

DOCKETED

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Letter of Support

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

August 18, 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:

I am writing on behalf of the Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE) to express our enthusiastic support for the Morton Bay Geothermal Project proposed in Imperial County, CA. ICOE serves 16 school districts and 36,249 students in Imperial County. Our mission is to prepare students for life, college, and career. As an organization deeply committed to improving the quality of life in Imperial County, we recognize the significant challenges our community faces.

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.

The Berkshire Hathaway Energy Foundation, which supports Berkshire Hathaway Energy's commitment to education, is a strong advocate for our community and provides ongoing support for education, community enhancement, and arts and culture opportunities in Imperial County. Through successful partnerships between BHE Renewables, ICOE, and our Foundation for Education, we are able to expand access to the arts and build capacity in our schools to ensure all children have early and impactful art education experiences.

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,



J. Todd Finnell, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools