

April 1, 2009

California Energy Commission  
Attn: Docket No. 08-AFC-01  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

**DOCKET**

**08-AFC-1**

DATE April 01 2009

RECD. April 01 2009

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of Kings County Economic Development Corporation (Kings EDC), it gives me great pleasure to address the California Energy Commission about the important siting of Avenal Power Center, LLC's Avenal Energy project within the Avenal Industrial Park. Kings EDC facilitates the retention, expansion, and attraction of businesses within Kings County to increase employment among its citizens and the tax base of its local governments. We feel strongly that the Avenal Energy project will produce excellent gains in both areas.

Under the best of circumstances, Avenal has been challenged by high unemployment and little tax base. Farming and oil services have been its historical industries. Both have been on the wane and, currently, west side farms will receive no surface water this year. Now, more than ever, Avenal needs this industrial project which will create significant property taxes, will employ several hundred construction workers, and will provide excellent wages for those who operate the plant. In addition, this power plant will be the first industrial facility in the new industrial park, putting the park on the map as a viable location for businesses needing access to Interstate 5, midway between the Bay Area and Southern California.

Avenal Power Center, LLC has gone out of its way to be good custodians of the environment in which it will locate. Though first approved using a significant amount of water to cool the process, Avenal Power has chosen to use the latest air cooled technology using an insignificant amount of water. In addition, Avenal Power has been able to significantly reduce its stack emissions by utilizing the best available control technology (BACT) thereby doing its part to limit its impact on the San Joaquin Valley air basin. It has also agreed to accommodate local threatened wildlife and mitigate its impact on prime farmland.

Kings EDC feels it is critical to the wellbeing of California that the California Energy Commission continues to approve responsible power generation for an electrical grid that often experiences shortages. We feel strongly that Avenal Power Center, LLC will be a beneficial addition to the city of Avenal and Kings County and will be good neighbors to the residents of the San Joaquin Valley.

Sincerely,



John S. Lehn  
President/CEO