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<b>Description:</b>	N/A	
Filer:	Matthew A. Smith	
Organization:	Environmental Defense Center	
Submitter Role:	Intervenor	
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## STATE OF CALIFORNIA State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission

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In the Matter of:

# **APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION ) OF THE PUENTE POWER PROJECT )**

Docket No. 15-AFC-01

INTERVENORS SIERRA CLUB LOS PADRES CHAPTER, ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION OF VENTURA COUNTY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CETNER'S STATEMENT OF ISSUES TO BE BRIEFED

Alicia Roessler, Staff Attorney (State Bar No. 219623) Matthew A. Smith. Staff Attorney (State Bar No. 309392) Environmental Defense Center 906 Garden St. Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Telephone: (805) 963-1622 ARoessler@EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org MSmith@EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org

Matthew Vespa, Senior Attorney (State Bar No. 222265) Alison Seel, Associate Attorney (State Bar No. 300602) Sierra Club 2101 Webster St., 13th Floor Oakland, CA 94612 (415) 977-5500 matt.vespa@sierraclub.org alison.seel@sierraclub.org As noted at the Prehearing Conference and in Intervenors' Prehearing Conference Statement, and confirmed during evidentiary hearings, the issues of Biological Resources, Land Use, and Alternatives are not ready for briefing and adjudication due to the lack of focused surveys performed by the Applicant, the Staff, and the California Coastal Commission. Absent focused surveys, the FSA cannot and does not disclose impacts to biological resources and there is a glaring omission of data necessary to identify the existing biological resources on the Project site. Intervenors again request that the Committee revisit the need for focused surveys on the Project site before going forward with briefing.

Nonetheless, pursuant to the Hearing Officer's invitation for the parties to submit a statement of issues to be briefed after the close of evidentiary hearings, Intervenors Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter, Environmental Coalition of Ventura County, and Environmental Defense Center request that the California Energy Commission receive briefing on the following issues:<sup>1</sup>

- Whether the Final Staff Assessment complies with the California Environmental Quality Act, particularly with respect to the following issues:
  - The Project Description
  - Environmental Setting
  - Alternatives
  - Project Need
  - Project Objective
  - The failure to disclose and/or mitigate impacts to Biological Resources,

Land Use, Air Quality, Environmental Justice, and Soil and Water.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Intervenors' Statement of Issues is intended to assist the Commission in anticipating the issues on which the parties may submit briefing. Intervenors expressly request and reserve the right to address any issue or contention raised by the Commission or by any party, notwithstanding the following presentation of issues.

2. The Project's Compliance with the Warren Alquist Act and findings, in particular:

## A. LORS Consistency

- Whether the Project conflicts with the California Coastal Act (CCA), the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and/or the California Fish and Game Code due to the Project's impacts to environmentally sensitive habitats and species, special status species, and habitat for special status species, and
  - i. whether the FSA adequately analyzes, mitigates, and/or avoids these impacts, and
  - ii. whether the Project's conflicts can be overridden pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 25525.
- ii. Whether the Project conflicts with the City of Oxnard's Coastal Land UsePlan and Local Coastal Policies, and
  - i. whether the FSA adequately analyzes, mitigates, and/or avoids these impacts, and
  - ii. whether the Project's conflicts can be overridden pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 25525.

## **B.** Findings for approval

#### C. Potential override findings

Date: February 14, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Matthew A. Smith Matthew A. Smith Alicia Roessler

Attorneys for the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter, the Environmental Coalition of Ventura County, and the Environmental Defense Center