

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	23-AFC-01
Project Title:	Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP)
TN #:	251891
Document Title:	San Diego State University - Imperial Valley Comments - Letter of Support
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	San Diego State University - Imperial Valley
Submitter Role:	Public Agency
Submission Date:	8/24/2023 5:19:15 PM
Docketed Date:	8/25/2023

*Comment Received From: San Diego State University - Imperial Valley
Submitted On: 8/24/2023
Docket Number: 23-AFC-01*

Letter of Support

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



San Diego State
University

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August 24, 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 San Diego State University-Imperial Valley, we write to express our enthusiastic support of the Morton Bay Geothermal Project proposed in Imperial County, California. We are the only four year university in the Imperial Valley with fifteen academic degree offerings. In fall of 2025, we will open our new state of the art STEM building, funded with support from Governor Newsom with support from our state representatives. We will be hosting new degrees in STEM related fields including the sciences and engineering to grow local talent through the recruitment of students from the Imperial Valley. This \$80 million dollar building will provide research and teaching labs to support our industry partners. We anticipate that students who attend SDSU-IV will also want to work and remain in the Valley and will be a significant labor pool to support the geothermal industry. We seek to develop partnerships and collaborations with our local industry leaders to secure support for our students in the form of internships, apprenticeships, and future employment and research partnerships.

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.

We look forward to our continued partnership and collaboration as we seek support for renewable energy research and development in the Imperial Valley. For these reasons, we support 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 black ink that reads "Guillermina Gina Nuñez M." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and a distinct 'M' at the end.

Dr. Guillermina Gina Nuñez-Mchiri,
Dean San Diego State University-Imperial Valley
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