

APPENDIX F

*Transcript from Scoping Meeting (Boulevard,
January 28, 2010)*

1 CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

2 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

3

4

5 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

6 for Preparation of the Environmental Impact

7 Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the San Diego

8 Gas & Electric East County Substation, Pacific Wind

9 Development Tule Wind, and Energia Sierra Juarez, LLC,

10 Energia Sierra Juarez Generation-Tie Projects

11

12

13

14 Thursday, January 28, 2010

15 Boulevard Fire Station

16 39223 Highway 94

17 Boulevard, California

18

19

20

21

22 Jane E. Wassel, CSR No. 2632, RMR, CRR

23

24

25

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 APPEARANCES:

2 Dudek
605 Third Street
3 Encinitas, California 92024
P (760) 479-4250
4 F (760) 632-0164
By: John Porteous, CEP

5
6 State of California
Public Utilities Commission
7 Energy Division
Transmission & Environmental Permitting
8 505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102-3298
9 P (415) 355-5580
F (415) 703-2200
10 By: Iain Fisher, Ph.D.
Project Manager

11
12 U.S. Bureau of Land Management
1661 South 4th Street
13 El Centro, California 92243
P (760) 337-4400
14 F (760) 337-4490
By: Thomas Zale,
15 Project Manager

16
County of San Diego
17 Department of Planning and Land Use
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
18 San Diego, California 92123
P (858) 694-3011

19 F (858) 694-2592
By: Patrick Brown,
20 Project Manager

21
Rios & Company
22 402 West Broadway, Suite 400
San Diego, California 92101
23 P (619) 595-3105
F (619) 595-3165
24 By: Maria Nyffenegger,
Interpreter,
25 Certification No. 49313683

2

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 BOULEVARD, CA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010, 7:15 P.M.

2

3 MR. PORTEOUS: Welcome to the second Public
4 Scoping Meeting for the Preparation of the Environmental
5 Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement -- this
6 is kind of a mouthful for me -- for the San Diego Gas &
7 Electric East County Substation Project, the Pacific
8 Wind Development formerly Iberdrola's Tule Wind Project,
9 and Energia Sierra Juarez's ESJ Gen-Tie Project.

10 A little housekeeping here: Before you leave,
11 please sign in. That will get you on our distribution
12 list and that will make sure that any public notices
13 that go out, you'll get that so you'll stay in tune with
14 what's going on with the project.

15 We also have some materials, handouts. We have
16 copies of the Notice of Preparation, Notice of Intent.
17 We have a copy of the handout presentation tonight. We
18 have speaker request forms. If you plan to speak

19 tonight, please fill those out.

20 We also have some forms that you can fill out

21 if you want to submit some written comments tonight, and

22 there's a box actually I think on the bench press back

23 there where you can submit those.

24 And, finally, the layout of the room, how we've

25 got it set up, and after our presentation and receiving

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 public comment, we've asked the applicants to stay and
2 answer any specific questions you may have. So over on
3 this table we have the Energia Sierra Juarez's projects.
4 That's the gen-tie project coming over from northern
5 Baja California. In the middle there hanging on the
6 line is an overview map. It shows how the three
7 projects connect to each other. To the right against
8 that wall is the Tule Wind Project. And then on the
9 lockers there we have aerials that show SDG&E's
10 East County Substation Project. So again the applicants
11 will be there to answer any specific questions that you
12 might have.

13 My name is John Porteous and I work with Dudek.
14 To my right I have Iain Fisher with the California
15 Public Utilities Commission, we have Tom Zale with the
16 Bureau of Land Management, and Patrick Brown with the
17 County of San Diego.

18 Tonight's purpose is to give you a brief

19 overview of the projects, to give you information on the
20 EIR/EIS and the actual decision-making process, and
21 importantly to get your input on the scope and content
22 that should go into that EIR/EIS.

23 We have three applicants involved and
24 three projects. The first applicant is SDG&E who is
25 proposing to build the East County Substation Project,

4

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 we have Pacific Wind Development that is proposing the
2 Tule Wind Project, and we have Energia Sierra Juarez and
3 it's proposing the ESJ Gen-Tie Project.

4 Involved, then, is the California Public
5 Utilities Commission as the lead agency under the
6 California Environmental Quality Act for SDG&E's ECO
7 Substation Project. We have the Bureau of Land
8 Management who is the lead agency under the National
9 Environmental Policy Act for both the ECO Substation
10 Project as well as the Tule Wind Project. And we have
11 the County of San Diego as the responsible agency under
12 CEQA for both the Tule Wind Project and the ESJ Project.

13 Other key agencies involved would be a number
14 of resource agencies as well as two land managers that
15 will be specifically involved with just the Tule Wind
16 Project, and those are the Bureau of Indian Affairs and
17 California State Lands Commission. Also involved is the
18 Department of Energy who will be considering whether to

19 issue a Presidential Permit for the Energia Sierra
20 Juarez, ESJ Gen-Tie Project.
21 They have already completed -- "they," the
22 Department of Energy -- have already completed public
23 scoping and they're in the process of writing an
24 Environmental Impact Statement that's addressing the
25 Energia Sierra Juarez Project. The Web site is listed

5

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 here. So to keep informed on that process, continue to
2 go to their Web site. And for our project Web site
3 that's listed on the back of this handout and on your
4 agenda, there's a link also to the Department of
5 Energy's Web site, so you can stay in tune with what
6 they're doing on that project.

7 The Public Utilities Commission as the CEQA
8 lead agency and the Bureau of Land Management as the
9 NEPA lead agency for SDG&E's proposed ECO Substation
10 Project issued a Notice of Preparation and a Notice of
11 Intent in December 2009 that a joint EIR, Environmental
12 Impact Report, and Impact Statement would be prepared to
13 address SDG&E's East County Substation Project.

14 At the same time that that was issued, both the
15 Public Utilities Commission and the Bureau of Land
16 Management determined that the Tule Wind Project and the
17 ESJ Project would be addressed as connected actions
18 under the National Environmental Policy Act and whole of

19 the action under the California Environmental Quality

20 Act.

21 So the project description that will be

22 evaluated in the upcoming Environmental Impact

23 Report/Impact Statement consists of San Diego Gas &

24 Electric's East County Substation Project as well as the

25 connected actions Pacific Wind Development's Tule Wind

6

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 Project and Energia Sierra Juarez's ESJ Gen-Tie Project.

2 To give you a brief overview of those projects:

3 The East County Substation Project primarily consists of

4 a new 500/230/138-kV substation that will be located

5 south of Interstate 8 about four miles east of Jacumba

6 and it will take approximately 58 acres. There will be

7 a short loop-in of the Southwest Powerlink into that ECO

8 Substation.

9 There will be a rebuild of the existing

10 Boulevard Substation that's just down the road, and that

11 will take place immediately east of the existing

12 substation and will take approximately two acres of

13 land.

14 Then there will be a 13.3-mile 138-kV

15 transmission line that will link the Boulevard

16 Substation to the ECO Substation, and then there will be

17 a rebuild of the White Star Communication Facility

18 that's located about two miles southeast of Boulevard.

19 That rebuild will take place within approximately a
20 30-foot-by-30-foot area within SDG&E's easement. So
21 again that project's laid out aerially on those lockers
22 there so you can take a closer look at how that works.

23 For Pacific Wind Development's Tule Wind
24 Project, it primarily consists of a 200-megawatt wind
25 energy project. There will be approximately

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 124 turbines. The nearest one is approximately
2 3.3 miles from Boulevard. The height of those turbines
3 will range between 328 feet to 492 feet. That's the tip
4 of the blade to the base. There will also be included a
5 five-acre substation as well as a five-acre operations
6 and maintenance facility as well as a 138-kV
7 transmission line that will tie that energy development
8 into the Boulevard Substation.

9 Right now there's two alternatives being looked
10 at for that 138-kV transmission line coming into
11 Boulevard. One is approximately 9.6 miles; the other
12 one is approximately 11 miles, both shown on the
13 graphics over on those walls. The Tule Wind Project
14 involves public lands, private lands, state lands, and
15 tribal lands.

16 And, finally, the major elements of the Energia
17 Sierra Juarez's proposed ESJ Gen-Tie Project which would
18 connect wind energy that's being proposed in northern

19 Baja, Mexico, into the ECO Substation consists of a
20 one-mile either double-circuit 230-kV transmission line
21 or a single-circuit 500-kV transmission line.

22 But the EIR will also evaluate any potential
23 impacts from wind development that's being proposed to
24 connect into or go through the ESJ Gen-Tie to the U.S.
25 side. So right now what we have, and it's actually

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 shown on the maps over there, is the first phase of that
2 Baja wind development, which Phase 1 is approximately
3 100 to 130 megawatts of generation, would represent 45
4 to 50 turbines located approximately 1.5 miles south of
5 the border.

6 So our document will look at the potential
7 effects of that Phase 1 to the U.S. For instance, we'll
8 look at visual impacts or impacts of migratory birds,
9 things like that. The additional phases, as far as we
10 know, are further south and would not have an impact and
11 they're not well defined, so we won't be able to
12 evaluate those.

13 The applicant project objectives, the primary
14 objectives, for the three projects are: For the ECO
15 Substation is to facilitate interconnection of renewable
16 generation in southeastern San Diego County and also to
17 improve reliability. For the Tule Wind Project, it's to
18 develop renewable wind energy within eastern San Diego

19 County. And for the ESJ Gen-Tie Project, it's to be
20 able to provide a link from generation of wind energy
21 into the ECO Substation.

22 Common objectives for all three: Primarily to
23 accommodate delivery of renewable energy to meet state
24 and federal renewable energy goals from wind and solar
25 sources in San Diego County, and that will meet various

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 statutes and executive orders as listed in this slide.

2 I'd like to now turn it over to Iain Fisher of
3 the California Public Utilities Commission to go over
4 their process in evaluating SDG&E's ECO Substation
5 Project.

6 MR. FISHER: Good evening, ladies and
7 gentlemen. I'd like to give you a version of our basic
8 process. What I'd like you to take home from this is
9 that we are in the very early stage within that process
10 and within the environmental review.

11 We've issued the Notice of Preparation and we
12 are looking at that as we are here tonight. You have
13 opportunity to comment on that and provide information
14 to us on how you think we should go.

15 The next stage which you will be able to
16 comment to us and provide further information will be
17 subsequent to the draft EIR. This information gets fed
18 into the hearing when an administrative law judge

19 becomes part of the process and they will start to hold
20 actually law hearings and take evidence. The
21 environmental document becomes part of the
22 administrative record. That goes before the Commission.
23 The law judge will write a proposed decision
24 for the Commission. The commissioners may write
25 alternative decisions, and they will automatically vote

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 upon that and in what shape of projects may or may not
2 go forward.

3 You have opportunity to comment now, on the EIR
4 in its draft, potentially at the evidentiary hearings,
5 and on the ultimate decision, as well. That is
6 basically our process.

7 The assigned commissioner is the president of
8 the Commission, Michael Peevey, and the administrative
9 law judge is Judge Melanie Darling.

10 In assessing for a substation, the type of
11 permit to be issued is a Permit to Construct. Unlike
12 the Sunrise Project which is CPCN, this is a simpler
13 permit. We only here have to consider EMF guidelines,
14 findings, the environmental review which is the main
15 part of it, and the feasibility of the project, and
16 then, if necessary, any findings or overriding
17 considerations.

18 I'll hand over to BLM so he can describe their

19 process.

20 MR. ZALE: Thank you. From the BLM

21 perspective, our job is to be the lead federal agency to

22 satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental

23 Policy Act, and we'll be doing that by preparing a

24 document that is not only an Environmental Impact Report

25 but also an Environmental Impact Statement.

11

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 We'll be looking at both projects that are
2 listed, the ECO Substation Project as proposed, because
3 it does involve public lands, and then also the Tule
4 Wind Project; and ultimately at the end of the process,
5 we'll be issuing Records of Decisions for each of the
6 applications for rights of way that these two project
7 proponents have filed with the Bureau of Land
8 Management.

9 In addition to that, our role will also involve
10 being the responsible federal agency or lead agency for
11 complying with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act
12 and consulting with the Fish and Wildlife Service for
13 that purpose.

14 We will also be the lead agency for compliance
15 with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation
16 Act and consulting with the advisory council on historic
17 preservation and the State Historic Preservation Officer
18 to accomplish that. And then, finally, BLM will be

19 responsible for conducting government-to-government

20 consultation with Native American tribes.

21 Your turn.

22 MR. BROWN: The County of San Diego -- this is

23 only the second meeting, so I'm not an expert at this.

24 The County of San Diego has portions of both of these

25 projects. At this point we're going to be the

12

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 responsible agency taking a role reviewing the
2 environmental documents and providing input on the
3 County portions of the project.

4 We'll be reviewing those County portions of the
5 project for the County's thresholds and the County's
6 guidelines that have been established by the Board of
7 Supervisors, and then we will just take the responsible
8 agency role in the process, reviewing the document that
9 BLM and PUC is going to prepare.

10 MR. PORTEOUS: So our goal in producing the
11 Environmental Impact Report which Iain just said -- we
12 are just initiating that process right now -- is to
13 produce a document that accurately assesses the
14 environmental impacts of the three projects: The ECO
15 Substation Project combined with the Tule Wind Project
16 combined with the Energia Sierra Juarez Project; that
17 also identifies mitigation measures to reduce identified
18 significant effects; that also identifies

19 impact-reducing alternatives and that addresses
20 cumulative effects, not only the three projects in
21 combination but also those three projects in combination
22 with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects
23 including other wind projects that are in various stages
24 of development in the area and transmission line
25 projects; and then, finally and primarily, to address

13

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 community comments and concerns.

2 The purpose of that document, the Environmental
3 Impact Report and Impact Statement, is to provide full
4 disclosure of the significant effects and means to
5 reduce and avoid and minimize those effects; to consider
6 a reasonable range of alternatives to these three
7 projects; and provide opportunity for you, the public,
8 in the decision-making process; and, finally, all of
9 that to ensure that the decision makers have a solid
10 basis for making a decision on these three projects.

11 So comments received tonight will really help
12 us finalize the scope and content of what should go into
13 the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact
14 Statement. Again, we are just starting, so we're really
15 just getting our feet wet. Based on the preliminary
16 findings that were issued in the Notice of Preparation
17 and the Notice of Intent, the Public Utilities
18 Commission and the Bureau of Land Management concluded

19 that the EIR/EIS should address these issue.

20 For each of these issues, we'll be looking at
21 the existing conditions, the impacts generated from
22 these three projects, and whether those impacts are
23 significant or not; if they are, providing mitigation
24 measures for those identified significant effects and
25 then, finally, making a conclusion whether the impacts

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 have been mitigated to less than significant or not.

2 The EIR will also look at growth-inducing effects,

3 cumulative impacts, and alternatives.

4 For alternatives, we'll be looking at the no

5 project/no action alternative, and then we'll look at a

6 reasonable range of alternatives to consider. And again

7 your input through the scoping process will really help

8 us define what alternatives we should be looking at to

9 these three projects.

10 But what we'll do to determine whether there's

11 a reasonable alternative to move into the Environmental

12 Impact Report/Impact Statement is to first see if those

13 alternatives are consistent with most of the project

14 objectives. So it doesn't have to meet all the project

15 objectives but has to meet most. Does it have the

16 ability to reduce environmental impacts and, finally, is

17 that alternative feasible? So if it meets those three

18 criteria, then we'll move forward in the document.

19 We have a preliminary list, and again this is
20 just a preliminary list and really we need your input to
21 expand this list for alternatives that we need to
22 consider, but our first cut we'll certainly be looking
23 at substation site alternatives, routing alternatives,
24 generation alternatives, project design alternatives,
25 changes in operation, alternatives of large-scale wind

15

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 energy production, and energy efficient alternatives.
2 Again, I can't emphasize how much again the scoping
3 process is really designed to help us flush out
4 additional alternatives as well as issues that need to
5 be addressed in our document.

6 So briefly we have a schematic that shows what
7 the EIR/EIS process is and the opportunities for your
8 input in this process. Currently, we're in the first
9 phase, so currently we're scoping out what should go
10 into the document. And this is our final public scoping
11 meeting, but the actual scoping period doesn't [sic] end
12 officially, as stated in the Notice of Intent, on
13 February 12th and the Notice of Preparation on
14 February 10th. However, we are accepting comments
15 through February 15th. So that's really the end of your
16 input into what should go into the document.

17 The next point where we'll seek your input is
18 when the draft EIR/EIS actually is out for public

19 review, and that again triggers another opportunity for

20 your input into the process.

21 And then for the final EIR/EIS, we'll respond

22 to your comments, finalize the document, and then that

23 goes out for a ten-day agency review prior to

24 consideration by the Public Utilities Commission and the

25 Bureau of Land Management.

16

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 I'd like to now turn it over to the Commission,
2 BLM, and County, what happens after the EIR/EIS is
3 final.

4 MR. FISHER: As I said previously, when we take
5 the EIR, it will become part of the administrative
6 record in front of an administrative law judge. She
7 will then take that and decide whether she has enough
8 evidence to go forward with. She'll take further briefs
9 from interested parties and from that write a decision.
10 That decision will then go before the Commission, the
11 Commission will vote on it or write an alternative
12 decision, and vote on that. We will then issue or not
13 issue the permit for a specific project or separate
14 projects.

15 As I said before, we are only concerned in
16 issuing the permitting for the ECO Substation on this
17 particular application.

18 MR. ZALE: From a BLM perspective, when the

19 final EIS/EIR has been completed, our joint process will
20 diverge a little bit, and BLM will independently prepare
21 a Record of Decision for each of the two projects that
22 we're involved with, ultimately acting on the
23 applications for the rights of way for the ECO
24 Substation and for the Tule Wind Project.

25 MR. BROWN: After the EIR's certified by the

17

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 CPUC, the County would utilize that document under
2 section 15162 of the California Environmental Quality
3 Act and we would rely on that previous environmental
4 review to prepare the ESJ Project and a portion of the
5 Tule Project, which is about 12 turbines and the
6 generation-tie lines and possibly some O and M
7 buildings. We will prepare that for the County planning
8 commission. The application is a Major Use Permit for a
9 major impact service utility.

10 MR. PORTEOUS: That concludes the overview of
11 the three projects and the decision-making process as
12 well as the EIR/EIS process, and now the rest of the
13 evening will focus on your comments.

14 On this night we have just some general ideas
15 for useful comments for us, is to again identify
16 environmental issues and concerns, identify measures
17 that would reduce those concerns, as well as recommend
18 alternatives to us that would avoid or reduce impacts of

19 these three projects.

20 Before I hand it over for comments, again you

21 can hand in your written comments tonight or you can

22 mail, fax, or e-mail them to these addresses that are

23 also listed on the Notice of Preparation and Notice of

24 Intent, to know that you can either send them to

25 Iain Fisher in care of Dudek or to the BLM. They will

18

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 all end up in care of Iain Fisher at Dudek.

2 So if you want to send them directly to that
3 address, they'll get to us quicker, but it doesn't
4 matter. You can send them to either one. And just to
5 reiterate, the official close is February 10th for the
6 NOP, February 12th for the NOI, but we're accepting
7 comments through February 15th.

8 And then for more information, again it's on
9 the back of your agenda. Continue to check our Web
10 site, the project Web site for both the PUC and the BLM,
11 and the local libraries here will be continuing to put
12 information in there.

13 The next document that will come out is a
14 public scoping report. So at the end of public scoping,
15 we'll take all of your comments, all of your letters,
16 and we'll summarize that in a document. We'll send you
17 out a notice. If you've signed up, you'll get it, that
18 the public scoping report is available. It will be in

19 the public libraries. It will be up on the Web site.

20 With that, I'm going to hand it over to public

21 comment. We'd please ask you to state your name and

22 affiliation. Keep your comments to approximately

23 three minutes. And Rica is going to go around and take

24 speakers in order of the forms that we've received.

25 MS. NITKA: Good evening, folks. As John said,

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 if you could keep your comments to around three minutes
2 and we'll give you a little warning when you're close so
3 you know what amount of time you have left.

4 And first I have Amando Rea. I'll come to you
5 so we can hear you and the court reporter. So if you
6 could state your name and spell your last name, please.

7 DR. REA: I'm Amadeo Rea, Dr. Rea. I've
8 recently retired from the University of San Diego and
9 I've taught ecology and ethnobiology and anthropology.

10 And about 20 years ago I moved out to Jacumba,
11 bought a place to live and thought I would be away from
12 all the utility lines and everything, and Sunrise
13 Powerlink is going right almost through my backyard,
14 through the next ten acres. And I'm totally off grid,
15 and that's what I had come out here for. And the grid
16 is catching up with me. I don't appreciate this at all.
17 And this is an infringement on my privacy or my way of
18 life as a confirmed Luddite, but I do have couple of

19 additional comments that is sort of a private thing.

20 One of the things that bothers me is I think we

21 need a comprehensive national energy plan rather than

22 this patchwork stuff that we are seeing tonight and have

23 seen with the Sunrise and so forth. We're not looking

24 at things totally comprehensively.

25 The third thing is I think all this stuff is

20

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 going to be obsolete in 20 years. We're doing obsolete
2 technologies, somebody's making money on it, and we're
3 not using photovoltaic. We're not developing putting
4 this money into private solar energy so that we can be
5 independent of these energy plants.

6 You know, as a biologist I look at the
7 ecosystems of the world. The tropical rain forests --
8 I've worked in tropical rain forests -- great ecosystems
9 that nature is producing, and they're not using, you
10 know, all of this technology. They're using pure solar
11 energy, photosynthesis and solar energy. And for
12 millions of years, millions of years, that is how
13 ecosystems without human beings have functioned. And we
14 think we need the technology that makes individuals
15 wealthy, our private power companies wealthy. Thank
16 you.

17 MS. NITKA: I'm not sure about the first name.
18 Harmon is the last name.

19 MS. HARMON: Yeah, Edie Harmon, H-a-r-m-o-n,
20 and I'm speaking at this time -- I've been asked -- I'm
21 from Ocotillo and I've been assigned by the executive
22 committee to represent the San Diego chapter of the
23 Sierra Club at this scoping hearing tonight for the
24 purpose of the ECO Substation, Tule Wind, Energia Sierra
25 Juarez Projects.

21

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 These projects are not needed. Better
2 alternatives are available including distributed retail
3 and wholesale photovoltaic generation on existing
4 buildings, parking structures, and already disturbed
5 lands near point of use such as Southern California
6 Edison's recently approved 500-megawatt rooftop solar
7 project.

8 The ECO Substation: The San Diego chapter has
9 voted to oppose SDG&E's proposed ECO Substation. The
10 project is connected to and reliant on the Sunrise
11 Powerlink which our chapter vigorously opposes due to
12 significant and cumulative impacts on a variety of
13 resources from multiple unnecessary industrial-scaled
14 projects. The Sierra Club's position in opposition to
15 the Sunrise Powerlink is long a matter of record.

16 The Tule Wind Project: The San Diego chapter
17 has voted to oppose industrial wind energy in McCain
18 Valley National Cooperative Land and Wildlife

19 Conservation Area and Airport Mesa Area in their
20 attached 2005 Wind Energy Site Resolution, and I'll be
21 submitting that, for the following reasons: Impacts to
22 designated critical habitat for endangered bighorn
23 sheep, critical bighorn sheep impacts to designated
24 southeast San Diego recovery unit for the endangered
25 Quino Checkerspot butterfly, impacts to other suitable

22

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 habitat for the endangered Quino Checkerspot butterfly,
2 impacts to bird and bat populations, fragmentation of
3 large natural habitat landscape, impacts to scenic
4 views, wilderness experience in two adjacent wilderness
5 areas, impacts to significant concentration of Native
6 American cultural sites, conversion of outstanding rural
7 scenic values to industrial use, impact to experience a
8 quiet and remoteness from the urban environment. I'll
9 skip that.

10 The chapter opposes wind energy at Jacumba
11 Airport Mesa Area for the following reasons: Probably
12 pretty much the same as above.

13 And the Energia Sierra Juarez project is also
14 reliant on Sunrise Powerlink which we strongly oppose.
15 The chapter voted to oppose the Energia Sierra Juarez
16 Project for the reasons similar to those above, and
17 scoping comments are going to be submitted tonight.

18 And I've asked to speak later as an individual

19 so I can have a few more. Thanks.

20 MS. NITKA: Next is Marie Morgan.

21 MS. MORGAN: Well, actually I'm here as a

22 resident of Boulevard for -- I don't know -- over

23 30 years. I have family that's been here since the

24 '50s.

25 My concerns are several. Several have been

23

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 mentioned already. It's in regards to the health
2 hazards from all of these projects. For me
3 specifically, I'm on Ribbonwood Road. I will have
4 proposed windmills that are anywhere from 400 to
5 500 feet high apparently, a quarter of a mile from my
6 living room window. Besides the health hazards, I'm
7 concerned for humans and animals.

8 We've been told at other meetings that this
9 will raise our property values, and I do not know how
10 that's going to happen at my home with dozens of
11 windmills, you know, peering down on me. I also have
12 one to the back of me on the Campo Res.

13 The thing is my husband and I, our ears have
14 been ringing ever since those went in. We can hear
15 them. It gets kind of crazy at night and then I start
16 reading all the health conditions and, gosh, they're
17 all -- so that's another concern I have too, is about --
18 maybe others of you do too as far as your ears ringing,

19 and also for the cancer that we read and hear about all

20 the time, the transmission lines.

21 And then let's see. I had it written down.

22 But anyway, I think it's been covered already by

23 everyone else, the two people that have spoken so far.

24 Thank you.

25 Just solar panels, what's wrong with that? Why

24

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 don't we -- we see them in the deserts. The sun shines.
2 I don't understand why that's not being considered. At
3 least I haven't heard anything, a little bit here and
4 there, but I would hope that somewhere down the line
5 we'll hear something, and it would be so much less
6 drastic and provide the energy needed for the other
7 citizens. Thank you.

8 MS. NITKA: Larry Johnson.

9 MR. JOHNSON: Hi. I'm Larry Johnson from Campo
10 speaking for myself tonight.

11 And I guess I would talk mostly about the
12 alternatives to what you see on the maps here and so
13 forth. I think that local distributed systems are far
14 superior, is a much better way to be planning systems in
15 the future and so forth. Integrating that with smart
16 grids which is taking place throughout the country in
17 various places, a combination of these things, local
18 renewable energy systems distributed throughout the

19 area, upgrading of existing infrastructure and not
20 having to expand it a whole lot, you can increase
21 considerably in those structures in capacity, and new
22 technology.
23 There are experiments going on and actual
24 projects going on now with superconductors. So if you
25 do have a site somewhere in an acceptable location, you

25

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 need to get the power there into a city, and so there
2 are superconductors that can go underground, can carry
3 500 kV. They are still expensive, but if there's work
4 put into them and if an Obama investment went into it as
5 a national project, that could certainly speed things up
6 and improve it and not let it escape to China.

7 There's other research going on at M.I.T. right
8 now. I just distributed a couple leaflets up to the
9 board there before the meeting. One has to do with a
10 new process, highly efficient process, of separating
11 water into oxygen and hydrogen and storing it at night.
12 It can be done with photovoltaics in the daytime, store
13 that for reuse at night, put it through a fuel cell, and
14 then you have electricity at night, and that can be a
15 distributed system. It's completely recyclable, goes
16 around through the process, and it's highly efficient.
17 It's probably not going to be on the market tomorrow;
18 but again if it's looked into very close, on the surface

19 right now it seems to have great benefit, great

20 potential.

21 Okay. Basically, that's my comments as I think

22 it should be looking towards the future, and I think

23 that this is imposing a large burden on the local

24 residents here to the benefit of just a few.

25 MS. NITKA: Brit Coupens.

26

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 MR. COUPENS: My name is Brit Coupens. I work
2 for Invenergy. Many of you here know who I am and the
3 company I work for. You see me around quite a bit. We
4 are developing a proposed wind project on the Campo
5 Reservation, and I spoke last night at the Jacumba
6 hearing in support of the ECO Substation.

7 Listening last night to comments from concerned
8 citizens made me think a lot about the issues that were
9 brought up, valid ones each and every one. They
10 included effects on property values, effects on
11 wildlife, effects on views and the quality of life,
12 effects on safety, alternative energy suggestions. I
13 heard rooftop solar a lot, and I think it's absolutely
14 needed as are large projects, and the water, and the
15 list goes on.

16 I have studies and information to counter or
17 address a lot of these issues, and I would be glad to
18 visit with any of you about these things if you'd like

19 to approach me.

20 A comment that I heard last night was that "We
21 don't need your electricity projects out here in the
22 backcountry." I thought about that as I was driving
23 home to San Diego last night and, yes, I live in
24 San Diego, not Boulevard, and I realized a couple of
25 things. The lights are on in this room tonight, and

27

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 other than the Kumeyaay Wind farm, I don't see any power
2 plants in this area at all. Where is the power coming
3 from? It's coming from power plants along the coastal
4 areas, around the metropolitan area of San Diego,
5 Mexico, and other areas beyond.

6 I'll show you a couple photos. This is a photo
7 of a couple large power lines that I took from my
8 driveway this morning. This is an SDG&E substation
9 about three blocks from my house, and these are the
10 transmission lines that are running through the
11 beautiful University of San Diego campus just a couple
12 blocks from where I live.

13 My point here is that, you know, the
14 backcountry is getting its power from my neighborhood
15 and others, and the backcountry is not being singled out
16 by companies that want to develop the resources here.
17 America needs new energy. We need large-scale projects
18 now, and these sources are -- you know, we need new

19 energy sources and we need real solutions to real
20 problems. We're all neighbors and we're all in this
21 together. Thank you.

22 MS. NITKA: Carmen Lucas.

23 MS. LUCAS: Good evening. My name is
24 Carmen Lucas. I'm a Kwaymii Indian from the Laguna
25 Mountains. I live on my ancestral land. I'm a native

28

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 of San Diego County. I'm a taxpayer of San Diego
2 County. I'm familiar with the landscape.
3 As an Indian, I very often work with
4 environmental companies. I've had the opportunity to
5 walk the line of the SDG&E power line. I will say from
6 my personal point of view -- I only state for myself; I
7 do not speak for anybody else -- but I find this very
8 concerning. It's an enormous project. It's very
9 complicated. The average person, if they went to school
10 like I did to eat my lunch and play with the boys, has a
11 hard time understanding the overall consequences of this
12 type of stuff.

13 I will say that the view shed for me is a
14 sacred item that needs to be protected. When you
15 develop things that are ugly and affect people's psyche,
16 we have no room for creative thought. I think that
17 needs to be looked at.

18 When you take all of these projects together

19 from the desert all the way to the coast, whether it be
20 solar, whether it be geothermal, whether it be
21 windmills, or SDG&E, collectively we're creating an
22 ugliness that not only affects we as human beings. I
23 will die before this is over, but children will be here,
24 the animals still need a place to live, the environment
25 still needs to live. I would ask that you consider

29

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 that, and I thank you for the opportunity for
2 commenting.

3 MS. NITKA: Tammy Daubach.

4 MS. DAUBACH: Hi. My name's Tammy Daubach,
5 D-a-u-b-a-c-h. I'm a resident of Boulevard. I guess
6 what concerns me the most is last year in March we
7 started getting all the letters from SDG&E telling us
8 how fire risk dangers we are and gave us all kinds of
9 ideas of how they're going to cut us down and what we
10 should do to protect ourselves.

11 Well, now some of the obvious reasons, they
12 said wood poles will go to steel. That didn't happen
13 because we're too poor a community to get those.
14 Underground, that's not going to happen because again
15 we're too poor of a community to get those. Everything
16 that they gave us for options isn't going to happen out
17 here. They're just going to shut us down, but we're
18 going to add all these other components in that could

19 cause fires. That just doesn't make sense. It doesn't
20 justify what's going on.

21 A couple other things: With the one going
22 across the border, I think it's really sad that we're
23 doing this only because we can take advantage of
24 Mexicans. That's the only reason. There's different
25 tax -- the tax breaks and everything they're getting to

30

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 do that, it's kind of sad what's going on over there.
2 How many of these projects would really be going if they
3 wouldn't be getting tax incentives and all this extra
4 money they're getting from different places? I don't
5 think any of these companies would be even doing any of
6 this. It's not worth it to them.

7 Yes, we do live in the country and we don't
8 live in the city, but it's your choice to live in the
9 city under power lines. We did move out here because
10 there were no power lines. Now we have no choice. It
11 looks like we don't have a choice.

12 And once this is done, it's over with. You
13 can't change this property back to the way it was. I
14 know they said, "We take pictures before and after and
15 we can replace every boulder and rock." We all know
16 that's just absolutely impossible. And I think it's
17 really sad that -- I understand BLM's got all kinds of
18 deals and stuff, but it's really sad to take a spot and

19 put these pieces in and maybe 10 years they're going to
20 be extinct, maybe 20 years, whatever, but then they're
21 going to take them down to try to replace everything?
22 It's impossible. It's absolutely impossible.
23 The fact that we have a lot of foreign
24 companies putting in the parks and not Americans, that's
25 kind of sad.

31

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 The other thing is SDG&E's spent millions of
2 dollars already on advertising, billboards, calling us.
3 We get surveys -- I don't know how many times -- asking
4 us, you know, to lower our bills, to, well, how
5 wonderful wind energy is. They should spend their money
6 elsewhere.

7 They even put it in your bills. You get these
8 little blips of how wonderful they are, and the city
9 people believe this, but they don't understand what
10 we're living through or our fire dangers. That's never
11 brought up. When they were going to shut us down out
12 here during high wind, the city people were all for it;
13 but they don't understand, you know, the reasoning
14 behind it.

15 And, yes, I understand the power comes from the
16 city, but we have generators out here. We're prepared.
17 We live in the country. We realize this. We live out
18 here. We understand there's no hospitals. That's why

19 we came out here, not because there's no hospitals, but
20 we understand the difficulties of living out here. So
21 just give us an opportunity. Thank you.

22 MS. NITKA: Daniel Coffey.

23 MR. COFFEY: Yes. Well, it's really a pleasure
24 to come here and see everybody. I read a lot about
25 these projects, and it's very unusual to have an

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 opportunity to come and actually see people talking
2 about these projects. Part of the reason I read about
3 them is because I like to write about them, and I have a
4 background in chemical engineering and I have been a
5 lawyer for a long time, and I'm very concerned about the
6 environment.

7 And, in fact, starting in 1989 I became very
8 concerned about this thing called climate change. And
9 since that time, of course, much has been done in the
10 way of talk but not a whole lot in the way of action;
11 and so now because there is this thing called climate
12 change and because people are beginning to think it
13 might be quite serious, things have to be done.

14 Now, those who doubt that, I unfortunately
15 because of my training, background, and exposure don't
16 doubt it. I think it's a real thing. And so then the
17 question becomes what you do about that. And so I've
18 been looking into this for a long time and done a fair

19 amount of calculation and, by comparison, a single
20 2-megawatt wind turbine which is about 15 feet in
21 diameter -- it is 400 feet high but it's a very small
22 footprint -- is the equivalent of 64 acres of solar
23 panels. And, you know, that is a really startling
24 number when you think about it.

25 So from my standpoint, I think it's important

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 that people be objective about how we get power. It's
2 hard too get. It's hard to make. I've written things
3 about how people could pedal and how many people it
4 would take to pedal to produce the same as -- a single
5 2-megawatt wind farm would require 980,000 people
6 pedaling what a person can pedal. That is an amazing
7 number. I was very, very shocked when I did that
8 calculation, but it's based on real life.

9 So anyway, this is a scoping meeting, and so I
10 think one of the things that's gotten lost in the
11 picture here in terms of alternatives, and especially
12 with respect to what might be proposed as alternatives,
13 is to understand the temporal scale of how long it would
14 take to deploy the alternative, because it's very
15 important to talk and it's easy to talk in numbers like,
16 well, it's not 64 acres versus one windmill. The
17 question becomes how long will it take you to deploy
18 64 acres and where would you put it and how would you

19 connect it.

20 So these alternatives I think have to be borne

21 in mind, how long would it take people to really do it,

22 and that's something that gets left out of the

23 discussion. And it's very easy for people to come up

24 and say a solar panel on everybody's roof, but then you

25 have to ask, "Well, how long would it really take to do

34

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 that?"

2 And so I think it would be very helpful in the
3 EIR/EIS process to identify that so the people will have
4 an intelligent way of deciding between real alternatives
5 and if they are, in fact, real alternatives. And
6 included in that is the fact that solar only works
7 6 hours a day, and the battery alternatives or storage
8 alternatives in the form of solar power don't work, they
9 don't exist, and that leaves 18 hours a day for
10 something else.

11 So that's the primary point of my comment, is
12 to talk about in your report what the temporal impact
13 would be of the alternatives, not just saying, "Well,
14 you can do this or you could do that," but how long
15 would it take to deploy that. I realize it's a very
16 difficult question and is probably going to be
17 burdensome on the consultants to do it, but I think it's
18 important for people to grapple with that issue more

19 fundamentally. So thank you very much.

20 MS. NITKA: Andy Horner.

21 MR. HORNE: Horne, Andy Horne, H-o-r-n-e. You

22 can't read my writing. I'm a disinterested party here.

23 I live down in El Centro, but I also have a little

24 vacation house here in Boulevard right across from the

25 Boulevard Substation.

35

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 So all this stuff that's happening up here
2 sounds a little familiar because we see the same thing
3 happening down in the Imperial Valley, a lot of new
4 energy projects being proposed and a new transmission
5 line. Some of you may have heard about the Sunrise
6 Powerlink and other ones being planned.

7 You know, we've been sitting down there in the
8 valley for the last 110 years primarily growing food for
9 the rest of the nation. And to get that food out of
10 Imperial Valley, people build highways and railroads to
11 move that needed commodity from where it's produced to
12 where it's consumed, and the same thing's happening now.
13 We're kind of proud of what we do down there in
14 agriculture, because we think it's important.

15 And right now we're looking at new ways and
16 we're kind of excited about the opportunities we have
17 for developing new renewable energy projects like the
18 one being proposed here, and we have to have

19 infrastructure. Does the infrastructure, the highways
20 and railroads, have an environmental impact? Sure, they
21 do. They did when they were built, but it's awful nice
22 for me in Imperial Valley in August to be able to go
23 from my house down there of 110 degrees to Boulevard in
24 45 minutes. And so we need infrastructure if we're
25 going to move products from where they're produced to

36

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 where they're consumed.

2 We're seeing impacts down there. We're going
3 to live with them and learn how to live with them
4 because we know it's something that's important, and I
5 think the same thing's going to happen here; and I just
6 think we need to figure out ways to do it in a way that
7 reduces the environmental impact, put it along the same
8 pathways like what they're talking about with Sunrise
9 and Southwest Powerlink for a great extent, but we have
10 to look at the bigger picture.

11 I agree with the gentleman who spoke earlier
12 that, you know, if the alternative to a new energy
13 project was just as simple as putting solar panels on
14 your roofs, why aren't people doing it? It's because
15 it's more expensive.

16 The same reason that we have farmers down in
17 Imperial Valley growing food, you know, we can't go back
18 to 40 acres and a mule. People cannot grow their own

19 food as cheaply as the farmers around this country and,
20 in fact, the rest of the world produce it and move it to
21 the markets. So we have the same issue with energy.
22 You cannot produce an energy cheaply and if you could,
23 more people would be doing it.

24 MS. NITKA: John Gibson.

25 MR. GIBSON: Good evening. My name is

37

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 John Gibson. I'm a resident of East County. I'd like
2 to express my support for the ECO Project. I'm the
3 project manager for Hamann Companies for their holdings
4 in Boulevard. They have about 2,000 acres out here.

5 We consider the ECO Project necessary to take a
6 potential benefit of the renewable energies in Boulevard
7 to supply energy for San Diego County for all the
8 people, and I think that's where the discussion really
9 has to rest, and several other speakers have said it
10 tonight. The energy is where the energy is. Getting it
11 to the marketplace, no different than the last speaker's
12 crop of carrots or whatever it is to the supermarket.

13 If you're trying to mine whatever it is, iron ore,
14 you've got to go where the iron ore is.

15 We've got energy and it's been identified here,
16 and it just puzzles me how we've been forced to go away
17 from oil and coal, plentiful things that America has, to
18 renewable energy that's mandated on us. It's more

19 expensive and every one of us are going to get a bigger
20 bill because of these mandates. But to have the
21 mandates and then have obstruction, it's, you know,
22 puzzling to me how the Sierra Club can show up and be
23 against clean energy. They oppose nuclear energy. They
24 oppose oil and gas-powered plants. So what are we
25 supposed to do?

38

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 It seems like to me -- I'm a construction
2 industry person. We have tens of thousands of people
3 out of work. We have tax revenues that have plummeted
4 in the state and the counties. Every one of our cities
5 are losing revenue to the state. And here we have an
6 opportunity for stimulus money to be pushed in here, for
7 tax incentives to be put in here, and to generate
8 thousands of jobs, millions of dollars in tax revenues,
9 and have cleaner energy.

10 One of the problems we have attracting new
11 businesses to San Diego County and California, we have
12 unreliable energy. We have brownouts. We have
13 expensive energy. We have expensive water. These are
14 the kind of things, that if we're going to have a better
15 quality of life, we need to encourage.

16 I think this is a good project. It seems
17 puzzling to me that we've got a Boulevard substation;
18 people complain about 45 power outages last year, and

19 now they get an opportunity to get it built, get
20 double-feed power into Boulevard, and then they complain
21 because it's going to happen. Good evening. Thank you.
22 MS. NITKA: Randy Lenoc.
23 MR. LENAC: It's Randy Lenac. I'm Randy Lenac.
24 I'm a rancher from Campo, a little west of here. I
25 happen to have the Sunrise Powerlink dissecting my

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 ranch, and I'm mad as hell about it.

2 Before I talk about ECO and Tule, though, I
3 want to let the CPUC know what we think about their
4 decision-making process in general, evidenced by the
5 recent decision to select the southern route of the
6 Sunrise Powerlink that gyrates a power line through
7 southeastern San Diego County.

8 The CPUC does not listen to or care about
9 people, private property rights, or private citizens of
10 this great state. Not even a terrorist bent on
11 affecting as many lives as possible could have devised a
12 more sinister plot to virtually dissect eight rural
13 communities with these horrific lines, and there were
14 other alternatives that would have been far less
15 intrusive on the lives of people.

16 The CPUC even had to make wild and wayward
17 deviations from a more direct westerly route making it
18 appear anyway as if they intended to hit every village

19 and settlement along the way. This decision was
20 shameful, and shame on the CPUC for choosing to support
21 activists and agencies rather than citizens.

22 Speaking of activists, I have a newsletter here
23 from a local activist who sided with the Sierra Club to
24 force this power line upon the poor rural communities of
25 southeastern San Diego County. The CPUC needs to know a

40

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 couple things about tonight's hearing testimony about
2 ECO-Tule.

3 First, this newsletter promulgates
4 misinformation that was deliberately intended to stir
5 citizens to come out here tonight and speak against this
6 proposal, but far more egregious was its intent to
7 stifle public comment from the silent majority in this
8 community by calling out by name anyone who's ever stood
9 for responsible renewable energy projects. Many people
10 aren't here tonight who would have spoken in favor of
11 these projects because of the chilling effect of this
12 newsletter.

13 I understand that the CPUC is currently or
14 already or making the author of this newsletter an
15 intervenor and paying her \$200 an hour, and it will be
16 paid for out of our ratepayers or by our ratepayers.
17 Double shame on the CPUC.

18 The ECO Substation will enable SDG&E to connect

19 to renewable energy projects both in this country and
20 Mexico. In my former life as a Marine, I was the chief
21 Middle East war plans [sic] for the First Marine
22 Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, and I know
23 firsthand the price that America pays to maintain access
24 to Middle East oil. We must do everything possible to
25 wean ourselves from this source of energy for our

41

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 national security and for our planet.

2 I'm also the chairman of a political action

3 group called Hope of the Mountain Empire. Our group

4 last year by unanimous vote adopted to support

5 responsible renewable energy projects into our platform.

6 Tule Wind is reasonable and responsible in that it, like

7 ECO, is located in remote areas away from schools and

8 churches and homes. It will satisfy part of the

9 people's mandates for 30 percent renewable energy. The

10 people are right on this issue and the CPUC should

11 listen.

12 Finally, I'm also the vice president of the

13 Mountain Empire Business Association, and it voted

14 recently by unanimous vote of the members present to

15 support the proposed wind farm at the Campo Kumeyaay

16 Nation. There is a silent majority out here in the

17 backcountry, most of whom are not here tonight who

18 support sustainable energy projects like ECO and Tule.

19 Now go out and do the right thing.

20 MS. NITKA: Liz Higgins.

21 MS. HIGGINS: Good evening. My name is

22 Liz Higgins. I am a Realtor and a real estate broker.

23 I've been in the business for over 40 years. I've seen

24 a lot of land, a lot of homes, and I think as Realtors

25 we are always concerned about land values, sustainable

42

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 communities, being very active in protecting private
2 property rights.

3 I would like to speak tonight specifically on
4 the Tule Wind energy project. And something that has
5 come out which I've heard is the young lady over there
6 is concerned about property values in the area. I guess
7 the lady over here. And a recent study, "recent" being
8 December of '09, by the Lawrence Berkeley National
9 Laboratory -- we've all heard about them -- found that
10 wind farms have no measurable negative impact on nearby
11 property values. It also found no widespread
12 statistically observable impact of wind turbines on the
13 sale of nearby homes in the United States.

14 The study considered the view of wind turbines
15 from homes and the distance of turbines to homes. The
16 researchers also compared homes that sold before and
17 after the announcement or construction of a wind farm.
18 None of the factors was found to have a measurable

19 effect on the selling prices of homes. Like out here in
20 the backcountry, the prices of homes as we have seen
21 have devaluated in the last few years, but I think this
22 supports the fact it's not the wind energy; it's the
23 economy.

24 Another study by the American Wind Energy
25 Association states that despite the bad economy, the

43

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 national wind industry thrived in 2009, installing
2 enough wind farms to power more than 22 million homes.
3 This bodes well for our region as its own emerging wind
4 industry begins to pick up. Experts say east San Diego
5 County and Baja have potential to generate an amount of
6 wind power equivalent to 10 percent of all the installed
7 wind power capacity in the United States today.

8 ECO is the lynchpin that will make our regional
9 wind industry possible. Wind power means cleaner air,
10 more jobs, and more property tax revenues in areas where
11 they are needed the most. I think we're all concerned
12 about that. Reports show the positive results that come
13 from committing the proper resources to harnessing wind
14 energy. Thank you very much.

15 MS. NITKA: Mark Ostrander.

16 MR. OSTRANDER: My name is Mark Ostrander. I'm
17 a resident of Jacumba representing myself.

18 We heard many comments out here. One of them I

19 want to bring up is AB 32 and SB 97. I think you need
20 to address that, the actual footprint from cradle to
21 grave due to analysis. That's what's said also of wind
22 energy. It's supposedly more efficient. Let's do a
23 true analysis. Let's see what the subsidies are to the
24 government to put it in, the tax incentives, what the
25 overall costs are, and is it a better alternative to

44

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 other means.

2 There are other projects out there. There are
3 other things that we could look at. It's not the only
4 one. If we rely on one thing, we're talking about
5 sustainability. If it's not sustainable, if it's not
6 economically feasible, are they going to continue doing
7 this once the incentives are taken away?

8 The other comment I want to make is on the
9 cultural resources that are going to be impacted in
10 those areas. A survey needs to be done on these areas
11 due to the Native American population and some of the
12 historical aspects that are out in the area. There are
13 some identified sites out there such as California-
14 San Diego-Imperial 16 through 94H, is one. That's
15 historical. I know out in McCain Valley, there are at
16 least 12 identified sites out there.

17 If you take the sites individually, they
18 probably aren't significant, but if you put them all

19 together and look at the bigger picture, it's
20 significant. There is sites that I went up to. I went
21 out and looked at one area where they're telling us it's
22 planned out. I pulled away a pack rat's nest and I
23 found conical mortar right there. And the area's
24 already disturbed. The gentleman's moved, so the place
25 is already disturbed. So if you're going to do these

45

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 areas, you need to do a very thorough survey. That's
2 all I have at this point.

3 MS. NITKA: Robert Maupin.

4 MR. MAUPIN: My name is Robert Maupin. I'm a
5 newcomer to the area, only been out here since about
6 '47.

7 We used to get our power from Imperial Valley
8 until the co-op sold out to Gas & Electric. That's when
9 our problems started. I have the Southwest Powerlink
10 through the middle of our ranch. You know, they made me
11 a really good deal. "We're going to come through and
12 we're going to take your property or we can go to
13 court."

14 But the result of that, I know all of you guys
15 that have a microwave oven have read the instructions.
16 You're not supposed to stand around them when they're
17 running because of the EMF. Well, my wife has something
18 called polycythemia which started right after they fired

19 up this power line through our ranch. It affected her
20 bone marrow. There's no cure for it. She's been on
21 chemotherapy now for over 18 years.

22 And I don't know. They talk about mitigation,
23 but a good friend of mine's an attorney, says the word
24 "mitigate" is a weasel word used by attorneys. It means
25 "We're going to do something to make them feel good, but

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 it isn't really going to address the problem." And
2 anyway, nobody in any of these wonderful things that
3 you're doing are checking anything to do with the
4 medical problems caused by the EMFs in these lines.

5 My vet in Alpine says, "Well, gee, you know,
6 that's kind of a coincidence. Your wife has this
7 problem and you've already lost one dog to leukemia and,
8 of course, what your wife has is a second cousin to
9 leukemia." We're just keeping our fingers crossed it
10 never progresses into that, but these things need to be
11 looked at.

12 And, you know, like the gentleman said, "Gee,
13 I've got lines here and I've got lines over by my
14 house." Hey, you want to live there, go ahead. But
15 when we came out here -- I still have the kerosene lamps
16 we used to light the house with when we came out here in
17 the '40s because we not only had no telephone, we had no
18 power and, gosh, it was sure nice out here. Thank you.

19 MS. NITKA: Preston J. Arrow-weed.

20 MR. ARROW-WEED: Where is the mic at? Thank

21 you. I don't have to tell you what I am or who I am.

22 Just look at me. You know who I am.

23 This renewable energy, someone saw this and

24 knew how to make money. This energy if misused can

25 cause sickness, and that's what this man said. It's

47

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 true. That's energy. That is very powerful thing. You
2 don't mess with it. You doing the right -- you start
3 cheating, doing it, you're going to destroy the world.
4 You can destroy people. That's the old ways we talked
5 about a long time ago, about energy.

6 And then you go have this -- our people lived
7 from Imperial Valley to here. My ancestors came all the
8 way up here, all the way up to San Jacinto Mountain, and
9 from San Jacinto Mountain all the way up to the
10 mountains to here there is evidence. I know we lived
11 here. And Jacumba too, we've lived there. I'm from
12 Imperial Valley, but my ancestors came all the way up
13 here.

14 I can still speak the dialect, the old ancient
15 one from Imperial Valley, and I'm here and I can sing
16 song from here too in the dialect. And Jacumba actually
17 means "scan the water," because of the vapors of the
18 springs, hot springs, up there. That's what they saw in

19 the distant past. We lived there before. We came up
20 here. We went back and forth. We took care of it. We
21 didn't misuse the powers of that place either.

22 And so the area of Jacumba, people lived here.
23 Those days we had cremations. I don't know if they have
24 any cremations up here, but if they do, that means we
25 were there. And sites, sites are very important over

48

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 here. Sites that we once lived are like graveyards
2 because they did cremate, they did bury, whatever. The
3 remains of people are still there, and you're disturbing
4 them when you do this.

5 If you're going to -- from what I'm hearing
6 too, say, "Hey, it's a great thing, so let's do it.
7 Disregard everything and do it." Well, I don't think
8 so, because you got to think of the other things, the
9 Native American thing. What I say also concerns all of
10 you. I'm not saying just for the Native American. When
11 you mess with power, you're going to get problems. Oh,
12 you're going to get rich, sure. Those poor people get
13 rich, but yet they don't want to use money.

14 I also think of the wildlife. The wildlife is
15 very important, too. That is a part of that energy
16 again. The wildlife, it's very important to the Native
17 American here, the Kumeyaays and the Quechan, the Kamyas.
18 The songs talk about coyotes, the bobcats, the snakes,

19 the bighorn sheep, the wren, the desert wren, the red
20 roadrunners, red-tailed hawks, lizards, and quails.
21 They seem like insignificant creatures, yet they played
22 a very important role in our creation story. Our songs
23 are based on that.

24 And I think we should start thinking about the
25 Native American, and I think we should start following

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 some of the ways of the Native American. That's why
2 little creatures, creatures who seem so insignificant,
3 have been given important roles to save that land, to
4 save the thing in it, and to save you. If you don't
5 listen to that, when you start thinking of more of your
6 comforts, oh, that's solar power. I've lived under
7 that, too. But I am sorry I can't save the world in
8 three minutes.

9 MS. NITKA: Ron Dahlgren.

10 MR. DAHLGREN: I've lived in East County for
11 33 years, and my wife and I wanted to make a
12 presentation here tonight. I made a presentation
13 yesterday at Jacumba, but it also is a concern not just
14 for my wife and I as Ron and Elizabeth Dahlgren but also
15 a concern in terms of health concern. And I have a
16 suggestion with regard to that item, as well.

17 We own a ranch which we call the Taos Otra Vez.

18 It's a cattle ranch, basically means "tell us again."

19 It's so beautiful. The clouds are white and the sky is
20 blue. It's a gorgeous place and it's out by Highway 94
21 and it's in Potrero, and so that's where our location
22 is. And I served as a CEO for hospitals, four of them
23 in my career, 15 years at Grossmont as the chief
24 executive officer from 1971 to 1986.

25 I'm here this evening to strongly support the

50

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 Boulevard Substation that's needed to provide an
2 interconnection of renewable generation in the
3 southeastern San Diego transmission system. The source
4 of this renewable electrical energy will be wind
5 turbines and other green projects. We have to consider
6 other green projects, and I think that's important as
7 photovoltaics, et cetera.

8 Our ranch will be visually impacted by
9 San Diego Gas & Electric's 140-foot transmission towers
10 which are one mile from our property. We are not
11 NIMBYs. We're IMBYs, in my backyard. It's okay. This
12 electrical line will have come through Boulevard
13 Substation receiving energy for now from the McCain
14 Valley, Tule, and Energia Sierra Juarez generators.

15 We must not have the drill-baby-drill or
16 nuclear generation support view, because we are
17 compromising now our life systems, temperature, and
18 creating air and water pollution. National defense is

19 being jeopardized by using up our oil, natural gas, and
20 coal reserves. As citizens, we should be buying our
21 fossil-fuel-sourced energy from other countries, such as
22 7-Eleven gas is from Venezuela which our family
23 primarily uses.

24 Currently, storage for nuclear waste is
25 seriously limited and dangerous. In the hospital

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 environment, we had a hard time finding places for the
2 location of our nuclear isotopes after cancer therapy
3 because of the fact that Iron Mountain is now almost
4 full. And in Washington state, old nuclear container
5 leakage into the Columbia River serves Portland's water
6 needs. It is a critical problem.

7 Wind and sun is free, but it can't be
8 transmitted without wireless like our cell phones. Even
9 now Boulevard and Jacumba have unreliable substations,
10 45 as I said before. San Diego Gas & Electric needs to
11 replace the old ones with reliable technology. Yes, it
12 will cost money, but when compared to fossil-fuel-
13 sourced energy, that savings will probably just keep
14 going.

15 One legitimate health concern is that of
16 Dr. Harry and Dr. Pierpoint of wind turbines, is the
17 creation of a medical vestibular syndrome involving
18 primarily hearing and balance which can result from

19 locating turbines too close to residences, but it can be
20 addressed and measured dependent upon the size of the
21 turbines, decibel level of sound, and distance to the
22 residences.

23 The World Health Organization, source
24 Wikipedia, recommends for the largest turbine, 200 KW
25 plus, a sound not to exceed 20 decibels, which is a home

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 refrigerator, 50 decibels, and the distance not less
2 than 2 kilometers.

3 For the benefit of our San Diego County
4 citizens, all of us, wildlife and nation, please, as we
5 are, endorse and support these energy transmission and
6 energy projects. Thank you.

7 MS. NITKA: Anthony Saavedra.

8 MR. SAAVEDRA: Hi. My name is
9 Anthony Saavedra. I'm here on behalf of the San Diego
10 and Imperial County Labor Council.

11 The labor council supports this project, the
12 ECO Project, because it's going to create 100 to
13 200 direct jobs with many more opportunities with
14 developing wind projects, I want to point out not just
15 jobs but good middle-class jobs. We're excited about
16 the renewable energy industry, not just for the jobs
17 that it can create but for the infrastructure that will
18 ensure greater reliability to our electrical system and

19 capability of meeting our growing energy needs.

20 I appreciate many of the issues that have been
21 raised in the scoping process, but we believe there will
22 be tremendous opportunities for all of us as we work
23 through the issues. Thank you very much for the
24 opportunity to comment tonight.

25 MS. NITKA: Richard Caputo.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 MR. CAPUTO: I'm Richard Caputo, C-a-p-u-t-o.
2 I represent the American Solar Energy Society and its
3 local chapter in San Diego, the Renewable Energy
4 Society.

5 I'm a Julian resident and haven't been here
6 forever like some people, just about 20 years. I came
7 here for the same reason most of you did, because it's
8 beautiful and it's away from the city.

9 The big issue here that I'm hearing is there
10 are local impacts to these energy systems, and the major
11 impact here would be the visual impact. And that's
12 important. The other half of that equation is it's
13 solving a problem. Although it's a global problem, it's
14 really the climate change problem. It affects us as
15 much as these visual impacts. Many houses burned down
16 in '03, and the intensity of that firestorm was related
17 to the climate change. So we are already seeing locally
18 the impacts of the effect for what is happening

19 globally.

20 So we really have to transition away from how

21 we do things now, which is use a lot of energy, fossil

22 energy. 80 percent of our energy in countries is

23 fossils. So in a rather short period of time, about

24 40 years, 2050, we basically have to reduce our carbon

25 emissions by 80 percent. This is an enormous challenge

54

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 and if we don't do that, the climate change impacts will
2 be pretty severe.

3 So we're balancing a local issue against a
4 global issue that has strong local effects, and it's
5 hard. I mean, this isn't an easy problem. I have to
6 say the solution is not wind or PV on houses. That
7 won't be enough. Either of those is totally inadequate
8 to solve this problem. We need both of those and we
9 need all the other forms of renewable energy, and even
10 more than them we need energy efficiency.

11 Of all these solutions in terms of the ones
12 that generate electricity -- that's what we're talking
13 about tonight -- wind is actually the best. A recent
14 study by the American Solar Energy Society showed we'll
15 have about three times more wind than the average of the
16 other five renewable energy sources. And it isn't one
17 or the other. It's really all of them. And we support
18 the Sierra Club, not the local chapter. We support the

19 national Sierra Club which says we really need them all.

20 We shouldn't be arguing about this or that.

21 You've been very respectful tonight. I'm

22 impressed. There's a lot of deep feelings here. I ask

23 you to really consider balancing your own needs locally

24 against your own needs globally.

25 MS. NITKA: Billie Jo Jannen.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 MS. JANNEN: Billie Jo Jannen from Campo, last
2 name J-a-n-n-e-n. I'm a member of several economic
3 development groups, one local and one the Comprehensive
4 Economic Development Strategy for the two-county labor
5 region. I tell you this not because I speak for them,
6 which I don't, but so you'll understand that I have a
7 real interest in economic development.

8 When I look at the wind turbines versus the
9 other alternatives that we have available, I have to say
10 that they're not only not particularly green, being
11 destructive of vast tracks of pristine habitat, but
12 they're also not a just socio-economic solution to
13 anything. And it's important to weigh this in a
14 complete way against local solutions, like rooftop solar
15 where both the property owner and society benefits
16 instead of just society.

17 You need to look fully at all the causes,
18 economic as -- or as EIR and EIS preparers, your scope

19 needs to be complete for both. You need to look at all
20 the costs to the taxpayers, all the costs to the
21 individuals that are giving up something for society's
22 benefit against all of the benefits, who gets them and
23 how much.

24 Rooftop solar may be viewed as a more expensive
25 option at outset, but you need to look at the long-term

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 benefit. Okay. It costs me \$20,000 to put rooftop
2 solar on my house. I have almost a lifetime benefit
3 from that. That's an important and just socio-economic
4 solution.

5 So you need to not cut corners when you look at
6 all the impacts, environmental, social, economic, all of
7 it for all solutions, and rooftop solar is an important
8 one because this County has already started the process
9 of making rooftop solar a way of life. Thank you.

10 MS. NITKA: Denis Trafecanty.

11 MR. TRAFECANTY: Hello. I'm Denis Trafecanty
12 from Santa Ysabel.

13 I spoke yesterday evening. I want to talk
14 about a few things that came up this evening and also I
15 wanted to talk about the cost of all of these
16 transmission lines, ECO stations, et cetera, none of
17 which are needed, including the Sunrise Powerlink. I
18 talked last night about the smart energy solution is

19 right there in San Diego with rooftop solar on parking
20 lot roofs and distributed generation, \$3 billion, and
21 all the people in this room if you live in California
22 are going to have to pay for it, 2 billion for the
23 Sunrise Powerlink and another billion that was on KPBS
24 this morning.
25 I have solar on my roof. I don't need 980,000

57

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 people pedaling to get, whatever, 2 megawatts, whatever
2 the gentleman said. But I have 18 little panels. It's
3 not even on my house. It's on a barn. And I run it to
4 the house, and we create more energy than we use. So it
5 goes back to the public. You're getting it. SDG&E's
6 getting it for free.

7 I even have a battery backup. That's a simple
8 thing. It cost me two grand to have a battery backup,
9 so I don't even need to be hooked to the wires except to
10 get the rebate. If you took those stimulus money that
11 Obama's offering to all these big developers and you
12 gave it to the individuals, there would be tons of
13 people adding rooftop solar.

14 SWPL, which is the Southwest Powerlink, was
15 built out here 25 years ago. SDG&E, quote, commented
16 that it was to have a renewable energy for San Diego.
17 Well, you know how much renewable -- I think there's
18 60 megawatts on it. Now they're trying to build another

19 powerlink. We here in Boulevard and other places like
20 Boulevard, we don't need any more energy than we had
21 25 years ago. So don't say that it's for Boulevard.
22 It's for San Diego.
23 You're running it, and it's not even economical
24 to produce this energy this way out here in the
25 backcountry to run it to major metropolitan areas.

58

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 There's smarter energy solutions. We'll give you
2 Bill Powers' report. We don't need the wind energy out
3 here. We don't need the transmission lines.

4 And are you sure Mexico's going to build those
5 wind energy projects down there? Are you going to build
6 these substations without knowledge that it's a
7 guarantee that that's going to be produced? The Mexican
8 government's going to have to say something about that.

9 They create a fire hazard. No one will even
10 fight fires under those turbines. They'll just come
11 crashing down and if there's wind, it's going to burn us
12 all down out here.

13 And it's going to create more greenhouse gas
14 emissions than it's going to save by all the emissions
15 that you're creating by building all this
16 infrastructure. So don't damage our wilderness. Don't
17 damage the wildlife. Don't kill our birds. Thank you
18 very much.

19 MS. NITKA: Sunny Jones.

20 MS. JONES: Hello. My name is Sunny Jones, and

21 I'm a resident of Boulevard.

22 I have lived in this community most of my life

23 and enjoy the beauty and serenity that come from living

24 in the country. The view from my home was perfect. In

25 the past few years, the beauty has been completely

59

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 altered by the towering turbine windmills that were
2 supposed to help prevent the necessity of power
3 shutoffs. However, this has not been the case. In
4 fact, SDG&E generously sent out letters to this
5 community letting us know about power shutoffs but did
6 them anyway.

7 While I was at last night's meeting, a
8 gentleman who is for placing more of these powering
9 giants in our backyards mentioned the blinking lights
10 that are on top of the windmills. This struck a cord
11 with me. I live approximately three miles from about
12 25 wind turbines, and at least 4 of them are visible
13 from my home so far. At night when these windmills are
14 running, they flash either a red or a white light. The
15 red flashing lights are just a small irritation in
16 comparison with the white ones that, when they're on,
17 are so bright they illuminate half of my house without
18 the lights on.

19 Please stop telling us what we need or acting
20 as though we don't know what we want. Instead of trying
21 to bully your way through our countryside, why not ask
22 us, the communities affected, what we want and if we
23 want these towering giants in our community at all. Why
24 not ask homeowners if we would rent our rooftops to
25 place solar panels?

60

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 I mean, you're willing to spend billions, I'm
2 assuming, on all these power lines, all these
3 substations, all these tests, and everything that have
4 to be done. Solar panels are not ugly, unsightly, and
5 will not require a power plant or power lines.

6 Be open-minded just as you are asking us to be.
7 Be open to simpler green ideas that do not require
8 wasting money on surveying, environmental impact
9 reports, or the rape of the land. You might be
10 surprised by the response you would get if you would ask
11 us what we want. I would willingly go solar if it were
12 affordable.

13 And as far as living near those power plants in
14 the city and all those power lines, I grew up in this
15 country. They're were no power lines. I mean, we had
16 them but not to the extent that I see on these maps. I
17 would not choose to live in a place that had one of
18 those if that was the last place to live. It's

19 ridiculous to ask us to do what you willingly did.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. NITKA: Edie Harmon.

22 MS. HARMON: I wanted to have an opportunity to

23 speak as an individual. Edie Harmon. I live in

24 Ocotillo. I've lived there for 32 years in a house that

25 has neither air-conditioning nor heating. If you come

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 to my house, you see a sign on every water faucet that
2 says "no hot water."

3 There are alternatives to increased energy
4 consumption, and one of them is conservation. In
5 talking to people in Imperial County, I found out
6 there's over 7,000 mobile homes. If it's hot in the
7 summer or cold in the winter, if they're not
8 superinsulated, they're going to use a lot of energy.

9 I think a lot of the money that's going to some
10 of these projects might better be spent on jobs to
11 retrofit and improve the stock of existing housing and
12 insulation. I live in a superinsulated house, so it's
13 not an issue for me; but I realize if you live in a
14 mobile home or something that doesn't have a lot of
15 insulation, there are alternatives, and I think they're
16 just.

17 Every two years for the past 12 years, I've
18 also had the opportunity to go to meetings with

19 indigenous people from all over the United States and
20 Canada, and at the meeting this last fall in Rapid City,
21 South Dakota, there were a lot of Native Americans
22 there, and they asked as we talked about energy
23 projects, "Please consider the source of the raw
24 materials for all of these projects."
25 If they're transmission lines or solar or wind,

62

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 where is the iron or the steel coming from? What
2 communities are being impacted, all the way to the
3 original source of all the materials that are being
4 used? If you're making concrete to support these
5 transmission lines or the wind turbines, where is the
6 water going to come from? What's it going to do to the
7 local groundwater basin? If you're drilling into
8 fractured bedrock and putting concrete pilings in, how
9 does that change the flow of water in a subsurface area
10 where people have private wells and rely on groundwater?

11 As a groundwater user, I'm really passionate
12 about what some of these projects have and how they
13 impact water availability and water quality. And I
14 think that the people in the backcountry, you're not
15 relying on city water supplies that are treating water
16 and sending it out, so I think that there's a lot of
17 issues there.

18 And I would ask for BLM and the agencies,

19 please consider the input of Dr. Jim Andre. He's the
20 director of the Granite Mountain Research Station for
21 the University of California. He's a native of
22 San Diego County, and I had the opportunity to hear him
23 talk with great passion about the tremendous impact that
24 the transmission lines in these energy projects would be
25 having on the botanical resources and, therefore, the

63

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 biological resources of the deserts and the mountains in
2 San Diego.

3 I was surprised to realize he was from
4 San Diego County, but it's really important if you start
5 disturbing these habitats and destroy plants, and new
6 species are being found, it's going to have a profound
7 impact in the future as climate change changes where
8 some of the plants and animals can be. So I would just
9 ask, you know, especially for BLM federal agencies,
10 please take a look at what your experts that are from
11 this area have to say, because there's a lot of concern.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. NITKA: Donna Tisdale.

14 MS. TISDALE: Thank you. Today I'm speaking as
15 an individual, as the president of Backcountry Against
16 Dumps, as the secretary for The Protect Our Communities
17 Foundation, and as a member of the East County Community
18 Action Coalition. I'm also speaking as the chair of the

19 Boulevard Planning Group, which is an elected land use
20 advisory group for Boulevard. All of these groups that
21 I'm representing have taken action to oppose these
22 dangerous projects. I want to thank the PUC and the BLM
23 for holding these joint hearings on these three massive
24 projects.

25 As I stated at last night's hearing, the

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 Sunrise Powerlink should be included on these project
2 maps and considered in the cumulative impacts along with
3 the new 300-megawatt wind project proposed by the Campo
4 Band, SDG&E, and Invenergy, the proposed 600-acre Campo
5 Landfill; the new 30-plus-acre border patrol station;
6 and several large housing development projects. I will
7 provide a list of these projects with my written
8 comments so you know what they are.

9 Separately and together the negative impacts
10 from these many projects to the same rural communities,
11 the same globally significant and rare bioregion, linked
12 habits, impacted wildlife, including endangered species,
13 and other critical resources, including cultural and
14 historical, are significant and cumulative and
15 transforming in nature.

16 These three projects are reliant on the Sunrise
17 Powerlink. The BLM's illegal approvals for the
18 inadequate Sunrise Powerlink EIR/EIS and the downgrading

19 of the visual resource management classifications for
20 McCain Valley from pretty to ugly that were made
21 specifically to accommodate Tule Wind and a new energy
22 corridor where none exist for Sunrise Powerlink, they
23 are the subject of legal challenges.

24 The approvals violated the Administrative
25 Procedures Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 Heritage Protection Act, the Federal Lands Policy
2 Management Act, and more. CEQA was also violated, but
3 the groups I'm working with are dealing with the federal
4 issues.

5 Your agencies are making decisions on these
6 projects that are based on other projects with flawed
7 and shoddy foundations. They will not stand in court.
8 The grassroots groups that I represent will be filing a
9 federal lawsuit against Sunrise Powerlink in the not too
10 distant future.

11 We've also formally protested the ECO
12 Substation and unfortunately, Mr. Lenac, I will not be
13 personally intervening. I will not get \$200 an hour
14 myself. Our attorney is representing us pro bono and if
15 he wins something, it will go to that. We have filed
16 scoping comments with the Department of Energy for
17 Energia Sierra Juarez, and we will be filing formal
18 comments on the Tule Wind Project.

19 Last night I mentioned the hundreds of millions
20 of dollars in fines and settlements that Sempra has paid
21 for various violations and lawsuit settlements. I
22 forgot to mention that a PRI group in the Baja state
23 congress has presented a point of agreement that aims to
24 investigate Sempra's Baja actions related to approvals
25 for their multibillion dollar investment in natural gas

66

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 infrastructure, stating that "the operation of this
2 consortium flagrantly violates Article 28 of the
3 Constitution that clearly establishes the prohibition of
4 monopolies and monopolist practices."

5 They want the U.S. State Department to get
6 involved, too. If the investigation gains traction, it
7 could impact Sempra's business operations and any future
8 project approvals in Baja, including Energia Sierra
9 Juarez. These are speculative wind projects.

10 Boulevard residents are already impacted by the
11 noise and vibration, as you've heard tonight, and the
12 flashing strobe lights of the existing Kumeyaay Wind
13 Project which are over a mile away from most
14 off-reservation homes. Several miles away doesn't seem
15 to make a difference. Impacted residents have expressed
16 relief from the torment since the turbines were forced
17 out of service due to the December 7th storm.

18 Prior to the approval of any more industrial

19 wind turbines here, I am making a formal request that
20 the PUC and Bureau of Indian Affairs conduct a formal
21 public health and safety investigation into the
22 December 7th storm damage at Kumeyaay Wind. After all,
23 it was the PUC and the Bureau of Indian Affairs that
24 approved that project. All 75 blades from all
25 25 turbines were removed, and only some of the FAA

67

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 required lights are still working.

2 There is speculation that the high winds
3 flowing across the composite blades created an
4 electrostatic discharge, then arced between the
5 turbines, damaging the blades and the electrical system.
6 At least one witness reported seeing a blue ball of
7 light at the turbines the night of the storm. There was
8 no crack of lightning or thunder.

9 What danger does this type of static discharge
10 represent, especially if turbines are placed on public
11 lands and recreation areas and adjacent to private
12 properties? This damage already has been the topic of
13 discussion for insurance underwriting due to the
14 coverage to replace the blades and to cover lost
15 revenue.

16 How will the increased threat of fire and other
17 damage from more turbines impact our insurance? Rates
18 will likely rise and insurance will be denied to some

19 homeowners. It's already hard enough to get insurance
20 here as it is because of the high fire risk without all
21 this extra infrastructure.

22 Mitigation issues: The groups I represent
23 strongly oppose these projects and we are going to do
24 what we can to stop them. However, in the event any or
25 all of these projects move forward, significant

68

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 mitigation measures are required like new fire stations
2 with full-time paid staff. You can see here from our
3 station, it's in substandard condition. We have
4 volunteer firefighters, who I thank for their service.

5 You also need to consider property value
6 protection plans for the reduced property values. That
7 was offered. Actually, it was in the record decision
8 for the Campo Landfill, the original Environmental
9 Impact Statement. The property value plan that was
10 mentioned by the real estate agent has been discredited
11 and debunked. There's information online. If you go to
12 our Web site backcountryagainstdumps.org, you can find
13 that on there, also windaction.org or wind-watch.org.

14 Existing elected community land use planning
15 groups should be utilized for public participation
16 meetings to address mitigation measures prior to
17 adoption. San Diego Gas & Electric will be at the
18 Boulevard Planning Group meeting on February 4th to

19 address mitigation measures for the Sunrise Powerlink
20 and ECO Substation. I suggest the community come and
21 participate.

22 The other projects need to address mitigation,
23 as well. It is weasel wording, as Bob Maupin said, but
24 in the event that they do succeed, they need to pay for
25 some of the impacts. They can't pay for all of them.

69

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 Much of it is unmitigable, but we do need to make them
2 pay something.

3 Distributed generation alternatives are
4 superior to these remote renewables and extensive
5 transmission lines. The USEPA agrees that retail and
6 wholesale point-of-use energy is a viable alternative.
7 Point-of-use alternatives can avoid extensive
8 environmental review and litigation, and they do not
9 need long-distance lines that suffer line loss and are
10 subject to disruption from man-made and natural
11 disasters, thereby reducing costs and increasing
12 reliability.

13 SDG&E should be working on point-of-use
14 projects and to support fair market feed-in-tariffs
15 instead of fighting them. Once we can get paid for
16 extra energy we generate with roof and solar and
17 residential scale wind, property owners, business
18 owners, and public and private entities will have an

19 incentive not only to install their own small-scale
20 renewable energy projects but also to conserve energy so
21 they have more to sell back to the grid.

22 And I will be submitting comments, more
23 detailed comments. Our attorney will be submitting
24 comments. And you did confirm that February 15th is the
25 date, deadline? February 15th?

70

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 MR. PORTEOUS: Yes.

2 MS. TISDALE: Okay. Thank you very much.

3 I'm sorry. I forgot to respond to Mr. Gibson

4 from Hamann Companies. He did not mention that Hamann

5 Companies is part of the Tule Wind Project. I think

6 that's important to note, because he has a financial

7 incentive to support it. Thank you.

8 MS. NITKA: Those are all the comments, speaker

9 forms I had.

10 Does anybody else want to fill one out?

11 MR. KEN DAUBACH: I too am a Marine. Not

12 former. I'm always a Marine. Okay? I moved up here

13 away from the city because I enjoy the views.

14 I am the witness to the static charge of those

15 windmills that night. I was headed up the highway

16 towards the casino to get fuel that night, and I seen it

17 light up that whole hillside. And I thank God it was

18 snowing that night, because we would have had a huge

19 fire. It is dry out there. Fortunately, we had

20 moisture.

21 And I've never seen a light that big, and I've

22 been around electrical plants. I grew up in a city back

23 in the Midwest. I've been through lightning storms.

24 That was huge. I know why all your windmills are taken

25 apart now. Okay? And, you know, where is the energy

71

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 now? There's no energy with no windmills. Something
2 was done definitely wrong up there, and that needs to be
3 looked into and answered. That's all I have.

4 MS. NITKA: Charles Shannon.

5 MR. SHANNON: My name is Charles Shannon. I'm
6 born and raised in San Diego. In 2004 I was laid off
7 from the high-tech industry. I have a degree in
8 electrical engineering. I am very passionate about the
9 backcountry. I live in Ramona, and the Sunrise
10 Powerlink was going to come through my neighborhood
11 against the desires of the residents in my neighborhood.

12 I would like to ask if there's anyone here that
13 does not use electricity, by show of hands. Is there
14 anyone that doesn't use electricity?

15 The belief is you didn't use electricity. If
16 you drove a vehicle here, that vehicle got gas through
17 an electrical process. If you use a cell phone, you use
18 electricity. Many of us believe we don't need

19 electricity, but we do need electricity.

20 About 18 months ago I decided I wanted to

21 contribute to the problem we had dependent upon fossil

22 fuels. I took my knowledge and I entered into the

23 renewable energy industry. I'm not here speaking on

24 behalf of the company I work for. I'm not here speaking

25 on behalf of the owners that I work for. I work in the

72

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 renewable energy industry in this area, and I can tell
2 you that there are fallacies that have been presented
3 regarding lightning to the turbines.

4 I also wanted to say that to the gentleman,
5 Native American Indian, in the front row who discussed
6 the various animals that he sings about in his songs, I
7 have a great appreciation for that. Many of my personal
8 friends are Native Americans. I attend many of the
9 powwows. I understand what it means to appreciate the
10 land that we live on.

11 Of all of the animals that that gentleman
12 mentioned, the only one I have not personally seen at
13 the wind farm was the ram. I have seen the bobcats. I
14 have seen the rattlesnakes. I've seen the roadrunners.
15 I've seen all those animals existing, coexisting, with
16 the wind turbines.

17 I understand that many of you moved out here to
18 appreciate the view. I appreciate the view when I come

19 out to work. It's one of the things I comment on
20 heavily. At some point we have to have a compromise
21 between what we need as humans to stay warm, to provide
22 for ourselves, to cook with, and not to pollute the
23 world that we live in.

24 I personally have installed a photovoltaic
25 system on my rooftop. I contribute to what all of you

73

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 are speaking about. That system cost me \$56,000. To
2 produce the amount of electricity that I produce from
3 one of those wind turbines, it would take 400 homes'
4 worth of a system that I have. That's \$22.4 million and
5 God knows how many acres at 400 homes. The wind
6 turbines take up a very, very small footprint at
7 approximately one-tenth of that cost.

8 I would like as a human being, as a native
9 San Diegan, to come up with a compromise that helps the
10 locals out here have the views that they have within
11 reason and at the same time provide electricity that all
12 of us appreciate and utilize.

13 I've heard a lot of emotions involved in this,
14 and as an engineer I like to take emotion out of it and
15 look at it strictly from a factual system. They don't
16 cause fires. There has been rumors that the turbines
17 caught fire. They did not catch fire.

18 I have one minute left. Okay.

19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Just state what you saw.

20 MR. SHANNON: I'm sorry, sir. I was there at

21 10:30 that evening. I did see it. I was there. I

22 started there at 10:30. I didn't leave until after

23 midnight. Okay?

24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So what happened?

25 MR. SHANNON: I am not in a position to discuss

74

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 that because it is currently being investigated.

2 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: By who?

3 MR. SHANNON: I was just told we have to finish

4 up. I will gladly talk with anybody who wants to talk

5 after this.

6 MS. NITKA: That concludes our public scoping

7 and we'll finish up.

8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Excuse me. Could I ask

9 one question? Excuse me. Can I ask one question?

10 Actually two. How many people here actually live in

11 Boulevard? How many?

12 Every other community is well represented here.

13 It looks like a setup to me. I mean, you know,

14 everything geared towards yea-yea, rah-rah. You know,

15 we need the turbines. And they may not be bad, not a

16 big deal. The point is you're disregarding us

17 completely and totally, just, you know, we're going to

18 do this thing. You all better bow and get ready. Bend

19 over and clutch your knees. This is it. You're going

20 to get it. I don't like it.

21 MR. PORTEOUS: Thank you very much for your

22 help. We're going to conclude the official part of the

23 scoping meeting. However, we're going to stay after for

24 any of your questions or comments as well as we're

25 asking the applicants to hang out for a little while,

75

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 please.

2 Your next opportunity to comment is in the
3 draft EIR/EIS, and a public scoping report will come out
4 in March. Thank you again.

5 (At 9:06 p.m., the proceedings were concluded.

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

76

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING 01/28/10

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2

3

4 I, Jane E. Wassel, CSR No. 2632, RMR, CRR, a
5 Certified Shorthand Reporter in the State of California,
6 do hereby certify:

7 That the foregoing proceedings were taken
8 before me at the time and place herein set forth; that
9 the proceedings were reported stenographically by me and
10 later transcribed by computer-aided transcription under
11 my direction; that the foregoing is a true record of the
12 proceedings taken at that time.

13 I further certify that I am a disinterested
14 person and that I am in no way interested in the outcome
15 of said action.

16 In witness whereof, I have subscribed my name
17 this _____ day of _____ 2010.

18

19

20

21



22

CSR No. 2632

23

24

25

77

CLEAVES & ASSOCIATES (619) 238-1415