

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	21-AFC-02
Project Title:	Willow Rock Energy Storage Center
TN #:	265606
Document Title:	Hearing Officer Notice of Ex Parte Communication
Description:	Notice and Memo of Ex Parte Communication pursuant to Government Code section 11430.50.
Filer:	Renee Webster-Hawkins
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Hearing Office
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Hearing Officer Memorandum

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

Date: August 14, 2025

From: Reneé Webster-Hawkins, Hearing Officer
(916) 237-2507
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Subject: Notice of Ex Parte Communication in the Willow Rock Energy Storage Center (21-AFC-02)

Pursuant to Government Code section 11430.50(a)(2), the Hearing Officer for this proceeding hereby gives notice of the following ex parte communication.

On August 14, 2025, the Hearing Officer received a message from Mr. Jeffery Harris, counsel for Applicant Gem A-CAES, LLC, requesting a call back. In a telephonic conversation, Mr. Harris alerted the Hearing Officer about the unexpected and sudden death of the Applicant's expert witness for Visual Resources. Mr. Harris' intention was to respectfully provide the Hearing Officer and Committee advance notice before the Prehearing Conference on August 15, 2025, given the interest of the Parties in planning the presentation of evidence and further legal argument related to Visual Resources as discussed in the Parties' Prehearing Conference Statements. Mr. Harris reported that he has spoken with the counsel for the other Parties, and that they will be prepared to discuss the options for managing this aspect of the application for certification proceeding for the Willow Rock Energy Storage Center given the truly sad circumstances.

Pursuant to the California Administrative Procedure Act, when an *ex parte* communication has occurred, the "presiding officer shall notify all parties that a communication . . . has been made part of the record." Government Code, section 11430.50(b). This memorandum confirms that this Notice has been made part of the administrative record in this matter.

Additionally, pursuant to Government Code section 11430.50(c), if a party requests an opportunity to address the communication within 10 days after receipt of the Notice, the party shall be allowed to comment on the communication. In this case, the Committee will make time for all Parties to comment on this communication at the Prehearing Conference previously noticed for August 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. ([TN 264853](#)) when all Parties will be present.