

CITY OF WILLCOX, COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZONA

RESOLUTION 2012-76

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLCOX, COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZONA, (“CITY”) SUPPORTING THE SUNZIA SOUTHWEST TRANSMISSION PROJECT WITH REGARD TO ROUTE 4B OF THE SUNZIA PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE AND DIRECTING AUTHORIZED CITY OFFICERS AND AGENTS TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES AND INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION.

WHEREAS, the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project is a plan to construct approximately 500 miles of two single-circuit 500 kV transmission lines and associated substations to interconnect SunZia with numerous 345 kV lines in both Arizona and New Mexico for electrical transmission to the population centers in the Desert Southwest; and,

WHEREAS, SunZia will create jobs and tax revenue in local towns and counties, as documented in a recent study by the University of Arizona and New Mexico State University; and,

WHEREAS, SunZia will enable the development of utility-scale renewable energy projects (solar, wind, etc.) in the Desert Southwest; and,

WHEREAS, renewable energy projects are good for the environment and help to minimize our dependence upon foreign sources of energy, reduce air pollution and diversify the sources of energy on which we rely; and,

WHEREAS, SunZia will strengthen our infrastructure and improve the reliability of the Arizona and western electrical grid systems; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) has been conducting a thorough environmental review of SunZia for the past three years under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and has received extensive input from numerous stakeholders in central and southern Arizona; and,

WHEREAS, the BLM has conducted multiple public meetings on SunZia in Cochise County to solicit local input; and,

WHEREAS, the Arizona State Land Department, Arizona Game and Fish Department and Arizona Department of Transportation are Cooperating Agencies in SunZia’s NEPA process and have a responsibility to assist the BLM in providing Arizona’s assessment of SunZia’s alternatives and environmental impacts; and,

WHEREAS, the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee and Arizona Corporation Commission will conduct its own thorough review of SunZia under the state's Certificate of Environmental Compatibility process in 2013; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Willcox desires that the route to be selected through southeastern Arizona should have the fewest impacts on land use within the greater Willcox region of Cochise County, Arizona.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLCOX, ARIZONA, as follows:

SECTION 1: The City Council's recommendation is for Subroute 4B of the Route Group 4 alternatives, as this route has fewer impacts on land use in the greater Willcox region than BLM's Preferred Alternative, known as Subroute 4C2c, or the other alternatives under consideration; and,

SECTION 2: That the City Manager, City Clerk, Legal Counsel, Elected Officials or their duly authorized officers and agents are hereby authorized and directed to take all necessary steps to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution; and,

SECTION 3: That the Mayor is authorized and empowered to execute this Resolution as presented.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLCOX, ARIZONA, this 4th day of September, 2012.

APPROVED/EXECUTED:

Robert A. Irvin
ROBERT A. IRVIN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Virginia A. Mefford
VIRGINIA A. MEFFORD, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Ann P. Roberts
ANN P. ROBERTS, City Attorney

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