

**PEOPLE'S POWERLINK  
THINKS  
THERE ARE BETTER ALTERNATIVES THAN  
SDG&E'S SUNRISE POWERLINK**

- San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) has filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Sunrise Powerlink with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). SDG&E says the line is needed for **reliability**, to **relieve congestion** and to give **access to renewables**.<sup>1</sup>
- **Reliability needs can be met with other, already planned, resources. Existing lines can deliver renewable energy.**<sup>2</sup>
- Sempra Energy, **SDG&E's parent company, is causing congestion** over the San Diego portion of the power grid by routing electricity from power plants it has built in Arizona and just south of the US/Mexico border through San Diego.<sup>3</sup>
- Sempra's plants are currently on line producing electricity and tied into the power grid at the Imperial Valley substation.
- Congestion relief via the Sunrise Powerlink is not worth the \$1 billion plus price tag nor the negative impacts to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP) and San Diego's rural backcountry.
- There are other viable alternatives to this proposed transmission line that meet the needs and requirements of the California Public Utilities Commission but they do not directly benefit SDG&E or Sempra Energy.<sup>4</sup> The benefit of these alternatives is that they do not affect San Diego's rural backcountry or California's largest state park.
- Currently and separately from SDG&E, Imperial Irrigation District is negotiating with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the non-profit Citizens Energy to construct Green Path, a 500kV line east of the Salton Sea.<sup>5</sup>
- The Green Path 500kV transmission line could be a viable alternative to the Sunrise Powerlink for moving renewable energy out of the Imperial Valley. It uses an already existing 230kV corridor that may pass through lands of less environmental sensitivity than ABDSP.<sup>6</sup>
- There are some very good sustainable alternatives that could meet San Diego's and California's needs. These alternatives use rooftop solar design and can be viewed at [www.jimbell.com](http://www.jimbell.com)<sup>7</sup> and [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/energy/051214\\_solarincentive.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/energy/051214_solarincentive.htm)<sup>8</sup>
- Energy conservation awareness further lessens the need for more electricity. Combined with applying solar energy technology we can meet our energy needs without compromising our fragile natural spaces.
- The Sunrise Powerlink is unnecessary to meet San Diego's electricity needs<sup>9</sup> and will cost SDG&E ratepayers the \$1 to \$1.4 billion cost of building the link.<sup>10</sup>
- There is a very big difference between a 69kV line and a 500kV line (approximately 20 times more electricity). Pole or tower size and the size and number of the lines strung between them is greatly

increased. The bigger, the more visible. Tower height for a 500kV line is between 130-150 feet in height.

- There is a very real concern of increased fire danger with a new 500kV line bisecting San Diego's backcountry.<sup>11</sup>
- All three proposed routes go through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. If built, this would degrade the viewshed and compromise the natural, cultural and recreational resources of ABDSP, the crown jewel of the California State Park System.
- All three of the proposed Sunrise Powerlink routes have potentially unacceptable environmental, cultural and recreational impacts to the Cleveland National Forest and rural San Diego County.<sup>12</sup>
- Potential negative effects to wildlife including large raptors and the Federally listed endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep; golden eagles have been reported in the Grapevine Canyon area and the proposed transmission line bisects designated critical habitat for the bighorn.<sup>13</sup>
- Cultural and historic values that would be impacted include Native American village, burial and sacred sites<sup>14</sup> and the historic route of the Mormon Battalion and the Butterfield Overland Mail line.<sup>15</sup>
- Highway 78, between Ocotillo Wells and San Diego County Road S-2 at Scissors Crossing, is a designated Scenic Highway.<sup>16</sup> Two of the proposed routes would follow a significant portion of this designated Scenic Highway.<sup>17</sup>
- It appears, based on evidence found in Grapevine Canyon, that proper procedures were not followed by the firm hired by SDG&E in placing aerial survey markers for this proposed project. As a result at least one survey marker was placed in a sensitive archeological site.<sup>18</sup>
- If we really need more electricity in San Diego and it cannot be produced locally in the form of green energy, it can be brought in on corridors that have little to no impact on Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. **There is no need to run a 500kV line through the central portion of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.**

<sup>1</sup> CPUC Application #A.05-12-014. See [www.sdge.com/sunrisepowerlink/info/CPUC.htm](http://www.sdge.com/sunrisepowerlink/info/CPUC.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Comments on Draft 2005 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR), prepared by Utility Consumers' Action Network (UCAN) and Border Power Plant Working Group (BPPWG). See [www.ucan.org/law\\_policy/energy.html](http://www.ucan.org/law_policy/energy.html), Page 2, Section A

<sup>3</sup> Comments on Draft 2005 IEPR, prepared by UCAN and BPPWG, Page 5, Paragraph 3 and Page 7, Paragraph 1

<sup>4</sup> Comments on Draft 2005 IEPR, prepared by UCAN and BPPWG. Also see publication [Creating a Sustainable Economy and Future On Our Planet](#) by Jim Bell

<sup>5</sup> See [http://www.lacity.org/mayor/myree/mayormyree246633652\\_11162005.pdf](http://www.lacity.org/mayor/myree/mayormyree246633652_11162005.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Comments on Draft 2005 IEPR, prepared by UCAN and BPPWG, Page 3, Figure 1 and Paragraphs 1 and 2

<sup>7</sup> See publication [Creating a Sustainable Economy and Future On Our Planet](#) by Jim Bell

<sup>8</sup> This is California's 1 Million Solar Roofs program poised to be approved next week by the CPUC

<sup>9</sup> Comments on Draft 2005 IEPR, prepared by UCAN and BPPWG

<sup>10</sup> Verbal communication with SDG&E at Borrego Springs open house, December 1, 2005 and North County Times news article, December 16, 2005, Page A10

<sup>11</sup> 51.4 square mile Pines Fire, August 2002, Caused by low flying aircraft clipping power line in Banner Canyon

<sup>12</sup> SDG&E Macro-Analysis Corridors Map (DRAFT)

<sup>13</sup> [SD County Bird Atlas](#) by Phil Unitt, Page 171. [Recovery Plan for Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges, California](#), US Fish and Wildlife Service October 2000. See map

<sup>14</sup> San Diego Museum of Man (SDMM), Archeological Site Records

<sup>15</sup> [Anza-Borrego A to Z](#) by Diana Lindsay, Pages 94 and 243

<sup>16</sup> See <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch?scenic/cahisys.htm> Page 3

<sup>17</sup> SDG&E Macro-Analysis Corridors Map (DRAFT). Inaccurately labeled "Non-Scenic Primary and Secondary Road"

<sup>18</sup> Observation and photos by park visitors.