

**SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink Project
Public Scoping input for EIR/EIS
Carmel Valley Concerned Citizens**

October 5, 2006

Laura Copic

We feel strongly that non-wire alternatives to this transmission line should be conscientiously pursued. The "transmission first" strategy proposed by SDG&E appears to be in contradiction to the Energy Action Plan (EAP) and the San Diego Regional Energy Strategy 2030 which stress a loading order maximizing energy efficiency, demand reduction, distributed generation and other in-county generation and renewables before transmission as preferred strategies to attaining our future energy needs. In addition, this transmission line would be a visible, audible blight upon our state park and local preserves as well as a fire and health hazard to nearby residents.

Our specific concerns about the impacts of the proposed project's coastal link focus on all impacts outlined in the Protest of Carmel Country Highlands Owners and the letter sent to the CPUC by the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board (both attached here) in addition to other issues that may not have been fully covered in those communications.

The Protest of Carmel Country Highlands Owners relates to the overhead facility along the section of the proposed Coastal Link that runs 3.3 miles west from point N33B to point N34 where it ends at the Peñasquitos Substation. There are two existing overhead facilities in the Section: a series of wooden H-Frame towers supporting 69kV and 138kV circuits, and a series of lattice towers supporting a 230kV circuit (which are incorrectly identified in the NOP as tubular steel poles). SDG&E's request to construct additional overhead facility instead of underground facility for the proposed and existing circuits in the Section is not acceptable to the Owners and is not justified based upon the following:

- A. Choice of overhead facility for the Section discriminates against the Community
- B. Overhead facility damages property in the Community
- C. Overhead facility damages the scenic views of the Preserve
- D. SDG&E has misrepresented project impacts to the Community
- E. Community is unduly burdened with transmission infrastructure (see attachment for photos)
- F. Overhead facility increases fire risks for the Community
- G. Overhead facility damages the quality of life in the Community
- H. SDG&E right of way land is critical open space, and effectively part of the Preserve
- I. Proposed changes would move existing overhead circuits closer to family homes
- J. Overhead facility is no longer appropriate following growth of the Community
- K. Additional EMF exposure to children and families in Community

In addition to the impacts outlined in the attached protest and letter, we would like to address or emphasize the following:

Aesthetics

There is substantial adverse effect to the scenic vista this neighborhood enjoys with the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Adding more prevalent towers and wires would increase the "wiring-off" effect of the public from the preserve and further reduce their enjoyment of their parks and gathering places. This wall of wires and towers along the preserve's edge is also noticeable to those in the preserve. The higher towers and their ridge top locations are visible from most of the public spaces in the neighborhood including the parks, school and public paths and roadways further precipitating an incongruous industrial corridor and the disconcerting buzz and crackle of electricity near what is meant to be a natural sanctuary.

Biological

The disorientation caused by new home and road construction near the preserve's edge and wildlife corridor is already causing the deer population to wander onto roadways and out of the preserve resulting in several deer kill in recent months. Construction of these towers will further impact the wildlife corridors at either end of the community and cause more displacement of the deer and other wildlife populations.

Hazardous material

The existing towers appear to be within ¼ mile (or very close to it) of Sage Canyon Elementary School. They are certainly visible down the street from the school and close to children's homes. The school and homes could easily be impacted by any hazardous material released during construction and operation of the circuits.

Hydrology

Existing habitat and trails have already been adversely impacted by the shifting drainage patterns caused by new home construction. We expect the construction of additional towers and concrete bases to do the same. This impact must be avoided.

Land Use Planning

The site of the Torrey Hills/Peñasquitos Substation is directly above the Torrey Hills Community Park and co-located with a fuel pipeline. In addition, towers are already dangerously close to or over greenbelts, parks, homes and neighborhood commercial development. More towers will increase the risks and exposure to the community (see attached).

Public Services and Utilities

There is also the risk of increased wildfires due to the dense vegetation in the preserve near the lines combined with poor rescue response times due to the lack of a nearby fire station. Response times are already far beyond the acceptable 5 minute range. Additional circuits would entail additional risk which could only be mitigated by the construction of an additional fire station.

Cumulative effects

This area is still being impacted by increased housing density. With the construction of State Route 56 (SR-56) and the freeway widening project at the Interstate 5 (I-5) and Interstate 805 (I-805) merge, Carmel Valley is mired in a perpetual state of disruption from construction. Additional connectors from SR-56 to I-5 north are still being planned and it would likely take several years to build this additional large infrastructure project. Residents and homeowners cannot tolerate any more disruptions, and the impacts to their daily lives from large construction projects need to be minimized or avoided.

At a County Board of Supervisors meeting regarding the relocation of San Diego's airport, MCAS Miramar representatives stated their intentions to shift future use of MCAS Miramar toward more helicopter activity, increasing the likelihood of low flying aircraft in this vicinity. The purpose of this testimony was to express the military's need to keep the operation of MCAS Miramar solely for military purposes in response to the Airport Authority's desire to site a new commercial airport facility at MCAS Miramar. This alternate outcome would also adversely impact this neighborhood and the Preserve.

We consider these impacts and the direct impacts listed above and in the attachments to be cumulatively considerable and if this line is forced upon us, we would like the EIR to consider and evaluate putting new and existing lines underground to restore the beauty of the preserve and its viewshed and to reduce the permanent impacts on habitat, homes and residents. The preferred route outlined by SDG&E travels underground until it reaches the preserve in our neighborhood. Yet it is our understanding that undergrounding options for this 3.3 mile section of the route were not seriously evaluated. During their "public outreach" SDG&E representatives responded that they would not consider undergrounding options in this area unless forced to by the CPUC. We are asking the CPUC to enable this evaluation. We feel that only by moving, eliminating or undergrounding the preferred route (along with existing transmission facilities) in section N33B to N34, can these impacts be meaningfully mitigated. If undergrounding is not feasible we would like the EIR to evaluate newer low sag cables and further consolidation of the line. With current and planned housing now in close proximity to these towers, prudent avoidance is applicable and should be exercised regardless of previous thoughtless impacts.

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the matter of the Application of
San Diego Gas & Electric Company
(U 902-E) for a Certificate of Public
Convenience and Necessity for the
Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Project

Application No. 06-08-010
(Filed August 4, 2006)

Application No. 05-12-014
(Filed December 14, 2005)

PROTEST OF CARMEL COUNTRY HIGHLANDS OWNERS

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September 22, 2006

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

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PROTEST OF CARMEL COUNTRY HIGHLANDS OWNERS

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Article 12 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the California Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”), Carmel Country Highlands Owners (“Owners”) submit this Protest in opposition to the Application of the San Diego Gas & Electric Company (“SDG&E”) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Project (“Application”). The Application was filed on December 14, 2005. An amended Application was filed on August 4, 2006. Submission of this protest is timely pursuant to Rule 44.1 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The Community (“Community”) is a suburban neighborhood of single family homes in the Carmel Valley area of the City of San Diego, which is bounded on the south side by Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve (“Preserve”).

II. GROUNDS FOR PROTEST

The Owners question the overall need and proposed routes for Sunrise Powerlink, and support the protests already filed on these and related issues by other groups including the Division of Ratepayer Advocates (“DRA”), the Utility Consumers Action Network (“UCAN”), the Ramona Alliance Against Sunrise Powerlink (“RAASP”), the California State Parks Foundation, and the combined protest of the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity.

Owners are specifically protesting a portion of SDG&E’s Application, that is, the specified attributes of part of SDG&E’s proposed project. Owners protest relates to overhead facility along the section (“Section”) of the proposed Coastal Link that runs 3.3 miles west from point N33B to point N34 where it ends at the Penasquitos Substation. There are two existing overhead facilities in the Section: a series of wooden H-Frame towers (“H-Frames”) supporting 69kV and 138kV circuits, and a series of lattice towers (“Lattice”) supporting a 230kV circuit. SDG&E’s request to construct additional overhead facility instead of underground facility for the proposed and existing circuits in the Section is not acceptable to the Owners and is not justified based upon the following:

- A. Choice of overhead facility for the Section discriminates against the Community
- B. Overhead facility damages property in the Community
- C. Overhead facility damages the scenic views of the Preserve
- D. SDG&E has misrepresented project impacts to the Community
- E. Community is unduly burdened with transmission infrastructure
- F. Overhead facility increases fire risks for the Community

- G. Overhead facility damages the quality of life in the Community
- H. SDG&E right of way land is critical open space, and effectively part of the Preserve
- I. Proposed changes would move existing overhead circuits closer to family homes
- J. Overhead facility is no longer appropriate following growth of the Community
- K. Additional EMF exposure to children and families in Community

III. DISCRIMINATORY CHOICE OF OVERHEAD FACILITY

According to its Application, SDG&E's proposed Coastal Link would be placed completely underground for 2.9 miles in the Rancho Penasquitos area, adjacent to the Community to the east. This line would then transition to overhead facility for the remaining 3.3 miles to the Penasquitos Substation. All infrastructure affecting the Community would be overhead facility.

SDG&E has already proposed to underground the Coastal Link along the eastern half of the Preserve, but has refused to underground the Coastal Link along the western half of the Preserve. This is discriminatory against the Community, and the Owners request that the remaining Segment also be installed underground.

Justifications for the underground facilities in the eastern Preserve are applicable to the western Preserve and should be applied to the Section.

IV. DAMAGE TO PROPERTY IN THE COMMUNITY

Homeowner property values will be adversely impacted by new overhead facility in the Segment. Homes bordering the Preserve are among the most highly valued in the

Community, and many Owners had to participate in lengthy waiting lists just for the opportunity to purchase one of these homes. These homes will be severely negatively impacted if the SDG&E application is approved without substantial mitigation for the Segment.

No compensation to homeowners has been offered for the loss in values that will result if new overhead facility is constructed in Segment, if existing circuits are moved closer to the Community, or if existing circuits are raised to higher elevations than the present H-Frames (all of which has been proposed by SDG&E).

Owners of homes not adjacent to the Segment will also experience a loss in values due to the comparable devaluations of the homes most significantly affected.

V. DAMAGES TO THE SCENIC VIEWS OF THE PRESERVE

Owners have invested a lifetime of savings into their homes and properties, many of which were designed and constructed with panoramic views of the Preserve. The catastrophic visual effects of an expanding overhead facility will damage this view and the Owners' long-term investments.

SDG&E's application incorrectly states that "The overall visual change would be low and the visual impact would less than significant". In fact, the proposed visual impact to many residences in the Community would be drastic and significant.

SDG&E's Key Observation Points in their application, used for documenting the visual impacts of the Coastal Link, did not include the Pardee Lexington homes bordering the Preserve, which happen to be the homes closest to the Segment and the proposed lines.

VI. MISREPRESENTED IMPACTS TO THE COMMUNITY

In addition to the aforementioned misrepresentations of the visual change to Community scenic views, SDG&E has marketed this Segment to the Community as a “consolidation” Segment, one that will simply replace existing towers.

Community residents know that there is an eyesore in the area -- the 230kv transmission line supported by Lattice. Members of the Community have sought the removal and undergrounding of these lines in the past, and residents become hopeful when they hear SDG&E speak about proposed line consolidation. Many residents have developed an incorrect impression that the Lattice will be removed for consolidation of the 230kV line on new poles.

The Lattice structures have not been proposed for replacement. SDG&E has proposed in their application the replacement only of the smaller wooden H-frames structures (that do not today block many resident views) with massive monopoles twice their size. SDG&E has even proposed replacing H-Frames at lower base elevations in canyon areas with monopole towers at higher base elevations on ridges, further aggravating the problems caused by the proposed monopoles and existing Lattice.

The smaller H-Frames blend in with the surroundings to such a greater extent than the Lattice that some residents do not notice them or even know of their existence. See Attachment A for a visual example of this situation.

SDG&E has benefited from this confusion, speaking publicly about consolidation of towers, without mentioning and/or without emphasizing that the Lattice is to be left in place.

Figure 5.9-1CS12 KOP CS12 of SDG&E's application clearly shows that the Lattice will remain. This image was only made available to very diligent residents as part of a very large 400 MB download from SDG&E's web site. This was the only image included in the application depicting the proposed visual impact in the community, and is in itself misleading, as it shows the final portion of the segment above the only shopping center in the Community and no impact on current and future homes.

SDG&E's recent Notice of Preparation/Notice of Public Scoping Meetings ("NOP") has perpetuated the misrepresentation of existing overhead facility in the segment, and the plans for this overhead facility. When describing the transition of the Coastal Link from underground in the eastern end of the Preserve to overhead in the Segment, the NOP incorrectly states "the line would transition overhead into a segment currently containing double circuit 230 kV on tubular steel poles". In fact, the 230 KV circuit is not installed on tubular steel poles, but the aforementioned Lattice towers. Removal of this Lattice is requested by the Owners.

VII. COMMUNITY EXCESSIVELY BURDENED WITH TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE

Carmel Valley has been burdened with more overhead utility infrastructure, including an SDG&E substation, than the surrounding communities. Just because the Community has been affected by older approaches to utility construction is not a sufficient reason to treat the community as though it does not exist and to perpetuate overhead transmission when underground options do exist. In their application, SDG&E has proposed no mitigation for the Segment, and this is highly inappropriate.

The Community is far larger now than when SDG&E first built overhead facility in the area, and SDG&E must be directed to consider the needs of, and impacts to, local residents before being permitted to expand their area infrastructure.

VIII. INCREASED FIRE RISKS FOR THE COMMUNITY

The community is located in an area of substantial fire risk. The Preserve contains the largest preserved coastal chaparral habitat in the City of San Diego, approximately 4,000 acres stretching for approximately 7 miles. The fuel load provided by this dry brush is substantial, and the canyons of the Preserve connect eastward to areas devastated by the Cedar Fire of 2003, the second largest wildfire in California history. During this traumatic fire, anxious Community residents gazed east as the fire moved ever closer to the Preserve. Open space within or adjacent to the western end of the Preserve has also caught fire within the past five years.

The Community does not have its own fire station, and is isolated with only two roads leading in and out of the area. Community leaders have already sought a new fire station, unsuccessfully to date, and a further increase of fire risks in the Community through the installation of additional overhead facility is unacceptable.

Overhead power transmission lines are well documented to be a contributing cause in many wildfires, and a significant complication for first responders including firefighters. It is common practice for firefighters to be prohibited from fighting a wildfire near overhead facility, until such time as transmission lines have been shut down and notice of such deactivation has been officially confirmed. In the chaos of a catastrophic wildfire, these interagency communications are often delayed or inefficient.

IX. DAMAGES TO QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY

The several miles of open space provided by the Preserve provide the Community with a tranquil and natural auditory environment at night. Additional or reconfigured overhead facility in the Segment will disturb this and bring increased noise to the Community.

Additional overhead facility in the Preserve negatively affects local birds and other wildlife, which creates a negative impact on the Community.

X. CRITICAL OPEN SPACE ACTING AS PART OF THE PRESERVE

In their application, SDG&E classifies the land under the Segment as SDG&E property, and does not include the length of the Segment in their description of new facility going through the Preserve. This does not correctly characterize the current land use. Land beneath the Segment is indistinguishable from the Preserve by residents, recreational users, and wildlife. In practical terms, nature trails traverse this land for humans and wildlife; and in visual terms this land is part of the scenic open space view of the Preserve. See Attachment B for a map illustration of this proximity.

It is critical to the natural character of the area that any changes along the segment follow the preservation practices and protections employed in the Preserve. This land is also part of the California Coastal Zone and should be afforded special consideration as a rare natural resource when similar habitat is quickly disappearing along the California coast.

XI. LOCATION OF CIRCUITS CLOSER TO FAMILY HOMES

SDG&E representatives speaking at a meeting of the Carmel Valley planning Board had indicated to residents that any new power poles would be installed along the

south side of replaced overhead facility in the Segment, thus placing them farther away from homes than the existing towers.

The computer-generated images included by SDG&E in their application depict a different situation, in which massive new monopoles are installed to the north of the existing line of H-Frames, thereby placing them closer to homes and families.

There is ample open space available to locate existing and proposed circuits underground, or at worst to install all existing and proposed circuits further from homes and at lower elevations in the canyons below.

XII. ADDITIONAL EMF EXPOSURE

The Community homes most affected by the Segment are occupied by families with children, drawn to the area in part by highly rated local schools in the Del Mar Unified School District. These homes surround the highly regarded Sage Canyon Elementary School, with an enrollment of 675 children (2004-2005 school year). Many of these students live, attend school, shop, and play in very close proximity to the Segment. Nearby recreational resources for children in the Community include Sage Canyon Park and the Preserve.

While the research connecting EMF exposure with childhood leukemia is still controversial, it is a very real consideration for families raising children. The homeowners in the Community bordering the Preserve had to make long-term decisions about EMF exposure for their families based on the reports provided at time of home purchase.

The homes nearest the Segment all include young children residents. SDG&E's proposal to install additional overhead facility and/or relocate two of the three existing

circuits closer to homes would increase EMF exposure to many families, and is vigorously opposed by Owners.

Pursuant to the Commission's policies and procedures, EMF exposure to young children should be reduced, not increased, when feasible. The Owners strongly believe that underground installation of the existing and proposed circuits in the Segment is the appropriate solution.

XIII. OVERHEAD FACILITY NO LONGER APPROPRIATE

The Community has grown tremendously due to development in the past 10 years. The Segment in question used to be far from private residences, but that is no longer the case. The overhead facility in this Segment is the only recognized blight in the Community, and SDG&E should not be permitted to install additional overhead facility. The Community has been seeking removal the undergrounding of overhead facility in the Segment, specifically the 230kv Lattice, and many residents have been shocked that SDG&E has actually proposed the opposite (to build more metal towers).

In addition to the homes already affected, Pardee Homes is in the process of completing the Community build-out with new homes next to the Segment, adjacent to at least two of the newly proposed towers.

The use of overhead facility is no longer appropriate in the Segment, and should be discontinued.

XIV. CONCLUSION

In the event that the Commission rules in favor of SDG&E's Application, Owners respectfully request that the Commission order SDG&E to:

- a) Install all new lines in the Segment underground

- b) Install all existing lines in the Segment underground (this includes the 69kV, 138kV, and 230kV lines)
- c) Remove the Lattice towers and H-Frames from the Segment
- d) Ensure that the underground route used is continuous with the proposed underground segment to the east, and that power lines remain completely below ground from point N29 until reaching the Penasquitos Substation.
- e) Minimize construction disruption to natural surroundings in, and/or adjacent to, the Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve; and in cases where construction disruption is unavoidable, to perform appropriate restoration consistent with the natural vegetation and surroundings.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Demian Dorrance

Demian Dorrance

Demian Dorrance
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San Diego, CA 92191
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September 22, 2006

ATTACHMENT A

SCENIC VIEW OF LOS PENASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE, WITH AN EXISTING H-FRAME STRUCTURE IN SEGEMENT

Key points:

- a) **The low elevation of this H-Frame structure today is down in the canyon, and does not have a significant negative impact on scenic views of the Preserve**
- b) **SDG&E has proposed replacing this structure with a monopole tower approximately twice the size of this H-Frame structure**
- c) **The proposed monopole tower would damage these scenic views**
- d) **The proposed monopole tower would be closer to the homes, at higher elevation, and bring these circuits closer to residents**

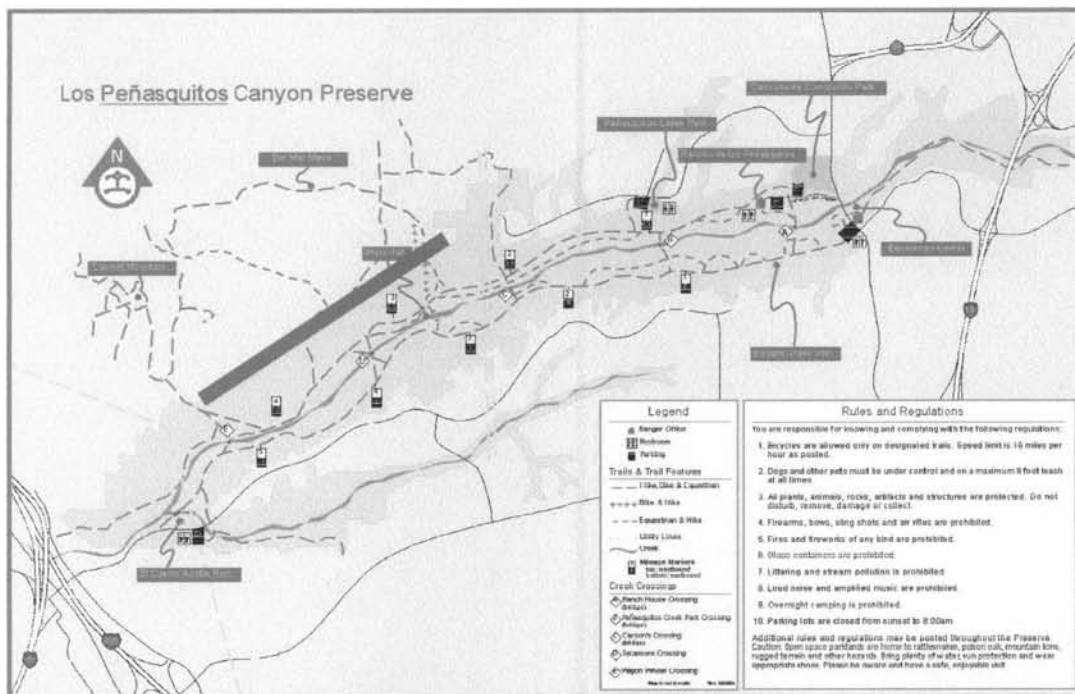


ATTACHMENT B

MAP OF LOS PENASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE

The close proximity of the Segment to the Preserve has been illustrated in red.

The red line shows the location of part of the Segment that directly borders the protected open space, and is indistinguishable from the Preserve to people and wildlife.



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, pursuant to the California Public Utilities Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, I have served a true copy of "PROTEST OF CARMEL COUNTRY HIGHLANDS OWNERS" to the following parties:

All parties on the current service list for A. 05-12-014, downloaded from the CPUC website on September 22, 2006.

Service was completed by email where available or by placing true copies, enclosed in a sealed envelope with first-class postage prepaid, to be deposited in the United States mail.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 22nd day of September, 2006, at San Diego, California.

/s/ Demian Dorrance

Demian Dorrance



Carmel Valley Concerned Citizens

Existing Impacts of Transmission Line
Infrastructure on Carmel Country
Highlands, Torrey Hills and Los
Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve (LPCP)



Existing impacts of Power Transmission

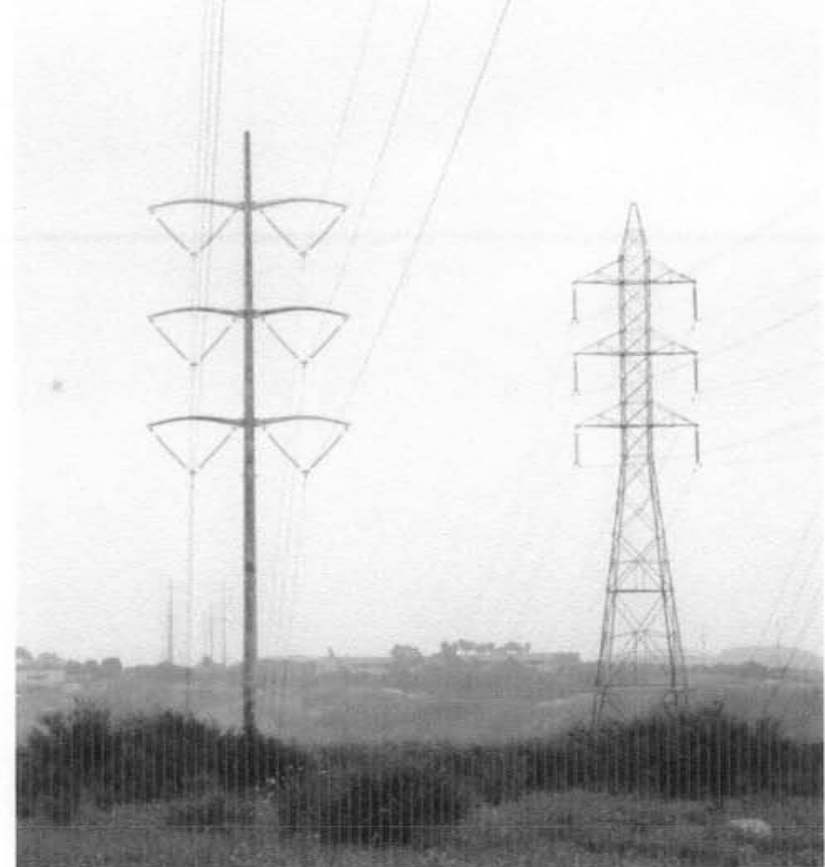
- Destruction of view shed
- Increased wildfire risk (due to arcing and with lack of adequate fire and rescue response times)
- EMF exposure to homes, parks and in the LPCP and DMM Preserves.
- Collision risks (birds and aircraft)
- Construction impacts.
- Noise (buzzing) impacts

Before and After

Carmel Country Highlands Park



Proposed New Alignment

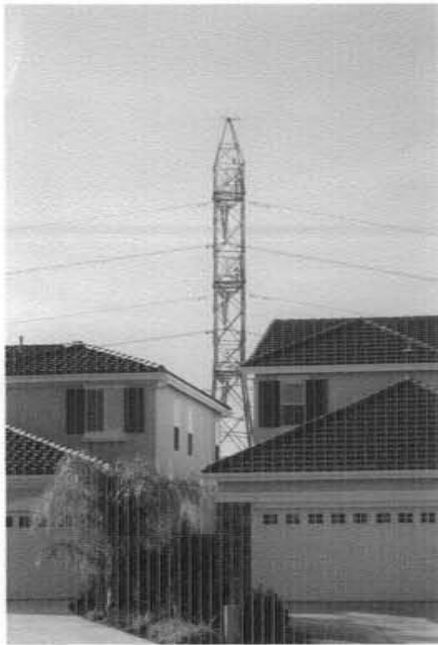


Current Impact on Preserve



Los Peñasquitos Preserve looking West behind Carmel Country Highlands (CV N10)

Current Impact on Homes and Community



Carmel Country Highlands homes and
Torrey Hills Shopping Center

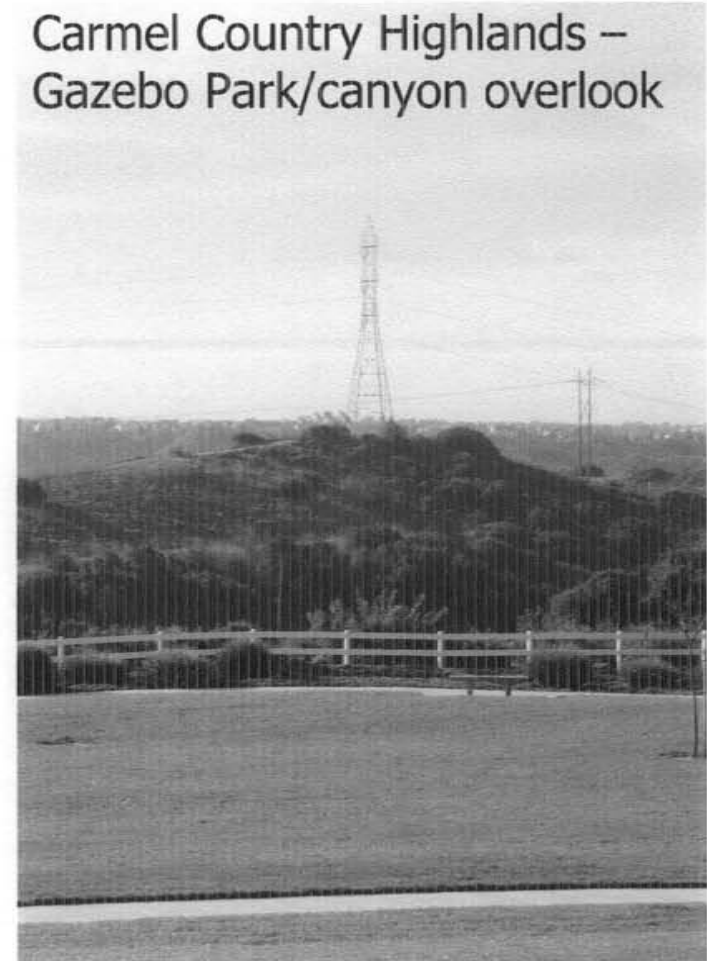
Current Impacts on Parks

Torrey Hills Community Park



Torrey Hills Dog Park

Carmel Country Highlands –
Gazebo Park/canyon overlook



CARMEL VALLEY COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD

**427 C Street, #308,
San Diego, CA 92101
619.239.9877 FAX 619.239.9878**

March 13, 2006

Dian M. Grueneich
Assigned Commissioner
Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco

Re: Proposed San Diego Gas and Electric Sunrise Powerlink Project

Dear Dian:

As members of the Carmel Valley Planning Board representing nearly 32,000 residents and growing, we are troubled by the fact that the proposed route for the Sunrise Powerlink may be located in or near the community of Carmel Valley. We understand there may be a need to bring more electricity to San Diego, but we strongly feel that such large utility infrastructure projects are completely inappropriate to place in or immediately adjacent to residential neighborhoods.

Foremost, we must emphasize we have yet to see compelling proof that the Sunrise Powerlink project is needed and other environmentally friendly alternatives, such as use of solar energy, have been investigated. We appreciate being involved in community workshop meetings, but we have yet to see solid justification for this project. SDG&E has told us the project is needed but not explained why with factual or numerical information. Simply telling us there is a need will not suffice. We ask that demonstration of the need be presented to our community before moving forward with alternative alignments for the project.

Carmel Valley is concerned about potential health and safety affects associated with additional power lines in or near the community. Our community is already impacted by a large amount of electromagnetic frequencies from transmission lines – and we are not open to allowing additional exposure to our residents. We understand studies have differed on the impacts of electromagnetic frequency to human health, and we are not accepting of even a slight potential risk.

Carmel Valley is already overloaded with transmission lines in the community. Our neighborhoods suffer from significant visual impacts from these lines and adding any more is simply not acceptable to the residents. Community volunteers

have dedicated a lot of time, effort and coordination with SDG&E to plan a community-funded undergrounding of the existing overhead transmission lines through Carmel Valley. Now those hours of hard work may have been wasted as it appears the undergrounding project is infeasible. Now SDG&E may be planning to add an additional transmission line to Carmel Valley? Our community already has a hard time living with the existing transmission lines.

With the construction of State Route 56 (SR-56) and the freeway widening project at the Interstate 5 (I-5) and Interstate 805 (I-805) merge, Carmel Valley is mired in a perpetual state of disruption from construction. Additional connectors from SR-56 to I-5 north are still being planned and it would likely take several years to build this additional large infrastructure project. Residents and homeowners cannot tolerate any more disruptions, and the impacts to their daily lives from large construction projects need to be minimized or avoided.

Impacts to the Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve are also a major concern to the Carmel Valley residents. The preserve is already burdened by the existing power lines that run along the preserve. In addition to the existing power lines, the Preserve is already disturbed and affected by development and additional impacts cannot be mitigated. Penasquitos Canyon is an environmental treasure in San Diego that we must protect at all costs. Wherever alternatives exist to placing infrastructure projects through, along-side or across the canyon, these alternatives must be pursued.

After the need for the Powerlink is justified to the community, we ask that SDG&E undertake the due diligence needed to build the Sunrise Powerlink along a route that does not impact Carmel Valley residents and the Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve.

Sincerely,

Frisco White
Chair, Carmel Valley Community Planning Board

Mr. James P. Avery

Senior Vice President, Electric
San Diego Gas and Electric
Executive Offices
8330 Century Park Court
San Diego, CA 92123-4150

April 17, 2006

Dear Mr. Avery;

I am a California utility ratepayer living in Carmel Valley Neighborhood 10 (known as Carmel Country Highlands). My neighborhood is bordered on the South by Los Penasquitos Preserve, on the East by Del Mar Mesa and on the West by Torrey Hills, which is the location of the "Penasquitos" substation as it is referred to by SDG&E's Sunrise Powerlink project. Since there is currently a set of lower voltage power lines running along the border of our neighborhood with the Los Penasquitos Preserve, SDG&E has stated this to be their preferred route for the 230Kv line between the Sycamore Canyon Substation and the Penasquitos Substation in their Sunrise Powerlink proposal.

Although there are strong arguments to the contrary, we understand that SDG&E is confident that there is a need for this project and that the project will be resubmitted to the CPUC in July along with a proposed route as required, but what is most troubling to this community thus far is SDG&E's complete lack of any attempt to mitigate the impact of this project on our neighborhood and the Los Penasquitos Preserve. SDG&E representatives told us at an Open House that they will only consider undergrounding our transmission lines if forced to by the CPUC. Your company thus far proposes to add massive steel and concrete pilons holding 230Kv **in addition to** the ugly erector set style structures that already tower over people's homes and scar the Los Penasquitos Preserve. The rationale for not needing to mitigate this impact is that we are already impacted by some transmission lines now.

I would like to point out that the existing overhead lines in this community were put in before the expansion of community development and they are no longer appropriate given the additional voltage proposed and number of homes now in close proximity. If EMF exposure is not a real enough concern for SDG&E or the CPUC to consider, there is also the increased wildfire risk in an area that already has a significant fire load (due to the dense vegetation of the Preserve) and that suffers from inadequate fire and rescue response times (due to the lack of a nearby fire station). There are the collision risks posed by birds from the preserve and low flying military aircraft from MCAS Miramar, and, finally, there are the visual impacts of the taller, more intrusive metal and concrete pilons that are proposed to be added along with additional 230Kv of power.

The implication that our fire, health, safety and aesthetic concerns somehow count less because we are already impacted by some transmission lines (as was suggested at the SDG&E Open House) is outrageous and I would argue quite the opposite. Undergrounding options do exist at a reasonable cost and the lack of the examination by SDG&E of any less invasive implementation in this neighborhood and the Preserve shows a complete lack of concern for local ratepayers, their home values and their treasured, shrinking open space.

There is evidence to suggest that new technology exists to accomplish this undergrounding effort at a cost equal to or not much more than the overhead line option. (please see ASEA Brown Boveri/ABB at: <http://search.abb.com/library/ABBLibrary.asp?DocumentID=9AKK100580A2085&LanguageCode=en&DocumentPartID=&Action=Launch> for further information). If what ABB proclaims is true, this new technology would be a benefit to SDG&E and ALL rate-payers and prevent the destruction of countless miles of wilderness. I would think this is something the CPUC and SDG&E would find worthy of examining.

The transmission corridor through our neighborhood is unique in that it negatively impacts residences and 2 Preserves (Del Mar Mesa and Los Penasquitos Preserves). Undergrounding ALL the lines would restore the beauty of the Preserve view corridor and improve the property value of the homes in the nearby community, reduce the fire risk to almost nothing, prevent collisions (from aircraft or birds) and disperse the EMFs more quickly from the undergrounding location to the edge of the right-of- way. Even without new technology, the effort to underground this (approx.) 3 mile segment of the Penasquitos line would probably cost less than 1% of the cost of this entire project.

If SDG&E were to explore new technology and other ways to mitigate the impact of the power transmission infrastructure cutting through this neighborhood, they could be rewarded with the appreciation and support of the community; however, we cannot support a proposal that takes such little stock of its impact on the community and ratepayers as to **not** explore mitigation options unless forced to by regulatory agencies.

Let's not allow the further destruction of our landscape and the perpetuation of century old technology simply because SDG&E does not care to exercise due diligence with regard to technological advancements and implementation alternatives.

Sincerely,

Laura Copic
N10 Representative
Carmel Valley Planning Board