

California Public Utilities Commission  
c/o Aspen environmental Group  
235 Montgomery St., suite 935  
San Fransisco, Ca. 94104

Re: Sunrise Powerlink proposal/Carrying capacity and La Rumerosa

Dear CPUC

This is a letter to address the subject of 'carrying capacity' which I feel is not adequately addressed in the DEIR for the Sunrise Powerlink. From here out I will refer to Carrying Capacity as: The maximum extent to which ground or soil area may be exploited without degradation or depletion.

Some call it common sense and some call it Carrying Capacity when they refer to the ability of the land to sustain itself and people over time. The National Geographic just had a compelling article on the health of soil in the September 2008 issue (pg. 80). "Humankind has degraded an area of land the size of the United States and Canada combined", it is stated. We are actively contributing to that degradation here in San Diego County.

If a community cannot support its population and the energy that it needs over time, then that community best not build anymore structures or suck more energy through its existing energy infrastructure. Part of the reason we are at the climate change crisis presently is due to a lack of true understanding on this point. The Sunrise Powerlink is a case in point.

The DEIR presented to us by Aspen offers a 'no project' alternative to the Sunrise Powerlink. This option would be tempting except that the #2 alternative which works toward in-basin renewable energy is an opportunity for change in the way our communities make and use energy. We need an alternative understanding for the way energy businesses make their profits.

When producing energy is mixed with producing profits, we have a recipe for environmental disaster. When making profits comes at the expense of turning animals and plants and people into mere figures to be manipulated, we have a problem. In the case of the Sunrise Powerlink, the problem is that the land cannot sustain such a proposal without dire consequences.

The carrying capacity of any community should be considered when making a decision of this nature. San

Diego County is overpopulated by many standards. The way we use energy and the number of people using that energy is part of the equation. It is my estimation that we have over shot our carrying capacity in San Diego and that the back country of San Diego should not bear the consequences of this action; especially in light of the recent wilderness fires.

If a community cannot solve its energy problems within its own community, it should not be allowed to infect others precious lands for its own uses. This goes for counties in the United States and for our present use of Mexico as well. If energy is generated closest to its point of use, then everyone's community is living closer to the understanding of the carrying capacity of that land and its ability to produce power for its people.

It is time that each citizenry of each community become aware and involved in the energy dynamics of their own community. I have attached a proposal towards that end in the Declaration of Energy Independence attached at the end of this letter. Imagine if each community planning group had an energy task force that monitored their specific communities energy needs and had a plan to meet those energy needs IN-BASIN and within the bounds of carrying capacity of the land. Surely we would not be in the environmental crisis we are in today with climate change dynamics reconfiguring our entire planetary climate system.

Please reconsider using Mexico and the La Rumerosa area for our community 'needs'. Please reconsider using fire prone, wildlands in San Diego as a market place for energy towers that are not needed here. Please consider the number 2 alternative for local renewable projects determined by the Aspen environmental report to be superior to the Sunrise Powerlink. Please consider local rooftop solar and residential wind to power our homes-energy generated closest to its use.

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*Kathleen Beck August 24, 2008*

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## Declaration of Energy Independence

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all people are created equal, that they are endowed to be creators with emerging and unalienable rights, that among these are:*

Life, liberty and the pursuit of energy independence for all communities and the individuals who comprise them.

Self-determination for all citizens in securing a new vision of safe and sustainable energy to serve the common good.

Active support of clean energy technologies for all persons such as rooftop solar systems and residence scale wind power, based on the principle that energy should be generated closest to its use.

Phased elimination of outdated dominating infrastructure such as fire prone wires plus wind and solar farms that violate aesthetic landscapes and their crucial eco-systems.

*In pursuing this course we pledge ourselves to moral, ethical and financially sustainable profit to benefit the communities in which we live. As shareholders in the energy interests of tomorrow, citizens and communities shall have a role in guiding the course of energy use and development away from corporate and government abuse and toward life, liberty and the pursuit of ecologically sensitive energy resources for all.*

Respectively Signed,

*Citizens Energy Action Community*  
San Diego County & Southern California Communities