STATE OF CALIFORNIA Arnold Schwarzenegger, *Governor*

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

December 6, 2006

Mr. Kevin O'Beirne
San Diego Gas & Electric Company
8830 Century Park Court – CP32D
San Diego, CA. 92123

Re: Data Request #4 for the SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Project, Application No. 06-08-010

Dear Mr. O'Beirne:

The California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) Energy Division has reviewed the documents and materials that SDG&E has provided including the Proponent's Environmental Assessment (dated August 4, 2006), the Application Supplement Materials (dated September 1, 2006), and SDG&E's Response to Data Requests No. 1 and No. 2. During the analysis of the aforementioned materials and in our evaluation of alternatives, we have identified additional items that require information from SDG&E. Attached please find Data Request No. 4, which defines the additional questions we have at this time. Additional data requests may be necessary to address alternatives and other CEQA/NEPA topics.

We would appreciate your prompt responses to these data requests, which will allow us to maintain our current EIR/EIS schedule. We request that responses to these items be provided to us within one week or by no later than December 13, 2006).

Please submit one set of responses to me and one to Susan Lee at Aspen in San Francisco, in both hard copy and electronic format. Any questions on this data request should be directed to me at (415) 703-2068.

Sincerely,

Billie C. Blanchard, AICP, PURA V
Project Manager for Sunrise Powerlink Project
Energy Division, CEQA Unit

Attachment

cc: Sean Gallagher, CPUC Energy Division Director
Ken Lewis, CPUC Program Manager
Steve Weissman, ALJ
Traci Bone, Advisor to Commissioner Grueneich
Nicholas Sher, CPUC Legal Division
Lynda Kastoll, BLM
Susan Lee, Aspen Environmental Group

Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Line Project
Data Request No. 4

Alternatives

ALT-62 [Follow-up to ALT-14] In SDG&E's response to ALT-14, regarding the D Alternative through parts of the Cleveland National Forest, the following statement was made: "For the 230 kV transmission lines, the preferred right-of-way width for this alignment is 300 ft. to account for future 230 kV transmission lines exiting a 500/230 kV substation in the vicinity of Barrett Substation."

Why is a 300 foot ROW "for future 230 kV transmission lines" requested for this alternative, where no wider ROW was defined for the proposed 230 kV transmission line west of the proposed 500/230 kV Central Substation? (See also ALT-63 below in which the ultimate 230 kV build-out from Central Substation is addressed.)

ALT-63 [Follow-up to ALT-20 regarding the 230 kV underground alternative west of San Felipe Substation and transfer capability of the proposed project.] SDG&E's response to ALT-20 contained the following as portions of a lengthy discussion of "Expandability":

"Beyond the specifics about import capability into the San Diego area, SDG&E has serious concerns about this alternative, chief of which is expandability. The high level design goal for the Sunrise Powerlink project is to bring a single 500 kV line as close to the SDG&E load center as is reasonably practicable, then to use 230 kV lines to distribute the power to major 230 kV load-serving substations within the San Diego load center.

Based on SDG&E's current construction standards, it takes four 230 kV lines to match the capacity of one 500 kV line. Therefore, under an ultimate design for an all-lines-in-service condition there could be at least four 230 kV circuits coming out of Central substation. However, in order to maintain transfer capability on the 230 kV circuits equivalent to the transfer capability of the 500 kV portion of the project for an N-1 or a credible N-2 outage of the 230 kV circuits, there should be really be five or six 230 kV circuits coming out of Central substation. The design and layout of Central substation is such that it can accommodate up to six 230 kV lines. … Although this ultimate build out may not be needed for decades, *at least one or two additional 230 kV circuits are possible within the first decade* [emphasis added] following completion of the Sunrise Powerlink in 2010."

The future expansion will need to be described in the EIR/EIS. In order for us to adequately describe this, please provide the following information:

a. Please provide maps showing the most likely routes that illustrate the future "five to six 230 kV circuits coming out of Central substation." Information should include the numbers of circuits within each identified corridor, and substation mid-points and endpoints.

b. Provide the timeframes in which each of these additional circuits would most likely be constructed.

c. Describe the factors affecting the location and timeframe for each of the additional circuits.