

SOCORRO COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION № 2009-54
SOCORRO COUNTY SUPPORT OF AN ALTERNATE ROUTE FOR THE SUN ZIA
TRANSMISSION LINE

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

WHEREAS, New Mexico is rich in renewable energy resources and state 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, 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*;

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Board of County Commissioners prefers SunZia's alternative route that traverses 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;

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 and environmental 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 urges the Department of the Army at White Sands Missile Range to act as a Cooperating Agency in the conduct of the SunZia EIS and assist with the provision of a right-of-way over Range property that would eliminate the possibility of the economic and environmental impact to the riparian Bosque areas within the Rio Grande River crossing area north of San Antonio, New Mexico that is described above.

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 28th day of July, 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ROSALIND F. TRIPP, CHAIR

DANIEL P. MONETTE, VICE-CHAIR

PHILLIP ANAYA

RUMALDO J. GRIEGO

Juan Jose Gutierrez

JUAN JOSE GUTIERREZ

ATTEST BY:

Rebecca E. Vega

REBECCA (BECKY) VEGA, COUNTY CLERK

