

Memorandum

Date: April 4, 2011
Telephone: (916) 654-4781
File: 08-AFC-13C

To: **Commissioner Karen Douglas**, Siting Committee Chair
Chairman Robert B. Weisenmiller, Siting Committee Associate Member

From: **California Energy Commission - Terrence O'Brien, Deputy Director**
 1516 Ninth Street Siting, Transmission and Environmental
 Sacramento, CA 95814-5512 Protection Division

Subject: **Calico Solar Project Amendment (08-AFC-13C)**

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Request for Committee Overview of the Calico Solar Project Amendment

On March 22, 2011, Calico Solar, LLC filed a petition with the California Energy Commission requesting to modify the Calico Solar Project (CSP). The Calico Amendment does not propose to change the size, boundary, or generating capacity of the Energy Commission-approved project. It proposes a modification to the solar collector technology used on the site.

The proposal would generate 100.5 megawatts of power using SunCatcher technology and 563 megawatts using single-axis tracker photovoltaic (PV) technology. Both the SunCatchers and the PV collectors would be fully integrated components of the power plant, operate from a single control room, utilize the same transmission interconnection system, access a common water system and road network, and depend upon the same construction and operation personnel.

The amendment proposes to alter the phasing of the project to reduce access issues associated with the northern portion of the site. Phase 1 would be located primarily south of the railroad line and will include the main access road, the main services complex, the on-site substation with a shorter transmission line interconnecting with the Pisgah Substation, a water well (located north of the railroad), a water line and a portion of PV solar collectors. Phase 2 would be located entirely north of the railroad and will include the remainder of the PV solar collectors and the SunCatchers. The SunCatchers would be located toward the center of Phase 2.

Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, Title 20. Public Utilities and Energy, Section 1769(a)(1)(l)(2) and Section 1769(a)(1)(l)(3) staff has determined that the proposed modification may require a modification to conditions of certification from a Commission final decision. The Calico Amendment will need to be processed as a formal amendment to the decision and must ultimately be approved by the full Commission at a noticed business meeting or hearing.

Due to the complexity of this project and the amount of public interest, staff requests that the Siting Committee provide oversight of this proposed amendment. Staff proposes to process this modification as a major amendment at the direction of the Siting Committee. Staff requests the Siting Committee identify a Committee to oversee the Calico Amendment and develop an amendment schedule that includes public comment and participation opportunities.