

Statements of Support for CPV Sentinel Standby Power Plant By Elected Officials and Leaders Across the Coachella Valley

“The benefits to the local economy are substantial – not just during construction, but throughout the operating life of the project. Currently, the direct sales tax revenue benefit to the City of Desert Hot Springs will be \$3 million. In addition, it may be possible to create an Enterprise Zone and/or Redevelopment Zone so the area may capture a far greater share of the CPV Sentinel tax revenue, including a substantial part of the annual \$5 million property tax paid by Sentinel, for needed local services and to boost the local economy in the Mission Springs Water District service area.”

Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley, Fifth District

“The plant is the solution to the Coachella Valley’s critical electric power supply issues, and will provide a needed economic boost to Desert Hot Springs and the region as a whole. CPV Sentinel will deliver these benefits with efficiency, proficiency and in the most environmentally sensitive manner.”

State Senator Jim Battin, 37th District

I’ve witnessed earthquake-caused power outages in this Valley before. I can recall very vividly getting woken up out of my bed several years ago. At that time I was the Highway Patrol Commander in this area. I went to grab my police car at the curb and went out to begin the process of assessing the damage done to bridges in this area. And I could look to the northern part of the Valley and see a ribbon of dust rising along the San Andreas Fault. We lived that here, and we know it quite well. And we know that some day, not if, it’s going to happen. When it happens, we’re going to need that power. And having it generated here locally is important.”

Assemblymember John Benoit, 64th District

“Riverside County is the fastest growing county in the State of California. We’re adding half-a-million people to California every year, and when they come to a region it puts more and more demand on the services that are there. So it’s critical that we take a look at the services we have, we look to diversify, and we also look at how we move away from the way we’ve always done business.

“My mother...suffers from cardiomyopathy; she has 30% of heart function. So, it’s not a choice for her to turn on...air conditioning. She must or she will, in essence, bake herself to death...many of my constituents are going through similar circumstances...”

Assemblymember Bonnie Garcia, 80th District

“We believe that a reliable supply of power – which includes back-up power – is a key component of sustainable economic growth. The project will bring important economic benefits in the form of new revenue and new jobs to our region. We recommend approval of this needed project.”

John Soulliere, President/CEO Coachella Valley Economic Partnership

“We have a lot of renewable energy here in the desert, specifically with windmills. Unfortunately, on a very hot day, the wind doesn’t blow. So, that renewable energy is not available...to stave off a blackout. This project is very beneficial to the City of Desert Hot Springs.”

Yvonne Parks, Mayor, Desert Hot Springs

“I think this project will be great for the city and the economic benefit it brings...is wonderful.”

Scott Matas, Councilmember, Desert Hot Springs