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| Docket Number: | 08-AFC-09C |
| Project Title: | Palmdale Energy Project (Formerly Palmdale Hybrid Power Plant) - Compliance |
| TN #: | 216646 |
| Document Title: | Eric Knight Declaration and Resume for Bio Resources |
| Description: | Resume and declaration |
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DECLARATION OF
Eric Knight, Environmental Office Manager

I, Eric Knight, declare as follows:

1. I am presently employed by the California Energy Commission in the Environmental Office of the Siting Transmission and Environmental Protection Division as the Environmental Office Manager.
2. A copy of my professional qualifications and experience is attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.
3. I supervised the preparation of the staff supplemental testimony on **Biological Resources**, for the Palmdale Energy Project based on my independent analysis of the Palmdale Energy Project Amendment and supplements thereto, data from reliable documents and sources, and my professional experience and knowledge.
4. It is my professional opinion that the prepared testimony is valid and accurate with respect to the issue addressed therein.
5. I am personally familiar with the facts and conclusions related in the testimony and if called as a witness could testify competently thereto.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated: 3/21/17

Signed: 

At: Sacramento, California

Eric Knight

Energy Resources Specialist III (Managerial)

Professional Experience

Over 18 years of experience in permitting of energy facilities and preparing environmental documentation in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Environmental Office Manager (Office Manager II/Energy Resources Specialist III (Managerial))

*Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division, CA Energy Commission
August 2009-present*

Responsible for planning, organizing and directing the activities of the staff of the Environmental Office. Office staff are primarily responsible for preparing environmental impact analyses in the areas of land use, transportation, visual resources, socioeconomics, alternatives, biological resources, and cultural resources as required by CEQA, for thermal electric generating facilities (50 MWs and greater) and related facilities (including electric transmission lines and natural gas and water supply pipelines); identifying feasible measures to mitigate significant impacts; and providing expert witness testimony at evidentiary hearings. Responsible for quality control of all Office work products, including ensuring staff's analyses are complete, accurate, and defensible. Advise the Division Deputy Director, Executive Director, and Commissioners on a broad range of issues related to energy facility siting and the Office's responsibilities. Represent the Office/Siting Division in meetings, workshops, and hearings with energy facility applicants, project owners, intervenors, federal, state, and local agency representatives, Native American tribes, interest groups, Commissioners, and the public. Review and analyze proposed legislation related to the Division's programs.

Siting & Dockets Office Manager (Office Manager I)

*Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division, CA Energy Commission
June 2008-August 2009*

Was responsible for planning, organizing and directing the activities of the staff of the Siting & Dockets Office, which included project managers and project assistants assigned to power plant licensing cases and the staff responsible for maintaining the Energy Commission's regulatory and non-regulatory official records (Dockets). The Siting Office is responsible for coordinating the environmental and engineering assessments of proposed energy facilities conducted by the technical offices (Environmental, Engineering, and Transmission) of the Siting Division. Advised the Division Deputy Director, Executive Director, and Commissioners on a broad range of issues related to energy facility siting and the Office's responsibilities. Represented the Office/Siting Division in meetings, workshops, and hearings with energy facility applicants, intervenors, federal, state, and local agency representatives, interest groups, and the public.

Siting Program Manager (Planner III)

*Energy Facilities Siting Division, Siting & Compliance Office, CA Energy Commission
February 2008-June 2008*

Was responsible for managing the Energy Facilities Siting Program and supervising and directing the work of project managers overseeing the Siting staff's review and analysis of power plant siting cases. Represented the Division in meetings, workshops, and hearings with project applicants, intervenors, federal, state, and local agency representatives, interest groups, and the public. Advised the Siting & Compliance Office Manager and Deputy Director on technical, procedural, and legislative issues.

Community Resources Unit Supervisor (Planner III)

*Energy Facilities Siting Division, Environmental Office, CA Energy Commission
January 2007-February 2008*

Was responsible for supervising and directing the work of technical staff in the Community Resources Unit and consultants performing environmental impact assessments of power plants and related facilities as required by CEQA and the Warren-Alquist Act. The Unit was responsible for preparing environmental impact assessments in the areas of land use/agricultural resources, traffic and transportation, visual resources, and socioeconomics; identifying feasible measures to mitigate significant impacts and ensure compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations and standards; and presenting expert witness testimony at evidentiary hearings. Was responsible for quality control of products originating from the Unit, including ensuring staff's analyses were complete, accurate and defensible, and completed on schedule. As Unit Senior, was responsible for completing the most complex analyses and addressing the most difficult technical issues related to the Unit's responsibilities. Advised the Environmental Office Manager and Division Deputy Director on technical, procedural, and legislative issues.

Energy Commission Specialist II

*Special Projects Office, Fuels & Transportation Division, CA Energy Commission
July 2006-January 2007*

Provided recommendations on complex, sensitive, and technical problems related to energy infrastructure assessments, particularly liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects. Was responsible for leading the Special Projects Office's LNG assessment activities. Was responsible for briefings for management, Commissioners (Natural Gas Committee), and the LNG Interagency Working Group on LNG assessment activities and projects. Was responsible for preparing reports, correspondence, and presentations related to LNG proposals. Represented the Energy Commission at the "LNG: When East Meets West - The Unfolding of the LNG Trade in the Pacific" conference.

Project Manager (Planner II)

*Energy Facility Siting Division, Siting Office, CA Energy Commission
November 2004-July 2006*

Was responsible for managing the Siting Division staff's review and analysis of Applications for Certification to construct and operate thermal electric power plants and related facilities. Was responsible for briefings for the Executive Director, Division Deputy Director, Office Managers, Supervisors, and technical staff on the schedule, strategy, progress, and issues throughout the siting case. Provided direction to project team members and was responsible for ensuring quality control on all published staff products, including the staff's assessment covering 22 environmental and engineering technical disciplines. Was responsible for organizing, scheduling, and conducting public workshops and preparing correspondence.

Environmental Planner (Planner I/II)

*Energy Facility Siting Division, Environmental Office, CA Energy Commission
October 1998-November 2004*

Was primarily responsible for preparing independent analyses of the visual, land use, and transportation impacts of power plant projects and related facilities. Evaluated project compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations and standards, and identified feasible measures to mitigate significant adverse impacts as required by CEQA. Other duties included preparing data requests, conducting field visits, participating in public workshops, preparing written testimony, presenting expert witness testimony at hearings before the Commissioners, and monitoring compliance with conditions of certification in the Final Commission Decision.

Assistant Project Manager (Energy Analyst)

*Energy Facility Siting Division, Siting & Permit Assistance Unit, CA Energy Commission
June 1995-October 1998*

Worked with project manager to promote local government use of an urban planning tool emphasizing energy efficiency. Authored a chapter to the National Wind Coordinating Committee's handbook *Permitting of Wind Energy Facilities*. Assisted in the preparation of several Energy Commission publications, including the *Energy Aware Planning Guide II: Energy Facilities* and *The Energy Yardstick: Using PLACE³S to Create More Sustainable Communities*.

Program Technician

*California Department of Toxic Substances Control
June 1994-June 1995 (Student Assistant, March 1993-January 1994)*

Provided regulatory assistance to hazardous waste generators, transporters and storage facility operators. Compiled an instructions manual for telephone hotline staff to refer to while assisting hazardous waste handlers and the general public. Issued identification

numbers to hazardous waste generators. Entered facility information into the department's database of hazardous waste handlers.

Student Intern

Sacramento Valley Toxics Campaign

January 1992-June 1992

Filed public record requests with state and federal agencies. Conducted research and authored an article for the campaign newsletter. Helped to organize community meetings, press conferences and public outreach events.

Education

Bachelor of Arts – Environmental Studies, California State University, Sacramento, 1993

Minor – Government, CSUS, 1993

Professional Education (Partial List)

Advanced CEQA, UC Davis Extension, May 3 & 11, 2016

Expert Witness and CEQA Training, CEC Chief Counsel's Office, 2014 and 2011

EIR/EIS Preparation and Review, UC Davis Extension, October 2009

Defensible CEQA Documents, Lorman Education Services, August 2007

Airports and Land Use Compatibility Planning, UC Davis Extension, April 2007

Managing LNG Risks, ioMosaic Corporation, November 2006

Applied Project Management, DTS Training Center, May 2006

CEQA Workshop, Association of Environmental Professionals, Feb. 2004 and 1999

CEQA Overview and Update, UC Davis Extension, June 1998

Land Use Planning for Environmental Professionals, UC Davis Extension, May 1996

Introduction to ArcView and Avenue (GIS), ESRI, August 1995 and May 1998