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Oxnard
Chamber of Commerce

Nancy Lindholm, President and CEO, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce
Comments before the California Resources Agency
Workshop on LNG Access Issues and Deliverability of Supply
Secretary of State Office Auditorium
1500 11th Street, First Floor, Sacramento
June 1-2, 2005
Re: Docket No. 05-LNG-1

Since 1923, the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce has been helping business do business. Our chamber has and continues to promote the business and economic well being of our diverse community to benefit our enterprises, big and small, through advocacy, services and education, business exposure, and promotional opportunities.

The Chamber values the quality of life in our community and encourages economic vitality. But that quality of life, as well as our economic health, will be severely harmed if we do not diversify and increase our energy supplies.

Like Californians throughout the state, many Oxnard residents are trying to learn as much as they can about LNG, and this is not always an easy thing to do. Unfortunately, accurate information is not always readily available, and efforts to scare and misinform local residents about LNG are not uncommon.

However, the Chamber is trying to do its part to tell residents of Oxnard and beyond why bringing liquefied natural gas to California is so critical to both the local and state economies.

Natural gas is a vital energy source for California. In fact, 42 percent of the state's electricity is powered by natural gas. Yet, we must import 84 percent of it from other states. Both small businesses and consumers do not currently have a reliable and affordable source of energy. Importing LNG is a clean, safe, and economical way to change that.

In closing, I would like to mention that the Oxnard Chamber is a partner in the Regional Legislative Alliance of Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties, which is a coalition of chambers of commerce and business organizations formed to provide a strong, united voice on behalf of business in support of legislation issues that promote a vital regional economy. The Alliance currently represents more than 250,000 jobs in the region. This Alliance supports legislation and policy that encourages a reliable source of consistent, affordable and diverse energy supplies, including renewable sources.