

Comment Set C, cont.
Public Participation Hearing - Ramona 2/26/08

RAMONA, CALIFORNIA
February 26, 2008 - 7:10 P.M.

RAMONA, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 26, 2008 - 7:10 P.M.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE WEISSMAN: We will be in order.

This is our fourth public participation hearing in the Sunrise Transmission Line Project, and Supervisor Dianne Jacob is at the dais.

STATEMENT OF SUPERVISOR JACOB

SUPERVISOR JACOB: Well, thank you both again so very, very much for being here in Ramona and being downtown and being in Pine Valley, and I know you'll be in Julian, and accommodating the people that are most affected by this line.

I hate to make a request to break your rules right away, but if I could request five minutes, and I'll try to get done in less time, I would greatly appreciate it.

ALJ WEISSMAN: One grand, limited exception, yes. Granted.

SUPERVISOR JACOB: If that's all right with everyone else.

I do represent the people of San Diego County's Second District, which encompasses the eastern portion of the county. And my district includes many of the communities that would be affected by this proposed Sunrise Powerlink proposal by SDG&E, which includes Ramona and Julian, Santa Ysabel, Pine Valley, all of the communities that would be around the — along the Alternative D and the southeastern portion of the region also. So it's my district. These are my people, and these are properties in my district.

C0178-1

The County of San Diego is finalizing its formal comments on the Draft Environmental Report and will be submitting those technical comments before the April 11th deadline. I have reviewed the Draft EIR. I have not read all 7,000 pages, but in particular I have focused on the executive summary.

I do remain steadfastly opposed to the project in the entirety and even more so after reading the environmental document, and that would include Preferred Route and Alternative Route D.

As the Draft EIR points out, there are cheaper and less destructive ways to meet future energy needs. If the speakers here tonight seem especially upset, it's because this area is still reeling from the massive fire storms of last October, fires likely started by SDG&E power lines.

In addition, the region has endured SDG&E's controversial Sunrise campaign for more than two years. This divisive effort has pitted rural communities against urban communities and tried to turn northern communities against southern communities.

Fortunately, many of us have seen through SDG&E's propaganda, and SDG&E has presented the CPUC's decision as a choice. That choice is approve Sunrise or suffer rolling blackouts. That's SDG&E's choice.

Yet, as the Draft EIR thankfully indicates, and as expert after expert has testified, Sunrise is a false choice. The EIR's top two alternatives clearly show that this region, its economy and its landscape are better served by local, not imported, generation. In commercials and glossy brochures, SDG&E's impressive public relations machine has boiled down the pitch for Sunrise into a snappy sound bite. SDG&E says this: Sunrise will bring us the three Rs: Renewables, reliability, and reduced costs.

Unfortunately, SDG&E overlooked a fourth and important R, reality.

Here's the reality about renewables. There's enough capacity on the existing Southwest Powerlink to bring wind, solar and geothermal energy from the Imperial Valley into this region without

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building Sunrise. SDG&E's own testimony reveals that the utility can meet California's renewable mandate without building Sunrise. C0178-2 cont.

The unproven Stirling Solar Dish Project, the cornerstone of SDG&E's renewable claims, has been delayed again. The company has not filed an application for construction with the California Energy Commission. Worse yet, Stirling officials have testified they won't move forward with a type of technology that has long suffered from hydrogen and engine seal leaks. C0178-3

Finally, if SDG&E is as committed to renewable energy as it claims, then why last summer did the company lobby against increasing the state's renewable mandate? C0178-4

Here's the reality about reliability: A massive extension cord through our fire-prone back country does not equal greater reliability. It equals perilous danger. C0178-5

In my discussions with SDG&E, the utility used the 2003 Cedar Fire as an argument for Sunrise. SDG&E said that Sunrise was needed because if the existing Southwest Powerlink were to go down in a fire, Sunrise could assure reliability.

Huh. Well, guess what? SDG&E officials downplayed the likelihood of the regions' having two massive fires at the same time. That argument was debatable until October of 2007. It turned out SDG&E was right. We didn't have two massive fires at the same time, we had seven. The Southwest Powerlink went down in the Harris Fire. And had Sunrise had been built, it would have been out of service too because of the path of the Witch Fire.

Here's the reality about reduced costs: Repeatedly, we have seen the alleged financial benefits of Sunrise drop dramatically because of SDG&E's own miscalculations, math errors and faulty assumptions about power plants. First it was \$447 million. Then \$204 million. Then \$129 million, less than one-quarter of the line's original cost savings estimates. C0178-6

The Utility Consumers Action Network, UCAN, and other energy stakeholder groups have done some remarkable research into the cost-effectiveness of upgrading existing infrastructure and investing in solar, proposals that have largely been ignored unfortunately by SDG&E. C0178-7

I think it's time for SDG&E to retire the claims about the three Rs. The facts don't support them. The region needs to turn its focus to the three Es: Existing infrastructure, emerging technologies and efficiency measures.

The state of California is standing at the threshold of a whole new era in energy development. And in my mind, Sunrise is really a battle between the dying past and the promising future.

California, with its million solar roofs campaign and its investments in energy research, is blazing trails when it comes to renewables. The state and its Governor have put its money where its mouth is. That investment is paying off.

This month a story in The New York Times describes California as the world's, and I quote, next big solar market and its entrepreneurial center, unquote. An economist said of California, and I quote: We're at the dawn of a revolution that could be as powerful as the Internet revolution, unquote. A venture capitalist said companies are just starting to blossom from venture funding, and through innovation and volume, prices are coming down.

Change is scary, and SDG&E is likely protecting an old way of doing business. Yet the financial sector and the energy sector are all saying the same thing: hulking lines and massive steel are antiquated concepts. Distributed generation, self-reliance and new green technologies are here to stay whether SDG&E likes it or not.

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Imported power, in Sunrise's case much of it from fossil-fuel plants, is a thing of the past. So by approving Sunrise, California would be building a billion-dollar monument to the past. We don't want that. We don't need it, and it will be outdated before it's even finished.

C0178-8

By turning down this line, the Commission sends an important message to the San Diego region: San Diegans need to create in-basin generation and become self-sufficient and safer from fire. And with your help, we can force our utility to do the right thing.

Again, thank you so much for the opportunity of allowing me to speak and being here tonight.

(Applause)

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

In Supervisor Jacob's defense, in Commission hearings there are no curtain calls, so they'll have to —

SUPERVISOR JACOB: I have no control over that.

(Laughter)

ALJ WEISSMAN: What I'd like to do is ask those of you who did sign up to speak to come up in clusters. Hopefully, you might even remember the number next to your name when you signed in. I'll ask for the first five people to please come and line up behind the dais.

And if you've forgotten your number, don't worry. I'll still call your name when it's your turn to make a presentation.

STATEMENT OF MR. GARLAND

MR. GARLAND: Thank you, Judge. I have a graphic for you and a map that goes with it, and I'll describe what it's all about.

C0179-1

My name is Rick Garland. I'm chairman of the Visual Pollution and Scenic Preservation Task Force of the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club. I would again like to thank Commissioner Grueneich and Judge Weissman for your stamina, patience, devotion to democracy and caring to listen to us night after night.

We are completely opposed to all alternatives except No. 1, essentially non-wire alternative. And I again applaud Aspen and Mrs. Lee and Billie for the tour de force EIR; an amazing accomplishment, including the proofreading.

I would like to just isolate an example of a numerical alternative to put a human touch on it. And the picture that I've shown you was taken on a bright day in August of 1992 when Jack Shu, California State Park District Superintendent, Anne Fege, forest supervisor from U.S. Forest Service, Granville Bowman, from the City of San Diego, Supervisor Bailey, and as you can see there a character you may recognize as Smokey the Bear celebrated the dedication of a portion of Interstate 8 between Pine Valley and Highway 94 as part of the National Forest Service's scenic byways. The scenic byways run from — well, they start in Big Sur and run all the way to the Mexican border. And Interstate 8 in this area is part of the scenic byways. It's also an area for which an application has been submitted for designation of a river that runs through it as a wild and scenic river. Yet, there is a proposal, proposed Element 4 which, although is not the first choice, it is an alternative. It is more of a first choice. But it's listed as an environmentally superior alternative.

C0179-2

And from the viewpoint of the visual environment, that is a preposterous listing as are the other alternatives, actually more or less because it truly is outrageous to propose areas that have been designated as of high scenic value as these have officially by the United States Forest Service, and you

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can see that from the map, and think it to be logical to run a massive power line through the area, the bulldozing that would be required and the destruction.

C0179-2 cont.

Some people rather glibly talk about the Interstate 8 alternative, but it really isn't very logical. I spoke to a fireman about it. He said that it would foster future fires because firemen can't put out fires in the vicinity of 500 kV lines until they're de-electrified, and therefore fires would spread before it was possible for the firefighters to fight them. It could lead to much acceleration of fires.

C0179-3

There has been a lack of leadership in the alternatives — I'll wrap up quickly. The no proposed use of new technologies for transmission, electronic optimization of transmission, higher conducting conductors on existing rights-of-way.

C0179-4

It seems like there's an absolute lack of creativity on the part of the proposers. And there's only one solution to this, and Alternative 1 is the only one that is not preposterous. I hope that you find that that's the choice.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. CONCANNON

MR. CONCANNON: Good evening. Thank you for allowing me to speak this evening. I'm Dave Concannon. My wife Dee and I are here in opposition in the Sunrise Powerlink.

C0180-1

When we drove here this evening, we and others contributed to the carbon footprint of the area. We have heard that term bandied about quite often by politicians, the same politicians who say, We must do something about it; that we're responsible for going green. Solar is the answer, they say; more Americans must go solar, and they'd better get started now.

Because we haven't done that in any measurable way to date, SDG&E points to that as one of the reasons we must have the Sunrise Powerlink.

Back in the early '80s when I was a reporter in the back country in the east county in San Diego, of the thousands of interviews that SDG&E executives gave out, we've repeatedly heard the Southwest Powerlink, which we fought, would take care of our energy needs well into the 21st century. But here we are again.

So maybe solar can be our savior.

But how can we afford to go solar? How many working folks and retirees like us can afford to shell out between \$25- and \$50,000 for the up-front cost of going solar, with the reward being some distant and low-level rebate.

Why haven't the utilities like SDG&E and others corral the solar energy folks and said, Look; you've got to help us lobby in Washington and Sacramento to get bills passed that would subsidize the up-front costs of building solar.

We aren't looking for handouts. These would be no or low interest loans which would have payback built in, possibly grants for very low income folks. Maybe paybacks could be done with the leftover electricity sent to the grid. And we wouldn't need the additional electricity from the Powerlink if a portion of new residential and commercial construction is required to be solar or other green energy.

I don't know. But I do know that we would be going green with solar very, very quickly, and maybe we wouldn't have to have meetings like this anymore.

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Thank you.

(Applause)

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. VOSS

MR. VOSS: Hi. I'm Dave Voss, and I'm from Oceanside, and I oppose the Sunrise Powerlink.

By now, everyone's aware of Sempra/SDG&E and their mangling of the truth. I won't belabor all the many ways they've done this so far. The PUC has been doing a very good job of bringing out the truth. But I would like to add two more points to this growing list of untruths.

First, the Imperial Valley is not the only place to get solar energy. San Diego is blessed with a lot of sun. We have a lot of tourists in San Diego for that reason. You wouldn't think of Germany with a lot of sun. It doesn't have any deserts.

The reality is Germany has more solar power than any other country in the world. If do you a little research on that, you'll find in 2006, half of the world's solar power was in Germany. They have 300,000 buildings with solar panels on them. They have 55,000 people employed by a hundred manufacturers and suppliers of solar panels.

Most panels built in America go to Germany. Germany is smaller than California but twice the population. They have 3000 megawatts already. They plan to add a thousand megawatts per year.

The truth is, there's plenty of solar in San Diego as Germany has proven.

Second, SDG&E/Sempra talks about the need to have two lines or have the line parallel to the Southwest Powerlink because of reliability and fire issues. But they don't do anything about the one substation in Imperial Valley.

As most people are aware, there was a fire earlier today in Florida. A substation caught on fire. Millions of people without power. Eight power plants were shut down. The cause of the fire, preliminary reports are a switch in the substation triggered the fire. So the substation itself caused the fire, which we know very well here in San Diego, and took out most of Florida.

So again, where's the truth? Do we really need two power lines coming through Imperial Valley if we have only one substation?

The truth is, relying on that one area for all of our power needs puts us at much greater risk. And we have much less reliability. Local solar, distributed solar is much more reliable and less fire risk.

And I'd encourage you to continue to dig for the truth. You guys are doing a great job.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. WITHERS

MS. WITHERS: I'm Judith Withers from the community of San Felipe.

Because of its massive scope and destruction, the Sunrise Powerlink itself argues against the project and increasingly appears to be the white elephant in the room because of new technologies available to our city. Our communities respectfully ask the CPUC to support the findings of the EIR/EIS that allows the San Diego Smart Energy 2020 Plan to move forward. In fact, SDG&E can

C0181-1

C0181-2

C0182-1

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become the entity to help implement this plan instead of its current pattern of putting up roadblocks to these inevitable and newer technologies.

Facing a similar situation, San Francisco formed a public utility on its own to implement the more modern and common-sense approach to its own energy problems. The people now know that we too have this option if these roadblocks to modernization continue.

When the Sunrise Powerlink was first conceived, the science regarding climate change was not as mainstream as it is now. The debate is over. Sempra and SDG&E have invested in an idea whose time has come and is over.

From what I understand, this problem with congestion of the energy grid will expire in 2010, right about the same time the Sunrise Powerlink is slated to go on line. I think they know that this project, paid for by the ratepayers and of which private shareholders stand to profit, is their last chance to force this old technology onto the people. I say it is already too late.

The various chambers of commerce say they all support this project, but I think they are ignorant of the fact that thousands of new and more permanent jobs, green jobs, will be created by supporting the San Diego Smart Energy 2020 plan.

I urge all of the members to go to this website, sdsmartenergy.org, and study the Power Point presentation that will make its benefits to our city very clear.

Together our goal should not be about transmission but transition to a cleaner, more efficient energy feature. Please support the San Diego Smart Energy Plan by supporting the Finding No. 1 of the EIR/EIS.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. BARAN

MR. BARAN: Good evening. I'm Robert Baran. I live in Encinitas, California. I live far from Borrego, I live far from Ramona, but this issue — the last two years, I followed it really closely. It's really, really gotten to me.

My family and I have been going to Borrego probably for 16, 17 years camping. We've come to appreciate its beauty, its quietness. It's a unique place. I strongly feel SDG&E's Powerlink is in direct conflict with the mission and vision of the California State Parks System. Their mission is to provide for the health, inspiration, education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity and protecting its most valuable natural and cultural resources.

SDG&E's answer for this is to construct 150-foot metal towers in Anza-Borrego State Park under the pretext that we need reliable power and this is the only way to get it. It's simply not true.

I really feel there's an inconsistency in the value between the utility company's SDG&E and the people of California. This massive project puts the need of Sempra/SDG&E before anyone who values beautiful open spaces and vistas.

I really feel Southern California has had real growing pains. Every time you turn around, there's a condo going up, a parking lot going up. Now more than ever, we need places we can go and feel there's not — we're just with nature. And it sounds corny, I think, but it's really.

In conclusion, I'd like to say I support the findings of the draft impact report. And I hope that the Commission will follow the recommendations.

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Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. EARNSHAW

MS. EARNSHAW: Hi. My name is Michelle Earnshaw and I'm from Ramona, and I am opposed to the Sunrise Powerlink.

I had a lot prepared to say, but you've only given us about half the time that I have to say it in, so I will try to cut this real short.

There are good alternatives already available, but I understand that SDG&E themselves have placed some limits on how many of those can be implemented in San Diego County. I don't understand why, but they do, I know.

SDG&E seems to make it appear that the outcry is mostly about visual pollution. And yet that is somewhat true, because those of us who live in the country do so because we want the wide open spaces. But one of the major reasons why we are against it and don't want it anymore than anyone else does is not just how ugly it looks, but it's a matter of our lives and our homes.

I attended a recent meeting where the chairman of the Electrical Engineering Department at UCSD spoke. Prior to joining UCSD, he had retired from San Diego Gas & Electric in 2003 just before the Cedar Falls Fire. He spent 35 years in his career — and earlier in the morning he had visited the area where the origin of the fire took place for the Witch Creek Fire. He said that nothing had been corrected and that if the weather conditions were right, the same thing would happen again and again and again. And I understand that it has happened other times, but they got the fire out before it was a problem.

You may not hear from a lot of other people who are just as concerned about this as all of us here because they are trying to put their lives back together again. I was very lucky. My home was spared from this fire, but some of my family were not so fortunate, and there were animals who were injured. And if my sister hadn't risked her life to get her horses out, they would have been killed as well. And they are recuperating now.

So it seems to me that SDG&E has a long, long way to go before they will be ready to implement this plan. Many upgrades need to be in place first. They need to properly maintain the wires that already exist.

I understand the CPUC has protocol for the maintenance of power lines which calls for two people on the job. One person drives the car and one person acts as a spotter on the wires, but they are not doing this. They're sending one person out in a car to be the driver and the spotter, which seems to me to be rather unsafe.

Spacers need to be placed on all the lines with the possibility of arcing. We need a reliable water source for Ramona because we know there are going to be more fires. And we need more than two evacuation routes out of our town. One of the roads, Highway 78, is often closed due to rock slides or washouts.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. HAMILTON

MS. HAMILTON: Thank you. I appreciate this time to voice my own opinions. My name is Melanie Hamilton. I live in Julian, and I work in Ramon.

C0184-1

C0184-2

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I vehemently oppose the Sunrise Powerlink for all the good reasons that have been stated here and at earlier meetings. So I'd like to give a different sort of perspective, if I may. In order to do that, I would like to quote an eminent historian by the name of Barbara Tuchman in her famous book, *The March of Folly*. If anyone has not read that, I would encourage you to do that.

C0185-1 cont.

She uses three criteria to describe political and economic folly. The first one is it must be perceived in its own time as counterproductive.

To manufacture electricity at plants using an ever-dwindling fossil fuel that is becoming more expensive, more dangerous just to obtain and less dependable is folly. To transport it over hundreds of miles from the point of generation is wasteful, subject to disruption and has hazardous side effects. Add to the price of a barrel of oil the cost to find it, drill it, convert it, transport it, burn it and then clean it up. We must also not forget to calculate the high cost in lives, the impoverishment of third-world nations and the alienation of whole populations to our way of life. The end results of this blind dependency are clearly foreseeable and absolutely contrary to our good. This is indeed folly.

A second criteria she quotes is a feasible alternative course must have been available and recognizable.

C0185-2

We need only to review the all-encompassing report submitted by Bill Powers and other experts to know that there are alternatives available to us now. Our existing infrastructure can be utilized to reduce our fossil-fuel use while increasing our efficiency and reducing, even eliminating, instability, disruption and rising costs.

We can take as a shining example the Portuguese. They have committed to a target of 60 percent renewables over the next 24 months. If a poor nation such as Portugal can make this commitment — commitment, then why can't the wealthiest and the most powerful country do so as well.

Let's remember our own history. The 19th Century entrepreneurs and politicians made the momentous decision to construct the Transcontinental Railroad to replace outdated stage coaches, covered wagons and the Pony Express. That railroad was begun in 1862 and completed in 1869, seven years.

Where is our enterprising and entrepreneurial spirit today? Why do we insist on diverting funds to a system that's contrary to our best interests when doable alternatives are available and effective and sustainable?

The fourth criteria she uses is that the foolish policy must be the product of a group or several groups, not just a single foolish individual. And I think we have adequate evidence to that.

Thank you for your time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. MORROW

MS. MORROW: Good to see you again.

COMMISSIONER GRUENEICH: Hello again.

MS. MORROW: I'm Carolyn Smith Morrow, and I live in Ranchita. And I'm a business person and have had my own business since 1977. And I'm adamantly opposed to this route.

C0186-1

I want to center my comments on the fire situation. It is painfully obvious from someone's perspective who has live in the back country through the last three fires — two of which were started by downed power lines — that SDG&E doesn't appreciate the devastation caused by these fire storms.

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During last October's fire, I was at a firehouse in Ranchita, and the fire chief made a chilling comment. He said, Thank goodness that Powerlink hasn't been built yet or we would all have been burned out. I am grateful I won't see it in my lifetime.

C0186-1 cont.

Even if SDG&E's mitigation plan included a new fire truck for each 150-foot tower, that would not solve this massive problem. It is not safe for firefighters to work under those towers during a fire storm, and they are too tall for planes to drop retardant on fires burning under the towers.

C0186-2

SDG&E doesn't maintain the lines they currently have in place. What makes anyone think they will suddenly change their maintenance plans?

C0186-3

It was interesting that the week after the story appeared in the Union Tribune about the poles' guide wires conducting electricity, that SDG&E was out on Grapevine changing insulation on the guide wires.

C0186-4

Do these wildfires have to burn all the way to the coast before true understanding is achieved of the destruction that fires wrought and the role that overhead transmission lines play in this scenario?

C0186-5

Every effort should be developed to reduce transmission wires, not increase them. This is old, destructive technology.

Yesterday we heard from mayors and chambers of commerce that they need this power line to stay in business and serve the unchecked and poorly planned development in their cities. It is time that these cities and businesses take responsibility for their own electricity needs and conserve, build commercial solar facilities, develop in-area generation plants and not expect the back country to carry the burden of their excesses.

C0186-6

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. RAUH

MR. RAUH: Thank you very much for your time.

I'm extremely nervous. I am not accustomed to speaking in front of more than three people, so please bear with me.

ALJ WEISSMAN: You're doing great.

MR. RAUH: First of all, I am opposed of course to the Powerlink, like many of us are here. I have come with a concern, number one, probably a topic which isn't touched upon. But I know the CPUC is also in charge of rate hikes and approval of rate hikes, of course. And I wonder as I sit there looking at that — my SDG&E bill on a regular basis, I'm wondering how I'm going to pay it, being a realtor and all — you know, exactly how are they paying for this Powerlink, the promotion and the ongoing investigation of it? I mean are we, the ratepayer, just going to pay a little bit more if it takes a little bit longer in court or not? I do have a concern regarding that.

C0187-1

I'd like to make sure there is someone — and I believe you are the group — that is a watchdog making sure they are spending our money properly.

Number two, the EIR was a great document. I have two copies unfortunately, but I hope to have one in the local library, San Felipe/Ranchita Library.

The Environmental Impact Report didn't state something that I was hoping it was going to — and I know it was pretty well impossible to do so — and that was state the environment — excuse me — the economic environmental impact report on that.

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We all are going through some tough times, not only in the country, but of course in the cities. One of the major problems that we're all running into is, of course, financing and jobs, and so on. The economic report that I wanted to see was what would happen if this power line was turned down and the power that we needed was mandated to be alternative power. How many jobs would be created, quality jobs within San Diego, that had good potential for paying good salaries to people, you know, raising the tax base, making sure that we could make the current — the current you know, budget. Because, again, we're laying off teachers now. Everyone is in a terrible crunch. And with these new quality jobs, the people that would be hooking up the solar panels, the people that would be checking wind mills, the people that would be doing more than just clearing around telephone poles — that would be a quality job that would really impact San Diego and San Diego County in a very positive way. And that was something I was hoping to see in the Environmental Impact Report, but I know it's quite impossible to do so, but I do hope that you do take that into account.

C0187-2 cont.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Mr. Rauh.

STATEMENT OF MS. LEVIN

MS. LEVIN: Hello. My name is Carol Levin. I live at the end of Mussey Grade Road in Ramona, next to the San Vicente Reservoir.

C0188-1

I have testified earlier in the Mussey Grade Road Alliance testimony about the historical natural beauty of the area. My family and I have owned our wonderful, pristine ranch for over 40 years. And as a child and throughout my adult years, I have ridden my horse all over the county, including Mission Valley, El Cajon, Lakeside and parts in between — areas that are now developed.

I also lost my home, along with my beautiful oak trees, in the Cedar Fire. And I was fortunate the Witch Creek Fire didn't get me. I can see the power line from my studio window. I know that the Witch Fire was started by the SDG&E power line in Ramona during a Santa Ana. I don't want the Sunrise Powerlink line bringing me down.

I put up solar panels that generate me approximately 80 percent of my electricity. I believe that is the way to go, not defacing our beautiful back country with dangerous power lines.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. WOSK

MS. WOSK: Judge, Commissioner, I am Myna Wosk, W-o-s-k. I'm from La Jolla and a little community in the southern desert called Cambria. And I thank you for slogging through all of this with us.

ALJ WEISSMAN: It's not a slog; it's a pleasure.

MS. WOSK: Oh, good. I absolutely support your number one choice, and I'm totally opposed to the Powerlink.

C0189-1

And here's the scenario as I see it. Sempra trots over to Indonesia and Russia or wherever, and they signed a bunch of contracts to purchase natural gas. And then they build these big, huge structures to dig down underneath the ocean floor, probably not using Energy Star-approved methods, to extract the gas, and then they have to transform it into something that can be loaded onto giant tankers, also not Energy Star winners. And they have to shlep it all the way across the ocean thousands of miles to, guess what, LNG terminals conveniently already built in northern Baja where the gas in some form is

C0189-2

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pipled up to Mexicali — Mexicali — right on the other side of our border, where it will be transmogrified once again, and probably not with full Energy Star compliance, into energy that can be transmitted over, guess what, enormous lines, which they are hoping you will approve, and sending all of this energy where? In large part, north of San Diego County. And I refer you to Bill Powers' Smart Energy 2020 Plan which spells it out precisely.

C0189-2 cont.

So I say blessings on Stirling Energy and Sempra, too, and let them put their knowledge and their experience into locally produced sources of energy.

C0189-3

And as for power plants, which some people don't like, if they're designed not only for the highest efficiency but with an eye for aesthetics and lines underground, well, I wouldn't mind having one in my figurative backyard.

Last point. We're trying to get off our dependency on foreign oil. Do we want to become dependent on foreign natural gas?

Please don't let anything deter you from supporting the sensible number one choice that you've already made.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. LYNCH

MS. LYNCH: Good evening. My name is Sharon Lynch, and I live in Holly Oaks Ranch. It's a community in Ramona. My community of — my community of Holly Oaks Ranch is in close proximity to the original route proposed by SDG&E for the Powerlink.

C0190-1

Over the past year, I have spent many hours in meetings listening, speaking, protesting, only to find out that we have to rehash everything again in 2008. As frustrating as this is, I and the others in this room are determined to see this through for the protection of ourselves and for the — and the land.

During the first go-round, I presented to Aspen a petition signed by 86 percent of the members of my community against the Powerlink. I would like to submit that petition again this evening to you.

We are a tight-knit community of 90 families and we want to make sure our voices are heard. We fear the potential health and fire hazard that the Powerlink represents to our future and the future of our children, as well as fearing the negative financial impact the Powerlink represents to the value of our homes.

I will never forget the fire of 2003. The initial fire danger had passed our area but later returned, finding a conduit along the electric power lines in our vicinity. The fire came roaring back with sparks flying. It was just such a spark that ignited and burned one of our homes in our community. And certainly even more vivid was the recent fires of 2007 when we were evacuated for a week, uncertain of the fate of our homes, only to be told later on the news that the cause of the Witch Fire was tree branches ignited by power lines that were too close.

After all the evidence presented it is beyond my comprehension why this Powerlink would ever even stand a chance of being approved. I recently heard a representative from SDG&E claim that the Powerlink is needed in conjunction with the development of other local power plant and alternative sources of energy. But as far as I can tell, that statement has yet to be conclusively proved. And if it is true, why is SDG&E only pursuing the Powerlink?

The only conclusive findings I have heard are from economic and environmental experts as well as local politicians who are not motivated by profit and greed. None of these experts back the

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Powerlink or are convinced of its needs. And until safety, efficacy, environmental and fiscal issues can be addressed satisfactorily, my choice and of that my community is for no Powerlink.

C0190-1 cont.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. TRAFECANTY

MR. TRAFECANTY: Hello. My name is Denis Trafecanty, and I live about two air miles northeast of where the fire, the Witch Creek Fire, started. So I was lucky because our wind meter, our little weather station showing wind gusts up to 72 miles an hour were going the direction away from our house. So we were quite fortunate.

I want to thank Supervisor Dianne Jacob for coming. You did quite a job stealing the thunder of my presentation, but I elected not to sit down and not say anything because, as some of you know, I like to talk up here. And I did have an epiphany from what my presentation was in Borrego Springs, and I wanted you to hear it.

What it is, is in Borrego Springs — I'll tell some of the audience this — I was telling the Commissioner and the Judge and others that the Stirling silver — the Stirling Energy system is — I read an article. It was dated February 15th of 2008. What's that, 11 days ago? Here's what they said about Stirling Silver [sic]: Seems to be languishing. Stirling Energy seems to be languishing. Construction hasn't begun. Stirling Energy has not even filed an application for construction.

C0191-1

Southern California Edison, our utility to the north, has a contract approved by the CPUC two years ago, and it's supposed to be completed in 2009. Fat chance when you only have six of these units being beta-tested in Sandia Labs in New Mexico.

You know, if you ever produce anything, you start off with a prototype. You start beta-testing, and then after you do that, what do you is you say, hey, let's see if I can build 1 megawatt of this. And then maybe you go to 10 megawatts. And then you finally convince an investor that you can mass produce this stuff. Well, six units is far from this. And we're talking about approving a Southwest Powerlink — which, by the way, I'm opposed to — this summer.

Okay. By the way, the Imperial Irrigation District is another place — another utility locally that is also competing for renewable energy in the Imperial Valley. And they spoke at Borrego Springs and they said, you know, we might have a stranded transmission line if you let the Sunrise Powerlink be built and go through this area.

So what I'm saying is my epiphany is as follows: I realize that even though an investor wouldn't be investing in this, I'm the investor. I'm a ratepayer. That's who's paying for this line. It's us. It's not the CPUC, and it's not SDG&E; it's us. So I'm the dumb investor that's investing in something where the technology hasn't been proven. So I ask you, please don't approve this line because it's a lousy investment.

I want to also say that the Smart Energy Plan — and I could send this by e-mail to any of you — is the way to go. And you're going to hear that a lot in the next few months about the San Diego Smart Energy plan.

C0191-2

And finally, I don't know who put that sign up there, but it's pretty applicable. That one that says Sempra Energy, it says — there's a picture of a car, and I know I'm a lot older than about 90 percent of you, but I will tell you this: That's an Edsel. To me — and walk by it on your way out. I don't know who brought it in, but it was a great idea — bringing you yesterday's ideas today.

Thank you very much.

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STATEMENT OF MR. REIFSNIDER

MR. REIFSNIDER: Thank you for your slogging once again.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Actually, I thought it was slogging. Now I heard it was shlepping. So I'm not sure exactly.

MR. REIFSNIDER: A poetic combination.

My name is John Reifsnider, and I dwell up in Julian. And I stand for what lies beyond these pictures of wires across the sky and the fires across the land and ample-funded shams of the money man. My little attempt at poetry.

So we speak here of power and energy, but I want to address what are the consequences to ourselves and our power as human beings to grow to something better. What does this mean for our human energy and our power to advance to a more livable world together.

We stand on this issue in these hearings divided — although you wouldn't know it by what's been said here so far — divided between the will of the corporation and the aspiration of the wider community. By way of analogy, here's what I think this division represents: We are all together one body. All in this room are of a body, and a body has two main control stations, a head and a heart.

The corporation thinks of itself and stands for the head. The head, the corporation and its business interests, presents its case as reasonable, rationale, cold-hearted and reliable.

The heart, the wider community, speaks of — from the people, for and from the people, speaks from a passion and a depth of feeling that this head cannot fathom. This head is thinking of profits to itself and its servant business network. It speaks for the status quo. It coldly calculates and decrees. It demands obedience. It wants to run the show, as most heads do.

But the heart is visioning a new world, embracing the wide earth and its beauties and wonders, both human and beyond, and it embraces the earth and cares. It's seeking cooperation and quality of life rather than quantities of stuff and more stuff, which the head keeps reminding us we need — we need. And the head keeps telling us we must stop debating this issue and just let her rip. Well, rip is what she'll do, a scar not just across the land, but slashed across our very souls, our hunger for something better. But we'll be ready for the next generation of big-screen TVs.

So this head, this head tells us the thing that is needed to preserve our economy and — this thing is needed to preserve our economy and way of life. Well, only dead things need preserving, and a pickled life is not a way to live. Why keep doing the thing we've been doing when our way of life becomes a blight upon the earth?

So I want to suggest a solution. This heart of the community is calling upon the head to join itself back to the body, and the heart of the community — because the heart of the community is awaking.

PUBLIC ADVISOR: Time's up.

MR. REIFSNIDER: And so that's my suggestion of a solution. And this is the true power link, and this is the real sunrise to be.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

C0192-1

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STATEMENT OF MS. BECK

MS. BECK: I spoke earlier in Anza-Borrego Desert earlier today as an outdoor educator to the county outdoor education community. And I'm here to speak from the outdoor education perspective once again, and I'm continuing the lesson. And this time I brought a visual.

C0193-1

So at outdoor education, we teach about cycling of matter, cycling of water, cycling of air. And most recently we have been teaching about the fire cycle, as most of the kids that come to our school have experienced it in one way or the other.

So our fire cycle begins with a fire. Okay. After the fire happens, CO2 rises into the atmosphere, and this in turn creates conditions for climate change and ultimately global warming, especially in places like San Diego County. As we all know, the temperatures are rising.

Another condition that happens as a result of CO2 in the atmosphere and global climate change are very fierce Santa Ana winds. And that's what we've all been experiencing, and we're well acquainted with.

C0193-2

Where I live at the foot of Vulcan Mountain, the winds have gone off the chart. I would say 90 miles an hour this last Witch Fire period of time. And I think it is a direct result of the climate change.

So as those fierce winds begin to happen, it creates further dry conditions, and all it takes is a spark from a downed power line. And as we know, we have lots of opportunities because apparently SDG&E has not been keeping up their power lines as they should. So what we have with the combination is — once again brings us back to another fire and more CO2 and more global warming and more fierce Santa Ana winds.

So I have heard from SDG&E that, well, these huge towers will somehow save us because they are going to be less likely to topple. But we've all seen pictures of these huge 230-kilovolt towers topple. If you haven't seen them, they're online. You can find them. In 2006, in fact, one did topple. It can happen, and it is more likely to happen in future years as global warming continues. Global warming will continue as we have many years still to catch up on all that CO2 that exists in the atmosphere currently.

C0193-3

Please understand that this is an obvious truth to people who've experienced it, like all of us in the back country. It seems obvious to the children when I explain it to them at the outdoor school. And I'm really hoping that SDG&E will pay attention and make it easier for us to co-exist here in the back country.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. KUCZEWSKI

MR. KUCZEWSKI: My name is Bob Kuczewski. I'm president of the Torrey Hawks Hang Gliding Club. That's at 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-control 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 Northrop 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 area code into 619, 853 and 935. Many have credited my efforts with stopping the 935 portion of that split.

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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 an unmarked power line near a little town in Mexico.

C0194-1

The Sunrise Powerlink 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 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 land to launch and land and an unobstructed sky — 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 Commissioners and its petitioners to preserve our habitat. You can contact me directly through our club's Web site at torreyhawks.org.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. SMITH

MR. SMITH: My name is Glenn Smith. I'm a resident of Julian for the better part of 15 years, and my wife and I run horseback riding stables up there. And our stables and our property was burned down in 2002 in the Pines Fire. We got hit by that.

C0195-1

And if it's one thing that we've learned is I've lived in L.A. County, all over Orange County, all over San Diego County, I've never seen a place like the back county of San Diego County. And running a horseback riding business up there it's been an incredible experience because we're able to take people out horseback riding and show them things. And the comments that we get over and over and over, that they've never seen anything like this, and they keep coming back for it. This is what makes San Diego County such an incredible place to live. And the word that just keeps popping in my head is travesty. It would be an absolute travesty for this line to go through.

There's just too much beauty in there.

And I know there's so many reasons for this power line not to go through, and it was very eloquently spoken by the people that have spoken before me. But the simple thing is is that San Diego County has all the ecosystems in it. There is no other county in the United States of America like San Diego County. That's a fact. That from ocean to desert, no county has that. And that's why it brings in so many people. And whether you live here or whether you come here as a tourist, people come here because it is that diverse, and it's that incredible.

I'm sorry. It's just as simple as that. For something like that to go through would be an absolute travesty.

That's all I have to say.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.