

Statement Before the CPUC Hearing Regarding the Sunrise Powerlink
Borrego Springs, California
February 26, 2008

My name is Esther Rubin, I am an ecologist with the Conservation Biology Institute, a non-profit organization. Our mission is to provide scientific expertise to support the conservation and recovery of biological diversity in its natural state through applied research, education, planning, and community service.

My comments focus on the potential impact of the Sunrise Powerlink on sensitive animal populations here in our desert, in particular the Federally endangered bighorn sheep in the Peninsular Ranges.

I have studied bighorn sheep here in the Peninsular Ranges for nearly 15 years, as part of my doctoral research, and during a post-doctoral fellowship at the San Diego Zoo. I also led the USFWS Recovery Team in writing a Recovery Plan for this endangered population.

I have reviewed the draft EIR/EIS, and agree with the conclusions of the report, namely that:

- The Sunrise Powerlink, as proposed by SDG&E, would have significant negative, and un-mitigable, impacts on the bighorn sheep population,
- And that some of the other alternatives, such as the Environmentally Superior Southern and Northern Alternatives would also have significant negative, and un-mitigable, impacts on the bighorn sheep population.

I therefore urge you to respect the findings of the draft EIR/EIS, and to say NO to the proposed powerlink. There are better options available, which would protect not only our bighorn sheep, but also other native animals and plants, our parks and open spaces, and our quality of life.

Thank you.

Submitted by:

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