

SOCORRO COUNTY SUPPORT OF AN ALTERNATE ROUTE FOR THE SUN ZIA
TRANSMISSION LINE

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WHEREAS, SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (SunZia) proposes to build up to two high voltage 500 kV transmission lines between Arizona and New Mexico, which will provide new delivery capacity and paths for existing and developing renewable energy resources, primarily wind, solar, and geothermal projects in New Mexico; and

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WHEREAS, New Mexico is rich in renewable energy resources and our state, county and local communities stand to benefit greatly from the creation of new jobs, economic development, and tax and other revenues; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's renewable energy development zones are located primarily in the central and southern parts of the state where transmission capacity is virtually nonexistent, and SunZia will provide approximately 3,000 to 4,500 megawatts of new transmission capacity; and

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

WHEREAS, the existence of SunZia in the County creates an opportunity for the development and construction of future solar and geothermal generation projects and related jobs that would otherwise not occur without transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, SunZia has submitted a right-of-way application to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the SunZia project and BLM will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*; and

WHEREAS, the EIS will provide a detailed analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the project and a range of reasonable routing alternatives, including any mitigation measures; and

WHEREAS, BLM has expanded the original study area for consideration of alternative routes or sub-route segments; and

WHEREAS, BLM seeks comments on specific issues and concerns related to alternative routes, potentially affected environmental resources, or other related topics; and

WHEREAS, transmission line routes traveling along the I-25 and Rio Grande River corridors could adversely impact the wildlife, property values and the general aesthetic of those areas;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Board of County Commissioners only supports:

- SunZia's alternative routes that traverse the Rio Grande River in the vicinity of Arrey, New Mexico, and travels northerly and parallel to the western boundary of the White Sands Missile Range;
- SunZia's alternative routes that travels from the Deming, New Mexico site to the Southern border of White Sands Missile Range then northerly and parallel to the eastern boundary of the White Sands Missile Range;

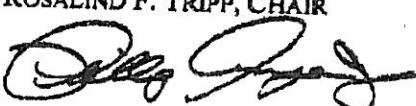
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners believes that such a routing for SunZia's transmission lines will result in less impact on the area's economic, environmental and wildlife resources than would otherwise result from use by SunZia of the ~~proposed~~ route across the Rio Grande River at a point just north of US 380 and San Antonio, New Mexico;

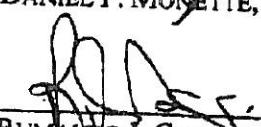
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners opposes all alternate routes along I-25 corridor and the Rio Grande River valley without the presence of a feasibility study for the installation of underground transmission lines;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners, with these conditions as stated herein, endorses the construction and operation of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project in Socorro County;

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 22nd day of June, 2010.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Absent
ROSALIND F. TRIPP, CHAIR

PHILLIP ANAYA


DANIEL P. MONETTE, VICE-CHAIR

RUMALDO J. GRIEGO


JUAN JOSE GUTIERREZ

ATTEST BY:


REBECCA (BECKY) VEGA, COUNTY CLERK
