

CPUC/BLM  
C/o Aspen Environmental Group  
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Re: Draft EIR/EIS for the Sunrise Powerlink

Dear Chair and Commission Members of the CPUC,

On behalf of the Desert Protective Council (DPC), I am writing to ask the CPUC to respect the findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Report and vote no on the Sunrise Powerlink Alternative of the Draft EIR/EIS. Months of testimony and documentation of impacts of this alternative have demonstrated the fact that the Sunrise Powerlink, in addition to having huge negative impacts on our Imperial County desert public lands, on Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, on San Diego forests, on quality of life in rural communities, on our wilderness and preserve areas and on large swaths of our dwindling natural view sheds, that this Powerlink is not needed.

As California begins to tackle the task of developing methods of reducing our huge greenhouse gas production, it is time for the CPUC and the citizens of this state to turn out attention to alternatives to importing fossil fuel energy over long distances to the consumers far away from the sources of energy production. It does not make sense to make San Diego and the other coastal cities more dependent upon imported power while increasing our energy costs creating more air pollution, adding to backcountry fire risk and permanently scarring our state park, wildernesses and fragile desert areas.

The Desert Protective Council believes that the best alternatives are those that focus on generation within San Diego. It is unfair for urban communities to push the impacts of its energy use onto distant, rural and minority communities. The best solutions involve local generation and efficient use of renewable energy of all sorts. San Diegans are proud of their sunshine. They ought to be given financial incentives to put that sunshine energy to work, rather than paying for profits for Sempra Energy to build outdated boondoggle projects.

The DEIR points out that a mix of local renewable and gas-fired generation has the lowest environmental impact of the alternatives studied. A detailed plan based on these elements has been developed for the San Diego region, San Diego Smart Energy 2020. The DPC requests that the CPUC take another look at the "Smart Energy 2020" report and see how energy efficiency retrofits, combined heat and power technologies, PV solar for businesses, schools and homes and other forms of distributed generation could work when taken together. Please include the "Smart Energy 2020" plan as a full alternative in the final EIR.

**B0028**

The Desert Protective Council thanks you for the opportunity to comment on this very important Draft EIR/EIS for the Sunrise Powerlink. Please respect the findings of this Draft and vote no on this polluting, damaging, old-technology-reliant project and protect our southern California natural and cultural heritage and our quality of life for this and future generations.

Sincerely,

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