

COUNTY OF NEVADA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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June 14, 2016

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Malakoff Solar Electric Project in SB 826

Dear Governor Brown:

Nevada County respectfully requests your approval of the Conference Committee's recommendation to include \$700,000 in the 2016-17 State Budget for a solar electric project at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park.

As you will recall, in 2011 as a result of a severe State budget deficit, the State of California proposed to close a number of State Parks, including Malakoff Diggins. In 2012 the County, State officials, the Park foundation and local non-profits began to collaboratively plan a solar energy project that will save the State money and have Malakoff Diggins taken off the closure list. Now, though the Park is open and there is no longer a closure list, the effort to install a cost-effective, clean solar project has continued.

Malakoff Diggins is the site of California's largest hydraulic mine. Its huge cliffs are scarred from the gold mining technique of washing away entire mountains to find the precious metal. There is also a 7,847 foot bedrock tunnel that served as a drain, and a visitor center featuring exhibits on life in the old mining town of North Bloomfield. The Park is well-used by locals and tourists alike for hiking and recreation, and by the local school district for educational field trips. Currently, the State spends at least \$70,000 per year to run generators for lights and security systems at the Park that protect 100,000 historic artifacts. Due to the remote location, PG&E estimated it would cost \$2 million to bring conventional electricity to the Park, not including right-of-way access.

State Parks estimates the cost to construct the solar project at \$700,000. This modest investment will save the Park money and reduce a major infrastructure operation cost. It will also enable the campground to expand, adding amenities to attract more visitors and help grow the economy of the surrounding area, North San Juan--a Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community.

A solar project at Malakoff State Park, with its history of human-caused environmental destruction, could serve as a state and national model of a green and more economically efficient rural State park, and leave a legacy of sustainability. Therefore, we respectfully request your support of funding solar facilities at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park and ensure its place in California's history is preserved for future generations.

Sincerely,

Dan Miller
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

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Letter to Governor Brown
Re: Malakoff Diggins SHP Solar Electric Project
June 14, 2016
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Copied to:

Senator Ted Gaines
Assembly Member Brian Dahle
John Laird, California Secretary for Natural Resources
Lisa Mangat, Director, California State Parks
Matt Green, Chief Ranger, California State Parks, Sierra District
Caleb Dardick, South Yuba River Citizens League
Dave Anderson, Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins