

Comment Set B0007
Torrey Hawks Hang Gliding Club

B0007-1

My name is Bob Kuczewski and I am president of the the Torrey Hawks Hang Gliding Club (torreyhawks.org). I have a private pilots license with a sea plane rating. I hold an advanced hang glider rating and an advanced paraglider rating. I have flown sailplanes and remote controlled gliders. I hold a bachelor of science degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering, and I have worked in the aerospace industry since 1983 for companies like General Dynamics, TRW, and Northrup Grumman. I have also been an intervenor in proceeding R.95-04-043 where I spearheaded the 1999 community effort to stop the three way split of our 619 area code into 619, 858, and 935. Many have credited my effort with stopping the 935 portion of that split.

I stand before you today wearing the jacket of Alan Chuculate who was my instructor, my mentor, and my friend. Alan was killed in November of 2005 when his hang glider struck unmarked power lines near a little town in Mexico.

The Sunrise Power Link involves many complex issues, and as president of the Torrey Hawks Hang Gliding Club, it is not my place to comment on most of them. But I can ask that you please give careful consideration to the placement of high voltage lines which endanger the brave spirits who take to the air in the remote places that we call "Horse Canyon" and "Laguna Mountain". As hang glider and paraglider pilots, we are becoming an endangered species as we lose suitable habitat for our sports. All that we require is a small patch of ground to launch and land, and an unobstructed sky where we can fly for hours and climb to many thousands of feet consuming no energy other than the air currents which are powered by the sun. Please respect the increasingly rare adventurous spirit that drives our members to the sky.

As president of the Torrey Hawks Hang Gliding Club, I am freely available to help the Commission or its petitioners to preserve our habitat. You can contact me directly through our club's web site at torreyhawks.org.

Thank You

Responses to Comment Set B0007

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B0007-1 The commenter's objection to overhead transmission lines in hang gliding and paragliding areas, due to the resulting danger to pilots, is noted.