

Office of the Mayor
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November 1, 2012

United States Citizenship & Immigration Services
California Service Center, PO Box 10590
24000 Avila Road, 2nd Floor
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Letter of Support for Inland Empire Renewable Energy (IERE) EB5 Regional Center

I wrote a letter on September 20, 2010 supporting and endorsing the application to establish the IERE EB5 Regional Center in Riverside because I believed it would attract international investment capital for projects in Riverside, create new employment opportunities, increase commerce, and enhance tax revenues in a region severely impacted by the recession and facing an unemployment rate of more than 15 percent. I continue to hold these beliefs, but must say that the IERE EB5 Regional Center has vastly exceeded my expectations and those of the city and community.

Today, because of IERE, we are on the verge of building what will become the SolarMax Super Renewable Energy Center (SolarMax Center). The SolarMax Center will exhibit, demonstrate, test, and market a variety of renewable energy products ranging from PV technology to LED street lighting to intelligent micro grids. In the process, the SolarMax Center will be creating at least 560 jobs in our city and region which still reels from an unemployment rate of about 12 percent.

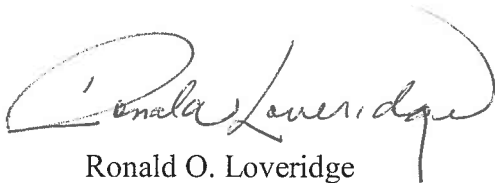
In addition to making a vital contribution to the Riverside area economy, the SolarMax Center is preserving the city's cultural heritage by locating at the historic FMC building. This building, where "water buffalo" amphibious tanks were built to support our troops during World War II, had been neglected for several decades and fallen into disrepair. IERE has used \$2 million of \$15 million raised from 30 investors to purchase the building. It is spending an additional \$4 million to restore it beyond its former glory, and archive and display its history. I have seen the plans, and within a few years, the FMC building will stand proud, still showing off its historic features in a gleaming 21st century skin. Because of IERE and the SolarMax Center, current and future generations will be able to learn about an important but largely forgotten chapter in Riverside's history.

Further heralding its status as the renewable energy center of Riverside and Inland Southern California, the SolarMax Center will have a \$1.1 million, 230 KW rooftop solar system on its iconic saw toothed roof.

But beyond the SolarMax Center itself, IERE has placed Riverside squarely in the center of renewable energy development in our region. By attracting global investment and using it to develop the renewable energy sector, it places Riverside on the forefront of the effort to clean up the air, and significantly improve the health and quality of life of residents. It makes IERE a partner for developing new renewable energy technologies with the University of California Riverside's Bourns College of Engineering. It makes IERE a key component in Riverside's drive towards becoming a green city, and further cements the reason the city was named California's first "Emerald City" by the Department of Conservation. IERE also played a key role in the narrative behind Riverside's successful application to be named 2012's most intelligent community in the world by the Intelligent Community Forum.

In future years, when the history of Riverside is told, I have no doubt that IERE will rank highly as a reason why the city became a best practice and success story in the green energy revolution. But the need for new capital for innovative renewable technologies will continue. I look forward to working with IERE to make both happen in our march towards becoming a model solar and green city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ronald O. Loveridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "L".

Ronald O. Loveridge
Mayor