

CITY OF DEMING, NEW MEXICO
RESOLUTION NO. 12-20

WHEREAS, the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (SunZia) is proposing to construct up to two high voltage 500 kV transmission lines and related interconnecting substations within an area lying between central Arizona and central New Mexico, which will provide new electrical delivery capacity for natural gas and renewable energy resources, primarily wind, solar, and geothermal projects in new Mexico; and,

WHEREAS, New Mexico is rich in these renewable energy resources and state and local communities stand to benefit greatly from the creation of new jobs, economic development and resulting revenues (New Mexico State University Economic Impact Study) for the necessary provision of local governmental services; and,

WHEREAS, New Mexico's renewable energy development resources are located primarily in the central and southern parts of the state where available transmission capacity is extremely limited, and SunZia will provide from 3,000 to 4,500 megawatts of needed transmission capacity; and,

WHEREAS, renewable energy projects are good for the environment and help to minimize our dependence upon foreign oil, reduce air pollution and diversify energy generation sources; and,

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and is inviting comments; and,

WHEREAS, the DEIS has provided a detailed analysis of potential environmental impacts of the project and a range of mitigation measures to such impacts, including reasonable routing alternatives; and,

WHEREAS, the BLM has conducted nine public scoping meetings throughout SunZia's study area, including Luna County, and has held meetings to request public input and identify possible issues of concern that may result from the project; and,

WHEREAS, the BLM is seeking comments on specific issues and concerns related to the DEIS for consideration in forming a Final Environmental Impact Statement; and,

WHEREAS, statements from local governing bodies such as this City Council are very important to development of a complete record for the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Deming City Council supports the construction and operation of additional transmission infrastructure to provide electrical capacity for the area's natural gas and renewable energy projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Deming City Council urges the BLM and all cooperating agencies to judiciously expedite the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project's Final Environmental Impact Statement to expand regional economic development opportunities in central and southwestern New Mexico, by creating the necessary transmission capacity to deliver these areas' renewable energy resources to Southwestern customers and markets.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 11th day of June, 2012



Linda Enis Franklin, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Richard F. McInturff, Clerk

