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**From:** Michele Ritchey [mailto:michy@san.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 06, 2006 10:35 PM  
**To:** sunrise@aspeneq.com  
**Cc:** 'Keith Ritchey'  
**Subject:** A.06-08-010 Sunrise Powerlink Scoping Comments - Coastal Link through Penasquitos - Park Village/West Chase Area

Billie Blanchard & Lynda Kastoll,

I spoke at the Scoping Meeting you held in Rancho Penasquitos last night, October 5<sup>th</sup>. After the public session, you asked me to forward a letter I had written earlier this year to Kim Malcom, the former ALJ assigned to this case. Please find a copy of that letter attached.

Please note that the letter was written at the time that SDG&E was proposing overhead lines through our area. It was a few months later that SDG&E decided to propose underground lines, either in response to public outcry or in attempt to mute public outcry.

In any event, many of the same issues and concerns exist with the under-grounding of the lines. In fact, experts and even SDG&E tell us that the EMF from the underground lines will be much higher directly over the lines themselves. This is because they only propose to bury the lines three feet. Anyone walking above the line would only be about three feet away from two-hundred-thirty-thousand volts, and as much a one-million watts, of electricity. That same person walking under the overhead lines would be more that one-hundred 100 feet away from that amount of electricity.

As to property values, we have been told of at least two properties that have fallen out of escrow this year due to disclosure of the Sunrise Powerlink's proposed route. Another couple that I spoke with decided not to put an offer on a West Chase home because of the Sunrise Powerlink. The woman was pregnant and had looked forward to walking her child through the Greenbelt. She refused to do so once she learned of the plans for the Sunrise Powerlink down the middle of the Greenbelt.

I hope this helps and that you will be able to move this monstrous project out of our area. If it must be built, it should run on a route that avoids people's homes to the extent possible. It seems to me that the best route would be underneath roadways. Not community streets where children play, but major thoroughfares where cars only momentarily pass through. If it must come through Rancho Penasquitos, that would mean either under State Route 56 or Carmel Valley Road. Both have wide center medians, where construction could take place with minimal traffic disruption. Please consider these options and help us maintain the quality of life we enjoy here.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Thank you,

*Michele Ritchey*  
Member and Director,  
West Chase Homeowners Association  
michy@san.rr.com

*Michele Ritchey*  
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February 8, 2006

Honorable Kim Malcolm  
Administrative Law Judge  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 5005  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Sent via email and US Mail

RE: Application No. 05-12-014, San Diego Gas and Electric Co.

Dear Judge Malcolm,

First let me say that I so appreciate your commitment to your work, actually taking a phone call from me on a Sunday morning at your home. You are truly a dedicated public servant, and it's an honor to have met you.

I spoke before you in Ramona, California on January 31, 2006, representing Park Village, in the area of Rancho Penasquitos, within the city of San Diego. First let me explain to you that I am by no means a seasoned public speaker. In fact I am terrified of presenting in public, so please forgive me for not doing a better job of coming across as passionately as I feel, and not speaking to you directly.

This issue is near and dear to my heart. As I am a resident of this community, I am more importantly a member of the West Chase Homeowners' Association, and a sitting member of the Board of Directors, which I vow to represent to the best of my ability. While many homeowners in our community were informed upon purchasing our homes (some 20 years ago as in my case) that the park that runs through the center of our development was an SDG&E easement, we were not told that sometime in the next 20 years SDG&E would be erecting 230KV power lines and 110 to 150 feet poles directly through our community park. We were in fact told that although it was an easement, it would probably never be used by SDG&E. Never in our wildest dreams did we imagine that it would be utilized in the manner of the proposal now before you.

This is not just a park; it is an extension of many of our residents' backyards. These residents' homes lie only 5 to 15 feet from the fence which is shared by the park, or greenbelt, as we call it. In fact, many have gates that go directly from their tiny yards to the prospective power line/pole site. The closest homes to the greenbelt sit only four-and-a-half feet from the fence that is shared with the greenbelt. The greenbelt is approximately 145 to 150 feet wide and approximately 1200 feet in length between two streets in our development. The proposed power lines would be placed less than eighty feet from the closest homes. According to SDG&E, as they informed us February 1, 2006 at a community forum that we asked them to attend, this is their "preferred plan". The poles and lines would go right through the center of the greenbelt, with one, two or even three 110 to 150 foot-tall poles within its boundaries.

If this is allowed to proceed, 29 homes in our development of 269 would be placed within 100 feet of the power lines - where families, and most are families with young children, sleep, eat and play. This entire development lies within less than ¼ mile in any direction of the greenbelt, as many of the homes in this development are attached, therefore closer and with smaller yards than normal single family dwellings. We believe that the quality of life would be greatly diminished, with the worry of high EMF exposure, buzzing lines and unsightly poles polluting our beautiful community. Several homeowners have already

expressed that if this proposal is approved, they would most certainly sell their homes. But, the question remains, who would buy them? If so, at what price? While our homes are the most reasonable in Rancho Penasquitos, they are still over \$500,000. These families would want to keep their children in a community that they are accustomed to, but there is nothing more affordable in the area.

At this Feb.1 Community Forum with SDG&E, the term “cost effective” kept rearing its ugly head. Our electricity is not cheap, and we all know of the profits this company has been making at our expense. SDG&E has a duty to explore options that may not include only the cheapest way out, but what is best for their customers, the public that pays a dear price to live here.

I am enclosing some pictures of our community so that have a better understanding of how close to our residents these lines are projected to be placed. If approved this project would have a devastating affect on our community. I have also attached a lot plan for the development.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Ritchey  
Member and Board Member  
West Chase Homeowner’s Association

All but two of the homes that run along the greenbelt are attached homes.





This photo was taken in the morning, when children are in school. My husband and I measured it across, and it measured less than 150 ft. We measured it at 143 feet. If poles and lines were to be placed directly in the center, as stated by SDG\$E VP, they would be less than 90 ft. from most of the homes on the greenbelt



Early afternoon where our families play.



Most of the homes in this area of the development are attached homes, causing more families to be exposed to EMF, if SDG&E has their way.



This photo was taken at around 5:00 p.m. Families gather on a daily basis to walk their dogs and babies, and let their children play in the park, our greenbelt.



The way that this home is situated on the property, the back of the house, (bedrooms and family room) is less than 5 feet from the greenbelt. There are a few with similar proximity to the greenbelt. These homes would sit less than 80 feet from where power lines would run. Nearly all greenbelt homes would be 80 to 100 feet from the power lines.













# BOULEVARD SPONSOR GROUP



October 9, 2006

Billie Blanchard/Lynda Kastoll  
CPUC/BLM  
c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Ste 935  
San Francisco, CA 94104

## **RE: SUNRISE POWERLINK PROJECT/REQUEST 45 DAY COMMENT EXTENSION**

Dear Ms. Blanchard and Ms. Kastoll,

Please be advised that our community planning group, the Boulevard Sponsor Group, voted to oppose the Sunrise Powerlink project in totality, based on numerous issues including unanswered questions regarding the renewable energy projects and the potential that newer, better, technology eliminates the need. Our decision was reached after hearing presentations from SDG&E, organized opposition, and reviewing documents available to us.

We are formally requesting a 45 day comment extension to the October 20<sup>th</sup> deadline, and new scoping hearings in the rural East County communities (Boulevard, Jacumba, Campo, Pine Valley, Descanso, Alpine) where previously eliminated controversial alternate routes for the Sunrise Powerlink are now back under consideration. The scoping hearings should be held within the first 30 days of the 45 day comment extension.

Our rural, low-income, community already bears the burden of the existing 500 kV Southwest Powerlink, which impacts many homes and families. One property owner reported that the existing 500 kV line crosses his property. Not long after it was powered-up his wife came down with a rare bone marrow cancer. He stated that his wife's cancer has been associated with proximity to electrical sources. 25 years ago SDG&E asked for an easement twice as wide as the one they have, but he refused. He also noted that the current easement expires in 25 years. We also have the Kumeyaay Wind Facility on tribal land, the location of which was redacted from CPUC hearing documents. Proponents also failed to disclose to the CPUC, San Diego County, or our community that we would be taken off the grid and placed on emergency generators for 8-12 weeks so the 69 kV transmission lines could be reconducted to accommodate the project. We suffered through numerous power outages and reported surges and brown-outs before SDG&E got the generators properly adjusted.

**The major concerns with the Sunrise Powerlink include but are not limited to the following :**

- ▶ Need for the Sunrise Powerlink appears to have been misrepresented. Several in-basin generation projects were reportedly left out of the Sunrise application (South Bay & Encina Powerplant rebuilds, permitted facility in Otay Mesa).
- ▶ Massive impacts to sensitive habitat, scenic viewsheds, wilderness areas, the national forest, state parks, rural communities, private properties and agriculture lands—regardless of which route is used.
- ▶ Industrialization of rural areas violating community character and community plans.
- ▶ Growth inducing. Encourages and enables growth along route and elsewhere.

**Oct 9, 2006**

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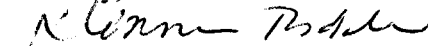
**Boulevard Sponsor Group**

**Sunrise Powerlink comments**

- ▶ There are serious questions regarding legitimacy of renewable energy projects proposed for fragile public lands in Eastern San Diego County and the Imperial Valley, and prospects for approval. Many don't even have applications in place, according to the BLM, and some use unproven technology.
- ▶ Concerns that BLM does not have adequate staffing to address these many projects properly.
- ▶ Groundwater flow impacts may result from blasting and setting extensive tower footings into fractured rock aquifers, resulting in negative impacts on private and public wells, our only source of water east of Alpine. There is a federal designation for the Campo/Cottonwood Creek Sole Source Aquifer which all current alternate routes transect.
- ▶ The highly controversial Campo Landfill is proposed for the Campo Reservation, near the Southwest Powerlink. Close to 100 investigative wells have been drilled resulting in more questions than answers regarding the complex workings of the intensely fractured bedrock groundwater system. The Army Corps of Engineers asked for more in-depth investigation. A federal SEIS is due out soon. Most of the alternate routes in eastern San Diego County cover equally complex geologic/hydrogeologic areas.
- ▶ Environmental Justice issues. Some impacted communities qualify as low-income and/or minority where obnoxious projects such as this are frequently dumped.
- ▶ Potential this is a bait and switch project to ultimately provide power from Mexico to LA (full-loop).
- ▶ Conservation, co-generation, solar roofs, and new technology to reconductor existing transmission lines to carry much more energy should come first before destroying parks and rural communities.
- ▶ SDG& E's overkill advertising campaign to brainwash a naive public of the need for Sunrise Powerlink would have been more cost effective and commendable if those millions had been used to help home and business owners retrofit with dual-pane windows, insulation, solar roofs, and to replace old light fixtures and appliances with newer energy efficient versions to conserve energy.

Please add the Boulevard Sponsor Group to the official notification list for the Sunrise Powerlink project and advise us, in writing, of any decisions regarding new scoping meetings and comment deadlines. Our impacted communities deserve the same notification and attention granted to others where multiple hearings have already been held. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 1272, Boulevard, CA 91905. My fax number is 619-766-4922 and e-mail address is [donnatisdale@hughes.net](mailto:donnatisdale@hughes.net) . We look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Donna Tisdale,  
Chair

# ATMA JYOTI ASHRAM

1482 Rango Way • Borrego Springs, CA 92004 • Phone (760) 767-7410  
Fax (760) 767-0049 • Email: ashram@atmajyoti.org

October 11, 2006

Billie Blanchard, CPUC  
Lynda Kastoll, BLM  
Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Ms. Blanchard and Ms. Kastoll,

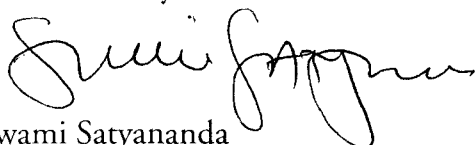
I am writing to protest the possible routing of a 500kV transmission line through the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, and to ask that your Group advise San Diego Gas and Electric to choose an alternate route.

The towers for Sunrise Powerlink would be the most visible landmarks in the valley, easily seen from all points. Over a million people from around the world visit the Park every year. Over the years to come tens of millions of visitors will see these towers and marvel at the corporate stupidity and audacity that placed them here, desecrating the Park's pristine beauty – an unenviable legacy.

Further, the construction of these towers will have significant impact on the bighorn sheep, who depend on the water sources in the mountains by Tubb Canyon during the summer, and also on other wildlife and sensitive plant life.

I understand that there are other viable routes under consideration, including one by Highway 8. On behalf of our Monastery and the residents of and visitors to our valley, I ask that you act to preserve the beauty and integrity of this state park and select another route for this project.

Yours sincerely,



Swami Satyananda

cc: San Diego Union Tribune  
Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Bobby Shriver, CA State Park Commission  
Ruth Coleman, State Parks Director  
Senator Denise M. Ducheny  
Mark Jorgensen, Anza-Borrego Park  
San Diego County Supervisor Bill Horn  
San Diego County Supervisor Dianne Jacob  
Senator Christine Kehoe  
Assemblywoman Lori Saldana