

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



January 4, 2007

Juan Sandoval, Assistant Manager, IID Energy
Imperial Irrigation District
P.O. Box 937 – 333 Barioni Blvd.
Imperial, CA 92251

**Re: Request for Information Regarding Proposed Sunrise Powerlink
Transmission Project, Application No. 06-08-010**

Dear Mr. Sandoval:

As you are aware, the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are preparing an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for SDG&E's proposed Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Project. As part of the EIR/EIS preparation process, we are evaluating a wide range of potential alternatives to the project defined by SDG&E. Because several of these alternatives would be at least partially within IID's service territory, we need information from IID in order to make informed decisions on whether or not to analyze these alternatives.

Our questions are as follows:

1. Regarding the "Western Alternative" (shown in green on NOP Figure 7, enclosed): Based on information provided to us by personnel at the Department of Defense, El Centro Naval Air Station, it appears that this route would not be feasible because it would pass through several miles of an area with airspace restrictions that would not allow construction of a 500 kV transmission line.

Request: We need information demonstrating the feasibility of this alternative. Please provide us with a contact person at the Navy who can verify feasibility of this alternative route. To verify feasibility we need a written statement from the Navy about the maximum tower heights acceptable for the portion of this route that is within the restricted area. Otherwise, we plan to eliminate the alternative from EIR/EIS analysis as being infeasible.

2. NOP Figure 8 (enclosed) shows a potential alternative identified by SDG&E in which the 500 kV transmission line would run due north out of the Imperial Valley Substation, intersecting the proposed route at Mileposts 15 or 20 (two options are shown). We assume that a portion of this segment (north of Interstate 8) would follow the east side of Huff Road, because there's an existing IID transmission line along a portion of the west side of the road.

Request: Would the route illustrated here conflict with any of IID's plans for transmission system expansion?

3. We have received your October 13, 2006 letter and map providing information on five projects that IID is planning within the area of the Sunrise Powerlink. It would be helpful to us in evaluating alternatives to the Sunrise Powerlink Project to have information on all the transmission and substation expansion components of the Green Path Project.

Request: Please provide maps and descriptions (including schedules) for IID's components of the Green Path Project, in addition to those already described in the October 13, 2006 letter. For example, it is not clear if the Dixieland Substation shown in the October letter is part of the Green Path Project or associated with other IID projects at future dates.

We would appreciate your prompt responses to these requests, which will allow us to maintain our current EIR/EIS schedule. If possible, please respond to these items within one week (by January 12, 2007). Any questions on this information 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