

To: Aspen Environmental, consultant to San Diego Gas & Electric Co.

Re: Comments to the EIS on alternatives for SDG&E to build an unneeded powerline to San Diego from Calexico, (the primary source of future electricity will be Sempra's natural gas plant in Mexicali)

To Whom It May Concern:

The only acceptable alternative is the NO TRANSMISSION LINE alternative based on what I have been able to learn.

Route D is a horrible alternative route. The EIS failed to credibly assess the many impacts of 25 miles of access roads and the construction of several dozen tower pads and pull sites to the water quality, fire risk, natural resources (e.g. turtles and eagles), archeological resources (sacred sites that would be flattened for pads for towers) and scenic resources. Cedar Creek Gorge and the headwaters of the San Diego River are among the most beautiful areas of San Diego County, as I can attest, having hiked there several times.

To mar this area by roads and powerlines soon after this area has been purchased as conservation land would be as stupid as going through ABDSP and the state wildernesses along Grapevine Canyon. This is a completely unacceptable route. Please view the video at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkTb5bpN-18> to confirm these opinions.

The original EIS was impossible to apply to careful on-site analysis, and the mitigation proposals 100% likely to fail to protect any rare or endangered species of plants located in the path of access roads, tower pads, or pull sites. I found the ABDSP/Santa Ysabel/Sorrento Valley route a deep insult to the tens of thousands of citizens of San Diego who have worked and contributed to establish protection for our natural heritage in the string of parks and wildernesses that this powerline would pass through and would damage. This is criminal and totally unacceptable.

Last, and this is not a comment on the EIS but on the intended mission of any powerline route from Imperial Valley to San Diego, my thoughts are:

In the 21st Century, decentralized solar PV becomes more affordable every month, and some cities in the US are capitalizing on this by becoming manufacturing centers for PV equipment. This industry would avoid job losses that are plaguing our region, which is currently so dependent on housing and tourism, both of which are in a slump. The idea of San Diego County relying principally on fossil-fuels - including LNG from South America or Indonesia, two major sources - is a stupid solution given the volatility of international politics. Our San Diego regional energy plan recommends in-basin generation not out-of basin sources, especially not ones 50-100 miles away: any event that would sever such a line would halt transmission which belies the "reliable" pitch put on this transmission line. A powerline from the Imperial Valley is neither wanted or needed for electricity in coastal San Diego County. Chula Vista just adopted mandatory green building standards and a solar program. SDGE needs to get with the program. we have miles of roofs that could be used to generate all the electricity needed in our area. SDGE should do what some private companies are starting to do-provide the collectors to roof tops and charge for the energy produced. Those of us who have the collectors should be paid for our surplus.

Last, I also am strongly object to SDG&E (a Sempra subsidiary) billing all of us San Diego regional rate payers for this unneeded "improvement" as soon as it is built. This is just another scheme to bilk the rate payers. The company clearly does not care what our needs are nor whether it meets any renewable supply target. This is a replay of the Southwest Powerlink along the border, which has extra capacity to San Diego, and which was built with promises to convey renewable energy from Imperial Valley, but which never has. Any new transmission line also is just as unlikely to carry anything except Sempra's natural gas-powered electrons from Mexico. Sempra paid third world construction costs and will be billing us at US rates. What a great profit-making venture for this company.

I would like to conclude by encouraging SDG&E and Sempra to get in the business of manufacturing and installing solar PV on rooftops throughout San Diego, billing people at current non-solar rates to pay off the investment, and making SDG&E a healthy model for 21st century energy companies, instead of a money pit for this region's customers. If they don't, I hope that a citizen's movement will ensue in which a publically owned energy company will be created and will make an offer that SDG&E can't refuse, so we can start doing the right things for all of us, not just for SDG&E shareholders.

Sincerely,
Theresa Acerro
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