information so that staff can promptly proceed to meaningful dialogue that matches the pace of the project amendment process. Staff anticipates publishing its Preliminary Staff Assessment on the petition by November 20, 2015. Staff will be following up this letter with phone calls to ascertain your Tribe's level of interest.

The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that the Sonoran project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or by e-mail at [thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov](mailto:thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Arlene Kingery, THPO  
Quechan Indian Tribe, Fort Yuma Indian Reservation  
P.O. Box 1899  
Yuma, AZ 85366

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Arlene Kingery:

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEP II)).

The Sonoran project site is located in the city of Blythe, approximately five miles west of the city center, in eastern Riverside County. The approximately 76-acre site is located immediately adjacent to the operational Blythe Energy Project (BEP I). The site is bounded to the north by Riverside Avenue, to the east by the existing BEP I, and to the south by Hobsonway. The site is fenced, sparsely vegetated, and relatively flat, sloping from an elevation of 350 feet in the northern portion of the parcel to 340 feet in the southern portion.

**SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (02-AFC-01C) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION**

In December 2005, the Energy Commission granted a license to Caithness Blythe II, LLC, to construct a nominal 520 megawatt (MW) combined-cycle power plant. The BEP II facility originally consisted of:

- an electrical interconnection to the Buck Boulevard substation, located in the northeastern corner of the BEP I site;
- two Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a 170 MW combustion turbine generators;
- one 180 MW steam turbine generator and;
- supporting equipment.

In April 2012, an amendment to the 2005 BEP II license was approved. The modified BEP II would have been a nominal 569 MW combined-cycle facility. The changes included the following:

- a new point of electrical interconnection via a 2,100 foot-long 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line into the proposed Keim substation;
- replacement of the Siemens Westinghouse V84.3a turbines with fast-start Siemens SGT6-5000F turbines;

- modification of the combustion turbine and steam turbine enclosure;
- incorporation of an auxiliary boiler to allow fast start technology;
- increase in size of cooling tower by 1,020 square feet; and
- optimization of the General Arrangement.

Concurrently, in April 2012, a five-year extension of the Deadline for the Start of Construction, from December 14, 2011 to December 14, 2016, was approved.

Ownership of the BEPII changed in 2014, from Caithness Blythe II, LLC to AltaGas Sonoran Energy Inc. (AltaGas).

On August 7, 2015, AltaGas filed another Petition to Amend (PTA) with the Energy Commission requesting to again modify the BEPII

#### **SUMMARY OF CURRENT PROPOSED PROJECT MODIFICATIONS**

AltaGas proposes to make substantial changes to the BEPII. The first modification proposed in the Sonoran Energy Project PTA is to change the name of the project from Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEPII) to the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran). The proposed name change is to reduce potential confusion associated with the number of generating projects in the area using the name "Blythe." Sonoran would be a natural gas-fired, water-cooled, combined-cycle, 553 MW net electrical generating facility.

Other modifications proposed in this PTA include the following:

- define a new point of electrical interconnection via a new 1,320-foot, 161-kV transmission line that will go from the Sonoran project to Southern California Edison's 161-kV Buck Boulevard substation on the BEPII site. From there, the new 161-kV Gen-Tie will deliver energy to the Western Area Power Administration's 161-kV Blythe substation, via an existing 161-kV Buck-Blythe transmission line.
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- decrease the size of the emergency diesel fire pump engine; and

- optimize the general arrangement.

### **AMENDMENT PROCESS**

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Sincerely,



ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov



September 30, 2015

Linda Otero, AhaMaKav Cultural Society  
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe  
500 Merriman Ave  
Needles, CA 92363

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Linda Otero:

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEP II)).

The Sonoran project site is located in the city of Blythe, approximately five miles west of the city center, in eastern Riverside County. The approximately 76-acre site is located immediately adjacent to the operational Blythe Energy Project (BEP I). The site is bounded to the north by Riverside Avenue, to the east by the existing BEP I, and to the south by Hobsonway. The site is fenced, sparsely vegetated, and relatively flat, sloping from an elevation of 350 feet in the northern portion of the parcel to 340 feet in the southern portion.

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ROGER E. JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission  
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

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September 30, 2015

Honorable Mary Resvaloso, Chairperson  
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians  
84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy  
Indio, CA 92203P.O. Box 1160  
Thermal, CA 92236

RE: Sonoran Energy Project (Sonoran) (Formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) –  
(02-AFC-01C) Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Mary Resvaloso:

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Deputy Director  
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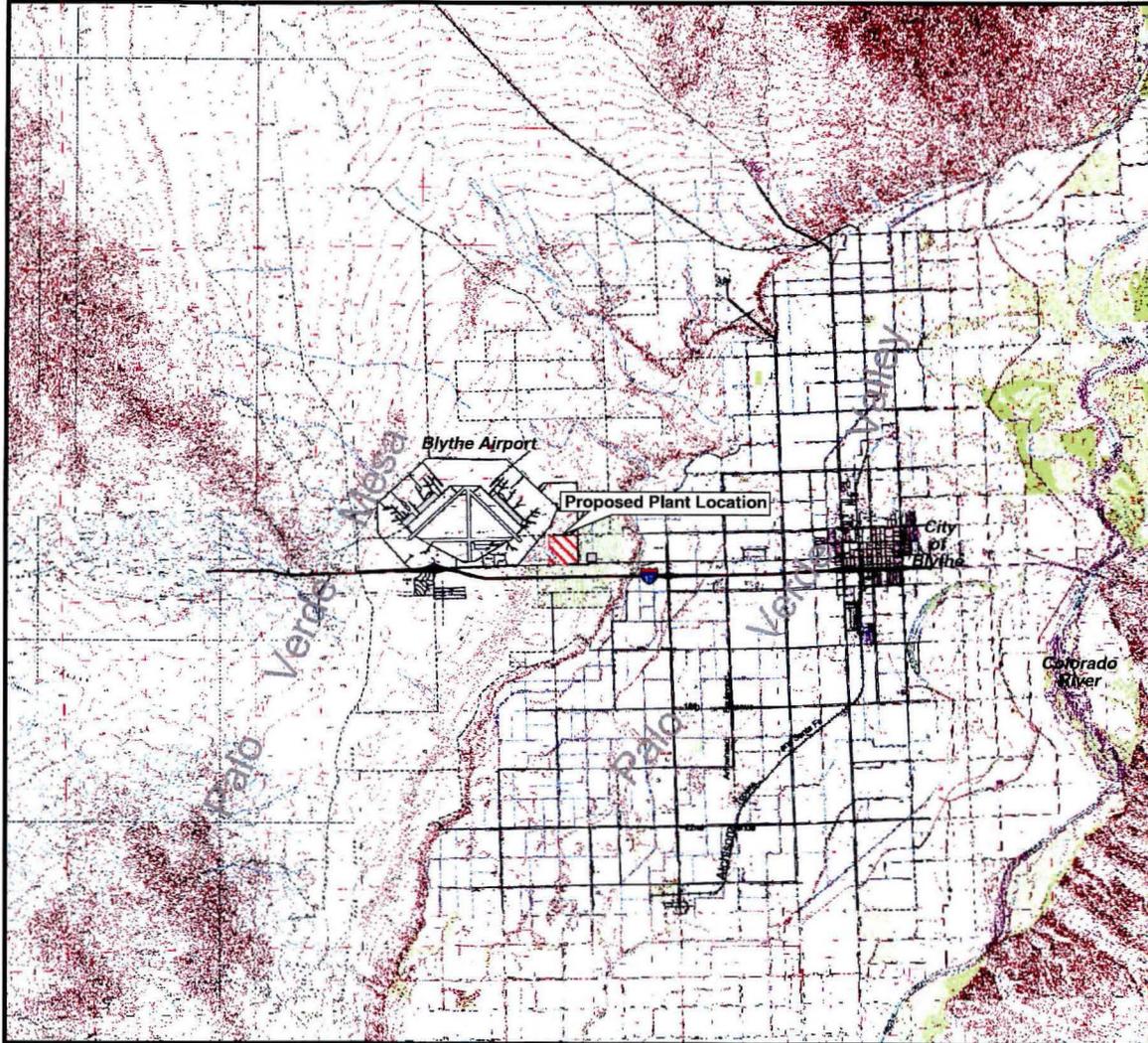
Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map  
Facility Project Features Map

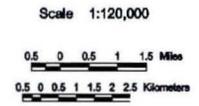
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION - FIGURE 1**  
 Blythe Energy Project II - Regional Location of the Proposed Project

APRIL 2005

PROJECT DESCRIPTION



- LEGEND**
-  Project Location
  -  Blythe Substation



**PROJECT DESCRIPTION - FIGURE 2**  
 Blythe Energy Project II - Immediate Vicinity of Proposed Project

APRIL 2005

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

