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# News Release

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## SDG&E's Ill-Conceived Sunrise Powerlink Proposal Experiences Another Blow as Agencies Agree Public is Entitled to More Information

### **Agencies Find Initial Sunrise Powerlink Environmental Review is Missing Information; Decide to Conduct Additional Analysis to Obtain Critical Data**

SAN DIEGO, *Calif.* – After reviewing hundreds of comment letters from agencies, tribal governments, organizations, non-profits, private businesses and community residents, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have determined the Sunrise Powerlink Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement still leaves key questions unanswered. The draft version of the document will be re-circulated, delaying a final decision by the CPUC on the Sunrise Powerlink proposal until at least late November 2008.

The agencies' decision to gather more critical data comes as good news to community, health and environmental groups advocating for clean, renewable 21<sup>st</sup> century energy alternatives to San Diego Gas & Electric's (SDG&E) enormously expensive, fossil-fueled Sunrise Powerlink proposal. Although they were pleased with the conclusion of the initial draft that there are smarter energy solutions for the region than the Sunrise Powerlink proposal, many agreed some areas of the document had noticeable gaps.

The Sunrise Powerlink is SDG&E's proposed 150-mile, high voltage transmission line that would slice across the face of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the Cleveland National Forest, protected preserves and local communities. The cost to California ratepayers is expected to exceed \$9 billion over the life of the project. Expert analysis reveals Sunrise Powerlink is designed to transport fossil-fueled, global warming energy generated by Sempra Energy's new liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal and gas-fired power plants in Mexico to the California electrical grid. Clean, reliable alternatives to the harmful Sunrise Powerlink have been proposed, including the *San Diego Smart Energy 2020* proposal, a "distributed generation" approach.

Micah Mitrosky, Conservation Organizer for the Sierra Club’s San Diego Smart Energy Solutions Campaign commented, “The agencies did the right thing for the public today by deciding to re-issue the report in order to fill gaps left in the initial environmental analysis. We applaud them for their diligence to leave no stone unturned in exploring all of the environmental and community impacts of this harmful, unnecessary proposal.”

Donna Tisdale, Chair of the Boulevard Community Planning Group applauded the agencies’ decision to re-issue the draft document, “The Sunrise Powerlink and related projects will have major environmental and community impacts on the border region that may include new facilities and new cross-border transmission lines. Not all of those impacts were fully disclosed or analyzed in the original draft. It is gratifying that the agencies recognized the need, and granted more time, for public review of this very complicated and convoluted project.”

Carolyn Morrow of the Protect our Communities Fund noted, “We are pleased that the CPUC process has been so transparent. The re-circulation of the Draft EIR/EIS is evidence that our government agencies are working for all the people and not just the large corporations. Bravo!”

Joseph Rauh, a real estate broker at Ranchita Realty, agreed adding, “Seeing the CPUC carefully examine all of the issues is great news. I am confident the additional analysis will provide enough proof to them and to the Governor that the Sunrise Powerlink is just a bad idea, especially when there are better alternatives that don’t threaten the safety of our local communities.”

Denis Trafecanty, a local community activist from Santa Ysabel commented, “The agencies have exercised excellent judgment in deciding to take a closer look at all of the environmental and community impacts of this harmful proposal, particularly in light of the overwhelming input from the public during the open comment period.”

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