

Comment Set B0005 Anza-Borrego Foundation

STATEMENT BEFORE CPUC PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARING ON DRAFT EIR/EIS – BORREGO SPRINGS, February 26, 2008

Commissioner Grueneich/Your Honor,

I am Diana Lindsay, Vice-President of Environmental Affairs for the Anza-Borrego Foundation, representing almost 1,500 members who oppose the Sunrise Powerlink going through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP). We are a non-profit association established 40 years ago at the bequest of the California State Park and Recreation Commission. Our mission is to support the Park through land acquisitions, education, programs, and research projects.

B0005-1

- We commend the team that worked on the Draft EIR/EIS for recognizing impacts to ABDSP and other open spaces and recommending environmentally superior alternatives.
- We ask you to please respect the finding of the Draft EIR/EIS Report and support those alternatives that avoid state wilderness lands, loss of scenic view shed, and biologically and culturally sensitive sites within ABDSP. — See ATTACHMENTS
- We are also concerned about potential fire hazards that can cause irreparable damage to our park lands. We ask you not to select any proposal or alternative that increases fire threat to the backcountry and to our park lands.
- Our park is known for its pristine quality, which includes air quality. Do not support any proposal or alternative that will in any way increase pollution and lessen the quality of a park experience.

B0005-2

B0005-3

B0005-4

We ask you to respect the words of Frederick Law Olmsted who was the Director of the State Park Survey of 1928. He wrote this about Anza-Borrego Desert State Park:

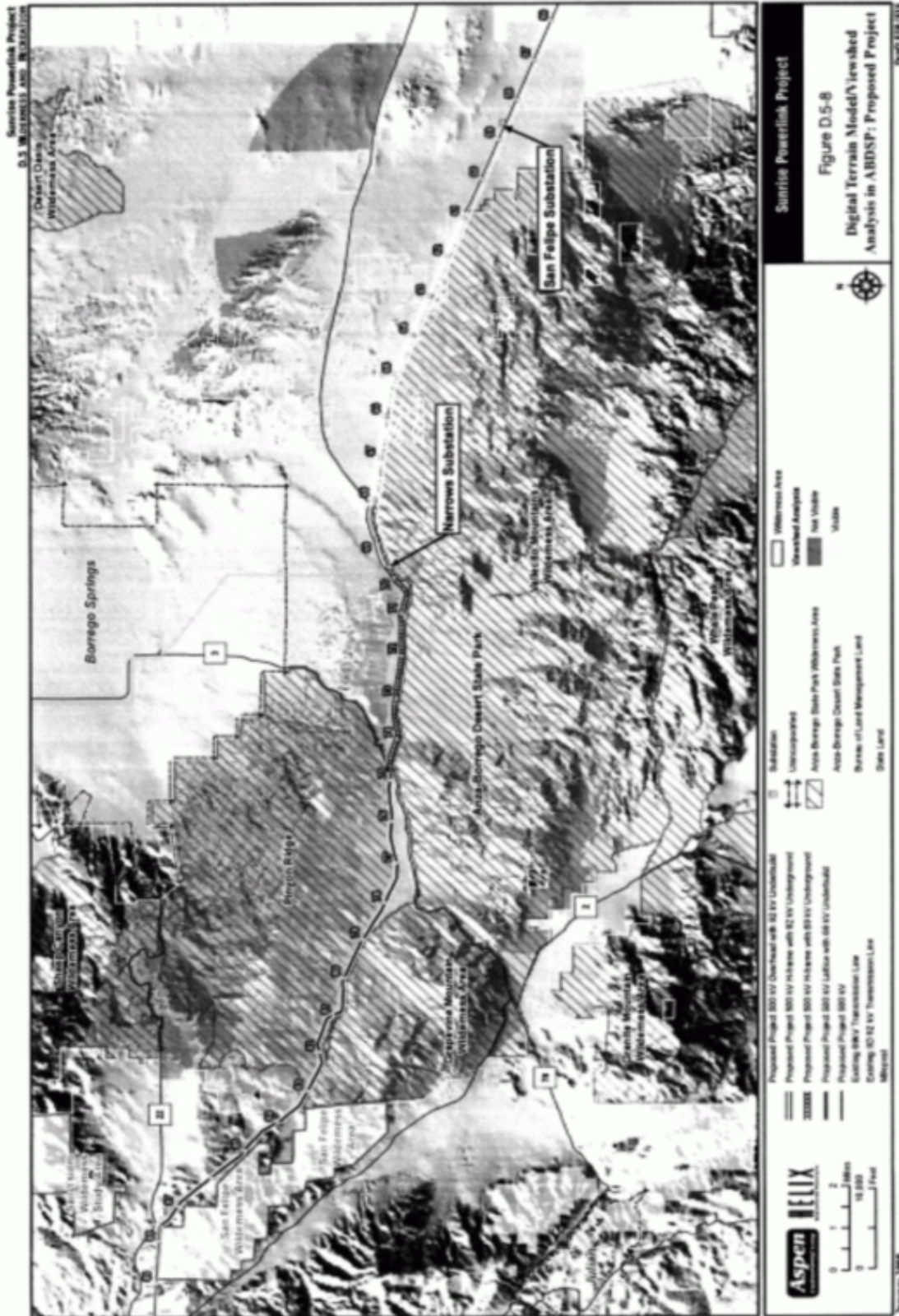
B0005-5

“Certain desert areas have a distinctive and subtle charm, in part dependent on spaciousness, solitude, and escape from the evidence of human control and manipulation of the earth, a charm of constantly growing value as the rest of the earth becomes more completely dominated by man’s activities....Nowhere else are casual thoughtless human changes in the landscape so irreparable, and nowhere else is it so important to control and completely protect wide areas.”

Let “Parks Be Forever” for future generations to enjoy, and do not destroy the integrity of this great Park.

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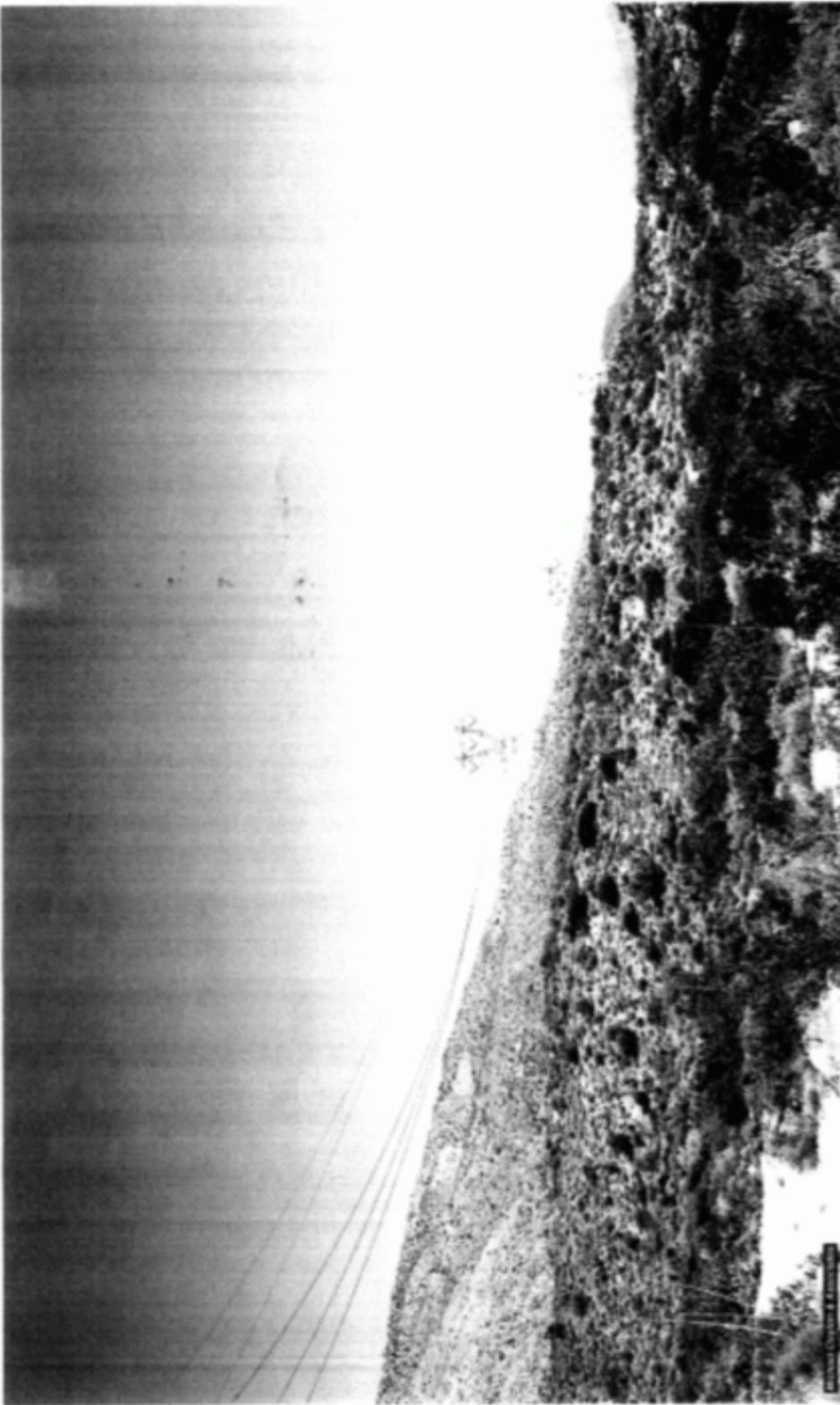
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B0005-6

Comment Set B0005, cont.
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3.3 Visual Resources
 Sunrise Powerlink Project



SUNRISE POWERLINK PROJECT
Visual Resources
Figure D.3-13B

Key Viewpoint 12
Proposed Project
Visual Simulation

A visual simulation of the Proposed Project from Key Viewpoint 12 on Grapevine Canyon Road. This view is to the east, toward proposed structures SP48 (pieces) through SP48. Views up or down the canyon would be relatively constrained by the narrowness of the canyon. The proposed structures would be very prominent and structurally complex with considerable industrial character. As shown in the simulation, the existing wood pole line would be relocated to an underbuild position on the new structures.

B0005-6 cont.

Comment Set B0005, cont.
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D-3 Visual Resources
 Service Production Project

SUNRISE POWERLINK PROJECT
 Visual Resources
 Figure D-3-11B

Key Viewpoint 10 Proposed Project Visual Simulation

A visual simulation of the Proposed Project from Key Viewpoint 10 in the Yagu-Yall Primitive Camping Area, just west of Yagu Pass Road (80). This view is to the south-southeast down the proposed route (closest tower is 8965). The proposed structures and conductors would be prominently visible to visitors in the camping area and recreationalists accessing Grapevine Canyon. Structure prominence would be accentuated where skylining occurs. As shown above, the existing transmission line would be relocated to an underbuilt position on the new structures.

B0005-6 cont.

Comment Set B0005, cont.
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0.3 Visual Resources
 Sunrise Powerlink Project

SUNRISE POWERLINK PROJECT
 Visual Resources
 Figure D.3-14B

Key Viewpoint 13 Proposed Project Visual Simulation

A visual simulation of the Proposed Project from Key Viewpoint 13 on Grapevine Canyon Road, just west of the State Park boundary. The view is to the east-southeast toward proposed structures SP22 (closest) through SP26. The Proposed Project would be prominently visible in the narrow canyon and would introduce considerable industrial character and structural complexity, which would contrast with the predominantly rural landscape. The structures and conductors would also cause substantial view blockage of the background canyon features.

B0005-6 cont.

Responses to Comment Set B0005 Anza-Borrego Foundation

- B0005-1 The commenter's opposition to the Sunrise Powerlink traversing the ABDSP is acknowledged.
- B0005-2 The commenter suggests alternatives should avoid loss of state wilderness lands, loss of scenic viewsheds, and impacts to biological and cultural resources in the ABDSP. Please see Section D.5.6 in Volume 2 of the Draft EIR/EIS for impacts to wilderness lands in the ABDSP, Section D.3.6 in Volume 2 of the Draft EIR/EIS for impacts to visual resources in the ABDSP, Section D.2 in Volume 1 of the Draft EIR/EIS for impacts to biological resources, and Section D.7.10 in Volume 2 of the Draft EIR/EIS for impacts to cultural resources in the ABDSP.
- B0005-3 Please see General Response GR-9 regarding fire risk and the comparison of alternatives.
- B0005-4 Air quality impacts in the ABDSP are discussed in Section D.11.6 in Volume 3 of the Draft EIR/EIS.
- B0005-5 The commenter requests that the integrity of the ABDSP be respected. This request is acknowledged.
- B0005-6 The attached Figures D.5-8, D.3-11B, D.3-13B, and D.3-14B are acknowledged.

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