



**INTERNATIONAL
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WORKERS®**

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November 30, 2022

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: IBEW Support for Angora Solar Energy Project in Clark County,
Nevada**

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO, CLC (IBEW), I write to respectfully request that you consult with the Department of Interior and consider revising the proposed monument boundary for the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument (Monument) in order to facilitate the development of the Angora Solar Project in Clark County, Nevada.

The Angora Solar Project is an important clean energy project that was carefully sited on federal land to avoid biological and cultural resources while making use of existing roads and transmission infrastructure. However, a very small portion of the project site, 2,000 acres of the proposed 450,000 acre Avi Kwa Ame National Monument -- less than 0.5% -- overlaps with the proposed monument boundary at its southern end (see attached Current Proposed Monument Map).

If the Angora Solar Project is allowed to move forward, it will generate 700 megawatts (MW) of clean solar power to Nevada customers and create 600 IBEW jobs for local residents. The family-sustaining jobs created by this project will create an economic ripple effect, as their income contributes both directly and indirectly to the local economy in the form of state and local payroll taxes, increased spending in local businesses and by local construction vendors, investments in job training, and more. Precluding the development of the Angora Project would limit the Town of Laughlin and Clark County's ability to diversify and grow the local economy.

The IBEW supports the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument to preserve the sacred cultural sites and unique biological resources of southern Nevada. I respectfully request, however, that the proposed boundary be adjusted to exclude the Angora Project, which does not contain sensitive biological or known cultural resources. The site is already crisscrossed by roads, transmission lines, and





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pipelines. It is approximately 20 miles from Spirit Mountain and will not be seen from the culturally sensitive and historic Mohave Trail.

The Angora Solar Project will connect to the existing Mohave Generation Substation, where a 1,580 MW former coal plant once served 1 million customers, with a web of transmission lines fanning out to Nevada, Arizona, and California. Making use of this existing infrastructure will save billions of dollars and thousands of acres of pristine desert land that would otherwise be needed for new substations and transmission lines, as there is not sufficient suitable land around the substation to utilize that transmission capacity without the Angora site.

To mitigate the removal of the project from the proposed monument boundaries, IBEW Local Union 357 and the project developer have put forth an alternative that would add 2,000 net acres to the overall Monument on the southwestern edge by aligning the Monument's boundaries with the existing Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). This minor revision to the overall monument boundary (see Preferred Monument Map) would add contiguous conservation land for wildlife corridors while also allowing development of the comparatively small but critically important area needed for this important renewable energy project.

The Angora Solar Project has the support of a number of important local stakeholders, including the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce, the Laughlin Tourism Commission, the Laughlin Economic Development Corporation, as well as the construction and environmental services industry (Rosendin, Bilbray Industries, EPS, Soiltech, Sunova). The project would be an economic driver for the Town of Laughlin and Clark County, contributing over \$100 million in taxes and additional millions in local wages and services.

For these reasons, the IBEW respectfully requests your consideration to revise and update the proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument boundary. A minor adjustment to the southern edge of the proposed boundary would allow for both conservation and renewable energy development, all while protecting and even increasing the total acreage of the proposed Monument. This would be a win-win for southern Nevada and all concerned stakeholders.

The IBEW firmly believes this type of balanced approach to the Angora Solar Project and Avi Kwa Ame National Monument will further the goals of the Biden-Harris Administration to advance conservation and preserve natural resources, deploy renewable energy to fight climate change, and expand economic opportunity with good union jobs.





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I hope you will take my request under serious consideration for a balanced approach that will benefit the union workers, tribes, business community, and residents of southern Nevada. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and for your tireless advocacy for well-paying, union-friendly jobs for all Americans.

Sincerely yours,

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

LRS:efw

Attachments

Copy to The Honorable Secretary Debra Haaland, Department of the Interior
The Honorable Secretary Jennifer Granholm, Department of Energy
The Honorable Secretary Martin J. Walsh, Department of Labor
Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto
Senator Jacky Rosen
Representative Dina Titus
Representative Susie Lee
Representative Steven Horsford

