

DOCKETED

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**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. 18**

Pursuant to the Committee Order 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”).

SUPPLEMENTAL AFC FILING AND UPDATED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Applicant is pleased to report the following activities in anticipation of filing the Supplemental AFC in the coming weeks:

- Responses from local Native American Tribes regarding tribal consultation per Assembly Bill 52.
- Completion of transportation impact analysis per Senate Bill 743.
- Completion of noise and air quality impact analyses; the nearest residentially zoned property at 4,100 feet from the Project site.
- Completion of notification to Department of Defense per California Pub. Resources Code 25519.5.
- Completion of pre-filing meetings with California Energy Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding environmental survey methodologies and preliminary results.
- Continued collaboration with Kern County on land use consistency.
- Continued geotechnical exploration indicating viability for underground cavern construction and potential rock offtake for commercial reuse in the regional concrete aggregate market.
- Refinement of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures per the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act, California Endangered Species Act, California Fish and Game Code, and other laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards for biological resources.
- Progress on water service agreement.

¹ TN#: 251599.


- Final review of technical details to satisfy Appendix B requirements set forth in the Commission's regulations.

The Applicant thanks the Commissioners, California Energy Commission Staff, Intervenor California Unions for Reliable Energy, and all stakeholders for their positive participation to date for this important long duration energy storage project.

Dated: February 26, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,

ELLISON, SCHNEIDER, HARRIS & DONLAN LLP

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