

**Lauren Coartney**

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**From:** derik martin <milpas@prodigy.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 03, 2011 3:59 PM  
**To:** ECOSUB  
**Cc:** catulewind@blm.gov  
**Subject:** Public Comment East County Substation/Tule Wind/Energia  
**Attachments:** Public Comment March 3.doc

Please see attached public comment and feel free to call me or e-mail me with any questions.

Thanks

Derik Martin

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## Comments For East County Substation/Tule Wind/Energia Sierra Juarez Gen Ti

I am a local homeowner who owns a home and 175 acres just North of one of the impacted areas where the Eco Sub Station will be. My Address is 1425 Carrizo Creek, Jacumba CA.

After review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) I see many errors and opinions that are not substantiated with facts. Every section I read has reports that are out dated and don't accurately reflect what exactly is present in this pristine backcountry that some of us call home. Rather than list specific sections that are misleading and frankly not true I will touch on a few key points that were erroneously reported.

The EIS states this area has a Moderate Value for Wildlife.

This is simply not the case, I have hundreds and hundreds of photos of Bobcats, Fox, Big Horns Sheep and protected birds all taken from around my home. This web site lists species in Jacumba that are unique and only found in this area in San Diego County and California. <http://www.sdnhm.org/research/birds/sdmamm.html>

Bighorn sheep have been observed closer than two miles to the impacted areas.

I have many photos that were taken at Boulder Park less than 1.5 miles from the impacted area. I have also attached a photo with much more than a "small group" of sheep.

California Fish and Game Biologist for this area has done extensive research in this area and believes as do many others that the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep use the mountains just South of the border as a corridor to the north. The "cumulative" affect of the Power lines, Sub Station and some 1200 wind machines will decimate these animals.

It appears as if the Bighorn sheep were studied for a total of less than 4 weeks in the EIS. Many conditions during the time of the study are not what normally occur such as drought, and seasonal movement. California DFG biologist Mr. Botta is a wealth of information on the sheep and other animals in the area yet he was never contacted for this study. All information was compiled by a few out of town people who were working for SDG&E and Sempra.

Water sources show now where they were not present during the EIS study because it was done during a drought!! Big Horn sheep are now reported across from Mountain Springs on the S. Side of the Freeway, which makes them have easy access through the

mountains into Mexico right above the impacted area. A BLM Biologist I spoke to as well as the local Border Patrol have reported this.

The EIS lists No Known Wildlife Corridors, which is a ridiculous statement. The area affected is very close to Borrego State Park and is known as a Corridor from there into Mexico. I have several spots where I see numerous tracks going through washes that go from Borrego, to BLM Land and then into Mexico. Private property was recently bought by the Nature Conservancy west of Jacumba for a bighorn sheep corridor. That property is now under construction for the Sunrise Powerlink.

The EIS mentions that no Bald Eagle nests are located within 10 miles of the impacted area, this simply isn't true, You have Table Mountain and the vast area around the Eastern Edge of Carrizo Gorge and Western McCain Valley, it would take many years of research to make such a statement, if there are no nests within 10 miles then why do I have Bald and Golden Eagles in my back yard near Table Mountain?

Since the recent construction of the Sunrise Power Line I have noticed an increase in wildlife North of the I-8 simply because these animals are being pushed into areas they weren't at before. This project will do the same, but because of the limited food the animals will not survive. You can't continue to take away habitat and expect the wildlife to survive. We have a very limited area in East San Diego County that remains open and hospitable to wildlife and your ruining one of those such areas. Now another 15,000 acres of wind turbines is planned at the base of our mountains in and around Ocotillo, in another major bighorn habitat and wildlife corridor.

The EIS mentions that because of the freeway and the developed checkpoints on I-8 & Hwy 80 makes the area Industrial and Utilitarian.

This is simply an opinion. I have attached a photo from the top of Table Mountain just North of the impacted area. Nothing in this photo is "Industrial & Utilitarian" Look for your self at the photo and it's real stretch to call one border fence and a temporary border patrol station in a vast open area and rural setting Industrial and Utilitarian. None of the Key Observation Points photos in the EIS were taken from these elevated locations that are similar to the view from my home and property.

The Border stations are Mobil and are not permanent. They are the only structures other than two houses in the area. There is no industry here.

I have attached a photo of what the pristine area looks like now and what the long range plan of SDG&E and Sempra which is to decimate the land with thousands of wind machines, 58 acres of sub stations/ transformers and 10 acres of tie in lines going into Mexico. With major expansions being built in for up to five 500kV lines! Where are these details and analysis on those expansion plans?  
This will change this rural setting to one of Industrial Blight.



This is the area the EIS calls “Industrial & utilitarian? The Structure in the distance (mid photo left side) is where my home is, an area that SDG&E wanted 60,000 dollars to run power to but now wants to take my front yard/ View and turn it into an industrial Armageddon.

What do I get in return for the destruction and devaluation of my home and property?

The link below is what Sempra wants the area to look like.

[http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/aspen/sunrise/rdeir/figs/fig\\_2-3-7b\\_kv84\\_table\\_mountain\\_simulation.pdf](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/aspen/sunrise/rdeir/figs/fig_2-3-7b_kv84_table_mountain_simulation.pdf)

The EIS lists traffic in the area as Average Annual Daily Traffic of 15,000 vehicles.

This is very misleading. The majority of the traffic in this section of the I-8 freeway is that of recreational vehicles on weekends and holidays. Some 250,000 people visit Glamis Dunes on Thanksgiving alone. The majority of those people use the I-8 freeway in this area to get to Glamis. If you discount this Holiday you end up with very little daily traffic. My home is located some 1,500 feet from I- 8 and the traffic on this highway comes to a complete stop after 10:00 pm on the weekdays.

The EIS Report is written in a fashion where it paints a photo of this area unlike what it actually is. They are misrepresenting the facts.

The EIS shows with its map that the impact area is located adjacent to a zone listed as being a Very High Hazard for Fires. This project in conjunction with the others has a cumulative affect on fires and simply makes no sense given the lack of resources in the area and Mexico. Fires and wild animals have no boundaries.

There is not a full time Fire Department within 40 miles of the impacted zone. When I pulled permits for my house I had to turn my plans into the closet fire district and it was located in Jamul, Ca some 55 miles away. CDF or Cal Fire stations/ personnel are seasonal and not full time occupied stations. All other stations are volunteer. Relying on the Campo Indians for major brush fires in the area is just not prudent or realistic.

The EIS also mentions water resources in the area. The information is based on Hydrology reports from 1980????????

Ground Water data is over 25 years old! Much has changed in this area since then, Bort Farms drawing down the water table, and a 10-year drought were not even considered but are a huge impact on the ground water in this area. My neighbors well just north of the impacted area is over 1,000 feet deep and he gets less than 5 gallons per minute. Well in Jacumba are drying up and the water table is dropping at alarming rates. Your use of 780,000 gallons from a "brackish" source could be just enough to cause the town and possibly the region to run dry of water.

SDG&E/Sempra is using this green push to increase its market share. There is no demand for green energy other than the unscientific political agendas of the CPUC and far distant legislators . Decimating land and killing wildlife is not green! The CPUC is pro SDG&E and Sempra because of it's off the field association with Sempra and the other power companies. Much of what is being done in the project is a result of major conflicts of interest. Nothing is being done for the consumer and rates have gone up 40% in the past 3 years.

In Summary this project is all wrong for this sensitive area. The EIS study is based On little fact and a lot of assumptions. Time spent in the field was limited and some of The data collected or reported is 20 years old, other data is simple not true or reported in A Way that is very misleading such as the fire data, traffic and the presence of wild life.

Please review attached photos; the PDF's couldn't be attached to this word document.

Thank You

Derik Martin