

Comment Set C
Public Participation Hearing – San Diego 2/25/08

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
February 25, 2008 - 1:30 P.M.

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 25, 2008 - 1:30 P.M.

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

This is the time and place for a public participation hearing in the Sunrise transmission line application project.

And the first speaker will be Mayor Voepel for the City of Santee.

STATEMENT OF MAYOR VOEPEL

MAYOR VOEPEL: Honorable Commissioner Grueneich, Honorable, Judge Weissman: Thank you for the opportunity to address you.

The City of Santee opposes the local generation alternative, and here's some of the reasons. I'm the seven-year mayor of Santee; population 55,000, located in East San Diego County, adjacent to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The city has intervened in the PUC process because of alternatives in the EIR/EIS. We're concerned about hypothetical projects in the alternative section of the EIR and EIS, specifically ENPEX. That is the power alternative right next to Santee, right next to Santee Lakes and a major landfill that is going to be expanded five-fold. So what that does is it concentrates foreign particulate matters, greenhouse gases, quite a bit of pollution. It's probably — the landfill part of this is probably not on your radar scope, but I'd like to put it formally on the radar scope now because that gives a great multiplier effect for carbon footprints.

C0001-1

Specifically, we believe that ENPEX cannot be built by the year 2010 and is not a legally viable alternative. ENPEX is inconsistent with the city's long-standing general plan and approved projects. And ENPEX would block a key federal, state and locally approved wildlife mitigation corridor. ENPEX project should be deleted from the EIR/EIS.

C0001-2

The EIR and EIS assumes that ENPEX can be built by the year 2010. That is not supported by the facts because of this multiplier effect with that major landfill. This would be a very difficult thing environmentally for them to get approved, and they would have us fighting it for years to come.

C0001-3

A no application for certification filed with the California Energy Commission and once again, the ENPEX project is located on an active Marine Corps base, not consistent with the Navy's mission, particularly in time of a war. It's imposed on the Navy by Congressional earmark. And the city council's adopted resolutions formally opposing the proposed project. It's inconsistent with the longstanding general plan and approved projects.

In December 2007, the city council approved a 1400 unit master plan community on property directly adjacent in the ENPEX site. More important too is it would block the major northeast county migration route, five different migration routes for animals and critters. All have a confluence there at that project, and they would not be able to cross into the rest of the county, and it would really destroy their migration patterns for years to come.

I thank you very much. And hopefully that helps you out in your decision making.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for coming, Mayor Voepel.

Is Mayor Morrison here?

All right then. Moving next to —

MS. JACOBS: Good afternoon. I'm Dianne Jacobs —

ALJ WEISSMAN: I'm sorry, Supervisor Jacobs. Wait just a moment.

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(Off the record discussion)

MS. JACOBS: Your three minutes are up.

(Laughter)

SHERIFF DEPUTY: Can I have your attention. Everybody that's in the chambers, fire code, we cannot have this many people in the chambers. There is seating for a hundred. So if you're standing, there's — they're going to try and pump the audio from the meeting outside in the hallway. Next door, there's plenty of seating next door and you can go next door. I see the overhead balcony is full, so that's full. But we cannot have this many people in chambers, especially standing.

So all the seats are taken. If there's a seat open, find a seat. If you do not, would you please exit out the back and like I said, stand in the hallway or go next door into the rooms next door. They're going to try to pump the speaker — the sound into there.

What they are going to do is call your name. If you signed up to speak, they're going to call your name; you come in and line up on this east wall. Okay? They can only call so many at a time. That way, you can get it moving and keep it moving.

Okay? We appreciate it very much.

Give us a couple of minutes.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Off the record.

(Off the record)

ALJ WEISSMAN: On the record.

Supervisor Jacobs, welcome.

First of all, I shouldn't say welcome. But thank you for welcoming us. In fact, for this portion, if you'd like to trade seats, that's fine.

It's good to see you again. Sorry for the interruption.

STATEMENT OF SUPERVISOR JACOBS

SUPERVISOR JACOBS: Thank you.

Again thank you both for being here in San Diego and giving us the opportunity to address you. I'm Dianne Jacobs, I'm a member of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and I represent a good deal of the eastern back country area where residents and property are directly affected by this proposed line.

I wanted to just say to — or make a point of the fact that I also really, really appreciate you having hearings in Pine Valley, Julian, and Ramona. And you probably thought that by doing that, that you would have hearings closer to people in downtown San Diego and only people in downtown San Diego in this area attending this hearing. A lot of interest in this project. And I know also when the people of Julian requested a hearing there, that you responded, and I'm very, very appreciative. Thank you for that too.

I'm going to be making detailed comments on the Environmental Impact Report at tomorrow's night hearing at Ramona. So I'm going to be very brief today.

I just want to take a few minutes basically to inform you, perhaps warn you, of what I believe is going to be taking place at this hearing today and subsequent hearings by others.

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This afternoon, the Commission and everyone in the room is sure to witness one thing I believe, and that is that SDG&E — and they probably will shut my lights off for saying this — but they will have rounded up a small army of speakers from special interest groups. You'll see them. You'll hear them. They'll be using talking points. And with the possible help of SDG&E, these individuals and groups will tell you just how much our region depends on this line. And I respectfully urge the Commission not to be fooled.

C0002-1

The Commission should know that SDG&E officials sit on the boards of many of these groups and organizations you'll hear from. And in many instances,

SDG&E invests handsome sums of money in these groups by sitting on these boards.

It's my strong opinion that these speakers, at least a good many of them, are not supporting Sunrise because of careful deliberation or a review of the Environmental Impact Report. Most, if not all, of these groups issued their blanket support for Sunrise before the Environmental Impact Report was even issued, and I think that's significant to remember. In my opinion, these groups are supporting Sunrise after little due diligence and virtually no consultation with opponents of Sunrise.

The people opposed to this line don't have SDG&E's millions to fight back. Our resources have been a poor match to SDG&E's \$3 million public relations campaign. We don't have glossy brochures, flashy websites, matching shirts, and paid professional campaign consultants, but we do have an environmental impact report, a document that clearly shows there are cleaner and cheaper ways to keep the lights on in our county.

And we've also had a giant firestorm that charred the very path of this proposed line and its alternative routes; a firestorm that started — at least three fires started because of SDG&E power lines.

Like the Commission, I want this line judged on its merits, not by a well-funded PR machine that is in my opinion a little bit cagey about its facts and figures. So I look forward to explaining more to you why SDG&E has created a false choice for all of us.

And again, thank you both for the opportunity to speak today.

(Applause)

STATEMENT OF SUPERVISOR ROBERTS

SUPERVISOR ROBERTS: Good afternoon. Hi. I'm Ron Roberts and I'm a member of the board of supervisors of San Diego County. I'm not sure if that's a special interest group or not.

I want to speak to you here this afternoon regarding the Sunrise Powerlink. And I'd like to share with you that I have concerns on a number of points.

Number one: In the recent fires that swept San Diego County, one of the things that we became painfully aware of is how fragile our electrical supply was. In fact, at one point we were not only encouraging people to turn off their lights, but we also had to take the U.S. Navy off grid to make sure — to ensure that we had adequate power supply to keep this whole community running.

C0003-1

I'm also a member of the State Air Resources Board and have worked very hard to make this one of the best areas in the entire state with respect to air quality. And I'm aware of the Environmental Impact Report of an option perhaps that there could be up to five power plants in San Diego County to do the work that this line will do. I'm concerned both from a local air quality standpoint and from a greenhouse gas standpoint. I think the impacts of those need to be looked at and addressed very carefully.

I'm not here to address you on the exact route that this line will take, but it's clear to me after working on these issues and reviewing this proposal, we do need additional capacity and a linkage that

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would link us to the geothermal, the significant wind and what I expect to be significant large solar installations to the east of us needs to be an important part of our solution. I ask you to look at these very carefully.

C0003-2 cont.

I support the line and I would hope that you would look at it carefully and see that that is a solution and an option to part of the San Diego County energy needs for the future.

Thank you for being here today.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

Is Mayor Morrison here from National City?

Oh. All right. Then is it Deanna Spain from Senator Kehoe's office?

Go ahead.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR KEHOE

MS. SPAIN: Good afternoon. I'm Deanna Spain, representing Senator Christine Kehoe, who is in Sacramento today. And I have a letter from the Senator I'd like to read into the record:

On behalf of the San Diego Region, thank you for adding a Public Participation Hearing on February 25th within the City of San Diego, in addition to the hearings being held in the East County.

From the beginning, the Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Project has generated a significant amount of interest not only along the proposed route for the transmission line but within the entire region. That's because the alignment preferred by San Diego Gas and Electric threatens the very heart of California's largest park — Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

C0004-1

In recent years, we in San Diego have found that our state parks are under ongoing and potentially devastating threats by big, major infrastructure projects proposed at every level of government.

Earlier this month, the Coastal Commission took a courageous stance in rejecting a proposed toll road that would have forever changed world-renowned San Onofre State Beach and its famed Trestles surf beach. The federal government continues to work on a triple border fence that will damage a unique natural preserve rich with a rich archeological and cultural heritage at Border State Park.

It is time for the state to place our parks and open space preserves off limits to major infrastructure projects. Too often, our parks seem to have become the path of least resistance. I will continue to lend my voice to those who oppose any route that damages our state's legacy to future generations — our state parks.

Thank you again for conducting an open process that is responsive to the public in gathering information about the proposed transmission line.

Sincerely, Christine Kehoe, Senator.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

Mayor Desmond from San Marcos.

And while the mayor is approaching the podium, would the speakers who signed up on the list and have numbers one through ten please start making your way here. We'll have a little bit of time, but you can start lining up against the wall. I'd appreciate it.

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Mayor Desmond.

STATEMENT OF MAYOR DESMOND

MAYOR DESMOND: Well, thank you, Commissioner Grueneich and Judge Weissman.

My name is Jim Desmond. I'm the mayor of the City of San Marcos, and I am here to tell you that the city council has adopted a resolution in support of the Sunrise Powerlink. And SDG&E is not on our City Council.

But I want to thank you for coming to San Diego to hear firsthand from those of us who support the project, Sunrise Powerlink. And I have been joined with other mayors in San Diego County in supporting the Powerlink because we must stop debating and start building the infrastructure that we need to protect our quality of life and the economy here in San Diego.

It's never easy for elected officials to take positions on controversial projects, but — and I empathize with you in that everybody I hear, my number one complaint is traffic. Yet you try to build a road, and you get opposition to building a road. Another disconnect in San Diego is affordable housing is in one place and jobs are in another. The renewable energy is out in the desert, and we all want to live on the coast. We've got to have a link. We've got to get that power here, and it's clean power.

And as far as the route of the path, that's still debatable; but unfortunately when you put through a road or you put businesses in, you're going to inconvenience some people. And you have to think about the greater good. And that's how I sleep at night, is did I do what's best for the greater good. And I think that's what this Sunrise Powerlink is going to bring.

I think it's the right choice for the region and will keep the power flowing to our businesses and homes, and it will do so in an environmentally friendly way. And by connecting San Diego to the green power supplies in Imperial Valley, we'll ensure the lights will stay on, and we'll begin to address the issues as climate change and greenhouse gases.

At that last SANDAG meeting, our borders committee meeting, the supervisor from Imperial County came. And he gave a presentation on how much power is actually out there, how much geothermal is out there, how much solar is out there. They're thinking of selling to the state of Nevada, the state of Arizona. They've got a large, untapped, renewable energy resource out there. We've got to get ourselves to it.

My son, who's 16, about the only thing I can get him to do with me is we go out dirt-bike riding out by the Salton Sea. And there's these gas domes out there that you can ride up to. They're kind of not quite as pretty as Old Faithful, but there's energy out there. And unfortunately, it's out there, and we're over here.

So now's that time, I think, to take the big steps for a cleaner and more sustainable energy future. Large-scale solar and wind and geothermal projects are waiting to be tapped into. We just need the courage and conviction to get that done and do what's best for the greater good.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mayor.

Now I believe there are — I know there are two or three people here who are on the staff of elected officials.

Are there any other elected officials in the room?

(No response)

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ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. From this point on, we're actually going to, unfortunately, have to reduce people to two minutes, hold people to two minutes time, because we have about 110 people left who want to speak, and we're going to be here for many hours the way it is. We're grateful to be here, but I think in order to give everybody a chance to speak, we're going to have to reduce the time.

So why don't we start with Mr. — I can't make out the name. Joe — I can't read your last name.

STATEMENT OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER SALDAÑA

MR. KOCUREK: I'll be happy to comply because I have incredible stage fright. I'm here from Assemblymember Lori Saldaña's office, and I'm going to read the second half of her letter because she's been on the record in opposition to the Powerlink for some time.

I think it should be clear that the Legislature's intent in requiring the increased use of renewables would also demand the development of environmentally responsive generation proposals before considering the sacrifice of state park land, open space or other natural resources.

Now that viable alternatives have been developed and evaluated by the PUC and the BLM, we should seize this opportunity to explore the preferred options more fully, referring to the preferred options in the Draft EIR. I believe that these in-area alternatives offer San Diego a more independent, reliable and an environmentally responsive energy future.

I respectfully encourage the Commission to require the utility to pursue alternatives to this proposal with greater regard for conserving the state's natural resources, increasing local renewable energy generation capacity, and assuring ratepayer benefits.

Sincerely, Lori Saldaña, Assemblymember, member of the Natural Resources Committee in the Assembly.

That's it.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF ASSEMBLYMAN PLESCIA

MS. RIELLA: Good morning. I'm here today on behalf of Assemblyman George Plescia to reaffirm his support for the Sunrise Powerlink.

The San Diego region continues to grow, as does the demand for more energy. The Sunrise Powerlink will add another 1,000 megawatts of import capacity to our strained transmission grid, helping to secure energy reliability for homes and businesses. And while Assemblyman Plescia is a supporter of the Sunrise Powerlink — the project will impact communities within his assembly district — he strongly encourages the CPUC and SDG&E to exhaust all opportunities to reduce impacts on homes and businesses, including, excuse me, placing transmission lines underground where feasible.

Thank you in advance for your support for the Sunrise Powerlink.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. RÜTHER

MR. RÜTHER: Thank you very much for making the time available.

Meinolf Rütter is my name. I live in Escondido. I'm opposing this project because of the gross inefficient technology.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Excuse me a second, Mr. Rütter.

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Is Joe Garuba here?

All right. I guess he had his name here, but he's not here.

I'm sorry. Go ahead, Mr. Rütter.

MR. RÜTHER: According to an article in Der Spiegel, a German magazine, Issue No. 34 last year, the Green Party of Germany prides itself of having surpassed the U.S. in the number of wind generators. As here, they are not exactly pretty, but do most of the time produce some meaningful electricity. Although two winters ago, the coldest on record in 60 years necessitated buying electricity also, since there was no wind. Together with these windmills, the kilowatt-hours are very high, original construction and later continued maintenance and repair costs after this equipment has aged a few years. Then there is, of course, the cost of long power lines. Solar panels diminished in output over a relatively few years. Besides solar panels that have gotten dirty or snow-covered or damaged by UV rays produce about as much energy as windmills under no-wind conditions.

C0008-1

According to Der Spiegel, there are now 79,000 people, full-time employees, on this project. They are drawing wages, wind or no wind, to keep this trickle of again — on-again/off-again electricity coming. A completely free energy of greenhouse gases emissions that can be built and much cheaper operated right where the power is needed is nuclear. Much cheaper operated, it powers the — region reliably.

Thank you very much for your time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Rütter.

STATEMENT OF MR. KNIGHT

MR. KNIGHT: Hi. I'm Gary Knight, president and CEO of the San Diego North Economic Development Council.

Our organization represents the businesses. It covers 2,000 square miles, 1.5 million people and 49,000 businesses. And within our area also is two power plants, the most recent Palomar and the Encina repower.

C0009-1

And the issue that we're facing is, is that with all of our capacity, we still have suffered brown-outs in the last three years. And the reason has been — is transmission that's available at moving the power around, let alone the demand that we do have on our resources. So we're urging the Commission to propose the approval of this Powerlink so we can have not only the capabilities of producing the power, but getting it to where it's needed.

Our — as will be testified, probably many others — our businesses suffer not just thousands of dollars but literally millions of dollars when the power goes out in interruptions, especially in areas like biotech and high tech.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. PATEL

MS. PATEL: Thank you very much for accommodating me. I do have a plane to catch, so I'll keep this very brief.

I'm Amisha Patel of the California Chamber of Commerce, the state's largest business advocate, representing over 16,000 small, medium and large businesses in California. We are in support of the Sunrise Powerlink.

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Again, I'll keep this very brief. We have submitted written comments. Three major reasons why we support the Sunrise Powerlink:

One, California businesses and consumers rely on a secure energy grid. It is absolutely important that we keep our infrastructure up to date. And as you know, this region is in dire need of some infrastructure that can transmit more electricity throughout the state.

Also, second, the energy demand in California, as we all know, rises each year as our population increases. We need to keep up with this demand. We're talking about our economy, about jobs and businesses, and whether our state can remain attractive to the rest of the states and other businesses throughout the nation.

And the final point I want to make, which is perhaps the most important considering our climate these days, is the environmental initiatives that this state has been engrossed in. Number one, AB 32. This is perhaps the most important environmental initiative the state has ever taken on because of its impact on all businesses and consumers in the state. It is absolutely critical that we make sure that we have the tools to get to our goals. And the Sunrise Powerlink is one of those tools. It's one in the entire tool box. However, without ensuring that we have adequate infrastructure, there is no way to deliver the renewables to where they need to be.

So for all of these reasons, again, we support the Sunrise Powerlink, and we hope to be and continue to comment on this project as the proceedings go on.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. DAVIS

MR. DAVIS: William Davis. Welcome to America's finest city. We're a property owner. We have nine acres in the back county in Deerhorn Valley. There's about six parcels where the line goes through it, and we're inside the forest, southwest corner.

One of my questions is some of the maps show it going through the property. Other maps show it going around the property. And I was wondering if they're going to take it or not. It's 602-020-0800.

My other concern is I noticed that at the bottom of Imperial County there's a 12-mile strip of land that's below sea level on our border with Mexico. And there's about 1600 acres — 1600 square miles that are below sea level all the way up to the Salton Sea, which is 227 feet below sea level. The existing line runs about 25 miles below sea level on the way west. Below that it goes — 7 more miles below the border it is also below sea level. And then you run into Laguna Salada, which is about 80 percent of the way to the Baja, to the Sea of Cortez, and it is 100 feet below sea level. So there's a sand bar that the Colorado River left there that is in question that's about 4 miles wide.

And the federal corridor, the Westwide Corridor, also will be going through there at about two-thirds of a mile wide. And it just seems to be more prudent to go east and north of the Salton Sea on the high ground for such an important corridor.

The prior speaker mentioned that they want to get the renewables here. Well, you know, what about the Southwest Powerlink? They've got a 500 kV line right now that runs along the same exact area.

Also, you've got two plates, geographic plates, that bump up against each other north to south, and that's why you have all the geothermal wells down there. And so I just thought it would be much more prudent to go around that area.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

C0010-1 cont.

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STATEMENT OF MS. DAVIS

MS. DAVIS: Judge Weissman and Commissioner Grueneich, thank you for hearing our comments, and I hope to add more and to follow this process with you.

I have been following the EIR extensively from the very beginning, from the scoping.

I have written letters with environmental concerns about endangered species, species of concern, California state species of concern and have listed them with the Aspen environmental team and asked them please to take that into consideration in putting the EIR together.

I am still going through the 7,500 page document. I am finding some areas that are of concern and that I wonder if the team has overlooked some areas where we needed to have specific consideration for the habitat for endangered species. There isn't one route that San Diego Gas and Electric put before us that doesn't have endangered species, that doesn't have habitat that will be harmed, that will be scarred, earth for these 40-foot deep towers, 160 feet tall, half a million volts of electricity transmission. And so I bring to you today my concerns. In particular, I wrote a letter about the quino checkerspot. The historical data that has been collected for many years, some from Dr. Ehrlich at Stanford University in the Jamul area, east Jamul area, which in this EIR document, your biologist put a reference on D.2-a: Surveys for the quino checkerspot butterfly were not conducted for the alternatives because the 2007 flight season was not preceded by adequate rainfall.

C0012-1

ALJ WEISSMAN: Excuse me. I'll have to ask you to wrap up now. These are very valuable comments and we certainly encourage you to make them on the record during the environmental process.

MS. DAVIS: I will continue, because I think there may be some areas where we can still improve and finalize the EIR. I am opposed to this project.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for coming. We look forward to getting your comments.

Looking for Jean Emmons. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. EMMONS

MS. EMMONS: Hi. Thank you. I'm Jean Emmons from Santee, and I'm opposed to this project.

I spent the last probably six weeks in Colorado. Just got back and I can't believe it even got this far.

The whole idea of running these power lines across the Anza-Borrego Desert or any of these other wildlife habitats and things listed in the ENPEX appalls me when you are talking about — at least the paper, the TV talked about closing a place that was proposed so that the Chargers could build a stadium there. If you already have a right-of-way, start another way.

C0013-1

The only solution I could see that if you must run this thing as a state mandate or something, when the government builds their triple border fence, run your power lines in between the fence. You can wire it to the fence and it would —

C0013-2

(Applause)

MS. EMMONS: — solve a whole lot of legal problems. Probably would only have one that was fried. They may not have a respect for us and our laws, but they are not stupid. That would free up the border patrol to go out and run some of the 20 million others that are running around the country.

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(Applause)

STATEMENT OF MR. SAVAGE

MR. SAVAGE: Good afternoon, Judge and Commissioner. Thank you for your time. I'm Warren Savage representing the Santee Chamber of Commerce. I just want to indicate that we're looking ahead many, many years as to what's needed, looking also at duplicative input for power. We don't have that. So we're really in support of Sunrise Power Link simply because we need that power.

We've grown in the area. We have an opportunity right now, looking at the future to plan ahead and not be surprised later on with blackouts. We've already had brownouts. I think what we were looking for is a definitive way to build something that's very, very good for us and not be rushed into it.

Thank you very much for your time.

I think many people before me spoke about what's needed, but we definitely need Sunrise Powerlink for many, many reasons, all of which I think you've already heard. Thank you for your time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Savage.

STATEMENT OF MR. HAYES

MR. HAYES: My name is Ash Hayes. I live in San Marcos, San Diego North County area. Thank you for hearing public views on this critical issue.

I support the powerlink, Sunrise Powerlink. 62 years of my adult life has been as a San Diego resident. Today I am an interest group of one.

I have seen public services continually trying to match the spectacular growth of this area. Energy is the most critical need of families, businesses, and government. The Sunrise Powerlink is a major step to meet this need for the future. It will provide dependable and reliable electricity and at the same time help tap into renewable resources. It is very true that in order to combat climate change and reduce polluting greenhouse gas emissions, all of us need to do our part to conserve more and use less. Simple conservation measures are important as individuals. But every evidence is that we need to do more.

If San Diego is to have an adequate and cleaner energy future, we cannot rely on traditional local power plants. The Sunrise Powerlink is a responsible and realistic response to state legislation that mandates all California utilities like San Diego Gas & Electric to derive 20 percent of their energy supplies from clean, renewable resources by 2010. That's two years from now.

The line will also help benefit our downtown in our region meet the stringent new greenhouse gas emission reduction standards required under law. I strongly urge the California Public Utilities Commission to support the Sunrise Powerlink. It is the right choice for our region's energy needs and a clean environment.

Thank you. Go for it.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

Now Mr. Cummings.

STATEMENT OF MR. CUMMINGS

MR. CUMMINGS: Good afternoon. My name is Dan Cummings. I'm a member of the East County Chamber of Commerce and I live in Japatul Valley. I think there's no question that San Diego

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county businesses and residents will need more electrical power in the future. In order to comply with the state mandate to have more clean green power, it will have to come from alternative sources. That means either nuclear power such as in France where 78 percent of their power comes from. But of course, that's forward looking and not politically correct. So the power could be generated by solar and geothermal power in the deserts. However, that requires a transmission line.

C0016-1, cont.

State park lands are set aside for the benefit of the people. People of this state need the benefits of more green power. It make sense to use the existing right-of-way through the desert to deliver that power. After all, the right-of-way existed there before the land even became a state park.

C0016-2

Building a new transmission line through the southern route will not increase reliability, being so close to the Southwest power line. More private lands and families will be affected. And all you have to do is look at the southern route from a distance. It looks like the path of a drunk wandering the parking lot looking for his car.

C0016-3

I propose that we use the existing right of way in the desert and underground where necessary.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. AVEY

MR. AVEY: Thank you very for having me here today. I'm here representing Biocom, which is a regional trade association representing 550 member companies and over 36,000 employees in the life science industry in Southern California.

As our industry expands and more companies and workers are attracted to our region, it's necessary for Southern California to expand and diversify its supply of reliable and sustainable power sources. The life sciences industry depends on a consistent power source to complete very complex experiments, testing and manufacturing. These processes have almost no tolerance for unanticipated variables.

The life science industry requires reliability, and having the Sunrise Powerlink as one of the major power sources in the diversified power portfolio will give this level of energy predictability.

C0017-1

I strongly urge you to support the Sunrise Powerlink and reject the recently released draft EIR. Solely expanding local power stations per the draft EIR is a short-term fix, while the Sunrise Powerlink is a long-term commitment to regional energy infrastructure.

C0017-2

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. MUDD

MR. MUDD: Thank you for coming to San Diego. As you can see, this issue has drawn a lot of interest from all of our citizens.

I represent the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. The number of employees and businesses I represent is immense. I've never seen an issue where so many of us have rallied around one solution. And that is, after the devastation that we all went through in the last energy crisis, we asked for better solutions, and the Sunrise Powerlink is one of those solutions. It's not the only one, but this is a very important project for San Diego and our region. And we urge your support for this project as you look towards other solutions.

C0018-1

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I don't envy the position that you're in, and probably wouldn't want to be in that position myself. However, it is clear that the ability for us to develop a relationship with the Imperial Valley to get renewable energy from them is outstanding, an outstanding solution for the future of San Diego. And these are 20-year plans that we're looking to develop.

C0018-1 cont.

So thank you, and we urge for support.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. MEDINA

MR. MEDINA: Good afternoon. My name is William Medina. I'm a resident of San Diego, and I'm speaking in opposition to the SDG&E alternative.

Like many residents here today, my initial concerns were around the aesthetic issues associated with this project. However, as I studied the project in more detail, I soon came to question the technical and economic justifications for this very expensive project. For example, the Energy 2030 Study performed by the San Diego Association of Governments recommends increasing in-county generating capacity and developing in-county renewable resources.

C0019-1

Coincidentally, this recommendation is supported by the top two alternatives in the EIR study.

I'm not a transmission expert, but as an electrical engineer, I can say that there are numerous benefits to locating power generators at or near the customer load.

The Sunrise Powerlink proposal transmits power over 150 miles, which, in my opinion, cannot be supported by any engineering or cost/benefit analysis.

In closing, if this project is to proceed, I would strongly encourage the Commission to look at the shorter alternatives proposed in the study. Specifically, the Coastal Link system upgrade alternative which eliminates all environmental impacts to the Coastal Line at a much lower cost.

Thank you for the opportunity to address my concerns.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Medina.

STATEMENT OF MR. COONS

MR. COONS: Bruce Coons, executive director of Save Our Heritage Organization.

Save Our Heritage Organization is a countywide historic preservation group. We're California's oldest and one of the nation's largest. We are local partners with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

We're opposed to the proposed project by SDG&E due to its impacts to cultural and historical resources that we feel are not adequately covered in the EIR currently, and certainly mitigation does not meet the requirements of CEQA.

C0020-1

This power line will travel over the routes to California that were used by the early immigrants. This is the southern immigrant route to California. And in particular, it goes through Warner's Ranch and the Santa Ysabel Valley. At the Warner's Ranch where the original ranch house still exists was the first glimpse the people got of what they called the promised land figured prominently in all the diaries. This power line would disrupt probably the only spot in the western migration where they actually got a glimpse of the promised land. It still resembles exactly the way it was. All the other routes have been compromised.

We believe that we wouldn't even be talking about this project if SDG&E and Sempra weren't allowed to divest themselves of their local generating plants and become mainly a company that makes

C0020-2

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most of their money from power transmission. We believe that this is the obvious reason why they want to build a power line because this is where their normal base of income is. And so we feel that the other alternatives that are within the EIR much better will supply our needs for the future. And please, adopt one of the less damaging environmental alternatives.

C0020-2 cont.

Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. LUTAR

MS. LUTAR: Good afternoon. Lani Lutar, president and CEO of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association.

We did submit comments in writing, so I'll keep my comments brief today.

We strongly urge your support of the Sunrise Powerlink. For far too long, our region has relied heavily on older, less efficient power plants on our precious coastline that are very expensive to operate.

C0021-1

We also understand that our existing power grid is nearing its limit, and that's not surprising concerning that no new power lines have been built connecting San Diego to the state's grid in the last 25 years.

Older power plants and a strained grid mean higher costs for San Diego ratepayers. That's why we support the Sunrise Powerlink. It will reduce the need to run those older power plants and import more cost-effective power supplies, helping to save ratepayers over one hundred million per year in energy costs.

We believe it's rare when a major piece of infrastructure can actually reduce costs for customers, and that's again why we support Sunrise.

Last, I just wanted to end my comments by saying that transmission lines, landfills, and airports, those are three items that it's always difficult to get community support for, but that doesn't mean that it's not critically necessary for the community, for the current and future generations. And we urge you to take the politically brave decision. It may not be an easy decision, but the support will be needed for the infrastructure of this region.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. BRADHURST

MR. BRADHURST: Good afternoon. My name is Jonathan Bradhurst. I'm the senior vice-president for Westfield America here in San Diego.

As you may know, Westfield is a global real estate developer, owner and manager of retail malls. And in the United States, we own and operate more than 60 them. Here in San Diego, we own and operate seven regional centers where more than 15,000 employees get a pay check every year, and more than 65 million visitors come to the centers each year.

C0022-1

As you'd expect, we require a fair amount of electricity; in fact, a lot. This large volume of electricity that's required in our centers is one of the main reasons why Westfield globally is spearheading its direction to green company, looking for sustainable energy supplies wherever we locate.

Last year, we unveiled a \$2 billion project here in had San Diego that will add, amongst other things, it will center a green emphasis on its generation of power using sustainable material and designs, use of reclaimed water, and solar power. So when it's finished, we're going to be the largest and first U.S. Green Building Council certified shopping mall in the country.

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That all being said, we will generate, hopefully on our building, enough power to save 1 or 2 megawatts as a result of solar power on our complex.

While Westfield is glad to do its part to provide greater San Diego greener energy supplies for San Diego, we need the help of state agencies like the California Public Utilities Commission. That's why I'm here today. I want to urge you to support the Sunrise Powerlink.

Building more power plants in San Diego might be an unavoidable future, but right now we need a direct connection to clean, renewable energy. From what I understand, it results in more plentiful and less expensive than the Imperial Valley. If this is true, then it only makes sense to build the Sunrise Power line.

Thanks for your time today.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

MR. BARRALES: Ruben Barrales with the Community Alliance for Sunrise Powerlink. We have a two for one presentation.

ALJ WEISSMAN: I'm sorry. Are you signed up?

MR. BARRALES: Yes. Through Scott Alevy, we signed up for the presentation.

ALJ WEISSMAN: You have to wait for your turn.

MR. BARRALES: We're No. 16.

ALJ WEISSMAN: I don't see your name here.

MR. BARRALES: Through Scott Alevy.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay.

MR. BARRALES: Does that make sense?

ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. I thought there was an Alexy.

MR. BARRALES: No, no. That was a different gentleman that just spoke.

My name is Ruben Barrales with Community Alliance —

ALJ WEISSMAN: I'm sorry, Mr. Barrales, I don't see your name down here.

MR. BARRALES: Right. I'm number 16. If you had called Scott —

ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. You are going to have to wait your turn. Sorry.

MR. BARRALES: I was told I was No. 16.

ALJ WEISSMAN: No. I'm sorry.

MR. BARRALES: Okay. Then can we call — here's Scott.

ALJ WEISSMAN: If you'd like to speak, you can sign up on the list.

MR. ALEVY: I'm Scott Alevy. And if possible — we're with the same organization, and I have a medical emergency, and that's why I would like Mr. Barrales to speak for me, if that's —

ALJ WEISSMAN: He can get on the list and sign up later. That's fine.

MR. BARRALES: That's fine. I don't want to disrupt the process.

STATEMENT OF MR. ALEVY

C0022-1 cont.