



COUNTY SUPERVISOR  
**DIANNE JACOB**  
PUBLIC COMMENTS

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Sunrise Powerlink Pre-hearing Conference  
January 31, 2006  
Ramona Community Center

I am Dianne Jacob, Supervisor of San Diego County's Second District which includes the communities of Ramona and Julian.

Commissioner Grueneich, thank you for holding this conference in San Diego County instead of San Francisco. By traveling to Ramona, the Commission sends a strong message that it puts a high priority on communication with residents here. Thank you.

Based on attendance today, San Diego Gas and Electric's proposed 500 kilovolt transmission line is of enormous concern to those who live within the corridors of the identified routes. So far, the proposal has generated tremendous fear and anxiety. Based on too many unanswered questions, I am adamantly opposed to this project and the way in which SDG&E is attempting to process it.

First and most important, there are troubling concerns about the procedural process.

Second, SDG&E has held numerous public meetings to justify this proposal which is so massive in size and expense. Despite its outreach, the utility has failed to convince me and many others that the project is necessary.

Third, this County was ground zero of the California energy crisis of 2001. Some of the actions of our utility and its parent company have landed before the courts. This sad history causes many to suspect that the utility has ulterior motives for pursuing this line, motives other than reliability.

With regard to the procedural process, SDG&E has asked the Commission to do the unprecedented. That is: decide the *need* for the line separately from the *route* of the line. To accomplish this, the utility wants to waive an initial environmental review of the proposal.

The Commission is being asked to bypass due diligence, fly blind, and approve a proposal with no specific location and no cursory environmental review.

I respectfully encourage Commissioners not to give SDG&E an exemption from standard operating procure. The scope and cost of the proposed line are too intensive to rush.

With regard to the need of SDG&E's proposed transmission line, the case the utility is making for its proposal is still very weak and has become the subject of much debate.

SDG&E says the region will need 5,900 megawatt of power by 2015. It projects that the region will fall about 600 megawatts short of this goal. Credible experts- including the owners of two locally-based plants- disagree. Numerous experts insist that current forecasts have the region meeting or *exceeding* the 5,900 megawatt goal.

Even IF the gap were real, SDG&E's eagerness to invest in out-of-county generation is especially troubling

In 2002, a cross-section of leaders in this region formed a committee to create a blueprint for the county's energy needs through 2030. I sat on this committee along with policy makers, energy experts and SDG&E. The Regional Energy Policy Advisory Committee spent two long years drafting the Regional Energy Strategy.

The document places an overwhelming emphasis on *decreasing* the region's dependence on imported energy. In fact, the Strategy's number two goal (out of nine goals altogether) reads as follows: **Achieve and maintain capacity to generate 65 percent of summer peak demand with in-county generation by 2010 and 75 percent by 2020.** We are far from the goal.

Why is SDG&E backing away from a strategy it played a major role in developing? Why does the utility believe that a costly transmission line through pristine lands is preferable to supporting in-basin generation that is in keeping with the Regional Energy Strategy?

That is the \$1.4 billion dollar question...which brings us to other theories.

Many point to Sempra Energy's 600 megawatt plant in Mexicali and see the proposed line as a veiled attempt to profit from cheap Baja power by selling it to customers north of SDG&E's service territory.

SDG&E says the new line will support renewable power from Imperial County. With the exception of one solar project, SDG&E has not been forthcoming about its efforts to procure renewable sources from that area. Further, experts say a 500 kV line far exceeds the capacity appropriate for renewable transmission and is designed for energy produced from fossil fuels.

The people who live in the Second Supervisorial district *already* have an east-west 500kV line traversing their backyards. To saddle them with a second line is inequitable and unfair, particularly if the benefits of the line far outweigh its impacts, and especially if SDG&E has other options for reliability.

There are far less costly and less obtrusive options to this gigantic proposal!

Can the 1.4 billion price tag for this line help advance the Governor's Million Solar Roofs campaign? That power would be in-basin. Can that investment help re-power locally-based plants in Carlsbad and the South Bay, making them less polluting and more efficient? Can that massive investment support conservation efforts like those that were wildly successful during the crisis?

Before we change the landscape of San Diego's majestic backcountry forever and before we devalue properties, I respectfully ask the Commission to thoroughly investigate all of the legitimate questions surrounding this line.

I firmly believe we can find a better way.

Again, I thank the Commission for holding this conference in Ramona.