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Promoting Professionalism In California State Parks

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California Public Utilities Commission

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

SUBJECT: Sunrise Powerlink Project

I am Wesley Cater, speaking to you as a concerned citizen, retired Superintendent of the Anza Borrego Desert State Park, and past President of the California State Park Rangers Association with over 700 members.

We commend those responsible for the Draft of the Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Land Use Amendments of the San Diego Gas & Electric Company Application for the Sunrise Powerlink.

We concur with the findings in the Draft Report which outlines 35 inmitigable impacts on State Park Property on the proposed power line corridor through the park. We especially want to emphasize those listed impacts that concern us most:

1. Destruction of Biological Resources.
2. Destroying visual and scenic resources of State Park open space.
3. Cause a State Park Wilderness area to be de-Designated. This would be a first in the history of the State Park System. And a probable first in de-Designating of a Wilderness Area of Public Lands in the United States.
4. Destruction of 109 Cultural Resources Sites within the boundaries of the proposed corridor through Anza Borrego Desert State Park.
5. A significant increase in the risk of Wildfires along the power line corridor through the Park.

Alternatives to the Sunrise Powerlink are described in the draft EIR/EIS in the proposed land use amendment. We are opposed to any powerline through the Anza Borrego Desert State Park! Sites for generating plants now exist in the proximity of San Diego and we believe they should be utilized.

Thank you,

Wesley E. Cater

Retired, Superintendent of Anza Borrego Desert State Park
Past President of California State Park Rangers Assn.