

JOINT LETTER
on
The Modified Route D Alternative to Sunrise Powerlink

September 4, 2007

Denise Moreno-Ducheny
Senator 40th District
637 3d Ave, Suite A-1
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Dear Senator Ducheny,

We the undersigned represent hundreds of concerned constituents in the Campo/Lake Morena area of your district. Our four local groups have joined forces to oppose modified alternative D of the Sunrise Powerlink that threatens to dissect our mountain community and destroy the tranquility of our citizens, young and old alike. Because of the way that the Sunrise Powerlink proposal has played out in the application process, our community has watched for months on the sidelines as SDG&E submitted its application identifying the northern alternative as their preferred choice. SDG&E even came to our community just after submitting their application and gave an overview of their proposal and why they preferred the northern route. They did mention that southern options were explored in their environmental review, but in each case rejected because they did not offer sufficient reliability. We watched as hearings were held and public meetings were conducted in communities throughout San Diego County. Throughout this process we were interested and many wrote letters on the northern alternative, but we were not directly affected or threatened. Suddenly and rather unexpectedly, the U.S. Forest Service proposed an alternative that avoided the Cleveland National Forest by striking a southerly tack directly through the heart of Campo. The Forest Service alternative which they said was motivated by the desire to avoid "modifying the Forest Management Plan" came to be known as the modified route D alternative.

The citizens of Campo/Lake Morena received official notice of this proposal indirectly from a neighboring community activist who has been following the process very carefully. The Aspen Environmental Group which is handling the environmental review for the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) contends that the official notice was sent to all affected property owners. We can tell you that this is just not the case. What actually happened is typical of the right hand not talking to the left. Wiggins and Willet, another agent of the CPUC was responsible for notifying affected property owners of surveys incident to the environmental review and was supposed to send out the official notice. We have attached a copy of the official notice for the modified route D alternative of the proposed Sunrise Powerlink. We have also attached a copy of the notice that Wiggins and Willet mailed out to affected property owners regarding official surveys. We believe you will agree that the only notice actually sent to our community at best makes vague reference to what is actually being proposed in the official notice. As a result, we believe our community has been denied the right to proper notification and due process. We have never had any scoping meetings from the CPUC.

To make matters worse, we have discovered that the modified route D alternative is a prime candidate for selection by the CPUC. As a result, our four groups have been working diligently to try and get the comment period reopened and a town hall meeting for our citizens. We have communicated our concerns to both the CPUC and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as the lead agencies on this issue. Although they have just recently agreed to reopen the comment period they have not yet agreed to hold a meeting in our community. SDG&E has agreed to be represented at such a meeting, but because the decisions regarding Sunrise Powerlink are now with CPUC and BLM we need them to hold the meeting. The reason they give for denying our request is that they have already met or exceeded the NEPA and CEQA requirements for public hearings on this proposal and they are very busy completing the environmental review. We believe this is irresponsible in light of the potential devastating impact such a power line would have on our mountain community. We acknowledge that this alternative came into play late in the review process and we know that they are under a great deal of pressure to meet deadlines on the environmental review. Nevertheless, it does not obviate the moral and legal responsibility of a State Commission to fairly notice and give due process to its citizens. Our mountain community already has the primary SDG&E power line linking Imperial and San Diego Counties to contend with. Adversely impacting us a second time would be a travesty, especially without giving us the decency of a public meeting.

Therefore, we the undersigned, representing a major portion of the Campo/Lake Morena communities, respectfully request that you ask the California Public Utility Commission to hold a town hall meeting for your constituents in Campo/Lake Morena. We have attached all the contact information as an enclosure to this letter. We are prepared to host such a meeting at no expense to the State and will take responsibility for notifying all the citizens of our area of the meeting location, time and date. Please contact Randy Lenac at (619)478-5403 should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

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Campo/Lake Morena Planning Group

Boulevard Planning Group

Potrero Planning Group

Pine Valley Planning Group

Alpine Planning Group

Jacumba Planning Group

Tecate Planning Group

Campo-Mountain Empire Kiwanis

Campo Homemakers Club

Campo VFW Post

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