February 5, 2013

Eric Solorio, Project Manager
California Energy Commission
Docket No. 11-AFC-3
1516 9th St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cogentrix Quail Brush Generation Project - Docket Number 11-AFC-3, Request to USEPA for Section 7 Biological Resources Consultation with USFWS

Docket Clerk:

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 20, California Code of Regulations, and on behalf of Quail Brush Genco, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cogentrix Energy, LLC, Tetra Tech hereby submits the attached cover letter addressed to Mr. Gerardo Rios, USEPA Region IX, requesting that USEPA initiate consultation with USFWS for the Cogentrix Quail Brush Generation Project City of San Diego, San Diego County, California (11-AFC-3). The revised Biological Resources Survey Report Cogentrix Quail Brush Generation Project City of San Diego, San Diego County, California, referenced in the attached letter was previously docketed with the CEC on October 15, 2012 and is not provided again here. The Quail Brush Generation Project is a 100 megawatt natural gas fired electric generation peaking facility to be located in the City of San Diego, California. The following issue area is addressed in this submittal:

- Biological Resources

If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Rick Neff at (704) 525-3800 or me at (303) 980-3653.

Sincerely,

Constance E. Farmer
Project Manager/Tetra Tech

cc: Lori Ziebart, Cogentrix
    John Collins, Cogentrix
    Rick Neff, Cogentrix
    Proof of Service List
SERVICE LIST:

APPLICANT
Cogentrix Energy, LLC
C. Richard “Rick” Neff, Vice President
Environmental, Health & Safety
John Collins, VP Development
Lori Ziebart, Project Manager
Quail Brush Generation Project
9405 Arrowpoint Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28273
rickneff@cogentrix.com
johncollins@cogentrix.com
loriziebart@cogentrix.com

CONSULTANTS FOR APPLICANT
Tetra Tech EC, Inc.
Connie Farmer
Sr. Environmental Project Manager
Sarah McCall
Sr. Environmental Planner
143 Union Boulevard, Suite 1010
Lakewood, CO 80228
connie.farmer@tetratech.com
sarah.mccall@tetratech.com

Tetra Tech EC, Inc.
Barry McDonald
VP Solar Energy Development
17885 Von Karman Avenue, Ste. 500
Irvine, CA 92614-6213
barry.mcdonald@tetratech.com

COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT
Bingham McCutchen LLP
Ella Foley Gannon
Camarin Madigan
Three Embarcadero Center
San Francisco, CA 94111-4067
ella.gannon@bingham.com
camarin.madigan@bingham.com

INTERVENORS
Roslin Varghese
9360 Leticia Drive
Santee, CA 92071
roslindv@gmail.com

Rudy Reyes
8655 Graves Avenue, #117
Santee, CA 92071
reyes2777@hotmail.com

Dorian S. Houser
7951 Shantung Drive
Santee, CA 92071
dhouser@cox.net

Kevin Brewster
8502 Mesa Heights Road
Santee, CA 92071
lzpup@yahoo.com

Mr. Rob Simpson, CEO
Helping Hand Tools
1901 First Avenue, Suite 219
San Diego, CA 92101
rob@redwoodrob.com

Sierra Club, San Diego Chapter
c/o Law Office of Robert W. Wright
Robert W. Wright
716 Castro Street
Solana Beach, CA 92075
bob.wright@mac.com

Sunset Greens
Homeowners Association
c/o Briggs Law Corporation
Cory J. Briggs
Isabel E. O’Donnell
99 East “C” Street, Suite 111
Upland, CA 91786
cory@briggslawcorp.com
isabel@briggslawcorp.com

INTERVENORS (cont’d.)
HomeFed Fanita Rancho, LLC
c/o Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP
Jeffrey A. Chine
Heather S. Riley
501 West Broadway, 15th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101
jchine@allenmatkins.com
hriley@allenmatkins.com
jkaup@allenmatkins.com
vhoy@allenmatkins.com

Preserve Wild Santee
Van Collinsworth
9222 Lake Canyon Road
Santee, CA 92071
savefanita@cox.net

Center for Biological Diversity
John Buse
Aruna Prabhala
351 California Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94104
jbuse@biologicaldiversity.org
aprabhala@biologicaldiversity.org

*California Pilots Association
Andy Wilson
31438 Greenbrier Lane
Hayward, CA 94544
andy.wilson@calpilots.org

*Indicates Change
INTERESTED AGENCIES
California ISO
e-recipient@caiso.com

City of Santee
Department of Development Services
Melanie Kush
Director of Planning
10601 Magnolia Avenue, Bldg. 4
Santee, CA 92071
mkush@ci.santee.ca.us

City of San Diego
Morris E. Dye
Development Services Dept.
1222 First Avenue, MS 501
San Diego, CA 92101
mdye@sandiego.gov

County of San Diego
Mindy Fogg
Land Use Environmental Planner
Advance Planning
Department of Planning & Land Use
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123
mindy.fogg@sdcounty.ca.gov

ENERGY COMMISSION – PUBLIC ADVISER
Jennifer Jennings
Public Adviser’s Office
publicadviser@energy.ca.gov

COMMISSION DOCKET UNIT
California Energy Commission – Docket Unit
Attn: Docket No. 11-AFC-03
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.ca.gov

OTHER ENERGY COMMISSION PARTICIPANTS (LISTED FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY):
After docketing, the Docket Unit will provide a copy to the persons listed below. Do not send copies of documents to these persons unless specifically directed to do so.

KAREN DOUGLAS
Commissioner and Presiding Member

ANDREW McALLISTER
Commissioner and Associate Member

Raoul Renaud
Hearing Adviser

Eileen Allen
Commissioners' Technical Adviser for Facility Siting

Galen Lemei
Adviser to Commissioner Douglas

Jennifer Nelson
Adviser to Commissioner Douglas

David Hungerford
Adviser to Commissioner McAllister

Patrick Saxton
Adviser to Commissioner McAllister

Eric Solorio
Project Manager

Stephen Adams
Staff Counsel
DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Constance Farmer, declare that on February 5, 2013, I served and filed copies of the attached Letter to USEPA, dated February 5, 2013. This document is accompanied by the most recent Proof of Service, which I copied from the web page for this project at: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/quailbrush/index.html.

The document has been sent to the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service) and to the Commission’s Docket Unit, as appropriate, in the following manner:

(Check one)

For service to all other parties and filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:

X  I e-mailed the document to all e-mail addresses on the Service List above and personally delivered it or deposited it in the US mail with first class postage to those parties noted above as “hard copy required”; OR

_____ Instead of e-mailing the document, I personally delivered it or deposited it in the US mail with first class postage to all of the persons on the Service List for whom a mailing address is given.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that I am over the age of 18 years.

Dated: February 5, 2013

Constance Farmer
February 4, 2013

Mr. Gerardo Rios
Chief, Permits Office
USEPA Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Cogentrix Quail Brush Generation Project, City of San Diego, California – Biological Assessment

Dear Mr. Rios:

Quail Brush Genco, LLC (Applicant) is submitting the attached Comprehensive Biological Resources Technical Report (Report). Patrick Gower, the staff member at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) assigned to the Quail Brush Generation Project (Project), has agreed that this Report satisfies the requirements of a stand-alone Biological Assessment for the Project and can serve as the basis for a Section 7 consultation with USFWS. The Project is a nominal 100 megawatt natural gas fired electric generation intermediate/peaking facility using natural gas-fired reciprocating engine technology proposed for the City of San Diego, California. The proposed Project includes the power generation facility located on a 21.6-acre site, an 8-inch diameter natural gas pipeline, and a 138 kV loop line interconnecting to the SDG&E grid. Extensive field studies and consultation with city, state and federal wildlife biologists have been carried out. Based on findings of the Biological Resources Survey Report and USFWS protocol surveys for coastal California gnatcatcher and Quino checkerspot butterfly, there are no federally listed threatened or endangered species present within the Project site, and therefore the Project will have no adverse direct effect on federally listed species. There is no USFWS designated critical habitat within the proposed Project area.

There is a possibility that indirect adverse effects could occur as a result of nitrogen deposition associated with the project if Project related nitrogen deposition altered the suitability of any coastal California gnatcatcher USFWS designated Critical Habitat. In areas with low baseline nitrogen levels, typically below 5.0 kg/he/yr, nitrogen deposition can result in elevated nitrogen levels that benefit non-native weedy species growth. If this occurs in areas of coastal California gnatcatcher designated Critical Habitat, high quality coastal sage scrub habitat could be replaced with low quality non-native grasslands.

USFWS designated Critical Habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher occurs approximately 1.2 miles to the south and 1.7 miles to the east of the Project footprint, and t nitrogen deposition resulting from the Project may result in a cumulative minor increase in nitrogen concentrations within this designated Critical Habitat. A cumulative increase in nitrogen concentrations at the
USFWS designated Critical Habitat Area (reported to be 0.1 kg/he/yr or less) may adversely affect habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher.

Currently, the nitrogen deposition baseline level within the designated Critical Habitat is at 10.94 kg/he/yr, which is well above the minimum level of nitrogen deposition (5.0 kg/he/yr) that causes noticeable changes in vegetation communities. The cumulative incremental increase in nitrogen deposition from the Project may affect approximately 1,500 acres of designated Critical Habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher. Since the designated Critical Habitat is already at a saturated nitrogen level well above the threshold of 5.0 kg/he/yr, any additional incremental increase in nitrogen levels is not likely to result in a noticeable change in vegetation communities that would adversely affect coastal California gnatcatcher or its designated Critical Habitat. Therefore, the current existing conditions would not be affected by the very small additional contribution of nitrogen deposition.

On behalf of the Applicant, we respectfully request your timely review of the attached Report. The Report is provided for your use in initiating Section 7 consultation with the USFWS. Please advise me when you have forwarded the attached document to Patrick Gower at USFWS (contact information is provided below) so our lead biologist, Scott Crawford of Michael Brandman and Associates, can follow up directly with USFWS personnel assigned to this Project. Initiation of consultation will also allow Mr. Gower to participate in the California Energy Commission’s licensing process for the Project.

If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact me at (303) 980-3653, or Scott Crawford at (714) 742-5316.

Sincerely,

Constance E. Farmer
Project Manager/Tetra Tech

cc: Lori Ziebart, Cogentrix
    John Collins, Cogentrix
    Rick Neff, Cogentrix
    Eric Solorio, CEC
    Patrick Gower, USFWS Biologist
    Department of the Interior
    6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 101
    Carlsbad, CA 92011
    760-431-9440 Ext. 352
    Patrick_gower@fws.gov