



Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System

Application for Certification

Docket # 11-AFC-2

DOCKET

11AFC-2

DATE NOV 03 2011

RECD. NOV 08 2011

Informational Hearing & Site Visit

Mike Monasmith – Project Manager

November 3, 2011



Energy Commission's Role

- **Energy Commission Permitting Authority**
 - Thermal power plants “50 Megawatts or Greater”
 - Related facilities:
 - electric transmission lines
 - water supply pipelines
 - natural gas pipelines
 - access roads

- **Lead state agency for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**



Overview of Licensing Process

1. Data Adequacy

- Minimum requirements to accept AFC and begin 12-month licensing proceeding

2. Discovery and Analyses

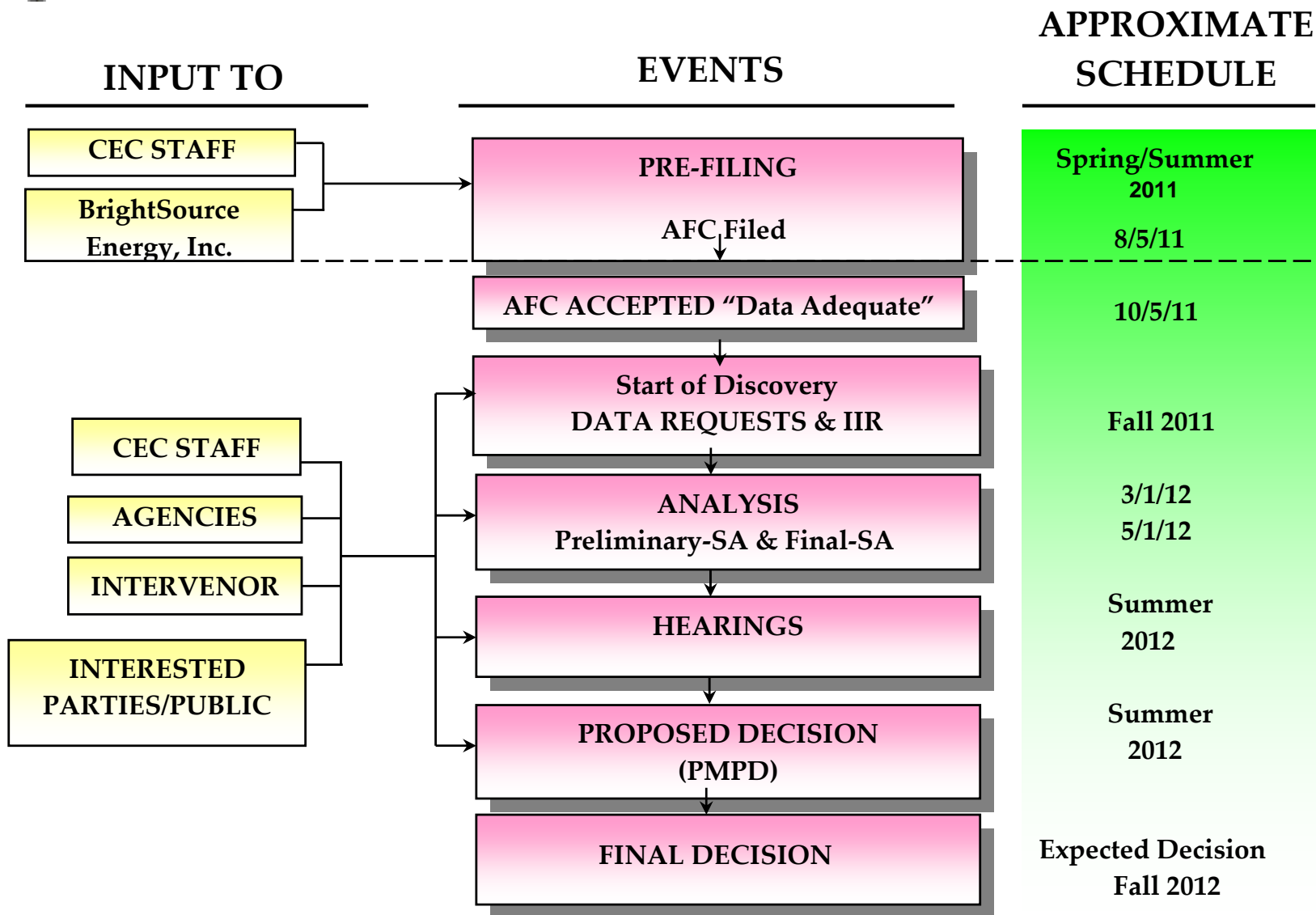
- Issues Identification
- Data Requests
- Public Workshops
- Preliminary and Final Staff Assessments

3. Committee Evidentiary Hearing and Decision

- Evidentiary Hearings on FSA and other information
- Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD)
- PMPD hearing and Commission decision

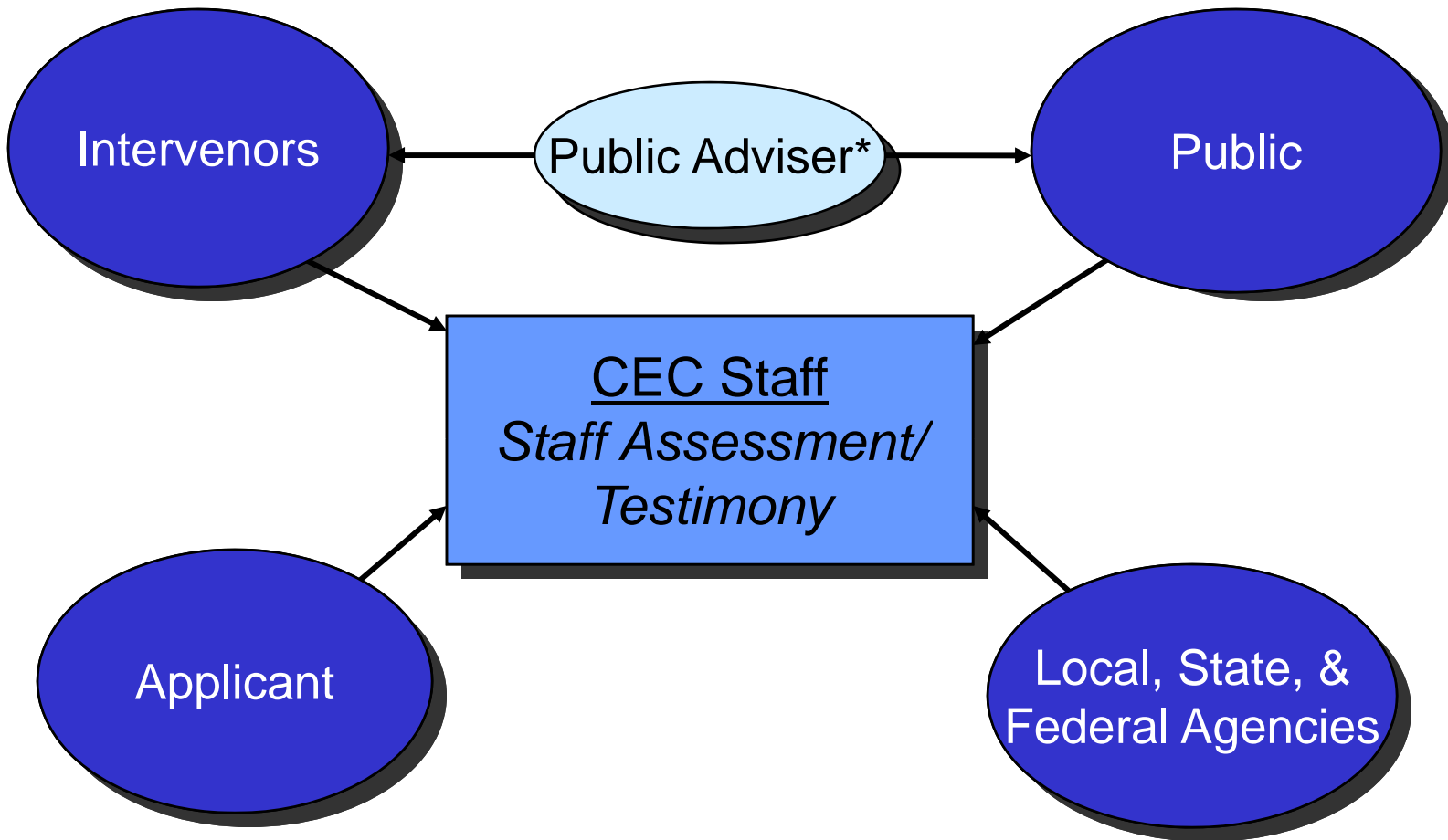


California Energy Commission





Discovery & Analysis Process



* The Public Adviser provides assistance on how to participate in the CEC's public process.

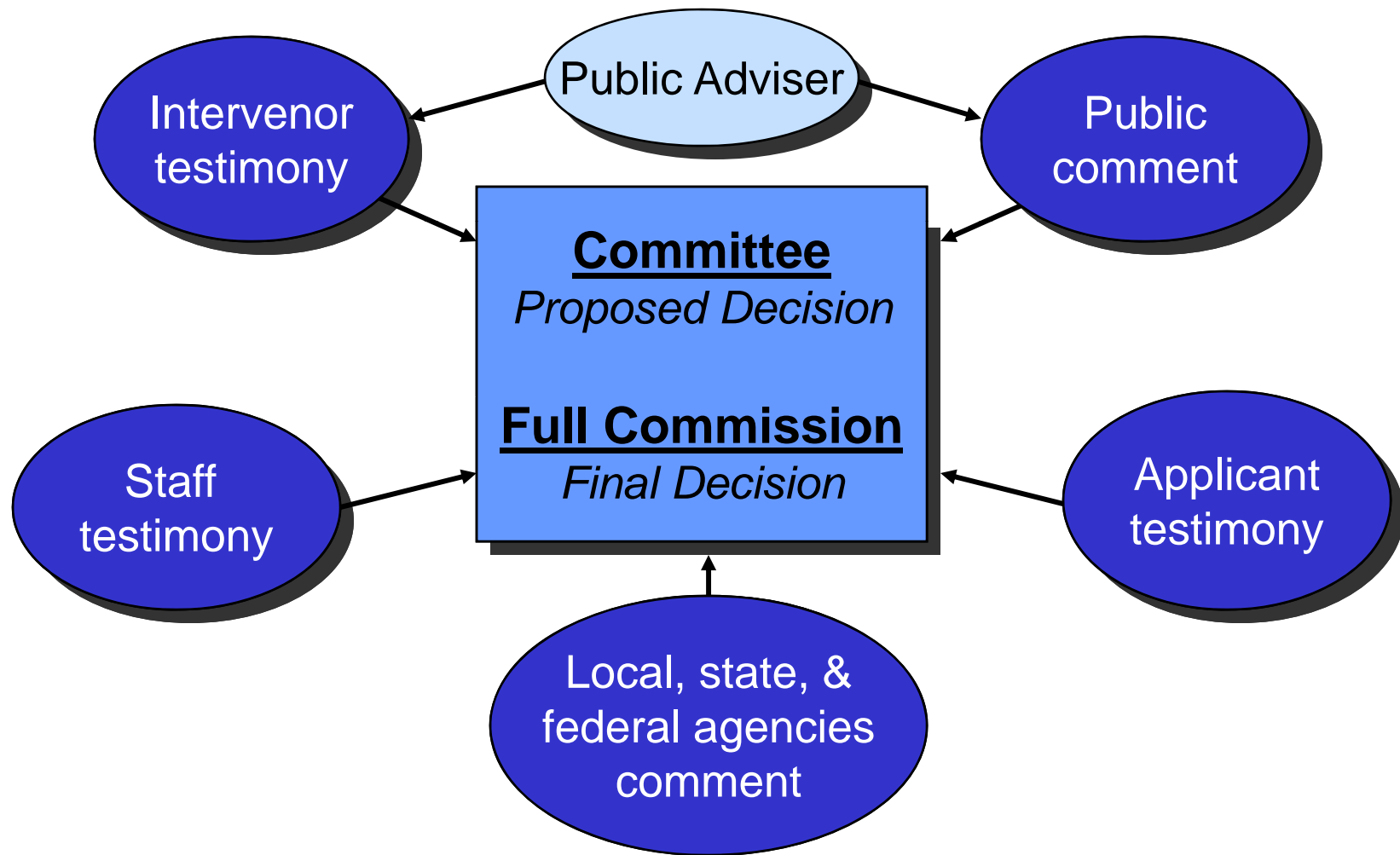


Discovery and Analysis Process

- **Determine if proposal complies with Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, Standards (LORS)**
- **Conduct engineering and environmental analyses**
 - identify issues and analyze project impacts
 - evaluate alternatives
 - identify mitigation measures to off-set project impacts
 - recommend conditions of certification
- **Facilitate public and agency participation**
- **Staff products: Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) and Final Staff Assessment (FSA)**
- **Make recommendations to the Committee**



Evidentiary Hearing & Decision Process





Evidentiary Hearing & Decision Process

- **Committee conducts hearings on all information**
 - Issues Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD)
 - PMPD contains findings relating to:
 - Environmental impacts, public health, engineering
 - Project's compliance with LORS
 - Recommends conditions of certification
 - Recommends whether or not to approve the project
- **Full Commission makes final decision**
- **Energy Commission monitors compliance with all conditions of certification, for the life of the project through de-commissioning and closure**



Local, State and Federal Agencies

- **Staff works closely with local, state and federal agencies, for example:**

- **Local/Regional**

- Inyo County - Planning, Env. Health, Sheriff's Department
- Southern Inyo Fire Protection District / Pahrump Fire Rescue
- Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District

- **State**

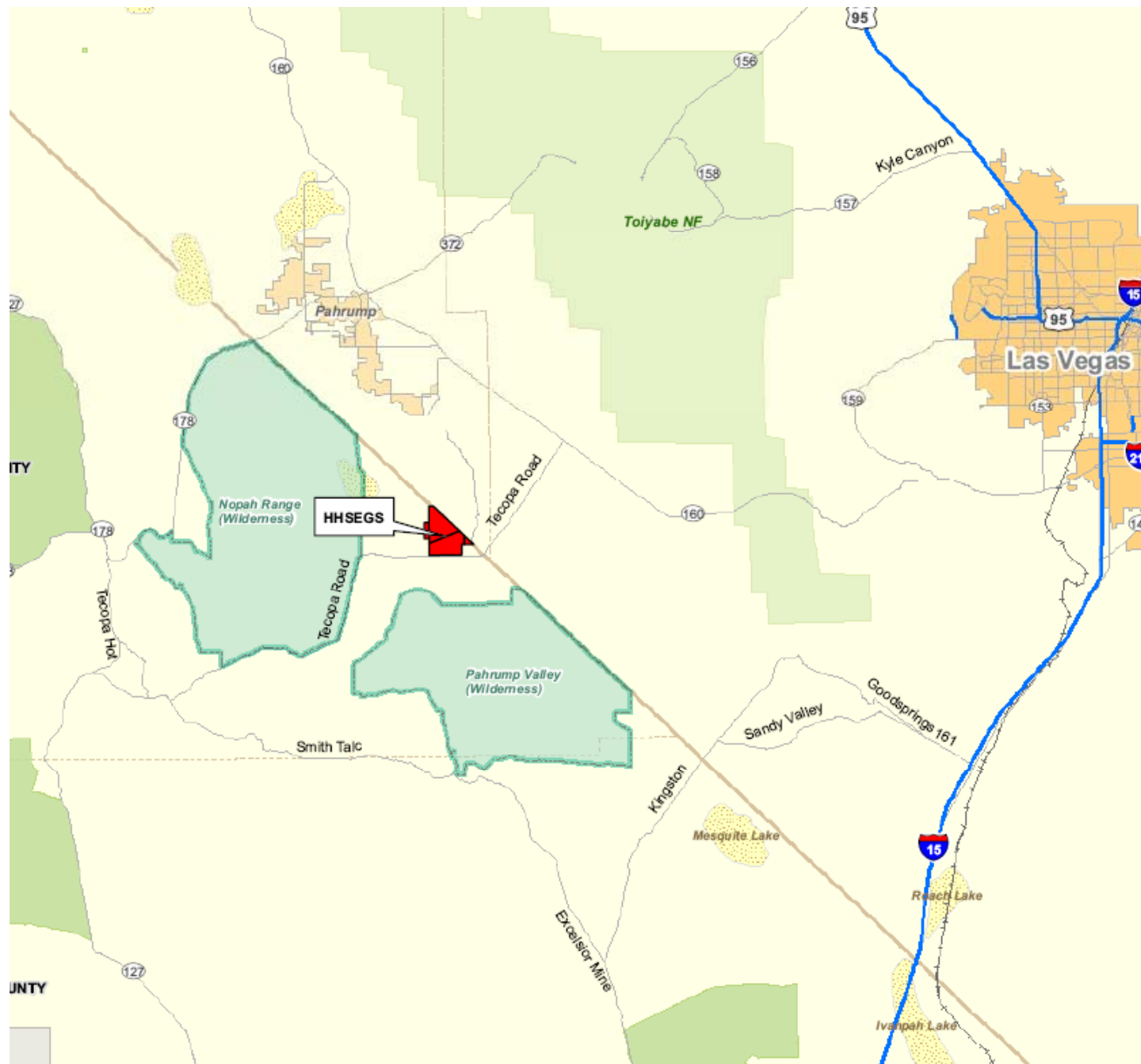
- California Department of Fish & Game
- Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

- **Federal**

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Bureau of Land Management



California Energy Commission





Staff's Issues Identification Report

■ Purpose

- Inform participants, Commissioners of potential issues
- Early focus on important topics, areas of concern

■ 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 that could delay schedule



POTENTIAL ISSUES

- ❖ **Biological Resources**
- ❖ **Cultural Resources**
- ❖ **Socioeconomics** (Law Enforcement, Fire & Safety)
- ❖ **Water Resources**
- ❖ **Visual Resources**



POTENTIAL ISSUE Biological Resources

- ❖ **Federal and State Protected Species, including Desert Tortoise and Golden Eagles**
- ❖ **Multi-agency Mitigation Development**
- ❖ **Implementation of Mitigation for Potential Significant Impacts**



POTENTIAL ISSUE Cultural Resources

- ❖ **Potential for of Unanticipated Discoveries of Cultural Resources**
- ❖ **Sacred Site ethnographic determinations based upon Native American consultation is ongoing**
- ❖ **Mitigation of Potential Significant Impacts**



POTENTIAL ISSUE Socioeconomics

- ❖ **The ability of local law enforcement and emergency medical providers to respond to calls at the project site could be constrained**
- ❖ **The project's remote location combined with the limited resources of medical and fire responders could combine to make timely emergency response difficult**



POTENTIAL ISSUE
Water Resources

- ❖ **Pumping effects on groundwater basin levels**
- ❖ **Pumping effects on existing wells**
- ❖ **Cumulative impacts to groundwater basin**



POTENTIAL ISSUE
Visual Resources

- ❖ **750 foot height of dual “power towers”**
- ❖ **Potential impacts on view-sheds from California and Nevada**
- ❖ **Mitigation of Potential Significant Impacts**



Staff's Proposed Schedule

DATE	EVENT
November 3, 2011	Site Visit & Informational Hearing
January 5, 2012	Staff and Applicant file <u>STATUS REPORT #1</u>
February 20, 2012	Staff and Applicant file <u>STATUS REPORT #2</u>
February 29, 2012	Staff files <u>PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT</u>
March 15, 2012	<u>PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT</u> Workshop
April 17, 2012	Staff and Applicant file <u>STATUS REPORT #3</u>
May 2, 2012	Staff files <u>FINAL STAFF ASSESSMENT</u>
TBD (by Committee)	Prehearing Conference, Public Evidentiary Hearings, Committee's Proposed Decision, Public Hearings on Proposed Decision, Full Commission Consideration and Final Decision



Staff's Proposed Schedule

- **Meeting this schedule will depend on:**
 - **Applicant's timely response to staff's data requests**
 - **Determinations by other local, state, and federal agencies**
 - **Resolution of Outstanding Issue**
 - **Other factors not yet known**



Hidden Hills Project Contacts

California Energy Commission Committee

Commissioner KAREN DOUGLAS - Presiding Member
Commissioner CARLA PETERMAN - Associate Member
Ken Celli - Commission's Hearing Officer

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