

Public Comments from California ISO Open House in San Diego

May 19 - 20, 2006

The California ISO is pleased to collect and post comments on the three Southern California transmission projects that were highlighted in our May 19-20, 2006 Open House in San Diego.

The following documents capture the comments we heard from interested stakeholders at the Open House. Please note that the titles preceding each section of comments reflect the theme of the Open House booth to which the comments apply. To maintain the intent of the person who shared the comment, these viewpoints have been transcribed exactly as we heard them.

Lifecycle

Where is the CPUC? I wish they would hold such an open house.

ISO Role

Did you consider Hi Capacity conductor like ACCR to preclude having to build new lines. Jim Charters

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Can the ISO require / recommend that in-basin renewables be developed prior to out of basin that need expensive transmission? Laura Hunter - EHC

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Sunrise is needed. The region will grow by 37% by 2030 (31% employment growth) and repowering Encina & South Bay will be difficult. Building additional power plants like OTAY & Palomar will be challenging since San Diego is extremely limited in respect to 20+ acre parcels near existing transmission lines.

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We hope CAISO remembers Sempra's role in the 2001 "energy crisis".

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Strengthening the grid system seems to be a function of both generation and transmission. Proper decisions cannot be made without looking at both. If different entities are evaluating this, one doesn't necessarily obtain the best analysis.

Renewables

Maybe your graphs showing solar potential could be readable at your next meeting.

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Tapping into renewable resources at the expense of protected lands does not equal green energy.

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The unrealistic development schedule needed for the Sterling Energy Systems (SES) Imperial County centralized solar plant is a set up for failure.

When the cost figures of SES aren't met, SDG&E will state "see solar doesn't work".

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We need to figure out how SDG&E can make & develop distributed solar within our county.

Conservation

Morrell Cyn - NO

Decker Cyn - Maybe

Walt Hansen, Native Californian, Age 83

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Conservation? Building transmission lines through protected lands - open spaces, preserves, state parks - is not good conservation. We want responsible conservation. Cool roofs could save huge amounts of air conditioning energy usage. Even in residential. The first step in conservation is awareness that dark roofs consume power in the form of air conditioning.

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Conservation of our precious lands is in the Charter of the California State Parks. Where does the State Park stand on the Sunrise Power line going through our State Park?

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The Governor's office has forbidden State Parks to take a position on the SDG&E plan to run the "Sunrise Power link" through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

Projects

Please evaluate the SWPL and its upgrade rather than the Sunrise Power Line. Possible routing it past Miguel substation to the north as an alternative & the additional options to drop a load when two lines are taken out by a single event.

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Why is the Department of State Parks silent about the Sunrise Power line? Doesn't anybody managing the Anza Borrego state park have an opinion about this? I'd like to hear their view on this environmental impact.

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Although difficult to quantify, shouldn't the Cal ISO evaluate the environmental impacts (not just monitoring) of the sunrise Power Link? CPUC maybe needs to evaluate these impacts.

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It seems unreasonable to evaluate a solar panel's capability that can contribute to reliable power generation by cutting the nameplate efficiency by 50%. This is especially true for distributed solar on an air-conditioned building. As the clouds block the sun, the buildings air conditioning load also drops.

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No lines through State Parks - LWV

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We hope you or CPUC will require in-basin Renewable Energy before un-necessary multi-billion \$ power lines are run. Laura Hunter - EHC

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Please consider the negative impacts to running a transmission superhighway through Anza Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP). ABDSP is also a designated National Natural Land Mark and a U.N. Biosphere Reserve.

What We've Heard

Sunrise is only being built to access Mexican generation.

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SDG&E should build a transmission line from Mexico instead of Sunrise.

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The Sunrise / Green path line should not go through parks.

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SDG&E should install solar panels on all homes in San Diego instead.

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SDG&E will seize land through eminent domain.

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Power from Sunrise / Green path will be exported out of California or to serve Los Angeles load not San Diego.

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San Diego should build generation closer to San Diego.

Sunrise / Green path is too expensive compared to other lines built.

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There is no guarantee that if you build the Tehachapi lines, generators will build there.

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Wind turbines are inefficient.

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Wind turbines are not reliable because they only work when the wind blows.

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Wind turbines kill birds.

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The ISO is unduly influenced by the utilities.

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Pump storage does not make sense because you use 600 MW to pump the water and only get 500 MW.

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Building the dam will ruin the environment and canyons.

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The LEAPS transmission line will cause extreme fire danger.

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Homeowners near LEAPS will not be able to get fire insurance.

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LEAPS will destroy / risk safety of hang gliding area.

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Visitors to LEAPS will increase traffic in area by as much as 400,000 people a year.

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Lake Elsinore water quality may be harmed and not improved.

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The Lake Elsinore Municipal Water District is spending money it may not recover.

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The Sunrise line is needed to import renewable power from Imperial Valley.

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The Sunrise line should be built to ensure reliability of electricity supply to San Diego County.

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If construction of Sunrise line is delayed, it will only be harder to build in the future.

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The Leaps line should connect to Sunrise to permit renewable energy to reach more customers.

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It seems that Sunrise, LEAPS, and Tehachapi can be more efficiently coordinated and designed together to avoid redundancy.

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By first building energy "superhighways" like Sunrise, the Frontier line we are circumventing the need and plan for local generation altogether, leaving us dependent on fossil fueled energy imported from other areas.

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I appreciate your EJ policy! We would like to receive and implementation plan that you have for your policy. In particular, we are concerned that if EJ comments are considered in your analysis and decision making. We also would like to be notified related to the public process for RMR decisions. RMR is an issue that impacts EJ comments in Chula Vista - Laura Hunter, EHC

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So grassroots or organizations band together to stop the Sunrise Power link going through AB "State Park" by getting CPUC support. Local people making a difference locally. It is WRONG for FERC can then over rule the CPUCs decision. That's just not right.

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Please keep in mind the difficulty in repowering Encina and South Bay (and constraints on land availability) before thinking that "In Basin" generation is as easy as critics of Sunrise are saying.

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Energy experts say the SD region can meet its 20% renewable energy with already existing and approved transmission lines like the Southwest power link. Is this true?

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The San Diego Regional Energy Strategy sets a goal of having at least 50% of renewable energy come from in-County resources. Sunrise and some of these other projects appear to work against that goal.

ROUTING:

Please consider the cost of lost natural resources in routing transmission lines. This is a direct cost to rate payers.

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Protected lands are protected. Do not approve transmission lines through protected lands.

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Please consider the San Diego Regional Energy Strategy which calls for in county generation.

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Please conduct in depth analyses on transmission routes that avoid parks, especially Anza Borrego Desert State Park, a transmission line through this part would be a tragedy, and a disservice to future generations of Californians. Other alternatives must be available.

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The Sunrise power line route services Sempra more than renewable energy generation in our region.

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How can we be sure those renewable Mega watts reach the San Diego Region? Sterling Energy System Plant does nothing to contribute to our local generation needs.

Additional Miscellaneous Comments

There is still some confusion or lack of clarity on the roles of the CEC, CPUC, and the ISO.

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Does the ISO have to approve a project before it goes to the CPUC? What is the sequence for review and approval of transmission projects?

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The 15-mile stretch of Wilderness Park is very special and was designated as a wilderness area in the 1930's. It should not be compromised with a transmission corridor for SDG&E for the profit of their shareholders.

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We need to post the posters from the Open House on our web site so that others can use them for their meetings. (Comment from a utility person).

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Very positive feedback on the Open House concept from SCE Transmission Planning.

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SDG&E originally had 19 alternatives and it is not clear why all of these options were eliminated. The rationale on why they were eliminated should be made public so there is more credibility on why the option selected is the best option.

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Proposed route through the Park with a 500 KV line and 100-200 foot right of way would be very visible to all the visitors to the park. It certainly will not be inconspicuous.

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The Park route could only be justified if all other options have clearly been studied and the reasons they don't work should be clear to all participants. If the alternate route around the Park cost more money, that is OK versus the permanent damage to the Park.