

June 11, 2007

Billie Blanchard, CPUC / Lynda Kastoll, BLM
% Aspen Environmental Group
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San Francisco, CA 94104-3002

Re: Sunrise Powerlink – Modified Route D Alternative – Written Comments

As a Potrero resident and elected planning group member I was surprised and dismayed to find out that this alternative was planned for our area and am opposed on many levels.

I have been to Potrero Planning Group meetings since July 2006 and this *Sunrise Power Link – Modified Route D Alternative* was never addressed in the meetings. When was correspondence sent to our Planning Group to inform community members of this matter? As this will adversely affect individuals in our community why have we been left out of several phases of the public scoping process?

There are numerous reasons, already established, why these transmission lines are unnecessary in other parts of San Diego and Imperial County, and they are the same reasons for which they will be rejected in Potrero and surrounding communities.

I have some initial responses to the plan as I understand it.

- The Green Path is already partially built and is less environmentally destructive than the Sunrise Powerlink, with significantly less expense.
- Proposed renewable energy can be imported using existing lines.
- Utilize existing structures by replacing lines with newer technology that can conduct more electricity.
- The money proposed for the Sunrise Powerlink should be used in finding “cleaner” less destructive methods of transmitting power while modernizing and improving existing power plants.
- Solar power programs are preferable and should be utilized to phase out antiquated methods of energy transmission. SDG&E and other energy company’s should be proactive in developing other solutions than the Sunrise Powerlink.
- Chemically sensitive individuals who reside along the proposed path would be adversely affected by the proximity of the towers and electrical lines, further endangering their fragile health.
- Endangered species include, and are not limited to: Stephen’s Kangaroo Rat, Least Bell’s Vireo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Orange-throated Whiptail, San Diego Horned Lizard, turkey vulture, white-tailed kite, loggerhead shrike and Southern California rufous-crowned sparrows. The Arroyo Toad, California Gnatcatcher and the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly have also been documented. Now the California condor is an issue. Mountain lions, bobcats, foxes, and other species need to be addressed as well.
- Golden eagles and bald eagles reside in the area and will be affected as will any raptor or avian species traveling along their migratory paths.
- Endangered plant species include, and are not limited to: Payson’s Jewelflower, Parry’s spineflower, the Tecate Tar, Sticky Geranium, Rush Chaparral-Star and Engelmann Oak. Further studies are required for undocumented spring growth.

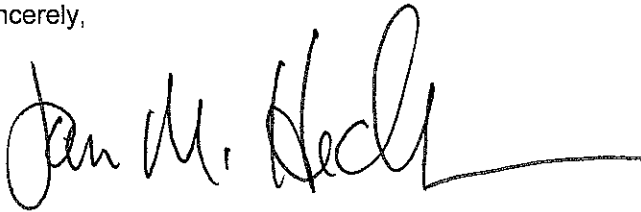
- Wildfires from downed transmission lines are a genuine concern as electrical storms and extremely high winds in this region are common.

It is obvious that there will be as much resistance in Potrero and other East County communities to the Sunrise Powerlink as there has been for the primary and tertiary (alternate) routes. It would behoove you to consider utilizing already existing towers and upgrading to lines with more capacity or, better yet, spending the time and money to research modern, natural alternatives that are proactive towards the environment to meet increasing energy demands.

Why wouldn't SDG&E and other energy company's and groups want to be forerunners in new technology that is destined to replace current methodology? Why wouldn't they want a piece of the latest and greatest energy technology financial pie? Ratepayers would prefer to improve programs for conservation, demand management and energy efficiency versus the Powerlink.

I object strongly to the *Sunrise Powerlink – Modified Route D Alternative* through the Potrero area or the back country and adamantly urge you to find alternatives that will not affect this or other rural communities and previously untouched landscapes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan M. Hedlun", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jan M. Hedlun
PO Box 353
Potrero CA 91963