

**JAMUL DULZURA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP**  
**P.O. Box 613**  
**Jamul, CA 91935**

March 18, 2008

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

**Subject: Sunrise Powerlink Project – Comments on Draft EIR/EIS  
Modified Route D Alternative**

Dear Ms. Blanchard and Ms. Kastoll:

This letter by the Jamul/Dulzura Community Planning Group (JDCPG) is written on behalf of the residents of the Jamul/Dulzura area in response to the Draft EIR/EIS and Proposed Land Use Amendment issued by the CPUC/BLM dated January 2008. The JDCPG members are residents of the Jamul/Dulzura area who are elected-at-large for the express purpose of making recommendations to the County of San Diego agencies regarding land use issues.

The area that the proposed Modified Route D Alternative would traverse is subject to highly volatile seasonal fire storms induced by natural as well as man made causes. The addition of a new transmission line in this area would lend itself to a greater number of visitors, authorized or not, and their motor vehicles, which in itself would increase the potential for fires. During the fire storms of the past (most recently the Harris Fire '07) the existing power supply lines have had to be taken out of service to protect the environment in the chance there might be a failure in the structures or lines themselves. At the time of the recent Harris and Witch Fires the greater San Diego Region was "off grid" and the area was adequately served by existing local power plants.

The damage to the eco-system with the creation of new access roads, material handling areas / helicopter landing pads, and tower locations for the construction and the on going system maintenance can never be mitigated. The soil erosion can only be arrested by the continued filling and re-grading of these locations, which conversely makes the area much more accessible for non-authorized visitors. Even the most experienced truck drivers and equipment operators would cause damage to the road shoulders which in turn would lead to the expansion and degradation of those roads. Additionally, as the soil is washed off these areas the eroded material would find its way into the seasonal stream

beds only to cause potential alteration of their natural channels and the pollution of natural ponds.

The JDCPG would prefer to see the efforts of SDG&E redirected and look to the retrofitting of the existing power plants that are scheduled for removal. The Sunrise Powerlink or similar alternative, when proven necessary, should be secondary and not a replacement to local production facilities. Currently there are no new energy sources available either in Imperial Valley or along the proposed routes, with the exception of the conventional generating plants located in the Mexicali, Mexico region.

SDG&E has for decades been involved with geo-thermal trials in Imperial Valley but to date has not been successful in marketing this source of power. Individuals and business are installing photovoltaic systems at their homes and businesses but SDG&E has made no effort to encourage the growth in this form of generation other than to offer credits up to the amount of energy consumed by that account holder.

On December 12, 2006, at a regularly scheduled meeting, the JDCPG voted unanimously to oppose the entire Sunrise Powerlink Project. Subsequently, after review of the Draft EIR/EIS and Proposed Land Use Amendment at the JDCPG meeting, March 12, 2008, a vote was conducted and again the JDCPG opposes the Sunrise Powerlink Project in total. Motion carried: Yes, 8; No, 1; Abstentions, 0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dan Neirinckx, Chair  
Jamul/Dulzura Community Planning Group

cc: Dianne Jacob, Supervisor, Second District County of San Diego