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January 5, 2010

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

DOCKET
07-AFC-5
DATE 01/05/10
RECD. 06/28/10

Dear Mr. Meckfessel,

As a resident of the High Desert region, I am writing to express my support for Bright Source energy's Ivanpah project. The project represents a significant economic development opportunity for the High Desert region and a major step towards achieving our state's and nation's clean energy and economic goals.

The 440 megawatt Ivanpah project will be a major enhancement for the High Desert region's green 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 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, and again provide significant indirect benefits as well. BrightSource Energy's engineering contractor, Bechtel, has tentatively signed an agreement with the California Building Trades Council to ensure that California's workforce benefits from this project.

Ivanpah will also 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 Ivanpah project will produce enough clean energy to provide 150,000 homes in California with clean electricity. Ivanpah will be the first project to meet BrightSource Energy's contracts with PG&E and SCE, and the first BrightSource project to help meet California's 33 percent renewable energy and climate change requirements.

In recognition for its vitally important role in helping our nation meet its clean energy and economic goals, the Ivanpah project has been identified as a "fast-track" priority by the U.S. Department of Interior for obtaining federal stimulus benefits for California under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The project has also been selected as one of sixteen short-listed applicants to receive a loan guarantee under the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) 1703 program, established by the 2005 Energy Policy Act, and is the only utility-scale solar project so selected.

I believe this project, and the innovative clean technology it employs, is a major step forward towards a stronger, more competitive economy for the High Desert Region, California and the nation, as well as an important contribution to our renewable energy and climate protection goals. I urge you to timely approve BrightSource's Ivanpah project.

Sincerely,

Ann Vanino

Ann Vanino

PO Box 1372, Littlerock, CA 93543
Tel: 661-992-8130 Fax: 661-944-6363 E-mail: Ann@MovingForward.net
Web Site: www.MovingForward.net