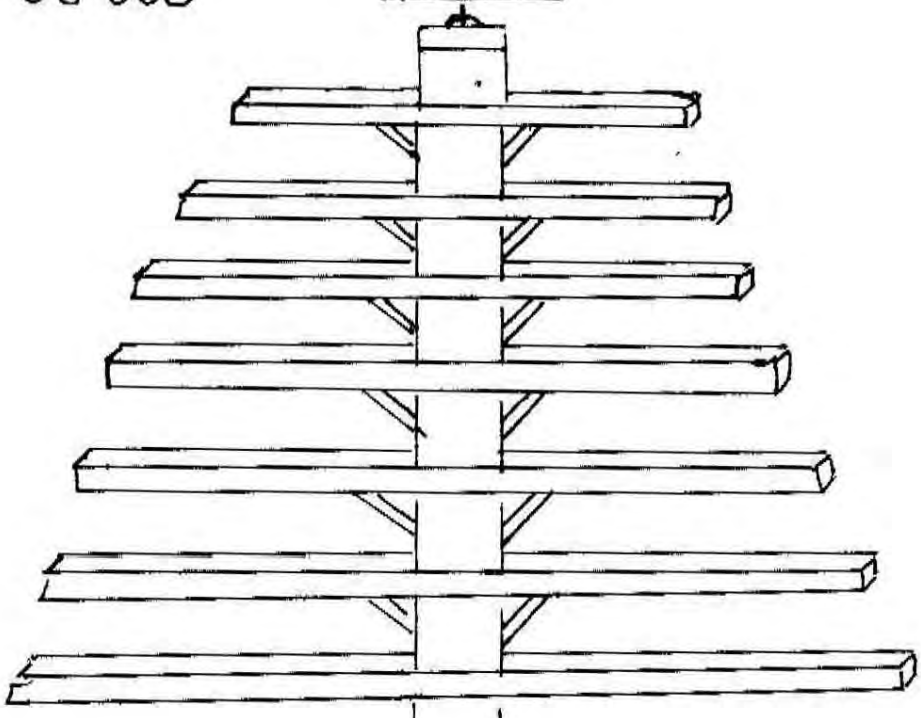
Comments Received from Individuals

Part 1

C.U.P.C.

SDGE EAST COUNTY SUBSTATION/BUILDOUT
A-09-08-003

NO



THERE ARE OTHER ALTERNATIVE: THIS IS NOT 1950!

AN ADDITIONAL 100 POLES ARE NOT NEEDED IN BOULEVARD!

LARGER SUB-STATION IS NOT NEEDED!

THE RESIDENTS OF THIS COMMUNITY OWN THIS LAND, NOT S.D.G.E.

GARY C. HOYT
2052 FLYING CLOUD
BOULEVARD 91905

PRIOR MEMBER OF:
BOULEVARD SPONSOR/PLANNING GRP.
BOULEVARD FIRE AND RESCUE

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC)/ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

Joint Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for East County Substation, Tule Wind, and Energia Sierra Juarez Gen-tie Projects

Written Comment Form
(please print)
Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Name*: [redacted]
Affiliation (*if any*):*
Address:*
City, State, Zip Code:*
Telephone Number:*
Email:* [redacted]

Visual - all projects should utilize materials that will be the least visually intrusive (i.e. non-reflective materials) or paint/maintain facilities to ~~meet~~ match the natural environment.

Fire - all projects should mitigate the increase fire threat to the local community through the free brush clearing program around the community & rural homes.

Recreation - all existing & new roads should be left open to the public for OHV recreation and access

Fire - projects should fund local fire dept to mitigate increased fire risk.

Visual - why not build the powerlines in Mexico?

The projects should mitigate visual impacts by providing funding to the local community for private solar/wind installations on private homes.

* *Please print. Your name, address, and comments become public information and may be released to interested parties if requested.*

Please either deposit this sheet at the sign-in table before you leave today, or fold, stamp, and mail. Insert additional sheets if needed. Comments can also be faxed or emailed.

(See reverse for additional information)

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC)/
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

Joint Environmental Impact Report/
Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS)
for East County Substation, Tule Wind, and
Energia Sierra Juarez Gen-tie Projects

(1)

Written Comment Form
(please print)
Wednesday, January 27, 2010

I find it very disturbing that you are willing to be paid off by a big co. with millions & millions of $, and have no concern about all the animals in this area, the fire danger and destroying my property value, my house is paid for infull, is yours, I ~~am~~ was going to sell it and retire, but if I have wind turbines to the west, may be a mile away, and wind turbines to the east, property value is down, who would want to buy with ugley wind turbines all over,

It's allso interesting that you have no concern ~~of~~ for the project water source. This has been kept quiet, ~~were~~ are you going to let them just put several wells in? with no permits or concern for our ground water.

Many of us on the North side of Hwy 8, close to the proposed wind turbine site, are educated, working people, lawyers, C.E.O, ~~&~~ attorneys, sheriffs highway patrol,

and are amazed that you have these P.U.C. meeting for us to attend. You listen to us. But we know you are being bought out and you will do what you want. You have ~~no~~ NO regard for what is going to happen in OUR Backyard, we have a big concern for animals, fire danger, roads that will destroy plants & animals, blasting that will damage our water & aqua filter.

Do not think that the people on Ribbonwood are stupid and don't know whats going on.

I have been approached with the fact, that, 20' from my dirt driveway, 100 Trucks will go by with turbine motors. Will this upset my horses, lets hope my dogs don't get out, and lets hope they don't block my drive way entrance.

The P.U.C. should support Solar, may be the Mexicans should go more solar. Why not put the power lines in Mexico, or put the power lines on the borders, about 6 ft off the ground, & then we won't have to have The Chinese build a wall to keep the illegals out. As a Tax payer, of your Salery, you should do whats good for the land & property owners and not some company from a foreign land with lots of $$$.

(3)

Written Comment Form

Mailing addresses:

- **Iain Fisher, California Public Utilities Commission, c/o Dudek, 605 Third Street, Encinitas, CA 92024.**
- **BLM California Desert District Office, Attention: Greg Thomsen, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, California 92553-9046**

Fax:

- **CPUC at (800) 371-8854**
- **BLM at (951) 697-5299**

Email:

- **CPUC at ecosub@dudek.com**
- **BLM at: catulewind@blm.gov**

Public Scoping Ends:

CPUC Notice of Preparation: February 10, 2010
BLM Notice of Intent: February 12, 2010

Comments will be accepted until February 15, 2010

IF every one of you want to let the Beautifull back country be destroyed, like the Indians now do then I don't eppect ~~Hetbeton~~ us to (wind turbines & motocycle parks) have faith in the Keepers of our open spaces. You don't live here, so don't decide what Someone else can ~~came~~ do here and destroy because, they want to make millions more $$$. Rumor has it, that an old Indian camp site, has disapeared & been coved up, so Wind Turbin's

(4)

can go near there. Thats how crooked Some people are. History has been destroyed, instead of saving it for future generations, Other structors have been torn down, also. B.L.M has deliberately let mcCain Valley be destroyed, so Wind turbines & power lines can be installed !!!

Linda
2587 Ribbonwood rd.
Boulevard,

From: derik martin [mailto:milpas@prodigy.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 3:47 PM
To: ECOSUB
Subject: Scoping Comments

I am a land owner in the area N.E. of Jacumba, the where you propose to put the ECO substation, and near the SW Power link.

I find it hard to believe the arrogance of the CPU and the those involved in all of the "power development" It's a classic example of big business and local and state government taking advantage of the environment and those who choose to live in a rural areas of San Diego County.

For the money you are spending on your S.W. Power Link, you could supply each home in San Diego county with solar panels and not need such a power corridor which ruins the beauty of the back country and disrupts thousands of acres of animal and plant life. The most invasive thing you can do short of putting in large wind turbines!! wait your doing that too... all in one area?? Talk about total disregard for nature and those of us who choose to make this remote area our home. This has nothing to do with supplying San Diego with energy it's all about Money Money Money. Without heavy government subsidies none of this would happen. Look at the wind machines near Golden Acorn, they seldom run and can't withstand 70mph winds. My guess is that they cost about 10.00 per Kilowatt.

There is a large herd of peninsular big horn sheep that live in the Sierra Juarez area, they travel from Mexico into the US on those very same hills you plan to build your wind machines, there is another herd or two near McCain Valley another area you plan to decimate with wind machines. Good bye wild life Hello profits for Sempre and hand outs for the CPU !!!

You will not hear a media reaction, or the truth from any power company or regulator, they will simply state this is for "Green Alternative Energy" At what cost?? Literally billions of dollars, and thousands of acres decimated and destroyed for your "green energy"

If you were up front about this project and told the people what you were doing not a person east of Highway 805 would be for this potluck of corruption and waste. Why not post the photos that are on Sempre's web site and show the people what your vision of the back country is?

Derik Martin

1371 Pine Dr.
El Cajon, CA 92020

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC)/ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

Joint Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for East County Substation, Tule Wind, and Energia Sierra Juarez Gen-tie Projects

Written Comment Form
(please print)
Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Name*: Desi Vela
Affiliation (*if any*):* Ewiiaapaayp Band of Kumeyaay
Address:* P.O. Box 1648
City, State, Zip Code:* Boulevard Cal 91905
Telephone Number:* 619 766 4158
Email:* dvela@leaningrock.net

This comment is being written for support of the Tule Wind project. This project will provide much needed Green energy & be the alternative to coal fire and petroleum energy Generators. This project will provide Jobs here in the east county of which is needed for locals here.

* *Please print. Your name, address, and comments become public information and may be released to interested parties if requested.*

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(See reverse for additional information)

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC)/ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

Joint Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for East County Substation, Tule Wind, and Energia Sierra Juarez Gen-tie Projects

Written Comment Form
(please print)
Thursday, January 28, 2010

Name*: RICHARD CAPUTO
Affiliation (*if any*):* AMERICAN SOLAR ENERGY SOCIETY
Address:* PO BOX 1660
City, State, Zip Code:* JULIAN, CA 92036
Telephone Number:* 760-765-3157
Email:* RICHARD CAPUTO@SBCGLOBAL.NET

SEE ATTACHMENT

** Please print. Your name, address, and comments become public information and may be released to interested parties if requested.*

Please either deposit this sheet at the sign-in table before you leave today, or fold, stamp, and mail. Insert additional sheets if needed. Comments can also be faxed or emailed.

(See reverse for additional information)

RICHARD CAPUTO

Tule Wind Farm in South East San Diego County

I have heard many objections raised about a wind farm in the mountains in eastern San Diego County. Typical comments are that the noise from a wind farm would be intrusive, property values would fall, large numbers of birds and bats would be killed, it would start forest fires, it would spoil our beautiful vista, etc., etc. What are the facts today?

What about the noise? We are not talking about 1980s technology. That was noisy. We are talking about 2008+ technologies that is not noisy. Well, how noisy is not noisy? You can stand at the base of the tower and have a normal conversation without rising you voice. At 750 to 1000 feet, a wind farm generates a noise that is about the same as you sitting in your kitchen with your refrigerator is running. That is a range of about 35 to 45 dB --- 35dB is a quiet bedroom, a library is about 40dB while 45dB is a really quiet office. When I visited the Campo wind farm, I could not hear the swish of the blades at about 1000 feet. So, the edge of the wind farm should be at least 0.5 miles away from residences to have no noise intrusion.

What about property values plummeting? A very comprehensive study of 25,000 residences showed there was an impact of wind farms on adjacent property values --- they increased property values. Ten wind farm projects in the US in seven states were identified. For each community adjacent to a wind farm, one was found without a wind farm that was comparable. Selling prices for homes were studied in each set of communities for 3 years before and 3 years after the wind farm was built. All this data was analyzed and gave the results of increased property values in the wind farm adjacent communities. So, if you are worried about property values, make sure you build a wind farm nearby.

What about the large number of birds and bats that would be killed? Well, wind generators do kill birds. Each one kills about 1 to 2 birds per year on average. That is a problem but residences kill 1 to 10 birds a year. The road that your car drives on kills 15 to 20 birds per mile. Your house cat kills 1 to 2 birds per year. All told, human activities (and house cats) kill from 260 to 1380 million birds a year. Even if 30% of all our electricity in the USA was generated by wind farms, they would kill about 0.6 million birds. So where does this leave us? One could conclude that bird kill from wind farms are insignificant in the general scheme of human activities. Yet, the California Energy Commission's (CEC) policy is "no activity should kill birds without mitigation simply because other human activities also kill birds." A wise policy. Now that a number of wind farms have been built in California and we have a better understand of what factors contribute to higher bird kills, wind farms can be designed to reduce the impact on birds. The CEC demands that each new wind farm be designed to mitigate bird impact based on this new understanding. We wouldn't know the likely impacts of this proposed wind farm until a bunch of data was collected and analyzed. This would only occur at the completion of the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Older wind generators did start fires and some of them did cause ground level grass fires. As with noise, the fire issue has changed in the current generation of wind machines.

Each machine now costs 1 to 3 million dollars and needs to operate for about 15 years or so to pay back the investment. So there is a strong interest on the part of the wind farm owner to not have the machine burn up. So much for intent. What about the specifics. These machines are high above ground on a steel tower placed in the middle of a 50 by 70 foot gravel pad with a lack of vegetation around base of tower. The high voltage wires from the machines are underground, lightning protection devices on each tower, and temperatures inside the generators are monitored. Shut down is automatic when above normal temperatures are sensed. The data seems to show that lightning damage to newer machines is rare. However, I have unable to find comprehensive data on ground fires caused by these newer machines one way or the other but it does not seem to be a problem.

Finally, you certainly can see a modern wind generator. They are large with the tower being about 200' tall and each of three blades being about 125' long. The question is when you see them, what is your reaction? That depends on the eye of the beholder. It can range from a stick in the eye reaction if it spoils the view you are used to. Or you can see elegant and beautiful kinetic sculptures that are symbols of a less polluting future. Some say that we will lose our vista and it would be a tragedy for San Diego County. When you look at the map of San Diego County, you will see an enormous amount of land are dedicated to county parks and preserves, state parks and preserves and national forests and recreation areas. San Diego County is truly blessed with more than ample outdoor space to enjoy in many ways. To take these few acres that are a combination of private, Native American and BLM land for the laudable purpose of generating clean energy, is not depriving San Diegans of natural vistas. We have many, many natural vistas and are trading the view of this particular small piece of land for a commitment to a cleaner tomorrow. We need to keep things in perspective.

Some people say why don't we put all our eggs into one basket and only use rooftop PV as our renewable energy source. Urban-sited PV has a lot of advantages as one of a portfolio of renewable energy options. But it is expensive and is about three times more expensive that wind energy. As with wind, PV does not do a very good job at displacing peak power. So both depend on other renewable energy sources such as baseload geothermal, baseload biomass electric plants and desert solar thermal plants with cheap thermal storage to make the electric grid system work. Without these other renewable energy options, you would depend too heavily on fossil fuels and expensive storage.

All of the above is an attempt to address the negative allegation made against a wind farm. Most of the allegations seem to have little support.

There is a very strong case that you can make for wind farms as a form of renewable energy. This is usually acknowledged by most and then we jump right to the BUT.... What are the elements of a strong case for? The major elements are that for every Kwhr of wind electricity that substitutes for how we now generate electricity, we eliminate air and water pollutants, eliminate green house gases, lower the cost of electricity, don't deplete fossil fuels, and avoids a host of other conventional energy problems and generate jobs both locally and elsewhere in the U.S.

What air pollutants do we eliminate? There would be no sulfur dioxide or nitrogen oxides which make acid rain, or any smog formation from nitrogen oxides, or particulate matter to clog our lungs, or heavy metals such as mercury to cause brain damage to children. To put numbers on this, if 30% US electricity provided by wind and it substituted for today's coal plants, then SO2 would be reduced by 16 billion pounds/yr, and NOx reduced by 9 billion pounds/yr. The avoided human health impacts would be: avoided deaths of 14,364 people/yr; avoided asthma attacks of 300,000/yr, avoided upper respiratory symptoms of 2.07 million/yr. And a bunch of CO2 would not be generated and reduce the people induced warming of the planet.

What good does reducing green house warming gases do for us? It reduces things like weather extremes such as increased floods and droughts, more frequent and more violent tropical storms (such as Kitrina), and rising ocean level. So every KWhr of wind electricity, steers us away for our current tinkering with global climate and steer us toward a more stable future.

Wind electricity also avoids all the dreadful other impacts of coal, oil and gas extraction and transport. It also avoids all the geo-political complications and incredible cost of our current immersing in the middle-east. It avoids hazards of nuclear power which are many and insidious such as the dilemma of small probability of catastrophic accident, the use of weapon grade nuclear materials with links to terrorism, the further terrorist threat of "mole" disrupting nuclear plant operation and causing melt down, the terrorist threat of small organized group taking over a nuclear plant and causing melt down, and the long term (geological) radioactive waste storage problem.

Wind is a real benefit and should be pursued vigorously to replace fossils and nuclear power. We can't rely on others in far away places to solve our problem of generating too much green house gases for our own good. This seems like a good place to site a wind farms in our region. This coupled with a host of other things to improve our efficient use of energy and a portfolio of other renewable sources of energy should get us to a much brighter future.

Rich Caputo
San Diego Renewable Energy Society
28Jan10
Julian, CA

01/28/10
Ronald and Elizabeth Dahlgren
Taos Otra Vez Historic Cattle Ranch (515 acres)
Highway 94
Potrero, California
619-971-3681 Cell

I am here this evening to strongly support the Boulevard Substations needed to provide an interconnection of renewable generation in southeastern San Diego transmission system. The source of this renewable electrical energy will be wind turbines and other green projects. Our Ranch will be visually impacted by SDGE 140 ft. transmission towers which are 1 mile from our property. We are not nimby's but imby's. This electrical line will have come through Boulevard Sub-Station receiving energy, for now, from the Mc Cain Valley, Tule and Energia Sierra Juarez generators.

We must not have the "drill baby drill or nuclear generation support view" because we are compromising, now, our earth's life systems, temperature and creating air/water pollution. National defense is being jeopardized by using up our oil, natural gas and coal reserves. As citizens, we should be buying our fossil fuel sourced energy from other countries, i.e. 7/11 gas is from Venezuela which is our primary source. Currently, storage for nuclear waste is seriously limited and dangerous, i.e. even for cancer therapy nuclear isotope refuse, and causing in Washington State old nuclear container leakage into the Columbia River which serves Portland's water needs.

Wind and Sun is FREE, but it can't be transmitted wireless like our cell phones. Even now, Boulevard and Jacumba have unreliable Sub-stations (45 black outs/yr. SDGE). SDGE needs to replace the old ones with reliable technology which can perform both functions: the transmission of renewable energy and current service. Yes, it will cost money but what the experience from Europe and U.S. demonstrates is ultimately it will save us 75% when compared to fossil fuel sourced energy and that savings will probably just keep going up.

One legitimate health concern (Harry and Pierpoint, M.D.) of wind turbine's is the creation of a medical vestibular syndrome involving primarily hearing and balance which can result from locating turbines too close to residences, but it can be addressed and measured dependent upon the size of the turbines, decibel level of sound and distance to residences. The World Health Organization (source Wikipedia) recommends for the largest turbine(200 KW+) a sound not to exceed 20 Decibels (home refrigerator=50 decibels) and distance not less than 2 kilometers (1.33 miles).

For the benefit of all our San Diego County Citizens, Wildlife and Nation please, as we are, endorse and support these energy transmission and energy projects.

Thank you,

Ronald E. Dahlgren Elizabeth A. Dahlgren

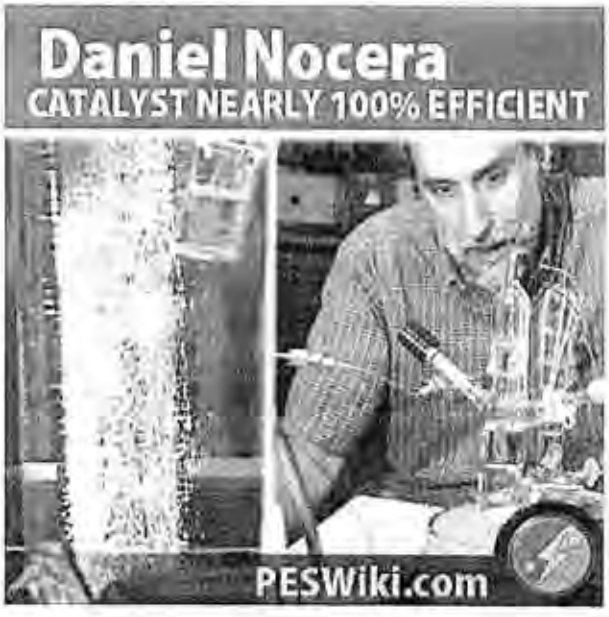
Directory:MIT:Daniel Nocera:Catalytic Electrolysis

From PESWiki

<< A Top 100 Energy Technology >>

TOP 100

Electrolysis Breakthrough for Solar Storage



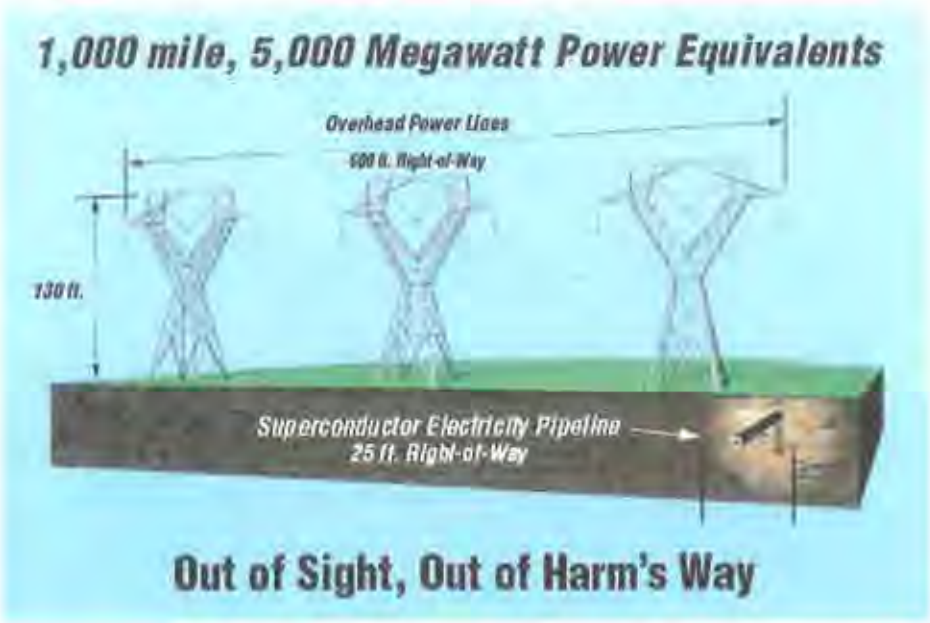
Inspired by the photosynthesis performed by plants, researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have combined a liquid catalyst with photovoltaic cells to achieve a super efficient (nearly 100%) electrolysis.

This becomes a very effective storage system. One obvious extension of this would be the cost-effective storage of daytime solar energy for night-time use. Excess capacity during the day could be stored as hydrogen and oxygen, then used in fuel cells at night when needed.

> "Solar power has always been a limited, far-off solution. Now we can seriously think about solar power as unlimited and soon." -- Daniel Nocera; *Science*; July 31, 2008

Those playing with onboard electrolysis for hydroxy gas injection into the air intake might find this development to be noteworthy as well.

Contents



Superconductor Electricity Pipelines combine conventional underground pipeline construction techniques with revolutionary, high capacity superconductor cables and proven multi-terminal DC-AC power electronic converters. The result is a high-capacity, long-haul electric transmission "pipeline" that:

- **Delivers Gigawatts of Green Power to Market:** Capable of carrying wind, solar, geothermal and hydro power from multiple sites to multiple cities.
- **Resolves Difficult Siting Problems:** Conventional overhead transmission lines require new corridors hundreds of feet wide. The time-consuming and potentially litigious process involved to site these lines is a significant roadblock to developing new renewable power in the U.S. Superconductor Electricity Pipelines can carry thousands of megawatts (many gigawatts) of power in a 25-foot-wide corridor and can be placed in existing railroad and highway rights of way.
- **Improves Aesthetics:** Conventional high voltage towers are more than 100 feet tall and can significantly impact the aesthetics of neighborhoods, national parks and sensitive wildlife areas. Superconductor Electricity Pipelines are out of sight and out of mind. Unlike overhead power lines, they also are free from electromagnetic fields.
- **Increases Security:** Ice storms, hurricanes, tornadoes and terrorism are just a few of the threats to overhead power lines. Given their underground location, Superconductor Electricity Pipelines are out of harm's way.
- **Enhances Efficiency:** Superconductor Electricity Pipelines are able to cut power losses by two to three times when compared with conventional transmission options. This results in improved return-on-investment and reduced carbon emissions.
- **Simplifies Cost Allocation:** Cost sharing for new AC transmission lines is a significant challenge due to the difficulty in determining the benefit each affected electric utility receives. The power supplied to and delivered from Superconductor Electricity Pipeline DC-AC on- and off-ramps enables much simpler cost allocation.
- **Is Cost Competitive:** When looking at the thousand-mile, multi-gigawatt transmission runs required to transport renewable energy from America's heartlands to its cities, Superconductor Electricity Pipelines are comparable in cost to 765 kV AC overhead transmission lines.

Contact us! For more information regarding Superconductor Electricity Pipelines, please contact us at powerpipes@amsc.com

Rica Nitka

From: Phstc@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2010 5:34 PM
To: ECOSUB
Subject: Trio of East San Diego County electric projects

Comment on project alternatives:

Project alternatives include increased conservation and distributed or "rooftop" solar generation.

There is some academic argument that large scale renewable energy projects are superior to distributed or "rooftop" sources. It is possible the large-scale projects may appear, on an Excel spreadsheet, to create more power, faster at lower unit cost.

Cost is not the key test result of an analysis of project alternatives.

The most important test is effectiveness. Are the alternative projects overall as likely to produce a similar outcome, but one more favorable to the environment?

The answer for conservation and rooftop solar is "yes".

For a number of reasons:

1. Conservation is immediate, and to a great extent, persists. It is virtually costless to the consumer, although it has some cost to utilities in the form of backup or peak requirements--but those are more than offset by the reduction in proposed project costs.

2. The costs saved by consumers in conserving energy more than balance the greater efficiency of large-scale projects when analyzed in total, over time.

3. In addition, once a consumer starts conserving electricity, they also begin to think about conserving water and other resources. They recycle at greater rates. There is a cascade of benefits, all measurable based on years of experience in San Diego, Southern California, California, the West, the United States, Western Europe and now, in nascent form, in India and China.

4. Rooftop solar has greater overall economic benefit. It can be done by apartment owners for their tenants, by homeowners for themselves or renters, by business, by schools (which do not consume much power in the summer, and therefore could inject vast quantities of power into the grid at the very time power demand peaks), and all kinds of institutions. Indeed, in San Diego, it has been shown that solar panels can be installed above at-grade parking, providing power and shading asphalt surfaces, with resultant overall cooling and decrease in ambient summer power demand.

5. Rooftop solar tends to involve more local suppliers, installers and people involved in maintenance. This was one of the key factors behind the Los Angeles Unified School District's move to solar power. This provides more local economic benefit than

does bringing in massive wind turbines manufactured offsite, or offshore, and hiring roving professional crews to install them. Ditto for transmission towers. The materials are made elsewhere. While solar panels may be made elsewhere, there is a greater component of labor cost and locally manufactured product cost in rooftop solar than in large scale renewable energy projects. And, a local company, Kyocera, is one of the leaders in solar panel design and fabrication.

6. Rooftop solar has almost no environmental impact. Local government is working on regulations that involve one neighbor's project impacting anothers. But there are a myriad of such local impacts including one neighbor's trees blocking another's view. This is nothing like the massive impact of permanent renewable sources and transmission lines from grading to build pads and access roads, to significant bird-kill to noise (have you ever walked beneath a high transmission line? It hums continuously and loudly).

7. Can power from conservation and rooftop solar be achieved as fast as from mega-projects? The answer for conservation is "yes". For rooftop solar the answer, looking purely at economics and sources of capital would be, "probably not, at least now", but rooftop solar, if encouraged (in part by denying mega projects which are vastly more harmful to the environment), will become competitive on a purely economic basis as demand increases and manufacturing and installation costs come down.

8. It is very difficult to make an apples to apples economic comparison of distributed power to mega-projects, given the accounting treatment utilities receive, regulatory mandates, guaranteed utility rates of return (power lines) and tax benefits and subsidies to all parties.

However it is easy to see that conservation is virtually free to achieve, yet has benefits that can be precisely measured for all parties. Indeed, utilities throughout the United States have found conservation to be highly profitable--diverting scarce capital from expensive projects to more profitable uses--so profitable that utilities are paying customers not to use power (Idaho Power and Boise area farmers among others.)

Peter H. St.Clair
2326 Whitman Street
San Diego CA 92103
619-260-1307
phstc@aol.com

From: suzanne bennett [mailto:suzannebennett@rocketmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 3:51 PM
To: ECOSUB
Subject: County Energy Projects

To Whom It May Concern:
Please **DO NOT** approve the proposed energy projects in East San Diego County. San Diego Gas & Electric is motivated solely by profit and has no genuine interest in the environment, in supporting green power, in maintaining a reasonable rate structure, or in taking responsibility for the damage its power lines have caused and will continue to cause.
The proposed Sunrise Powerlink is a disastrous project that will be a blight on the aesthetics of the land in East County. The need for a trans-county powerline is questionable but if SDG&E has convinced you it is a wise endeavor then at least, make them run the line **UNDERGROUND** for its entire length. If that is too costly, then stop the Sunrise Powerlink and develop local power generation projects (e.g. solar panels) that will benefit local communities as well as individual energy producers/consumers. It's not too late for the CPUC to reconsider the legacy it's bequeathing to the citizens of California.
I would not be writing this letter unless I believed that we have leaders with vision and guts enough to stand against the pressure of "Let's do it fast and do it my way" profiteers.
Thank you for considering my opinion.
Suzanne Bennett
1524 Savin Drive
El Cajon, CA 92021
(619) 447-2954

HAMANN
COMPANIES

Real Estate Development
Property Management
General Contracting

LIC # 375142

1000 PIONEER WAY, EL CAJON, CA 92020
PHONE: 619-440-7424 FAX: 619-440-8914

February 4, 2010

Mr. Iain Fisher
California Public Utilities Commission
c/o Dudek
ecosub@dudek.com

Re: ECO Substation Project

Dear Mr. Fisher:

I live in East San Diego County and am a Project Manager for Hamann Companies, which owns approximately 2,000 acres of land in the Boulevard area north of Interstate 8. This region is ideal for renewable energy development due to its vast wind, solar and geothermal resources. We need to take advantage of this opportunity by building renewable energy projects and infrastructure like the ECO Substation Project. I support this project because it is critical not only to our energy independence, but to economic stability and electric reliability.

As I stated in my testimony at the Boulevard scoping meeting on January 28, tens of thousands of people are out of work in East County. Developing clean energy in the region would create green jobs when they are needed most. Given these benefits, I respectfully request that the socioeconomics section of the EIR/EIS consider the following questions:

1. How many megawatts of renewable energy could feasibly be generated in East County?

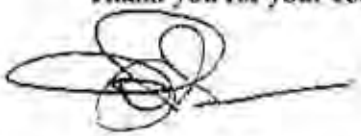
2. How many renewable energy projects (and megawatts of electricity) could be facilitated by the construction of ECO? How many could be facilitated by the project alternatives?

3. How many temporary and permanent jobs would be created in East County if this potential renewable energy were developed?

4. What is the estimate of property tax revenue to the county that could be anticipated by the projects that would be capable of being built because of ECO?

Additionally, I ask that the environmental study quantify the reliability benefits of ECO and the alternatives. This analysis should include reductions in the number and duration of outages in communities served by the existing Boulevard Substation.

Thank you for your consideration of these important issues.



Best regards,

John Gibson
Project Manager

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC)/ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

10 FEB -5 AM 10:03

Joint Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for East County Substation, Tule Wind, and Energia Sierra Juarez Gen-tie Projects

Written Comment Form

(please print)

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Name*: ALDAN RUBIO

Affiliation (*if any*):*

Address:* 4454B SEELEY AVE

City, State, Zip Code:* JACUMBA, CA 91934

Telephone Number:* 619-766-9187

Email:* arei1@yahoo.com

I ATENDED THE PRESENTATION FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT IN THE EAST COUNTY.

I BELIEVE THAT WITH ONE HOUR OF PRESENTATION, NO PRIOR INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROJECT. IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO ASSES THE VALUE OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROJECT AND THE HORRIBLE AND TERRIBLE IMPACT THAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE RURAL EAST COUNTY

THE ABOVE PROJECT HAS A LOT OF FAULTS AND YOU DID NOT MENTION ANY OF THEM. THERE ARE ~~SEEM~~ SO MANY POINTS AND SO MANY VARIATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS THAT ONE HOUR WAS NOT ENOUGH

I THINK THAT IS A PROJECT THAT IF EVER STARTS WILL NEVER BE FINISHED. AND AS WE ALWAYS SAY OR THEY ALWAYS TELL US, "THAT BEFORE WE START SOMETHING, WE SHALL LOOK AT WHAT WE ALREADY STARTED AND IF IS NOT PROPERLY FINISHED AND DOES NOT WORK UP WHAT IS THE PURPOSE TO START ANOTHER ONE"

LOOK THE ONE IN RIVERSIDE NOT EVEN 10% ARE WORKING WHY NOT FIX WHAT IS BROKEN AND INVEST IN THERE TO UPGRADE AND BRING TO SAN DIEGO

SEE PAGE # 2

** Please print. Your name, address, and comments become public information and may be released to interested parties if requested.*

Please either deposit this sheet at the sign-in table before you leave today, or fold, stamp, and mail. Insert additional sheets if needed. Comments can also be faxed or emailed.

(See reverse for additional information)

P. P. U. C.

B L M.

EAST COUNTY SUBSTATION JULE WIND AND
ENERGY SIERRA JUAREZ GEN-TIE PROJECT

LOOK AT GOLDEN ACORN PROJECT HOW LONG IT
BEEN WORKING THEY HAVE TRIED TO FIX THE PROBLEMS
AND THEY HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESFUL,

MAKE ONE OF THEM TO WORK

AND AFTER ALL THOSE ARE WORKING
PROPERLY INVEST THE TIME ENERG
MAN POWER IN A NEW ONE.

JACUMBA COMMUNITY, BACKFIELD COMMUNITY
TIERRA DEL SOL AND ALL ADJAYCENTS COMMUNITIES
WONT BENEFIT OUT OF THE PROJECT.

SINCERELY

ADAM RUBIO

February 6, 2010

Iain Fisher
California Public Utilities Commission
C/O Dudek
605 Third Street
Encinitas, CA 92024

Dear Mr. Fisher:

Thank you for coming to our community and conducting the scoping hearing and I enjoyed our conversation before and after the hearing. I am writing in regards to the EIR/EIS for SDG&E's proposed ECO Substation project. As a former Marine, I strongly believe that we, as a nation, must wean ourselves away from foreign oil and fossil fuels. Renewable energy will play an integral role in this process, which is why projects like the ECO Substation are so important. With that said, I would like to see the issues below included in the EIR/EIS.

Air Quality

The EIR/EIS should analyze the environmental benefits of renewable energy in terms of air quality by including the following information:

- The number of renewable energy projects that could be developed if the ECO Substation project is built.
- The number of fossil-fueled power plants that could hypothetically be replaced if these renewable energy projects are developed.
- The potential greenhouse gas emission reductions created by the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy in East County.
- The percentage of the region's AB 32 targets that could be reached because of these reductions.

Socioeconomics

From an economic perspective, I would like the EIR/EIS to identify:

- The amount of income wind farms could generate for local farmers and ranchers through capital investment as well as to local labor and suppliers during construction and post-construction.
- Whether or not wind development in East County could raise property values for large tracts of private, developable land and whether it will adversely impact residential property values in the area.

I hope you will incorporate this information into the project's environmental document.

Sincerely,

Randy Lenac
2627 Cameron Truck Trail
Campo, CA 91906
(619)478-5403

Elizabeth Higgins, Realtor®
1087 Pine Dr., El Cajon, CA 92020
February 7, 2010

Iain Fisher
California Public Utilities Commission
c/o Dudek
605 Third Street
Encinitas, California 92024
ecosub@dudek.com

Re: Comments on ECO Substation

Mr. Fisher:

I am a real estate broker and have worked in the real estate business for over 40 years. As such, I carefully consider impacts to property values in evaluating any potential project. Of particular interest to me is a December 2009 study showing that wind farms have no negative effect on residential property values (http://eetd.lbl.gov/EA/EMP). I respectfully ask the Commission to include a similar study for eastern San Diego County in the ECO Substation environmental report. Specifically, I would like to know if the wind development spurred by the project would impact home prices in the area as either an increase or decrease in value. Real estate values at this time are greatly devalued as a result of current market economics.

In a similar vein, the report should determine: 1) Whether or not the ECO Substation/wind development would attract new residents to the area by creating additional jobs; 2) How this population growth would affect demand for housing and other services provided by local businesses; and 3) How this new demand would benefit the local economy. Would additional schools and public safety services be needed, and would the cost of such services be offset by increased property tax revenue?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proceedings. I believe the ECO Substation is a lynch pin that will ultimately facilitate wind energy development and benefit eastern San Diego County. I hope a thorough assessment of these positive elements will be included in the environmental analysis.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Higgins, Realtor®
DRE license#: 00323802
Phone: 619-441-2717

From: jimburnsfree [mailto:jimburnsfree@me.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 6:06 PM
To: ECOSUB
Cc: Luke Gordon; Fanshen X; Mursshud Van Merlin; Ha Ha; Aba One; Jack Rudra
Subject: Scoping Comments for inclusion in the ECO Substation Scoping Report

I am submitting comments for review by the appropriate parties in creating final plans for the ECO Substation Project.

My name is James Freeburn. I represent a church and a religious community which has organized to purchase and maintain residence for church personnel on parcel #'s 659 030 04 00 and 612 120 53 00. We also own an adjacent property to the south (parcel 659 030 11 00) giving us use of 165 acres total. We treat these individual properties as a single piece of property. We have been there since 1994. Our organization is called The New Being Project. We are a 501(3) non-profit with an IRS letter of determination of tax exemption and church status. We have been incorporated since 1974. I currently serve as a member of the board and vice-president of the non-profit. I work closely with the legal owners of all properties cited in these comments. All parties are part of a community of church members have purchased the properties as a religious community to further our church's work.

Our property is used as retreat residence for our church members and we also grow food and raise animals to feed our community as allowed by our zoning. We offer free yoga, spiritual practice, and food to the surrounding community.

We purchased the property primarily because of its seclusion, it's agricultural possibilities, and its natural beauty.

While not opposed the Eco Substation Project in principle, its proposed path grossly interferes with our use of our properties. I seek to petition the planners and approvers of this project to make route or structural changes which will mitigate the impact of the currently proposed route on our church activities.

To further this petition, I offer the following list of negative impacts the current routing will have on the use and value of our property:

1) It appears as though the proposed route seeks to hug the borders of parcel 659 030 04 00 and then to cross directly across our smaller parcel 612 120 53 00.

However since we own and use the property adjacent to this border on its southern side, the proposed route effectively cuts our 165 acres in half. Our property was purchased for personal retreat and residence. It was purchased for the peace and simplicity that is afforded by rural living. Our church greatly values the natural beauty of the land and the skies. Our property, in particular, enjoys beautiful views of boulders and skyline. The views on the property are the perfect setting for the retreat and contemplation purposes for which our church members use the property. Huge metal towers viewable from every side of our property will eliminate the beautiful and natural quality of this setting. The spectacular night-time views of the stars will also be greatly degraded by the towers and lighting that come with it.

2) Our community grows its own food and raises animals. Our property is specifically zoned for residential agriculture. We are actively farming on many parts of our property. We have plans for organic farming and cultivating every available square foot. The towers and the roads that service them will decrease our available square footage. Also, the construction of towers and roads could affect how water sheds and collects on the property perhaps making more square footage unusable. The EIR/EIS acknowledge that hazardous materials will be used during construction and maintenance of the power lines. Segments of our soil could be rendered unfit for organic or even conventional farming in this process.

3) We live and farm solely and access to quality ground water through our wells. The EIR/EIS acknowledge that construction and maintenance of new power lines could negatively affect the quality and availability of our ground water.

4) Construction will be very noisy and disruptive. Continuing maintenance will bring workers and vehicles regularly onto our land which our church purchased for privacy, retreat, meditation and contemplation. It is the combination of natural beauty and secluded quiet that makes our property uniquely suitable for our church's residential retreat purposes.

5) Erecting the power lines will certainly greatly lower the value of the two parcels upon which the lines are physically located, however, additionally, since they are set to be placed right along the border of the southern property (parcel # 659 030 11 00) and no other natural border exists, the value of the adjacent property also owned by our community will no doubt suffer as well. Since the properties have little other value for most potential buyers than their natural beauty and their agricultural potentials , the power lines pose a great

threat to our ability to sell the properties for their current market value should they prove to be unusable for our stated church purposes.

6) Our property is used residentially and for enjoying hiking and other outdoor activities by people of all ages including many children. There is very legitimate concern over EMF effects closely spreading over our properties from the proposed lines. People from our church will necessarily be in close proximity to these towers at all times as they spend time on our land. It would be prudent to erect the towers as far away from human habitation as possible. The current proposed route does nothing to avoid exposing our church members to whatever harmful effects that EMF can induce.

It is our community's deeply held hope that the planners and approvers of this project find these considerations important and put due effort into mitigating these impacts to our land and our church community. I would like to work directly with someone from the engineering and design team so that the planners would understand specifically how we use our land and would then adjust the current routes to minimize the impact on our use of the land we own. I feel there are seemingly minor changes in the routing which would go far to move us in the desired direction.

Sincerely,

James Freeburn
New Being Project
1585 Jewel Valley Rd
Boulevard CA 91905
619-758-5360

jimburnsfree@me.com

From: Ken Daubach [mailto:dumptruck.01@wildblue.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 11:09 PM
To: ECOSUB
Subject: Eco Substation CPUC Hearing

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to comment. We realize there are many different views on this project. We are thankful that we can present some of the comments we have.

These are some questions and contradictions we've taken notice of from SDG&E. We have attended meetings, hearings, and participated at these meetings and hearings. We have asked questions have not received answers to these questions. We've written letters and emails stating our concerns.

First of all, SDG&E has been telling us since March 2009 that it is necessary for our safety to turn off our power during high winds and extreme fire conditions. Yet, they want to put more fire hazards in our area. They have also stated that steel poles and undergrounding are not options out here even though there is such a high risk of fire. They have told us that we are not high priority for steel poles after repeatedly saying what high risk our community is in. They have also said that undergrounding is impractical and expensive. They have even set up Care Centers with Red Cross in case they will have to shut the power off. Locally in the Boulevard area, there is no Care Center as we had no buildings that could accommodate one. The few facilities that are set up are few and far between. If they are going to create an outage, they should provide an adequate place for a Care Center. Red Cross stated that the Care Centers would only be open in the day hours. Residents in the backcountry will be on their own during the night hours. This includes such problems as heat and cold as well as no running water. The facilities are set up with no showers available and very limited bathrooms. They also will not allow overnight stays. Nothing will be set up for animals of any kind. They felt that livestock owners could ship in water for their animals, even though the nearest water is 60 miles away and the cost would be horrendous. When SDG&E was questioned about this, they said that it was a temporary process not to exceed three or four days. Although the shelters are only supposed to be operating for three to four days, the power will not be turned on until the lineman have inspected every line. This process would not start until the weather or fire danger is gone. They admitted that linemen walking long distances could go beyond the four days the care centers will be running. SDG&E also plans to install enough power resources out here to be gathered at the Eco-Substation and transmitted through the Sunrise Powerlink to keep San Diego city's power flowing. These lines and power sources, while posing a greater danger, will not be turned off during these times. SDG&E handed out $200 debit cards to a select few who could use these when the power went out. No one seemed aware of what the criteria was to get one of these cards though.

SDG&E assures us that they have a helicopter set up for fire suppression. CalFire has warned us that only their helicopters can enter a fire zone and that SDG&E's helicopters will not be allowed in. Also CalFire says that they are unable to fight fires below lines. This brings up that SDG&E will now be installing towers for their lines with helicopters

to save on access roads. This will leave even less opportunities for fire fighters to do their job. Electrical repairs with helicopters are one of the top ten dangerous jobs. There are extremely high winds out here. The cost of having these installed by helicopters and the downtime waiting for the wind to let up, will it be worth it? Boulevard already has the military and Border Patrol flying over their homes, now SDG&E wants to add more. Our homes already shudder when the helicopters fly over. It wasn't too long ago that an airport was being considered for Boulevard but due to winds and gusts as well as various other factors, they were unable to proceed. This makes the helicopters seem impractical.

SDG&E has been consistently raising their rates to the rate payers while conducting phone surveys (outsourced) that allow no real opinion to be expressed, leaving phone messages about how to lower bills, and advertising their 'green' energy through fliers, billboards, and television. This could be used toward steel poles or undergrounding power. Things that a lot of us out here would be more willing to see than advertisements and annoying phone calls. The advertising is more directed toward the city occupants anyway.

Community Councils have been set up to help with adjusting the community to these changes. The Council members have been chosen from local residents and business owners as well as interested parties. For Boulevard's Community Council, only 5 of the 13 members are even local. Although CalFire was invited, they didn't invite any local fire fighters from Boulevard's own volunteer department. SDG&E's purpose for these Community Councils is 'purpose of establishing a two-way dialog with community and business leaders, who can serve as liaisons with their friends, neighbors, and colleagues.' If these people are not leaders or even residents in their community how can they spread the information among the community members? Not even the locals on the Community Council have tried to communicate with anyone else.

The farther the distance from the source to the user, the more power loss. The Powerlink is extremely long but the high voltage should push more power through. Even considering this though, an SDG&E representative said that the power would be decreased through Alpine due to the larger population.

Will the rate payers be seeing any of the benefits of surplus and tax? Or is this just a project to make the big companies and the government look good and green while trampling the people who make up their jurisdiction?

These are some comments from Don Haines, SDG&E's resource manager, when he attended the last Planning Group meeting. Haines remarked that the current route is 'a ridiculous serpentine thing.... Craziest thing you've ever saw.' Haines also stated that SDG&E was shocked that the Southern Route was chosen. They didn't think it was a good idea and they didn't want it. If SDG&E doesn't even like this idea, why are they going forward with it?

About the Energia Sierra Juarez Gen-Tie. Yes, this is a quick solution for green energy, however, land resources will be destroyed that can never be replaced. It also is relying on a third-world country to remain peaceful and friendly as well as cooperative. Mexico currently is a danger along the border for Border Patrol. Even law enforcement officers

must take special precautions before visiting Mexico. There are valid reasons for the current unrest. Is it wise to rely on a foreign power at this time? If the drug cartel can't even be controlled along our side of the border, how can terrorists be controlled on their side? The residents of the area in Mexico are getting a one-time offer and no power from this project. How long will they be satisfied with this arrangement?

About turbine projects. Would this many turbines even be considered if there were no stimulus money or tax credits? In areas of little rain, the turbines accumulate dirt, grime, and insect deposits that impair and reduce performance for longer periods. So far, even though we are a high wind area, none of the turbines have been equipped with blades with air brakes. There are many things that can go wrong with turbines and some of the problems are almost impossible to control. 95% of all design for turbine safety alone is about controlling the speed of the blades. CO2 emissions have not even been reduced at all by using wind power and costs increase due to backup maintenance and transmission. A quote from Dr. Christopher Hanning: 'The only mitigation for wind turbine noise is to place a sufficient distance between the turbines and places of human habitation.' Health effects related to noise are not even fully explored yet. All the turbine projects weave in and around residential areas in the Boulevard area. The average winds in this area are almost too high to have the turbines producing any power. SDG&E doesn't even buy all the turbine power currently produced in our area, why will they in the future? They state that they need more green energy produced to prevent outages but right now they don't even buy all the green energy available to them locally and there have not been rolling brownouts or other outage problems. It has been stated by the Fire Marshall that above ground transmission and/or collector lines are a high risk in the backcountry and should be avoided. We are told that the turbine's footprint is very small. If solar was put on all existing buildings, there would be no footprint. Instead of SDG&E spending billions of dollars on permanently changing the landscape, they could put their money into solar which wouldn't scar anything or destroy something irreplaceable. They would be able to help their rate payers at the same time. BLM had to downgrade McCain Valley/Lark Canyon in order to allow industrialization. Is sacrificing government protected lands necessary? They were protected for a reason. Cleveland National Forest is now allowing meteorological towers for testing for turbines although their mission statement is "The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." When is it going to stop? When there are no open spaces left?

About the Kumeyaay Wind Farm. Tribal chairman, Monique LaChappa, came to one of the Boulevard Planning Group meetings to talk about her up and coming wind project. When she was asked if the tribe supported the Sunrise Powerlink, she said that they did not support it and were against it. It was explained to her that she must be mistaken because her new project would be connected with the Sunrise Powerlink. LaChappa said that according to her information this was not true. That night, SDG&E's Don Parent was also at the meeting. So, he was asked if the Sunrise Powerlink and the new wind project would be connected. He said that if you had the one you would have to have the other. LaChappa asked why if SDG&E knew the tribal stand on this, why wouldn't have they informed them? Don Parent told her that the tribe never asked.

Below are some comments from Ken Daubach, a witness to the trouble with the turbines on the night of December 7, 2009. Prior to December 7th, the turbines had been shut-off due to the high winds.

December 7, 2009: SDG&E power outage from 2:30-3:30 PM. Between 11:00 and 11:30 PM, I was traveling westbound on Interstate 8 following a snow plow. I was driving at approximately 5 mph. I saw a bright blue flash of what originally looked like a large electrical discharge that started in the center and lit up the whole hillside.

January 13, 2010: Received Sign On San Diego Union Tribune article through email. It stated that David Barnes was the chief executive of the Bluarc company. We accidently sent an email to Linked In when trying to contact David Barnes.

January 15, 2010: Looked up a December 8, 2009 article on Sign On San Diego that mentioned a Neal Emmerton, the regional assistant manager for Bluarc.

January 19, 2010: Got an email from Linked In telling us that we had accidently sent our email to them. Found contact information for Bluarc on the internet. 5307 E. Mockingbird Lane, 7th Floor, Dallas, TX 75206. Phone number: (214) 515-1100. Fax: (214) 268-9929. Called and left a message for CEO David Barnes. The voicemail we left, asked him to call us back.

January 28, 2010: Called David Barnes again. He was out to lunch.

January 28, 2010: Attended the CPUC/BLM meeting. Gave a short talk about what I witnessed. Onell Soto of the San Diego Union Tribune took my contact info. but has not yet contacted me. Talked to a Mr. Shannon (?) the Kumeyaay Wind Farm Controller. He said that the manufacturer was not being cooperative and that SDG&E had shut down the turbines numerous times due to putting in steel poles. He didn't know what had happened to the turbines. He also said that the employee that told the newspaper that there was lightning got into trouble. He stated that there was no lightning and no fire and that no one was hurt. Due to the insurance company and investors, they need to get the turbines up and running quickly.

February 1, 2010: Left another message with David Barnes. Neal Emmerton called back at 1:30 PM. His number is 760-318-2805. His comments were that the workers had left the site due to safety issues. They have verified with the military that there were no lightning strikes that evening. I described to him what I saw. I mentioned that SDG&E had a power outage the day of the storm. Neal agreed and said that while rerouting power, they had inadvertently been taken off-the grid that day too. He admitted that they have no idea what is wrong. They have 8 turbines with blades on but none of them are working.

February 4, 2010: I ran into the engineer that attended the CPUC meeting. I still didn't get his name but I talked to him for about 20 minutes. They will be putting up two turbines a day, weather permitting. They can't leave the blades lying on the ground. He said that at 10:30 PM on December 7th, he did turn something on. At one time, he called the whole event a catastrophic failure. At another time, he called it the worst possible scenario. He also said that the next two hundred turbines that they were going to put up would be General Electric which are much better turbines. They will be hiring 1 employee for every five turbines. He got the job up there by going to greenjobs.org, taking a test, and attending their training. He claims that the turbines are sitting on a 30 foot deep pad. He agreed with me that solar leaves no footprint when installed on existing rooftops.

February 6, 2010: Miriam Raftery, editor of the East County Magazine, called but I was at work. She said she would get in touch with me on the 7th.

February 7, 2010: Miriam called back and interviewed me.

Since this outline, an article has been written in the East County Magazine.

These turbines have been out of commission for over two months. There have been no rolling brownouts to our knowledge anywhere in San Diego County. So even the wind that SDG&E is purchasing from these turbines is not needed. This does not support the reason that Sunrise Powerlink will be bringing in much needed power.

As a family, we agree that green energy is the way to go. However, we also believe in

having major decisions well-planned out. During this economy, to demand so many sacrifices from people in small towns and to cause the rates to go up when so many have trouble already with their bills, makes it hard to stand behind a company that contradicts itself. They make statements that don't mean anything or that sounded good at the time. Please take this email into consideration. Once this is done, it can never be undone. Land cannot be reconstructed. When your thinking of the future, consider the earth itself.

Ken, Tammy, Michelle, Kristy, & Sherry Daubach
39954 Ribbonwood Rd.
Boulevard, CA 91905
(619) 766-4033
dumptruck.01@wildblue.net

February 11, 2010

Iain Fisher
California Public Utilities Commission
c/o Dudek
605 Third Street
Encinitas, California 92024

Dear Mr. Fisher:

Subject: SDG&E's ECO Substation Project

I am a resident of Campo, California. Campo is a small, mountain community east of San Diego. For the past several years, Campo and the surrounding communities have been the subject of alternative energy generation. There's plenty of sun around here and the wind is said to be some of the most consistent in the country. My husband and I have been attempting to pursue some sort of renewable energy for our own home. We have been unable to achieve this goal due to the high costs of photo voltaic (well over $100,000) or a windmill. Many of us will never be able to take advantage of clean energy in any form unless it is offered to us through some company that is putting out millions of dollars to develop it.

In the past I have run into people in this community who do not want windmills on the ridges. They do not want commercial solar panels within view. Neither of these are reasonable in my opinion. It is windier on the ridges and solar panels cannot be entirely hidden if they must face the southern sky.

I am of the belief that we need to become independent of foreign oil. We need to become energy independent. Solar, wind and nuclear are our best choices at this time in history as far as I can see. Commercial development of these energy sources is the only way to get off foreign oil. Solar and wind generation are in their baby stages. Without development and use that will lead to improvements, they will never get out of the baby stage. We have to start somewhere.

Some in this community are fearful that such projects will negatively impact human health and welfare as well as local wildlife. Each of these concerns should be able to be addressed one at a time and mitigated in one way or another. Simply finding the most appropriate location may be all that's necessary to address many of these issues. We should not dismiss these projects until we've had the chance to evaluate them thoroughly. We could be passing up the chance to make significant positive impacts on our environment that will last long into the future.

I understand that San Diego Gas & Electric will have to build a new substation and make improvements to other parts of its system in order to accept these new sources of

generation. I support such improvements so long as they also result in a more reliable electric system for the Mountain Empire communities.

Sincerely,

Margaret Stahlheber
1075 Meanwhile Ranch Road
Campo, CA. 91906

Dennis & Connie Berglund
Sandy Creek Ranch
33408 Sandy Creek Lane
P.O. Box 776, Pine Valley, CA 91962
(619) 478-2600 fax (619) 478-2555
Internet: http://www.sandycreekranch.com

February 12, 2010

Iain Fisher
CPUC Project Manager
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Thomas Zale
BLM Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
El Centro Field Office
1661 S. 4th Street
El Centro, CA 92243

SUBJECT: Comments and Concerns re East County Energy Projects

We are residents and business owners living and working in the rural East County of San Diego. We recently attended the open hearings regarding the environmental impact for several projects currently planned for the rural East County area. These are:

- SDG&E ECO Substation
- Energia Sierra Juarez (ESJ) Gen-Tie Project
- Iberdrola Renewables 200MW Tule Wind Project

In addition to these projects, there are other projects in the rural East County that are also planned and are of a similar nature. These are:

- Campo Reservation Wind Energy Project
- Cuyapaipe Indian Reservation Wind Energy Project
- Other proposed wind energy projects on the desert rim
- Wind and solar energy projects by individuals and businesses

We are very concerned that the quantity and type of projects being planned for the rural East County will have an overall negative effect if all aspects of each project are not analyzed properly and if all projects are not considered in their total effect on the region. The following are our comments regarding areas we feel should be investigated while the CPUC and BLM evaluations are under way including SEQA and NEPA reviews.

Summary

1. The past record of the CPUC regarding approval of the Sunrise Powerlink even though the administrative staff stated that the project was not needed causes concerns that the technical review and the residents' comments will have no bearing on the CPUC decisions.

2. Renewable energy technology is moving very rapidly and the construction today may be quickly outdated and the investments lost.

3. The United States energy distribution grid currently has no convenient or cost effective method of energy storage; therefore, most all energy must be produced only when needed by the consumer.

4. The recent past history of existing wind mills installed on the Campo Indian Reservation shows that these large, imposing machines are vulnerable to damage by natural forces of weather.

5. So many projects at one time within a rural population area will likely have a huge cumulative impact. All projects must be examined at the same time to evaluate these impacts.

6. The rural population of 10,000 is only a small portion of the 3.2 million residents of San Diego County, but all of these impacts will only affect these rural residents. The pristine natural environment of the rural East County must be protected although there are far fewer voters living here.

Detailed Discussion

1. <u>The past record of the CPUC decisions</u>.
   a. Just last year the CPUC voted to approve the Sunrise Powerlink even though two administrative law judges stated in their reports that the Powerlink was not needed now or in the future.
   b. The CPUC approved SEMPRA energy to use a snake-like powerline path that has not been properly investigated since SEMPRA really wanted to put the power line in the desert. The alternatives were never properly investigated but this made no difference to four of the five CPUC commissioners.
   c. The CPUC chose this alternative although this alternative was the fourth best alternative according to CPUC staff research. Therefore, the CPUC ignored better alternatives without regard to the science or the concerns and recommendations of the residents.
   d. We are concerned that, while you are conducting what may be a thorough examination of all these projects, in the end the CPUC will disregard all your research and vote in a way that benefits the energy companies involved in these projects.

2. Renewable energy technology is moving rapidly.
   a. In the past, renewable energy technology had moved slowly because there was no apparent large market for renewable energy usage. Today, the situation has changed since, both for cost effectiveness and foreign policy reasons, renewable energy has become very important to our nation.
   b. We are just at the beginning of emerging technologies such as improved solar panels and new areas such as algae production for fuel sources. You can see new emerging technologies almost every day now that there is an apparent market and development money is available to pursue these new technologies.
   c. Wind power has been used in the past to develop electrical energy, but the advancements in wind power are not occurring at the rate of new technologies which appear to promise even greater efficiencies in the future.
   d. The installation of wind generators, while they appear to be a good investment at this time, may be a very poor investment as new technologies replace the use of wind with our most readily energy source, the sun.
   e. As part of the evaluation of the installation of wind generators in the rural East County, consideration must be given to the future availability of other sources that will be better for our environment over time.
   f. Examples of such technologies are:
      - Development of CIGS solar panels which promise greater efficiency.
      - MIT development of hydrogen-oxygen storage systems that promise a cost-effective locally installed energy storage system.
      - Vertical axis wind turbines that are quiet, efficient, and do not harm birds.
      - Algae farming that would produce promising biofuels while being able to be farmed in a similar manner to crops.
      - High temperature super conductors that promise more efficient electrical transmission capability, can be easily installed underground, eliminating the need for obsolete transmission towers.

3. No convenient method of energy storage
   a. While the U.S. has been rushing to install wind generation as the solution for our electrical power problems, the fact that we have no convenient or efficient energy storage system has been neglected.
   b. While energy can be generated by wind when it is blowing, and solar during sunlight hours, there are no good ways to store excess energy. Therefore, the energy must be generated only when it's needed to be consumed.
   c. There have been some large scale energy storage solutions which have involved pumping water uphill when the energy is available and allowing

it to flow downhill through generators when power is needed, in the same manner as an electricity generating dam, but these storage solutions are not generally available on the U.S. electrical distribution grid.

d. While there is research in new ways of electrical storage, there are currently no viable storage methods, meaning that wind generators will only run when power is required. You have probably seen fields of wind generators where most generators are not functioning. This is largely due to the fact that the excess electrical power is not required at that time and, therefore, the wind generators must sit idle.

4. The recent history of Campo Reservation wind generators

a. Several years ago, 25 2MW wind generators were installed on the Campo Indian Reservation and situated along the Tecate Divide. We have no factual data indicating the yearly power output, but we have noticed that there are many times when only a few of those generators are turning.

b. We have been told by wind generator manufacturers that the overall efficiency of any typical wind generator is about 30 percent. This means that a 2MW wind generator is actually a .6MW electrical producer over time. If we are going to sacrifice the pristine rural mountains, we believe we should receive a greater output than 30 percent efficiency. Other, more benign, energy generators will yield greater efficiency.

c. Recently, high winds and weather have caused damage to all 25 of the Campo wind generators. We were initially told that the problem was caused by lightning, although no residents saw lightning. We were later told that the damage was caused by high winds. This is unusual because the winds experienced during that time were not as high as has been experienced in previous years. Investigation may reveal that this region may not be the best for installing this type of wind generator due to the nature of erratic winds.

d. We understand that the Campo Reservation is planning for the installation of 25 or more new wind turbines. This information should be included in your evaluation of all current projects.

e. We are concerned that the wind generator market is being driven by the huge tax incentives available to wind generator installations rather than the profit that could be realized through the sale of the electricity. This means to us that the investors are more interested in completing the installation of any wind turbines, rather than being interested in the long term profitability of electricity generation. If the investors are primarily interested in the tax incentives, there will be limited future incentives to keep these huge wind turbines operational as new and better electrical generation technologies become available.

5. Cumulative impact of so many energy projects at one time in the rural area

a. Your documentation lists several projects on both sides of the Mexico-California border that are being evaluated at the same time. Your documentation, however, does not mention the many other proposed

projects in the same area of the same or similar type. As an example, there are projects such as:

- Campo Reservation Wind Energy Project
- Sunrise Powerlink
- Cuyapaipe Indian Reservation Wind Energy Project
- San Diego Gas & Electric proposed electrical shut-off plan
- Other proposed wind energy projects on the desert rim
- Wind and solar energy projects by individuals and businesses

b. It is our belief that all area projects must be evaluated for their cumulative effect on the rural area and the adjacent communities.

6. <u>Disproportional burden on small rural population</u>

a. There are 3.2 million people living in San Diego County, but only approximately 10,000 people live in the rural East County area.

b. It is easy for city residents to say that electrical generators should be placed in rural areas because it will have no effect on their properties. At the same time, the effect on the rural landowner can be severe.

c. Basic engineering principles have always dictated that energy is best generated near its destination. There are technologies currently available that will allow the energy for the larger San Diego population to be developed nearer the population also eliminating the need for transmission lines.

d. These technologies involve solar panels for electricity and solar water heaters that could be installed on rooftops and other area directly adjacent to the large consuming population. This approach is more fully described in the San Diego Smart Energy 2020 Plan developed by Bill Powers. For information go to: www.sdsmartenergy.org.

e. While we understand that 3.2 million people do have energy needs, the rural population of approximately 10,000 has much reduced energy needs and, in most cases, have the land to install sufficient renewable power generation equipment which could make them self-sufficient.

f. The County of San Diego has recently signed on to the California First financing program which will enable local residents to finance their own renewable power system for the first time. This will open a whole new vista for individuals to install their own power system and thereby eliminate the future need for remote power sources such as the wind turbines.

Please include our comments and suggestions in your evaluation and report. Should you need additional information, we would be happy to meet with you at a mutually convenient time.

Respectfully submitted,

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