

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	21-AFC-02
Project Title:	Gem Energy Storage Center
TN #:	244204
Document Title:	CEC Letter to Kern County re CUP Extension
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Lisa Worrall
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	7/26/2022 11:49:54 AM
Docketed Date:	7/26/2022



**CALIFORNIA
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AGENCY**

July 26, 2022

Lorelei Oviatt, AICP, Director
Community Development
Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
2700 "M" Street, Suite 250
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2370

Dear Lorelei:

We understand that Hydrostor has requested an extension of time for its current 90-day Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to continue geologic data collection activities—the borehole drilling program—at the proposed Gem Energy Storage Center site in Kern County. Typically, geotechnical data collection activities are conducted prior to the filing of an application for certification (AFC) with the California Energy Commission (CEC). When applicants need to conduct additional data collection activities in support of an AFC, the CEC staff will advise applicants of the need to obtain local permits for the activities.

The data collection activities currently underway and planned at the Gem site are important and will provide necessary information to support the CEC staff's analysis of the Gem AFC. The CEC staff can confirm that we would need to evaluate the results of Hydrostor's borehole drilling program, as described in Hydrostor's April 1, 2022, application for a CUP, before we can complete our Preliminary Staff Assessment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Pittard", written over a horizontal line.

Shawn Pittard, Director
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental
Protection Division