

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	High Desert Power Plant
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Document Title:	Memo to All Parties re: Committee Conference: Technical Expert Discussion and Date Availability
Description:	Memorandum from Hearing Officer Cochran Seeking Dates for a Technical Expert Discussion and related issues
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Memorandum

To: All Parties and Persons Interested in the High Desert Power Plant Amendments Proceeding (97-AFC-01C) Date: August 18, 2016

From: **Susan Cochran, Hearing Officer**
High Desert Power Plant Amendments Committee
(916) 654-3965

Subject: Committee Conference: Technical Expert Discussion and Date Availability

As a follow up to the discussion at the Status Conference held on August 11, 2016,¹ the Committee is interested in conducting a Committee Conference in September on the use of the High Desert Power Plant model created to assess the changes to the groundwater basin that are caused when the project banks and withdraws State Water Project water. In order to ensure full participation, the Committee requests that each party provide information on when its experts are available in September for this discussion. Any other interested person wishing to participate in this workshop should also identify its availability during September to the Committee. This information shall be submitted to the Committee by August 26, 2016.

While the Committee will be scheduling this conference, the Committee may elect to not attend the entire conference so that the parties may engage in discussion more typical of a "staff workshop". During the August 11, 2016, Status Conference, concerns were raised about the exchange of information during staff workshops, particularly with the Committee's technical expert, Linda Bond. The Committee has already identified that Ms. Bond's function will be to provide information to the Committee about the model (which uses code she coauthored and which she reviewed for the Commission during the initial compliance phase for the project).² The Committee is open to receiving comments from the parties on the format of this public conference, any concerns on Ms. Bond's participation, and any conditions that may alleviate these concerns by August 26, 2016.

As for discussion items, the Committee is interested in learning whether the existing model can be used to account for dissipation of any water that may be banked through percolation, and if so, what changes to the model would be required. The Committee believes that this conference could best occur by having all parties' experts participate in a discussion, including Ms. Bond. In addition, the Committee encourages the parties and Ms. Bond to discuss the question of whether the High Desert Power Plant model or a similar model could -- as part of, in addition to, or in lieu of the water balance study that has been discussed -- provide useful information in our efforts to address the concerns expressed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife about the use of recycled water.

By participating in the Committee Conference, no party will be waiving any rights to present any evidence or argument it may have regarding the scope of the Committee's review of the Petition to

¹ Notice of the Status Conference can be found at TN 212263.

² TN 211693.

Amend, as updated³, or the method to account for water added to the groundwater aquifer by percolation at evidentiary hearings.

In addition, on August 17, 2016, the docket for the current proceedings received documentation of the model submitted by HDPP in 2002 and 2003, as well as a staff report of the 2004 update prepared by Ms. Bond.⁴ The 2002 and 2003 documents do not have an original docket stamps from that time. In addition, the 2004 staff report indicates that additional modifications to the 2004 mesh and aquifer parameters could be required as a result of work done by the project owner pursuant to Conditions of Certification Soil & Water-8 and Soil & Water-9. The Committee does not have either the project's owner's final documentation or Staff's review of that final documentation. The Committee therefore directs that Staff file official versions of the three documents discussed above, as well as the final documentation and Staff's review of the final documentation no later than August 26, 2016.

Any party or interested person wishing to participate in this conference or respond to the Committee is invited to identify its availability during September and file comments in the Docket (in the case of a party) or as a public comment (non-parties) by August 26, 2016. Comments may also be submitted electronically by visiting the website at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/highdesert> and clicking on the "Submit e-Comment" link in the "2015 Amendment Proceeding" box. Otherwise, written comments may be submitted by e-mailing them to docket@energy.ca.gov, or by U.S. Mail to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit
Docket number: 97-AFC-01C
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95614

For all comments, please include the docket number and proceeding name, "**Docket No. 97-AFC-01C, High Desert Power Plant Project,**" in the subject line and on the cover page.

PLEASE NOTE: Your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, e-mail, etc.) become part of the viewable public record. Additionally, this information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and other search engines.

³ TN 212397.

⁴ TNs 212824, 212825, 212826.