

BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 26, 2008 - 1:10 P.M.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE WEISSMAN: The Commission will be in order. This is a public participation hearing in the Sunrise Powerlink transmission line application. And we will start with Diana Lindsay.

STATEMENT OF MS. LINDSAY

MS. LINDSAY: Commissioner Grueneich, your Honor, I'm Diana Lindsay, Vice President of Environmental Affairs for the Anza-Borrego Foundation, representing about almost 1500 members who oppose the Sunrise Powerlink going through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. We are a nonprofit association established 40 years ago at the bequest of the California State Park & Recreation Commission. Our mission is to support the park through land acquisitions, education programs and research projects.

We commend the team that worked on the Draft EIR/EIS for recognizing impacts to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and other open spaces, and recommending environmentally superior alternatives. We ask you to please respect the finding of the Draft EIR/EIS report and support those alternatives that avoid state wilderness lands, loss of scenic viewshed, and biologically and culturally sensitive sites within Anza-Borrego State Park.

I would like to refer the Commission to the digital terrain model viewshed in the Environmental Report D.58 which shows the impact to the viewshed; and also to D.3-11B, D.3-13B and D3.14B which emphasizes the visual impacts so you can actually see what that impact looked like.

We are also concerned about potential fire hazards that can cause irreparable damage to our parklands. We ask you not to select any proposal or alternative that increases fire threat to the backcountry to our parklands. Our park is known for its pristine quality which includes air quality. Do not support any proposal or alternative that will in any way increase pollution and lessen the quality of a park experience.

We ask you to respect the words of Frederick Law Olmstead who was the Director of the State Park Survey of 1928. He wrote this about Anza-Borrego State Park: Certain desert areas have a distinctive and subtle charm, in part dependent on spaciousness, solitude, and escape of evidence of human control and manipulation of the earth. A charm of constantly growing value as the rest of the earth becomes some completely dominated by man's activities. Nowhere else are casual thoughtless human changes in the landscape so irreparable, and nowhere else is it so important to control and completely protect wide areas.

Let parks be forever for future generations to enjoy, and do not destroy the integrity of this great park. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. ROSEN

MS. ROSEN: I am Joan Rosen. I'm a volunteer naturalist here at the park.

I support the top three environmentally superior alternatives. And quoting a former park superintendent, Dave Van Cleve, this is why: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park for me is the most remarkable landscape on the planet. Its incredible biodiversity, its stunning geology, its crystal-clear night skies, its savage heat, its challenging size and topography, and its delightful history of human occupation, usage and survival to unite to make the park a unique treasure, a treasure to be conserved in a primitive state for millennia. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much. Glenn Stokes John Pierre Menvielle. Numbers 6 through 10, please join the line.

STATEMENT OF MR. STOKES

MR. STOKES: Your Honor, members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen, the Aspen Environmental Group, I speak today to address Section D.2 of the biological resources section of the EIR. On page 14 there is a mention that Anza-Borrego Desert State Park was designated in 1974 as a national natural landmark. And in 1985 it was named a member of the UNESCO International Biosphere Reserve Program.

Research needs to be done and included in the EIR to determine if transmission lines are consistent with the National Natural Landmark Federal Program, and whether or not similar new installations have been made of any of the nearly 600 national natural landmarks; and if so, what the impact of that has been.

As a national natural landmark, ABSP is eligible to be nominated by the U.S. Secretary of State for designation as UNESCO World Heritage Site. Research needs to be done and included in the EIR to determine what impact transmission lines might have on the park's eligibility for nomination and acceptance into the World Heritage Program. World Heritage Sites can bring important funds to the site through sustained tourism to the local and state economy.

The United States, along with 105 other countries, voluntarily agreed to observe the UNESCO statutory framework for each biosphere reserve in their respective country. Respecting sustainable management of the biosphere reserve can increase international ecotourism which can add revenue to local and state economy.

Research needs to be done and included in the EIR to determine if transmission lines are consistent with UNESCO Biosphere Research Program, and whether or not similar new installations have been made on any of the 520 odd biosphere reserves; and, if so, what the impact on that has been.

In conclusion, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park as recognized at the national and international levels is worthy of protecting. Low cost electricity and reducing greenhouse gas emissions are good goals. Damaging and destroying protected environments in the pursuit of those goals does not properly serve public convenience or necessity. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. MENVIELLE

MR. MENVIELLE: Good afternoon, Commissioner and staff. My name is John Pierre Menvielle. I am the President of the Board of Directors of the Imperial Irrigation District. I appreciate the opportunity to appear here today and comment on behalf of the Imperial Irrigation District.

The IID is an irrigation district that provides electric services to more than 135,000 customers in Imperial and Riverside counties. IID owns and operates an extensive transmission system and generation in order to serve its customer load. IID has been in the forefront of promoting renewable energy transmission for many years. In the heart of the Imperial Valley lies one of the largest geothermal resources in North America, the Salton Sea Resource Area. In addition to the Imperial Valley — Imperial Valley has been recognized as a region with vast potential for future solar and wind generation development. It is expected that the Imperial Valley will play a key role in helping California meet renewable energy goals.

Nearly 20 years ago IID updated its transmission system in order to interconnect new geothermal generation that was being built. Imperial Valley exports its renewable energy to Southern

California Edison. Today IID wields approximately 500 megawatts of geothermal energy from the Imperial Valley into the California ISO. IID has been and will remain a strong proponent of renewable energy as a means of meeting California's energy needs, preserving our environment. It looks forward to working with its neighbors in California to enhance the regional transmission system in order to facilitate the export from the Imperial Valley to the rest of California.

IID recognizes that promotion of renewable energy projects in the Imperial Valley boosts local economic development and brings much-needed, good-paying jobs to a region of California that desperately needs them. IID looks forward to continuing to work with the State of California and other stakeholders to promote renewable energy goals in the Imperial Valley.

We are here today for the hearing on SDG&E's proposed Sunrise Powerlink. At the outset, let me state that IID continues to support SDG&E's Sunrise Powerlink Project. However, IID has serious concerns about SDG&E's preferred route, I'll refer to it as the northern route, and its impact upon farmland and agricultural operations in the Imperial Valley. The northern route cuts through some of Imperial Valley's most productive farmlands, and has severe impacts upon farms, dairies, and irrigation systems and other agricultural operations. As a result, IID submits that the CPUC should select the southern route alternative.

Agriculture is a life blood of Imperial Valley. Nearly a half million acres are farmed producing 1.3 billion agricultural commodities. In Imperial Valley a complex system of irrigation ditches, drains and tiles must be operated in order to irrigate crops. IID submits that in order to minimize the impact on agriculture in Imperial Valley it is essential that the CPUC select a route that utilizes existing transmission corridors and right-of-ways, and avoids farmlands and dairies.

The northern route will unnecessarily impact farmland, dairies, irrigation facilities and IID water department facilities. By contrast, the southern route follows an existing Southwest Powerlink transmission corridor in Imperial County, and will have less far impact on agricultural lands and dairies than the northern route. As the Draft EIR/EIS notes, the southern route meets all of the major project objectives, but is a substantially shorter route, and has lower fire risks on the northern route and also avoids Anza-Borrego Desert Park.

IID also opposes the northern route since it would duplicate existing transmission facilities, and presents a risk of stranded investment for IID. IID has spent millions of dollars in upgrading its system to accommodate the export of renewable energies from the Salton Sea region and other parts of the Imperial Valley. IID also has plans to invest millions of dollars more in additional upgrades to accommodate the expected growth of renewables in the Imperial Valley. In fact, just last week the IID Board of Directors improved a project to construct a transmission line from a midway substation to a new substation at Bannister. This line will cut through the heart of the Salton Sea Geothermal Resource Area, and will provide an easy point of interconnection at new geothermal's generation.

If the northern route is selected, Sunrise Powerlink will run within 30 miles on the same geothermal resource area where IID's transmission is already located. This puts IID's investment in transmission to facilitate the export of renewables at risk of being stranded. Such duplication of facilities makes no sense for the ratepayers of IID, SDG&E or the Cal ISO.

Therefore, I strongly — IID strongly urges the Commission to select the southern route for Sunrise Powerlink. The southern route utilizes existing transmission corridors and has significantly fewer impacts upon Imperial Valley farms and dairies. It also does not duplicate existing IID transmission facilities, and does not threaten IID with stranded costs.

Thank you for allowing me to make these comments.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Menvielle.

STATEMENT OF MR. CARTER

MR. CARTER: To the California Public Utilities Commission, U.S. Department of Interior; the subject, of course, is Sunrise Powerlink Project. I am Wesley Carter speaking to you as a concerned citizen, retired Superintendent of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, and Past President of the California State Park Rangers Association with over 600 members.

We commend those responsible for the draft to the environmental statement and proposed land use amendments of the San Diego Gas & Electric Company's application for the Sunrise Powerlink. We concur with the findings in the draft report which outlines 35 — excuse me, I stumbled over that one — impacts on the state park property on the proposed power line corridor through the park.

We especially want to emphasize those listed impacts that concern us most. One is the destruction of biological resources, the destruction and destroying of the visual and scenic resources of state park open spaces. Also, the cause of the state park wilderness area, which would have to be dedesignated, would be the first in the history of the California State Park System and a probably first in the dedesignating of a wilderness area of public lands in the United States. Destruction of 109 resource sites within the boundaries of the proposed corridors through the park also gives us great concern. A significant increase and the risk of wildfire along the power line corridor will also be of great concern.

Alternatives to the Sunrise Powerlink are described in the Draft EIR/EIS in the proposed Land Use Amendment. We are opposed to any power line through the Anza-Borrego State Park. Sites for generating plants now exist in the proximity of San Diego, and we believe they should be utilized. Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much. Monica Argandona, followed by Carolyn Morrow.

STATEMENT OF MS. ARGANDONA

MS. ARGANDONA: Thank you, Commissioners, for coming on this beautiful day to Borrego Springs. My name is Monica Argandona, the Desert Program Director for the California Wilderness Coalition. I'm representing the over 5,000 members who oppose this Sunrise Powerlink.

If built, SDG&E would degrade the viewshed and compromise the natural, cultural and recreational resources of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the crown jewel of the California State Park System. Areas permanently protected as wilderness are threatened by this development.

Golden Eagles have been harmed and been reported in the Grapevine Canyon near Anza-Borrego, and the proposed transmission line threatens the Bighorn Sheep, bisecting critical habitat being necessary for its survival and recovery. Native American archaeological sites, and the historical route of the Mormon Battalion and the Butterfield Overland mail line would also be impacted.

In addition, dedesignation of wilderness sets an unwelcome and terrible precedent that could threaten future wilderness in California. Such degradation to a unique and amazing place is not necessary. There are smarter alternatives that will push California into the future instead of pulling us backwards. SDG&E is not seriously considering any of these options. Meeting reliability with in-country generation and conservation will be better than trying to meet reliability needs with imports from unspecified distant resources using Sunrise.

We ask that you respect the findings of the Draft EIR that very clearly states the negative impacts this line would have on communities and our natural resources, including 35 significant unmitigable impacts to Anza-Borrego State Park. Please vote no.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. MORROW

MS. MORROW: Thank you for coming here today. I'm glad you are enjoying our weather. It is quite beautiful today.

I'm Carolyn Smith Morrow, and I represent the Communities United For Sensible Power. We have a coalition that runs from Delmar all the way down to Ocotillo Wells. It has been a group that was established because of the concerns of this particular project. And we are definitely against this project in its entirety.

And we agree with the Draft EIR/EIS. Thank you very much for putting it together. It was a wonderful document. The Draft EIR/EIS is a massive document. It is hard to digest, but one that needs to be understood by everyone, including SDG&E.

After the ex parte meeting downtown yesterday, I had a very illuminating discussion with Mr. Niggli, CEO of SDG&E. Since our mission in this process is to help promote a safe, reliable and economical energy future, getting everyone to the table to plan and implement is crucial. Accordingly, I took the opportunity to open a dialog with him.

Our discussion centered around SDG&E's assertion that the Sunrise Powerlink was needed to move renewable energy from Imperial Valley. I asked Mr. Niggli how they planned to live up to that promise when the biggest contract they had signed is with an unproven product, Stirling Energy. In the past, I have asked Stirling executives for a copy of their business plan explaining how they were going to go from six prototypes of questionable reliability to 25,000 commercial solar farms in two years. Requested information has never been forthcoming. As a business owner, I can confirm that Stirling and SDG&E's assertions are at best highly questionable.

Mr. Niggli asserted that once the Sunrise Powerlink is built, investor money will pour in for Stirling to ramp-up their production to meet the contract. If we build it, they will come only works in the movies, not in the real-world business.

(Applause)

MS. MORROW: Also, to my knowledge Stirling doesn't have a permit for the farm. In the scheme of things, how long will that take? Probably at least two years.

I would argue the Commission to analyze these contracts that SDG&E is signing for renewable energy production, and determine if they are viable. As a marketing professional I am impressed with SDG&E's rhetoric. But it is imperative to determine if their spin has any basis in reality. Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Cy Conrad, followed by Kathleen Beck.

STATEMENT OF MR. CONRAD

MR. CONRAD: Judge, Commissioner, I'm Dr. Cy Conrad. It was a real pleasure to come here today because, by and large, I'm an old car guy. And being allied with tree huggers was really not something that was in my realm of possibility.

(Laughter)

MR. CONRAD: But being a victim of the Pines Fire, and losing 19 structures and nine vehicles, kind of made me rethink a lot of my priorities.

And one of the reasons why I moved out here from La Jolla was because of the incredible beauty. And one of the things I've always, always enjoyed is spending time in our beautiful state parks and state park systems. And most of it, guaranteed, was car related, but it was because of the beauty.

I'm here today to plead with you to not let our national parks and our natural, national beauty be impaired by this Powerlink. And they gave me a sticker today, and I guess I'm really proud to put that on and say, please don't let this go through. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Why don't you see if you can go find a tree out there.

(Laughter)

ALJ WEISSMAN: Kathleen Beck, followed by John Bremer.

STATEMENT OF MS. BECK

MS. BECK: Welcome to Anza-Borrego. I too very much appreciated the 7,000 page Aspen report.

I've come here today to oppose — well, first of all, my name is Kathleen Beck. And I'm a representative of People's Powerlink.

I have come here today to oppose the Sunrise Powerlink and Alternatives 3 through 7 in the Draft EIR. My job is to educate people from all over the county on the beauty of San Diego County. As an outdoor education specialist for 15 years, I would like to comment on the project from several points: visual impacts, affects on Bald Eagles, affects on Peninsular Bighorn Sheep and fire risk.

My job involves bringing children to nature, and having them experience and appreciate nature through immersion in the county most known for diverse ecosystems. The mission of Fox Outdoor School is to teach children conservation for nature. Fox Outdoor School is located along Highway 76, four miles from Lake Henshaw, where children come to live for five days. As we travel on foot and by bus in the area of Lake Henshaw and the Anza-Borrego State Park, we encourage the children to develop a love of the natural communities of San Diego County. It would be difficult to inspire children if the area was bated in transmission wires.

The outdoor school has been in the area since the 1960s, and serves many school districts in the County of San Diego, 13,000 students through the County of San Diego school system in all that come to our outdoor schools.

There is a possible proposed line extending from the proposed central east substation site that would run along Highway 76 very close to our school. This link would run along the San Luis Ray River in an important riparian zone that runs from Lake Henshaw Watershed to the ocean in Oceanside. I do not understand how the outdoor school could possibly function in such an entangled environment. It is hard to overstate the need for a visually appealing natural environment in teaching the appreciation of nature.

Several of our schools, all the adventure spots are in the proposed areas of the transmission line route as well. Tamarisk Campground and Mine Wash on Highway 78 are two areas that come to mind. These are prime teaching areas for the outdoor school.

I have a lot more to say. It looks like my time is getting up. At Ramona tonight I'll continue this talk. So you will see me again, and then again in Julian. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GRUENEICH: Are you going to be giving out prizes to those people who appeared at the most hearings?

ALJ WEISSMAN: I think they should be giving us prizes, but it is a good idea.

John Bremer, followed by Betsy Dingwell.

STATEMENT OF MR. BREMER

MR. BREMER: Good afternoon. Thank you for coming.

First of all, I would like to say that regarding the Anza-Borrego Park, I would like to see the 69 kV line that runs through it now go underground or go away.

(Applause)

MR. BREMER: You've heard a lot of opinions, and you are going to hear a lot more. I represent myself and the animals who can't speak, since nobody else seems to want to. If I had to support any of the routes, I would support the overall environmentally sensitive route, which is the first one.

It is apparent that SDG&E doesn't really want to serve the needs of San Diego. They want to serve the needs of Los Angeles Basin. That is apparent to me, because they are vehemently against keeping Encina and South Bay active because it is competition for them. They didn't bother to draw into their plans of a gas line coming up the coast from Mexico where they have their big LNG plant. It goes all the way across Baja over to Mexicali, and they have to bring it all the way back again.

The last series of fires in this area was more or less a perfect storm. It showed us that with the southwest line off, San Onofre off, for different reasons, but it was still off, then Route 44 through Fallbrook was clipping in and out. San Diego still had power. How is that possible if we need this line so bad? If they developed the infrastructure that they have now, the system would work for 40 or 50 more years easily.

The impact on disturbed land would be almost negligible. And if SDG&E were made to unclutter and clean up their existing infrastructure, they could be very efficient with what they already have. Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much. Betsy Dingwell, followed by Robert Staehle.

STATEMENT OF MS. DINGWELL

MS. DINGWELL: Hi. I'm a resident of Borrego Springs. My name is Betsy Dingwell.

My concern is with the preservation of our state park, our state parks around the country. If we come here to get away from cities, this has been preserved as a natural setting. And if you let a utility come through a state park, you are bringing the city back into the state park. And I think it would set a terrible precedent for all the state parks in the United States. I mean they would all be open to the same exploitation.

And I think if you are looking for the shortest line, why don't you run it along the Mexican Border. They need a fence there. They are trying to get fences there anyway. And from what I understand it is the shortest distance between two points. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Robert Staehle, followed by Jean Rasmussen. And those who are 16 to 20, you might want to start spraying your throats and warming up.

STATEMENT OF MR. STAEHLE

MR. STAEHLE: I'm a park adjacent landowner.

When I first heard about Sunrise Powerlink and the California Public Utilities Commission's role, I have to tell you that I naively thought that the CPUC was in the utility industry's pocket. I have to say I've been pleasantly surprised.

And I find the staff analysis and their resulting top two recommendations to be fully supportable. That isn't what I expected to come out of this a couple of years ago when I first became aware of it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you talk into the mike, please?

MR. STAEHLE: My introduction to the project — is that better?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

MR. STAEHLE: My introduction to the project was SDG&E telling me that I had to let them on my land to survey their proposed route. They were complete bullies about it. And my wife and I had to go out and hire attorneys with a bunch of other nearby landowners.

And then the alternative that went through our land was dropped, but I had had a chance to research the project. And not only was there no need for these 155-foot half million volt towers to go over the place I expect to retire, there was no need for it to go across Anza-Borrego State Park at all. In fact, it became clear to me as an engineer in the space exploration business that the entire project as proposed is unnecessary, and in fact a waste of ratepayers' money.

The proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project itself will produce exactly zero energy. It is a transmission line to get energy from here to there. Now, we all know San Diego's energy needs are increasing, so where will the needed energy come from. Well, the CPUC staff has correctly concluded all the power needs, and then some for San Diego and surrounding communities into the future, can be reliably supplied in basin.

In-basin alternatives are far superior and just as solid as the photovoltaic system that has been running the meter backwards for my wife and I at our house for last four years. In fact, the in-basin generation will provide less expensive power. For one thing, the ratepayers won't have to pay 1.3 billion, and potentially much more, to bring power across the desert. With in-basin generation from multiple sources SDG&E will have less than a future stranglehold on power rates, and that is exactly what they fear.

So what I want to say is that the Sunrise Powerlink, as opposed to generating energy, is really a link from our wallets into the wallets of Donald Felsing who is the Chairman and CEO for Sempra Energy. It seems to me if this project is approved, he will get a big bonus, the stock will go up, and \$12 million year compensation, we know what direction that will go. And at the same time our environment will be degraded, our rates will be constrained to go ever higher in future years.

So, again, I want to thank the staff for coming to the correct conclusions, and having the courage. I hope you will follow behind them to support their conclusions. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: After Mr. Rasmusson is Lori Paul.

STATEMENT OF MR. RASMUSSON

MR. RASMUSSON: Hello Judge, Commissioner. Thank you for being here and hearing us, and the others that have preceded us, and those who will follow us.

I live at South Lake Tahoe and have since 1972. We own a condominium here and have for the past five years. My wife and I have visited this area for over 40 years.

Also with me here today is my 96-year-old next-door neighbor, Betty Strandberg. And since she is 96, she told me she talked personally with Teddy Roosevelt. And he urged her to be a proponent of our parks and protect them. And that is one of the reasons that Betty has stuck around so long is to have this moment.

(Applause)

ALJ WEISSMAN: Betty, if you want to convince us that you are 96, will you please bounce up and down.

MR. RASMUSSEN: Don't try to play bridge with her, on the Internet or otherwise.

That aside, we've had the opportunity to walk with our grandchildren in the canyons here, and observe the beautiful sheep grazing with their lambs. And we are concerned for future generations.

Hetch-Hetchy Valley had the opportunity to be saved, alternatives were available, other rivers were available for damming. They elected not to have that. How precious that jewel would be today standing alongside Yosemite. While this project, while this park doesn't assume the majesty of a Hetch-Hetchy or Yosemite, it still remains a jewel nonetheless.

As a former judge for 14 years at Lake Tahoe, I saw the battles to save Lake Tahoe. A best friend of mine negotiated the settlement of the Mono Lake situation. But what it taught me as a judge is that ultimately facts carry the day, not oratory. Your staff is to be commended for the wonderful, objective job that they've gathered and presented the evidence that supports their conclusion. And we hope that it will carry the day with you as well.

I've noticed that all the Commissioners are lawyers. While that may bother some, it is reassuring to me, because I know you will approach it in an analytical fashion and reach the conclusion irrespective of the pressures that may be brought to bear. And I know that — well, I have every confidence that you will reach a decision. And I hope that the evidence carries the day, that the facts carry the day, not oratory or propaganda. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. PAUL

MS. PAUL: I'm Lori Paul, a California licensed veterinary technician, wildlife biologist, and former zookeeper at the Los Angeles Zoo. And nearby landowner in the Tubb Canyon area where we had a lot of problems with SDG&E and some rather unscrupulous pressure to access our land and put some of our own flora and fauna at risk.

I'm very concerned about what I've seen as the SDG&E media machine, and the misrepresentation of the future energy needs of the Sunrise Powerlink Project that has been placed before the project. Many people don't have the time nor the expertise to really look at the facts, and they tend to see these sound bites and videos and perhaps put pressure on the CPUC in directions that may not be well represented by reality.

I don't know if there is a way, but I would like to urge the CPUC to support their staff and their incredible effort on the EIR document that I've seen, and to accept their ranking of the alternatives.

It seems to me that there should be a way to factor out some of the untoward pressure that has gone on in terms of money spent and propaganda on the part of SDG&E for this project. Because I feel it causes an imbalance of the spectrum of comments you might receive from the public otherwise.

I'm also concerned about the fire threat. I'll be submitting something in writing. But it seems to me there is brush clearance issue since the power lines did in fact ignite some of the fires. And it was an aircraft collision and fire that ignited the Ranchita Fire above Borrego Valley.

If you have regular maintenance that seems to be required of the power lines, then the maintenance roads and areas of completely cleared brush and habitat intrusion will increase. I know with laurel sumac and the chaparral, some of these things grow so fast you will be having someone in there every couple of months to have to clear out tower bases. This will cause added damage to the

habitat, and unforeseeable influences on the Bighorn Sheep and the other wildlife that are of great concern in this project crossing the state park.

So please keep it out of the park. And that is something that may not have been considered in the original EIR is the added issue of fire clearance around the towers. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Joan Allen.

MS. ALLEN: I'm going to pass. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. Mr. Trafecanty, welcome back to round three.

STATEMENT OF MR. TRAFECANTY

MR. TRAFECANTY: Denis Trafecanty from Santa Ysabel. I hope you enjoyed your trip through Santa Ysabel Valley this morning.

I am opposed to the Sunrise Powerlink in its entirety. That means what is going through the desert, through Santa Ysabel and also what is going through south county. Why would I wish something for somebody else that I wouldn't wish for myself?

I want to talk today a little more about Stirling Energy. I want you to picture something. First of all, I want to say something that is on my mind. Damn Hetch-Hetchy. I hope there is a time in my life that I will see them tear that dam down in Yosemite.

Back to our situation here at Stirling Energy. I want you to picture an investor over here, and I want you to picture Bruce Osborn, the CEO of Stirling Energy over here. The investor says okay, sir, I understand that you are having trouble with your Stirling Energy system. I'm reading an article here from California Energy Markets, February 15th, 2008, that says: Sterling Energy seems to be languishing. Construction has not begun. Stirling Energy has not even filed an application for construction. They were supposed to build 500 megawatts for Southern Cal Edison by 2009. I don't think that is going to happen. I understand that you have only six units built so far, plus one in South Africa, and you are suffering from hydrogen and engine seal leaks.

My understanding as an investor is that, first of all, you start off and build a 1 megawatt plant like you planned to do for Southern Cal Edison. And then after that is proven, you go to 10 megawatts, then 100 megawatt. But wait a minute, you've got a 500 megawatt that can you do for Southern Cal Edison and 300 for San Diego Gas & Electric? How is that going to happen?

Bruce on this side says, sir, we are going to build 980 megawatts for San Diego Gas & Electric, and we are going to get them done and there won't be any fatal flaws. Denis says over here, wait a minute now. If you are going to do that, let me ask you something. How much money do you want with unproven technology? What do you think your chances are of getting funding? I kind of think it is like the same chance as a snowball on the main boulevard out here in the end of July.

ALJ WEISSMAN: You know, each of those two guys don't get two minutes. I just want to point that out.

(Laughter)

MR. TRAFECANTY: Now you are asking us to approve a Sunrise Powerlink somewhere in the backcountry, which I'm totally opposed to, and you are asking to do that before you prove the technology. What else is there out there in the desert that you want to bring in renewables? Because your main advertising, at least SDG&E's main advertising campaign is build these 36,000 Stirling Energy systems. You are not anywhere near it.

Okay. And IID says build the line going to south county. Well, look, IID, I agree with you on some aspects. First of all, geothermal is not very healthy, environmentally friendly renewable energy. You are going to disturb all the wells out there, and you are also going to potentially cause earthquakes.

So I'm saying to Mr. Bruce Osborn, and also to Mr. Niggli, this is so far away. We are here to approve something in the month of August? There is no renewables out there.

So I think that we either delay this for three years and come back and talk to you, or let's just turn it down like we have to. That is our obligation.

You know, any wise investor won't put money into something unless it is proven technology.

I submitted the paper I was reading from. Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. MAC DONALD

MR. MAC DONALD: Good afternoon. My name is David MacDonald.

As a Sempra Energy shareholders, I want the company to invest in promoting conservation measures in the use of electric power. That means subsidizing conversion of lighting to CFL and LED lamps, subsidizing replacement of domestic refrigerators with high efficiency models and adopting swamp coolers instead of refrigerated air-conditioning. And it means subsidizing installation of grid-connected photovoltaic power sources. I think that for the long term conservation is more economic and more effective than investment in additional generating capacity.

Also, I want the company to use the existing power line corridor near Interstate 8 and avoid intrusion into a state park. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

Jeannie Beck, followed by Jo Dickson. Are you related to Kathleen Beck? Just checking. Are we going to see you tonight? How about Julian?

STATEMENT OF MS. BECK

MS. BECK: She is the expert; I'm the poet.

Thank you for listening to all of these comments that we have. I've lived in Borrego Springs for a long time. I love the park and the land.

This is called Misdirected Energy. Who of us have forgotten how good it feels to be alive, waking and falling asleep to the rhythms of the earth, the chirp and howl necessary, reassuring sounds that all is right. The morning dew mingling with the creosote and wild lilac, and early slants of light over the natural shape of the mountain glimmering bright at moving edges and angles where pebbles glean like washed jewels, and growing things live out their natural lives.

Who can forget nights as deep as a black mysterious sea above. Letting us dream awake, giving us ideas of God, causing us to see designs in the twinkling past, impressing possible futures in silver luster. Who of us have forgotten how good it is to be alive? Experience gave us what we have.

Can we neglect to pass this on, natural places freed of man's designs? Can we expect generations to come to care how good it felt to be alive when we were nurtured by earth herself, and it wasn't just what we could take or make, when we were honored to witness and be included in nature? If we let ourselves forget the exquisite wonder of being alive in natural places, not forming nature into our designs or hauling in our gadgetry and manipulations, but just being there in the real world where animals breathe and give birth and move with the seasons across the land unhindered, vitality and

character will be diminished, respect will lose its meaning, dreams will be compromised, and life will be muted. If you don't respect nature for itself, you will never respect anything worth much. We cannot separate ourselves or place ourselves beyond or above the environment.

Don't forget. Everything good and beautiful depends on not forgetting. Everything depends on how much we realize our responsibilities and rights. We are responsible for our home, our town, our planet to allow the best to continue and to do the least harm. It is the right of every living thing to share the goodness of nature's gifts. It is our right to feel the earth and see the sky as it is as often as possible.

Let's make good energy. All across this county we've got sunshine from the winds of the desert to the waves of the sea. Who benefits from the unnecessary towers and lines that disrupt natural rhythms and create real hazards and spoil our breathtaking landscape? Who benefits from this? Don't forget, environment is everything to every one of us. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Jo Dickson, followed by Jeanette Hartman.

MS. DICKSON: I'm going to pass at this time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Who are you?

MS. DICKSON: Jo.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Jeanette Hartman, followed by Bob Veborg.

STATEMENT OF MS. HARTMAN

MS. HARTMAN: Good afternoon, your Honor, and Commissioner Grueneich. Thank you for taking the time to listen to our comments in person, and thank you also for the monumental effort that must have gone into the preparation of this impact assessment.

My name is Jeanette Hartman, and I'm speaking for the People's Powerlink. I'm a professional conservationist. I also chair the Land Use Committee for the Sierra Club in San Diego. I live in Borrego Springs.

My comments pertain to the alternatives section of the impact assessment. Your preferred alternative commendably avoids the outrageous impacts that would occur to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, and other priceless backcountry natural areas from the 500 KV transmission lines. But that is not a high enough objective. Borrego Springs is still left with the impacts of a 15 megawatt diesel power plant that would be constructed under Alternative 1.

The Borrego Valley air basin is one of least polluted in the United States. That is why we have a community of people here who are victims of toxic poisoning who have moved to Borrego Springs from all over the United States, because their lives are placed in jeopardy when they are exposed to even low levels of pollution. These are people who live with concrete floors in their homes because even synthetic carpets are unbearable to their fragile nervous systems. These are people that live like nomads, often living for weeks at a time out of their cars because some event, like spraying of orchards with pesticides which places their lives in jeopardy.

I can't ignore the impact that that diesel plant would have on my fellow human beings who suffer from toxic poisoning, nor can I ignore the impact that South Bay Power Plant is having and continue to have on my fellow human beings who live in the South Bay. The communities impacted by that plant have been trying to get it out of their neighborhood for years. Nor can I ignore the impacts that a new power plant in Miramar will have on my fellow human beings who live in Santee.

We are pushing an air bubble around in a water bed. We are not getting rid of the problem, we are pushing it from one place to another and poisoning ourselves in the process. The problem is that we need a new paradigm, and you are giving us conventional alternatives. It seems clear that the new paradigm should be based on rooftop solar, the environmentally superior technology for one of the sunniest places in the county. You eliminated this alternative because it was determined not to be feasible, but feasibility is a subjective matter.

When the Sierra Club Land Use Committee agreed to help a community in San Diego fight a Home Depot big box, we did not ask ourselves is it feasible to keep Home Depot out of El Cajon. If we had asked that question we would not have tried. In fact, I was told by my colleagues not to try because it was not possible to stop Home Depot. We did stop them though. It was the first time in the United States anyone has stopped Home Depot. We experienced many discouraging days and nights and kept going through weeks and months when it looked impossible.

So I know from personal experience that the question is not is it feasible, the question is how can we do it. This was the question asked by Cuyamaca Woods, a cooperative of 250 homes near Julian that has been off the grid for 20 years with no major problems. Please include rooftop solar as a viable alternative. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. VEBORG

MR. VEBORG: Your Honor, Commissioner. My name is Bob Veborg. I live here in Borrego Springs. I've had a house here for about 12 years. And I've recently moved here full time. I volunteer at the state park with archeology and paleontology. I'm retired, so I have a lot of time to enjoy this area. As you noted when came in how beautiful it was, this is what we are trying to preserve.

The real concerns about the visual and environmental impact of this power line, we must also look at the cost, 1.3 billion. Have you ever seen anything built that wasn't two or three times the projected cost?

The mandate from the State is that 20 percent of power generated must be from renewable resources, that is by 2010, which is less than two years away. Now, according to the people building the test geothermal plant east of here, it will be five years before that plant is online. There have already been contracts issued for many more plants if this one is successful. All of these plants need power lines. Once you have established a power corridor, how can you stop more lines from being built? Just like we are trying to push these lines to the existing power corridor to the south of us, the same thing would be happening to this power corridor pushing more lines into it.

That leaves us with current geothermal plans southeast of the Salton Sea. Most of these plants are in decline. The other concern is the reason we have geothermal to begin with, it is called plate tectonics. The existing plants are built on the San Andreas Fault, and the proposed plants built next to the San Jacinto Fault, the most active fault in Southern California.

In conclusion, I think SDG&E has chosen poorly the place of our future energy sources. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Is Bruce MacRobbie here? All right. Then Britta Lee Shain.

STATEMENT OF MS. SHAIN

MS. SHAIN: Hi. My name is Britta Lee Shain, and since losing my home to one of the wildfires we've been discussing I've been a resident of the Anza-Borrego State Park. Where I live at this moment will not be directly affected by the proposed Sunrise Powerlink, but I'm here still to defend what is right.

The Anza-Borrego State Park among other honors has been nominated a World Heritage Park by the United Nations. Every year over a million visitors come from all over the world to visit this park and escape the kind of visual blight and industrial pollution that is proposed by this plan. This plan will not only desecrate the park itself, but the proposed routes that most of its visitors have to drive to get here.

A visitor to this park can take a short walk and find pottery shards left behind by ancient civilizations, or see pictographs and petroglyphs, or marvel at mortars where the Indians ground their acorns for food. A visitor can be awed by as many as 30 short-eared owls roosting at Tamarisk Road. A visitor can also see limitless beauty and experience silence.

This park and others in California were set aside for general public use, not for private businesses to exploit for profit. If the Sunrise Powerlink is allowed to prevail, not only will irreparable damage have been done to this state, national and world treasure, but it will set a terrible precedent for other parks and protected wilderness.

Please respect the EIR and say no to the Sunrise Powerlink. Future generations will thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Numbers 26 to 30, get up in line. Judith Withers is ready to go.

STATEMENT OF MS. WITHERS

MS. WITHERS: Honorable members of the Commission, my name is Judith Withers. I'm speaking for the community of San Filipe, and also small business owner and 30-year resident of the area.

When I first became aware of the Sunrise Powerlink almost two years ago at a meeting right here in this room, I was so shocked by this project and the impact that I knew it would make on the most pristine wilderness left to San Diego, the most beautiful scenic drives, and of course state park, that I've dedicated myself to finding out all the facts I can in order to know that these kinds of sacrifices that SDG&E is asking of our citizens is truly for the public good.

Initially I was upset that the public was not allowed to vote on something so important. Now, understanding the process, I'm grateful to the Commission and to the fact that it is they and not the public who will vote because of all the misinformation being disseminated regarding this project. I know that the Commission has all the real facts without all the hype.

At the very first meeting I admit to grilling SDG&E employees ruthlessly with many questions. One employee finally admitted to me that he had dedicated much hard work in the last four years to the Rainbow link project, which was defeated. It was a 12-mile link. In his opinion, it would have meant the Sunrise Powerlink would never have been conceived.

This was the first red flag in my mind that there was more here than meets the eye. Why was this meandering northern route through a pristine state park in the wilderness area so necessary? I have made this long journey with you, and now looking at the facts, here is how I understand them. Sunrise Powerlink has nothing to do with renewables, but that talking point is used to persuade and justify such destruction. In my opinion, it becomes clear that SDG&E has no interest in the southern route or even a no wire alternative simply because the project is all about obtaining a market share to the north using unregulated power from Mexico.

SDG&E officials call the no wire alternative recommended by the Draft EIR/EIS five smoke stacks in San Diego. That is what the public hears from the media. I know that the no wire alternative will bring energy and true reliability to San Diego using first energy efficiency. Second, rooftop solar and wind on existing structures that uses also modern, smaller energy efficient power plants such as

those used in hospitals, which actually kept the light on in our last firestorm, as a bridge to true reliable energy independence for San Diego, so critical now that the debate over climate change is over.

Please support the 20/20 plan by supporting the number one choice as proposed by the Draft EIR/EIS. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Joe Raffetto, followed by Stacey Landfield.

STATEMENT OF MR. RAFFETTO

MR. RAFFETTO: Thank you, your Honor, Commissioner. I saw you yesterday, but I'm pulling myself out of the contest for attendance.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

MR. RAFFETTO: Yesterday I was speaking about my company. Today I represent the Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce. And there was a letter here that I had just wrote to fit into a 3-minute bag, but I'm going to cram it into a 2 minutes, try to.

We the Board of the Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce would like it to be known that we support and applaud the CPUC's resistance to Sempra Energy's Sunrise Powerlink Project. We feel that A, that the reasons stated for the project are suspect; B, that the math touting its benefits and costs to ratepayers is flawed; C, that the path through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is an outrageous precedent that violates the core values of this country; and, D, that the power will come not from clean, renewable energy as stated by Sempra, but as most know by now, an unregulated carbon spewing plant in Mexicali.

Indeed, what does it say about us as a people to pass onto the next generation a park so sullied visually, its endangered animals threatened, its native sights destroyed for such suspect reasons. These are reasons that most reasonable minds would find troubling for California and even the nation. But as a group of individuals charged with protecting and promoting our town and businesses, we are on the frontlines and have much more at stake.

We also find troubling some of the alternatives on the Draft EIR. Just moving the blight and threat around the county is not the answer. For instance, how can Borrego Springs ever promise visitors beauty, solace and peaceful enjoyment of the outdoors if a 15 megawatt diesel generating station contaminates our pristine air and wipes out the silence of our surroundings?

This proposal with its requisite 138 kV power lines is potentially more damaging than Sempra's preferred plan. Instead, we believe the emphasize should be on small-scale local generation such as rooftop solar, personal wind generation, existing plant upgrades to make them cleaner and more efficient, thus eliminating the archaic concept of steal transmission lines in the very last of our wild spaces, also conservation.

We encourage the CPUC to take us to the future instead of allowing a giant utility to keep us mired in the past. We also urge the CPUC to continue to respect the integrity of the entire State Park System, remembering why these parks were created in the first place.

Prominent big thinkers knew back in the early 20th century that it was important to set aside land for the enjoyment of all. These diligent efforts gave birth to that beautiful and awe-inspiring state park that completely surrounds our town. This is the time for new forward thinkers to do the same for our energy needs.

Thank you, the Board of Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Stacey Landfield, followed by Sam Webb.

STATEMENT OF MS. LANDFIELD

MS. LANDFIELD: Hi. Thank you for coming. My name is Stacey Landfield, and I've lived here since 1989 in the Warner Springs area. And I just have one thing to say, is please don't let this happen. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Sam Webb, followed by Betsy Knaak, and numbers 31 through 35 line up.

STATEMENT OF MR. WEBB

MR. WEBB: My name is Sam Webb, and I'm a resident of Borrego Springs. My wife and I are Anza-Borrego State Park volunteers. I would like to say that we are very proud to be cactus huggers. We just don't hug them too tightly.

(Laughter)

MR. WEBB: We would like to thank the preparers of the Draft Environmental Impact Report and Statement for their diligent work and conclusions that the Sunrise Powerlink transmission lines do not belong in our desert park, and that there are better alternatives.

During this long process we have all heard this statement, not in my backyard. I would like to revise that to not in our backyard, with "our" being the 650,000 acre Anza-Borrego State Park, the largest contiguous state park in the nation. It is important to remember that all parks are special places held in trust for future generations. This park is owned by the citizens of California. It is our backyard.

Our park is celebrating its 75th birthday this year. It was established to protect the spaciousness and solitude of the desert in order to escape the evidence of human control and manipulation. During these 75 years, thousands of past and present park employees and volunteers have worked diligently and successfully to protect and preserve the park's many environmental cultural features. But the proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project is now putting the park's mission in jeopardy.

I urge the Commission to honor the efforts of individuals who have dedicated their lives to preserving this stark wilderness beauty of this glorious park for future generations of Californians. Do not allow these ugly transmission towers to cross the most beautiful state park in the land. Please respect the purpose of this park that was established 75 long years ago. Vote no on Sunrise Powerlink. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Betsy Knaak, followed by Esther Rubin.

STATEMENT OF MS. KNAAK

MS. KNAAK: Good afternoon. My name is Betsy Knaak. I'm the Executive Director for the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association, a 37 year-old nonprofit desert educational organization with over 2,000 member households throughout California, the U.S., Canada and Europe.

I'm here today to register our support of the California Public Utilities Commission staff opinion that Sunrise Powerlink should not go through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, that the park is not a good place for high voltage transmission lines.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is a federally designated national natural landmark and United Nations International Biosphere Reserve Site. Millions of visitors from across the state, the nation and the world travel to Anza-Borrego to see and learn about this national natural and cultural treasure.

Tourism is our life's blood at Borrego Springs. Visitors here come here to enjoy the scenic beauty and contribute between 350,000 and \$500,000 annually to the county and hotel occupancy tax, and many more dollars in state sales taxes. By all measures, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is a value

adding attraction to the region, the county, and the state and the nation, one that will only increase in value in the future.

We urge you to support the Aspen Environmental and the California Public Utilities Commission staff conclusion that there is an environmentally superior alternative. I respectfully thank you for this opportunity for public comment.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Ms. Knaak. Esther Rubin, followed by Jeanne Johnstone.

STATEMENT OF MS. RUBIN

MS. RUBIN: Good afternoon. And thank you for giving us the chance to share our comments and thoughts.

My name is Esther Rubin. I'm an ecologist with the Conservation Biology Institute, a nonprofit organization. Our mission is to provide scientific expertise to support the conservation and recovery of biological diversity in its natural state to applied research, education, planning and community service.

My comments focus on the potential impact of the Sunrise Powerlink on sensitive animal populations here in our desert. In particular, the federally endangered Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsula Ranges. I have studied Bighorn Sheep here in the Peninsula Ranges for nearly 15 years as part of my doctoral research and during the postdoctoral fellowship at the San Diego Zoo. I also led the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service recovery team in writing a recovery plan for this endangered population.

I have reviewed the Draft EIR/EIS and agree with the conclusions of the report. Namely, that the Sunrise Powerlink as proposed by SDG&E would have significant negative and unmitigable impacts on the sheep. And also that some of the other alternatives such as the environmentally superior southern and northern alternatives would also have significant negative and unmitigable impacts.

I therefore urge you to respect findings of the Draft EIR/EIS, and to say no to the proposed Powerlink. There are better options available which would protect not only our Bighorn Sheep, but also other native animals and plants, our parks, our open spaces and our quality of life. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Jeanne Johnstone, followed by Hal Cohen.

STATEMENT OF MS. JOHNSTONE

MS. JOHNSTONE: Hello Commissioners. I guess it works.

First, thanks everyone for coming and being inside instead of being outside or doing your other work today. I guess this is important. This is simple, but it is just as important to pick on all of the points folks have been making.

Simply what I have is just please do keep that support for the Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement recommendations, as you have so far, of alternatives to the Sunrise Powerlink where the least impact on our environment and to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is what will guide that proposal.

Now, for 75 years, as was recently mentioned, millions of taxpayers, big bucks here, this is after all San Diego County, millions of donations in land acquisitions, in plain old cash, capital property, and volunteerism, as well as millions of visitors, are simply shouting for years beyond the 75-year designation refuse to abuse our parklands. And I surely hope that is indeed in your hearts, as well as recognizing the need for folks to conserve, reuse, recycle, all these key words all around from top to bottom of the economic scale here.

Please do refuse to dedesignate wilderness. Once a park, forever a park. To think otherwise is simply like the F word, okay, to the earth. It is just wrong, way down deep.

Don't be a pusher for this frontierism and excess, overall excess energy, gobbling, shortsighted approaches that we all see way too much of. We can all make a profit without you-know-what to the environment we all need. Just say hell no, as some would say mildly, to the Sunrise Powerlink proposal.

With that, please do respect the Environmental Impact Report and Statement. And I thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Hal Cohen, followed by Shannon Davis.

STATEMENT OF MR. COHEN

MR. COHEN: I thank the Commission for being here today on this beautiful day. My name is Hal Cohen. I'm a resident of Borrego Springs, a professor of biology. And for the past five years I've been studying the migration of hawks through the Borrego Valley.

And 20,000 hawks have made that migration successfully without power lines to hit or be electrocuted by for the last five years. Some of those hawks are coming from as far as Argentina and going as far as Alaska, a 7,000 mile journey. If you would come out this evening or tomorrow morning you could see a couple of hundred hawks moving through the valley unimpeded by lines, not getting electrocuted, with wing spans of up to 7 feet. The Golden Eagle, Swainson's Hawks number as many as 1500 in a day.

If they move through the valley and they have obstructions in the way, it is possible that they will in fact not make it on this long journey that they make every year. The Borrego Valley is the only spring migration for Swainson's Hawks in North America. We are the only hawk watch in Southern California. It is very important that we respect the migration route of these magnificent 12 species of birds that come through here.

So I hope that you will pay attention to the possibilities that exist in this beautiful area and these beautiful birds. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: After Shannon Davis, Tom Lemmon.

STATEMENT OF MS. DAVIS

MS. DAVIS: I'm Shannon Davis. I'm from the Deer Horn Valley. I have also in the past spoken and written letters, that I hope you will read, about Anza-Borrego and how much I love it, and my concerns for the wildlife here. I am against this project completely, in its entirety.

What we have today is a Catch-22. By putting in a map, Figure E.4.1-1A, you put in a section for future transmission expansion. And it is that the San Diego Gas & Electric, if this project for the Sunrise Powerlink, if you decide in its entirety that you don't want this, that California can do better, you've left open the door possibly by putting in this map showing west wide federal corridor parallel to the Sunrise Powerlink on the Alternative Route D to let the federal corridor be approved. If Sunrise doesn't get approved, San Diego Gas & Electric may be able to go in on that corridor, the federal corridor.

So this will take my property. So I am — it is very personal.

Please vote no on this project. You have the power to set a higher standard for the State of California. And we have smarter alternatives than Sunrise Powerlink. Yes, smart energy solutions.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Tom Lemmon is coming up. This feels a little bit like the lottery, numbers 36 through 40, with the bonus number of 41, please.

STATEMENT OF MR. LEMMON

MR. LEMMON: Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Tom Lemmon, manager of the San Diego Building and Construction Trades Council, AFLCIO, representing 35,000 working men and women who build San Diego.

Our working families and local businesses depend on affordable power to help make ends meet. If the lights go out, many of our workers go home without paychecks. Now more than ever working families need to make their voices heard in this manner. We call on the California Public Utilities Commission to act now and approve the Sunrise Powerlink.

In addition to our position with the council, I'm also a third generation owner in Ocotillo Wells. I am also concerned about the environment. However, I can't in good conscious oppose a power line in my backyard, and I mean literally in my backyard, when the alternative is building five new fossil fuel plants in San Diego.

Sunrise Powerlink is the best alternative because it will deliver both solar and geothermal energy, energy that is known to be clean and reliable, from Imperial Valley with no greenhouse or gas emissions.

That is why you need to act now, and approve the Sunrise Powerlink and help ensure San Diego has enough reliable renewable energy for decades to come.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Lemmon. Appreciate you coming.

Fred Emery, followed by Raymond Lutz.

STATEMENT OF MR. EMERY

MR. EMERY: Your Honor, it is because I pay California tax that I dare intrude as an Englishman on those proceedings. All I wanted to do is to confirm several of the things you've heard said about the international implications of this.

I know this is a very important issue for California, indeed it is. But it is not only an important issue for California, nor even for the United States of America, which I much admire, it is also an international issue.

I brought 11 friends from England here this year to share in the secret of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Some will decry me for that and say for God sake, don't let anymore outsiders in.

(Laughter)

MR. EMERY: But the point is these people were not only our little effort to try to stimulate the local economy a bit, but also they came in awe that this wonderful place was not already a World Heritage Site. They couldn't believe it wasn't.

When I told them that the plan was to desecrate it by dedesignating its original status as a state park, they simply couldn't believe it. So let them go on in their disbelief. Let them believe in the dream that is California, that this sort of thing is too valuable to waste. You have to preserve it, because, after all, if you look around the world and see where there are other desert sites that are under threat of terrorism and God knows what else, this place is still wonderfully accessible. So simply say no to Sunrise Powerlink. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Ramond Lutz, followed by Jacqueline Ayer.

STATEMENT OF MR. LUTZ

MR. LUTZ: Hello again. My name is Raymond Lutz. I'm a candidate for the 77th Assembly District, which encompasses both the Borrego and the south line, so both routes of this proposed Powerlink. I rise in opposition to the Sunrise Powerlink.

What I found was interesting is the absolute backward way this was approached from the beginning. The glaring admission from all the reports that I've read of an in-depth description of a clear need for the system, such as analysis that would show maps of the usage patterns for today and the future. Then after that is done, then make a proposal as to what to do about it. Instead, we are given — simply told that this line is necessary, and then we are told which route do you prefer?

For citizens to evaluate any proposal, we should have a justification for why it is needed other than just hearing it from the grapevine as to why they need this. Now we find out that indeed it is for moving power from Mexico up to LA.

Now, what we have is a public utility that is ceased to serve the public and instead profit is their primary motive. It is encouraging to see the vast majority of the public that has paid attention now sees through the PR blitz.

And I would like to encourage you to respect the EIR. You must turn rooftop solar and conservation to meet power needs. You must respect our state parks and the private property owners in the south line which are going to be severely impacted with loss of their property.

I was distressed to learn, as the woman just mentioned, that the federal process has already chosen the south route. It has passed a public process where we can have an effect on that, apparently.

Again, please say no to this project. Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Just to make it clear, there has been no route approved, north or south. It is still at issue.

MR. LUTZ: The federal line?

ALJ WEISSMAN: Any line. Jacqueline Ayer, followed by John Vidic and Aidan Vidic.

STATEMENT OF MS. AYER

MS. AYER: If it is all right, John Vidic and Aidan Vidic are going to give me their minutes. Should I just go back and forth?

ALJ WEISSMAN: Frankly, we are not doing trades. If you want to make comments, that is fine.

MS. AYER: Okay. A lot of people commented that the EIR/EIS are adequate. I would like to point out the NEPA demands that the EIS presents environmental impact proposal and alternatives in comparative form. This sharply defines the issues in providing a clear basis for choice.

To comply with NEPA and CEQA, the EIS has to accurately and quantitatively assess the magnitude of each impact generated by the proposed project in each alternative that is considered. Without such quantitative information, the decision-makers, which is you, could unknowingly select an alternative that would propose a substantially greater wildlife and fire safety risk.

I would like to point out 13 of the 14 potentially significant impacts that were considered in this EIR/EIS were not evaluated in any quantitative manner, the only impact for which a rudimentary quantitative analysis relates to visual resources. The magnitude of this potential impact is crudely

established based by the number of viewpoints that were identified. This checklist approach is completely inapplicable and inappropriate for CEQA. I've got to throw a lot of things in now, because I don't have any time.

The LEAPS transmission line will provide only 500 megawatts of import capacity, not the 1300 megawatts or the 1600 that are assumed in the EIS. In order to enhance grid reliability, you are going to need the requirements of 1,000 and 1,300 megawatts. LEAPS isn't going to do it. Cal ISO has said LEAPS will only do 500 megawatts, and even FERC in their LEAPS document said it will only do 750. There is no way that LEAPS is considered an alternative to Sunrise.

I would also like to point out LEAPS is not going to — doesn't meet any of the projects objectives. It brings no power from Imperial Valley, it brings no power from San Diego, it brings no power anywhere. It just connects to SoCal Edison. We already know SoCal Edison's entire transmission corridor is operating at capacity. They've got seven or eight 500 kV lines that they were trying to get pushed through with the PUC because they already have inadequate capacity. And the notion that LEAPS would somehow bring power to San Diego Gas & Electric on transmission capacity from Edison that is already undercapacity, it is just ridiculous.

I have more to say. I'm disappointed you are only giving me two minutes, and not letting people to share minutes.

ALJ WEISSMAN: You are welcome to file comments on the Draft EIR. In fact, we encourage you to. You will definitely have an opportunity to state your case.

We have actually come to the end of the list.

MR. RUDLEY: I didn't have a chance to sign up.

ALJ WEISSMAN: That is what I wanted to ask. Is there anybody, now that they heard what others had to say, wishing they had an opportunity to say something as well? You are welcome to do that. Why don't we have you come forward and introduce yourself.

STATEMENT OF MR. RUDLEY

MR. RUDLEY: My name is John Rudley. I've been a resident of Borrego Springs now for at least 33 years. Most of that time — all the time I've been here I was a state park ranger working on this beautiful desert floor. I'm retired now about five years.

I have to just preface all of this first, I love the planet. It is not just the desert itself. It is all the beautiful and wondrous natural beauty on the planet.

Before I begin this, I am going to preface what I am going to say by reminding everyone here that we are in Southern California, land of cities, and malls, and parking lots, air pollution, light pollution, noise pollution. This is not Wyoming, or New Mexico or Utah. And so I believe what I have to say should resonate a bit louder and longer, even though these are just — they are not facts. There is nothing there. It is just what is in my heart, and I'm sure it is what is in some of these people's hearts, if not everybody's.

I believe what I have to say should resonate a bit louder and longer. Southern California, truly an incredibly beautiful and wondrous region, is almost gone on a daily basis.

The beauty and wildness of California is forever being stripped away. For the betterment of society, I would argue that there is innate societal greed born of perceived need that permits this ongoing pernicious attrition of unrecoverable natural and scenic resources. Once wildland is gone, it is gone forever. Part of wildland is visible beauty, albeit that which is perceived through the eyes of the beholder. Viewsheds, grand vistas unimpeded by human technology, a major power line, for instance,

are an integral part of wildlands, whether Anza-Borrego Desert State Park or Grand Canyon National Park, or some wondrous place in another part of the world.

Southern California's remaining intact viewsheds should be protected and viable as best as we can achieve. I sincerely believe the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and state park principles should be sacrosanct. There was a time earlier as a ranger that I sincerely believed that.

Thank you for your time. And I'm against the Powerlink, by the way.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you for having picked up the script. Do you want to come over?

STATEMENT OF MR. VIDIC

MR. VIDIC: I'm John Vidic. I would like to say the LEAPS fuels and fire management analysis is deficient of all the impacts considered by the CEQA/NEPA analysis transmission line project.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Can I interrupt you for a minute. It would be helpful if either of you explain who you represent.

MR. VIDIC: We are landowners along the LEAPS corridor. And we are concerned that you are using LEAPS as an alternative here when it really doesn't apply. That is why we are addressing LEAPS.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

MR. VIDIC: Of all the impacts considered, CEQA/NEPA analysis of a transmission line project wildfire impacts are be the most important because they transcend all other impacts. Wildfires have severe and frequent long-term impacts to biological resources, visual resources.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Please slow down. I think the court reporter is having a hard time keeping up.

MR. VIDIC: You gave me two minutes, and we drove two hours to get here.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Slow down, and then use your two minutes and I'll thank you for coming.

MR. VIDIC: Yeah, right.

Wilderness and recreation activities and agricultural resources, cultural resources, public health and safety, air quality, water resources, property values, and public services, mudslides originating in burn areas will also cause long-term impacts to property values, water quality, public health and safety and even transportation.

It is imperative that the discussion of wildland fires impacts be given proper weight in any CEQA/NEPA assessment of high voltage transmission projects. Unfortunately, the Sunrise DEIR/DEIS is lacking in this regard. In fact, the Lake Pendleton segment has over 300 percent more — very high burn areas, and 150 percent more high burn areas in the northern route alternative. The Lake Pendleton segment also has 150 percent more very high burn probability areas than the southern route. Does this actually sound like an environmentally preferred alternative, speaking to the LEAPS.

The following correlations and additions should be included in the Final EIR. Under extreme weather conditions, ignitions along the transmission line will burn to the southwest. And according to the fire behavior trend model results, will threaten all of the northern Cleveland National Forest and south of Majestic Canyon. That is about 80 percent of the entire Cleveland National Forest located between Riverside County and Orange County. Ignitions along the Lake Coalinga transmission line

during extreme weather conditions will spread a substantial but undetermined distance far beyond the western border of the Cleveland National Forest.

However, an accurate list of threatened communities can be compiled, including Foothills Ranch, Rancho Margarita, Mission Viejo, O'Neill Regional Park, Ronald W. Casper's Wilderness Park, and San Juan Capistrano, San Clemente and Rancho Mission Viejo Ecological Reserve.

Densely populated residential communities such as these are not immune from the devastating effects of wildland fires as clearly evidenced in the 2003 Cedar Fire which consumed more than 2,000 residences.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Is there anybody else who would like to make a comment? State your name, please. Please come up to the microphone.

STATEMENT OF MR. CLARK

MR. CLARK: Robert Clark. Thank you for coming everyone here. I'm Robert Clark, resident here and a member of the Sierra Club.

About 100 years ago the word went out that the Passenger Pigeon was in danger of extinction. The response of the market hunters was to grab their shotguns and run out there and get their last bag before it was too late. We have a similar kind of conflict of values occurring today. Today we see American society changing its values very rapidly, possibly jolted by An Inconvenient Truth. But not only birds, but also natural beauty and a whole philosophy of conservation may become extent also.

I think perhaps we see a power company grabbing its shotgun and getting out to get its bag before it is too late.

We respect the work done on the environmental draft, and we support it. Thank you, sir.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you. Last call? All right. Hearing none, I want to reflect a little bit on the fact that the last two hours have been eloquently presented, sometimes poetic, extremely informative. Once again, I think we have to be extremely impressed by the level of expertise that people have to bring to bear, even when they are coming in without suits and ties and without the benefit of office.

It has been very useful. Thank you very much for all coming out today. We will be taking all this into consideration. We will have the transcript, and we will have a chance to read back what you had to say.

Billy, was there something that you wanted to add? I couldn't tell. Okay. Thank you very much for coming. This meeting is adjourned.