

Comment by Roland Wilhelmy, P. O. Box 2448, Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067 (858) 756-3133

I want to thank the California Public Utilities Commission and Commissioner Dian Grueneich in particular for the opportunity to speak at this hearing.

I urge the Commissioners to respond positively to the findings of the Draft EIR/EIS and to approve the Overall Environmentally Superior Alternative, the New In-Area All-Source Generation Alternative. If for some reason you find it impossible to approve that Alternative, then please approve one of the first four Environmentally Superior Alternatives, with the Southern Route being a last resort alternative. Personally I would prefer the LEAPS Transmission-Only alternative to the New In-Area Renewable Generation Alternative because it would impact Anza-Borrego less. So my preference would rank acceptable alternatives 1,3,2, and if all else fails, 4, based on the Draft EIR/EIS reports rankings.

You have already heard the arguments and reasons for the Overall Environmentally Superior Alternative. But I would like to submit one that is based on personal experience. We have a home in Rancho Santa Fe about 4 miles from the Pacific Ocean. The last fire came within one half mile of our home, and would have consumed it if fire fighters had not performed herculean labors. That fire was started by a combination of powerlines and wind.

We have had a second home in Ranchita, just west of the Anza Borrego State Park, for 47 years. It was burned in 2002 in the Pines Fire, 12 days after that fire was started by a helicopter blade clipping a powerline. From our perspective, more powerlines means more risk, and assuredly by statistics and the historical record, more destruction of the environment and personal property.

Please approve the Overall Environmentally Superior Alternative.