

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	23-AFC-03
Project Title:	Black Rock Geothermal Project (BRGP)
TN #:	251885
Document Title:	Imperial County Workforce Development Board Comments - Support
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Imperial County Workforce Development Board
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	8/24/2023 4:51:00 PM
Docketed Date:	8/24/2023

*Comment Received From: Imperial County Workforce Development Board
Submitted On: 8/24/2023
Docket Number: 23-AFC-03*

Support

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Imperial County Workforce & Economic Development

Workforce Development Board

Priscilla A. Lopez
ICWDB Director



2799 S. 4th 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 Black Rock Geothermal Project (23-AFC-03)

Dear Mr. Bohan:

On behalf of the Imperial County Workforce Development Board, I write to express our enthusiastic support of the Black Rock 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 Black Rock 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 Black Rock Geothermal Project will also provide significant economic benefits to Imperial County. Capital expenditures from the project are estimated to bring \$475 to \$800 million to the local economy, creating over 426 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 Black Rock 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 large, loopy blue oval.

Priscilla A. López, MPA
Director
Imperial County
Workforce & Economic Development
Priscillalopez@co.imperial.ca.us