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Vice President, Policy, Government,
and Public Affairs
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Ex Officio
JIM WUNDERMAN
President & CEO, Bay Area Council

BAY AREA COUNCIL

September 8, 2009

Mr. Paul Kramer
Hearing Officer
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-29
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

RE: Renewable Energy Permitting Process for the Ivanpah Solar Project

Dear Mr. Kramer:

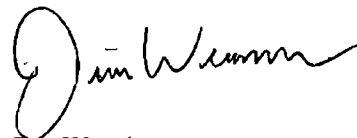
I am writing on behalf of the Bay Area Council to urge expeditious movement of the California Energy Commission's renewable energy permitting process. The Bay Area Council is a strong supporter of the Ivanpah Solar Project and believes the direct investment of \$3 billion, creation of 1,700 construction and 3,500 permanent jobs, and long-term environmental benefits of the project are essential to advancing the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), Greenhouse Gas (GHG) goals, as well as strategically positioning the State for future job and renewable energy growth.

The Bay Area Council understands and appreciates the hard work and resource constraints placed on the Commission during these times. The Ivanpah Solar Project was declared "Data Adequate" on October 31, 2007, which began a proceeding required by statute to take no more than 365 days. The proceeding that includes permit issuance is now almost 300 days overdue.

The Commission needs to aggressively follow its internal permit approval process and timeline outlined in the Commission's "Model" 12-month siting schedule and take other actions at its discretion to expedite the remainder of this proceeding. By aggressively ensuring timely permit issuance for individual projects such as Ivanpah, State legislative requirements outlined in RPS and GHG goals will remain on track to be accomplished.

The Ivanpah Solar Project must receive initial permit approval in January 2010 to ensure eligibility for federal ARRA stimulus dollars, potential US Department of Energy loan guarantees, and ultimately to deliver renewable power to California. This is an opportunity for the State to capitalize on an historic opportunity in renewable energy. The Bay Area Council urges the Commission to reach a final decision by the second Business Meeting in 2010, which will be day 819 of this proceeding.

Sincerely,



Jim Wunderman
President and CEO
Bay Area Council

DOCKET

07-AFC-5

DATE 9/8/2009

RECD. 9/15/2009