

## Public Comment to SANDAG EWG – 8/24/06

My name is Laura Copic and I am a member of the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board. I am also a member of Carmel Valley Concerned Citizens which in turn is a member of Communities United for Sensible Power all of which oppose this project. I have devoted much personal time and effort to researching this project because it appeared to me to be an antiquated and unenlightened approach to addressing our power needs given what we know about the inefficiencies and negative impacts of remote generation and long transmission lines. I came here today hoping to hear the answers to the 3 pages of questions posed by the Energy Working Group members and addressed to SDG&E that you have attached to your agenda packet but most of them were left unanswered.

While there are many things that trouble me about the SPL application, my ongoing concern is that there is no one entity that looks at the overall power equation and has enough independent power to guide it to the best possible and most progressive solution. Regulatory agencies like the CAISO and the CPUC only react to proposals offered by Investor Owned Utilities. As profit making entities, these IOU's have the goal to maximize shareholder value NOT ratepayer value and these two goals are often at odds. They, therefore, don't have the proper incentives to offer the best possible solutions for ratepayers and our energy future and we, therefore, can't entrust them with this responsibility. This was all too apparent with Sempra's manipulations of the power market during the energy crisis. As you know, Sempra is the applicant's parent company.

The most pro-active strategy we have developed locally is the San Diego Regional Energy Strategy which this group is tasked with implementing. As you know this strategy emphasizes first and foremost in-county and renewable energy resources as the most efficient and effective way of addressing our future energy needs. I believe this strategy is being ignored by SDG&E with the SPL. The SPL allows SDG&E to avoid using or supporting in-county energy sources that are already available from their competition. I understand this is one of the main reasons why the South Bay and Encina Power plants are having trouble securing a buyer for the energy they can already produce and the support they need to update their facilities..

If the goal is to secure renewable resources from Imperial Valley, as SDG&E claims, this can already be done with the SWPL transmission line (provided the line isn't congested with SEMPRA's fossil fueled energy traveling from Mexico through San Diego to points north) or the independently proposed Green Path transmission line. The \$1.2 billion dollars of **ratepayer** money that would be spent on the SPL could then be better spent toward developing local distributed generation and renewable resources like roof top solar to more efficiently add power in the San Diego region and make us less dependent upon power imported from outside the region, thereby alleviating the congestion problem on current transmission lines.

I believe there are more efficient, local alternatives that will better add reliability and renewables to our energy mix and that have fewer harmful impacts on our parks, preserves and communities and that approving this project will squelch the momentum and incentive to pursue these superior alternatives.

I am acutely aware of the power and influence Sempra wields in SD. I urge you, however, to seek an unbiased evaluation of this project and examine if this is truly the best solution for SAN DIEGO's future energy needs or simply the only solution SDG&E and SEMPRA are willing to offer.