

To: Billie Blanchard,CPUC/Lynda Kastoll,BLM
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco,CA.94104-3002

RE: CPUC/BLM notice regarding an additional EIR/EIS alternative to the Proposed
Sunrise Powerlink Project
Modified Route D Alternative

From: Judith Withers/San Felipe Community Group

Thank you, for allowing comment regarding the additional alternative Modified Route D Alternative.

While I commend the Commission in its effort to listen and act upon comments regarding this project and all routes involved, it seems to me that comments made by agencies and large landowners take precedence over the needs of communities in the way of this project. I admit that I remain unconvinced that this hugely destructive project is needed at all. As more information becomes available, I am still left with the impression that this project benefits SDG&E and Sempra Energy specifically with out the justification needed to build it. I have become aware that this project is being sold to the public via fear, "we need to keep the lights on", and that this promotes an emotional reaction from the public instead of being able to reason this out logically with facts. Thankfully, that is your job, without all the hype.

I am aware that the "lines" in San Diego were artificially congested during the "phony energy crisis" which led to the recall of Governor Davis, and that these contracts expire in 2010 approximately, and that Sempra participated in this. Now ironically, Sempra is using this same congestion it helped to artificially create as justification for building the Sunrise Powerlink. In addition there is newer "smart technology" now available that allows existing transmission lines to be upgraded so that they can carry additional Kilowatts. To quote UCAN, "why build another freeway when we can widen the existing one?" In addition to this, it looks like the Greenpath will likely go forward which negates the need for the Sunrise Powerlink altogether.

Regarding the Modified Route D:

I believe the Cleveland National Forest is correct in assessing the need for staying "west of forest" due to the extreme fire danger. If this is true for the Cleveland National Forest, then it equally applies to the "proposed preferred route" whose path goes through not just the delicate Anza Borrego State Park, but also the higher altitude, forested pristine wilderness above it. This land is either State Park ,BLM, Wilderness Preserve, Wilderness Study Area, Indian Reservation, Vista Irrigation District land that is designated watershed, and small residential communities along the route: San Felipe,Ranchita,Santa Ysabel, and Mesa Grande. No only have these communities suffered high fire danger , many residents including myself have the problem of constant cancellation of fire

insurance policies, as we are targeted because of our most recent history because of the lack of fire hydrants in this wilderness. I live in San Felipe and have had to live through the "Pines Fire" in 2002 which burned right over me, the next year the "Cedar Fire" in 2003 and then the "Mataguay Fire" in 2004, all of which came right up to and/or over me on three different sides. The "Mataguay Fire" was started in July 2004 by arson, by bottle rockets set purposely. We are a very heavy tourist area here along the preferred route and have not only the danger of fire set by arson but also set by tourists unknowingly as well as natural causes. We experience regular dry lightning strikes. As a result of this we have insurance premiums of \$5000 a year and most cannot afford this. The insurance Commissioner is investigating this right now. You are right to listen to the Cleveland National Forest, and you should also apply this to the preferred route.

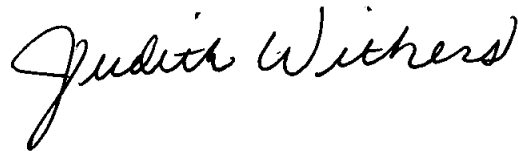
The location of the "Central East Substation" is located right in a residential neighborhood in the historical community of San Felipe. I have written more than one letter asking to be heard on this subject. SDG&E calls this area in the application "an undeveloped rural area". How can a residential neighborhood where children live and play be subjected to a substation of this size and be labeled as if no one lives there? It baffles me to think that no one seems to see the danger that the residents are being asked to bear. I am not even sure if it can be legal. SDG&E bought a tract of land long held by a woman for generations and when she died the family sold it to them. NOW, SDG&E realizes that putting the substation there would require a monumental amount of soil to be carted away, literally carving away a canyon in an area that is decomposed granite and silt that would result in a very unstable result and untold problems of erosion to surrounding residences. Vista Irrigation District who is named as another who gave comment recently said "they liked the preferred route as the substation was hidden". Yes, hidden in our residential neighborhood with no substation on Vista irrigation land. Why listen to Vista Irrigation District whom you refer to as a large landowner, when they don't live here at all? We do live here, but I have not heard our issues discussed even though I speak at every scoping meeting about this and write to you also. So now, in the latest scoping comments, SDG&E has this new "top of the world" alternative for the Central East Substation which IS on Vista irrigation land and less than a mile away from the original site. This I suspect to try and mitigate their mistake and their haste to buy a private plot of land big enough to hold a substation of this size, though located in a residential community. The original substation location is ridiculous to begin with and I pointed this out in my original comments to the Commission. The original site was the ONLY private land available in the area as all of it is, as stated previously, State Park, BLM, Wilderness Preserve, Wilderness Study Areas, Indian Reservations and private land and Vista Irrigation District. SDG&E is determined to fit this giant "Central East Substation" into this area no matter how preposterous the location, and are determined to make it work in spite of the fact that this is an equally substantial fire risk to local residents as is the Cleveland National Forest. The proposed route is geographically fragile, proposed to be built on an earthquake fault, and in the way of a regular military training flight path. Now, Vista Irrigation district is having to possibly concede more land to SDG&E because of the disastrous location of the Central East Substation to this "Top of the World Alternative" in order to try and find a reasonable solution to a situation that was geographically a disaster to begin with. This new "Top of the World" location,

while perhaps a mile further from the community of San Felipe is still in pristine wilderness, and mountains that are composed of decomposed granite. For example, the Mataguay fire burned that very "top of the world location" and from highway 79 and up the highway S-2 right up to the community of San Felipe where it was stopped in July 2004. That following winter we had normal rainfall with our usual flash flood rains with thunderstorms that summer. This resulted in huge mudslides and complete road closures to San Felipe road(S-2) from the corner of highway 79 all the way to S-22 no less than 12 times that year from winter to summer into 2006. I was unable to get home and had to drive all the way around to Julian due to these mudslides. You are talking about carving up these same previously burned and easily eroded mountains. These facts are equally important as staying out of the Cleveland National Forest. There is no acceptable site for the Central East Substation yet proposed, the "top of the world" location only slightly better but far from ideal.

In summary, I agree that it is important to keep power lines of this magnitude out of Wilderness and heavily forested areas. This would include not only the Cleveland National Forest but also the Wilderness of the preferred route located in an extremely high fire danger area. Especially since this is a scenic route, a heavy tourist area, which increases the potential for fire. I remain unconvinced of the need for this project, which so far looks to benefit SDG&E/Sempra the most with taxpayers footing the bill and losing property rights with it. San Diego is looking to de-centralize and generate its power and renewable energy locally without the need for an unprecedented 150-mile long extension cord through a State Park and Wilderness area. San Diego can easily meet its future energy needs through Rooftop solar on exististing business and residences, along with in basin generation using newer existing technologies. The Greenpath negates the need for the Sunrise Powerlink. Please give equal credence to comments made by those of us who actually live along the proposed route. Just because I don't own 40,000 acres like Vista Irrigation District, I represent the community of San Felipe and have lived in this area for 30 years, know it well and have lived through many disasters that occur in this area and know that existing in this back country is fragile.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Judith Withers
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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith Withers". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name and address.