

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Surprise Valley Geothermal Exploration Project - Draft IS/MND

Lead Agency: Modoc County

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Project Location: Unincorporated Modoc County
City

Modoc
County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The proposed facilities would be located within the Lake City USGS quadrangle in sections 12, 13, and 24 Township 44 north Range 15 east; on APN 026-080-018; APN: 026-100-004; APN 026-100-014; APN 026-100-006; and APN 026-100-008. The proposed development areas are leased to the Applicant by various private landowners. The Project area is relatively flat and presently used for the production of alfalfa or associated agricultural facilities. The Project involves the development of up to eleven geothermal test wells on nine well pads drilled to a depth of 3,000-5,000 feet. During installation, each well pad would accommodate a drilling rig, support equipment, portable bathroom, baker tanks, and project vehicles. Well testing would consist of flowing the exploration well into baker tanks stationed on the well pad and monitoring the captured geothermal fluid for temperatures, pressures, flow rates, chemistry and other parameters. Three new access roads would be developed to access well pads. The proposed access roads would stem off from Surprise Valley Road to the well pads. Existing access roads may require improvements to accommodate transportation of well and drilling equipment. Improved roads may be widened and surfaced as needed.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The proposed project would result in a potentially significant effects related to agricultural resources, biological resources, cultural/Tribal cultural resources, energy, and water quality. A pest management plan (MM AG-1) will be established to monitor and control the introduction of insects, weeds, or other organisms that may be harmful to surrounding farmland. Dust control measures in accordance with Modoc County APCD requirements would be implemented to reduce concentrations of criteria air pollutants during construction. Several biological mitigation measures are proposed to reduce biological impacts to less than significant levels (MM BIO-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Program; MM BIO-2: Supplemental Aquatic Resources Delineation; MM BIO-3: Avoidance of Wetlands; MM BIO-4: Wetlands Restoration; MM BIO-5: Supplemental Botanical Survey and Evaluation; MM BIO-6 through MM BIO-8: Special Status Plant Species; MM BIO-9 through MM BIO 13: Special Status Wildlife Species; and MM BIO-14: Noxious Weed Prevention). Mitigation measures are also provided for the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources, including evidence of human burial or human remains.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Local residents have expressed significant concerns regarding groundwater impacts, impacts to biological resources, visual impacts and cumulative development of geothermal resources within Surprise Valley.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
Modoc County (Air Quality, Environmental Health)
US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)