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**Statement in Response to the DEIR/DEIS for the
Sunrise Powerlink
(By the Pacific Crest Trail Association)**

The Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) would like to state that while we were pleased to learn that the Draft Environmental Impact Report / Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/DEIS) did not recommend the Sunrise Powerlink Project, as originally proposed, as the best solution to suit the energy needs of the growing population in the San Diego area. However, the PCTA is concerned with some of the alternatives suggested. For example, while we support the exploration of renewable energy, the wind farms have their own set of detrimental impacts as well.

We also have concerns about the proposed Alternative D, which would impact the viewshed and experience of the trail just as users are heading into the Hauser Mountain Wilderness, the first Wilderness on the PCT.

While it has been suggested that portions of the Northern Route be buried in the ground, where it originally cause detrimental impacts to both the PCT and the Anza Borrego Desert State Park Wilderness, we are concerned with what maintenance and cooling structures will be necessary for general operation and upkeep, in addition to the construction impacts.

The PCTA would like to reiterate that we work hand in hand with the federal government to manage, maintain, preserve and protect all 2650 miles of this federally designated National Scenic Trail. Matters effecting the preservation and protection of this trail are also matters of the federal government. We strongly suggest those evaluating this proposed project contact the US Forest Service on the Region 5 Level.

In conclusion the impacts on both the Pacific Crest Trail National Scenic Trail and the designated Wilderness within Anza Borrego State Desert Park are not acceptable to the Pacific Crest Trail Association and its supportive community.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Suzanne Wilson
The Pacific Crest Trail Association
Southern California Regional Representative
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