

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov



January 5, 2016

Michele Spears
President/CEO
Victor Valley Chamber of Commerce
14174 Green Tree Blvd.
Victorville, CA 92395

High Desert Power Plant Petition to Amend (97-AFC-1C)

Dear Ms. Spears:

Thank you for your letter regarding the California Energy Commission's review of the High Desert Power Plant (HDPP) Petition to Amend. Chair Weisenmiller has asked me to respond to you on his behalf. He also asked me to docket your letter in this proceeding to amend the Energy Commission Decision.

As part of the Energy Commission's 2009 approval of the amendment for the HDPP to use recycled water, the Energy Commission required HDPP to study the feasibility of using up to 100 percent recycled water for evaporative cooling and other industrial uses.

A report summarizing the feasibility study and findings was submitted to the Energy Commission by HDPP on November 3, 2014, and the Petition to Amend the Energy Commission decision to drought-proof the HDPP was docketed October 30, 2015.

The modifications proposed in the petition would change Condition of Certification Soil & Water 1 to allow HDPP to use a loading sequence of alternative water supplies such that recycled water is the facility's primary supply and that State Water Project (SWP) Water, Banked SWP Water and up to 3,090 acre-feet per year of Mojave River Basin Adjudicated Water would be the facility's backup supplies for blending with recycled water.

The purpose of the Energy Commission's review process is to assess the impacts of this proposal on environmental quality and on public health and safety. The review process includes an evaluation of the consistency of the proposed changes with the Energy Commission's Decision and water use policies and a determination on whether the facility, as modified, would remain in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (20 Cal. Code of Regs., § 1769).

Energy Commission staff is analyzing the request and will publish its analysis and recommendation in January, 2016. The Chair may assign a Committee to consider the matter and the positions of the petitioner, staff, intervenors and the public before the Commission takes final action on the petition at a regularly scheduled Energy Commission business meeting.

The amendment petition has been posted on the Energy Commission's HDPP webpage at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/highdesert/index.html>. The Staff Analysis, when completed, will also be posted on the same webpage.

Sincerely,



Roger E. Johnson, Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission and
Environmental Protection Division

cc: Robert Weisenmiller, Chair