SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

Support Letters & Resolutions

June 2012 through August 2013

As of August 14, 2013

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SunZia®

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ANDRES Z. SILVA, MAYOR

RICHARD F. MCINTURFF, ADMINISTRATOR

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P.O. BOX 706 • DEMING, NEW MEXICO 88031
POPULATION 14,000

August 1, 2012

Adrian Garcia
BLM, NM State Office
SunZia Transmission Project
PO Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115

Re: Support of SunZia Project

Dear Mr. Garcia,

The City of Deming would like to express our undivided support for the SunZia project, which has been under study for the past several years. It is our understanding that some have requested additional time to review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on this very important electrical transmission project. It is commonly known that Southwestern New Mexico suffers from some of the highest unemployment and poverty rates in the state and country. Therefore, we wholeheartedly support the economic benefits associated with construction of new infrastructure. As such, we ask that you please keep the project on a fast track to enable the companies depending on new transmission to plan and begin construction of important renewable generation that New Mexico has to offer.

As you are aware, Arizona has transmission to attract renewable projects however, without enterprises like the SunZia project, our State's rich renewable sources will not be developed as they should and will not have any means to get power to western markets that need additional renewable energy now.

Last year during a renewable energy conference in Las Cruces, Alan Gilbert spoke on the benefits the BLM should bring to the inner cities, as pertaining to public lands, and the highest and best uses for the land being a priority in the future. These goals are commendable and one of the reasons the City supports these transmission endeavors, as they do not interfere with farm and ranch leases, all the while they generate much needed federal, state and local revenues.

We respectfully request there be no further extensions, as our opportunities to impact our community and those in the corridor will diminish with delays. We urge you to follow through with a Final EIS and allow this project to move forward and thank you in advance for getting the EIS completed in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Andres Z. Silva
Mayor, City of Deming

XC: Jessie Juen, Mike Pool

RESOLUTION NO. 13-30
CITY OF DEMING, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) ALIGNMENT ISSUED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF ADDITIONAL TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has studied various routes for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (SunZia) over the past five years for the purpose of constructing up to two 500 kV transmission lines and associated substations between Arizona and New Mexico to provide for needed new transmission capacity to deliver New Mexico's stranded renewable energy; and,

WHEREAS, we understand the economic benefits of New Mexico's rich renewable energy resources and their positive impacts to state and local communities in the form of job creation, economic development and resulting revenues (New Mexico State University Economic Impact Assessment); and,

WHEREAS, the BLM received 900 comment letters on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and has since prepared a Final EIS that was issued for public review on June 14, 2013; and,

WHEREAS, the Final EIS has provided for mitigation measures to limit major impairment to all concerned; and,

WHEREAS, the BLM has conducted public meetings during 2008 through 2010 throughout SunZia's study area to gather and consider the public's concerns and support on the project; and,

WHEREAS, statements from local governing bodies such as this City Council are very important to the completion of the BLM's federal permitting efforts pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Deming City Council supports the construction and operation of additional transmission infrastructure to provide capacity for the area's renewable energy projects and urge all entities and cooperating agencies to assist with expeditious finalization of the Record of Decision and allow all to share the economic benefit of the needed SunZia Project.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th day of July, 2013

Mayor Andres Z. Silva

ATTEST:

Richard F. McInturff, Clerk

State of New Mexico

Connie Greer
County Clerk
575-894-2840

Terri Copsin
County Treasurer
575-894-3524

Keith Whitney
County Assessor
575-894-2589

William E. Robinson
Probate Judge
575-894-2840

SIERRA COUNTY
NEW MEXICO

855 Van Patten
Truth or Consequences, New Mexico 87901

County Manager
575-894-6215, 575-894-9548 fax

County of Sierra

Bobby J. Allen
District 1
575-894-6215

Walter C. Armijo
District 2
575-894-6215

Frances L. Luna
District 3
575-894-6215

Joe Baca
Sheriff
575-894-9150

SIERRA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
RESOLUTION NO. 102-019

WHEREAS, the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (SunZia) is proposing to construct up to two high voltage 500 kV transmission lines and related interconnecting substations within an area lying between central Arizona and central New Mexico, which will provide new delivery capacity for renewable energy resources, primarily wind, solar, and geothermal projects in New Mexico; and,

WHEREAS, New Mexico State University prepared an Economic Impact Assessment that estimated the number of jobs and state, local and property tax revenues resulting from SunZia and generation facilities that utilize the state's rich renewable energy resources; and,

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has spent five years considering a preferred route that incorporates 900 comment letters on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to minimize the impact for all parties; and,

WHEREAS, the BLM has responded to the comment letters and prepared a Final EIS that was issued for public review on June 14, 2013; and,

WHEREAS, the Final EIS has provided a detailed analysis of potential environmental impacts of the project and a range of mitigation measures to all such impacts; and,

WHEREAS, the BLM has conducted public meetings throughout SunZia's study area, including in Sierra County, and has requested public and cooperating agency input during the last five years to identify possible issues of concern from the project; and,

WHEREAS, the Sierra County Commission wishes to endorse all efforts and planning conducted in creating the Final EIS and urge all parties to assist with a timely and favorable Record of Decision.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sierra County Commission is in full support of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sierra County Commission urges the BLM and all cooperating agencies to judiciously expedite all necessary efforts to issue a favorable Record of Decision for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th day of July, 2013

Board of County Commissioners

Walter C. Armijo, Chairman

Attest:

Frances Luna, Vice-Chairman

Bobby Allen, Member

Absent
Connie Greer, County Clerk

by Amanda B. Cardona
Chief Deputy Clerk

RESOLUTION 2013-5

RESOLUTION RE-AFFIRMING SUPPORT OF THE SUNZIA SOUTHWEST TRANSMISSION PROJECT

WHEREAS, New Mexico is rich in renewable energy resources, and state and local communities stand to benefit greatly from the creation of new jobs, economic development, and resulting revenues from taxes and the necessary provision of local governmental services; and

WHEREAS, the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (SunZia) proposes to construct up to two high voltage 500 kV electrical transmission lines and related interconnecting substations within an area lying between central Arizona and central New Mexico, which will provide new delivery capacity for existing and developing renewable energy resources, primarily wind, solar and geothermal projects in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's renewable energy development resources are located primarily in the central and southern part of the state where available transmission capacity is extremely limited, and SunZia will provide up to 4,500 megawatts of needed transmission capacity; and

WHEREAS, the existence of SunZia creates an opportunity for the development and construction of future wind and solar generation projects and related jobs that would otherwise not occur without transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy projects are good for the environment and help to minimize our dependence upon foreign oil, reduce air pollution and diversify energy generation sources; and

WHEREAS, SunZia submitted a right-of-way application to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in September of 2008, BLM issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on June 14, 2013, and BLM anticipates issuing a Record of Decision (ROD) on the right-of-way application in mid-September, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the FEIS provides a detailed analysis of potential environmental impacts of the project and a range of mitigation measures to such impacts; and

WHEREAS, the BLM has conducted nine public scoping meetings in New Mexico and fourteen total scoping meetings throughout SunZia's study area, has expanded the project study area on three occasions and extended the length of the initial scoping period to address initial public and military comments, has held other community meetings to request public input and identify possible issues of concern that may result from the project; and

WHEREAS, the BLM sought comments on specific issues and concerns related to alternative routes for the project's transmission facilities, affected environmental resources, and related matters; and

WHEREAS, statements from local governing bodies such as this County Commission are very important to development of a complete record for the FEIS and the ROD; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2011 this County Commission previously passed, approved and adopted Resolution 2011-18 declaring support of the SunZia project.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this County Commission encourages the development of renewable energy generation and transmission projects in the state of New Mexico, and when possible specifically within Lincoln County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this County Commission supports the construction and operation of additional transmission infrastructure to provide capacity for New Mexico's renewable energy projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners re-affirms their endorsement of the construction and operation of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project, and urges the BLM to judiciously expedite issuance of the ROD for SunZia's right-of-way application in order to expand regional economic development opportunities in New Mexico, by creating the necessary transmission capacity to deliver New Mexico's renewable energy resources to western customers and markets.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 16th day of July 2013.

Board of Commissioners
Lincoln County, State of New Mexico

Jackie Powell, Chair

Preston Stone, Vice Chair

Kathryn Minter, Member

Mark Doth, Member

Dallas Draper, Member

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS * LINCOLN COUNTY, NM SEAL

ATTEST:

Rhonda Burrows, County Clerk

HIDALGO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
RESOLUTION NO. 2013-20

WHEREAS, the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (SunZia) has been thoroughly reviewed by the Hidalgo County Commission and its citizens over the past five years; and,

WHEREAS, Hidalgo County has an abundance of renewable resources that have not been utilized for lack of transmission infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, New Mexico renewable energy development resources are located in the central and southern parts of the state where available transmission capacity is extremely limited, and SunZia will provide 3,000 to 4,500 megawatts of needed transmission capacity; and,

WHEREAS, the bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Final Environment Impact Statement (EIS) with a preferred route in Hidalgo County that incorporates our past comments; and,

WHEREAS, the Final EIS has provided a detailed analysis of potential environmental impacts of the project and a range of mitigation measures to such impacts, including reasonable routing alternatives; and,

WHEREAS, the BLM has conducted public and private meetings, to review proposed routes and issues, with all concerned over the past five years, including Hidalgo County; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hidalgo County Commission supports theconstruction and operation of SunZia's transmission infrastructure to provide capacity for the area's renewable energy projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hidalgo County urges the BLM and all cooperating agencies to judiciously expedite the Record of Decision to enable the SunZia development opportunities in central and southwest New Mexico.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 17TH day of July, 2013

Richard Chaires, Member
Hidalgo County Commission

ATTEST:

/dwf deputy clerk

Melissa DeLaGarza , Clerk

[redacted]

LUNA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
OF THE SUNZIA TRANSMISSION LINE
RESOLUTION NO 13-39

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has published the Final Environmental Impact Study (FEIS) on the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (SunZia) to construct two high voltage 500 kV transmission lines which will provide new delivery capacity for renewable energy resources, primarily wind, solar, and geothermal projects in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico and Luna County are rich in these renewable energy resources and state and local communities stand to benefit greatly from the creation of new jobs, economic development and resulting revenues for the necessary provision of local governmental services in Luna County; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's renewable energy development resources are located primarily in the central and southwestern parts of the state where available transmission capacity is extremely limited, and SunZia will provide from 3,000 to 4,500 megawatts of additional needed transmission capacity; and

WHEREAS, the FEIS has provided a detailed analysis of potential environmental impacts after five years of input and study of the project with a range of mitigation measures to such impacts, including reasonable routing alternatives; and

WHEREAS, based on the recommendation of the Natural Resources Committee, Luna County supports the concept of a utility corridor so that present and future proposed projects are directed through the same location; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Luna County Commission fully supports the construction and operation of the SunZia transmission infrastructure to provide capacity for the area's renewable energy projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Luna County Commission urges the BLM and all cooperating agencies to judiciously expedite the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project's Record of Decision.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th day of August, 2013.

ATTEST:

Andrea Rodriguez, County Clerk

LUNA COUNTY

R. Javier Diaz, Chairman

GRANT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
RESOLUTION NO. R-13-58

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has published the Final Environmental Impact Study (FEIS) on the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (SunZia) to construct two high voltage 500 kV transmission lines which will provide new delivery capacity for renewable energy resources, primarily wind, solar, and geothermal projects in New Mexico; and,

WHEREAS, New Mexico and Grant County is rich in these renewable energy resources and state and local communities stand to benefit greatly from the creation of new jobs, economic development and resulting revenues (New Mexico State University Economic Impact Study) for the necessary provision of local governmental services; and,

WHEREAS, New Mexico's renewable energy development resources are located primarily in the central and southern parts of the state where available transmission capacity is extremely limited, and SunZia will provide from 3,000 to 4,500 megawatts of needed transmission capacity; and,

WHEREAS, Grant County has studied the FEIS and finds no negative impact with the route proposed by BLM; and,

WHEREAS, the FEIS has provided a detailed analysis of potential environmental impacts after five years of input and study of the project with a range of mitigation measures to such impacts, including reasonable routing alternatives; and,

WHEREAS, statements from local governing bodies such as Grant County are very important to development of a complete record for the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Grant County Commission fully supports the construction and operation of the SunZia transmission infrastructure to provide capacity for the area's renewable energy projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Grant County Commission urges the BLM and all cooperating agencies to judiciously expedite the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project's Record of Decision.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th day of August, 2013.

Brett Kasten, Chair

ATTEST:

Robert Zamarripa, County Clerk