

Memorandum

Date : August 23, 2002
Telephone: (916) 651-8835

To : John L. Geesman, Commissioner and Presiding Member
William J. Keese, Chairman and Committee Member

From : **California Energy Commission** - Bob Eller
1516 Ninth Street Project Manager
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject : **PALOMAR ENERGY PROJECT (01-AFC-24) STATUS REPORT NO. 5**

Pursuant to the Committee's Scheduling Order of March 29, 2002, the following is staff's status report on the proposed Palomar Energy Project. As requested by the Committee in its Order, staff's previous reports focused on issues related to the schedule for adoption of the Escondido Research and Technology Center (ERTC) Specific Plan by the City of Escondido, and potential to delays to the Committee's adopted schedule for the project.

Since the staff's June 20, 2002, status report, staff has continued to work closely with the City. A revised Memorandum of Understanding with the City has been signed by the Executive Director and the City. The City released the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Escondido Research and Technology Center (ERTC) at the end of July.

CURRENT DATA REQUEST/DATA RESPONSES

STAFF

Data responses are, at this time, complete.

INTERVENORS

No data requests have been filed by intervenors to this proceeding.

AGENCY PARTICIPATION

The primary agency interaction to date has been with the City of Escondido and the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD). Both agencies attended and participated in both the Committee's Informational Hearing and Site Visit and staff's Data Response and Issues workshop.

The Preliminary Determination of Compliance (PDOC) from the SDAPCD was submitted electronically on July 3, 2002. The Committee's Scheduling Order assumed that the PDOC would be submitted in early June, and that the PSA would follow in early July.

ISSUES

Staff, in its March 15 Issue Identification Report (IIR), identified potential issues with the environmental baseline of the project, air quality, and traffic and transportation. Staff's PSA will identify the need for additional information and/or mitigation to resolve issues in the areas of air quality, biological resources, and transmission system engineering.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

In our April Status Report to the Committee, staff noted that a delay by the City of Escondido in the review of the ERTC had the potential to delay the Committee's adopted schedule for this proceeding.

Attached are staff's proposed revisions to the Committee's adopted schedule. Staff's proposed schedule accounts for the delay in the City of Escondido's review of the ERTC, as identified in their April 17 letter to me. The City's letter was docketed and sent to the Proof of Service List on April 22.

Staff has discussed the attached schedule with the applicant and believes that, with minor exceptions, they are in agreement with the proposed revisions.

Please note that the date for staff's release of the PSA has slipped in order to accommodate the analysis schedule of other current Commission proceedings. Staff expects to file a complete PSA by August 28, 2002. We apologize for this delay, however, the delay in our release of the PSA has not delayed any of the other events on the attached schedule.

Attachment

Staff Draft Revised Committee Schedule – Palomar

DATE 2002	EVENT
Feb 6	AFC data adequate
Mar 8	Staff files 1st set of data requests
Mar 18	Applicant requests additional time to file data responses and files objections to data requests
Mar 21	Committee conducts Informational Hearing
April 8	Applicant files 1st set of data responses
April 22	Parties file status reports #1
May 3	Staff files 2nd set of data requests (Alternatives, Cultural, Soil and Water only)
May 8	Applicant files PM10 mitigation plan and additional data responses re: Visual Resources and the Stormwater and Erosion Control Plan
May 22	Parties file status reports #2
May 23	Staff files 3 rd set of data requests (TSE only)
June 3	Applicant files 2nd set of data responses
June 21	Parties file status reports #3
June 24	Applicant files data responses to staff's 3 rd set of data requests
July 8	Applicant files Preliminary Determination of Compliance (DOC) from the Air District
July 21	Parties file status report #4
Late Aug	Staff files Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA)
Aug 23	Parties File Status Report #5
Early Sept	Applicant files Final DOC from the Air District
Mid Sept	Staff conducts PSA workshop(s)
Late Sept	Committee Status Conference
Mid-Oct	City of Escondido Final EIR for the ERTC Specific Plan is available
Early Nov	Applicant Provides Biological Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
Mid Nov	Staff files Final Staff Assessment (FSA)
Mid Nov	City Certifies FEIR and acts on ERTC Specific Plan Amendment
Late Nov	Prehearing Conference after City acts on ERTC Specific Plan Amendment