

First comment at Julian hearing:

D0106

Statement by Gregory D. Courson, regarding Aspen Environmental Draft E.I.R. for SDG&E's transmission-line proposal, "Sunrise Powerlink."

My name is Greg Courson and I've lived in the Wynola Springs area for almost 12 years now. I was a U.S. Forest Service firefighter in the Pacific Northwest region during the 1970s and 1980s. I retired early due to an injury in 1985.

During the scoping period for the Draft E.I.R., I wrote a 29 page, fire-hazard analysis which I gave to the P.U.C., an analysis which needed to be 29 pages on account of the serious, fire hazard we have in the San Diego backcountry. Now that I've read the fire section of the draft E.I.R. just published recently . . . I read through it carefully, three times . . . I basically find a thorough and honest fire analysis in this draft, and I very much agree with its conclusions.

Since moving to this area I've paid a lot of attention to this fire-prone and fire-adapted landscape. I studied the fire ecology of San Diego county, its natural history, the fire management practices by the pre-Spanish Indians, and I've written many articles on fire for the local newspaper, the Julian News.

I hope the P.U.C. takes the conclusions in the fire section of the draft E.I.R. seriously. Judging from my experience and education, Aspen hasn't made any mistake in its conclusions about the fire issues . . . the impacts . . . surrounding this powerline proposal. Please take the recommendations about the Environmentally Superior Alternatives on page E-2 of the Executive Summary seriously. The preferred route is at the end of the list for very good reasons. The fire hazard here is very serious, as you know.

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