

# Memorandum

Date: September 23, 2004  
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From: California Energy Commission – James W. Reede, Jr., Ed.D  
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Subject: **ROSEVILLE ENERGY PARK (03-AFC-1) STATUS REPORT #7**

Pursuant to the previous Committee orders, the following is staff's seventh status report on the proposed Roseville Energy Park.

Staff filed its Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) on Friday, June 25, 2004, and identified various unresolved issues. Staff believes that nearly all of the matters identified in the PSA, with the exception of air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, traffic safety, and visual resources have been resolved following discussions with the applicant at the PSA workshop held July 20, 2004 and subsequent staff workshop held on September 8, 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 now plans on issuing the Final Determination of Compliance on or about September 30, one month later than previously reported.

## **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. At the staff workshop held September 8<sup>th</sup>, the applicant was asked to provide a schedule for submission of a revised wetland delineation, mitigation proposals and USACE application. The applicant has not provided the schedule nor information requested. The delay in resolution of these issues has impacted completion of the Biological Resources FSA analysis.

## **Cultural Resources**

Applicant stated in its July 16, 2004, "Comments on the PSA" that it would be providing a Cultural Resources Monitoring and Mitigation Plan prior to the FSA so that Condition of

Certification **CUL-3** would not be required. The Plan was provided September 23, 2004. At this point it will require an extensive re-write of the recently completed Cultural Resources FSA section.

### **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 could 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 provided plume modeling data at the staff workshop on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Staff is currently analyzing the data related to the visible plume based on the applicant's proposed operating scenario. Staff has completed the analysis of traffic impacts and based on the applicant's modeling data the impacts would still need mitigation.

### **Schedule**

Based on a day-for-day slip of the schedule allowed by the Committee for this proceeding, staff will endeavor to provide its FSA by mid November. This is predicated on the applicant filing, by mid-October, 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.