

Comment Set D0032  
Dyan Winship

Feb. 19, 2008

Concerning SUNRISE POWERLINK

Those in power at SDG&E are not thinking of the pristine environment found in the backcountry of San Diego. Can some common sense replace the greed that SDG&E is exhibiting?

D0032-1

I drive interstate 8, and see the SOLAR PANELS in Alpine. These solar panels create energy for their school there. Why not place SOLAR PANELS on school and government buildings throughout San Diego? It makes sense to CREATE SOLAR ENERGY instead of pollute the skies with huge power lines, which also create fire danger?

D0032-2

Please - use common sense! NO POWERLINES!!!

called "Sunrise Power Link!"

GO SOLAR!

Think of our future in S.D.  
Thank You, Dyan Winship  
1221 Canyon Dr. Julian

## Responses to Comment Set D0032

### Dyan Winship

- D0032-1      The commenter's opposition to the Proposed Project because it would impact the pristine environment in the backcountry of San Diego is acknowledged.
- D0032-2      The commenter's support for solar energy, such as the solar panels in Alpine, and opposition to large power lines are acknowledged. Both the New In-Area All-Source Generation Alternative and the New In-Area Renewable Generation Alternative include a solar PV component. Please see General Response GR-6 regarding an All-Solar Alternative. The commenter's concern regarding an increase in fire risk is acknowledged. Please see General Response GR-9 concerning fire issues.

Comment Set D0033  
Sally Snipes

FEB 2008

Concerning the SunRise PowerLink

San Diego Gas & Elec. are not thinking of any concerns of Fire dangers and environmental damage. GREED

drives all their manuvvers. The Liquid Nat. Gas power sources from Mexico ~~ARE~~ what they want to tap into.

A Solar plant in Imperial county is all on paper & has no proof in reality that they will build it NOR DO they have the tech. knowledge to do so. To condemn State PARK Prop. in ANZA Borrego is outrageous

Solar panels should be placed on every school, gov. building, parking structure, Hospital, Library etc. in S.D. County and S.D.G.E. should agree to buy this power. NO MORE POWER LINES ARE Needed

-Thank you  
Sally Snipes  
P.O. Box 775, Julian, CA, 92036

D0033-1

D0033-2

D0033-3

D0033-4

## Responses to Comment Set D0033

### Sally Snipes

- D0033-1      The commenter suggests that SDG&E does not consider the risk of fire and environmental damage. Please see General Response GR-9 concerning fire risk. The environmental impacts of the Proposed Project and alternatives are fully disclosed in the Draft EIR/EIS.
- D0033-2      The commenter suggests that the Sunrise Powerlink's purpose is to bring in LNG from Mexico. Please see General Response GR-7 concerning the Sunrise Powerlink Project connection to Mexican generation and Mexican LNG import.
- D0033-3      The commenter's concern with the status of solar plants in the Imperial Valley and with impacts of the Proposed Project to the ABDSP is acknowledged. Please see General Response GR-5 concerning the status of renewable generation in Imperial Valley. Stirling Energy Systems Solar Two LLC submitted an Application for Certification for the Stirling Energy Systems Solar Two project on June 30, 2008 that details the technology used in its project and the construction schedule. Lead agencies must accept and process an application that is considered to be adequate in all administrative ways, including technical feasibility. BLM has stated that it will require a bond from the Applicant so that restoration can be completed even if the company goes out of business, and so that the land can be restored at whatever time the project is complete.
- D0033-4      The commenter's support of solar PV use on schools, government buildings, parking structures, hospitals, libraries, and other structures is acknowledged. The commenter suggests SDG&E should support solar PV power and opposes constructing more transmission lines. Please note, both the New In-Area All-Source Generation Alternative and the New In-Area Renewable Generation Alternative include solar PV components. Please see GR-7. Please also see GR-6.

Comment Set D0034  
Dan Lawrence

**From:** Vwdan0806@aol.com  
**To:** sunrise@aspenerg.com  
**Sent:** Fri Feb 22 14:43  
**Subject:** Fwd: Comments on the EIR/EIS Proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project

I have reviewed the EIR/EIS for Sunrise Powerlink Project, and I have three major concerns that may not be covered by the document.

1. The EIR/EIS has extensive data on fires over the past 50 years. Using that data to see how specific routes would have faired over that same period of time. For example we know that "Southwest Powerlink" has been shut down over 20 times in the past few years, would the Modified Alternate D portion of the I-8 route have been shut down just as the "Southwest Powerlink." I am suggesting that it would. If one would go off air so would the other, in most cases. This poses a big reliability concerns for me, and many others. By putting two major feeders in close proximity to one another do we cause the total Powerlink network to be vulnerable to failure more often that it has to be. D0034-1
2. Any of the Southern Routes over taxes an already economically strapped area with a second link line. This looks like hindering the poor to benefit the wealthy. Socially it could appear this plan is a path of least resistance. Often times the under privileged do not have the means to fight large business. D0034-2
3. If, the worst case scenario happen, I would suggest that under-grounding the Powerlink is the best solution to minimize the impact on the surrounding population. I am also aware that this may be too costly, and other means may be necessary to make the over all project more acceptable to local inhabitants. Any time the line is near a populated area like the Buckman Springs, and Hyde Park Lane the "latticework" overhead structures should be scrapped and "single concrete poles" should be used instead. D0034-3

The above concerns along with the reasons that are personal, move me to support a combination of the "Non-wire renewable alt." and "Non-wires all source alt." D0034-4

Dan Lawrence  
P.O. Box 370  
Campo, CA 91906  
Home: (619)478-2327  
Cell: (619)972-3681

## Responses to Comment Set D0034 Dan Lawrence

- D0034-1      The commenter suggests historic fire data should be used to analyze whether the Sunrise alternative routes would be shut down in conjunction with the SWPL under different fire scenarios from the last 50 years. Please see General Response GR-9 concerning fire issues including fire modeling and analysis of simultaneous route outages and reliability. The commenter suggests the proximity of the existing SWPL and the Modified Route D Alternative would pose a reliability concern. Reliability of the southern route alternatives is also discussed in Section 4.8 of Appendix 1 (Alternatives Screening Report) in Volume 6 of the Draft EIR/EIS and in Attachment 1A of the Alternatives Screening Report: Effect of Wildfires on Transmission Line Reliability.
- D0034-2      The commenter suggests the southern routes tax already economically challenged areas to benefit wealthier areas. Section F in Volume 5 of the Draft EIR/EIS addresses environmental justice impacts. Environmental justice impacts would occur along the southern route in the La Posta Reservation region. While other Class I impacts could be mitigated to a less than significant level, Noise and Air Quality Class I impacts cannot be mitigated to a less than significant impact and therefore would result in a Class I environmental justice impact. It should be noted, however, that Class I environmental justice impacts also result along the Proposed Project route. Please refer to Response to Comment A0006-3 for a comparison regarding income between the northern and southern routes.
- D0034-3      The commenter's support for undergrounding the Proposed Project is acknowledged. The Interstate 8 Alternative includes undergrounding in specific areas. Please see the description of the Interstate 8 Alternative in Section E.1.1 in Volume 4 of the Draft EIR/EIS. Additionally, please see Section 4.9.26 of Appendix 1 (Alternatives Screening Report) in Volume 6 of the Draft EIR/EIS which discusses the reasons that an All Underground 230 kV or 500 kV Alternative was not carried forward for full analysis in the EIR/EIS.
- The commenter suggests that any time the transmission line is near populated areas such as Buckman Springs or Hyde Park Lane, that single concrete poles be used instead of lattice towers. Tower type is evaluated in the Visual Resources analysis (see Sections D.3 and E.1.3); tubular steel poles are considered as options to lattice towers. Few concrete towers have been constructed in California, but there are many in Europe and other parts of the U.S. Concrete towers were not specifically considered in the EIR/EIS, but they look very similar to tubular steel poles, which are also single pole towers.
- D0034-4      The commenter's support for the non-wires alternatives is acknowledged.

Comment Set D0035  
Barbara Parcels

From: 'Parcels, Barbara' <barbara.parcels@hp.com>  
To: "sunrise@aspeneg.com" <sunrise@aspeneg.com> ...  
Subject: Comment on the Draft EIR

Sent: Mon Feb 25 9:41  
Priority: Normal

Gentlepeople:

I believe that we can meet San Diego County's electricity needs without going for a "big construction" solution like the Powerlink. I certainly back a more renewable answer to the power supply issue... for example, a "100,000 solar roofs" initiative for SD county and then those people sell any extra juice back to the power company. It seems to me there's plenty of (distributed) generation capacity in the county, if we would only take advantage of it.

D0035-1

Thank you,

Barbara Parcels  
10448 Londonderry Ave  
San Diego, CA 92126  
(858) 655-6505

## Responses to Comment Set D0035

### Barbara Parcels

D0035-1        The commenter suggests San Diego's energy needs can be met without a large construction solution such as the Sunrise Powerlink. The commenter's support for a renewable answer such as the "100,000 solar roofs" initiative is acknowledged. The commenter's support for distributed generation capacity within the county is acknowledged. The decision on the project's merits will be forwarded to the decision-makers, who will consider all comments. No further response is required because the comment does not address significant environmental issues. Please see General Response GR-6 regarding an All-Solar Alternative. Section 4.10.4 in Appendix 1 (Alternatives Screening Report) in Volume 6 of the Draft EIR/EIS analyzes a Non-Renewable Distributed Generation Alternative and the New In-Area Renewable Generation Alternative (Section 4.10.1) encompasses renewable energy facilities that are distributed. The Non-Renewable Distributed Generation Alternative would involve deployment of DG in the form of many small projects at a pace more aggressive than what SDG&E anticipates. While feasible, the level of DG deployment under this alternative could not provide sufficient in-area generation alone to satisfy the reliability objective and was therefore eliminated from full analysis in the Draft EIR/EIS.

Comment Set D0036  
Mrs. Michal Hansen

P.O. Box 142  
Potrero, CA 91963  
February 22, 2008

CPUC/BLM  
% Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery St., Suite 935  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Sirs:

I am a retired teacher and property owner in Potrero, California. I AM OPPOSED TO THE SUNRISE POWERLINK IN EAST SAN DIEGO COUNTY! Your Modified Route D Alternative will negatively impact all our rural communities in East County - specifically my home in Potrero. As a taxpayer, I would be forced to pay for this! Your proposed 200 feet wide clearance under the proposed power lines is unacceptable! I've seen what your chemicals do under the regular power poles! The impact on our rural communities is too much!

There is no present need for Sunrise Powerlink in San Diego County. We already have 500kV Southwest Powerlink in our area and also the 50MW Kumeyaay Wind Facility.

Renewable energy should be generated at the POINT OF USE!

I say improve existing power plants in San Diego County and encourage (monetary incentives?) more solar and wind energy production!!!

I (and other Potrero residents I have talked with) do NOT want the unnecessary and expensive Sunrise Powerlink anywhere in San Diego County!

Thank you!

Sincerely,



Mrs. Michal Hansen

D0036-1

## Responses to Comment Set D0036

Mrs. Michal Hansen

D0036-1        The commenter's opposition to the Sunrise Powerlink Project anywhere within San Diego County and specific opposition to the Modified Route D Alternative because of the impacts it would cause rural communities in East County is acknowledged. The commenter's concern regarding chemicals used to clear the area underneath power poles is acknowledged. Section E.4.10.2 in Volume 4 of the Draft EIR/EIS in Impact P-6 addresses the use of herbicides to clear the area around transmission poles, and finds the impact to be adverse but less than significant. SDG&E and its contractors follow an Herbicide Application Protocol (SDG&E, 2006, Appendix A), which is summarized in Table D-10-8, to prevent environmental hazards and safety and health concerns. The vegetation removal program uses eight different herbicides to clear all vegetation to mineral soil within a 10-foot radius around poles and structures, and their known toxicity and persistence in soil are summarized in Table D.10-9 found in Section D.10 in Volume 3 of the Draft EIR/EIS.

The commenter suggests there is not any present need for the Proposed Project. Please see General Response GR-12 for a discussion of the purpose and need of the project. The commenter suggests renewable energy should be generated at the point of use. The commenter's support for improving the existing power plants in San Diego County and encouraging solar and wind energy production is acknowledged. Please see the New In-Area All-Source Alternative in Section E.5 in Volume 4 of the Draft EIR/EIS which includes new in-basin conventional and renewable generation.

Comment Set D0037  
Ruth D'Spain



*ruth D'Spain*  
P. O. Box 173  
Descanso, CA 91916  
619 445 1703

Billie C. Blanchard, CPUC  
Proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project  
c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery St. Suite 935  
San Francisco, CA 94104

February 22, 2008

Dear Billie Blanchard:  
RE: Proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project (PSPP)

Rather than attend a crowded gathering as is proposed on February 25, 2008,  
**I am sending you my comments directly for the record .**

**I am NOT in favor of any of the routes.**

As in the final say the SDG&E or those who are left with the final decision of this issue, can very easily change the routing maps at their whim. They have been changed very often up to now. I did attend the previous meeting held January 31, 2008 at the Mountain Empire School District. I appreciated your attendance and overall view of the PSPP and the information presented there.

I would like to go on record as a member of the Descanso community, a native born San Diegan, as a board member and secretary of the Descanso Planning Group, a board member of the Friends of the Descanso Library, a founding board member and secretary of the Cuyamaca Rancho Foundation, and as a San Diego County resident, I have a deep respect for our desert environment.  
**Therefore I request that this project be denied in its entirety.**

The latest (as of Jan.31, 2008) routing will be detrimental to the environment, the health and welfare of the residents along the route, the tourists who travel to our County for all it has to offer in the way of scenic delight.

**This sight will not be a delight, will cause further wildfires to be caused, and effect the health and welfare of those in its path.**

Thank you for reading and recording my comments.

*ruth D'Spain*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth D'Spain".

D0037-1

## Responses to Comment Set D0037

### Ruth D'Spain

D0037-1        The commenter's opposition to all proposed routes for the Proposed Project and respect for the desert environment is acknowledged.

The commenter suggests the routing of the Proposed Project will be detrimental to the environment, health and welfare of the residents along the route, and tourists who travel to the County and would cause visual impacts. The impacts to the environment are detail in the D Sections and E Sections of Volume 1-5 of the Draft EIR/EIS. The commenter suggests the risk of wildfires will increase with the Proposed Project. Please see General Response GR-9 concerning wildfire issues.

Comment Set D0038  
Thomas Walsh

**From: THOMAS WALSH**  
**To:**  
**Sent: Mon Mar 17 8:32**  
**Subject: Fwd: Power Link**

**Hello,**

**I am asking that you please take my input into consideration as you decide where to build the new Power Link.**

D0038-1

**Our preference is to complete the entire portion of the power link from the San Felipe Substation (SR78-0) to ER-2 underground.**

This would allow the property owners from the substation to the beginning of the State Park land to retain their property values, also permits for future and/or current residential dwellings, would not pose a health threat to humans living in close proximity, would not create a noise pollution, preserve the pristine views, natural beauty, and habitat for the wild life as well as the humans who own property from this portion (SR78-0 to ER-2).

Other public and private energy companies (i.e. gas lines, etc.) run there lines underground with little or no impact on the land.

Thank you for listening to our recommendation.

Tom Walsh

## Responses to Comment Set D0038

### Thomas Walsh

- D0038-1      The commenter's support to underground the power line from the San Felipe Substation (SR78-0) to ER-2 is acknowledged. Both the Partial Underground ABDSP SR78 to S2 Alternative and All Underground Option would underground the transmission line through this region. The Santa Ysabel All Underground Alternative would replace the Proposed Project from MP 100 to MP 109, including part of the route from the San Felipe Substation to ER-2. If the Santa Ysabel All Underground Alternative is determined to be infeasible, the Mesa Grande Alternative with the northern portion only of SDG&E Santa Ysabel Partial Underground Revision (near the Santa Ysabel Mission) and the remainder of the Santa Ysabel Partial Underground Alternative would be constructed to replace the Santa Ysabel All Underground Alternative (see discussion in Section 3.2.2 of the RDEIR/SDEIS). Also see Response to Comment E0004-42.

Comment Set D0039  
Roger W. Jerney



California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)  
and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)



## Comments on the EIR/EIS

Proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project

Your Name\*: ROGER W. JERNEY

Affiliation (if any):\* \_\_\_\_\_

Address:\* 1525 (T) STAR VALLEY ROAD

City, State, Zip Code:\* ALPINE CA 91901

Telephone Number:\* (619) 445-6375

Email:\* roger.w.jerney@usps.gov

Page 1 of 6

Thank you for the opportunity to make input to the draft EIR/EIS and draft land use plan amendment for the proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project (SRPL). My initial review of the EIR/EIS, attachments, and/or linked documents raises concerns including, but not limited to, the following:  
First, words to the effect SRPL includes one 500 kV and/or three 230 kV transmission lines appear in various descriptions within and/or outside the EIR/EIS, attachments, and linked documents. However, words also appear to the effect SRPL will or may enable import of 1,000 Mw of power to San Diego from distant locations. Basic electrical theory suggests

D0039-1

\*Please print. Your name, address, and comments become public information and may be released to interested parties if requested.

Please either deposit this sheet at the sign-in table before you leave today, or fold, stamp, and mail. Insert additional sheets if needed. Comments must be received by April 11, 2008. Comments may also be faxed to the project hotline at (866) 711-3106 or emailed to sunrise@aspenerg.com.

Comment Set D0039, cont.  
Roger W. Jerney



California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)  
and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
**Comments on the EIR/EIS**  
Proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project



Your Name\*: ROGER W. JERNEY  
Affiliation (if any):\* \_\_\_\_\_  
Address:\* 1525 (T) STAR VALLEY ROAD  
City, State, Zip Code:\* ALPINE CA 91901  
Telephone Number:\* (619) 445-6375  
Email:\* roger.w.jerney@usps.gov

Page 2 of 6

$P = I \times E$ ; that is, watts (P) equals amperes (I) multiplied by volts (E). Also, from other literature, we learn  $k = 1,000 = \text{kilo}$  and/or  $M = 1,000,000 = \text{mega}$ . Therefore, SRPL documentation suggests to the reader these transmission lines will or may enable import of 1,000,000,000 w (one billion watts) over one 500,000 v (five hundred thousand volt) line with 2000 A (two thousand amperes) of current. Further, the documentation appears to overlook power loss due to transmission distance. I request the State of California Public Utilities Commission, or San Diego Gas and Electric Company, or Sempra Energy,

D0039-1 cont.

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Comment Set D0039, cont.  
Roger W. Jerney



California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)  
and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)



**Comments on the EIR/EIS**  
**Proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project**

Your Name\*: ROGER W. JERNEY  
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or Aspen Environmental Group print unabbreviated numerical quantities, explanations of electrical terms, and any and all formulas expressing equivalencies and derivations in future drafts of the SRPK EIR/EIS to minimize misunderstanding and miscommunication. Please include unabbreviated values for volts, amperes, watts, resistance, and the power value required at point of generation to provide 1,000,000,000w (one billion watts) in San Diego over 150 miles distant. If I have overlooked such documentation presently in the draft EIR/EIS, attachments, and/or

D0039-1 cont.

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Comment Set D0039, cont.  
Roger W. Jerney



California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)  
and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)



**Comments on the EIR/EIS**  
**Proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project**

Your Name\*: ROGER W. JERNEY  
Affiliation (if any)\*: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address\*: 1535 (T) STAR VALLEY ROAD  
City, State, Zip Code\*: ALPINE CA 91901  
Telephone Number\*: (619) 445-6375  
Email\*: roger.w.jerney@usps.gov

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linked documents, please accept my apologies.

D0039-1 cont.

Or, documentation suggests power imported over SRPK may come from generation points outside of California and/or outside of the borders of the United States. Words suggesting locations such as Palo Verde power plant in Arizona and/or generation plants in Mexico appear in the documentation. However, this reader cannot determine if residents of either Arizona and/or Mexico have had the opportunity to make input regarding the impact to their respective environments resulting from providing

D0039-2

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Comment Set D0039, cont.  
Roger W. Jerney



California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)  
and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)



### Comments on the EIR/EIS

Proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project

Your Name\*: ROGER W. JERNEY  
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Address:\* 1525 (T) STAR VALLEY ROAD  
City, State, Zip Code:\* ALPINE CA 91901  
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electrical power to California. I request the state of California Public Utilities Commission, or San Diego Gas and Electric Company, or Sempra Energy, or Aspen Environmental Group include input from government and/or residents of Arizona and/or Mexico to the draft EIR/EIS due to project impact on their respective environments and to minimize misunderstanding and miscommunication between states, and/or countries, and/or residents. Please include plain language estimates of pollution resulting from power generation levels required at generation plants to provide

D0039-2 cont.

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Comment Set D0039, cont.  
Roger W. Jerney



California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)  
and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)



**Comments on the EIR/EIS**  
**Proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project**

Your Name\*: ROGER W. JERNEY  
Affiliation (if any):\* \_\_\_\_\_  
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1,000,000,000w (one billion watts) in San Diego many miles distant. If I have overlooked such documentation presently in the draft EIR/EIS, attachments, and/or linked documents, please accept my apologies. These inputs include about 450 (four hundred fifty) words. Thank you again for the opportunity to make input to the draft EIR/EIS and the draft land use plan amendment for the proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project.

D0039-2 cont.

*Roger W. Jerney* (original signature in blue ink)

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## Responses to Comment Set D0039

### Roger W. Jerney

D0039-1        The import capability of a transmission line is governed by the transmission system that surrounds the line as well as the capability of the line itself, and it is determined by assessing the ability of the surrounding system to support the line. Transmission line losses are taken into account in the economic evaluation of the Proposed Project and alternatives as part of the General Proceeding, and they typically amount to five to ten percent. The power carried by the 500 kV line depends on the losses or impedance of the line, and the import capability is also defined by the ability of the surrounding system to carry power during all conditions. It is not necessary to provide further information on losses or import capabilities for specific transmission lines because the import capability assigned to a line does not alter the physical characteristics or environmental impacts of the line. The commenter suggests that unabbreviated terminology for the numerical and electrical terms should be used to increase clarity. While the EIR/EIS preparers appreciate the concern that using abbreviations may cause, using unabbreviated terminology would increase an already lengthy document and would not be practical. A glossary can be found in Section K in Volume 5 of the Draft EIR/EIS.

The commenter is correct in noting that there would be energy lost over the course of the importation of energy. Transmission losses are generally between 5 and 20 percent.

D0039-2        The commenter's concern that much of the power transmitted by the Proposed Project would come from locations outside of California, specifically Arizona and Mexico, and that the residents of these locations should have the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Project is acknowledged. The 90-day comment period for the Sunrise Powerlink Project was open to any member of the public including residents of Arizona or Mexico. Information regarding the publication of the Draft EIR/EIS, the public workshops, and the Public Participation Hearings was printed in 11 regional newspapers in San Diego County and Imperial County, including two Spanish-language newspapers, as well as online in both English and Spanish. Newspapers such as the Imperial Valley Press feature local news from numerous communities of the Imperial Valley and the Mexicali, Baja California area, as well as San Diego County and portions of southwestern Arizona and as such have a wider readership. The availability of the Document was also published in English and in Spanish on the CPUC website. Efforts were made to reach both English- and Spanish-speaking audiences and a Spanish summary of the Proposed Project and Draft EIR/EIS Impact conclusions was provided on the CPUC website and was available at the Public Participation Workshops.

The commenter requests the Draft EIR/EIS include estimates of emission levels from power plants required to generate the energy that would be transported by the Proposed Project. Impact AQ-3 in Section D.11.13.2 in Volume 3 of the Draft EIR/EIS analyzes how power generated during transmission line operation would cause emissions from power plants and includes power plant operation scenarios both with and without Imperial Valley renewable generation. For the Proposed Project, this impact would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required. This is because putting the transmission line in service would deliver power more efficiently than the existing transmission grid. Impact AQ-4 in Section D.11.13.3 in Volume 3 of the Draft EIR/EIS analyzes how project activities would cause a net increase of greenhouse gas emissions and concludes that this

impact would be significant and unmitigable. This impact is primarily due to the greenhouse gases emitted during project construction.

Comment Set D0040  
Kathleen Beck, M.Ed.

**TESTIMONY on DRAFT EIR  
Sunrise Powerlink project proposal**

**February 5, 2008**

**As an Outdoor Education Specialist for 15 years I would like to comment on the project from several points: visual impacts, effect on bald eagles, effects on peninsular big horn sheep, and fire risks.**

D0040-1

**My job involves bringing children to nature and having them experience appreciation for nature through emersion in nature. The mission statement of Fox Outdoor School reads, "To teach children appreciation for nature". Fox Outdoor School is located along HWY 76, 4 miles from Lake Henshaw, where children come to live for 5 days.**

**As we travel on foot and by bus around the area of Lake Henshaw we encourage the children to develop a love of the natural communities of San Diego County. It would be difficult to inspire children if the area was bathed in transmission wires.**

**The Outdoor School has been in the area since the 1970's and serves many school districts in the County of San Diego.**

**There is a possible proposed line extending from the proposed substation site in the San Felipe area that would run along HWY 76 very close to our school. This link would run along the San Luis Rey River in an important riparian zone that runs from Lake Henshaw watershed area to the ocean in Oceanside. I do not understand how the Outdoor School could possibly function in such an entangled environment. Several of our school children's All Day Adventure spots are in the proposed areas of the transmission line route as well. Tamarisk Camp Ground and Mine Wash on HWY 78 are 2 areas that come to mind. These are prime teaching areas for the Outdoor School.**

**For the last 3 years we have had the pleasure of watching bald eagles come to roost in the same nest in the Lake Henshaw Valley. Not only are these magnificent creatures a wonderful event for the children to learn from, they are also a great experience for anyone who lives in San Diego County. They are something to be proud of. If these transmission lines go in there is the likelihood of electrocution due to the enormous wing span of the birds. Other large raptors could be affected as well.**

D0040-2

**The peninsular big horn sheep have been a staple of Outdoor School experience since I began working there 15 years ago. We bring the children to Palm Canyon for their All Day Adventure and they observe and marvel at the up close experience they have there with the sheep. The San Diego Zoo or Wild Animal Park might be the only other experience they have had with such animals-but these animals are not caged in any way. The population has just recently made a come back by doubling its numbers. Before that the population had sunk to just over 200. This proposal**

D0040-3

Comment Set D0040, cont.  
Kathleen Beck, M.Ed.

**comes along now that the creature is not as endangered. The bisecting of its territory could certainly endanger it once again. This is a bad lesson for us all. How are we as adults to teach conservation when the Sunrise Powerlink threatens the very species we have brought back from the brink of endangerment.**

D0040-3 cont.

**Finally, the fire risk and what this might mean to Outdoor School. At Outdoor School we teach about Cycles in nature; Cycles of water, soil and air. Recently we have been teaching the fire cycle. It goes something like this: As atmosphere and ocean currents change due to global warming, fierce winds begin to blow (the dread Santa Ana's here in San Diego County). The fierce winds create dry conditions which make fire a huge possibility. So many things can create the spark, the least of which is not overhead transmission lines as we have seen in the last fire season specifically. More fires create more CO2 in the atmosphere causing more global warming. We are in this cycle now. To produce more potential for line and tower to criss-cross this dangerous landscape is patently absurd. This is not the landscape for a transmission line project. We have seen pictures of these huge towers toppled. It can happen and is more likely to happen in future years as global warming continues. Global warming will continue as we have many years still to catch up on all the CO2 that exists in the atmosphere currently.**

D0040-4

**Please understand that these matters are obvious truths to the educated mind. Please continue to support a sane decision in helping to create an energy policy for San Diego AND save our beautiful backcountry for our future children as well.**

**Kathleen Beck, M.ed  
760-765-2548  
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*Kathleen Beck  
Feb. 25, 2008*

## Responses to Comment Set D0040

Kathleen Beck, M.Ed.

- D0040-1        The commenter concern regarding impacts of the Proposed Project on the setting and history of the Fox Outdoor School, and impacts to the mission of the school to teach an appreciation of nature is acknowledged.
- D0040-2        The commenter’s concern regarding impacts of the Proposed Project to the nesting habits of bald eagles near the Lake Henshaw Valley is acknowledged. Impact B-10 in Section D.2.14 in Volume 1 of the Draft EIR/EIS discusses the impact to birds from electrocution and explains why, with adherence to BIO-APM-21 which requires that structures be constructed to conform to “Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines” (Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., 1981), there would be no electrocution impacts to birds.
- D0040-3        The commenter’s suggests Peninsular bighorn sheep are an important experience for the outdoor school’s students and that this Proposed Project would endanger the species. Impact B-7B in Section B.2.11 in Volume 1 of the Draft EIR/EIS details the direct or indirect loss of Peninsular bighorn sheep and direct loss of habitat and considers this impact to be significant and unmitigable.
- D0040-4        The commenter’s description of the risk of fire in San Diego County and opposition to the Proposed Project are acknowledged. Please see General Response GR-9 concerning the risk of wildfires including the increase in fire due to drought conditions such as those which have characterized southern California over the last decade. While there is uncertainty as to the increase in drought conditions in the southwestern United States because of global warming, some models have predicted a more arid climate (Seager, 2007).<sup>1</sup> Regarding the potential for transmission towers to collapse, this risk exists but the occurrence is very rare. As stated in Section D.15 of Volume 3 of the Draft EIR/EIS standard engineering for a transmission tower is based on the estimated winds in the area, because wind loading creates the greatest stress on a transmission line. Appropriate design for the high winds in San Diego County have been incorporated, and the likelihood of tower collapse is considered to be very small.

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<sup>1</sup> Seager, et al. 2007. “Model Projections of an Imminent Transition to a More Arid Climate in Southwestern North America.” Accessed at: <http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/res/div/ocp/drought/science.shtml> in July 2008.

Comment Set D0041  
Robert Baran

Robert Baran  
1716 Kennington Road  
Leucadia, CA 92024  
[rbaran@ucsd.edu](mailto:rbaran@ucsd.edu)

2/25/2008

**Opposed to the construction of the Sunrise PowerLink.**

My wife and I have been camping in the Anza Borrego State Park for the last 15 years or so. In that time we have really come to appreciate its' unique beauty and tranquility.

I strongly feel that SDG&E's Sunrise PowerLink is in direct conflict with the **mission**, the **vision** and the **values** of the California State Park System. Their mission is *"To provide for the health, inspiration and the education of the people of California by helping to preserve the State's extraordinary biological diversity and protecting its' most valued natural and cultural resources....."* SDG&E's answer to this is construct 160 ft metal towers through Anza Borrego State Park under the pretext that we need reliable power and this is the only way to get it. Not true.

What this comes down to is an inconsistency in the values between the utility companies and the people of California. This massive project puts the needs of Sempra/SDG&E before anyone who values beautiful open spaces and vistas.

Southern California continues to have real growing pains and every time you turn around it seems there is a new condo complex going up somewhere. We really need places in California where we feel we can get away from the hustle and reconnect with nature.

In conclusion I would like to say I support the findings of the draft Environmental Impact Report and hope the members of the commission follow this recommendation.

Thank You,

Robert Baran

D0041-1

## Responses to Comment Set D0041 Robert Baran

D0041-1      The commenter's support for the mission, vision, and values of the California State Park System and opposition to construction of the Proposed Project through the ABDSP is acknowledged.

The commenter's views and concerns regarding the growth within San Diego County are acknowledged. Growth inducing effects of the Proposed Project were analyzed in Section F.2 of Volume 5 of the Draft EIR/EIS. Growth related to additional provision of power is analyzed in Section F.2.2 and the Proposed Project is not intended to supply power related to growth for any particular development, either directly or indirectly and would not result in direct growth-inducing impacts. However, the Proposed Project would facilitate growth indirectly by removing obstacles to population growth through the additional increased capacity of electric power that it would make available. The commenter's support for the findings and recommendations of the Draft EIR/EIS is acknowledged.

Comment Set D0042  
Daniel Beeman

#50

On behalf of Daniel Beeman  
(FreedomPlease.org) I would  
like to state his interest  
in alternative/green choices.  
There is also a concern with  
the route/path the project  
may take at the area between  
Julien and Ocotello Well, that  
he believes is a Indian Burial  
ground.

D0042-1

Comment Set D0042, cont.  
Daniel Beeman

Ramona 2/26/08 7pm Julian, CA 2/27/08 10:30am  
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dbeeman@sandiego.edu  
3897 Camino Aguilar, Ste D  
92111  
more about me!!  
geocities.com/daniel-beeman

If S.D.G. + E. cant maintain little power lines, as seen in recent fire, how can they maintain HUGE LINES to other countries and countries?!

Also my co-board members + I started the first Solar Street lights in San Diego (City) via the North Park Unproven Solar technologies! Lighting + Landscape Maintenance Dist. (MAD) elected reps

What is the price? Where in Draft EIR?

I'd like more study and more info. about historic Indian Village ruin and burial grounds (Route 5-2 and San Ysabel Reservation Region) disruption.

I would like more documentation of use, development and study info. of Stirling Solar Engines. We need facts and long time cost/ vs return with maintenance costs.

For a decade S.D.G + E charged an additional tax for undergrounding in San Diego, but never did it and the city Council never held them to the work they committed to.

the one time homeless can't pay

D0042-2

D0042-3

D0042-4

D0042-5

D0042-6

## Responses to Comment Set D0042

### Daniel Beeman

D0042-1 The commenter's support for alternative, green choices and concern that the route between Julian and Ocotillo Wells may pass through an Indian burial ground are acknowledged.

Cultural impacts to the Ocotillo Wells region are analyzed in Section D.7.10 in Volume 2 of the Draft EIR/EIS. Impact C-2 concerning adverse changes to sites known to contain human remains and Impact C-3 concerning adverse changes to unknown sites that contain buried Native American remains are both considered significant and unmitigable impacts.

D0042-2 The commenter's concern about fire risk is acknowledged. Please see General Response GR-9 concerning the risk of wildfires and transmission lines. Please note Mitigation Measure F-2a, Establish and maintain adequate line clearances, in the fire sections of the Draft EIR/EIS addresses maintenance of the transmission lines.

D0042-3 The commenter's description of solar power in the City of San Diego and concern regarding the cost of the Proposed Project are acknowledged. Please see General Response GR-12 regarding cost-benefit of the project.

D0042-4 Section D.7.4 of Volume 2 of the Draft EIR/EIS details the Cultural Setting for the Central Link of the Proposed Project including Native American use of the Area. Section D.7.11 of Volume 2 of the Draft EIR/EIS analyzes archaeological and cultural impacts within the Central Link of the Proposed Project. Section D.7.20 details the Cultural Setting and Impacts for any of the Alternatives that would be within the Central Link including those near the Santa Ysabel region. Appendix 9 in Volume 6 of the Draft EIR/EIS gives further detail about the cultural background, cultural resources and Native American consultation of the Proposed Project and Alternatives. Table Ap.9B-4 lists the cultural resources within the Central Link of the Proposed Project.

A Cultural Report has been prepared for the proposed route and alternatives evaluated in the EIR/EIS. Copies are available to qualified archaeologists upon request to the BLM Project Manager. Various Federal laws afford protection to human remains and cultural properties and preclude general public access and restrict the information to those with a "need to know" such as land owners, planners, environmental specialists, etc. Section 9 of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA), as amended [PL 96-95; 93 STAT 72; 16 USC 470AA-470MM] states that:

*(a) Information concerning the nature and location of any archaeological resource for which the excavation or removal requires a permit or other permission under this Act or under any other provision of Federal law may not be made available to the public under Subchapter II of Chapter 5 of Title 5 of the United States Code or under any other provision of law unless the Federal land manager concerned determines that such disclosure would:*

*(1) Further the purposes of this Act or the Act of June 27, 1960 [16 USC 469-469c], and*

*(2) Not create a risk of harm to such resources or to the site at which resources are located.*

BLM has initiated communication with Native American Groups and notified other groups regarding project impacts.

D0042-5 The Stirling Solar Energy Systems Project in Imperial County was analyzed as a connected action to the Proposed Project in each of the D Sections of the Draft EIR/EIS. Also, please see General Response GR-5 concerning the status of renewable power, including the Stirling project, in Imperial Valley. Cost of the Stirling Solar Engine plant is not known.

D0042-6 The commenter suggests that SDG&E charged the ratepayers an additional tax for undergrounding power lines in San Diego but did not fulfill this contract. This comment is acknowledged.