

DOCKETED	
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Project Title:	Willow Rock Energy Storage Center
TN #:	265707
Document Title:	Staff Response to Order After Prehearing Conference and Further Instructions
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Marianna Brewer
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE ENERGY RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

Docket No.:21-AFC-02

***Willow Rock Energy Storage
Center***

**Staff's Response to Order After Prehearing
Conference and Further Instructions**

STAFF'S RESPONSE

In a notice dated August 18, 2025, the California Energy Commission's (CEC) committee overseeing the Willow Rock Energy Storage Center Project ("Willow Rock") provided further instructions and directions to the parties for the August 21-22, 2025, Evidentiary Hearing. This is Staff's Response to the Order After Prehearing Conference and Further Instructions.

1. Compendium of Proposed Conditions of Certification

Staff prepared a single compendium of proposed conditions of certification (COCs) that included all COCs included in Staff's Final Staff Assessment as a baseline, along with mark-up and/or annotations to reflect the proposed modifications by Staff. Staff provided a copy to the Parties on Tuesday, August 19, 2025.

2. A list identifying Staff's expert witnesses

Staff Witness List			
Topic/ Subtopic	Witness Name, Title, Organization	Estimated Time of Opening Statement	In-person/Remote
Biological Resources	Chris Huntley, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Aspen Environmental Group	5-10 mins	In-person
Water Resources: Design, Construction, and Operation of Hydrostatically Compensating Reservoir/Delegation to DSOD/Fees	Brett Fooks, P.E., Safety and Reliability Branch Manager, CEC <i>Staff witnesses available to answer questions</i> Shahab Khoshmashrab, P.E., Facility Design Unit Supervisor, CEC James Ackerman, P.G. Engineering Geologist, CEC	5-10 mins	Remote
Cavern Construction: Facility Reliability, Geology, Worker Safety & Public Health	<i>Staff witnesses available to answer questions</i> Kevin M. DeLano, P.G. M.S., Engineering Geologist (Geology, Paleontology, and Minerals), CEC Kenneth Salyphone, Mechanical Engineer/Inspections Unit Supervisor (Efficiency and Energy Resources, Facility Reliability), CEC Ardalan Raisi Sofi Ph.D., P.E., Mechanical Engineer (Noise and Vibration, Facility Design), CEC	0 mins	Remote

	<p>Shahab Khoshmashrab, P.E., Facility Design Unit Supervisor, CEC</p> <p>Alvin J. Greenberg, Ph.D. (Worker Safety and Fire Protection, Hazards, Hazardous Materials/Waste, and Wildfire), Risk Science Associates</p> <p>Huei-An (Ann) Chu, Ph.D., Air Resources Engineer, (Public Health), CEC</p>		
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Agency Representatives List			
Topic/ Subtopic	Agency Representative Name, Title, Organization	Estimated Time of Opening Statement	In-person/Remote
Biological Resources	<p>Jeremy Pohlman, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor), California Department of Fish and Wildlife</p> <p>Lena Germinario, Attorney, California Department of Fish and Wildlife</p> <p>Derek Kliwer, Attorney, California Department of Fish and Wildlife</p>	0 mins	In-person
Water Resources	Erik Malvick, P.E., Division Manager, Division of Safety of Dams, California	5 mins	Remote

	<p>Department of Water Resource</p> <p>Shawn Jones, P.E., Assistant Division Manager, Division of Safety of Dams, California Department of Water Resources</p> <p>Peter Thyberg, Senior Attorney, California Department of Water Resources</p>		
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Date: August 19, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

STATE ENERGY RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION

By: */s/*

Jared Babula
Attorney for Staff