

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

www.peoplespowerlink.org

- 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**.¹
- **Reliability needs can be met with other, already planned, resources. Existing lines can deliver renewable energy.**²
- 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.³
- Sempra's fossil fuel fired 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.⁴ 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, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the non-profit Citizens Energy Corporation are in the process of upgrading an existing 230kV transmission line to a 500kV line east of the Salton Sea. This upgrade is known as Green Path.⁵
- The Green Path 500kV transmission line upgrade is 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.⁶ CPUC President Michael Peevey indicated the SPL would be redundant with the completion of Green Path.⁷
- As part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the federal West-wide Energy Corridor study draft map of June 2006 indicates the existing 500kV Southwest Powerlink as a potential Federal Energy Corridor. This project will establish federal energy corridors across the 11 western states of up to 3,500 feet wide.⁸ This would be a more appropriate location to site an additional 500kV line and is in line with the Garamendi Principle.
- The current easement through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is 100 feet wide at most and only 24 feet wide in some locations.⁹ SDGE indicates it needs a minimum of 150 foot easement to accommodate the proposed line. To accommodate this request the California State Parks and Recreation Commission would be required to undesignate up to 73 acres of designated wilderness.¹⁰

- Energy conservation awareness further lessens the need for more electricity. Combined with applying alternative 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 needs¹¹ and will cost California ratepayers the \$1 to \$1.4 billion cost of building the link without producing one watt of electricity.
- 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.¹²
- All proposed routes go through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. If built, this would degrade viewsheds and compromise the natural, cultural and recreational resources of ABDSP, the crown jewel of the California State Park System.
- 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.¹³
- Cultural and historic values that would be impacted include Native American village, burial and sacred sites¹⁴ and the historic route of the Mormon Battalion and the Butterfield Overland Mail line.¹⁵
- Highway 78, between Ocotillo Wells and San Diego County Road S-2 at Scissors Crossing, is a designated Scenic Highway.¹⁶ The preferred proposed route follows a significant portion of this designated Scenic Highway.¹⁷
- 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.**

¹ CPUC Application #A.05-12-014 and #A.06-08-010. See www.sdge.com/sunrisepowerlink/info/CPUC.htm

² 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, Page 2, Section A

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

⁴ 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

⁵ See http://www.lacity.org/mayor/myree/mayormyree246633652_11162005.pdf

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

⁷ Comments to the Senate Energy, Utilities and Commerce Committee, February 2006

⁸ See <http://corridoreis.anl.gov>

⁹ SDGE Application #A.06-08-010 and Letter from US DOI Land Office to SDGE dated September 2, 1955, Ref. #0122261

¹⁰ SDGE Application #A.06-08-010

¹¹ Comments on Draft 2005 IEPR, prepared by UCAN and BPPWG

¹² 51.4 square mile Pines Fire, August 2002, Caused by low flying aircraft clipping power line in Banner Canyon

¹³ 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

¹⁴ San Diego Museum of Man (SDMM), Archeological Site Records

¹⁵ Anza-Borrego A to Z by Diana Lindsay, Pages 94 and 243

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

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