

Honorable Members of the Commission: My name is Judith Withers speaking for the community of San Felipe .

When I first became aware of the Sunrise Powerlink almost two years ago at a meeting right here in this room I was so shocked by this project and the impact that I knew it would make on the most pristine of wilderness left to San Diego , the most beautiful of scenic drives and of course our State Park, that I have dedicated myself to finding out all the facts, in order to know that these kind of sacrifices SDG&E are asking of the citizens is truly, " for the public good." Initially, I was upset that the public was not allowed to vote on something so important. Now, understanding the process, I am grateful to the Commission and to the fact that it is they and not the public who will vote because of all the misinformation being disseminated regarding this project. I know that the Commission has all the real facts without all the hype.

At this very first meeting I admit to grilling SDG&E employees asking many questions. One employee finally admitted to me that he had dedicated much hard work in the last four years to the "Rainbow link" project, which was defeated and that in his opinion, would have meant that the "Sunrise Powerlink" would never been conceived. This was the first red flag in my mind that there was more here than meets the eye. Why was this meandering Northern route through a pristine State Park and Wilderness so necessary?

I have made this long journey with you and now looking at the facts here is how I now understand them. SPL has nothing to do with renewables, but that talking point is used to persuade and justify such destruction. In my opinion, it becomes clear that ^(SDG&E) they have no interest in a Southern route, or a "no wire" alternative simply because the project is all about ~~x~~ attaining a market share to the North, using unregulated power from Mexico. SDG&E officials called the no wire alternative, recommended by the draft EIR/EIS "five smokestacks" in San Diego. That is all most of the public hears from the media. I know that the no wire alternative will bring true reliability to San Diego using first, energy efficiencies, second, rooftop solar and wind on existing structures and uses these modern, smaller, energy efficient power plants as a bridge to true reliable energy independence for San Diego so critical now that the debate over Climate Change is over. Please support the San Diego Smart Energy 20/20 plan by supporting the number one choice as proposed by the draft EIR/EIS!

I am Judith Withers from the Community of San Felipe.

Because of its massive scope and destruction, the Sunrise Powerlink in itself argues against the project and increasingly appears to be the white elephant in the room because of the new technologies available to our city.

Our Communities respectfully ask the CPUC to support the findings of the EIR/EIS that allows the San Diego Smart Energy 20/20 plan to move forward.

In fact, SDG&E can become the entity to help implement this plan instead of its current pattern of putting up roadblocks to these inevitable and newer technologies. Facing a similar situation, San Francisco formed a public utility on its own to implement the more modern and common sense approach to its own energy problems. The people now know that we too have this option if these roadblocks to modernization continue.

When the Sunrise Powerlink was first conceived, the science regarding Climate Change was not as mainstream as it is now. The debate is over. Sempra and SDG&E have invested in an idea whose time is over. From what I understand this problem with congestion of the energy grid will expire in 2010, right about the same time the Sunrise Powerlink is slated to go online. I think they know that this project, paid for by the rate payers, and of which private shareholders stand to profit is their last chance to force this old technology onto the people. I say it is already too late!

The various Chamber of Commerce say they all support this project, but I think they are ignorant of the fact that thousands of new and more permanent jobs will be created by supporting the San Diego Smart Energy 20/20 plan. I urge all their members to go to this web site and study the Power Point presentation that will make its benefits to our city very clear.

Together our goal should not be about transmission, but
**TRANSITION TO A CLEANER MORE EFFICIENT
ENERGY FUTURE! PLEASE, SUPPORT THE SAN
DIEGO SMART ENERGY PLAN BY SUPPORTING THE
FINDINGS OF THE EIR/EIS.**

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Because of Southern California's dense populations, any overhead transmission projects will impact communities, and habitat in unmitigable ways. The fact that wilderness will be de-designated in order to allow a transmission line to trample a State Park is a sign that we must re-consider how we proceed for future generations.

Whereas wind and fire played a more benign role in past history, climate is changing the way that we have to protect our energy grids. In greater frequency, we are now experiencing mega fire patterns and wind events of hurricane force.

Finally, our nation has not had a realistic energy policy that reflects the fact that oil production is peaking and producing climate change.

In order to reduce the need for new transmission lines, energy generation should occur close to the population densities that use it. The need for decentralization is evident. Real reliability will come from the more efficient and smaller energy plants now used in some hospitals, energy efficiency and rooftop wind and solar on existing structures. Transmission is already in place. This approach will not cause such public outcry over the destruction of private and Park lands. This will enable existing space to be used to generate significant amounts of renewable energy without the need for more transmission lines. All that is needed are incentives and leadership. This approach **protects** property values, eliminates imminent domain, and reduces exposure to EMF's inside communities.

Please support the San Diego Smart Energy Plan by supporting the number one choice of the EIR and EIS. Together our goal should not be about transmission, but **transition** to a renewable future!