GALATI | BLEK LLP

455 Capitol Mall Suite 350
Sacramento CA 95814
Tel· 916.441.6575
Fax· 916.441.6553

DOCKET
09-AFC-10
DATE OCT 29 2010
RECD. OCT 29 2010

October 29, 2010

California Energy Commission
Dockets Unit
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject: SUPPORT LETTERS
RICE SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT
DOCKET NO. (09-AFC-10)

Enclosed for filing with the California Energy Commission are the original **SUPPORT LETTERS,** for the Rice Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-10).

Sincerely,

Marie Mills

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0037
(916) 651-4037
FAX (916) 327-2187

DISTRICT OFFICE
5225 Canyon Crest Dr. Suite 360
Riverside, CA 92507
(951) 680-6750
FAX (951) 680-6757

SENATE
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STANDING COMMITTEES
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, VICE CHAIR
HUMAN SERVICES, VICE CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS
EDUCATION
ENERGY, UTILITIES AND COMMUNICATIONS

SELECT COMMITTEES
EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING

BILL EMMERSON

SENATOR, THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

October 26, 2010

Karen Douglas, J.D., Chair
California Energy Commission
1519 Ninth Street MS-39
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Douglas:

I am writing to convey my strong support of SolarReserve's Rice Solar Energy Project, and to encourage approval of this project by the California Energy Commission.

The Rice Solar Energy Project is located within California's 37th State Senate District, which I represent. This project is a priority for me and the residents of our region. For the reasons detailed below, it is clear that the economic and social benefits of this project far outweigh its impacts.

Not only will the Rice Solar Energy Project help California meet its stated renewable energy goals, it will also employ hundreds of people and inject hundreds of millions of dollars into the local economies of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

In addition, SolarReserve is introducing an exciting new technology which will, for the first time, allow for the storage of solar power, enabling energy created by a renewable source to be used on demand regardless of weather conditions or time of day. This technology was created in the USA by American engineers and scientists, and the technology will utilize components primarily manufactured in the United States, as opposed to competing technologies which utilize a significant amount of imported components.

SolarReserve's power generation and storage process produces 100% clean renewable and sustainable energy. It does not use natural gas or other fossil fuels in its operation and does not generate harmful emissions.

Another important aspect of SolarReserve's technology is that the cost of electricity generated by the Rice Solar Energy Project will be stable because it will not be tied to the price of oil. Therefore it will not be vulnerable to fluctuation like that of coal-fired power plants, thus contributing to reliable long-term energy pricing and energy independence.

The Rice Solar Energy Project will have a generating capacity of 150MW and be capable of delivering 450,000 megawatt-hours of renewable energy annually (enough to power up to 68,000

homes during peak electricity periods). It will therefore help meet regional, state and federal renewable energy goals.

In my opinion, the Rice Solar Energy Project could not be more ideally located. The site is privately-owned land that was once an abandoned airfield in a remote desert area, and is consistent with all current land use designations.

The Rice Solar Energy Project will enhance the local economy by generating additional tax revenue, creating new "green" jobs and boosting revenue for local businesses. Over its expected 30 year lifespan, the Rice Solar Energy Project will generate approximately $10 million in property tax revenue. The project will contribute over $17 million in sales tax during construction and approximately $3 million in sales tax during operations. It will add up to 50 new permanent "green" jobs in the area, and will create approximately 450 local jobs during the 2 ½ year construction period. Construction materials and supplies for the project will be purchased in the region, greatly boosting the local economy in the near term. The Rice Solar Energy Project will continue as a stable contributor to the local economy with an estimated annual operating budget of approximately $6 Million, the majority of which will be spent in the region.

The Inland Empire will benefit from the distinction of being the home to this innovative, proven new technology on the cutting edge of solar power production. Experts and tourists from around the world will be drawn to the region, and the project will provide educational and economic opportunities through partnerships between SolarReserve and local colleges and businesses.

I am in full support of this project and urge the California Energy Commission to approve the Rice Solar Energy Project.

Respectfully,

BILL EMMERSON
Senator, 37th District

County of Riverside

RIVERSIDE OFFICE:
4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor
Riverside, CA 92502-1647
(951) 955-1040
Fax (951) 955-2194

DISTRICT OFFICE/MAILING ADDRESS:
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 222
Palm Desert, CA 92260-2574
(760) 863-8211
Fax (760) 863-8905

SUPERVISOR JOHN J. BENOIT
FOURTH DISTRICT

Oct. 28, 2010

California Energy Commission
Media and Public Communications Office
1516 Ninth Street, MS-29
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Dear Commissioners:

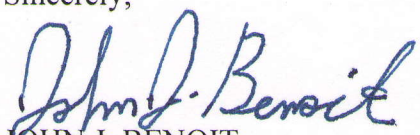
Riverside County, in responding to the State of California Executive Order S-14-08 requiring 33 percent of the total electricity sales by 2020 be from renewable energy sources, is attempting to provide reasonable and thoughtful direction regarding the design and placement of the renewable energy facilities while meeting the goal required by the Executive Order. To that end, I have considered the Rice Solar Energy Project (RSEP) (Docket No. 09-AFC-10) and, while all projects have impact, believe that the level of impact from the RSEP is acceptable.

In reviewing the written testimony of Terrence O'Brien, Deputy Director of the Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division for the California Energy Commission, for the October 29, 2010 proceedings, I have the following responses. Essentially Mr. O'Brien had three concerns in his filing dated October 21, 2010: the visual impacts, the remote location of the RSEP, and the lack of proximity to existing transmission infrastructure.

- Visual impact is a common issue relating to solar projects. While there is a visual impact from this project, there is a visual impact from any solar project. With current technology this is simply unavoidable.
- While Mr. O'Brien considers the location of the project to be remote, he also states that Solar Reserve is considering a future Application for Certification of a project in the same vicinity. Possibly this will result in a cluster of projects that will impact a similar area and benefit from one transmission corridor.
- The RSEP site, once part of the historic Rice Army Airfield, is disturbed land. We agree with the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Independent Science Advisors when they repeatedly emphasize in their report, "to the degree possible, ***site all renewable energy developments on previously disturbed land.***"
- While the transmission infrastructure is not in place, it should be understood that over half of the 10-mile transmission line will follow an existing dirt road.
- Predation by ravens from transmission lines and towers is and will continue to be a management issue not solely related to the development of renewable energy projects. The Science Advisory Report acknowledges the need to employ "deterrent devices to discourage perching by ravens and raptors on transmission lines, towers, or other structures."

In considering projects such as the RSEP, we must weigh the positives against the negatives. In light of the requirements we are facing under Executive Order S-14-08 and the fact that this project does not disturb a large swath of undisturbed desert, I believe this project should receive approval.

Sincerely,



JOHN J. BENOIT
Fourth District Supervisor

JJB:das

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Board of Supervisors

District 1 *Vice-Chairman*	**Bob Buster** 951-955-1010
District 2	**John F. Tavaglione** 951-955-1020
District 3	**Jeff Stone** 951-955-1030
District 4	**John J. Benoit** 951-955-1040
District 5 *Chairman*	**Marion Ashley** 951-955-1050

October 28, 2010

Karen Douglas, J.D., Chair
California Energy Commission
1519 Ninth Street MS-39
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Douglas:

I am writing to express support for SolarReserve's Rice Solar Energy Project, and to ask that the Commission approve this project.

Bringing reliable renewable energy into the region is a priority for me and for Riverside County. I support this project because I believe strongly that the economic, environmental and educational benefits are many, and that the negative impacts are minimal or nonexistent.

The Rice Solar Energy Project will help to stimulate our local economy. Over its lifespan, which is expected to be at least 30 years, the Rice Solar Energy Project will generate in the neighborhood of $10 million in property tax revenue. During that same period, it is estimated that the project will contribute over $20 million in sales tax. It will continually contribute to the local economy with an annual operating budget of $6 million, most of which will be spent in the region.

The project will bring about 50 new permanent "green" jobs to the area, and will create approximately 450 local jobs during the 2 ½ year construction period. Not to mention all the local businesses which will benefit from the purchase of needed construction materials and supplies.

One of the most exciting aspects of this project to me is the new technology SolarReserve is introducing. Riverside County will be one of the first places in the world to utilize a technology which will, for the first time, allow for the storage of solar power. Being able to store the sun's energy and then use it any time day or night, regardless of weather conditions, is truly exciting.

The proposed location of the Rice project is also a huge plus. Utilizing privately owned, previously disturbed land should be encouraged.

After reviewing the final staff assessment, two things were of concern to me. First, I disagree completely with the conclusion that the Rice project is inconsistent with the County's General Plan, its policies and zoning. Second, although the tall tower will be visible to people traveling on State Route 62, being that it will sit a mile off the road I cannot agree that this impact is significant enough to warrant denial of the project. I urge the Commission to issue a finding of override and to approve the Rice project.

I support the Rice Solar Energy Project fully, and request approval of the project by the California Energy Commission.

Respectfully,

Marion Ashley

Marion Ashley
Riverside County Supervisor, 5th District

County Administrative Center • Fifth Floor • 4080 Lemon Street • Riverside, California 92501
Internet – http://www.countyofriverside.us

JOHN F. TAVAGLIONE
SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

STAFF
JOHN FIELD, Chief of Staff
DONNA JOHNSTON, Senior Legislative Assistant
KAREN CHRISTENSEN, Senior Legislative Assistant
LILIANA ALLIN, Legislative Assistant
SUSAN SWIECA, Legislative Assistant

October 27, 2010

John Kessler
Project Manager
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear California Energy Commission:

It has come to my attention that the Commission may be considering not issuing a "finding of override" for the visual impacts of the Rice Solar Energy Project. I wish to convey that this project is of high importance to me and to the County of Riverside. I am strongly of the opinion that the enormous benefits of this project outweigh considerably its impacts.

The benefits of the Rice Solar Energy Project to our region will be numerous and significant. The project will employ hundreds of people at a time when jobs are badly needed. The construction and operation of the project will inject hundreds of millions of dollars into our local economy. Not to mention the environmental benefits of this exciting new technology, which will deliver 450,000 megawatt-hours annually of clean, reliable, renewable energy.

In addition, the Rice Solar Energy Project is proposed for a very remote area of the desert. This site is privately owned, and is previously disturbed. Having once been used as an air field, the site has been abandoned for decades. Frankly, I'm not sure how anyone could ask for a better location. I should point out that I have reviewed the CEC Staff Assessment regarding inconsistency with the County General Plan, its policies and the zoning and I do not agree with CEC Staff's conclusion that the project is inconsistent.

The tower element of the Rice project will be a mile away from the road (SR 62). Although it will be visible from the road, I do not see that impact as a negative one. That stretch of SR 62 is extremely remote and desolate. While the desert landscape is beautiful, driving for long periods of time with very little to see other than the desert itself can be tedious. The Rice Solar Energy Project would be something of interest. I even envision a designated area where motorists can pull over and read about the technology they are seeing from the road.

The bottom line for me is that this project offers enormous economic and social benefits to our region with little or no negative impacts. I fully support this project and ask you to do the same. Please approve the Rice Solar Energy Project.

Sincerely,

John Tavaglione
Supervisor, Riverside County, 2nd District

4080 LEMON STREET • 5TH FLOOR • P.O. BOX 1646 • RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92502-1646 • (951) 955-1020

ASSEMBLYMEMBER PAUL COOK
65TH DISTRICT
CHAIR

SENATOR GLORIA NEGRETE McLEOD
32ND DISTRICT
VICE CHAIR

California State Legislature

INLAND EMPIRE CAUCUS

MEMBERS
SENATOR JOHN BENOIT
37TH DISTRICT
SENATOR DENISE DUCHENY
40TH DISTRICT
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31ST DISTRICT
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62ND DISTRICT
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66TH DISTRICT
ASSEMBLYMEMBER STEVE KNIGHT
36TH DISTRICT
ASSEMBLYMEMBER JEFF MILLER
71ST DISTRICT
ASSEMBLYMEMBER BRIAN NESTANDE
64TH DISTRICT
ASSEMBLYMEMBER MANUEL PEREZ
80TH DISTRICT
ASSEMBLYMEMBER NORMA TORREZ
61ST DISTRICT

April 27, 2010

SolarReserve
Attn.: Mr. Jeff Benoit, Project Manager
2425 Olympic Boulevard, Suite 500 East
Santa Monica, CA 90404

We, the undersigned members of the California State Legislature, strongly support SolarReserve's Rice Solar Energy Project.

This project will help California meet its stated renewable energy goals, will employ hundreds of people, and will inject hundreds of millions of dollars into the local economies of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

In addition, SolarReserve is introducing an exciting new technology which will, for the first time, allow for the storage of solar power, enabling energy created by a renewable source to be used on demand regardless of weather conditions or time of day. This technology was created in the USA by American engineers and scientists, and the technology will utilize components primarily manufactured in the United States, as opposed to competing technologies which utilize a significant amount of imported components.

SolarReserve's power generation and storage process produces 100% clean renewable and sustainable energy. It does not use natural gas or other fossil fuels in its operation and does not generate harmful emissions.

Another important aspect of SolarReserve's technology is that the cost of electricity generated by the Rice Solar Energy Project will be stable because it will not be tied to the price of oil. Therefore it will not be vulnerable to fluctuation like that of coal-fired power plants, thus contributing to reliable long-term energy pricing and energy independence.

The Rice Solar Energy Project will have a generating capacity of 150MW and be capable of delivering 450,000 megawatt-hours of renewable energy annually (enough to power up to

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

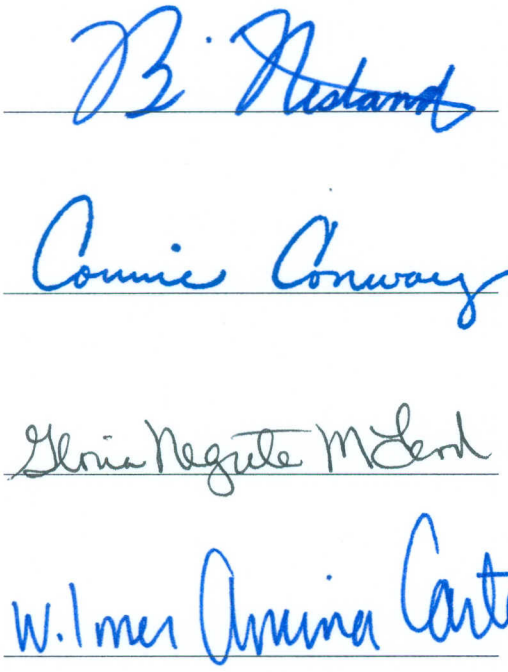
68,000 homes during peak electricity periods). Therefore it will help meet regional State of California and Federal renewable energy goals.

The Rice Solar Energy Project is ideally located on privately-owned land at the site of an abandoned airfield in a remote desert area, and is consistent with all current land use designations.

The Rice Solar Energy Project will enhance the local economy by generating additional tax revenue, creating new "green" jobs and boosting revenue for local businesses. Over its expected 30 year lifespan, the Rice Solar Energy Project will generate approximately $10 million in property tax revenue. The project will contribute over $17 million in sales tax during construction and approximately $3 million in sales tax during operations. It will add up to 50 new permanent "green" jobs in the area, and will create approximately 450 local jobs during the 2 ½ year construction period. Construction materials and supplies for the project will be purchased in the region, greatly boosting the local economy in the near term. The Rice Solar Energy Project will continue as a stable contributor to the local economy with an estimated annual operating budget of approximately $6 Million, the majority of which will be spent in the region.

The Inland Empire will benefit from the distinction of being the home to this innovative, proven new technology on the cutting edge of solar power production. Experts and tourists from around the world will be drawn to the region, and the project will provide educational and economic opportunities through partnerships between SolarReserve and local colleges and businesses.

Sincerely,



B. Nestand

Bob Huff

Connie Conway

[illegible]

Gloria Negrete McLeod

[illegible] Lebbries

Wilmer Amina Carter

Paul Cook
Assembly, District 65

Anthony Adams
Assembly, District 59

Bill Emmerson
Assembly, District 63

V. Manuel Pérez
Assembly, District 80

Brian Nestande
Assembly, District 64

Bob Huff
Senate, District 29

Connie Conway
Assembly, District 34

Steve Knight
Assembly, District 36

Gloria Negrete McLeod
Senate, District 32

Kevin Jeffries
Assembly, District 66

Wilmer Amina Carter
Assembly, District 62

RESOLUTION NO. 10-012

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE SUPPORTING SOLAR RESERVE'S RICE SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT

WHEREAS, Solar Reserve is introducing an exciting new technology which will, for the first time, allow for the storage of solar power, enabling energy created by a renewable source to be used on demand regardless of weather conditions or time of day; and

WHEREAS, this technology was created in the USA by American engineers and scientists, and the technology will utilize components primarily manufactured in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Solar Reserve's power generation and storage process produces 100% clean renewable and sustainable energy, does not use natural gas or other fossil fuels in its operation, and does not generate harmful emissions; and

WHEREAS, the cost of electricity generated by the Rice Solar Energy Project will be stable because it will not be tied to the price of oil, and will therefore not be vulnerable to fluctuation like that of coal-fired power plants, thus contributing to reliable long-term energy pricing and energy independence; and

WHEREAS, the Rice Solar Energy Project will have a generating capacity of 150MW and be capable of delivering 450,000 megawatt-hours of renewable energy annually, therefore helping to meet regional, State of California and Federal renewable energy goals; and

WHEREAS, the Rice Solar Energy Project is ideally located on privately owned land in a remote desert area and is consistent with all current land use designations; and

WHEREAS, the Rice Solar Energy Project will enhance the local economy by generating additional tax revenue, creating new "green" jobs, and boosting revenue for local businesses; and

WHEREAS, over its expected 30 year lifespan, it is estimated that the Rice Solar Energy Project will generate approximately $10 million in property tax revenue and $20 million in sales tax; and

WHEREAS, the Rice Solar Energy Project will add up to 50 new permanent "green" jobs in the area, and will create approximately 450 jobs during the 2 ½ year construction period; and

WHEREAS, construction materials and supplies for the project will be purchased in the region, boosting the local economy in the near term; and

WHEREAS, the Rice Solar Energy Project will continue as a stable contributor to the local economy with an estimated annual operating budget of approximately $6 Million, the majority of which will be spent in the region; and

WHEREAS, Riverside County will benefit from the distinction of being the home to this innovative, proven new technology on the cutting edge of solar power production, therefore drawing experts and tourists from around the world to the region and providing educational and economic opportunities through partnerships between Solar Reserve and local colleges and businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESLOVED, that the City Council of the City of Blythe does hereby wholeheartedly and enthusiastically support Solar Reserve's Rice Solar Energy Project.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Blythe this 13th day of April, 2010.

AYES: DeConinck, Covel, Contreras, Galvan and Patel
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

Joseph DeConinck, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mallory Sutterfield, City Clerk

(Seal)

BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE *RICE SOLAR ENERGY POWER PLANT PROJECT*

Docket No. 09-AFC-10

PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 8/5/2010)

APPLICANT
Jeffrey Benoit
Project Manager
Solar Reserve
2425 Olympic Boulevard, Ste. 500 East
Santa Monica, CA 90404
Jeffrey.Benoit@solarreserve.com

APPLICANT'S CONSULTANTS
Andrea Grenier
Grenier and Associates
1420 East Roseville Parkway, Ste. 140-377
Roseville, CA 95661
andrea@agrenier.com

Douglas Davy
CH2MHILL
2485 Natomas Park Drive, Ste. 600
Sacramento, CA 95833
ddavy@ch2m.com

COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT
***Scott Galati**
Marie Mills
Galati & Blek, LLP
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 350
Sacramento, CA 95814
sgalati@gb-llp.com
mmills@gb-llp.com

INTERESTED AGENCIES
California ISO
E-mail Preferred
e-recipient@caiso.com

Liana Reilly
Western Area Power Administration
PO Box 281213
Lakewood CO 80228-8213
reilly@wapa.gov

Allison Shaffer
Bureau of Land Management
Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office
1201 Bird Center Drive
Palm Springs, Ca 92262
allison_shaffer@blm.gov

INTERVENORS

ENERGY COMMISSION
ROBERT WEISENMILLER
Commissioner and Presiding Member
rweisenm@energy.state.ca.us

KAREN DOUGLAS
Chairman and Associate Member
kldougla@energy.state.ca.us

Kourtney Vaccaro
Hearing Officer
kvaccaro@energy.state.ca.us

John Kessler
Siting Project Manager
jkessler@energy.state.ca.us

Deborah Dyer
Staff Counsel
ddyer@energy.state.ca.us

***Jennifer Jennings**
Public Adviser's Office
E-mail preferred
publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Marie Mills, declare that on October 29, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached SUPPORT LETTERS. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at:
[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ricesolar].

The documents have been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

(*Check all that Apply*)

FOR SERVICE TO ALL OTHER PARTIES:

__X___ sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;

_____ by personal delivery;

__X__ by delivering on this date, for mailing with the United States Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date to those addresses NOT marked "email preferred."

AND

FOR FILING WITH THE ENERGY COMMISSION:

__X___ sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below (*preferred method*);

OR

_____ depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
Attn: Docket No. 09-AFC-10
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.

Marie Mills