

CPUC Public Comment, Feb 25, 2008

I am Donald Larson. My address is 19803 Vista Del Otero, Ramona CA 92065. I am a professional engineer and a resident of San Diego for 50 years.

I oppose the Sunrise Powerlink for many reasons, but I will speak on just two: a lack of reliability, and unreasonably high cost.

Despite what proponents say, the 150 mile power link is inherently unreliable by design. It is vulnerable to “single point failure”. If just one of the 300 towers is disabled by poor maintenance, earthquake, wildfire, windstorm or human act, the other 299 are also effectively out of service together with the distant power plant. Loss of a small part disables the whole project.

Surprisingly, Sunrise cannot reliably import electricity on very hot days because there is little available to be imported. The Cal ISO has documented a generating capacity shortage throughout the southwest when everyone turns the AC on. The only time Sunrise can import 1000MW is on mild days when regional electricity is in surplus, a time when we don't need it either!

Furthermore, if we build power plants, whether fossil fuel, solar or geothermal, to feed Sunrise, then the \$1.3B cost of this line more than doubles the effective cost of those power plants! It costs roughly \$1.0B to build 1000MW of power plant. Add \$1.3B for Sunrise and we have spent \$2.3B for a \$1.0B power plant. That is a waste of money.

I urge the Commission to embrace the findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Report and to deny approval of the Sunrise Powerlink in any form. Build San Diego's energy future instead according to the practical Smart Energy 2020 Plan.