



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

El Centro Field Office
1661 South 4th Street
El Centro, CA 92243
www.ca.blm.gov/elcentro



In Reply Refer To:

CR CA-610-05-26/EIS CA-670-2006-31/CA-47658 (CA667)P

July 5, 2006

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Daniel Tucker, Spokesman
Sycuan Band of Mission Indians
5459 Sycuan Road
El Cajon, CA 92021

Dear Spokesman Tucker,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is currently reviewing a Rights-of-Way application for San Diego Gas and Electric Company's (SDG&E) Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Line Project (SRPL). The SRPL project proposes new electric transmission line construction between Imperial Valley and San Diego, including a new substation and other system upgrades and modifications. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the proposed project, provide a brief description, and based upon your interests, extend to the Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians an invitation to initiate government-to-government consultation pursuant to the *Executive Memorandum of April 29, 1994* and other applicable laws and regulations.

As proposed by SDG&E, the project includes:

Transmission Lines

- A new 500 kV transmission line would begin at the existing Imperial Valley Substation and terminate at a new 500/230 kV substation referred to as the Central East Substation (located southwest of Borrego Springs).
- A new double circuit 230 kV transmission line would begin at the new Central East Substation and terminate at the existing Sycamore Canyon Substation (located at the northern edge of Miramar Naval Air Station).
- A new single circuit 230 kV transmission line would begin at the Sycamore Canyon Substation and terminate at the existing Penasquitos Substation (located just east of Interstate 5, about 5 miles south of Del Mar).

Substations

- The proposed Central East Substation would be located on a private fee-owned property in an undeveloped rural area, west of San Felipe and San Felipe Road in northern San Diego County. An alternative substation site, the Central South Substation, is also being considered.
- The existing Imperial Valley Substation would be modified to accommodate the termination of one new 500 kV transmission line.
- The existing Sycamore Canyon Substation would be modified to accommodate the termination of three new 230 kV transmission lines; two lines from the proposed Central East Substation and one line to the Penasquitos Substation.

- The existing Penasquitos Substation would be modified to accommodate the termination of one new 230 kV transmission line.

Other System Upgrades

- A reconductor of the existing Sycamore Canyon to the existing Elliot 69 kV transmission line would be required.
- The San Luis Rey Substation would be modified with the addition of a third 230/69 kV transformer, and a 230 kV, 69 MVAR shunt capacitor would be added.
- The South Bay Substation would be modified with the addition of a 69 kV, 50 MVAR shunt capacitor.
- A repeater site would be required to accommodate microwave communication between the Central East Substation and the SDG&E grid.

A map for the general project area is provided as an attachment. You may also view these maps and obtain additional information on this proposed project by viewing the Sunrise Powerlink web site at the following address: <http://www.sdge.com/sunrisepowerlink/info/map.htm>.

A Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) is currently being prepared for the project. Later, an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) will be prepared to evaluate the impacts of this project. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is the State lead agency for the preparation of the PEA and Environmental Impact Report in compliance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et. seq.), CEQA implementing guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Title 14, Section 15000 et. seq.). BLM is the federal lead agency for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulation for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500 – 1508), and the BLM NEPA guidance handbook (H-1790-1). A joint CPUC/BLM EIR/EIS is being prepared; the EIR/EIS will evaluate the proposed project and alternatives to the proposed project.

BLM will be the lead agency for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as well as consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Office and other interested parties for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Cultural resources are among the important resources being identified and evaluated during the planning and the preparation of the EIS/EIR for the proposed project as well as the Section 106 consultation process. At this time, we would appreciate receiving any information that you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed project. Also, if you are aware of any other Tribes, individuals or tribally-affiliated organizations that should be contacted regarding this project, please let us know. A list of Tribal governments and other tribal contacts receiving a copy of this letter is enclosed for your reference. SDG&E has contracted with Greystone Environmental and Gallegos and Associates to evaluate the proposed transmission line corridors for cultural resources. Gallegos and Associates have already begun the process of survey for cultural resources for the proposed alternatives. Gallegos and Associates may be contacting you regarding knowledge of cultural resources that might be affected by this project.

BLM would value the participation of the tribe in identifying any issues or concerns that the tribe may have regarding this proposed project. BLM would be glad to meet with the tribe to brief you and to assist in identifying any issues or concerns. Please let us know if you need more information regarding this project, whether the Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians would like to initiate formal government-to-

government consultation for this project, or if you want to identify any issues or concerns that need to be addressed during the NHPA or NEPA review processes. We would also appreciate notice if the Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians believes that the project lies outside its area of interest and does not wish to consult or be contacted about this project in the future. You may informally contact us by phone, letter or email to let us know of your interest or preference for involvement in this proposed project. The BLM contact representatives for this project are:

Tom Zale, Resources Staff Chief
Phone: 760-337-4420
Email: tzale@ca.blm.gov

Lynda Kastoll, Project Manager
Phone: 760-337-4421
Email: lkastoll@ca.blm.gov

Rolla Queen, Heritage and Cultural Resources Program
Phone: 951-697-5386
Email: rqueen@ca.blm.gov

If you have written information or comments you would like to share, please send them to:

Vicki Wood, Field Manager
El Centro Field Office
1661 South 4th Street
El Centro, CA 92243

We look forward to our consultations with you on this project.

Sincerely,



for Vicki Wood
Field Manager

Attachments

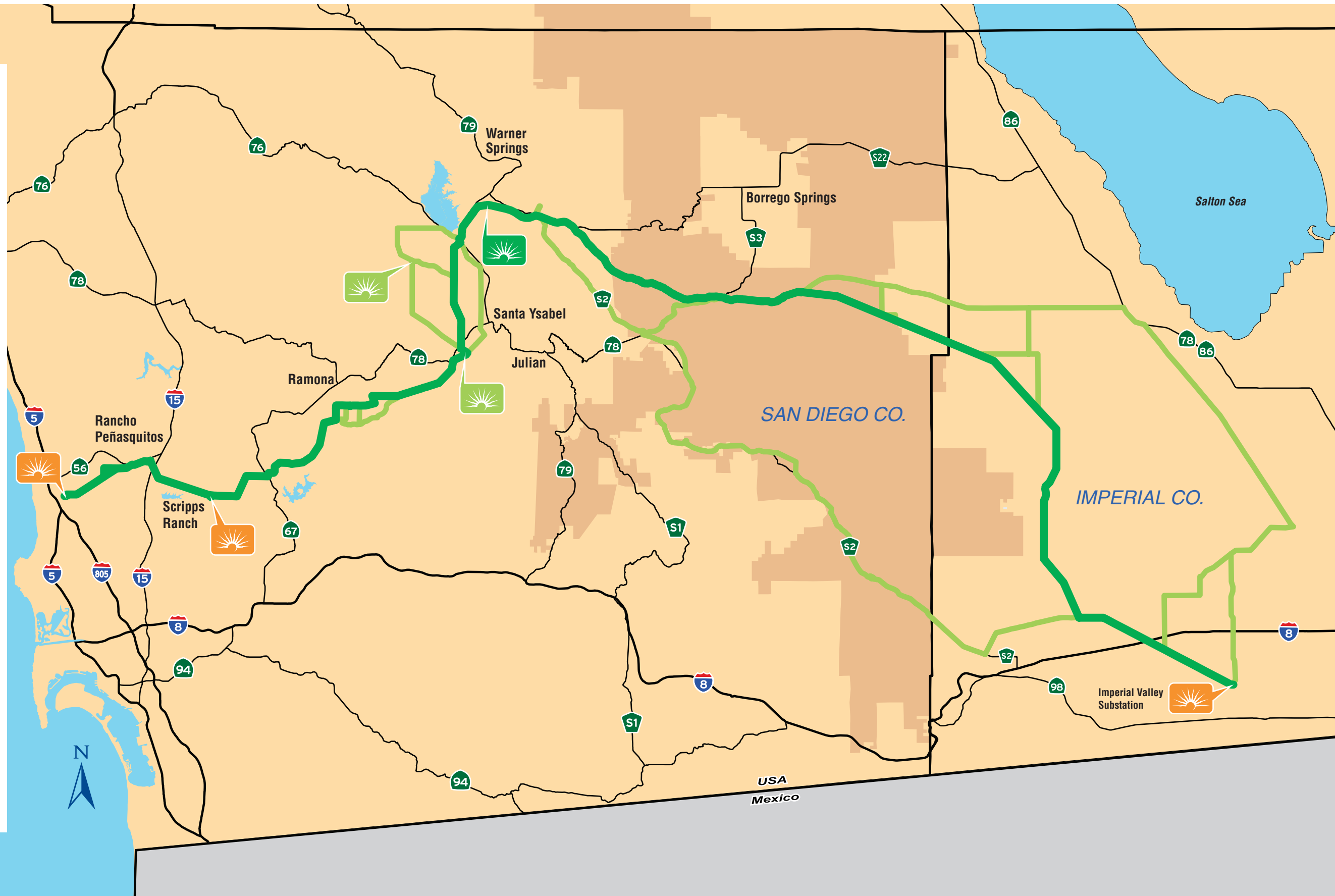
Proposed Routes for Sunrise Powerlink

This map illustrates the preferred and alternate routes for the Sunrise Powerlink.

SDG&E will complete a full environmental assessment of these potential routes prior to submitting them to the California Public Utilities Commission for review and consideration later this year.

LEGEND

-  Preferred Route
-  Alternate Routes
-  Existing Substations
-  Preferred Substation
-  Alternate Substations
-  State Parks
-  Roads



SDG&E SUNRISE POWERLINK PROJECT
Tribal Government Official Contacts

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Ms. Catherine Saubel, Chairwoman
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Ms. Rebecca Osuna, Chairperson
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SDG&E SUNRISE POWERLINK PROJECT
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Mr. Mark Romero, Chairman
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Mr. Manuel Hamilton, Chairman
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SDG&E SUNRISE POWERLINK PROJECT
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SDG&E SUNRISE POWERLINK PROJECT
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