

DOCKETED

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Memorandum

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

Date: May 26, 2023

From: California Energy Commission
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Subject: STATUS REPORT #9 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.

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. CEC staff remains engaged in discovery efforts, in accordance with the joint statement by the parties regarding data requests (TN 248337).

The applicant is currently working to complete geotechnical evaluation efforts and biological resources surveys, the results of which are needed to respond to CEC staff's outstanding data requests and are expected to result in project description changes.

CEC staff continues to hope that the applicant's next status report, due today, will include an update on the applicant's efforts to secure an extension to its conditional use permit with Kern County to conduct further geotechnical investigations of the project site and adjacent parcels. CEC staff will respond to any updates received in its next monthly status report.