

To: Susan Lee, Vice President, Aspen Environmental Group

Subject: Opposition to Modified Route "D" Alternative to the Sunrise Powerlink

From: Joseph Carmody, Campo/Lake Morena Planning Group, seat 9  
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I am opposed to this alternate route for the Powerlink for a number of reasons. This is a bureaucrats' cowardly attempt to placate the rich and powerful local NIMBY groups. It is clear even to my 12 year old son that the route is ridiculous. It is like the proverbial horse designed by a committee that ends up looking remarkably like an elephant.

The facts that the National Forrest's Management Plan stands in the way of more practical routes and that this project may not be needed, or that it might be obsolete by the time it is constructed, all point to the need to look very long and hard at any decisions made. Despite this, everyone seems to be in a huge rush to come up with some plan, any plan even if it doesn't make any sense. I understand that SDG&E has reason to want to do this as they will make money however it goes and look good to it's customers in San Diego. I am wondering why the PUC is so interested in moving so quickly.

One of the main reasons for the Sunrise Powerlink project is to provide reliability. This Modified Route D alternative plan is a poor compromise all around and the real "deal killer" is that this proposed route is 3 to 5 miles from the existing Southwest Powerlink. Both would share many miles in close proximity and go through several places that are very prone to wildfires. According to SDG&E the Southwest Powerlink has been taken out of service more than 20 times in the last 25 years due to wildfires. A fire does not need to burn down a tower or even a line to cause it to be shut down. If a fire is close to the power lines, then they are shut down. Should there be a fire or natural disaster in the Campo area, there is a real possibility that both lines would go down and cause a real crisis for San Diego. Much of the energy of the Fire fighters has been directed at protecting the power lines during past fires. This route would double this concern and draw from limit

ed fire fighting resources.

The whole need for an additional Powerlink is questionable at best.

Alternate energy is not new technology and not something that needs to be done in the Imperial Valley and no where else. I live with alternate energy myself with solar panels and a wind generator. I am not even tied into the grid. My office at work in San Diego has 700 solar panels on the roof and these provide almost all our energy needs. There are millions and millions of square feet of flat roofs in San Diego. Why import what you can provide for yourself?

Isn't San Diego and SDG&E pulling the biggest NIMBY of all?

Joseph Carmody

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