

## DOCKETED

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# Memorandum

Date: September 16, 2013  
Telephone: (916) 654-4640

To: Commissioner Andrew McAllister, Presiding Member  
Commissioner Karen Douglas, Associate Member  
Susan Cochran, Hearing Officer

From: California Energy Commission - Felicia Miller  
1516 Ninth Street Siting Project Manager  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512



Subject: HUNTINGTON BEACH ENERGY PROJECT (12-AFC-2)  
REVISED STAFF STATUS REPORT #5

This status report is being submitted as a response to the Committee Order dated September 10, 2013, which directs staff to submit a Revised Status Report describing the progress on each technical area of the PSA and reasons for delay of the PSA. The Revised Status Report is to be filed on September 16, 2013.

## Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) Publication

Staff is continuing their work on the PSA, but was unable to meet the most recent Committee schedule calling for a bifurcated PSA with the first part due on August 20, 2013. Due to renewable energy projects on similar document production schedules and other division projects, staff anticipates publishing the bifurcated PSA the week of September 30, 2013.

## UPDATES ON PSA SECTIONS

### Air Quality Analysis and Public Health

Staff received email correspondence from SCAQMD on 9/5/13, which stated that the district conducted a review of the dispersion modeling and noted the applicant needed to provide additional information regarding construction modeling and cumulative modeling due to the update of new MET data, both of which are beyond the scope of the PDOC. Once the applicant has provided this information to SCAQMD, the district should have adequate information needed to issue a PDOC. Assuming the construction and cumulative modeling are received when the PDOC is issued, staff could complete both sections and publish the PSA Part B within 45 days.

As reported in staff's 9/4/13 Status Report, staff has contacted SCAQMD to inquire about a timeline for issuance of a PDOC. SCAQMD responded they are reviewing correspondence from the applicant, but at this time could not provide a timeline to complete the PDOC.

### Alternative Analysis

Due to other workload priorities in the Siting division, staff recently contracted a consultant to coordinate and write this section. The reasonable range of alternatives have recently been finalized and analysis directions sent to staff. This section will be published in the PSA, Part B.

### Biological Resources

Staff recently contracted a consultant to write the Biology section, as other workload priorities in the Siting division prohibited CEC staff from completing the section: the DRECP, Palen and Blythe solar projects, and Hydrogen Energy California Project. The consultant will be

visiting the power plant and Huntington Beach wetlands site on 9/17/13 to make observations and meet with the applicant and staff of the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy. Staff's PSA section will be incomplete as a result of changes in dispersion modeling by SCAQMD. Outstanding data regarding nitrogen deposition modeling should be received by the applicant in early October which the applicant will incorporate and submit to the Energy Commission. Staff will address the information in the FSA. Staff anticipates the section will be published in the PSA Part A.

### **Compliance Conditions**

The completed section has been reviewed and returned to staff to address comments. Delays resulting in the section not being completed earlier can be attributed to the Compliance office rewriting the section to more closely reflect regulations. The section will be finalized and included in the PSA part A.

### **Cultural Resources**

Staff has completed their section in late June, and final edits are being addressed. Delays in completing the section are due to higher workload priorities in the Siting division. Staff anticipates the technical section will be completed and published in the PSA Part A.

### **Efficiency**

This section was completed mid-August and will be included in the PSA Part A.

### **Facility Design**

This section was completed mid-August and will be included in the PSA Part A.

### **Geology and Paleontology**

Staff completed this section in mid-July and this section will be included in the PSA Part A.

### **Hazardous Materials**

Staff completed most work on this section in early August and received the Offsite Consequence Analysis (Hazardous Material) (OCA) from the applicant on 8/28/13. Staff is incorporating the findings of this document into their section and anticipates the section will be published with the PSA Part A.

### **Land Use**

This section was completed in late June, and final edits are being addressed. This section will be published in the PSA in Part A.

### **Noise and Vibration**

The Noise and Vibration section is still being written by staff. Delays to completion of the section are due to other siting projects with a higher priority: Hidden Hills, Rio Mesa, Palen and Blythe solar projects, Hydrogen Energy California Project and the DRECP. Staff anticipates the section will be published with the PSA Part A.

### **Reliability**

This section was completed in mid-August and will be published in the PSA Part A.

### **Socioeconomics**

This section was completed in December 2012. A coauthor for the section is no longer employed at the Energy Commission, resulting in the section undergoing edits to the Noteworthy Public Benefits section. The section will be ready for publication in the PSA Part A.

**Soil and Water Resources**

Staff completed this section in January and will be published in the PSA Part A.

**Traffic and Transportation**

This section was completed in June and will be published in the PSA Part A.

**Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance**

This section was completed in June and will be published in the PSA Part A.

**Transmission System Engineering**

Staff reports that without receipt of the California Independent Operator Queue Cluster Phase I or II report, staff cannot determine the potential need for downstream transmission facilities. Staff completed their analysis in June and will note the deficiencies in their section, which will be published in the PSA Part A.

**Visual Resources**

Staff is finalizing edits for this section which is expected to be filed in PSA Part A. This section will reflect outstanding data for a visual screening and enhancement plan, which is necessary to assess consistency with many LORS requiring screening and visual enhancements for development in the Coastal Zone. Staff understands the applicant and the city of Huntington Beach are working toward negotiating a visual enhancement plan. Delays in completing this section are due to staff being directed to work on completion of other siting projects with a higher priority; Hidden Hills, Palen solar and the DRECP.

**Waste Management**

This section was completed in July and will be published in the PSA Part A.

**Worker Safety and Fire Protection**

This section was delayed due to other siting projects with a higher priority; Hidden Hills, Palen and Blythe solar projects, as well as Hydrogen Energy California Project. Staff recently completed this section which will be published in the PSA Part A.