



July 9, 2013

Mr. John Heiser
California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street (MS-40)
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

California Energy Commission

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TN 71603

JUL 09 2013

RE: Support of HECA Project

Dear Mr. Heiser,

The Taft District Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau would like to go on record in support of the Hydrogen Energy of California (HECA) project

The Taft Chamber Board fully recognizes that the February 26, 2013, letter from Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP, Director of the Kern County Planning and Development Department, to the Kern County Board of Supervisors outlines several challenges: "the HECA project has the potential to heavily impact County services and general fund costs. Additionally, there are several outstanding issues that the County will request that the CEC [California Energy Commission] and the project applicant continue to review, disclose and otherwise work with Kern County on". However, the Chamber Board also agrees that the County Planning Staff's observation, "the HECA project would provide some economic benefits for Kern County in the areas of jobs, sales tax, and property taxes" is not only valid but is also understated.

The expectation is that the \$4 billion HECA project will provide in excess of 2,000 construction jobs over three years. It will generate 300 megawatts of low-carbon electricity and enough power to support 160,000 homes. It will recapture at least 90 percent of its carbon emissions, demonstrating how groundbreaking environmental progress goes hand-in-hand with job-creation and economic growth.

After review of the reports of various County Departments, the Taft District Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau has every confidence in the ability of the County and the HECA project owners/applicants satisfactorily to resolve the issues to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

Respectfully,


Dennis Schertz,
President, Chamber Board


Kathy Orrin,
Chamber Executive Director

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