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Submitted On: 8/24/2023
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Letter of Support

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



August 22, 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:

On behalf of Kenai Drilling, we write to express our enthusiastic support of the Black Rock Geothermal Project proposed in Imperial County, California.

Kenai Drilling Limited provides contract drilling services for exploration and development of oil, gas and geothermal wells throughout the western US. We have been safely and responsibly drilling, and working over, geothermal wells in the Imperial Valley since March of 1999. We currently employ over 200 men and women, from diverse backgrounds, in well-paying jobs. Kenai has made a concerted effort to recruit local Imperial Valley residents and are proud to say that we have made a positive difference in many families' lives by providing job opportunities with higher paying wage brackets than what other local average job opportunities provide. We offer many entry level positions with lots of opportunities for personal and professional growth. Kenai Drilling is family-owned company and are grateful for the hard-working employees that reside in the Imperial Valley and look forward to offering more job opportunities for the community with the approval of the Black Rock Geothermal Project.

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, we support the Black Rock Geothermal Project. We look forward to the timely consideration and approval of the project by the California Energy Commission.

Sincerely,

Rick Dannis
Vice President, Operations

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