



County of De Baca
Office of County Commissioners
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DE BACA COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2011-10
Declaring Support of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

WHEREAS, the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (SunZia) proposes to construct up to two high voltage 500 kV electrical transmission lines and related interconnecting substations within an area lying between central Arizona and central New Mexico, which will provide new delivery capacity for existing and developing 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 from taxes and the necessary provision of local governmental services; and

WHEREAS, in particular, parts of the Counties of De Baca, Guadalupe, Lincoln and Torrance have wind that tests as high as 8.5 to 9.5 on a 10 point scale; and

WHEREAS, the private landowners in that area recognize the quality of their wind and are actively seeking to contract with wind farm developers to develop wind farms on their land; and

WHEREAS, at this point in time more than 750,000 acres of primarily private lands are being offered for wind farm development; and based on an average of 4 wind towers per square mile of land, 4,500 to 5,000 wind towers could reasonably be installed in that 4 county area; and

WHEREAS, if this area is fully developed to capacity, it is easily capable of generating 4,500 megawatts of power if 1 megawatt towers are installed, and as high as 15,000 megawatts of power if 3 megawatt towers are installed; and

WHEREAS, these 4 counties and the small rural villages located within this 4 county area (Ft. Sumner, Yeso, Vaughan, Encino, Willard, Duran, Corona, Moriarty, Pastura, and Santa Rosa) through economic development, taxes, new housing, new jobs, and new businesses relocating to the area, stand to gain in the 10s of millions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, the transmission lines that SunZia proposes to build has its starting point in the Corona area and is no further than about 100 miles from any point in this wind rich area 4 county area; and

WHEREAS, SunZia's proposed transmission lines will provide from 3,000 to 4,500 megawatts of badly needed transmission capacity; and

WHEREAS, the existence of SunZia facilitates the development and construction of already planned wind and solar generation projects and related jobs in this 4 county area that would otherwise cannot occur without transmission lines; 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, SunZia has submitted a right-of-way application to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the project and BLM is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); and

WHEREAS, the EIS will provide 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 in New Mexico and fourteen total scoping meetings throughout SunZia's study area, has expanded the project study area and extended the length of the initial scoping period to address initial public comments, and has held other community 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 alternative routes for the project's transmission facilities, affected environmental resources, or related matters; and

WHEREAS, statements from local governing bodies such as this County Commission are very important to development of a complete record for the EIS, and **FURTHER**, the De Baca County Commission would urge the expeditious completion of the EIS and siting issues regarding the SunZia Transmission line; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the De Baca County Board of Commissioners encourages the development of renewable energy generation and transmission projects in the state of New Mexico, and when possible specifically within De Baca County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the De Baca County Commission supports the construction and operation of additional transmission infrastructure to provide capacity for New Mexico's renewable energy projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the De Baca County Board of Commissioners endorses the construction and operation of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project, and urges all cooperating agencies to judiciously expedite SunZia's EIS in order to expand regional economic development opportunities in New Mexico, by creating the necessary transmission capacity to deliver New Mexico's renewable energy resources to western customers and markets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the De Baca County Commission implores Senator Bingaman, Senator Udall, Congressman Heinrich, Congressman Lujan and Congressman Teague to take necessary actions to facilitate the implementation of the SunZia Transmission Lines and similar renewable energy projects in the state of New Mexico through the creation and support of national policies and federal legislation that favor the development of regional renewable energy generation and transmission projects.

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 21 day of May, 2010.

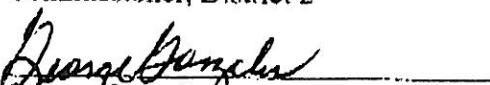
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