

SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE

Due to scheduled maintenance, our website may be intermittently unavailable on Thursday, July 23, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. We apologize for the inconvenience.



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Walsh Data Center

PROJECT OWNER

651 Walsh Partners, LLC

DOCKET NUMBER

19-SPPE-02

CAPACITY

98 MW

LOCATION

Santa Clara

TECHNOLOGY

Backup Generating System

PROJECT STATUS

Exempted

PROJECT TYPE

Small Power Plant

Exemption

ORIGINAL PROCEEDING

e-Commenting is currently closed and will open here when available.

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Project Description

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT The Walsh Data Center (WDC) would consist of thirty-two (32) 3-MW diesel fired generators that would be used exclusively to provide backup generation to support a

data center to be located at 651 Walsh Avenue in Santa Clara, California. The project would also include one (1) 2-MW emergency generator that would provide backup electricity for an administrative building. The project has been designed with a 5-to-make-4 and a 6-to-make-5 design basis to ensure uninterrupted power up to 80 MW, which is the maximum building load of the WDC. The generators will be located in one generator yard in a two-level stacked configuration. The lower level generator package will integrate a dedicated fuel tank with a capacity of 12,800 gallons. The upper level generators will have a day tank with a capacity of 600 gallons. A new distribution substation would be constructed to support the WDC—this substation would ultimately be owned and operated by Silicon Valley Power (SVP) as part of its distribution network. While SVP has not yet designed the 60 kV transmission lines that interconnect the new substation, SVP has estimated that one transmission line will come in to the site from the north and one from the south, both routes paralleling the existing UPPR rail lines. There may be up to 6 new transmission poles. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the lead agency to consider the whole of the action; therefore, the Energy Commission will include the entire data center project in its analysis, which includes the construction of the data center buildings along with the installation and operation of the generators and any associated utility connection facilities.

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Key Dates



SMALL POWER PLANT EXEMPTION

The CEC Small Power Plant Exemption (SPPE) process allows applicants proposing thermal power plants between 50 and 100 MW to obtain an exemption from the CEC’s jurisdiction and proceed with local permitting rather than requiring CEC certification. The CEC can grant an exemption if it finds that the proposed facility will not create a substantial adverse impact on the environment or energy resources. These facilities were exempted from the CEC’s jurisdiction.

CONTACTS

PROJECT MANAGER

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION QUESTIONS

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