

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 1 **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** 2 3 4 5 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 6 for Preparation of the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the San Diego 7 Gas & Electric East County Substation, Pacific Wind 8 Development Tule Wind, and Energia Sierra Juarez, LLC, 9 Energia Sierra Juarez Generation-Tie Projects 10 11 12 13 14 Thursday, January 28, 2010 15 **Boulevard Fire Station** 16 39223 Highway 94 Boulevard, California 17 18 19 20 21

22 Jane E. Wassel, CSR No. 2632, RMR, CRR

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- 1 BOULEVARD, CA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010, 7:15 P.M.
- 3 MR. PORTEOUS: Welcome to the second Public

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- 4 Scoping Meeting for the Preparation of the Environmental
- 5 Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement -- this
- 6 is kind of a mouthful for me -- for the San Diego Gas &
- 7 Electric East County Substation Project, the Pacific
- 8 Wind Development formerly Iberdrola's Tule Wind Project,
- 9 and Energia Sierra Juarez's ESJ Gen-Tie Project.
- 10 A little housekeeping here: Before you leave,
- 11 please sign in. That will get you on our distribution
- 12 list and that will make sure that any public notices
- 13 that go out, you'll get that so you'll stay in tune with
- 14 what's going on with the project.
- We also have some materials, handouts. We have
- 16 copies of the Notice of Preparation, Notice of Intent.
- 17 We have a copy of the handout presentation tonight. We
- 18 have speaker request forms. If you plan to speak

- 19 tonight, please fill those out.
- We also have some forms that you can fill out
- 21 if you want to submit some written comments tonight, and
- 22 there's a box actually I think on the bench press back
- 23 there where you can submit those.
- And, finally, the layout of the room, how we've
- 25 got it set up, and after our presentation and receiving

- 1 public comment, we've asked the applicants to stay and
- 2 answer any specific questions you may have. So over on
- 3 this table we have the Energia Sierra Juarez's projects.
- 4 That's the gen-tie project coming over from northern
- 5 Baja California. In the middle there hanging on the
- 6 line is an overview map. It shows how the three
- 7 projects connect to each other. To the right against
- 8 that wall is the Tule Wind Project. And then on the
- 9 lockers there we have aerials that show SDG&E's
- 10 East County Substation Project. So again the applicants
- 11 will be there to answer any specific questions that you
- 12 might have.
- 13 My name is John Porteous and I work with Dudek.
- 14 To my right I have Iain Fisher with the California
- 15 Public Utilities Commission, we have Tom Zale with the
- 16 Bureau of Land Management, and Patrick Brown with the
- 17 County of San Diego.
- Tonight's purpose is to give you a brief

- 19 overview of the projects, to give you information on the
- 20 EIR/EIS and the actual decision-making process, and
- 21 importantly to get your input on the scope and content
- 22 that should go into that EIR/EIS.
- We have three applicants involved and
- 24 three projects. The first applicant is SDG&E who is
- 25 proposing to build the East County Substation Project,

- we have Pacific Wind Development that is proposing the
- 2 Tule Wind Project, and we have Energia Sierra Juarez and
- 3 it's proposing the ESJ Gen-Tie Project.
- 4 Involved, then, is the California Public
- 5 Utilities Commission as the lead agency under the
- 6 California Environmental Quality Act for SDG&E's ECO
- 7 Substation Project. We have the Bureau of Land
- 8 Management who is the lead agency under the National
- 9 Environmental Policy Act for both the ECO Substation
- 10 Project as well as the Tule Wind Project. And we have
- 11 the County of San Diego as the responsible agency under
- 12 CEQA for both the Tule Wind Project and the ESJ Project.
- Other key agencies involved would be a number
- 14 of resource agencies as well as two land managers that
- 15 will be specifically involved with just the Tule Wind
- 16 Project, and those are the Bureau of Indian Affairs and
- 17 California State Lands Commission. Also involved is the
- 18 Department of Energy who will be considering whether to

- 19 issue a Presidential Permit for the Energia Sierra
- 20 Juarez, ESJ Gen-Tie Project.
- 21 They have already completed -- "they," the
- 22 Department of Energy -- have already completed public
- 23 scoping and they're in the process of writing an
- 24 Environmental Impact Statement that's addressing the
- 25 Energia Sierra Juarez Project. The Web site is listed

- here. So to keep informed on that process, continue to
- 2 go to their Web site. And for our project Web site
- 3 that's listed on the back of this handout and on your
- 4 agenda, there's a link also to the Department of
- 5 Energy's Web site, so you can stay in tune with what
- 6 they're doing on that project.
- 7 The Public Utilities Commission as the CEQA
- 8 lead agency and the Bureau of Land Management as the
- 9 NEPA lead agency for SDG&E's proposed ECO Substation
- 10 Project issued a Notice of Preparation and a Notice of
- 11 Intent in December 2009 that a joint EIR, Environmental
- 12 Impact Report, and Impact Statement would be prepared to
- 13 address SDG&E's East County Substation Project.
- 14 At the same time that that was issued, both the
- 15 Public Utilities Commission and the Bureau of Land
- 16 Management determined that the Tule Wind Project and the
- 17 ESJ Project would be addressed as connected actions
- 18 under the National Environmental Policy Act and whole of

- 19 the action under the California Environmental Quality
- 20 Act.
- 21 So the project description that will be
- 22 evaluated in the upcoming Environmental Impact
- 23 Report/Impact Statement consists of San Diego Gas &
- 24 Electric's East County Substation Project as well as the
- 25 connected actions Pacific Wind Development's Tule Wind

- 1 Project and Energia Sierra Juarez's ESJ Gen-Tie Project.
- 2 To give you a brief overview of those projects:
- 3 The East County Substation Project primarily consists of
- 4 a new 500/230/138-kV substation that will be located
- 5 south of Interstate 8 about four miles east of Jacumba
- 6 and it will take approximately 58 acres. There will be
- 7 a short loop-in of the Southwest Powerlink into that ECO
- 8 Substation.
- 9 There will be a rebuild of the existing
- 10 Boulevard Substation that's just down the road, and that
- 11 will take place immediately east of the existing
- 12 substation and will take approximately two acres of
- 13 land.
- Then there will be a 13.3-mile 138-kV
- 15 transmission line that will link the Boulevard
- 16 Substation to the ECO Substation, and then there will be
- 17 a rebuild of the White Star Communication Facility
- 18 that's located about two miles southeast of Boulevard.

- 19 That rebuild will take place within approximately a
- 20 30-foot-by-30-foot area within SDG&E's easement. So
- 21 again that project's laid out aerially on those lockers
- 22 there so you can take a closer look at how that works.
- For Pacific Wind Development's Tule Wind
- 24 Project, it primarily consists of a 200-megawatt wind
- 25 energy project. There will be approximately

- 1 124 turbines. The nearest one is approximately
- 2 3.3 miles from Boulevard. The height of those turbines
- 3 will range between 328 feet to 492 feet. That's the tip
- 4 of the blade to the base. There will also be included a
- 5 five-acre substation as well as a five-acre operations
- 6 and maintenance facility as well as a 138-kV
- 7 transmission line that will tie that energy development
- 8 into the Boulevard Substation.
- 9 Right now there's two alternatives being looked
- 10 at for that 138-kV transmission line coming into
- 11 Boulevard. One is approximately 9.6 miles; the other
- 12 one is approximately 11 miles, both shown on the
- 13 graphics over on those walls. The Tule Wind Project
- 14 involves public lands, private lands, state lands, and
- 15 tribal lands.
- And, finally, the major elements of the Energia
- 17 Sierra Juarez's proposed ESJ Gen-Tie Project which would
- 18 connect wind energy that's being proposed in northern

- 19 Baja, Mexico, into the ECO Substation consists of a
- 20 one-mile either double-circuit 230-kV transmission line
- 21 or a single-circuit 500-kV transmission line.
- But the EIR will also evaluate any potential
- 23 impacts from wind development that's being proposed to
- 24 connect into or go through the ESJ Gen-Tie to the U.S.
- 25 side. So right now what we have, and it's actually

- 1 shown on the maps over there, is the first phase of that
- 2 Baja wind development, which Phase 1 is approximately
- 3 100 to 130 megawatts of generation, would represent 45
- 4 to 50 turbines located approximately 1.5 miles south of
- 5 the border.
- 6 So our document will look at the potential
- 7 effects of that Phase 1 to the U.S. For instance, we'll
- 8 look at visual impacts or impacts of migratory birds,
- 9 things like that. The additional phases, as far as we
- 10 know, are further south and would not have an impact and
- 11 they're not well defined, so we won't be able to
- 12 evaluate those.
- The applicant project objectives, the primary
- 14 objectives, for the three projects are: For the ECO
- 15 Substation is to facilitate interconnection of renewable
- 16 generation in southeastern San Diego County and also to
- 17 improve reliability. For the Tule Wind Project, it's to
- 18 develop renewable wind energy within eastern San Diego

- 19 County. And for the ESJ Gen-Tie Project, it's to be
- 20 able to provide a link from generation of wind energy
- 21 into the ECO Substation.
- 22 Common objectives for all three: Primarily to
- 23 accommodate delivery of renewable energy to meet state
- 24 and federal renewable energy goals from wind and solar
- 25 sources in San Diego County, and that will meet various

- 1 statutes and executive orders as listed in this slide.
- 2 I'd like to now turn it over to Iain Fisher of
- 3 the California Public Utilities Commission to go over
- 4 their process in evaluating SDG&E's ECO Substation
- 5 Project.
- 6 MR. FISHER: Good evening, ladies and
- 7 gentlemen. I'd like to give you a version of our basic
- 8 process. What I'd like you to take home from this is
- 9 that we are in the very early stage within that process
- 10 and within the environmental review.
- We've issued the Notice of Preparation and we
- 12 are looking at that as we are here tonight. You have
- 13 opportunity to comment on that and provide information
- 14 to us on how you think we should go.
- 15 The next stage which you will be able to
- 16 comment to us and provide further information will be
- 17 subsequent to the draft EIR. This information gets fed
- 18 into the hearing when an administrative law judge

- 19 becomes part of the process and they will start to hold
- 20 actually law hearings and take evidence. The
- 21 environmental document becomes part of the
- 22 administrative record. That goes before the Commission.
- The law judge will write a proposed decision
- 24 for the Commission. The commissioners may write
- 25 alternative decisions, and they will automatically vote

- l upon that and in what shape of projects may or may not
- 2 go forward.
- 3 You have opportunity to comment now, on the EIR
- 4 in its draft, potentially at the evidentiary hearings,
- 5 and on the ultimate decision, as well. That is
- 6 basically our process.
- 7 The assigned commissioner is the president of
- 8 the Commission, Michael Peevey, and the administrative
- 9 law judge is Judge Melanie Darling.
- In assessing for a substation, the type of
- 11 permit to be issued is a Permit to Construct. Unlike
- 12 the Sunrise Project which is CPCN, this is a simpler
- 13 permit. We only here have to consider EMF guidelines,
- 14 findings, the environmental review which is the main
- 15 part of it, and the feasibility of the project, and
- 16 then, if necessary, any findings or overriding
- 17 considerations.
- 18 I'll hand over to BLM so he can describe their

- 19 process.
- MR. ZALE: Thank you. From the BLM
- 21 perspective, our job is to be the lead federal agency to
- 22 satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental
- 23 Policy Act, and we'll be doing that by preparing a
- 24 document that is not only an Environmental Impact Report
- 25 but also an Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1 We'll be looking at both projects that are
- 2 listed, the ECO Substation Project as proposed, because
- 3 it does involve public lands, and then also the Tule
- 4 Wind Project; and ultimately at the end of the process,
- 5 we'll be issuing Records of Decisions for each of the
- 6 applications for rights of way that these two project
- 7 proponents have filed with the Bureau of Land
- 8 Management.
- 9 In addition to that, our role will also involve
- 10 being the responsible federal agency or lead agency for
- 11 complying with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act
- 12 and consulting with the Fish and Wildlife Service for
- 13 that purpose.
- We will also be the lead agency for compliance
- 15 with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation
- 16 Act and consulting with the advisory council on historic
- 17 preservation and the State Historic Preservation Officer
- 18 to accomplish that. And then, finally, BLM will be

- 19 responsible for conducting government-to-government
- 20 consultation with Native American tribes.
- Your turn.
- MR. BROWN: The County of San Diego -- this is
- 23 only the second meeting, so I'm not an expert at this.
- 24 The County of San Diego has portions of both of these
- 25 projects. At this point we're going to be the

- 1 responsible agency taking a role reviewing the
- 2 environmental documents and providing input on the
- 3 County portions of the project.
- 4 We'll be reviewing those County portions of the
- 5 project for the County's thresholds and the County's
- 6 guidelines that have been established by the Board of
- 7 Supervisors, and then we will just take the responsible
- 8 agency role in the process, reviewing the document that
- 9 BLM and PUC is going to prepare.
- MR. PORTEOUS: So our goal in producing the
- 11 Environmental Impact Report which Iain just said -- we
- 12 are just initiating that process right now -- is to
- 13 produce a document that accurately assesses the
- 14 environmental impacts of the three projects: The ECO
- 15 Substation Project combined with the Tule Wind Project
- 16 combined with the Energia Sierra Juarez Project; that
- 17 also identifies mitigation measures to reduce identified
- 18 significant effects; that also identifies

- 19 impact-reducing alternatives and that addresses
- 20 cumulative effects, not only the three projects in
- 21 combination but also those three projects in combination
- 22 with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects
- 23 including other wind projects that are in various stages
- 24 of development in the area and transmission line
- 25 projects; and then, finally and primarily, to address

- 1 community comments and concerns.
- 2 The purpose of that document, the Environmental
- 3 Impact Report and Impact Statement, is to provide full
- 4 disclosure of the significant effects and means to
- 5 reduce and avoid and minimize those effects; to consider
- 6 a reasonable range of alternatives to these three
- 7 projects; and provide opportunity for you, the public,
- 8 in the decision-making process; and, finally, all of
- 9 that to ensure that the decision makers have a solid
- 10 basis for making a decision on these three projects.
- So comments received tonight will really help
- 12 us finalize the scope and content of what should go into
- 13 the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact
- 14 Statement. Again, we are just starting, so we're really
- 15 just getting our feet wet. Based on the preliminary
- 16 findings that were issued in the Notice of Preparation
- 17 and the Notice of Intent, the Public Utilities
- 18 Commission and the Bureau of Land Management concluded

- 19 that the EIR/EIS should address these issue.
- For each of these issues, we'll be looking at
- 21 the existing conditions, the impacts generated from
- 22 these three projects, and whether those impacts are
- 23 significant or not; if they are, providing mitigation
- 24 measures for those identified significant effects and
- 25 then, finally, making a conclusion whether the impacts

- have been mitigated to less than significant or not.
- 2 The EIR will also look at growth-inducing effects,
- 3 cumulative impacts, and alternatives.
- 4 For alternatives, we'll be looking at the no
- 5 project/no action alternative, and then we'll look at a
- 6 reasonable range of alternatives to consider. And again
- 7 your input through the scoping process will really help
- 8 us define what alternatives we should be looking at to
- 9 these three projects.
- But what we'll do to determine whether there's
- 11 a reasonable alternative to move into the Environmental
- 12 Impact Report/Impact Statement is to first see if those
- 13 alternatives are consistent with most of the project
- 14 objectives. So it doesn't have to meet all the project
- 15 objectives but has to meet most. Does it have the
- 16 ability to reduce environmental impacts and, finally, is
- 17 that alternative feasible? So if it meets those three
- 18 criteria, then we'll move forward in the document.

- We have a preliminary list, and again this is
- 20 just a preliminary list and really we need your input to
- 21 expand this list for alternatives that we need to
- 22 consider, but our first cut we'll certainly be looking
- 23 at substation site alternatives, routing alternatives,
- 24 generation alternatives, project design alternatives,
- 25 changes in operation, alternatives of large-scale wind

- l energy production, and energy efficient alternatives.
- 2 Again, I can't emphasize how much again the scoping
- 3 process is really designed to help us flush out
- 4 additional alternatives as well as issues that need to
- 5 be addressed in our document.
- 6 So briefly we have a schematic that shows what
- 7 the EIR/EIS process is and the opportunities for your
- 8 input in this process. Currently, we're in the first
- 9 phase, so currently we're scoping out what should go
- 10 into the document. And this is our final public scoping
- 11 meeting, but the actual scoping period doesn't [sic] end
- 12 officially, as stated in the Notice of Intent, on
- 13 February 12th and the Notice of Preparation on
- 14 February 10th. However, we are accepting comments
- 15 through February 15th. So that's really the end of your
- 16 input into what should go into the document.
- 17 The next point where we'll seek your input is
- 18 when the draft EIR/EIS actually is out for public

- 19 review, and that again triggers another opportunity for
- 20 your input into the process.
- And then for the final EIR/EIS, we'll respond
- 22 to your comments, finalize the document, and then that
- 23 goes out for a ten-day agency review prior to
- 24 consideration by the Public Utilities Commission and the
- 25 Bureau of Land Management.

- 1 I'd like to now turn it over to the Commission,
- 2 BLM, and County, what happens after the EIR/EIS is
- 3 final.
- 4 MR. FISHER: As I said previously, when we take
- 5 the EIR, it will become part of the administrative
- 6 record in front of an administrative law judge. She
- 7 will then take that and decide whether she has enough
- 8 evidence to go forward with. She'll take further briefs
- 9 from interested parties and from that write a decision.
- 10 That decision will then go before the Commission, the
- 11 Commission will vote on it or write an alternative
- 12 decision, and vote on that. We will then issue or not
- 13 issue the permit for a specific project or separate
- 14 projects.
- 15 As I said before, we are only concerned in
- 16 issuing the permitting for the ECO Substation on this
- 17 particular application.
- MR. ZALE: From a BLM perspective, when the

- 19 final EIS/EIR has been completed, our joint process will
- 20 diverge a little bit, and BLM will independently prepare
- 21 a Record of Decision for each of the two projects that
- 22 we're involved with, ultimately acting on the
- 23 applications for the rights of way for the ECO
- 24 Substation and for the Tule Wind Project.
- MR. BROWN: After the EIR's certified by the

- 1 CPUC, the County would utilize that document under
- 2 section 15162 of the California Environmental Quality
- 3 Act and we would rely on that previous environmental
- 4 review to prepare the ESJ Project and a portion of the
- 5 Tule Project, which is about 12 turbines and the
- 6 generation-tie lines and possibly some O and M
- 7 buildings. We will prepare that for the County planning
- 8 commission. The application is a Major Use Permit for a
- 9 major impact service utility.
- MR. PORTEOUS: That concludes the overview of
- 11 the three projects and the decision-making process as
- 12 well as the EIR/EIS process, and now the rest of the
- 13 evening will focus on your comments.
- On this night we have just some general ideas
- 15 for useful comments for us, is to again identify
- 16 environmental issues and concerns, identify measures
- 17 that would reduce those concerns, as well as recommend
- 18 alternatives to us that would avoid or reduce impacts of

- 19 these three projects.
- 20 Before I hand it over for comments, again you
- 21 can hand in your written comments tonight or you can
- 22 mail, fax, or e-mail them to these addresses that are
- 23 also listed on the Notice of Preparation and Notice of
- 24 Intent, to know that you can either send them to
- 25 Iain Fisher in care of Dudek or to the BLM. They will

- 1 all end up in care of Iain Fisher at Dudek.
- 2 So if you want to send them directly to that
- address, they'll get to us quicker, but it doesn't
- 4 matter. You can send them to either one. And just to
- 5 reiterate, the official close is February 10th for the
- 6 NOP, February 12th for the NOI, but we're accepting
- 7 comments through February 15th.
- 8 And then for more information, again it's on
- 9 the back of your agenda. Continue to check our Web
- 10 site, the project Web site for both the PUC and the BLM,
- 11 and the local libraries here will be continuing to put
- 12 information in there.
- The next document that will come out is a
- 14 public scoping report. So at the end of public scoping,
- 15 we'll take all of your comments, all of your letters,
- 16 and we'll summarize that in a document. We'll send you
- 17 out a notice. If you've signed up, you'll get it, that
- 18 the public scoping report is available. It will be in

- 19 the public libraries. It will be up on the Web site.
- With that, I'm going to hand it over to public
- 21 comment. We'd please ask you to state your name and
- 22 affiliation. Keep your comments to approximately
- 23 three minutes. And Rica is going to go around and take
- 24 speakers in order of the forms that we've received.
- MS. NITKA: Good evening, folks. As John said,

- 1 if you could keep your comments to around three minutes
- 2 and we'll give you a little warning when you're close so
- 3 you know what amount of time you have left.
- 4 And first I have Amando Rea. I'll come to you
- 5 so we can hear you and the court reporter. So if you
- 6 could state your name and spell your last name, please.
- 7 DR. REA: I'm Amadeo Rea, Dr. Rea. I've
- 8 recently retired from the University of San Diego and
- 9 I've taught ecology and ethnobiology and anthropology.
- 10 And about 20 years ago I moved out to Jacumba,
- 11 bought a place to live and thought I would be away from
- 12 all the utility lines and everything, and Sunrise
- 13 Powerlink is going right almost through my backyard,
- 14 through the next ten acres. And I'm totally off grid,
- 15 and that's what I had come out here for. And the grid
- 16 is catching up with me. I don't appreciate this at all.
- 17 And this is an infringement on my privacy or my way of
- 18 life as a confirmed Luddite, but I do a have couple of

- 19 additional comments that is sort of a private thing.
- One of the things that bothers me is I think we
- 21 need a comprehensive national energy plan rather than
- 22 this patchwork stuff that we are seeing tonight and have
- 23 seen with the Sunrise and so forth. We're not looking
- 24 at things totally comprehensively.
- The third thing is I think all this stuff is

- going to be obsolete in 20 years. We're doing obsolete
- 2 technologies, somebody's making money on it, and we're
- 3 not using photovoltaic. We're not developing putting
- 4 this money into private solar energy so that we can be
- 5 independent of these energy plants.
- 6 You know, as a biologist I look at the
- 7 ecosystems of the world. The tropical rain forests --
- 8 I've worked in tropical rain forests -- great ecosystems
- 9 that nature is producing, and they're not using, you
- 10 know, all of this technology. They're using pure solar
- 11 energy, photosynthesis and solar energy. And for
- 12 millions of years, millions of years, that is how
- 13 ecosystems without human beings have functioned. And we
- 14 think we need the technology that makes individuals
- 15 wealthy, our private power companies wealthy. Thank
- 16 you.
- MS. NITKA: I'm not sure about the first name.
- 18 Harmon is the last name.

- 19 MS. HARMON: Yeah, Edie Harmon, H-a-r-m-o-n,
- 20 and I'm speaking at this time -- I've been asked -- I'm
- 21 from Ocotillo and I've been assigned by the executive
- 22 committee to represent the San Diego chapter of the
- 23 Sierra Club at this scoping hearing tonight for the
- 24 purpose of the ECO Substation, Tule Wind, Energia Sierra
- 25 Juarez Projects.

- 1 These projects are not needed. Better
- 2 alternatives are available including distributed retail
- 3 and wholesale photovoltaic generation on existing
- 4 buildings, parking structures, and already disturbed
- 5 lands near point of use such as Southern California
- 6 Edison's recently approved 500-megawatt rooftop solar
- 7 project.
- 8 The ECO Substation: The San Diego chapter has
- 9 voted to oppose SDG&E's proposed ECO Substation. The
- 10 project is connected to and reliant on the Sunrise
- 11 Powerlink which our chapter vigorously opposes due to
- 12 significant and cumulative impacts on a variety of
- 13 resources from multiple unnecessary industrial-scaled
- 14 projects. The Sierra Club's position in opposition to
- 15 the Sunrise Powerlink is long a matter of record.
- 16 The Tule Wind Project: The San Diego chapter
- 17 has voted to oppose industrial wind energy in McCain
- 18 Valley National Cooperative Land and Wildlife

- 19 Conservation Area and Airport Mesa Area in their
- 20 attached 2005 Wind Energy Site Resolution, and I'll be
- 21 submitting that, for the following reasons: Impacts to
- 22 designated critical habitat for endangered bighorn
- 23 sheep, critical bighorn sheep impacts to designated
- 24 southeast San Diego recovery unit for the endangered
- 25 Quino Checkerspot butterfly, impacts to other suitable

- 1 habitat for the endangered Quino Checkerspot butterfly,
- 2 impacts to bird and bat populations, fragmentation of
- 3 large natural habitat landscape, impacts to scenic
- 4 views, wilderness experience in two adjacent wilderness
- 5 areas, impacts to significant concentration of Native
- 6 American cultural sites, conversion of outstanding rural
- 7 scenic values to industrial use, impact to experience a
- 8 quiet and remoteness from the urban environment. I'll
- 9 skip that.
- The chapter opposes wind energy at Jacumba
- 11 Airport Mesa Area for the following reasons: Probably
- 12 pretty much the same as above.
- And the Energia Sierra Juarez project is also
- 14 reliant on Sunrise Powerlink which we strongly oppose.
- 15 The chapter voted to oppose the Energia Sierra Juarez
- 16 Project for the reasons similar to those above, and
- 17 scoping comments are going to be submitted tonight.
- And I've asked to speak later as an individual

- 19 so I can have a few more. Thanks.
- 20 MS. NITKA: Next is Marie Morgan.
- MS. MORGAN: Well, actually I'm here as a
- 22 resident of Boulevard for -- I don't know -- over
- 23 30 years. I have family that's been here since the
- 24 '50s.
- 25 My concerns are several. Several have been

- mentioned already. It's in regards to the health
- 2 hazards from all of these projects. For me
- 3 specifically, I'm on Ribbonwood Road. I will have
- 4 proposed windmills that are anywhere from 400 to
- 5 500 feet high apparently, a quarter of a mile from my
- 6 living room window. Besides the health hazards, I'm
- 7 concerned for humans and animals.
- 8 We've been told at other meetings that this
- 9 will raise our property values, and I do not know how
- 10 that's going to happen at my home with dozens of
- 11 windmills, you know, peering down on me. I also have
- 12 one to the back of me on the Campo Res.
- The thing is my husband and I, our ears have
- 14 been ringing ever since those went in. We can hear
- 15 them. It gets kind of crazy at night and then I start
- 16 reading all the health conditions and, gosh, they're
- 17 all -- so that's another concern I have too, is about --
- 18 maybe others of you do too as far as your ears ringing,

- 19 and also for the cancer that we read and hear about all
- 20 the time, the transmission lines.
- And then let's see. I had it written down.
- 22 But anyway, I think it's been covered already by
- 23 everyone else, the two people that have spoken so far.
- 24 Thank you.
- Just solar panels, what's wrong with that? Why

- 1 don't we -- we see them in the deserts. The sun shines.
- 2 I don't understand why that's not being considered. At
- 3 least I haven't heard anything, a little bit here and
- 4 there, but I would hope that somewhere down the line
- 5 we'll hear something, and it would be so much less
- 6 drastic and provide the energy needed for the other
- 7 citizens. Thank you.
- 8 MS. NITKA: Larry Johnson.
- 9 MR. JOHNSON: Hi. I'm Larry Johnson from Campo
- 10 speaking for myself tonight.
- And I guess I would talk mostly about the
- 12 alternatives to what you see on the maps here and so
- 13 forth. I think that local distributed systems are far
- 14 superior, is a much better way to be planning systems in
- 15 the future and so forth. Integrating that with smart
- 16 grids which is taking place throughout the country in
- 17 various places, a combination of these things, local
- 18 renewable energy systems distributed throughout the

- 19 area, upgrading of existing infrastructure and not
- 20 having to expand it a whole lot, you can increase
- 21 considerably in those structures in capacity, and new
- 22 technology.
- There are experiments going on and actual
- 24 projects going on now with superconductors. So if you
- 25 do have a site somewhere in an acceptable location, you

- 1 need to get the power there into a city, and so there
- 2 are superconductors that can go underground, can carry
- 3 500 kV. They are still expensive, but if there's work
- 4 put into them and if an Obama investment went into it as
- 5 a national project, that could certainly speed things up
- 6 and improve it and not let it escape to China.
- 7 There's other research going on at M.I.T. right
- 8 now. I just distributed a couple leaflets up to the
- 9 board there before the meeting. One has to do with a
- 10 new process, highly efficient process, of separating
- 11 water into oxygen and hydrogen and storing it at night.
- 12 It can be done with photovoltaics in the daytime, store
- 13 that for reuse at night, put it through a fuel cell, and
- 14 then you have electricity at night, and that can be a
- 15 distributed system. It's completely recyclable, goes
- 16 around through the process, and it's highly efficient.
- 17 It's probably not going to be on the market tomorrow;
- 18 but again if it's looked into very close, on the surface

- 19 right now it seems to have great benefit, great
- 20 potential.
- Okay. Basically, that's my comments as I think
- 22 it should be looking towards the future, and I think
- 23 that this is imposing a large burden on the local
- 24 residents here to the benefit of just a few.
- MS. NITKA: Brit Coupens.

- 1 MR. COUPENS: My name is Brit Coupens. I work
- 2 for Invenergy. Many of you here know who I am and the
- 3 company I work for. You see me around quite a bit. We
- 4 are developing a proposed wind project on the Campo
- 5 Reservation, and I spoke last night at the Jacumba
- 6 hearing in support of the ECO Substation.
- 7 Listening last night to comments from concerned
- 8 citizens made me think a lot about the issues that were
- 9 brought up, valid ones each and every one. They
- 10 included effects on property values, effects on
- 11 wildlife, effects on views and the quality of life,
- 12 effects on safety, alternative energy suggestions. I
- 13 heard rooftop solar a lot, and I think it's absolutely
- 14 needed as are large projects, and the water, and the
- 15 list goes on.
- 16 I have studies and information to counter or
- 17 address a lot of these issues, and I would be glad to
- 18 visit with any of you about these things if you'd like

- 19 to approach me.
- A comment that I heard last night was that "We
- 21 don't need your electricity projects out here in the
- 22 backcountry." I thought about that as I was driving
- 23 home to San Diego last night and, yes, I live in
- 24 San Diego, not Boulevard, and I realized a couple of
- 25 things. The lights are on in this room tonight, and

- 1 other than the Kumeyaay Wind farm, I don't see any power
- 2 plants in this area at all. Where is the power coming
- 3 from? It's coming from power plants along the coastal
- 4 areas, around the metropolitan area of San Diego,
- 5 Mexico, and other areas beyond.
- 6 I'll show you a couple photos. This is a photo
- 7 of a couple large power lines that I took from my
- 8 driveway this morning. This is an SDG&E substation
- 9 about three blocks from my house, and these are the
- 10 transmission lines that are running through the
- 11 beautiful University of San Diego campus just a couple
- 12 blocks from where I live.
- My point here is that, you know, the
- 14 backcountry is getting its power from my neighborhood
- 15 and others, and the backcountry is not being singled out
- 16 by companies that want to develop the resources here.
- 17 America needs new energy. We need large-scale projects
- 18 now, and these sources are -- you know, we need new

- 19 energy sources and we need real solutions to real
- 20 problems. We're all neighbors and we're all in this
- 21 together. Thank you.
- MS. NITKA: Carmen Lucas.
- MS. LUCAS: Good evening. My name is
- 24 Carmen Lucas. I'm a Kwaymii Indian from the Laguna
- 25 Mountains. I live on my ancestral land. I'm a native

- 1 of San Diego County. I'm a taxpayer of San Diego
- 2 County. I'm familiar with the landscape.
- 3 As an Indian, I very often work with
- 4 environmental companies. I've had the opportunity to
- 5 walk the line of the SDG&E power line. I will say from
- 6 my personal point of view -- I only state for myself; I
- 7 do not speak for anybody else -- but I find this very
- 8 concerning. It's an enormous project. It's very
- 9 complicated. The average person, if they went to school
- 10 like I did to eat my lunch and play with the boys, has a
- 11 hard time understanding the overall consequences of this
- 12 type of stuff.
- I will say that the view shed for me is a
- 14 sacred item that needs to be protected. When you
- 15 develop things that are ugly and affect people's psyche,
- 16 we have no room for creative thought. I think that
- 17 needs to be looked at.
- 18 When you take all of these projects together

- 19 from the desert all the way to the coast, whether it be
- 20 solar, whether it be geothermal, whether it be
- 21 windmills, or SDG&E, collectively we're creating an
- 22 ugliness that not only affects we as human beings. I
- 23 will die before this is over, but children will be here,
- 24 the animals still need a place to live, the environment
- 25 still needs to live. I would ask that you consider

- 1 that, and I thank you for the opportunity for
- 2 commenting.
- 3 MS. NITKA: Tammy Daubach.
- 4 MS. DAUBACH: Hi. My name's Tammy Daubach,
- 5 D-a-u-b-a-c-h. I'm a resident of Boulevard. I guess
- 6 what concerns me the most is last year in March we
- 7 started getting all the letters from SDG&E telling us
- 8 how fire risk dangers we are and gave us all kinds of
- 9 ideas of how they're going to cut us down and what we
- 10 should do to protect ourselves.
- 11 Well, now some of the obvious reasons, they
- 12 said wood poles will go to steel. That didn't happen
- 13 because we're too poor a community to get those.
- 14 Underground, that's not going to happen because again
- 15 we're too poor of a community to get those. Everything
- 16 that they gave us for options isn't going to happen out
- 17 here. They're just going to shut us down, but we're
- 18 going to add all these other components in that could

- 19 cause fires. That just doesn't make sense. It doesn't
- 20 justify what's going on.
- A couple other things: With the one going
- 22 across the border, I think it's really sad that we're
- 23 doing this only because we can take advantage of
- 24 Mexicans. That's the only reason. There's different
- 25 tax -- the tax breaks and everything they're getting to

- 1 do that, it's kind of sad what's going on over there.
- 2 How many of these projects would really be going if they
- 3 wouldn't be getting tax incentives and all this extra
- 4 money they're getting from different places? I don't
- 5 think any of these companies would be even doing any of
- 6 this. It's not worth it to them.
- Yes, we do live in the country and we don't
- 8 live in the city, but it's your choice to live in the
- 9 city under power lines. We did move out here because
- 10 there were no power lines. Now we have no choice. It
- 11 looks like we don't have a choice.
- 12 And once this is done, it's over with. You
- 13 can't change this property back to the way it was. I
- 14 know they said, "We take pictures before and after and
- 15 we can replace every boulder and rock." We all know
- 16 that's just absolutely impossible. And I think it's
- 17 really sad that -- I understand BLM's got all kinds of
- 18 deals and stuff, but it's really sad to take a spot and

- 19 put these pieces in and maybe 10 years they're going to
- 20 be extinct, maybe 20 years, whatever, but then they're
- 21 going to take them down to try to replace everything?
- 22 It's impossible. It's absolutely impossible.
- The fact that we have a lot of foreign
- 24 companies putting in the parks and not Americans, that's
- 25 kind of sad.

- 1 The other thing is SDG&E's spent millions of
- 2 dollars already on advertising, billboards, calling us.
- 3 We get surveys -- I don't know how many times -- asking
- 4 us, you know, to lower our bills, to, well, how
- 5 wonderful wind energy is. They should spend their money
- 6 elsewhere.
- 7 They even put it in your bills. You get these
- 8 little blips of how wonderful they are, and the city
- 9 people believe this, but they don't understand what
- 10 we're living through or our fire dangers. That's never
- 11 brought up. When they were going to shut us down out
- 12 here during high wind, the city people were all for it;
- 13 but they don't understand, you know, the reasoning
- 14 behind it.
- 15 And, yes, I understand the power comes from the
- 16 city, but we have generators out here. We're prepared.
- 17 We live in the country. We realize this. We live out
- 18 here. We understand there's no hospitals. That's why

- 19 we came out here, not because there's no hospitals, but
- 20 we understand the difficulties of living out here. So
- 21 just give us an opportunity. Thank you.
- MS. NITKA: Daniel Coffey.
- MR. COFFEY: Yes. Well, it's really a pleasure
- 24 to come here and see everybody. I read a lot about
- 25 these projects, and it's very unusual to have an

- l opportunity to come and actually see people talking
- 2 about these projects. Part of the reason I read about
- 3 them is because I like to write about them, and I have a
- 4 background in chemical engineering and I have been a
- 5 lawyer for a long time, and I'm very concerned about the
- 6 environment.
- And, in fact, starting in 1989 I became very
- 8 concerned about this thing called climate change. And
- 9 since that time, of course, much has been done in the
- 10 way of talk but not a whole lot in the way of action;
- 11 and so now because there is this thing called climate
- 12 change and because people are beginning to think it
- 13 might be quite serious, things have to be done.
- Now, those who doubt that, I unfortunately
- 15 because of my training, background, and exposure don't
- 16 doubt it. I think it's a real thing. And so then the
- 17 question becomes what you do about that. And so I've
- 18 been looking into this for a long time and done a fair

- 19 amount of calculation and, by comparison, a single
- 20 2-megawatt wind turbine which is about 15 feet in
- 21 diameter -- it is 400 feet high but it's a very small
- 22 footprint -- is the equivalent of 64 acres of solar
- 23 panels. And, you know, that is a really startling
- 24 number when you think about it.
- 25 So from my standpoint, I think it's important

- 1 that people be objective about how we get power. It's
- 2 hard too get. It's hard to make. I've written things
- about how people could pedal and how many people it
- 4 would take to pedal to produce the same as -- a single
- 5 2-megawatt wind farm would require 980,000 people
- 6 pedaling what a person can pedal. That is an amazing
- 7 number. I was very, very shocked when I did that
- 8 calculation, but it's based on real life.
- 9 So anyway, this is a scoping meeting, and so I
- 10 think one of the things that's gotten lost in the
- 11 picture here in terms of alternatives, and especially
- 12 with respect to what might be proposed as alternatives,
- 13 is to understand the temporal scale of how long it would
- 14 take to deploy the alternative, because it's very
- 15 important to talk and it's easy to talk in numbers like,
- 16 well, it's not 64 acres versus one windmill. The
- 17 question becomes how long will it take you to deploy
- 18 64 acres and where would you put it and how would you

- 19 connect it.
- So these alternatives I think have to be borne
- 21 in mind, how long would it take people to really do it,
- 22 and that's something that gets left out of the
- 23 discussion. And it's very easy for people to come up
- 24 and say a solar panel on everybody's roof, but then you
- 25 have to ask, "Well, how long would it really take to do

- 1 that?"
- 2 And so I think it would be very helpful in the
- 3 EIR/EIS process to identify that so the people will have
- 4 an intelligent way of deciding between real alternatives
- 5 and if they are, in fact, real alternatives. And
- 6 included in that is the fact that solar only works
- 7 6 hours a day, and the battery alternatives or storage
- 8 alternatives in the form of solar power don't work, they
- 9 don't exist, and that leaves 18 hours a day for
- 10 something else.
- So that's the primary point of my comment, is
- 12 to talk about in your report what the temporal impact
- 13 would be of the alternatives, not just saying, "Well,
- 14 you can do this or you could do that," but how long
- 15 would it take to deploy that. I realize it's a very
- 16 difficult question and is probably going to be
- 17 burdensome on the consultants to do it, but I think it's
- 18 important for people to grapple with that issue more

- 19 fundamentally. So thank you very much.
- MS. NITKA: Andy Horner.
- MR. HORNE: Horne, Andy Horne, H-o-r-n-e. You
- 22 can't read my writing. I'm a disinterested party here.
- 23 I live down in El Centro, but I also have a little
- 24 vacation house here in Boulevard right across from the
- 25 Boulevard Substation.

- 1 So all this stuff that's happening up here
- 2 sounds a little familiar because we see the same thing
- 3 happening down in the Imperial Valley, a lot of new
- 4 energy projects being proposed and a new transmission
- 5 line. Some of you may have heard about the Sunrise
- 6 Powerlink and other ones being planned.
- You know, we've been sitting down there in the
- 8 valley for the last 110 years primarily growing food for
- 9 the rest of the nation. And to get that food out of
- 10 Imperial Valley, people build highways and railroads to
- 11 move that needed commodity from where it's produced to
- where it's consumed, and the same thing's happening now.
- 13 We're kind of proud of what we do down there in
- 14 agriculture, because we think it's important.
- 15 And right now we're looking at new ways and
- 16 we're kind of excited about the opportunities we have
- 17 for developing new renewable energy projects like the
- 18 one being proposed here, and we have to have

- 19 infrastructure. Does the infrastructure, the highways
- 20 and railroads, have an environmental impact? Sure, they
- 21 do. They did when they were built, but it's awful nice
- 22 for me in Imperial Valley in August to be able to go
- 23 from my house down there of 110 degrees to Boulevard in
- 24 45 minutes. And so we need infrastructure if we're
- 25 going to move products from where they're produced to

- 1 where they're consumed.
- We're seeing impacts down there. We're going
- 3 to live with them and learn how to live with them
- 4 because we know it's something that's important, and I
- 5 think the same thing's going to happen here; and I just
- 6 think we need to figure out ways to do it in a way that
- 7 reduces the environmental impact, put it along the same
- 8 pathways like what they're talking about with Sunrise
- 9 and Southwest Powerlink for a great extent, but we have
- 10 to look at the bigger picture.
- I agree with the gentleman who spoke earlier
- 12 that, you know, if the alternative to a new energy
- 13 project was just as simple as putting solar panels on
- 14 your roofs, why aren't people doing it? It's because
- 15 it's more expensive.
- The same reason that we have farmers down in
- 17 Imperial Valley growing food, you know, we can't go back
- 18 to 40 acres and a mule. People cannot grow their own

- 19 food as cheaply as the farmers around this country and,
- 20 in fact, the rest of the world produce it and move it to
- 21 the markets. So we have the same issue with energy.
- 22 You cannot produce an energy cheaply and if you could,
- 23 more people would be doing it.
- MS. NITKA: John Gibson.
- MR. GIBSON: Good evening. My name is

- John Gibson. I'm a resident of East County. I'd like
- 2 to express my support for the ECO Project. I'm the
- 3 project manager for Hamann Companies for their holdings
- 4 in Boulevard. They have about 2,000 acres out here.
- 5 We consider the ECO Project necessary to take a
- 6 potential benefit of the renewable energies in Boulevard
- 7 to supply energy for San Diego County for all the
- 8 people, and I think that's where the discussion really
- 9 has to rest, and several other speakers have said it
- 10 tonight. The energy is where the energy is. Getting it
- 11 to the marketplace, no different than the last speaker's
- 12 crop of carrots or whatever it is to the supermarket.
- 13 If you're trying to mine whatever it is, iron ore,
- 14 you've got to go where the iron ore is.
- We've got energy and it's been identified here,
- 16 and it just puzzles me how we've been forced to go away
- 17 from oil and coal, plentiful things that America has, to
- 18 renewable energy that's mandated on us. It's more

- 19 expensive and every one of us are going to get a bigger
- 20 bill because of these mandates. But to have the
- 21 mandates and then have obstruction, it's, you know,
- 22 puzzling to me how the Sierra Club can show up and be
- 23 against clean energy. They oppose nuclear energy. They
- 24 oppose oil and gas-powered plants. So what are we
- 25 supposed to do?

- 1 It seems like to me -- I'm a construction
- 2 industry person. We have tens of thousands of people
- 3 out of work. We have tax revenues that have plummeted
- 4 in the state and the counties. Every one of our cities
- 5 are losing revenue to the state. And here we have an
- 6 opportunity for stimulus money to be pushed in here, for
- 7 tax incentives to be put in here, and to generate
- 8 thousands of jobs, millions of dollars in tax revenues,
- 9 and have cleaner energy.
- One of the problems we have attracting new
- 11 businesses to San Diego County and California, we have
- 12 unreliable energy. We have brownouts. We have
- 13 expensive energy. We have expensive water. These are
- 14 the kind of things, that if we're going to have a better
- 15 quality of life, we need to encourage.
- 16 I think this is a good project. It seems
- 17 puzzling to me that we've got a Boulevard substation;
- 18 people complain about 45 power outages last year, and

- 19 now they get an opportunity to get it built, get
- 20 double-feed power into Boulevard, and then they complain
- 21 because it's going to happen. Good evening. Thank you.
- MS. NITKA: Randy Lenoc.
- MR. LENAC: It's Randy Lenac. I'm Randy Lenac.
- 24 I'm a rancher from Campo, a little west of here. I
- 25 happen to have the Sunrise Powerlink dissecting my

- 1 ranch, and I'm mad as hell about it.
- 2 Before I talk about ECO and Tule, though, I
- 3 want to let the CPUC know what we think about their
- 4 decision-making process in general, evidenced by the
- 5 recent decision to select the southern route of the
- 6 Sunrise Powerlink that gyrates a power line through
- 7 southeastern San Diego County.
- 8 The CPUC does not listen to or care about
- 9 people, private property rights, or private citizens of
- 10 this great state. Not even a terrorist bent on
- 11 affecting as many lives as possible could have devised a
- 12 more sinister plot to virtually dissect eight rural
- 13 communities with these horrific lines, and there were
- 14 other alternatives that would have been far less
- 15 intrusive on the lives of people.
- The CPUC even had to make wild and wayward
- 17 deviations from a more direct westerly route making it
- 18 appear anyway as if they intended to hit every village

- 19 and settlement along the way. This decision was
- 20 shameful, and shame on the CPUC for choosing to support
- 21 activists and agencies rather than citizens.
- Speaking of activists, I have a newsletter here
- 23 from a local activist who sided with the Sierra Club to
- 24 force this power line upon the poor rural communities of
- 25 southeastern San Diego County. The CPUC needs to know a

- 1 couple things about tonight's hearing testimony about
- 2 ECO-Tule.
- First, this newsletter promulgates
- 4 misinformation that was deliberately intended to stir
- 5 citizens to come out here tonight and speak against this
- 6 proposal, but far more egregious was its intent to
- 7 stifle public comment from the silent majority in this
- 8 community by calling out by name anyone who's ever stood
- 9 for responsible renewable energy projects. Many people
- 10 aren't here tonight who would have spoken in favor of
- 11 these projects because of the chilling effect of this
- 12 newsletter.
- I understand that the CPUC is currently or
- 14 already or making the author of this newsletter an
- 15 intervenor and paying her \$200 an hour, and it will be
- 16 paid for out of our ratepayers or by our ratepayers.
- 17 Double shame on the CPUC.
- The ECO Substation will enable SDG&E to connect

- 19 to renewable energy projects both in this country and
- 20 Mexico. In my former life as a Marine, I was the chief
- 21 Middle East war plans [sic] for the First Marine
- 22 Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, and I know
- 23 firsthand the price that America pays to maintain access
- 24 to Middle East oil. We must do everything possible to
- 25 wean ourselves from this source of energy for our

- 1 national security and for our planet.
- 2 I'm also the chairman of a political action
- 3 group called Hope of the Mountain Empire. Our group
- 4 last year by unanimous vote adopted to support
- 5 responsible renewable energy projects into our platform.
- 6 Tule Wind is reasonable and responsible in that it, like
- 7 ECO, is located in remote areas away from schools and
- 8 churches and homes. It will satisfy part of the
- 9 people's mandates for 30 percent renewable energy. The
- 10 people are right on this issue and the CPUC should
- 11 listen.
- Finally, I'm also the vice president of the
- 13 Mountain Empire Business Association, and it voted
- 14 recently by unanimous vote of the members present to
- 15 support the proposed wind farm at the Campo Kumeyaay
- 16 Nation. There is a silent majority out here in the
- 17 backcountry, most of whom are not here tonight who
- 18 support sustainable energy projects like ECO and Tule.

- 19 Now go out and do the right thing.
- MS. NITKA: Liz Higgins.
- MS. HIGGINS: Good evening. My name is
- 22 Liz Higgins. I am a Realtor and a real estate broker.
- 23 I've been in the business for over 40 years. I've seen
- 24 a lot of land, a lot of homes, and I think as Realtors
- 25 we are always concerned about land values, sustainable

- communities, being very active in protecting private
- 2 property rights.
- 3 I would like to speak tonight specifically on
- 4 the Tule Wind energy project. And something that has
- 5 come out which I've heard is the young lady over there
- 6 is concerned about property values in the area. I guess
- 7 the lady over here. And a recent study, "recent" being
- 8 December of '09, by the Lawrence Berkeley National
- 9 Laboratory -- we've all heard about them -- found that
- 10 wind farms have no measurable negative impact on nearby
- 11 property values. It also found no widespread
- 12 statistically observable impact of wind turbines on the
- 13 sale of nearby homes in the United States.
- 14 The study considered the view of wind turbines
- 15 from homes and the distance of turbines to homes. The
- 16 researchers also compared homes that sold before and
- 17 after the announcement or construction of a wind farm.
- 18 None of the factors was found to have a measurable

- 19 effect on the selling prices of homes. Like out here in
- 20 the backcountry, the prices of homes as we have seen
- 21 have devaluated in the last few years, but I think this
- 22 supports the fact it's not the wind energy; it's the
- 23 economy.
- 24 Another study by the American Wind Energy
- 25 Association states that despite the bad economy, the

- 1 national wind industry thrived in 2009, installing
- 2 enough wind farms to power more than 22 million homes.
- 3 This bodes well for our region as its own emerging wind
- 4 industry begins to pick up. Experts say east San Diego
- 5 County and Baja have potential to generate an amount of
- 6 wind power equivalent to 10 percent of all the installed
- 7 wind power capacity in the United States today.
- 8 ECO is the lynchpin that will make our regional
- 9 wind industry possible. Wind power means cleaner air,
- 10 more jobs, and more property tax revenues in areas where
- 11 they are needed the most. I think we're all concerned
- 12 about that. Reports show the positive results that come
- 13 from committing the proper resources to harnessing wind
- 14 energy. Thank you very much.
- MS. NITKA: Mark Ostrander.
- MR. OSTRANDER: My name is Mark Ostrander. I'm
- 17 a resident of Jacumba representing myself.
- We heard many comments out here. One of them I

- 19 want to bring up is AB 32 and SB 97. I think you need
- 20 to address that, the actual footprint from cradle to
- 21 grave due to analysis. That's what's said also of wind
- 22 energy. It's supposedly more efficient. Let's do a
- 23 true analysis. Let's see what the subsidies are to the
- 24 government to put it in, the tax incentives, what the
- 25 overall costs are, and is it a better alternative to

- 1 other means.
- 2 There are other projects out there. There are
- 3 other things that we could look at. It's not the only
- 4 one. If we rely on one thing, we're talking about
- 5 sustainability. If it's not sustainable, if it's not
- 6 economically feasible, are they going to continue doing
- 7 this once the incentives are taken away?
- 8 The other comment I want to make is on the
- 9 cultural resources that are going to be impacted in
- 10 those areas. A survey needs to be done on these areas
- 11 due to the Native American population and some of the
- 12 historical aspects that are out in the area. There are
- 13 some identified sites out there such as California-
- 14 San Diego-Imperial 16 through 94H, is one. That's
- 15 historical. I know out in McCain Valley, there are at
- 16 least 12 identified sites out there.
- 17 If you take the sites individually, they
- 18 probably aren't significant, but if you put them all

- 19 together and look at the bigger picture, it's
- 20 significant. There is sites that I went up to. I went
- 21 out and looked at one area where they're telling us it's
- 22 planned out. I pulled away a pack rat's nest and I
- 23 found conical mortar right there. And the area's
- 24 already disturbed. The gentleman's moved, so the place
- 25 is already disturbed. So if you're going to do these

- 1 areas, you need to do a very thorough survey. That's
- 2 all I have at this point.
- 3 MS. NITKA: Robert Maupin.
- 4 MR. MAUPIN: My name is Robert Maupin. I'm a
- 5 newcomer to the area, only been out here since about
- 6 '47.
- We used to get our power from Imperial Valley
- 8 until the co-op sold out to Gas & Electric. That's when
- 9 our problems started. I have the Southwest Powerlink
- 10 through the middle of our ranch. You know, they made me
- 11 a really good deal. "We're going to come through and
- we're going to take your property or we can go to
- 13 court."
- But the result of that, I know all of you guys
- 15 that have a microwave oven have read the instructions.
- 16 You're not supposed to stand around them when they're
- 17 running because of the EMF. Well, my wife has something
- 18 called polycythemia which started right after they fired

- 19 up this power line through our ranch. It affected her
- 20 bone marrow. There's no cure for it. She's been on
- 21 chemotherapy now for over 18 years.
- And I don't know. They talk about mitigation,
- 23 but a good friend of mine's an attorney, says the word
- 24 "mitigate" is a weasel word used by attorneys. It means
- 25 "We're going to do something to make them feel good, but

- it isn't really going to address the problem." And
- 2 anyway, nobody in any of these wonderful things that
- 3 you're doing are checking anything to do with the
- 4 medical problems caused by the EMFs in these lines.
- 5 My vet in Alpine says, "Well, gee, you know,
- 6 that's kind of a coincidence. Your wife has this
- 7 problem and you've already lost one dog to leukemia and,
- 8 of course, what your wife has is a second cousin to
- 9 leukemia." We're just keeping our fingers crossed it
- 10 never progresses into that, but these things need to be
- 11 looked at.
- 12 And, you know, like the gentleman said, "Gee,
- 13 I've got lines here and I've got lines over by my
- 14 house." Hey, you want to live there, go ahead. But
- 15 when we came out here -- I still have the kerosene lamps
- 16 we used to light the house with when we came out here in
- 17 the '40s because we not only had no telephone, we had no
- 18 power and, gosh, it was sure nice out here. Thank you.

- MS. NITKA: Preston J. Arrow-weed.
- MR. ARROW-WEED: Where is the mic at? Thank
- 21 you. I don't have to tell you what I am or who I am.
- 22 Just look at me. You know who I am.
- This renewable energy, someone saw this and
- 24 knew how to make money. This energy if misused can
- 25 cause sickness, and that's what this man said. It's

- 1 true. That's energy. That is very powerful thing. You
- 2 don't mess with it. You doing the right -- you start
- 3 cheating, doing it, you're going to destroy the world.
- 4 You can destroy people. That's the old ways we talked
- 5 about a long time ago, about energy.
- 6 And then you go have this -- our people lived
- 7 from Imperial Valley to here. My ancestors came all the
- 8 way up here, all the way up to San Jacinto Mountain, and
- 9 from San Jacinto Mountain all the way up to the
- 10 mountains to here there is evidence. I know we lived
- 11 here. And Jacumba too, we've lived there. I'm from
- 12 Imperial Valley, but my ancestors came all the way up
- 13 here.
- I can still speak the dialect, the old ancient
- 15 one from Imperial Valley, and I'm here and I can sing
- 16 song from here too in the dialect. And Jacumba actually
- 17 means "scan the water," because of the vapors of the
- 18 springs, hot springs, up there. That's what they saw in

- 19 the distant past. We lived there before. We came up
- 20 here. We went back and forth. We took care of it. We
- 21 didn't misuse the powers of that place either.
- And so the area of Jacumba, people lived here.
- 23 Those days we had cremations. I don't know if they have
- 24 any cremations up here, but if they do, that means we
- 25 were there. And sites, sites are very important over

- 1 here. Sites that we once lived are like graveyards
- 2 because they did cremate, they did bury, whatever. The
- 3 remains of people are still there, and you're disturbing
- 4 them when you do this.
- 5 If you're going to -- from what I'm hearing
- 6 too, say, "Hey, it's a great thing, so let's do it.
- 7 Disregard everything and do it." Well, I don't think
- 8 so, because you got to think of the other things, the
- 9 Native American thing. What I say also concerns all of
- 10 you. I'm not saying just for the Native American. When
- 11 you mess with power, you're going to get problems. Oh,
- 12 you're going to get rich, sure. Those poor people get
- 13 rich, but yet they don't want to use money.
- I also think of the wildlife. The wildlife is
- 15 very important, too. That is a part of that energy
- 16 again. The wildlife, it's very important to the Native
- 17 American here, the Kumeyaays and the Quechan, the Kamya.
- 18 The songs talk about coyotes, the bobcats, the snakes,

- 19 the bighorn sheep, the wren, the desert wren, the red
- 20 roadrunners, red-tailed hawks, lizards, and quails.
- 21 They seem like insignificant creatures, yet they played
- 22 a very important role in our creation story. Our songs
- 23 are based on that.
- And I think we should start thinking about the
- 25 Native American, and I think we should start following

- 1 some of the ways of the Native American. That's why
- 2 little creatures, creatures who seem so insignificant,
- 3 have been given important roles to save that land, to
- 4 save the thing in it, and to save you. If you don't
- 5 listen to that, when you start thinking of more of your
- 6 comforts, oh, that's solar power. I've lived under
- 7 that, too. But I am sorry I can't save the world in
- 8 three minutes.
- 9 MS. NITKA: Ron Dahlgren.
- MR. DAHLGREN: I've lived in East County for
- 11 33 years, and my wife and I wanted to make a
- 12 presentation here tonight. I made a presentation
- 13 yesterday at Jacumba, but it also is a concern not just
- 14 for my wife and I as Ron and Elizabeth Dahlgren but also
- 15 a concern in terms of health concern. And I have a
- 16 suggestion with regard to that item, as well.
- We own a ranch which we call the Taos Otra Vez.
- 18 It's a cattle ranch, basically means "tell us again."

- 19 It's so beautiful. The clouds are white and the sky is
- 20 blue. It's a gorgeous place and it's out by Highway 94
- 21 and it's in Potrero, and so that's where our location
- 22 is. And I served as a CEO for hospitals, four of them
- 23 in my career, 15 years at Grossmont as the chief
- 24 executive officer from 1971 to 1986.
- 25 I'm here this evening to strongly support the

- 1 Boulevard Substation that's needed to provide an
- 2 interconnection of renewable generation in the
- 3 southeastern San Diego transmission system. The source
- 4 of this renewable electrical energy will be wind
- 5 turbines and other green projects. We have to consider
- 6 other green projects, and I think that's important as
- 7 photovoltaics, et cetera.
- 8 Our ranch will be visually impacted by
- 9 San Diego Gas & Electric's 140-foot transmission towers
- 10 which are one mile from our property. We are not
- 11 NIMBYs. We're IMBYs, in my backyard. It's okay. This
- 12 electrical line will have come through Boulevard
- 13 Substation receiving energy for now from the McCain
- 14 Valley, Tule, and Energia Sierra Juarez generators.
- We must not have the drill-baby-drill or
- 16 nuclear generation support view, because we are
- 17 compromising now our life systems, temperature, and
- 18 creating air and water pollution. National defense is

- 19 being jeopardized by using up our oil, natural gas, and
- 20 coal reserves. As citizens, we should be buying our
- 21 fossil-fuel-sourced energy from other countries, such as
- 22 7-Eleven gas is from Venezuela which our family
- 23 primarily uses.
- 24 Currently, storage for nuclear waste is
- 25 seriously limited and dangerous. In the hospital

- l environment, we had a hard time finding places for the
- 2 location of our nuclear isotopes after cancer therapy
- 3 because of the fact that Iron Mountain is now almost
- 4 full. And in Washington state, old nuclear container
- 5 leakage into the Columbia River serves Portland's water
- 6 needs. It is a critical problem.
- Wind and sun is free, but it can't be
- 8 transmitted without wireless like our cell phones. Even
- 9 now Boulevard and Jacumba have unreliable substations,
- 10 45 as I said before. San Diego Gas & Electric needs to
- 11 replace the old ones with reliable technology. Yes, it
- will cost money, but when compared to fossil-fuel-
- 13 sourced energy, that savings will probably just keep
- 14 going.
- One legitimate health concern is that of
- 16 Dr. Harry and Dr. Pierpoint of wind turbines, is the
- 17 creation of a medical vestibular syndrome involving
- 18 primarily hearing and balance which can result from

- 19 locating turbines too close to residences, but it can be
- 20 addressed and measured dependent upon the size of the
- 21 turbines, decibel level of sound, and distance to the
- 22 residences.
- The World Health Organization, source
- 24 Wikipedia, recommends for the largest turbine, 200 KW
- 25 plus, a sound not to exceed 20 decibels, which is a home

- 1 refrigerator, 50 decibels, and the distance not less
- 2 than 2 kilometers.
- For the benefit of our San Diego County
- 4 citizens, all of us, wildlife and nation, please, as we
- 5 are, endorse and support these energy transmission and
- 6 energy projects. Thank you.
- 7 MS. NITKA: Anthony Saavedra.
- 8 MR. SAAVEDRA: Hi. My name is
- 9 Anthony Saavedra. I'm here on behalf of the San Diego
- 10 and Imperial County Labor Council.
- 11 The labor council supports this project, the
- 12 ECO Project, because it's going to create 100 to
- 13 200 direct jobs with many more opportunities with
- 14 developing wind projects, I want to point out not just
- 15 jobs but good middle-class jobs. We're excited about
- 16 the renewable energy industry, not just for the jobs
- 17 that it can create but for the infrastructure that will
- 18 ensure greater reliability to our electrical system and

- 19 capability of meeting our growing energy needs.
- I appreciate many of the issues that have been
- 21 raised in the scoping process, but we believe there will
- 22 be tremendous opportunities for all of us as we work
- 23 through the issues. Thank you very much for the
- 24 opportunity to comment tonight.
- MS. NITKA: Richard Caputo.

- 1 MR. CAPUTO: I'm Richard Caputo, C-a-p-u-t-o.
- 2 I represent the American Solar Energy Society and its
- 3 local chapter in San Diego, the Renewable Energy
- 4 Society.
- 5 I'm a Julian resident and haven't been here
- 6 forever like some people, just about 20 years. I came
- 7 here for the same reason most of you did, because it's
- 8 beautiful and it's away from the city.
- 9 The big issue here that I'm hearing is there
- 10 are local impacts to these energy systems, and the major
- 11 impact here would be the visual impact. And that's
- 12 important. The other half of that equation is it's
- 13 solving a problem. Although it's a global problem, it's
- 14 really the climate change problem. It affects us as
- 15 much as these visual impacts. Many houses burned down
- 16 in '03, and the intensity of that firestorm was related
- 17 to the climate change. So we are already seeing locally
- 18 the impacts of the effect for what is happening

- 19 globally.
- So we really have to transition away from how
- 21 we do things now, which is use a lot of energy, fossil
- 22 energy. 80 percent of our energy in countries is
- 23 fossils. So in a rather short period of time, about
- 24 40 years, 2050, we basically have to reduce our carbon
- 25 emissions by 80 percent. This is an enormous challenge

- and if we don't do that, the climate change impacts will
- 2 be pretty severe.
- 3 So we're balancing a local issue against a
- 4 global issue that has strong local effects, and it's
- 5 hard. I mean, this isn't an easy problem. I have to
- 6 say the solution is not wind or PV on houses. That
- 7 won't be enough. Either of those is totally inadequate
- 8 to solve this problem. We need both of those and we
- 9 need all the other forms of renewable energy, and even
- 10 more than them we need energy efficiency.
- Of all these solutions in terms of the ones
- 12 that generate electricity -- that's what we're talking
- 13 about tonight -- wind is actually the best. A recent
- 14 study by the American Solar Energy Society showed we'll
- 15 have about three times more wind than the average of the
- 16 other five renewable energy sources. And it isn't one
- 17 or the other. It's really all of them. And we support
- 18 the Sierra Club, not the local chapter. We support the

- 19 national Sierra Club which says we really need them all.
- 20 We shouldn't be arguing about this or that.
- You've been very respectful tonight. I'm
- 22 impressed. There's a lot of deep feelings here. I ask
- 23 you to really consider balancing your own needs locally
- 24 against your own needs globally.
- MS. NITKA: Billie Jo Jannen.

- 1 MS. JANNEN: Billie Jo Jannen from Campo, last
- 2 name J-a-n-n-e-n. I'm a member of several economic
- 3 development groups, one local and one the Comprehensive
- 4 Economic Development Strategy for the two-county labor
- 5 region. I tell you this not because I speak for them,
- 6 which I don't, but so you'll understand that I have a
- 7 real interest in economic development.
- 8 When I look at the wind turbines versus the
- 9 other alternatives that we have available, I have to say
- 10 that they're not only not particularly green, being
- 11 destructive of vast tracks of pristine habitat, but
- 12 they're also not a just socio-economic solution to
- 13 anything. And it's important to weigh this in a
- 14 complete way against local solutions, like rooftop solar
- 15 where both the property owner and society benefits
- 16 instead of just society.
- 17 You need to look fully at all the causes,
- 18 economic as -- or as EIR and EIS preparers, your scope

- 19 needs to be complete for both. You need to look at all
- 20 the costs to the taxpayers, all the costs to the
- 21 individuals that are giving up something for society's
- 22 benefit against all of the benefits, who gets them and
- 23 how much.
- 24 Rooftop solar may be viewed as a more expensive
- 25 option at outset, but you need to look at the long-term

- 1 benefit. Okay. It costs me \$20,000 to put rooftop
- 2 solar on my house. I have almost a lifetime benefit
- 3 from that. That's an important and just socio-economic
- 4 solution.
- 5 So you need to not cut corners when you look at
- 6 all the impacts, environmental, social, economic, all of
- 7 it for all solutions, and rooftop solar is an important
- 8 one because this County has already started the process
- 9 of making rooftop solar a way of life. Thank you.
- 10 MS. NITKA: Denis Trafecanty.
- 11 MR. TRAFECANTY: Hello. I'm Denis Trafecanty
- 12 from Santa Ysabel.
- I spoke yesterday evening. I want to talk
- 14 about a few things that came up this evening and also I
- 15 wanted to talk about the cost of all of these
- 16 transmission lines, ECO stations, et cetera, none of
- 17 which are needed, including the Sunrise Powerlink. I
- 18 talked last night about the smart energy solution is

- 19 right there in San Diego with rooftop solar on parking
- 20 lot roofs and distributed generation, \$3 billion, and
- 21 all the people in this room if you live in California
- 22 are going to have to pay for it, 2 billion for the
- 23 Sunrise Powerlink and another billion that was on KPBS
- 24 this morning.
- I have solar on my roof. I don't need 980,000

- people pedaling to get, whatever, 2 megawatts, whatever
- 2 the gentleman said. But I have 18 little panels. It's
- 3 not even on my house. It's on a barn. And I run it to
- 4 the house, and we create more energy than we use. So it
- 5 goes back to the public. You're getting it. SDG&E's
- 6 getting it for free.
- 7 I even have a battery backup. That's a simple
- 8 thing. It cost me two grand to have a battery backup,
- 9 so I don't even need to be hooked to the wires except to
- 10 get the rebate. If you took those stimulus money that
- 11 Obama's offering to all these big developers and you
- 12 gave it to the individuals, there would be tons of
- 13 people adding rooftop solar.
- 14 SWPL, which is the Southwest Powerlink, was
- 15 built out here 25 years ago. SDG&E, quote, commented
- 16 that it was to have a renewable energy for San Diego.
- 17 Well, you know how much renewable -- I think there's
- 18 60 megawatts on it. Now they're trying to build another

- 19 powerlink. We here in Boulevard and other places like
- 20 Boulevard, we don't need any more energy than we had
- 21 25 years ago. So don't say that it's for Boulevard.
- 22 It's for San Diego.
- You're running it, and it's not even economical
- 24 to produce this energy this way out here in the
- 25 backcountry to run it to major metropolitan areas.

- 1 There's smarter energy solutions. We'll give you
- 2 Bill Powers' report. We don't need the wind energy out
- 3 here. We don't need the transmission lines.
- 4 And are you sure Mexico's going to build those
- 5 wind energy projects down there? Are you going to build
- 6 these substations without knowledge that it's a
- 7 guarantee that that's going to be produced? The Mexican
- 8 government's going to have to say something about that.
- 9 They create a fire hazard. No one will even
- 10 fight fires under those turbines. They'll just come
- 11 crashing down and if there's wind, it's going to burn us
- 12 all down out here.
- And it's going to create more greenhouse gas
- 14 emissions than it's going to save by all the emissions
- 15 that you're creating by building all this
- 16 infrastructure. So don't damage our wilderness. Don't
- 17 damage the wildlife. Don't kill our birds. Thank you
- 18 very much.

- MS. NITKA: Sunny Jones.
- MS. JONES: Hello. My name is Sunny Jones, and
- 21 I'm a resident of Boulevard.
- I have lived in this community most of my life
- 23 and enjoy the beauty and serenity that come from living
- 24 in the country. The view from my home was perfect. In
- 25 the past few years, the beauty has been completely

- altered by the towering turbine windmills that were
- 2 supposed to help prevent the necessity of power
- 3 shutoffs. However, this has not been the case. In
- 4 fact, SDG&E generously sent out letters to this
- 5 community letting us know about power shutoffs but did
- 6 them anyway.
- While I was at last night's meeting, a
- 8 gentleman who is for placing more of these powering
- 9 giants in our backyards mentioned the blinking lights
- 10 that are on top of the windmills. This struck a cord
- 11 with me. I live approximately three miles from about
- 12 25 wind turbines, and at least 4 of them are visible
- 13 from my home so far. At night when these windmills are
- 14 running, they flash either a red or a white light. The
- 15 red flashing lights are just a small irritation in
- 16 comparison with the white ones that, when they're on,
- 17 are so bright they illuminate half of my house without
- 18 the lights on.

- 19 Please stop telling us what we need or acting
- 20 as though we don't know what we want. Instead of trying
- 21 to bully your way through our countryside, why not ask
- 22 us, the communities affected, what we want and if we
- 23 want these towering giants in our community at all. Why
- 24 not ask homeowners if we would rent our rooftops to
- 25 place solar panels?

- I mean, you're willing to spend billions, I'm
- 2 assuming, on all these power lines, all these
- 3 substations, all these tests, and everything that have
- 4 to be done. Solar panels are not ugly, unsightly, and
- 5 will not require a power plant or power lines.
- 6 Be open-minded just as you are asking us to be.
- 7 Be open to simpler green ideas that do not require
- 8 wasting money on surveying, environmental impact
- 9 reports, or the rape of the land. You might be
- 10 surprised by the response you would get if you would ask
- 11 us what we want. I would willingly go solar if it were
- 12 affordable.
- And as far as living near those power plants in
- 14 the city and all those power lines, I grew up in this
- 15 country. They're were no power lines. I mean, we had
- 16 them but not to the extent that I see on these maps. I
- 17 would not choose to live in a place that had one of
- 18 those if that was the last place to live. It's

- 19 ridiculous to ask us to do what you willingly did.
- 20 Thank you.
- MS. NITKA: Edie Harmon.
- MS. HARMON: I wanted to have an opportunity to
- 23 speak as an individual. Edie Harmon. I live in
- 24 Ocotillo. I've lived there for 32 years in a house that
- 25 has neither air-conditioning nor heating. If you come

- 1 to my house, you see a sign on every water faucet that
- 2 says "no hot water."
- There are alternatives to increased energy
- 4 consumption, and one of them is conservation. In
- 5 talking to people in Imperial County, I found out
- 6 there's over 7,000 mobile homes. If it's hot in the
- 7 summer or cold in the winter, if they're not
- 8 superinsulated, they're going to use a lot of energy.
- 9 I think a lot of the money that's going to some
- 10 of these projects might better be spent on jobs to
- 11 retrofit and improve the stock of existing housing and
- 12 insulation. I live in a superinsulated house, so it's
- 13 not an issue for me; but I realize if you live in a
- 14 mobile home or something that doesn't have a lot of
- 15 insulation, there are alternatives, and I think they're
- 16 just.
- Every two years for the past 12 years, I've
- 18 also had the opportunity to go to meetings with

- 19 indigenous people from all over the United States and
- 20 Canada, and at the meeting this last fall in Rapid City,
- 21 South Dakota, there were a lot of Native Americans
- 22 there, and they asked as we talked about energy
- 23 projects, "Please consider the source of the raw
- 24 materials for all of these projects."
- 25 If they're transmission lines or solar or wind,

- 1 where is the iron or the steel coming from? What
- 2 communities are being impacted, all the way to the
- 3 original source of all the materials that are being
- 4 used? If you're making concrete to support these
- 5 transmission lines or the wind turbines, where is the
- 6 water going to come from? What's it going to do to the
- 7 local groundwater basin? If you're drilling into
- 8 fractured bedrock and putting concrete pilings in, how
- 9 does that change the flow of water in a subsurface area
- 10 where people have private wells and rely on groundwater?
- 11 As a groundwater user, I'm really passionate
- 12 about what some of these projects have and how they
- 13 impact water availability and water quality. And I
- 14 think that the people in the backcountry, you're not
- 15 relying on city water supplies that are treating water
- 16 and sending it out, so I think that there's a lot of
- 17 issues there.
- And I would ask for BLM and the agencies,

- 19 please consider the input of Dr. Jim Andre. He's the
- 20 director of the Granite Mountain Research Station for
- 21 the University of California. He's a native of
- 22 San Diego County, and I had the opportunity to hear him
- 23 talk with great passion about the tremendous impact that
- 24 the transmission lines in these energy projects would be
- 25 having on the botanical resources and, therefore, the

- l biological resources of the deserts and the mountains in
- 2 San Diego.
- 3 I was surprised to realize he was from
- 4 San Diego County, but it's really important if you start
- 5 disturbing these habitats and destroy plants, and new
- 6 species are being found, it's going to have a profound
- 7 impact in the future as climate change changes where
- 8 some of the plants and animals can be. So I would just
- 9 ask, you know, especially for BLM federal agencies,
- 10 please take a look at what your experts that are from
- 11 this area have to say, because there's a lot of concern.
- 12 Thank you.
- MS. NITKA: Donna Tisdale.
- 14 MS. TISDALE: Thank you. Today I'm speaking as
- 15 an individual, as the president of Backcountry Against
- 16 Dumps, as the secretary for The Protect Our Communities
- 17 Foundation, and as a member of the East County Community
- 18 Action Coalition. I'm also speaking as the chair of the

- 19 Boulevard Planning Group, which is an elected land use
- 20 advisory group for Boulevard. All of these groups that
- 21 I'm representing have taken action to oppose these
- 22 dangerous projects. I want to thank the PUC and the BLM
- 23 for holding these joint hearings on these three massive
- 24 projects.
- As I stated at last night's hearing, the

- 1 Sunrise Powerlink should be included on these project
- 2 maps and considered in the cumulative impacts along with
- 3 the new 300-megawatt wind project proposed by the Campo
- 4 Band, SDG&E, and Invenergy, the proposed 600-acre Campo
- 5 Landfill; the new 30-plus-acre border patrol station;
- 6 and several large housing development projects. I will
- 7 provide a list of these projects with my written
- 8 comments so you know what they are.
- 9 Separately and together the negative impacts
- 10 from these many projects to the same rural communities,
- 11 the same globally significant and rare bioregion, linked
- 12 habits, impacted wildlife, including endangered species,
- 13 and other critical resources, including cultural and
- 14 historical, are significant and cumulative and
- 15 transforming in nature.
- These three projects are reliant on the Sunrise
- 17 Powerlink. The BLM's illegal approvals for the
- 18 inadequate Sunrise Powerlink EIR/EIS and the downgrading

- 19 of the visual resource management classifications for
- 20 McCain Valley from pretty to ugly that were made
- 21 specifically to accommodate Tule Wind and a new energy
- 22 corridor where none exist for Sunrise Powerlink, they
- 23 are the subject of legal challenges.
- 24 The approvals violated the Administrative
- 25 Procedures Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National

- 1 Heritage Protection Act, the Federal Lands Policy
- 2 Management Act, and more. CEQA was also violated, but
- 3 the groups I'm working with are dealing with the federal
- 4 issues.
- 5 Your agencies are making decisions on these
- 6 projects that are based on other projects with flawed
- 7 and shoddy foundations. They will not stand in court.
- 8 The grassroots groups that I represent will be filing a
- 9 federal lawsuit against Sunrise Powerlink in the not too
- 10 distant future.
- We've also formally protested the ECO
- 12 Substation and unfortunately, Mr. Lenac, I will not be
- 13 personally intervening. I will not get \$200 an hour
- 14 myself. Our attorney is representing us pro bono and if
- 15 he wins something, it will go to that. We have filed
- 16 scoping comments with the Department of Energy for
- 17 Energia Sierra Juarez, and we will be filing formal
- 18 comments on the Tule Wind Project.

- 19 Last night I mentioned the hundreds of millions
- 20 of dollars in fines and settlements that Sempra has paid
- 21 for various violations and lawsuit settlements. I
- 22 forgot to mention that a PRI group in the Baja state
- 23 congress has presented a point of agreement that aims to
- 24 investigate Sempra's Baja actions related to approvals
- 25 for their multibillion dollar investment in natural gas

- 1 infrastructure, stating that "the operation of this
- 2 consortium flagrantly violates Article 28 of the
- 3 Constitution that clearly establishes the prohibition of
- 4 monopolies and monopolist practices."
- 5 They want the U.S. State Department to get
- 6 involved, too. If the investigation gains traction, it
- 7 could impact Sempra's business operations and any future
- 8 project approvals in Baja, including Energia Sierra
- 9 Juarez. These are speculative wind projects.
- Boulevard residents are already impacted by the
- 11 noise and vibration, as you've heard tonight, and the
- 12 flashing strobe lights of the existing Kumeyaay Wind
- 13 Project which are over a mile away from most
- 14 off-reservation homes. Several miles away doesn't seem
- 15 to make a difference. Impacted residents have expressed
- 16 relief from the torment since the turbines were forced
- 17 out of service due to the December 7th storm.
- Prior to the approval of any more industrial

- 19 wind turbines here, I am making a formal request that
- 20 the PUC and Bureau of Indian Affairs conduct a formal
- 21 public health and safety investigation into the
- 22 December 7th storm damage at Kumeyaay Wind. After all,
- 23 it was the PUC and the Bureau of Indian Affairs that
- 24 approved that project. All 75 blades from all
- 25 25 turbines were removed, and only some of the FAA

- 1 required lights are still working.
- 2 There is speculation that the high winds
- 3 flowing across the composite blades created an
- 4 electrostatic discharge, then arced between the
- 5 turbines, damaging the blades and the electrical system.
- 6 At least one witness reported seeing a blue ball of
- 7 light at the turbines the night of the storm. There was
- 8 no crack of lightning or thunder.
- 9 What danger does this type of static discharge
- 10 represent, especially if turbines are placed on public
- 11 lands and recreation areas and adjacent to private
- 12 properties? This damage already has been the topic of
- 13 discussion for insurance underwriting due to the
- 14 coverage to replace the blades and to cover lost
- 15 revenue.
- 16 How will the increased threat of fire and other
- 17 damage from more turbines impact our insurance? Rates
- 18 will likely rise and insurance will be denied to some

- 19 homeowners. It's already hard enough to get insurance
- 20 here as it is because of the high fire risk without all
- 21 this extra infrastructure.
- 22 Mitigation issues: The groups I represent
- 23 strongly oppose these projects and we are going to do
- 24 what we can to stop them. However, in the event any or
- 25 all of these projects move forward, significant

- 1 mitigation measures are required like new fire stations
- 2 with full-time paid staff. You can see here from our
- 3 station, it's in substandard condition. We have
- 4 volunteer firefighters, who I thank for their service.
- 5 You also need to consider property value
- 6 protection plans for the reduced property values. That
- 7 was offered. Actually, it was in the record decision
- 8 for the Campo Landfill, the original Environmental
- 9 Impact Statement. The property value plan that was
- 10 mentioned by the real estate agent has been discredited
- 11 and debunked. There's information online. If you go to
- 12 our Web site backcountryagainstdumps.org, you can find
- 13 that on there, also windaction.org or wind-watch.org.
- Existing elected community land use planning
- 15 groups should be utilized for public participation
- 16 meetings to address mitigation measures prior to
- 17 adoption. San Diego Gas & Electric will be at the
- 18 Boulevard Planning Group meeting on February 4th to

- 19 address mitigation measures for the Sunrise Powerlink
- 20 and ECO Substation. I suggest the community come and
- 21 participate.
- The other projects need to address mitigation,
- 23 as well. It is weasel wording, as Bob Maupin said, but
- 24 in the event that they do succeed, they need to pay for
- 25 some of the impacts. They can't pay for all of them.

- 1 Much of it is unmitigable, but we do need to make them
- 2 pay something.
- 3 Distributed generation alternatives are
- 4 superior to these remote renewables and extensive
- 5 transmission lines. The USEPA agrees that retail and
- 6 wholesale point-of-use energy is a viable alternative.
- 7 Point-of-use alternatives can avoid extensive
- 8 environmental review and litigation, and they do not
- 9 need long-distance lines that suffer line loss and are
- 10 subject to disruption from man-made and natural
- 11 disasters, thereby reducing costs and increasing
- 12 reliability.
- SDG&E should be working on point-of-use
- 14 projects and to support fair market feed-in-tariffs
- 15 instead of fighting them. Once we can get paid for
- 16 extra energy we generate with roof and solar and
- 17 residential scale wind, property owners, business
- 18 owners, and public and private entities will have an

- 19 incentive not only to install their own small-scale
- 20 renewable energy projects but also to conserve energy so
- 21 they have more to sell back to the grid.
- And I will be submitting comments, more
- 23 detailed comments. Our attorney will be submitting
- 24 comments. And you did confirm that February 15th is the
- 25 date, deadline? February 15th?

- 1 MR. PORTEOUS: Yes.
- 2 MS. TISDALE: Okay. Thank you very much.
- 3 I'm sorry. I forgot to respond to Mr. Gibson
- 4 from Hamann Companies. He did not mention that Hamann
- 5 Companies is part of the Tule Wind Project. I think
- 6 that's important to note, because he has a financial
- 7 incentive to support it. Thank you.
- 8 MS. NITKA: Those are all the comments, speaker
- 9 forms I had.
- Does anybody else want to fill one out?
- MR. KEN DAUBACH: I too am a Marine. Not
- 12 former. I'm always a Marine. Okay? I moved up here
- 13 away from the city because I enjoy the views.
- I am the witness to the static charge of those
- 15 windmills that night. I was headed up the highway
- 16 towards the casino to get fuel that night, and I seen it
- 17 light up that whole hillside. And I thank God it was
- 18 snowing that night, because we would have had a huge

- 19 fire. It is dry out there. Fortunately, we had
- 20 moisture.
- And I've never seen a light that big, and I've
- 22 been around electrical plants. I grew up in a city back
- 23 in the Midwest. I've been through lightning storms.
- 24 That was huge. I know why all your windmills are taken
- 25 apart now. Okay? And, you know, where is the energy

- 1 now? There's no energy with no windmills. Something
- 2 was done definitely wrong up there, and that needs to be
- 3 looked into and answered. That's all I have.
- 4 MS. NITKA: Charles Shannon.
- 5 MR. SHANNON: My name is Charles Shannon. I'm
- 6 born and raised in San Diego. In 2004 I was laid off
- 7 from the high-tech industry. I have a degree in
- 8 electrical engineering. I am very passionate about the
- 9 backcountry. I live in Ramona, and the Sunrise
- 10 Powerlink was going to come through my neighborhood
- 11 against the desires of the residents in my neighborhood.
- I would like to ask if there's anyone here that
- 13 does not use electricity, by show of hands. Is there
- 14 anyone that doesn't use electricity?
- 15 The belief is you didn't use electricity. If
- 16 you drove a vehicle here, that vehicle got gas through
- 17 an electrical process. If you use a cell phone, you use
- 18 electricity. Many of us believe we don't need

- 19 electricity, but we do need electricity.
- About 18 months ago I decided I wanted to
- 21 contribute to the problem we had dependent upon fossil
- 22 fuels. I took my knowledge and I entered into the
- 23 renewable energy industry. I'm not here speaking on
- 24 behalf of the company I work for. I'm not here speaking
- 25 on behalf of the owners that I work for. I work in the

- 1 renewable energy industry in this area, and I can tell
- 2 you that there are fallacies that have been presented
- 3 regarding lightning to the turbines.
- 4 I also wanted to say that to the gentleman,
- 5 Native American Indian, in the front row who discussed
- 6 the various animals that he sings about in his songs, I
- 7 have a great appreciation for that. Many of my personal
- 8 friends are Native Americans. I attend many of the
- 9 powwows. I understand what it means to appreciate the
- 10 land that we live on.
- Of all of the animals that that gentleman
- 12 mentioned, the only one I have not personally seen at
- 13 the wind farm was the ram. I have seen the bobcats. I
- 14 have seen the rattlesnakes. I've seen the roadrunners.
- 15 I've seen all those animals existing, coexisting, with
- 16 the wind turbines.
- I understand that many of you moved out here to
- 18 appreciate the view. I appreciate the view when I come

- 19 out to work. It's one of the things I comment on
- 20 heavily. At some point we have to have a compromise
- 21 between what we need as humans to stay warm, to provide
- 22 for ourselves, to cook with, and not to pollute the
- 23 world that we live in.
- I personally have installed a photovoltaic
- 25 system on my rooftop. I contribute to what all of you

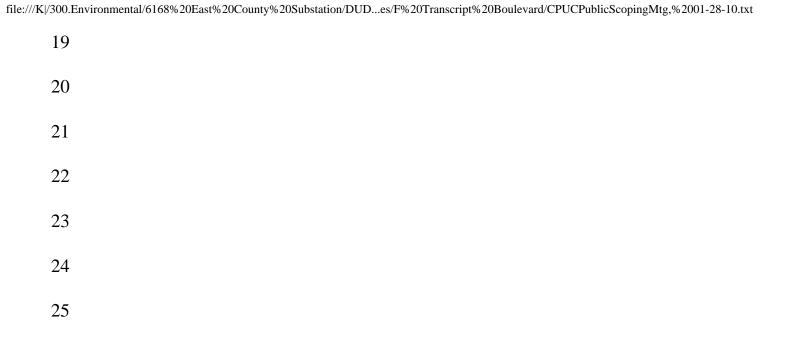
- are speaking about. That system cost me \$56,000. To
- 2 produce the amount of electricity that I produce from
- 3 one of those wind turbines, it would take 400 homes'
- 4 worth of a system that I have. That's \$22.4 million and
- 5 God knows how many acres at 400 homes. The wind
- 6 turbines take up a very, very small footprint at
- 7 approximately one-tenth of that cost.
- 8 I would like as a human being, as a native
- 9 San Diegan, to come up with a compromise that helps the
- 10 locals out here have the views that they have within
- 11 reason and at the same time provide electricity that all
- 12 of us appreciate and utilize.
- 13 I've heard a lot of emotions involved in this,
- 14 and as an engineer I like to take emotion out of it and
- 15 look at it strictly from a factual system. They don't
- 16 cause fires. There has been rumors that the turbines
- 17 caught fire. They did not catch fire.
- 18 I have one minute left. Okay.

- 19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Just state what you saw.
- MR. SHANNON: I'm sorry, sir. I was there at
- 21 10:30 that evening. I did see it. I was there. I
- 22 started there at 10:30. I didn't leave until after
- 23 midnight. Okay?
- 24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So what happened?
- MR. SHANNON: I am not in a position to discuss

- that because it is currently being investigated.
- 2 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: By who?
- 3 MR. SHANNON: I was just told we have to finish
- 4 up. I will gladly talk with anybody who wants to talk
- 5 after this.
- 6 MS. NITKA: That concludes our public scoping
- 7 and we'll finish up.
- 8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Excuse me. Could I ask
- 9 one question? Excuse me. Can I ask one question?
- 10 Actually two. How many people here actually live in
- 11 Boulevard? How many?
- Every other community is well represented here.
- 13 It looks like a setup to me. I mean, you know,
- 14 everything geared towards yea-yea, rah-rah. You know,
- 15 we need the turbines. And they may not be bad, not a
- 16 big deal. The point is you're disregarding us
- 17 completely and totally, just, you know, we're going to
- 18 do this thing. You all better bow and get ready. Bend

- 19 over and clutch your knees. This is it. You're going
- 20 to get it. I don't like it.
- MR. PORTEOUS: Thank you very much for your
- 22 help. We're going to conclude the official part of the
- 23 scoping meeting. However, we're going to stay after for
- 24 any of your questions or comments as well as we're
- 25 asking the applicants to hang out for a little while,

1	please.
2	Your next opportunity to comment is in the
3	draft EIR/EIS, and a public scoping report will come out
4	in March. Thank you again.
5	(At 9:06 p.m., the proceedings were concluded.
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1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	
3	
4	I, Jane E. Wassel, CSR No. 2632, RMR, CRR, a
5	Certified Shorthand Reporter in the State of California,
6	do hereby certify:
7	That the foregoing proceedings were taken
8	before me at the time and place herein set forth; that
9	the proceedings were reported stenographically by me and
10	later transcribed by computer-aided transcription under
11	my direction; that the foregoing is a true record of the
12	proceedings taken at that time.
13	I further certify that I am a disinterested
14	person and that I am in no way interested in the outcome
15	of said action.
16	In witness whereof, I have subscribed my name
17	this day of 2010.
18	

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