

DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Submitted On: 6/1/2023
Docket Number: 21-AFC-02*

Compliance Request Letter

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

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**PLANNING AND NATURAL
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Planning
Community Development
Administrative Operations

June 1, 2023

**FILE: CUP 123, 231
PLN22-0008**

Curt Hildebrand
Gem A-CAES, LLC by Hydrostor, Inc.
365 Bay Street, Suite 300
Toronto ON M5H 2V1, Canada

**RE: Conditions Compliance Review
Willow Rock Energy Storage Center – CUP 123, Map No. 231**

Dear Mr. Hildebrand:

Conditional Use Permit (CUP) 123, Map No. 231 authorized short-term geotechnical data collection activities for the Willow Rock Energy Storage Center. Per Condition 5(w) of CUP 123, Map No. 231, as modified, activities were authorized for nine (9) months from the date of final approval of Modification No. 1, which was approved by the Kern County Planning Commission on August 25, 2022. Therefore, activities authorized by CUP 123, Map No. 231 shall have ceased as of May 24, 2023.

Please note that the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department now requires demonstration of compliance with the following conditions:

Conditions of Approval

- 5(u) Following completion of authorized activities, each borehole shall be cemented to the full depth. Cemented steel casing shall be cut a minimum of two (2) feet below surface and completely removed.
- 5(v) Following completion of authorized activities, all drill pad and sump areas shall be restored to pre-existing conditions. All equipment and material shall be removed from the site.
- 5(w) Activities for which this Conditional Use Permit have been approved are authorized for nine (9) months from the date of final approval of Modification No. 1. All boreholes shall be backfilled, and the drill rig removed from the site by the first day of the 10th month.
- 5(x) Following conclusion of the approved activity period, the project proponent shall have an additional 30 days, or one (1) month, to prepare a written report

of all activities conducted on-site, as well as a report of the impacts on biological and cultural resources from the applicable qualified resource monitors. The written report shall be submitted on or before the end of the 10th month following final approval of Modification No. 1 to this permit to the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department and filed with the California Energy Commission Docket 21-AFC-02 for the Hydrostor Willow Rock Energy Storage Center (previously Gem Energy Storage Center).

Please submit demonstration of compliance with measures 5(u) through 5(w) immediately and 5(x) by June 24, 2023. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me directly at 661 862-8957 or by email at slaytonk@kerncounty.com.

Sincerely,



Katrina A. Slayton
Division Chief, Advanced Planning Division
Kern County Planning and Natural Resource Department

cc: California Energy Commission Docket 21-AFC-02