

RAMONA, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 26, 2008 - 7:10 P.M.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE WEISSMAN: We will be in order.

This is our fourth public participation hearing in the Sunrise Transmission Line Project, and Supervisor Dianne Jacob is at the dais.

STATEMENT OF SUPERVISOR JACOB

SUPERVISOR JACOB: Well, thank you both again so very, very much for being here in Ramona and being downtown and being in Pine Valley, and I know you'll be in Julian, and accommodating the people that are most affected by this line.

I hate to make a request to break your rules right away, but if I could request five minutes, and I'll try to get done in less time, I would greatly appreciate it.

ALJ WEISSMAN: One grand, limited exception, yes. Granted.

SUPERVISOR JACOB: If that's all right with everyone else.

I do represent the people of San Diego County's Second District, which encompasses the eastern portion of the county. And my district includes many of the communities that would be affected by this proposed Sunrise Powerlink proposal by SDG&E, which includes Ramona and Julian, Santa Ysabel, Pine Valley, all of the communities that would be around the — along the Alternative D and the southeastern portion of the region also. So it's my district. These are my people, and these are properties in my district.

The County of San Diego is finalizing its formal comments on the Draft Environmental Report and will be submitting those technical comments before the April 11th deadline. I have reviewed the Draft EIR. I have not read all 7,000 pages, but in particular I have focused on the executive summary.

I do remain steadfastly opposed to the project in the entirety and even more so after reading the environmental document, and that would include Preferred Route and Alternative Route D.

As the Draft EIR points out, there are cheaper and less destructive ways to meet future energy needs. If the speakers here tonight seem especially upset, it's because this area is still reeling from the massive fire storms of last October, fires likely started by SDG&E power lines.

In addition, the region has endured SDG&E's controversial Sunrise campaign for more than two years. This divisive effort has pitted rural communities against urban communities and tried to turn northern communities against southern communities.

Fortunately, many of us have seen through SDG&E's propaganda, and SDG&E has presented the CPUC's decision as a choice. That choice is approve Sunrise or suffer rolling blackouts. That's SDG&E's choice.

Yet, as the Draft EIR thankfully indicates, and as expert after expert has testified, Sunrise is a false choice. The EIR's top two alternatives clearly show that this region, its economy and its landscape are better served by local, not imported, generation. In commercials and glossy brochures, SDG&E's impressive public relations machine has boiled down the pitch for Sunrise into a snappy sound bite. SDG&E says this: Sunrise will bring us the three Rs: Renewables, reliability, and reduced costs.

Unfortunately, SDG&E overlooked a fourth and important R, reality.

Here's the reality about renewables. There's enough capacity on the existing Southwest Powerlink to bring wind, solar and geothermal energy from the Imperial Valley into this region without

building Sunrise. SDG&E's own testimony reveals that the utility can meet California's renewable mandate without building Sunrise.

The unproven Stirling Solar Dish Project, the cornerstone of SDG&E's renewable claims, has been delayed again. The company has not filed an application for construction with the California Energy Commission. Worse yet, Stirling officials have testified they won't move forward with a type of technology that has long suffered from hydrogen and engine seal leaks.

Finally, if SDG&E is as committed to renewable energy as it claims, then why last summer did the company lobby against increasing the state's renewable mandate?

Here's the reality about reliability: A massive extension cord through our fire-prone back country does not equal greater reliability. It equals perilous danger.

In my discussions with SDG&E, the utility used the 2003 Cedar Fire as an argument for Sunrise. SDG&E said that Sunrise was needed because if the existing Southwest Powerlink were to go down in a fire, Sunrise could assure reliability.

Huh. Well, guess what? SDG&E officials downplayed the likelihood of the regions' having two massive fires at the same time. That argument was debatable until October of 2007. It turned out SDG&E was right. We didn't have two massive fires at the same time, we had seven. The Southwest Powerlink went down in the Harris Fire. And had Sunrise had been built, it would have been out of service too because of the path of the Witch Fire.

Here's the reality about reduced costs: Repeatedly, we have seen the alleged financial benefits of Sunrise drop dramatically because of SDG&E's own miscalculations, math errors and faulty assumptions about power plants. First it was \$447 million. Then \$204 million. Then \$129 million, less than one-quarter of the line's original cost savings estimates.

The Utility Consumers Action Network, UCAN, and other energy stakeholder groups have done some remarkable research into the cost-effectiveness of upgrading existing infrastructure and investing in solar, proposals that have largely been ignored unfortunately by SDG&E.

I think it's time for SDG&E to retire the claims about the three Rs. The facts don't support them. The region needs to turn its focus to the three Es: Existing infrastructure, emerging technologies and efficiency measures.

The state of California is standing at the threshold of a whole new era in energy development. And in my mind, Sunrise is really a battle between the dying past and the promising future.

California, with its million solar roofs campaign and its investments in energy research, is blazing trails when it comes to renewables. The state and its Governor have put its money where its mouth is. That investment is paying off.

This month a story in The New York Times describes California as the world's, and I quote, next big solar market and its entrepreneurial center, unquote. An economist said of California, and I quote: We're at the dawn of a revolution that could be as powerful as the Internet revolution, unquote. A venture capitalist said companies are just starting to blossom from venture funding, and through innovation and volume, prices are coming down.

Change is scary, and SDG&E is likely protecting an old way of doing business. Yet the financial sector and the energy sector are all saying the same thing: hulking lines and massive steel are antiquated concepts. Distributed generation, self-reliance and new green technologies are here to stay whether SDG&E likes it or not.

Imported power, in Sunrise's case much of it from fossil-fuel plants, is a thing of the past. So by approving Sunrise, California would be building a billion-dollar monument to the past. We don't want that. We don't need it, and it will be outdated before it's even finished.

By turning down this line, the Commission sends an important message to the San Diego region: San Diegans need to create in-basin generation and become self-sufficient and safer from fire. And with your help, we can force our utility to do the right thing.

Again, thank you so much for the opportunity of allowing me to speak and being here tonight.

(Applause)

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

In Supervisor Jacob's defense, in Commission hearings there are no curtain calls, so they'll have to —

SUPERVISOR JACOB: I have no control over that.

(Laughter)

ALJ WEISSMAN: What I'd like to do is ask those of you who did sign up to speak to come up in clusters. Hopefully, you might even remember the number next to your name when you signed in. I'll ask for the first five people to please come and line up behind the dais.

And if you've forgotten your number, don't worry. I'll still call your name when it's your turn to make a presentation.

STATEMENT OF MR. GARLAND

MR. GARLAND: Thank you, Judge. I have a graphic for you and a map that goes with it, and I'll describe what it's all about.

My name is Rick Garland. I'm chairman of the Visual Pollution and Scenic Preservation Task Force of the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club. I would again like to thank Commissioner Grueneich and Judge Weissman for your stamina, patience, devotion to democracy and caring to listen to us night after night.

We are completely opposed to all alternatives except No. 1, essentially non-wire alternative. And I again applaud Aspen and Mrs. Lee and Billie for the tour de force EIR; an amazing accomplishment, including the proofreading.

I would like to just isolate an example of a numerical alternative to put a human touch on it. And the picture that I've shown you was taken on a bright day in August of 1992 when Jack Shu, California State Park District Superintendent, Anne Fege, forest supervisor from U.S. Forest Service, Granville Bowman, from the City of San Diego, Supervisor Bailey, and as you can see there a character you may recognize as Smokey the Bear celebrated the dedication of a portion of Interstate 8 between Pine Valley and Highway 94 as part of the National Forest Service's scenic byways. The scenic byways run from — well, they start in Big Sur and run all the way to the Mexican border. And Interstate 8 in this area is part of the scenic byways. It's also an area for which an application has been submitted for designation of a river that runs through it as a wild and scenic river. Yet, there is a proposal, proposed Element 4 which, although is not the first choice, it is an alternative. It is more of a first choice. But it's listed as an environmentally superior alternative.

And from the viewpoint of the visual environment, that is a preposterous listing as are the other alternatives, actually more or less because it truly is outrageous to propose areas that have been designated as of high scenic value as these have officially by the United States Forest Service, and you

can see that from the map, and think it to be logical to run a massive power line through the area, the bulldozing that would be required and the destruction.

Some people rather glibly talk about the Interstate 8 alternative, but it really isn't very logical. I spoke to a fireman about it. He said that it would foster future fires because firemen can't put out fires in the vicinity of 500 kV lines until they're de-electrified, and therefore fires would spread before it was possible for the firefighters to fight them. It could lead to much acceleration of fires.

There has been a lack of leadership in the alternatives — I'll wrap up quickly. The no proposed use of new technologies for transmission, electronic optimization of transmission, higher conducting conductors on existing rights-of-way.

It seems like there's an absolute lack of creativity on the part of the proposers. And there's only one solution to this, and Alternative 1 is the only one that is not preposterous. I hope that you find that that's the choice.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. CONCANNON

MR. CONCANNON: Good evening. Thank you for allowing me to speak this evening. I'm Dave Concannon. My wife Dee and I are here in opposition in the Sunrise Powerlink.

When we drove here this evening, we and others contributed to the carbon footprint of the area. We have heard that term bandied about quite often by politicians, the same politicians who say, We must do something about it; that we're responsible for going green. Solar is the answer, they say; more Americans must go solar, and they'd better get started now.

Because we haven't done that in any measurable way to date, SDG&E points to that as one of the reasons we must have the Sunrise Powerlink.

Back in the early '80s when I was a reporter in the back country in the east county in San Diego, of the thousands of interviews that SDG&E executives gave out, we've repeatedly heard the Southwest Powerlink, which we fought, would take care of our energy needs well into the 21st century. But here we are again.

So maybe solar can be our savior.

But how can we afford to go solar? How many working folks and retirees like us can afford to shell out between \$25- and \$50,000 for the up-front cost of going solar, with the reward being some distant and low-level rebate.

Why haven't the utilities like SDG&E and others corral the solar energy folks and said, Look; you've got to help us lobby in Washington and Sacramento to get bills passed that would subsidize the up-front costs of building solar.

We aren't looking for handouts. These would be no or low interest loans which would have payback built in, possibly grants for very low income folks. Maybe paybacks could be done with the leftover electricity sent to the grid. And we wouldn't need the additional electricity from the Powerlink if a portion of new residential and commercial construction is required to be solar or other green energy.

I don't know. But I do know that we would be going green with solar very, very quickly, and maybe we wouldn't have to have meetings like this anymore.

Thank you.

(Applause)

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. VOSS

MR. VOSS: Hi. I'm Dave Voss, and I'm from Oceanside, and I oppose the Sunrise Powerlink.

By now, everyone's aware of Sempra/SDG&E and their mangling of the truth. I won't belabor all the many ways they've done this so far. The PUC has been doing a very good job of bringing out the truth. But I would like to add two more points to this growing list of untruths.

First, the Imperial Valley is not the only place to get solar energy. San Diego is blessed with a lot of sun. We have a lot of tourists in San Diego for that reason. You wouldn't think of Germany with a lot of sun. It doesn't have any deserts.

The reality is Germany has more solar power than any other country in the world. If do you a little research on that, you'll find in 2006, half of the world's solar power was in Germany. They have 300,000 buildings with solar panels on them. They have 55,000 people employed by a hundred manufacturers and suppliers of solar panels.

Most panels built in America go to Germany. Germany is smaller than California but twice the population. They have 3000 megawatts already. They plan to add a thousand megawatts per year.

The truth is, there's plenty of solar in San Diego as Germany has proven.

Second, SDG&E/Sempra talks about the need to have two lines or have the line parallel to the Southwest Powerlink because of reliability and fire issues. But they don't do anything about the one substation in Imperial Valley.

As most people are aware, there was a fire earlier today in Florida. A substation caught on fire. Millions of people without power. Eight power plants were shut down. The cause of the fire, preliminary reports are a switch in the substation triggered the fire. So the substation itself caused the fire, which we know very well here in San Diego, and took out most of Florida.

So again, where's the truth? Do we really need two power lines coming through Imperial Valley if we have only one substation?

The truth is, relying on that one area for all of our power needs puts us at much greater risk. And we have much less reliability. Local solar, distributed solar is much more reliable and less fire risk.

And I'd encourage you to continue to dig for the truth. You guys are doing a great job.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. WITHERS

MS. WITHERS: I'm Judith Withers from the community of San Felipe.

Because of its massive scope and destruction, the Sunrise Powerlink itself argues against the project and increasingly appears to be the white elephant in the room because of new technologies available to our city. Our communities respectfully ask the CPUC to support the findings of the EIR/EIS that allows the San Diego Smart Energy 2020 Plan to move forward. In fact, SDG&E can

become the entity to help implement this plan instead of its current pattern of putting up roadblocks to these inevitable and newer technologies.

Facing a similar situation, San Francisco formed a public utility on its own to implement the more modern and common-sense approach to its own energy problems. The people now know that we too have this option if these roadblocks to modernization continue.

When the Sunrise Powerlink was first conceived, the science regarding climate change was not as mainstream as it is now. The debate is over. Sempra and SDG&E have invested in an idea whose time has come and is over.

From what I understand, this problem with congestion of the energy grid will expire in 2010, right about the same time the Sunrise Powerlink is slated to go on line. I think they know that this project, paid for by the ratepayers and of which private shareholders stand to profit, is their last chance to force this old technology onto the people. I say it is already too late.

The various chambers of commerce say they all support this project, but I think they are ignorant of the fact that thousands of new and more permanent jobs, green jobs, will be created by supporting the San Diego Smart Energy 2020 plan.

I urge all of the members to go to this website, sdsmartenergy.org, and study the Power Point presentation that will make its benefits to our city very clear.

Together our goal should not be about transmission but transition to a cleaner, more efficient energy feature. Please support the San Diego Smart Energy Plan by supporting the Finding No. 1 of the EIR/EIS.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. BARAN

MR. BARAN: Good evening. I'm Robert Baran. I live in Encinitas, California. I live far from Borrego, I live far from Ramona, but this issue — the last two years, I followed it really closely. It's really, really gotten to me.

My family and I have been going to Borrego probably for 16, 17 years camping. We've come to appreciate its beauty, its quietness. It's a unique place. I strongly feel SDG&E's Powerlink is in direct conflict with the mission and vision of the California State Parks System. Their mission is to provide for the health, inspiration, education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity and protecting its most valuable natural and cultural resources.

SDG&E's answer for this is to construct 150-foot metal towers in Anza-Borrego State Park under the pretext that we need reliable power and this is the only way to get it. It's simply not true.

I really feel there's an inconsistency in the value between the utility company's SDG&E and the people of California. This massive project puts the need of Sempra/SDG&E before anyone who values beautiful open spaces and vistas.

I really feel Southern California has had real growing pains. Every time you turn around, there's a condo going up, a parking lot going up. Now more than ever, we need places we can go and feel there's not — we're just with nature. And it sounds corny, I think, but it's really.

In conclusion, I'd like to say I support the findings of the draft impact report. And I hope that the Commission will follow the recommendations.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. EARNSHAW

MS. EARNSHAW: Hi. My name is Michelle Earnshaw and I'm from Ramona, and I am opposed to the Sunrise Powerlink.

I had a lot prepared to say, but you've only given us about half the time that I have to say it in, so I will try to cut this real short.

There are good alternatives already available, but I understand that SDG&E themselves have placed some limits on how many of those can be implemented in San Diego County. I don't understand why, but they do, I know.

SDG&E seems to make it appear that the outcry is mostly about visual pollution. And yet that is somewhat true, because those of us who live in the country do so because we want the wide open spaces. But one of the major reasons why we are against it and don't want it anymore than anyone else does is not just how ugly it looks, but it's a matter of our lives and our homes.

I attended a recent meeting where the chairman of the Electrical Engineering Department at UCSD spoke. Prior to joining UCSD, he had retired from San Diego Gas & Electric in 2003 just before the Cedar Falls Fire. He spent 35 years in his career — and earlier in the morning he had visited the area where the origin of the fire took place for the Witch Creek Fire. He said that nothing had been corrected and that if the weather conditions were right, the same thing would happen again and again and again. And I understand that it has happened other times, but they got the fire out before it was a problem.

You may not hear from a lot of other people who are just as concerned about this as all of us here because they are trying to put their lives back together again. I was very lucky. My home was spared from this fire, but some of my family were not so fortunate, and there were animals who were injured. And if my sister hadn't risked her life to get her horses out, they would have been killed as well. And they are recuperating now.

So it seems to me that SDG&E has a long, long way to go before they will be ready to implement this plan. Many upgrades need to be in place first. They need to properly maintain the wires that already exist.

I understand the CPUC has protocol for the maintenance of power lines which calls for two people on the job. One person drives the car and one person acts as a spotter on the wires, but they are not doing this. They're sending one person out in a car to be the driver and the spotter, which seems to me to be rather unsafe.

Spacers need to be placed on all the lines with the possibility of arcing. We need a reliable water source for Ramona because we know there are going to be more fires. And we need more than two evacuation routes out of our town. One of the roads, Highway 78, is often closed due to rock slides or washouts.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. HAMILTON

MS. HAMILTON: Thank you. I appreciate this time to voice my own opinions. My name is Melanie Hamilton. I live in Julian, and I work in Ramon.

I vehemently oppose the Sunrise Powerlink for all the good reasons that have been stated here and at earlier meetings. So I'd like to give a different sort of perspective, if I may. In order to do that, I would like to quote an eminent historian by the name of Barbara Tuchman in her famous book, *The March of Folly*. If anyone has not read that, I would encourage you to do that.

She uses three criteria to describe political and economic folly. The first one is it must be perceived in its own time as counterproductive.

To manufacture electricity at plants using an ever-dwindling fossil fuel that is becoming more expensive, more dangerous just to obtain and less dependable is folly. To transport it over hundreds of miles from the point of generation is wasteful, subject to disruption and has hazardous side effects. Add to the price of a barrel of oil the cost to find it, drill it, convert it, transport it, burn it and then clean it up. We must also not forget to calculate the high cost in lives, the impoverishment of third-world nations and the alienation of whole populations to our way of life. The end results of this blind dependency are clearly foreseeable and absolutely contrary to our good. This is indeed folly.

A second criteria she quotes is a feasible alternative course must have been available and recognizable.

We need only to review the all-encompassing report submitted by Bill Powers and other experts to know that there are alternatives available to us now. Our existing infrastructure can be utilized to reduce our fossil-fuel use while increasing our efficiency and reducing, even eliminating, instability, disruption and rising costs.

We can take as a shining example the Portuguese. They have committed to a target of 60 percent renewables over the next 24 months. If a poor nation such as Portugal can make this commitment — commitment, then why can't the wealthiest and the most powerful country do so as well.

Let's remember our own history. The 19th Century entrepreneurs and politicians made the momentous decision to construct the Transcontinental Railroad to replace outdated stage coaches, covered wagons and the Pony Express. That railroad was begun in 1862 and completed in 1869, seven years.

Where is our enterprising and entrepreneurial spirit today? Why do we insist on diverting funds to a system that's contrary to our best interests when doable alternatives are available and effective and sustainable?

The fourth criteria she uses is that the foolish policy must be the product of a group or several groups, not just a single foolish individual. And I think we have adequate evidence to that.

Thank you for your time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. MORROW

MS. MORROW: Good to see you again.

COMMISSIONER GRUENEICH: Hello again.

MS. MORROW: I'm Carolyn Smith Morrow, and I live in Ranchita. And I'm a business person and have had my own business since 1977. And I'm adamantly opposed to this route.

I want to center my comments on the fire situation. It is painfully obvious from someone's perspective who has live in the back country through the last three fires — two of which were started by downed power lines — that SDG&E doesn't appreciate the devastation caused by these fire storms.

During last October's fire, I was at a firehouse in Ranchita, and the fire chief made a chilling comment. He said, Thank goodness that Powerlink hasn't been built yet or we would all have been burned out. I am grateful I won't see it in my lifetime.

Even if SDG&E's mitigation plan included a new fire truck for each 150-foot tower, that would not solve this massive problem. It is not safe for firefighters to work under those towers during a fire storm, and they are too tall for planes to drop retardant on fires burning under the towers.

SDG&E doesn't maintain the lines they currently have in place. What makes anyone think they will suddenly change their maintenance plans?

It was interesting that the week after the story appeared in the Union Tribune about the poles' guide wires conducting electricity, that SDG&E was out on Grapevine changing insulation on the guide wires.

Do these wildfires have to burn all the way to the coast before true understanding is achieved of the destruction that fires wrought and the role that overhead transmission lines play in this scenario?

Every effort should be developed to reduce transmission wires, not increase them. This is old, destructive technology.

Yesterday we heard from mayors and chambers of commerce that they need this power line to stay in business and serve the unchecked and poorly planned development in their cities. It is time that these cities and businesses take responsibility for their own electricity needs and conserve, build commercial solar facilities, develop in-area generation plants and not expect the back country to carry the burden of their excesses.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. RAUH

MR. RAUH: Thank you very much for your time.

I'm extremely nervous. I am not accustomed to speaking in front of more than three people, so please bear with me.

ALJ WEISSMAN: You're doing great.

MR. RAUH: First of all, I am opposed of course to the Powerlink, like many of us are here. I have come with a concern, number one, probably a topic which isn't touched upon. But I know the CPUC is also in charge of rate hikes and approval of rate hikes, of course. And I wonder as I sit there looking at that — my SDG&E bill on a regular basis, I'm wondering how I'm going to pay it, being a realtor and all — you know, exactly how are they paying for this Powerlink, the promotion and the ongoing investigation of it? I mean are we, the ratepayer, just going to pay a little bit more if it takes a little bit longer in court or not? I do have a concern regarding that.

I'd like to make sure there is someone — and I believe you are the group — that is a watchdog making sure they are spending our money properly.

Number two, the EIR was a great document. I have two copies unfortunately, but I hope to have one in the local library, San Felipe/Ranchita Library.

The Environmental Impact Report didn't state something that I was hoping it was going to — and I know it was pretty well impossible to do so — and that was state the environment — excuse me — the economic environmental impact report on that.

We all are going through some tough times, not only in the country, but of course in the cities. One of the major problems that we're all running into is, of course, financing and jobs, and so on. The economic report that I wanted to see was what would happen if this power line was turned down and the power that we needed was mandated to be alternative power. How many jobs would be created, quality jobs within San Diego, that had good potential for paying good salaries to people, you know, raising the tax base, making sure that we could make the current — the current you know, budget. Because, again, we're laying off teachers now. Everyone is in a terrible crunch. And with these new quality jobs, the people that would be hooking up the solar panels, the people that would be checking wind mills, the people that would be doing more than just clearing around telephone poles — that would be a quality job that would really impact San Diego and San Diego County in a very positive way. And that was something I was hoping to see in the Environmental Impact Report, but I know it's quite impossible to do so, but I do hope that you do take that into account.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Mr. Rauh.

STATEMENT OF MS. LEVIN

MS. LEVIN: Hello. My name is Carol Levin. I live at the end of Mussey Grade Road in Ramona, next to the San Vicente Reservoir.

I have testified earlier in the Mussey Grade Road Alliance testimony about the historical natural beauty of the area. My family and I have owned our wonderful, pristine ranch for over 40 years. And as a child and throughout my adult years, I have ridden my horse all over the county, including Mission Valley, El Cajon, Lakeside and parts in between — areas that are now developed.

I also lost my home, along with my beautiful oak trees, in the Cedar Fire. And I was fortunate the Witch Creek Fire didn't get me. I can see the power line from my studio window. I know that the Witch Fire was started by the SDG&E power line in Ramona during a Santa Ana. I don't want the Sunrise Powerlink line bringing me down.

I put up solar panels that generate me approximately 80 percent of my electricity. I believe that is the way to go, not defacing our beautiful back country with dangerous power lines.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. WOSK

MS. WOSK: Judge, Commissioner, I am Myna Wosk, W-o-s-k. I'm from La Jolla and a little community in the southern desert called Cambria. And I thank you for slogging through all of this with us.

ALJ WEISSMAN: It's not a slog; it's a pleasure.

MS. WOSK: Oh, good. I absolutely support your number one choice, and I'm totally opposed to the Powerlink.

And here's the scenario as I see it. Sempra trots over to Indonesia and Russia or wherever, and they signed a bunch of contracts to purchase natural gas. And then they build these big, huge structures to dig down underneath the ocean floor, probably not using Energy Star-approved methods, to extract the gas, and then they have to transform it into something that can be loaded onto giant tankers, also not Energy Star winners. And they have to shlep it all the way across the ocean thousands of miles to, guess what, LNG terminals conveniently already built in northern Baja where the gas in some form is

piped up to Mexicali — Mexicali — right on the other side of our border, where it will be transmogrified once again, and probably not with full Energy Star compliance, into energy that can be transmitted over, guess what, enormous lines, which they are hoping you will approve, and sending all of this energy where? In large part, north of San Diego County. And I refer you to Bill Powers' Smart Energy 2020 Plan which spells it out precisely.

So I say blessings on Stirling Energy and Sempra, too, and let them put their knowledge and their experience into locally produced sources of energy.

And as for power plants, which some people don't like, if they're designed not only for the highest efficiency but with an eye for aesthetics and lines underground, well, I wouldn't mind having one in my figurative backyard.

Last point. We're trying to get off our dependency on foreign oil. Do we want to become dependent on foreign natural gas?

Please don't let anything deter you from supporting the sensible number one choice that you've already made.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. LYNCH

MS. LYNCH: Good evening. My name is Sharon Lynch, and I live in Holly Oaks Ranch. It's a community in Ramona. My community of — my community of Holly Oaks Ranch is in close proximity to the original route proposed by SDG&E for the Powerlink.

Over the past year, I have spent many hours in meetings listening, speaking, protesting, only to find out that we have to rehash everything again in 2008. As frustrating as this is, I and the others in this room are determined to see this through for the protection of ourselves and for the — and the land.

During the first go-round, I presented to Aspen a petition signed by 86 percent of the members of my community against the Powerlink. I would like to submit that petition again this evening to you.

We are a tight-knit community of 90 families and we want to make sure our voices are heard. We fear the potential health and fire hazard that the Powerlink represents to our future and the future of our children, as well as fearing the negative financial impact the Powerlink represents to the value of our homes.

I will never forget the fire of 2003. The initial fire danger had passed our area but later returned, finding a conduit along the electric power lines in our vicinity. The fire came roaring back with sparks flying. It was just such a spark that ignited and burned one of our homes in our community. And certainly even more vivid was the recent fires of 2007 when we were evacuated for a week, uncertain of the fate of our homes, only to be told later on the news that the cause of the Witch Fire was tree branches ignited by power lines that were too close.

After all the evidence presented it is beyond my comprehension why this Powerlink would ever even stand a chance of being approved. I recently heard a representative from SDG&E claim that the Powerlink is needed in conjunction with the development of other local power plant and alternative sources of energy. But as far as I can tell, that statement has yet to be conclusively proved. And if it is true, why is SDG&E only pursuing the Powerlink?

The only conclusive findings I have heard are from economic and environmental experts as well as local politicians who are not motivated by profit and greed. None of these experts back the

Powerlink or are convinced of its needs. And until safety, efficacy, environmental and fiscal issues can be addressed satisfactorily, my choice and of that my community is for no Powerlink.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. TRAFECANTY

MR. TRAFECANTY: Hello. My name is Denis Trafecanty, and I live about two air miles northeast of where the fire, the Witch Creek Fire, started. So I was lucky because our wind meter, our little weather station showing wind gusts up to 72 miles an hour were going the direction away from our house. So we were quite fortunate.

I want to thank Supervisor Dianne Jacob for coming. You did quite a job stealing the thunder of my presentation, but I elected not to sit down and not say anything because, as some of you know, I like to talk up here. And I did have an epiphany from what my presentation was in Borrego Springs, and I wanted you to hear it.

What it is, is in Borrego Springs — I'll tell some of the audience this — I was telling the Commissioner and the Judge and others that the Stirling silver — the Stirling Energy system is — I read an article. It was dated February 15th of 2008. What's that, 11 days ago? Here's what they said about Stirling Silver [sic]: Seems to be languishing. Stirling Energy seems to be languishing. Construction hasn't begun. Stirling Energy has not even filed an application for construction.

Southern California Edison, our utility to the north, has a contract approved by the CPUC two years ago, and it's supposed to be completed in 2009. Fat chance when you only have six of these units being beta-tested in Sandia Labs in New Mexico.

You know, if you ever produce anything, you start off with a prototype. You start beta-testing, and then after you do that, what do you is you say, hey, let's see if I can build 1 megawatt of this. And then maybe you go to 10 megawatts. And then you finally convince an investor that you can mass produce this stuff. Well, six units is far from this. And we're talking about approving a Southwest Powerlink — which, by the way, I'm opposed to — this summer.

Okay. By the way, the Imperial Irrigation District is another place — another utility locally that is also competing for renewable energy in the Imperial Valley. And they spoke at Borrego Springs and they said, you know, we might have a stranded transmission line if you let the Sunrise Powerlink be built and go through this area.

So what I'm saying is my epiphany is as follows: I realize that even though an investor wouldn't be investing in this, I'm the investor. I'm a ratepayer. That's who's paying for this line. It's us. It's not the CPUC, and it's not SDG&E; it's us. So I'm the dumb investor that's investing in something where the technology hasn't been proven. So I ask you, please don't approve this line because it's a lousy investment.

I want to also say that the Smart Energy Plan — and I could send this by e-mail to any of you — is the way to go. And you're going to hear that a lot in the next few months about the San Diego Smart Energy plan.

And finally, I don't know who put that sign up there, but it's pretty applicable. That one that says Sempra Energy, it says — there's a picture of a car, and I know I'm a lot older than about 90 percent of you, but I will tell you this: That's an Edsel. To me — and walk by it on your way out. I don't know who brought it in, but it was a great idea — bringing you yesterday's ideas today.

Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. REIFSNIDER

MR. REIFSNIDER: Thank you for your slogging once again.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Actually, I thought it was slogging. Now I heard it was shlepping. So I'm not sure exactly.

MR. REIFSNIDER: A poetic combination.

My name is John Reifsnider, and I dwell up in Julian. And I stand for what lies beyond these pictures of wires across the sky and the fires across the land and ample-funded shams of the money man. My little attempt at poetry.

So we speak here of power and energy, but I want to address what are the consequences to ourselves and our power as human beings to grow to something better. What does this mean for our human energy and our power to advance to a more livable world together.

We stand on this issue in these hearings divided — although you wouldn't know it by what's been said here so far — divided between the will of the corporation and the aspiration of the wider community. By way of analogy, here's what I think this division represents: We are all together one body. All in this room are of a body, and a body has two main control stations, a head and a heart.

The corporation thinks of itself and stands for the head. The head, the corporation and its business interests, presents its case as reasonable, rationale, cold-hearted and reliable.

The heart, the wider community, speaks of — from the people, for and from the people, speaks from a passion and a depth of feeling that this head cannot fathom. This head is thinking of profits to itself and its servant business network. It speaks for the status quo. It coldly calculates and decrees. It demands obedience. It wants to run the show, as most heads do.

But the heart is visioning a new world, embracing the wide earth and its beauties and wonders, both human and beyond, and it embraces the earth and cares. It's seeking cooperation and quality of life rather than quantities of stuff and more stuff, which the head keeps reminding us we need — we need. And the head keeps telling us we must stop debating this issue and just let her rip. Well, rip is what she'll do, a scar not just across the land, but slashed across our very souls, our hunger for something better. But we'll be ready for the next generation of big-screen TVs.

So this head, this head tells us the thing that is needed to preserve our economy and — this thing is needed to preserve our economy and way of life. Well, only dead things need preserving, and a pickled life is not a way to live. Why keep doing the thing we've been doing when our way of life becomes a blight upon the earth?

So I want to suggest a solution. This heart of the community is calling upon the head to join itself back to the body, and the heart of the community — because the heart of the community is awaking.

PUBLIC ADVISOR: Time's up.

MR. REIFSNIDER: And so that's my suggestion of a solution. And this is the true power link, and this is the real sunrise to be.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. BECK

MS. BECK: I spoke earlier in Anza-Borrego Desert earlier today as an outdoor educator to the county outdoor education community. And I'm here to speak from the outdoor education perspective once again, and I'm continuing the lesson. And this time I brought a visual.

So at outdoor education, we teach about cycling of matter, cycling of water, cycling of air. And most recently we have been teaching about the fire cycle, as most of the kids that come to our school have experienced it in one way or the other.

So our fire cycle begins with a fire. Okay. After the fire happens, CO2 rises into the atmosphere, and this in turn creates conditions for climate change and ultimately global warming, especially in places like San Diego County. As we all know, the temperatures are rising.

Another condition that happens as a result of CO2 in the atmosphere and global climate change are very fierce Santa Ana winds. And that's what we've all been experiencing, and we're well acquainted with.

Where I live at the foot of Vulcan Mountain, the winds have gone off the chart. I would say 90 miles an hour this last Witch Fire period of time. And I think it is a direct result of the climate change.

So as those fierce winds begin to happen, it creates further dry conditions, and all it takes is a spark from a downed power line. And as we know, we have lots of opportunities because apparently SDG&E has not been keeping up their power lines as they should. So what we have with the combination is — once again brings us back to another fire and more CO2 and more global warming and more fierce Santa Ana winds.

So I have heard from SDG&E that, well, these huge towers will somehow save us because they are going to be less likely to topple. But we've all seen pictures of these huge 230-kilovolt towers topple. If you haven't seen them, they're online. You can find them. In 2006, in fact, one did topple. It can happen, and it is more likely to happen in future years as global warming continues. Global warming will continue as we have many years still to catch up on all that CO2 that exists in the atmosphere currently.

Please understand that this is an obvious truth to people who've experienced it, like all of us in the back country. It seems obvious to the children when I explain it to them at the outdoor school. And I'm really hoping that SDG&E will pay attention and make it easier for us to co-exist here in the back country.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. KUCZEWSKI

MR. KUCZEWSKI: My name is Bob Kuczewski. I'm president of the Torrey Hawks Hang Gliding Club. That's at torreyhawks.org. I have a private pilots license with a sea plane rating. I hold an advanced hang glider rating and an advanced paraglider rating. I have flown sailplanes and remote-control gliders. I hold a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering. And I have worked in the aerospace industry since 1983 for companies like General Dynamics, TRW and Northrop Grumman.

I have also been an intervenor in Proceeding R. 95-04-043, where I spearheaded the 1999 community effort to stop the three-way split of our area code into 619, 853 and 935. Many have credited my efforts with stopping the 935 portion of that split.

I stand before you today wearing the jacket of Alan Chuculate, who was my instructor, my mentor and my friend. Alan was killed in November of 2005 when his hang glider struck an unmarked power line near a little town in Mexico.

The Sunrise Powerlink involves many complex issues, and as president of the Torrey Hawks Hang Gliding Club, it is not my place to comment on most of them. But I can ask that you please give careful consideration to the placement of high voltage lines which endanger the brave spirits who take to the air in places that we call "Horse Canyon" and "Laguna Mountain." As hang glider and paraglider pilots, we are becoming an endangered species as we lose suitable habitat for our sports. All that we require is a small patch of land to launch and land and an unobstructed sky — an unobstructed sky — where we can fly for hours and climb to many thousands of feet consuming no energy other than the air currents which are powered by the sun. Please respect the increasingly rare adventurous spirit that drives our members to the sky.

As president of the Torrey Hawks Hang Gliding Club, I am freely available to help the Commissioners and its petitioners to preserve our habitat. You can contact me directly through our club's Web site at torreyhawks.org.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. SMITH

MR. SMITH: My name is Glenn Smith. I'm a resident of Julian for the better part of 15 years, and my wife and I run horseback riding stables up there. And our stables and our property was burned down in 2002 in the Pines Fire. We got hit by that.

And if it's one thing that we've learned is I've lived in L.A. County, all over Orange County, all over San Diego County, I've never seen a place like the back county of San Diego County. And running a horseback riding business up there it's been an incredible experience because we're able to take people out horseback riding and show them things. And the comments that we get over and over and over, that they've never seen anything like this, and they keep coming back for it. This is what makes San Diego County such an incredible place to live. And the word that just keeps popping in my head is travesty. It would be an absolute travesty for this line to go through.

There's just too much beauty in there.

And I know there's so many reasons for this power line not to go through, and it was very eloquently spoken by the people that have spoken before me. But the simple thing is is that San Diego County has all the ecosystems in it. There is no other county in the United States of America like San Diego County. That's a fact. That from ocean to desert, no county has that. And that's why it brings in so many people. And whether you live here or whether you come here as a tourist, people come here because it is that diverse, and it's that incredible.

I'm sorry. It's just as simple as that. For something like that to go through would be an absolute travesty.

That's all I have to say.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. LYDICK

MR. LYDICK: You people are standing in the way of some massive profits and there's some people that are very upset about this. I want you to know that.

My name is Jim.

That's humor.

I'm an outdoor school specialist, six-grade camp counselor. And I think Cuyamaca Camp gets the six-graders from the Ramona area. Anyway, I work at Fox Outdoor School, four miles northwest of Lake Henshaw, Highway 67, and the area is spectacular, especially since we're getting rains this year. Thank goodness. Because after two years of drought, the plants are coming back.

We went on a spectacular hike just today. So if you my see legs wobbling, it was quite a magnificent hike. We climbed about 15 feet in elevation and looked across at the Palomar Mountain Range, and we're hiking on a bulldozed fire break from the 2003 Paradise Fire. Because of the rains, the ground was just sparking gold, and the kids were — we were all spellbound. It was fantastic. There were some hawks flying out. The kids broke off into different groups, explored different areas, yucca, whatnot, found out that, these kids were from Santee, that a lot of the same plants grew there.

Anyway, my wife brought to my attention on the EIR plan there's a pink line that shows a potential for future expansion stretching right in front of Camp Fox. If it was there right now, we would have been looking at, oh, look; there's a transmission line, children. It would destroy the entire region and the experience if this were to be built. I don't think it will be. But this is like the Yosemite Valley, their week long sixth grade experience. And I just can't even imagine, as all of you, this is happening. It would basically erode the camp experience for them.

And yeah, that's it.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. SHIDELER

MR. SHIDELER: Good evening. My name is Greg Shideler and I'm an ecological designer consultant with World Integrated Sustainable Habitats, and I want to speak out in opposition to the Sunrise Powerlink. I do not believe it's the best alternative. And I want to speak to the no wires alternative.

First I'd like to state my belief that the DEIR is deficient in considering biomass and biogas. The only two examples you're citing is Envirepel which has an incineration program for power generation and a very good system, and the other is landfill gas recovery, landfill from Miramar landfills.

I want to speak about other technologies that should have been included in the DEIR and then ask you to reexamine that and see what kind of generation potential there is.

I've been involved in anaerobic digestion and conversion of waste streams into resources since 1974, and I have a system called ROSES, Resource Optimized Sustainable Ecological Systems, which is about to go global. But whether you use my technology or another technology anaerobic digestion has the potential of generating 25 to 50 percent of the regional needs of electricity alone using resources that we currently waste. These are in landfills, antiquated sewage treatment plants, animal manures which we're in violation from the EPA for manure management practices, and through biomass, green waste.

So I'd like you to reexamine that portion of the DEIR, taking into account anaerobic digestion and fermentation.

So I'd like you to — not at liberty to go into all the details, but I'd like you to consider this as a solution. And my — the system I developed, ROSES, is a closed environmental whole system. It has zero emissions. It can take any organic waste stream and convert it into multiple resources. It can be used for power — can do these multiple resources all at the same time. So it can actually generate electricity, but it can also reclaim water, it can produce food. It has an aquaculture unit. It has bioremediation unit for eliminating toxins. And it can also be used in biomanufacturing such as bioplastics, so it can provide jobs. It has a fantastic return on investment time, and it's actually sustainable. And I think that that is the actual wave of the future.

So again, like I said, whether it's my technology or others' technology, I think the DEIR is deficient in not considering other means of biogas and biomass production in the region. And I'd like that question to be reexamined.

And then also, I want to thank everybody for their work. And just to support the no wires alternative.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. CONKLIN

MS. CONKLIN: I want to say hello to you and thank you for letting me speak in my community.

ALJ WEISSMAN: It's good to see you again.

MS. CONKLIN: Diane Conklin, Mussey Grade Road Alliance, coordinator for Communities United for Sensible Power. And before I became an intervenor with the CPUC, I was grassroots. I still am grassroots.

Thank you for your time. And actually, I want to thank you, because you have a heavy load these last few days. So thank you very much for what you're doing.

(Applause)

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

Since you've raised the topic, I would like to actually take a second to acknowledge the fact that there's a team of people from the Public Advisors Office in Los Angeles. There is Norm Carter here and Marcus Nixon is in the back and there are others who have been allowing these sessions to go just seamlessly, and I want to thank them for that.

(Applause)

MS. CONKLIN: First off, I want to compliment the staff on the DEIR. The Alliance is particularly pleased with the ranking of the environmentally superior alternatives as No. 1 and 2, the new in-area, all-source generation alternative and the new in-area renewable generation alternative.

The emphasis and the ranking of the in-basin generation and local renewables is, well, we got a lot of waves of the future, but it is part of the wave of the future. As ratepayers, we finance — as Dennis has finally understood; he's a friend of mine, maybe he's not now — the electricity infrastructure. But the infrastructure has been confined to transmission. Now people are asking what if we did something different.

And I would just like to parenthetically say this is an incredible outpouring tonight. Every time I turn around, I see someone else I know and — hi, I'm glad that you're here — the public is learning about this project.

The idea of new ways of doing things is in the public mind and media. For example, last year's Nova program *Saved By the Sun* — if you haven't got it, go buy it — starts out with conventional solar trough technology and transmission and ends up with photovoltaics and paints. And you can tell because I'm repeating myself, I really like that one.

We also thank you for giving the staff extra time to explore the issues of the second substation, the expansion question particularly to the north, and the development of renewables in Imperial Valley, all which affect the environment.

The DEIR also addresses fire some 300 pages. And we understand this is the first time the CPUC has addressed fire in such a comprehensive way. As the Mussey Grade Road Alliance brought the issue of fire to the Commission, we are of course very pleased to see the issue of wild land catastrophic fires ignited by power lines explored by the Commission.

When the Alliance submitted its testimony and appendices in May of last year, no one seemed to really think that the fire issue was important. And I can understand that because if you haven't gone through it, you don't know what it's like.

During the fire storms in October last year, we stayed in our house, surrounded by the Witch Creek Fire. So many people were. We stayed because the system we have to save the house has to be operated manually. And we were lucky this time because the fire did not cross over the mountains, did not come to us. But the experience of another massive wildfire four short years after the last one was absolutely devastating. As you heard tonight, Ramona was hit hard in the fire with some 400 homes down, hundreds of thousands of lives disrupted, and in San Diego County hundreds of thousands of acres scorched. People are still digging out of the fires physically, emotionally, financially and spiritually, and we are afraid of fire more than ever before.

We didn't learn until last November that the Witch Creek Fire was started by SDG&E's power lines as were some other fires.

And I'm going to skip a lot of this and give it to the person whose typing all this up, but I did want to talk about Mayor Jerry Sanders.

As a footnote to that fact, yesterday while you were patiently listening to others expressing their opinions on this power line project at the county administration building, Mayor Jerry Sanders and Supervisor Greg Cox were releasing an after-action report concerning lessons learned. San Diego's mayor supports putting more potential ignition sources in the back country because he supports this line. He announced his support some 18 months before the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report. He doesn't understand the issues. We hope you understand them.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MR. COON

MR. COON: Good evening. I'm Warren Coon. I live in Poway.

The other speakers here all seemed to be representing a group. I'm representing my children and my grandchildren. I hope that they have some desert and back country left for them to enjoy the way that I've enjoyed it. We were hiking in Anza-Borrego Tuesday. We saw mountain sheep on a peak. I hope all of you have that happen to you some time.

It just seems to me that the Powerlink is a mistake. I commend the staff for their choice, the preferred alternative is the no build. I think that's a good decision.

If it's true that the Witch and Rice fires at least were started by power lines, it means they're too dangerous.

I can tell, looking at the sign over there, we also know they're too ugly. So I'd say how about this? If SDG&E thinks it's such a great idea, why don't we have them use their stockholders' money, put the lines underground along existing roads so there's no disruption in the back country, and see if it still pencils out in that case. I don't think it will.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: I believe number of speakers has swelled, so I want to encourage people to try to get as close to the 2-minute target as possible.

STATEMENT OF MS. LANDFELD

MS. LANDFELD: I'm back again. I have a couple of thoughts. Well —

ALJ WEISSMAN: A couple more thoughts.

MS. LANDFELD: Yeah. We all see that something needs to be done different than what's going on now in the world. And maybe SDG&E has enough money and enough power that they could, you know, shift with it. And they could be a leader and, you know, changing to the new way because we all see that we can't go on the like we're going on. Maybe they should think that they — that that would be a good thing to do because if they don't, they could get left behind.

And wouldn't it be great if, you know, we were all self-sufficient, not making pollution and, you know, doing all the right thing, and SDG&E could do that.

So that's all I have to say.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. SECHREST

MR. SECHREST: Good evening. My name is Jimmy Sechrest. I live in the San Felipe area. I'd like to start off with expressing my gratitude for everyone who has done an awesome job at really bringing the heart to the matter. But I'm really here to give you guys a little bit of hope in regards to what renewable energy is all about.

An example is that from 1968 to 1974, there were a hundred-plus solar systems installed in the state of California. So since that time, there's been 28 of them monitored and still operating, and we've only seen a 12-percent loss in output. To the math's easy, easy to understand.

A comparison to that is transmitting electricity over electrical wires. You typically get about a 7 percent loss, get the temperature up over a hundred. It's about 12, potentially 15 percent loss. Kind of gives you an idea.

Another aspect that's going on within the solar industry is that potentially by the end of the year, we're going to see the silicon crystals that are grown and cut into wafers that make the solar panels, they — it will come up to capacity. So when that happens, we're going to see the price come down a little bit.

But another aspect that's happening is that we're seeing some residential wind turbines that are table in the market right now, and approximately 40 percent less than a comparable solar system.

We live in an area that sees a lot of wind, depending on what the weather's like, specifically when the sun comes up and goes down.

So all I can say is stay really hopeful. Keep up the good work. And we're going to see prices come down, so that's something to really look forward to.

Thanks.

STATEMENT OF MR. TATE

MR. TATE: Hi. My name is Jim Tate. I'm a registered fire protection engineer. I live on Creelman Lane right next to the substation here in Ramona.

Thirteen years ago, SDG&E was bringing out the third link, the 67 kV line up to here. There were meetings we attended. I don't know if anybody else was here at those meetings. We actually stopped them. SDG&E wanted to buy up property and bring in big towers for a future substation at Ashley and Creelman Lane. We own a 20-acre parcel. We stopped them from doing that. They brought the 60 kV line anyway which was needed. And that site couldn't be used. It wasn't big enough. They were wrong back then and I believe they're wrong now.

They also brought in crews from out of town to put that line in. There were trucks from Utah and other areas brought in.

What I'd like to talk about is I want you to consider individual solar systems, like the gentleman talked just before me, in private homes is an alternate for the energy. Currently, there is about a 15 to 20 year payback on these systems that I've done some research and seen.

If you used the price of the Powerlink to subsidize people to put those systems in, there's currently some subsidies but not much, I think could you drive the cost down to a five-year payback, and you'd have all kinds of people signing up, because after five years, the energy will be free.

It also would allow local contractors to be hired to install the systems in lieu of out-of-state contractors to put the big lines in. And I think that would help the local economy.

So I really want you to consider that as an option. I kind of heard some overall options of solar but more in big plants, but I'm talking about subsidizing local systems.

Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. MARTIN

MS. MARTIN: First of all, I want to admit that I'm a little bit ignorant of some of the facts, so please forgive any mistakes that I may make in my facts. I hopefully have everything straight.

First of all, I understand that SDG&E is a private for-profit company, that the main interest of SDG&E is to make money for its shareholders, not respond to residents' concerns. So we have two very opposed groups here.

I find the idea of eminent domain repugnant, to put it mildly. And I'm not even a property owner in this town, although I have lived in Ramona — my family's lived here since the late '80s. And clearly, I didn't state it already, but clearly I'm opposed to this project.

The impact on the natural resources would be tremendous, including loss of native vegetation and wildlife, not to mention, first of all, the peninsula bighorn sheep. Many species are holding on by a thread and this might be just enough to push them over the edge. There are golden eagles, raptors, and all sorts of other wildlife to take into consideration.

There's some beautiful vistas in the back country. And I cannot for the life of me figure out how 205 160-foot towers would preserve the beautiful vistas or enhance the back country in any way, shape, or form I personally find this a horribly use of public land.

Just looking through the draft here, I noticed that there are hundreds of acres of permanent habitat that will be lost. I find that personally unacceptable as well. The desegregation of wilderness is very frightening.

In addition, just by looking through this draft, I noticed that at least 167 acres of agricultural land is also going to be compromised. I would urge those of you who fear your comments may be repetitive to come up and make a stand and say something because, yes, your comments may be repetitive but at the same time that's what those involved need to hear, and they need to put a voice and a face to our opposition before it is too late.

Finally, I am a sixth grade teacher who for the first time attended sixth grade camp this year at Camp Fox. It just so happens coincidentally that two of teachers are here. And as someone who teaches about natural resources and renewable resources, I don't know how I'm going to explain to our children that we could have prevented this project and we didn't.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MS. RIBACK

MS. RIBACK: We just want to say three words to SDG&E.

[In unison with son Ian:] Go solar power.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. SNIPES

MS. SNIPES: I'm Sally Snipes. I've lived in these hills about 40 years. I'm thankful for all the research everyone has done. And I am here to repeat a lot of that stuff.

I'm an artist and an educator. I think we owe the future of this county to all the generations coming behind us. And it will be an outrage if we allow the state park property to be condemned, and any of the national forest property to be condemned, and any of the other stuff that happens with these towers. It would be a terrible precedent.

We should encourage all this money that we're talking about to be spent on all the other types of energy. We should demand that San Diego Gas & Electric buys all this other energy back which they are not doing at this point. We can't allow this rape of our beautiful back country. It's an outrage. And this is not proper.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. ADELSON

MS. ADELSON: Hi. My name is Erna Adelson. I'm a resident of Ramona and I'm here to state my strong opposition to the so-called Sunrise Powerlink.

Somebody beat me to the punch, the poster over there. This is a 1950s solution, focused on large scale centralized power generation, and long distance transport through high tension power lines.

These lines then have to cross great distances which can only be done at great destruction to the natural environment.

Previous speakers have talked about how tragic this would be, and I have to agree.

Previous speakers have also referred to solar power. The cost of this project is immense. Why is it that Germany is so much further ahead than the U.S. in distributed solar power? It's because each generator, each house, each building, each person who generates electricity can do more than run their meter to zero. They can actually make money generating power. We are not able to do this here.

These are the kinds of things that ought to be considered by a Public Utilities Commission. There are incentives there that don't exist here. There are different ways that we can approach this, not only by individuals in their houses but also institutions, covering parking lots which are certainly a blight with solar-covered parking structures.

So I would urge you to rethink the distribution model as an antiquated way of approaching the problem.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. BIANEZ

MS. BIANEZ: Hello. My name is Pat BianeZ. And I was very interested in the Environmental Impact Study and I was happy to see that most of the concerns that I had were voiced in that, and I wanted to thank Aspen.

When I was considering buying my land — and I own 80 acres on Grapevine Canyon Road, the towers are scheduled to go right down my road — I sat under like a 200-year old tree and I considered whether I felt that this was the kind of land that I would want to feel comfortable on. And that's how I made my decision to buy it.

And the beauty of Southern California in the high desert is something that most people don't experience because they live in the city. But I figured it was the kind of place where I'd want my children and my grandchildren to come to.

And when I started reading the Environmental Impact Study and I started considering the corona noise that they say you'll be able to hear from 500 feet away and the house that I just built is 300 feet away from the transmission line, I realized that this is going to majorly impact the value of my land. And I feel there's probably other people here that are going to feel the same way, that it's not — and I know this is kind of "not in my backyard" kind of thing, but it's not really because it's going to impact so many people from far away. You can't help but be afraid of those EMFs and the corona noises that come from these towers.

So I think that many people that live in the back country will probably voice the same fears that I have.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. BEEMAN

MR. BEEMAN: Thank you very much for being here, Judges and Commissioners and staff.

If SDG&E can't maintain little power lines, as we've seen in recent fires, how are they going to maintain huge power lines to other counties and other countries?

We're looking at an unproven solar technology. One of my concerns is I'd like more documentation of use, development and study of the Stirling solar engine. We need facts, long-time/long-term costs versus return, with maintenance costs.

What is the price? I don't see the price listed in this document. I'm just looking at that draft summary, but I don't see any price. I have heard of prices. One billion dollars. Well, if there's a million ratepayers, that's a thousand dollars each. I don't have a thousand dollars. I barely have enough to live and have rent. We need to do something different.

The concern I have is about burial grounds and Indian villages on the S2 and Santa Ysabel reservation area. Look it, in 1961, this class respected Indians enough to mark it on this building. Hopefully, we can do the same thing now and not trespass on their land for unproven technology and for something that is backwards thinking like an Edsel. It's time to move ahead. Let's go with solar at where we use it.

Let's get the Chargers when they build their new stadium and take out the power plant in San Diego to finance solar for that area, and let's get SDG&E to finance for the back country. Let's make changes for San Diego, the county, forever.

Also letting you know I run a Web site for Hopeville, California. It's Imperial County. One of the biggest problems they have there is us dumping our needs on them. They're tired of it.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. WOOD

MR. WOOD: First, thank you. Thank you for being here and thanks for helping democracy work. I assume all of you are interested in making the correct decisions on this.

I own a ranch in the Witch Creek Area, which was burned from corner to corner. The SDG&E power lines are about 300 yards on the Tellic and Drown property, and those power lines had started fires before in that area, and SDG&E was aware of it. I thought I would make that statement.

But, first of all, I'd like everybody to know that my place where the power line is going to go through, it's going to go right through the middle, right through the middle of our property. I'm fourth generation. My great-grandfather purchased that land in about 1885. It's been family-managed for over a hundred years. It's pristine. It's beautiful.

And let's stop and let's just do the right thing here. You can't tell me that bulldozing through our national park and through our pristine back lands is the right way to go. And interestingly enough, I notice there's no green army here for SDG&E today. Apparently, those men didn't have any beliefs. They're just making a living. I think you get what I'm trying to say. This is a money thing. And we need to preserve our back country. Let's do the right thing. Let's come up with a sensible decision that's best for our future, for our country, for our world.

Thanks.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

I know everybody wants to applaud, but one of the problems I'm having is I can't call anybody else up until you are through. And so it's prolonging things. So if you could help me a little bit, we might be able to move through the rest of the speakers. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. DAVIS

MS. DAVIS: I'm Shannon Davis. I have property in Deerhorn Valley, East Jamul.

Please may I have the basic rules of procedure? What is the title and case number? I was told to get the docket criteria. We wish to be informed of what is said at the meetings after the August 11th comment period.

I noticed on the letters that I sent in that they were brief in bullet review. And one of the bullet reviews had the word "star" as "start" with a "t." I have previously mentioned concern for birds mistaking power lights at night for stars. You have that typo, and I'd like that corrected.

The Southern Alternative D Route, in particular proximity to border area, will require heavy use of Border Patrol helicopters. And so that will make lights necessary on the transmission towers, and the birds mistake it for stars. So that's one issue that I want corrected.

Also another issue I'd like to have requested. I request there's a misunderstanding. We've talked to Supervisor Metz. Supervisor Metz said that it is his understanding in the Cleveland National Forest there will be no roads for maintenance, that it will be helicopters servicing the towers and the lines. And I have maps to prove that indeed there are roads all over the Cleveland National Forest. So somewhere there's a misunderstanding on that.

Also, on the history chart for the fire along Modified Route D, you have the balance on that wrong. And I had sent in a letter requesting that you include fires from the private areas besides the Cleveland National Forest areas. You did not take the information from San Diego Rural Fire District. You took the information from CDF just on the forestal history.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. HAUGLEY

MS. HAUGLEY: Thank you all for being here and listening to all of us. I'm sure you've heard the same thing over and over again, but all of our points we feel like we still need to reiterate again.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Please give us your name.

MS. HAUGLEY: Jan Haugley.

I'm a long-time property owner of Ocotillo Wells. I'm also a member of the Ocotillo Wells Citizens Alliance For Responsible Energy.

I, like everybody else, have a few points to make. One of them is — one of the reasons is the permanent scarring of the Anza-Borrego State Park. Not only will it scar it visibly, but we will also lose acreage to us we're able to use now.

Another reason, excuse me, is that I'm very concerned about the fire risk. I evacuated my whole family in October 2007. My niece lost her home in the Cedar/Harris Fires. I am very familiar with what it takes to make a fire happen, and power lines are one of them.

Last but not least of importance is I do believe there is local and smarter energy alternatives out there, and I do believe that we should seriously consider all of them.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. LAWLEY

MS. LAWLEY: My name is Celia Lawley, and I'm a resident of Santa Ysabel. And thank you for letting me speak. It's great to be part of democracy.

I want you to know that I oppose Sunrise Powerlink, and I would love to see Bill Powers' program implemented. I support solar energy, and I believe the best way to change what I don't like to see in the world is to change my own world. So a few years ago I moved to Santa Ysabel. And even though my power bills when I lived in Poway were probably \$12, I decided I wanted to change what was going on with global warming and change my own space and my own life and installed solar.

And my well runs on solar. I cook on solar. And it's a very small system, and I'm here to share with people who maybe don't know a lot about solar that it can be very creative. A lot can be done with it. It's the most reliable thing I've ever experienced. Who buys anything that has a 25-year guarantee? There's just not stuff like that around, and that's what most panels come with. So it's been a thrill really to live sustainably, and that's what I support. And I grow organic produce using a well that runs on solar.

So when I heard about the Sunrise Powerlink, it was very alarming because I moved to this place so I could have a different kind of life. And it's so beautiful out there, and the eagles fly, and that's exactly where they want to put these towers through. And I oppose it. I think there's just so many better ways to do things.

And I'm really encouraged by all the support. And I want to thank SDG&E for building our community in support of green energy because without this adverse plan being proposed, it wouldn't have drawn the community together like it has. So I just want to thank you all for listening and to remind you that there's an alternative that's green.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. LARSON

MR. LARSON: I'm Donald Larson. I'm a home owner in Ramona and a long-time resident of San Diego County.

I oppose the Sunrise Powerlink. I respect the findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Report and the recommendations of energy experts who are independent of SDG&E.

We don't need a \$1.3 billion extension cord to the desert to bring renewable energy to San Diego. The solar energy resource throughout our county west of the mountains is superior to that of Germany or Japan, two solar leaders. We should install small and medium- scale solar installations in the built-up areas of our county.

But generation isn't the only solution. A combination of intelligent conservation, upgraded distribution systems, and a variety of smaller scale generation options will work much more robustly than a few big-ticket mega projects. The best way forward is detailed in the Smart Energy 2020 Plan.

I urge the Commission to embrace the findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Report and to deny approval of the Sunrise Powerlink in any form.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. HERNANDEZ

MS. HERNANDEZ: Good evening. My name is Rebecca Hernandez. I'm vice president and director of the health department for Ninth District PTA.

Ninth District serves over 80,000 volunteer members in San Diego and Imperial County, and we were asked to conduct a study and study the issue. We did.

Ninth District PTA has two major areas of concern with the Sunrise Powerlink proposal. The increased risk of fire, which I will address tonight, as well as the impact the project may have on air quality in the Imperial Valley affecting the many children, youth and families residing there.

Ninth District PTA understands that San Diego faces a quandary as our population grows and need for energy increases. Ninth District PTA wholeheartedly supports the increased use of renewable energy, but we question if that is really what is at stake here. It should be noted that the need to access renewable energy 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 recently contracted for is dependent on technology that is not yet commercially viable. And the lengthy review and formal review process for this project has not been initiated. San Diego Gas & Electric's recent testimony that their RPS requirements can be met without the Sunrise Powerlink casts additional doubt on the renewable argument.

Power lines and fires. Southern California is prone to Santa Ana conditions. Their high winds can cause power lines to vibrate, arc, snap and ignite dry vegetation, resulting in wind-driven, fast-moving fires. Historically, power lines have caused less than 3 percent of fires in California, but they have been larger and more devastating than fires started by other causes.

From our studies in San Diego County, power line fires, although relatively rare, are incredibly destructive to life and property. Three of California's 20 largest fires as measured in acres between 1932 and 2006 were sparked by downed power lines.

PUBLIC ADVISOR: Time.

MS. HERNANDEZ: Okay. I will leave the rest of this report with you. It is very important. We have done months of study on the issue, and we'd like it put into the record.

ALJ WEISSMAN: We welcome getting information, and we would urge you to file formal comments to the Draft EIR.

MS. HERNANDEZ: We will, as well.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Yeah, that's very important.

Thank you very much, and thanks for your contribution.

STATEMENT OF MR. WRIGHT

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you for being here. My name is Ken Wright. I live in Julian. I'm a long-time resident of the mountains, and I'd like to speak in behalf of the Sunrise Powerlink tonight.

I think they've selected a very nice name for a project that is doomed. I think it's a giant disaster in the making for San Diego County. Review the rationale for ranking for the proposals for the proposed Sunrise Powerlink Project. It seventh out of eight. It has 50 significant unmitigable impacts — 50 — and they're enormous. So many people have eloquently described the impacts through their comments tonight.

Why must we all pay for not only the outrageous price in dollars for this outdated plan, but also the priceless cost that this project will have for the environment for all future generations?

This project continues to receive negative responses from many agencies and organizations and legions of people. In good conscience, the only choice is the first one because it meets all the project needs. And since this alternative would meet all the criteria, the only reason to go with any other choice than that is to allow San Diego Gas & Electric to proceed with its grand plan. Ultimately, this should be considered.

This EIR plan doesn't address the environmental impacts at the Mexicali power plant complex as noted, nor does it evaluate the impacts of the hypothetical proposed 6,000-acre solar farm in the Imperial Valley.

To the proponents of the project, which I hear there are some somewhere, they have been led down a false path by SDG&E to believe that this is necessary to keep the lights on. Read the EIR or the EIS statement, and you'll read a very costly 7500-page document which concludes it is not necessary.

I commend this board and hope that you have the inspiration that the Coastal Commission did a week ago up in San Onofre where they protected San Onofre State Park from the toll-road extension. A good turnout of people there for that cause as well.

Thank you very much for your time.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

Did you sign in? Excuse me, did you sign the sheet?

MR. WRIGHT: I did sign the street, but he said to just come up.

ALJ WEISSMAN: I wanted to make sure we had your name. That's all.

MR. WRIGHT: Ken Wright.

ALJ WEISSMAN: That's fine. Okay, thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. REYES

MR. REYES: Hello. My name is Rudy Reyes. I was the worst injured in the 2003 Cedar Fires, and I'm here to oppose the Powerlink, Sunrise Powerlink issue.

The problem we're having here is really simple. The community is telling you what it wants and needs. We don't need to look at the fact that people who are trying to make money are fleeing America, and that's exactly the problem here. The problem is, is that you have a lot of people who are trying to make a lot of money off of people who might suffer because of their decisions.

There have been plenty of us out there who have lived bad situations because of pre-existing problems. And we're looking at these problems going, You guys aren't making them better. You need to stop, look at the situation.

My degrees are in archeology. I've spent my time working for Cuyama State Park, and I know the impact upon the environment. You guys are going to mess it up horribly. We need to stop. We need to make changes. It's time for San Diego to rationalize and make a point. Our community is telling you we don't want this. Our community is telling you we need to save people, lives, money, our environment. We are asking your group here to listen.

I'm running for county board of supervisors. As you heard, Dianne Jacob also does not support the system. It is time that you guys please listen to us. Obviously, we're all asking the same thing: Help us save San Diego. Help us make San Diego better.

I have a dream of a green San Diego where all the businesses are sustaining themselves with solar or wind turbine or some other method, because businesses can afford to do it in San Diego. They can make that grid that we need as a public.

I ask you to support the community; I ask you to make the correct decision here; and I ask you to listen to the Environmental Impact Report.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MR. STURA

MR. STURA: My name is John Stura. I'm an aerospace engineer.

I had a chance to look at this, and it's quite a serious problem. Sempra is not looking at this at all. I have never seen such dismal engineering in my entire life.

First of all, I deal with eminent domain. We know that a minor easement under a piece of property, we're dealing with nature preserves in this area that are extraordinarily valuable and — I mean tens of millions of dollars, and we're looking at a possibility of a minor easement that they're going to pay for.

I say that SDG&E should be paying for the full and equivalent replacement costs of all that property that's being taken away by force. And the reason it's being taken away by force is because people are going to learn during these next few years — it's coming out in the UK — the studies are there — 58,000 children were studied. 70 percent higher incidence of leukemia in the UK. And believe me, the children will die of the same causes in this country. There's no difference.

We need to view what we can do with that property once that power line is sitting right on top of us. We know the people will be ready. We know that people — I'm sure SDG&E is going to say people aren't ready for solar. Well, guess what? Google spent a hundred million dollars backing Nanosolar. They're producing solar panels for a dollar a watt. That's one half cent per kilowatt-hour. That's the cost. It's not 15. It's not 30 cents a kilowatt. It's a half cent. We have the option to get around this. We know that it's going to take — if this GM car, the Volt, comes out, we know it's going to take about 20 Sunrise Powerlinks to power cars. And they're going to — everybody's going to know that they could run their car for a tenth the price of what it cost to run a gasoline engine. And that means we're going to need 20 Sunrise Powerlinks to bring the power in to this county.

And we know also there's 110-mile-an-hour winds recorded all throughout on October 21st and 22nd. That will tear apart a major power line. I don't care how big you build it. There's pictures on the Web. We put it on our Web site. You should look at undergroundpower.us.

If this is so insane that we're going to push through a power line, then consider underground. It's an option to protect. We're on the Southern Route — Jacumba, Bankhead Springs, Boulevard, Manzanita, Tierra Del Sol, Live Oak Springs, the Campo Reservation, La Posta Reservation, the McCain Valley BLM, the Anza-Borrego, the Cleveland National Forest, our own anthropological park and reserve are up for destruction.

And you have the data. 161 miles are being built right now between Britain and the Netherlands under the ocean. There's a bulldozer going under the water right now, and it's putting in a 1,300-megawatt unit, bigger than this thing, and it's —

PUBLIC ADVISOR: Time, sir.

MR. STURA: — and it's less money than the Sunrise Powerlink. It's \$870 million to build this whole thing underground, DC.

Consider DC. It can turn four times the capacity of that Sunrise Powerlink. 4,000 megawatts in two cables, 6-inch diameter, going 5 feet. That's that deep (indicating). A machine can run — at walking speed running that hole in the ground and drop that cable down there. And it's a little over half the price, and we save all the property over the whole entire 150-mile length.

The engineering going on at SDG&E is a nightmare. Stop it. These are not competent engineers. The planes you see flying around the world, I was there. I built these things. This is a trivial engineering problem. If you can't read this information, please check my Web site, undergroundpower.us. It's out there. The data's there. There is — please put it in the record. Please read it. And there's 250 additional pages of research. I put over 3500 hours of work on this thing. This is a deadly nightmare.

I hope this information gets through. There is a solution.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

MR. STURA: And it's easy.

STATEMENT OF MR. SACHS

MR. SACHS: Hi. My name is Jeff Sachs. I live in Poway, and I have a second home in Mesa Grande, which is right near Santa Ysabel.

And my second home is 100-percent solar- powered. We are off the grid, and it has 200-amp service. And the house is about nine years old, and that's how old the system is, too. It works wonderfully. It's real. It's viable.

I'm totally opposed to this Powerlink. Project for all the reasons that have been mentioned. I think we need to develop our own source of power locally. We don't need to worry that if they build this plant over in Mexico to distribute, that maybe for some reason they cut it off, and then where are we. We've put all this — damaged all this — all of this property and ruined all of these peoples' places to go.

It's just — I mean I bought my ranch up there because I wanted a place to get away from all this. Now I don't want to drive through, and, like, nobody else does either, and see an Edsel of an old technology that — I mean I think it's just wasting money. There's ways to — all of these solutions are viable. And you can encourage these viable, renewable sources by encouraging the people to put in these systems. And if you can produce more power than you use and sell it back, you now have an incentive to put money into these systems. It's economic common sense.

I don't know what else to say. I wasn't feeling up to talking, but I wanted to at least express my opinion. And I hope and pray that you'll consider all the people's input and — well, I mean you have an EIR here. Why put the money in this if you are not going to rely on it? It's saying take Alternative Number One. So that's it.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you very much.

Everybody on the list with the exception of Micah Mitrosky has spoken.

Do you want to come forward?

MS. MITROSKY: Sure.

ALJ WEISSMAN: All right. Is there anybody else who's interested in making a comment tonight who hasn't had an opportunity up till now?

(No response)

ALJ WEISSMAN: Okay. Then Ms. Mitrosky will be the last speaker.

STATEMENT OF MS. MITROSKY

MS. MITROSKY: Since you put me on the spot, I was going to wait till tomorrow due to the late hour, but I'm Micah Mitrosky with the Sierra Club.

I'm originally from New Jersey, and I've lived in California now for almost seven years. Growing up in New Jersey, I always heard about the cutting-edge things that were happening in California, the bold leader in innovation and environmental stewardship.

Most recently, our state passed AB 32, the first in the nation to address global warming head on. This transmission line proposal, Sunrise Powerlink, is not reflective of California's great history of innovation. This line which promises to deliver fossil- fueled energy from Sempra's liquified natural gas terminal in Baja Mexico is a step backwards into the 20th Century.

We know there are smarter, 21st-Century energy alternatives that are cleaner, affordable and environmentally responsible. Unlike Sunrise Powerlink, these alternatives adhere to the Governor's vision of reducing greenhouse gases, and they don't permanently scar our special back country communities or protected open spaces. Expert independent analysis has confirmed those alternatives, and so has the DEIR/DEIS.

Please uphold the recommendation of the DEIR/DEIS and California's great spirit of leadership and innovation. Vote no on the unnecessary, damaging Sunrise Powerlink and support the smarter energy alternatives.

Thank you.

ALJ WEISSMAN: Thank you again, all of you, for coming out tonight, sharing your ideas and your evening with us, and for your close attention to everything that was said. We very much appreciate it.

And this process is having a large impact on us. We are learning a tremendous amount and also getting to know the community better, which is very important for us as well.

I want to thank you. Good night.

This hearing is adjourned.

(Whereupon, at the hour of 9:06 p.m., the public participation hearing was continued to 10:30 a.m., February 27, 2008, at Julian, California.)