

**DOCKETED**

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*Comment Received From: Imperial County Workforce Development Board  
Submitted On: 8/24/2023  
Docket Number: 23-AFC-01*

## **Support**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

# Imperial County Workforce & Economic Development

*Workforce Development Board*

Priscilla A. Lopez  
ICWDB Director



2799 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
El Centro, CA 92243  
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August 23, 2023

Drew Bohan  
Executive Director  
California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: Support for the Morton Bay Geothermal Project (23-AFC-01)**

Dear Mr. Bohan:

On behalf of the Imperial County Workforce Development Board, I write to express our enthusiastic support of the Morton Bay Geothermal Project proposed in Imperial County, California.

The Imperial County Workforce Development Board (ICWDB) serves as an Advisory Board to the County Board of Supervisors and is comprised of members representing both private and public sectors in Imperial County. Charged with overseeing the public workforce system in Imperial County, the ICWDB creates policies and programs to service the needs of job seekers and employers in the community. The ICWDB is committed to the effective and prudent use of federal funding to deliver customer-focused workforce development services.

By generating geothermal energy 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the Morton Bay Geothermal Project will provide critically needed new, renewable baseload generating capacity to support grid reliability and the State's transition to clean, carbon-free electricity.


The Morton Bay Geothermal Project will also provide significant economic benefits to Imperial County. Capital expenditures from the project are estimated to bring \$750 million to \$1.3 billion to the local economy, creating over 560 construction jobs and 61 permanent jobs to support maintenance and operation of the facility. In addition to the many jobs that will be created, the project will generate substantial tax revenue and support the local economy through direct purchase of services, supplies, and materials from local and regional companies.

Our services will be valuable in the training of a prepared workforce needed to support these efforts. The Workforce Development Board (WDB), through ICWED, provides funding for training, work experience, incumbent worker training, and youth programs for local businesses. The WDB has approved and invested in a state of the art mobile unit that is under production and slated to arrive in the County by the end of this year. This mobile unit will allow community access to our services in the rural areas of the County. Additionally, the WDB has approved and invested in the establishment of a Business Center that provides an area for entrepreneurial training, business services, recruitment, and training. ICWED has an established partnership with

a wide range of partners and stakeholders in the community that range from industry to CBO's and labor unions. We have become trusted partners in the community as we organize our town halls to listen to our community needs and include them in our strategic planning.

For these reasons, the ICWDB supports the Morton Bay Geothermal Project. We look forward to the timely consideration and approval of the project by the California Energy Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Priscilla A. Lopez', enclosed within a blue oval scribble.

Priscilla A. López, MPA  
Director  
Imperial County  
Workforce & Economic Development  
[Priscillalopez@co.imperial.ca.us](mailto:Priscillalopez@co.imperial.ca.us)