

6 pages
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(Specker # 6)

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D0108

My name is Ken Childs and I'm here representing my family.
from Star B Buffalo Ranch

Our family ranch is located in Ramona, more specifically the infamous Witch Creek area of San Diego County.

The current Sunrise powerlink "preferred route" is within view from my home and approximately 1/4 mile from our ranch.

Where do I stand on this project, that's difficult to say. After 3 years of this project many words come to mind; trust, corporate greed, hidden agenda and truth.

~~I ask that you give "we the people" more time to sort this thing out.~~

~~It's not just about the impact on our environment.~~

As we realized from the beginning of this fight, it's also about the David and Goliath concept.

Goliath with the full staff, 3 million dollar budget and the backing of a corporate giant.

And David, the hard working, tax paying people of this county.

I'm not opposed to "green power".

And....

I'm not opposed to jobs in this country.

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This is my story.

When we heard of the powerlink project and attended the first wave of informational meetings, there were many unanswered questions about this project and we realized that we had a lot to learn in a short amount of time.

From what we know today the truth about this project is still hard to find.

When the initial routing was made public, we learned that our property was on the “preferred route” where 4 or 5 towers were to be installed on our property in direct view of our home and massive disruption of our ranching business.

The news devastated us. It threatened our lifestyle, our future and our property values. We scrambled to develop ~~some~~ strategy.

After several months of craziness we were declassified to “alternate route”.

And now we have been eliminated from the route altogether.

We were eliminated not because of our vigilance, but simply because the route crossed Indian Land.

So then, what was my concern just became my neighbors.

That's not all.....

3

Just this last year we were informed that as the “green path” line heads north towards LA through San Bernardino County, the “preferred route” for the green path goes directly through the valley where our high desert vacation cabin is located and is within 1000 feet of ~~our~~ our 5 acre property line. This property is where my mother and fathers ashes are scattered.

And to top that, on October 21st, 2007 the Witch Creek Fire started as a result of high winds and downed power lines.

90% of our 1200 acre ranch burned in that fire creating a major inconvenience for us, destroying our pastures, over a hundred oak trees and hundreds of acres chaparral. And to this day the inconvenience continues and the cost of recovery continues to grow.

That fire was started by SDGE equipment.

Equipment that they claim does not start fires.

Equipment that still threatens us today.

SDGE has rebuilt with the same wooden poles and the same wire configurations.

They are ignoring the technology that’s available until we force them to upgrade.

The same people standing out here giving out green t-shirts.

Other than turning the power back on I don’t see a lot happening.

I’m sorry, I just don’t trust them.

4

D0108

I'm not qualified to stand here and argue if alternative power sources are available and/or viable in San Diego County.

I'm also not qualified to stand up here and argue whether or not this power line is needed.

~~ALSO~~
~~We don't know what goes on behind corporate doors.~~

~~Is it possible that the switches and the numbers can be manipulated to simulate a power shortage.~~

~~I don't know. I hope not.~~

There are two things I have learned about politicians and Corporate America, watch your back!

For example;

Do you how long it took us to figure out that this line will carry as many as three or more additional lines in the future?

SDGE never offered up this information, we had to drag it out of them.

They had hidden agenda,

I hear that the power ^{going to be} ~~being~~ created in Mexico is "dirty power" and Sempra Energy has plans for additional power plants.

These are the same people out here giving away green t-shirts and promoting jobs.

If these people are so self-righteous, these plants should be built in this country and the jobs should stay here.

5

The state has mandated that SDGE hook up to the green power that's going to be created in Imperial County. SDGE didn't generate this program. Mandate is another word for forced. The State of California is requiring SDGE to hook up to this green power.

So let's review the corporate strategy here.

Sempra builds plants in Mexico where the environmental laws are softer, building cost are cheaper and the labor is cheaper.

They create dirty cheaper power.

Ship it across the border to the U.S.

Bring the power lines as far north as you can.

Hook up to the green power that is being forced by the state.

Sell excess power to the northern communities and loop the line around through the backcountry using the path of least resistance to insure that they have plenty of power to sell to San Diego County.

Ka ching!

This is corporate America at its best.

Sempra is in it for the money.

Don't be fooled by the green t-shirts and the signs promoting jobs.

6

On the issue of using or creating additional power sources within San Diego County, your not going to get support from SDGE on this, they don't want the competition.

We should all be very suspicious of this project and work together to resolve the issue and find out what is truly best for the residents and businesses of this fine County.

SDGE is spending millions to promote this project and we can't compete with that.

But what we do have is the power of the people and we should force them to put all their cards on the table before it's too late.

It isn't just about the EIR.

It's about truth, honesty and fairness.

Something that's hard to find in Corporate America!