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Filer:	Amanda Cooley
Organization:	Ellison Schneider Harris & Donlan LLP
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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
SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
STATUS REPORT NO. 6**

Pursuant to the *Order Granting In Part and Denying In Part Applicant’s Motion to Amend Revised Scheduling Order* issued on December 11, 2024,¹ as revised,² GEM A-CAES LLC (the “Applicant”) submits this Supplemental Application for Certification Status Report No. 6 to inform the Committee of the progress of the Application for Certification proceeding for the Willow Rock Energy Storage Center (the “WRESC”).

**ACTIONS TAKEN TO ADVANCE THE WILLOW ROCK ENERGY STORAGE
CENTER SINCE THE LAST STATUS REPORT**

The following filings have been made since Status Report Number 5. On January 13, 2025, the California Energy Commission (“CEC”) Staff issued Willow Rock Data Requests Set 6 related to Biological and Water Resources.³ The Applicant is currently working diligently to file Data Responses to CEC Staff Set 6. Also on January 13, 2025, California Unions for Reliable Energy (“CURE”) filed CURE Data Request Set 2.⁴ The Applicant is likewise working diligently on its Data Responses to CURE Set 2. The Applicant appreciates the hard work and collaboration with CEC Staff and all Parties to the proceeding to advance this project through the permitting process.

The Applicant met with U.S. Representative Vince Fong and other local, state, and federal stakeholders to discuss the project status and the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) Loan Programs Office (“LPO”) announcement of the conditional commitment for a loan guarantee of up to \$1.76 billion for the WRESC.

The Applicant also has the following updates to report:

- Provided a refined Western Joshua Tree census database to CEC Staff and Intervenor with a correction to the number of trees potentially impacted by the project (i.e., previous databases had double-counted the number of trees, so impacts are less than planned).

¹ TN #: 260601.

² TN #: 260752.

³ TN #: 261072.

⁴ TN #: 261070.

- Completed Cultural Resources Phase II Testing field work with tribal representatives and initiated preparation of a revised Cultural Resources Report including the tribal entities' feedback and subject matter experts' findings for subsurface resources.
- Received notice of the Kern County Board of Supervisors hearing on the Zone Change Application for February 11, 2025.
- Continued landowner engagement to finalize siting of the transmission line preferred pathway including private easements and Kern County right-of-way sharing with Southern California Edison ("SCE").
- Continued collaboration with SCE on the point of change of ownership of the transmission line interconnection into the Whirlwind Substation.
- Continued collaboration with SCE on temporary construction power delivery.
- Continued engagement with the California Public Utilities Commission on the Mid-Term Reliability and long-duration energy storage ("LDES") procurement requirements decided as part of the Integrated Resource Planning proceeding.
- Hosted a luncheon in California City to share news of the DOE LPO Conditional Commitment with local stakeholders such as Safe Haven Kids' League & Community Resources prior to attending the East Kern Economic Alliance meeting.
- Continued charitable giving and community engagement with Antelope Valley College, Rosamond Chamber of Commerce, Kern Antelope Historical Society, Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce, and Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, among other stakeholder groups.


CONCLUSION

The Applicant looks forward to continued collaboration with the CEC and other Parties on the certification and initiation of construction of this important LDES project in 2025, which is key to meeting California's climate and energy affordability goals while maintaining reliability of the grid.

Dated: January 24, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,

ELLISON SCHNEIDER HARRIS & DONLAN LLP

By  _____

Jeffery D. Harris
Samantha G. Neumyer
Jessica Melms

jdh@eslawfirm.com

sgn@eslawfirm.com

jlm@eslawfirm.com

Attorneys for Applicant