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Headquarters: MDAQMD - 14306 Park Avenue, Victorville, CA 92392

DOCKET 07-AFC-5	
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December 29, 2009

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

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

Dear Mr. Kessler,

I am writing to express my support for BrightSource Energy's Ivanpah Solar Energy Generating System.

The project represents a tremendous economic development opportunity for San Bernardino County, and a major step towards achieving our state's and nation's clean energy and economic goals.

When constructed, the Ivanpah project is estimated to directly create 1,000 local jobs at the peak of construction and 86 permanent jobs, as well as indirectly create 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.

In addition to the economic benefits, the project generates numerous environmental benefits as well. Ivanpah will avoid more than 13 million tons of CO_2 emissions over its 30-year lifecycle, as well as 85 percent of the air emissions from an equally-sized natural gas plant. The plants will reduce water usage by 90 percent by using dry cooling, allowing Ivanpah to use approximately 30 times less water than competing technologies. The project will use roughly 100 acre feet of water – the equivalent of 300 homes' annual water usage, and far less than the amount used by the adjacent golf course or nearby casinos.

Ivanpah will not only provide clean energy to serve more than 150,000 homes in California during the peak hours of the day, the project will also serve as an educational resource for high schools and colleges in the High Desert who are developing curriculum for green technology and teaching students how to adapt the skills needed to work on renewable energy projects such as Ivanpah.

The High Desert Region is in need of these jobs and the energy plants such as Ivanpah will provide.

Please do not let this opportunity slip away. I urge you to timely approve BrightSource's Ivanpah project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Violette Roberts

Violette Roberts
Chair, Executive Board
Mojave Environmental Education Consortium