



Death Valley Unified School District
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California Energy Commission

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James M. Copeland
District Superintendent / Principal

Death Valley Academy
Death Valley Elementary
Shoshone Elementary
Tecopa Francis Elementary

March 28, 2013

Commissioner Karen Douglas
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-31
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Douglas:

I want to acknowledge and thank the Commission for so thoroughly considering the many issues that arise when a project the magnitude of the Bright Source Hidden Hills solar plant is proposed. As the hearing unfolded in our gymnasium it was evident that much legwork, research and expertise were dedicated to the consideration of this massive solar project and its relationship to our communities, the environment and the economy of a vast geographical area.

During the hearing I was invited to speak and did so focusing on education in our district (Death Valley Unified) as well as the rest of Inyo County. Of note in this discussion is that Death Valley is a low wealth district (80% free and reduced lunches) which will gain nothing from this project owing to the fact that it is one of the few districts in Inyo County that is revenue limit funded and, hence, will see no fiscal gain from Hidden Hills. What Death Valley will gain is a number of students whose parents will live in our school district rather than traveling 100 plus miles to work each day.

Please consider this letter for the record as I memorialize what I presented at the hearing. First, I am requesting that Bright Source's connectivity via high speed internet and/or cell sites be linked to the communities of Charleston View, Tecopa and Shoshone. This could be done provided that a relay is set up in the Kingston Range or other appropriate site. It seems only sensible that a project of this scope become a partner with the communities hosting it. As stated at the meeting, Charleston View does not even have land line telephone service and the main school site in Shoshone is served by a T1 line which will no longer be supported by AT&T early in 2015.

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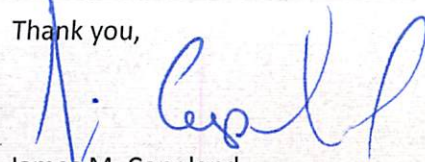
Second, DVUSD's governing board requests that one teaching position be endowed by Bright Source so as to mitigate the impact that support and construction families will have on Death Valley USD's ability to deliver a quality education to all of its students. In terms of today's dollars we project that a funded teaching position will cost approximately \$80,000 per year including benefits. Should this project lead toward our district becoming basic aid then I would suggest that this mitigation be modified as necessary and appropriate.

Third, I am asking that two student scholarships be established, funded and supported by Bright Source. I would like to see the annual student scholarships granted in the amount of \$5,000 per year for a maximum of 4 years. Those students selected would be pursuing a vocational/technical certification or a four year degree. It would be my desire to also see internships sponsored by Bright Source (either in the United States or Israel) made available to scholarship recipients for a specified period of time during intersessions. These scholarships would be made available to those Inyo County students who spent the majority of their high school careers at a high school in Inyo County.

In conjunction with student scholarships I would like to see annual scholarships made available to two Inyo County teachers who express a desire to expand their knowledge in a field related to the STEM disciplines. These scholarships would be in an amount not to exceed \$3,000 per recipient and would be subject to a selection process which included a representative of Bright Source.

I am asking that the preceding be made part and parcel of the agreement which will enable Bright Source to profit by the resources of Inyo County. The suggestion is not that Bright Source should be held hostage to these proposals but that Bright Source would be investing in a future that will surely include not just the physical resources of Inyo County but also the county's human resources. We here at Death Valley Unified School District would like to see this letter entered into the record and the proposals outlined herein implemented as part and parcel of the biggest construction project in Inyo County since the construction of the Owens Valley Aqueduct.

Thank you,



James M. Copeland

Superintendent, Death Valley Unified School District.