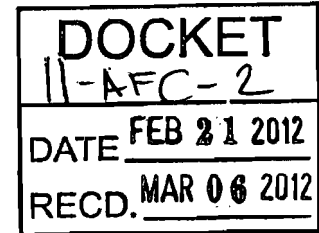


**Board of County Commissioners
Nye County
Pahrump, Nevada**

Pahrump Office
2100 E. Walt Williams Drive
Pahrump, NV 89048
Phone (775) 751-7075
Fax (775) 751-7093

February 21, 2012



Mr. Mike Monosmith
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5112

**Re: Request for Agency Participation in the Review of the Hidden Hills Solar
Energy Project, Application for Certification (11-AFC-2)**

Dear Mr. Monosmith:

Staff and Commissioners from Nye County have been following the California Energy Commission (CEC) proceedings of the BrightSource Energy, Inc. Hidden Hills Project (Project) with great interest. The project consists of two approximately 250 MW solar towers and related facilities on private lands just west of the Nevada border off of the Tecopa Highway.

Nye County is a political subdivision of the State of Nevada with the responsibility to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of Nye County. The location of the Project is on the border between Nye County and Inyo County California with the unincorporated town of Pahrump as the closest municipality.

The Hidden Hills project is located adjacent to the State Line and although not physically in Nye County, many of the impacts from this project will be in Nye County. The electric transmission line and natural gas pipeline serving the Project pass through Nye County. We are a cooperating agency with BLM in the NEPA analysis of the Valley Electric Association project. Filings by Inyo County and other interested parties have expressed an interest in providing input into the CEC process in regards to mitigation. Nye County has the interests in the impacts from this project and would like to discuss the areas of water, environmental and biological impacts, transportation and road access, employment, worker housing, and any other potential impacts on Nye County and its residents.

The NCWD in conjunction with Nye County Nevada has spent many years and spent considerable sums in developing hydrologic information, and we have worked with other renewable energy developers in mitigation strategies for similar projects. Bright Source Energy should be commended in the design of the Project, the information provided indicates an annual water usage of 140 acre feet of water to produce 500 MW of power.

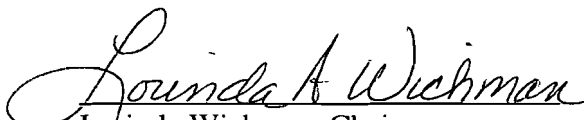
This is much more efficient in water usage than other Solar Thermal projects have indicated in their project designs. This Solar Thermal project could actually help protect our water resources in the shared Pahrump Basin since this is a much lower water use than alternative uses for the 3200 acre parcel.

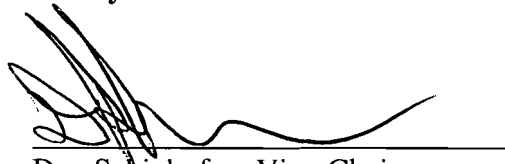
We request that the California Energy Commission include Nye County in any discussions of issues that may impact Nye County and provide us with the opportunity to participate in and discussions of mitigation strategies and decisions about water usage.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you can contact me at 775-751-7075 or aborasky@co.nye.nv.us or Darrell Lacy at (775)727-7727 or by email at llacy@co.nye.nv.us.

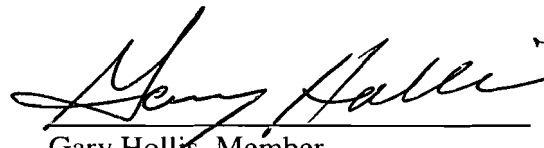
Sincerely,

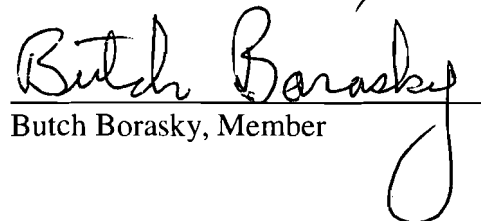
Nye County Board of County Commissioners


Lorinda Wichman, Chairman


Dan Schinhofen, Vice-Chair


Joni Eastley, Member


Gary Hollis, Member


Butch Borasky, Member

1 **NYE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2012- 05**

2 A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF BRIGHT SOURCE
3 ENERGY, HIDDEN HILLS ENERGY SOLAR THERMAL POWER PLANT.

4 WHEREAS, Nye County, in Nevada is geographically the third largest county in the contiguous
5 United States; and

6 WHEREAS, Nye County has thousands of miles of rivers, creeks, waterways, and underground
7 aquifer; and

8 WHEREAS, Nye County is geographically diverse, and includes approximately 98% public
9 lands; and

10 WHEREAS, the economic well-being of the citizens of Nye County depends upon mining,
11 renewable energy production, ranching and other activities that require access to land and surface
12 waters; and

13 WHEREAS, the Bright Source Energy Project has the potential of 1000 plus jobs during
14 construction and over 100 jobs during the operation of the plant; and

15 WHEREAS, Nye County is neighboring county to the project site that is located in Inyo County
16 and;

17 WHEREAS, Nye County and Inyo County have a Memorandum of Understanding to support the
18 development of renewable energy; and

19 WHEREAS, Nye County has requested agency participation status in the review by the
20 California Energy Commission and the development of reasonable mitigation measures; and

21 WHEREAS, Nye County is a cooperating agency with BLM in the Valley Electric Transmission
22 line to the Hidden Hills Project.

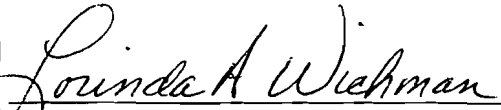
23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the the Nye County Board of County
24 Commissioners as follows:

1. Nye County Board of County Commissioners supports granting approval of the construction and operation of the Bright Source Energy Hidden Hills Project.
2. Nye County is committed to working with Federal Agencies and California Energy Commission in the review and approval process.

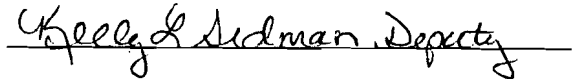
APPROVED this 21st day of February, 2012.

NYE COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

ATTEST:



Lorinda Wichman, Chairman



Sandra L. Merlino, Nye County Clerk
and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board