



ANDRES Z. SILVA, MAYOR

RICHARD F. MCINTURFF, ADMINISTRATOR

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August 1, 2012

Adrian Garcia
BLM, NM State Office
SunZia Transmission Project
PO Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115

Re: Support of SunZia Project

Dear Mr. Garcia,


The City of Deming would like to express our undivided support for the SunZia project, which has been under study for the past several years. It is our understanding that some have requested additional time to review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on this very important electrical transmission project. It is commonly known that Southwestern New Mexico suffers from some of the highest unemployment and poverty rates in the state and country. Therefore, we wholeheartedly support the economic benefits associated with construction of new infrastructure. As such, we ask that you please keep the project on a fast track to enable the companies depending on new transmission to plan and begin construction of important renewable generation that New Mexico has to offer.

As you are aware, Arizona has transmission to attract renewable projects however, without enterprises like the SunZia project, our State's rich renewable sources will not be developed as they should and will not have any means to get power to western markets that need additional renewable energy now.

Last year during a renewable energy conference in Las Cruces, Alan Gilbert spoke on the benefits the BLM should bring to the inner cities, as pertaining to public lands, and the highest and best uses for the land being a priority in the future. These goals are commendable and one of the reasons the City supports these transmission endeavors, as they do not interfere with farm and ranch leases, all the while they generate much needed federal, state and local revenues.

We respectfully request there be no further extensions, as our opportunities to impact our community and those in the corridor will diminish with delays. We urge you to follow through with a Final EIS and allow this project to move forward and thank you in advance for getting the EIS completed in a timely manner.

Sincerely,


Andres Z. Silva
Mayor, City of Deming

XC: Jessie Juen, Mike Pool