

Post Office Box 510
Santa Ysabel, CA 92070
March 18, 2008

California Public Utilities Commission/Bureau of Land Management
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104

Re: Draft EIR/EIS for Proposed Sunrise Powerlink

Dear Commissioners,

We submit the following comments on the Draft EIR/EIS for the Proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project.

While our opinion is that this proposed 150 mile transmission line is not needed, for the purposes of the Draft EIR/EIS, we support the Environmentally Superior Alternative #1.

The emphasis of this correspondence is to address the Central Link alternatives retained for detailed analysis, i.e., the Santa Ysabel Existing ROW Alternative, the Santa Ysabel Partial Underground Alternative, the Santa Ysabel All Underground Alternative and the SDG&E Mesa Grande Alternative.

Suffice it to say, any portion of the Proposed Sunrise Powerlink that would traverse Mesa Grande or Santa Ysabel, be it underground or not, will forever destroy the pastoral character, historic significance and sensitive wildlife habitat of one of the last remaining gems of San Diego County. In addition, the substantial fire risk is of paramount concern.

As owners of designated agricultural property in the Mesa Grande area, we are covered by a California Land Conservation (Williamson Act) contract with San Diego County. These contracts restrict land uses to those compatible with agriculture, wildlife habitat, scenic corridors, recreational use or open space. Much of the land on Mesa Grande and throughout Santa Ysabel is held by property owners under the Williamson Act. The unsightly 135 foot 230kV double circuit tubular steel pole transmission towers, potential additional lines and permanent roads and pads that comprise the proposed Sunrise Powerlink are not compatible with the spirit of the Williamson Act.

While the existing 69kV transmission lines throughout Mesa Grande and the Santa Ysabel Valley are a deterrent to the beauty of the area, the DEIR/EIS simulation of the 230kV line disturbingly shows the dramatic impact of these high towers through this scenic area. They are out of character with this quiet countryside.

Ironically, returning from the CPUC/BLM Public Participation Hearings in Borrego Springs on

2/26/08, we were stopped by the California Highway Patrol on Mesa Grande Road at the northern end of Santa Ysabel valley (between SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink MP106-MP107) to accommodate the filming of an automotive commercial further up the grade for the Mobil Oil Corporation. This was their third day of filming along this portion of Mesa Grande Road, using the beautiful, green Santa Ysabel valley as a backdrop. This is not an infrequent occurrence to those of us who live here. Many film crews, usually of an automotive nature, use this section of road. Of course, the blight of transmission towers (SY Partial Underground area) will eliminate this desirable location. In addition, the companies filming here spend money in the town of Santa Ysabel, thereby assisting the fragile economy in the Backcountry.

Addressing the Biological Resources section of the DEIR/EIS, you discuss several Special Status Wildlife Species. We concur that the Arroyo Toad occurs in the area where the Santa Ysabel Partial Underground Alternative is proposed (MP105-MP108). Although you state that the toad was not observed during the 2007 surveys, you may find a different outcome were you to survey now since the precipitation that has occurred on Mesa Grande since 1/1/08 is greater than 19 inches, an amount 3 times the inches recorded in 2007. As of this date, there is running water at the northern end of Santa Ysabel Valley. The DEIR/EIS also reports the Least Bell's Vireo is assumed to be present east of MP101. We also concur with this conclusion. We live at MP104, 2 miles up Green Oaks Drive off Mesa Grande Road. Another species common to our location is the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat. MP104 includes a soaring ridge where the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle are frequently sighted. These raptors would be impacted by the Mesa Grande Alternative. The Bald Eagle's nest on the Mesa Grande side of Lake Henshaw is inhabited by a breeding pair at this time. Habitat loss is not truly mitigable.

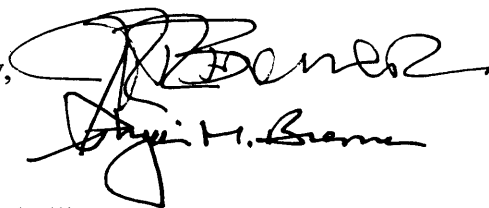
Concerning the Fire and Fuels Management portion, we concur with the conclusion of the DEIR/EIS regarding the Santa Ysabel Fireshed (D.15.8). Fire suppression during moderate to severe weather conditions would be adversely affected due to the height of the 230kV towers. It would have been impossible during the November 2006 Open Fire when the air tankers had to approach the fire downwind at several hundred feet from the eastern end of the town of Santa Ysabel during a moderate Santa Ana wind event. It is also true that the fire volatility of the area where the Proposed Project runs, i.e. Mesa Grande, Santa Ysabel Valley and east of SH78 is extreme. Santa Ysabel has already been victim to downed and arcing powerlines several times over, and yet, there remain many areas that have not burned in decades, vulnerable to future firestorms. The wildlife and wildland habitats, preserves, parks, Indian reservations, private property and the historic Santa Ysabel Mission and cemetery all stand to be destroyed. Fire impact is not mitigable.

In conclusion, as we peruse the substantial Draft EIR/EIS, it baffles the imagination that the Anza Borrego Desert State Park and the Central Link, with all its many Special Status plant and wildlife species, all its beauty and historic significance would even be considered for a destructive 500kV transmission project over viable urban alternatives.

We thank the teams that contributed to the well done Draft EIR/EIS. It is evident they listened to the people who live here and produced a comprehensive document.

D0144

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John and Phyllis Bremer". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

John and Phyllis Bremer
Phone: 760-212-0578

A comment to the California Public Utilities Commission:

We are very concerned about the Proposed Sunrise Powerlink quiet endorsement from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger sent to Commissioner Dian Grueneich on 12/3/07, prior to the release of the EIR/EIS. The conclusions of the DEIR/EIS address global warming greenhouse gases and smarter energy solutions, concepts that once seemed to be important to this elected official. Now it appears he is uninformed as to the reality of the supposed renewables in the Imperial Valley, the content of the DEIR/EIS and the precedence of allowing the Anza Borrego Desert State Park dewilderness designation. We have been impressed with the CPUC's process thus far and hope that the Governor's premature, political support of the Sempra Energy/SDG&E Proposed Sunrise Powerlink does not influence your informed decision on this project.