

Memorandum

Date: September 15, 2011

Telephone: (916) 654-4781

File: 08-AFC-13C

To: **Commissioner Karen Douglas**, Siting Committee Chair
Chairman Robert B. Weisenmiller, Siting Committee Associate Member
Kourtney Vacarro, Hearing Officer

From: **California Energy Commission** - **Craig Hoffman**, Compliance Project Manager
 1516 Ninth Street Siting, Transmission and Environmental
 Sacramento, CA 95814-5512 Protection Division

Subject: **Calico Solar Project Amendment (08-AFC-13C)**

DOCKET	
08-AFC-13C	
DATE	SEP 15 2011
RECD.	SEP 15 2011

**RE: CALICO SOLAR PROJECT AMENDMENT (CSPA) (08-AFC-13C)
 DATA REQUEST SET 2 (1-2)**

Pursuant to the Calico Committee scheduling, briefing, and procedures order dated May 2, 2011, staff is requesting that the Committee review and approve staff's following data requests for the K Road Calico applicant. The Siting Committee ordered that data requests may be propounded upon Calico Solar, LLC only after the Committee issues written findings of good cause. The order identifies that all data requests must be served upon the Committee by May 31, 2011.

Staff requests the Committee's approval to propound these data requests after the May 31, 2011 date for good cause based on the September 7, 2011, Calico Committee Order, which affirmed oral directives given during the August 24, 2011 mandatory status conference, and summarized its expectations for the parties' environmental analyses. The Committee's direction to staff creates a need for further information from the applicant in two areas.

Data Request 1

The Calico Committee Order dated September 7, 2011 directs staff to prepare an analysis as follows:

"The PSA and FSA must evaluate the project's solar thermal powerplant component and its appurtenant and related facilities (e.g., temporary lay down area; main access road; main services complex; solar field comprised of SunCatchers; hydrogen generation, storage, and distribution system for the SunCatchers; substation; transmission line; water well and water line; and

access routes) and also the PV component (e.g., solar field comprised of single-axis tracking PV modules).”

The current Calico Petition to Amend provides an analysis based upon a phase 1 and phase 2 project or includes a review of the overall project with no distinction between Suncatcher and Photovoltaic aspects of the project. The Calico Committee has made a jurisdictional distinction between the solar thermal powerplant component and its appurtenant and related facilities and the PV component and is requesting that staff complete an analysis based upon this direction.

Staff is requesting a project description for the solar thermal powerplant component and its appurtenant and related facilities and a project description for the photovoltaic facilities. Staff is also requesting that the analysis within the Petition to Amend be modified and reformatted that provides an analysis of the solar thermal powerplant component and an analysis of the photovoltaic facilities.

The Committee has requested independent staff analysis of the solar thermal and photovoltaic facilities. Staff does not currently have the information necessary to complete this analysis. Staff needs to know what impacts will be caused by the solar thermal component of the project and what impacts will occur due to the photovoltaic component. For example, how many truck trips will be needed to bring the photovoltaic related equipment to the site and how many trips will be needed to transport the solar thermal equipment?

For each technical area this break out needs to occur so staff can analyze and propose conditions for the solar thermal component of the project and can analyze and recommend mitigation measures for the photovoltaic component.

Data Request 2

The Siting Committee seeks a more robust analysis than presented in the Petition, which evaluates the alternatives that would avoid new impacts or reduce them to less than significant levels or would avoid or lessen exacerbation of previously identified environmental impacts. Based on oral and written information submitted in the proceedings to date, the Siting Committee finds that Staff’s alternatives discussion must explore the feasibility of:

- A project located exclusively south of the BNSF tracks that uses only PV technology.
- A project located exclusively south of the BNSF tracks that uses only SunCatcher technology.
- A project located exclusively south of the BNSF tracks that uses a combination of PV/SunCatcher technology.
- A water well located south of the BNSF tracks.
- A project configuration that avoids washes and minimizes drainage impacts – with particular focus on impacts to the BNSF tracks and adjacent properties.
- Specifically regarding compensatory mitigation for desert tortoise, Mojave fringetoe lizard and other biological resources impacts, a project configuration

that would allow for 1:1 and 3:1 mitigation ratios and avoid the need for 5:1 mitigation ratios.

Staff is requesting that the applicant provide a project description, maps and analysis for each of these alternatives consistent with the Committee direction.

Staff seeks additional information in these two data requests in order to complete the environmental analysis that the Committee has requested.



BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
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**FOR THE CALICO SOLAR PROJECT
AMENDMENT**

**Docket No. 08-AFC-13C
PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 8/1/2011)**

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Gray Hoffman, declare that on, Sept 15, 2011, I served and filed copies of the attached Data Request ^{Set 2}, dated Sept 15, 2011. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit or the Chief Counsel, as required by the applicable regulation, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: [www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/calicosolar/compliance/index.html].

The document has been sent to the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit or Chief Counsel, as appropriate, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

For service to all other parties:

- Served electronically to all e-mail addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- Served by delivering on this date, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date to those addresses **NOT** marked "e-mail preferred."

AND

For filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:

- by sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid and e-mailed respectively, to the address below (preferred method); **OR**
- by depositing an original and 12 paper copies in the mail with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid, as follows:

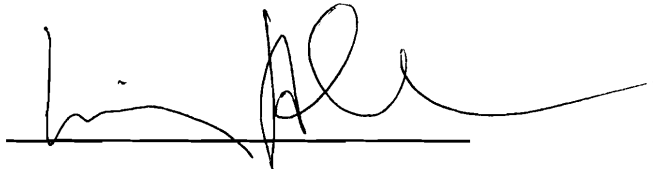
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION – DOCKET UNIT
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OR, if filing a Petition for Reconsideration of Decision or Order pursuant to Title 20, § 1720:

- Served by delivering on this date one electronic copy by e-mail, and an original paper copy to the Chief Counsel at the following address, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid:

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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.



* Indicates Change