

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: Ben Hueso
Submitted On: 8/25/2023
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Support for the Black Rock Geothermal Project

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

BEN HUESO

August 21, 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:

I write to express enthusiastic support of the Black Rock Geothermal Project proposed in Imperial County, California.

During my term in the legislature, I represented portions of the City of San Diego and all of the Imperial Valley. I chaired both the Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, & Communications and the Senate Select Committee on California-Mexico Cooperation. I was a strong advocate for green energy initiatives, including geothermal and lithium energy projects in the Imperial Valley.

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.

For these reasons, I support the Black Rock Geothermal Project. I look forward to the timely consideration and approval of the project by the California Energy Commission.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Ben Hueso