April 10, 2008

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

Re: Sunrise Powerlink Project EIR

Dear Project Planner,

After reviewing the Draft EIR for the Sunrise Powerlink Project, we would like to express our concerns with the Interstate 8 Alternative route. The Interstate 8 Alternative would cross state-classified mineral resource deposits (MRZ-2a, Regionally Significant) that are currently permitted for mining. Hanson Aggregates Pacific Southwest, Inc. owns property near State Highway 67, in Lakeside, parts of which would be affected by the Interstate 8 Alternative. A portion of the property is currently being mined for aggregate resources, while other portions are reserved for future mining.

The Draft EIR fails to address specific details about impacts that may occur, to existing mining operations, with the Interstate 8 Alternative. For example, blasting operations may not be compatible with nearby transmission lines. The majority of Hanson’s Lakeside property has been designated MRZ-2 by the California Department of Conservation; defined as having significant mineral deposits that are present or where it is judged that there is a high likelihood for their presence.

Approximately 250,000 tons of aggregate could be affected within Hanson’s property if the current Interstate 8 Alternative is chosen as the best option. The current Environmental Impact Report overlooks the importance of protecting aggregate resources and reserving MRZ-2 land for mining purposes. In San Diego County, and throughout the state, aggregate resources are becoming scarcer and need to be protected.

We suggest that the proposed Interstate 8 Alternative be moved away from the boundaries of the permitted mine site or that this route is completely rejected based on the importance of preserving aggregate resources.

Sincerely,

Warren R. Coalson
President