

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	21-AFC-02
Project Title:	Willow Rock Energy Storage Center
TN #:	253737
Document Title:	Willow Rock Energy Storage Center Status Report No 16
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Amanda Cooley
Organization:	Ellison Schneider Harris & Donlan LLP
Submitter Role:	Applicant Representative
Submission Date:	12/22/2023 2:56:07 PM
Docketed Date:	12/22/2023

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Energy Resources Conservation
and Development Commission**

In the Matter of:)
)
Application for Certification for the) Docket No. 21-AFC-02
Willow Rock Energy Storage Center)
)
_____)

**WILLOW ROCK ENERGY STORAGE CENTER
STATUS REPORT NO. 16**

Pursuant to the *Order Suspending the Application For Certification Proceeding And Further Orders* docketed August 11, 2023,¹ GEM A-CAES LLC (“the Applicant”) hereby submits this status report to inform the Committee regarding the progress of the Application for Certification (“AFC”) proceeding for the Willow Rock Energy Storage Center (“Project”).

PROJECT OPTIMIZATION

The Applicant is in the process of preparing a supplemental AFC that incorporates the revised Project Description for the Project and is targeting a filing the first quarter of next year. The Applicant is coordinating closely with California Energy Commission (“CEC”) Staff and other stakeholders regarding the optimized Project. The Applicant anticipates consulting with CEC Staff in early 2024 to exchange information regarding the optimized Project in advance of the submission of the supplemental AFC.

Following *Status Report No. 15*, the Applicant has the following milestones to report:

- Continued participation of Project in additional offtake contracting initiatives, including ongoing discussions through shortlisting in procurement processes with load-serving entities.
- Continued discussions for retail water supply service for both construction and operation, including submission of the initial deposit for water service.
- Continued commercial progress on adaptive reuse of cavern rock. Inclusion of alternate layouts based on adaptive reuse of cavern rock as well as consideration of beneficial reuse to meet regional demand.
- Continued engagement with stakeholders regarding the Project.

The Applicant will continue to file Status Reports on or before the 26th of each month with an update regarding the Project’s status.

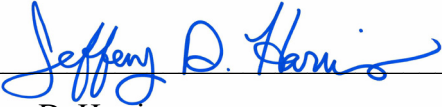
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¹ TN#: 251599.

Dated: December 22, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

ELLISON, SCHNEIDER HARRIS & DONLAN LLP

By  _____

Jeffery D. Harris

Samantha G. Neumyer

jdh@eslawfirm.com

sgn@eslawfirm.com

Attorneys for Applicant