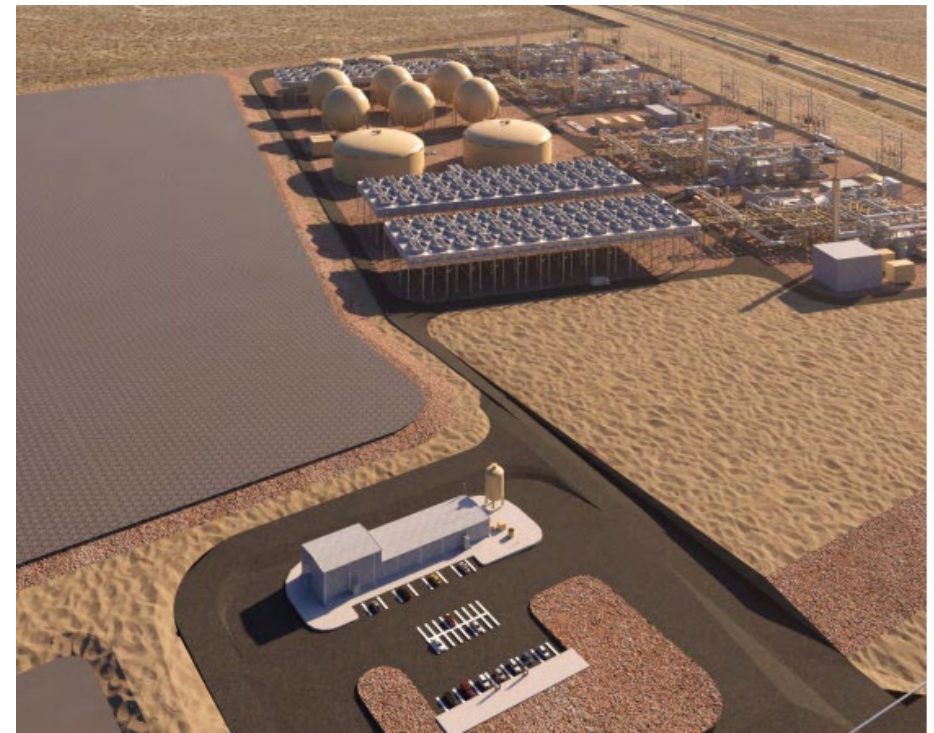


DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	21-AFC-02
Project Title:	Willow Rock Energy Storage Center
TN #:	265621
Document Title:	Prehearing Conference Presentation Deck
Description:	Hearing Office Presentation Deck for Prehearing Conference
Filer:	Renee Webster-Hawkins
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Hearing Office
Submission Date:	8/15/2025 1:50:10 PM
Docketed Date:	8/15/2025



Committee Prehearing Conference

Willow Rock Energy Storage Center Docket Number 21-AFC-02



*Source: Project rendering in Applicant's Supplemental AFC
Volume 1, Part A, Cover Page*

Commissioner Andrew McAllister
Hearing Officer Reneé Webster-Hawkins
Remote via Zoom
August 15, 2025
10:00 am to 12:00 pm



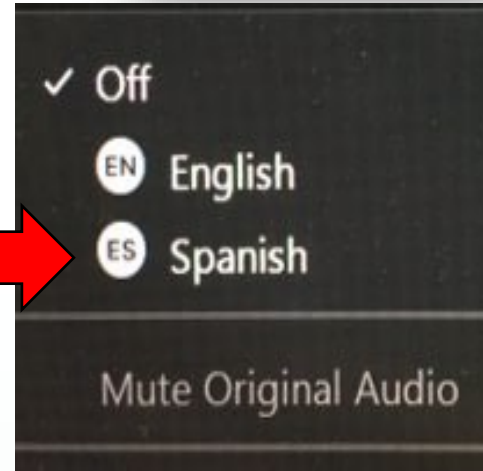
Interpretation on Zoom

Interpretación via Zoom

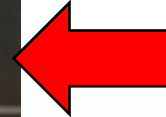
1) Click globe “Interpretation” icon.



2) Click “ES Spanish” option



3) Click “Mute Original Audio”



1) Haga clic en el icono del globo de interpretación

2) Haga clic donde dice “ES Spanish”

3) Haga clic en “Mute Original Audio”

NOTE: Interpreter will relate everything from English to Spanish during the meeting and will inform you when to make public comment. **Speak in Spanish and interpreter will relate comments to English.**

NOTA: El intérprete relacionará todo lo dicho en inglés al español durante la junta y le informará cuándo podrá hacer un comentario público. **Hable en español y el intérprete relatará sus comentarios en inglés.**



Prehearing Conference Schedule

- **Introductions**
- **Fifth Revised Schedule**
- **Review of Prehearing Conference Statements**
- **Schedule for the Evidentiary Hearings**
- **Procedural Matters**
- **Recess (if needed)**
- **Public Comment**
- **Committee's Closing Remarks**



Introductions



Fifth Revised Schedule for the Proceeding

EVENT	DATE	INTERVAL
Staff files Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA)	April 30, 2025	By order of the Committee
Public Comment on PSA closes	June 16, 2025	45 days after PSA filed
Staff files Final Staff Assessment (FSA)	July 16, 2025	30 days after public comment closes
Last day to file Petition to Intervene	June 23, 2025	7 days after comments on PSA due
Opening Written Testimony & Evidence	July 30, 2025	14 days after FSA filed
Rebuttal Written Testimony & Evidence	August 6, 2025	7 days after Opening
Prehearing Conference Statements	August 11, 2025	5 days after Rebuttal
Prehearing Conference	August 15, 2025	30 days after FSA filed
Evidentiary Hearing	August 21 & 22, 2025	36 days after FSA filed
<i>Closing Briefs</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>If needed, 5 business days after transcripts</i>
Committee files Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD)	Tentatively October 2025	--
Public Comment Period Closes on PMPD	TBD	30 days after filing of the PMPD
Commission Hearing on Final Decision	Tentatively December 2025	--



Review of Parties Prehearing Conference Statements

- Participation by CURE
- Evidentiary Motions
- Exhibit Lists
- Topics in Dispute that Need Adjudication
 - Parties' identification of topics
 - Committee's identification of topics needing further evidence or resolution
- Evidentiary Hearing Panels and Witness Lists



Review of PHC Statements: Participation by CURE

- Did not meet Opening or Rebuttal Testimony Deadlines.
 - Notice: “Failure by a Party to comply with the filing requirements stated in this Order may preclude that party from participating in the Evidentiary Hearing.”
- CURE’s PHC
 - “CURE will not introduce testimony or evidence at the Evidentiary hearing.”
 - CURE did not identify any Exhibits.
 - PHC did not address the questions in the Notice including areas in dispute, or subject areas on which it desires to question other Parties’ witnesses.
- Committee’s proposed order on further Participation by CURE:
 - No further written or oral testimony or evidence
 - No cross examination
 - No further legal argument
 - Committee is not bound by the Joint Statement



Review of PHC Statements: Evidence and Exhibits

- No evidentiary motions
- Exhibit List confirmation
 - <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/energy-storage-system/willow-rock-energy-storage-center>
 - [California Energy Commission : Exhibit List](#)

Willow Rock Energy Storage Center

This proceeding is for the certification of an energy storage project in Kern County, California.

ORIGINAL PROCEEDING

[Submit e-Comment](#) [Submit e-Filing](#) [Docket Log \(21-AFC-02\)](#) [Exhibit List](#) [Proof of Service List](#)

Party	Numbers
Applicant	1000 – 1048 1050 -- 1323
Staff	2000 – 2001
The Center	4000 – 4001



Review of PHC Statements: Topics in Dispute Identified by Parties

Applicant	Staff	The Center	CURE
Biological Resources (mitigation acreage for permanent and temporary loss for BO and CBB, actual impacts) Visual Resources (methodology) Land Use (re laydown, parking and berm, legal briefing?) Water Resources (delegation to DSOD, legal briefing?)	Biological Resources (mitigation ratio for permanent and temporary loss for BO and CBB, WJT woodlands) Visual Resources (methodology) Land Use (scope of CEC certification) Water Resources (delegation to DSOD) Applicant-CURE Negotiated Language (Biological, Noise, Air Quality/Valley Fever)	Biological Resources (WJT woodlands impacts, complete surveys, ITP issuance)	N/A



Review of PHC Statements: Topics Needing Evidence Identified by the Committee (1 of 2)

Topic	Issue	Testimony	Evidence
Air Quality	EKAPCD Testimony and Certification per PRC 25523(d)(2) and CEC Reg 1744.5(c)	Miguel Sandoval, EKAPCD	FDOC, Oral Testimony
<i>Air Quality/Valley Fever</i>	<i>Evidence to support Joint Statement on Worker Safety-7 and PH-1</i>	<i>Is this disputed?</i> <i>Oral or written?</i>	<i>None</i>
Biological Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ITP status, Mitigation for WJT, CBB, BO and Rare Plants	CDFW, Applicant, Staff, The Center	*CDFW will be informational.
Water Resources	Dam Safety and Delegation	DWR/DSOD, Applicant, Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>DSOD will be informational</i> <i>MOU between CEC and DWR?</i>
Geological Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expert testimony on geological characteristics, seismicity, controlled blasting, feasibility and integrity of the cavern, worker safety.Project Design, Project Reliability, Worker Safety, Geology, Paleontology and Minerals, and Hazards, and Hazardous Materials/Waste.	Oral testimony by subject matter experts	



Review of PHC Statements: Topics Needing Evidence Identified by the Committee (2 of 2)

Topic	Issue	Testimony	Evidence
<i>Visual Impacts</i>	<i>Methodology and Override</i>	<i>Oral, if still disputed, due to override?</i>	<i>Submitted on the papers</i>
<i>Land Use</i>	<i>Authority over construction laydown, berm, and parking</i>	<i>No Panel</i>	<i>Revised Land-1</i>
<i>Noise</i>	<i>Evidence to support Joint Statement on NOISE-4</i>	<i>No Panel</i>	<i>Revised Noise-4</i>
<i>COCs</i>	<i>Compendium of COCs</i>	<i>No Panel</i>	<i>Applicant and Staff to prepare</i>
<i>Compliance</i>	<i>Ambiguous Timelines</i>	<i>No Panel</i>	<i>Matrix of Construction and COC Deliverables</i> <i>Revision of FSA/COCs for clarity</i>



Evidentiary Hearing Panels (1 of 2)

Topic	Issue	Witness	Estimated Time
Air Quality	Air District Certification	Miguel Sandoval, EKAPCD	
Biological Resources	WFT, BO, CBB, Rare Plants	CDFW: Applicant: Staff: The Center: Ileene Anderson	
Water Resources	Dam Safety and Delegated Authority	DSOD: Applicant: Staff:	
Geological Resources	Cavern design, integrity, reliability, worker safety, public safety	Applicant: Staff:	
<i>Visual Resources</i>	<i>Methodology</i>	<i>Applicant:</i> <i>Staff:</i>	



Evidentiary Hearing Panels (2 of 2)

Topic	Issue	Direct	Estimated Time
Land Use	Jurisdiction over berms, laydown and parking areas	Applicant: Staff:	
Noise	Joint Statement/Ambient Levels	Applicant: Staff:	

Final Witness List: Due for submittal by Monday, August 18, 2025 @ 5pm

Topic	Witness Name	Testimony Format/Time	Inperson/Remote



Proposed Schedule: Evidentiary Hearing

Date	Time	Evidence
August 21, 2025	10:00 am	Welcome, Explanation of Procedure, Motions in Limine, Admit Undisputed Evidence
	10:15 am	Public Comment
	10:30 am	EKAPCD Certification
	10:45 am	Biological Resources
	12:30 pm	Lunch
	1:30 pm	Water Resources
	3:30 pm	Geological Resources
August 22, 2025	<i>10:00 am</i>	<i>Visual Resources</i>
	<i>11:00 am</i>	<i>Land Use</i>
	<i>11:30 am</i>	<i>Noise</i>
	11:30 am	Close Record, Discuss Briefing Schedule
	12:00 noon	Public Comment
	12:30 pm	Committee Closing Remarks, Adjourn



Procedural Matters

- Discussion of Informal Procedure
- Admissibility of Evidence
- Briefing Schedule



Public Comment

Zoom App/Online

- Click “raise hand”

Telephone

- Press *9 to raise hand
- Press *6 to mute/unmute

When called upon

- CEC will open your line
- Unmute on your end
- Spell name and state affiliation, if any
- 3 minute or less per speaker, 1 speaker per entity

3-MINUTE TIMER



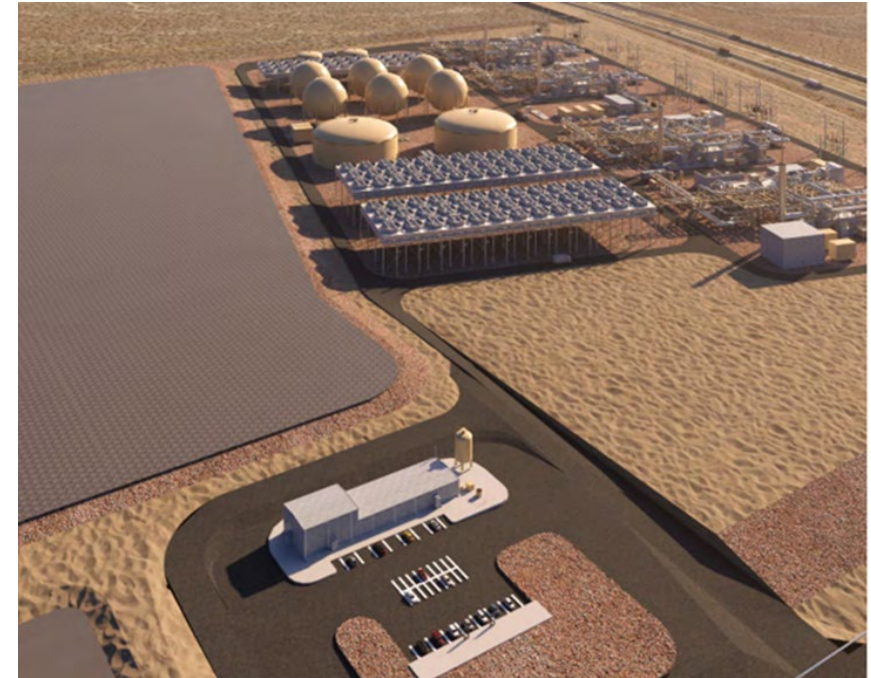


Closing Remarks



Adjourn

Thank you!



*Source: Project rendering in Applicant's Supplemental AFC
Volume 1, Part A, Cover Page*