Energy Facilities Siting and Environmental Protection Division

PROJECT TITLE: Lodi Energy Center

FILE: 08-AFC-10

REPRESENTING:

W. Geoffrey Spaulding, Ph. D.

CH2M Hill Representing Lodi Energy Center

SUBJECT: Clarification of Data Request #13

The conference call was initiated by cultural resources staff regarding the applicant’s response to Data Request #13. While Dr. Spaulding’s response clearly stated that the contact between the more recent eolian deposits and the underlying Modesto formation does not appear to occur in the project area, staff requested clarification on the historical geomorphology and the stratigraphy of the project area itself. Staff referred to Dr. Spaulding’s technical memorandum (Attachment DR 13-1) that cited two geotechnical studies characterizing the stratigraphy of the project area below the fill layer and beyond a depth of eight feet. Staff asked Dr. Spaulding if current technical studies could provide the specific history of the project area sediments, the paleoecological parameters that the depositional environments for these sediments would appear to indicate, and, on those bases, the likelihood that such sediments contain archaeological deposits.

Dr. Spaulding responded that the geotechnical studies in the AFC do not provide the data needed to answer staff’s specific questions about the history of the sediment sequence at the project site itself. Staff proposed further review of the geotechnical studies to confirm that additional investigation is required that would enable staff to complete its analysis of the geoarchaeological potential of the project site, and suggested to Dr. Spaulding that site specific trenching to the actual depths of construction would yield the most fruitful information in this case. Dr. Spaulding agreed that the suggested level of trenching would be likely to yield information requested by staff.

Staff determined that it needed additional information about the actual depths of construction activities at the project site. Staff will also provide a data request asking for more information regarding construction depths and minimal trenching of the project site.
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