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Memorandum

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

Date: August 26, 2024

From: California Energy Commission
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Subject: STAFF STATUS REPORT #1 FOR THE WILLOW ROCK ENERGY STORAGE CENTER (21-AFC-02)

In its *Order Terminating the Suspension of the Willow Rock Energy Storage Center Proceeding 21-AFC-02* filed July 26, 2024 (TN 258022), the Willow Rock Energy Storage Center Committee ordered California Energy Commission (CEC) staff to “resume submitting monthly status reports beginning August 26, 2024” and further clarified that “[s]tatus reports shall inform the Committee whether or not the case is progressing satisfactorily and bring potential delays and other relevant matters to the Committee’s attention.”

Staff has initiated coordination activities with partner agencies, most notably the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, in order to gather information necessary for our analysis of the application. Staff has also initiated conversations with potentially affected California Native American tribes.

Staff has been making progress on its discovery efforts as well, filing Data Request Set 1 on July 26, 2024, and Data Request Set 2 on August 22, 2024. Staff anticipates that applicant responses to Data Request Set 1 will be filed on August 26, 2024. Staff has requested applicant responses to Data Request Set 2 within 30 days of the date they were filed. Staff is actively developing data requests for Set 3 and potentially further sets.

At this early stage we consider information gathering efforts to be proceeding satisfactorily.