

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	21-AFC-02
Project Title:	Willow Rock Energy Storage Center
TN #:	249423
Document Title:	CEC Staff Status Report #7
Description:	monthly status report
Filer:	Lon Payne
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	3/24/2023 10:12:55 AM
Docketed Date:	3/24/2023

Memorandum

To: Commissioner Andrew McAllister, Presiding Member
Commissioner Noemi Gallardo, Associate Member

Date: March 24, 2023

From: California Energy Commission
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Subject: STATUS REPORT #7 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 no responses to data requests remain outstanding.

The CEC staff remains engaged in discovery efforts, in accordance with the joint statement by the parties regarding data requests (TN 248337). CEC staff has filed multiple sets of data requests, most recently Data Requests Set 4 (TN 248978) on February 27, 2023.

The CEC staff's February 24, 2023 status report stated: "Staff intends to follow up with the applicant regarding all data requests that are outstanding and related to the project optimization update. Staff will provide an update in the next Status Report." The CEC's project manager initiated that coordination effort and received a response indicating that the applicant would be providing responses to Data Requests Set 4 on March 29, 2023, and that applicant's expectations concerning responses to prior outstanding data requests associated with geotechnical evaluation activities at the project site and potential "project optimization" changes would be discussed in applicant's next status report, due today. Considering that the applicant was not able to provide new responses or estimates for the docketing of responses to prior outstanding data requests prior to the deadline for docketing this status report, the CEC staff will provide further comments associated with the progress of ongoing discovery in our next status report due April 26, 2023.