

Public Statement on Behalf of Star Ranch

Monday 02/25/08

Star Ranch stands behind its opposition to the Sunrise Powerlink Modified alt D the following powerful reasons:

- 1) It is a visual disturbance to a rare and beautiful place
- 2) The timing and practice of communications with residents has shown disrespect for them
- 3) The beauty of this place should not be sacrificed to pay for the energy needs of distant regions.

Number 1: The fact that the Back Country is a rare place of visual peace and treasure of American history is not just the opinion of those who have made their homes here. The County has invested a mass of resources in the development of a new General Plan that protects the Back Country region. The Star Ranch has for years been part of this process to preserve it. It is environmentally rich, visually incomparable, and historically unique. Clearly, it is not the best location for the Sunrise Powerlink.

Number 2: The timing of SDG&E's communications for public review has repeatedly come into question. The Union Tribune quoted the U.S. Forest Service as saying "They didn't get any input from us before reaching their conclusions" "I feel there was something morally wrong. This is supposed to be a public process." [REDACTED] We at Star Ranch feel the same way. This route was introduced so late in the process of collecting community input, as if it could pass these communities unnoticed. The public should be widely noticed that we have been unfairly treated by the questionable practices of public review for this project.

Number 3: The failure of SDG&E to plan for the future energy demands does not justify a new route of power transmission through a rural place. The fact that San Diego has one of the weakest . . . transmission corridors in the country" is not a surprise. Southern California's population growth data has been available, so this is not a sudden emergency. The Mountain Empire and Campo region should not pay the price for your failure to plan.

Energy should be generated where it is needed. We already have one powerline that serves the coastal community, it would be doubly offensive to put in a second one. The area that needs the energy should bear the responsibility for generating it. We are the unwitting and unwilling victims of this power strategy. Don't ruin our lands because it is an economically attractive deal for you.