January 11, 2009

DOCKET
07-AFC-5
DATE 01/11/09
RECD. 07/21/10

Mr. John Kessler
Project Manager
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Mr. George Meckfessel
Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Bureau of Land Management, Needles Field Office
1303 South U.S. Highway 95
Needles, CA 92363

San Bernardino County 1st District Supervisor, Brad Mitzelfelt
County Government Center
385 North Arrowhead Ave. Fifth Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110

Re: Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System
(07-AFC-5; CEC-700-2008-013-FSA/DEIS DES-09-46)

Dear Mr. Kessler,

We are writing to express support for BrightSource Energy's Ivanpah Solar Energy Generating System.

The Hod Carriers, Building & Construction Laborers, Local 783 – San Bernardino have seen firsthand the challenges and hardships created by this severe recession. Unemployment in San Bernardino County is at more than 14 percent and between 16 and 20 percent in the Victor Valley. While stimulus money is trickling into the area, it can by no means meet the economic needs of our city and our region.

Located across Highway 15 from the Ivanpah Dry Lake, the 440 megawatt Ivanpah project will sever as a cornerstone of the High Desert region's economic development efforts. Ivanpah is estimated to directly create 1,000 local jobs at the peak of construction and 86 permanent jobs, as well as to indirectly created more jobs needed to supply materials and services during the project's construction and operation. The project is estimated to directly produce $650 million in wages and $400 million in state and local taxes over its thirty-year lifecycle, and again provide significant indirect benefits as well. BrightSource Energy's engineering contractor, Bechtel, had tentatively signed an agreement with the California Building trades Council to ensure that California's workforce benefits from this project.

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FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Lonnie Passmore
RECORDING SECRETARY
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Projects such as BrightSource Energy's Ivanpah Solar electric Generating System will not only bring hundreds of much needed construction jobs to the High Desert, but will attract other projects in its wake that will provide further employment and economic stimulus.

We understand the environmental challenges that a project such as Ivanpah presents, particularly given its large footprint, but those are challenges that are being thoroughly and deliberately worked out. BrightSource has adopted environmentally friendly strategies such as dry cooling to minimize water usage, and a low impact design to minimize impacts to the desert topography and plants.

No short cuts are being taken with a project as important as this!

We are confident that BrighSource is taking environmental responsibility very seriously in constructing and operating this important project. Let's not forget that the project will help clean the air an protect our desert climate.

We believe that BrighSource and other solar energy projects will provide greatly needed economic benefits to the High Desert and respect the environment at the same time.

Please join us in supporting the proposed Ivanpah project as it leads our region back to economic prosperity and puts the High Desert on the vanguard of a new promising industry.

At a time where 1 in 5 people are unemployed, we cannot afford to chase opportunity away.

Sincerely,

Richard Sierra, Jr.
Business Manager