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*Comment Received From: Town Pump Steakhouse
Submitted On: 8/26/2023
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Letter of Support

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

August 24, 2023

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

RE: Support for the Elmore North Geothermal Project (23-AFC-02)

Dear Mr. Bohan:

On behalf of The Original Town Pump Steakhouse, we write to express our enthusiastic support of the Elmore North Geothermal Project proposed in Imperial County, California.

Our restaurant is located in the small town of Westmorland with a population of about 2,000. We are located near the geothermal areas and our restaurant positively benefits from the workforce that patronizes us. Our banquet area also has been utilized for private dinner meetings with out-of-town guests. Also, a few times a year, the geothermal plants close for maintenance and some staff is housed at the local hotel situated right across the street from us. They also recommend our restaurant to their visiting clients. It is a productive cycle that benefits many small businesses in our little town.

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

The Elmore North 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 636 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.

Locally, the extra business we receive from the geothermal workforce increases our revenue and sales tax thus allows us to donate into our community, the end results benefits the town of Westmorland. In addition, with the increase in business comes the need to hire more staff and hiring local is important to us since there are not many of job opportunities. Overall, our small-town benefits from having more money circulating locally.

For these reasons, we support the Elmore North Geothermal Project. We look forward to the timely consideration and approval of the project by the California Energy Commission.

Sincerely,

Gabriel and Juanita Rebolgar
Town Pump, Inc.

