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April 13, 2010

383194.AP.PM

Ms. Felicia Miller
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET

09-AFC-2

DATE APR 13 2010

RECD. APR 13 2010

Subject: Almond 2 Power Plant (09-AFC-02)
Staff Query Set 3, Responses to CEC Staff Query 4

Dear Ms. Miller:

Attached please find 1 hard copy and 1 electronic copy on CD-ROM of the Almond 2 Power Plant's Staff Query Set 3. This Staff Query Response Set was prepared in response to a letter received by California Energy Commission Staff from City of Ceres staff regarding the Application for Certification for the Almond 2 Power Plant (09-AFC-02) dated September 17, 2009 (Land Use - Staff Query #4).

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at (916) 286-0249 or contact Susan Strachan at (530) 757-7038.

Sincerely,

CH2M HILL

Sarah Madams
AFC Project Manager

Attachment

cc: S. Strachan, Strachan Consulting
R. Baysinger, TID

Almond 2 Power Plant

(09-AFC-2)

Staff Queries, Set 3

(Responses to Staff Query 4)

Submitted to
California Energy Commission

Submitted by
Turlock Irrigation District

With Assistance from

CH2MHILL
2485 Natomas Park Drive
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Sacramento, CA 95833

April 2010

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Attachments

SQ4-1 Crows Landing Road Improvements

Introduction

Attached are Turlock Irrigation District's (TID) responses to the California Energy Commission (CEC) Staff Query (SQ) Set 3, Land Use (SQ-4) for the Almond 2 Power Plant Project's (A2PP) (09-AFC-02) Application for Certification (AFC).

Within each discipline area, the responses are presented in the same order as the CEC presented them and are keyed to the Staff Query number. New or revised graphics or tables are numbered in reference to the Staff Query number. For example, the first table used in response to Staff Query 36 would be numbered Table SQ36-1. The first figure used in response to Staff Query 42 would be Figure SQ42-1, and so on.

Land Use (SQ-4)

Data Request

SQ-4. On September 17, 2009, the City of Ceres responded via letter to the AFC review for the Almond 2 Power Plant. In the letter, the City identified a concern regarding placement of the transmission line along Crows Land Road. The City recommended that the transmission line be placed a minimum of 70 feet from centerline on Crows Landing Road so that these lines will not interfere with the development of Crows Landing Road. Please provide a discussion regarding this request.

Response: Attachment SQ4-1 provides an analysis of the future expansion of Crows Landing Road.

ATTACHMENT SQ4-1

Crows Landing Road Improvements

TID A2PP: Crows Landing Road Improvements

PREPARED FOR: George Davies/TID
Susan Strachan
Jeff Harris (Ellison, Schneider & Harris)

PREPARED BY: Aarty Joshi, CH2M HILL

COPIES: Sarah Madams, CH2M Hill

DATE: April 13, 2010

1.0 Introduction

This memorandum presents the findings of literature review and inquiries to Stanislaus County in response to a request to investigate planned improvements to Crows Landing Road, and its funding status.

2.0 Methodology

CH2M HILL reviewed the relevant land use planning documents for the A2PP site and project area, including the following primary documents:

- City of Ceres Service Road Master Plan
- City of Ceres General Plan - Circulation Element
- West Ceres Specific Plan
- City of Ceres Major Project List Fiscal Year 2008/2009
- Stanislaus County General Plan - Circulation Element
- Stanislaus County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2007
- Stanislaus County Capital Improvement Plan 2009-2010

Since the proposed 115-kV line route is within the County of Stanislaus once the line leaves TID property and crosses over TID Lateral 2, the above research was supplemented with a phone call to Stanislaus County to confirm findings from the literature review, and to ascertain the current status of planned improvements to Crows Landing Road. The call focused on the A2PP transmission line route along Crows Landing Road.

I have also reviewed the letter from Brian S. Biering of Ellison, Schneider & Harris, to Felicia Miller of the CEC, dated, January 13, 2010.¹ I am not an attorney; however, I am informed, based on that memorandum and communications with counsel for TID, that TID is exempt from compliance with city and county building and zoning ordinances and general plan requirements for facilities that are connected and integral to the provision of water and energy services.

Notwithstanding that exemption, for the purposes of my review, I was directed to review these documents as if they were applicable LORS and did review them as if they were applicable LORS in my investigations.

3.0 Findings

Table 1 summarizes the findings from the documents reviewed.

TABLE 1
Literature Review Findings

Document	Finding
City of Ceres Service Road Master Plan	No reference to Crows Landing Road improvements.
City of Ceres General Plan - Circulation Element	No reference to Crows Landing Road improvements
West Ceres Specific Plan Opportunities and Constraints Analysis	References 2007 RTP and describes Crows Landing Road widening improvement as a Tier I and II Future Improvement Project. Target date for completion is 2010.
City of Ceres Major Project List Fiscal Year 2008/2009	No reference to Crows Landing Road improvements in the 2008/2009 Major Project List.
Stanislaus County General Plan - Circulation Element	References a planned 4-lane expressway between Service Road and West Main Road. However, W. Main Road is projected to carry heavy traffic, and the General Plan calls for upgrading Crows Landing Road to a 6-lane expressway instead.
Stanislaus County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2007	The RTP identifies all major transportation projects in the next 23 years (2007-2030). This plan identifies 2 relevant projects: 1) the widening of Crows Landing Road between Service Road to Grayson from 2 to 4 lanes for a total project cost of \$991,840; 2) the widening of Crows Landing Road between Service to West Main as a new 4-5 lane expressway (no project cost has been identified). Both of these projects are classified as Tier II, which means that no funding has been forecasted. Tier II projects compete with other Tier II projects in future drafts of the RTP, when a future funding source has been identified.
Stanislaus County Capital Improvement Plan 2009-2010	Widening is planned on Crows Landing Road between Keyes to State Route (SR) 33, divided up as Segments 2 through 7. There is no Segment 1, which would be the portion of Crows Landing Road, north of

¹ CEC Docket Log #54823, dated 01 /13/2010" "Letter to the CEC Discussing Irrigation District Legal Authorities Regarding Land Use."

TABLE 1
Literature Review Findings

Document	Finding
	<p>Keyes Rd (the A2PP area). Segments 2 -7, outside the project area, are classified as Category C out of a possible 4 categories (A through D). Category C is defined as "a future need, but not presented in detail to the Board".</p> <p>Construction is planned to begin on Segment 2 in 2012, and Segment 7 is estimated to begin in 2024.</p>

CH2M HILL also contacted Stanislaus County² to determine the current status of planned improvements to Crows Landing Road, particularly because Segment 1 or the area north of Keyes Road on Crows Landing Road was referenced in the 2007 RTP but not included in the 2009-2010 Capital Improvement Plan.

The County confirmed that at the current time, no funding has been identified for Segment 1, and that all planned improvements to Crows Landing Road, including the proposed widening from Service Road (Segment 1) to SR 33 (Segments 2 through 7) and all signal improvements, have been delayed indefinitely for lack of funding. The County anticipates construction for the project beginning sometime after 2030. The proposed widening would involve widening Crows Landing Road to 6 lanes, in accordance with the County General Plan.

4.0 Conclusion

In summary, Stanislaus County and the City of Ceres would like to widen Crows Landing Road from Service Road to SR 33, but based on review of relevant documents and discussion with Stanislaus County, there are no reasonably foreseeable plans to improve this portion of Crows Landing Road within the near future. Implementation of improvements have been delayed indefinitely, and at this time, no funding sources been identified.

² David Leamon, Design Manager at Stanislaus County Public Works Department, (209) 568-6130