

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

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

MR. ALEVY: All right. Scott Alevy with the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, and I have to leave in a moment. I apologize for that. I'm also an east county resident, so I'm one of those people that lives in one part of the county and works in other. I am consciously aware of the surroundings where I live in east county. It's beautiful there. That's why I live there. But it's also beautiful because we're able to live the kind of life we need to live. We need to earn a living. We need to keep businesses open.

C0023-1

The idea of building additional power plants in San Diego is distasteful. It's not necessary. Energy can be created outside of the area where there is less population that can be brought in. That's what the Sunrise Powerlink does. I believe that you'll find, if you look deeply into the hearts of the people, not just the report, you'll find that the people, labor, the organizations, business, and charitable organizations in this community are looking for the Sunrise Powerlink as their answer. And we urge you, collectively, to approve that and move forward with our lives.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Mr. Claycomb.

STATEMENT OF MR. CLAYCOMB

MR. CLAYCOMB: My name is William E. Claycomb. I'm president and CEO of Save Our Bay, Inc.

I'm going to tell you what we have to do. You should all read this book (indicating) so you know all about Global Warming. And I want to quote a couple of times from this. And this is what we need to do. If we go with photovoltaics on our rooftops, we will have opened the door to a world the likes of which have not been seen since James Watt when a single fuel powered transport industrial and domestic needs alike. The big difference being that the fuel will be generated not by large corporations but by every one of us.

C0024-1

And this can be done. In 1999, a study was done in Holland. It was a follow-up on a study done by British Petroleum, and they came up with qualification that if you build a 500-megawatt photovoltaic manufacturing plant, you can get a kilowatt of capacity for \$1,974.

Now the price has gone up because the euro has gone up and the dollar's gone down. It costs \$2,507 today.

Mike Splinter of Applied Materials up a little bit north in California says he's going to build thin photovoltaics and right away start selling them for a thousand dollars a kilowatt. And by 2010, he'll have that price down to \$700 a kilowatt. Right now, it costs \$8- to \$10,000 a kilowatt to get those installed. So we can do it.

And here's a good reason why we have to do it. This again is from the book "The Weather Makers." Dr. James Hanson, director of NASA's Stoddard Institute and arguably the world's foremost authority of climate change thinks we have only a decade or so to avert the rise of the oceans of 80 feet.

Now, if that happens, you'll be about — under about 40 to 50 feet of water right where you are sitting. So we need to do it.

(Applause)

ALJ WEISSMAN: I'm not seeing James Desmond or Joe Raffetto.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Jim Desmond already spoke.

STATEMENT OF MR. PHEMISTER

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MR. PHEMISTER: My name is Andy Phemister. I'm the interim president and CEO of the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce.

I just wanted to make a point. The speaker — two speakers ago Scott Alevy, because of the confusion, I don't think he identified he's with the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. I just it on the record.

San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce has supported the Sunrise Powerlink now for close to three years for some very basic reasons. This region needs a reliable, additional energy for growth for the community. We believe that the link that goes north that San Diego Gas & Electric has proposed is wise and one in that it stays away from the southern link that already comes into the project.

To keep our economy going and to keep our businesses going, we need to know that there's going to be sufficient energy. This is a long-term solution. Infrastructure decisions are tough. They require people making changes in their lifestyle in terms of what they see. And we understand that. But for the health of our business economy and for the economy in general, the chamber supports it.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. RAFFETTO

MR. RAFFETTO: I think he had to leave, your Honor.

Thank you, your Honor and Commissioner Grueneich.

I was stuck in the serious accident. That's why I wasn't here.

I am a somewhat smaller licensee of the CPUC as well. I'm Joe Raffetto. I own California Overland Desert Excursions. I am the sole concessionaire of Anza-Borrego State Park and it's my job to take people out into the Anza Borrego Desert. And I have actually one of my vehicles out front as you may have seen.

And I'm proud to say that hopefully by this Memorial Day weekend, that we'll be converted over to vegetable oil system.

I'm here in opposition to the Powerlink route because of many things, of course.

I was listening to the speakers out there today. It was good to see a lot of the SDG&E employees getting sunshine and stuff today. And I'd also — I think George Orwell's smiling today because this isn't a project that's talking about alternative energy. It's all about a power plant over the border in Mexicali. And I think most people in this room on either side of the issue know that that's the issue. And it's also about spoiling our great — our resource for everybody which is Anza-Borrego State Park.

I heard that one of the news organizations said this is a NIMBY issue. Anza-Borrego State Park is everybody's backyard.

And I had a banner early on in this thing. It said Find another route; do the right thing; find another route. Early on I got rid of that because I don't think anybody — everybody in this room, whether it's the ranchers, the people in Chula Vista, it's Ranchita, Julian or Borrego Springs should have to put up with this. My god; it's almost the second decade of the 21st century. Why don't we really have alternative energy? Why don't we really work on solar, roof top solar, not transporting it through the desert.

C0025-1

C0026-1

C0026-2

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I just want to say thank you. And please don't make me explain to Europeans what those things are down below.

(Applause)

ALJ WEISSMAN: I want to ask, I'm noticing that when I'm calling speakers, they are having a hard time hearing. Part of the reason I think is because people are often applauding. So if people could please refrain from applauding, we can move more effectively.

STATEMENT OF MR. EFFINGER

MR. EFFINGER: Hello. My name is Kirk Effinger, and I am a San Marcos resident and a native of San Diego county, as are my two children. That's the special interest group that I'm talking about today.

I'd like my children to be able to afford to continue to live here long after I'm gone.

I disagree with the CPUC's plan outlined in the Sunrise Powerlink Draft Environmental Report that calls for up to five new power plants to be built in San Diego instead of importing cleaning energy via the Sunrise Powerlink.

That plan will lead to higher greenhouse gas emissions in San Diego and block access to the clean power in Imperial Valley that San Diego and the entire state are counting on.

I also dismiss the claims that say we can provide for our future energy needs with a massive solar program. Given the current state of our state's economy, it is unreasonable and realistic to expect any meaningful results from such a program in the proposed time frame. After all, how can one reasonably expect such massive infrastructure realignment in an economic environment that can't even provide enough fire trucks to adequately protect San Diego residents?

Both the new power plants and solar installations would never occur within the time needed to satisfy our energy demands.

Is it reasonable to expect residents and environmental interests to allow these new power plants within their midst?

Given the difficulties encountered when trying to address our looming water shortage, traffic congestion and housing shortage, I think not. If numerous events of the past several years are any indication, even if these groups and countless nameless others not yet envisioned eventually relent, their efforts to block such developments would go on for years.

The ongoing wrangling would succeed only in strangling our economy and ultimately increasing the cost of power delivery far beyond what the Sunrise Powerlink is currently projected to cost.

Our best opportunity for meeting our electricity needs now and into the immediate future is the Sunrise Powerlink. It will bring to San Diego County more clean, renewable energy than ever before far sooner than any proposed alternative.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. JONES

MR. JONES: Good afternoon. My name is Rod Jones. I am chairman of the board of the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

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On behalf of the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce, I am here to express our support for the Sunrise Powerlink because it will help ensure a cleaner and more reliable energy future for this region.

C0028-1

This line will include electric reliability, which is critical to the businesses we represent, and it will provide more economical access for our region to the vast supply of clean solar, wind and geothermal power in the Imperial Valley.

With the Sunrise Powerlink, we can import enough green power to meet the state's clean energy goals — 20 percent renewable by 2010 — and limit the need to build more power plants.

I'd also like to address specifically the claims by some of the opponents we have heard that Sunrise Powerlink would not be needed if we all just installed solar systems on our homes and businesses. That's simply an expectation that is improbable, implausible and unrealistic. The cost to install such systems to homeowners and businesses is prohibitive even with the incentives.

C0028-2

We're talking about installation and equipment costs of \$12,000 to \$20,000 per family or per business, and certainly — that's after incentives. But certainly rooftop solar should be a part of the clean energy solution, but it's costly and cannot serve as the only solution or the primary solution.

We need responsible and cost-effective power infrastructure like the Sunrise Powerlink. That power line is the best option for our economy and for our environment, and we urge your approval.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. SINGER

MR. SINGER: Hi. My name is Gidon Singer. Been a resident here since the late sixties. I apologize for my ill preparation, but I thought it was important that I come here, and my name is on the list.

Basically, some of these people who — I'm very much in opposition to Sunrise Powerlink — they talk about quality of life and green energy sources, there's a variety of better energy proposals which people who are more informed, you know, the Smart Energy 2020 proposal, other people will talk about that.

C0029-1

But San Diego has a history of a lack of planning and caving in to big business and developers. And what's happened is there's been a lack of infrastructure, and what there's been is a lot more houses going online creating a larger demand of electricity. And that's a fact. We need to solve that problem.

But there are a variety of choices in regards to energy sources. There's one Anza-Borrego State Park, California's largest. This is a tourist economy. People don't come here for business. The primary — I mean they do, but the primary reason that people come to California are the oceans, the mountains, all the natural amenities. And they have dwindled dramatically over the last three decades. And once it's gone, it's gone for good.

There are other options. Doesn't matter how much money you have to spend to make those options work. Those outdoor places are priceless. I mean whether it's Boulder Creek, whether it's Buckman Springs, whether it's adjacent lands that are privately owned but affect the view sheds, which are timeless at this point, we'd like to keep it that way.

I mean if you're up on Santa Rosa Ridge hiking down from Toro Peak to Salton Sea, as I've done a few times, you see the sprawl coming in from all directions; but the natural ring around that park kind of gives you a timeless effect, which I don't think you'd have once the Powerlink could go through. There are existing easements, but they're small scale. And if anything, now that it is within park lands, that should be diminished and not increased.

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And if Sempra's sensitivity, the parent company of SDG&E, is any indication, look at the coast — the Pacific Coast in Baja, one of the most beautiful coast lines, rivaling Big Sur, and look at the LNG plant. It's a monstrosity.

C0029-1 cont.

Thank you very much. Please vote no on the Powerlink. I thank you for your time.

STATEMENT OF MR. TRAFECANTY

MR. TRAFECANTY: Hello. My name is Dennis Trafecanty. I'm a resident of Santa Ysabel, and I have a partial interest in two buildings located in Poway. So I work in Poway, and I live in Santa Ysabel.

I was out there for the rally that Sempra and SDG&E put together, and I patiently listened to what was said. The lights aren't going to go out. On reliability, our biggest exposure on reliability is wind, fire, and the potential for terrorist attacks.

Okay. On wind, we've clocked winds in Santa Ysabel in excess of 72 miles an hour at my 3,000 foot level. And the person who had the five burn — start on his property felt it was way over 100 miles an hour.

C0030-1

On fire, we had two catastrophic fires in the last four years. You could put all the powerlinks you want in the back country, and they're all going to be down. So route separation isn't the issue here.

C0030-2

On renewables, it's not proven technology, the Stirling solar engine. And when it becomes, then you could mass produce it. The last article I saw that it's probably going to be well into the teens, not in the next year or two.

C0030-3

By the way, IID, Imperial Irrigation District, is worried about a line that they have there that might not be used if the Sunrise Powerlink goes in. So renewables can be — it's sunny outside. The renewables can be produced here in-basin. I'm getting solar in Santa Ysabel. And one thing you have to remember about solar, you only have to pay once. Okay. After that, you don't pay anything. Reduced costs, that's another claim.

C0030-4

The San Diego Smart Energy plan, which by the way, was funded by the San Diego Foundation, says that they can produce enough energy and less greenhouse gases with 700,000, not the 7 million that's planned for the Sunrise Powerlink.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

I'm told that this microphone works better if people stay back from it a little bit. I think it picks up pretty well.

And also, I just wanted to give people a reality check. We've just finished Speaker Number 25. We've got 126 speakers signed up. Very grateful that you're all here, and we definitely want to hear from all of you. And I think we're going to have to try to cut back even below two minutes. So if people can be as brief as they possibly can, that would be very helpful in terms of getting other people off the queue.

Okay. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. LARSON

MR. LARSON: I am Donald Larson. I'm a professional engineer and a resident of San Diego for 50 years.

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I oppose the Sunrise Powerlink for many reasons, but I'll speak on just two: A lack of reliability and unreasonably high cost.

Despite what proponents say, the 150-mile Powerlink is inherently unreliable by design. It is vulnerable to a single-point failure. If just one of the 300 towers is disabled by poor maintenance, earthquake, wildfire, wind storm or human act, the other 299 are also effectively out of service together with the distant power plant. Loss of a small part disables the whole project.

C0031-1

Surprisingly, Sunrise cannot reliably import electricity on very hot days because there is little available to be imported. The California ISO has documented a generating capacity shortage throughout the Southwest whenever everyone turns the AC on. The only time Sunrise can import 1,000 megawatts is on mild days when regional electricity is in surplus, a time when we don't need it either.

C0031-2

Furthermore, if we build power plants, whether fossil fuel, solar or geothermal, to feed Sunrise, then the \$1.3 billion cost of this line more than doubles the effective cost of those power plants. It costs roughly \$1 billion to build a 1,000-megawatt power plant. Add \$1.3 billion for Sunrise, and we have spent \$2.3 billion for a \$1 billion power plant. That is a waste of money.

C0031-3

ALJ WEISSMAN: I'll have to ask you to wrap up, if you could, please.

MR. LARSON: Real quick. I urge the Commission to embrace the findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Report, to deny approval of Sunrise Powerlink in any form, and build San Diego's energy future instead according to the practical Smart Energy 2020 Plan.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. MC ILWAIN

MS. MC ILWAIN: Hello. I'm Virginia McIlwain, and I oppose the Sunrise Powerlink Project.

The first thing I want to say is that I should not be here. I would much prefer to use a late winter vacation day to spend some time out in Anza-Borrego. I'll have to cut my desert time short this year, and that cuts to the heart of the matter.

C0032-1

What do we as citizens mean when we designate an area as a dedicated state park? Do we mean that we want to preserve it in a natural state to be used for recreation by ourselves and by our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren, or do we mean that we want to set it aside temporarily until someone gets the idea that the state park is the most convenient place to place a power line or a highway?

We as citizens with jobs and family responsibilities should not be required to fight over and over and over again for land that has already been set aside as a dedicated state park.

Let me repeat: What do you think citizens and lawmakers intend when they set aside a beautiful wild area as a state park? I think the answer is obvious. And I think there should be some consequences that this idea of using the park for something as ugly and intrusive as a power line is even on the table.

I also want to say that I'm not fooled by the power company's pretense that this power line will be used to transport clean energy. They used that argument before when they built the last power line, and we all know that that never came to pass. We have a pretty good idea that they intend on using and building additional power generation in Mexico to evade U.S. environmental regulations.

C0032-2

Anza-Borrego is a treasure for us and for future generations, and we cannot allow it to be defaced for this ugliness.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

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STATEMENT OF MS. COPIC

MS. COPIC: My name is Laura Copic, and I represent the area known as Carmel Country Highlands, our neighborhood town, the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board, which opposes the Sunrise Powerlink.

According to the DEIR, the Los Peñasquitos Preserve, which we border, is the most heavily developed and urbanized fire shed along the proposed project route. The DEIR concludes that the potential for an ignition in this area to result in a catastrophic fire is significant. The fact that power lines were responsible for three of the October wildfires tells us that the chance of an ignition is not remote.

The San Diego Fire Accreditation Report found significant gaps in service in this area as well.

Finally, the DEIR notes high wildfire containment conflict along the route in this area, no doubt due to the presence of power lines already. Slow fire response times, fire containment conflicts and a heavy fire load that hasn't burned in recent years, coupled with lots of capital loss potential equates to a catastrophe waiting for a spark. The Sunrise Powerlink is that spark, and there is no adequate mitigation for this risk.

The Sunrise — the increased fire risk is even more unacceptable because it would be forced upon us by an unnecessary, environmentally damaging and ill-conceived project.

According to the experts, some of the environmentally superior alternatives noted in the DEIR are also more efficient and less costly. Sunrise is clearly not the best solution to meeting our energy needs. It is simply the most profitable for SDG&E, ratepayers and constituents be damned.

The Sunrise will undermine our ability to achieve many of the goals of the state's Energy Action Plan and the San Diego Regional Energy Strategy, like maximizing local and distributed generation, local renewables and increased efficiency and conservation.

With this in mind, the Carmel Valley Planning Board supports the overall environmentally superior alternative of all-source in-area generation. It is less damaging, more efficient and lower risk. Remember that local generation is what kept the lights on during the October wildfires.

If the CPUC incredibly finds in favor of this project, we'd also like to support — express our support for the local Coastal Link Upgrade Alternative because it has been proven to be less costly and environmentally superior to the proposed Coastal Link while accomplishing the same goals.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. MORROW

MS. MORROW: Thank you for having us here today.

My name is Carolyn Morrow. And as a back country resident who has experienced two wildfires caused by power lines, I'd like to object to this line in any form.

I want to compliment the CPUC and Aspen Environmental for the thorough, in-depth Draft EIR/EIS that has been produced for this project. The public hearings and the draft have shown that this project has been poorly planned and has serious environmental shortcomings.

SDG&E indicated in its March 6, 2006, letter to the DOE that it wanted help passing through Indian lands on Highway 76 and provided a map showing the complete line from the Imperial Valley substation to the SCE grid. Lack of analysis of the Highway 76 route appears to be missing from the Draft EIR/EIS.

C0033-1

C0033-2

C0034-1

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Highway 76 has a riparian river valley that is home to a lot of sensitive species in and around the area.

C0034-1 cont.

I am also confused as to the lack of analysis regarding the LNG supply, both overseas and domestic. While I am aware that SDG&E is promoting the Sunrise Powerlink to carry renewables, not only do they not need SPL to meet the renewable goals, as SDG&E itself has stated, it is also doubtful that the Stirling contract is viable.

C0034-2

We understand that the main reason that SDG&E has bet the bank on Sunrise Powerlink is to be able to hook up to the Sempra LNG plants in Mexico.

Shouldn't there be a full analysis of this power supply before a huge line designed to carry it is built? How much is coming from unstable countries? Will it be the same situation as oil from the Middle East?

We hope that SDG&E has learned from this process and will be more willing to work with the communities for a better, more reliable energy future, and that they will become better community citizens.

There is a better way. And working together, we can implement the recommendations in the San Diego Smart Energy 2020, the 21st Century Alternative Report, and become the hallmark region for the rest of the nation to learn from.

Thank you for your time today.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. SMITH

MR. SMITH: Hi. My name is Geoffrey Smith. Thanks for the opportunity to talk. I live in San Diego in the Mira Mesa community.

I'm here representing an organization called "Wilderness 4 All," a coalition of organizations working to support pending federal legislation to create over 40,000 acres of federal wilderness in San Diego County. We oppose any alternative that involves power lines.

C0035-1

San Diego enjoys more biodiversity than any county in the continental United States. Much of this biodiversity is located on federal public land. The transmission line would potentially impact the following properties: Hauser Canyon proposed Forest Service wilderness; the Hauser Mountain proposed BLM wilderness; the Pine Creek existing wilderness and proposed wild and scenic River; the No-Name proposed Forest Service wilderness; Sill Hill proposed Forest Service wilderness; Eagle Peak proposed Forest Service wilderness; the Cedar Creek proposed Forest Service wilderness and wild and scenic river; and the San Diego River proposed Forest Service wilderness and wild and scenic river.

As established in *Mineral King v. The United States Forest Service* years ago, truly the rocks have rights — a right to an environment free from power lines and roads. I'm here representing the rocks today. They can't speak for themselves. What's good for the environment, furthermore, is good for business and the community. That's been proven by many, many surveys and actual fact designations of wilderness in the past. It's important to protect our public lands.

Yes to local conservation. Yes to local generation. No to the Sunrise Powerlink.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

MR. HUGHES: I was Number 27.

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ALJ WEISSMAN: Sorry, Mr. Hughes. Did I fail to call your name?

MR. HUGHES: Yes.

ALJ WEISSMAN: You've been very patient. Come on up.

STATEMENT OF MR. HUGHES

MR. HUGHES: Good afternoon. If any of you have visited our wonderful national or state parks, whether for a short visit or an overnight stay, you realize what very special places these parks are to you, your family and all Americans.

Well, by allowing the Sunrise Powerlink to cut its way — I'm sorry, I am against the Powerlink. My name is Jerry. By allowing the Sunrise Powerlink to cut through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, you'll be changing the quality and character of the park for all of us. Qualities lost to Anza-Borrego would include possible archeological and paleontological sites, surely special views, and because deserts have been proven quieter than music recording studios, the desert's serenity because of that high-tension buzz.

No park is safe from this kind of danger, whether it be Anza-Borrego, Yellowstone or Yosemite.

What about a power line crossing Yosemite Valley view from Inspiration Point or the Wawona Tunnel Overlook? Farfetched? Not at all.

By supporting the construction of the Powerlink through Anza-Borrego, that precedent will be used as the foundation for any other utility in the country to construct what they want through any state or national park. And corporate lawyers will be referring to this decision for years to acquire public land to construct other projects through any of our parks.

This would be the first time land that was set aside for the public as a wilderness will be taken from the people for any project, and the sad part about it is that the Powerlink has been determined unnecessary by the Draft Environmental Impact Report and Statement that was prepared by our own national and state governments.

Considering the Powerlink will mean more imported power, possibly mean more back country fires — and we all know the tragic consequences of San Diego fires — and will destroy designated wilderness, how can anyone in good conscience support this construction?

There are better, smarter ways to increase power supplies in southern California. Please don't support a utility that would take more of what little public land we have left to build this senseless project.

I'd just like to add that, as you're Commissioners, I think you are in a terrible position because big business and corporations want this, and the people don't. The way for you to sleep at night is to say, yes, SDG&E, you can have your Powerlink, but you just can't go through Anza-Borrego, Cuyamaca or our national forests.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. VOSS

MR. VOSS: Hi. My name is Dave Voss, and I live in Oceanside. And I oppose Alternatives 3 through 7.

C0036-1

C0037-1