

**TESTIMONY on DRAFT EIR  
Sunrise Powerlink project proposal**

**February 5, 2008**

**As an Outdoor Education Specialist for 15 years I would like to comment on the project from several points: visual impacts, effect on bald eagles, effects on peninsular big horn sheep, and fire risks.**

**My job involves bringing children to nature and having them experience appreciation for nature through emersion in nature. The mission statement of Fox Outdoor School reads, "To teach children appreciation for nature". Fox Outdoor School is located along HWY 76, 4 miles from Lake Henshaw, where children come to live for 5 days.**

**As we travel on foot and by bus around the area of Lake Henshaw we encourage the children to develop a love of the natural communities of San Diego County. It would be difficult to inspire children if the area was bathed in transmission wires.**

**The Outdoor School has been in the area since the 1970's and serves many school districts in the County of San Diego.**

**There is a possible proposed line extending from the proposed substation site in the San Felipe area that would run along HWY 76 very close to our school. This link would run along the San Luis Rey River in an important riparian zone that runs from Lake Henshaw watershed area to the ocean in Oceanside. I do not understand how the Outdoor School could possibly function in such an entangled environment. Several of our school children's All Day Adventure spots are in the proposed areas of the transmission line route as well. Tamarisk Camp Ground and Mine Wash on HWY 78 are 2 areas that come to mind. These are prime teaching areas for the Outdoor School.**

**For the last 3 years we have had the pleasure of watching bald eagles come to roost in the same nest in the Lake Henshaw Valley. Not only are these magnificent creatures a wonderful event for the children to learn from, they are also a great experience for anyone who lives in San Diego County. They are something to be proud of. If these transmission lines go in there is the likelihood of electrocution due to the enormous wing span of the birds. Other large raptors could be affected as well.**

**The peninsular big horn sheep have been a staple of Outdoor School experience since I began working there 15 years ago. We bring the children to Palm Canyon for their All Day Adventure and they observe and marvel at the up close experience they have there with the sheep. The San Diego Zoo or Wild Animal Park might be the only other experience they have had with such animals-but these animals are not caged in any way. The population has just recently made a come back by doubling its numbers. Before that the population had sunk to just over 200. This proposal**

comes along now that the creature is not as endangered. The bisecting of its territory could certainly endanger it once again. This is a bad lesson for us all. How are we as adults to teach conservation when the Sunrise Powerlink threatens the very species we have brought back from the brink of endangerment.

Finally, the fire risk and what this might mean to Outdoor School.

At Outdoor School we teach about Cycles in nature; Cycles of water, soil and air.

Recently we have been teaching the fire cycle. It goes something like this:

As atmosphere and ocean currents change due to global warming, fierce winds begin to blow (the dread Santa Ana's here in San Diego County). The fierce winds create dry conditions which make fire a huge possibility. So many things can create the spark, the least of which is not overhead transmission lines as we have seen in the last fire season specifically. More fires create more CO2 in the atmosphere causing more global warming. We are in this cycle now. To produce more potential for line and tower to criss-cross this dangerous landscape is patently absurd. This is not the landscape for a transmission line project.

We have seen pictures of these huge towers toppled. It can happen and is more likely to happen in future years as global warming continues. Global warming will continue as we have many years still to catch up on all the CO2 that exists in the atmosphere currently.

Please understand that these matters are obvious truths to the educated mind.

Please continue to support a sane decision in helping to create an energy policy for San Diego AND save our beautiful backcountry for our future children as well.

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