

Comment Set H0016
Mary Aldern

From: mary aldern <hikermommal@yahoo.com>
To: sunrise@aspenerg.com
Sent: Sun Aug 24 22:10
Subject: Fwd: Comments on Recirculated DEIR 06-08-010

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like for you to consider that the need for transporting energy from large rural industrial solar or wind farms appears to be lessened by two recent discoveries, and even during the course of these proceedings, which subsequently may affect the need and cost efficiency of transporting energy by way of the proposed Sunrise Powerlink, from Stirling Solar Systems or from the internationally negotiated Power Plants near La Rumerosa, in Mexico, to urban centers such as San Diego or other locales in Southern California:

First, that an MIT professor recently discovered a way of storing intermittently generated alternative energy, such as solar or wind, through the elucidation of a new catalyst which employs common and inexpensive materials, which can be used with a fuel cell to later retrieve earlier generated power. This downplays the need to generate so much solar from prime solar fields which are so far away from the end-user; solar power can now be generated and stored throughout the day, even in sub-prime solar collection areas, for use throughout the night, at a much lower and much more competitive cost, and

Second, that the cost of materials are continuing to go down and the efficiency of designs of solar energy generators are going up, due in part to the parade of discoveries of lower-tech designs that are not necessarily silicon-based, and that can be applied to existing structures such that large and costly installations are no longer as necessary. Indeed, California-based "Thin film" technologies are leading the way in solar innovation for the rest of the world, and there soon may be no need for transmission lines such as the proposed Sunrise Powerlink, which promises to destroy California's own beautiful parklands and forests to bring power centers energy that may very well be easily produced on site, rather than on location.

In this fragile time of economic concern, now is no time to approve costly plans to upgrade transmission systems that have not been proven safe, useful or necessary.

Instead, let us examine the ways that energy is generated, transported, and subsidized, such that it better serves communities... and our physical and economic landscape.

In my opinion, in-basin generated solar energy is the most safe and secure in regard to the issues at hand, so, I recommend that the commission take a good long and hard look at this right now; with the rising costs of wildfire and energy prices, I hope that the commission will support the opinions of the many people of San Diego in considering this option not only viable, but highly logical.

I also hope that California can continue to lead the world in plans to reduce the affects of global warming, particularly because of our proximity to rising seas and desert temperatures. Necessary adaptation forces us, above other states, to consider the best options to the degradating ways that have led us to this critical crossroads.

Thank you very much for your time,
Sincerely,
Mary Aldern
San Diego Property Owner
2612 E. Plymouth Way
Fresno, CA 93720

H0016-1

Responses to Comment Set H0016 Mary Aldern

H0016-1 The commenter suggests that emerging technologies would allow onsite solar technologies to be viable energy generators thereby reducing the need to import power from far away industrial solar and wind farms. The commenter notes that an MIT professor has discovered a way of storing intermittently generated alternative energy. The commenter does not provide the name of the MIT professor; however, in July, 2008 Daniel Nocera published a breakthrough in storing solar energy. Nocera states that he will now focus on integrating this technology into intermittent renewable energy systems and gives an estimate of 10 years before the technology would be widely available.¹ As such, the technology is not currently available for consideration. The commenter also states that the cost of solar energy generators is decreasing and the efficiency increasing, making solar energy more viable. The viability of solar technology is acknowledged in the EIR/EIS. Solar energy is a component of the New In-Area All-Source Generation Alternative (Section E.6 of the Draft EIR/EIS) and the New In-Area Renewable Generation Alternative (Section E.5 of the Draft EIR/EIS) ranked as the top two environmentally superior alternatives. General Response GR-6 addresses an All-Solar Alternative. The commenter's support for in-basin solar generation as a means of reducing the cost of wildfire and energy prices is acknowledged. Please see General Response GR-12 regarding the need and cost of the Proposed Project.

¹ Earth2tech, 2008. MIT Researchers Deliver Solar Energy Storage Breakthrough. <http://earth2tech.com/2008/07/31/mit-solar-energy-storage-breakthrough/>. Accessed September, 2008.

Comment Set H0017
Jay W. Shrock

***Historic
La Posta Ranch
“A Working Antique Farm Museum”
3200 La Posta Road
Campo, CA 91606
(619) 301-2547 fax (619) 478-5030
Internet: <http://www.lapostaranch.com>***

August 22, 2008

To: Billie Blanchard, SPL Project Manager
Lynda Kastoll, Bureau of Land Management
California Public Utilities Commission

SUBJECT: Opposition to the SRPL and Sempra's 1250 MW Mexico Wind Projects

The following is my letter of opposition to the proposed Sempra/San Diego Gas & Electric (Sempra) Sunrise Power Link (SRPL) and Sempra's 1250 MW Mexico Wind projects. In 1997, I purchased the historic La Posta Ranch, established 1869. This ranch has a long history and is very important to me and the community. It is a landmark to the thousands of people traveling to and from the desert. They watch for the green valley and barns; it's the half way point. I have spent 11 years and over \$2 Million creating a facility pleasing to the local community as well as the hundreds of thousands of freeway travelers.

Summary

1. This is a Sempra project to promote Sempra goals of generating power in Mexico and is not a "hometown" San Diego Gas & Electric project as it is being portrayed.
2. Sempra is operating like T. Boone Pickens in his wind project where the overall idea of renewable energy is good, but the underlying methods are flawed. In this case, renewable energy is needed, but the Power Link transmission line is not.
3. There is only a marginal benefit (if any) to San Diego County residents.
4. The Power Link is being built to deliver electrical power from Sempra-owned Mexican power plants to Los Angeles. There is every indication that Sempra will build additional fossil fuel power plants in Mexico to provide electrical power to U.S. customers.
5. Renewable power sources can be built within San Diego County without the need for a transmission line, similar to the SCE solar energy projects in Los Angeles and Riverside counties. This is a better choice for San Diego.

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Jay W. Shrock

August 22, 2008

Opposition to the SRPL and Sempra's 1250 MW Mexico Wind Projects

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6. There are significant security problems with the proposed alternate routes. Terrorist damage to 500 KV transmission lines crossing the Hwy. 8 corridor would both interrupt the power and render Hwy. 8 unusable.
7. The sensitive wildlife corridor of La Posta Creek will be permanently affected over a length of approximately 9 miles by the use of the proposed alternate routes, BCD South Option.
8. Local property values will be adversely affected by multiple proposed routes.
9. Sempra is pitting communities against each other to accomplish their primary goals of getting their power to their new market in Los Angeles.

Detailed Discussion

1. Sempra Project to Promote Sempra Goals not Local San Diego Goals
 - a. Sempra Energy would like you to believe that the SRPL is a local San Diego effort generated by the "hometown" electric company, S.D.G.&E. In reality, the SRPL is one element in a Sempra plan to generate power in Mexico and distribute this power to Los Angeles.
 - b. Sempra has built power plants in Mexicali, Mexico, which are not subject to either California or United States regulations.
 - c. The Sempra-financed Mexicali power plants are right across the border from the beginning of the proposed SRPL.
 - d. Now Sempra wants to develop Mexican wind power for U.S. consumption. Why should the U.S. have to rely on renewal power generated in another country?
 - e. Sempra has also financed and constructed a LNG manufacturing facility near Ensenada with a natural gas pipeline from that plant to the power plants in Mexicali.
 - f. In a North County Times news article dated June 6, 2007, Mr. Simones, vice president of Sempra, stated that all of the power being generated by the Mexicali power plants has already been sold to Southern California Edison for distribution in the Los Angeles region.
 - g. The only way for Sempra to move power from Mexicali power plants to Los Angeles is using a distribution line that runs through San Diego county.
2. Sempra is Operating Like the T. Boone Pickens Wind Project
 - a. Recent advertisements have shown T. Boone Pickens saying that America will be helped by generating electrical power using wind energy. This is true.
 - b. Unfortunately, Mr. Pickens does not say that he really wants the distribution line rights of way so they can be used for his water distribution projects. However, if you ask anyone in Texas, they will tell you that the water project is Pickens' first priority.
 - c. In the same way, Sempra tells us that we need to use renewable energy, and that energy will need to be developed in the eastern desert areas and require an expensive transmission line. In other words, Sempra is using

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Jay W. Shrock

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Opposition to the SRPL and Sempra's 1250 MW Mexico Wind Projects
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- the "green" value of renewable energy to cloak their desire for a Mexico to Los Angeles transmission line.
- d. Most people do not realize that the San Diego rate payers will foot the bill for the transmission line in the same way as T. Boone Pickens wants to be provided with a corridor for his water distribution plan.
3. No Real Benefit to San Diego County Residents
 - a. There is no direct benefit to San Diego power customers because, by Sempra's own information, San Diego is not in need of the amount of power the SRPL is being planned to provide.
 - b. SDG&E has three new power plants in San Diego located in Miramar, Escondido, and soon to be completed in Otay Mesa.
 - c. Two of the power plants generate 550 megawatts or more each.
 - d. The SDG&E website states that with these power plants San Diego will only have a shortage of approximately 300 megawatts by 2010. This shortfall can easily be accommodated by the construction of one additional regional power plant.
 - c. As evidenced by SDG&E's own website, San Diego does not have the power shortage that would require construction of the SRPL.
 4. Delivering Non-Regulated Mexican Power to Los Angeles
 - a. As detailed in paragraph 1 above, conventional wisdom shows that the primary reason for the Sempra SRPL is to deliver nonregulated Mexican-generated electrical power to the Los Angeles market.
 - b. Sempra is a large company that does not currently have a sizable stake in providing power for the Los Angeles area. It is easy to see that Sempra can get into that market using its power plants and its LNG plant in Mexico only if there is a distribution line. That distribution line would be the SRPL.
 - c. The article in the North County Times dated June 6, 2007, states without reservation that the Sempra-financed Mexicali power plants have been pumping out power exclusively for the United States market and specifically all power has already been sold to the Los Angeles region.
 5. Renewable Power from Distributed Sources is Better for San Diego
 - a. It is a fact that, if power plants are distributed within a region, then there is only minimal or no requirement for high power distribution lines.
 - b. SDG&E has utilized this principle with the construction of regional power plants in Miramar, Escondido, and Otay Mesa.
 - c. In addition, San Diego has two existing power plants that are easily capable of being upgraded and utilized for local power. These are the South Bay power plant and the Encina power plant near Carlsbad.
 - d. These power plants distributed throughout San Diego county can be further enhanced through the use of distributed renewable energy generation such as solar and wind power.
 - e. This type of program is already being utilized by Southern California Edison where they are installing hundreds of megawatts of solar panels on

Comment Set H0017, cont.
Jay W. Shrock

August 22, 2008

Opposition to the SRPL and Sempra's 1250 MW Mexico Wind Projects

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- existing buildings within the area that needs the power. This is a much better short- and long-term solution to providing regional renewable energy while not requiring old technology, expensive transmission lines.
- f. There are other distributed sources that could be investigated including trash-to-energy and sea-motion power generation.

6. Significant Security Problems Exist with Proposed San Diego Alternates
- a. Sempra has recommended several SRPL installation alternatives running through eastern San Diego county.
 - b. San Diego is unique in that it is a major port of entry plus a major military hub. Therefore, San Diego could be a prime target for terror operations.
 - c. San Diego also only has one major east-west transportation corridor, which is Hwy. 8.
 - d. The SRPL alternates cross Hwy. 8 as many as five times in eastern San Diego county.
 - e. If a terror activity, or a natural disaster, caused the power link to collapse across the freeway, both power distribution and the use of the only east-west transportation corridor would be destroyed.
 - f. Additionally, due to the close proximity of a major highway, a terrorist could quickly access the towers from the freeway and easily compromise one or more electrical distribution towers, unnoticed, which in turn would destroy the only east-west transportation corridor.
 - g. In particular, a Hwy. 8 crossing is being planned for the La Posta area. Due to the uneven terrain, this power line will be particularly low over the highway area. The power link could be easily compromised by launching a grounded cable over these lines, causing a line collapse and the interruption of traffic on both the Hwy. 8 freeway and the Old Hwy. 80 alternative.
7. Sensitive Lands will be Permanently Affected
- a. Power Link distribution will affect sensitive lands in all parts of San Diego county.
 - b. In particular, the recently changed path which includes the BCD South Option will adversely affect the La Posta Creek wildlife corridor for approximately 9 miles beginning well below Hwy. 8 and continuing all the way to Thing Valley in the Laguna mountains.
 - c. Each of the property owners in this portion of the La Posta Creek wildlife corridor has taken great pains to ensure the open access to this wildlife corridor since the La Posta Creek bridge provides one of the very few passages under Hwy. 8 for migratory animals.
 - d. In our example, we and our neighbors have labored for over ten years to restore sensitive wetlands and a major animal migratory path.
 - e. Over these past ten years, we have been able to restore wetlands, encourage natural growth, which has in turn brought back deer, raccoons, possums and many species of birds including golden eagles.

Comment Set H0017, cont.
Jay W. Shrock

August 22, 2008

Opposition to the SRPL and Sempra's 1250 MW Mexico Wind Projects

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- f. Several pathways of the proposed east county alternates will directly affect this area and reverse all of the positive activities that the neighborhood has taken so many years to develop.
- 8. Local Property Values Adversely Affected
 - a. Sempra has proposed many power link alternatives throughout San Diego county.
 - b. Once a power link alternative is proposed, we have observed that the related property values have been immediately reduced.
 - c. In our specific example, we have appraisals and market information that show our lands have been adversely affected just by the information published by Sempra.
 - d. It is a reality that these properties will be held hostage and unable to be sold or transferred while Sempra continues to evaluate this large number of proposed alternatives.
- 9. Sempra is Pitting San Diego Communities Against Each Other
 - a. Reading through the SRPL project information and viewing the huge number of alternates that have been proposed by Sempra energy it is apparent that Sempra is trying to pit one community against another over the location of the SRPL.
 - b. Sempra has made no secret of the fact that they prefer the northern route and have concocted a noxious southern alternative so that the northern route will look more attractive. When you look at the northern route on the map, it is simple and straightforward. Compared to this route, the southern route looks like a snake that has been wound through the community in a very convoluted way, adversely affecting many property owners and a large amount of sensitive lands.
 - c. What other reason could there be when you also see that the southwest power link was installed in a simple straightforward manner along the Mexican border.
 - d. We can see no other reason for the large number of alternatives that touch so many areas of eastern San Diego county.

We hope you will seriously consider the points raised in this document because the construction of a major transmission line will affect both current residents and all future residents of eastern San Diego county.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay W. Shrock DVM

Cell: 619-301-2547 (leave a message)

Comment Set H0017, cont.
Jay W. Shrock

***Historic
La Posta Ranch
"A Working Antique Farm Museum"
3200 La Posta Road
Campo, CA 91606
(619) 301-2547 fax (619) 478-5030
Internet: <http://www.lapostaranch.com>***

August 23, 2008

To: Billie Blanchard, SPL Project Manager
Lynda Kastoll, Bureau of Land Management
California Public Utilities Commission

In 1997, I purchased the historic La Posta Ranch, established 1869. I had looked at this ranch since 1975, every time I passed it either east-bound or west-bound on Interstate 8. I felt it was the prettiest little valley visible from any interstate in the county. I have found since I moved here that virtually everyone traveling the interstate shares my opinion of this valley. It is a landmark to the thousands of people traveling to and from the desert to play. They watch for the green valley and barns; it's the half way point.

I have spent 11 years and over \$2 Million developing a business and scene pleasing to the local community as well as the hundreds of thousands of freeway travelers. Now we will get to watch you rape it.

I am sure my attorneys will do a much more eloquent job of presenting my side when we negotiate compensation for crossing my property. This whole process would be much simpler and cost us all less money if you would cross my property 400 feet to the West.

Sincerely,

Jay W. Shrock DVM

Cell: 619-301-2547 (leave a message)

H0017-1 cont.

Responses to Comment Set H0017

Jay W. Shrock

H0017-1 See Responses to Comment Set G0004.

The commenter's concern regarding visual impacts to his property is acknowledged. Visual impacts from the BCD South Option are addressed in Section E.2.3.3 in Volume 4 of the Draft EIR/EIS and in Section 3.3.2.3 of the RDEIR/SDEIS. Note, the BCD South Option has been revised and moved slightly west to avoid a Riparian Conservation Area within the commenter's property. Please also note that the EIR/EIS analyzed a "New In-Area All-Source Generation Alternative" and a "New In-Area Renewable Generation Alternative" in Sections E.5 and E.6 of the Draft EIR/EIS.

Comment Set H0018
Judith M. Withers

From: Judith <paqwith@att.net>
To: <sunrise@aspenerg.com>
Sent: Sun Aug 24 13:23
Subject: Fwd: Sunrise Powerlink and La Rumarosa Wind project

CPUC/BLM
C/O Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear CPUC:

While I have taken every opportunity to inform myself regarding this project, I have spoken publicly at the public participation meetings, have also written the Commission many times during the process, I will be brief in summation at this conclusion and last opportunity of input.

After all is said and done it is my belief that the way we solve our energy needs must change. We must think SMALL not big. Energy production should be produced closest to the point of most need. I call this "Point of Use Renewable Energy". Long transmission lines with the inherent line losses, increased fire danger, encroachment of dwindling habitats, erosion, imminent domain to citizens, unhealthy exposure to EMF's imposed upon humans, are truly technology of the past.

While it is obvious that the Corporate structure is fighting to continue this same model, a newer contemporary model is available. Instead of big wind and solar and natural gas projects far from the point of need, we have Rooftop wind and solar with much available space where transmission is already in place. With this model, each city creates its own energy independence. Costs will be lower overall, and destruction at a minimum. The San Diego 2020 smart energy plan is a good example of why the NO WIRE alternative is really the only sane conclusion to our future energy needs.

It is time to push the Energy suppliers into this new model so that we can finally move into the future and for once do things the right way instead of the way of the most profits for private corporations with the ratepayer footing the bill.

I support the No Project alternative, and specifically rooftop wind and solar on existing business and on residential homes and on new construction that should be mandatory. This will push the utilities to pursue the installation and maintenance of these new technologies on existing structures with transmission already in place, while persevering what precious little Parks, Wilderness and scenic open spaces left outside of cities like San Diego.

Sincerely,

Judith M. Withers
27150 San Felipe Road
Warner Springs, CA. 92086
7607822747

H0018-1

Responses to Comment Set H0018

Judith M. Withers

H0018-1 The commenter suggests energy generation should occur close to the source of need and be decentralized. The New In-Area All-Source Generation Alternative (Section E.6 in Volume 5 of the Draft EIR/EIS) and the New In-Area Renewable Generation Alternative (Section E.5 in Volume 6 of the Draft EIR/EIS) include decentralized sources of energy generation within San Diego County. Please see General Response GR-6 regarding the San Diego Smart Energy 2020 plan. The commenter's support for the No Project Alternative and for mandated rooftop solar and wind projects is acknowledged.

Comment Set H0019
Dennis & Connie Berglund

Dennis & Connie Berglund
Sandy Creek Ranch
33408 Sandy Creek Lane
P.O. Box 776, Pine Valley, CA 91962
(619) 478-2600 fax (619) 478-2555
Internet: <http://www.sandycreekranch.com>

August 22, 2008

To: Billie Blanchard, SPL Project Manager
Lynda Kastoll, Bureau of Land Management
California Public Utilities Commission

SUBJECT: Opposition to the SRPL and Sempra's 1250 MW Mexico Wind Projects

We have prepared this letter of opposition to the proposed Sempra/San Diego Gas & Electric (Sempra) Sunrise Power Link (SRPL) and Sempra's 1250 MW Mexico Wind projects for the following reasons:

Summary

1. This is a Sempra project to promote Sempra goals of generating power in Mexico and is not a "hometown" San Diego Gas & Electric project as it is being portrayed.
2. Sempra is operating like T. Boone Pickens in his wind project where the overall idea of renewable energy is good, but the underlying methods are flawed. In this case, renewable energy is needed, but the Power Link transmission line is not.
3. There is only a marginal benefit (if any) to San Diego County residents.
4. The Power Link is being built to deliver electrical power from Sempra-owned Mexican power plants to Los Angeles. There is every indication that Sempra will build additional fossil fuel power plants in Mexico to provide electrical power to U.S. customers.
5. Renewable power sources can be built within San Diego County without the need for a transmission line, similar to the SCE solar energy projects in Los Angeles and Riverside counties. This is a better choice for San Diego.
6. There are significant security problems with the proposed alternate routes. Terrorist damage to 500 KV transmission lines crossing the Hwy. 8 corridor would both interrupt the power and render Hwy. 8 unusable.
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Comment Set H0019, cont.
Dennis & Connie Berglund

August 22, 2008
Opposition to the SRPL and Sempra's 1250 MW Mexico Wind Projects
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Detailed Discussion

H0019-1 cont.

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Opposition to the SRPL and Sempra's 1250 MW Mexico Wind Projects
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Dennis & Connie Berglund

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Opposition to the SRPL and Sempra's 1250 MW Mexico Wind Projects
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9. Sempra is Pitting San Diego Communities Against Each Other
 - a. Reading through the SRPL project information and viewing the huge number of alternates that have been proposed by Sempra energy it is apparent that Sempra is trying to pit one community against another over the location of the SRPL.
 - b. Sempra has made no secret of the fact that they prefer the northern route and have concocted a noxious southern alternative so that the northern route will look more attractive. When you look at the northern route on the map, it is simple and straightforward. Compared to this route, the southern route looks like a snake that has been wound through the community in a very convoluted way, adversely affecting many property owners and a large amount of sensitive lands.
 - c. What other reason could there be when you also see that the southwest power link was installed in a simple straightforward manner along the Mexican border.
 - d. We can see no other reason for the large number of alternatives that touch so many areas of eastern San Diego county.

We hope you will seriously consider the points raised in this document because the construction of a major transmission line will affect both current residents and all future residents of eastern San Diego county.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis H. Berglund

Connie Berglund

Responses to Comment Set H0019
Dennis & Connie Berglund

H0019-1 See Responses to Comment Set G0004.