

Comment Set C, cont.  
Public Participation Hearing - Julian 2/27/08

JULIAN, CALIFORNIA  
February 27, 2008 - 10:30 A.M.

JULIAN, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 27, 2008 - 10:30 A.M.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE WEISSMAN: The Commission will be in order.

This is the public participation hearing in the Sunrise Transmission Project. And those with speaker numbers 1 through 4, please come up to the front of the room. We will start with Greg Courson.

STATEMENT OF MR. COURSON

MR. COURSON: My name is Greg Courson. And I want to say some things about the fire issues, about the power line.

I've lived in Wynola Springs area for almost 12 years now. I was a US Forest Service firefighter in the Pacific Northwest region here in 1970s and 1980s. And I retired early due to an injury in 1985.

During the scoping period for the Draft EIR I wrote a 29-page fire hazard analysis which I gave to the PUC, an analysis which needed to be 29 pages on account of a serious fire hazard we have in San Diego backcountry. Now that I've read the fire section of the Draft EIR just published recently, and I read through it carefully three times, I basically find a thorough and honest fire analysis in this draft. And I very much agree with it.

Since moving to this area I pay a lot of attention to this fire-prone and fire-adapted landscape. I studied fire ecology of San Diego County, its natural history, the fire management practices by the pre-Spanish Indians, and I've written many articles on fire for the local newspaper, The Julian News.

I hope the PUC takes the conclusions in the fire section of the Draft EIR seriously. Judging from my experience and education, Aspen has not made any mistake in its conclusions about the fire issues and impacts surrounding the power line proposal. Please take the recommendations about the environmentally superior alternatives on page E-2 of the Executive Summary seriously. The preferred route is at the end of the list for very good reasons. The fire hazard here is very serious, as you know.

And I've mentioned the word "serious" in here quite a number of times. And I did that because I hope that when you go back up to San Francisco, you don't forget that. Okay? That is all.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much. Eric Stamets, followed by Benjamin Kwon.

STATEMENT OF MR. STAMETS

MR. STAMETS: Since SDG&E is my electric utility, I want to have pride in what my utility does. SDG&E's actions on the Sunrise Powerlink does not make me proud of them. Their pandering and strong-arming of mayors and chambers of commerce is shameful. SDG&E's first premise and basis for all they do is that electricity is the most important thing that there is. This is fallacious and very presumptuous. The Sunrise Powerlink is mostly an economic decision to make money, to run giant power lines through Anza-Borrego and Santa Ysabel Valley to Ramona should be viewed as an environmental crime. In spite of the EIR, SDG&E wants to ravage our backcountry. The proposed expansion will also destroy the San Luis Ray River Valley so they can sell power from San Diego to the north.

We have grown to accept the existing easement through Anza-Borrego State Park. It was a mistake made many years ago. We don't need to enlarge the problem. The current line there doesn't belong and should be undergrounded by stipulation along the southern route even if that is approved.

C0220-1

C0221-1

C0221-2

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The Sunrise Powerlink is presented as necessary to support the future growth of San Diego. Where would we put 650,000 homes which gridlocked even in Ramona now? However, how will these new people escape the next firestorm?

C0221-3

Their idea of mitigation for sacrificing backcountry was to facilitate the beautiful subdivisions with electric meters and big screen TVs. They said the electric power will not impact growth. That is wrong. Water is a looming factor in San Diego's growth. That is disaster interrupting supply. Why are there no implications of the proposed growth in the EIR?

Fire will be a problem on all proposed routes. More firestorm conditions, damage to the southern route and proposed Sunrise route simultaneously should not be considered unusual. Concentration of lines protection could be concentrated. SDG&E claims the lines are safer, because they spread out over a greater area, a little more land, and create larger division of land. The proposed lines would impede firefighting. And, unfortunately, I wouldn't be surprised to see such land destroyed by ecoterrorists.

C0221-4

SDG&E has demonstrated confidence to their financial calculations to the Powerlink. If SDG&E misplaced just one decimal point of the cost, then it becomes \$13 billion instead of 1.3. No problem. They will simply get a rate increase.

Geothermal power is an alternative and relatively clean, but is not renewable. Maybe we don't need to worry about what we take. We also thought that about oil. Why was there is no consideration of the effect of extracting geothermal power might have on causing earthquakes?

C0221-5

Lastly, I object to the Sunrise Powerlink. It is obviously chosen as a sales pitch like manufacturers selling cars, like Sunrise is a thing of beauty. The Sunrise Powerlink is lacking.

ALJ WEISSMAN: The support of the statements is well taken. I just want to point out that the longer there is applause, the longer we are going to be here. If I could have your help keeping reactions at least brief, it will be helpful.

Mr. Kwon, are you ready to come forward? Would numbers 4 through 8 please start coming up and lining up. I'll call your name if you do not have your numbers.

STATEMENT OF MR. KWON

MR. KWON: My name is Benjamin Kwon, K-w-o-n. I'm representing Castle Eurasia and Zen Media Corporation who has been working for the Imperial Gateway since 1992. Along with us —

C0222-1

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Speak louder, please.

MR. KWON: Okay. We already presented our concern already. And I view there was a revised completion of a environmentally superior route, and also the reasoning is there. So I would like to support that idea, as well as — in consideration of why I do support the environmentally superior route. Simply, it is the best way for adopting straight lines in terms of maintaining as well as installing purpose. There is a lot of cost involved, and also maintaining for a generation to come. So it is the best plan. And I would like to support this plan the best. Thank you very much.

C0222-1 cont.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Art Cole, to be followed by Ken Childs.

STATEMENT OF MR. COLE

MR. COLE: I would like to begin by thanking the members of the staff of the Public Utilities Commission for setting up and attending these meetings to explore the will of the people concerning the investment of well over a billion dollars into Sempra Energy's corporately held power grid.

C0223-1

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I as a private citizen with a public duty to understand the world around us and the country I'm helping to build with my taxes, votes and public input in forums such as these, have been looking into three potential liabilities which this project might create. Number one is the danger to our power supply that centralized power corridors create. It is possible today to use four surface-to-surface handheld laser-guided missiles to unplug 65 percent of the population of this country, for a period ranging three days to as long as two months, by targeting the four largest power line corridors, depending on a number of relay switching modules that are burned during the first two minutes of the cascading collapse of our overly centralized power supply grid. If we are to spend billions of dollars to mitigate the risk of a terrorist attack on our nation's power supply, we would develop a widely diversified point source power grid designed to function as stand-alone systems during any type of crisis, be it natural disaster, terror attack, or a major military incursion, not building another indefensible target.

C0223-1 cont.

My second concern is that the maintenance and protection of a national trust which our forefathers placed in our public trust five generations ago. The national parks, followed by the National Forest System and then the State Park System, hold in the public trust the beauty, the ecological diversity, the genomic seed-bank of America for your and my children's children's children, unless we or they sell this grand birthright away for what is assuredly a temporary method of transporting power developed in the 19th century.

C0223-2

Both sides of my family have lived on this continent since before the Continental Congress. Generations of my forefathers and mothers reminded me to work and struggle to be the best, to build the best and to give my children the best that I can offer as an American. I do not believe that the Sunrise Powerlink is the best solution to our power needs, or I would be speaking for it today. What this Powerlink is is the best power grab available to an aging corporate power company to ensure vast profits for the next 50 years for its officers and stockholders.

C0223-3

This fact brings me to my third and final concern. The wasting of more than \$1 billion in energy development capital on old technology at a critical time in the development of a new energy paradigm for America and the human race. This capital should be invested in terrorist proof, diversified point source power grids designed to function as stand-alone systems in times of crisis without opening the floodgates of corporate development to our national treasures, or to depleting the last vestiges of unencumbered energy development capital in what in 50 years will be dinosaur technology.

My friends, look to the future, dream, plan, and build a power system which is the envy of the free world, not a boondoggle for 19th century corporate vision of how to profit on the stupidity and laziness on a public addicted to consuming. Wake up, speak your mind, and save this world for our children, one good decision at a time.

Thank you for your patience, your listening and your thoughts. May God guide us.

(Applause)

MR. COLE: May God bless America.

ALJ WEISSMAN: I do try to let you show your emotions and your reactions. The problem is that this is actually a formal process. We are trying to get the words down in the transcript. So if I could please ask you to refrain from loud outbursts, that would be very helpful in terms of getting a record developed.

COMMISSIONER GRUENEICH: I'm going to add a further incentive, that I'm one of five Commissioners. If you want my fellow Commissioners to know what you are saying today, the only way it will happen is that our court reporter can report it accurately. So there is a trade-off between the

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enthusiasm here, making sure that the very important comments that you have are able to be read by my fellow Commissioners.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We gave you guys signs that say "No To Sunrise Powerlink." You can wave them instead of clapping. That will be a silent way of showing your endorsement.

STATEMENT OF MR. CHILDS

MR. CHILDS: That was a great speech. Thank you very much. Way to go.

My name is Ken Childs, and I'm here representing my family. Our family ranch is located in Ramona, more specifically the infamous Witch Creek area of San Diego.

The current Sunrise Powerlink preferred route is within view of my home, and approximately a quarter mile from the ranch. Where do I stand in this project? It is difficult to say after hearing so much. After three years of this project many words come to mind: trust, corporate greed, hidden agenda and truth.

As we realized from the beginning of this fight it is about the David and Goliath concept. Goliath with the full staff, \$3 million budget and the backing of a corporate giant. In David the hardworking, taxpaying people of this county.

I also want to say as I watched — I was at the meeting down in San Diego. I'm not opposed to green power. I don't think anybody in this room is opposed to green power. And I'm not opposed to jobs in our county. But I would like to tell you my story here a little bit. When we first heard of the Powerlink Project and attended the first wave of informational meetings, there were many unanswered questions about this project. And we realized that we had a lot to learn in the short amount of time. From what we know today, the truth about this project is still hard to find.

When the initial routing was made public, we learned that our property was on the preferred route where four to five towers were being installed on our property in direct view of our home and massive destruction of our ranching business. The news devastated us. It threatened our lifestyle, our future and our property values. We scrambled to develop a strategy. After several months of craziness, we were declassified to an alternative route and now we have been eliminated from the route altogether. We were eliminated not because of our vigilance, but simply because the route crossed Indian land. So then what was my concern just becomes my neighbor's concern.

That is not all. Just this last year we were informed as the green path line heads north towards Los Angeles through San Bernardino County, the preferred route for the green path goes directly through the valley where our high desert vacation cabin is located, and is within 1,000 feet of our 5-acre property. This is property where my mother and father's ashes are scattered.

To top that, October 21st, 2007, the Witch Creek Fire started as a result of high winds and downed power lines. Ninety percent of our 1200 acre ranch burned in that fire, creating a major inconvenience for us, destroying pastures, over 100 oak trees and hundreds of acres in Chaparral. To this day, the inconvenience continues and the cost of recovery continues to grow. San Diego Gas & Electric started that fire, equipment that they claim does not start fires, equipment that still threatens us today.

San Diego has rebuilt with the same wooden poles, and the same wire configuration.

MR. CARTER: Time.

MR. CHILDS: Time is up?

ALJ WEISSMAN: If you would like to have a couple of sentences to wrap up?

C0224-1

C0224-2

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MR. CHILDS: Okay. I would just like to talk about corporate strategy here. Sempra Energy plans to build plants in Mexico where environmental laws are softer, building costs are cheaper, labor is cheaper. They create dirty, cheaper power. They send it across the border to the US, bring the power lines as far north as you can, hook up to the green power that is being forced by this State. Sell that excess power to northern communities, and loop the line through the backcountry using the path of least resistance to ensure they have plenty of power to sell to California. Ka Ching. They are making money, and this is a good example of corporate America.

C0224-3

Another point I want to bring up real quick is what we all need to remember about this thing is San Diego Gas & Electric, even though they are waving their green flags, they are being forced to hook up to this green power. And I take offense to them utilizing this fact to expand their business.

C0224-4

And the other day they were giving out green T-shirts, and talking about jobs. And I think that is totally out of line. It is very misleading. Sorry I can't finish everything I want to say. I thought I had some good points.

ALJ WEISSMAN: We would love to hear them. If you are inclined to file comments on the Draft EIR, you are certainly welcome. Thank you very much.

MR. CHILDS: I'll do that.

STATEMENT OF MS. ALDERN

MS. ALDERN: Good morning, Judge Weissman, Commissioner Grueneich. My name is Mary Aldern. Thank you for coming here to historic Julian today to discuss the Sunrise Powerlink. It is evident to me that those who have worked on the many thick volumes of the DEIR have put in much time and effort. And I appreciate that. However, I feel that the description of the environmental impacts of the proposal in the — should I say the area of concern to the group CASE, which is Community Alliance For Sensible Energy, has been severely underserved, no, underestimated.

C0225-1

I could find only 10 pages of writing about the environmental impacts of the six mysterious surplus 230 kilovolt links to come out of the proposed substation. I believe that the environmental impacts of the proposed central substation should include a thorough investigation into its designed potential, including all six of the extra hardware outlets. Only two of the future transmission lines are briefly outlined in the Draft EIR. In particular, I would like to focus on one of these, the Henshaw Valley — the Henshaw Valley Center Valley Substation link, which would tie the San Diego Gas & Electric grid to that of Southern California Edison.

The little pink line given to this future expansion near the camouflage as it meanders off the page of the main map is indeed an extremely high voltage bridge between the two massive systems. Together they would create a super system which would itself have an impact on the energy supply in Southern California like no other before.

I believe that the interconnected purpose of this link cannot be overlooked or dismissed simply as a future hypothetical possibility. This link is like the strong trunk of an electrical tree, the only connection between the routes and the upper branches and far-reaching canopy. What at first seems like an electrical version of the Winchester Mystery House becomes all clear when one looks at this complete picture. The inordinate cost becomes appropriate, and it is in fact the next phase of the same system. It should therefore be fully described at this point. It is the environmental impact of the potential Phase 2 of a super system that I find missing in the voluminous Sunrise Powerlink DEIR.

I think at the very least we should have a proposal — I think at the very least we should talk a little bit about that link that goes down the San Luis Ray watershed. For instance, there is an

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endangered bird there, the South Western Willow Fly Catcher, you can hear its — I can hear his beeper. You can hear the sound of that bird on the CED's website.

C0225-1 cont.

(Laughter)

MS. ALDERN: We won't be hearing it if the Sunrise Powerlink goes through there.

The mysterious nature of the proposed massive central substation in San Felipe needs to be revealed to the public as part of the DEIR. I believe it is socially and legally unjust to leave the computer virus like impacts of this design to the readers' imagination.

I want to say one more thing. At this point the middle-class Americans are struggling financially. And I believe that it is possible that people would not be able to pay for such an expensive system. If the cost cannot be recovered, what if it goes bankrupt? Then it would be like a giant bridge to nowhere.

I will leave you now, I want to give you this paper so you can read the rest of it. But I want to read the Chinese proverb. Give a man a fish, he has one meal; teach a man to fish, he will eat for the rest of his life.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Off the record.

(Off the record)

ALJ WEISSMAN: On the record. Go ahead.

STATEMENT OF MS. BECK

MS. BECK: My name is Kathleen Beck. And I am a member of People's Powerlink. And I'm here to speak today, part three; I spoke yesterday twice, this is part three. I'm going to focus on a solution, and particularly Alternative No. 2. There is adequate documentation, Bill Powers' 20/20 Plan in the Draft EIR. But Jim Bell and Dr. Heather Honey wrote a plan to put rooftop solar net metered out. And it was not adequately covered in the Draft EIR. So I'm here to bring that back up to the CPUC, and ask them to take another look at this plan. I do believe it is the environmentally superior alternative.

C0226-1

The Powerlink is an economic boondoggle, and clearly diverts ratepayers' dollars away from the real electricity supply and price security. There are many reasons to support Jim Bell's briefs. One of the reasons that I see to support it is monetary, as it will bring money into the economy of San Diego currently and in the future, if the Powerlink were to go through, sending money out of our economy. It will actually be bringing money into the economy.

Second reason I think that it is very important to include it is because it will provide many more jobs in the long run. I heard people get up to speak and support the Sunrise Powerlink and use reasons for jobs and the economy. But the way that I understand it is that if people were putting rooftop solar on all the parking structures that exist in San Diego right now, it would bring a lot of money into our economy, and give people many jobs in both selling them and later maintaining them.

The third really good reason that I think for having this is it will protect San Diego County from future economic shocks related to the rapid rises in the cost of natural gas and nonrenewable fuels. I have a little black book that is circulating around the room. I wish I could leave it with you, because it paints the picture of LNG extraction and brings it clear into the lines that are being proposed. It tells that whole story.

C0226-2

Let's see where I am. Lastly, I would like to suggest that there be a proof-of-concept project in San Diego using Jim Bell's plan to put our 25 percent, or even 20 percent, of the rooftops in San

C0226-3

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Diego, cover them with solar panels. And I do believe that it would also help to have a solar panel manufacturing plant here in San Diego. I think that should be encouraged. Thank you very much.

C0226-3 cont.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. We will miss you.

COMMISSIONER GRUENEICH: And, please, if we have any speakers that have been able to be at all five, do identify yourself when you got up and talk. I guess you will get a piece of pie.

(Off the record)

STATEMENT OF MS. KATY MARETTI

MS. KATY MARETTI: I'm Katy Maretti. I'm here with my sister in law, Sandy. We are representing the Maretti family. We own a ranch in Santa Ysabel that has been in my family for over 100 years. We are hoping and praying it is not destroyed by the Sunrise Powerlink. I'm actually here to speak in our opposition.

C0227-1

I'm actually still reading the 7500 page EIR/EIS. For an average person like myself, it is an overwhelming document. With that said, I hope the CPUC will take into consideration that we are regular citizens trying our best to respond to a complicated document. Aspen Environmental should be applauded for all their effort and patience in producing it. There are numerous items that specifically impact the Maretti Ranch. Those concerns will be in a lengthy response to you.

Sempra Energy has made no secret that they want the Sunrise Powerlink to import power from plants in Mexico, citing such things as cheaper labor, less restrictive environmental requirements and quick permitting. With this as a motive, the reality is this line may truly not be necessary. I question why was not the green path considered in the no project, no action alternative? It would meet the direct access for renewables from Imperial Valley, it would be very low fire risk, it is far less expensive and less environmentally sensitive than Sunrise. Would it be possible to revisit this as an alternative?

C0227-2

C0227-3

The EIR shows five superior routes to SDG&E's proposed route. It is — obviously a better choice would be Alternatives 1 or 2 in the area of renewables. SDG&E with their high-paid experts and attorneys will shred these alternatives to pieces. It does not allow them to get cheap energy from Mexico. Should they somehow manage to remove them from consideration, the only viable option would be the environmentally superior southern route alternative which meets all major project requirements with as few as 32 significant impacts that cannot be mitigated.

C0227-4

I have spoken many times passionately and with great emotion about the Sunrise Powerlink and how it would destroy the Santa Ysabel Valley. The EIR supports this showing the proposed project shows to have the most 50 significant impacts that cannot be mitigated. For this reason, and that there are five superior routes, the proposed project should not be considered.

In regards to reliability, San Diego County has a long history of wildfires. Those have now turned into megafires as shown in the firestorms of 2003 and 2007. At this time controlled burns are no longer implemented on public or private lands. Furthermore, public lands here in the east county make up nearly 70 percent of all property owned, and are no longer being leased for cattle grazing. These two factors alone contribute to the unmanageable amount of fuel. Combined with the dry and winds, another megafire will happen. It is just a matter of time. The Cedar Fire was clocked at 1 point 40,000 acres per hour. History has shown it does not matter where the fire starts, all of San Diego County is vulnerable in its path. To secure reliability, the choice must be Alternates 1 or 2 in the area renewables or southern route alternative which, according to the EIR, is in a very low fire risk.

C0227-5

Regarding costs, SDG&E has dropped the savings to ratepayers from 447 million to 129 million in the past two years. However, the cost of building a line remains a steadfast \$1.3 billion. This

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cost can no longer be accurate, for several reasons. The most obvious is the skyrocketing cost of fuel which affect every aspects of construction. This project will cause the ratepayers much more.

C0227-6 cont.

My time is up. So I'm handing it over to my sister in law, Sandy.

STATEMENT OF MS. SANDY MARETTI

MS. SANDY MARETTI: SDG&E and Sempra Energy have been less than truthful for this entire process. I ask that the CPUC carefully consider if this line is necessary and for the right reasons. If so, please do the responsible thing and choose an alternative that would have the least environmental impacts and still accomplish the needs. Do not play into SDG&E's greed.

C0228-1

Thank you again for coming to Julian. Enjoy your drive down the hill. When you drive through the Santa Ysabel Valley, take in its untouched beauty. Then imagine it with those towers and with miles of 14-foot access routes cut through it, destroying what the ranching families, ours included, have strived for over 100 years to preserve. Imagine what SDG&E told us in a meeting in December of 2006. Our future plans are to put three towers side by side for the length of the valley, a 300 foot wide swath of tower and electrical lines.

As the EIR says, the loss of the viewshed cannot be mitigated. The untouched beauty will be taken away forever. Be sure your choice will take into consideration the impacts on the generations that follow us, today's children and tomorrow's children.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Rick Johnson, followed by Ken Wright.

STATEMENT OF MR. JOHNSON

MR. JOHNSON: Is this on? Thank you for holding the hearings. I'm going to try to keep it within three minutes. I'm here of my own accord. I'm a conservationist, I call myself. I grew up hunting, fishing, hiking all of these mountains. I am a Sierra Club member, but I'm not here representing anyone. I could as well be an NRA member.

C0229-1

Basically, I'm against the whole damn thing, and I'll tell you why, especially the northern route. Environmentally that makes no sense.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hold the mike up.

MR. JOHNSON: Hold the mike up there? Okay.

I think technology is changing, as the one fellow said earlier. If you watched the Governor's national meeting the other night on energy, this is premature. We need more time. There is better technology. This is a mistake.

C0229-2

There is all kinds of things that we can consider, like smart building, more conservation, carbon tax, buying back solar from SDG&E. There are better local sources. I'm not against the desert, some of the desert that is not sensitive to put solar and stuff is a good idea. But if they wanted to sell that energy through a route to Arizona and cut our rates because they did that, that might make sense. But it makes no sense strategically to have power plants in Mexico, to have a big grid that you can't cut loose and have individual grids. I just think there is better ways to do it. We should look at those. There is all kinds of alternatives.

And basically this whole plan of Sempra Energy's is a power structure corporate enterprise at a time when after years of adversity we've got ranchers, farmers, hunters, fishermen, environmentalists working together. We still have the corporations trying to steal the show, and pretend they are environmentalists and turn it around. They are not using good science, and they are not using good economics. I'm not an economist. I was an English major. In this EIR, I only started looking at this

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Sunday in the paper, Monday morning news. Got the EIR. So I'm not totally informed on it. But I think that the PUC should. Appreciate you guys looking at this. I think you should seriously look at this.

C0229-2 cont.

And I guess that is all I've got to say. I'm going to write a letter. I encourage everyone to write a letter, because it is easier to be articulate on paper and put your ideas down. Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Ken Wright, to be followed by Carol Schloo-Wright.

STATEMENT OF MR. WRIGHT

MR. WRIGHT: Good morning. Thank you for coming up to the mountains. Nice to see you again. I'm a teacher at Palomar Mountain as an outdoor educator for San Diego city schools. I opposed the Sunrise Powerlink.

C0230-1

First of all, I would say I don't think this is a case of not in my backyard. It is a case of not in anybody's backyard, our backyard, the county's backyard.

On February 1st I was in Borrego Springs. I had a chance to talk with many of the Aspen group team members who studied the proposed project, the alternate routes, the options, the detours, the impacts, the costs. These are experts in their field, and they were paid to do their report. They included studies on alternatives to the proposed project, visual impacts of the project, biological resources, cultural resources, land resources, transmission line engineering, air quality and noise, fire and fuels management. Their conclusion in the overall ranking of the project alternatives confirm what the citizens of our backcountry are saying. We speak from the heart; their results speak from hard-found facts.

As so many shared at the Ramona meeting last night, the environmental quality of our backcountry should not be at risk here. We simply have way too much to lose to a corporation whose priorities are stockholders first. I ask: How can we justify to ourselves and future generations if we allow this to go through?

It is truly scary that this immense fiasco has been able to get this far, I think. Just visit the power corridors along Interstate 15 on your way to Las Vegas, take a look. Is that what we want to see break through San Diego County? I think not.

I appreciate the great pressure your board is under in making a decision that has divided communities in San Diego, and with such intense feelings behind it. This decision should be a lot easier for you, knowing the irreversible nature of this project, especially when there are far more sensible and viable solutions.

I urge the board to not be swayed by the do-or-die mentality laid out to our urban leaders, by San Diego Gas & Electric. I urge you to prioritize our state parks or natural forest lands, our BLM lands and our private lands. They are all integral parts of our pristine backcountry. A treasure we cannot afford to destroy. There are much better answers to this thing. Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much. Carol Schloo-Wright, followed by Norman Feigel.

STATEMENT OF MS. SCHLOO-WRIGHT

MS. SCHLOO-WRIGHT: Good morning, everyone. My name is Carol Schloo-Wright. I'm a 38-year resident of the Julian area.

C0231-1

I've been a student of this project since it was first introduced by SDG&E. I'm not an expert. But I am alarmed. And I stand here to say no to this, any and all routes or recommendations of the

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Sunrise Powerlink, because we don't need the SDG&E/Sempra Energy Sunrise Powerlink. There are better choices. It is unnecessary. It is an unnecessary expense that we will pay for.

C0231-1 cont.

This project most likely will not use that solar energy that they tout, because the Stirling Solar Dish Project, which is the cornerstone of their alternative energy, isn't working. It is not even off the planning board. It hasn't been tested. But Stirling officials have testified that they will use the technology that is proved to be a polluter and doesn't work. How nice of them.

C0231-2

More likely SDG&E and Sempra Energy will instead use the liquid gas that is right now being shipped to the Baja terminal, and is being piped to the Mexicali energy plant and will be hooked into our grid.

C0231-3

I say no to the Sunrise Powerlink because of the fires and the winds. This proposed Sunrise power line is a disaster waiting to happen. There is abundant evidence to prove this. This project is ugly and damaging, and will destroy much of the habitat and natural flora, fauna in its path. I say no also because it is going to affect so many people, their homes, their lands and it is so unnecessary. This project is so outrageously wrong that I say no to any politician, official, citizen or so-called expert who supports this idea.

C0231-4

However, I say yes, yes, yes, yes, yes.

I say yes to the many experts who have studied and analyzed this project and found it to be a boondoggle, a folly, deceptive, unnecessary, outrageous ridiculous and antiquated. I say yes to the findings and the recommendations of the Draft EIR. I support the 1 and 2 recommendations for in-area generation of renewable. I say yes to the Smart Energy Plan. I say yes to forcing the utilities to doing the right thing. I say yes to Diane Jacob's three Es, use existing infrastructure, emergency technology and efficiency measures. I say yes, and thank you to the politicians, officials, citizens and experts who agree that there is a much better alternative than the proposed project. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. FEIGEL

MR. FEIGEL: I'm Norman Feigel. I'm a rancher in the Mesa Grande area. I have 2,000 acres, and they are going to come through and probably use up a mile of it with right-of-way, and roads or whatever. I'm going to read this. It is the best I can do. I'm not a public speaker.

C0232-1

There is other routes that are down south by the border. And other speakers here will probably speak about the alternative power and stuff, because I'm not right up on top of all that. I'm just concerned with the private property, and what the ranchers are going to go through and the private property owners that have this land.

They don't have to go through Anza-Borrego, the state park, Ranchita, Warners, up Mesa Grande through Santa Ysabel, Witch Creek, Ramona. They don't have to destroy that property, that land. They will be creating roads on the property which will create trespassing, gates left open, fences to go down.

Now, they will have to build roads across terrain that is rocky. They will have to take up more land and destroy more private property, create fire danger, butt the lines when they come down. Plus with the firefighting, they won't be able to take the plains within a certain distance of those power lines to try to put up with the fires.

There will be cattle health problems, sterilization of reproductive systems, cancer probably for the cattle. Then what do you do with the cattle? You have to sell them. They will be condemned. You take a loss because they cannot go into the human food chain, food chain.

C0232-2

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There will be erosion. There will be grass loss from these roads. There will be water that will be contaminated. Ranchers and farmers have been environmentalists. They are not just one day, it is year around for them. And because of their ranches, they have kept the public off. And that is why 200 years ago it would look about the same as it does right now.

C0232-3

If you put them power lines, it will ruin everything, the visions, the vista and everything down through all that county. You have to find another way, and not go through the Borrego-Anza Park, Warners, and what I've mentioned already, to get to where you want to go. And there is probably alternative power, which I said. I've heard of it, and I'm not on top of it, but there is other things you can do besides ruin the private property of people up here in this backcountry. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Jennifer Smith.

STATEMENT OF MS. SMITH

MS. SMITH: Jennifer Smith. I own and operate Integrity Stables. I started this in 1995. We moved up here in 1995 in order to move out of the city life. And I also wanted a former riding stable that invited people from the cities to come out into a wildland and experience nature and horses in an undisturbed ecosystem.

C0233-1

We started our ranch on Banner Grade about five miles east of Julian. And we started from nothing, built up a riding stable and had a pretty good business going. At the end of July in 2001, I looked out my window and noticed a plume of smoke coming from Vulcan Mountain.

I was six months pregnant with two small children. And I packed them in a van, and drove up Banner Grade so we could see where the fire source was. We suddenly found ourselves surrounded on three sides by flames, with no alternate route but to drive backwards down a very windy mountain road at top speed.

My children have never heard this story, but the four of us almost burned to death on that road. This fire was caused by a downed power line. Our whole canyon was burned out. Our ranch burned down, 60,000 acres. And what was worse after that was the ensuing flooding that came and washed out our land and all the riding trails. So we've moved five or six times since then.

I wanted to paint a picture to you of environmental impact from a personal story, from a rancher who likes to bring people out into this beautiful backcountry, and let you know what real environmental impact looks like.

So we would urge that this not go through. This is an archaic form of generating new power, there is far better sources for it. And we would encourage that this not go through.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. SMITH

MR. SMITH: Hi. My name is Luke Smith. And I just wanted to say that I may not sound as intelligent as other people...

ALJ WEISSMAN: I can't agree with you there.

MR. SMITH: I've I lived on a ranch in Banner since I was a baby. And living there for almost seven years really made me become one with the desert. We had everything we needed. We only needed to go to the stores for like paper and bread.

C0234-1

And we go to the desert every weekend and spend a lot of time. The wildflowers were pretty. A lot of people go to the desert to see the beauty like wildflowers, go dirt biking, the feel of sand between their bare feet, and also to be able to look up and see blue, clean skies.

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And the metal towers will not just ruin people's view, it will also contaminate the land, a lot of pollution. And no one can really help it if go hiking in the desert and feel all trashy and polluted inside. The radiation can increase risk of cancer.

C0234-1 cont.

And I am very against the Powerlink, speaking for Santa Ysabel, Anza-Borrego and wherever the power line is going through.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Luke, you really painted a very clear picture. We really appreciate you coming. You made a great contribution.

STATEMENT OF MR. STUART

MR. STUART: I didn't hear you call my name, but I'm 17.

ALJ WEISSMAN: That is your name?

MR. STUART: My name is Bob Stuart. I'm a Julian resident and a contributing editor to the weekly paper out here, Julian News. I'm presenting to you this morning an opinion column that was recently published in the paper. The title is "More Than 4,000 Homes Lost is Enough! We must demand no more overhead electric lines?"

C0235-1

In 1970 was the first large wildfire I experienced. It was the biggest wildfire in county history at the time. It consumed 382 homes and killed eight people. Its cause, a downed power line.

The Pines Fire in 2002 burned 37 homes and scorched 62,000 acres. Its cause, a power line struck by federal helicopter.

The Cedar Fire in 2003 destroyed about 2,200 homes. It was the largest wildfire in California history. The cause, a disoriented hunter. There are many miles of overhead power lines causing hundreds if not thousands of homes to lose all the refrigerated perishables.

The 2007 wildfires burned about 1600 homes. The cause, at least three resulted from overhead power lines damaged by horrendous Santa Ana winds.

California Senator Diane Feinstein is now making several proposals to improve the federal government's participation and national firefighting groups, including requiring cities and counties to adopt a uniform federally approved fire code. A good start.

Senator Feinstein has made no mention about prohibiting overhead power lines. Such prohibition must be part of any effort. And it is not enough to simply increase funding to fight wildfires after they have destroyed many more thousands of homes and businesses. More power lines, including the Sunrise Powerlink, must be placed underground if they are truly needed. Overhead lines not only cause many of the increasingly destructive wildfires, but when we are not directly to be blamed, they are burnt by the fires.

Millions of dollars are spent by taxpayers to fight the fires. SDG&E has indicated it would cost too much to place such power lines underground. We are spending more to replace lost homes with no cost estimate possible for the loss of life of residents and firefighters.

Time is up? I was afraid of that.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Take a moment to wrap up.

MR. STUART: Well, I'm going to give you copies of the column. And I think I've touched on many of my main points, which is: 4,000 homes is a tremendous cost in human suffering and dollars. And SDG&E says they can't spend a million dollars a mile, that would be about 150 million dollars added to this \$1.3 billion project. These lines need to be underground. Thank you.

C0235-2

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ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much. Denis Trafecanty.

STATEMENT OF MR. TRAFECANTY

MR. TRAFECANTY: I need an extra 30 seconds, because I need to report to you about these meetings real quickly. There were about a thousand people that showed up for these meetings in the five public participation meetings, and of that thousand about 340 probably are going to speak. And to my knowledge there is less than 50 of the 340 that spoke in favor of the Sunrise Powerlink, Chamber of Commerce, San Diego; Regional Chamber, environmental development people; mayors in the cities, and on and on and on. So that is my report there.

C0236-1

I also heard from Diana Lindsay this morning. I've got a couple of late news bulletins. Diana Lindsay said go out to your car and listen to KTBS. I went out there for five minutes and I heard Mr. Niggli say, the COO for SDG&E, after he was wrapping up why renewables won't work in San Diego, he said we are going to do what society wants. Well, okay. Let's do what society wants. What do you say?

I want to say something else real quickly. Who is — who are the environmentalists? Are we the ones — who is concerned about the environment the most? I've only been here six years in Santa Ysabel. They are the landowners. I've been here six, seven years. Let's talk six and seven generations of people. Look what they've left for us to look at. It is still beautiful. Why don't we keep it that way?

C0236-2

Okay, now I'm going to give you my testimony. I only got a few minutes left. My name is Denis Trafecanty. I live in Santa Ysabel. I'm an avid runner. I ran 50 miles and 75 mile in Anza-Borrego Desert to try to raise some money to raise awareness. That is what I'm here for, to raise awareness to all of you, to get you to these meetings. I've never made a nickle out of this. No one pays me anything.

I'm a member of the — I've been in many places in the backcountry. I'm a member of the Pacific Crest Trail Association, the Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute, Escondido Nature Conservancy, Mono Lake Committee. I have a place in Mammoth Lakes that I've had since 1988. I grew up there. I hiked in the backcountry for 44 years.

I want to tell you about the Santa Ysabel Preserve. I've heard all the other stuff, and I've said all the other stuff. I've been in the Santa Ysabel Preserve more than anybody in this room, or probably anywhere alive in the last four years, over 150 times. I go up to some sections, I run on the trails. It is right across from my house. And you go back in there, and I want to take you, I would like to invite anybody, including the Commissioners, I'll walk you up. It's 500-foot climb. I want to tell you something. Go up there and observe what I observed. I went to a spot where the Indians used to grind their grain in their little morteros. And the view is spectacular.

The EIR/EIS doesn't have that view. I beg you to consider that view. Those Indians, you might think they were looking to see who their enemies are. But I'm telling you, I think they were looking at the beautiful Santa Ysabel Valley. I invite you to come there. I also invite you to do one other thing. I'm going to give you my testimony, because I can't put it together today, or read it today, but another late news bulletin. I heard yesterday that the Bald Eagles have arrived in the Santa Ysabel Valley. I invite the Commissioner, the Judge, and I invite anyone else, we will take you to where they are, where you could see them from a distance so you don't disturb them. Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Shannon Davis, and numbers up through 25.

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STATEMENT OF MS. DAVIS

MS. DAVIS: I'm Shannon Davis. I have with my husband nine acres at the end of Deer Horn Valley in East Tamul near Barrett Lake, near the watershed for Barrett Lake. The top of our area is Barbara Mountain. We have an extraordinary view.

What I'm concerned about is that I've written a lot of letters, and my questions aren't being answered. And I want to know why our letters are not printed on paper in the EIR books, and why my letters — why an 18-page letter would be reduced to four bullets in the EIR/EIS.

C0237-1

I had follow-up. I wanted — the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly, I wanted to get Entomologist Anderson from the Fish & Wildlife contacted. She wasn't. I called her. Barrett Substation, electrical substation had a fire there. You have in the book that San Diego Gas & Electric couldn't provide that information.

C0237-2

If this EIR has mistakes, if it has baits and switches, the Federal Energy Commission may not be able to police you if you've made mistakes. Because they may have a conflict of interest should the West-Wide Federal Energy Corridor be approved. This time it may have to go all way to the Supreme Court.

C0237-3

There are two cases our attorney told us where the books were cooked, the EIR books were cooked. The BLM director got caught cooking the books, got fired. The original BLM oversaw Idaho and Wyoming. The southern modified alternative is Mother Earth's habitat for the Bald Eagle, the Golden Eagle, the California Gnatcatcher, the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, the Peregrine Falcon, the Southwestern Arroyo Tulip, the Quino Checkered Butterfly, the Bernese Copper Butterfly.

The Eagle's eye was on me yesterday as I came up this road. There was a Golden Eagle on the road, and I stopped to let it eat the squirrel on the road. And it looked at me from behind me, turned around. And I was reminded that that bird said to me where birds can fly between power lines without being shot. That is what you have in the EIR. That is not true.

And that field, that electric field between those lines can be felt from 12 feet away. And the men that you have on helicopters that serve those lines have to wear specific suits, because you can feel the shock. So that is wrong in the book. There is some things that need to be corrected.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much. Nancy Parinetto, followed by David Lewis.

STATEMENT OF MS. PARINETTO

MS. PARINETTO: I'm Nancy Parinetto. I've been here over 20 years in Julian.

In the late 80s I was the first to buy into a beautiful ranch which was divided into 17 lots, so eight plus acres each. The developers who were from Los Angeles did not seem to share my vision of keeping this land the way it was when I bought, as one of their sales points was that SDG&E would put in overhead power lines for free so we would have free power. Interestingly enough, the other lot buyers did not share my vision either. They were opting for free power over paying \$7,000 for each lot to put in underground.

C0238-1

But I didn't give up. I hammered them and hammered them until I got my way. Just as the people in this room are not going to give up. They are dedicated individuals; but unlike me, they are not just concerned with the aesthetics. They are concerned with the increased fire danger, global warming, carbon footprints, preserving our parklands, and investing our ratepayer money wisely in new green technology instead of dangerous, antiquated globally irresponsible technology.

The people in my ranch are still thanking me today that I had the vision to put in underground power. I wish I would have had the vision to have everyone put in solar power at that time. And I thank

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all the people in this room for their vision to keep the backcountry as beautiful as it is now for future generations. Thank you.

C0238-1 cont.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much. David Lewis, followed by Craig Maxwell.

STATEMENT OF MR. LEWIS

MR. LEWIS: My name is David Lewis. I'm a designer for a civil engineer here in town.

And I attended a previous meeting for the Sunrise Powerlink. And at that meeting I asked questions about the grading that may be involved for the access roads to facilitate the building of the power line. And I was told that there were no details as to the grading provided in the report. And I found that problematic for me, because I wasn't just thinking about what the towers would look like. I'm thinking about miles of road that you can't access at one point, and then drag five miles down to service a tower down there. There is going to be little roads going in all over the place, in my opinion.

C0239-1

So Katy asked me if I would come back to this meeting and address the grading that may be involved with this project. And what I did was I took, I downloaded a PDF map off the website. I overlaid it onto a USGS map, and picked out a route that would go above their ranch there, and did a quick design of a road that would go up through there. I came up with a build that may be involved.

Directly above their house is about a 25 percent slope. If you use only a 10-foot roadbed, I understand it may be 14, but a 10-foot roadbed, you end up 20-foot wide grading for drainage. On a 35 percent slope, which is just east of their place there, you come up with 29, roughly 29-foot for the whole grading.

Now, that is just the footprint of the grading. Normally on a hill, and this is why we have little canyons that go down out of the hill, the water is trying to gravitate downhill in a rainstorm. It starts picking out little places to erode, so you get valleys coming off the hillside. That is a natural effect of the drainage. This will intercept that flow drainage coming off the hill. It will catch in the road, it will travel down the road, goes into a culvert. I estimate you are going to have a culvert at least every 200 feet. That makes all these little places where these culverts come out a concentrated flow for that section.

Now that flow is mitigated by the fact there is riffraff placed at the end of the culvert to slow this drainage down. It is still a concentrated flow. So everywhere those are, you are going to have new drainages trying to form, new silt going down the hillside. And that is going to impact their ponds, their streams. I don't know if anybody has gone over there and looked at the Marcos Place after the nice little grading job across the street from his place to do the entrance to the casino over there, but his maintained field now is clogged up with silt that came off that site.

And so, again, I was asked why in the EIR this isn't addressed specifically? Because to me, like we plan a four-lane freeway through the town of Julian. And then oh, by the way, after we've committed to this, what do we do with the town? And that is how I see this.

ALJ WEISSMAN: I hope that you are going to provide those sketches to the environmental team.

MR. LEWIS: You can have them.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Hand them to Susan Lee in the back row. Thank you very much for your time. Craig Maxwell, followed by Janet and Gordon Gastil.