

**SAVE POTRERO
25607 Potrero Valley Road
Potrero, CA 91963**

March 31, 2008

**CPUC/BLM
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery St., Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104**

Re: Sunrise Powerlink Draft EIR/EIS

The organization "SAVE POTRERO" was formed by a large group of Potrero residents to preserve the peaceful, rural, community character of Potrero by protesting developments that we feel will damage the "quality of life" of Potrero residents.

We oppose the Sunrise Powerlink because:

1. It will destroy a beautiful view corridor. The giant towers will be visible for 2 to 4 miles. They are ugly and commercial looking and do not belong in such a lovely, ruggedly beautiful, backcountry area. The line of huge towers marching over the mountains and through the valleys will be hideously out of place.
2. The high voltage lines produce a constant obnoxious buzzing noise.
3. High voltage lines can interfere with TV and Radio reception.
4. The effects of electro-magnetic fields have not been proven to be safe for human health. There is much anecdotal evidence that these electro-magnetic fields are in fact very dangerous to human health.
5. The tall towers will be a huge risk for helicopters and low flying aircraft in our area. Because Potrero is so close to the Mexican Border we have heavy Border Patrol and DEA helicopter traffic. An accident between a helicopter and a tower or power line could start a fire in our dry backcountry which could be devastating.
6. The fire danger from the Powerlink is enormous. Any accident with the Powerlink from earthquakes to vandalism or terrorism could start a catastrophic fire which could burn all the way to San Diego.
7. The environmental damage from the Powerlink will be unacceptable. We have many endangered and sensitive species of plants, animals, birds, reptiles

and insects in the path of the Sunrise Powerlink,

9. Our area is extremely arid and the physical damage to the land during construction will take many, many years to heal.

10. The area under the lines and around the huge towers will be cleared and kept clear by mechanical and chemical means - further damaging the environment.

11. The Sunrise Powerlink is too close to the Southwest Powerlink. In the recent October wildfires both lines would have failed. The Round Potrero property where the Sunrise is proposed to go through burned and so did the area South of Highway 94 where the Southwest Line is located.

12. The Powerlink will bring dirty power from the Sempra Plant in Mexicali because there is little "green energy" being produced in the Imperial Valley. It is morally and ethically reprehensible...polluting another Country to bring cheap energy to San Diego, Orange and Riverside Counties in order to increase SDG&E's profits. The polluted air will certainly blow across the Mexican border into California.

13. The Sunrise Powerlink Modified Route D Alternative will have a negative impact on the low income communities of Potrero, Boulevard, Campo and Barrett. The Powerlink will reduce property values and is an unfair burden on these economically depressed areas.

14. The Sunrise Powerlink will not really increase the amount of "green energy" being produced. The proposals for "green energy" from the Imperial Valley are "iffy" at best. The energy from the Sempra Plant is even dirtier than from normal gas-fired plants. Why would anyone even consider this plan now that we know so much about the effects of global warming?

We feel that the Sunrise Powerlink is a bad idea for San Diego County and it is a terrible idea for our rural community.

Our suggestion is:

1. The existing Southwest Powerlink should be used to bring in "green energy" from the Imperial Valley as well as from windmills in La Rumarosa.

2. Additional "green energy" should be produced by requiring SOLAR on all new buildings and on all buildings that are remodeled.

3. Micro wind turbines should be installed on roof tops where possible.

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4. New, less polluting, generating plants and peaker plants that burn cleaner gas should be built close to their "point of use" that will not require extensive, expensive, environmentally damaging transmission lines.

5. Harness the methane from landfills like the Sycamore Canyon and Miramar Landfills.

6. If in the future there is so much "green energy" being produced in the Imperial Valley that the existing Southwest Powerlink cannot handle it ... then we suggest that another line be added to the existing towers or that the 500kV line be exchanged for a higher voltage line.

Conclusion: The proposed Sunrise Powerlink is an unnecessary waste of ratepayers' money that will not do what SDG&E claims it will. We hope that you will consider the cumulative negative effects of the proposed Sunrise Powerlink and deny it in its entirety.

Sincerely,



Mr. Robin M. Simmons, Member
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