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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the matter of:

Willow Rock Energy Storage Center) Docket No. 21-AFC-02
 Application for Certification)
 _____)

PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT
 TECHNICAL AND MITIGATION WORKSHOP
 WILLOW ROCK ENERGY STORAGE CENTER
 DAY 2

REMOTE VIA ZOOM

TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025

2:00 P.M.

Reported by:
 Elise Hicks

APPEARANCESCEC STAFF

Eric Veerkamp, Project Manager

Kaycee Chang, Supervisor

Hilary Anderson, Zoom Meeting Facilitator

Cameron Travis, Historian in Cultural Resources Unit

Gabriel Roark, Cultural Resources Unit Supervisor

Mark Hamblin, Visual Resources Expert

Karim Abulaban, Geosciences Unit Supervisor

ALSO PRESENT

Chris Huntley, Aspen Environmental Group, Contractor for
California Energy Commission, Biological Resources Expert

APPLICANT PRESENTERS

Kate Moss, Biological Resources Expert, WSP

Laurel Lees, Senior Director, Development and Permitting,
Hydrostor

Jeff Harris, Attorney, Climate Edge Law Group

Daryl Harrison, Visual Resources Expert, WSP

INTERVENORS

Zeynep Graves, Attorney, Center for Biological Diversity

INDEX

	<u>PAGE</u>
1. Welcome and Introductions	4
2. Government Comment	6
a. California Native American tribes	
b. Government Agencies	
c. Elected Officials	
3. Public Comments	6
4. Environmental Topics/Conditions of Certification Discussions	7
a. Public Comment Opportunities	
5. Next Steps	30
6. Closing Comments	30
Adjournment	31

1 meeting recording will be made available on the California
2 Energy Commission's website. And if anyone is interested,
3 the recording from the June 5th session is on the website
4 already.

5 Next slide, please.

6 This slide provides an overview of today's
7 agenda. There will be an opportunity for comments from
8 California Native American tribes, from intervenors,
9 government agencies, elected officials, and members of the
10 public. Environmental topic areas discussed during the
11 workshop on Thursday, June 5th, are water resources -- or
12 were water resources, biological resources, cultural and
13 tribal cultural resources, and visual resources. We will
14 first entertain any follow-up discussion or questions on
15 these topics. After that, the discussion can be expanded
16 to other topics as well. After public comment, a brief
17 overview of next steps will be provided.

18 Next slide, please.

19 Thank you again for joining us today to
20 participate in our discussion on the Willow Rock, the
21 proposed Willow Rock Energy Storage Center. As a reminder,
22 Willow Rock would be a 500-megawatt net, 4,000-megawatt-
23 hour advanced compressed air energy storage facility to be
24 located on approximately 89 acres of private land
25 immediately north of Don Road and between State Route 14

1 and Sierra Highway within unincorporated southeastern Kern
2 County, California.

3 CEC staff published the Preliminary Staff
4 Assessment, or PSA, on April 29th, 2025. The PSA contains
5 the CEC staff's independent, objective evaluation of the
6 proposed energy storage project and recommended mitigation
7 measures to reduce identified environmental impacts of the
8 project.

9 Next slide, please.

10 So at this time, we would take any comment from
11 any elected or other government officials.

12 Is there anyone who would like to provide public
13 comment at this time?

14 MS. CHANG: If you would like to speak on behalf
15 of a California Native American tribe, other governmental
16 entity, or any legislative offices, please raise your hand
17 on Zoom by clicking the Raise Hand feature on your
18 screen -- it looks like an open palm -- or by pressing star
19 9 if joined by phone.

20 We are not seeing any raised hands.

21 MR. VEERKAMP: The next slide, then, in that
22 case, please.

23 Are there any members of the general public that
24 would like to comment at this time?

25 Seeing none, I think we can skip the next slide

1 which is the timer and go to the Environmental Topic Area
2 discussion.

3 There we go. Thank you, Hilary.

4 So -- excuse me -- we'll begin with the four, not
5 a recap, but with the four topics that were discussed on
6 Thursday, starting with water resources. I'll give the
7 applicant representatives an opportunity to ask any follow-
8 up questions of CEC staff with regard to conditions of
9 certification or anything else related to water resources.

10 So not hearing anything, is there any follow-up
11 discussion related to biological resources?

12 MS. CHANG: We have a hand raised from Kate Moss.

13 MS. MOSS: Hi. Are you able to hear me?

14 MR. VEERKAMP: Sure can.

15 MS. MOSS: Sorry, I would turn my camera on,
16 except I'm not quite sure where the buttons are. Hi,
17 Chris. I was just hoping that I could have Chris or the
18 CEC summarize some of the takeaways that were discussed
19 last week regarding mitigation and restoration, and where
20 we sort of landed on conclusions for those, please.

21 MS. ANDERSON: Real quick, before you answer
22 those questions, would you be able to state your full name
23 for --

24 MS. MOSS: Oh. I'm sorry.

25 MS. ANDERSON: -- the court reporter and where

1 you're from.

2 MS. MOSS: Absolutely. Sorry.

3 My name is Kate Moss, and I am with WSP
4 Consulting.

5 MR. HUNTLEY: Kate, this is Chris Huntley with
6 Aspen representing staff.

7 I guess what I would ask you is, do you have a
8 specific question or comment that you'd like to ask rather
9 than me attempting to summarize all of our discussions?

10 MS. MOSS: I guess two pieces. One, I just would
11 like to clarify for the group that our understanding on
12 restoration was that the purpose of that condition is for
13 weed management and not specifically restoration.

14 Is that correct?

15 MR. HUNTLEY: I think you've characterized that
16 accurately.

17 I will go back to the condition. To make sure we
18 are not asking for anything too onerous, and that was just
19 as a basis because we are treating those temporary impacts
20 as largely permanent. So our goal is just to prevent the
21 sites from becoming weed patches.

22 MS. MOSS: Thank you. That would be great.

23 And then with mitigation, I guess my further
24 question would be, is there additional information that we
25 could supply regarding species presence, species, habitat

1 suitability that would help with any edits to the PSA or
2 COCs?

3 MR. HUNTLEY: I don't think there's any
4 supplemental information regarding pocket mice, things like
5 that. I know that regarding Mojave ground squirrel, we
6 were hoping to get some supplemental data on the site as
7 you saw in our PSA section, but I think the trapping window
8 is closed on that, so I'm not sure you have any information
9 on that topic.

10 Do you?

11 MS. MOSS: Not with regards to trapping, no.

12 MR. HUNTLEY: Okay. And I don't think we
13 requested any supplemental data on species distribution
14 related to those other species.

15 MS. MOSS: Okay.

16 MR. HUNTLEY: Just to be clear, I think what we
17 did is we just drew a different conclusion on potential to
18 occur after partnering with our agency folks on a couple of
19 those species, but I don't think it fundamentally changes
20 the impact analysis or anything like that.

21 MS. MOSS: Yeah. I think my question was
22 specifically to do with the suitability of habitat for
23 species not documented as present, such as burrowing owl,
24 so if additional information would be helpful in that
25 analysis.

1 MR. HUNTLEY: I don't think additional
2 information would be helpful on that topic. The project
3 site supports habitat for burrowing owl, as does much of
4 the alignment. The applicant elected to seek take
5 authorization for those species -- that species --
6 including Crotch's bumblebee. So we are treating the
7 entire site as potential habitat for that species, and we
8 are providing take coverage for those species, both on the
9 project site and along the alignment.

10 So should any of these animals occur, I know -- I
11 think you documented over 44 different burrows along the
12 access routes and other locations, we would have take
13 coverage for owl should they occur in your project
14 location.

15 MS. MOSS: Thank you. I don't -- oh.

16 I don't believe I specifically have more
17 questions. There may be others from the applicant side
18 that do.

19 MR. HUNTLEY: Thank you, Kate.

20 MS. CHANG: There are folks from --

21 MS. LEES: Sorry. This is Laurel Lees,
22 L-A-U-R-E-L L-E-E-S. I'm wondering if -- I see Jeff Harris
23 has been promoted to speaker. Thank you, Kaycee.

24 I was wondering, Jeff, if you have any comments.
25 We were working on promoting you to panelists as we were

1 discussing biological resources and Kate Moss was asking
2 questions.

3 I just got a text message that he's having some
4 technical difficulties. My apologies. If we could just
5 hang on for just a moment, see if we can grab him again.

6 And Kaycee, I'll toss it back to you. Sorry for
7 interrupting.

8 MS. CHANG: No problem.

9 Jeff, if there's anyone on the applicant side or
10 intervener or the public who would like to make comments,
11 we are discussing biological resources right now. Please
12 raise your hand and we'll open up your line.

13 And like Hilary mentioned, please state and spell
14 your name for the court reporter before you speak.

15 MR. VEERKAMP: Thank you. Kaycee, is there
16 any -- can we can we solicit any comments from Center for
17 Biological Diversity or CBD at this time on biological
18 resources? Maybe we can help fill the time a little bit.
19 Jeff, we are sending some technical issues.

20 Anyone from CBD?

21 I haven't even seen what's in these. Is there a
22 representative from CBD on the Zoom?

23 MS. CHANG: Yes. I just opened your line.

24 MS. GRAVES: Thank you. This is Zeynep Graves,
25 Z-E-Y-N-E-P G-R-A-V-E-S, and I am an attorney for the

1 Center for Biological Diversity.

2 We don't have any comments at this time, but
3 we'll be providing feedback on the PSA by the comment
4 deadline.

5 MR. VEERKAMP: Okay. Thank you. Great.

6 Is there anyone -- is there a representative from
7 CURE on the Zoom? We'll just keep it the same. Any
8 comment from the intervener CURE on biological resources?

9 It looks like we might not have any
10 representative for CURE with us.

11 How's Jeff doing? Any update for us, Jeff or
12 Laurel?

13 MR. HARRIS: Yeah, Eric, I'm back. I've been
14 promoted and I'm going to go back on mute unless you need
15 me.

16 MR. VEERKAMP: Oh, great. Good to hear your
17 voice, Jeff.

18 MR. HARRIS: Thank you.

19 MR. VEERKAMP: Just wanted to know if you had any
20 -- I thought you were prepared to contribute to the
21 discussion on the biological resources, maybe a comment
22 from Thursday or additional clarification, or was there
23 anything on bio that you had?

24 MR. HARRIS: No. You know, Kate, I think asked
25 the questions that we had. So I think we are good unless

1 there's anything else that got raised during my coming on
2 and off that you want me to address, but I think we had
3 just a couple of questions for Chris, and appreciate his
4 insights and willing to continue to talk with us about
5 these issues.

6 So I think I'm good, Eric.

7 MR. VEERKAMP: Okay. Thank you.

8 So I think with that, we can move on to the topic
9 of cultural, unless -- are there any members of the general
10 public that would like to provide comment on biological
11 resources at this time?

12 It doesn't sound like it. So with that, we'll
13 move on to cultural and tribal cultural resources.

14 Laurel or Jeff, do you have anything on this
15 topic?

16 MS. LEES: This is Laurel Lees, L-A-U-R-E-L
17 L-E-E-S. I'm just looking for my subject matter expert.

18 And do we have Clint looking on the panelists?

19 MR. ROARK: Laurel, this is Gabriel Roark at CEC.

20 I haven't seen his name on the panelists or
21 attendees list.

22 MS. LEES: If he doesn't join, I think I am
23 prepared to ask. I mean, it's a light touch general
24 question, but I want to give Clint an opportunity should he
25 be behind the scenes. I'm just texting.

1 MR. ROARK: Yes. There we go.

2 MR. VEERKAMP: Our cultural team does have some
3 comments --

4 MS. LEES: Okay.

5 MR. VEERKAMP: -- on cultural and tribal, but I
6 thought if you - you know, first we could maybe have them
7 respond to any question that you had first.

8 If not, we can just go to Gabriel and hear what
9 he has to say.

10 MS. LEES: Let's go to Gabriel.

11 MR. VEERKAMP: Okay.

12 MR. ROARK: Okay. Great.

13 Hi, Gabriel Roark, G-A-B-R-I-E-L R-O-A-R-K, CEC
14 Cultural Resources Unit Supervisor. I'm actually going to
15 pass this directly off to Cameron Travis, Historian in the
16 Cultural Resources Unit, because he has some follow on from
17 last week's helpful discussion.

18 Take it away, Cameron.

19 MR. TRAVIS: Hi, this is Cameron Travis, CEC.

20 Yeah. So following last week's discussion,
21 specifically of the feasibility issues with our full nine,
22 the moving the poles is not feasible.

23 So we considered WSP's suggestion of archival
24 research and detailed documentation of the Tropico Gold
25 Mine Historic District elements and the setting, and we

1 believe that that was appropriate, and we are working on a
2 condition to replace that that would incorporate those
3 suggestions that we think together with CUL-10 would reduce
4 impacts to the historic district to less than significant.

5 We are still working on that, but we are, we have
6 the bones of it pretty far along.

7 MS. LEES: This is Laurel again, L-A-U-R-E-L
8 L-E-E-S.

9 Thanks so much. High five. That's exactly what
10 I was going to ask about. Lovely, look at that
11 collaboration.

12 Is there anything you want from us to -- or
13 anything to help us provide PSA comments better to you, or
14 do you have it under control? Because we are going to
15 comment as such, as we indicated, you know, as we
16 discussed. So we are trying to do that. But if there's
17 any other detail you need us to provide, please let us
18 know.

19 MR. TRAVIS: Yeah. I'm not thinking of any
20 individual details unless Gabriel has one that I can't
21 think of at this time.

22 But if you do have any specific concerns or
23 comments, that would always be helpful to know.

24 MS. LEES: I think we are good at this point. I
25 mean, it's pretty simple and straightforward. We'll just

1 provide our comments as we vocalized that, you know, nine
2 is infeasible, and we would recommend CUL-10 and any other,
3 you know, as you indicated, archival research.

4 You know, you could tell I'm not a cultural
5 subject matter expert, but we are on the same page here.

6 Thank you for your time.

7 MR. TRAVIS: Awesome. Thanks.

8 MR. ROARK: This is Gabriel. Thanks for that,
9 Laurel. That's helpful to know. Just a couple quick
10 notes. Unless someone on our, on our team decides that we
11 should name or number the condition something different,
12 it's probably going to be CUL-9 again. But we'll see. It
13 will appear as CUL-9 or CUL-11, I'm sure, just so you know
14 what to look for.

15 Also, if you've had any discussions at all,
16 either Hydrostor or particularly WSP while doing their
17 earlier research, where they might have had any discussion
18 with County of Kern staff about how they prefer managing or
19 developing around cultural resources like this one. That
20 would be helpful to include in your comments.

21 It's not a big deal if those discussions have not
22 occurred. They can always occur as part of the mitigation
23 described in our position.

24 MS. LEES: Understood.

25 MR. ROARK: Right on.

1 Cameron, is there anything else? Jeff had
2 something if you don't.

3 MR. HARRIS: I did.

4 MR. TRAVIS: Sorry. Go ahead, Jeff.

5 MR. HARRIS: Sorry, Cameron, I didn't mean to
6 step on you. It's the technology. So yeah, we'll look at.
7 Thank you, number one, I think that's a really nice
8 compromise. I think it actually provides real benefit in
9 terms of archival documentation for the mine. So that's
10 great.

11 In drafting the condition, I guess I would ask
12 that you put as much of the discretionary stuff into the
13 verification as you can so that your experts and our
14 experts -- people who actually know things, not the
15 lawyers -- can decide, you know, what makes the most sense.

16 But I think this is a really good development. I
17 think it's the right result. I just want to say thank you.
18 I think it's taking us in the right direction. So again,
19 Cameron, thank you.

20 MR. HARRIS: You bet. Thank you, Jeff.

21 With that, I think that's everything for cultural
22 resources, Eric. At least from the applicant and certainly
23 staff.

24 MR. VEERKAMP: Thank you, Gabriel and Cameron and
25 Jeff.

1 Are there any comments from any of the
2 intervenors from any of our potentially governmental
3 representatives or members of the public on cultural
4 resources or tribal cultural resources.

5 Not seeing any and not hearing any, we'll move on
6 to the topic of biological resources.

7 Just double-checking to make sure there isn't any
8 more discussion on biological resources. Okay. Visual
9 resources, checking the note here.

10 MR. HARRISON: Daryl Harrison here. Folks can
11 hear me?

12 MR. VEERKAMP: Yes, we can hear you.

13 MR. HARRISON: Okay, I'm Daryl Harrison D-A-R-Y-L
14 H-A-R-R-I-S-O-N with WSP, related to section 5.15 visual
15 resources.

16 So for some comments and questions to clarify
17 here from Mark, following up on our last session, WSP would
18 like to provide some of the simulations, and we'd like to,
19 at this time, seek any input from CEC staff about those
20 simulations with the color treatments that are intended to
21 revise our demonstration of potential visual impacts, and
22 that may have influence or effect on staff's determination
23 of the unmitigated insignificant effects.

24 So I'll pause there to see if broadly, Mark, you
25 had any kind of general thoughts or concerns about us

1 providing those.

2 MR. HAMBLIN: No. I don't.

3 MR. HARRISON: Okay.

4 MR. HAMBLIN: Yeah. No, I don't have any
5 comments at this time.

6 MR. HARRISON: Okay. I had a couple that I had
7 for you just to help us scope doing that to support staff's
8 assessment.

9 So we are looking to provide simulations for all
10 of the viewpoints that the KOPs in the original VIA. So
11 there were seven. We can provide all seven of those to you
12 as part of the information, the update to the application.

13 And if you have any thoughts or comments on that,
14 but just as a confirmation.

15 MR. HAMBLIN: No. Actually, I don't have any
16 comment at this time.

17 MR. HARRISON: Okay, sounds good.

18 MR. HAMBLIN: Yeah. I guess the only thing is --
19 yeah, submit them. You'll be submitting them in the
20 package for the June's prior to -- well, either on or prior
21 to June 16th. And I'll take a look at it at that point and
22 review the matter.

23 MR. HARRISON: Okay. I did have a question
24 because in that presentation for one of the simulations we
25 provided for KOP-4 in in the PSA assessment.

1 We provided for discussion a couple of options
2 for the transmission component structures. One was COR-TEN
3 steel and the other was a vertical gradation for preparing
4 the simulations.

5 Did you have any comment on a preference for
6 seeing those or leaving it to us to provide an -- or the
7 applicant to provide a preferred option.

8 MR. HAMBLIN: I'll leave it with the applicant.

9 MR. HARRISON: Okay. Okay.

10 Yeah. And then the other comment I was going to
11 make was, you know, as a part of providing these
12 simulations. The intent is to have, as we discussed in the
13 last meeting, the comments on the VIS-1 (phonetic)
14 condition to kind of reflect some of the information that's
15 coming out of the simulation, so standard use of BLM
16 standard color and color selection process. Those kinds of
17 things.

18 So there's some consistency there, but just
19 between what we are presenting as information and the
20 overall comments we have on the VIS-1 condition.

21 MR. HAMBLIN: Okay. I'll take a look at what you
22 submitted.

23 MR. HARRISON: Yeah. Sounds good.

24 That was it for me. I'll lower my hand.

25 MR. VEERKAMP: Thank you.

1 MR. HARRISON: Thank you.

2 MR. HARRIS: I just want to ask Mark if you have
3 any advice for us on what we submit, based on what he
4 heard. I thought we had a very good session down in the
5 desert. So, and he may not, but I just wanted to -- I
6 always feel like I should ask the subject matter experts
7 what they thought.

8 So if you have any advice for me in my filing,
9 Mark?

10 MR. HAMBLIN: What I would advise is kind of
11 follow the evaluation flow chart on page 17 of the staff
12 report. Also take a look at the worksheets at the back. I
13 noticed there's some formatting issues but take a look at
14 the KO -- I'll start with the KOP-4 worksheet that all the
15 worksheets are the same, because at the end of that, we
16 still have to come to a conclusion. I mean, color is just
17 one part of the ingredient in the baking of the cake. And
18 the cake, what we are trying to get to, is a determination
19 on the visual character or quality of the public viewer
20 site and its surroundings, whether it's a significant
21 impact, a significant effect, or a less than significant
22 effect.

23 And follow that through, and we should get -- I'm
24 confident enough that we would -- whatever the
25 determination is will be covered in the courtroom if we

1 have to get there.

2 MR. HARRIS: And let's stay out of the courtroom.

3 And by the way --

4 MR. HAMBLIN: That's our objective.

5 MR. HARRIS: -- so I can't eat cake. I'm gluten
6 intolerant, but I get the metaphor.

7 So yeah, we understand you have a methodology.
8 Daryl's been looking at that. Please understand that Daryl
9 also has some opinions on methods and analysis that will be
10 supplemental to what you're doing, so please don't take
11 offense at --

12 MR. HAMBLIN: Not at all.

13 MR. HARRIS: -- sharing those additional kind of
14 methodologies. And I think having all of that in front of
15 everybody is very helpful, so I appreciate that additional
16 direction, since I asked for it.

17 I asked for a recommendation from a waiter, I
18 always take it. So yeah, I appreciate your extra advice
19 there, and look for us to take a look at your analysis.
20 And also, you know, Daryl, as you can tell, has some really
21 good ideas, and we'll try to figure out.

22 If you change your mind about having a preference
23 on the transmission lines, you can always, you know, ping
24 us. But I think that to me was the most interesting thing
25 I had seen in a long time in an Energy Commission hearing.

1 I guess I don't get surprised very often, but I thought
2 that was really kind of cool. So I appreciated Daryl's
3 work on that.

4 MR. HAMBLIN: And by all means, I'm open to -- I
5 mean, again, Jeff, we've talked previously. I've had a
6 paper. And I'm always, it's not necessarily direct
7 one-on-one comments and stuff, but it's how people read
8 this staff report and read the technical -- well, I don't
9 call it technical, but my paper. And, you know, I start
10 synthesizing what's being said, and it kind of -- it helps
11 me.

12 It's de facto peer review, I guess. I don't
13 know. That's not quite the proper term, but for the
14 benefit of speed, I'll say it that way.

15 MR. HARRIS: Okay. Well, I appreciate that. And
16 I appreciate the way you approach these issues, Mark.
17 You're a true professional.

18 So thank you.

19 MR. HAMBLIN: Thank you.

20 MR. HARRIS: I appreciate it.

21 MR. VEERKAMP: Thank you, John.

22 MR. HARRIS: Yeah. I'm good. Thank you, Eric.

23 MR. VEERKAMP: Is there any comment from any
24 members of any government representatives, California
25 Native Tribal representatives, or elected officials, or

1 members of the public? Anyone on Zoom?

2 No. We are all on Zoom.

3 Are there any other topics -- any other
4 environmental topic areas that we should devote any
5 discussion to on the applicant side or on the CEC side?
6 Anything at all?

7 MS. CHANG: We have a hand raised from Erika
8 Giorgi.

9 MR. VEERKAMP: Okay. Please go ahead, Erika.
10 Erika, are you there?

11 MS. ANDERSON: She's unmuted, but we are not
12 hearing any sound coming through.

13 MR. VEERKAMP: Maybe try another audio device,
14 possibly?

15 MS. ANDERSON: I think she's logging off and will
16 come back in.

17 MR. VEERKAMP: The lawyers are starting to get a
18 little paranoid. We are the only ones who've been
19 silenced, but that's okay.

20 It's a joke, Erika.

21 MR. VEERKAMP: Okay. She says she can talk, but
22 that's not coming through here for some reason.

23 I also see a hand from Karim.

24 MR. ABULABAN: Yeah. I just wanted to relay what
25 Erika was going to ask for, because she messaged me and she

1 asked me if we should ask for this preliminary Geotech and
2 Geological Hazard Report by EIA and Associates dated March
3 28th, 2024.

4 So if that's handy, we'd like to get a copy of
5 that one.

6 MR. HARRIS: Yeah. Erika, this is Jeff Harris.
7 Erika had asked me about that in the desert and told her I
8 was checking with our team. I'm looking at the email right
9 now.

10 I think we are good. I just need a couple people
11 above my pay grade to concur that we've identified the
12 right document and there's nothing approaching
13 confidential. A lot of times these things have a
14 disclaimer that says that they can't be shared with any
15 third parties. And if that's the case, then we may have to
16 file it under confidential designation. But I don't see
17 any problem getting that GGH (phonetic) and associate
18 report in some form to you all in a way that you can use
19 it.

20 And I guess I'll publicly apologize to Erika on
21 that. She asked me before the PSA came out, and I didn't
22 deliver, and then I thought maybe it wasn't relevant
23 anymore, but when you assume -- so anyway, I've corrected
24 that assumption and we are going to get it together here.
25 I know it will either be publicly documented or else it

1 will be filed through Kiteworks and with a request for
2 confidential designation, once I run the traps internally
3 and figure out whether there's anything proprietary or
4 otherwise limiting in that. But I think we are good.

5 MR. ABULABAN: Okay. Sounds good. Thanks.

6 MR. HARRIS: Sure, Karim. Thank you.

7 MR. VEERKAMP: I'm just going to pause for a
8 moment. I think staff might be deliberating just briefly
9 internally about whether there are any other items we want
10 to talk about.

11 MR. ABULABAN: Yeah. If you can update us on any
12 new activities or communication with the DSOD regarding
13 that jurisdictional dam.

14 MR. VEERKAMP: Anything you can share, Jeff?

15 MR. HARRIS: Nothing that I've been involved
16 with, but I probably ought to check with Laurel who might
17 have a better idea.

18 Is Laurel still there?

19 MS. LEES: Oh. My voice cracked.

20 Hi. Laurel, L-A-U-R-E-L L-E-E-S.

21 I don't have an update on DSOD, but I can track
22 that down.

23 MR. ABULABAN: Okay. Thanks. Yeah. We'd like
24 to know. And this is Karim Abulaban again, for the
25 reporter. I'm sorry I didn't say that before.

1 So, yeah. Thanks, Laurel.

2 MR. HARRIS: Karim, candidly, we are a little
3 focused on our filing deadline next Monday, giving the PSA
4 comments and stuff.

5 MR. ABULABAN: Okay.

6 MR. HARRIS: But it doesn't mean we don't
7 understand the importance of the issue, and that we are not
8 working on it. There are people -- we've worked with
9 Samrat and Andrew, some of our engineers, who are, I think,
10 trying to work through those issues as well. But we will
11 provide you anything that we have going forward, of course.

12 MR. ABULABAN: All right. Appreciate it. Thank
13 you.

14 MR. HARRIS: Thanks, Karim.

15 MR. VEERKAMP: I'm trying to think if there was
16 something else. There's something scratching at my brain.

17 MS. CHANG: I see Chris Huntley has his hand
18 raised.

19 MR. VEERKAMP: Yes. Chris, please.

20 MR. HUNTLEY: Thank you, Kaycee. Thank you,
21 Eric. This is Chris Huntley, Biological Resources. I just
22 wanted to make sure we were clear on a couple of things.

23 At the last workshop, I know that the applicant
24 had asked us to clarify some survey requirements and things
25 like that, Jeff and Kate, so I'm going to be changing some

1 language in the conditions of certification to be clearer
2 on what we want to do on mice. I know we talked about
3 that, that we weren't going to ask you to do some of the
4 stuff like that.

5 But I did want to make sure we are all walking
6 into this clear-eyed that for Mojave ground squirrel,
7 typically CDFW only allows a one-year window for the
8 surveys. And I think we've now passed that one-year
9 window. We are coming into a period where we won't be able
10 to survey for it.

11 I think Energy Commission staff is comfortable
12 allowing project or ground disturbance to occur in those
13 areas on the project site if it happens prior to the next
14 season. But if, for example, we don't start construction
15 until March, April, May, or June of next year, we want you
16 to get out there and conduct another round of trapping or
17 camera trapping or trapping just to make sure that they're
18 not there. But if you guys start construction before that
19 time, ground disturbance and things like that, we would
20 just have you do routine clearance surveys and monitoring,
21 things of that nature.

22 So we all want to be flexible on that, not hold
23 the project up for a year. We think we have reasonable
24 data to give us a comfort level on that. But I just wanted
25 to make sure your team was aware of that.

1 MR. HARRIS: Yeah. It sounds like if the
2 window's open, you want us to jump through it. And if not,
3 we'll work with the clearance surveys.

4 We'll look for your language, Chris. That sounds
5 very reasonable to me.

6 And again, my constant refrain, if we can put a
7 lot of that into the verification so that you all in the
8 field have enough flexibility, that -- you know, that's
9 important to us, the verification language.

10 MR. HUNTLEY: I understand. I'll talk with my
11 bosses about that.

12 MR. HARRIS: Understood. Yeah. Thank you.

13 MR. HUNTLEY: That's all I had, Kaycee and Eric.

14 MS. CHANG: Thanks, Chris.

15 We had a hand raised from Kate. It looks like
16 Kate might have lowered it, but Kate, your line is open if
17 you would like to add.

18 MS. MOSS: Kate Moss, Jeff beat me to it, so I
19 was just going to agree with that.

20 Thanks for the clarification, Chris. We
21 appreciate you adding that to the CSE language.

22 MR. HUNTLEY: No worries. Thank you.

23 MR. VEERKAMP: Thank you for that discussion.

24 I'll just ask one more time if there's any other
25 topic areas that we want to discuss during this forum. And

1 there's a lot to choose from, I should say.

2 Okay. One more ask for public comment or any
3 other government agencies, intervenors, representatives.

4 Any public comment at this time?

5 Okay. Hearing none, I'll ask for the next slide,
6 which I think is a slide calling for a break, or a
7 discussion and then a break. I'm going to guess that we
8 probably don't need a break.

9 So next slide, please.

10 I just wanted to go over again briefly the next
11 steps in the CEC process for this Application for
12 Certification process.

13 Sorry about that. I muted it, but it must be
14 another device that's not muted.

15 The agency and public comment period runs from
16 April 29th to June 16th. The preferred method to submit
17 written responses is to submit written responses through
18 the CEC's electronic commenting or filing system, e-comment
19 and E-filing. Per the committee's fourth scheduling order,
20 CEC staff will be filing the final staff assessment by July
21 16th of 2025, and the committee will be hosting evidentiary
22 hearings August 18 and 19 of this year, 2025.

23 The committee has tentatively scheduled October
24 2025 for issuance of the Proceeding Members Proposed
25 Decision, or PMPD. The committee's proposed decision will

1 be available for a 30-day public comment period. And a
2 final decision by the full commission is expected by the
3 end of this calendar year 2025.

4 Next slide, please. With that, I'll just thank
5 everyone for joining us. Very much appreciate your time.

6 That concludes our meeting.

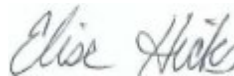
7 (The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 11th day of September, 2025.



ELISE HICKS, IAPRT CERT**2176

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.



MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

September 11, 2025