



To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to recommend Keith Gates and his company, Stronghold Engineering Inc., for additional construction services with future prospective clients. I have had the pleasure of working directly with Mr. Gates and his team on the recent UCR Campus Solar Roof Initiative project. The scope of work for this design-build project involved the design, construction, and installation of a substantial photovoltaic (PV) system on two separate campus buildings. The University felt a Design-Build Project Delivery method would be the best format to allow for creative and innovative results on this project.

The PV system was expected to provide the maximum generation of renewable power while preserving the existing architectural characteristics of the building. Stronghold's team absolutely delivered on this objective. The team presented a design that featured a very low tilt angle which minimized inter-row shading. This allowed us to mount the arrays closer together without sacrificing overall output. The design also featured a dual-tile, East/West facing system. This feature minimized system wind exposure, which was a concern given that the University is nestled at the base of the Box Springs Mountains and is subject to high winds. In addition, the team worked with us to minimize roof penetrations which helped us to maintain our existing roof warranties.

Stronghold's attention to detail, quality and professionalism was evident throughout the entire project. When unforeseen conditions occurred, they were quick to make me aware of the situation and provide solutions. A storm, for instance, caused water intrusion during construction. Stronghold's team had crew members out to the site the very next day at 6AM cleaning up the space, assessing the damage and making the necessary repairs. And despite uncontrollable supply chain issues that affected the schedule, Stronghold always maintained a professional line of communication and was diligent in

keeping me updated. Due to the unforeseen circumstances mentioned above, the project did require we extend the original completion date, but all work was completed within the extended time frame.

Please consider Keith and the Stronghold team for your construction service needs. I recommend them highly and look forward to working with them again.



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