

## Memorandum

**Date:** August 8, 2008  
**Telephone:** (916) 651-0966

**To:** Karen Douglas, Commissioner and Presiding Member  
Jeffrey D. Byron, Commissioner and Associate Member

**From:** California Energy Commission – Shaelyn Strattan  
1516 Ninth Street Project Manager  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

**Subject:** Beacon Solar Energy Project (08-AFC-2) STATUS REPORT 1

Pursuant to the Committee Scheduling Order dated June 18, 2008, the following is staff's Status Report 1 for the proposed Beacon Solar Energy Project (Beacon).

### **Current Issues and Activities**

Staff continues to analyze the Application for Certification (AFC) for the proposed Beacon project.

- On June 9, 2008, staff and all other parties participated in an informational and advice teleconference with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game regarding raven monitoring and control plans and potential issues relating to migratory birds, ravens, and the three evaporation ponds proposed for the project. The information and discussion will assist all parties in the understanding and development of potential mitigation strategies.
- Staff's Data Requests Round 1 were filed on June 17, 2008 and the applicant's Data Responses were filed July 17, 2008. An Issues Resolution and Data Response workshop was held in California City on July 22, 2008. The applicant has requested and been granted additional time to respond to nine of the data requests, including information regarding mitigation for special status species, migratory birds, desert tortoise and ravens, with ranges and habits that may be affected by the project.
- In response to workshop discussions, the applicant is working to provide additional information regarding relocation of a stream channel and a mitigation design intended to be comparable to sheet flow, to prevent impacts to adjacent properties and biological resources. Staff is reviewing the material provided to date and will reflect the need for additional clarification or information in the upcoming Data Requests Round 2. A Streambed Alteration Agreement application has been submitted by the applicant.
- Staff is preparing Data Requests Round 2, which is expected to be issued in mid-August. At this time, requests for information are expected in the areas of Soils and Water, Biology, and Socioeconomics.

- Staff is currently working to schedule a public workshop in late August to address special status species mitigation and the proposed stream channel relocation (Streambed Alteration Agreement). Participants are expected to include representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game, as well as the applicant and Energy Commission staff.

**Project Manager Transition**

Bill Pfanner has accepted a promotion outside the Siting Division and will be transferring the duties of Beacon Project Manager to Shaelyn Strattan. Ms. Strattan can be contacted at (916) 651-0966 or by email at mstratta@energy.state.ca.us.

**Staff's Proposed Schedule**

Staff is now working towards the following revised schedule based upon this current information:

**STAFF'S PROPOSED SCHEDULE  
 BEACON SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT (08-AFC-2)**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
3/14/08	Applicant files Application for Certification (AFC)
5/7/08	Decision on Data Adequacy at the Business Meeting
6/11/08	Informational Hearing and Site Visit
6/17/08	Staff files 1st Round Data Requests
7/17/08	Applicant provides Data Responses (round 1)
7/21/08	Data Response and Issue Resolution Workshop (round 1)
8/8/08	Status Report #1
8/15/08	Staff files Data Requests (round 2, if necessary)
9/3/08	Local, state and federal agency draft determinations, including PDOC from KCAPCD
9/15/08	Applicant provides Data Responses (round 2, if necessary)
9/25/08	Data Response and Issue Resolution Workshop (round 2)
9/30/08	Status Report #2
10/30/08	Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) filed
11/15/08	PSA workshop(s)
11/3/08	Local, state and federal agency final determinations, including FDOC from KCAPCD
11/21/08	Status Report #3
TBD	Final Staff Assessment filed
TBD	Pre-Hearing Conference

Proof of Service List  
 Docket