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Docket Number:	15-AFC-01
Project Title:	Puente Power Project
TN #:	212398
Document Title:	Committee Order Extending Public Comment Period on the Preliminary Staff Assessment by 45 Days
Description:	Comment period extended to end on September 15, 2016. Also includes updated Committee Schedule.
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BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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***APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE
PUENTE POWER PROJECT***

Docket No. 15-AFC-01

**COMMITTEE ORDER EXTENDING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
ON THE PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT BY 45 DAYS**

Upon consideration of the Request for Extension of the Public Comment Period on the Preliminary Staff Assessment filed by Intervenor City of Oxnard (City), the Committee designated to conduct proceedings in this matter makes the following findings:

1. On April 29, 2016, the Committee issued the current Committee Schedule in this matter. It included a deadline of August 1, 2016 for submission of public comments on the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA). This date is 47 days after June 15, 2016, the scheduled publication date of the PSA.
2. On June 17, 2016 the PSA was published.
3. On June 28, 2016 Intervenor City of Oxnard filed a request to extend the public comment period on the PSA. The request seeks a minimum of a 60-day public comment period and a maximum of a 90-day public comment period. This would extend the public comment period by between 15 and 45 days.
4. Intervenor California Environmental Justice Alliance, Communities for a Better Environment, Environmental Coalition, Environmental Defense Center, and Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter joined in the request for a 90-day public comment period, primarily due both to the length of the PSA and the need to translate and convey its meaning to the Spanish-speaking community. The California Coastal Commission (CCC) also filed a letter supporting the request for a 90-day public comment period.
5. Applicant opposed the request, primarily on the grounds that the request should have been made more promptly after issuance of the current Committee Scheduling Order on April 29, 2016, and also because the timing requested by the CCC is not necessary or required.
6. The Committee is cognizant of the fact that the PSA is a long (over 1,200 pages) and complex environmental impact analysis, in the English language, and that there is a substantial Spanish-speaking community in the project area. The Committee further notes that at the time it granted the City of Oxnard's request for a 45-day public comment period, the PSA had not been published and thus its length was not known.

The 45-day public comment period on the PSA that has been established in this case is already longer than is typically set forth in the scheduling orders of Energy Commission siting cases. However, substantial public interest in this case has been demonstrated by the level of public participation.

7. The Committee will eventually conduct Evidentiary Hearings in the Oxnard area in the normal course of its consideration of this case. Based on experience, these hearings are more informative, productive, and efficient when the parties have had ample time to study the PSA, gather their evidence, prepare witnesses, and prepare to cross-examine other parties' witnesses.
8. The Applicant has not shown significant harm from the granting of a 45-day extension of the public comment period on the PSA.

THEREFORE, good cause having been shown, the Committee ORDERS that the public comment period on the PSA in this matter be extended by 45 days, for a total of 90 days. The public comment period on the PSA will thus end **September 15, 2016**, 90 days from publication of the PSA. The revised Committee Schedule issued with this Order shall supersede the previous Committee Schedule.

Dated: July 22, 2016, at Sacramento, California

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

JANEA A. SCOTT
Commissioner and Presiding Member
Puente Power Project Committee

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

KAREN DOUGLAS
Commissioner and Associate Member
Puente Power Project Committee

**PUENTE POWER PROJECT
REVISED COMMITTEE SCHEDULE
15-AFC-01**

ACTIVITY	DATE
Application for Certification submitted	April 15, 2015
Discovery Period Closes	March 7, 2016
Status Conference	March 28, 2016
VCAPCD Issues Preliminary Determination of Compliance (PDOC)	May 19, 2016
Parties File Status Reports	May 19, 2016
Staff Publishes Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA)	June 17, 2016
Parties File Status Reports	June 24, 2016
PSA Workshop	July 21 – 22, 2016
VCAPCD Issues Final Determination of Compliance (FDOC)	Early September, 2016
California Coastal Commission Issues 30413(d) Report	September 14, 2016
Last Day to File Comments on PSA	September 15, 2016
Committee Conference on the PSA	Mid-September 2016
Staff Publishes Final Staff Assessment (FSA)	October 14, 2016
Last day to File Petition to Intervene ¹	November 4, 2016
All Parties File Opening Testimony	November 4, 2016
All Parties File Rebuttal Testimony, Prehearing Conference Statements, Exhibit Lists	November 14, 2016
Prehearing Conference (PHC)	November 21, 2016
Evidentiary Hearings (EH)	Week of December 5, 2016
Committee Files Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD)	Late January 2017
Committee Conference on PMPD	Late February 2017
Close of Public Comment Period on PMPD	Late February 2017
Committee Files Errata or Revised PMPD (if necessary)	Mid-March 2017
Energy Commission Final Decision	April 2017

¹ “A petition for intervention shall be filed no later than the deadline established by the presiding member, of if none is established, at least 30 days before the first evidentiary hearing in the proceeding.” Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1211.7, subd. (b).