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# Assembly California Legislature



**CONNIE CONWAY**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

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VICE CHAIR, HIGHER EDUCATION  
AGRICULTURE  
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, RETIREMENT  
AND SOCIAL SECURITY  
TRANSPORTATION

November 24, 2009

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

**DOCKET**

**07-AFC-5**

DATE 11/24/09

RECD. 12/03/09

**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. When constructed, this project will produce more solar energy than all of the rooftop solar installed in the nation last year, and will more than double the amount of solar thermal energy produced in the U.S. today. The Ivanpah project represents a tremendous economic development opportunity for the High Desert region, and a major step towards achieving California's and the nation's clean energy and economic goals.

Located in California's San Bernardino County, across Highway 15 from the Ivanpah Dry Lake, the 440 megawatt Ivanpah project will serve as a cornerstone of the High Desert region's economic development efforts. This BrightSource Energy project is estimated to create 1,000 local jobs at the peak of construction and 86 permanent jobs. The project is estimated to produce \$650 million in wages and \$400 million in state and local taxes over its thirty-year lifecycle, and provide significant indirect benefits as well. The Ivanpah project will avoid more than 13 million tons of CO2 emissions over its 30-year lifecycle, as well as 85 percent of other air emissions, compared to 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 annually— the equivalent of 300 homes.

BrightSource Energy's environmental considerations to reduce development impacts at its Ivanpah project also include a low-impact design and use of a currently-used high-voltage transmission pathway that transects the site. The low impact design utilizes BrightSource's proprietary solar mirror system, which minimizes the need for grading and concrete pads required for competing technologies.

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 11/23/09 ) FILED WITH  
ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 12/3/09

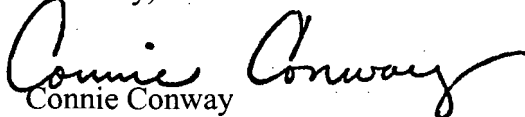
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The Ivanpah project will produce enough clean energy to supply 150,000 homes in California, and reduce California ratepayers from exposure to fossil-fuel price volatility.

In recognition of 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). As you know, this priority status means that the project will receive focused attention and resources, while receiving full and appropriate environmental and other review. 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. I urge you to timely approve BrightSource's Ivanpah project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connie Conway". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Connie Conway

Assemblywoman, District 34



**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV**

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION  
FOR THE *IVANPAH SOLAR ELECTRIC  
GENERATING SYSTEM*

DOCKET No. 07-AFC-5  
PROOF OF SERVICE  
(Revised 11/23/09)

**APPLICANT**

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\*indicates change

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Maria Santourdjian, declare that on December 3, 2009, I served and filed copies of the attached, Letter from Assembly Member Connie Conway dated, November 24, 2009. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: [[www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ivanpah](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ivanpah)].

The documents have been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

*(Check all that Apply)*

FOR SERVICE TO ALL OTHER PARTIES:

  x   sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;

  x   by personal delivery or by depositing in the United States mail at Sacramento, California with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed as provided on the Proof of Service list above to those addresses NOT marked "email preferred."

**AND**

FOR FILING WITH THE ENERGY COMMISSION:

  x   sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below (*preferred method*);

**OR**

       depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

Attn: Docket No. 07-AFC-5  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512  
[docket@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:docket@energy.state.ca.us)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Original Signature in Dockets  
Maria Santourdjian