

COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR SENSIBLE POWER (CUSP)

**CUSP MEMBER ORGANIZATION
Mussey Grade Road Alliance
Ramona, CA**

**PRESENTATION BY DIANE CONKLIN, MUSSEY GRADE ROAD
ALLIANCE/COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR SENSIBLE POWER TO THE
SANDAG ENERGY WORKING GROUP, SEPTEMBER 28, 2006**

GOOD MORNING.

**I AM DIANE CONKLIN SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF BOTH MY OWN
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION – MUSSEY GRADE ROAD ALLIANCE
(MGRA) AND COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR SENSIBLE POWER (CUSP).**

**I AM DIVIDING THE TIME OF 15 MINUTES AMONG MYSELF AND CUSP
MEMBERS LAURA COPIK OF CARMEL VALLEY CONCERNED CITIZENS
(CVCC) AND CAROLYN MORROW OF COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR
SENSIBLE ENERGY (CASE). BOTH MGRA AND CASE ARE ACTIVE
PARTIES TO THE CPUC PROCEEDINGS ON SDG&E'S PROPOSED POWER
LINE – THE SO-CALLED SUNRISE POWERLINK. I REPRESENTED CUSP
AT THE CAISO MEETING ON AUGUST 3RD WHEN THE BOARD OF
GOVERNORS GAVE A GREEN LIGHT TO THIS PROJECT AFTER ISSUING
ITS TECHNICAL REPORT FOUR BUSINESS DAYS BEFORE.**

**I UNDERSTAND THAT CAROLYN WILL BE USING HALF OF HER
ALLOTTED TIME TODAY, SO I MAY RUN A LITTLE LONGER.**

**I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPLEMENT THIS PRESENTATION WITH A WRITTEN
SUBMISSION ALONG WITH PHOTOGRAPHS – WHICH WILL ALSO BE
POSTED AT WWW.CUSPSANDIEGO.ORG. FOR THE RECORD, I WANTED
TO LET YOU KNOW I MET BUZ (SCHOTT) WHEN HE STILL WORKED AT
SDG&E, WHICH YOU PROBABLY KNOW. FOURSQUARE (WHERE HE
WORKS NOW) WAS STARTED, I UNDERSTAND, BY STEVE PEACE, WHO I
AM SURE YOU ALL KNOW ABOUT.**

**CUSP IS FLATTERED TO BE CLONED BY PRO-POWER LINE CASP –
COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR SUNRISE POWERLINK, BORN AFTER US
BUT, BE ASSURED, IS NOT US.**

I WANT TO THANK THE CHAIRMEN OF THIS ENERGY WORKING GROUP COMMITTEE FOR ALOTTING OUR COUNTY-WIDE COMMUNITY COALITION THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT TO YOU TODAY.

SURROUNDED AS WE ARE BY EXPERTS IN THIS RARIFIED FIELD OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY, WE REALIZE THAT IT IS NOT USUAL FOR COMMUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED IN THE TECHNICAL DEBATE.

BUT BECAUSE IT IS OUR PARTICULAR COMMUNITIES AND THE COUNTY AS A WHOLE THAT WILL BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE CUMULATIVE DECISIONS MADE HERE, AT THE SANDAG BOARD AND AT THE CPUC -- WE NEED TO ENGAGE WITH YOU.

WHILE WE ARE NOT EXPERTS, WE ARE FAST BECOMING LEARNING CURVE TRAVELERS.

THE CURVE THAT WE ARE CLIMBING IS NOT AN ATTRACTIVE ONE.

FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT, DESPITE THE GROWING MOUNDS OF PAPER PRODUCED REGARDING THIS PROPOSED POWER LINE, ALL MAY NOT BE EXACTLY AS IT SEEMS.

THE POWER THAT SDG&E/SEMPRA IS TALKING ABOUT RUNNING ON THIS LINE MAY NOT BE:

**ONE. RENEWABLES, AND;
TWO. MADE HERE IN THE GOOD OLD US OF A.**

WHILE THERE IS NOTHING IN THE SDG&E APPLICATION TELLING YOU THAT "ELECTRONS ARE ELECTRONS" AS DARIUSH FROM CAISO TOLD MANY COMMUNITIES MEMBERS AT THE PRESENTATION HOSTED BY SDREO EARLIER THIS SUMMER – INDEED ELECTRONS HAVE NO NATIONALITY.

IN FACT, WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE MAP THE LINE STARTS NOWHERE AND ENDS NOWHERE – SO WHERE IS IT REALLY GOING AND WHAT IS SEMPRA UP TO? 'NOWEHRE' IS A FEW MILES FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER, AS THE MAPS BILL (POWERS) SHOWED YOU DEMONSTRATE.

THE WAY THE MUSSEY GRADE ROAD ALLIANCE, MY OWN COMMUNITY, AND COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR SENSIBLE POWER SEE IT, THIS PROJECT IS SEMPRA'S INTERNATIONAL BID TO SUPPLY ELECTRICITY PRODUCED BY BURNING LIQUID NATURAL GAS TO THE WESTERN US IN MEXICAN PLANTS WITH LOWER AIR STANDARDS AND WAGES.

NOT ELECTRICITY TO SAN DIEGO.

THE COMMUNITIES DON'T KNOW. YOU DON'T KNOW. SANDAG WON'T KNOW AND EVEN THE COMMISSION HASN'T GOT ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE POWER WILL NOT BE FROM MEXICO.

SO WHAT IS A COMMUNITY COALITION TO DO?

THREATENED BY HUGE POWER LINES THROUGH OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND PUBLICLY PAID FOR OPEN SPACE PRESERVES --- PRESERVE AFTER PRESERVE AFTER PRESERVE AFTER PRESERVE AFTER PRESERVE -- THERE ARE FIVE OF THEM -- WE WILL LIVE WITH THE LINE AND THE LIES ABOUT THE LINE FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES.

LIKE THE PROVERBIAL 4-ALL TAVERN SIGN FAMOUS DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, WE ARE THE CITIZEN CARRYING THE TAX COLLECTOR, THE JUDGE, THE PRIEST ON OUR BACKS. AND NOW THE ELECTRICITY BUSINESS TOO.

DEGRADED TO BEING LABELED "RATEPAYERS" OR "CONSUMERS", CITIZEN/VOTERS OF THE COUNTY AND THE STATE -- WHO WILL PAY IN A MYRIAD OF WAYS FOR THIS LINE -- INCLUDING THE OVER \$1 BILLION IN ANTICIPATED INTEREST SEMPRA WILL MAKE BY JUST CARRYING THE PAPER ON THE FINANCING -- NEVERTHELESS DESERVE POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY.

THERE, I HAVE SAID IT, THE "A" WORD. A WORD BEING USED MORE AND MORE TODAY.

PEOPLE ARE NOT HAPPY ABOUT THE HOLLOWED OUT DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES THEY ARE FACED WITH IN A WORLD OF LOBBYISTS AND INFLUENCE PEDDLERS.

ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF ENERGY AND ELECTRICITY -- WHICH WE ALL NEED AND USE LIKE THE VERY AIR WE BREATHE -- PEOPLE KNOW THEY'VE BEEN TAKEN FOR A RIDE, EVEN IF SOME OF THE POLITICIANS DON'T -- EVEN IN THE FACE OF THIS YEAR'S SEMPRA SETTLEMENT OF A \$23 BILLION CLASS ACTION LAW SUIT.

PEOPLE KNOW THAT DEREGULATION DIDN'T WORK TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.

THIS COMMITTEE CAN MATERIALLY ASSIST THE PEOPLE TO GET ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL OVERSIGHT - IN A WORD ACCOUNTABILITY.

ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE, SOME POLITICIANS HAVE ALREADY VOTED IN FAVOR OF THIS PROJECT WITHOUT EVEN HEARING THE OPPOSITION ARGUMENTS -- OR SEEING ANY DETAILED TECHNICAL OR ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION, OTHER THAN WHAT SDG&E SPOON FED THEM.

THAT KIND OF SUPPORT IS COMMONLY CALLED ‘PRODUCT ENDORSEMENT’ --- AND USUALLY IS PAID FOR.

WE URGE YOU TO GET THE EXPERTS YOU NEED TO WORK WITH YOU – INDEPENDENTLY -- TO FIND OUT WHAT THIS LINE IS ALL ABOUT -- BEFORE SANDAG JUMPS INTO THE POISONED POND.

THANK YOU.