

**SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 25, 2008 - 1:30 P.M.**

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE WEISSMAN: The Commission will be in order.

This is the time and place for a public participation hearing in the Sunrise transmission line application project.

And the first speaker will be Mayor Voepel for the City of Santee.

**STATEMENT OF MAYOR VOEPEL**

MAYOR VOEPEL: Honorable Commissioner Grueneich, Honorable, Judge Weissman: Thank you for the opportunity to address you.

The City of Santee opposes the local generation alternative, and here's some of the reasons. I'm the seven-year mayor of Santee; population 55,000, located in East San Diego County, adjacent to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The city has intervened in the PUC process because of alternatives in the EIR/EIS. We're concerned about hypothetical projects in the alternative section of the EIR and EIS, specifically ENPEX. That is the power alternative right next to Santee, right next to Santee Lakes and a major landfill that is going to be expanded five-fold. So what that does is it concentrates foreign particulate matters, greenhouse gases, quite a bit of pollution. It's probably — the landfill part of this is probably not on your radar scope, but I'd like to put it formally on the radar scope now because that gives a great multiplier effect for carbon footprints.

Specifically, we believe that ENPEX cannot be built by the year 2010 and is not a legally viable alternative. ENPEX is inconsistent with the city's long-standing general plan and approved projects. And ENPEX would block a key federal, state and locally approved wildlife mitigation corridor. ENPEX project should be deleted from the EIR/EIS.

The EIR and EIS assumes that ENPEX can be built by the year 2010. That is not supported by the facts because of this multiplier effect with that major landfill. This would be a very difficult thing environmentally for them to get approved, and they would have us fighting it for years to come.

A no application for certification filed with the California Energy Commission and once again, the ENPEX project is located on an active Marine Corps base, not consistent with the Navy's mission, particularly in time of a war. It's imposed on the Navy by Congressional earmark. And the city council's adopted resolutions formally opposing the proposed project. It's inconsistent with the longstanding general plan and approved projects.

In December 2007, the city council approved a 1400 unit master plan community on property directly adjacent in the ENPEX site. More important too is it would block the major northeast county migration route, five different migration routes for animals and critters. All have a confluence there at that project, and they would not be able to cross into the rest of the county, and it would really destroy their migration patterns for years to come.

I thank you very much. And hopefully that helps you out in your decision making.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for coming, Mayor Voepel.

Is Mayor Morrison here?

All right then. Moving next to —

MS. JACOBS: Good afternoon. I'm Dianne Jacobs —

ALJ WEISSMAN: I'm sorry, Supervisor Jacobs. Wait just a moment.

(Off the record discussion)

MS. JACOBS: Your three minutes are up.

(Laughter)

SHERIFF DEPUTY: Can I have your attention. Everybody that's in the chambers, fire code, we cannot have this many people in the chambers. There is seating for a hundred. So if you're standing, there's — they're going to try and pump the audio from the meeting outside in the hallway. Next door, there's plenty of seating next door and you can go next door. I see the overhead balcony is full, so that's full. But we cannot this many people in chambers, especially standing.

So all the seats are taken. If there's a seat open, find a seat. If you do not, would you please exit out the back and like I said, stand in the hallway or go next door into the rooms next door. They're going to try to pump the speaker — the sound into there.

What they are going to do is call your name. If you signed up to speak, they're going to call your name; you come in and line up on this east wall. Okay? They can only call so many at a time. That way, you can get it moving and keep it moving.

Okay? We appreciate it very much.

Give us a couple of minutes.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Off the record.

(Off the record)

ALJ WEISSMAN: On the record.

Supervisor Jacobs, welcome.

First of all, I shouldn't say welcome. But thank you for welcoming us. In fact, for this portion, if you'd like to trade seats, that's fine.

It's good to see you again. Sorry for the interruption.

STATEMENT OF SUPERVISOR JACOBS

SUPERVISOR JACOBS: Thank you.

Again thank you both for being here in San Diego and giving us the opportunity to address you. I'm Dianne Jacobs, I'm a member of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and I represent a good deal of the eastern back country area where residents and property are directly affected by this proposed line.

I wanted to just say to — or make a point of the fact that I also really, really appreciate you having hearings in Pine Valley, Julian, and Ramona. And you probably thought that by doing that, that you would have hearings closer to people in downtown San Diego and only people in downtown San Diego in this area attending this hearing. A lot of interest in this project. And I know also when the people of Julian requested a hearing there, that you responded, and I'm very, very appreciative. Thank you for that too.

I'm going to be making detailed comments on the Environmental Impact Report at tomorrow's night hearing at Ramona. So I'm going to be very brief today.

I just want to take a few minutes basically to inform you, perhaps warn you, of what I believe is going to be taking place at this hearing today and subsequent hearings by others.

This afternoon, the Commission and everyone in the room is sure to witness one thing I believe, and that is that SDG&E — and they probably will shut my lights off for saying this — but they will have rounded up a small army of speakers from special interest groups. You'll see them. You'll hear them. They'll be using talking points. And with the possible help of SDG&E, these individuals and groups will tell you just how much our region depends on this line. And I respectfully urge the Commission not to be fooled.

The Commission should know that SDG&E officials sit on the boards of many of these groups and organizations you'll hear from. And in many instances,

SDG&E invests handsome sums of money in these groups by sitting on these boards.

It's my strong opinion that these speakers, at least a good many of them, are not supporting Sunrise because of careful deliberation or a review of the Environmental Impact Report. Most, if not all, of these groups issued their blanket support for Sunrise before the Environmental Impact Report was even issued, and I think that's significant to remember. In my opinion, these groups are supporting Sunrise after little due diligence and virtually no consultation with opponents of Sunrise.

The people opposed to this line don't have SDG&E's millions to fight back. Our resources have been a poor match to SDG&E's \$3 million public relations campaign. We don't have glossy brochures, flashy websites, matching shirts, and paid professional campaign consultants, but we do have an environmental impact report, a document that clearly shows there are cleaner and cheaper ways to keep the lights on in our county.

And we've also had a giant firestorm that charred the very path of this proposed line and its alternative routes; a firestorm that started — at least three fires started because of SDG&E power lines.

Like the Commission, I want this line judged on its merits, not by a well-funded PR machine that is in my opinion a little bit cagey about its facts and figures. So I look forward to explaining more to you why SDG&E has created a false choice for all of us.

And again, thank you both for the opportunity to speak today.

(Applause)

#### STATEMENT OF SUPERVISOR ROBERTS

SUPERVISOR ROBERTS: Good afternoon. Hi. I'm Ron Roberts and I'm a member of the board of supervisors of San Diego County. I'm not sure if that's a special interest group or not.

I want to speak to you here this afternoon regarding the Sunrise Powerlink. And I'd like to share with you that I have concerns on a number of points.

Number one: In the recent fires that swept San Diego County, one of the things that we became painfully aware of is how fragile our electrical supply was. In fact, at one point we were not only encouraging people to turn off their lights, but we also had to take the U.S. Navy off grid to make sure — to ensure that we had adequate power supply to keep this whole community running.

I'm also a member of the State Air Resources Board and have worked very hard to make this one of the best areas in the entire state with respect to air quality. And I'm aware of the Environmental Impact Report of an option perhaps that there could be up to five power plants in San Diego County to do the work that this line will do. I'm concerned both from a local air quality standpoint and from a greenhouse gas standpoint. I think the impacts of those need to be looked at and addressed very carefully.

I'm not here to address you on the exact route that this line will take, but it's clear to me after working on these issues and reviewing this proposal, we do need additional capacity and a linkage that

would link us to the geothermal, the significant wind and what I expect to be significant large solar installations to the east of us needs to be an important part of our solution. I ask you to look at these very carefully.

I support the line and I would hope that you would look at it carefully and see that that is a solution and an option to part of the San Diego County energy needs for the future.

Thank you for being here today.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

Is Mayor Morrison here from National City?

Oh. All right. Then is it Deanna Spain from Senator Kehoe's office?

Go ahead.

#### STATEMENT OF SENATOR KEHOE

MS. SPAIN: Good afternoon. I'm Deanna Spain, representing Senator Christine Kehoe, who is in Sacramento today. And I have a letter from the Senator I'd like to read into the record:

On behalf of the San Diego Region, thank you for adding a Public Participation Hearing on February 25th within the City of San Diego, in addition to the hearings being held in the East County.

From the beginning, the Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Project has generated a significant amount of interest not only along the proposed route for the transmission line but within the entire region. That's because the alignment preferred by San Diego Gas and Electric threatens the very heart of California's largest park — Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

In recent years, we in San Diego have found that our state parks are under ongoing and potentially devastating threats by big, major infrastructure projects proposed at every level of government.

Earlier this month, the Coastal Commission took a courageous stance in rejecting a proposed toll road that would have forever changed world-renowned San Onofre State Beach and its famed Trestles surf beach. The federal government continues to work on a triple border fence that will damage a unique natural preserve rich with a rich archeological and cultural heritage at Border State Park.

It is time for the state to place our parks and open space preserves off limits to major infrastructure projects. Too often, our parks seem to have become the path of least resistance. I will continue to lend my voice to those who oppose any route that damages our state's legacy to future generations — our state parks.

Thank you again for conducting an open process that is responsive to the public in gathering information about the proposed transmission line.

Sincerely, Christine Kehoe, Senator.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

Mayor Desmond from San Marcos.

And while the mayor is approaching the podium, would the speakers who signed up on the list and have numbers one through ten please start making your way here. We'll have a little bit of time, but you can start lining up against the wall. I'd appreciate it.

Mayor Desmond.

STATEMENT OF MAYOR DESMOND

MAYOR DESMOND: Well, thank you, Commissioner Grueneich and Judge Weissman.

My name is Jim Desmond. I'm the mayor of the City of San Marcos, and I am here to tell you that the city council has adopted a resolution in support of the Sunrise Powerlink. And SDG&E is not on our City Council.

But I want to thank you for coming to San Diego to hear firsthand from those of us who support the project, Sunrise Powerlink. And I have been joined with other mayors in San Diego County in supporting the Powerlink because we must stop debating and start building the infrastructure that we need to protect our quality of life and the economy here in San Diego.

It's never easy for elected officials to take positions on controversial projects, but — and I empathize with you in that everybody I hear, my number one complaint is traffic. Yet you try to build a road, and you get opposition to building a road. Another disconnect in San Diego is affordable housing is in one place and jobs are in another. The renewable energy is out in the desert, and we all want to live on the coast. We've got to have a link. We've got to get that power here, and it's clean power.

And as far as the route of the path, that's still debatable; but unfortunately when you put through a road or you put businesses in, you're going to inconvenience some people. And you have to think about the greater good. And that's how I sleep at night, is did I do what's best for the greater good. And I think that's what this Sunrise Powerlink is going to bring.

I think it's the right choice for the region and will keep the power flowing to our businesses and homes, and it will do so in an environmentally friendly way. And by connecting San Diego to the green power supplies in Imperial Valley, we'll ensure the lights will stay on, and we'll begin to address the issues as climate change and greenhouse gases.

At that last SANDAG meeting, our borders committee meeting, the supervisor from Imperial County came. And he gave a presentation on how much power is actually out there, how much geothermal is out there, how much solar is out there. They're thinking of selling to the state of Nevada, the state of Arizona. They've got a large, untapped, renewable energy resource out there. We've got to get ourselves to it.

My son, who's 16, about the only thing I can get him to do with me is we go out dirt-bike riding out by the Salton Sea. And there's these gas domes out there that you can ride up to. They're kind of not quite as pretty as Old Faithful, but there's energy out there. And unfortunately, it's out there, and we're over here.

So now's that time, I think, to take the big steps for a cleaner and more sustainable energy future. Large-scale solar and wind and geothermal projects are waiting to be tapped into. We just need the courage and conviction to get that done and do what's best for the greater good.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mayor.

Now I believe there are — I know there are two or three people here who are on the staff of elected officials.

Are there any other elected officials in the room?

(No response)

ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. From this point on, we're actually going to, unfortunately, have to reduce people to two minutes, hold people to two minutes time, because we have about 110 people left who want to speak, and we're going to be here for many hours the way it is. We're grateful to be here, but I think in order to give everybody a chance to speak, we're going to have to reduce the time.

So why don't we start with Mr. — I can't make out the name. Joe — I can't read your last name.

STATEMENT OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER SALDAÑA

MR. KOCUREK: I'll be happy to comply because I have incredible stage fright. I'm here from Assemblymember Lori Saldaña's office, and I'm going to read the second half of her letter because she's been on the record in opposition to the Powerlink for some time.

I think it should be clear that the Legislature's intent in requiring the increased use of renewables would also demand the development of environmentally responsive generation proposals before considering the sacrifice of state park land, open space or other natural resources.

Now that viable alternatives have been developed and evaluated by the PUC and the BLM, we should seize this opportunity to explore the preferred options more fully, referring to the preferred options in the Draft EIR. I believe that these in-area alternatives offer San Diego a more independent, reliable and an environmentally responsive energy future.

I respectfully encourage the Commission to require the utility to pursue alternatives to this proposal with greater regard for conserving the state's natural resources, increasing local renewable energy generation capacity, and assuring ratepayer benefits.

Sincerely, Lori Saldaña, Assemblymember, member of the Natural Resources Committee in the Assembly.

That's it.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF ASSEMBLYMAN PLESCIA

MS. RIELLA: Good morning. I'm here today on behalf of Assemblyman George Plescia to reaffirm his support for the Sunrise Powerlink.

The San Diego region continues to grow, as does the demand for more energy. The Sunrise Powerlink will add another 1,000 megawatts of import capacity to our strained transmission grid, helping to secure energy reliability for homes and businesses. And while Assemblyman Plescia is a supporter of the Sunrise Powerlink — the project will impact communities within his assembly district — he strongly encourages the CPUC and SDG&E to exhaust all opportunities to reduce impacts on homes and businesses, including, excuse me, placing transmission lines underground where feasible.

Thank you in advance for your support for the Sunrise Powerlink.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. RÜTHER

MR. RÜTHER: Thank you very much for making the time available.

Meinolf Rüter is my name. I live in Escondido. I'm opposing this project because of the gross inefficient technology.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Excuse me a second, Mr. Rüter.

Is Joe Garuba here?

All right. I guess he had his name here, but he's not here.

I'm sorry. Go ahead, Mr. Rütter.

MR. RÜTHER: According to an article in Der Spiegel, a German magazine, Issue No. 34 last year, the Green Party of Germany prides itself of having surpassed the U.S. in the number of wind generators. As here, they are not exactly pretty, but do most of the time produce some meaningful electricity. Although two winters ago, the coldest on record in 60 years necessitated buying electricity also, since there was no wind. Together with these windmills, the kilowatt-hours are very high, original construction and later continued maintenance and repair costs after this equipment has aged a few years. Then there is, of course, the cost of long power lines. Solar panels diminished in output over a relatively few years. Besides solar panels that have gotten dirty or snow-covered or damaged by UV rays produce about as much energy as windmills under no-wind conditions.

According to Der Spiegel, there are now 79,000 people, full-time employees, on this project. They are drawing wages, wind or no wind, to keep this trickle of again — on-again/off-again electricity coming. A completely free energy of greenhouse gases emissions that can be built and much cheaper operated right where the power is needed is nuclear. Much cheaper operated, it powers the — region reliably.

Thank you very much for your time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Rütter.

STATEMENT OF MR. KNIGHT

MR. KNIGHT: Hi. I'm Gary Knight, president and CEO of the San Diego North Economic Development Council.

Our organization represents the businesses. It covers 2,000 square miles, 1.5 million people and 49,000 businesses. And within our area also is two power plants, the most recent Palomar and the Encina repower.

And the issue that we're facing is, is that with all of our capacity, we still have suffered brown-outs in the last three years. And the reason has been — is transmission that's available at moving the power around, let alone the demand that we do have on our resources. So we're urging the Commission to propose the approval of this Powerlink so we can have not only the capabilities of producing the power, but getting it to where it's needed.

Our — as will be testified, probably many others — our businesses suffer not just thousands of dollars but literally millions of dollars when the power goes out in interruptions, especially in areas like biotech and high tech.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. PATEL

MS. PATEL: Thank you very much for accommodating me. I do have a plane to catch, so I'll keep this very brief.

I'm Amisha Patel of the California Chamber of Commerce, the state's largest business advocate, representing over 16,000 small, medium and large businesses in California. We are in support of the Sunrise Powerlink.

Again, I'll keep this very brief. We have submitted written comments. Three major reasons why we support the Sunrise Powerlink:

One, California businesses and consumers rely on a secure energy grid. It is absolutely important that we keep our infrastructure up to date. And as you know, this region is in dire need of some infrastructure that can transmit more electricity throughout the state.

Also, second, the energy demand in California, as we all know, rises each year as our population increases. We need to keep up with this demand. We're talking about our economy, about jobs and businesses, and whether our state can remain attractive to the rest of the states and other businesses throughout the nation.

And the final point I want to make, which is perhaps the most important considering our climate these days, is the environmental initiatives that this state has been engrossed in. Number one, AB 32. This is perhaps the most important environmental initiative the state has ever taken on because of its impact on all businesses and consumers in the state. It is absolutely critical that we make sure that we have the tools to get to our goals. And the Sunrise Powerlink is one of those tools. It's one in the entire tool box. However, without ensuring that we have adequate infrastructure, there is no way to deliver the renewables to where they need to be.

So for all of these reasons, again, we support the Sunrise Powerlink, and we hope to be and continue to comment on this project as the proceedings go on.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

#### STATEMENT OF MR. DAVIS

MR. DAVIS: William Davis. Welcome to America's finest city. We're a property owner. We have nine acres in the back county in Deerhorn Valley. There's about six parcels where the line goes through it, and we're inside the forest, southwest corner.

One of my questions is some of the maps show it going through the property. Other maps show it going around the property. And I was wondering if they're going to take it or not. It's 602-020-0800.

My other concern is I noticed that at the bottom of Imperial County there's a 12-mile strip of land that's below sea level on our border with Mexico. And there's about 1600 acres — 1600 square miles that are below sea level all the way up to the Salton Sea, which is 227 feet below sea level. The existing line runs about 25 miles below sea level on the way west. Below that it goes — 7 more miles below the border it is also below sea level. And then you run into Laguna Salada, which is about 80 percent of the way to the Baja, to the Sea of Cortez, and it is 100 feet below sea level. So there's a sand bar that the Colorado River left there that is in question that's about 4 miles wide.

And the federal corridor, the Westwide Corridor, also will be going through there at about two-thirds of a mile wide. And it just seems to be more prudent to go east and north of the Salton Sea on the high ground for such an important corridor.

The prior speaker mentioned that they want to get the renewables here. Well, you know, what about the Southwest Powerlink? They've got a 500 kV line right now that runs along the same exact area.

Also, you've got two plates, geographic plates, that bump up against each other north to south, and that's why you have all the geothermal wells down there. And so I just thought it would be much more prudent to go around that area.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.



STATEMENT OF MS. DAVIS

MS. DAVIS: Judge Weissman and Commissioner Grueneich, thank you for hearing our comments, and I hope to add more and to follow this process with you.

I have been following the EIR extensively from the very beginning, from the scoping.

I have written letters with environmental concerns about endangered species, species of concern, California state species of concern and have listed them with the Aspen environmental team and asked them please to take that into consideration in putting the EIR together.

I am still going through the 7,500 page document. I am finding some areas that are of concern and that I wonder if the team has overlooked some areas where we needed to have specific consideration for the habitat for endangered species. There isn't one route that San Diego Gas and Electric put before us that doesn't have endangered species, that doesn't have habitat that will be harmed, that will be scarred, earth for these 40-foot deep towers, 160 feet tall, half a million volts of electricity transmission. And so I bring to you today my concerns. In particular, I wrote a letter about the quino checkerspot. The historical data that has been collected for many years, some from Dr. Ehrlich at Stanford University in the Jamul area, east Jamul area, which in this EIR document, your biologist put a reference on D.2-a: Surveys for the quino checkerspot butterfly were not conducted for the alternatives because the 2007 flight season was not preceded by adequate rainfall.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Excuse me. I'll have to ask you to wrap up now. These are very valuable comments and we certainly encourage you to make them on the record during the environmental process.

MS. DAVIS: I will continue, because I think there may be some areas where we can still improve and finalize the EIR. I am opposed to this project.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for coming. We look forward to getting your comments.

Looking for Jean Emmons. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. EMMONS

MS. EMMONS: Hi. Thank you. I'm Jean Emmons from Santee, and I'm opposed to this project.

I spent the last probably six weeks in Colorado. Just got back and I can't believe it even got this far.

The whole idea of running these power lines across the Anza-Borrego Desert or any of these other wildlife habitats and things listed in the ENPEX appalls me when you are talking about — at least the paper, the TV talked about closing a place that was proposed so that the Chargers could build a stadium there. If you already have a right-of-way, start another way.

The only solution I could see that if you must run this thing as a state mandate or something, when the government builds their triple border fence, run your power lines in between the fence. You can wire it to the fence and it would —

(Applause)

MS. EMMONS: — solve a whole lot of legal problems. Probably would only have one that was fried. They may not have a respect for us and our laws, but they are not stupid. That would free up the border patrol to go out and run some of the 20 million others that are running around the country.

Thank you.

(Applause)

STATEMENT OF MR. SAVAGE

MR. SAVAGE: Good afternoon, Judge and Commissioner. Thank you for your time. I'm Warren Savage representing the Santee Chamber of Commerce. I just want to indicate that we're looking ahead many, many years as to what's needed, looking also at duplicative input for power. We don't have that. So we're really in support of Sunrise Power Link simply because we need that power.

We've grown in the area. We have an opportunity right now, looking at the future to plan ahead and not be surprised later on with blackouts. We've already had brownouts. I think what we were looking for is a definitive way to build something that's very, very good for us and not be rushed into it.

Thank you very much for your time.

I think many people before me spoke about what's needed, but we definitely need Sunrise Powerlink for many, many reasons, all of which I think you've already heard. Thank you for your time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Savage.

STATEMENT OF MR. HAYES

MR. HAYES: My name is Ash Hayes. I live in San Marcos, San Diego North County area. Thank you for hearing public views on this critical issue.

I support the powerlink, Sunrise Powerlink. 62 years of my adult life has been as a San Diego resident. Today I am an interest group of one.

I have seen public services continually trying to match the spectacular growth of this area. Energy is the most critical need of families, businesses, and government. The Sunrise Powerlink is a major step to meet this need for the future. It will provide dependable and reliable electricity and at the same time help tap into renewable resources. It is very true that in order to combat climate change and reduce polluting greenhouse gas emissions, all of us need to do our part to conserve more and use less. Simple conservation measures are important as individuals. But every evidence is that we need to do more.

If San Diego is to have an adequate and cleaner energy future, we cannot rely on traditional local power plants. The Sunrise Powerlink is a responsible and realistic response to state legislation that mandates all California utilities like San Diego Gas & Electric to derive 20 percent of their energy supplies from clean, renewable resources by 2010. That's two years from now.

The line will also help benefit our downtown in our region meet the stringent new greenhouse gas emission reduction standards required under law. I strongly urge the California Public Utilities Commission to support the Sunrise Powerlink. It is the right choice for our region's energy needs and a clean environment.

Thank you. Go for it.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

Now Mr. Cummings.

STATEMENT OF MR. CUMMINGS

MR. CUMMINGS: Good afternoon. My name is Dan Cummings. I'm a member of the East County Chamber of Commerce and I live in Japatul Valley. I think there's no question that San Diego

county businesses and residents will need more electrical power in the future. In order to comply with the state mandate to have more clean green power, it will have to come from alternative sources. That means either nuclear power such as in France where 78 percent of their power comes from. But of course, that's forward looking and not politically correct. So the power could be generated by solar and geothermal power in the deserts. However, that requires a transmission line.

State park lands are set aside for the benefit of the people. People of this state need the benefits of more green power. It make sense to use the existing right-of-way through the desert to deliver that power. After all, the right-of-way existed there before the land even became a state park.

Building a new transmission line through the southern route will not increase reliability, being so close to the Southwest power line. More private lands and families will be affected. And all you have to do is look at the southern route from a distance. It looks like the path of a drunk wandering the parking lot looking for his car.

I propose that we use the existing right of way in the desert and underground where necessary.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

#### STATEMENT OF MR. AVEY

MR. AVEY: Thank you very for having me here today. I'm here representing Biocom, which is a regional trade association representing 550 member companies and over 36,000 employees in the life science industry in Southern California.

As our industry expands and more companies and workers are attracted to our region, it's necessary for Southern California to expand and diversify its supply of reliable and sustainable power sources. The life sciences industry depends on a consistent power source to complete very complex experiments, testing and manufacturing. These processes have almost no tolerance for unanticipated variables.

The life science industry requires reliability, and having the Sunrise Powerlink as one of the major power sources in the diversified power portfolio will give this level of energy predictability.

I strongly urge you to support the Sunrise Powerlink and reject the recently released draft EIR. Solely expanding local power stations per the draft EIR is a short-term fix, while the Sunrise Powerlink is a long-term commitment to regional energy infrastructure.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

#### STATEMENT OF MR. MUDD

MR. MUDD: Thank you for coming to San Diego. As you can see, this issue has drawn a lot of interest from all of our citizens.

I represent the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. The number of employees and businesses I represent is immense. I've never seen an issue where so many of us have rallied around one solution. And that is, after the devastation that we all went through in the last energy crisis, we asked for better solutions, and the Sunrise Powerlink is one of those solutions. It's not the only one, but this is a very important project for San Diego and our region. And we urge your support for this project as you look towards other solutions.

I don't envy the position that you're in, and probably wouldn't want to be in that position myself. However, it is clear that the ability for us to develop a relationship with the Imperial Valley to get renewable energy from them is outstanding, an outstanding solution for the future of San Diego. And these are 20-year plans that we're looking to develop.

So thank you, and we urge for support.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. MEDINA

MR. MEDINA: Good afternoon. My name is William Medina. I'm a resident of San Diego, and I'm speaking in opposition to the SDG&E alternative.

Like many residents here today, my initial concerns were around the aesthetic issues associated with this project. However, as I studied the project in more detail, I soon came to question the technical and economic justifications for this very expensive project. For example, the Energy 2030 Study performed by the San Diego Association of Governments recommends increasing in-county generating capacity and developing in-county renewable resources.

Coincidentally, this recommendation is supported by the top two alternatives in the EIR study.

I'm not a transmission expert, but as an electrical engineer, I can say that there are numerous benefits to locating power generators at or near the customer load.

The Sunrise Powerlink proposal transmits power over 150 miles, which, in my opinion, cannot be supported by any engineering or cost/benefit analysis.

In closing, if this project is to proceed, I would strongly encourage the Commission to look at the shorter alternatives proposed in the study. Specifically, the Coastal Link system upgrade alternative which eliminates all environmental impacts to the Coastal Line at a much lower cost.

Thank you for the opportunity to address my concerns.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Medina.

STATEMENT OF MR. COONS

MR. COONS: Bruce Coons, executive director of Save Our Heritage Organization.

Save Our Heritage Organization is a countywide historic preservation group. We're California's oldest and one of the nation's largest. We are local partners with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

We're opposed to the proposed project by SDG&E due to its impacts to cultural and historical resources that we feel are not adequately covered in the EIR currently, and certainly mitigation does not meet the requirements of CEQA.

This power line will travel over the routes to California that were used by the early immigrants. This is the southern immigrant route to California. And in particular, it goes through Warner's Ranch and the Santa Ysabel Valley. At the Warner's Ranch where the original ranch house still exists was the first glimpse the people got of what they called the promised land figured prominently in all the diaries. This power line would disrupt probably the only spot in the western migration where they actually got a glimpse of the promised land. It still resembles exactly the way it was. All the other routes have been compromised.

We believe that we wouldn't even be talking about this project if SDG&E and Sempra weren't allowed to divest themselves of their local generating plants and become mainly a company that makes

most of their money from power transmission. We believe that this is the obvious reason why they want to build a power line because this is where their normal base of income is. And so we feel that the other alternatives that are within the EIR much better will supply our needs for the future. And please, adopt one of the less damaging environmental alternatives.

Thank you very much.

#### STATEMENT OF MS. LUTAR

MS. LUTAR: Good afternoon. Lani Lutar, president and CEO of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association.

We did submit comments in writing, so I'll keep my comments brief today.

We strongly urge your support of the Sunrise Powerlink. For far too long, our region has relied heavily on older, less efficient power plants on our precious coastline that are very expensive to operate.

We also understand that our existing power grid is nearing its limit, and that's not surprising concerning that no new power lines have been built connecting San Diego to the state's grid in the last 25 years.

Older power plants and a strained grid mean higher costs for San Diego ratepayers. That's why we support the Sunrise Powerlink. It will reduce the need to run those older power plants and import more cost-effective power supplies, helping to save ratepayers over one hundred million per year in energy costs.

We believe it's rare when a major piece of infrastructure can actually reduce costs for customers, and that's again why we support Sunrise.

Last, I just wanted to end my comments by saying that transmission lines, landfills, and airports, those are three items that it's always difficult to get community support for, but that doesn't mean that it's not critically necessary for the community, for the current and future generations. And we urge you to take the politically brave decision. It may not be an easy decision, but the support will be needed for the infrastructure of this region.

Thank you.

#### STATEMENT OF MR. BRADHURST

MR. BRADHURST: Good afternoon. My name is Jonathan Bradhurst. I'm the senior vice-president for Westfield America here in San Diego.

As you may know, Westfield is a global real estate developer, owner and manager of retail malls. And in the United States, we own and operate more than 60 them. Here in San Diego, we own and operate seven regional centers where more than 15,000 employees get a pay check every year, and more than 65 million visitors come to the centers each year.

As you'd expect, we require a fair amount of electricity; in fact, a lot. This large volume of electricity that's required in our centers is one of the main reasons why Westfield globally is spearheading its direction to green company, looking for sustainable energy supplies wherever we locate.

Last year, we unveiled a \$2 billion project here in had San Diego that will add, amongst other things, it will center a green emphasis on its generation of power using sustainable material and designs, use of reclaimed water, and solar power. So when it's finished, we're going to be the largest and first U.S. Green Building Council certified shopping mall in the country.

That all being said, we will generate, hopefully on our building, enough power to save 1 or 2 megawatts as a result of solar power on our complex.

While Westfield is glad to do its part to provide greater San Diego greener energy supplies for San Diego, we need the help of state agencies like the California Public Utilities Commission. That's why I'm here today. I want to urge you to support the Sunrise Powerlink.

Building more power plants in San Diego might be an unavoidable future, but right now we need a direct connection to clean, renewable energy. From what I understand, it results in more plentiful and less expensive than the Imperial Valley. If this is true, then it only makes sense to build the Sunrise Power line.

Thanks for your time today.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

MR. BARRALES: Ruben Barrales with the Community Alliance for Sunrise Powerlink. We have a two for one presentation.

ALJ WEISSMAN: I'm sorry. Are you signed up?

MR. BARRALES: Yes. Through Scott Alevy, we signed up for the presentation.

ALJ WEISSMAN: You have to wait for your turn.

MR. BARRALES: We're No. 16.

ALJ WEISSMAN: I don't see your name here.

MR. BARRALES: Through Scott Alevy.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay.

MR. BARRALES: Does that make sense?

ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. I thought there was an Alexy.

MR. BARRALES: No, no. That was a different gentleman that just spoke.

My name is Ruben Barrales with Community Alliance —

ALJ WEISSMAN: I'm sorry, Mr. Barrales, I don't see your name down here.

MR. BARRALES: Right. I'm number 16. If you had called Scott —

ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. You are going to have to wait your turn. Sorry.

MR. BARRALES: I was told I was No. 16.

ALJ WEISSMAN: No. I'm sorry.

MR. BARRALES: Okay. Then can we call — here's Scott.

ALJ WEISSMAN: If you'd like to speak, you can sign up on the list.

MR. ALEVY: I'm Scott Alevy. And if possible — we're with the same organization, and I have a medical emergency, and that's why I would like Mr. Barrales to speak for me, if that's —

ALJ WEISSMAN: He can get on the list and sign up later. That's fine.

MR. BARRALES: That's fine. I don't want to disrupt the process.

STATEMENT OF MR. ALEVY

MR. ALEVY: All right. Scott Alevy with the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, and I have to leave in a moment. I apologize for that. I'm also an east county resident, so I'm one of those people that lives in one part of the county and works in other. I am consciously aware of the surroundings where I live in east county. It's beautiful there. That's why I live there. But it's also beautiful because we're able to live the kind of life we need to live. We need to earn a living. We need to keep businesses open.

The idea of building additional power plants in San Diego is distasteful. It's not necessary. Energy can be created outside of the area where there is less population that can be brought in. That's what the Sunrise Powerlink does. I believe that you'll find, if you look deeply into the hearts of the people, not just the report, you'll find that the people, labor, the organizations, business, and charitable organizations in this community are looking for the Sunrise Powerlink as their answer. And we urge you, collectively, to approve that and move forward with our lives.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Mr. Claycomb.

STATEMENT OF MR. CLAYCOMB

MR. CLAYCOMB: My name is William E. Claycomb. I'm president and CEO of Save Our Bay, Inc.

I'm going to tell you what we have to do. You should all read this book (indicating) so you know all about Global Warming. And I want to quote a couple of times from this. And this is what we need to do. If we go with photovoltaics on our rooftops, we will have opened the door to a world the likes of which have not been seen since James Watt when a single fuel powered transport industrial and domestic needs alike. The big difference being that the fuel will be generated not by large corporations but by every one of us.

And this can be done. In 1999, a study was done in Holland. It was a follow-up on a study done by British Petroleum, and they came up with qualification that if you build a 500-megawatt photovoltaic manufacturing plant, you can get a kilowatt of capacity for \$1,974.

Now the price has gone up because the euro has gone up and the dollar's gone down. It costs \$2,507 today.

Mike Splinter of Applied Materials up a little bit north in California says he's going to build thin photovoltaics and right away start selling them for a thousand dollars a kilowatt. And by 2010, he'll have that price down to \$700 a kilowatt. Right now, it costs \$8- to \$10,000 a kilowatt to get those installed. So we can do it.

And here's a good reason why we have to do it. This again is from the book "The Weather Makers." Dr. James Hanson, director of NASA's Stoddard Institute and arguably the world's foremost authority of climate change thinks we have only a decade or so to avert the rise of the oceans of 80 feet.

Now, if that happens, you'll be about — under about 40 to 50 feet of water right where you are sitting. So we need to do it.

(Applause)

ALJ WEISSMAN: I'm not seeing James Desmond or Joe Raffetto.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Jim Desmond already spoke.

STATEMENT OF MR. PHEMISTER

MR. PHEMISTER: My name is Andy Phemister. I'm the interim president and CEO of the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce.

I just wanted to make a point. The speaker — two speakers ago Scott Alevy, because of the confusion, I don't think he identified he's with the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. I just it on the record.

San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce has supported the Sunrise Powerlink now for close to three years for some very basic reasons. This region needs a reliable, additional energy for growth for the community. We believe that the link that goes north that San Diego Gas & Electric has proposed is wise and one in that it stays away from the southern link that already comes into the project.

To keep our economy going and to keep our businesses going, we need to know that there's going to be sufficient energy. This is a long-term solution. Infrastructure decisions are tough. They require people making changes in their lifestyle in terms of what they see. And we understand that. But for the health of our business economy and for the economy in general, the chamber supports it.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. RAFFETTO

MR. RAFFETTO: I think he had to leave, your Honor.

Thank you, your Honor and Commissioner Grueneich.

I was stuck in the serious accident. That's why I wasn't here.

I am a somewhat smaller licensee of the CPUC as well. I'm Joe Raffetto. I own California Overland Desert Excursions. I am the sole concessionaire of Anza-Borrego State Park and it's my job to take people out into the Anza Borrego Desert. And I have actually one of my vehicles out front as you may have seen.

And I'm proud to say that hopefully by this Memorial Day weekend, that we'll be converted over to vegetable oil system.

I'm here in opposition to the Powerlink route because of many things, of course.

I was listening to the speakers out there today. It was good to see a lot of the SDG&E employees getting sunshine and stuff today. And I'd also — I think George Orwell's smiling today because this isn't a project that's talking about alternative energy. It's all about a power plant over the border in Mexicali. And I think most people in this room on either side of the issue know that that's the issue. And it's also about spoiling our great — our resource for everybody which is Anza-Borrego State Park.

I heard that one of the news organizations said this is a NIMBY issue. Anza-Borrego State Park is everybody's backyard.

And I had a banner early on in this thing. It said Find another route; do the right thing; find another route. Early on I got rid of that because I don't think anybody — everybody in this room, whether it's the ranchers, the people in Chula Vista, it's Ranchita, Julian or Borrego Springs should have to put up with this. My god; it's almost the second decade of the 21st century. Why don't we really have alternative energy? Why don't we really work on solar, roof top solar, not transporting it through the desert.



I just want to say thank you. And please don't make me explain to Europeans what those things are down below.

(Applause)

ALJ WEISSMAN: I want to ask, I'm noticing that when I'm calling speakers, they are having a hard time hearing. Part of the reason I think is because people are often applauding. So if people could please refrain from applauding, we can move more effectively.

STATEMENT OF MR. EFFINGER

MR. EFFINGER: Hello. My name is Kirk Effinger, and I am a San Marcos resident and a native of San Diego county, as are my two children. That's the special interest group that I'm talking about today.

I'd like my children to be able to afford to continue to live here long after I'm gone.

I disagree with the CPUC's plan outlined in the Sunrise Powerlink Draft Environmental Report that calls for up to five new power plants to be built in San Diego instead of importing cleaning energy via the Sunrise Powerlink.

That plan will lead to higher greenhouse gas emissions in San Diego and block access to the clean power in Imperial Valley that San Diego and the entire state are counting on.

I also dismiss the claims that say we can provide for our future energy needs with a massive solar program. Given the current state of our state's economy, it is unreasonable and realistic to expect any meaningful results from such a program in the proposed time frame. After all, how can one reasonably expect such massive infrastructure realignment in an economic environment that can't even provide enough fire trucks to adequately protect San Diego residents?

Both the new power plants and solar installations would never occur within the time needed to satisfy our energy demands.

Is it reasonable to expect residents and environmental interests to allow these new power plants within their midst?

Given the difficulties encountered when trying to address our looming water shortage, traffic congestion and housing shortage, I think not. If numerous events of the past several years are any indication, even if these groups and countless nameless others not yet envisioned eventually relent, their efforts to block such developments would go on for years.

The ongoing wrangling would succeed only in strangling our economy and ultimately increasing the cost of power delivery far beyond what the Sunrise Powerlink is currently projected to cost.

Our best opportunity for meeting our electricity needs now and into the immediate future is the Sunrise Powerlink. It will bring to San Diego County more clean, renewable energy than ever before far sooner than any proposed alternative.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. JONES

MR. JONES: Good afternoon. My name is Rod Jones. I am chairman of the board of the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

On behalf of the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce, I am here to express our support for the Sunrise Powerlink because it will help ensure a cleaner and more reliable energy future for this region.

This line will include electric reliability, which is critical to the businesses we represent, and it will provide more economical access for our region to the vast supply of clean solar, wind and geothermal power in the Imperial Valley.

With the Sunrise Powerlink, we can import enough green power to meet the state's clean energy goals — 20 percent renewable by 2010 — and limit the need to build more power plants.

I'd also like to address specifically the claims by some of the opponents we have heard that Sunrise Powerlink would not be needed if we all just installed solar systems on our homes and businesses. That's simply an expectation that is improbable, implausible and unrealistic. The cost to install such systems to homeowners and businesses is prohibitive even with the incentives.

We're talking about installation and equipment costs of \$12,000 to \$20,000 per family or per business, and certainly — that's after incentives. But certainly rooftop solar should be a part of the clean energy solution, but it's costly and cannot serve as the only solution or the primary solution.

We need responsible and cost-effective power infrastructure like the Sunrise Powerlink. That power line is the best option for our economy and for our environment, and we urge your approval.

Thank you.

#### STATEMENT OF MR. SINGER

MR. SINGER: Hi. My name is Gidon Singer. Been a resident here since the late sixties. I apologize for my ill preparation, but I thought it was important that I come here, and my name is on the list.

Basically, some of these people who — I'm very much in opposition to Sunrise Powerlink — they talk about quality of life and green energy sources, there's a variety of better energy proposals which people who are more informed, you know, the Smart Energy 2020 proposal, other people will talk about that.

But San Diego has a history of a lack of planning and caving in to big business and developers. And what's happened is there's been a lack of infrastructure, and what there's been is a lot more houses going online creating a larger demand of electricity. And that's a fact. We need to solve that problem.

But there are a variety of choices in regards to energy sources. There's one Anza-Borrego State Park, California's largest. This is a tourist economy. People don't come here for business. The primary — I mean they do, but the primary reason that people come to California are the oceans, the mountains, all the natural amenities. And they have dwindled dramatically over the last three decades. And once it's gone, it's gone for good.

There are other options. Doesn't matter how much money you have to spend to make those options work. Those outdoor places are priceless. I mean whether it's Boulder Creek, whether it's Buckman Springs, whether it's adjacent lands that are privately owned but affect the view sheds, which are timeless at this point, we'd like to keep it that way.

I mean if you're up on Santa Rosa Ridge hiking down from Toro Peak to Salton Sea, as I've done a few times, you see the sprawl coming in from all directions; but the natural ring around that park kind of gives you a timeless effect, which I don't think you'd have once the Powerlink could go through. There are existing easements, but they're small scale. And if anything, now that it is within park lands, that should be diminished and not increased.

And if Sempra's sensitivity, the parent company of SDG&E, is any indication, look at the coast — the Pacific Coast in Baja, one of the most beautiful coast lines, rivaling Big Sur, and look at the LNG plant. It's a monstrosity.

Thank you very much. Please vote no on the Powerlink. I thank you for your time.

STATEMENT OF MR. TRAFECANTY

MR. TRAFECANTY: Hello. My name is Dennis Trafecanty. I'm a resident of Santa Ysabel, and I have a partial interest in two buildings located in Poway. So I work in Poway, and I live in Santa Ysabel.

I was out there for the rally that Sempra and SDG&E put together, and I patiently listened to what was said. The lights aren't going to go out. On reliability, our biggest exposure on reliability is wind, fire, and the potential for terrorist attacks.

Okay. On wind, we've clocked winds in Santa Ysabel in excess of 72 miles an hour at my 3,000 foot level. And the person who had the five burn — start on his property felt it was way over 100 miles an hour.

On fire, we had two catastrophic fires in the last four years. You could put all the powerlinks you want in the back country, and they're all going to be down. So route separation isn't the issue here.

On renewables, it's not proven technology, the Stirling solar engine. And when it becomes, then you could mass produce it. The last article I saw that it's probably going to be well into the teens, not in the next year or two.

By the way, IID, Imperial Irrigation District, is worried about a line that they have there that might not be used if the Sunrise Powerlink goes in. So renewables can be — it's sunny outside. The renewables can be produced here in-basin. I'm getting solar in Santa Ysabel. And one thing you have to remember about solar, you only have to pay once. Okay. After that, you don't pay anything. Reduced costs, that's another claim.

The San Diego Smart Energy plan, which by the way, was funded by the San Diego Foundation, says that they can produce enough energy and less greenhouse gases with 700,000, not the 7 million that's planned for the Sunrise Powerlink.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

I'm told that this microphone works better if people stay back from it a little bit. I think it picks up pretty well.

And also, I just wanted to give people a reality check. We've just finished Speaker Number 25. We've got 126 speakers signed up. Very grateful that you're all here, and we definitely want to hear from all of you. And I think we're going to have to try to cut back even below two minutes. So if people can be as brief as they possibly can, that would be very helpful in terms of getting other people off the queue.

Okay. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. LARSON

MR. LARSON: I am Donald Larson. I'm a professional engineer and a resident of San Diego for 50 years.

I oppose the Sunrise Powerlink for many reasons, but I'll speak on just two: A lack of reliability and unreasonably high cost.

Despite what proponents say, the 150-mile Powerlink is inherently unreliable by design. It is vulnerable to a single-point failure. If just one of the 300 towers is disabled by poor maintenance, earthquake, wildfire, wind storm or human act, the other 299 are also effectively out of service together with the distant power plant. Loss of a small part disables the whole project.

Surprisingly, Sunrise cannot reliably import electricity on very hot days because there is little available to be imported. The California ISO has documented a generating capacity shortage throughout the Southwest whenever everyone turns the AC on. The only time Sunrise can import 1,000 megawatts is on mild days when regional electricity is in surplus, a time when we don't need it either.

Furthermore, if we build power plants, whether fossil fuel, solar or geothermal, to feed Sunrise, then the \$1.3 billion cost of this line more than doubles the effective cost of those power plants. It costs roughly \$1 billion to build a 1,000-megawatt power plant. Add \$1.3 billion for Sunrise, and we have spent \$2.3 billion for a \$1 billion power plant. That is a waste of money.

ALJ WEISSMAN: I'll have to ask you to wrap up, if you could, please.

MR. LARSON: Real quick. I urge the Commission to embrace the findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Report, to deny approval of Sunrise Powerlink in any form, and build San Diego's energy future instead according to the practical Smart Energy 2020 Plan.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. MC ILWAIN

MS. MC ILWAIN: Hello. I'm Virginia McIlwain, and I oppose the Sunrise Powerlink Project.

The first thing I want to say is that I should not be here. I would much prefer to use a late winter vacation day to spend some time out in Anza-Borrego. I'll have to cut my desert time short this year, and that cuts to the heart of the matter.

What do we as citizens mean when we designate an area as a dedicated state park? Do we mean that we want to preserve it in a natural state to be used for recreation by ourselves and by our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren, or do we mean that we want to set it aside temporarily until someone gets the idea that the state park is the most convenient place to place a power line or a highway?

We as citizens with jobs and family responsibilities should not be required to fight over and over and over again for land that has already been set aside as a dedicated state park.

Let me repeat: What do you think citizens and lawmakers intend when they set aside a beautiful wild area as a state park? I think the answer is obvious. And I think there should be some consequences that this idea of using the park for something as ugly and intrusive as a power line is even on the table.

I also want to say that I'm not fooled by the power company's pretense that this power line will be used to transport clean energy. They used that argument before when they built the last power line, and we all know that that never came to pass. We have a pretty good idea that they intend on using and building additional power generation in Mexico to evade U.S. environmental regulations.

Anza-Borrego is a treasure for us and for future generations, and we cannot allow it to be defaced for this ugliness.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

#### STATEMENT OF MS. COPIC

MS. COPIC: My name is Laura Copic, and I represent the area known as Carmel Country Highlands, our neighborhood town, the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board, which opposes the Sunrise Powerlink.

According to the DEIR, the Los Peñasquitos Preserve, which we border, is the most heavily developed and urbanized fire shed along the proposed project route. The DEIR concludes that the potential for an ignition in this area to result in a catastrophic fire is significant. The fact that power lines were responsible for three of the October wildfires tells us that the chance of an ignition is not remote.

The San Diego Fire Accreditation Report found significant gaps in service in this area as well.

Finally, the DEIR notes high wildfire containment conflict along the route in this area, no doubt due to the presence of power lines already. Slow fire response times, fire containment conflicts and a heavy fire load that hasn't burned in recent years, coupled with lots of capital loss potential equates to a catastrophe waiting for a spark. The Sunrise Powerlink is that spark, and there is no adequate mitigation for this risk.

The Sunrise — the increased fire risk is even more unacceptable because it would be forced upon us by an unnecessary, environmentally damaging and ill-conceived project.

According to the experts, some of the environmentally superior alternatives noted in the DEIR are also more efficient and less costly. Sunrise is clearly not the best solution to meeting our energy needs. It is simply the most profitable for SDG&E, ratepayers and constituents be damned.

The Sunrise will undermine our ability to achieve many of the goals of the state's Energy Action Plan and the San Diego Regional Energy Strategy, like maximizing local and distributed generation, local renewables and increased efficiency and conservation.

With this in mind, the Carmel Valley Planning Board supports the overall environmentally superior alternative of all-source in-area generation. It is less damaging, more efficient and lower risk. Remember that local generation is what kept the lights on during the October wildfires.

If the CPUC incredibly finds in favor of this project, we'd also like to support — express our support for the local Coastal Link Upgrade Alternative because it has been proven to be less costly and environmentally superior to the proposed Coastal Link while accomplishing the same goals.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

#### STATEMENT OF MS. MORROW

MS. MORROW: Thank you for having us here today.

My name is Carolyn Morrow. And as a back country resident who has experienced two wildfires caused by power lines, I'd like to object to this line in any form.

I want to compliment the CPUC and Aspen Environmental for the thorough, in-depth Draft EIR/EIS that has been produced for this project. The public hearings and the draft have shown that this project has been poorly planned and has serious environmental shortcomings.

SDG&E indicated in its March 6, 2006, letter to the DOE that it wanted help passing through Indian lands on Highway 76 and provided a map showing the complete line from the Imperial Valley substation to the SCE grid. Lack of analysis of the Highway 76 route appears to be missing from the Draft EIR/EIS.

Highway 76 has a riparian river valley that is home to a lot of sensitive species in and around the area.

I am also confused as to the lack of analysis regarding the LNG supply, both overseas and domestic. While I am aware that SDG&E is promoting the Sunrise Powerlink to carry renewables, not only do they not need SPL to meet the renewable goals, as SDG&E itself has stated, it is also doubtful that the Stirling contract is viable.

We understand that the main reason that SDG&E has bet the bank on Sunrise Powerlink is to be able to hook up to the Semptra LNG plants in Mexico.

Shouldn't there be a full analysis of this power supply before a huge line designed to carry it is built? How much is coming from unstable countries? Will it be the same situation as oil from the Middle East?

We hope that SDG&E has learned from this process and will be more willing to work with the communities for a better, more reliable energy future, and that they will become better community citizens.

There is a better way. And working together, we can implement the recommendations in the San Diego Smart Energy 2020, the 21st Century Alternative Report, and become the hallmark region for the rest of the nation to learn from.

Thank you for your time today.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. SMITH

MR. SMITH: Hi. My name is Geoffrey Smith. Thanks for the opportunity to talk. I live in San Diego in the Mira Mesa community.

I'm here representing an organization called "Wilderness 4 All," a coalition of organizations working to support pending federal legislation to create over 40,000 acres of federal wilderness in San Diego County. We oppose any alternative that involves power lines.

San Diego enjoys more biodiversity than any county in the continental United States. Much of this biodiversity is located on federal public land. The transmission line would potentially impact the following properties: Hauser Canyon proposed Forest Service wilderness; the Hauser Mountain proposed BLM wilderness; the Pine Creek existing wilderness and proposed wild and scenic River; the No-Name proposed Forest Service wilderness; Sill Hill proposed Forest Service wilderness; Eagle Peak proposed Forest Service wilderness; the Cedar Creek proposed Forest Service wilderness and wild and scenic river; and the San Diego River proposed Forest Service wilderness and wild and scenic river.

As established in *Mineral King v. The United States Forest Service* years ago, truly the rocks have rights — a right to an environment free from power lines and roads. I'm here representing the rocks today. They can't speak for themselves. What's good for the environment, furthermore, is good for business and the community. That's been proven by many, many surveys and actual fact designations of wilderness in the past. It's important to protect our public lands.

Yes to local conservation. Yes to local generation. No to the Sunrise Powerlink.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

MR. HUGHES: I was Number 27.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Sorry, Mr. Hughes. Did I fail to call your name?

MR. HUGHES: Yes.

ALJ WEISSMAN: You've been very patient. Come on up.

STATEMENT OF MR. HUGHES

MR. HUGHES: Good afternoon. If any of you have visited our wonderful national or state parks, whether for a short visit or an overnight stay, you realize what very special places these parks are to you, your family and all Americans.

Well, by allowing the Sunrise Powerlink to cut its way — I'm sorry, I am against the Powerlink. My name is Jerry. By allowing the Sunrise Powerlink to cut through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, you'll be changing the quality and character of the park for all of us. Qualities lost to Anza-Borrego would include possible archeological and paleontological sites, surely special views, and because deserts have been proven quieter than music recording studios, the desert's serenity because of that high-tension buzz.

No park is safe from this kind of danger, whether it be Anza-Borrego, Yellowstone or Yosemite.

What about a power line crossing Yosemite Valley view from Inspiration Point or the Wawona Tunnel Overlook? Farfetched? Not at all.

By supporting the construction of the Powerlink through Anza-Borrego, that precedent will be used as the foundation for any other utility in the country to construct what they want through any state or national park. And corporate lawyers will be referring to this decision for years to acquire public land to construct other projects through any of our parks.

This would be the first time land that was set aside for the public as a wilderness will be taken from the people for any project, and the sad part about it is that the Powerlink has been determined unnecessary by the Draft Environmental Impact Report and Statement that was prepared by or own national and state governments.

Considering the Powerlink will mean more imported power, possibly mean more back country fires — and we all know the tragic consequences of San Diego fires — and will destroy designated wilderness, how can anyone in good conscience support this construction?

There are better, smarter ways to increase power supplies in southern California. Please don't support a utility that would take more of what little public land we have left to build this senseless project.

I'd just like to add that, as you're Commissioners, I think you are in a terrible position because big business and corporations want this, and the people don't. The way for you to sleep at night is to say, yes, SDG&E, you can have your Powerlink, but you just can't go through Anza-Borrego, Cuyamaca or our national forests.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. VOSS

MR. VOSS: Hi. My name is Dave Voss, and I live in Oceanside. And I oppose Alternatives 3 through 7.

I'm very encouraged that the DEIR confirmed that there are non-wires alternatives to meet our future energy needs, but I am disappointed that the report includes the LEAPS route, both the route with and without the dams.

I hike and camp in many of the areas that would be affected both by the LEAPS line and by the Route D alternatives. Because the Sunrise Powerlink is such a devastating line to the environment, you might think the LEAPS is a good solution. Don't be fooled.

It has all the same problems that Sunrise Powerlink does.

It would ruin a pristine public land. Ninety-five percent of the route is on pristine public land in the Cleveland National Forest. It ties up our money in old technology while destroying our dwindling forests. It would require loss of spectacular views, increase fire risk, destroy habitats.

As a licensed mechanical engineer, I know the future is in distributed generation. I also know that SDG&E/Sempra does not make large profits on distributed generation. I also know that money spent on efficiency and conservation will gain you more power gains than putting it into power generation.

Don't let SDG&E and Sempra lead you into a false choice. It's not a choice of ruining a state park or national forest. It's not whether to dump our energy problems on Riverside County or Imperial County. We can take care of our energy needs here in San Diego, and we can do it environmentally sensibly and reliably.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. KILDOO

MR. KILDOO: Commissioner, Judge, my thanks for the opportunity to speak here this afternoon.

My name is Steve Kildoo, and I'm here today to speak in favor of the Sunrise Powerlink.

Please understand that as a lifetime resident in San Marcos and as a long-time community activist, I have seen the rural community of San Marcos reach near buildout and seen the impacts of regional infrastructure on our city.

I myself lived across the street from power lines similar to the ones planned for the Powerlink. The infrastructure additions to our city and every city in San Diego County are part of the larger regional responsibility we all share to make San Diego County as a whole a viable and stable region to live and grow in.

These power lines would be critical to the San Diego region, supplying renewable and environmentally sound energy to our region, creating an alternative power line in the event of regional catastrophe and creating a critical power backup that makes sure our economy stays working and strong.

There's no greater challenge than to plan for the regional needs of San Diego, weighing the desires and needs of those immediately affected by infrastructure with the ongoing and growing needs of the entire region. Yet that is the challenge that needs to be considered for every major regional infrastructure necessary for San Diego, from the Poseidon Desalination Plant to the 231 toll-road extension.



While working hard to find the best route and alternatives for all involved, it is critical to move forward with this project. I ask that you embrace the greater regional good and support this needed piece to the San Diego power puzzle.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Kildoo.

STATEMENT OF MS. FELDMAN

MS. FELDMAN: Good afternoon, Commissioner Grueneich, Judge Weissman. My name is Sara Feldman. I'm the vice president for Southern California for the California State Parks Foundation, which opposes the Sunrise Powerlink Project.

My organization was founded in 1969 and represents over 90,000 members throughout California. It is our mission to protect, enhance and advocate for California's 278 magnificent state parks, of which Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is a prime example.

The foundation was very impressed with the thorough and thoughtful analysis in the Draft EIR/EIS, and we are grateful for the very hard and challenging work that obviously went into it.

Reserving more detailed comments for our forthcoming comment letter, the foundation has one overarching observation to make, which is that we are very pleased with the hierarchy of environmental superior alternatives set forth in the executive summary of the Draft EIR/EIS. We urge the CPUC to pay very close attention to the recommendations found there and give them the weight they deserve.

As we struggle with threats to state parks throughout California, 125 at the last count statewide, 51 threats to 25 state parks in southern California alone, we strongly support alternatives that preserve our irreplaceable state parks for future generations, as they were meant to be.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Ms. Feldman.

STATEMENT OF MS. ROSS

MS. ROSS: Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to present the views of my planning board. I'm representing today the Del Mar Mesa Planning Board.

By way of introduction, we represent the residents, property owners and businesses in the Del Mar Mesa planning area in the city of San Diego. We are elected by our community. We serve in an advisory capacity and at the pleasure of the City of San Diego Planning Department and the San Diego City Council.

I want to say that this is a very diverse board made up of property owners, residents, business owners and developers. And today my remarks represent the unanimous view of our board. We urge you to reject the Sunrise Powerlink in the present configuration.

I'd like to introduce our community. We are a unique community located adjacent to Carmel Valley, just west of Carmel Valley Neighborhood 10 and south of SR 56. It is a historic community that goes back hundreds of years, and it exists today in its present form by virtue of several ballot measures and extensive complex negotiations between environmentalists, community planners, city and county public officials, public utilities, small and large business owners and developers.

As a result of this 20-year process of planning, Del Mar Mesa property owners deeded large tracts of their property to the public as part of the city's multiple species conservation program in trade for clustering homes on less environmentally sensitive lands.

As a result, Del Mar Mesa is home to approximately 1500 acres of coastal maritime habitat preserving over 17 species of listed and endangered plants and animals on land that went to Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve with the county's open space system. This wildlife connection is essential for habitat preservation in San Diego.

We are also proud of ten miles of recreational trails that link to the county trail system. We are not a closed community. We welcome residents from all over San Diego County to hike, bike and ride their horses. It is indeed a unique community. And it is through this land that SDG&E proposes to construct the western portion of the Sunrise Powerlink.

We urge you strongly to honor all those people who worked so hard to make the MSCP work in San Diego and not allow this project to intrude on it.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

For the record and for the court reporters, that was Lisa Ross.

#### STATEMENT OF MS. HARVEY

MS. HARVEY: Good afternoon. My name is Anne Harvey. I'm here with Laura Copic from the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board. Carmel Valley is a community north of the 56 and I-5 and also adjacent to Del Mar Mesa. Carmel Valley, our board is elected to represent 14,000 households, arguably the most giant office park in San Diego, and we have business and investment and residential representatives on our board. Our board also has overwhelmingly asked you to reconsider SDG&E's preferred alternative for the Sunrise Powerlink.

I've been on the board since mid 1990s and we have negotiated with Pardee and other developers for our open space, part of which is now part of Penasquitos Canyon and part of which is about 400 acres known as Carmel Valley Preserve. We have negotiated on an almost foot-by-foot basis at times. Each time we have been assured that in return for major entitlements, the open space that was preserved would be preserved in perpetuity.

We are also host to 400 acres which is the largest remaining standing southern maritime chaparral in the world. It's the kind of planned community where all of our houses have been built since. We prize our open space. It lowers people's blood pressure. It provides relief from urbanization. It makes all the difference to a lot of the people in our community and all the people who visit our open space. And we urge you not to let it be destroyed by this power line.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Ms. Harvey. Donald Lee and then Larry Hogue.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This gentleman claims to be No. 29.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Somehow I got missed and it could be my fault.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Actually, the name has been entirely scratched off.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ken Rupert.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Go right ahead. State your name for the court reporters.

#### STATEMENT OF MR. RUPERT

MR. RUPERT: Okay. I'm Ken Rupert. People call me Al. I am somewhat undistinguished resident and taxpayer, but I feel very strongly about the Sunrise Powerlink.

I've heard quite a few erudite discussions here on the environmental aspect, the technical aspect, the cost aspect, and I agree with all of these.

I would like to suggest two things. First, I would like to ask the commissioner to talk to Sempra Energy very closely about real purpose for this line because it is essentially a plant — a power line at Warner Springs and give Sempra access to the market in the Temecula and Riverside county and put them in a good competitive position to compete with Southern California Edison. I suspect that's a large reason for doing this, because clearly the environmental issue is a false issue. Sempra Energy has managed to connect the two. But solar energy or wind energy will flow just fine on any electric line located anywhere.

And what I would like to talk about though is something that I don't think has been emphasized enough, and that's the visual importance of the — importance of the back country to the coastal residents of San Diego.

Now, people travel to Julian. I don't think they're really all that interested in visiting Julian. They just want a country visit. They travel to Lagunas for the same reason and to Borrego. Now, if you mar the landscape, you'll ruin their visual experience.

Thank you very much for your time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Rupert.

Mr. Lee.

STATEMENT OF MR. LEE

MR. LEE: I'm Donald Lee, speaking against the proposal as a citizen of San Diego and without any special interest.

I have three questions.

One: How does San Diego Gas & Electric plan to meet its state mandate to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2010 if its parent company Sempra Energy is planning to use imported liquefied natural gas since counting processing, liquefying, transportation, and regasification, the greenhouse gas burden of imported liquefied natural gas will be about 25 percent greater than that created by the current use of domestic gas.

Two: Why is San Diego Gas & Electric planning to use natural gas with its greenhouse gas burden when the price of natural gas is rapidly increasing and likely to continue to increase while local renewable energy resources are becoming more competitive and in some cases are already cheaper?

Three: Why use natural gas that makes us more dependent on the economic volatility and political manipulation of potentially hostile foreign powers like Indonesia and Russia when we can use locally renewable energy resources that will make us less dependent and enhance or independence and sovereignty.

Because the Powerlink will increase the threat to our national security, to the economic well-being and health of ratepayers to the ecological viability of San Diego County's fragile ecosystem both from global warming and increased fire danger, I urge the California Public Utilities Commission to reject the Sunrise Powerlink proposal.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

We need to give the court reporters a break, and so what I'd like to do is take a ten-minute recess.

For people who are outside listening, there about 25 or 30 seats available the main auditorium.

And when we come of back, I'll ask people with numbers 41 through 50 to please be ready to go in ten minutes, and also ask you to start looking at your prepared statements, find that single most cogent remark, and be ready to make it. Because the reason that we're concerned about keeping this moving not only because we don't want to keep you all here through your dinner hour, we actually need to go to another meeting such as this out in Pine Valley, and fighting the rush hour traffic I know we're going to be cutting it sort of slim. So I'll try to ask you to get down to a minute to a person if we could have.

Thank you. We'll be in recess for ten minutes.

(Recess taken)

ALJ WEISSMAN: On the record.

We're ready to get started again. A couple of comments.

If I could please have it quiet in the room. People, please stop your conversations.

Thank you.

A couple of things before we move on. First of all, our compliments to the speakers. Everybody's clearly been very well prepared and had very interesting and useful things to say. I don't want that to get lost in the shuffle as we try to make sure you all get your chance to speak.

Second of all, if people are concerned if they're far down the list and have written statements and want to submit those to us, we'll accept those statements and include them in the record.

COMMISSIONER GRUENEICH: And we'll read them.

ALJ WEISSMAN: We'll read them, yes.

And on that note, there's a letter from Senator Christine Kehoe that was referred to earlier, we're going to include that, copy that and include it in the transcript as well.

Now, so we're ready to move on with those still here from the group of 41 through 50. So I think we'll start with Mr. Guseman.

STATEMENT OF MR. GUSEMAN

MR. GUSEMAN: Good afternoon, Commissioner Grueneich and Judge Weissman. My name is Dennis Guseman. I'm the dean of the college administration of Cal State San Marcos, and I'm here to speak in favor of the Sunrise Powerlink.

I'm the first one to admit that finding an appropriate route for this transmission line is a real challenge. There is no middle nowhere anymore in San Diego. And anywhere you build this line, there will be impacts. However, route challenges should be no reason to back away from a needed project like the Sunrise Powerlink. Our economies and our lives depend on having reliable supply of electricity. And I think we can agree that given the growth rate in this area, we'll need more power.

As I personally interact with business leaders across California, the issue of having sufficient infrastructure arises. And the question is will we have enough roads, enough power, enough energy to be able to support our future. I'm afraid to say answer is no unless we take steps.

We do have a choice when it comes to electricity. Do we have to continue building more power plants locally or can we take a more balanced approach and build some power plants and transmission lines like the Sunrise that can import renewable energy?

I am for supporting a cleaner energy future for San Diego. We need more solar, wind, geothermal power. But without new lines like Sunrise, our hopes for renewable resources are just that, hopes.

I encourage you to make the right choice for San Diego and support this project. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Guseman.

STATEMENT OF MR. IBARRA

MR. IBARRA: Judge and Commissioners, good afternoon. My name is Efrain Ibarra representing the South County Economic Development Council. I'm here today to claim our support for the Sunrise Powerlink.

On April 4, 2006, the South County Economic Development Council voted to support the Sunrise Powerlink 500 kV transmission line to ensure a reliable supply of energy to the San Diego region. To access low-cost power and to access clean power from renewable generation resources, the South County Economic Development Council board members noted that Sunrise Powerlink is necessary to ensure the electric reliability for the region. The link also allows for a mix of adequate in-region power generation resources and additional transmission lines, enabling our businesses to obtain the least cost energy supply. This is a vital component to our economic development efforts.

South County Economic Development Council encourages the California Public Utilities Commissioners to approve the Sunrise Powerlink.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. CARLISLE

MR. CARLISLE: Good afternoon. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you. I'm representing Padre Dam Municipal Power. Padre dam operates a water reclamation facility in Santee Lakes Regional Lakes and Campground. We are opposed to one of the alternate sites in relation to this Sunrise Powerlink project; specifically, the San Diego community power plant or the ENPEX power plant which is located directly adjacent to Sycamore Creek. It's also directly adjacent to Santee Lakes Regional Park and Campground.

Santee Lakes Regional Park and Campground greets more than 600,000 visitors on an annual basis not only from San Diego, but from all over the state of California and all over the country. We have serious concerns about the power plant and its impact on the recreational preserve. Those include the visual and biological impacts, the potential negative economic impact that this could have, a power plant being so close to a regional park and campground. And then lastly, the wildlife corridor that is proposed as part of our natural community conservation plan, it's a plan that we've been working on for the last ten years at a cost of almost \$500,000. That would include a wildlife corridor that would all but be eliminated if this alternative were to go forward and the power plant would be built in that location. So we are opposed to this.

Padre Dam will be providing a formal report in response to the EIR and the EIS.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. DOWDS

MR. DOWDS: Last name is Dowds. Curt Dowds. I'm a natural resource economist with a Ph.D. from Berkeley, but I rise in opposition to the Sunrise Powerlink as a citizen of Chula Vista and of San Diego County.

I have four quick points to make. The first one which is that I would ask you to remain suspicious of the claims of benefits that have been offered by SDG&E and CAISO in support of their project. They at various times claim that they can save \$142 million of annualized savings over four decades by importing renewable energy to replace peaker plants. Anybody who knows anything about renewable energy today knows there's a storage problem. You cannot obviate the need to build storage plant — peaker plants in basin by importing renewable energy from out of basin. Therefore, there's a contradiction in their basic claim of benefits.

The second point I would like to make very quickly is to ask you to examine whether we are not, in discussing this project, contemplating an inversion of what has been the traditional paradigm of energy production and distribution in the United States. What we're talking about here is offshoring the production of energy and importing it instead of building baseload and peaker plants in-basin and using the transmission system as a double backup, the G-1/N-1 hypothesis.

It often goes unobserved, but if you plow through the pages of this defense of this project, we're talking about changing the paradigm.

The third point would be please look at the efficiency impacts on the growth of load over the last 20 years.

And lastly, I would say that if you're talking about secure transmission, the least transmission is the most secure transmission. So that's the argument for distributed generation in-basin. And I ask you to consider that in your deliberations.

Thank you very much for your time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Dowds.

STATEMENT OF MS. KRAJEWSKA

MS. KRAJEWSKA: My name is Grazyna Krajewska. I represent Torrey Hills Community Coalition. That's in Torrey Hills in San Diego.

I would like to thank you for your common sense approach to prioritizing alternatives. We support your choice and certainly hope that CPUC will not approve this project as proposed by SDG&E. However, if it did, then — okay, in your proposal you kind of redesigned the Coastal Link. Like you remove the Coastal Link and it stays on the original SDG&E proposal. If it stayed, then there are more impacts to Torrey Hills than it listed. Like Torrey Hills does have power lines and does have the towers. But adding more towers, that spoil our view. So I think visual resources section should be mentioned there.

Now on the other subject, okay, I have here the summary of the impact, Figure ES1. And here in the very corner, okay, it says Connected Action: Stirling Energy Systems, Solar Two LLC Project. This project is a solar thermal project. You did not include solar thermal in your first few alternatives. In fact, you could include — like if you look at this picture, the yellow line going through the middle of this project, and this yellow line is Southwest Powerlink. So it does not seem like it's a big deal to connect the project to Southwest Powerlink. They need a separate line for that. The line is there.

Also, in the future, if more energy generated in the desert, then this energy can be connected to Southwest Powerlink. What would happen, it would just replace fossil fuel energy that is now imported from Mexico through the line. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Ms. Krajewska.

STATEMENT OF ZAHN

MR. ZAHN: My name is Charles Zahn. I'm a citizen of San Diego, a retired professor, and lived here six years. I'm opposed to the Powerlink and I'd like to give you some reasons. Global climate change is one symptom of the damage to plant earth caused by human activities. The health of our planet and therefore the health of the human race is harmed by all the following. I jotted down these five: Number one, greenhouse gas emissions leading to global warming; two, loss of vegetation; three, loss of biodiversity; four, loss of wilderness nature experience; and five, reliance on fossil fuels.

Number 4 may receive strange, but there's some evidence that folks who don't get to realize nature experiences tend to be less sensitive to some of these issues involving damage to the planet.

According to the Draft EIR/EIS for the Sunrise Powerlink Project, it contributes to all five of these environmental damages which I've listed. Smarter energy policies would focus on these approaches, among others, using less energy, copying European nations which they actually use less. They are also more efficient.

We could use more efficient appliances, and we have made some moves in recent years for that.

Demand balancing: There are ways that the Europeans do that as well, by having people's behavior change.

Local generation, which I think some people call distributed, is like roof solar panels is very interesting.

A recent update to the California Energy Action Plan, which I've seen more recently, seems more clearly in accord with these smarter approaches than with the Sunrise Powerlink, and therefore I'm opposed to it.

I have one question for the Commission. Has the CPUC considered American cities like Seattle, Washington, and Portland, Oregon, as models for forward-looking energy policies, including some tested solutions?

Thank you for listening.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. SANDERS

MR. SANDERS: Hi. My name is Ron Sanders. I live in San Diego, and I'm speaking against the power line. The Powerlink I should say.

The Sunrise Powerlink should not be constructed because it's unnecessary and poses a great threat to what is left of our back country open spaces. Bringing power to San Diego by long distance transmission lines is using outdated technology to solve problems of the 21st century.

We were told originally that the Sunrise Powerlink would be carrying power from renewable geothermal and solar power. In truth, most of the power to be transmitted would come from an — excuse me, come from under-regulated Mexican power plants.

Sounds like bait and switch to me.

Sempre's true plan is to run additional power lines straight ahead into the Los Angeles area where the really big energy markets are located. Los Angeles gets most of the power while our back country is permanently trampled.

By using more energy-efficient methods such as solar and wind power, using green building methods and building local power plants using fuel-efficient generators, we will be less dependent on long-distance power transmission and spend a lot less money.

California's state parks — as my closing here, California's state parks were designed to be preserved in perpetuity, not set aside for private companies to profit by building massive power lines over public land.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. VICKERMAN

MR. VICKERMAN: Good afternoon, Commissioner.

Reed Vickerman, from Amylin Pharmaceuticals. We're a local company with about 2,000 employees representing, obviously, about 2,000 families in the community. We're here in support of the project.

It was a very difficult choice. So I think this is more of a lesser of two evils if you look at what's been discussed already today. But just a few things.

Amylin is a local company committed to sustainability. We have lead certifications for all of our new buildings. We're actually putting in a million dollars' worth of photovoltaics on the roof of our newest building, so we understand that there are ways of doing in-area generation. But the problem is that the alternatives which have been proposed at least in this report would be much less desirable than an older technology.

The other thing I just wanted to point out with the — there have been a couple of comments made by other speakers that maybe would be worthy to correct. I've heard a lot of people worried about the source of the energy that's going to be coming across the lines.

I understand it from personal conversation with people at SDG&E that over 90 percent of the energy has already been contracted through renewable sources. So 90 percent of what's being transmitted across that line is renewable. And also that it is not connected to the Mexicali power station, which has been alluded to by a few of the speakers already this afternoon.

So in closing, I think the big thing for us is just that we believe that we have to have the capacity and reliability that the line would offer, and that we think that possibly with these renewable sources San Diego and Imperial County could become the world leader in this new technology. And that would be great for the local economy as well as the environment.

Thanks very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. SIGNOROTTI

MR. SIGNOROTTI: Good afternoon. My name is Vince Signorotti. I'm with CalEnergy Operating Corporation. I'm a vice president with CalEnergy.

CalEnergy is an independent power producer, and I wanted to underscore that we are not on SDG&E's board, nor are they on ours. We are independent power producers.

For 26 years, CalEnergy has produced clean, indigenous, environmentally responsible, geothermal energy from plants at the Salton Sea. Today we operate ten facilities and generate 340



megawatts of baseload electricity. We are developing plans to build three new power-generating facilities, each of which would be capable of producing between 50 and 60 megawatts.

Recently, the Imperial Irrigation District has announced plans to build 35 miles of new transmission line that would interconnect these plants to an existing substation called Midway and a new substation called Bamster. However, as welcome as that announcement is, that simply is not sufficient to get the power from these plants to customers here in San Diego and other coastal communities. And for that reason, it is absolutely essential that we develop new transmission, specifically the Sunrise Powerlink.

And what I would like to leave you with — because there are some folks that might contradict that — this is proven technology from a proven resource. Again, we've operated these plants for 26 years. Experts believe that there are an additional 2,000 megawatts of energy development potential at the Salton Sea alone.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. CATHY EVANS-CALDERWOOD

MS. EVANS-CALDERWOOD: It's a good thing I had lots of practice talking in front of City Council. They only give you a minute.

I am Kathy Evans-Calderwood. I have been an elected representative from my community in City Heights on the planning — local City Heights Area Planning Committee and was one year the vice chair of that body. I have seen a lot of environmental impact reports and learned a lot of the insider jargon here that we're dealing with. Unfortunately, we don't have a translator here for the people, the good people who have taken the time to come down here and the working people who have come in.

City Heights has a population now of 96,000 households. And we do use a lot of electricity, but we live in old, falling-apart buildings for the most part in this community that is revitalizing. And conservation of energy is where the future lies, not new power links. And I want to emphasize to you that I oppose this. And anybody else that has spoken here against it and given all their good reasons, I include with mine.

I favor the alternative possibly undergrounding of all lines that might cause fires. I have relatives in Santa Ysabel and Julian who look like they're going to have the Powerlink right over there heads and have been damaged by the fires.

But what I want to say here is that I worked for the City of San Diego and a research outfit called Center For Technical Services in 1979 out of Pete Wilson's office, as he was the mayor. I have dealt with the PUC before because our project dealt with energy conservation, and I wrote a book that is in the public library under my maiden name, Evans, on senior citizens' energy cost savings.

I was then appointed as the low-income representative to SDG&E on something called CEPAC back in those days, Community Energy Policy Advisory Commission. And I feel that the Powerlink is again going to charge money on the backs of the poor for the transportation of the energy that they might have conserved. And just as I was — I'm getting upset here.

My own personal experience as a low-income representative of people on low, fixed incomes and a disabled person is that we who do not have a voice are very rarely listened to. And yet, in all the shenanigans that have been going on for the last 20 years that I have witnessed with SDG&E now charging virtually a rental rate for the —

ALJ WEISSMAN: We really need you to stop. Please stop.

MS. EVANS-CALDERWOOD: — charges more than the electricity itself.

ALJ WEISSMAN: I need to have you stop now. Thank you. I've given you more than a minute more than anybody else. We need to keep moving on.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. PETERSON

MR. PETERSON: Good afternoon. I'm John Peterson, vice president of Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute. And I thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today.

I'd like to say that I'm opposed to the preferred project, that being the power lines going through Anza-Borrego State Park, which I was glad to see the EIR to be rated Number 6 out of the number 7 alternatives.

I'd start with a question: What is our heritage? Our forefathers in the formation of the United States gave us many treasures. Some of those most treasured gifts are the natural wonders contained within our park system.

I still remember with awe and wonder walking up to the edge of the Grand Canyon. I still remember with clear recollection driving into Yosemite Valley and seeing Bridal Veil Falls, El Capitan and Half Dome. I see and still remember driving out to the desert to see the wildflowers and driving out to Fonts Point and seeing the panoramic view of texture, shapes, colors and fabric. These feelings are now part of me and are part of who I am.

We have been gifted with these treasures, and it's now our opportunity to either save or to desecrate these wonders. I could not imagine power lines in the Grand Canyon or Yosemite Valley, and I can't imagine the sight of hundred-foot power poles as they march across the face and heart of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

SDG&E is now before us, this generation, asking permission to do just that. I ask you and I ask us, our generation: Is this going to be a gift to the next generation, or are our natural treasures going to be desecrated with a-hundred-foot power poles as they march across our state parks?

It is our choice. It is our determination, and it is our legacy to the future generations. And I hope this generation makes that right choice.

We have this statement within the parks: Parks are forever. I hope this generation has not forgotten this statement and makes the right choice for this, in fact, is our heritage that I hope to be able to pass on.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Peterson.

STATEMENT OF MR. HOLTSCLOW

MR. HOLTSCLOW: Good afternoon. Roger Holtsclow.

I am here in favor of the Powerlink. And although I can't speak for all of my industry, I am a property manager and real estate broker here in San Diego County, have been in business here since the late sixties and, needless to say, as most of you in the room, have witnessed a tremendous amount of development.

And respecting the folks that are here who are opposed to it, I am also vehemently in favor as a result of seeing the need for housing. After all, I think it's almost impossible to keep the area from expanding because we do have a beautiful area.

I think it's important that we offer not only those who live here and have lived here, but those who are coming here in the future with power that's a good source and viable. And I hope with that in mind that you take that into consideration.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Holtsclow.

STATEMENT OF MR. O'BRIEN

MR. O'BRIEN: Hello. Thanks for the opportunity today. I'm Danny O'Brien, and I represent the Santee Chamber of Commerce. I'm the past president, I'm on the current board of directors, and I'm also a small business owner in Santee. And over the last few years, we have had the experience of — experienced energy shortages, so we know what that can be like.

And I had looked at the environmental impact report, and that's one of the things we're trying to do, is do good planning on this. And we would all love the alternative of it not going through the park, having maybe in-basin generation, those kinds of things; but the reality is it doesn't work out economically. It takes too long to develop those resources. And when you look — there's going to be 203 renewable energy produced in the alternatives versus a thousand under SDG&E's plan. And that's a lot more renewable energy.

They say they're going to come up with other ways of doing it in-basin, but when you really look at renewable energy, it usually takes a large footprint. And you try to develop that in San Diego County — I've had the experience of trying to get projects done before, and it's not going to happen very fast. And, unfortunately, the need that we have is pretty urgent.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. JOOSTEN

MS. JOOSTEN: Good afternoon. I'm Lorene Joosten, vice president of legislation for Ninth District PTA.

Ninth District PTA consists of nearly 80,000 volunteer members in San Diego and Imperial County, and we advocate for all children and youth in our communities.

Ninth District PTA has two major areas of concern with the Sunrise Powerlink proposal: The increased risk of fire, which we'll address at the hearing in Ramona, and the impact this project may have on air quality in the Imperial Valley.

Ninth District PTA wholeheartedly supports the increased use of renewable energy, but we question if that is really what is at stake here. As an earlier speaker noted, the need to access renewables in Imperial Valley is the same argument made during the hearings for the Southwest Powerlink. While large solar facilities have been producing energy in other parts of the state for over a decade, the Stirling facility SDG&E has contracted for is dependent on technology that is not commercially viable. And the lengthy formal review process for this project has not been initiated.

SDG&E's recent testimony that their RPS requirements can be met without the Sunrise Powerlink casts additional doubt on the renewable argument. Meanwhile, the crossborder transmission lines from the two U.S.-owned fossil-fuel plants in Mexicali are currently at half capacity, and they connect into the same Imperial Valley substation where the Sunrise Powerlink would originate.

Ninth District PTA is concerned that the Sunrise Powerlink will result in the construction of additional, unregulated, fossil-fuel power plants in Mexicali further degrading the air quality of the Imperial Valley.

The likelihood that these plants will burn imported LNG from the recently permitted Costa Azul plant, which may contain a higher concentration of pollutants, is cause for additional concern.

ALJ WEISSMAN: I'll have to ask you to wrap up.

MS. JOOSTEN: According to the Draft EIR, the Sunrise Powerlink will have 50 significant unmitigable impacts, and five of its six alternatives are environmentally superior. We have concluded that the Sunrise Powerlink Project is not the best choice to meet the energy needs of our community and it has the potential to significantly and negatively impact the health and well-being of our youngest and most vulnerable community members, our children and youth.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Ms. Joosten.

If anybody is listening from the room across the hall, there are now plenty of seats in here if you want to come over.

#### STATEMENT OF MR. VELTRI

MR. VELTRI: Good afternoon. My name is Sam Veltri. I'm with SunCal Companies, and my comments will be a little more focused than some of the others. So I'll read them to be expedient.

SunCal is developing Ketchum Ranch. It's submitted and consistent with the county's general plan. And Ketchum Ranch is in Jacumba, and it's necessary for the community revitalization. The Ketchum Ranch proposes sustainable components, including solar power and water conservation. And the southerly alternatives will adversely impact the ability to develop exactly what is needed and promoted for renewable resources.

While SunCal is broadly concerned about the construction of lengthy transmission lines in general and would prefer a no-wires alternative, we are mindful of the fact that the CPUC may select the wires alternative. We are concerned that the EIR is factually incorrect in several respects regarding the current condition of the Ketchum Ranch property and Jacumba, with the result that impacts are understated and appropriate mitigation is not applied.

For example, the EIR fails to address at all SunCal's proposed development, even though an application for a development, including school, public facilities and services are on file. The passage of an above-ground transmission line which crosses the ranch under each of the separate alternatives causes significant land-use, visual, noise and aesthetic impacts.

The EIR inaccurately characterizes the groundwater basin at Ketchum Ranch, which means that impacts to the community's drinking water are understated and not mitigated. And the EIR fails to properly address current agricultural uses on the land.

In addition, the EIR does not give proper weight to the social and environmental impacts on the human environment and specifically on Jacumba. As a result, the EIR concludes that all impacts on Jacumba, rural residents, farm land and future development are less significant than the alternatives. And this reasoning should not be allowed to stand. We'll submit detailed comments in the letter.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Veltri.

#### STATEMENT OF MS. SANFILIPPO

MS. SANFILIPPO: I'm Valerie Sanfilippo from the San Diego Sierra Club. We have 18,000 members in San Diego.

Sierra Club and I oppose the SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink. It's a proposal for 150-foot towers that buzz from Mexico to L.A. through the Anza-Borrego State Park or the Cleveland National Forest or wherever. I understand it isn't even power for us; we're just an extension cord.

If it goes through the desert, it will destroy the wilderness and state park. It will no longer be a wild park. If it goes through the forest, it will cause more forest fires like the power lines did in the Witch Fire. The environmental impact scientists from the state and federal government say the power line is not necessary. It will cause air pollution, global warming, and I believe it will increase outsourcing of jobs in our national security.

I believe Powerlink is not about renewables but about the beginning of globalization of energy and jobs into Mexico with dirtier energy and cheaper jobs, cheaper labor.

My solution, I think it's — we should require SDG&E to fund alternative clean energy jobs and technology in our country. I think they should have to build the solar roofs in our town.

The Sierra Club says we need to cut our carbon emissions 80 percent by 2050 to avoid global warming famine and drought. That's threats to our food and water supply. We can cut 30 percent immediately with energy efficiency, which will pay for itself by energy savings.

Please require SDG&E to look forward to the future, not backward to the past or to a strange, insecure global future.

And I just want — my main point is please listen to the scientists and engineers. They're telling the truth. Don't listen to short-sighted business people with global ambitions. Please look forward to the future so we have a future.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. SUTTON

MS. SUTTON: I'm Tanya Sutton, a native southern Californian and Scripps Ranch resident. I'm strongly opposed to the outdated, damaging and expensive Sunrise Powerlink proposal.

Why would we agree to spend millions of our tax dollars on a project that would put hundreds of miles of unsightly power lines through our beautiful back country, coastal communities, parks and forests?

This project is especially unsatisfactory considering that, as the impact report indicates, there are far more cost-effective means of providing for California's energy needs. These alternatives, unlike the Sunrise Powerlink proposal, would utilize local, renewable energy resources, which would increase our energy independence and decrease our collective carbon footprint.

Two minutes is not long enough to list the numerous shortcomings of the Sunrise Powerlink in detail, but I trust that you will review the facts and deny this proposal for the sake of Californians now and for generations to come.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. PORTER

MR. PORTER: Thank you. My name is Rush Porter, City of San Diego. I'm here today representing Barratt American. I'm here in strong opposition to your Number 1 alternative, the Non-Wires Alternative of the impacts plan immediately upwind of Santee.

The EIR currently lists the new In-Area All-Source Generation Alternative adjacent to our recently approved project. After four years of tough negotiations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Fish & Game, Army Corps of Engineers, we have finally been approved by the city of Santee, which occurred on December 5, 2007.

In addition to the new homes being much more efficient than existing homes, we will have solar cells on all our commercial buildings, electric vehicle outlets in all our garages. We're exploring hydrogen fuel cells, and we will strive for solar cells on all of our home roof tops. We will do our part.

In addition to this community, we have a 200-acre city park and 10-acre lake next to this alternative plant location. This would also block our main habitat corridor. It was clear when we met with your EIR staff last month in Borrego that they had not had the time to seriously look at the impacts of this alternative.

Please remove the impacts alternative from your consideration. It is not practical.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. KUHLMAN

MS. KUHLMAN: I'm Rhea Kuhlman from San Diego.

Sunrise Powerlink may be a good idea for Sempra shareholders. Can you hear?

The Sunrise Powerlink may be a good idea for Sempra shareholders, but it's a bad idea for SDG&E ratepayers and those in San Diego County who care about our environment.

The Draft EIR identifies five alternatives that would meet SDG&E's goals and have less environmental impact. Some of these alternatives appear to be less costly and more efficient. For this reason, we request that SDG&E be directed to conduct financial and cost/benefit analyses of the five project alternatives identified in the DEIR which would have less environmental impact on the proposed project. At the very least, Alternatives 1 and 2 deserve consideration. Only then will the CPUC be in a position to make an informed decision about the best path forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. KUHLMAN

MR. KUHLMAN: Good afternoon. I'm Armin Kuhlman from San Diego.

While we all want a secure and sustainable source of the energy, I feel that after reading and studying the EIR that this comes at a — the project comes at too high a price for the ratepayers, the public and the environment. I think if we really need to ask how we can support the Sunrise Powerlink when there are five alternatives that have less environmental impact. Why not consider either Number 1, the New In-Area All- Source Generation, or even Number 2, the New In-Area Renewable Generation?

In any case, I'm really concerned about the damage to Anza-Borrego State Park in terms of the habitat for sensitive species, the corona noise and the buzzing from the new lines that would be coming in, the industrial blight when you have 160-foot towers crossing the park. And there is further destructive impact in the central and inland lanes, too, in terms of environmentally as well as power damage — fire damage — danger, as well.

So we need to implement the Smart Energy 2020 Plan to maximize the greenhouse gas reduction and reduce the consumption of natural-gas-powered generation and expand local clean energy to minimize the emphasis on imports.

And we really should request SDG&E to conduct a cost/benefit analysis on these alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

STATEMENT OF MR. MULLEN

MR. MULLEN: My name is Ted Mullen. I live in Escondido, and I've been there for 35 years. So I have seen a lot of power line that goes across in front of my house. And I want to actually talk a little bit about the distribution system as well as the Powerlink. I'm opposed to the Powerlink.

I think the distribution system is part of the problem because that's where most of the fires that have swept our county in the last couple of — two or three years.

SDG&E gets the credit for having all this property, and that's the basis of their rate. And the profit that goes to their investors is based on the property that they own. And this is — as well as the Powerlink is the distribution system. And some of these, like in my case — I'm 50 years old — it should have been depreciated to zero and replaced perhaps with undergrounding. And until that rate structure is changed, SDG&E is always going to want to build a bunch of stuff whether they need it or use it because that's what they get paid for. Anyway look into the — changing the rules.

And as an alternative to solar power, there is a new outfit up in Palo Alto called Nanosolar, and they claim they can produce electricity, photovoltaic electricity, for less than a dollar a watt. And this is cheaper than coal production or coal plants.

And the other concern that I have is the power that's coming up from Mexico. This is a foreign country, and they may not be too friendly when we build our border fence and send 20 million Mexicans home. They might just cut off the power. So that's not a dependable source.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. GOODBODY

MS. GOODBODY: All right. I'll make it real brief.

I'm Antoinette Goodbody, and I'm opposed to the proposition. We like to hike in the Anza-Borrego Desert and appreciate the wild open space and uncluttered by mankind. This is a great asset in our backyard.

If we follow the San Diego Smart Energy 2020 recommendations, we do not need the Sunrise Powerlink. Please respect the findings in Draft Environmental Impact Report and vote no on this project.

Let us start with our independence of liquified natural gas, foreign liquified natural gas. My question is: What is the impact of the two power plants in Mexicali and the substation on U.S. soil on the environment as regards to soil, flora, fauna and air quality?

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. KONOPKA

MR. KONOPKA: I am Walter Konopka. I'm a volunteer naturalist. I lead, you know, hikes for the natural history museum and other groups. So I'm out in the back country often several times a week.

And, you know, my main joy of living in San Diego is the fact that I can go out to an area where I can get a wilderness experience. And I'm therefore opposed to the Sunrise Powerlink because it cuts a great, you know, intrusive swath, you know, right through our public parks and lands and, you know, through the, you know, open country and will destroy that quality wilderness over a wide area.

Since solar energy can be generated locally and even on roof tops, it seems this project which has such a great environmental and aesthetic cost can hardly be considered green energy.

You know, would SDG&E route their lines through a public park if they had to pay the same kind of land cost and lawsuits for reduced surrounding property values as it would, you know, for running it through Rancho Santa Fe or La Jolla. We should treat our finest public parks at least as well as we treat, you know, our most valuable private lands.

The real costs of this project should include the huge loss of value for all property everywhere in this, you know, county due to the loss of local quality of life and the desirability of living here overall.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

#### STATEMENT OF MS. RUBISHOV

MS. RUBISHOV: Good afternoon. My name is Kathy Rubishov. I'm a resident of Escondido and a long-time community activist, and I sit on the boards of the California Center for the Arts and the Downtown Business Association in Escondido. And I stand here in support of the Powerlink and its objectives.

I'm also a strong supporter of renewable power. And I believe we need to support projects that will provide more green energy and that are both sustainable and responsible and that will help us begin using more solar and wind power and limit our need to build more power plants that use fossil fuels.

As you know, a new power plant was built in Escondido called the Palomar Energy Facility. And while we in the activist community were initially unsure how a power plant of this size would impact our community, but because of the great work between Sempra and the city of Escondido, and because of its location in a new business park there, we were able to design a plant that became a positive for everyone.

But how many more sites are there like that in San Diego County? And how many opportunities like this one will present themselves and in what time frame?

With the Sunrise Powerlink Project, I believe we have an unprecedented opportunity to take advantage of this opportunity to make those vital changes for our energy future now.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

#### STATEMENT OF MS. BASCHORE

MS. BASCHORE: Good afternoon. My name is Vicky Baschore. I work at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido.



And we've heard a lot today about how the Sunrise Powerlink will help businesses, families and the economy. This vital power line will also help nonprofits like us who struggle each month to pay our bills while trying to provide exceptional service to the community.

We need relief from higher energy costs that have spiked since the energy crisis, and by building the Sunrise Powerlink, we can hopefully gain access to more affordable supplies of power and start to see the rates come down. Nonprofits need reliable, affordable power to keep our doors open. The Sunrise Powerlink is a responsible project that protects our region from future blackouts.

Thank you for your support.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. CURRIE

MR. CURRIE: Good afternoon. Thomas Currie.

Our region is growing and so is the demand for electricity. As the president of the board of directors of the San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, I presided over the May 10, 2006, meeting wherein the board unanimously voted for the Sunrise Powerlink and the right — that it is the right choice for San Diego. We still stand with that decision. We believe it will help the electricity flowing in homes, businesses and our region moving forward.

A new major power line into the region hasn't been built in nearly 25 years. With only two links to the state's energy grid, our region has a severe shortage of power lines. That puts us at a great risk of power outages.

The Sunrise Powerlink will help ensure a cleaner and greener energy future for San Diego. The line will connect our region to the vast supplies of clean solar, wind and geothermal power in Imperial Valley that are just waiting to be tapped into.

San Diego wants to do its part to help battle climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. With Sunrise Powerlink, we can import enough green power to meet the state's clean energy goals — 20 percent renewable power by 2010 — and limit the need to build more local power plants.

We reject the CPUC's plan to outline the Sunrise Powerlink Draft Environmental Impact Report that calls for up to five new power plants to be built in San Diego instead of importing clean energy via the Sunrise Powerlink.

The plan will lead to higher greenhouse gas emissions in San Diego and block access to clean power supplies in the Imperial Valley that San Diego and the entire state are counting on.

Energy experts such as the California Independent System Operator and California Energy Commission strongly support the Sunrise Powerlink because it's the best option to ensure power reliability, improve access to clean renewable power.

Thank you. We urge your support.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Currie.

STATEMENT OF MR. ZECHMAN

MR. ZECHMAN: Good afternoon. Skip Forsht had to leave for an appointment. I'm next on the list, Joe Zechman.

Thank you.

My name is Joe Zechman. I'm a member of the executive committee of the San Diego chapter of the Sierra Club. I'm here today to speak on behalf of the over 15,000 members of the Sierra Club in San Diego and Imperial counties.

The Sierra Club opposes the Sunrise Powerlink transmission line no matter where it is built. And today — well, the Sierra Club will be submitting written comments on the Draft EIR/EIS. But today I wanted to reaffirm the commitment of the Sierra Club to find better energy solutions than the Sunrise Powerlink transmission line.

Also, I want to note that last year, UCAN, the Division of Ratepayer Advocates, Sierra Club and other groups showed that the line was not necessary. Given that the line's not necessary, the various impacts of the line are even more unacceptable such as the visual impacts, plant and animal impacts, and the impacts on property owners. So the Sierra Club asks that you not give this boon, this profit-making line to San Diego Gas & Electric, but instead help the San Diego region invest in a better energy future.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

Merle Vogel.

STATEMENT OF MR. VOGEL

MR. VOGEL: My name is Merle Vogel and I live in San Diego and I have property out in the desert. I appreciate the opportunity to address you.

Throughout San Diego County, there's a quite a few people who live off the grid, as they call it. And they do this, they have lights on, they have power, and they have computer hookups. But the point is they do this by local generation and conservation.

And while I wouldn't suggest that everybody at San Diego County go off the grid, certainly everybody in San Diego County could make a contribution to — by some local generation and by conservation, and that sort of contribution would obviate any requirement for the Sunrise Powerlink.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. SCHULMAN

MR. SCHULMAN: My name is Richard Schulman, No. 84 I'm a —

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Richard, put the mike closer so we can hear you.

MR. SCHULMAN: Thank you.

I'm a native of California. Was borne and raised here. 40 years in San Diego. Retired naval officer, graduated electric engineer, and professional project manager.

I have prepared notes that I'll hand in, in the interest of time where I raised a lot of top-down issues, many of which were raised here.

I'm against the Sunrise or what we might call the Sunset Powerlink.

But I would like to address one issue that is important to me that I think may be important to you and sort of charge you as the California Public Utilities commissioners as well as members in the audience to think about. And that is, when I thought about this problem, one of the things we were taught as a naval officer is to lead by example; and number two, to think outside the box. And I think

we're working largely on the wrong problem. Local generation of solar power on roofs, which we have a large initiative in California, is effective and with the dramatically rising prices of energy will become even more effective.

And in my own neighborhood, we've started talking to neighbors, they are all getting — not everybody, but several are getting ready to put in solar or have been put in solar. I've been in solar groups where people say they're running the meter backwards all day long and they have a zero net energy bill. It's easily doable. It's cost-effective. And it's being done in many countries around the world, but it's not being done at the fast pace here.

I would like to encourage the Public Utilities Commission in their policy planning to look at what's going on in terms of encouragement, in addition to the solar initiative, what's going on to encourage the use of a solar powered home.

I'll tell you the second thing we did, my wife and I, we went out and we bought two Priuses in order to save gasoline energy. But the good news is in Europe, you can plug those Priuses in. In the United States, another year or two, you'll be able to plug those cars in, your energy assumption for local travel will go to zero — use of the grid will go to zero. It's doable.

That's all I have to say. I want to thank you for your time.

#### STATEMENT OF MS. WHITE

MS. WHITE: Hello. I'm Jennifer White and I'm representing myself. I'm a native San Diegan for 60 years. I'm resident and homeowner in San Diego and also a homeowner in Borrego Springs, the largest and most beautiful Anza-Borrego Desert State Park which must be preserved. I'm totally opposed to the Sunrise Powerlink Project because of many reasons, but I'll just tell you a few.

We don't need this ugly, expensive and environmentally harming 150-mile transmission line. At a hearing in Borrego Springs last year, there were people sobbing, crying, just at the prospect of this going through their beautiful desert land. It's bad for people. It's bad for animals, wildlife and the land. It may cause devastating fires starting in the back country.

Instead of choosing one of the alternative lines, please choose to stop all progress for the proposal.

Many, many nonprofits and governmental groups oppose San Diego Gas & Electric's Sunrise Powerlink. The San Diego Gas & Electric, chamber of commerces, government officials, and businesses owners seem to be the only ones who want this and — except for Borrego Springs who opposed it. I'm a member of many of the nonprofits who oppose this.

We need to invest in solar and renewable energy in the future, not in outdated ways. Please consider the San Diego Smart Energy 2020 solution and the EIR of the Sunrise project. Please protect us from this monster damaging project which is not safe, secure or necessary.

Thank you.

#### STATEMENT OF MS. BERNAL

MS. BERNAL: Monica Bernal, executive board of the San Diego Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The San Diego Hispanic Chamber of Commerce urges the California Public Utilities Commission to approve the Sunrise Powerlink transmission line project. San Diego's 160 billion regional economy requires a reliable and affordable supply of electricity, and to stay competitive in the global marketplace. Yet, our 3 million residents must still rely on the same transmission line that link our region to the state power grid that were built 25 years ago. Meanwhile, the rest of the state and

country are building more and more power lines to meet their needs. It is time for San Diego to do the same.

State and federal energy experts all agree that new transmission lines are needed to keep the lights on and to provide access to renewable power supplies in the Imperial Valley.

The California Independent System Operator and the California Energy Commission have come in favor of this line. And the U.S. Department of Energy recently identified San Diego as one of the areas in the United States as a desperate need for more transmission lines. The DOE said the lack of power lines is a threat to our economy and national security.

So why are we having this debate?

Clearly, there's a need for the Sunrise Powerlink. Yet the opponents continue to maintain that we meet all our needs by putting rooftop solars on every rooftop.

I don't know about you, but I can't afford 15,000 or 20,000 to install solar and doubt most other San Diegans who are struggling already in this challenging economy can afford it either.

On behalf of the members of the San Diego Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, I strongly urge the CPUC to approve the Sunrise Powerlink.

Thank you for your consideration.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. BRADSHAW

MS. BRADSHAW: So many people here today have said the things that I would say to you.

Let me begin by saying that I'm a native San Diegan. Denise Bradshaw is my name. I grew up running around the wild country in Cleveland National Forest.

My main reasons for opposing the Sunrise Powerlink are simply because the environmental impact report said it's unnecessary; it's not the right one. We can do what we need to achieve our power by better means. Okay.

All right. Now, I would like to see us preserve our parks for coming generations.

What interested me today was this is the first hearing I've come to, and I was very interested in sitting in the audience and listening to what supporters of this project said. And the way it felt to me was that the supporters are interested in preserving the system the status quo pretty much as it is, as little change as possible.

What we have before us in the country and in the world is what Al Gore said, truly an inconvenient situation. Most of us won't vote for an inconvenience for ourselves. You have the possibility to disapprove this project. And this project is a dinosaur.

Please, do not approve it. We need a better plan.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. MALONI

MR. MALONI: Good afternoon. My name is Scott Maloni, here on behalf of Poseidon Resources Corporation. Offices at 501 West Broadway, San Diego, California 92101.

Poseidon is a water infrastructure specialist responsible for building the Carlsbad seawater desalination plant.

Currently, San Diego must import over 85 percent of our water to meet need, meet the stated need. Poseidon's desalination plant in Carlsbad will provide about 50 million gallons today, about 10 percent of the beaches required need to serve about 300,000 people annually.

SDG&E is the likely provider of electrical power for the Carlsbad desalination plant. Water and energy are inextricably linked. About 19 percent of energy use in California is from transmission treatment and use of water.

In San Diego, we must have both reliable water and reliable energy. The Sunrise Powerlink adds a critical new connection to import green electricity supplies. It's very important to Poseidon Resources.

Late last year Poseidon announced that it was going to voluntarily eliminate its carbon footprint, the first large-scale infrastructure project in the state to voluntarily make that commitment. We're able to do that in part because the Sunrise Powerlink will aid our effort by providing access to wind and solar and geothermal sources of supply outside of the basin.

Energy reliability and water reliability are two pillars of public health and economic stability. Poseidon Resources strongly urges you to support the Sunrise Powerlink.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. EGAN

MR. EGAN: Thank you very much your Honor, commissioner. My name is John Egan, and I'm the senior director for project development for Stirling Energy, which you've heard some words about today.

Stirling is a hundred percent solar energy company with the latest technology in the conversion of light to energy. Our project with SDG&E is known as Solar Two, and if built, will be one of the two largest solar power plants in the world, capping out at 900 megawatts of power.

I've heard people here stand up and tell you about the power is coming from Mexico. I speak English, I live in America. Our power is coming from about a hundred miles from here out in the desert. We need the Sunrise Powerlink to bring this power back to San Diego.

I'd like to put on the record a news release we just came out with two weeks ago. We just broke the record on solar efficiency. We're now the most efficient technology in the world. We're not outdated. We're the top in the world.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Mr. Hansen here? All right, is Alex here?

I'm sorry; you're not done?

MR. EGAN: About another minute.

ALJ WEISSMAN: I'm sorry. Go ahead.

MR. EGAN: Our investors put hundreds of millions of dollars in the Stirling Energy System. We've heard people say that we're not for real. I invite you and the members of this commission to Sandia National Labs to see our technology in action and we can prove we do what we say we do.

Please support the Sunrise Powerlink. We do.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. HAMMOND

MR. HAMMOND: My name is Robert Hammond. I'm a California native resident of San Diego for 40 years. I'm a retired oceanographer with a keen interest in the environment. And I'm representing myself.

I don't know if there's anything that I can contribute to this impending disaster. Sempra Energy is first and foremost a natural gas company. They did not invest a billion dollars in an LNG terminal to power Tijuana.

In view of the San Diego's critical water problems, I can't help but wonder where the cooling water for the large steam turbines that they have in the power plants in Mexicali, two operating one plant, I can't imagine where that water is going to come from on the arid Baja area.

We are currently planning to line the all-American canal with concrete in order to stop seepage to the Mexican — across the border. Power plants are routinely sited on oceans or near rivers. We are — I respectfully request that the Commission prepare and present to the public a detailed water utilization plan that clearly outlines the impact of water resources utilization in Imperial and San Diego counties.

Even with CO2 sequestration which is largely an unproven technology, they can't help but inject large quantities of global-warming CO2 gas. This is not the way for a responsible society to handle looming environmental problems.

We need a firm, enforceable method for documenting the emissions from Mexican plants and controlling the CO2 budget, not an end-run around California laws.

I challenge the Commission to assemble and publicly present an enforceable agreement between California, Sempra, and Mexico for handling these additional CO2 emissions when California is already committed to a significant reduction schedule.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. RINEY

MR. RINEY: My name is David Riney, life-long resident of San Diego.

Last weekend in Europe, Alan Greenspan delivered a message which he stated he expects the price of oil and gas to continue to rise forever.

I reside across from an elementary school and I go to the public library every day. Watching our teachers and librarians at work, one sees an example of teamwork at its very best. They sacrifice there individually and work together so that their individual charges, the children and library patrons get maximum benefit. They're not paid well. That's where the sacrifice comes in.

The teamwork that our librarians and teachers who aptly demonstrate can be put to use in our energy challenges as well. We can be the team. And through innovative solar and in-basin power generation, we can deliver the solution that really works.

Speaking of schools and libraries, the tyrants and despots of the world don't have much use for them. They keep them in short supply. But they do have an abundance of oil and gas. That is the product of a tyrant. Sempra Energy gathers the product of a tyrant and sends it to our shore. The power produced by this product is delivered to our homes, a bill is delivered each month which contains a surcharge of the tyrant delivered by San Diego Gas & Electric.

Sir, your Honor, I wish to contest this dynamic. I've lived here my whole life. If this project proceeds, it will be a catastrophe to myself and most of my fellow citizens. For how long you might ask? To repeat Greenspan: forever.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. SAAR

MS. SAAR: People have all said the same things I would probably say, but I'm going to read what I intended.

And to the people of San Diego County and the Imperial Valley Anza-Borrego State Park is a special place for its annual display of wild flowers to which thousands of visitors flock each spring and for its unique population of bighorn sheep, as well as the stunning, scenic value that's part of the Sonoran desert ecosystem. I've been going to that park for many, many years as a San Diego resident, and I even scattered my mothers ashes there in the wild flowers couple of years ago.

Can you imagine driving hundreds of miles to see the wild flowers growing beneath unsightly high voltage power lines?

The invasion of parks such as this by the financial interests of one company sets a dangerous precedent for all of our state and national parks. These places have been specifically set aside as a natural resource for the benefit of all. That means everybody. And this includes generations to come, not just the few who may benefit for now or for as long as there's enough fossil fuel to supply the demand through the pipeline starting in Ensenada.

Like many other long-time customers of SDG&E, I have little faith they will follow through on the lip service they pay to the idea of renewable low emission energy sources when they have already invested so much in the Ensenada-Mexicali infrastructure. This is really putting the question of our chicken-or-an-egg story.

So I firmly oppose this as a private citizen, and thank you for your time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

Whoever is next in line, why don't you come on down, introduce yourself please. At some point, anybody else who signed up who hasn't spoke yet, please get in line.

STATEMENT OF MS. STEWART

MS. STEWART: Thank you. My name is Kay Stewart. I'm here representing plants. Not power plants, real plants the ones that grow with roots in the ground. California native plant society which is small but very dedicated and very scientifically oriented group. The Environmental Impact Report was far too long for me to take the time to read. I apologize to say. However, I noticed in reading the very short version that plants have been given exactly the same treatment that they were in the PEA which I did study extensively; that is, plants are simply expendable. Native plants, whether they are rare, endangered, or a special species, they are expendable. The mitigation process and all the recommendations for all of the alternatives that harm these different species are pretty — they're pretty lackluster. They're pretty ineffective. They say monitor them, replant them, remove them, transplant them if you can.

Anyway, plants really are the basis of life for the wilderness, for the animals, for all of those other much more touchy-feely aspects of the wilderness experience.

And I want to stay the native plant society did a small survey last year in the Grapevine Canyon, Grapevine Mountain wilderness area, and we found that after two years of drought there were

hardly any annual plants to be seen or perennial plants. And yet the basis for the science in these reports was supposed to give us some understanding of what the impacts would be.

I would like to just say in short that I recommend that the CPUC reject the Sunrise Powerlink proposal for those reasons, that it is completely unsatisfactory with respect to protecting our natural resources in the plant world.

As a private citizen, I just looked into solar power for the roof of my home, and I can get solar power for my use and my husband's use in our small home and pay for it and we'll be paying less than our annual cost of our bills to SDG&E. And I'll tell you what, that's just at the inflated rates today.

If the CPUC and other public institutions go towards helping the public get solar into our homes and into our workplaces, you'll be doing a great service to all of Californians now and in the future. And I would ask that you make that part of your mission statement.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

#### STATEMENT OF MR. VORHEES

MR. VORHEES: Good afternoon. I'm Todd Vorhees, representing the 325 member Downtown San Diego Partnership. Downtown San Diego has experienced one of the most exciting revitalizations in the nation over the past ten years. Redevelopment and economic growth continue to thrive in this area. A fundamental and critical reason for this intense urban renewal is a steady supply of reliable, cheap electricity. Therefore, I was disappointed to read the conclusions of the CPUC Draft Environmental Impact Report that suggested five new local power plants could be built in place of the Sunrise Powerlink. That's simply not a good decision especially when communities throughout California are increasing their reliance on fossil fuels.

Moreover, power plants would increase greenhouse gas emissions we are obviously harmful to the environment and contribute to climate change.

The Downtown San Diego Partnership has endorsed the Sunrise Powerlink because clean reliable energy is paramount for our future and for our region as a whole. Therefore we would ask you to do the same.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

#### STATEMENT OF MS. SHEAR

MS. SHEAR: Good evening. My name is Laura Shear. I'm a teacher in San Diego and I'm representing myself.

I just wanted to express that as a teacher, I love teaching about natural habitats to my children, my students, and I take them on field trips, some of them for the first time in their lives, to see some wilderness areas or some of our natural parks. And the discussions that we have in class are all about preserving the environment and taking care of being stewards of our environment and also enjoying the nature and the beauty of it. So I'm speaking on behalf of myself and the children that I know that want to preserve that.

And I understand that this Powerlink, they say the purpose is to provide renewable energy sources, but I have my doubts and worries.

What I'm really concerned about, my main point is the impact of the visual on our country here, our back country. And I really want to speak — I wrote a letter, a year ago. I drive out there two, three times a month. I love it. I just drive just to see the country. And I'll just say that: I'm sitting here



at the crossroads of I-76 and I-79 looking at the most gorgeous view of Lake Henshaw. I drive from San Diego to Ranchita. The drive alone is the main source for the reason of the trip. It captures the most beautiful and serene country I've ever seen. It's more beautiful than French or Italian countryside I've ever seen in a photo, in a movie. And I think that's an important part of why we don't need something, something that's going to take that away from us.

I think if we have alternatives, we need to look at that and remember that the visual part of our country is just as important as the money and the cost.

And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. BARGER

MR. BARGER: Good afternoon. My name is Daniel Barger. I'm a San Diego county property owner and San Diego County native. I'm here to oppose the Sunrise Powerlink in any form.

I have some specific questions and comments regarding the Draft EIR.

On your Powerlink route maps, access roads are shown as permanent impacts. And many of your proposed routes require the construction of new access roads. Can these roads be used by other development projects as emergency exit roads to meet access requirements?

For example, in my community of Potrero, we are up against a proposed project of Blackwater West, a mercenary training camp which most of you have probably heard of by now. I believe Blackwater site at this time only has one entrance and exit road. The Powerlink Alternate Route D proposal runs along the southern edge of this property and is labeled MRD-17 with multiple staging areas and alternate access roads.

I would like to know: How are staging areas chosen? Are private land owners contacted by SDG&E to offer a staging area? Is there compensation and/or contracts involved in this process? Are developers able to use these access roads also for emergency exit alternatives?

I also noticed most staging areas in your EIR are located near existing substations. The Blackwater location, MRD-17, has no substation. And I was wondering why this site was chosen for a staging area.

Also, why is MRD-17 labeled a sensitive-use area?

One last thing I do not understand is the orphan summary given after each detailed map. What is an orphan summary — I'll wrap up — what is an orphan summary and how do the list it addresses and names relate to the map the orphan summary is paired with?

I have examples here from my area in Potrero.

And last, I urge you to please reject this damaging proposal of a Powerlink of any type through San Diego County.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. THOMPSON

MS. THOMPSON: Hi there. I'm Elena Thompson, and I'm Number 125 on the list.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Lucky you.

MS. THOMPSON: Can you hear me?

I'm a San Diego native and have been enjoying the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park my entire life. I am in favor of a nondestructive, modern energy solution policy and plans for San Diego County. I do not believe that the Sunrise Powerlink fulfills in any of these areas.

I'm here in support of our park system and the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and protecting our shared heritage. And I believe our Governor is, too, if you read what he has to say in our state park magazine:

Dear friends, The natural beauty and cultural diversity of California have inspired generations of Californians to create what is now the finest state park system in the nation. Our state parks are also vital to the economy of California. Visitors of California state parks, not only the chambers of commerce and local businesses here, but visitors to California state parks spend about 2.6 billion annually during their trips. This translates to a total economic output of more than 6 billion a year and is responsible indirectly or directly for more than a hundred thousand jobs.

After a century of park planning, preservation and acquisition development — a century — the California state parks system now encompasses — and he goes on to say that all of this has been developed to help people understand and appreciate their shared heritage as Californians. And he invites us all to visit our state parks and to enjoy what we have helped to create and preserve.

This debate about the Powerlink therefore should be about coming up with a better solution, not business interests lobbying for a short-term solution that rationalizes the destruction of public parklands and is absent from new technology and conservation strategies. There are alternatives.

And I'll — can I just finish real quick?

ALJ WEISSMAN: Very brief.

MS. THOMPSON: The U.S. and California have made history for pioneering the concept of parks and are now out helping other countries to do the same.

What kind of precedent for development and encroachment into parklands do we now want to be known for if we allow the Sunrise Powerlink to go through Anza-Borrego?

Thank you for your time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for coming.

I see one more person.

Is there anybody else who signed up who hasn't had a chance yet to speak?

(No response)

ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. This will be our last speaker.

Please introduce yourself.

STATEMENT OF MS. CARLSON

MS. CARLSON: Oh, I'm Phyllis Carlson, and I am a transplant. I came here early enough in '03 to see my son's house that he helped build in Cuyamaca burned down to its foundations. And I speak not only for myself and Sierra Club, the Sierra Club in which I'm a member, and also for my grandchildren, who are six and a half, six and a half, and two. They had twins.

I speak against the Sunrise Powerlink, which we like to call the desert death link. I am concerned — so I looked at what the state park is called in the statutes. This comes from the California Public Resources Statute, Section 5019.3. And I have paraphrased it because I'm not a lawyer and it makes more sense to me that way.

It says that a state park is a relatively spacious, outdoor area of scenic and otherwise, like geologic and geographic, interest that has been set aside. It is to be managed as a composite whole in order to restore and protect the area. Improvements are prohibited that do not directly enhance public enjoyment or improve cultural or other aspects of the park, the reasons why it was set apart in the first place. And we are not to go in for improvements that can't be located a reasonable point, a reasonable distance away from the park, so that it doesn't damage the park.

So, please, do not harm this unique desert resource. Reject the Sunrise Powerlink no matter how nice the name.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Well, thank you.

The only thing I regret about the way these things tend to unfold is that most of the people who were here earlier are not here now and can't be thanked directly. I've learned a great deal today. It's been very much of a privilege to hear everybody make their presentations, and I'm sure the Commissioner feels the same way.

COMMISSIONER GRUENEICH: Again, yes, I just want to thank everybody. And I'll reiterate what Judge Weissman said, that it was very, very educational and helpful to be hearing everybody speak.

ALJ WEISSMAN: So if you'll forgive us, we have to dart in the car and get over to Pine Valley for 6:30.

This public participation hearing is adjourned. Thank you.

(Whereupon, at the hour of 4:55 p.m., the public participation hearing was adjourned to 6:30 p.m., February 25, 2008, at Pine Valley, California.)