

DOCKETED

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Memorandum

To: **Commissioner Janea A. Scott** – Presiding Member
Commissioner Karen Douglas – Associate Member
Raoul Renaud – Hearing Officer

Date: April 15, 2016
Telephone: 916-651-8891
File: 02-AFC-1C

From: **California Energy Commission- Mary Dyas**
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Compliance Project Manager

Subject: **STATUS REPORT #6 - SONORAN ENERGY PROJECT (02-AFC-1C) AMENDMENT TO CHANGE THE PROJECT DESIGN**

Staff has prepared this status report to provide updates on the Sonoran Energy Project (SEP) Amendment proceeding since Status Report No. 5 was filed on March 17, 2016.

On March 30, 2016, the Committee held a Status Conference to get updates from both staff and project owner on progress in the SEP proceeding. Per the Committee's direction, staff will include a complete laws, ordinances, regulations and standards (LORS) table in each section of the Final Staff Assessment (FSA). Staff will also weigh the impacts of dry cooling and are working to develop a hypothetical dry cooling design to be used as a model in staff's analyses. The project owner requested that the hypothetical design be specific to the site location (i.e., hot, dry climate). The project owner also asked that dry cooling be looked at as an alternative and that the feasibility needs to be looked at in full. Staff are considering how to incorporate these suggestions into the FSA. The Committee also noted a number of other specific corrections or clarifications that staff will include in the FSA.

At the Status Conference, staff informed the Committee that the publish date for the FSA could be as soon as May 27, 2016. However, since Southern California Edison's Affected Systems Study will not be available until sometime in July 2016, the Transmission System Engineering section of the FSA would need to be bifurcated and published at a later date. The Committee indicated that this would be acceptable. Upon further consideration, staff realized that additional time will be necessary to conduct modeling of dry cooling. Accordingly, staff recommends publishing a single document sometime near the end of July 2016.

On April 11, 2016, staff published a Notice for the Soil and Water Resources Issues Resolution Workshop to be held on April 21, 2016 in Palm Desert to discuss water resource issues related to the SEP.

Staff continues to work on their FSA sections at this time.