State Of California

The Resources Agency of California

# Memorandum

Date : March 6, 2002
Telephone: (916) 651-8839
File: 01-AFC-17

To : Commissioner Robert Pernell, Presiding Member
Commissioner James Boyd, Associate Member

01-AFC-17

CALIF ENERGY COMMISSION

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From : California Energy Commission - Jim Bartridge
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
Siting Project Manager

Subject : **INLAND EMPIRE ENERGY CENTER PROJECT (01-AFC-17)**
**1st STATUS REPORT**

On January 14, 2002, staff published the Issue Identification Report for the Inland Empire Energy Center Project identifying project-related potentially significant environmental issues in the areas of Air Quality, Land Use, Power Plant Efficiency, Socieoeconomics, and Water Resources. Data Requests for the project were also issued on January 14th. The status of those issues are updated within this report, with the exception of Power Plant Efficiency, which staff has issued Data Requests for and believes that response information supplied by the applicant is adequate. On January 30, 2002, an Informational Hearing and Site Visit was held in the local community; approximate attendance was 200 persons. The Committee issued a Scheduling Order on February 14, 2002, and staff is conducting its analysis of the project and has not identified any issues or concerns that will affect its ability to meet the Committee's schedule at this time. The following is a summary of project activities that have occurred since the preparation of the Issue Identification Report.

## DATA REQUESTS AND RESPONSES

On January 14, 2002, staff issued 161 data requests in the areas of air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geological and paleontological resources, land use, noise, power plant efficiency and reliability, public health, soil and water resources, transmission systems engineering, and visual resources. The applicant has provided the majority of its data responses in separate filings on February 13th and 21st, and requested additional time to respond to a limited number of requests in the areas of air quality, noise, soil and water resources, and visual resources. An additional data response filing is anticipated on March 13th. Staff will evaluate the need for an additional workshop or a second round of data requests after the March 13th filing by the applicant.

In addition, the applicant objected to a number of data requests in the areas of cultural resources, soil and water resources, and visual resources on the grounds that the information was not reasonably available, relevant to the application, or reasonably necessary to make a decision on the application. Staff will reassess the need for the requested information and determine what appropriate additional action is necessary after review of the applicant's March 13th data response filing.

PROOF OF SERVICE ( REVISED 2/1/02 ) FILED WITH
ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 3-6-02
K.A.M.

## WORKSHOP

Staff held an evening Data Response/ Issue Resolution workshop at the Eastern Municipal Water District in Perris on February 26, 2002. Staff explained its analysis methodology and exchanged information with the applicant, intervenors, and members of the public in the areas of air quality, hazardous materials, land use, noise, and public health. In addition, staff explained its analysis approach to issues of environmental justice.

Workshop attendance included representatives from intervening parties: Romoland School District and California Unions for Reliable Energy (CURE). However, despite news releases from the Media & Public Communications Office and outreach from the Public Adviser's Office, less than 25 members of the public were in attendance.

## ISSUES

### AIR QUALITY

Previously identified potentially critical air quality issues included: 1) potentially significant construction impacts; 2) achieving requirements for the best available control technology (BACT); and, 3) acquisition of emission reduction credits (ERCs or offsets). Staff issued thirty-three air quality data requests and has indicated that data response information received from the applicant on February 13th and February 21st is generally adequate. Staff will continue to consult with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) regarding BACT and ERC issues.

At the Data Response/ Issues Resolution Workshop on February 26, staff explored the possible use of more localized meteorological information available from March Air Force Base to perform additional air quality modeling. The applicant noted their willingness to perform additional modeling if staff could demonstrate completeness of the data and its conformance with SCAQMD's requirements. Staff will consult with SCAQMD regarding the use and appropriateness of additional meteorological information.

### LAND USE

On March 5, 2002, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to review and discuss a letter to the Energy Commission supporting the proposed IEEC project. The letter is expected to contain proposed project conditions and the County's opinion regarding the project's consistency with existing uses and land use regulations. The action is scheduled as Item 3.33 on the Supervisors' Policy Calendar at:

http://www.co.riverside.ca.us/depts/brdofsup/agendas/current.htm

Romoland School District representatives participated in the discussion and asked questions of both staff and the applicant at the Data Response/ Issue Resolution

Workshop on February 26, 2002. As noted in the Issue Identification Report, staff will address the proximity of the proposed plant to the existing elementary school, potential health and safety impacts to students, and restrictions on the future siting of additional schools in the project vicinity.

## SOCIOECONOMICS

Staff has determined that a minority population of 45 percent is present within a six-mile radius of the proposed IEEC project site with some census tracts nearest to the plant containing minority populations of greater than 50 percent. Staff will conduct a focused environmental justice analysis in the areas of Air Quality, Public Health, Traffic and Transportation, Noise, Hazardous Materials, Visual Resources, Water Resources, Land Use, Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance, Waste Management, and Socioeconomics. Appropriate local mitigation will be identified if the project is found to result in any unmitigated significant impacts that would disproportionately affect a minority population.

## WATER RESOURCES

Staff issued fifty-two data requests in the area of water resources and is reviewing data response information received from the applicant on February 20, 2002. The applicant will file additional data responses on March 13, 2002. Staff will evaluate the need for additional data requests in this area after reviewing the March 13th data response filing.

cc: Inland Empire Energy Center Project POS list
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