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March 5, 2026

Mr. Boris Sanchez
California Public Utilities Commission
Energy Division – Infrastructure Permitting & CEQA
505 Van Ness Avenue, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

**RE: Southern California Edison Company's Cal City Substation 115kV Upgrade Project
(Application No. A.23-03-005), State Clearinghouse No. 2023110218**

Dear Mr. Sanchez,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to request that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) expedite Southern California Edison Company's Cal City substation 115kV upgrade project (Application No. A.23-03-005).

Among the most critical reasons that we support this project and request that it be expedited are:

1. Kern County's economy is in transition. We have established goals around developing businesses in Kern County that focus on six core areas including value-added agriculture, transportation and logistics, energy and natural resources, aerospace and defense, tourism, and healthcare services. The Board of Supervisors, in partnership with the community, is working to improve the economic viability of Kern County by facilitating the creation and retention of new jobs. To do this, we must have increased electrical capacity.
2. In addition to resolving electrical capacity issues in Cal city and across Kern, this project will provide energy resiliency to Edwards Air Force Base and has the potential of providing capacity for additional renewable projects in the region that will enable the State to meet its renewable energy goals.

Advancing each of these areas improves the employment opportunities of Kern County residents and promotes the long-term vitality and economic diversity of the County. A critical component to developing these six industry clusters is the County's partnership with the private sector, who work to expand and attract new businesses to the region.

The Board has repeatedly heard from several job creators about the challenges of securing adequate energy capacity and timely energization from SCE. As the energy production capital of California, Kern County intimately understands the link between energy production and the economic success of the State. The lack of adequate energy capacity and timely energization are harming our work to expand our economy and will be a serious impediment to the State realizing its renewable energy goals.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the CPUC to commit to expediting the aforementioned project within Kern County and appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: John Reynolds, President, CPUC
Honorable Members, CPUC Commission
Dee Dee Myers, Director, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Joe Stout, California State Director, BLM
Brandon Anderson, California Desert District Manager, BLM
Nancy Schmidt, California Desert Deputy District Manager
Michael Backstrom, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, SCE
Andrew R. Baldonado, Vice President, State Public Affairs, SCE
Karla Diaz Sayles, Vice President, Local Public Affairs, SCE
Calvin Rossi, Region Manager, SCE
Craig Murphy, Director, Kern County Planning & Natural Resources Department
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