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| Docket Number: | 19-SPPE-02 |
| Project Title: | Walsh Data Center |
| TN #: | 229507 |
| Document Title: | Memo Regarding Issues Identification and Proposed Schedule for the Walsh Data Center Small Power Plant Exemption |
| Description: | N/A |
| Filer: | Patty Paul |
| Organization: | California Energy Commission |
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Memorandum

To: Commissioner Karen Douglas, Presiding Member
Commissioner Patty Monahan, Associate Member

Date: August 22, 2019

From: **California Energy Commission**
1516 Ninth Street
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Leonidas Payne
Project Manager
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Subject: **ISSUES IDENTIFICATION AND PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR THE WALSH DATA CENTER SMALL POWER PLANT EXEMPTION (19-SPPE-02)**

In its August 15, 2019 order (“Notice of Committee Conference and Related Orders”), the Walsh Data Center SPPE Committee ordered Energy Commission staff to file a proposed schedule for its evaluation of the proposed project and an Issues Identification Report summarizing the major issues identified to date.

At this time staff is unaware of any specific issues the Walsh project presents which cannot be resolved. Staff has issued data requests and anticipates responses from the applicant by August 23, 2019 or shortly thereafter. Staff will update the Committee at the August 29, 2019 status conference as to whether the additional information provided in response to the data requests raises any issues or requires any follow up data requests.

In conjunction with obtaining additional information, staff is developing its initial study to determine the appropriate environmental document and whether mitigation, beyond what is already incorporated into the project, is recommended. If additional mitigation is recommended, consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act, staff will work with the applicant to incorporate the additional mitigation into the project. Given the nature of the project and its location, staff does not anticipate any impacts that cannot be mitigated, but will update the Committee if that changes.

Because staff is currently completing the discovery phase and in the process of developing the initial study, a definitive schedule is difficult to determine at this point. It has been staff’s experience that project delays most commonly occur as a result of project description changes—either identified by the applicant post-filing, or in response to data requests made by staff. The proposed schedule reflects this inherent uncertainty in the process and may be updated at the August 29th status conference.

Staff's Proposed Schedule

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| Application materials docketed | 6/28/19 |
| Notice of Receipt and agency coordination letters docketed | 7/12/19 |
| Committee named at Business Meeting | 7/15/19 |
| Tribal consultation letters docketed | 7/26/19 |
| Staff Data Requests docketed | 8/8/19 |
| Data Request responses expected from applicant | 8/23/19 |
| 60-day deadline for staff to file Data Requests (Section 1941) | 8/26/19 |
| Status Conference | 8/29/19 |
| Mitigation resolution workshop (if needed) | TBD |
| Initial Study publication | TBD |
| Deadline for comments on the Initial Study (30 days per CEQA) | TBD |
| Opening Testimony due | TBD* |
| Reply Testimony due | TBD |
| Prehearing Conference | TBD |
| Evidentiary Hearing | TBD |
| Committee Proposed Decision | TBD |
| Commission Decision at Business Meeting | TBD |

*Staff expects that it would respond to any substantive comments received on the Initial Study as part of its Opening Testimony, and recommends that at least 10 working days following the CEQA commenting deadline be allotted for this purpose.