

**DOCKETED**

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*Comment Received From: Northend Action Council  
Submitted On: 8/28/2023  
Docket Number: 23-AFC-03*

## **Letter of Support**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



**Northend Action Council  
940 West Main Street, Suite 209 - El Centro, California - 92243**

22 August 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 the Northend Action Council (NAC), we write to express our enthusiastic support of the Black Rock Geothermal Project proposed in Imperial County, California. The NAC is a five-member body composed of representatives from the northend of Imperial County appointed by the county supervisors. Through monthly town hall meetings, we reach out to the community to learn of topics of interest and/or concern and bring to the meetings leaders to address these topics. Our goal is to bring people together and work for a better community.

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.

BHE Renewables, the developer of this project, is a good corporate citizen and a valued member of our community. In addition to the project benefits mentioned above, this project will also play a key part in the future production of lithium. The development of these geothermal projects collectively will create nearly 200 jobs for our community and extensive economic benefits, which has the potential to transform our northend community from being the disadvantaged one that it is, to it becoming a strong and healthy and self-reliant one.

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,

Christian B. Froelich  
President  
310-570-6101