

Cynthia M. Buxton  
541 Spruce St.  
Imperial Beach, Ca. 91932  
(619) 934-0323  
(619) 823-3620  
[Iokuok2@hotmail.com](mailto:Iokuok2@hotmail.com)  
June 14, 2007

Dear CPUC, BLM, Billie Blanchard, and Lynda Kastoll:

These are my responses to the latest round of option D options. Going underground through Alpine might be the first acceptable idea I've heard, although I don't believe that any option other than the no wires is a good idea. One of these goes through land that was purchased by Save our Forests, -- to do just that. I doubt a power line was what they had in mind.

The environmental impacts with this route are still severe as is the fire threat.

Your claim that this route is both on an easement and qualifies at "the interstate route" is blatantly false and totally misleading the public. You are the state supported entity of public trust for watch dogging these issues and this is a mis-conception that must be corrected and made clear. SDG&E may be in the business to market and sell a product but you are funded by our state tax dollars to protect the integrity and truth of the public interface with our utility companies. It is absolutely essential that the whole truth of the route be made clear to the public. Otherwise you are allowing the utility to veil their true course of action, a procedure more common to "the art of war" than to the cooperative processes directed to the public good. If not than we can only begin to question the non-bias of this committee against potential conflicts of interest.

Last spring you sent out a response to the comments from February. In that document their was no specific mention of the route changes in Cedar Gorge, nevertheless the maps that were sent with this clearly showed the route for option-D- option above interstate 8 now going west of the 69 kv current line by quite a bit and then running the full length of Sunshine Mountain and then crossing the gorge and going over the top of the San Diego River Park preserve, over the brink of Mildred Falls, and across the San Diego River Gorge, and the Devils Jump-off, waterfall. Why have you not made specific mention of these changes nor made is clear that the public can comment on them? With this latest request for comments you had the perfect opportunity to include these changes too, but you did not make that clear. Surely you don't want to propose a route across some of the most pristine untouched, remarkable public land in our county if not Southern California and not allow comments? Most of this route, for over 12 miles is within the proposed California Wild Heritage Act's wilderness proposal for The Eagle Peak Wilderness, a current bill before congress and has the signatures of support from thousands of local citizens. That alone should warrant pubic review. The San Diego River Park alone has a

mailing list of 85,000! Over 3,000 a year venture into the area of Cedar Creek Falls alone. Hundreds more come to this area during hunting season. You have gone to all of this trouble for all of the other areas for the public to make comments and it would seem you are trying to slide this around public awareness. I find it absolutely unacceptable that this was never mentioned and never pointed out to the public for comment at all. It has been flown “under the radar” in hopes no one will notice. I was hoping this was just a misprint on a map but a quick phone call to the San Diego River Park Foundation and Jim Conrad, the adjacent local land owner and long time spokesman for the National Wildlife Federation, assured me that the surveyors had sent notice to enter these properties. Then we find out from the newspaper that a post mark isn’t acceptable from the Forest Service comments. I don’t see how 24 hours from the agency that manages this area and most likely to have the most data on it could change the science that should be behind this decision, but it speaks volumes for the politics. The public should not have to pay thousands in state money for two federal agencies to conduct a turf war at our expense.

. The community participated in 5 years of comments and open houses with the Forest Service in planning the 15 year plan. Sweeping it away as though it doesn’t matter is completely out of bounds. Ignoring the Forest Service as the agency in this area and playing politics with our public land is arrogant and illegal. I don’t see how you can make changes like these and not include them for public comment.

The San Diego River Park Foundation alone has been working for 10 years on their preserve with a mailing list of no less than 85,000 people. You want to destroy the efforts of a huge community of private citizens, local dignitaries such as Joan Embry, and most of the support of most of the local politicians for this project to wipe it out with a power line. The fact that you would even consider bulldozing through the top of Mildred Falls, one of the most accessible waterfall views, even for elderly and handicapped, to one of the highest and most spectacular waterfalls in the county and then try to sneak it past public inspection is unthinkable. Are we to maintain professional composure when it is apparent that you are lying and stealing from the public? If there was ever a doubt that the designers of this project were the least bit sincere about this need for this project this last assault has pretty well validated our worst suspicions about the integrity of its designers. Surely with the latest mailing you had a great opportunity to bring it up. But no. This is just flat out dishonest as it gets. You are stealing from the public and it is very very clear that is the motive. If you were sincere you would have made this disclosure clear.

This assault hardly is over with the River Park Preserve. The preserve is there because it is an adjacent private inholding next to the Forest. This area is part of the proposed Eagle Peak Wilderness. The top of Sunshine mountain is currently backcountry UNROADED and certainly not on an easement. If you were to put the 150 foot wide tower through there the erosion and runoff alone would be tragic. Last year a local tried to clean out a small pond on North Peak and we could see the damage from the muddy runoff for six miles. This is not the natural runoff from periodic fire ash but thick goofy air trapping life sucking mud and clay from digging with large equipment. How much more it would

be for 4 miles of ridge straddle Cedar Gorge and Kelly Creek. It would damage 4 miles of both Cedar Creek, one of the most gorgeous and most pristine and unspoiled streams in Southern California and Kelly Creek on the west side which again runs into Cedar Creek. You couldn't do worse if you tried. You are paralleling it for four miles twice this way. This is also along the route of the proposed Sea to Sea Trans County trail. It has been the multi-agency and private effort for several years from several cities, the county, the state, and the fed including BOTH the Forest Service and the BLM. In the entire California Wild Heritage Bill for San Diego County probably the most critical and most disservice is the Wild and Scenic River status for Cedar Creek. There is no place around that compared with the pristine and raw beauty of this gorge. The only way to see it is to be down in it. Gently. I was there in April not long after this route appeared on a map. The gorge is so pristine that I could tell when we picked up the trail of another human about a half mile upstream from Cedar Creek Road. They were stomping down plants and breaking branches right and left with little respect for the perfect environment they were in. Fortunately the going gets rough and the foot steps stopped. Hmmm just about where the proposed line might cross. A coincidence? This isn't just a park. Obviously you are not realizing just exactly what this is. Going upstream in Cedar Gorge is about as close as you are going to find to an area where Humans have rarely EVER gone. For all of the arch sites around the perimeter, not even Native Americans spent extended time there. An opportunity like this is rare, and even rarer appreciated. I've traveled to the Sierras and the Appalachians and hiked for ten miles to find places as unspoiled as this little slice of heaven left in San Diego's back yard. This gorge disservice to keep its integrity. I hate to be the one to point this out but this is only 5 thousand acres. The desert is half a million. Any cut into this is an unacceptable percentage. There is no such thing as a compromise in this tiny little fragment of pristine water left. The farther upstream you go the more you damage. Cedar Creek from its headwaters above Boulder Creek Road to the San Diego River should not even be anywhere near something you would consider. Cedar Creek is a wonderland of waterfalls and punchbowls nestled in steep canyon walls and gorgeous polished rock and vegetation.

The assault doesn't stop there. Now moving back towards Descanso. The next thing you did was to move the line off of the McCoy Ranch. That is good except that historically the McCoy ranch was many times the size it is now and now you have the line going right through an old growth oak forest on Johnson Creek, a very historical area both to Native Americans and to the mining and ranching forefathers and founders of modern San Diego. If that isn't enough it is the home of a Golden Eagle. I have him on film. Then we back up again right over Boulder Creek that is currently out of compliance with clean water and erosion management, amidst a renewed effort to reestablish a steelhead population there. I don't think the new construction would do these issues any good. Then you moved the huge line off of David Weflen's property just to the edge of it. Guess you didn't think he'd mind being right beside the line and now you don't have to compensate him? In the process it takes in more arch sites. That would go for the half dozen other land owners right on the line and the others right off of the line? Not to mention compromising the view *of* Cuyamaca and *from* the top of Cuyamaca in the state park for all 3 million in San Diego.

Now the line moves to the west of the other option and is again clearly inside of the forest 15 year plan. All of this is backcountry UNROADED and most is proposed wilderness. This is not compatible with your easement, how can you say that it is? I sat in a meeting in Alpine for maybe the first time ever, in perfect agreement even with the off-road coalition on this. This is an unthinkable location for a power line and you've succeeded in doing what no one has: in getting the environmentalists, offroaders, hunters, rock climbers, land owners, miners, and grazers to all agree together on something!

The part at Boulder Creek crossing is not wilderness but sits right on the proposed boundary and has been proposed for inner city children outings and outdoor experience. An idea location. From above the Weflens and their neighbors the line sprawls out through an ancient Native American village on Conejos Creek, and ancient Eagle's head rock and the wall of the old "ones" or ancient wisdom, overlooking the ancient Conejos Village at the stream bottom. From this top lie an ancient trail to the bottom flats of Indian sites below and the current potential nesting sites of Eagles, Hawks, and Falcons in the massive and undisturbed rocky crags above. It's easy to see the mythical vision of the ancient elders lined up in this formation watching over the people below.

I am wondering if you are doing your ground checking solely from the air and by topo maps. This is entirely inappropriate. The only way to understand this land is to go there. I have serious doubts that you have. I have not met very many people who know how to do this, this time of year and are willing to do so. However, stealing this from the public forever for the pockets of a rich few is beyond belief. If you call yourselves and environmental company I want to see you actually get on the ground and start looking. This is not the best time of year for this. I'd like to see even Arnold himself traverse this land since he is supposed to be in such great shape. You have already let spring pass you by. This is very rugged and sometimes very difficult terrain. I have seen more rattlesnakes this year than the last ten combined. They are huge and they are everywhere. You've waited until a time when you will have to deal with every brushy elusive step for them and that does not excuse you from the necessity and obligation you have to do so. If I, an ordinary middle aged woman, of non-athletic ability can do this with regularity, you can do it too. . Anything less than a serious ground effort is not a real EIS. Anything less and you just plain haven't been there and you're just spewing more politics to steal from the public.

You began this rolling 8 ball of option D's in response to concerns about fire danger. You thought Sunshine Mountain would be safer? You're kidding right? This is right in the path of the Cedar Fire the largest fastest spreading fire in California history. The fire was sucked like the wing of an airplane by both Cedar Gorge and the San Diego River Gorge and then pushed like a blow torch from the San Ana winds that blast though that area regularly through Middle, North, and Vulcan Peaks or though the pass at Santa Ysable at speeds easily in excess of 70 miles an hour and often over 90. Hurricane force begins at 80. Trailers blow over regularly there. Arching 500kv wires in the path? I don't think the fire fighters are going near them. A potential line would make it all the more difficult for them to fight fires.

Sunshine Mountain itself by the way, is also a prominent arch site of unique importance to women's rite of passage as is the opposite wall of Cedar Gorge for men. The terrain up top is gorgeous as well; and in a curious location, isolated from the rest of the world. Like its western cousin, Eagle Peak, a more isolated and less visited uniquely isolated, oblong mile- plus rectangle, isolated on 330 degrees of it; not good news for fire fighters but fascinating for botanists and Indian shamen.

Is Cedar Creek worth 1.2 billion dollars just like it is? Yes, you bet it is! --and many many many times over. Once you let them take it you and your kids will never get to know why.

In 1970 a calculator cost about what a computer costs today, opps maybe even four times as much if you consider the cost of living. Kyocera thinks it can provide Solar to a house hold for 12,000. What do you think the price of that technology will do in 30 years? If it does even a quarter of what happened to stereos and computers and phones you can kiss you're your 1.2 billion dollar wires goodbye. I know one local out there that was able to rebuild his 5000 square foot house for only 10k and get completely off of the grid. Running in bulldozing fear is no way to face the future. If you knew then what you know now, in 1992 would you invest in IBM or Microsoft? Get real, we don't need this power line! In fact it is a liability to the real investments that we do need. Solar in the next decade will go to the rooftops and easily take care of the private sector. In addition we have an ocean waiting to be harnessed. Technology is in place and getting better all the time to create electric generating "snakes" that will harness the sea. Your competitors in Nevada can't come close and we don't have to go all over the back country to get it.

The future is much more lucrative if we invest in it now rather than running in fear by tearing up the best of the best that we have to live for all of time for what will be obsolete, at least in the private sector in probably 30 years. I'm sure the Japanese companies are just rolling their eyes all the way to the bank. Do you want to give this away to the Japanese or can we develop the future here instead of putting the old money in the old baskets of the same guys that have been running the woop-mon-gous oil show and all the greed and power that goes with it for 120 years? You don't believe it look them up and trace them through time on Webopedia. It's all there.

The bottom line is this, you should see Sunshine Mountain, it is breathtaking. From the top there is a 360 unprecedented pristine view of a treasure in our back yards. Like it is it costs us nothing and we all can say we own it, right now. If the power company takes it, we don't own it any more. You should see Sunshine Mountain as you approach up its Southern Rocky slope, and become aware of every deep breath. You should see what its like to slowing crest the top as the 360 degree world drops below you. You should smell what real native San Diego smells like, the pungent variety of drought tolerance. You should know what it is like to slip one squishy foot around another over slippery rocks in a crystal gurgling stream as the canyon walls grow and envelope you and you have to think and negotiate each step maybe for the first time, unpreplanned and programmed by concrete and pavement. You should see the stream in the spring roaring, green, buzzing and in the late summer, dry, arid, quite. You should see it at night, moonlight and eerie,

starlight and dark, amazing. You should see it year after year some years wildly wet and others dry, and some years a moonscape bitten by fire and learn the meaning of patience, and faith, and things more powerful than us. You should see it reflected in your lover's eyes and your children's eyes. But most of all you should see it for the first time. And so should your children and their children. In the ever changing world of lean six sigma, bottom lining, anti variance, procedure following, and non -defecting, change-responding management, some things should be counted upon not for the measure of their standard deviating datum's but for the integrity of the quality of life they bring without condition. Some things you should never have to tell your children how it use to be. No peoples should ever have to see this for the last time, less ours is a people without vision or hope.