

October 4, 2007

Billie Blanchard, CPUC  
Lynda Kastoll, BLM  
C/O Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935  
San Francisco, CA 94104-3002

RE: Powerlink Modified Route D Alternative/Sunrise Powerlink Project

Dear Ms. Blanchard and Ms. Kastoll:

It has recently come to our attention that a new Alternative Route is being studied for a 500 kV transmission line through San Diego's beautiful backcountry. The Descanso Planning Group (DPG) stands opposed to the new Modified Route D Alternative. This alternate route planned for and now being considered by the CPUC and the BLM will impact the communities of Jacumba, Boulevard, Campo, Potrero, Pine Valley, Guatay, Alpine and Descanso.

At a special meeting of the DPG on October 4, 2007, the DPG voted to oppose the Modified Route D Alternative.

The DPG also voted to oppose the Route D Alternative.

The Descanso Planning Group has already voted to oppose the Sunrise Powerlink Project in its entirety. We continue to stand by that vote.

In regard to the new information we just received regarding the Modified Route D Alternative, we continue to find the same negative impacts in place that have been in place since the conception of this Project.

We will not support a self-serving attitude that would thrust the negative impacts of this Project onto another community.

We oppose this new Modified Route D Alternative and the Sunrise Powerlink Project.

The following is a list of some of our concerns:

**Lack of Communication**-The lateness of the Alternative and the lack of community meetings and notification! It wasn't until two weeks ago; through notification by concerned community members, Planning Group members from other communities and the local media that the DPG was notified of the new Modified Route D Alternative. This strongly suggests to us that if SDG&E feels no responsibility to notify the community of a Project that affects us with such magnitude; they would certainly assume no responsibility for any negative impacts the project will cause the community.

**Reliability**—The planned route for the new Modified Route D Alternative runs through terrain that is extremely difficult to access during the best weather conditions. If service were to be interrupted due to wildfire or some other natural disaster, large parts of San Diego would lose power for extended periods of time. As per SDG&E's own records, service has been interrupted some 20 times due to wildfires since the inception of the existing line.

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**Safety**—The proposed transmission line runs through some of San Diego's most rugged backcountry. This area is extremely susceptible to wildfire. How can you justify putting our firefighters at risk trying to fight wildfire while working around 500kV transmission lines and towers?

**Environmental Effects**—The Center for Biological Diversity has submitted extensive comments regarding Modified Route D, listing all the negative impacts to sensitive lands and species. Wildlife corridor and habitat throughout the entire backcountry will be interrupted and adversely impacted by this project.

**Aesthetics**—Modified Route D impacts 379.2 acres of USFS Scenic Designated Area.

**Property and Home Owners Values**—This Project will destroy the value of homes and property in our area. The footprint of the transmission towers and the accompanying Right of Way will severely encroach upon private lands. Consideration should also be given to property owners regarding the noise and obstruction of view generated by the transmission lines and towers.

We are not experts in the field of energy. We would like to have it noted; however, that there are experts who are offering clean, green and much more cost efficient alternatives to San Diego's growing need for energy. Several possibilities exist outside of the proposed Sunrise Powerlink. They are available for review through their respective internet sites; CUSP, ucan.org, etc. We ask that those proposed projects be given as much consideration as SDG&E's.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments and concerns with this proposed project. We hope you examine and support all of our above mentioned concerns and realize the Modified Route D Alternative will be devastating to Descanso and the entire backcountry.

Respectfully Submitted,

Descanso Planning Group  
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619-445-7462

Jo Ellen Quinting  
Chairperson

CC: Supervisor Dianne Jacob  
Representative Brian Bilbray  
Representative Bob Filner  
Representative Duncan Hunter  
Representative Susan Davis  
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth  
Senator Christine Kehoe  
Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny  
Assemblyman Joe Anderson  
Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Senator Dianne Feinstein