

APPENDIX Y

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Environmental Resources Management, Inc. is a third party contractor assisting the Commission staff in reviewing the environmental aspects of the project application and preparing the environmental documents required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Ecology and Environment, Inc. and RPS are subcontractors to ERM. Third party contractors are selected by Commission staff and funded by project applicants. Per the procedures in 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1506.5(c), third party contractors execute a disclosure statement specifying that they have no financial or other conflicting interest in the outcome of the project. Third party contractors are required to self-report any changes in financial situation and to refresh their disclosure statements annually. The Commission staff solely directs the scope, content, quality, and schedule of the contractor's work. The Commission staff independently evaluates the results of the third-party contractor's work and the Commission, through its staff, bears ultimate responsibility for full compliance with the requirements of NEPA.