

DOCKETED

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

**Re: Sonoran Energy Project (02-AFC-01C)
AltaGas Sonoran Energy Inc.'s Status Report #8**

Dear Commissioners and Hearing Officer Renaud:

Pursuant to this Committee's May 9, 2016 Scheduling Order (TN# 211418), Project Owner AltaGas Sonoran Energy Inc. ("Project Owner" or "AltaGas Sonoran") herein submits its eighth Status Report related to the pending Petition to Amend ("Petition") the Sonoran Energy Project (formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) ("SEP").

As indicated in its Status Report to the Committee on May 13, 2016, the Project Owner has been working diligently since the April 21, 2016 Soil and Water Issues Resolution Workshop to prepare and finalize additional information related to water offset strategy; engineering data related to evaporation pond sizing and usage; and information related to zero liquid discharge feasibility. On June 15, 2016, AltaGas Sonoran submitted information relating to all of these issues. (See TN# 211833.)

With the submittal of the afore-mentioned information, AltaGas Sonoran believes Staff now possesses the information necessary to complete all sections of the Final Staff Assessment ("FSA") except for the cumulative impacts analysis related to Transmission System Engineering ("TSE"). The Project Owner continues to await the release of the Affected Systems Study ("Study"), which is currently estimated to be published in July 2016. However, it is AltaGas Sonoran's opinion that the pending Study relates solely to the potential cumulative effects of downstream transmission impacts and related improvements and that Staff is in a position to draft the FSA in its entirety, except for the cumulative TSE analysis. Because of the unanticipated delay in the release of the Study, AltaGas Sonoran strongly encourages Staff to publish a bifurcated FSA – bifurcating TSE from the remaining FSA sections – and supports a bifurcated Evidentiary Hearing if the timing of the Study release so requires.

California Energy Commission
June 20, 2016
Page 2

AltaGas Sonoran looks forward to moving the Sonoran Energy Project forward in the Petition process and toward a Final Decision.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristen T. Castaños

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