



**For Immediate Release**

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## **SunZia and WAPA Execute Letter Agreement**

PHOENIX, Arizona (January 29, 2018) - SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (SunZia) and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) have executed a Letter Agreement that sets forth terms and options for future potential participation by WAPA in the SunZia project. In 2015, SunZia entered into an advanced funding agreement with WAPA's Transmission Infrastructure Program (TIP) for development support and technical assistance.

“This agreement represents an important next step in project development. We value the opportunity for the potential submittal of an application for construction financing through WAPA's borrowing authority, which is managed by TIP,” said David Getts, General Manager for SouthWestern Power Group. The agreement represents an important milestone for SunZia, its principal owners being Southwestern Power Group of Phoenix, AZ and parent-owner MMR Group of Baton Rouge, LA.

Pattern Development is the anchor tenant for transmission service in SunZia's first 500 kilovolt transmission line, and is the developer of nearby Corona Wind, comprising more than 2,000 megawatts of new wind energy projects to be served by SunZia.

“We are excited about the opportunity to provide assistance to the development of critical energy infrastructure in the Desert Southwest that will deliver clean energy resources to growing markets,” said Mark Gabriel, Administrator & CEO for WAPA.

“The possibility of a joint effort between WAPA and SunZia could drive rural economic development and promote the construction and operation of Pattern's Corona Wind Energy Project in New Mexico,” said Mike Garland, CEO of Pattern Development.

The Letter Agreement outlines the expected roles, responsibilities and options for SunZia and WAPA as the parties continue to explore potential financing opportunities and whether and to what extent WAPA might participate in SunZia. The agreement also provides for identification of the potential benefits to both parties that could arise from joint participation in the project.

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**About SunZia:** *SunZia Southwest Transmission Project is an extra high voltage 500kV interstate transmission infrastructure project that will enable the delivery of electric energy from high capacity wind energy regions in eastern New Mexico to customers in the Desert Southwest. The Project will consist of two 500kV transmission lines and substations and will stretch over 500 miles - Originating in wind energy-rich eastern New Mexico at the SunZia East Substation, to the existing Pinal Central Substation near Coolidge, Arizona. Construction of the first transmission line and substations is slated to begin in mid-2018, with commercial operation in late 2020. The project's total transfer capacity is 3,000MW. The project is being developed jointly by Southwestern Power Group and Pattern Development and is estimated to cost over \$1.5 billion. [www.SunZia.net](http://www.SunZia.net)*

**About Corona Wind:** *The Corona Wind Projects represent more than 2,000 MW of high-capacity factor New Mexico wind under development at the SunZia East Substation. The projects will be operational by the end of 2020, serving customers throughout the Southwestern and Western United States.*

**About SWPG:** *SouthWestern Power Group was established in Phoenix in 2000 and is the Project Manager for SunZia. Other development projects include the 2,400MW Gila River Power Station (Gila Bend, AZ), the 1,000MW Bowie Power Station (Willcox, AZ) and the 200MW Campo Verde solar facility (El Centro, CA). SWPG is wholly-owned by MMR Group of Baton Rouge, LA, which is also the majority owner of SunZia. [www.SouthWesternPower.com](http://www.SouthWesternPower.com)*

**About Pattern Development:** *Pattern Development is a leader in developing renewable energy and transmission assets. The team has developed, financed and placed into operation more than 4,500 MW of wind and solar power projects, as well as high voltage transmission lines. Pattern Development is headquartered in California and its global footprint spans the United States, Canada, Mexico, Chile and Japan, with a strong commitment to promoting environmental stewardship and working closely with project communities. [www.patterndev.com](http://www.patterndev.com)*

**About WAPA:** *Western Area Power Administration annually markets and transmits more than 25,000 gigawatt-hours of clean, renewable power from 56 federal hydroelectric powerplants owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and International Boundary and Water Commission in 15 western and central states. It is part of the Department of Energy. Follow us on Twitter @WesternAreaPowr or visit the website at [www.wapa.gov](http://www.wapa.gov)*