

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	24-OPT-03
<b>Project Title:</b>	Soda Mountain Solar
<b>TN #:</b>	265788
<b>Document Title:</b>	Letter of Support – Western Power Trading Forum
<b>Description:</b>	This document provides a letter of support from the Western Power Trading Forum for the Soda Mountain Solar and Battery Storage Project.
<b>Filer:</b>	Hannah Arkin
<b>Organization:</b>	Resolution Environmental
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Applicant Representative
<b>Submission Date:</b>	8/27/2025 8:24:18 AM
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August 26, 2025

Mr. Joseph Stout  
State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1623  
Sacramento, CA 95825

RE: Support for The Soda Mountain Solar and Battery Storage Project

Dear Director Stout:

I am writing to express the Western Power Trading Forum's (WPTF) support for the Soda Mountain Solar and Battery Storage Project, located in San Bernardino County, approximately six miles southwest of the town of Baker. The project spans 2,670 acres of federally managed land overseen by the Bureau of Land Management.

WPTF and its 135 members are dedicated to achieving reliability and economic efficiency through competitive markets that will benefit customers and the needs of the Western region. Our members develop, own, operate resources and transact throughout all states in the Western Interconnection.

The proposed facility includes 300 MW of solar generation capacity paired with 1,200 MWh of battery storage—enough to power over 140,000 homes, nearly one-fifth of all households in San Bernardino County. This project will play a critical role in enhancing the reliability of California's power grid, reducing energy price volatility, and helping to prevent rolling blackouts.

While the original proposal was approved as a solar-only development, the updated plan significantly improves upon that design by incorporating battery storage and reducing the project's overall footprint. By siting the project adjacent to Interstate 15 and the planned Southern California-to-Las Vegas rail corridor, the revised layout minimizes environmental and visual impacts while maximizing operational efficiency.

This project also brings vital economic benefits to the region. It will generate hundreds of well-paying construction jobs, boost local tax revenues, and support long-term employment in the surrounding communities. At a time when San Bernardino County continues to face an unemployment rate above both the state and national averages—and now at its highest point since October 2021—these economic opportunities are especially important.

For all these reasons, I respectfully urge the Bureau of Land Management to expedite approval of the project's pending actions, including the Notice to Proceed, updated development plan, and environmental review through categorical exclusion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Miller", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott Miller, Executive Director  
Western Power Trading Forum