

April 8, 2008

CPUC/BLM

**% Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104
Fax: 866-711-3106
Email: sunrise@aspeneg.com**

RE: Sunrise Powerlink/Modified Route Alternatives Draft EIR/EIS

To Whom It May Concern:

I am against the Sunrise Powerlink and Sunrise Powerlink Modified Routes in its entirety for numerous reasons that I would like to outline herein.

- 1. The power that would be generated by the Sunrise Powerlink and/or Modified Route D Alternative would not benefit San Diego and/or San Diego County residents, yet tax dollars would be required that would negatively impact the smaller, rural areas adversely, creating an unfair burden on these economically depressed communities.**
- 2. This project would change rural community character to industrial zones. Negative visual impacts and conflicting land uses would be generated by its presence.**
- 3. The Sunrise Powerlink and/or Modified Alternative Routes would bring electricity from the Sempra Plant in Mexico , producing electricity by burning gas imported from Indonesia that is dirty and polluting when burned, and does not meet the California Environmental Protection Agency standards for clean air and would increase Greenhouse Gases.**
- 4. Instead of utilizing “on-site” or “point of use” generation or in-basin renewable energy as outlined in the *Regional Energy Strategy 2030*, this proposed project would depend on remote renewable sources to meet the state mandate of 20% renewable energy by 2010.**
- 5. The towers can be seen from 2 to 4 miles and will be visually degrading as well as a risk for helicopters and low flying aircraft. The Modified Route D Alternative is close to the Mexico border where there is heavy Border Patrol and DEA helicopter traffic. An accident between an aircraft and a tower could start a fire in the back country with devastating results as in the recent Horse Fire, Witch Fire, Harris Fire, et al.**
- 6. The Fire Danger from the high voltage wires has been recently documented in the San Diego County October 2008 fires. Santa Ana winds have been increasing in**

velocity and technology to improve the voltage lines on these towers is not in evidence. Earthquakes and accidents also add to the fire danger making this project unacceptable.

7. **The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), which relies on the inherent beauty of the California countryside, would be compromised by the presence of the towers, destroying the views and damaging the environment within in its various ecozones. The PCT departs from the Mexican border near Campo and, over the course of the next 40 miles, the trail passes through Lake Morena County Park to the rim Laguna Mountains then dips into Anza-Borrego Desert State Park to the San Jacinto Mountains and on. No matter which route was chosen the PCT would be affected.**
8. **High voltage lines produce constant noise and the Electric and Magnetic fields produced by these lines have not been proved safe to the health of humans, birds, reptiles, insects or mammals, ergo endangering the intricate interwoven web of various species.**
9. **The environmental damage from the Powerlink will be unacceptable. The many endangered and sensitive species of plants, animals, birds, reptiles, and insects would be compromised by the construction of the towers, wire installation, and the power production once initiated. The physical damage to the land would be irreparable.**
10. **Groundwater and aquifers would be adversely affected by the Powerlink and/or Modified Alternative Route construction.**
11. **The area under the lines and around the towers will be cleared and maintained by mechanical and chemical means – furthering damaging and endangering the environment.**
12. **Private property values would be impacted by the Powerlink or its Modified Routes. Sellers must disclose its potential presence and this has already inhibited sales. If it were in place land values would diminish exponentially.**
13. **Eminent Domain will be utilized to obtain homes or businesses unfortunate to be within the path of this proposed construction and would change the character of the community and willfully promotes big business interests over small home and property owner rights.**

The Sunrise Powerlink and/or its Modified Route Alternatives is an unacceptable project for California , and especially the designated areas proposed for its construction. Instead of the current undesirable Powerlink suggestions include:

- A. **Utilize the existing Southwest Powerlink versus creating a new, environmentally damaging project.**

- B. Support environmentally superior alternatives referred to as the *New IN-Area All Source Generation Alternative*. This option currently includes wind, solar photovoltaic, biomass/biogas and other environmentally friendly alternatives that would help decrease Greenhouse Gases.**
 - C. Spend the money required to build this project by adopting an aggressive approach in research for more environmentally cooperative alternatives, ergo diminishing Greenhouse Gases, et al.**
 - D. Be the front-runner in altering the face of energy by turning communities into “green energy” users as in the recent decision by the City of Chula Vista in becoming the first municipality in the County with “green” building standards for all new construction and renovations.
<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20080401-2310-bn1cvgreen.html>**
 - E. In-basin use of micro roof turbines and solar on urban area industrial/commercial buildings would minimize the need for conventional electricity.**
 - F. Bring in “green energy” from the Imperial Valley , as well as from windmills in La Rumarosa.**
 - G. Require Solar on all new buildings and on proposed building renovations (see “D”).**
 - H. Use newer less polluting generating plants and peaker plants that burn cleaner gas. Build these closer to their “point of use” that will not require extensive, expensive and environmentally damaging transmission lines.**
 - I. Reward profit margins to aggressive energy efficiency programs only and withdraw the “steel in the ground” reward system.**
 - J. Harness the methane from landfills in Southern California .**
- In conclusion, the proposed Sunrise Powerlink and/or its Modified Route Alternatives are a misuse of rate/taxpayers money that will not do what has been claimed by SDG&E. Please consider the cumulative negative effects and deny this project in its entirety.**

Respectfully,

**Jan M. Hedlun
PO Box 353
Potrero, CA 91963**

**Note: Faxed copy sent on 4/10/08 at 10:48 AM
619-206-7109
janwrites2005@yahoo.com**