In the Matter of: Elk Hills Power Project
Petition to Modify TRANS-7—Access Road

On December 3, 2002, the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) received a petition from Elk Hills Power, LLC (EHP) to revise transportation Condition of Certification TRANS-7 to allow the existing temporary construction equipment access road be used as the permanent, primary entrance road to the Elk Hills Power Project. At a regularly scheduled Business Meeting on January 8, 2003, the Energy Commission considered staff’s analysis, approved the request to allow for permanent use of the road, and approved staff’s recommended revision to TRANS-7 in accordance with Title 20, section 1769(a)(3) of the California Code of Regulations.

COMMISSION FINDINGS

Based on staff’s analysis, the Energy Commission finds that:

A. There will be no new or additional unmitigated significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed change.

B. The facility will remain in compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards, subject to the provisions of Public Resources code section 25525.

C. The change will be beneficial to the project owner by allowing for one primary access road separate from the adjacent industrial facility’s traffic.

D. There has been a substantial change since the Energy Commission certification based on the project owner’s re-evaluation of traffic access issues that was not available during the siting process.

ORDER

The California Energy Commission hereby approves the permanent use of the existing temporary construction-equipment access road at the Elk Hills Power Project, and orders the following changes to Elk Hills Power Project Condition of Certification TRANS-7:
REVISIONS TO EXISTING CONDITION OF CERTIFICATION

(Added text is underlined, deleted text is shown in strikethrough.)

TRANS-7 The project owner shall provide two entrances to the Elk Hills Power Project throughout the construction phase for the project. The project owner shall direct normal traffic to and from the power plant site through the existing OEHI of Elk Hills, Inc. gate located on the west side of Elk Hills Road at Skyline Road. Upon completion of the construction phase of the project, this entrance shall cease to be used by the project owner. The project owner shall construct a temporary, 40-foot wide, 135-foot long access road extending from Elk Hills Road approximately 600 feet north of the intersection of Skyline Road and Elk Hills Road. The project owner access road shall only be utilized for receiving heavy and over-sized equipment and materials during project construction. Upon completion of the construction phase of the project, this access road shall be used as a permanent access and the main entrance serving the facility. Both heavy and over-sized equipment and materials, and normal traffic, shall use this access road.

Verification: At least thirty (30) days prior to the start of project construction, the project owner shall provide the CPM with written documentation explaining how the project owner will direct normal traffic to utilize the existing access road at Skyline Road. The project owner also shall document how normal traffic will be prevented from using the temporary access road off Elk Hills Road north of Skyline Road, which is intended only for use by trucks delivering heavy and/or over-sized construction equipment and materials during the construction phase. At least 30 days prior to the start of project construction, the project owner also shall provide the CPM a copy of the approved encroachment permit that Kern County requires for construction of the temporary access road off Elk Hills Road. At least 30 days prior to the use of the access road for permanent use, the project owner shall provide the CPM with a schedule for restriping Elk Hills Road to accommodate the access road. The restriping and any other construction-related activities required by Kern County for the access road shall be completed within 90 days after the date of its use as a permanent access first occurred.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENERGY RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

January 8, 2003
DATE

ROBERT PERNELL
Acting Chairman