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Memorandum

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

Date: September 26, 2024

From: California Energy Commission
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Subject: STAFF STATUS REPORT #2 FOR THE WILLOW ROCK ENERGY STORAGE CENTER (21-AFC-02)

In its *Revised Committee Scheduling Order* filed September 9, 2024 (TN 259084), the Committee on the Willow Rock Energy Storage Center project ordered the parties to “continue submitting monthly status reports no later than the 26th day of every month” and further clarified that “[s]tatus reports shall inform the Committee whether the case is progressing satisfactorily and bring potential delays and other relevant matters to the Committee’s attention.”

California Energy Commission staff (staff) continues to coordinate 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 continues to make progress on its discovery efforts. Staff filed Data Request Set 3 on September 23, 2024, after previously filing Data Request Set 1 on July 26, 2024, and Data Request Set 2 on August 22, 2024. Staff received applicant responses to Data Request Set 1 on August 23, 2024, and to Data Request Set 2 on September 19, 2024. Staff is actively reviewing these responsive filings to ensure that complete, satisfactory responses have been provided and will file follow-up data requests as necessary. In addition, staff is currently developing data requests for Set 4 and potentially further sets.

Staff and the applicant have taken heed of the Committee’s finding that “the ability for staff to initiate meetings with the applicant, other parties, interested agencies, stakeholders, or the public on matters relevant to a proceeding, including workshops, site visits, or other information exchanges, is an efficient approach to resolve data requests, and encourages the parties to convene as needed prior to the end of the discovery period per the Applicant’s recommendations.”

At this stage staff considers our information gathering efforts to be proceeding satisfactorily.