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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

STATE ENERGY RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

OTAY MESA ENERGY CENTER

Docket No. 99-AFC-05C

ORDER AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF
FUNDS FROM THE OTAY MESA
PROJECT QUINO CHECKERSPOT
BUTTERFLY ENDOWMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

On April 18, 2001, the Energy Commission approved the Otay Mesa Generating Project, which was subsequently renamed the Otay Mesa Energy Center, a 510 megawatt gas-fired combined-cycle power plant located in San Diego County. Among other things, the Commission decision identified a potential significant adverse environmental impact to the federally endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) and required mitigation in the form of an endowment (called the Otay Mesa Project Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Endowment) to be used to better understand the species and provide for its management. This mitigation was contained in Condition of Certification **BIO-11** and required the Energy Commission to approve any dispersal of funds from the endowment.

On August 8, 2018, Energy Commission staff received a request from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to release endowment funds for work related to the ongoing San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Augmentation Project. Specifically, the Energy Commission is being asked to release \$21,130.62 of the endowment funds to pay RECON Environmental to perform activities in compliance with **BIO-11**, including vegetation treatment to prepare a site for Quino checkerspot butterfly release. The goal is to reduce the weed and thatch cover in order to provide space for the growth of host plants and room for Quino larvae to bask and move within the environment. On November 29, 2018, staff filed its analysis and recommendation that

the Energy Commission approve the request. Staff concluded that the expenditure would not have the potential to result in any significant adverse environmental impact.

II. ENERGY COMMISSION FINDINGS

Based on the entire record, including staff's analysis and recommendation, the Energy Commission finds that the requested expenditure of funds from the Otay Mesa Project Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Endowment is in furtherance of the objectives expressed in **BIO-11**, will benefit the Quino checkerspot butterfly, and will not result in any significant adverse impacts to the environment.

III. CONCLUSION AND ORDER

The California Energy Commission hereby approves staff's recommendation to release \$21,130.62 from the Otay Mesa Project Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Endowment to pay RECON Environmental to perform activities related to the continued implementation of the project, as described above and in staff's analysis.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretariat to the Commission does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the California Energy Commission held on December 10, 2018.

AYE: Weisenmiller, Douglas, McAllister, Hochschild, Scott

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None



Cody Goldthrite
Secretariat