

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. 19**

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

From March 1, 2024 through March 7, 2024, the Applicant filed the Supplemental AFC for the Project, followed by the filing of supporting technical files, appendices, reports, and documents.

On March 7, 2024, the CEC docketed a *Hearing Officer Clarification of Suspension Order and Request for Amended Cover Letter* which requested that the Applicant file an amended cover letter once all of the Supplemental AFC sections were filed, thus starting the California Energy Commission’s (“CEC”) Staff’s 30-day review period.²

On March 8, 2024, the Applicant filed an *Amended Cover Letter and Attestation of Completeness* in response to the request from the Hearing Officer. The Applicant has also worked with CEC Staff to ensure that all technical files to date are accessible and have been received.

On March 26, 2024, the Applicant received a determination of completeness from the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District for the air permit applications submitted relating to the Supplemental AFC, which has been docketed in this proceeding.

In addition to the above filings, the Applicant has also engaged in the following activities in support of the Project:

- Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) regarding desert tortoise survey results. USFWS confirmed that no further consultation is required by the federal Endangered Species Act for the desert tortoise.
- Continued geotechnical exploration.

¹ TN#: 251599.

² TN#: 254900.


- Continued collaboration with Kern County, Edwards Air Force Base, Rosamond Community Services District, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, State Lands Commission, Bureau of Land Management, Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District, and other stakeholders with respect to the Project.

In order to accept the Applicant's filing as complete, CEC Staff directed the Applicant to pay an additional fee in the amount of \$563,632.11. The Applicant paid this amount in full.

Dated: March 26, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,

ELLISON, SCHNEIDER, HARRIS & DONLAN LLP

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