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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**State Energy Resources Conservation
and Development Commission**

In the Matter of:

**WILLOW ROCK ENERGY STORAGE
CENTER**

Docket No. 21-AFC-02

**CALIFORNIA UNIONS FOR RELIABLE ENERGY
STATUS REPORT NO. 3**

October 25, 2024

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California Unions for Reliable Energy (“CURE”) submits this Status Report pursuant to the *Revised Committee Scheduling Order* (“Revised Scheduling Order”) filed on September 9, 2024.¹ The Committee ordered the parties to file and serve a Status Report on or before the 26th of each month.² The Status Report must inform the Committee about whether the case is progressing satisfactorily and identify potential delays and other relevant matters for the Committee.³

I. Progress of the Proceeding

On October 18, 2024, CURE docketed its response to GEM A-CAES LLC’s (“Applicant”) letter dated October 11, 2024 to Andrew McAllister, California Energy Commission (“CEC”) Commissioner and Presiding Member, and Noemí Gallardo, CEC Commissioner and Associate Member, requesting modifications to the Revised Scheduling Order.⁴ CURE is requesting that the Committee deny the Applicant’s request for modifications to the schedule because the Applicant had not shown good cause to modify the schedule, the Revised Scheduling Order is reasonable, and the Applicant’s letter was not a motion that was preceded by an effort to meet and confer with the parties about revising the schedule.⁵

¹ TN 259084.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ TN 259524; 259605.

⁵ TN 259605.

On October 23, 2024, CURE submitted its Issues Identification Report to the docket⁶ pursuant to the Committee’s *Notice of Site Visit and Informational Hearing, and Committee Order* (“Order”) dated October 2, 2024.⁷ CURE’s Issues Identification Report summarizes the major issues related to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, public health, biological resources, noise, geology, and hydrology presented in the Supplemental Application for Certification (“SAFC”) for the Willow Rock Energy Storage Center Project (“Project”).⁸ CURE is also preparing for the Project’s site visit and informational hearing on November 6, 2024. CURE will be presenting its interests in the SAFC and the issues identified in its Issues Identification Report at the November 6 informational hearing, as required by the Order.⁹

The Applicant, CEC Staff, CURE, and Intervenor Center for Biological Diversity met on October 7, 2024 and October 17, 2024¹⁰ about the Applicant’s proposed Western Joshua Tree Relocation Plan. CURE and its expert biologist will review the draft Western Joshua Tree Relocation Plan once docketed by the Applicant in response to CEC Staff’s Data Request Set 4.¹¹

Finally, CURE reviewed the Applicant’s September 27 responses to CURE’s Data Requests Set 1, including the attachments to its responses,

⁶ TN 259672.

⁷ TN 259528.

⁸ TN 259672.

⁹ TN 259528.

¹⁰ Representatives from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife also attended the meeting on October 17, 2024.

¹¹ TN 259326.

which were provided to CURE on October 14, 2024.¹² CURE has been engaged in meet and confer efforts with the Applicant regarding its responses to Data Request Nos. 18 and 104. CURE is preparing Data Requests Set 2 with the assistance of its technical experts. CURE is also reviewing the Applicant's responses to CEC Staff's Data Requests Set 3 with the assistance of its technical experts.¹³

II. Potential Delays and Other Relevant Matters

At this time, CURE is not aware of any potential delays or other relevant matters to bring to the Committee's attention.

Dated: October 25, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tara C. Rengifo

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¹² TN 259338.

¹³ TN 259675.