

COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR SENSIBLE POWER (CUSP)

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**UNIFIED COMMUNITY COALITION OPPOSED TO SDG&E TRANSMISSION
LINE TO PARTICIPATE IN EARTHFAIR SUNDAY IN BALBOA PARK**

**INFORMATION BOOTH STAFFED ENTIRE DAY TO INFORM PUBLIC ABOUT
SDG&E'S PLANS**

PETITION TO GOVERNOR TO BE CIRCULATED

San Diego, Calif. - A recently formed umbrella group uniting San Diego communities threatened by SDG&E's controversial "Sunrise Powerlink" project will be distributing materials and educating the public throughout EarthFair festivities tomorrow in Balboa Park.

Communities United for Sensible Power (CUSP) was announced last Thursday during the rally near Warner Springs welcoming Sierra Club Activist Kelly Fuller at the finish line of her 78-mile desert protest walk. The formation of the umbrella coalition comes in response to the audacious power line project that proposes to slice through Anza-Borrego State Park as it travels west cutting through back country and suburban communities on its way to the coast. The line would create an industrial corridor from the desert community of Canebrake to Carmel Valley, crossing through Ranchita, Warner Springs, Julian, Ramona, Scripps Ranch, Rancho Penasquitos and Carmel Valley.

"We must save our communities county-wide from the juggernaut that already brought us an orchestrated energy crisis and higher energy prices that we pay and pay and pay," said Diane Conklin of the Mussey Grade Road Alliance, one of eight community organizations involved. "A whole new and necessary world is coming just in time -- and it will be cleaner, safer, more secure and accessible to everyone where they live. It will produce jobs and innovations and change the way we think about energy," she said.

The organization of the coalition comes a mere four months after SDG&E filed its power line application in December with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to get a Certificate of Public Necessity and Convenience, required to build the line. The CPUC recently denied the application and SDG&E will be resubmitting a new application in July.

While the line is advertised as green, the model is old. “Do we continue to use the old, monopolistic model of centralized energy generation and transmission?” said Tom Crockett of Ramona Alliance Against Sunrise Powerlink (RAASP). “Or can we look beyond Sempra and SDG&E shareholder profits gleaned through a meter and create new models of distributed, local power?”

Communities which fought the application as incomplete are now taking advantage of the extra time to organize. "We are embarking on the next evolutionary process in our community organization," said Jim Ward, executive director of Friends of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and community representative for Canebrake. "We are on the edge of something new, at the intersection between the past and of grand new ideas that can shape our future and protect our homes and our environment - we are at the CUSP!"

Community organizers will be circulating a petition throughout the day to be sent to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger with thousands of signatures gathered at EarthFair. Organizers will also be staffing a booth number 161-162, centrally located catty-corner from the Museum of Man and the Old Globe Theater complex.

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