

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	15-AFC-02
Project Title:	Mission Rock Energy Center
TN #:	212516
Document Title:	Presentation - Energy Commission Staff's Role
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Cathy Hickman
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	7/29/2016 4:06:52 PM
Docketed Date:	7/29/2016

California Energy Commission

Mission Rock Energy Center

**Application for Certification
15-AFC-02**

ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF'S ROLE

**Galen Lemei – Staff Counsel
Mike Monasmith – Project Manager**

July 28, 2016



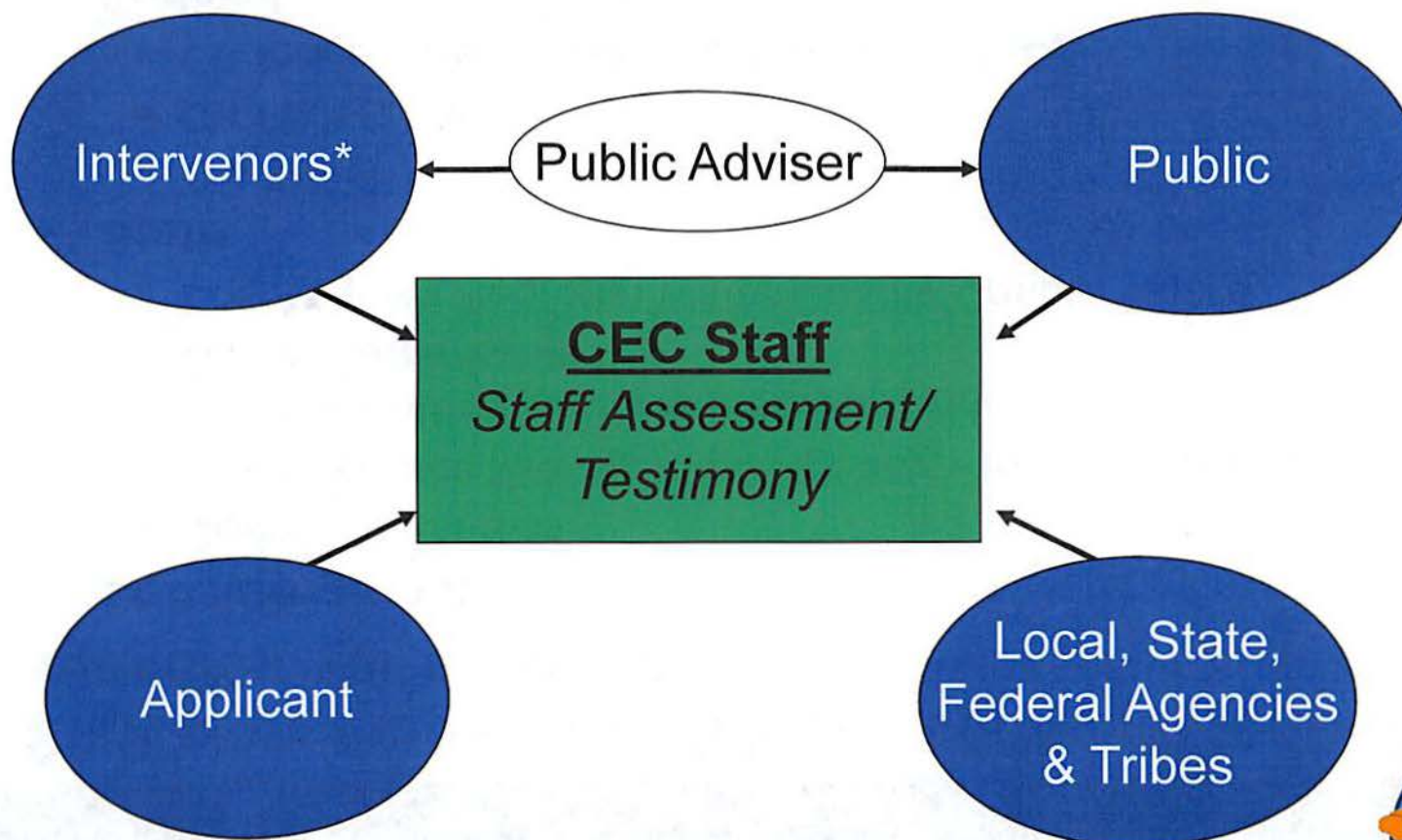
Staff's Role in Licensing Process:

1. Staff Discovery & Analysis

- Issues Identification
- Data requests
- Workshops
- Preliminary Staff Assessment and Final Staff Assessment
 - Determine if proposal complies with Laws, Ordinances, Regulations & Standards (LORS)
 - Conduct engineering and environmental analysis
 - Identify significant impacts requiring mitigation
 - Develop and evaluate alternatives
 - Identify mitigation measures
 - Recommend conditions of certification
- Make recommendations to the Committee



Staff Discovery & Analysis Process



- **Intervenors** are independent, third parties with all the same rights and responsibilities of any other party (Staff, the Applicant or Agencies).



Local, State, Federal Agency & Tribal Coordination

- Staff works closely with local, state and federal agencies, for example:
 - Local/Regional
 - County of Ventura
 - Resource Management Agency – Planning Division
 - Ventura County Air Pollution Control District
 - City of Santa Paula
 - Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
 - State
 - Cal Trans
 - CA Fish & Wildlife
 - CA Independent System Operator (CAISO)
 - Federal
 - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 - FEMA
 - US Army Corps of Engineers
 - Tribes



Staff's Issues Identification Report

■ Purpose

- Inform the Committee and Public of potential issues
- Early focus on important topics

■ Criteria

- Significant impacts that may be difficult to mitigate
- Non-compliance with LORS
- Conflicts between parties about appropriate findings or conditions of certification for Commission decision



Potential Issues Identified by Staff

- **Biological Resources**
- **Cultural Resources**
- **Soil and Water Resources**
- **Transmission System Engineering**
- **Visual Resources**
- **Alternatives**



BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Concern for obtaining data from surveys which would have needed to start in April and conclude end of July.
- Applicant has committed to conduct these surveys from April through July of 2016.
- Once all surveys have been completed, staff needs data by late July for the rare plants and late August for the least Bell's vireo.
- The project's schedule may be impacted if the applicant is unable to provide the data as proposed.



CULTURAL RESOURCES

-- The Application For Certification and cultural resources technical report submitted by the applicant identified and assessed impacts to Santa Clara River Valley Rural Historic District (SCRVRHD).

-- The Project Proponent needs to provide more documentation of all cultural resources in the SCRVRHD.

-- Applicant must conduct a more adequate impact analysis for these resources in order to avoid any project delays.

-- Staff has submitted data requests to obtain information



SOIL and WATER RESOURCES

--The Mission Rock site is located within a special flood hazard area as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

--Staff is concerned that building in a floodplain can be complicated.

--Staff may need additional time to evaluate whether the project owner can comply with the local and federal requirements for development.



TRANSMISSION SYSTEM ENGINEERING

--The California Independent System Operator Phase I and Phase II Interconnection Studies are not available for staff to review.

-The Phase I Study is required for staff to determine the potential need for downstream (additional) transmission facilities.

- If the study shows the project would cause any transmission line overloads, the environmental analysis of potential upgrades could cause a delay in the licensing process for the Mission Rock Energy Center

--The Phase II study will not be completed until January of 2017 – this will affect the Final Staff Assessment release



VISUAL RESOURCES

--The power plant site adjoins Nature Conservancy-owned portions of the Santa Clara River floodplain.

--A 6.6-mile 230 kV transmission line would cross the river valley within the Ellsworth Barranca, a relatively intact natural riparian corridor of local scenic significance.

-- The transmission line would ascend ridges of Sulfur Mountain to the north, where it could be prominently visible from some local roads and residences.

-- Staff will review the project in particular for potential effects to the Ellsworth Barranca, and review the project viewshed for potentially sensitive viewers within the river floodplain, or vicinity of the ridgeline portions of the proposed transmission line.



ALTERNATIVES

To address these concerns identified by staff and the public, staff will evaluate alternatives to the proposed project that would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project. Staff's analysis will include evaluation of the no project alternative.

