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**SIERRA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
RESOLUTION NO. 102-019**

WHEREAS, the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (SunZia) is proposing to construct up to two high voltage 500 kV transmission lines and related interconnecting substations within an area lying between central Arizona and central New Mexico, which will provide new delivery capacity for renewable energy resources, primarily wind, solar, and geothermal projects in New Mexico; and,

WHEREAS, New Mexico State University prepared an Economic Impact Assessment that estimated the number of jobs and state, local and property tax revenues resulting from SunZia and generation facilities that utilize the state's rich renewable energy resources; and,

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has spent five years considering a preferred route that incorporates 900 comment letters on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to minimize the impact for all parties; and,

WHEREAS, the BLM has responded to the comment letters and prepared a Final EIS that was issued for public review on June 14, 2013; and,

WHEREAS, the Final EIS has provided a detailed analysis of potential environmental impacts of the project and a range of mitigation measures to all such impacts; and,

WHEREAS, the BLM has conducted public meetings throughout SunZia's study area, including in Sierra County, and has requested public and cooperating agency input during the last five years to identify possible issues of concern from the project; and,

WHEREAS, the Sierra County Commission wishes to endorse all efforts and planning conducted in creating the Final EIS and urge all parties to assist with a timely and favorable Record of Decision.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sierra County Commission is in full support of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sierra County Commission urges the BLM and all cooperating agencies to judiciously expedite all necessary efforts to issue a favorable Record of Decision for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th day of July, 2013

Board of County Commissioners


Walter C. Armijo, Chairman


Frances Luna, Vice-Chairman


Bobby Allen, Member

Attest:

Absent
Connie Greer, County Clerk

by Amanda B. Cardona
Chief Deputy Clerk