

Memorandum

Date: August 27, 2004
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To: John L. Geesman, Presiding Member
Arthur H. Rosenfeld, Ph.D., Associate Member

From: California Energy Commission – James W. Reede, Jr., Ed.D
Project Manager
1516 Ninth Street
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Subject: **ROSEVILLE ENERGY PARK (03-AFC-1) STATUS REPORT #6**

Pursuant to the Committee's August 25, 2004 email request, the following is staff's sixth status report on the proposed Roseville Energy Park.

Staff filed its Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) on Friday, June 25, 2004, and identified unresolved issues in air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, and visual resources. Staff believes that nearly all of the matters identified in the PSA, with the exception of air quality, biological resources, traffic safety, and visual resources have been resolved following discussions with the applicant at the PSA workshop held July 20, 2004.

Air Quality

The applicant recently adjusted the project's operating profile to reduce emissions to a level that would be offset by Roseville Electric's current emission reduction package. The applicant provided the new operating profile in its Supplemental Comments on the PSA on August 11, 2004 and the Cumulative Air Quality Impacts Analysis on August 26, 2004. The Air District plans on issuing the Final Determination of Compliance on or about August 31.

Biological Resources

Staff's PSA identifies the need for a complete wetland delineation that must be accepted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) prior to the applicant's submittal of a 404 permit application. USACE has not approved the wetland delineation and has issued a letter notifying the applicant that they cannot authorize the project under the Nationwide Permit program at this time due to missing information, lack of mitigation proposals, and the potential unauthorized filling of wetlands. The USACE has requested a meeting in the near future to address their concerns. The delay in resolution of these issues has impacted completion of the Biological Resources FSA analysis.

Traffic Safety and Visual Resources

In the PSA, staff identified issues in the areas of traffic safety and visual resources. Staff has subsequently determined that the project could generate ground hugging plumes (fog) that would be a hazard to traffic safety on local roads near the project. Plumes could also cause visual impacts at certain times of the year to the 2,137 currently proposed homes in the viewshed. Staff has identified that plume abatement may be necessary to mitigate these impacts. The applicant has not yet provided plume modeling data promised at the PSA Workshop.

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Schedule

Staff will be holding a public workshop on September 8th to discuss all remaining issues. Based on a day-for-day slip of the schedule ordered by the Committee for this proceeding, staff will endeavor to provide its FSA in mid October. This is predicated on the applicant filing, by mid-September, final determinations from all local, state, and federal agencies, including the FDOC from Placer County APCD, a wetland delineation accepted by the USACE, acceptable measures to mitigate wetlands impacts, authorization by the USACE to participate in the Nationwide Permit Program, and mitigate potentially significant cooling tower plumes.