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Petition to Amend:)) Docket 12-AFC-02C HUNTINGTON BEACH ENERGY PROJECT)

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STATUS CONFERENCE

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

CHARLES IMBRECHT HEARING ROOM

1516 NINTH STREET

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2016

11:00 A.M.

Reported by Peter Petty

APPEARANCES

COMMISSIONERS

Andrew McAllister, Presiding Member Karen Douglas, Associate Member

ADVISERS

Pat Saxton, for Commissioner McAllister Le-Quyen Nguyen, for Commissioner Douglas Jennifer Nelson, for Commissioner Douglas Kristy Chew, Adviser to Committee <u>HEARING OFFICER</u>

Susan Cochran

CEC STAFF

Kevin Bell, Staff Counsel John Heiser, Project Manager Timothy Singer Matt Layton, Engineering Office Manager Eric Knight, Environmental Office Manager

PETITIONER

Melissa A. Foster, Esq., Stoel Rives Stephen O'Kane, AES Southland Development LLC Jerry Salamy, CH2M Hill Robert Mason, CH2M Hill APPEARANCES (Continued)

INTERVENORS

None present

ALSO PRESENT

Andrew Lee, Southern California Air Quality

Management District

Dan Rocole, Keiwit Corporation

PUBLIC

None present

INDEX

Call to Order	1
Case progress and schedule	6
Public Comment	
Adjourn	52
Reporter certificate	53
Transcriber certificate	54

1

PAGE

1 P R O C E E D I N G S 2 AUGUST 19, 2016 11:06 A.M. 3 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Let's get 4 started. So here we are at the status conference for 5 the Huntington Beach Energy Project Amendment. Thanks everybody for coming. 6 7 Let's see. So the Commission has assigned a committee, obviously, of two commissioners to 8 9 conduct these proceedings. I'm Andy McAllister, the 10 Presiding Member. Commissioner Karen Douglas, the 11 associate member, is unable to be with us today, so 12 in her stead her advisers, Jenny and LeQueyen. 13 On my left is Ms. Cochran, the Hearing 14 Officer. She'll mostly run the proceedings today. 15 Let's see. Kristy Chew on LeQuyen's right is our technical adviser to the Commission on siting 16 17 matters. 18 To Susan's left, Bryan Early, my adviser. 19 And to his left is Pat Saxton, my other adviser. 20 So let's go around and have the parties 21 introduce themselves quickly, starting with the 2.2 applicant. 23 MR. MASON: Robert Mason, CH2M Hill, with 24 the applicant. 25 MS. FOSTER: Melissa Foster with Stoel

1 Rives, counsel to the project owner. And Stephen 2 O'Kane with AES is on the telephone. 3 Stephen, can you hear us okay? 4 MR. O'KANE: (inaudible) Yes. Hi. Stephen 5 O'Kane from AES is here. I'll probably be asking clarifying questions as it'll be hard to hear unless 6 7 you're speaking directly into the microphone. Thank 8 you. 9 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay, great. Can 10 you hear me as I talk? MR. O'KANE: Yes. Thanks, Commissioner, I 11 12 can hear you perfectly. 13 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay, great. 14 MR. SALAMY: Jerry Salamy, CH2M Hill, 15 consultant to the applicant. 16 MR. BELL: Kevin Bell, Senior Staff Counsel 17 on behalf of staff. With me here is John Heiser, 18 Project Manager. And we also have other staff 19 present. We have Officer Managers Matt Layton and 20 Eric Knight. COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: 21 Is there anybody 2.2 else on the phone? 23 (Inaudible) 2.4 THE REPORTER: I didn't get any of that. 25 MR. ROCOLE: Two parties on the phone, Dan

1 Rocole, Project Manager, Kiewit, Kein Blunt and 2 Bryant Garden. 3 MR. LEE: This is South Coast Air Quality 4 Management District. 5 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And who is 6 representing South Coast? 7 MR. LEE: This is Andrew Lee, Bhaskar 8 Chandan, and Chris Perri. 9 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Could you spell 10 the last two names for us, please? MR. LEE: Chandan is C-H-A-N-D-A-N and 11 12 Perri is P-E-R-R-I. 13 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Thank you. 14 MR. LEE: You're welcome. 15 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: So prior to South Coast I think we still haven't heard exactly who 16 17 that is. MR. SINGER: Keiwit. 18 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Who is it? 19 20 MR. SINGER: Keiwit. I believe, 21 Commissioner, you're asking about the Keiwit constructors who introduced themselves. 2.2 23 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Oh, here we go. 24 So we see you actually on the phone now. So who is 25 representing Kiewit?

1 MR. ROCOLE: Dan Rocole. 2 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Could you spell, 3 if that's Dan, D-A-N? Could you spell your last 4 name? 5 MR. ROCOLE: Yes, sir. R-O-C-O-L-E. COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay, great. 6 7 Anybody else on the phone? 8 Okay, let's move on. Let's see. Those are 9 the public agencies, I think we've heard from 10 everyone. 11 Are there any -- there aren't any Native 12 American tribes or nations on the phone, definitely 13 not in the room. And no elected officials, I take it. Or 14 15 cities. Is Huntington Beach on the phone? Okay. 16 Sounds like not. 17 Okay. Great. So I'm going to hand it over 18 to Susan to continue with the proceedings, and 19 thanks very much for being here. 20 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Thank you. And 21 good morning. 2.2 Again I want to remind you that in this 23 hearing room we can only have four microphones on at a time. You'll know your mike is on when the red 24 25 light is lit.

I was told that the microphones broadcast no matter how far away from them you are, but apparently that's not true. So if you hear it amplified in the room it will be loud enough to be broadcasting over the airwaves.

6 This status conference is being held to 7 discuss the schedule of the proceedings and to share 8 the Committee's comments on the preliminary staff 9 assessment that I'm probably going to call the PSA 10 from here on out.

11 These proceedings are based on the Petition 12 to Amend filed by AES Southland LLC. Since the 13 filing of the Petition to Amend, AES Southland LLC 14 petitioned to change ownership to AES Huntington 15 Beach Energy LLC. The Energy Commission granted that 16 request, but for ease I'm going to refer to AES 17 Huntington Beach Energy LLC as AES for the 18 petitioner.

AES is seeking permission to amend the previous license granted in October 2014 for the Huntington Beach Energy Project. The petition proposes to reduce the nominal generation capacity of the project from 939 megawatts to 844 megawatts, with 644 megawatts generated from combined cycle technology and 200 megawatts from simple cycle 1 technologies. And I'm going to call that the amended 2 project.

The project site is located in the city of Huntington Beach just north of the Pacific Coast Highway and Newland Street. The project would be located entirely within the footprint of the existing AES Huntington Beach generating station and operating power plant.

9 I think the first topic I'd like to talk 10 about is the schedule, and we may have to come back 11 and revisit that after I share the committee's 12 initial responses to the preliminary staff 13 assessment, PSA.

14 First, on July 28, 2016, the committee 15 filed an Amendment Scheduling Order. The schedule 16 indicated that the South Coast Air Quality 17 Management District was scheduled to issue a Final 18 Determination of Compliance on August 8, 2016.

19 I know in its last status report the Air 20 District indicated that the Final Determination of 21 Compliance, or FDOC, would be filed sometime in 22 August.

23 Mr. Lee, do you have any indication or 24 timing on when we might expect to see the FDOC? 25 MR. LEE: Based upon the amount of comments

1 that we received, at this particular time we're 2 still reviewing and there's a strong possibility 3 that we would have to amend one particular piece of 4 our analysis before the FDOC is issued, so at this 5 particular time I can't give you a very good 6 indication of when that will be completed.

7 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Okay. Thank you 8 very much, and we appreciate your participating 9 today to give us that information and your timely 10 filings of status reports. That helps the committee 11 a great deal.

According to the July 28th schedule, the final staff assessment is due August 22nd, or Monday. The August 22nd date was based on comments from staff at the last status conference that it would take two weeks to write the FSA after receipt of the FDOC from the Air District.

I'm going to look at staff at this point because I know that in recent filings by staff you've now indicated that instead of two weeks you're going to require 30 days to produce an FSA following receipt of the FDOC. Is that on track; what are we looking at? MR. HEISER: That is correct, we're still

25 recommending or requesting the 30 days after

1 publication of the FDOC. 2 This is John Heiser, Project Manager from 3 the Energy Commission. 4 It's based on staff allocation resources 5 and staff will need to take a look at the FDOC to update the information in the FSA and get the 6 7 requirements or the information in the FDOC, which takes time. 8 9 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Okay. 10 Applicant. 11 MS. FOSTER: Thank you. Stephen, if you're 12 there as well. I think we would like to have a 13 broader discussion about the schedule generally and what AES needs to meet timing wise before we can 14 15 provide specific comments on the FSA timing. 16 But I will lead off by saying it is the 17 project owners position that we think that staff can 18 issue the FSA with the CEC's air quality and public health analysis included, even without the FDOC. 19 20 They did it in the underlining C proceeding and the FDOC was issued Friday night before evidentiary 21 2.2 hearings on Monday, some six weeks after the FSA was 23 published. 24 So we would really like to see the FSA. It 25 sounds like it's not coming on Monday, but as soon

1 as practical from staff regardless of the timing of 2 the FDOC so we can move in to the evidentiary 3 hearing phase and toward a final decision by 4 whomever. 5 I'll turn it over to Stephen now to speak a little bit toward schedule. 6 MR. O'KANE: Okay. Thank you. Am I coming 7 8 through loud and clear? 9 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Yes. 10 MS. FOSTER: Yes. Well, just have to reiterate 11 MR. O'KANE: 12 to the committee, which we have done numerous times at previous status conferences. We've been very 13 14 transparent and open about the schedule (inaudible) 15 what we'll need to meet (inaudible) reliability functional reliability in summer of 2020. 16 17 So, we'll need the November or December 18 decision by the CEC to maintain schedule but 19 mobilize and meet our construction milestone dates. 20 I'd also like to remind the committee we 21 are approaching one year in the Petition to Amend 2.2 process. This amendment was filed September of 2015, 23 now we're approaching one year on the amendment for 24 combined cycle plants at the site of the power 25 plant.

1 So I'm afraid, with all due respect to 2 staff, I just cannot accept that they need an 3 additional 30 days going forward to finish up their 4 FSA and urge this committee to set a schedule so we can reach a decision by the end of the year. 5 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: 6 Mr. Lee, I'm 7 going to put you back on the hot seat for just a minute. Can you give me a sense of the issue that 8 9 you say may require amended analysis and how long it 10 may take? 11 MR. LEE: Yes. There was a comment made by 12 Helping Hand Tools which basically said that our 13 (inaudible) analysis for one of the contaminants was not founded and therefore would be (inaudible) 14 15 technical research and some coordination with the other Air District in California that has that 16 17 particular piece of equipment with those types of 18 (inaudible) analysis. 19 So we're trying to do some verification 20 before we go forward amend or basically change the 21 PDOC to the FDOC with the new findings that we 2.2 receive, so it is taking some time to do that. 23 And in addition, I just wanted to add that there was -- Mr. O'Kane is correct that the 24 25 applications were submitted well over a year ago,

1 but I'd like to remind the Commission that there was 2 a change in March of this year to where we had to 3 make adjustments as well because of those changes. So that is my statement. 4 5 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Okay, Thank you 6 Mr. Lee. 7 Staff, now it's your turn on the hot seat. If the committee were interested in bifurcating, as 8 9 suggested by Mr. O'Kane, to let the air quality and public health sections trail from the rest of the 10 11 FSA, how long would it take to produce that Part 1 12 of the FSA as we sit here today, cold start today? 13 Can I -- sorry to jump in and MS. FOSTER: 14 interrupt. I just want to clarify the AES' position 15 is that staff could actually issue the complete FSA with air quality and public health, and then amend 16 17 or issue an errata depending on what comes out with 18 the FDOC, if necessary. But I just wanted to make 19 that clarifying point. 20 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Mr. Layton. 21 MR. LAYTON: Good morning, Hearing Officer. 2.2 This is Matt Layton. 23 What I hope we could do is also ask AES if 24 they want Alamitos or Huntington Beach to proceed. I 25 think that is a more relevant question.

1 And I appreciate Mr. O'Kane's and Ms. 2 Foster's direction to staff. I guess we could go 3 ahead and produce a FSA. I guess we recommend denial 4 on air quality because we do have some concerns. The 5 District has been very cautious and thoughtful, and so we're reluctant to say that we understand exactly 6 7 what the District's going to issue in the way of their LORS compliance given the changes that keep 8 9 happening. 10 And again, Mr. O'Kane had emphasized that 11 back in March -- or excuse me, maybe not that long 12 ago, that it was a trivial change even though the 13 District had to remodel everything. 14 I'm just very frustrated. We are trying to 15 produce this. We can produce it. I think the 16 bifurcation wastes time and exacerbates the 17 schedule. 18 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: So just to clear, 19 you would recommend seeing, basically getting it ready and set to go on that as much as possible and 20 all the different issues, and then when the FDOC 21 2.2 comes out kind of get to the finish line altogether 23 and no bifurcation. 2.4 MR. LAYTON: I guess I would ask AES again 25 if they want Alamitos or Huntington to proceed. They

1 would like both of them to be done by December of 2 this year, I understand that. Staff is working toward that. 3 4 We would appreciate any assistance that AES 5 can provide. Doesn't all seem to be forthcoming. If they could give us direction which is to proceed, 6 7 then we will step up and work on that particular project. Obviously this is the Huntington Beach 8 9 status conference, not the Alamitos, but they're 10 linked. 11 If the District can also again understand 12 that direction, because I think currently the District is working on Huntington Beach and then 13 Alamitos. I'll let the District speak to that, but 14 15 if that's the sequence that AES wants or doesn't 16 want, they need to speak up. 17 But I think the bifurcation would take 18 staff time and additionally exacerbate the schedule. 19 It would spill over into the hearings and I think 20 then the committee would suffer the consequences of a bifurcation. 21 2.2 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Okay, let's stop 23 the schedule discussion for just a minute so that I can share with you the thoughts that the committee 24 25 has on the PSA that may also then impact the timing

1 for the FSA.

2 And the first sort of overarching comment I have relates to the Plains tank site, and in several 3 4 of the sections it refers to application of the 5 conditions of certification from the October 2014 decision as applying to work to be done on the 6 7 Plains tank site. 8 It was my understanding that there's an 9 existing permit for the Plains tank site that would 10 control the development of that parcel. And I want to make sure that I'm still 11 12 understanding how all of these pieces fit together 13 because it's not clear to me in the PSA. I don't 14 need an answer today, but as we're moving forward. 15 I know that the applicant was quite clear that they don't control that parcel, it's owned by 16 17 someone else, and it has its preexisting permit. So 18 if someone can answer, they may, but I'm not 19 expecting an answer today. And I know for sure that this was discussed 20 in both the conditions related to bio and to 21 2.2 cultural resources, and I see Mr. Knight. 23 MR. KNIGHT: I think I can answer the 24 question. 25 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Come on down. The

1 price is right.

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2 MR. KNIGHT: Eric Knight, Environmental
3 Office Manager.

I think what we mean the conditions apply to the use of that site during construction of the project, they're proposing to use that for lay-down and construction worker parking. So the conditions don't apply to the future development of that site if that occurs, but the conditions apply while AES is using it for construction of the HVAC project.

11HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: And does that12also then apply to the demo of that site?

MR. KNIGHT: I would say no.

MR. SINGER: The LCP pertains to the demolition of the tank site.

HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: I'm sorry, if you could come up to the microphone and please identify yourself. Mystery guest.

MR. SINGER: Tim Singer, staff analyst for biological resources. I have the LCP right here, and the LCP pertains. The LCP was granted to Plains All-American and it pertains to demolition of the onsite tanks as well as removal of ancillary pipelines and I believe grading the site.

So anything beyond that, the conditions

1 would apply to.

2 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Okay. So I think that that needs to be clarified, then, in the 3 4 analysis contained in the FSA as you have worded it, 5 that was very unclear. MR. SINGER: I can't speak for those 6 7 sections, but biological resources section has clarified that. 8 9 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Okay. Very good. 10 So the next comment I have, then, is a very 11 specific picky one, which you expect from me. 12 On page 4.1-143 in the air quality appendix, we need to update to reflect the new 13 14 renewable portfolio standard from SB350, which is 50 15 percent not 33 percent. It still references the 33 16 percent. 17 Turning now to bio resources. 18 MR. BELL: I'm sorry. 19 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Go ahead. 20 MR. BELL: Could we have that page cite 21 again? 2.2 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: 4.1-143. 23 MR. BELL: Thank you. 24 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: That was where I 25 saw it, there may be others. I usually do a global

1 search and replace for stuff like that. 2 Biological resources brings up another 3 topic, and that's the Coastal Commission report that 4 we've received. And I know that the conclusion in 5 the bio resources section of the PSA was that no 6 further supplementation was required. In light of 7 the Coastal Commission report, are we still holding to that? 8 9 I know that the Coastal Commission believes 10 that are noise and vibration impacts and that the 11 visual enhancement, which is the spheres on the 12 cables, may result in predator roosts that could affect the nearby sanctuary. 13 14 Mr. Bell. 15 MR. BELL: Their conclusions that staff reached in the PSA are consistent with the 16 17 conclusions that staff reached in the underlying 18 licensing case as well. 19 The Coastal Commission's report, that 20 they've erroneously labeled as a 30413(d) report, 21 doesn't change any of that. Much of what the Coastal 2.2 Commission has submitted, without getting into all 23 of the report, I can say much of what they've submitted has already been addressed in the 24 25 underlying proceeding and there's no further action

1 required by staff or by the Commission to address 2 any of those concerns because all of the potential 3 adverse environmental impacts that were raised in 4 the underlying proceeding were already taken care of 5 through our conditions of certification or didn't rise to the level of creating any sort of impact or 6 7 any sort of LORS non-compliance. HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: 8 T know that during the last proceedings we got the Coastal 9 10 Commission report and I'm not going to wade into the 11 morass of 30413(d) or not. Though we also talked 12 about the Memorandum of Agreement between the 13 Coastal Commission and this agency as also affecting 14 the way in which we discuss and analyze that. 15 And so I think the committee will be looking for an analysis of the proposed mitigation 16 17 measures from the Coastal Commission report so that, 18 regardless of whether we denominate it 30413(d) or 19 however --20 MR. BELL: Subsection. HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: -- Yeah. We need 21 2.2 to address some of their concerns. 23 MR. BELL: We'll be addressing their 24 concerns -- or their comments that they filed in the 25 FSA.

HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: 1 Okay. 2 MR. BELL: And the issue, I expect we'll brief it as well --3 4 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Okay. 5 MR. BELL: -- before we get to hearing, just so the committee and everyone else has an idea 6 7 exactly where we need to be on that report. 8 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Okay. That would 9 be very helpful and we'll expect both parties to 10 weigh in on that. 11 MS. FOSTER: Yes. AES provided a comment 12 letter to the Coastal Commission when the draft report came out. We've docketed that, and we will be 13 14 providing additional response into the docket for 15 this proceeding as well. 16 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Okay. Thank you 17 very much. 18 Turning now to traffic and transportation. 19 I did not see much evidence regarding the impacts of 20 using the pedestrian walkway access if permitted by 21 the Conservancy. 2.2 I also note that the PSA says that if it's 23 not -- if the use is not permitted by the Conservancy, that it's covered by the existing 24 25 conditions. That is discussed in the project

1 description but there's not a lot of analysis of 2 that in the traffic and transportation section, so 3 maybe if you could circle back and look at that, 4 that would be helpful.

5 Also, and looking at the applicant now, 6 what is the status of discussions on using that 7 existing bridge?

8 MR. O'KANE: Hi, this is Stephen O'Kane, 9 with AES. I'll respond to that one.

No, we have not received permission from the Conservancy so it is no longer part of our plan to walk pedestrians from the Plains tank area over to the construction site, and we will continue with the original plan as per the underlying license and analysis that workers from that site would be bussed around Magnolia to Newland.

HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Okay. Does that also then mean that you're not going to be doing the roadway improvements at Magnolia and Banning?

20 MR. O'KANE: No, no. The roadway 21 improvements at Magnolia and Banning provide access 22 into the site, construction lay-down and worker 23 parking. They still need to get into that site and 24 use it, they just won't be walking across the 25 pedestrian bridge or the utility bridge that's over

20

1 the canal.

HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Okay. Because I 2 3 noted in the traffic and transportation section there was not a lot of discussion about the impacts 4 5 of those roadway improvements, saying that we would just defer to the existing conditions of 6 7 certification that were written to remediate any damage caused by heavy loads over local roads. 8 9 And I guess my question there is why wasn't 10 there any analysis, and particularly anything that 11 may be related to growth inducement? 12 Also, if you were to get an encroachment 13 permit from the City, those generally don't have any 14 environmental review, though it's my understanding 15 from previous discussions that we've had in these status conferences that this isn't part of the city 16 17 roadway master plan or anything like that, so some 18 type of analysis needs to be done to say that there 19 are no impacts or what those impacts are and how they're mitigated. 20 21 And if we are going to just say yes, you're

22 going to go get an encroachment permit, the city of 23 Huntington Beach takes care of whatever the 24 environmental impacts are, then I think that the 25 committee is going to be looking for the usual

information that staff includes, which is that there 1 is effective mitigation by that other agency, that 2 3 they will assess those impacts and that whatever 4 conditions the City would impose we impose through 5 our conditions of certification. And if there's any unmitigated impacts that we will mitigate those 6 7 ourselves. So I think the committee's going to be looking for that in traffic and transportation in 8 9 the FSA. 10 Any questions, comments? 11 MR. O'KANE: A little bit surprised about 12 that comment. Yeah. Certainly as part of the 13 discovery we did submit (inaudible) traffic 14 analysis, (inaudible) analysis including traffic 15 analysis assuming the redesign of the 16 Magnolia/Banning entrance. 17 And also discussed that there's certainly a 18 need for us to get our (inaudible) traffic planning 19 and conduct the turn lanes analysis and whatnot that 20 the City requires for their permitting process. 21 But as far as the environmental impact 2.2 analysis, I do believe that was included, perhaps 23 not written up clearly in the PSA, and I'll let 24 Stoel Rives, my counsel, maybe expand on that. 25 MS. FOSTER: Yes. Some of our PSA comments

indicated that we have provided additional traffic 1 2 analysis, as Mr. O'Kane mentioned, and we referenced 3 that initial analysis in the docket in our PSA 4 comments, as well as the proposed conditions of 5 certification that AES is willing to adhere to as well related to the new intersection, and we're 6 7 requested that staff incorporate that information into the FSA. 8 9 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Thank you.

I also would echo the comments that the applicant made regarding land use, and that is that we need to update it in light of the City's resolution, particularly because there are increased heights in this.

15 I know in Carlsbad that was a big issue 16 because the whole reason for the height limitations 17 was to protect scenic vistas, and so I want to make 18 sure that there's no bleed-over here as well for 19 visual resources, so we need to have findings 20 regarding the variance, coastal development permit, and so forth. 21 2.2 One question I am going to put out there,

and again, I don't expect an answer today, is regarding the water supply assessment and how does Water Code Section 10910(h) apply, if at all.

1 Subsection (h) says, "Notwithstanding any 2 other provision of this part, if a project has been 3 the subject of a water supply assessment that 4 complies with the requirements of this part, no 5 additional water supply assessment shall be required," and then there are some conditions on 6 7 that. 8 But we did do a water supply assessment 9 last time, so it seems as though we could have 10 escaped having to do the analysis that staff did 11 this time, which I appreciate by the way. 12 Also, I couldn't find any discussion of wetlands in bio, in soil and water, or anywhere 13 14 else, and so that troubled me a little bit, 15 particularly in light of the Coastal Commission's 16 comments. 17 MR. BELL: I'd like to address that 18 quickly. In the underlying license proceeding there 19 were no wetlands found on the project site. There's no information that's before staff that would change 20 21 that previous determination. 2.2 I know the Coastal Commission has a 23 different view on that, and also that they have a different view on what constitutes the actual 24 25 project site. Even at the very beginning of their

1 report they reference the 60-acre project site. I'm 2 sure the committee is well aware that the project 3 site is nowhere near 60 acres.

So there are no wetlands on the project site and no wetlands that would be affected by this project, and nothing has changed from the underlying licensing proceeding until now.

8 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Okay. So I'm 9 assuming, then, that this will be part of how we 10 address the report from the Coastal Commission.

MR. BELL: We'll be responsive to their comments.

13 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Okay. Thank you. 14 Finally, turning to alternatives. I'm sure 15 you've all seen the Cal ISO letter of August 10 that talks about the fact that they believe there is 16 17 merit to having clutch capability at Huntington 18 Beach, and that the project site could be designed to accommodate clutch installation in the future 19 20 should the need arise.

And I just want to make sure that that is at least mentioned, discussed, somehow put forward. I know that that won't be part of the combined cycle, I think that this is referring specifically to simple cycle for the reasons that Mr. O'Kane has 1 been very clear about in our prior discussions on 2 synchronous condensers that I won't mention so it 3 won't cause him to speak out again.

MR. O'KANE: Appreciate that.
HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: I heard your

6 message loud and clear.

So that was all the comments we have. So now that you know what our comments are, let's go back to the schedule discussion that we were having. And I'm not sure where we're going to shake out on bifurcation or not bifurcation, but I'm going to again ask the question.

I know Mr. Layton would prefer us not to bifurcate but if we were to, I guess my question would be how long to prepare everything except for public health and air quality, taking applicant's contention and putting it aside as well?

18 MR. BELL: On the subject of bifurcation, I 19 know Mr. Layton from his perspective as the office 20 manager for the engineering department - he does 21 have some real concerns about bifurcation.

HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: I'm sorry. MR. BELL: He does have some real concern about bifurcation and how that would affect his staff. I can say from experience, I've been
involved in proceedings where we've bifurcated
before, and I can say that nothing good has come
from bifurcation. It does not advance the schedule.
In fact, it has the effect of delaying the schedule.
We could put out part of a document at one point and
then part of a document at another time.

8 That also creates other issues. We have 9 more docket entries as we go along in the docket. 10 Makes it much more confusing for third parties and 11 sometimes even for the parties themselves to wade 12 through the docket and through the evidentiary 13 proceedings.

And on the issue of evidentiary proceedings, when we bifurcate on issues, oftentimes we will have contested issues in both segments of the evidentiary hearings.

18 I think the only time that bifurcation would make sense, if we had a chunk of the 19 proceeding that has no controversy and no issues 20 21 whatsoever and a chunk that does have controversy 2.2 and issues. But you still end up with the problem of 23 multiple docket entries over time and multiple 24 hearings as well. 25 As the committee knows, we have a fairly

1 strong contingent of local folks who have been 2 following this down in Huntington Beach. One of the missions of the Commission is to involve local 3 4 communities. If we bifurcate we're looking at multiple hearings, possibly in that community if we 5 want to carry on the mission of involving that local 6 7 community, which is more time and more expense for everybody involved. 8

9 What it comes down to, if you look at all 10 the advantages versus disadvantages, the 11 disadvantages of bifurcating far outweigh the 12 advantages.

Of course, there could be other reasons to bifurcate which has to do with possible timing issues for the applicant in what they have to do on their end, but from staff's perspective, we don't see the advantage of bifurcate.

18 That being said, if the committee does 19 prefer to bifurcate we'll do everything we can to 20 meet our schedule in that.

HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Is it possible to then shorten the 30 day request so that while we're waiting for the FDOC from South Coast the rest of the document could be written, and then it would just be however much time it takes to incorporate

1 the FDOC into air quality and public health? 2 MR. BELL: Well, of course from the times 3 that we're waiting for another agency to contribute their part -- for example, the Air District we're 4 waiting on the FDOC -- that doesn't mean that we're 5 not working other sections. Much of what we've 6 7 written from the PDOC should roll over to the FDOC in much the same form that it already is. 8 9 The 30 days that we typically ask for, that 10 we almost always ask for from the time that an FDOC 11 is completed to the time that we publish the FSA is 12 strictly for internal management of staff resources. We have different levels of review that we have to 13 14 do before we get a document out, and 30 days is 15 really the minimum time that we can do that 16 comfortably. 17 That's not to say the staff can't go forward uncomfortably if another schedule is 18 19 absolutely necessary, and of course staff will do 20 everything they can to meet whatever schedule is met 21 as best we can with the resources we have available. 2.2 But 30 days is typically what we ask for. 23 If a shorter time is set by the committee, staff 24 will do everything they can to meet that shorter timeframe. 25

HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: And I look to specifically the suggestion that the applicant made that an FSA could be produced and then errata issued once the FDOC is released by South Coast.

5 MR. BELL: Of course, I'm loath to refer to 6 it as an errata because an errata of course is 7 correcting errors, so we wouldn't be filing an 8 errata. If we had to we'd file a supplement to 9 whatever we have in the FSA, or an amended FSA.

But again, we're still waiting for that final word from the Air District before we do anything. It really doesn't make sense to put out a document and then wait and wait and wait until we get something final, you know, whereas if we wait just an extra week or two, we could have the final document all docketed at the same time.

It just makes for a cleaner record and I think it's much easier to process like that instead of piecemealing staff's analysis.

20 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: My experience the 21 last, and maybe the only time that I've been 22 involved in one that got bifurcated, it was kind of 23 a cluster. It really required amendments and 24 amendments and changes and changes and then at the 25 Business Meeting we were reading in final changes. 1 It was just not a fun thing.

2 So, personally I'd be hoping to avoid that. 3 It just makes life easier for everybody and 4 decreases the risk I think generally, so I would 5 like to make it simple.

6 But I also wish Mr. Layton was 7 participating and sitting here. I think having as 8 much of the document on deck so that we can kind of 9 work around the FDOC and push it across the finish 10 line and get it out as soon thereafter as possible 11 should be our goal. And what those dates are I think 12 we should decide on.

MR. BELL: I don't recall if I was the attorney on the case that you had that bifurcated, but I can tell you that your experience has been my consistent experience in those cases that I've worked on that were bifurcated, it really doesn't help.

19 It may get parts of the project over the 20 finish line a little faster, but I don't see an 21 advancement in scheduling. I certainly don't see it 22 making for a cleaner record.

MS. FOSTER: And to clarify the position of the applicant. We wouldn't be asking to bifurcate the hearings or that sort of thing, we would just be

asking for the FSA that's supposed to come out on 1 2 Monday but for the absence of the FDOC to be 3 published as soon as possible, and like the previous 4 proceeding, when the FDOC is issued it's 5 incorporated in however it's necessary. We only went through -- we did have two 6 7 days of hearing last time but not because of a bifurcation issue but because of a timing schedule 8 9 issue and flight issues. 10 But that would be the request, is to see 11 staff's analysis as soon as possible to make sure we 12 stick on schedule. 13 And also to the schedule is on the back end 14 from the time the FSA is issued going into 15 testimony, prehearing conference and the scheduling of the evidentiary hearings and the PMPD timing, we 16 17 would want those dates that were in the issued schedule condensed as well. 18 19 MR. BELL: I can point out one thing, 20 though. The difference between the underlying 21 proceeding and now with respect to air quality is I 2.2 understand there have been some changes in the 23 modeling that's now being used by the Air District. 2.4 I recall during the underlying license 25 proceeding that there didn't appear to be issues

1 with the Air District, and I think in that case that 2 staff felt more comfortable putting out what we 3 believed was what was going to mesh with what the 4 Air District was doing.

5 Staff's not in that same position at this 6 point; there has been a change in the air quality, 7 at least by the Air District, and staff is much less 8 comfortable doing that.

9 There are also noticing issues as well. If 10 we were to put out an FSA with what we think will 11 mesh with what the Air District is proposing, and 12 the Air District indeed comes out with an FDOC after 13 that, we would have to supplement our FSA with any 14 new information we get from the Air District, and 15 that would have to be out for comment period before 16 we get to hearings. The last thing we want to do is 17 create an issue for a third party to come in and say 18 we didn't have enough time to consider this.

But I can say that staff is working diligently to meet the schedule as best we can, and is rather enthusiastic to get this out.

MR. KNIGHT: Hearing Officer Cochran, if I
 could just make one comment?
 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Yes, Mr. Knight.

25

MR. KNIGHT: Thank you. Eric Knight again.

CALIFORNIA REPORTING, LLC 229 Napa St. Rodeo, CA 94572 (510) 313-0610 So I wanted to assure the committee and AES that staff is working on the FSA for Huntington. We're not waiting, at least my staff is not waiting for the FDOC, it doesn't affect our technical disciplines.

But as what's already been mentioned here 6 7 is that these documents require a lot of review by a lot of people and that includes the managers, and 8 9 the managers right now are reviewing three other 10 documents that we're trying to publish, one of those 11 being the other AES project, Alamitos. We're 12 committed to try and publish by the end of the 13 month.

We also have Palmdale FSA that's due next week, and then there's also the Pomona draft initial study. So there are a lot of documents that are in review right now that we're trying to get out, but staff is working on Huntington Beach, and so we will do our best to get our ducks lined up in a row and ready when the FDOC is finally published.

21 Thank you.
22 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: So it sounds like
23 there are many things in the FSA in whatever
24 sections that you will need to respond to
25 (inaudible); it sounds like there is concerns, is

1 that fair?

2	MS. FOSTER: I think the concern is with
3	the schedule that was issued in early July, the
4	timing post FSA. Of concern is if the FSA slips too
5	far beyond the August 22nd date and if the dates
6	that are in the current order stay, it's about six
7	weeks to PMPD from evidentiary hearings, we will not
8	have a final decision in November of '16, which is
9	absolutely critical for the project as Stephen has
10	noted at the beginning of the status conference.
11	So our concern is the longer it takes the
12	FSA, we know that the other dates trail along that
13	as well, so if there's a way to condense those dates
14	of the hearing phase, the timing for submission of
15	testimony, hearing, and the timing to PMPD on the
16	back end if the FSA comes out a little later, that
17	would be fine as long as we can have a decision this
18	year.
19	COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah, it seems
20	like there's a lot hinging on when the FDOC comes
21	out, so I guess (inaudible), so it would be nice if
22	we have some better idea of when the FDOC might be
23	released.
24	Mr. Lee, I'm not going to put you on the
25	spot to give us a date now, but if you could maybe

1 do a little bit of planning and figure out what the 2 likely timeframe is, that would be helpful, I think, 3 for us to know.

MR. LEE: We are still on. Indeed we will look at our resources as well and we are working on it very diligently to get that FDOC and we have been working overtime and I believe (inaudible) as well, so we are trying the best we can.

9 Unfortunately, as you mentioned earlier, 10 the AES Alamitos facility as well, we just received 11 the public comments August 9th, so we have been 12 working on that as well and we are very consistent 13 in regard to the questions that were asked by 14 Helping Hand Tools for the Alamitos project, so 15 we're trying to work with them currently.

Hopefully, the Alamitos will be done almost 16 17 at the same moment as the Huntington Beach facility, 18 so I'm not sure if that's good news or not for 19 Stephen O'Kane, but we are trying to work as 20 diligently as possible and we will try at the next 21 monthly update to give you a better idea of the time 2.2 we believe we would have it completed. 23 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay. Thanks very

24 much.

25

MR. LEE: Sure.

1 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I wanted to just 2 quickly go back to make sure we've bottomed out in 3 terms of alternatives to how we want to move 4 forward, any alternatives at staff level.

5 And Mr. O'Kane, I'm not going (inaudible) 6 problems, but I think we do need to (inaudible) to 7 the PUC and some of the issues there related to the 8 PUC's job and I think we do have to work in concert 9 so that we don't have a disconnect that requires us 10 to bounce back and forth between agencies.

11 So anyway, I wanted to just sort of express 12 my interest in seeing a little bit of the bigger 13 picture here and understanding the position of our 14 sister agency and to the extent that it relates to 15 our work here.

HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Mr. Layton.

16

MR. LAYTON: Commissioner McAllister, this is Matt Layton. We've tried to address the clutches inside the siting cases. So what are we missing that you think we could provide? Because we were so stuck on is there a need.

22 Obviously it's a commonsense thing to do, 23 but the need assessment is still not something we 24 do, so we've been hard pressed to say yes, you 25 should put this clutch in because it's needed,

1 because we can't say it's needed. So we've 2 struggled. 3 Is there some thought that you think that 4 we could -- how can we address this inside of a 5 citing case? HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: I think it's more 6 7 in the site plan to leave space between the simple cycle structures to put the synchronous condensers 8 9 in. 10 I don't think that this gets to the 11 question of Cal ISO specifically said that in their 12 current transmission system planning that there is no need for additional synchronous generation, but 13 that they also know that this plant will have a 14 15 longer useful life than ten years. 16 And so they want to make sure that as that 17 planning horizon continues to move and the economic 18 useful life of this facility moves along with it, that the facility is flexible enough to be able to 19 20 accommodate whatever those changes in technology may 21 be. 2.2 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: So to split that 23 into slightly different terms. We looked at the transmission plan and we wrote a letter saying, 24 25 look, has anything changed and essentially no,

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1 however, we are looking ten years out and this 2 things going to go beyond that, so commonsense 3 dictates that it ought to be able to accommodate 4 that.

5 So I'm not implying on need, that's really 6 the PUC's job, but if they -- let's say years down 7 the road the simple cycle piece starts to get 8 implemented, can that site accommodate what -- and 9 let's say, just for conjecture, that PUC wants to 10 sort of include that in there.

11 Well, it would be nice to know that that 12 looks like in an anticipatory way versus having to redo the whole project. We should be thinking about 13 that (inaudible) ideas rather than just sort of 14 15 letting the chips fall ten or fifteen years down the road, so I think it's worth thinking about now. But 16 17 what simple things could be done on this site to 18 make it more responsive to future realities that we 19 don't know right now.

20 MR. LAYTON: I had forgotten that the 21 simple cycles may not get built right away. I think 22 in our looking at it, you would be hard pressed to 23 install, build a simple cycle with space in between 24 to put a clutch in later. We don't think that would 25 be practical, because by the time you put in the 1 spacer, an extra long shaft and maybe some support, 2 you might as well put the clutch in. So it's hard to 3 say you design it and build it with the anticipation 4 of putting a clutch in later.

However, I think what you're asking is, is there 20 more feet that you could, when you finally do decide to configure and build this, that you could actually have 20 more feet to expand it. That, I think we can address.

And I think it's pretty straightforward because it's a pretty disturbed site and therefore, the conditions that we're applying, I think would just apply for that 20 foot additional foundation and moving the generator foundation.

15 From an environmental review standpoint, 16 obviously the cost and the need is up to the 17 applicant.

18 MS. FOSTER: This is Melissa Foster and 19 I'll let Stephen speak as well, but I just want to reiterate in our PSA comments we appreciated the 20 informational information about the clutches in the 21 2.2 alternative section, but we just want to reiterate 23 the point that there's been no impacts that have been identified that require mitigation or clutches 24 25 to be installed or even evaluated as an alternative 1 to the project.

There's no significant impacts associated with this project that would necessitate a change in design or addition of a clutch to even a portion of the project down the road.

6 Stephen, is there anything else you would 7 like to add?

8 MR. O'KANE: Yeah, I think we have to, 9 Commissioner McAllister said we need to take a look 10 at the bigger picture. We have to understand how in 11 parallel procurement, planning and procurement 12 process in this whole siting case, so you are -- we have not talked at all about (inaudible) what are 13 the other technologies that could provide the same 14 15 sort of particular condenser? Battery storage? How 16 about the existing generators that are there today 17 and already operating, could they remain in 18 operation?

I think it's completely out of the scope of this Committee and this (inaudible) to sort dictate the technical specifications of the project if there is no defined impact or need. So doing what ifs or what sort of engineering specifics we'd have in five or six years when it comes time to build would probably never be built without procurement and the

procurement is going to dictate the design and the 1 2 need that the utilities and the system 3 administrators want. 4 (inaudible) by Cal ISO is merely 5 speculation and has no technical need and a ten year report may or may not be deemed. So I think this is 6 7 a highly inappropriate discussion, quite frankly, for this siting committee. 8 9 MR. KNIGHT: I'd just like to add and echo 10 what Ms. Foster had mentioned. 11 In response to the committee's request to 12 address clutches in these proceedings, we have stuck that analysis in the alternatives section because we 13 14 didn't know where else to put it. But it's not truly 15 like a CEQA alternative. It was an identified impact 16 that we were going to try to avoid or lessen. So we 17 just put it there because we didn't know where else 18 to stick it. 19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okav. This is Matt Layton again. I 20 MR. LAYTON: 21 agree with Mr. O'Kane that I don't know what's going 2.2 to happen in five years, but I think the committee 23 is asking could you, staff, do an analysis of 24 potential clutch. 25 I think we can. We're not making any

assertions about whether it's needed, viable,
 economic or anything like that.

3 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And I certainly 4 acknowledge that there was some uncertainty here. I 5 mean what is the market (inaudible) going forward. There are lots of, certainly with all due respect, 6 7 Mr. O'Kane, I agree with parts of what you said, but I also said as a public servant and trying to figure 8 9 out how to anticipate what things are going to be, I think it's actually not a far off bet to -- you 10 11 know, we're all struggling with reliability, we're 12 all struggling with system issues. We're all across the agencies talking about these issues around 13 14 planning.

15 And so while you're correct that 16 procurement will dictate the details of any given 17 project, if we limit ourselves by not doing 18 commonsense things with a relatively low cost, we 19 may not be talking about the same levels of cost, but our understanding of what's an appropriate cost 20 21 might be different. But I think if we don't have 2.2 some of this conversation to think about what are 23 probably relatively likely possibilities in the future as we move forward toward highly renewable 2.4 25 systems, when we're not doing ourselves any favors. So this isn't how I think we need to looking at here, obviously that's the PUC, but if they find themselves wanting to do something and they cannot physically because of limited planning now, then that won't be a good thing.

6 So nobody's saying we're going to force you 7 to put in a clutch today, but if there are 8 relatively simple, relatively low cost things that 9 can be planned for and not implemented today but 10 planned for and we keep the option open, then that's 11 a good thing. And I think hopefully you would agree 12 with that statement.

MR. O'KANE: Well, we've listened to the last hour. We saw the train wreck coming with (inaudible) tight schedules. That sort of analysis and design if it does anything to change that footprint takes the schedule way off track. Let's keep that in mind.

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thanks, duly
20 noted.

So anybody have anything else to say about the schedule? Do we think we have enough information to (inaudible) into the last schedule? MR. BELL: At some point will the hearing officer be requesting availability of the parties? I

1 just want to make sure that everyone is available 2 when we need to be, or not. HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: I think at this 3 point it's going to be more in the nature of a once 4 5 this, then that type of schedule, because not having any idea when the FDOC may be coming out, I don't 6 7 know how, even if we accepted applicant's suggestion that we issue the FSA now and then some sort of 8 9 amendment, addenda, supplemental, subsequent 10 supplement to the FSA --11 MR. BELL: As long as you don't call it an 12 errata. 13 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: I carefully didn't, I used all my other favorite CEQA words 14 15 instead. That I don't know how we schedule or even start thinking about an evidentiary hearings. 16 17 If South Coast had said we're going to have 18 the FDOC out by August 31 or September 4 or pick a 19 date, then I think I would be saying what does 20 everyone's calendar look like this week. 21 I understand the applicant's need to have a 2.2 decision by the end of this year, but I also 23 understand that this committee has a need to put out a full and complete PMPD, and that does take time. 24 25 Much the same way that staff takes time to do its

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1 writing and review, I also take time to write and 2 review, and that's just how it is. So to continually shorten the amount of time I have with that, I 3 4 learned fool me once, shame on me. 5 So at this point I don't know what the schedule is going to look like except probably 6 7 if/then because, again, it's too unknown and unknowable at this point, I think, unless someone 8 9 has a crystal ball they didn't bring and aren't 10 showing. 11 I see Mr. Salamy reaching into his coat 12 pocket. So I think that's where we are. 13 If parties do know of times that they won't 14 be available - I think you could find somebody that 15 says I know already I'm not going to be available the last two weeks of November because I'm going to 16 17 Italy for Thanksgiving. But let us know -- not me 18 personally, that was an if -- then we'll take it from there. 19 20 MR. LAYTON: Hearing Office Cochran? HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: 21 Yes. 2.2 MR. LAYTON: This is Matt Layton. I thought 23 the schedule AES had indicated that it was December for both projects. I'm now hearing that Huntington 24 25 Beach they would like to have done by November,

otherwise their schedule falls apart. I guess I 1 2 would hope for clarity on that. 3 And I still hope that AES could provide 4 some direction if there is a priority, a preference, 5 or if there is no preference or priority between the two projects, it would help staff. Or they don't 6 7 have to help staff, I guess. HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: I think it would 8 9 help the committee. 10 MR. O'KANE: Stephen O'Kane again. Well, they're on the same schedule. They've got the same 11 12 spring 2020 and the same very tight window for 13 (inaudible) work to be done in the winter of '19/'20. They have essentially the same schedule so 14 15 call it November, call it end of year. December 31st is like our drop dead date for both of those 16 17 projects. 18 Yeah, it does mean overtime and weekends 19 and paying for consultants, all those things are 20 going to have to be done. It's been done before. 21 Energy crisis 2001 (inaudible) out in six months or 2.2 we're not going to do it now. Either that or do we 23 start writing letters looking at the alternatives if those units are not online by that time? 24 25 My hair's on fire here, guys. I don't know

1 what else I can say. 2 HEARING OFFICER COCHRAN: Understood. 3 Anything else? 4 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Do we have any 5 members of the public? I don't see any in the room, but on the phone or online, do we have any members 6 7 of the public that would like to comment? 8 (Inaudible) Everybody's unmuted so go ahead 9 and speak. 10 Okay, not hearing any members of the public 11 who want to speak, so thanks everybody for coming. 12 We will - do we have any timetable of when we're going to get the schedule out? So we're going to 13 give ourselves until the end of next week to put out 14 15 a new amended schedule, updated schedule, and so we'll need a few days to figure it out. Appreciate 16 17 everybody in the conversation and trying to be 18 flexible going forward. Certainly we'll (inaudible) 19 this thing (inaudible) as soon as possible. I see 20 (inaudible) nodding his head vigorously there. 21 Once again, thanks very much for coming. 2.2 (Adjourned at 12:06 p.m.) 23 2.4 25 **REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE**

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