

1 BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, MAY 12, 2008 - 1:05 P.M.

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3 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE WEISSMAN: With that in
4 mind, let's a start with Michael Aguirre, City Attorney
5 for San Diego.

6 STATEMENT OF MR. AGUIRRE

7 MR. AGUIRRE: Thank you very much.

8 I want to applaud the Commission for its work
9 in leading the nation in the essential transition to
10 renewable energy. Each day more and more of our fellow
11 citizens are coming to recognize the preeminent
12 importance of shifting from fossil fuels to renewable
13 energy, and each day the need to accelerate our efforts
14 in making the shift becomes more imperative.

15 Where once the state's mandate for 20-percent
16 renewable by the year 2010 seemed ambitious, 20 percent
17 by 2010 should now be seen as an essential minimum.

18 Unfortunately San Diego gas & Electric has
19 told the Securities and Exchange Commission, quote: It
20 is unlikely that it will be able to meet the 2010 goal.

21 As San Diego City Attorney I'm charged with
22 enforcing the City's franchise agreement with SDG&E.
23 That agreement requires the utility to be in compliance
24 with all state laws, including the Renewable Portfolio
25 Standard. So, should SDG&E fall out of compliance with
26 California's renewable law, that failure may well have
27 implications for the utility's franchise agreement.

28 That's a place I hope we do not have to go.

1 While the debate about transmission projects
2 like Sunrise go through the complex and lengthy
3 considerations they require, I urge this Commission to
4 remember that power lines are agnostic. They can carry
5 dirty fossil-fueled generated power just as anything
6 else.

7 I urge you to ensure that SDG&E submits a
8 utility-scale rooftop-PV project of no less than 300
9 megawatts within 60 days.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 (Applause)

12 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

13 I'll encourage you to get the applause out of
14 your system as we go through the public officials, but
15 after we finish I am going to have do ask you not to
16 applaud. You'll soon find that that will actually erode
17 the amount of time available for speakers, and we really
18 do want to make sure that everybody gets a chance to be
19 heard.

20 With that, Supervisor -- San Diego Supervisor
21 Dianne Jacob.

22 STATEMENT OF SUPERVISOR JACOB

23 MS. JACOB: Thank you very much, Commissioners.

24 And I'm going to try my best to do this in 90
25 seconds, but it's going to be tough.

26 I have some new information to present to you,
27 and I will give you my written testimony.

28 But this afternoon -- and I think it's very

1 appropriate because we're here in Borrego Springs --
2 this area hosted many fire victims that were evacuated
3 from homes during the 2007 wildfires, and it wasn't the
4 first time. The same thing happened in 2003 during the
5 largest fire disaster in state history, the Cedar fire.

6 I have a map for you, and again I will pass
7 out little maps, too.

8 What you are going to see -- what you're
9 seeing on this map are the fire boundaries of the 2003
10 and the 2007 wildfires.

11 And notice the overlap areas where the fire
12 burned in '03 and again in '07.

13 And the white area is the area yet to burn,
14 and it will burn.

15 To people who are unfamiliar with San Diego
16 County, this map is horrifying, but to many of us in the
17 room the map -- this map is our way of life.

18 Our County is dominated by a Mediterranean
19 climate. The areas on this map especially are home to
20 dense, drought-adaptive brush that is highly flammable.

21 Add 70- to 100-mile-per-hour Santa Ana winds
22 to this equation and you get all the ingredients of a
23 perfect firestorm.

24 The information isn't new. It's been this way
25 for a century.

26 And if you go to the environmental document,
27 Section D15, page 1, describes it perfectly: one of the
28 most fire-prone landscapes in the world.

1 Now let's take a look at SDG&E's Preferred
2 Route for Sunrise, and you'll see that it goes right
3 through this area.

4 The alternative routes don't fare much better
5 than that.

6 In the entire 6,000 page Draft EIR there is
7 one page that I want to point out to you that I don't
8 think is has gotten enough attention that rises above
9 all others in terms of importance, and that page is in
10 the Fire and Fuels Management Section, page D15 through
11 69. This page describes computer modeling used to
12 simulate the impact of Santa Ana wind conditions on the
13 Sunrise PowerLink's Preferred Route.

14 The computer simulation examined three things:
15 fire behavior, burn probability, and containment.

16 Table D15 24 summarizes what I believe are
17 deadly conclusions.

18 For the Ranchita, San Felipe, Santa Ysabel,
19 Ramona, and Poway areas the analysis came to these
20 conclusions:

21 Number one, construction and maintenance of
22 the line would significantly increase the probability of
23 wildfire;

24 Number two, the line itself would increase the
25 probability of wildfire; and

26 Three, the line would reduce the effectiveness
27 of fire-fighting efforts.

28 Each of these conclusions will rank from

1 Class I to Class IV, Class IV being beneficial for the
2 land, Class I meaning cannot be mitigated.

3 For Ranchita, San Felipe, Santa Ysabel,
4 Ramona, and Poway the news couldn't be any worse: the
5 presence of Sunrise would be a Class I threat.

6 With regard to reducing the effectiveness of
7 the fire fighting, Sunrise would again be a Class I
8 threat.

9 And let me repeat, a Class I ranking means the
10 danger cannot be mitigated.

11 Commissioners, thank you again for being here.

12 It's my very strong belief that what SDG&E is
13 asking you to approve is the equivalent of walking into
14 our fire-prone backcountry during Santa Ana wind
15 conditions, striking a match, and throwing it on the
16 ground.

17 Given what this region endured in 2003 and
18 2007, SDG&E's continued push for this line is
19 unconscionable.

20 The utility wants you to gamble with human
21 lives. Please don't do this.

22 Fire-fighting aircraft cannot make effective
23 water drops over a 500-kV line in high-wind conditions.

24 Ground attacks cannot be made within 500 feet
25 of a power-line conductor.

26 This is a fire-fighting rule of thumb, and
27 it's also noted in the Draft Environmental Document.

28 And, indeed, during the '07 Harris fire the

1 existing 500-kV Southwest Power Line had to be shut down
2 to protect the safety of crews.

3 Recently SDG&E has taken to saying that
4 smaller distribution lines, not transmission lines, are
5 more likely to cause wildfire.

6 Statistics in the Draft Environmental Impact
7 Report tell a different story.

8 If you use SDG&E's own data, the Draft EIR
9 states that between 2004 and 2006 there were nine fires
10 touched off by transmission lines in SDG&E's service
11 territory.

12 Two of those nine fires were caused by heavy
13 winds.

14 At this time I would point out that the Draft
15 EIR computer modeling software used 50 -- only 50-mile-
16 an-hour wind conditions to simulation extreme
17 conditions. Santa Ana's can be twice that.

18 I think it's really, really important to
19 understand the financial liability that is associated
20 with power lines in fire-prone landscape.

21 If you talked to the National Guard in '07, a
22 National Guard helicopter clipped a power line, touched
23 off the 61,000 acre Pine fires near Julian.

24 37 homes were destroyed. Legal claims
25 followed that.

26 At the very least I would beg the Commission
27 to seek a formal opinion from Cal Fire before it makes a
28 final determination on this line.

1 If you find you need the line, at least
2 underground the whole thing.

3 The stakes are simply too high to put above
4 lines in these areas.

5 I stand opposed to this project.

6 I do not think it's needed.

7 I think there are better ways.

8 Your environmental document points that out.

9 But, please, if I leave you with one thing in
10 your minds today, please be sensitive to what's in your
11 own environmental document in terms of the fire risks of
12 this line. It could be deadly.

13 Thank you very much.

14 (Applause)

15 ALJ WEISSMAN: And now Imperial County Supervisor
16 Gary Wyatt.

17 And while Mr. Wyatt's coming up, would those
18 of you with Nos. 1 through 10 please begin lining up on
19 the wall to the right side of the room.

20 STATEMENT OF SUPERVISOR WYATT

21 MR. WYATT: Good afternoon.

22 I'm Gary Wyatt, Chairman of the Board of
23 Supervisors for Imperial County, and I thank you for the
24 opportunity to speak and address you this day on this
25 very critical issue for Imperial County.

26 Our Board has taken a formal action to support
27 the Sunrise Powerlink and strongly encourages the CPUC
28 to approve the project this summer.

1 The Board did not take a position in support
2 or in opposition to any specific route and has requested
3 the Commissioners consider the environmental and
4 economic impacts to our community and the Imperial
5 Irrigation District in its final decision.

6 The County of Imperial is committed to a
7 cleaner environment by promoting the use of renewable
8 energy resources that do not produce greenhouse gases.

9 Today Imperial County produces over 500
10 megawatts of clean, renewable geothermal energy.

11 New projects now under construction or being
12 proposed will significantly increase that total.

13 The California Energy Commission and other
14 energy experts have stated the Imperial County has the
15 renewable energy resource potential that exceeds 2000
16 megawatts of geothermal energy and 30,000 megawatts of
17 solar energy in addition to wind, biofuels, and other
18 renewable-energy-resource development.

19 Imperial County is uniquely positioned to
20 become a world leader in the development of renewable
21 energy to provide for the needs of surrounding
22 communities and neighboring electric utilities.

23 Our County can help the State of California
24 meet the Renewable Portfolio Standard of 20 percent by
25 2010 as well as achieving the mandates of AB 32 to
26 reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.

27 The development of renewable-energy resources
28 is vital to California and the Imperial Valley's

1 economic future.

2 This industry will create thousands of quality
3 jobs and generate millions of dollars of revenue for our
4 businesses, individual, and vital public services.

5 These benefits will only be realized if
6 adequate infrastructure is planned, permitted, and
7 built.

8 As you know, unemployment in Imperial County
9 is a major concern, the largest and the greatest in
10 California for many years, and the opportunity to create
11 jobs while improving the environment and meeting
12 California's renewable policy is a huge opportunity that
13 your Commission should support and pursue.

14 The Sunrise Powerlink transmission line will
15 provide a direct interconnection between Imperial and
16 San Diego Counties, transmitting 1,000 megawatts of
17 renewable energy, renewable energy from contracts that
18 the CPUC has already approved.

19 The Sunrise Powerlink is the most immediate
20 and viable solution to export solar, geothermal, and
21 other renewable energy from the Imperial Valley to the
22 load centers that need clean energy.

23 We ultimately will need to build all the
24 proposed high-voltage power-line projects that have been
25 proposed by IID, SDG&E, and other utilities, but we must
26 move forward now.

27 The Imperial Irrigation District has an
28 extensive transmission system capable of connecting many

1 of our renewable resources, including proposed
2 geothermal and solar-energy projects to the high-voltage
3 power grid.

4 Furthermore, the District has plans in place
5 to expand its electric system, allowing further
6 renewable-energy development to utilize its power lines
7 to interconnect with the new transmission projects.

8 In order to help IID plan for the expansion of
9 its transmission system, Imperial County will actively
10 oppose any effort to unnecessarily bypass IID's grid.

11 The County of Imperial respectfully requests
12 that the California Public Utilities Commission approve
13 the Sunrise Powerlink.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

17 All right. We now enter into the no-applause
18 zone part of the presentation, and so, as Deanna Spehn
19 comes up to the microphone, let me remind you that there
20 be will be 90 seconds. You'll have a timer to look at.

21 If you get to the end and you haven't
22 finished, I'll ask you to please wrap up.

23 And also if you hear speakers in front you,
24 listen for things that you agree with or disagree, find
25 ways, where you can, to economize your own time by
26 saying "I agree with what some of the speakers have said
27 about X," and then moving onto your next point, and I
28 think it might help us all move through this more

1 quickly.

2 Now Deanna Spehn.

3 STATEMENT OF MS. SPEHN

4 MS. SPEHN: Good afternoon.

5 I am Deanna Spehn.

6 I'm Policy Director for State Senator
7 Christine Kehoe.

8 You have her full statement coming to you now.

9 I regret I cannot personally appear at your
10 hearing today, but a floor session has been called by
11 the Senate which requires my attendance.

12 I know that the issue before you, assessing
13 the need for and, if required, determining a path for
14 Sunrise, is not an easy one.

15 Just a week ago, in a briefing with the ISO on
16 the state of the grid in this -- in California, I was
17 informed we must add at least 1,000 megawatts of
18 additional generation to the grid each year to keep up
19 with growing demand.

20 During that briefing I was struck by the fact
21 that a comparison between the months of January and July
22 shows that demand on the grid can nearly double with
23 extreme temperatures.

24 We spend a tremendous amount of money to meet
25 a doubling of the demand for electricity for only three
26 or four months of the year. The rest of the time as
27 much as half of our generation fleet sits idle.

28 I question whether we have given proper focus

1 to distributed generation to meet that demand.

2 I think DG is getting short shrift in this
3 state, especially by SDG&E.

4 Should you determine that new transmission
5 capacity is necessary, I strongly urge you to respect
6 the tremendous investment or our state and its taxpayers
7 have made in creating this desert state park.

8 As the largest state park in California,
9 Anza-Borrego is visited by millions each year.

10 We have put -- the state has preserved and
11 protected this park for decades.

12 We must meet the -- we must weigh the need to
13 accommodate growth with the importance of protecting our
14 state parks.

15 To too often our parks and open-space
16 preserves become the path of least resistance whenever a
17 major infrastructure project is proposed.

18 Thank you very much.

19 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for your
20 comments.

21 Jeff Martin.

22 STATEMENT OF MR. MARTIN

23 MR. MARTIN: My name is Jeff Martin. I'm from
24 Imperial County.

25 This line is going to be passing over my home.
26 I don't appreciate that part right there.

27 But I did build an energy-efficient home.

28 And this home -- last year -- I live -- I

1 paid -- Imperial County is 110 during the summertime.

2 The average power bill for people, for a
3 house, a 2,800-square-foot home, is about \$1,000 a
4 month. Mine costs \$800 for the whole year.

5 So I built the energy-efficient home, and I
6 feel that we are misusing our resources today by
7 building this dinosaur of a system where we need to
8 start looking more at building energy-efficient ideas
9 such as using the -- like I did, just simply straw
10 bales. I used them right out of the local farmer's
11 field.

12 So I think we need to look at our resources
13 more closely and not get into these dinosaur systems and
14 look at solar panels and wind generation, but do it on a
15 local system.

16 Also our communities have a good power grid
17 already. All we have to do is upgrade them.

18 I don't feel we need to put in a huge new
19 system just to do that. We have a nice -- our system,
20 just to be a slight upgrade, it's a lot less cost.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause)

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

24 Sally Kotnik.

25 STATEMENT OF MS. KOTNIK

26 MS. KOTNIK: I am Sally Kotnik from San Diego, a
27 volunteer naturalist and park supporter.

28 Approval of this project forces ratepayers to

1 pay -- finance a business plan good for Sempra but
2 straps all of us with negative consequences.

3 At the top of my long list of objections are
4 park protection and environmental damages.

5 Reverse eminent domain, that is, converting
6 public lands to private uses, is unconscionable.

7 MR. REYES: Right.

8 MS. KOTNIK: The assault on California parks is on
9 the march and will accelerate, if allowed.

10 I respect the decades of struggle by devoted
11 parties to create a park.

12 When the ribbons are cut, we celebrate their
13 achievement and in providing permanent open spaces and
14 natural habitats for public enrichment and education.

15 How can anyone dare to inform these heroes
16 that they have established instead a temporary
17 depository to safely hold parcels for eventual
18 exploitation by developers of profitable projects?

19 Anza-Borrego and all parks everywhere deserve
20 unwavering protections from degradation and subversion
21 of their missions.

22 On the environment, the reliable plan says
23 that they want to depend upon securing fossil fuels in
24 Asia in spite of the growing, emerging powers of China
25 and India.

26 This strategy increases global warming.

27 The smarter plan involves trusting San Diego
28 sunshine and emerging technologies. That's where I

1 vote.

2 Your Commission has made wise decisions in the
3 past. Please do so again on this project.

4 Thank you for listening.

5 (Applause)

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

7 (Applause)

8 ALJ WEISSMAN: Glenda Kimmerly.

9 STATEMENT OF MS. KIMMERLY

10 MS. KIMMERLY: Good afternoon, your Honor,
11 Commissioners.

12 Thank you all for being here.

13 Those of us who are opposed to the Sunrise
14 Powerlink are a widely diverse group, including
15 ranchers, teachers, business owners, retirees, liberals,
16 and conservatives alike, all living in a wide area, from
17 the desert to the coast.

18 We have one common thread, the desire for the
19 most economical, reliable, and environmentally safe and
20 friendly solution to our energy needs.

21 As we have learned from the proceedings, the
22 best solution is not the Sunrise Powerlink.

23 The best solution is a combination of energy
24 efficiency, California's highest-priority resource
25 according to CPUC and CEC.

26 Distributed generation, including combined
27 heat and power, large- and small-scale rooftop solar,
28 and wind generation, upgrades to existing transmission

1 and distribution lines and substations, and finally
2 energy conservation.

3 Falling far behind the other California
4 utilities in reaching the RPS goals, SDG&E's commitments
5 to renewable energy is questionable.

6 Today you will likely hear from various SDG&E
7 supporters giving the same standard excuses for the
8 Powerlink: We need the power.

9 Yes, we do, but there are better ways.

10 Renewables: This is doubtful given the status
11 of the Stirling dish and the SDG&E's huge investment in
12 natural gas.

13 Reliability: What can be more reliable than
14 power generated at the point of use, such as rooftop
15 solar.

16 And reduced costs already disproved by DRA and
17 UCAN.

18 I hope that wisdom, courage, fortitude, and
19 especially the truth will prevail in these proceedings
20 and that you will choose the smart-energy solution and
21 vote no on the Sunrise Powerlink.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause)

24 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

25 Donna Tisdale.

26 STATEMENT OF MS. TISDALE

27 MS. TISDALE: Thank you for the opportunity.

28 My name is Donna Tisdale.

1 I was born and raised in Imperial Valley, and
2 I've lived in Boulevard in eastern San Diego County
3 since 1977.

4 Both the desert and the backcountry are deeply
5 embedded in my soul and my psyche.

6 For 18 years I've chaired the Boulevard
7 Planning Group. We voted to oppose the entire Sunrise
8 Powerlink project regardless of the routing. It's just
9 wrong.

10 As a ratepayer I resent being saddled with
11 more oppressive debt for such a monopolistic boondoggle
12 that will stifle competition, that will be cheaper and
13 more innovative as sustainable energy production.

14 If approved, Sunrise can go down in history as
15 one of the biggest scams ever, in my opinion.

16 The proposed 80-acre -- excuse me.

17 It's also a typical bait and switch, which
18 echoes SDG&E's claims in the 80's the Southwest Power-
19 Link would move renewables from Imperial Valley. It
20 does not.

21 Sempra has also proposed a 1250-megawatt
22 cross-border La Rumarosa project, Baja Wind.

23 The 80-acre substation will connect
24 La Rumarosa to the existing Southwest Powerlink.

25 There are many cumulative impacts.

26 I believe Baja Wind is another bait and switch
27 that will morph into a new gas-fired generation plant
28 built in Mexico and fed by Sempra's LNG pipeline which

1 runs through La Rumarosa.

2 My family's Imperial Valley farmland is being
3 explored for geothermal energy.

4 It also has impacts.

5 The new 49-megawatt plant in Brawley is
6 expected to consume over 13 million gallons of water.

7 Where will that come water come from?

8 If they use recycled water, will that impact
9 the mitigation of the Salton Sea?

10 Sunrise also does not increase or maintain
11 reliability because it connects the same vulnerable
12 Imperial Valley Substation, its isolated, unprotected
13 section of the Mexican boarder near multiple faults with
14 a lot of terrorism potential.

15 Thank you.

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for coming.

17 (Applause)

18 ALJ WEISSMAN: Denis Trafecanty.

19 STATEMENT OF MR. TRAFECANTY

20 MR. TRAFECANTY: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

21 I'm Denis Trafecanty from Santa Ysabel.

22 Thanks for coming.

23 Check this out: Stirling Solar.

24 Stirling Solar has six units in the world, and
25 they need to build 36,000 of them in order for them --
26 they need to mass-produce them.

27 It's not proven technology.

28 The best they are going to be able to do, if

1 they can, even if they can do it, if -- if they could
2 build 12,000 of them, they could run them on the South-
3 West PowerLink.

4 So -- and they've admitted that, SDG&E; so why
5 are we sitting here talking about building a Sunrise
6 Powerlink when the -- its Stirling Solar engines aren't
7 even ready yet, and they may never be ready.

8 Check this out: Something I called DGNN,
9 Distributed Generation Near the Need.

10 Southern Cal Edison's building this rooftop
11 solar, and what I've heard that SDG&E has said is that
12 rooftop solar in San Diego won't work because we don't
13 have buildings like they do up in San Bernardino and
14 Riverside. That's baloney.

15 Number two, the marine layer is thicker down
16 here than it is, and that's not true; and I'm going to
17 give you a report on this. Unfortunately I ran 50 miles
18 to get here today, and I left them in the car, but I --
19 I will bring them back in a -- very shortly.

20 Thank you very much.

21 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

22 (Applause)

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: Bryon Harrington.

24 STATEMENT OF MR. HARRINGTON

25 MR. HARRINGTON: Hi.

26 My name is Bryon Harrington.

27 I live in Alpine, directly on the proposed
28 Modified D Route.

1 The 500-kV power line will -- if built, would
2 follow our property line by about 1,000 feet and pass
3 our house within 300 feet.

4 We have been told at previous Sunrise
5 Powerlink meetings that in our section the noise level
6 of this power line would be at its highest level,
7 creating very much unwanted noise pollution; and it's
8 also going to ruin our mountain views, creating very
9 much unwanted visual pollution.

10 But really the main concern here is to health
11 reasons.

12 There -- no one really knows what the risk of
13 living so close to a major power line would be, and this
14 will really affect thousands of people.

15 And what about the wildfire danger?

16 Last October two of the wildfires that burned
17 over a thousand San Diego homes was started by SDG&E
18 power lines.

19 At the first meeting I attended in Campo at
20 the Mountain Empire High School, SDG&E's representative
21 said that this Powerlink was going to be built to get
22 green-powered electricity from the desert to San Diego.

23 Now we have learned that it is really being
24 built so Sempra Energy can get natural gas, bring it
25 into Mexico, feed three fossil-fuel power plants, and
26 avoid following U.S. California EPA regulations.

27 MR. REYES: Right.

28 MR. HARRINGTON: The burning of fossil fuels is

1 not green energy.

2 Investing billions of dollars and even
3 becoming more dependent on foreign countries just
4 doesn't make sense.

5 Please vote no on the Sunrise Powerlink.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

9 Randy Rusch.

10 And while Mr. Rusch is coming to the stand,
11 I'll ask those with Nos. 11 through 20 to please start
12 making your way slowly up to the line.

13 STATEMENT OF Mr. RUSCH

14 MR. RUSCH: Good afternoon, sirs.

15 My name is Randy Rusch.

16 I am a resident of Alpine.

17 I, too, oppose this entire project in its
18 entirety.

19 As a resident of Alpine I have experienced
20 personally the fires of 2000, with the Viejas fire,
21 almost lost my home at that point.

22 Also 2003 was another close call for us, too.

23 Getting away from the fire situation, I would
24 also like to just have the CPUC and everybody that's
25 involved with this take another look at just the
26 availability of installing the solar panels, the wind
27 generators, et cetera, et cetera.

28 We have so many flat spaces in San Diego, as

1 some of the others have said. I'm just looking at
2 home- -- of rooftops of Lowe's, Home Depot's,
3 Wal-Mart's, Costco's, various other places like that.

4 We're also looking at the parking lots of all
5 these places -- hospitals, et cetera -- that have
6 numerous acres that could be established with this type
7 of solar power or wind generation.

8 I would like to thank you very much for your
9 time.

10 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

11 Before we move to --

12 (Applause)

13 ALJ WEISSMAN: -- to the next regularly-scheduled
14 speaker, Councilmember Ernie Ewin from La Mesa
15 unfortunately didn't sign up early, so I want to give
16 you --

17 STATEMENT OF MR. EWIN

18 Mr. EWIN: That's quite all right.

19 Thank you very much.

20 I'm here on behalf of the City of La Mesa.

21 We have taken numerous votes in the last six
22 months regarding this.

23 We are in support of the proposal for a number
24 of reasons, not the least of which are:

25 Number one, that you're dealing with a
26 renewable source of energy on this proposal;

27 Number two --

28 (Boos)

1 MR. EWIN: Number two, that we have a significant
2 number of retired and elderly in our community.

3 We gained a number of much concern relative to
4 the sources of energy that we currently have and want to
5 make sure that there are adequate sources and sources
6 lined to come into our or area so as to ensure that it
7 is uninterrupted, especially during high-peak uses.

8 As you may recall -- and I think as you have
9 heard -- there are numerous -- there have been numerous
10 situations that we've experienced where fires in the
11 last eight years have gone around our city, but we have
12 looked to ways in which to ensure that we can hedge
13 our -- our options, so to speak, to make sure that they
14 aren't all interrupted at the same time.

15 Much of our concern as well permeates from the
16 fact that there is a -- an increasing need in power that
17 we find we're in competition for, just to make sure that
18 the basic amount comes to our city on an ongoing basis.

19 We know of no other proposals.

20 In fact, we've watched with interest the
21 SANDAG Renewable Energy Committee undertake its studies
22 in the last couple of years to which it really couldn't
23 come to a conclusion and provide things and get them
24 underway.

25 Our primary concern, again at this point, is
26 you know that there's going to be a significant amount
27 of increase in energy demand; we want to make sure that
28 there's enough energy in place to address not only the

1 needs that we currently have but those that may be
2 subject unfortunately to those circumstances either by
3 accident or, in the case of the Cedar fire, someone
4 firing off a flare gun.

5 Thank you very much.

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ewin.

7 Now Jim Brown.

8 STATEMENT OF MR. Brown

9 MR. BROWN: Hello.

10 I'm Jim Brown from Encinitas, California, and
11 I'm a disaster worker, is what I call it, a volunteer
12 one, and I'm not affiliated with anyone.

13 But I was over in New Orleans right after that
14 happened over there.

15 Half the City of New Orleans flooded because
16 after the hurricane came by, it didn't flood the city,
17 it -- what it did is knocked out all the electricity.

18 And in order to block off the water coming
19 into one part of the city, all they had to do was close
20 one of the big gates. It had no electricity to it,
21 consequently the canal filled up, it overflowed, and
22 covered almost one half the city of New Orleans.

23 If there had been -- if there had been
24 alternate and diversified sources of electricity, that
25 wouldn't have happened and would have saved half that
26 City of New Orleans.

27 Number two, I worked -- I worked in disaster
28 organizations and during the Cedar fire I -- I stayed

1 pretty much closer to home over in Encinitas, but lots
2 of people were packing up and moving on and lots of
3 people in the Cedar area were moving out, and they
4 stored their stuff, you know -- you know, right -- right
5 in our area.

6 Lots of those places the electricity went out
7 that would have run pumps for them to pump the water
8 over their houses or to keep things going where they
9 could be informed of what was happening, but they had no
10 power either once the power lines went down.

11 Some of those places have no power now.

12 What I'm here to say is a lot of disasters
13 could be averted if we had more diversified flow of
14 electricity coming in all over.

15 I advocate that we should have it on every
16 single house.

17 MR. REYES: Yes.

18 MR. BROWN: And I think, if we do that, I think
19 we'll have a lot less disasters and people will be a lot
20 happier with what the power they have, and they won't be
21 so beholden to Osama bin Laden and all the oil companies
22 that provide these things to us but they only let us
23 have what they have.

24 Why don't we have our own?

25 Thank you very much.

26 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

27 (Applause)

28 ALJ WEISSMAN: Don Christiansen.

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STATEMENT OF MR. CHRISTIANSEN

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Good afternoon.

My name is Don Christiansen.

I live in Carlsbad.

I would like to thank you for this brochure.

I would especially like to thank you for the first sentence on the back of it which reads: California has a long tradition of forgoing -- of forging innovation in regulation to protect its residents and its businesses.

I was very pleased to see that protecting multinational corporations and their lobbyists was not a part of this.

(Laughter)

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: What is happening with the San Diego Gas & Electric Sempra Group and Carlyle Group with the proposed Sunrise Powerlink to me represents a business model, not a good business model. And it's simply a way of socializing the cost of a project, in this case using ratepayers' money, and privatizing the profits -- the shareholders of SDG&E, Sempra, and Carlyle. That is not my idea of good business.

I spent most of last week at an American Solar Energy conference in San Diego. The technology is here.

MR. REYES: Yep.

MR. CHRISTIANSEN: There is no reason to carry on with business as usual, to be even thinking seriously about being tomorrow's obsolescence today. It doesn't make any sense to me.

1 The technology is here.

2 What we need is the political will, and
3 I would ask you to think long and hard and vote no on
4 this project that should not happen.

5 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

6 (Applause)

7 ALJ WEISSMAN: Scott Barnett.

8 STATEMENT OF MR. BARNETT

9 MR. BARNETT: Good afternoon.

10 My name is Scott Barnett.

11 I'm President of TaxpayersAdvocate.org, and we
12 are on record already in support of the Sunrise Power-
13 link.

14 I am a San Diego resident and a 35-year user
15 of Borrego Springs, the park, and this beautiful area,
16 and we will continue to use it, me and my family, after
17 this power line is built.

18 It's clear by the location of this meeting
19 today that the real debate left is not whether it's
20 needed but where it's going to go, and so let's ask the
21 important question: Should it get built in SDG&E's
22 Northern Route or should it be the CPUC's Southern
23 Route?

24 Energy experts say that the Northern Route is
25 more reliable because it keeps major power lines
26 separated: less risk of disruption in case of a major
27 fire or earthquake.

28 The North Route also uses more existing

1 transmission corridors which limits impacts on the
2 environment.

3 Yes, the North Route crosses Anza-Borrego, but
4 in an existing transmission easement that's already
5 disturbed by power poles and access roads.

6 So South Route, on the other hand, requires
7 construction of brand-new power corridors in the
8 Cleveland National Forest, and it crosses the Campo
9 Indian Reservation, a sovereign nation.

10 So the choice is to use an existing easement
11 in a state park or cut new corridors in a national
12 forest.

13 The CPUC, we believe, should approve Sunrise
14 Powerlink and select the Northern Route.

15 Thank you.

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

17 A VOICE: Boo.

18 ALJ WEISSMAN: Please, not only would I encourage
19 you to not applaud, but booing doesn't work either.

20 (Laughter)

21 ALJ WEISSMAN: We want to hear from everybody.
22 Every opinion counts. And we want to have the
23 opportunity to hear things clearly, so please allow us
24 to do that.

25 All right. Charles Zahn.

26 STATEMENT OF MR. ZAHN

27 Mr. ZAHN: My name is Charles Zahn.

28 I'm from San Diego city.

1 I wish to make two points, one strategic and
2 one personal.

3 It disturbs me so much that so much energy is
4 being consumed and wasted by the public and by the
5 Commissioners themselves on a project that in many
6 respects is diametrically opposed to what we should all
7 be doing for energy and environment.

8 It's not like this project has veered off the
9 proper track. I see it as rather going in the opposite
10 direction, and that disturbs me a lot.

11 The personal point has to do with parks.

12 Early in the 20th Century Theodore Roosevelt
13 established our system of national parks and forests.
14 It's considered by many around the world as one of the
15 finest accomplishments of this nation.

16 The Anza-Borrego State Park and the Cleveland
17 National Forest are things of great beauty and should
18 not be compromised, even if the Sunrise Powerlink
19 project had merits on other grounds, which I think it
20 does not, and I wish you would vote against this
21 project.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause)

24 ALJ WEISSMAN: Sandra Zahn.

25 STATEMENT OF MRS. ZAHN

26 MRS. ZAHN: I am Sandra Zahn, a retired history
27 teacher.

28 Wouldn't it be wonderful if we went down in

1 history as the generation that changed from polluting
2 the earth to preserving and enriching the earth?

3 We have a responsibility to our posterity, our
4 children, to pass on this land as magnificent as the way
5 we inherited it.

6 This project would not do that.

7 The areas affected would leave southern
8 California's environment damaged.

9 Yesterday was Mother's Day, and I speak for
10 our children: What are we going to leave them?

11 We have issues with safety, fire risk,
12 reduction of fire-fighting effectiveness, de-designation
13 of the wilderness area, and a negative impact on
14 wildlife and our native flora, loss of the wilderness
15 experience for our children, and the effects on our air
16 quality, and the use of fossil fuel we'll never, ever be
17 able to recover from.

18 Thank you very much.

19 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

20 Ash Hayes.

21 STATEMENT OF MR. HAYES

22 MR. HAYES: President Peevey, Commissioner members
23 and staff, and fellow Californians, my name is Ash
24 Hayes. I live in San Marcos.

25 As a 62-year resident of San Diego, a
26 transplant from Iowa -- because I found out it didn't
27 snow here in the spring --

28 (Laughter)

1 MR. HAYES: -- I see many changes in our wonderful
2 area of the globe.

3 The County population has grown from 560,000
4 to 3,100,000.

5 Over the years the people issues have been
6 adequate water, drivable highways, and adequate
7 airports, and, more recently, energy.

8 And I'm completely in support of the go-green
9 policy with reasonable requirements.

10 In spite of naysayers, experts with recent law
11 told us to do that we need renewable energy sources.
12 And experts also tell us the main source for getting
13 energy to San Diego, where the large majority of the
14 people and businesses south of Los Angeles exist, is the
15 desert; therefore a system to bring the energy from the
16 desert to the people is needed.

17 I have camped and hiked in the desert and
18 mountains many times. It's a super area, and I see
19 nothing about this that's going to detract from my
20 ability to do that.

21 I am a strong supporter -- in strong support
22 of the SDG&E Preferred Northern Route. It makes the
23 most sense and is the best answer this amateur expert
24 sees to help maintain the quality of the life as stated
25 in San Diego to enjoy.

26 Thank you for this opportunity.

27 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Hayes.

28 Ben Avey.

1 We depend on the consistent power source to
2 complete very complex experiments, testing, and
3 manufacturing.

4 These processes have almost no tolerance for
5 unanticipated variables.

6 The industry requires reliability, and having
7 the Sunrise Powerlink as one of the major power sources
8 in a diversified power portfolio will give this level of
9 energy predictability.

10 Some have suggested expanding lower power
11 stations will solve our problems, but this is a short-
12 term fix, while the Sunrise Powerlink is a long-term
13 commitment to regional energy infrastructure.

14 We urge you to support the Sunrise Powerlink.

15 Thank you.

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

17 Liz Kruidenier.

18 STATEMENT OF MS. KRUIDENIER

19 MS. KRUIDENIER: My name is Liz Kruidenier.

20 I am representing the President of the County
21 League of Women Voters, Nancy Mc Cleary.

22 I have come here to say that the League of
23 Women Voters of San Diego County strongly urges that the
24 CPUC, if it decides that a new transmission line is
25 absolutely necessary, give greater weight to the
26 proposed LEAPS transmission project which would be
27 shorter, much less expensive, and cost ratepayers less.

28 I also want to say that the League has had an

1 energy position since 1940 -- 1975, and at the forefront
2 of its program is conservation; and I urge much greater
3 attention to conservation of energy.

4 The other thing that the League supports is
5 the State's Energy Action Plan loading order. It's
6 largest chapter, the League of Women Voters of the City
7 of San Diego, voted to support the current San Diego
8 Association of Governments' Regional Energy Strategy
9 calling for increasing the amount of in-basin energy
10 resources to meet the area's growing peak demand instead
11 of depending on fossil-fueled power imported from far-
12 away regions.

13 The other excerpt I want to read you comes
14 from the fact that we have concerns over the viability
15 of SDG&E's long-term power-purchase contract with
16 Stirling Energy Systems.

17 We think that, as part of this proceeding, the
18 CPUC should seriously consider viable regional
19 alternatives like the Smart Energy 2020 Proposal put
20 forward by the Sierra Club and recognize the public's
21 preference for increased in-basin generation resources,
22 including more renewables and customer distributed
23 generation as called for in SANDAG's Regional Energy
24 Strategy Plan.

25 We urge the Commission to use this proceeding
26 to take the opportunity to be more innovative, earth-
27 friendly, as well as bottom-line oriented for its
28 customers instead of allowing SDG&E to continue pursuing

1 traditional transmission-grid-expansion practices
2 focused on short-term economic gain for the company.

3 We do not propose any kind of incursion into
4 Anza-Borrego.

5 Thank you.

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

7 Andrew Poat.

8 STATEMENT OF MR. POAT

9 MR. POAT: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

10 I am Andrew Poat for the City Economic
11 Development Corporation.

12 We are a collection of 200 of the largest
13 employers in the San Diego region.

14 We're here with organized labor, with the
15 San Diego Taxpayers Association, and a variety of others
16 who are here in support of this project.

17 When organized labor and business are speaking
18 with one voice you know it's time to listen, and we're
19 here because we believe this project is absolutely
20 essential to continue prosperity for our region.

21 We need this energy, we need it as soon as
22 2010.

23 We need this project in order to accomplish
24 that energy.

25 Not only that, but the project will, indeed,
26 bring the renewable energy that everyone here keeps
27 talking about, and so we believe that that's actually
28 the advantage -- the preferable project.

1 In addition, the alternative proposal seems --
2 has run into a number of concern -- or has a number of
3 concerns for us.

4 First of all, all of the traditional energy-
5 generation facilities are opposed by the cities in which
6 they are proposed to be built. Almost all of them lack
7 financial sponsors at this stage.

8 We need to move forward with energy, we need
9 to do so with renewable sources, and we need to do so
10 now after five years of planning.

11 And on behalf of the organized business as
12 well as organized labor, taxpayers, and others, we
13 respectfully request your support for this project.

14 Thank you.

15 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

16 Joni Low.

17 STATEMENT OF MS. LOW

18 MS. LOW: Good morning.

19 My name is Joni Low, and I am the Executive
20 Director of the Asian Business Association in San Diego,
21 and we represent over 400 business owners and others.

22 Thank you for taking the time to be here today
23 to listen to our concerns.

24 I'd like to start off by saying that the Asian
25 Business Association does support the Sunrise Powerlink,
26 and we urge you to approve this critical project.

27 Securing reliable and affordable electricity
28 is extremely important to Asian-owned businesses that

1 make up about seven percent of San Diego County's
2 economy.

3 Many of our members' companies are small and
4 family-owned, and they can't afford the impacts
5 associated with an electricity shortage.

6 Sunrise Powerlink is the best option for
7 San Diego for reasons beyond reliability and
8 affordability.

9 The line will deliver clean, renewable energy
10 from the Imperial Valley, which will help to meet the
11 California mandate that 20 percent of electricity
12 delivered in 2010 must come from renewable resources.

13 More than 60 elected officials and 2000
14 businesses, organizations, and individuals in San Diego
15 have pledged their support to this project.

16 We know that we are few here compared to the
17 individuals who voiced their concerns today, but we do
18 feel that the Sunrise Powerlink should be supported, and
19 we urge you to approve the line to make our energy
20 future brighter.

21 I also might add, there has been many
22 references to the 2003 Cedar fire, and I also
23 experienced the fire in Scripps Ranch, and our
24 electricity was surely working when I left the house and
25 saw 60-foot flames coming up behind the neighbor's
26 house, so electricity certainly wasn't the blame when it
27 came into the San Diego area.

28 (Laughter and grumblings)

1 A VOICE: No.

2 A VOICE: No.

3 ALJ WEISSMAN: Curt Stanley.

4 Okay. Would those with Nos. 21 through 30
5 start the process of joining the line.

6 Thank you.

7 STATEMENT OF MR. STANLEY

8 MR. STANLEY: Thank you, Commissioners.

9 My name is Curt Stanley, and I am the Chairman
10 of the South County Chamber of Commerce, representing
11 over a thousand businesses, and we want to support the
12 Sunrise Powerlink.

13 We believe that the link is a key to energy
14 reliability.

15 And I would like to just ask you to consider
16 the facts and not emotion today.

17 The SDG&E will provide energy efficiency --

18 MR. REYES: Nope.

19 Mr. STANLEY: -- demand-response programs, more
20 renewable energy, and new local power plants.

21 SDG&E is committed to increasing use of clean,
22 green, renewable energy, but most --

23 (Laughter)

24 MR. STANLEY: -- but most of those research are
25 located in remote areas that have few transmission
26 lines.

27 The Sunrise Powerlink will expand access to
28 solar -- which I've been hearing -- wind, and geothermal

1 energy supplies in both the Imperial Valley and eastern
2 San Diego County.

3 Energy experts -- the energy experts
4 responsible for state energy planning, such as the
5 California Energy Commission and the California
6 Independent System Operators, both strongly support the
7 Sunrise Powerlink.

8 The Sunrise Powerlink will save customers over
9 \$100 million per year.

10 (Laughter and boos)

11 MR. STANLEY: And, to use an analogy, it's like a
12 congested freeway. When the power is in peak season and
13 use, an extra lane helps with that power shortage.

14 The conclusions found in the draft -- the
15 environmental impact from the committee are somewhat
16 troubling, to be factual.

17 Building up to five newer power plants in
18 San Diego instead of importing renewable power via the
19 super link contradicts -- contradicts state energy
20 policy.

21 We ask you to please make your decision on
22 fact and feasibility, not emotion.

23 Thank you.

24 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

25 Keith Battle?

26 All right. Then, Jean Costa.

27 MS. PRESCOTT: Oh. No?

28 Karen Prescott.

1 ALJ WEISSMAN: I don't have you on my list.

2 MS. PRESCOTT: Okay. I am No. 27.

3 I am supposed to be 20.

4 ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. Yeah. You'll be coming
5 later, 27.

6 So we move to Jean Costa, please.

7 STATEMENT OF MS. COSTA

8 MS. COSTA: Good afternoon.

9 My name is Jean Costa.

10 I am one of the elderly residents of La Mesa
11 that Councilman Ewin referred to, and I must say I am
12 very saddened by the vote of my City Council to support
13 this project.

14 (Applause)

15 MS. COSTA: I believe there we're trying to solve
16 21st Century problems with 20th Century solutions here.

17 And in spite of the problem of global warming,
18 we go on with the same old thinking, we don't question
19 the inevitability of more development and the need for
20 more and more energy to service it.

21 Nobody seems to link growth and sprawl with
22 emissions of greenhouse gasses.

23 Nobody talks about limiting our population to
24 the carrying capacity of our region, with its water
25 problems, especially.

26 Why are we hooked up to a huge grid where one
27 glitch can cause thousands of people power outages, as
28 has happened in the past in other parts of the country?

1 Instead of entrusting a huge corporation, one
2 who was involved in the manipulation that led to the so-
3 called energy crisis we faced a few years ago --

4 (Applause)

5 MS. COSTA: -- we should act on the analyses of
6 experts --

7 (Applause)

8 MS. COSTA: -- not emotional people but experts,
9 scientists, who have said we should go with local, clean
10 power generation which would lead to thousands of good
11 local jobs instead of an enormous line cutting through
12 protected open space, public lands, east County
13 communities, which would increase reliance on imported
14 fossil fuel, and we the ratepayers would pay for all of
15 this.

16 Please respect the No-Wire Solution as
17 expressed in the Draft EIR.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause)

20 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

21 Now onto Helen Bourne.

22 (Applause)

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: And let me please once again ask
24 you for your help in letting us just hear the comments
25 from people.

26 And remember this is a formal Commission
27 proceeding, and -- and we should just hear speakers as
28 opposed to a reaction from the audience.

1 Thank you.

2 STATEMENT OF MS. BOURNE

3 MS. BOURNE: Good afternoon.

4 My name is Helen Bourne.

5 And I'm from the San Diego community, and I
6 oppose the Sunrise Powerlink -- Northern Line, Southern
7 Line, the whole project.

8 I feel that renewable energy is the only way
9 to go.

10 A lot has been spoken about we need more
11 power.

12 The power is here. It shines every day in
13 this area.

14 So, you know, I think it's time for renewable
15 energy.

16 And also I'm concerned with the fire hazards
17 that we've already heard about and also with health
18 concerns from so much EMF -- electromagnetic frequen-
19 cies -- from these massive lines.

20 We don't need to keep supporting fossil-fuel
21 use. It's the old way.

22 And I'm going to ask all of you -- I'll keep
23 this short -- but, you know, you have a chance to really
24 make a good decision here, not an emotional one but a
25 common-sense one.

26 Times are changing. We need to get with
27 renewable energy, and we need to keep our power source
28 local. And it's safer for all of us, it's better for

1 the community, for the earth, for all of us.

2 So, please, vote for renewable energy.

3 Thank you.

4 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

5 Michael -- I'm sorry -- Robert Maupin.

6 STATEMENT OF MR. MAUPIN

7 MR. MAUPIN: Good afternoon.

8 My name is Robert Maupin.

9 I live in the Boulevard area of San Diego
10 County.

11 We have the Southwest Powerlink running
12 through the middle of our property.

13 It is seldom used, and during the last power
14 shortage in San Diego it was totally dead. There was no
15 power going to San Diego from it all at all.

16 When I asked a San Diego Gas & Electric person
17 about that at a meeting in Boulevard, he said: Oh.
18 Gee. It wasn't really a power shortage; it was the fact
19 that we had a bunch of bad transformers in San Diego.

20 So I said: Well, okay. Then who is lying to
21 us? Was it you guys or the media?

22 And he went to somebody else.

23 He didn't like that question.

24 Anyway, I've been in San Diego all my life,
25 and the only time we've ever had power shortages is
26 after San Diego Gas & Electric stopped generating power
27 locally and started going other places for it.

28 In fact, the -- the co-op that we had up there

1 did a whole lot better job than San Diego Gas & Electric
2 in keeping us in power.

3 The one thing we found out was that San Diego
4 Gas & Electric up in the mountains is not our friend.

5 Thank you.

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

7 V. Doyle.

8 STATEMENT OF MS. DOYLE

9 MS. DOYLE: I'm V. Doyle. I am from Imperial
10 Valley.

11 San Diego Gas & Electric's base maps released
12 to the public were published in early 1990s and do not
13 accurately show current structures in Imperial County's
14 agricultural lands along their proposed routes.

15 Several residences and agricultural facilities
16 are located along the proposed 500-kilovolt route
17 through Imperial County's agricultural lands that have
18 children living there.

19 About a dozen residences are located along the
20 West Side Main Canal.

21 Residences are located in the Dixieland area,
22 and 21 residences are located in the Desert Lakes
23 development and that have two proposed 500-kilovolt
24 lines' routes adjacent to them on the west and east
25 sides.

26 Agricultural facilities and structures located
27 along the West Side Canal will suffer great economic
28 impacts.

1 Economic impacts of proposed 500-kilovolt
2 routes through Imperial County agricultural lands need
3 to be included in your economic analysis using current
4 base maps.

5 San Diego Gas & Electric claims to have
6 mitigated their impacts along the West Side Canal, and
7 that is not true.

8 A previous route crossed over the dairy
9 milking structure while the current route now crosses
10 over the dairy calving operational structures.

11 Both proposed routes cross dairy property and
12 have stopped development of additional dairies alongside
13 West Canal Huff Road.

14 Who do I turn this in to?

15 THE REPORTER: (Indicating)

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

17 Phyllis Carlson.

18 STATEMENT OF MS. CARLSON

19 MS. CARLSON: Thank you.

20 Do you want my name spelled?

21 THE REPORTER: That's fine.

22 MS. CARLSON: Okay.

23 I thank you, Mr. President and the
24 Commissioners, for coming to south San Diego County.

25 I wanted to say that I agree with the per- --
26 the man before Mrs. Zahn and another man in the -- the
27 first 10 plus Nos. 23, 24, and 25.

28 (Laughter)

1 MS. CARLSON: So I'm going to reiterate.

2 And I planned to discuss-- to bring us to
3 the law, and it will be paraphrased because I'm not a
4 lawyer and we haven't the time.

5 This comes from California Public Resources
6 Statement 5019.64, and it states that the state parks
7 are large tracts set aside statewide as cultural,
8 geologic, ecological -- you know, flora and fauna --
9 examples of these things that need to be preserved, and
10 that the only changes to the above should be to, quote,
11 minimal extent, unquote, to nullify, quote, the serious,
12 deleterious effects of man.

13 We already have the law. Let's uphold it.

14 About my -- the previous speaker who's had
15 difficulties with dairy operations: I come from the
16 Twin Cities, and about 15 years ago the -- was a big
17 power -- mega power plant line that crossed Stearns
18 County to bring electricity to Hennepin County in
19 which is --

20 ALJ WEISSMAN: Please wrap up. Okay?

21 MS. CARLSON: Okay.

22 -- in which is Minneapolis, and there were
23 many abortions there, both in cows and in women, and
24 eventually the link was stopped.

25 Thank you.

26 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

27 Karen Prescott.

28 Good to see you again.

1 (Laughter)

2 STATEMENT OF MS. PRESCOTT

3 MS. PRESCOTT: President, Commissioners, thank you
4 for this opportunity.

5 I'm here to represent today NECA, the National
6 Electrical Contractors Association.

7 As soon as there was a lightbulb, there was an
8 association, and we were it.

9 We are the oldest association since 1901.

10 We are here locally at the San Diego Chapter,
11 and we work and live here in San Diego.

12 It is our responsibility as an association to
13 participate and investigate all possible solutions in
14 the relation and use of electricity as electricity and
15 energy is our very business.

16 We invest heavily in this research through
17 a foundation that relies on the best science offered,
18 and we are fighting the clock.

19 We know that if we, as a nation and here
20 locally in San Diego, continue on a path where we do not
21 prepare for the future with regards to renewable energy,
22 we're effectively going back to the Dark Ages.

23 This Powerlink, which we are in support of,
24 will provide access in the future to clean, renewable
25 energy.

26 It is irresponsible not to support this
27 opportunity and access the many different types of
28 renewable energy available to us.

1 We ask that you continue to keep the lights
2 on.

3 Thank you.

4 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

5 Robert Baran.

6 And would those with Nos. 31 through 40 begin
7 the process of lining up.

8 STATEMENT OF MR. BARAN

9 MR. BARAN: Hi.

10 Welcome, Commission.

11 Thanks for coming out to Borrego Springs
12 today.

13 I also want to thank all the people that took
14 the time off work today, like myself, to drive all the
15 way out here. I mean, it took me two hours to get out.
16 It really shows that a lot of people really have a lot
17 involved in this issue.

18 I live in Encinitas, so I'm pretty far from
19 any of the proposed routes of the power line, but I go
20 to Anza-Borrego Desert a lot, and originally I was
21 against it for that reason.

22 Now I'm basically against it because I really
23 resent SDG&E's greenwashing of this whole thing.

24 MR. REYES: Right.

25 MR. BARAN: Pretty much the only thing green about
26 this project would be those t-shirts that these guys are
27 wearing.

28 (Laughter)

1 Mr. BARAN: I mean --

2 (Applause)

3 MR. BARAN: -- I just was -- we're just being
4 pretty much blinded by their media hype, and they're
5 bringing a lot of money in to make sure we do -- that we
6 are blinded by it.

7 I feel to scar the San Diego backcountry for
8 profit is not needed, is -- is wrong on so many levels.

9 And to ask the residents of east County of
10 San Diego to bear the brunt of this, to feed power to
11 Los Angeles and San Diego -- I think it's just wrong.

12 So I would recommend that the CPUC follows one
13 of the local-generation options on the DEIR.

14 Thank you.

15 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 ALJ WEISSMAN: Jan Jensen.

18 Michael Pinto.

19 STATEMENT OF MS. JENSEN

20 MS. JENSEN: Hi.

21 Thank you for my interpreter so I understand
22 everything that's being said because I'm deaf, and
23 really wonderful fossil-fuel-free energy for my inter-
24 preters.

25 I'm here from -- first I just want to say that
26 almost everyone that I have heard so far that supports
27 the proposal -- Sunrise proposal are business who would
28 benefit from the project.

1 Everyone else -- individuals, families, I'm a
2 retired teacher, I went back to college, have another
3 degree, now I'm a social worker working part-time -- for
4 me, the most important thing right at this moment --
5 everything's been said about all the technology, the
6 research. I don't need to go into that.

7 But what's important to me is that this land
8 was here before there were human beings on this planet.
9 This is the precious land, and to -- to even imagine
10 having power lines all across the whole desert -- this
11 beautiful desert -- I come up over the mountains, come
12 on down the road -- this beautiful country that's so
13 natural, and we want to destroy it for money? For
14 profit?

15 That's sad.

16 I really -- you've got animals here that have
17 been hear for generations, wildlife. We have -- I come
18 here and visit. I come in the springtime. My God, it's
19 beautiful.

20 Why do we want to destroy that for money and
21 profit?

22 I really strongly feel I don't support this
23 project, and I really, really strongly feel that it will
24 be in violation of the earth and nature.

25 (Applause)

26 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

27 Michael Pinto.

28 STATEMENT OF MR. PINTO

1 MR. PINTO: Your Honor, Commissioners, thank you
2 for come coming down here to hear what we have to say.

3 Ronald Reagan was justly proud of our
4 wonderful state park system, yet today we stand at the
5 doorway to our precious Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
6 pleading with you to save it.

7 My name is Michael Pinto, and along with Denis
8 Trafecanty I am the founder of the Protect Our
9 Communities Fund.

10 I want to be clear: San Diego Gas &
11 Electric's proposed Sunrise Powerlink is not about
12 San Diego's future, it is not about green energy, and it
13 is certainly not about jobs and the future growth of
14 San Diego.

15 San Diego Gas & Electric has spent untold
16 amounts of money trying to convince the public that this
17 massive power line is needed, but each of their
18 arguments proves to be a cloud that evaporates in the
19 light of day when the facts are revealed.

20 First, San Diego Gas & Electric claimed the
21 Powerlink was needed for energy security until their own
22 engineers stated publicly that it would be a bad day if
23 terrorists destroyed the starting point of the proposed
24 line as well as the existing one, both of which begin in
25 the same place.

26 Then they claimed that the line was to bring
27 green energy to our County until it was revealed that
28 the Stirling Energy Systems consisted of a few flawed

1 machines that were not commercially proven.

2 In fact, Southern California Edison, as you
3 well know, has quietly shelved their commitment to
4 Stirling and instead chosen a 450-megawatt PV system at
5 one half the cost of the unproven Stirling units,
6 without even taking into consideration the cost of the
7 Sunrise Powerlink.

8 San Diego Gas & Electric has touted the theme
9 "Keep the lights on in San Diego with the Sunrise Power-
10 link," but, as their close public statement several
11 years ago pointed out, and as the reading their written
12 submissions reveal, this project is not about
13 San Diego's needs; rather, this monumentally expensive
14 and unnecessary project is about growing Sempra's
15 opportunity to sell power generated in Mexico with their
16 gas-fired generators and sending it north beyond
17 San Diego.

18 ALJ WEISSMAN: I have to ask you to wrap up,
19 please.

20 MR. PINTO: As a governmental body working hard
21 for the future of our beautiful state, I implore you to
22 look to our shining future and say no to SDG&E and
23 Sempra Energy.

24 There are far better solutions to our County's
25 needs than the misnamed Sunrise Powerlink.

26 We look to you to lead the way.

27 Thank you.

28 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

1 (Applause)

2 ALJ WEISSMAN: Bill Clevenger.

3 STATEMENT OF MR. CLEVINGER

4 Mr. CLEVINGER: Good afternoon, and thank you.

5 My name is Bill Clevenger. I'm an engineering
6 geologist, and I'm representing the Board of -- I'm on
7 the Board of Director of the South County Economic
8 Development Council of -- based in Chula Vista.

9 South County EDC Board of Directors voted back
10 in April -- April 4th of 2006 to support the Sunrise
11 Powerlink project.

12 The Board believes that the line will deliver
13 renewable and reliable electrical power that is
14 critically important for maintaining our economic
15 competitiveness.

16 My experience as an engineering geologist has
17 been directed towards supporting the infrastructure
18 improvements in the areas of energy, water, and
19 transportation.

20 Our growing region is very dependent upon our
21 ability to make sure that adequate power is always
22 available.

23 In my view we need to consider all sources of
24 energy.

25 Considering that we have the prospect here of
26 a clean and sustainable resource that is economically
27 viable, I urge you to approve the Sunrise Powerlink
28 project.

1 Thank you.

2 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

3 Dirk Wray; is that correct?

4 MR. WRAY: Yes.

5 ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay.

6 MR. WRAY: Here is, um --

7 THE REPORTER: Thank you.

8 MR. WRAY: Thank you.

9 STATEMENT OF MR. WRAY

10 MR. WRAY: Hi.

11 My name is Dirk Wray.

12 I appreciate you giving me a few minutes to
13 speak.

14 I am an entrepreneur. I've lived in San Diego
15 County now for the last five years, prior to that in
16 Orange County.

17 I have a very unique experience in the fact
18 that I have spent over 25 years abroad. I have met with
19 many national leaders from all over the world. It is
20 very clear to them, and it should be clear to us, that
21 we not only need the Powerlink and all alternative
22 energy on rooftops, we need solar farms in Imperial
23 County, one of the United States' richest location to
24 generate power in order to weed our dependence on
25 foreign oil.

26 And I would encourage you and ask for your
27 support in passing the Powerlink North project.

28 Thank you.

1 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

2 Micah Mitrosky.

3 STATEMENT OF MS. MITROSKY

4 MS. MITROSKY: Hi.

5 My name is Micah Mitrosky.

6 I wanted to thank the Commissioners for being
7 here today, giving the community such a tremendous
8 opportunity. I know it's very rare for you to do this,
9 and we are very appreciative.

10 I'm actually here today on behalf of 427
11 people who couldn't make it, but they are here in
12 spirit, and they've sent their comments along to you
13 which are coming down through the aisle, here.

14 They're concerned for many reasons about this
15 project -- fire, global warming, impacts to open spaces
16 and local communities -- but mainly they know we have
17 smarter 21st Century energy alternatives than this
18 damaging proposal, and they wrote today to respectfully
19 urge you to vote no on the Sunrise Powerlink.

20 We do have better, more environmentally
21 responsible ways to power our region as your Draft
22 Environmental Impact Report found.

23 We don't need this line.

24 This banner will be on display this afternoon
25 in the lobby, and we've also -- I have a few cards that
26 represent a cross section of our community members that
27 I'd like to give to the Commissioners, if that's okay.

28 (Documents distributed)

1 (Applause)

2 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

3 Jared Steinberg.

4 STATEMENT OF MR. STEINBERG

5 MR. STEINBERG: Good afternoon.

6 My name is Jared Steinberg, and I'm a
7 developer with Westfield.

8 MR. REYES: Of course.

9 MR. STEINBERG: As you may know, Westfield is
10 a global real estate developer, owner and manager of
11 regional shopping centers.

12 In the United States we own and operate more
13 than 60 malls.

14 In San Diego we own and operate seven regional
15 centers where more than 15,000 employees earn a paycheck
16 and more than 40 million visitors frequent each year.

17 As you might suspect, Westfield requires
18 a fair amount of electricity. In fact, a large volume
19 of energy required by our centers is one reason that
20 Westfield is moving in the direction of becoming a
21 greener company.

22 Last year we unveiled the details of our
23 proposed \$900 million revitalization of the UTC Shopping
24 Center.

25 At the heart of this proposal is a green
26 facility. This includes using sustainable materials and
27 designs, the use of reclaimed water and solar power, and
28 being more energy efficient.

1 The United States signed the UNESCO statutory
2 agreement in which the U.S. agrees to manage its
3 biosphere reserves in accordance with UNESCO'S Man and
4 Biosphere Agenda 21.

5 In 1992 the 102 Congressional section --
6 Session, House Resolution 353 was passed which states
7 the federal, state, and local governments should comply
8 with Agenda 21.

9 In 1973 the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park was
10 designated as a National Natural Landmark.

11 From Governor Schwarzenegger's webpage, Press
12 Release 4392: On October 10th, 2006, at the dedication
13 of the Irvine Ranch National Natural Landmark, the
14 Governor said, quote: We must protect our environment
15 so our children and grandchildren can enjoy the great
16 land that we have inherited. You know when I campaigned
17 for Governor I vowed to make the environment a
18 centerpiece of my administration, and it means to me
19 more than just being a caretaker, it means leaving the
20 state a better place than the way we found, and it also
21 means setting aside some of the most beautiful parts of
22 our state to ensure that our natural treasures are never
23 disturbed or degraded. Unquote.

24 Achieving renewable-energy goal by destroying
25 one part of the environment to protect another part of
26 the environment does not serve public convenience or
27 necessity.

28 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

1 (Applause)

2 ALJ WEISSMAN: Pat McArron.

3 STATEMENT OF MR. MC ARRON

4 MR. MC ARRON: Thank you for being here.

5 This is not a NIMBY issue, Not In My Backyard.
6 Anza-Borrego Desert is not anyone's backyard in any
7 sense of the word to be treated merely as a means to an
8 end.

9 The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is the
10 largest desert state park in America, the largest of all
11 the state parks in California, and the second largest of
12 all state parks in America.

13 As part of the Mojave and Colorado Desert
14 World Preserve, Anza-Borrego is internationally
15 recognized for its unique natural, historical, and
16 anthropological contributions to the world.

17 There exists on this planet no other place
18 like the Anza-Borrego Desert.

19 Aside from the irreparable damage that would
20 be caused by a high-voltage power line through the
21 Anza-Borrego Desert, many of us are not convinced there
22 is even a need for such a power line at all.

23 As a people, we have barely begun to address
24 the most basic of energy challenges: waste.

25 Only -- one -- one only has to look as far as
26 our urban centers to see how much electricity is being
27 wasted daily. The amount of wasted electricity is
28 phenomenal.

1 The very building we are in right now should
2 be powered by solar panels on the roof.

3 There are too many examples of waste to be
4 enumerated here.

5 Suffice it to say that a power line through a
6 pristine world heritage will not solve that problem.

7 No public utility should ever place the
8 welfare of its stockholders above the welfare of the
9 public.

10 In this case the public is informed, and we
11 are very aware of the facts and fiction of this case
12 before the Commission.

13 Beyond all the hype, the bottom line is that
14 there are better ways to achieve the same goal of
15 efficient generation and use of electricity.

16 As a Commission charged with the duty to
17 oversee public utilities in the best interest of the
18 public good, I urge you to heed the environmental report
19 and deny SDG&E's request.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause)

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

23 Katherine Siva Sauvel.

24 MS. SAUVEL: I'll be taking all my time to get
25 over there.

26 (Laughter)

27 STATEMENT OF MS. SAUVEL

28 MS. SAUVEL: (Speaking in native language)

1 I am telling you that it seems like you should
2 leave something for us, the natives, that live here.

3 My people live right across here.

4 I was born right here by the mountain.

5 And I said I wanted to leave it just the way
6 it is.

7 This is a very sensitive area.

8 There's two tribes met here and lived in this
9 area, and we're still here.

10 We're not gone, so we want to have it
11 preserved for everybody. That was put aside here for
12 everybody to enjoy this.

13 We don't -- we won't have it anymore if you --
14 if you destroy it now.

15 Just forget what you're doing to it, this
16 land.

17 (Speaking in native language)

18 To our brother the sun, use the brother,
19 our -- the sun. He will do it.

20 MR. REYES: That's right.

21 MS. SAUVEL: That's what I say.

22 (Speaking in native language)

23 Thank you.

24 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

25 (Applause)

26 ALJ WEISSMAN: Pat Flanagan.

27 STATEMENT OF MS. FLANAGAN

28 MS. FLANAGAN: Thank you for taking the time to

1 listen today.

2 It is widely accepted that because there is
3 nothing out here, the desert is a good place for human
4 infrastructure.

5 In fact, the desert is natural infrastructure.

6 The desert is neither inert nor lifeless. It
7 is not predictable.

8 To successfully plan and achieve a reliable
9 green energy future, the desert's most destructive
10 elements must be taken into consideration.

11 I'm a biologist and have been a full- and
12 part-time resident of the Earthquake Valley for 28
13 years.

14 This valley, in the Elsinore fault zone, is
15 west of the San Felipe fault which forms Grapevine
16 Canyon.

17 The complex topography in this region is
18 connected to the unpredictable movement along the
19 San Andreas fault.

20 As you can see, on the 2003 map the earthquake
21 shaking potential for California (indicating), the
22 proposed Sunrise Powerlink passes through an area with
23 the highest predicted earthquake hazard potential.

24 Transmitting energy across the seismically
25 slippery edge of our continent can only be fraught with
26 unintended consequences.

27 The proposed Sunrise Powerlink crosses through
28 high-fire-hazard zones, as we have already heard today.

1 Transmitting energy through a region characterized by
2 dense, highly-flammable vegetation is also fraught with
3 unintended consequences.

4 Floods are a threat.

5 The power line follows Highway 78 west before
6 veering north up the Grapevine Canyon drainage.

7 The 1983 El Nino brought floods that washed
8 out the roads and scoured the canyons surrounding the
9 state park, including Grapevine Canyon and portions of
10 Highway 78.

11 Climate scientists are predicting that in the
12 coming years the desert can expect a hotter, drier
13 climate punctuated by more severe storm events.

14 Transmitting energy through a region
15 characterized by severe storm events and catastrophic
16 flooding is also fraught with unintended consequences.

17 The risk of earthquake, fire, and flood are
18 guaranteed.

19 Transmission recovery from these hazards would
20 be costly and slow.

21 I encourage a wise, long-range planning that
22 does not rest on nature's roll of the dice.

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

24 Diana Lindsay.

25 STATEMENT OF MS. LINDSAY

26 MS. LINDSAY: Hi.

27 I am Diana Lindsay.

28 I'm a business owner, one of the top 20

1 business -- women-owned businesses in San Diego County.

2 I'm also the author of the Anza-Borrego Desert
3 Guidebook, a guide for hikers and off-roaders.

4 I'm here today representing the off-road
5 community, specifically ORBA, Off-Road Business
6 Organization.

7 Meg Grossglass, who is the land-use and media-
8 relations person, was unable to attend.

9 And I have a letter that you have in your
10 hands, there, expressing her opinion on the Sunrise
11 Powerlink.

12 First of all, this organization is one that
13 does have the ear of the Governor and his staff and is a
14 regular visitor to the Sacramento area.

15 They rep- -- the Off-Road Business Association
16 is a national nonprofit trade association representing
17 all aspects of the motorized recreation industry, from
18 manufacturing to after-market supplies, distributors,
19 local retailers, including many in the San Diego area.

20 They would like me to express that the
21 organization is strongly opposed to Sunrise Powerlink
22 transmission line going through Anza-Borrego Desert
23 State Park.

24 She writes: We believe that the south --
25 the -- the -- the Sunrise Powerlink transmission line,
26 if allowed to be located in Anza-Borrego Desert State
27 Park, would blight the visual beauty of the park and
28 degrade the wilderness value that draws so many people

1 to the park. It is also not consistent with the mission
2 of California State Parks which is noted below, to
3 provide for the health, inspiration, and education of
4 the people of California by helping to preserve the
5 State's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting
6 its most valued natural and cultural resources, and
7 creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor
8 recreation.

9 We request that the mission of state parks be
10 respected and that Sunrise Powerlink transmission line
11 not be located within the Anza-Borrego Desert State
12 Park.

13 Thank you for this opportunity.

14 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

15 And then the last speaker before we'll take a
16 short break is Myrna Wosk.

17 STATEMENT OF MS. WOSK

18 ALJ WEISSMAN: Good afternoon.

19 I'm really glad you're here.

20 And just for something different, let's
21 imagine that each one of you is a CEO of a really big
22 corporation, say, pharmaceuticals.

23 And some of your advisors had been talking up
24 a new project called Razzmatazz, and that's going to
25 leave Viagra in the dust. It's just in the conceptual
26 stage.

27 So you tell your advisors to go get a group of
28 scientists together and study it and to look at pros and

1 cons, and after days and weeks and months and two whole
2 years, actually, of rigorous and exhaustive research,
3 the scientists have finally come to a conclusion the
4 negative effect of Razzmatazz far outweighed the
5 benefits.

6 More importantly, they find that there are
7 alternatives which achieve the same effect and are
8 better for the health of your customers.

9 One problem: these alternatives won't make as
10 much money for your company.

11 So the scientists report their findings to
12 your advisors.

13 Well, the advisors just don't want to hear
14 this. They know that Razzmatazz can bring in pots of
15 money, so what do they do? They tell you, the CEO, who
16 is responsible for the entire corporation, that, well,
17 those scientists -- they -- they must have been smoking
18 something. We don't need to listen to them. We think
19 you should go full-steam ahead with the Razzmatazz.

20 So, CEO, what are you going to do?

21 Are you going to use the intelligence and the
22 wisdom that God gave you and support the scientists who
23 have thoroughly studied Razzmatazz and have concluded
24 that it's really wrong, or are you just going to succumb
25 to that bottom line mentality and good old Razzmatazz?

26 Thank you.

27 (Applause and cheers)

28 ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. Okay. We are going to

1 take a break for 10 minutes, and I'll -- I'm gong to ask
2 you to get back in a timely manner because we'll try to
3 get starred as close to 10 minutes later as we can.

4 And do remember, please, that we're going to
5 have to try to keep things very quiet going forward if
6 we are going to get the rest of the speakers in in time.

7 So we'll be in recess for 10 minutes.

8 (Recess taken)

9 ALJ WEISSMAN: Back on the record.

10 Tim Kelley.

11 STATEMENT OF MR. KELLEY

12 MR. KELLEY: Thank you, Commissioners.

13 Timothy Kelley, President and CEO of the
14 Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation, and I
15 just wanted to read to you our energy policy statement.

16 In furtherance of the objectives identified in
17 the Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation
18 Strategic Plan, the organization will seek to attract,
19 promote, and facilitate the development and expansion of
20 renewable alternative and other environmentally
21 responsible energy industries within the Imperial
22 County.

23 IDEVC will work toward full implementation of
24 the business-cluster concept as identified by the
25 Strategic Plan to promote the attraction of ancillary
26 businesses for renewable projects.

27 And I'll leave this with you.

28 I also wanted to present a 128-page document,

1 a feasibility study of the potential renewable energy in
2 Imperial County.

3 We currently are working with approximately 36
4 companies that are actively pursuing purchased-power
5 agreements and actively going through the process of
6 entitling property for the purpose of renewable energy.

7 The Imperial Valley Economic Development
8 Corporation along with our partners are looking at
9 alternative sites for renewable energy, and the one
10 thing identified in their Renewable Energy Strategic
11 Plan is need for transmission, whether that's east,
12 west, north, or south, and so we're working with not
13 only San Diego but with other areas for the potential of
14 transmitting renewable energy.

15 For those of you who do not believe that there
16 is renewable energy in the Imperial County, we actively
17 have today over 500 megawatts.

18 We have approximately two geothermal plants
19 that are being built, and we have many more being
20 planned for the future as well as solar and biomass and
21 others.

22 Thank you.

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

24 Carmen Sandoval.

25 STATEMENT OF MS. SANDOVAL

26 MS. SANDOVAL: My name is Carmen Sandoval, and I
27 am a resident of Chula Vista.

28 I am very glad to be here today and speak in

1 support of the power -- Sunrise Powerlink.

2 Living and working and being successful today
3 involves making lots of difficult choices, and you have
4 a big one before you today.

5 I don't believe there is one perfect choice
6 for making sure that our region has the energy that we
7 need, but the Sunrise Powerlink is -- makes a lot of
8 sense to me.

9 It would be great if we could put a million
10 solar panels on all our roofs. I wish I could afford to
11 have one on my house. It's not there yet. I need to
12 save for a couple of more years, I guess.

13 I don't think it needs to be an either-or
14 proposition, and I seriously urge you to approve the
15 Sunrise Powerlink and continue -- and also continue to
16 encourage the utilities to advance other methods to
17 increase the use of renewable energy.

18 Thank you.

19 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

20 Angelika Villagrana.

21 And I'll ask Brian Brady to be ready to go
22 after that, please.

23 STATEMENT OF MS. VILLAGRANA

24 MS. VILLAGRANA: Your Honor, Commissioners, my
25 name is Angelika Villagrana, and I represent the
26 San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, its 3,000
27 members and their 400,000 employees, and I'm here on
28 behalf of the Chamber in support of the Powerlink.

1 Using more green power is important to our
2 members, our community, and our economy.

3 Sunrise will give us access to new supplies of
4 clean, renewable energy like solar, wind, and geothermal
5 being developed in eastern San Diego and the Imperial
6 Valley, as we just heard from Tim, and help us keep the
7 lights on in an environmentally friendly way.

8 It is in all of our interests to ensure that
9 we have the necessary energy now and in the future to
10 keep our economy and quality of life on track.

11 The Sunrise Powerlink will -- presents an
12 important piece in our quest make our electricity grid
13 more reliable, and therefore the San Diego Regional
14 Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the link, and we
15 hope and urge you to support it.

16 Thank you.

17 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

18 Brian Brady next, please.

19 STATEMENT OF MR. BRADY

20 MR. BRADY: Your Honor, Mr. President, and
21 members, I am Brian Brady.

22 I am the General Manager of the Imperial
23 Irrigation District, and I'm here today to speak in
24 favor of the transmitting renewable energy from the
25 Imperial Valley to San Diego, but in the most
26 expeditious and economical way possible, and that is by
27 following the Southern Route for the construction of the
28 Sunrise Powerlink.

1 As you know, the Southern Route is a third
2 shorter than the Northern Route favored by San Diego Gas
3 & Electric, it is less expensive to build, and would
4 create fewer environmental impacts in the Imperial
5 Valley.

6 These aren't just my conclusions but the
7 conclusions reached in the Commission's own Draft
8 Environmental Report which found the Southern Route
9 preferred by IID to be vastly superior to San Diego's
10 Northern Route.

11 IID has always been for the construction of
12 this transmission line, which we regard as vital to
13 fulfilling the region's untapped promise as a major
14 renewable-energy hub for the future, but only the
15 Southern Route makes the vision of the future viable for
16 the District and its ratepayers.

17 If the goal of this project is to deliver the
18 greatest public good while causing the least
19 environmental harm, I believe there's only one option
20 that meets both tests, and again that's the Southern
21 Route; and IID respectfully requests that it be the
22 route chosen by this Commission for the construction of
23 the Sunrise Powerlink.

24 Thank you.

25 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

26 (Applause)

27 ALJ WEISSMAN: Larry Johnson.

28 STATEMENT OF MR. JOHNSON

1 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, and good afternoon.

2 I'm Larry Johnson from Campo.

3 I just have a couple of really quick points.

4 The CPUC in their Draft EIR arrived at a very
5 good number-one choice for the proposed SDG&E project,
6 and that is the new In-Area All-Source Generation
7 Alternative. That means no Northern Route and no
8 Southern Route and no 150-mile string of towers.

9 Also, point number two: the Bill Powers'
10 San Diego Smart Energy 2020 Plan meshes nicely with the
11 DEIR No. 1 choice.

12 Point number three: they both support the
13 State's Million Solar Roofs Initiative, SB1.

14 Point number four: it is obvious from all the
15 bills that the California State Legislature is urging
16 the public and businesses to adopt more and better
17 clean, renewable-energy products and to conserve more.

18 Point number five: the San Diego Area of
19 Governments, SANDAG, has a very impressive Regional
20 Energy Strategy 2030 Plan, but they chose to ignore it
21 in their April 11th, 2008, meeting and vote.

22 Point number six: the City of Cambridge,
23 Mass., has several supporting organi- -- and several
24 supporting organizations have formed a nonprofit
25 organization called the Cambridge Energy Alliance. It
26 is a very impressive joint effort to increase
27 efficiency, renewable energy in the area. It has the
28 support of their electric-power provider. It could be

1 an example for our area.

2 Point number seven: Assembly Bill 1920 needs
3 to become law and allow individuals or small businesses
4 to generate more power than they use and sell it to the
5 utility at a fair price.

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: I have to ask you to wrap up,
7 please.

8 MR. BRADY: Okay.

9 It would give a large boost to renewable power
10 locally.

11 Help us and SDG&E step into the future with
12 your number one DEIR choice and plans like the San Diego
13 Smart Energy 2020. Help SDG&E see the light.

14 Thank you.

15 (Laughter and applause)

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: Lisa Cohen.

17 STATEMENT OF MS. COHEN

18 MS. COHEN: Good afternoon, your Honor and
19 Commissioners and President.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

21 My name is Lisa Cohen.

22 I'm the CEO of Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce
23 and a member of Community Alliance for the Sunrise
24 Powerlink.

25 I also represent over 1,000 local businesses
26 in Chula Vista.

27 Chula Vista is the second largest city in
28 San Diego County with a population of 230,000 and

1 growing.

2 I would like to briefly address two very
3 important issues.

4 The first is the future of Chula Vista's
5 bayfront.

6 The second is ensuring that the region has
7 enough reliable and renewable energy to meet the growing
8 need.

9 The two issues are -- are directly connected.

10 The Sunrise Powerlink will provide reliable
11 renewable energy from the sun, wind, geothermal sources
12 located in Imperial Valley.

13 There have been many proposals over the years
14 to redevelop Chula Vista's bayfront.

15 The South Bay Power Plant stands in the way of
16 public access to the coast, economic development, and a
17 better quality of life for Chula Vistans. It creates a
18 blight visible for miles that negatively impacts
19 redevelopment opportunities in our city.

20 If the Sunrise Powerlink is ultimately
21 approved later this summer by the California Public
22 Utilities Commission, that would be a critical step in
23 the process towards tearing down the South Bay Power
24 Plant which is old and polluting.

25 Last month I had the honor of standing with
26 four prominent south County elected officials at Marina
27 View Park in Chula Vista. We had joined together for a
28 news conference to call on SANDAG and the California PUC

1 to support and approve the Sunrise Powerlink.

2 It is my pleasure to be standing here today
3 carrying forth that message.

4 We are faced with an important choice to keep
5 the lights on.

6 We can continue to take the easy road and only
7 build power plants, or we can start importing more green
8 power with Sunrise Powerlink.

9 Clearly, the south County strongly supports
10 the Sunrise Powerlink, and we urge the California PUC to
11 do the same.

12 Thank you.

13 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

14 Robert Clark.

15 STATEMENT OF MR. CLARK

16 MR. CLARK: Thank you, Commissioners.

17 I'm Robert Clark, a winter resident of Borrego
18 Springs.

19 I was under the impression that the Commission
20 had come all this way to hear local opinions, but when I
21 arrived here I noticed a whole busload of what they call
22 in Hollywood "the suits."

23 (Laughter)

24 MR. CLARK: We have heard pretty consistently from
25 the suits.

26 Quite recently the Dean of Yale University's
27 School of Forestry and Environmental Studies expressed
28 some pessimism as to whether a habitable and survivable

1 future could exist in coexistence with capitalism, and
2 perhaps he's well-justified in that pessimism if this is
3 what we're going to do.

4 But I think there is hope; nevertheless,
5 things are changing: times are really changing, opinion
6 is changing, even political opinion is changing.

7 I think that when we heard George W. Bush
8 talking about greenhouse gasses, I think we know the
9 times are changing.

10 (Laughter)

11 MR. CLARK: Fifty years ago Aldo Leopold developed
12 what we called -- what he called a Land Ethic involving
13 a sense of responsibility to -- to the land, not neces-
14 sarily based on corporate convenience as the top
15 priority. And he meant not just sunny parkland but all
16 land -- suburban, pastoral land, and otherwise.

17 We feel that the -- we are opposed to this
18 destructive proposal, and not -- and not only we or I,
19 but (indicating) those who are -- furthermore, others
20 who have been unable to attend here. I present 451 more
21 opposing petitions to the proposal.

22 Thank you.

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

24 Jack Terrazas.

25 STATEMENT OF MR. TERRAZAS

26 MR. TERRAZAS: Good afternoon.

27 My name is Jack Terrazas, and I am a lifelong
28 resident of the Imperial County and former elected

1 official.

2 Imperial County can become a major renewable-
3 energy player in the world.

4 The potential for renewable energy production
5 is there, whether it's geothermal, solar, or wind.

6 Imperial County has the lowest per capita
7 income and the highest unemployment rate in the State of
8 California.

9 Renewable-energy production will help counter-
10 act some of those statistics so we will be well received
11 in Imperial County.

12 Additionally, we can help with meeting your
13 state environmental mandates to use renewable energy.

14 The dilemma is transmission.

15 The Sunrise Powerlink will deliver 1,000
16 megawatts of renewable energy to coastal cities, neither
17 do any of these projects that have -- that have already
18 been approved by your Commission.

19 In addition, I would like to express my dismay
20 in the CPUC in the Environmentally Superior Alternative
21 identified in the Draft EIR, the alternative that
22 recommends building five new fossil-fuel-burning power
23 plants in the coast.

24 The whole Western United States is in a
25 virtual tug-of-war over our most valuable resource,
26 water; and your recommendation is to build five fossil-
27 fueled-burning plants.

28 These plants can require up to 2-1/2 million

1 gallons of water each and every day.

2 I say that that type of water use is wrong.

3 The Imperial County is presently fallowing
4 land in order to transfer water to the coastal regions.

5 The pressures of water transfer will continue,
6 and more and more land will go fallowed instead of
7 producing valuable crops.

8 That land will eventually go back to desert
9 dust.

10 Ladies and gentlemen, that's wrong.

11 It's simply irresponsible to suggest that it
12 is environmentally superior to burn more fossil fuels
13 when we have a vast amount of solar, wind, and
14 geothermal resources available.

15 The decision is yours, and as representatives
16 for the whole State of California, please do the right
17 thing and approve the Sunrise Powerlink. Our clean
18 energy depends and our future depends on it.

19 Thank you for your time.

20 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

21 Larry Hogue.

22 STATEMENT OF MR. HOGUE

23 MR. HOGUE: Thank you.

24 A few years ago I wrote a book about
25 Anza-Borrego, but today I don't want to talk about
26 Anza-Borrego at all.

27 I do want to say that I am opposed to the
28 Sunrise Powerlink no matter which route it goes.

1 This is not about parks and scenery versus
2 renewable energy; it is about an old-style, centralized,
3 corporate-controlled energy system versus a future of
4 decentralized community-based systems that are more
5 reliable, more efficient, and really fight global
6 warming.

7 And I'd like to quote from a book called *Deep*
8 *Economy* by Bill McKibben.

9 As the journalist who probably did the most to
10 warn us about global warming, he is someone we should
11 listen to.

12 And he says: Imagine all the south-facing
13 routes in your suburb sporting solar panels. Imagine a
14 building code that requires all new construction to come
15 with solar roof tiles and solar shutters. Imagine
16 windmills scattered around town in the gustier spots and
17 heat pumps for extracting energy from the earth.
18 Imagine all these pieces linked in a local grid,
19 supplemented with small-scale fuel-burning power plants
20 that produce not just electricity but heat that can be
21 pumped back out to local buildings.

22 He goes on to liken this system to the
23 Internet. It's a distributed system; it's very
24 powerful. And it also sounds a lot like San Diego Smart
25 Energy 2020 Plan, which I encourage you to consider more
26 fully.

27 My time's up.

28 Thank you.

1 ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 ALJ WEISSMAN: Denise Morse.

4 And would those with Nos. 51 through 60 please
5 start making your way up.

6 STATEMENT OF MS. MORSE

7 MS. MORSE: Hello.

8 My name is Denise Morse, and I'm on the Campo
9 Lake Marina Planning Group, been here before.

10 I am also representing the Community Planning
11 and Sponsor Group Alliance.

12 The Alliance represent the Descanso, Pine
13 Valley, Boulevard, Campo Lake Marina, and Potrero.

14 These five elected planning groups represent
15 about 10,000 residents along the Mexican border.

16 We are home to the Southwest Powerlink.

17 I can say unequivocally that we will not be
18 gracious host to another mass of transmission line
19 called the Modified Route D Alternative.

20 We are united with the folks on the proposed
21 Northern Route, with our mission being to promote
22 distributed generation.

23 Our Governor was a guest the on Jay Leno Show
24 on April 24th wearing his green tie and touting his
25 support of transmitting renewable energy from the desert
26 to San Diego and Los Angeles.

27 He targeted environmentalists as a major
28 obstacle for this green project.

1 He described the situation as being about the
2 squirrel that used to live in this habitat.
3 Environmentalists wanted to save this habitat in case
4 the squirrel returned.

5 There was a smattering of polite laughter.

6 This green energy does not mean destroying 150
7 miles of human and wildlife habitat to you support sun
8 energy all the way from the desert.

9 Really, Governor, how green is that?

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

13 George Barnett.

14 STATEMENT OF MR. BARNETT

15 MR. BARNETT: Your Honor, and honorable
16 Commissioners, I'm George Barnett. I live in Alpine.

17 I am here today on behalf of the Back Country
18 Land Trust. We're a land-trust conservation organiza-
19 tion working with the County of San Diego, The Nature
20 Conservancy, the Conservation Biological Institute, and
21 many others.

22 We're in a process of identifying high-impact
23 environmental properties along the southern border, and
24 the area's called Las Californias.

25 Alternate Route D runs through that area.
26 It's an area of some major groundwater resources, a
27 wonderful land.

28 In fact, there's two tracts of property of 800

1 acres currently being -- in the process of being donated
2 by us to public ownership, of which the Southern D Route
3 crosses.

4 And when we think of that, we have to also
5 think about the 200-foot right-of-way that's going to
6 have to be maintained and the dozens and dozens of
7 cable-pulling stations and cable-maintenance areas, and
8 substations.

9 I think it's inevitable that any transmission
10 line, almost anywhere in this backcountry, is going to
11 create inevitable damage to the environment.

12 On a personal level, I would hope that the
13 Commission could look at new ways and new paradigms of
14 regulating and directing monopoly utilities, such as
15 SDG&E and others, and provide some sort of incentive
16 that directs them away from the conventional large,
17 single power plant and transmission lines into a --
18 really a distributed fab- -- a distributed fabric that
19 could represent, for example, putting things on our
20 hometops, our roofs and our garages, and things on
21 public buildings.

22 So I'm hoping that you could look at that as
23 well, that the \$1-1/2 billion could be directed at
24 helping us help by putting facilities on our private
25 property.

26 Thank you very much.

27 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

28 John Popp.

1 My name is Chris Cate, and I'm here
2 representing the San Diego County Taxpayers Association
3 which has officially endorsed the Sunrise Powerlink.

4 A VOICE: Boo.

5 MR. CATE: The Sunrise Powerlink represents a
6 critical investment in the infrastructure of our region.

7 As you know, the demand for energy in
8 San Diego continues to grow as our -- as does our
9 emphasis on developing sustainable and environmentally
10 friendly sources of power.

11 The Sunrise project will do both and lessen
12 our dependence on fossil fuels.

13 The project will also strengthen California's
14 power grid and, in turn, save ratepayers money by
15 closing down aging facilities that are only in service
16 to meet potentially high volumes of demand.

17 Our energy future depends on access to
18 reliable renewable power.

19 Electricity is something every San Diegan
20 needs on daily basis, and we urge the PUC to approve the
21 Sunrise Powerlink.

22 Thank you.

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr, Cate.

24 Michael Babawol.

25 STATEMENT OF Mr BABAWOL

26 MR. BABAWOL: Good afternoon.

27 My name is Michael Babawol. I'm the Director
28 of Government Affairs with the Carlsbad Chamber of

1 Commerce.

2 With more than 1700 business members employing
3 over 75,000 employees, the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
4 is the private -- the largest privately funded Chamber
5 of Commerce in the State of California, the second
6 largest in San Diego County, and the tenth largest in
7 the state.

8 You are probably wondering what Carlsbad has
9 to do with this, but what most people don't know is that
10 Carlsbad is the home -- is home to the largest gas-fired
11 power plant in San Diego County known as Encina.

12 At some point in the near future this 50-year-
13 old power plant will need to be replaced with a more
14 modern and efficient facility.

15 The Sunrise Powerlink would help provide our
16 region with more options, flexibility, help diversity,
17 our ener- -- diversify our energy resources, and
18 hopefully support replacing Encina sooner rather than
19 later.

20 On behalf of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
21 I urge you to support the Sunrise Powerlink.

22 Thank you.

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

24 Dan O'Brien.

25 STATEMENT OF MR. O'BRIEN

26 MR. O'BRIEN: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

27 Thank you for having us here today.

28 I'm Danny O'Brien. I live in Santee. I am

1 a past President and current Director of the Santee
2 Chamber of Commerce, and I'm here to speak for the
3 small-business people of Santee.

4 It was my -- was my pleasure, but I was
5 President of our -- our Chamber when we had our last
6 power crisis where we had blackouts and extremely high
7 costs, and it was the small business that suffered the
8 most at that time. When you don't have a -- you'd lose
9 supply, you pay higher prices, you can't rely on things.

10 It's the small business that goes out of
11 business faster than the large business. The big
12 corporations a lot of times can absorb it, but it's the
13 small business that doesn't have much in the way of
14 staying power.

15 And these are the reasons why we support the
16 Sunrise Powerlink:

17 Number one, it's the best way to meet the real
18 demand for energy in our region, a growing demand.

19 Number two, it will allow SDG&E to meet the
20 requirement of generating at least 20 percent of their
21 electric production through renewable resources.
22 Contracts have been signed and production will be online
23 when the link is there to deliver the power. And having
24 a delivery system available -- Buckminster Fuller
25 proposed an international power grid, if anybody's seen
26 his plan.

27 And the line will improve reliability. It's
28 the route approved by the California Independent System

1 Operator, and they oppose all routes south of the Anza-
2 Borrego State Park.

3 ALJ WEISSMAN: I would ask you to wrap up, please.

4 MR. O'BRIEN: Okay.

5 The Sunrise Link costs and benefits will be
6 shared by all of California, not just San Diego.

7 The Preferred Route results in the least
8 condemnation of homes and the least environmental
9 impacts.

10 The line is supported by the Santee Chamber of
11 Commerce, it's supported by the Union-Tribune, and also
12 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

13 And the cost to provide the same amount of
14 energy through solar at this -- today's technology would
15 be \$21 billion. And the County of San Diego does not
16 have enough money to have a regional fire department, so
17 I don't know where we're going to get the 21 billion.

18 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

19 Orlando Foote.

20 STATEMENT OF MR. FOOTE

21 MR. FOOTE: Good afternoon.

22 My name is Orlando Foote, an attorney, and
23 I would appreciate a little credit for not wearing a
24 coat since I'm one of the suits.

25 (Laughter)

26 MR. FOOTE: However, let's see: 22, 35, 18, 31,
27 and, since I know what's coming, 172.

28 Actually I practice law in Imperial County and

1 San Diego County.

2 I'm a resident of the Imperial County.

3 I have been involved in the energy business
4 for two decades, and I've been a lawyer for almost
5 50 years.

6 I want to -- I want to make just two points.

7 First of all, with regard to the viability of
8 renewable energy in Imperial County, I was distressed,
9 even though we haven't heard a lot of it, to hear the
10 skepticism on the part of some of the opponents of the
11 line to the viability of renewables in Imperial County.

12 Geothermal is only one of several.

13 Solar, and not just -- just restricted to
14 Stirling, is a very, very viable and highly-profitable
15 potential.

16 Secondly I wanted to make sure that I got in
17 the point that really I'm here about, and that is to
18 respectfully take issue with the position of Imperial
19 Irrigation District with regard to the Southern Route.
20 I do not believe that that is in the best interests of
21 IID nor of the renewable-energy generators.

22 Thank you very much.

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

24 Marygrace Lopez.

25 STATEMENT OF MR. LOPEZ

26 MS. LOPEZ: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

27 My name is Marygrace Lopez, and I'm from the
28 California State Parks Foundation.

1 And in opposition of the Sunrise Powerlink
2 I would like to present the Commission with 300 letters
3 of opposition from our members.

4 Thank you.

5 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

6 (Applause)

7 ALJ WEISSMAN: Warren Savage.

8 STATEMENT OF MR. SAVAGE

9 MR. SAVAGE: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

10 I appreciate the opportunity to be here.

11 My name is Warren Savage. I am the Executive
12 Director of the Santee Chamber of Commerce.

13 The Executive Director and its membership
14 strongly, strongly supports the Sunrise Powerlink
15 because members realize that securing a reliable and
16 low-cost, effective supply of energy is crucial and
17 critical to the economic development and growth of our
18 San Diego region.

19 Now, the City of Santee has fostered renewable
20 energy, if you would, over the time frame, and we're
21 looking at this energy to support our baseline.

22 We have a very new town center. We look at
23 building our area as far as a high-tech area, and in
24 order to attract and maintain high-quality businesses
25 and jobs in the region we have to make sure that we have
26 constant energy available to make sure the infrastruc-
27 ture can support itself.

28 SDG&E's Sunrise Powerlink, especially

1 transmission lead- -- line, has the potential to provide
2 enough power for 650,000 customers and will complement
3 the new local-power-generation facilities.

4 It could provide options allowing SDG&E and
5 regulators a fashion to support all of our needs.

6 Thank you for your time.

7 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

8 Nos. 61 through 70 come on down.

9 Harold Stier.

10 STATEMENT OF MR. STIER

11 MR. STIER: Harold Stier, a resident of Lakeside.

12 I am opposed to the Powerlink proposal.

13 These huge towers will defile the beautiful
14 nature of Anza-Borrego and the California Cleveland
15 National Forest.

16 This is not for the common good. It's not
17 needed. There are other, better alternative methods
18 which are less expensive and less damaging to the
19 environment, and furthermore it will increase our power
20 costs.

21 Thank you.

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: That you very much.

23 Is there another Stier waiting around the
24 corner?

25 STATEMENT OF MRS. STIER

26 MRS. STIER: Yeah.

27 That's his wife.

28 This is my husband.

1 ALJ WEISSMAN: Tell me your first name, ma'am.

2 MRS. STIER: Lambeklho (pronounced Lahm-baerta).

3 I am Dutch.

4 And I kind of want to -- but I am half Dutch,
5 half American, both citizenships.

6 And I kind of want to emphasize, I came here,
7 I never hiked a mountain. Here I hiked them all because
8 it was so beautiful. This country is so beautiful
9 nature-wise that I think that's the number-one thing we
10 have right now in America, and that's why I really think
11 if we just could keep it.

12 We have been in places where other people were
13 never before because, you know, I've been here for
14 30 years, and it was -- it is just so beautiful, all the
15 diversity in nature. If we could just protect that.
16 I mean, that is really wonderful.

17 I know it costs a lot and all this stuff, but
18 I think this is a pride -- a number-one pride for the
19 United States we need to keep up.

20 The second thing I want to emphasize is I'm a
21 nurse, and I know a lot of issues have been said about
22 health, but I have worked with children and who have had
23 asthma, and it's probably been mentioned already before,
24 and it is no fun.

25 So if there is an other way we can solve these
26 problems without increasing the pollution, that is a
27 wonderful way to go.

28 And I know it is -- I know it's hard, but if

1 that is possible.

2 I don't have any children, but there are a lot
3 of children, and I work with children -- as a nurse I
4 work in oncology. That, you know, it's such a differ-
5 ence to see an alive child, it's -- see a child who
6 is -- who is really have a hard time breathing.

7 And it's not only that, there are other issues
8 in oncology. You probably know that. And that's --
9 that's the actual society.

10 But these people are -- the patients are so
11 wonderful. I have never seen such, uh -- kind of funny,
12 but such beautiful death. It's kind of funny to say
13 that. But it's also so painful that we could avoid
14 things like that --

15 ALJ WEISSMAN: I'll have to ask you to wrap up,
16 please.

17 MRS. STIER: -- in any possible way.

18 So that's my story.

19 Thank you very much.

20 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for coming.

21 MRS. STIER: Yeah.

22 (Applause)

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: Jenny Saar.

24 STATEMENT OF MS. SAAR

25 MS. SAAR: Thank you for allowing me to speak.

26 There are so many eloquent speakers today, and
27 you're going to hear many more.

28 I'm one of the many -- I'm from El Cajon,

1 California, and I have spent a lot of time in Anza-
2 Borrego.

3 My mother's ashes are scattered here.

4 I am one of many people who appreciate and
5 cherish the park for its display of wildflowers and that
6 attract thousands of visitors each spring.

7 It's also valued for its population of Big
8 Horn Sheep and its stunning scenery, as you know.

9 But can anyone imagine traveling miles and
10 miles to see wildflowers growing beneath unsightly high-
11 voltage power lines? It breaks my heart to think about
12 that.

13 The invasion of such a park by the financial
14 interests of one company sets a dangerous precedent for
15 all of our state and national parks. These places have
16 been specifically set aside as a national resource for
17 the benefit of all, intended for generations to come,
18 not those who seek to profit in the short term.

19 Like many other long-time customers of SDG&E,
20 I have no confidence the company will follow through on
21 its promise to use renewable, low-emission energy
22 sources.

23 Their massive investment in the Ensenada
24 Mexicali pipeline infrastructure is an obvious
25 indication of their level of commitment to the state
26 mandate to reduce greenhouse gases by 20 percent by the
27 year 2020.

28 A few weeks ago I came and took -- got

1 signatures from people who were visiting the park and
2 asked how they felt about it. Virtually everybody was
3 opposed to it. And I -- I collected about 50 signatures
4 in two hours. You can imagine the number of people that
5 actually are opposed to this but have- -- don't have a
6 chance to speak. So --

7 ALJ WEISSMAN: Please wrap up.

8 MS. SAAR: Yes.

9 All right. It is -- as it's reasonable to say
10 the Sunrise Powerlink project would seriously diminish
11 the intrinsic appeal of the park, and I ask you to
12 reject SDG&E's proposal in all its forms.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

15 (Applause)

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: Roger Holtclaw.

17 STATEMENT OF MR. HOLTCLAW

18 MR. HOLTCLAW: Good afternoon.

19 I'm a resident of the San Diego County,
20 San Diego, act- -- actually City of El Cajon, and been
21 in the real estate business almost 40 years.

22 I step back a bit and relate to the fact that
23 sometimes looking at things in perspective -- needless
24 to say I am not going to get into anything technical
25 because that's not my expertise, but I would like to
26 relate back to, in my particular case, coming into real
27 estate in the days when, as an example, houses were --
28 had 60 -- 60-amp circuit breakers, hundred -- less --

1 much less than the 100-amp service, in days when we had
2 a two-lane highway coming over from Imperial Valley to
3 San Diego; and along came growth, which some people have
4 argued wouldn't have if we hadn't had freeways and
5 things of that nature. But many others, myself
6 included, say: Hey, it's inevitable. It's a beautiful
7 place to live, as Anza-Borrego is.

8 And although the -- the many folks that have
9 spoke today are very, very sincere and very passionate
10 about what they feel -- and I can appreciate that -- I
11 think we also have to take it into perspective and
12 realize that -- that with growth comes some unhappy
13 times.

14 But I think, again in perspective, we have to
15 look at a -- a power line that is approximately 100 foot
16 in width going across a piece of -- of our country is
17 that is many, many thousands of square miles and then --
18 and then blow it out of proportion by saying it will
19 destroy the area I think is a little bit far-fetched.

20 And, with that, I support the Powerlink.

21 A VOICE: No.

22 (Audience grumbling)

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

24 Bill Clevenger.

25 Please -- please refrain from making noises in
26 response to the comments.

27 So is Bill Clevenger there?

28 All right. How about Thomas Currie.

1 like the Sunrise Powerlink meet resistance.

2 We have taken action now to ensure our region
3 has the reliable power it needs in the future.

4 The Sunrise Powerlink will dramatically expand
5 excess renewable-energy sources and improve reliability
6 for all energy consumers by delivering enough power for
7 650,000 con- -- consu- -- customers.

8 ALJ WEISSMAN: Please wrap up.

9 MR. CURRIE: Okay.

10 On behalf of the businesses throughout the
11 San Diego we strongly urge the California Utilities
12 Commission to approve the Sunrise Powerlink.

13 Thank you.

14 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

15 Daniel Beeman.

16 STATEMENT OF MR. BEEMAN

17 MR. BEEMAN: Hello.

18 My name is Daniel Beeman.

19 I was an elected representative for a
20 community called North Park.

21 We put up the first solar streetlights because
22 SDG&E wouldn't do its job.

23 MR. REYES: Right.

24 MR. BEEMAN: We were mandated to put up these
25 streetlights according to the voting of the public
26 there. They chose to tax themselves.

27 And because we couldn't put up the street-
28 lights quick enough, we had to go to an alterative.

1 That alternative was called solar energy.

2 We put up panels, and we can put a much --
3 much more quicker by a private entrepreneurial group.

4 That's just like this (indicating), which I
5 bought for \$18 or \$14, and it creates energy by sitting
6 in my car and lights and works. Solar works. I know
7 it. I have proven it. I have done it as a public
8 official.

9 Now, what else can we do?

10 We need to protect Indians.

11 I was raised by Wilma Banks.

12 You might have known Dennis Banks who did
13 Wounded Knee.

14 She raised me because she wanted to take care
15 of me. My mother was sick.

16 I'm really scared of what these towers are
17 going to do to the Indian lands and their burial
18 grounds.

19 We need to do something different.

20 Now, look. If solar works -- and I've proven
21 solar works -- why can't those people that create extra
22 solar get paid back for it?

23 Why at the end of the year are they just
24 surplus gravy for SDG&E and Sempra?

25 (Applause)

26 MR. BEEMAN: We don't need a plant down in Baja.

27 (Applause)

28 MR. BEEMAN: We need -- if we're going to get a

1 plant, why not it be regulated on our stream?

2 Why not be regulated by our system?

3 There are better ways to go.

4 I thank you very much for representing us. I
5 thank you for listening to us.

6 And those sheep that I saw yesterday, closer
7 than your are, Mr. Steven -- yesterday was beautiful. I
8 need to see that again.

9 Thank you very much.

10 (Applause)

11 ALJ WEISSMAN: Sten Bjernefalt.

12 Did I come anywhere close?

13 STATEMENT OF MR. BJERNEFALT

14 MR. BJERNEFALT: Yeah. For not being Swedish, it
15 was great.

16 (Laughter)

17 MR. BJERNEFALT: Yeah.

18 ALJ WEISSMAN: I am definitely not Swedish,
19 unfortunately.

20 (Laughter)

21 MR. BJERNEFALT: I'm Sten Bjernefalt.

22 I am immediate past President of the East
23 San Diego County Association of Realtors and serve on
24 the Executive Committee there; I am on the Board of
25 Directors of the California Association of Realtors,
26 about 200,000 strong; and I'm past delegate to the
27 National Association of Realtors, one-and-quarter
28 million salespeople.

1 I'm a resident of Rancho San Diego El Cajon,
2 and I've lived in San Diego County since 1948.

3 On behalf of the Environmental Policy
4 Committee of the National Association of Realtors in
5 Washington, DC, and on my own behalf, I speak very
6 strongly in favor of the Sunrise Powerlink.

7 I think that everyone in this room understands
8 and senses the mandate that we have, and I'm strongly in
9 support of what we've talked about, individual use of
10 clean energy at the source, at the point of use, but
11 it's intermittent, at best; it really can't be
12 regulated; it can't be enforced; and it can't be
13 mandated. It's very, very practical; it's something
14 that we should go for.

15 But our legislators in Sacramento have ordered
16 us to increase our renewable and green resources to at
17 least 20 percent. We're at about 6 percent right now.

18 Our gift here in southern California is that
19 we have abundant geothermal power to the east; we have
20 clean and abundant solar power to the east; we have
21 clean and inexhaustible energy from the wind to the
22 east. It's green, it's natural, it's renewable, it's
23 inexhaustible, it's reliable, it doesn't pollute, it's
24 cost-effective, and it doesn't erode the delicate fabric
25 of our atmosphere.

26 But we know that those resources are
27 absolutely of no use. They will never do anyone any
28 good unless and until there's a provision made to bring

1 that power to the population base.

2 ALJ WEISSMAN: I need to ask you to wrap up,
3 please.

4 MR. BJERNEFALT: And, with that, I will wrap up.

5 Thank you very much.

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

7 Phyllis Bremer.

8 STATEMENT OF MRS. BREMER

9 MRS. BREMER: Your Honor, Commissioners, my name
10 is Phyllis Bremer, and I live on Mesa Grande north of
11 Santa Ysabel.

12 My husband and I live completely off the grid
13 with our own 48-volt photovoltaic system running a 2,000
14 square-foot home.

15 First I would like to thank Judge Weissman and
16 Commissioner Grueneich for all the time and attention
17 they have given to the public process and to thank CPUC
18 President Peevey and Commissioners Bohn and Simon for
19 joining us today.

20 Hopefully you have the opportunity to see the
21 beautiful Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and the
22 magnificent backcountry where the proposed Sunrise
23 Powerlink hopes to traverse.

24 My husband, neighbors, and I have been
25 attending informational meetings and hearings since
26 December of 2005.

27 This has already been a long battle to
28 preserve some of the last remaining unspoiled areas in

1 San Diego County and a necessary battle for our own
2 survival and that of the flora and fauna in an area
3 twice effected by horrific firestorms in the past five
4 years.

5 Please imagine our shock when we first learned
6 two years ago that SDG&E was proposing a 500-kilovolt
7 line through this pristine fire-prone area, through a
8 state park, wilderness areas, gutting Centennial Ranches
9 and the historic Santa Ysabel Valley.

10 We couldn't fathom such an irresponsible, un-
11 reliable route, which they justified because they were
12 now under pressure from a state mandate of 20-percent
13 renewables.

14 SDG&E's lack of renewable initiative in the
15 past may now cause the destruction of thousands of acres
16 of irreplaceable habitat.

17 You have the authority to put a stop to this
18 travesty.

19 Today's planet needs people in positions of
20 authority with the courage to prevent further
21 environmental destruction, people who will bring the
22 21st Century into realistic, smart, clean-energy
23 production --

24 ALJ WEISSMAN: I'd ask you to please wrap up.

25 MRS. BREMER: -- responsible leaders not
26 intimidated by corporate money or the politics of our
27 Governor.

28 Please make your decision based on reasonable

1 local generation and not on a deceptive renewables ruse
2 that will forever mar San Diego County.

3 Thank you.

4 ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. Thank you very much.

5 (Applause)

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: John Bremer.

7 STATEMENT OF MR. BREMER

8 MR. BREMER: Commissioners, Judge, I hold in my
9 hand Sempra Energy's Annual Report for 2007
10 (indicating). It has these beautiful wind generators on
11 the cover.

12 (Laughter)

13 MR. BREMER: SDG&E doesn't own them, didn't build
14 them, and didn't even want them.

15 They are owned by the Campo Kumeyaay Indian
16 Nation.

17 Sempra Energy had to even ask permission to
18 take the photos.

19 (Laughter)

20 MR. BREMER: From all that I can determine from
21 their own hundred-page report, they don't have any
22 renewable infrastructure. But nobody reads these things
23 anyway; they just look at the pictures.

24 If there was not a green or renewable
25 component to the Sunrise Powerlink project, would you
26 still consider approving it through the remaining
27 wilderness area across the middle of largest state park
28 and onto Los Angeles?

1 SDG&E's nationwide portfolio of power sources
2 other than natural gas, coal, petroleum, and nuclear is
3 empty.

4 They have stated in their own Annual Report
5 that they will not meet the Renewable Portfolio
6 Standards, or the RPS, for 2010 and don't know when they
7 will.

8 They are banking on the CPUC's January '08
9 Proposed Decision to defining flexible compliance in
10 which -- that states insufficient transmission is a
11 permissible reason for failing to satisfy the RPS goals.

12 So it appears that SDG&E may not be mandated
13 to ever meet the 20-percent standard, and even if the
14 \$25 million maximum penalty was imposed, why should this
15 bother them? They'd just pass the savings onto their
16 customers.

17 (Laughter)

18 ALJ WEISSMAN: Please wrap up.

19 MR. BREMER: Even with the concocted impossible-
20 dream scenario in the Imperial Valley, SDG&E is still
21 less than 13 percent of the RPS, and they are blaming
22 the EIR/EIS for the reason they will not meet the
23 standard on time.

24 Without the Sunrise Powerlink they have a
25 smaller renewable portfolio than I do.

26 Sempra Energy --

27 (Laughter)

28 MR. BREMER: -- has bet the farm on liquefied

1 natural gas, and we all know it.

2 If the Sunrise Powerlink, in whatever form it
3 takes, becomes a reality, it will be fueled 100 percent
4 by liquefied natural gas product from a foreign country,
5 from a nonrenewable fuel from a foreign country,
6 thousands of miles across the Pacific, using over a
7 million gallons of fuel just to get here to Mexico.

8 ALJ WEISSMAN: I need to ask you to really stop
9 now.

10 We have other speakers lined up.

11 Thank you very much for coming.

12 MR. BREMER: Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 Mr. BREMER: Just one.

15 ALJ WEISSMAN: No. We have got people lined up.

16 (Applause)

17 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

18 MR. BREMER: The only green component I can find
19 that actually exists is the paper --

20 ALJ WEISSMAN: I have to --

21 MR. BREMER: -- the report is printed on.

22 (Laughter)

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

24 All right. Wesley Cater.

25 And Nos. 71 through 80 please start stretching
26 your legs.

27 STATEMENT OF MR. CATER

28 MR. CATER: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

1 Thank you for coming.

2 And it's my pleasure to be here again to talk
3 before you.

4 I am Wesley Cater, past President of the
5 California State Park Rangers Association and speaking
6 on their behalf today. We have over 600 members in the
7 Association.

8 I first came to Borrego Springs -- Anza-
9 Borrego Desert State Park as a Park Ranger in 1949, and
10 later in my career I retired at -- I'm a retired
11 Superintendent of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

12 I'm here today to state our opposition to the
13 land grab and the use, un- -- the use of Anza-Borrego
14 Desert State Park for a power line.

15 It's not well-known, but 43 years ago
16 San Diego Gas & Electric proposed almost an identical
17 power line through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

18 At that time we were able to obtain enough
19 opposition to this, and they selected an alternate
20 route.

21 Today, alternate routes still exist.

22 We support the Draft EIR -- EIR/EIS Report
23 which recommends alternative routes, and we believe they
24 should be used.

25 Back in 1928 Frederick Law Olmsted, in his
26 survey for state parks, said that there needs to be
27 preservation and protection of open space, solitude, and
28 escape of the evidence of human intrusion, and to avoid

1 irreparable changes in the landscape.

2 His statement is as valid today as it was 80
3 years ago.

4 The desert is not a wasteland.

5 Mr. Olmstead was the architect for Central
6 Park in New York City.

7 ALJ WEISSMAN: Mr. Cater, I want to thank you.

8 We have got to move onto the next speaker.

9 MR. CATER: Okay.

10 Stop the land grab.

11 And also the Governor removed our Commission-
12 ers from the State Park Commission because they opposed
13 his policies.

14 Don't be afraid of him.

15 (Laughter and applause)

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

17 STATEMENT OF MR. REYES

18 Mr. REYES: Hi.

19 My name is Rudy Reyes.

20 I'm a candidate for County Supervisor, east
21 County, Second District.

22 I was also the worst injured recognized hero
23 of the 2003 Cedar fires.

24 As you guys may or may not know, the last
25 fires were somewhat caused by SDG&E.

26 And we have major problems in San Diego in
27 that regards.

28 Now, SDG&E is planning or at least trying to

1 get more power lines through what we'll call tinder?
2 That's not acceptable.

3 The fact that you guys or as SD- -- as SDG&E
4 has veiled itself in trying to make itself claim to be
5 green when this energy is going to be coming from
6 southern border? Mexico? And it's going to be natural
7 resources burning?

8 Now, I got to say Dianne Jacob, the person I
9 am running against -- she also opposes it. Why?
10 Because this is wrong. This is straight out wrong.

11 I happen to live in a community where we are
12 very strong.

13 We've already pushed Blackwater out of east
14 County.

15 And I will tell you, I have my degrees in
16 archaeology. I do not support you guys destroying our
17 environment; I do not support what you guys are doing
18 here and the fact that you guys are trying to force
19 energy down our throats.

20 San Diego, Imperial County -- we want to be
21 self-sufficient. That's what you're hearing here.

22 We want to be able to stand on our own with
23 self-sufficiency.

24 All I'm seeing is a fight between profiteers
25 and the community.

26 I'm asking the commissioned taskforce here to
27 back the community.

28 I am asking you guys to do what the people are

1 asking you to do. Help us to become self-sufficient.

2 Help San Diego. Don't force this power line
3 down our throat.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause)

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

7 Marti Craig Wilmot.

8 STATEMENT OF MS. WILMOT

9 MS. WILMOT: Hi.

10 Thank you for coming and thank you for
11 listening.

12 I am a mom, and I live in Lakeside, and I wish
13 I would have worn a business suit and I could have
14 tricked you all. But --

15 (Laughter)

16 MS. WILMOT: I support all the people who are
17 against the Powerlink, and I have a little more to add.

18 I would just like to say that we live in a
19 great country. The United States has historically been
20 a world leader in science and technology innovation.

21 In my lifetime I've seen computers change from
22 huge machines as big as this room to compact devices
23 that everyone here either owns or has access to.

24 I went to the swap meet in Pasadena yesterday
25 and I saw those rotary phones that we used to use when I
26 was little. Look at how our telephones have changed in
27 the last 15 years.

28 I've seen a man walk on the moon and soon will

1 see man walk on mars.

2 Today I feel like I'm in a time warp.

3 Why are we here this discussing Powerlink when
4 it's worthy of a 1950s presentation?

5 We can do better.

6 Powerlink is an antique.

7 The Powerlink is also not the only option.

8 Who will benefit here?

9 Follow the money to the Sempra Energy
10 stockholders. But for everyone else -- for me, my son,
11 my husband, and most of the people here in this room
12 certainly -- our environment, our planet, our safety,
13 and our health are priceless.

14 We are at a crossroads. We can either tunnel
15 down into the dark ages of polluting, global-warming
16 energy, or we can be creative innovators and leaders in
17 the new frontier of energy solutions.

18 It is up to you.

19 I say Be leaders.

20 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

21 I have to ask you to wrap up. You're a half a
22 minute over already.

23 (Laughter)

24 MS. WILMOT: Okay.

25 I just think we can do better.

26 ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. Thank you.

27 MS. WILMOT: Thanks.

28 (Applause)

1 ALJ WEISSMAN: Roger Wiggaus.

2 STATEMENT OF MR. WIGGAUS

3 MR. WIGGAUS: Hello.

4 I am not a public speaker, but I do have a
5 passion for protecting our parks, and so I am, as you
6 can see, against the this power line.

7 I looked up Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in
8 Wikipedia, and it said it is a state protected land, and
9 that's what I'm asking you to do.

10 The purpose is to convince you to protect the
11 beauty of our world-famous Anza-Borrego Park.

12 Anything that destroys the scenic beauty of
13 our Park will require that I call Wikipedia and change
14 the definition.

15 (Laughter)

16 MR. WIGGAUS: Personally I have enjoyed this Park
17 for 40 years. I've -- as soon as I discovered it, I
18 couldn't stay away.

19 I wish to continue to enjoy the natural beauty
20 and serenity of the Park: hiking, camping, star
21 watching, flower, photography, camping with Boy Scouts
22 to teach them the wonders of nature and the mystery of
23 the desert.

24 As you already know, our park system was begun
25 by President Teddy Roosevelt, and it was he who said:
26 Keep it for your children and your children's children
27 and for all who would come after you as one of the great
28 sights which every American, if he can travel at all,

1 must see.

2 My time is about out, but I've got to say that
3 there's no justifiable reason to use our parklands for
4 any purpose that would jeopardize the preservation of
5 our state and national treasures.

6 We must hold tight to Teddy Roosevelt's
7 purpose.

8 Teddy Roosevelt would turn over in his
9 grave -- and he will -- if this plan is approved.

10 (Laughter)

11 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

12 Gwenn Marie.

13 STATEMENT OF MS. MARIE

14 MS. MARIE: Hello.

15 Thank you all so much for being here and thank
16 you so much for listening.

17 My name is Gwenn Marie.

18 I'm here with a couple of hats on.

19 One of them is as President of the Borrego
20 Springs Chamber of Commerce, and our Chamber of Commerce
21 stands in strong opposition to Sunrise Powerlink.

22 (Applause)

23 MS. MARIE: That's because, in representing
24 business in Borrego Springs, we are also overlooking an
25 endangered species, which is the small business owner
26 here in Borrego Springs. That's another hat I wear.

27 Two years ago my husband and I reached deep
28 into our or personal savings -- we have no big

1 corporation behind us -- and acquired the Borrego Valley
2 Inn, which is a very magical and special place that
3 people from all over the world visit.

4 This project would completely wreck that as
5 well.

6 And on another personal note, I'm changing up
7 everything I wanted to say because I keep thinking, I
8 keep hearing: We need this. We need energy. We need
9 energy.

10 I was back from -- coming -- driving back from
11 Los Angeles about a coup- -- couple of months ago,
12 9:00 o'clock at night, driving down the freeway, had to
13 reach in my purse and get out my sunglasses at
14 9:00 o'clock at night so I could actually make my way by
15 an auto park that was so lit with LED lights, so
16 bright -- we need to mess up our park so we can have
17 more of that?

18 Thank you.

19 (Laughter and applause)

20 ALJ WEISSMAN: Katy Moretti.

21 STATEMENT OF MS. MORETTI

22 MS. MORETTI: Hi.

23 I'm Katy Moretti, and I'm here on behalf of
24 the Moretti family of Santa Ysabel.

25 My family immigrated to this country and
26 bought the Santa Ysabel Ranch in a -- as a Spanish land
27 grant in 1890.

28 From generation to generation we've preserved

1 the land and are land conservationists.

2 History will show that the Moretti's have
3 given SDG&E three easements for transmission lines.

4 At the time we recognized it was important for
5 our community.

6 Today we recognize the Sunrise Powerlink is
7 nothing but a smoke screen for SDG&E to get electricity
8 from Mexico.

9 There is no benefit for our community.

10 The Northern Route will transgress the entire
11 ranch.

12 The lines and access roads will destroy what
13 my family has preserved for for over a hundred years.

14 This travesty will jeopardize my family's
15 ability to make a living and destroy the integrity of
16 our ranch.

17 The EIR does not adequately address the
18 destruction and impacts the access roads and line will
19 cause nor does it address the crippling effects this
20 line will have on individual landowners.

21 My family opposes the Sunrise Powerlink;
22 however, should it come through our ranch, we have asked
23 SDG&E to work with us on the least -- the way it could
24 come with the least amount of impacts.

25 SDG&E refuses to compromise.

26 The Fifth Amendment allows for private land to
27 be taken for public loot -- use.

28 Is condemning an easement 300-foot wide

1 through one of the most beautiful areas of San Diego
2 County to facilitate getting cheap electricity from
3 Mexico in which consumers bear the costs and Sempra
4 Energy reaps the benefits really what our forefathers
5 had mind when they wrote the Constitution? I think not.

6 I ask the CPUC to take this into consider-
7 ation, that this line will destroy family heritages and
8 history.

9 Please do not allow SDG&E to take this away
10 from me, my children, my grandchildren, and all of my --
11 the families in Santa Ysabel.

12 Thank you for listening.

13 (Applause)

14 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

15 STATEMENT OF MS. SLAUGHTER-MORETTI

16 MS. SLAUGHTER-MORETTI: I'm Sandra Slaughter-
17 Moretti.

18 Not only will my husband's family ranch, which
19 is our livelihood, be negatively impacted by the Sunrise
20 Powerlink but my family's business in Julian, the Julian
21 Cider Mill, will also feel the effects.

22 We have been a family-owned business in Julian
23 for 36 years.

24 One of the comments we always hear from our
25 customers is how they enjoyed the beautiful drive up the
26 mountain.

27 Julian is a small community, and our
28 merchants, my family included, rely heavily on tourism.

1 The recent wildfires and the increasing fuel
2 prices have challenged the community.

3 Should the Santa Ysabel Valley be ruined by
4 the hideous towers and scarred by massive access roads,
5 it is feared by the merchants in Julian that the folks
6 from the city will not spend the gas money to drive
7 through this eyesore.

8 I do not feel the EIR is correct in its
9 statements on that impacts the Sunrise Powerlink will
10 have on the economic development of the Julian/
11 Santa Ysabel community.

12 The fires of 2003 and 2007 were a hardship.
13 Another permanent blow of our beautiful drive being
14 destroyed will be devastating for the Julian merchants.

15 The Sunrise Powerlink will be an economic
16 destruction for Julian.

17 I am here as a merchant to ask the CPUC to
18 deny any overhead route of the Sunrise Powerlink.

19 And Katy has addressed the CUPC with the 17-
20 page letter.

21 Thank you.

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

23 John Raifsnider.

24 STATEMENT OF MR. RAIFSNIDER

25 MR. RAIFSNIDER: Yes. John Raifsnider from
26 Julian.

27 And I -- I will also thank you for listening.

28 And as I was standing and sitting here I, too,

1 was listening.

2 And I had my notes, and my head was swimming
3 with ideas of what I wanted to say, and -- and it just
4 was swarming. I -- I -- I -- I -- I'd take a century.

5 So I just decided to keep listening.

6 And it occurred to me that this is what we
7 need to do: I'm listening to everyone. Not just one
8 side presumably or another side.

9 I see only humanity here. One -- one
10 humanity, and we're divided. There's a war going on in
11 this room. I -- you can feel it. Everyone can feel it.

12 And, speaking of energy, it's a terrible waste
13 of energy.

14 (Laughter)

15 MR. RAIFSNIDER: And it dirties the air as well.
16 It's not clean energy.

17 I am thinking about what listening means, and
18 it occurred to me that listening is a list ending. Our
19 lists of issues.

20 We have the issues. We all have the issues.
21 But what I realized -- and I -- by the way, which side
22 am I on? Hmm.

23 I am for the Sunrise, but it is a Sunrise that
24 respects what's in here, the heart (indicating).

25 There is something that happens to our heads
26 when money fills them, they seem -- they start to float
27 away from the body, away from the chest --

28 (Laughter)

1 MR. RAIFSNIDER: -- and it is in the chest that
2 the treasure lies, the treasure chest which is beauty.
3 Living for beauty. Not commodities, not things, but for
4 beauty. That's what we see here, that's what we want;
5 and we all know this.

6 But some of us are a little more fearful. We
7 don't believe in the future. We don't have the
8 imagination to see that it can be done differently.

9 ALJ WEISSMAN: It's time to return to listening
10 very soon.

11 (Laughter)

12 MR. RAIFSNIDER: Yes.

13 (Laughter)

14 MR. RAIFSNIDER: You're listening well.

15 (Laughter)

16 MR. RAIFSNIDER: The -- there was a -- there was
17 a -- California's named after a -- a goddess. The
18 Spanish named it as Calif- -- Calif- -- Califia, and she
19 lived on an island with -- and it was an island of all
20 women, very beautiful women, and she was the most
21 beautiful of all, and California got its name from that
22 woman. And it is about beauty, the gold of beauty, and
23 not the coins that jingle in your pocket.

24 So, thank you.

25 (Applause)

26 ALJ WEISSMAN: Kathleen Beck.

27 STATEMENT OF MS. BECK

28 MS. BECK: Oh, boy. I don't know how to follow

1 that one. That's --

2 (Laughter)

3 MS. BECK: That's something.

4 Okay.

5 ALJ WEISSMAN: Just do it quickly --

6 (Laughter)

7 MS. BECK: I'll -- I'll make up for that time.

8 Okay. My name is Kathleen Beck.

9 I am here to represent elder education.

10 I worked for 15 years with the elder education
11 in San Diego County.

12 We seek to inform future generations of the
13 wisdom and beauty that lies in this area.

14 So I would like to carry on by saying that
15 energy generated closest to its use, so direct, so
16 efficient, so easy in this age of budding nanotechnology
17 where the use of something as archaic as a huge above-
18 ground extension cord in the sky seems absurd.

19 Imagine if each community developed energy
20 from where they stood?

21 I bring a blowdryer today as a symbol, a
22 symbol of wind and heat.

23 Wind and heat we have in our communities,
24 enough to power our power.

25 The dryer is also a symbol of our excess.

26 In a recent article a journalist wrote that we
27 need this excess power, and he used the blowdryer as one
28 of the things that we need.

1 I question this need of ours.

2 In our age of excess and global warming, a
3 blowdryer is simply out of step, especially the when it
4 comes in contrast to our family jewels.

5 In the State of California we are known for
6 our family jewels.

7 Our state parks are some of the finest. They
8 are not excess; they are necessary. Without them we'd
9 become empty of what gives our lives a sense of
10 interconnectedness with the planet.

11 As humans we are the only species who can look
12 out for other species to make sure that they would also
13 have the space that they need to survive.

14 Please make the choice that is best using both
15 your mind and your intuitive sense of right and wrong.

16 This intuitive sense is what we share with
17 creatures who may be lost if we do not honor our
18 interconnectedness with our natural world.

19 There is another way, energy generated closest
20 to its use.

21 Thank you.

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

23 (Applause)

24 ALJ WEISSMAN: Jason Wells.

25 MS. BECK: Who do I give this to?

26 THE REPORTER: (Indicating)

27 ALJ WEISSMAN: No Jason Wells?

28 All right. Jennifer White.

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STATEMENT OF MS. WHITE

MS. WHITE: I'm Jennifer White, and I own a home here and I own a home in San Diego, and I'm a native San Diegan.

My conclusion is simple: the Sunrise Power-link project is the wrong solution to the future of smart energy in this state.

The project is not needed, it is ill-conceived, an environmental disaster, a \$1.3 billion mistake.

You will be deciding the fate of this damaging, destructive project.

Facts from experts have shown that -- San Diego Gas & Electric saying that we must have this transmission line and that they can solve all the unmitigated problems with the plan is delusional.

The craziest part is the plan to go through part of Anza-Borrego State Park.

It is inconceivable to add more impact of people and transmission lines to the already fragile land.

What would the Big Horn Sheep say? Baaaaaad!

(Laughter)

MS. WHITE: Sorry, Governor Arnold. Your comments, as reported by the Union-Tribune May 10th, that those environmentalists, activists, and Democrats exhibit a kind of schizophrenic behavior when it comes to this project is so ridiculous and sad.

1 I am one of those people who is proud to be
2 opposed to Sunrise, to want renewable, smart energy, and
3 consideration of the earth and all the creatures on it.

4 We, the citizens and the wildlife, just say no
5 to San Diego Gas & Electric.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

9 And our last speaker -- excuse me -- Carol --
10 Carolyn Morrow.

11 STATEMENT OF MS. MORROW

12 MS. MORROW: Hi.

13 My name is Carolyn Morrow, and I live in
14 Ranchita in the rural backcountry of San Diego County.

15 I also have a bis- -- have been a business
16 owner since 1977.

17 And I've lived through three of the wildfires
18 started by transmission lines.

19 Thank you for joining us today.

20 The so-called Sunrise Powerlink is a
21 complicated, politically infected project, and we all
22 have to keep cool heads while discussing it.

23 Much has been written in the news about
24 environmentalists not being willing to compromise, but I
25 would like to submit that it is SDG&E who is unwilling
26 to come to the table, modify their outdated business
27 model, and become community citizens to be proud of.

28 I would like to pose a question: Why hasn't

1 SDG&E and Sempra invested in alternative energy?

2 Since SDG&E and Sempra are determined to
3 ignore state-of-the-art technology, does the CPUC need
4 to mandate compliance?

5 Distributed generation is doable. San Diego
6 County has sun and wind. Feed-in tariffs would
7 encourage a local projects.

8 Importing renewables is an oxymoron.

9 A biomass energy project is ready to come
10 on -- become commercial in 90 days. This is electricity
11 from trash, with ultra-low emissions, 98-percent
12 conversion efficiency, and a technology that fits in a
13 warehouse. Building these projects near landfills will
14 go a long way to solve our waste problem, not to mention
15 our in-county generation.

16 Or what about fuel-cell energy which combines
17 hydrogen and oxygen from the air to produce electricity
18 and reusable heat and water.

19 Fuel cells produce direct-current electricity
20 without combustion, have a minor footprint, virtually no
21 noise, and nonpolluting.

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: I need to ask you to wrap up.

23 MS. MORROW: If I can do the research, certainly
24 SDG&E and Sempra can come up with better solutions for
25 San Diego County.

26 I would ask SDG&E to look northward to Edison
27 and PG&E. Both utilities have made excellent gains in
28 developing renewable portfolios.

1 Only you, the CPUC, have the to power to put
2 politics aside and insist that SDG&E and Sempra wean
3 themselves, their shareholders, and the County of
4 unhealthy attachments and demand that they develop
5 distributed in-county generation and renewable-energy
6 production first.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause)

9 ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 ALJ WEISSMAN: When we come back from -- from a 10
12 minute -- another 10-minute break, I'll ask that Nos. 81
13 through 90 be ready to go, and be thinking really hard
14 about being time-obedient people.

15 We'll take another 10-minute break.

16 (Recess taken)

17 ALJ WEISSMAN: We'll get back on the record now,
18 and we'll move with -- move to Sally Theriault.

19 STATEMENT OF MS. SALLY THERIAULT

20 MS. THERIAULT: Close. Close.

21 My name is Sally Theriault, and I've lived in
22 Borrego Springs for over 25 years, and I speak to you
23 today primarily as a parent.

24 Like many parents, I worry about the future we
25 are creating for our children.

26 As a society we've made choices that will
27 saddle subsequent generations with an enormous national
28 debt and questionable national security.

1 My fear is that they will face ever-increasing
2 levels of stress as they try to make their way in an
3 uncertain world.

4 Well, people under stress need retreats, and
5 natural areas provide respite for the soul and
6 refreshment for our psyches.

7 As Thoreau put it, we need the tonic of
8 wildness.

9 The proposal you're considering today
10 threatens some of the wildest and most beautiful country
11 in San Diego County, and I implore you to reject it as
12 shortsighted and unnecessary.

13 This project does nothing to encourage
14 conservation or the local generation of renewable energy
15 which would do much more for San Diego's energy
16 sustainability, independence, and security in the long
17 run.

18 (Timer beeps)

19 MS. THERIAULT: My own children may not live here
20 10 years from now or 20 --

21 That was nice.

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: That was your 30-second warning.

23 MS. THERIAULT: Oh.

24 (Laughter)

25 MS. THERIAULT: Okay.

26 My own children may not live here 10 years or
27 from now or 20, but someone's children will, and
28 wherever my kids end up, they will need wild places.

1 I feel confident that there's going to be
2 smart people out there working on improving energy
3 technology, but once we give up wilderness we can't ever
4 get it back.

5 Sacrificing Anza-Borrego in eastern San Diego
6 County for SDG&E's proposed Powerlink route --

7 (Timer beeping)

8 MS. THERIAULT: -- would set a dangerous precedent
9 that would not be fair to our children and their
10 descendants.

11 (Timer beeping)

12 (Laughter)

13 MS. THERIAULT: 50 years from now, 100 years from
14 now will my grandchildren, your grandchildren, our great
15 grandchildren wonder what were we thinking, or will they
16 be grateful to you for preserving wildlands and for
17 encouraging genuinely smart energy solutions.

18 Thank you very much for coming.

19 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

20 (Applause)

21 ALJ WEISSMAN: Sorry for the interruptions to your
22 presentation.

23 That's clearly not going to work. We'll --

24 (Laughter)

25 ALJ WEISSMAN: Let's move straight onto the
26 electric shock and forget about that.

27 (Laughter)

28 ALJ WEISSMAN: That's okay. We won't do that

1 again.

2 (Laughter)

3 COMMISSIONER PEEVEY: Renewable electric shock.

4 (Laughter)

5 ALJ WEISSMAN: Renewable.

6 (Laughter)

7 ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. Go ahead.

8 STATEMENT OF MS. MADELEINE THERIAULT

9 MS. MADELEINE THERIAULT: Hello.

10 My name is Madeleine Theriault.

11 I am currently a senior at Borrego Springs
12 High School.

13 And I personally do not think that San Diego's
14 growing power needs should be satisfied at the expense
15 people who don't even live there, or at the expense of
16 wildlife, or those who enjoy visiting Anza-Borrego
17 Desert State Park.

18 In this day and age of rapidly expanding
19 technology it's hard to believe that the best solution
20 we can come up with is to generate electric power
21 hundreds of miles away from where it's needed, then
22 build hundreds of miles of gigantic, old-fashioned
23 transmission towers through wilderness areas and through
24 innocent people's backyards in order to get that energy
25 to San Diego.

26 By allowing a huge power link to be built,
27 instead of using innovative new methods, SDG&E would be
28 rejecting new technology and conservation efforts for

1 the old ways which are ruining our environment.

2 This issue is much larger than just the
3 Sunrise Powerlink. It's about an entire generation. My
4 generation.

5 We need to see you considering smarter energy
6 solutions now, including local production of solar and
7 other forms of renewable energy. If not, how will we,
8 as a society, progress beyond our dependence on non-
9 renewable and nonlocal energy?

10 What good does it do to use renewable energy
11 if it requires a power link that ruins much of the only
12 natural environment left in San Diego County?

13 I'd like to thank you for coming to hear us
14 all, and I'd like to urge you to make a decision that
15 will protect Anza-Borrego and the backcountry for future
16 generations, and, most importantly, I'd like to urge you
17 to make a decision that will move us as a nation in the
18 direction of truly sustainable energy production.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

22 Laurel Granquist.

23 STATEMENT OF MS. GRANQUIST

24 MS. GRANQUIST: Thank you for being here for us
25 and hearing us -- we hope.

26 (Laughter)

27 MS. GRANQUIST: I live in Julian.

28 I'm Laurel Granquist. I live in Julian,

1 serving as a County Parks Patrol volunteer.

2 My husband and I spend a lot of time in the
3 mountains hiking as well as in the Anza-Borrego State
4 Park in the winter and spring months.

5 It is unthinkable that there could be a
6 behemoth of a transmission line cutting through the
7 beauty of the east County, the desert and the mountains,
8 and sacrificing the public lands for the monetary
9 gain -- gains when there are proven alternatives
10 solutions to power sources.

11 The next will be short, but not sweet.

12 I implore you -- if you wisely reject the
13 Sunrise Powerlink, I implore you to reject and use your
14 influence to keep the federal government energy policies
15 from overriding a wise decision that you will make to
16 reject the Sunrise Powerlink.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause)

19 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

20 Karen Prescott?

21 I think Karen Prescott we already heard from
22 earlier.

23 Dave Shannon.

24 STATEMENT OF MR. SHANNON

25 MR. SHANNON: Thank you for having us.

26 My name is Dave Shannon. I live in Borrego
27 Springs.

28 Of course, I'm against the Sunrise Powerlink,

1 and I don't own any more suits.

2 (Laughter)

3 MR. SHANNON: SDG&E and the entire Sunrise Power-
4 link brainstorm -- brain trust needs to understand that
5 not a person in this town believes you are as altruistic
6 about your role in meeting San Diego's future energy
7 needs as you say you are.

8 Perhaps SDG&E and Powerlink should have their
9 PR people here today to help spread the pain of these
10 events around.

11 You have a major image problem no matter how
12 hard you wax about future energy needs, where the power
13 will allegedly go, or how little you will impact the
14 desert.

15 We moved to Borrego Springs several years ago
16 from Los Angeles, the huge, awful city up north, yet we
17 have lower energy rates and never ever had a blackout.

18 Instead of \$1.3 billion for developing a
19 renewable power source, or whatever that really means,
20 depending on interpretation, how about giving your
21 customers a dependable power source so we don't have to
22 endure six to eight blackouts each summer in triple-
23 digit temperature.

24 You charge some of the highest rates in the
25 nation, so why can't you deliver what we are paying for
26 at a time when the town's population is at its yearly
27 lowest and many people utilize swamp coolers, solar over
28 AC.

1 Now you want to cross this pristine desert
2 with a huge power line.

3 It is your desert, too.

4 Is it not beautiful?

5 Don't think for a minute that we believe these
6 towers and lines can be installed on specific easements
7 with little damage to the immediate environment.

8 Once your heavy equipment comes in, the land
9 will be permanently scarred, first at the ecosystem
10 level, then forever a form of visual pollution for the
11 residents and visitors in the future.

12 So, please, humor us. Just because we live 72
13 miles from Ralph's and Home Depot, we are still able to
14 see through your PR blitz, inflated energy needs, and
15 estimated costs, and understand completely your future
16 profit-based goals which, if acquiesced to, will forever
17 alter this desert environment.

18 (Applause)

19 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

20 Joan Shannon.

21 And will those with Nos. 91 through 100 please
22 start going up.

23 STATEMENT OF MRS. SHANNON

24 MRS. SHANNON: Hello.

25 I'm Joan Shannon.

26 I am a resident of Borrego Springs, and I want
27 to thank you for coming here today and giving us the
28 opportunity to speak about the proposed Sunrise Power-

1 link project.

2 My husband and I have called Borrego Springs
3 home for the past three years.

4 We first discovered the Borrego Valley 13
5 years ago when looking for an area where we could decom-
6 press from our hectic lives in Los Angeles County, a
7 place where we could lick our wounds inflicted by the
8 city.

9 In our brief three-day stay we experienced its
10 cleansing power.

11 Over the years we have fallen in love, deeply
12 in love, with this land of beauty and have immersed
13 ourselves in this town and in the surrounding land that
14 makes up the state park.

15 My husband has devoted hundreds of hours in
16 its Visitor Center helping people from around the world
17 learn about and appreciate it, a place that has been set
18 aside for the enjoyment of all for forever.

19 I believe we have the awesome responsibility
20 of being stewards of this planet we inhabit.

21 We are called to care for it and all its
22 creatures, to preserve it for those who will follow us.

23 I want to believe that those who come after me
24 can get the chance to have the same life-enriching
25 experiences I've had.

26 It is tragic that this park and surrounding
27 areas could be marred by this project, one that is
28 unnecessary. And if SDG&E is engaging in deceit to

1 convince us it is necessary, one word comes to mind:
2 unconscionable.

3 I respectfully ask you to look deep within
4 yourself as you consider your decision.

5 Please do the right thing and vote no on this
6 project.

7 Please consider smart-energy alternatives for
8 the future.

9 Hear our pleas, and please listen with the ear
10 of your heart.

11 Thank you very much.

12 (Applause)

13 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

14 Bill Collins.

15 STATEMENT OF MR. COLLINS

16 Mr. COLLINS: My name is Bill Collins.

17 I am a local resident.

18 The Stirling Solar Project is more costly than
19 the rooftop solar project that Southern California
20 Edison has proposed.

21 They plan to lease rooftops in Riverside
22 County and provide 250 megawatts of clean, renewable
23 energy.

24 Then, after that's up and running, they plan
25 to do it again.

26 San Diego County borders Riverside County.

27 San Diego Gas & Electric should be thinking
28 about doing a similar project.

1 They also need to put in some peaker plants on
2 the coast to help out when it really gets hot.

3 They do not need the Sunrise Powerlink.

4 If gas goes to \$200 a barrel, that computes to
5 \$6 a gallon.

6 Wouldn't it be cool to drive in an electric
7 car that you plug into your solar at home and never have
8 to go to a gas station?

9 Commissioners, please don't let San Diego
10 Gas & Electric destroy our state parks, our forests, and
11 our private land, some of which have been ranches for
12 over a hundred years; instead, help make our County
13 sustainable and self-sufficient.

14 Thank you.

15 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 ALJ WEISSMAN: Greg Shideler.

18 STATEMENT OF MR. SHIDELER

19 MR. SHIDELER: Good afternoon.

20 My name is Greg Shideler, and I live at the
21 historic Alpine Ranch.

22 I'm an ecological designer and consultant for
23 world integrated sustainable habitat.

24 I have come here today in opposition to the
25 Sunrise Powerlink.

26 Many excellent reasons and statements have
27 been made, but -- made to reject this Application, and I
28 support those statements.

1 \$1.5 billion does not produce a single watt.
2 For over 35 years I have been involved in
3 designing zero-emissions, closed-loop systems using an
4 anaerobic digester of my own design.

5 These systems utilize organic waste as a
6 resource -- waste-resource springs, and in a WSH-
7 designed system an advanced bioreactor is housed in a
8 greenhouse with aquatic and terrestrial bioremediation
9 units.

10 Using biology it is possible to remove the
11 organic fraction from landfills, therefore preventing
12 greenhouse-gas releases for the next 100 to 200 years.

13 Using bacteria in closed-loop reactors, it is
14 possible to produce both hydrogen and methane.

15 Hydrogen, H₂, can power a baseload power
16 generations via fuel cells, and pipeline-quality methane
17 can be used for peaking power, be it turbines or gas
18 engines.

19 How much electricity from organic-waste
20 resource can we actually generate?

21 I figure it's over 20 percent of the
22 electrical needs can be met through this technology.

23 After extracting the H₂ and CH₄, or natural
24 gas, the greenhouse environment allows us to co-produce
25 multiple products.

26 Aquatic units can produce algae, plants, fish,
27 crayfish, shrimp, and hundreds of other products from
28 the nutrient-rich liquids while sequestering carbon

1 dioxide.

2 ALJ WEISSMAN: I'd like to ask you to wrap up.

3 MR. SHIDELER: Uh-huh.

4 So the economic advantages with return on
5 investment of three to five years, renewable distributed
6 generation, zero emissions, food and water, green jobs,
7 low cost, economic regional engine.

8 Say no to Sunrise Powerlink.

9 Say yes to the Local no-wires distributed-
10 generation alternative.

11 Thank you.

12 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 ALJ WEISSMAN: Carolyn Miller, please.

15 STATEMENT OF MS. MILLER

16 MS. MILLER: What he said.

17 (Laughter)

18 MS. MILLER: Hi.

19 My name is Carolyn Miller, and I'm an educator
20 at Fox Outdoor School.

21 First I would like to thank the Commissioners
22 for giving me this opportunity to speak.

23 I strongly disagree with SDG&E's plan to put
24 transmission lines through our state park.

25 This imported power is old technology, and we
26 need to move forward.

27 The use of solar electricity is a significant
28 step toward energy independence and preserving our

1 environment.

2 Currently the use of solar energy generates
3 less than 1/2 of 1 percent of our residential energy
4 needs. This is because solar power has been too costly
5 and complicated for the average person.

6 This has been the problem, but now there's a
7 solution.

8 There's already a new company that wants to
9 change how we power our homes. This company, called
10 Citizenre, could eliminate the need for more
11 transmission lines. They simply require you to sign on.
12 It's a rental agreement whereby the engineer -- they
13 engineer a solar system for you.

14 They obtain the proper permits, procure the
15 equipment, install the system, and integrate it with
16 your utility company.

17 They monitor and maintain all the equipment
18 for you.

19 After that all that is paid is a flat monthly
20 rent.

21 You would generate your own renewable energy
22 from the solar panels you rent.

23 This power offsets the power you would have
24 been buying from the utility.

25 The savings would more than cover the rent.

26 The rent is locked in for up to 25 years,
27 saving money over time as electricity prices continue to
28 rise.

1 This service guarantees that the rate per
2 kilowatt of energy will not go up for 25 years but, more
3 importantly, eliminates the need for more transmission
4 lines.

5 People are already signing on with this
6 company right here in Borrego Springs.

7 I'm not affiliated with this company in any
8 way, but I am excited that solar energy is about to hit
9 mainstream.

10 ALJ WEISSMAN: Please wrap up.

11 MS. MILLER: If this is possible --

12 ALJ WEISSMAN: Please wrap up, if you can.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. MILLER: -- do we really need to give a green
15 light to the outdated, antiquated idea that Sunrise
16 Powerlink is?

17 We need to change how we power our homes, our
18 business, and our world.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

22 John Keenan.

23 STATEMENT OF MR. KEENAN

24 MR. KEENAN: Good afternoon.

25 I'm John Keenan. I came here from Carlsbad
26 today.

27 I went hiking this morning.

28 I love this place. I come out here all the

1 time.

2 I'm a project manager for -- a consultant
3 project manager. I work for the government.

4 And I just, for the heck of it, sort of looked
5 at this idea that these guys came up with, that Sempra
6 Energy came up with for this project, and it's insane.

7 (Laughter)

8 MR. KEENAN: I mean, the only reason they must
9 have for doing it is because they think they can get
10 away with it.

11 They actually think that you're going to let
12 them put power transmission lines across the best desert
13 state park in the world.

14 They must be insane.

15 And the only reason they have for doing it is
16 because they want to make a bunch of money.

17 And the only way they can do it is if you let
18 them, so don't let them take our money for something
19 that's nuts, and don't let them mess up our desert.

20 Thanks.

21 (Applause)

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: Deb Westcott.

23 STATEMENT OF MS. WESTCOTT

24 MS. WESTCOTT: Thank you to the Commission and
25 thank you, everybody, for being here.

26 See how far I get.

27 I look out over the audience and I think of
28 the view outside my tent as I wake up and look outside

1 over the park at daybreak.

2 And I also think of when I drive from
3 Oceanside and drive out here through Ramona and I see
4 the Santa Ysabel County and -- Valley -- I'm sorry --
5 and I think of what Katy Moretti was saying earlier.

6 And I think of when I first heard about the
7 Powerlink. I thought, That's insane. They can't do
8 that. That the desert state park was -- we made it a
9 state park with a certain vision in mind and a certain
10 spirit, and I ask you all, don't let them put that
11 transmission line through.

12 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 ALJ WEISSMAN: Judy Withers.

15 STATEMENT OF MS. WITHERS

16 MS. WITHERS: My name is Judith Withers, a small
17 business owner and hobby soap maker.

18 Enjoy your soap.

19 (Laughter)

20 MS. WITHERS: I spent my childhood in the City of
21 San Diego and the last 30 years in the backcountry.

22 In the first 25 years fire was not such
23 an issue.

24 Five years ago I burned out in the Pines fire
25 started by a power line. Since then I have been
26 threatened by the Cedar fire, the Mataguay fire, the
27 Angel fire, and finally the mother of them all, the
28 Witch Creek fire, also started by a power line.

1 As we learned, what starts here can end up
2 down there.

3 In 100 years this recreation area remains
4 unchanged. The quiet, peaceful vistas still exist today
5 for thousands who choose to spend the day visiting all
6 their favorite stops along the way to Anza-Borrego Park.

7 What has changed is the climate.

8 Where once I looked forward to seeing the last
9 of the snow days to summer, now I face that season with
10 dread.

11 We have a fraternity of political leaders
12 pre-aligned with Sempra no matter what the evidence
13 suggests.

14 Fortunately we do have leaders here who listen
15 to their constituency, read all the facts, and cannot
16 approve a project that will damage this world-class park
17 and subject San Diego to even greater fire damage.

18 The negatives are many:

19 The technology proposed is antiquated.

20 Full disclosure of expansion plans is lacking.

21 Extreme fire risks.

22 Desecration of national and state parks as a
23 result of approval of this project.

24 Avoidance of the EPA standards set to take
25 effect in 2010 since this line is actually meant to
26 transport unregulated power from Mexico to the north.

27 Paid for by the ratepayers and the unmitigable
28 loss of the state park puts the price too high.

1 This issue should not be about transmission
2 but transition to locally generated rooftop solar and
3 wind where transmission is already in place.

4 Help jumpstart the green revolution by
5 rejecting this project, by supporting the EIR, the
6 San Diego Smart Energy Plan, and the will of the people.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause)

9 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

10 David Garmon.

11 STATEMENT OF MR. GARMON

12 MR. GARMON: Thank you, Judge Weissman,
13 Commissioners.

14 My name is David Garmon. I'm a resident of
15 San Diego and a physician.

16 And we've certainly heard a lot today about
17 renewable and reliable energy.

18 And I almost wonder if it's possible to hear
19 about renewable and reliable energy without the next
20 phrase: and we got to keep the lights on.

21 (Laughter)

22 MR. GARMON: And I want to suggest that it's not
23 a -- an accident that we keep hearing all of these
24 governmental agencies, the Chamber of Commerces, on
25 message.

26 I want to draw your attention to two
27 documents. One was a very short one, an article that
28 appeared in the San Diego Union-Tribune last April 27th

1 in which it described the period in early 2004 when
2 Sempra was licking its wounds from the Rainbow Valley
3 fiasco and began planning for the Powerlink.

4 At that meeting there were twelve movers and
5 shakers, including my San Diego City Councilman, who
6 said: The only way that we can go forward with the
7 Powerlink is if there is political cover. And that
8 political cover can be had if we sell this as renewable
9 and reliable.

10 That's what they are doing, and I don't think
11 it's a big secret.

12 Fortunately -- the other document that I want
13 to call your attention to, this little 7500-page
14 documents that you may be familiar with, the EIR -- I
15 just want to say what an incredible document that is and
16 that Aspen, the Commission, the BLM should really be
17 commended for the effort that has gone into the
18 objective analysis of an unbelievable amount of data.

19 Thank you for doing that.

20 I hope --

21 ALJ WEISSMAN: Let me ask you to start wrapping
22 up.

23 MR. GARMON: Yeah.

24 I hope the Commission will help San Diego move
25 in the direction of implementing the least-damaging
26 alternatives that are outlined in the EIR, and that is
27 the in-area generation and the development of in-area
28 renewables.

1 If, in the end, it turns out that the un-
2 spoiled beauty of these mountains and deserts is to be
3 sacrificed, I hope that you will direct that miles and
4 miles of the Powerlink project be placed down the median
5 of Interstate 8. It would be safer from terrorist
6 attacks than in some isolated spot on the desert, it
7 would be less likely to spark wildfires, and it would be
8 a fitting monument seen by millions of citizens for
9 generations to come, the monument celebrating the
10 triumph of corporate profit and persistence over reason
11 and public welfare.

12 (Laughter and applause)

13 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

14 Mr. Garmon, I have to ask you to --

15 MR. GARMON: I hope and pray it will never be
16 built and that that will not be our legacy.

17 Thank you.

18 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

19 Robert Staehle.

20 STATEMENT OF MR. STAEHLE

21 Mr. STAEHLE: Thank you for coming here.

22 I'm sorry. I left my suit at home.

23 I'm Robert Staehle.

24 I am speaking to you as an engineer for about
25 35 years in space research in a variety of projects.

26 And I'm accustomed to very complex issues, and
27 I think those are represented by this report that your
28 staff and the BLM staff and Aspen have prepared.

1 I want to say, like David did, I applaud first
2 all their accuracy and second of all their courage to
3 come forward with a -- a very -- a conclusion that is
4 certainly upsetting to the Applicant.

5 I view the upcoming decision that you folks
6 have before you as being about Californians as leaders
7 in the world, as we often have been.

8 Will you apply 20th Century principles of
9 megaproject uber alis, or will you set the tone for the
10 21st Century by embracing highly networked, robust local
11 generation?

12 Sunrise Powerlink, as you hear, will generate
13 exactly zero watts of electricity, but your approval of
14 it will generate a fat bonus and more options for Donald
15 Felsing as Chairman and CEO of Sempra Energy and his
16 top staff. And, according to their 2006 Annual Report,
17 he earned something over \$12 million, but, more
18 importantly than that, in that report, in his Letter to
19 Shareholders, you can find what amounts to the strategy
20 for Sunrise Powerlink described in his letter to
21 shareholders, which I'd ask that you read into the
22 record, where it talks about the link to Mexico
23 generation, it brags about the five-times increased
24 profit and doubling of revenue and share price since
25 1998, it even alludes to the northwest part of the
26 Powerlink.

27 So I implore you to make the choice the way
28 I would, between the \$1.3 billion plus Sunrise Powerlink

1 in the 20th Century, or, what I would like to see you
2 do, is to pick up on the staff recommendation for in-
3 area generation, get us on the road to energy self-
4 sufficiency, and make California a trendsetter for the
5 21st Century.

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

7 MR. STAEHLE: Thank you very much.

8 (Applause)

9 ALJ WEISSMAN: Lori Paul.

10 STATEMENT OF MS. PAUL

11 MS. PAUL: Thank you for this opportunity to speak
12 and thank you for coming here to all the Commissioners
13 and to the Administrative Law Judge.

14 I have been here before.

15 My husband and I have driven down from the
16 Pasadena area, from Altadena.

17 Everyone should have a hobby. We come down
18 for each these meetings.

19 And you've heard me --

20 (Laughter)

21 MS. PAUL: It probably goes for you, too.

22 (Laughter)

23 MS. PAUL: And I have a whole bunch of compelling
24 biological justifications for opposing Sunrise Powerlink
25 that won't fit into 90 seconds, so I'm -- I'm struggling
26 with what to you tell you besides the fact that I agree
27 with so many of the prior speakers against the project.

28 I do have a quote, of course, from the Great

1 Law of the Iroquois Confederacy. It's a cliché. You've
2 probably heard it before. And Cliches have a reason for
3 existence, that's because they are often true. And it
4 says that, "In our every deliberation, we must consider
5 the impact of our decisions upon the next seven
6 generations."

7 And I urge you all to be the heroes that I
8 think your staff have been in coming up with the very
9 excellent EIR and EIS, up against the odds, up against
10 the political pressure, and supporting strict science
11 and data.

12 I think that you need to support them, and, if
13 you do, I think your names will go down in history as
14 being a turning point for this state in terms of how
15 we -- we manage our energy needs and the future.

16 And I thank you for that and hope it won't be
17 otherwise.

18 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

19 (Applause)

20 ALJ WEISSMAN: Gidon Singer.

21 And would Nos. 101 through 110 please start to
22 line up.

23 STATEMENT OF MR. SINGER

24 MR. SINGER: Okay. My name is Gidon.

25 And one thing I wanted to say is the people
26 have spoken so eloquently today as they did a year ago
27 when the head of the State Parks, Bobby Shriver, was
28 here and spoke also very well.

1 And what happens when the highest of our
2 people speak clearly about what the people want? They
3 lose their job.

4 So I wish Bobby could be here today to echo
5 what we're all saying.

6 And another thing, before I start, is no one's
7 really talked about consumption.

8 I mean, I can't tell you how to live, but we
9 all could consume much less and still live a pretty fat
10 life, so that's something to think about.

11 I hiked here. Actually, I live on a beach.

12 I hiked from Mount Laguna to here for this
13 meeting just because I felt like that's what I should
14 do.

15 And it dawned on me, you know, when I passed
16 Scissors Crossing and walking the 78 for a while, what a
17 beautiful entry gate to have a 500-kilowatt line
18 basically at the entry to the, you know, western portal
19 to the park.

20 And I'll begin my little written part.

21 The DEIR --

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: You have about a half a minute now.

23 MR. SINGER: -- DEIR confirms we don't need the --
24 the -- don't need the Powerlink.

25 Additionally, there are other ways to meet our
26 region's needs without destroying our state and national
27 parks' wildernesses as well as our dwindling non-park
28 backcountry open spaces.

1 Even with the downgraded status in the world
2 that our country has received over the last eight years,
3 the world still looks at us as a paragon, and California
4 is the country's model.

5 The decisions you make as Commissioners
6 regarding this project will be a watershed moment for
7 the -- California, for the United States, for the world.

8 Will you stand strong and uphold Teddy
9 Roosevelt's original plan for our parklands, or will you
10 set a devastating precedent, creating an open door for
11 future intrusions on all our vital open-space parklands?

12 Even if we needed a transmission line, which
13 we don't, reading all of the stuff -- it's all there --
14 basically even if 100-percent renewables are online,
15 that is not reason to go through the state park.

16 That's completely unsustainable, unrenewable.

17 And Sempra's point about having the easement
18 staying with that -- that's thinking in two dimensions.
19 It's a three-dimensional thing.

20 I mean, these small poles that are there now
21 are -- pretty of much disappear when you are 100 feet
22 from them.

23 160-foot tall cackling power-line poles would
24 pretty much ruin that portion of the desert.

25 Thank you.

26 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

27 (Applause)

28 ALJ WEISSMAN: Sarah Holt.

1 STATEMENT OF MS. HOLT

2 MS. HOLT: Hello.

3 My name is Sarah Holt, and I am fifth grader
4 in Borrego Springs Elementary.

5 I have lived in Borrego all my life and seen
6 the Big Horn Sheep many times, and I don't want their
7 habitat to be disturbed.

8 Please don't let SDG&E put these towers up.

9 Perhaps we do need more electricity. Then why
10 can't we use solar power since we live in a very sunny
11 place.

12 I may just be a child, but I know the
13 environment is the most important thing everywhere.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

17 Jeannie Beck.

18 STATEMENT OF MS. BECK

19 MS. BECK: Hi.

20 My name's Jeannie Beck, and I want to thank
21 you all for coming to listen to us, some of us again.

22 I believe the Sunrise Powerlink project is
23 unnecessary and intrusive. And since we're all part of
24 this environment, we should consider how delicately
25 balanced all of its systems are and how we are all
26 interconnected and affected by each other's decisions
27 and actions.

28 I am going to read a short poem.

1 Our movements through this life are like
2 walking on a spider's web. What happens here is felt
3 there, and what happens now affects tomorrow. Every
4 strand connects to the wholeness. Every space is
5 significant.

6 Will our movements sustain the integrity of
7 the Grand design? If we weave durable connections ever
8 mindful of the vibrations felt throughout the web. We
9 know simplicity is elegance.

10 A well-made web is so strong and fine it's
11 nearly invisible. No view is sacrificed. It gives with
12 the wind. It's made to work with the elements.

13 What happens here today connects to future
14 generations.

15 Weave your connections consciously and leave
16 the web intact. So when the light is right, and you're
17 standing back, there's just that hint of brilliance.

18 Intend to leave with no regrets.

19 Thank you.

20 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

21 (Applause)

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: Lauren Krekelberg.

23 STATEMENT OF MS. KREKELBERG

24 MS. KREKELBERG: So close.

25 Thank you.

26 My name's Lauren Krekelberg.

27 I am from just outside of Alpine in Hopatula
28 Valley and the Alternate Route D, whatever that means.

1 I have my prepared statement, but we've heard
2 so much here today, so many facts.

3 First off I just want to say I'm absolutely
4 opposed to the Sunrise Powerlink.

5 I don't want it in my neighborhood; I don't
6 want it down here in the desert.

7 And I do commend most of us in room that are
8 united in our one thought that it is absolutely not
9 necessary -- not the Southern Route, not the Northern
10 Route, not anyone's route.

11 So I urge our esteemed panel here to consider
12 the truth, consider the facts.

13 Follow the facts. Make us proud of you.

14 Protect our earth and its inhabitants.

15 Do not vote for the deep pockets of big -- big
16 business -- most of which who have left already -- and
17 the propaganda that went along with that.

18 Thank you so much for your time.

19 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 ALJ WEISSMAN: Kevin Krekelberg.

22 STATEMENT OF MR. KREKELBERG

23 MR. KREKELBERG: Thank you, your Honor,
24 Mr. President, and the Commissioners for being here
25 today and allowing me to voice my opposition to the
26 proposed Sunrise Powerlink project.

27 My name is Kevin Krekelberg, and I oppose this
28 project primarily because it is unnecessary.

1 The power required to meet the future needs of
2 San Diego has been proven to be obtainable through a
3 number of alternative resources.

4 We know longer live in the Dark Ages, reliant
5 upon fossil-fuel sources that contaminate our air and
6 destroy our atmosphere.

7 It would be irresponsible of us all to
8 continue the destructive practices employed by those who
9 came before us when clean, efficient alternatives can
10 turn the tide of global warming and secure a safe and
11 healthy planet for those who come after us.

12 Secondly, I'm vehemently opposed to the scars
13 upon our backcountry created by the construction and
14 maintenance of gigantic steel towers emitting EMFs of
15 immeasurable force, destroying nature, natural wildlife
16 habitats, and the visual disruption of our pristine
17 viewsapes, not to mention the increased risk of fire
18 dangers proven to be related to power lines.

19 Finally, I am opposed to the project because
20 it has been so grossly misrepresented by SDG&E.

21 Anyone who looks at the facts and digs deep
22 can only conclude that the power line is a conduit of --
23 of power from Mexico to Los Angeles.

24 The very idea that a special-interest group,
25 such as SDG&E and their parent company, Sempra, would
26 have the ratepayers' interests or best interests at
27 heart and the well-being of the residents of San Diego
28 and its surrounding communities as its first interest is

1 an insult to every thinking person who lives here.

2 Please vote against the Powerlink project.

3 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

4 (Applause)

5 ALJ WEISSMAN: Sandra Roberts.

6 STATEMENT OF MS. ROBERTS

7 MS. ROBERTS: Hi.

8 Sandra Roberts.

9 Thank you for being here and giving us all a
10 chance to talk.

11 When I first heard about the Powerlink I took
12 it personal. It was like a blow. I just -- I couldn't
13 believe that our park and this land would be
14 compromised.

15 And I think you have a wonderful opportunity
16 because I think you can lead and save. The future power
17 needs can be met with -- without sacrificing our parks
18 and desert and communities.

19 Investors are spending millions -- hundreds of
20 millions of dollars in new technology. It's possible.
21 And once these power lines go up, they'll be obsolete.

22 They'll be there forever.

23 Please say no to the Powerlink.

24 Thank you.

25 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

26 (Applause)

27 ALJ WEISSMAN: Norman Roberts.

28 STATEMENT OF MRS. ROBERTS

1 MRS. ROBERTS: I want to -- I certainly want to
2 thank you for coming down.

3 I understand you didn't all have to come, and
4 that I know everybody here appreciates it on both sides.

5 I am here in opposition.

6 My name is Norman Roberts, and I and my family
7 have lived here for a long time.

8 We have a home here, and we have some property
9 here, and both properties adjoin Anza-Borrego State
10 Park.

11 Of course, we thought, when we bought them,
12 that the Park was forever, which it doesn't seem to be.

13 Incidentally, I'm here also as a former
14 President of the San Diego Taxpayers Association --

15 (Laughter)

16 MR. ROBERTS: -- and I disagree completely with
17 everything that they have said.

18 I know a lot of members of the San Diego
19 Taxpayers Association are against this project.

20 I want to bring up something that I think is
21 important, and I have a map here which I hope you have
22 copies of (indicating), and it tells the story that I
23 want to speak on, and that is that this power is going
24 to come through five different nations before it ever
25 gets to us.

26 And some of these nations, like Russia, where
27 the gas is coming from, or Indonesia -- they're not very
28 stable countries.

1 focus on three strategic initiatives which include
2 workforce development and education, increasing the
3 supply of affordable, reliable, quality housing in
4 Orange County as well as improved infrastructure, which
5 is transportation, water, and, yes, energy, and is why
6 I've driven all this way today and listened with
7 everyone to all of this testimony, so I thank you for
8 your patience and consideration.

9 The Business Council as been a long-time
10 supporter of the completion of the Sunrise Powerlink
11 Transmission Project which will supply or provide an
12 essential supply of clean energy to south Orange County.

13 I'm here today on behalf of the Business
14 Council and our workers to strongly urge the Commission
15 to approve this vital link for renewable energy sources
16 to the entire region.

17 And I thank you for your patience.

18 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for your comment.

19 (Applause)

20 ALJ WEISSMAN: Julianna Jordan.

21 STATEMENT OF MS. JORDAN

22 MS. JORDAN: Thank you for letting us come to you
23 today and for being so patient with all of us.

24 My name is Julianna Jordan, and I live in the
25 Wynola area of Santa Ysabel.

26 And I'd like to focus my comments on two areas
27 of concern.

28 My husband and I were fire victims back in the

1 2003 fire. We lost our house which we'd had for over 25
2 years.

3 We were able to rebuild our home, but almost
4 lost it again seven months ago when the Witch Creek fire
5 came within two miles of our house; and the Witch Creek
6 fire was caused by downed power lines.

7 We get tremendously strong winds around here,
8 and I think that was one of the reasons, of course, that
9 the fire spread so quickly, and that the power lines
10 were downed. So consequently I'm very worried about the
11 potential fire damage that the Sunrise Powerlink project
12 could possibly cause.

13 Secondly, I would really like my native State
14 of California to take a leading role in reducing our
15 nation's dependency on foreign oils -- fuels.

16 The Sunrise Powerlink project would depend on
17 imported fuel from other countries, as we have been
18 telling -- talking about.

19 Why can't we start depending on our own
20 natural resources?

21 In this area we have plenty of sun and wind.
22 Let us be on the cutting edge and harness them for part
23 of California's future energy needs.

24 Thank you.

25 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

26 (Applause)

27 ALJ WEISSMAN: Deborah Sperberg.

28 And Nos. 111 through 120, if you want to start

1 lining up.

2 STATEMENT OF MS. SPERBERG

3 MS. SPERBERG: My name is Deborah Sperberg.

4 My husband and I live here in Borrego Springs
5 most of the year in a passive solar house.

6 During the summer we return to Corona Del Mar.

7 I'm sorry this hearing is being held in mid-
8 May because many of Borrego's lovers, visitors, and
9 winter residents have already returned to their summer
10 retreats.

11 It is shocking to me that a company, San Diego
12 Gas & Electric, which should be a leader in going green,
13 is proposing this devastation to one of the most
14 beautiful parks in the world.

15 The map of the Powerlink route should say in
16 big capital letters: CARBON FOOTPRINT.

17 A huge swath of this park, which attracts
18 visitors to California from all over the world, will be
19 blighted by the view of enormous transmission towers.

20 What arrogance to destroy the future of this
21 pristine wilderness.

22 This is antiquated, last-century thinking.

23 Energy solutions, like everything else in a
24 greener world, have to become more local.

25 Powerlink's anticipated benefits are iffy; the
26 devastation proposed is certain.

27 I urge you to say no and join us in resisting
28 this blight.

1 If SDG&E and other companies were required to
2 pay for excess energy generated on our rooftops, we
3 would all invest in all the power we need.

4 (Applause)

5 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

6 Wes Hilton.

7 STATEMENT OF MR. HILTON

8 MR. HILTON: Thank you for the opportunity to
9 speak.

10 I am Wes Hilton. I live in -- on the very
11 northern edge of San Diego overlooking Carmel Valley
12 Lagoon.

13 That seemed a very odd place to terminate this
14 link.

15 Even my old laptop does not need a gazillion-
16 dollar link to recharge it. And the Link -- the Link
17 would go right down a beautiful lagoon.

18 I began backtracking the Powerlink route by
19 going on a Barnett Ranch Preserve hike.

20 Driving there, I did not know exactly where I
21 was going, but I knew I was not heading for the Imperial
22 Valley.

23 After a beautiful hike at the preserve, I
24 investigated further and listened more.

25 I also am convinced SDG&E is trying to set up
26 a phony renewables versus environment (indicating
27 quotes) contest to split the opposition.

28 I also am convinced the Sunrise Powerlink is a

1 politically-correct facade for distribution of power
2 generated in Mexico from fossil fuel and sending it to
3 new development in L.A. and Riverside County.

4 Now, that's good news for me because I believe
5 SDG&E almost surely does not intend to actually build
6 the link to the coast near my house.

7 But I still feel you should send a strong no
8 message -- no message to the SDG&E management
9 coprolites.

10 That's c-o-p-r-o-l-i-t-e-s.

11 Thank you.

12 (Laughter and applause)

13 ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. Greg Wilson or Greg Nelson,
14 rather.

15 STATEMENT OF MR. NELSON

16 MR. NELSON: Hi.

17 I'd like to thank you all for being here
18 today. And excellent speakers, one and all.

19 I don't have a fancy title or anything like
20 that, but I do know that localized wind and solar works.

21 Nine years ago, when we finished our home in
22 Warner Springs, my wife and I decided to jump into the
23 future and take advantage of the California Energy
24 Commission offer of rebates and et cetera, and since
25 then we've been good enough to give SDG&E 3 to 5
26 kilowatt-hours a day to give to other people with no
27 payback to us.

28 Our average monthly bills are \$4.68, and

1 that's because we have to be hooked to the grid to do
2 that.

3 Thank you again for your time.

4 But I just am in opposition to this Powerlink
5 line in all forms, and that -- believe that localized
6 and know that localized power works.

7 (Applause)

8 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

9 Pam Nelson.

10 STATEMENT OF MRS. NELSON

11 MRS. NELSON: Pam Nelson, Warner Springs.

12 Speaking as third-generation southern
13 Californian, it's clear that human impacts, not natural
14 forces, have increased the frequency of wildfires, most
15 recently power lines as the obvious culprits.

16 And I've seen lots of poor planning disregard-
17 ing southern California's need for protection of open
18 space, of biocorridors, of biodiversity.

19 This project follows suit in all respects and
20 by putting more pressure on our protected (indicating
21 quotes) public lands.

22 We have 25 -- twent- -- sorry -- 24 PV panels
23 and a small wind generator that provides our power and
24 daily excess.

25 We don't live in Imperial County, and, to some
26 people's surprise, we also have sun and wind.

27 (Laughter)

28 MS. NELSON: Until our region is saturated with

1 energy production at or near the users, this project
2 should not be considered.

3 I also oppose the Sunrise Powerlink because it
4 diverts money and efforts from the more efficient local
5 and more nationally secure energy production at the
6 user's site.

7 Thank you.

8 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

9 (Applause)

10 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

11 Jack Terrazas.

12 John Strung.

13 STATEMENT OF MR. STRUNG

14 MR. STRUNG: Your Honor, Mr. President,
15 Commissioners, I have lived in Borrego Springs in its
16 winter season now for over 10 years.

17 I originally was -- I am still a resident also
18 in Orange County, and I have to put that in because I
19 disagree with the Business Council's provisions because
20 I've lived there for over 40 years.

21 I still go back because I have connections on
22 foundations I serve in the County.

23 This Powerlink is going to destroy aspects of
24 this park which I think are important.

25 It's complete, the ecological -- the whole
26 ecology as a full field of enough area to give the
27 animals room to roam in.

28 It is -- recreation is one of the chief

1 activities here, and that's a word I often give to my
2 friends that, as Ansel Adams pronounced it, it's
3 re-creation. And that is important.

4 And to destroy the values of the area will
5 decrease the value of this area.

6 And nobody said: What is that cost?

7 What does that -- can you put a dollar value
8 on what is done to this property against the people who
9 come here for recreation and thus re-creation?

10 I thus counsel you to vote no for Sunrise
11 Powerlink.

12 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 ALJ WEISSMAN: Anne Casey.

15 STATEMENT OF MS. CASEY

16 MS. CASEY: Good evening, your Honor and
17 Commissioners.

18 Thank you very much for this opportunity and
19 for delaying your dinner hour to allow us to speak
20 against this important decision that you are going to be
21 making.

22 I speak in opposition to the Sunrise
23 Powerlink, and I won't reiterate the many comments that
24 have already been made because they've been done far
25 more clearly and cogently than I could do; however, I
26 will say this:

27 I own property in Ocotillo Wells that my
28 family and I have enjoyed for over 25 years, although

1 I'm a resident of San Diego. I live two miles from
2 Balboa Park.

3 When I consider the devastation that would be
4 wrought upon the desert region by this project going
5 forward, I can see it in a -- a clear light, viewing it
6 as going through Balboa Park, an area that I love and
7 enjoy almost on a daily basis.

8 I would urge you to oppose it if you think of
9 it in that context.

10 There are other technologies that are more
11 appropriate, and they have been used in such places as
12 Kern and San Diego Counties as wind turbines; England
13 and Norway already use oceanic turbines and generator
14 platforms to provide power for their nations.

15 These options are what is needed, not Sunrise
16 Powerlink.

17 The future of solar power is infinite, as you
18 know.

19 The UN Climate Conference and the Pentagon are
20 jointly investigating space-based solar-power stations
21 that would beam solar-powered energy via satellites to a
22 receiving station on earth.

23 This is an astounding project.

24 The United States and its Western States are
25 uniquely positioned to be a globally unifying force by
26 adopting and pursuing alternative-energy sources now.

27 Americans are known as pioneers.

28 This one project has the potential to exhibit

1 that same spirit, but the current Sunrise Powerlink
2 proposal does not do that.

3 We stand at the cusp of an incredible
4 opportunity.

5 ALJ WEISSMAN: I'd like you to --

6 MS. CASEY: Let's not waste it.

7 Please vote against the Powerlink.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause)

10 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

11 Elaine Tulving.

12 STATEMENT OF MS. TULVING

13 MS. TULVING: Okay.

14 Good afternoon.

15 I understand that this meeting is a rare
16 occasion, and even though I attended prior meetings, I
17 did not think adequate enough for me to speak on my
18 behalf.

19 However, based on the time of year that you
20 chose to come down here, when most of our residents who
21 are more verbal advocates against the Sunrise Powerlink
22 have moved on to their summer homes, I now feel
23 compelled to speak today for the one last chance.

24 My name is Elaine Tulving, and I'm speaking
25 for my husband and me. We have full-time residence here
26 in Borrego Springs.

27 I personally have been an SDG&E consumer,
28 customer, since 1985.

1 While my husband and I applaud SDG&E's efforts
2 to look out for our future energy needs, not just for
3 here in Borrego but for the whole County and, I guess,
4 Orange County, we are not impressed with its current
5 effort.

6 Unfortunately we can't switch our patronages
7 of utility companies unless we move completely out of
8 the area, so unfortunately I cannot speak with my
9 consumer dollars.

10 We are appalled by the willful disregard for
11 wilderness designation by the State of California and
12 possibly the federal government.

13 All those wonderful civic classes drilled into
14 our children's heads about how this great state and our
15 country wants to preserve the land is a bunch of
16 falsehoods.

17 I have a difficult time teaching my 10-year
18 old and other Cub Scouts that their great government is
19 ever-diligent and trustworthy when it comes to
20 preserving fragile land from massive destruction for the
21 better good.

22 My husband specifically wishes to have it
23 known that spoiling the Grapevine Canyon would take away
24 the greatest mountain-biking pleasure he enjoys in Anza-
25 Borrego State Park.

26 I am also a member of the National Association
27 of Realtors, and I disagree with the National Associa-
28 tion of Realtors' stand.

1 Thank you for listening, and we fervently hope
2 that you who hold our trust in the public will vote no
3 against the Powerlink.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause)

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

7 Charles Bennett.

8 Would Nos. 21 through 130 please start lining
9 up.

10 STATEMENT OF MR. BENNETT

11 MR. BENNETT: My name is Charles Bennett.

12 Thank you for allowing us to -- this -- this
13 opportunity to present our views regarding the proposed
14 Sunrise Powerlink project.

15 I recently read in the Union-Tribune about
16 Southern California Edison's project to install 250
17 megawatts of solar power on rooftops in San Bernardino
18 and Riverside Counties.

19 If the project meets SCE's expectations, they
20 propose to double this and install an additional 250
21 megawatts.

22 This would bring the total cost to about 1-3/4
23 billion, and I expect that the economies of scale will
24 result in some reductions in costs over the term of the
25 projects.

26 This is slightly more than the cost of the
27 Sunrise Powerlink, and the power delivered equals that
28 which the Powerlink plans to import to the San Diego

1 region.

2 These numbers indicate that SDG&E could spend
3 slightly more than the 1-1/2 billion the Powerlink is
4 going to cost us to do a similar rooftop-solar project
5 in the greater San Diego region and deliver the 500
6 megawatts they say is needed.

7 They can do that without running through the
8 Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and the County's
9 beautiful backcountry, they can do it without tearing up
10 precious archaeological sites and disturbing Native
11 American burials, without jeopardizing endangered
12 species such as the Peninsular Big Horn Sheep, without
13 casting a visual blight over thousands of acres of
14 state-designated wilderness, without emitting any
15 greenhouse gasses, and without added wildfire dangers
16 caused by power lines.

17 ALJ WEISSMAN: I need to ask you to wrap up.

18 MR. BENNETT: I ask that you send SDG&E back to
19 the drawing board, direct that they follow the recommen-
20 dation of the EIR and use in-basin generation, specif-
21 ically massive use of rooftop solar.

22 Save our precious park from this blight.

23 Thank you.

24 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

25 (Applause)

26 ALJ WEISSMAN: Rob Roy.

27 STATEMENT OF MR. ROY

28 MR. ROY: Good evening.

1 ALJ WEISSMAN: Hi.

2 MR. ROY: Your Honor, I appreciate your humor and
3 thoughtfulness throughout this long process, and,
4 Commissioners, I greatly appreciate your delaying your
5 break for dinner so that you allow me the time to speak
6 to you today.

7 I would also like to first say that I
8 appreciate the thoughtful comments that were presented
9 to you first thing today by San Diego City Attorney Mike
10 Aguirre and San Diego County Supervisor Dianne Jacob.

11 My name Rob Roy.

12 I am the Environmental Director for the
13 La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians.

14 The La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians, a
15 sovereign nation, is concerned about this proposed
16 project and how it would affect their reservation as
17 well as our neighbors.

18 The Draft EIR states that a 69-kilovolt line
19 would be placed to go from the Warner Substation and
20 follow Highway 76, traversing the reservation, to link
21 to the Rincon Substation; however, there is no environ-
22 mental or cultural analysis of this route in the Draft
23 EIR.

24 There has also been no direct government-to-
25 government consultation with the tribe as required by
26 Federal Executive Order; and the Bureau of Indian
27 Affairs has not been included in the preparation of the
28 Draft EIR.

1 Additionally, SDG&E has stated the intent to
2 complete a loop linking to the LEAPS project that would
3 involve a 500-kilovolt line traversing the reservation,
4 yet this also is not addressed in the Draft EIR.

5 The La Jolla Band of Indians supports the
6 concepts of local and renewable power generation.

7 The La Jolla Band of Indians cannot support
8 the Sunrise Powerlink and the resulting negative impacts
9 to the reservation and the rest of the San Diego County.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 ALJ WEISSMAN: Craig McIlwain.

15 STATEMENT OF MR. MC ILWAIN

16 MR MC ILWAIN: That's right.

17 The first time that I camped at Borrego was in
18 1972.

19 As a child I was fascinated by the sights and
20 sounds that greeted me waking up in this magical land.

21 The last time we camped was this spring, to
22 see the flowers with my grandkids.

23 I recoil in disgust to think that someday the
24 prominent future of the desert floors on a ride in from
25 Banner could be this hulking, gargantuan symbol of
26 environmental rape.

27 This is the Painted Desert, the land of
28 butterflies, coyotes, bees, roadrunners, and lizards.

1 It is a delicate ecosystem that must be
2 protected.

3 As a student I explored the Borrego Desert
4 every year.

5 My friends and I saw sheets of mica encased in
6 the desert-varnished rocks, the sun sinking low over the
7 Santa Rosa Mountains, streams and pools of water, Indian
8 rock paintings, wind-carved sandstones, tiny gardens on
9 ocotillo- and yucca-dotted hillsides, a riparian oasis
10 full of birds, willows, and creatures.

11 This desert state park is part of who I am as
12 a Californian and a San Diego native.

13 The thought of this enormous wound to our land
14 cutting through the beloved Santa Ysabel Valley brings
15 me to tears.

16 I love every oak, sage, manzanita, holly-leaf
17 cherry, every creature, every stream and waterfall.

18 It is our responsibility to end this abusive
19 proposition to destroy our most-treasured wildlife
20 resources.

21 (Applause)

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

23 STATEMENT OF MRS. MC ILWAIN

24 MRS. MC ILWAIN: Hello, honored members of the
25 PUC, and thank you very much for coming.

26 I know that -- as members of the PUC, I know
27 you are familiar with the term "stranded asset."

28 San Diego ratepayers have been required in the

1 past to buy off Sempra Energy for construction projects
2 which have been designated as stranded assets, that is,
3 assets that have lost value because of changes in the
4 marketplace.

5 I propo- -- say that if this project is built,
6 it is quite likely that as early as 25 years from now
7 Sempra Energy will again come before you and claim that
8 because of tremendous advances in rooftop solar and
9 breakthroughs in power-generation technologies that no
10 one could have predicted, the Sunrise Powerlink has
11 become a stranded asset. They will claim that they need
12 to be bailed out again by the ratepayers; thus, the
13 citizens will have paid for the construction costs,
14 suffered the damage to precious assets such as the
15 Cleveland National Forest and Anza-Borrego State Park,
16 and then in the end be required to pay again when the
17 Powerlink is proved obsolete.

18 It's easy to see that there's no downside and
19 risk to Sempra Energy under the current system.

20 We ask that you, the PUC, please look out for
21 our interests in this matter because, you know, their
22 interests are already protected.

23 I have heard a lot today from Powerlink
24 supporters about the need for reliable power.

25 How many of you know that if it had not been
26 for decentralized, locally-generated power, most
27 particularly the clean natural gas cogeneration plant at
28 UCSD, that San Diego would have suffered blackouts as

1 well as smoke and ash during the fires?

2 A power line traveling miles through isolated
3 wilderness is inherently vulnerable to fire, earth-
4 quakes, vandalism, mechanical breakdown.

5 Decentralized distributed power is, by its
6 nature, much more reliable than reliance on long-
7 distance transmission.

8 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

9 (Applause)

10 ALJ WEISSMAN: Leslie Bellah.

11 STATEMENT OF MS. BELLAH

12 MS. BELLAH: Thank you very much for coming and
13 listening to us.

14 Sorry. I am really emotional.

15 My name is Leslie Bellah.

16 And I used to live in the Mojave Desert.

17 One of the things I hated about the desert up
18 there was the millions of transmission lines that was
19 there. They were everywhere.

20 It was hard to feel like you were really out
21 in the wilderness when you would go out and hear the
22 noise and see those lines.

23 For a while I thought of moving to Arizona,
24 and I traveled a lot in Arizona, and one of the things I
25 hated about Arizona -- and I love the state -- is the
26 open-pit mines and how the land's been so destroyed
27 there.

28 Then I found Anza-Borrego and Borrego Springs,

1 and I moved here.

2 And for about the first six years I was here I
3 spent every free minute exploring this park.

4 And I wanted to tell you what it means to have
5 this place.

6 And when I started thinking about it, I kept
7 thinking of religious words like "sacred" and "divine,"
8 and I thought, well, that's funny because it's not a
9 religious issue.

10 But then I realized this is about preserving
11 something that is sacred, not because my ancestors lived
12 here and were buried here, not because it's a religious
13 meeting place, because it's one the few places that
14 hasn't yet been ruined by progress and greed.

15 This park was set aside to be protected by
16 each generation so following generations will have
17 somewhere to find peace, to watch the desert's miracles,
18 to observe wildlife, to see the wonder of Anza-Borrego
19 spring bloom, and to experience nature and wilderness.

20 Everyone --

21 ALJ WEISSMAN: I ask you to wrap up.

22 MS. BELLAH: Everyone in this room knows the
23 decision -- the right and moral decision that should be
24 made about sacrificing this park.

25 The question is will big business and greed
26 win again?

27 We've seen the permanent damage of open-pit
28 mining, dams on our rivers, and miles of giant power

1 lines crossing our once pristine landscapes.

2 Please don't let it happen again.

3 Please don't let it happen here.

4 Thank you.

5 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

6 (Applause)

7 ALJ WEISSMAN: Richard Miller.

8 STATEMENT OF MR. MILLER

9 MR. MILLER: Good evening, and thank you very much
10 for letting everyone speak and extending your time.

11 May name is Richard Miller.

12 I am Vice Chair of Sierra Club - California,
13 representing thirteen chapters and over 200,000 members
14 in California.

15 I am also Chair of the San Diego Chapter with
16 over 14,000 members in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

17 This Commission will be under great pressure
18 to approve this power line under the premise that it is
19 needed if SDG&E is to meet its renewable-energy goal.

20 Please do not succumb to this false argument.

21 This power line is not for renewable energy;
22 it is about SDG&E's plan to import fossil-fuel-generated
23 energy.

24 SDG&E cannot be allowed to hold the citizens
25 and the environment of California hostage for their
26 honest -- for their failure to be honest about the type
27 of energy that the line will carry.

28 Please do not gamble on a power line that

1 cannot achieve its stated goals.

2 There are better solutions for California and
3 for the environment.

4 The Sierra Club asks you to support the
5 findings of the DEIR that show that Sunrise Powerlink is
6 not needed and would request that you reject San Diego
7 Gas & Electric's proposal on the Sunrise Powerlink.

8 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

9 MR. MILLER: Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 ALJ WEISSMAN: Lydia Louise Jee.

12 STATEMENT OF MS. JEE

13 MS. JEE: Good afternoon, and thank you for
14 waiting so long for all of this.

15 My name is Lydia --

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for waiting so long for
17 all of this.

18 (Laughter)

19 MS. JEE: My name is Lydia Louise Jee.

20 I am a child of the Golden State, raised by
21 recyclers and taught to practice conservation.

22 In the 1850s gold meant wealth you can hold in
23 your hand; today gold can be the sunshine warming your
24 back.

25 In southern California we have abundant
26 sunshine, a golden resource.

27 We need to actively promote green energy
28 solutions.

1 How much renewable energy would have been
2 generated if every structure built or remodeled since
3 the 2003 California firestorm had included solar-cell
4 power generation?

5 How much?

6 As a secondary point, our military have
7 overflight training corridors that run perpendicular to
8 and directly across the Grapevine Canyon proposed
9 location.

10 In the 30 years I have lived here military
11 aircraft have often flown just overhead and on wingtip
12 up and down canyons practicing evasive maneuvers.

13 The temptation to fly low over the deck, under
14 a wire is present and has been observed by many who live
15 or visit here today.

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: I have to ask you to wrap up,
17 please.

18 MS. JEE: If the power line gets clipped, the
19 aircraft falls, the line breaks, and another wildfire
20 starts.

21 In closing, we should take this golden
22 opportunity to lead with smart energy solutions, not
23 antiquated technology.

24 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

25 (Applause)

26 ALJ WEISSMAN: Susan Carter.

27 STATEMENT OF MS. RHODES

28 MS. RHODES: Hello.

1 I'm Katheryn Rhodes.

2 I'm a civil and environmental engineer.

3 The proposed Sunrise Powerlink is not
4 necessary to bring renewable energy into San Diego
5 County.

6 And I have a little handout for you here.

7 The existing --

8 ALJ WEISSMAN: I'm sorry. Could you tell me again
9 what your name is?

10 MS. RHODES: Susan said for -- that I could go in
11 her place, if -- is that fine?

12 ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. Well, why don't you finish
13 your statement.

14 Normally we don't do that --

15 MS. RHODES: Oh. Oh. I'm sorry.

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: I'm sorry.

17 THE REPORTER: Could you spell your name for me,
18 please.

19 MR. RHODES: K-a-t-h-e-r-y-n- R-h-o-d-e-s.

20 The existing Southwest Powerlink project was
21 built in the 1980s, and it was constructed spec- --
22 especially to connect the San Diego County power grid
23 with renewable, clean solar energy from Imperial Valley.

24 This is the same reason now used by SDG&E for
25 the new transmission power 20 years later.

26 Instead of clean, renewable energy flowing
27 from Imperial to Mexico and Mexico to San Diego County
28 using the existing Southwest Powerlink, SDG&E and the

1 Independent System Operator decide to schedule dirty
2 fossil-fueled power in its place for profit.

3 Within San Diego County the Southwest
4 Powerlink is wholly owned and operated by SDG&E. The
5 Independent System Operators have 100-percent scheduling
6 rights.

7 All that is needed is to turn a switch and
8 schedule renewable energy instead of fossil fuels from
9 Imperial Valley and Mexico. Problem solved.

10 The Southwest Powerlink alternative was
11 excluded by SDG&E early in the process without
12 explanation or written analysis, except that they wanted
13 an alternative route just in case of wildfires.

14 The new route goes through a high-wildfire-
15 risk area.

16 There's an energy law that says you're
17 supposed to try to use the existing right-of-ways.

18 What state law is there that says you can't
19 have two lines close together, for the fire risk? I --
20 I don't know the law.

21 If additional power is wanted, the superior
22 route to bring additional power to San Diego County will
23 be --

24 ALJ WEISSMAN: Please -- please wrap, ma'am.

25 Thank you.

26 MS. RHODES: Okay.

27 Well, I'm going to show you some of my photos.

28 This is the existing Southwest Powerlink

1 (indicating). It goes right there, right next to the
2 border with Mexico.

3 Here it is again (indicating).

4 It doesn't go through the Cleveland National
5 Forest; it goes below the Cleveland National Forest.
6 It's already hooked up to the -- the power grid.

7 And that's the -- and here it is, too.

8 And I'd say -- I would like to even drive you
9 guys down there so you could see what it looks like and
10 you could see how it will be so environmentally
11 sensitive to -- just for the parallel line.

12 Thank you.

13 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

14 All right.

15 (Applause)

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: Well, we have time only for one
17 more speaker, unfortunately --

18 A VOICE: Oh. No.

19 ALJ WEISSMAN: -- so why don't you come up.

20 A VOICE: Two more.

21 (Overlapping voices)

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. Okay. You guys can --

23 (Overlapping voices)

24 (Laughter)

25 STATEMENT OF MR. DAVIS

26 MR. DAVIS: I'm Jim Davis.

27 I am President of the San Di- --

28 ALJ WEISSMAN: I'm sorry.

1 Is there -- there's a name ahead of you.

2 Somebody has handwriting like mine, so must be
3 someone named Steve Weissman, but -- no.

4 (Laughter)

5 MR. DAVIS: Not here.

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: But I can't read the name --

7 MR. DAVIS: Yeah. Okay.

8 ALJ WEISSMAN: -- but there's somebody ahead of
9 you.

10 MR. DAVIS: He's not there.

11 ALJ WEISSMAN: He's not there?

12 MR. DAVIS: No.

13 (Laughter)

14 ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. Okay.

15 MR DAVIS: Okay?

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. Go ahead.

17 MR. DAVIS: Am I good to go?

18 ALJ WEISSMAN: Yeah. Go.

19 MR. DAVIS: Okay.

20 I'm Jim Davis.

21 I'm President of the San Diego Imperial
22 County's Cattlemen's Association.

23 Our Association is opposed to the Sunrise
24 Powerlink project.

25 We feel that a better solution would be in-
26 basin gener- -- power generation.

27 We should -- we should put ourself -- why
28 should we put ourselves as risk to imported power when

1 we have seen the negative effects of relying on imported
2 water. Okay.

3 The line is being proposed on the pretense it
4 will bring renewable energy to San Diego, yet the solar
5 technology is not proven.

6 Stirling stated recently that they would build
7 the first phase of their project, 300 megawatts, with or
8 without Sunrise Powerlink.

9 Let's see if this technology works before we
10 invest 1.5 billion of ratepayers' money in the Sunrise
11 Powerlink project.

12 California Farm Bureau attorney Karen Mills
13 has expressed great concern about the impact to
14 agriculture in both the Imperial and San Diego Counties.

15 She has voiced concerns that the mitigation
16 measures during construction are often ignored and
17 overlooked resulting in permanent damage to ranches and
18 farms.

19 We are concerned about the devastation of our
20 ranchlands from the construction of the road -- roads to
21 build and maintain the power lines, the increased risk
22 association with fire and food security.

23 For example, electric lines started the recent
24 Witch fire during the Santa Ana winds.

25 Should we allow SDG&E to build additional
26 power lines which increase the risk of fire when we need
27 to have SDG&E take steps to reduce fire risk of the --
28 reduce fire risk in the backcountry?

1 The food-security risk increases as a result
2 of people coming and going from our ranches that have
3 the potential of introducing disease and pathogens in
4 our livestock herds, grasslands, and farms.

5 Thank you for listening to our concerns.

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for coming.

7 (Applause)

8 ALJ WEISSMAN: Mr. Feigel?

9 STATEMENT OF Mr. FEIGEL

10 MR. FEIGEL: Yes.

11 My name's Norm Feigel, F-e-i-g-e-l.

12 I'm from Mesa Grande.

13 I have property up there, it's part of the old
14 Spanish land grant of the Santa Ysabel Ranch,
15 established in 1871.

16 The Powerlink is going to take up about a mile
17 of my property.

18 They are going to build roads to get to it,
19 and that's going to cause a lot of disruption to my
20 cattle, to the -- a lot of land. Dirt will have to be
21 removed to make these roads and so forth, and it will be
22 quite a -- quite a scar.

23 I won't know who's on the property and who
24 comes and goes because I'll have no control of my land
25 anymore due to the Powerlink.

26 I have to worry, then, about who's on there to
27 poach the wild- -- wildlife or even my cattle or bring
28 on -- to be on the ranch.

1 The fire hazard will be -- be great.

2 They can't fight it with the planes; they
3 can't -- they can't shut this line down.

4 It takes them quite a while for an emergency
5 to shut down the line.

6 There -- it hasn't been proven, but there's a
7 possibility that this -- due to this power line there
8 can be a cancer or other diseases to my cattle that
9 would cause them to be sterile or to stop production.

10 If I had an 85-percent calf crop now and it
11 dropped to 60 percent, who's going to pay the
12 difference?

13 The line and the roads will cause damage to
14 the environment, to the wildlife.

15 Earth Day is every day for a rancher, not just
16 one day.

17 ALJ WEISSMAN: Please wrap up.

18 MR. FEIGEL: It -- it -- if you looked at the
19 property now, you would see that it's approximately the
20 same way it looked 250 to 200 years ago except for a
21 fence here and there.

22 People having -- could bring in disease on
23 their feet, their tire tracks and their -- from their
24 trucks and equipment, and it would affect the public
25 health because I'd have to ship these cattle, and if
26 they're diseased, who'd buy them?

27 It will reduce the property value tremendous-
28 ly.

1 Nobody want to buy us -- the property if I
2 wanted to sell it because of the power line.

3 ALJ WEISSMAN: I need to ask you to -- to finish
4 now, please.

5 MR. FEIGEL: Okay. I'm about done.

6 And the power line could -- could ruin the
7 ranchers, not only me but all my neighbors and so forth
8 because the -- the value would go, and they would cause
9 maybe eminent domain, which is a bad law anyway, but I
10 know it's on the books -- they could take it, and it
11 could cause foreclosure.

12 In closing, please put -- disapprove the
13 Powerlink just for the people of the backcountry and for
14 the citizens of San Diego County and the parks and
15 everything that it effects.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause)

18 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Feigel.

19 (Applause)

20 ALJ WEISSMAN: Ken Wright.

21 And are you -- you wouldn't be related to
22 Carol Schloo-Wright as well, would you?

23 MR. WRIGHT: Well, she's going to speak after, at
24 the evening meeting.

25 ALJ WEISSMAN: Well, is she going to be here
26 anyway, in the evening?

27 MS. SCHLOO-WRIGHT: I'm here.

28 ALJ WEISSMAN: Are you going to be here in the

1 evening anyway?

2 A VOICE: Yeah.

3 MS. SCHLOO-WRIGHT: Yes.

4 ALJ WEISSMAN: You'll be here in the evening
5 anyway.

6 MR. WRIGHT: Maybe she'll be one of the early ones
7 tonight.

8 ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. Go ahead.

9 STATEMENT OF MR. WRIGHT

10 MR. WRIGHT: Well, good evening.

11 And I can see from your eyes that you guys are
12 weary and probably tired of hearing a lot of comments
13 today. Probably hungry, too.

14 But I just want to say, when I heard you were
15 coping down here for this unprecedented special meeting,
16 I was very encouraged to think that you would take the
17 time out to go through another meeting after all the
18 ones that were already conducted in the County; and it
19 gives me great optimism that you're here because I think
20 you want to hear the truth.

21 I love the Native American woman's comments
22 earlier. She spoke from the heart.

23 I think she grabbed everybody's attention in
24 this room.

25 I am Ken Wright. I'm a teacher in the Outdoor
26 Education Program in San Diego County.

27 And I'm always amazed at how the inner-city
28 students I work with rarely see places of natural

1 beauty -- they just don't -- free from man's intrusion.

2 This presently does exist in our County. We
3 have these priceless deserts -- you've heard about
4 them -- the mountains, we have beautiful foothill
5 valleys here, places of solace, liberated roaming, and
6 awesome inspiration.

7 These are gifts from the earth; they are not
8 to be given away; they belong to us all. They are a
9 main part of our sanity and our health.

10 Much like the ocean and the sky above us, it
11 is our duty to protect these treasures.

12 I'd like to give you later a copy of my full
13 comments which are -- cover some of the other points,
14 but I want to go back to the transmission-line project
15 applauded by -- excuse me -- the solar project applauded
16 by the Governor recently in San Bernardino and Riverside
17 County by the Southern California Edison -- it was
18 mentioned earlier -- a great project that we should be
19 looking at for San Diego: half the price, no
20 transmission lines, and no corridors as well.

21 Something we really should pay attention to is
22 what's happening to the counties to the north. Great
23 leadership up there.

24 I'm also going to give you --

25 ALJ WEISSMAN: I'm sorry. I really need to
26 wrap -- you really need to wrap up.

27 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

28 I'm going to give you an article from the

1 Union-Tribune also that I'd like you to read -- April
2 13th article that goes on about that, and you're quoted
3 in it, Doc- -- Judge Weissman, so --

4 ALJ WEISSMAN: How many copies do you have --

5 (Laughter)

6 MR. WRIGHT: I have -- I have four.

7 ALJ WEISSMAN: I'm just joking.

8 Please. Go ahead.

9 (Laughter)

10 MR. WRIGHT: I have copies for the Commissioners
11 and I have copies for you to read at your leisure.

12 And I would just like to say with the last
13 comment, please make the legacy of your Board one to be
14 proud of, not one to regret. One where we will not see
15 any new giant towers where sprawling, buzzing cables and
16 tortured landscapes are anywhere in California, at least
17 San Diego.

18 Thank you for your time, and have a wonderful
19 evening.

20 (Applause)

21 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

22 (Applause)

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

24 Before any of you leave --

25 (Applause)

26 ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. There are obviously a
27 significant number of people that haven't had a chance
28 to speak yet.

1 My apologies for that. I'm sorry not to have
2 been able to get more of you in during this session.

3 Let me just say if you're -- if you know
4 you're not coming back -- if you signed up and you know
5 you're not coming back, let me know and I'll scratch you
6 off the list, otherwise we'll see you after the short
7 break.

8 And I will take the people who are on the list
9 already first.

10 The other thing I want to make clear is that I
11 know some people have told me they were hoping to have
12 an opportunity to make a comment in the afternoon and a
13 comment in the evening. It's very clear to me that's
14 not going to be possible.

15 (Laughter)

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. So -- so it's a
17 one-shot deal; and so please do not sign up again
18 because we'll just have to go through this one at a time
19 in the evening.

20 Otherwise, any Commissioners want to make any
21 closing comments? All right.

22 COMMISSIONER GRUENEICH: See you in an hour.

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: Yeah. See most of you in an hour.

24 Thank you very, very much for being here.

25 (Applause)

26 (Whereupon, at the hour of 5:38 p.m.,
27 a recess was taken until 6:30 p.m.)

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EVENING SESSION - 6:52 P.M.

* * * * *

ALJ WEISSMAN: We'll be on the record.

And the first speaker this morning is going to be Carol Schloo-Wright.

STATEMENT OF MS. SCHLOO-WRIGHT

MS. SCHLOO-WRIGHT: Do I start? Hello. I'm Carol Schloo-Wright. I oppose the Sunrise Powerlink because I believe this project has nothing to do with generating renewable energy sources, reducing greenhouse gases, reducing our need for imported resources, reducing our carbon footprint on the earth.

I believe that SDG&E and Sempra Energy want to continue having the monopoly on producing and the distribution of fossil fuels and maybe clean renewables. I believe this is a land grab of public and private lands. I'm so outraged by that I can hardly think straight.

The other thing I do know, that just building this thing is going to create so much greenhouse emissions it's unbelievable. I haven't heard that mentioned. The other thing is that if this was -- if we do invest in this 1.3 billion transmission line, then where is the incentive to focus on local and distributed generation goals, energy efficiency, and conservation goals laid out as DRES in the State Energy Action Plan.

I say yes to the many experts who have studied and analyzed this project and have found it to be a

1 boondoggle, a folly of destructive, unnecessary,
2 outrageously ridiculous, antiquated, dirty project.

3 I say yes to the recommendations of the Draft
4 EIR and EIS report. I say yes to the Smart Energy plan
5 solutions. I say yes to forcing utilities and
6 communities to do the right thing by creating local and
7 renewable energy. I say yes and thank you to the
8 politicians, officials, and the citizens and experts who
9 agree there are many better alternatives to this
10 proposal.

11 Please, please, please say no to the Sunrise
12 Powerlink. Say yes to start Smart Energy Solutions for
13 California, all of California.

14 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

15 (Applause)

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: I would like to ask your
17 cooperation in containing the zeal and just letting us
18 move from speaker to speaker because I think things will
19 move more quickly that way if we don't stop because we
20 have a full house.

21 So I want to check to see whether anybody on
22 the list -- where we are next on the list. So I'm going
23 to just throw out some names.

24 Is Bill Hoffman here? Pamela Haehn?

25 MS. HAEHN: That would be me.

26 ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. Good. Welcome.

27 STATEMENT OF MS. HAEHN

28 MS. HAEHN: I want to thank you all for coming out

1 here. I know that Dian and your Honor have been out
2 here before listening to so many of us. And you've
3 heard a lot of reasons why people are against this. So
4 rather than reiterate that, I'm just going to keep it on
5 a more personal level.

6 Right before we went on break there was a
7 gentleman out here talking about education and bringing
8 inner city kids here, and I was one of those kids. The
9 first time I came to Anza-Borrego it was a high school
10 field trip for biology. And when I got out here, I
11 looked around and I said, I thought biology was about
12 living things and I don't see anything here that fits in
13 that description. But, you know, I got out and we
14 walked around a little bit, and I saw the most
15 incredible beautiful little flower in the hot sand, the
16 desert five spot. I'll never forget it, because it
17 sounds really corny, but it really altered my life. I
18 thought, you know, if something that fragile can live
19 out here in such a seemingly hostile environment, what
20 else is out here?

21 And so whenever I could I kept coming back out
22 here, and what I found was just the incredible tenacity
23 of life to adapt and survive. And I just became so sort
24 of enthralled in it that it inspired me to apply to the
25 University of California at Davis, and I became the
26 first person in my family to graduate with a college
27 degree, and it was all because of the little desert five
28 spot.

1 You know, there were people that came before
2 me that set up these parks and national forests for the
3 preservation so other people, generations of people
4 could be inspired and awed, and I would hate to see it
5 altered.

6 Thank you so much. You know, these are public
7 lands. I am the public. These are my lands, and I do
8 not want this project on my land. Thank you.

9 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for coming.

10 (Applause)

11 MS. JOHNSTONE: Hello, Commissioners. I want to
12 thank you for traveling to the desert this day.

13 ALJ WEISSMAN: You're ahead of me a little bit.
14 Can you tell me what your name is?

15 MS. JOHNSTONE: Jeanne Johnstone.

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: I want to see whether anybody that
17 was ahead of you on the list is here. Ms. Sasma
18 Itzekman here, or Carol Levin, or Katherine Saubel, or
19 Lorene Joosten?

20 (No response)

21 ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. Jeanne Johnstone.

22 STATEMENT OF MS. JOHNSTONE

23 MS. JOHNSTONE: Thank you. So welcome again.

24 Like every one else, lots of great comments.
25 You've heard it before. I hope you are awake enough to
26 listen and try to really do the right thing here.

27 So armed with our EIR/EIS finding and
28 widespread opposition to the SDG&E Powerlink project, I

1 hope you're feeling more confident. And with that, I'd
2 like to also remind you to do deep look, look deep for
3 the truth here for the long-term benefit. You know, the
4 seventh generation that has been mentioned, because why
5 else really are you here? Why are we here? Are we so
6 selfish as to say, heck, party till you drop right now?

7 So please be aware too that one of the deepest
8 concerns that many folks have who are unable to come
9 here and speak is that, deep down, it's all around the
10 globe, it's really considered criminal to bulldoze over
11 and de-designate wilderness and park lands, park lands
12 which have been created by many, many, many people, much
13 effort, long before our little bodies here have been
14 breathing and sweating on the desert surface.

15 You know, to me the way the desert state park,
16 particularly, for example, like San Diego Gas and
17 Electric's mega project is pushing for is absolutely
18 unjustified and unacceptable at any time. We have other
19 means. We have other interests. So seize the
20 opportunity. Get with it, folks. We want to be -- we
21 want you on the right side here, the bigger picture.
22 We're taxpayers. I pay thousands just like most folks
23 here. And it turns me way off.

24 I lived in Alaska a lot of my time. I've
25 lived in New England. I've seen a lot of places get
26 crisscrossed with one more little utility corridor, for
27 example, or another parking lot, shrinking this totally
28 irreplaceable and increasingly rare natural habitat or

1 habitats plural.

2 ALJ WEISSMAN: Need to have you wrap up now.

3 MS. JOHNSTONE: You bet. Please, be wise. Say
4 absolutely no go to the Sunrise Powerlink proposal.
5 Help Southern Californians and our country and the globe
6 really do the right thing. We have the means. Let's
7 get with it and not live with the old dinosaur hanging
8 overhead, buzzing overhead. It's just not worth it.

9 Thank you for being here.

10 (Applause)

11 ALJ WEISSMAN: Bob Veborg.

12 STATEMENT OF MR. VEBORG

13 MR. VEBORG: Your Honor, Commissioners. My name
14 is Bob Veborg, and I'm here on behalf of John Stewart,
15 who is the natural resource consultant for the
16 California Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs, and he
17 was unable to attend this meeting.

18 This association represents thousands of
19 families throughout the State of California who are 4
20 wheel drive enthusiasts. Cal 4 Wheel believes in the
21 tread lightly program and represents a large coalition
22 and regularly lobbies the Governor and his staff. This
23 is a lobby the Governor knows well.

24 But I'm here -- you have a letter that was to
25 be passed out already that was generated by Cal 4 Wheel
26 in opposition to the Powerlink. That was Hat No. 1.
27 Hat No. 2 that I'm wearing tonight was that I volunteer
28 here at the state park, and I'm involved in archeology

1 and paleontology. This power line is going to run right
2 through archeological sites. Even if it's buried,
3 buried they'd even be worse, because it totally destroys
4 the sites. There's also, this whole park is just
5 covered with areas of paleontology, fossil bones that
6 are millions of years old that we're in the process of
7 recovering and studying and analyzing. These power
8 lines will go right through protected areas, areas that
9 are even close sometimes to the public because that's a
10 very special spot.

11 The people are talking about renewable and
12 reliable sources of power. What they fail to realize is
13 that the geothermal plants already in existence are in
14 decline. The test plants they're building right now
15 won't be on line for another four years. And SDG&E has
16 already admitted that that power that goes to the
17 highest bidder, they're not even guaranteed that power
18 when those geothermal plants come on line.

19 So I oppose the Powerlink in all aspects and
20 so does Cal 4 Wheel. Thank you.

21 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Veborg.

22 Is Betsy Knaak here, David Armstrong?

23 MR. ARMSTRONG: 146. I think I'm the last of the
24 morning group, perhaps.

25 ALJ WEISSMAN: No, no. Quite a few more.

26 MR. ARMSTRONG: I'm the last in the line.

27 ALJ WEISSMAN: Why don't you just go ahead and
28 make your presentation.

1 (Laughter)

2 STATEMENT OF MR. ARMSTRONG

3 MR. ARMSTRONG: All right. My name is David
4 Armstrong. I thought I'd let you know I retired with 31
5 years with AT&T. So I'm somewhat familiar with the
6 California Public Utilities Commission. And I would
7 like to see the Commission consider the idea of what
8 AT&T is doing right now in their 20-year program of
9 putting all this stuff underground. And a direct route
10 to Orange County would be Interstate 5, along that
11 route. You don't need to go through our desert, through
12 my house in Pine Valley, through my house I've had here
13 for 31 years or 34 years now in Borrego Springs.

14 My grandfather came here to the desert in the
15 late 1800s. My parents were born here. I was born
16 here. Both my kids were born here. You know, we're
17 working on fifth generation of the desert. And it's
18 just, it's pure profit. It's greed. It's really sad
19 that they could get away with going the route that
20 they're going just for money.

21 And thank you for being here. I appreciate
22 your being here.

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thanks for coming back after the
24 break. Anybody with numbers up through 160 please come
25 line up now. And I want to check to see if any of the
26 remaining 140s are here. Bonnie Gendron, George
27 Courser, Michael Cox, Roger Stillman?

28 (No response)

1 ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. Then we're up to
2 Christina Warren? Len Daniel? Jeanette Hartman?

3 MS. WARREN: Christina Warren.

4 ALJ WEISSMAN: Oh, great.

5 STATEMENT OF MS. WARREN

6 MS. WARREN: Hi. Thank you. A quick point. I
7 first began coming here 50 years ago on my father's
8 back. This land has been a healing force for me after
9 surviving a plane crash. And I want to bring up certain
10 points that I don't think have been addressed yet.

11 First of all, I do not think it's a
12 coincidence that shortly after Governor Schwarzenegger
13 came out in support of Sempra and SDG&E's power line
14 Sempra donated \$50,000 towards his redistricting
15 proposal. Another item is that I don't understand how
16 you can take a park that people have been donating their
17 energy and their money to for decades and decades,
18 giving that money in good faith that what they were
19 doing was preserving this park forever, and how can you
20 turn that around now and say, oops, we decided we'd
21 rather use this park to line the already deep pockets of
22 the CEOs of the oil companies and SDG&E. I feel that
23 that's a betrayal of untold numbers of people.

24 And the other thing, although I own a home
25 here and I bought a smaller house so that I could afford
26 to put solar on the roof and I produce more energy than
27 I use in a year, my main point tonight would be that the
28 fire danger is so supreme. And if you haven't lived

1 through a firestorm where the cloud of smoke was seven
2 miles into the air, where fire is racing through the
3 woods at 80 miles an hour, you cannot know how
4 devastating it is. And to me for a local company to say
5 that we're going to string a fire hazard through these
6 mountains is an insult and an outrage.

7 So I encourage you to please vote against this
8 line. Thank you.

9 ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 ALJ WEISSMAN: Len Daniel. Jeanette Hartman.

12 STATEMENT OF MS. HARTMAN

13 MS. HARTMAN: Hello. My name is Jeanette Hartman.
14 I live in Borrego Springs, and I'm representing the
15 People's Powerlink. Your Honor and Honorable
16 Commissioners, thank you very much for coming.

17 There are two critical issues that we see with
18 this project. The first is the land. Anza-Borrego
19 Desert State Park, the Cleveland National Forest, San
20 Diego County open spaces and our historic backcountry
21 communities are not available for desecration for
22 corporate profit, period. At both the state and federal
23 level we must be very clear about that.

24 In the case of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
25 it was set aside as a state park in 1933, a national
26 natural landmark in 1974, a United Nations biosphere
27 reserve in 1982, a place of stark beauty, cultural and
28 paleogeographic value, inimicable intrinsic value, and

1 views that span a hundred miles or more. Wise were the
2 people who have come before us and seen the value of
3 this special place. Please be the wise ones future
4 generations will look up to in this 75th anniversary
5 year of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park by denying the
6 desecration of this crown jewel. Thank you.

7 And here are two reports that have some really
8 incredible photographs of the nature of the natural
9 resources along the route for you to look at.

10 Thank you.

11 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Buz Schott.

12 (Applause)

13 STATEMENT OF MR. SCHOTT

14 MR. SCHOTT: Good evening. My name is Buz Schott.
15 I represent Stirling Energy Systems. You've heard a lot
16 about them today. And unfortunately, a lot of that is
17 misinformation, some of it I think planned, some of it
18 just people don't know what's going on. But Stirling
19 Energy has 600 megawatts of contracts with the San Diego
20 Gas and Electric approved by your Commission which could
21 be advanced to 900 megawatts.

22 Furthermore, it's the most efficient way to
23 convert sunlight into energy in the world. It just
24 broke the record again earlier this year. So it's been
25 set by DOE as the most efficient.

26 And finally, there's no emissions from
27 Stirling Energy. It uses hydrogen gas, expands hydrogen
28 gas into energy. It uses very little water. The only

1 water it uses is to clean the mirror. So it's a very
2 efficient and a very clean way to generate energy.

3 Also many people said we don't have the
4 funding to go forward. We signed a partnership in
5 March. Company, NTR out of Dublin, Ireland, who owned
6 the largest, one of the largest wind farms in the world,
7 has been in this business for a long time, put a hundred
8 million dollars into it. So we are moving forward.

9 We will sign -- we will file our CEC
10 application in April, or June, excuse me, in June, and
11 we will be moving forward. We expect to be generating
12 electricity before 2010.

13 To get that electricity to San Diego we must
14 have the Sunrise Powerlink. We are one of many, many
15 projects in the Imperial Valley. There was a summit
16 last week where they had I think nine different
17 countries. Hundreds of megawatts were discussed.

18 And it's really the way we need to get more
19 transmission. We need the Sunrise Powerlink to get the
20 renewable energy out of the Imperial Valley. So please
21 support the Sunrise Powerlink. Thank you very much.

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: Let me ask you a question before
23 you leave.

24 MR. SCHOTT: Sure.

25 ALJ WEISSMAN: I've heard several people now today
26 and on previous occasions throw out this hundred million
27 dollar number. Does that mean you have all the money
28 you need now?

1 MR. SCHOTT: It has the money to go forward for
2 the first phase.

3 ALJ WEISSMAN: Does it have all the money you need
4 to construct the first phase?

5 MR. SCHOTT: No, sir. It's not all the money we
6 need.

7 ALJ WEISSMAN: How much money do you need to
8 construct the first phase?

9 MR. SCHOTT: Well, our new partner has more than
10 enough capital to do that.

11 ALJ WEISSMAN: How much money do you need to
12 construct the first phase?

13 MR. SCHOTT: The first phase is probably, is in
14 range of 300 to \$400 million.

15 ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. SCHOTT: Thank you.

17 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for your comments.

18 Jim Wight. Charles Jerney.

19 STATEMENT OF MR. JERNEY

20 MR. JERNEY: I'm Charles Jerney. I live on Star
21 Valley Road in Alpine. And earlier today I listened to
22 business representatives and people state that the
23 electrical power is going from San Die -- from Imperial
24 County to San Diego, and I don't know of anybody that
25 can control electrons and tell them where to go. When
26 the power hits the grid, it goes wherever it's being
27 used. A lot of that power may never reach San Diego.
28 It's 150 miles away.

1 Businesses move out of San Diego I heard
2 earlier today due to a lack of electrical power. Most
3 businesses move out of San Diego because of the taxes.
4 Several businesses moved out of state due to that.

5 Okay. Noncompliant power plant was built in
6 Mexico because SDG&E shut down a power plant in San
7 Diego so they did not have to bring it into EPA
8 compliance. They shut it down, and then there was a
9 shortage. They charged higher rates. The plant they
10 built in Mexico still affects our air. We're all on the
11 same planet.

12 During the fires SDG&E shut down county
13 transmission lines. The power was still on in San Diego
14 due to the local SDG&E generators in San Diego. That's
15 the only reason they had power.

16 SDG&E has stated geothermal was not effective.
17 That's why they're not pursuing it. The hundred
18 thousand kV line or power that's being transmitted on
19 the 500 kV lines put out heat as well as EMF. During
20 foggy days and foggy nights they will discharge through
21 the air, through the moisture that's in the air. And
22 you'll be able to increase your heat that we're trying
23 to get away from global warming by this transmission
24 line. So I'm against it.

25 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for coming. Thank you
26 for waiting.

27 (Applause)

28 ALJ WEISSMAN: Tom Butler.

1 will remove the dust from these here lines. They
2 usually go in there with a helicopter, and they actually
3 put a man on these lines.

4 Also in my area --

5 ALJ WEISSMAN: I'll have to ask you to wrap up now
6 if you could, please.

7 MR. BUTLER: I'm going to wrap up with this.

8 Also in my area there are birds, you know.
9 There's two eagles that I see almost every day, there's
10 a red tail hawk, and there's a turkey vulture, let alone
11 a lot of other smaller animals in the area. And that's
12 going to destroy this in our environment. And I hope
13 that you do the right thing and vote against this.

14 Thank you very much.

15 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 ALJ WEISSMAN: Rebecca Falk? No. Richard Zelmer.
18 Gabriella -- I'm sorry. Richard Zelmer.

19 STATEMENT OF MR. ZELMER

20 MR. ZELMER: Well, last time I came to one of
21 these hearings and waited all day, we were cut from 2
22 minutes to 30 seconds. So please bear with me just a
23 trifle.

24 Okay. The first thing is I believe this is a
25 meeting of the California Public Utilities Commission.
26 And so your responsibility is for the public. SDG&E is
27 not a public entity. It's a for-profit entity. We are
28 all dependent on this one source for all of our electric

1 needs. When you're a one-source dependent, you're very
2 vulnerable. Their obligation is to their shareholders,
3 and we are pretty much milk cows to them.

4 The big flaw of this is just like if I had a
5 direct route into each of your wallets, I'd hate to give
6 that up. So that's why they want this Powerlink thing,
7 centralized control of the electrical supply. Why do
8 they want renewables in Imperial County? Because that's
9 suited for large-scale projects that can be controlled
10 by a corporation. It has nothing to do with the
11 small-scale projects that happen individually on roof
12 tops. That gives up their monopoly. So your
13 responsibility is a safe, reliable supply of electricity
14 for the people of California. Diversity achieves that
15 much better.

16 Also one more thing. I'm a real estate broker
17 in Ramona. I had a guy up here earlier from the
18 National Association of Realtors that said, you know,
19 Realtors support this project. Nonsense. I mean people
20 like this take official positions. You've had a lot of
21 people come in here claiming to represent thousands of
22 other people because they're heads of organizations.
23 Those people come in here on the payroll very often.
24 I've asked the people. Yes, they are on the payroll,
25 not that they took the time out of their own lives and
26 spent their gas in this economy to actually get over
27 here because they believe in something.

28 Thank you.

1 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 ALJ WEISSMAN: If I could please remind you one
4 more time. It really would help us a lot if you could
5 refrain from applauding because I think we can move
6 things through a little more efficiently. Thank you.

7 Gabriella Wood.

8 STATEMENT OF MS. WOOD

9 MS. WOOD: Thank you all for being here. And I'm
10 sorry. I've never spoke in public. So I'm a little bit
11 nervous.

12 Okay. My name is Gabriella Wood and I am
13 opposed to this project. My husband and I own 220 acres
14 in Witch Creek that lies in the path of the proposed
15 route. We lost hundreds of oak trees and acres of
16 habitat in the Witch Creek fire.

17 Our intentions are to save this pristine
18 backcountry for as many generations as possible. I want
19 to emphasize that it is true that our state park is
20 threatened by this project, but we must also understand
21 that our privately owned and managed backcountry is also
22 a state preserve. They are cared for and watched over
23 by families. I notice some other people up here who
24 were stating the same thing.

25 I just have a question. This is for SDG&E
26 talking about keeping the lights on, because this is
27 what we had to see. I know everybody has seen the fire.
28 It was horrible. I almost lost my husband in the fire,

1 and I almost lost my father-in-law in the fire. They
2 stayed to fight to protect our land. We did lose quite
3 a few buildings, but what we saved was the home of my
4 husband's family.

5 Pretty much that's all I wanted to say, and I
6 thank you guys for listening to us.

7 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thanks for hanging in with us all
8 afternoon.

9 MS. WOOD: Can I leave this for you guys?

10 ALJ WEISSMAN: Anybody, please, with numbers
11 through 170 from this afternoon please join the line.

12 Bruce Bruliner? Gerald Ehly? Raymond Lutz?
13 I'm sorry.

14 MR. EHLI: "Eely."

15 ALJ WEISSMAN: Ehly.

16 STATEMENT OF MR. EHLI

17 MR. EHLI: Gerry. Thank you very much. Your
18 Honor and Commissioners, I'm Gerald Ehly of Borrego
19 Springs. And this is sort of a personal thought. We're
20 new to this community. Ruth and I moved here from
21 Florida just one year ago. We have found this area most
22 fascinating and enjoyable. This community, surrounded
23 by the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, is for us the
24 most interesting new home. The natural features have
25 opened many new avenues of knowledge and involvement.
26 We have become volunteers at the park.

27 Soon we became aware of the Sunrise Powerlink
28 proposals and began to read about the points of view

1 related to the transmission line plan. There's so much
2 information so well presented, it's difficult to clearly
3 determine the truth of the matter. However, we soon
4 learned, California has a very dramatic record of
5 aggressive leadership when it comes to innovative ideas
6 and real advances in industry and sociology. It early
7 grasped the value of Tom Edison's endemic work, and the
8 alternating current and transmission ideas of George
9 Westinghouse. It was in 1898 that California boasted a
10 75-mile, 30,000-volt transmission line from Santa Ana to
11 Los Angeles, perhaps the first of its kind, and the rest
12 is a history of 20th century electrical miracle.

13 But this is the 21st century. We can remember
14 great accomplishments yet also unfortunate mistakes, and
15 the biggest mistake to remember well is to keep doing
16 the same old thing even though we know better. We know
17 better than pollution now. We know better than
18 destroying our natural heritage. We know better than
19 endangering our communities. We know better than
20 greenhouse gases. We know better than wasting our
21 resources. We know better than ignoring environmental
22 impacts.

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: Ask you to wrap up.

24 MR. EHLI: I am wholeheartedly opposed to the
25 Sunrise Powerlink plan.

26 Thank you.

27 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Mr. Lutz, you're next.

28 (Applause)

1 concept that Stirling Energy has to be put in the desert
2 and then use Sunrise Powerlink to bring it to San Diego
3 is just simply false.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause)

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: Is Richard Van Leeuwen here? Okay.
7 Then John Stahn? Holli Garrett. You decided to stay.

8 MS. GARRETT: And I think I'm the last suit from
9 this morning.

10 COMMISSIONER SIMON: No. I am.

11 STATEMENT OF MS. GARRETT

12 MS. GARRETT: Commissioners, my name is Holli
13 Garrett, and I am the Director of Community Programs at
14 Connect. Connect is a globally-recognized public
15 benefits organization fostering entrepreneurship in the
16 San Diego region by accelerating and supporting the
17 growth of promising technologies and the life science
18 businesses.

19 It comes to no surprise to you that the
20 innovators and entrepreneurs we work with every day are
21 concerned with the region's energy supply and
22 reliability. That's why Connect is a supporter of the
23 Sunrise Powerlink. Sunrise will provide the energy that
24 will help power regional businesses and help ensure our
25 region's economic competitiveness.

26 In addition, Connect is incubating the Clean
27 Tech San Diego Trade Association. This organization
28 promotes the use of reliable energy. The Sunrise

1 Powerlink will help provide access to different types of
2 energy, especially renewable energies from the sun,
3 wind, and geothermal sources. To ensure that San Diego
4 and all its regions remain thriving for small business
5 startups, we must address our region's infrastructures.
6 Sunrise Powerlink will create a sustainable reliable
7 source of energy for the future.

8 Thank you very much, and I urge you to approve
9 the Sunrise Powerlink.

10 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Thank you for your
11 great patience today. I appreciate it.

12 Celia Lawley.

13 STATEMENT OF MS. LAWLEY

14 MS. LAWLEY: Hello. My name is Celia Lawley, and
15 I'm a resident of Santa Ysabel. And I oppose the
16 Sunrise Powerlink, and I am for Bill Powers' 2020 plan
17 as well as the California Edison project.

18 And just for the record, I live on solar. All
19 my needs are provided by solar. It's really simple. I
20 even installed my very first system. It's very
21 foolproof. It's just amazing.

22 But I'd like to bring a little historical
23 perspective to today's presentation. I studied the
24 history of this area. And in 1870 this whole area
25 became exposed to the world by a gold rush in Julian,
26 what we call now Julian. And the founder of the town of
27 Julian, his name was Drew Bailey. And there's a
28 wonderful quote that he wrote in a school paper. And he

1 said:

2 History has been wisely provided
3 by God as an instrument of
4 instruction to guide our erring
5 feet from the suffering of people
6 and nations.

7 Now, Drew Bailey was a soldier in the Civil
8 War, and after the devastation created by the war, he
9 and his brothers and cousins came to San Diego looking
10 for gold and so on. They were moving around the
11 country. So after a while they settled in that valley
12 and then gold was discovered. But three months after
13 the gold was discovered in Julian, their next-door
14 neighbors that owned the Cuyamaca land grant, they tried
15 to land grab, tried to steal the land from the miners.
16 And okay.

17 So if we study history, we understand that
18 this happened already once. And the miners took it to
19 court three and a half years. They lost once and then
20 they finally won. They finally won. Otherwise, there
21 would be no town of Julian.

22 So I would hope that you would study history
23 and remember that the people want to keep their land and
24 we want to be sustainable.

25 Thank you.

26 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Thank you also for
27 hanging in.

28 (Applause)

1 ALJ WEISSMAN: Those with numbers for this
2 evening's list of numbers 1 through 10 please begin
3 lining up.

4 Now we got Mr. Schulman.

5 MR. STARN: No. There were two others. He's No.
6 170. I was 166 on the morning. And John Starn.

7 ALJ WEISSMAN: John Starn.

8 STATEMENT OF MR. STARN

9 MR. STARN: Do you see that there?

10 All right. I think we have to evaluate
11 whether this is a bargain or not. Google put a hundred
12 million dollars into printed solar panels, and we know
13 that those are selling for -- they're in production now
14 and they're apparently selling for a dollar a watt. And
15 if you amortize that over 40 years, it's really easy to
16 calculate that you're going around half a cent per
17 kilowatt-hour. We can beat it.

18 Now, whether the people do it, I think that
19 was right. Whether they do it in the desert in Imperial
20 or whether they do it on parking lots all over San Diego
21 County, I believe we have many square miles of parking
22 lots that would be more than adequate to cover that.

23 However, if you ever think of going across
24 this desert with high power lines, I'm making very
25 strong recommendations for going underground. It's been
26 proven in Europe. If you do have to consider any other
27 issues that I'm not a party to, the price is
28 considerably less, and that has been overlooked by the

1 reviewers, including Aspen and SDG&E. The AT&T and
2 Siemens have been -- have similar linked power lines
3 going in in Europe that are \$530 million less than the
4 estimated cost of the Sunrise Powerlink.

5 Further, these things can carry up to 3,000
6 megawatts in two wires, 1-foot wide trench. This is not
7 going to tear the earth up. 1 foot wide, 5 feet deep.
8 We're going that much. A very simple machine. Could
9 run this at walking speed across this, under roads,
10 alongside of highways. Minimal damage. And I hope that
11 gives a chance. CDQA. If you just read CDQA, you can
12 read the first few opening words. It says we have to
13 look at the alternatives to environmental damages. It's
14 a citizen's duty. We must deal with this. And you got
15 all the economics behind the alternative energy as well
16 as going underground.

17 Thank you very much for your listening to
18 this. And also read the cancer hazards. They're really
19 there. And I think people should study up on that.
20 It's a major increase in leukemia for kids and adults,
21 but it's easier to measure with kids because they don't
22 have the history to deal with.

23 Okay. Thank you very much.

24 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for hanging in today as
25 well.

26 Is Rich Schulman here? How about Sam Webb?
27 Okay. Our last remaining speaker from this morning.

28 STATEMENT OF MR. WEBB

1 MR. WEBB: I guess that's a privilege. Actually,
2 it is. I'm glad that you people came here today because
3 this is really ground zero democracy at work.

4 I'm going to say two things. One is going to
5 be from my gut, and one is going to be from my heart.
6 From my gut, at the beginning of this process, I've been
7 to all these meetings, and at first I just wanted to
8 protect our park. I thought Powerlink might be a viable
9 project; but going through all of these hearings and
10 looking at all the evidence, it's not. It's smoke and
11 mirrors on the part of San Diego Gas and Electric.
12 They're just carrying out a line that's going to put
13 money into Sempra Energy, as simple fact as that. And
14 so I've been changed to the part of the process; whereas
15 before all I wanted to do was protect the park. But
16 that's where my heart is.

17 This park is 75 years old, and in that 75
18 years it was started by people taxing, putting tax
19 dollars in to buy this land and put it into trust for
20 the people of future generations. And during that 75
21 years the park has been added to. They've purchased
22 more lands. The Anza-Borrego Foundation has acquired
23 lands and donated to the state. You've had employees in
24 the park that have spent their careers here protecting
25 and preserving this park. You have volunteers like I am
26 that have done work through all these years to do one
27 thing, to protect this park. It would be a crime to
28 throw that all out the window by putting these power

1 lines through our park. It would be like -- it's going
2 right through the heart of our park. So it would be
3 like getting a power line and driving it into the heart
4 of the park, which would destroy it. So please don't do
5 that.

6 Thank you.

7 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Webb. Thank you for
8 your patience as well.

9 (Applause)

10 ALJ WEISSMAN: Starting with this evening's list.
11 Monty Tam.

12 STATEMENT OF MR. TAM

13 MR. TAM: Your Honor, Commissioners, good
14 evening. My name is Monty Tam. I am currently hiking
15 the 2600-mile Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada.
16 I am off trail right now. I felt it was more important
17 to be here and read a statement for the Pacific Crest
18 Trail Association. The statement is three minutes long.
19 We don't have three minutes. So I have submitted it.
20 But to summarize the content, it is entitled Statement
21 of Opposition, and to expound on that, we don't like it.

22 (Laughter)

23 MR. TAM: In conclusion.

24 (Laughter)

25 MR. TAM: The Pacific Crest Trial Association will
26 not tolerate negative impacts on both the Pacific Crest
27 Trail national scenic trail and the designated
28 wilderness -- and the designated -- I'm also dyslexic --

1 of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

2 We work hand in hand with the federal
3 government to manage, maintain, preserve, and protect
4 all 2650 miles of the federally designated national
5 scenic trail. Matters affecting the preservation and
6 protection of the trail are also matters of the federal
7 government. We again strongly suggest that those of you
8 here evaluating the proposed project involve US Forest
9 Service. Contact information is provided. It is signed
10 by my personal hero, Suzanne Wilson, Southern California
11 Representative, Pacific Crest Trail Association. And
12 she has included her cell number so you can contact her
13 and she can personally introduce these people.

14 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Tam. When
15 you get up to Echo Lake, I hear there's a hot shower.

16 (Laughter)

17 ALJ WEISSMAN: Jim Lydick.

18 STATEMENT OF MR. LYDICK

19 MR. LYDICK: I'll be brief. I've been an outdoor
20 specialist at 6th grade camp, 6th grade camp counselor
21 for 20 years at Clark Outdoor School, and the proposed
22 expansion is going to go right through the camp if it
23 goes through 76 as it's proposed, and it will be 15 feet
24 away from one of the kid's cabins.

25 And any way, I have some friends up here.
26 We're going to do a quick song for you. I think it will
27 fit in the time slot.

28 [Group singing to music:]

1 You want to put your wires in my sky. I can't
2 help but wonder why. Ain't no reason I can find. Never
3 satisfy my mind. Oh, tell me why. Sempra is a parent
4 company. Call the shots for SDG&E. You got the land,
5 pay the price. Golden eagle native style. Any way,
6 it's [inaudible]. [Inaudible.] When the spirit of the
7 land calls on us to take a stand, start today a better
8 way. Take greed away. A solar day.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 ALJ WEISSMAN: The evening group rocks.

12 (Laughter)

13 COMMISSIONER GRUENEICH: And I want to thank our
14 court reporter.

15 (Laughter)

16 COMMISSIONER BOHN: What key did you write it?

17 ALJ WEISSMAN: Let us know when it's up on
18 Youtube.

19 All right. Rich Morgal. Good luck.

20 (Laughter)

21 STATEMENT OF MR. MORGAL

22 MR. MORGAL: That's a pretty tough act to follow.

23 My name is Rick Morgal, and I live in San
24 Diego. I'd just like to discuss for a few moments some
25 of the misrepresentations of solar energy that Sempra
26 has -- continues to push in a lot of their information.
27 They want us to believe that we really need to have our
28 solar energy generated somewhere far away. In some of

1 their fact sheets they also have some facts that say
2 that San Diego doesn't get enough sun to really be very
3 effective. I've read it like a number of times.

4 It's just so hard for me to believe that I
5 went through, and I'm an engineer, and I've done some
6 solar stuff. So I have the National Renewable Energy
7 Lab document that describes how much sun every location
8 in the United States gets within reason for the cities.
9 There's 238 of them, and San Diego happens to be one of
10 them. And out of all the cities here, San Diego gets
11 more sunlight than 87 percent of the rest of the sites
12 that are in this book. And the scary part is that the
13 measurements were taken at Lindberg Field --

14 (Laughter)

15 MR. MORGAL: -- less than two miles away from the
16 coast, where they continue to say that it's because of
17 our coastal influx and all of the gray weather that we
18 get that makes it so that we don't get enough sun for
19 solar to be valid in the actual areas where we use our
20 electricity.

21 I find this a crime. I just think that it
22 should be really known that this organization, our
23 United States Government, is proving that Sempra Energy
24 is telling us all lies so that they can get energy over
25 that utility line. And the thing about that utility
26 line, that San Diego Gas and Electric is not a
27 generation company. It's a distribution company, and
28 they want the utility line because it's a distribution

1 cash cow. And it's not right.

2 Please don't let them have that because it is
3 going to take away so much from all of us.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause)

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

7 STATEMENT OF MR. JENNINGS

8 MR. JENNINGS: Hi. You stand right here. Sorry.
9 No baby-sitter tonight.

10 Thank you very much for coming and listening
11 to our comments. I really appreciate you being here.
12 My name is Brian Jennings, and I'm here to oppose the
13 Powerlink. And I would like for you to meet Brennan
14 Jennings, age 9, and Kenny Jennings, age 7. You want to
15 say hi, guys.

16 [Children say hi]

17 Okay. I'd just like you to keep them in mind
18 as you decide what you're going to do with this project.
19 You know, if this project were going through a different
20 part of the countryside, there would be trees to hide
21 it; and, you know, if you weren't real close to it, you
22 wouldn't even see it; but that's not the case here in
23 Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. You will see this from
24 dozens of miles, maybe 50 or more. You know, what do we
25 preserve these parks for? We preserve them for future
26 generations so that they have a nice place to go and not
27 have to look at power lines. They can see those at
28 home.

1 I'll be very brief. My parents left me a park
2 where I can go look for a hundred miles and see nothing
3 but desert and nature. Your parents left you a park
4 like that. And I just ask, are we going to preserve
5 that for future generations? Are we going to leave that
6 for our children to look at? And if we're not going to,
7 I invite you to look Brennan and Kenny in the eye and
8 tell them why not and explain to them why they don't get
9 what our parents gave us. And I'm actually going to
10 leave them here.

11 (Laughter)

12 ALJ WEISSMAN: What time do you want us to put
13 them to bed?

14 MR. JENNINGS: Just put them in the car afterward.
15 Actually, their mother is right behind me. So she'll
16 take them home. Thanks a lot.

17 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Nancy Jennings.

18 (Applause)

19 STATEMENT OF MS. JENNINGS

20 MS. JENNINGS: My name is Nancy Jennings. And I
21 also oppose the Powerlink. I will be very brief. My
22 husband's parents brought him out here when he was a
23 little boy, and I want my boys to be able to bring their
24 little boys. Once we destroy this landscape, that is
25 forever and we can never get it back. And we owe this
26 to future generations. It's very irresponsible for us
27 to destroy this park that has been preserved for us.

28 Thank you for being here tonight.

1 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Thank you for coming.
2 (Applause)

3 ALJ WEISSMAN: Cindy Buxton.

4 STATEMENT OF MS. BUXTON

5 MS. BUXTON: My name is Cindy Buxton. Please
6 support the two in-basin environmentally favored options
7 only. My love and passion is for the lands marked by
8 Option D. To my knowledge, I'm the only woman who has
9 walked this route across country in every season before
10 and after the two fires. I've documented for the Eagle
11 Peak Wilderness.

12 Wilderness pristine and primordial can instill
13 values of respect, gratitude, courage and wisdom,
14 critical thinking and self-reliance, values which sit
15 squarely on the shoulders of freedom, true freedom
16 relentlessly self-expressed. Wilderness creates
17 freedom. Likewise, removing wilderness creates
18 dependence and control.

19 We've seen the power company blissfully tell
20 us they will change the 15-year forest plan to suit them
21 after a hundred people work seven years to prepare it.
22 We've seen SDG&E plan to have easements that don't
23 appear on titles. And in the EIS the multiagency
24 Sea-to-Sea Trail that was planned parallel to this
25 proposal on Cedar Creek Road was moved on top of Eagle
26 closure on Eagle Peak. And the Forest Service when
27 questioned didn't have any knowledge of this trail in
28 the forest.

1 I recommend you find out who in the Sea-to-Sea
2 Trail provided this information to Felix Environmental,
3 because this appears to me to be manipulation and
4 deception of our public process. This does not point to
5 the type of integrity that I want to trust our state to
6 do business with.

7 Option D, like the desert, is a treasure, and
8 we should not disturb it. Its components qualify for
9 wilderness and wild and scenic river status.

10 I am very grateful this is California where I
11 can make public comments. Keep our freedom and public
12 lands alive.

13 Thank you.

14 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for coming
15 tonight.

16 (Applause)

17 ALJ WEISSMAN: Terry Weiner.

18 STATEMENT OF MS. WEINER

19 MS. WEINER: Hi. My name is Terry Weiner. I live
20 in San Diego. I have some comments to hand in, more
21 extended ones from the Desert Protective Council and
22 other people who weren't able to attend tonight.

23 Thank you.

24 Thank you, Honorable Commissioners and
25 Attorney Weissman. I'm here tonight to speak on behalf
26 of the Desert Protective Council, which is a 50 year old
27 nonprofit membership organization with members in
28 Imperial and San Diego Counties. We would like to add

1 our voice to those who urge you to respect the findings
2 of the EIR/EIS and reject the Sunrise Powerlink project.

3 DPC has many concerns about impacts of this
4 project including impacts to the park, the park's
5 namesake, the beautiful and threatened endangered
6 bighorn sheep. The fact that the power line passes
7 through an area of high earthquake potential, high fire
8 and flood potential is reason enough to reject the
9 project.

10 The proposed power line would desecrate the
11 unspoiled wilderness view shed, and the buzz of the
12 lines would impact the peace and quiet, which is a
13 dwindling resource in Southern California. We are
14 especially concerned with the disturbance of desert
15 soils all along the power line route, which would invite
16 the invasion of nonnative plant species such as Sahara
17 mustard. Nonnative species, you probably know, are
18 currently among the top three causes of extinction of
19 native species across North America. And Sahara mustard
20 has been implicated in increasingly large and
21 devastating desert wildfires.

22 We urge to you turn your attention from the
23 19th century solutions of infrastructure and toward the
24 types of energy solutions that our European neighbors
25 are already using.

26 Thank you.

27 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

28 (Applause)

1 ALJ WEISSMAN: And would those with numbers 11
2 through 20 please begin to line up.

3 STATEMENT OF MR. VOORHEES

4 MR. VOORHEES: Good evening. I'm Todd Voorhees,
5 and I represent the Downtown San Diego Partnership. The
6 Downtown San Diego Partnership is a leading advocate for
7 economic growth and revitalization of downtown San Diego
8 and represents more than 325 members.

9 As you are well aware, the California Public
10 Utilities Commission staff has recommended building five
11 new power plants in San Diego County as an
12 environmentally superior alternative. These five new
13 plants would be instead of building the Sunrise
14 Powerlink, which would deliver clean renewable energy
15 via sun and wind from the Imperial Valley. These five
16 new power plants would also increase greenhouse gas
17 emissions, which are harmful for the environment and
18 contribute to climate change.

19 The Downtown San Diego Partnership has
20 enthusiastically endorsed the Sunrise Powerlink because
21 clean reliable power is paramount to our members and our
22 businesses downtown.

23 Additionally, as a homeowner in Chula Vista I
24 thought it was important to remove the South Bay Power
25 Plant from our bay front. Removing the power plant will
26 get rid of blight, protect the environment, and open up
27 the bay front for redevelopment.

28 (Laughter)

1 MR. VOORHEES: None of this can happen without the
2 Sunrise Powerlink.

3 Thank you.

4 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

5 A VOICE: Not in my backyard.

6 STATEMENT OF MR. BARNUM

7 MR. BARNUM: Your Honor, Commissioners, Brad
8 Barnum with the Associated General Contractors, San
9 Diego County.

10 Before I start I wanted to say I worked for
11 the PUC in the 1990s, and I appreciate your commitment
12 to come down here and throughout the state to come to
13 these public participation hearings. I can tell you
14 from past experience they weren't as well attended as
15 this is tonight. So I applaud your commitment to come
16 down here.

17 AGC, Associated General Contractors,
18 represents over 1300 firms that are responsible for
19 building the region's infrastructure, and we are here
20 today to support the Sunrise Powerlink. Our members
21 build and rebuild schools, libraries, hospitals, police
22 and fire stations, recreation centers, water and
23 wastewater facilities, and the bridges, roads, and
24 highways we drive on.

25 These facilities need a reliable source of
26 electricity to meet the growing demands in the region,
27 and the Sunrise Powerlink will dramatically improve the
28 reliability of the transmission grid to deliver new

1 supplies of energy to help keep the lights on.

2 AGC is a strong proponent of investing in
3 infrastructure projects that keep our economy strong and
4 our quality of life high.

5 Please act quickly and approve the needed
6 transmission lines, including the Sunrise Powerlink.

7 Thank you.

8 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much. Is Andy Horne
9 here?

10 STATEMENT OF MR. HORNE

11 MR. HORNE: Good evening. My name is Andy Horne.
12 I'm the deputy CEO in Imperial County for natural
13 resources development.

14 I'm going to go way out on a limb and suggest
15 that you guys have a tough decision to make. All I ask
16 is that you not base that decision on the misconception,
17 as some have suggested here over the last several hours,
18 that renewable energy in the Imperial Valley is merely a
19 figment of the imagination of the SDG&E PR team.

20 Currently we have a number of companies, I'll
21 name a few: Cal Energy, Ormat, Char, Esmeralda, LADWP,
22 Ice in America, MMR, Bethel Energy, Stirling, and many
23 others are currently building and planning renewable
24 energy projects in the Imperial Valley. And they will
25 all to some extent rely on new transmission to move
26 their products to the load centers in California.

27 As part of my function in Imperial I sit on as
28 a member of the Stakeholder Steering Committee of the

1 region of the renewable energy transmission initiative,
2 which, as you know, is a joint venture of the Public
3 Utilities Commission, the Energy Commission, and the
4 ISO. Already has begun its work based on the
5 presumption that renewable energy must be moved from
6 Competitive Renewable Energy Zones, the CREZs, to load
7 centers in California. And we realize that the Sunrise
8 Powerlink predates the Ready Epers [phonetic], but it
9 certainly fits exactly into Ready's stated goals and
10 objectives of moving those renewables into the markets.

11 We currently have a 20 percent RPS, but many
12 have estimated that under the requirements of AB 32 that
13 we'll need to move 50 percent of renewables in the next
14 few years to meet the greenhouses gas emissions. We
15 simply cannot meet these statutory goals without new
16 transmission in the State of California.

17 ALJ WEISSMAN: Need to ask you to wrap up, please.

18 MR. HORNE: I'm going to do that.

19 We urge you to help us move us in the Imperial
20 Valley and in California to our new energy future.

21 Thank you.

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Tom DuBose.

23 STATEMENT OF MR. DU BOSE

24 MR. DU BOSE: Thank you. Good evening. I just
25 got here. So I'll be as brief as I can. My name is Tom
26 DuBose. I'm the owner of Development Design and
27 Engineering. We're located in El Centro, California.
28 We come from an area that I think many people in

1 California would like things that they don't like to
2 come to. I guess we're used to being fed things that
3 may be not in our best interests, except that renewable
4 energy and the kind of things that it's going to
5 represent in regards to jobs is very important and it's
6 something that we do want.

7 What I do think is that a lot of folks aren't
8 happy about that particular -- what that may mean in
9 their particular backyard. And again, I'm coming from
10 an area where we're used to being dumped on in our
11 backyard. But maybe the alternative is that, you know,
12 instead of a power line it's a wind mill, or maybe
13 instead of a power line it's a lot of solar dishes
14 reflecting the, you know, to create that energy.

15 You know, everything always seems to be okay
16 for everybody else to give it to us, and for once now
17 we're looking for that opportunity to get the real
18 benefit of the jobs that would be created. It's very
19 important to our economy. It's very important to job
20 creation. It's very important to businesses like mine.

21 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

22 Tom Tupusas.

23 STATEMENT OF MR. TUPUSAS

24 MR. TUPUSAS: Your Honor, Commissioners, my name
25 is Tom Tupusas. I'm chairman of the Imperial Valley
26 Economic Development Corporation. We're located in El
27 Centro. We're the neighbor to the east.

28 Imperial County has been discovered as a

1 renewable energy national resource center. I think you
2 received a copy of the Summit Blue report, which
3 includes a summary of the type of renewables that are
4 available in the Imperial Valley.

5 As you can see coming down here and looking
6 out, this is a vast area. The desert is very vast, and
7 with that comes a lot of solar energy farms that are
8 being planned in Imperial County, which has a very high
9 radiant energy level, one of the highest in the United
10 States. But beneath this vast surface there's also
11 renewable energy, which is geothermal energy.

12 I have a copy of a newspaper article, which
13 I'll present this to the Commission. It's an *Imperial*
14 *Valley Press* newspaper article, May 3rd, 2008. The
15 title of it is New Ormat Plant Built Underway, and it
16 describes the activities of Ormat in providing clean
17 renewable energy to California with geothermal.

18 To allow this renewable energy to go to the
19 public, we need to have transmission. I'm not
20 advocating any particular route. What I am requesting
21 is that transmission lines be approved so that this
22 clean renewable energy can be transmitted to the
23 consumers who are currently using fossil fuel energy.

24 Thank you very much.

25 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Sheri Rednowr.

26 STATEMENT OF MS. REDNOWR

27 MS. REDNOWR: Good evening and thank you. I'm
28 Sheri Rednowr, and I'm here representing San

1 Diego/Imperial County's labor council. We are comprised
2 of approximately 110 different affiliated labor groups
3 in San Diego and Imperial Counties representing over
4 100,000 working families.

5 The labor council supports the Sunrise
6 Powerlink because it keeps business and jobs in San
7 Diego that working families rely on. I drove out here
8 this afternoon to tell you that working families and
9 local business depend on affordable power to help make
10 ends meet. If the lights go out, many of our workers go
11 home without a paycheck. Ask any one holding down a job
12 in San Diego. Just living from day to day becomes more
13 expensive.

14 The Sunrise Powerlink will deliver lower
15 priced energy to San Diego families and protect our air
16 quality. The Sunrise Powerlink will also help create
17 high skills, high paying jobs in Imperial Valley.
18 Imperial Valley could fast become the nation's leading
19 producer of clean renewable power. That's good for
20 working families and good for the environment.

21 We encourage you to support the Sunrise
22 Powerlink. Thank you.

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for coming
24 tonight.

25 Donald Lee.

26 STATEMENT OF MR. LEE

27 MR. LEE: I'm Donald Lee of La Jolla. I oppose
28 the Powerlink as expensive and unnecessary, mainly to

1 profit Sempra Energy at the expense of the ratepayers
2 and the environment and our natural -- national
3 security.

4 Three questions: One. How does San Diego Gas
5 and Electric plan to meet its state mandate to reduce
6 its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2010 if
7 its parent company, Sempra Energy, is planning to use
8 imported liquefied natural gas, since counting,
9 processing, liquefying, transportation and
10 regasification, the greenhouse gas burden of imported
11 liquefied natural gas would be about 25 percent greater
12 than that created by even the current use of domestic
13 gas?

14 Two. Why is San Diego Gas and Electric
15 planning to use natural gas with its greenhouse gas
16 burden when the price of natural gas is rapidly
17 increasing and likely to continue to increase while
18 local renewable energy resources are becoming more
19 competitive and in some cases are already cheaper?

20 Three. Why use natural gas that makes us more
21 dependent on the economic volatility and political
22 manipulation of potentially hostile foreign powers like
23 Indonesia and Russia when we could use locally renewable
24 energy resources that would make us less dependent and
25 enhance our national security and sovereignty?

26 I urge the Public Utilities Commission to
27 reject the Sunrise Powerlink proposal.

28 Thank you.

1 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for your
2 comments.

3 (Applause)

4 ALJ WEISSMAN: Don Coltrain.

5 STATEMENT OF MR. COLTRAIN

6 MR. COLTRAIN: Yes. My name is Don Coltrain. I
7 have almost 40 years in the utility business. I retired
8 as a assistant manager of the power department of
9 Imperial Irrigation District.

10 My problem with this Environmental Impact
11 Report and the decision you folks have to make is during
12 the meeting in Pine Valley on November 14th, 2006, I
13 suggested a displacement arrangement in lieu of the
14 transmission whereby Imperial Irrigation District could
15 absorb the power generated from the renewables as it has
16 under Standard Offer 4 and transmit the energy out to
17 the grid, which would be for San Diego's account. I've
18 never heard of a load flow or the result of any such
19 study made.

20 I believe that there is adequate transmission
21 down there through contractual arrangements. I believe
22 and it's my recommendation that the Commission insist
23 that there be load flows transmission studies made
24 looking at contractual rights and what would be involved
25 in making these deals. That way this line or a line
26 could at least be deferred if not cancelled completely.

27 My second point is that if it's true that San
28 Diego wants to bring in power from their generation

1 units in Mexico, it's not right that the ratepayers
2 should have a transmission line put in ratebase that San
3 Diego would be using as a merchant line. If they are
4 going to have merchant plants, it's the same thing we
5 saw in deregulation. They gamed it. They had to pay
6 \$300 million in a settlement, which would indicate they
7 probably made more money than that if they were willing
8 to settle for \$300 million.

9 I suggest that you take a long look and you
10 tie any possible line first to the fact that it is
11 necessary, that the displacement won't work, and
12 secondly, that it won't be used as a merchant line.

13 Thank you very much.

14 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for coming.

15 (Applause)

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: Judy Myers.

17 STATEMENT OF MS. MYERS

18 MS. MYERS: Good evening. Glad to be here
19 tonight, and I'm glad that you all are here tonight too.
20 My name is Judy Myers. I'm an Alpine, resident of
21 Alpine.

22 The 21st century is still young, still
23 searching for the truth that will define its course.
24 The Sunrise Powerlink project is of the old century.
25 Constructing 150 miles of transmission lines from the
26 Imperial Valley to Western San Diego County does not
27 encourage conservation. It is costly, environmentally
28 damaging, increases the risk of wildfire, and adversely

1 impacts cultural, historic, agricultural, recreational,
2 and scenic resources. Most importantly, only one third
3 of the power generated in the Imperial Valley will ever
4 reach its point of use. Two thirds will be lost due to
5 the length of the transmission line.

6 I believe there are better solutions. The two
7 environmentally superior EIR alternatives proposed
8 paradigm shifting opportunities. These plans offer a
9 move away from reliance on fossil fuels and imported
10 power while providing the needed peak energy through
11 renewable energy and solar photovoltaic solutions.
12 These plans provide significant greenhouse gas
13 reductions, less reliance on natural gas for power
14 generation, and greatly expanded local renewable energy
15 resources generating clean power when and where it is
16 needed.

17 The environmental impacts and the life cycle
18 cost of the EIR alternative plans are estimated to be
19 significantly less than the impacts and the life cycle
20 cost of the Sunrise power.

21 We encourage the California Public Utilities
22 Commission to say no to the Sunrise Powerlink and
23 instead say yes to a new century of clean, green power.

24 Thank you.

25 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

26 Tom Myers.

27 STATEMENT OF MR. MYERS

28 MR. MYERS: Thank you. And if you haven't

1 guessed, I'm with the lovely lady that just presented.
2 We're from Alpine.

3 SDG&E proposes to build its Sunrise Powerlink
4 over many miles of pristine yet highly volatile wild
5 lands in Eastern San Diego County. After the
6 devastating wild fires of 2007 I had the opportunity to
7 speak with a firefighter from CAL FIRE about the risks
8 posed by overhead transmission lines. He told me about
9 three problems.

10 Overhead lines get in the way of aerial
11 firefighting activities, severely hampering efforts to
12 contain an advancing fire. Firefighters on the ground
13 are instructed to stay clear of overhead lines. For
14 personal safety they're not permitted to pass under the
15 lines. When fighting the fire or building their
16 defensive lines, valuable time is often lost when the
17 firefighters must be relocated to the other side of the
18 power line to continue their work. The heat and smoke
19 from an active fire generates ionized particles in the
20 air; and as these heated particles rise around the
21 active power lines, they create a pathway for
22 discharging electrical current to the ground, in effect
23 a lightning bolt discharge.

24 Evidence suggests that overhead power lines
25 were very likely to cause several of the October 2007
26 wildfires in San Diego County. For the protection and
27 preservation of our homes, our wildlife, our parks, our
28 historic and cultural, culturally significant resources,

1 and our scenic backcountry, please say no to the Sunrise
2 Powerlink.

3 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Myers. Appreciate
4 your coming.

5 (Applause)

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: Charlene Wardlow.

7 STATEMENT OF MS. WARDLOW

8 MS. WARDLOW: Good evening, your Honor and
9 Commissioners. I am Charlene Wardlow. I'm the
10 environmental manager for Ormat Nevada, and we are
11 building geothermal power plants in Imperial County.
12 Ormat is about a 44 year old international company.
13 We're one of the largest geothermal companies in the
14 world. And we currently have 150 megawatts of
15 geothermal in Imperial County, 120 employees.

16 We're currently building the Brawley 1
17 project. 50 megawatts will be on line the end of this
18 year, not in four years. And currently permitting the
19 Brawley 2 project, another 50 megawatt project that is
20 scheduled to be on line the end of 2009.

21 We do support new transmission into the
22 valley. Although we do wheel into IID system, there are
23 transmission constraints out in the valley. And so
24 although we don't support a specific route, we do
25 support new transmission into Imperial County.

26 Thank you.

27 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for coming. Vince
28 Siguorotti.

1 (No response)

2 ALJ WEISSMAN: Rick Garland is not here. Okay.
3 In that case at this point we'll take a break for about
4 10 minutes.

5 (Recess taken)

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: Is Edward Gorham here? Edward
7 Gorham. All right. Last call for Edward Gorham.

8 (No response)

9 ALJ WEISSMAN: Not here? Okay. Let's move on to
10 Dadla Ponizil?

11 MR. PONIZIL: Very good.

12 ALJ WEISSMAN: It's not very good. It's sort of
13 okay.

14 STATEMENT OF MR. PONIZIL

15 MR. PONIZIL: I knew when every one pauses like
16 that it's probably me. So Dadla Ponizil from Encinitas.
17 I am a home performance contractor, and for those of you
18 who don't know what that is, basically a house doctor
19 who goes around and diagnoses and tests residential
20 buildings for energy efficiency.

21 And I just wanted to remind you and every one
22 else and SDG&E that, according to SD 1037,
23 investor-owned utilities need to exhaust all feasible
24 cost-effective energy efficiency potential in their
25 service areas before pursuing any other energy source
26 options. And I'm here to tell you, for two years I've
27 been doing this, and after 28 energy audits of homes,
28 there's a huge amount of megawatts out there to be

1 harvested. And in doing so, the owners of those homes
2 will be much happier because they will be more
3 comfortable in a more energy efficient home.

4 For example, a new 6,000-foot home being built
5 today in San Diego I just tested had 41 percent of duct
6 leakage, which means that 13 tons of air conditioning
7 that they have is trying to cool the outdoors. And for
8 this we have to build a power line to bring that power
9 down there. A duplex in Encinitas, 50 percent duct
10 leakage. The complaint there, it was hot in the summer
11 despite that, and cold in the winter because it works
12 both ways. If you can't get the heat, you can't get the
13 cold. So there's a lot of megawatts need to harvest.
14 They need to do their homework.

15 Thank you.

16 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for coming.

17 (Applause)

18 ALJ WEISSMAN: Bill Davis, please.

19 STATEMENT OF MR. DAVIS

20 MR. DAVIS: Jamul, we're from. To the Stirling
21 guy that must have need the Sunrise Powerlink, the
22 existing southwest power line is available.

23 (Laughter)

24 MR. DAVIS: Up in the, again, the Cleveland
25 National Forest where we have nine acres. It's 3
26 quarters of a mile from the Barrett watershed. They
27 want to take the -- it's also the only wilderness area
28 in Cleveland National Forest in San Diego. There's 11

1 places. The Pine Creek place is ours, 33,000 acres.
2 26,000 of that is Pine Creek Wilderness and Hauser Creek
3 Wilderness, and they're running the power line through
4 there. They're also going to drop 3,000 gallons every
5 six months. So the top rock side will drop down and
6 drop into the reservoir, which is our drinking water.

7 Another subject. I'm against the power line.

8 (Laughter)

9 MR. DAVIS: Out in Imperial Valley, I know people
10 don't realize it sometimes, but there's a border with
11 Mexico where we have about ten miles that's below sea
12 level out there. And Mexico, you have the Sea of Cortez
13 here, and then you have Laguna Salada, which is a
14 hundred feet below sea level, and there's a little
15 4-foot section that -- 4-foot -- 4-mile section of high
16 ground where the sand bar from the Colorado River built
17 up. And the geothermal area is earthquakes. So if it
18 ever -- this is the Salton Sea area, and if you need a
19 power line, you got to go around the eastern side of the
20 north side around Salton. This is all below sea level.

21 Flashing red. Okay. Last one. This is the
22 Powerlink map. It's a hundred feet below sea level
23 where the line is going across the -- so as a matter of
24 fact, for the federal people also. But if you kind of
25 want to say, if this is something that's going to be --
26 you want to have forever, don't put it there.

27 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

28 (Applause)

1 ALJ WEISSMAN: Once again, although I really
2 appreciate your enthusiasm, if you could refrain from
3 applauding so we can move through real quick.

4 We have Shannon Davis.

5 STATEMENT OF MS. DAVIS

6 MS. DAVIS: Hi. I'm Shannon Davis. And I thank
7 you for coming back, Dian Grueneich and Judge Weissman,
8 and thank you Commissioner Simon and Commissioner Bohn
9 for coming.

10 It's important that you hear what every one
11 has to say, because I found in the EIR process, which I
12 participated in, that sometimes a lot of information
13 that we give is put into little brief bullets by the
14 environmental team that assesses all the information
15 that we send in and the letters that we send in, and I'm
16 not sure that all gets to you.

17 And I'm not going to have time to go into all
18 the sensitivity to our particular property in East Jamul
19 in our neighborhood. There are other members of our
20 community who are here this evening who will speak. The
21 area has been devastated by fire. There has been
22 speculation that that fire, the Harris Fire, was indeed
23 started by San Diego Gas and Electric lines.

24 What I am going to say is that there's a
25 vulnerability to the southern route. And because we are
26 close to Mexico, because we are close to the other large
27 500 kV line, the southwest line, there's a vulnerability
28 for terrorism. During the Harris fire in one week 200

1 illegals passed over that were captured. So that's just
2 one area.

3 I also love Anza-Borrego, all of our mountain
4 areas of San Diego. I'm very concerned about all of the
5 environmental impacts, and I am very much opposed to
6 this. I want green energy, not from Mexico. I do not
7 want to add to global warming.

8 Thank you.

9 ALJ WEISSMAN: Alex Bourd.

10 STATEMENT OF MR. BOURD

11 MR. BOURD: My name is Alex Bourd. I live in
12 Rancho Penasquitos. First I want to say that I oppose
13 Sunrise Powerlink as unnecessary project. Rancho
14 Penasquitos along with Carmel Valley are two communities
15 that are affected by coastal link segment. These two
16 communities are prime communities in San Diego to raise
17 children. Almost every house there's at least two,
18 three kids of school age. All elementary schools are
19 running full capacity and sending kids to other
20 districts.

21 And there are many studies that link EMF to
22 childhood leukemia, for example, studies from Sweden.
23 The important thing to note there is that all these
24 studies did not consider super highways because at the
25 time of the studies super highways, the proposed
26 Powerlink didn't exist. So the influence of EMF from
27 Powerlink, Sunrise Powerlink would be much higher, just
28 obvious common sense, would be much higher influence on

1 development of childhood leukemia. My sister is a
2 leukemia survivor. So I know quite well what it means.

3 The proposed coastal link will come 100 yards
4 from my house and 100 yards from my kids' elementary
5 school. So kids will be exposed to EMF 24 hours a day.
6 So as a father of two young children, I would like to
7 ask the Commission to protect children of our community
8 from the Sunrise Powerlink and EMF. This is the future
9 of California need to protect.

10 In case the PUC decides to approve the
11 Powerlink, I would like to support alternative for the
12 coastal link. Coastal link, no wire grade that was
13 identified in the EIR.

14 Thank you.

15 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for coming.

16 (Applause)

17 ALJ WEISSMAN: Eric Stamets. Anita Nichols. I'm
18 sorry. I said Eric Stamets. Good evening.

19 STATEMENT OF MR. STAMETS

20 MR. STAMETS: I'm what's left of Eric Stamets.

21 (Laughter)

22 MR. STAMETS: I don't want to dislike SDG&E. I
23 like to spend my hard-earned money with businesses that
24 I like and I'm proud to deal with. SDG&E's actions on
25 the Sunrise Powerlink has not made me proud of them.
26 Their pandering to and stock strong-arming of mayors,
27 chambers of commerce, and the Governor for support is
28 shameful. If this project was so needed and compelling,

1 they wouldn't have to sell it on billboards. SDG&E
2 should not be allowed to niggle its way into the
3 project.

4 SDG&E's first premise and basis for all they
5 do is that electricity is the most important thing there
6 is. This is fallacious and very presumptuous. A
7 conscience and soul are the most important things for an
8 individual or a corporation, and SDG&E has misplaced
9 theirs.

10 I have no objections to geothermal energy, but
11 I do object that it is included in the calculations as
12 renewable, which it is not. We have grown complacent
13 and accept the existing cessment through Anza-Borrego
14 granted when it was just desert. It was a mistake made
15 years ago. Correct the problem. Don't enlarge it. The
16 current line doesn't belong and should be undergrounded.

17 Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and Santa
18 Ysabel and Lake Henshaw are an island in a sea of
19 Southern California growth. We don't have a national
20 park, but we have to preserve what we have. To Northern
21 California, to put this line in would be as defiling as
22 constructing a passenger gunboat to the top of El
23 Capitan in Yosemite because tourist growth demanded it.

24 Lastly, I once again object to the Sunrise
25 Powerlink name. It was obviously chosen as a sales
26 pitch like manufacturers name cars. To call this the
27 Sunrise Powerlink is like naming a skunk Raquel to get
28 rid of the smell.

1 (Laughter)

2 ALJ WEISSMAN: Please wrap up if you could,
3 please.

4 MR. STAMETS: I'm done. But in leaving, I would
5 like to give this little token to the PUC. This is the
6 last nail put in the coffin of this project.

7 (Applause)

8 ALJ WEISSMAN: The record will note there's a
9 significant layer of rust on the last nail.

10 (Laughter)

11 Anita Nichols, please.

12 STATEMENT OF MS. NICHOLS

13 MS. NICHOLS: My name is Anita Nichols. I've been
14 to other hearings, and I'm glad to be here. And I'm
15 glad you're here. Thank you.

16 My home was threatened by the Pines fire. The
17 fire was caused by a helicopter hitting a power line.
18 It was not SDG&E's fault. That doesn't help console
19 those who lost their homes in the fire. The fierce
20 winds that blew down the power lines that caused the
21 Witch Creek and other fires last fall were not SDG&E's
22 fault.

23 The stuff that burned inside some of the
24 family homes was more than just picture and mementoes.
25 Entire family histories have been wiped out. We live in
26 a world where anything can happen. Even the most
27 outlandish, unexpected accident causing a fire, no fault
28 of SDG&E, from the Sunrise Powerlink is an unacceptable

1 risk. None of our communities should be subjected to
2 this ill-conceived link. It's environmentally
3 destructive, financially irresponsible, and the visual
4 blight just in one place, the Santa Ysabel Valley, which
5 I pass through frequently, is unimaginable. I do not
6 support the Sunrise Powerlink in any of its
7 configurations.

8 Thank you.

9 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much. Richard
10 Jensen.

11 STATEMENT OF MR. JENSEN

12 MR. JENSEN: Hi. Thank you for being here. I
13 hope you've had some time to enjoy our beautiful park
14 while you're here.

15 My name is Richard Jensen. I'm here from
16 Santa Cruz on the Monterey Bay. I'm here to strongly
17 oppose the inappropriately named Sunrise Powerlink. I
18 prefer to call it the Sunset Powerlink.

19 My family has been visiting and living here
20 for 40 years. My wife and I owned property in nearby
21 Ocitillo Wells for four years. I am here representing
22 the Ocitillo Wells community, myself, and those
23 generations yet unborn who cannot speak for themselves.

24 This is only one -- there is only one
25 Anza-Borrego State Park in the world, unique and
26 pristine, the result of millions of years of evolution.
27 There are many forms of sustainable available energy
28 that will not undo this evolution. SDG&E will devastate

1 the park, Cleveland National Forest, and backcountry
2 communities such as Ocotillo Wells where it will pass
3 within one mile of the heart of the community and
4 directly through private land.

5 I was stunned to learn two years ago that
6 there were plans to build this unnecessary monster power
7 line through the middle of this beautiful delicate
8 ecosystem, a marvel of nature that rivals Yosemite,
9 Yellowstone, and Glacier National Park. In fact, I
10 think if SDG&E could they would run a line over Old
11 Faithful.

12 We only have one earth, one Anza-Borrego. You
13 have only one chance to make the right decision. Please
14 hear and pay heed to the many voices raised in
15 opposition to this mistake. Be forward in your vision.
16 Consider viable alternatives. Please do not place the
17 welfare of stockholders above the welfare of this land
18 and the people who cherish its beauty and serenity.

19 Thank you.

20 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

21 (Applause)

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: Vic DePratti. And would those with
23 numbers 31 through 40 please start moving up.

24 STATEMENT OF MR. DE PRATTI

25 MR. DE PRATTI: Commissioners, Commissioner
26 Grueneich, my name is Vic DePratti. I've had a home in
27 Julian since 1975. I'm a retired physician, some think
28 retarded. But in any event, I'm here to represent

1 myself and my family, past, present, and future. I'm
2 not here to discuss science or environment. You've
3 heard that many times to the point where you're probably
4 tired of it. I'm here to represent the fact that I'm
5 sad about what's happening here. I have carefully
6 followed the Sunrise Powerlink since its inception
7 including the initial informational session provided by
8 Sempra complete with their blue denim staff.

9 I'm opposed to it. I want you to know that.
10 Thank you. And please do your job.

11 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for being here this
12 evening.

13 (Applause)

14 ALJ WEISSMAN: Joe Raffetto.

15 STATEMENT OF MR. RAFFETTO

16 MR. RAFFETTO: Thank you, Commissioners, and your
17 Honor. I'm Joe Raffetto. I own California Overland
18 Desert Excursions, the park's sole concession. And I'm
19 also a member of the Borrego Springs Chamber of
20 Commerce.

21 First off, I do seriously thank you for
22 coming, and I know especially at this hour you ought to
23 be in your room having a nice glass of scotch or hot
24 cocoa perhaps.

25 (Laughter)

26 MR. RAFFETTO: And I've come to every single
27 meeting that's been going on over the last two years,
28 and it's gotten to where I've started to feel like you

1 guys are cousins that visit from out of town every now
2 and then.

3 But I just want to say like especially since
4 we're wrapping up this here, you know, my whole thing,
5 my whole business is to bring people away from the
6 things that we're talking about. And it upsets me to
7 see like people talking like we're talking NIMBY here,
8 like it's, oh, we don't want them in our backyard.

9 First of all, we're talking about Sempra
10 Energy, and Sempra Energy, as everybody remembers in
11 this room, everybody was victimized by Sempra Energy
12 back in 2000/2001. They're kind of like a lounge lizard
13 that took your daughter to the prom and had their way
14 with you and now they're coming back for your younger
15 daughter.

16 (Laughter)

17 MR. RAFFETTO: I think it's time to say no. And,
18 you know, I've seen the EIR in person. It's in a box
19 about this big. I helped lug it out and almost got a
20 hernia. And I think there's a reason it's that big.
21 It's because this park and the backcountry, there's so
22 much at stake, there's archeology, visual things, that's
23 all at -- so many other things that are at stake here
24 because it's a state park; and it's also, the real
25 reason are those liquid natural gas, the port, and the
26 power generation in Mexico. I just would ask you to
27 keep that in mind in your deliberations because it has
28 absolutely nothing to do, I feel, with renewable energy.

1 And just please keep them out because I don't
2 know how I'm going to explain to Europeans and other
3 people when they're at the beautiful overlook at Font's
4 Point why my country, my state let this happen, because
5 it's going to be very embarrassing.

6 Thank you very much.

7 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

8 (Applause)

9 ALJ WEISSMAN: Joe Hopkins.

10 STATEMENT OF MR. HOPKINS

11 MR. HOPKINS: Thank you for being here. As a
12 general statement, I agree with all the speakers who
13 have said and will say after me that the Sunrise
14 Powerlink is not needed and that there is a better way.
15 But even if we believe what SDG&E is saying about this
16 project delivering green energy, and who really does, we
17 need to ask, how green is energy that destroys thousands
18 of acres of undeveloped desert habitat with the
19 installation of enormous panels, jeopardizes water
20 sources with huge geothermal projects, and creates risks
21 for birds and bats with wind turbines.

22 This degradation of pristine habitat then
23 requires huge transmission lines through national
24 forests and state parks, much of which is designated
25 wilderness. How many thousands of existing homes and
26 businesses could be outfitted with solar for the 1.5
27 billion being spent on this project? Such improvement
28 of existing development is truly the green solution.

1 But in particular, I'm here to speak on behalf
2 of the Borrego Valley Hawk Watch. In just six years we
3 have documented almost 26,000 raptors including 20,000
4 Swainson's hawks, a species of concern in California as
5 they migrate through this area each spring. Over 500
6 visitors to the watch as well as many Borrego residents
7 have been enthralled by the swirl of these awe-inspiring
8 birds on a journey that could be as long as 4 to 7,000
9 miles.

10 We are sampling only a 3 to 4-mile swath of
11 the 150 miles that this power line will traverse. Power
12 lines such as these represent extreme risks of
13 electrocution and collision to these large birds like
14 our migrant hawks and vultures as well as our migrant
15 and resident owls and eagles. Given that we are only
16 sampling a short line across California and only
17 counting in the spring, not in the fall when these
18 magnificent birds come right back along that same route,
19 a couple of hundred thousand of them each year will be
20 at risk from a project that we just don't need.

21 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for your
22 comments.

23 (Applause)

24 ALJ WEISSMAN: Marjorie Schuessler.

25 STATEMENT OF MS. SCHUESSLER

26 MS. SCHUESSLER: Hello. Mr. Weissman,
27 Commissioners, thank you very much for coming to Borrego
28 Springs and providing citizens with an additional

1 opportunity to share our concerns about the proposed
2 Sunrise Powerlink project. I am Marjorie Schuessler,
3 and I'm reading this on behalf of Paul Schuessler, my
4 husband, who is unable to attend the hearing today.

5 I am a retired California state park ranger
6 with over 30 years experience, and I am deeply concerned
7 about the commercial use and impact to the state park.
8 During those 30 years I had opportunity to talk to tens
9 of thousands of park visitors and members of local civic
10 groups. Sometimes I felt as though I were a missionary
11 explaining the park's values as well as the legal
12 mandate to preserve and to protect the park for all
13 people for all time.

14 The public support for parks is evident.
15 California has the finest park system in the nation.
16 Regularly rangers go to Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, Chambers
17 of Commerce, and any one willing to listen to explain
18 the need for park bond issues. The public has passed
19 these state park bonds time and time again.

20 The public trust bestowed to all levels of
21 public administrators is being called into question.
22 The State Legislature has approved the state park lands,
23 and the public has paid to purchase and for the
24 management of these lands.

25 It has not always been a struggle to -- it has
26 always been a struggle to preserve unique portions of
27 our natural and human history, but the true value always
28 lies in the future in the natural heritage we leave to

1 future generations. To denigrate parks for commercial
2 purposes is unconscionable.

3 Thank you. Paul Schuessler.

4 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for your comments.

5 Daniel Kane.

6 STATEMENT OF MR. KANE

7 MR. KANE: Hello, and thanks for the opportunity
8 to get to talk about this tonight. Thanks for coming.

9 My name is Daniel Kane, and I live in the City
10 of San Diego. And I'm here to sort of talk about all of
11 the what I call the Christmas and Easter Anza-Borregans,
12 the people who come out here when the wildflowers are in
13 bloom every spring and then maybe they don't think about
14 it again because they're busy with their lives. But all
15 of these people, I really don't think they truly
16 understand what is at stake, and I think if they did,
17 there would be many, many more people here. There's
18 been a lot of green-washing I think that's happened.

19 And this spring I can't tell you the number of
20 people that I talked to that were just so, so, so
21 excited about having gone out to the flowers or just
22 talked to people who had gone out. I had seen an energy
23 in people that I'd truly never ever seen here in San
24 Diego.

25 The desert changes people, even if they just
26 come once a year, even if they've only heard about their
27 kids coming or their friends coming. It's a truly
28 special place. And if the power line goes through,

1 there's something that's going to be lost that's much,
2 much bigger than any one here I think has mentioned.
3 It's just sort of the collective spirit of our city and
4 our state.

5 Thank you very much.

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for coming.

7 (Applause)

8 ALJ WEISSMAN: Ken Jolaren. Okay. Chuck King.

9 MR. JOLAREN: Ken Jolaren. 34.

10 ALJ WEISSMAN: Yeah. Okay. Sorry. Could not
11 make out that K. Looked like an S to me.

12 STATEMENT OF MR. JOLAREN

13 MR. JOLAREN: My name is Ken Jolaren. I'm from
14 Dear Horn Valley. And there's some speculation that the
15 Harris fire was started by SDG&E. Be it one way or the
16 other, I don't care. I lost my house in that fire. If
17 you go with the southern route, I'll lose my house to
18 SDG&E for sure. I'm one of the few houses that is right
19 on the Cleveland National Forest. Goes to the right of
20 my house. If you put it in the forest, it goes to the
21 left of my house. If you keep it out of the forest,
22 doesn't make any difference.

23 I'm not sure here to save Anza-Borrego
24 Springs. I'm here to save the southern route.

25 Thank you.

26 ALJ WEISSMAN: Chuck King.

27 STATEMENT OF MR. KING

28 MR. KING: Evening, Commissioners. Thank you for

1 the opportunity to be one of the local people to stand
2 up and be counted. I don't have anything elegant to
3 say. Many have spoke very passionately against the
4 Powerlink project. I am also opposed.

5 I'm a 25-year resident of Borrego Springs. I
6 own a home, have a family, two children in the school
7 system here. I'm also an employee of the school
8 district. I would hate to lose our precious resource.
9 I appreciate the open spaces, and I appreciate the
10 environment.

11 I would urge you to look at some of the
12 experts that have spoken about alternative transmission
13 routes, particularly AT&T, who suggested that the
14 existing corridor, such as some of the interstates, some
15 joint trench agreements that might be used. There are
16 certainly other ways to transmit power if that's what
17 has to be. But I think it's been suggested and pointed
18 out that it's not necessary.

19 The other thing that I would say about SDG&E
20 is that as a member of the school district and volunteer
21 for some of the disaster relief, SDG&E has paid lip
22 service to us regarding providing us backup generators;
23 and from what the evidence that we've seen, they're
24 interested in collecting monies from us, but when it's
25 giving back to the local community, it's just
26 nonexistent.

27 So thank you for the opportunity to be here.

28 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for being here this

1 evening.

2 (Applause)

3 ALJ WEISSMAN: Shauna Callens. Okay. Britta Lee
4 Shain.

5 STATEMENT OF MS. SHAIN

6 MS. SHAIN: Good evening. My name is Britta Lee
7 Shain. I'm a resident in the Anza-Borrego State Park.
8 The Anza-Borrego State Park, among other honors, has
9 been named a world heritage park by the United Nations.
10 Every year over a million visitors come from all over
11 the world to visit this park and escape the kind of
12 visual blight and industrial pollution that is proposed
13 by Sempra Energy to desecrate not only the park itself
14 but the proposed routes that most people will have to
15 drive to get here.

16 A visitor can take a short walk in this park
17 and find pottery shards left behind by ancient
18 civilizations or see pictographs and petroglyphs or
19 marvel at the mortarium, where the Indians ground their
20 acorns for food. A visitor can be awed by as many as 30
21 short-eared owls roosting at the Powerlink targeted
22 Tamarus [phonetic] Grove. A visitor can also see
23 limitless beauty and experience silence.

24 This park was set aside for general public
25 use, not for private businesses to exploit for profit.
26 If the Sunrise Powerlink is allowed to prevail, not only
27 will irreparable damage have been done to this state,
28 national, and world treasure, but it will set a terrible

1 precedent for other parks and protected wilderness.

2 These days on the news we are bombarded with
3 examples of manmade changes, some minute, that have
4 wreaked irreversible changes on the planet. How can any
5 one in good conscience in the face of such knowledge,
6 knowing that there are safer, more environmentally
7 friendly alternatives to this plan, go forward with an
8 already obsolete technology which promises to destroy
9 some of the last remaining beauty and the intact
10 ecosystems that we have left.

11 At the end of the day, and I mean the end of
12 the day, all the money in the world will not buy back
13 our planet. Please say no to the Sunrise Powerlink.
14 The children will thank you.

15 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 ALJ WEISSMAN: Marilyn Moskowitz.

18 STATEMENT OF MS. MOSKOWITZ

19 MS. MOSKOWITZ: Hi. Welcome. Thank you. I'm not
20 used to microphones. I'm Marilyn Moskowitz, and I'm a
21 resident of Imperial Valley. I'm here as a private
22 citizen. I guess I want to make a couple points, and I
23 want to confine my remarks, since there's not a whole
24 lot of time, to things that, to the valley and also to
25 the economy.

26 The thing about the valley is we have two
27 power plants that have been sited in Mexicali. They
28 dumped pollutants into our air. They are not subject to

1 California emission, California emission controls or
2 environmental laws or US federal or environmental laws.
3 The Powerlink will encourage the siting of more power
4 plants because it's an easy way to transmit electricity
5 to Los Angeles, to areas north of Los Angeles, and
6 that's a real consideration.

7 In Imperial Valley we have very high rates of
8 asthma in the population. The elementary school
9 children, I believe it's about 40 percent. And along
10 the coast it's 15 to 18 percent elementary school
11 children. The American Lung Association just gave
12 Imperial valley an F on our air quality. That's not
13 something new. We share our air links in with Mexicali.
14 We are fortunate in some sense in our link with
15 Mexicali.

16 Okay. The next thing I want to talk about is
17 the economics. If only part of the money that would be
18 spent on constructing the power line was instead
19 funneled into research and development of more
20 economically feasible solar units that could be used to
21 generate power for homes and businesses, California
22 could and would become a manufacturing and research
23 development center of the US. The market would be
24 limitless in terms of international market and domestic.
25 Household solar units that were economically feasible
26 that could generate household power and feed back into
27 the grid would revolutionize our economy and the energy
28 situation.

1 ALJ WEISSMAN: Have to ask you to please wrap up
2 now.

3 MS. MOSKOWITZ: Okay. The other thing is if part
4 of the money was used to give subsidies to homeowners
5 and developers, that would drive the market and make
6 that possible. So I would really urge you to consider
7 that.

8 Thank you.

9 ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 ALJ WEISSMAN: Fred Jee. And would those with
12 numbers 41 through 50 please start lining up.

13 STATEMENT OF MR. JEE

14 MR. JEE: Thank you, Commissioners and your Honor,
15 for coming to Borrego and listening to our comments
16 about the Powerlink. Much of the comments tonight have
17 been about value, what is value to one group, jobs,
18 business, growth, versus another group, beauty,
19 preservation, a path [inaudible], and environment.

20 I think the debate about value will finally
21 come to you for your decision. Let's not think about
22 Borrego, Anza-Borrego State Park or San Diego
23 backcountry, but rather, think in terms of long term
24 versus short term. Much of the supporters' values are
25 short term since jobs are gotten, business is thriving,
26 and the lights are on. But the issue is moot. Once it
27 goes away, and it will in the long run of time, that
28 value is gone.

1 Our values for the backcountry, the state
2 park, our environment, are long term. We owe a debt to
3 our grandchildren to have values for them to appreciate
4 and cherish. SDG&E devalues us so that they can achieve
5 their goals. Would we have this hearing today if this
6 proposal was to run a power line across Normandy Beach
7 or Jerusalem? I think not.

8 Please say no to the Powerlink.

9 Thank you.

10 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

11 (Applause)

12 ALJ WEISSMAN: David Riney.

13 STATEMENT OF MR. RINEY

14 MR. MR. RINEY: Hello. My name is David Riney,
15 and I oppose the Powerlink. I have an interest in
16 history. So while stumbling through some books, I found
17 an old photo album from 1900 that shows various pictures
18 of the people from that time. And that was a time when
19 Teddy Roosevelt, these are his countrymen, made the
20 first park, which was Yellowstone. I don't know who
21 these people are. They are forgotten, and, but I know
22 what they did. They left us something to cherish
23 through their sacrifice. That's all I know.

24 And I know some day -- I have no children. So
25 chances are I won't be remembered. And I may end up in
26 a book like this. And I hope a hundred years from now
27 somebody is looking through it and says, you know, I
28 really want to give thanks for what we did, that they

1 did, so that I have this enjoyment of the parks.

2 And that's all I have to say.

3 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Riney. Appreciate
4 your coming here. At least you certainly are in our
5 transcript tonight.

6 (Laughter)

7 ALJ WEISSMAN: Mr. Dave Voss.

8 STATEMENT OF MR. VOSS

9 MR. VOSS: Hi. I'm Dave Voss. I live in
10 Oceanside, and I oppose the Sunrise Powerlink.

11 The DEIR has already busted one of SDG&E's
12 biggest myths, that their project is not the most
13 environmental -- environmentally preferred project. But
14 I'd like to point out several other myths that need to
15 be busted.

16 Myth 1, that we need to build our solar power
17 in the desert. Good thing Germany didn't fall for this
18 myth. They're the number one producer of solar energy
19 in the world. Most solar panels built in the US are
20 shipped and installed in Germany.

21 Myth No. 2, this line is needed to carry
22 renewable power. We know this is a myth because we were
23 told this back when Southwest Powerlink was proposed.

24 Myth No. 3, the forest routes are less
25 damaging than the state park routes. As someone who has
26 hiked and camped along the LEAPS route and the southern
27 routes, I can tell you that these public lands are just
28 as pristine and valuable. The mileage may be less but

1 the value per mile is just as great.

2 Myth 4, big ticket power lines decrease our
3 risk during fires or other events. If we had small
4 power plants distributed throughout our county; we have
5 some now; we need a lot more; whether they're renewable
6 or small clean plants, that is much less risky than big
7 power lines.

8 And last myth is that we don't need Stirling.
9 L.A. has 250 megawatts going up on their warehouses.

10 Thank you.

11 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for your
12 comments. Martha Baker.

13 STATEMENT OF MS. BAKER

14 MS. BAKER: Thank you for being here and for
15 hearing all of our public comments. It's a real
16 opportunity, and we appreciate it. The mission of
17 the -- I am Martha Baker, Executive Director of the
18 Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation.

19 The mission of the Volcan Mountain Preserve
20 Foundation is to protect and preserve Volcan Mountain in
21 its natural state for all generations. In 20 years VMPF
22 has helped to preserve 17,000 of the 25,000 acres on the
23 mountain. Soon another 1650 acres will be added. I do
24 not think our government invested nearly 50 million
25 public dollars to preserve Volcan Mountain only to have
26 the corporate interests of SDG&E negate our long and
27 careful work.

28 VMPF opposes any major development on the

1 Volcan range. SDG&E proposes to put 150 foot tall
2 towers through the heart of Anza-Borrego Desert State
3 Park and then along State Route 2 through San Felipe
4 Valley and build a power plant on the pristine habitat
5 of Volcan Mountain.

6 Since the wildfires of '04 and '07 Volcan
7 Mountain has become a last refuge for many species that
8 require landscape scale territories in which to breed,
9 live, and migrate. It is on the Pacific flyway and is
10 an extremely important high-altitude stopover for
11 migratory birds. Volcan also remains as one of the last
12 valuable seed sources for plant species like Engelmann
13 oak, Bigcone Douglas firs and Coulter pines.

14 We are working with the Zoological Society of
15 San Diego on important reintroduction programs that will
16 reintroduce California condors and mountain yellow
17 legged frogs to their historic Volcan status. We cannot
18 do that if there is a power plant on our foothills.

19 Heavy equipment, habitat clearing, extreme
20 pollution of San Felipe Creek, increase in fire risk,
21 tall towers in the flyway, and permanent disruption to
22 the ecological balance on Volcan Mountain. These are
23 not acceptable. It is unthinkable and arrogant beyond
24 belief for SDG&E to consider despoiling our treasured
25 public land that we have all fought so hard for and
26 spent so much money to preserve.

27 This is the handout on Volcan Mountain that we
28 give to school children to explain why Volcan Mountain

1 is not your ordinary mountain. Just what will we tell
2 them, SDG&E, if 20 years of hard work and \$50 million in
3 taxpayer money has been a waste? Huh?

4 (Applause)

5 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much. Diane
6 Janssen.

7 STATEMENT OF MS. JANSSEN

8 MS. JANSSEN: Hello. I'm Diane Janssen. Thank
9 you all for being here so late at night. I have heard
10 so much tonight that I'm not going to try to add to the
11 scientific data. I'm a grandmother and a mother, and I
12 would simply ask that when you make this decision, this
13 momentous decision that will lead us into the future,
14 that you look deeply into your hearts and make it
15 somewhat from the standpoint of a mother or a
16 grandmother or a father or grandfather.

17 On the more practical side, one gentleman who
18 already spoke didn't get to make this sentence. So I'd
19 like to add it. He said to me to remind you that Step 1
20 is to say no to this project. Step 2 is to say yes to
21 requiring grid owners to purchase individually-
22 generated solar electricity for the future.

23 Thanks very much.

24 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for your
25 comments.

26 (Applause)

27 ALJ WEISSMAN: Bob Woods.

28 STATEMENT OF MR. WOODS

1 MR. WOODS: Hi. My name is Bob Woods. I'm a
2 retired engineer and a resident of Descanso since 1982.

3 We've heard lots of great arguments against
4 the Sunrise Powerlink tonight, and I have to say I agree
5 with about all of them. In addition, I might emphasize
6 one additional, and that's the security of this proposed
7 link. In this time of heightened awareness of Homeland
8 Security it may be wise to consider the implications of
9 constructing a system that could be excessively
10 susceptible to security interference or terrorist
11 interference. It may be more prudent to invest this
12 money in the development of a more distributed system.

13 We're uniquely advan -- we have a unique
14 advantage in the San Diego area of having lots of
15 sunshine, lots of days of sunshine, and this seems to be
16 an ideal place for a more distributed rooftop system.
17 That's where the money should go.

18 Thank you.

19 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for your
20 comments.

21 (Applause)

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: Katalina Prince.

23 STATEMENT OF MS. PRINCE

24 MS. PRINCE: Good evening. Thank you for being
25 here today and tonight. My name is Katalina Prince, and
26 I am a resident of Borrego Springs. I have the fortune
27 to say and feel and know that the beginning of my life
28 actually began right here in Borrego Springs and the

1 surrounding Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. For the
2 first four and a half years this is where my feet and my
3 lungs and my eyes and where my heart first knew this
4 life. Since then I went away to Orange County, to
5 Northern California. I've lived in other
6 municipalities, metropolitan areas. I've lived in other
7 places nationally and internationally.

8 I had the opportunity to come back about nine
9 years ago, and I realized doing so I learned something,
10 not only about myself, but for what we all share and
11 what we all love, and that's the sense of raw natural
12 location. It reminds us of who we are and what's
13 important. Coming back here, I've had the opportunity
14 to go elsewhere, but always upon returning I pass
15 through what is truly a beautiful entrance back to this
16 area; and that begins, as soon as you leave a heavily
17 populated area, you come through Santa Ysabel. You're
18 not even in the park yet, but you're touched by it. And
19 once you return to the park you realize how blessed this
20 is.

21 My first steps began here. I hope they
22 continue here, and I hope that they will continue for
23 many more in the future.

24 Thank you.

25 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for your
26 comments.

27 (Applause)

28 ALJ WEISSMAN: Joanne Ingwall.

1 bone ever found in this park. And it has impact, not
2 because of my finding, but it has impact because it's
3 the first one of these ever found in the park, and it
4 tells us something about the fossil history, not only of
5 our park, but of our entire region and of the world.

6 And the final point I want to make is that
7 this is really all about legacy. We saw it when we saw
8 the family. We saw it when we heard the song. And as
9 you look at yourselves in the mirror every day, I wonder
10 if you can possibly vote against -- not vote against
11 this park project that could destroy our park. It's all
12 about legacy. It's about keeping what has been promised
13 to the people, not just in this region, but of our
14 country and the world.

15 The park that is meant to be forever wild. If
16 you vote for the Sunrise Powerlink, you'll vote to have
17 it be wild only for a short while.

18 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for your
19 comments.

20 (Applause)

21 ALJ WEISSMAN: Beth Edwards.

22 STATEMENT OF MS. EDWARDS

23 MS. EDWARDS: Hi. Thank you for being here.
24 Actually, I'm Elizabeth Edwards if it's legal. I live
25 in the Witch Creek area of Ramona, as you know, a pretty
26 tragically hit area. I lost half of everything that I
27 own thanks to SDG&E. Sempra has offered me up to \$5,000
28 grant for absolutely no reason. I don't know why. They

1 don't know me. I lost 46 Engelmann oaks. They're a
2 very rare tree, my view oak from my window. I worked my
3 whole life to live where I live, to live in the
4 backcountry and away from the city, away from the
5 lights. I invite you to enjoy the stars tonight when
6 you're out here. You don't get that when you use a lot
7 of power. I do not have air conditioning. I do not
8 have heat. Yet I live in an area that's 20 degrees
9 colder and hotter than downtown San Diego where the
10 people are that want the power.

11 Please consider my Phase 1, which will only
12 cost about \$20,000 to get me started with my Phase 1 on
13 my turbine. And as soon as I can afford that and get
14 done, I'm going to get off the grid. You know, we need
15 power to a point, but we're overusing it. We need to
16 cut back, and we need to be green, truly green
17 ourselves.

18 Thank you.

19 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

20 (Applause)

21 ALJ WEISSMAN: Randy Lenac.

22 STATEMENT OF MR. LENAC

23 MR. LENAC: Good evening. My name is Randy Lenac,
24 and I'm here from Campo to speak for the thousands of
25 residents that live in the small communities throughout
26 southeastern San Diego County who are adamantly opposed
27 to the southern route. It targets the poorest
28 communities and tribes in San Diego County, a violation

1 of the environmental justice element of the law, and the
2 EIR does not address that. The Draft EIR is full of
3 examples of the power of the federal government coming
4 to bear to adjust the original US Forest Service
5 proposal on to private lands adjacent to the national
6 forest. I can assure you tonight that most of those
7 adjacent ranchers do not have a power line in their
8 ranch management plan either.

9 The US Navy is opposed to this power line
10 going near their new training areas in Campo because it
11 will interfere with frequent low-level helicopter
12 flights. Yet their EIR and public testimony state that
13 they plan only rare med-evac and VIP flights. Admiral
14 Herring is either a liar or their EIR is a liar. In
15 either case the full power of the federal government has
16 again been brought to bear against private landowners in
17 your EIR.

18 I want to assure you there are thousands of
19 people who are adamantly opposed to the southern option.
20 The communities and tribes along the southern route are
21 the poorest in San Diego County. We're confident that
22 the bugs and bunnies in the federal and state agencies
23 are well represented in this process, as are the wealthy
24 communities in the coastal areas of our county that have
25 much to gain from this Powerlink. But there are
26 thousands of underrepresented people in southeastern San
27 Diego County who are depending on you, depending on you
28 to protect them from an environmental injustice that

1 would result if the southern route is chosen because
2 it's politically expedient.

3 Thank you.

4 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for your
5 comments.

6 (Applause)

7 ALJ WEISSMAN: Is Paul McClellan here? Paul
8 McClellan?

9 STATEMENT OF MR. MC CLELLAN

10 MR. MC CLELLAN: Good evening, Commissioners and
11 Mr. Weissman. My name is Paul McClellan. I have been a
12 resident and private business owner in San Marcos,
13 California, for the past 26 years. I rarely get to
14 Borrego Springs. As a business owner I fully understand
15 the profit motive of business, but more importantly, I
16 recognize that creating value has much greater benefit
17 than creating profit.

18 Like every one here, over the past decade,
19 several decades, I have seen my utility bills increase.
20 And after this project gets completed, if it gets
21 completed, I know that my utility bills will continue to
22 climb. But it's not the increasing utility bills.
23 Every one here has that same problem. It's not the
24 utility bills that decrease our standard of living.
25 Either way, they don't have a big impact on our standard
26 of living. But what does really adversely impact our
27 quality of life and our standard of living for us as
28 well as all of you are short-sighted projects that have

1 profit as their primary aim. And California is an
2 extremely innovative and entrepreneurial state. And I
3 think that they pay a very high premium in innovation.

4 And I would respectfully request that as you
5 review all of these documents that you consider with the
6 authority that you have to guide these projects so that
7 they create a longer lasting value to all of the
8 residents from now and in the future.

9 Thank you.

10 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for your
11 comments.

12 (Applause)

13 ALJ WEISSMAN: Eleanor. I'm sorry. I can't make
14 out your last name. Would those with numbers 51 through
15 55 please line up.

16 STATEMENT OF MS. SHIMEALL

17 MS. SHIMEALL: Your Honor and honorable
18 Commissioners, my name is Eleanor Shimeall. My husband
19 and I have been coming to Borrego Valley since 1968, and
20 we are full-time residents today. We are both state
21 park volunteers. And this is your park also, and we are
22 all stakeholders in the important decision before you.
23 It is good you got to see disputed wilderness today, and
24 we thank you for taking the time to come.

25 Areas such as this state park were set aside
26 by visionaries who realized the need to preserve
27 expansive areas for the enjoyment, enrichment of soul
28 for us, our children and grandchildren and their

1 grandchildren. These visionaries realized that without
2 protection, these public areas would be swallowed up and
3 by private and corporate interests for personal profit.

4 The reasons for not going ahead with the
5 super -- the Sunrise Powerlink project are well known,
6 and I agree with all of them. I urge you to vote
7 against the project because of the publicly stated
8 objections.

9 Diane Jacobs this afternoon spoke for many of
10 us. Just read, appreciate, and act on her advice. I've
11 been solar cooking since 1980. And it's out there.
12 It's free. With new and improved technologies for
13 energy production at hand, you must find a better way to
14 manage energy needs. Say no to this project. The
15 Sunrise Powerlink project is not a win-win situation.

16 And I'm going to leave my solar cook book with
17 you so that you can find out how great it is to walk out
18 your back door and take your dinner out of the oven
19 that's cooked with the sun all day.

20 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

21 (Applause)

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: Briana Ross.

23 STATEMENT OF MS. ROSS

24 MS. ROSS: Good evening and welcome. My name is
25 Briana Ross. I'm a Borrego resident. I thank you for
26 coming and touring our park and taking the time to hear
27 our many, many comments.

28 The process you must go through to make the

1 decision about this project reminds of me of what many
2 voters are faced with in electing our next president.
3 Just as voters across the United States are hoping to
4 see positive changes through this election, I trust you
5 are hoping to see positive and realistic solutions to
6 our energy needs.

7 SDG&E is appealing to you just as presidential
8 candidates are attempting to win the votes of Americans.
9 SDG&E has promoted the Sunrise Powerlink through a
10 clever and expensive ad campaign which focuses on clean
11 energy. SDG&E's claim that Sunrise Powerlink will be
12 used to provide green energy is based solely on the use
13 of renewable energy plants that do not exist and have
14 not even been approved. I encourage you to challenge
15 SDG&E to show you exactly where this clean energy will
16 come from before any route options are discussed.

17 We are relying on you, Commissioners Simon,
18 Grueneich, Bohn, and Judge Weissman to deny this
19 proposal and push SDG&E to utilize realistic renewable
20 alternatives like rooftop solar which can meet
21 California's energy needs and would not produce
22 greenhouse gases, burn fossil fuels, and would not
23 require new transmission lines. These lines are costly
24 and, based on our areas's current infrastructure, would
25 be transporting fossil fuels, not clean energy.

26 This is your opportunity to set a precedent in
27 California and across the country. I encourage you to
28 oppose Sunrise Powerlink, not only to protect the

1 sanctity of our state and national wildlife, but also to
2 promote bold energy alternatives.

3 Thank you.

4 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for your comments.

5 (Applause)

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: Michelle Upczak.

7 STATEMENT OF MS. UPCZAK

8 MS. UPCZAK: Good evening and thank you for being
9 here to allow us to have an input into the democratic
10 process. And I'm a civics teacher. I live in Descanso,
11 which is on the southern proposed route, but it really
12 isn't about Descanso or that southern route or any of
13 the other areas, a fight between Anza-Borrego. It's
14 about San Diego Gas and Electric and the things that
15 they're doing, and, you know, and what is the payoff
16 there.

17 I was -- actually, they set a back fire to one
18 of the fires in my driveway. And so half of my trees
19 and my driveway burned. My mail box burned as I was
20 racing out of there evacuating. I can't tell you, if
21 you haven't lived through an experience with a
22 firestorm, how absolutely terrifying and life changing
23 that is. And to think that any one would even consider
24 proposing any kind of possibility, even if it was a
25 1-percent possibility, if you had lived through that, it
26 is just absolutely the most hellish stuff I've ever been
27 through. So I wanted to share that with you personally.

28 I came tonight to support -- so my sister and

1 I drove over the mountains -- to support the people that
2 were here in opposition to the Powerlink. And I was
3 just marveling at the democratic process here because we
4 don't see that. And I appreciate you guys being here so
5 I can feel that I'm part of that. And so I thought by
6 making a deal to come over the mountains to be here to
7 support. And then I decided, no, even if I'm terrified,
8 I need to stand here and say what I believe because it's
9 very important and it's important for to us stand up and
10 be brave.

11 And so I'm terrified. I really have strong
12 feelings about it. And I think it's a safety issue
13 among many other things. I appreciate you guys being
14 here and allowing us to have a sample of that democratic
15 process. And I hope you too will oppose the electric
16 Powerlink.

17 Thank you.

18 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much. Appreciate
19 your comments.

20 (Applause)

21 ALJ WEISSMAN: Dave Bloom. Dave Bloom. James
22 Ward. And would those with numbers 56 through 60 please
23 line up.

24 STATEMENT OF MR. WARD

25 MR. WARD: Hi. I'm James Ward. I'm a head
26 teacher or sometimes known as a vice principal of
27 Cuyamaca Outdoor School located in Cuyamaca State Park.
28 I am also the president of the San Diego County Outdoor

1 Education Foundation. And I'm here to plead on behalf
2 of 6, 700,000 children who have come through our program
3 since 1946 enjoying wilderness areas that have been set
4 aside in perpetuity.

5 We have a program right here in Anza-Borrego
6 State Park where young people come to learn about the
7 desert and also to learn about themselves. And it's a
8 fantastic program. It's helped by Anza-Borrego
9 Foundation. They help sponsor some of the funding.

10 We have a legacy. We have kids that
11 throughout the week that they come -- it's a residential
12 school that we're talking about, 6th grade camp. They
13 come up and they spend an entire week in a completely
14 pristine environment either in one of our mountain parks
15 or the desert. One of our camp programs is located in
16 the Highway 76 corridor, and it was mentioned earlier.
17 But the power line is scheduled. It's one of the routes
18 to go right smack dab through that campus. And I
19 implore you to really consider the history of 62 years
20 of our program here.

21 And one last comment. Kids write and journal
22 their thoughts out in the middle of the wilderness. And
23 it's amazing what kids write, and I can't imagine a kid
24 in the middle of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park writing
25 about the pristine beauty of the wonderful experience
26 that they have and then have to look at a series of
27 150-foot tall power lines. It defeats the whole idea.

28 Any way, please oppose the Sunrise Powerlink.

1 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for your
2 comments.

3 (Applause)

4 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thomas Topuzo. Melanie Hamilton.

5 STATEMENT OF MS. HAMILTON

6 MS. HAMILTON: Good evening. My name is Melanie
7 Hamilton. I live in Julian and I work in Ramona. And I
8 oppose the Powerlink. I'm a user of electricity. So
9 I'm a ratepayer. I'm also a taxpayer and a registered
10 voter.

11 Tens of thousands of people similar to me are
12 ratepayers, registered voters, and taxpayers; but as you
13 go about talking to people, I find that there's a lot of
14 misinformation in the general public. And a lot of that
15 misinformation is probably due to some of the tactics
16 used by both Sempra and SDG&E. However, if the issue
17 were put on a ballot for voters to make a decision,
18 perhaps some of that information would not be so
19 one-sided. However, we're not given the opportunity to
20 vote on this issue. We have to rely on our elected
21 officials and appointed officials such as yourselves to
22 make the choice for us.

23 The decision that you're going to make on this
24 issue is going to be momentous. It's going to describe
25 how energy is going to be produced and transmitted for
26 many decades to come. We all know it's been described
27 quite clearly by a lot of more astute and profound
28 individuals than I that we have a crisis on our hands.

1 We have fossil fuel energy dilemmas, production hazards,
2 unreliability, etcetera. So I won't go into all of that
3 this evening. Thank you.

4 Frankly, I'm frightened by the prognosis of
5 our power future by permitting the continuation of this
6 mindset. However, I think that if we were able to vote
7 on this, we may make a very decided opinion stated. We
8 can't vote. Therefore, we have to rely on you to choose
9 for us.

10 I'm asking you to have the courage to make a
11 momentous decision to deny this transmission line. I
12 have to depend on you to sort through the pros and the
13 cons of the issue, but I'm also looking to you to take a
14 stand against the well financed and monied corporate
15 interests. Only you can force them into the 21st
16 century. Make them produce reliable locally-generated
17 power that is used locally.

18 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for your comments, but I
19 need you to wrap up.

20 MS. HAMILTON: One last word if I may. I think
21 the word "grid" needs to be stricken from our vocabulary
22 and replaced by terms such as sustainable, renewable,
23 self-sufficient, and self-controlled.

24 Thank you.

25 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

26 (Applause)

27 ALJ WEISSMAN: Art Cole.

28 STATEMENT OF MR. COLE

1 MR. COLE: Thank you for being here. A quick note
2 before I start on my shortened now prepared speech. I
3 wish to note that cutting public input to one and a half
4 minutes on a project which will cost us each a thousand
5 dollars makes this the most expensive minute and a half
6 of my life, far more per minute than Elliot Spitzer
7 spent to destroy his career. Please let us speak.

8 Given current cost projections of 1 and a half
9 billion to 2 and a half billion dollars spent on a
10 method of energy transmission developed in the 19th
11 century, one must ask how much energy can be both
12 captured and transmitted locally with 21st century
13 technologies. Point source power generation for wind
14 and solar can create and distribute three to four times
15 as much power as the Powerlink is capable of delivering
16 without damaging the Cleveland National Forest, the
17 Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, innumerable private land
18 holdings, or risking the burning of wide areas of San
19 Diego County at the same costs.

20 As to who benefits in relation to who pays,
21 anyone who has reviewed the Powerlink's north-to-south
22 orientation and the placement of a major trunk station,
23 not a substation, at the northern terminus of the
24 project can see it is set to be extended north to supply
25 Los Angeles and Riverside Counties, not San Diego
26 County; whereas, all the costs of this project are to be
27 born by us, the residents of San Diego County.

28 The recent history of cascading brownouts and

1 blackouts throughout our country shows the limits and
2 problems of an over-centralized energy network. The
3 four-day brownout of New York and Boston's metroplex
4 caused by a similar powerlink defaulting between Detroit
5 and New York a few years ago caused a cascading collapse
6 of switching equipment relays, which burned out 85
7 percent of the total US stockpile of switching relays.

8 This situation is ripe for terrorist action.
9 With four surface-to-surface laser-guided handheld
10 missiles it is possible today to disconnect 70 percent
11 of all urban houses in the United States for a period of
12 from one to three months by hitting the incoming power
13 line from Canada, the line from Detroit to New York, the
14 lines out at the Hoover Dam and the Tennessee River
15 Authority. More than five times the power relay
16 switches currently warehoused in the United States would
17 burn out in three minutes. How can we leave ourselves
18 at such risk in these dangerous times?

19 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Cole. We need you
20 to wrap up.

21 MR. COLE: Our overly-centralized system of power
22 generation and transmission services the wealthy few
23 while leaving the great majority of us at risk of
24 terrorism, system gaming and price gouging, not to
25 mention the local risk of catastrophic firestorms. So
26 what is the answer? Point source power systems
27 multilinked in the urban environment and set up to --

28 ALJ WEISSMAN: Off the record.

1 (Off the record)

2 ALJ WEISSMAN: On the record.

3 Chris Elisara. And would those with numbers
4 60 to 65, 61 through 65 please line up.

5 STATEMENT OF MR. ELISARA

6 MR. ELISARA: Thanks for being here listening to
7 us. I've heard today Martha. I'm on the board of
8 Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation, a member of our
9 parish. Eric Stamets. I played softball with Art Cole.
10 But we're all here just to tell you how we feel about
11 it.

12 I got a photograph. This is a photograph
13 of -- do you recognize this? This is the Antelope
14 Valley poppy preserve. This is an exis -- how did this
15 happen? I want to know, how did this happen? Antelope
16 Valley poppy preserve. There it is. That's what it's
17 going to look like, folks. So I just want to bring this
18 concrete visual to you folks. This is what it will look
19 like back here. That is desecration. That is bringing
20 ugliness to the backcountry. I don't want to see that
21 happen again. If it's in your power to do that, please
22 have the courage not to do so.

23 The other thing I want to say is, you know,
24 I've been listening to these business folks here, these
25 business interests, and I get the picture that they've
26 made a lot of investment without any way of getting
27 their power out so they have a way to distribute their
28 power. But along with that and a lot of power they

1 can't really get out. So they're asking you to bail
2 them out, to help them out. So I just want to say,
3 could you say no to those folks to do two things? One
4 is to stimulate ingenuity. They need to think about
5 other ways of doing it. Stimulate ingenuity, and it
6 will stimulate the economy. If you just say no, we'll
7 get better solutions to this situation.

8 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for your
9 comments.

10 (Applause)

11 ALJ WEISSMAN: John Ruddley.

12 STATEMENT OF MR. RUDDLEY

13 MR. RUDDLEY: Hello everybody. And my apologies
14 for keeping you so late, and also my apologies for not
15 looking you in the eyes as I read this, but I had to cut
16 it to the bone. It's from my heart, no fact or anything
17 like that.

18 I have no facts to present, but I have to say
19 no doubt it's real. A descriptive word coined in the
20 early 1970s evolved from perceptions and observations of
21 people of my ilk over many years prior: Californication
22 strikes home. In essence, it is wanton development and
23 unchecked population growth. It is pernicious. Much of
24 what is beautiful and natural and wild falls before it.
25 Ultimately quality of life suffers.

26 People talk about the good old days or leave
27 for their mountain Montanas and Oregons only to be
28 replaced by others. Yet nobody understands how

1 wonderful and beautiful their relocation site once was.
2 Energy and water fuels Californication. I am certain
3 that avarice exacerbates it. Supply more energy and
4 water, and houses will be built. Build more houses, and
5 many more people will come. The blight of
6 Californication spreads as an ever-expanding population
7 with associated infrastructure and business development
8 continues to draw down whatever new energy and water
9 supplies are provided. This is madness really. Pure
10 and simple.

11 We continue fouling our nest and compromising
12 our environment. To what end? It just does not make
13 sense. Were energy and water development limited, so
14 too would be business development and unchecked
15 population expansion. This concept is madness, also.
16 Of course it is. After all, this is the United States
17 of America. Aren't we the ownership society? We are a
18 free society with practitioners of avarice, albeit for
19 the public good, occupying niches at all levels of
20 business and government. And that in a nutshell is why
21 I oppose the Sunrise Powerlink. Simply put, I do not
22 trust Sempra. There is a very fine line between public
23 good and avarice.

24 And I appreciate the opportunity to speak.
25 And as I said, this was from my heart and that's the
26 only way I can say, because I figured you've already
27 heard so many people talk, so many facts and figures and
28 whatever else. And the bottom line is, thank you for

1 the opportunity to speak for a little bit. And I'm
2 sorry you're up so late. You guys got to be tired.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for your
6 comments. Mil Krecu.

7 STATEMENT OF MR. KRECU

8 MR. KRECU: Thank you for staying with us. My
9 name is Mil Krecu, and I'm an organic farmer in the
10 area, and I've dedicated my life to developing
11 sustainable systems to address our food system. And I
12 think the same ideas, the same careful usage of
13 resources and well managed stewardship can be applied to
14 our energy needs as well.

15 There is much that we can do, as many people
16 have said, about the technology that's available to us.
17 The solution is not bigger and better. It is actually
18 smaller and decentralized solutions work much better.
19 It works in agriculture that way, and I think it works
20 in energy that way.

21 Thank you very much.

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for your
23 comments.

24 (Applause)

25 ALJ WEISSMAN: William Crawley.

26 STATEMENT OF MR. CRAWLEY

27 MR. CRAWLEY: Hello. My name is William Crawley.
28 I represent the Potrero planning area as a Potrero

1 planning group member, and I want to talk about
2 reliability. Potrero is part of the areas in the Harris
3 fire, and it actually started in Potrero; but every
4 route along would have been shut down in one time or
5 another due to the fire.

6 San Diego requires 45 square miles of solar
7 panels to power it. So I would like to challenge the
8 California Public Utilities Commission to require each
9 county to be an island, island in their reliability as
10 far as generating power. Even Path 44 was threatened,
11 and that would have been the only link down to San Diego
12 or any area. So I would say, San Diego, L.A., San
13 Francisco, Imperial County, island solar and other
14 renewables.

15 Thank you and have a wonderful evening and
16 thank you for coming.

17 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much. Thank you for
18 coming.

19 (Applause)

20 ALJ WEISSMAN: I can't pronounce your name, but
21 Mr. Bannon?

22 STATEMENT OF MR. BANNON

23 MR. BANNON: Yes, it is. Thank you. I have a
24 little sign. I don't know if you can see it. My friend
25 drew it up. He's in the back there. His name is Alex.
26 He has a gift for you. He's approaching, if you don't
27 mind. These were picked this morning on his property,
28 San Felipe, God's country. Please see the stars there

1 tonight. You know, I hope you can spend more time
2 around here, and I hope I can spend more time around
3 here.

4 My name is Mike Bannon. I'm an electrical
5 contractor, of all things, from Orange County, of all
6 places. And I'm here to tell you that wires are ugly.
7 You know, not only are these towers ugly, and once you
8 put them in, you're not going to take this out. It's
9 all those drooping wires. It totally ruins the scenery
10 of this area. And this is really a nice area. And I
11 hope you do get to spend more time.

12 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for coming.

13 (Applause)

14 ALJ WEISSMAN: Anne. I can't quite make out your
15 last name.

16 STATEMENT OF MS. GURNEE

17 MS. GURNEE: My name is Anne Gurnee, and this is
18 my son Traygen. We lived in Deer Horn Valley Jamul
19 until our home burned to the ground last year. Five out
20 of six houses on my road were lost, 21 out of 28 in my
21 neighborhood. CAL FIRE has demonstrated to San Diego
22 County twice now how woefully inadequate they are at
23 fighting fires. To add another enormous fire risk that
24 the Sunrise Powerlink will indisputably be is
25 bewildering.

26 It's been pretty well established that the
27 Witch Creek fire, the largest last year, was started due
28 to power lines. And my neighbors and I find it a

1 startling coincidence that the path of the Harris fire
2 coincides, surprisingly or obviously, depending on who
3 you ask, with the proposed D route of the Sunrise
4 Powerlink.

5 We can't even consider rebuilding until we
6 know what you all decide. Worst case scenario for me
7 and my neighbors: I rebuild my home and the D route of
8 the Sunrise Powerlink comes through my next door
9 neighbor's property literally and I lose my home again,
10 but this time to Sempra Energy, either because of the
11 thousand-foot easement or to obliterated property value.
12 No one in their right mind would live in such close
13 proximity to these monstrosities. Would you? Not if
14 you valued your health or your children's, and I do.

15 Then of course if you all allow these lines to
16 go through our neighborhood or any one else's, you force
17 us to live with the added unnecessary risk of fire, and
18 then maybe we'll get to do this all over again in ten
19 years or less. Please don't do that. Please don't do
20 that to us.

21 ALJ WEISSMAN: Ask you to please wrap up.

22 MS. GURNEE: Three more points very briefly.

23 ALJ WEISSMAN: Actually, you're half a minute over
24 already. One point.

25 MS. GURNEE: There are endangered species in the
26 area, the southwest willow flycatcher, the California
27 gnatcatcher, southwestern arroyo toad, the Quino
28 checkerspot butterfly, [inaudible] eagle, peregrine

1 falcon. I have seen one. Barrett Lake in their water
2 source. Mr. Davis, my neighbor, said very eloquently
3 how the water quality will be adversely affected.

4 Please don't do this to us. There are viable
5 alternatives. Why not use them? If it's about money,
6 these are the faces of Sempra Energy's bottom line.
7 This is us. He doesn't have a number. He just had a
8 really quick comment.

9 ALJ WEISSMAN: I'm sorry.

10 MS. GURNEE: Say it.

11 TRAYGEN GURNEE: Please don't put the Powerlink
12 service on. I want to go home.

13 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

14 (Applause)

15 ALJ WEISSMAN: Mark White.

16 STATEMENT OF MR. WHITE

17 MR. WHITE: Good evening. Thank you for coming.
18 My name is Mark white. I'm Anne's neighbor. I'm one of
19 the fortunate ones that has a house, and the reason I
20 have a house is because I stayed. And we didn't have a
21 single firefighter come up our dirt road, and that's a
22 shame.

23 I went to a meeting a year ago in Jamul, a
24 community meeting regarding the Powerlink. And I was
25 lied to there when I asked SDG&E why don't they just run
26 it underground and they said it was impossible. And I
27 see clearly it's not impossible to run it underground.
28 I again feel I've been lied to when I caught the lead

1 biologist for Ecosystems on my property doing surveys
2 without written permission.

3 And I'm strongly opposed to the Sunrise
4 Powerlink. And I'll cut it short.

5 Thank you.

6 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for coming
7 tonight.

8 (Applause)

9 ALJ WEISSMAN: Geoffrey Smith. And would those
10 with numbers 66 through 69 please join the line if you
11 haven't already.

12 STATEMENT OF MR. SMITH

13 MR. SMITH: Thank you for hearing us. I'm already
14 looking forward to a beer out in the desert after this.
15 I wish you could all join me, but I don't think that
16 would be allowed. You're the attorney, right? It's
17 protocol. But I do encourage you to get out on your
18 own, drive, get in your car, drive down a dirt road,
19 stop the engine and get out and walk and look up. Look
20 at the dark night sky, look at the stars, and experience
21 the solitude that's the desert. That's really
22 important. That's why we're here.

23 My name is Geoffrey Smith. I live in Mira
24 Mesa at the other end of the proposed power line. I do
25 oppose all the wire alternatives. I'm here representing
26 the Wilderness 4 All organization, which is the San
27 Diego campaign, the San Diego unit of the California
28 Wild Heritage Campaign, the Federal Wilderness Campaign

1 in the State of California. For almost half of my life
2 I've been working with scores of volunteers since 1985
3 to preserve wilderness in San Diego, starting with the
4 Desert Protection Act, which was signed into law in 1994
5 by the first President Clinton.

6 (Laughter)

7 MR. WHITE: The presidency was still wet when we
8 went right to work on the next bill, which is the one
9 I'm here talking about today, the California Wild
10 Heritage Campaign. In San Diego County alone there are
11 64,000 acres of proposed wilderness and 23 miles of
12 proposed wild and scenic river right here in San Diego
13 County.

14 I'm going to present you with five sets of
15 documentation showing maps of the proposed areas and a
16 list of them by name and their acreages. Pick any wire
17 alternative and I can name two or three of those areas
18 that would be seriously affected by the route. Is that
19 yellow or red?

20 ALJ WEISSMAN: That's red.

21 MR. SMITH: It's red?

22 ALJ WEISSMAN: Yes.

23 MR. SMITH: I'm done. Okay. Read the map over a
24 glass of wine tonight, and please make the right
25 decision for us.

26 Thank you.

27 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much. Thank you for
28 your comments.

1 (Applause)

2 ALJ WEISSMAN: Vickie Butcher. You have that
3 wonderful running-for-office smile on your face this
4 late at night.

5 STATEMENT OF MS. BUTCHER

6 MS. BUTCHER: Well, I would like to thank you for
7 having a wonderful smile on your face at this time of
8 night.

9 I am Vickie Butcher. I am running for
10 Congress in the 52nd Congressional District, and I too
11 have served and sat in your seats as a Commissioner for
12 the California State Water Control Board and served 12
13 years as a planner for El Cajon City Planning
14 Department. But I am here to add my voice to the
15 eloquent voices that you have already heard in
16 opposition to this project.

17 Many of us watched as the fires rolled down
18 hills threatening our homes. I was one of the lucky
19 ones. My home was not burned, but we did evacuate in
20 the Cedar fires. I am here because I believe that there
21 are clean green alternatives, and I would urge you to
22 reject this project and accept the Draft EIR. Someone
23 has done an awful lot of work. I did not see the heavy
24 load of paperwork that went into the suggestions made to
25 you to say no to this project. But I add my voice to
26 those who have already given you reasons why.

27 Thank you.

28 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for your

1 comments.

2 (Applause)

3 ALJ WEISSMAN: Bob Kuczewski.

4 STATEMENT OF MR. KUCZEWSKI

5 MR. KUCZEWSKI: My name is Bob Kuczewski, and I am
6 president of the Torrey Hawks Hang Gliding Club. I
7 stand before you today wearing the jacket of Alan
8 Chuculate, who was my instructor, my mentor, and my
9 friend. Alan was killed in November of 2005 when his
10 hang glider struck what? Power lines, near a little
11 town in Mexico.

12 The Sunrise Powerlink involves many complex
13 issues, and as president of the Torrey Hawks Hang
14 Gliding Club it's not my place to comment on most of
15 them. But I can ask that you please give careful
16 consideration to the placement of high voltage lines
17 which endanger the brave spirits who take to the air in
18 remote places that we call Horse Canyon and Laguna
19 Mountain.

20 As hang glider and paraglider pilots we are
21 becoming an endangered species as we lose suitable
22 habitat for our sports. All we require is a small patch
23 of ground to launch and another small patch to land and
24 an unobstructed sky where we can fly for hours and climb
25 the many thousands of feet using nothing other than the
26 air currents that are powered by the sun. Please
27 respect the adventurous spirit that drives our members
28 to the sky.

1 Thank you.

2 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for coming
3 tonight.

4 (Applause)

5 ALJ WEISSMAN: Janet Gilbert.

6 STATEMENT OF MS. GILBERT

7 MS. GILBERT: My name is Janet Gilbert. I live in
8 Ramona. In 2006 my husband and I built a photovoltaic
9 system on our property. On October 21st, 2007, I lost
10 my home, my barn, all my personal property in the Witch
11 Creek Fire. There's a certain irony to being a
12 generator of electricity providing San Diego Gas and
13 Electric with electricity and having my home and
14 life-style destroyed by fire sparked by San Diego Gas
15 and Electric wire transmission lines.

16 There's an even greater irony in that my
17 electrical generation and my transmission to SDG&E would
18 not start a fire in a wind storm. My power lines from
19 my photovoltaics to my inverters and from my inverters
20 to San Diego Gas and Electric are all underground. They
21 will not start a fire during our Santa Ana winds.

22 I installed photovoltaics because I believe
23 that locally-produced energy is a major key to economic
24 growth in San Diego County, because I believe global
25 warming data are relevant to public policy and indeed
26 need to dictate that policy and because I think
27 Americans need to take our own steps to be responsible
28 for our affluent life-style. I confess to not having

1 considered reduced fire hazard as one of the reasons to
2 promote local electrical generation instead of imported
3 energy.

4 I'm concerned that the San Diego Gas and
5 Electric power line is going to increase the frequency
6 of fires. And I'm very concerned that, not only to
7 human life and property, but there's going to be
8 significant impact to chaparral with increased number of
9 fires. These fires -- chaparral is adapted to fires.
10 I'm a biologist and a teacher. And it's going to be 20
11 years for fires to regenerate themselves. And increased
12 fire frequency allows nonnative invasive plants to come
13 in, and this will only provide more fuel for more fires.
14 And we're going to see a big, big change in our
15 chaparral community that's not really addressed in the
16 environmental impact result.

17 I just feel that it's a community disaster.
18 It's an Anza-Borrego State Park disaster. It is a
19 global disaster, and it's not necessary. We generate
20 enough electricity. I am presently living in a 200
21 square foot motor home, but I have reinstalled my
22 photovoltaics, and I am producing electricity again for
23 the county.

24 Thank you.

25 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much for coming.

26 (Applause)

27 ALJ WEISSMAN: Now for our 239th registered
28 speaker of the day, that's no exaggeration, and final

1 speaker for the evening, Dave Grisly.

2 (Applause)

3 MR. GRISLY: So I get the final word.

4 ALJ WEISSMAN: Close to the final word.

5 STATEMENT OF MR. GRISLY

6 MR. GRISLY: Good to see everybody tonight, and
7 I've been very impressed in listening to concerns and
8 very important and valid concerns. I'm also with the
9 Torrey Hawks, a hang glider pilot. Power lines are a
10 big fear. Like Bob my friend mentioned, a friend of
11 ours a few months ago was killed the same way. I've
12 known of it happening a number of times. To me, it's
13 kind of like this. You're flying along, weeee, having a
14 good time. You're looking down on people, which is one
15 of the only times it's okay. See people waving down
16 there and they're doing this. And I'm just thinking,
17 yeah. Following all the birds. I heard someone talk
18 about migrating birds. Those are friends of mine.

19 So I'm flying along. Mom is down there waving
20 and I'm waving back and all of a sudden, bzzz, bzzz,
21 bzzz, power lines, bzzz. Burst into flames kind of like
22 a Pinto. Down to the ground, boom. Ow, it hurts. Call
23 the police. Call the fire department. Wait. Don't
24 call the fire department. We're under a power line.
25 Power lines. You can't fight a fire under power lines.
26 Ow.

27 So please listen to these people's concerns.
28 I'm concerned myself. At Torrey Hawk we want to show

1 our support, and here we are. So good night.

2 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

3 (Applause)

4 ALJ WEISSMAN: Do any of the Commissioners want to
5 say any closing words?

6 COMMISSIONER BOHN: I'd just like to say one
7 comment. It's been a long day certainly for many of you
8 here. But just in case there may be a sneaking
9 suspicion out there that we don't pay attention and that
10 we don't listen, we really do.

11 And I want to thank all of you who have stayed
12 the course over today to make your views known in both
13 passionate and articulate fashion. It really does help
14 the process of government, and I want to thank you all
15 for participating.

16 (Applause)

17 COMMISSIONER SIMON: As I understand it,
18 Commissioner Grueneich has been through a number of
19 these meetings. So I want to express my admiration for
20 her resilience.

21 (Applause)

22 COMMISSIONER SIMON: But I concur with
23 Commissioner Bohn's statements that we do listen. This
24 is democracy, as someone said earlier today, at ground
25 zero. And I want to thank all of you for your very
26 articulate and well informed comments.

27 (Applause)

28 ALJ WEISSMAN: I would like to add my thanks to

1 the numerous largely invisible people who have made
2 today run so smoothly, the Public Advisor's Office from
3 Los Angeles, some of the staff from Aspen Consulting.
4 And certainly without fail I'd like to mention the court
5 reporters who have had fingers of steel today.

6 (Applause)

7 ALJ WEISSMAN: We've almost become family over the
8 last year. So hopefully we can plan a reunion sometime.

9 COMMISSIONER GRUENEICH: We all give a thanks to
10 Judge Weissman.

11 (Applause)

12 ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you all. I'll remember that
13 when I'm sitting in my office trying to draft this
14 thing.

15 So thank you very much, and this public
16 participation hearing is adjourned.

17 (Whereupon, at the hour of 9:53 p.m.,
18 this public participation hearing was
concluded.)

19 * * * * *