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07-AFC-5	
DATE	<u>06/01/10</u>
RECD.	<u>06/02/10</u>

June 1, 2010

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Hon. Kenneth L. Salazar
Secretary of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

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

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger and Secretary Salazar,

We are writing to underscore the importance of the current review by the California Energy Commission ("CEC") and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") of BrightSource Energy's Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System ("ISEGs"). This project, which would on its own double the solar thermal energy output in the U.S., can be a vital step in building the clean energy infrastructure for the nation that is needed to combat global warming, reduce criteria air emissions and lessen our dependence on the foreign oil. Climate change poses the single greatest threat of our age, and bringing low-carbon solutions like renewable energy to scale, and at a reasonable cost, is imperative.

EDF understands that the review process is ongoing and urges the agencies to work with stakeholders to develop extremely robust and aggressive mitigation measures. Should acceptable and transparent mitigation measures be developed and enacted, EDF considers the approval of the Ivanpah project a priority.

In addition to the boost in solar thermal capacity that this project would bring, it will also be a critical shot in the arm for the local economy, creating jobs that are part of the clean economic future in one of the most economically disadvantaged parts of the country.

EDF believes that developing our clean energy infrastructure is vital for our nation's future. A consensus-oriented stakeholder review process can greatly expand our capacity to understand environmental impacts and benefits of the Ivanpah and other similar projects, all of which have significant effects on the surrounding natural resources. With robust and aggressive mitigation measures in place, ultimate approval by BLM and CEC will signal that we can and will achieve our renewable energy goals in an environmentally-responsible manner, while reinvigorating local economies and providing green, sustainable jobs.

Sincerely,

Derek Walker
Director, California Climate Initiative

Cc: John Kessler
Project Manager
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
jkessler@energy.state.ca.us

George Meckfessel
Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Bureau of Land Management, Needles Field Office
1303 South U.S. Highway 95
Needles, CA 92363
Ca690@ca.blm.gov