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*Comment Received From: San Diego State University - Imperial Valley*  
*Submitted On: 8/24/2023*  
*Docket Number: 23-AFC-02*

## **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 Elmore North Geothermal Project (23-AFC-02)**

Dear Mr. Bohan:

On behalf of San Diego State University-Imperial Valley, we write to express our enthusiastic support of the Elmore North 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 look forward to developing partnerships and collaborations with our local industry leaders to secure support for our students in terms of internships, apprenticeships, and future employment as we engage in cutting edge scientific research in renewable energies.

By generating geothermal energy 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the Elmore North 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 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.

For these reasons, we at San Diego State University-Imperial Valley, support the Elmore North 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, reading "Guillermina Gina Nuñez M." in a cursive script.

Dr. Guillermina Gina Nuñez-Mchiri,  
Dean San Diego State University-Imperial Valley  
gnunez@sdsu.edu