

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov

<b>DOCKET</b> 07-AFC-1	
DATE	MAR 19 2008
RECD.	MAR 20 2008



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**  
**FINAL STAFF ASSESSMENT**  
**FOR THE VICTORVILLE 2 HYBRID POWER PROJECT**  
**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION (07-AFC-1)**

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the California Energy Commission staff's Final Staff Assessment (FSA) for the Victorville 2 Hybrid Power Project (Victorville 2) Application for Certification (07-AFC-1). The FSA was published on March 19, 2008.

Energy Commission staff concludes that the Victorville 2 project would comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations and standards (LORS) except for obtaining verification from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that the project would not cause a hazard to air navigation. FAA's determination is still pending. Staff also concludes the project would avoid significant adverse direct, indirect or cumulative impacts. Staff's conclusions are contingent on its recommended conditions of certification being adopted in the Energy Commission's Final Decision. The most significant issues are summarized as follows:

- **Biology** – The project would impact three special-status animal species known to occur on the site or in the project vicinity and their habitat including desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel and burrowing owl, and could disturb special-status plants if found during surveys that need to be conducted during spring 2008 and prior to ground disturbance. Staff also believes it is likely a unique and protected plant assemblage, creosote bush rings greater than or equal to ten feet in diameter, occur onsite and would be impacted during clearing activities. Staff and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) have recommended that the project mitigate impacts to these animal and unique plant assemblages by implementing various management measures and by preserving habitat deemed suitable for these species by experts familiar with the species and their habitat needs at a 3:1 ratio. The applicant has proposed habitat compensation at a 1:1 ratio, and has identified lands that staff and the CDFG believe are not suitable habitat for all the affected species. These issues must be resolved before the Energy Commission licenses the project. In addition, staff recommends that the applicant continue to develop its Translocation Plan for desert tortoise in consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CDFG, and the Energy Commission, and be required to obtain staff approval of the plan prior to initiating construction.
- **Cultural Resources** – Additional archaeological surveys must be completed on five parcels on the main plant site. Staff recommends adoption and implementation of a mitigation measure requiring a post-certification, pre-construction archaeological survey, testing, and data recovery plan as a means of identifying, assessing, and mitigating, if necessary, the project's potential impacts to not-yet-identified archaeological resources possibly present on the five un-surveyed parcels.
- **Traffic and Transportation** – The Victorville 2 project would be consistent with the Circulation Element in the city of Victorville General Plan and all other applicable state and local LORS related to traffic and transportation. However, two FAA consistency determinations indicating whether the project would pose a hazard to navigable air space have not been issued to date. These would address the impact of the two Heat Recovery Steam Generator exhaust stacks on aircraft operations at the Southern California Logistics Airport. While staff has concluded that it does not believe these structures would pose a hazard to navigable air

Notice of Availability

Page 2

March 19, 2008

space, staff cannot conclude that the project would conform to the FAA LORS until it receives the FAA determinations.

The FSA contains the Energy Commission staff's environmental and engineering evaluation of the Victorville 2 project and will serve as staff's testimony during evidentiary hearings. The Energy Commission Committee assigned to the Victorville 2 proceedings will consider and weigh the testimony, comments, or recommendations of all interested parties, including Energy Commission staff, the applicant, interveners, public, and other local, state, and federal agencies, before issuing the Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD) for consideration by the full Energy Commission. The public, intervenors, and local, state and federal agencies are encouraged to participate in these hearings. The Energy Commission has scheduled the hearings for 10:00 AM on April 3, 2008 at the Southern California Logistics Airport as announced in a separate notice.

The FSA is available for review at the following local libraries:

Victorville Branch Library  
15011 Circle Drive  
Victorville, CA 92395

Apple Valley, Newton T. Bass Branch Library  
14901 Dale Evans Parkway  
Apple Valley, CA 92307

San Bernardino County Library  
104 West 4th Street  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Barstow Branch Library  
305 E. Buena Vista St.  
Barstow, CA 92311

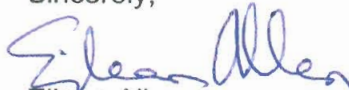
Adelanto Branch Library  
11497 Bartlett Ave.  
Adelanto, CA 92301

Loma Linda Branch Library  
25581 Barton Rd.  
Loma Linda, CA 92354

The FSA is also available on the Internet (see below). However, if you would like a paper copy or CD of the FSA, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to California Energy Commission, Attention: April Esau, Siting Project Secretary, or contact April Esau at (916) 653-1640, or by e-mail at [aesau@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:aesau@energy.state.ca.us).

If you desire information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the project, please contact the Energy Commission Public Adviser's Office, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228. Technical or project schedule questions should be directed to John Kessler, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-4679 or at [jkessler@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:jkessler@energy.state.ca.us). The status of the project, an electronic copy of the Application for Certification, the FSA, copies of notices, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's web site at [www.energy.ca.gov/siting\\_cases/victorville2/index.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/siting_cases/victorville2/index.html).

Sincerely,



Eileen Allen

Siting and Compliance Office Manager

3/19/08

Date

Enclosure  
Mailed to lists:  
7225 - General  
7226 - Property Owners

**Please send me a paper copy / CD (circle one) of the California Energy Commission staff's Final Staff Assessment for the Victorville 2 Hybrid Power Project (Victorville 2) Application for Certification (07-AFC-1).**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**City/State/Zip:**

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California Energy Commission  
**Attention:** April Esau  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

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