

DOCKETED

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Support for Indian Energy Viejas Long Duration Energy Storage Grant

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



October 11, 2022

California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Indian Energy Viejas Long-Duration Energy Storage Grant

Chairman Hochschild and California Energy Commissioners:

I am writing this letter in support of Indian Energy receiving a grant for the long-duration energy storage (LDES) device associated with the Viejas Microgrid. As the CEO of Fellowship Energy—a developer and financier of renewable energy projects around the country—my team and I have extensive experience developing and financing solar and storage projects around the country. We have also worked on several microgrids in both California, including The Gardens Casino in Hawaiian Gardens, CA and the Gonzales Community Microgrid. Fellowship Energy also won a US DOE SunShot award for best non-profit program and an Interstate Renewable Energy Council award for Best Community Shared Renewables Project. Currently, we are working in support of Indian Energy’s third-party financing of the Viejas Microgrid project.

Fellowship Energy was introduced to Indian Energy by a mutual connection in the energy industry. At the time, Indian Energy was looking for tax equity and debt supported by a US DOE loan guarantee for the Viejas microgrid. After a brief meeting with Indian Energy, it was very clear to us that they had the technical and developmental know-how to bring this project to completion. However, they needed outside expertise to secure financing for a project of this magnitude. Indian Energy engaged Fellowship Energy to provide assistance originating and structuring finance for this project. The experience of the Fellowship Energy team, coupled with the technical expertise of the Indian Energy team allowed us to connect with institutional financing partners who are currently have the project under diligence.

Having worked with Indian Energy over the past few months, it is clear to Fellowship Energy that Indian Energy is capable of bringing this project to completion. The hallmark of a world-class developer is not the size of the organization or the size of its balance sheet, but its ability to identify its limitations and partner with organizations that allow it to achieve its goals. This is exactly what Indian Energy has done. They have partnered with MbarC—a well-respected engineering and construction company with a pedigree of completing difficult projects—to design and build the projects. They have partnered with Fellowship Energy—whose team has hundreds of MWs of solar and storage development, structuring

and financing experience—to complete the financing of this project. Building the correct team for a project like this shows the appropriate amount of diligence and foresight.

We believe that Indian Energy has a unique ability to develop this project given its relationship to the end customer and its leadership's ability to solve the unique problems that inevitably come up during the development phase of a project of this size and type. We would not choose to partner with them on this project if we did not believe that they could complete its development and construction cycles. Fellowship Energy supports Indian Energy 100% and firmly believe that this project will be completed with the award of this grant.

Moreover, Fellowship Energy supports Indian Energy's regional program and plan for future projects. Our partnership does not end with the Viejas project and we fully intend to continue to support Indian Energy as they implement their regional program. We believe that Indian Energy represents the heart and soul of this industry. The renewable energy industry was built on the backs of small businesses who were given the opportunity to do big things and this grant represents that opportunity for Indian Energy. We believe that this grant will be the catalyst for Indian Energy's success supporting both the Viejas and other tribes in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip D. Kwait". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Philip Kwait
CEO
Fellowship Energy