



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST
937 N. HARBOR DRIVE
SAN DIEGO, CA 92132-0058

A0017

IN REPLY REFER TO:
11000
Ser N411/212
9 Apr 08

Ms. Billie Blanchard, CPUC and Ms. Lynda Kastoll, BLM
C/O Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Ms. Blanchard and Ms. Kastoll:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS/EIR) for San Diego Gas and Electric's application to build and operate the Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Line Project (January 2008).

The DEIS/EIR identifies 27 alternatives and the proposed project that would construct a new 91-mile, 500 kilovolt transmission line from Imperial County to San Diego. The Navy has reviewed all alternatives for compatibility with its operations and training, and has the following comments.

The Navy has concerns with the proposed Environmentally Superior Southern Route Alternative and route options.

1. Interstate 8, Chocolate Canyon Alternative:

This alternative has potential significant impact to Naval aviation. The unique topography of the Chocolate Canyon is used for helicopter low level, terrain following flights. Specifically, Chocolate Canyon is used by the Navy to train helicopters to use terrain to camouflage their transition to/from tactical situations. Installing power lines down this valley will have significant impact on this valuable training. To avoid impacting this training, the Navy recommends installing the power lines to the west, along the Interstate 8 Alternative.

2. Modified Route D Option:

The Modified Route D option will place the power line at or below the west side of the ridge line located northwest of La Posta Mountain Warfare Training Facility (MWTF). This area is commonly used for helicopter low level access flights between Camp Morena and La Posta MWTF in support of unique Naval Special Warfare training, therefore, there will be minor impact to Naval aviation. As long as the power lines are located on the down slope, west of the ridge, the lines would not pose a significant impact.

The Navy has no comments on the following Alternatives and various route options:

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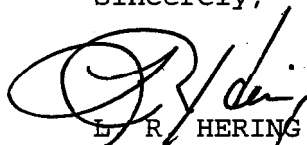
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1. New In-Area All-Source Generation Alternative
2. New In-Area Renewable Generation Alternative
3. LEAPS Transmission-Only Alternative
4. Environmentally Superior Northern Route Alternative
5. Proposed Project
6. LEAPS Generation and Transmission Alternative

The Navy appreciates the excellent working relationship established with the CPUC/BLM Sunrise Powerlink project team. We continue to be available to meet with you to provide Navy input.

My point of contact for this project is Ms. Sheila Donovan who can be reached at (619) 532-1253.

Sincerely,



L. R. HERING
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander, Navy Region Southwest