

# Memorandum

**Date:** November 13, 2002  
**Telephone:** (916) 651-8839  
**File:** Inland Empire Energy Center

**To:** Commissioner Robert Pernell, 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 #8

This report is provided to update the Committee on staff's activities on the Inland Empire Energy Center Project since publication of Status Report #7 on October 24, 2002. Staff is currently working on the FSA, but is still awaiting additional information from Calpine on visual mitigation and the Final Determination of Compliance (FDOC) from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) before the FSA can be completed.

## REMAINING ISSUES

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### AIR QUALITY

As noted in Status Report #7, the applicant's ERC package is still incomplete, especially for PM<sub>10</sub>. Calpine is currently reviewing options for obtaining necessary offsets. In addition, the SCAQMD has yet to issue the FDOC, which is now expected in early December. The delay is necessary to allow them to respond to comments from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and to allow the federal land management (FLM) agencies additional time to review potential visibility and nitrogen deposition issues.

### BIOLOGY

On November 8, 2002 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a letter regarding the construction of the 115-kV distribution line and the 500-kV transmission line. The USFWS anticipates that potential impacts to the vernal pool fairy shrimp habitat area could be avoided with adherence to several preventative measures during construction and maintenance. No further USFWS consultation will be required unless there is a design change during the final engineering phase. Staff will require adherence to the USFWS preventative measures in their Conditions of Certification.

As noted above, the FLMs continue to review potential issues relating to nitrogen deposition. Staff will review any additional comments from the FLMs regarding such impacts, and will consider those comments in the FSA.

## **LAND USE**

Staff is reviewing information provided by Calpine and comments received from the Romoland School District (RSD) and the California Department of Education (CDE) relating to the project's potential impacts on RSD. Staff is expecting further comments from CDE on this issue. Staff will address this issue in the FSA.

## **WATER**

Staff is coordinating with the Regional Water Quality Board, Santa Ana Region, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) regarding potential stormwater discharge permit requirements for the project. Calpine submitted drainage plans and other requested information to the ACOE on October 30. Staff believes the issue can be resolved prior to publication of the FSA.

## **VISUAL**

Staff previously indicated concern over Calpine's proposed landscape plan and its ability to achieve adequate visual mitigation of the project within five years. Calpine agreed to review visual mitigation options discussed at the PSA workshop, and indicated in its October 2, 2002, status report that it expected to file information on its evaluation of these options soon. At this time, staff has not received this information from Calpine. Calpine has recently retained a local landscape architect and now expects to file the information by late November. Staff will need time to review this material before completing the FSA.

## **SCHEDULE**

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The information in the anticipated visual mitigation information and the FDOC are needed for staff to complete the FSA. Staff plans to publish the FSA within 30 days of receipt of Calpine's visual mitigation information and the FDOC, consistent with the intent of the Committee's original schedule.

Staff will continue its efforts to complete the FSA in a timely manner and keep the Committee informed of any new development that may further impact the project schedule.

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