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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 13, 2006

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Dian Grueniech
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Dian:

I am taking this opportunity to express my opposition to the Sunrise Powerlink on the day of the Pre-Hearing Conference for the San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the project.

The project creates the real possibility for an increase in air emissions from new export power plants in the Mexicali region of Baja California, which do not meet the same stringent air quality standards in California, specifically the purchase of emission offset credits.

Both the California Independent Systems Operator (CAISO) and the California Energy Commission have expressed their support for the Sunrise Powerlink, at least in part because it would ultimately result in a 500kV "full loop" that interconnects the Mexican border (Imperial Valley Substation) with Southern California Edison territory in Los Angeles. This is the project that the California Public Utilities Commission should be evaluating, as it is this complete project that will likely result in new export power plants in Mexicali to serve the Southern California power market.

The proposed route through Anza-Borrego State Park is generally incompatible with the purpose of the park and specifically unacceptable in that it will require park land outside the existing SDG&E right-of-way through the park, setting the unacceptable precedent of encroaching on designated wilderness lands.

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The San Diego Regional Energy Strategy (RES) 2030, published in July 2003, was developed to provide a more comprehensive vision of regional energy goals. A primary emphasis of the RES is local generation, with a target of replacing aging in-basin power plants with high efficiency plants while steadily increasing local generation over time in appropriate and strategic locations. The Sunrise Powerlink proposal relies on the assumption that at least part of this local capacity is allowed to fade away. Without that assumption, there is no "megawatt gap" to justify the Sunrise proposal in the first place. Modernizing and expanding local generation, both fired and renewable natural gas, is a priority goal of the RES and would obviate the need for the Sunrise Powerlink.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my opposition to the Sunrise Powerlink and I am very interested in working with you to assure the best solution to the regional need for ample and reliable electric power.

Sincerely,


BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

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