

## RESOLUTION NO. 2008-70

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS OPPOSING THE CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH TENSION POWER TRANSMISSION LINES.

**WHEREAS**, the City supports the use of renewable resources and encourages programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and also places a high value on protecting and preserving the natural resources of the California desert; and

**WHEREAS**, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is proposing a project called "GreenPath North" to construct new high tension power transmission lines for the purpose of attaining alternative energy goals in the Los Angeles region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) adopted by the cities within the Coachella Valley and the County of Riverside, serves as a mechanism to ensure controlled and managed development within the region, and has set aside land to protect fragile habitat or endangered fauna and flora, and protect public lands that have historical and cultural significance; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the proposed alternatives includes an alignment through the unincorporated county areas of the Morongo Basin; the City's Sphere of Influence and through sensitive Conservation areas; and

**WHEREAS**, evidence now shows that a preferred alignment for the Green Path North proposed project has been pre-determined by the LADWP; such alignment traverses through the western portion of the City of Desert Hot Springs and the City's Sphere of Influence along Highway 62 toward the Devers Substation; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed "preferred" alignment, if constructed, will cross adjacent to the Joshua Tree National Park in San Bernardino County, and will have immediate and long-term detrimental impacts on the environment and cause aesthetic degradation to the region's historical and cultural significant lands; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposed alignment would endanger natural wildlife, sensitive habitat areas and important cultural resources. The Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, for example, is a nature preserve and wildlife corridor that currently serves as a home for numerous native wildlife species, including rare birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals, as well as causing substantial impairment to outstanding scenic vistas in the vicinity; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposed alignment is likely to have immediate and long-term detrimental impacts on the environment, including the local natural vegetation and wildlife. It would also cause degradation to the economic stability and aesthetic quality of the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of the Desert Hot Springs will not receive, and have no desire to receive, any benefit or energy savings from this project; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of the area of the proposed alignment for the project have voiced their strong objections against the GreenPath North project and their strong desire to support the California Desert Coalition in their opposition to this project; and

**WHEREAS**, other existing energy corridors are available to the LADWP for this project that would not create adverse impacts; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Desert Hot Springs opposes the construction of high tension power lines through environmentally sensitive areas within the City's current boundaries and within the City's Sphere of Influence, and recommends that additional power lines be located within existing energy corridors.

**FURTHER RESOLVE** and recommend that LADWP work diligently with all potentially affected communities including any negotiations with energy partners such as Southern California Edison to find existing alternative transmission corridors that will have the least impact on the environment and the citizens of both Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Desert Hot Springs at a regular meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of August 2008 by the following vote:

**AYES**, and in favor thereof, Council Members:

**NAYS**, Council Members:

**ABSENT**, Council Members:

**ABSTAINING**, Council Members:

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia Lugo, City Clerk

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Yvonne Parks, Mayor

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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Ruben Duran, City Attorney