

Pacific Southwest Railway Museum

4695 Nebo Drive
La Mesa, CA 91941-5259

September 21, 2007

Billie Blanchard, CPUC and Lynda Kastoll, BLM
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery St, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104-3002

Dear Ms. Blanchard and Kastoll:

RE: SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink Project

It has recently come to our attention that a new alternative is being studied for a power line from El Centro to northern San Diego County that would pass through the southeastern portion of San Diego County, and, in particular, the community of Campo. With a unanimous vote, the Board of Directors of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum has directed this letter be sent to express our opinion on this plan.

While there may be other experts who will debate the necessity of the entire project, and the cost effectiveness of this project vs. another proposal, we will not weigh in on that debate. However, we do feel we are qualified to express our concerns on the effects of the community character impacts of another high tower, high power electric line coming through our community.

Campo is the rare southern California community which offers a "back in time" ambiance – an area filled with historic fabric which remains mostly undisturbed with the intrusion of "new and improved" development. With the notable exceptions of the Campo Hills Development, the sand exportation and the existing high tower power

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Owners and operators of the Campo Railroad Museum,
San Diego & Arizona Railway and the La Mesa Depot Museum

lines, Campo remains the same from its historic Camp Lockett days, and, the entire valley should be preserved as a historic site.

This fact was recognized by our railway museum when we establish Campo and the Campo Depot as the site of our museum. The lilac feeling of the Campo Depot, surrounded by the Campo Creek valley and the historic buildings of Camp Lockett, makes our job of transporting our visitors back in time easy to do. It is imperative that we work hard to keep this valley and surround area as is to keep this historic site pristine. For these reasons, the Museum is maintaining the historic depot and working with the County and State governments to bring about the creation of the new park called Camp Lockett.

With this background information, we must strongly object to the introduction of yet another high tower power line storming through the Campo area. These modern towers and high wires completely change the community character of this community, the very essence of our effort at maintaining our railway museum in Campo. Surrounding Campo valley with two power lines is not in keeping with the community character.

In addition, we would be remiss in not pointing out some obvious questions and observations which should be addressed in the environmental report.

1. How can a route from Imperial County to northern San Diego County possibility even consider a path through Campo? Campo is so far off that path that even the thought of it is unbelievable.
2. The request "to avoid having to modify the Forest Management Plan" by the U.S. Forest Department is certainly absolutely no reason to impact another community. Plans are just that – written text on paper which is, by definition, to be changed to reflect the current needs of the area in question. If there is a need to transport power, and, if that requires a line through a property owned by the US citizens, then, that requires a change of plans. "Plans" are not the environment.
3. Certainly no one wants high power wires going through their property. But, rerouting the wires to a route of least political resistance is not environmental consideration.
4. The lateness of this alternative and the lack of community meetings of this alternative strikes of "putting one over the community" – like the good people of Campo wouldn't notice it. This is NOT the way we demand our government to work for us – we demand full disclosure and proper noticing.
5. Campo already has a high tower power line. We have taken our share of the regions impacts. This is not a case of NIMBY because we already have one.

6. In the likely event of wildfire, which we seem to be having yearly now in this part of the County, how would our region cope with the requirement to deenergizing both power lines? If we could get by without that power, is the line needed at all?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment of this proposal. Please be complete in your examination of the community character of the power lines to the Campo community and address the six points outlined above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Lundquist". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jim Lundquist, President
Pacific Southwest Railway Museum