

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Sonoran Energy Project (formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) - Compliance
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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Janea A. Scott, Presiding Commissioner
The Honorable Karen Douglas, Associate Commissioner
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Sonoran Energy Project (02-AFC-01C)
AltaGas Sonoran Energy Inc.'s Status Report #4**

Dear Commissioners:

Pursuant to the Committee's October 27, 2016 Scheduling Order, Project Owner AltaGas Sonoran Energy Inc. ("Project Owner" or "AltaGas Sonoran") herein submits its fourth Status Report related to the pending Petition to Amend ("Petition") the Sonoran Energy Project (formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) ("SEP").

Since providing a status report to the Committee on January 4, 2016, Project Owner docketed a supplemental water resources filing on January 28, 2016, which provided additional evidence in support of the SEP's currently licensed water use. (TN #210068.) Specifically, such filing contained additional evidence in support of SEP's use of up to 2,800 AFY of groundwater, including a Groundwater Availability Report prepared by EnviroLogic Resources. In addition to the supplemental water resources information, Project Owner also docketed a revised response to Data Request 43 (TN #208219) (cost information related to dry cooling versus wet cooling), a revised response to Data Request 29 (Offsite Consequence Analysis, requested by Staff) (TN #210131), and comments on the Preliminary Determination of Compliance (TN #207445).

On February 1, 2016, Project Owner received Staff's Preliminary Staff Assessment ("PSA"). Project Owner is currently reviewing the PSA and is hopeful that the additional information docketed in January 2016 (related to water resources), as well as forthcoming information related to SEP's wastewater discharge to the existing BEP I evaporation pond and additional details supporting canal lining as an effective, quantifiable offset to the project's water use, will assist Staff in preparing a Final Staff Assessment that supports the SEP as proposed by Project Owner. Project Owner looks forward to participating in the February 24 PSA Workshop with Staff, and



The Honorable Janea A. Scott, Presiding Commissioner
The Honorable Karen Douglas, Associate Commissioner
February 12, 2016
Page 2

intends on docketing information related to SEP's wastewater discharge and revised proposed water offset program prior to that date.

At the request of EPA Region 9, on February 11, 2016 the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District ("District") issued a revised PDOC, which incorporates comments received on the PDOC, for a second public comment period. The second public comment period will end on March 14, 2016. The Project Owner expects no additional comments on the revised PDOC and will work with the District to expedite the issuance of the FDOC by late March.

At this time, Project Owner has no additional information regarding the timing of issuance of the Western Area Power Administration's issuance of the Final System Impact Study or Southern California Edison's Affected System Study, but will update Staff regarding the status of these items when such information is available.

AltaGas Sonoran remains confident that the Petition can move swiftly through the CEC process. Moreover, the Project Owner believes that all required filings can be completed on, and in many cases before, the deadlines set forth in the Scheduling Order. AltaGas Sonoran looks forward to participating in Staff's PSA Workshop on February 24, 2016 and providing written comments on the PSA on or before March 1, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa A. Foster
MAF:jmw

cc: Christopher J. Doyle, AltaGas Sonoran Energy Inc.
Jerry Salamy, CH2M Hill