DOCKETED	
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Project Title:	Rulemaking to Amend Regulations for Delegation of Certification Authority
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Comment Received From: Board of Supervisors - County of Imperial Submitted On: 4/7/2022 Docket Number: 21-OIR-02

Letter of Support on Rulemaking

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

DISTRICT 1 JESUS EDUARDO ESCOBAR

DISTRICT 2 LUIS A. PLANCARTE

DISTRICT 3 MICHAEL W. KELLEY

DISTRICT 4 RYAN E, KELLEY

DISTRICT 5 RAYMOND R. CASTILLO

April 6, 2022



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California Energy Commission Docket Unit: Docket No. 21-OIR-02 715 P Street, MS-4 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT RULEMAKING DOCKET 21-OIR-02

Dear Chair Hochschild and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of the Imperial County Board of Supervisors, thank you for the opportunity to provide formal comment on Docket No. 21-OIR-02: Rulemaking to Amend Regulations for Delegation of Certification Authority (Express Terms: Geothermal Delegation). Specifically, modifications to Title 20, Division 2, Chapter 5 Article 4 A. General Provisions and B. Delegation of Geothermal Power Plant Siting Authority to Local Government.

The Imperial County Board of Supervisors supports the proposed rulemaking/amendments to Delegation of Geothermal Power Plant Siting Authority to Local Government. We applaud the efforts of the California Energy Commission to provide local agencies, such as the County of Imperial, greater authority and self-determination.

On February 14, 2022, the County of Imperial Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution in support of the Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan (LVIP), which described our joint desire to encourage geothermal and lithium production in Imperial County. Since that time, President Biden and Governor Newsom have taken steps within their administration to streamline the approval process including President Biden recently declaring lithium production subject to the Defense Production Act.

Imperial County has long been home to geothermal production producing renewable baseload energy to power homes and businesses throughout California. The region currently produces 567 MW of baseload renewable geothermal energy. It is estimated that the region has the ability to produce an additional 1,000 - 1,500 MW of geothermal power over the next five (5) to ten (10) years. The County of Imperial endeavors to assist the expansion of this industry as California works to meet its current and long-term renewable energy goals. Proposed changes under Docket No. 21-OIR-02 (Title 20, Division 2, Chapter 5, Article 4 A. General Provisions B. Delegation of

Geothermal Power Plan Siting Authority to Local Government) provides the opportunity for the County of Imperial Planning and Development Services, comprised of professionals working in entitlements, planning and building inspection to permit geothermal operations at the local level.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We stand ready to work with the California Energy Commission and other state agencies on the implementation of Docket No. 21-OIR-02 for the benefit of our county, state and nation. If you have any questions or if we can be a source of additional information, please contact either myself or our Intergovernmental Relations Director, Rebecca Terrazas-Baxter, at (442) 265-1014 or <u>Rebeccaterrazas-baxter@co.imperial.ca.us</u>.

Sincerely,

Jesus Eduardo Escobar Chairman, Imperial County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Ben Hueso, California State Senate, 40th District The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, California State Assembly, 56th District