

PINE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 25, 2008 - 6:50 P.M.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE WEISSMAN: The Commission is in order. This is a public participation hearing in the Sunrise Powerlink Project.

We'll start with William Davis, followed by Shannon Davis.

STATEMENT OF MR. DAVIS

MR. DAVIS: William Davis. Welcome to the back country.

I'm opposed to the line going through the back country. If it had to go —

ALJ WEISSMAN: Could you flip the mike up a little bit? Let's try that.

MR. DAVIS: Okay. Does that seem better?

COMMISSIONER GRUENEICH: Ask the people in the back of the room.

MR. DAVIS: Can you hear? One, two, three, four.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Off the record.

(Off the record)

ALJ WEISSMAN: On the record.

MR. DAVIS: I'm opposed to the line going through the back country. And in thinking about it, it seems like if they did have to have a line, in my way of thinking, it should parallel the transportation corridors.

But to where we have our property, the Cleveland National Forest has about 400,000 acres. About half of that is in San Diego County. The forest has around 13 what they call places, which are like states. They run around 30,000 acres apiece. Of the six places that are in San Diego County, only Pine Creek Place, where we're at, has wilderness area. About 26,000 acres of the 33 are wilderness. About 80 percent of the acreage is wilderness, and that's Hauser Wilderness and Pine Creek Wilderness. If they do put the power line in, they're talking about going around our neighborhood.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Dropped your voice again.

MR. DAVIS: If they do put the power line in, they're going around our neighborhood. And it's in the watershed of Barrett Lake. We're about a mile and a half or 8,000 feet from the lake, and it's downhill to the lake.

They wash around 3,000 gallons of water twice a year. I'm sure there's copper oxide going in and going into the reservoir, or will be.

There's golden eagle nests in the area, and if a golden eagle sees you within 1,500 feet, it will leave the nest. If it — excuse me. If you are within 1,500 feet, whether they can see you or not, they will leave the nest. If they can see you at 4,000 feet, they'll leave the nest. If you put in a tower and the tower is higher than the nest, they'll leave.

And lastly, it's back country motorized use restricted. I talked to one of the guys from Region 5, which is Forest Service people from Vallejo, and they said that they shouldn't have any roads in there. And they were putting roads. And the guy said they can do the water out of the helicopter. They can drop the guy in from the helicopter. After they wand it and pull off the static electricity, he can

jump on the line and do the maintenance. And worse come to worst, they'll put helicopter pads where they can walk to the — and I'm not so sure if they're going to try to put roads in or not.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. DAVIS

MS. DAVIS: I'm Shannon Davis of Deerhorn Valley, 20731 Spikes Way.

I'm concerned that the San Diego Gas & Electric Company Sunrise Powerlink Modified Route D EIR/EIS, Applications A. 05-12-014 and A. 06-08-010, may be significantly responsible for setting up a precedent on the Southern Preferred Alternative D Route for establishing siting for the Federal Westwide Energy Corridor to run parallel to the Sunrise, that this project of San Diego Gas & Electric Company is so presumptuous that the blame and the liability for putting it in here is questionable.

The EIR/EIS did not show the Federal Corridor on the routes to the north. Please refer to Figure E.4.1-1a. I am opposed to the fact that you may have set this up in the Sunrise application deliberately for the feds.

And I also want to mention that I was shown at the workshop in Borrego Springs by Billie Blanchard, the project manager, a map that showed the Federal Corridor going through the private lands.

Now my husband went to the Commission for federal energy and spoke to them in Elko, Nevada. They told him it was their understanding that this has been set up so that it is not going through private lands. It's going through public lands. So there's something wrong here, very wrong. So I am totally opposed to this.

I did mention to you earlier today the quino checkerspot butterfly. What I wanted to tell you was that the larvae can last for three years before it hatches. It won't open up if the conditions aren't right, but that does not mean that you need to discount that on the EIR for our area. Historically it has been in our area right where you're putting the line in southwest Cleveland National Forest at the end of Deerhorn Valley Road.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

Off the record.

(Off the record)

ALJ WEISSMAN: On the record.

STATEMENT OF MS. TISDALE

MS. TISDALE: I'm Donna Tisdale. I want to thank you for being here. I know we're out in the sticks, and I hope you enjoyed the view and realized how beautiful our back country is.

I've lived in Boulevard for 30 years, and I've chaired the Boulevard Planning Group for almost 20 of those years. Our Boulevard Planning Group has joined with other groups to oppose the entire Sunrise Powerlink Project, not just the I-8 Alternative that impacts us.

We feel there's a better way to deal with the energy needs of the region than by bulldozing and industrializing our vulnerable rural communities and public lands. None of us welcome or deserve to become sacrifice areas to support unbridled growth elsewhere.

With this massive document — I do have a copy. I'm working my way through the seven volumes — it does reject the project, and we appreciate that and the efforts of Aspen. And the CPUC, I believe, is on the right track with some of their other actions and goals to move us away from the old-school mentality of steel-in-the-ground transmission lines to a more and new sustainable direction, and we thank them for that.

I have read tons of documents, and I was at the rally today. And I've met with SDG&E, and I've talked to different people. And I agree with what Supervisor Jacobs said today at the hearing downtown. SDG&E has a lot of money. We don't have a lot of money. And quite often, the rural communities end up being the dumping grounds for the cities.

We make sacrifices to live out here because of the quality of life. So when you urbanize it and bring everything through here, then everything we sacrificed for is kind of wasted.

We actually have the Kumeyaay Wind Farm on the Campo Reservation in the community of Boulevard, and it generates enough energy for about 30,000 homes, which is 19 times the population of Boulevard, which is 1600.

We also have the existing Southwest Powerlink runs through our community, and new tribal projects can and will tap into the Southwest Powerlink, not the Sunrise.

So we feel it's neither justified nor fair that we or other communities be expected to take on the additional burden of even more transmission lines, fuel lines with the Westwide Corridor and industrial energy parks at the expense of our rural communities, community character and property values.

And I spoke to the Commissioner earlier this morning and gave her some information, and I'll hand it out here, too.

Imperial Irrigation District —

ALJ WEISSMAN: Excuse me, I'll have to ask you to wrap up.

MS. TISDALE: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Why should you ask her that? She's making some good sense.

MS. TISDALE: That's okay. That's okay.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Just we want to make sure that everybody has the time to have something to say, and we definitely are going to welcome written comments that you send to us.

MS. TISDALE: And I will send them.

Last year San Diego Gas & Electric honored six businesses for their energy efficiency and recognizing they're saving millions of kilowatt-hours and tens of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Now if hundreds of businesses did that in San Diego Gas & Electric territory, then we wouldn't need this kind of project.

So I want to say we need to move on with, and support, our fledgling solar and other renewable energies to create high-paying jobs and build the renewable energy in the city where they need it.

Now today mayors from Santee and Chula Vista were there opposing anything in their community. They're willing to put it up here in our community and even Imperial County. Well, all the clean energy is not necessarily so clean, but solar is clean. Geothermal isn't so clean. So, thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

And while Ms. Schoepfer is coming up, I want to check. How is the sound in the back? Are you doing okay?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Louder.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. Louder? All right.

So if you can try to get close — stay close to the mike.

MS. SCHOEPFER: I'll choke it.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Yeah, a little Mick Jagger is all we need.

All right. And I want to generally again apologize for the fact that we really do need to keep people's comments to two minutes. It's not an act of cruelty; it's an effort to try to make sure that everybody gets their chance that has something to say tonight. There are other opportunities for written submissions, and we welcome those as well.

STATEMENT OF MS. SCHOEPFER

MS. SCHOEPFER: My name is Ms. Mary Schoepfer. I live at 40749 Old Highway 80 in Boulevard. I am a resident.

I am opposed to this project. There's one thing. You can quote all the numbers in the world, but what about the people? What about us, who are going to be harmed by it and have our property values reduced, who are going to be hurt? I think that needs to be remembered.

I probably will get some of your towers one way or another from SDG&E in the middle of my front yard. It will take my property down probably to about, oh, less than a quarter of what it would be worth before all this started. And there are a lot of people in here just like me. Please remember the people when you're doing this.

You can get the renewable energy down in town where those people need it. And Donna is right: This has to be remembered.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. MORSE

MS. MORSE: Hello. My name is Denise Morse, and I am opposed to the Sunrise Powerlink Project in its entirety. I'm a Campo resident, and I'm also a member of the elected Campo-Lake Morena Planning Group. And I'm also the founder of the Community Planning and Sponsor Group Alliance, which consists of five different planning groups up in this area. And we represent between 8- to 10,000 residents in the Mountain Empire Region.

We, as planning groups, have voted to reject the Sunrise Powerlink Project in its entirety.

The purpose of my presentation is I do not believe that SDG&E has demonstrated due diligence. According to their application December 14, 2005, they cited three goals for the need for this Powerlink project: One is reduced energy costs. The other is to promote renewable energy, and to maintain reliability.

UCAN and other organizations have challenged SDG&E's claim that it will lower costs, and there is some discussion that it will increase ratepayers' monthly bills.

By SDG&E's own admission, and confirmed by Commission Grueneich in July 2007, the investor-owned utility does not need SPL to meet its goal of 20 percent renewable energy by 2010.

So the last goal is to maintain reliability. Bill Powers, author of the San Diego Smart Energy Solutions, has presented evidence that could help support the PUC's number one choice, called the New In-Area All-Source Generation Alternative, by upgrading existing generation and transmission infrastructure and through in-basin and/or point-of-use renewable energy.

With the input of the San Diego Smart Energy Solutions and other well-informed experts, I believe we can maintain reliability. It just won't look like the 160-foot-high steel towers marching along in the back country.

So, Judge Weissman and Commissioner Grueneich, as a ratepayer, I do not believe that SDG&E has demonstrated due diligence that convinces me that the proposed project is needed.

Your Honor, we're not only asking you to be the Judge Weissman that you already are, but we're also asking you to be a very wise man now and in the future and please take another look at SDG&E's project before we destroy 150 miles of human and wildlife habitat.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Ms. Morse.

STATEMENT OF MR. WEFLEN

MR. WEFLEN: Hi. I'm Nathan Weflen. I'm the guy in the newspaper yesterday and I specifically opposed the Sunrise Powerlink and I'm going to narrow that down to Alternative D.

I'm going to highlight a few things that you missed on your survey, the first of which would be cuyamaca cypress. There are cuyamaca cypress located within 50 feet of D.6 on your survey.

Are you listening?

There are tecate cypress located between D.5 and D.6. There's no tecate cypress in your survey of Alternative D.

There are no western pond turtles in any watershed on Alternative D. This one is from Boulder Creek. This picture is in July of last year of me holding one in Cedar Creek.

There are no fish found in D.6. These are steelhead in Boulder Creek, July 2006.

Finally, I want to address visual. There are three visual shots on Alternative D, none of which show Mildred Falls. They refer to Cedar Falls as it visible in the back. This is Mildred Falls; the most accessible waterfall in San Diego County. It is over 100 feet high. Your towers are close to 140. I don't think this is what you had in mind when you talked about saving a state park. This is destroying a national forest.

Please vote no on Alternative D and the entire Sunrise Powerlink. Thanks.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

I wanted to mention a couple of things.

One is that the environmental team is in the back of the room. They're hearing what you have to say. They will also be reviewing the transcript. But I did want to point out Billie Blanchard, the staff project manager and Susan Lee from Aspen.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: I'm sorry.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Why don't you come to the front so you can hear what everybody says.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Speak into the microphone.

ALJ WEISSMAN: That's fine. The other thing I wanted to mention is that as tempting as it is to applaud, we know that you're here and supporting a particular position. But there are two things. One is this is a Commission proceeding and we do have to try to treat it as seriously as possible. But the other thing is that if you applaud, it takes up more time, and that's time that we don't have time for people to make presentations. So I'd like to encourage you to withhold applause if you can. We know you're here. We know you care from the project.

You're on.

STATEMENT OF MR. LUTZ

MR. LUTZ: My name is Raymond Lutz. I'm a candidate for the 77th Assembly District which includes all of the areas that are going to be impacted by this project. I'm also a degreed electrical engineer.

The Sunrise Powerlink is the wrong project at the wrong time. Experts agree it is not needed to capitalize on renewable resources in Imperial Valley. This Southwest Powerlink is sufficient to bring that power in. Instead, with power generation in Mexico supplied by the new LNG terminal, this overall game plan of Sempra continues our addiction to imported fuel. This is a national security issue which we must address.

The community can see through to the hidden agenda of this project and has nothing to do with the needs of San Diego County or its transition to renewable power generation. The game plan is to move this up into the L.A. area, as you can see with their charts.

The community can see the proposed disaster to the scenic quality of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and the wasted money on a false solution as we turn our economy toward a different future, a future based on local generation, distributed solar and wind power.

The proposed 500-kilovolt transmission line would theoretically have a maximum power capacity of about a thousand megawatts, but that is a capacity that we don't need right now. Saving or generating only a thousand watts per household would cover the entire capacity. There's a million households. It only takes a thousand watts. That's one toaster oven.

The estimated lifetime cost of 7 billion would more than cover converting homeowners to conserve and install local production. But SDG&E and Sempra won't make more money if we turn to distributed solar and local generation. This is a conflict of interest of our interest if we let them continue down this path.

Sunrise Powerlink is the wrong solution and it must be stopped. The wheels of government have been greased for years by these power monopolies and it will take a public outcry to stop it. Please deny the application.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. SMITH

MS. SMITH: Hi. My name is Frankie Smith. I live in Boulevard. I oppose the Powerlink. It seems to me that indeed if we need a power link, and I by no means am an expert on energy, that the link should go through the Anza-Borrego Desert.

You say in your EIR that there will be no moderate — there will be a moderate to high visual impact setting in the areas in the BCD line. McCain Valley Road will no longer be the pristine area that it is today nor will much of the areas that will be contaminated by this land — link. Our groundwater you say could be contaminated by accidental spills or the release of hazardous waste materials. However, you go on to say that there will be training in the proper use of safety equipment. My feeling is that even though trained, there could be an accidental contamination of our groundwater. What do we do then?

I don't recall how deep into the ground you have to go to place your towers, but I do know that in some places the water is about four feet from the surface. Will this have an adverse effect? I believe it will.

Let's say there's an accidental contamination of our groundwater. What will we as a community do? Will the Powerlink argue that it was a preexisting condition?

I personally don't trust the bureaucrats to do the right thing. The environmentalists of this state once again are putting the desert park ahead of the needs and the character of our back country.

Though it's stated in the EIR that there will be no impact to the designated wilderness area of the Anza-Borrego Desert, yet we in the back country will have our land values damaged, our scenic values destroyed, possible water contamination, and we are yet to have — to know what these huge lines will do to our health.

There are only two recreational areas in Boulevard that will be affected: Lark Canyon and Cottonwood.

You also said there are five residences on McCain Valley Road. Does it matter that these people who lived there may be there for 30 years?

In closing, I am opposed to the entire Powerlink. However, the powers that be say we need it, and therefore I ask that you reconsider the back country again and the degradation it will cause and go with the plan, the SDG&E plan from the beginning, the Anza-Borrego Desert route.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. MAUPIN

MR. MAUPIN: My name is Robert Maupin. I live at 904 Tierra Del Sol Road. I'm a short timer up here. We moved up here in 1947 before there was electricity where we live. And I want to thank the Administrative Law Judge for paying attention because when they did the Southwest Powerlink in El Cajon, that guy fell asleep. He didn't seem to think it was really too interesting.

But anyway, the Sunrise Powerlink, when it first was conceived, I figured no, it's not going up there; it's going down here because the folks in North County, there's a lot of lawyers up there, they got a lot of money. There's no lawyers down here, we don't have a lot of money. That's how we got the Southwest Powerlink.

The other thing, although everybody says it doesn't happen, it's prevalent around high power lines in Europe, my wife came down with something called polycythemia. She's been on chemotherapy for the last 16 years since the Southwest Powerlink that dissects our ranch has had power.

The last time there was a power shortage in San Diego, the Southwest Powerlink was not being used because the people in Arizona also had a power shortage so they weren't selling it to San Diego Gas & Electric. So I don't see what another line is going to do to help us.

And being a native San Diegan, I can remember when San Diego Gas & Electric used to generate in-house all the electricity that was needed for the expansion of San Diego which expanded tremendously after World War II. So I don't think any of this mess is actually needed.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. KREKLEBERG

MR. KREKLEBERG: First of all, I'd like to thank Judge Weissman, Commissioner Grueneich, for allowing me to voice my opposition to the proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project.

My name is Kevin Krekleberg, and I oppose this project primarily because it is unnecessary. The power required to meet the future needs of San Diegans has been proven to be obtainable through a number of alternative sources. The Environmental Impact Report recommends the new in-area, all source generation alternative as their first choice. This recommendation includes wind, solar photovoltaics, and biomass/biogas generation as positive alternative sources of renewable energy.

We no longer live in the dark ages, relying upon fossil fuel sources that contaminate our air and destroy our atmosphere. It would be irresponsible of us all to continue the destructive practices employed by those who came before us when clean, efficient alternatives can turn the tide of global warming and secure a safe and health planet for those who come after us.

Secondly, I am vehemently opposed to the scars upon our back country created by the construction and maintenance of gigantic steel towers emitting EMFs of immeasurable force, destroying natural wildlife habitats and the visual disruption of our pristine viewscapes, not to mention the increased risk of fire dangers proven to be related to power lines.

Finally, I am opposed to the project because of the very idea that a special interest group such as SDG&E and their parent company Sempra would have the ratepayers' best interest at heart and the well-being of residents of San Diego and its surrounding communities as its first interest is an insult to every thinking person who lives here.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. KREKLEBERG

MS. KREKLEBERG: My name's Lauren Krekleberg. You're looking at pictures of my grandchildren, Sarah and Garrett (indicating). Lovely.

I am opposed to the Sunrise Powerlink. I'm a mother. I'm a grandmother. You've just seen pictures of my grandchildren. They also live in Japatul Valley. They are the most precious and dearest things to me in the world and I'm afraid for their future, safety and well-being. I'm afraid because SDG&E/Sempra is proposing the so-called Sunrise Powerlink.

I am opposed to it. I do not believe it is necessary. I'm afraid because global warming, which will also exacerbated by building more transmission lines. I'm afraid of the EMFs that would be pulsing and buzzing through the air and through my grandchildren's bodies, not to mention the animals in the area, both domestic and wild.

I'm afraid that the powerful companies will get away with lining their pockets with money from a project that is not needed, not wanted, not in the interest of the people.

I have many objections to the power line, but in the interest of time I will mention my two.

First, huge transmission lines, as evidenced in the most recent October fires, have been directly linked to several of the wildfires. In my community, we have high winds most of the seasons, and our backyards are the Cleveland National Forest. The surrounding area Japatul Valley has not burned in over 40 years. It is a delicate balance in our back country.

I am a member of the Carve Acre Fire Safe Council in my community. Our council dedicates many hours to education, clearing brush, masticating our acreages, water conservation and community in supporting our local fire departments. The transmission lines are a threat to the safety of our lives and homes.

Secondly, the delicate balance of our community includes our water supply. We all have well water that supplies our homes. Our wells are the lifeline to water. The underground water comes from tiny fissures on the rocks. Any disruption such as blasting in the area could cause our wells to go dry. Of course, the blasting I'm referring to would come from engineers who would be building the 160-foot transmission lines and the concrete bases that would support and stabilize them.

Please allow me to be clear about my opposition to the Sunrise Powerlink. I am opposed to it in its entirety. My community is in the Alternate Route D, whatever that means. It is impossible to get a clear idea or map of exactly where the lines would go.

I'm also opposed to the lines being run anywhere else, not in Ranchita, not Ramona, not Anza-Borrego Desert, not Campo, not Boulevard, not Alpine — not in my community and not in your communities.

In conclusion, I wanted to thank Commissioner Grueneich and Judge Weissman, the CPUC, for this opportunity to voice my opinion and objection to the Sunrise Powerlink, and to plead that when making this important decision you remember the faces of our most precious resources, our children, our future.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. BUXTON

MS. BUXTON: Hi. My name is Cindy Buxton. I have been documenting —

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear you.

MS. BUXTON: Hi. My name is Cindy Buxton. I'm representing myself and the Sierra Club.

I have been documenting for the California Wild Heritage Act for the last 12 years or so, and so I know the area along Boulder Creek quite well. I am opposed to the power line except for the no wires options that the CPUC listed as their first choice.

The area that I will talk about is the area that I know the best, however, and that is the area along Boulder Creek Grade. This area has only been used by the Forest — has been under the Forest Service domain for probably about 15 years now. So it's lesser known than some the other areas, but I think in time it will get a lot of focus because it's closer to town and it has a lot of flowing and gorgeous water — waterfalls in that area.

The EIS in this area is misleading, and I think there are some omissions. The Cedar C Trail in there, I spoke with John Wells at the Forest Service. He's the recreation officer there. He knew nothing of the route that had been put there. And yet it to me was — appeared to be very misleading as to trying to make it look as though people wouldn't be re-creating along Cedar Creek Road when in fact that is the designated route for the Cedar C Trail for four miles.

The fact that they surveyed in July, I believe they probably could not get an accurate description of the plants and the animals or the views in this area. We have spotted several eagles in this area, most recently right over Mildred Falls, which is exactly where the tower would go.

They don't show all of the roads that they would require in this area to build these, and yet this area is pristine enough to be a designated wilderness.

I could go on; however, I'll just make one point, that when I take children out there and I like to ask them who owns this. And they look at me, and I say, you do. We all do. And if SDG&E builds this line, we don't.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. COLTRAIN

MR. COLTRAIN: Thank you, and welcome to our mountain. My name is Don Coltrain. I live in Pine Valley, California.

My problem is with the CP — excuse me, with the EIR. I think there's an omission in the — in the document that needs to be addressed again.

So that you don't think that I'm just coming off the wall, my career includes almost 25 years at Southern California Edison Company as a power contract supervisor and followed by 6-1/2 years before I retired in Imperial Irrigation District as the assistant manager of the power department. And so I do have some background in power.

During my career, I developed over a hundred power contracts. And I won't go into those, but they do include transmission agreements, power purchases, sales, exchange agreements, generation plant purchases and sales, and litigation settlement agreements. I have testified before the PUC and the FERC.

The purpose of the presentation is during our meeting in Pine Valley — it was an information meeting on November 14, 2006 — I proposed an alternative to the transmission line which would be a displacement arrangement.

Imperial Irrigation District has various transmission paths. It has the lines coming in from the United States Bureau at Blythe. They have the KN and the KS line which deliver power up through Coachella to Devers Substation. They have the Southwest Powerlink approximately — about 160 megawatts there.

It's possible — and we've done it before — to have displacement where you have a counterschedule. And take Blythe, for example. The district can be scheduling power in from Blythe and simultaneously schedule power in the — it can't be up. I'll hurry.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Yes, please try to summarize.

MR. COLTRAIN: Okay. What I would like to see — and it's outlined in my write-up — I think that a disinterested third party has to take a look at the alternative of displacement where the power schedules can offset one another, which would obviate the need for building a transmission line.

With that \$1.4 billion investment saved, that could certainly be put into conservation or local generation or a number of other projects in the basin. And that way I think everybody would be happy.

If I can help you on this, you can certainly get ahold of me. My phone number is in the book. Give me a call. I can give you details, and I'll try to watch my time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

We would certainly encourage you to put your thoughts in writing as comments to the draft EIR as well.

MR. COLTRAIN: They are. I just handed them.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. But also there's a formal process for submitting comments to the draft EIR. You could — if you wanted to, you could talk to either Susan Lee or Billie Blanchard in the back of the room, and they could explain that to you; but encourage you to produce that information there as well.

MR. COLTRAIN: Okay. Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. Thank you for coming out.

STATEMENT OF MR. KJONEGAARD

MR. KJONEGAARD: Good evening. My name is Dan Kjonegaard. I'm a member of the Jamul/Dulzura Community Planning Group. We went on record December 12, 2006, opposing the entire project.

Currently, the alternative energy sources that are flaunted here, they haven't been developed along the project line, the proposed project, by any of them. We must recognize that the damage that's going to occur to the ecosystem during construction and subsequently to the maintenance, this is inevitable. There is no way it can be mitigated out, the continued erosion and overdriving of the adjacent areas of the roads.

Don't discount the potential fire hazards of the existing system that is in place as well as any proposed construction, especially in our area. And there are continued disruptions during wildfires. The Cedar Fire is a perfect example. What happened to the Southwest Powerlink at that time?

I would urge the powers that be to look to retrofitting existing power plants that lay predominantly idle within San Diego County right now that are already tied into the network, the grid system that exists. I think their money perhaps would be better spent retrofitting these and bringing them up to current acceptable EPA standards.

Thank you for your time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. RUSCH

MR. RUSCH: Good evening. My name is Randy Rusch. I'm a resident of Alpine.

And going through the DEIR report, there's one item that really comes near and dear to my heart, and that's dealing with the agricultural side of the house. And in reference to this — this is the California Land Act of 1965, the Williams Land Act. And it says on your Section AG-4, it says, the EIR states the proposed project would convert 254 acres of the Williams Land Act to nonagricultural use.

What the DEIR does not say, under the rule — I did some research through this — and under the rules of the Land Act, parcels that are enrolled under this program were to remain and be maintained as agricultural land for tax relief to the property owners under the Tax & Revenue Code Section 423.3. The Williams Land Act stipulates that the property will be bound into a 10-year contract with the State of California and only can choose to opt for a nonrenewal. Upon the issue of the

nonrenewal, a request of a minimum — a minimum — of nine years will have to pass before the release of the contract can be granted by the board of supervisors.

My questions here are: Has the proper nonrenewal of the program been submitted and approved?

Just as a sideline to that, termination dates by the contract are to take place November 1st of any year, and it will take nine to ten years after that for that contract to expire.

Second question is: Is the property owner aware that a fee of 12.5 percent of the full market value of the property will be assessed on the property when released from the Williams Land Act. And this is in the — written in the revenue taxation code.

An example of that: One acre of land estimated a thousand dollars would have a fee of \$2500 imposed on it for early termination.

My question is there: Have the owners of these properties been aware of that?

Also, in August of 1968, the law was amended by State Bond 1182 that established The Farmland Security Zones under the Farm Bureau-sponsored Super Williams Act that allows land owners an additional 35 percent for tax reduction of lands for property taxes on this condition the property be maintained in the program for at least 20 years. In this it does not say anything about any of this line being under that program.

And also, going into more, there is also as of January 1, 2004, they also came out with — there's severe penalties up to 25 percent of unrestricted fair value, market value, for any other lands, but also the buildings and related improvements on the land. And once again, this is not stipulated in the EIR.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. JERNEY

MR. JERNEY: Good evening, sir. Good evening, madam. My name is Calvin Raymond Jerney. I represent myself and also my family trust. I've lived in Alpine since 1951, and so I've been here a little while and seen some changes.

I believe you are being played by San Diego Gas & Electric and Sempra Energy. They only make money when they buy power cheap, when they ship it a great distance and when they sell it expensively.

During the power crisis, they overcharged us a billion plus. They got to keep half of the overcharge. So they've already established that they're liars, cheats and thieves in my opinion.

Now on Figure ES-11, it shows the Mexico side of the generating facilities. You could plainly see what SDG&E's purpose is. It's to buy power cheap in Mexico, export it as far as they can up north, and sell it. Don't be misled.

Now also the Modified Route D Alternative Star Valley Option will border my brother's land on the west side. The Modified Route D Alternative also will be within 100 feet of my property lines along Interstate 8.

SDG&E, my mother owns stock. We had geothermal leases in Imperial Valley. SDG&E and Sempra say they're very green. That's a plain damn lie. SDG&E with solar one, they've put enough in to keep them just alive for political purposes.

Don't believe anything they say unless you can verify it by at least two or three other independent sources.

Thank you for your time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Jerney.

STATEMENT OF MR. WARNER

MR. WARNER: My name is Richard Warner. We live on Buckman Springs Road in Campo, and we're close to the power line, the line that is proposed. And it would be very visible.

But anyhow, my concern is that the buffer between we as the ratepayers who are going to pay for all of this is the PUC. We hope that your staff research all of these proposals that the power company is putting out because you are the ones that have to do this for us.

I am opposed to spending a huge amount of money on undergrounding. Undergrounding is good for the power company because they are going to get their money back from the investments that they're putting in, so — but anyhow, since I can't speak very well, I'm going to just close by — one of the points that I think we would like to have you really look at is the route that goes along the Interstate 8 because it has access to the pole line for repair, and so on. But some of these back areas are isolated.

Anyhow, I'm not opposed to renewable energy. I think that that's the way we have to go eventually, but is this going to be able to fit into that.

I'm going to close and let you have your time.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Warner. I appreciate your comments.

STATEMENT OF MR. LENAC

MR. LENAC: Good evening. I'm Randy Lenac, and my wife is Barbara Lenac. And I don't think you're going to give us two two-minute sessions, so I'll speak for both of us.

We are opposed to the Southern Power Line Option, the Modified Route D Option. And I want to address what I feel or what we feel are some inadequacies in the EIR regarding environmental justice, the environmental justice first from a subregional perspective.

If for some reason that this southern power line or this power line has to be built, and we hope it isn't, then the Southern Option is the worst travesty because it clearly targets the poorest communities of San Diego County. The I-8 Corridor North Modified D Alternative traverses Jacumba, Boulevard, Campo and Potrero as well as three of the poorest Indian reservations in San Diego County, Campo, La Posta and Manzanita. These poor and minority communities already struggle with the unmitigated impacts of the Southwest Powerlink, which was built 20 years ago, and Interstate 8. Adding another power line for the primary benefit of the affluent coastal regions when there are alternatives available is an unfair burden on these communities.

I'd like to close with addressing the impact of the environmental injustice from a private property perspective. There are literally hundreds of private tax-paying land owners who find themselves in the direct route of this power line — my wife and I are one of those — and they've received lip service in the EIR regarding the unmitigatable impact on their private properties. Whereas the federal and the state government agencies seem to have had a place at the table in determining the environmental impact on public lands, the private land owners are left to fend for themselves.

The Public Utility Commission is responsible for looking out for the public's interest and should first and foremost consider building any proposed power line on a public land versus private land. There's a great option to do this. The Campo Cumaya Nation, our friends at the Campo-Cumaya Nation, have now officially opposed the Southern Option which triggers a clause in the EIR to go up and around the three Indian reservations in a very circuitous route that follows what they generally refer to as the B, C, D Route. Despite this lengthy workaround, the EIR still brings the power line back down and around and links back into the I-8 Corridor on the west side of the Indian reservations, so that they can go down all the way around our communities.

If there has to be a Southern Option, the right and just decision would be to follow the original proposed B, C, D Route through the Cleveland National Forest and avoid the hundreds of private land owners in Campo, Potrero and Japatul Valley and save the ratepayers millions of dollars on a long power line that's unnecessary.

Your Honor, our request is that you make sure that the final decision takes into consideration environmental justice.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Lenac.

STATEMENT OF MR. SMITH

MR. SMITH: My name is Dave Smith, and I live in Descanso. And I'm absolutely opposed to the Powerlink.

Just to put a little bit of a personal face on the impact, the gentleman just preceded me touched a little bit on private property owners' impact. And what happened was about six months ago, I received a packet of information in the mail from SDG&E. And in looking through this — it took a while to figure out exactly what was going on, but there was one line that went through Cleveland National Forest about a quarter mile to the north of my property. And there was also another line that seemed to go right through my house, which caught my attention.

I have lived in this beautiful valley for 25 years. I built a home with my own hands. I really hoped to some day leave this to my grandchildren. It's an irreplaceable, beautiful spot. And the impact on someone when it's your home that is destroyed is absolute. The environmental impact is great, but to the individuals that are going to lose their homes, this can be an absolute impact. And I'd just like to have you remember that when you consider what's going on.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

STATEMENT OF MR. BUTLER

MR. BUTLER: Hi. My name is Tom Butler. I live off of Star Valley Road. And I oppose the entire project in its entirety, especially the one Modified D.

I — when I bought my piece of property in Alpine, I was — I was so excited by the beauty of the sunrises and the sunsets, and they just generated so many beautiful hues of lights and colors over the entire valley and the roaming hills.

I was also excited about the eagles that we have out there and the turkey vultures and the quail and the red-tailed hawks. All of these animals will be subjected to a great hardship with the iron giants that will be staggered across our property and our hillsides along with the buzzing wires that will chase everything away. We really need your help in this.

And understand one thing. Put yourselves, your Honor and Commissioner, in our spot. What would you do if that was your piece of property and that was your iron giant that was going to be looking at you for the rest of your life?

Because let me tell you something: You're not going to be able to sell that piece of property. My property value has already gone down, not because the value of the property in San Diego County has gone down anyway, but it's gone down because of the scare, the scare that this is coming through. I cannot sell my property for what I bought it for and I probably never will be able to.

I thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Butler.

STATEMENT OF MR. NOLAND

MR. NOLAND: Thank you for coming.

My name is Chris Noland. I'm a professional geologist licensed to practice in California and Arizona. And I am a resident of Boulevard, and I oppose the entire project. However, if this unnecessary project should be approved, there are some significant items that need to be addressed in the final EIR/EIS.

In Appendix G, the cumulative impacts of construction processes are detailed, but not all are mentioned. To place the steel transmission tower or transmission facility into the ground requires a footprint for that tower or facility to be built.

Many times slopes may need to be cut or grading done for towers or facilities to be built. Larger areas may need grading done for towers or facilities. The cutting of slopes may sometimes be done mechanically based on the ability of the material. In some cases, such as those in hard rock, which is widely present in our project area here, blasting is the only way to remove the material.

Much of the proposed project and alternative routes travel through areas that may need the use of explosives to remove material for tower and/or facility construction. In most areas of eastern and northern San Diego County, residents rely on groundwater wells for their water supply. Many wells that are located within fractured rocks are open wells, which means that they have no outer casings to prevent cave-ins or sedimentation. Many times these wells are constructed at depths greater than 500 feet and cost thousands of dollars to construct. These are the land owners' only alternative for water supply.

The footprints of the transmission towers have been located in residential areas where groundwater is the only water supply. Blasting and the subsequent seismic waves created during tower construction can damage these wells to the point of uselessness. It can create cave-ins or softer sediments create a well that's completely fouled with sediments. Both of these scenarios can create significant impact to the residents.

Blasting can also alter the water flow through fractures within the aquifer which may have adverse effects of a wider influence.

Let me get to Table 12.6. Table D 12-6 discusses the proposed mitigation measures for water resources. And one of them numbered WQAPM-6 states: SDG&E will ensure — will — SDG&E will negotiate with the affected land owners to provide alternative water supplies in the event the supply well or springs dry up directly caused by project activities.

The preceding sentence should be edited as follows: SDG&E will ensure that adequate alternative water supplies will be provided to affected land owners in the event a supply well or springs

dry up directly caused by project activities. And SDG&E will also respond immediately by either rehabilitating or reconstructing a new water supply for the land owner at the expense of SDG&E.

There is no reason that the land owner should have to negotiate with SDG&E to provide them with water supplies.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: That you very much, Mr. Noland.

STATEMENT OF MR. HAZELTON

MR. HAZELTON: Good evening. My name is Scott Hazelton. I live on Live Oak Springs Road. I have run a ranch, 1200-acre ranch, on that road there. Been a resident for the last 40 years in the Mountain Empire area. And in coming here, I can't add much more to what people have said. We do oppose it. We've given a lot of good reasons.

I do want to make one statement, is that we're not people with, like the saying, not in our backyard. The fact is we have an awful lot in our backyard already that's been shipped up here to us from the downtown and such.

The property I work on and live on right now has over six easements alone from San Diego Gas & Electric running through it, as well as many county easements and such like that. They've taken my property and devalued it considerably. This would devalue it even more. So we do oppose this and such.

But I want to ask you, with all these things going on, the environmental issues and everything else, I can't help but think that if it wasn't my child out there running around but quino checker butterfly or arroyo toad, they wouldn't come through our ranch.

I would ask that you give the same consideration for us as you would for the toads and the birds.

And thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. MYERS

MR. MYERS: Thank you. My name is Tom Myers. And my wife Judy and I live in Alpine.

We're opposed to the project, and instead we would support renewable energy close to the source or point of use.

The 21st Century is still young, still searching for the truths that will define its course. The Sunrise Powerlink Project is of the old century. Constructing 150 miles of transmission line from the Imperial Valley to western San Diego County does nothing to encourage conservation. It is costly, environmentally damaging, increases the risk of wildfire and adversely impacts cultural, historic, agricultural, recreational and scenic resources.

Most importantly, only one-third of the power generated in the Imperial Valley will ever reach its point of use. Two-thirds will be lost through generation and line losses due to the length of the transmission lines.

We believe there is a better solution. San Diego Smart Energy 2020 Plan offers a paradigm-shifting alternative. This plan offers a move away from reliance on fossil fuels and imported power by reducing demand through conservation measures, reducing energy losses through improved grid management and providing the needed peak energy through solar photovoltaic solutions.

This plan offers significant greenhouse gas reduction, less reliance on natural gas for power generation and greatly expanded local, renewable energy generating clean power where it is most needed. The environmental impacts and the life-cycle costs of this program are estimated to be significantly less than that the impacts and life-cycle costs of the Sunrise Powerlink.

We encourage the California Public Utilities Commission and the Bureau of Land Management to give full consideration to the Smart Energy 2020 Plan and to rank this plan among the available options of the SPL Project.

Some will say it's too late to consider yet another alternative. But we believe it's never too late to consider an alternative that could save consumers billions of dollars, significantly increase the use of renewable energy and preserve and protect our fragile environment.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. MILLIGAN

MR. MILLIGAN: Good evening. My name is Michael Milligan. I'm a long-time resident of Alpine. I live on Star Valley Road, which shows on your alternative map as the route where the line is coming right along the sideline of Star Valley Road. I totally oppose this proposal. I believe there are other alternative methods to provide power from the desert and not through Star Valley Road. And thank you for your time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. HEDLUN

MS. HEDLUN: My name is Jan Hedlun and I am from Potrero. I am on the Potrero Planning Group. We went on record on 10/11/07 as being against the Powerlink in its entirety, but I'm here as a private citizen.

The back country should not suffer the numerous financial impacts of the Sunrise Powerlink when the ultimate goal of the project is to increase power to the Los Angeles area. We are going to be dealing with visual degradation. We have the Pacific Coast Trail that people will now be looking down upon the towers. We have fire danger. The tower height alone poses a danger to aircraft and helicopter traffic which is extremely heavy in our area due to Border Patrol activity.

I'm also speaking for Caron and Lena Serrano who are chemically sensitive who will be directly impacted by the EMF danger.

We have the noise, the cost. There are other alternatives. We are a sole-source aquifer in this entire area and will be impacted by any hazardous waste.

The community effect to Boulevard, Campo Potrero and Barrett can be — we're going to be dealing with the potential for eminent domain. And property values are already being degraded by the presence or the possibility.

The need, there is no proven need for the Sunrise Powerlink in San Diego that we know of.

And we would like you very much to say no to this project in its entirety.

Thank you very much.

(Applause).

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. COSTA

MS. COSTA: Hi. My name is Jean Costa. I've lived in La Mesa since 1964, but I'm here to support the communities who oppose this awful project and who live in this beautiful back country that we want to preserve.

I was at the hearing this morning and I noticed that many of the proponents of the project said that there was a need to address global warming on the one hand; but on the other hand, they spoke of the inevitable expansion of development in our area and the need for more and more and more energy.

I have a few questions that really concern me. Number one may be very controversial, but it's a question I think we need to ask.

Why is nobody talking about limiting the population of our area to the carrying capacity of the region? Atlanta, Georgia is facing this question finally because they have a serious water problem. And we have a serious water problem too.

Question No. 2: Why is nobody linking growth and growth and more growth with the emission of greenhouse gases?

As somebody said, growth is the ideology of the cancer cell.

Another question: What is the advantage of thousands of people hooked up to and depending on one huge grid? What happened a few areas ago in the northeast? Huge blackout.

Another question: Why should we depend on imported energy from Sempra plants in Mexico and LNG from Russia and Indonesia where, by the way, the extraction of this energy affects native peoples there in those countries who have no political power to fight it.

Why aren't we talking more about conservation and efficiency and local generation of power?

And lastly, who participated in the so-called energy crisis we faced here in Southern California? Who can trust Sempra Energy after that corporate scam?

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Ms. Costa.

STATEMENT OF MR. HICKETHIER

MR. HICKETHIER: Hi. I'm Don Hickethier and I live in Pine Valley. And 14 years ago, my wife and I we bought a house up here. We have our little acre of the valley and we love it. And I'm not opposed if San Diego Gas & Electric need another power line. I don't think they do. But it looks like they're going out of their way to put one right in my front yard. I don't want to be a NIMBY. But you know, if they put it in my front yard, I'm done. And I worked my life to have that house that I've got now for my kids and my grand kids.

And it seems like it would be — if they have to have it, it would be so much easier to follow the transportation corridor instead of veering away, going through Pine Valley, Guatay, Descanso. It seems like they want to go out of their way to inconvenience us instead of — you know, we're just the little people. We've got very little say.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

Larry Johnson.

STATEMENT OF MR. JOHNSON

MR. JOHNSON: Hi. I'm Larry Johnson, 1259 Dewey Place, Campo, California. I'm speaking as an individual. I'm also on the local Campo community planning group.

First, I'd like to thank the CPUC for holding the meeting here in Campo and giving everybody a chance to talk. I've got a few simple points.

I'm in the area — support the CPUC's EIR top choice of new in-area, all-source generation as the number one alternative. In addition to the basin photovoltaic range rooftop microturbines should be given serious consideration as low profile conversion units that can be integrated into the design of new green buildings and retrofitted buildings. SDG&E can meet and exceed its 20 percent renewable energy requirement locally without putting billions of dollars into a string of towers.

SDG&E makes decisions mostly based on future profit potential. The CPUC could provide decisions and guidelines that would produce financial incentives that encourages SDG&E to adopt Alternative No. 1 and become a model organization that takes them and us towards a more self-reliant, energy conservative, forward-thinking, smart electrical distribution network owner and generator.

The CPUC recently approved Docket No. Resolution E-4137 which allows feed-in tariffs for small generating facilities. However, while this applies to several Southern California utilities, this does not seem to apply to SDG&E for electricity yet. This is an excellent tool to encourage many homeowners, small businesses, and large building complexes to build a wide variety of renewable energy generating sources that would be widely distributed over San Diego County area.

While enough in-basin generation of power, there could be capacity freed up — with enough in-basin generation power, there could be capacity freed up on the existing Southwest Powerlink to bring in peak power when needed.

The San Diego Smart Energy 2020 report by Bill Powers is an excellent compilation of important information which supports the CPUC's EIR No. 1 choice and the state of California legislation such as AB 32, 1969, AB 1, and the 2008 update Energy Action Plan and other significant, forward-looking legislative law.

I thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

Let's take a short break. Let's take a ten-minute break, give the reporters a chance to rest their fingers and give everybody a chance to stretch.

(Recess taken)

ALJ WEISSMAN: On the record.

We're ready for Nicki Field followed by Jeff White.

STATEMENT OF MS. FIELD

MS. FIELD: Hi. I'm Nicki Field. I live in Pine Valley. I'm opposed to the project. First of all, giant power lines don't belong in national forest or state parks or anywhere in the back country. I moved to Pine Valley because it's so beautiful. I can leave my house and in a few minutes be somewhere where I don't see anything manmade. If this project goes through, that likely will change.

At this point, it doesn't seem like the project will provide any new renewable energy. In Southern California where it's sunny 99 percent of the time, other than renewable such as solar.

I've heard this project is needed because of how vulnerable San Diego's energy sources are from being cut off from natural disasters such as fires. But this power line with its hundred-plus miles

is going to be just as vulnerable, particularly the southern route being very close to the Southwest Powerlink which could be cut off from the same fire. The energy needs to be produced where it's needed to avoid that problem.

And most importantly, the power line goes through already fire prone areas. We know the power line starts fire. And after 2003 and 2007, I'm just appalled that anyone would propose to put another fire hazard through the back country.

So please, don't let this project happen. Thank you.

(Applause)

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. WHITE

MR. WHITE: I don't know if you can understand me. My voice is a little raspy today. But I thought I was opposed to this project. But I live here. I work for the largest drilling foundation drilling contractor in the United States, and I'm thinking about all this drilling that we have to do.

I had this one geologist here this brought up some good points.

There was another fellow that brought up this map right here, this map of some power lines. If I came in and drilled these holes, this isn't going to work because this up here, we have about 3500 psi minimum rock and you need big flat spots for the equipment that I need to drill that. Actually, I need a 50 by 50 footprint just for the drill rig to stand its tower to drill these holes.

In this 3500 psi rock, I need no less than nine 1300 cfm compressors that we get from Germany to drill these holes to excavate these shafts.

When we're done in the soft area, like at your place, Randy, we have soft material, soft dirt a lot of water, which means I have to use steel casing and polymer. So we are going to be contaminating the soil with polymers, with acids, with chemicals. To do that I need at least four 22,000 gallon storage tanks for the water. So in effect, each one of those towers whether it be soft drilling or hard drilling, I'm going to need a space about as big as this gym just to facilitate the equipment I need to install these casons to hold this up, the foundation to hold it up. The impact is severe.

I don't know what these books are. I'm probably not smart enough to read half of them. But that's what I need as a contractor to go out and drill these holes.

It's going to be real intrusive to the area, to the groundwater, to your wells. When we are using blasting and drop-chisels, any of those deep excavated water wells, they're going to collapse. We put in, we call them dewatering wells on jobs where we need to remove the water to put in an excavation pit like downtown. They don't put those in until I leave because they're all going to fail, just like your wells would.

I'm out of time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much. Appreciate your comments.

STATEMENT OF MR. LANDT

MR. LANDT: Good evening. I'm George Landt from Alpine. Grew up down here in Alpine, along Alpine Boulevard. And don't really believe that we need this Powerlink as it's been presented to us now.

If do you go ahead, seems like what I've heard tonight, the only viable alternative would be following the transportation corridor and undergrounding. Everything else is extremely invasive.

My primary concern is the fire and safety issues. And having lived through the Viejas fire, the Laguna fire, the Cedar fire, obviously one thing you must admit is that — the Laguna fire was caused by SDG&E power lines going down. The Cedar fire was caused by a hunter who should have been hunted. The Rice fire and the Witch Creek fire both were caused by SDG&E power lines going down. These were 170,000 acres with the Laguna fire, the largest in state history until the Witch Creek fire came along and superceded it.

We have a tremendous loss of back country land. We have a lot of homes that have been devastated, and the loss of life has just been incredible and inexcusable.

If you looked at the news during the Rice Canyon fire when it was burning through the Valley Oaks Mobile Home Park, it didn't take any one with very much intelligence to listen and realize that SDG&E/Sempra had tree trimming efforts going on while our mobile home park was still smoldering. That's not a legitimate participant in this community.

SDG&E has not acted responsibly in over 30 years. They learned nothing from the Laguna fire and it was even less performance during the Cedar fire and Witch Creek fire.

I would like to specifically address the Modified Route D Alternative with the Star Valley option. Sounds ominously like a federal tax return. That pretty much tells us what it's going to be doing to us financially. It would be devastating the visual impact.

As you're returning to San Diego this evening and going down the grade, make sure SDG&E includes enough money to remove the viewpoint, the Ellis Wayside Park because it wouldn't be necessary once those power lines go off at Elk Bluff and across the Sweet Water River.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. GOODMAN

MS. GOODMAN: Lucille Goodman. I'm a resident of Pine Valley since the past 23 years. I'm also a member of the Pine Valley Planning Group, but I'm here as a individual. And I'm against the Sunrise Powerlink. I'd like to speak to you on the reliability issue, energy reliability, and also the issue of fire.

On the reliability issue, during the 2007 wildfires, the Southwest Powerlink, as you know, went down. And also the route that the Southwest — that the Sunrise Powerlink would take, the fire ran through it. So, so much for the reliability.

Also, both the Southwest and the Sunrise Powerlink would be linked up to a power station in Imperial Valley. That's not a very good idea for energy reliability. The problem with the fire issues too is that the fire fighters cannot fight the fires underneath the power lines. That means power has to be turned off. That takes maybe an hour, maybe two hours of lost time in which lives can be lost and property can be lost.

There was an article in the San Diego Union regarding the fact that the lines that are not contained can spark and cause fires. This study was denigrated by SDG&E. They must learn that these power lines are a problem and needs to be studied further. So please vote no on this project.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. HANSON

MS. HANSON: My name is Jessica Hanson and I'm speaking on behalf of Star Ranch. It's a 2200 acre operating horse and cattle ranch in Campo. Star Ranch stands behind its opposition to the Sunrise Powerlink Modified Alt. D for the following powerful reasons. It is visual disturbance to a rare and beautiful place; the timing and practice of communication with residents has shown disrespect for them; and the beauty of this place should not be sacrificed to pay for the energy needs of distant regions.

The fact that the back country is a rare place of visual peace and treasure of American history is not just the opinion of those who have made their homes here. The county has invested a massive resources in the development of a new general plan that protects this back country region. The Star Ranch has for years been a part of this process to preserve it. It is environmentally rich, visually incomparable, and historically unique. Clearly, it is not the best location for the Sunrise Powerlink.

Secondly, the timing of SDG&E's communication for public review has repeatedly come into question. The Union Tribune quoted the U.S. Forest Service as saying: They didn't get any input from us before reaching their conclusions. I feel there was something morally wrong. This is supposed to be a public process.

We at Star Ranch feel the same way. This route was introduced very late in the process, in collecting community input, as it just passed these communities unnoticed.

The public should be widely noticed that we have been unfairly treated by the questionable practices of public review for this project.

Lastly, the failure of SDG&E to plan for the future energy demands does not justify a new route of power transmission through a rural place. The fact that San Diego has one of the weakest transmission corridors in the country is not a surprise. Southern California's population growth has been available. So this is not a sudden emergency. The mountain empire Campo region should not pay the price for SDG&E's failure to plan.

Energy should be generated where it is needed. We already have one parallel power line that serves the coastal community. It would be doubly offensive to put in a second one that runs right through. The area that needs the energy should bear the responsibility of generating it. We are the unwitting and unwilling victims of this power strategy. Don't ruin our lands because it's an economically attractive deal for SDG&E. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: I don't think I can do your name justice. What's your name, please?

MS. JANIEN: Billie Jo.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Well, it just all kind of ran together.

STATEMENT OF MS. JANIEN

MS. JANIEN: My name is Billie Jo Janien. I live on Highway 94, a stone's throw or two from the Southwest Powerlink. As a long-time neighbor of the Southwest Powerlink, I object to having any of my neighbors in the back country subjected to the buzzing, the frightening of animals, and all the things that go with those big, ugly things.

As a citizen of this county and this country, I object on the strongest possible terms to having such a vulnerable way of bringing power to our area. I look at the Southwest Powerlink and I see something that any terrorist with a hacksaw could disrupt the power supply to the entire area. That's what we have to depend on. If SDG&E needs an outrageously expensive project for electricity brought into San Diego County, then let them do so in partnership with the thousands of people like me who would gladly help to generate via solar panels and save money at that time.

As a property owner in the back country, I also object on the strongest possible terms to having the possibility of groundwater movement through the ground disrupted with dynamite and other activities. We depend on it. We have been told repeatedly that there will not be water piped to the back country if we run out of groundwater. That's that. End of story. End of property value. End of life as we know it.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. BERGLUND

MR. BERGLUND: I'm Dennis Berglund. I live in Pine Valley or close. And my first comment is in the afternoon I had three minutes to speak and I gave that up and now I'm going to have two. So there's some sort of inverse inflation going on here.

We are professional electrical engineers that operate a business in the Pine Valley area. We have a considerable amount of experience in electrical systems, and we have taken a look at this project at somebody length.

I would for one would like to have a business where I got my client to pay for my development. That's essentially what SDG&E has done by having ratepayers pay for this system. It's not a simple process, but these people are not stupid, so we have to wonder why they're putting wanting to put a Powerlink in. After all, you've seen technical interview after interview here where technical people have told you that the distributed way of doing power, watch those numbers — the technical way of doing this, a proper way of doing this, be it computer or anything, is to do it in a distributed fashion.

So why are they doing something that is not distributed in using a Powerlink?

After all, they've already done distributed power in San Diego. They have a plant in Otay, which runs about 500 megawatts, they have one in Miramar that runs about 80 megawatts, and one that is up in Escondido that runs another 500 megawatts. If you read their own website, they say they're only about 400 megawatts away from being at level.

Furthermore, if you read their expose or their talk about their plant in Mexico, they do have a plant in Ensenada that makes or compresses natural gas. And happen to have a pipeline over to Mexicali to build or make electricity out of that natural gas. And lo and behold, their article in the San Diego Union says that they've already sold all that power to Los Angeles. So conventional wisdom tells you that's the reason they have this plant.

Now, in closing, I'll say that the best way to do this is to not have a terrorist or a vulnerable single transmission line which would look like an oil line in Iraq. One hole and it's gone. You distribute the power in the area where it's used. And they have the capability and they have the precedent in their own company to show that.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. GARLAND

MR. GARLAND: Thank you Commissioner Grueneich, Judge Weissman, staff, for taking all the trouble for coming out to the four sites in San Diego County, including here tonight and the sacrifices that I know that this must have involved.

I'd like to applaud Ms. Lee and her product of a very scholarly Environmental Impact Report that's very useful, and particularly for identifying an alternative that would require only 11 miles of

transmission, four peakers, and one base load plant which would cost less than the proposed Southwest — proposed SPL, and would achieve the same objectives for reliability and availability of service, safety, as the proposed Powerlink.

It's quite an amazing tour de force that they identified such a reasonable alternative, and makes me wonder why we need to continue to deliberate further. Of course, it's part of the democratic process and we're lucky to have you here to listen to us.

I think of Aldous Huxley when you listen to the dialogue today presented by proponents. He would be amused at the ironies of some of the terminology, one of which is reliability, since we all know that all major power failures affecting large numbers of people since 1965 have been due to grid power, the inherent instability of grid power, with cascading failures in the counts of millions of dollars and some loss of life. Grid power is not more reliable than green power.

The other item is that the Powerlink is a way of getting renewables to our communities. It's not credible because the renewables aren't there. There's no solar generation. There isn't any credible potential for it. The proposed technology has been on a rack at the Sandia National Laboratory for 25 years, and the project engineers cast doubt that it will ever be credible.

The potential for wind is among the lowest in the state, according to the state study, in the bottom of — a few percentiles. It's due to the mountains blocking the prevailing wind flows.

And finally, the potential for geothermal has been stalled by discoveries from local seismologists that geothermal development is risky and it may induce earthquakes in the local area. We've had five earthquakes in the past 14 days in the Sierra Viejo Region, which is just south of Mexicali.

So thank you very much again for being here. It's a pleasure having you in town.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. JERNEY

MR. JERNEY: My name is Charles Jerney. My older brother was here earlier. I live on Star Valley Road, and these proposed lines are going to be on the south border of my property and on the west border.

My home is within 200 feet of where these towers are going to be. They are proposing to put three towers directly to the west of my house where they go under Star Valley Road. Okay. They said they'll bring in 500 kVA from Imperial Valley. There is no generation facility in Imperial Valley capable of doing that.

SDG&E built a plant in Mexico. Why didn't they build a plant in San Diego?

The EIR that we have doesn't mention anything about the horned toads, the red-tailed hawk, the deer, pack rats, kangaroo rats, bobcats, stuff like that that I know is on the property along Star Valley Road.

My parents bought the property in '63. They put a driveway in. That driveway is now Star Valley Road. My dad named it.

Also, Sempra and SDG&E used strong-armed tactics. They did bring two sheriffs with them and forced an illegal trespass on my neighbor's property. Told him to go in his house. And the sheriff's department, I thought, were public servants. Sempra had two Sempra people and two sheriffs. And they held the letter in their hand that Sempra typed up and said to everybody as their way they had authorization to come on to the property.

Okay. The view that I have to the west would disappear. The generator that was built in Mexico supposed to be not clean, not green. I tried to put up a wind generator. I checked into it. SDG&E says they are behind people putting in wind generators. They have laws and regulations in place that if you put in a wind generator, you become a generation facility. If it's 10 kVA or more, you have inspections. You have rules, regulations. It's a ton of paperwork. Also you have to be 200 feet from any property line that you have, and you cannot have any structures in there. These are all rules they put in place.

So SDG&E on one hand said they're behind all this; on the other hand, they are not. So I hope you vote against it.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Jerney.

STATEMENT OF MS. WILLIAMS

MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Deborah Williams, and I live just west of the Star Valley Road option.

I thank everybody here tonight for bringing in all the technical information that I was unable to bring forward.

I've lived on my five acres now for 21 years. That five acres represents everything that I own and everything that I have to offer my five children. And in every way, this going through will destroy the inheritance of my children, which is just a fraction because everybody out here are lifers in this area. Look at the age group. We're lifers. We don't move every two years. We're out here to stay. So all our children, our grandchildren are going to lose in every way.

It's going to affect — the towers are going to affect everyone's health. Immeasurable EMFs from these iron giants have already lost my father at 54 to cancer. I almost lost my son at age 12 to cancer. How many more of us could be affected this way?

You know, it's been brought forward tonight about our wells. How many of us are going to lose our wells? That's our only water supply. Yes, my well is within a stone's throw of these towers going up.

Our scenic beauty, every single sunrise would be blocked by these towers, every single sunrise to the east and the southeast. Other people will lose it the other direction, their sunsets.

Like I said, this is my children's entire inheritance, five acres. They would be able to live there their life times.

Again, the wildlife. The wildlife, we hike every week out there to see what animals we can see. All of these — we're watching nesting hawks right in this field over by Mr. — and it's cutting right through his property. Those hawks will leave. The horned toads. Every species that we go out and enjoy will diminish.

And the fire issues.

So we're not being attacked by just our water, just our scenic view, from all sides. Which way do we go? We're losing in many directions, many things, and this is all we have.

The one other thing that I noticed on this, or a friend noticed, I should say, is there is a 500 kVA line coming in, and it splits down to a 250. Where does the rest of it go? Is there a plan? Are these towers going to increase from 250 kVA over overnight to 500? It just disappears. It's the end of a leg. Can that be answered?

Thank you very much for your time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. BRETZ

MR. BRETZ: Good evening, Judge Weissman and Commissioner Grueneich.

I'm opposed to the Sunrise Powerlink and all the transmission wire alternatives associated with that planning. I'm pleased that the CPUC staff has identified after exhaustive analysis that the No Project Alternative and reliance on new in-area generation, a couple of preferred approaches there, can meet the San Diego area's future power needs and that the transmission corridor approach really isn't necessary. That seems to be a boiled-down result of analyzing all of the different routes in terms of the impacts of the different ways of looking at it.

It basically comes out that the needs of the community in terms of electricity that SDG&E was proposing this Powerlink for can actually be met without having to build that kind of transmission corridor.

And in reading the EIR, I saw the part where it says the CPUC also considers community values besides the EIR findings when issuing the necessary certificate for the project.

Well, you're hearing the community values tonight really from many that would be most directly suffering impacts if the line were built.

The community out here is calling for a new solution for the area's future power needs and, as someone said before, not an old 20th Century style of doing things exemplified by the Southwest Powerlink, but in fact going forward with a new path for energy for the area.

And what you're really hearing is, in my opinion, not a bunch of NIMBY types, not in my backyard. You're hearing from the community, not anybody's backyard should this kind of power line, this type of project, be built. It's just simply apparently not needed if you look at the analyses that they have done.

In addition — those are my personal comments. In addition, I'm on the planning group of the Crest-Dehesa-Harbison Canyon area. That area is a little bit to the west of here. It once was going to perhaps have the western forest alternative going through there. That alternative has been eliminated, but our planning group has continued to follow this. And they, at their last meeting, adopted a motion that I'd like to read to you:

The Crest-Dehesa-Harbison Canyon-Granite Hills Planning Group voted to send a letter of comment concerning the San Diego Gas & Electric proposed Sunrise Powerlink and its draft EIR/EIS stating that, one, the planning group finds that any preferred or alternative route of the Sunrise Powerlink with above-ground transmission lines creates unacceptable, additional, fire-causing and fire-fighting risks for the wildfire-prone East County.

And, secondly, the planning group recommends that the CPUC, the BLM, and all other permitting agencies consider only approving the No Project Alternative or the New in-Area All-Source Generation or the New In-Area Renewable Generation.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. BARLING

MS. BARLING: Hi. My name is Lesley Barling.

I want to first comment that the El Cajon Library was supposed to be served the EIR documents — it was listed as a repository — but they did not have it. In fact, they did not get anything until February 19th. So I have hardly had a chance to look at things and will file written comments.

I'm glad to see that there's been a serious look by the PUC staff at something other than the Powerlink as a source of energy for our area, and support all of the options that are something other than above-ground Powerlink wire.

The hearings for the Southwest Powerlink included a bunch of citizens trying to push those kinds of alternatives. And it's high time, 20-plus years later, that that is getting serious consideration.

If there is to be some kind of routing for overland, the involvement of Anza-Borrego and public lands, I find, is inferior choices just given the investment over years of citizens' and public monies to designate the existence of such locations; but I also find that it's not a solution to go through undeveloped, back-country areas, private or otherwise.

If there has to be a siting, without having studied the documentation, the most reasonable would seem to be an area already impacted, which somebody else mentioned, which is the Interstate 8 transportation corridor.

I'd like to address fire, as so many other people have. I'd like to request that the CPUC incorporate by reference, if not in fact, any studies relating especially to the Harris Fire that was part of that power firestorm in 2007, because — especially because the Modified Route D, which I oppose, went right through or along, adjacent to, the area where Harris Fire was burning.

I want to point out some of the impacts of fire is not just the burning flame but the smoke that travels and incorporates a much larger area which can have impacts on bringing about power failures, sparking and endangering humans and setting other fires.

Anyway, my time is up. So thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Ms. Barling.

STATEMENT OF MR. DENHAM

MR. DENHAM: Your Honor, I'm Vern Denham. I'm the chair of the Pine Valley Planning Group.

Are you still awake?

ALJ WEISSMAN: Oh, yes.

MR. DENHAM: All right. The scenario I'm going to present, I would not have presented it before 9/11.

For the record, the Pine Valley Planning Group voted unanimously to oppose this project in its entirety. I think we have a 13-member group. It was 12 with one abstaining.

You and I and anybody else in here with a little Internet background can become a terrorist. If you think about the Imperial Valley sub, we already have a 500 line going through that sub. There are — there are transformers down there that you have to transport by railcar. They're probably made on the East Coast, made by Westinghouse, Emerson, somebody like that. They're huge transformers.

When a tower goes down, it will normally take adjacent towers with it because it drops all that weight at one time onto the adjacent towers. So it normally dominos. Usually one or two other towers will fall with it. And I can guarantee you that if you and I knew what we were doing, and we could probably put San Diego out of electricity with just some very simple things to do.

And what bothers me is if I can think of this, there's got to be some idiot somewhere else possibly thinking the same thing.

Now you also — when you wanted put the new line into the Imperial Valley substation — now I don't think Sempra has thought of this, and SDG&E hasn't; but, your Honor, this should raise a red flag to you, because you have all this power coming into one substation at the end of a dirt road with nobody out there and no security. It is impossible to go and secure every tower throughout the system. You can't do it. But I would say on this particular issue I'd keep an eye on that. That flag is waving.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. SHEA

MR. SHEA: My name is Bob Shea. I'm a resident of Campo. I'm on the Campo Planning Group. There's nine board members, and the group is against this project.

I'm here mainly to talk as an individual on the project. I own a 160-acre ranch a short distance from where we're talking right now. And the eastern portion of the ranch overlooks Cameron Valley, which is a very pristine, beautiful valley. And the vistas from my mountain top overlooking the valley are going to be disrupted by this — by these power lines.

I do a lot of walking and traveling around the property and into the valley itself, Cameron Valley. And it's well known that the Indian tribes have lived there for at least 10,000-plus years. It's common knowledge among the residents, the older residents that live in the area, that after storms when there's runoff and stuff they can go down and find Indian artifacts very easily. And a lot of the archeological sites haven't really been studied. So I want to make sure that you know about this particular situation.

Also, that's the eastern portion of my 160 acres, but when I look down south, I can see the existing power lines down there now. Now we have a new power line proposed for the area. And like the folks have already told about before me this evening, they've told you that the terrorists can hit two birds with one stone down there because the power line would be at a close distance.

And also the existing line has been closed down by fires at least 20 times in the last maybe 20 years. And so if you have a major fire, then both lines will go down.

I think most of the other things have been covered. I really appreciate being able to come before you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Shea.

STATEMENT OF MR. MC ALLISTER

MR. MC ALLISTER: Good evening. My name is Carl McAllister. I'm a Campo resident. I've been here for about four years. Grew up in Chula Vista in the shadow of a power plant. Wanted something different for my own kids. I'm a single-income, very busy father of three beautiful little ones. I dressed myself tonight, so I rarely have the convenience of worrying whether I match or not.

But what does worry me is the alma mater behind you possibly could read in the future: In a meadow near the mountains beneath the transmission lines stands our dear old alma mater, Mountain Empire High. And I don't want that for my kids. That's a possibility.

A real concern of mine — I'm a firefighter here in San Diego County and a fire marshal, and I'm also a member of the board of directors here in Campo for the volunteer fire department.

I spent nine days on the fire lines during the Harris Fire. And we do this job and we know what comes along with it, but what a shame to increase the number of occurrences that we need to come out and put our lives on the line.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. KING

MS. KING: Hello. Yes, I've lived in Pine Valley now four years. Prior to that I lived in San Diego and the surrounding area of the city for 28 years. And I am opposed to the Sunrise Powerlink. I don't suggest more SDG&E Powerlinks for anyone anywhere.

One of my questions is — was: Have any studies been done to document the adverse effects of these power lines?

And I think Lucille, one of my neighbors, did mention that there was one study about the fire effect, but what about other effects? You know, I went to college. I think a lot of the people who have spoken here tonight sound like they went to college. They sounded very educated, and there were a lot of them who did research. And so they really stand above me at this point. And I thank them for that. But, you know, what are the adverse effects?

We know about the fire effect, and we know about the water, but I think there might be more. And so we have this problem with fires in this area. We have an environment that is important to people, not just the way it looks and operates, but then we could really get into that one about the food chain and — but I won't right now. More to me is not always better. It often is not better.

Are my two minutes up? Somebody will have to tell me when. Okay.

But I just wanted to know whose idea. And do any of you live in this area that's being proposed, because that is a the number one question in my mind: Where do you live? Have you any right?

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Ms. King.

STATEMENT OF MR. MC KERNAN

MR. MC KERNAN: Hi. My name is Jeffrey McKernan. I'm a resident of Boulevard. I'm a member of the Boulevard Planning Group.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can't hear you.

MR. MC KERNAN: My name is Jeffrey McKernan. I live in Boulevard, and I'm a member of the Boulevard Planning Group.

And I just want to say that I oppose the Sunrise Powerlink in its entirety, and I support Option Number One or the No Action Option. I just don't think that this is needed, and we need to have smart energy. We need to do something that makes sense.

I also just learned that in December Sempra Energy filed an application for a presidential permit to run a transmission line across the U.S.-Mexico border to transmit power from a proposed wind farm and La Rumerosa and to come across at Jacumba.

I just think that they should be stopped. This is just — we just don't need this.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. FAULKNER

MR. FAULKNER: My name is Robie Faulkner, a resident of Alpine. I'm against the Powerlink and the Southern Route Option D and the Alpine and the Star Valley Road Option. I am a licensed professional engineer in the state of California. I've lived in Alpine for 20 years.

The EIR avoids considering the best route, directly from El Centro across the desert to the San Felipe substation. It mentioned that — Figure C9 shows the five routes proposed by SDG&E that would not impact East County. These routes supposedly impact the Navy bombing range. There's already a power line two miles east of the Navy bombing range now that you could double up on or run it a little bit to the west.

If they can't find a way to run the route, I'll help them do it. I'm volunteering my services.

Figure E-4 and -5 shows the Modified D Alternative Star Valley Option. This portion of the transmission line would be running north to the Alpine Boulevard and west in Alpine avoiding impacting — oh, excuse me. The Star Valley Option shows the power line now coming over the ridge on Star Valley Road and then going north to Alpine Boulevard underground. There's a — the east end of Star Valley is a pristine habitat for many animals, including pygmy deer. Red-tailed hawks and golden eagles nest in the cliffs to the south. This area would be destroyed by the new power line and substation. Running the power line north to Alpine Boulevard and then going down to Alpine would bypass this area and be favorable.

The power lines to be routed on the south side of the ridge so that the top of the power lines are below the ridge so that aircraft which come over the ridge at 50 foot and below altitudes two or three times a month in the fog and at night will not hit the power lines. There are two aircraft crash sites in the east end of Star Valley at this time.

We think from reviewing the EIR that someone in the PUC has a personal grudge against the residents of Star Valley. Maybe an ex-wife. The EIR expresses concern with a worker's health when spraying herbicide to control weeds. The EPA mentioned primary drinking water standards. This herbicide is cancer-causing contaminants. The spraying of herbicides around power lines may account for the high rate of cancer deaths in Star Valley because the residents are using well water. Who knows where the herbicides go as they leach into the ground.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Ask you to please wrap up at this point.

MR. FAULKNER: I think there's a tremendous fire danger, and we shouldn't be risking the lives of firefighters who are doubling up on the line that's duplicating the southern line's use.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Faulkner.

STATEMENT OF MR. PUSTINGER

MR. PUSTINGER: Good evening. Thank you for coming. My name is Larry Pustinger, and I live in Descanso, California. And I am very encouraged by your No Wires Option. I'm most interested in supporting that.

I'm opposed to all the others that involve transmission lines of any kind in any location. That's my first point.

Second point. Stirling Engine Company that's going to be a proposed producer of about 900 megawatts of solar power in Imperial Valley finally, a few months ago, made application for 7,000 acres of BLM lands to put their facilities on.

In part of their application process, they were required to specify how are you going to deliver this power somewhere. And they said they couldn't use the Sunrise Powerlink because it's not been approved. So it would be too much of a fishing expedition. So they said, we can put 300 megawatts through the existing Southwest Corridor. SDG&E affirmed in Stirling and joined in their application. They said, yes, we agree. They can put 300 megs.

And that, coincidentally, is what SDG&E has been asking for. They want to bring 300 megs to the Southwest — through Sunrise, be it the northern route or any of the other routes. And the other 500 megs that they want to build the transmission line for are undeclared officially. I don't know where those are going. Nobody seems to know. But the point is they can put 300 megs right now right through the Southwest.

Existing right-of-ways were created many, many years ago, before I landed on this planet, for wooden poles, for neighborhood distribution lines. Power was generated in San Diego and delivered out through the back country and delivered through the desert areas, many of which became part of the Cleveland National Forest over the years and Anza-Borrego State Desert. These were not areas that were ever intended for transmission lines.

The easements that were created then were akin to my neighbor's children selling Kool-Aid and cookies in the front yard and then selling their business 40 or 50 years later to an operator who wants to put in a 7/24 McDonald's operation in the front yard.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. SULLIVAN

MR. SULLIVAN: I'm Tim Sullivan from El Cajon. I'm opposed to the line in its entirety, but I want to speak about the Anza-Borrego site.

Anza-Borrego is a state park along with the Cleveland National Forest that came into existence through a lot of donated lands and the public basically giving land to the parks system so that the future generations can use the land uninhibited.

This recently happened. Recently, the Davey Ranch gave land to the Anza-Borrego State Park here on Mount Laguna. The Rutherford Ranch portion of that was donated in the Vulcan Mountain region. If I was to consider donating land or anything else to a state park that would — and then the park in the future would run power lines on or major disturbances, why would I trust the public, the state park and the Public Utilities Commission to allow that to be run through various lands? Why do it? I won't do it.

Secondly, if you decide to approve this project, please include in the operating permits a condition such as it says something to the effect for 50 years the operator will agree not to interject into Mexico or burn any fossil fuels on this link, because it is a green link.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Sullivan.

STATEMENT OF MS. WILSON

MS. WILSON: Hello. I'm Suzanne Wilson and I'm representing the Pacific Crest Trail Association.

The PCTA would like to state that while we're pleased to learn that the DEIR did not recommend this project as originally proposed as the best solution to suit the energy needs of the

growing population in the San Diego area, we are concerned with several of the alternatives that are proposed. For example, while we support the exploration of renewable energy through wind, wind farms also do have their own set of impacts.

In addition, Alternative D will drastically change the trail experience and impact the viewshed as hikers and equestrians leave the border, embark on their journey on the PCT, and prepare to enter into the Hauser Wilderness Area, which is the first designated wilderness on the PCT.

While it's been suggested that portions of the line during the Central Links will be buried underground where it originally caused detrimental impacts both to PCT and the Anza-Borrego State Park wilderness, we are concerned that maintenance and cooling structures will be necessary for general operation upkeep in addition to our concerns of construction impacts and the intrusive transfer towers involved.

PCTA would like to reiterate that we are the primary partner, working hand in hand with the federal government to protect, promote, and preserve this federally designated national scenic trail as an internationally significant resource, and for the benefit that all wild and scenic settings provide. Therefore, matters affecting the preservation and protection of this trail are also matters of the federal government and American people.

We strongly suggest that those evaluating this proposed project contact the U.S. Forest Service at the Region 5 level.

In conclusion, the impacts on both the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and designated wilderness within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park are not acceptable to the Pacific Crest Trail Association in its support of the community.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. TRAFECANTY

MR. TRAFECANTY: Hello. By the way, I hope you had a relaxing, enjoyable dinner tonight.

I'm Dennis Trafecanty from Santa Sable North County. I am totally opposed to the Sunrise Powerlink in its entirety. I'm in favor of the EIR/EIS in-basin preferred alternative number one with a small exception that I recommend to substitute the McCain Valley wind farm for micro wind turbines on industrial buildings.

I'm the cofounder of the Protect our Communities Fund. I'm down here to show my solidarity with my friends in the south county. I know several people in the audience behind me.

I don't know if you're aware of it, but the Pacific — I'm a member of the Pacific Crest Trail Association, and the PCT is about 200 yards that away. I've been by that trail from Lake Marina all the way up to the Lagunas probably a hundred times in my lifetime. I run up there all the time. I love this area. You're going to destroy the viewshed of the Pacific Trail Association. The PCT trail goes all the way up to Canada.

In San Diego, Mr. Egan from Stirling Solar said today that he can produce over 980 megawatts right away.

That's not true. I'm a finance person and I know the only way you can build something in mass production, you got to prove that you can mass produce it, and no one's going to give you money to produce it.

On reliability you heard — down in San Diego I heard a lot about reliability. Well, one terrorist, one terrorist can take out, like you heard, the Imperial Valley Substation, and that knocks down the Southwest Powerlink and this new proposed Powerlink.

Air quality, they're concerned about air quality in San Diego. What about Brawley and Westmoreland. Some of the worst health hazard there is in the country.

And then on greenhouse gasses, it's a negative with the Sunrise Powerlink because of the LNG plant.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. BOSLEY

MR. BOSLEY: Good evening. My name is Ken Bosley. I'm a wind energy consultant. I've been in the area for almost 30 years installing small backyard wind turbines in the '80s and '90s. I just want to bring up the reality that microturbines, wind turbines in industrial areas or suburban areas or on buildings do not work. There's no place in the world where they have particularly worked. The turbulence does not make them work because of obstructions. And to make wind turbines work they have to be in very, very windy areas. And typically people don't live in windy areas except — with the exception of people around here, some of these areas are windy especially to the east of here. But to the west, there are almost no windy areas where the population is that would support any kind of wind energy production of any significance.

I also am not a firm believer in solar photovoltaic as I don't think that there is much production capacity for PV cells in the world over the next decade or two that can even put a drop in the bucket. It's great because it's peak power, but there's not going to be that many of that available.

I'm not up on microturbines, but I heard they have reliability problems, but you still have to get the natural gas to the basin to the coast. So it's infrastructure to the bring in the natural gas in the first place. So you've got to do something on the coast. So I'll leave it up to everybody else on that.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. ELLIOTT

MR. ELLIOTT: My name is John Elliott, live in Descanso. I own some commercial property there known as did hes KAN sew Junction.

The discussion whether we should have in-town generation or create solar power out in the desert and transport it, I have no idea. I'm not that smart. But I do know this. I know that if transmission lines are to be built, the analysis that it's environmentally superior to bring it up Interstate 8, run it through these back mountain communities as a better way to go than to run it through the desert, that's nonsense. They only get three inches of rain down there. We get up to 40 inches here.

Also, one of the alternatives calls for running it out Boulder Creek Road. I mean, this is a beautiful area. It would be completely inappropriate to be running a power line through there.

I do have one request, though. That if the — I don't know what alternative — if the Interstate 8 Substation Alternative is chosen, that's going to go right very near my commercial property. Would you please place towers at 8332 and 8306 Highway 79 so it just kicks me out and I don't have to live with them.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. JORDAN

MR. JORDAN: Hello. My name is Carl Jordan. I live in Descanso.

My wife and I bought a place up there back in '99. We built it from the ground up. Our reason for this is because of our passion, which is raising horses. We've got a great view to the east of Guatay Mountain and Guatay Peak unobstructed all Cleveland National Forest. To support our passion, I drive 40 miles to Chula Vista to work everyday easily six, seven days a week. I park underneath a South Bay transmission line. The last thing I want to do is come home and sit on my front porch and see more transmission lines.

One of the alternative routes that takes us just south of Highway 8 coming from Pine Valley I believe it's Route D, brings it through the Garbani Ranch. They've all already had Highway 8 plow through their Ranch and Highway 79. It comes off down off their Ranch into Cleveland Forest, across Highway 79, it looks at Descanso Junction.

The Garbanis have acreage. They run cattle. It's a regular cattle ranch but most of it is chaparral. The actual grazing pasture is very limited. One of the substations are pointed out to be up in their upper pasture which would sufficiently impact their finances on grazing the amount of cattle they can.

I got a thought about what about Miramar. They have got thousands — open land there. The Sycamore Substation is mentioned in here. Why not build a solar field out there? Save a lot of miles of wires.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

While the next speakers are moving up, is there anybody else who's been listening tonight and decided they'd really like to join in the conversation? Anybody else would like to make a statement tonight? Okay.

STATEMENT OF MR. CUERO

MR. CUERO: Good evening. My name is H. Paul Cuero. I'm tribal chairman of the Campo Kumeyaay Nation. And I'm here to talk about the Sunrise Powerlink. Our tribe's against it.

You know, you heard a lot of good people speak today as for the reasons why we don't want this line to come through our area. But you, the CPUC have the authority to stop it now. You have that. You could do that. You can use the other route. I talked with SDG&E about them going through Borrego Desert. For us, when I sat down and talked to them, I had concerns because going through that area, there's a lot of our sites out there. But what they told me was that they were going to use the existing line and so they're not going to disrupt nothing.

So I urge that that route be taken, not through this southern part of the county in San Diego.

Like a lot of people spoke tonight and gave good reasons, like I said. And I — just like them, I oppose this and hope — and our tribe will be sending in additional comments. I did give a letter to the other lady.

That's just a few comments. We'll be sending more along with the Bureau of Indian affairs.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

One last chance anybody else in the room who'd like to have an opportunity to talk? All right.

STATEMENT OF MR. COLTRAIN

MR. COLTRAIN: I know I spoke before. You have an unrelated that no one's discussed. Once again, my name is Don Coltrain.

The thing that also bothers me is it's obvious that San Diego Gas & Electric is proposing obtaining more gas-fired generation from Mexico and selling it to the L.A. area, Edison and LADWP so forth. My problem is that they would like to have a transmission line of \$1.4 billion put into rate base where they're allowed a rate of return for a merchant line.

If they want to roll the dice on selling gas-fired generation to people other than us at average cost, then they should have to roll the dice on whether they can make the return on the line. It shouldn't be up to us ratepayers to guarantee their rate of return.

Thanks for letting me come back.

ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. Thank you very much.

There are a lot of people who have been in the room tonight who have certain kinds of technical expertise and a lot of people who have life expertise in terms of the values that are important to all of you in this community, and we very much appreciate your taking the time to educate us in both those directions. And we'll be continuing this process with two more sessions tomorrow, one in Borrego Springs and one in Ramona, there will be a session on Wednesday morning in Julian. And then we'll take this information back and prepare it for the second phase of the proceeding which will begin with hearings beginning of April, and the Final Environmental Impact Report is due out some time this summer.

So thank you very, very much for your time and attention.

This session is adjourned. Thank you.

(Whereupon, at the hour of 9:14 p.m., this matter having been continued to 1:00 p.m., February 26, 2008, at Borrego Springs, California, the Commission then adjourned.)