

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	21-AFC-02
Project Title:	Willow Rock Energy Storage Center
TN #:	265536
Document Title:	Hearing Officer Memo re Request for Representative of Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District at Evidentiary Hearing
Description:	Hearing Officer Memo and Record of Communication to EKAPCD Requesting Testimony of Representative from the District
Filer:	Renee Webster-Hawkins
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Hearing Office
Submission Date:	8/11/2025 10:57:07 PM
Docketed Date:	8/12/2025



Hearing Officer Memorandum

To: All Parties and Persons Interested
In the Willow Rock Energy Storage Center
(21-AFC-02)

Date: August 11, 2025

From: Reneé Webster-Hawkins, Hearing Officer
(916) 237-2507
renee.webster-hawkins@energy.ca.gov

**Subject: Notice of Communication to Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District
Requesting Testimony at Evidentiary Hearing for Willow Rock Energy Storage
Center (21-AFC-02)**

Attached please find the email communication sent from the Hearing Office to Mr. Gary Ray of the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District (District) requesting a representative of the District to appear at the Evidentiary Hearing either in-person or via video conference, to testify and certify to the emissions offsets for the proposed Willow Rock Energy Storage Center pursuant to Public Resources Code, section 25523(d)(2) and to present and explain the determination of compliance for District rules and regulations pursuant to Cal. Code Regs, title 20, section 1744.5(c).

From: [Webster-Hawkins, Renee@Energy](mailto:Webster-Hawkins.Renee@Energy)
To: ekapcd@co.kern.ca.us; ekapcd@kerncounty.com
Cc: [Lopez, Lisabeth@Energy](mailto:Lopez.Lisabeth@Energy); [Camberos, Blanca@Energy](mailto:Camberos.Blanca@Energy)
Subject: Request for Appearance at Evidentiary Hearing for Willow Rock (21-AFC-02) per Public Resources Code section 25523
Date: Monday, August 11, 2025 10:41:00 PM

Dear Director Gary Ray,

On behalf of the Committee assigned by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to manage the application for certification for the Willow Rock Energy Storage Center project, I respectfully request a representative from the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District to appear at the Evidentiary Hearing on August 21 & 22, 2025. The request is to fulfill the statutory and regulatory requirements for such appearance to testify and certify to the emissions offsets for the proposed Willow Rock Energy Storage Center pursuant to Public Resources Code, section 25523(d)(2), and to present and explain the determination of compliance for District rules and regulations pursuant to Cal. Code Regs, title 20, section 1744.5(c).

Public Resources Code, section 25523(d)(2) provides:

“The commission may not find that the proposed facility conforms with applicable air quality standards pursuant to paragraph (1) unless the applicable air pollution control district or air quality management district certifies, prior to the licensing of the project by the commission, that complete emissions offsets for the proposed facility have been identified and will be obtained by the applicant within the time required by the district's rules or unless the applicable air pollution control district or air quality management district certifies that the applicant requires emissions offsets to be obtained prior to the commencement of operation consistent with Section 42314.3 of the Health and Safety Code and prior to commencement of the operation of the proposed facility.”

And the CEC’s Regulations at Cal. Code Regs., title 20, section 1744.5(c) provides: “The local district or the Air Resources Board shall provide a witness at the hearings held pursuant to Section 1745 to present and explain the [District’s] determination of compliance.”

For your convenience and reference, the Notice of the Prehearing Conference and Evidentiary

Hearing for the project, along with all other documents related to the proceeding, can be accessed at the [CEC Docket 21-AFC-02](#) at [TN 264853](#). The Notice includes the location and participation information.

If you or a colleague can kindly reply at your earliest convenience to confirm who the Committee will expect in attendance, please provide their full name, title, and email and telephone contact information. Please also let us know whether the representative plans to attend in person at the Mojave Air & Space Port, or via video conference. You are also welcome to attend the Prehearing Conference this Friday, August 15 at 10am via Zoom.

For any procedural questions regarding the hearings, please reply to myself or Lisabeth Lopez or Blanca Camberos in the Hearing Office. If you have technical questions, you may contact the Project Manager Eric Veerkamp at STEPsiting@energy.ca.gov.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Reneé Webster-Hawkins

Attorney IV/Hearing Officer

Hearing & Advisory Unit

Chief Counsel's Office

California Energy Commission

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