

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512

July 26, 2007

TO: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST

REQUEST FOR AGENCY COMMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE STARWOOD POWER PROJECT (06-AFC-10)

The enclosed Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) contains the California Energy Commission staff's initial engineering and environmental evaluation of the Starwood Power Project (SPP).

In summary this PSA finds that:

- The project is in conformance with all Laws, Ordinances, Regulations and Standards (LORS) with the exception of land use consistency with the Fresno County General Plan and zoning.
- Staff is unable to conclude that the proposed project is consistent with the Fresno County General Plan for industrial uses on a parcel that is zoned Exclusive Agriculture AE-20. Staff will continue to work with the Fresno County Planning staff to resolve this issue.
- With the proposed conditions of certification included in the various technical areas, the project's construction and operation impacts can be mitigated to a level less than significant.

On November 17, 2006, Starwood Power-Midway, LLC, submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct and operate a nominal 120 megawatt (MW) natural gas fired simple-cycle (peaking) power plant in Fresno County. The proposed SPP site is located at 43627 West Panoche Road in an unincorporated area of western Fresno County on a 5.6-acre site within a 128-acre parcel. The site is approximately 12 miles southwest of the city of Mendota, 16 miles south-southwest of the city of Firebaugh and approximately 2 miles east of Interstate 5, adjacent to the existing PG&E Panoche Substation. The proposed site and substation are located south of West Panoche Road.

We request that you review the enclosed PSA for the areas for which your agency would normally be responsible except for the Energy Commission's permitting authority. Please provide any written comments to Che McFarlin, Siting Project Manager by **Monday, August 27, 2007**. You may also present your comments at the public workshop on the PSA that will be conducted on August 16, 2007 in Mendota. The workshop will be separately noticed. Comments received will be used by staff to prepare its Final Staff Assessment which will be staff's testimony in evidentiary hearings.

If you desire information on technical or project schedule issues, or how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the project, your questions should be directed to Che McFarlin at (916) 651-0965 or at cmcfarli@energy.state.ca.us. The status of the project, an electronic copy of the AFC, copies of notices, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's web site at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/starwood>.

DOCKET	
06-AFC-10	
DATE	JUL 26 2007
RECD.	JUL 27 2007

Sincerely,

Roger E. Johnson
Siting and Compliance Office Manager

Enclosure