

Potrero Community Planning Group
P. O. Box 9
Potrero, CA 91963

February 14, 2008

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

Re: Sunrise Powerlink EIR/EIS
and the Modified Route D Alternative

The Potrero Community Planning Group passed a resolution unanimously, on 10/11/07 opposing the Sunrise Powerlink and the Modified Route D Alternative. (see attached)
The community of Potrero is opposed for the following reasons:

Community Character - The proposed Modified Route D alternative will be going through the communities of Boulevard, Campo, Potrero and Barrett. These are low income communities and will be unfairly burdened by this alternative's negative impacts. The EIR/EIS states clearly that studies show that property values near high voltage lines are reduced and it takes longer to sell property near them. Any homes or businesses too close to the route will be removed using "Eminent Domain" which changes the composition of the community. This route will certainly interfere with planned future developments. These all go under the heading of Environmental Justice.

Visually Degrading - The 150' tall towers will be visible for 2 miles except on ridges where they will be visible for 4 miles. The metal towers are very commercial and industrial looking and do not fit into our very rural community character where all the other power poles are wooden. Our area has very scenic views of the surrounding hills and valleys and these tall towers and power lines will definitely spoil this view.

Tower Height - The tall towers pose a danger to low flying aircraft and helicopters. Because Potrero is located near the Mexican Border we have a lot of Border Patrol and Drug Enforcement helicopter activity. These extremely tall towers would be a real hazard in our area.

EMF Danger - Electric and Magnetic Fields produced by high voltage power lines have not been proven safe to human health. Many residents with Multiple Chemical Sensitivities and Environmental Illness live here because they have found a "safe haven" in Potrero's clean air, pure water, peaceful and quiet environment. High voltage power lines will negatively affect these people and pose a serious health threat for them.

Noise - High voltage power lines make a constant "Buzzing" and "Crackling" noise which is obnoxious to anyone near them.

Cost - The original cost estimate has been hotly disputed. The actual costs of the project are probably 3 or 4 times higher than the estimate. This is a ridiculous burden on the ratepayers in order to increase SDG&E profits. Other energy alternatives like solar and improving existing San Diego County power plants, and building the proposed peaker plants would be less expensive, less environmentally damaging and less liable to be disrupted during fires or other events.

Environment - Construction of the power lines will disrupt the wildlife in the area. It will leave permanent roads for maintenance and a wide swath of cleared land under the lines which will be ugly and disrupt wildlife. This will certainly damage the Public's use of the Cleveland National Forest and BLM land because it will no longer be a "natural setting". Because there is currently very little green energy being produced in the Imperial Valley - the power will be coming from the Sempra Plant in Mexicali. This plant burns dirty gas which is imported from Indonesia and does not meet California's Clean Air standards. This air pollution increases the dangers of lung diseases for residents of California's Imperial Valley. A fire caused by high voltage lines damaged by wind, accidents, or earthquakes, etc. would be catastrophic in our high fire danger area.

Need - There is no proven need for this power line to San Diego. There is a need for additional power in Riverside and Orange Counties. The EIR/EIS mentions future expansion of the power line...all heading North. It is unreasonable for San Diego County to suffer the numerous negative impacts of the Sunrise Powerlink when the ultimate goal of the project is to increase sales of cheap, dirty power to the Los Angeles area.

We are very much opposed to the Sunrise Powerlink in it's entirety anywhere in San Diego County and extremely opposed to the Modified Route D alternative in our area.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the EIR/EIS.

Sincerely,



Carl Meyer, Chairman
Potrero Community Planning Group
P.O. Box 9
Potrero, CA 91963

**RESOLUTION OF THE POTRERO PLANNING GROUP
CONCERNING THE MODIFIED ROUTE D ALTERNATIVE OF
THE SUNRISE POWERLINK**

Whereas,

1. SDG & E generates and distributes electricity in San Diego County and is part of Sempra Energy, the gas supplier for area generators, and has the ability to generate electricity where used by the consumer, and
2. The need for the power link is to meet the state mandate for future renewable energy sources at a staggering cost to the consumer, and
3. Public mandated power links are far less expensive when crossing public lands, and
4. Lower capacity power links already exist across these public lands and could be upgraded to meet the demand
5. The South West Power link already comes through our community and has been taken down over 18 times by past fires, and greater separation is needed to prevent natural disasters from taking out more than one power link and
6. The necessity for the Sunrise Power Link has not been proven.

Now therefore,

The Potrero Planning Group resolves that the:

1. We oppose the Modified Route D Alternative of the Sunrise Power link.
2. We oppose the Sunrise Power link until the necessity for this link is proven.

On motion made by Jan Hedlun, seconded by Jerry Johnson and carried the 11th day of October, 2007 by the following roll call vote:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Jerry Johnson	X			
Thell Fowler	X			
Mary Johnson	X			
Jan Hedlun	X			
Gordon Hammers	X			
Janet Wright	X			

Sunrise Powerlink Negative Impacts on Potrero:

1. Visually degrading a pristine view corridor- these tall towers will be seen from all over Potrero.
2. Fire Danger - High voltage power lines can certainly start fires if they fall. Potrero is a high fire danger area and this could be catastrophic.
3. Height of towers - Pose a threat to helicopter traffic and low flying aircraft, and because we have so much Border Patrol activity and the proposed Blackwater facility with helicopters - this is extra dangerous in our area.
4. In case of a big fire in our area there is a real possibility that both large transmission lines could be affected and cause a major power outage in San Diego.
5. During a large earthquake both lines, because they are so close together, could be damaged and cause a critical outage in San Diego.
6. There is still a big question about the safety of high power lines on human health - this line is too close to too many homes in Boulevard, Campo, Potrero, Barrett, etc.
7. The Sempra Power Plant in Mexicali will be burning dirty gas from Asia and will produce a large amount of air pollution.
8. There is no proven need for this Powerlink - experts have said that San Diego's future power needs could be met by using more renewable green energy such as solar, wind, geothermal, etc. - along with improving the existing South Bay Power Plant and the Encina Power Plant as well as the Otay Mesa Plant.
9. SDG&E claims that the Powerlink is needed to bring "green" energy from the Imperial Valley to San Diego - in fact there is no "green" energy currently being produced there.
10. The actual cost of the Sunrise Powerlink is estimated to be close to \$4 Billion dollars...a cost we, the already overburdened ratepayers will have to pay.

Hand carried to the Potrero Community Planning Group Meeting on 10-11-07. PCPG agreed to include it with Resolution. 10-12-07

Jan M. Hedlund
PCPG Sunrise Powerlink Liaison