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Before the Energy Resources Conservation and Development
Commission of the State of California
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APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE:

PUENTE POWER PROJECT

Docket No. 15-AFC-01

COMMITTEE ORDER GRANTING APPLICANT'S MOTION TO EXTEND SUSPENSION

This Order addresses NRG Oxnard Energy Center, LLC's (Applicant) request to extend the previously granted suspension of this proceeding (Motion). For the reasons set forth below, the Committee assigned to the Puente Power Project (Proposed Project)¹ **GRANTS** the Motion and **SUSPENDS** this proceeding until July 1, 2019.

Background

On October 5, 2017, the Committee released a statement that the Committee intended "to issue a [Presiding Member's Proposed Decision] that recommends denial of the Project on the grounds that it creates inconsistencies with [laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards] and significant environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated." The Committee statement cited to statements of the California Independent System Operator that preferred resources, including renewable energy and energy storage, were technically feasible and that their economic feasibility could be determined in a procurement process. The Committee was unwilling to "override the significant impacts or [laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards] inconsistencies" unless the economic feasibility of preferred resources was further tested.²

On October 16, 2017, Applicant filed a motion requesting a six-month suspension in order to evaluate the results of an expedited preferred resources procurement process conducted by Southern California Edison (Edison) and "evaluate whether or not to

¹The Committee assigned to conduct proceedings on the Application for Certification (AFC) for the Puente Power Project consists of Commissioner Janea A. Scott, Presiding Member, and Commissioner Karen Douglas, Associate Member. The Energy Commission made this Committee assignment at its June 10, 2015 Business Meeting.

² TN 221401.

proceed to a final decision on the Project”.³ This suspension was granted by the Committee with a May 1, 2018 expiration date.⁴

On February 7, 2018, Edison obtained approval from the California Public Utilities Commission to solicit proposals for energy and capacity resources to meet the needs of the Moorpark subarea of the Big Creek/Ventura local reliability area. Generation proposals are limited to preferred resources, energy storage, and, in the Goleta area only, natural gas projects 55 MW and smaller. The solicitation schedule estimates that Edison would file its application for the approval of contract(s) to meet the energy demand in the Moorpark subarea with the California Public Utilities Commission in March 2019.⁵

In its April 20, 2018, Status Report, the Applicant requested a further extension of the proceeding until the California Public Utilities Commission’s decision on Edison’s request is finalized or June 30, 2019, whichever is earlier.⁶ Although it was not presented in the form of a formal motion,⁷ the Committee elected to treat the request as a motion and requested additional information from the applicant and responses and comments from the parties and public.⁸

Discussion

The Applicant’s suspension request continues to be for the purpose of allowing it to evaluate the results of the Edison procurement process, which is taking longer than initially anticipated.

The intervenors request that the Committee deny the Motion and instead issue a proposed decision denying the Application for Certification. They assert that the Local Capacity Requirement for the Moorpark subarea has been reduced by intervening events, such as recently approved transmission line upgrades and therefore the Proposed Project is no longer necessary.⁹

The Committee finds that continuing to suspend this proceeding preserves the work that the staff, parties, public, and the Committee have performed to date. Further, Edison’s solicitation for preferred resources will develop important information about whether the Proposed Project, in its present form or in a modified form, is necessary to fill a local reliability need in the Moorpark subarea.

³ TNs 221524, 221639, p. 2.

⁴ TNs 221678, 221684.

⁵ TN 223249. Page 9 of the pdf file indicates that Edison “will only solicit Preferred Resources and energy storage connected to the Moorpark and Santa Clara 230/66 kV A-bank substations...” The schedule for the procurement process may be found on page 27 of the pdf file.

⁶ TN 223250.

⁷ See Revised General Orders Regarding Electronic Document Formats, Electronic Filing and Service of Documents, and Other Matters, TN 212649, p. 5.

⁸ TNs 223290-1, 223290-2.

⁹ TNs 223255, 223421, and 223423.

Conclusion

The Committee therefore **GRANTS** the Motion. This proceeding is **suspended** until July 1, 2019. This date, as always, is subject to further modification by the Committee on its own initiative or motion of a party.

Furthermore, the Committee **ORDERS** that the Applicant **shall**, and the other parties **may**, file status reports on or before October 1, 2018, April 1, 2019, and June 3, 2019 to update the Committee of the progress of the Edison procurement process and any other relevant matters.

Dated: May 31, 2018, at Sacramento, California

Original Signed by:

JANEA A. SCOTT
Commissioner and Presiding Member
Puente Power Project AFC Committee

Original Signed by:

KAREN DOUGLAS
Commissioner and Associate Member
Puente Power Project AFC Committee