

# Memorandum

Date: May 2, 2002  
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File: Inland Empire Energy Center

To: Commissioner Robert Pernel, Presiding Member  
Commissioner James Boyd, Associate Member

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

Subject: **INLAND EMPIRE ENERGY CENTER PROJECT (01-AFC-17) STATUS REPORT #3**

This report is provided to update the Committee on staff's activities on Inland Empire Energy Center Project since publication of Status Report #2 on April 5, 2002. Staff is working to finalize the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA). The committee schedule called for publication of the PSA in early to mid May. To allow time for consideration of information from the responses to the second round of data requests, staff now anticipates publishing the PSA in late May. However, unless the Preliminary Determination of Compliance (PDOC) is issued soon (see Air Quality below), publication of the PSA may be further delayed.

## ISSUES

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### AIR QUALITY

South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) had hoped to issue the PDOC in late April, but it is still under review and expected to be issued soon. Staff is working with SCAQMD to ensure that we receive the PDOC in time to complete our analysis, however, the timing of the PDOC has the potential to delay the PSA.

Staff has obtained more localized meteorological data from March Air Force Base and has begun its own analysis of the project using this data. In addition, staff has provided this information to the applicant and Air District for their review.

### BIOLOGY

Staff previously indicated concern over three critical biological resource issues. These issues, which are discussed in greater detail in Status Report 2, relate to compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for potential impacts to federally-listed vernal pool fairy shrimp and Stephen's kangaroo rat, as well as compliance with California Department of Fish and Game streambed alteration agreement requirements. The second round of data requests issued on April 4, 2002 contained eleven requests related to biological resources. Staff will evaluate the need for a workshop or a third round of data requests after the May 6<sup>th</sup> filing by the applicant.

## **LAND USE & SOCIOECONOMICS**

In its analysis, staff will address the proximity of the proposed plant to the existing Romoland elementary school, potential health and safety impacts to students, and restrictions on the future siting of additional schools in the project vicinity. The second round of data requests issued on April 4, 2002 contained five requests related to land use and socioeconomic resources that seek to clarify the extent of potential project impacts to the existing school. The applicant has requested that the Romoland School District respond by May 4, 2002 to requests #178 and #179, which pertain to potential future school sites in the project area and existing student capacities of both the Romoland School District and the Perris Union High School District. Staff will evaluate the need for a workshop or a third round of data requests after the May 6<sup>th</sup> filing by the applicant and Romoland School District.

## **VISUAL RESOURCES**

Staff previously indicated concern over the lack of data needed to accurately model the potential plume from the proposed project and its potential impact to Visual Resources. The second round of data requests issued on April 4, 2002 contained nine requests for information needed to model the project's potential plume and determine potential impacts. In addition, staff expressed concerns regarding potentially significant visual impacts at four of the six KOPs selected for the project (KOPs 1, 2, 4, and 5), noting that with effective vegetative screening, the visual impacts could be reduced to levels that would be adverse but not significant. Staff will evaluate the need for a workshop or a third round of data requests after the May 6<sup>th</sup> data response filing by the applicant.

## **WATER RESOURCES**

Staff received clarification responses from Calpine and further consulted with the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) to better understand the relationship between the proposed project and EMWD's plans and policies. Additional data requests were not issued, and staff is working on its PSA section.

cc: Inland Empire Energy Center POS  
Docket 01-AFC-17