

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
PUBLIC HEARINGS
for the Energia Sierra Juarez U.S.
Transmission Line Project

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

Boulevard Fire Station

39919 Highway 94

Boulevard, California

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

1 APPEARANCES:

2 U.S. Department of Energy
3 1000 Independence Avenue, SW
4 Washington, D.C. 20585
5 P (202) 586-3362
6 F (202) 318-7761
7 jerry.pell@hq.doe.gov
8 By: Jerry Pell, Ph.D., CCM

9 County of San Diego
10 Department of Planning and Land Use
11 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
12 San Diego, California 92123
13 P (858) 694-3011
14 F (858) 694-2592
15 patrick.brown@sdcounty.ca.gov
16 By: Patrick Brown,
17 Project Manager

18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 BOULEVARD, CA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2010, 7:15 P.M.

2

3 DR. PELL: Good evening. Some of you were here
4 last night at Jacumba. Those of you that were here
5 before, welcome back. Hopefully you will contribute
6 something new and different tonight.

7 Let me tell you about what we're doing here
8 tonight. Let me identify myself first. I'm Dr. Jerry
9 Pell. I'm an environmental scientist with the
10 Department of Energy in Washington.

11 We're here because we have at DOE received an
12 application for a Presidential permit, which I'll
13 explain in a moment, for a transmission line that
14 proposes to bring wind power from a new wind farm in
15 Baja California to the southern area of San Diego; and
16 that transmission line, because it would cross the
17 border between Mexico and the United States, requires
18 the granting of a so-called Presidential permit.

19 It's called a Presidential permit because it
20 arose from an executive order from the White House
21 requiring it, and that executive order was issued about
22 50 years ago, so it's not something new from this
23 administration. It's been with the government for many
24 years. And the office that handles it has now ended up
25 at DOE where I am.

1 So the matter of deciding whether or not to
2 grant a Presidential permit is considered a major
3 Federal action, and because of that it means that we're
4 required to adhere to the National Environmental Policy
5 Act, NEPA, N-E-P-A, which means that we have to do an
6 environmental analysis.

7 There are three levels of environmental
8 analysis that any project can have. The simplest one is
9 what's called a categorical exclusion where you know
10 there are no potential impacts and all you have to do is
11 essentially write a memo to the file. The middle level
12 is called an environmental analysis, and the most
13 comprehensive, complete version of an environmental
14 review is the Environmental Impact Statement which we're
15 discussing here tonight.

16 You will recall that this project, if you've
17 been following it from its beginnings, did start as an
18 environmental assessment but has now developed into a
19 full-fledged EIS; and the draft that was issued on
20 September 17 is the reason why you're here tonight,
21 because we want to hear your comments on what you think
22 about the draft, its completeness, its adequacy, its
23 technical correctness.

24 What we're not looking for is whether or not
25 specifically you think the project is a good project or

1 whether the project is needed, because that's outside
2 environmental review. That's the kind of thing that
3 would be best brought before your State and County
4 officials where they would be able to consider those
5 kinds of issues. We would not at DOE because it's a
6 private sector project. So it's up to the applicant for
7 them to decide whether or not it economically makes
8 sense, whether it's needed or not, or whether it's going
9 to be profitable. It's not a governmental issue.

10 So I want to start off with a brief slide show.
11 You should have, if you picked it up at the registration
12 counter in the kitchen, you should have a copy of the
13 slide show. It looks like this. And the slides I'm
14 going to show are exactly this, so I'm going to go
15 through them very quickly just to summarize things and
16 then we'll go into the actual comment period of the
17 hearing.

18 By way of further introduction, as I was
19 saying, I'm an environmental scientist. I've been doing
20 environmental work for 40 years and I've been with DOE
21 for 34. I started just after the original Arab oil
22 embargo, and the only reason I haven't retired is
23 because I like what I do and I especially like meetings
24 just like this one where I can meet with you, so I'm
25 glad to be here tonight.

1 Let's go to the second slide, Tim. As I was
2 saying, as I just finished saying, the proposed Federal
3 action is whether or not to issue the Presidential
4 permit. We have a cooperating agency. Patrick Brown is
5 to my right and I'll introduce him in just a moment.
6 And as you will see in a couple of slides, the County of
7 San Diego has a separate process that they follow which
8 Patrick will review in just a couple of minutes.

9 I started mentioning before this section, "NEPA
10 Process to Date," that this started as an environmental
11 assessment, the original application to DOE,
12 December 2007, so it's been almost three years from the
13 time the initial application was submitted to the
14 issuance of the final Environmental Impact Statement.
15 And it was issued on the 17th.

16 The public comment period closes on November
17 the 1st. So regardless of what you say tonight or what
18 you hand us in tonight, you still have plenty of time to
19 send in additional information. How you send it in
20 doesn't matter. It's going to be given the same weight,
21 whether it's spoken or written or e-mailed. It really
22 makes no difference. It still gets the same review.

23 Next slide, Tim. So once the public comment
24 period closes -- all of the comments are going to be
25 public. So whatever you give us will be put on the Web

1 for you to see, for everyone to see what everybody else
2 said. The court reporter's transcript of the hearings
3 will be on the Web site, also.

4 We will then enter the final EIS preparation
5 stage of the process which is the point where we take
6 all your comments under consideration and modify the EIS
7 or revise it or update it, whatever is required to
8 comply with the comments that you've made.

9 That leads to the final document. Once the
10 final document is issued, the Department of Energy then
11 will start preparing a Record of Decision, which is
12 basically just how it sounds. It's the formal document
13 that describes whether or not DOE decided to actually
14 issue a Presidential permit and also whether there are
15 any conditions attached to that Presidential permit.

16 If the agency does issue a positive Record of
17 Decision, i.e., a Record of Decision recommending the
18 issuance of the Presidential permit, then the
19 Presidential permit itself would be issued immediately
20 thereafter. So that's essentially the process.

21 And if you're asking how long it takes to
22 prepare the final EIS, I can't really answer that
23 because it depends on the nature of the comments that we
24 receive from you between now and the 1st of November.
25 Depending on the nature of the comments and how much

1 additional analysis is required, that will drive how
2 long it takes for us to complete the final EIS.

3 Now, let me introduce Patrick Brown who's with
4 the County of San Diego, and I'll let him introduce
5 himself and describe the County process.

6 MR. BROWN: Hi. Thank you everybody for coming
7 tonight and everybody who came last night, welcome back
8 again and I guess I'll see you tomorrow at the planning
9 department.

10 I'm Patrick Brown. I'm a land use
11 environmental planner for the County of San Diego. I
12 work for the Department of Planning and Land Use. I'm
13 also a project manager for the renewable energy projects
14 for the County, so I'm also the project manager of the
15 Tule Wind project, which I'm sure many of you are
16 familiar with, and the ESJ project.

17 The County is a cooperating agency with DOE on
18 this permit, and the reason why we're a cooperating
19 agency is our actions basically layer almost right on
20 top of each other. What Jerry's permitting is the
21 action of the power going across the border. What the
22 County would be permitting is the actual construction
23 and operation of the generation-tie line itself. So
24 it's actually two different permits that are being
25 issued, but they're almost one and the same. That's why

1 the County participated as a cooperating agency to have,
2 you know, our environmental review basically be similar
3 in a way.

4 The County's actually participating with the
5 California Public Utilities Commission on a joint
6 Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact
7 Statement on what they call the East County Substation
8 project. Are many of you familiar with that? Yeah.
9 Okay.

10 So the environmental review that the County
11 would use in its permitting process, which in this case
12 for the generation-tie line would be a Major Use Permit
13 which the first hearing body would be the planning
14 commission and then on appeal would go to the Board of
15 Supervisors, the County would rely on the East County
16 Substation Environmental Impact Report to do its
17 permitting. So although Jerry is doing this
18 environmental review here, the County would not rely on
19 this document at this point, you know, for its
20 permitting discretionary process.

21 Now, in saying that, a lot of the information
22 that Jerry and DOE and Entrix have used in this document
23 was previously reviewed by the County. So when they
24 submitted their application to DOE -- well, years later,
25 basically in 2009 -- Sempra came in and submitted their

1 Major Use Permit application with the County, and we
2 began a sort of environmental review of the technical
3 studies to the County's standards and our guidelines in
4 determining significance and County noise ordinance and
5 lighting ordinance and different, you know, mechanisms
6 stuff as that.

7 We did do a lot of the review of that, and that
8 information has been reviewed. I mean, it's not
9 accepted in final by any means, but the County did
10 review a lot of those technical studies like three times
11 and got a lot of good changes done to that, and that's
12 what Entrix used to develop this. So that's how we
13 participated at this point with DOE on their action, but
14 in saying that, we are participating with the PUC and
15 BLM on the other document which is the one that we'll
16 actually use.

17 Now, that document is not anticipated to come
18 out probably until sometime in the next couple months
19 here. It should be probably the end of this month or
20 November is what the schedule's telling right now. It
21 could be later; it could be sooner. But, though, any
22 comments that you give Jerry tonight, you can also
23 participate in that process with the PUC, and we'll be
24 doing the same thing. We'll be out here having, you
25 know, probably another two or three meetings, but it

1 won't be on this document. It will be on the
2 East County Substation document which is the one that
3 the County will use.

4 I believe I covered off on that. That's it.

5 DR. PELL: That's it. Okay. By the way, the
6 Bureau of Land Management, which is a Federal agency of
7 the Department of the Interior, invited DOE to be a
8 cooperating agency in the ECO Sub environmental review
9 process. So we are a cooperating agency on the ECO Sub
10 analysis. And I can't predict what our travel budget
11 will be like, but, if possible, I'll be back here just
12 as an observer for the hearings on the ECO Sub, the EIS,
13 the EIR when that's issued by the CPUC and BLM, as
14 Patrick was saying in a month or so, I should be back
15 here.

16 MR. KEVIN SMITH: Did that just happen? Did
17 that just occur?

18 DR. PELL: I'm sorry. Did what just occur?

19 MR. SMITH: Did that just occur?

20 DR. PELL: Which?

21 MR. SMITH: What you just said, the ECO Sub
22 just -- the BLM asked you to join on the ECO Sub.

23 DR. PELL: Oh, some time ago.

24 MR. SMITH: Okay.

25 DR. PELL: Yeah, sometime ago.

1 Kevin; right?

2 MR. SMITH: Yes.

3 DR. PELL: For the record. No, they invited us
4 to be a cooperating agency sometime ago.

5 MR. BROWN: And, Kevin, the County is a
6 cooperating agency with BLM on the BLM portions of the
7 Tule Wind and ECO Sub project too, as well.

8 DR. PELL: By the way, if you're really that
9 interested, the correspondence is a public record. So if
10 you want to be -- I'd be glad to send you the copies of
11 the letters. Just send me an e-mail. I think it might
12 even be on our -- it might even be on the ECO Sub
13 Web site. I'm just not sure.

14 MR. SMITH: Thank you very much.

15 DR. PELL: But it's all publicly and readily
16 available.

17 Okay. So quickly, we're looking at what the
18 project amounts to. As you probably know by now, it's
19 to construct a transmission line, as I was saying,
20 either 230,000 volts or 500,000 volts from the proposed
21 wind farm across the border for about .65 miles until it
22 connects to the proposed ECO Substation.

23 And the portion of the transmission on the
24 Baja California side, on the Mexican side, that line
25 runs about a mile to where it connects to the ESJ

1 Jacumba Substation which is the first point of
2 interconnection of the line on the Mexican side.

3 So what these diagrams -- you're not going to
4 be able to do much with the diagrams on the screen, but
5 in the book they're printed large and you can see them
6 in great detail. You can see the two possible lines as
7 to whether it's a 230- or 500-kV. The routes are very
8 similar to each other. They're only apart by a very
9 small amount. So the analysis looked at both, and
10 you'll find the potential impacts from either included
11 in the EIS.

12 Next slide, Tim. It's a very short
13 transmission line on the U.S. side, so we're only
14 looking -- one more. Whoop, no. Go back to the project
15 design. There we go. On the American side, the line is
16 about five towers in total, either lattice or monopole.
17 We think that lattice would probably be environmentally
18 preferred, but no decision has been made yet as to which
19 type it will be.

20 The lattice is the standard which you usually
21 see, like Southwest Powerline uses standard. The
22 monopoles are just exactly what they say. It's a single
23 pole. The book includes diagrams of both. You can see
24 what they both look like, but it looks like the lattice
25 type would probably blend into the background better

1 than the monopole; but, again, as I said, no decision
2 has been made.

3 So looking at the project in Mexico, what's
4 really important here -- next slide, Tim -- is that the
5 nearest wind machine to the border is about .7 miles
6 away from the border, so there is nothing further north
7 than .7 miles. All the other wind machines that the
8 company's proposing to build in Baja California are
9 further south. So the closest one is about
10 three quarters of a mile from the border.

11 The project looks like it's going to be built
12 in phases. The proposed first phase is about 52 wind
13 machines.

14 And in the future phases, if they actually
15 implement them, they would proceed further south from
16 the first, so they'd be even further away and presumably
17 less visual and you wouldn't be able to notice them
18 because they'd be that much further away from the
19 border.

20 Next slide, Tim. In terms of consultation and
21 outreach with other agencies, we've worked with the U.S.
22 Fish and Wildlife Service. We've sent out consultation
23 letters to about 15 Indian tribes. I think only one
24 said that they would be interested in formally
25 consulting with us, which was the Campo tribe, and we

1 did do that consultation with that tribe; and they
2 indicated that they were satisfied that all the
3 archeological and historical considerations were
4 properly being taken care of, so that consultation ended
5 satisfactorily.

6 We also have been in touch with the Border
7 Patrol, other cognizant Federal agencies like, as I was
8 saying before, the Bureau of Land Management, Federal
9 Aviation Administration, Environmental Protection
10 Agency, and then the appropriate California State
11 agencies, Fish and Game, Parks and Recs, State Historic
12 Preservation Officer, and obviously, of course, the
13 County itself. So the document is as thick as it is
14 because it's as comprehensive as we could possibly make
15 it within reason to make sure that we basically did it
16 correctly and completely.

17 And this slide which looks at the environmental
18 issues analyzed shows you the scope of the analysis. We
19 looked at every kind of environmental impact that's
20 normally considered under the National Environmental
21 Policy Act, everything from biological resources to
22 socioeconomics and environmental justice. So we feel
23 like it's quite complete. And, in fact, we even looked
24 at air quality, including carbon dioxide emissions
25 because of the concerns of global climate change.

1 Just to summarize quickly what the impacts were
2 that we found, under "Biological Resources," permanent
3 disturbance from the project to about ten acres, and if
4 you look at the lower slide on the right you'll see a
5 green vertical line. That's an offset area the
6 company's proposing to preserve to compensate for the
7 ten acres of disturbed land, and that would be done in
8 conjunction with the cooperation of the Bureau of Land
9 Management. And it's described in great detail in the
10 volume.

11 Next slide. Now, "Special Status Species,"
12 which I know you're quite interested in, just to
13 summarize what we found, the Quino checkerspot
14 butterfly, no impacts expected; California condor, very
15 low probability; Peninsular bighorn sheep, and I know
16 this is controversial from what we heard last night,
17 critical habitat for the bighorn sheep is avoided by the
18 project by a distance of at least two miles. And for
19 the arroyo toad, the southwestern willow flycatcher, and
20 the Least Bell's Vireo, which is a bird, low potential
21 for effect.

22 And the other major area of concern to some of
23 you, next slide, is visual impacts, visual resources,
24 and we retained the services of a professional
25 consulting firm that specializes in doing exactly this

1 kind of analysis where they go to what they call Key
2 Observation Points, or KOPs, and draw a visual
3 representation of what they think you would see if the
4 project were completed from those particular KOPs; and
5 the County of San Diego was a major reviewer of that
6 work, and so we have a lot of faith in the quality and
7 accuracy of that analysis. And this is where it was
8 determined that the lattice towers are probably
9 preferable to monopoles which is a result of that study.

10 And looking at the next slide, which is also
11 with regard to visual resources, we looked at some of
12 the possible mitigation that could be made to reduce the
13 visual appearance of the transmission line, and you can
14 just read that for yourself.

15 The slide after that is the heart of the EIS.
16 This is the single-most important table in the entire
17 report, and this is the summary of impacts by resource
18 area. So if you read nothing else, you certainly want
19 to at least study this Table 2-3 because this is where
20 the entire analysis is summarized in the document. And
21 it goes on for several pages in the report.

22 Now, next slide, as I was saying, we look for
23 your comments. You all have copies of the document.
24 Anybody who you come across that wants a copy can
25 readily obtain one. It's available electronically on

1 the Internet on the project Web site. It's on the DOE
2 NEPA Web site. And if anybody needs a paper or CD copy,
3 we'd be glad to supply that.

4 The project Web site, esjprojecteis.org, has a
5 provision on it for submittal of comments electronically
6 which we think would really be great if you used it.
7 You can upload attachments on the Web site directly. So
8 if you want to send us Word files or Excel files or
9 graphics files, whatever, you can actually upload those
10 directly to our Web site from that Web page which you
11 see mentioned there, esjprojecteis.org/involvement. You
12 can also send them to me directly by e-mail or however
13 you wish.

14 Now, we said earlier that the comment period
15 closes on the 1st of November, but there's a but. And
16 the but is if you simply can't make it by November the
17 1st for whatever reason or if you submit comments and
18 then come across something that you think is really
19 important that we should know about, we will still
20 entertain your comments if they come in late to the
21 extent that we can.

22 In other words, if we're at the printer with
23 the final EIS and you send us in a comment, we won't be
24 able to do anything about it. If you send us in a
25 comment on November the 5th instead of November the 1st,

1 we'll still be able to use it. So that November the 1st
2 date is the date we would certainly hope you submit your
3 comments by, but if you miss it, all is not lost. Okay?
4 We're trying to be as flexible with you as we possibly
5 can.

6 And if you want to reach any of us, we're all
7 available to you by e-mail, by telephone. We're
8 certainly giving you all the information you need to
9 contact any of us. Entrix, that is Mr. Tim Murphy
10 sitting over here, is the company that has been doing
11 the actual writing of the EIS, and they're here. And if
12 you want to talk to any of the experts that are here
13 tonight -- Sempra's here tonight -- after the hearing,
14 they certainly would be willing and glad to talk with
15 you. So if you want to reach us, there's certainly no
16 difficulty in doing that. And that completes the slide
17 show.

18 And what I'd like to do now is actually go to
19 the most important part of the meeting which is to
20 take the formal comments. Here's another copy of
21 entries. Thank you.

22 Are there any representatives, any elected
23 officials here from State, local, Federal, whatever?
24 No. Okay.

25 Any government agency officials, County?

1 State? Okay. As a courtesy, we usually extend first
2 opportunities to speak to elected officials or the
3 government officials.

4 Now, Donna, you had indicated by e-mail that
5 you wanted to be on the list to speak tonight and last
6 night; is that not correct? Did you not want to speak
7 tonight?

8 MS. TISDALE: Yes, I did.

9 DR. PELL: So then if that's the case, you're
10 first up.

11 MS. TISDALE: Great. I don't like to turn my
12 back to people. First of all, I do thank you for being
13 here, but I'm getting really tired of having to defend
14 our community from so many obnoxious projects. It's
15 getting overwhelming.

16 And I also wanted to point out the beautiful
17 picture on the wall there. The moon is rising over
18 Sierra Juarez. So if those turbines were there -- this
19 is from Boulevard -- those turbines would be
20 silhouetted, some of them, on that ridgeline. And I
21 also want to say that I can personally see the
22 five turbines that are on the ridge now on the Sierra
23 Juarez ridgeline from my ranch in Boulevard on Tierra
24 del Sol area which is miles away, and especially at
25 night you can see those lights.

1 I wanted to say I'm representing myself,
2 Donna Tisdale, as an individual, representing the
3 Boulevard Planning Group, Backcountry Against Dumps, and
4 the Protect our Communities Foundation. I'm also a
5 member of the East County Community Action Coalition and
6 the San Diego Sierra Club.

7 These comments are in addition to the ones that
8 I made last night, and those will be submitted in
9 writing by me and by the attorney representing several
10 of the groups just mentioned. All the groups mentioned
11 have voted to oppose the ESJ project in its entirety,
12 and I did print this out for the reporter.

13 Industrial wind energy is not free as it's
14 often implied. It carries huge financial costs and
15 negative impacts to the environment, humans, wildlife,
16 and livestock. Those effects are being felt worldwide
17 resulting in a public backlash. Later this month a
18 group of doctors and other professionals are holding an
19 international symposium in Canada on the negative health
20 impacts from wind turbines.

21 DR. PELL: Excuse me, Donna. I'd be very
22 interested in learning about that if you have any
23 information you could send me.

24 MS. TISDALE: I will send you the link.

25 DR. PELL: Please.

1 MS. TISDALE: ESJ will impact Boulevard despite
2 the fact that the project turbines will be installed in
3 Mexico. Along with the related Boulevard Substation
4 expansion, visual impacts from ESJ and Kumeyaay Wind
5 will be used by decision makers to claim that the visual
6 resources are already degraded so it's okay to install
7 even more giant wind turbines here along with all the
8 necessary transmission line substations. Our
9 backcountry will be the ultimate rural sacrifice zone,
10 and the cumulative impacts to a wide variety of
11 resources will only multiply.

12 Alleged benefits of wind energy do not outweigh
13 the negative impacts of local human and natural
14 communities and to both utility ratepayers and U.S.
15 taxpayers. Intermittent wind energy projects require an
16 almost equal number of megawatts of gas-fired backup or
17 other base load generation to balance the transmission
18 grid for when the wind does not blow.

19 Claims that wind energy will reduce greenhouse
20 gases need be backed up with documentation. Multiple
21 reports show no net reduction in greenhouse gases from
22 wind energy.

23 SDG&E's Michael Niggli was quoted in the
24 San Diego Union on May 23rd --

25 DR. PELL: Excuse me. What was the name of

1 that person again?

2 MS. TISDALE: Michael Niggli.

3 DR. PELL: Can you spell that for the reporter?

4 MS. TISDALE: Michael N-i-g-g-l-i.

5 DR. PELL: Thank you.

6 MS. TISDALE: -- was quoted in The San Diego
7 Union-Tribune on May 23rd of this year saying, quote,
8 People need to understand the intermittency challenge we
9 have. Wind comes and goes, and on the hottest days of
10 the year there's no wind, and you still need to provide
11 power to your customers. These resources are not under
12 our control but under the control of nature, unquote.
13 And gas plants take up that slack and Sempra provides
14 that gas. That's very convenient and very profitable.

15 More wind energy has actually resulted in more
16 gas and coal-fired generation including in China,
17 Germany, and Spain. Utility ratepayers and taxpayers
18 pay a much higher price for an intermittent and
19 unreliable energy resource and the necessary backup
20 generation with all the related infrastructure.

21 A cost-benefit analysis should be done for all
22 industrial wind energy projects, including Energia
23 Sierra Juarez. Despite the fact that the turbines will
24 be built in Mexico, the wind energy is for export only
25 to California and impacts of that energy production will

1 be felt in both countries. Those impacts would not
2 occur without the Presidential permit for the necessary
3 power line.

4 With impacts from connected actions and
5 cumulative wind, solar, and transmission projects in
6 addition to ESJ, there will be reduced property values,
7 loss of rural community character, and quality of life
8 overall. ECO tourists will no longer want to visit our
9 area and spend their money here.

10 All the studies that show wind energy and the
11 related infrastructure does not reduce property values
12 have been funded by the wind industry or
13 government-related groups that are pushing wind
14 industry. Studies produced by experienced real estate
15 appraisers do show significant property value impacts.

16 DR. PELL: Do you have access to any of those
17 studies, Donna?

18 MS. TISDALE: Yes, I do.

19 DR. PELL: Will you share those with us,
20 please?

21 MS. TISDALE: Yes, I will.

22 DR. PELL: Okay. Thank you.

23 MS. TISDALE: The increased number of 400- to
24 500-foot turbines, power lines, transformers, and
25 substations result in an increased risk of wildfire and

1 increased fire insurance rates and/or cancellation.

2 Low-frequency sound and vibrations and shadow
3 flicker impacts on humans, livestock, and wildlife
4 result in stress-related illnesses and disease. In
5 Taiwan, a goat farmer lost most of his flock that
6 starved to death due to stress and lack of sleep.
7 Alpaca farmers elsewhere have had to relocate to save
8 their herds after turbines were built nearby.

9 A woman named Paula Stahl wrote a letter a few
10 years back --

11 DR. PELL: Paula who?

12 MS. TISDALE: Stahl, S-t-a-h-l.

13 DR. PELL: Thank you.

14 MS. TISDALE: -- wrote a letter a few years
15 back describing how all the wildlife left the area after
16 the construction of a 66-megawatt Mountaineer Wind
17 Energy Center in West Virginia. And that's our future.
18 We'll lose our wildlife.

19 Ambient noise levels in these quiet and rural
20 natural areas are lower, especially at night, and sound
21 carries further in our higher elevation and thinner air.
22 Noise and vibration impacts can be felt up to several
23 miles away. ESJ turbines will not only impact resources
24 in Mexico, they will also impact the protected areas and
25 wildlife that rely on those protections, areas of the

1 Jacumba Mountain Wilderness and other areas.

2 We recommend that the DOE deny this permit and
3 that Sempra's SDG&E get busy complying with energy
4 efficiency requirements that only 37 percent of what
5 they're required to be at and start building and
6 supporting more renewable energy projects where the
7 energy is used instead of destroying some of the most
8 accessible wild places left in eastern San Diego County
9 and northern Baja. Thank you.

10 DR. PELL: Thank you, Donna. Appreciate that.
11 Any documents you can give us to support that statement
12 will be greatly appreciated.

13 I'm sorry, Patrick. If you're going to ask her
14 a question, ask it so that the reporter can catch it.

15 MR. BROWN: I want her to send me the link to
16 the symposium.

17 DR. PELL: Next is Mark Ostrander.

18 MR. MARK OSTRANDER: I'm going to use the
19 corner of the table here.

20 DR. PELL: Sure.

21 MR. OSTRANDER: Looking through your EIS,
22 under 3.9.1.3, staffing levels at Jacumba Fire Station,
23 it's the wrong station, number one, also says it's got
24 one full-time firefighter and four volunteers. That is
25 incorrect.

1 I also noticed on your fire --

2 DR. PELL: Excuse me, Mark. Can you tell us
3 what is correct?

4 MR. OSTRANDER: Staffing? You mean what the
5 staffing level's currently?

6 DR. PELL: Well, you said it's not correct, so
7 do you know what the staffing is?

8 MR. OSTRANDER: Zero.

9 DR. PELL: Zero?

10 MR. OSTRANDER: Zero staffing level.

11 DR. PELL: No full time, no volunteer?

12 MR. OSTRANDER: (No audible response.)

13 DR. PELL: In other words, no fire --

14 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You got it right.

15 MR. OSTRANDER: You might get someone in there
16 in the event of a special staffing or something if
17 there's extra bodies from Cal Fire to staff it, but that
18 depends on what Sacramento decides to do on their
19 staffing levels. So it's not a given. There is no
20 staffing there.

21 Okay. I have a question on Map 3-123 which is
22 your fire hazard severity zones. What is that map based
23 on? It does not look like the fire hazard severity map
24 that's used in the State as a standard, 'cause it's a
25 lot different than that, and it's rated in different

1 areas and very high and high and the boxes and
2 everything, but I don't see who produced this map.

3 DR. PELL: Okay.

4 MR. OSTRANDER: Number of fires: It said the
5 number of fires were 225 and that was since 1959. My
6 question is, is how many of those fires were after 2000
7 when the climate change started happening and the fire
8 activities picked up? You know, that's a pretty big
9 statement to say from 1959. Were the fires more
10 prevalent in 2000 or was this over -- so we need to
11 maybe narrow that time down, because climate change has
12 made a difference.

13 Socioeconomics: I think this is going to fall
14 under -- but it was also under fire and hazards, fire
15 insurance costs have already gone up in this area due to
16 the wildfires that were out here. With the project
17 going in, it's going to increase it more. We went from
18 a seven to a nine under the ISO rating. That
19 significantly increased fire insurance costs to
20 residents out here. With another project, it's going to
21 bring more fire hazard. That could bring us to feasibly
22 a ten which will increase it significantly.

23 My last part of this is there is no mention at
24 all that that cross-gen connect is going to bring green
25 energy. They could put anything else on there I take

1 it. So it's being sold as -- it's going to sell green,
2 but what happens if they put fuel fire generation on it?
3 Is it going to be allowed on that cross tie? That's my
4 question.

5 DR. PELL: Thanks, Mark. Appreciate that.
6 This issue of what the line would be used for also came
7 up last night at Jacumba. I should say that we raised
8 that issue. The Department of Energy raised that issue
9 with Sempra, and we have in writing a letter from them
10 that states that they would agree to a permit condition
11 limiting the line to the use of only renewable energy.
12 So we have looked into that.

13 MR. SMITH: Does DOE accept that letter as a
14 condition?

15 DR. PELL: I can't answer that until the actual
16 Record of Decision and Presidential permit are issued,
17 Kevin, but we have that on the Web site. It's an
18 official document, part of the application.

19 MR. SMITH: I'd like to make an official
20 recommendation that you accept that responsibility.

21 DR. PELL: Would you hold that until you're up
22 to speak, please, Kevin, because otherwise we're going
23 to get all confused about who's saying what to --

24 MR. OSTRANDER: For my final comment I'll ask
25 that same recommendation, that it be recommended that

1 only green energy go onto that line for renewables.

2 DR. PELL: Okay. We'll add that to Mark's
3 comments.

4 George Mireles, do I have that correct?

5 MR. GEORGE MIRELES: Yes. So the only thing
6 we're talking about is just about the environmental
7 impact and on -- right, from what you're saying at the
8 beginning or is this just more of some other things?

9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICES: Say what's in your heart.

10 MR. MIRELES: Well, I have a few concerns
11 'cause there's been at least three SDG&E people, like
12 people I've seen walk from their car to -- and I'm
13 around in stores that they said that -- well, besides
14 that power took most of the contract for the workers and
15 everything, how they want to do all the work and how
16 they're explaining it, my main concern was is that they
17 were saying that "Oh, we just put this -- we're just
18 going to put this line up and it's not really because we
19 want to get the green energy. It's just that we want to
20 put it up and then hope that the people be contract to
21 get the green energy passes and everything. So
22 you're -- it's not that you're guaranteed to have these
23 green energy sources. It's just that you're hoping that
24 you might get them."

25 And this is not something where I'm just making

1 it up. This is coming from, you know, SDG&E people
2 where -- you know, if this is a -- like the guy said, it
3 was a green source and then why are they saying that it
4 might not -- there's like a chance that we might not get
5 it or you guys might not get those sources?

6 DR. PELL: Is that it?

7 MR. MIRELES: Yes.

8 DR. PELL: Thanks, George. I'm not going to
9 say anything additional to what I just said before --

10 MR. MIRELES: Right.

11 DR. PELL: -- on that particular subject.

12 You don't have any names of the people who said
13 any of these things, do you?

14 MR. MIRELES: I can probably get two of them
15 out of three.

16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: They'll probably lose
17 their job.

18 DR. PELL: Dennis Berglund.

19 MR. DENNIS BERGLUND: Well, we are local
20 residents and speaking for ourself, we own a business
21 here and we're professional electrical engineers.

22 We're concerned about this project primarily
23 because when the Sunrise Powerlink was asked to be a
24 renewable energy transmission line, SDG&E said they
25 would refuse to build it if they had to commit to

1 33 percent renewable energy.

2 We think that you should insist and accept the
3 letter that says that this will only be used for
4 renewable energy, for several reasons. First of all,
5 SDG&E has one and participates with another gas-powered
6 power plant just across the border, within view of the
7 border in Mexicali. As you probably know, they have a
8 huge investment in an Ensenada LNG plant where they
9 bring foreign gas into the country.

10 DR. PELL: Excuse me, Jane. Do you know that
11 word, Ensenada?

12 MR. BERGLUND: Liquefied, Ensenada, and
13 liquefied natural gas. We know that there's a lot of
14 natural gas, of course, in America. Well, Sempra has
15 chosen to buy it in Indonesia and Russia and bring it
16 over here. They have a 24-inch, I believe,
17 high-pressured gas line running to Mexicali which is
18 capable of firing more power plants, and I envision that
19 this plant, because of their past actions, or this line
20 would eventually be used for other than renewable energy
21 unless there's a solid reason and a commitment in that
22 regard.

23 Otherwise, it's rather amusing that we will
24 build a freeway for energy across the border, but we
25 have a real hard time having workers come across. So in

1 other words, we'll use Mexico for our best interest but
2 not their cultural.

3 The last item that I'd like to mention, because
4 these are actual instances that have occurred in the
5 past, is there needs to be a bond for removal of this
6 equipment when it's unused. You're probably aware that
7 there's projects all over the United States and in
8 particular in California in the Palm Springs area and
9 the Tehachapi area and the Tracy area, that there are
10 derelict wind farms that are just sitting there.

11 Now, I have been told on some of these issues
12 that "Oh, this is going to be a commitment," but unless
13 there's a solid bond for removable, these things will
14 sit there. And as you know, as the technology goes
15 along, new technologies replace old technologies, and I
16 can tell you that with these wind generators technology
17 has moved along considerably just in the last few years.

18 As an example, they're using variable frequency
19 drives now which means the whole drive mechanism is
20 different. They probably wouldn't upgrade those.

21 Secondly, they're moving all the material, all the
22 mechanism, to the bottom so all the ones that have the
23 mechanism up at the top will probably be unused. Unless
24 there's a commitment to do something about that, what
25 we'll end up with in 50 years is a bunch of derelict

1 devices sitting there which will become an eyesore and
2 of no practical value.

3 Now, as regards to fire and fire insurance, I
4 will tell you as a resident out here, our insurance is
5 \$4,000 a year for fire. Now, I don't know if any of you
6 people living in the city pay that kind of fire
7 insurance. Not only is our insurance \$4,000, but it
8 goes up 4- to \$600 a year. This will --

9 DR. PELL: Excuse me. Are you talking about
10 \$4,000 a year for an average household?

11 MR. BERGLUND: Yes, we have an average
12 household. This particular residence is on eight acres
13 and we just negotiated it. In fact, we had one
14 insurance company that said, "You know, we really don't
15 want to do this anymore, but if you'll jump over all
16 these hurdles we'll let you." Well, we went to another
17 one, which was all right, but every year I've got to
18 tell you it goes up 4- to \$600.

19 DR. PELL: Does the State have a program of
20 providing insurance of a private carrier-owned provider?

21 MR. BERGLUND: To my knowledge, no, not --

22 MS. BILLIE JO JANSEN: They do but it's not
23 cheap.

24 MR. BERGLUND: And I don't believe it fits
25 fire, does it?

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes, it's for fire. It's
2 just for fire.

3 MR. BERGLUND: Several years ago --

4 MS. JANSEN: It's only if no one else will take
5 you.

6 MR. BERGLUND: Several years ago our fire
7 insurance went up about 15- to \$1,800 in one year and we
8 said, "This is kind of unreasonable."

9 You know the answer we got back? "Well, you
10 were just paying too little before." But we are in the
11 highest rated fire area. And as Mark said, we can only
12 see this go up. So it makes it very, very expensive to
13 live up here in the country. Thank you.

14 DR. PELL: Thank you Dennis.

15 MR. BROWN: Dennis, I have a question for you.
16 When you mentioned the bonding requirement, were you
17 inferring the wind turbines in Mexico or the bonding for
18 the removal of the five lattice towers and the lines?
19 Because in this case here, that's the only thing that
20 could be bonded. Is that what you're interested in or
21 are you just talking in general?

22 MR. BERGLUND: Well, I'm talking primarily the
23 wind, the tower. You know, the engineering on
24 transmission lines is pretty antiquated. You know, I
25 mean in the future of transmission lines is they're

1 really going to be nonexistent. You know, our future is
2 just not going to be practical this way, and they're
3 finding that out with smart grid technology. What
4 they're really finding is you really shouldn't send this
5 stuff too far. So I'm not as worried about that. I'm
6 primarily worried about all the structures which have
7 that ability or the necessity to mature technologically
8 because the stuff will just be sitting there not used.

9 DR. PELL: You know we have no jurisdiction
10 over Baja California.

11 MR. BERGLUND: Well, if you don't have any
12 influence, you shouldn't be doing this line at all.

13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Right, exactly.

14 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.

15 DR. PELL: Okay.

16 MR. BERGLUND: You're telling me you're going
17 to build a string, but I have no control of what the guy
18 is going to do on the other end of the string.

19 DR. PELL: I'm not telling you that I'm going
20 to build --

21 MR. BERGLUND: Well, as a scientist and a
22 doctor, you know, and I don't know what your doctorate
23 is in, but you wouldn't accept that premise.

24 DR. PELL: Dennis, I appreciate your comments.
25 Thank you very much.

1 MR. BERGLUND: Very good.

2 MR. SMITH: Dennis, may I ask a question?
3 Would your insurance go down at all if they put the
4 lines underground?

5 MR. BERGLUND: I don't know that. I don't know
6 that. You know, insurance companies are an interesting
7 group. They need to make money and they're going to
8 take the fringe groups and they're going to charge the
9 more money, so there's always that process. You know, I
10 tell people it costs more money to live in the country
11 and they say, "Well, how can that be? All the poor
12 people live in the country."

13 I say, "Give it a try."

14 MS. BILLIE JO JANSEN: Why do you think they're
15 poor?

16 MR. SMITH: Because they said they were going
17 to turn the power off when they thought there was a fire
18 and maybe that would cause your insurance to go up?
19 Maybe if they under-ground the lines it wouldn't go up.

20 DR. PELL: Gentlemen, can we return to the
21 hearing, please.

22 MR. SMITH: Certainly.

23 DR. PELL: Kevin, you're next. Kevin Smith I
24 believe.

25 MR. SMITH: When you started the conversation,

1 last night you had mentioned that there was only
2 one mile that is in this EIR up to the substation that
3 was just up by the border, and today you said it goes
4 all the way to ECO.

5 Now, is the ECO to Domingo Lake or is ECO just
6 above the border?

7 DR. PELL: Excuse me. The .65 miles refers to
8 the length of the line from the U.S.-Baja border to ECO
9 Sub, and the one mile I was talking about is the
10 distance south of the border to the substation on the
11 Mexican side.

12 MR. SMITH: I was actually talking about, does
13 ECO run underneath the South Powerlink and over where
14 Domingo Lake is? Is that where the ECO is planned
15 currently?

16 MR. BROWN: The ECO Substation is as indicated
17 here, but there's a 138-kV transmission line that would
18 run over to Old Highway 80 and then from there shoot
19 north towards Boulevard. So it's an additional power
20 line that's not there now, would run within the existing
21 500-kV right of way with the Southwest Powerlink, and
22 then when it got right to about Old Highway 80 closer
23 towards Boulevard -- I don't have a map to show you. It
24 shoots due north or in that area.

25 MR. SMITH: But they call that one the ECO

1 Substation?

2 MR. BROWN: That's part of the ECO Substation
3 project, but it's a 138-kV power line. The actual
4 substation itself is here as indicated in this map.

5 MR. SMITH: Okay.

6 MR. BROWN: Yeah. It's a component of that
7 project.

8 MR. SMITH: So where is the power supposed to
9 go to?

10 DR. PELL: I don't understand the question,
11 Kevin. From where?

12 MR. SMITH: Well, we've got a lot whole of
13 power we just put in a substation.

14 What are we going to do with it?

15 DR. PELL: It goes into the grid.

16 MR. SMITH: What grid? There's no grid there.

17 DR. PELL: You'd have to talk to the applicant
18 about that.

19 MR. SMITH: I'm asking a serious question. You
20 can't say what grid. Come on.

21 MR. BROWN: It loops in right there.

22 DR. PELL: The present expectation is that the
23 ECO Sub would connect to the proposed Sunrise Powerlink.

24 MR. SMITH: No, no, no. It's not supposed to
25 go to Sunrise Powerlink.

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That's not correct.

2 MR. BROWN: To the existing Southwest
3 Powerlink.

4 MR. SMITH: It's only going to go to the south
5 link and there's no power on south link to get anywhere.

6 That's why I want to ask the question: What
7 are you going to do with it?

8 DR. PELL: Well, to my understanding, and I'll
9 ask Alberto Abreu from the company to amplify on it if
10 he would like, is that the current situation on the
11 Southwest Powerlink is it can accommodate up to 80
12 additional megawatts of energy. Beyond that, the burden
13 would fall on the CPUC to provide a conveyance for the
14 power to the grid.

15 Alberto, do you want to add anything to that?

16 MR. ALBERTO ABREU: Yes. The ESJ project is
17 going to connect into the ECO Sub which is going to loop
18 into the Southwest Powerlink. The Southwest Powerlink
19 doesn't have a physical limitation as to how much energy
20 can get on it. What it has is, the Cal ISO has a
21 special protection scheme that they apply throughout
22 their area, the Cal ISO control area, which limits how
23 much power can be tripped off line if a line goes out.

24 So in other words, if Southwest Powerlink were
25 to go out, or any other line for that matter, they limit

1 the amount of generation that can be hooked up to that
2 line to a certain number so that if they have to trip
3 the line not too much energy gets lost. Right now that
4 limit is being approached, and there's 80 megawatts of
5 freeboard there between what that limit is and what's
6 actually connected to Southwest Powerlink. But that
7 limitation is purely a special protection scheme
8 limitation. It's not a physical limitation on Southwest
9 Powerlink.

10 What Sunrise or some other improvement like it
11 would do is it would allow the removal basically of that
12 limitation, because power can then flow in a different
13 direction, a different path. Then if Southwest
14 Powerlink goes down, the power that's being injected
15 into Southwest could then flow in a different path.

16 So the power would come in from our project,
17 would go into Southwest Powerlink, and, like I said,
18 there's no physical limitation on Southwest Powerlink.
19 Well, there is but we're not near that.

20 MR. SMITH: Well, they're 80 megawatts away
21 from it.

22 MR. ABREU: You're 80 megawatts away from a
23 special protection scheme threshold but --

24 MR. SMITH: That special protection scheme
25 threshold is exactly what the limit is. You cannot put

1 more on there than that. The only reason that you can
2 put more on it than that is just in the absence of a
3 shutdown and no other time.

4 MR. ABREU: No, no, that's not correct. We can
5 put all the 100 or whatever megawatts --

6 MR. SMITH: 1,000 megawatts?

7 MR. ABREU: We can put all the megawatts into
8 that line. What happens then is that existing
9 generation and future generation would then be curtailed
10 under certain conditions of overload conditions on that
11 line. So if you're putting that much power in, these
12 other generators would be curtailed, but you can put all
13 that power in there.

14 MR. SMITH: Well, that's very true as long as
15 you can kick everybody else off.

16 MR. ABREU: Well, we won't do it.

17 DR. PELL: Let's not turn this into an
18 argument.

19 MR. SMITH: I'm asking a question.

20 MR. ABREU: Cal ISO is the one that controls
21 the grid and they're the ones that control who is on and
22 not on.

23 MR. SMITH: But weren't they there first?

24 MR. ABREU: They were there first, but there
25 are certain -- Cal ISO, the way it kicks people out of

1 injecting power, it's an economic-based threshold. So
2 the lowest incremental cost generators get kicked off
3 last.

4 MR. SMITH: Oh.

5 MS. JANSEN: So does that mean that the people
6 participating in distributed generation from the local
7 communities will be the first off or the last?

8 MR. ABREU: I don't know the answer to that
9 question.

10 MR. SMITH: They would have to be last.

11 MR. ABREU: I don't know the answer to that
12 question.

13 DR. PELL: Okay. Let's get back to the
14 hearing, please.

15 MS. JANSEN: Well, that needs to be answered.

16 MR. SMITH: I'll ask her question again if you
17 don't mind. Does that mean the distributed generation
18 that would occur in any community or this community
19 would go off first or last?

20 DR. PELL: That's probably a question for
21 Cal ISO.

22 MR. ABREU: I think we may have an answer for
23 that.

24 DR. PELL: All right.

25 MR. SCOTT CRIDER: For the record,

1 Scott Crider, C-r-i-d-e-r, Sempra Generation. Any
2 distributed generation resources would be accessing the
3 transmission grid, the Southwest Powerlink anyway, so it
4 would have zero impact.

5 MR. SMITH: Very good.

6 DR. PELL: Typically they're much lower
7 voltage.

8 MS. TISDALE: I do have a question on the
9 connection and priority, because SDG&E has a power-first
10 agreement with the Imperial Valley Solar that was just
11 approved and that's 300 megawatts, and Tule Wind also
12 has an agreement with SDG&E to use the Southwest
13 Powerlink through this substation, so who would have
14 priority, whoever gets built first?

15 MR. ABREU: Well, renewables are first in line.
16 They would not get kicked out, so you would first kick
17 off all the, basically, fossil-fired generators.

18 MS. TISDALE: Well, Tule Wind told us that
19 SDG&E had informed them that they would be kicked off
20 the grid, you know, whenever.

21 MR. ABREU: I wasn't privy to that
22 conversation, so I can't really comment on that; but the
23 way the system works is the low-cost incremental
24 generators get first access. So renewables, because
25 they have no incremental cost of generation, get on the

1 line first.

2 MS. TISDALE: Well, I know that SDG&E has
3 agreed to pay above-market record price for Stirling or
4 Imperial Valley Solar and I know that wind energy is
5 very expensive, so it -- I really don't --

6 MR. ABREU: It's not the cost of the
7 generation, Donna. It's the cost of the -- basically
8 the fuel cost and it's zero for renewables.

9 DR. PELL: Okay. We're getting well beyond the
10 scope of the EIS at this point.

11 Kevin, did you have anything further you wanted
12 to add?

13 MR. SMITH: No. That's good. Thank you.

14 DR. PELL: Thank you.

15 MS. TISDALE: It would be nice to get these
16 answers on the public record, though. Everybody has a
17 lot of questions.

18 MR. SMITH: Oh, I did have one other question
19 I'd like to ask.

20 Is there going to be anybody doing inspections
21 of any of the digging sites for archeological things? I
22 know that the train is actually an archeological site.
23 It's actually old enough now that it is considered
24 historic. And there's been quite a bit of culture up
25 here. It's normal and typical that somebody's always

1 present when any digging occurs in an undisturbed soil
2 and even in disturbed soil most oftentimes. So I would
3 think it would be typical and normal that you would have
4 somebody here to pick up all the archeological things
5 and stop anything if they do find anything. I'd like to
6 make sure that that occurs.

7 DR. PELL: Okay. Thank you, Kevin. Fair
8 point.

9 "Billiedo," I'm not sure. B-i-l-l-i-e-d-o; is
10 that correct?

11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Billie Jo.

12 MS. JANSEN: It's Billie Jo actually, Billie Jo
13 Jansen, in Campo.

14 I look at this with a certain level of
15 amazement, because we're allegedly developing a policy
16 in this country of being independent in our energy
17 generation, and yet I look at this and say, "Well, okay.
18 We're giving taxpayer goodies to a large and
19 monopolistic entity to go into another country and
20 exploit their resources and bring it back here." And
21 I'm looking at that and going, "How is that different
22 from our relationship with the Middle East?"

23 And I might point out as well when you're
24 thinking about a Presidential permit for such a thing,
25 don't you need to think about the President's policy, as

1 well? And don't you need to think about how we're going
2 to defend that resource if it comes to that?

3 We're doing that in the Middle East now.
4 Mexico is less stable than most OPEC countries, and
5 there's no end in sight for that. It's getting worse
6 every year. I think this needs to be considered
7 carefully.

8 I'm also going to sharply disagree with you on
9 the inclusion of economic information. Social justice
10 always has an economic component. In fact, it's the
11 biggest part of social justice, is the economic
12 component.

13 We have impacts to the taxpayers who are
14 helping to fund this, albeit indirectly. We have
15 impacts to ratepayers. We have impacts to defenseless
16 rural communities who are just being trampled and if
17 that isn't social injustice, I don't know what is. We
18 are paying more for our fire insurance so that other
19 people can go get stuff from Mexico and bring it and
20 sell it here. We're going to pay more for our
21 electricity rates.

22 There's a strong economic component. And I'm
23 not talking about the company's bottom line. I'm
24 talking about our bottom line. These things need to be
25 part of this assessment.

1 DR. PELL: Billie Jo, first of all, this is
2 not --

3 MS. JANSEN: I'm not here to debate. I'm here
4 to tell you what I think and that's what I think and I'm
5 also going to put it in writing.

6 DR. PELL: That's great and I look forward to
7 receiving that, but it's worth mentioning this is not a
8 government project. This is a private sector --

9 MS. JANSEN: No, but we are helping to fund it.
10 We are offering taxpayer goodies to these people.

11 DR. PELL: This is a private sector enterprise.
12 There is no taxpayer money involved in the project.
13 There is no vested interest.

14 MS. JANSEN: Okay. There's no taxpayer --

15 DR. PELL: May I finish, please?

16 MS. JANSEN: -- benefit, taxpayer beneficial
17 grants, right.

18 DR. PELL: There is no taxpayer involvement in
19 this project. There is no vested interest in this
20 project by the government. We have no function other
21 than to consider whether or not the permit is
22 appropriate.

23 MS. JANSEN: Who is making up for the tax
24 benefits that they get from doing renewable energy?

25 DR. PELL: I have no answer to that. That is

1 completely beyond --

2 MS. JANSEN: That's because it's us.

3 DR. PELL: It's completely beyond what we're
4 doing.

5 MS. JANSEN: No, it's not. It's part of this
6 and it needs to be part of this. That's what I'm
7 telling you.

8 DR. PELL: That's a proper question for the
9 State and local authorities like the CPUC, like the
10 County, like your local rating bodies --

11 MS. JANSEN: And you also --

12 DR. PELL: -- not for the Federal Government.

13 MS. JANSEN: -- should be looking out for us
14 because we're ratepayers in this County.

15 DR. PELL: But the project is what we call a
16 merchant project proposed by a private sector
17 enterprise. It's what we call a third-party project.
18 We have no vested interest in the outcome of the
19 project. They are paying for the analysis. They are
20 paying for these meetings. They are paying for the
21 conduct of the environmental review. And the only
22 taxpayer money that's involved at all perhaps is you
23 could argue that my salary is taxpayer money, but that's
24 the full extent of it.

25 MS. JANSEN: They also have tax benefits.

1 Obama's administration has made a huge big deal out of
2 this.

3 DR. PELL: Not directly relevant to the
4 application for a Presidential permit, Billie Jo.

5 MS. JANSEN: I see.

6 MR. SMITH: Can I make a comment? It is
7 directly relevant.

8 DR. PELL: Okay. I don't want to turn this
9 into an argument session. If you have something
10 specific --

11 MS. JANSEN: There are economic impacts to the
12 people who live in these communities. There are
13 economic impacts to the ratepayers of approving this.

14 DR. PELL: Okay.

15 MS. JANSEN: And there needs to be a comparison
16 of how well we do if this is not built and how well we
17 do if it is.

18 DR. PELL: There's an environmental justice
19 analysis in the EIS. If you feel it's deficient, then
20 please document that in your subsequent written comments
21 and we will look at that.

22 MS. JANSEN: If those impacts were not
23 analyzed, it's deficient.

24 DR. PELL: Well, then you submit that to us in
25 writing with more clarification and I'll be glad to take

1 a look at it.

2 MS. JANSEN: I hope you'll take a look at it
3 based on my verbal comments which I presume were
4 appropriately taken down. Thank you.

5 DR. PELL: You can do that as well, but if you
6 would like to augment it, we would certainly welcome
7 that.

8 Kevin, you wanted to add something?

9 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Going back to your comment
10 that you want to make sure that everybody understands
11 how this is, I don't understand where the power goes. I
12 still don't understand where the power goes. And unless
13 you understand where the power goes, you haven't
14 finished your EIR. You can't just say it stops right
15 there.

16 DR. PELL: I didn't say it stops anywhere. I'm
17 telling you that it's of no relevance to me as to where
18 it goes.

19 MR. SMITH: Then you're saying you don't care
20 about the EIR.

21 DR. PELL: It's not an environmental impact.
22 Once it enters the grid --

23 MR. SMITH: It isn't in the grid yet. It
24 hasn't made it to the --

25 DR. PELL: Okay. The physical mechanism of

1 getting to the grid is what we're looking at. The power
2 itself --

3 MR. SMITH: It didn't get to the grid.

4 DR. PELL: The power itself is beyond our
5 jurisdiction. That's an appropriate question for the
6 people that control rate making and power movement
7 within the State, like the CPUC, like Cal ISO --

8 MR. SMITH: I'm going to repeat myself.

9 DR. PELL: -- not for DOE.

10 MR. SMITH: I know you can talk fast, but I can
11 talk just as fast. It didn't make it to the grid. It's
12 not there. It stopped in the middle of a lawn. It
13 didn't go to the grid. I'll say it again: It didn't go
14 to the grid.

15 DR. PELL: Okay.

16 MR. SMITH: Look at the paper work. It doesn't
17 make it there. There's no connection in the wires. You
18 don't have it all the way there. Show me where it gets
19 to make the connection.

20 DR. PELL: You're asking me about the proposed
21 intent of the ECO Substation.

22 MR. SMITH: Yes, that one right there.

23 DR. PELL: And Patrick did --

24 MR. SMITH: There is no power line there. You
25 don't have a connection.

1 DR. PELL: If you'll look at the diagram,
2 you'll see that there is a loop to Southwest Powerlink.

3 MR. SMITH: Yeah.

4 DR. PELL: Well, that's the connection.

5 MR. SMITH: Okay. Then why do you buy the
6 whole other loop for the other continuation at ECO
7 Substation? It doesn't have any capacity. No one has
8 ever gotten on a line without capacity. That is an EIR.

9 Do you just let anybody do anything because
10 they say they want to do it?

11 DR. PELL: Kevin, we've just gone over that
12 ground and the company did just answer you. Alberto did
13 explain it.

14 MR. SMITH: We didn't go over it at all. We
15 avoided it. We talked about how 80 megawatts is enough
16 to take 1,200. It's insanity.

17 DR. PELL: Moving right along -- thank you,
18 Kevin.

19 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

20 DR. PELL: -- Lorrie Ostrander? Oh, I'm
21 finished. No.

22 MR. BROWN: No, that's Ms. Ostrander.

23 DR. PELL: I'm sorry. Lorrie Ostrander, right.
24 Hello again.

25 MS. LORRIE OSTRANDER: Good evening, sir.

1 Thanks for being here. And I have a couple of issues.
2 Of course, others have brought them up, but when we talk
3 about insurance, first of all, let it be known I am not
4 intelligent with all these abbreviations and
5 dah-dah-dah-dah-dah. Okay?

6 But anyway, I have concerns as far as what I
7 just received, information talking with my insurance
8 agent today. Our insurance went up \$300 in one year. I
9 was shocked knowing that other things were going to go
10 up as well. And in order to bring it down at an
11 affordable yearly price, we had to up our deductible,
12 and that kind of hurts because he plans to retire this
13 year, but we'll do. We scraped before; we'll scrape
14 again.

15 We are trying to go as green as possible on our
16 own home and going through difficulties with certain
17 areas, but yet we're allowing others to put these
18 humongous fire hazard material all around us that does
19 medical damage to people. You can talk to people in our
20 community who are going through medical problems ever
21 since they went up. Okay.

22 Past meetings Sempra made a notation that our
23 property and in that area on the west of Jacumba town
24 was not going to be affected with anything. Last night
25 I brought up an issue that was a fib. For whatever

1 reason, they could not do their ground control on the
2 other side east of Jacumba, on the other side of the
3 mountain. They brought it to our location, like 1/16 of
4 a mile away from our well, hard-core drilling for over a
5 month.

6 They left two big holes right there. They said
7 they were going to remove everything, which they did,
8 and now in these huge boulders on this property there's
9 holes. Who's going to fall in them? I'll tell you
10 who's going to fall in them and who's going to get sued.
11 I'll tell you who's going to get sued. International
12 travelers are going to fall in them and we're going to
13 get sued like we have in the past.

14 MS. JANSEN: Taxpayer costs.

15 MS. OSTRANDER: Yes, taxpayers' costs. Okay.
16 The reason why our insurance went up --

17 DR. PELL: You're talking about fire insurance,
18 Lorrie?

19 MS. OSTRANDER: Yes, yes, sir. Because of the
20 Harris Fire which was two years ago, who started that
21 fire? International travelers. The Cowboy Fire,
22 international travelers. In Mexico -- right at the end
23 of our property line is the border fence -- there isn't
24 a day that does not go by we witness fires being
25 started. As a matter of fact, sir, two of them this

1 past summer were right on the hillside where the towers
2 are, the turbines.

3 What are you going to do to protect this
4 country from a country who cannot? Our firefighters
5 just recently on the Tecate Fire, to put out that fire
6 and protect the homes in Tecate, because their
7 firefighters couldn't do it, our firefighters went,
8 risking their lives and, once again, that's exactly what
9 we're doing. We're putting them on a fire line because
10 there's a country who doesn't care. They don't care
11 about their water supply for their people. They don't
12 care about their air ordinance, because if they did,
13 they would have better fuel instead of bringing it here
14 and it smells like rotten eggs.

15 And now we're letting the turbines come in.
16 There's an area where the turbines were destroyed in
17 last year's lightning storm -- we all well know about
18 it; it was all in the paper -- it is now a grave site
19 for those blades and the poles.

20 MS. JANSEN: You mean they haven't cleaned them
21 up?

22 MS. OSTRANDER: They have not cleaned them up
23 and you can still see them from Highway 8.

24 MR. BROWN: She's talking about the
25 reservation.

1 MS. OSTRANDER: Yes. I was going to say it's
2 Federal, you know, bring it up with the Federal
3 Government and all that. But this is what I'm saying.
4 There's talk on the other side that the work that
5 they've done on that side, there's stuff that's yet to
6 be cleaned. Is this what we want in our backcountry?
7 No, thank you. We love the night airs, the stars.
8 That's why we all live out here.

9 But once again you guys just want to take away
10 life as we see it, the trees, the boulders. I got a
11 kick out of it when SDG&E and others said they were
12 going to replace the boulders. Excuse me. You can't
13 move those boulders and then expect to move them back.
14 The roads that have got to go in, by the time -- I'm
15 real quick.

16 DR. PELL: No, it's all right.

17 MS. OSTRANDER: By the time the SDG&E sends
18 somebody out to clear the poles on our property, it's
19 late in day. It's late October. And guess what? I've
20 already done it because I want to fire protect my
21 property. We do everything we can not only to protect
22 us but the one neighbor we have next to us.

23 So I just hope that you folks can, as far as
24 permitting, help the homeowners first that are trying to
25 go green. We're having a hard time. I don't see a use

1 for these big turbines.

2 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hear, hear.

3 DR. PELL: Lorrie, did you have a chance to
4 read the fire hazard analysis in the EIS?

5 MS. OSTRANDER: I probably wouldn't get past
6 the second sentence, sir, to be very honest with you.

7 DR. PELL: Do me a favor. Between now and
8 November the 1st, give it a shot, try to read it, and if
9 you think that we're missing stuff, let me know.

10 MS. OSTRANDER: Well, sir, I can almost
11 guarantee you, being a firefighter's wife for 38 fire
12 seasons and standing by that individual as well as all
13 department's side, when I know that there's a fire and
14 there are power lines and these new wind turbines going
15 up and knowing that our pilots are jeopardizing trying
16 to avoid and half the times on a very, very foggy night,
17 which we do get up here on the mountains, you cannot see
18 the lights. And when I know that those firefighters are
19 fighting in a bad storm, wind and just all these
20 conditions, and our pilots are up there trying to avoid,
21 all we're doing is making a worse disaster for them.
22 They cannot fight a fire a thousand feet on both sides.
23 So what does that do? That puts us in a danger.

24 I live a half a mile away from power towers
25 already. The turbines, I can see them from my property

1 and knowing that that vision right there is what I used
2 to be able to look at at night is really sad 'cause it's
3 gone, and I don't want to see any more of that being
4 taken away. Come out of the city once in a while and
5 see the stars. People who came from the city and saw it
6 and then they see all these wind turbines and
7 everything, sure, they took pictures and they said,
8 "Man, they make a lot of noise."

9 And I go, "Try and live there."

10 DR. PELL: Thank you.

11 MS. OSTRANDER: Thank you, sir.

12 DR. PELL: That's everybody that I had in
13 writing that completed a form and said they wanted to
14 speak, so now it's open mic. Anybody who wants to talk,
15 we still have a half an hour to go. So if you would
16 like to say something, please do.

17 Gentleman in the back?

18 MR. LARRY JOHNSON: I had a --

19 DR. PELL: Sorry. Would you please tell us
20 your name.

21 MR. JOHNSON: Larry Johnson for REAL. I turned
22 in a slip.

23 DR. PELL: You did?

24 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah.

25 DR. PELL: Did you mark on it that you wanted

1 to talk? Because I didn't get it.

2 MR. JOHNSON: I checked towards the bottom of
3 it.

4 DR. PELL: Okay.

5 MR. JOHNSON: Do you have it or somebody have
6 it?

7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I have it, but the speaker
8 box isn't checked.

9 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. That's fine.

10 DR. PELL: No, no, no.

11 MR. JOHNSON: Sorry. I'm Larry Johnson from
12 Campo and I'm a representative for REAL, Rural Economic
13 Action League, which is a group throughout the whole
14 Mountain Empire, and I would sort of like to come at
15 this from a slightly different angle and sort of back
16 into it, because I know you don't want us to say that we
17 don't want it.

18 DR. PELL: You can say it. No problem.

19 MR. JOHNSON: But that's sort of what it is,
20 but approaching it from the standpoint of the
21 alternatives that you looked at, one was no project
22 which I think you can come at from the angle of saying
23 why is this being proposed and what would be the
24 benefit? And if Mexico has a project down there that
25 would be for renewable energy -- and I really like

1 renewable energy; I think it's a good thing -- it sort
2 of comes about from the vision of how do you do all
3 this? How do you have renewable energy, wind energy,
4 and where is it generated and where is it used and how
5 do you get from here to there?

6 So all of these things are tied together, the
7 existing Sunrise Powerlink or the Southwest Powerlink,
8 the new proposed Sunrise Powerlink, and you look at all
9 these and they're like pipelines and you're trying to
10 fill them up and you're trying to send it from where
11 it's generated to San Diego or L.A. or wherever else it
12 goes.

13 And if you look at the one in Mexico, if
14 they're going to generate it, and they have the rights
15 to do that if they want to, but why not let them also
16 put in their distribution system to take it all the way
17 to the coast, then maybe up the coast, and then into
18 San Diego which would off-load that capacity or that
19 need for that capacity here on the power lines here?

20 That would make it more feasible, then, to use
21 more of the Southwest Powerlink for other things that
22 are going to happen or may happen that we maybe can't
23 stop some of those that will come in, so they would have
24 a different feed, get up and take it by their own means
25 to where they need to go, and so that would off-load

1 some of it.

2 It would also mean that there would be less
3 disturbance here. If you combine that with the new
4 trends and so forth that they're talking about of
5 economizing, of using less power, of green design, and
6 you can see that there's trends already all over the
7 nation now where power consumption is going down,
8 buildings are getting better, the need for local
9 generation and the area where it's used and local
10 distribution and improving the grid network and the
11 smart grid in those systems, all of those fit together
12 and that's sort of a vision that was sort of skipped.

13 It was taking the old vision of "We're going to
14 do it the way we always did it and we're going to build
15 these power lines," and, sure, you can do it. You can
16 build them. You can put them up and you can run the
17 wires and you can do the generation, but there ought to
18 be another way to look at it.

19 And one way to sort of force the hand of that
20 would be to choose option number one which is no
21 project, and that forces them to say is that
22 economically viable in Mexico? If it is, then let them
23 run their power, bring it up, and cross it somewhere
24 else closer to where it's needed. That relaxes the need
25 on many of the power lines, the existing Southwest power

1 line here for more capacity. And maybe the switching
2 rule that you're talking about, if that's not the
3 physical limitations of the line -- it's really a
4 technical guideline for the disturbance when you switch
5 off a load -- that might be handled some other way
6 within a smart grid system I think.

7 So there's lots of other ways that it could be
8 viewed and not put up as many towers and not spend as
9 much money on Southwest Powerlink, which this is sort of
10 heading towards, and not put the additional burden onto
11 the owners here, and there is an economic impact to
12 those.

13 So I think all of this to me says a different
14 vision says take option number one. Let them figure out
15 if it's profitable. Let them run it down there. That
16 relieves the load being carried by the lines up here
17 which is a different fight on different projects and so
18 forth. So that's my summary.

19 DR. PELL: Thank you.

20 Donna, you wanted to say something further?

21 MS. TISDALE: I just forgot that I brought this
22 map from the BLM that shows all the projects that are
23 proposed in this area. BLM.

24 DR. PELL: The title of this map is, for the
25 record, "El Centro Field Office Renewable Energy

1 Projects."

2 MS. TISDALE: I believe it's dated
3 January 2010.

4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Sempra opened up an office
5 down there in El Centro.

6 DR. PELL: Is there a date on the lower
7 right-hand corner?

8 MS. TISDALE: It's up at the top.

9 MS. MEGAN SCHWARTZ: It's up at the top. It
10 says January 2010, January 28, 2010.

11 DR. PELL: The agency that's labeled there?

12 MS. SCHWARTZ: Bureau of Land Management,
13 El Centro Field Office.

14 DR. PELL: Thank you. Bureau of Land
15 Management, El Centro Field Office.

16 MS. TISDALE: The Energia Sierra Juarez project
17 is proposed right here, the border here. This is the
18 Imperial Valley Solar project, 6,500 acres, that was
19 approved. This is not included on the cumulative
20 impacts.

21 DR. PELL: When you say "this," would you tell
22 us what that is.

23 MS. TISDALE: I'm going to. It's the Ocotillo
24 Express. It's about 15,000 acres of proposed wind
25 energy that will abut the Jacumba Wilderness on the

1 north side and Anza-Borrego Park on the west.

2 So this entire view shed, you would be able to
3 see Sierra Juarez project over here on Interstate 8,
4 which is now an open and very scenic area, will be
5 covered with 40-foot-tall solar panels, 500-foot-tall
6 turbines here, power lines coming through the way here,
7 Sierra Juarez turbines here. This is Tule Wind here.
8 This is the Campo Reservation. They've got plans all
9 the way down to the border, to modify this BLM land for
10 turbines, and over here is Tierra del Sol, Tecate Divide
11 where Lansing Industries wants to put -- they've got
12 plans for six or eight met towers now and they also have
13 plans for --

14 MR. BROWN: They will be.

15 MS. TISDALE: -- more, 20- or 30-foot-tall
16 solar panels as well as more solar panels over here. So
17 this entire area -- and there's met towers proposed out
18 here and in the Cleveland National Forest too if they're
19 not already up.

20 DR. PELL: Proposed by?

21 MS. TISDALE: Debenham Energy. This Debenham
22 Energy project shown here has been removed because the
23 Navy has withdrawn that land for the SEALs training. So
24 anyway, I just wanted all this information included.
25 I'd prefer you get a copy of this from the BLM.

1 DR. PELL: We can do that. Thank you, Donna.

2 MS. TISDALE: Thank you.

3 DR. PELL: Okay. Anybody else want to speak?

4 MR. SMITH: In the EIR, do you look at costs
5 associated with the financial burden of the people?

6 DR. PELL: I'm sorry, Kevin. Try again. I
7 couldn't hear you because of all the rustling.

8 MR. SMITH: In the EIR, do you look at the
9 financial burden to the people?

10 DR. PELL: No.

11 MR. SMITH: Ever?

12 MS. JANSEN: They should.

13 DR. PELL: No.

14 MS. JANSEN: It's an economic impact, negative.

15 MR. SMITH: Why wouldn't you?

16 DR. PELL: Because it involves rate making and
17 it involves local authorities and it's outside the
18 boundaries of what goes into an Environmental Impact
19 Statement.

20 MS. JANSEN: There are other impacts.

21 DR. PELL: You look at socioeconomic impacts
22 but not at rate making.

23 MR. SMITH: Okay. Great, because I wasn't
24 talking about rate making. This is not about that.
25 This is about the fact that each one of these people are

1 going to be burdened with the burden of the carrying
2 costs of this. It is truly going to be billed onto
3 their bill, their utility bill, in the future. That's
4 what a ratepayer --

5 MS. JANSEN: And their fire insurance and, and,
6 and.

7 MR. SMITH: And I don't think it really has
8 been addressed how many people up here are fighting that
9 same -- because I have a house on four acres and I
10 understand what it's like to pay the insurance bill,
11 because they don't want to insure you at all. They
12 really want those suburb houses and I understand why.

13 But by the same token, if Sempra's going to
14 come out here and put up a bunch of tower lines and
15 bunch of turbines that pop into flames as we've seen on
16 the YouTube and everything else, don't you think that
17 they could put up a couple of firemen to help them?
18 Wouldn't that be a natural thing in your position to add
19 that?

20 DR. PELL: Okay.

21 MR. SMITH: Because I have off-sites and
22 impacts in every project I've ever done. I've never
23 seen a project where I didn't pay millions in off-sites
24 and impacts, and I don't see any inside of this EIR, not
25 any.

1 DR. PELL: It's an interesting point. Thank
2 you for bringing it up.

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Costs \$4,000 for a
4 telephone pole.

5 DR. PELL: Anybody else wish to speak on the
6 record?

7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: On the record or off the
8 record, four grand.

9 DR. PELL: Nobody else wishes to speak?

10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

11 DR. PELL: Are you sure? Going once.

12 Okay. We're going to hang around a little bit
13 longer if you want to talk to us off the record, and
14 we'll be in San Diego County tomorrow night if you want
15 to join us in the city.

16 MR. BROWN: That meeting is from 5:00 to 7:00,
17 so it's not from 7:00. So if you get off work and you
18 want to go to the planning department. It's in the
19 planning department. You know where the planning
20 commission room is, hearing room? It's on Ruffin Road
21 annex.

22 DR. PELL: Let the record show the meeting is
23 adjourned.

24 (The proceedings were concluded at 8:36 p.m.)

25