

Response to CEC Data Requests Set One: No. A117

Amended Application for Certification for HYDROGEN ENERGY CALIFORNIA (08-AFC-8A) Kern County, California

Prepared for:
Hydrogen Energy California LLC



Submitted to:



**California Energy
Commission**



**U.S. Department
of Energy**

California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED
08-AFC-8A**

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February 2013



**RESPONSE TO DATA REQUEST A117
FROM CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION (CEC)**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CEC DATA REQUEST A117

VISUAL RESOURCES
A117

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN RESPONSES

AFC	Application for Certification
CEC	California Energy Commission
HECA	Hydrogen Energy California

Technical Area: Visual Resources
Author: Elliott Lum

BACKGROUND

According to the Amended Application for Certification (AFC) for the HECA project, both the visual impact susceptibility and visual impact severity from Key Observation Point (KOP) No. 1 have been characterized as high (see Table 5.11-1 and 5.11-4, respectively). As such, the aesthetic impact significance has been classified as significant.

To mitigate this impact to a level of less than significant, the amended AFC recommends a conceptual landscaping plan for screening purposes (see Mitigation Measure VRMM-1). The plan will include information on the plant species proposed; their size, quantity, and spacing at planting; their expected heights at 5 years and at maturity; and their expected growth rates.

However, the visual resources section of the amended AFC does not include the above plan or visual simulations that Energy Commission staff requires to address the adequacy of the Mitigation Measure VRMM-1. Staff has concluded that additional project information is necessary before a significance conclusion can be reached for the impact at KOP 1.

DATA REQUEST

A117. Please provide an electronic copy of a conceptual landscaping plan for review by staff. The primary purpose of the plan is to show how landscaping at the project site will contribute to screening views to the maximum extent feasible for the view from KOP 1. Consistency with applicable sections of Chapter 19.86, Landscaping, of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance is required.¹ To ensure that the information provided in the on-site landscaping plan will allow for a thorough assessment of this impact, the plan will need to include these elements, as well as those listed below, at a minimum:

- a. Information on the type of plant species proposed: size, quantity, and spacing at planting; expected height at 5 years and maturity; and expected growth rates. Staff requires preparation of this information by a qualified professional arborist or botanist familiar with local growing conditions.***
- b. Electronic and paper copies of 11-inch by 17-inch color photographic simulations at life size scale showing the landscaping 5 years after planting and at maturity from the viewpoint for KOP 1.***

RESPONSE

As discussed with CEC staff on January 29, 2013, visual screening using landscaping on the eastern portion of the HECA Project Site is not prudent based on irrigation requirements. Therefore, subject to landowner approval, the Applicant intends to provide visual screening offsite at the residences located at KOP-1, as needed. This offsite landscaping is expected to reduce visual impacts at KOP-1 to less than significant levels.

In addition, as part of detailed design, the Applicant will study the possibility of incorporating cost effective architectural enhancements to feedstock storage located at the eastern portion of the Project Site. These potential architectural enhancements could include using exterior finishes to reduce contrast in color and texture, and the use of exterior components to reduce contrast in storage area lines.

¹ See <http://www.co.kern.ca.us/anning/pdfs/ec11.pdf>.



**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
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**AMENDED APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR THE HYDROGEN ENERGY
CALIFORNIA PROJECT**

**Docket No. 08-AFC-08A
PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 2/11/13)**

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will provide a copy to the persons
listed below. Do not send copies of
documents to these persons
unless specifically directed to do
so.*

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Dale Shileikis, declare that on February 11, 2013, I served and filed copies of the attached Response to CEC Data Requests Set One: No. A117, dated February, 2013. This document is accompanied by the most recent Proof of Service, which I copied from the web page for this project at: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hydrogen_energy/.

The document has been sent to the other persons on the Service List above in the following manner:

(Check one)

For service to all other parties and filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:

 X I e-mailed the document to all e-mail addresses on the Service List above and personally delivered it or deposited it in the US mail with first class postage to those persons noted above as "hard copy required";
OR

 Instead of e-mailing the document, I personally delivered it or deposited it in the US mail with first class postage to all of the persons on the Service List for whom a mailing address is given.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that I am over the age of 18 years.

Dated: 2/11/13


