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Comment Received From: Brandon Matson Submitted On: 9/26/2016 Docket Number: 15-AFC-01

## **SUPPORT NRG Puente Power Project**

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed), I am attaching a comment letter on this matter.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



## Strengthening the Voice of Business

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September 26, 2016

California Energy Commission Chairman Robert B. Weisenmiller, Ph.D. 1516 Ninth Street, MS-33 Sacramento, CA 95814

## **Re: SUPPORT NRG Puente Power Project**

Dear Chairman Weisenmiller,

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed) - representing more than 160 top business groups with 325,000 employers and 3 million employees across our region - we are writing in strong support of NRG's Puente Power Project in Oxnard.

As you know, this project is the result of NRG's winning bid in Southern California Edison's 2014 RFO, as the CPUC directed the utility to procure up to 300 MW of local power generation in the Oxnard/Ventura region in anticipation of the retirement of two aging NRG power plants (Mandalay and Ormond Beach).

## The Puente Power Project will, among other things:

- Incorporate the latest technologies to help integrate renewable energy ٠ supplies (resulting also in lower criteria pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions per megawatt);
- Ensure the Ventura County Region has a reliable supply of local energy generation (because this area is isolated along the state's transmission lines, a disruption such as a fire, earthquake, etc., could leave it without electricity);
- Act as a "peaking" unit that can provide power during critical needed times • across Southern California

As the state continues to move to a renewable energy future (50% by 2030), it is imperative that intermittent wind, solar and hydro power be supported by a variety of sources including natural gas generation. Puente will be a critical component. The project and its related construction work will also mean increased benefits to the community through increased property and sales tax contributions, as well as jobs.

Energy projects such as this are critically needed. BizFed strongly supports NRG in its efforts and looks forward to working with the Commission on this issue.

Sincerely,

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Gilbert F. Ivey BizFed Chair Former CAO, Metropolitan Water District

David Fleming BizFed Founding Chair

David W Plenny Sunt formander

Tracy Hernandez **BizFed Founding CEO** IMPOWER, Inc.