

Dear Aspen Environmental, CPUC, Administrative Law Judges, Gov Arnold Schwarzenegger,

I have reviewed your latest revision to the proposed Sunrise Powerlink and reviewed the Southern Route. To call this superior is about as offensive as giving IQ tests to whales and eagles and saving the “superior” “smart” whales.

I am just a person. I do not own private land in San Diego’s Backcountry. I would remind you that as a citizen I do own considerable public land there; land that is very special to me, land that I do interact with often. The land doesn’t know its owners, be it state or federal jurisdiction. I am not on a grant, I do not get compensated, I do not even get reimbursed, I’m not running for public office, so far I don’t have the movie rights, and it certainly is not helping my popularity. However I feel very strongly about what you are attempting to do to this land. I am having to make considerable time to do this. I have a regular job that I like a lot and would like very much to give my full attention. This has taken many hours and Saturdays away from time I should be spending in training for my job which can already be very demanding, and other activities with home and family, and cost me considerable money.

The average citizen is being asked to do more than is likely possible, more than is healthy, and more than they can grasp in the implications of this project. . I do not think that most of the people are aware that this proposal is as close to their homes as it is. The public was not notified unless the line was virtually right over their head. I think the public should be noticed directly if this line is within no less than a mile of their home. I’m sure in this latest round that the people living in the southern route have not gotten the word that this is threatening their back yards and way of life. The People in Portrero, the communities near Round Portrero, Barrett Junction, Deerhorn Valley, especially the residents at the end, and the small community on Cinnamon Dr at the end of Deer Horn Valley Road, the Residents from Barber Mt Road around to Lions Valley Road to Japatul road, residence in the Carvacre area, Hidden Glen, Lonely Glen, Stephens Canyon, Japatul Lane, and the east side of Bell Bluff, Pala Verde Lake and all of the residence of Star Valley should have been told and sent specific notification of this route consideration.

- Did you?

A good portion of the Southern route I am familiar with, some of it I have hiked and explored thoroughly many times. Some of it not. I would venture to guess that many of your expert witnesses can not say the same. I think you should require this disclosure when they are supplying this information: HAVE THEY BEEN THERE????? I am probably better recognized as the woman who is the “adoptive parent” for the proposed Eagle Peak Wilderness area in the original option D. There is a limit to what a lay person can make time for and I have stretched just about every spare instant and penny. I focused on the northern route because it has been my area of most expertise in recent years. I was hoping others would fill in the gap to the south. This alone is truthfully not right. I should be able to trust publicly trusted organizations to do quality work that we pay for, but in the face of several media exposures and a number of incidences which I

observed myself it is impossible to lay back and do nothing. The land is way too special to allow this to happen.

The section on UCAN's revision to the Southern route is virtually incomprehensible. The pieces of southern BCD and Southern route and regular BCD and Interstate and a section for the three plus another section for the superiority of them is really difficult to follow. And it's obnoxious. I know portions of the southern route quite well and it took me with topo and FS visitor map in hand a couple of days to peg the location of this route.

I have some doubt that UCAN has been to the Bell Bluff area which houses your proposed modified D substation. If they had I find it almost as incomprehensible as reading their alternatives that they would think this was a great way to commit public resources for all of time, must less expand upon that commitment in the future, if I'm reading this right in the first place. All of time is a long term to be paying interest for a purpose that has yet to be clearly defined.

In addition running up the BCD option to the north is absolutely full of miles upon miles of additional service roads. If I was from Mars looking at this for the first time I might ask if their grant was from the off road coalition or maybe from Caltrans. In fact the people I know in the off road coalition and Caltrans both, don't want this thing either.

Actually in the hypothetical case that this power line serves to address some eminent need the only place acceptable is under the freeway median.

- I had heard that the original feasibility study for the Sunrise Powerlink was all about FERC.
- Have you considered what benefit this is to SDG&E to have control over a portion of FERC?
- Have you considered what relationship there is between SDG&E and the inventors of FERC?
- Has it made sense that SGD&E could profit from Sunrise at face value and that there must be additional strategy that makes this effort so important to them.
- I do not believe it is global warming.

Portrero:

- We just ran off Blackwater and now you want to replace that with this power line?

I'd rather have Blackwater. I'd rather have neither. At the point in the road where you go over a cattle guard before heading down to the chicken ranch and around to McAlmond Canyon ,

- I have reason to believe there is an eagle's nest there as well. Or at one time there was. If it wasn't an eagle it sure was some kind of rapture. There was a nest of sticks high up on the north facing slope of the small peak there with a power pole already on it.

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This entire route is on a perpetual cliff running from down in Mexico to North of the county line. It is directly in the path of considerable rocky craggy terrain. Any North South route along this corridor is going to stand as an electrical trip wire and be detrimental to eagles and other raptures and migrating birds, and any existence that goes from low to high—as the Indians did every year.

- Any argument against Blackwater is exponential against this line. Even the ones that are not about the environment.
- McAlmond canyon from there to cottonwood canyon to the west is very stunning. During wet years there is a stream running through it. The habitat is sensitive, beautiful, and rare. What is also unique over all of the other options is the geology. The rock formations are outstanding. They are different from the land to the North of I-8. I am not a geologist but it is an observation that should be researched.
- Echo Mountain has archeological potential. It too is stunning.
- Why do you have an extra service road running into this side canyon? This is the side canyon that runs 150 yards from a junction with a road leading north and McAlmond Canyon west. The first time I was there. there was no trail. Later the trail was there and apparently used by undocumented people with Spanish words on wrappers. This begs some questions:
 - Are these poles planed to be used for surveillance as well?
 - While we're at it:
 - Are you conducting surveillance or otherwise collecting any additional information about people living near your proposed line?
 - What information are you collecting about members of the public as a result of this project?
 - Are you conduction surveillance or otherwise collecting any additional information about people who oppose this line?
 - What socio-economic data are you collecting about the people who live near this line?
- I do not think you have looked closely enough to the Indian impacts near this area. I'm pretty sure there are morteros at this junction.
- I also recall some interesting carved rock features up on Echo Mountain.
- One time when I was near the cattle guard above, I saw a 30-40 pound cat. It had a fully long tail and reddish coat. I took it to be a juvenile mountain lion hunting the covey of quail there at the base of the rocky face, but I was told later, it could also be a jackarundi. Though I have doubts that is the case, this would be a very significant find.

Pat's Canyon

Enough can not be said about Pats Canyon.

This is a little jewel of a hike. I discovered it in search of Barrett Lake. I was not disappointed by either. Most of the land around Barrett Lake has not been heavily roaded or visited and therefore in very natural condition. Barrett is bordered by not one but two Federally Protected Wildernesses and the other side is severely restricted to anything but foot travel without specified permission to be there, which they have been known to graciously work with rec groups who call ahead. Pat's Canyon where part of the southern route recently was moved has a large oak lined creek. At the end one climbs up a small hill to a sprawling 180 degree view of Barrett Lake and the wilderness beyond. The only place where the public has relatively "easy" walk on a reasonable trail to even see this. Just to one side of this spot are a series of Morteros beside a small waterfall. The Native women sat here for years and looked far across the cottonwood canyon for their braves to return. We have called this the kitchen for years, as the women must have been able to sit here and look for the men coming across the canyon from Echo Mountain.

- The windswept raw beauty with the orange full moon rising over Barrett Lake and the purple mountainous skyline is a site to behold. The chaparral in the area was, until last year, fully old. Probably 40 years. It has an established roots system that will recover quickly and the interim plants that support this recovery are rare and a joy to watch emerge. This spring will be awesome—if you don't scrape it clean.
- This little valley between Dry Canyon across the top of Pat's Canyon and up to Barber Mountain is just beautiful. It is relatively un-recreated.
- I don't know why as it should be a great bicycle road.
- I've asked at several open houses by the Forest Service if anyone had been there. Almost no one.
- That is not a reason to scrape this little jewel clean. Forest Service road s1710, I think which come out of the end of Cinnamon which goes off to the left from the near end of Deer horn valley. Please do not destroy this little wonder. It is worth a hike and adding to the list of public hikes.

Carvacre.

- The united support against any route in favor of in basin generation is unprecedented.
- Carvacre road is a favorite among offroaders
- and cyclists,
- Lawson Peak in Jerry Shad's book, a favorite among hikers
- and rock climbers.
- And if you go to the "shoulder " of Cowels Mt on the 21st of December, one of the peaks in this stretch splits the sun into 2 suns as it's rising, letting the ancient Kumeyaay know the days would be getting longer. Pretty smart for an ancient! -- Kind of an enormous County Sized Stonehenge. Table Mountain figured heavily as well. It is exceedingly important to the Kumeyaay to this day.
- As the route continues north it crosses near to a preserve, over Stevens Canyon and behind Middle Mountain.

Middle Mountain

A few miles to the north I found a couple of features that in no should be compromised: Middle Mountain. What a wonder. An enormous rock face and high bluffs just across from another enormous rocky bluff, Bell Bluff. I don't know who in their right mine would have dreamed to scrape such a place with a 1/2 mile by 1/2 mile substation --on a pristine promontory next to a long time known eagle nesting sight. An Below a water source, the Sweetwater that originates from our very much beloved Cuyamaca, Middle mountain from a distance looks pristine and like very probable habitat for raptures.

- Did you go there?

Bell Bluff

- This is pretty much the ugliest part of the whole route, --not the land, the idea that anyone would compromise it. Did the owner give you this land or are you attempting to take it?
- I think this is a transaction that needs serious legal scrutiny. I find it totally difficult to believe. It is an area of a few large meadows surrounded by very pristine country.
- Rocky cliffs,
- seeps, and what,
- from a distance looks like a legacy chaparral forest. The kind that ecologists drool to see anymore. Really large manzanitas are rare and getting rarer on the political fire retardant chopping block.
- This entire Bell Bluff ridge is a 3 mile treasure and a well kept secret. It is stunning.
- There is an old rock foundation on the far west end. I have every reason to believe that it is much beloved by the owners.
- I can't imagine how this mountain could be potentially falling into the hands of SDG&E and an enormous substation.
- Somewhere I had thought that Bell Bluff was to become an ecological preserve. It could qualify as one with ease.
- The eagles there are a reality. I found a feather on Bell Bluff road coming up from below to the west. Yep a long hot hike. Yesterday.
- Honestly I don't know what on earth anyone could be thinking with this one.

That bears a side story and a question:

We had a meeting with new Forest Supervisor Will Mets. I don't take any personal exception to him but this was our first meeting.

- He had already been approached by some entity powerful and influential and from what I gathered had already been "influenced" in favor of putting this line there in the Southern route.
- Him, one person, from out of town, site unseen.

- This is one person in the face of a 100 that have worked a decade on the fifteen year plan and the last 2 years on this.
- He had not talked to us about what we knew nor has he seen it.
- One of the best district ranchers that god ever created, Tom Gillett, suddenly took another position far away from here.
- It seems apparent this thing received inappropriate influence
- and it needs very serious review as to who is really behind it.
- It is not fair to the federal forest rangers, who have put heart and soul into the land to be silenced from speaking out what they really believe . I doubt seriously they really want this thing out there.
- It is not fair to the public who relies on them as public servants not to have their genuine testimony without retaliation, when they have been paid and provided public resources and have at least better than average resources to have delineated the placement of the route and review its attributes than bosses in Washington. I did not see ample data from them but surely they have it. That district due to exceptional leadership and management has several talented people who have planted both feet in the soil there: a fire manager who has veteran 25 years of knowing the land, several hot shot fighters, biologists, lands officer, rec manager, and a fire tower manager with military accuracy and the philosophical depth of William Faulkner, and a wilderness manager that is wilder and faster than a guzzle. I dare you to put them under oath.
- We hire THEM and their expertise,
- not executive officers somewhere on the 20th floor in a building in down town LA, or Washington.
- Do you really expect anyone to believe that Will Metz spent the years in forestry school, work up through the ranks, in places known for exceptional raw beauty in northern California, , and then come down here, walk in and just decide to scrape a giant electric chair through out southern back country? I seriously doubt that is his decision or his passion.
- What ever the pressures that have come to bear, they are not indicative of the principles our country was founded upon. The question of where this influence came from needs to be answered and how. This entire process for the last 2 years, and three years for some people, all the heartache, money, time and stress, to families and babies that can now walk and talk, blissfully sent away by someone.
- Don't tell me anyone. I wouldn't buy that in a million years. There were several people in the room and the forest committee keeps minutes. It wasn't in his eyes or the tone of voice. You need to go to the person that influenced the person that influenced him.
- Tom Gillette up and gone? Isn't that about as predictable as it gets? The one manager with heart and soul for the land and he's gone and someone from out of town is in? Put a few of these guys under oath. They do their job, they do what they are told, they are not going to speak out public ally unless forced to do so. Due process took a major holiday.
- You could document to your hearts content but that situation speaks for itself. Someone wants it bad enough to manipulate data and employees? The recent on surge of increased strong arming the public at the threatened existence of their

livelihood is way way out of bounds. Once that line of integrity is crossed the tests are no longer valid. I am reminded that 0 times Warner Springs is still 0, 0 times Portrero is still 0, 0 times Jamul, and Alpine is still 0, or Anza Borrego, or Eagle Peak. They didn't have an honest project plan to start with and their integrous character isn't going to change by moving the long lat lines. Where ever you go, there you are! .

- A really well defined project, would spell out accurate need and purpose with clear data available to the public from the beginning, and a strategy document that is comprehensible to all. This began by going from ElCentro to San Diego via Warner Springs after you moved the energy source from San Diego to ElCentro. Huh?
- That is plenty reason enough in my book to choose not to do business with these people.
- When collaborations have been made between powerful energy leaders and public government it is time to stop and reevaluate. Our leaders have come to believe that twisting and bending of the truth and forcing alliances rather than respecting principles is taken for granted like this was reality TV. I begin to wonder if they are even fully aware they are doing it.
- There is a case to be made that the implications of giving in to this line go beyond ensuring energy. I'd rather be reading by candle light than living under their thumb. If it takes 20 years to build the proper infrastructure under the freeway to ensure the integrity of our freedom it is well worth it.
- The CPUC said the in house no-wires options are viable and better suited. Forest, State, Fed, BLM, or private, the land knows no owners.
- I had heard the original scoping documents from 10 years ago were addressing FERC. Why weren't they addressing FERC by the time the documents made it to the general public? They are a corporation; the federal energy corridor is a PUBLIC asset. Hmmmmm???? I hope the CPUC will chew on that one considerably.

Sweetwater

Moving right along, San Diego has a few good water sheds and their tributaries. Near the middle are the San Diego River and its cousins Cedar Boulder and Conejos. If you stand to the south east of Lake Cuyamaca you can position yourself where the water either flows into the SD River and out to the Ocean between Ocean Beach and Mission Beach or it flows down, down, down, down through the Sweetwater and eventually turns to a miraculous stone troth and flows along 54 where once again its allowed a few feet of innocent meandering before joining up with South Bay. (Did you know that you can type Sweetwater with only one hand? Pretty good huh?) By the time the Sweetwater makes it south of interstate 8 its already gathered water for 15 miles off of the south side of Cuyamaca. If you're one of the crowd that gets away to Green Valley falls, it's really the Sweetwater you're sliding around on. If you move a little more to the east, your next watershed over is Pine creek and cottonwood creek which have the honor of flowing

through two real wildernesses and joining up at Barrett, to flow into Mexico and then back into the United States in one of the weirdest twists of fate a pool 'ol river could ask for: it starts out as protected wilderness and returns to this country as the Tijuana River as the greatest sewage controversy in the country right on top of the greatest border fence controversy,. -- A portion of Cottonwood, however, use to make it through the best e ticket ride this side of Disney as a flume along 94. Lots of history. And if you go much further you cross into a really wop-mon-gous watershed that doesn't go to the pacific at all but into the Sea of Cortez all of which gets crossed by the southern "environmentally superior" route.

I know what a jewel the San Diego River is. Some of the best places are the ones no one goes to. I've studied this formula and I know how it comes out.. I have not walked the streambed of the Sweetwater from I-8 to Pala Verde. I've "flown it intensely on Microsoft's virtual map program.

- There is a little feature, beloved by locals called the Cataract. Anyone's guess but what I see directly under your proposed North route is an awesome series of falls and pools. Also several side tributaries.
- What do Steelhead really dig? Back in the day they could jump like salmon from San Diego Bay to the mountains. These guys like little rapids and cold little tributies and places to hide. Trout are shy guys,
- So if there is a prayer of finding our native son the San Diego Steelhead still upright and swimming, this is a prime spot. We're talking the very verge of extinction if it hasn't already happened. What a thrill if this critter is still among us! UCAN, what are you thinking, seriously?
- This line can't go here. This is about the worst thing you can do, the worst sort of location, to compromise a rapidly flowing stream. This isn't a snail darter; it's a trout of sorts, formerly adapted to our weird diverse climate and on the verge of "gone", thanks to perverse burning and silting.
- The clean water act has language about further threatening recovering streams.
- I don't think the native Steelhead have been given a fair review in this EIS. I respect the Fishing groups who have followed its existence, but I know they wouldn't mind one more tedious look-see to find the little guy.

I could sit here and tell you oh Eagle Peak is so special and this line should go somewhere else. Well yes it should like closer to town, way closer. But I'm not going to say put it someplace I haven't actually been. I can see enough from Microsoft and from actually standing on the ridge on Bell Bluff to say this is an almost certainty for gorgeous.

- It is almost a given that the Sweet water is a treasure, considering the size of her watershed. To just turn her into a giant electric chair without a serious safari to her innards to see what treasures are there is to get as caught up in the lunacy and hypocrisy of this whole sin-dig as the guys hosting this party.
- Here's a thought: this is so close to the Freeway, so many people are wanting more trails, wow, brainstorm, what about a little 4 mile park from the Freeway to Pala Verde back up to Alpine. Convenient to after safari din-din in local fare or casino buffet? Well, maybe we should check it out first. Huh?

- If an area is heavily visited by undocumented persons from the south, does that mean it gets extra points for development?
- If the locals are less affluent than other areas does it become more superior?
- Is there any socio-economic factor that should be taken into consideration in this decision?
- The number of people who have the time to comment?
- If there is an abundance of trash in an area does that renders it a high target for takeover?
- Too often factors like these are the sticking points upon which these decisions are made.
- If fewer people know about it does that make it better for development? This southern route bisects right through the middle of a number of already small compromised little treasures.

- . The bottom line is a: this whole thing is not appropriate. Putting it anywhere out in the backcountry is just wrong. Asking which has a higher percentage of being in a fire? Yea right. WE are trying to find a compromise to something no one wants to compromise on. Thank god.

- They are going down to Mexico and striking a deal and then hence subsequently we are suppose to feel sorry for them for promising money to the Mexicans so we will want to help out the poor power company? Come on now.

- We don't owe SDG&E anything.

- We act like they are the law and the bible ta boot.

- Actually WE, the citizens who voted and supported the law and law makers are.

- This is America remember, representative gov? .

- They want us to think we've done something wrong by wanting to keep our land and not have it scraped up and taken away.

Here's a true story. Imagine for a moment this scenario: SDG&E sends their biologist. Not the guys that we've all come to know from Aspen but their own, onto someone's private property to just drive right on. Did their subcontractor biologist bother to bring identification? Sure, their drivers license

"See I'm Jane Smith says so right here."

And how does that connect Jane to the Judge that says you can drive right onto someone's land? Opps. SDG&E shows up and says,

"yep, see here says SDG&E right dar on my truck."

And that means what? Any time any where they feel like? I don't think so. How about a paper trail. So a very nice neighbor sees the biologist and says,

"gee, who are you there driving around?"

"I'm Jane and this is my friend in an SDG&E truck"

(And this is Nazi Germany and we represent the Gestapo.) The neighbor , somewhat elderly and hardly threatening, says,
“gee, without the paper trail identifying your need to be here, you need to go.”

SDG&E was mad, so mad they told, TOLD the neighbor they needed to promise they wouldn't bother their people again. Sure. Protecting his own property, guilty as can be. (2nd amendment , anyone?)

Now, lets imagine that story took place in La Jolla.

Do we really need these guys at the wheel of a “fully functional battle star” ? Two years of this so far!

The towers on the EIS switch from Eiffels, to poles, to underground as the affluence goes up.

Who speaks for steelhead, and cypress, and funky little butterflies, seriously, maybe just the fact that even without a degree in some native science it's

- a) fun
- b) gorgeous.

The only “route” that would barely be acceptable is to stick that thing 20 feet below the freeway between the lanes. If current technology isn't feasible, then we need to invent one that is.

In closing a letter I wrote some time back about Cedar Creek and adjacent Sunshine Mountain, it applies exponentially to Sweetwater and Bell Bluff:

“... You should know that moment of becoming aware of every deep breath as you slowly crest the top, and the 360 degree world drops below you... You should smell what real native San Diego smells like, the pungent variety of drought tolerance. You should know what it is like to slip one squishy foot around another over slippery mossy rocks in a crystal gurgling stream as the canyon walls grow and envelope you. You should discover your own capacity to think and negotiate each step maybe for the first time, unpreplanned and programmed by concrete and pavement. You should see the stream in the spring roaring, green, buzzing, and in the late summer, dry, arid, quiet. You should see it at night, moonlit and eerie, starlit, dark, amazing. You should see it year after year, some years torrentially drenched, some years parched and yearning, and some years a moonscape bitten by fire, and learn the meaning of patience, and faith, and things more powerful than us. You should see it reflected in your lover's eyes and reflected in your children's eyes.

But most of all you should see it for the first time. – And so should your children, and their children.

In the ever changing world of lean six sigma, bottom lining, anti-variance, procedure following, and non-deflecting, change-responding management, some things should be counted upon not for the measure of their adherence to standard-deviating controls, but for the integrity of the quality of life they bring, -without condition. Some things you should never have to tell your children how it Use to be.

No peoples should ever have to see this for the last time, less ours is a people without vision or hope.”

Cindy Buxton
August 25, 2008