

# YES ON AB 1720



Coachella Valley Economic Partnership



## SUPPORTERS

### *Elected Officials*

Riverside County Board of Supervisors, Chair, V Manuel Perez

Mayor, City of Coachella, Steven Hernandez

Mayor, City of Indio, Glenn Miller

Mayor, City of Desert Hot Springs, Scot Matas

Mayor, City of Blythe, Dale Reynolds

Mayor Pro Tem, City of Indian Wells, Dana Reed

Council Member, City of Coachella, Phillip Bautista

Council Member, City of Coachella, Josie Gonzalez

Council Member, City of Palm Desert, Jan Harnik

Council Member, City of Desert Hot Springs & Vice Chair, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, Gary Gardner

Vice President, Coachella Valley Water District, Cástulo Estrada

July 23, 2020

Honorable Senator Ben Hueso  
State Capitol, Room 4035  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0080

Dear Senator Hueso and Members of the Policy Committee:

As elected officials and business and community leaders of the Coachella Valley and Eastern Riverside County, we write to express our strong support of AB 1720.

Long-duration storage is the next step as the state moves forward in creating a 100% clean energy grid. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has said the state needs to have at least 1000 to 1600 MW of long duration storage online by 2026. AB 1720 would work within the existing CPUC process to integrate long-duration storage into our energy infrastructure.

The legislation provides that if for some reason the CPUC determines it cannot secure the amount of long-duration energy storage the state needs by March 1, 2021, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) will step in as a procurement entity to ensure projects are built. Because of its expertise and experience in energy and large infrastructure management and procurement, DWR is well positioned to serve in this safety net role.

## **SUPPORTERS**

### *Elected Officials (cont.)*

President, Desert  
Healthcare District,  
Leticia De Lara

### *Municipalities*

City of Blythe

### *Local Labor Leaders*

Executive Secretary,  
Building & Construction  
Trade Council of  
Riverside & San  
Bernardino Counties,  
AFL-CIO, William Perez

Business Manager,  
IBEW Local Union 440,  
James Rush

### *Local Business Leaders*

President/CEO, Paul  
Granillo, Inland Empire  
Economic Partnership

Executive Director,  
Coachella Valley  
Economic Partnership,  
Joe Wallace

President/CEO, Greater  
Coachella Valley  
Chamber of Commerce,  
Joshua R. Bonner

President/ CEO, Wintec  
Energy, Fred Noble

CEO, Chiriaco Summit,  
Margit F. Chiriaco

AB 1720 provides a path for long-duration projects without incurring any additional costs. AB 1720 simply assures that the CPUC adhere to the long duration storage requirements *already in their existing projections*.

Moreover, AB 1720 will accelerate development of diverse mix of new, long duration storage technologies to build a cleaner, more reliable energy grid. AB 1720 is technology neutral.

Finally, AB 1720 has the potential to create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs, clean energy jobs that can generate hundreds of millions of dollars of new tax revenue into state and local coffers.

We are a region that has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, with unemployment rates projected to hover near 40% and more than 5,000 local businesses projected to close. We desperately need the good-paying jobs and income that come with new clean energy infrastructure projects.

We respectfully ask for your “Aye” vote, when the Senate Policy Committee hears AB 1720.

Sincerely,

V Manuel Perez, District 4 Supervisor  
Riverside County

Paul Granillo, President/ CEO  
Inland Empire Economic Partnership

Joe Wallace, Executive Director  
Coachella Valley Economic Partnership

Joshua R. Bonner, President/ CEO  
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce

Sergio Carranza, Executive Director  
Pueblo Unido CDC

Oralia Ortiz, Chair  
Culturas, Music+Arts

Castulo Estrada, Vice President  
Coachella Valley Water District

Steven Hernandez, Mayor  
City of Coachella

Glenn Miller, Mayor  
City of Indio

Scott Matas, Mayor  
City of Desert Hot Springs

Dale Reynolds, Mayor  
City of Blythe

Dana Reed, Mayor Pro-Tem  
City of Indian Wells

Josie Gonzalez, Council Member  
City of Coachella

Phillip Bautista, Council Member  
City of Coachella

Gary Gardner, Council Member  
Desert Hot Springs  
Vice, Chair, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

Jan Harnik, Council Member  
City of Palm Desert

William J. Perez, Executive Secretary  
Building & Construction Trade Council of Riverside and San Bernardino  
County, AFL-CIO

James R. Rush, Business Manager  
IBEW Local Union 440

Fred Noble, President/CEO  
Wintec Energy

Ed Molloy, President  
Desert Hot Springs Rotary Club

CC:

Senator John W. Moorlach (Vice Chair)  
Senator Steven Bradford  
Senator Ling Ling Chang  
Senator Brian Dahle  
Senator Bill Dodd  
Senator Robert M. Hertzberg  
Senator Jerry Hill  
Senator Mike McGuire  
Senator Susan Rubio  
Senator Nancy Skinner  
Senator Henry I. Stern

