

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
MESA, ARIZONA, REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF
THE SALT RIVER AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT
AND POWER DISTRICT FOR A CERTIFICATE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY FOR THE
SOUTHEAST POWER LINK PROJECT.**

WHEREAS, the Salt River Agricultural Improvement and Power District (SRP) has filed an Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the Southeast Power Link Project (“SPLP”) with the Arizona Corporation Commission; and

WHEREAS, the SPLP is a proposed double circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line of approximately seven miles, to be located in the area generally to the east of the Phoenix Mesa Gateway Airport and primarily within the City of Mesa, with a related 230/69kV substation to be located on the east side of the Loop 202; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mesa has a significant interest in the roughly 32 square-miles anchored by the Phoenix Mesa Gateway Airport (the “Airport”), which is designated in the Mesa General Plan as the Mesa Gateway area and identified as one of four major employment activity areas within the City. Additionally, the Mesa City Council adopted the Mesa Gateway Strategic Development Plan for the area on December 8, 2008, which covers economic development, land use planning, infrastructure and utility plans, transportation master planning and funding, all as needed to promote the City’s vision of attracting long term high quality compatible development in the area. Mesa has also made significant investments in the area, including the new Signal Butte water treatment plant and other infrastructure to serve growth consistent with the Strategic Development Plan; and

WHEREAS, as part of its Application, SRP has divided the SPLP into a proposed alignment consisting of: a Northern Routing Area originating at an interconnection point with the existing Santan-Browning 230kV substation and running along Loop 202; the RS-31 Substation Siting Area on the eastern side of the Loop 202 and State Route 24 (“SR24”); a Central Routing Area where the line exits the RS-31 substation and follows the SR-24 alignment; and a Southern Routing Area running along Crismon Road and ending at the permitted but unbuilt Abel Pfister Ball 230kV transmission line in the Town of Queen Creek; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mesa, after working with SRP, participating in the public outreach process, and coordinating with impacted stakeholders, including Harvard Investments, Inc., DMB and Brookfield Residential, and Pacific Proving, LLC, has concluded that the SPLP should be located on the southwestern side of the SR-24 right of way in the Central Routing Area, resulting in a total length for the line of approximately 2.55 miles in that Area, within 500 feet of the SR-24, which preserves the integrity of a decade-long multi-jurisdictional planning effort and recognizes the development of the Eastmark and Cadence at Gateway master planned communities; and

WHEREAS, in order to accommodate the location of the SPLP in the Central Routing Area on the southwestern side of SR-24, SRP has a pending application with the Federal Aviation Administration (“Application”) to change a Vertical Navigation (“VNAV”) Procedure relating to aircraft in poor visibility conditions relying on instruments and the Final and Missed Approach segments of Airport Runway 30C. The request is based on alternative and equivalent procedures that are available to pilots in such conditions, and as a result the redesign of the Runway 30C VNAV Approach Procedure is expected to have little effect on operations at the Airport if modified. However, if modified it will allow for construction of the SPLP using standard height singular tubular steel structures, with a 69kV underbuild; and

WHEREAS, if the FAA declines to amend the VNAV Procedures, or if the FAA identifies other issues in its evaluation of the SPLP as proposed (including, but not limited to, issues with Airport Surveillance Radar False Targets and Shielding), SRP can construct the SPLP with shorter concrete or wooden poles in an H-frame structure or alternatively two sets of single circuit structures, and otherwise enter a reimbursable agreement with the Airport to upgrade or raise the ASR system as needed to facilitate the construction of the SPLP on the southwest side of SR-24; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the Project will result in the following benefits to the City of Mesa; an increase of the capacity, resiliency and redundancy of the power system in the area, which will support and serve as a catalyst for economic development as Gateway expands both passenger and cargo operations, as well as related aeronautical businesses, and accommodation of high electric load heavy and light industrial, business park and commercial development in the Elliot Road Technology Corridor, generally located along Elliot Road between Hawes Road and Signal Butte Road, all of which will contribute tax revenues and jobs for the Mesa community; and

WHEREAS, SRP has requested that the Certificate last for a period of ten years in order to attract load growth, coordinate with other infrastructure in the area, including Gateway and SR-24.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESA, ARIZONA, as follows:

Section 1: That the City supports SRP’s Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the Southeast Power Link Project, provided that the Certificate specifies that the SPLP in the Central Routing Area must run in an alignment along the southwestern side of SR-24, and that SRP must address any issues presented by the proximity of the SPLP to the Gateway Airport.

Section 2: That the City of Mesa hereby supports SRP’s modification request with the FAA regarding the Runway 30C VNAV Approach Procedure for Gateway Airport, to enable the SPLP to continue along the southwest side of SR-24.

Section 3: That the various City officers and employees be and hereby are authorized and directed to perform all other acts reasonably necessary to give effect to this Resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESA, ARIZONA, this 27th day of August, 2018.

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk