

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-18

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CATHEDRAL CITY OPPOSING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GREEN PATH NORTH PROJECT TO THE EXTENT THAT IT PASSES THROUGH MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM (MSCHP) DESIGNATED LANDS THAT HAVE BEEN SET ASIDE TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE POPULATIONS WITHIN THE COACHELLA VALLEY**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cathedral City supports the use of responsible renewable sources of energy such as geothermal, solar, and wind and encourages programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially those projects that can be generated and distributed locally; and

**WHEREAS**, the California desert has abundant solar, wind and geothermal resources and there is economic opportunity in developing these resources to reduce our dependence on non-renewable energy sources and expand our use of renewable energy; and

**WHEREAS**, cities all across the country and nations around the world are adopting programs and policies that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reduced energy bills, air quality improvements, open space conservation, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, economic development and job creation through energy conservation and the development of new alternative energy technologies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is proposing a project called "Green Path North" to construct new 500 kV high tension power transmission lines for the purpose of attaining alternative energy goals in the City of Los Angeles; and

**WHEREAS**, the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) adopted by the cities within the Coachella Valley and the County of Riverside, and approved by state and federal wildlife agencies, serves as a mechanism to ensure controlled and managed development within the region, and sets aside land to protect fragile habitat for endangered fauna and flora, ecosystem processes, and wildlife corridors; and

**WHEREAS**, under the MSHCP the portions of the Green Path North project on private land would be subject to the Joint Project Review process to determine consistency with the conservation objectives and other requirements of the MSHCP; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed "Green Path North" includes at least one alternative alignment that will cross through unincorporated portions of the Coachella Valley that encompass MSHCP designated conservation area lands; and

**WHEREAS**, one proposed alignment, if constructed, will cross adjacent to the Joshua Tree National Park in San Bernardino County, will cross the Big Morongo Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and could have immediate and long-term detrimental impacts on the environment and cause aesthetic degradation to the lands with historical and cultural significance; and

**WHEREAS**, other existing high tension transmission line corridors are available for the "Green Path North" project that would not create adverse environmental impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Riverside, the County of San Bernardino, the City of Desert Hot Springs and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments have adopted resolutions in opposition to the proposed Green Path North transmission corridor.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CATHEDRAL CITY** is opposed to the construction of the Green Path North project to the extent that it passes through MSHCP designated lands that have been set aside to protect environmentally sensitive populations within the Coachella Valley; and

**FURTHER RESOLVE** and recommend that LADWP continue to provide public forums that educate the community on proposed project details and ensure public participation and input through the CEQA process; and

**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, visual resources, MSHCP lands, and the citizens of the Coachella Valley; and

**FURTHER RESOLVE** and encourage meetings between LADWP and CVAG and Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) representatives to discuss the Green Path North Project and consider alternatives that could benefit the MSHCP.

**NOW THEREFORE**, The City Council of the City of Cathedral City, in regular session on April 22, 2009, does hereby APPROVE AND ADOPT this Resolution.

Dated: April 22, 2009

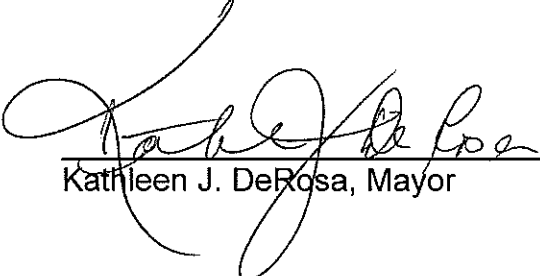
**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the City Council by the City of Cathedral City held on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2009 by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 Pettis, Vasquez, England, DeRosa

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 Marchand




Kathleen J. DeRosa, Mayor

ATTEST:

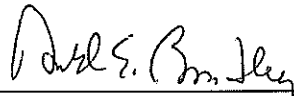
*Bess McGladrey, Deputy*  
for Pat Hammers, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Charles Green, City Attorney

REVIEWED



Donald E. Bradley, City Manager