



**SIERRA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
RESOLUTION NO. 105-109**

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a Record of Decision in January 2015 on the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (SunZia) to construct two high voltage 500 kV transmission lines which will provide new electric transmission capacity for electrical energy resources, particularly solar and wind renewable energy resources, that can be developed in Sierra County and other counties in New Mexico; and,

WHEREAS, Sierra County and other counties in New Mexico have abundant solar and wind energy resources that could be developed for western power markets if necessary electric transmission capacity like that proposed by SunZia became available; and,

WHEREAS, New Mexico's best undeveloped solar and wind energy resources are located primarily in southern and central counties in New Mexico where available transmission capacity is limited-to-nonexistent; and,

WHEREAS, SunZia will provide from 3,000 to 4,500 megawatts of new available electric transmission capacity that is an absolute precondition to development of these stranded renewable energy resources; and,

WHEREAS, Sierra County has followed the environmental studies conducted by the BLM on SunZia since 2010, and find no negative impacts to Sierra County with final route of the project as set forth in the Record of Decision; and,

WHEREAS, SunZia obtained its construction and operating permit from the State of Arizona in February 2016 and will soon apply for a Location Control Permit in New Mexico with the Public Regulation Commission (PRC); and,

WHEREAS, statements from local governing bodies such as the Sierra County Commission are important to the consideration and deliberations undertaken by the PRC in approving and issuing the Location Control Permit.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sierra County Commission fully supports the construction and operation of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project to provide capacity for local renewable energy projects as well as those in throughout New Mexico that will be able to access SunZia's transmission facilities within the six counties it traverses, as well as from other counties in the state over the existing interconnected electric power grid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sierra County Commission urges the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission to expedite and issue the Location Control Permit for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project following receipt and review of the permit application by SunZia.

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 13th day of June, 2017.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Absent
SHERRY FLETCHER

Frances Luna
FRANCES LUNA

Ken Lyon
KEN LYON

ATTEST BY:


Shelly Trujillo
SHELLY TRUJILLO, COUNTY CLERK