

To: California Public Utilities Commission

From: Dr. Dave L. Smith
24414 Wildwood Glen Lane
Alpine, CA 91901

Re: Sunrise Powerlink Route D Alternative

To Whom It May Concern:

I have decided to address the building of the Sunrise Powerlink from the impact on our local vicinity. In a small way, we will experience what will be experienced along the entire route—no matter where it is built in a wilderness/forest area.

The actual towers will be built about 1/4 mile north of Wildwood Glen Lane. It will cross Highway 79 over a small restaurant and group of several small homes built along Willow Creek, (a tributary to the Sweetwater River). The route will approximately follow the crest of the hills behind our home in an east west direction.

The area where the towers will cross Highway 79 is surrounded by Cleveland National Forest and designated a "Scenic Route". This designation was assigned because of the beauty of this area. It is truly a wild area surrounding a few homes. The forest is relatively unchanged by development. It is an untouched area of chaparral-oak transitional forest that gives way to black oaks and pines a couple of miles up the road. This area burned during the Cedar Fire and we are experiencing re-growth of the chaparral with all of the wildflowers, progressive changes in fauna, in addition to the soil erosion. Having lived here almost 25 years, we realize that this is part of the natural cycle which we are experiencing. There are now more rodents along with more eagles, hawks and snakes which feed on the rodents. We reflect on how this would change if a line of huge towers were built along the crest of the hill necessitating the clearing of huge areas for the towers and the access roads.

But, if the access road is built as proposed, we wouldn't be here to see the changes. The proposal is to veer off Wildwood Glen Lane near Highway 79 and head west. The first obstacle is a steep decline down to Willow Creek. Willow Creek floods periodically to a depth of several feet. Then the access road would head up a steep incline directly through our home and uphill to the crest to join the towers. Because of the heavy storms which occasionally hit this area, the road would be a source of soil erosion, with all of the soil ending up in Willow Creek and ultimately the Sweetwater River system. For some reason this route was chosen in spite of the existence of an access road approximately 1/4 mile west of us.

I believe that the impact on our small area is a microcosm of the devastation that will be dealt the environment along the entire route. The personal loss of our home of 25 years

perhaps represents the impact on property owners losing their homes, beauty of their property, property value, and loss of peace and quiet.

The Sunrise Power Link, as proposed in various routes, will be disastrous to the back-country environment and many property owners. The only explanation given to me as to why the Highway 8 corridor isn't used is that Caltrans is jealous of the control over their roads and difficult to work with. Isn't this part government's function—to deal with inter-agency conflicts? Shouldn't their efforts result in the maximum benefit possible with the minimum loss to citizens?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave L. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "S".

Dr. Dave L. Smith

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PROPOSED
ACCESS
ROAD

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EXISTING
ROADS

Hwy 78

Center Drive