

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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State Of California

Natural Resources Agency

Memorandum

Date: August 26, 2016
Telephone: (916) 653-4677
File: 97-AFC-01C

To: Commissioner Karen Douglas, Presiding Member
Commissioner Janea Scott, Associate Member
Susan Cochran, Hearing Officer

From: **California Energy Commission -** Joseph Douglas, Compliance Project Manager
1516 Ninth Street Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject: **HIGH DESERT POWER PROJECT (HDPP 97-AFC-01C) PETITION TO AMEND ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF SCHEDULES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2016 COMMITTEE CONFERENCE**

Staff hereby files its Schedules for the month of September 2016 as ordered in the July 18, 2016 Memo to all Parties.



**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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***PETITION TO AMEND THE
HIGH DESERT POWER PLANT***

Docket No. 97-AFC-01C

Staff Schedules during month of September 2016

On July 18, 2016, the California Energy Commission Committee (Committee) assigned to conduct proceedings on the High Desert Power Project (HDPP) Petition for Modification to Drought-Proof the High Desert Power Plant issued a Memorandum proposing a Committee Conference in September 2016. The conference would consider the use of the HDPP model to evaluate potential impacts from Mojave Water Agency spreading and banking of State Water Project (SWP) water on behalf of HDPP, and on riparian resources in the Mojave River from the diversions recycled water. The Memorandum requested a response by August 26, 2016 on each party's technical experts' availability during September 2016 for the discussion and any additional comments or concerns from parties on the format of the discussion or participation by Ms. Bond, consultant for the Committee. Staff experts are available September 14 through September 23, 2016. Staff does not have concerns about Ms. Bond's participation, nor the participation of any Mojave River Basin interested parties or stakeholders in the Committee Conference. Staff does not have any comments on the Committee Conference format.

The Committee's Memorandum also directed Staff to file in the docket official versions of the model submitted by HDPP in 2002, the model submitted by HDPP in 2003, a staff report of the 2004 update prepared by Ms. Bond, as well as the final documentation and Staff's review of the final documentation. Staff is searching onsite compliance records, as well as archival records off site, in a continuing effort to locate the documents. To date, the documentation has proven elusive. Staff does not consider this an impediment

to robust technical and policy discussions regarding the Mojave River Basin at the Committee Conference. Further, other Mojave River Basin models are available or the HDPP model could be rehabilitated/re-documented to the satisfaction of the parties so it could be used as appropriate.

On August 19, 2016, Staff received a copy of a letter from the Watermaster of the Mojave River Basin, which was docketed the same day. (TN 212881) The letter details the Watermaster's ongoing work concerning the Alto Subarea and Transition Zone water levels. Staff considers the information contained in the letter relevant to the ongoing HDPP proceedings, particularly to the proposed Committee Conference concerning the use of the HDPP model "as part of, in addition to, or in lieu of the water balance study . . ." ¹ to evaluate impacts from HDPP use of recycled water. Staff asks the Committee and the parties to review and consider the information in the letter.

Staff appreciates the opportunity to convene with the parties to discuss the role of the HDPP model and other information relevant to the use of recycled water at HDPP, and the percolation of SWP water for use by HDPP.

¹ *Memo to All Parties re: Committee Conference: Technical Expert Discussion and Date Availability*. TN 212860, p. 1.