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REVIEW OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION – STARWOOD POWER-MIDWAY, LLC PEAKING PROJECT, FRESNO COUNTY

On 12 December 2006, Regional Water Board staff received the California Energy Commission's request to review the Application for Certification (AFC) from Starwood Power-Midway, LLC to construct and operate a simple-cycle (peaking) power plant, the Starwood-Midway Project, in western Fresno County.

Regional Water Board staff has reviewed the AFC and has the following comments:

- 1) The AFC acknowledges that a surface impoundment (pond) will be constructed for the disposal of wastewater, and a Report of Waste Discharge will be submitted to the Regional Water Board early in the design process so Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) can be obtained prior to the planned date of plant startup. Based on the estimated wastewater quality data (Table 5.5-10 in the AFC), the pond would need to be designed and constructed according to the criteria in Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations.
- 2) Selenium concentrations in western Fresno County groundwater can be high. No information is provided about the concentration levels of selenium in the three possible water supply sources. No estimate of the wastewater selenium concentration is provided in Table 5.5-10 of the AFC.
- 3) If a groundwater supply is conveyed to the power plant, then the selenium level of wastewater in the pond is likely to be high enough to pose a threat to wildlife, especially as evaporation of pond wastewater occurs during prolonged periods when the plant is idle. It may be necessary to install netting over the pond to protect wildlife.
- 4) If a groundwater supply is conveyed to the power plant and it has a sufficiently high selenium level, then the selenium concentration of pond wastewater could increase to the hazardous

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level listed in Section 66261.24(a)(2) of Title 22, California Code of Regulations, especially as evaporation of pond wastewater occurs during prolonged periods when the plant is idle.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (559) 445-5114 or dwachtell@waterboards.ca.gov.



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FAX COVER SHEET

To: Che McFarlin

From: Douglas Wachtell

Re: Comments - AFC, Starwood Power-Midway Project

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