

Public Utilities Commissioner Grueneich  
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I won't address all the problems to the environment that the Sunrise PowerLink will produce, it's been adequately covered in impact reports, and it's obviously a train wreck. I think the basic difficulty stems from the PUC rate structure where fixed percentage on the value of the property owned by the public utility is the basis for their profit. When they can spend as much a 1.4 billion on a power line and then not even have to use it and still make money you can see where their investors would be pleased. Some of the other property under their ownership that I like to question is the distribution lines. On my street they're over 50 years old and should have been depreciated to nothing, but I bet they're carried on the books at the original or at the very least replacement value.! This is just wrong. My electric bill shows I pay 28 1/4 percent for distribution. The 'shlocky' condition of the distribution system, is one of the major factors in the recent fires, that have swept our county. In 1967 the PUC came up with rule 20, which is intended to do undergrounding of the distribution system. My discussion with Brian Shoemaker, PUC public adviser, led me to calculate that it would take 2496 years to complete; at the rate it's working. I can imagine how the traditional utility revenue system seemed like a good idea in 1900 when they were promoting rural electrification. Now a new rule should be made that would promote efficiency and cost cutting rather than rewarding the opposite.

I recently read about a new company in Palo Alto called Nanosoler that claim they can produce photovoltaic cells for less than a dollar a watt . That type of electricity would be cheaper than coal generated, but you must motivate efficiency, and cost cutting.

Another consideration regarding reliability of this proposed system by SDG&E, shows power coming from two plants in Mexico and also a windfarm. That is a foreign country, and they may not be too friendly toward us, when we build our border fence, and send back 20 million illegals.

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My comments on the proposed Sunrise PowerLink are primarily limited to these areas; 1)The need of San Diego County for this powerline as opposed you SDG&E's motivation to build it. 2) Is this proposed powerline the best way for SDG&E to provide for the electrical needs of the County of San Diego?

I will avoid discussing all the adverse environmental factors that this proposal will cause because I think that's been completely covered by the environmental impact report; and all the comments of the concerned citizens with regard to our largest State Park and the flora and fauna of the County.

As far as the need of San Diego County for more electricity; it seems most obvious to me that building the new power stations in the South Bay and bringing the Carlsbad plant up-to-date should be the first orders of business. SDG&E may have to sign less punitive contracts with competitive companies that are willing to build these and other proposed power plants with regard to "Peaking power" and etc.

Renewable Power, from wind generation, geothermal, and solar; can be brought to the population centers of the County along the Southwest PowerLine, if it's upgraded to its full potential (estimated to be 2000 Volt). It seems that the main motivation for Semper and SDG&E for the Sunrise Powerline, is connecting the new Mexico facility to the Los Angeles area.(Octavio Simoes vice president of asset management for Semper Generation -- Mexicali Power Plant ; states that all of the plants electricity is being sold to Southern California Edison for distribution in the Los Angeles region) . There's also the somewhat older power plant owned by Intergen; just west of that Mexicali plant which would feed into this Southwest powerline--- but both of these plants and the proposed wind farm are in a foreign country!!Our rapport with Mexico may decrease when we send back 12 to 20 illegal aliens!! We remember our friends at OPEC in the seventies. For the source of energy to be reliable it must be under our control.

Running a large powerline all over San Diego County (to the Warner Springs area) is apparently an attempt to sell power into Riverside and San Bernardino counties by Sempra . I don't feel the citizens of this County want to see it desecrated for this purpose when the bulk of the power is being generated in a foreign country.

This solar energy component of SDG&E plan is questionable. It has been referred to as "something of a crapshoot". Sterling is still in the experimental stages and as an alternative the new Nanosolar company of Palo Alto, seems much more promising; and that installation can be done within the County. They claimed energy production of less than one dollar per watt; which is even better than coal-fired plants.

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