

**From:** Worl, Robert@Energy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 02, 2012 4:23 PM  
**To:** 'Ray Watson'  
**Cc:** 'Marisa Mascaro'; Davis, Chris@Energy  
**Subject:** RE: Public hearings for hydrogen energy facility in Kern County  
**Importance:** High



Mr. Watson,

Thank you for your thoughts regarding the HECA (Hydrogen Energy California) public workshop that was held here in Sacramento on 27 September 2012.

Our siting review process entails both hearings and workshops. In our process a hearing is a more formal event, which is chaired by Energy Commission decision makers-two Commissioners appointed to oversee proceedings, and a hearing officer who actually conducts the hearing. Yesterday's event was a staff workshop in which Energy Commission technical staff participate in a publically noticed setting to discuss data requests and responses from the applicant. This involved up to 20 staff members discussing information provided by the applicant (HECA). These discussions are critical to staff and the applicant developing a clear understanding of the basis for the questions and, in return, the basis for the written responses received.

My understanding based on statements made at the July 12, 2012, Site Visit, Informational Hearing and Department of Energy Scoping Meeting is that hearings will also be held in the Bakersfield area, in fact that initial hearing was held in Tupman and was well attended.

Our staff workshops, due to the number of technical staff involved, are more difficult to hold in the project area as a comprehensive workshop entails large numbers of people being required to travel. Staff is planning (and has always planned) to have the next workshop in Bakersfield, a location that was requested by many of the attendees of the first hearing and in communications with the Energy Commission as the HECA application process proceeds. We have been in contact with the County Planning and Community Development Department regarding appropriate venues for that event. At present, no firm date is set, but we anticipate a public workshop in Bakersfield to be held early in November.

There will be additional Kern County opportunities, workshop and hearings, for the public and all interested parties to participate in our review and licensing process. We plan that more workshops, though probably not all, will be held in the Bakersfield area, as we move forward with the process.

Should you have additional questions about process, please contact me. I have copied my Office Manager, Chris Davis, and the applicant for HECA with your email and my response.

Regards,

Bob Worl, Robert Worl, Siting Program Manager

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**From:** Ray Watson [<mailto:raywatson@co.kern.ca.us>]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 1:39 PM  
**To:** Worl, Robert@Energy  
**Subject:** Public hearings for hydrogen energy facility in Kern County

Dear Mr. Worl,

Constituents in Kern County's 4th District have expressed concerns to me that an important public hearing for the proposed HECA hydrogen energy project was scheduled in Sacramento on September 27. Public participation was available by WebEx, but constituents have requested that meetings be scheduled in Bakersfield which is much more accessible to members of the public who will be impacted by the project. Meetings in Bakersfield may be inconvenient to CEC staff, but it is important that the public not feel their access to such an important public process is not constrained.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ray Watson  
4th District Supervisor

**From:** Ray Watson [<mailto:raywatson@co.kern.ca.us>]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 1:39 PM  
**To:** Worl, Robert@Energy  
**Subject:** Public hearings for hydrogen energy facility in Kern County

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Ray Watson  
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