

DOCKETED

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Description:	monthly status report
Filer:	Lon Payne
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Memorandum

To: Commissioner Kourtney Vaccaro, Presiding Member
Commissioner Andrew McAllister, Associate Member

Date: December 23, 2022

From: California Energy Commission
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Subject: STATUS REPORT #4 FOR WILLOW ROCK ENERGY STORAGE CENTER (21-AFC-02)

In its August 31, 2022 Order directing parties to file Monthly Status Reports, the Committee required that the parties file and serve a Status Report on or before the 26th of each month.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) staff has commenced work on a Preliminary Staff Assessment, which we expect to publish within 60 days of acknowledging in a status report that we have no further data requests.

The CEC staff is currently engaged in discovery efforts. The CEC staff docketed Data Requests Set 1 (Set 1) on July 26, 2022, and Data Requests Set 2 (Set 2) on October 21, 2022. CEC staff and the applicant held a workshop on October 11, 2022, to discuss objections raised by the applicant in a filing docketed on August 15, 2022. The applicant has provided partial responses to Set 1 and Set 2 via multiple filings and has requested extensions to file additional responses later. The applicant has communicated to CEC staff that it expects to docket a collection of responsive materials on January 31, 2023.

Counsel for the CEC staff and the applicant continue to negotiate the final language of a joint statement capturing the agreements reached at the workshop. We expect this joint statement to be filed shortly, along with a joint stipulation to extend discovery beyond the 180 days described in the applicable regulations. Some responsive materials associated with the applicant's geotechnical evaluation of the project site and necessary biological surveys will not be available to CEC staff until summer 2023, and CEC staff reserves the right to ask follow-up data requests on these late-arriving materials.

CEC staff docketed Data Requests Set 3 on December 23, 2022.